

Chapter VIII
Open Space, Conservation and
Recreation

CHAPTER VIII
RECREATION, CONSERVATION AND
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The Town of Burrillville is located within the sphere of the moving of population from the central cities of Providence, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket. In 1960, the population of the Town was 9,119 and in 1970 it increased to 10,087, which represented an increase of 968 or 10.6 percent. In 1980, the Town's population reached 13,164, in the year 1990, 16,230, and 15,796 as of year 2000.

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. Since the early 1980's, the Town, along with the rest of the State, has been in the midst of an upswing in building activity. The number of single-family residential building permits rose from 47 in 1982, to 228 in 1986. The latest trend, years 2001 thru 2003, show a drop-off to an average of 47 single-family residential building permits per year. This growth in building activity not only increases the demand for recreational and open space facilities, but at the same time, reduces 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 and 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 recreation, conservation and open space purposes.

Although Burrillville is largely undeveloped, 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.

Indoor Recreation

Despite the focus on outdoor recreation, indoor recreational needs are not forgotten. The 5 year open space recreation plan explores the development of a community swimming pool as well as an indoor teen/recreation center within year 2007 of Implementation.

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 seasonable homes converted to year-round structures. This situation presents both recreational 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 land is preserved for both conservation and recreation purposes.

The Town of Burrillville has had a rather unique physical-social characteristic which includes the presence of a number of farms, orchards and wooded areas. These lands have and will continue to be subject to the pressures for development. When development occurs, the open or spacious characteristic of the Town will continue to diminish. Although land for agricultural use, as opposed to open space or conservation use, does not come within the purview of this study, it does demonstrate one of the physical-social characteristics of the community which is disappearing due to the encroachment of development. In a sense, the environmental quality of spaciousness associated with farms and orchards serves to illustrate that the Town of Burrillville should acquire lands to attempt to preserve its rural feeling and this can be accomplished through a conservation program.

It is therefore recommended that land and water bodies be acquired for passive recreational and/or conservation purposes in addition to land acquired for intensive recreational activity and, where appropriate, farmlands and orchards be included in this acquisition program.

The Town of Burrillville has an existing open space plan (1999), and is supplemental to this comprehensive plan. The inventory of open space facilities is more fully presented

and discussed in the Town's Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan which is adopted and made part of this plan. This comprehensive plan is designed to document and cross-reference previously completed plans rather than to duplicate them.

VIII.1 Existing Conditions, Trends and Projections

The Town of Burrillville, for the purposes of this report, has been divided into three planning districts as illustrated on Map -1. The planning districts are delineated conform to the U.S. Census tract lines of 2000.

<u>Planning Districts</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-1 on the following pages, presents the data in summary form, by planning district.

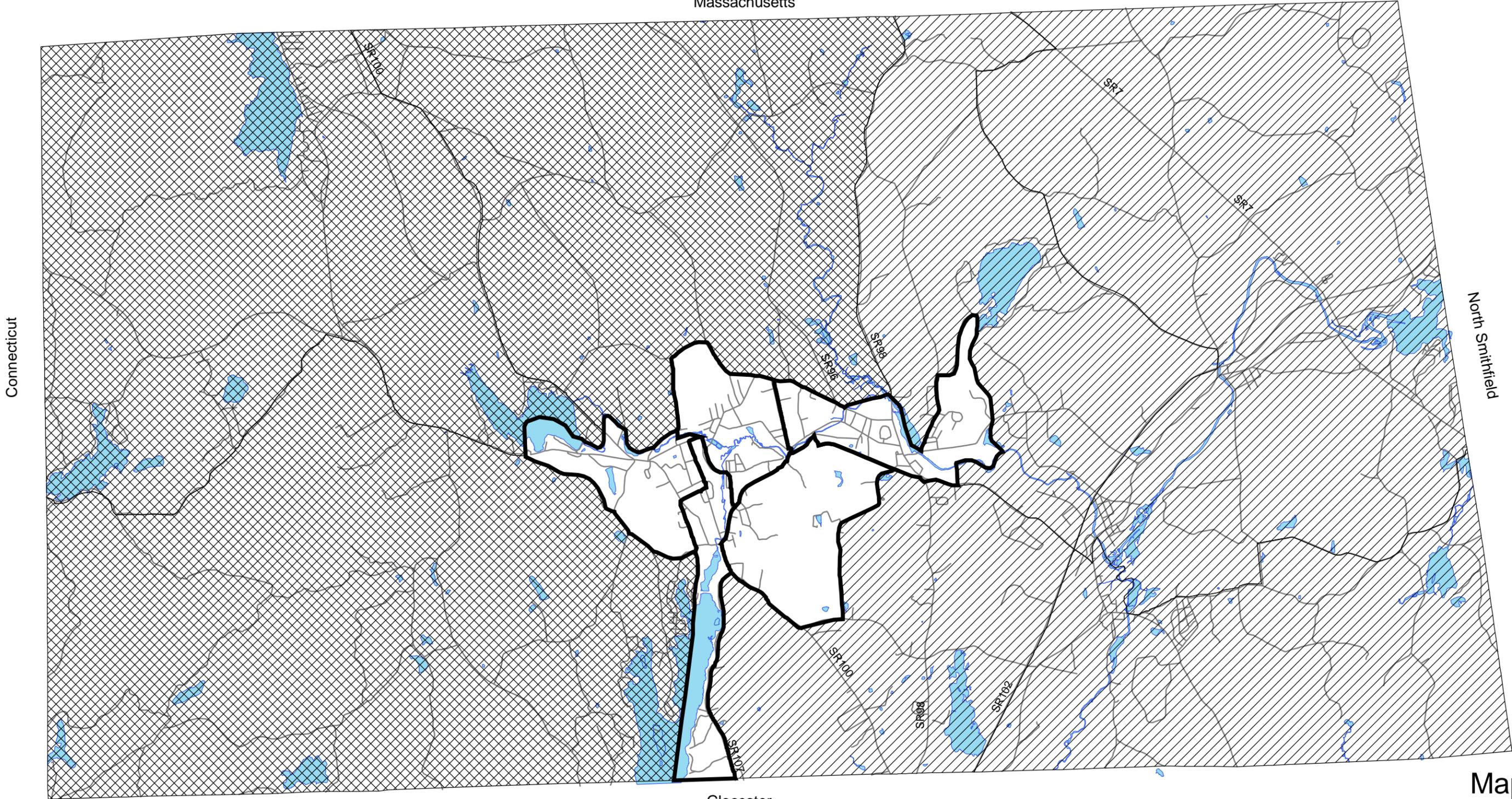
The information presented in Table VIII-1 and Maps 1 and 2 show that 7,968.2 acres of land are committed for recreation and conservation purposes in the Town. Of this amount, 7,909 acres are actually developed and utilized. Table VIII-2 summarizes this information by the type of facility, its expected 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 which are used in this section.

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.
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Recreational Planning Districts

Massachusetts



Connecticut

North Smithfield

Gloucester

Source; Burrillville Planning Dept., July 2004

Map 1

Legend

- roads
- water
- District II
- District I
- District III

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles

Facility Type	Description
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.

**Table VIII-1
Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Facilities Inventory**

MAP NO.	FACILITY	DEVELOPED	UNDEVELOPED	TYPE	SERVICE AREA	OWNERSHIP
<u>PLANNING DISTRICT I</u>						
1	Country View Country Club	125.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
2	Mapleville Little League Field	5.0	0.0	Special	Town	Private
3	Police Station Area	0.0	5.0	Undeveloped	Town	Town
4	Middle School Site (Branch River Park)	<u>77.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	Open Area Playfield	Town Town	Town Town
5	Round Top Fishing Area	134.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
6	Black Hut Mgt. Area	1263.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
7	Spring Lake Beach	50.0	0.0	Special	Regional	State
8	Woonsocket YMCA Day Camp	23.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
9	Wallum Lake Rod & Gun Club	170.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
10	Spring Lake Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
11	Screech Hole Bog	50.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
12	Sherman Pond	0.6	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
13	Block 26, Lot 11	<u>70.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	Conservation	Regional	State
14	Crystal Lake Golf Course	239	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
15	Oakland Triangle	10.0	0.0	Open Area	Neighborhood	Private
16	Block 24, Lot 15	0.0	0.3	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
17	Block 14, Lot 26B	0.5	0.0	Sewer Station	Neighborhood	Town
18	Burrillville High School	10.0	0.0	Playfield	Town	Town
19	Burrillville Tennis Courts	1.0	0.0	Special	Town	Town
20	Berean Baptist Church	0.3	0.0	Playground	Regional	Private
21	Townsmen's Club	15.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
22	Episcopal Conference Center	180.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
	TOTAL	2,423.8	5.3			

PLANNING DISTRICT II

23	Echo Lake Campground	83.0	0.0	Special	Regional	Private
24	Wilson's Reservoir Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
25	Casmir Pulaski State Park	100.0	0.0	Special	Regional	State
26	George Washington Mgt. Area	2,941.0	0.0	Special	Regional	State
27	Buck Hill Mgt. Area	1,291.0	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
28	Wakefield Pond Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
29	Wallum Lake Terrace Assoc.	1.0	0.0	Special	Neighborhood	Private
30	Pascoag Reservoir Assoc.	0.5	0.0	Special	Neighborhood	Private
31	Zambarano Memorial Hospital	0.4	0.0	Special	State*	State
32	Buck Hill Boy Scouts Res.	<u>1,094.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	Special	Regional	Private
TOTAL		5,511.9	0.0			

PLANNING DISTRICT III

33	Harrisville Assembly	1.0	0.0	Neigh. Park	Town	Town
34	River Street Property	0.2	0.0	Conservation	Regional	State
35	Bicentennial Park	1.0	0.0	Neigh. Park	Town	Town
36	Austin T. Levy School	10.0	0.0	Playground	Town	Town
37	William L. Callahan School	0.0	1.0	Open Area	Town	Town
38	Eccleston Field	8.0	0.0	Playfield	Town	Town
39	R.R. ROW	0.0	36.0	Undeveloped	Town	Town
40	Harrisville Mill Pond Access	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>	Special	Regional	State
41	White Mill Property	0.0	13.4	Undeveloped	Town	Town
42	Pascoag Bridgeway	0.0	1.0	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
43	Block 18, Lot 72	0.0	0.1	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
44	Block 19, Lot 71 & 94	0.0	1.1	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
45	Hauser Memorial Field	9.0	0.0	Playfield	Town	Town
46	Beckwith Bruckshaw Memorial	1.0	0.0	Play Area	Town	Private
47	Union Pond Access	0.5	0.0	Special	Regional	State
48	Community Baptist Church	1.3	0.0	Playground	Regional	Private
49	Block 18, Lot 12	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.5</u>	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	Town
TOTAL		32.5	53.1			

GRAND TOTAL **7,968.2** **58.4**

* Staff and Clients Only

Source: Burrillville Planning Department, 2004.

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

Planning District	Town	State	Private	Total
I	88.5	1,568.1	767.3	2423.9
II	0	4,333.4	1,179.4	5,511.9
III	28	1.2	2.3	31.5
TOTALS	116.5	5,902.7	1,949	7,968.2

Source: 1988 Burrillville Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plan.

Population - The Town of Burrillville has and will continue to experience the pressure of the suburban movement of people from the core cities in the Providence Metropolitan area. Burrillville is located just outside the urban core and has been absorbing a part of the population losses experienced by the cities of Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls and Woonsocket because of the desire of people to move from the older cities to the more attractive amenities associated with the suburbs.

Burrillville's population has grown by over 7,000 people since 1960, adding approximately 78 percent more residents than lived in Town in 1960. Between 1960 and 1970, the Town added under 1,000 new residents. Between 1970 and 1980, and 1980 and 1990, over 3,000 new residents have moved to Town each decade, however, the 2000 census shows a decrease from 16,230 of 1990 to 15,796 as of year 2000 (see Table VIII-4).

**Table VIII-4
Burrillville Population Trends, 1960-1990**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Number Change</u>
1960	9,116	NA	NA
1970	10,087	10.7	971
1980	13,164	30.5	3,077
1990	16,230	23.3	3,066
2000	15,796	(2.7)	(434)

Source: U.S. Census of Population.

Burrillville has an older population than the State as a whole, with a median age of 37.5 years compared to the State's 36.7 years. In 2000, 28.2 percent of the Town's population was under age 18, compared to 27.0 percent Statewide. Burrillville had a lower percentage of elderly residents than the State in 2000; 11.3 percent compared to 14.5 percent (see Table VIII-5). This may indicate that Burrillville has seen a recent influx of empty nesters since 1990.

**Table VIII-5
Age Distribution of Burrillville Population**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Under Age 18 (1)</u>	<u>Age 64 and over (2)</u>	<u>Median Age</u>
Burrillville	28.2 %	11.3 %	37.5
Rhode Island	27.0 %	14.5 %	36.7

Source: Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning, 2000

Population in Burrillville is expected to continue to grow, although at a somewhat slower pace than the last projection of 1990. Table VIII-6 shows the estimated projections.

**Table VIII-6
2000 Population Projections for Burrillville**

Year	Projected Population	Percent Change
2000	15,796	
2005	16,183	2.45
2010	16,469	1.76
2015	16,928	2.78
2020	17,439	3.01
2025	17,876	2.50
2030	18,195	1.78

Source: 2000, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning projections.

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-7.

**Table VIII-7
Estimated Number of Housing Units by Census Tract, 2000**

Planning District	Units	
	1990	2000
I	2,484	2,669
II	1,098	1,140
III	2,169	2,012
TOTAL	5,751	5,821

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, 2000.

The boundaries of the Planning Districts in this Plan were redrawn from those used for the 1990 data. The new recreational planning districts coincide with Burrillville’s three Census Tracts: 130.02, 130.01 and 129. The previous method went so far as to split the census tract’s blocks up and apportion blocks into various districts. Since 1990, the 2000 census data categorizes block groups differently and it is no longer possible to update the populations as previously constructed. Moreover, splitting census tracts and their respective block group areas randomly into districts does nothing for trying to establish levels of service for each respective district. The new method is 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. Additionally, the new method will be less prone to statistical error by simplifying the data collection and analysis process.

VIII.2 Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Issues

The following presents issues relating to recreation, conservation and open space preservation in Burrillville.

Recreational Analysis and Standards - There has been an increased demand for outdoor recreational facilities throughout the United States during the past decade. Factors identified which have created the additional demand are: population increase, the increased amount of leisure time, the rising standard of living, the interest to preserve the natural landscape and the preservation of open space to separate intensive development.

Burrillville, similar to many Rhode Island communities, has experienced the impact of increased population due to the mobility of population from the central core cities of Rhode Island.

Population to be served is the basis used to determine recreational needs. Also, because of the increased concern for the environment and with ecology, there are areas in Burrillville, which have been designated to be preserved for conservation and open space purposes. Thus, outdoor recreational facilities for the Town of Burrillville shall use as criteria the demand created by the local population and the preservation of open space for environmental and ecological objectives.

The standards published in the *Recreation Conservation and Open Space Planning Manual*, as amended (see Table VIII-8) for playgrounds, play fields and neighborhood parks are used in this study, to determine the need for these facilities. The standards require that for each 1,000 persons, 6.25 acres of land be utilized for the above listed recreational facilities.

Standards for playlots, play areas and major parks listed in the above mentioned report do not readily apply to special conditions in the Town of Burrillville, due to low density and rural character. However, as the Town continues to grow, care must be taken to monitor the recreation functions of playlots, play areas and major parks to insure that they meet the

recreation needs of Burrillville's residents. For example, play lots and play areas can be located within playfields and playgrounds where such areas are dictated by neighborhood requirements. The provision of a major park, as described in the planning manual, does not appear to be necessary in the Town of Burrillville within the scope of this plan. Within the mill village and surrounding area, the standards for playlots, parks and recreational sites are applicable to meet the needs of Burrillville's residents. However, these type of facilities are less critical and the standards less applicable in the more rural areas, where a substantial portion of homes are located on large lots, and there remains vast areas of undeveloped fields and woodland available for informal play by children.

**Table VIII-8
General Standards for Recreational Facilities**

Type of Facility	Acres Per 1,000 Population	Size Range (In Acres)	Preferred Service 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, parks, as well as rehabilitation of existing facilities.

Existing and Future Requirements by Planning District - Table VIII-9, 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 (119.3 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-9
Recreational Needs By Planning District

Year	Population	Land Required to Meet Standards	Existing Property	Deficit/Surplus
Planning Dist. I				
1990	7429	46	88.5	42.5
2000	7402	46	88.5	42.5
Planning Dist. II				
1990	3317	21	0	(21)
2000	3358	21	0	(21)
Planning Dist. III				
1990	5484	34	28	(6)
2000	5036	31	28	(6)

Source: U.S. Census of population, 2000; Burrillville Planning Department, 2004.

As shown in Table VIII-9, the Town of Burrillville has been divided into three planning districts. These districts are used to evaluate existing facilities in relation with the population and to project future recreation area needs by planning district through the 15-year planning period.

The figures shown in Table VIII-9 indicate that Planning Districts 2 and 3 are deficient in land needed for recreation purposes. Specific recommendations by Planning District are included in Appendix VIII-A.

As stated in the opening paragraph of this section, the figures in Table VIII-9 include only presently developed Town-owned land. The inventory of recreational facilities show that there are approximately 7,851.7 acres of recreation land in either state or private ownership. This property is intended to serve the recreational needs of not only Burrillville residents, but also regional and even statewide needs. 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.

Conservation and Open Space - The emphasis in the prior section of this report was placed on a quantitative analysis of active outdoor recreation facilities. In addition to active recreation facilities, the Town should and does recognize environmental quality and

passive recreation opportunities as an important component of the outdoor recreation experience.

A greater portion of the Town of Burrillville is presently undeveloped. In fact, there are 7,401 acres of land classified as conservation and open space areas. There are also several fine lakes and streams which should be protected from the encroachment of urbanization and pollution. Proposed Open Space and Recreation areas are shown on Map - 2.

Conservation and open space needs must be measured by a quantitative standard, but must 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. A policy to protect, or acquire where necessary, all existing wetlands is in order where opportunities for such action is available.

The above figure for conservation includes the George Washington Management Area, the Buck Hill Boy Scouts Reservation and Casmir Pulaski Park, which total 4,315 acres. While the areas are mainly conservation in nature, they also function as more active recreation areas and have been put into the use classification of Special Uses.

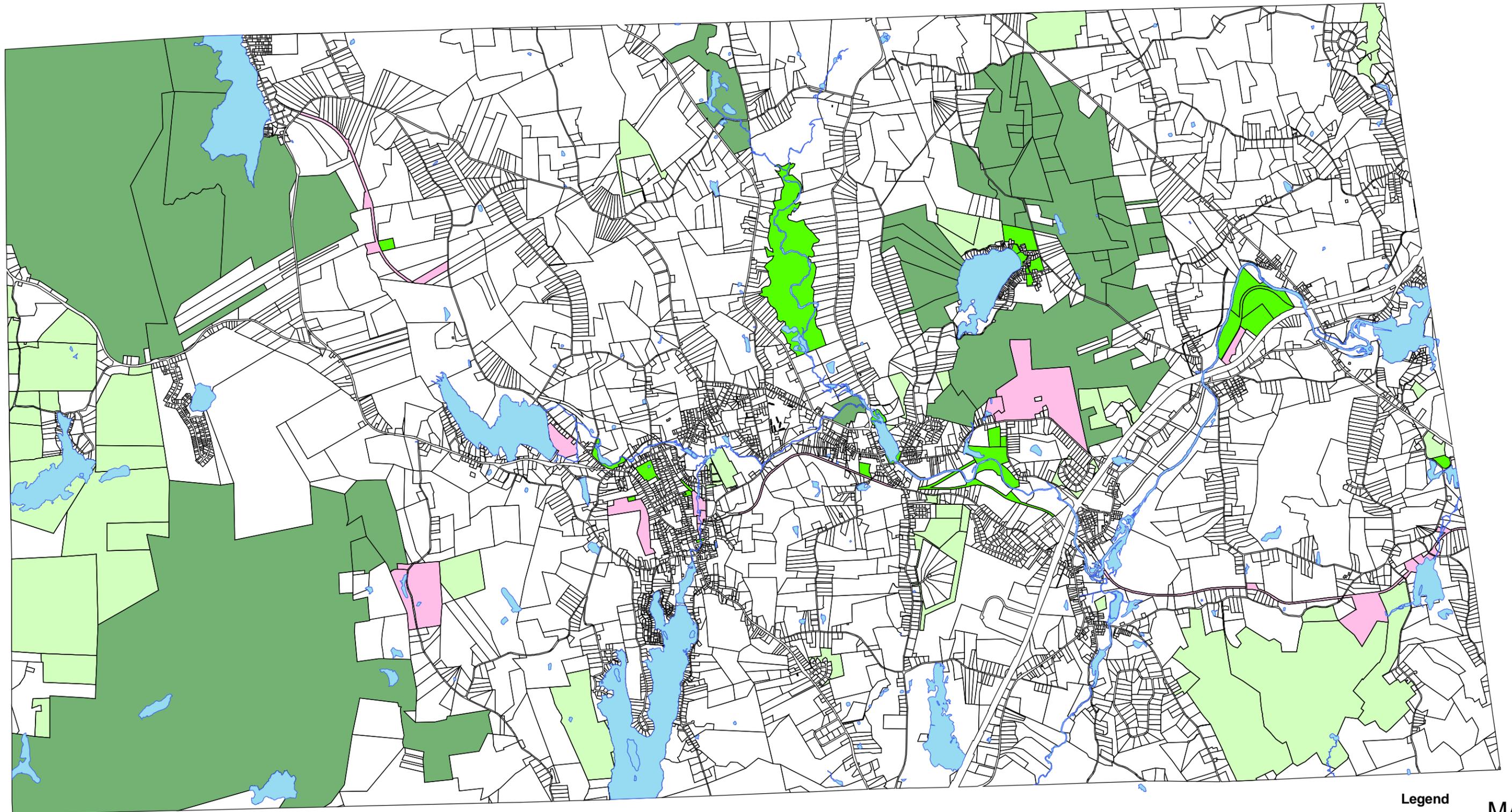
VIII.3 Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions

The Town of Burrillville has had the foresight to make significant acquisitions of land to insure that recreational, conservation and open space opportunities will be available to all residents of the Town.

The Town should develop existing sites within a comprehensive coordinated framework to insure that facilities are developed based upon usage. This can be best accomplished by frequent review of studies and development of priorities within the financial capabilities of the Town.

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 the Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plan means that the local financial resources will have to be

Existing & Future Recreation Conservation & Open Space Parcels - 2004



Source: Burrillville Planning Dept., 2004

Legend

- water
- parcels
- Privately owned
- State owned
- Acquisition parcels
- Town owned

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

MAP 2

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.

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 surrounding these natural features be either acquired or preserved.

The following represents the Town's goals, policies and implementation actions relating to recreation, conservation and open space preservation. Figure Map -2 illustrates the recreation, conservation and open space goals.

VIII. Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions
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 Develop more recreational complexes rather than single purpose recreational facilities to serve all segments of the population.
		VIII.1.a.2 Through the Recreation Capital Improvement Program, the Town will schedule, in a systematic manner, the acquisition and development of recreation facilities within its financial capabilities.
	VIII.1.b Increase effective utilization of existing facilities by the development of additional facilities to relieve overuse and provide for present and future needs.	VIII.1.b.1 As demand dictates, explore the development of existing Town-owned properties in addition to identifying and acquiring additional sites for recreational development.
		VIII.1.b.2 Work with the School Department to coordinate its recreation programs and properties with Town activities.
	VIII.1.c Explore additional means for obtaining and preserving recreation, conservation and open space besides out-right purchase.	VIII.1.c.1 Methods to be considered include easements, zoning and other land use and development regulations.
		VIII.1.c.4 Encourage private investment in recreational areas and facilities.
		VIII.1.c.5 Require land dedication or fees in lieu of land expressly for recreational purposes in all subdivisions and major non-residential developments.
		VIII.1.c.6 Land dedicated to the Town under Section 10-5.7 "Conveyance of Land for Recreational Purposes" should be considered for both its recreational and open space characteristics, and appropriately designated. Efforts should be made to coordinate the land dedicated in the subdivision process to form interconnected greenbelts, and larger areas of protected open space for habitat preservation.

		VIII.1.c.7 Form a land trust committee to establish land trusts in Burrillville. COMPLETE
	VIII.1.d Ensure that the needs and recreational interests of residents of all social and age groups and abilities are considered to the fullest extent possible in developing recreational facility plans.	VIII.1.d.1 Improve access to all types of recreation facilities.
	VIII.1.e Relate the type and size of recreational facilities to the pertinent characteristics of the service area.	VIII.1.e.1 Base acquisition and development programs on up-to-date studies of demand and usage.
	VIII.1.f 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.f.1 Preserve lands along Wallum Lake, Wakefield Pond, Pascoag Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir, Spring Lake, Branch River and other smaller water bodies and tributaries; 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.
		VIII.1.f.2 Make acquisition of sites on or providing access to water bodies a priority in future acquisition programs.
		VIII.1.f.3 Improve and expand opportunities for recreational swimming and beach usage by maintaining and upgrading existing beach facilities, by encouraging the protection of small lakes and ponds which have traditionally accommodated swimming, and developing opportunities where feasible and appropriate.
		VIII.1.f.4 Promote the management of reservoirs and their watersheds for multiple purposes, including appropriate forms of public recreational access and use.

VIII. Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions
	VIII.1.g Seek to improve the opportunities for bicycling as an alternative transportation mode and recreational activity throughout the Town.	VIII.1.g.1 Consider establishing a bike path linking the villages in the Town with 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 bike path. In concept, the bike path would link Smithfield to Wallum Lake and connect eventually with other paths in northern Rhode Island and the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor.
	VIII.1.h Recognize the importance of the Town's recreational and open space resources, and ensure that their development is carefully integrated with efforts to promote Burrillville to visitors.	VIII.1.h.1 The Economic Development Commission should work with the local Chamber of Commerce or other groups to develop a map of public and private recreational sites throughout the Town. Print and distribute copies of the map at tourist-stops.
		VIII.1.h.2 Support development of private recreation establishments in appropriate areas.
		VIII.1.h.3 The Town has applied to become a member of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. COMPLETE
VIII.2 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.	VIII.2.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.	VIII.2.a.1 Work toward prevention or mitigation of adverse impacts of human activities on wildlife habitat.

VIII. Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions
	VIII.2.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.	VIII.2.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.
		VIII.2.b.2 Manage floodplains to protect their natural functions and minimize flood hazards to life and property.
		VIII.2.b.3 Protect wetland areas through acquisition of lands which protect their biological and hydrological integrity, provide opportunities for public access and usage, and enhance the proper management of wetland systems.
		VIII.2.b.4 Retain open spaces large enough to 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.
		VIII.2.b.5 Continue efforts to preserve the Town's best farmland for active agricultural use.
	VIII.2.c Increased emphasis will be placed on preserving valuable natural resources such as streams and wetlands and the protection of the environment through a conservation and open space program.	VIII.2.c.1 The Town shall go on record as endorsing vigorous enforcement of all environmental protection laws and programs.
		VIII.2.c.2 Cooperate with the Department of Environmental Management of the State of Rhode Island in its conservation and recreation programs, especially since the State presently owns nearly 6,000 acres of recreation property in the Town of Burrillville.