Town of Douglas
Open Space and Recreation Plan

November 2007

Douglas Open Space and Recreation Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Plan Summary....4
II. Introduction
- A. Statement of Purpose....4
- B. Planning Process & Public Participation.... 5

III. Community Setting
- A. Regional Context.... 5
- B. History of Community.... 7
- C. Population Characteristics....9
- D. Growth & Development Patterns....9
- E. Patterns and trends.... 11
- F. Infrastructure.... 12
- G. Long-term development patterns.... 13

IV. Environmental Inventory and Analysis
- A. Topography, Geology and Soils....13
- B. Landscape Character.... 17
- C. Water Resources.... 17
- D. Vegetation....22
- E. Fisheries & Wildlife....22
- F. Scenic Resources & Unique Environments
  - 1 Scenic Landscapes....23
  - 2. Major characteristics or unusual geologic features....24
  - 3. Cultural & Historic areas....26
  - 4. Area of Critical Environmental Concern....27
- G. Environmental Problems
  - 1. Hazardous waste sites....27
  - 2. Landfills....27
  - 3. Erosion....27
  - 4. Chronic flooding....28
  - 5. Sedimentation....28
  - 6. Development impact....28
  - 7. Ground and surface water pollution (point & non-point)....28
  - 8. Gravel removal....28

V. Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest
Protected Open Space…….....29
Unprotected Open Space……..…..29
Forest Land – Chapter 61……..29
VI. Community Goals
A. Description of Process.....37
B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals.....37
C. Master Plan Final Report Recommendations……...38
VII. Analysis of Needs
A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs.....38
B. Summary of Community's Needs - Charts as Appendix.....39
C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use.....39
VIII. Goals and Objectives.....41
IX. Five Year Action Plan.....43
X. Open Space Acquisition.....44
XI. Methods.....45
XII Time Frame for Douglas Open Space Acquisition and Recreation Facility Development……46

Bibliography……50

Appendix A …….....51

Note: SCORP is not referenced in this document as it is considered out-of-date information in consultation w/conservation services.

I. Plan Summary

This Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared for the Town of Douglas by the Open Space Committee with the endorsement of the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen and the Master Plan Implementation Committee. It is an update of a plan that evolved from the considerable work conducted during the development of the Town of Douglas Master Plan completed in April of 1998. It specifically expands on the Master Plan's Open Space acquisition recommendations as well as making recommendations to coordinate and revise planning and land use approaches within the town.

In addition, with the acceleration of housing development projected for the town during the next several years, citizens are cognizant of the pressing need for developing coordinated recreational facilities as well as the development and expansion of linkages between open spaces. To that end, planning and grant solicitation has become a priority as never before.

The Committee hopes that this document presents a comprehensive plan that will help citizens make the best use of the Town's Open Space and Recreation resources and to plan with the future in mind.

II. Introductiion

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Open Space and Recreation Plan is to formulate workable strategies for the Town of Douglas to preserve its natural, scenic and historic resources and to meet the diverse recreational needs of local residents. Without careful planning for the future Douglas cannot possibly protect its most valuable natural resources and address the community's multiple public service needs as well.

Its abundant water resources uniquely affect Douglas' open space interests. The town has extensive underground aquifers as well as surface waters used extensively for recreational purposes. Douglas also is unique in that it has over 6,000 acres of state forest property within its bounds.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Plan's purpose is to protect the town's natural, scenic, and historic resources; to be a guide for public land acquisition, recreational facilities development and maintenance plans for the future; and to increase recreational and open space opportunities in order to improve the quality of life for the residents of Douglas.

The present Open Space Committee is comprised of interested citizens who are updating the original plan draft from l988-l998 along with the input from other boards. The original Open Space Committee was comprised of representatives from the Town's land use boards (Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission) as well as a member of the Douglas Board of Selectmen, William Annese, Supervisor, Douglas State Forest and interested citizens, the Open Space Planning. The present committee has taken great care to see that this Plan is integrated with past planning efforts and the Town's operative growth and development policies. It furthers the goals and objectives outlined in Douglas' Master Plan (April, 1998). The Committee's purpose was to prepare an Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town and to ensure that the Plan integrated all relevant local issues.

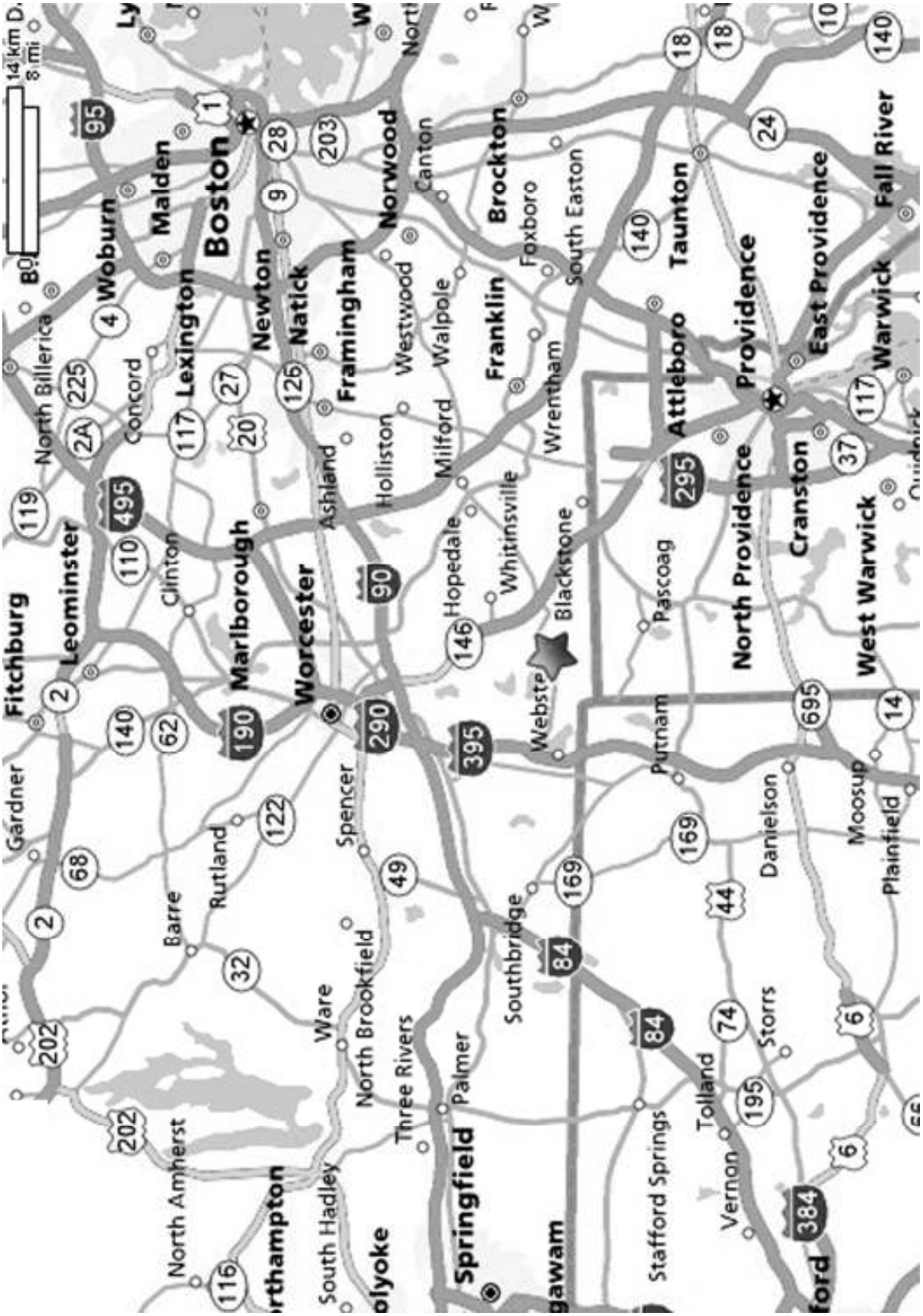
In 1998 the Douglas Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee solicited public comment through the device of a needs survey. The survey was distributed via an insert in *The Douglas Herald,* a local newspaper delivered to every household. Survey returns were at over 12% of households and the results are shown graphically in Appendix A. In May 2006 updated surveys were sent out to every household with a return of 2.25%.

Initial survey data was compiled and as much as possible was presented in graph format (see Appendix I). The results from the 2006 survey are in Appendix B with the variations from 1998 shown. Results are discussed in the following pertinent sections. The Committee also held public informational meetings to apprise all interested citizens of the challenges and opportunities discovered through this planning process.

III. Community Setting

A. Regional Context

The Town of Douglas is comprised of 24,468 acres located in southern most Worcester County bordering both the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut to the south. (Map 1) It lies 18 miles south of Worcester, 40 miles southwest of Boston and 35 miles northwest of Providence, Rhode Island. At 36.37 square miles, it is one of the largest towns in the


Boston
Malden
Woburn
Lexington
Newton
Natick
Framingham
Norwood
Canton
Brockton
Foxboro
South Easton
Taunton
Attleboro
Providence
East Providence
Fall River
Warwick
Cranston
North Providence
West Warwick
Fitchburg
Leominster
Gardner
North Billerica
Concord
Clinton
Marlborough
Worcester
Ashland
Holliston
Milford
Westwood
Walpole
Franklin
Wrentham
Hopedale
Whitinsville
Blackstone
Webster
Pascoag
Putnam
Danielson
Moosup
Plainfield
Barre
Rutland
Spencer
Ware
North Brookfield
Three Rivers
Palmer
Southbridge
Springfield
Stafford Springs
Tolland
Storrs
Vernon
South Hadley
North Amherst
14 km
8 mi

Map 1

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To the east its neighbor is Uxbridge, to the north Sutton, and to the west Oxford and Webster. The southern boundary meets Burrillville, Rhode Island and Thompson, Connecticut. The major east-west artery bisecting the town is Route 16 which is a two lane, tree lined, winding road from the Webster town line into the Douglas business district and past the Douglas High School on to the Uxbridge town line. Numbered Route 96 branches off of Route 16 and provides access to Rhode Island.

To the west access north to Worcester (formerly the county seat) is via Route 16 to Interstate Route 395. To the east the town is also served by the north/south conduit of interstate Route 146. Heavy growth and its subsequent impacts are now happening with the completion of the Route 146/Massachusetts Turnpike Interchange in Millbury. Residents access north-south Routes 146 and 395 for regional employment, entertainment, service, and shopping needs.

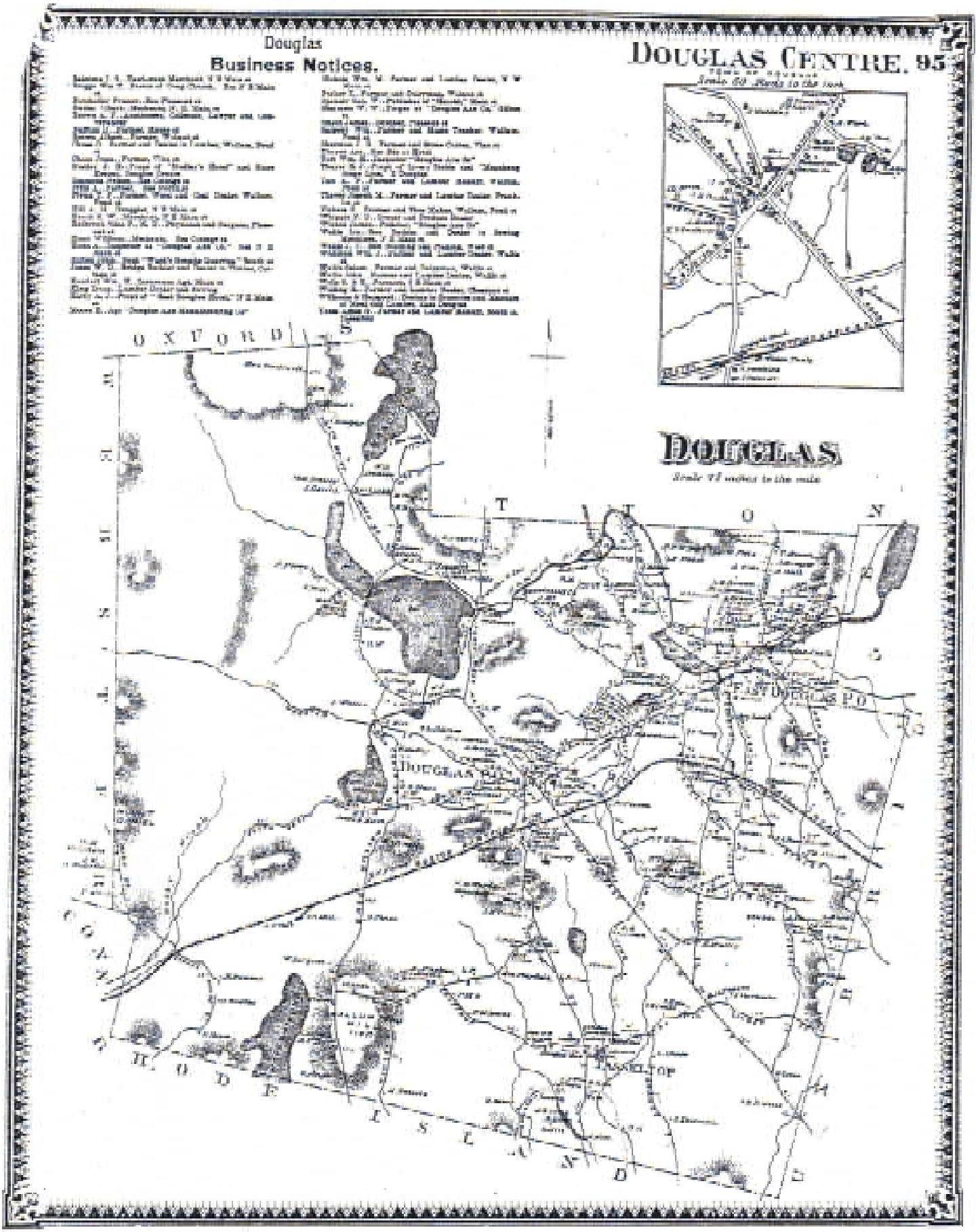
In 1986 Congress created a second National Heritage Corridor by designating the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and Douglas, with the Whitin Reservoir watershed that contributes significantly to the Blackstone River, became part of the interstate corridor. President Clinton gave the Blackstone River "Heritage River" status qualifying it for further protection and this status was renewed in 2006.

All of the towns in the Blackstone Valley in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island are experiencing increased housing development due to the availability of suitable property as well as the excellent location the Valley offers. The subsequent strains that development puts on small towns in the areas of growth, traffic, resources, etc. are also being widely felt. In Connecticut, the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor is in the early stages of development similar to the Blackstone River Heritage Corridor. The completion of the 146/Massachusetts Turnpike connector has is greatly increased the benefits and burdens growing populations can bring to rural areas; resulting in more land developed and less open space and recreational areas.

B. History of Community

Douglas was originally called New Sherburn after the land was purchased from the Nipmuck Indians in 1682. In 1746 it was renamed Douglas after Dr. William Douglas who gave the town 30 acres of land, a dwelling and a barn. At the time of the first U.S. census in 1790 there were 201 families living in Douglas.

As part of the Blackstone River Valley, Douglas evolved into a classic example of a mill town dominated by family-owned firms that fueled the local economy and eventually the industrial revolution. The first successful mill in Douglas was the Hunt Axe Works. The town was also home to numerous farming operations that supplied the area with dairy products as well as meat and vegetables. (Map 2 circa 1860)


Douglas
Business Notices.
DOUGLAS CENTRE. 95
DOUGLAS
OXFORD
DOUGLAS P.O.
EAST DOUGLAS P.O.
TASSELTOP

Map 2

In the center of the town the E.N. Jenkes General Store was established and offered a place to secure all the necessary items to maintain a household in the mid-1800's. The store operated into the 1970's and is today the home of the Douglas Historical Society that operates a general store museum on the premises.

Many of the subsequent mills, however, were textile operations that were hard hit through the Great Depression of the 1930's and the subsequent migration of the industry to the South. Douglas was no exception but Hayward Schuster Woolen Mills continued to operate into the 1970's and until 2006 Guilford Industries of Maine had part of its operation at the mill and it's presently for sale for 4 million dollars. Several mill buildings continue to be in use today and the village center continues to be the economic, civic and social center of the town.

In 1986 as a result of its history and its location, Douglas became one of twelve Massachusetts towns to be designated within the federally funded Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BRVNHC) (Map 3). The Corridor's creation focuses on the birth of the Industrial Revolution and the damming and harnessing of the Blackstone River for water power. The promotion of the Corridor has brought increased tourism and cultural opportunities as it highlights the importance of the Blackstone River Valley in the development of the nation's economic strength.

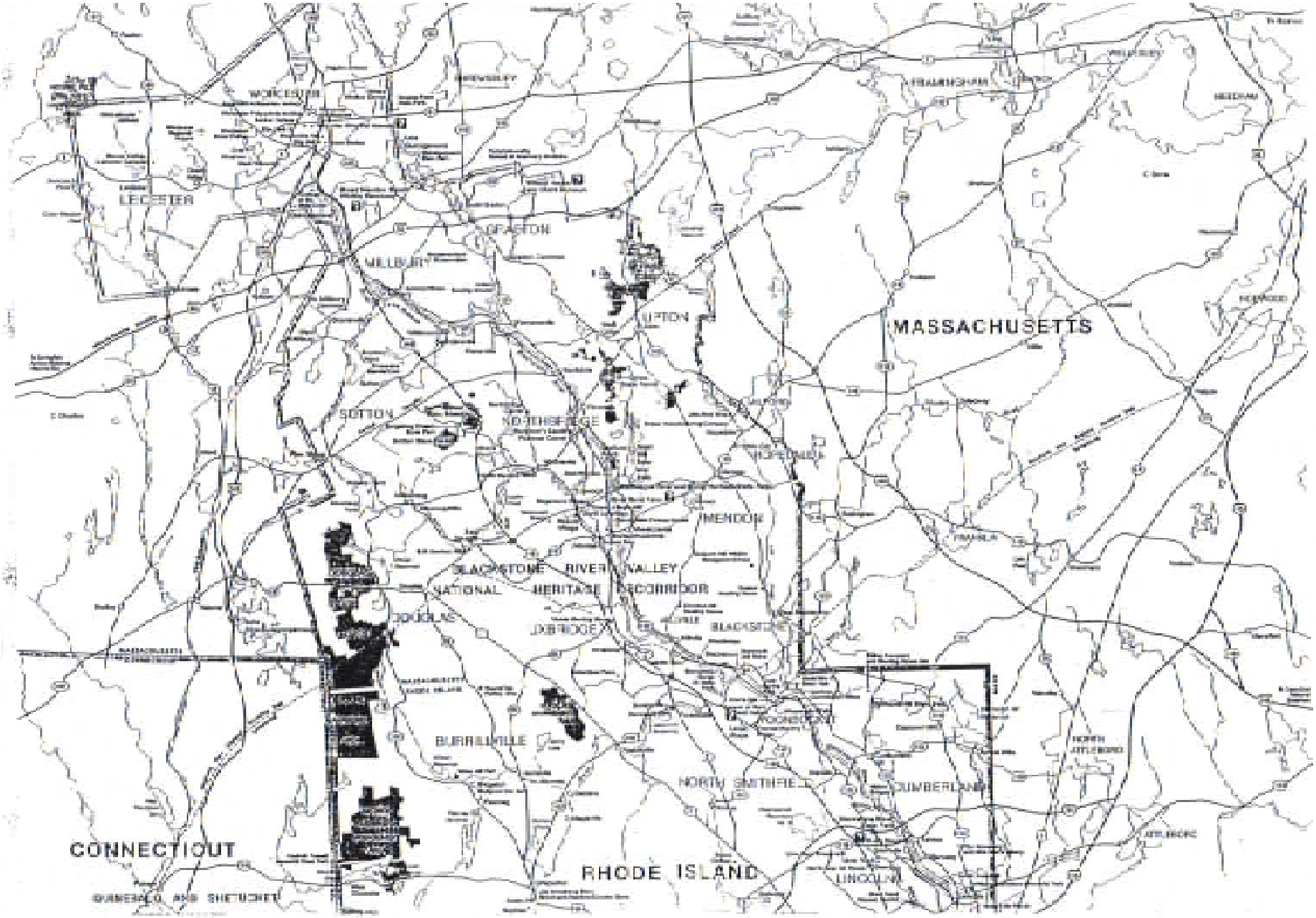
C. Population Characteristics

From 1980 to 1990 Douglas' population increased by nearly 46% to a population of 5,438. The 2000 population was 7045. showing a 29% increase. As of August 2006 the population of the town was 8315 showing an additional 18% increase.

The town's 2000 median income was approximately $60,52 and there are 2,932 households. Single family housing units comprise the majority of housing and the residential tax rate in FY 2004 was $16.48 and in FY 2006 is 11.18.

D. Growth & Development Patterns

Douglas is currently experiencing a high growth, high build-out phase as the town continues to offer considerable buildable open space while maintaining a highly desirable small New England town character with significant recreation opportunities.



Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor **Map 3**

Zoning Build-Out

A complete build-out analysis of Douglas was done for the 1998 Master Plan. Based on existing zoning, the analysis concluded that a total of 4,786 new dwelling units could be developed. At build-out, based on 1997 existing units and the number of building permits issued between 1990 and 1996, the total number of housing units in Douglas was projected to be between 7,500 and 7,700. At 100 new units per year (the rate from 1994 - 1996) the build-out would be reached in 2045. At the rate of 53 units per year (the rate from 1885 - 1995) build-out would not be reached until 2070. These estimates are based on the U.S. Census 1990 average household size of 2.87 persons per household. Maximum projected build-out could give Douglas a population of approximately 22,000. According to the research done by the Community Preservation Act in 1998 a possible build-out of 22,500 was confirmed.

The property zoned as rural/agricultural (see Map 1) would absorb the majority of this build-out. This zone also currently contains the majority of the town's open space. The Master Plan's build-out projections clearly demonstrate that the town has a great need to plan for open space and recreational development before constrictions make it unfeasible to do so.

E. Patterns and trends

As stated in the 1998 Master Plan, "The large amount of open space in Douglas is primarily made up of vacant parcels that could potentially be developed." At that time 7171 acres of land was undeveloped residential land and 2231 acres was in Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands. In October 2006 these numbers have decreased to 5603 acres of undeveloped residential land and 1336 in Chapter land. In 8 years the amount of open residential land, whether in Chapter 61 or not has gone from 38% to 28% of the total town land. At this rate in another 24 years all residential land will be developed! The State, Federal and Local Government owns 6758.8 acres, 1403 acres more than in 1998 as well as undeveloped commercial and industrial land presently at 796 acres. It is these 7000+ acres of unprotected open space that are important in creating an open space planning, acquisition and management program.

Employment

The Town of Douglas and its school system is the largest employer followed by several small businesses. In 2004 there were 138 businesses in town with 682 employees; an average of 5 employees per business. This does not account for any increase in small, home-based businesses. Extensions of water and sewer lines to areas zoned commercial and industrial are being built with the intent of making development of these areas more enticing. In 2002 the Economic Development Committee recruited the firm Carter and Burgess to do a study on our available commercial/industrial land, which they did as well as categorize which sites are best suited for various reasons as well as suggestions for future growth.

Most of the industrially zoned areas are without water and sewer extensions and as a result of the 1998 Master Plan suggestions, Douglas zoning and by-laws have been amended and presently the lines have been partially extended.

As stated previously, maximum build out offers the possibility that Douglas' population will be over 20,000 shortly after the turn of the century.

F. Infrastructure

Roads

Road conditions throughout Douglas are generally good. New developments, however, are impacting existing road ways and maintenance needs are increasing with drainage impacts.

Town Water

Town water service is provided mainly in the village of East Douglas. Lines proceed westward along Main St. to SW Main St., almost to Cedar St., while covering cross streets along the way, including Sunset Dr., Franklin St. to Eagle View, Depot St. to Railroad Av., including Brookside Dr. and part way up Martin Rd. and West St.. Eastward it extends up Davis St. to the High School. To the north it extends up North St. to Colonial Estates, and will be extended to the Sutton line if the North-Brown development goes in.. Lines extend along the entire length of Gilboa St. stopping just after 163 Manchaug Rd. at one end and all the way into Uxbridge at the other end. In 1996 a new water pump station was built on Glenn St. and it went from a 250,000 gallon tank to a 750,000 tank. The new lines are the 12” pipes to Uxbridge along Gilboa St. and to the High School along Davis St., both of which extend into areas hoping for commercial/industrial development. Most recently lines through the center of town were undated with a 16” pipe and the well pump station upgraded their turbine in 2002. Presently aquifer maps are being reviewed so that proposed well sites can be evaluated and protected for future needs.

Sewer

The Town's wastewater collection system update was completed in 2006 and serves the same area as the town water except for the last 1700’ to the Uxbridge line along Gilboa St., which is just water. The treatment facility originally built in the mid 1970’s, is located on North St. and had only .18 mgd, but now the updated facility has .60 mgd and four lift stations located nearby on Gilboa St. across from Guilford Industries. Presently there are 400,000 gallons per day opened up for system improvements.

G. Long-term development patterns

The Town's rural/agricultural character exemplified by a working mill or two has evolved into a town with a commercial business district that hosts numerous housing developments and many homes placed on two acre lots where required by zoning. As described in the build-out section, this development trend is expected to last for several years. The town actively seeks, through the Economic Development Committee, commercial and industrial development to augment it's tax base.

IV. Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. Topography, Geology and Soils

Topography

The landscape of Douglas is characterized by many rounded hills, small ponds, some steep slopes and exposed ledges, and large amounts of glacial debris in the form of boulders, gravel and sand. In the western part of town the highest elevation is approximately 900 ft.. In the east the lowest point is approximately 320 ft.. (Map 4)

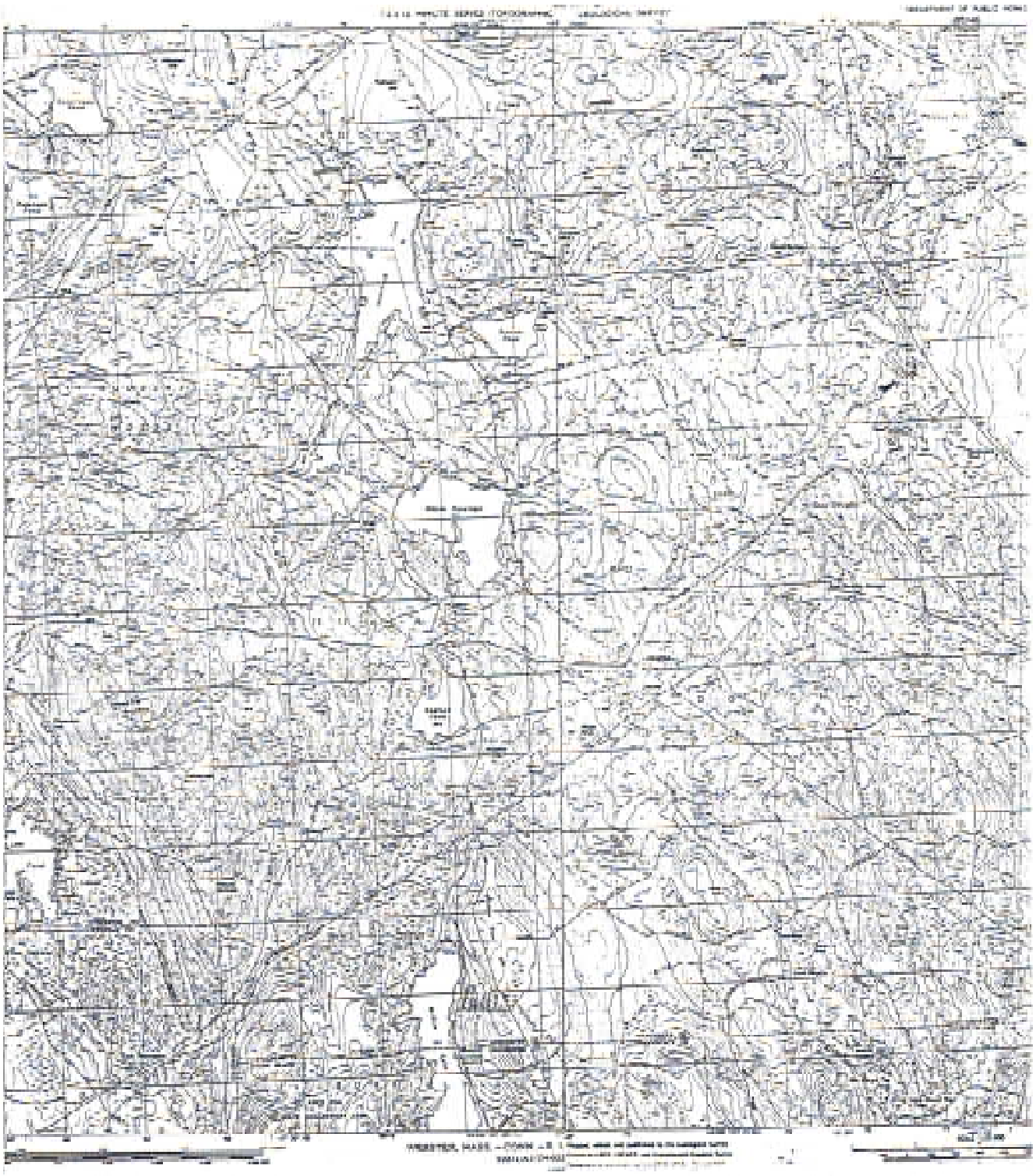
Geology and Soils

About 43 percent of the town is composed of soils in the Canton association. (Map 5) This association of soils is characterized by deep, well-drained soils developed in loose, very stony glacial fill. Specifically, the Canton soils are fine sandy loams, 20 to 36 inches high over loose, gravelly loamy sand till. Most of these soils are found in a band extending east-west across the south-central section of town from Bald Hill to the Webster line. The soils have moderate limitations for home sites, septic tank sewage disposal and the installation of water and sewer pipes due to stoniness and/or steep slopes.

The Hollis soil association composes approximately 13 percent of the town primarily in its northwestern section. This association is characterized by fine sandy loams in thin deposits of extremely stony glacial till underlain by bedrock within a depth of 18 inches. Bedrock outcrops are common in these areas and this condition severely limits development of any kind. Approximately 12 per cent of the town is composed of Hinckley-Merrimac-Sudbury soils located primarily in the Mumford River and Centerville Brook valleys with lesser amounts in an area south of the Whitin Reservoir and around Tasseltop. These soils are excessively drained, loamy, sand soils underlain by thick, stratified deposits of sand and gravel at a depth of 15 inches or less. Soils in this association are excellent sources of sand and gravel and have only slight or moderate limitations for home sites, sewer and water pipes, road construction and commercial and industrial development. Because of their permeability, they absorb water rapidly, which could result in the pollution of wells located near septic systems.

The Scituate-Woodbridge-Millis-Paxton association composes about 26 percent of the Town and is characterized by soils that are moderately well drained with hardpans at a depth of 1.5 to 3.0 feet from the surface. The water table is within this depth from the surface for 5 months of the year. For these reasons these soils have severe limitations for commercial and industrial uses and high-density residential development with on-site sewage disposal systems.

The Whitman-Muck-Ridgebury association occupies only 6 percent of the town and is found primarily in level drainage channels and depressions throughout the town. Soils in this association are fine, sandy loams and have a very hard layer at a depth of 1.5 to 2.5 feet from the surface. Many of the soils are poorly drained with a water table at or near the surface during most of the year. They have severe limitations for development but are suitable for wetland wildlife.

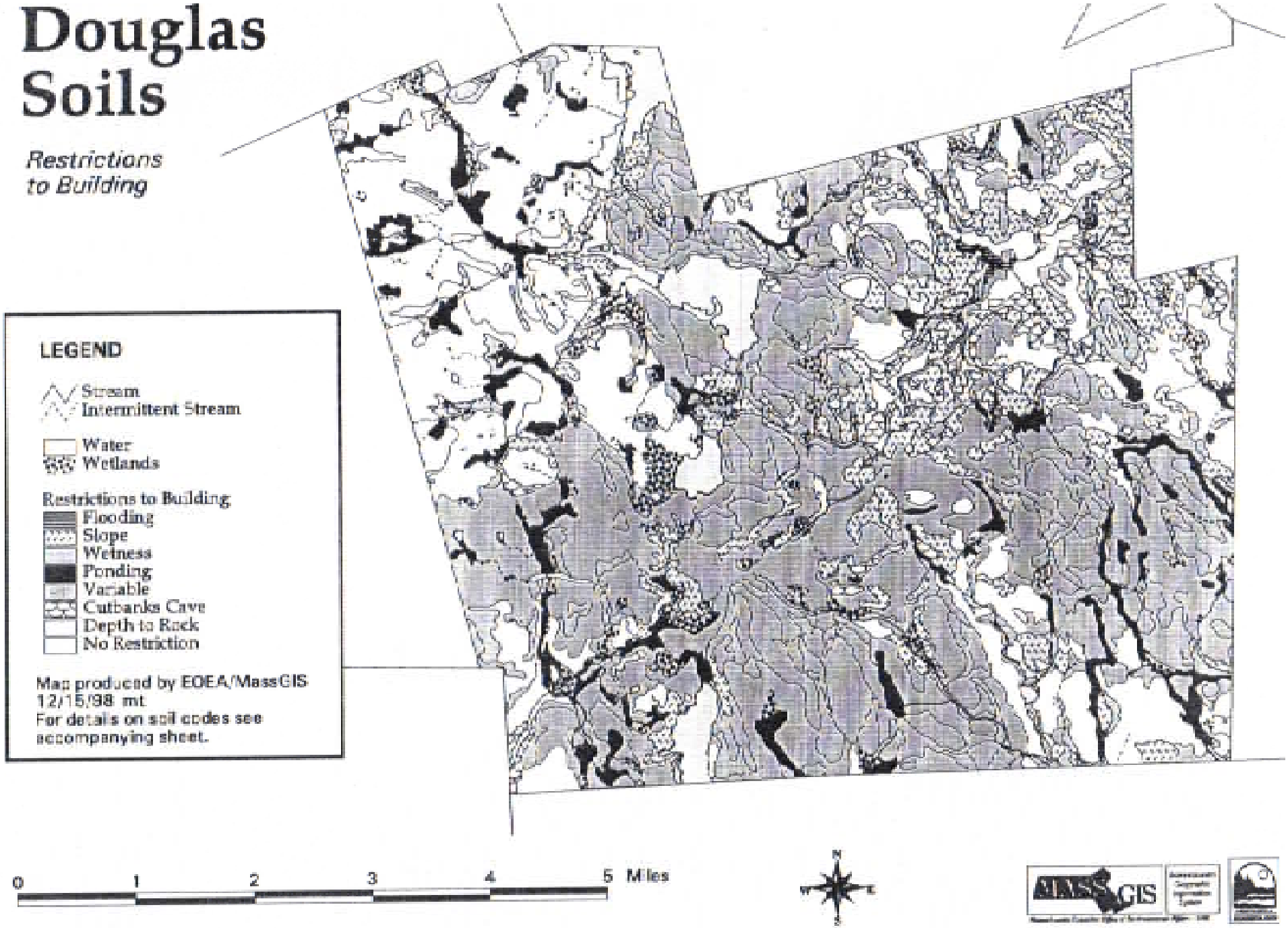


USGS Topographic Map of Douglas

Map 4

Douglas Soils

Restrictions to Building



B. Landscape Character

The Town of Douglas is characterized by a landscape that basically drains from west to east in the Blackstone River Valley Watershed. In Douglas the primary tributary to the Blackstone is the Mumford River. As a result, the western area of the town is higher in elevation and characterized by tiers of ledges, high swamps and thin soils with characteristic glacial morains and gravel deposits. The eastern sector of the town is characterized by more significant river basin lowlands with floodplains and swamps.

The Town's significant water resources offer some of the most significant landscapes as well and the majority of lakes remain tree lined. The Mumford River, while playing a major role in the environmental make-up of the eastern sector of the town, is currently underutilized and is being analyzed for its future visual and recreational potential.

In addition, it should be noted here that the Natural Resources Assessment conducted by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission identified the Whitin Reservoir Watershed (including the Mumford River, etc.) as one of the Corridor's most significant cultural and natural assets.

C. Water Resources *Hydrology*

About 62 percent of Douglas drains into the Blackstone River via the Mumford River and its various tributaries in the central and northerly sections of the town. The remaining 38 percent of town in its southerly section drains to the French River in Webster. (Map 6) In addition to 6.4 per cent of the town being covered by wetlands, there are an additional 858 acres which are actual bodies of water. Most of the larger impoundments are located along almost a straight line running north-south through the west-central section of town.

Surface Water

There are approximately 900 acres of land in Douglas (3.7% of the town's land area) that contain ponds and streams. The major water bodies include Wallum Lake, Manchaug Pond and the Whitin Reservoir, Badluck Pond (also known as Crystal Lake). In addition to surface water, Douglas also contains approximately 74 miles of streams, 47 miles of which are headwaters. In 1996 the Rivers Protection Act defined "riverfront area" as the buffer of 200 feet on each side of perennial rivers and streams throughout Massachusetts. Because of its abundant water resources, this Act has significant impact on Douglas' development and natural resources.

The Mumford River originates in the watershed of Badluck Pond and Whitin Reservoir, flows through East Douglas and is a tributary of the Blackstone River. The watersheds of Badluck Pond and Whitin Reservoir include significant acreage within the Douglas State Forest. Fishing is the major recreational use of the river.

Nearly all of Douglas' ponds and lakes are used for recreation and the town does recognize Whitin Reservoir as an emergency water supply. The town, however, does not have any public swimming or beach access although swimming is available in the Douglas State Forest. Douglas residents receive no special dispensation.

Wallum Lake

Wallum Lake is located in the southern part of Douglas within the State Forest, at the Burrillville/Douglas town line. The lake is approximately 322 acres in size, with about half of the acreage in Rhode Island. Wallum Lake is used extensively for recreational purposes such as swimming, fishing and boating.

Whitin Reservoir

Whitin Reservoir is located in the northwest quadrant of town and has some shoreline along the western edge within the Douglas State Forest. Two streams cross the Douglas State Forest to enter the Whiting Reservoir from the west and south. Private camps and full year residences line the shores of the reservoir. It is used for all recreational water sports and has a private water slide facility open to the public on a fee basis.

Manchaug Pond

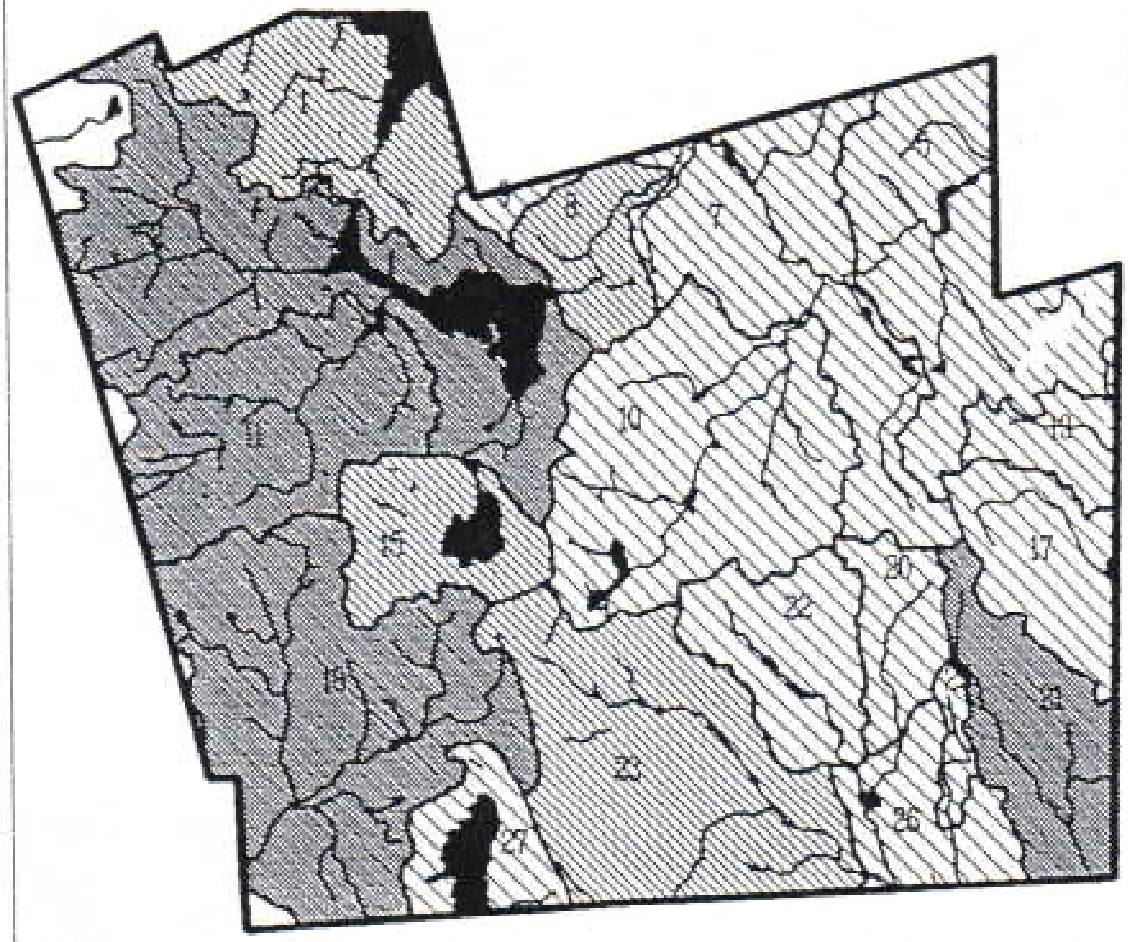
One half of the lake is in Douglas. The shoreline is privately owned and lined with camps and full time residences and supports Lake Manchaug Camping as well as three additional campgrounds in Sutton. It is also used for fishing, swimming and boating.

Wallis Pond

Located south of Whitin Reservoir, Wallis Pond is a man-made body of water. A dam and significant shoreline was acquired when the Department of Environmental Management obtained the 120 acres known as the Wallis property. The pond is unstratified and has a high algae level and is not used for swimming or boating.

Coopertown Brook

This brook is the major tributary to Whitin Reservoir and much of it is within the Douglas State Forest. It has become part of the Adopt-A-Stream program by the Douglas Conservation Commission.



LEGEND

- Most Significant Watershed Area
- Very Significant Watershed Area
- Significant Watershed Area

Figure 3-7: Douglas contains 28 watershed areas.

Watershed Areas of Douglas Map 6

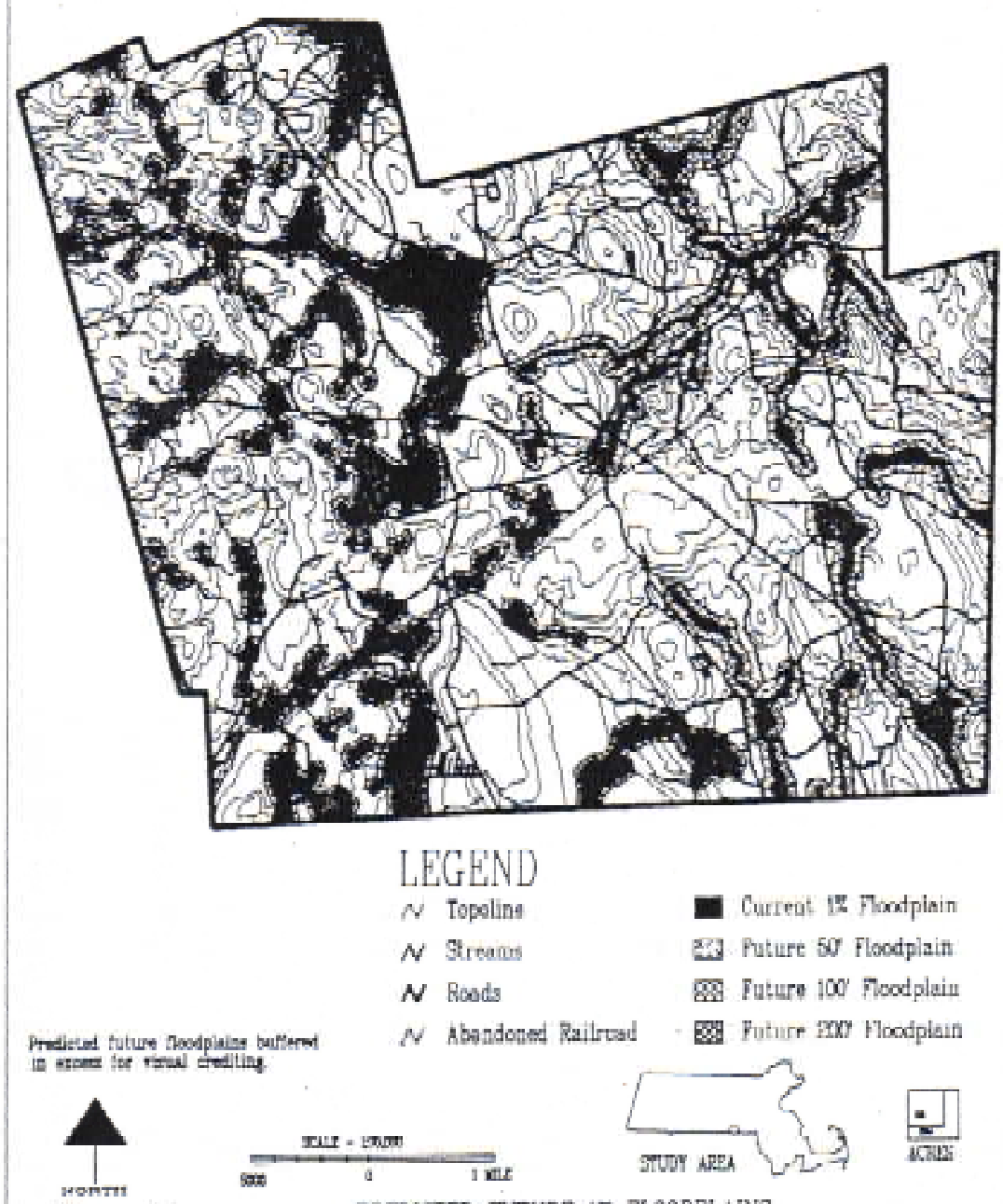


Figure 4-4 PREDICTED FUTURE 1% FLOODPLAINS

Shows the areas of the present and predicted future 1% probability floodplain in Douglas.

Map 7

Floodplains

Approximately 3,515 acres or 14.3% of the town is designated as floodplain. The most significant area with the densest population lies along the Mumford River in the commercial center of town. It is important to monitor floodplain development in the context of the ability for the area to flood. (Map 7)

Wetlands

By definition, wetlands include bogs, marshes and swamps and often lie within a floodplain. The town of Douglas has approximately 1,109 acres of wetlands within its bounds representing 4.6% of the total land area. Accordingly, most of the wetlands are associated with the Mumford River, Whitin Reservoir and Wallum Lake.

Specifically, the purpose of the wetlands bylaw is to "protect the floodplains and wetlands of the Town of Douglas by controlling activities deemed to have a significant effect upon wetland values, including but not limited to the following: Public or Private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion control, storm damage prevention, water pollution control, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and fisheries (collectively, the "interests protected by this Bylaw").

The Douglas Conservation Commission is in the process of revising the wetlands Bylaws to incorporate the Rivers Protection Act in order to increase wetlands protection within the town.

Watershed Recharge Areas/Aquifer Recharge Areas

An aquifer is a geologic formation that can easily yield a significant amount of ground water. As water is withdrawn from an aquifer, it is replenished by water that is carried from the surface through permeable materials. The Aquifer's "recharge area" is an area on the surface of the land below which groundwater moves to replenish the aquifer. These areas must be protected from actions that might reduce the downward flow of water or contaminate groundwater supplies.

Douglas is located in an area containing 12 aquifers, one of which is a high yield aquifer (defined as yielding more than 300 gallons per day without the threat of depletion). Approximately 27% (190) acres of the primary aquifer recharge areas are covered by residential land uses, 2 acres contain waste disposal sites and 10 acres contain commercial development. The most significant watershed areas are located in the western half of town and the lower southeast section of town near Greene Brook. It is important to monitor these areas as Douglas depends on groundwater for the town's water supply.

D. Vegetation

Douglas is mostly covered by forests that have been harvested several times. In 1971, the date of the last translated aerial survey, over 50 per cent of the town was covered with hardwood forests. The species found in the forests are oaks, maples, beeches and birches. Only 1.4 percent of the forested regions of the town is predominately conifers. These species are pines, spruces and hemlock.

The forests and ledges along Route 16 support vigorous Mountain Laurel groves in the late spring. Wet forests also support Swamp Pinks, a wild azalea. The Douglas State Forest is contiguous forest land that offers abundant outdoor recreation. In the wetlands, the shrub swamps contain alder, buttonbush, dogwood and willow. Sedges are present in tussocks. In the marshes grow numerous wetland plants including cattails, bullrushes, burred, pickerelweed and arrowhead. The deeper marshes contain water plants such as waterlilies and duckweed. Open fields contain wildflowers and grasses, low bush blueberries, and other fruit bearing species that entice song and game birds alike.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Fish. In Douglas, Wallum Lake, the Centerville Brook and the Mumford River are stocked with trout and salmon. Bass, pickerel, perch, hornpout, and sunfish comprise the lake species to be found throughout the town's bodies of water.

Wildlife. The white tail deer population is thriving in the Douglas State Forest and in many areas of town where food continues to be plentiful. Turkey were re-introduced to the area and are thriving with flocks regularly sighted with over 20 birds. Ruffed grouse are native. Some beaver are also to be found in bodies of water in Douglas. Coyotes are making a come back in forests and where they have access to open fields. Rabbits and woodchuck appear to be declining with the destruction of their habitat but raccoon and fox seem able to thrive amid the evolving environment.

Rare and Endangered Species

Douglas is host to several species of threatened and rare species. Among them, the Wood Turtle a "species of special concern," which has been found several times in the northern part of the forest near Whitin Reservoir and Wallis Pond. The Eastern Box Turtle is also a "species of special concern" and has been found in the northern part of the Douglas State Forest along Route 16. *Sclerolepis uniflora* is listed as a "threatened" plant species and is found along the western shore of Wallum Lake. It is one of only two populations of this species found in New England (the other is found in New Hampshire). There is also a small grove of Tulip Poplar south of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail. Tulip Poplar is being tracked by the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NH&ESP) and is at the northern limit of its range in Douglas.

Salamanders

Documented Marbled Salamander habitat is found in the northern part of the Douglas State Forest as well as on the western side of the town along Route 16 near the Webster town line. It is a 'threatened' species and breeds in vernal pools in the fall. At the Douglas Camp Meeting Grounds, an area with vernal pools, a Spotted Turtle and a Four Toed Salamander, both endangered, were spotted as well as a Pine Barren Blute damsel fly.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

1. Scenic Landscapes

Douglas State Forest (DSF) is 6116.75 acres totally within the boundaries of the town and comprises 24.99% or nearly one-fourth of the town's total land area of 24,475 acres. The DSF is the largest continuous tract of public open space in south-central Massachusetts, and is abutted by the 2,075 acre Buck Hill Wildlife Management Area in Rhode Island. Among others, views south from the public beach and boat ramp reach into Rhode Island (Map 8).

Views from the causeway as well as the dam on Whitin Reservoir are included in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission's inventory of areas that are culturally and naturally valuable to the preservation of the valley. The Douglas Town Common offers the white church steeple of the First Congregational Church on one side and historic Revolutionary War grave markers on the other. The maples that ring the area offer spectacular fall foliage.

In the springtime the characteristic ledges and vernal pools that line Route 16 on the western side of Douglas abound with Mountain Laurel making the drive one of the most scenic in the town. In addition, abandoned stone quarries in both the State Forest and off of Thompson Road provide unique views.

2. Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

Vernal Pools

Vernal Pools are in abundance in Douglas. One verified vernal pool is located south of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail. It is a habitat for rare and endangered salamander and frog species as well as for the Fairy Shrimp, an invertebrate food source species which only occurs in vernal pools.

Fens

Of particular interest to the NH&ESP is a plant community known as the Southern New England Basin Fen located near Wallis Pond. A fen is defined as having peat and a peat or bog-like environment, while a marsh does not include peat.

Representative Natural Areas (RNA's)

Douglas is also host to two Representative Natural Areas (RNA's) that were designated by the Department of Environmental Management in its Wildlands Program in 1989. The Atlantic White Cedar Swamp just outside of Badluck Pond is inventoried and tracked by the NH&ESP. The canopy of the swamp supports the rare Hessel's Hairstreak butterfly.

A Southern New England Basin Marsh is found south of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail and within the Douglas State Forest. It is also a designated RNA and supports Blackgum Tupelo trees and a shrub called Leatherleaf. Torrey's Bullrush (a 'watch list' species) thrives in the marsh

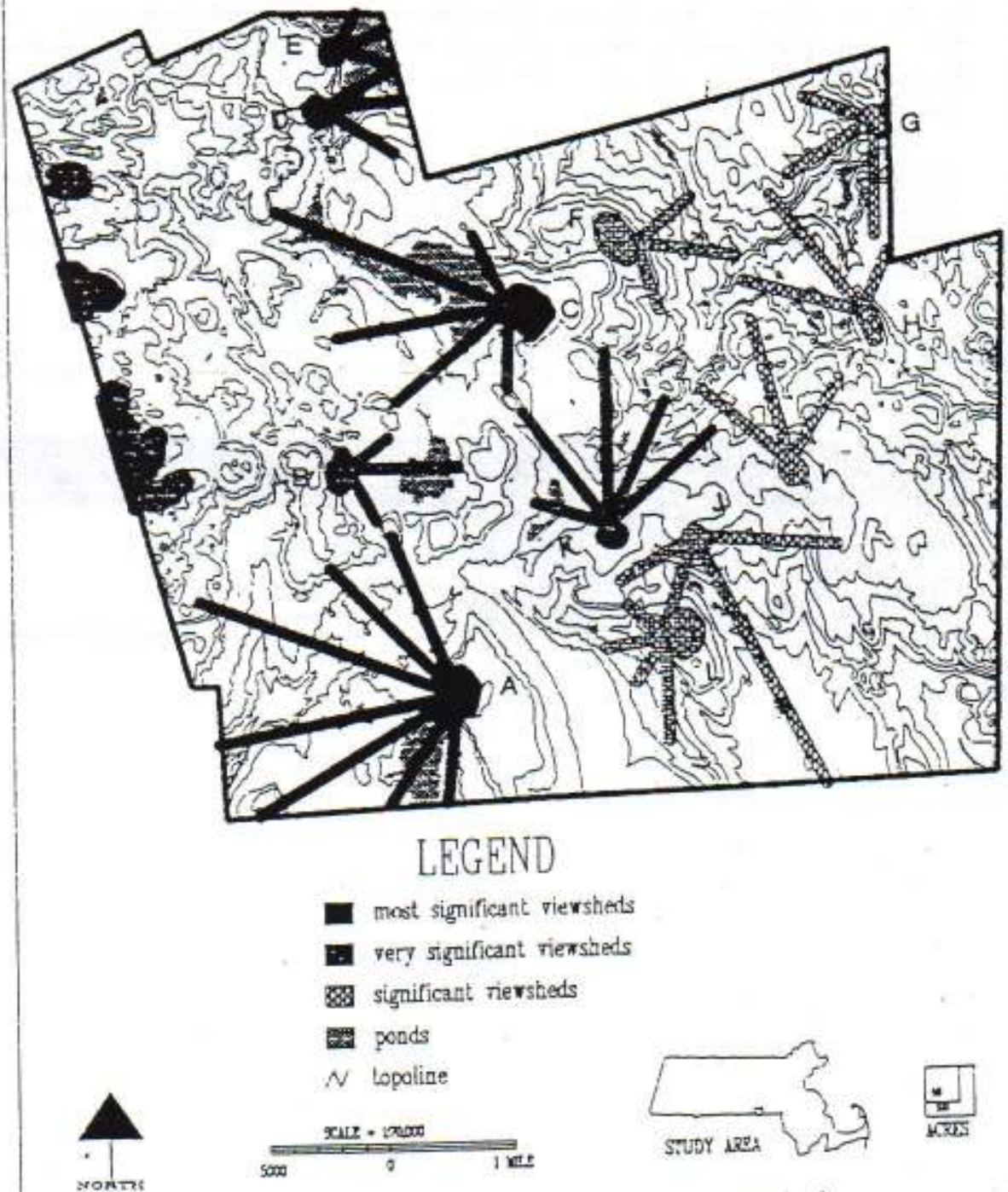


Figure 5-2: Promontories which provide viewsheds

Viewsheds of Douglas

Map 8

3. Cultural and Historic Areas

Designated Scenic Roads of Douglas

Name of Street	Location
Orange Street	South of Old Common
Common Street	Old Douglas Common
Church Street	North from the Old Common
Northwest Main Street	North from the Old Common
Oak Street	North Douglas

Historic and Cultural Resources of Douglas

Feature	Location
First Congregational Church	Old Douglas Center
Douglas Town Common	Old Douglas Center
NW Main Street	Old Douglas Center
Second Congregational Church	East Douglas
Whitin Reservoir	Wallis, Cedar & NW Main Sts
Wallum Lake	Southwest Douglas
Pine Grove Cemetery	East Douglas
South Douglas Cemetery	South Douglas
Douglas Center Cemetery	Old Douglas Center
Baker Cemetery	South Douglas
St. Denis Cemetery	Manchaug Road
E.N. Jenckes Store	East Douglas
East Douglas Common	East Douglas
Ballou Farm	Cedar St
Bosma Farm	NE Main St
Caswell Court Farm	Caswell Court
Chesebrough Farm	Old Douglas Center
Douglas Orchard	Locust St
Koslak Farm	SW Main St
Manchaug Street Farm	Northeast Douglas
MiniBrook Farm	Walnut Street at Chestnut St.
Mosczynski Farm (L.&S.)	Oak St
Mosczynski Farm (S)	Oak St
Perkins Farm	Yew St
Pine Street Farm	Pine St
Reuben Ides Farm	Cedar St
Southeast Main Street Farm	Southeast Main St
Walker Farm	Yew St
Wallis Street Farm	Wallis St at Cedar St.
West Street Farm	West and Cross Sts
Wellman Pond Mill	Depot St
Cellar Holes	Douglas State Forest
Coopertown	Douglas State Forest
Douglas Camp Meeting Grounds	South St

Hayward Woolen Mill	North St
Hayward-Shuster Mill	Gilboa St
Lovett Mill	Cook Street
Mechanic Street Stone Arch	Mechanic and B Streets
North Street Stone Arch Bridge	North Street
Soldiers Field	Mechanic Street
Wallis Property	Douglas State Forest
Wallis Sawmill	Webster and Cedar Streets
Wallum Lake Stone Arch Bridge	Wallum Lake Road

4. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

As of this writing, however, there are no ACEC designations in the Town of Douglas.

G. Environmental Problems

1. Hazardous Waste Sites

Douglas has one site that is listed in the State of Massachusetts Brownfield's inventory. It is at 63 Main Street on Route 16. Its status is Tier IB and is contaminated from leaking gas and oil storage tanks in 1986. Presently, the contamination is minimal and would be complete if the state laws hadn't been revised. It is therefore an ongoing cleanup.

2. Landfills

Douglas permanently capped its local landfill facility in 1988. The 13 acre site is located on Riedell Road and is presently used as a transfer station. If trespassing is permitted it offers a possible location for recreation or other town use. .

In 1987 the development company of Douglas Environmental Associates (DBA) obtained a site assignment from the Douglas Board of Health and pursued permits to construct and operate a 1,500 ton-per-day mega-landfill on the Douglas-Webster town line and on a watershed divide. After a long and protracted eleven year battle by citizens from the entire region, the state legislature voted to take the site by eminent domain and to add the acreage to the Douglas State Forest at the end of the 1998 legislative session. Unfortunately the state paid 36 million dollars for it.

3. Erosion

Erosion continues to be a serious problem throughout Douglas. It occurs due to a number of unnatural factors including steep, unanchored slopes and gravel removal operations. A Storm Water Management Bylaw was recently adopted to regulate this..

4. Chronic flooding

There is no documented chronic flooding in the Town of Douglas.

5. *Sedimentation*

Increased sedimentation of streams and ponds due to erosion and uncontrolled development is a parallel concern of the Douglas Conservation Commission which hopefully will be an improved situation now that we have a Storm Water Management Bylaw.

6. Development Impact

The impact of development on the town of Douglas at the maximum buildout scenarios will be visually significant and very stressful on services without adequate planning. The April 1998 Master Plan addresses the impacts of development on Douglas in detail.

Contributing significantly to potential build out impact is the completion of the Massachusetts Turnpike/Route 146 Interchange and the expected increasing traffic between Providence, Rhode Island and Worcester and Boston, Massachusetts. While Douglas has relatively little acreage along the highway, the "gateway" into town is directly served by an exit and development is predicted. The three other towns with abutting commercial/industrial zoned land are working together to make it easier to join large properties over town lines..

7. *Ground and surface water pollution*

Guilford of Maine on Gilboa Street in the northeast quadrant of Douglas was a point/non-point source of water pollution in the town. It is presently for sale and is located in the 146 Interchange area..

8. Gravel removal

Sand and gravel deposits left by glaciers retreating northward can be found in nearly 4,300 acres of Douglas and most is commercially mineable. Left unreclaimed, they pose a serious environmental hazard to the town. Erosion from steep slopes, unanchored sections and surface water contamination are all associated problems that the 1998 Master Plan addressed . A zoning by-law update at the October 2004 Town Meeting now requires restoration of any area being excavated since this by-law was adopted.

V. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Protected Open Space

"Public service" lands in Douglas total approximately 5,154.73 acres. This includes conservation land as well as land utilized for churches, non-profit groups and town facilities. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns 6116.76 acres, one quarter of the town's total land area. The Southern New England Trunk Line Trail is also an important state-owned parcel. The Town of Douglas owns 642 acres of land which consists of non-conservation land such as school parcels, the fire station, highway department garage, etc. Charitable organizations own 24 acres and religious facilities comprise 32 acres. (Master Plan p. I11)

As of this writing, the Conservation Commission has 80 acres in conservation land, 60 acres pending and 50 acres in Conservation Restriction; all up from zero in 1998. The Commission is currently assessing the possibility of acquiring a 110 acre parcel near Preservation Park on West Street but no formal agreement has been reached.

* The 6782 acre figure was derived from the Assessors database and includes properties with land use codes 901, 903 and 905.

Unprotected Open Space

The term "open space" often refers only to conservation land, land used for recreation, agricultural land and parks that are owned or operated by an agency dedicated to conservation. However, "open space" can also refer to any undeveloped land with conservation or recreational interest.

Parcels taxed under the Chapter 61 (Forestry), Chapter 61A (agriculture) and Chapter 61b (Recreation) tax classifications are in private ownership and are not permanently protected open space areas. The tax classification enables the lands to be taxed at their use value rather than the full fair market value. The Town has the right of first refusal if the parcels are sold prior to the expiration of the tax-abated status. This allows the Town to protect individual open space parcels as they enter the market or become threatened by development.

Forest Land - Chapter 61

There are 81 parcels in Douglas taxed under the Chapter 61 classification. The total parcel area equals 2192.61 acres, owned by 23 individuals. The table below summarizes the forest and wooded lands of Douglas that are currently under the Chapter 61 tax classification. Private recreational facilities include Lake Manchaug Camping, the Breezy Acres Water Slide, Douglas Beagle Club, the Old Douglas Camp Meeting, Winding Brook Campground, the Douglas Fish and Game Club's Dudley Pond, Children's Haven Camp, and Lady Woods Game Reserve, among others. There are also many more large parcels spread throughout town currently, with no protection against development.

It is our hope is that by approaching these landowners we can get them to protect their land by putting it into Chapter 61 or adopt a conservation restriction, thus reducing their taxes and enabling them to keep the land intact. We have increased our number of conservation areas within town which are good locations for passive recreation, and are presently working on a Mumford Riverwalk which would include historical locations.

Inventory Matrix Public/Non-Profit Land
Douglas Open Space and Recreation Property

Public/Non-Profit	Owner	Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protectio	If open/# Acres
20 West St 1	Town	Same	Wells/Pump House	None	Excellent	none	yes	VR	perpetuity	
29 West St 2	Town	Same	Town Well	None	N/A	none	yes	VR	perpetuity	
24 West St 3	Town	Water Commission	Aquifer Protection	Public	Excellent	passive	yes	VR	perpetuity	9.79
Main St 1	Town	Water Commission	Aquifer Protection	None	Excellent	high	yes	VR	perpetuity	10.82
Church St 1	Town	Water Commission	Well	None	Excellent	none	yes	VR	perpetuity	
Glenn St 1	Town	Water Commission	Aquifer Protection	N/A	Good	high passive	yes	RA	perpetuity	
52 Franklin S 1	Town	Water Commission	Well	N/A	Excellent	none	yes	RA	perpetuity	
Yew St 1	Town	Water Commission	Aquifer Protection	N/A	Excellent	high passive	yes	RA	perpetuity	
Wastewater Treatmen Plant/2 Charles	Town	Water Commission	Water Treatment	Public	Excellent	none	no	IND	long-term	
2 Manchaug St 1	Town	Same	Recreation	None	Good	high	yes	VR	short-term	9.19
120 Franklir St 2	Town	Same	Recreation	N/A	Excellent	high	yes	RA	long-term	
Main St 2	Town	Same	Library	None	Fair	none	yes	CB	long-term	
Main St 3	Town	Same	Post Office	None	Excellent	none	yes	CB	long-term	
Depot St 1	Town	Same	WWII Common	None	Excellent	none	yes	CB	long-term	
Depot St 2	Town	Same	Municipal Center	None	Excellent	high	yes	VR	long-term	
Main St 4	Town	Same	Highway Garage	None	Fair	medium	yes	C	long-term	
Main St 5	Town	Same	Garage lot	None	Good	high	yes	C	long-term	
Main St 6	Town	Same	VFW	N/A	Good	medium	yes	RC	long-term	
Riedell Rd	Town	Same	Transfer Station	N/A	Good	high	yes	C	long-term	
Main St 7	Town	Same	Fire Station	N/A	Excellent	none	yes	C	long-term	
Common St 1	Town	Same	Common	N/A	Good	none	yes	VR	long-term	
Cottage St 1	Town	Same	Vacant Lot	None	Good	yes	yes	CB	short-term	

Inventory Matrix Public/Non-Profit Land
Douglas Open Space and Recreation Property

Public/Non-Profit	Owner	Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protectio	If open/# Acres
5 Cottage St 2	Town	Same	Old Fire Station	None	Poor	no	yes	CB	short-term	
North and Main Stree	Town	Same	Monument	None	Good	none	yes	CB	long-term	
Gleason Court 1	Town	Same	Old School	None	Poor	high	yes	VR	long-term	
Gleason Court 2	Town	Same	Grammer School	Public	Excellent	high	yes	C	long-term	
33 Davis St 1	Town	Same	High School	Public	Excellent	high	yes	C	long-term	
17 Gleason (3	Town	Same	Middle School	Public	Excellent	high	yes	C	long-term	
Main St 8	Town	Cemetery Commission	Cemetery	N/A	Good	none	yes	RC	long-term	
Cemetery St	Town	Cemetery Commission	Cemetery	Non-Profit	Good	none	yes	VR	long-term	
49 West St 4	Town	Cemetery Commission	Cemetery	None	Good	no	yes	VR	long-term	
Manchaug S 2	St. Denis Church	Same	Cemetery	N/A	Good	no	yes	VR	long-term	
NW Main St 3	A. Lynch	Same (Town)	Cemetery	N/A	N/A	N/A	no	RA	none	
South St 1	town	Cemetery Commission	Cemeteries	N/A	Fair	no	yes	RA	long-term	
22 Church St 3	Douglas Pastime Club	Douglas Fish & Game	Boy Scouts of America	Non-Profit	Good	none	yes	VR	medium-term	
Common St 2	First Congregation Church	Same	Church	N/A	Good	none	yes	VR	long-term	
Depot St 3	Second Congregational Church	Same	Church	N/A	Excellent	none	yes	CB	long-term	
Gleason Ct 3	Methodist Church	Same	Church	N/A	Good	no	no	CB	yes	
Caswell Ct	Roman Catholic Church	Same	Church	Non-Profit	None	none	yes	VR	long-term	
Depot St 4	Mumford River Lodge	Same	Lodge	N/A	Excellent	none	yes	CB	long-term	
Davis St 5	Jehovah's Witnesses	Same	Church	N/A	Good	none	yes	C	long-term	

Inventory Matrix Public/Non-Profit Land
Douglas Open Space and Recreation Property

Public/Non-Profit	Owner	Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protectio	If open/# Acres
Gilboa St	Guilford Industries	Same	Open Space	N/A	Fair	yes	no	IND	none	
283 Main St 9	Historical Society	Same	Museum/ Shop	N/A	Good	no	yes	CB	yes	
South St 2	Camp Meeting Association	Same	Church Camp Meeting Grounds	Non-Profit	Fair	possible	yes	RA	unknown	
South St 3	Children's Haven Inc.	Same	Camp	N/A	Good	yes	yes	RA	long-term	
Whitin Reservoir	Hydro Projects Inc.	Same	Water Storage	N/A	Excellent	yes	yes	RA	none	
South St 4	unknown	Same	Old Church Foundation	N/A	N/A	N/A	no	RA	N/A	
Western 1/4 of town	Commonwealth o Mass.	Dept. of Conservation Recreatio	Douglas State Forest & Wall Lake Pa	State	Excellent	yes	yes	RA	long-term	6,000
Aldrich/ Gilboa St	Town	Same	Open	None	N/A	abutts river	no	IND	none	9.13
Davis St 2	Town	Same	Open	None	Fair	moderate	no	C, RA+, IND	none	
Briarwood Circle	Town	Same	Conservation	None	Excellent	yes	yes	RA	long-term	4.17
Cummings Ct	Town	Same	Conservation	None	Excellent	possible	no	VR	long-term	1.86
Manchaug S 3	Town	Same	Conservation	None	Excellent	yes	yes	RA	long-term	9.32
Mumford St	Town	Same	Conservation	None	Excellent	passive	yes	RA	long-term	43
SE Main St 1	Town	Same	Conservation	None	Excellent	yes	yes	RA	long-term	21.05
Yew St 2	Town	Same	Conservation	None	Excellent	passive	yes	RA	none	5.8
NW Main 4	Town	Same	Open Space	Town Reimbursed	Excellent	yes	yes	RA	long-term	92.08
SW Main St 1	Town	Same	Vacant	N/A	Good	no	yes	RA	none	0.71
Douglas Hill Way	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	VR	none	15.22
Chestnut St	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Fair	medium	no	RA	none	13.35
215 NW Mai St 1	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	VR	none	2.1

Inventory Matrix Public/Non-Profit Land
Douglas Open Space and Recreation Property

Public/Non-Profit	Owner	Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protectio	If open/# Acres
26 Brooksid Dr	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	VR	none	0.99
NW Main 2	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	medium	no	VR	none	4.18
32 Railroad Ave	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	medium	no	RA	none	0.53
75 + 81 Walnut St	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	medium	no	RA	none	4.41
64 Webster St 1	Town	same	Open	Tax Possession	Excellent	medium	no	RA	none	1.61
Webster St 2	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Land Locked	low	no	RA	none	25.2
26 Martin R 1	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	RA	none	0.76
Shore Rd	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	RA	none	0.11
Kerney Rd	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	RA	none	0.22
Reid Rd	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Fair	low	no	RA	none	0.11
Church St 2	Town	Same	Open	Tax Possession	Good	low	no	VR	none	0.13
Unknown 1	Town	Same	Conservation	Tax Possession	Excellent	passive	yes	RA	none	16
Unknown 2	Town	Same	Conservation	Tax Possession	Excellent	passive	yes	RA	none	8
Unknown 3	Town	Same	Conservation	Tax Possession	Excellent	passive	yes	RA	long-term	8

Inventory Matrix Chapter 61 Land
Douglas Open Space and Recreation Property

Public/Non-Profit	Owner	Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Total Acres
Main St 10	Lavangood	Same	Open Land	N/A	Poor	Fair	No	VR	61	27.17
Cliff St	Smith	same	Open Land	N/A	Poor	Poor	No	IND	61+mix	727.44
NW Main 5	Smith	same	Forested land	N/A	Ledges	Trails/open space	no	IND	61+mix	
Webster St 3	Smith	same	Forested land	N/A	ledges	Trails/open space	no	IND	61+mix	
Oak St 1	Mosczynski, Susan	same	Forested land	N/A	Good	Trails/open space	no	RA	61 A+	53.56
Oak St 2	Brouwer	same	Forested land	N/A	excellent	open space	no	RA	61+mix	25.65
Yew St 3	Brown	same	Forested land	N/A	excellent	Trails/open space	no	RA	61+mix	71.31
Church St 3	Chesebrough	same	Farm	N/A	excellent	Playing Fields	possible	RA	61A+mix	242.37
NW Main 6	Podles	same	Farm	N/A	excellent	Playing Fields	no	RA	61A	69.58
Oak St 3	Mosczynski, Leon	same	Farm	N/A	Good	Playing Fields	possible	RA	61A	65.13
Locust St	Werme	same	Orchard	N/A	excellent	none	possible	RA	61+mix	17.80
Bald Hill Rd	Coppola	same	open space	N/A	good	high	possible	RA	61B+mix	107.04
Martin Rd 2	Chizy	same	open space	N/A	good	high	possible	RA	61+mix	21.52
Island + Wallis Cove Rds.	C. Church Estate/ Erskine	same	shore property	N/A	excellent	yes	possible	RA	61 mix	79.80
Yew St 4	Lussier	same	horse farm	N/A	excellent	fields/trails	possible	RA	61A	26.17
Glenn St 2	Kalagher III	same	bridle trails	N/A	good	high	possible	VR	61B	6.15
Oak St 4	Lake Manchaug Camping LLC	same	campground	N/A	excellent	excellent	yes	RA	61B	74.42
NW Main St 7	Schlesman	same	Forested land	N/A	good	Trails/open space	no	RA	61	66.59
Orange St	Chase	same	open + forest	N/A	good	Trails/open space	no	RA	61+	186.12
Yew St 5	Valliere	same	open space	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61B+	82.86
Oak + NW Main Sts.	McCallum	same	open space	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61B	47.82
Cedar St	Minarik	same	Forested land	N/A	good	fair	no	RC-11	61B	5.12
Maple + Yew Sts.	Tetreault	same	open space	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61B+	113.30
Yew St 6	Cove	same	open space	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61B	44.82
Walnut St 2	Blackstone Valley Beagle Club	same	hunting club	N/A	good	good	yes	RA	61B	102.44
Vine St	Lightbown	same	open space	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61A	10.31
SW Main St 2	McCann	same	forested land	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61A	100.71
Wallum Lake Rd + Walnut St	Dudley	same	Forested land	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61A	36.17
Island Rd	Church	same	open space + shore property	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61 mix	17.26
NW Main St 8	Sullivan	same	Forested land	N/A	ledges	Trails/open space	no	RA	61 mix	80.98
West St 4	Gray	same	Forested land	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61 mix	40.60
Wallis St	Heintz	same	Forested land	N/A	good	good	no	RC-11	61 mix	28.32

Inventory Matrix Chapter 61 Land
Douglas Open Space and Recreation Property

Public/Non-Profit	Owner	Manager	Use	Funds Used	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Total Acres
Main St 11	Dudley	same	open space	N/A	good	good	no	RA	61B	9.00
Pinnacle Cir	Abutters	same	open	N/A	good	no	no	RA	conservation restriction	
There are many large, privately-owned parcels with no protection. The Open Space Committee has solicited all ten-acre+ owners to help put their land into a conservation restriction, at best, or Chapter 61, in order to save on taxes while retaining land.										

VI. Community Goals

A. Description of Goal-Setting Process

The Douglas Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has relied heavily on the process used to complete the April 1998 Master Plan for initial goal setting. The Committee also held open meetings where citizen input obtained from the needs survey was analyzed and goals were determined as discussed below.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

In order to work most effectively, the Committee focused the Douglas Open Space and Recreation Plan's action strategies on five principles:

1) Preserve, enhance and develop public appreciation for the Town's open space, wetland and water resources, and wildlife habitats;

2) Increase the Town's capacity to manage its growth in environmentally responsible, fiscally sound ways by blending regulatory, acquisition and policy tools to protect valuable open space and scenic resources;

3) Increase the Town's capacity to influence regional open space policies in order to synchronize external actions that affect Douglas' open space and growth management interests;

4) Provide high-quality, affordable recreational opportunities that meet the needs of Douglas town's people;

5) Create and implement a planned, effective link between Douglas' community economic development, open space and recreation agendas in order to holistically approach the community's environmental and development challenges.

The Town of Douglas Master Plan did an excellent job of summarizing the community's needs and of soliciting citizen input in order to clearly define policies. Furthering the Master Plan's stated policies is one of the objectives of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

C. Master Plan Final Report Recommendations

Completion of the Final Report in April 2007 listed many recommendations that directly concern open space, recreation and historic preservation; listed below with the number referenced to the report.

1) Target 8 areas for open space protection via acquisition, donation, easements or transfer of development rights. (#60)

2) Pursue grants, etc. for additional recreation fields and active recreation sports, ie: Little League. (#61 & 70)

3) Expand recreation activities throughout town, including non-sport. (#73)

4) Improve existing trails and create more along water and railroad easements. (#74)

5) Continue to pursue riverwalk along Mumford River. (#75)

6) Establish a Land Trust. (#80)

7) Consider alternate modes of transportation. (#85)

8) Research, update and maintain cultural, natural and historic resources. (#46)

VII. Analysis of Needs

A. Summary of Community's Resource Protection Needs

The goal and policies of protecting Douglas' Natural and Cultural Resources are described below.

Goal

Preserve and enhance the town's natural resources, historic buildings and sites, unique cultural resources and significant views.

Policies

1. The quality of the town's groundwater, wetlands, streams, and water bodies should be protected.
2. Development policies should be sensitive to preservation goals and concerns and direct growth and development away from environmentally sensitive areas.
3. Historic buildings that contribute to Douglas' character should be preserved and reused.
4. Douglas should support the regional goals associated with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

B. Summary of Community's Open Space and Recreation Needs

The Open Space and Recreation Goal and Policies as described in the Master Plan are outlined below:

Goal: Provide a system of open land and public recreational facilities that allow for the preservation of the natural environment, character of the community, and recreational opportunities.

Policies

1. Facilities for active and passive recreation should be adequate in number, size and quality to serve the recreational needs of Douglas' population.
2. Open space, trails and recreation sites should be linked to each other and to other communities.
3. Recreational access should be provided to water bodies throughout town.

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

A review of Douglas' open space and recreational facilities and their options revealed several management solutions that, when implemented, could make significant contributions to the efficiency of the town's facilities management.

Management Need: Maintenance of open space and recreation facilities.

Management Solution: Create a Parks and Recreation Department.

Rationale: All recreational facilities are currently maintained by volunteer labor. Some monuments/areas are maintained by the Highway Department. The Douglas Town Common is currently maintained by default by the Town's Highway Department. The creation of a Parks and Recreation Department would allow equipment to be purchased efficiently and labor to be consolidated in order that maintenance of areas and facilities could be coordinated and conducted in an efficient and timely manner.

Management Need: Communication between departments involved in open space and recreation facilities.

Management Solution: Hold a semi-annual "summit meeting".

Rationale: In coordination with members of the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Recreation Commission, School Departments, Historical Commission, Common Preservation Committee and , in this case, the Supervisor of the Douglas State Forest in order to discuss, plan, and share open space and recreation needs and priorities.

Management Need: Acquire Open Space and Recreation Properties.

Management Solution: Create an Open Space and Recreation Land Trust.

Rationale: Currently there is no mechanism that allows property to be acquired specifically foropen space and recreation in Douglas. Work in coordination with the Committee created to implement the 1998 Master Plan and create an Open Space and Recreation Land Trust whereby property can be acquired and specifically designated in use as Open Space or Recreation in perpetuity. In January of 2004, by 2/3 vote at a Special Town Meeting, the town voted to buy a 103 acre parcel on NW Main St. with hopes of reclaiming the money by selling off five lots at the street and recouping the expenses. Access to the 93 acres of backland will be retained by the town and reserved for future use. This action proves that the town is in favor of retaining open space.

Management Need: Protect open space and recreational property in perpetuity

Management Solution: Work with the Committee created above in order to change property designations and/or add covenants to secure property uses.

Rationale: There is currently no mechanism to ensure that municipal property is designated in its use as open space or recreational in perpetuity. The additions or covenants or other mechanisms could ensure that such stipulations be assured.

Management Need: Require developers to include open space and recreational property in their sub-division plans.

Management Solution: Work with the Bylaw Review Committee created to review and change zoning by-laws that will require developers to set aside and/or develop open space and recreational facilities according to density and specific aspects of the sub-division.

Rational: This requirement will enable developers to shoulder some of the burden of protecting open space and of supplying recreational facilities to residents. While it enhances the character of the town it also makes the developer's property potentially more appealing to prospective customers.

VIII. Goals and Objectives

While the data collected through the Committee's 1998 Suvey to Douglas households (See Appendix A) indicated the public's desire for more hiking/walking and biking trails, the Committee felt that part of this need was two-fold. First, many respondents had not lived in Douglas for a very long time. In fact, nearly 55% of respondents indicated that they had lived in town between one and five years. The Committee felt that it was entirely reasonable to assume that many residents are not aware of the extent of trails for both biking and walking that are available in the Douglas State Forest (Mid-State Trail among others) and along the Southern New England Trunk Trail.

Secondly, the Committee determined that much of the need indicated may have been coming from respondents who live "downtown" in the central business district who may have difficulty or lack the inclination to access trails in the western part of the town. As a result, the Committee chose to focus trail development of linkages within a short distance of the town's "downtown" area. Additional discussion also revolved around the use of signage in order to indicate a Scenic Douglas Bike Path with a map that would indicate significant cultural, historic and natural sites as well as crossroads where bikers could access other paths and trails.

The third priority from respondents and one of the policies outlined in the Douglas Master Plan became the Committee's first priority. As previously indicated, the town of Douglas is fortunate to have an abundance of water resources. Residents, however, do not have any public access to the water. Wallum Lake is a state run beach charging fees. Summer attendance is often high and local residents have no special privileges. The Breezy Acres Water Slides on Whitins Reservoir is a private, fee collecting facility. Other ponds are unswimable, unsupervised and/or only privately accessible. Before it is prohibitive to do so, the Committee chose to explore the option of securing shore-front property to establish a public beach.

It should also be noted that the over 6000 contiguous acres of State Forest in Douglas also lessens the town's priority to focus on trails and open or undeveloped space that is forested. In this case the priority shift is predominately towards recreational facilities and shore and water way preservation.

In addition, in open meetings held over several months the discussion for determining the town's open space and recreation property goals for the 1998 Master Plan centered on the following criteria:

- A parcel's environmental sensitivity
- Its location within Douglas
- Its town-wide vs. special group benefit
- Its cost and availability
- Its impact on the fiscal health of the town

In May 2006, a slightly altered survey was sent out to all households in Douglas With only 66 responses, 2.25% of the households, the indication was that bicycling, walking and hiking were the most frequent activities participated in. Organized recreational activities, such as playground use, baseball and basketball as well as independent activities like jogging and swimming, come in next as the most frequent activities engaged in. Finally soccer, horseback riding, canoeing, picnicking and skateboarding come in as slightly less popular. Least frequently, but still engaged in, are cross-country skiing, ice skating, tennis and volleyball. Of these activities the least available presently in Douglas are skateboarding, tennis and volleyball, lacking appropriate facilities, while the more popular swimming and canoeing need public water access. Bicyclists, joggers, hikers and horseback riders do have trails and roadways available to them, but connecting trails and tracks would improve this, while the present playground, courts and fields are becoming limited with the increasing population. The state forest and conservation areas, albeit undeveloped, offer cross-country skiing and picnicking areas although the former, as previously mentioned, has a fee and is incredibly crowded in the summer.

As noted in the Inventory Matrix on Public Land there are three school properties, one of which is on Gleason Ct., one is between Gleason Ct. and Davis St. and the third is on Davis St.. They are very close to each other and share playing fields. The elementary school has one field used for soccer, field hockey and softball. The middle school has only one field as well, which is in bad shape and subsequently used only for practice. There is a proposed track at this location as well as a soon to be opened skatepark in one of the underused parking lots. The high school is two years old and has only one baseball/soccer field and one softball field. Originally there were to be tennis courts and a track at the new school but they ran out of money. There is a small playground behind the Municipal Center for the kindergardeners who are on the second floor of this building.

IX. Five Year Action Plan

During the next five years the Douglas Open Space and Recreation Committee recommends the following course of action in order to promote open space and recreation in the town of Douglas. The existing recreation areas will be listed below with their desired features, followed by potentially hopeful future sites to target, acquire and develop for open space and recreation.

A. Recreation Fields:

Martin Rd. Playground: Grade and put in two small soccer fields and one main soccer field , requiring a new well and an exit onto Franklin St.

Soldiers Field, Mechanic St.: Updating necessary items and open up to abutting river

High School, Davis St.: Track and tennis courts

VFW rear, Main St.: Make more recreation fields out of town owned and depleted gravel pit area.

B. Beaches and Water Access:

Badluck Pond: Explore privately owned parcels for motorless boat access

Whitins Reservoir: Explore privately owned large parcels along Southwest shore

Mumford River: Explore access along B St., Cottage St. and along Soldiers Field parking area for a riverwalk.

Wallum Lake: Explore ownership along undeveloped areas or see if Association of Birch Hill Rd. residents would share their beach – if only on weekdays.

C. Biking / Hiking / Horseback Riding

Main St.: The Mobile Oil Pipeline runs diagonally through town and should be explored as a possible useable trail.

Grand Trunk Line: Explore easements on areas not owned by state.

Greenway to connect conservation areas and new and existing trails in town and beyond.

Town owned land on NW Main St. could be developed for recreation purposes

B. Other Recreation:

Tot lots, tennis courts, ice skating, track, picnic areas , skate park and Swimming. With flexible zoning practices acceptable in Douglas, perhaps tot lots and playgrounds could be included within a development, provided by the developer.

The schools should provide the track that was part of the plan for the new high school as well as tennis courts.

Ice skating could be a possibility on the Hunts Ponds if gained access

Picnic areas could be developed along the Mumford Riverwalk or at various conservation areas.

X. Open Space Acquisition

The Douglas Master Plan has identified several significant properties that should be pursued for open space preservation. This Committee agrees that the tools of direct acquisition, donation, easements or transfers of development rights should be further explored in relation to these areas. (Map 9)

A. Cedar Swamp Conservation Area:

At almost 1400 acres in size, this is one of the more extensive wetlands in town and is characterized by a significant stand of White Cedar. The area includes the swamp and all of the upland area between it, the State Forest, Badluck Pond and Webster Road (Route 16). This area could potentially be linked to the existing trail network in the Douglas State Forest. In 2004 part of this property was purchased by the state and an unknown owner portion will hopefully become the town's property after some legal processes.

B. Chase Pond Conservation Area:

The land between South Street and the pond should be protected. If possible, land should be acquired along the easterly frontage of South Street so that the South Douglas Cemetery could be included as part of the conservation area.

C. Bating Brook Conservation Area:

The 1991 Plan proposed preservation of a strip of land extending north from Chase Pond about 30 to 50 feet on either side of Bating Brook to Bating Pond. This area could be used for passive recreation and could serve as a greenway.

D. Centerville Brook Conservation Area:

This area, located off Main Street in the Old Douglas Center, has been identified by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's Wastewater Management Program as one of the Town's major groundwater supply recharge areas and should be protected.

E. Riedell Brook Conservation Area:

This area includes a large swamp on either side of NW Main St. is another important groundwater recharge area. The 1991 Plan proposed that the Town purchase the swamp off of NW Main St. and purchase or obtain an easement over a strip of land on either side of the brook to its point of intersection with the Mumford River and limit the amount of development in this section of town in order to provide protection of the Town's water supply.

F. Castle Caves Conservation Area:

Located near the Douglas/Sutton town line in the northern part of town. This area contains unique visual characteristics and would be valuable for hiking, wildlife observation and other passive recreation.

G. Gilboa Conservation Area:

Located in the lowland flood plain of the Mumford River off Gilboa St. This area could be used for canoeing, fishing and wildlife observation.

H. Additional Conservation Targets:

Agricultural land remaining (mainly horse and mixed animal farms), viewsheds and large parcels

XI. Methods:

Research Sites and show owner the value of property to the town

Get residents interested in participating in goals and volunteering

Follow through with Heritage Landscape Inventory Program recommendations and target areas to preserve:

Hunts Ponds and Old Mill Sites
Wallis Sawmill
Rawson Farm Site
South Douglas Cemetery and Pine Grove Cemetery
Mumford Riverfront
SNETT and Stone Arch Bridge at Wallum Lake Rd.

When these sites are preserved, we will be experienced in the technique and follow through with the many more sites brought up at the November 2006 HLIP meeting.

Cemeteries will need to be protected via documentation, ownership determination, with repair and maintenance schedules set up.

When the town reaches 10,000 population, a Parks and Recreation Department will become necessary, and ease the town Highway Department's maintenance of some open space and conservation properties.

Grants that become available to towns with Open Space Plans can be used to help acquire or develop Open Space and Recreation areas; and when it is a matching grant, get town approval for funds.

Market and hopefully get the Community Preservation Act approved in town to make state money available for open space, recreation and affordable housing.

XII. Time Frame for Douglas Open Space Acquisition and Recreation Facility Development

2007

Complete HLIP , culminating in November, with a report identifying top priority areas to preserve and set up time table to proceed, after meeting with interested people from 11/2007 meeting.

Determine Hunts Pond history with locations and meet with owner to see if we can acquire land, put into a CR or gain access with the help of Massachusetts Historical Commission and Douglas Historical Commission

Determine Mill locations along B St. and meet with owner to see if we can acquire land, put into CR or gain access, with help of MHC and DHC.

Document cemeteries, research ownership and get protection lined up for them, with help of MHC and Douglas Cemetery Commission and volunteers.

Begin Community Preservation Act push for Spring 2008 elections including safety issues on Main St.

Mumford Riverwalk plans pushed in town

Bating Brook, Chase Pond/South St. and Gilboa Flats areas researched

Research Guilford of Maine's 25 acres of open space and pond that is up for sale; for commuter parking and access to pond.

Centerville Brook and Riedell Brook; town aquifer research.

Yearly or semi-yearly summit of all committees concerned with open space and recreation.

2008

Rawson Farm: Contact owner and put in as CR, contact schools with archaeology departments to use as a research project.

Wallis Sawmill: Track any sale of and push for incentive to remain as a historical sawmill.

Contact large parcel owners again about open space and conservation possibilities.

Develop incentives with developers to put in tot lots / playgrounds in developments.

Develop bike routes.

Research development of Greenway along Mumford River connecting the northern portion of Douglas State Forest to the southern end of the Sutton State Forest and continuing east to the Blackstone River Valley.

Research access to gas pipelines.

Trail and picnic area development in conservation areas and along the SNETT; develop volunteer force to continue this over time.

2009

Recreation areas; Get them up to potential and develop more soccer fields behind the VFW if necessary. Develop access to river at Soldiers Field as well as update the fields there.

Research Castle Caves property for protection.

Research trails by schools and Wellman Brook area.

Finish up hiking and walking loops throughout town with historical stops with placards, benches and maps.

Complete Historical District designation.

Organize farm owners into an Agricultural Commission (with other towns too?) to protect and receive grants to continue farming

Implement Master Plan, Open Space Plan, HLIP, etc. and set up an Agricultural Commission.

Research land opportunities for water access:

Badluck Pond for canoeing
Whitins Reservoir and Wallum Lake for swimming / beach

Research owner unknowns

Target CPA goals of affordable housing

Target historical sites for CR's, ie: Bosma Barn, Quartz Garage, etc.

2010

Research Grand Trunk lines and see if can gain access to certain areas like the Big Fill, etc.

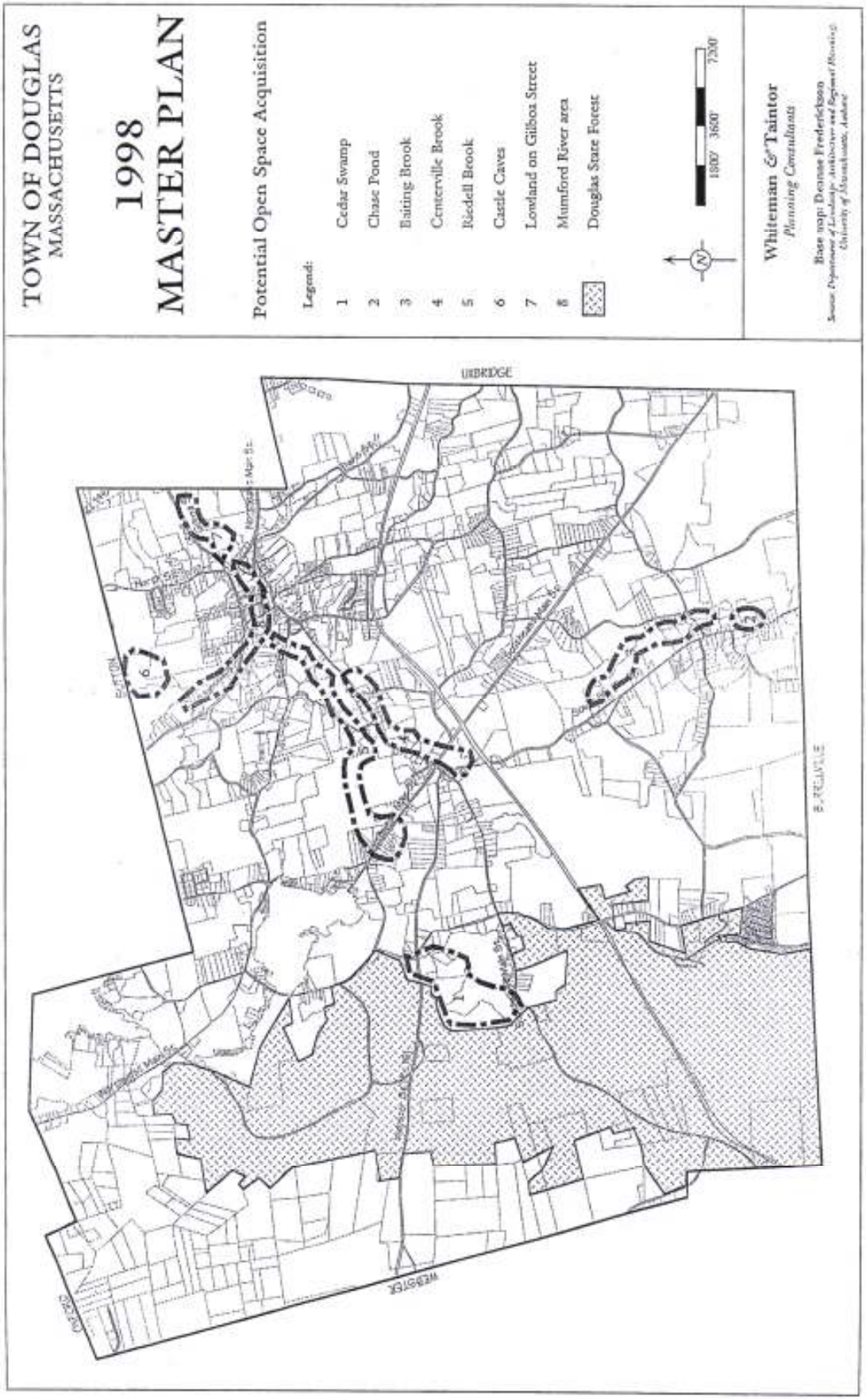
Establish Parks and Recreation Department

Review list generated by HLIP in 11/2006 and target

2011

Grants and new Open Space Plan

Buy up open parcels


TOWN OF DOUGLAS
MASSACHUSETTS
1998
MASTER PLAN
Potential Open Space Acquisition
Legend:
1 Cedar Swamp
2 Chase Pond
3 Baiting Brook
4 Centerville Brook
5 Riedell Brook
6 Castle Caves
7 Lowland on Gilbox Street
8 Mumford River area
Douglas State Forest
1800' 3600' 7200'
Whiteman & Taintor
Planning Consultants
Base map: Dennis Frederickson
UXBRIDGE
WEBSTER
BELLINGHAM
DUDLEY

Map 9

Bibliography

G.O.A.L.S. Guidelines for Operations and Land Stewardship,
November 1992 Douglas State Forest
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management

Douglas Master Plan April 1998
Town of Douglas
Douglas Planning Board
Consulting Assistance by: Whiteman & Taintor

Town of Douglas Open Space and Recreation Plan 1988-1993 (uncompleted)
Douglas Conservation Commission preliminary outline August 1988

Our Rural Heritage and the Future:
A Master Plan For The Town of Douglas, Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, BSLA Studio IV, Landscape Planning Studio Spring 1994

Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment
October 1997
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission
Goody, Clancy & Associates
Carol R. Johnson Associates

Douglas Open Space & Recreation Plan
Appendix A

TO:	**Douglas Residents**
FROM:	**Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee**
DATE:	**April 1998**
RE:	**Open Space and Recreation Survey**

The Douglas Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee is currently preparing an **Open Space & Recreation Plan** for the town. This plan will be used to acquire grants for the purchase of open space and recreational property as well as to improve existing facilities. We would appreciate your time and consideration in answering the following questions. *Please **return this survey by May 15** by folding, sealing and stamping this self-addressed sheet or by dropping this survey at the Municiple Center when you vote on Tuesday, May 12th.*

1. In the past year, how often have members of your household participated in these recreational activities in Douglas? [N=Never; S=Sometimes (1-3 times); F=Frequently, (4 or more times)].

Tennis _____ Bicycling _____ Hunting _____ Horseback Riding _____ Boating/Canoeing _____ X-Country Skiing _____
Ice Skating _____ Snowmobiling _____ Picnicking _____ Fishing _____ Jogging _____ Walking/Hiking _____
Playground _____ Playing Fields _____ Swimming _____ Other _____

2. What recreation/conservation areas does your family use? _____

3. What is the Town's most valuable resource? _____

4. Do you think the Town's recreational and conservation areas are adequate? Yes ❑ No ❑

5. Which of the following activities/services should be increased or introduced in Douglas? Check all that apply.

Tennis Courts ❑ Outdoor Swimming Facilities ❑ Indoor Swimming Facilities ❑ Conservation Areas ❑ Picnic Areas ❑
Bike Paths or Lanes ❑ Playgrounds ❑ Ballfields ❑ Boat Launches ❑ Hunting ❑ Bridle Paths ❑ X-Country Skiing Trails ❑
Ice Skating ❑ Snowmobile Trails ❑ Other _____

Town-sponsored recreational facilities for children ❑ teenagers ❑ adults ❑ senior citizens ❑ persons with disabilities ❑

6. Should Douglas acquire land for conservation/open space ❑ and/or recreational use ❑?
Should Douglas spend local tax dollars to purchase land for public use? Yes ❑ No❑
Should Douglas use eminent domain, if necessary, to acquire land for public use? Yes ❑ No❑

7. Should Douglas-owned recreational facilities be available to residents free of charge ❑ or on a "user fee" basis ❑?
Should they be available to non-residents free of charge ❑ or on a "user fee" basis ❑?

8. Do you know of any property that Douglas should consider acquiring for open space and/or recreational purposes?
Please describe _____

Please supply the following background information by checking the appropriate space:

9. Do you own ❑ or rent ❑ your residence?
10. How many years have you lived in Douglas? _____ How many people are in your household? _____
11. Is the combined income of your household greater than or less than the amount shown below?

1 person	$23,500	_____ Less	_____ Greater
2 persons	$26,900	_____ Less	_____ Greater
3 persons	$30,250	_____ Less	_____ Greater
4 persons	$33,600	_____ Less	_____ Greater
5 persons	$36,300	_____ Less	_____ Greater
6 persons	$38,950	_____ Less	_____ Greater

Please include any thoughts or suggestions on an additional piece of paper and include them with this survey.

TO: **Douglas Residents**
FROM: **Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee**
DATE: May **2006**
RE: **Open Space and Recreation Survey**

The Douglas Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee is updating the town's **Open Space & Recreation Plan** to be filed with the state. This plan will be used to acquire grants for the purchase of open space and recreational property as well as to expand and improve existing facilities. We would appreciate your time and consideration in answering the following questions. *Please **return this survey by May 20, 2006** by folding, sealing and stamping this self-addressed sheet or by dropping this survey at the Municipal Center when you vote on May 9, 2006.*

1. In the past year, how often have members of your household participated in these ***outdoor*** recreational activities? [N=Never; S=Sometimes (1-3 times); F=Frequently, (4 or more times)].

Bicycling _____ Horseback Riding _____ Kayaking/Canoeing _____ X-Country Skiing _____ Ice Skating _____
Picnicking _____ Jogging/Track _____ Walking/Hiking _____ Skate Park _____ Tennis _____ Euro Course _____
Playground _____ Soccer _____ Baseball Field Activity _____ Basketball _____ Swimming _____ Volleyball _____
Other _____

2. What recreation/conservation areas does your family use? Martin Road _____
Yew Street _____ Manchaug Road _____ VFW Soccer Fields _____
Wallum Lake Beach _____ Douglas State Forest _____

3. Which of the following activities/services should be introduced or increased in Douglas? Check all that apply.
Tennis Courts ❑ Outdoor Swimming Facilities ❑ Conservation Areas ❑ Picnic Areas ❑ Bike Paths or Lanes ❑ Playgrounds ❑ Ballfields ❑ Canoe/Kayak Access ❑ Bridle Paths ❑ Hiking/X-Country Skiing Trails ❑ Ice Skating ❑ Skate Park ❑
Other_____

4. Would you like to see the town sponsor recreational facilities for children ❑ teenagers ❑ adults ❑ senior citizens ❑ persons with disabilities ❑

5. The Community Preservation Act (CPA) allows communities to generate funds through a increase in property tax (1–3%) *with exemptions*. These funds are then matched by the state and can be used for open space acquisition, historic preservation and affordable housing.

For instance, Douglas could be eligible for the state matching funds by supporting the CPA through a 1% increase with exemptions for assessed property values of $150,000 and below and for senior citizens over age 70.

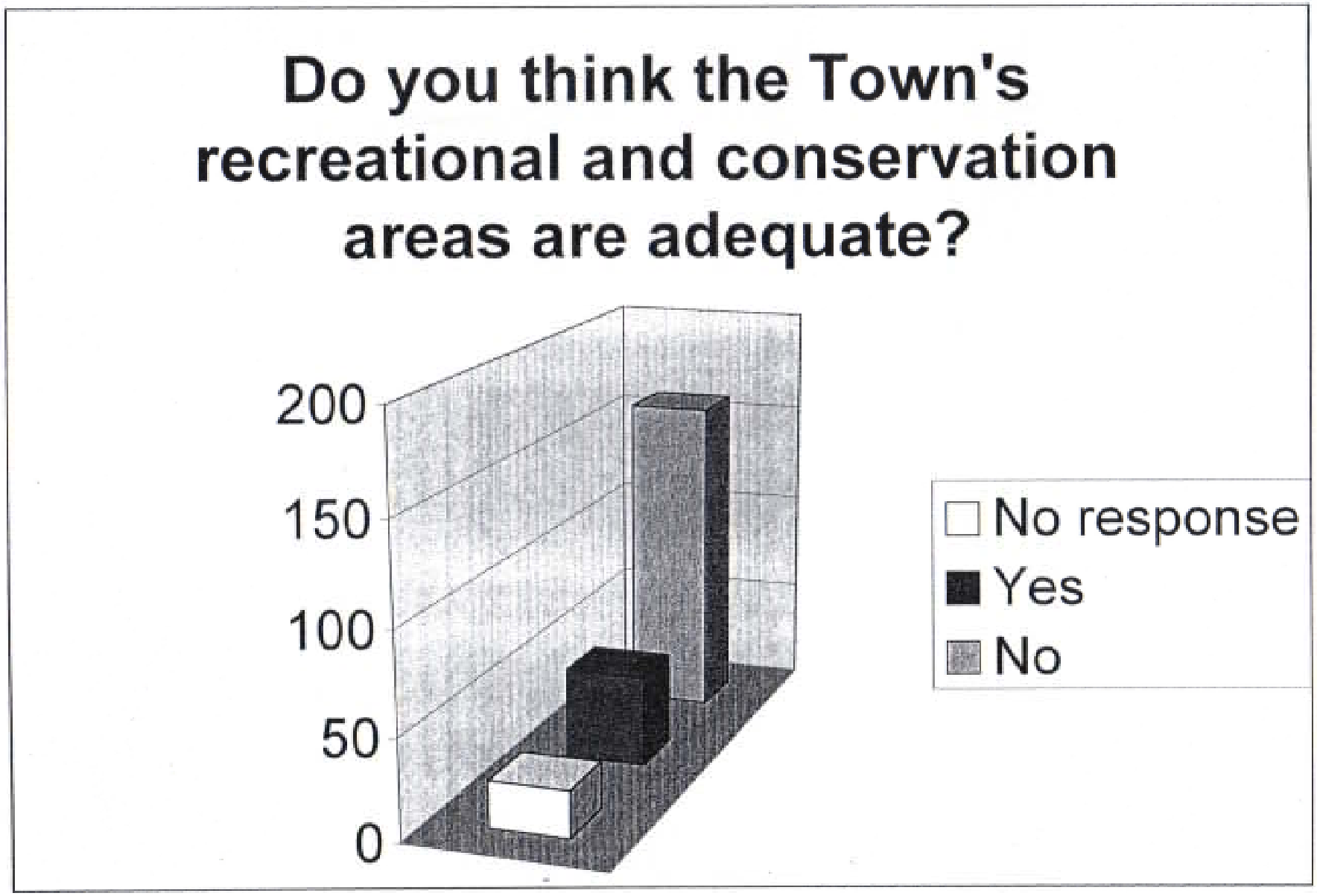
For example, under the CPA at 1%, a property assessed at $300,000 will contribute $300 each year (less than a dollar a day). Their neighbor, with a property assessed at $145,000 is exempt from the increase with the CPA exemption of $150,000 and below. Their uncle on the other side of town who is 75 years old is also exempt from the increase because under the CPA he is over 70 years of age.

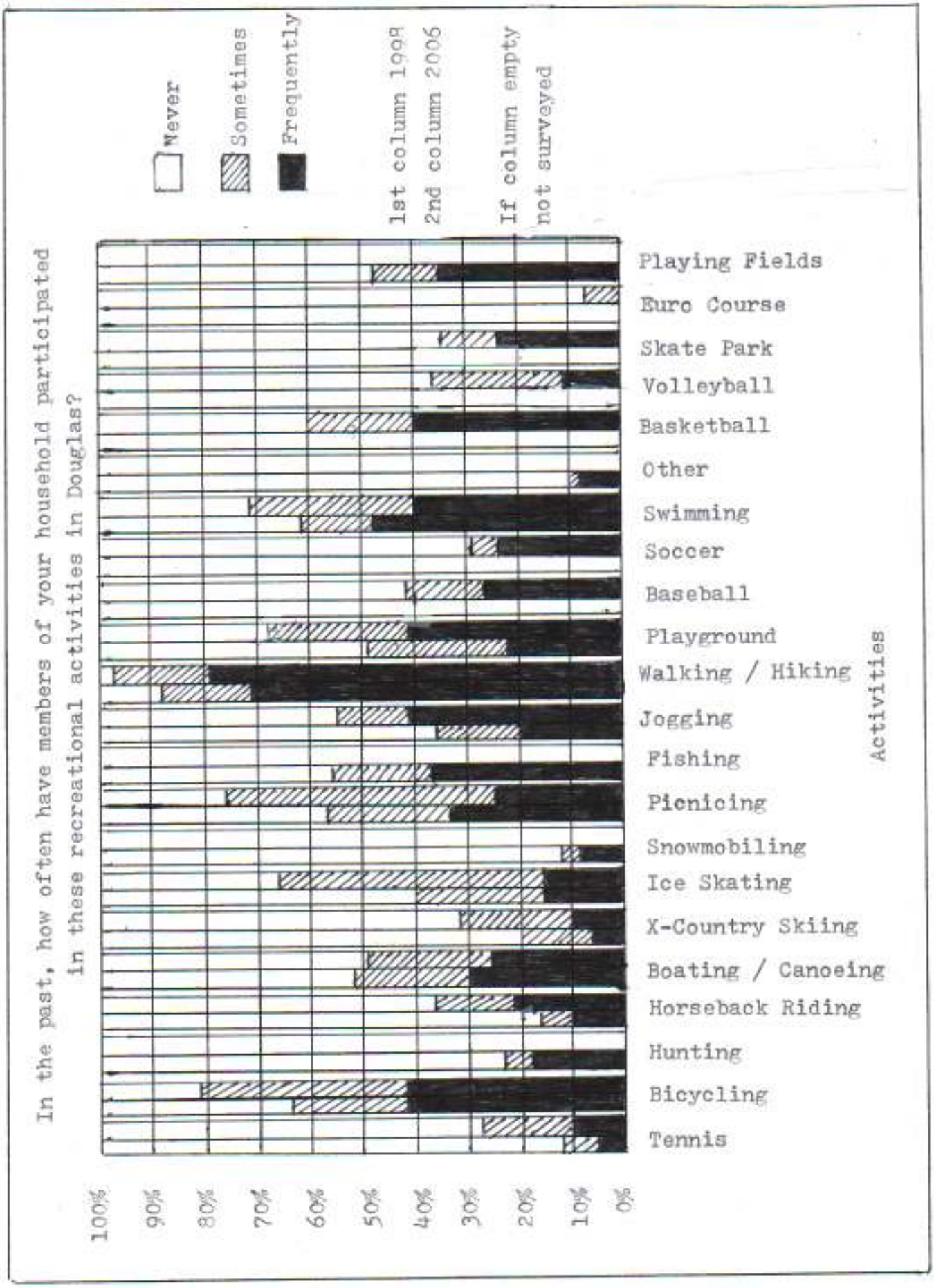
Would you support a Town Meeting question to support the CPA through a 1% increase with exemptions for assessed property values of $150,000 below and for senior citizens over age 70?
Yes _____ No _____

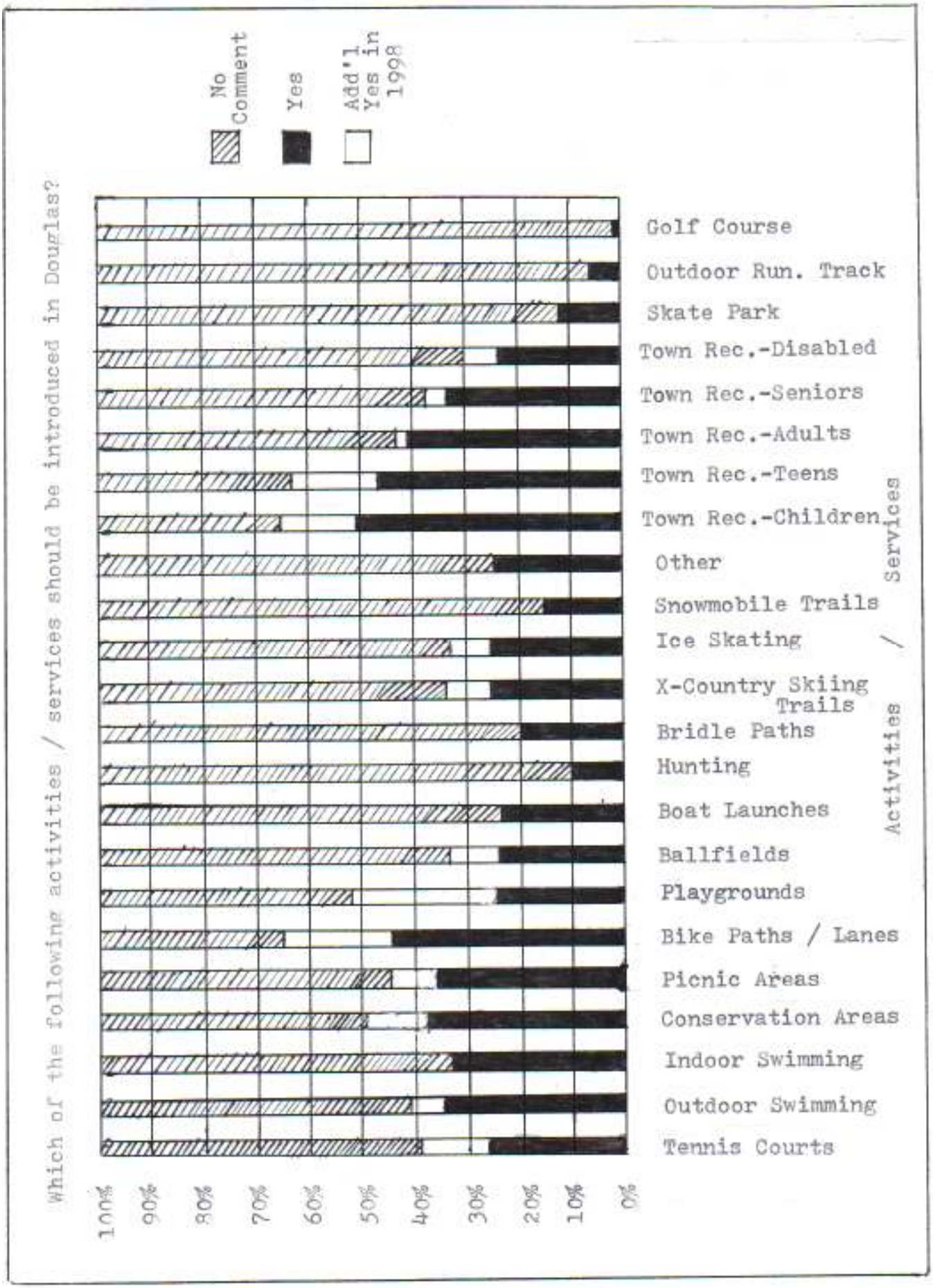
6. Should Douglas-owned recreational facilities be available to residents free of charge ❑ or on a "user fee" basis ❑?

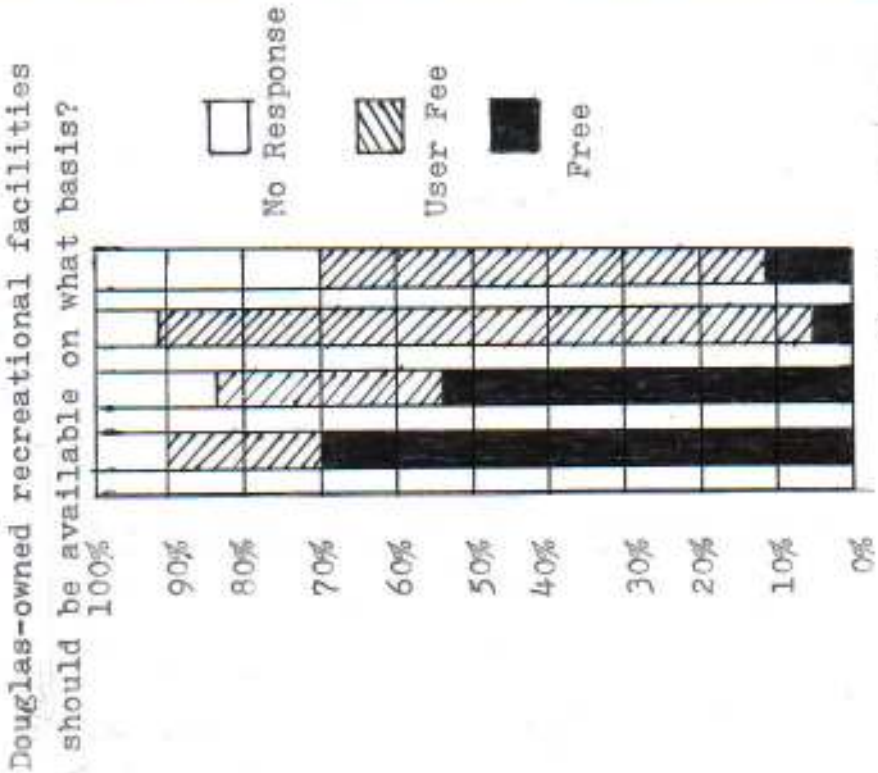
Should they be available to non-residents free of charge ❑ or on a "user fee" basis ❑?

7. Do you know of any property that Douglas should consider acquiring for open space and/or recreational purposes? Please describe:

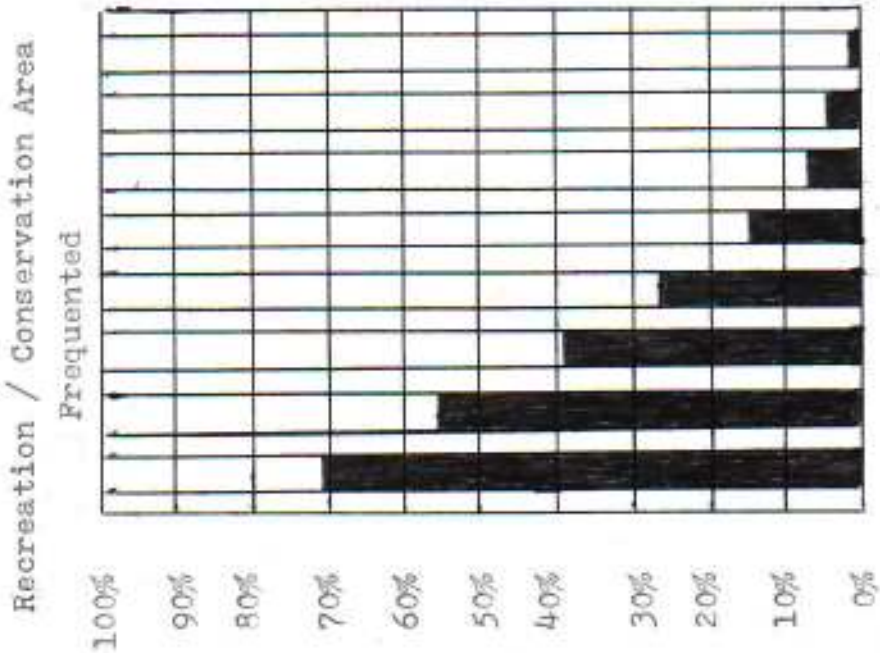

Do you think the Town's recreational and conservation areas are adequate?
200
150
100
50
0
No response
Yes
No

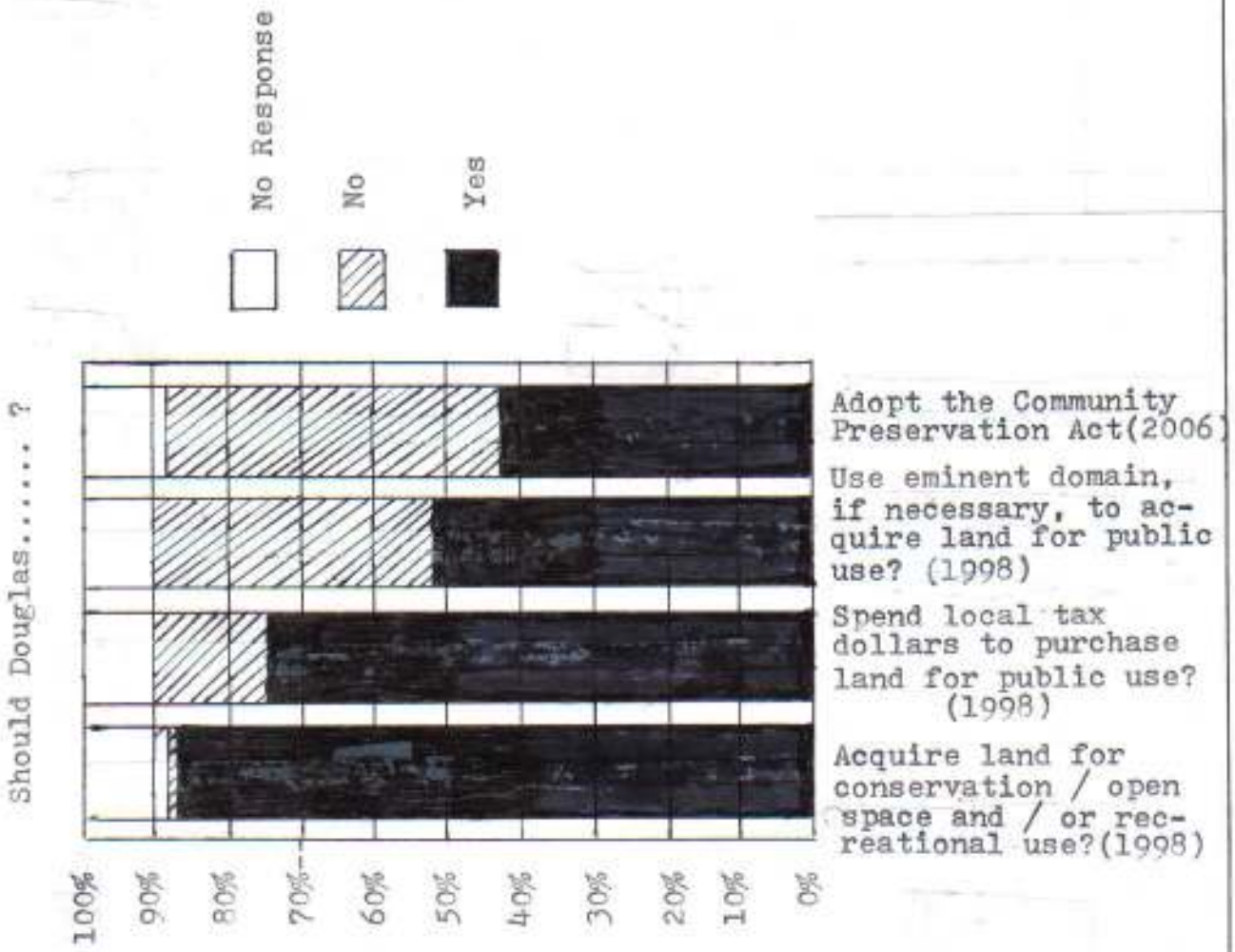

In the past, how often have members of your household participated in these recreational activities in Douglas?
Never
Sometimes
Frequently
1st column 1999
2nd column 2006
If column empty not surveyed
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Playing Fields
Euro Course
Skate Park
Volleyball
Basketball
Other
Swimming
Soccer
Baseball
Playground
Walking / Hiking
Jogging
Fishing
Picnicing
Snowmobiling
Ice Skating
X-Country Skiing
Boating / Canoeing
Horseback Riding
Hunting
Bicycling
Tennis
Activities

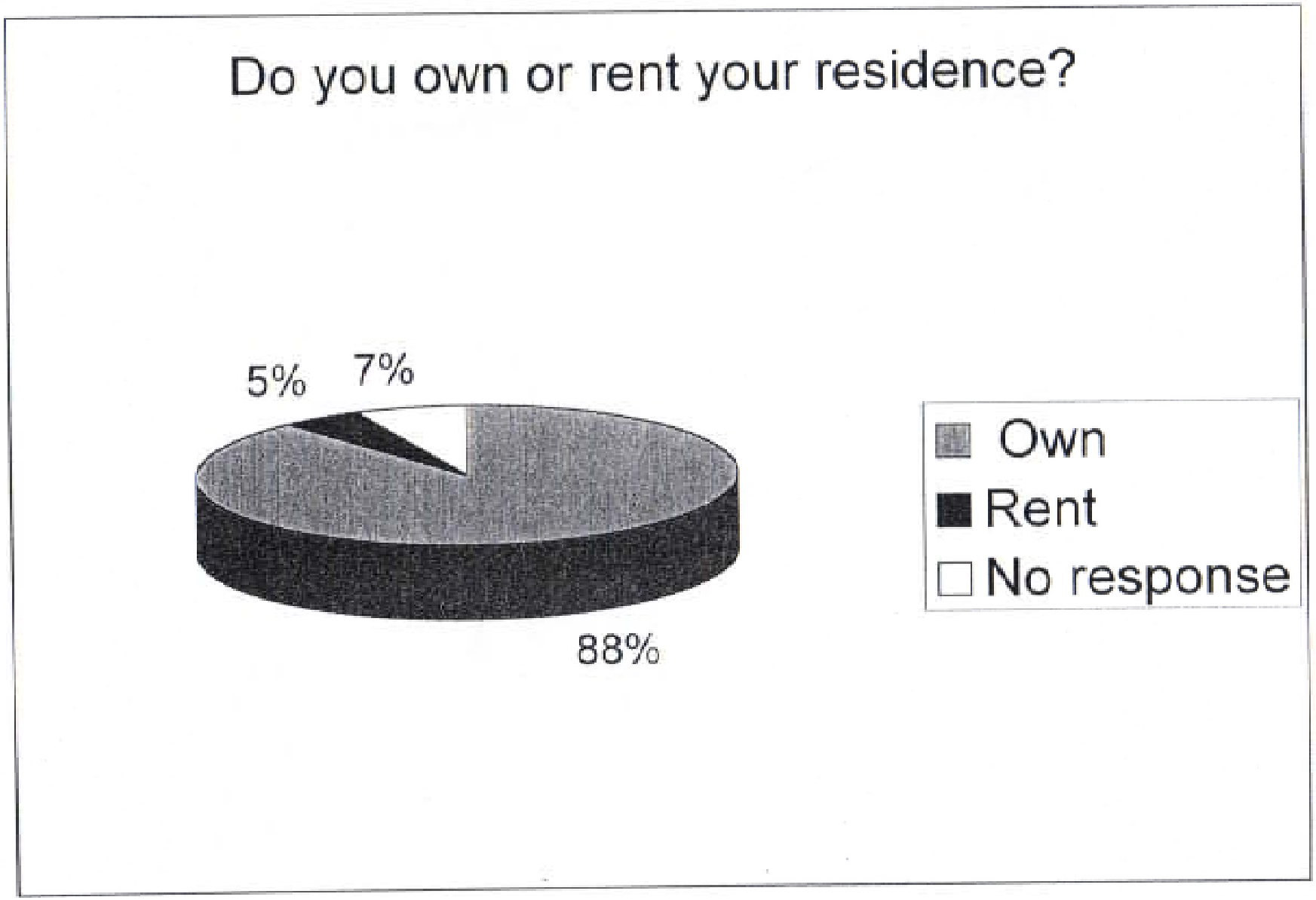

Which of the following activities / services should be introduced in Douglas?
No Comment
Yes
Add'l Yes in 1998
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Golf Course
Outdoor Run. Track
Skate Park
Town Rec.-Disabled
Town Rec.-Seniors
Town Rec.-Adults
Town Rec.-Teens
Town Rec.-Children
Other
Snowmobile Trails
Ice Skating
X-Country Skiing Trails
Bridle Paths
Hunting
Boat Launches
Ballfields
Playgrounds
Bike Paths / Lanes
Picnic Areas
Conservation Areas
Indoor Swimming
Outdoor Swimming
Tennis Courts
Services / Activities



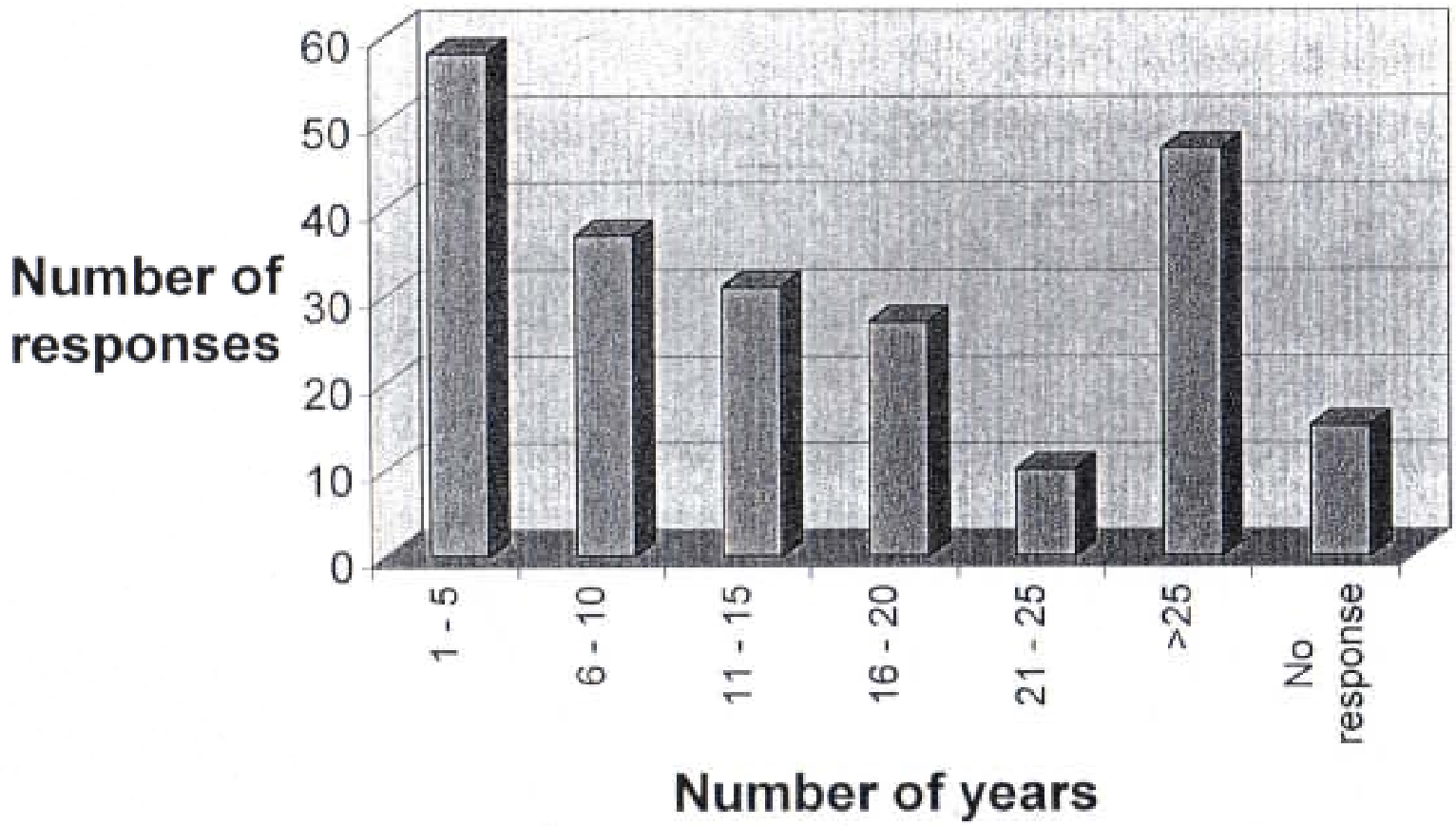
*Mistakenly omitted from questionaire

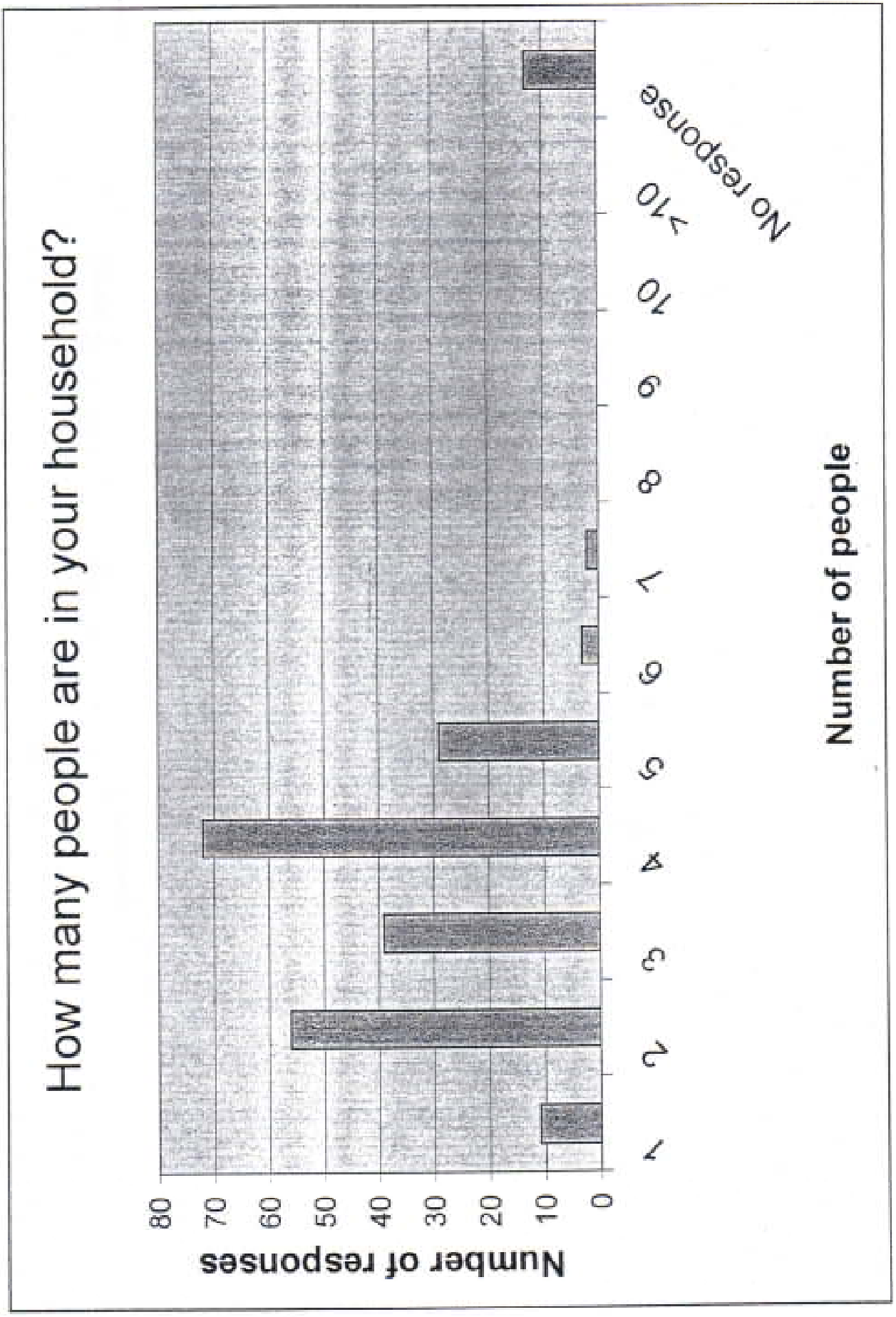


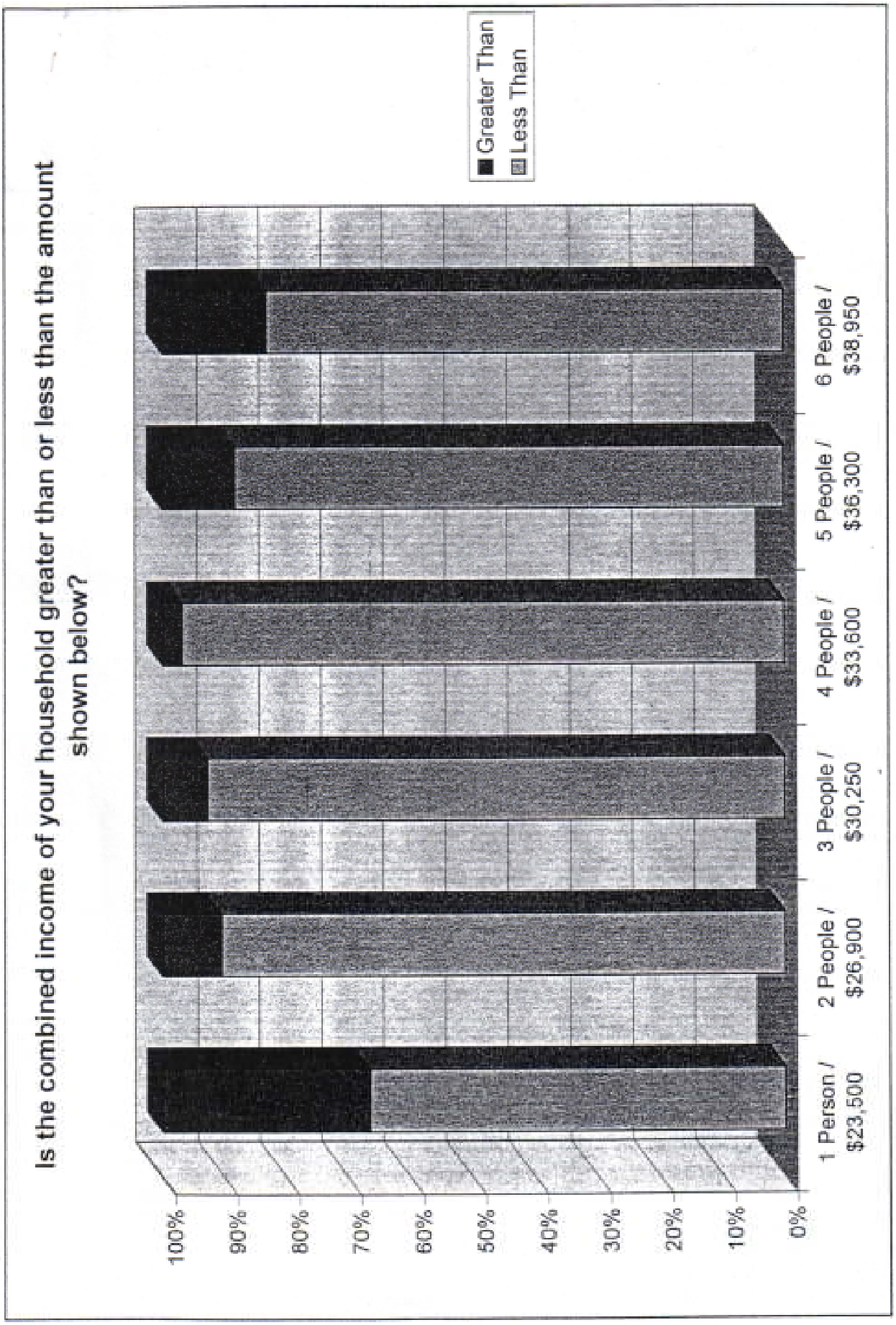

No Response
No
Yes
Should Douglas..... ?
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Adopt the Community Preservation Act(2006)
Use eminent domain, if necessary, to acquire land for public use? (1998)
Spend local tax dollars to purchase land for public use? (1998)
Acquire land for conservation / open space and / or recreational use?(1998)


Do you own or rent your residence?
5%
7%
88%
Own
Rent
No response

How many years have you lived in Douglas?




How many people are in your household?
Number of responses
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
>10
No response
Number of people


Is the combined income of your household greater than or less than the amount shown below?
Greater Than
Less Than
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
1 Person / $23,500
2 People / $26,900
3 People / $30,250
4 People / $33,600
5 People / $36,300
6 People / $38,950