

# TOWN OF MONSON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

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*2014 - 2021*

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

Produced by the Town of Monson with guidance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Funding for this plan was provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development 2014 District Local Technical Assistance Program and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

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# Section 1: Plan Summary



For the purposes of this document, open space is land and/or water that is undeveloped (though it may have some improvements), and devoted to an open space use. Recreation is can be considered either passive or active activities that require either constructed facilities/infrastructure (ball fields, tennis courts, etc.) or open space (for hiking, mountain biking, etc.). Open spaces can be used for the purpose of preserving natural resources, managing production of resources, providing a setting for outdoor recreation, and maintaining a beautiful place in which to live. With over 70% of the town's land undeveloped, open space is Monson's greatest resource.

Four central themes have emerged as important to the health and viability of Monson's open space and recreation facilities.

### **1. Town Character**

Monson is characterized by a beautiful rural landscape of fields and forest, streams and wetlands, and ridgelines and valleys, interlaced with traces of a varied and interesting agricultural and industrial heritage. Local residents strongly value Monson's natural and historic character, and have moved there for its wide expanses of open spaces and intact forests. Protecting the natural landscapes and the agricultural resources in town is critical to maintaining the sense of place that Monson residents cherish.

### **2. Recreational Opportunity**

Monson residents actively enjoy the landscape by participating in numerous types of recreation including boating, fishing, biking, hiking, and hunting/fishing as well as more organized forms of recreation. Residents are particularly interested in passive recreation opportunities such as trails. With development pressures remaining relatively low for the time being, and with large tracts of contiguous land still available, pursuing land protection to establish a greenway is a worthwhile goal.

### **3. Water, Environmental, and Agricultural Resources**

Access to clean water will be one of the worldwide challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and Monson is fortunate to have abundant supplies. Aquifers underneath Monson must be protected by limiting development and certain land uses and maintaining intact ecosystems. This in turn will provide habitat protection for sensitive animal and plant communities. Through environmental protection the dual outcome of water resource protection and wildlife protection is possible. In addition, clean air and water support agricultural uses. Land kept in agricultural production also provides open space, access to healthy food, and rural character for Monson.

### **4. Awareness and Education**

Monson has numerous opportunities to enjoy open space or engage in active or passive recreation. Residents may not be aware of all that is available to them, however, due to a lack of information. Compiling maps, brochures, and providing centralized resources will help encourage Monson residents to utilize the open space and recreation opportunities in their backyard. In turn, this will help built a future contingency of supporters of open space and conservation protection for Monson.

## Section 2: Introduction



## 2.1 Statement of Purpose

This plan is an update to the 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Open Space Committee considered progress from the previous plan and looked at emerging issues impacting Monson. Since the completion of the 2005 plan, the Town of Monson developed a downtown master plan, updated zoning, and experienced a destructive tornado.

Monson's greatest appeal is its natural beauty and quiet rural character. For this reason, more and more people have become attracted to the community. Without proper planning, however, the qualities which attracted many people here could disappear. With proper planning, the town can manage and improve its wonderful natural resources while accommodating responsible and sustainable growth. Monson can plan for expansion of its open space and recreation resources, and begin to seek out funds to remedy deficiencies.

In order to protect and manage valuable natural resources state funds have been leveraged through use of the Open Space and Recreation Plan developed in 1999 and 2005. The intent of this update is to sustain that level of state support. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan as a precondition for receiving funding for open space acquisitions or improvements to existing facilities.

## 2.2 Planning Process and Public Participation

The process of updating Monson's 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan began with the formation of the Monson Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee, which prepared the 2014 update in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). Assistance by the PVPC was provided through a grant under the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Economic Development's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program.

### 2.2.1 Participation of Advisory Committee

The town's Advisory Committee included members of the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and representatives from other interested stakeholders. Municipal departments were also represented, with the Town Planner and Director of the Parks and Recreation Department active participants in the Committee. Membership was also open to any Monson resident interested in serving on the Committee. Individuals who served on the Advisory Committee were as follows:

- Leslie Duthie, Conservation Commissioner
- Timothy Pascale, Director of the Parks and Recreation
- Dan Laroche, Town Planner

Advisory Committee members agreed to volunteer their time to locate and provide necessary data and contact information to develop the plan, attend progress meetings, assist in the organizing and publicizing of public forums, and to review and comment on drafts of the plan.

After the plan had been conditionally reviewed and approved by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Selectboard officially approved the plan in 2015.

### **2.2.2 Public Participation and Outreach**

The Advisory Committee sought to obtain as much public participation as possible, in order to ensure that the completed plan reflected the desires of Monson residents. All meetings of the Advisory Committee were open to the public and Monson residents were encouraged to attend.

While the formal update of the Monson OSRP began in 2014, the outreach process to engage residents about recreation and open space began after the town was hit by a tornado in 2011. In 2012, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission collaborated with the town to run a series of three community meetings to address public space, recreation areas, and general redevelopment in the tornado-affected areas of town. The dates of these meetings in 2012 were March 14th, April 25th, and May 30th. The meetings included a visioning process for the downtown, with particular focus on Veterans Field and Cushman Field, both of which were badly damaged by the tornado. Outcomes of this visioning process helped to inform the recommendations included in this OSRP. Press releases and meeting notes from these public forums can be found in Appendix A.

Building upon the community visioning sessions held in 2012, a community visioning forum was held specifically for updating this OSRP on June 2nd, 2014 in the Town Administration building. The meeting was advertised to the public through a press release that was sent out in May of 2014 to all local media outlets, announcing the meeting and encouraging all residents to attend. A copy of this press release can be found in Appendix A. Notice of the meeting was also placed on the town website.

The visioning session included an overview of the OSRP purpose and process and a mapping exercise to identify areas of importance for conservation and recreation in their daily lives. Based on the outcomes of the mapping exercise, participants discussed what is needed to maintain or expand what is valued about Monson's open space and recreation opportunities. Participants then prioritized their goals, objectives, and outlined potential actions to address those needs. The agenda and comments collected at this meeting can be found in Appendix A.

After the visioning session, the Advisory Committee met and reviewed the results of the public forum, with the discussion incorporated into the major goals and objectives set forth in the updated plan. Specific objectives for the Open Space and Recreation Plan, based on the priorities established at the public community visioning forum, were discussed at this meeting.

### **2.2.3 Enhanced Outreach in Environmental Justice Neighborhoods**

Enhanced public outreach occurred during the planning process to Monson residents living in the town's two environmental justice areas. Notice of the completed draft of the plan was posted at Adams Grocery Store, the Woodbine County Store, the Town Administration building, and the library, all of which were identified by the Advisory Committee as gathering locations for Monson's residents living in environmental justice neighborhoods. The notice, which can be found in Appendix A, indicated that paper copies of the plan were available for viewing in the library and Town Administration building. The Town Administration building, at 29 Thompson Street, is located within one of Monson's environmental justice neighborhoods and was also the location of the community visioning session.

#### **2.2.4 Open Space Survey**

In order to gain public input for this report, the Advisory Committee created a survey that asked for resident opinions on issues including local agriculture, the physical features of Monson that symbolize its unique character, and the accessibility of Monson's recreational spaces for different user groups. In addition to the visioning session, a survey was distributed beginning on May 19 through the town website and in paper form at the town offices. Compiled results of the survey's 25 responses can be found in Appendix B.

#### **2.2.5 American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Surveys**

Section 504 Self-Evaluation Surveys were conducted for the 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan. These surveys analyzed the major open space sites in town and were completed by both town staff and community volunteers. These surveys are included in the appendix. As part of the implementation of the goals and objectives of this plan, the town will work with the owners of conservation properties in Monson to promote ADA accessibility.

## Section 3: Community Setting



### 3.1 Regional Context

Monson is located in the central southern part of the state of Massachusetts, in eastern Hampden County, on the Connecticut state line. Surrounding communities include Brimfield and Wales to the east, Palmer to the north, Hampden and Wilbraham to the west, and Stafford, Connecticut to the south (Figure 3-1). Monson is within 10 miles of the Massachusetts Turnpike Palmer Exit, and 1-84 in Stafford Springs facilitating easy access to Worcester, Springfield and Hartford, Connecticut. The New England Central Railroad runs south to north through the town connecting New Haven, Connecticut to St. Albans, Vermont. The Conrail tracks run east-west near the northern border of Monson. There is no passenger service available from Monson.

The town covers approximately 28,800 acres, and is bordered by steep, scenic hills that, until recently, have remained mostly undeveloped. Monson's scenic quality and its proximity to Springfield, Worcester and Hartford have made the town a desirable place to live. This has triggered a building boom of large, single family detached houses.

Portions of three watersheds are found within the Town of Monson. Most of the town is located in the Chicopee Watershed, the largest watershed in the Commonwealth. Chicopee Brook runs south to north through the center of Monson to the Quaboag River. The Quaboag River forms the northern border between Monson and Palmer. Southeast Monson is located in the Quinebaug Watershed and Temple Brook in southwest Monson is within the Connecticut Watershed.

Lands of three conservation organizations make up a large part of Monson's protected open space. These include the State Division of Conservation Resources (Brimfield State Forest), the Norcross Wildlife Foundation (Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary), and the Trustees of Reservations (Peaked Mountain Reservation). Much of this land, including Brimfield State Forest, and the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary ([www.norcrossws.org](http://www.norcrossws.org)), is located on Monson's eastern border and is shared by the towns of Brimfield and Wales. The Peaked Mountain Reservation ([www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)), including Monson's highest point, is located in the southwest corner of the town. These open spaces provide important recreational opportunities to the people of the town.

There are two additional conservation organizations that do not have large land holdings in Monson but are significant potential resources for open space planning in town. Both organizations operate at a regional level. The Opacum Land Trust ([www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org)), formed in 2000, is a thirteen - town land trust in the region covering communities in both Hampden and Worcester Counties. The Hampden Conservation District, formed by the Massachusetts State Legislature, develops programs that serve the environmental needs of residents of Hampden County and assists in protecting the natural resources of Hampden County.

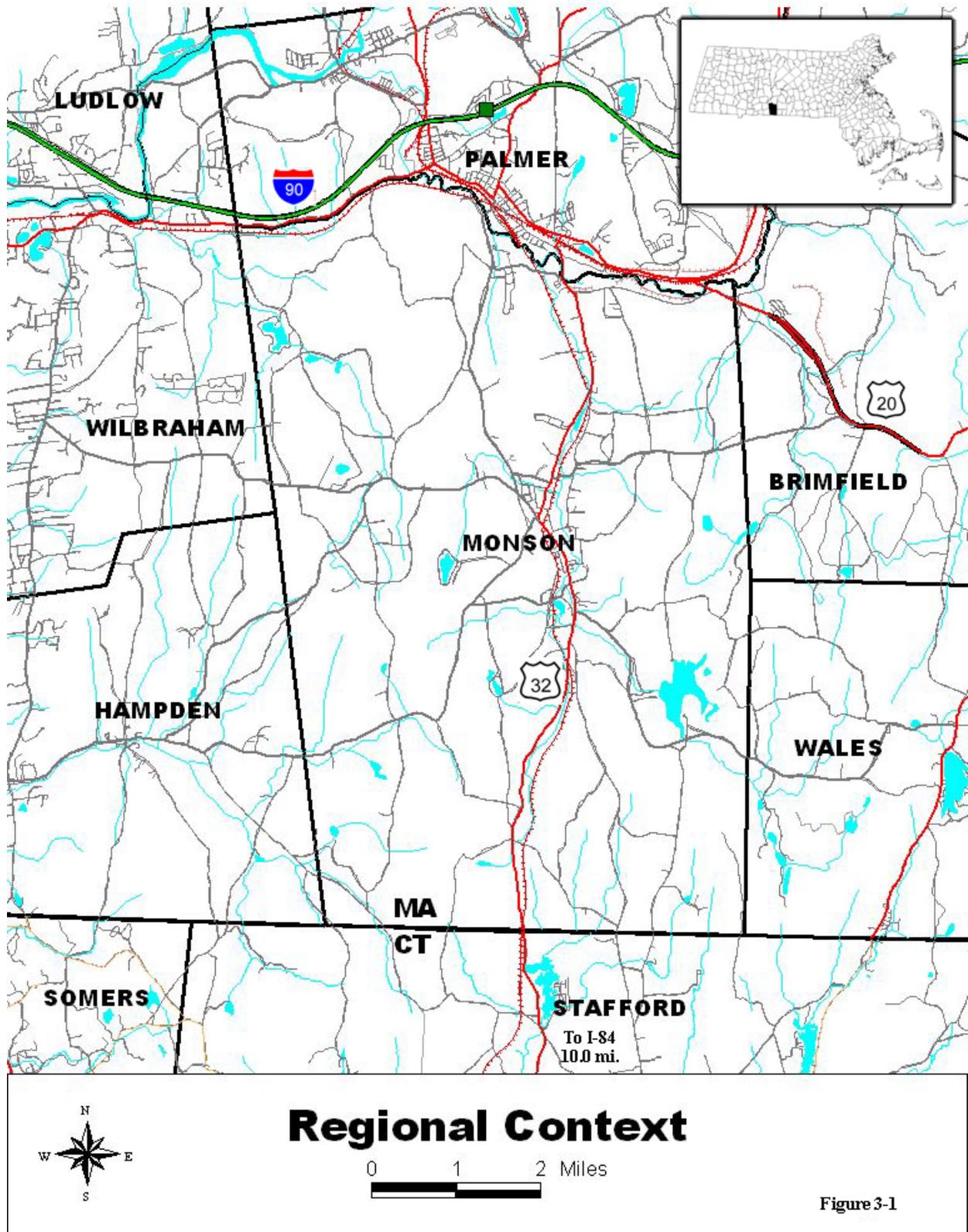


FIGURE 3-1: REGIONAL CONTEXT

## 3.2 History

### 3.2.1 The Colonial Period

Monson started out as an agrarian society. The settlers in these earliest days carved out farmland from the forests and built small industries along the waterways. The earliest railroads in Massachusetts passed through Monson and we contributed lumber to build and fuel this early source of transportation. Monson citizens, then and now, have prided themselves on their ingenuity and pioneering spirit.

It was this spirit that urged five Springfield men to settle and establish the township of Brimfield in 1701. Fifty-nine years later the district of Monson was founded when the citizens of West Brimfield complained to the Massachusetts Bay Colony Court that, "We live and labour under very great difficulties in attending the public worship of God by reason of our living so remote from the meeting house." On April 25, 1760 Monson was incorporated into the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Situated in a valley between two ridge lines, the rocky, forested land of Monson must have been difficult to tame. Unruly though it was, the land had two obvious natural resources: the virgin forests and the Chicopee Brook. Early settlement occurred on the Eastern Ridge, where soil was the most suitable for agriculture. During this period, subsistence agriculture and dairy farming were widely practiced. However, it was lumbering that stimulated the town's economy. Trees were used to make railroad ties and wooden caskets. Cedar harvested from the Cedar Swamp was used to make cedar shakes and fence posts.

### 3.2.2 Industrial Age

Before the blossoming of industry, Monson citizens went to great lengths to achieve the honor of having the Monson Academy placed in the town in 1804. They went so far as to enter into an agreement with the state to settle a satellite town in the wilderness of the northern reaches of Massachusetts, what is now Monson, Maine. In exchange for this service Monson received state grant money to set up the school. The Academy was affiliated with the Congregational Church and was connected with missionaries who had traveled throughout the world. In 1847 the Monson Academy hosted students from China, the first Chinese students to come to the United States. The Academy contributed not only to the town's culture, but also to its prestige and economy.

At the turn of the eighteenth century Monson began to feel the tremors of the industrial revolution. It was during the nineteenth century that Monson began to break away from its predominately agricultural and lumbering base to evolve into an industrial town. Small centers of industry sprang up in the hills surrounding what is now the center of Monson. Households began to make the slow transition from being units of production to being units of consumption. Young single men and women from many different ethnic backgrounds inundated the town, forever changing its character.

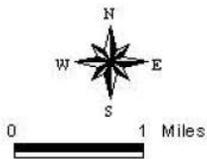
Located northwest from the center of Monson was an area known as the "Silver Street District". During the mid 1800's a number of mills sprang up along Twelve Mile Brook. Within the district there were as many as 13 mills, an inn, a general store, and a chapel. Schools were opened in the district in 1818 (Figure 3.2 and 3.3). The name Silver Street has not always used for this early road. It was originally referred to as "the Central Road," leading from the Post Road to Colton's Hollow, and Monson's village center. The name Silver Street was given to the road in the mid 19th century because the residents of the area would pay their taxes to the town in silver.



*FIGURE 3-2: 1830 LAND USE MAP OF MONSON, MA (COURTESY OF MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVE)*



### 1830 Land Use



Contours at 30 ft. intervals

- woodland
- meadow
- water
- wetland, swamp
- Stone Quarry
- 1830 Industry, Schools & Meeting Houses
- 1830 Roads

Original maps from Massachusetts Archives, digitized by the Harvard Forest, printed with permission from Glenn Motzkin, Harvard Forest, 978-724-3302

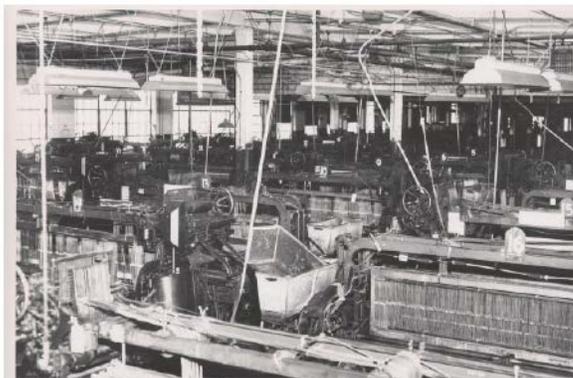
Figure 3-3

*FIGURE 3-3: DIGITIZED 1830 LAND USE MAP OF MONSON, MA*

This reflected the prosperity of the area where many small mills flourished. In October of 1869 the area was hit with a flood caused by more than 8" of rain which fell in a short period of time. The flood washed out all the dams along Twelve Mile Brook and severely damaged most of the mills. As the 19th century came to a close, transportation had improved, and industry demanded speed and efficiency. The water power of the Twelve Mile Brook had become obsolete and most of the town's industrial development switched to what is now the town center along the railroad, trolley lines and Chicopee Brook (Figure 3.2 and 3.3). Because of Monson's excellent access to the Chicopee Brook, which provided water- power, industry was able to develop quickly. The beginnings of the textile industry came in 1796 when Asa Gates opened a mill on Cushman Street. His company later expanded and produced both cotton and wool textiles.

With the discovery of granite in the early 1800's, Rufus Flynt founded the Flynt Quarry on Margaret Street. This highly regarded granite was used to build many of the public buildings in downtown Monson as well as other towns in New England, Washington D.C. and beyond. The Flynt Quarry also attracted Italian, Irish and Polish immigrants who were seeking employment.

The building of the Boston/Albany Railroad in 1839 and the New London Railroad in 1850 further stimulated Monson's industry. By this time there were also three woolen mills, one of which became the distinguished, prosperous A.D. Ellis Mill (Figure 3-4). This company was internationally known for its



fine-textured woolen cloth. The Merrick Fay and Company hat factory was also founded at this time. During its heyday one third of the families in Monson were employed there making braided straw hats and felt hats that were sold in fashionable New York City stores. Other small specialty industries included factories for producing men's overalls, gold and silver spectacles, and tin ware. A few of the old mill buildings remain standing in Monson.

*FIGURE 3.4 ELLIS MILLS*

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Monson was home to seven millionaires! Even though the town's industrial success brought great wealth to the select men who owned the factories, the majority of Monson's citizens subsisted on minimum wages. However the townspeople did benefit somewhat from the wealth. A few affluent Monson men exhibited their philanthropic spirits by contributing to the town. William Flynt, the owner of the granite quarry, built a 200 acre park near Monson's center in 1883 (Figure 3-5). This deluxe park was equipped with baseball field, tennis courts, croquet grounds, a swimming pool, nature paths, a pavilion, a roller skating area, a band stand and three towers. This park remains today, used mainly for its soccer fields, although many hiking trails are also available. The towers and other features, however, are long gone. The Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary donated by Arthur Norcross was established during the 1930's. It still exists today in the southeastern corner of the town.



*FIGURE 3.5 FLYNT PARK*

### **3.2.3 Post Industrial Age**

Over the years Monson has endured numerous natural disturbances on its land however none were as significant as the flood of 1955. Generated by a hurricane, torrential downpours caused Monson's central waterway, the Chicopee Brook, to swell beyond the capabilities of the five dams along its course. One by one the dams broke inundating the town over and over again with each break. Run-off accumulated at a high rate causing significant erosion to stream boundaries. This flood did much to change Monson (Figure 3-6). Washouts and slides plagued 75% of the 105 miles of town road. Many historic stone bridges were lost. Courses of streams were altered. Topsoil and underlying rocks from the hills were washed into the valley. Some buildings were washed away while others were found buried up to their eaves in silt. Damages incurred by the Flood of 1955 were so extensive that it took the Town of Monson and surrounding region an entire year to dig-out, clean-up, and reconstruct. In response to the flood, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed Conant Brook Dam, one of ten flood control facilities in the region. The establishment of the Conant Brook Dam Flood Control Facility provides opportunities for recreational activities and is an important link in open space as it is located between Brimfield State Forest and the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.



*FIGURE 3.6 ELLIS MILLS AFTER THE 1955 FLOOD*

Monson of today is in the midst of another transition. It is home to only a few specialty industries, the old mill town of years past is no longer. Like many other western Massachusetts towns, Monson has passed its agricultural and industrial prime and is now re-evaluating its economy. Trees that were once harvested for lumber are being cleared to make room for housing. While Chicopee Brook was once appreciated for its industrial usage, this river (which runs through the central valley of the developed areas of Town) is being reassessed for its aesthetic, recreational and wildlife sustaining qualities. The quaint, rural atmosphere that has always characterized Monson has perhaps been taken for granted as the Town now feels the pressures of new housing development. It is possible that Monson may be able to take advantage of its unique character to attract tourists and compatible rural development. This is where proper planning can play a vital role in guiding and managing its resources.

### 3.3 Population Characteristics

#### 3.3.1 Population and Density

As shown in Table 3-1, Monson’s population in 2012 was 8,679 people, an increase of 903 persons, or 11.6%, from 1990. While Monson’s population continues to grow, the years of 1990 to 2000 saw the greatest increases while the past decade from 2000 to 2012 has seen more moderate growth. Even still, this growth rate has been higher than the increases in Hampden County and the Pioneer Valley region as a whole, though it is reflective of growth rates across the Commonwealth in general.

*Table 3-1: 1990 – 2012 Population Change*

Geography	1990	2000	2010	2012	% Change 1990-2012	% Change 2000-2012
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	6,563,259	6,646,144	10.5%	4.7%
Hampden County	456,310	456,228	464,005	465,923	2.1%	2.1%
Pioneer Valley	672,970	680,014	694,491	697,258	3.6%	2.5%
Monson	7,776	8,359	8,568	8,679	11.6%	3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990, 2000, and 2010, and Annual Census, 2012.

In 2010, Monson's population density was 191 persons per square mile or 0.3 acres per person. In reality due to the fact that 75 percent of land is forested, the populated areas of town have a much greater density. The center of town, located along Main Street, is the densest area of Monson. The town is the fourth most densely populated community in the area. Wilbraham, Palmer, and Hampden are more dense, while Wales, Stafford, and Brimfield are less dense.

*Table 3-2: Population Density Compared to Surrounding Communities*

Community	Square Miles	2010 Population	Acres/Person
Wilbraham	22.4	14,868	1.04
Palmer	32.0	12,140	0.59
Wales	16.0	1,838	0.18
Stafford	68.8	12,192	0.28
Hampden	19.7	5,139	0.41
Brimfield	35.2	3,609	0.16

*Table 3-3: Population Density Changes Over Time*

Year	Population	Growth Rate	Population Density (persons/sq.mile of land)
1900	3,402	-6.8%	76
1910	4,758	39.90%	106
1920	4,826	1.40%	108
1930	4,918	1.90%	110
1940	5,597	13.80%	125
1950	6,125	9.40%	137
1960	6,712	9.60%	150
1970	7,355	9.60%	164
1980	7,315	-0.5%	163
1990	7,776	6.30%	174
2000	8,359	7.50%	187
2010	8,560	2.40%	191

### 3.3.2 Households

Table 3-2 compares Monson’s household characteristics to those of the region and the state as a whole. The number of households in Monson increased from 3,095 in 2000 to 3,279 in 2010, an increase of 5.9%. This rate of growth is greater than that for Hampden County (2.6%), the Pioneer Valley region 3.2% or the state 4.24%. In addition, the number of households grew faster than the overall population, indicating that Monson is following state and national trends of shrinking household size. This trend is generally attributed to more elderly households, more divorced or separated families, and more single people living alone.

In both 2000 and 2010, Monson had a much higher proportion of family households than the region or the Commonwealth, although this proportion dropped from 75.9% in 1990 to 71.2% in 2000, to 70.8% in 2010. Of the family households in 2010, 1,836 or 56.0% of total households were married-couple families. Of Monson’s 959 non-family households (29.2% of households) in 2010, the majority (753) consisted of single-person households. Of the single-person households, 283 households, or 8.6% of the total, consisted of single persons 65 years or older living alone.

*Table 3-4: 1990 – 2010 Household Characteristics*

<b>1990</b>	<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>Hampden</b>	<b>Monson</b>
<b>Number of Households</b>	2,247,110	196,906	2,642
<b>% Family Households</b>	67.4%	69.9%	75.9%
<b>% Non-Family Households</b>	32.6%	30.1%	24.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.58	2.60	2.75
<b>2000</b>	<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>Hampden</b>	<b>Monson</b>
<b>Number of Households</b>	2,443,580	175,288	3,095
<b>% Family Households</b>	64.5%	66.0%	71.2%
<b>% Non-Family Households</b>	35.5%	34.0%	28.8%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.51	2.52	2.63
<b>2010</b>	<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>Hampden</b>	<b>Monson</b>
<b>Number of Households</b>	2,547,075	179,927	3,279
<b>% Family Households</b>	63.0%	64.4%	70.8%
<b>% Non-Family Households</b>	37.0%	35.6%	29.2%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.48	2.49	2.57

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010 Census

### 3.3.3 Income Distribution and Level of Poverty

Monson’s household income distribution in 2012 was generally comparable to state averages. The median household income in Monson in 2012 was \$65,494, while the Commonwealth’s median was \$66,658 (see Table 3-3).

*Table 3-5: Household Income Distribution, 2012*

	<b>Households</b>	<b>Monson %</b>	<b>Massachusetts %</b>
<b>Less Than \$10,000</b>	177	5.3%	6.3%
<b>\$10,000 to \$24,999</b>	376	11.2%	13.7%
<b>\$25,000 to 49,999</b>	578	17.2%	18.7%
<b>\$50,000 to \$74,999</b>	759	22.5%	16.3%
<b>\$75,000 to \$99,000</b>	394	11.7%	13%
<b>\$100,000 or More</b>	1,082	32.2%	31.8%

Income in 2012 Inflation Adjusted Dollars. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

### 3.3.4 Level of Educational Attainment

Table 3-4 compares the educational attainment of Monson residents to that of Hampden County and Massachusetts residents. Overall, Monson’s residents have completed more higher education than the Hampden County average, but less than the Massachusetts average.

*Table 3-6: Educational Attainment 2012*

	Persons 25 Years and Over	Percent Completed High School	Percent Completed Some College	Percent Completed 4 Years College	Percent Completed > 4 Years College
<b>Monson</b>	6,111	90.8%	18.3%	19.5%	10.5%
<b>Hampden County</b>	305,343	83.7%	18.9%	15.1%	9.1%
<b>Massachusetts</b>	4,465,898	89.1%	16.6%	22.2%	16.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

### 3.3.5 Employment Trends

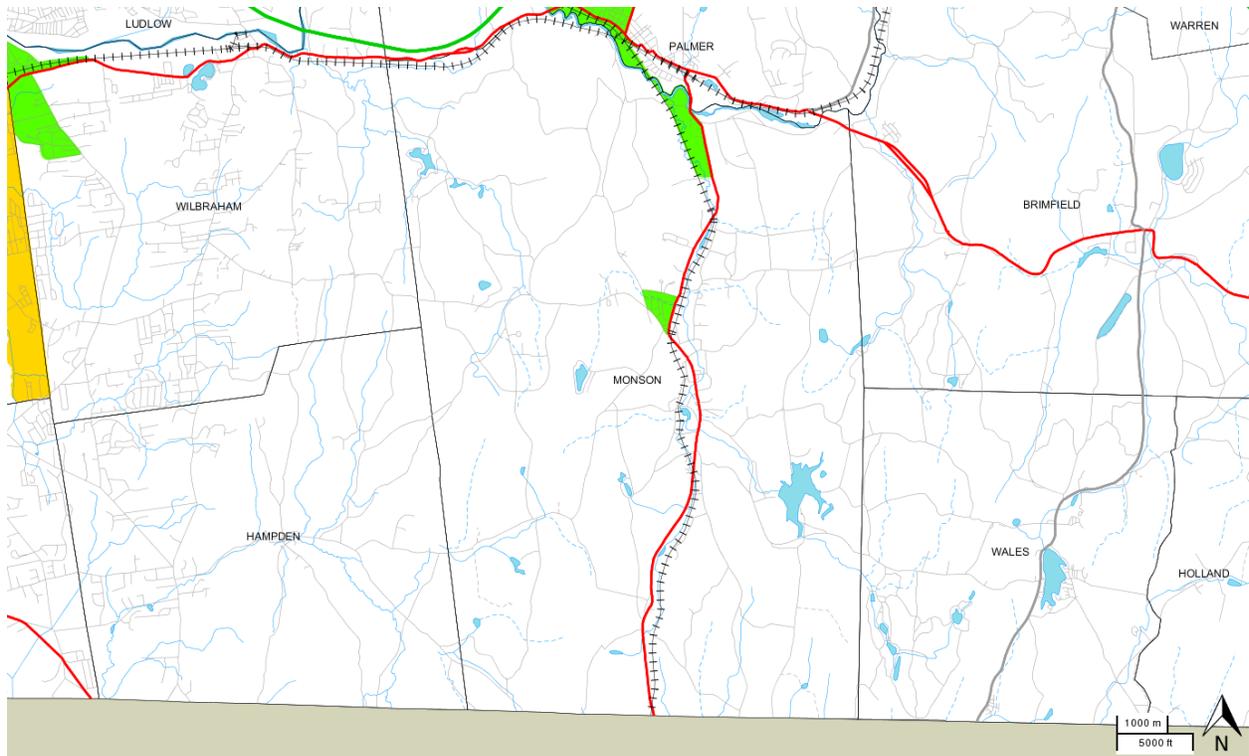
In 2012 individuals employed in Monson came primarily from within Monson (42.3%) or from one of its neighboring communities including Palmer (10.7%), Springfield (7.4%), Ware (5.5%), Belchertown (5.3%), Brimfield (4.7%), and Warren (3.5%).

Of the Town’s resident labor force in 2012, the greatest number worked in Monson (22.0%) while (17.8%) worked in Springfield and another (7.8%) worked in Palmer. Monson residents were primarily employed in the education, health and social services field (26.4%) which is not surprising with the location of the Monson Developmental Center in the town. Manufacturing accounts for roughly (18.0%) of the jobs held by Monson residents. Manufacturing operations found within the town include Diversified Metals, and Lamcotec. Other residents are employed in retail sales (7.9%); construction (8.6%); finance, insurance and real estate (6.2%) transportation and warehousing (3.4%)<sup>1</sup>. One large warehouse and trucking firm in Monson is Lydall Distribution Services.

### 3.3.6 Environmental Justice Populations

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are two block groups that qualify as having environmental justice (EJ) populations that meet the state's criteria as low income. As seen in the Environmental Justice Map on the next page, the EJ populations of Monson are located along Route 32 in the center and northern parts of town. A total of 6.5% of Monson's population lives in EJ block groups. According to 2010 census data, race is not a factor in determining EJ populations, with over 97% of the town's population being white.

<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey



*FIGURE 3.7 MASSGIS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS (SHOWN IN GREEN)*

### 3.4 Growth and Development Patterns

#### 3.4.1 Patterns and Trends

Monson is in the second ring of towns around Springfield and the core cities of the lower Pioneer Valley Planning Region. Wide choices of merchandise and goods are now available only outside the town, towards Springfield, indicating that Monson is dependent on other facilities in the region. This is also true of medical, entertainment and indoor recreational services.

Most of the town development exists around the highways, which run north-south through the town. The lack of a fast, direct link with Springfield/Hartford delayed population expansion of the town for years, but with improvement of local roads and the nearby towns burgeoning with development, Monson has witnessed more rapid residential growth since the early 1990s, and then a slow down after the Great Recession in 2008. Development in future years should pick up as the economy improves.

The natural features of the landscape directly affected town development. The hills broke up the possibility of long, continuous areas of development and slowed the rate of growth. The opportunity now exists to preserve some of the natural beauty of the town for recreational use, rural character and natural resource protection. However, without an adequate plan, insensitive or uncontrolled residential development could irreversibly change the rural landscape and threaten natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

### 3.4.2 Infrastructure

#### *Transportation System*

Monson is a part of Hampden County, flanked by north-south ridges which border the town. Route 32 runs north-south and connects Monson to Palmer to the north, and Connecticut to the south. The Massachusetts Turnpike interchange in Palmer is located just north of Monson, providing links to major cities and towns both east and west. Monson is served by the N.E. Central Rail line which runs north-south. There is one siding located at Lydall Transportation on Bethany Road. Amtrak service runs both north-south and east west through the town, but as mentioned previously, there are no passenger stops.

#### *Water System*

Monson is serviced by 30.15 miles of distribution water mains with 3400 people or 47% of the population being served. The water source for this system is three municipal wells located at Bunyan Road, Palmer Road and Bethany Road (Table 3-5).

In 2007 and 2008 the Monson Water Department pumped an average of 472,000 and 480,000 gallons per day (gpd) respectively. Since that time, conservation efforts on the part of the residents and businesses of Monson in conjunction with leak detection and repair work have significantly reduced average daily usage. In 2012 the averaged use was 373,000 per day and that included the last year of Monson Developmental Center. In 2013 the average was 330,000 per day. At present, pumps only need to run four times a week to meet demand.

Together, these wells supply an average of 119.1 million gallons a year (2013) to the Town of Monson. The Bethany Road well can only be operated using a diesel engine at this time and is only used to add water to our system during periods of high demand. Presently, the primary source is the Palmer Road well and it supplies 98% of the water consumed by the Town. Future expansion of the water system is possible with ample aquifer supply being found at the northern boundary of Monson, although continued upgrades to the aging piping infrastructure would be required. Topography limits how far the distribution can extend from the center of town, however.

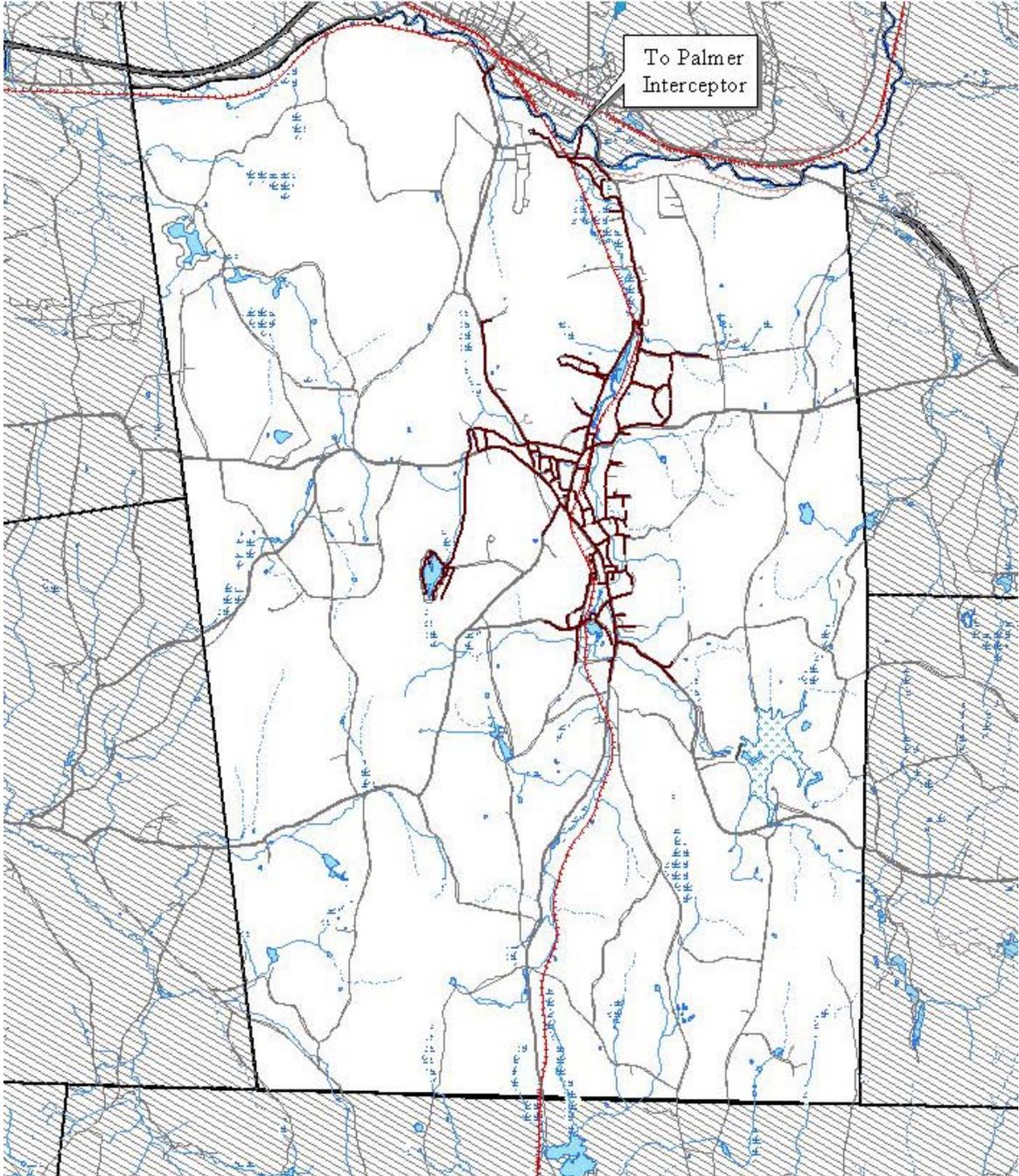
*Table 3-7: Well Capacity*

<b>Well</b>	<b>Permitted Capacity</b>	<b>Actual Present Day Pumping Capacity</b>	<b>Future Pumping Capacity (date)</b>
<b>Bethany Rd</b>	310 gpm avg	310 gpm (diesel only)	310 gpm /electric
	446,000 GPD	446,000 GPD	(unknown)
<b>Palmer Rd</b>	812 gpm avg	470 gpm	812 gpm
	1,169,000 GPD	676,800 GPD	(June 2006)
<b>Bunyan Rd</b>	591 gpm avg	0	591 gpm
	851,000 GPD		(June 2005)

In 2004 the town adopted the Water Supply Protection District Bylaw, the Water Supply Overlay Protection District Map, and the Board of Health Floor Drain Regulation. The adoption of the new bylaws has resulted in Monson's compliance with the DEP drinking water program making Monson a model for other towns within the Commonwealth.

#### Sewer System

The central portion of Monson is serviced by 27.5 miles of municipal sewer lines, with 3437 people or 48% of the population being served (Figure 3-8). The Town's wastewater pumping station handles on average 115 million gallons a year (2000-2004) or 316,000 gallons per day. With a design capacity of 1.4 million gallons per day average and 2.2 million gallons per day peak flow there is ample room for additional wastewater flow but Monson's topography creates severe limitations on future expansions to the existing system into the uplands. Slopes over 15% and exposed surface bedrock make this expansion extremely costly.



0 1 Miles



# Sewer Coverage

 Sewer Lines

*FIGURE 3.8 SEWER MAP*

### 3.4.3 Long-term development patterns

#### *Zoning*

The long-term development patterns of Monson will be determined by the current zoning and zoning bylaws. These regulations influence development, both in its type and location. Development can be excluded or highly regulated in certain areas such as Reserved Lands, Water Supply Districts, Scenic Districts, and Flood Plains.

The overall purpose of the zoning by-law for the town of Monson as stated is to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Monson, and to provide the town with the protection authorized by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A. In general, this by-law intends to separate possible conflicting land uses.

Although a cluster development option exists in the zoning bylaws, it has not been exercised by developers to date. This is because topography limits how far water and sewer can be extended; most open areas in Monson are on slopes. Under the Planned Unit Residential Development (PURD) cluster like development is under construction. A maximum build-out scenario would result in virtually all town-maintained roads being lined with single family detached housing, with a minimum lot size of 60,000 sq. ft. (approximately one and a half acres). A recently proposed dense development at Flynt Quarry of 125 houses did not prove marketable; the area is now a solar farm.

A 2001 study of the net usable land area (NULA) in Monson yielded a result of 75% of the land being potentially suitable for development. The NULA process is eliminative, in that all lands deemed unsuitable for development are eliminated, and the areas remaining result in the net usable land area. Lands considered unsuitable for development in this preliminary study included: already developed land; publicly protected wetlands and river and stream buffers; 100 year floodplains; publicly owned recreation and conservation land.

The NULA process is described as follows: ENTIRE TOWN → ELIMINATE DEVELOPED LAND → RESTRICT WETLAND DEVELOPMENT → ELIMINATE FLOODPLAIN → ELIMINATE PUBLIC OWNED AND PROTECTED LAND → **NET USABLE LAND AREA (NULA)** → ASSESS SLOPE SUITABILITY = **LAND MOST SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

#### *Ecological Impacts*

If roads and driveways are planned poorly, soil erosion can have a direct impact on adjacent landscapes. The sediment from erosion typically accumulates in streams, rivers, and floodplains. It can become excessive and fill the bottom of streams, which can degrade fish habitats. Mineral nutrients move in solution and with eroded particles, pollute streams. The nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, may eutrophicate aquifers, lakes, and wetlands

Additional ecological impacts of a maximum build-out would result in increased fragmentation of wildlife habitat. The process of unplanned rural development produces an abundance of forest edge, making conditions unfavorable for species which require large interior forest conditions. Also, in the course of new construction, forest is often removed and replaced with lawn, altering the types of species which can reside in the area.

## **Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis**



The physical features of the Town of Monson create a template that continues to guide the location of human activity today.

#### 4.1.1 Geologic History

445 million years ago, the landscape of western Massachusetts underwent severe changes. Plate tectonics and continental drift caused the earth's large plates of rock to slowly move and collide with each other to form our current landscape. The Bronson and North American plates, in the area of Boston, Massachusetts, collided to form the Berkshire Mountains. This colliding and uplifting of plates pushed large hills and mountains skyward. Around 380 million years ago there was another collision of plates. The Avalon plate and the North American plate came together to form the Pelham hills and hills eastward. The landscape of western Massachusetts was transformed under great pressure and movement creating some of the landforms still present in Monson.

220 million years ago Massachusetts was part of the continent of Pangea, the land mass before Africa and North America separated. At this point tropical swamps most likely comprised the landscape of western Massachusetts. North America and Africa then began to separate putting great stress on the landscape. This process of tearing and splitting open led to the creation of the Connecticut Valley. As the valley opened, molten rock oozed through fissures. Sheets of lava covered the valley floor and magma stretched the earth and pushed up anomalies such as the Holyoke range and Monson's western hills. At this point in time dinosaurs dominated the landscape. Humans were not to come for another 188 million years.

Approximately 200 million years ago glaciers covered the landscape of New England. During this period of glaciation western Massachusetts went through approximately 20 ice ages. The most recent glacier, the Laurentide, covered western Massachusetts about 18,500 years ago. When this glacier retreated it left the landscape tundra-like and not conducive to life for thousands of years.

When the glacier began to melt, Glacial Lake Quaboag formed in the Monson-Palmer area. Only Peck Hill, Bear Hill and Peaked Mountain were visible above the melting glacier and the surface of Glacial Lake Quaboag. When the ice receded north of the Connecticut line it exposed a drainage divide. Meltwater ponded northward over the Chicopee Brook valley depositing gravels near the state line. Glacial Lake Quaboag reached elevations of 660 feet in Monson. Lake sediments were deposited directly on top of the ice that choked the Chicopee Brook and Quaboag River valleys. When the ice finally melted the sediments collapsed leaving the large sandy lake bottom remnants and esker ridge gravels that are evident east of Rt. 32 at the former Monson Sand and Gravel site. The Monson valley is marked with masses of glacial deposits such as drumlins and eskers. For example, a drumlin, or rounded hill of glacial debris, can be found on the west side of Bethany Road; an esker, formed by a large piece of glacier breaking off and depositing its sediment load in glacial meltwater channels, can be found on the site of the Monson Sand and Gravel Company on Stafford Road. The First Church of Monson is located on top of glacial lake bottom deposits at the edge of one of the river terraces that drained Glacial Lake Quaboag.

As ice continued to melt, additional spillways opened to the west at Bald Hill in Monson, Glendale Church in Wilbraham and north of Palmer center near Forest Lake. About 12,400 years ago the water receded from Glacial Lake Quaboag to form the Chicopee River Basin, one of the largest drainage basins in the state. Chicopee Brook flows into the Quaboag River and joins water from the Swift and Ware Rivers in the Chicopee River, a principal tributary of the Connecticut River. It was at this time that Native Americans then began to settle in the New England environment.

### **4.1.2 Geology of Monson**

Monson's geologic terrain takes the shape of a Y-Shaped valley. The valley is bordered by two prominent ridges running north and south on the east and west sides of town. The western ridge and hills are granite intrusions that were formed by a bubble of molten rock that pushed its way to the surface but did not break through, approximately 450 million years ago. This is known as the Bronson Hill volcanic belt. It is composed of Monson gneiss, Ammonoosuc volcanic rocks, and Clough quartzite and runs from central Connecticut to New Hampshire. This belt was near the center of the collision between Gondwanan and Laurentian continents. As these igneous intrusions cooled, they formed the western granitic hills that separate Monson from Wilbraham.

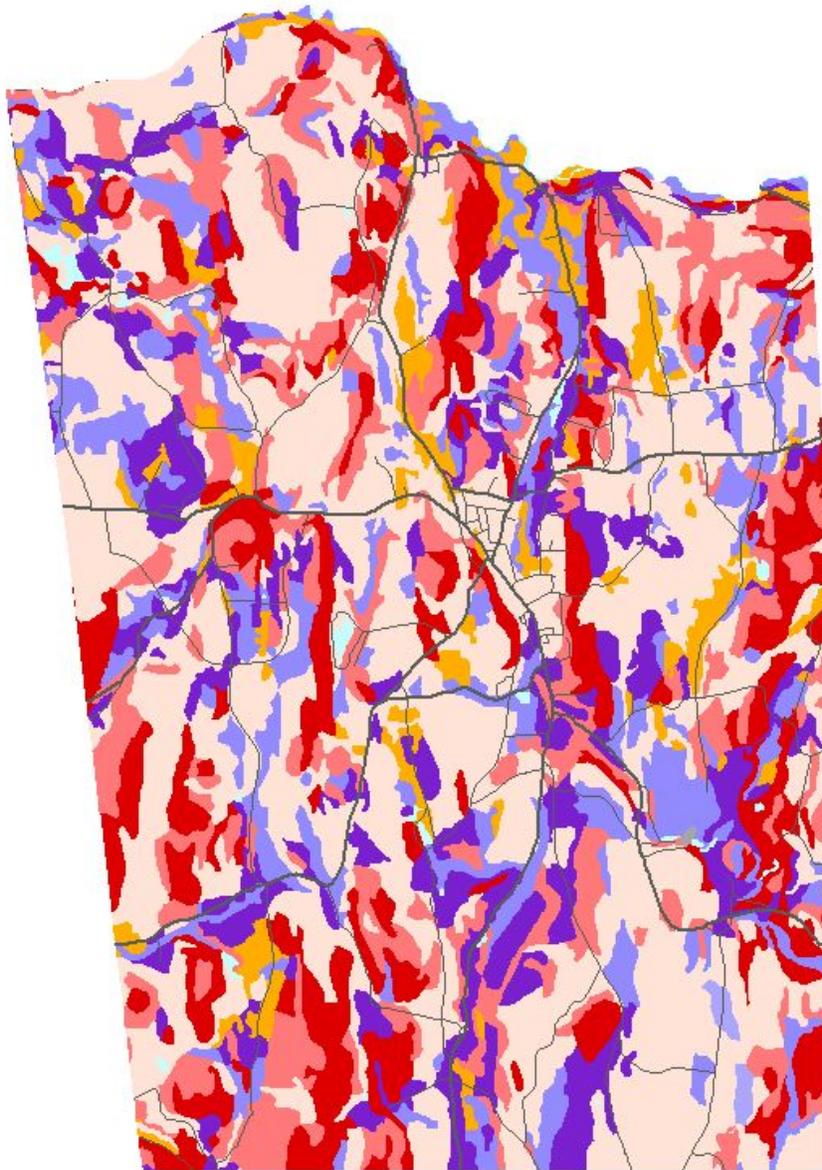
Monson's highest peaks, including Peaked Mountain (1,278 feet), West Hill (900 feet), and Chicopee Mountain (800 feet) are part of the western ridgeline. Monson Granite was quarried at the base of these formations for use in many of the town's historic buildings. The eastern ridge, in contrast, was formed by glacial deposits of schist, composed of granite, sandstone, feldspar, and quartz. This glacial formation occurred when the glaciers retreated several thousand years ago and dropped debris gathered from distant landscapes.

The soils of Monson relate directly to the geologic forms and slope of the landscape. The composition of the lowland and eastern ridge soils are characteristic of the glacial deposits which were left in the outwash plain of the Monson valley. The western upland soils and their composition represent glacial deposits and erosion of the igneous landform. The valley floor is made up of different deposits of Hinkley-Merrimack-Windsor soils. These soils are found on nearly level to steep slopes and are very deep.

The Hinkley-Merrimack-Windsor soils drain excessively, having formed in sandy and gravely outwash plains, and often overlie aquifers. Development on top of these soils can be hazardous since there is a diminished ability to filter pollution, which may drain directly into the aquifer. The uplands of Monson are comprised of Scituate-Montauk-Charlton soils. These soils are found on level to very steep slopes and are well-to-moderately drained. They occur in areas of loamy and sandy glacial till and are subject to a seasonal high water table after prolonged rains in the spring and winter.

### **4.1.3 Effect on Development, Recreation, Erosion**

Development limitations related to soils and geologic features are shown in Figure 4-1.



## Development Limitations Related to Soils and Geologic Features



*FIGURE 4.1 DEVELOPMENT LIMITATIONS RELATED TO SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES*

The eastern ridge was settled first because of its make-up of loose stone from glacial deposits. This loose subsurface made it easier to develop, drill wells, and to till the land. Vegetation was also much more prosperous on this eastern ridge because of the loose composition of the earth. Several small, family-owned farms still exist on the ridge along East Hill Road to the north, and on Moulton Hill Road to the south. In contrast, the Western Ridge was more suitable for lumbering than farming, due to steep slopes. There has been some recent development along this ridge and along unpaved lumber roads during the last decade, but that development has slowed since the Great Recession (2008).

The physical structure of Monson has influenced conservation and recreation in an indirect way. Since Monson was initially difficult to develop and settle, large tracts of unbroken forest and undeveloped land still exist today. Most development in town tends to take place along existing road frontage. Many residents take advantage of undeveloped areas and unpaved roads and trails for numerous sports, including hunting, hiking, nature study, photography, mountain-biking, all terrain-vehicles, and horseback riding.

## 4.2 Landscape Character

Monson's bountiful natural resources complemented by the picturesque relics of its varied history make Monson an attractive, quiet place in which to live. (See Figure 4-2, Scenic Resources and Unique Features map). Intricate networks of streams and wetlands wind through the forested hillsides and into the valley. Numerous ponds and pools dot the countryside. The environment is diverse and healthy. It supports much wildlife and is an attractive rural setting in which to live.

A rich past of many layers contributes to this setting. Dry laid stonewalls, an echo of Monson's agricultural past, are present in almost every part of the town. They can be found on existing farms, along isolated agricultural fields, crisscrossing over wooded hillsides, and along roadsides. Numerous historic farmhouses, as well as old cellar holes, can be found in Monson's rocky hills. The picturesque setting lends a sense of permanence about town, which may lead some residents to not recognize the need for permanent conservation efforts.

While new development takes place along Monson's rural roads, both wood-frame and granite, historic, buildings comprise Monson's downtown core. A testament to Monson's prosperous industrial age, these structures serve as the architectural centerpiece of the town. Steeples and towers of some of the public buildings are visible when looking down into the valley from key vantage points in Monson's upper elevations. This view was greatly disrupted by the June 1, 2011 tornado that traversed along Monson's midsection and caused destruction in Monson's downtown core as well as in its forests. While downtown is being rebuilt, it will take time for Monson's deforested areas to re-grow and for unmarred view to return.

## 4.3 Water Resources

### 4.3.1 Watersheds

The boundaries of Monson overlap three watershed areas: the Chicopee, the Connecticut, and the Quinebaug. An intricate network of small streams and brooks wind through the forested hillsides. Chicopee Brook, Monson's main water body, flows north to the Quaboag River. The Quaboag River forms the northern boundary between Monson and Palmer. The Quaboag River then joins water from

the Swift and Ware Rivers and continues to flow into the Chicopee River, a principal tributary of the Connecticut River. Southeast Monson is located in the Quinebaug Watershed and Temple Brook in southwest Monson is within the Connecticut River Watershed. (See Figure 4-3: Water Resources)

#### 4.3.2 Surface Water

Surface water resources consist of ponds, lakes, rivers, swamps, brooks and seasonal streams. Under the state's Wetlands Protection Act, ponds, lakes, and bordering vegetated wetland buffers are set for 100 feet. Streams and rivers are protected within 200 feet of the mean high water level. These buffers are critical to protect water resources from detrimental impacts of development.

Monson has an abundance of small-scale water resources that total approximately 133 acres of surface water. In the past, Chicopee Brook powered many of Monson's mills and is now a scenic component throughout Monson's downtown core. Swimming, kayaking, and canoeing on the Quaboag is possible, however public access to the river is limited.

In addition to its streams and brooks, Monson has many small ponds and lakes. Privately owned and controlled by local lake associations, Pulpit Rock Lake, Stagecoach Lake, and Paradise Lake offer association members small beach areas for swimming and boating. None of the ponds and lakes accommodates powerboats. There are no lakes or ponds open for public use. But Conant Brook Dam, a flood control facility managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, is an important public recreational facility. The 300 acre reservation offers a beautiful streamside environment along the Conant and Vinica brooks. Anglers enjoy excellent trout fishing in streams below the dam, while warm water fishermen enjoy the waters above the dam. Horseback riders, hikers and cross-country skiers utilize the miles of trails that the reservation provides. Hunting is also popular among reservation visitors by permit in season. The public may access this area by parking in a designated lot.

Table 4-2: Water Quality in Monson's Surface Waters

Name	Segment ID	TMDL Category*	Size	Water Quality Issues
Conant Brook Reservoir	MA36038	2	4 acres	None
Scantic River	MA34-30	2	9.6 miles	None
Temple Brook	MA34-08	2	3.7 miles	None
Chicopee Brook	MA36-21	3	9.9 miles	None
Paradise Lake	MA36116	3	17 acres	None
Monson Road Pond	MA41059	3	4 acres	None
Dean Pond	MA36049	4c	10 acres	Non-Native Aquatic Plants
Quaboag River	MA36-16	5	8.7 miles	Fecal Coliform

\* Category 2 = Attaining Some Uses; Other Uses Not Assessed; Category 3 = No Uses Assessed; Category 4a = TMDL is completed; Category 4c = Impairment not Caused by a Pollutant; Category 5 = Waters requiring a TMDL Source: Massachusetts Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters

### 4.3.3 Aquifer Recharge Areas

The main aquifer recharge area in Monson lies beneath the central valley and the Hinckley Merrimack-Windsor soils. According to the *Monson Source Water Protection Plan* (2006), "The Hinckley-Merrimack-Windsor soils drain excessively, having formed in sandy and gravely outwash plains, and often overlie aquifers. Development on top of these soils can be hazardous since there is a diminished ability to filter pollution, which may drain directly into the aquifer."

DEP-approved Zone II Well Head Protection Areas are designated through the center of town along the Chicopee Brook Zone II recharge areas. A Groundwater Protection District includes Zone II areas just to the north of downtown near the Palmer, Bethany, and Bunyan Road well areas. Because these areas correspond with the town's drinking supply, and because the *Source Water Protection Plan* also notes that there is no protective clay layer to filter pollution with this aquifer, additional acquisition and protection of land (particularly around the Palmer Road and Bethany Road Wells) is needed.

Should an expansion to the current water system be needed, there is an excellent aquifer recharge area in this central valley near the Palmer border. This site is in close proximity to existing water lines. An addition to the existing water system would be feasible.

An additional 300 feet of water lines was recently extended in the area around Macomber Road to support a housing development that would have potentially included 125 homes over the aquifer recharge area. The area is now a solar farm.

*Table 4-3: Active Wells in Monson*

<i>Well Name</i>	<i>Source ID#</i>	<i>MA GIS Zone II ID Number</i>	<i>Source Susceptibility</i>
Bethany Road Well	1191000-03G	# 558	High
Lower Palmer Road Well	1191000-04G	# 558	High
Bunyan Road Well	1191000-05G	# 558	High

*Source: Massachusetts DEP SWAP Report, 2002*

#### 4.3.4 Flood Hazard Areas

The 100- and 500-year flood plain maps were recently revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hampden County. Most of the flood zones are found along the northern portions of Chicopee Brook, which flows down the center of town, and along the border with Palmer. Fortunately, many of the flood zones overlap with conservation and recreation land, which leaves infrastructure and the built environment less prone to damage by flooding.

Flooding as a result of heavy rains and a hurricane in August 1955 prompted the construction of the Conant Brook Dam in 1964, which is also a federally-owned public recreation area in the Town. Twelve-mile Brook, Conant Brook Reservoir, Temple Brook, Chicopee Brook, and the Quaboag River all present a potential flood hazard as outlined by FEMA (Figure 4-6 Water Resources: FEMA, Surface Water & Wetlands).

#### 4.3.5 Wetlands

The relatively level of protection afforded to wetlands is due to the high values they provide to humans and the environment. Wetlands themselves public and private water supply, ground water supply, land containing shellfish, fisheries, and wildlife habitat while providing protections against floods, storm damage, pollution. Wetlands also play a major role in the landscape by providing unique habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. They can be thought of as “biological supermarkets” because of the extensive food chain and rich biodiversity that they support. On a global scale, wetlands have been termed “carbon-dioxide sinks” and climate stabilizers. The Monson Conservation Commission is responsible for protecting the values that our wetlands provide by applying the regulations set forth by the Wetlands Protection Act.

Monson’s soil is largely composed of glacial till, a heterogeneous mixture of clay, silt, sand and gravel deposited by glacial ice. Wetlands occur frequently on this unsorted soil mixture as it is not very permeable. In conjunction with the number of streams and brooks that flow and drain in these areas of glacial deposits, this soil type makes wetlands a common landscape feature in Monson. The soils and ample water supplies also support numerous vernal pools found throughout the town. Vernal pools are wetland habitats that are ephemeral (i.e. pools of water that form after the spring thaw but dry up by summer) that provide important wildlife habitat and aid in flood prevention and aquifer recharge.

Monson's cedar swamp, located in the Town's southeast corner, is a white cedar wetland. These wetlands are unusual with only a few found throughout the Commonwealth. Cedar Swamp is owned by the Monson Conservation Commission.

## 4.4 Vegetation

### 4.4.1 General Inventory

The Town of Monson has vegetative cover types that are consistent with the surrounding region. The landscape of Monson is typical of the other towns in the area, with large uninterrupted patches of secondary and mature growth forests, agricultural lands consisting of crop and pasture lands, forested wetlands, fragmented tree and shrub canopies from residential development, and the ecotones that connect these vegetative covers.

Before the recession of 2008, woods, fields, streams, and wetlands were increasingly affected by development. Fields near the downtown area that were valued for their scenic quality and recreational value were subdivided to make way for housing. Increased development along roads altered their scenic or rural character. After the recession new construction slowed, but

### 4.4.2 Forest Land

An analysis of the most recent vegetation mapping for the Town shows that approximately 75% of the land is forested. Much of this land is adjacent to forested areas in neighboring towns. These large patches and connections to the region are very important for the planning of open space from a regional perspective, since they create the potential for wildlife and trail corridors, and allow for a flexible management plan that will satisfy a wide variety of uses and activities. One of the largest forested blocks in Massachusetts exists in the western portion of Monson (BioMap Critical Natural Landscape 632) and extends into other municipalities; most of this area remains unprotected from development.

The forests in Monson are diverse both horizontally and vertically within the community. This is primarily due to historical land management practices such as timber harvesting and the abandonment of agricultural fields. The differences in tree heights vary from successional and second growth to mature forests. This vertical diversity provides for many types of habitats including ground, shrub, understory, and canopy layers. Thus, a wide variety of species can be supported.

Horizontally, the forests also form a very diverse mosaic, which for simplicity can be grouped into three main categories: 1. Hardwoods, such as maples (*Acer*), ash (*Fraxinus*), oak (*Quercus*), beech (*Fagus*), and birches (*Betula*); 2. the Softwoods including pine (*Pinus*), and hemlock (*Tsuga*); and 3. Mixed hardwood/softwood patches.

The dense forests in Monson provide other ecological benefits in addition to species richness. Monson's forested slopes must be managed correctly to minimize soil erosion. Soil stability is also an extremely important factor in a healthy ecosystem. The carbon cycle and the hydrologic cycle are both important ecosystem processes that depend on vegetative cover for their proper functioning. Reducing vegetative cover in forested areas can affect the natural "sheet flow" of water down streams, gullies, and through soil substrate. This would cause excessive water to flow into lower terrain, increasing flood potential,

and reducing water quality. Erosion may also be a concern in tornado-impacted areas, and should be allowed to naturally re-grow for this purpose.

The hillside roads that wind through the town's forests offer scenic vistas and pleasant settings for excursions on foot, bicycle, or by car. Beautiful overlooks can be found on many ridges. Likewise the ridges can often be glimpsed from the valley. Recreational opportunities in the town's forests are abundant. With proper planning, a wide range of active and passive recreation can coexist in these large patches. The pasture lands and forest edges that support many game species are important as many residents enjoy hunting and/or benefit from revenues from hunting. The interior forests are also important for some upland game species like turkey, bear and song birds.

The maturing upland forests are excellent for hiking; as the trees age and form dense canopies, the understory species diminish leaving clear areas for trails. The larger tracts of forest allow 52 recreational trails to extend outside the town and into a regional system. The thicker mature softwood stands have relatively complete canopies that limit snow levels beneath them. These are good winter corridors for both people and wildlife and ideal for winter walking trails. The open canopy of the hardwood species allows the snow to build up to adequate levels for skiing, and snow shoeing.

Although Monson lost 967 acres of forests and many public shade trees during the June 2011 tornado, the resulting swath converted mature forest into early successional habitat. Early successional scrub is an important component for a variety of wildlife and the town has seen a significant upturn in Eastern Bluebird populations because of the more desirable open habitat. All species of woodpecker (pileated, hairy and downy as well as sapsuckers) have benefited from the insect infestation in standing deadwood and snags that were a result of the tornado. One would certainly suspect that insect diversity has increased as well as habitat for many indigenous mammals. Landowners and the town public open space should be monitored for invasive species. Early control of plants such as Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Barberry, Winged Euonymus and Japanese Knotweed will be important.

#### **4.4.3 Public Shade Trees**

The Replanting Monson Tree Committee was formed as a result of the tornado in 2011. Eric Seaborn, MA DCR Urban Forester came to Monson to assess our needs and was instrumental in helping the town get funding for public shade trees. John Parry and the Urban Forest Strike Team from the USDA office in New Hampshire also came to Monson to identify trees that needed to be removed as a result of damage from the tornado and helped us identify locations where public trees should be planted. The RMTC went to work and started with a public planting that included 7 American Elm Trees in Veterans Field as well as numerous trees for both the senior housing and Cushman Field, (all three locations are along Chicopee Brook) in the fall of 2011. The RMTC offers mostly native and some ornamental trees to people. Public, or street trees are provided free of charge as a result of the generous grant funds that Monson received from the Commonwealth and the Committee helps to plant those trees. Homeowners agree to water and care for their new street trees. The Committee also established a fund for donations so that it was able to provide "back yard" trees to homeowners at a significant discount. Since that first planting, the RMTC has planted over 600 trees through the tornado zone.

Moving forward, the Committee is applying to the Selectmen to remain a permanent committee within the town. It has applied to become a "Tree City USA" through the Arbour Day Foundation and now hopes to provide public (street) trees for anyone in town who is interested. The same year as Monson was hit with the tornado, we also endured the October snowstorm which also damaged many trees.

#### 4.4.4 Agricultural Land

Pasture and agricultural lands are important open space areas for Monson. These patches of grasses and crops are less important for specialized interior species, but they do accommodate the majority of game species, both within them and along their edges. Pastures also provide important habitat for many bird and insect species, which are important to the residents who enjoy observing wildlife as recreation. These values underscore the benefits of keeping existing farmland in production and maintaining pasture lands. They are important as a food source, for recreation, and for their visual character. Meadowland and pasture in Monson which is not periodically cut or grazed, quickly returns to forest. It is important to promote Monson agricultural products and benefits in order to support the continuance of farming and to

#### 4.4.5 Wetland Vegetation

The vegetative covers of the wetlands, riverine, and lacustrine areas in Monson are typical of wetland and water bodies in western Massachusetts. In Monson they include river corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, etc. These areas increase the overall biodiversity of the Town and region by providing a great variety of important habitat types. The vegetation that borders these shores and grows in these waters is important to the health of the water bodies and provides crucial habitat for edge species where water and land meet. Plants that grow there reduce bank erosion and keep the nutrient and oxygen levels of the water in balance.

Wetland vegetation around shorelines is also important for recreation. These plants stabilize banks, permitting paths to pass close to shorelines where people prefer to walk. By reducing erosion, these plants also provide habitat for popular game fish like pike, small mouth bass, pickerel, and panfish. These fish are favorites of summer and winter anglers, and indirectly bring revenue to local businesses. Fallen logs and brush piles along the waters edge also provide habitat for some avian species that are valued by bird watchers and hunters. Nesting sites are generally in hidden locations and require this coverage to protect offspring from predators and human disturbances.

An intact, moderately sized Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp is a valuable resource found in Monson. Its vegetation includes Atlantic white cedar, hemlock, spruce, red maple and yellow birch.

#### 4.4.6 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Monson has the second-highest quality Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp in the state. The Atlantic White Cedar Swamp is a threatened natural community. It is ranked S2, meaning that there are only between 6 and 20 of these community types found in the Commonwealth. This is key habitat for the rare Spatterdock Darner dragonfly and significant habitat for rare turtles and salamanders. The Cedar Swamp is owned by the Conservation Commission, and some of the surrounding lands are owned by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. It will be important to protect the riparian habitats and the connections between existing conservation lands around this beautiful natural resource.

There are two vascular species of plants listed as endangered or of special concern by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program: Climbing Fumitory (*Adlumia fungosa*), and Pod-grass (*Scheuchzeria palustris*) were documented in the town. Climbing Fumitory is found on boulders and broken stones below cliffs and is a species of special concern last documented in 1897. Pod-grass is a perennial grass-like plant that grows in acidic bogs, peatlands, and open sedgy areas. It is considered endangered and was last documented in 1892.

## 4.5 Fisheries and Wildlife

### 4.5.1 Inventory

Monson contains a significant amount of upland and wetland wildlife habitat. The forests of the town consist of large unbroken tracts of mature forest that allow for good species movement within Monson and the surrounding region. The habitat for terrestrial species in Monson has been increasing recently due to the natural reforestation on abandoned agricultural lands. As a result, some interior animal species such as deer, bear, coyote, and fisher that require large tracts of land are also increasing.

Though decreasing, the town still has a number of working agricultural areas that provide an important ecological component for the maintenance of “edge” habitat, which is a transitional zone or ecotone. Edge habitat is area where open fields and large forest tracts come together, which provides exceptional, high quality wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Preserving or creating new edge habitat should be a consideration if the town is to maintain its diverse mix of wildlife.

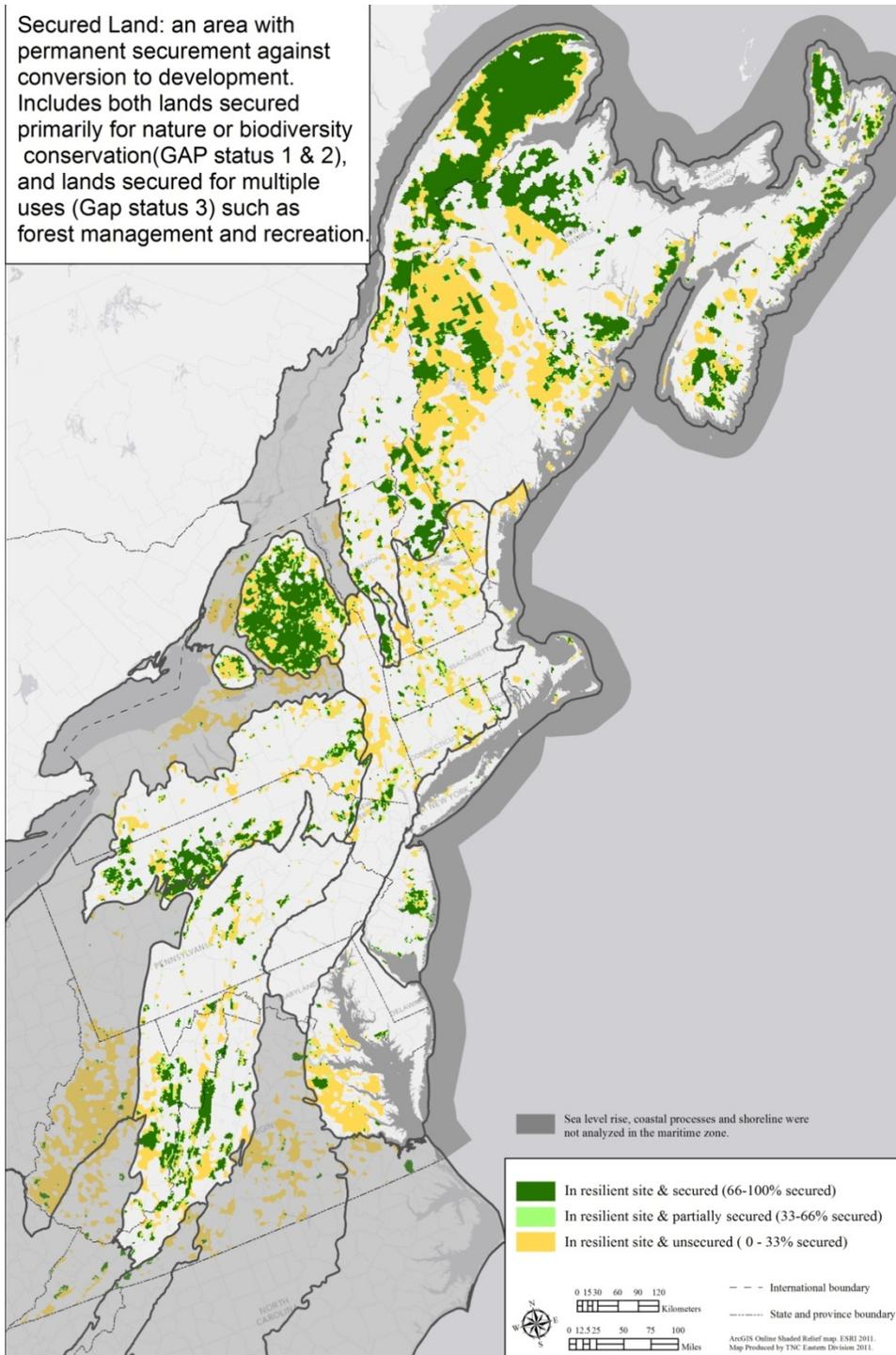
Monson also contains an extensive network of streams, rivers, forested and open water bodies. These include Cedar Swamp, Conant Brook, Paradise Lake, Chicopee Brook, Pulpit Rock Lake, and Twelve Mile Brook. These important ecosystems house large numbers of aquatic species that add to the town’s overall species richness. Trout are found in the town’s cool streams. Bass, pickerel, and assorted pan fish are abundant in the warmer pond waters. The combination of these landscape components in the town’s rural matrix of wetlands, forests, and, unique visual characteristics provide abundant recreational opportunities.

Monson supports an abundance of wetland and upland species. Species diversity is greatest where several habitat types co-occur. In past years, two species of birds were selected as target species in order to assess the quality of wetland and upland habitat present in Monson: the belted kingfisher (*Megascops alcyon*), associated with riparian areas, and the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), associated with wooded uplands. The selection of birds as target species was based on two factors. First, no other habitat association in North America is believed to be as important as riparian wetlands for non-colonial nesting birds. More than 250 species of birds use riparian habitats. Second, the abundance, diversity and distribution of birds as well as the specific requirements of each reflect the existing plant structure and thus give information about habitat quality and quantity. Furthermore, birds are a highly valued form of urban and rural wildlife, which may increase public support for management of their habitats.

In assessing the suitability of kingfisher and the red tailed hawk habitat in Monson, the available habitat was studied. Vegetation types required by the belted kingfisher are associated with streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, marshes, shrub swamps and forested wetlands (conifer and deciduous). For the red tailed hawk, required vegetation is northern hardwoods (sugar maple, white pine, red oak, red maple, beech, ash, birch), and northern red oak. These vegetation types were aggregated into one category for each target species. All areas that fulfill the estimated minimum habitat size requirements of the target species were then selected. The minimum area for the red tailed hawk is 10 acres and for the belted kingfisher one kilometer of shoreline. In the case of the belted kingfisher, proximity to the ponds of Monson and the Quaboag River was also taken into account. Areas with development less than 200 feet away from the river were not considered potential kingfisher habitat because of their kingfisher’s sensitivity to human disturbance during the breeding season.

In Monson, populations of the red tailed hawk and of the belted kingfisher were healthy. The town can assume that the areas where they are found are fairly healthy and do support most if not all of the other species generally associated with wetlands and forests.

In 2012, *BioMap2* identified 6,624 acres of Core Habitat and 11,843 acres of Critical Natural Landscape in Monson. Core Habitat is defined as areas “necessary to promote the long-term persistence of rare species, other Species of Conservation Concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems.” Critical Natural Landscape is defined as “intact landscapes in Massachusetts that are better able to support ecological processes and disturbance regimes, and a wide array of species and habitats over long timeframes.” *BioMap2* notes that 12.7% or 839 acres of Core Habitat is protected in Monson, while 18.4% or 2,174 acres of Critical Natural Landscape is protected. Three landscape blocks – which *BioMap2* describes as “the most intact large areas of predominantly natural vegetation” – are found in Monson. Correspondingly, The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) 2012 *Northeast Resilience Project* report identified all the areas in the northeast where landforms, connectivity, and geology combine to form landscapes that are more resilient to climate change than others. Resiliency means that in the face of warming temperatures, biodiversity and natural communities are maintained. According to this study, almost the entire town of Monson is considered a “resilient” site (see Figure 4-5: TNC Resilient Sites). Even more importantly, TNC notes that this area is also mostly unprotected from development (see Figure 4-6: TNC Resiliency Map, Focal Areas).



## Focus Areas and Secured Areas

*FIGURE 4-6: FOCUS AREAS AND SECURED AREAS (EXTRACTED FROM RESILIENT SITES FOR TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION IN THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC REGION, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, 2012, PAGE 164)*

#### 4.5.2 Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats that support the breeding of amphibians and invertebrate animals. Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools, and temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising ground water and rainfall and remain ponded through the spring and into summer.

Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations. Many amphibian and invertebrate species rely on breeding habitat that is free of fish predators. Vernal pools are critical habitat for certain species of frogs and salamanders, the amphibians that help to control the mosquito population of wetlands. Vernal pools are also important for flood control, especially in spring and fall, and improve the quality of our water supply – filtering out pollutants before the water goes into underground aquifers that supply our drinking water.

Easthampton has 29 Certified Vernal Pools (CVP) and 138 Potential Vernal Pools. Potential Vernal Pools are identified from aerial photographs and require verification on the ground. Clusters of vernal pools provide particularly good habitat for species that depend on vernal pools for habitat. Clusters provide alternate habitats if something happens to one pool. A cluster of CVPs is found near Conant Brook Reservoir and Maxwell Brook in the northwest portion of town. PVPs are found off May Hill Road and off East Hill Road. Visiting and evaluating more of the Potential Vernal Pools for certification would provide more protection to these wetlands and the species that use them.

#### 4.5.3 Corridors

There are many areas of protected open space throughout the town. The town may consider linking some of these protected areas through agreements with landowners or selective purchases. Maintaining connection between large undeveloped tracts of land increases the quality of the habitat for species that require a deep woods, more remote territory, or a migratory path. For example, several uncommon species of turtles found in Monson are particularly in need of unfragmented landscape since they migrate to multiple types of ecosystems (wetland, forest, etc.) to complete their lifecycle.

Riparian corridors are used as travel routes by numerous species of animals. Protection of these riverfront areas should be a priority at all times, but especially when these corridors can provide a link between two otherwise separate habitats.

A potential corridor of conservation land in Monson would connect the forests surrounding Peaked Mountain with the lands surrounding the former location of the Monson Developmental Center. Conservation easements, donations, or outright purchases could protect land so that contiguous forests could connect with neighboring towns such as Palmer. Such a corridor may also be explored extending west to connect to forests in neighboring Wilbraham or Hampden.

#### 4.5.4 Rare Species

Animals listed as species of special concern by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program are in danger of becoming threatened or endangered because their numbers are dropping in all populations across the state. In Monson these include three turtle species, the wood turtle, the spotted turtle and the eastern box turtle (Table 4-3). Over 53% of reptile species in Massachusetts are

considered endangered. State wide monitoring and protection of these habitats are important to the long term survival of these species.

*Table 4-3: Rare Animal Species Documented in Monson (as of March 11, 2014)*

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Year
<b>Vertebrates</b>			
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	Threatened	2010
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle	Delisted	2000
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	Special Concern	2012
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander	Delisted	2005
<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Water Shrew	Special Concern	1989
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	Special Concern	2013
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	Endangered	Historic
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
<i>Alasmidonta undulate</i>	Triangle Floater	Delisted	2008
<i>Anax longipes</i>	Comet Darner	Special Concern	2010
<i>Rhionaeschna mutata</i>	Spatterdock Darner	Special Concern	2010

As mentioned earlier, certain areas of Monson have been designated as Core Habitat and supporting natural landscape for wildlife species. These areas are important to the preservation of the diversity of wildlife found within our town. These core habitats, along with vernal pools and priority habitat for endangered species are indicated on figure 4-10.

## 4.6 Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

### 4.6.1 Scenic Landscapes and Unique Environments

Scenic resources are defined as “Those visually significant or unique areas within a town ... whose protection or preservation provides such generally recognized public benefits that these areas will warrant public involvement in preservation or development decisions concerning them.” (Fabos, Green, Joyner, 1978) A scenic resource contributes to the visual interest and the variety of the landscape. Scenic resources are important because they are known areas or landmarks, which in conjunction with

the built environment play a strong role in defining a town aesthetically. If these resources are preserved today, they will exist for the enjoyment of future generations (Fabos, Green, Joyner, 1978).

A scenic landscape is created by a combination of natural and built factors. Though several scenic resources in Monson were impacted by the 2011 tornado, particularly downtown, they remain to contribute to the scenic landscape of the town.

**PEAKED MOUNTAIN:** For the hiker, this mountain offers tremendous views, reaching many miles to the east, south and west, far beyond the town's border. Peaked Mountain is the highest point in Monson.

**LUNDEN MILLER FOREST TRACT:** Part of the Peaked Mountain Reservation. This area offers gentler slopes and walking trails around the Lunden-Miller Pond. Some trails meander down to Temple Brook which runs along the south-west side of Monson.

**CONANT BROOK DAM:** Federally owned, this area is known for its beauty as well as its popularity for hiking. The dam offers views of the western ridge and of the winding Conant Brook.

**CEDAR SWAMP:** In the southeast area of town off Cedar Swamp Road. This is a unique wetland with hiking trails that encircle the property.

**FLYNT PARK:** Over 100 acres of town-owned recreation, providing hiking trails in addition to soccer and baseball fields. At its founding in the 1800's, there was an observation tower at Flynt Park.

**SILVER STREET:** Old maple trees line portions of this street. There are many wetland features along this road and a Conservation property with hiking trails that allow viewing of a heron rookery and large wetland system.

**FLYNT QUARRY LANDS:** 165 acres adjacent to and north of all three school properties. New, well-marked trails and a trail guide are being developed for this parcel. The Monson High School Cross-Country race course is partially located on this property.

**QUINLAN MEMORIAL CONSERVATION LAND:** Mature woodlands in a large forest block. Hiking trails are marked through part of this unique and beautiful woodland

**NORCROSS SANCTUARY:** Protected, private conservation land in the southeast corner of Monson.

**BRIMFIELD STATE FOREST:** State-owned forest that includes Dean Pond, a public swimming area.

**BALD PEAK:** Located north of Hovey Road along the western ridge, the peak provides views beyond the town borders to the west.

**WESTVIEW FARM:** Located on East Hill Road, this farm provides homemade ice cream, family activities as well as an extraordinary view of the entire western ridge.

**KORANS:** This farm is also located on East Hill Road, with similar views toward the western ridge. Strawberry picking is featured in spring with corn and other produce available throughout the summer.

**ECHO HILL ORCHARD:** This area provides both visually appealing orchards, and local produce. Hay rides, apple picking and local products are featured at the orchard.

**DOWNTOWN AND HISTORIC AREAS:** The downtown area provides many aesthetically pleasing buildings, several of which date back to the foundation of the town (see Cultural and Historic Areas, Section 4.6.3, below).

**KEEP HOMESTEAD:** A historic homestead featuring the collections of Myra Keep Lovell Moulton. This 75 acre property features an old quarry, vernal pools and trails for hiking. During the spring, summer and fall the Museum features programs the first Sunday of every month.

**PLUMLEY FALLS and MOULTON HILL CEMETERY:** A gorgeous granite bridge with a cascading stream at Moulton Hill Road. Across the street at the intersection of Wales Road and is a picturesque old cemetery.

**PARADISE LAKE:** A picturesque lake surrounded by a rim of houses at the base of the western ridge.

**PULPIT ROCK:** A beautiful lake surrounded by homes on the northwest side of town.

**STAGECOACH LAKE** (Also known as Caulkin pond): Similar to Paradise Lake.

**EAST HILL ROAD:** This road runs along the top of the eastern ridge of town, featuring many views of stone walls from early farmsteads, rolling pasture, cropland, and views across the valley to the western ridge.

**HOVEY ROAD:** A winding, climbing road on Bald Peak with stunning views to the valley and the Wilbraham Mountains to the west.

**BUTLER ROAD:** Enclosed by forest, this road winds down from the western ridge.

**REIMERS ROAD, NIESKE ROAD, AND SILVER STREET:** Some of our loveliest, peaceful ways through dense woods climbing toward the western ridge.

#### **4.6.2 Unusual Geologic Features**

In the fields of the eastern and western uplands, peculiar shaped rocks deposited by glaciers are found. One notable such feature is Pulpit Rock, located on private land near a glacial pond in the northwest corner of town. Pulpit Rock is so-named because one hundred years ago a popular preacher delivered sermons from the rock to his congregation on the shore. Another interesting geologic feature is Cat Rock found on the eastern ridge. The Rock House is located just north of the high school and is located on private land. This feature was a tourist attraction during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

#### **4.6.3 Cultural and Historic Areas**

The town has many distinctive historic structures, which have been identified and registered with the local Monson Historical Society. These structures, in addition to the local landscape, are a rich cultural

heritage for the town. Many of the structures were built of Monson granite, quarried by Flynt at the turn of the century.

**HILLSIDE CEMETERY ARCH:** Located on the corner of Main and Mills Street, this large arch is hewn of Monson granite, and was a gift from Mrs. Harlan Page in remembrance of her family that rests peacefully within its gates. It was presented to the town in 1897. If a person stands within the arch, using the right vocal tone, the arch will hum.

**MONSON FREE LIBRARY:** Located at 2 High Street in the north end of the downtown area, the library is constructed of intricately carved Monson granite. The library was endowed by Mrs. N. M. Lyon and erected by Mrs. Carrie R. Dale in memory of their husband and father, Horatio Lyon. Dedicated in 1882, the building is of the Gothic style popular at the time. The library was damaged by the 2011 tornado, but has since been repaired.

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH:** Located on Green Street, and built in 1863 of Monson granite in the Gothic style. The walls were beautifully frescoed, the panels are filled with the Stations of the Cross and pews were originally made of ash and trimmed with black walnut. Several additions and changes were made to the church over the years.

**UNIVERSALIST CHURCH:** Located at 162 Main Street, the church is yet another beautiful structure carved of the local Monson granite in the Romanesque Gothic style. Built in 1888 when Dwight W. Ellis matched the money that was raised by public donation for construction of this church.

**MEMORIAL HALL:** Located at 198 Main Street. The project was initiated by the Soldier's Memorial Association to commemorate veterans of war. The structure, also made of Monson granite in the Gothic style, was dedicated in 1885 and served as the town hall for many years. Mr. Joseph L. Reynolds and his sons Rice M. and Theodore Reynolds donated the land and almost half the cost of the building. In 1976 the Bicentennial Commission buried a time capsule at the site. The structure was damaged by the 2011 tornado, but has since been repaired.

**SILVER STREET CHAPEL:** Located on Silver Street. Built on land donated by the Warriner family and constructed with lumber donated by the Frietag, Reimers, Thayer and Amidon families. The church was dedicated in 1898. It is an elaborate frame building in Romanesque Revival Style. (Figure 4-12)

**MONSON ACADEMY BUILDINGS:** Cushman Hall, a three-story Georgian Revival brick building laid in Flemish bond with tar-dipped headers (1911), remains from the original Monson Academy.

**FIRST CHURCH OF MONSON:** This Congregational Church was established in 1782 at the site of the present church building with 24 members. With the organization of this church the town of Monson broke away from the town of Brimfield.

## 4.7 Environmental Challenges

The Town of Monson is fortunate to be located in a region of outstanding beauty and modest development. Yet environmental challenges are important to document since they will affect the potential development, management, or conservation of various land parcels.

### 4.7.1 Hazardous Waste Sites

The town of Monson has 4 active sites listed on the MassDEP 21E Reportable Release Database as of 2014. The locations of these sites are listed below:

*Table 4-4: Hazardous Waste Sites*

RTN	NAME	ADDRESS	STATUS
1-0014393	NONE	293 SOUTH MAIN ST	TIER I
1-0014801	OMEGA PROCESSING FACILITY	21 BLISS ST	TIER I
1-0016150	GUSTAFSON	244 BUMSTEAD RD	TIER I
1-0018944	FORMER M&M CHEMICAL SALES BUILDING	32 CUSHMAN STREET	TIER I

### 4.7.2 Landfills

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has ruled that Monson has no more acceptable sites for a landfill operation. Any possible sites are located in the Quaboag River Watershed and in the floodplain. The cost of the necessary liner as well as the likelihood of flooding makes these sites unfeasible for landfills.

### 4.7.3 Erosion

The town is bordered by an eastern and western ridge, both exceeding 25% in many areas. Currently, these slopes are covered with deciduous and evergreen vegetation. Because of low density development on the slopes, erosion is not a major concern with the exception of erosion occurring when driveways under construction are washed out after a storm. Increased development in steep areas would pose a major threat of erosion if the forests are removed. The town has drafted a steep driveway ordinance, but has not yet adopted it.

Steeply sloped areas which are vulnerable to development may be more suitable for conservation and passive recreation, such as wildlife observation, hiking, and horseback riding. Trails must be adequately maintained so that erosion does not become a problem.

### 4.7.4 Chronic Flooding

The Town of Monson has taken appropriate steps to protect against flood hazard by joining the National Flood Insurance Program, and by the building of the Army Corps of Engineers dam and reservoir at Conant Brook. The Town also has very strict regulations in its Zoning Bylaws regarding new development within any floodplains. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps were recently updated for Hampden County.

### 4.7.5 Sedimentation

Sedimentation occurs in all of Monson's surface water bodies. During heavy periods of rain and melting, streams wash sediment into wetlands, ponds, and lakes. Over time these water bodies will become shallower.

Dean Pond was recently cleared of excessive sedimentation in the beach area. This lovely State Park was in the direct path of the 2011 tornado, but the Division of Conservation and Recreation restored the beach area in 2013 and re-staffed the park for summer enjoyment.

#### **4.7.6 New Development**

Most development in Monson takes the form of single-family detached housing, built in a linear fashion, along road frontages. This trend leads to increasing roads and road maintenance, in addition to changing the character of Monson visually. The impact of building more homes in the upland and steep areas causes an increase in run-off and erosion, due to increased impervious surfaces, vegetation removal and infringement on fragile plant communities which have helped to keep soils stable in these areas prior to development. In the upland areas, since sewer service is impossible, increased development may potentially threaten groundwater quality since more septic systems will be built at a greater density. Drinking water in many of the upland areas comes from private wells.

Like most places, development in Monson slowed after the Great Recession, but future development pressures cannot be discounted as the economy changes. Many unprotected, developable areas in Monson overlap key habitat and landscape areas or comprise of Monson's valuable farmland.

#### **4.7.7 Ground and Surface Water Pollution**

The quality of the Quaboag River has improved since the 1960s and 1970s largely because of the abandonment of the industries and factories along the river and construction and improvement of municipal wastewater treatment facilities. But surface and groundwater pollution occurs due to runoff from road salt, agricultural fertilizers, and some industries along the Chicopee Brook, which is also an aquifer recharge area. Impaired waters are listed in Section 4.3.1.

Monson zoning bylaws currently incorporate a water supply protection district that covers the Zone II aquifer recharge area. The bylaw prohibits and restricts potentially polluting land uses. Maintaining groundwater quality is an important issue in Monson due to underlying aquifers in the central valley and to the presence of many private wells in the uplands where sewer service is not possible.

#### **4.7.8 Invasive Species**

Monson, like many towns in our region is grappling with a terrible invasive plant species problem. Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) lines many of our roads and is spreading out of control. Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is another significant problem and is not just limited to roadsides. Japanese barberry readily takes hold in the forest understory where it shades out native perennials and much of the herbaceous layer. Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*) is another aggressive plant that climbs and twines around trees. It strangles them, although it is most common along the roadside, it, too, can be found in the forested areas. Multiflorar Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) is a remnant of many of the old farms and is often found along old fence lines or hedgerows. This species is easier to kill, cutting over successive years helps to eliminate multiflora rose. Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) is becoming a bigger problem in woodlands. Because of its ability to flower and fruit twice a year, it spreads quickly. Monson also has a big burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) problem. The populations of this plant were documented early on and helped to provide evidence that this species (which seems to be required in front of every post office and MacDonalds) is, in fact, very aggressive. Our roadsides and wood understories become red and pink with the foliage of the burning bush.

Monson also has significant populations of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) and Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*).

The Monson Conservation Commission has taken action on several public lands to help remove some of these invasive plants. Without a coordinated and group effort, control is challenging. The Monson Environmental Science class takes on control of invasive plant species around the High School every year. This education and awareness program really helps people understand what a problem these plants are.

At this time there is no infestation of Asian Longhorn Beetle or Emerald Ash Borer that we are aware of. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an ongoing problem in town.

#### **4.7.9 Forestry**

The Town of Monson has several town forests that it manages for timber and wood products. A number of these town forests have management or stewardship plans in place and a cutting plan is always prepared before a harvest is done. In recent years the Town of Monson has upgraded our Forest Stewardship Management Plans to include Green Certification. Green Certification promotes the responsible management of the world's forests. Certification also assures consumers of forest products that originate from a forest managed under sustainable practices. The Flynt Quarry Lands and the Quinlan Memorial Conservation Lands are two properties that have green certification.

#### **4.7.10 Environmental Equity**

As part of the development of this OSRP, the town's Advisory Committee reviewed the current distribution of open space and recreational resources in the community and identified areas that are particularly lacking in them. The environmental justice (EJ) populations of Monson are located near the town center and in the north part of town along Route 32. EJ populations have access to the same utilities, infrastructure, and parks; and have many opportunities to enjoy the extensive protected open space in town. However, the Advisory Committee indicated the need to increase the amount of local neighborhood parks, especially areas with facilities for families; expand active recreational land close to population centers; and increase connectivity of conservation and recreation lands so that pedestrians can access these areas without driving. The recommendations section of this OSRP reflects these needs, which will help address environmental equity in town.

## **Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest**



One of the most attractive characteristics of Monson is its natural areas and open spaces. For the purpose of this document, open space is any parcel or area of land or water that is improved or unimproved, and devoted to outdoor leisure activities or recreation. Open spaces can be used to preserve natural resources, manage production/use of natural resources, engage in outdoor recreation, or to protect public health and safety. Open spaces include functional undeveloped land of all types, agriculture, floodways, and floodplains. Open space may be publicly or privately owned and maintained. Recreation lands include lands devoted to or used for leisure activities. Recreation lands can be classified as “active,” which support organized activities such as team sports (soccer, baseball), or “passive,” which support less structured activities such as hiking or hunting. Recreation lands may include playing fields, pools or designated swimming areas, bike trails, or forest areas devoted to hiking or hunting, as a few examples.

This section of the Open Space and Recreation Plan consists of an inventory of all conservation and recreation lands in Monson, both publicly and privately owned. Permanently protected parcels are generally considered to be those owned by the town's Conservation Commission or Water Department, a federal conservation agency, or a non-profit land trust. Private land may be considered protected if the land is covered by a land preservation agreement (conservation restriction/easement) or a deed restriction in perpetuity or if a Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) has been placed on it.

It is important to protect Monson’s natural areas, as scenic vistas, walking trails, and bucolic roadsides comprise Monson’s rural character. In addition, open spaces serve practical purposes. They provide healthy habitat for wildlife and help to keep air and water clean. Natural forest communities protect areas from flooding, contribute to the ground water supply, and filter out pollutants from run-off thus preserving the cleanliness of our aquifers. As a response to increased development, protection for Monson’s most significant lands must be planned. Only 14% of the land in Monson is permanently protected. To guarantee perpetual protection of the most significant lands, more action will need to be taken.

### **5.1 Land Preservation Tools**

Approximately 66% of the town's land could still be developed. Some of the programs or tools that property owners can use to preserve scenic beauty, natural resources, wildlife habitat, timber values, and agricultural lands are listed below.

### **5.2 Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)**

This state-funded program permanently protects prime and important agricultural lands. It is a voluntary program for working farms and orchards. The state pays the difference between the fair market value and the agricultural value of the land. In return the landowner agrees to a permanent deed restriction that prohibits activities that would have a negative impact on its use for agricultural purposes.

### **Chapter 61**

Undeveloped private lands contribute significantly to the sweeping vistas, maintain the town's rural character, and protect the town's natural resource base. These parcels protect wildlife throughout the town. Private lands may receive special tax reductions by maintaining conservation/recreation, forestry, or agricultural uses. In return, the municipality in which the property exists has the right of first refusal should the landowner decide to sell or change the land use of their property.

- Chapter 61, Timber products: Lands taxed at 5% of fair market value with additional taxes imposed during years that timber is harvested.
- Chapter 61A, Working or family farms: Tax rate determined by the Farmland Valuation Advisory Committee.
- Chapter 61B, Natural resources and recreation: Lands taxed at 25% of fair market value. There is a minimum acreage requirement for each program. Land must be registered each year at the assessors' office and owners must agree to leave the land in the program for a certain number of years. There are financial penalties for sudden withdraw from the program, but no penalties for allowing the tax status to expire. Although the town has the first option to buy such property if it comes onto the real estate market, this can be costly and provides the town with very little response time.

### ***Land Preservation Agreement***

Also known as a conservation easement (CE) or conservation restriction (CR). This is a powerful tool for all landowners, since it allows them to permanently protect all or part of their land while retaining ownership. CRs are voluntary agreements that are tailored to each owner's goals and land. These agreements can be sold or donated to a qualified conservation organization including land trusts, the town conservation commission, or the historic commission. Land preservation agreements offer land owners considerable savings on their federal income and estate taxes and can reduce local real estate taxes.

### ***Article 97***

Article 97 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Constitution states, "The people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise and the natural, scenic, history, and esthetic qualities of their environment." It also protects certain lands acquired for natural resources purposes, meaning "conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources." Land acquired for these purposes cannot be converted to any other use without rigorous legal action at both the local and state levels. Monson currently has five parcels of land that fall under Article 97, which protects a significant portion of the state hospital's 330 acres of undeveloped land.

### ***Forest Legacy Program***

The Forest Legacy Program is a federally-funded program that preserves forested properties by purchasing land preservation agreement (usually a conservation restriction). This program encourages the owners of important forest lands to continue producing wood products rather than converting it to non-forest uses. The program is a partnership between the USDA Forest Service and each state's designated agency – in Massachusetts, that agency is the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Each state designates Forest Legacy Areas where forest preservation is identified as a priority. Monson is within the Heritage Corridor Forest Legacy Area.

## **5.3 Private Recreational Sites**

A narrative description of the major private recreation areas in Monson is provided below:

### *Paradise Lake*

Paradise Lake, located off Paradise Lake Road, is a 17 acre lake with an average depth of 15 feet. The lake facilities are for lakeside residents and are closed to public use. The lake area offers swimming, fishing and small boating and ice-skating. The woodlands are suitable for hunting and hiking.

### *Partridge Hollow Campground*

This is an 80-acre campground located on Sutcliff Road in the southeast corner of Monson. This privately owned campground features camping, hiking, swimming and field sports.

### *Pulpit Rock Lake*

Privately owned Pulpit Rock Lake is 29 acres in size and has a large section of its shores in permanent camps located near the junction of Dickerson and Maxwell Roads. The historic “Pulpit Rock” has an opening that was once used in early 1900s by a local preacher as his pulpit. The congregation sat in the open field to hear him preach.

### *Quaboag Country Club*

Located on Palmer Road, this semi-private course provides golfing to the general public and provides open space in the north central section of town.

### *Quaboag Riders Club*

Used by ATV owners for hill climbs and trail riding, the club sponsors annual events open to the public. A spectacular view of the western range is visible from Cat Rock which is located on this club’s property.

### *Springfield Sportsman Club*

Springfield Sportsman Club comprises approximately 120 acres of land located off Wood Hill Road. The Club offers an overall recreation area to its members including trap shooting, rifle range, target practice, archery, and picnicking. The woodlands are suitable for hunting and woodland management and the woods roads are suitable for hiking and snowmobiling. The steep slopes are used for sledding and beginner skiing. The Sportsman club provides open space in the southwest area of town. Riding south along Wood Hill Road offers an excellent view of mountains and open land.

### *Sunset View Farm Campground*

A 200-acre campground located on Town Farm Road, the privately owned campground currently provides camping, hiking, swimming, and field sports.

## **5.4 Lands under Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)**

There are 5 farm properties that have qualified for permanent protection under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction within Monson. They include:

- Koran’s Farm (218 acres)
- Echo Hill Orchards (60 acres)
- Murphy’s Farm
- Keep Homestead
- North Orchard Farm

### 5.5 Lands in the Chapter 61 Program

A table of all Chapter 61 properties is found in Table 5-1. The number of parcels in each of the Chapter 61 programs has decreased since 2005 (when the last Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed). Some of this may be due to land going into permanent protection, but some may have been lost to development.

#### *Chapter 61: Forest and Timber lands*

In 2014 a total of 59 privately owned parcels are registered with the Chapter 61 program for forested products, totaling 1,560.41 acres.

#### *Chapter 61A: Agricultural or Horticultural Lands*

In 2014 there are a total of 28 parcels in Monson registered with the Chapter 61A program, totaling 823.2 acres.

#### *Chapter 61B: Natural Resources and Recreation Lands*

There are 23 parcels registered in the Chapter 61B Program, totaling 631.64 acres. Some of these recreation lands are open to the public for recreation and enjoyment. Notable properties include the Springfield Sportsman’s Club, Partridge Hollow Campground, and Sunset View Farm Campground (which also has land under Chapter 61 and 61A).

<b>TABLE 5-1: CHAPTER 61 LANDS IN MONSON (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013)</b>						
<b>Parcel ID</b>	<b>Lot Size (acres)</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Designation</b>	
123 / 2	23	2	CEDAR SWAMP RD	RR	61	
58 / 005C	1.71	005C	MAY HILL RD	RR	61	
58 / 005D	1.46	005D	MAY HILL RD	RR	61	
58 / 005B	15.6	005B	MAY HILL RD	RR	61	
58 / 2	18.4	2	MAY HILL RD	RR	61	
77 / 002A	4.36	002A	LOWER HAMPDEN	RR	61	
77 / 3	3.51	3	LOWER HAMPDEN	RR	61	
77 / 003A	3.14	003A	LOWER HAMPDEN	RR	61	
48 / 5	17.86	5	REIMERS RD	RR	61	
149 / 006A	35.75	006A	BEEBE RD	RR	61	
148 / 007A	95.2	007A	TOWN FARM RD	RR	61	
52 / 24	81.73	24	LAKESIDE DR	RR	61	
25 / 1	161	1	SILVER ST	RR	61	
30 / 12	13.58	12	WAID RD	RR	61	
32 / 2	40	2	WOOD HILL RD	RR	61	
32 / 3	40	3	WOOD HILL RD	RR	61	
31 / 9	17	9	WOOD HILL RD	RR	61	
32 / 4	15	4	WOOD HILL RD	RR	61	
128 / 47	37.58	47	TOWN FARM RD	RR	61	
128 / 52	9.45	52	TOWN FARM RD	RR	61	

**TABLE 5-1: CHAPTER 61 LANDS IN MONSON (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013)**

Parcel ID	Lot Size (acres)	Street	Road	Zoning	Designation
26 / 006D	2.49	006D	SILVER ST	RR	61
4 / 88	0.29	88	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
4 / 103	0.33	103	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
4 / 110	0.55	110	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
5 / 002B	1.16	002B	BROOKSIDE RD	RR	61
5 / 002C	1.38	002C	PULPIT ROCK RD	RR	61
4 / 107	0.37	107	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
4 / 108	0.47	108	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
4 / 109	0.55	109	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
4 / 128	30.5	128	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
5 / 2	7.17	2	LAKESHORE DR	RR	61
107 / 41	35.67	41	HOSPITAL RD	RR	61
154 / 2	24.1	2	MUNN RD	RR	61
100 / 007B	58.8	007B	STAFFORD RD	RR	61
57 / 009B	1.07	009B	MAY HILL RD	RR	61
57 / 12	0.17	12	MAY HILL RD	RR	61
57 / 9	15	9	MAY HILL RD	RR	61
57 / 011A	16.78	011A	MAY HILL RD	RR	61
54 / 1	17	1	LOWER HAMPDEN	RR	61
137 / 5	10.73	5	MUNN RD	RR	61
154 / 002A	27.23	002A	EAST HILL RD	RR	61
157 / 2	53.25	2	POND RD	RR	61
168 / 4	31	4	OLD REED RD	RR	61
120 / 9	16.62	9	CEDAR SWAMP RD	RR	61
140 / 4	9.52	4	WALES RD	RR	61
140 / 5	11.76	5	WALES RD	RR	61
12 / 2	56.5	2	BENNETT RD	RR	61
32 / 10	140	10	WOOD HILL RD	RR	61
33 / 001E	2.63	001E	WOOD HILL RD	RR	61
40 / 001E	10.22	001E	BUTLER RD	RR	61
40 / 5	19.1	5	BUTLER RD	RR	61
40 / 001D	63	001D	BUTLER RD	RR	61
13 / 1	50.3	1	BENNETT RD	RR	61
19 / 3	58.05	3	HANCOCK RD	RR	61
18 / 003C1	21.39	003C1	BRADWAY RD	RV	61
70 / 12	39	12	UPPER PALMER R	RR	61
122 / 3	22.21	3	CEDAR SWAMP RD	RR	61
123 / 002C	11.5	002C	CEDAR SWAMP RD	RR	61

**TABLE 5-1: CHAPTER 61 LANDS IN MONSON (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013)**

Parcel ID		Lot Size (acres)	Street	Road	Zoning	Designation
47 /	001B	57.22	001B	REIMERS RD	RR	61
117/	004A	1.17	004A	MAPLE ST	RV	61A
117/	004B	0.51	004B	MAPLE ST	?	61A
90/	1	56.54	1	MACOMBER RD	RR	61A
140/	008F	15.08	008F	MOULTON HILL RD	RR	61A
137/	13	3.83	13	EAST HILL RD	RR	61A
14/	2	14	2	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
15/	4	85.87	4	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
35/	9	2.64	9	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
15/	3	2.08	3	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
148/	007C	46.59	007C	TOWN FARM RD	RR	61A
148/	001A	152.3	001A	TOWN FARM RD	RR	61A
144/	6	10.02	6	MOULTON HILL RD	RR	61A
15/	2	40	2	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
16/	004A	10.49	004A	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
14/	1	23.1	1	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
169/	14	17.8	14	BRIMFIELD RD	RR	61A
170/	1	5	1	BRIMFIELD RD	RR	61A
170/	8	2.79	8	BRIMFIELD RD	RR	61A
97/	1	130.11	1	LOWER HAMPDEN R	RV	61A
70/	005B	5.73	005B	STEBBINS RD	RR	61A
28/	014B	4.65	014B	WILBRAHAM RD	RR	61A
28/	014C	3.39	014C	WILBRAHAM RD	RR	61A
28/	016B	35.84	016B	UPPER HAMPDEN R	RR	61A
140/	008G	24.79	008G	MOULTON HILL RD	RR	61A
140/	3	6.88	3	WALES RD	RR	61A
150/	18	35	18	BRIMFIELD RD	RR	61A
133/	3	10.5	3	BRIMFIELD RD	RR	61A
67/	9	76.5	9	HOVEY RD	RR	61A
58/	3	91.17	3	BUTLER RD	RR	61B
27/	17	66.23	17	SILVER ST	RR	61B
119/	7	10.15	7	WALES RD	RR	61B
149/	001A	61.66	001A	TOWN FARM RD	CR	61B
89/	10	28.5	10	HOSPITAL RD (OFF)	RR	61B
155/	007A	28.25	007A	EAST HILL RD	RR	61B
109/	14	42.8	14	BUNYAN RD	RR	61B
109/	15	8.2	15	BUNYAN RD	RR	61B
2/	21	52.91	21	MAXWELL RD	RR	61B

**TABLE 5-1: CHAPTER 61 LANDS IN MONSON (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013)**

Parcel ID	Lot Size (acres)	Street	Road	Zoning	Designation
139/ 1	0.39	1	BLANCHARD RD	RV	61B
119/ 10	3.04	10	BLANCHARD RD	RR	61B
138/ 014B	33.39	014B	OLD WALES RD	RV	61B
127/ A001	13.01	A001	FERN HILL RD	RR	61B
35/ 006E	5.54	006E	BUTLER RD	RR	61B
83/ 001G	21.04	001G	PECK BROS RD	RR	61B
44/ 001C	19.04	001C	HOVEY RD	RR	61B
39/ 1	15.12	1	BUTLER RD	RR	61B
16/ 009A	0.91	009A	ALDEN THRASHER RD	RR	61B
98/ 7	40	7	5 BUMSTEAD RD	RR	61B
79/ 003H	17.2	003H	BUMSTEAD RD	RR	61B
18/ 003C	10.41	003C	HANCOCK RD	RR	61B
22/ 1	6.48	1	MAXWELL RD	RR	61B
1/ 22	56.2	22	MAXWELL RD	RR	61B

Source: PVPC/Monson Assessor

## 5.6 Public and Non-Profit Recreational Sites

### *Brimfield State Forest / Dean Pond*

Brimfield State Forest / Dean Pond, which is located partly in Monson and partly in Brimfield and Wales, offer picnicking, swimming, fishing, hunting, hiking, biking and horseback riding to the general public. The woodlands are managed by the State for hunting and woodland management. Restrooms are available during the season.

### *Conant Brook Dam*

Conant Brook Dam is a 300 acres, government owned, flood control facility. A small parking area and trailhead bulletin board are found by the dam. The geologic formation of the area is a rare kettle pond. The flood plain is now dry with only a small shallow silt pool. The area is suitable for hiking, horseback riding, and potentially mountain biking. Enjoy each season with wildflowers and mountain laurel in spring along the ridges, winding through birch trees along the trail, or taking in the beautiful colors of fall.

### *Cedar Swamp*

Cedar Swamp is a 73-acre white cedar swamp located off Cedar Swamp Road. This Swamp also contains Maple, Birch, Azaleas, Mountain Laurel, a variety of ferns, Fringed Gentian, and Skunk Cabbage. The western section of this swamp is suitable for a wildlife habitat preservation and management area for deer and hare. The whole area is suitable for a nature study area for schools and the general public. There is a marked trail that circles the swamp which is suitable for hiking and provides access to the woods for hunting.

### ***Cushman Field***

Under the jurisdiction of the Monson Parks and Recreation Commission, Cushman Field is used for a variety of recreation programs (8 acres). These include baseball, softball, and soccer playing fields. Originally under the control of the private Monson Academy, the Town acquired ownership and now maintains this area for these programs. Chicopee Brook delineates the easterly side of the property and Washington Street is on the west.

### ***Granite Valley Middle School***

The Middle School offers a newer track and field facility with a ¼ mile outdoor track. There is also a soccer field located at this school. Basketball courts are located within the school.

### ***Flynt Park***

Flynt Park covers 148 acres near the center of Monson, with opportunities for hiking, snowmobiling, and viewing the valley and the town center. There are trails that wind through the historic parts of the park where there was once a tower for viewing and a zoo. The woodland in this area is suitable for hunting and timber management. There are also vernal pools. At present there are two soccer fields on the site (also referred to as Dr. Rogers Fields) and a baseball diamond with portable bleachers for viewing games. The park was heavily impacted by the 2011 tornado.

### ***Keep Homestead Museum***

Myra Keep Lovell Moulton, who died in 1988, willed the buildings and the land to the Town of Monson. About one half of the 75 acres of land is open meadow and wetlands and one half is woodland. There are three trails with a combined length of less than two miles, open year-round to hiking and in winter, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (with maps available in the parking lot). There is a good variety of mixed hardwood and coniferous trees and other woodland plants. Around the pond and meadows, plants bloom at various times of the year. There were several granite quarries on the original Keep property and there is one small one left on the present acreage (it contains a vernal pool). The house contains the collections, the belongings and papers of the Keep family, who lived in the house for nearly 150 years. The prize collection is Myra's large button collection - one of the largest in the US. See [www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org](http://www.KeepHomesteadMuseum.org) for further information. Keep Homestead was heavily impacted by the 2011 tornado.

### ***Monson Brimfield Wales (MBW) Trail***

The MBW Trail was established in 1998 and is 14.5 miles long. There are two spurs, the first being the Brimfield State Forest Spur, which is 2.6 miles long, and the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary Spur, which is .75 miles each way. Beginning at the Conant Brook Dam Parking Area and traveling in a clockwise direction, the trail passes the following points of interest: Koran's Farm, Westview Farms and Creamery, #69 East Hill Road (regional historical significance, closed to the public), Brimfield Road Cemetery, Brimfield State Forest, Dean Pond swimming and Recreation Area, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary and Plumley Falls.



### ***Monson High School***

There are both soccer and baseball fields located at this school. Basketball courts are located within the school.

### ***Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary***

The Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary is located on Wales-Monson Road just outside of Monson. The total Sanctuary comprises approximately eight thousand acres of wooded hills, lakes and streams, but only a small portion of the Sanctuary is located in Monson. Norcross offers two miles of marked footpaths through a variety of habitats, picnic areas, two natural history museums, and a place where one may enjoy a relaxed study of nature in quiet settings.

### ***Peaked Mountain / Lunden-Miller Pond***

Managed by the Trustees of Reservations this 500-acre natural area is open to the public for hiking, horseback riding and nature study. The main parking lot provides access to the western slope of Peaked Mountain, the highest peak in Monson, with incredible views to the south and west. The Lunden Miller Forest Tract is located on the west side of Butler Road and contains a pond and many additional hiking trails.

### ***Quarry Hill School***

Quarry Hill School offers fields in back of the school for soccer, baseball and softball. Also sitting on this 20 acre plot of land are three playgrounds, and a basketball court area. Basketball courts are located within the school, as well. On the edge of the two fields in the back is a spectacular view of the valley in Monson. Numerous trails connect Quarry Hill with Granite Valley Middle School and the High School.

### ***Silver Street Conservation Area***

This 40-acre parcel has newly marked trails that offer residents an opportunity to walk through the woods. Lady slippers, partridge berry, and large mats of wintergreen cover the forest floor. There is a pond where abundant wildlife species such as beaver, a variety of ducks, tadpoles, frogs and salamanders can be discovered in their natural setting. Great Blue Heron often use beaver impoundments for nesting. The dead trees left standing where the water has risen provide sites for herons to build their stick nests.

### ***Veterans Field and Tennis Courts***

Veterans Field on Main and State Streets has three diamonds for softball and baseball. This eight acre site also offers two smaller soccer fields and a playground. Directly across State Street is a fenced-in tennis area with two tennis courts. Rest rooms are available in the municipal office building. The facility's basketball court and skate park were destroyed by the 2011 tornado, though they are scheduled to be re-built.

**TABLE 5-2: PUBLIC CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS**

Parcel ID	Lot Size	Address	Owner (Manager)	Condition	Use	Public Access	Grants	Zoning
136/16	312.8	Conanat Brook Dam WALES RD	ARMY CORPS. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Excellent	Passive recreation	yes	-	RV
138/002	26	Adjacent to: Conant Brook Dam EAST HILL RD	Town Forest TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Forestry	yes	-	RR
174/001 173/003 174/001	97.32	Brimfield State Forest SUTCLIFFE RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	Excellent	Recreation	yes	-	RL
157/004	37	Town Forest STANTON ROAD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Forestry	yes	-	RR
088/001	681.09	MONSON DEVELOPMENTAL CTR	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS		Whole prop, some agricultural		-	RV
088/001	389+/-	MONSON DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	Excellent	part of property Passive Recreation	Yes	Article 97	RV
039/004 040/014	24	Town Forest BUTLER /DORSET RDS	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Forestry	No	-	RR
116/077	2	S. Main School MAIN ST	TOWN OF MONSON	Fair	Lead contamin.		-	I
114/100	8	Veterans Field STATE ST	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Recreation	Yes	-	CC
095/055 095/063 094/007	148.6	Flynt Park PARK RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Good Tornado impacted	Recreation	Yes	-	RV
114/014	8	Cushman Field WASHINGTON ST	TOWN OF MONSON	Good Tornado Impacted	Recreation	Yes	-	RV
122/001 122/002	18.71	Cedar Swamp CEDAR SWAMP RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Good	Recreation/ Forestry	Yes	SELF HELP Grant	RR

**TABLE 5-2: PUBLIC CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS**

Parcel ID	Lot Size	Address	Owner (Manager)	Condition	Use	Public Access	Grants	Zoning
121/003	47.51	Cedar Swamp CEDAR SWAMP RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Passive Recreation	Yes	-	RV
017/002	7.9	Town Forest LOWER HAMPDEN RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Forestry	No	-	RR
016/007 035/008	88.36	Temple Brook Conservation A. LOWER HAMPDEN RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Passive Recreation	Yes	SELF HELP Grant	RR
115/104D	15.53	Conservation Area CARPENTER RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Fair	Invasive sp. Early Successional	Yes	donation	RR
050/002B 050/003 049/001	59.61	Porwoll REIMERS RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Good	Agriculture/ Forestry	Yes	donation	RR
026/ 005	38.84	Silver Street Conservation A. SILVER ST	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Passive Recreation	Yes	SELF HELP	RR
109/ 020	163.24	Flynt Quarry Lands UPPER PALMER RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Passive Recreation	Yes	LAND DCR TRAILS	RV
092/021	10.06	Flynt Quarry Lands UPPER PALMER RD.	TOWN OF MONSON	Good	Agriculture/ Hay	Yes	-	RR
089/005	88.53	Conservation A. UPPER PALMER ROAD	TOWN OF MONSON	Good	Possible Agriculture	Yes	-	RR
148/ 004	9	Town Forest TOWN FARM RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Forestry	No	-	RR
109/ 006	5	Water Supply BUNYAN RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Water Supply	No	-	RV
093/001U	9.64	Kolowrat Farm Conservation A. MARGARET ST	TOWN OF MONSON	Fair	Invasive sp. Passive Recreation	Yes	donation	RR

**TABLE 5-2: PUBLIC CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS**

Parcel ID	Lot Size	Address	Owner (Manager)	Condition	Use	Public Access	Grants	Zoning
093/001E 093/001F	10.11	Quarry Hill Rec. Fields MARGARET ST	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Recreation	Yes	-	RV
073/001B 073/001C	32.5	Gerrish Forest WILBRAHAM RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Good	Tornado damage/ Forestry	Yes	-	
070/002	139	Quinlan Memorial Conservation A. REIMERS RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	Passive Recreation	Yes	LAND Grant	RR
047/ 004 047/006	52.48	Quinlan Memorial WARRINER RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Excellent	No frontage Passive Rec.		-	RR
086/013 086/ 014	2.5	Quaboag River FERN HILL RD	TOWN OF MONSON	Poor	River Access		-	RV

**TABLE 5-3: NON-PROFIT CONSERVATION LANDS**

<b>Parcel ID</b>	<b>Lot Size</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Owner</b>
145/ 002N	45.84	CHILDS RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
063/ 001	106.96	CROW HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
063/ 002	102.96	CROW HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
145/ 002K	6.96	CHILDS RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
145/ 002Q	97.28	MOULTON HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
040/ 002	72	BUTLER RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
144/ 010	36.95	MOULTON HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
162/ 001	33.5	MOULTON HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
083/ 011	51.71	CROW HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION INC
161/ 003	313.5	TUPPER HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
144/ 004	47.38	MOULTON HILL RD	THE NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION INC
061/ 001	243.03	CROW HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
061/ 001H	18.59	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
060/ 001	26.85	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
038/ 002B	99.9	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
037/ 005A	31.23	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
143/ 001	55.87	MOULTON HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
161/ 001	39.97	WALES RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
037/ 005	37.21	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF THE RESERVATIONS
036/ 006	55.4	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
036/ 010	6.4	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
159/ 002C	118.31	WALES RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
140/ 001E	94.24	WALES RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
159/ 001A	32.24	WALES RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
035/ 006	41.17	LOWER HAMPDEN & BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
158/ 006B	18.48	WALES RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
116/ 046	2.38	MAIN ST	TOWN OF MONSON
030/ 012W	2.55	UPPER HAMPDEN RD	OPACUM LAND TRUST INC
114/ 003	0.25	WASHINGTON ST	MONSON HOME FOR AGED PEOPLE, INC
151/ 001	118	EAST HILL RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

**TABLE 5-3: NON-PROFIT CONSERVATION LANDS**

Parcel ID	Lot Size	Street Address	Owner
049/ 017	91.6	STEBBINS RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
006/ 003	10.5	THAYER RD(OFF/LEMON	WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION TRUST
045/ 003	73	HOVEY RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION INC
045/ 002	68	HOVEY RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION INC
044/ 003	65.97	HOVEY RD	NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
038/ 002C	3.5	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC
038/ 004B	2.4	BUTLER RD	TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS INC

**TABLE 5-4: CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS**

FY	Town	CR#	Grantor	Grantee	Acres	Term	Received	Approved	Book	Page	Comments
00	MONSON	1	Leonard and Roslyn Harrington	Town	164	P	10-Aug-99	14-Sep-99	10934	473	scenic
00	MONSON	2	Richard Elliot	Town	31.3	P	10-Aug-99	14-Sep-99	10949	116	scenic
00	MONSON	3	Mass. Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Town	117	P	29-Mar-00	08-Jun-00	11227	481	2500' Temple Brook
00	MONSON	4	Town	TTOR	88	P	29-Mar-00	08-Jun-00	11227	481	purchased with SH funds
04	MONSON	5	Mobil Pipe Line co.	Town	0.3	P	06-Dec-02	15-Sep-03	13611	328	required by Rivers Act and permit

**TABLE 5-4: CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS**

<b>FY</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>CR#</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Comments</b>
06	MONSON	6	Gino and Sara Gasparrini	Town	0.109	P		28-Sep-05	15422	284	water supply protection
06	MONSON	7	Henry and Phylis Kelly	Town	0.774	P	06-Jun-05	28-Sep-05	15422	274	water supply protection
06	MONSON	8	Boulder Hill Development LLC	TTOR	163	P	12-Sep-05	07-Jun-06			protects rare turtle habitat
	MONSON	9	TTOR (Peaked Mt.)	Town	37	P	10-Aug-06				SH#4
09	MONSON	10	TTOR (Elliott Wood)	Town	37	P	11-Jul-08	18-Dec-08	17922	234	CPA
12	MONSON	11	Flynt Quarry lands	Opacum land Trust	165	P	17-Nov-11	21-Dec-11	19089	411	CPA
14	MONSON	12	Quinlan	Opacum land Trust	135	P	29-Jan-13	23-Jul-13			CPA and LAND grant

## Section 6: Community Vision



## 6.1 Description of Process

The Town of Monson conducted public outreach for the Open Space and Recreation Plan in two formats: one through a community survey and the other through a public visioning workshop. A community survey was conducted during March of 2013 and again from May 5th to June 10th, 2014. The survey was available electronically via Survey Monkey. Notice of the survey was issued via press release in the Palmer Journal and Springfield Republican and on the town website. A complete summary of survey responses is located at Appendix N: Survey Results.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee held a community visioning session on Monday, June 2, 2014 at the Municipal Office Building (Appendix O: Visioning Workshop). The workshop was attended by several residents. The results of the community survey were presented followed by a lively discussion of the open spaces and recreational places that residents use and enjoy, followed by issues and problems associated with those places. Based on this feedback, draft goals, objectives and actions were outlined. Meeting notes and the presentation summary of the survey are included in Appendix O.

On June 18, 2014, a draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was issued for public comment for a 30-day period. Comments were reviewed by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and incorporated into the final plan.

## 6.2 Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

During the Open Space Visioning workshop, Monson residents engaged in setting goals and objectives for a variety of thematic issues including agriculture, resource protection, and parks and recreation. The following goals were developed with the Open Space and Recreation Committee after the results of the survey and visioning session were reviewed and analyzed for trends.

- Goal #1: Preserve the character of the townscape. Identify areas of special interest, target protection and permanently protect open space within the community.
- Goal #2: Expand and manage recreational opportunities for all members of the community.
- Goal #3: Preserve and protect areas of public concern or sensitive features within the town. Groundwater and surface water, are protected as clean and abundant resources
- Goal #4: Promote local Open Space, Recreation and Farms throughout the community
- Goal #5 Promote agricultural activities and “value added” products to preserve and protect farms in the community.

## Section 7: Analysis of Need



## 7.1 Summary of Resource Protection Needs

According to our community survey source water protection again rates as the highest protection priority for Monson. People feel very strongly about protecting drinking water. Our primary aquifer recharge area is found along the central valley and Route 32, an area where the greatest development and commercial pressures exist and forested areas or protected open space is not abundant. The Monson water and sewer department completed a Sourcewater Protection Plan in 2006 and zone 2 and zone 3 protection zones have been established. Continued vigilance with regard to protecting our aquifers is still warranted. Only 1/3 of the population is served by the town water system due to the unique topography in Monson.

A secondary aquifer recharge area is located in the vicinity of Silver Street and Reimers Road along Twelve Mile Brook. Although the water department has no current plans to use the aquifer, the recent threat of a potential casino development in Palmer could have changed that. Additional open space has been protected in that region with the purchase of the Quinlan Memorial conservation land, a 135 acre parcel on Reimers Road in 2011. Purchase or protection of large patches of forested land promotes species diversity, and large contiguous parcels (50 – 150 acres) provide habitat for deep forest dwelling species. Healthy, sustainable forests and good forest management practices attract a variety of wildlife, provide a variety of recreation and income opportunities and provide clean air and water while providing protection from environmental hazards and filtering water before it gets to the aquifer.

The Quaboag River divides Monson from Palmer and provides habitat for important rare and endangered fauna species along the river. Invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed is abundant along the river and is currently unmanaged. The community should find ways to work with the town of Palmer to address invasive species along the river and in other parts of the town, either through organizing volunteer efforts or seeking funding to hire consultants for invasive species removal.

Public access to the Quaboag River also remains extremely limited, but river access for boating or fishing was important to many who took the survey. Monson Parks and Recreation owns a parcel adjacent to the river, but access is still limited by the steep banks and poor access to the parcel. Boating on the river is difficult, given the amount of fallen debris and shallowness of the river in certain locations. As plans are developed for re-use of the former Monson Developmental Center, options for river access could be explored and considered. Decisions will need to be made regarding the level of access permitted, allowing the public to enjoy and learn about this wonderful natural resource, while protecting the species that make it so unique.

Monson should seek to work with other communities on regional recreation opportunities as several exist. There has been a strong push to re-open the Grand Trunk Trail across Massachusetts. The Towns of Sturbridge and Brimfield have cooperated to open sections of the trail in these communities to biking and hiking. These are two activities that were identified in the Monson community survey as important to our citizens. Expanding this trail and continuing along the former trolley line down into Monson should be pursued. Another opportunity for regional recreation is expanding the hiking trails in the vicinity of Peaked Mountain, a very popular recreation area in Monson, to the existing trails in Shenipsit State Forest in Connecticut. By working with other communities, Monson can develop regional support and opportunities to fund these regional activities.

Scenic views and ridgeline protection was identified as important in the survey. The east and west ridge lines of Monson can be viewed from many places along Main Street and Route 32 when driving through the town. Currently, there are several public natural areas where trails that access these ridges provide beautiful views of the surrounding towns and down into the valley in the center of Monson (Peaked Mountain, Flynt Quarry Lands). Development of a trail network in the protected lands of Monson Developmental Center could provide additional places people can hike and have access to these views. Adoption of a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance will not only control the visual impact of new development along the eastern and western ridges in Monson, it will also protect the steep slopes from erosion. A bylaw, or at least guidelines should be developed to limit the slope of driveways to protect our steeper ridges from erosion.

Promoting and protecting Agricultural lands has been a priority in Monson. The town currently has four properties in the APR (Agricultural Protection Restriction) program, and this protection should be extended to other farms to protect the rural character of Monson. A community garden was started in 2010 at the Keep Homestead property and the plots are highly sought after. Expansion of community garden opportunities and creation of ADA raised garden beds should be investigated. Promotion of “value added” products at local farms would allow local farmers a better opportunity to survive economically. Due to the “spread out” nature of our town the Agricultural Commission should investigate opportunities to allow smaller farmers to sell items on a consignment basis. Although Monson has a farmers market, many small farmers state that dedicating the time and an employee to the market is not an economically viable proposition. The Agricultural Commission could also develop a brochure and map of “local farms” to be distributed across the region to help bring people from the region to enjoy Monson farms.

While much of the focus for open space protection has been the purchase of key open space parcels for passive recreation, habitat protection, and agricultural preservation, stewardship of these lands has not always been a priority. Partnerships for stewardship between the town and local land trusts should be explored. The town can improve its stewardship activities by working with volunteers, consultants, and scout groups to develop trails on and monitor existing public lands. Development of a booklet containing trails on existing protected areas would provide the public with information on access, parking, and trail head locations. Better utilization of these areas by the public will only enhance public support for open space acquisitions and policy decisions in the future.

## 7.2 Summary of Community Needs

Through public meetings and discussion, a community survey and a panel of committee members representing varied town interests several specific need emerged. Some of these closely parallel the needs indicated in the 2012 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).<sup>2</sup> As mentioned in the Statewide Recreation Plan, Western and Central Massachusetts residents mention hiking trails as a facility they would like to see more of. This is certainly the case in Monson as well, with non-motorized trail use as the highest rating activity (90 percent of survey respondents), and nature trails ranks as the highest recreational need (50 of survey respondents) in the town. It was noted several times by survey respondents that they would use the trails in Monson if they knew where they were located. Again, the development of a local trail guidebook would be instrumental in providing greater access to the trails.

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<sup>2</sup> The Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) can be accessed at [www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/scorp-2012-final.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/scorp-2012-final.pdf)

Expanded field based recreation (active recreation) is a critical need for the community. Competition for time and field space is a challenge for the Monson Parks and Recreation Department. With the addition of lacrosse as a varsity and junior varsity sport in the town schools in 2010 there are not enough fields available for all kinds of field-based activities in the spring season. Due to the topography of the town, finding large, level playing field areas has also been a challenge. The town needs to identify some appropriate locations for playing fields in the coming years to accommodate the needs of the school populations.

Water-based recreation has also been identified in the survey as a need for the community. Access to the Chicopee Brook and the Quaboag River was important to the residents as discussed in the previous section. Outdoor swimming opportunities were also identified in the survey. Although Monson is home to three man-made ponds (Pulpit Rock, Paradise Lake, and Stagecoach Lake) these are private ponds and not open to the public. Dean Pond, just over the town line in Brimfield has recently re-opened and is an excellent site for younger swimmers and family activities. A swimming facility (pool or public pond) for teenagers and adults is absent. It might be possible for Monson to work with an adjacent community to provide better swimming opportunities for these age groups. Monson should look into cooperative arrangements to use some of the pond and pool facilities in adjacent towns.

It is critical to work to fully meet ADA requirements and needs for disabled residents at our open space and recreational facilities. Currently, the town and the Opacum Land Trust are investigating the possibility of developing a handicap accessible trail at the Flynt Quarry Lands, a property purchased with LAND (Local Access for Natural Diversity) grant. Other ideas could include adding handicap accessible raised beds in the community gardens, and adding more accessible equipment at the playground on Veterans Field. In addition, the results of the ADA survey, as required under this plan, will provide guidance to the town on how to provide programs for disabled youth and adults. Demographic trends also show the possible need for programming for aging adults. Monson added senior fitness equipment to Veterans Field within the last year. This park is close to both the Senior Center and senior housing (Colonial Village) and programs are available to help aging adults use these new facilities.

### **7.3 Management Needs, Potential Changes of Use**

Management of open space and recreational facilities is split among several different town boards including the Conservation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Water and Sewer Department. Most recreational facilities are under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department, including the pool located at the Quarry Hill School and the fields and facilities located on all school grounds.

Protected open spaces are owned and managed by the Conservation Commission which provides some support through grant writing and technical assistance for acquisition, rehabilitation, and development of these properties and facilities. The stewardship of the properties maintained by the Conservation Commission has been lacking in the past. The resources to develop forestry and/or wildlife management plans, walking trails, parking and accessible public access are not present. Efforts to establish a trails committee, recruiting and advertising volunteer opportunities need to be pursued. Such a volunteer pool could alleviate demands on the Conservation Commission to develop walking/hiking trails and other stewardship functions.

The Conservation Commission has also begun working with the local land trust, Opacum Land Trust, to help recruit volunteers for various trail projects. Opacum Land Trust and the Town of Monson recently received a DCR trails grant for trail creation and rehabilitation in the Flynt Quarry Lands. These two groups are looking to involve the High School Cross Country and Track teams and coaches to complete this work. Development of a Trail Committee will be an important goal as this group could help coordinate the trail efforts within the town. Engaging new people who are interested in public trails in Monson will create a new enthusiasm for recreation within the community. Funding opportunities should be sought for general maintenance and specific projects within the town.

Partnering with adjacent towns and regional groups will also help Monson with expansion of hiking and biking trails. There is a history of this kind of cooperation with the Monson-Brimfield-Wales (MBW) bike trail. These partnerships can help to reduce the pressure on Monson alone to expand regional recreation like the Grand Trunk Trail and the CT-Monson (Shenipsit State Forest – Peaked Mountain) trail. Seeking regional grants or cooperative grants and expanding fundraising opportunities will be important to the success of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

## Section 8: Goals and Objectives



***GOAL A: PRESERVE THE CHARACTER OF THE TOWNSCAPE. IDENTIFY AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST, TARGET PROTECTION AND PERMANENTLY PROTECT OPEN SPACE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.***

***RESPONSIBLE: Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Historical Commission and Historical Society***

***Objectives:***

- A1. Create permanent greenways through land acquisition and trail easements to allow both residents and wildlife to travel along north-south corridors through Monson.
- A2. Investigate regional connections to other protected open space and greenway corridors.
- A3. Preserve and protect a variety of critical wildlife habitat, both forest interior areas as well as open fields for all species.
- A4. Revise the Open Space Communities by-law to make it more easily useable within the town landscape.
- A5. Educate local farms and aid farmers by providing information and guidance to apply for APR designation, preserving and promoting “locally grown” in Monson.
- A6. Educate private landowners on protection and permanent preservation of scenic landscapes and working forests through the use of federal monies available from the federal Forest Legacy Program.
- A7. Educate private landowners about the Landscape Partnership program, encouraging less developed regions of the town to remain that way through neighborhood cooperation.
- A8. Promote cooperation between the Town and Local Land Trusts for permanent preservation of land with areas of special interest, historic landscapes, and critical wildlife habitat.
- A9. Preserve and protect the unique historic structures and landscapes of the town.
- A10. Promote the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for people who believe that the town open space is a great opportunity for the whole community.

***GOAL B: EXPAND AND MANAGE RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS.***

***RESPONSIBLE: Parks and Recreation Board, Trail Committee and Historical Society***

***Objectives:***

- B1. Establish a greenway trail network for hiking, walking and biking to link existing and future public open space.
- B2. Locate and purchase land for additional sports fields in Monson.
- B3. Expand the playground opportunities to include more accessible equipment and a spray park.
- B4. Establish a downtown river walk.
- B5. Investigate the possibility of an accessible trail on the Flynt Quarry Lands.
- B6. Improve public access to local waterways for non-motorized boating.
- B7. Create a public ice rink.
- B8. Create more opportunities for outdoor public swimming.

***GOAL C: PRESERVE AND PROTECT AREAS OF PUBLIC CONCERN OR SENSITIVE FEATURES WITHIN THE TOWN. GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER, ARE PROTECTED AS CLEAN AND ABUNDANT RESOURCES.***

***RESPONSIBLE: Highway Department, Water and Sewer Department, Planning Board and Conservation Commission***

***Objectives:***

- C1. Expand permanent protection in the zone 2 aquifer recharge, watersheds and water bodies throughout the town.
- C2. Develop a water quality testing program for people served by private wells.
- C3. Preserve and protect priority habitat for endangered wildlife species.
- C4. Promote greater restrictions on development of steep driveways where erosion and runoff impacts the town roads and adjacent lands.
- C5: Water and Sewer Department to identify needs for water and sewer pipe replacement.
- C6: Preserve and Protect open space around High and Medium output aquifers in Monson.
- C7. Take an active role in promoting sound stormwater management.

***GOAL D: PROMOTE LOCAL OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND FARMS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.***

***RESPONSIBLE: Trails Committee, Parks and Recreation Department, and Conservation Commission***

***Objectives:***

- D1. Establish a Trails Committee.
- D2. Create maps and brochures of the public open spaces in Monson where there are hiking or biking trails.
- D3. Educate the public about what we have. Make maps and brochures available on the Town's website.
- D4. Establish a historic landscape trail with interpretive signage at the Flynt Quarry Lands.
- D5. Establish and promote an interpretive trail at Flynt Park.
- D6. Promote a "healthy Monson" campaign to introduce different outdoor opportunities to the public and the region.
- D7. Connect Colonial Village to Veterans Field with a pedestrian bridge over the Chicopee Brook to improve access to the park for seniors.
- D8. Step up recreational programming for adults such as downtown walking groups, softball leagues and fitness trails.
- D9. Provide maps and brochures to regional information sites and regional markets.
- D10. Establish a stewardship fund to maintain the trails, update the trail maps, expand trails links and create greenway hiking and biking opportunities.
- D11. Monitor town conservation restrictions and public open space boundaries.
- D12. Develop a corps of volunteers to sponsor particular public trails.

***GOAL E: PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND “VALUE ADDED” PRODUCTS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT FARMS IN THE COMMUNITY.***

***Responsible: Agricultural Commission, Economic Development Committee***

***Objectives:***

- E1. Identify parcels of land for cooperative farming, lease, prime agriculture for purchase or protection.
- E2. Promote Community Sustainable Agriculture, educate farmers about the benefits of promoting the products locally or selling “shares” of their products to local residents.
- E3. Work with the Quaboag CDC and others to identify and secure a commercial kitchen area for small farm owners to create some “value added” products from their own raw materials (i.e. jam, syrup, pies, soaps, pickles, relish, etc.).
- E4. Educate local farmers about opportunities to protect their farmland through Ch 61A or the APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) programs (See Goal A5).
- E5. Work with the Quaboag CDC and others to create a “co-op” kind of store where local farmers can pool their goods and sell them.

## Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan



The goals of this OSRP are listed in priority order, with first priority given to Goal A, second priority given to Goal B, and so on. The objectives identified for each goal are prioritized based on the anticipated timeline for their implementation. For example, ongoing projects are prioritized first, one-year projects prioritized next, and two-year projects prioritized after that. The number assigned to each objective indicates its priority within a specific goal.

***Priority 1 - Goal A: Identify areas of special interest, target protection and permanently protect open space within the community.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Create permanent greenways through land acquisition and trail easements to allow both residents and wildlife to travel along north-south corridors through Monson.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	State LAND Grant, CPA
2. Preserve and protect a variety of critical wildlife habitat, both forest interior areas as well as open fields for all species.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	State LAND Grant, CPA, Conservation Land fund
3. Promote the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for people who believe that the town open space is a great opportunity for the whole community.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	Public Funds
4. Promote cooperation between the Town and Local Land Trusts for permanent preservation of land with areas of special interest, historic landscapes, and critical wildlife habitat.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	None Needed
5. Investigate regional connections to other protected open space and greenway corridors.	Year 1	Conservation Commission Historical Commission	None Needed
6. Educate private landowners on protection and permanent preservation of scenic landscapes and working forests through the use of federal monies available from the federal Forest Legacy Program.	Year 1	Conservation Commission	Forest Legacy Program
7. Preserve and protect the unique historic structures and landscapes of the town.	Year 1	Historical Commission, Society	CPA, State Historical Commission grants

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
8. Revise the Open Space Communities by-law to make it more easily useable within the town landscape.	Year 2	Planning Board	None Needed
9. Educate local farms and aid farmers by providing information and guidance to apply for APR designation, preserving and promoting “locally grown” in Monson.	Year 3	Conservation Commission	None Needed
10. Educate private landowners about the Landscape Partnership program, encouraging less developed regions of the town to remain that way through neighborhood cooperation.	Year 4	Conservation Commission	None Needed

*Priority 2 - Goal B: Expand and manage recreational open space opportunities for all residents.*

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Locate and purchase land for additional sports fields in Monson.	Year 1	Parks and Rec.	State PARC grants, CPA
2. Investigate the possibility of an accessible trail on the Flynt Quarry Lands.	Year 2	Trail Committee	DCR Trails Grant
3. Expand the playground opportunities to include more accessible equipment and a spray park.	Year 2	Parks and Rec.	DCR Trails Grant, CPA
4. Establish a greenway trail network for hiking, walking and biking to link existing and future public open space.	Year 3	Trail Committee Parks and Rec.	DCR Trails grant
5. Establish a downtown river walk.	Year 4	Trail Committee Historic Society	CPA
6. Improve public access to local waterways for non-motorized boating.	Year 5	Trail Committee Parks and Rec.	TBD
6. Create more opportunities for outdoor public swimming.	Year 6	Parks and Rec.	TBD
7. Create a public ice rink.	Year 7	Parks and Rec.	CPA, TBD

**Priority 3 - Goal C: Preserve and protect areas of public concern or sensitive features within the town. Groundwater and surface water, are protected as clean and abundant resources.**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Expand permanent protection in the zone 2 aquifer recharge, watersheds and water bodies throughout the town.	Ongoing	Water & Sewer Department	State Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant
2. Preserve and protect priority habitat for endangered wildlife species.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	State LAND grant
3. Water and Sewer Department to identify needs for water and sewer pipe replacement.	Ongoing	Water & Sewer Department	None Needed
4. Preserve and Protect open space around High and Medium output aquifers in Monson.	Year 1	Water & Sewer Department Conservation Commission	State Land and Water Conservation Fund
5. Take an active role in promoting sound stormwater management.	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Planning Board	None Needed
6. Develop a water quality testing program for people served by private wells.	Year 3	Water & Sewer Department	Water & Sewer Fund, private funding
4. Promote greater restrictions on development of steep driveways where erosion and runoff impacts the town roads and adjacent lands.	Year 4	Planning Board Highway Department	None Needed

**Priority 4 - Goal D: Promote local open space, recreation and farms throughout the community.**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Step up recreational programming for adults such as downtown walking groups, softball leagues and fitness trails.	Ongoing	Parks & Rec.	None Needed
2. Promote a “healthy Monson” campaign to introduce different outdoor opportunities to the public and the region.	Ongoing	All	None Needed
3. Establish a Trails Committee.	Year 1	Parks & Rec. Conservation Commission	None Needed
4. Establish a stewardship fund to maintain the trails, update the trail maps, expand trails links and create greenway hiking and biking opportunities.	Year 2		Public Funding
5. Educate the public about what we have. Make maps and brochures available on the town’s website.	Year 2	Trails Committee, Conservation Commission	None Needed

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
6. Establish a historic landscape trail with interpretive signage at the Flynt Quarry Lands.	Year 2	Trails Committee, Conservation Commission	DCR Trails Grant
7. Establish and promote an interpretive trail at Flynt Park.	Year 3	Trails Committee Parks & Rec.	TBD
8. Provide maps and brochures to regional information sites and regional markets.	Year 4	All	
9. Create maps and brochures of the public open spaces in Monson where there are hiking or biking trails.	Year 4	Trails Committee, Conservation Commission	Town Funding
10. Connect Colonial Village to Veterans Field with a pedestrian bridge over the Chicopee Brook to improve access to the park for seniors.	Year 5	Trails Committee, Conservation Commission	TBD
11. Monitor town conservation restrictions and public open space boundaries.	Year 6	Trails Committee, Conservation Commission	Town Stewardship Fund
12. Develop a corps of volunteers to sponsor particular public trails.	Year 7	All	None Needed

***Priority 5- Goal E: Promote agricultural activities and “value added” products to preserve and protect farms in the community.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Funding</b>
1. Identify parcels of land for cooperative farming, lease, prime agriculture for purchase or protection.	Ongoing	Agricultural Committee	State APR program
2. Educate local farmers about opportunities to protect their farmland through Ch 61A or the APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) programs.	Year 3	Agricultural Committee	None Needed
3. Promote Community Sustainable Agriculture, educate farmers about the benefits of promoting the products locally or selling “shares” of their products to local residents.	Year 4	Agricultural Committee Farm Ambassadors	None Needed
4. Work with the Quaboag CDC and others to identify and secure a commercial kitchen area for small farm owners to create some “value added” products from their own raw materials.	Year 6	Agricultural Committee Economic Development Commission	TBD
5. Work with the Quaboag CDC and others to create a “co-op” kind of store where local farmers can pool their goods and sell them.	Year 7	Agricultural Committee Economic Development Commission	TBD

## Section 10: Public Comment



This Open Space and Recreation Plan was submitted to the various town boards and officials for review. The required letters of support are:

- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- Select Board
- Planning Board



Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director

December 18, 2014

Melissa Cryan  
EOEEA - DCS  
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Monson 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is pleased to submit this letter endorsing the Town of Monson's 2014 update to their Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). PVPC is the Regional Planning Agency for the 43 cities and towns which comprise Hampshire and Hampden Counties and provided technical assistance to the Town of Monson's Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee in developing this latest update to their 2005 plan. The goals, objectives, and actions identified in this update are consistent with PVPC *Valley Vision 4*, the regional land use plan for the Pioneer Valley. Accordingly, the PVPC fully supports the actions outlined in the OSRP's action plan and recommends it to the Department of Conservation Services without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy W. Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director

cc: M. Gorman-Fil, PVPC Monson



**Town of Monson Planning Board  
110 Main Street  
Monson, MA 01057**

413-267-4111  
Fax 267-4108

January 13, 2015

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee  
110 Main Street  
Monson, MA 01057

Re: Town of Monson – Open Space Plan

Dear Committee Members:

This letter serves to fulfill the comment requirement by the Planning Board to the Open Space Plan as submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Planning Board is pleased to endorse the Open Space Plan and its goals and objectives. Furthermore, the Planning Board acknowledges the challenges presented in the action plan and its role in making some of these come to fruition.

The Planning Board thanks the members of the Open Space and Recreation Committee for their hard work and dedication in completing this plan.

Sincerely,

  
Craig Sweitzer, Chairman

  
Paul Hatch Vice Chairman

  
Kevin Haley

  
Tara Hengeveld

  
Karen King



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

110 Main Street  
Monson, Massachusetts 01057

Telephone: 413-267-4100  
Fax: 413-267-3726  
Website: [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov)

December 22, 2014

Open Space Committee  
110 Main Street  
Monson, MA 01057

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves to attest that the Monson Board of Selectmen generally support the Monson Open Space Committee's Open Space Plan. The Committee has worked tirelessly to create this plan and has taken into account the hopes and desires of the community. The Board continues to be deeply supportive of the plan's intent: preserving open space and natural resources in the Town of Monson.

The Board of Selectmen look forward to the implementation of this latest iteration of the plan and further thank the Open Space Committee for all of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Ed Harrison, Chair

Richard Smith

John Morrell

## Section 11: References



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# **Appendix A: Community Visioning Session Agenda, Press Release, and Comments**

**NEW!!!**

Available for Review at the Monson Free Library  
and the Monson Town Administration Building  
(Planners Office / Building Department)



**The Newly Updated  
MONSON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION  
PLAN**

Check it out! Comments can be addressed to the Monson Open Space  
Committee



## **For Immediate Release**

Press Release:

The Monson Open Space and Recreation Committee announce a public meeting for all Monson residents on Monday, June 2nd at 6:00pm at the Town Administration building located at 29 Thompson Street. The Town of Monson will be updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan this summer and we are looking for input from residents of the town. The town has had a plan in place since 1995 which has helped the town to receive grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to protect public open space lands.

This meeting will help the Committee determine the needs of the community and input from all residents is sought to create a comprehensive plan that addresses the kinds of open space and recreation opportunities the people of Monson would like. This meeting will help guide our efforts over the next 7 years in open space and recreation for the town.

Residents are also invited to fill out a survey which is located at the town web site [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov). The survey will ask questions regarding the kinds of recreation people participate in, the special "sights" of Monson, and what kinds of family activities people are interested in such as visiting farms, picking produce, and taking a walk. The committee urges everyone to take the survey to help create the plan.

The Monson Open Space and Recreation committee is working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission with funding assistance from a District Local Technical Assistance Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Some of the lands that have been protected with the grants received as a result of the Open Space and Recreation Plan include the Monson cedar swamp, the Silver Street conservation area, the Flynt Quarry lands, and the Quinlan memorial conservation area. The plan has also supported the preservation of agricultural lands such as North Orchard Farms and Echo Hill Orchard.

**Town of Monson**  
**Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Visioning Workshop Agenda**  
**June 2, 2014**  
**6-7:30 PM**

6:00-6:15 pm **Welcome/Overview of Workshop and Open Space and Recreation Plan**

- What is an open space and recreation plan?
- What is “open space?”
- What is “recreation?” (passive vs. active)
- Why is Monson creating an Open Space and Recreation Plan now?
- Who is on the Open Space Planning Committee and what are their roles?

6:15-6:45 **Mapping Exercise**

Step 1: Each table has a copy of an enlarged map of Monson. Identify by drawing on the map with markers your answers to the following questions:

- Where do you live?
- Where do you work?
- Where do you play or recreate?
- What are the important natural resources, places, or scenic landscapes in Monson? (Examples: scenic areas, farmland, historic landmarks, etc.)
- What are the important recreational facilities in Monson?
- Are there issues/conflicts occurring with open space and/or recreational facilities? Where?

Step2: Each group has 2-3 minutes to present and explain their maps to everyone. Discuss Monson’s assets and challenges.

6:45-7:00 **Open Space and Recreation Needs Analysis**

Step 1: As a large group, discuss the results of the mapping exercise and discuss strengths and challenges.

Step2: Identify open space and recreation needs in the context of strengths and weaknesses.

7:00-7:30 **Identify 2014-2021 OSRP Goals and Objectives and Action Items**

- Identify Open Space and Recreation goals and objectives based on prior discussion.
- Comment on and discuss on resulting goals and objectives.
- Come to consensus on adding/removing any goals or objectives.
- If each group could manage the town for the day, what would they do?
- Identify actions to address specific goals and objectives based on this and prior discussions.

**Monson OSRP Visioning Session Notes**  
**Monday, June 2, 2014, 6-7:30 PM**

Mapping Exercise

Farms important, some going under APR protection  
Swimming – Dean’s Pond in Brimfield is good for little kids, Pulpit, Paradise Lake  
Not easy to get to the river  
USACE lands not very accessible, people don’t know about them  
No water supply protection at Cushman Street  
Walking and biking is enjoyable at Flynt Park and the Quarry  
Old trolley line from the Swedish Club served the quarry, potential trail? (ownership is contentious)  
Rock crusher and Native American sites near the Flynt Quarry on golf course land  
West View Farm might be developed  
Cross country team needs course land, uses Flynt Quarry  
Maintenance comes through use  
Silver Street is not maintained, but very cool  
Greenway should be researched, maybe along Chicopee Brook?

Assets

Manpower  
Have greenway vision  
Lots of land opportunities  
Not a lot of development pressure  
Solar farms  
Active citizenry- sports, hunting, fishing  
Right to farm bylaw

Needs Analysis

Funding (FLA, PARC)  
Trails committee  
Engaging scouts  
Regional efforts  
More volunteers  
More coordinated fundraising  
Driveway bylaw  
Stewardship/management  
Increasing awareness about public trails  
More awareness about DCR trails and Flynt Quarry Lands  
More recreational fields  
Local outdoor swimming (only Dean’s Pond)  
Riverwalk  
Network of trails for walking and hiking  
Trails at the MDC property (stewardship and protection)  
Protection of Zone I/Zone II watershed area  
Playing fields and senior fitness trails  
CPA

## Adding parcels to the Forest Legacy Program

### Goals

Make land protection more permanent

Revise bylaw

Provide landowner education

More recreational facilities

- Outside ice rink
- Lacrosse fields
- Spray pool
- Outdoor pool
- Interpretive trail

Stormwater management (regulations, education)

Educate about existing resources (website, map, outreach)

Encourage active agriculture

# MONSON CENTER VISIONING FORUM

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Supported by a DHCD Tornado Recovery Planning Assistance Grant

## **AGENDA**

---

**6:30 p.m.** – Welcome and Introduction

**6:40 p.m.** – Results of Web Survey - Presentation followed by community discussion

**7:10 p.m.** – Zoning Analysis (and Why Zoning Matters) - Presentation followed by community discussion

**7:50 p.m.** – Identifying Strategies for Improving Monson Center

**8:20 p.m.** – Wrap Up & Next Steps

## **Monson Tornado Recovery Planning Assistance**

### **March 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 Community Meeting #1 Summary**

PVPC held a community meeting on 3/19 to review project goals and the results of the community survey and downtown zoning analysis. Approximately 20 residents were in attendance, including one member of the Planning Board. Community participants were receptive to the analysis results and proposed zoning strategies, and asked what they could do to support Planning Board efforts to make zoning reforms. The following is a list of comments recorded during the meeting:

- Is the current sidewalk width sufficient? (PVPC: Consider widening sidewalks to meet desire for sidewalk dining expressed in community survey.)
- 2 old gyms being demolished: What is going on with that property?
- Above-ground utilities are ugly, especially with no trees
- Ensure that signs are less invasive / no neon
- Address redevelopment of non-conforming lots, variance and special permit requirements, current non-conforming downtown, and older residential homes built before zoning
- Flexibility is desirable – residential and community development balance
- Adams parking lot has difficult traffic flow pattern. Difficult for pedestrians and cars.
- Academy properties – What to do NOW to protect/preserve these properties?
- Current commercial design standards offer some protection (PVPC/Bill Scanlan zoning analysis)
- Current zoning – Any “easy” zoning bylaw changes we can do now?
- There is support for conversion of mills to housing
- Address TRAFFIC issues NOW, Address seasonal traffic increases, business impacts on traffic, effect of casino development
- Traffic flow and parking study (PVPC recommendation)

**Next Steps:** PVPC/Consultant Bill Scanlan will meet with the Planning Board to develop strategies and recommendations. The next community meeting, scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> will discuss recreation, open space connections and walkability, including the residential neighborhoods near downtown.

## 4.25 Workshop Agenda

- Gretchen to welcome everyone and introduce project and PVPC
- History and Purpose of Project (Dani – 5 minutes)
- What We've Learned So Far... (Dani – 5 minutes)
  - Monson Visioning Workshop (September 2011)
  - Monson Center Survey (Open February 14<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup> 2012)
  - Monson Tornado Assistance Planning Workshop #1 (March 19, 2012)
- Village Residential Zoning District
  - Conformance Analysis and Survey Results (Dani – 20 minutes)
  - Zoning Analysis (Bill – 10 minutes)
  - Traditional neighborhoods, walkability and economic development (Dani 10 mins)
  - Discussion / Questions (10 mins)
- Open Space & Recreation
  - Brief Open Space/Walkability Analysis and Introduction of Activity (Dani 5 mins, then Joseph 10 minutes, includes time for Joseph to talk about HUDSCI, show Monson video, and provide more detail on the activity)
  - Open Space Connections, Walkability & Downtown Recreation Planning Activity – Joseph (45 minutes)
    - Meeting participants to break into small discussion groups at separate tables, each table will have large map to work on, list of questions/issues to discuss, markers, etc.
    - There will be a brief report back at the end of the activity, with each table appointing one person to summarize what the group talked about
    - Joseph, Dani, Erica and Bill will facilitate the discussion tables, and Joseph may provide student note takers (Dani to provide large note paper, markers and easels)

## Notes of Meeting

Meeting: **Monson Tornado Recovery Planning – Public Forum #3**  
Date: Wednesday April 25, 2012  
Location: Hillside Building, 29 Thompson St  
Attendees: Carrie Kozkowski, Tim Pascale, Emmaland Shepard, Deb Mahar, Craig Sweitzer (planning board), Bill Domin \_\_\_\_, Susan Domin \_\_\_\_, Gretchen Neggers  
Staff: Dani McKahn, Bill Scanlon, Joe Krupczynski, Erica Johnson, David Elvin  
Notes by: D. Elvin, PVPC

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Dani presented findings of the online visual preference survey taken by approximately 200 residents.

Dani and Bill presented updated information on the zoning analysis on the downtown. As is common in older New England towns, a majority of structures in areas built before local zoning do not conform to regulations adopted later for setbacks, frontage and other items. However, comments received at previous meetings, as well as the online survey, reflect that most residents strongly prefer the existing structures and street environment that they create.

Joe described the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor project and showed a short video featuring Monson Russell Bressette.

Breakout Group Comments:

Group 1:

- “Downtown” is generally considered to be Adams Market south to Memorial Hall.
- Gaps in sidewalk routes are a problem: Chestnut Street is missing a section; connection is lacking between Park Rd and Ely Rd; Washington St is a problem; Pease loop.
- Most walkers use sidewalks, not trails. People walk both for exercise and shopping/errands.
- A walking loop is desired and used by many people already—State St to Fountain St. The large parcel between Cushman and Veterans Fields could be a good new pedestrian connection.
- Vacant lots north of Adams Market need special attention in redevelopment, especially the old gym site.
- Could the older mills become condos?
- Churches are an active and important use, especially those in the southern end of downtown. How can they be engaged?
- Greater use of Memorial Hall is desirable, especially for concerts and public events.

Group 2:

- Gaps in sidewalk routes are a problem, especially for daily exercise walkers and seniors: Chestnut Street missing section; Bethany Rd; connection between Park Rd and Ely Rd; Bliss/Bridge St.
- A walking loop is important, and new connections via Veterans Park, Cushman, and schools would improve it. Consider walking loops within the parks themselves.
- A pedestrian connection to old mill is desired (former greenway existed there).
- Key downtown destinations for vehicles and pedestrians are Adams Market/Rite Aide/Post Office/Bank (shared lot); County Store and shops.
- Vehicle and pedestrian safety are a concern at the Adams/Rite Aide parking lot. Could a raised sidewalk from Main St to Rite Aide help, and also provide access to Post Office? Could walking loops be incorporated into this lot? Could landscaping be incorporated to buffer walkers from cars? Could parking area in front of Adams Market be relocated so the façade could be improved, greenery added and/or café-type storefront? Could new signage and enforcement help address the traffic and pedestrian conflict problems?
- Bike connection/spur to downtown from future Grand Trunk Trail Brimfield/Palmer/Monson bike trail is desired; but dedicated bike lane/path for the connection is not necessary; on-street bike lane or simply signage is adequate. Also, consider connection to Old Quarry rail trail. Add signage to seasonal bike trail related businesses (ice cream shops) and other existing shops that bikers like.
- Add bike racks at playing fields and in downtown.
- Parking is a concern at Flynt Park, Veterans Field.
- Cushman Field is under-used. More activities are desirable.
- Remove first section of fence at Veterans Field to improve circulation and walkability; consider replacing with difference type of fence (not chain link).
- Dedicated skate board park or some other alternative is needed for youth; damage to Rotary Club Gazebo is occurring.
- How to maximize the civic space in front of Memorial Hall and House of Art? Pavement treatment to connect with Gazebo area, and traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds? Gazebo area is too small. Could parking be relocated?

#### Next Meetings

- Tuesday May 15, 2012 – Planning Board
- Tuesday May 30, 2012 – Community Forum #4

- Don't take away gas station
- Get rid of gas station
- Dress up Adam's Market Parking lot with trees
- Needs to be more centrally located
- Senior's would use one, but needs to be located closer to Sr. Center
- Integrating into new Town Hall design is most "doable"
- More downtown parking for youth sports
- Put in new gazebo (leave old one where it is)
- Move old gazebo and turn site into public parking for residents & businesses in South end

Informal Interview Summary:

Do you feel Monson Center needs a public space?

- Yes - 16
- No – 3 never had one, don't need one now.
- Don't Know - 2

Do you feel that the current Gazebo site serves this function?

- Yes – 2 (used during Summerfest & band concerts)
- No - 17 (hangout for kids, especially since skatepark was destroyed, too far away from everything)
- Partially – 2 (used during Summerfest)

Where would be a better location?

- Centrally located Proximate to public buildings, shopping, parking - 17
- Southerly (leave where it is) - 3
- Northerly (where bowling alley was destroyed) – 1

Is incorporating a new public space into the design of a new Town Hall and playing fields a good idea?

- Yes - 17 (probably the most "doable", won't have to take/buy private property)
- No - 2
- Don't know – 1

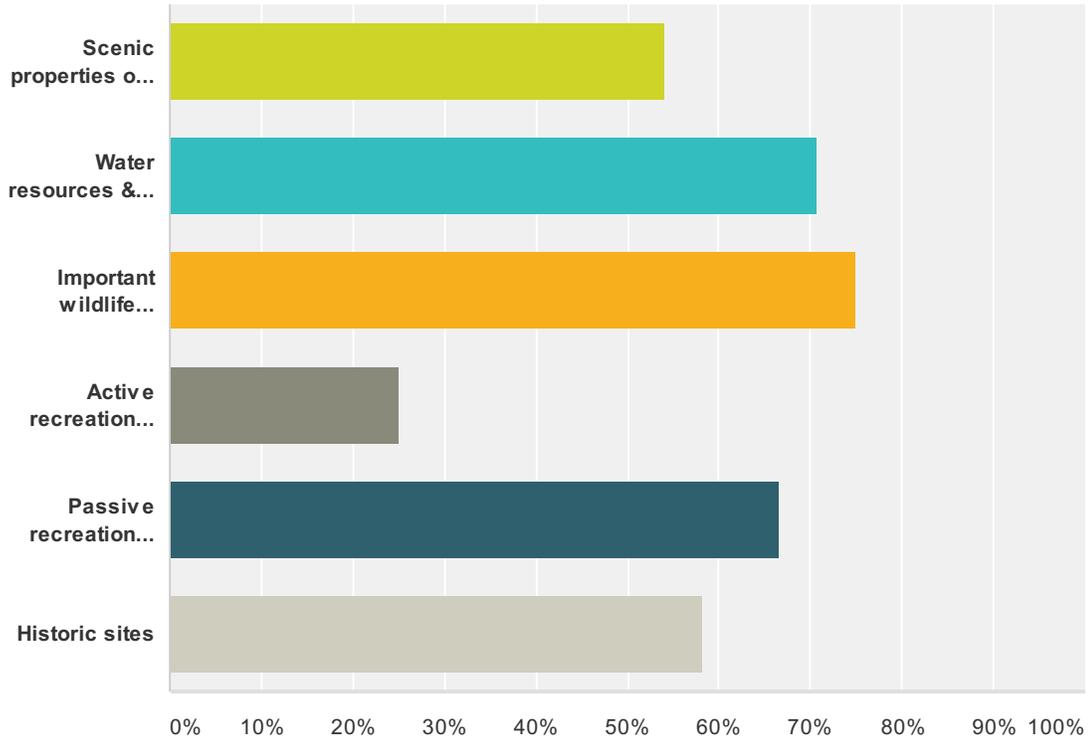
What should be done with current Gazebo park?

- Leave it as is - 13
- Turn into public/neighborhood parking - 6
- Don't know - 2

## **Appendix B: Community Survey Results**

### Q1 What types of lands do you feel are most important to protect?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1

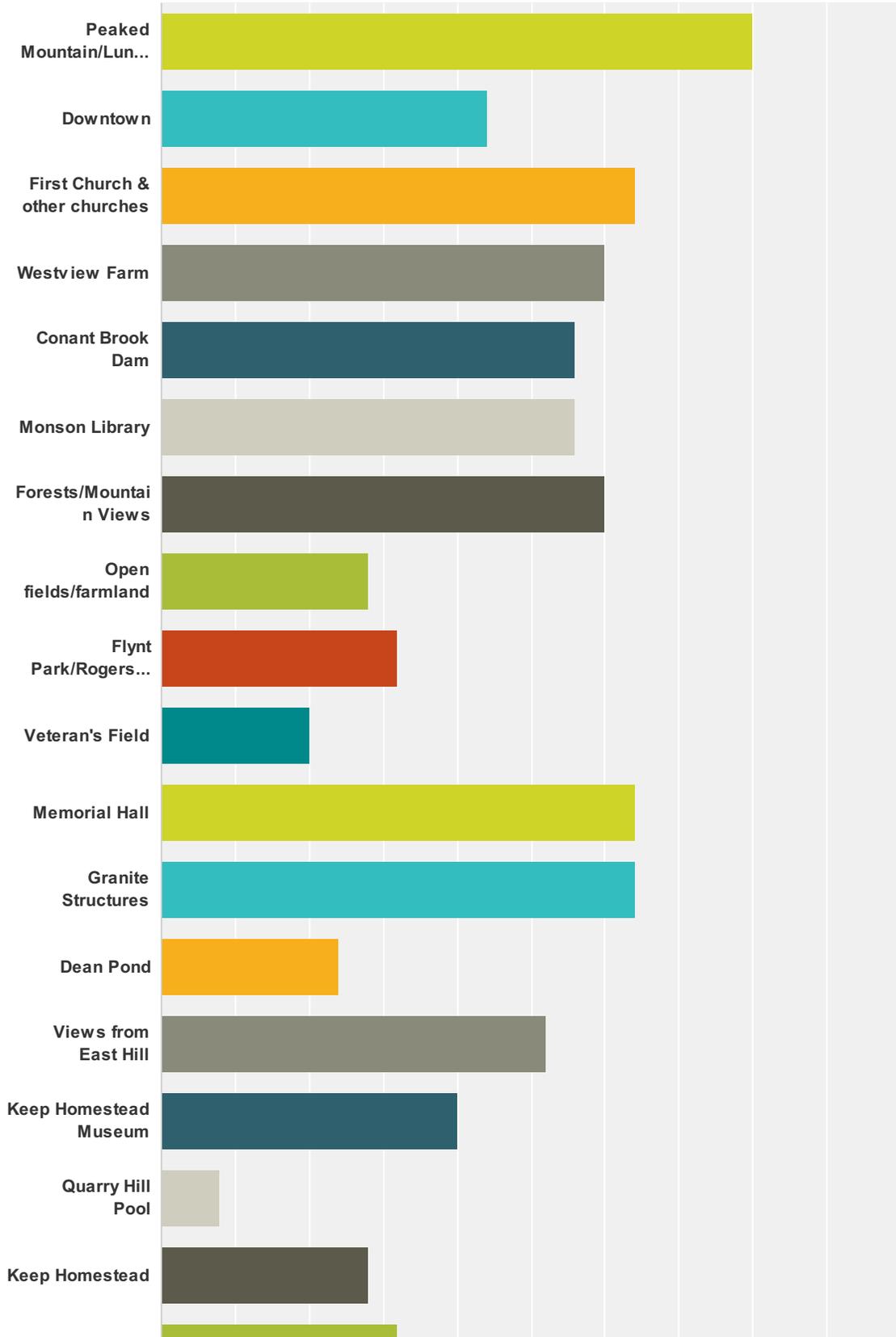


Answer Choices	Responses
Scenic properties or natural features	54.17% 13
Water resources & drinking water supplies	70.83% 17
Important wildlife habitat	75.00% 18
Active recreation (e.g. baseball, softball, and soccer fields)	25.00% 6
Passive recreation (e.g. hiking, walking, bicycling trails)	66.67% 16
Historic sites	58.33% 14
<b>Total Respondents: 24</b>	

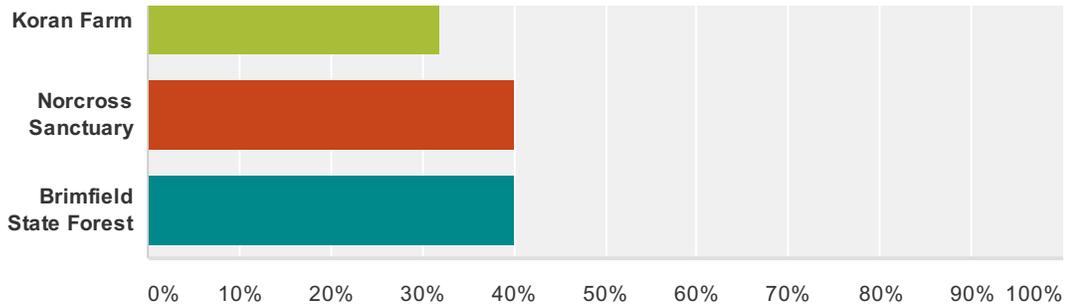
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	all of the above	5/29/2014 11:48 AM
2	Land available for hunting and fishing	5/29/2014 9:07 AM

**Q2 Please list landscapes, views, locations, or other outdoor experiences you think most symbolize Monson's unique character.**

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



## Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

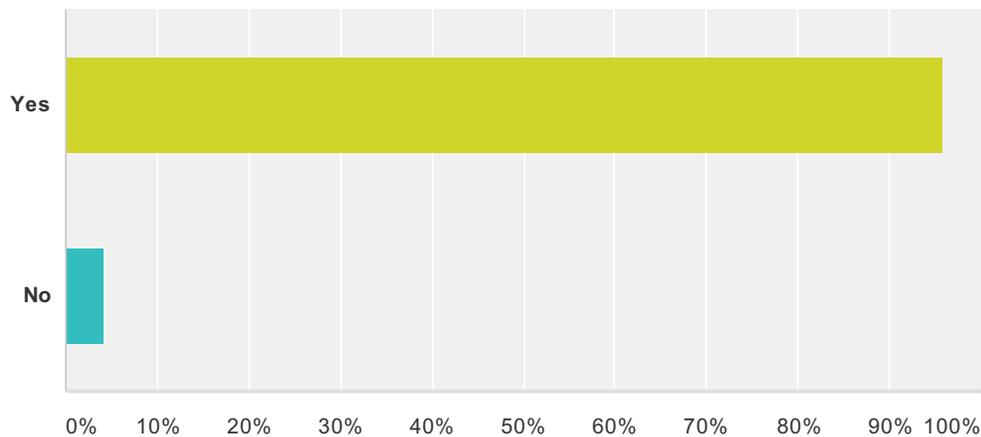


Answer Choices	Responses
Peaked Mountain/Lunden Pond	80.00% 20
Downtown	44.00% 11
First Church & other churches	64.00% 16
Westview Farm	60.00% 15
Conant Brook Dam	56.00% 14
Monson Library	56.00% 14
Forests/Mountain Views	60.00% 15
Open fields/farmland	28.00% 7
Flynt Park/Rogers Field	32.00% 8
Veteran's Field	20.00% 5
Memorial Hall	64.00% 16
Granite Structures	64.00% 16
Dean Pond	24.00% 6
Views from East Hill	52.00% 13
Keep Homestead Museum	40.00% 10
Quarry Hill Pool	8.00% 2
Keep Homestead	28.00% 7
Koran Farm	32.00% 8
Norcross Sanctuary	40.00% 10
Brimfield State Forest	40.00% 10
<b>Total Respondents: 25</b>	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Historic Homes	5/30/2014 6:25 PM

**Q3 A greenway is a linear area of protected land, often including river access, walking and/or bicycle trails. Would you use a greenway if it was available in Monson?**

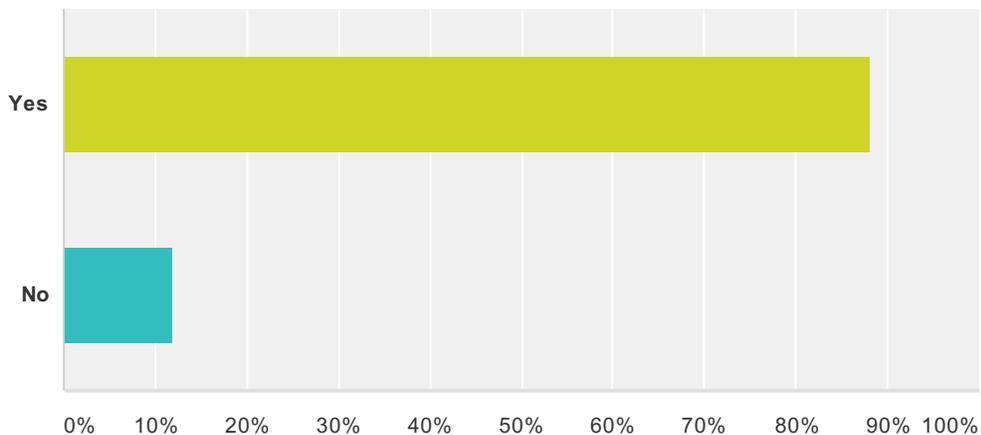
Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	95.83%	23
No	4.17%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>

**Q4 Would you be interested in a site that allowed river access to the Quaboag River for fishing or canoeing?**

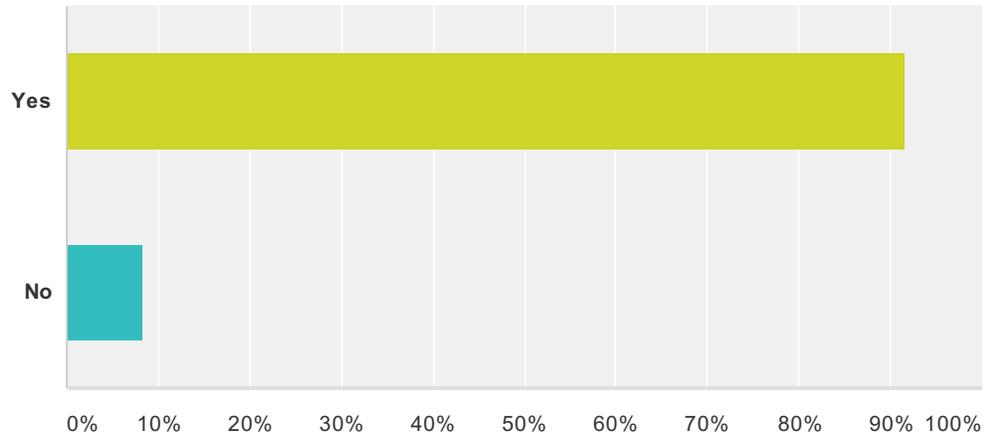
Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	88.00%	22
No	12.00%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

**Q5 I am interested in more hiking, biking, and trails on public lands in Monson.**

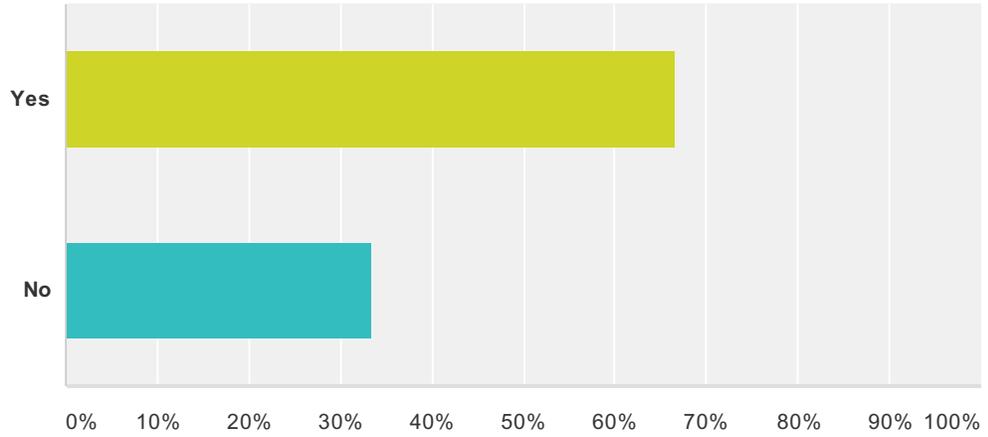
Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	91.67% 22
No	8.33% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

### Q6 Would you be interested in activities involving the history of Monson?

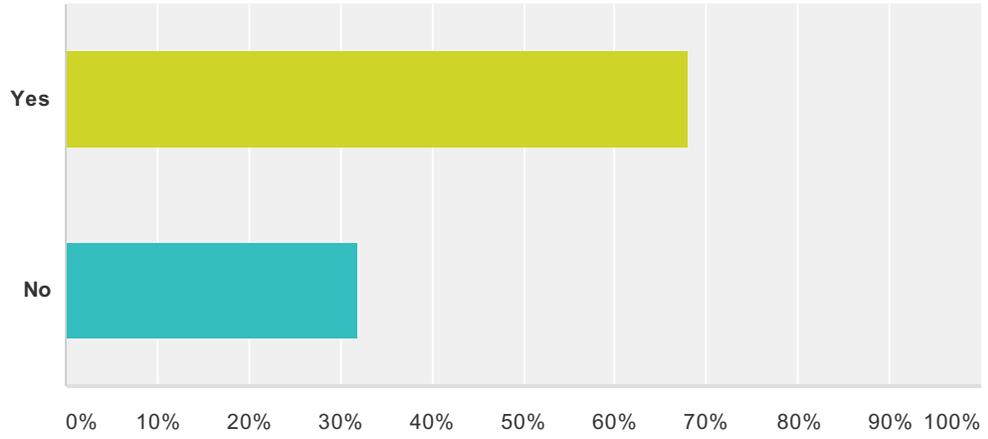
Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	66.67%	16
No	33.33%	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>

### Q7 Would you use a fitness trail, accessible to all in the downtown area?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

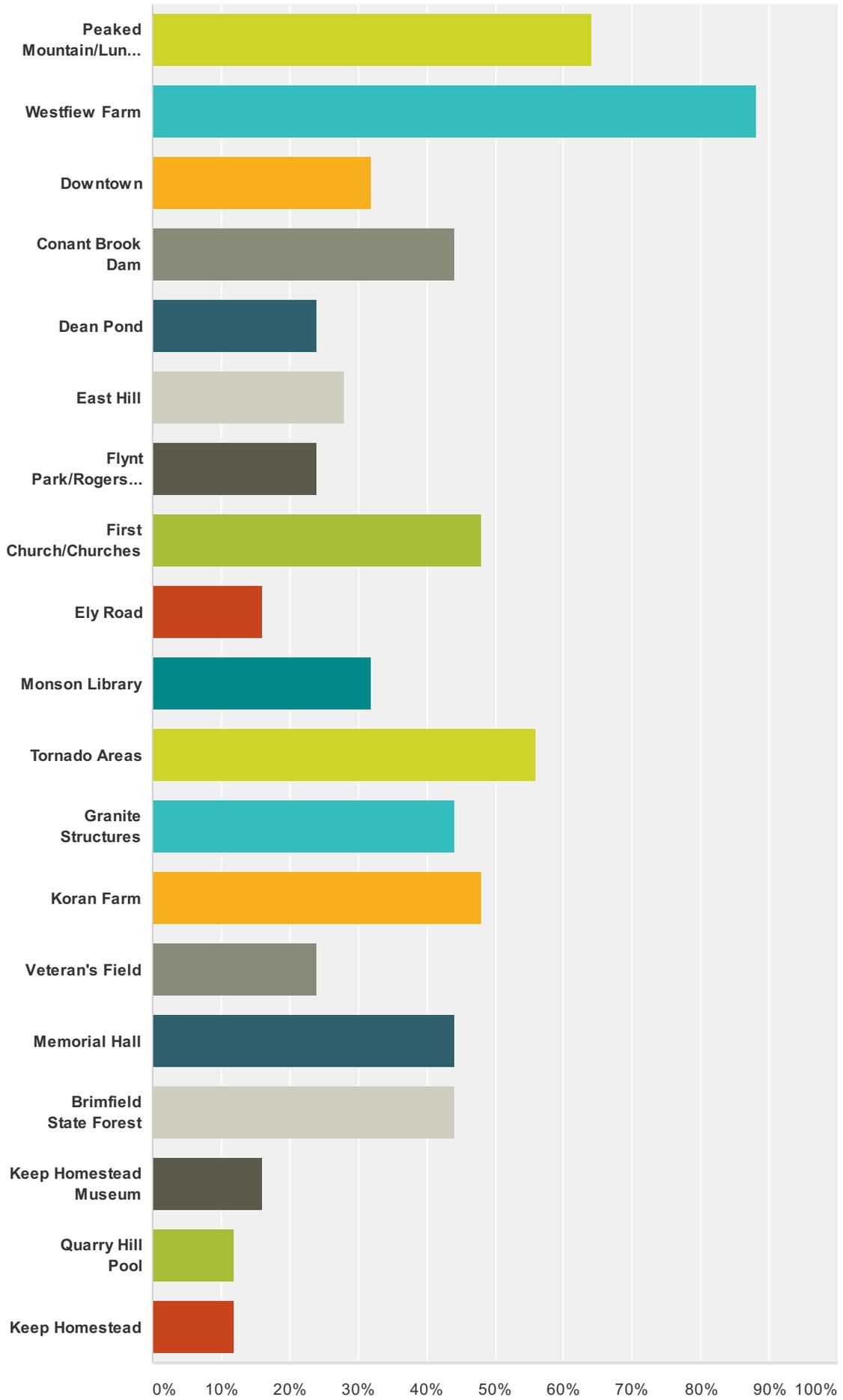


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	68.00%	17
No	32.00%	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

**Q8 Please list scenic areas or parts of Monson that you "show off" to visitors and guests.**

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

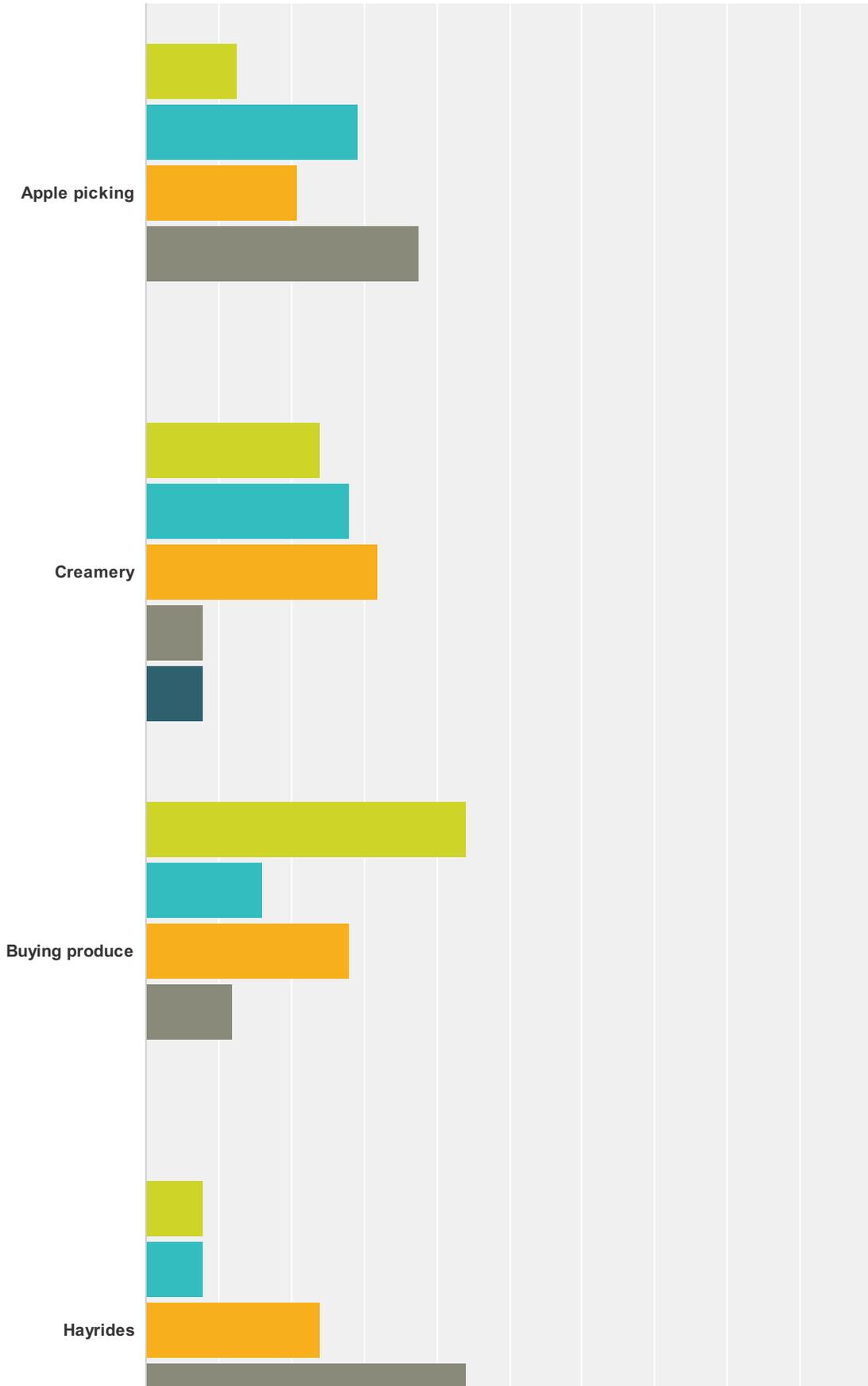


## Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

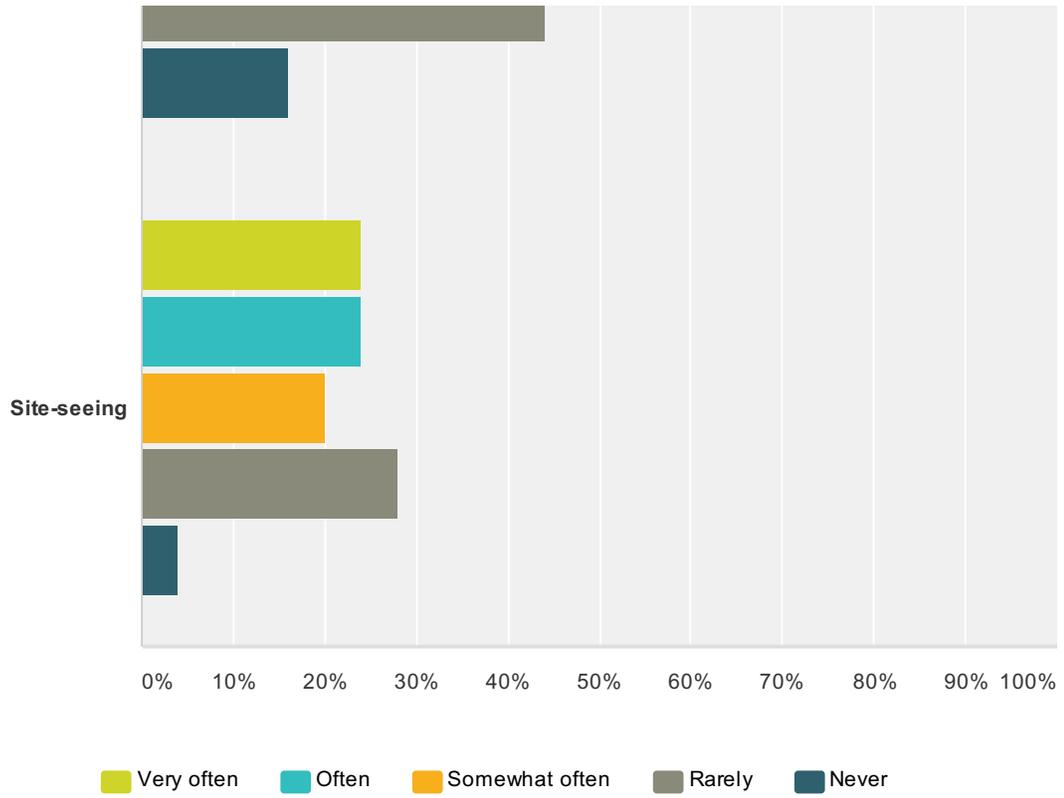
Answer Choices	Responses	
Peaked Mountain/Lunden Pond	64.00%	16
Westfiew Farm	88.00%	22
Downtown	32.00%	8
Conant Brook Dam	44.00%	11
Dean Pond	24.00%	6
East Hill	28.00%	7
Flynt Park/Rogers Field	24.00%	6
First Church/Churches	48.00%	12
Ely Road	16.00%	4
Monson Library	32.00%	8
Tomado Areas	56.00%	14
Granite Structures	44.00%	11
Koran Fam	48.00%	12
Veteran's Field	24.00%	6
Memorial Hall	44.00%	11
Brimfield State Forest	44.00%	11
Keep Homestead Museum	16.00%	4
Quarry Hill Pool	12.00%	3
Keep Homestead	12.00%	3
<b>Total Respondents: 25</b>		

### Q9 How frequently do you visit local farms for any of the following activities?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



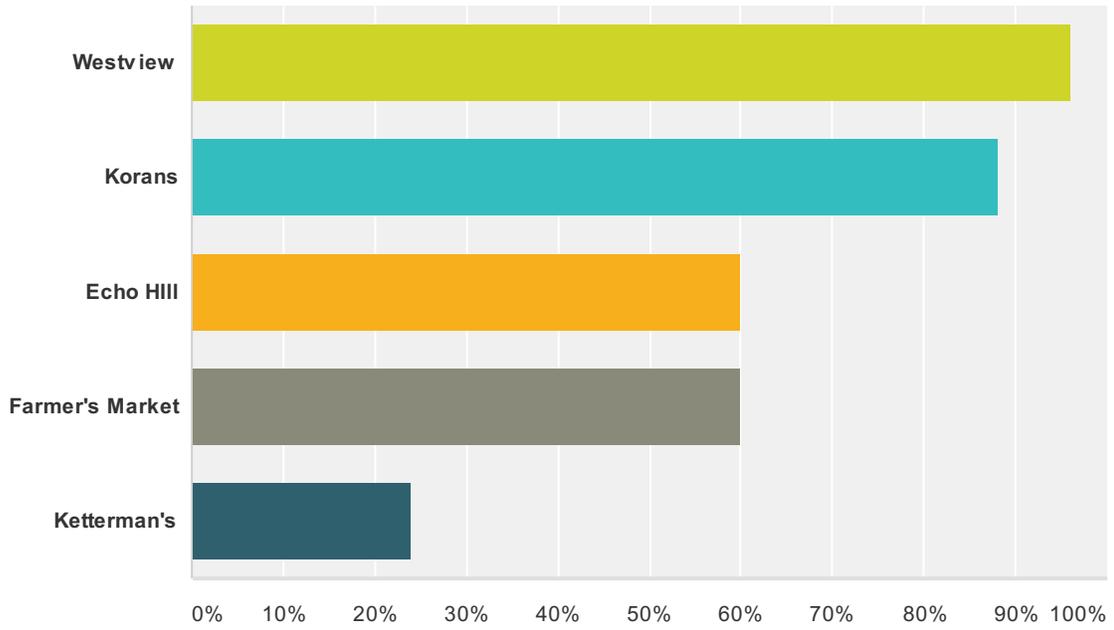
# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Rarely	Never	Total
Apple picking	12.50% 3	29.17% 7	20.83% 5	37.50% 9	0.00% 0	24
Creamery	24.00% 6	28.00% 7	32.00% 8	8.00% 2	8.00% 2	25
Buying produce	44.00% 11	16.00% 4	28.00% 7	12.00% 3	0.00% 0	25
Hayrides	8.00% 2	8.00% 2	24.00% 6	44.00% 11	16.00% 4	25
Site-seeing	24.00% 6	24.00% 6	20.00% 5	28.00% 7	4.00% 1	25

### Q10 Which local farms do you visit?

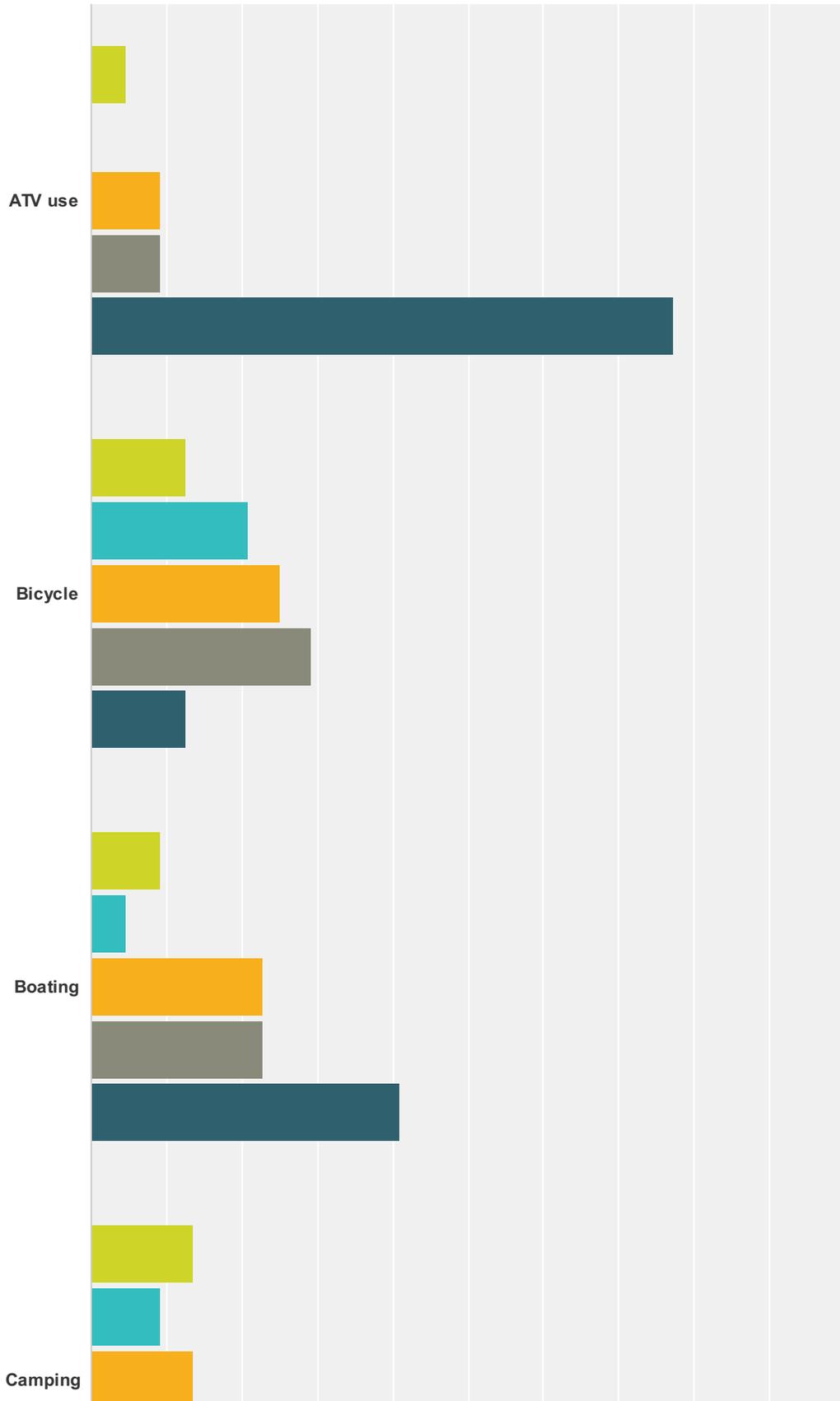
Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Westview	96.00%	24
Korans	88.00%	22
Echo Hill	60.00%	15
Farmer's Market	60.00%	15
Ketterman's	24.00%	6
<b>Total Respondents: 25</b>		

### Q11 How frequently did you participate in one of the following activities in the past 12 months?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



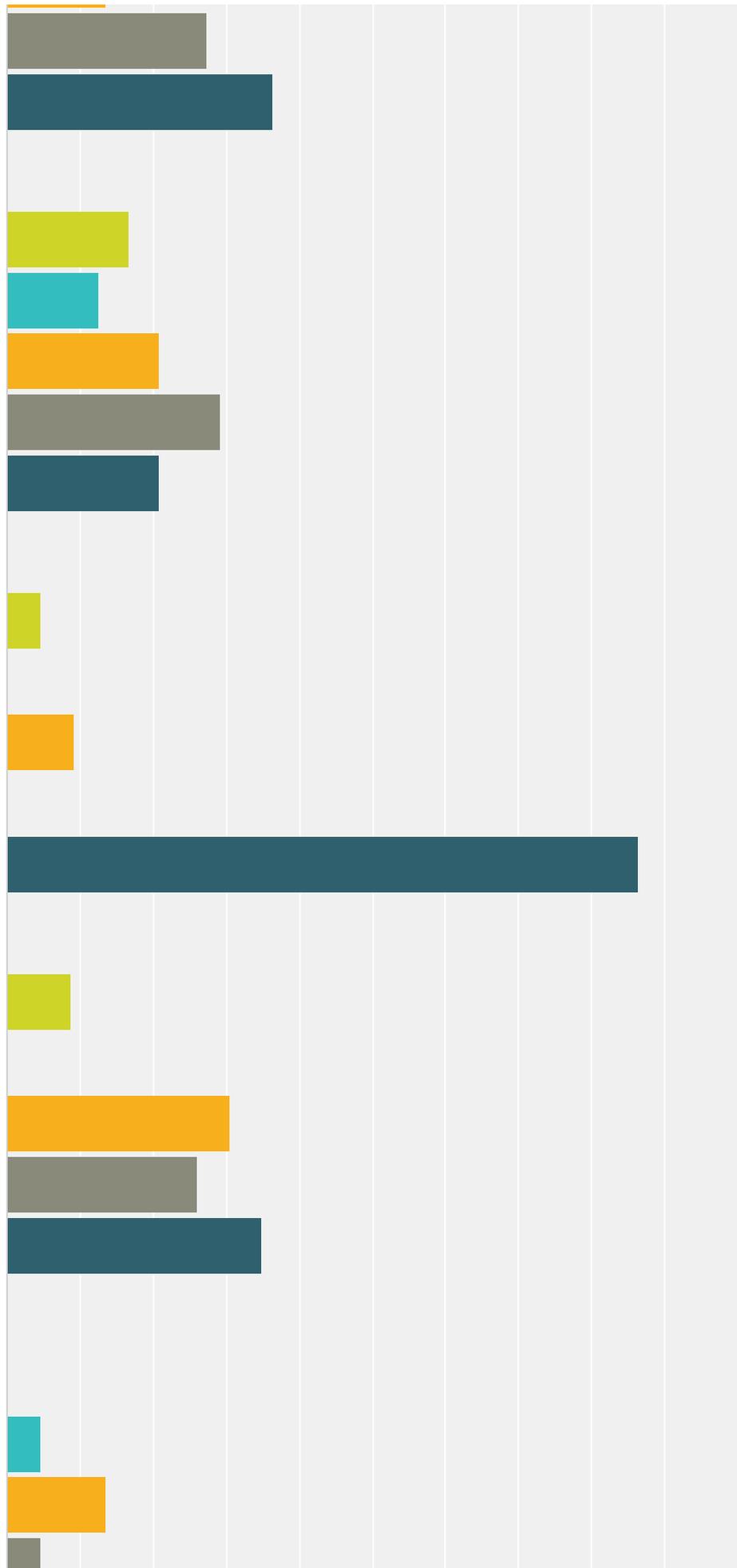
# Monsoon Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Canoeing/Kayaking

Equestrian

Fishing

Geocaching



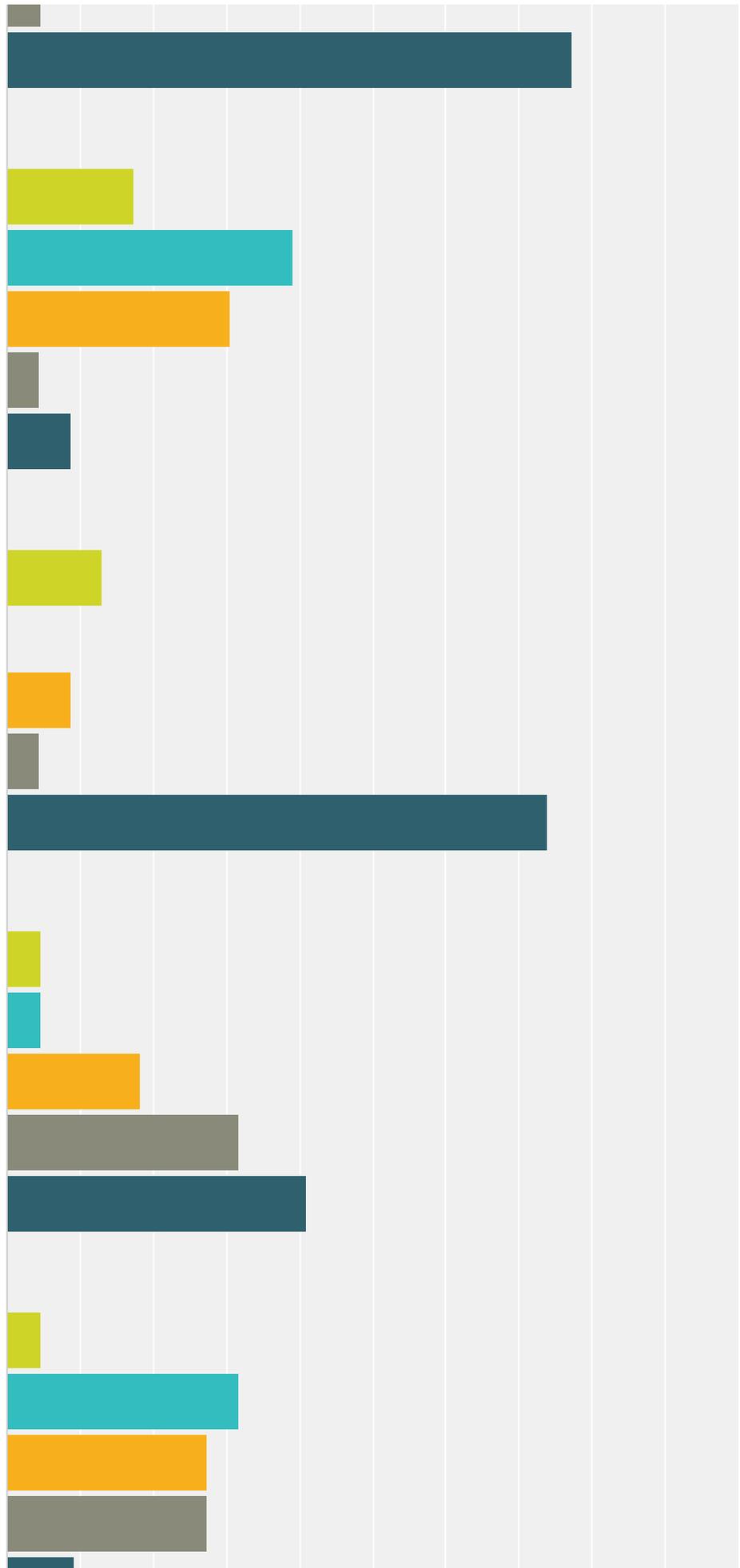
# Monsoon Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Hiking

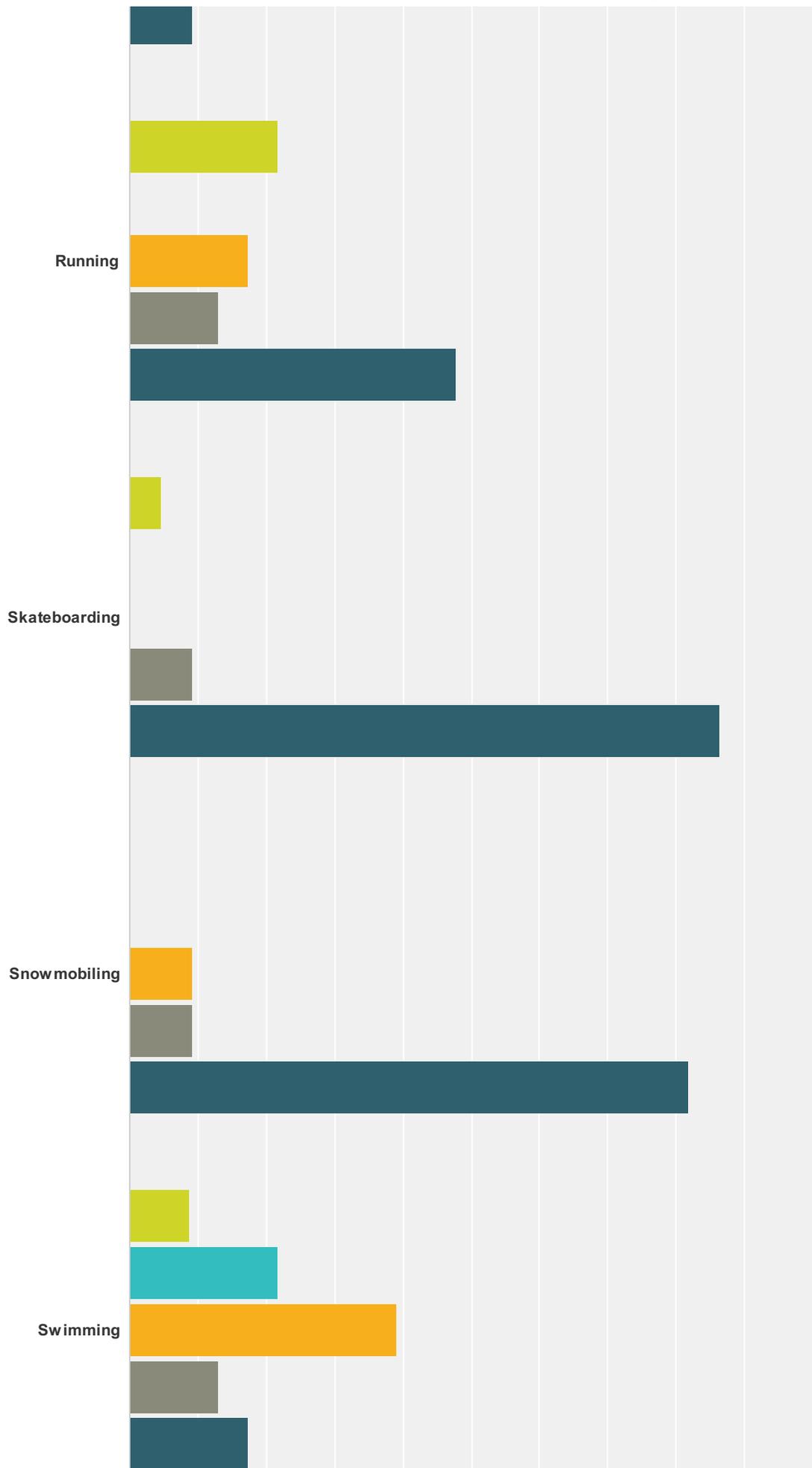
Hunting

Ice Skating

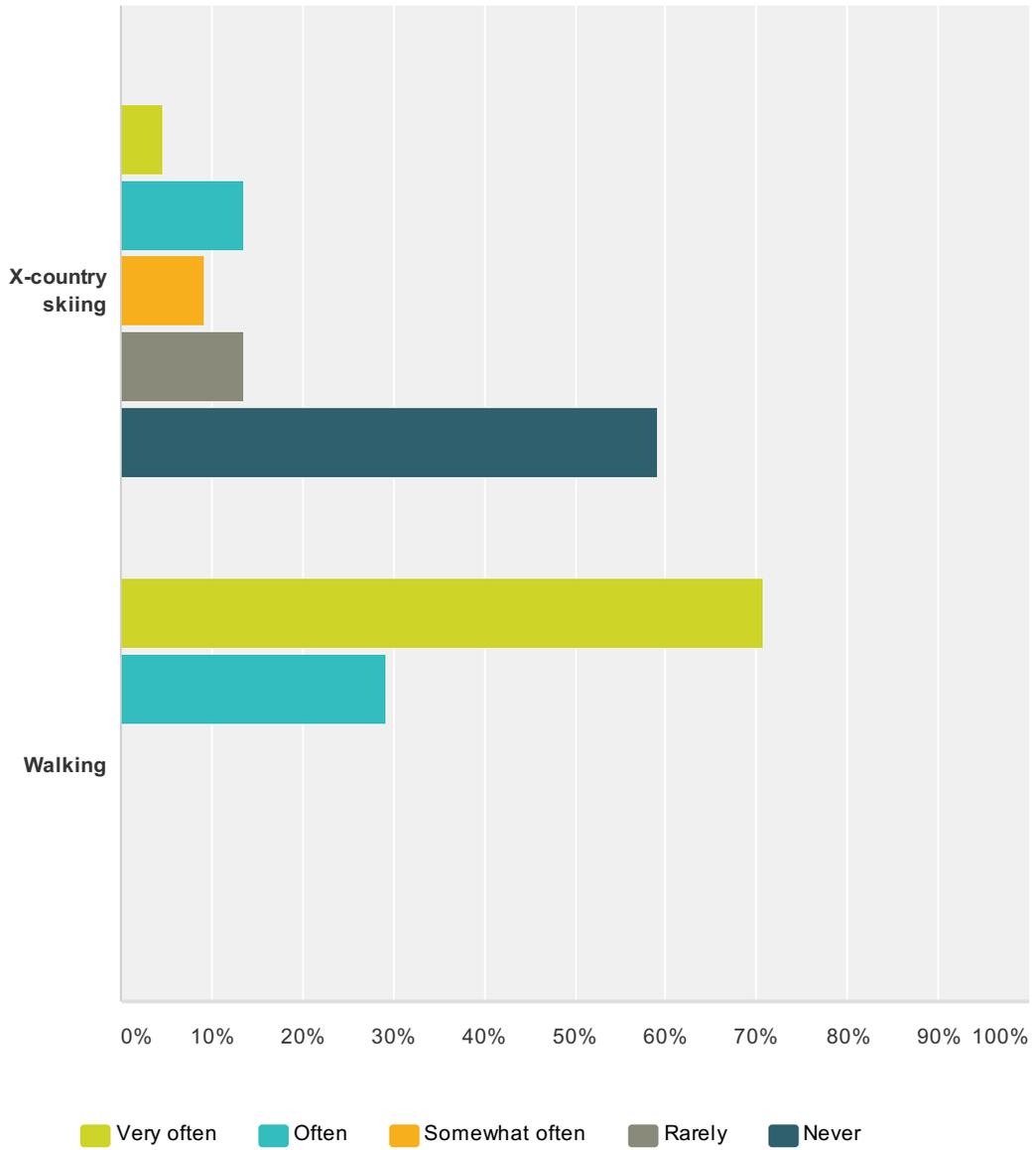
Picnicking



# Monsoon Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



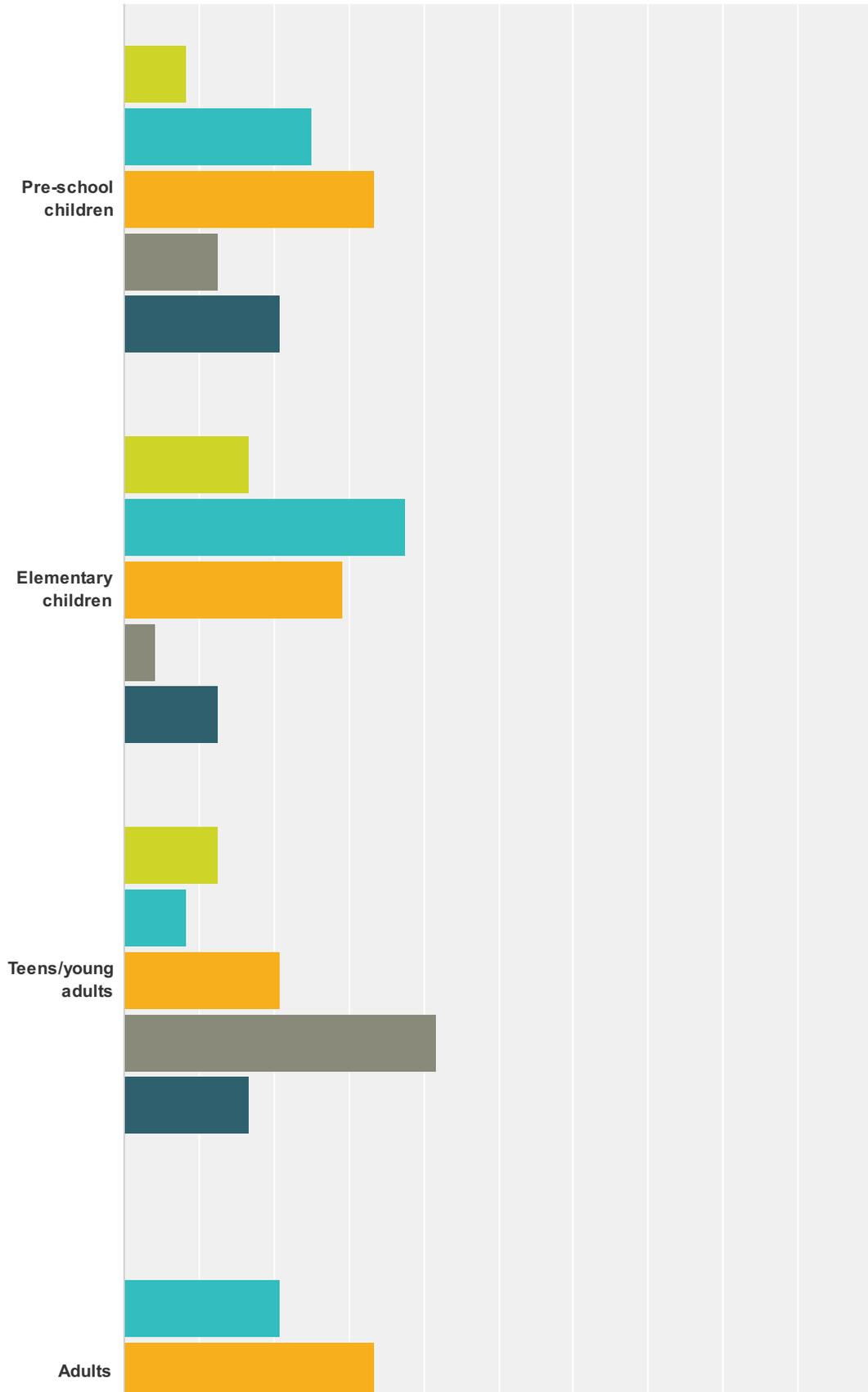
	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Rarely	Never	Total
ATV use	4.55% 1	0.00% 0	9.09% 2	9.09% 2	77.27% 17	22
Bicycle	12.50% 3	20.83% 5	25.00% 6	29.17% 7	12.50% 3	24
Boating	9.09% 2	4.55% 1	22.73% 5	22.73% 5	40.91% 9	22
Camping	13.64% 3	9.09% 2	13.64% 3	27.27% 6	36.36% 8	22
Canoeing/Kayaking	16.67% 4	12.50% 3	20.83% 5	29.17% 7	20.83% 5	24
Equestrian	4.55% 1	0.00% 0	9.09% 2	0.00% 0	86.36% 19	22
Fishing	8.70% 2	0.00% 0	30.43% 7	26.09% 6	34.78% 8	23
Geocaching	0.00% 0	4.55% 1	13.64% 3	4.55% 1	77.27% 17	22
Hiking	17.39%	39.13%	30.43%	4.35%	8.70%	

## Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

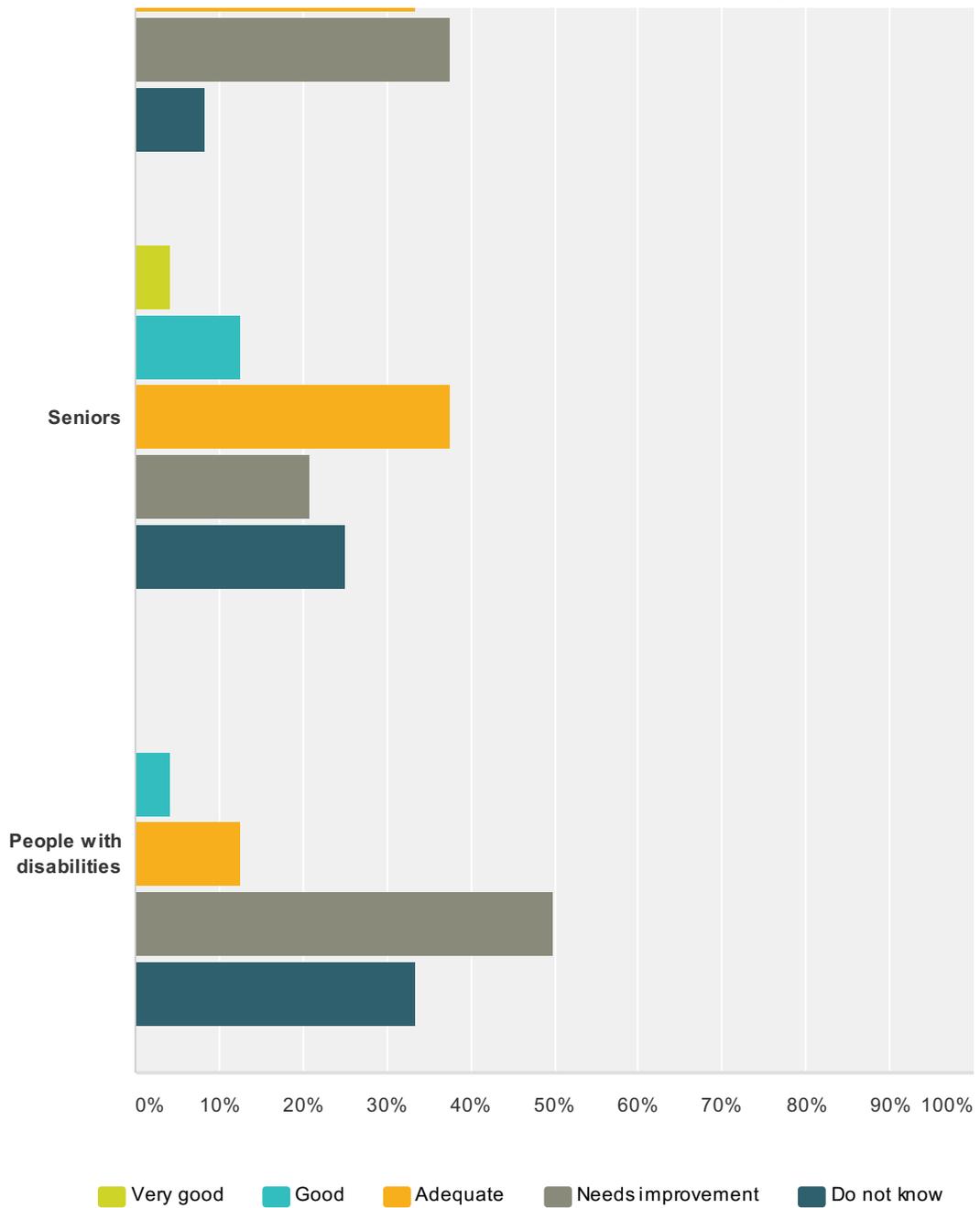
Activity	17.99% 4	33.15% 9	33.43% 7	7.99% 1	9.79% 2	23
Hunting	<b>13.04%</b> 3	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>8.70%</b> 2	<b>4.35%</b> 1	<b>73.91%</b> 17	23
Ice Skating	<b>4.55%</b> 1	<b>4.55%</b> 1	<b>18.18%</b> 4	<b>31.82%</b> 7	<b>40.91%</b> 9	22
Picnicking	<b>4.55%</b> 1	<b>31.82%</b> 7	<b>27.27%</b> 6	<b>27.27%</b> 6	<b>9.09%</b> 2	22
Running	<b>21.74%</b> 5	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>17.39%</b> 4	<b>13.04%</b> 3	<b>47.83%</b> 11	23
Skateboarding	<b>4.55%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>9.09%</b> 2	<b>86.36%</b> 19	22
Snowmobiling	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>9.09%</b> 2	<b>9.09%</b> 2	<b>81.82%</b> 18	22
Swimming	<b>8.70%</b> 2	<b>21.74%</b> 5	<b>39.13%</b> 9	<b>13.04%</b> 3	<b>17.39%</b> 4	23
X-country skiing	<b>4.55%</b> 1	<b>13.64%</b> 3	<b>9.09%</b> 2	<b>13.64%</b> 3	<b>59.09%</b> 13	22
Walking	<b>70.83%</b> 17	<b>29.17%</b> 7	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	24

**Q12 Please rate the availability of recreational opportunities in Monson for the following groups.**

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



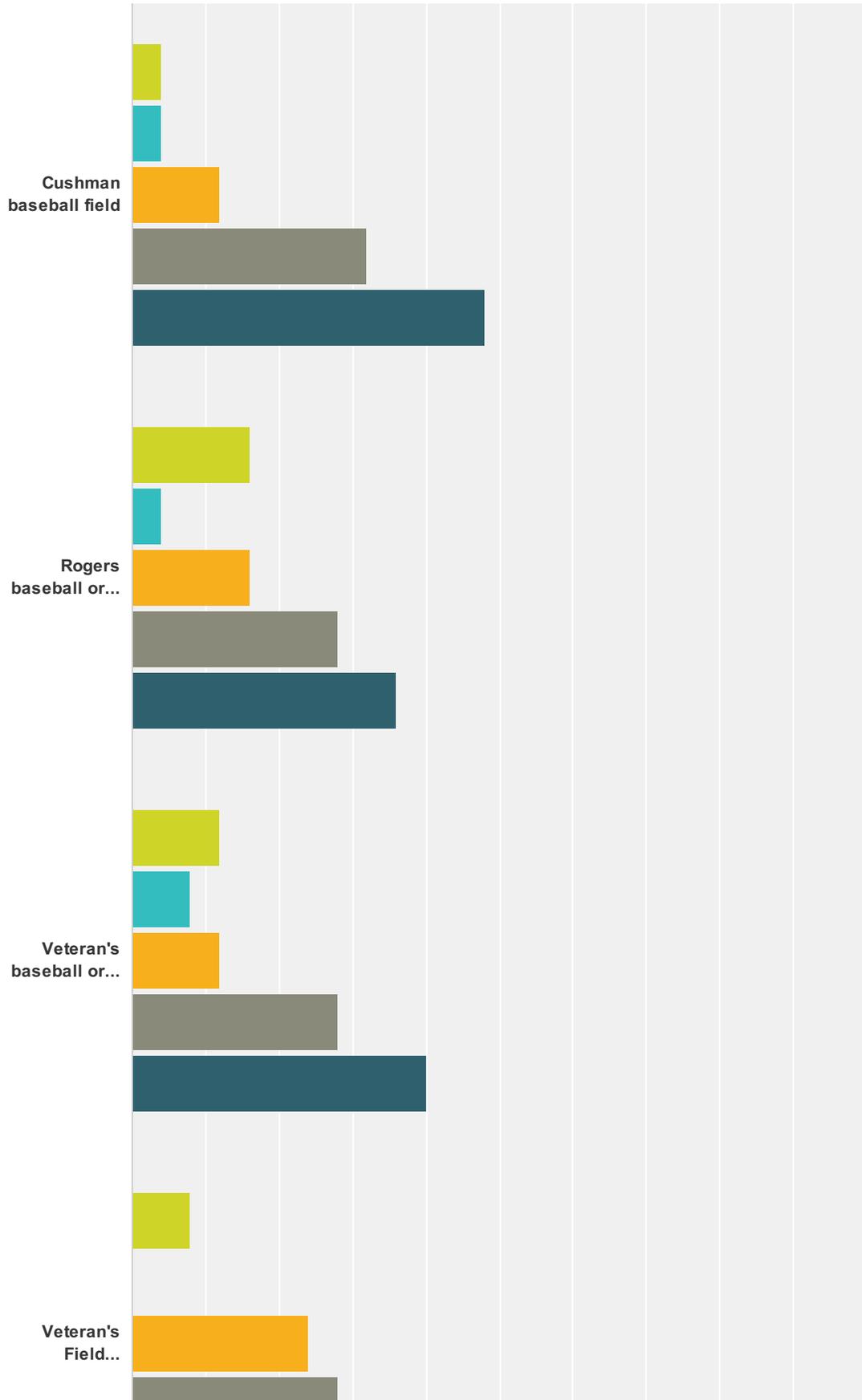
# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



	Very good	Good	Adequate	Needs improvement	Do not know	Total
Pre-school children	8.33% 2	25.00% 6	33.33% 8	12.50% 3	20.83% 5	24
Elementary children	16.67% 4	37.50% 9	29.17% 7	4.17% 1	12.50% 3	24
Teens/young adults	12.50% 3	8.33% 2	20.83% 5	41.67% 10	16.67% 4	24
Adults	0.00% 0	20.83% 5	33.33% 8	37.50% 9	8.33% 2	24
Seniors	4.17% 1	12.50% 3	37.50% 9	20.83% 5	25.00% 6	24
People with disabilities	0.00% 0	4.17% 1	12.50% 3	50.00% 12	33.33% 8	24

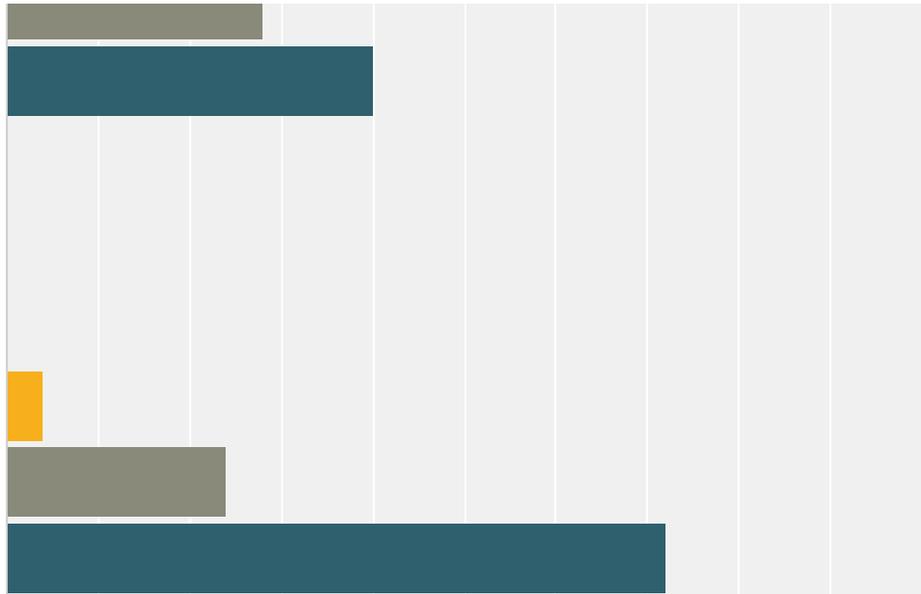
### Q13 How often do you use the following recreational facilities?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

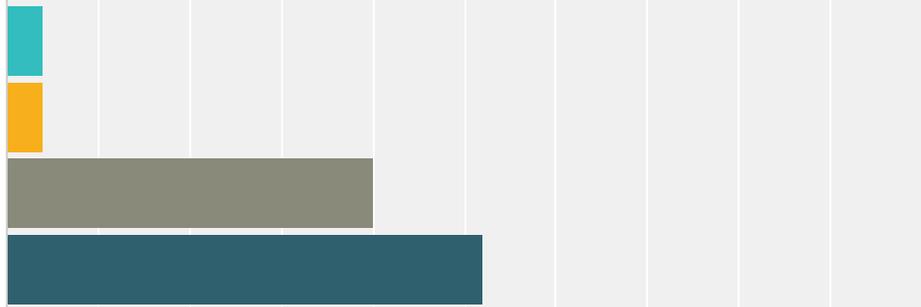


# Monsoon Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

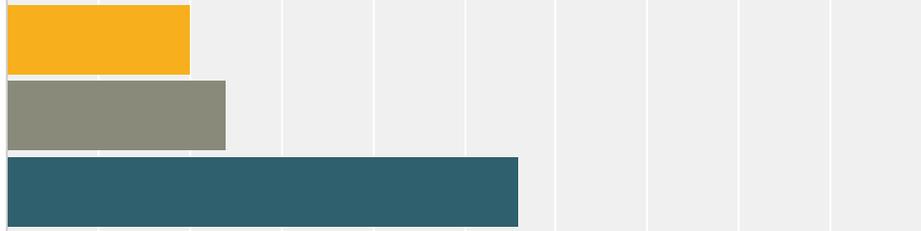
Veteran's  
Field skate...



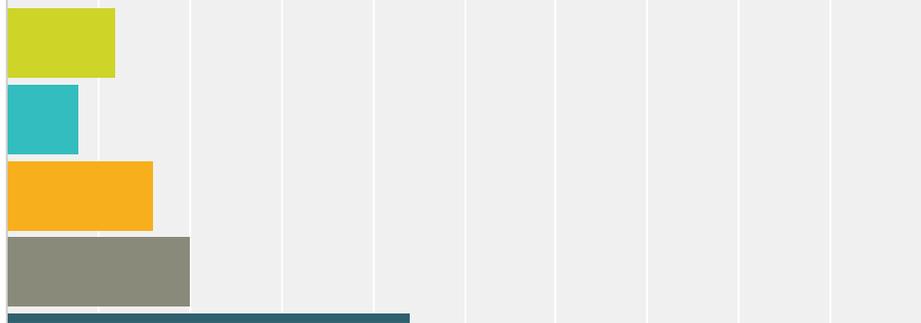
Veteran's  
Field...



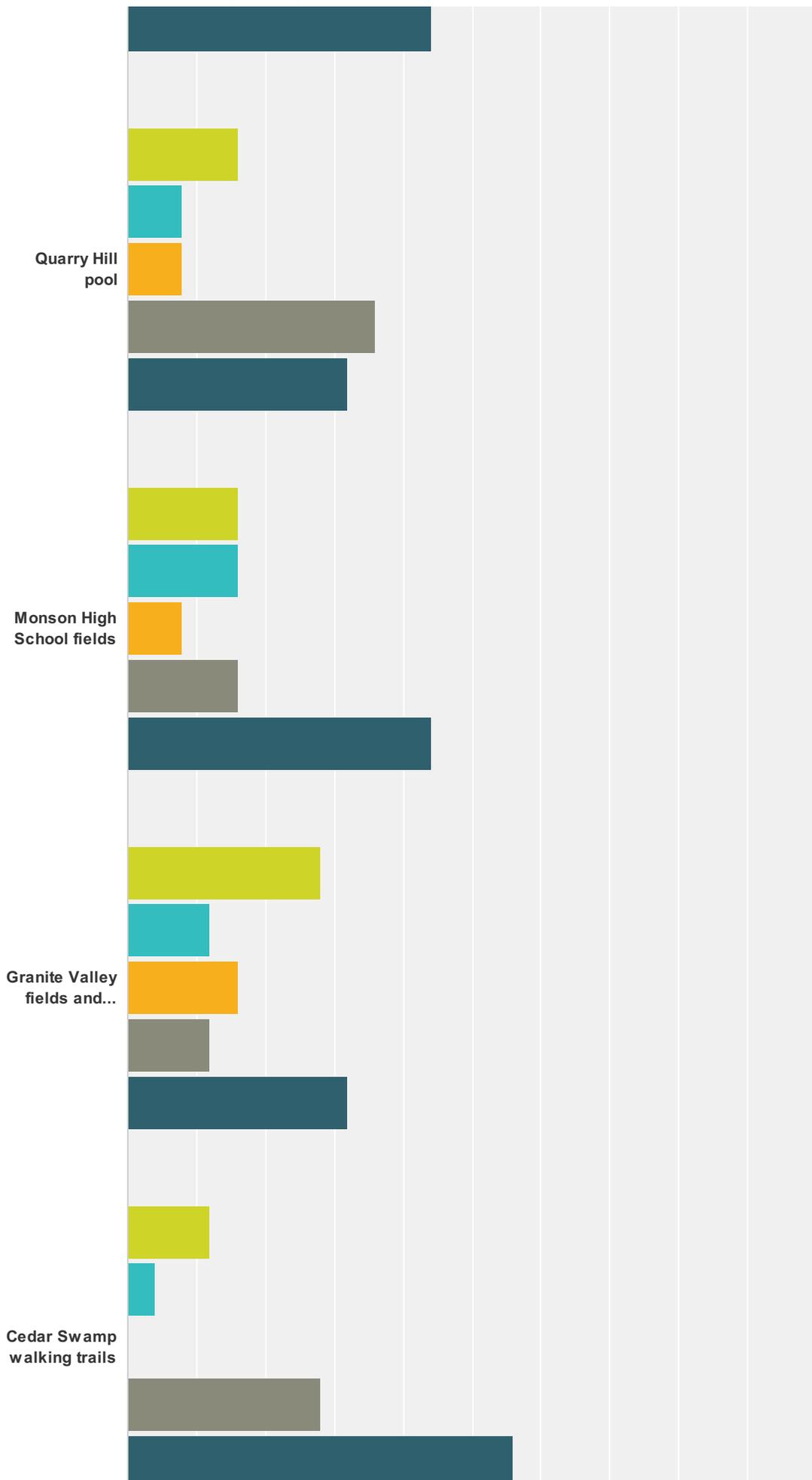
Tennis courts



Quarry Hill  
playground,...



# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



# Monsoon Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Kolowrat Farm  
Conservation...



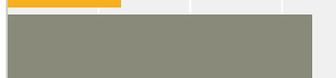
Conant Brook  
Dam



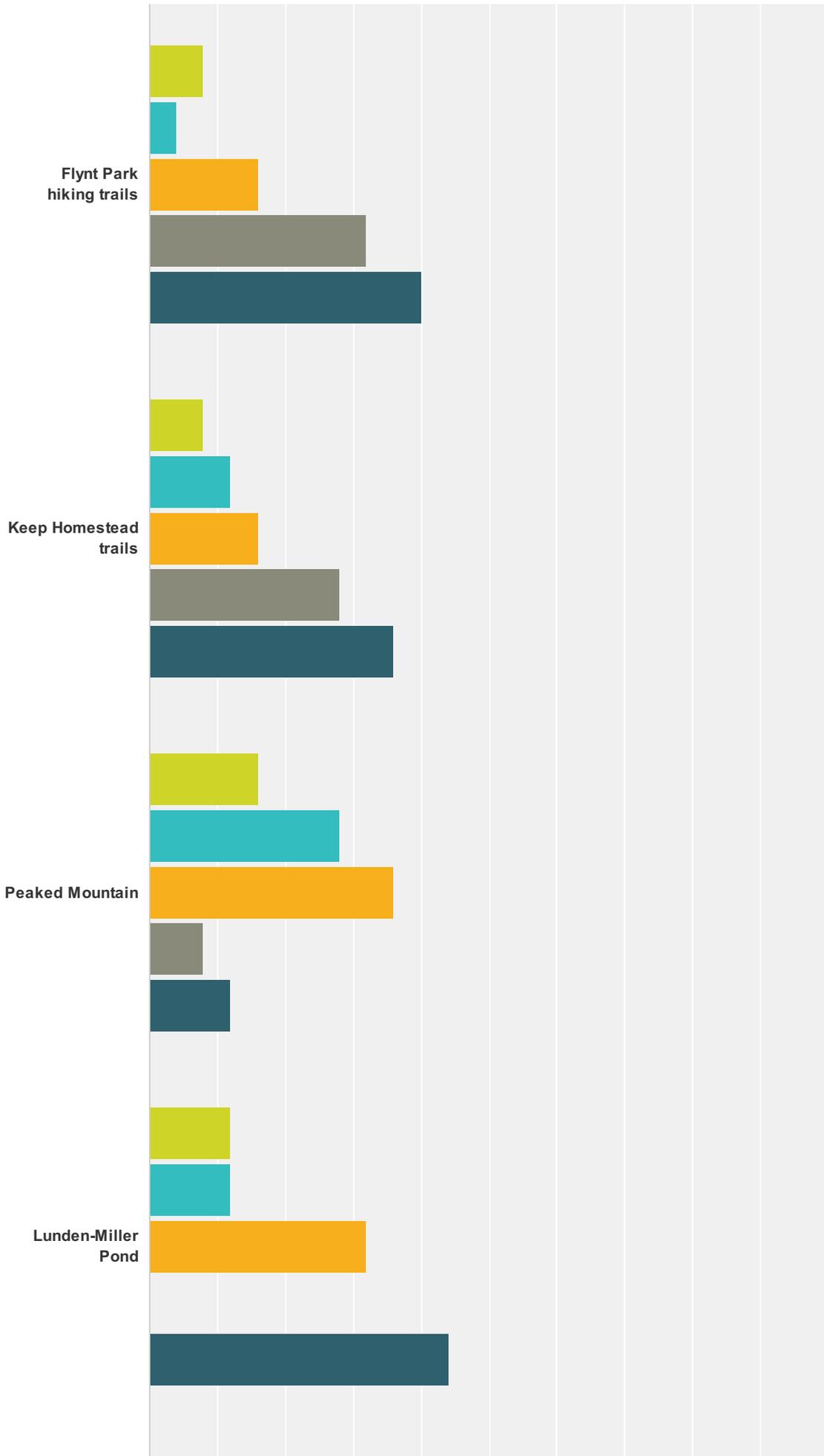
Dean Pond



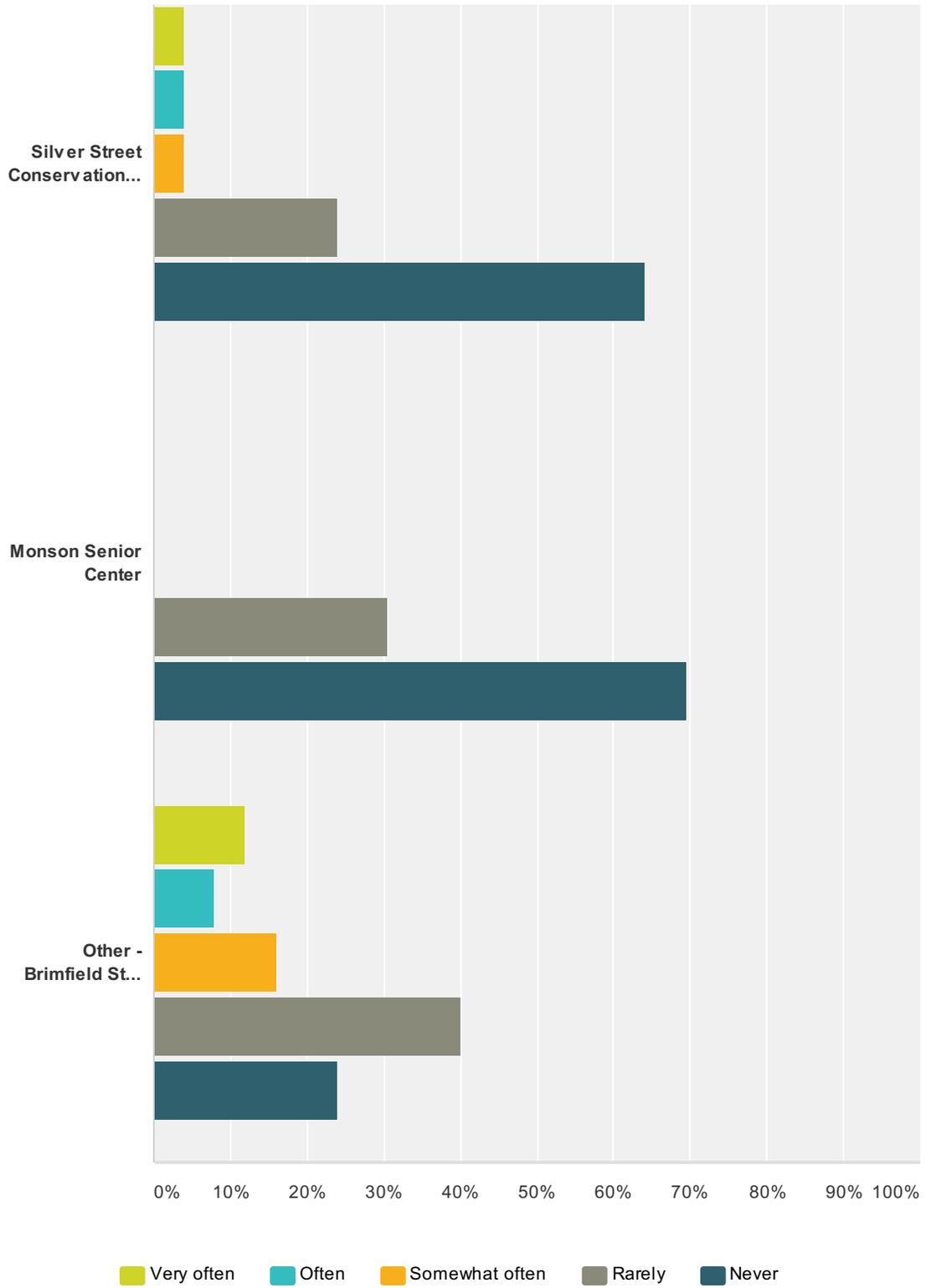
Dave Grieve  
Park



# Monsoon Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Rarely	Never	Total
Cushman baseball field	4.00% 1	4.00% 1	12.00% 3	32.00% 8	48.00% 12	25
Rogers baseball or soccer fields	16.00% 4	4.00% 1	16.00% 4	28.00% 7	36.00% 9	25
Veteran's baseball or soccer fields	12.00% 3	8.00% 2	12.00% 3	28.00% 7	40.00% 10	25

Veteran's Field playground

8.00%  
0.00%

24.00%  
28.00%

40.00%

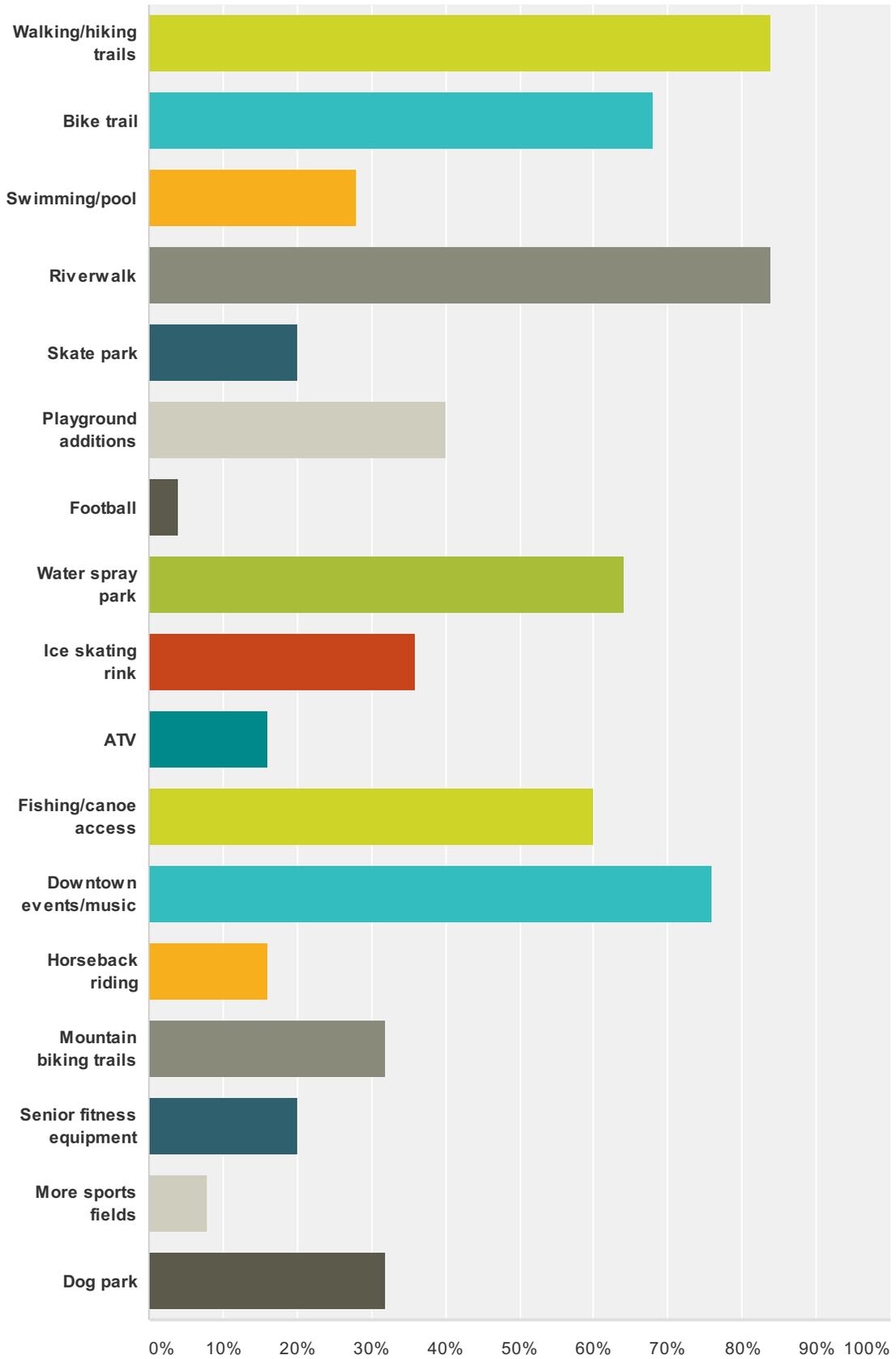
## Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

	0.00%	0.00%	27.00%	28.00%	78.00%	
veteran's field playground	2	0	6	7	10	25
Veteran's Field skate park	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%	24.00%	72.00%	
	0	0	1	6	18	25
Veteran's Field basketball court	0.00%	4.00%	4.00%	40.00%	52.00%	
	0	1	1	10	13	25
Tennis courts	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	24.00%	56.00%	
	0	0	5	6	14	25
Quarry Hill playground, baseball and soccer fields	12.00%	8.00%	16.00%	20.00%	44.00%	
	3	2	4	5	11	25
Quarry Hill pool	16.00%	8.00%	8.00%	36.00%	32.00%	
	4	2	2	9	8	25
Monson High School fields	16.00%	16.00%	8.00%	16.00%	44.00%	
	4	4	2	4	11	25
Granite Valley fields and track	28.00%	12.00%	16.00%	12.00%	32.00%	
	7	3	4	3	8	25
Cedar Swamp walking trails	12.00%	4.00%	0.00%	28.00%	56.00%	
	3	1	0	7	14	25
Kolowrat Farm Conservation Area	0.00%	16.00%	4.00%	16.00%	64.00%	
	0	4	1	4	16	25
Conant Brook Dam	12.00%	4.00%	52.00%	28.00%	4.00%	
	3	1	13	7	1	25
Dean Pond	4.00%	12.00%	28.00%	32.00%	24.00%	
	1	3	7	8	6	25
Dave Grieve Park	4.17%	4.17%	12.50%	33.33%	45.83%	
	1	1	3	8	11	24
Flynt Park hiking trails	8.00%	4.00%	16.00%	32.00%	40.00%	
	2	1	4	8	10	25
Keep Homestead trails	8.00%	12.00%	16.00%	28.00%	36.00%	
	2	3	4	7	9	25
Peaked Mountain	16.00%	28.00%	36.00%	8.00%	12.00%	
	4	7	9	2	3	25
Lunden-Miller Pond	12.00%	12.00%	32.00%	0.00%	44.00%	
	3	3	8	0	11	25
Silver Street Conservation Area	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	24.00%	64.00%	
	1	1	1	6	16	25
Monson Senior Center	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.43%	69.57%	
	0	0	0	7	16	23
Other - Brimfield State Forest	12.00%	8.00%	16.00%	40.00%	24.00%	
	3	2	4	10	6	25

**Q14 Please identify what new or additional recreational opportunities should be promoted in Monson.**

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

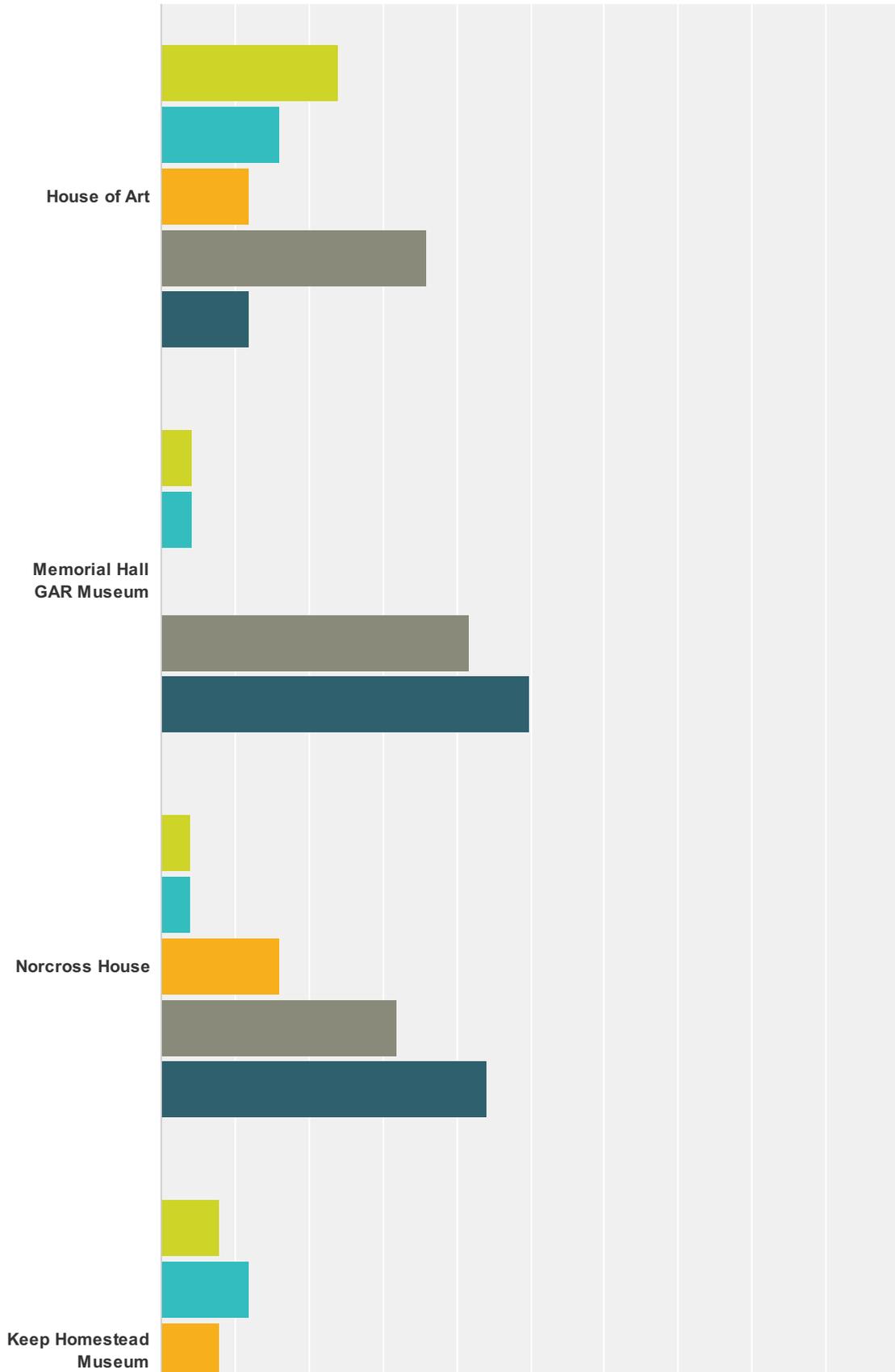


Answer Choices	Responses
Walking/hiking trails	84.00% 21
Bike trail	68.00% 17

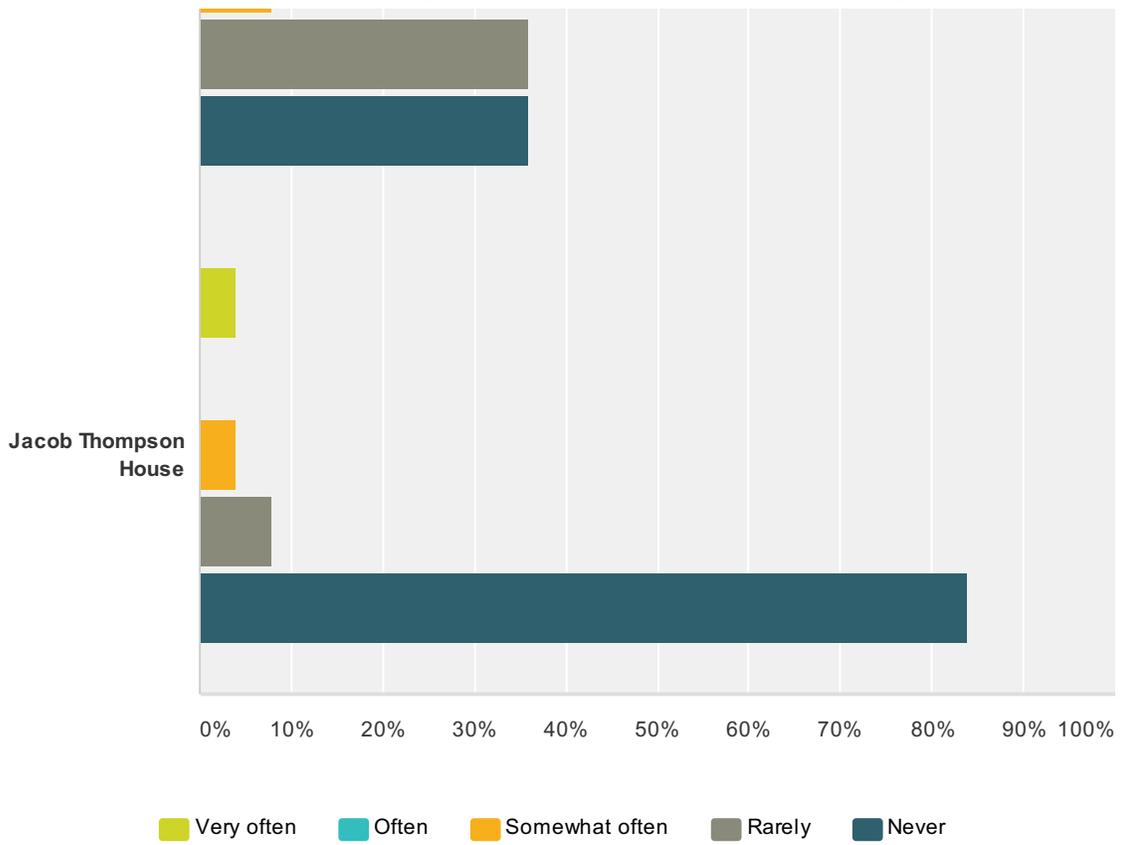


### Q15 How many times have you visited any of the following historic sites during the past 12 months?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



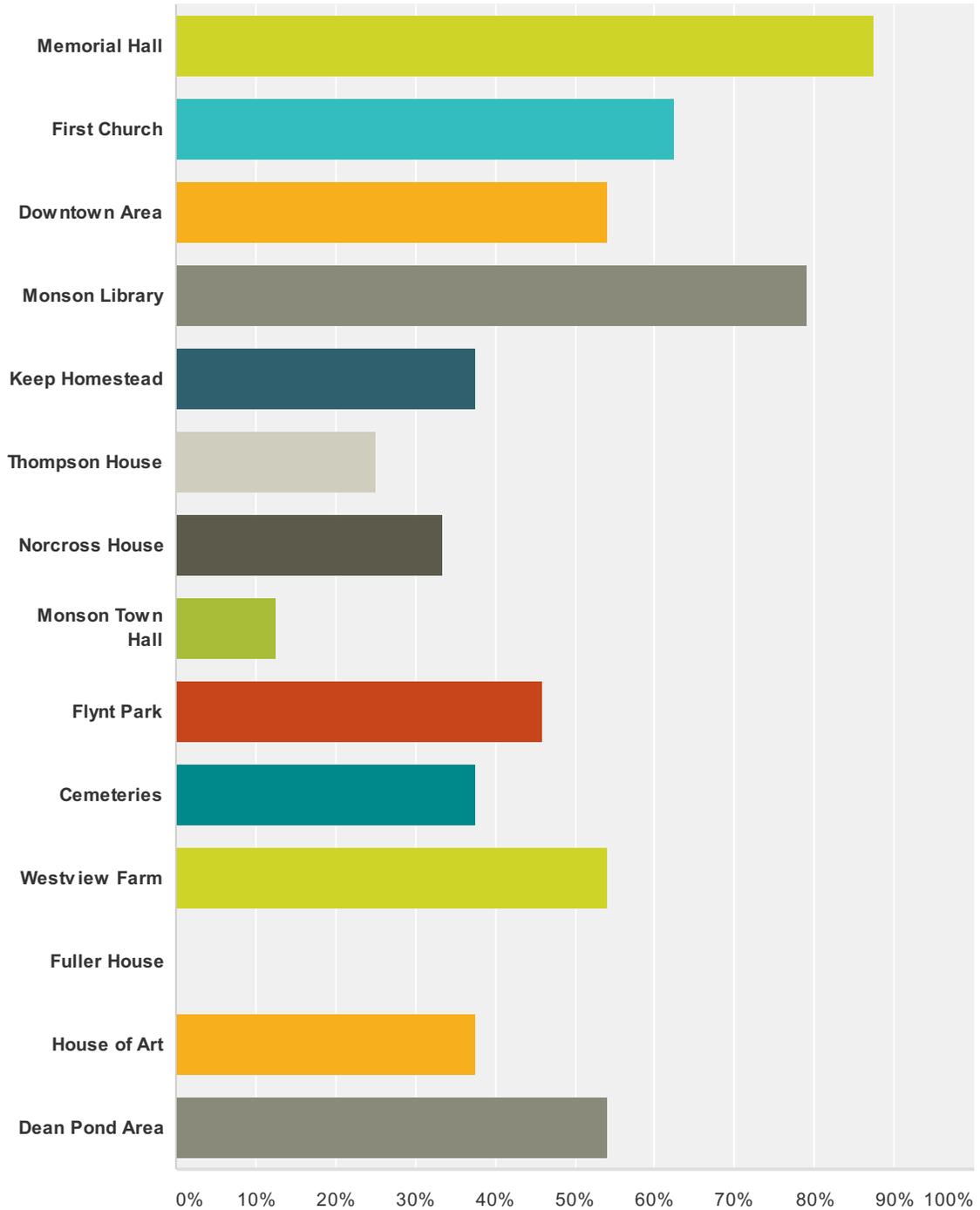
# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



	Very often	Often	Somewhat often	Rarely	Never	Total
House of Art	24.00% 6	16.00% 4	12.00% 3	36.00% 9	12.00% 3	25
Memorial Hall GAR Museum	4.17% 1	4.17% 1	0.00% 0	41.67% 10	50.00% 12	24
Norcross House	4.00% 1	4.00% 1	16.00% 4	32.00% 8	44.00% 11	25
Keep Homestead Museum	8.00% 2	12.00% 3	8.00% 2	36.00% 9	36.00% 9	25
Jacob Thompson House	4.00% 1	0.00% 0	4.00% 1	8.00% 2	84.00% 21	25

**Q16 Please list any historic sites in Monson that the Town should make a priority to preserve.**

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



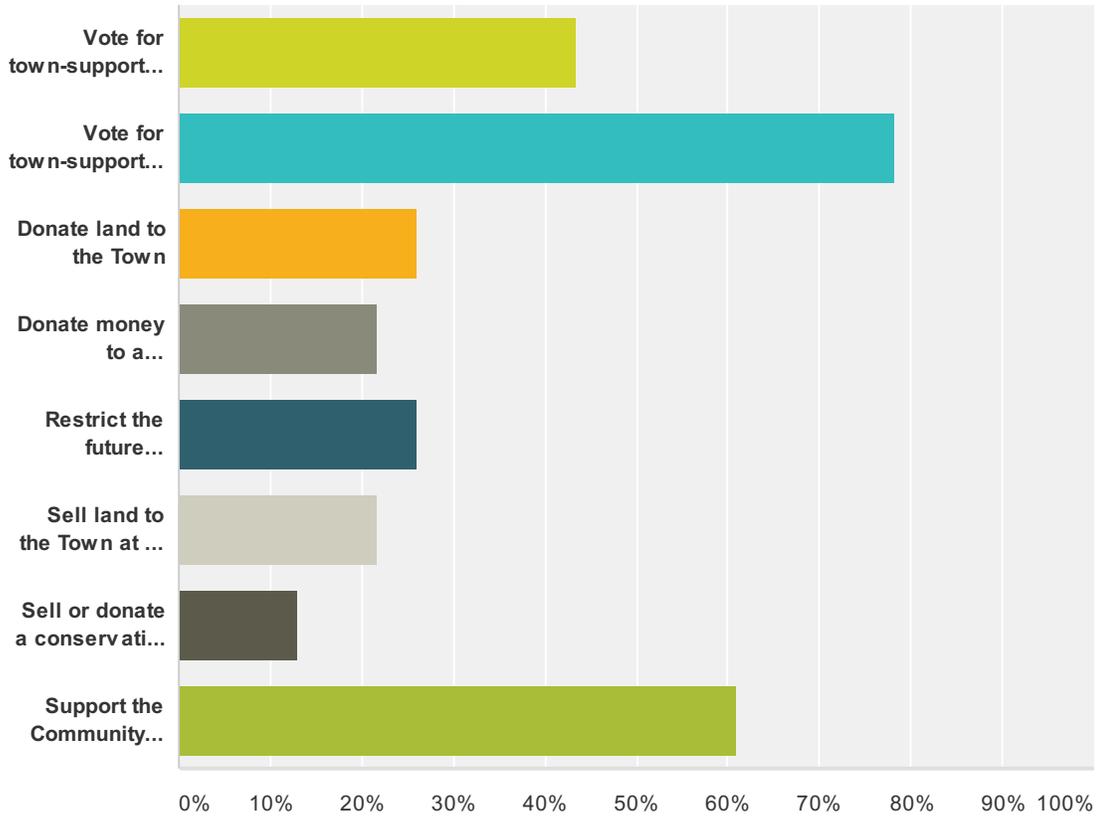
Answer Choices	Responses
Memorial Hall	87.50% 21
First Church	62.50% 15
Downtown Area	54.17% 13

## Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Monson Library	79.17%	19
Keep Homestead	37.50%	9
Thompson House	25.00%	6
Norcross House	33.33%	8
Monson Town Hall	12.50%	3
Flynt Park	45.83%	11
Cemeteries	37.50%	9
Westview Farm	54.17%	13
Fuller House	0.00%	0
House of Art	37.50%	9
Dean Pond Area	54.17%	13
<b>Total Respondents: 24</b>		

### Q17 Which of the following would you support to preserve open space and recreation land in Monson?

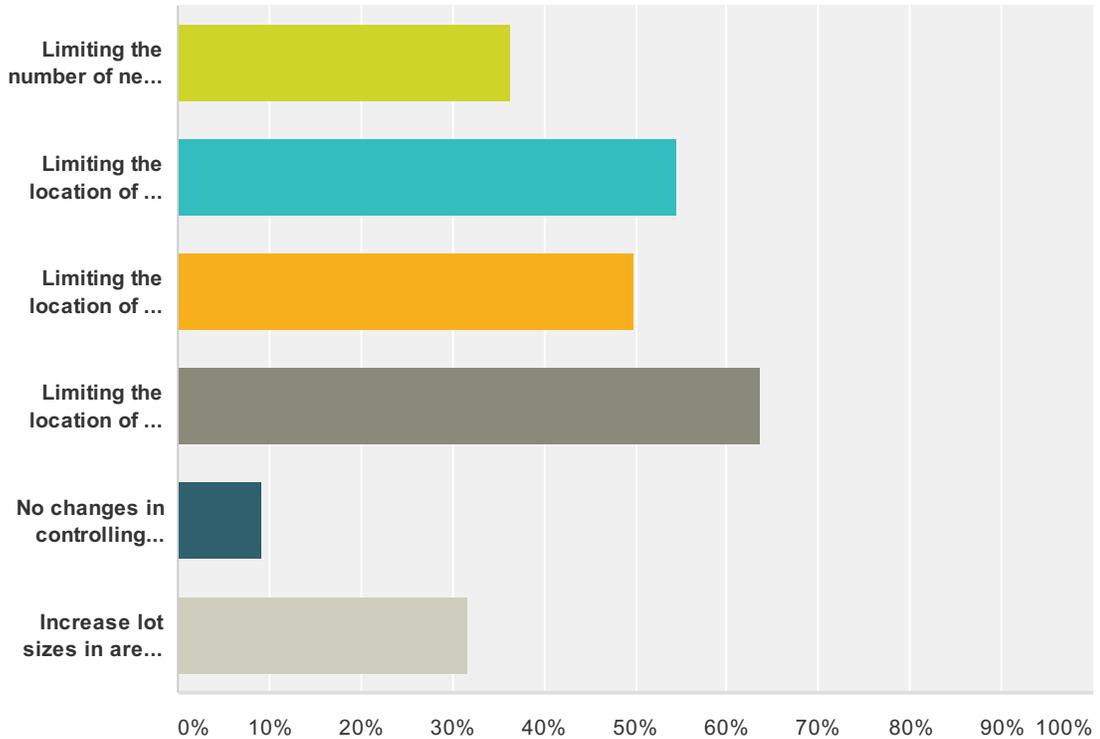
Answered: 23 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Vote for town-supported land acquisition	43.48% 10
Vote for town-supported purchase of trail easements or greenways connecting neighborhoods, schools, and downtown	78.26% 18
Donate land to the Town	26.09% 6
Donate money to a tax-deductible "land acquisition fund"	21.74% 5
Restrict the future development of my land	26.09% 6
Sell land to the Town at a "bargain sale" price	21.74% 5
Sell or donate a conservation restriction to protect my land from future development	13.04% 3
Support the Community Preservation Act	60.87% 14
<b>Total Respondents: 23</b>	

**Q18 The term "residential growth" refers to new housing development. What residential growth policies do you favor for the Town?**

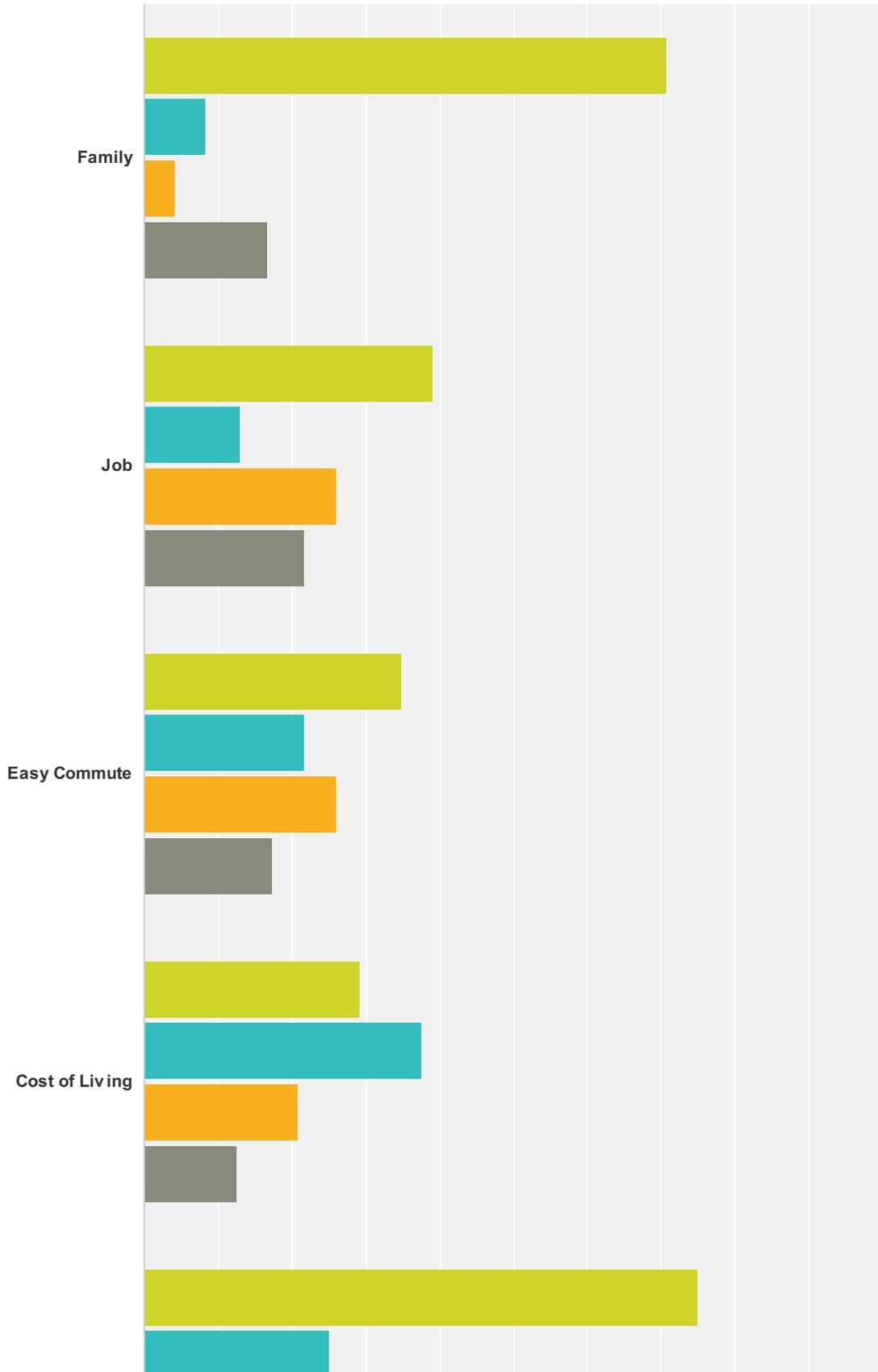
Answered: 22 Skipped: 3



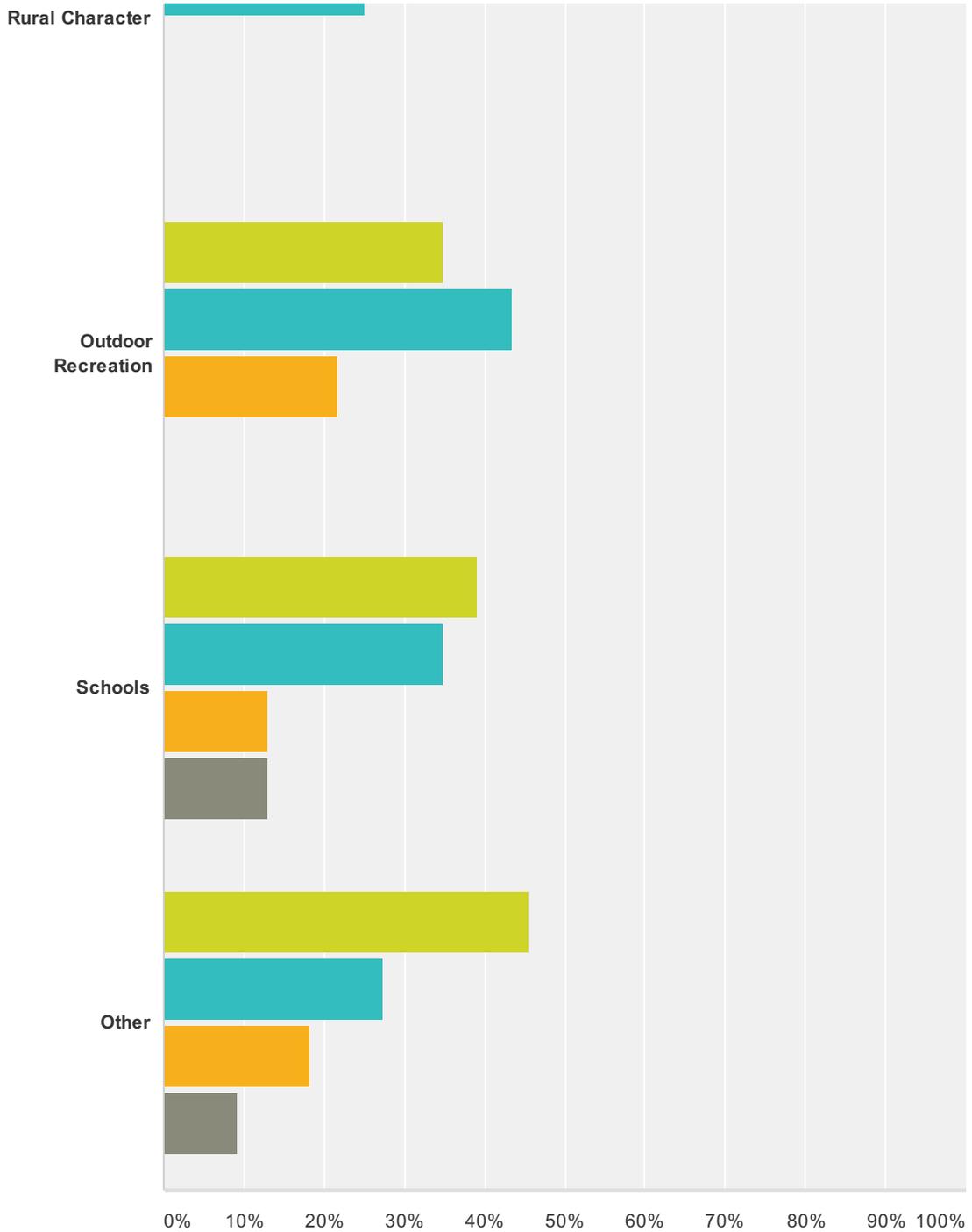
Answer Choices	Responses
Limiting the number of new houses built per year	36.36% 8
Limiting the location of new houses on slopes greater than 15%	54.55% 12
Limiting the location of new houses to more than 200' from any wetland	50.00% 11
Limiting the location of new houses on vista slopes (e.g. the view from Westview Farms, the east and west slopes along Main Street)	63.64% 14
No changes in controlling residential growth in Town	9.09% 2
Increase lot sizes in areas of town NOT on town water and sewer and underlain with glacial till	31.82% 7
<b>Total Respondents: 22</b>	

### Q19 To what extent did the following factors affect your decision to live in Monson?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



# Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



■ Very important   
 ■ Important   
 ■ Somewhat important   
 ■ Not important

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total
Family	70.83% 17	8.33% 2	4.17% 1	16.67% 4	24
Job	39.13% 9	13.04% 3	26.09% 6	21.74% 5	23
Easy Commute	34.78% 8	21.74% 5	26.09% 6	17.39% 4	23
Cost of Living	29.17% 7	37.50% 9	20.83% 5	12.50% 3	24

Rural Character

75.00%

25.00%  
40 / 44

0.00%

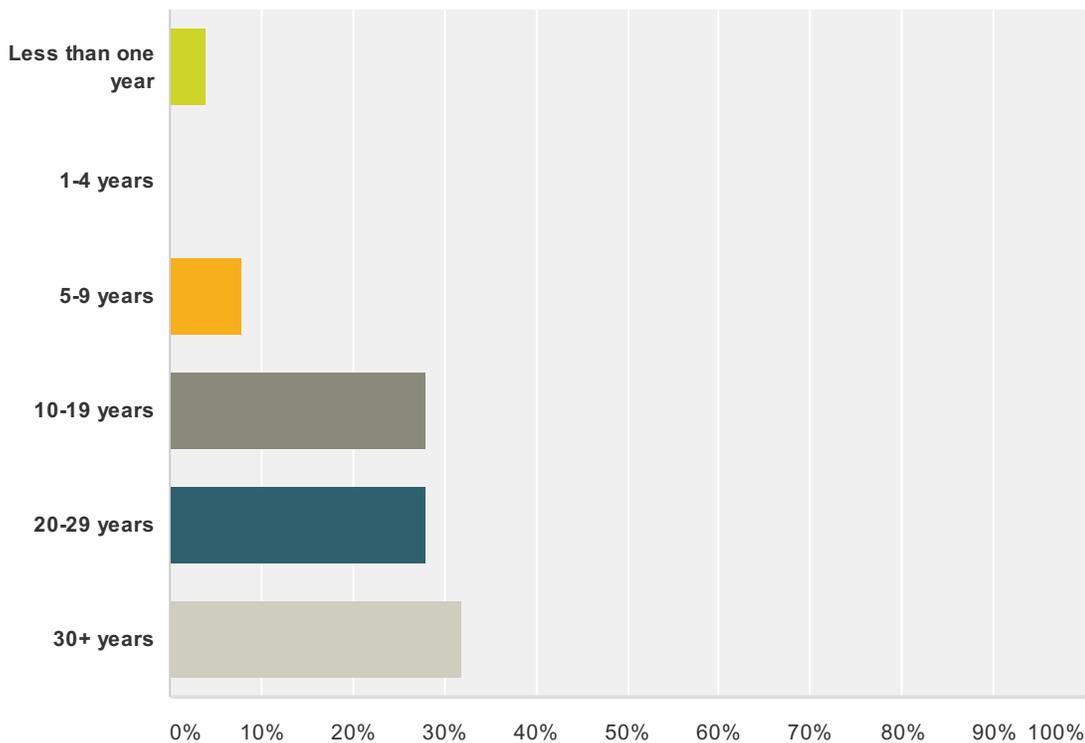
0.00%

## Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Rural Character	19.99% 18	29.99% 6	9.99% 0	9.99% 0	24
Outdoor Recreation	<b>34.78%</b> 8	<b>43.48%</b> 10	<b>21.74%</b> 5	<b>0.00%</b> 0	23
Schools	<b>39.13%</b> 9	<b>34.78%</b> 8	<b>13.04%</b> 3	<b>13.04%</b> 3	23
Other	<b>45.45%</b> 5	<b>27.27%</b> 3	<b>18.18%</b> 2	<b>9.09%</b> 1	11

### Q20 How long have you lived in Monson?

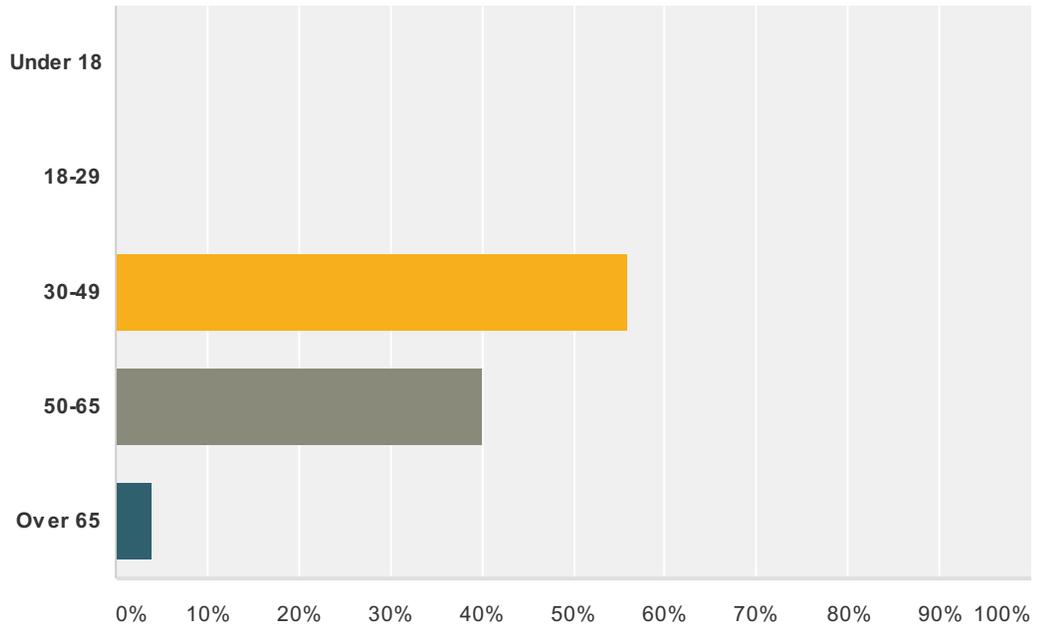
Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than one year	4.00% 1
1-4 years	0.00% 0
5-9 years	8.00% 2
10-19 years	28.00% 7
20-29 years	28.00% 7
30+ years	32.00% 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

### Q21 What is your age?

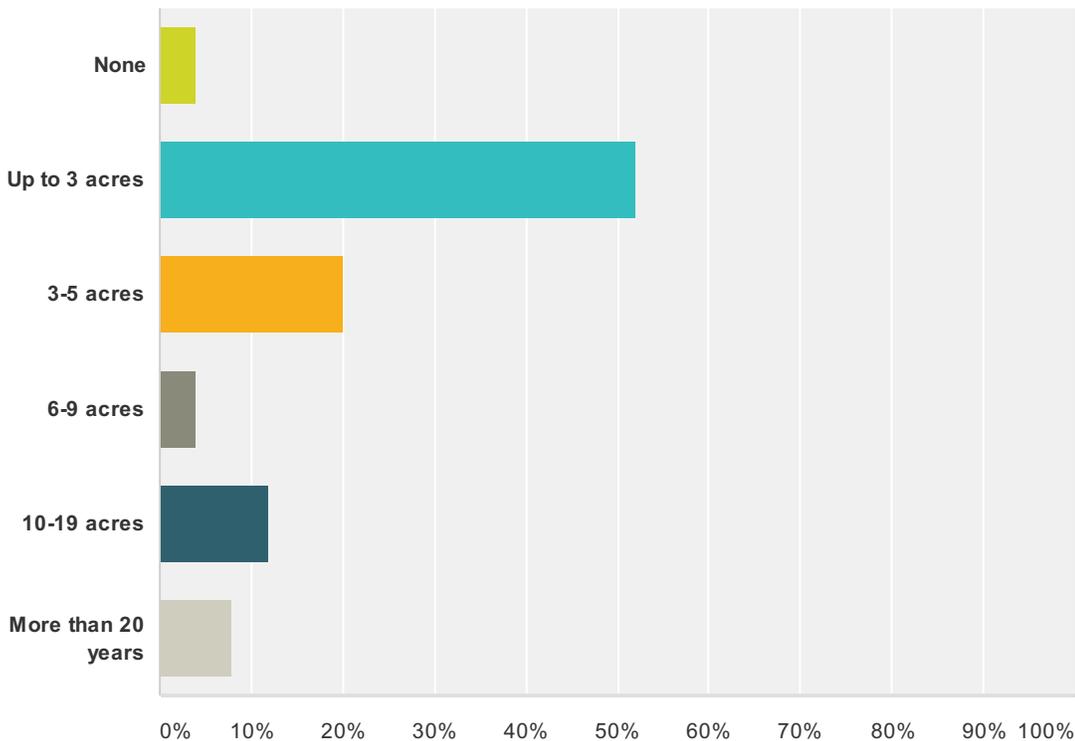
Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 18	0.00% 0
18-29	0.00% 0
30-49	56.00% 14
50-65	40.00% 10
Over 65	4.00% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

### Q22 Approximately how many acres do you own in Monson?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
None	4.00% 1
Up to 3 acres	52.00% 13
3-5 acres	20.00% 5
6-9 acres	4.00% 1
10-19 acres	12.00% 3
More than 20 years	8.00% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## **Appendix C: ADA Self-Assessment**

## Town of Monson

### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES GRIEVANCE POLICY

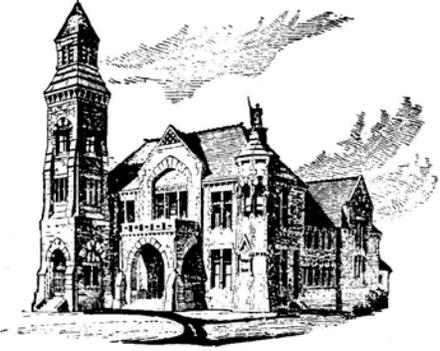
Reasonable accommodation will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

The Town Administrator will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours. When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc). Copies of the complaint, grievance, and request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate town agency (i.e. park commission, conservation commission). If the grievance is not resolved the individual may submit a written grievance.

A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Administrator. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within fifteen (15) working days by the Town Administrator in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc.).

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved through the above described process, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

110 Main Street  
Monson, Massachusetts 01057

Telephone: 413-267-4100  
Fax: 413-267-3726  
Website: [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov)

December 16th, 2014

EOEEA - DCS  
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Monson 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan - ADA Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that Evan Brassard has been appointed as the Town's ADA Coordinator and has served in this capacity with the Town of Monson since March 1, 2014.

Sincerely,

Edward Harrison, Chair  
Board of Selectmen



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

110 Main Street  
Monson, Massachusetts 01057

Telephone: 413-267-4100  
Fax: 413-267-3726  
Website: [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov)

December 16th, 2014

EOEEA - DCS  
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Monson 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan - ADA Compliance Testament

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that the Town of Monson's hiring and employment practices are consistent with standards and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. These include recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exam/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration.

If I can provide any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Evan Brassard, Town Administrator

# Monson Parks & Recreation

2014

## American with Disabilities Act

### Self Survey



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Quarry Hill Community School



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Veterans Field

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

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## Ronald Constantino Field

Location: 55 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 18.47 acre parcel

Owner: Monson School Department

Zoned: Residential Village

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department, Monson School Department

Constantino Field is located on school property at 55 Margaret Street. Currently Baseball is the only sport played here. There is 1 specific parking space marked handicapped for field use. A paved accessible path is in place to get to the game viewing area.

### Suggested Plan

- The current field is accessible but with only portable toilet on sight. No room is available for restrooms or handicapped seating other than just on field chair sights.

Name of Facility: Constantino Field

55 Margaret Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	None on Sight
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	3
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		None on sight
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	None on sight
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Baseball Field	1 Field
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	1 paved lot 1 van accessible spot	1 van accessible spot
Programming		Paved walkway to field
Services	ADA Info Available	Handicapped sign is there
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	1 van spot marked
26 - 50	2 spaces	
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	Yes spot is closest to the field
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	Drop off area available
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	Yes parking space complies
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	Yes parking space complies

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Sign is clearly visible
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	Yes signs comply
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Yes on paved lot
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes on paved lot
Curbside to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk ( curb ) is present	Yes curb cut is present
Curbside is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	Curbside is compliant

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	No Ramp/ yes walkway
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No handrails present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	Ramp/Walkway is paved
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, SITE ACCESS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	Yes paved path
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	Yes paved area to unload
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	Paved lot
No ponding of water	No Ponding of water
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	Yes path complies
3 ft wide minimum	Yes path complies
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	Pitch of entry path complies
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	Yes
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No protruding objects

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No protruding objects
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No curbs on pathway
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No official entryway
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No official entryway
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	No gate at entry
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	No gate at entry
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	No gate at entry
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>At least one sink has the following</b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b>At least one stall has the following</b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Toilet</b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Grab bars</b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b>Fixtures</b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

**Floors and Drinking Fountains****Floors**

Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility

**Drinking Fountains**

Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility

**Signs, Signals, and Switches**

Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility

**Signs**

Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility

**PICKNICKING**

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	No tables on site
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No accessible tables on site, grills or fire rings

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

**Phone:** 413-267-4105 • **Fax:** 413-267-0327

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## Cushman Field

Location: Washington Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 8 acre parcel

Owner: Monson Parks and Recreation Commission

Zoned: Residential Village

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department

Cushman Field is located on Washington Street. Currently the only sport played here is on the one baseball diamond. Wetlands boarder the property and the area is wet at certain times of the year. There are no handicapped accessible areas on site.

### Suggested Plan

- Have a handicapped accessible space dedicated and marked
- A paved or hard packed walkway accessible be made from lot to playing area

Name of Facility: Cushman Field - Washington Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	No picnic tables
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	2
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		None on sight
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	None on sight
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Baseball Field	1 Field
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None on sight - River boarders property
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking		No accesible spots marked
Programming		No paved access just open field
Services	ADA Info Available	No ADA signage on site
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	No parking spaces marked
26 - 50	2 spaces	
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	No parking spaces marked
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	No parking spaces marked
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	No parking spaces marked
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	No parking spaces marked

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	No parking spaces marked
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	No parking spaces marked
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Parking in Field
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Parking in Field
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk( curb ) is present	No curbs present
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	No curbs present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	No ramps present
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No ramps present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	No ramps present
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL,</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
<b>SITE ACCESS</b>	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	No Parking Lot
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	No Parking Lot
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	No Parking Lot
No ponding of water	No Parking Lot
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	No Path
3 ft wide minimum	No Path
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	No Path
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	No Path
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No Path

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No direct path
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No Parking Lot
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No signage at location
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No official entryway
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	No Gates
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	No Gates
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	No Gates
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one sink has the following</i></b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one stall has the following</i></b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable whith a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Grab bars</i></b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>	
Toilet disepnser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

**Floors and Drinking Fountains****Floors**

Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility

**Drinking Fountains**

Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility

**Signs, Signals, and Switches**

Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility

**Signs**

Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility

**PICKNICKING**

A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	No picnic Tables on site
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No picnic Tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No picnic Tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No picnic Tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No picnic Tables on site

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

Phone: 413-267-4105 • Fax: 413-267-0327

E-Mail: [mpr@monson-ma.gov](mailto:mpr@monson-ma.gov) • Website: [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov)



## Flynt Park

Location: Park Road, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 138 acre parcel

Owner: Monson Parks and Recreation Commission

Zoned: Residential Village

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department

Flynt Park is a sprawling 138 acre parcel with playing fields and trails. Much work has been done on the trails, drainage and playing fields since the tornado of 2011. Much of the parking is on grassy open areas however there is one new paved lot without marked spots. The Park is well kept and is greatly used.

### Suggested Plan

- Have a handicapped accessible space dedicated and marked
- A paved or hard packed walkway accessible be made from lot to playing areas
- Handicapped areas marked in grassy areas
- Have handicapped accessible picnic tables added to the facility
- Playground added by upper field with handicapped accessibility
- Bleachers added with handicapped accessibility

Name of Facility: Flynt Park - Park Road

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	2 Picnic Tables
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	6
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		Miles of dirt trails on site
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	None on sight
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Baseball Fields	2 fields
	Soccer Fields	2 fields
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None on sight
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	1 paved lot - multiple grass areas	No accesible spots marked
Programming		No paved access just open field
Services	ADA Info Available	No ADA signage on site
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	No parking spaces marked
26 - 50	2 spaces	No parking spaces marked
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	No parking spaces marked
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	No parking spaces marked
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	No parking spaces marked
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	No parking spaces marked

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	No parking spaces marked
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	No parking spaces marked
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	1 paved lot - Parking in Field
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes on paved lot - Parking in Field
Curbside to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk( curb ) is present	No curbs present
Curbside is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	No curbs present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	No ramps present
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No ramps present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	No ramps present
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL,</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
<b>SITE ACCESS</b>	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	No path from lot to playing area
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	No disembarking area
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	1 Paved lot
No ponding of water	Some ponding in lot and grass area
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	No Path
3 ft wide minimum	No Path
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	No Path
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	No Path
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No Path

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No direct path
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No curbs on parking lot
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No signage at location
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No official entryway
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	No Gates
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	No Gates
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	No Gates
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one sink has the following</i></b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one stall has the following</i></b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Grab bars</i></b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

<b>Floors and Drinking Fountains</b>	
<b>Floors</b>	
Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility
<b>Signs, Signals, and Switches</b>	
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility
<b>Signs</b>	
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility
<b>PICKNICKING</b>	
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	2 Picnic Tables on site. None are accessible
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No accessible tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No accessible tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No accessible tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No accessible tables on site, grills or fire rings

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



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## Monson High School Field

Location: 55 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 18.47 acre parcel

Owner: Monson School Department

Zoned: Residential Village

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department, Monson School Department

Monson High Field is located on school property at 55 Margaret Street. Currently Soccer and Lacrosse are the sports played here as well as a trail system used for cross country meets. There are no specific parking spaces marked handicapped for field use. Plenty of spaces are marked for the school itself, a drop off area is available and curbcut for the path leading up to the field.

### Suggested Plan

- Have a handicapped accessible space dedicated and marked for field

Name of Facility: Monson High School Field 55 Margaret Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	None on Sight
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	3
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		Miles of dirt trails on site
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	None on sight
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Lacrosse/Soccer Field	1 Field
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None on sight
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	1 paved lot - multiple grass areas	No accesible spots marked
Programming		Paved walkway to field
Services	ADA Info Available	No ADA signage on site
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	No parking spaces marked
26 - 50	2 spaces	No parking spaces marked
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	No parking space close to Field
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	Drop Off area available
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	No parking space close to Field
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	No parking space close to Field

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Signs located by spaces
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	Yes signs comply
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Yes on paved lot
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes on paved lot
Curbside to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk ( curb ) is present	Yes curb cut is present
Curbside is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	Sloped walkway needed for access no paint on curbside

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	No Ramp/ yes walkway
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No handrails present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	Ramp/Walkway is paved
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL,</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
<b>SITE ACCESS</b>	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	Yes paved path
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	Yes paved area to unload
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	Paved lot
No ponding of water	No Ponding of water
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	Yes path complies
3 ft wide minimum	Yes path complies
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	Cross pitch complies, end of path exceeds pitch
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	Yes
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No protruding objects

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No protruding objects
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No curbs on pathway
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No signage at location
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No official entryway
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	Double Gate on site complies
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	No working latch on gate
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	No door handle
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one sink has the following</i></b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one stall has the following</i></b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Grab bars</i></b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

<b>Floors and Drinking Fountains</b>	
<b>Floors</b>	
Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securly anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility
<b>Signs, Signals, and Switches</b>	
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility
<b>Signs</b>	
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility
<b>PICKNICKING</b>	
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must exted beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	No tables on site
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No accessible tables on site, grills or fire rings

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



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## Moriarty Field/Devine Track Complex

Location: 21 Thompson Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 46.5 acre parcel of which Granite Valley Middle School is located

Owner: Monson School Department

Zoned: Residential Village

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department, Monson School Department

Moriarty Field Devine Track complex has a soccer field in the middle of a 6 lane rubberized track. Home to boy's varsity soccer and the boys/girls track and field team. Most areas are accessible except the parking spots are in front of the school and not closest to the field.

### Suggested Plan

- Parking lot to have a handicapped accessible space dedicated to field/track area
- A paved or hard packed walkway accessible be made from gates up to field level

Name of Facility: Moriarty Field

21 Thompson Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	None on Sight
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	3
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		None on sight
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	None on sight
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Soccer Field	1 Field
	Rubberized Track	1/4 mile 6 lane track
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None on sight
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	School Lot	6 Spots - not close to field
Programming		Paved walkway to field area
Services	ADA Info Available	Handicapped sign is there
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	
26 - 50	2 spaces	
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	6 spots marked - None van accessible
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	Spots are not closest to field
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	Drop Off area available
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	Yes parking space complies
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	Yes parking space complies

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Signs are clearly visible
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	Yes signs comply
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Yes on paved lot
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes on paved lot
Curbside to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk ( curb ) is present	Yes curb cut is present
Curbside is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	Curbside is compliant

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	Walkway is compliant
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No handrails present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	Ramp is asphalt
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL,</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
<b>SITE ACCESS</b>	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	Yes paved path
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	Yes paved area to unload
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	Paved lot
No ponding of water	No Ponding of water
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	Yes path complies
3 ft wide minimum	Yes path complies
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	Pitch of entry path complies
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	Yes
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No protruding objects

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No protruding objects
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No curbs on pathway
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No official entryway
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No official entryway
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	Double wide gates at entrances
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	Yes complies
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	Gates comply
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one sink has the following</i></b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one stall has the following</i></b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Grab bars</i></b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

<b>Floors and Drinking Fountains</b>	
<b>Floors</b>	
Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility
<b>Signs, Signals, and Switches</b>	
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility
<b>Signs</b>	
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility
<b>PICKNICKING</b>	
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	No tables on site
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No accessible tables on site, grills or fire rings

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

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## Quarry Hill Community School Fields

Location: 43 Margaret Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 20 acre parcel

Owner: Monson School Department

Zoned: Residential Village

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department, Monson School Department

There are 2 softball fields and 1 soccer field located on the property. There are no accessible spots in the school parking lot specifically for the fields but rather located up by the school. No pathways down to the playing fields are available and may be tough to get right to field level because of the steep slopes.

### Suggested Plan

- Have a handicapped accessible space dedicated and marked for fields
- Curb cuts in parking lot for accessibility
- Possible pathways to viewing areas

Name of Facility: Quarry Hill Fields

45 Margaret Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	None on Sight
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	6
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		None on sight
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	3 separate playgrounds on site
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Soccer Field	1 Field
	Softball Fields	2 Fields
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None on Sight
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	School Lot	5 handicapped spots
Programming		No walkways to fields
Services	ADA Info Available	4 have signs 1 does not
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	
26 - 50	2 spaces	
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	5 van spots 1 missing sign - none by fields
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	Spots are not closest to field
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	Drop Off area available
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	Yes parking space complies
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	Yes parking space complies

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Signs are clearly visible in 4 of 5 spaces
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	Yes signs comply
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Yes on paved lot
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Yes on paved lot
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk( curb ) is present	Yes curb cut is present
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	Curbcut is compliant

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	No walkways available
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No handrails present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	No ramps present
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL,</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
<b>SITE ACCESS</b>	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	Sidewalks available with curbcuts
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	Yes paved area to unload
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	Paved lot
No ponding of water	No Ponding of water
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	Sidewalks are concrete
3 ft wide minimum	Yes path complies
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	Pitch of sidewalks comply
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	Yes
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No protruding objects

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No protruding objects
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No curbs on sidewalks
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No official entryway to fields
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No official entryway
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	Double wide gates at entrances
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	Yes complies
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	Gates comply
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one sink has the following</i></b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one stall has the following</i></b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Grab bars</i></b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

<b>Floors and Drinking Fountains</b>	
<b>Floors</b>	
Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility
<b>Signs, Signals, and Switches</b>	
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility
<b>Signs</b>	
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility
<b>PICKNICKING</b>	
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	No tables on site
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No accessible tables on site, grills or fire rings

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

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## Tennis Courts

Location: State Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 1/2 acre parcel

Owner: Monson Parks and Recreation Commission

Zoned: Central Commercial

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department

Tennis Courts located on State Street are home to 2 tennis courts and 2 horseshoe pit lanes. The Parking lot is paved but no parking spaces at all marked out. The courts are in great shape rebuilt in 2013 after damage from the tornado of 2011.

### Suggested Plan

- Parking lot to have a handicapped accessible space dedicated and marked
- A paved or hard packed walkway accessible be made from lot to play area
- All parking spaces should be clearly marked and defined

Name of Facility: Tennis Courts - State Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	No picnic tables
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	1
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		None on sight
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	2 Playing Courts/Horseshoe Pits
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Tennis Courts	2 Fields - No access route
	Horseshoe Pits	2 Lanes available
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities		None on sight
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	Adjacent to courts	No accesible spots marked
Programming		No paved access just open field
Services	ADA Info Available	No ADA signage on site
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	No parking spaces marked
26 - 50	2 spaces	
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	No parking spaces marked
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	No parking spaces marked
aisle	No parking spaces marked
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	No parking spaces marked

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	No parking spaces marked
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	No parking spaces marked
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Parking Lot is Paved
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Parking Lot complies
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk( curb ) is present	No curbs present
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	No curbs present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	No ramps present
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	No ramps present
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	No handrails present
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	No handrails present
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	No handrails present
Handgrip oval or round	No handgrips present
Handgrip smooth surface	No handgrips present
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	No handgrips present
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	No ramps present
Non-slip surface	No ramps present
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	No platforms present

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, AND ENTRANCES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
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**SITE ACCESS**

Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	No path from Lot to courts present
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	No path from Lot to courts present
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	No path from Lot to courts present
No ponding of water	No path from Lot to courts present

**Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these structures**

Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	No - Path is dirt trail
3 ft wide minimum	No - Path is dirt trail
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	No - Path is dirt trail
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	No paved path
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	No paved path

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	No direct path
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	No curbs bordering parking
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	No signs on Fence Gate leading to courts
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	No entry Just dirt path to fence gate
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	2 - 36" gates available for entrance
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	No latch on fence gate
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	No door handle located on gate
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No other entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No other entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	Gate opens to open court
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No closing speed
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No pressure on gate
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No threshold in gateway
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs ot thumb latch devices )	No hardware on gate

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>At least one sink has the following</b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b>At least one stall has the following</b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Toilet</b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Grab bars</b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b>Fixtures</b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

<b>Floors and Drinking Fountains</b>	
<b>Floors</b>	
Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility
<b>Signs, Signals, and Switches</b>	
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility
<b>Signs</b>	
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility
<b>PICKNICKING</b>	
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	No picnic Tables on site
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	No picnic Tables on site
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	No picnic Tables on site
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	No picnic Tables on site
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	No picnic Tables on site

# Monson Parks & Recreation Department



110 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

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## Veterans Park

Location: State Street, Monson, MA 01057

Acres: 8 acre parcel

Owner: Monson Parks and Recreation Commission

Zoned: Central Commercial

Responsible Party: Monson Parks and Recreation Department

Veterans Park is a large open space with baseball fields, soccer fields, and senior fitness walk and playground facilities. 2 swing sets each have 1 handicapped accessible seat. The play structure is equipped with a handicapped play structure. The current adjacent parking lot is being used as a construction staging area and will be redone at time of the completion of the new town office building damaged in the tornado of 2011.

### Suggested Plan

- Parking lot to have a handicapped accessible space dedicated to play area
- A paved or hard packed walkway accessible be made from lot to play area
- Any spectator seating provided be accessible

Name of Facility: Veterans Park State Street

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	5 picnic tables
	Grills	None on sight
	Trash Cans	2
	Picnic Shelters	None on sight
Trails		None on sight
Swimming Facilities	Pools	None on sight
	Beaches	None on sight
Play Areas	All Play Equipment	yes Playground area
Access Routes		
Game Areas	Soccer Fields	2 Fields - No access route
	Baseball Fields	3 Fields - No access route
	Senior Fitness Walk	3 pieces - No linking trail
Boat Docks		None on sight
Fishing Facilities	River Adjacent	No official Public Access
Restrooms		None on sight
Water Fountain		None on sight
Parking	Adjacent Town Office Building	Currently under Construction
Programming	Special Programs Accessible?	No paved access just open field
Services	ADA Info Available	No ADA signage on site
Interpretive Service	Process for requests?	None Available

PARKING		
Total Spaces Needed	Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25	1 space	Parking Lot under construction
26 - 50	2 spaces	
51 - 75	3 spaces	
76 - 100	4 spaces	
101 - 150	5 spaces	
151 - 200	6 spaces	
201 - 300	7 spaces	
301 - 400	8 spaces	
401 - 500	9 spaces	

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES	Yes/No Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	Lot under construction
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 feet of accessible entrance, drop off area is provided within 100 feet	Lot under construction
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8 foot space plus 5 ft access aisle	Lot under construction
Van Space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11ft wide with 5 ft aisle	Lot under construction

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE SPACES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Lot under construction
Sign minimum 5ft, maximum 8ft to top of sign	Lot under construction
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed ( no cracks )	Lot under construction
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	Lot under construction
Curbside to pathway from parking lot each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk ( curb ) is present	Lot under construction
Curbside is a minimum width of 3ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	Lot under construction

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAMPS</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
Slope Maximum 1:12	Lot under construction
Minimum width 4ft between handrails	Lot under construction
Handrails on both sides if ramp longer than 6 feet	Lot under construction
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	Lot under construction
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	Lot under construction
Handgrip oval or round	Lot under construction
Handgrip smooth surface	Lot under construction
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	Lot under construction
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	Lot under construction
Non-slip surface	Lot under construction
Level platforms ( 4ft x 4ft ) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	Lot under construction

<b>SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, AND ENTRANCES</b>	<b>Yes/No Notes</b>
<b>SITE ACCESS</b>	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	Lot under construction
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	Lot under construction
Surface evenly paved or hard packed	Not to code
No ponding of water	Not to code
<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>	
Path does not require the use of stairs	No stairs needed
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	NO Currently grass
3 ft wide minimum	Open Space No path to play area
Slope maximum is 1:20 ( 5% ) and maximum cross pitch is 1:50 ( 2% )	Not to code
Continuous common surface, no changes in greater than 1/2 inch	Not to code
Any objects protruding onto pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	Not to code

<b>Path of Travel For dock, piers and paths to these structures</b>	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	Lot under construction
Curb on Pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop offs	Lot under construction
<b>Entrances</b>	
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	Open Field
Level space extending 5 ft from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	Open Field
Minimum 32" clear width opening ( i.e. 36" door with standard hinge )	Open Field
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Door Handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	No Doors at facility
Vestibule is 4 ft plus of width of door swinging into space	No Doors at facility
Entrance (s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	No elevators at facility
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are fastened	No door mats at facility
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	No door mats at facility
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	No grates at facility
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	No entrances at facility
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	No entrances at facility
<b>Stairs and Doors</b>	
<b>Stairs</b>	
No open risers	No stairs at facility
Nosings not projecting	No stairs at facility
Treads No less than 11" wide	No stairs at facility
Handrails on both sides	No stairs at facility
Handrails 34" - 38" above tread	No stairs at facility
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser ( if no safety hazard and space permits )	No stairs at facility
Handgrip oval or round	No stairs at facility
Handgrip has a smooth service	No stairs at facility
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2". 1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	No stairs at facility
<b>Doors</b>	
Minimum 32" clear opening	No Doors at facility
At least 18" clear floor space pull side of door	No Doors at facility
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	No Doors at facility
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	No Doors at facility
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	No Doors at facility
Hardware operable with a closed fist ( no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices )	No Doors at facility

<b>Doors</b>	
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	No Doors at facility
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	No Doors at facility
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	No Doors at facility
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	No Doors at facility
<b>Restrooms - also see doors and vestibules</b>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one sink has the following</i></b>	
clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	No restrooms at facility
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	No restrooms at facility
Extends at least 22" from the wall	No restrooms at facility
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30 width and 27" high	No restrooms at facility
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	No restrooms at facility
Faucets operable with closed fist ( lever or spring activated handle	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>At least one stall has the following</i></b>	
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is 36" wide	No restrooms at facility
Stall door swings out	No restrooms at facility
Stall door is self closing	No restrooms at facility
Stall door has a pull latch	No restrooms at facility
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist 32" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Toilet</i></b>	
18" from center to nearest wall	No restrooms at facility
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	No restrooms at facility
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Grab bars</i></b>	
On back and side wall closest to toilet	No restrooms at facility
1 1/4" diameter	No restrooms at facility
1 1/2" clearance to wall	No restrooms at facility
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	No restrooms at facility
Acid-etched or roughened surface	No restrooms at facility
42" long	No restrooms at facility
<b><i>Fixtures</i></b>	
Toilet dispenser is 24" above the floor	No restrooms at facility
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom ( if tiled, 42")	No restrooms at facility
Dispensers ( towel, soap, etc ) at least of each a maximum 42" above the floor	No restrooms at facility

<b>Floors and Drinking Fountains</b>	
<b>Floors</b>	
Non Slip Surface	No restrooms at facility
Carpeting is high-density, low profile, non absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	No restrooms at facility
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	No restrooms at facility
Objects ( signs, ceiling lights, fixtures ) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above floor	No restrooms at facility
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	
Spouts no higher than 36" from the floor to outlet	No drinking fountains at facility
Hand operated push button or lever controls	No drinking fountains at facility
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	No drinking fountains at facility
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of the fountain	No drinking fountains at facility
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	No drinking fountains at facility
<b>Signs, Signals, and Switches</b>	
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc must be a minimum 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	No signs, signals or switches at facility
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	No electrical outlets at facility
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	No warning signals at facility
<b>Signs</b>	
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	No restroom signs at facility
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers raised .03"	No restroom signs at facility
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	No restroom signs at facility
<b>PICKNICKING</b>	
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space ( totaling 48" ) must extend beyond 19" clear space under the table to provide access	5 tables on site 1 table is handicapped accessible = 20%. 39" wide 35" deep and 30" high from the ground.
For tables without Toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep	N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above the ground	30" above the ground
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	Table placed on level grass surface with 0% slope in all directions
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	Table is accessible there are no firepits or grills on site