

# TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



August 6, 2018

Prepared by: Burrillville Planning Department  
and Horsley Witten Group, Inc.

Prepared for: Burrillville Town Council  
and  
Burrillville Planning Board

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# Chapter I - Introduction & General Demographics



### **I.1 Purpose**

In 1988 the State of Rhode Island enacted the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requiring the 39 communities in the State to prepare and adopt a local Comprehensive Plan. The Act, RIGL chapter 45-22.2, was amended in 2011 and requires that all municipal comprehensive plans be brought into conformance with the new Act by June 1, 2016. This plan supersedes all previous Comprehensive Plans for the Town of Burrillville. The intent of the Act stems from the findings of the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

The Comprehensive Plan for Burrillville is a document with accompanying graphics and maps which addresses historical trends, and current and future conditions in each of the following elements:

- Natural Resources & Open Space (Including Natural Hazards & Climate Trends)
- Community Services & Facilities
- Schools
- Housing
- Circulation
- Economic development
- Recreation
- Energy
- Land Use
- Implementation

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<sup>1</sup><http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE45/45-22.2/45-22.2-3.HTM>

The Plan presents goals, policies, and recommendations for each element, as well as a program for the implementation of these recommendations within a 5-20 year time frame.

The Comprehensive Plan is a broad-based policy document which presents the Town's intentions for its future development as defined by the citizens of the community and adopted by the Planning Board and Town Council.

### **I.2 Growth Issues**

Burrillville's administration hosted a unique set of community planning charrettes in the fall of 2014 that resulted in a series of conversations around the Town's natural resources, delicate urban/rural balance, economics, recreational resources and, cultural assets such as:

- The village atmosphere and identity, including the mills and mill housing around which each village grew.
- The rustic landscape, including forested areas, open fields, farmland, rural roads, stone walls, and other similar landscape features.
- The lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams found throughout the Town.

## Chapter I: Introduction & General Demographics

Preservation of this rural character has been a major theme in past Comprehensive Plans as a result of surveys by the general public. It continues to be a major theme as evidenced by the recent charrette.

### **2014 Charrette Highlights**

The charrette process, run by the consulting firm New Commons, included two intensive, professionally facilitated meetings with various town staff, boards, commissions, and residents. Participants conceptualized and had meaningful conversations about a variety of subjects, such as how to balance density in the villages while maintaining open space. Other subjects included: education, public safety, economics, art and culture, etc.

**Summary** - The most highly valued aspects of the Town are its small town character, open space and quiet, peaceful nature. Another area of consensus included the continuation of redeveloping Town centers, making them more accessible for more people which in turn should incentivize more business growth. According to the final report from the Charrette: “Burrillville has accomplished more in developing the Town than it credits itself for. The accomplishments are in both the use of an innovative and agile process for development and the actual development. Burrillville is doing development right by concentrating it in the villages and industrial parks and not everywhere. In

New Common’s view, in terms of using development innovation and achieving results, it is one of the top three non-urban municipalities of the 39 cities and towns in RI.”

The report also noted that attracting and keeping young people in Burrillville is not about competing with the cities. Rather, it is about featuring the amenities of village and rural life some young people long for, such as bike and walking trails, and public spaces to gather for concerts, picnics, etc. Burrillville should expand these opportunities when they align with town goals and standards.

The following design principles were strongly agreed upon by participants:

- Ensure that quality of life and community is central to the Town, knowing citizens experience both in their own ways. Keep listening for what the public defines as its expected quality of life.
- Keep sharpening zoning that concentrates density and height in the villages.
- Keep sharpening zoning that preserves and deepens the (non-village) rural character of the Town.
- Grow the economy in 21<sup>st</sup> century ways in the villages and industrial parks through innovation. Continue to reduce the number of hoops in

the development process and growth of business.

The following strategic goals were highlighted:

- Diversify the tax base aligned with town land use, zoning, and growth policies.
- Manage the cost of living for residents and seniors.
- Improve public health and safety.
- Develop tourism and recreation while not over-taxing the rural assets.
- Continue to improve government accountability, transparency, and responsiveness.
- Support microenterprise opportunities for families through flexible uses of properties and homes.

Six focal areas should be integrated into the Town's strategic planning:

- Public safety
- System-wide education, especially vocational education
- Young people
- Young families
- The elderly
- Branding and marketing campaign for the town, both internally and externally

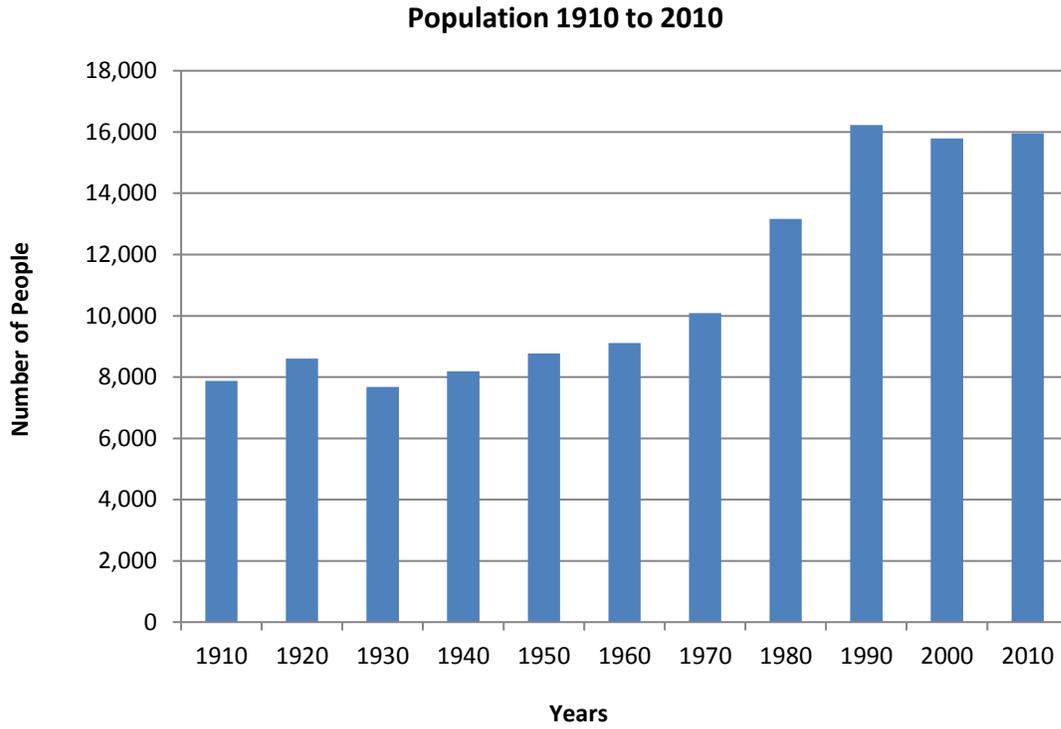
### **I.3 Demographic Changes**

The demographics of the community include population and social characteristics which describe the makeup of the residents of Burrillville, such as age, gender, income, occupation, and other factors. The composition of the existing and projected population of the Town is important to understanding how the Town should develop in future years.

**Historic and Current Population** - See Figure I-1 to understand how the Town's population has trended over the years since 1910. As of 2016, the estimated population of the Town was 16,214.

**Population Projections** - Population projections were prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning in 2013. Table I-1 shows these projections. Note that current

U.S. Census estimates already show a greater population than these projections, and the actual number is likely to be well over 16,000. The full Census in 2020 will result in very important, current population data for Burrillville.



Source: U.S. Census

**Figure I-1. Burrillville Population Trends**

**Table I-1. Burrillville Population Projections, 2020-2040**

20-Year Population Projection				
2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
15,720	15,822	15,865	15,821	15,676

Source: RI Dept of Administration, Division of Planning

## Chapter I: Introduction & General Demographics

**Age of Population** – According to 2015 Census estimates, people ages 45-54 years make up the town’s largest population group – almost 20% of the Town’s total

population. Otherwise, the Town’s population is relatively similar with the state as a whole.

**Table I-2. Burrillville Population by Age, 2015 Estimates**

Age	Population	% of Population
<b>Under 5 years</b>	826	5.1%
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	909	5.6%
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	1,104	6.8%
<b>15 to 19 years</b>	850	5.3%
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	639	4.0%
<b>25 to 34 years</b>	1,923	11.9%
<b>35 to 44 years</b>	1,740	10.8%
<b>45 to 54 years</b>	3,030	18.7%
<b>55 to 59 years</b>	1,571	9.7%
<b>60 to 64 years</b>	1,183	7.3%
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	1,425	8.8%
<b>75 to 84 years</b>	618	3.8%
<b>85 years and over</b>	352	2.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,170</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2015 estimates

## Chapter I: Introduction & General Demographics

**Population by Race** – Burrillville remains a predominantly white community. Statistically, there are no residents of American Indian/Native Alaskan or Native

Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders ancestry, so these groups are not included in Table I-3.

**Table I-3. Burrillville Population by Race, 2015 Estimates**

Race	Population	% of Population
<b>White</b>	15,730	97.3%
<b>Black or African American</b>	56	0.3%
<b>Asian</b>	111	0.7%
<b>Other</b>	45	0.3%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	228	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,170</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2015 estimates

**Population by Ethnicity** – While the Hispanic/Latino population has been growing rapidly across much of Rhode

Island (about 14% currently), the population in Burrillville remains very small.

**Table I-4. Burrillville Population by Ethnicity, 2015 Estimates**

Ethnicity	Population	% of Population
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	185	1.1%
Not Hispanic or Latino	15,985	98.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,170</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2015 estimates

**Educational Attainment** – Educational attainment in Burrillville has been rising steadily over the years. The percent of residents with a high school degree has increased significantly, and now exceeds

the statewide average. The percent of residents with an Associate’s Degree or higher has also increased significantly, but is still relatively low compared with other cities and towns in Rhode Island.

**Table I-5. Burrillville Educational Attainment, 2015 Estimates**

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Population 25-Yrs &amp; Older</b>	<b>% of Population 25-Yrs &amp; Older</b>
<b>Less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	258	2.2%
<b>9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma</b>	1,058	8.9%
<b>High School diploma/GED equivalency</b>	3,925	33.1%
<b>Completed some college</b>	2,593	21.9%
<b>Associate’s Degree</b>	1,196	10.1%
<b>Bachelor’s Degree</b>	1,832	15.5%
<b>Master’s Degree</b>	742	6.3%
<b>Professional Degree</b>	144	1.2%
<b>Doctorate Degree</b>	94	0.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,842</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2015 estimates

Chapter I: Introduction & General Demographics

**Household Income** – Median household incomes in Burrillville are a little higher than state averages, but lower than many neighboring rural and suburban towns. The

range of incomes in Burrillville is quite diverse, with a very similar percentage of households making over \$150,000 as those making less than \$15,000 per year.

**Table I-7. Burrillville Median Household Income, 2015 Estimates**

Household Income	Households	% of Occupied Households
Less than \$10,000	348	5.7%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	261	4.3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	614	10.0%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	625	10.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	583	9.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,054	17.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,054	17.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	881	14.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	248	4.0%
\$200,000 or more	469	7.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,137</b>	
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$62,146</b>	

Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2015 estimates

**Transportation Statistics** – It should come as no surprise that Burrillville, as a largely rural community, is highly dependent on private vehicles for day-to-day transportation. However, approximately three to four percent of the town’s population lives in a household without

access to a private vehicle (see Figure I-2). So while only 0.6% of the population takes transit to work (see Figure I-3), some sort of alternative transportation (whether RIPTA bus routes, ride services for senior citizens, etc.) remains a small but important need in the Town.

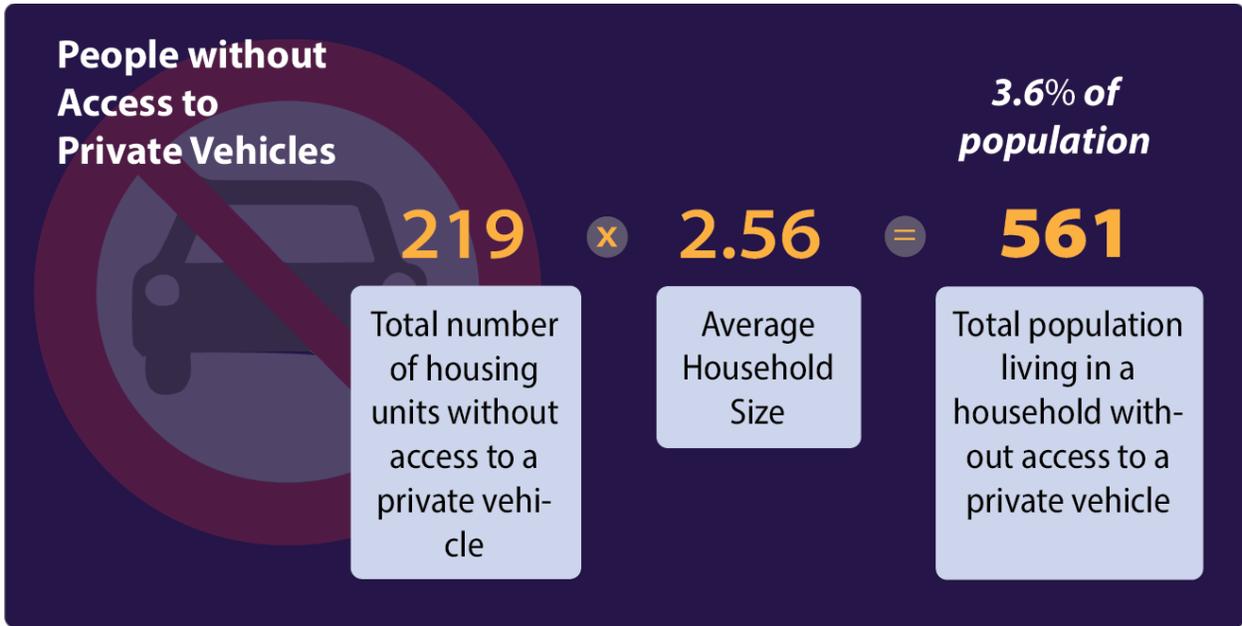


Figure I-2. People without Access to Private Vehicles

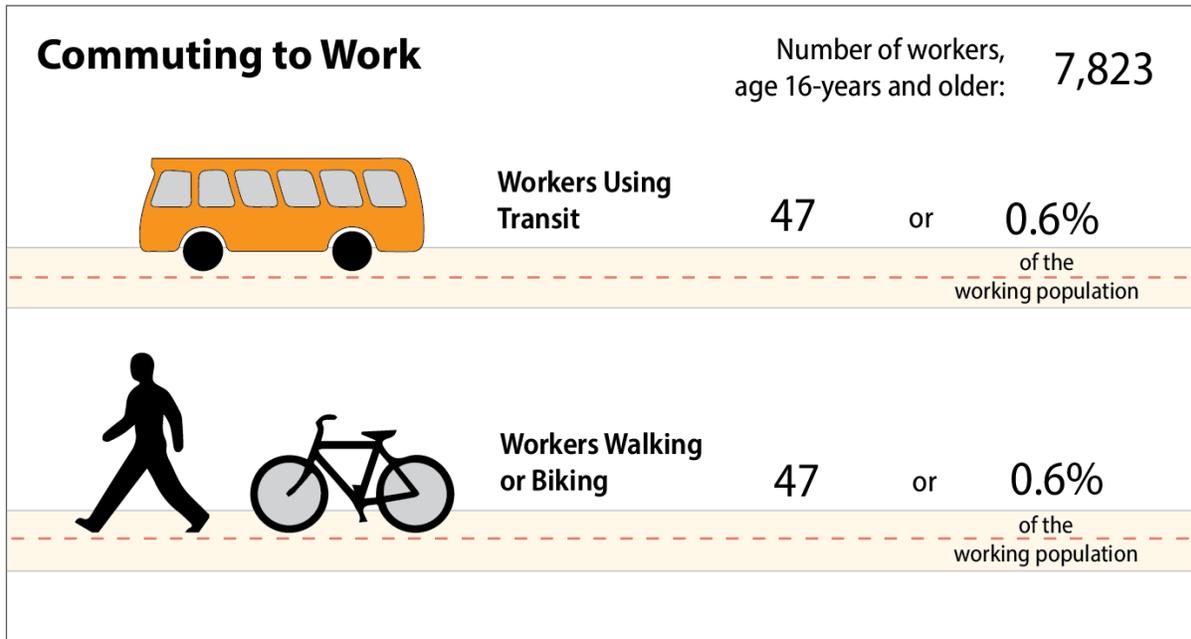


Figure I-3. Commuting to Work

## Chapter II - Natural Resources & Open Space



Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

## II.1 Introduction

Burrillville is rich in natural resources: valuable wetlands for flood control, groundwater aquifers and recharge areas, high quality surface water, and unique historical areas. The Town's natural environment adds immeasurably to its property values and quality of life. Although many large areas of undeveloped land exist in Burrillville, the environment is experiencing direct and indirect impacts from residential and other forms of development.

The Town of Burrillville is located within the sphere of the movement of population from the central cities of Providence, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket. In 1960, the population of the Town was 9,119 and in 2010 it increased to 15,955, which represented an increase of 6,836 or 75.0 percent.

Burrillville, similar to other Rhode Island suburban/rural communities, has enjoyed the feeling of open space for a number of years. However, with the increases in population, more and more land is being utilized for homes, business, industry, and roads. In some instances the spacious feeling has begun to disappear. From the early 1980's through the mid 2000's, the Town, along with the rest of the State, experienced an upswing in building activity. Some small benefit was gained from this growth in that developers donated land

and/or money for open space purposes pursuant to Town requirements for such donations.

Notwithstanding this surge in development, Burrillville still has a significant amount of undeveloped land and must continue its effective program of land and water acquisition for conservation and open space purposes.

Burrillville is dotted with ponds and lakes of various sizes. Surrounding many of these are summer colonies previously held in single ownership. The single owners leased small parcels on which were constructed seasonal homes. Recently, many of the small parcels have been sold and seasonal homes converted to year-round structures. This situation presents both open space and environmental problems. First, access to natural resources is limited to a few private landowners; secondly, the small lots could and do permit an intensive form of development resulting in the pollution of said ponds and lakes.

Burrillville should attempt to prevent the continuation of the above-described practice through its zoning and subdivision ordinances. The same land use regulations should be used to ensure that farms, orchards, and wooded areas are preserved for environmental and conservation purposes.

## II.2 Natural Resource & Open Space Conditions, Trends, and Projections

The following presents an inventory of natural and open space systems in the Town of Burrillville.

**Topography** - Burrillville lies in Rhode Island's interior uplands. The Town's irregular topography was shaped by glacial ice which receded some 11,000 years ago. The irregular pattern of hills provides for a diversified, scenic topography, but the rugged slopes and rock outcrops also have acted as a deterrent to settlement.

Elevations range from a low of 249 feet above mean sea level (msl) at the Slatersville Reservoir on the Burrillville-North Smithfield town line, to a high of 753 feet above msl on Benson Mountain at the Burrillville-Thompson, Connecticut border. There are relatively few large areas of slope having severe restrictions to development (in excess of 15 percent). Areas of steep slope are found throughout the Town, but are more prevalent along the western and eastern borders.

**Soils** - An assessment of Burrillville's soil types is important when considering future development potential. A mixture of unsorted soil and rocks, commonly known as till, covers most of Burrillville. In areas where rivers flowed from the glacier, well-sorted sands and gravels were left behind. Outwash deposits are found in the valleys

along rivers and other low-lying areas. Glacial till is characterized as consisting of clay, silt, sand, and boulders transported and deposited by glacial ice. Outwash areas in Burrillville also are poorly suited for crop production because of their composition of excessively well-drained sand and gravel. Outwash is stratified sand and gravel produced by glaciers and carried, sorted and deposited by water that originated mainly from the melting of glacial ice.

Soils with poor drainage and high flooding frequency may be unsuitable for development. Decisions regarding individual development applications should be based upon site specific soils data. For the purposes of this Plan, soils are defined in accordance with soil surveys as maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of RI.<sup>2</sup>

**Wetlands** – Freshwater wetlands are defined as those areas that are flooded or that have water at or near the surface for part of most growing seasons. The amount of water is the controlling factor in the development of wetland soils and plants. Many wetlands occur between uplands and open water bodies. Others are found in upland areas where there is a seasonally high water table. Wetlands provide several

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ri/soils/>

important functions which, in Burrillville, are classified as follows:

- *Flood control* - ability of a wetland to reduce flood velocity and provide storage capacity for flood waters;
- *Groundwater potential* - the ability of a wetland to contribute to the collection of runoff from surrounding areas and the recharge of the groundwater system, as well as acting as filters for polluted runoff;
- *Planning elements* - aesthetic appeal, educational value, recreational value, buffer capacity, and vulnerability to development or modification; and,
- *Ecological parameters* - value to wildlife, wildlife diversity, wetland size, type of site (streamside, lakeside, pondside), and vegetative diversity.

Wetlands are classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by ecological system and further by bottom characteristics and vegetation types. The ecological systems include estuarine, palustrine (vegetated wetlands), riverine (rivers, streams and brooks), marine and lacustrine (lakes and ponds). Wetlands in Burrillville are either palustrine, riverine or lacustrine. Burrillville happens to be home to one of the few bogs anywhere in the state of Rhode Island: the Sneece Hole Bog, behind Nancy Lane on the border with North Smithfield. Identified wetlands and areas prone to flooding in Burrillville may be found on Map II-1

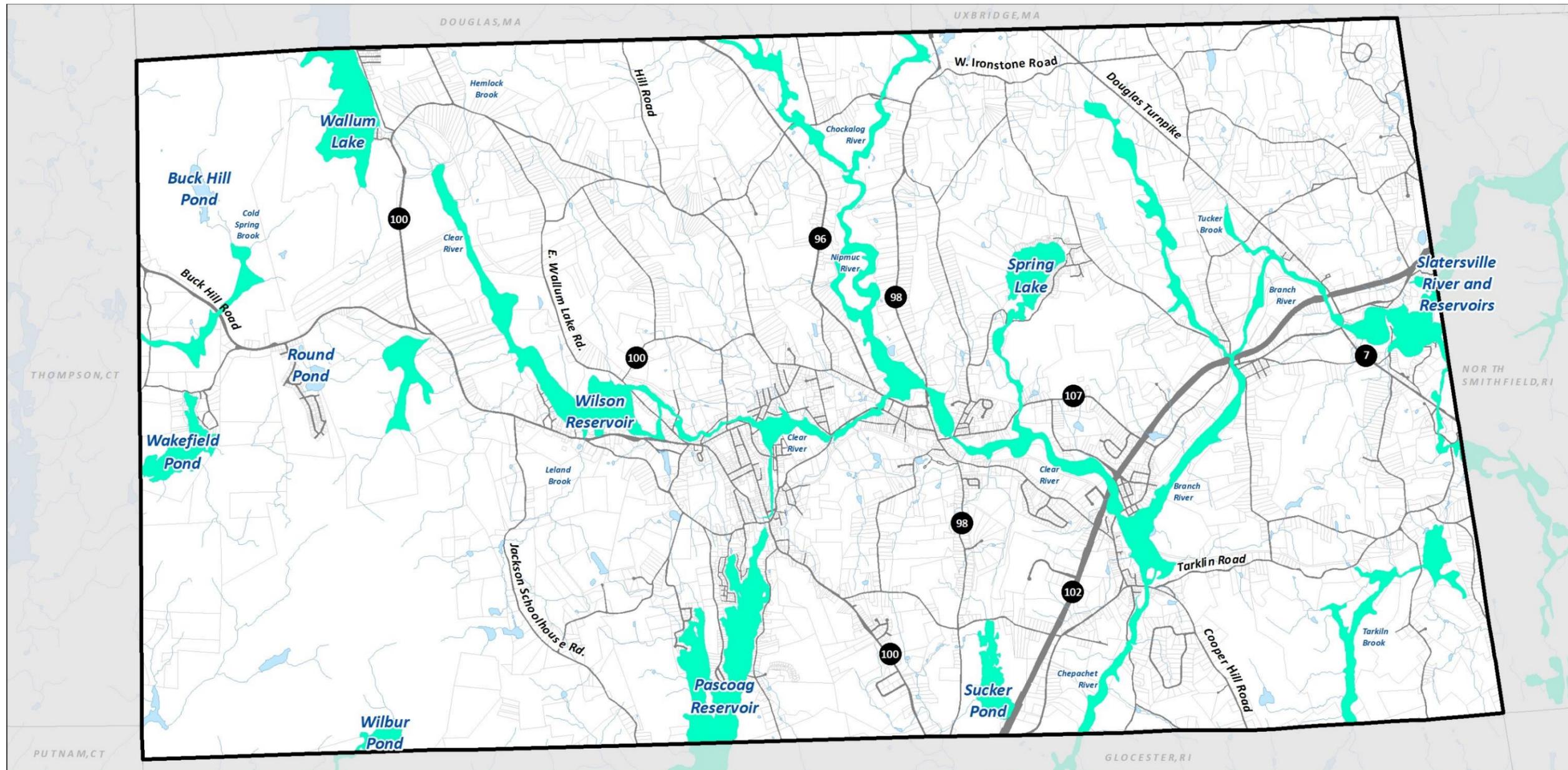
**Local Wetland Regulation** – Both Burrillville and RIDEM regulate development in an effort to protect wetlands. Burrillville is included in the Blackstone River Watershed, one of three major drainage basins in Rhode Island. Portions of western Burrillville are in the Five-Mile River sub-basin which is part of the larger Thames River Basin. The majority of land area in Burrillville drains to the Clear River or to brooks which eventually flow into the Clear River. It should also be noted that the State DEM maintains a listing of waters by classification related to purity and recreation allowance etc. The list can be found in Appendix A of the RI Water Quality Regulations.<sup>3</sup>

There are several other small brooks in Town, most of which originate in wetlands or ponds. Several of these brooks have been given water quality classifications, and are listed in Table II-1 along with other currently named watercourses.

Burrillville's landscape is dotted with lakes and ponds. Some are manmade, but most are natural water bodies. The Pascoag Reservoir is the largest water body in Burrillville, at approximately 424 acres.

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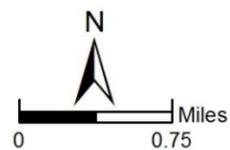
<sup>3</sup><http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/h2oq10.pdf>



TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018

**Horsley Witten Group**  
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
 55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com

RIGIS



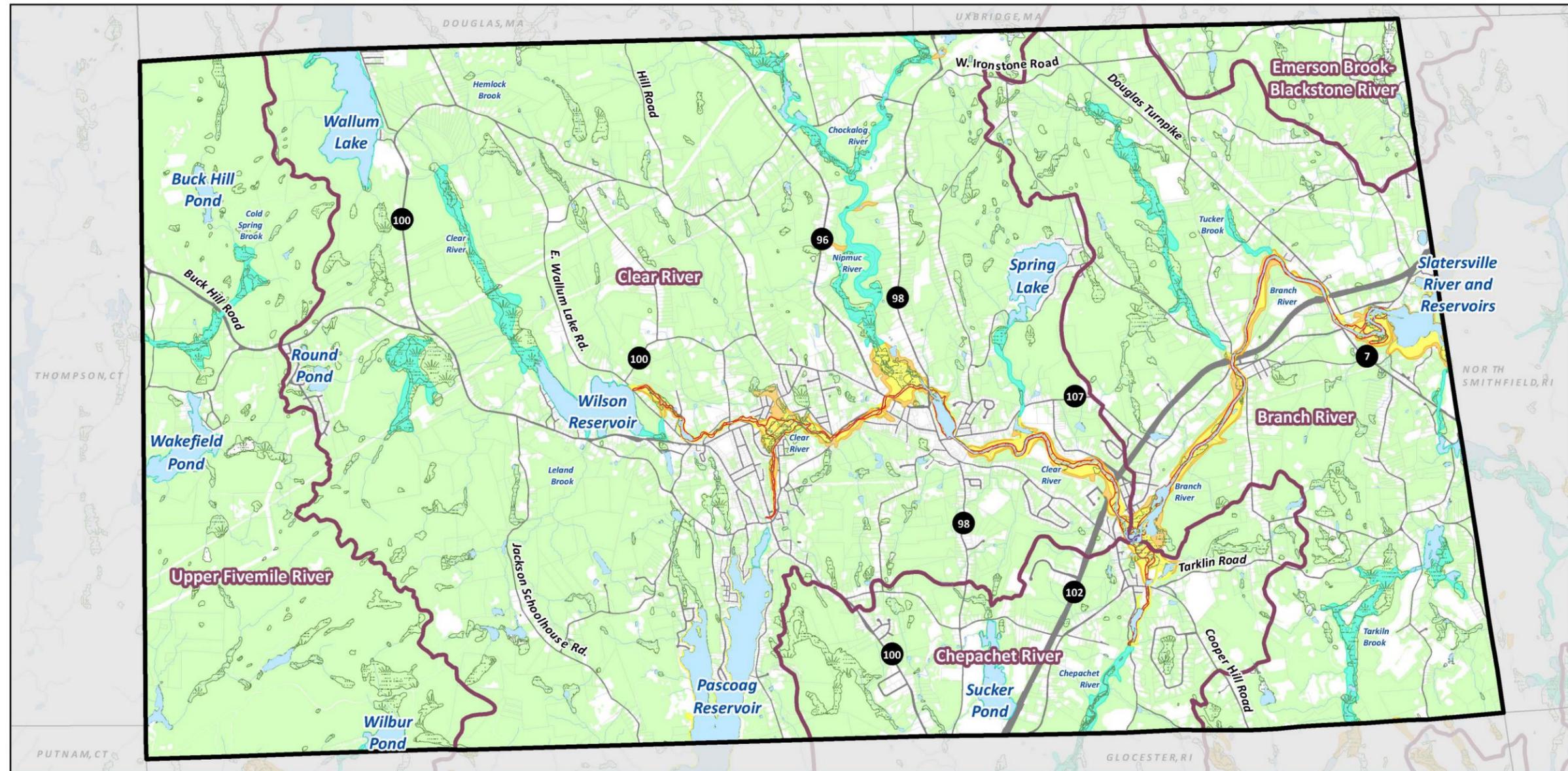
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**Exposure to Flooding**

 Flood Hazard Areas

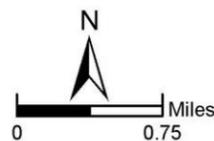
\*Data Source: RIGIS

Map II-1. Exposure to Flooding



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**Horsley Witten Group**  
Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com



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**Inland Water Features**

Watershed Boundary  
Dataset: HUC 12

**Ecological Communities Classification**

Forested Areas  
 Wetlands (Estuarine & Palustrine)

**1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard**

Zone A Zone AE  
 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard  
 Regulatory Floodway

\*Data Source: RIGIS

Map II-2. Inland Water Features

## Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

**Table II-1. Small Brooks and Watercourses (Burrillville, RI)**

Name of System	Origin	Destination	Class
Chockalog River	Cedar Swamp & Greene River, Mass.	Nipmuc River	A
Croff Farm Brook	Wetlands System Buck Hill Mgt. Area	Whitman Pond, CT	B
Keach Brook	Pond and Wetland System Pulaski St. Park	Quaddick Res, CT	B
Tarkiln Brook	Wetlands in Glocester and Burrillville, Paine Bk.	Slatersville Res.	B
Leeson Brook	Wetlands in Buck Hill Mgt. Area	Cold Spring Bk.& Croff Farm Bk.	B
Cold Spring Brook	Wetlands in Buck Hill Mgt. Area	Wallum Lake	B
Dry Arm Brook	Round Pond	Clear River	B
Iron Mine Brook	Wetlands Pulaski State forest	Clear River	B
Leland Brook	Wetlands near Pulaski State Forest	Wilson Reservoir	B
Mowry Brook	Wetlands north of Stone Barn Road	Clear River	B
Round Top Brook	Chase Pond, Mass.	Nipmuc River	A
Herring Brook	Spring Lake	Clear River	B
Hemlock Brook	Wetlands in Mass.	Clear River & Tinkerville Bk	A
Tuckey Brook	Wetlands east of Black Hut Mgt Area	Branch River	B

Source: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

**Table II-2. Major Water Bodies**

Waterbody	Area (Acres)	Water Quality Classification
Pascoag Reservoir	424	B
Wallum Lake	322	AA
Wilson Reservoir	109	B
Spring Lake	95	B
Wakefield Pond	76	B
Slatersville Reservoir	67	B
Sucker Pond	55	B
Un-named Water Bodies	54	B

## Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Waterbody	Area (Acres)	Water Quality Classification
Wilbur Pond	23	B
Round Pond	15	B
Peck Pond	13	B
Round Top State Pond	7	A
Ross Pond	4	B
Chapham Pond	3	B
Gilleran Pond	3	B
Little Round Top Pond	2	B
Tarkiln Pond	NA	B
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>1,225</b>	-

Source: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

None of these surface water bodies are used for drinking water supply, but many of the larger water bodies are used for a variety of activities including boating, fishing, swimming, and other active and passive types of recreation.

**Groundwater** - The area beneath the land surface can be divided into two zones. In the upper zone, known as the unsaturated zone, open fractures in rocks or open spaces between soil particles are only partially filled with water. Beneath this zone all the open spaces are filled with water. This completely filled zone is termed the *saturated zone*. Water within this zone is called *groundwater*, and its upper boundary is known as the *water table*.

Burrillville depends entirely upon groundwater for its drinking water source.

The Harrisville Fire District (water board) provides most of the Town’s public water as a result of an MTBE leak that adversely affected Pascoag Utility District wells. More recently, in the fall of 2017, the Oakland Association water system, which services about 175 Burrillville residents, was found to have elevated levels of PFAS, a man-made chemical that causes health risks. These problems have heightened the importance of the Harrisville system, and it is more critical than ever to protect its drinking water supply for the health and safety of the public. The Pascoag Utility District has drilled two new wells since the contamination event. They too must maintain a water district plan. This Comprehensive Plan supports the goals and policies of both the Harrisville and Pascoag Utility District Water Supply System Management Plans, information for which are listed below:

*Water Supply System Management Plan  
Harrisville Fire District, Burrillville, RI  
July 2015 – Stantec*

*Water Supply System Management Plan  
Pascoag Fire District, Burrillville, RI  
August 2015 – C&E Engineering Partners  
C&E Project No. J1509  
Executive Summary<sup>4</sup>*

*Hard copies of both documents may be  
viewed at the Burrillville Planning Office:  
144 Harrisville Main Street  
Harrisville, RI 02830  
(401) 568-4300, ext.130 or 131*

**Potential Sources of Groundwater Contamination** - Groundwater quality may be affected by "point" sources of pollution (coming from a specific source) and "nonpoint" (coming from disperse activities). Point pollution sources identified by RIDEM in its Site Remediation Program include landfills, dumps, underground injection control sites, surface impoundments, salt storage sites, leaking underground storage tanks, and other miscellaneous sites. RIDEM Office of Waste Management maintains files for Burrillville properties that may be referenced by any concerned neighbors.

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[http://www.wrb.ri.gov/work\\_programs\\_wssmp/WS\\_SMP\\_ExecSumm\\_Pascoag\\_2015.pdf](http://www.wrb.ri.gov/work_programs_wssmp/WS_SMP_ExecSumm_Pascoag_2015.pdf)

One significant hazardous waste site that is located in Burrillville is the Western Sand and Gravel on Route 7 at the North Smithfield Town line. A portion of the site was used for liquid waste disposal, and studies show contamination of ground and surface water around Tarkiln Brook. This is an EPA Superfund site under ongoing environmental monitoring, and a public water system has been constructed to serve homes in the area.

**Groundwater Protection in Burrillville** - Groundwater protection activities in Burrillville are administered both locally through zoning, and by the State Department of Environmental Management. Burrillville's Aquifer Overlay District governs uses and lot size dimensions over the Town's aquifer. To date, the District has served as an effective tool for protecting water quality, and has recently been expanded to include wellhead protection areas.

**Stormwater Management** - The Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Phase II Rules Interpretation requires "small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems or MS4's" to obtain permits and establish a storm water management program that is intended to improve waterbodies by reducing the quantity of pollutants that can

enter storm sewer systems during storm events.

The State RIDEM mandated that all MS4's adopt a Stormwater Management Plan that prescribes various goals, policies, and actions related to minimizing stormwater contaminants as well as attenuating stormwater runoff. This Comprehensive Plan supports the goals and policies of the Town's Stormwater Management Plan, information for which is listed below:

*Stormwater Management Plan*

*Town of Burrillville, RI*

2004 – Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc.

[https://www.burrillville.org/sites/burrillvilleri/files/uploads/burrillville\\_final\\_swmp\\_2.pdf](https://www.burrillville.org/sites/burrillvilleri/files/uploads/burrillville_final_swmp_2.pdf)

*Hard copies may be viewed at the Burrillville Planning Office:*

*144 Harrisville Main Street*

*Harrisville, RI 02830*

*(401) 568-4300, ext.130, 131*

**Floods and Floodplains** - Floods in Burrillville occur in every season of the year. Spring floods are common and are caused by rainfall combined with snowmelt. Floods in late summer and fall are usually the result of hurricanes or other storms, and winter floods often result from occasional thaws, particularly in years of heavy snowfall. Areas considered to be in Flood Hazard Zone A, a special flood hazard area inundated by 100-year floods, exist

along most rivers, brooks, swamps, lakes, and ponds in Burrillville.

**Vegetation and Wildlife** - The vegetation and animal populations of Burrillville's uplands reflect the past use of the land and this past use was determined to a great extent by the underlying soils. Although much of the land that was once farmed has reverted back to woodland, man still has an impact on the types of vegetation and wildlife which inhabit an area. Forests were cleared in areas where the soils were suitable for crops and livestock. These areas are mainly found in the valleys. Stone walls found in second growth forests are evidence that much of Burrillville's land had once been cleared for agricultural uses.

Today much of Burrillville is forested with mixed hardwood forests. Like most of the state, Burrillville's forests are dominated by the oak-hickory forest type. Productivity in most areas is low but most stands exceed the 20 cubic feet per acre per year minimum which designates forestland as being commercially viable. Stands of high grade Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and other hard woods are found in areas of the Town where soils are suited for woodland management and production. The White Oak population in Burrillville and around the state has been declining, partially due to defoliation impacts from gypsy moth caterpillars.

The Elm-Ash-Red Maple forest type is also wide spread in Burrillville, and accounts for 28 percent of commercial forestland in the State. The Red Maple is the dominant species in this forest type with a small percentage of white ash. The American elm has been decimated by Dutch Elm disease, and is essentially no longer a part of this forest type. This forest type is found throughout the Town in soils where available moisture is high.

The State manages several thousand acres of land in Burrillville, most of it maintained as forest land. The State has a firewood program for people who burn wood for heating and other purposes, and also conducts operations aimed at improving wildlife habitat in parts of State management areas. The Boy Scouts of America own close to 1,100 acres of land in the Wallum Lake area of Burrillville. Much of this land is forested, and is utilized for research and education. Burrillville's forest lands support a variety of wildlife. The black-throated blue warbler, for example, is an interior forest songbird that is presently only known to nest in the northwest corner of the state. Burrillville is also home to the Blackburnian warbler, scarlet tanager, Acadian flycatcher, wood thrush, northern goshawk, and pileated woodpecker, all of which are interior forest birds listed by the State as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Non-avian examples of species that require suitably sized forested tracts are

black bear, wood and box turtle, and marbled salamander.

Stonewalls dividing fields are often lined with native trees and shrubs, becoming narrow ribbons of woodland crisscrossing the agricultural land. These field borders, and upland areas associated with them, support a variety of wildlife including pheasants, quail, redtail hawks, sparrow hawks, doves, and woodcock.

In addition to avian species, these areas are also inhabited by a number of mammals which typically exist in Rhode Island, e.g., fox, rabbit, skunk, woodchuck, deer, etc. Wetlands and the land immediately surrounding them are often left in their natural state and provide another valuable type of wildlife habitat. Animals utilizing these habitats include wood ducks, black ducks, mallards, snipe, rails, herons, kingfishers, marsh hawks, muskrats, mink and otter. The safe movement of wildlife throughout the Town is of concern, especially as the outlying areas become more developed.

### **Rare and Endangered Species and Habitats**

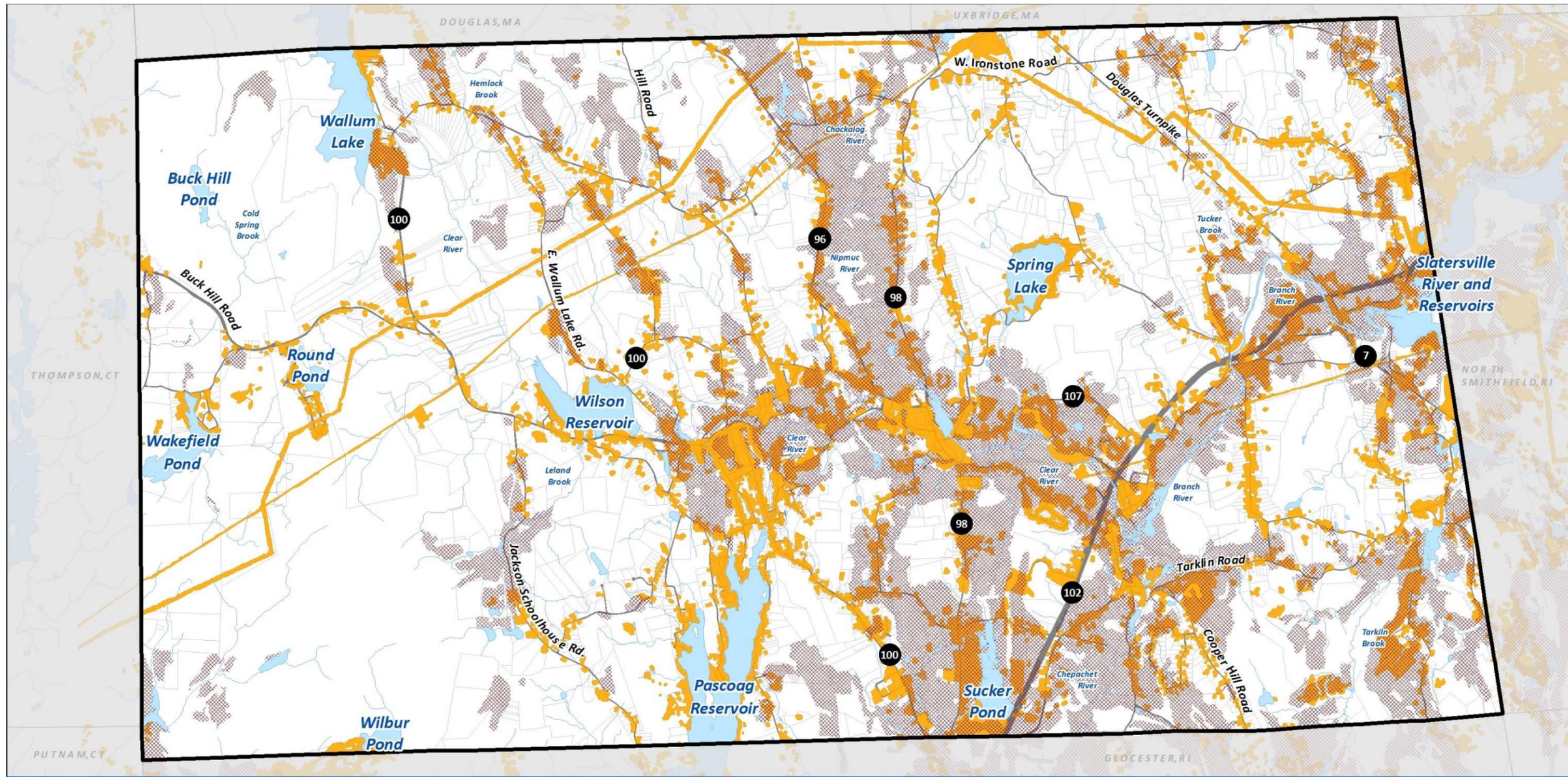
- Initiated by RIDEM and The Nature Conservancy, the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program (NHP) has kept an inventory of the state's rarest and most vulnerable species and natural communities since 1979. Today, representatives from the Rhode Island Natural History Survey

(RINHS), DEM, The Nature Conservancy, and the URI Environmental Data Center work together as a NHP consortium to maintain the inventory. There are approximately 60 species of plants and animals in Burrillville that the RINHS has cataloged. Species are assigned to one of several status categories. There are no known Federally Endangered or Federally Threatened species in Burrillville. However, there are a number of state status species in the Town. A list of these species may be requested from the RINHS: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org).

**Agricultural Land** - Prime agricultural land is defined as: land best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, and also available for these uses.<sup>5</sup> (see Map II-3). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce high yields of crops economically when treated and managed, including water management, according to modern farming methods.

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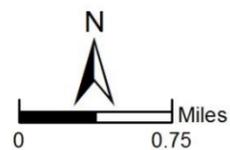
<sup>5</sup> The source of this information, and that which follows regarding the definition of prime agricultural land is from the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District Newport County. [Important Farmlands](#).



**TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018**

**Horsley Witten Group**  
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
 55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com

**RIGIS**



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**Valuable Agricultural Soils**

-  Valuable Agricultural Soils
-  Developed Areas

\*Data Source: RIGIS

**Map II-3. Valuable Agricultural Soils**

**Light Pollution** – The impacts of light pollution are a constraint on Burrillville’s natural resources, local environment and the health of the overall population. Burrillville is fortunate to be part of the “dark sky” area of western Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut, one of the last remaining places on the eastern seaboard between central Virginia and southern Maine where the night sky is clearly visible. Over-lighting of both new developments and existing facilities can obscure views of the night sky, and should be avoided.

### II.3 Natural Hazards and Climate Trends

A “natural hazard” is an event or series of events caused by forces of nature that has a negative impact on people, infrastructure, or the environment. Natural hazards cannot be prevented but must be planned for in order to avoid or minimize impacts to lives, infrastructure, and property. Planning for natural hazards must also include planning for the impacts of climate trends. It is projected that current natural hazards will be worsened by the effects of climate trends and that, in some areas, new hazards may arise due to the changing climate. In general, long-term climate trends are likely to cause the following impacts in the inland communities of Rhode Island:

- Heavier and more frequent precipitation events, which may

cause more riverine and flash flooding events;

- Longer periods of drought, which may lead to more frequent wildfires and water availability concerns;
- Increasing air and water temperatures; and
- More frequent high heat days and heat waves.<sup>6</sup>

Each of these potential trends could have direct impacts on residents and businesses in Burrillville, and need to be considered in planning for the long term.

### Priority Natural Hazards & Climate Trends and Vulnerable Areas

- The evaluation of natural hazards and climate trends impacts in Burrillville is based on data and information available at the national and state level, but also locally through the Burrillville Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and local water districts’ Water Supply Management Plans (WSMPs). These plans were developed with methodologies that assess vulnerabilities to natural hazards and determine mitigation or adaptation approaches to reduce the level of impact on the community (HMP) or systems and operations (WSMPs).

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<sup>6</sup> The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Guidance Handbook Series Guidance Handbook #12: Planning for Natural Hazards & Climate Change. January 14, 2016. Available at [http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/comp\\_handbook/12-NatHazCC.pdf](http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/comp_handbook/12-NatHazCC.pdf).

The Town updates its HMP every five years. Doing so allows it to remain eligible for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but also the opportunity to revisit its vulnerability to natural hazards and determine if local conditions are changing. At a minimum the HMP looks specifically at the threats of the following natural hazards:

- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Nor'easters
- Tornados
- Severe Winter Storms
- Temperature Extremes
- Floods
- Droughts
- Earthquakes
- Wildfires/Conflagration

The HMP vulnerability analysis of these natural hazards leads to the identification of critical assets and areas of the community most at risk. Strategies are developed to minimize the impact of potential events that could result in the loss of life or property.

Among other requirements, the vulnerabilities of water supply infrastructure to natural hazards are assessed and addressed in individual district WSMPs, which are also updated on a regular basis. Similar to the assessment done to evaluate community-at-large vulnerabilities in the HMP, each water

district has determined the infrastructure and operations that would be most at risk from earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and other severe weather. Emergency action plans lay out responses should any of these events occur, including the use of emergency interconnections between water suppliers, back-up wells, and other alternative water sources.

Harrisville Fire District (HFD) serves the Village of Harrisville and part of Glendale with potable water to residents as well as four of the five Burrillville schools, the library, and the Town Hall. The HFD also supplies water to over 150 fire hydrants in the District and Oakland-Mapleville.<sup>7</sup> According to the HFD WSMP, it is connected to the Pascoag Utility District (PUD) via court order. The two water systems are evaluating potential consolidation to be consistent with State Guide Plan 721: Water 2030 and the Rhode Island Water Resources Board 2012 Strategic Plan.

**Natural Hazards** - The HMP ranks flooding as being the greatest risk to the Town, followed by severe winter storms, hurricanes and tropical storms, and Nor'easters. Risk ranking is based on the frequency these events occur, the size of the area impacted, and the magnitude of damage of an event. Flooding takes place

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.harrisvilleri.org/>

predominately in low lying areas. It is more likely to occur during the spring due to melting snow and increasing rainfall, but also can be the result of heavy rains, hurricanes, and Nor'easters.

The Town regulates these areas through its Special Flood Hazards Area (SHFA) and Flood Fringe Lands zoning ordinance (Sec. 30-205). The ordinance outlines development standards for activities within an area of special flood hazard,<sup>8</sup> including requirements for new construction as well as repairs to structures that have sustained substantial damage from natural hazards.

Map II-1 shows areas prone to flooding, which are predominately along waterways and wetland areas. According to the HMP, there are few structures located in the SHFA, however, the Centennial Street and Wilson Reservoir area as well as the Mowry Street/Harrisville Main Street area have increased risk due to repeated street and property flooding. The HMP proposes a

drainage study to evaluate the effects of upgrades to the Centennial Street crossing as a way to mitigate the impacts of continuous flooding.

As the HMP is updated, coordination with planning policies should continue. Land use decisions to address areas that consistently flood may include open space acquisition, increased buffers along floodways, and infrastructure improvements.

In the WSMP, the natural hazard having the largest impact on the overall distribution system is drought. For all water suppliers, drought management is a requirement addressed in their WSMPs and one that must be consistent with State Guide Plan Element 721: Water 2030. In doing so, water suppliers throughout the state are able to coordinate and manage drinking water resources comprehensively. In the HFD, procedures are in place for public notification around water conservation. This includes outdoor watering restrictions. It also makes available retrofit kits at no cost to customers.

Flooding is also a concern on specific aspects of the distribution system. For example, Eccleston Field, on Callahan School Street, has suffered repeated flooding of three public water supply drinking well sites owned and operated by the HFD. These well sites are a significant source of drinking water for approximately

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<sup>8</sup> The land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. SFHAs are determined utilizing the base flood elevations (BFE) provided on the flood profiles in the flood insurance study (FIS) for a community. BFEs provided on the flood insurance rate map (FIRM) are only approximate (rounded up or down) and should be verified with the BFEs published in the FIS for a specific location. SFHAs include, but are not necessarily limited to, the land shown as zones A, A1-30, AE, AO, AH, and the coastal high hazard areas shown as zones V, V1-30, and VE on a FIRM. The SFHA is also called the area of special flood hazard.

2,000 customers in the Harrisville and Pascoag villages. According to the HMP, the well field is exposed to contamination when the field floods due to runoff of chemicals and fertilizers used to treat the fields in the recreational park. The Army Corps of Engineers is looking into the problem to find a solution to the repetitive flooding. This may include dredging of the river and changes to the structures used to control the river volume (i.e. dams, spillways, etc.).

**Long Term Climate Trends** - Of the long term climate trends most likely to impact Burrillville, the Town, through its comprehensive plan, is most focused on increases in annual mean precipitation, increases in air temperature, and biodiversity changes in species and habitat – particularly forest lands. For the remaining likely impacts, including an increase in frequency and intensity of storms, the Town can work with the state and regional partners to develop strategies for coordinating resources and assistance.

**Increases in Precipitation** - The Town should be prepared for more frequent heavy rains and higher amounts of snowmelt flowing into local rivers and streams during the winter and spring. Areas that only flooded occasionally may flood more often and areas that never flooded at all may start to see the presence of water. It will be important for the Town to

regularly review its development standards to help minimize these potential impacts. Limiting impervious surfaces or preserving land for flood storage are two examples of strategies to evaluate.

**Increases in Temperature** - The Town should be prepared for increases in air temperature that may result in longer and more frequent heat waves. Human health risks rise dramatically when temperatures climb over 80 degrees Fahrenheit (F) in Rhode Island. Studies show that asthma events and other heat-related cardio-respiratory problems worsen. Higher temperatures, particularly above 90 degrees F, also impact public infrastructure, including electrical grids and power plants. Increases in electrical demands for cooling can increase failures in delivery of power. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and young children, are most at risk. The HMP identifies these and other groups in the community and how to address needs should they arise. With more frequent heat waves anticipated, the Town may want to consider additional solutions to meet a growing need, such as increasing the number of cooling centers.

Increased air temperatures may also exacerbate drought conditions, particularly for suppliers dependent on groundwater wells. As previously mentioned, the HFD manages drought conditions through public education and notifications about water

conservation and through the availability of retrofit kits to customers. If droughts are anticipated to be for longer durations, these programs are a solid basis for expanding education to the public about longer-term impacts of climate trends. Additionally, continued coordination with the HFD around water supply availability and land development policies should continue.

Equally, residents dependent on private wells for water may also be impacted by prolonged drought conditions. Along with the HFD, these residents must also use their water supply efficiently in anticipation of longer drought periods. Similar educational outreach can be done to residents and businesses town-wide.

**Biodiversity Changes in Forest Lands** - Fluctuations in climate, like temperature and precipitation, influence the ecology and distribution of plants and animals. Climate trends can impact where species locate; timing of fruiting, flowering, and leaf-out in plants; migration patterns of animals; and general behavior and physiology of individual species. Extended periods of drought and drier conditions may also increase the likelihood of forest fires. The Rhode Island Woodland Partnership (RIWP) points out in its 2015 position paper that the state's forested areas play an important role in moderating temperatures and storing carbon that

would otherwise be released into the atmosphere, contributing to air pollution and increasing temperatures. Forests that buffer waterways protect water quality for public drinking water supplies and recreation by filtering nutrient and sediment runoff. They also provide wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic beauty, and support economic activity that use locally sourced wood. Loss of forested areas and changes in their composition because of anticipated trends in precipitation and temperature can lessen their ability to mitigate impacts.

Being a predominately forested community, the Town can look at ways of conserving its forested areas to mitigate the impacts of climate trends. RIWP advocates for forest stewardship and building a culture of conservation. Some of its initiatives that the Town can participate in include supporting regional strategies that both conserve forests and promote economic development, and promoting forestry stewardship on both public and private lands, among others. Many residents heat their homes with local firewood. Encouraging sustainable use of forest resources can ensure forest resources are available in the long-term.

## II.4 Natural Resource & Open Space Issues

The following issues relating to natural resources have been identified through the planning process, and are the focus of the goals, policies and recommendations of this element.

### ***Topography***

- The irregular pattern of hills provides for scenic topography, but the rugged slopes and rock outcrops constrain development.
- There are relatively few large areas of slope having severe restrictions to development (in excess of 15 percent). Areas of steep slope are found throughout the Town, but are more prevalent along the western and eastern borders.

### ***Soils***

- Development in Burrillville is limited by its poor soil conditions. The land is underlain to a large extent by soils considered to have high or severe constraints to development by the presence of a high water table, bedrock, slope greater than 15 percent, hydric conditions (wetlands), rock and/or sand.
- Prime agricultural soils best suited for producing food, forage, fiber and oilseed crops should be preserved to the greatest extent possible,

particularly when associated with an active agricultural use.

### ***Wetlands***

- The dominant type of palustrine wetland in Burrillville is the forested wetland, commonly known as the wooded swamp.

### ***Surface Water***

- Preservation of water quality in Burrillville's lakes and ponds is of critical concern to most citizens, whether it be for future drinking water, or recreational or natural resource preservation reasons. Watershed/lake protection regulations can be adopted for three general purposes:
  - Protecting lakes by regulating watershed activities that cause erosion and pollution problems.
  - Controlling development to protect the aesthetics and benefits of the shoreland.
  - Regulating lake usage to reduce conflicts among swimmers, boaters, fishing enthusiasts and others.
- Some or all of the following measures should be considered to help preserve high water quality in the Town's surface water bodies:
  - Amendments to the zoning ordinance - in certain watershed districts, modify requirements on lot size, height, floor area ratio etc.

- To preserve their natural beauty, restrict certain lakes and ponds to limited uses: i.e., non-use of motor boats; flyfishing only; etc.
- Lake monitoring - regular monitoring of certain chemical/physical parameters of lakes/ponds of concern - University of Rhode Island has a lake-monitoring program.
- Encourage best management practices in construction etc. - for example, porous pavements, street cleaning in communities near lakes; streambank stabilization; surface roughening (groove the soil along the contour of a slope to spread out the runoff), etc.
- Encourage the use of modern Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) technologies.

#### **Groundwater**

- Burrillville depends entirely upon groundwater as its drinking water source.
- The Town should consider more specificity in zoning language regarding which land uses may be detrimental to groundwater protection.
- Public education - particularly important in a community which takes all of its drinking water from groundwater sources.

#### **Farmland**

- The Town recognizes that existing commercial agricultural areas and prime and State important farmland soils are important to the interest of Burrillville and its residents.
- Consider using the open space set aside provision in subdivision applications to preserve not only wetlands, but also prime/important farmland soils as well.
- Much of Burrillville is forested with mixed hardwood forests. Stands of high grade Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and other hard woods are found in areas of the Town where soils are suited for woodland management and production.
- Stonewalls and vegetative hedgerows dividing fields and forested upland areas, provide a variety of wildlife habitat; this diversity of wildlife should be preserved.
- The safe movement of wildlife throughout the Town is of concern, especially as the more rural areas are developed.

**Conservation and Open Space** - The Town should and does recognize open space and passive recreation opportunities as an important component of its natural resources.

A significant portion of the Town of Burrillville is presently undeveloped. There are also several fine lakes and streams

which should be protected from the encroachment of urbanization and pollution. While these areas are principally conservation areas by nature, they also function as recreation areas for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and other recreational enthusiasts. Another 3,000+ acres are privately owned and used for conservation purposes, including wellhead protection. Conservation areas, both state and local, are shown on Map II-4.

Conservation and open space needs must be measured by a quantitative standard and be based upon a community policy to protect the natural resources which exist in the Town. Such areas can also serve to provide relief from flooding, particularly in those areas designated as swamps or wetlands. The Town should protect (or acquire where necessary) upland buffers around wetlands where opportunities for such action is available. Similar to open space land, wetlands and watercourses provide essential open space in forested or urbanized environments. Rivers and their banks serve also as greenway corridors both for recreational uses of the river and conservation functions as wildlife corridors.

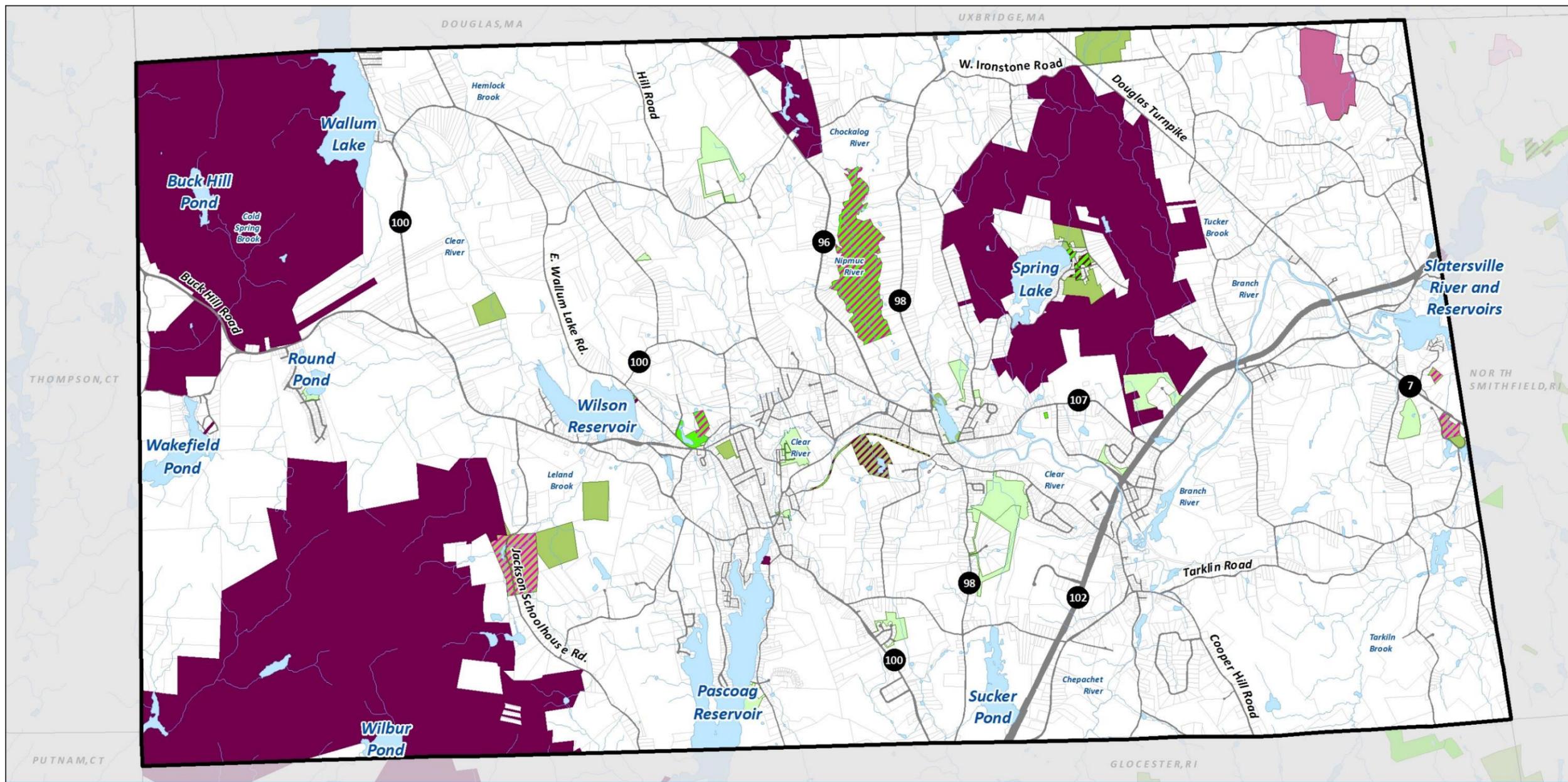
Conservation areas include the George Washington Management Area, the Buck Hill Boy Scouts Reservation, and Casimir Pulaski Park. While the areas are mainly conservation in nature, they also function

as more active recreation areas (see Chapter VIII, Recreation). The Town should also protect (or acquire where necessary) private inholdings within existing conservation areas.

One of the best resources for evaluating and prioritizing lands for future conservation is found in the 2015 Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan<sup>9</sup>, a product of the State Department of Environmental Management and The Nature Conservancy that seeks to protect critical fish and wildlife habitat throughout the state. This plan includes a mapping exercise of “Conservation Opportunity Areas” or COAs. COAs should be considered as priority areas for conserving Burrillville’s key habitats. COAs contain and highlight locations with significant existing or potential wildlife and habitat resources. Focusing investments on priority landscapes can increase the likelihood of long-term success over larger areas, improve funding efficiency, and promote cooperative efforts across ownership boundaries. COAs are landscapes where broad conservation goals can best be met. Working in these landscapes can increase effectiveness of conservation actions at larger scales than can individual projects scattered throughout the town.

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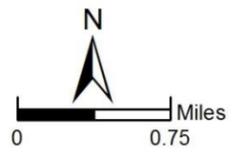
<sup>9</sup><http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/wildlifehuntered/swap15.php>



TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018

**Horsley Witten Group**  
Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com

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**Conservation Areas (Local & State)**

**Local Conservation Areas**

- Conservation Intent
- Deed Restriction
- Easement
- Fee Simple Interest

**State Conservation Areas**

- Agricultural Development Rights
- Conservation Easement
- Fee Title
- Forestry Easement
- Recreation Easement

\*Data Source: RIGIS

Map II-4. Conservation Areas (Local & State)

Map II-5 highlights the following COAs in Burrillville:

- Composite Conservation Opportunity Areas (including unfragmented forest areas of 250 + acres)
- Habitats with high habitat value and high vulnerability
- Areas with high Ecological Land Unit diversity (These areas include a diverse assemblage of landforms, soil drainage classes, and soil texture likely to remain relatively unchanged by shifting climate. They provide an opportunity for diverse assemblages of plant communities and fauna to persist, and will also likely host a variety of microclimates that can provide opportunities for natural communities to shift and persevere in the face of changing temperature and precipitation patterns.)
- Natural Corridors (These are paths that connect unfragmented forest areas and provide migratory pathways for plants and animals)
- Natural Heritage Areas (observations of communities or nesting sites of plant and animal species listed in the RI Natural Heritage Data)

When all of these resources are mapped, it is clear that Burrillville has a great many conservation opportunities throughout the Town. However, the concentration of these resources is most pronounced in the western third of the Town. This area is

notable for its many acres of unfragmented forest, high value habitat along both sides of the Clear River, and two significant habitat corridors. Taken together, there is very little land within this area that is not identified as having significant opportunity for conservation. This area is also where the 214 acres owned by the Burrillville Land Trust are located.

The Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan is the most recent, but certainly not the only study to reach this conclusion. The following studies may also be referenced to validate the special conservation value of western Burrillville:

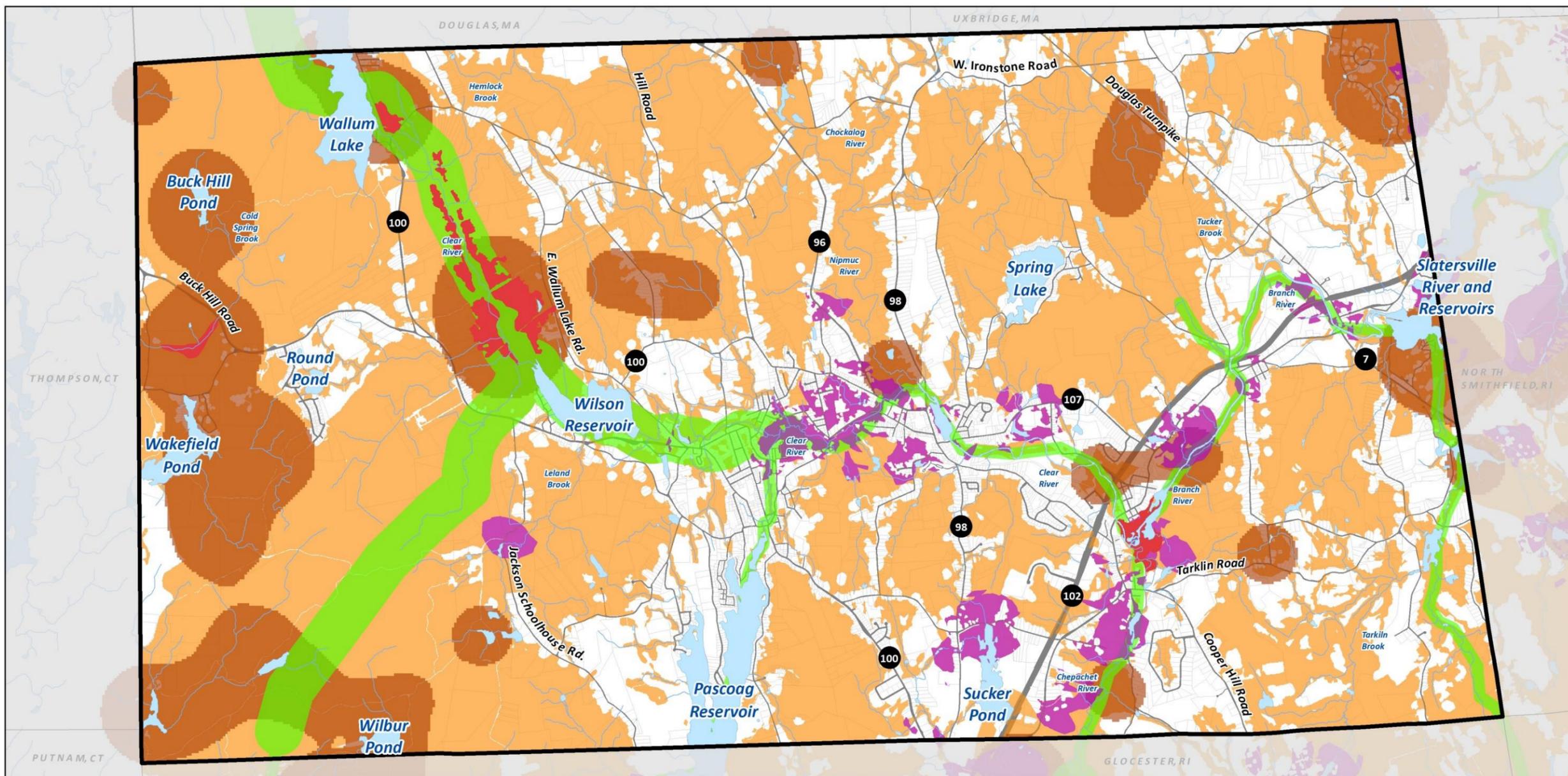
- Rhode Island Resource Protection Project, 1995. The largest inventory, mapping and description of the State's natural resources ever undertaken. EPA-New England, state environmental regulatory agencies, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.
- Northwest Corner Conservation Plan, 1997. The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island.<sup>1011</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/546d61b5e4b049f0b10b95c5/t/59dd6f63a8b2b090a390b9e3/1507684207791/TncNwConserPlan.pdf>

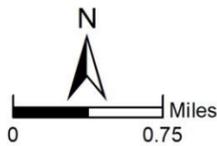
<sup>11</sup> <http://www.edc.uri.edu/rirpp/>



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RIGIS



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**Conservation Opportunity Areas**

- High Value / High Vulnerability Habitat
- Ecological Land Unit
- Composite Conservation Opportunity Areas
- Natural Heritage Area
- Corridor

\*Data Source: RIGIS

Map II-5. Conservation Opportunity Areas

- Burrillville Reconnaissance Report: Blackstone Valley Heritage Landscape Inventory, 2010. Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor and Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.<sup>12</sup>

While this area is almost exclusively zoned F-5 (minimum 5-acre lots) or Open Space, which significantly limits the types of commercial and industrial uses allowed there, the Town should explore the creation of a conservation overlay zone for the area. Such an overlay could add additional standards for use variances in the area, raising the bar for any proposed industrial or commercial uses that may pose a threat to the area's environmental resources.

## **II.5 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

The ultimate goal of this Plan is to preserve and protect the natural resources and open spaces of the Town. The following goals, policies, and implementation actions lead to the achievement of this vision. The Town of Burrillville has had the foresight to make significant acquisitions of land to ensure that its environment remains healthy and conservation and open space opportunities will continue to be available to all residents

of the Town. The Town should continue its efforts to acquire or control water bodies, wet areas, and streams. In addition, it is recommended that as much land as possible surrounding these natural features be either acquired or preserved.

Of the various land protection tools available, the Town does currently offer Cluster Zoning and Residential Compounding as alternatives to Conventional Zoning. Additionally, persons wishing to subdivide their property are required to dedicate land for the provision of recreation, open space or conservation. If the developer cannot dedicate land, the Planning Board may require the developer instead to pay a fee in lieu of land. Developers have historically chosen to not dedicate land and the Town has chosen not to accept land (due to anticipated maintenance and liability issues). However, in anticipation that the Town may wish to preserve environmentally sensitive areas (when applicable), the Town should consider the acceptance of land dedications.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

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<sup>12</sup><https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Burrillville-HLI-Report-12-15-10.pdf>

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
II.1. Promote a harmonious relationship between land development and natural resources.	II.1.a. Encourage site design that preserves a site's most valuable natural assets while permitting reasonable development intensity.	II.1.a. Continue implementing the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations in a consistent and transparent manner.	Ongoing	PB, TP, CC
II.2. Encourage agricultural and forestry activities in concert with development.	II.2.a. Ensure that owners of land suitable for agriculture and forestry are aware of programs to help maintain these uses on their properties.	II.2.a.1. Conduct an annual outreach campaign to owners of land suitable for agriculture and forestry informing them of the state's Farm, Forest, and Open Space Program, the services of the Burrillville Land Trust, and other such resources.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB, LT
	II.2.b. Ensure town ordinances support working farm and forest viability.	II.2.b.1. Ensure that the Town Tax Assessor has a system for properly assessing land in the state's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program.	Ongoing	CC, TA, TP
		II.2.b.2. Using RI DEM's Community Guidance to Maintain Working Farms and Forests as a starting point, the Planning Board will develop options for revising the zoning ordinance to allow agricultural support uses and direct sale of agricultural products to consumers in appropriate areas.	Intermediate	PB, TP, CC
	II.2.c. Protect agricultural and forestry lands for their health and economic importance		Ongoing	TP, CC, LT

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>II.3. Consider the natural capacity of land to support future development and population.</p>	<p>II.3.a. Flood zones should be protected from intensive development for the safety of residents and the environment. 100-year flood zones, in particular, should be reserved for open space, recreation or agricultural purposes.</p>		Ongoing	TP, PB, BO, RC
	<p>II.3.b. Wetlands, as critical elements of groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, flood storage and recreational value will be maintained in their current state to the extent possible.</p>	<p>II.3.b.1. Amend zoning such that filling or building upon wetlands will be prohibited where reasonable avoidance measures may be taken.</p>	Ongoing	TP, PB, TC
	<p>II.3.c. Mitigate water quality impacts of stormwater runoff and provide for drainage controls in all new development.</p>		Ongoing	PB, CC
	<p>II.3.d. The existing quality of surface water bodies will be maintained and improved.</p>		Ongoing	PB, CC
	<p>II.3.e. Utilize Low Impact Design Site Planning to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff.</p>	<p>II.3.e.1. Conduct an annual mailing to all owners of properties on septic systems alerting them to the latest information on septic system pumping and maintenance.</p>	Intermediate	CC

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
II.4. Ensure that current and future development has minimal or no adverse effects on natural resources, and that environmentally sensitive areas are protected, especially water supply and quality.	II.4.a. Individual sewage disposal systems should be installed and/or maintained according to best management practices.	II.4.a.1. The Town will work closely with the Fire Districts to acquire or otherwise protect the land surrounding Fire District wellheads.	Ongoing	CC, PB, TP, TC
		II.4.a.2. Reservoirs, ponds, lakes, rivers and streams in the Town will be managed to ensure a minimum water flow at all times.	Ongoing	CC
	II.4.b. Maintain and improve the existing quality of drinking water in the community.			
	II.4.c. Limit intensive development to those areas served by public sewer systems for the sake of groundwater preservation.	II.4.c.1. Explore the feasibility of instituting a local Transfer of Development Rights program, through which the rights to build on sensitive lands are sold in an open market to allow more development in village centers/areas of public sewer.	Long Term	PB, TP
	II.4.d. Preserve clear views of Burrillville’s night sky.	II.4.d.1. Explore the feasibility of instituting a “dark sky” or similar lighting ordinance that would minimize the intensity of outdoor lighting and direct it down, away from the sky. Consider the Illuminating Engineering Society’s Model Lighting Ordinance for guidance.	Long Term	PB, TP, CC
II.5. Help preserve biological diversity by considering state-listed rare, endangered and threatened plant and animal species and valuable natural habitats in making land use decisions.	II.5.a. Wildlife and vegetation are considered important natural and economic resources to be preserved whenever feasible.	II.5.a.1. Use the 2015 RI Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Area maps as guidance for prioritizing future land and water conservation efforts.	Priority	CC, PB, TP

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		II.5.a.2. Develop a conservation overlay zone based on the areas of town with the greatest concentration of Conservation Opportunity Areas as defined by the 2015 RI Wildlife Action Plan. Set standards for use variances within the overlay that significantly raise the bar for applicants seeking relief for industrial and commercial uses.	Intermediate	PB, CC, TP
	II.5.b. Maintain strict accordance with the RI Forest Resources Management Plan and encourage Forest Resource Management, Sustainability, Information and Education, Health, Commercial Forest Products, Water Resources, Forest and Recreation and Tourism.			
II.6. Help ensure that air quality in Burrillville meets or exceeds national ambient air quality standards.	II.6.a. Encourage measures which reduce air pollution levels.	II.6.a.1. Continue to require that all new commercial and industrial developments meet or exceed national clean air standards as measured within Burrillville.	Ongoing	PB, TP, CC
		II.6.a.2. Lobby adjacent communities to quickly address potential air quality problems within their boundaries.	Ongoing	TC, PB, CC, TP

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
II.7. Ensure that open space is retained as a resource for active and passive recreation opportunities, while also providing protection for the physical and natural environment.	II.7.a. Preserve the Town's natural resources by working to save the best representatives of the ecosystem types found in Burrillville, and protecting rare and endangered plants, animals, and unique geologic or other natural features.	II.7.a.1. Prioritize the preservation of lands along Wallum Lake, Wakefield Pond, Pascoag Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir, Spring Lake, Branch River and other smaller water bodies and tributaries in current and future easement and acquisition programs; for conservation and preservation of natural open spaces and to help protect the environment through acquisition of rights-of-way to the water bodies and through other conservation programs.	Ongoing	LT, PB, TC, CC
	II.7.b. Endeavor to create open space systems and corridors which protect complete ecologic units, provide structure and character to the built environment and provide recreation and open space opportunities close to developed areas.	II.7.b.1. Preserve, and where necessary, restore rivers and their adjacent shorelands for recreational use, wildlife habitat, water supply and the open space corridors they provide.	Intermediate	CC, LT
		II.7.b.2. Prioritize the preservation of Core Natural Areas and Corridors (as shown on Map II.5), which will serve as wildlife habitat, store flood waters, abate air and water pollution, provide a sense of openness, and serve as buffers and aesthetic amenities to existing development.	Long Term	CC, LT
	II.7.c. Increased emphasis will be placed on preserving valuable natural resources such as streams and wetlands and the protection of the environment.	II.7.c.1. The Town shall go on record as endorsing vigorous enforcement of all environmental protection laws and programs, and will defend its authority to protect locally designated open space from state or federal development.	Ongoing	LT, CC, PB, TC

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		II.7.c.2. Establish a system for regularly coordinating with the RI DEM in its conservation and recreation lands and programs in Burrillville.	Ongoing	LT, CC, PB, TC
II.8. To the greatest extent practical, prevent losses of critical public infrastructure that could be impacted by natural hazard events and climate trends.	II.8.a Integrate discussions of natural hazards and climate change into land use decisions, public infrastructure investments, and other town efforts.	II.8.a.1 Continue to use the Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify infrastructure and properties at risk.	Ongoing	PWD, TP
	II.8.b. Support local water districts as they address infrastructure vulnerabilities and conduct public education efforts.	II.8.b.1 Work with state and regional organizations to educate residents on public water and with private drinking water wells about the potential long term impacts of drought and other climate issues.	Ongoing	CC, WDs
II.9. Minimize the impact to public and private property by natural hazard events and climate trends.	II.9.a. Continuously evaluate different strategies that would minimize the risks to public and private property from natural hazard events and climate trends.	II.9.a.1 In accordance with RIGL §45-22-7, support participation of local decision makers and decision-making bodies in events that provide information and training on current climate science data and potential threats from the impacts of natural hazards and climate trends.	Ongoing	CC, PWD
	II.9.b. Encourage sustainable use of forestry resources to manage impacts of climate trends.	II.9.b.1. Work with RIWP, RIDEM, and others to address regional forestry issues related to climate trends.	Ongoing	CC, LT, PB
		II.9.b.2. Educate private property owners on the sustainable use of forest resources for heating, wood products, and other uses.	Ongoing	CC
		II.9.b.3. Coordinate efforts locally and regionally on forest fire prevention and management.	Ongoing	CC, LT, PB

Chapter II: Natural Resources & Open Space

Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
II.10. Reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.	II.10.a. Support State Guide Plan Element report #120, "Energy 2035" and the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council to reduce greenhouse gases to pre-1990 levels.		Ongoing	CC, PD, PB

## Chapter III - Community Services & Facilities



### III.1 Introduction

Community facilities are buildings, lands, and services which serve the public, such as schools, libraries, police, fire, utilities, recreation, and others. Inclusion of these facilities in the Comprehensive Plan is important because they provide the skeleton for servicing the community and because land use impacts the community's services and facilities. Development tends to follow the location and quantity of public services, and advance planning of facilities should be coordinated with economic development, housing, transportation, open space, and land use objectives. Note: because public schools make up such a large portion of the Town's services and facilities, they are discussed in a separate chapter (Chapter IV, School Facilities).

### III.2 Existing Conditions, Trends, and Projections

This section presents information regarding the current condition of Town and other public services, including emergency services, libraries, Town Hall, public works, and the animal shelter. Map III.1 depicts the various locations of each facility within Town.

#### III.2.a Emergency Services

Emergency services in the Town of Burrillville include police, fire, and rescue.

The Town maintains a Civil Defense network consisting of the combined efforts of the Emergency Management Director, the Department of Public Works, and elected officials of the Town. With the assistance of the Emergency Management Director, the Town operates within the standards and guidelines set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Accordingly, the Town of Burrillville recently updated its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), including a significant section on evacuation procedures under a variety of circumstances. The 2017/2018 EOP is available for public review with copies located in the Department of Public Works, Police Department, and Manager's Office. The EOP describes the Town's three emergency shelter locations, which respectively are Burrillville Middle School, Burrillville High School, and the Jesse Smith Library. The police department is an arm of Town government, while fire and rescue are independent taxing districts.

**Fire and Rescue Services** - There are four fire districts in Burrillville:

- Pascoag Fire District (includes Wallum Lake Fire Department)
- Harrisville Fire District
- Nasonville Fire District
- Oakland-Mapleville Fire District

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

**Table III-1. Summary of Fire District Characteristics**

Fire District	No. of Staff/ Volunteers	Equipment/Age	No. of Units Served	No. of Calls in Aug 2016 – July 2017
<b>Pascoag</b>	60+/-	Engine/ 2012 Engine/1997 Engine/1991 Tower Ladder/2006 Special hazards truck/2000 Tank truck/2011 2 rescue trucks/2010, 2006 Utility jeep/1997 Forestry truck/2004 Chief's vehicle/2005	1,700	Not Available
<b>Harrisville</b>  Volunteer:  Career:	30 senior firefighters; 1 junior firefighter  6 firefighter/ EMT's	Pumper/1992 Pumper/2002 Aerial ladder/2007 Medic/2006 Rescue truck/2016 Forestry/1999 Brush Truck/1988	1,658 (serves portion of Glendale District)	660+/- rescue/EMS  288+/- fire
<b>Nasonville</b>  Volunteer:  Career:	15 firefighters  3 full time firefighter/ EMTs; 7 part time firefighter/ EMTs	2012 ALS/BLS Ambulance 2001 Pumper 1995 Pumper 2006 Tanker Truck 1999 Forestry Truck	1,000	600+/- rescue  150+/- fire
<b>Oakland/ Mapleville</b>  Volunteer:  Per diem personnel:	26  14	Engine/1977 Engine/1994 Engine/2013 Forestry Engine/1987 Chevy Forestry Truck/1985 ALS Rescue Truck/2015 ALS Rescue Truck/2006 Chevy Pickup/2005 Chevy Suburban/1996 GMC Pickup/2016 Boston Whaler Rescue Boat	1,100+/-	536 EMS  198 Fire
<b>Wallum Lake</b>	25	Pumper, 1963 Tanker, 1967	NA	150+/- fire
<b>TOTAL, ALL DISTRICTS</b>	<b>187 +/-</b>		<b>5,458+/-</b>	

## Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

The fire districts are independent taxing districts, in that residents who live within the district boundaries are taxed for the provision of fire services. Pascoag and Harrisville tax their districts separately. Table III-1 presents basic information regarding each fire district.

*Harrisville Fire District* has a full time staff of 6 EMT/Firefighters. There will be a future need to cover all shifts with a paid EMT to ensure that the emergency response will be ALS (advanced life support). Should the community consider establishing a full time, paid fire-fighting force, approximately two fire-fighters are required per shift per 1,000 dwelling units, for a total of 20 to 30 fire-fighters.<sup>13</sup> While the district has tremendous volunteers, volunteer responses are unpredictable, and the existing professional firefighters are understaffed.

*Oakland-Mapleville Fire District* is covered with 2 firefighter/EMT's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as of 2017. This is primarily to ensure ALS coverage for rescue, but staff is also trained to handle any emergency that may arise. At this time the District is not utilizing full time personnel, but part-time per diem personnel. This system covers the District's needs while saving money for

taxpayers in the District. Level of staffing issues are being addressed as they come up. The District finds that with the local mutual aid system, the District is served well even when its own staff is stretched thin.

*Nasonville Fire District* is currently in a growth period, evolving from a small mostly volunteer fire department into a more employee based, professionally managed organization. They are currently staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with one paid Firefighter/EMT on duty at all times. They are also staffing a second paid part time Firefighter /EMT part of the day for 8 hours. This is supplemented by volunteers who respond when called in via pager system. The district is currently having issues recruiting volunteers from the Nasonville district as there has been little interest from residents for some time.

*Pascoag Fire District* did not provide information for this plan.

**Fire and Rescue Calls** - The number of calls each company responded to in 2016/2017 is listed in Table III-1. Overall, the number of calls has been increasing. However, the total number of personnel has increased as well – partly due to increased volunteers. Generally speaking, the Districts report that the increase in calls is due to more calls for minor emergencies or non-emergencies, as well as transport for nursing home

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<sup>13</sup> Impact of Growth, A Guide for Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Planning, Larry W. Canter, Lewis Publishing, 1986.

patients. The trends show that the number of fire and rescue calls is going up each year. Fire calls have increased with more fire alarm malfunction calls, given the complexity of today's fire alarm systems. Rescue calls are increasing due to a rise in people calling for minor ailments and for rides to the hospital. Anecdotally, there has been a rise in calls related to drug overdoses. Each company is a member of the Northern RI Firemen's League, a 12-town mutual aid system, including three companies in Massachusetts, and companies in Glocester, North Smithfield, and Smithfield. Within the Town, there is good cooperation among districts in lending assistance on calls.

**Water Supply** - Four districts are served by hydrant systems: Pascoag, Harrisville, Glendale, and Nasonville. Oakland-Mapleville has hydrants in portions of its district, though the water is supplied by the Harrisville District. Outside these hydrant systems, the Town's ponds and rivers are used as water sources. Each is equipped with pumper trucks adequate to provide water supply for most fire emergencies, and mutual aid is relied upon in severe cases.

**Facilities and Equipment** - Each fire district company is housed in a district-owned and maintained headquarters. Each district indicated that current space conditions are suitable for existing staff and equipment,

and they do not anticipate expansion within the life of this Plan. As the Town continues to grow, however, there may be a need for the companies to add equipment and storage for that equipment. Some of the fire house sites may not be suitable for expansion due to adjacent land uses and natural and other development constraints, particularly the Glendale site. Oakland-Mapleville noted that it may need better sleeping quarters for personnel in the near future. Nasonville noted that it will need to steadily increase funding as it adds personnel to meet the expanding need for service, as well as updated ambulances, fire trucks, equipment, and facilities. Further, Nasonville's current station, built in the 1960's, is too small for newer styles of equipment, and will need to be expanded or replaced.

The most critical need the fire companies are experiencing is in updating and replacing equipment, particularly engines, pumpers, and rescue vehicles. Most companies anticipate replacing at least one major piece of equipment during the next 5 to 10 years, as follows:

Harrisville Fire District - replace fire engine and rescue truck within 10 years

Oakland-Mapleville Fire District - replace its oldest rescue within 5 years

## Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Nasonville – acquire a new ambulance, because if the four existing ambulances are on a call simultaneously, there is virtually no fire protection available

Equipment replacements are funded through a combination of company fund raisers as well as tax income from the districts. Districts are required to meet standards set by the National Fire Insurance Underwriters in terms of equipment and replacements.

**Hazardous Materials Response** - The districts have most members trained as first response teams for hazardous material emergencies. Once the fire fighters have assessed the emergency and cordoned off the area, hazardous materials specialists from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management are contacted. In addition, the Town of Smithfield has a hazardous materials response team that is available to assist if needed. None of the districts anticipate expanding its abilities in this area. However, should a new power plant be approved in Burrillville, it will be critical for all water and fire service providers in the area to receive additional

HazMat preparation and training, and the Town will need a more robust Emergency Operations Plan. Such training is available through the Rhode Island Fire Academy and many local firefighters already have training in this discipline. Further, this is something that would be handled by a regional team, and local responders already have pre-plans in place to work with departments from the region in case of a hazardous material emergency.

**Service Areas** - The National Board of Fire Insurance Underwriters recommends a maximum of 4 square miles for service to a fire district. All the fire districts meet this standard.

**Projected Needs** - Standards are unavailable for volunteer fire personnel, but, based on the standards for full time personnel presented in Table III-2 existing volunteer staffing levels appear to be adequate. This does not account for the limited availability of volunteers during daytime hours. To maintain this staffing level, the companies need to keep their volunteer levels high.

**Table III-2. Projected Staffing Needs for Fire Districts**

Year	Estimated/Projected Population (1)	Projected Dwelling Units (2)	Firefighters Needed (3)
<b>2020</b>	15,720	6,263	31
<b>2025</b>	15,822	6,304	32
<b>2030</b>	15,865	6,321	32
<b>2035</b>	15,821	6,303	32
<b>2040</b>	15,676	6,245	31

Source: (1) Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning.  
 (2) 2.51 persons per dwelling unit.  
 (3) 5 full time firefighters per 1,000 dwelling units, Real Estate Research Corporation.

**III.2.b Police Department**

As of May 2018, the Burrillville Police Department, located at 1477 Victory Highway, is on course to reach its approved compliment of twenty-five (25) sworn police officers.

The current rank structure of sworn personnel is Police Chief, Major (Executive Officer), four (4) Lieutenants (Patrol Commander, Operations Officer, Detective Commander, Administrative Services Officer), a Prosecution Officer, four (4) uniformed Patrol Sergeants (utilized in the role of Shift Commanders), twelve (12) Patrol Officers, a Detective, and a School Resource Officer.

The Communications Division is staffed by four (4) full-time, one (1) part-time, and four (4) fill-in (per diem) Dispatchers.

Civilian staff includes the Chief of the Department’s Executive Assistant, who also

holds the position of Municipal Court Clerk, and the Department’s Maintenance person.

The Department’s Animal Control Staff works from the Shelter at 131 Clear River Road. This Division is comprised of two (2) full time Animal Control Officers and a part-time member. Plans for building a new Shelter at this same location look to be completed by fall of 2019.

In January of 2018, the Department took on the management responsibilities of two additional social service programs and positions: The Addiction Assistance Program (AAP) is staffed by the Addiction Assistance Coordinator who has a direct report to the Department’s Operations Officer. The Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, who is the facilitator for the Burrillville Prevention Action Coalition (BPAC) also reports directly to the Department’s Operations Officer.

The Burrillville Police Department utilizes a variety of police vehicles to execute its public safety mission. This includes a move to a fleet which is predominantly comprised of Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs), which have been found to operate well in this community’s winter climate and in the many areas of rugged terrain from which calls-for-service emanate, along with prime locations for criminal activity. Low-profile and unmarked vehicles are also utilized for Highway Safety and Investigative assignments.

**Table III-3. Police Department Calls for Service, 2013-2017**

Year	Number of Calls
2013	22,113
2014	29,249
2015	28,699
2016	28,114
2017	28,170

**Police Department Issues** - The Police Department achieved *Accreditation* from the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission in January of 2016. The accreditation award recognizes the Burrillville Police Department for having developed and implemented statewide-recognized Professional Law Enforcement Policy and Procedures. Maintaining this level of practice in its daily operations is paramount to the Department’s continued

growth and level of professionalism in all police procedures.

The Burrillville Police Department seeks to grow as a whole in the many public safety services it can provide for the community. The ever-changing demand for services and technology is best met through the growth of each individual officer’s capabilities. The ongoing development of the department and its sworn members comes through continued training along with the enhancement of specialty skills and units. Currently operating specialized units include an Active Shooter Team, Search and Rescue, Field Force Extrication, ATV Patrols, and Bicycle Patrols. Other units, such as Computer Crimes, Marine Response, Intelligence, and Canine Program, are still in the planning and development stages but will be critical to move the Department’s capabilities forward.

In its quest to address the opioid epidemic and its impact on this community, the Burrillville Police Department took on the responsibility of the Addiction Assistance Program. Early indications are that the program is being very well received by the Town as a whole. The fight to knock down stereotypical stigmas of addiction will be an ongoing battle, but a worthy one for the Town of Burrillville as this vital program progresses. Addressing the opioid epidemic must be done on three fronts. First, the

### Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

AAP is a must. Second, vigilant enforcement must also continue to address those who seek to distribute illegal narcotics in this community. Finally, education through the efforts of the Schools, the SRO, and BPAC are essential in meeting this goal.

The Communications Center is in need of a full changeover. This update is not only for the equipment, but also for building in a more comprehensive radio frequency for the town's fire districts. Funding for this initiative is being explored through grant programs as well as through the fiscal support of the town. The Communications System overhaul is a *defined need* by the Burrillville Fire Department Chiefs and the EMA Director, as well as the Chief of Police.

This is a community which continues to grow, while also looking to maintain its rural character. This is also a community which has a strong firearm presence. The threats faced by Police Officers and community members, whether in an educational, workplace, or domestic setting, through active shooter incidents, continues to grow nationally at an alarming rate. Being prepared and trained in these anticipated events is critical. This Department has moved to assign each individual officer with an AR-15 rifle along with their respective sidearm. The Department believes this is a necessary

added tool which will require continued training and proficiency.

Route 102 is a main corridor running through the Town of Burrillville. Three fatalities in July of 2013 brought stricter traffic enforcement and added enhancements to this roadway. Highway Safety enforcement is a pillar of the operations of this Department and is not limited to the Route 102 corridor.

With the legalization of recreational marijuana in Massachusetts and the growth of medical marijuana in Rhode Island, impaired driving challenges will grow at a rate that needs to be consistently addressed through manpower and traffic safety initiatives along with education of the motoring public.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program is very successful. Much of that success is attributed to the positive working relationship between the Police Department and the School Department, along with the tenacity of the officer assigned to this position. All must be maintained to keep this program moving in the right direction.

The growth of the Department will be predicated on the forces that impact the community. A new power plant, if approved and constructed, will burden this department tremendously with project and

environmental protests, roadway safety impacts, and potential hazardous materials events, not to mention the expected wide-range of calls-for-service such a project will constantly bring. An increase in manpower will be a definitive need once again, depending on the timing of these impacts. In addition, increasing the size of the Detective Division will be a demand that the Department will need to address in the very short future, given the demands for calls-for-service that require this type of expertise and skill set.

The Department's interaction with the community through a multitude of initiatives must continue to grow. AAP, BPAC, Citizen's Police Academy, SRO, Elderly Affairs, B-SAFE program, winter shoveling program, and E-Commerce safety locations are all great and derived from the Police Department. However, such initiatives must be supported and implemented by capable and professional Police Officers and civilian personnel. Officer retention is an absolute need, which must be addressed and continually reviewed with the best possible methods for the community and the department members individually and as a whole.

### **III.2.c Libraries**

Burrillville is served by two libraries, Jesse M. Smith Library at 100 Tinkham Lane, Harrisville, and Pascoag Public Library, 57 Church Street, Pascoag. The two town

libraries are funded by the Town, State, and private donations. The Jesse Smith Library is overseen by the Library Board of Trustees appointed by the Town Council. The Pascoag Public Library is governed by the Pascoag Ladies Library Association.

**Pascoag Library** - The Pascoag Library is housed in a small structure built in 1924. The library is open five days per week for a total of 26 hours per week. It is a private non-profit organization governed by the Pascoag Ladies Library Association.

**Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library** - The primary mission of the Jesse Smith Library is to serve as a full-service public library providing access to a wide variety of materials and services to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of the community. In the next 10 years, the library will continue its transition into a community center in keeping with the motto "cornerstone of the community". Local patrons still are looking to borrow materials, but libraries across the country are becoming more of a community center. Library staff have kept up with that change by increasing programming efforts and community connections. The library is located in the village of Harrisville on a main traffic route and within walking distance of the Town's high school, two elementary schools, the Burrillville Farmer's Market Pavilion, the Clocktower Apartment Complex, and two

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

major senior centers. The current facility is 24,900 sq. ft. and was completed in 2008. The library has two floors, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dedicated to children’s services. The library has four rooms available for use by nonprofit organizations for meeting space.

Hangout attendance has far exceeded expectations. The former Teen Room is too small to handle attendance and the library has been using its only large meeting room for the hangout. A dedicated space for teens is needed, and the library is exploring options including a roof expansion.

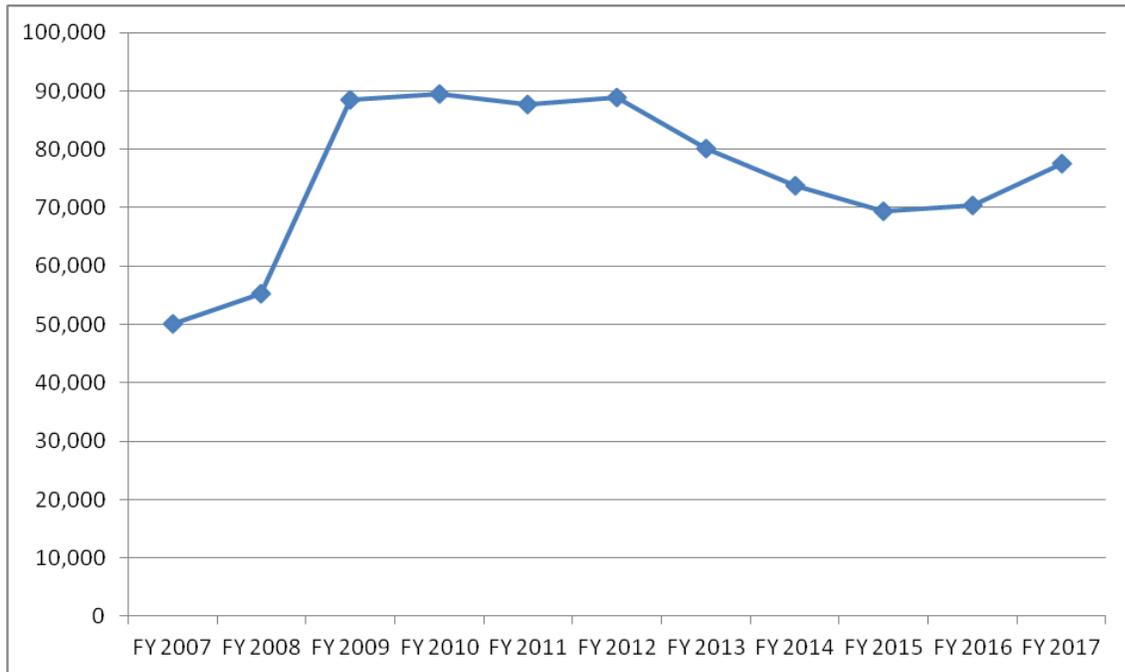
Within the next 10 years, the library is likely to need additional space. Its Teen

**Table III-4. Library Collection, FY2017**

Total Physical Collection	68,198
Total Electronic Collection	72,877
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>141,075</b>
Library Registered Patrons	6,098
Library Hours Open FY 2017	2,713

Source: FY 2017 Annual Report

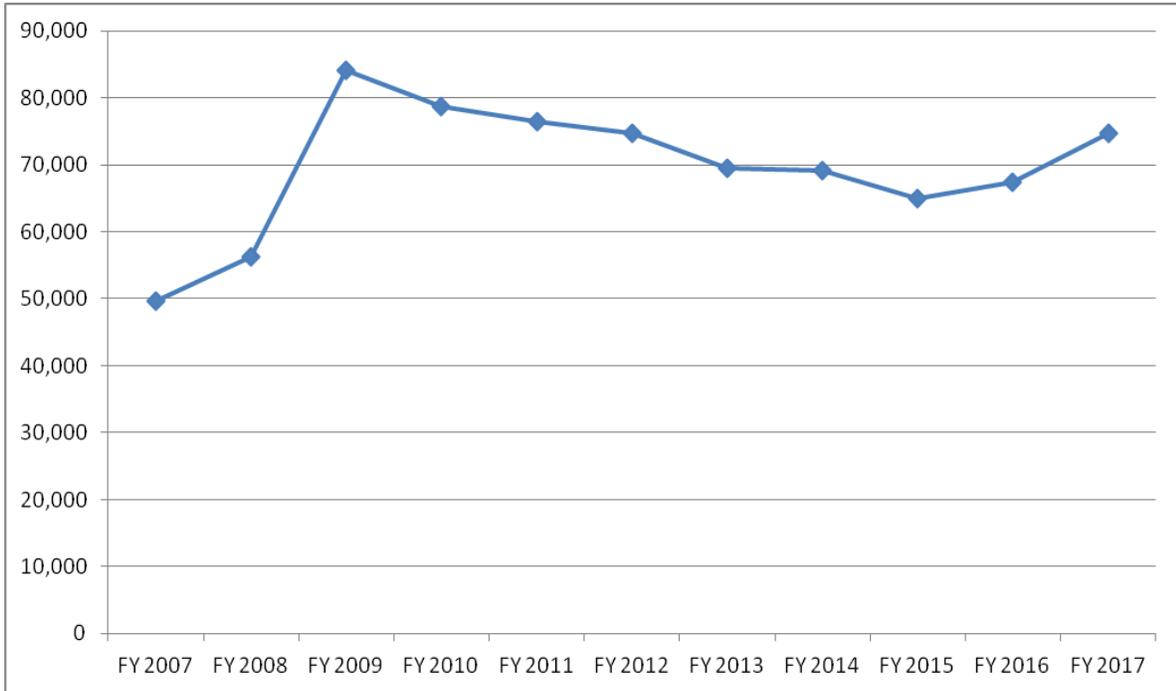
**Key Historical Library Usage Statistics**



Source: FY 2007-2017 Annual Report

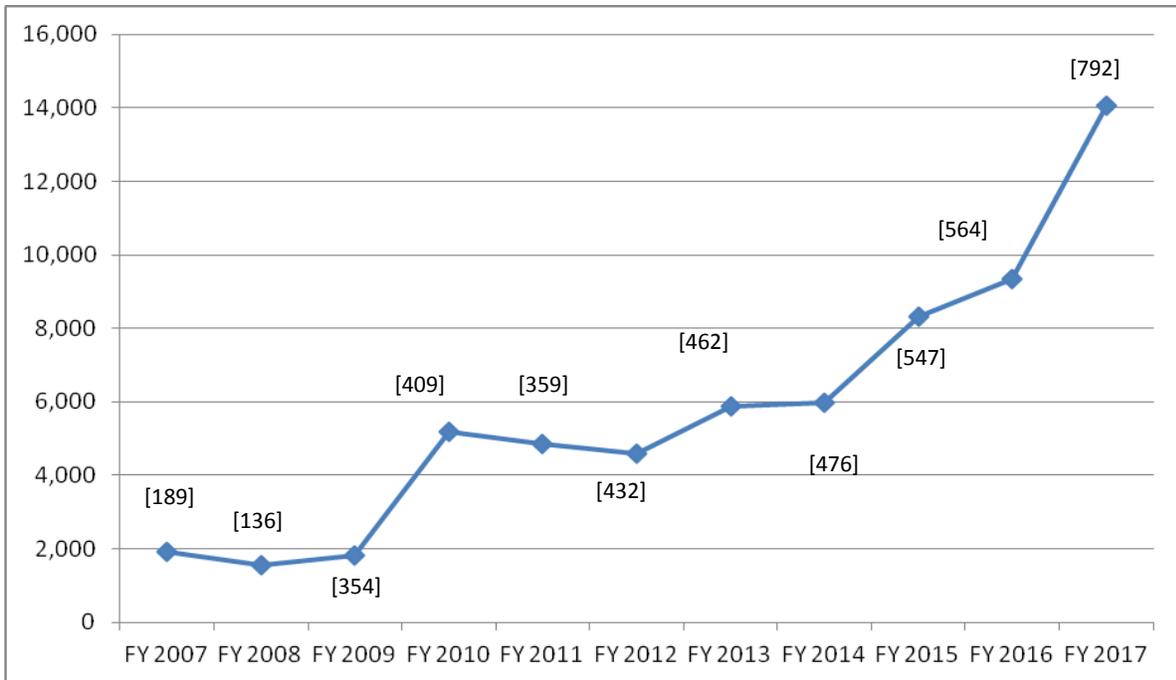
**Figure III-1. Circulation (Includes physical and electronic), FY2007-2017**

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities



Source: FY 2007-2017 Annual Report

**Figure III-2. Library Visits FY 2007-2017**



Source: FY 2007-2017 Annual Reports

**Figure III-3. Program Attendance and Number of Programs, FY 2007-2017**

### Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

*Library Employees* - The library currently has 20 permanent staff working 501 hours per week:

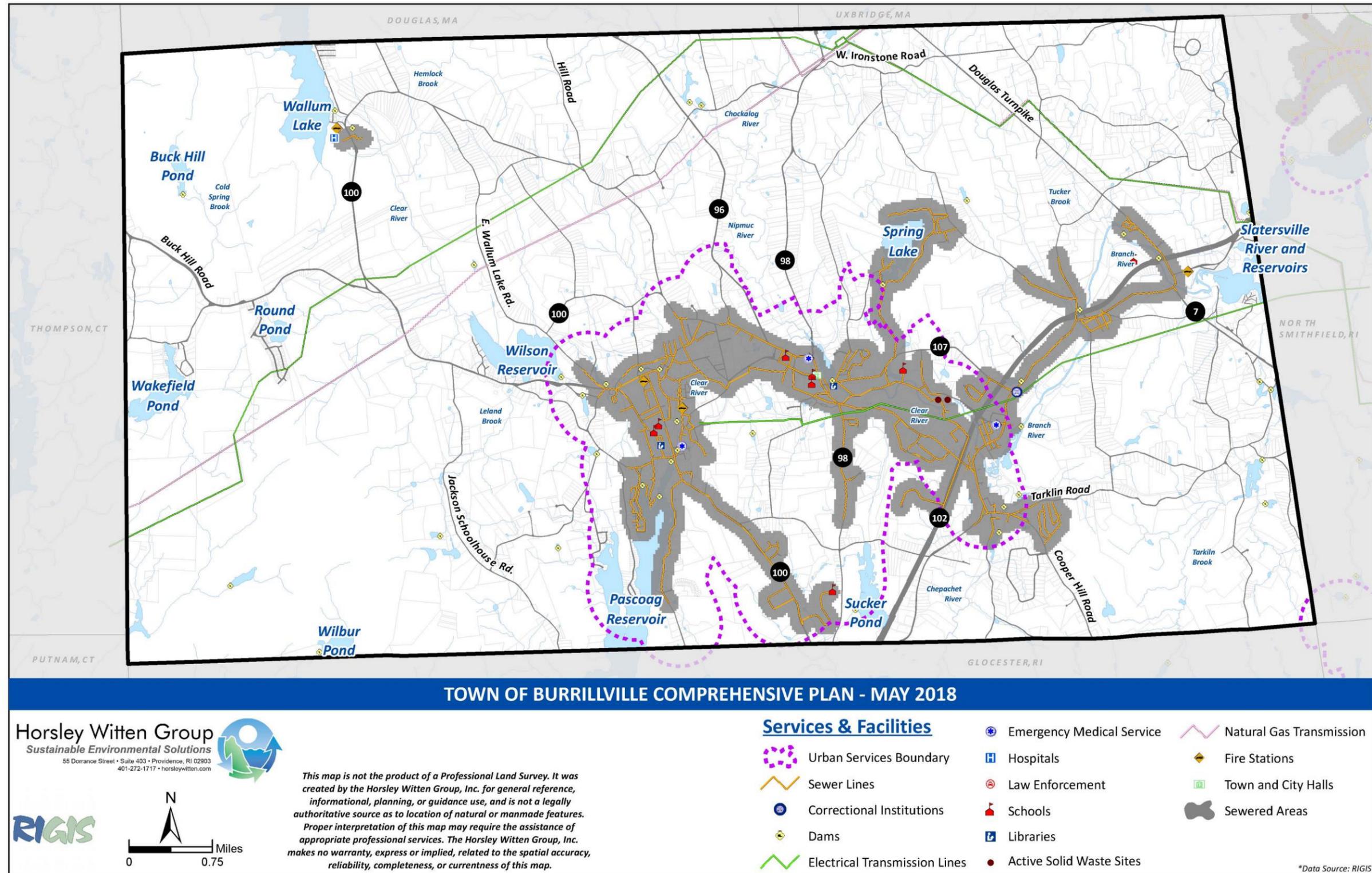
Full time staff (35 hrs): 9 positions, 315 hours/week

Part time staff (varies): 11 positions, 186 hours/week

1 substitute librarian with varying hours per month

**Table III-5. Library Employees, 2017**

Department	Staff Level	Hours per Week
Administration		89.50
	Director (MLIS)	35.00
	Assistant Director (MLIS)	35.00
	Admin Assistant/Technology Specialist	19.50
Circulation Department		185.00
	Department Head	35.00
	Circ III	35.00
	Circ III	35.00
	Circ III	19.50
	Circ II	18.00
	Circ II	14.50
	Circ II	14.00
	Student Page	14.00
Reference Department		89.50
	Reference Librarian (MLIS)	35.00
	Reference Paraprofessional	19.50
	Teen Librarian (MLIS)	35.00
	Substitute Librarian	varies
Children's Department		102.00
	Head Children's Librarian (MLIS)	35.00
	Children's Librarian (MLIS)	17.00
	Children's Paraprofessional	18.00
	Children's Paraprofessional	18.00
	Student Page	14.00
Physical Plant		35.00
	Custodian	35.00



Map III-1. Services and Facilities

The library will need additional staffing in the next 10 years. The library hopes to add at least a part time (preferably full time) MLIS teen/adult services librarian position so that it can expand its Teen Hangout and add adult programming opportunities.

#### **III.2.d Town Hall**

The Town Hall is located at 105 Harrisville Main Street and its 6,200+/- square feet includes administrative offices, records storage, and meeting space.

##### **Town Hall Issues -**

- At current staffing levels, the existing town-owned facilities, including Town Hall and the Town Hall Annex, are marginally sufficient to provide services. Over the years, the town has acquired ample land to consider expansion of municipal facilities, including schools, should the town population grow to the extent that it outgrows the current staffing levels required to provide acceptable and responsive service levels.
- The basement of the Town Hall, which has some usable office space, is not handicapped accessible, and cannot be used for purposes other than storage, lunch breaks, and similar activities. Parking at the site is limited, with approximately 25-30+/- spaces in the parking lot and 4+/- on-street spaces. There is no ability to expand parking or building on the existing lot.

- The police station and library meeting rooms have been equipped to handle public meetings, both with a larger capacity than the Town Hall council chambers.
- There is limited space in the Town Hall Annex, located at 144 Harrisville Main Street, to accommodate more staff if needed.
- The possibility of merging services, especially with the schools, should be evaluated as it pertains to space needed (or space saved) to house merged services. The Town Council may appoint a building/needs study committee to evaluate future space requirements, including the schools and sewer commission's administrative needs and the possibility of merging them.

#### **III.2.e Public Works Department**

The Town's Public Works Department is located at 65 Union Avenue in Harrisville. The responsibilities of the department include snow plowing, sanitary landfill operations, road and bridge maintenance, and maintenance of athletic fields and Town parks. The Department employs 15 personnel, including drivers, laborers, mechanics, clerical staff, and management. Its equipment includes 14 dump trucks, 12 of which have sanding and snowplowing capabilities, 5 Pickups with plowing capability, 4 landscape dumps with plowing capability, 2 front-end loaders, 1 road

grader, 1 vector truck, 2 road sweepers, 1 service truck, and 2 management vehicles. The Public Works Director annually presents a Public Works Plan to the Town Council.

**Public Works Issues –**

- Growth has resulted in increased maintenance of Town roads, particularly in areas which have experienced conversions from predominantly summer homes to more year round homes.
- Department staffing has decreased by 50 percent over the last 10 to 12 years.
- Anticipated future problems include more road improvement work, additional plowing and sanding in winter months, and additional sweeping resulting from new subdivisions, the industrial park development, and the turnover of some State roads to the Town in the near future.
- Many sidewalks have deficiencies and are in serious need of repair.
- Newcomers to Town expect a higher level of service than the Department can provide.
- The Public Works Department should be relocated to a more appropriate location, such as adjacent to the Police Station in Glendale.
- The Department has begun, but not completed, a pavement management program. The town spends over a

million dollars per year, on average, on repaving or reclaiming roads. There is a statewide transportation improvement program that the town tries to take advantage of to improve roads and bridges.

- The Department will continue to review its annual program of sidewalk maintenance, and increase efforts to maintain and repair sidewalks in a systematic manner.

**III.2.f Utility Services**

Burrillville is a "full service" municipality providing many residents with a modern sewage collection system with advanced treatment, a high level of pollutant removal, water distribution systems furnished by three of the town's four Fire Districts, and municipal control over the operations and maintenance of drainage facilities associated with municipal roads.

These services and their delivery systems are dynamic and are being managed to keep pace with community needs. There is some evidence that the development of the community in the past decade has resulted in some growing pains, but the overall picture is one of a community that has been proactive and responsive to growing needs.

Due to Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) contamination of the Pascoag Water System, water supply is largely furnished by

### Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

the Harrisville Water District which also supplies Pascoag. Harrisville operates under the guidance of a Water Supply System Management Plan which accounts for all projects that are either under construction or within the Planning Board Approval Process. The MBTE contamination forced Pascoag to tie into the Harrisville system in order to provide town-wide potable water to residents of each village. Residents outside the service areas of these Fire Districts are served by on-site wells or small community well systems. There is a small community water service in Oakland providing water service to approximately 20 units that was developed by Austin Levy in association with the mill complex. Unfortunately, tests conducted in the fall of 2017 revealed a slightly elevated level of certain man-made chemicals, called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in the Oakland system's drinking water, which serves approximately 175 people. The Town of Burrillville is working with the Rhode Island Department of Health and Department of Environmental Management to address and remedy Oakland Association water concerns.

While the water supply sources of the other two distribution systems do not appear to be threatened, and the systems' capacities have proved adequate to meet demand, the situation in Oakland is a reminder of the importance of vigilant

monitoring. Further, new sources should be identified for reserves, and to serve future growth. Protection measures should also be implemented for existing and potential new water sources.

There is a water system operated by the State of Rhode Island at Zambarano Hospital in the northwest section of Town adjacent to Wallum Lake. The Hospital draws water from Wallum Lake and it is treated at facilities at the power plant for distribution and use at the Hospital only. The Hospital also operates its own wastewater treatment facility which utilizes an on-site leaching field for effluent treatment and discharge. These hospital facilities are entirely self contained and are not available for community use.

Regardless of the contamination of the Pascoag water system, development in Harrisville and Pascoag will seek to connect both villages, forcing the two water systems to remain connected. Development outside the Harrisville and Pascoag water districts will be more dependent on individual wells and on-site sewage disposal. Outside Pascoag-Harrisville, exceptions to on-site services can be anticipated where there are planned sewer extensions and where connections to the Nasonville Fire District water system are feasible.

The continued development of commercial and industrial uses will also be influenced by and have an effect on municipal services. There are significant tracts of land along Route 102 that are zoned for commercial and industrial development. Not all of these areas are currently serviced by municipal sewer and water. However, the Town and the Sewer Commission will continue to discuss and plan for any desired extension of sewers, particularly to Nasonville, to furnish the wastewater collection needed to achieve the Town's land use vision for this village area and the overall Route 102 corridor.

**Utility Services Issues –**

- The citizens of Burrillville have expressed the desire to maintain the rural quality that characterizes the Town today. These are the qualities that have attracted new residents in recent years, and will continue to attract residents in the years to come. The key is to balance the anticipated growth with the retention of these qualities.
- Many residents believe that new residential development should also be accompanied by new industrial and commercial development to expand the tax base to relieve the local tax burden. Accompanying new development will be the need for municipal services. There will be added solid waste disposal requirements and new homes and busi-

nesses will require water service and wastewater disposal. The potential for adverse water quality impacts will increase and the rural attractiveness of the Town could be eroded.

- In accordance with the Town subdivision ordinance, continue to require development proposal review and certification by the Sewer Authority if sewer use is proposed.
- In accordance with the Town's subdivision ordinance, continue to require review and certification by the appropriate water system authority as to the availability of water if use of the public water supply is proposed.
- Continue to implement a water system leak detection and elimination program within the Harrisville & Pascoag Fire Districts, and prepare for a future analysis of the age and expected remaining life span of existing pipes in the system.

**III.2.g Solid Waste Management Facilities**

The Town is currently contracted with a private company to manage residential recycling collection. Burrillville is making every effort to comply with the RI Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan's Vision which reads as follows: "In 2038, responsibility for sound solid waste management is shared. We all understand that each of us has a role to play. We have made strides in reducing the amount of waste each of us generates as

individuals...Our landfill is nearing closure and our recycling facility is at the end of its useful life. The next stage of sustainable waste management is upon us, and difficult decisions must be made [as we] begin the transition to the solid waste management practices that will take the State into the 22nd century.”

The summary below, as provided by the Burrillville PWD, describes the Town’s efforts regarding recycling:

The Town of Burrillville has approximately 16,000 residents and 6,400 households. In 2012, the Town recycled 1,588 tons of recyclables and generated 4,374 tons of Solid Waste, and had a recycling rate of 26.6%, and a diversion rate of 33.8%. In an effort to improve the Town’s recycling and diversion rates, the Town launched a Fully Automated Collection Program in August of 2012. The Automated Collection Program was advertised in local publications throughout town and at Town events, and an informational session was held whereby residents could see how the trucks operated and ask questions. All residents received an informational packet upon delivery of the carts. The program is running smoothly and residents are complying. In 2016, the Town recycled 1,872 tons of recyclables and generated 4,238 tons of Solid Waste, and had a recycling rate of 30.6% and a diversion rate of 37.7%.

Table III-6 below shows the changes in Burrillville’s Recycling and Diversion rates from 2012 to 2016:

**Table III-6. Recycling and Diversion Rates, 2012-2016**

Year	Recycling Rate	Diversion Rate
2016	30.6%	37.7%
2015	31.1%	38.3%
2014	31.5%	38.3%
2013	31.4%	38.3%
2012	26.6%	33.8%

The numbers show the effectiveness of switching to a Fully Automated Collection Program, and the steady numbers since 2013 indicate the program’s continued success. The Town is working extremely hard to recycle as much as it can, and is making a conscious effort to educate residents on recycling properly. The focus has shifted statewide from pushing for a Recycling Rate of 35%, to increasing the overall diversion rate and “recycling right.” Burrillville has been doing an amazing job keeping contaminants out of the recycle carts, and is one of only a few municipalities in the state that has not received a rejected load for contaminated recycling. The Town’s Recycling Coordinator and Solid Waste Foreman are responsible for resident education and outreach. Efforts to reach out to residents are done via email blasts, ads in the local

“Bargain Buyer,” flyers sent home with school children, flyers posted around Town, notices left by Waste Management drivers, tabling at Town Recreation Department events, and four yearly Recycling themed events (Earth Day Clean Up, Spring Shred and E-Waste Collection, Eco-Depot Hazardous Waste Collection, and the Green Festival which occurs each year in the summer). In addition, the Solid Waste Foreman also does drive-by assessments and impromptu home visits to educate residents on any issues noted by Waste Management with their curbside carts. The Town also offers free field trips scheduled by the Recycling Coordinator to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) for students to learn about what happens to their trash and recycling once it leaves their curbside carts.

In 2015 the Town purchased a Mobile Message Sign with matching Town and grant funds. The sign is placed in a highly traveled area and is used to alert residents of recycling events, changes in their trash or recycling collection due to weather/holidays, and program changes initiated by RIRRC. The use of the mobile sign has improved communication which has greatly reduced the number of missed pickups due to resident error and has virtually eliminated phone complaints due to collection changes.

The Town also has a conveniently located Recycling and Compost Facility where residents can recycle items that are not accepted in their curbside carts. The Whipple Avenue Recycling and Compost Facility is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 9-1 for residents to bring mattresses, scrap metal, rigid plastic, tires, textiles, and excess single stream recycling to be recycled. The Facility also accepts lawn and yard waste and Christmas trees to be composted. At the Public Works Department the Town offers residents the ability to recycle used motor oil and filters, clothing and books, ink cartridges, and car batteries.

**Solid Waste Management Issues** - Burrillville currently transports all solid waste to the Central Landfill in Johnston. This RIRRC facility has been managed in a way to extend its life past prior estimates, but there is almost no question that the Central Landfill will reach capacity within the next 10-20 years. This creates an uncertainty as to the future disposal options for Burrillville and many other Rhode Island cities and towns. These uncertainties cannot be resolved within the context of this plan.

Because the RIRRC is confronted with the imminent loss of its landfill in Johnston and not having the legal authority to incinerate waste, its capacity to meet the state’s demands for waste disposal is limited. A

very real prospect exists for new landfill development in Rhode Island. Anticipated land requirements necessitate locating sites with approximately 500 acres in area. At the current time, no sites have been selected by the State. The landfill has recently opened a new phase at its current location, but once that reaches capacity, solid waste will have to be trucked out of state at a much higher rate of disposal. Municipalities have already gotten a taste of the projected increase with current tipping fees rising from \$32/ton for FY 17 to \$39.50/ton in FY 18 and \$47/ton in FY19. The uncertainty about solid waste disposal and the effect it will have on the budgets of Rhode Island Municipalities is the biggest solid waste management issue at this time. Currently, Burrillville, along with other municipalities, is focusing on increasing recycling and diversion rates in an attempt to reduce the solid waste tonnage and extend the life of the landfill.

### **III.2.h Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal**

The Burrillville Sewer Commission completed and received RI DEM approval for a Wastewater Facilities Plan, October 2014. This Comprehensive Plan supports the goals and policies of the Town's Wastewater Facilities Plan. All pertinent information regarding sewage collection, treatment, and disposal is contained within the plan.

*Wastewater Facilities Management Plan*

*Town of Burrillville, RI*

*October 2014*

*James J. Germenia & Associates*

*Consulting Environmental Engineers and Scientists*

*272 West Exchange Street – Ste 201 – Providence, RI*

*Hard copies may be viewed at the Burrillville Planning Office:*

*144 Harrisville Main Street*

*Harrisville, RI 02830*

*(401) 568-4300, ext.130, 131*

The appropriate density of development for any given area of town should be directly related to the level of service available, particularly sewer.

### **Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal Issues -**

- Sewer service extensions should continue to be considered for those areas as determined to be necessary for implementing the land use vision of this Comprehensive Plan, the Waste Water Facilities Plan, and the redevelopment efforts of the Burrillville Redevelopment Authority.
- Industrial and commercial areas on Route 102 should be serviced by sewers rather than expecting industry to rely on on-site sewage disposal.

### **III.2.i Individual Sewage Disposal Systems**

The balance of the Town that is not serviced by sewers relies on Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS). These systems, when properly designed, installed, and maintained, are a reliable means of disposing wastewater. The R.I. Department of Environmental Management regulates the design and installation of new systems, system repairs, and alterations. Burrillville encourages the use of modern, technologically advanced Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS), when used as an alternative to sewer, in an effort to protect water quality.

### **III.2.j Water Service**

The Town is serviced by three water districts: (1) the Harrisville Fire District, (2) the Pascoag Fire District, and (3) the Nasonville Fire District. The waterlines transcend the actual fire district boundaries, though the Harrisville Fire District, by charter, is not bound to any one area and can serve the entire town. In fact, they currently serve parts of Mapleville and Oakland. Generally, residents outside the service areas rely either on individual wells or community well systems such as those in Oakland, Mohegan, and Glendale. There are, however, residents inside the service areas who rely on individual wells.

The Pascoag and Harrisville water systems have developed for the most part on their

own. However, there is a history of coordination between the two. The Pascoag system was a private operation until 1934. At that time the system was purchased by the Harrisville and Pascoag Fire Districts. Historical accounts speculate that the residents of the Fire Districts wanted a more comprehensive supply and delivery system. During the fall of 2001, the Pascoag and Harrisville water districts physically merged the water delivery infrastructure when MTBE contaminated the Pascoag water system. It must be noted that although the water systems are merged, the departments remain separate entities, with Pascoag now a wholesale customer of Harrisville. Until the Pascoag Fire District either locates new wells or is able to remediate the existing wells, it will remain a wholesale customer of Harrisville.

The Nasonville Fire District water system resulted from community response to private well contamination caused by a landfill operation which is now closed.

#### **III.2.j.1 Harrisville Fire District**

**Water System Supply** – This Comprehensive Plan supports the goals and policies of Harrisville’s Water Supply System Management Plan, further information for which is listed below:

*Water Supply System Management Plan  
Harrisville Fire District, Burrillville, RI  
July 2015 – Stantec*

*Hard copies may be viewed at the Burrillville Planning Office:  
144 Harrisville Main Street  
Harrisville, RI 02830  
(401) 568-4300, ext.130, 131*

The water quality of the wells is generally good and meets current standards. There have been no known instances of well contamination.

**Storage** - There are two water storage facilities in the Harrisville Water System.

**Fee Structure** - The basic rate is \$4.18 per quarter per 1,000 gallons of water consumed per residential unit. There is a .0292 per 1000-gallon charge for the state's water quality protection fund. Ten percent of the fee is retained by the district and the balance is deposited with the state.

**Use** - There are a total of 1,057 service connections within the Harrisville District. The average daily demand has been steadily increasing according to the most recent data.

**Consumption**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gallons per Day</u>
1986	190,898
1987	201,207
1988	250,000
2002	275,000
2016	520,000

**III.2.j.2 Pascoag Fire District**

**Background** - In the summer of 2001, as noted above, the District detected high levels of methyl-tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) in both wells No. 3 and 3A and subsequently was forced to shut down both supply wells. In response to the inactivation of these primary supply wells, the District began to purchase wholesale water from neighboring Harrisville Fire District. The District's two primary supply wells currently remain inactive.

**Water System**

**General** - The Pascoag Fire District (District) is a self-supporting, quasi-municipal public utility providing potable water to customers within its prescribed service territory. The operation of the water supply portion of the District is financed directly from the sale of metered water to District customers. The District is controlled and operated through a seven member part-time, Board of Utility Commissioners or Administrative Board that is primarily responsible for overall management and policies of the District. The day-to-day operation and function of the water system is dependent upon the General Manager and assigned operation staff.

The District's water system is comprised of approximately 15 miles of water transmission and distribution mains, hydrants, water services, two well pump

stations (currently inactive), a wholesale service connection, two storage tanks and appurtenances that serve approximately 2,977 persons through 1076 service accounts within the Village of Pascoag.

**Supply Source(s)** - The District currently obtains 100 percent of its source water from an interconnection with neighboring Harrisville Fire District. This interconnection located on Main Street was installed in 2002 and consists of a 10 inch turbine meter located in a below grade concrete vault. In addition, the District maintains a secondary (non-metered) emergency interconnection with Harrisville Fire District on Union Avenue.

**Storage** - The District maintains two (2) water storage tanks of standpipe style construction. One is located along Rock Avenue and is 100 feet in height with a diameter of 51 feet and a nominal capacity of 1.5 MG. The second tank is located on South Main Street and is 50 feet in height with a diameter of 30 feet and nominal capacity of 0.265 MG. These tanks are designed to provide equalization storage to the water system as well as meet periods of peak demands and reserve fire storage.

### **III.2.j.3 Nasonville Fire District Water System**

A water system has been developed in the Nasonville section to serve 50-60 homes

affected by the Western Sand & Gravel Landfill off Route 7. This system includes one well rated at 172,000 GPD, and a 100,000-gallon storage tank on Pulaski Road. The project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Aquifer Protection** - The Town of Burrillville has an Aquifer Protection Overlay District (APD) to ensure the integrity of its water supply. Land in the APD is zoned for uses in relation to the soil's transmissivity. Prohibited land uses within the entire APD include storage and handling of road salt, incinerators, landfills, septage disposal, and the storage and use of hazardous substances. Minimum lot sizes and building set backs are also higher within the overlay than in most underlying zoning districts. There is a one-cent per 100-gallon use charge mandated by state law to develop a land acquisition fund for protection of wells.

**Future Requirements** - The A.D. Little 1989 Report, *Water Supply Analysis for the State of Rhode Island*, projects the future population for the Harrisville and Pascoag Fire Districts water supply systems and observed that Harrisville needed to develop a water conservation program. Since then, water conservation has been added to the district's Water Supply System Management Plan.

The report finds that the northwestern Rhode Island area is likely to experience water shortages or overdraft situations requiring more water than supply and demand management initiatives can save. The most important supply management options generally include the maintenance or reactivation of developed but threatened sources, watershed and wellhead protection initiatives, and emergency supply protection and redundancy improvements.

Demand management options include aggressive leak detection and repair programs, aggressive sanitary device retrofit programs, technical/ financial support for water saving investments by non-domestic users, guidelines for water service area expansion, and systematic drought management programs. The installation of low flow fixtures in all new and older homes, in accordance with the state building code, has the potential to reduce residential water consumption by five to ten percent.

### **Water Service Issues -**

- At the current time both the Pascoag and Harrisville Fire Districts are looking to increase groundwater supplies. Potential future surface water supplies also exist, but must be studied. These are in the Pascoag Fire District: Pascoag Reservoir and Wilson's Reservoir.
- In the interim, while new sources are being explored and perhaps developed, it is imperative that the water utilities continue to conduct thorough leak detection and elimination programs to reduce and eventually eliminate losses. Water conservation measures should be further explored in residential, commercial, and industrial development to reduce demand. This will stretch existing supplies and perhaps avert the need for costly new source development. Very importantly, existing sources must be assiduously protected.
- The key element to sound water supply and distribution management is to assure there are institutional mechanisms to coordinate the following entities: (1) Municipal Government; (2) Pascoag Fire Districts; (3) Harrisville Fire District; and (4) Nasonville Fire District. These coordinating mechanisms will best operate if they jointly develop service area extension guidelines; review all development proposals and implement a review checklist to assure adequate supply and pressure to new connections; develop priorities for future source development investments; and develop priorities for land acquisition and for the elimination of potential groundwater contamination sources.

- Locations outside the Fire District water supply systems will continue to rely on on-site wells. The Zambarano Hospital Complex will continue to rely on Wallum Lake for its water source. Wallum Lake also supplies Wilson's Reservoir. The protection of groundwater resources throughout the Town is therefore of paramount concern, and the protection of surface water impoundments which currently supply or offer future supply potential is of equal importance.
- To this end, the Town government, which is the primary authority for land use decisions, must continue to carefully review the siting of major facilities which have the potential for groundwater and surface water contamination; residential, commercial and industrial development; new highway and improved highway projects; and drainage facilities. As the permitting authority for new building and building renovation construction, the Town, through the building official's office, must continue to assure that water conservation code requirements are enforced.

### **III.2.k Drainage and Stormwater Management Facilities**

There are only a few closed (piped) drainage systems in the Town which are inventoried at the Department of Public Works. By and large, stormwater runoff is

collected by drainage swales or ditches parallel to the roadways. Runoff then either percolates into the ground or flows to the nearest discharge point into a water body. This Comprehensive Plan supports the goals and policies of the Town's Stormwater Management Plan, for which further information is listed below:

#### *Stormwater Management Plan*

*Town of Burrillville, RI*

*2004 – Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc.*

[https://www.burrillville.org/sites/burrillville/ri/files/uploads/burrillville\\_final\\_swmp\\_2.pdf](https://www.burrillville.org/sites/burrillville/ri/files/uploads/burrillville_final_swmp_2.pdf)

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Burrillville does not have a combined stormwater and sewage collection system. Stormwater is handled for the most part by drainage ditches and swales in the rural sections of Town. In the villages there are closed drainage systems and examples can be readily found of areas where drainage systems are comprised primarily of gutter flow. Regulations governing new development of subdivisions require storm drainage plans be designed by a registered professional engineer to handle runoff from up to the 25-year storm.

### **Drainage and Stormwater Management Facilities Issues -**

- As in all Rhode Island communities, development and redevelopment in Burrillville has to meet the requirements of the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Manual (December 2010), which promotes the use of low impact development (LID). LID is a term used to describe stormwater management strategies that integrate natural features (sometimes referred to as “green infrastructure”) as opposed to pipes or paved channels (“gray infrastructure”). In addition to filtering pollutants in stormwater, LID also reduces the impacts of flooding and increases aesthetics by adding natural green space.
- In the next 20 years, stormwater quality management regulations are likely to tighten. Residents and business owners may play a greater role in managing stormwater on their properties in the future if this occurs. This may include installation of stormwater runoff detention systems (rain barrels, etc.) or replacement of existing impervious surfaces with permeable alternatives, e.g. permeable pavers instead of concrete for driveways.

### **III.3 Social Services**

Burrillville strives to provide a variety of social services to all of its citizens. Services for the elderly are largely limited to, yet successful in providing, affordable housing for the Town’s increasing aging population. Social service providers serving Burrillville residents include:

- Community Care Alliance (Woonsocket)
- Phoenix House (Exeter)
- Town services, including transportation for senior citizens and the disabled offered through the Department of Public Works and fitness programs offered through the Department Parks & Recreation.
- Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library – classes, instruction, and socialization to seniors and other residents.
- Glocester Senior Center - the Town makes an annual contribution to this center in order to make its services available to Burrillville residents.
- Tri-Town Community Action, Inc. serves the Town of Burrillville, among other communities. Programs include consumer education, counseling, health and wellness programs, home weatherization, heating assistance, and other services.
- Stillwater Heights features Low-Moderate Income Housing for Seniors 62 or older.
- WellOne provides, among other things, mental health and dental services for residents in need.

### Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

- Lab services by LifeSpan are available at One High Street.
- Burrillville Prevention Action Coalition (BPAC) is a coalition of community organizations and systems including education, civic, and volunteer groups, the media, recreational leagues, and church leaders. This partnership collectively assesses community needs and attempts to develop the appropriate programs to meet them.
- Loaves and Fishes distributes food to families in need.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

**III.4 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>III.1 To provide community facilities and services which maintain or improve existing quality in the most efficient manner to meet the existing and future needs of Burrillville's residents and businesses. Provide cost-effective, environmentally sound utility services which maintain and improve existing quality of life and accommodate the effects of future growth.</p>	<p>III.1.a Explore alternative financing arrangements for supplementing local property taxes, and State and Federal funding of Town services, such as, but not limited to, impact fees.</p>	<p>III.1.a.1 The Planning Department/Board, in coordination with the Town Council, will review best practices for Adequate Public Facility Ordinances (regulations that tie new development to the capacity of local facilities and services) and consider the merits of such a system for Burrillville.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>TP, PB, TC, PWD</p>
		<p>III.1.a.2 Should the results of the study described in III.1.a.1 indicate that an Adequate Public Facilities system would be beneficial to providing municipal services in Burrillville, prepare the necessary legal review and establish such a system.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>PB, TP, TC</p>
		<p>III.1.a.3 Town Council may appoint a building needs study committee to evaluate the need for additional town facilities, including the schools and sewer commission's administrative needs and the possibility of merging them.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>TC, Sewer Commission</p>
	<p><b>Police Department</b> III.1.b Maintain and improve the quality of the Town's police department through increased staffing, raising qualifications for law enforcement officers, and improving facilities and equipment.</p>	<p>III.1.b.1 Increase the number of police cruisers commensurate with the uniformed staffing level of the department.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PD, TC</p>
	<p>III.1.b.2 Work with the Chief of Police to determine the optimal uniformed and support staffing level for the Department to adequately serve existing and projected future population. Add officers as necessary.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC,</p>	

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	<p><b>Fire Districts</b>                      III.1.c Maintain the high quality fire protection and emergency rescue services provided by the volunteer fire companies of the Town's Fire Districts.</p>	III.1.c.1 In the short-term future, continue the present system of volunteer fire district companies while exploring options for expanding professional staff.	Ongoing	FD, TC
	III.1.c.2 Consider merging the fire districts into a Townwide district (non-municipal), coordinating staffing, equipment, facilities and other operational activities. Responsible parties to be determined by the Fire Districts.	Intermediate	FD, TC	
	III.1.c.3 Encourage the fire districts to coordinate equipment purchases, to the extent that they will increase efficiency and save money.	Ongoing	FD, TC	
	III.1.c.4 In the event of a new power plant or other large industrial facility being constructed in Town, coordinate among fire districts to increase Haz-Mat training opportunities for first responders.	Intermediate	TC, FD, EMA	
	<p><b>Libraries</b>                      III.1.d Maintain and improve the quality of the Town's libraries as a cultural resource of the community.</p>	III.1.d.1 Continue to support the libraries' efforts to expand its collections to meet and exceed State standards.	Ongoing	TC, Libraries
	III.1.d.2 Investigate expansion options at the Jesse Smith Library to provide a designated teen area.	Priority	Libraries	
	<p><b>Town Hall</b>                      III.1.e Maintain Town Hall administrative office, meeting and storage space adequate to serve the population of the community.</p>			

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	III.1.f The Town shall publish and update on a regular basis a public policies manual.	III.1.f.1 The Town Clerk shall compile, publish, and annually update the policies of the various departments, boards, committees, etc.	Ongoing	Town Clerk
		III.1.f.2 The Public Policies Manual shall be made available at the Town Hall, Town libraries and Town Website.	Priority	Town Clerk
	<b>Public Works/ Animal Shelter</b> III.1.g Maintain and expand public works facilities and operational capacity commensurate with the population of the community.	III.1.g.1 The Town Council should work with the Town Manager and Public Works Director to establish an optimal level of Public Works Department staffing.	Ongoing	TM, TC, PWD
		III.1.g.2 Relocate the Public Works Department to a more appropriate location.	Priority	TC, TM, PWD
		III.1.g.3 Expand or renovate the animal shelter facilities and site, or consider relocating with the public works department.	Priority	TC, PWD
<b>Solid Waste Management</b> III.2 Furnish Burrillville residents with a locally operated and maintained solid waste collection and disposal system that is supportive of the RI Solid Waste Management Plan, as amended that is cost efficient and environmentally beneficial.	III.2.a Periodically evaluate collection and disposal options including the existing curbside collection program as part of an on-going assessment process to assure system efficiency and effectiveness, to identify changing community needs and requirements, and to develop responsive strategies for solid waste management.	III.2.a.1 Examine the feasibility of establishing a Town sponsored, citizen volunteer run public education effort to promote recycling. Educate residents and encourage them to recycle to the maximum extent possible.	Priority	Recycling Coordinator, (RC) PWD, TC

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	<p>III.2.b Consider actions that support RI Solid Waste 2038, the State’s Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.</p>	<p>III.2.b.1 Continue to work with the R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation, the Department of Environmental Management and neighboring communities to develop a regional or statewide solution for solid waste disposal.</p>	Ongoing	RC, TC, PWD
		<p>III.2.b.2 Continue solid waste management needs programming and budgeting in the five-year municipal capital facilities program and the annual Town operating budget.</p>	Ongoing	TC, PWD
<p><b>Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal</b>                      III.3 Recognizing the public health and environmental benefits derived from proper sanitary waste disposal, provide Burrillville with the appropriate wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems sufficient to meet the community's needs for orderly residential, commercial and industrial development and to protect local groundwater and surface water.</p>	<p>III.3.a Expand municipal sewer service only in accordance with the Town’s land use policies and the approved wastewater facilities plan, and utilize on-site disposal systems where there are good soil conditions and no threat to drinking water supplies exists.</p>	<p>III.3.a.1 Work with the Town’s Sewer Commission to identify proposed areas for future sewer service expansion that will support the Town’s vision for land use, economic development, and environmental protection.</p>	Priority	TC, PB, TP, PWD
		<p>III.3.a.2 When Nasonville is designated as a redevelopment area, investigate if a sewer extension or a package system would be the soundest and most cost effective means of service.</p>	Priority	BRA, TC, PB, PWD, Sewer Commission
		<p>III.3.a.3 Develop a plan for expanding the Sewer Treatment Plant based on the expected extent of sewer service expansion.</p>	Long Term	Sewer Commission, TC, PWD
		<p>III.3.a.4 Explore and determine the viability of requiring properties to tie into public sewer service wherever it is available.</p>	Ongoing	Sewer Commission

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	<p>III.3.b Maintain and update as necessary the municipal facilities plan to meet the future needs of the community, emphasizing service area expansion only in accordance with the capacity of the wastewater treatment facility and based on the need to service business, industry and residential areas with problem onsite disposal systems and eliminate threats of pollution to the Town's water supply.</p>	<p>III.3.b.1 Recognizing the water quality benefits to be derived from pollution control, study the need and feasibility of extending the municipal sewer system, including the use of package treatment plants, to high density residential areas and non-serviced commercial and industrial development in close proximity to Wallum Lake, Wilson Reservoir and Slatersville Reservoir.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CC, TC</p>
	<p>III.3.c Consider within the context of the Town's land use policies and the Wastewater Facilities Plan, sewer service area extensions for the purpose of economic development.</p>	<p>III.3.c.1 Develop a plan for the expansion of services to unserved commercial and industrially zoned land along Route 102, the Bronco Highway, as required to service the type of development envisioned for that corridor by the Town.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TC, PB, PWD, BRA, Sewer Commission</p>
	<p>III.3.d Recognize the regional economic and environmental benefits obtained from the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, BRA, Sewer Commission</p>

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p><b>Water Supply and Distribution</b>                      III.4 Provide the Town of Burrillville with sufficient potable water supply and the distribution system necessary to meet the community's residential, commercial, and industrial requirements, utilizing on-site well development where appropriate, while maintaining the Town's self-sufficiency.</p>	<p>III.4.a Protect existing groundwater sources from contamination to allow continued supply to the local water distribution systems.</p>	<p>III.4.a.1 Maintain, update as necessary, and continue to implement section 11-5.3 of the municipal zoning code, "Aquifer Zoning", to protect the Town's groundwater aquifers and water supply identified as areas of stratified drift and delineated on the Town of Burrillville Aquifer Overlay Map.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PB, TC, WDs</p>
		<p>III.4.a.2 Work with the Nasonville, Pascoag and Harrisville Fire Districts to fully implement the Water Quality Protection Plans of each district. Identification and testing of all underground fuel and other storage tanks, and the removal and proper disposal of abandoned, failing and unused tanks should be an immediate priority.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>PB, TC</p>
		<p>III.4.a.3 Identify properties within 400 feet of the public water supply wells in Pascoag and Nasonville that are not in water district ownership and prioritize these parcels for acquisition by water districts.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>TC, WDs</p>
		<p>III.4.a.4 To meet the supply and distribution requirements of the next decade, prepare capital facilities/ improvements plans for all of the Town's Fire Districts through the year 2030. Include in the planning yield testing of the potential groundwater resources at Round Top, the study of potential surface water supplies, and services extension to Glendale.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>FD, TC, PB</p>

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		III.4.a.5 Prepare service area extension guidelines and coordinate all new development proposals between the municipal planning department and the water districts to insure adequate supply and pressure.	Long Term	PD, WDs
		III.4.a.6 Explore and determine the viability of requiring properties to tie into public water service wherever it is available.	Intermediate	WDs, PB
III.5. Achieve and maintain consistency with the RI Drought Management Plan	III.5.a Conserve existing water supplies to eliminate the development of costly and unnecessary sources.	III.5.a.1 Develop water conservation guidelines and "tips" for business, industry, and homeowners and implement through the building official's office the low flow water devices mandated by the state building code.	Ongoing	WDs
	III.5.b Support the identification and development, as necessary, of new groundwater and surface water supplies to augment existing sources.	III.5.b.1 Identify large industrial water users and encourage the implementation of recycling process water and where possible the use of local groundwater supplies for industrial processing.	Intermediate	WDs
<b>Drainage and Stormwater Management Facilities</b> III.6 Manage stormwater runoff to prevent flooding and loss of life and property	III.6.a To maintain and improve groundwater and surface water quality, require the design and construction of Best Management	III.6.a.1 Erosion and sedimentation controls should be approved during the plan review process and inspected by the Town Building Official and/or the Director of Public Works during construction.	Ongoing	PWD, BO, TP

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>damage, to protect groundwater and surface water quality and to preserve the integrity of natural watercourses and wetlands.</p>	<p>Practices for stormwater management for all new residential, commercial, and industrial development, new and reconstructed roadways and highways, and drainage system improvements.</p>	<p>III.6.a.2 Utilize and continue to implement the "RI Stormwater Standards and Installation Standards Manual," as amended.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PWD, PB, TP, BO</p>
	<p>III.6.b Continue to require all development to establish erosion and sedimentation controls to prevent siltation of watercourses and waterbodies.</p>	<p>III.6.b.1 Where the maintenance of stormwater management facilities in residential developments becomes the responsibility of the municipality, the Department of Public Works shall develop a maintenance program. Consider the use of a one-time fee to be paid by the developer and held in a restricted account to cover the cost of periodic maintenance.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>PB, PWD, TP</p>
		<p>III.6.b.2 Require commercial and industrial on-site stormwater management system maintenance to be the responsibility of every property owner.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PB, PWD</p>
<p>III.7 Serve and protect the townspeople better through improved communications.</p>	<p>III.7.a Develop a system by which the citizens of the Town can be addressed by municipal officials in time of emergency, and when it serves the public need or convenience.</p>	<p>III.7.a.1 Evaluate the ways in which the Town communicates with the public and ensure that strategies maximize the different types of ways citizens may engage with the Town (website, social media, television, radio, print, etc.). Determine the strategies that could be strengthened and move forward with ways for improvement.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, PD, PWD, SD, EMA</p>

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		<p>III.7.a.2 Explore options for developing a Town app where residents can look up town meetings, facilities, programs, and activities, and be alerted in cases of emergency.</p>	Priority	TC, EMA
		<p>III.7.a.3 Investigate non-traditional communications systems such as equipping with VHF receivers (scanners) all buildings that have a designated secondary use as public shelter. Each of these receivers will then be in place and ready to pick up emergency announcements from officials at emergency management headquarters during times of crisis.</p> <p>This idea can be expanded to include publicizing the frequency to be used by conventional means during non-emergency times so citizens may also make arrangement to acquire and/or tune such a radio so they can receive emergency announcements in their homes.</p>	Intermediate	EMA
		<p>III.7.a.4 Develop a plan to maintain and improve, if possible, the traditional means of communication via print media (Woonsocket Call and Bargain Buyer) and the Town’s website (<a href="http://www.burrillville.org">www.burrillville.org</a>).</p>	Long Term	Police, Fire, EMA, TC

Chapter III: Community Services & Facilities

Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		<p>III.7.a.5 If a new power plant is built in Burrillville, the Town shall review its existing emergency communications infrastructure and policies, and develop, as necessary, a more robust Emergency Operations Plan, with a particular emphasis on rapid communication during an emergency.</p>	Priority	TC, EMA

## Chapter IV - School Facilities



## Chapter IV: School Facilities

### IV.1 Introduction

The purpose of the School Facilities Element is to identify existing facilities and programs, assess their adequacy and project future needs. This element profiles existing facilities, enrollment, facilities needs, and program needs.

### IV.2 Existing Conditions

Information for this section was provided by the Superintendent of Schools, the New

England School Development Council (NESDEC), and the State Department of Education. The Burrillville School system includes three elementary schools, one middle school and one senior high school, with 2,341 students as of 2018. The names, location, current enrollment, and other data on each school are presented in Table IV-1.

**Table IV-1. Existing School Facilities**

Facility	Grades	Enrollment	Teachers
Burrillville High School	9-12	762	68
Burrillville Middle School	6-8	566	50
A.T. Levy Elementary	Preschool, K, 1	315	30
Steere Farm Elementary	2,3,4,5	376	32
Callahan Elementary	2,3,4,5	294	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,313</b>	<b>208</b>

Note: Enrollment is as of October, 2017.

### IV.3 Town-Related Factors

The preparation of enrollment forecasts is an integral part of the long-range planning process. Some of the factors to be considered in this effort pertain to the Town of Burrillville are its population size and age composition, growth and nature of housing units, number of births to residents, and in/out migration patterns. Specific demographic and other data may be found in the Introduction to this

Comprehensive Plan as well as the chapters for Land Use, Housing, and Economic Development.

#### IV.3.a Snapshot of Demographics Impacting Schools

**Age Composition** - The number and percentage of Burrillville residents under the age of 18 have been shrinking for several decades. Meanwhile, the median

## Chapter IV: School Facilities

age in Burrillville has been steadily rising, from 30.3 years in 1980 to 42.4 years in 2010.

population under age 18, the Town has seen a similar decline in the percentage of the population enrolled in K-12 educational programs, whether public or private.

**School Enrollment** - It should be no surprise that given the decline in

**Table IV-2. Percentage of K-12 Enrollment Population**

Year	Town Population	Public K-12 Enrollment	% K-12 Enrollment in Population
1980	13,164	2,622	19.9%
1990	16,230	2,958	18.2%
2000	15,796	2,789	17.7%
2016	16,214	2,341	14.4%

**Housing Growth** - Table IV-3 displays the number of K-12 Burrillville public school students per dwelling unit. This statistic, 0.57 per unit in 1980, had shrunk to 0.48

students in 2000 and significantly further to 0.36 by 2016. Put another way, this means there is just about one student for every three households in Burrillville.

**Table IV-3. Number of K-12 Students per Dwelling Unit**

	# of Housing Units	Public K-12 Enrollment	K-12 Students per Unit
1980	4,602	2,622	.57
1990	5,751	2,958	.51
2000	5,821	2,789	.48
2016	6,465	2,341	.36

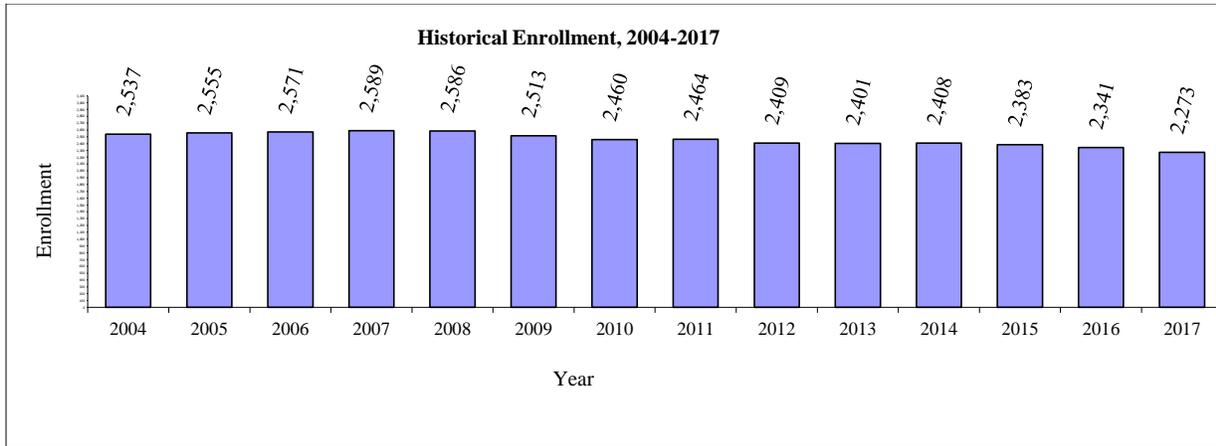
**Births** - The Rhode Island Department of Public Health regularly releases its counts of births in each municipality in the state. In the past 30 years, Burrillville births have steadily declined from an average of 198 per year (1986-1990) to 193 per year

(1991-1995) to 157 per year (1996-2000) to 134 per year (2008-2012). Data is not yet available beyond 2012, but these trends suggest that the number is probably even lower today.

**IV.4 Historical Enrollment**

Schools over the past eleven years is shown in Table IV-4.

**Public Schools** - The K-12 historical enrollment for the Burrillville Public



**Figure IV-1.** Historical enrollment is displayed in Table IV.5 by grade. Preschool numbers are not included.

**Table IV-4. Historic and Current School Enrollment Trends in Burrillville Public Schools, 2004-2017**

Year	Burrillville High School	Burrillville Middle School	William L. Callahan School	Austin T. Levy School	Steere Farm School
2004-05	837	649	288	379	366
2005-06	878	636	299	379	363
2006-07	869	582	283	441	363
2007-08	868	566	314	399	437
2008-09	852	538	336	398	456
2009-10	822	523	338	368	462
2010-11	741	527	361	342	483
2011-12	726	546	362	339	469
2012-13	700	576	340	357	417
2013-14	682	622	335	355	390
2014-15	725	626	303	361	379
2015-16	741	595	302	344	384
2016-17	762	566	294	315	376
2017-18	764	537	303	304	339

Source: RI Department of Education

## Chapter IV: School Facilities

Burrillville classes generally grow by about 10% in Grade 1, as additional students enter from private Kindergarten. Then the class has tended to grow in size by about 2% through Grade 10. Sometimes there is a loss of students in high school, especially in Grades 11 and 12. This is a common high school phenomenon.

### IV.5 Projected Enrollment

School enrollment forecasts are regularly prepared by the Burrillville School Department with assistance from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). Percentages are calculated from historical enrollment data to determine a reliable percentage of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades. These projections also consider the cumulative effect of a variety of factors, including: Migration, Retention,

Programmatic Changes, Dropouts or Transfers, Births and Deaths, and Housing Growth.

**Reliability of Projections** - While the reliability of projections, in general, is based on the soundness of the assumptions made, there are degrees of reliability over the grades and the ten-year period shown. The enrollment projection in Table IV-5 below can be divided into three sections. The top and largest section represents the projections based on students who are already enrolled in Burrillville Public Schools. This projection has the highest reliability. The projections based on children who have been born, but are not yet in school, are somewhat less reliable. The projections for students who are not yet born are the least reliable projections.

**Table IV-5. Enrollment Projections by Grade**

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2017-18	136	125	144	160	172	168	177	176	184	189	197	210	175	2219
2018-19	138	138	127	146	162	178	168	175	175	180	184	195	206	2178
2019-20	139	140	140	129	148	167	178	166	174	171	175	182	191	2106
2020-21	136	141	142	142	131	153	167	176	165	170	166	173	178	2046
2021-22	129	138	143	144	144	135	153	165	175	161	165	164	169	1991
2022-23	135	130	140	145	146	149	135	151	164	171	157	163	161	1953
2023-24	136	137	132	142	147	151	149	134	150	160	166	155	160	1925
2024-25	135	138	139	134	144	152	151	147	133	147	156	164	152	1898
2025-26	134	137	140	141	136	149	152	149	146	130	143	154	161	1878
2026-27	134	136	139	142	143	141	149	150	148	143	126	142	151	1850
2027-28	135	136	138	141	144	148	141	147	149	145	139	125	139	1833

KEY: Dark Gray = Estimate of births    Light Gray = Children already born    Others = Students already enrolled

Small schools/towns are the most difficult to project, as the in-/out-migration of only a few families makes a great difference. A ten-year projection (which drops in reliability after the 5<sup>th</sup> year) is a very small window into the future. The “leveling” of the elementary enrollment which occurs in years 6-10 of the projections is caused by holding the births stable during that period. If births should increase during that period (reversing the trend of the last several years), the Kindergarten class (and then subsequent classes) will increase over time. Also, if the rate of housing growth were to increase dramatically from past levels, the projections would rise. At all grade levels, improved programs/facilities could lead to additional Burrillville residents attending (or remaining in) the public schools. Ten-year enrollment projections are just that — projections; they are not guarantees. In making plans, the School Department should take into account the possibility of a 10% swing either way in terms of enrollment at all grade levels.

**Projections (2017-2027)** - Total public school enrollment, K-12, is projected to shrink by about 17% (386 students) over the next 10 years, but the future is never certain. It is possible that the decline will not be as steep, and could even reverse. Although it is not likely that births to Burrillville residents will increase in the

near term, additional construction of homes could occur at any time. Similarly, the creation of additional job opportunities, such as the growth on Route 102, could attract more families to Burrillville. Within the school district, educational programs are being strengthened (Advanced Placement courses) and updated (Tech Prep, Web Page Design, careers in Information Technology, etc.). It is likely that school program offerings will interest families in choosing for their children to attend Burrillville Public Schools. Such things may very well help stabilize the school population in the future.

### **IV.6 Education Indicators**

The following facts and figures in Table IV-6 prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Education illustrate the school system's characteristics from enrollment to funding that are especially useful for comparison with the State. Burrillville has a higher level of dropouts than the State as a whole, and a slightly lower graduation rate. Compared with State averages, the Town tends to have a higher percentage of students in public schools, spend less tax dollars per student on education, and rely more on State funding. The following illustrates Burrillville's standing statewide for selected indicators:

**Table IV-6. Burrillville’s Standing for State Funding Based on Statewide Indicators**

Indicator	Rhode Island	Burrillville
Graduation Rate	82.8%	81.8%
Student Attendance	94%	95%
Annual Dropout Rate	8.4%	11.6%
% Public School Enrollment	89.2%	94.6%
% Non-Public School Enrollment	10.8%	5.4%
Total Cost per Pupil	\$ 15,923	\$13,648
% of budget from local sources	55.7%	54.1%
% of budget from State	36.6%	39.8%
% of budget from Federal govt.	7.8%	6.1%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2016.

**IV.7 School Budget**

As in most Rhode Island communities, the school department budget forms a majority of the Town's total budgetary commitments. In Burrillville over the past

three years, the school department has accounted for just under two-thirds of the total budget. Table IV-8 illustrates expenditure trends for the past three years.

**Table IV-7. Municipal and School Department Adopted Budgets FY16, FY17, FY18**

Category of Expenditures	FY 16		FY 17		FY 18	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Public Schools	\$30,830,000	64.1%	\$31,817,500	61.5%	\$32,500,000	64.3%
All Others	\$17,298,356	35.9%	\$19,911,883	38.5%	\$18,017,780	35.7%
Total Expenditures	\$48,128,356		\$51,729,383		\$50,517,780	

Source: Municipal Budget Resolutions

Revenue sources for the schools, outside of local property taxes and other budget appropriations from the Town, are dominated by State aid, as shown in Table

IV-8. Reliance on state aid has become more prevalent in recent years, now accounting for almost 40% of the school budget.

**Table IV-8. Trends in School Department Revenues**

Budget Year	Federal Sources	State Sources	Pension Contributions and Misc.
FY15	\$1,668,639	\$13,464,306	\$1,229,353
FY17	\$1,568,648	\$13,139,678	\$1,380,274

Source: Burrillville School Department, Year End Financial Statements

**IV.8 School Facilities Issues**

**The School Department Perspective** - New students, new State mandates, and new programs require the School Department to continuously monitor and address new needs. The Department's Strategic Plan (2017-2020), identifies actions the Department is taking to address any necessary changes in direction. It is expected that in the future this strategic plan, in combination with a continued multi-year effort to strengthen school management at the building level with principals, curriculum leaders, and system-wide department chair-people, will provide the requisite organizational structure to make "mid-course" corrections in direction.

The Strategic Plan lays out a Mission, Vision, Statement of Beliefs, Goals, and Action steps for the operations of the school district, as described below. The Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions related to schools in this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan are designed to be broader, Town-level efforts that complement the actions of the District's Strategic Plan.

*Burrillville School District Mission Statement*

"The mission of the Burrillville School District is to provide a high quality education to all students in a secure, nurturing environment in which all are challenged to reach their full potential as lifelong learners, responsible citizens and contributing members of society, recognizing its role as the education center of our unique and evolving community."

*Vision*

The Burrillville School District embraces the philosophy of shared leadership as a means of building and sustaining a culture that ensures high and equitable outcomes for all learners. Shared leadership is defined as a collective accountability for the relentless pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning that is built upon trust and transparency. It is achieved and sustained through persistent collaborative efforts; reflective analysis of data; authentic student-focused conversations; and cultivation of growth mindset among students, teachers, and families.

*Beliefs*

The Burrillville School District believes...

- All students can learn.
- All students have the right to be taught by highly effective teachers to achieve high standards.
- All students need the support of other students, families, community members and school staff to achieve high standards and develop a love of learning.
- All students must continue to learn in order to compete in the world marketplace.
- Each student and staff member is a valued member of a school community that honors the following code of conduct: Be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn.
- Each student and staff member, though diverse in ability and interest, maintains high expectations of themselves and others.

*Goals*

The Burrillville School District is committed to:

- Leading the focus on learning and achievement so that all students can reach their full potential.
- Recruiting exceptional staff and supporting continuous professional growth through focused professional development.
- Implementing a standards-based curriculum; cultivating instructional

instruction that utilizes best practices; and assessing the needs of individual students to drive instructional practice and strategic change.

- Engaging families and community members as partners in the work of educating all students.
- Collaborating with families and the community to improve communication and promote student achievement.
- Fostering a safe and supportive learning environment by ensuring that all policies related to school safety and culture are updated annually and founded on research-based practices.
- Developing and maintaining a budget that allocates resources to provide both students and staff with the opportunity to achieve to their highest levels high and equitable outcomes.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

Chapter IV: School Facilities

**IV.9 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
IV.1 Provide school facilities and services which maintain or improve existing quality in the most efficient manner to meet the existing and future needs of Burrillville's youth.	IV.1.a Promote a better understanding of school policies, programs, and opportunities at a community-wide level.	IV.1.a.1 Administer a community survey (5-year cycle) aimed at obtaining accurate data on community expectations regarding the school system.	Long Term	SD, SC
		IV.1.a.2 Ensure that a School Department Comprehensive Strategic Plan is in place for the School District, including short and long term goals and objectives for the district.	Ongoing	SD, SC
		IV.1.a.3 Communicate the school system's accomplishments to date in key result areas, make necessary revisions and corrections.	Ongoing	SD, SC
	IV.1.b The School Committee must recognize that facility maintenance and renovation is a priority concern.	IV.1.b.1 The Superintendent shall prepare an annual report to the School Committee regarding the condition, maintenance, and renovation of school facilities.	Ongoing	SD
		IV.1.b.2 Continue to update the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to reflect current and future needs.	Ongoing	SD, SC
	IV.1.c Ensure that all school facilities provide the appropriate physical structure to promote equitable educational opportunities and services to all students.	IV.1.c.1 Continue maintenance work on facilities, roof repairs, major energy conservation projects, painting, window and door replacements, etc. as required.	Ongoing	SC, SD
		IV.1.c.2 Continue to assess enrollment trends as they affect educational and facilities needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD

Chapter IV: School Facilities

School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		IV.1.c.3 Analyze trends, in out-of-district and private school enrollments to determine both immediate and long term needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD
		IV.1.c.4 Explore reorganization as a strategy to address enrollment changes.	Ongoing	SC, SD
	IV.1.d Ensure that the financial resources to be used in the construction, equipping, and maintenance of school buildings and facilities are adequate.	IV.1.d.1 Monitor development, population growth, and State and Federal contributions to the school budget and maintain consistent levels of local property tax funding.	Ongoing	TC
		IV.1.d.2 The School Department will continue to report use of appropriated capital improvement monies.	Ongoing	SC, SD, TC
	IV.1.e Promote sharing of information between the School Dept. and the Planning Dept., including population projections, school bus routes, computer databases, planned and potential residential development and other pertinent information.	IV.1.e.1 The Town Planner and School Department staff should coordinate on a regular basis to review data needs, development trends, population projections, and other information as needed.	Ongoing	TP, SD
	IV.1.f Explore alternative financing arrangements for supplementing local property taxes, and State and Federal funding of the school system, such as, but not limited to, impact fees.	IV.1.f.1 The Planning Department/Board, in coordination with the School Committee, will review existing impact fee systems relating new development to school facilities, and consider the merits of such a system for Burrillville.	Priority	SC, PB, PD

Chapter IV: School Facilities

School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		IV.1.f.2 Should the results of the study described in IV.1.f.1, indicate that an impact fee system would be beneficial to providing educational services in Burrillville, prepare the necessary legal review and establish an impact fee system.	Intermediate	SC, PB, PD
	IV.1.g Ensure that new school facilities are located appropriately, with consideration to residential development and traffic patterns.	IV.1.b.2 Continue to update the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to reflect current and future needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD, TC, BB
		IV.1.c.1 Continue maintenance work on facilities, roof repairs, major energy conservation projects, painting, window and door replacements, etc. as required.	Ongoing	SC, SD, TC, BB
	IV.1.h Improve the educational quality of the schools by improving curricula, expanding programs for the gifted and the slow learners, instituting additional experimental programs and reducing student-teacher ratios.	IV.1.c.2 Continue to assess enrollment trends as they affect educational and facilities needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD

## Chapter V - Housing & Affordable Housing Strategy



### V.1 Introduction

The Town of Burrillville views the maintenance and construction of high quality housing as an important issue within the community. Promoting and allowing for a variety of housing types throughout the Town is linked to issues of economic development, fiscal stability, high quality of life, and long-range environmental sustainability. Burrillville continually works to balance these perspectives in its attempts to guide future development policies, always mindful of the overarching goal to provide a good home for all residents today and into the future.

This housing chapter enumerates local policies and implementation techniques to provide a balance of housing choices, recognizing local, regional, and statewide needs for all income levels and for all age groups.

One of the major goals of the Housing Chapter is to build upon the established recommendations carried forward from the Town's 2005 Affordable Housing Strategy. This strategy specifically targeted the development and maintenance of at least 10 percent of the Town's housing stock as subsidized affordable housing as defined by the Rhode Island Low and Moderate Housing Income Act.

The State's definition of "low or moderate income housing" includes:

'any housing whether built or operated by any public agency or any nonprofit organization or by any limited equity housing cooperative or any private developer, that is subsidized by a federal, state, or municipal government subsidy under any program to assist the construction or rehabilitation of housing affordable to low or moderate income households, as defined in the applicable federal or state statute, or local ordinance and that will remain affordable through a land lease and/or deed restriction for ninety-nine (99) years or such other period that is either agreed to by the applicant and town or prescribed by the federal, state, or municipal government subsidy program but that is not less than thirty (30) years from initial occupancy' ([www.rilin.state.ri.us](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us)).

The criterion used to define this occupancy category is based upon the relationship of community income statistics to its surrounding Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Low to moderate income (LMI) households include those reporting incomes below 80 percent of the MSA median household income.

Throughout this chapter, the term "**LMI Housing**" or "**Low-Moderate Income Housing**" will refer to subsidized housing units that count toward the Town's low or

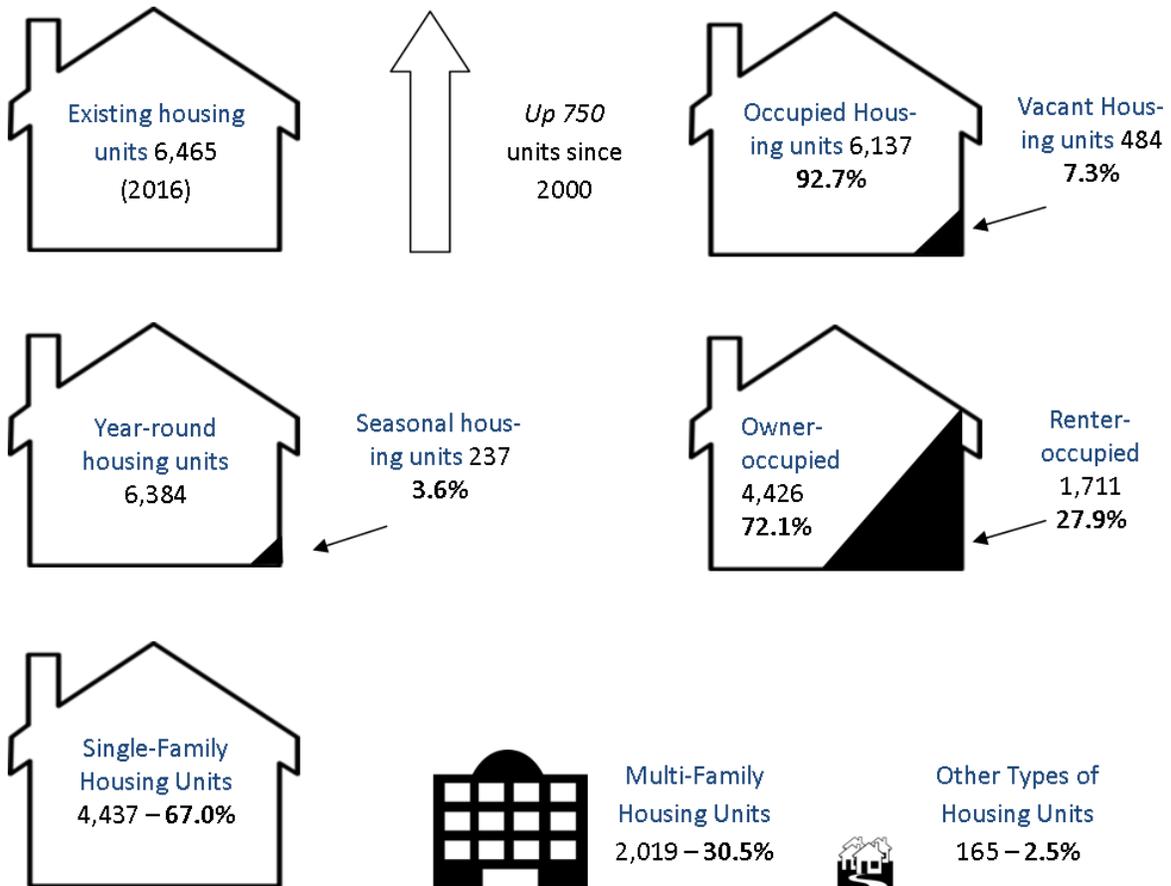
moderate income housing goals. The term “*affordable housing*” will refer to any home that is generally affordable to the occupant, whether market rate, subsidized, owner-occupied, or renter-occupied.

**V.2 Existing Conditions, Trends, Projections, and Cost**

Burrillville has many market characteristics similar to its neighbors and other rural Rhode Island communities, including Glocester, Foster, Scituate, Coventry, West

Greenwich, and Exeter, all of which are rural-suburban communities. This area is the least densely settled in the State. It includes several small urbanized areas centered on mill villages (Harrisville and Pascoag being the largest), with large, thinly-settled areas in between.

**Basic Housing Data** – The information below is all derived from 2015 American Community Survey data unless otherwise noted.



**Types of Housing Development** – The Town is characterized by urban, suburban, and rural types of housing development, generally becoming more rural moving from Pascoag outward to the north and west.

*Urban* - The urban area (Pascoag/Harrisville) is composed of medium to high density single and multi-family development on 12,000 to 20,000 square foot lots. Residential development is interspersed or mixed with commercial and industrial/manufacturing development.

*Suburban* - The suburban area of Town is largely made up of those areas outside of Pascoag/Harrisville that front on arterial and collector roads such as Bronco's Highway (Route 102), East Avenue (Route 107), Douglas Pike, and others. These areas are generally encompassed by the R20, R40, F2, and F5 zoning districts, interspersed with some commercial, industrial, and open space districts. They are primarily comprised of single-family dwelling units at medium to low densities, largely on 40,000 square feet to two-acre lots.

*Villages* - The villages of Oakland, Mapleville, Glendale, Mohegan, and Bridgeton can also be characterized as suburban development, though Oakland and Mapleville are of higher densities

similar to Pascoag and Harrisville. In many cases, these villages were built around mills, with associated housing for mill workers, such as that found along East Avenue. With respect to mill villages and associated redevelopment projects, the utmost care shall be taken at all times to ensure that conversion of any industrial or commercial property (formerly active mill buildings, in particular) for residential use is environmentally investigated and remediated per RIDEM regulations.

Interspersed throughout these areas are farms with associated farmhouses, large State-owned tracts and facilities, and some small industrial and business uses, many longstanding, around which residential development occurred.

*Rural* - Between these more densely settled areas are the rural portions of the community, consisting largely of public open space, forested areas, and rural residential compound subdivisions containing lots of 2 to 5 acres.

**Housing Costs** - In terms of housing cost, Burrillville's housing stock – similar to northern Rhode Island's housing stock overall - has been steadily influenced over the past 20 years by Boston's Metro Area. For many years leading up to the recession of 2008, the local housing market responded to the out-migration of people from the Boston area who were in search

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of proportionately less expensive housing stock. In general, those people earned higher incomes than the local populous and were able to pay a higher premium for both existing housing stock and new housing. Additionally, other factors have worked to limit local housing affordability and availability, such as: high land costs; high construction costs and resultant high rents or sales prices; marginal funding from

federal housing programs; unemployment or under-employment; lack of municipal utilities for potentially suitable development sites; and increased number of low paying service sector jobs.

Needless to say, the credit market collapse and resultant recession drastically affected not only housing price, but also production, which dropped off sharply after 2008.

**Table V-1. Burrillville Median Home Price Trends, 2000-2016**

Year End	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016
Median Sales Price	\$146,000	\$274,000	\$191,000	211,000	238,500

Source: [www.riliving.com](http://www.riliving.com)

The median sale price of single-family homes has increased 63.4 percent from 2000 to 2016. Housing prices have been highly volatile over that time, rising almost 88 percent from 2000 to 2005, and then diving over 30 percent over the next five years. Since then, prices have been steadily rising, slowly approaching the pre-recession peak. At the moment, incomes in

Burrillville are aligning well with housing prices. According to the 2017 Housing Works RI Factbook, the 2016 median sales price of \$238,500 is affordable to households earning \$66,401 per year. According to the 2016 American Community Survey estimates, Burrillville’s median household income is \$67,693.

**Table V-2. Burrillville Median Rental Prices, 2006-2016**

Year	1-Bedroom Unit	2-Bedroom Unit	3-Bedroom Unit
2016	\$923	\$1,258	N/A
2015	\$1,043	\$1,183	N/A
2014	\$851	\$1,047	\$1,352
2013	\$805	\$1,211	\$1,456
2012	\$964	\$1,138	N/A
2011	\$931	\$1,162	\$1,395
2010	\$927	\$1,276	\$1,493
2009	\$863	\$1,228	\$1,559
2008	\$958	\$1,232	N/A
2007	N/A	\$1,142	N/A
2006	N/A	\$1,172	N/A

Source: 2-bedroom rents from HousingWorks RI; Others from Rhode Island Housing Rent Survey

The median 2-bedroom rent in Burrillville is more or less even with the State average. Prices for rental units of all sizes have tended to fluctuate, and different unit sizes do not necessarily follow the same trends (i.e. when 1-bed unit rents are falling, 2-bed unit rents may be rising).

**At Risk Populations** - In Burrillville, there are individuals and families who are unable to afford the high costs of housing. Burrillville has a very high poverty rate compared with its immediate neighbors (11.2 percent estimate for 2016 vs. under 4 percent for Glocester, North Smithfield, and Smithfield), though it is less than the state average. Another telling indicator is the number of households participating in public assistance programs. The total number of households receiving food

stamps or SNAP benefits within the town as of 2016 is 675 or 11.4 percent. This is up from 6.5 percent just six years earlier in 2010, over which time the total population of the town remained stable. In addition to those groups listed above, seniors are considered at-risk due to fixed incomes. U.S. Census 2016 estimates show that 451 or 7.6 percent of Burrillville’s households receive some sort of supplemental security income, vs. just 3.5 percent in 2000. The bottom line is that a growing portion of Burrillville residents are struggling financially, and given the relatively steady total population of the town, it would appear that this trend is being driven by existing residents, and not people moving from elsewhere. The need for affordable homes in Burrillville remains strong.

**Table V-3. Housing Trends in Burrillville, 2010-2016**

Year of Certificate of Occupancy	Single Fam detached	Single Fam attached	Multi Fam – new & refurbished	Total
2010	22	14	2	38
2011	4	5	2	11
2012	13	4	1	18
2013	11	5	0	16
2014	17	6	3	26
2015	16	7	0	23
2016	25	9	4	38
TOTAL	108	50	12	170

Source: 2017, Burrillville Building Department

**Housing Stock** – According to Table V-3, Burrillville has begun to see a decline in the dominance of singly family detached housing. Particularly in the years immediately following the recession of 2008, a mix of attached and multifamily housing represented a significant portion of the total housing stock built. From 2010 to 2016, the average proportion of attached and multifamily housing built was 36.5 percent. While single family homes are and will continue to be the majority of the Town’s housing stock, this increase in housing alternatives is a reflection of the Town’s efficient geo-spatial land use policies. Historically, many mill duplex units were constructed to house mill workers. Many of these units still exist today, represent the majority of the town’s multi-unit dwellings, and anchor the villages’ historic character. An opportunity exists for developers to incorporate such

units into new housing developments as affordable units. Replicating these structures will enhance the villages’ historic appeal as the Town grows.

Anecdotally, Burrillville has an adequate amount of nursing home beds, but could use additional assisted living beds, particularly as the population continues to age. A large demand also exists for homes managed by the Burrillville Housing Authority (BHA). There is now a constant waiting list, with priority given to the elderly, current residents of Burrillville, and disabled veterans. For people who do not meet any of these criteria (or even those who only meet one), the wait can be quite long. The BHA currently administers 56 affordable housing vouchers, down from 84 in 2003. Funding is the largest barrier for increasing the number of vouchers available, though even once people have a

voucher, it can be difficult to overcome the stigma and find a landlord willing to rent to them. The BHA will continue to communicate the benefits of the voucher program to landlords throughout the town.

In Burrillville, there are four housing developments which are insured and/or subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These include Bradford Court on North Main Street, Stillwater Apartments and Stillwater Heights on Main Street, and Ashton Court Village on Chapel Street. This represents a total of 241 units (3.7 percent of the Town's total units), all of which are exclusively occupied by the elderly. To qualify for these units, applicants' incomes must fall within certain HUD income limits.

**Housing Units by Census Tract** - Table V-4 illustrates the estimated number of housing units by census tract for Burrillville in 2016.

**Table V-4. Estimated Number of Housing units by Census Tract, 1990-2016**

Census Tract	1990	2000	2016
129	2,169	2,012	2,213
130.01	1,098	1,140	1,300
130.02	2,484	2,669	2,952
TOTAL	5,751	5,821	6,465

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, 1990 and 2000 and American Community Survey 2016

Trends from 1990 to 2000 showed a decentralized development pattern within

the town. Over that time, a higher number of new units were built in the suburban and outlying rural areas of the community as opposed to the more urban areas of Pascoag/Harrisville (represented by census tract 129, in which the number of housing units actually declined). The growing number of single-family housing units outside urban cores is due to a number of factors including parcel subdivision on outlying roadways and the desirability of the outlying areas of the community as a location choice as people continue to pursue the element of seclusion. However, since 2000 the Town has worked to counter this trend by making a number of investments in the Harrisville/Pascoag area. Census tract 129 has regained all of the housing units lost between 1900 and 2000. There are now more housing units in the area than there were in 1990, with more on the way. And while housing growth has continued to occur outside this area, the rates of growth among all three census tracts are far more balanced than they were in 2000.

**Occupancy** – Over seventy four percent of people in Burrillville live in owner-occupied units (see Table V-5), with the remainder in renter-occupied units. Census tracts 129 and 130.02, which include the village centers, account for over 96 percent of the renter population within town. The remaining 4 percent is within census tract 130.01, which largely covers western

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Burrillville, including a number of conservation lands and forests. As is later discussed in the Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy section, an inclusionary village overlay zone has been adopted to

geographically control and promote orderly residential growth, conserve neighborhood cohesiveness, and ensure an adequate number of affordable ownership and rental units.

**Table V-5. Population in Occupied Housing Units, 2016**

Census Tract	Owner Occupied	Percent	Renter Occupied	Percent
129	2,845	54.5%	2,374	45.5%
130.01	3,116	96.0%	96.0%	4.0%
130.02	5,717	78.6%	1,556	21.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,678</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>25.8%</b>

Source: U.S. American Community Survey, 2016

**Age and Condition of Housing Units** – Burrillville has a fair amount of older housing stock; nearly 40 percent of Burrillville's housing units were built before 1950. Not surprisingly, about 50 percent of the total units that were built before 1950

are within the more urbanized areas of town in census tract 129 (see Table V-6). Variations in the number and age of housing units within census tracts illustrate the development patterns throughout the community.

**Table V-6. Age of Housing Unit by Census Tract, 2016**

Census Tract	1940 or Earlier	%	1950-1999	%	2000 or Later	%
129	1,223	55.3%	849	38.4%	141	6.4%
130.01	285	21.9%	894	68.8%	121	9.3%
130.02	978	33.1%	1,644	55.7%	330	11.2%
Townwide	2,486	38.5%	3,387	52.4%	592	9.2%

Source: American Community Survey, 2016

Median Year Built 1962  Median Age 56 years
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**Special Needs Housing** - There is a pressing need in Burrillville, as in many older communities, to improve access to public facilities and mobility throughout the Town

at large. According to the 2016 American Community Survey, Burrillville's civilian non-institutionalized population with physical disabilities is 1,816 or 11.5% of the

total population. This is up from 8% in 2000. Comparatively, the State of Rhode Island was at 13.1% in 2016, up from 7% in 2000. This suggests that Burrillville is experiencing a trend being felt statewide.

*Response to Special Needs Population* - The Burrillville Building Inspector will continue to work with developers – particularly with regards to redevelopment – under the flexible building code to provide access for civilians with physical disabilities. The Town’s Zoning Ordinance allows for accessory apartments within existing residential units. Such units allow families to better care for their elderly or disabled members. The Town will continue to identify alternative housing options through its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision & Land Development Regulations to better address the needs of Burrillville’s special needs population.

More specifically, as was previously identified within this chapter, affordable housing for senior citizens continues to be a priority and has been partly ameliorated through the development of several senior housing complexes. The Stillwater Mill Complex remains a model for the Town in terms of developing in a manner that seamlessly integrates low-moderate income homes into the historic fabric of Burrillville.

Maximizing the number of redevelopment projects (e.g. brownfields or vacant

buildings and sites) for potential market rate and low-moderate income housing development is a high priority for the Town of Burrillville, which views such development as a recycling of neighborhood resources. This form of sustainable planning activity is in keeping with this and other sections of the Town Comprehensive Plan. Sustainable development reuses and/or reactivates existing infrastructure, as opposed to extending new infrastructure and services to undeveloped rural areas in Town. Redevelopment projects therefore represent a more efficient use of land.

Land owned by local non-profit groups may also be considered for low-moderate income housing development, as their interest and mission allows. The Town will work with non-profits to locate such developments, prior to their acquisition of sites, to be sure development is consistent with this and other elements of the Town Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

**Current Housing Practices** - The Town has a number of ways in which it addresses housing on an ongoing basis. Below are a few examples:

- Evaluates affordable and LMI housing proposals according to the number of units which can be owned or rented at a cost of no more than 30 percent of the monthly income of the households to be served.

- Requires site plan review for all multifamily developments, large standard subdivisions, and cluster subdivisions.
- When reviewing applications for mixed market-rate and LMI developments, requires that exterior architectural treatment and site design be similar in nature for both types of homes.

### V.3 Housing Issues

The following summarizes the major housing-related issues identified during this plan update:

- Housing prices in Burrillville have been volatile over the past 20 years, peaking and crashing and rising again in line with the overall economy. At the same time, median incomes in Town have been rising slowly but steadily, so that the average household can now afford the average home. However, this may not be the case for much longer if housing prices continue to rise faster than incomes.
- Further, while average incomes have increased, the percentage of town residents living in poverty or requiring social assistance has risen considerably as well, suggesting that a segment of Burrillville residents are falling behind and may have increasing difficulty in finding a home they can afford.
- Between 1990 and 2000 a higher number of new units were built in the suburban and outlying rural areas of the community than in Pascoag/Harrisville. Since 2000, this trend has slowed, if not reversed, and the development rate in Pascoag/Harrisville is more in line with that for the rest of the town. This suggests that public policy and investments in Pascoag/Harrisville are making a difference.
- Most housing units in Burrillville are single family, owner-occupied units, but the number of attached and multifamily homes has been increasing, and now represents a much larger share of the total housing stock than in neighboring rural communities.
- Just under 40 percent of Burrillville's housing units were built before 1950, including 55 percent of the housing units in census tract 129, which includes the villages of Pascoag and Harrisville. This historic housing contributes to Burrillville's character and should be maintained and renovated whenever possible.
- The median 2-bedroom rent in Burrillville in 2016 was \$1,258. This is more or less even with the State average for the same rent, which is \$1,288. Given that renters in Burrillville have much lower incomes than home owners, nearly 60% of renters in Burrillville spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing related expenses, vs. 51% for the state

overall.<sup>14</sup> This is up from about 35% in 2000, underscoring that while the average Burrillville resident is doing fairly well, a portion of the population is falling behind.

- An increasing number of individuals and families in Burrillville are unable to afford the costs of housing, and rely upon subsidy programs for assistance.
- There is a constant waiting list for units at all of the Housing Authority's properties.
- The Town Housing Authority's role is limited to overseeing the apartments it manages and the Section 8 voucher program. There is no group, committee or agency directly responsible for the overall housing needs of the community. The following low-moderate income housing strategy represents a policy to identify and address those needs.

#### **V.4 Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy**

The Low and Moderate Income Housing Act (R.I.G.L. 45-53), mandates that Towns that do not conform to the Act find ways to encourage low-moderate income (LMI) housing development. Towns are required to maintain at least 10 percent of the total housing stock for low-moderate income households. Communities that already

maintain 10 percent of their total housing stock as low-moderate income are exempt from the act. As of 2017, the official percentage for Burrillville was 8.81. However, because of the Town's effective implementation of its current plan, Burrillville's affordable housing stock exceeded the 10% goal after the completion of two new developments in and around downtown Pascoag in 2018. With the completion of Greenridge Commons (75 units) and Greenridge Downtown (21 units), the total number of low-moderate income units is 641, or 10.4%. Burrillville is now the first non-exempt community in Rhode Island, other than New Shoreham, to reach this milestone.

Why should the Town care to maintain this goal? Now that the 10% is reached, Burrillville is no longer subject to housing development through Comprehensive Permits. Such developments may be allowed to override local zoning if they provide a certain percentage of LMI housing. By maintaining 10%, Burrillville will have more control over local land use decisions in the future. "LMI" refers to "Low-Moderate Income" households, or those making 80% of the Area Median Income or less.

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<sup>14</sup> Housing Factbook 2017, Housing Works RI

**Table V-7. Low-Moderate Income Homes in Burrillville, June 2017**

Population	Development Name	Tenure	Address	Total
Elderly	Ashton Court	Rental	77 Chapel Street	76
	Bradford Court	Rental	251 Main Street	98
	Stillwater Apartments	Rental	155 Main Street	15
	Stillwater Heights	Rental	30 Central Street	53
Family	Commons at Harrisville Village	Homeownership	171/234 Jefferson Street	9
	Maple Hill Mobile Home Park	Homeownership	61 Hillside Drive	198
	Pascoag School	Homeownership	265 Sayles Avenue	19
	Stillwater Mill, The Clocktower	Rental	Main Street	36
	Fernwood Self-Help	Homeownership	George Eddy Road	7
Special Needs	Group Home Beds	N/A	N/A	34
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>545</b>

	Number of Housing Units	Percent
Number of LMI Housing Units	545	8.8% of total year round housing units
Number of “Family” LMI Housing Units	269	49.4% of LMI housing units
Number of “Elderly” LMI Housing Units	242	44.4% of LMI housing units
Number of “Other” LMI Housing Units	34	6.2% of LMI housing units
Number of Year Round Housing Units (2010 minus seasonal homes)	6,189	

Of course, as more housing units are constructed in Burrillville, the 10% threshold increases, as it will likely do after the 2020 U.S. Census. However, using the State’s 20-year population projections, a new target for LMI homes may be calculated. In the case of Burrillville, the population is expected to decrease slightly, which would lead to a lower number of LMI units needed. Naturally, if the population

instead *increases* over this time, the opposite will be true. In any event, as discussed above, the need for low-moderate income housing in Burrillville will remain strong even if the 10% goal is maintained after 2020. Further, if the current Census estimate of 6,465 housing units is confirmed or exceeded by the full Census in 2020, Burrillville will fall just shy of 10%.

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Projected Population 2040:	15,676
÷	
Average Household Size (2015):	2.56
=	
2040 Housing Unit Projection:	6,123
Forecasted 10% Threshold:	612
<b>Total LMI Units w/Greenridge Developments:</b>	<b>641</b>
<b><u>Forecasted LMI Unit Surplus:</u></b>	<b><u>+29</u></b>
<b>Or . . .</b>	
Current Estimated Total Housing Units:	6,465
10% Threshold at this Estimate:	647
<b><u>LMI Unit Deficit w/Current Housing Units:</u></b>	<b><u>-6</u></b>

**Housing Problems** – A key component of this Affordable Housing Strategy is to clearly identify the housing needs of Burrillville’s local population. Those populations in need will then be compared to the needs of the region and state.

*Cost Burden* - Cost Burden refers to any household paying more than 30% of its income on housing. Severe Cost Burden refers to any household paying more than 50% of its income on housing. The table below summarizes cost burdened households of various kinds within Burrillville.

The fact that over 1/3 of all households in Burrillville are cost burdened should be a concern for the Town. Whether people

choose to or are forced by circumstances to spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing, this means they have less disposable income to spend both on other necessities such as food and health care, and at local shops, restaurants, and service providers. In other words, the entire economy is impacted.

It should come as no surprise that LMI households (making less than 80% of the Area Median Income) have much higher rates of cost burden than the average household. Over 2/3 are cost burdened, and over 1/3 are severely cost burdened, significantly limiting the amount of income they have available for other expenses. It is also no surprise that while 28% of

## Chapter V: Housing & Affordable Housing Strategy

Burrillville residents live in rental households, over 45% of cost burdened LMI households do. That said, a majority of cost burdened LMI households are

homeowners, perhaps reflecting retirees on a fixed budget or people who chose to live where they do in spite of the burden on their incomes.

**Table V-8. Burrillville Cost Burden, 2016**

	Number of Households	Percent
Number of Cost Burdened Households	2,120	34.8% of total households
Number of Severely Cost Burdened Households	815	13.4% of total households
Number of LMI Cost Burdened Households	1,420	66.4% of LMI households
Number of LMI Severely Cost Burdened Households	780	36.4% of LMI households
Number of LMI Cost Burdened Households that are renting	645	45.4%
Number of LMI Cost Burdened Households that own their home	780	54.9%

Source: American Community Survey, 2016

*Local Needs* – One of the best sources of data on local housing needs and problems is the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) developed by U.S. HUD. While the last set of data, gathered for 2010-2014, is now somewhat out of date, it does give a snapshot of post-recession housing needs in Burrillville, as highlighted in Table V-9. The CHAS data track four different housing problems, including: incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than 1 person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%. The table below captures households with at least one such problem, organized by

renters vs. owners and by household income. The acronym “HAMFI” stands for HUD Area Median Family Income. This is calculated by HUD for each jurisdiction, and will not necessarily be the same as other calculations of median incomes (such as a simple Census number), due to a series of adjustments that are made by the agency. The numbers in the “Percent” column represent the percent of households in each category with at least one housing problem. For example, in the first row of statistics in the table, “305” represents 77.8% of all renter households earning less than 30% HAMFI.

**Table V-9. Burrillville CHAS Data, 2010-2014**

Household Income	Households with at least 1 housing problem	Percent
<b>RENTERS</b>		
≤ 30% HAMFI	305	77.8%
> 30% - ≤ 50% HAMFI	215	55.1%
> 50% - ≤ 80% HAMFI	225	75.0%
> 80% - ≤ 100% HAMFI	0	0.0%
> 100% HAMFI	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>42.6%</b>
<b>OWNERS</b>		
≤ 30% HAMFI	160	69.6%
> 30% - ≤ 50% HAMFI	255	71.8%
> 50% - ≤ 80% HAMFI	420	65.6%
> 80% - ≤ 100% HAMFI	155	31.0%
> 100% HAMFI	470	17.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>32.5%</b>

The most interesting thing to note in this data is that renters earning more than 80% of the area median income statistically experience no housing problems. This suggests that people of means who chose to rent have affordable and high quality options, while the vast majority of lower income renters experience one or more housing problems. On the other hand, the same is not true for homeowners. It is no surprise that a majority of lower income homeowners experience one or more housing problems. However, the fact that nearly 1/3 of all homeowners making between 80 and 100% of the area median income, and almost 1/5 of all homeowners making more than that, experience one or

more housing problems is curious. This could be reflective of Burrillville’s older housing stock, or of people choosing to spend more on housing here because they value the quality of life in Burrillville over other household expenses.

**Homelessness** - Shelter is a basic human need. Housing, like most economic commodities, responds to supply and demand. But the market alone cannot provide the housing types, affordability, and supportive services often needed to prevent or remedy homelessness.

Homelessness is not a visible problem in Burrillville, and there are no homeless

shelters located within the Town. The Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Annual Report from 2013 (the latest date for which local data is available) states that 4 people identified Burrillville as their last place of residence, totaling 0.1% of the homeless population. This is tied for the smallest aggregate number of homeless individuals for any town in Rhode Island.

It should be noted, however, that there are likely a number of unidentified homeless individuals and families in town, or, more probably, those who may be at risk of homelessness. The Town should work with regional groups that specialize in finding and providing services for such individuals and families. Further, the economic downturn in the state forced many individuals and families to lose jobs and homes. The impacts of this are likely still reverberating throughout the community, and perhaps forcing former residents to leave the town.

Burrillville has several group homes maintained under the direction of the State Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). There are 34 group home beds in Burrillville. Under the definitions in Rhode Island General Law, these beds also qualify as LMI housing units. Assistance is also available from a number of churches, non-profits, and other agencies in and around Burrillville, including five churches with food pantries. The Town keeps a

listing with contact information for all of these organizations and their services on the “Community Resources” page of its website. All of these organizations provide invaluable services for making sure Burrillville residents don’t slip through the cracks and experience homelessness.

*Response to Homelessness* - The Town will continue to explore funding opportunities from Rhode Island’s Community Development Block Grant Program and HUD programs to specifically expand the housing base for physically and/or mentally disabled citizens, female-headed households, and other populations most at risk of homelessness. Stillwater Heights, for example, contains 14 units that accommodate the disabled.

**Strategies to Address Housing Needs** - The Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy Summary (Table V-10) depicts Burrillville’s implementation schedule for LMI housing development for future years 2020, 2025, 2030, and 2035. Table V-10 projects the number of low-moderate income housing units necessary to maintain the 10 percent goal as stated in R.I.G.L. 45-53. More specifically, Table V-11 depicts the total LMI growth potential for Nasonville, through the Town’s Village Planned Development Ordinance.

**Table V-10. Summary – Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy Summary**

Strategy / Action	Year 2020	Year 2025	Year 2030	Year 2035	Total	Rental (Family, Elderly, Disabled)	Ownership (Family, Elderly, Disabled)	Income Group (% of MFI)
Subdivision & Land Development Controls								
Require minimum of 20% LMI units in subdivisions of 10 or more units	4.34	4.34	4.34	4.34	17.36		17.36	<= 80%
Inclusionary Zoning – Village Planned Development Ordinance								
Require minimum of 20% LMI units in VPD Overlay Zone (Nasonville)	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	31	11	20	<= 80%
Burrillville Affordable Housing Strategy - TOTAL	12.09	12.09	12.09	12.09	48.36			

**Table V-11. Inclusionary Overlay (Village Planned Development Overlay Zone, Growth Projection for Nasonville)**

Nasonville Growth Area	
Acreage	72.3
Development Constraints wetlands & jurisdictional areas, open space, roads = deduct 40%	43.4
Square footage conversion = multiply 43,560 sq. ft.	1,889,632.8
Potential Lots per Density bonus per compliance with Subdivision & Land Dev. Regulations and VPD Ordinance Standards = divide 12,000 sq. ft.	157.5
Potential Affordable Units = multiply 20%	31

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; RIHMFC, 2003.

Collectively, these actions for developing LMI housing will pair with this Plan’s actions for addressing market rate housing needs for all segments of the housing

market, including renters, homeowners, elderly, low and moderate income residents, large families, the homeless, and special needs persons and groups.

*Zoning Strategies* - A key component of this Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy is the continued implementation of the Town's zoning ordinance, including the maintenance of R-12 and R-20 zones within the village areas.

The Burrillville Town Council adopted an Inclusionary overlay zone for the sole purpose of focusing and directing mixed-income housing unit growth towards existing village areas. The Inclusionary overlay zone is entitled "Village Planned Development – Land Development Project," and is Section 30-290 of the Burrillville Zoning Ordinance. As part of the land development application process, Burrillville now offers an option to the development community –both non-profit and private- to put forth development proposals that may receive a density bonus if all the general performance standards of Section 30-209 are met and 20 percent of the homes are LMI. Allowing the VPD as an overlay zone enables the Town to maintain control over where growth takes place, while the property owner still maintains all rights associated with the underlying zoning district. A density bonus is allowed and capped at the R-12 zoning district density allowance. That is, regardless of the density of the underlying zoning, the density bonus associated with a VPD proposal shall not exceed that of an R-12 calculation (i.e. 12,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size). The density bonus varies depending

on the density associated with the underlying zoning district. Locating the VPD adjacent to existing village centers, in combination with the potential density bonus, is analogous to expanding the existing R-12 zoning districts. When viewed as a density bonus, the zoning tool becomes a stimulus for developing LMI housing by offsetting the development cost associated with LMI unit construction.

This strategy has been very effective to date, and is the primary reason the Town will imminently be meeting its 10% goal. Most of the village areas have largely hit their current capacity for LMI housing development, with the exception of Nasonville. As discussed in the Economic Development chapter of this plan, the Burrillville Redevelopment Authority has plans to invest in Nasonville, and is pursuing the extension of public water and/or sewer lines to the area. This will help unlock the potential for development needed to support the LMI housing production assumed in Table V-10.

Currently, the Town does not have alternative ways for developers to meet its inclusionary zoning requirements. One option granted to all municipalities in Rhode Island, per RIGL 45-24-46.1, is the ability to allow developers to pay a "fee-in-lieu" of developing LMI housing. Burrillville intends to explore this option. If adopted, the Town will also need to establish a local Affordable Housing Board (AHB), the

primary purpose of which would be to oversee and allocate “fee-in-lieu” and any other funds deposited into a restricted account pursuant to RIGL 45-24-46.1 as amended. Such funds would be earmarked to assist local LMI housing production. The AHB members could also be charged with other duties such as, but not limited to, research into other funding opportunities, running of educational programs regarding LMI housing issues with the community, and developing site inventories for potentially suitable sites for future LMI housing development or redevelopment. Per RIGL 45-24-46.1, if the Town adopts this strategy, this Comprehensive Plan will be amended to include the specific process used to allocate the funds.

*Inclusionary Overlay Zone, Unit Calculation Methodology* - For purposes of this Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy, it is necessary to forecast the total number of housing units in order to calculate the number of those units likely to be LMI. Existing RIGIS mapping data was utilized to calculate undevelopable soils areas. The soils data was layered over the town parcel data for purposes of calculating undevelopable soils area and developable soils areas (see Map V-1).

Table V-11 demonstrates the potential for LMI production in Nasonville under the VPD overlay zone. The total acreage for each of the growth areas was calculated for

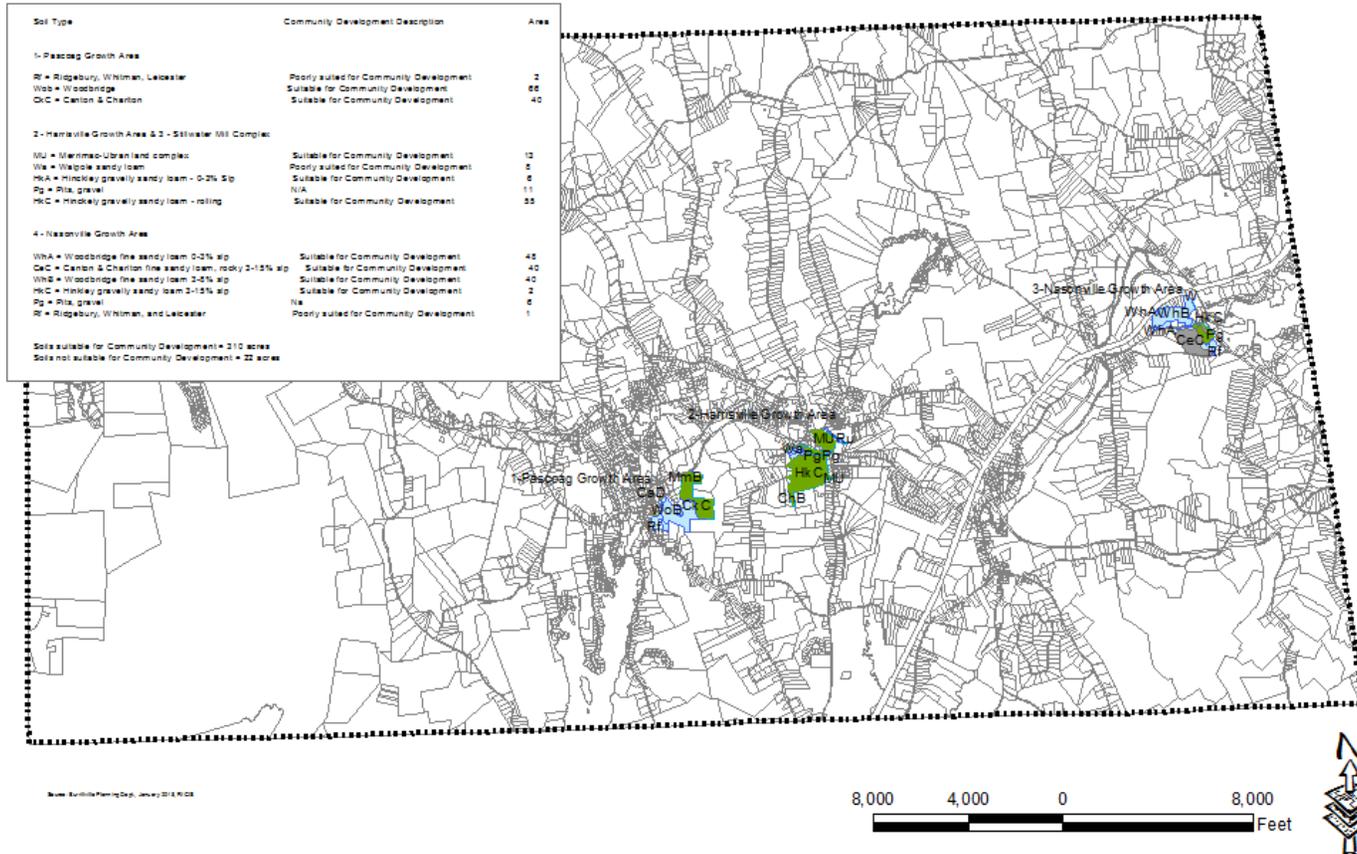
the Town’s original production plan, and Table V-11 shows the portions of that analysis relevant to Nasonville. The original GIS analysis revealed approximately 22 acres among all four village areas with soil not suitable for community development. Considering undevelopable soils, jurisdictional wetlands and stream setbacks, and open space exactions, 40 percent of the total land area was deducted from each growth area. The areas were then converted from acres to square feet. All the growth areas were then divided by 12,000 square feet, which assumed each growth area would receive the total density bonus and the total number of lots or units was estimated at 573. In terms of the affordable units, a multiplication of .20 was necessary, as 20 percent of each growth area must be subsidized.

Another important factor in stimulating the creation of LMI housing lies in mandating 20 percent LMI unit construction as a part of conventional growth not associated with the Inclusionary overlay zone. Since this policy has been in place, approximately 20 LMI units have been built over the past five years, or approximately four units per year. This is actually much higher than the estimated 4.34 units every five years estimated in the Town’s original production plan. Maintaining this mandatory 20 percent LMI requirement for conventional subdivisions, and sticking with the original

assumption (now proven to be a conservative estimate) of a production rate of 4.34 units every five years, will yield an estimated 17.36 units over the next 20 years (see Table V-10). These efforts should easily maintain Burrillville's 10% goal, regardless of the outcomes of the 2020 Census.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

Village Planned Development - Soils  
Developable Soils Areas



Map V-1. Developable Soils Areas of Village Planned Development Overlay District

**V.5 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
V.1 Encourage a range of housing opportunities to meet the diverse housing needs of Burrillville’s residents.	V.1.a Stimulate development of a variety of housing, in terms of cost, size, location and design, to meet the broad range of needs and desires of homeowners and renters, and of all income groups and family sizes.	V.1.a.1 As developments are proposed, actively communicate with applicants the Town’s desire to see a variety of housing options, including a range of types, sizes and costs.	Ongoing	TC, BHA, BRA
		V.1.a.2 Continue to require 20% LMI housing for subdivisions & LD projects of 10 or more units. Units must be in compliance with R.I.G.L. 45-53-3(5).	Ongoing	PB
		V.1.a.3 Explore and determine the value of allowing “fee-in-lieu” of LMI housing development, along with a local Affordable Housing Board to manage and allocate any such fees collected.	Priority	TC
	V.1.b Allow and encourage a combination of LMI unit construction and commercial construction through the Village Planned Development process.	V.1.b.1 As the BRA continues to make plans and investments in Nasonville, ensure the inclusion of LMI housing through the Village Planned Development process.	Priority	PB, BRA
	V.1.c Increase the housing options available to households with less than the Burrillville median income to provide more opportunities to keep the	V.1.c.1 Develop new and renovated affordable housing options for households whose incomes are less than 50 percent of the local median income through public investment, subsidy and/or joint public/private efforts.	Long Term	BHA, BRA

Chapter V: Housing & Affordable Housing Strategy

Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	cost of housing at no more than 30% of household income.	V.1.c.2 Develop new and renovated affordable housing options for households whose incomes are between 30 and 80 percent of the local median income through incentives to the private sector, joint public-private efforts and non-profit development.	Long Term	BHA, BRA
		V.1.c.3 Expand the activities of the Town's Housing Authority to increase its ability to serve Burrillville residents, with special emphasis upon offering more opportunities for families, providing more services to the elderly, and supporting the renovation of existing homes.	Intermediate	TC, BHA
	V.1.d Ensure that the Town continues to maintain 10% or more of its housing units as low-moderate income housing.	V.1.d.1 Work with the Burrillville Housing Authority to ensure that existing units are maintained and modernized as necessary.	Ongoing	TC, BHA
		V.1.d.2 The Town will continue (through the Housing Authority or another non-profit agency) to identify and secure parcels for redevelopment and provide additional subsidized housing to the extent State or federal programs make such development feasible.	Intermediate	BHA, BRA
		V.1.d.3 Support the Housing Authority's efforts to expand the number of Section 8 certificates through technical or other assistance.	Ongoing	TC

Chapter V: Housing & Affordable Housing Strategy

Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	V.1.e The Town's priority should be to meet the affordable housing needs of its local residents and employees, per R.I.G.L. 45-53.	V.1.e.1 Whenever possible, require that affordable units be administered in a manner that gives preference to local residents.	Ongoing	PB, BHA
	V.1.f Encourage and support the optimum location of new housing in terms of its relationships to transportation, pollution control, water supply, education and other public facilities and services; employment opportunities and commercial and community services; adjacent land uses; and the suitability of the specific site for other land uses, including open space.	V.1.f.1 Promote higher density housing development within the villages, where services and other amenities are existing or planned except where there are other criteria which must be met or concerns that conflict with allowing higher density.	Ongoing	PD, PB
		V.1.f.2 Continue to require two to five acre minimum lot requirements in outlying areas of the community, where services and amenities are not available or planned.	Ongoing	PD, PB
V.2 Promote a safe, sanitary and well-constructed housing stock through new construction and renovation of existing structures.	V.2.a Encourage and support the optimum use of existing housing stock, existing neighborhoods and existing structures suitable for residential use, in meeting housing needs, including rehabilitation of historic buildings for housing.	V.2.a.1 Support the reuse and rehabilitation of mill buildings for housing use in those locations where access, parking, environmental concerns etc., preclude continued industrial use.	Ongoing	BRA
		V.2.a.2 Continue providing low interest loans and other assistance for home improvements for low and moderate-income persons.	Ongoing	PD

Chapter V: Housing & Affordable Housing Strategy

Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	V.2.b Encourage and support more efficient use of the State's natural, energy, fiscal and other resources, and public services and facilities in residential structures and in residential development patterns.	V.2.b.1 Provide incentives for combining open space preservation efforts with new affordable housing construction, such as through cluster development.	Intermediate	PB
V.3 To encourage density and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods	V.3.a Encourage and support the improvement of existing highly dense village neighborhoods.	V.3.a.1 Allow and encourage the development or redevelopment of compatible small-scale affordable housing structures within existing neighborhoods.	Intermediate	BRA, PB, TC,

## Chapter VI - Circulation



### **VI.1 Existing Conditions, Trends, and Projections**

Transportation access and circulation in the Town of Burrillville is primarily auto-oriented on approximately 150 miles of public ways. The 1966 Comprehensive Plan inventoried approximately 135 miles of public ways, demonstrating that Burrillville has been fairly successful in encouraging development along the existing roadway network.

The primary orientation of the system is in a southeasterly direction toward Route 44 and in a northeasterly direction to Route 7 (Douglas Pike) or towards the Route 102/146 intersection.

Annual 24-hour average daily traffic data furnished by RIDOT for 2016<sup>1</sup> confirms that the principal directions of travel are toward Glocester and North Smithfield. Further, it should come as no surprise that the highest traffic counts are in or approaching the town's village centers, and along the larger arterial roads. As a predominantly rural community, there are very few year-round generators of traffic within the town. In truth, the local schools are perhaps the most consistent generators of traffic, along with major employers such as Daniele, Inc. In the summertime, the town's many parks,

forests, lakes, and ponds generate traffic from visitors, hikers, boaters, and hunters. However, on a normal day, most traffic is generated by local residents and by through-traffic with origins and destinations outside Burrillville.

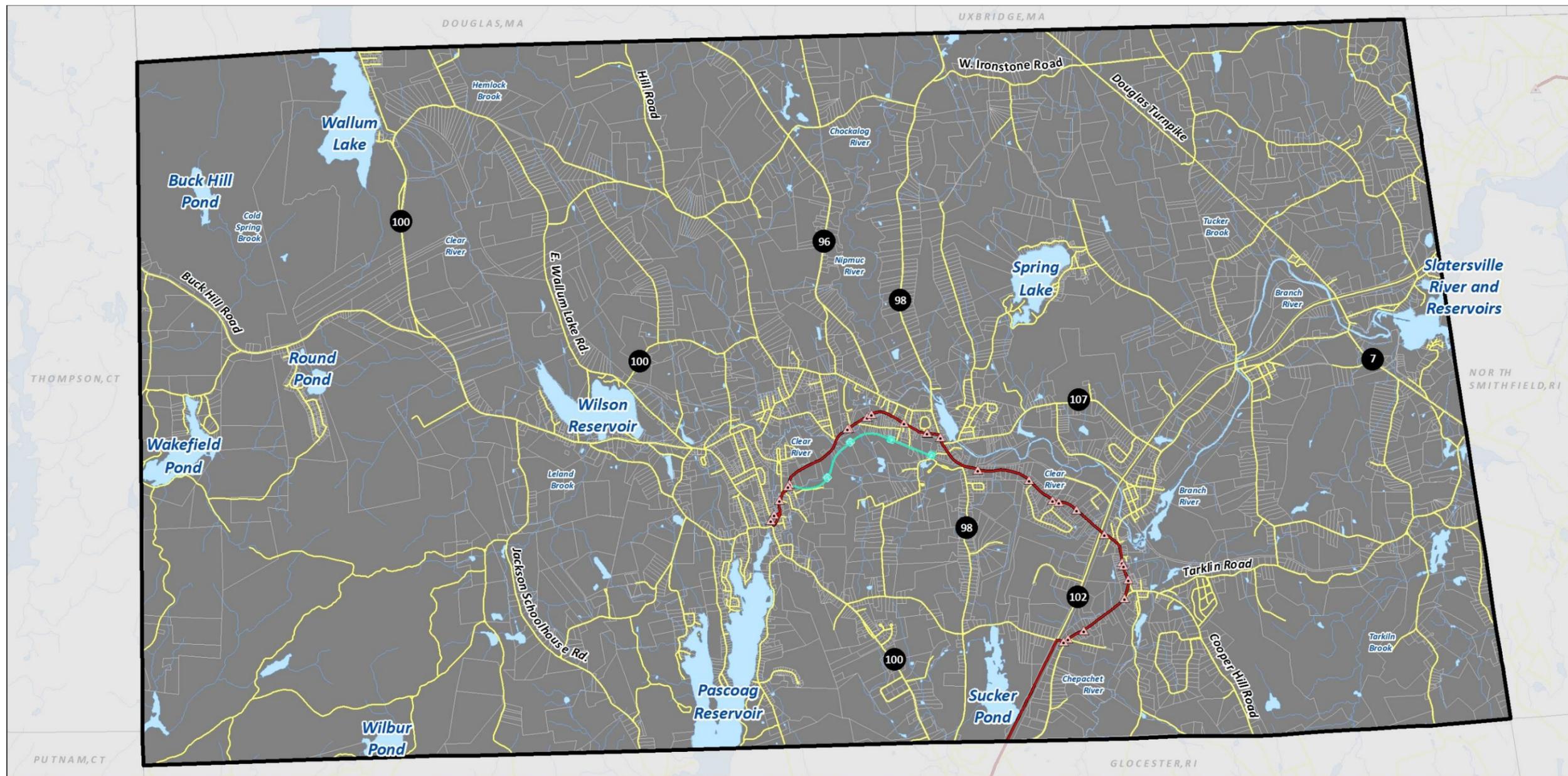
The Town is serviced by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority with Route 9x from Providence at Kennedy Plaza to Harrisville and Pascoag via Chepachet. There are no rail or airport facilities in the Town.

The Town's current network of roads, bike paths and public bus routes can be seen on Map VI-1.

**Roadway Network** - The Town's population centers were born as village clusters around the mill complexes that developed on the principal waterways during the industrial revolution and subsequent decades. Today's road system connecting these village centers has been inherited from the earliest period of development. As a result, the Town's highway network does not provide a cohesive network throughout the Town.

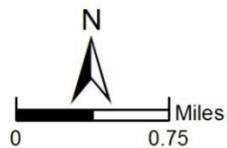
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<sup>1</sup>  
[http://www.dot.ri.gov/documents/maps/Traffic\\_Flow\\_Map\\_st.pdf](http://www.dot.ri.gov/documents/maps/Traffic_Flow_Map_st.pdf)



**TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018**

**Horsley Witten Group**  
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
 55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com



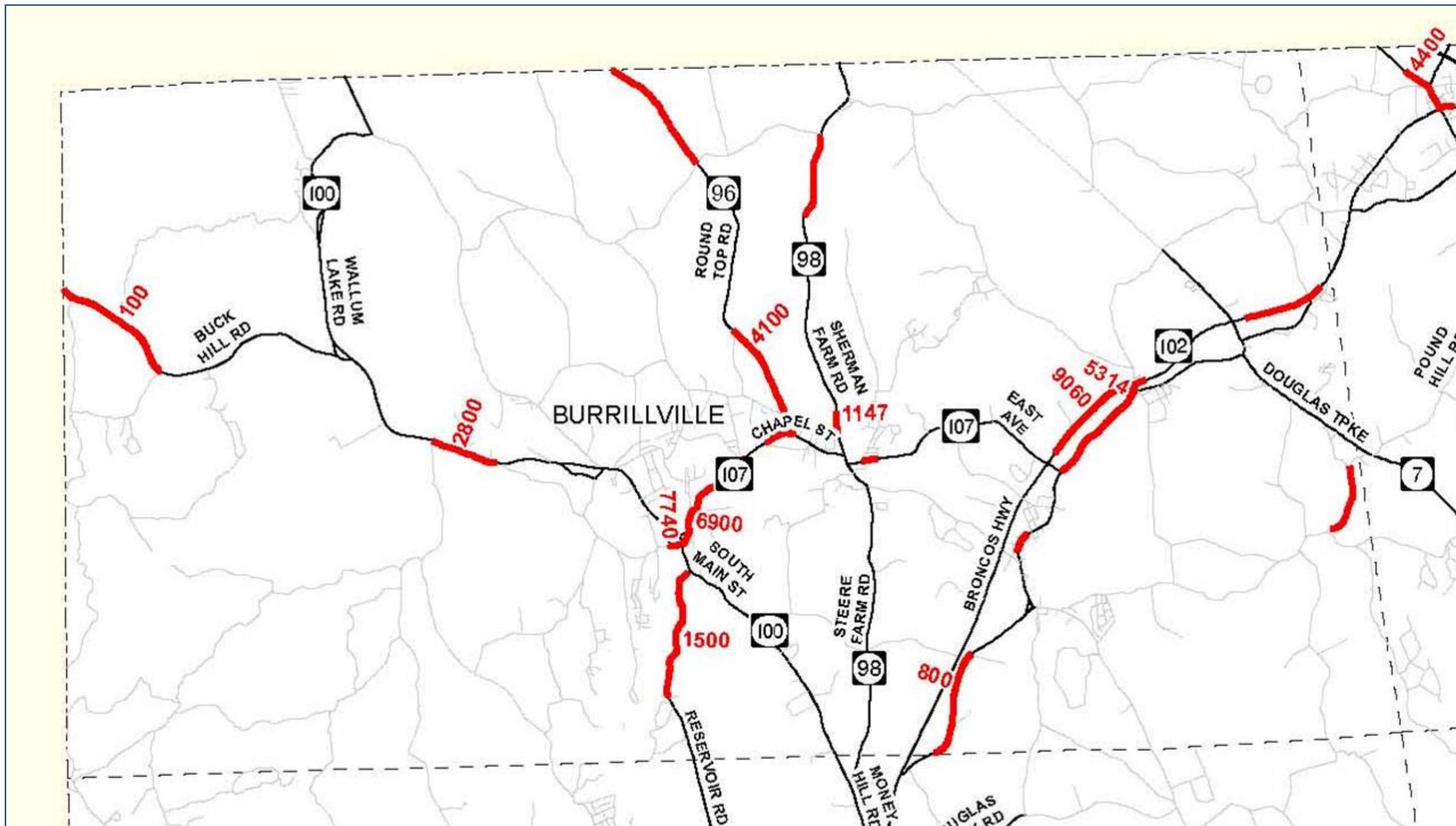
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**Existing Transportation Network**

- Roads
- Bike Paths
- RIPTA Bus Routes
- RIPTA Bus Stops

\*Data Source: RIGIS

**Map VI-1. Existing Transportation Network**



Map VI-2. Traffic Flow Map, RIDOT 2016

## Chapter VI: Circulation

The Town Department of Public Works offers a street access permit application process for local roads only, otherwise the State Physical Alteration Permit process prevails regarding state roads. Private streets may be created in the more rural parts of town through the Rural Residential Compound Ordinance. All local and state highway interchanges and signalization proposals must be reviewed by the State Traffic Commission.

The following is a summary of the Town's roadway network:

- Broncos Highway (Route 102) is a northeasterly/southwesterly principal arterial. It provides access to Route 146, Route 7, and Route 44.
- Route 7 runs northwesterly/southeasterly and provides a link to Route 295.
- Route 44 provides links to Route 295, the shopping district in Smithfield, and an alternative link into the City of Providence.
- Routes 96 and 98 run north/south and provide a connection from the center portion of Burrillville to Massachusetts. Route 98 also extends south to South Main Street/Route 100.
- Route 100 is located in the western portion of Town and runs north/south. It provides links to Route 44, Route 102, Wallum Lake Road, and Buck Hill Road.

Three state highways (Routes 100, 98 and 102) provide access to Burrillville from the south via Glocester. Route 100 branches off toward the northwest to Pascoag, and Route 102 traverses in a northeasterly fashion to Mapleville. Route 100 reaches Massachusetts to the north, and Route 102 junctions with Route 7 and continues into North Smithfield. Route 98 runs directly north to Harrisville and Graniteville and eventually crosses the Massachusetts State Line. Route 96 originates from the Graniteville area and also runs in a north-south fashion.

Although, the north-south routes appear to service the Town in an efficient manner, there is a lack of a primary east-west connecting route. Lapham Farm Road provides a link between Route 100 and Route 102, but is a minor local street. The east-west roadways in the vicinity of Harrisville also connect to the Town Hall area in a haphazard fashion. The east/west corridor through the Town is comprised of East Avenue, Central Avenue, Route 107, and Buck Hill Road. This corridor is the major east/west connector within the Town and supplies access to the major north/south roadways in Burrillville. East Avenue and Central Avenue are residential and do not provide adequate sidewalks for pedestrians.

Additionally, the system of roadways does not consistently perform the functions it

was intended to serve. Route 98, for example, runs from north to south, essentially bisecting the Town. It acts as a minor collector in the northern portion, a principal arterial in the central portion and a collector in the southern portion of town. This fragmentation or lack of consistency in terms of roadway character and function is familiar to many of the thoroughfares in Burrillville, though locals know how to navigate these roadways, and appreciate the many route alternatives they provide.

**Remaining Issues with the Town's Transportation Network** - The historical purpose of the transportation network in the Town of Burrillville has been to connect the five villages of the Town together. Implemented over many years, these connections are well known to local residents. However, they do not currently provide an efficient or obvious way for visitors to navigate through town. The north/south routes tend to be more effective than the east/west routes because they provide an alternative means of access in the event of a roadway incident. The current network does provide adequate connections to the major highways, such as Route 146, Route 295, and Route 395 and the surrounding cities of Providence, Worcester, MA, and Hartford, CT.

## **VI.2 Roads and Highways**

Functional classification is the process of grouping streets and highways according to the character of their intended use. The basis of the system is the relationship between the roads and the functions they serve which generally are grouped into two fundamental services: a) access to property, and b) travel mobility. Most roads perform in varying degrees both of these services and it is the combination of these services that determines which of the following type of roads they are classified as:

- a. Local road - emphasizes access to property
- b. Collector road - offers a balance between property access and travel mobility
- c. Arterial - emphasizes a high level of mobility for through movements

The classification is also based on the type of area served, based on the U.S. Bureau of the Census definition, whether it is an urban area, a small urban area or a rural area. This system of classification is used by the state in developing long-range transportation plans and in determining federal aid funding categories. It is also used to determine jurisdiction for highway maintenance responsibility. Classification and eligibility under this system does not automatically mean that federal funds are available for improvements.

The Rhode Island 2005 – 2015 Highway Functional Classification Map dated June, 2015 may be viewed at the RI Department of Transportation website<sup>1</sup>. The map depicts a functional classification breakdown of the roads in Burrillville. Federal funding of various levels are available to all road types with the exception of Rural Minor Collectors and all local roads.

A handful of changes to the classifications of roadways in Burrillville were made in 2014, and can be seen in the State of Rhode Island Highway Functional Classification 2014 Report posted on the RI Division of Planning's website<sup>2</sup>.

Overall, Burrillville's public ways fall into the following functional classifications:

- Principal Arterial (Broncos Hwy; Douglas Tpke): 6.88 miles
- Minor Arterial: 8.46 miles
- Major Collector: 33.59 miles
- Minor Collector: 13.79 miles

All remaining public ways in Burrillville are considered local roads.

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1

[http://www.dot.ri.gov/documents/maps/Functional\\_map.pdf](http://www.dot.ri.gov/documents/maps/Functional_map.pdf)

2

[http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/trans/2015/TP\\_165.pdf](http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/trans/2015/TP_165.pdf)

### **VI.3 State Scheduled Road Improvements**

The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a multi-year program of highway (including bicycle and pedestrian), transit (bus, rail, and water), airport, and freight rail projects. The State Planning Council, acting as the single statewide Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Rhode Island, adopts it approximately every two years. Once a project is listed in the first two years (biennial element of the TIP), it is eligible to receive federal funding. Listing in the third year or later implies a priority and schedule for implementation, but is not a reservation of funds.

Projects in the TIP are scheduled in accordance with their priority and their phase of development, whether it is preliminary engineering/ design, right-of-way acquisition, or construction.

**TIP Projects Scheduled for the Town of Burrillville** - The TIP projects scheduled for the Town of Burrillville are identified in Table VI-1.

## Chapter VI: Circulation

**Table VI-1. Transportation Improvement Program 2017 to 2025 Town of Burrillville**

Program/Project	Year Funding Available
<b>Pavement Capital Program</b>	
Victory Hwy (Rt 102 to Rt 107)	2018
Reservoir Rd (South Main St to US-44)	2024
Rt 7/Douglas Pike (Whipples Pond to Joslin Rd)	2024
Rt 107/Main Street (Rt 100 to Union Ave)	TBD
<b>Traffic Safety Capital Program</b>	
Rt 102 (Glocester Town Line to Inman Rd)	2020
<b>Bridge Capital Program</b>	
Nasonville Concrete Arch Bridge (Mill Canal)	2018
Joslin Road Bridge (Branch River)	2018
Pascoag River Bridge (Pascoag River)	2018
Frank H. Potter Bridge (Pascoag River)	2018
Sayles Avenue Bridge (Pascoag River)	2018
Granite Mill Canal Bridge (Mill Canal)	2018
Leland Bridge (Leland Brook)	2018
Railroad Avenue Bridge (Pascoag River)	2019
Glendale Bridge (Branch River)	2025
Laurel Ridge Bridge (Clear River)	2025
Harrisville Bridge (Pascoag River)	2025
Oakland Bridge (Pascoag River)	2025
Lapham Bridge (Whipple Ave)	2025
Nasonville Stone Arch Bridge (Branch River)	2025
Oak Valley Bridge (Branch River)	2025
Mohegan Bridge (Branch River)	2025

Source: [www.planning.state.ri.us/tip/tip912.pdf](http://www.planning.state.ri.us/tip/tip912.pdf)

### **VI.4 Town of Burrillville Road Improvements and Maintenance**

Burrillville recognizes the importance of its outstanding historic manmade and natural

landscapes by taking steps to protect, to the maximum extent possible, shade trees, stone walls, historic buildings and structures, and natural features during the planning, design, and construction of new

and reconstructed roadways as well as the maintenance of existing roads. Review of these resources during road construction and maintenance is now part of the Town’s subdivision regulations review process.

Further, Burrillville’s Department of Public Works has implemented a Pavement Management Program for its Towns roadways. This comprehensive road study was undertaken in order to develop an extensive roadway database describing and evaluating actual roadway infrastructure conditions in Burrillville and to better understand current and future roadway conditions at various funding levels.

The development of a roadway management system is a formalized approach that road officials use to cost effectively allocate road budgets. The theory of pavement management is based on predicting roadway deterioration. The following figure dramatically illustrates the key concept of making timely maintenance repairs, thereby averting the need for far more expensive and extensive structural repairs. The goal is to save money in both the short and long run by developing a road repair program that maximizes expenditures while meeting the overall road program goals set by community decision makers.

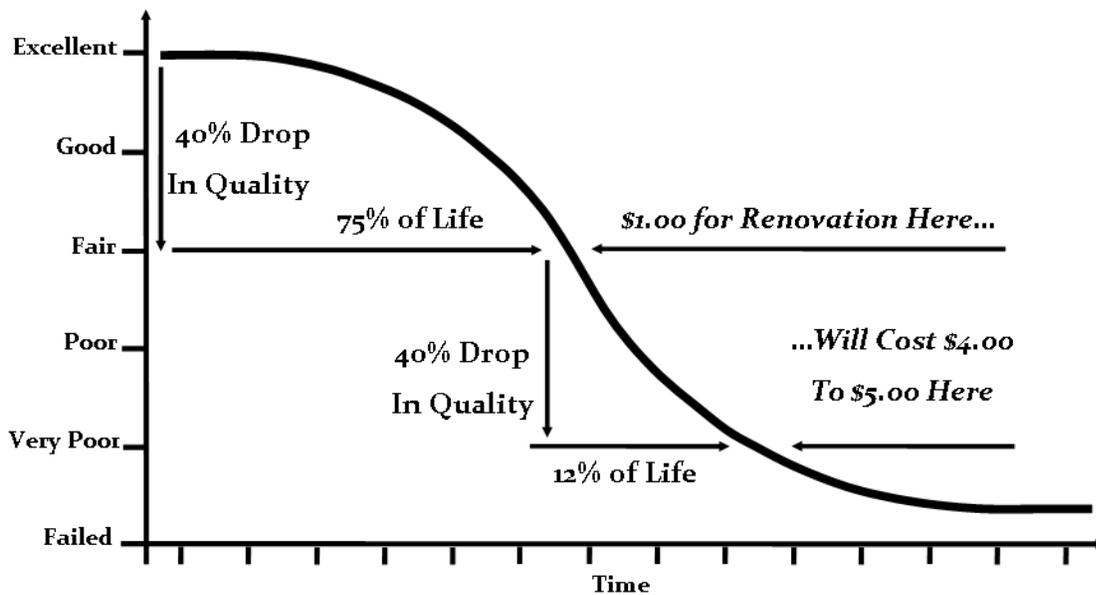


Figure VI-1. Pavement Deterioration Curve

The procedure is to collect, organize, and maintain a complete roadway database which describes a particular road system.

The Program builds on the basic system by adding data on drainage, sidewalks, traffic, and other roadway elements. The database

is used as a repository of historical and descriptive data on a community's road network. Data generated by the roadway database provides useful input for reporting on and evaluating current roadway conditions, forecasting costs for different maintenance and repair treatments, and developing annual and long range budgets and repair plans. The system provides Burrillville with an opportunity to synthesize pavement inventory and condition data with other descriptive information on a host of related roadway elements such as drainage and sidewalks.

This ongoing roadway management program is Burrillville's recognition that the Town has a major investment in its public road network. New construction and repairs to existing infrastructure are very costly, and prudent fiscal management suggests that it makes economic sense for a community to protect that investment over time for current and future residents.

**Capabilities/Results Summary** - Burrillville's Pavement Management Program uses road inventory and roadway distress observations to develop an extensive database used for subsequent analysis and report generation. A complex

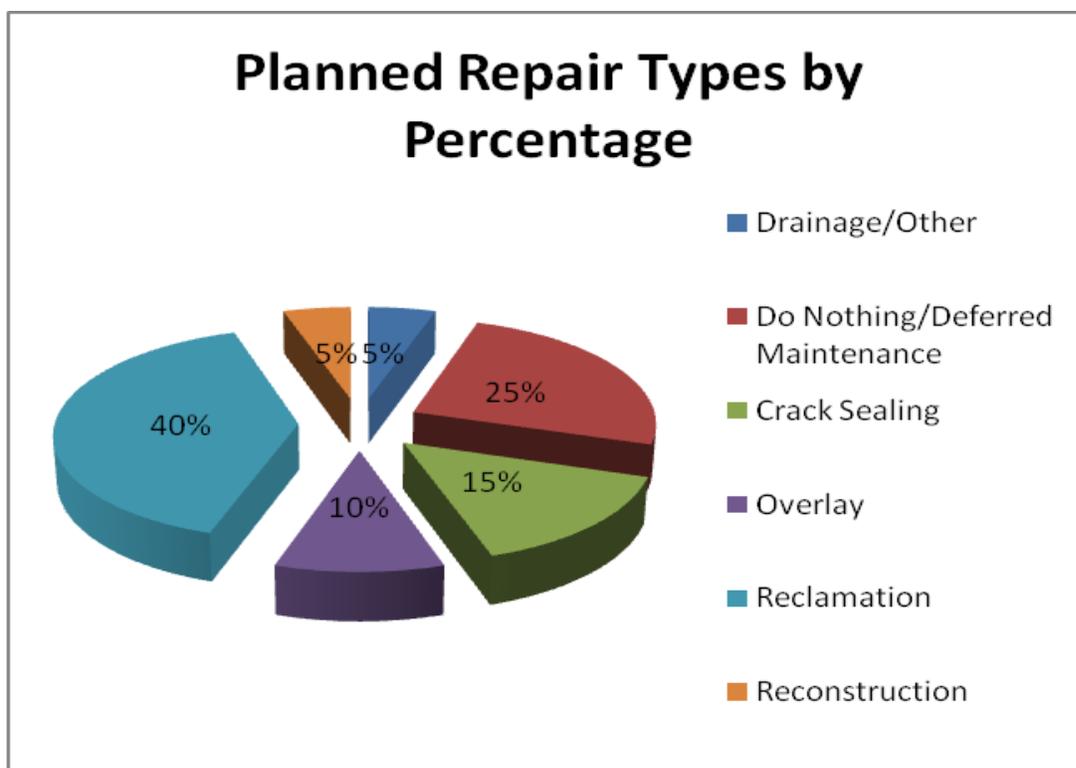
rating system is built into the software for evaluating field observations. A rating is developed which tallies roadway serviceability and establishes performance criteria. A value is derived by recording actual field conditions for a variety of roadway elements; pavement surface, rideability, drainage, traffic etc. Ultimately a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) value is established for determining pavement repair priorities for each roadway segment.

The PCI was generated for each public roadway segment in Burrillville using the distress data collected by the Town. PCI is measured on a scale of one hundred to zero, with one hundred representing a pavement in excellent condition and zero describing a road in extremely poor condition.

Broad treatment category ranges were utilized to assist in assigning repair alternatives. These are nationally accepted methods used to group the calculated values into five major categories. The goal is to budget sufficient funds for each road repair category for a particular roadway. The database structure provides the Town with the flexibility to revise repair strategies accordingly for a single segment or a multitude of roadways.

**Table VI-2. Pavement Management Program Broad Treatment Categories**

Category	Description
Do Nothing	Segments in need of no maintenance
Routine Maintenance (Crack Sealing)	Segments in need of routine maintenance
Preventive Maintenance (Overlay)	Segments in need of preventive maintenance
Reconstruction/Reclamation	Segments in need of base improvement/ reconstruction
Drainage	Segments in need of drainage or other improvements



**Figure VI-2. % of Network Length by Repair Strategy, 2018**

The Town now has access to a roadway information database, which is based on road condition data and descriptive information collected in November 2016. The Town strives to fully utilize the considerable volume of data that exists.

The Burrillville roadway database gives Town decision makers a picture of existing roadway infrastructure conditions, a dollar estimate to protect those pavements already in good condition, and a

recommended capital improvement plan strategy to meet the Town's goals.

**System Maintenance** - To best manage and update the Burrillville roadway database, the Town will continue to observe, whenever possible, the following ongoing practices:

- Post all annual road improvements into the Program, including pavement condition ratings and repair history information.
- Add any new roadway network descriptions to the database as soon as the Town accepts the roadways. Pavement and related data is added as it becomes available.
- Update repair type unit costs annually to provide accurate work plan reports.
- Undertake annual street surveys on at least 25% of the system.
- Review developments in pavement technology that might offer a more cost effective alternative to pavement maintenance or rehabilitation over the pavement's life cycle.
- Continue to implement quality control/assurance.

The roadway database should continue to serve as a valuable tool to the Town and to community decision makers in their approach to managing the Burrillville roadway infrastructure.

### **VI.5 Storm Water Drainage System**

Based on information provided by the Town's Public Works Department (PWD) Director, the Town's storm water system is operating in an efficient manner. Only a small percentage of the Town consists of closed drainage systems, located primarily in the town's major villages: Pascoag, Harrisville, and Mapleville. Each of the villages contains its own isolated system that discharges to localized streams and eventually to Clear River. The PWD has not reported any major problems with the drainage systems currently in place. The only issues are with respect to drainage needs in areas where there is no drainage but houses have been built over the past 20 years. There are several of these type areas that will need easements through private property to allow piped discharges. Many are being addressed currently.

### **VI.6 Bridges/Culverts/Dams**

During July 1999, BETA Engineering conducted bridge, culvert, and dam field review services to assist in the development of a town-wide transportation improvement program. The structures included in the program were identified by the Town's PWD for evaluation as town-owned bridges and major culverts. Mapleville Bridge was not included in the inspection program considering improvements were being developed under a separate project. The

## Chapter VI: Circulation

field reviews were cursory visual assessments of major structural components for the purpose of identifying their size, type and general condition in sufficient detail to prioritize any required rehabilitation and develop budgetary construction costs.

The structures reviewed ranged in condition from poor to excellent. All structures were reviewed using a subjective rating system of the major structural components including foundation, framing deck, and railing elements. Each feature is rated on a 1 – 5 scale, and the compiled into an average rating score. In some cases immediate

attention was required to ensure the safety of the general public. In other cases, further investigation was required to properly determine the amount of structural rehabilitation required. A report was prepared that summarizes the details of the field reviews, and the recommendations for each structure. Complete reports are available at Burrillville’s Department of Public Works. The table below summarizes the condition of the reviewed structures by type, from highest to lowest priority. In addition to this list, Warner Lane Bridge (2011) and North Road Bridge (2018) have recently been replaced.

**Table VI-3. Priority Rankings and Condition Ratings: Bridges and Culverts**

Priority Ranking	Structure Name	Condition Rating (1-5)
<b>Bridges</b>		
1	Laurel Ridge Bridge	2.14
2	Grove Street	3.43
3	Centennial Street <sup>1</sup>	5
4	Railroad Avenue	3.83
5	Sayles Avenue	4.57
6	Potter Bridgeway	4.50
<b>Culverts</b>		
1	Tarkiln Road <sup>1</sup>	5
2	Whipple Road	2.60
3	E. Wallum Lake Rd 2	3.17
4	E. Wallum Lake Rd 1	3.20
5	Black Hut Road	3.33

<sup>1</sup> Improvements completed by PWD

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Priority Ranking	Structure Name	Condition Rating (1-5)
6	Nichols Road	3.40
7	Centennial Street 1 <sup>1</sup>	5
8	Colwell Road	3.60
9	Spring Lake Rd.	3.83
10	Centennial Street 2 <sup>1</sup>	5

**Dam Safety Annual Report** – Each year, RI DEM releases a list of the conditions of dams throughout the state. The State’s Dam Safety Regulations require visual inspection of high hazard dams every two years and significant hazard dams every five years. Inspections are completed by

DEM, or by engineering consultants hired by DEM or by the dam owner. As of 2016, the state is monitoring 41 dams in Burrillville, five of which are considered high hazard and six of which are considered significant hazards.

**Table VI-4. Dam Safety Annual Report: Results for Burrillville, 2016**

River/Stream	Dam Name	Hazard Level
Clear River	Wilson Reservoir	High
Pascoag River	Harrisville Pond	High
Brandy Brook	Pascoag Reservoir Upper	High
Mary Brown Brook	Wilbur Pond	High
	Ocean State Power	High
Clear River	Wallum Lake	Significant
Pascoag River	Union Mill Pond	Significant
Sucker Brook	Sucker Pond	Significant
Herring Brook	Spring Lake	Significant
Tarkiln Brook	Nichols Pond	Significant
Clear River - Tributary	Ross Pond	Significant

### VI.7 Roadway Safety

The Burrillville Police Department regularly collects crash data which is then used to prioritize roadway safety efforts. Such efforts include directed patrols at problem

intersections and the use of a speed trailer, both of which help to prevent speeding. Below is a list of the intersections with the highest number of motor vehicle crashes from the Town’s 2017 Crash Data Analysis:

- Broncos Highway and East Avenue
- Broncos Highway and Inman Road
- Lapham Farm Road and Steere Farm Road
- Broncos Highway and Douglas Pike
- Broncos Highway and Lapham Farm Road
- Whipple Avenue and East Avenue

It is no surprise that Broncos Highway (Rte 102), as the busiest road in town, is also the most prone to crashes, with four of the top six crash intersections. Of some concern is the proximity of many of these intersections to public schools: Lapham Farm Road and Steere Farm Road just north of Steere Farm Elementary; Whipple Avenue and East Avenue just east of Burrillville High School; and Broncos Highway and Douglas Pike just east of Burrillville Middle School.

Beyond motor vehicle crashes, another issue on Burrillville's roadways is pedestrian safety. Generally, there is a lack of sidewalks forcing pedestrians to walk along the shoulder of the road in certain areas of town. This is seen by the community as a drawback to businesses, in the Pascoag area in particular. In relation to this, the Town has made a concerted effort to improve pedestrian conditions, with particular emphasis on compatibility with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is being accomplished as part

of the town-wide Pavement Management Program and on-going sidewalk projects. Further, in accordance with Section 10-6.3 of the Municipal Code governing the construction of subdivisions, the Town requires the design and installation of sidewalks in all new subdivisions of land.

### VI.8 Public Transportation

The Town of Burrillville is serviced by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). For RIPTA Bus Route maps, see RIPTA's website.<sup>1</sup> Service on the 9x route is Monday through Friday between Downtown Pascoag and Kennedy Plaza in Downtown Providence. Stops in Burrillville are located in Pascoag, Harrisville, and Mapleville. Total trip time is approximately 60 minutes from Pascoag to Kennedy Plaza. Other stops along the route are at Chepachet, Greenville, and Stop & Shop Smithfield. For information regarding fare and schedules, see RIPTA's website.<sup>2</sup>

**Burrillville Senior Bus Service** - The Town is served by one senior citizen's van that is dispatched through the Department of Public Works. It operates on a first come, first served basis and is used for medical and shopping trips and for transportation to meetings and recreational activities. The service van is handicap accessible.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ripta.com/statewide-system-map>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ripta.com/fares-passes>

**Table VI-5. Town of Burrillville Senior Bus Data 2017 – 2018**

	2017	2018
Citizens Served	700	700
Total Mileage	1,624	1,700
Total Trips	170	170
Medical	66	67
Meetings	0	0
Shopping/ Recreational	66	66

**VI.9 Trails & Pedestrian Walkways**

There are over 30 miles of trail system in Burrillville located in the State Park and Management areas. These are Buck Hill Management area, Nipmuc Trail, Black Hut Management area, George Washington Management area, and Casimir Pulaski State Park.

It is interesting to note that the 1966 comprehensive plan recommended that the railroad right-of-way be preserved as an historic trail for hiking and horseback riding. The Town will continue to work with partners to fund and design additional trails along the Town’s abandoned rail road rights of way. Another 15 miles of trails are located in the Buck Hill Boy Scout Reservation.

**VI.10 Circulation Issues**

The transportation system in the Town of Burrillville will be automobile dominated in

the foreseeable future. The automobile is an integral part of American culture; it is the principal means of mobility, and it is the mode that provides the traveler the greatest flexibility. Of all the transportation modes, it generally provides the highest degree of access to land uses and activities. Walking and bicycling also provide high levels of access and can reach locations inaccessible by automobile, but these modes are limited by personal choice, habits, weather, and time.

Traffic is a function of land use; the density of development and the types of land uses that occur can cause traffic congestion. If the density of development is too intense or the activities that occur are large traffic generators and the transportation systems that service the uses are in some way limited, then traffic congestion is likely.

Based on the build-out analysis discussed in Chapter IX Land Use, it is apparent that the Town’s roadway network will likely experience an increase in traffic over the next several decades as the population continues to increase. Taking this into consideration, the Town should further evaluate improving the existing circulation network. Particular attention should be focused on east-west traffic flow through the center of Town. Lack of consistency in terms of roadway character and function associated with several thoroughfares in

## Chapter VI: Circulation

Town could also become an issue if build-out estimates are reached.

As the decade progresses, increased traffic is likely along the Route 100/Route 107 link through Pascoag and Harrisville. It is not realistic to think that alternative modes of transportation can or will make a significant contribution to the reduction of this traffic. As currently assessed, alternative modes have important but limited roles in the Town of Burrillville.

Public transportation on the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority route will continue to service the Town on a limited basis as long as there is a willingness by the state to subsidize the route.

Para Transit is limited to the elderly and handicapped who meet eligibility requirements. This service is valuable to the client base, but it cannot draw riders from the non-eligible population. The level of service will probably be required to expand as the service population increases.

There is no rail service in Burrillville. Therefore, all bulk transportation requirements for business and industry in Town must be met through the use of trucks. However, old rail grades offer the potential for another form of transportation - the bicycle.

There is a trend in Rhode Island and elsewhere in the nation for more bicycle use on dedicated bikeways such as the East

Bay Bike Path, the Blackstone River Bikeway, and many others including the Burrillville Bike Path, connecting the villages of Harrisville and Pascoag along a former rail bed. In fact, such former rail rights-of-way that have fallen into disuse have been the primary focus of many of the state's bike paths. These rights-of-way are often ideal for dedicated bikeways, but they do not necessarily have to be the sole component of a bikeway.

Bikeways can be developed on local streets and rural roadways through the use of signing and striping. When this technique is coupled with the use of dedicated bikeways and utilized to connect recreation areas, parks, scenic areas, commercial centers and tourist attractions, a potentially very beneficial recreation and transportation feature can blossom in the community. It can also be a potent economic force for Burrillville.

The Town has developed a conceptual vision for a system of bike trails in Burrillville. Utilization of parts of the former rail grade for a bikeway and hiking trail, linked to the State management areas and park system in Burrillville and throughout the northwest region and the Blackstone Valley, could provide a stimulus to recreational based tourism. Properly designed and managed, the network could be utilized on a year round basis, providing cross-country ski trails during the winter

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months. Development of a system of this type is ongoing and feasibility studies are in the works to examine routes and the potential of dedicated bikeways.

Pedestrian movement in the villages of Pascoag and Harrisville can be facilitated through the installation of sidewalks. Greater freedom of movement and safety for pedestrians can reduce vehicular traffic in a neighborhood level and in the village centers. The State is currently working on a

draft bicycle mobility plan for Rhode Island. Burrillville has participated in meetings and is commenting on the draft. The Town has shared the idea of a town-wide bike path using old rail lines that would connect to recreation areas as well as to bike paths in neighboring communities.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

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**VI.11 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
VI.1 To provide and maintain a safe, convenient and cost-effective transportation system.	VI.1.a Promote cooperative State/local efforts in transportation planning.	VI.1.a.1 Maintain and prioritize the list of projects for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Seek letters of support for submitted projects.	Ongoing	TP, PWD, PB
		VI.1.a.2 Actively participate in planning of State and regional transportation systems. Hold a planning board public hearing to get public comment on TIP submission to State.	Ongoing	TP, PB
	VI.1.b Encourage development that reduces dependence on motor vehicles, and promote development of alternative modes of transportation, such as bus, bicycle, and pedestrian access, including handicapped accessibility, where appropriate.		Ongoing	TP, PB
	VI.1.c Endeavor to maintain the Town's rural qualities by actively partnering with the State Department of Transportation on any future designs for state roadways in Burrillville.		Ongoing	TP, PB

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Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VI.1.d Provide a well-maintained system of roads, bridges and highways linking residential areas, village centers and places of employment, and connecting to major arterials to facilitate daily commerce in the Town of Burrillville.	VI.1.d.1 Develop and implement a local TIP to evaluate and prioritize improvements of Town roadways, drainage systems, bridges, dams, culverts, and sidewalks.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.d.2 Coordinate the proposed installation of sewers and other underground utilities with local road improvements.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.d.3 Place a high priority on working proactively with RIDOT to improvements to Route 107 from Fountain Square to Harrisville (Phase II of Route 107, 1R), emphasizing the need for sidewalks, street trees, improved lighting, improved drainage, signing, intersection alignments and signalization.	Ongoing	TP, PWD
		VI.1.d.4 Conduct a needs assessment and feasibility study of utilizing Laurel Hill and Grove Streets as an alternative circulator through Pascoag.	Priority	PWD, TP, PB
		VI.1.d.5 Continue to reach out to and work with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation in advance of the start of TIP projects to achieve workable designs in keeping with the rural and village character of Town.	Ongoing	TP, PWD
		VI.1.d.6 Explore and report on the logistical and financial feasibility of buying, installing, and maintaining street lighting fixtures in new residential, commercial and industrial development that complements the village character of Town.	Intermediate	PWD, TP, PB, BRA

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Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VI.1.d.7 Furnish the Department of Public Works with adequate equipment and personnel to maintain the roadways, for snow removal, street sweeping and drainage system maintenance. Require continued development of a ten-year transportation improvement program for the Department of Public Works.	Ongoing	TC, PWD
		VI.1.d.8 Require preparation of a Traffic Impact Analysis for development projects. These studies will form the components of a network of traffic information.	Priority	PB, TP, PWD
	VI.1.e Provide a residential roadway network that relates to the ultimate density and character of the neighborhood.		Ongoing	PB
	VI.1.f Maintain and where necessary expand the bus transportation system servicing the Town of Burrillville, including the townwide Para transit service to the elderly and handicapped.	VI.1.f.1 Actively work with the Public Transit Authority to maintain and where possible expand the fixed route bus system servicing the Town of Burrillville to areas where the town is planning for higher density development. Regularly alert the Authority when proposed development may warrant an increase or shift in bus service.	Ongoing	Senior Services, TP, PWD,
		VI.1.f.2 Review and evaluate system capacity and service eligibility requirements for Para transit service to ensure that levels of service are commensurate with needs.	Ongoing	Senior Services, TP, PWD,

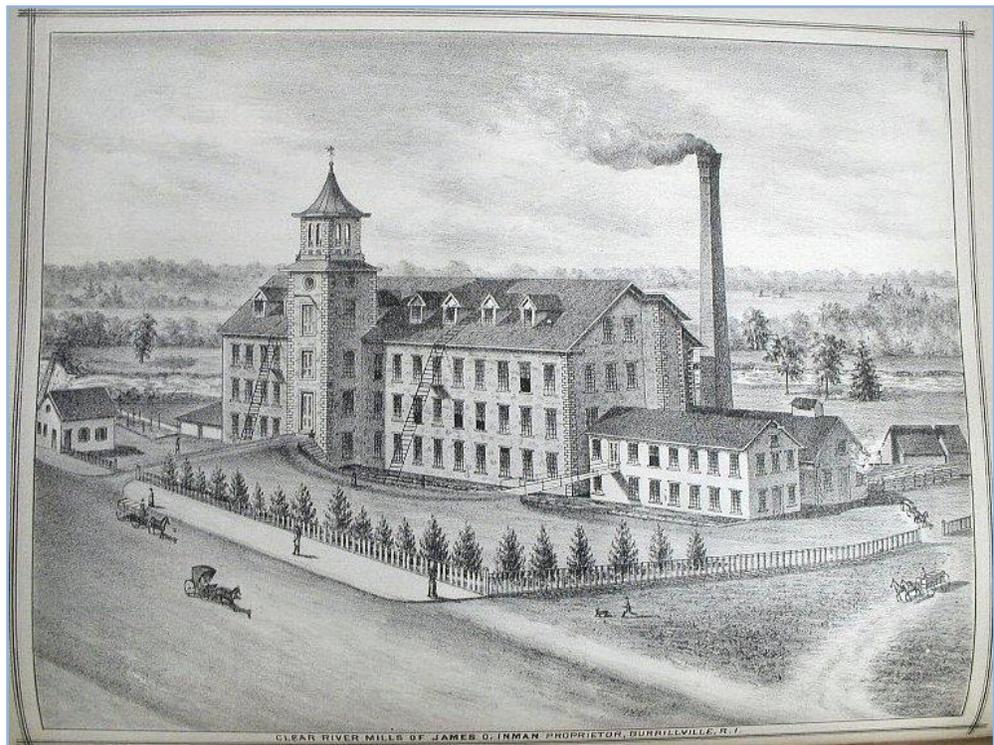
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Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	<p>VI.1.g Increase the availability of trails, walkways and bikeways to promote alternative transportation modes to Town residents and to enhance the tourist and recreational values of the Town.</p>	<p>VI.1.g.1 Require the consideration of trails, walkways and bikeways in federal, state, local and private development projects. Include townwide bicycle and sidewalk facility development, to connect residents to the villages, schools, medical and shopping resources in town, in any requests to the RIDOT in the Town’s TIP.</p>	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		<p>VI.1.g.2 In accordance with Section 10-6.3 of the Municipal Code governing the construction of subdivisions, require the design and installation of sidewalks in all new subdivisions of land.</p>	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		<p>VI.1.g.3 Continue implementation, as financially and logistically feasible, of the Town’s vision for a system of bike trails connecting many of the Town’s village centers and outdoor recreation opportunities with other planned regional bike paths.</p>	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		<p>VI.1.g.4 Require sidewalks to be constructed along new and reconstructed state and local roadways where there is an identified existing or projected need to furnish adequate and safe pedestrian movement to residential, commercial and industrial activities or community facilities such as libraries, schools, governmental buildings, places of worship and recreational facilities, with areas adjacent to schools receiving the highest priority.</p>	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD

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Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VI.1.i Encourage Town and private investments in parking, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transit that will make it easier for people to access Burrillville’s commercial, industrial and municipal centers.	VI.1.i.1 Study and report on the need for parking and other improvements to access for commercial and governmental activities in Harrisville and for commercial activities in Pascoag.	Intermediate	BRA, TP, PWD,
		VI.1.i.2 Review and report on the feasibility and effectiveness of utilizing off street parking to reduce traffic hazards along the heavily traveled route from Pascoag to Harrisville.	Intermediate	BRA, TP, PWD
VI.2 Help ensure that air quality in Burrillville meets or exceeds national ambient air quality standards.	VI.2.a. Encourage measures which reduce air pollution levels	VI.2.a.1 Work with local business to implement air pollution reduction measures including, but not limited to, commuter services, park and ride lots, bus transit, carpool programs, bicycle programs, variable work hours.	Long Term	BRA, TP

## Chapter VII - Economic Development



### VII.1 Introduction

Existing Burrillville is rather rural compared to other areas of Rhode Island and holds a unique opportunity to maintain its rural appeal while economic growth occurs.

The condition of the local economy is one of the key factors influencing the quality of life for Burrillville's citizens. The availability of good-paying jobs, for example, affects one's ability to pay for housing, taxes, and other goods and services.

A healthy economy is characterized by a low and stable unemployment rate, economic growth which is proportional to population growth, a strong tax base and jobs with good wages and opportunities for advancement. On the other hand, an economically depressed area is often characterized by a high unemployment rate, low wages, poor community facilities and services, lack of shopping opportunities and, in general, a low standard of living. The existing conditions, trends, and projections below help provide a snapshot of the health of Burrillville's economy.

### VII.2 Existing Conditions, Trends, and Projections

The following data profiles Burrillville's economic condition through various indicators, including: labor force, education and income levels, occupations of residents, employment opportunities and

projections, and commercial and industrial development. Fiscal data is also presented, including tax rates, and tax base data.

**Labor Force** - The total labor force in Burrillville increased 5.4 percent from 1990 to 2016, as shown in Table VII-1, having peaked in 2000. Burrillville was clearly impacted by the Great Recession of 2008, much as the rest of Rhode Island, seeing a decline in the labor force and a steep increase in the unemployment rate. While Burrillville's labor force indicators remain less robust than their peak in 2000, the economy has made distinct strides since the recession, and has continued to improve since 2016. In fact, according to RI Department of Labor & Training statistics, the average unemployment rate for the first three quarters of 2017 is down to 4.4 percent, virtually identical to the average for the state as a whole. Employment increased at a rate higher than population growth, indicating a healthy employment base.

**Education** - Between 2000 and 2015, the percent of Burrillville's population over the age of 25 with a high school degree increased significantly, even exceeding the statewide average. The percent of the same population with an Associate's Degree or higher has also increased significantly, but is still relatively low compared with other cities and towns in Rhode Island.

**Table VII-1. Labor Force, Participation Rate and Employment, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2016**

Year	Total Pop.	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
1990	16,230	8,448	7,914	534	6.3%
2000	15,796	9,163	8,826	337	3.7%
2010	15,955	9,073	7,991	1,082	11.9%
2016	16,170 est.	8,902	8,441	461	5.2%
% Change 1990-2016	-0.3%	5.4%	6.7%	-13.7%	-1.1 percentage points

Sources: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/town/burrillville.htm>, RI Dept. of Administration, Division of Planning. U.S. Census.

**Table VII-2. Educational Attainment, 2000, 2011-2015 Estimates**

	2000		2011-2015 est.	
	Completed High School	Completed Associate's or Higher	Completed High School	Completed Associate's or Higher
Burrillville	80.3%	26.0%	88.9%	33.9%
Rhode Island	88.0%	32.6%	86.2%	40.4%

Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

**Occupations - As shown on**

Table VII-3, the most substantial non-governmental occupation of Burrillville in 2016 was Manufacturing, having jumped from the fourth most substantial in 2006. This is unusual for Rhode Island, where most municipalities continue to see a decline in manufacturing, let alone an almost 90% increase. This bump in manufacturing jobs came largely from the expansion of Daniele Foods, one of the major employers in town. The second largest non-governmental occupational category was Health Care & Social

Assistance, which has been increasing rapidly over the past decade.

For much of the last several decades, the government sector was the largest employer in town. Of note is that while government jobs still count for about 18 percent of all jobs in Burrillville (vs. 22% in 2006), the aggregate number of government jobs has decreased by about 8 percent since 2006. The majority of government jobs in Burrillville come from the State of Rhode Island which employs approximately 340 people, most of whom work at Zambarano Hospital.

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

**Table VII-3. Occupational Categories of Employed Persons, 2006, 2009, 2016**

Establishment Employment	2006	2009	2016
Total Private & Government	2,840	2,829	3,226
Total Private Only	2,209	2,215	2,647
Manufacturing	375	434	712
Government	631	614	579
Health Care & Social Assistance	492	488	562
Accommodation & Food Services	418	435	459
Construction	208	210	277
Retail Trade	158	151	136
Administrative Support & Waste Management	84	74	79
Other Services	170	92	72
Wholesale Trade	43	47	67
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	54	51	63
Professional & Technical Services	53	49	50
Transportation & Warehousing	13	12	45
Information	22	33	30
Educational Services	30	40	12
Finance & Insurance	21	24	9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	16	7	6
Utilities	38	*	*
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	*	*	*
Management of Companies & Enterprises	*	*	0
Mining	0	0	0

Source: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/pdf/stateofstate.pdf>

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

As noted, Manufacturing is now the top employment sector in town, and Health Care & Social Assistance employment is on track to grow larger than the Government sector very soon. This expansion of private sector jobs bodes well for the stability and diversity of Burrillville’s local economy.

It is also worth noting the rise in construction jobs, which increased over 33% from 2006.

**Income Levels & Poverty** - The latest Census estimates show that while family incomes in Burrillville are significantly lower than those of its other rural/suburban neighbors, they remain significantly higher than its urban neighbors and the state as a whole. Likewise, while the poverty rate in Burrillville is lower than state and urban averages, it is still much higher than its other rural/suburban neighbors.

**Table VII-4. Median Family Income, 2011-2015 Estimates**

Burrillville	Glocester	N. Smithfield	Woonsocket	Rhode Island
\$80,000	\$90,960	\$93,920	\$45,986	\$74,045

Source: American Community Survey, 2011-2015

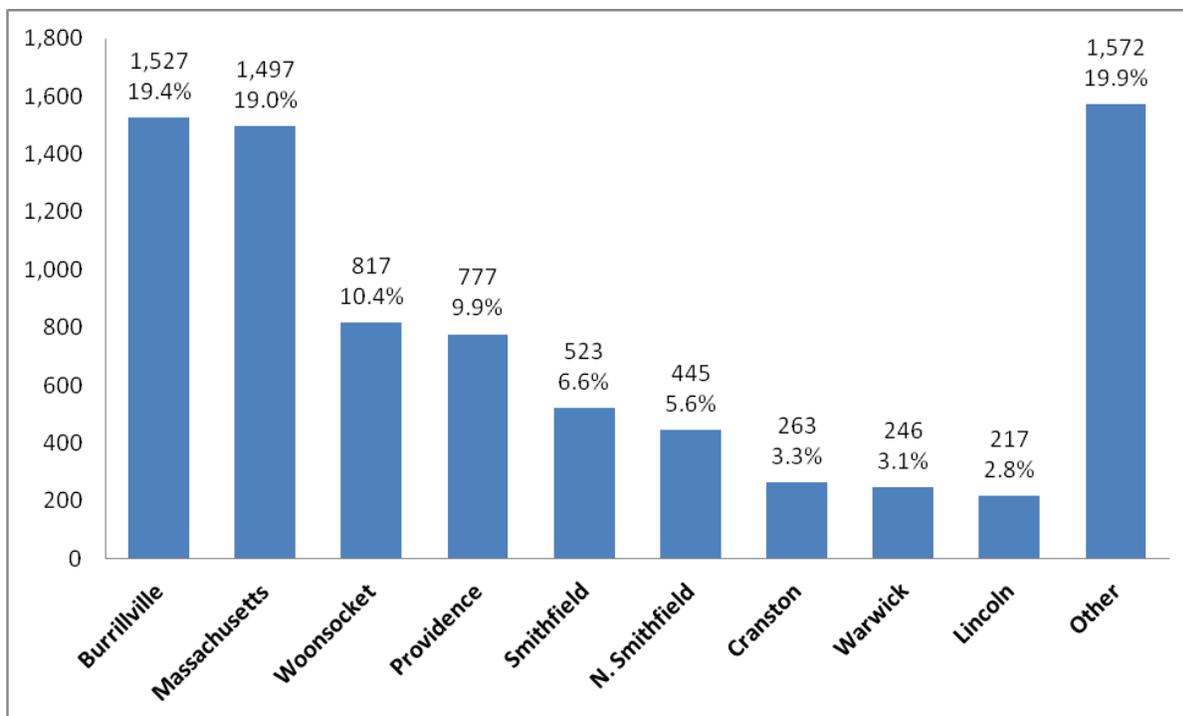
**Table VII-5. Poverty Rate, 2011-2015 Estimates**

Burrillville	Glocester	N. Smithfield	Woonsocket	Rhode Island
9.7%	4.6%	3.8%	25.0%	14.2%

Source: American Community Survey, 2011-2015

**Journey to Work** - In 2013, most Burrillville residents commuted to jobs within Burrillville and Massachusetts, 19.4 and 19.0 percent respectively, followed by Woonsocket, 10.4 percent, and Providence, at 9.9 percent (see Figure VII-1). Smithfield, North Smithfield, Cranston, Warwick, and Lincoln rounded out the other top destinations. Considering these

travel patterns, there appears to be sufficient job opportunities for local residents within a reasonable commuting distance of 30 minutes (the mean travel time to work for Burrillville residents is 30.2 minutes as of the American Community Survey, 2011-2015 estimates).



Source: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/pdf/commute.pdf>

Figure VII-1. 2013 Journey to Work for Burrillville Residents

**Commercial and Industrial Construction -**

New commercial and industrial construction is an indicator of shifts in the Town's economic condition. Through the past ten years, commercial and industrial building has been limited. The Town has worked to extend limited sewer and water service areas to serve the Burrillville Commerce Park and Clear River Drive Park, both located on Route 102.

Recently, the Town has worked to retain existing manufacturing companies, such as Daniele Prosciutto, Inc. Nearly 250 acres of General Industrial Zoned property was purchased by the Town for future industrial development. Other sites that offer future

commercial space to serve Burrillville's residential market include:

- The 70,000-sf mill at the end of Oakland School Street was severely damaged by fire in 1995 and demolished. The building was located on a 32-acre site, which could accommodate additional buildings and necessary parking in the future.
- Nasonville Mill, an abandoned mill property in the village of Nasonville, has the potential to be reused as a mixed-use complex, incorporating homes with shops, restaurants, and office space.

Of course, the potential for redevelopment of these sites largely hinges on

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

environmental remediation and access to public utilities. While these sites may have limited reuse options due to possible contamination from their former uses, experience at the Stillwater Mill complex and other former mills statewide suggest that the redevelopment of contaminated sites is possible. Given the right circumstances, which include appropriate funding and connection to water and sewer, these sites have the potential for redevelopment. Less intensive industrial or commercial use could provide jobs and revenue for the town. Additionally, a mix of housing is also possible, along with indoor or outdoor recreational opportunities. Any of these options would require a cleanup or capping of any contamination found. This process is overseen by the RI DEM Brownfields Division.

**Existing Economic Development Efforts and Systems** - Burrillville's economic development history has revolved around agriculture, and the mills and mill villages. Agriculture as a viable economic activity in the Town has fallen, as agricultural lands

submit to development pressures, and the nature of the farming business changes.

Many of the Town's mill buildings built in the 1800's and early 1900's remain today and house various manufacturing and warehousing establishments. In an attempt to increase economic activity in Town, as well as encourage the location of such development, Burrillville has close ties to New England Economic Development Services and has adopted an overlay zone for Route 102. The Route 102 Development Management Plan was developed to work in tandem with this Comprehensive Plan to balance the types of development desired along Route 102 with that of Burrillville's existing village centers (e.g., Pascoag, Harrisville, Oakland, Mapleville) and potential new centers (e.g., Nasonville) for the sake of preserving the Town's overall rural character.

The following organizations, boards, commissions and individuals are involved in some manner in the economic development process in Burrillville.

**Table VII-6. Burrillville's Economic Development Partners and their Roles**

Person/Entity	Role
Town Manager	Guidance
Town Council	Guidance
Planning Board	Review of plans
Zoning Board	Review if variance is necessary

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

Person/Entity	Role
Town Planner	Guides developer through regulatory process, reviews plans, advises Planning Board, prepares grants applications
Local Utilities	Sewer, water, electric all critical to economic development
Burrillville Redevelopment Agency	Manage new development and redevelopment
Industrial Foundation Board	Assists with identifying site availability
Downtown Pascoag & Neighborhood Association	Serves as a community voice for economic development in Pascoag

The purpose of the **Burrillville Redevelopment Agency (BRA)** is to encourage, direct, and manage new development and redevelopment within targeted districts. It is authorized to acquire and sell property and redevelop those areas. Members are appointed by the Town council.

The Town’s **Industrial Foundation** was created specifically to develop the Burrillville Industrial Park, located on Route 100, and currently functions to facilitate the development of individual parcels for industrial purposes. The Town has also developed the Burrillville Commerce Park, located on Route 102, which is home to Daniele Prosciutto Inc.’s food manufacturing facility, and has been working closely to help facilitate the Industrial Foundation’s efforts. Community Development Block Grants have also been used to improve the Town’s economic status; for example, CDBG funds have been used to expand the Town’s infrastructure

as well as seed private redevelopment within the Village of Pascoag.

The **Downtown Pascoag & Neighborhood Association (DPNA)** is a private, non-profit organization created to address the needs of downtown Pascoag’s businesses and surrounding areas. Governed by a Board of Directors and in collaboration with the Town of Burrillville’s Planning and Economic Development departments, the DPNA’s goals are to help revitalize the downtown area making it a better place to shop, work and pursue leisure activities, to improve the quality of our rural village lifestyle by creating opportunities to enhance community identity and heritage, preserving natural and cultural resources, and assisting in strengthening the local commercial economy.

The Town works hard to be business-friendly and to develop a culture of “getting things done” for local businesses and people interested in starting or expanding businesses in town. Town staff and members of the BRA and the Industrial

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

Foundation all take pride in helping businesses in the following ways:

- Cut red tape for business owners at the local and state level
- Find sites for businesses
- Make connections with Commerce RI and other state-level agencies
- Search for funding to assist businesses (often from local foundations)
- BRA has a small pool of money to make micro-loans to local businesses

Currently, there is no central body that manages all aspects of Burrillville's economic development process. A Town Economic Development Commission may be needed to fill this role. Such a Commission could be made up of members from all of the entities involved in the process, should the Town decide to explore this option.

*Zoning for Economic Development* - The Town has two zoning districts that permit commercial development, and two that permit industrial development. Other uses may be permitted by special use permit. As part of the Route 102 planning effort, mixed-use buildings are permitted by right to offer flexibility to meet market demands while also allowing buildings sympathetic to the villages' historic character. Now that the Route 102 Development Management

Overlay Zone is 15 years old, the Town would like to revisit the policies for this corridor. The Route 102 corridor has many environmental constraints, from the aquifer overlay district to steep slopes and other topography challenges, which limit development opportunities. As already mentioned, many commercial and industrial parcels along the corridor lack public water and sewer access, and a plan is needed to strategically extend these services.

Another change to zoning has been the addition of a Village Commercial (VC) district, located in strategic parts of the villages of Harrisville, Pascoag, Nasonville, and Mapleville/Oakland. The completion of the redevelopment of the Stillwater Mill complex in this zone has been very successful in spurring private development activity elsewhere in Harrisville village, including additional apartments, restaurants, and other businesses. Likewise, similar efforts in downtown Pascoag, spearheaded by the BRA and taking advantage of the VC zoning, have seen the recent construction of housing, a new natural gas line, and plans for improved public realm infrastructure. Plans are also afoot to develop a medical services hub in downtown Pascoag that can serve as a regional draw and further support local businesses.

The BRA's next area of focus is Nasonville. The VC zone in that village may be used for new recreational facilities, businesses, and housing, as well as improved public realm infrastructure. (See more on the future of Nasonville in Chapter XI Land Use).

For all of these areas, access to public water and sewer is the primary key to success. As expansion of these utilities is time consuming, expensive, and sometimes politically difficult, redevelopment areas should continue to largely focus on areas already connected to water and sewer. Redevelopment outside these areas must take a realistic look at the return on investment of increased business and tax revenues vs. the expenses of expanding utilities.

*Industrial Land* - There are 588+/- acres of industrially zoned property in the Town of Burrillville, 1.7 percent of the Town's total acreage (35,138+/- acres). Of the 588 acres, approximately 284 (or about 48%) are developable, but a challenge to develop due to environmental and utility constraints. Most of this property is located in the Clear River Industrial Park, various mill buildings, Burrillville Commerce Park, and in the Burrillville Industrial Park. Although it would appear that there are a significant number of vacant parcels in Burrillville that are zoned for commercial or industrial purposes, most of these parcels can, in fact, not be used for such purposes

because of the location of the aquifer and the Town's Aquifer Overlay Ordinance. The Branch River Basin aquifer lies under many of the Town's major thoroughfares. Additionally, many of Burrillville's industrial areas are in close proximity to the Clear River (a surface expression of the aquifer). The Aquifer Overlay District restricts and often prohibits commercial and industrial uses in certain areas. As the Town attempts to balance the needs of water protection with the desire to attract more industry and thereby stabilize its residential tax rate, the Town must be realistic about the areas zoned for commercial and industrial activities. The Town will continue to look for areas that are appropriate for the long term future expansion of industrial zoning, as need be, and will use the favorable conditions described in Table VII-7 to evaluate particular parcels.

**Economic Development Strengths** - Burrillville has certain characteristics which should be considered advantages in promoting economic development, as follows:

- Natural and cultural resource base - large amount of public open space, ponds and lakes, scenic areas, historic character
- Existing mill buildings which can support a variety of economically viable adaptive reuses

- High quality of life - good schools, strong housing stock
- Availability of business/industrial zoned land
- Availability of some industrial sites in the Burrillville Commerce Park
- Select areas of Town are sewerred
- Selected areas served by private water systems
- Inexpensive land costs in comparison to other areas in the regional market
- Convenient access to Route 102, an important regional arterial highway
- Large tracts of undeveloped land
- Potential for hydropower
- Available and diverse workforce

The Town should target economic development activities which can take advantage of these benefits, such as tourism-related activities, mixed commercial and industrial uses in existing mill buildings, incubator businesses, home occupations and cottage industries, and recreational-related businesses.

**Constraints/Barriers to Economic Development** - Along with its advantages, the Town has certain constraints and barriers to economic development:

- Geographical position of Town in terms of major employment centers
- Limited traffic circulation system, particularly in terms of regional connections
- No town-wide water system - working with the fire district system is difficult
- Natural gas line utility expansion is limited due to lack of resources
- Central business district is difficult to maintain –due to nearby regionalized retail development
- Poor regional development climate

**Land Considerations for Economic Development** - Site attributes which are favorable/unfavorable for siting commercial and industrial facilities are varied depending upon the type of use. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Table VII-7. Favorable and Unfavorable Land Conditions for Commercial & Industrial Uses**

Favorable Conditions	Unfavorable Conditions
Favorable topography - no steep slopes	Slopes greater than 10-15 percent
Good soil conditions relative to ability to support building and road construction, suitable percolation, low potential for erosion	Poor soil conditions - high water tables, erosion-prone, unsuitable for construction purposes, etc.
No or limited wetland areas	Presence of wetlands
Depth to water table of 10'+	Depth to water table less than 10'

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

Favorable Conditions	Unfavorable Conditions
Depth to bedrock of 10'+	Depth to bedrock less than 10', outcroppings
Absence of floodplain	Presence of floodplain
Absence of surface water, eg. streams, ponds	Presence of surface water bodies
Removed from groundwater reservoir and recharge areas	Location within groundwater reservoir or recharge areas.
Good access to major roads, proximity to highway interchange, strong system-wide connections	Location away from major roadways, travel on local roads, multiple curb cuts, poor system-wide connections
Availability of parking	Limited area for parking
Available, adequate public sewer lines/treatment capacity	Lack of sewer tie in
Available, adequate water lines	Lack of water service
Compatibility with surrounding land uses	Surrounding area includes residential or other low intensity land uses

### VII.3 Fiscal Resources

Data used in this section was obtained primarily from the Burrillville Assessing, Treasury and Finance Departments.

**Tax Revenues** - For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, total property tax revenues received in Burrillville was \$31,973,214.15.

**Table VII-8. Burrillville Property Tax Revenues FYE 2016-2017**

Revenue Source	FYE 2016	FYE 2017	% Change
Property Tax Revenue	\$31,403,322.58	\$31,973,214.15	1.8%

Source: Annual Financial Report, June 30, 2017

Burrillville, as with most other Rhode Island communities, has historically relied upon property taxes and State grants for the bulk of its revenues.

of land use. Taxes are based on the assessed value of property. Property tax rates (tax per thousand dollars assessed valuation) have changed as follows:

**Property Taxes** - Burrillville levies the same annual property tax rate on all categories

**Table VII-9. Burrillville Tax Rates 1995-2017**

Year	Tax Rate	Year	Tax Rate
1995	18.80	2006	13.15
1996	19.00	2007	11.60
1997	19.60	2008	11.85
1998	20.50	2009	12.62
1999	20.80	2010	15.65
2000	21.20	2011	16.15
2001	22.00	2012	16.17
2002	18.90	2013	18.58
2003	18.90	2014	18.88
2004	12.55	2015	18.88
2005	13.05	2016	17.39
		2017	17.56

The dramatic change in the tax rate in 2002 was due to a revaluation which reduced the rate by approximately 14.1 percent. Although the rate was reduced by 14.1 percent, assessed property values were increased in order to more closely approximate market values.

Highlights from the revaluations since 2003:

- Full revaluation as of 12/31/2003 was reflected in the 2004 tax roll year. Due to this revaluation, the tax rate was reduced by \$6.35.
- Statistical revaluation as of 12/31/2006 was reflected in the 2007 tax roll year. Due to this revaluation, the tax rate was reduced by \$1.55.

- Statistical revaluation as of 12/31/2009 was reflected in the 2010 tax roll year. Due to this revaluation, the tax rate increased by \$3.03.
- Full revaluation as of 12/31/2012 was reflected in the 2013 tax roll year. Due to this revaluation, the tax rate increased by \$2.41.
- Statistical revaluation as of 12/31/2015 was reflected in the 2016 tax roll year. Due to this revaluation, the tax rate was reduced by \$1.49.
- The Town is currently scheduled for another statistical revaluation as of 12/31/2018 that will be reflected in the 2019 tax roll year.

**Real and Personal Property** - The total assessed value of real property (land and

buildings) in Burrillville, as of December 31, 2016 was \$1,612,149,698. The residential component of that was approximately \$1,172,226,200 (72.7%), including one family residences, two family residences, apartments, residential condominiums and vacant residential land. Table VII-10

illustrates recent trends in contributions to the tax roll for real and personal property. All real property sectors remained relatively constant in their effective contribution to the tax roll from 2001 to 2004.

**Table VII-10. Sources of Tax Revenue, Fiscal Years 2014 – 2017**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Residential	63.3%	61.6%	62.5%	62.6%
Commercial/Industrial	16.6%	16.3%	14.5%	14.4%
Motor Vehicle	15.0%	14.9%	15.1%	13.4%
Tangible	5.1%	7.2%	7.9%	9.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Town of Burrillville, Assessor, February 2018

Residential contribution has been fairly stable over the past few years, but continues to outpace commercial/industrial contributions, a trend that is exacerbated by powerful market forces imposed from Boston’s housing market inflating the price of local housing stock. Motor vehicles remained relatively constant over the past three years, but had a notable dip in 2017.

**VII.4 Economic Development Issues and Guidance**

The following are identified as issues relating to economic development in Burrillville:

**Infrastructure**

- The existing private, three-district water system places limitations on the ability to expand water service for commercial and/or industrial growth.
- The existing natural gas distribution system to serve in-town concerns is weak.
- Electric rates in Town are not competitive.
- Industry should be limited to those areas served or likely to be served by water and sewer, and which have access to an arterial roadway.
- Existing buildings and homes should be prioritized for public sewer and water

connections, as opposed to new construction.

#### **Land Use**

- A number of business and industrial uses have developed as nonconforming uses in residential zoning districts in the Town over the years, creating concerns for adjacent property owners such as loss of visual quality and increased potential for pollution of wells, etc.
- Conserve and enhance desirable existing industrial areas to maximize the investment and utilization of existing infrastructure. Prevent their preemption by or conversion to less intense uses.
- Commercial and industrial development should be sufficiently buffered from adjacent land uses, particularly residential uses.

#### **Village Centers**

- The central business district of the Town, Pascoag, suffers from a lack of public and private investment. It is difficult to attract new businesses to this area, largely due to rapid expansion of regionalized retail centers of neighboring communities.
- Redevelop older commercial areas, particularly those in the villages of Pascoag, Harrisville, Glendale, Oakland and Mapleville.

- Character
- Business and industry should develop in a manner consistent with the rural character of the community, particularly in terms of sensitivity to the surrounding environment, visual quality, natural resources, and adjacent land uses.
- Continue to use the Design Review process to encourage design of commercial developments that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood in appearance, with varied rooflines, alternative construction materials, scaled down signage etc.

#### **Tourism & Recreation**

- The Town should take advantage of its natural and cultural resources in terms of promoting tourism and recreational opportunities.
- Explore other avenues of economic development, including recreational and geo-tourism-related activities. Pursue the expansion of appropriate EcoTourism and farm pursuits as a way to preserve farmland, promote self-sustainability, and maintain a rural lifestyle.
- Coordinate with the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park planners to take advantage of spinoffs from tourism opportunities in surrounding communities.

- Continue to support promotional activities of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council.
- Support development of private recreation establishments in appropriate areas.

**Conclusions** - All of the above issues result in constraints to the rapid economic development of the Town. Burrillville needs to strengthen economic development. The Town recognizes the physical barriers which include: relatively poor highway access and infrastructure; lack of public water supply in some areas; and, low profile and lack of regional recognition of Burrillville by other communities. The Route 102 Development Management District Plan will be reevaluated to ensure the Town is maximizing the commercial and industrial potential of this corridor, in the context of environmental and infrastructure constraints, and in a way that encourages complementary (and not competing) business development in the village centers.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

Chapter VII: Economic Development

**VII.5 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
<p>VII.1 To broaden the sources of Town revenue through development in the industrial and commercial sectors in order to ensure a sound financial future and assist in funding the achievement of Town goals.</p>	<p>VII.1.a Maintain industrial and commercial sector growth at a rate adequate to support the Town's population in a manner consistent with the Town's labor characteristics, land capabilities and environmental objectives.</p>	<p>VII.1.a.1 Create a Town Economic Development Commission (EDC) to serve as a coordinator for all local economic development activities. Such a commission may be composed of members of existing entities such as the Burrillville Redevelopment Agency and Industrial Foundation.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>BRA, TP, PB</p>
		<p>VII.1.a.2 The EDC shall develop and implement a growth development strategy for existing industry in concert with local business leaders.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>EDC, BRA, TP</p>
		<p>VII.1.a.3 The EDC shall attract and assist those types of industry and commerce which are most suitable for, and potentially most beneficial to the Town in terms of employment need, needs of firms, resources, fiscal soundness and other objectives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EDC, BRA, TP</p>
		<p>VII.1.a.3 Coordinate with the Town's Sewer Commission and various water districts to ensure that these services are or will be available to sites zoned for industrial development.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>EDC, BRA, TC</p>

Chapter VII: Economic Development

Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VII.1.a.4 Conduct an analysis of existing commercial and industrial zoned land, and determine whether some should be rezoned for less intense uses from a land use or environmental viewpoint.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.5 Allocate adequate areas for commercial use suitable for neighborhood/village oriented and community-oriented retail centers.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.6 Rezone selected existing commercial zones which are not appropriate from a land use and environmental viewpoint.	Intermediate	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.7 Establish a Planned Development District for mixed-use commercial and residential developments on large tracts of land, except in the F5 district.	Intermediate	EDC, BRA, TP
	VII.1.b. Support the use of renewable energy for both commercial and residential interests.	VII.1.b.1 Amend town regulations as necessary to allow for renewable energy with particular standards being applied to large mechanisms that can affect view sheds.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TP

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
<p>VII.2 To recognize the importance of recreation, open space, public access to water bodies, and historic resources to the Town's economy, to tourism development, and to attracting and retaining industry, and endeavor to protect and enhance these resources in economic development siting and design.</p>	<p>VII.2.a Promote economic development which is sited and designed to fit within the rural village character of Burrillville, and harmonizes with environmental surroundings and adjacent land uses.</p>	<p>VII.2.a.1 Enact development controls and performance standards in the zoning ordinance to mitigate conflicts between commercial and industrial development and other uses. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffers to side and rear lots;</li> <li>• Landscaping; and,</li> <li>• Compliance with State and federal air, and water quality regulations.</li> <li>• Maintenance of noise levels compatible with accepted standards.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
	<p>VII.2.b To maintain and enhance the historical and cultural resources which contribute to the Town's overall economic development opportunities.</p>	<p>VII.2.b.1 Explore and determine the viability of financing municipal programs and preferential tax policies to encourage creative adaptive reuse (compliant with underlying zoning) of the Town's historic homes and buildings.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
		<p>VII.2.b.2 Revise the Zoning Ordinance to include flexible mixed-use requirements to promote mill reuse.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
	<p>VII.2.c Support geo-tourism development as an alternative form of economic development.</p>	<p>VII.2.c.1 Work with the school system to develop a curriculum promoting understanding of the historic development of the Town and its resources.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
		<p>VII.2.c.2 Develop historic walking tours and bike tours through the villages of the Town.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>TP, EDC, BRA</p>

Chapter VII: Economic Development

Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VII.2.c.3 Explore and determine the feasibility of broadening home occupation uses in residential districts in the Zoning Ordinance, to encourage such uses as antique shops, arts and crafts shops and other similar uses which can benefit from the Town's rural/historic environment without detracting from commercial zones.	Priority	TP, EDC, BRA
	VII.2.d Encourage natural resource based industry, including forestry, agriculture, and recreation.	VII.2.d.1 Maintain farming zoning districts (F5) in areas of the Town, which include prime agricultural soils or State important agricultural soils.	Ongoing	PB, TP
		VII.2.d.2 Encourage the Town's Conservation Commission to research good forest resource management and farming practices on privately owned forestlands and farms. At least once a year, actively reach out to local farmers and forest managers to share these resources and recommendations.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB
		VII.2.d.3 Identify valuable, unique and ecologically sensitive farm and forestlands so that they may be protected.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB
		VII.2.d.4 Work with local farms to discuss expanding and marketing appropriate EcoTourism opportunities.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB

## Chapter VII: Economic Development

Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VII.2.d.5 The Conservation Commission will work with local groups to develop a map of public and private recreational sites throughout the Town. Print and distribute copies of the map at tourist-stops.	Priority	CC, TP

## Chapter VIII - Recreation



**VIII.1 Introduction**

From the early 1980's through the mid 2000's, the Town, along with the rest of the State, experienced an upswing in building activity. This growth in building activity not only increased the demand for recreational facilities, but at the same time, reduced the amount of available land for such activities. Some small benefit was gained from this growth in that developers donated land and/or money for recreational purposes pursuant to Town requirements for such donations.

Although Burrillville is largely undeveloped, and major portions of the Town are zoned either open space or five-acres per dwelling unit, the social problems facing the community are urban in nature. Population centers and economic activity are concentrated in a series of villages separated by open farmland and woods. Suburban style subdivision development in and immediately surrounding the villages is fairly intensive. Residential growth along Burrillville's numerous arterial roads has thinly spread residential development in a consistent manner, making the geographic placement of recreation development difficult.

**VIII.2 Existing Conditions, Trends, and Projections**

The Town of Burrillville, for the purposes of this report, has been divided into three planning districts. The planning districts are delineated to conform to the U.S. Census tract lines of 2000.

<u>Planning District</u>	<u>Census Tract</u>	<u>Neighborhoods</u>
I	130.02	Glendale, Nasonville, Tarkiln, Mohegan, Spring Lake
II	130.01	Wallum Lake, Buck Hill, Jackson
III	129	Harrisville and Pascoag Villages

**Existing Resources** - In the spring of 1987, a complete update of the inventory of all outdoor recreation facilities located in the Town was undertaken. Each facility was identified and separate inventory sheets were used for each one, indicating the name of the facility, its location, type of facility, service area, ownership, and acreage. Table VIII-2 on the following pages presents the data in summary form by planning district.

The information presented on Map VIII.1 shows lands committed to recreation purposes in the Town. Of this land, 7,945 acres are actually developed and utilized for recreation, while just over 58 acres are

## Chapter VIII: Recreation

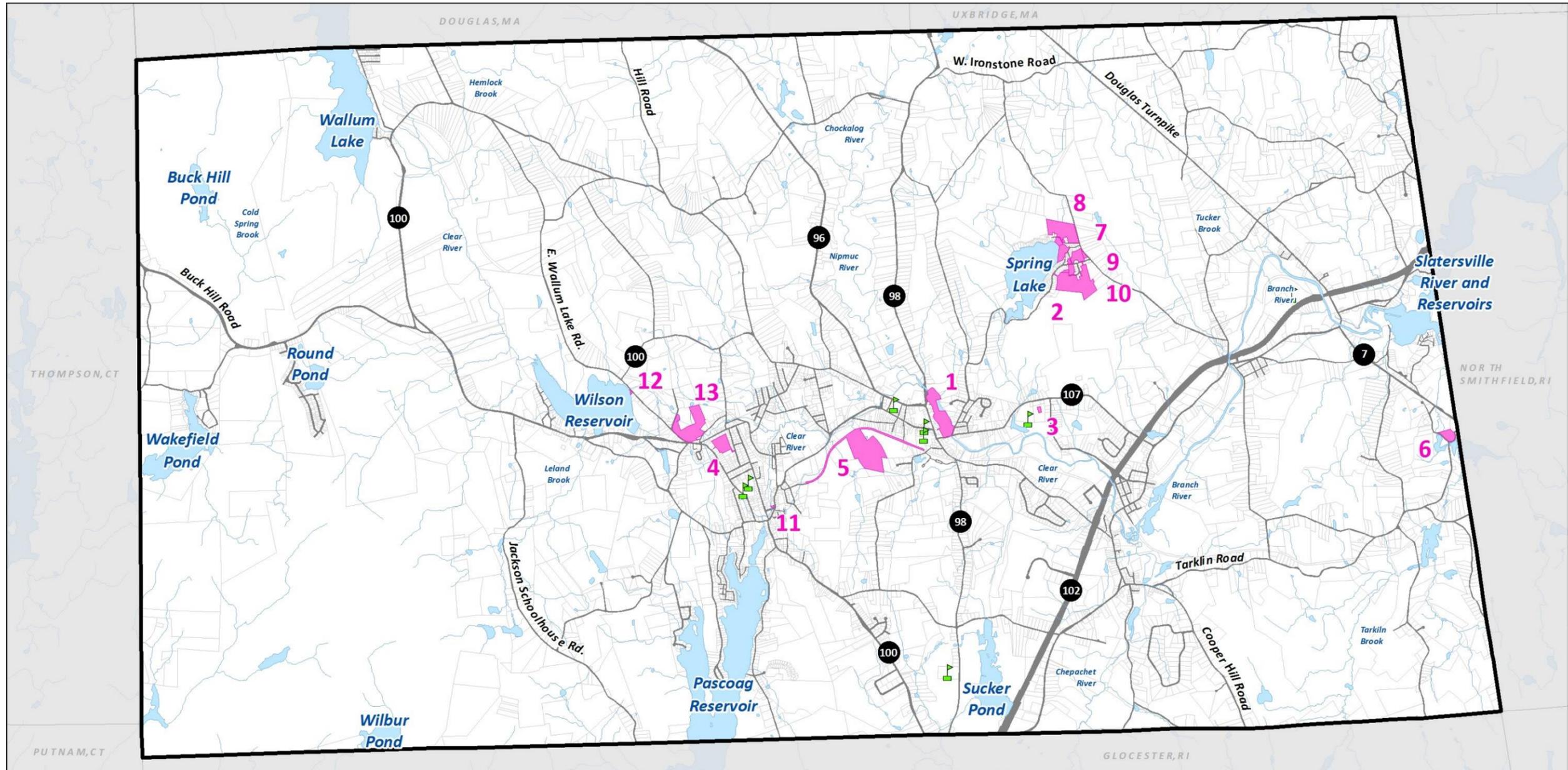
undeveloped. Table VIII-2 summarizes this information by the type of facility, its expected service area, and its location, by planning district. It should be noted that the type of facility listed is based upon its

major category, and that a facility may contain more than one use.

The following is a list of terms, their definitions, and their suggested standards as used in this section.

**Table VIII-1. Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Facilities Terms and Descriptions**

Facility Type	Description
Playlot	Active neighborhood play area intended for children of pre-school age. They are essentially a substitute for home yard areas and are normally provided for in high population density areas. In a rural area, it may be desirable to include the playlot function within a recreational facility such as a neighborhood playground.
Playground	Active neighborhood play area for recreation needs of the 5 to 12-year age group. The playground is the chief center of outdoor play for children and in most instances they are developed in conjunction with neighborhood schools. Features include: field area for games and informal play activities; apparatus areas, passive areas; and areas for court games.
Playfield	Active recreation area which usually serves more than one neighborhood and provides for varied forms of activities for young people and adults. A portion of the playfield is usually developed as an athletic field for highly organized team sports. Features of the playfield include: area for court games, including tennis, volleyball, basketball, sports fields for men and women for games such as softball, baseball and football; and areas including picnic areas. They may also include a field house, running track and outdoor swimming pool.
Neighborhood Park	The neighborhood park is primarily an area for sitting and quiet relaxation. When practical it should be in conjunction with a playground or playfield.
Major Park or Reservation	They are generally considered to be large city parks which are recreational complexes combining all types of recreational facilities.
Conservation Area	The unique natural resources which a community possesses. There is no quantitative measure which can be used as a guide.
Special Areas	Areas developed for a special use such as municipal beach, golf course, etc.

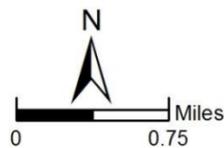


**TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018**

**Horsley Witten Group**  
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
 55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com



**RIGIS**



*This map is not the product of a Professional Land Survey. It was created by the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. for general reference, informational, planning, or guidance use, and is not a legally authoritative source as to location of natural or manmade features. Proper interpretation of this map may require the assistance of appropriate professional services. The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. makes no warranty, express or implied, related to the spatial accuracy, reliability, completeness, or currentness of this map.*

Developed Recreation			
ID	Site	ID	Site
1	Bicentennial Park	8	Spring Lake
2	Black Hut / Donovan	9	Spring Lake Beach
3	Burrillville Recreation Area	10	Spring Lake, McLean
4	Houser Field	11	Veterans Memorial Park
5	Pascoag Rail Trail	12	Wallum Lake
6	Snizek Park	13	White Mill Park
7	Spring Lake		

**Developed Recreation Areas**

- Schools
- Developed Recreation (park, outdoor athletic facilities, other)

\*Data Source: RIGIS

**Map VIII-1. Developed Recreation Areas**

## Chapter VIII: Recreation

**Table VIII-2. Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name	Acreage Developed	Acreage Undeveloped	Type	Service Area	Ownership
<b>PLANNING DISTRICT I</b>					
Country View Country Club	125.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
Peck Field	5.0	0.0	Special	Town	Private
Police Station Area	0.0	5.0	Undeveloped	Town	Town
Middle School Site	77.0	0.0	Open Area	Town	Town
Branch River Park	-	-	Playfield	Town	Town
Round Top Fishing Area	134.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Black Hut Mgt. Area	1,263.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Spring Lake Beach	50.0	0.0	Special	Regional	State
Wallum Lake Rod & Gun Club	170.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
Spring Lake Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
Screech Hole Bog	50.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Sherman Pond	0.6	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Block 26, Lot 11	70.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Crystal Lake Golf Course	239.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
Oakland Triangle	10.0	0.0	Open Area	Neighborhood	Private
Block 24, Lot 15	0.0	0.3	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
Block 14, Lot 26B	0.5	0.0	Sewer Station	Neighborhood	Town
Burrillville High School	10.0	0.0	Playfield	Town	Town
Burrillville Tennis Courts	1.0	0.0	Special	Town	Town
Berean Baptist Church	0.3	0.0	Playground	Regional	Private
Townsmen's Club	15.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
Episcopal Conference Center	180.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,400.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>			
<b>PLANNING DISTRICT II</b>					
Echo Lake Campground	83.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
Wilson's Reservoir Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
Casimir Pulaski State Park	100.0	0.0	Special	Regional	State
George Washington Mgt. Area	2,941.0	0.0	Special	Regional	State
Buck Hill Mgt. Area	1,291.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Wakefield Pond Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State

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Facility Name	Acreage Developed	Acreage Undeveloped	Type	Service Area	Ownership
Wallum Lake Terrace Assoc.	1.0	0.0	Special	Neighborhood Private	
Pascoag Reservoir Assoc.	0.5	0.0	Special	Neighborhood Private	
Zambarano Memorial Hospital	0.4	0.0	Special	State*	State
Buck Hill Boy Scouts Res.	1,094.0	0.0	Special	Regional Private	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,511.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>			
<b>PLANNING DISTRICT III</b>					
Harrisville Assembly	1.0	0.0	Neigh. Park	Town	Town
River Street Property	0.2	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
Bicentennial Park	1.0	0.0	Neighborhood	Town	Town
Austin T. Levy School	10.0	0.0	Playground	Town	Town
William L. Callahan School	0.0	1.0	Open Area	Town	Town
Eccleston Field	8.0	0.0	Playfield	Town	Town
Rail Road ROW	0.0	36.0	Undeveloped	Town	Town
Harrisville Mill Pond Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
White Mill Property	0.0	13.4	Undeveloped	Town	Town
Pascoag Bridgeway	0.0	1.0	Undeveloped	Town	town
Block 18, Lot 72	0.0	0.1	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
Block 19, Lot 71 & 94	0.0	1.1	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
Hauser Memorial Field	9.0	0.0	Playfield	Town	Town
Beckwith Bruckshaw Memorial	1.0	0.0	Play Area	Town	Private
Union Pond Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
Community Baptist Church	1.3	0.0	Playground	Regional	Private
Block 18, Lot 12	0.0	0.5	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>53.1</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7,945.2</b>	<b>58.4</b>			

\* Staff and Clients Only

Source: Burrillville Recreation Department, 2018.

**Recreational Resources** - In order to better assess the quantitative and qualitative value of the resources identified in the inventory process, we have broken the data into three groupings:

1. **Local Facilities:** Active recreational resources available primarily to Town residents at no cost.
2. **Regional Facilities:** Open space and recreational resources utilized by more than just the citizens of Burrillville and that may involve an entry fee.
3. **Listing of Conservation and Open Space Lots:** These listings, aimed at local residents, will become more important in later sections of this Plan where

conservation, open space, and recreation needs are identified and analyzed.

While Table VIII-2 may give the impression that Burrillville has a substantial amount of recreational land and facilities, the number of Town-owned active recreational facilities available at no cost is limited.

Table VIII-3, below, shows the amount of developed recreational property by ownership. Table VIII-4 identifies active recreation areas by the type of facility and their expected service areas. It should be noted that the type of facility listed is based upon its major category, and that a facility may contain more than one use.

**Table VIII-3. Acreage of Recreation Property by Type of Ownership**

Planning				
District	Town	State	Private	Total
I	88.5	1,568.1	744.2	2,400.8
II	0	4,333.4	1,178.5	5,511.9
III	29	1.2	2.3	32.5

Source: Burrillville Recreation Department, 2018.

**Table VIII-4. Active Recreational Facilities by District**

	Active Acres	Type Facility	Service Area
<b>Planning District I</b>			
Branch River Park	18.9	playfield	Town
Burrillville High School	10.0	playfield/playlot tennis	School Department
Burrillville Tennis Courts	1.0	tennis	Town
Burrillville Little League	4.1	playfield	Town
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>		
<b>Planning District II</b>			
Hero Park	0.1	playlot	Town
Steere Farm School	0.1	playlot	School Department
White Mill Park	1.5	playlot/park	Town
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.7</b>		
<b>Planning District III</b>			
Austin T. Levy School	4.0	playground	School Department
Beckwith-Bruckshaw Lodge	1.0	indoor facility	Neighborhood
Eccleston Field	9.3	playfield	Town
Farmers Market Pavilion	0.9	outdoor facility	BRA*
Freedom Park	2.0	playlot	Neighborhood
Hauser Memorial Field	9.1	playfield	Town
Skateboard Park	0.2	outdoor facility	Town
Stillwater Playground	0.3	playlot	BRA*
W.L. Callahan School	0.2	playlot	School Department
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.0</b>		
<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>62.7</b>		

\*Burrillville Redevelopment Authority

Source: Burrillville Recreation Department, 2018.

Compared to the 62.7 acres of active recreational areas, there is a considerably larger amount of land for conservation or passive recreational purposes (7,882.5 acres). Public access is encouraged on land, especially parks and playgrounds, owned by the Town.

Table VIII-5 below identifies uses permitted on public, private, and state-owned areas. Generally, the following uses are not permitted on Town-owned land: all-terrain vehicles, including mountain bicycles and snowmobiles, open fires, and overnight camping.

Table VIII-5. Activities Permitted in Town-, State-, and Privately-owned Parks & Open Spaces Intended for Public Use

Activities Permitted in Town-owned Parks & Open Spaces Intended for Public Use																			
Location/Facility	A.T. Levy School	Beckwith-Bruckshaw Lodge	Bike Path	Branch River Park	Eccleston Field	Freedom Park	Gazebo/Town Common	Hauser Field	Hero Park	High School	Mapleville Little League Field	Nipmuc Park	Skate Park	Snizek Park	Spring Lake Beach	Steere Farm School	Stillwater Park	Wallum Lake Property (Neri)	White Mill Park
Baseball/Softball	X			X	X			X		X	X					X			
Basketball				X	X			X											
Bicycling										X									
Canoe/Kayak Launch												X			X			X	
Conservation																			
Cross-Country Skiing			X	X						X									
Fishing														X				X	
Football				X	X			X		X						X			
Golf																			
Handicap Accessible		X		X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X		X
Horseback Riding																			
Horseshoes																			X
Hunting																			
Ice Skating										X									
Indoor Programs		X															X		
Jogging/Walking			X	X				X		X	X	X					X	X	X
Picnic Benches/Tables			X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
Picnic W/O Fire			X						X			X			X		X	X	X
Play Structures	X			X		X		X	X		X				X	X			X
Rollerblading/Skating			X										X						
Skateboarding					X														
Soccer				X	X					X						X			
Swimming															X				
Tennis				X						X									
Volleyball															X				

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Activities Permitted in State-owned Parks & Open Spaces Intended for Public Use												
Location/Facility	Angell St lot on Wallum Lake	Black Hut Management Area	Buck Hill Management Area	Casimir Pulaski State Park	George Washington Management Area	Harrisville Mill Pond Ramp	Round Top Fishing Area	Spring Lake Boat Ramp	Union Pond Boat Ramp	Wakefield Pond Boat Ramp	Wilson's Reservoir Ramp	Zambarano Memorial Hospital
Baseball/Softball												
Basketball												
Bicycling				X	X							
Canoe/Kayak Launch	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Conservation		X	X		X		X					
Cross-Country Skiing					X							
Fishing	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Football												
Golf												
Handicap Accessible												
Horseback Riding			X		X							
Horseshoes												
Hunting		X	X									
Ice Skating												
Indoor Programs												
Jogging/Walking		X	X	X	X		X					
Picnic Benches/Tables			X	X	X		X					
Picnic W/O Fire												
Play Structures												
Rollerblading/Skating												
Skateboarding												
Soccer												
Swimming												
Tennis												
Volleyball												
Wellhead/Water Protection												X

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Activities Permitted in Privately-owned Parks & Open Spaces Intended for Public Use (1)											
Location/Facility	Audubon Society	Addieville Game Farm	Boy Scouts	Brown University Lot	Buck Hill Family Campground	Burrillville Historical Society Lot	Casino Park	Country View Golf Club	Crystal Lake Golf Course	Echo Lake Campground	Feinstein Youth Camp
Baseball/Softball			X		X		X				X
Basketball			X		X						
Bicycling			X		X					X	
Canoe/Kayak Launch			X		X					X	
Conservation	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Cross-Country Skiing			X								
Fishing			X		X					X	X
Football											X
Golf								X	X		
Handicap Accessible			X		X						X
Horseback Riding											
Horseshoes											
Hunting		X									
Ice Skating											
Indoor Programs			X		X						X
Jogging/Walking			X		X					X	X
Picnic Benches/Tables			X		X						X
Picnic W/O Fire			X								
Play Structures			X		X						X
Rollerblading/Skating											
Skateboarding											
Soccer											X
Swimming			X		X					X	X
Tennis											
Volleyball			X		X						X
Wellhead/Water Protection			X		X						

**Recreational Management** - The Town's Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for recreational functions, activities, assets, and resources within the Town of Burrillville and not under the control of the School Department. In order to better anticipate intensive usage of the parks, larger groups are required to complete and submit application forms indicating when and how a park will be used. Additionally, regulations for park usage have been promulgated involving the use of alcoholic beverages, property damage and cleanup, and when a police officer is needed to manage traffic at a site. The Town's Recreation Commission, comprised of Town Council-appointed citizens, oversees and recommends policies to the Director of Parks and Recreation. Together, the Director and Commission are responsible for the Town's comprehensive recreation program and, along with the Department of Public Works, the maintenance and operation of the Town's recreational facilities.

While the Department of Parks and Recreation determines infrastructure and maintenance needs, the Town's Department of Public Works is responsible for implementing the improvements. Similar to other municipalities, Burrillville's School Department has its own maintenance staff. Burrillville recognizes the opportunity for improved coordination of playing fields maintenance and use

among the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, and School Department.

Burrillville's Conservation Commission is primarily involved in the management of the undeveloped Nipmuc Property and Town-owned land abutting Wallum Lake.

The Town of Burrillville Police Department is responsible for the general surveillance of the entire Town's active and passive recreational facilities and properties.

**Population Implications for Recreation** - Burrillville has an increasingly older population than the State as a whole. In 2000, the Town had a median age of 37.5 years compared to the State's 36.7 years. By 2010, the median age in Town had increased to 42.4 years and the State's to only 39.4. In 2010, 24.6 percent of the Town's population was under age 20, very similar to the 24.9 percent Statewide. Burrillville had a lower percentage of residents 65 years and older than the State in 2010; 12.4 percent compared to 14.4 percent. This may indicate that the high median age of the Town's population is driven by those ages 45-64. Consequently, recreation and open space needs over the next 20 years will likely be driven by the needs of today's older working-age adults, a generation that is tending to stay physically active longer than prior generations.

**Population Distribution** - In order to better understand where the population is living in Burrillville, an analysis of housing unit distribution was performed. Based on census tracts and planning districts described earlier, the distribution is shown on Table VIII-6.

**Table VIII-6. Estimated Number of Housing Units by Census Tract, 2010**

Planning District	2000	2010
I	2,669	2,921
II	1,140	1,355
III	2,012	2,143
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>6,419</b>

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, 2010.

The boundaries of the Planning Districts in this Plan are the same as those used in the 2004 Plan, and are based on 2010 data. The recreational planning districts coincide with Burrillville’s three Census Tracts: 130.02, 130.01 and 129. This method provides an accurate picture of the town, by grouping the town’s two main villages of Harrisville and Pascoag into census tract 129, while the remaining two tracts: 130.01 and 130.02 respectively split the town from west to east along route 98.

**Recent Progress** - Burrillville has made many investments in recreation over the past 15 years, and has achieved a number of the actions included the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Below are some

examples (and not an exhaustive list) of this recent progress.

- Mowry Road realigned to create a passive park (Snizek Park) near Tarkiln Pond with a handicapped accessible fishing area.
- Roller blade/skateboard park/ramp facility developed on Chapel Street in Harrisville.

**VIII.3 Recreation Issues**

The following are issues relating to recreation in Burrillville.

**Recreational Analysis and Standards –**

Outdoor recreational facilities for the Town of Burrillville shall use as criteria the demand created by the local population.

The standards published in the *Recreation Conservation and Open Space Planning Manual*, as amended (see Table VIII-7) for playgrounds, play fields, and neighborhood parks are used in this study to determine the need for these facilities.

Within the mill villages and surrounding areas, the standards for playlots, parks, and recreational sites are applicable to meet the needs of Burrillville’s residents. However, these types of facilities are less critical and the standards less applicable in the more rural parts of town, where a substantial portion of homes are located on

large lots, and there is a significant amount of undeveloped fields and woodland available for informal play by children.

**Table VIII-7. General Standards for Recreational Facilities**

Type of Facility	1,000 Population	Size	Radius	Area Served
Playlot	Varies with population density	1/8 to 1/4 acres	¼ to ½ mile	Several Blocks
Playground	1.25 acres	4 to 7 acres	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Neighborhood
Playfield	1.25 acres	12 to 20 acres	1/2 to 1 mile	Several Neigh.
Neighborhood Park	2.50 acres	1/2 to 25 acres	1/2 mile	Neighborhood
Large Park or Reservation	5.00 acres	Over 100 acres	Community-wide	Community
Conservation Area	Based on Availability		Community-wide	Community
Special Area	Based on Activity (requires Special Description)		Community-wide	Community

Source: Mertes, James and Hall, James, 1995, NRPA – Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Planning Manual, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program.

Also included is the recognition of the requirements of State Building Codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Town includes these regulations in development of new facilities and parks, as well as rehabilitation of existing facilities.

**Existing and Future Requirements by Planning District** - Table VIII-8 illustrates the present and projected area needs for playgrounds, playfields, and neighborhood

parks, based upon the standard of 6.25 acres per 1,000 persons. The amount of land (117.5 acres) used in this table represents only Town-owned property presently developed for recreational purposes. Not included in the computation of area needs is approximately 58.4 acres of land owned by the Town, but not presently developed for recreational purposes.

**Table VIII-8. Town-Owned Recreational Needs by Planning District**

Year	Population	Land Required to Meet Standards	Existing Property	(Deficit)/ Surplus
<b>Planning District I</b>				
2000	7,402	46 acres	88.5 acres	42.5 acres
2010	7,539	46 acres	88.5 acres	42.5 acres
<b>Planning District II</b>				
2000	3,358	21 acres	0 acres	(21) acres
2010	3,479	22 acres	0 acres	(22) acres
<b>Planning District III</b>				
2000	5,036	31 acres	29 acres	(2) acres
2010	4,937	31 acres	29 acres	(2) acres

Source: U.S. Census of population, 2010; Burrillville Recreation Department, 2018.

The figures shown in Table VIII-8 indicate that Planning District 2 is completely lacking in Town-owned recreation facilities and Planning District 3 is only slightly deficient.

The inventory of recreational facilities shows that there are approximately 7,827.7 acres of recreation land in either state or private ownership. These properties are intended to serve the recreational needs not only of Burrillville residents, but of people throughout the region and even the state. Most of the private and state-owned areas are included by the State in determining recreation needs on the State level. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, only those areas and needs under the jurisdiction of the Town of Burrillville are considered.

There are a number of recreation facilities and areas in Town identified as "regional" facilities. These were not included in the "town" side of the ledger, but they contribute greatly to recreational opportunities for Burrillville residents. While Planning District II, for example, has no Town-owned facilities, it contains two of the town's largest State Management Forests, which makes its deficit of 21 acres in Table VIII-8 misleading.

**VIII.4 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

One of the most feasible methods to insure comprehensiveness with respect to planning and its implementation is through utilization of an effective Recreation Capital Improvements Program. In this manner, there is sufficient amount of time for the community to determine the needs, make

adjustments if necessary, establish priorities, and find the means of implementation. In some instances, implementation of recreation priorities means local financial resources will have to be made available. Thus, through a realistic and effective Recreation Capital Improvement Program, the Town will know how many local funds could be allocated for this purpose.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

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**Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions for Recreation**

Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
VIII.1 To provide park and recreation facilities and programs which will meet the passive and active recreational needs of Burrillville's residents.	VIII.1.a Planning for recreation, conservation and open space will be done within a comprehensive approach with consideration for development trends and demands of the community.	VIII.1.a.1 Conduct a study to see where current single purpose recreational facilities may be expanded to provide a greater variety of services for more residents over time.	Priority	RD, PB, TP
		VIII.1.a.2 Annually, develop and update a Recreation Capital Improvement Program, through which the Town will schedule, in a systematic manner, the acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities within its financial capabilities. Emphasize maintenance and improvement of existing facilities over building new.	Ongoing	RD, PWD
		VIII.1.a.3 As part of the annual Recreation Capital Improvement Program, explore the development of existing Town-owned properties (such as expansion of the lodge facility at the Swift property) and the identification of additional sites that may be purchased or donated for recreational development.	Ongoing	RD, PWD

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Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VIII.1.a.4 Use the protocol established for coordinating recreational planning efforts between the Schools, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department, and Planning Department to shape the Recreation Capital Improvement Program and identify additional resources that can serve as public recreation.	Ongoing	RD, PWD
	VIII.1.b Explore additional means for obtaining and preserving recreation land besides out-right purchase, including through private investment and donations.	VIII.1.b.1 Require land dedication or fees in lieu of land expressly for recreational purposes in all subdivisions and major non-residential developments.	Intermediate	PB, TP, RD, PWD
		VIII.1.b.2 Develop a system for evaluating land dedicated to the Town under Section 10-5.7 "Conveyance of Land for Recreational Purposes" for both its recreational and open space characteristics, and appropriately designating it. The system should be designed to coordinate the land dedicated in the subdivision process to form interconnected greenbelts, and larger areas of protected open space for habitat preservation, wherever feasible.	Intermediate	PB, TP, RD, PWD

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Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VIII.1.c Ensure that the recreational needs and interests of residents of all social and age groups and abilities are considered to the fullest extent possible in developing recreational facility plans, and that facilities are welcoming to everyone.	VIII.1.c.1 As part of the annual Recreation Capital Improvement Program, develop a system for regularly evaluating the accessibility of the Town’s recreation facilities so that they may be improved over time. Conduct a survey at least once every 5 years to assess the needs of different groups such as young children, teenagers, young adults, seniors, and people with physical or mental special needs.	Long Term	RD, PWD, RC
		VIII.1.c.2 Actively explore options for low or no cost recreational opportunities for families who cannot afford to pay for organized sports and recreation.	Ongoing	RD, RC
		VIII.1.c.3 Review town policies for enforcing rules and regulations at local recreational facilities to make sure that everyone feels welcome and that no one spoils the experience for others.	Ongoing	RD, RC
	VIII.1.d Relate the type and size of recreational facilities to the pertinent characteristics of the service area.	VIII.1.d.1 Use annual U.S. Census data to track any relevant demographic trends to justify investments in the Recreation Capital Improvement Program.	Ongoing	RD, RC

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Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VIII.1.e Make maximum use of waterbodies for recreation and other purposes wherever possible in a manner consistent with the characteristics and uses of the water bodies themselves and with the standards governing water supplies established by the Rhode Island Water Resources Board.	VIII.1.e.1 Improve and expand opportunities for recreational swimming and beach usage by cataloguing existing beach facilities and mapping out other potential swimming opportunities where feasible and appropriate. Use this information to justify budgeting for the maintenance and upgrading of existing beach facilities, and the acquisition of new public rights-of-way.	Ongoing	RD, RC
		VIII.1.e.2 Conduct a study of all reservoirs in town and their watersheds, to determine what other public purposes they may appropriately serve, including public recreational access and use.	Priority	TP, PB
	VIII.1.f Seek to improve the opportunities for bicycling, hiking, boating, fishing and related recreational activity throughout the Town.	VIII.1.f.1 Conduct a feasibility study for establishing a bike/walking/jogging path linking the villages in the Town with recreational facilities and other planned regional bike paths. Where feasible, the old railroad right-of-way should be examined for feasibility as a location for portions of the path. In concept, the path(s) may include trails and would link North Smithfield to Wallum Lake and connect eventually with other paths in the region.	Intermediate	RD, RC,
		VIII.1.f.2 Preserve existing abandoned rail lines for potential reuse as bike paths.	Ongoing	TP, PB, TC

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Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VIII.1.f.3 Coordinate bike path development with State and regional efforts to expand bike paths and create a regional bike loop, including the State’s draft bicycle mobility plan.	Priority	RD, RC, TP, PB
		VIII.1.f.4 Review maps of existing hiking, boating, and fishing opportunities in Burrillville, and explore where gaps could be filled to link existing “blueways” and “greenways” with one another.	Intermediate	RD, RC
	VIII.1.g Recognize the importance of the Town's recreational resources, and ensure that their development is carefully integrated with efforts to promote Burrillville to visitors.	VIII.1.g.1 The Economic Development Commission will work with the local Chamber of Commerce or other groups to continue to maintain and update the Visit Burrillville website. The Town will work with the State to find a way to integrate the local resources noted on the site into on line maps and apps of state resources.	Ongoing	TP, BRA
		VIII.1.g.2 Establish a system for regularly coordinating efforts to promote use of recreational facilities with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, and other regional or statewide organizations.	Ongoing	TP, PB, CC
		VIII.1.g.3 Encourage more lodging and camping opportunities in town to allow more visitors to utilize local recreational resources and support local businesses.	Ongoing	TP, PB, CC

# Chapter IX - Energy



### **IX.1 Introduction**

Energy impacts nearly all aspects of our daily lives. We depend on energy to travel; to heat and cool our buildings; and to power everything from street lights, to smartphones, and medical equipment. Today, as the environmental and financial costs of energy rise, the need to produce and consume energy responsibly is clear. The thoughtful development of energy policies will provide a multitude of benefits to all. Energy production and generation are impacted by land use decisions, economic development strategies, and the development of transportation systems. While this section of the Burrillville Comprehensive Plan is focused on exploring energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy development, the policies and goals developed here have the potential to strengthen much more than the energy systems in our community. In return, the goals and policies established in other elements of this plan will impact our energy generation and consumption. This section is categorized by energy used for: transportation; heating and cooling buildings; and the generation of electricity.

*The Town seeks to encourage renewable energy generation, reduce environmental impacts, and reduce the financial cost of municipal energy consumption associated*

*with heating and cooling, transportation, and electricity usage.*

The Town will continue to pursue methods for reduced energy consumption in municipal facilities, improve the efficiency of our equipment, and move toward more sustainable energy sources where possible. The Town will encourage the responsible and well planned development of energy production, including support for renewable energy systems and discouraging of fossil fuel energy production. Through the integration and development of renewable energy production for town facilities, and the promotion of clear standards and guidelines for private development, renewable energy systems will grow. Burrillville will reduce its levels of energy consumption through a process of continuous and incremental improvements to municipal energy usage including: the heating and cooling systems of buildings; municipally-owned vehicles and equipment; and electricity consumption. Continuing to improve energy policies and decisions will provide economic savings, reduce environmental impacts, and improve the resilience of the community as a whole.

## **IX.2 Fossil Fuel Power Generation**

For the purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Burrillville is reiterating its position against the future development of additional fossil fuel energy production facilities in town. Such uses are industrial (akin to heavy manufacturing) and detrimental to the Town's environment, presenting little benefit to the Town, state or region in the provision of necessary power. The negative impacts such a development would have on neighboring property owners, state management lands, the Town as a whole, and neighboring communities would not be worth the power generated or the potential for lower energy rates.

The Comprehensive Plan calls for the preservation of recreational and open space opportunities throughout the Town. It also calls for the redevelopment of existing developed areas while avoiding development in greenfield areas.

The Town currently hosts a power plant with Ocean State Power, located in the eastern portion of the town. When this power plant was commissioned, there was discussion that it may expand in the future near that location. Such an expansion is still a possibility, but one the Town does not support. Further, it was never the intention of Burrillville to host multiple power plants or other such fossil fuel energy production

facilities in various locations throughout town. The Comprehensive Plan discusses many issues of conservation, growth, and development in town, but it does not anticipate the creation of additional such facilities, and certainly not outside areas currently zoned for industrial development. Going forward, the Town will continue to point out how any proposed fossil fuel energy production facility conflicts with town goals and objectives. The Town has been working steadfastly to redevelop former industrial areas to provide housing, economic development, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Burrillville does not support an expansion of such uses anywhere in town, but in particular cannot support them in the rural parts of town adjacent to open space, parks, and recreation areas.

## **IX.3 Existing Conditions**

**Energy Use** - Rhode Island spends more than 3.5 billion dollars on electricity and fuel annually. The majority of that energy comes from fossil fuel based energy production facilities located outside of the state. Increasing energy efficiency and generating more of our power from renewable energy sources are two key ways to reduce the economic and environmental costs of energy consumption.

To begin reducing energy consumption it is essential that we understand how much energy we use currently. Since 2013 the Office of Energy Resources has partnered with the University of Rhode Island Extension to collect energy usage data for all publicly owned buildings in the state. This data is used to establish baseline energy consumption information for each municipality, and is logged in a free on line database developed by ENERGY STAR called Portfolio Manager. While Burrillville did not participate in this pilot effort, Portfolio Manager remains a free tool that the Town can use to develop baseline energy data and an energy profile for each municipal building in Burrillville addressing both electricity use and heating fuel costs. The Town simply needs to enter data from past energy bills, as well as information on particular municipal facilities such as square footage, number of employees, hours of use, etc., and Portfolio Manager does the rest, calculating energy use per square foot so that facilities can be more accurately compared with one another.

The Town can use this baseline energy data along with new energy expenses to track Burrillville's energy consumption rates over time. By identifying the structures with the highest energy consumption rates, the Town can prioritize future conservation investments where they will have the greatest impact.

**Energy Efficiency** - Energy efficiency reduces the amount of power that must be generated to meet our energy needs. The State of Rhode Island energy plan, *Energy 2035*, identified increased efficiency as the best tool available to ensure we are able to meet energy needs. By simply reducing the amount of energy it takes to power our systems we can ensure that the energy we produce goes further. Burrillville supports the goals for energy efficiency presented in *Energy 2035*. The Town is committed to completing energy efficiency improvements to Town facilities and encouraging private property owners to pursue efficiency improvements of their own. Many steps can be taken to improve energy efficiency in our buildings, such as replacing older windows with newer energy efficient models that can reduce heating costs in the winter and cooling costs in the summer. Even efforts as simple as replacing conventional light bulbs with LED models and turning off lights when leaving a room significantly reduce energy consumption. Further, the Town can take the lead in reducing unnecessary lighting in over-lit areas. All of these strategies can result in cost savings for the Town and individual businesses and households. Energy efficiency improvements come at a wide variety of costs, ranging from no- and low-cost solutions to more extensive upgrades. This means that many energy efficiency improvements are within the reach of all

property owners and residents of our community.

#### **IX.4 Existing Facilities**

**Natural Gas Pipeline** - In addition to the small gas lines that provide utility services to homes and businesses, Burrillville has a larger pipeline that is part of a network that distributes natural gas throughout the state and the region. Commonly referred to as the Algonquin Pipeline, the *Algonquin Gas Transmission* pipeline transports natural gas along 1,129 miles of the east coast. Owned by Enbridge since February 2017, the pipeline enters Burrillville from the southwest and continues at a northeast diagonal through town, exiting at the Town's north central border with Massachusetts. It includes a pumping station off of Wallum Lake Road, just west of the Wilson Reservoir.

**Natural Gas Power Plant** - As noted above, the Town currently hosts a power plant with Ocean State Power, located off Sherman Farm Road right on the border with Massachusetts. Ocean State Power is a combined-cycle, 560 MW natural gas power plant that started operations in 1990. The plant uses about 100 million cubic feet per day of western Canadian natural gas and ranks as one of the largest gas-fired plants in the northeastern United States. Owned by TransCanada since 2000,

Ocean State Power was sold to Helix Generation, LLC, a subsidiary of LS Power Equity Advisors, in June of 2017.

#### **IX.5 Renewable Energy**

**Solar** - Solar energy is collected from sunlight and converted to electricity through the use of solar photovoltaic panels. Solar energy systems can be incorporated on the roofs of existing structures, or be placed on the ground. If adequate sun exposure is present on a property, solar energy systems can easily capture and generate enough power to meet the energy needs of a building, or provide significant amounts of renewable energy production to be sold on the electric grid. Solar photovoltaic installations are allowed by special use permit in the General Commercial (GC) zone, and to date, the Town has approved two solar projects: one at 600 Bronco's Highway and one at 806 Bronco's Highway (Sandberg Machine). Due to the existing uses within the GC zone, solar installations are unlikely to be proposed on forested or heavily treed lands. However, the Town is committed to continuing this policy, and, when appropriate, making sure that if solar installations are allowed in other zones in the future, they are located in places that require little or no tree removal.

**Wind** - Wind power is energy generated with the use of wind-to-energy conversion systems, most commonly in the form of wind turbines or windmills. Conversion systems convert the kinetic energy of the wind into electric energy for consumption. Wind power can be located on land or off-shore. According to the Wind Siting Guidelines developed by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, a typical 1.5 MW onshore wind turbine in Rhode Island can power approximately 440 homes annually.

Burrillville has yet to develop siting regulations for the potential development of land-based wind energy systems. Wind projects may have the potential to diversify the Town's renewable energy supply portfolio and should be thoughtfully considered. Proper consideration of which zoning districts might be most appropriate for accommodating wind power, and what siting standards should be applicable are essential to properly planning for increased renewable energy production in Burrillville.

While wind power generation in inland locations, such as Burrillville, has less potential than in coastal parts of the state, and will likely not be a significant source of energy in Burrillville (at least not with existing technologies), there is enough potential that the Town should be prepared to respond to future

development requests for wind turbines. According to the U.S. Department of Energy<sup>1</sup>, average winds in Burrillville at 80 meters (262+ feet) off the ground (the low end in height for commercial wind turbines) are just under the amount generally considered to have a resource suitable for wind development. However, at 110 meters (360+ feet) and higher, much of the town has better potential. Consequently, any wind projects in Burrillville will likely be proposed at these taller heights, and any siting standards the Town develops should analyze the impacts of turbines of such height on the health and safety of neighboring uses, residents, and the environment and wildlife from the effects of noise, vibrations, and flicker.

**Hydropower** - Hydropower systems convert the energy of water flowing downstream into electricity to generate power. In Rhode Island, limited hydropower resources exist due to the state's flat, coastal terrain and small number of large rivers. Because of this, the principal opportunity to develop hydropower generation in Rhode Island lies in co-locating new projects on existing dams or in smaller package systems. In Burrillville, many of the existing dams and mill structures are not viable for hydropower, but smaller hydropower

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<sup>1</sup> <https://windexchange.energy.gov/states/ri>

systems may be viable for powering specific municipal facilities, businesses, and homes. The use of the term "small hydropower" varies considerably, but the US National Hydropower Association<sup>1</sup> generally specifies a range of 5 megawatts (MW) – 30 MW. Small hydropower can be further subdivided into mini hydropower, usually defined as 100 to 1,000 kilowatts (kW) (or 1 MW), and micro hydropower which is 5 to 100 kW. Micro hydropower is usually the application of hydroelectric power sized for smaller communities, single families or small enterprise. Since small hydropower projects usually have correspondingly small civil construction work and little or no reservoir, they are seen as having a relatively low environmental impact compared to larger hydropower. According to the RI Office of Energy Resources, a 1 MW mini hydropower system in Rhode Island could power approximately 580 homes annually.<sup>2</sup> For an individual homeowner or business owner, a 10 kW micro hydropower system can provide enough power for a large home, a small business, or a hobby farm.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/2012\\_Hydropower\\_Roadmap.pdf](http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/2012_Hydropower_Roadmap.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/hydro/learn-about-hydro.php>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/buying-and-making-electricity/microhydropower-systems>

**Resources for Property Owners** - There are a number of resources available to Rhode Island residents interested in generating renewable energy at their homes or businesses. Below are just a few examples. A fuller list may be found on the RI Office of Energy Resources website.<sup>4</sup>

*National Grid Home Energy Assessments* - Residents can find out how much energy their homes are wasting with a no-cost home energy assessment from National Grid, a first step toward lowering home energy bills. Households may qualify for up to \$4,000 off insulation and air sealing improvements (as of 2017). Such improvements may save households up to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills each year.

*Solarize Rhode Island* - Solarize Rhode Island (Solarize RI) is a program supported by the Office of Energy Resources, Commerce Rhode Island, the John Merck Fund, and SmartPower, designed to encourage the adoption of residential and commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) systems through a coordinated education, marketing, and outreach effort, combined with a tiered pricing structure that provides increased savings to homeowners and businesses as more people go solar.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/programs-incentives/index.php>

Currently, this program is available in towns across Rhode Island, including Barrington, Bristol, Charlestown, Cranston, and South Kingstown. However, it is not yet available in Burrillville, and the town will continue to advocate for the expansion of the program.

*Rhode Island Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program* - C-PACE enables owners of eligible commercial and industrial buildings to finance up to 100% of energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and environmental health and safety eligible improvements. Financing is provided by private capital providers at competitive rates with repayment terms consistent with the useful life of the improvements, generally up to 25 years.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

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**IX.6 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

Energy Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
<p>IX.1. To encourage well planned, diverse, and economically viable renewable energy production facilities in appropriate areas of Town and elsewhere in Rhode Island.</p>	<p>IX.1.a The Town supports appropriate development of renewable energy production facilities within Burrillville and elsewhere in Rhode Island, recognizing the positive economic impacts of having diversified energy sources at competitive costs.</p>	<p>IX.1.a.1 Town Boards, Committees, and staff will work together to evaluate and determine which renewable energy sources are appropriate in Burrillville and develop clear and comprehensive zoning requirements and siting standards to support diverse renewable energy development in appropriate areas with minimal impact and deforestation/tree clearing on surrounding land uses.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PB, CC, TC</p>
		<p>IX.1.a.2 The Town shall consider the Rhode Island Land-Based Wind Siting Guidelines published by the Office of Energy Resources as it develops its own standards for wind energy generation in Burrillville.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PB, CC, TC</p>
		<p>IX.1.a.3 The Town will develop standards for restricting the use of clear cutting and other significant tree removal in the siting or expansion of any energy systems.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>PB, TC</p>
		<p>IX.1.a.4 The Town will routinely engage in discussions with Federal and State energy authorities to support renewable energy generating facilities off the coastline of Rhode Island, including facilities using the winds off the Atlantic Ocean.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>PD, PB, TC</p>
	<p>IX.1.b. The Town encourages the development of accessory solar energy systems on municipally owned and operated buildings.</p>	<p>IX.1.b.1 The Town will evaluate the potential for accessory solar energy system siting in connection with proposed construction of, or major renovations to, municipally owned and operated buildings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, SC, PWD, CC</p>

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Energy Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	IX.1.c. The Town supports the exploration of smaller hydropower generation package systems.	IX.1.c.1 The Town will research and report on the viability of using smaller hydropower package systems to generate electricity for municipal facilities, and will develop guidance for property owners interested in installing their own systems.	Intermediate	CC, PB, PD
	IX.1.d. The Town supports the continued presence and expansion of programs designed to support the use of renewable energy systems for private property owners.	IX.1.d.1 The Town will lobby the State Office of Energy Resources to expand Solarize RI to Burrillville.	Priority	TC, PD
IX.2. To reduce the energy consumption of municipal buildings, vehicles, and equipment in Burrillville.	IX.2.a. The Town will pursue measures to improve the energy efficiency of municipal buildings.	IX.2.a.1 The Town will monitor energy use of municipal buildings through the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program annually.	Priority	TC, PWD, SD, BA
		IX.2.a.2 The Town will pursue energy efficiency retrofits for the municipal buildings with the highest documented energy use intensity (EUI) to reduce heating and cooling costs and/or electricity usage.	Long Term	BA, SD, PWD
	IX.2.b. The Town will give preference to energy efficient fleet vehicles and equipment when replacement is required.	IX.2.b.1 The Town will replace end-of-life municipal vehicles with high fuel efficiency and/or electric vehicles, as viable.	Long Term	TC, PWD, SD
IX.3. To increase the understanding of Town staff and community members on energy	IX.3.a. The Town will encourage the education of civic leaders and residents on issues of renewable energy and energy efficiency.	IX.3.a.1 Town staff will remain aware of and participate in local, statewide, and national educational initiatives to promote the increased use of renewable energy.	Ongoing	TC, SD, PWD, CC

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Energy Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
efficient practices and renewable energy development.		IX.3.a.2 Town Council, Planning Board, and planning staff will develop materials and annually disseminate information to the public and municipal staff regarding energy efficiency programs and financing opportunities.	Long Term	TC, PB, PD
IX.4. To decrease and mitigate the environmental impacts of fossil fuel energy production in Burrillville.	IX.4.a. The Town will work towards containing the impacts of existing fossil fuel energy production, including natural gas, in Burrillville while exploring ways to prohibit future production facilities.	IX.4.a.1 The Town will study and recommend changes to the zoning ordinance to prohibit new future fossil fuel production facilities.	Priority	PB, PD, CC
		IX.4.a.2 The Town will continue to actively voice its opposition to the siting or expansion of fossil fuel energy generating facilities within its boundaries, or within abutting Towns when located where they may adversely affect Burrillville.	Ongoing	TC, PB, CC
	IX.4.b. Ensure the interests of the Town and its residents are honored with respect to any future change or disposition of the Ocean State Power (OSP) facility.	IX.4.b.1 The Town will seek a formal agreement for OSP to inform the Town of all future modifications to the OSP facility before they occur. The Town will in turn share this information with residents.	Ongoing	TC, PB
		IX.4.b.2 The Town will study and report on the legal options for more strictly regulating energy generating facilities within specified land use areas in the Town, including better standards for any future expansion of OSP.	Intermediate	TC



### **X.1 Introduction**

This element considers the nature of the Town's historic and cultural resources, and how they can be best protected and enhanced in the future, and includes the following material: an overview of the visual and aesthetic cultural resources of Burrillville; an historical overview to establish the context for preservation activities; an inventory of documented properties, historic sites, and historic cemeteries and graveyards; an evaluation of historical preservation activities in Burrillville; an evaluation of known and likely threats to historic resources; and a set of priorities for addressing issues. Finally, the element presents goals, policies, and actions for preservation.

### **X.2 Visual and Aesthetic Historic and Cultural Resources**

Visual and aesthetic resources, simply defined, are the topographic features, natural and man-made landmarks, and historic and culturally meaningful structures and sites that create a community's identity. A detailed inventory and evaluation of Burrillville's visual and aesthetic resources is beyond the scope of this chapter. Such an endeavor requires a separate comprehensive study that should be undertaken in the future. However, for the purpose of developing a Town policy

toward visual quality, a generalization of important elements is provided.

In descriptive terms, Burrillville's urban form includes a dense urban center surrounded by suburban residential uses and forested open spaces beyond. Two such urban centers exist: downtown Pascoag and Harrisville. Other smaller, yet definable, villages also dot the Town.

Areas such as streams, rivers, ponds, open farmland, and fields lend natural definition to the Town and it is these elements which create a distinct, identifiable place. Removing large areas of existing vegetation, stone walls, and rolling terrain, and replacing them with unplanned suburban-style layout of dwellings, placed upon clear-cut landscapes will eventually destroy the Town's spatial definition, thereby forever changing the basic character of Burrillville. Certainly this is an important issue to guide our decision making when planning the Town's future. Both the Comprehensive Plan and building regulations must be regularly monitored for their effectiveness in preserving the values and characteristics which define this environment.

Open space is especially critical to Burrillville's cultural identity to:

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- Provide cleared undeveloped open spaces in a landscape dominated by forested or urbanized areas.
- Create unique edges between forests and cultivated or pastured fields.
- Maintain the rural character that is Burrillville's visual and cultural heritage.

Wetlands and watercourses also add to the rural character of Burrillville. Further, water resources have special inherent characteristics that have been documented as providing highly valued visual experiences. Steps must be taken to preserve the natural and aesthetic values these water resources offer and, where appropriate, make them accessible to the public.

**Examples of Visual and Aesthetic Resources** - The Town of Burrillville is characterized by areas of unique natural beauty. Views of rural areas, ridges, historic districts, farmlands, wetlands and wooded areas, together with rivers, ponds, reservoirs, and streams give the Town its special culture and character. Some examples include:

- Former Diamond Egg Farm on Stone Barn Road
- Western shoreline of Wallum Lake
- The sequence of old farms and fields on East Ironstone Road
- Views of woods around Round Pond

- Pine forests and shoreline of Wakefield Pond
- Wilson Reservoir with its surrounding pine forests and interesting shoreline
- The area along Knibb Road and Jackson Schoolhouse Road
- The mill pond and waterfall at East Avenue in Harrisville
- Harrisville Center
- The Oakland Triangle (corner of Whipple Avenue and Victory Highway)
- The Snake Hill ledges in Oakland, as seen from the Mapleville Bridge looking north
- The entire length of East Avenue (the State's consultant has suggested that East Avenue likely meets all the criteria associated with a Scenic Roadway)
- The ledges and Clear River in the historic Village of Pascoag
- The view of Spring Lake from the Overlook Deck at the Spring Lake Beach Recreation Facility
- White Mill Park located at the intersection of Route 100 and East Wallum Lake Road in Pascoag, and continuing north along East Wallum Lake Road
- A portion of Route 102, in its current, undeveloped state, is a scenic highway; and further development of the highway should maintain, to the extent possible, the existing scenic vistas
- Garvy Ledges (Reservoir Road, across from Union Pond boat ramp)

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- "Wolf Hill" behind Duck Pond on the Burrillville Bike Trail (this land is a large open space swath bounded by Chapel St, Mowry St, Latham Farm, South Main and Pascoag Main St.)
- Addieville East on Pheasant Drive in Mapeville, with its views, fields, wetlands, and active outdoor recreation, adds to the character of the town
- Mercantum Farm on Barnes Road and the forested lands out to Walling Lane
- Wright's Farm on Buxton Street & E. Ironstone Road

Additional scenic landscapes found in less visited areas are recognized to exist throughout the Town, and should receive equal attention to those identified above.

**Ways to Protect Visual and Aesthetic Resources** - Protection of these visually important spaces may be achieved through a variety of techniques, including:

- Acquisition of important and sensitive lands.
- Conservation restrictions - limits what an owner can do with their property and/or enables others to use the property for specific purposes. State law defines such restrictions. Conservation restrictions may be drafted to conform to almost any

situation, such as a restriction against cutting trees or removing stone walls.

- Purchase of development rights - acquisition of a conservation easement for the rights of development of a parcel to ensure preservation of the property as an undeveloped open space in perpetuity.
- Visual easements - a conservation restriction or easement which protects the visual or scenic elements of a parcel of land.
- Transfer of development rights - offers a person whose right to develop is restricted an opportunity to sell those rights to the owner of land in an area where the local government is prepared to allow development.
- Scenic design guidelines such as the following:<sup>26</sup>
  - Structures should not be placed in open fields
  - Buildings should be located adjacent to tree lines and wooded field edges so as to blend with the natural landscape
  - Homes should not front directly onto off-site streets
  - Where clustering will yield open space that can remain in active

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<sup>26</sup> Preserving Rural Character, Fred Heyer, American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report No. 429, and December 1990.

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- agriculture, its use should be explored and possibly required
- Existing farm and logging roads should be incorporated into subdivision design, linkages to open spaces, etc.
- Stone rows and tree lines should be preserved whenever possible
- Existing agricultural structures such as barns and silos should be preserved where feasible and maintained
- Outdoor lighting standards should limit the impacts of light pollution throughout the town, in order to help preserve the cultural, historical and spatial definition of the town and views of the night sky
- Roads should follow existing contours to reduce severe earthwork
- Disturbance for the construction of roads, stormwater basins and other improvements should be kept at a minimum and re-landscaped
- A minimum setback from lakes or ponds should be consistently maintained
- The maximum linear disturbance per lakefront lot should be limited, including docks, bulkheads, decks, walkways and beach areas
- Structures should not be placed on ridge lines
- Trees on ridges should not be removed
- Naturally vegetated areas between the new buildings and roads should be preserved and their alteration restricted
- The creation of extensive property line to property line lawn areas should be discouraged
- Building setback lines should be located to encourage development in the most suitable areas for development
- Building should be restricted in steep slope areas that require extensive clearing, and earthwork
- The maximum amount of natural vegetation on sloped sites should be preserved as much as possible

### **X.3 Historic and Cultural Resources - Existing Conditions, Trends, and Projections**

Burrillville's historic and cultural resources have been documented by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) through the local historic survey prepared in 1982.<sup>27</sup> This document presents a comprehensive inventory of the Town's historic resources and districts. The historical overview is presented in narrative

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<sup>27</sup> Historical and Architectural Resources, Burrillville, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1982.

form and is based on existing histories of Burrillville, most notably the HPC historic survey. This narrative, prepared by William M. Woodward of HPC, is designed to reflect a context for preservation activity and is not intended to be presented as a definitive history of Burrillville. The status of past historic preservation planning was derived from interviews with knowledgeable members of the Burrillville Historical Society.

**General Background** - Located in the northwest corner of the state, Burrillville has a variety of historic resources typical of rural, upland Rhode Island towns. The circumstances of the Town's geography and its relative remoteness, however, distinguish its historic character from that of neighboring towns. Burrillville experienced an early agricultural phase, industrialization in the nineteenth century, and continued residential and industrial growth in the twentieth century. Civic, religious, and educational structures, especially from the early twentieth century, remain as valuable indicators of Burrillville's history.

Topography is important to understand Burrillville's development. Glacial deposits, scouring of the soil as glaciers retreated, and long periods of erosion gave Burrillville an irregular topography, which formed settlement patterns and land use. A number of streams and small rivers cross

the Town, and small bodies of water include a number of natural lakes and several man-made reservoirs. The presence of moving water across the Town's landscape encouraged settlement and played an important role in industrial development before the advent of steam. The higher, rugged areas remained more thinly populated than the lower, broader, river valleys. Burrillville's natural resources, moreover, are important for recreation and leisure use and their aesthetic qualities.

**Pre-European Settlement** - Three Algonquin tribes inhabited northern Rhode Island before European settlement. The Nipmucs, including a small sub-tribe known as the Pascoags, who were subsidiary to the Narragansetts and Wampanoags, occupied the area now known as Burrillville. Limited archaeological sites associated with the Indians have been identified.

**Early Settlement** - The first English settler in Burrillville was probably John Smith, who came to the Tarkiln area probably around 1674 and later encouraged several friends and family members to settle there. While their earliest buildings no longer stand, the village that grew at Oak Valley/Tarkiln was one of the Town's earliest nodes.

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After nearly a century of English colonization, the rural western part of the state realized a sufficient number of residents who neither could not nor would not participate in town activities in Providence. In 1731 the northern and western sections of Providence County were set off as separate towns. Burrillville was part of the Town of Glocester. In 1800, residents of present-day Burrillville demanded separation from the Town of Glocester and in 1806 the Town of Burrillville was established.

**Eighteenth Century** - The eighteenth century settlement pattern of the Town was characterized by a rural population scattered about the Town with farms on the most arable land. Several early farmhouses survive in Burrillville, such as the M. Smith House (ca. 1750), on Victory Highway, the Asael Keach House (18th century) on Central Street, and the J. Milard House (ca. 1754) on East Wallum Lake Road, are all story-and-a-half-center-chimney dwellings. An unusual eighteenth-century form, seldom seen outside Burrillville, is the end-chimney house, somewhat reminiscent of the seventeenth-century stone-ender form and apparently built in two sections. Examples include the Esten House, on Mount Pleasant Road, the Ballou-Bligh House, on Joslin Road, and the Arca Walling House on Smith Hill Road.

**Nineteenth Century** - As agriculture prevailed in the eighteenth century, industry dominated in the nineteenth century. Aided by improvements in transportation and technology, sleepy hamlets became bustling mill villages that saw dramatic changes in physical form. Improvements in transportation began in 1805 with the construction of Douglas Pike (Route 7). Soon after, Walling's Hotel was built beside the route in Nasonville. Railroad service, from Providence in 1873 and from Woonsocket in 1893, came later, and its late arrival may well have limited the Town's growth potential in the nascent years of industrialization. Greater access to Burrillville followed the advent of the automobile and an improved road network, including the Victory Highway in 1922.

The Town's earliest industrial activity supported the agricultural economy and included sawmills and gristmills; these were in operation at Pascoag by 1746 and Wallum Lake by 1766. By the 1790's, small mills (all now gone) were active in Saxonville, Glendale, Harrisville, and Mapleville. Non-agricultural industry began to appear in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and grew rapidly: a machine shop in Harrisville in 1825, woolen mills in Huntsville and Gazzaville in the 1830's, eleven woolen mills in Town by 1850, and twenty-two woolen mills by 1856. At the outbreak of the Civil War,

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Burrillville's economy was clearly dominated by textile production. In addition to the mills, the villages that grew around them included mill offices and other auxiliary structures, dams, raceways, bridges, shops, institutional buildings, worker's housing, mill superintendent's housing, and occasionally mill owner's housing. Most of these villages remain but the early mills themselves have been lost to fire, though extensive rebuilding has occurred on original industrial sites. The remaining mill buildings still in use for commercial purposes are located in Glendale and Mohegan.

In response to the nineteenth-century population growth, schools, churches, and other institutions flourished. The first public school house was built in 1806, and others appeared in the 1820's.

Around this time the Town was divided into sixteen school districts each with their own schoolhouse. The Eagle Peak School (circa 1826) is still in existence today along with Bridgeton School House (now home to the Burrillville Historical Society) as well as a schoolhouse in Mapleville and new schools in Pascoag on South Main Street and Sayles Avenue –now a multi-family residence. In the latter part of the century, modern school buildings were constructed.

The Town's first religious structure was the Society of Friends Meeting-house (1791),

now much altered, in Mapleville. In the nineteenth century, religious diversification paralleled the Town's growth: Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, and, especially after 1850, Catholics achieved sufficient numbers to build nine new churches for their members. Important surviving churches include the First Baptist Church (1839) in Pascoag, the First Universalist Church (1886, 1933) in Harrisville, and the United Methodist Church (1893) in Glendale.

**Twentieth Century** - The Town's rural character attracted new institutional use, including a tuberculosis hospital (now the Zambarano Hospital Complex) at Wallum Lake in the 1908; Casimir Pulaski Memorial State Park in the 1930's, and the creation of several Management Areas.

Charles Fletcher located his Coronet Worsted Company in Mapleville in 1901 and added a new mill to that complex. Beginning in 1912, the presence of Austin T. Levy and his Stillwater Worsted Company had a profound effect on the Town. Not only did Levy purchase and operate existing mills, but also built large amounts of new worker's housing, including attractive Neo-Colonial houses in Harrisville from the 1920's through the early 1940's and modern pre-fabricated houses (unusual for Rhode Island) at Glendale in the 1930's. Levy also recast the

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village of Harrisville in a "New England Village" mode through his contributions of the Town Hall, the Assembly, the Ninth District Court, and the Jesse M. Smith Library, all designed by Jackson, Robertson & Adams in a Neo-Colonial style. The architecture of the First Universalist Church was changed from Victorian to Colonial Syle.

**Post World War II** - As the State underwent extensive suburbanization after World War II, Burrillville has received large numbers of new suburban residents. The construction of new houses, most of which are strung out along the Town's many roads, is a trend dissimilar to the strong village settlement pattern which characterized Burrillville's historic development. The Town retains, however, important groups of historic properties that reflect its agricultural beginnings, its industrial growth, and its civic development.

**Existing Historic Resources** - The HPC Preliminary Survey is the Town's primary list of properties considered important to Burrillville's history. Lists of historically significant properties are found in several different sources, including the National and State Register of Historic Places, and the local Historical Society files. The State of Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission's Preliminary Survey, 1982, also depicts a number of historic

properties, though not entirely comprehensive, according to those active in Burrillville historical preservation.

The inventory contains a listing of 230+ sites, comprising historic structures, municipal properties, parks, historic districts, houses of worship, and cemeteries. National Register and State Register sites are listed in the inventory as are other properties that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register or may be considered for local historic zoning.

The National Register of Historic Places includes the State's most important historic places, and is the nation's official list of significant historic properties worthy of preservation. Unless the owner applies for and receives special federal or state benefits, she/he can do anything with the property which is permitted by local ordinances.

Currently there are two districts in Burrillville which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Harrisville Mill Village Historic District, roughly bounded by Wood and Sherman Roads, East Avenue, Main, Chapel, School and River Streets; and the Oakland Historic District, including parts of Alice, Remington and Whipple Avenues, Victory Highway, Maple Lane, Mill, Pond River and School Streets. Map X-1 shows the general

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location of existing National Register of Historic Places listings in Burrillville, as well as potential historic districts and sites throughout the town.

The HPC has also prepared a list of properties which *may* be eligible for listing on the National Register or the State Register. These are shown on Table X-1. The list of potentially eligible properties is not to be considered complete. As new research is conducted, and as the Town changes, other potential candidates for the National Register may be identified.

Members of the Northwest Villages Conservancy (NVC) and BHS, in an effort to update the Preliminary Survey Report so that it accurately portrays the extent of the

historic resources in Town, conducted an informal follow-up survey. Members canvassed the Town for historic sites which were missed in the 1982 Survey. Many sites considered to be potentially significant were found on roads which had been overlooked in the original survey.

Table X-2 presents a preliminary listing of sites which should be considered for inventory and documentation by the HPC. The survey also revealed two areas which require further consideration for their merit as National Register Historic Districts. While the inventory is large, it is not complete. These sites and areas should be considered in future preservation planning efforts, and require a more detailed and formalized effort in documentation.

**Table X-1. Properties and Districts with Potential for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places**

	Name & Location	Potential (see Key)
1.	Pascoag Historic District (Main Street, Sayles Avenue, and Frank Potter Memorial Bridgeway)	+
2.	Sweet's Hill Historic District, East Avenue	#
3.	Smith-Nichols House, Colwell Road, Oakland-Tarkiln	#
4.	Albert L. Sayles Residence, Pascoag	#
5.	Logee-Whiting House, Buck Hill Road	#
6.	Asael Keach House, 18th Century, Central Street	#
7.	First Baptist Church, Church Street, Pascoag	#
8.	Calvary Episcopal Church, Church Street, Pascoag	#
9.	Nasonville School, Douglas Pike	+
10.	Nasonville Bridge, Douglas Pike, over Branch River	*

## Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

	Name & Location	Potential (see Key)
11.	Eagle Peak School, Eagle Peak Road	***
12.	J. Millard House/Barksfield, East Wallum Lake Road	#
13.	D. Smith House, Hill Road	#
14.	Ballou-Bligh House, Joslin Road	#
15.	D.H., Whipple House (Lawton House), 41 Main Street	***
16.	Esten Farm, Mount Pleasant Road	#
17.	House, Pole 353, Old Route 102	+
18.	S. Eddy House, Reservoir Road	#
19.	Young-Sherman House, Sherman Farm Road	#
20.	Arca Walling Homestead ,Smith Hill Road	#
21.	House, 78 South Main Street, Pascoag	+
22.	John White Farm, Spring Lake Road	+
23.	M. Smith House, Victory Highway	#
24.	Oakland Bridge, Victory Highway	*
25.	Brown Angell Farm/Singleton Farm, Wallum Lake Road	***
26.	A. Paine Farm, West Road	#
27.	Richardson-Arnold House, Round Top Road	***
28.	Smith-Darling Housing, Barnes Road	+

Source: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**Key:**

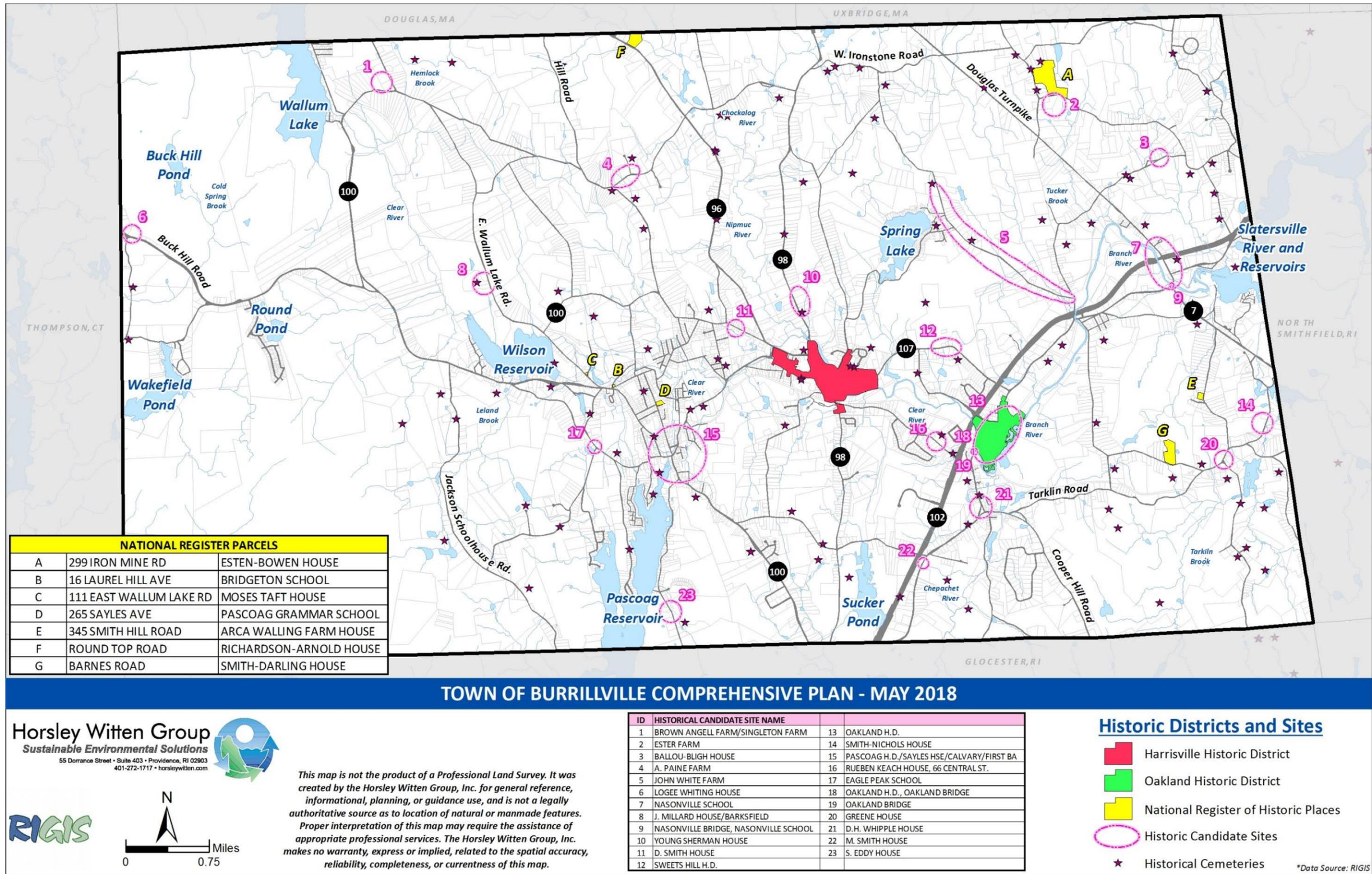
- # Recommended for National Register consideration in the Historical Preservation Commission survey publication
- \* Formally determined eligible for National Register listing by the National Park Service
- \*\*\* Review of preliminary materials by the State Review Board suggests the property may be eligible for the National Register.
- + Consideration requested or suggested for National Register by owner or other party (this category includes properties for which the State Review Board reviewed preliminary or final materials and found that it did not appear National Register eligible at the time)

## Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

**Table X-2. Historic Resources Requiring Documentation and Evaluation**

Street Name	Description
East Wallum Lake Road	Complete settlement with tannery and possible Indian graves
Wallum Lake Road	Richardson House
Wallum Lake Road	Gordon McLean House, hiding places for underground railroad
Wallum Lake Road	Ross Village District, mixture of vintage homes and styles.
Eagle Peak Road	Peck Farm, possible district along Eagle Peak Road.
Jackson Schoolhouse Road	Lorenzo house, cape with later additions.
Camp Dixie Road	Richard Carter house 18th century cape.
Rock Avenue	Dunn's House, with cemetery.
Sayles Avenue	Mill houses, Victorian & Queen Anne.
Laurel Hill Road	Victorian Houses.
Broad Street	Farm
High Street	Tanner Hill School, Greek Revival, two story.
South Main Street	Cattle impoundment, cemetery, stone walls.
Centennial Street	Two Capes
219 North Road	Chauvin farmhouse
Hill Road	Harold Lovejoy farm 1870's
Buxton Road	Cora Bates house, Cole-Segrave house stone structures.
Round Top Four Corners	Commercial Village District known as Tassle Top.
Broad Brook	Stone bottom house, old foundation.
#310 & #235 Collins-Taft Road	#310 Nice details some original windows, #235 high federal farmhouse pedimented gable.
Collins-Taft	Cattle impoundment, nice stone work.
East Ironstone Road	Cattle impoundment.
Spring Lake	Arcade, being restored, interesting artifacts of the period.
Central Street	House possibly site of early town meetings.
Central Street	Gable house.
Steere Farm Road	House.
Cooper Hill Road	8 identical single-family cottages

Sources: Burrillville Historical and Preservation Society, Northwest Villages Conservancy.



Map X-1. Historic Districts and Sites

## Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

The inventory of historic sites includes some 232 districts, buildings and sites, but is generally thought to be in need of further study, having been completed over 35 years ago. Few sites are currently protected through zoning, easements, historic districting or other measures. Sites which have been approved for the National Register have limited protection from potentially damaging federal programs and may be eligible for certain tax benefits and for federally funded matching grants-in-aid.

Future inventories of the Town's historic resources should be developed using criteria that objectively assess Burrillville's historic resources. These criteria may include building age, architectural style, building type, condition, and thematic associations. No one criterion is paramount. A structure not conforming to one criterion could still be listed if it was found to have significant merit under other criteria.

The age criterion should be the fifty-year limit used by the National Register of Historic Places. With certain exceptions, the Register will not consider for listing structures that are less than fifty years old. The same applies to the local historic properties inventory prepared by HPC.

Another criterion is architectural style. Structures that have been included in the

HPC local historic properties inventory in many cases are representative of a specific architectural style or local/regional building tradition. The condition criterion comes into play when assessing a structure's architectural style. Alterations to a structure that substantially mask or destroy a structure's architectural integrity could preclude its listing in the HPC inventory.

Thematic associations can refer to a structure's historical associations or to its contribution to an historic district's overall theme. In the case of the former, a structure could be included in the inventory if it was owned, occupied or built by an individual or organization notable in national, state or local history. In the case of the latter, a structure could be included in the inventory if it contributes to the overall theme of an identified historic area. Examples include any of the Levy buildings or mill housing.

### **X.4 Cultural Resource Issues and Historic Preservation Activities**

There have been three primary boards and commissions involved with the preservation of Burrillville's history, in addition to numerous individuals who have contributed informally over the years. The *Burrillville Historical and Preservation Society* was formed in the 1970s and continues to be an active group today. The

## Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

Society's primary purpose is to maintain the history of the Town, and specifically, the preservation of buildings and archives. Activities conducted by the Society include storage of Town archives, programs such as History Month (bus tours, slide shows, etc. funded through the State), historical programs for the local school system, and informational workshops and meetings. The Society is an independent group, and is supported by members, State funding for selected programs, etc.

Burrillville's *Historic District Commission* (HDC), in existence since 1981, was dissolved in 1988. The HDC was active in historic preservation activities and in promoting historic district zoning. The Commission was considered part of Town government, and was allotted meeting and storage space in Town Hall, as well as a small budget. The Commission played an important role in placing two historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places. Commission members' knowledge of the Town's historic resources was used extensively by the Preservation Commission in the preparation of their Preliminary Survey Report for the Town of Burrillville.

In February of 2003 the Burrillville Town Council motioned to re-establish the town's Historic District Commission. The HDC's primary responsibility was to create

Historic District Zoning which the town would then use to protect existing historic areas. However, after the Town Council decided against establishing Historic District Zoning, the HDC was dissolved again in 2005.

The effectiveness of preservation activities can be measured by the completeness of the resource inventory, and the degree to which historic districts, buildings and sites are protected from deterioration, demolition and unsympathetic renovation. Using these measures, Burrillville's preservation activities to date have been less than fully effective.

As pressure for development increases in Burrillville, it is possible that future projects will be undertaken by people who are unsympathetic to preservation goals. The Town recognizes the importance of expanding its tax base, of revitalizing its commercial centers, of reconstructing and, in some cases, of building new roadways. There is a need for the Town to establish stronger mechanisms through zoning and to find a means to protect historic properties, historic structures, bridges, and historic landscapes, as well as potential archaeological sites, and cemeteries and graveyards which may be impacted by such development.

**Evaluation of Known Threats to Historic Resources**

- Shifts in regional and local economies transformed Burrillville from a farming community to one dominated by manufacturing. Later changes in the national economy resulted in a geographic shift of manufacturing industries to Sun Belt states in the south leaving many of the mills in Burrillville vacant, and many of the once prominent mill villages underused and neglected. Residential development is the most recent prevailing growth to occur in Town. Many of the Town's historic resources are threatened by the combination of these forces and shifts in the economy and development patterns. A significant number of historic sites are threatened either by neglect or by development forces. Threatened resources fall into the following general categories:

1. Large mill complexes and associated mill housing
2. Individual or isolated structures scattered throughout Burrillville
3. Cemeteries and graveyards
4. Historic landscapes and farms
5. Town archives

**Mill Complexes** - Historic mills and mill complexes in Burrillville comprise a large portion of the Town's historic resources. In some cases all that remains of these once imposing structures are foundations, dams or water works; other structures have been

updated and changed over the years so that only remnants of the original buildings remain. Mill structures which may be in jeopardy include:

- Glendale Mills (west side of Branch River - Bruin Plastics)
- Mohegan Mill (on Branch River - now home to Atlas Pallet)
- Nasonville Mill (on Douglas Pike, backing on Branch River)

**Individual or Isolated Structures** - The following is a list of individual structures that are not part of potential districts. They are generally isolated from other historic structures and therefore are at some risk. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive; rather, it represents significant examples that typify preservation threats:

*Esten Farm* - A 1 1/2-story farmhouse, built in two sections, like several other early Burrillville rural dwellings, with a traditional 5-bay, center entry, a center chimney section at the right, and higher, 2-bay end chimney section at the left. The house is set on a slight hilltop in the center of a large working farm, which includes a 20th century barn and fields divided by stone walls. The Estens were early settlers in this area. John Esten, who built this house, was a member of the first Town Council when the Town was incorporated in 1806; his family and descendants lived here into the

## Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

20th century. The property is one of Burrillville's last surviving working farms. The site of this house is threatened by lack of general upkeep, and development pressures.

*Richardson Farm* - on West Ironstone Road, across from the lumber company. Currently an active farm, with an historic historic house and outbuildings. Potential threat from development pressures.

*Sweet's Hill Farm* - on East Avenue. House on site is in preservable condition, but the site has been the target of recent development proposals, and includes a large amount of land with limited constraints to development.

**Cemeteries and Graveyards** – Burrillville has about 130 historical cemeteries. All historic cemeteries and graveyards are presently at risk, and hidden graveyards are at special risk. Burrillville developed as an agricultural community and many of its farmsteads incorporated family graveyards. While many farms have disappeared with the advance of suburban development, the graveyards remain and can be found today throughout the Town. These graveyards are claimed by no one, but exist as private rather than public property. While theoretically protected from development, they are threatened by the development of adjacent land, vandalism,

and neglect. The Burrillville Historical & Preservation Society operates a location and maintenance program regarding cemeteries.

**Historic Agricultural Landscapes** - Farming has been an important character-defining activity in Burrillville well into the twentieth century, and farm complexes that evolved over time are important in defining the Town's character. Barns, corncribs, sheds, stone walls, orchards, and open fields are among the agricultural resources common to the rural landscape.

Burrillville slowly experienced changes in its physical environment as farmland has been converted into residential subdivisions, as well as scattered commercial and industrial developments. Recent development has often focused on farmland, and Burrillville now retains only a few remaining farmsteads. These historic landscapes tell the story of the Town's agricultural past. All are threatened by encroaching development and escalating property values.

**Archaeological Sites** - The Historical Preservation Commission and the State Archaeologists' Office have identified six archaeological sites which are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. These sites include areas of prehistoric or historic

nature, and include Native American burial grounds. No archaeological sites in Burrillville are currently listed on the Register.

#### **X.5 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

The ultimate goal of this Plan is to preserve and protect the natural, historical, cultural, and archaeological resources and natural heritage of the Town. The following goals, policies, and implementation actions lead to the achievement of this vision.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

Historic and Cultural Resource Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
<p>X.1. Identify and preserve Burrillville's historic sites, structures, documents and artifacts as representations of the Town's cultural heritage.</p>	<p>X.1.a. Maintain the notion of establishing a formal Town-supported board/commission to develop the regulations necessary to preserve the Town's historic sites, structures, and artifacts.</p>	<p>X.1.a.1. Reestablish the Burrillville Historic District Commission (HDC) by enactment of the Town Council, in order to explore establishing one or more historic districts in town.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>TC</p>
		<p>X.1.a.2. The Town Planner, Planning Board, Town Council and HDC should cooperatively prepare an up-to-date inventory of historic resources as well as voluntary design guidelines for adoption as part of any historic district regulations.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB, TC, HDC</p>
		<p>X.1.a.3. Establish an environmental review process within the subdivision regulations and site plan review process which will permit the Planning Board to request an on-site archaeological investigation if the State Archaeologist indicates there is potential for an archaeological site on the premises.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
	<p>X.1.b. Establish land use regulations and/or incentives to help preserve the Town's historic sites, structures and artifacts, including but not limited to, cemeteries, stone walls, and trees.</p>	<p>X.1.b.1. Revise the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assisted housing rehabilitation program to give special consideration to historic structures, and suggest compliance with historic district guidelines, whenever appropriate.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>TP, TC</p>
		<p>X.1.b.2. Explore cost-effective options for providing suitable space to archive historical Town records and materials, preferably climate-controlled.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>HDC</p>

Chapter X: Historic & Cultural Resources

Historic and Cultural Resource Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		X.1.b.3. Explore options for instituting a demolition delay ordinance to give the Town time to negotiate alternatives to demolition of historic buildings.	Intermediate	HDC, BO
		X.1.b.4. Solicit professional and/or academically oriented archaeological investigations of known or potential pre-colonial and colonial sites, including projects by local colleges and universities.	Long Term	HDC
		X.1.b.5. Explore options for local incentives to encourage preservation of remaining privately-owned historic buildings and resources, with a particular emphasis on mill buildings and stone walls.	Long Term	HDC
		X.1.c.1. Provide support through the Historical Society and other groups for public education on historic and cultural resources, including, but not limited to, activities such as workshops, forums, historic house tours, information packets and living and learning centers, etc.	Intermediate	HDC
		X.1.c.2. Actively promote the Town as an area rich in historic resources of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Focus on the mill villages throughout the Town.	Intermediate	HDC
X.2. Promote an appreciation for and understanding of Burrillville's historic resources.	X.2.a. Educate the public about the importance of preserving historic resources.	X.2.a.1. Encourage the schools to expand educational efforts and resources committed to teaching about local history such as promoting volunteer participation and other efforts.	Intermediate	HDC

## Chapter XI - Land Use



### **XI.1 Introduction**

Land use is both the determinant of, and a response to, the character of a community. Existing land use patterns are the physical expression of numerous public and private decisions which have been made in the past; in turn, patterns of existing land use have a substantial impact on the rate, location and type of growth which will occur in the future.

Land use considerations are closely related to virtually every other facet of community planning. Each piece of the Comprehensive Plan, which addresses population, housing, the local economy, community services and facilities, and transportation, relates in some way to land use. For example, the economic development strategy is, in part, a land use recommendation since it recommends the allocation of land for industrial and commercial purposes. The land use plan is a synthesis of land use considerations and recommendations of the Plan.

Much of Burrillville's planning and future decision-making revolves around the proper use of manmade and natural resources. Manmade resources include public water and sewer systems, the road network, public and private buildings, parking areas and community facilities. The Town's natural resources include its forests, surface and groundwater, scenic

views, clean air, wildlife, minerals, and soils. They present both opportunities and constraints to development, and must be conserved or used with care, so as not to preclude their continued use. Historically, development has shown that some areas are naturally more suitable for a particular use than others. If Burrillville is to protect its natural resources and provide a high quality of life for its citizens, the capability of its natural resources to accommodate development must be respected.

### **XI.2 Existing Conditions, Trends, and Projections**

The following sections describe historic land use patterns, recent land use trends, and projections for the future land use of the community. The Town continues to consult and coordinate with all its abutting neighboring towns in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

**Historic Land Use Patterns** – Since its founding as a town in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Burrillville's land use has been dominated by village centers, many of them positioned adjacent to and around mills. However, as the State underwent extensive suburbanization after World War II, Burrillville received large numbers of new suburban residents. The construction of new houses, most of which are strung out along the Town's many roads, is a trend dissimilar to the strong village settlement

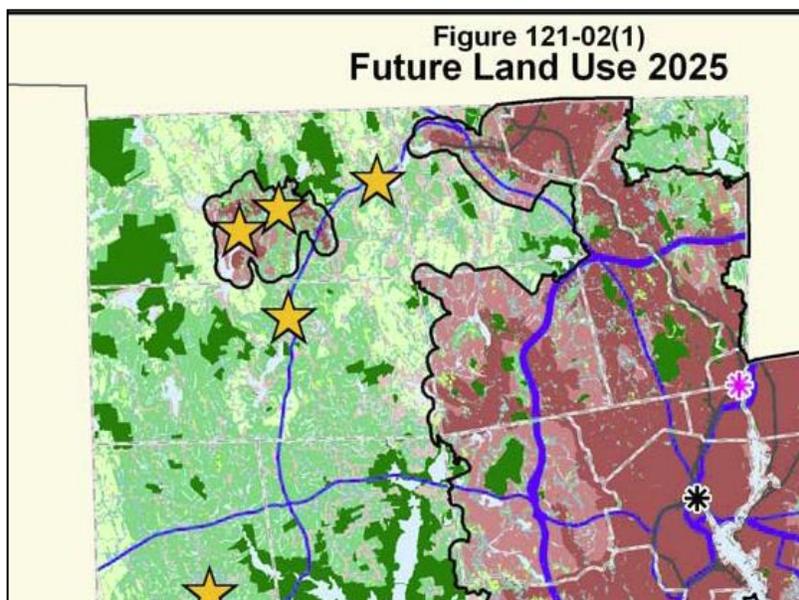
pattern which characterized Burrillville's historic development.

This plan intends to continue the efforts of Burrillville's 2004 Comprehensive Plan in reversing that trend of suburban development and refocusing on land use in the Town's urban and village centers. Moreover, this chapter and accompanying chapters is consistent with Rhode Island's Land Use Plan, Land Use 2025, which sets forth the following key recommendations that relate to land use:

1. Sustain Rhode Island's unique character through use of an Urban Services Boundary, rural centers, and holistic approaches to planning;

2. Create permanent greenspace throughout the rural, urban, and waterfront areas;
3. Develop concentrated well-designed centers, neighborhoods, and special places;
4. Create a diverse and affordable housing stock;
5. Coordinate public infrastructure with development.

The picture below depicts several "stars" where Land Use 2025 generally envisions village center development. Stars in the areas of Pascoag, Harrisville, and Nasonville are consistent with where Burrillville is focusing its land use efforts, mainly in terms of mill and/or brownsfield redevelopments.



**Recent Land Use Trends** – As Burrillville continues to suburbanize, the total acreage

dedicated to land uses such as residential should increase. As shown on Table XI-1

## Chapter XI: Land Use

and Map XI-1, a substantial amount of Burrillville remains largely undeveloped and forested. However, the demands associated by large lots and frontages within the F-5 zoning district leave little land for development ‘by-right’ without having to file dimensional variance petitions. Therefore, despite a vast amount of undeveloped land area in town, a majority is already legally subdivided. Land use data was calculated utilizing RIGIS

Land Use Land Cover for 2004 and 2011. Roughly 10 percent of the Town’s land area is currently utilized as residential, which increased 6.5 percent since 2004. Just over 25 percent of the town’s land area is utilized as conservation land; a large percentage of which is RIDEM Game Lands in addition to local lands participating in the State’s Farm Forest and Open Space program.

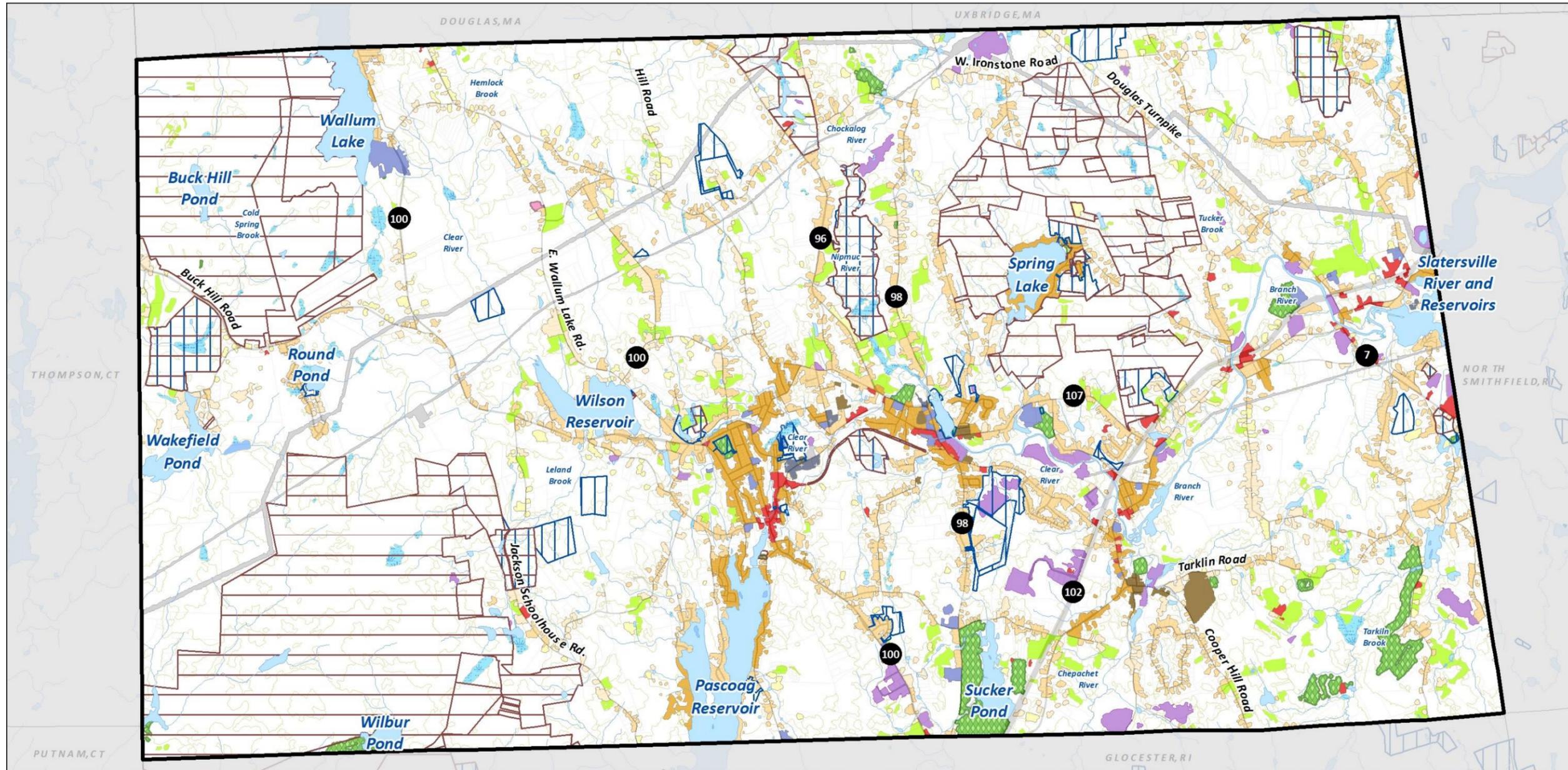
**Table XI-1. Land Use Trends, 2004-2011**

	Acres	Percent of Total		Acres	Percent of Total	Percent Change
2004			2011			
Residential	3,288	9.4%	Residential	3,504	10.0%	+6.5%
Commercial	136	0.4%	Commercial	146	0.4%	+7.4%
Industrial	369	1.1%	Industrial	390	1.1%	+5.7%
Gov't/Institutional	128	0.4%	Gov't/Institutional	132	0.4%	+3.1%
Recreation	299	0.9%	Recreation	353	1.0%	+18.1%
Conservation	7,355	20.9%	Conservation	9,018	25.7%	+22.6%
Agriculture	880	2.5%	Agriculture	902	2.6%	+2.5%
Undeveloped Land	22,287	63.4%	Undeveloped Land	20,302	57.8%	-8.9%
Other	390	1.1%	Other	391	1.1%	+0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,132</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>35,138</b>		

In order to have a fair comparison, Table XI-1 above uses data from the RIGIS Land Use Land Cover (2004) layer, rather than the data used in Burrillville’s 2004 Comprehensive Plan (which was a combination of RIGIS and local data). This is compared with the same RIGIS layer from 2011, the most recent available. The one exception is Conservation Land, which the RIGIS data layer does not include. Conservation Land for 2004 was taken from

the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, and then subtracted from the total Undeveloped Land. Conservation Land for 2011 was taken from the most recent RIGIS data for State and Local Conservation areas, and then subtracted from the total Undeveloped Land.

Overall, land use remained fairly stable over the course of this time period. It is to be expected that all categories increased

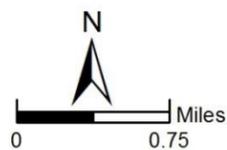


**TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018**

**Horsley Witten Group**  
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
 55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com



**RIGIS**



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**Existing Land Use**

- Agricultural
- Cemeteries
- Commercial
- Commercial/Industrial Mixed
- Developed Recreation

- Industrial/Manufacturing
- Institutional
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Medium High Density Residential

- High Density Residential
- Transportation & Utilities
- Undeveloped
- Water
- Wetland
- State Conservation Areas
- Local Conservation Areas

\*Data Source: RIGIS

**Map XI-1. Existing Land Use**

somewhat in area, with the exception of Undeveloped Land. The decrease in Undeveloped Land is largely the result of additional conservation efforts, though a small increase in residential development (200+ acres) accounts for some of this as well. And while a very small difference in terms of raw acres, it is encouraging to see that the share of recreation and agriculture land uses has increased. The increase in recreation reflects the success of the Town's recent investments, and any increase in agriculture is a success in Rhode Island, which has some of the highest-cost agricultural land in the country.

Note that due to small differences in methodology, the total land area calculated for Burrillville in 2004 and 2011 are off by six acres. This total does not include water bodies.

**Land Use Map** - An existing land use map was prepared for the Comprehensive Plan based upon RIGIS Land Use and Land Cover (2011) data. A generalized version of this map is shown on Map XI-1.

**Land Capability Analysis** - The land capability analysis is a method of determining how much development is feasible in a given area based on different zoning scenarios and combinations of environmental constraints. Every community has a carrying capacity for development. Theoretically, that capacity

is reached when every buildable parcel of land is subdivided so that it satisfies the minimum zoning requirements. Once the land is subdivided, residences and businesses are assumed to be constructed on the developable parcels according to the zoning ordinance.

It is possible for towns to reach this theoretical capacity; however, it is unlikely because some developable land can be expected to remain in lower intensity uses, such as recreation, agricultural, open space, etc.

With historical building records and a series of assumptions, it is possible to estimate when a town will reach its development capacity. For example, if it is determined that build-out will be reached with the addition of 3,000 housing units, and an average of 150 permits for new residences were issued per year in the last decade, it is estimated that it will take approximately 20 years to reach build-out (3,000 units/150 units per year = 20 years). Factors such as the economy, technology, and environmental regulation will affect the development rate, and no amount of historical analysis will enable an accurate depiction of the rate at which development will occur in the future. In any given decade there are likely to be peaks and valleys in the economy which will affect the development rate. The period of the mid 1980's to early 1990's serves as a good

example of how swings in the economy affect the rate at which development occurs. The boom economy of the mid 1980's saw a sharp increase in residential development. However, by the early 1990's, which were characterized as a crisis economy, residential building rates had decreased dramatically.

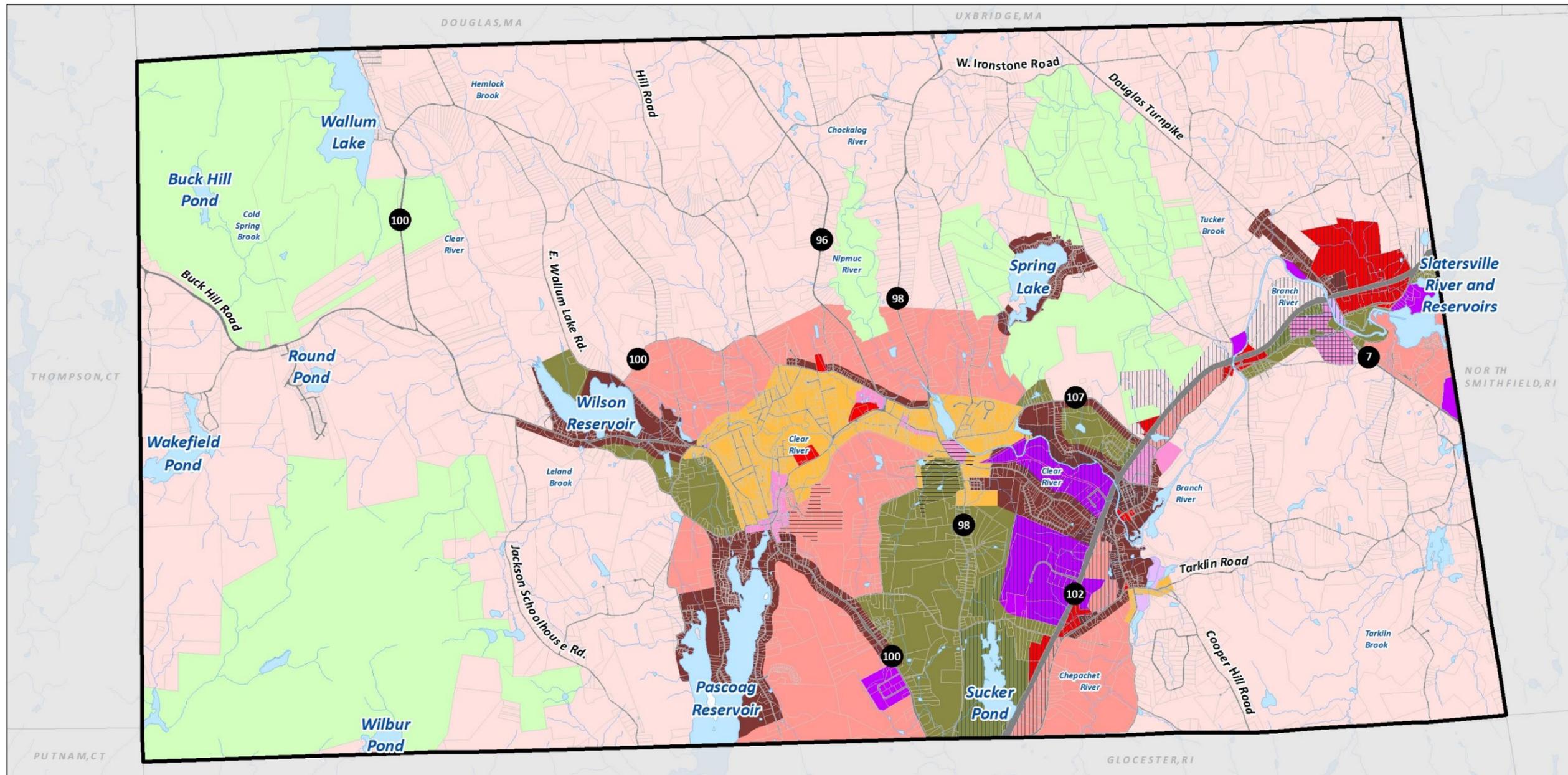
The ability to predict the amount of development that can occur is vital for a town that is attempting the long-range planning of services. Reliable information regarding the development potential of the town is essential for the various departments to plan for increases in service demand. The great expense associated with capital improvements makes it necessary for towns to start budgeting for them well in advance of the actual need. Understanding the potential future population of the town based on the land capability analysis will allow a town to avoid making costly incremental decisions regarding capital improvements.

The land capability analysis considers existing land use, undeveloped land, developable land, number of residential units, and square feet of industrial and commercial space permitted by current zoning, other zoning ordinance requirements, and the natural capability of the land to support development. Based upon the amount of available land, the number of housing units or square feet of

commercial or industrial space, which could potentially develop in a specified area, was estimated.

*Assumptions* - The following assumptions were employed in this analysis.

1. All land (lots) not currently actively developed was defined as undeveloped land. Prime agricultural land is included as undeveloped land because of its unprotected nature and generally good development conditions.
2. To determine development potential of the undeveloped land, various environmental conditions were considered, including soils with limited development capability, flood zones, existing roads and water bodies, and wetlands. These areas were extrapolated from mapping prepared by the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS). These constraints were all mapped and layered upon the Town's zoning map (see Map XI.2), allowing the calculation of the specific amount of constrained acres of land in each zoning district.
3. The Village Planned Development – Land Development Project Inclusionary Overlay Zone Ordinance (Section 11-8.9 of the Burrillville Zoning Code) and associated lot potential density bonuses, which expand the R-12 zone district to several lots zoned R-40, F-2 and F-5, was applied to the saturation

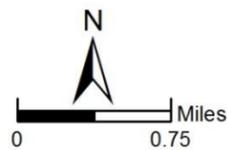


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**RIGIS**



**Existing Zoning Districts**

- |                                   |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Farming/Residential               | Open Space (state land)           | Route 102 DMD Overlay Zone |
| Farming/Residential               | Village Residential               | VPD Overlay Zone           |
| General Commercial (formerly C-2) | Suburban Residential              |                            |
| General Industrial (formerly M-2) | Suburban Residential              |                            |
| Limited Industrial (formerly M-1) | Village Commercial (formerly C-1) |                            |

\*Data Source: RIGIS

**Map XI-2. Existing Zoning Districts**

## Chapter XI: Land Use

figures. However, since this calculation was performed for the last iteration of the Comprehensive Plan, most of the Village Planned Development areas have been built to capacity, or close to it. Nasonville remains the one village with significant development capacity, with the potential ability to accommodate approximately another 157 homes.

4. Current population is assumed to be 16,214 persons (per the 2016 American Community Survey). There are approximately 6,465 existing housing units with 100 percent occupancy assumed.

5. Current household size is therefore assumed to be 2.51 persons (16,214 persons / 6,465 housing units = 2.51 persons per household).
6. Current minimum lot sizes, and lot coverages were assumed in determining the potential number of housing units and square footage of commercial and industrial space. This analysis includes the three sub-districts of the Aquifer Overlay Zone, which generally increase the minimum lot area and decrease the maximum lot coverage of the underlying zoning (between the underlying zoning and the overlay, the stricter standards apply). These are as follows:

Zone District	Minimum Lot Area (Acres or Sq. Feet)	Lot Coverage (Percent)
F-5	5 Acres	20
F-2	2 Acres	15
R-40	40,000	15
R-20	20,000	25
R-12	12,000	25
VC	20,000	30
GC	20,000	25
LI	20,000	25
GI	NA	25
<u>O-1</u>	<u>5 Acres</u>	<u>20</u>
<b>Aquifer Overlay</b>		
A-80	80,000	15
A-100	100,000	8
<u>A-120</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>5</u>

Source: Burrillville Zoning Regulations, 2018

7. To determine the estimated development trends over the life of this Plan, projections were made, assuming

more recent annual growth rates. Annual rates computed for residential uses were based on recent residential

building permit trends. For the period 2010 to 2016, 25 +/- new units per year are estimated.

*Methodology* - The land capability analysis involves the following steps:

1. **Mapping Development Constraints** - Soil types and other constraints were mapped on computer using RIGIS data layers. Areas mapped as constraints and removed for consideration as developable land include:
  - Hydric Soils/Wetlands
  - Seasonal high water tables
  - Waterbodies
  - Severe constraints related to bedrock, boulders, sand, etc.
2. **Mapping vacant developable land** - The next step involved creating a map which illustrates vacant, developable land. This involved overlaying the undeveloped land areas with the environmental constraint map. RIGIS Land Use/Land Cover data was used to identify all vacant land.

**Mapping zoning districts** - The Town's zoning map (see Map XI-2), including the Aquifer Overlay Zone, is superimposed upon the vacant developable land map, and forms the basis for calculating the potential number of dwelling units, commercial and industrial space, and

population that the Town can accommodate.

3. **Measurement of vacant developable land by zoning districts** - Each area of vacant developable land is measured. These areas are then totaled to give an indication of vacant developable land in each zoning district, including each of the three sub-districts of the Aquifer Overlay Zone.
4. **Subtraction of a percentage for roads and infrastructure** - In order to estimate future development potential, a factor must be subtracted to account for land that would be used for roads, sidewalks, service easements and municipal uses, as well as non-conforming lots and thus would not be available for development. The State's Comprehensive Planning Guidance manual suggests subtracting 10-30% of land area for such uses. Burrillville is taking the middle of this approach and assumes a 20% subtraction.
5. **Calculation of the number of dwelling units** - Once total developable land is calculated, the next step is to determine the number of dwelling units per residential zoning district. This is based upon the minimum lot requirements as specified by the zoning regulations.

6. Calculation of square feet of commercial and industrial space - This is determined in the same manner as residential land, taking into account maximum lot coverage as allowed by the Burrillville Zoning Ordinance, as well as building height.
7. Calculation of potential build-out population - The build-out population is calculated based on the total number of new dwelling units that can potentially be built. This number is multiplied by the Town's average household size to give the total saturation or build-out population. The additional number of dwellings and population is then added to the 2016 figures. This can be used to estimate the need for future facilities, services and infrastructure.

*Results* - The Town has approximately 27,230 acres of residentially zoned land, 589 acres of commercial-zoned land and 588 acres of industrial-zoned land (see Summary Table XI-2).

*Residential Land* - Of the existing residential-zoned land, about 3.4 percent is

zoned R-12, 5.1 percent is zoned R-20, 6.2 percent is zoned R-40, 11.2 percent is zoned F-2 and 74.1 percent is zoned F-5.

Of the Town's existing residential-zoned land, approximately 5,006 acres are undeveloped and unconstrained. By subtracting out a 20% estimate for new roads and infrastructure, the total amount of land available for development is 4,005 acres. This could potentially yield 1,754+/- housing units based on the assumptions of this analysis.

It is estimated that, based on historic annual growth rates and recent state and local subdivision policies, approximately 25+/- new housing units, on average, will be built annually over the next ten years. At this rate, it would take over 70 years for the Town to reach its residential build out. The Town's 2004 Comprehensive Plan assumed 47+/- new housing units per year. Even assuming the real estate market improves to that level (which was during the lead up to the Great Recession of 2008), build out will be over 37 years in the future. The reality will probably be somewhere in between.

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Table XI-2. Land Capability Analysis Summary Table - Town Wide Data

Zoning District	Total Acres	Developable Acres	Roads/ Infrastructure Reduction	Total Developable Acres	Potential Development
Notes 1	2	3	4		5
<b>Residential</b>	<b>27,230</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>(Housing Units)</b>
<b>F-5</b>	<b>20,180</b>	<b>3,185</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>2,548</b>	<b>510</b>
<b>F-2</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>291</b>
F-2/A-100		107	21	86	37
F-2/A-120		71	14	57	21
F-2/NA		583	117	466	233
<b>R-40</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>458</b>
R-40/A-80		257	51	206	112
R-40/A-100		33	7	26	11
R-40/A-120		7	1	6	2
R-40/No A		383	77	306	333
<b>R-20</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>261</b>
R-20/A-80		45	9	36	20
R-20/A-100		32	6	26	11
R-20/A-120		26	5	21	8
R-20/No A		127	25	102	222
<b>R-12</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>77</b>
R-12/A-80		50	10	40	22
R-12/A-100		61	12	49	21
R-12/A-120		31	6	25	9
R-12/No A		9	2	7	25
<b>VPD Overlay Zone</b>				<b>72.3 *</b>	<b>157</b>
Subtotal					1,754
<b>Commercial (GC and VC)</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>106</b>	
<b>Industrial (GI and LI)</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>227</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,407</b>	<b>5,423</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>1,754</b>
<b>Total residential units</b>				<b>6,465 + 1,754 = 8,219</b>	

Notes:

1 For each residential zone with a minimum lot size *smaller* than those required by the Aquifer Overlay Zone, they have been divided into areas that are part of the A-80, A-100 or A-120 sub-districts and areas that are not part of the overlay or where the underlying zoning is *stricter* than the overlay (NA – Not Applicable)

2 RIGIS

3 After removing constrained lands

4 Deduct 20% average for roads and infrastructure

5 Extrapolate zone district minimums

\* Does not include area for redevelopment projects

*Population Saturation* - Population saturation is defined as the number of people the Town could support if all its developable land were developed under existing zoning regulations. Based upon the number of new housing units predicted, the current average household size, and future population projections, the ultimate saturation population for Burrillville was estimated to be 20,222 +/- people. If the VPD-LDP Overlay Zone is utilized to the fullest extent possible, an estimated population of 20,617+/- is projected.

*Commercial Land* - There are approximately 106 acres of developable commercially zoned land in the Town, of which about 84% is located in the Aquifer Overlay Zone, reducing the maximum permitted lot coverage and therefore the development potential of this land. With the overlay coverages taken into account, these parcels could yield a potential 658,409 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor. If all of this land was built out to maximum capacity with three-story buildings, fully occupied by commercial uses, this total could be as high as nearly 2,000,000 square feet. However, such a scenario is unlikely as many multi-story commercial buildings will likely opt to have residential uses on the upper floors, particularly in the Village Commercial districts (which encompass the villages of

Harrisville and Pascoag), and many will not be built to the full height allowed.

Based on recent land use growth trends within Rhode Island's decreasing office space market, it is estimated that existing commercial space will not be built out any time soon. However, this will partly depend on how much of the potential commercial square footage will end up being developed for residential uses.

*Industrial Land* - There are 227 acres of developable industrial-zoned land in Burrillville, of which about 47% is located in the Aquifer Overlay Zone, reducing the maximum permitted lot coverage and therefore the development potential of this land. With the overlay coverages taken into account, these parcels could yield approximately 1,722,362 potential square feet of additional ground floor industrial space. If all of this land was built out to maximum capacity with three-story buildings, fully occupied by industrial uses, this total could be as high as 5,167,086 square feet, or even greater if property owners take advantage of the zoning ordinance's allowance for taller industrial buildings if upper floors comply with additional setbacks. However, such a scenario is unlikely as much modern manufacturing and other industrial uses prefer single-story structures. The largest area of developable industrial land is in the Burrillville Commerce Park, located on Route 102. Remaining land exists in the

## Chapter XI: Land Use

Clear River Industrial Park, property along Clear River Drive, and existing redeveloped mill sites.

*Summary* - Two factors will control the Town's residential development in the future: 1) Natural constraints, including steep slopes and poor soils, limiting the extent of development and 2) Extensive areas of large lot zoning (F-5). Over 20,000 acres of land in the Town is zoned as F-5, of which less than 16 percent is considered developable.

This shows the influence that large lot zoning will have upon the Town's growth in the future. As shown in Table XI-2 above, the F-5 zoning district, which makes up over 74% of the residentially zoned land in town, is likely to accommodate only another 510 homes at build out, or about 29% of the total. This in itself is a controlled growth mechanism, which will help the Town minimize future costs associated with providing services for new residents. However, it is not without its own inherent problems - long narrow frontage lots carved along public roads detracting from the overall rural atmosphere of the Town, long driveways potentially creating erosion problems, dispersed development of less energy efficiency, higher costs associated with police patrols in servicing the larger developed area, etc. Town policy with regards to providing additional village-type

development and creating site development guidelines for large lot zones is expected to relieve these concerns.

The land capability analysis looks at the Town in a selected moment in time, and cannot account for changing economic, social or governmental conditions. The priorities of the Town in terms of providing affordable housing and economic development opportunities have been incorporated into the analysis, and the Town will continue to make efforts to see that much of the projected future development and population growth occurs in the village centers and in areas with public sewers and water. The proposed redevelopment of Nasonville, which could result in 7% more housing units than the total build out analysis predicts, remains an opportunity to absorb some of the expected growth if sewer and water service are extended there.

The future land use map, Map XI.3, depicts the increased land use density within the village areas in order to create consistency between this plan and the VPD Overlay Zone, which is part of the zoning ordinance. Additionally, to protect the rural character and water quality of the Town's lakes and ponds, including but not limited to Pascoag Reservoir, Wilson's Reservoir, and Wallum Lake, the future land use map supports the maintenance of low density rural land use

intensity around those water bodies located outside the village centers.

### **XI.3 Land Use Issues**

The following issues have been identified as important to the Town's planning process over the next five years, and beyond.

**Substandard Areas** - It is found that there exists blighted and substandard areas at and near the following sites: **Harrisville Village**: the former Granite Mill Site, bound by River Street, Chapel Street and Callahan School Street; Chapel Street, from Union Street to Harrisville Main Street; **Oakland Village**: the former Remington Lumber Mill Site, bound by Victory Highway, East River Street and Oak Street; the former Cove Manufacturing Mill site located at the end of Mill Street; **Pascoag Village District A**: beginning at intersection of South Main Street and Reservoir Road to High Street, including the block of Pascoag Main Street including Bridge Way, Sayles Avenue and Pascoag Main Street; **Pascoag Village District B**: western side of North Main

Street, both sides of Grove Street and a portion of Centennial Street. **Specific Mill Sites**: Metech Mill site on Mapleville Main Street in Mapleville, and the former Pliant Corporation Mill on Douglas Pike in Nasonville.

These areas exhibit one or more of the following deficiencies: inappropriate platting and street configuration, functional obsolescence, and deterioration of site improvements, all of which are impairing each of the villages' revitalization and growth. Said deficiencies are perpetuating deterioration to the point where natural market forces alone fail to function as a redevelopment mechanism. In addition, low morale and complex ownership issues are prevalent and contributing to village decline yielding community liabilities in some cases, specifically within abandoned mill sites, requiring redevelopment in the interest of the health, safety, morale, and general welfare of the Town of Burrillville and its residents.

### ***Spotlight on Nasonville***

The backbone of Burrillville's land use strategy is to encourage new development and redevelopment within the Town's existing village centers, while discouraging development in more rural parts of town. The village of Nasonville, located near the intersection of Route 7 and Route 102, is one of the last remaining villages in Burrillville that has yet to see redevelopment. Redevelopment projects at Stillwater Mill and elsewhere in downtown Harrisville have been very successful, and Harrisville is now largely built out. Similar work in downtown Pascoag is under development, and this area will also be largely built out in the near future.

Nasonville is traditionally anchored by the mill complex at 770 Douglas Pike, on the southwest corner of Routes 7 and 102. Other notable features include the Western Hotel, Uncle Ronnie's Red Tavern, Wright's Farm & Restaurant, the Nasonville Volunteer Fire Department, and the nearby Burrillville Middle School. The area around this mill complex, formerly occupied by Turex, has been identified by the BRA as a redevelopment area, and the area is also mapped as a VPD Overlay Zone on the Town's zoning map. Before the 2008 recession and the elimination of the State's historic preservation tax credit, the mill and its surroundings were slated for a mix of residential and commercial redevelopment. While these plans were stalled, the State's improving economy and the introduction of new financing incentives at Commerce RI, make redevelopment feasible again. The Town and the BRA will be working to actively market the mill for redevelopment, and searching for subsidies and incentives that can help fill any financing gaps. At the same time, the BRA will be exploring the best options for other properties surrounding this mill complex, in order to promote development that serves as a better gateway to Nasonville.

While the redevelopment of the mill may be the centerpiece of a revitalized Nasonville, there are many other issues to address and opportunities to explore that will impact the success of Nasonville's redevelopment:

**Water & Sewer:** Currently, there is no public water or sewer in this area, and this will have to be addressed before any significant redevelopment takes place. This could include the extension of existing water and sewer lines, installation of smaller package plants to service individual developments, or a combination of the two. The Nasonville Water Department is generally too small to accommodate much new development, and connections to the Harrisville system may not be feasible. Existing sewer lines are located very nearby, but need to cross the Branch River in order to serve the whole village. Fortunately, the aquifer in this area appears to be robust.

**Circulation:** Nasonville is divided by the Branch River and an associated canal. Currently, there are only two bridges that cross the Branch River in Nasonville: One on Route 7 and the other on Route 102. The bridge on Route 7 is quite narrow, with a very small shoulder. It is also located at an awkward intersection with Victory Highway. Consequently, it is very unsafe for people to walk or bike across this bridge, isolating parts of the village from each other, even though they are quite close. The repair or replacement of this bridge is part of the State's Transportation Improvement Program, and the Town will explore options with RIDOT for widening and redesigning the bridge to more safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. If this is not

possible, the Town will also be exploring options for building a foot bridge over the river that would be open strictly to pedestrians and bicyclists. Either way, this connection needs to be made. Another consideration for circulation infrastructure in Nasonville is its existing dams, many of which are in poor condition. The Town will continue to work with RIDEM to make sure dams are in good repair or are removed, as appropriate. New, sturdier dam infrastructure may also be integrated into the pedestrian and bicycle circulation infrastructure of the village.

**New Housing Types:** Conversion of mill buildings into apartment or condominium homes is something that Burrillville now has plenty of experience with, and existing zoning has been designed to accommodate and encourage such housing. However, other areas of Nasonville may be appropriate for housing types that are not neatly accommodated by current zoning. For example, as discussed in the Housing Chapter, there is a continued demand for housing for active older residents who would like to downsize from their single-family homes while continuing to live in Burrillville, preferably in an area where some basic services and activities are within walking distance. There are few options for such housing today. One housing type that might fill this demand is cottages. Cottage communities are generally composed of small, single-family or attached homes located around a common courtyard. They are often restricted in size and number of bedrooms, and are a more affordable, lower-maintenance alternative to family-size single-family homes. The town may explore altering the zoning for Nasonville to ensure flexibility in the types of housing that may be accommodated there.

**Commercial and Industrial Development:** Nasonville offers a number of strategically located vacant parcels of land for both commercial and industrial development. The BRA has been charged with creating a redevelopment plan for Nasonville that will provide opportunities to create new and exciting commercial, residential, and mixed-use developments in this area. As the gateway to Nasonville from Route 102, the strategic redevelopment of the former Turex mill and the flanking parcel near Western Hill Auto are vital to the success of the Nasonville Redevelopment Plan. The redevelopment district is generally located south of Route 102. As this area is redeveloped, it is contemplated that parcels north of Route 102 along Douglas Pike will also become developed. In the long term, the Town will need to use the reevaluation of the Route 102 corridor to determine whether or not zoning changes are necessary in this area to meet the Town's goals.

**Public Sewer and Water Expansion** – Beyond the major work expected in Nasonville (described above), the Town intends to explore the targeted expansion of public sewer and water to the following areas:

- Chapel Street between Harrisville and Pascoag
- The commercial and industrial zoned areas not already serviced along Rte 102
- The commercial and industrial zoned areas in the vicinity of Wright's Farm and Douglas Pike

#### **Comprehensive Plan Consistency -**

Recognizing the following substandard areas as warranting redevelopment supports the comprehensive plan, which contains goals and policies that promote village revitalization efforts, pedestrian-scale developments, and tourism. The idea is to employ sensible, "smart-growth" techniques, to preserve natural and cultural resources. It is recommended that the Burrillville Redevelopment Agency continue to work closely with the Town's Planning Board, Town Council, and various State Agencies to encourage future development to utilize existing utilities and infrastructure.

#### **Consistency with Zoning in Neighboring**

**Towns** – Burrillville borders the town of Glocester, RI to the south and North Smithfield, RI to the east. The vast majority of Burrillville's borders are zoned F5, F2 or Open Space – the lowest density zones in the town. Consequently, opportunities for conflicts with land uses in Glocester and North Smithfield are minimal. There is a small portion of the border with Glocester

that is zoned R40 (1 unit per 40,000 SF) and is not within the aquifer protection overlay, between Rte 100 and Rte 98. The Glocester side of the border is zoned for 1 unit per 4 acres. There is one parcel on the border with North Smithfield that is zoned for General Industrial, located on the north side of Rte 7. The North Smithfield side of the border is zoned for lower-density residential uses. However, their industrial use is buffered from its neighbors by a stand of trees and has not caused a problem with neighbors. Other than these two spots, neighboring zoning is entirely compatible.

#### **General Growth and Development**

- Understanding and accepting that some growth is inevitable in the future, this plan focuses on maintaining the existing rural qualities of the Town, such as low density, mostly wooded land with historic stone walls. Due to low levels of development, most roads are two lanes with minimal right-of-way clearing. The Village Centers are small and dominated by municipal buildings, service/retail stores, and multi-family residential.
- Ensuring that borderland uses are compatible with those of adjacent communities.
- Controlling the Town's future residential development: 1) environmental constraints that limit the

extent of development, and 2) extensive areas of large-lot zoning (F-5).

- Recognizing that under current zoning conditions, the Town could grow to a population of over 20,000.
- Working toward eliminating nonconforming uses through enforcement of current zoning laws, recognizing the need for changes in regulations where warranted.
- Providing an adequate and safe system of pedestrian walkways and sidewalks in village centers.
- Ensuring the regular maintenance of pedestrian walkways and sidewalks.
- Providing and maintaining safe, easy-to-find, and well-lit public parking areas in the village centers.
- Striving to achieve a balanced tax base, by aiming to achieve a contribution of 15 percent of the Town's property tax revenues from commercial uses and 15 percent from industrial uses.

#### **Commercial Uses**

- Providing areas for adequate future commercial development, primarily within the existing villages.
- Promoting sensitivity to surrounding land uses and the environment in general, and encouraging an overall high quality of design in all commercial developments through the site plan review process.
- Continuing to require commercial developments to meet a series of

performance standards to be determined by the Town regarding site layout and design, landscaping, parking, lighting and other related site elements.

- Considering the location of planned commercial districts when planning new or expanded public sewer and water services and highway improvements.

#### **Industrial Uses**

- Maintaining appropriate areas for industrial development, where public services and adequate transportation access exists or is planned.
- Promoting sensitivity to surrounding land uses and the environment in general, and encouraging an overall high quality of design in all industrial developments through the site plan review process.
- Continuing to provide for mixed uses, such as mixed residential and commercial, within existing mills, in order to encourage reuse of these structures compatible with the Village centers.
- Continuing to require industrial developments to meet a series of performance standards to be determined by the Town regarding site layout and design, landscaping, parking, lighting and other related site elements.
- Considering the location of planned industrial districts when planning new

or expanded public sewer and water services and highway improvements.

### **Residential Uses**

- Improving the design and layout of residential subdivisions through the use of planning tools such as planned unit development and cluster development.
- Promoting sensitivity to surrounding land uses and the environment in general, and encouraging an overall high quality of design in large residential developments through the plan review process.
- Ensuring the integrity of zoning districts and existing land uses by a system of vegetated buffers.
- Providing for higher density residential uses to promote housing affordability where public services and adequate transportation facilities are available or planned, largely within the villages. (See Chapter V Housing)
- Continuing to maintain a rural residential area outside of the villages, where services are not available or planned.

### **Public and Semi-Public Uses**

- Promoting sensitivity to surrounding land uses and the environment in general, and encouraging an overall high quality of design in public utility development through the site plan review process.

- Considering the layout of existing villages, availability of services, population density, and overall traffic pattern of the community when siting new municipal services and facilities.
- Providing adequate municipal recreational sites, for active and passive use, to serve the Town's anticipated future population.
- Providing appropriate sites for the anticipated future expansion of municipal services, including the library, school facilities, Town Hall, public works department, animal shelter, solid waste disposal, recycling, and others as indicated in Chapter III, Community Services and Facilities.

### **Preservation**

- Preserving the Town's rural character, which is defined as the:
  - Village atmosphere and identity, including the mills and mill housing around which each village grew
  - Rural landscape, including forested areas, open fields, farmland, rural roads, stone walls, and other similar landscape features
  - Lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams found throughout the Town
- Protecting and maintaining the high quality natural resources of the community, including surface water,

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groundwater, wetlands, prime farmland soils, unique ecological features, forested areas, open fields, wildlife, and other areas that are considered fragile.

- Protecting active agricultural lands where possible.
- Preserving the scenic aspects of the community.

- Preserving the historical and cultural elements of the community.

*For a Table of Acronyms and an explanation of the time frames for the implementation matrix below, see Chapter XII Implementation.*

**XI.4 Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**

Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
XI.1 To provide a land use pattern which is capable of meeting present and future community needs in an efficient, environmentally sound, economic, equitable and aesthetically pleasing manner.	XI.1.a Develop residential, commercial, industrial and mixed-use areas which are compactly grouped, attractive, and compatible with the ability of land and water resources to support the development.	XI.1.a.1 Maintain F-5 and F-2 zoning in areas where public services are currently unavailable or not planned to be available.	Ongoing	TC, PB, TP
		XI.1.a.2 Work toward ensuring that sites and buildings suitable for commercial and industrial development (i.e. those served by, or planned to be served by, public sewer and water, that have adequate access to major arterial roadways, and that will not intrude upon less intensive land uses) are preserved and not converted to residential uses.	Ongoing	PB TP, BRA
		XI.1.a.3 In order to make it easier for developer's to help implement this goal, prepare and circulate a developer's information handbook, including information on subdivision regulations, utilities, zoning, erosion and sedimentation controls, groundwater aquifers regulations, Planning Board meeting schedule and time deadlines, and the Comprehensive Plan.	Intermediate	PB, TP

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	<p>XI.1.b Continue to set land use and zoning requirements based on the suitability of land for various types of development.</p>	<p>XI.1.b.1 Develop and implement a Planned Unit Development section in the Zoning Ordinance which permits a parcel of land, except in the F5 district, to be planned and developed as one unit, and contains a mix of residential and commercial uses and common open space. Developer may vary building location and density within a larger tract of land, in order to protect the most sensitive and valuable portions of the tract.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, PB, TP</p>
		<p>XI.1.b.2 Limit the use of land along water bodies to water dependent uses, or to mixed-use development in which a water dependent use is combined with other uses. Continue, where possible, to utilize the Aquifer Overlay and other land use tools to ensure drinking water sources remain clean and safe.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TP, PB, BO</p>
<p>XI.2 To preserve, improve, and direct new growth to the Town’s village centers, and minimize new development in rural areas.</p>	<p>XI.2.a Promote the maintenance of R-12 and R-20 zones within the villages of Harrisville, Glendale, Oakland, Mapleville, Pascoag and Nasonville.</p>			

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	XI.2.b Relate the use of land to the level of public facilities and services available, or planned to be available.	XI.2.b.1 Develop a plan that prioritizes areas where development is desired and appropriate, and where public water and sewer is needed to support such development. Work with the Sewer Authority and Fire Districts to develop an expansion plan that targets these areas while limiting expansion to less optimal areas.	Intermediate	PB, TP, BRA, WDs, Sewer Commission
		XI.2.b.2 The Burrillville Redevelopment Agency will establish a Redevelopment District within Nasonville, coordinating with the Town, RIDOT, and other partners to create a flexible, mixed-use, walkable, compact traditional village.	Priority	BRA, TC, PB
	XI.2.c Preserve historic buildings, districts, and archaeological sites.	XI.2.c.1 Explore and determine the viability of establishing zoning protection for state and national register historic properties and districts as an integral part of preserving Burrillville's cultural landscape. Work with the Burrillville Historical Society to identify the most critical properties and features.	Intermediate	BHS, PB
	XI.2.d Preserve and enhance the economic development opportunities, including cultural, recreational and educational, within the village centers and other commercial and industrial areas of town.	XI.2.d.1 Research federal and state business district revitalization programs and report on the costs and benefits of local participation.	Long Term	BRA, TP, PB
		XI.2.d.2 Establish and support an organization of business people in the Town of Burrillville to improve the overall business climate.	Intermediate	TP, BRA, PB, TC

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		XI.2.d.3 Explore and report on the costs and benefits of efforts used by other communities to provide public and/or private incentives to encourage investment in town and village centers. Determine the viability of these efforts in Burrillville’s village centers, including preservation and reuse of historic buildings.	Long Term	TP, BRA
		XI.2.d.4 The Town should study the need for and feasibility of future commercial and industrial zoning expansion.	Intermediate	TP, BRA, PB
XI.3 To establish a balance between residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, public facility, agricultural and conservation land uses that service the needs of the community.	XI.3.a Strive to achieve equity between the costs and benefits of new development.		Ongoing	PB, TP, TC
	XI.3.b Promote neighborhood development by locating recreation and education facilities in close proximity to where people live, with provision for safe pedestrian movement between facilities where possible.		Ongoing	PB, TP, PWD, RD
	XI.3.c Maximize the investment and utilization of existing infrastructure by maintaining commercial and industrial zoning where this infrastructure exists or is planned to exist.	XI.3.c.1 Explore and report on the pros and cons of establishing development controls and performance standards for industrial and commercial development that mitigate conflicts with other land uses and activities.	Intermediate	TP, PB, BRA

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	XI.3.d Recognize the importance of recreation, open space, public access to water bodies, and historic resources to the Town's economy, in tourism development and in attracting and retaining industry, and endeavor to protect and enhance these resources in economic development siting and design activity.	XI.3.d.1 Particularly within the eastern 2/3 of town, where there are more residents and development, identify, map, and seek to preserve open space systems and corridors that protect complete ecologic units and provide structure and character to the built environment.	Priority	TP, CC, PB
		XI.3.d.2 Identify, map, and seek to preserve open spaces large enough to serve as wildlife habitat and migratory corridors, store flood waters, abate air and water pollution, provide a sense of openness, and serve as buffers and aesthetic amenities to existing development.	Long Term	CC, TP
	XI.3.e Preserve, and where necessary restore, rivers and water bodies and their shorelands for recreational use, wildlife habitat, water supply and open space corridors.	XI.3.e.1 Expand public access to water bodies by preserving existing recorded public access ways, seeking to maximize the access potential of existing committed shore lands, acquiring key access points, and stipulating access opportunities in new shoreline developments.	Ongoing	TP, PB, CC
XI.4 Promote the preservation, improvement and enhancement of the positive and desirable characteristics of Burrillville's traditional New England	XI.4.a Preserve and support existing agricultural endeavors	XI.4.a.1 Utilize methods such as purchase of development rights, and permitting limited, clustered residential development, except in the F5 district, at the edges of large agricultural properties toward preserving agricultural lands.	Ongoing	PB, TP, TC, CC

Chapter XI: Land Use

Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
environment and land use patterns.	XI.4.b Recognize the Town's scenic rural landscapes, roads, and vistas as important cultural and economic resources, and strive to preserve them.	XI.4.b.1 Prepare a rural road ordinance or policy which will serve to define the most valued visual qualities of the Town's rural roads, potentially including stone walls, trees, and other unique features. Once completed, identify roads to consider for designation.	Long Term	HDC, CC, TP, PB
XI.6 The Town recognizes the importance of regional developments and issues on its future. Therefore, the Planning Board and the Town Council shall make an effort to meet with their counterparts in abutting communities on an annual basis to encourage communication and discussion of regional issues.	XI.6.a The Town of Burrillville is opposed to the development of any regional airport in the communities of Douglas and Uxbridge, Massachusetts. A regional airport is contrary to the economic development objectives of the Town of Burrillville, its efforts toward historic preservation, and its long-term land use plan which preserves open space resources and the low-density character of the community.	XI.6.a.1 The Town will pursue various avenues to register its opposition to any regional airport site, including working closely with State officials.	Ongoing	TC, PB, TP
		XI.6.a.2 The Burrillville Planning Board and Town Council should meet on an annual basis with abutting communities to encourage regional communication and to stay abreast of any other major development or infrastructure plans nearby that may impact Burrillville.	Ongoing	TC, PB

Chapter XI: Land Use

Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	<p>XI.6.b The Town of Burrillville is opposed to the development of any regional landfill and/or incinerator within the Town’s boundaries or within abutting towns where they may affect Burrillville. Any such facilities are contrary to the Town’s economic development strategy of promoting tourism and the use of open space and recreational resources in that effort. The Town considers any such facility a potential source of pollution to public drinking water supplies.</p>	<p>XI.6.b.1 The Town will continue to actively voice its opposition to the siting of a regional landfill and/or incinerator facility within its boundaries or within abutting towns but located where they may affect Burrillville.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, PB</p>

**XI.5 Future Land Use Map**

The planned future land use of the Town of Burrillville is illustrated on Map XI.3. This map is a graphic representation of the Town's goals and policies relating to land use, natural and cultural resources, open space preservation and recreation, economic development, housing, and community services and facilities.

This map has been designed around the existing zoning and conservation land within the Town. Existing zoning districts have been clustered into generalized categories. The Planning Board, after much analysis and discussion, has determined that they are unlikely to pursue or approve any zoning changes in the next ten years that would trigger a change to the Future Land Use Map. The only possible exceptions are any additions to conservation lands during that time, or land use changes triggered by the VPD-LDP Overlay Zone or changes to the Route 102 Development Management District Overlay Zone.

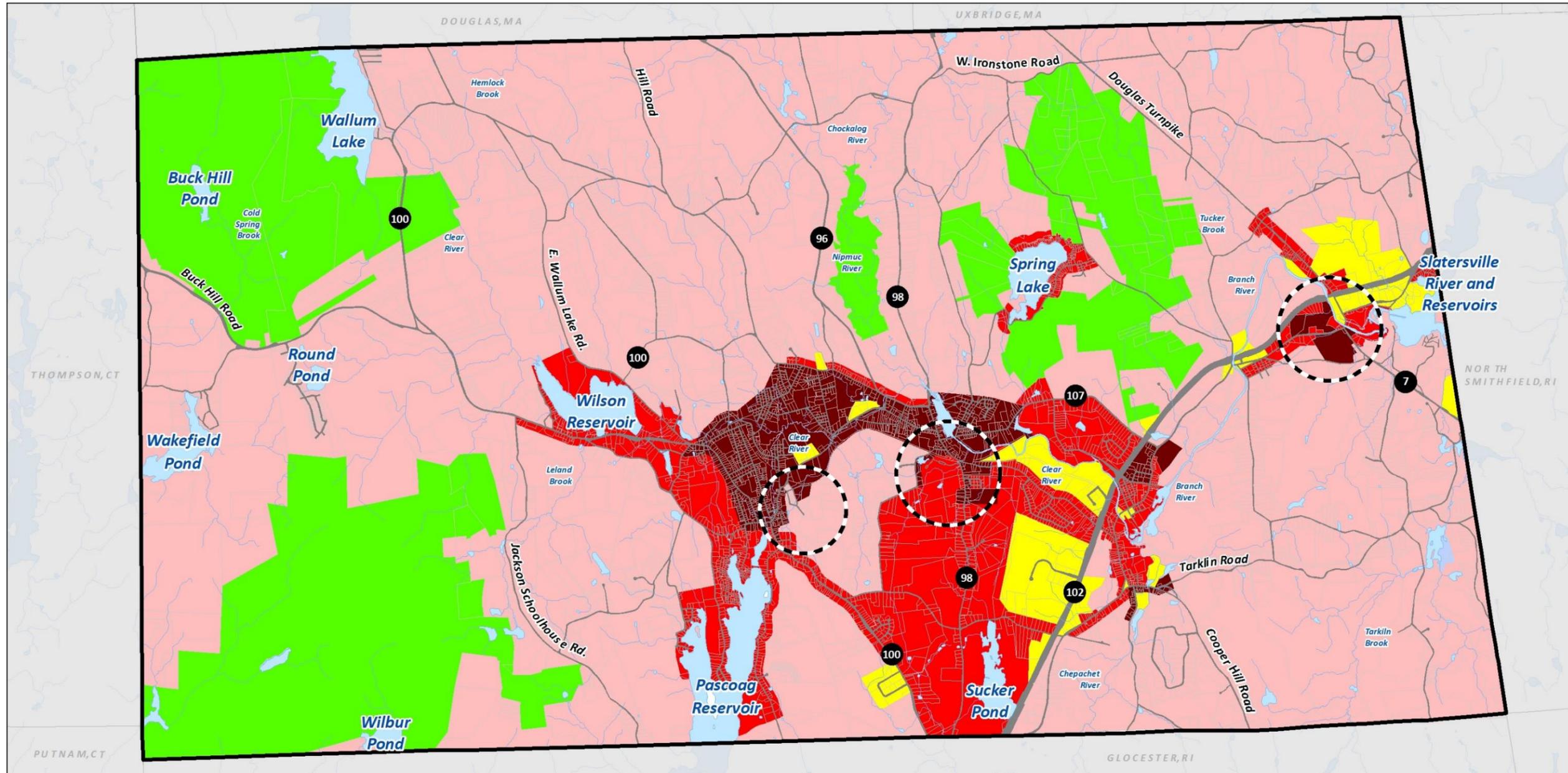
The categories on the future land use map and the zoning districts they correspond with are as follows:

FLUM Category	Corresponding Zoning Districts
Farming/Residential	F5
	F2

FLUM Category	Corresponding Zoning Districts
Suburban Residential	R40
	R20
Village Development	R12
	VC
Commercial/Industrial	General Commercial (GC)
	General Industrial (GI)
	Light Industrial (LI)
Open Space	Open Space (OS)

For the time being, there are no actions necessary to make the Town’s Zoning Map consistent with the Future Land Use map.

**Land Use 2025 Consistency** - This plan has been drafted with the explicit intention of meeting all of the requirements of the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual. One standard in particular is demonstrating consistency with the residential land use densities in Land Use 2025. The table below shows the categories of the FLUM that align with the standards in Land Use 2025. The only variation is that Land Use 2025 calls for a minimum density of approximately one dwelling per 8,500 SF in urban, sewered areas, whereas Burrillville’s densest zones are 12,000 SF per unit. Burrillville’s village centers are different from the urban areas in and around Providence, and other parts of the State within the Urban Services Boundary. A density of 12,000 SF per unit is a more appropriate density in the context

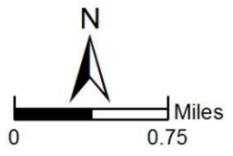


**TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - MAY 2018**

**Horsley Witten Group**  
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions  
 55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903  
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com

*This map is not the product of a Professional Land Survey. It was created by the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. for general reference, informational, planning, or guidance use, and is not a legally authoritative source as to location of natural or manmade features. Proper interpretation of this map may require the assistance of appropriate professional services. The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. makes no warranty, express or implied, related to the spatial accuracy, reliability, completeness, or currentness of this map.*

**RIGIS**



**Future Land Use Map**

- Village Planned Development Areas
- Farming/Residential
- Commercial/Industrial
- Open Space
- Suburban Residential
- Village Development (Residential and/or Commercial)

\*Data Source: RIGIS

**Map XI-3. Future Land Use Map**

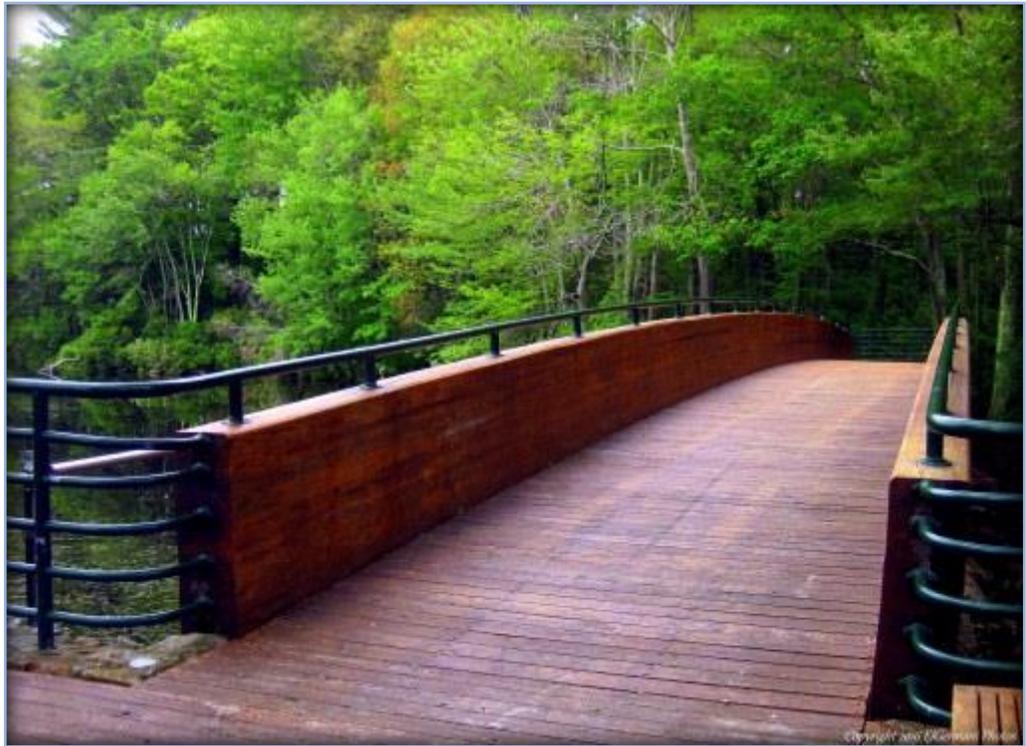
Chapter XI: Land Use

of Burrillville’s rural villages, since they are not contiguous with the rest of the State’s Urban Services Boundary. Burrillville’s overall land use framework is very much

consistent with the statewide intentions of Land Use 2025.

FLUM Category	Corresponding Zoning Districts	Zoning Density per Unit	LU2025 Required Density per Unit
Farming/Residential	F5	5 acres	1 acre maximum
	F2	2 acres	1 acre maximum
Suburban Residential	R40	40,000 SF (0.92 acres)	1 acre minimum
	R20	20,000 SF (0.46 acres)	1 acre minimum
Village Development	R12	12,000 SF (3.6 units per acre)	8,712 SF (5 units per acre)
	VC	12,000 SF(3.6 units per acre)	8,712 SF (5 units per acre)

## Chapter XII - Implementation Program



## Chapter XII: Implementation Program

### XII.1 Introduction

Each element of this Comprehensive Plan includes a series of goals, policies and actions recommended to implement these objectives. This chapter compiles all of the implementation matrices from the chapters above in one place.

- Assigns responsibility within local government for each action;
- Sets a general schedule for accomplishing each action; and,
- Establishes legislative and regulatory actions, new or improved public services, and capital improvements.

The implementation program accomplishes the following:

The following matrix presents the suggested implementation program for the Burrillville Comprehensive Plan. The key to the matrix is as follows:

Reference	To locate the action statement within an individual element, use the following key: Chapter, Goal, Policy, Action
Action	Recommended implementation action as presented within each element.
Responsibility	The agency, individual, board or commission responsible for implementing the action.
Timing	<p><b>Priority</b> = Recommended to occur within 1-2 years of Plan adoption</p> <p><b>Intermediate</b> = Recommended to occur within 2-5 years of Plan adoption</p> <p><b>Long Term</b> = Recommended to occur within 5-20 years of Plan adoption</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> = currently underway and recommended to continue</p>

Each implementation action is keyed to a specific goal and policy which are presented within each plan element.

### Table of Acronyms

BA	Board of Administration	BB	Budget Board
BHA	Burrillville Housing Authority	BO	Town Building Official
BRA	Burrillville Redevelopment Authority	BHS	Burrillville Historical Society
CC	Conservation Commission	EMA	Town Emergency Management Agency
FD(s)	Fire District(s)	HDC	Historic District Commission
LT	Burrillville Land Trust	PB	Planning Board
PD	Planning Department	PWD	Public Works Department
RC	Recreation Commission	RD	Recreation Department
SC	School Committee	SD	School Department
TA	Tax Assessor	TC	Town Council
TM	Town Manager	TP	Town Planner
WD(s)	Water District(s)		

## Chapter XII: Implementation Program

### XII.2 Implementation Matrix – All Chapters

#### Natural Resources & Open Space

II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
II.1. Promote a harmonious relationship between land development and natural resources.	II.1.a. Encourage site design that preserves a site's most valuable natural assets while permitting reasonable development intensity.	II.1.a. Continue implementing the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations in a consistent and transparent manner.	Ongoing	PB, TP, CC
II.2. Encourage agricultural and forestry activities in concert with development.	II.2.a. Ensure that owners of land suitable for agriculture and forestry are aware of programs to help maintain these uses on their properties.	II.2.a.1. Conduct an annual outreach campaign to owners of land suitable for agriculture and forestry informing them of the state's Farm, Forest, and Open Space Program, the services of the Burrillville Land Trust, and other such resources.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB, LT
	II.2.b. Ensure town ordinances support working farm and forest viability.	II.2.b.1. Ensure that the Town Tax Assessor has a system for properly assessing land in the state's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program.	Ongoing	CC, TA, TP
		II.2.b.2. Using RI DEM's Community Guidance to Maintain Working Farms and Forests as a starting point, the Planning Board will develop options for revising the zoning ordinance to allow agricultural support uses and direct sale of agricultural products to consumers in appropriate areas.	Intermediate	PB, TP, CC
	II.2.c. Protect agricultural and forestry lands for their health and economic importance		Ongoing	TP, CC, LT

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II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>II.3. Consider the natural capacity of land to support future development and population.</p>	<p>II.3.a. Flood zones should be protected from intensive development for the safety of residents and the environment. 100-year flood zones, in particular, should be reserved for open space, recreation or agricultural purposes.</p>		Ongoing	TP, PB, BO, RC
	<p>II.3.b. Wetlands, as critical elements of groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, flood storage and recreational value will be maintained in their current state to the extent possible.</p>	<p>II.3.b.1. Amend zoning such that filling or building upon wetlands will be prohibited where reasonable avoidance measures may be taken.</p>	Ongoing	TP, PB, TC
	<p>II.3.c. Mitigate water quality impacts of stormwater runoff and provide for drainage controls in all new development.</p>		Ongoing	PB, CC
	<p>II.3.d. The existing quality of surface water bodies will be maintained and improved.</p>		Ongoing	PB, CC
	<p>II.3.e. Utilize Low Impact Design Site Planning to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff.</p>	<p>II.3.e.1. Conduct an annual mailing to all owners of properties on septic systems alerting them to the latest information on septic system pumping and maintenance.</p>	Intermediate	CC

Chapter XII: Implementation Program

II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>II.4. Ensure that current and future development has minimal or no adverse effects on natural resources, and that environmentally sensitive areas are protected, especially water supply and quality.</p>	<p>II.4.a. Individual sewage disposal systems should be installed and/or maintained according to best management practices.</p>	<p>II.4.a.1. The Town will work closely with the Fire Districts to acquire or otherwise protect the land surrounding Fire District wellheads.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CC, PB, TP, TC</p>
		<p>II.4.a.2. Reservoirs, ponds, lakes, rivers and streams in the Town will be managed to ensure a minimum water flow at all times.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CC</p>
	<p>II.4.b. Maintain and improve the existing quality of drinking water in the community.</p>			
	<p>II.4.c. Limit intensive development to those areas served by public sewer systems for the sake of groundwater preservation.</p>	<p>II.4.c.1. Explore the feasibility of instituting a local Transfer of Development Rights program, through which the rights to build on sensitive lands are sold in an open market to allow more development in village centers/areas of public sewer.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>PB, TP</p>
<p>II.5. Help preserve biological diversity by considering state-listed rare, endangered and threatened plant and animal species and valuable natural habitats in making land use decisions.</p>	<p>II.5.a. Wildlife and vegetation are considered important natural and economic resources to be preserved whenever feasible.</p>	<p>II.5.a.1. Use the 2015 RI Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Area maps as guidance for prioritizing future land and water conservation efforts.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>CC, PB, TP</p>

Chapter XII: Implementation Program

II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		II.5.a.2. Develop a conservation overlay zone based on the areas of town with the greatest concentration of Conservation Opportunity Areas as defined by the 2015 RI Wildlife Action Plan. Set standards for use variances within the overlay that significantly raise the bar for applicants seeking relief for industrial and commercial uses.	Intermediate	PB, CC, TP
	II.5.b. Maintain strict accordance with the RI Forest Resources Management Plan and encourage Forest Resource Management, Sustainability, Information and Education, Health, Commercial Forest Products, Water Resources, Forest and Recreation and Tourism.			
II.6. Help ensure that air quality in Burrillville meets or exceeds national ambient air quality standards.	II.6.a. Encourage measures which reduce air pollution levels.	II.6.a.1. Continue to require that all new commercial and industrial developments meet or exceed national clean air standards as measured within Burrillville.	Ongoing	PB, TP, CC
		II.6.a.2. Lobby adjacent communities to quickly address potential air quality problems within their boundaries.	Ongoing	TC, PB, CC, TP

Chapter XII: Implementation Program

II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>II.7. Ensure that open space is retained as a resource for active and passive recreation opportunities, while also providing protection for the physical and natural environment.</p>	<p>II.7.a. Preserve the Town's natural resources by working to save the best representatives of the ecosystem types found in Burrillville, and protecting rare and endangered plants, animals, and unique geologic or other natural features.</p>	<p>II.7.a.1. Prioritize the preservation of lands along Wallum Lake, Wakefield Pond, Pascoag Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir, Spring Lake, Branch River and other smaller water bodies and tributaries in current and future easement and acquisition programs; for conservation and preservation of natural open spaces and to help protect the environment through acquisition of rights-of-way to the water bodies and through other conservation programs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>LT, PB, TC, CC</p>
	<p>II.7.b. Endeavor to create open space systems and corridors which protect complete ecologic units, provide structure and character to the built environment and provide recreation and open space opportunities close to developed areas.</p>	<p>II.7.b.1. Preserve, and where necessary, restore rivers and their adjacent shorelands for recreational use, wildlife habitat, water supply and the open space corridors they provide.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>CC, LT</p>
	<p>II.7.c. Increased emphasis will be placed on preserving valuable natural resources such as streams and wetlands and the protection of the environment.</p>	<p>II.7.b.2. Prioritize the preservation of Core Natural Areas and Corridors (as shown on Map II.5), which will serve as wildlife habitat, store flood waters, abate air and water pollution, provide a sense of openness, and serve as buffers and aesthetic amenities to existing development.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>CC, LT</p>
	<p>II.7.c.1. The Town shall go on record as endorsing vigorous enforcement of all environmental protection laws and programs, and will defend its authority to protect locally designated open space from state or federal development.</p>	<p>II.7.c.1. The Town shall go on record as endorsing vigorous enforcement of all environmental protection laws and programs, and will defend its authority to protect locally designated open space from state or federal development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>LT, CC, PB, TC</p>

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II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		II.7.c.2. Establish a system for regularly coordinating with the RI DEM in its conservation and recreation lands and programs in Burrillville.	Ongoing	LT, CC, PB, TC
II.8. To the greatest extent practical, prevent losses of critical public infrastructure that could be impacted by natural hazard events and climate trends.	II.8.a. Integrate discussions of natural hazards and climate change into land use decisions, public infrastructure investments, and other town efforts.	II.8.a.1 Continue to use the Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify infrastructure and properties at risk.	Ongoing	PWD, TP
	II.8.b. Support local water districts as they address infrastructure vulnerabilities and conduct public education efforts.	II.8.b.1 Work with state and regional organizations to educate residents on public water and with private drinking water wells about the potential long term impacts of drought and other climate issues.	Ongoing	CC, WDs
II.9. Minimize the impact to public and private property by natural hazard events and climate trends.	II.9.a. Continuously evaluate different strategies that would minimize the risks to public and private property from natural hazard events and climate trends.	II.9.a.1 In accordance with RIGL §45-22-7, support participation of local decision makers and decision-making bodies in events that provide information and training on current climate science data and potential threats from the impacts of natural hazards and climate trends.	Ongoing	CC, PWD
	II.9.b. Encourage sustainable use of forestry resources to manage impacts of climate trends.	II.9.b.1. Work with RIWP, RIDEM, and others to address regional forestry issues related to climate trends.	Ongoing	CC, LT, PB
		II.9.b.2. Educate private property owners on the sustainable use of forest resources for heating, wood products, and other uses.	Ongoing	CC
		II.9.b.3. Coordinate efforts locally and regionally on forest fire prevention and management.	Ongoing	CC, LT, PB

## Chapter XII: Implementation Program

II. Natural Resource & Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
II.10. Reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.	II.10.a. Support State Guide Plan Element report #120, "Energy 2035" and the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council to reduce greenhouse gases to pre-1990 levels.		Ongoing	CC, PD, PB

### Community Facilities and Services

III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
III.1 To provide community facilities and services which maintain or improve existing quality in the most efficient manner to meet the existing and future needs of Burrillville's residents and businesses. Provide cost-effective, environmentally sound utility services which maintain and improve existing quality of life and accommodate the effects of future growth.	III.1.a Explore alternative financing arrangements for supplementing local property taxes, and State and Federal funding of Town services, such as, but not limited to, impact fees.	III.1.a.1 The Planning Department/Board, in coordination with the Town Council, will review best practices for Adequate Public Facility Ordinances (regulations that tie new development to the capacity of local facilities and services) and consider the merits of such a system for Burrillville.	Intermediate	TP, PB, TC, PWD
		III.1.a.2 Should the results of the study described in III.1.a.1 indicate that an Adequate Public Facilities system would be beneficial to providing municipal services in Burrillville, prepare the necessary legal review and establish such a system.	Long Term	PB, TP, TC
		III.1.a.3 Town Council may appoint a building needs study committee to evaluate the need for additional town facilities, including the schools and sewer commission's administrative needs and the possibility of merging them.	Intermediate	TC, Sewer Commission

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	<p><b>Police Department</b>                      III.1.b Maintain and improve the quality of the Town's police department through increased staffing, raising qualifications for law enforcement officers, and improving facilities and equipment.</p>	III.1.b.1 Increase the number of police cruisers commensurate with the uniformed staffing level of the department.	Ongoing	PD, TC
	<p><b>Fire Districts</b>                      III.1.c Maintain the high quality fire protection and emergency rescue services provided by the volunteer fire companies of the Town's Fire Districts.</p>	III.1.b.2 Work with the Chief of Police to determine the optimal uniformed and support staffing level for the Department to adequately serve existing and projected future population. Add officers as necessary.	Ongoing	TC,
		III.1.c.1 In the short-term future, continue the present system of volunteer fire district companies while exploring options for expanding professional staff.	Ongoing	FD, TC
		III.1.c.2 Consider merging the fire districts into a Townwide district (non-municipal), coordinating staffing, equipment, facilities and other operational activities. Responsible parties to be determined by the Fire Districts.	Intermediate	FD, TC
		III.1.c.3 Encourage the fire districts to coordinate equipment purchases, to the extent that they will increase efficiency and save money.	Ongoing	FD, TC
		III.1.c.4 In the event of a new power plant or other large industrial facility being constructed in Town, coordinate among fire districts to increase Haz-Mat training opportunities for first responders.	Intermediate	TC, FD, EMA

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	<b>Libraries</b> III.1.d Maintain and improve the quality of the Town's libraries as a cultural resource of the community.	III.1.d.1 Continue to support the libraries' efforts to expand its collections to meet and exceed State standards.	Ongoing	TC, Libraries
		III.1.d.2 Investigate expansion options at the Jesse Smith Library to provide a designated teen area.	Priority	Libraries
	<b>Town Hall</b> III.1.e Maintain Town Hall administrative office, meeting and storage space adequate to serve the population of the community.			
	III.1.f The Town shall publish and update on a regular basis a public policies manual.	III.1.f.1 The Town Clerk shall compile, publish, and annually update the policies of the various departments, boards, committees, etc.	Ongoing	Town Clerk
		III.1.f.2 The Public Policies Manual shall be made available at the Town Hall, Town libraries and Town Website.	Priority	Town Clerk
	<b>Public Works/ Animal Shelter</b> III.1.g Maintain and expand public works facilities and operational capacity commensurate with the population of the community.	III.1.g.1 The Town Council should work with the Town Manager and Public Works Director to establish an optimal level of Public Works Department staffing.	Ongoing	TM, TC, PWD
		III.1.g.2 Relocate the Public Works Department to a more appropriate location.	Priority	TC, TM, PWD
		III.1.g.3 Expand or renovate the animal shelter facilities and site, or consider relocating with the public works department.	Priority	TC, PWD

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p><b>Solid Waste Management</b>                      III.2 Furnish Burrillville residents with a locally operated and maintained solid waste collection and disposal system that is supportive of the RI Solid Waste Management Plan, as amended that is cost efficient and environmentally beneficial.</p>	III.2.a Periodically evaluate collection and disposal options including the existing curbside collection program as part of an on-going assessment process to assure system efficiency and effectiveness, to identify changing community needs and requirements, and to develop responsive strategies for solid waste management.	III.2.a.1 Examine the feasibility of establishing a Town sponsored, citizen volunteer run public education effort to promote recycling. Educate residents and encourage them to recycle to the maximum extent possible.	Priority	Recycling Coordinator, (RC) PWD, TC
	III.2.b Consider actions that support RI Solid Waste 2038, the State’s Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.	III.2.b.1 Continue to work with the R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation, the Department of Environmental Management and neighboring communities to develop a regional or statewide solution for solid waste disposal.	Ongoing	RC, TC, PWD
		III.2.b.2 Continue solid waste management needs programming and budgeting in the five-year municipal capital facilities program and the annual Town operating budget.	Ongoing	TC, PWD
<p><b>Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal</b>                      III.3 Recognizing the public health and environmental benefits derived from proper sanitary waste disposal,</p>	III.3.a Expand municipal sewer service only in accordance with the Town’s land use policies and the approved wastewater facilities plan, and utilize on-	III.3.a.1 Work with the Town’s Sewer Commission to identify proposed areas for future sewer service expansion that will support the Town’s vision for land use, economic development, and environmental protection.	Priority	TC, PB, TP, PWD

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
<p>provide Burrillville with the appropriate wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems sufficient to meet the community's needs for orderly residential, commercial and industrial development and to protect local groundwater and surface water.</p>	<p>site disposal systems where there are good soil conditions and no threat to drinking water supplies exists.</p>	<p>III.3.a.2 When Nasonville is designated as a redevelopment area, investigate if a sewer extension or a package system would be the soundest and most cost effective means of service.</p>	<p>Priority</p>	<p>BRA, TC, PB, PWD, Sewer Commission</p>
		<p>III.3.a.3 Develop a plan for expanding the Sewer Treatment Plant based on the expected extent of sewer service expansion.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Sewer Commission, TC, PWD</p>
		<p>III.3.a.4 Explore and determine the viability of requiring properties to tie into public sewer service wherever it is available.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sewer Commission</p>
	<p>III.3.b Maintain and update as necessary the municipal facilities plan to meet the future needs of the community, emphasizing service area expansion only in accordance with the capacity of the wastewater treatment facility and based on the need to service business, industry and residential areas with problem onsite disposal systems and eliminate threats of pollution to the Town's water supply.</p>	<p>III.3.b.1 Recognizing the water quality benefits to be derived from pollution control, study the need and feasibility of extending the municipal sewer system, including the use of package treatment plants, to high density residential areas and non-serviced commercial and industrial development in close proximity to Wallum Lake, Wilson Reservoir and Slatersville Reservoir.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CC, TC</p>

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	III.3.c Consider within the context of the Town’s land use policies and the Wastewater Facilities Plan, sewer service area extensions for the purpose of economic development.	III.3.c.1 Develop a plan for the expansion of services to unserved commercial and industrially zoned land along Route 102, the Bronco Highway, as required to service the type of development envisioned for that corridor by the Town.	Long Term	TC, PB, PWD, BRA, Sewer Commission
	III.3.d Recognize the regional economic and environmental benefits obtained from the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility.		Ongoing	TC, BRA, Sewer Commission
<b>Water Supply and Distribution</b> III.4 Provide the Town of Burrillville with sufficient potable water supply and the distribution system necessary to meet the community's residential, commercial, and industrial requirements, utilizing on-site well development where appropriate, while maintaining the Town's self-sufficiency.	III.4.a Protect existing groundwater sources from contamination to allow continued supply to the local water distribution systems.	III.4.a.1 Maintain, update as necessary, and continue to implement section 11-5.3 of the municipal zoning code, "Aquifer Zoning", to protect the Town's groundwater aquifers and water supply identified as areas of stratified drift and delineated on the Town of Burrillville Aquifer Overlay Map.	Ongoing	PB, TC, WDs
		III.4.a.2 Work with the Nasonville, Pascoag and Harrisville Fire Districts to fully implement the Water Quality Protection Plans of each district. Identification and testing of all underground fuel and other storage tanks, and the removal and proper disposal of abandoned, failing and unused tanks should be an immediate priority.	Intermediate	PB, TC

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		III.4.a.3 Identify properties within 400 feet of the public water supply wells in Pascoag and Nasonville that are not in water district ownership and prioritize these parcels for acquisition by water districts.	Priority	TC, WDs
		III.4.a.4 To meet the supply and distribution requirements of the next decade, prepare capital facilities/ improvements plans for all of the Town’s Fire Districts through the year 2030. Include in the planning yield testing of the potential groundwater resources at Round Top, the study of potential surface water supplies, and services extension to Glendale.	Long Term	FD, TC, PB
		III.4.a.5 Prepare service area extension guidelines and coordinate all new development proposals between the municipal planning department and the water districts to insure adequate supply and pressure.	Long Term	PD, WDs
		III.4.a.6 Explore and determine the viability of requiring properties to tie into public water service wherever it is available.	Intermediate	WDs, PB
III.5. Achieve and maintain consistency with the RI Drought Management Plan	III.5.a Conserve existing water supplies to eliminate the development of costly and unnecessary sources.	III.5.a.1 Develop water conservation guidelines and "tips" for business, industry, and homeowners and implement through the building official's office the low flow water devices mandated by the state building code.	Ongoing	WDs

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	III.5.b Support the identification and development, as necessary, of new groundwater and surface water supplies to augment existing sources.	III.5.b.1 Identify large industrial water users and encourage the implementation of recycling process water and where possible the use of local groundwater supplies for industrial processing.	Intermediate	WDs
<b>Drainage and Stormwater Management Facilities</b> III.6 Manage stormwater runoff to prevent flooding and loss of life and property damage, to protect groundwater and surface water quality and to preserve the integrity of natural watercourses and wetlands.	III.6.a To maintain and improve groundwater and surface water quality, require the design and construction of Best Management Practices for stormwater management for all new residential, commercial, and industrial development, new and reconstructed roadways and highways, and drainage system improvements.	III.6.a.1 Erosion and sedimentation controls should be approved during the plan review process and inspected by the Town Building Official and/or the Director of Public Works during construction.	Ongoing	PWD, BO, TP
	III.6.a.2 Utilize and continue to implement the "RI Stormwater Standards and Installation Standards Manual," as amended.	III.6.a.2 Utilize and continue to implement the "RI Stormwater Standards and Installation Standards Manual," as amended.	Ongoing	PWD, PB, TP, BO
	III.6.b Continue to require all development to establish erosion and sedimentation controls to prevent siltation of watercourses and waterbodies.	III.6.b.1 Where the maintenance of stormwater management facilities in residential developments becomes the responsibility of the municipality, the Department of Public Works shall develop a maintenance program. Consider the use of a one-time fee to be paid by the developer and held in a restricted account to cover the cost of periodic maintenance.	Intermediate	PB, PWD, TP

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		III.6.b.2 Require commercial and industrial on-site stormwater management system maintenance to be the responsibility of every property owner.	Ongoing	PB, PWD
III.7 Serve and protect the townspeople better through improved communications.	III.7.a Develop a system by which the citizens of the Town can be addressed by municipal officials in time of emergency, and when it serves the public need or convenience.	III.7.a.1 Evaluate the ways in which the Town communicates with the public and ensure that strategies maximize the different types of ways citizens may engage with the Town (website, social media, television, radio, print, etc.). Determine the strategies that could be strengthened and move forward with ways for improvement.	Ongoing	TC, PD, PWD, SD, EMA
		III.7.a.2 Explore options for developing a Town app where residents can look up town meetings, facilities, programs, and activities, and be alerted in cases of emergency.	Priority	TC, EMA

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III. Community Facilities and Services Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		<p>III.7.a.3 Investigate non-traditional communications systems such as equipping with VHF receivers (scanners) all buildings that have a designated secondary use as public shelter. Each of these receivers will then be in place and ready to pick up emergency announcements from officials at emergency management headquarters during times of crisis.</p> <p>This idea can be expanded to include publicizing the frequency to be used by conventional means during non-emergency times so citizens may also make arrangement to acquire and/or tune such a radio so they can receive emergency announcements in their homes.</p>	Intermediate	EMA
		<p>III.7.a.4 Develop a plan to maintain and improve, if possible, the traditional means of communication via print media (Woonsocket Call and Bargain Buyer) and the Town’s website (<a href="http://www.burrillville.org">www.burrillville.org</a>).</p>	Long Term	Police, Fire, EMA, TC
		<p>III.7.a.5 If a new power plant is built in Burrillville, the Town shall review its existing emergency communications infrastructure and policies, and develop, as necessary, a more robust Emergency Operations Plan, with a particular emphasis on rapid communication during an emergency.</p>	Priority	TC, EMA

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### School Facilities

IV. School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
IV.1 Provide school facilities and services which maintain or improve existing quality in the most efficient manner to meet the existing and future needs of Burrillville's youth.	IV.1.a Promote a better understanding of school policies, programs, and opportunities at a community-wide level.	IV.1.a.1 Administer a community survey (5-year cycle) aimed at obtaining accurate data on community expectations regarding the school system.	Long Term	SD, SC
		IV.1.a.2 Ensure that a School Department Comprehensive Strategic Plan is in place for the School District, including short and long term goals and objectives for the district.	Ongoing	SD, SC
		IV.1.a.3 Communicate the school system's accomplishments to date in key result areas, make necessary revisions and corrections.	Ongoing	SD, SC
	IV.1.b The School Committee must recognize that facility maintenance and renovation is a priority concern.	IV.1.b.1 The Superintendent shall prepare an annual report to the School Committee regarding the condition, maintenance, and renovation of school facilities.	Ongoing	SD
		IV.1.b.2 Continue to update the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to reflect current and future needs.	Ongoing	SD, SC
	IV.1.c Ensure that all school facilities provide the appropriate physical structure to promote equitable educational opportunities and services to all students.	IV.1.c.1 Continue maintenance work on facilities, roof repairs, major energy conservation projects, painting, window and door replacements, etc. as required.	Ongoing	SC, SD
		IV.1.c.2 Continue to assess enrollment trends as they affect educational and facilities needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD

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IV. School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
		IV.1.c.3 Analyze trends, in out-of-district and private school enrollments to determine both immediate and long term needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD
		IV.1.c.4 Explore reorganization as a strategy to address enrollment changes.	Ongoing	SC, SD
	IV.1.d Ensure that the financial resources to be used in the construction, equipping, and maintenance of school buildings and facilities are adequate.	IV.1.d.1 Monitor development, population growth, and State and Federal contributions to the school budget and maintain consistent levels of local property tax funding.	Ongoing	TC
		IV.1.d.2 The School Department will continue to report use of appropriated capital improvement monies.	Ongoing	SC, SD, TC
	IV.1.e Promote sharing of information between the School Dept. and the Planning Dept., including population projections, school bus routes, computer databases, planned and potential residential development and other pertinent information.	IV.1.e.1 The Town Planner and School Department staff should coordinate on a regular basis to review data needs, development trends, population projections, and other information as needed.	Ongoing	TP, SD

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IV. School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	IV.1.f Explore alternative financing arrangements for supplementing local property taxes, and State and Federal funding of the school system, such as, but not limited to, impact fees.	IV.1.f.1 The Planning Department/Board, in coordination with the School Committee, will review existing impact fee systems relating new development to school facilities, and consider the merits of such a system for Burrillville.	Priority	SC, PB, PD
		IV.1.f.2 Should the results of the study described in IV.1.f.1, indicate that an impact fee system would be beneficial to providing educational services in Burrillville, prepare the necessary legal review and establish an impact fee system.	Intermediate	SC, PB, PD
	IV.1.g Ensure that new school facilities are located appropriately, with consideration to residential development and traffic patterns.	IV.1.b.2 Continue to update the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to reflect current and future needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD, TC, BB
		IV.1.c.1 Continue maintenance work on facilities, roof repairs, major energy conservation projects, painting, window and door replacements, etc. as required.	Ongoing	SC, SD, TC, BB

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IV. School Facilities Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible for Implementation
	IV.1.h Improve the educational quality of the schools by improving curricula, expanding programs for the gifted and the slow learners, instituting additional experimental programs and reducing student-teacher ratios.	IV.1.c.2 Continue to assess enrollment trends as they affect educational and facilities needs.	Ongoing	SC, SD

### Housing

V. Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
V.1 Encourage a range of housing opportunities to meet the diverse housing needs of Burrillville’s residents.	V.1.a Stimulate development of a variety of housing, in terms of cost, size, location and design, to meet the broad range of needs and desires of homeowners and renters, and of all income groups and family sizes.	V.1.a.1 As developments are proposed, actively communicate with applicants the Town’s desire to see a variety of housing options, including a range of types, sizes and costs.	Ongoing	TC, BHA, BRA
		V.1.a.2 Continue to require 20% LMI housing for subdivisions & LD projects of 10 or more units. Units must be in compliance with R.I.G.L. 45-53-3(5).	Ongoing	PB
		V.1.a.3 Explore and determine the value of allowing “fee-in-lieu” of LMI housing development, along with a local Affordable Housing Board to manage and allocate any such fees collected.	Priority	TC

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V. Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	V.1.b Allow and encourage a combination of LMI unit construction and commercial construction through the Village Planned Development process.	V.1.b.1 As the BRA continues to make plans and investments in Nasonville, ensure the inclusion of LMI housing through the Village Planned Development process.	Priority	PB, BRA
	V.1.c Increase the housing options available to households with less than the Burrillville median income to provide more opportunities to keep the cost of housing at no more than 30% of household income.	V.1.c.1 Develop new and renovated affordable housing options for households whose incomes are less than 50 percent of the local median income through public investment, subsidy and/or joint public/private efforts.	Long Term	BHA, BRA
		V.1.c.2 Develop new and renovated affordable housing options for households whose incomes are between 30 and 80 percent of the local median income through incentives to the private sector, joint public-private efforts and non-profit development.	Long Term	BHA, BRA
		V.1.c.3 Expand the activities of the Town's Housing Authority to increase its ability to serve Burrillville residents, with special emphasis upon offering more opportunities for families, providing more services to the elderly, and supporting the renovation of existing homes.	Intermediate	TC, BHA
	V.1.d Ensure that the Town continues to maintain 10% or more of its housing units	V.1.d.1 Work with the Burrillville Housing Authority to ensure that existing units are maintained and modernized as necessary.	Ongoing	TC, BHA

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V. Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	as low-moderate income housing.	V.1.d.2 The Town will continue (through the Housing Authority or another non-profit agency) to identify and secure parcels for redevelopment and provide additional subsidized housing to the extent State or federal programs make such development feasible.	Intermediate	BHA, BRA
		V.1.d.3 Support the Housing Authority's efforts to expand the number of Section 8 certificates through technical or other assistance.	Ongoing	TC
	V.1.e The Town's priority should be to meet the affordable housing needs of its local residents and employees, per R.I.G.L. 45-53.	V.1.e.1 Whenever possible, require that affordable units be administered in a manner that gives preference to local residents.	Ongoing	PB, BHA
	V.1.f Encourage and support the optimum location of new housing in terms of its relationships to transportation, pollution control, water supply, ed-	V.1.f.1 Promote higher density housing development within the villages, where services and other amenities are existing or planned except where there are other criteria which must be met or concerns that conflict with allowing higher density.	Ongoing	PD, PB

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V. Housing Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	education and other public facilities and services; employment opportunities and commercial and community services; adjacent land uses; and the suitability of the specific site for other land uses, including open space.	V.1.f.2 Continue to require two to five acre minimum lot requirements in outlying areas of the community, where services and amenities are not available or planned.	Ongoing	PD, PB
V.2 Promote a safe, sanitary and well-constructed housing stock through new construction and renovation of existing structures.	V.2.a Encourage and support the optimum use of existing housing stock, existing neighborhoods and existing structures suitable for residential use, in meeting housing needs, including rehabilitation of historic buildings for housing.	V.2.a.1 Support the reuse and rehabilitation of mill buildings for housing use in those locations where access, parking, environmental concerns etc., preclude continued industrial use.	Ongoing	BRA
		V.2.a.2 Continue providing low interest loans and other assistance for home improvements for low and moderate-income persons.	Ongoing	PD
	V.2.b Encourage and support more efficient use of the State's natural, energy, fiscal and other resources, and public services and facilities in residential structures and in residential development patterns.	V.2.b.1 Provide incentives for combining open space preservation efforts with new affordable housing construction, such as through cluster development.	Intermediate	PB
V.3 To encourage density and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods	V.3.a Encourage and support the improvement of existing highly dense village neighborhoods.	V.3.a.1 Allow and encourage the development or redevelopment of compatible small-scale affordable housing structures within existing neighborhoods.	Intermediate	BRA, PB, TC,

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**Circulation**

VI. Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
VI.1 To provide and maintain a safe, convenient and cost-effective transportation system.	VI.1.a Promote cooperative State/local efforts in transportation planning.	VI.1.a.1 Maintain and prioritize the list of projects for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Seek letters of support for submitted projects.	Ongoing	TP, PWD, PB
		VI.1.a.2 Actively participate in planning of State and regional transportation systems. Hold a planning board public hearing to get public comment on TIP submission to State.	Ongoing	TP, PB
	VI.1.b Encourage development that reduces dependence on motor vehicles, and promote development of alternative modes of transportation, such as bus, bicycle, and pedestrian access, including handicapped accessibility, where appropriate.		Ongoing	TP, PB
	VI.1.c Endeavor to maintain the Town's rural qualities by actively partnering with the State Department of Transportation on any future designs for state roadways in Burrillville.		Ongoing	TP, PB

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VI. Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VI.1.d Provide a well-maintained system of roads, bridges and highways linking residential areas, village centers and places of employment, and connecting to major arterials to facilitate daily commerce in the Town of Burrillville.	VI.1.d.1 Develop and implement a local TIP to evaluate and prioritize improvements of Town roadways, drainage systems, bridges, dams, culverts, and sidewalks.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.d.2 Coordinate the proposed installation of sewers and other underground utilities with local road improvements.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.d.3 Place a high priority on working proactively with RIDOT to improvements to Route 107 from Fountain Square to Harrisville (Phase II of Route 107, 1R), emphasizing the need for sidewalks, street trees, improved lighting, improved drainage, signing, intersection alignments and signalization.	Ongoing	TP, PWD
		VI.1.d.4 Conduct a needs assessment and feasibility study of utilizing Laurel Hill and Grove Streets as an alternative circulator through Pascoag.	Priority	PWD, TP, PB
		VI.1.d.5 Continue to reach out to and work with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation in advance of the start of TIP projects to achieve workable designs in keeping with the rural and village character of Town.	Ongoing	TP, PWD

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VI. Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VI.1.d.6 Explore and report on the logistical and financial feasibility of buying, installing, and maintaining street lighting fixtures in new residential, commercial and industrial development that complements the village character of Town.	Intermediate	PWD, TP, PB, BRA
		VI.1.d.7 Furnish the Department of Public Works with adequate equipment and personnel to maintain the roadways, for snow removal, street sweeping and drainage system maintenance. Require continued development of a ten-year transportation improvement program for the Department of Public Works.	Ongoing	TC, PWD
		VI.1.d.8 Require preparation of a Traffic Impact Analysis for development projects. These studies will form the components of a network of traffic information.	Priority	PB, TP, PWD
	VI.1.e Provide a residential roadway network that relates to the ultimate density and character of the neighborhood.		Ongoing	PB

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VI. Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VI.1.f Maintain and where necessary expand the bus transportation system servicing the Town of Burrillville, including the townwide Para transit service to the elderly and handicapped.	VI.1.f.1 Actively work with the Public Transit Authority to maintain and where possible expand the fixed route bus system servicing the Town of Burrillville to areas where the town is planning for higher density development. Regularly alert the Authority when proposed development may warrant an increase or shift in bus service.	Ongoing	Senior Services, TP, PWD,
		VI.1.f.2 Review and evaluate system capacity and service eligibility requirements for Para transit service to ensure that levels of service are commensurate with needs.	Ongoing	Senior Services, TP, PWD,
	VI.1.g Increase the availability of trails, walkways and bikeways to promote alternative transportation modes to Town residents and to enhance the tourist and recreational values of the Town.	VI.1.g.1 Require the consideration of trails, walkways and bikeways in federal, state, local and private development projects. Include townwide bicycle and sidewalk facility development, to connect residents to the villages, schools, medical and shopping resources in town, in any requests to the RIDOT in the Town’s TIP.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.g.2 In accordance with Section 10-6.3 of the Municipal Code governing the construction of subdivisions, require the design and installation of sidewalks in all new subdivisions of land.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD

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VI. Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VI.1.g.3 Continue implementation, as financially and logistically feasible, of the Town’s vision for a system of bike trails connecting many of the Town’s village centers and outdoor recreation opportunities with other planned regional bike paths.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.g.4 Require sidewalks to be constructed along new and reconstructed state and local roadways where there is an identified existing or projected need to furnish adequate and safe pedestrian movement to residential, commercial and industrial activities or community facilities such as libraries, schools, governmental buildings, places of worship and recreational facilities, with areas adjacent to schools receiving the highest priority.	Ongoing	TP, PB, PWD
		VI.1.i.1 Study and report on the need for parking and other improvements to access for commercial and governmental activities in Harrisville and for commercial activities in Pascoag.	Intermediate	BRA, TP, PWD,
		VI.1.i.2 Review and report on the feasibility and effectiveness of utilizing off street parking to reduce traffic hazards along the heavily traveled route from Pascoag to Harrisville.	Intermediate	BRA, TP, PWD
VI.1.i Encourage Town and private investments in parking, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transit that will make it easier for people to access Burrillville’s commercial, industrial and municipal centers.				

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VI. Circulation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
VI.2 Help ensure that air quality in Burrillville meets or exceeds national ambient air quality standards.	VI.2.a. Encourage measures which reduce air pollution levels	VI.2.a.1 Work with local business to implement air pollution reduction measures including, but not limited to, commuter services, park and ride lots, bus transit, carpool programs, bicycle programs, variable work hours.	Long Term	BRA, TP

**Economic Development**

VII. Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
VII.1 To broaden the sources of Town revenue through development in the industrial and commercial sectors in order to ensure a sound financial future and assist in funding the achievement of Town goals.	VII.1.a Maintain industrial and commercial sector growth at a rate adequate to support the Town's population in a manner consistent with the Town's labor characteristics, land capabilities and environmental objectives.	VII.1.a.1 Create a Town Economic Development Commission (EDC) to serve as a coordinator for all local economic development activities. Such a commission may be composed of members of existing entities such as the Burrillville Redevelopment Agency and Industrial Foundation.	Priority	BRA, TP, PB
		VII.1.a.2 The EDC shall develop and implement a growth development strategy for existing industry in concert with local business leaders.	Intermediate	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.3 The EDC shall attract and assist those types of industry and commerce which are most suitable for, and potentially most beneficial to the Town in terms of employment need, needs of firms, resources, fiscal soundness and other objectives.	Ongoing	EDC, BRA, TP

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VII. Economic Development Goals		Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VII.1.a.3 Coordinate with the Town's Sewer Commission and various water districts to ensure that these services are or will be available to sites zoned for industrial development.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TC
		VII.1.a.4 Conduct an analysis of existing commercial and industrial zoned land, and determine whether some should be rezoned for less intense uses from a land use or environmental viewpoint.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.5 Allocate adequate areas for commercial use suitable for neighborhood/village oriented and community-oriented retail centers.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.6 Rezone selected existing commercial zones which are not appropriate from a land use and environmental viewpoint.	Intermediate	EDC, BRA, TP
		VII.1.a.7 Establish a Planned Development District for mixed-use commercial and residential developments on large tracts of land, except in the F5 district.	Intermediate	EDC, BRA, TP
	VII.1.b. Support the use of renewable energy for both commercial and residential interests.	VII.1.b.1 Amend town regulations as necessary to allow for renewable energy with particular standards being applied to large mechanisms that can affect view sheds.	Priority	EDC, BRA, TP

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VII. Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
<p>VII.2 To recognize the importance of recreation, open space, public access to water bodies, and historic resources to the Town's economy, to tourism development, and to attracting and retaining industry, and endeavor to protect and enhance these resources in economic development siting and design.</p>	<p>VII.2.a Promote economic development which is sited and designed to fit within the rural village character of Burrillville, and harmonizes with environmental surroundings and adjacent land uses.</p>	<p>VII.2.a.1 Enact development controls and performance standards in the zoning ordinance to mitigate conflicts between commercial and industrial development and other uses. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffers to side and rear lots;</li> <li>• Landscaping; and,</li> <li>• Compliance with State and federal air, and water quality regulations.</li> <li>• Maintenance of noise levels compatible with accepted standards.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
	<p>VII.2.b To maintain and enhance the historical and cultural resources which contribute to the Town's overall economic development opportunities.</p>	<p>VII.2.b.1 Explore and determine the viability of financing municipal programs and preferential tax policies to encourage creative adaptive reuse (compliant with underlying zoning) of the Town's historic homes and buildings.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
		<p>VII.2.b.2 Revise the Zoning Ordinance to include flexible mixed-use requirements to promote mill reuse.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
	<p>VII.2.c Support geo-tourism development as an alternative form of economic development.</p>	<p>VII.2.c.1 Work with the school system to develop a curriculum promoting understanding of the historic development of the Town and its resources.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>TP, PB</p>
		<p>VII.2.c.2 Develop historic walking tours and bike tours through the villages of the Town.</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>TP, EDC, BRA</p>

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VII. Economic Development Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VII.2.c.3 Explore and determine the feasibility of broadening home occupation uses in residential districts in the Zoning Ordinance, to encourage such uses as antique shops, arts and crafts shops and other similar uses which can benefit from the Town's rural/historic environment without detracting from commercial zones.	Priority	TP, EDC, BRA
	VII.2.d Encourage natural resource based industry, including forestry, agriculture, and recreation.	VII.2.d.1 Maintain farming zoning districts (F5) in areas of the Town, which include prime agricultural soils or State important agricultural soils.	Ongoing	PB, TP
	VII.2.d.2 Encourage the Town's Conservation Commission to research good forest resource management and farming practices on privately owned forestlands and farms. At least once a year, actively reach out to local farmers and forest managers to share these resources and recommendations.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB	
	VII.2.d.3 Identify valuable, unique and ecologically sensitive farm and forestlands so that they may be protected.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB	
	VII.2.d.4 Work with local farms to discuss expanding and marketing appropriate EcoTourism opportunities.	Ongoing	CC, TP, PB	

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VII. Economic Development				Responsible
Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Party
		VII.2.d.5 The Conservation Commission will work with local groups to develop a map of public and private recreational sites throughout the Town. Print and distribute copies of the map at tourist-stops.	Priority	CC, TP

**Recreation**

VIII. Recreation Goals				Responsible
Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Party
VIII.1 To provide park and recreation facilities and programs which will meet the passive and active recreational needs of Burrillville's residents.	VIII.1.a Planning for recreation, conservation and open space will be done within a comprehensive approach with consideration for development trends and demands of the community.	VIII.1.a.1 Conduct a study to see where current single purpose recreational facilities may be expanded to provide a greater variety of services for more residents over time.	Priority	RD, PB, TP
		VIII.1.a.2 Annually, develop and update a Recreation Capital Improvement Program, through which the Town will schedule, in a systematic manner, the acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities within its financial capabilities. Emphasize maintenance and improvement of existing facilities over building new.	Ongoing	RD, PWD

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VIII. Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VIII.1.a.3 As part of the annual Recreation Capital Improvement Program, explore the development of existing Town-owned properties (such as expansion of the lodge facility at the Swift property) and the identification of additional sites that may be purchased or donated for recreational development.	Ongoing	RD, PWD
		VIII.1.a.4 Use the protocol established for coordinating recreational planning efforts between the Schools, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department, and Planning Department to shape the Recreation Capital Improvement Program and identify additional resources that can serve as public recreation.	Ongoing	RD, PWD
	VIII.1.b Explore additional means for obtaining and preserving recreation land besides out-right purchase,	VIII.1.b.1 Require land dedication or fees in lieu of land expressly for recreational purposes in all subdivisions and major non-residential developments.	Intermediate	PB, TP, RD, PWD

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VIII. Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	including through private investment and donations.	VIII.1.b.2 Develop a system for evaluating land dedicated to the Town under Section 10-5.7 "Conveyance of Land for Recreational Purposes" for both its recreational and open space characteristics, and appropriately designating it. The system should be designed to coordinate the land dedicated in the subdivision process to form interconnected greenbelts, and larger areas of protected open space for habitat preservation, wherever feasible.	Intermediate	PB, TP, RD, PWD
	VIII.1.c Ensure that the recreational needs and interests of residents of all social and age groups and abilities are considered to the fullest extent possible in developing recreational facility plans, and that facilities are welcoming to everyone.	VIII.1.c.1 As part of the annual Recreation Capital Improvement Program, develop a system for regularly evaluating the accessibility of the Town’s recreation facilities so that they may be improved over time. Conduct a survey at least once every 5 years to assess the needs of different groups such as young children, teenagers, young adults, seniors, and people with physical or mental special needs.	Long Term	RD, PWD, RC
VIII.1.c.2 Actively explore options for low or no cost recreational opportunities for families who cannot afford to pay for organized sports and recreation.		Ongoing	RD, RC	
VIII.1.c.3 Review town policies for enforcing rules and regulations at local recreational facilities to make sure that everyone feels welcome and that no one spoils the experience for others.		Ongoing	RD, RC	

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VIII. Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	VIII.1.d Relate the type and size of recreational facilities to the pertinent characteristics of the service area.	VIII.1.d.1 Use annual U.S. Census data to track any relevant demographic trends to justify investments in the Recreation Capital Improvement Program.	Ongoing	RD, RC
	VIII.1.e Make maximum use of waterbodies for recreation and other purposes wherever possible in a manner consistent with the characteristics and uses of the water bodies themselves and with the standards governing water supplies established by the Rhode Island Water Resources Board.	VIII.1.e.1 Improve and expand opportunities for recreational swimming and beach usage by cataloguing existing beach facilities and mapping out other potential swimming opportunities where feasible and appropriate. Use this information to justify budgeting for the maintenance and upgrading of existing beach facilities, and the acquisition of new public rights-of-way.	Ongoing	RD, RC
		VIII.1.e.2 Conduct a study of all reservoirs in town and their watersheds, to determine what other public purposes they may appropriately serve, including public recreational access and use.	Priority	TP, PB
	VIII.1.f Seek to improve the opportunities for bicycling, hiking, boating, fishing and related recreational activity throughout the Town.	VIII.1.f.1 Conduct a feasibility study for establishing a bike/walking/jogging path linking the villages in the Town with recreational facilities and other planned regional bike paths. Where feasible, the old railroad right-of-way should be examined for feasibility as a location for portions of the path. In concept, the path(s) may include trails and would link North Smithfield to Wallum Lake and connect eventually with other paths in the region.	Intermediate	RD, RC,

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VIII. Recreation Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		VIII.1.f.2 Preserve existing abandoned rail lines for potential reuse as bike paths.	Ongoing	TP, PB, TC
		VIII.1.f.3 Coordinate bike path development with State and regional efforts to expand bike paths and create a regional bike loop, including the State’s draft bicycle mobility plan.	Priority	RD, RC, TP, PB
		VIII.1.f.4 Review maps of existing hiking, boating, and fishing opportunities in Burrillville, and explore where gaps could be filled to link existing “blueways” and “greenways” with one another.	Intermediate	RD, RC
	VIII.1.g Recognize the importance of the Town's recreational resources, and ensure that their development is carefully integrated with efforts to promote Burrillville to visitors.	VIII.1.g.1 The Economic Development Commission will work with the local Chamber of Commerce or other groups to continue to maintain and update the Visit Burrillville website. The Town will work with the State to find a way to integrate the local resources noted on the site into on line maps and apps of state resources.	Ongoing	TP, BRA
		VIII.1.g.2 Establish a system for regularly coordinating efforts to promote use of recreational facilities with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, and other regional or statewide organizations.	Ongoing	TP, PB, CC
		VIII.1.g.3 Encourage more lodging and camping opportunities in town to allow more visitors to utilize local recreational resources and support local businesses.	Ongoing	TP, PB, CC

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### Energy

IX. Energy Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
IX.1. To encourage well planned, diverse, and economically viable renewable energy production facilities in appropriate areas of Town and elsewhere in Rhode Island.	IX.1.a The Town supports appropriate development of renewable energy production facilities within Burrillville and elsewhere in Rhode Island, recognizing the positive economic impacts of having diversified energy sources at competitive costs.	IX.1.a.1 Town Boards, Committees, and staff will work together to evaluate and determine which renewable energy sources are appropriate in Burrillville and develop clear and comprehensive zoning requirements and siting standards to support diverse renewable energy development in appropriate areas with minimal impact and deforestation/tree clearing on surrounding land uses.	Ongoing	PB, CC, TC
		IX.1.a.2 The Town shall consider the Rhode Island Land-Based Wind Siting Guidelines published by the Office of Energy Resources as it develops its own standards for wind energy generation in Burrillville.	Ongoing	PB, CC, TC
		IX.1.a.3 The Town will develop standards for restricting the use of clear cutting and other significant tree removal in the siting or expansion of any energy systems.	Priority	PB, TC
		IX.1.a.4 The Town will routinely engage in discussions with Federal and State energy authorities to support renewable energy generating facilities off the coastline of Rhode Island, including facilities using the winds off the Atlantic Ocean.	Ongoing	PD, PB, TC

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IX. Energy Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	IX.1.b. The Town encourages the development of accessory solar energy systems on municipally owned and operated buildings.	IX.1.b.1 The Town will evaluate the potential for accessory solar energy system siting in connection with proposed construction of, or major renovations to, municipally owned and operated buildings.	Ongoing	TC, SC, PWD, CC
	IX.1.c. The Town supports the exploration of smaller hydropower generation package systems.	IX.1.c.1 The Town will research and report on the viability of using smaller hydropower package systems to generate electricity for municipal facilities, and will develop guidance for property owners interested in installing their own systems.	Intermediate	CC, PB, PD
	IX.1.d. The Town supports the continued presence and expansion of programs designed to support the use of renewable energy systems for private property owners.	IX.1.d.1 The Town will lobby the State Office of Energy Resources to expand Solarize RI to Burrillville.	Priority	TC, PD
IX.2. To reduce the energy consumption of municipal buildings, vehicles, and equipment in Burrillville.	IX.2.a. The Town will pursue measures to improve the energy efficiency of municipal buildings.	IX.2.a.1 The Town will monitor energy use of municipal buildings through the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program annually.	Priority	TC, PWD, SD, BA
		IX.2.a.2 The Town will pursue energy efficiency retrofits for the municipal buildings with the highest documented energy use intensity (EUI) to reduce heating and cooling costs and/or electricity usage.	Long Term	BA, SD, PWD
	IX.2.b. The Town will give preference to energy efficient fleet vehicles and equipment when replacement is required.	IX.2.b.1 The Town will replace end-of-life municipal vehicles with high fuel efficiency and/or electric vehicles, as viable.	Long Term	TC, PWD, SD

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IX. Energy Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
IX.3. To increase the understanding of Town staff and community members on energy efficient practices and renewable energy development.	IX.3.a. The Town will encourage the education of civic leaders and residents on issues of renewable energy and energy efficiency.	IX.3.a.1 Town staff will remain aware of and participate in local, statewide, and national educational initiatives to promote the increased use of renewable energy.	Ongoing	TC, SD, PWD, CC
		IX.3.a.2 Town Council, Planning Board, and planning staff will develop materials and annually disseminate information to the public and municipal staff regarding energy efficiency programs and financing opportunities.	Long Term	TC, PB, PD
IX.4. To decrease and mitigate the environmental impacts of fossil fuel energy production in Burrillville.	IX.4.a. The Town will work towards containing the impacts of existing fossil fuel energy production, including natural gas, in Burrillville while exploring ways to prohibit future production facilities.	IX.4.a.1 The Town will study and recommend changes to the zoning ordinance to prohibit new future fossil fuel production facilities.	Priority	PB, PD, CC
		IX.4.a.2 The Town will continue to actively voice its opposition to the siting or expansion of fossil fuel energy generating facilities within its boundaries, or within abutting Towns when located where they may adversely affect Burrillville.	Ongoing	TC, PB, CC
	IX.4.b. Ensure the interests of the Town and its residents are honored with respect to any future change or disposition of the Ocean State Power (OSP) facility.	IX.4.b.1 The Town will seek a formal agreement for OSP to inform the Town of all future modifications to the OSP facility before they occur. The Town will in turn share this information with residents.	Ongoing	TC, PB
		IX.4.b.2 The Town will study and report on the legal options for more strictly regulating energy generating facilities within specified land use areas in the Town, including better standards for any future expansion of OSP.	Intermediate	TC

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### Historic and Cultural Resources

X. Historic and Cultural Resource Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
X.1. Identify and preserve Burrillville's historic sites, structures, documents and artifacts as representations of the Town's cultural heritage.	X.1.a. Maintain the notion of establishing a formal Town-supported board/commission to develop the regulations necessary to preserve the Town's historic sites, structures, and artifacts.	X.1.a.1. Reestablish the Burrillville Historic District Commission (HDC) by enactment of the Town Council, in order to explore establishing one or more historic districts in town.	Priority	TC
		X.1.a.2. The Town Planner, Planning Board, Town Council and HDC should cooperatively prepare an up-to-date inventory of historic resources as well as voluntary design guidelines for adoption as part of any historic district regulations.	Long Term	TP, PB, TC, HDC
		X.1.a.3. Establish an environmental review process within the subdivision regulations and site plan review process which will permit the Planning Board to request an on-site archaeological investigation if the State Archaeologist indicates there is potential for an archaeological site on the premises.	Long Term	TP, PB
	X.1.b. Establish land use regulations and/or incentives to help preserve the Town's historic sites, structures and artifacts, including but not limited to, cemeteries, stone walls, and trees.	X.1.b.1. Revise the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assisted housing rehabilitation program to give special consideration to historic structures, and suggest compliance with historic district guidelines, whenever appropriate.	Intermediate	TP, TC
		X.1.b.2. Explore cost-effective options for providing suitable space to archive historical Town records and materials, preferably climate-controlled.	Long Term	HDC

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X. Historic and Cultural Resource Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		X.1.b.3. Explore options for instituting a demolition delay ordinance to give the Town time to negotiate alternatives to demolition of historic buildings.	Intermediate	HDC, BO
		X.1.b.4. Solicit professional and/or academically oriented archaeological investigations of known or potential pre-colonial and colonial sites, including projects by local colleges and universities.	Long Term	HDC
		X.1.b.5. Explore options for local incentives to encourage preservation of remaining privately-owned historic buildings and resources, with a particular emphasis on mill buildings and stone walls.	Long Term	HDC
		X.1.c.1. Provide support through the Historical Society and other groups for public education on historic and cultural resources, including, but not limited to, activities such as workshops, forums, historic house tours, information packets and living and learning centers, etc.	Intermediate	HDC
		X.1.c.2. Actively promote the Town as an area rich in historic resources of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Focus on the mill villages throughout the Town.	Intermediate	HDC
X.2. Promote an appreciation for and understanding of Burrillville's historic resources.	X.2.a. Educate the public about the importance of preserving historic resources.	X.2.a.1. Encourage the schools to expand educational efforts and resources committed to teaching about local history such as promoting volunteer participation and other efforts.	Intermediate	HDC

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**Land Use**

Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
XI.1 To provide a land use pattern which is capable of meeting present and future community needs in an efficient, environmentally sound, economic, equitable and aesthetically pleasing manner.	XI.1.a Develop residential, commercial, industrial and mixed-use areas which are compactly grouped, attractive, and compatible with the ability of land and water resources to support the development.	XI.1.a.1 Maintain F-5 and F-2 zoning in areas where public services are currently unavailable or not planned to be available.	Ongoing	TC, PB, TP
		XI.1.a.2 Work toward ensuring that sites and buildings suitable for commercial and industrial development (i.e. those served by, or planned to be served by, public sewer and water, that have adequate access to major arterial roadways, and that will not intrude upon less intensive land uses) are preserved and not converted to residential uses.	Ongoing	PB TP, BRA
		XI.1.a.3 In order to make it easier for developer's to help implement this goal, prepare and circulate a developer's information handbook, including information on subdivision regulations, utilities, zoning, erosion and sedimentation controls, groundwater aquifers regulations, Planning Board meeting schedule and time deadlines, and the Comprehensive Plan.	Intermediate	PB, TP

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	<p>XI.1.b Continue to set land use and zoning requirements based on the suitability of land for various types of development.</p>	<p>XI.1.b.1 Develop and implement a Planned Unit Development section in the Zoning Ordinance which permits a parcel of land, except in the F5 district, to be planned and developed as one unit, and contains a mix of residential and commercial uses and common open space. Developer may vary building location and density within a larger tract of land, in order to protect the most sensitive and valuable portions of the tract.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, PB, TP</p>
		<p>XI.1.b.2 Limit the use of land along water bodies to water dependent uses, or to mixed-use development in which a water dependent use is combined with other uses. Continue, where possible, to utilize the Aquifer Overlay and other land use tools to ensure drinking water sources remain clean and safe.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TP, PB, BO</p>
<p>XI.2 To preserve, improve, and direct new growth to the Town’s village centers, and minimize new development in rural areas.</p>	<p>XI.2.a Promote the maintenance of R-12 and R-20 zones within the villages of Harrisville, Glendale, Oakland, Mapleville, Pascoag and Nasonville.</p>			

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	XI.2.b Relate the use of land to the level of public facilities and services available, or planned to be available.	XI.2.b.1 Develop a plan that prioritizes areas where development is desired and appropriate, and where public water and sewer is needed to support such development. Work with the Sewer Authority and Fire Districts to develop an expansion plan that targets these areas while limiting expansion to less optimal areas.	Intermediate	PB, TP, BRA, WDs, Sewer Commission
		XI.2.b.2 The Burrillville Redevelopment Agency will establish a Redevelopment District within Nasonville, coordinating with the Town, RIDOT, and other partners to create a flexible, mixed-use, walkable, compact traditional village.	Priority	BRA, TC, PB
	XI.2.c Preserve historic buildings, districts, and archaeological sites.	XI.2.c.1 Explore and determine the viability of establishing zoning protection for state and national register historic properties and districts as an integral part of preserving Burrillville's cultural landscape. Work with the Burrillville Historical Society to identify the most critical properties and features.	Intermediate	BHS, PB
	XI.2.d Preserve and enhance the economic development opportunities, including cultural, recreational and educational, within the village centers and other commercial and industrial areas of town.	XI.2.d.1 Research federal and state business district revitalization programs and report on the costs and benefits of local participation.	Long Term	BRA, TP, PB
XI.2.d.2 Establish and support an organization of business people in the Town of Burrillville to improve the overall business climate.		Intermediate	TP, BRA, PB, TC	

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
		XI.2.d.3 Explore and report on the costs and benefits of efforts used by other communities to provide public and/or private incentives to encourage investment in town and village centers. Determine the viability of these efforts in Burrillville’s village centers, including preservation and reuse of historic buildings.	Long Term	TP, BRA
		XI.2.d.4 The Town should study the need for and feasibility of future commercial and industrial zoning expansion.	Intermediate	TP, BRA, PB
XI.3 To establish a balance between residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, public facility, agricultural and conservation land uses that service the needs of the community.	XI.3.a Strive to achieve equity between the costs and benefits of new development.		Ongoing	PB, TP, TC
	XI.3.b Promote neighborhood development by locating recreation and education facilities in close proximity to where people live, with provision for safe pedestrian movement between facilities where possible.		Ongoing	PB, TP, PWD, RD
	XI.3.c Maximize the investment and utilization of existing infrastructure by maintaining commercial and industrial zoning where this infrastructure exists or is planned to exist.	XI.3.c.1 Explore and report on the pros and cons of establishing development controls and performance standards for industrial and commercial development that mitigate conflicts with other land uses and activities.	Intermediate	TP, PB, BRA

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	XI.3.d Recognize the importance of recreation, open space, public access to water bodies, and historic resources to the Town's economy, in tourism development and in attracting and retaining industry, and endeavor to protect and enhance these resources in economic development siting and design activity.	XI.3.d.1 Particularly within the eastern 2/3 of town, where there are more residents and development, identify, map, and seek to preserve open space systems and corridors that protect complete ecologic units and provide structure and character to the built environment.	Priority	TP, CC, PB
		XI.3.d.2 Identify, map, and seek to preserve open spaces large enough to serve as wildlife habitat and migratory corridors, store flood waters, abate air and water pollution, provide a sense of openness, and serve as buffers and aesthetic amenities to existing development.	Long Term	CC, TP
	XI.3.e Preserve, and where necessary restore, rivers and water bodies and their shorelands for recreational use, wildlife habitat, water supply and open space corridors.	XI.3.e.1 Expand public access to water bodies by preserving existing recorded public access ways, seeking to maximize the access potential of existing committed shore lands, acquiring key access points, and stipulating access opportunities in new shoreline developments.	Ongoing	TP, PB, CC
XI.4 Promote the preservation, improvement and enhancement of the positive and desirable characteristics of Burrillville's traditional New England	XI.4.a Preserve and support existing agricultural endeavors	XI.4.a.1 Utilize methods such as purchase of development rights, and permitting limited, clustered residential development, except in the F5 district, at the edges of large agricultural properties toward preserving agricultural lands.	Ongoing	PB, TP, TC, CC

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
environment and land use patterns.	XI.4.b Recognize the Town's scenic rural landscapes, roads, and vistas as important cultural and economic resources, and strive to preserve them.	XI.4.b.1 Prepare a rural road ordinance or policy which will serve to define the most valued visual qualities of the Town's rural roads, potentially including stone walls, trees, and other unique features. Once completed, identify roads to consider for designation.	Long Term	HDC, CC, TP, PB
XI.6 The Town recognizes the importance of regional developments and issues on its future. Therefore, the Planning Board and the Town Council shall make an effort to meet with their counterparts in abutting communities on an annual basis to encourage communication and discussion of regional issues.	XI.6.a The Town of Burrillville is opposed to the development of any regional airport in the communities of Douglas and Uxbridge, Massachusetts. A regional airport is contrary to the economic development objectives of the Town of Burrillville, its efforts toward historic preservation, and its long-term land use plan which preserves open space resources and the low-density character of the community.	XI.6.a.1 The Town will pursue various avenues to register its opposition to any regional airport site, including working closely with State officials.	Ongoing	TC, PB, TP
		XI.6.a.2 The Burrillville Planning Board and Town Council should meet on an annual basis with abutting communities to encourage regional communication and to stay abreast of any other major development or infrastructure plans nearby that may impact Burrillville.	Ongoing	TC, PB

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Land Use Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Party
	<p>XI.6.b The Town of Burrillville is opposed to the development of any regional landfill and/or incinerator within the Town’s boundaries or within abutting towns where they may affect Burrillville. Any such facilities are contrary to the Town’s economic development strategy of promoting tourism and the use of open space and recreational resources in that effort. The Town considers any such facility a potential source of pollution to public drinking water supplies.</p>	<p>XI.6.b.1 The Town will continue to actively voice its opposition to the siting of a regional landfill and/or incinerator facility within its boundaries or within abutting towns but located where they may affect Burrillville.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>TC, PB</p>