

City of Pittsfield

Open Space And Recreation Plan 2019 - 2024

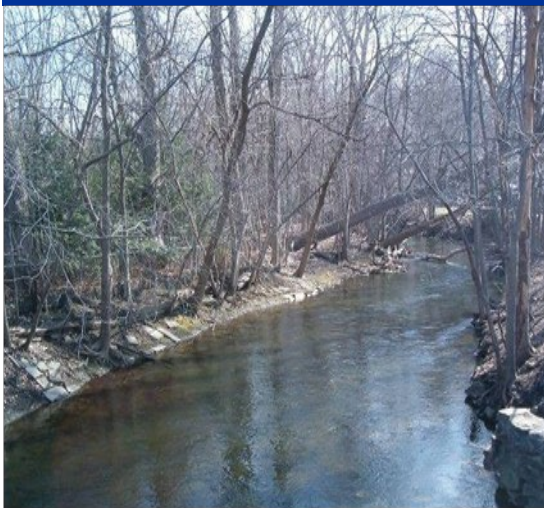


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Section 1: Plan Summary

This Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) demonstrates the City of Pittsfield's desire to preserve, maintain, and restore its cherished natural resources through thoughtful planning and active stewardship. Without planning, the appearance of a community, the condition of its natural resources, and the quality of life experienced by its residents can be dramatically altered through changes in land use. Through planning communities assess where they are, where they would like to go and how to get there. It is important that communities plan to protect important open space and recreational facilities and encourage compatible growth in the future.

While Pittsfield values its open spaces, the City recognizes the challenges of commercial, industrial and residential development. The quality of life for all of Pittsfield's residents is greatly enriched by the quality of the open space in the City, whether the space can be enjoyed for recreational activity or conserved to protect wildlife habitat and sensitive natural resources.

Although Pittsfield is the urban center of Berkshire County, almost 70% of land within the City remains undeveloped, with forest being the largest proportion of undeveloped land cover. Approximately 22% of the land area of Pittsfield is permanently protected from development, with the City owning approximately ¼ of those lands. In total there are 5,965 acres of land in the city that are permanently protected, with the Commonwealth owning 2,800 acres and the City of Pittsfield owning 1,606 acres. Other significant landowners are Berkshire Natural Resources Council (The Boulders) and Mass Audubon (Canoe Meadows). These lands support a wildlife habitat and a variety of recreational and historic facilities and programs, in addition to providing nature study opportunities and visual amenities. In addition to these lands, private landowners of large blocks of land that are in some way open to outdoor recreational use include four golf courses, a downhill ski area, and three summer camps.

Although the City and State land holdings appear to have adequate long-term protection, the private and quasi-public lands, in some cases, are vulnerable to changes in land use. As many of these private and quasi-public groups experience tight budgets and developable land in the City becomes scarcer, the pressure on these organizations to keep their lands in recreation or conservation use will increase. These issues need to be weighed against such factors as demographics of the user population, growth patterns and local recreation preferences.

This plan also offers an overview of Pittsfield's history, physical development, and environmental characteristics. Section 2 provides an introduction, describes why the plan was written, and describes the public process component of the plan. Section 3 presents a broad picture of the community, describes the City's history and development, set in a regional open space context, and illustrates how the community has evolved to accommodate a continually changing tomorrow. Section 4 inventories the City's natural and cultural resources and establishes a baseline of the community's environmental opportunities and constraints. Section 5 contains the detailed open space inventory including the ownership, management agency, current use, public access, and degree of protection, for each parcel. Section 6 discusses how the community's overall open space and recreation goals and objectives were obtained, and describes the goals in broad statements. Section 7 examines what is needed to achieve the community's stated goals

and includes an in-depth needs analysis of resource protection needs, community needs, and management needs. Section 8 expands upon Section 6 and Section 7 to create a comprehensive set of goals and objectives, which become the framework for the five-year action plan presented in Section 9.

Based on these findings, goals and objectives were developed to guide the City to address the following areas of concern:

Preservation of Natural Resources: Protect, preserve and maintain natural resources to ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space and water resources to maintain biodiversity and provide benefit to the public.

Enhancement & Expansion: Provide opportunities, resources, accessibility and quality facilities for both recreation and conservation uses. Focus resources on the development, rehabilitation and maintenance of the City's larger inter-neighborhood and citywide parks such as Wahconah Park and Burbank Park. Continue providing park amenities, such as benches, playground equipment, walkways and landscaping, which provide an enjoyable passive or active recreation experience for users of all ages and abilities, especially the aging demographic.

Funding and Support: Ensure necessary funding for open space, natural resources, and park planning for the upgrade and maintenance of existing parks. Continue to seek funding for administration, rehabilitation, security and programming to assure park users a quality experience. Seek alternative and innovative means to augment current resources including: grants, user fees, volunteers, inter-agency cooperation, public-private partnerships, and more.

Preservation and Stewardship: Preserve traditional land use patterns without promoting sprawl and protect large open spaces remaining in the City, including significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities.

Active Public Involvement & Ownership: Promote active public involvement through public awareness, open space stewardship, and ownership of Pittsfield's Open Space & Recreation Plan. Continue communication and cooperation with neighborhood and recreation groups to assure provision of high demand recreation programs and facilities.

Section 2: Introduction

2A Statement of Purpose

This Open Space and Recreation Plan will serve as a guide for the residents of Pittsfield to balance growth pressures with demands for open space preservation and recreation opportunities. In doing so, this Plan identifies and analyzes factors such as physical and cultural assets, land use, and socio-economic trends that are relevant to the protection of important resources. It inventories present supply and also establishes future conservation and recreation needs, outlining a series of recommendations for safeguarding and expanding these resources. The recommendations are prioritized in a Five-Year Action Plan (Section 9) to be implemented by the City over a specified period.

The plan represents an update of the City's 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Pittsfield implemented a number of the recommendations from the 2009 Plan, but it was time to look at the open space and recreation needs again as part of a comprehensive planning process. In addition, similar to other municipalities with limited financial resources, this Plan was also prepared in order to fulfill necessary eligibility requirements for the reimbursement of land purchases and development costs through state grant programs.

Specifically, the overall purpose and scope of this document is to:

- Identify current goals and objectives of the Parks Commission and Conservation Commission so future energies in parks, recreation, and conservation planning can be directed towards their fulfillment.
- Update the inventory of existing private, public, and quasi-public park, recreation, and conservation lands which will provide the basis for determining future recreation and open space needs and allocations.
- Assess how well the City is currently meeting the recreation needs of its residents and identify those needs which are currently unmet.
- Establish a comprehensive guide for systematic and continued improvements and acquisition of recreation and conservation lands, including facilities, while ensuring adequate physical accessibility to all of these areas in order to meet the needs of the citizens of Pittsfield.
- Improve the City's eligibility for state and federal financial assistance through the development and continued review of this comprehensive open space and recreation plan.
- Serve as the parks, recreation and open space/conservation component of the overall City master plan.

2B Planning Process and Public Participation

The City of Pittsfield undertook the open space and recreation planning process in concert with planning efforts conducted for key city-owned conservation areas and city parks. The process began in 2016, with the finalizing of a master plan for Springside Park, the development of a master plan for four conservation areas, the drafting of an improvement plan for Durant Park, and the initiation of the planning process for the Pittsfield Open Space and Recreation Plan. The planning process culminated in 2017 with the holding of a successful public forum in March and an open house in July. A planning and public input

process was undertaken for each of these efforts, and feedback from each are rolled into the final action plan for this OSRP.

During the development of the *Springside Park Master Plan*, the city conducted an extensive outreach program to users of Springside Park over a period of several months, distributing questionnaires at park events, conducting online surveys, seeking input from the Pittsfield Parks Commission, and conducting public meetings. Citizen participation during this process was especially important as it is the City's largest park in the densely developed city center and adjacent to the Morningside neighborhood. According to the *Morningside Neighborhood Action Plan*, this area of the city includes twice as many renters as the city as a whole and more twice the poverty rate. Single parents head 2/3 of the families with children here. Morningside contains a significant concentration of the City's vacant and abandoned buildings, vacant lots and buildings at risk of abandonment. The targeted outreach and input here gave voice to a vulnerable environmental justice neighborhood.

During late winter/early spring of 2016 the City of Pittsfield undertook a master planning process for four of its conservation land holdings across the City. Facilitated by the Conway School of Landscape Design, the City developed the *Vision for Pittsfield's Conservation Areas: Linking Landscape and Community*, a blueprint for managing the Barkerville Conservation Area, Brattlebrook Park, the Tierney Wildlife Refuge and Wild Acres Conservation Area. To gather public input the Pittsfield Conservation Commission and Parks Commission partnered to hold two community meetings, promoted the project via local newspapers, Facebook and City news email blasts, and disseminated an online survey to residents, park visitors and stakeholders. To directly reach users of the four properties, the survey was posted at the entrances with a scannable quick response (QR) code. Interviews were conducted with various stakeholders from the community, relevant local experts and officials, and state agency staff.

The two planning processes for Springside Park and the four conservation areas is complementary, providing community input from slightly different populations and users. Springside Park offers a wide variety of natural and recreational uses to a wide variety of users, hosting an historic house arboretum, a playground, little league and softball fields, several miles of hiking trails, and open fields, woodlands and wetland resources. This vast park offers outdoor recreation, adventure and natural solitude to the City's urban and suburban residents. The *Vision for Pittsfield's Conservation Areas* serve the suburban East Side neighborhood and more rural neighborhoods in the western portion of the City.

The update of this OSRP has been spearheaded by the Pittsfield Park, Open Space and Natural Resources Program staff, with support and input from the Pittsfield Parks Commission and Conservation Commission. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) provided technical assistance to the City, gathering and analyzing updated natural resource and demographic data, developing maps and aiding City staff with community outreach program. In October 2016 the City issued a public online survey, broadly advertising the survey through a variety of media. The results of the survey are found in Appendix B.

With the survey results in mind, a team of City staff representing the Community Development Department, Parks Commission and Conservation Commission reviewed the existing goals, objectives and actions from the 2009 OSRP. Accomplishments that have been achieved -- and there were many -- were removed from the list. Objectives and actions still relevant or not met remained on the list, while new ones that have emerged since 2009 were added.

With updated information and redrafted goals in hand, the City held an open space and recreation public forum on March 21, 2017. The public forum was attended by more than 50 residents and broadcast on local cable television. Upon signing in attendees were invited view draft maps and to make note of the draft goals and objectives that were posted along the walls of the room. A handout of the draft goals and objectives was given to attendees to allow them to more thoroughly consider them. City and BRPC staff were available to help attendees interpret the maps and discuss draft goals. Attendees were then given a presentation on the major findings of the work so, providing an overview of the City's abundant and diverse natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as some challenges that the City faced. Many residents were surprised at the resources available to them "within their own backyard."

At the conclusion of the presentation attendees were invited to participate in a "Shout Out," which allowed them to actively voice their ideas about the City's resources. No idea was a bad idea, and attendees were encouraged to voice what they believed was wonderful about the City's open space and recreation resources, what was not wonderful and could be improved, what needs were not being met, or any other relevant information or ideas they believed should be heard. The ideas voiced were recorded on large flip chart pads by Jim McGrath, Park, Open Space and Natural Resources Program Director. This resulted 40 separate ideas on eight flip board pages. The Shout Out format was extremely interactive and successful, with ideas being voiced from every corner of the room and from almost every attendee. Even reporters who were covering the meeting were encouraged to voice their ideas as members of the community.

At the conclusion of this exercise attendees were asked to vote for the ideas that they felt should have the highest priorities. Each attendee was given five dots which they could place on the draft goals or on the "shout out" ideas that were of highest importance to them. They could spread the dots out or could place more than one dot on a goal or idea. Attendees were also given post it notes on which they could write down new ideas that had not yet be voiced or comments about existing ideas. The purpose of the dots and the post it notes was two-fold: first it allowed all residents a voice in this process, even those who may have good ideas but were not comfortable speaking those out loud during the "shout out," and second to allow residents to rank any and all ideas that they felt should be prioritized for action.

On July 6, 2017 the City hosted an Open House at City Hall, seeking further input on the draft goals, objectives and actions that were developed through the technical analyses and previous community input opportunities. City staff and Parks Commission members hosted a three-hour open house to again offer residents and stakeholders major findings and draft goals, objectives and actions. The meeting was set up as a way for community members to directly interact with and provide comments to city planning staff on the draft OSRP. Members of the Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission attended the open house. City staff also received numerous thoughts and impressions prior to the open house from residents who were not able to attend in person.

Like the public forum held in March, maps and major finding posters lined the walls to aide in guiding discussion and comment. Attendees were also provided with a copy of the Draft Action Plan and asked for input. Generally, the comments gathered can be bundled into three broad themes, and one very specific project:

1. Existing facilities: work to update existing parks and conservation areas (especially Springside Park, Clapp Park, and Burbank Park), address ADA issues, and improve maintenance at all facilities.
2. Bike Path Extension: Complete the bike path through the city with a connection in Lenox.
3. Water Quality: Continue to protect the lakes in order to keep water quality high, and address stormwater issues throughout the city.
4. Security: Work to promote greater security in all parks.

These issues are consistent with public input received in the previous 2009 OSRP and Master Plan outreach processes, as well as during the Community Preservation Plan development in 2018.

The final step in the public process is to receive input and comments from residents about the *Draft OSRP*. The availability of the draft plan will be widely advertised via local newspapers, Pittsfield Community Television, through local conservation organization newsletters and via the City's email distribution lists. Comments received will be incorporated into the final OSRP.

Community sentiment, input and recommendations from of the abovementioned planning processes are reflected in this OSRP update. Goals and actions cited here in this OSRP originate and reflect the desires and needs voiced during all the public surveys and forums, staff meetings, stakeholder interviews.

Section 3: Community Setting

3A Regional Context

Pittsfield is located in the extreme western part of the state in the Berkshire Hills in the center of Berkshire County. The City envelops nearly 42.46 square miles in area and is approximately 7 miles wide and 6 miles long.

Pittsfield is bordered by Lanesborough on the north, Richmond and Lenox on the south, Hancock on the west and Washington and Dalton on the east. Pittsfield is approximately 1,000 feet above sea level and contains the confluence of the various branches of the Housatonic River, which continues its southerly course through Berkshire County and Connecticut to Long Island Sound.

Pittsfield is not only a major center for government and business, it is also a major center for recreation. With a state forest, two major lakes, golf courses, softball complex, numerous ball fields and river access points, it serves not only the local residents but people in the county as a whole, people from other parts of the state and from out of state.

3B History of the Community

The history of Pittsfield predates the arrival of the Europeans who settled here in colonial times, as its rivers and lakes provided the resources for the settlement of the area by Native Americans. Therefore, it is not surprising to find that the area would become a major center for the early colonists.

In 1738, Col. Jacob Wendell bought 24,000 acres of lands known originally as Pontoosuck, a Mohican Indian word meaning "a field or haven for winter deer," as a speculative investment, which he planned to subdivide and resell to others who would settle here. He formed a partnership with Philip Livingston, a wealthy kinsman from Albany, and Col. John Stoddard of Northampton, who already had claim to 1,000 acres here.

A group of young men came and began to clear the land in 1743, but threats of Indian raids associated with the conflict of the French and Indian wars soon forced them to leave, and the land remained unoccupied by those of European descent for several more years. In 1752, settlers, many from Westfield, Massachusetts, arrived and a village began to grow, which was incorporated as *Pontoosuck Plantation* in 1753. By 1761 there were 200 residents and the plantation became the Township of Pittsfield, named in honor of British Prime Minister William Pitt, who later would champion the colonists' cause before the revolution.

By the end of the Revolutionary War, Pittsfield had expanded to nearly 2,000 residents. While primarily an agricultural area, because of the many brooks that flowed into the Housatonic River, the landscape was dotted with mills that produced lumber, grist, paper and textiles. With the introduction of Merino sheep from Spain in 1807, the area became the center of woolen manufacturing in the United States, an industry that would dominate the community's employment opportunities for almost a century.

Farming was an important occupation in the 1800's. The Shakers were one group that has left its imprint on this City and the adjoining town of Hancock. Hancock was the third of what would eventually number nineteen major Shaker communities established between 1783 and 1836 in New York, New England, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. The Shaker Central Ministry closed the Hancock community in 1960 and sold the buildings and surrounding 900

acres to a group of Shaker enthusiasts, collectors and scholars who formed the not-for-profit corporation that eventually became Hancock Shaker Village. The museum opened to the public on July 1, 1961. Today, the Hancock Shaker Village is a major international tourist attraction. Hancock Shaker Village is a living history museum located in Pittsfield consisting of 20 historic buildings set on 1,200 acres of farm, field, meadow and woodland, and a collection of 22,200 objects.

The town was a bustling metropolis by the late 1800's. In 1891, the City of Pittsfield was incorporated, and William Stanley, who had recently relocated his Electric Manufacturing Company to Pittsfield from Great Barrington, produced the first electric transformer. Stanley's enterprise was the forerunner of the internationally known corporate giant, General Electric. Due to the success of GE, Pittsfield's population in 1930 had grown to more than 50,000. While GE Advanced Materials (Plastics) continues to be one of the City's largest employers, a workforce that once topped 13,000 was reduced to less than 700 with the demise and/or relocation of the transformer and aerospace portions of the General Electric empire.

Pittsfield can lay claim to a number of famous residents who have made significant contributions to our nation's history, including Rev. Thomas Allen, the "Fighting Parson" from the Revolutionary War, Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick* written at the Pittsfield home he called Arrowhead, William F. Bartlett, who at the age of 24 became the youngest major general during the Civil War, Lt. Colonel Charles W. Whittlesley, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor as commander of the "Lost Battalion" during World War I, and Samuel Harrison, a Pittsfield pastor, who, during the Civil War, led a successful fight for equal pay for black soldiers. Harrison was the chaplain for the famed 54th regiment depicted in the 1989 film "Glory."

In 2004, historian John Thorn discovered a reference to a 1791 by-law prohibiting anyone from playing "baseball" within 80 yards of the new meeting house in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. A librarian found the actual by-law in the Berkshire Athenaeum library, and its age was verified by researchers at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. The so-called Broken Window By-Law is the earliest known reference to "baseball" in North America.

Pittsfield is unique in that it is in the center of the county rich with historic character and a sense of authenticity. It is also unique in that within ten minutes from Park Square, without going outside of its corporate boundaries, one can enjoy downhill skiing at a full-scale ski area, or in the summer, water activity on its lakes and rivers. The city is fortunate to have many historically significant buildings and properties. Five hundred and forty (540) historic properties and areas in Pittsfield can be found through the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). These properties and areas include buildings, burial grounds, objects, and structures.

Through the years, the population has changed in size, character, age, and composition. Many different ethnic groups have come to Pittsfield to make it their home. It is assumed that these trends will continue into the future.

3C Population Characteristics

Table 3.1 compares 2011-2015 data released by the American Community Survey to U.S. Bureau of Census figures for 2000, 1990 and 1980. The latest data indicates that 43,926 people reside in the City of Pittsfield. This 2011-2015 population count confirms that

Pittsfield has continued to experience a steady loss of population over the past 20 years. Between 1980 and 1990, Pittsfield lost 3,352 people or 6.5 percent of its population. The population decline within the City continued between 1990 and 2000 with a population loss of an additional 2,829 people, 5.8% of its population. In the next fifteen years, Pittsfield experienced a population decline of 1,867 people 4% of its population. Detailed population characteristics can be found in Table 3.2. Although the City's population has continued to decline, the rate of decline has decreased since 1980. It is also important to note that the sharp population decline between 1980 and 1990 correlated with the significant downsizing of the General Electric Plant and the current population decline is consistent with neighboring communities and other small New England cities.

Table 3.1 Population Characteristics 1980 to 2015

Total Population	2011-2015**	2000*	1990*	1980*
	43,926	45,793	48,622	51,974
Ages:				
Under 5	2,723	2,719	3,345	3,163
5 to 14	4,700	6,072	5,884	8,732
15 to 24	4,700	4,963	6,433	7,915
25 to 44	11,201	12,961	14,987	12,876
45 to 64	12,563	10,540	9,585	11,934
65 and Over	7,995	8,538	8,388	7,354
Households	19,258	19,704	19,916	19,436
Persons per Household	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.65
Sex (%):				
Male	48%	47.5%	47.5%	46.8%
Female	52%	52.5%	52.5%	53.2%
Minority Population (%)	12%	8.4%	4.5%	3.4%
Employed Persons 16 Years Old and Over	23,404	21,266	22,379	24,707
Median Household Income	\$43,916***	\$35,655	\$29,987	\$15,854
Families Below Poverty Level (%)	14.8%	8.9%	7.8%	7.8%

*US Census Bureau 2000 data

**American Community Survey 2011-2015

***in 2015 Inflation-adjusted dollars

Census data also indicates that there were 19,258 households (all persons not living in group quarters) in the City of Pittsfield between 2011-2015. Population trends throughout the country reveal that household size is steadily declining. This phenomenon holds true in Pittsfield, which had 2.65 persons per household in 1980 and 2.4 persons per household in 1990 and 2.3 persons per household in 2000 and 2.2 persons per household between 2011-2015. The significance of household size to housing demand is illustrated by the fact that while the City's population declined by 4,696 people between 1990 and 2015, the number of households also declined by 658 or 3.3 percent.

Population change, including both growth and decline, has significant and direct impacts on development and use of land. Overall, the City has experienced a steady loss of population over the past forty-five years, dropping from 51,974 residents in 1980 to 43,926 in 2015. This represents a loss of 8,048 people or a 15.5 percent decline in population since 1980. Future growth is tied to the City's economic health. Specifically, the migration of people to

the region, and the retention of existing residents, will be influenced by the availability of jobs.

It is expected that population decline in the City will be offset, to some extent, by a declining household size and a consequent moderate increase in the number of households. In recent years the City has seen a marked increase in demand for additional land for residential uses. The City has seen additional increases in demand for both commercial and industrial uses. The City must allocate its land resources in such a way as to ensure a long-term balance between developed areas and open space and recreational areas.

Table 3.2 Detailed Population Characteristics

Tract	Total Population	Ages (%)						Sex (%)		Minority (%)	Median Household Income in 2015 Inflation-adjusted dollars	Below Poverty Level (%)
	2011-2015	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female			
9001	3,092	4.9	10.9	8.7	25.7	30.5	19	45.3	54.7	29.4	\$17,813	40.9
9002	4,076	7.8	10.5	16.0	32.9	23.4	9.4	48.7	51.3	21.3	\$28,347	23.7
9003	2,655	5.3	9.5	12.9	20.8	31.9	20.2	47.5	52.5	13.1	\$48,000	11.7
9004	5,143	10.5	13.0	10.2	20.9	28.6	16.8	46.9	53.1	18.3	\$37,204	21.5
9005	3,288	2.9	9.6	7.8	20.2	32.2	27.2	49.8	50.2	6.1	\$69,063	4.7
9006	3,725	5.6	13.2	15.3	29.7	23.8	12.2	47.6	52.4	30.0	\$24,351	38.3
9007	2,838	4.7	8.8	10.2	23.8	30.7	21.8	50.8	49.2	4.2	\$55,560	12.4
9008	4,948	5.6	8.4	9.7	19.4	34.3	21.4	47.8	52.2	5.4	\$71,356	4.3
9009	5,358	8.6	9.7	10.1	31.0	25.8	14.9	45.9	54.1	17.9	\$58,512	11.9
9011	3,670	4.1	8.2	8.8	27.7	27.7	23.5	52.9	47.1	8.7	\$52,328	3.7
9352	5,133	4.5	15.2	8.1	24.1	28.6	19.3	46.5	53.5	9.0	\$52,480	18.0

Source: American Community Survey 2011-2015

As can be seen in Table 3.2 the most populated portion of the City is south central portion (Tract 9009). Nearly 12% of the residents in this area of the City are below the poverty level and the majority of the residents are between the ages of 25 and 44 years. The central portion of the City (Tract 9001) is one of the more densely populated areas of the City with the lowest median income and highest percentage of residents below the poverty level. The west central portion of the City (Tract 9006) is an area of relatively dense population and has the second lowest median income and second highest percentage of residents below the poverty level. The southeast portion of the City (Tract 9008) has the highest median income and the second lowest percentage of residents below the poverty level.

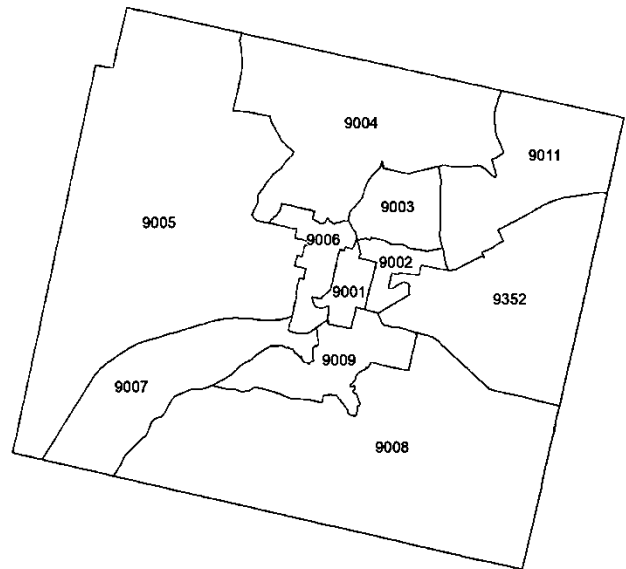


Fig. 3.1. Pittsfield Census Tracts

Two areas of the City are considered by the Executive Office of Energy and the Environment as an Environmental Justice (EJ) area (see Map 2: Environmental Justice Populations). These areas are located within the center of the City and the Northeast corner of the City.

The central portion of the City is designated an EJ area for both income and minority. This includes Census Tracts 9001, 9002, and 9006, which have the lowest median household incomes and the highest percentage of minorities. This area also includes the highest percentages of individuals below the poverty level. Map 2A: Park Equity shows a correlation between three of the areas of greatest need, EJ area, lowest median household incomes, highest percentage of minorities, and highest percentages of individuals below the poverty level in the central part of the City.

The economy of Pittsfield employs 21,341 people and is specialized in Healthcare & Social Assistance, Utilities, and Accommodation & Food Service, which employ respectively 1.52, 1.26, and 1.25 times more people than what would be expected in a location of this size. The largest industries in Pittsfield are Healthcare & Social Assistance (4,513), Retail trade (2,567), and Accommodation & Food Service (2,158), and the highest paying industries are Professional, Scientific, Tech Services (\$52,369), Utilities (\$48,611), and Finance & Insurance (\$41,563). See Figure 3.1. for illustration of these sectors. From 2015 to 2016, employment in Pittsfield, MA grew at a rate of 2.34%, from 20,853 employees to 21,341 employees.

The most common employment sectors for those who live in Pittsfield, MA, are Healthcare & Social Assistance, Retail trade, and Accommodation & Food Service (Fig. 3.2.) The most common job groups, by number of people living in Pittsfield, MA, are Management, Business, Science, & Arts, Service, and Sales & Office (see Fig. 3.2.).

Fig. 3.2. Employment of Pittsfield Residents by Industry



Pittsfield is a “doorway to the Berkshires” and has the potential to capitalize on tourism to promote local economic development. Consequently, the City needs to promote industrial activity, which will not adversely affect the natural and scenic resources that draw tourists to Pittsfield.

Fig. 3.3. Employment of Pittsfield Residents by Occupation

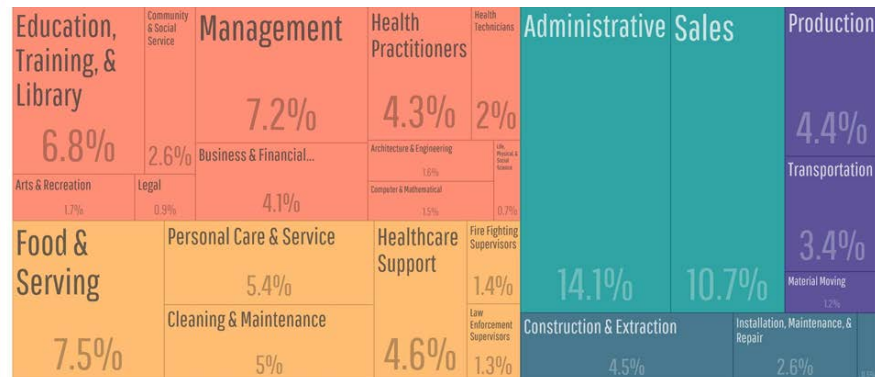


Table 3.4 provides detailed information on employment status. The majority of individuals in the City 16 years and older participate in the labor force. Labor force participation rates are slightly lower for women 20 to 64 years compared to men 20 to 64 years. A dip in the labor force participation rate for women with children under 6 years is not observed with a labor force participation rate of 81% comparable to both men and women 20 to 64 years. The labor force participation rate for individuals below the poverty level is significantly lower than for those at or above the poverty level at 51.6% compared to 86.7%.

The majority of the population age 25 to 64 years has some college, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree or higher (58.7%). A notable difference in the labor participation rate is observed between individuals without a high school diploma (46.8%) and those with some college, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree or higher (84.8% and 87.3%, respectively). In fact, a significant difference in labor participation rates is observed in comparison to those with a high school diploma (equivalency included) and those without (77.8% and 46.8%, respectively).

Table 3.4 Employment

Subject	Number	Percent
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Population 16 years and over	36,050	82.0
Labor force participation rate	23,432	65.0
Employment/Population Ratio	X	57.8
Unemployment Rate	X	10.9
Population 20 to 64 years	26,380	60.0
Male	12,587	47.7
Labor force participation rate	10,246	81.4
Employment/Population Ratio	X	71.6
Unemployment Rate	X	12.0
Female	13,793	52.3
Labor force participation rate	10,869	78.8
Employment/Population Ratio	X	71.4
Unemployment Rate	X	9.3
With own children under 6 years	1,267	9.2
Labor force participation rate	1,026	81.0
Employment/Population Ratio	X	71.3
Unemployment Rate	X	12.0
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
Below poverty level	4,170	16.0
Labor force participation rate	2,152	51.6
Employment/Population Ratio	X	34.6
Unemployment Rate	X	33.0
At or above poverty level	21,866	84.0
Labor force participation rate	17,865	86.7
Employment/Population Ratio	X	79.7
Unemployment Rate	X	8.1
DISABILITY STATUS		
With any disability	3,843	8.7
Labor force participation rate	1,530	39.8
Employment/Population Ratio	X	30.8
Unemployment Rate	X	22.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		

Table 3.4 Employment

Subject	Number	Percent
Population 25 to 64 years	23,778	54.1
Labor force participation rate	18,951	79.7
Employment/Population Ratio	X	72.0
Unemployment Rate	X	9.7
Less than high school graduate	2,164	9.1
Labor force participation rate	1,013	46.8
Employment/Population Ratio	X	40.1
Unemployment Rate	X	14.2
High School graduate (includes equivalency)	7,650	32.2
Labor force participation rate	5,952	77.8
Employment/Population Ratio	X	66.4
Unemployment Rate	X	14.5
Some college or associate's degree	7,661	32.2
Labor force participation rate	6,497	84.8
Employment/Population Ratio	X	76.4
Unemployment Rate	X	9.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	6,303	26.5
Labor force participation rate	5,503	87.3
Employment/Population Ratio	X	84.3
Unemployment Rate	X	3.5

(X) Not applicable.

Source: American Community Survey 2011-2015

3D Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

Favorable geographic conditions influenced the growth and development of the City. The flatness of the area, abundance of water resources and its central location boosted its early growth as a center of commerce and industry. Farming and agricultural uses existed side by side with a growing industrial component. This has in fact lead to the uniqueness of Pittsfield in that it is a major City with the appearance of a very rural setting. The City's central location fostered the growth of governmental services and causes it to play a major role in the county. A more recent trend has been the growth of the Retirement/Second home community due to our excellent environment is close proximity to the Greater New York Metropolitan Area.

Zoning

Table 3.5 Pittsfield Zoning Districts

Pittsfield regulates land use through its zoning ordinance using a traditional Euclidean code, which emphasizes a separation of uses. Each district, described below has a list of permitted uses allowed in the district as well as dimensional requirements for the buildings. Each district has a geographic location in Pittsfield that is shown on Map 1 Zoning.

One recent update to the zoning code is the Downtown Arts District, which is a zoning overlay that encompasses downtown and some of the surrounding neighborhoods. The District's purpose is to foster the mixing of uses and break down some of the problems presented in rigid Euclidean zoning. It allows a broad range of uses more appropriate to downtown, while excluding others not appropriate to an urban core. It also adjusts some of the dimensional requirements in order to encourage a more urban building style.

District	Total area (acres)	Percent of city
Commercial, Warehousing and Storage	230.65	0.8%
Downtown Business	104.02	0.4%
General Business	398.08	1.5%
General Industrial	1202.05	4.4%
Grouped Business	111.20	0.4%
High Density Multi-Family Residence	887.48	3.3%
Light Industrial	529.67	1.9%
Limited Industrial	974.86	3.6%
Low Density One-Family Residence	8678.77	31.9%
Medium Density One-Family Residence	7576.06	27.9%
High Density One-Family Residence	4449.17	16.4%
One- and Two- Family Residence	1726.73	6.4%
Neighborhood Business	6.27	0.0%
Garden Apartments	303.87	1.1%
Total	27,178.89	100.0%

Another update is the Flexible Development ordinance, which is another zoning tool intended to revamp some of the sprawl-inducing regulations. The regulation's purpose is to preserve open space by allowing homes to be clustered together in one portion of a development site while preserving the rest of the land as open space. Studies have shown that such developments, if properly designed, are more desirable to homeowners and more profitable for builders as well as better for the environment. The ordinance also provides density bonuses as an incentive for additional open space, affordable housing, handicapped accessible housing and environmentally friendly construction.

Infrastructure

Transportation Network

Four major routes serve Pittsfield: Route 9 originates in the center of Pittsfield and runs east/west; Route 8 runs north and south through the easterly section of the City; Route 20 runs east/west and provides a major connecting link with New York State; and Route 7 is the major north-south route from Connecticut to Vermont and provides access, via the combined Route 7-20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Ten different bus routes, operated by the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, provide both intra- and inter-city bus services. Local bus service is provided as far as North Adams and

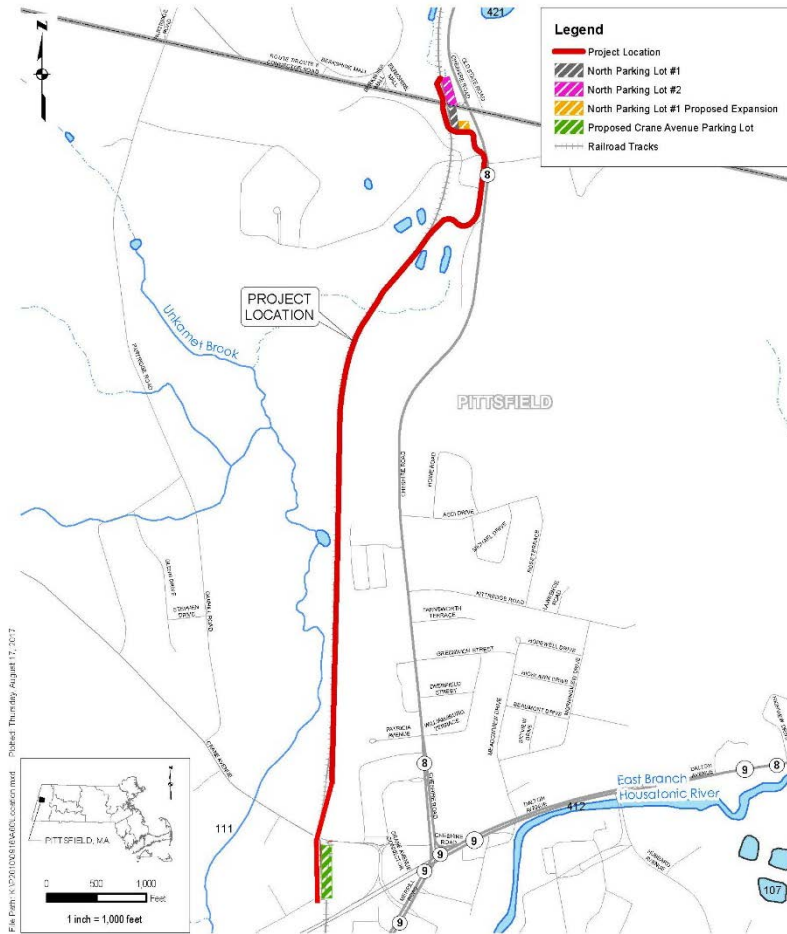
Great Barrington, both approximately 20 miles away. Long distance bus service is provided via Greyhound and Bonanza bus lines, from a downtown terminal. The Conrail Railroad provides freight rail service in Pittsfield and Amtrak's Boston to Chicago passenger route makes two stops in Pittsfield each day (one in each direction).

The Joseph Scelsi Intermodal Transportation Center is a long-distance ground travel (rail and bus) terminal serving the Pittsfield area and surrounding areas. Owned by the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), the intermodal transit center, conveniently located in downtown Pittsfield, connects AMTRAK service, intercity bus, and fixed route service. The fixed bus routes within the City and outward to other communities in Berkshire County are designed as commuter routes, moving people to commercial hubs and jobs within the region. As such, the routes often skirt open space and natural areas, making it difficult for those without vehicles to visit and utilize some of the City's great natural areas and hiking trails such as Pittsfield State Forest in the northwest section or Canoe Meadows in the southeast section of the City. The one popular recreational asset that can be reached by bus is the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, located near the Berkshire Mall. The Ashuwillticook is the county's popular pedestrian/bicycle path, a 10-foot wide paved path extending 11.2 miles from Lanesborough northward to Adams.

Sidewalks are found throughout the City, providing residents in the most densely developed neighborhoods walking routes, linking residents to parks and playgrounds located throughout the City. The City routinely repairs and rehabilitates sidewalks during road improvements and where funding allows. Sidewalks are not always present along roadways outside the City center or dense residential neighborhoods and, like the bus routes, there remains a gap between the City and the wilderness areas such as the state forest or Canoe Meadows. A much anticipated sidewalk route will be added to Dalton Division Road during its reconstruction, scheduled to occur in 2020. This sidewalk will fill a gap and create a long walking/jogging loop of up to seven miles for residents in the east side of the City.

The City of Pittsfield, partnering with the Berkshire Bike Path Council, continues to expand bike access and safety by creating bike lanes during road reconstruction projects, such as those along Elm Street, North Street and soon along East Street. However, less experienced or less confident bicyclists are not comfortable riding bike lanes in city traffic, and to increase residents' access to bicycling, the City has continued to work on a southward extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, which currently ends at the City's border with the Town of Lanesborough. The extension is in the final stages of design and rights of way acquisition. Extending this path into the City of Pittsfield's Coltsville section will provide direct access to the Trail to residential neighborhoods in the northeast section of the City (see Fig. 3.4.).

Fig. 3.4. Proposed Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension



The City will be reviewing the overall pedestrian and bicycling system in the winter/spring of 2019 with the support of a Complete Streets technical assistance grant from Mass DOT. The Complete Streets movement aims to develop integrated, connected networks of streets that are safe and accessible for all people, regardless of age, ability, income, ethnicity, or chosen mode of travel. Complete Streets makes active transportation such as walking and bicycling convenient; provide increased access to employment centers, commerce, and educational institutions; and allow greater choice in traveling so that transportation doesn't fiscally constrain disadvantaged populations. By the end of the grant timeline in May 2019 the City expects to be able to identify and prioritize 20-30 improvement projects.

The Pittsfield Municipal Airport, located in the City's southwest quadrant, has 3,500-foot and 5,000-foot runways. No public air transportation is currently available. However, a number of private aircraft use this facility.

Water

The City of Pittsfield relies on six (6) surface water reservoirs to supply water to its residents. The water supply for the City of Pittsfield can be distinguished as two separate systems, the Cleveland Reservoir System and the Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex. The Cleveland Reservoir System serves as the principal water supply for the City providing nearly two-thirds of the city's water supply. Each system maintains independent water treatment facilities. Both facilities utilize Krofta Sand Float Filtration Systems however operation of each plant is unique to the particular requirements of the system.

The Cleveland Reservoir System is located on Windsor Road on the Dalton – Hinsdale line. Cleveland Reservoir has a storage capacity of 1600 million gallons (MG) and supplies, after treatment, approximately 7.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to the system. The Cleveland Reservoir Water Treatment Plant utilizes four (4) Krofta Sand Float Filtration treatment units with a total design capacity of 23.9 MGD. Water entering the Cleveland Treatment Plant utilizes alum and sodium hydroxide. The chemically treated raw water is then aerated prior to flowing to the treatment units.

Solids are floated to the surface and mechanically removed. Clear water then flows down through sand filters and is pumped to a clear well. Caustic soda is added for pH adjustment. Finally water enters the gas chlorination station located just downstream of the Cleveland Treatment Plant. The Cleveland chlorinator utilizes 1 ton cylinders.

The Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex is located in the Town of Washington near the southeastern corner of Pittsfield. The Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex lies within several municipalities, including Washington, Dalton, and Hinsdale. The Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex consists of five (5) reservoirs including the Ashley Water Treatment Plant Intake Reservoir, Ashley Lake Reservoir, Sandwash Reservoir, Farnham Reservoir, and Sackett Brook Reservoir, all of which flow to the Ashley Water Treatment Facility. The Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Treatment Plant utilizes two (2) Krofta Sand Filtration treatment units with a total design capacity of 12 MGD compared to the four (4) treatment units used for treatment of waters from the Cleveland Reservoir System. Similar to the Cleveland Reservoir System, the Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex utilizes alum and sodium hydroxide. In addition, the Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex utilizes sodium aluminate for coagulation. As with the Cleveland Reservoir System, the chemically treated raw water is then aerated prior to flowing to the treatment units where solids are floated to the surface and mechanically removed. Clear water then flows down through sand filters and is pumped to a clear well. Caustic soda is added for pH adjustment. Finally water enters the gas chlorination station located just downstream of the Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Water Treatment Plant.

Treated water entering the City of Pittsfield, from both the Cleveland Reservoir System and the Ashley/Farnham Reservoir Complex is delivered through an extensive distribution network. The Pittsfield distribution system utilizes five (5) pressure zones to maintain pressure in the system. These distribution zones are referred to as the Central, Northern, Western, Southern and Mountain Drive zones.

There are five (5) storage tanks, (four of which are active) located on the distribution system: the Benedict Road 1.0 MG ground level concrete tank, which has been taken off line due to rapid deterioration of the concrete walls; the 0.60 MG steel, ground level tank located on East Acres Road off North Street at the YMCA Ponterill property; the 0.75 MG steel, ground level Lebanon Ave. tank located in the southwestern section of the City; the Plumb Street 1.0 MG steel ground level tank located off Holmes Road in the southern most section of the City; and the Valentine Road 5 MG concrete, ground level tank located in the central section of the city.

The water system utilizes six (6) pump stations to maintain pressure within the different pressure zones. In the Northern pressure zone there are three (3) pump stations. The Crane Avenue pump station (presently by-passed) is used to increase pressure and fill the YMCA tank. The North Street pump station is used to increase pressure and fill the YMCA tank. The Highland Avenue pump station is activated by pressure drops in the zone. In the Western zone there are two (2) pump stations. Both the West Street and South Mountain Road pump stations are used to increase pressure and fill the Lebanon Avenue storage tank. In the Southern zone there is only one (1) pump station. The Plumb street pump station fills the Plumb Street storage tank.

Table 3.6 Surface Water Supply Source Data

Cleveland Reservoir	
Spillway Elevation	1,437 ft
Storage Capacity	1,700 million gallons
Surface Area	153 acres
Drainage Area	742 acres (approximate)
Safe Yield	9.4 million gallons per day (mgd)
Ashley Intake Reservoir	
Spillway Elevation	1,290 ft.
Storage Capacity	4 million gallons
Surface Area	1.5 acres
Drainage Area	1,253 acres
Safe Yield	0.2 million gallons per day (mgd)
Ashley Lake	
Spillway Elevation	1,924 ft.
Storage Capacity	358 million gallons
Surface Area	112 acres
Drainage Area	428 acres
Safe Yield	0.6 million gallons per day (mgd)
Sandwash Reservoir	
Spillway Elevation	1,890 ft.
Storage Capacity	262 million gallons
Surface Area	65 acres
Drainage Area	1,123 acres
Safe Yield)	1.3 million gallons per day (mgd)
Farnham Reservoir	
Spillway Elevation	1,585 ft.
Storage Capacity	474 million gallons
Surface Area	42 acres
Drainage Area	1,900 acres
Safe Yield	1.8 million gallons per day (mgd)
Sackett Brook Reservoir	
Spillway Elevation	1,520 ft.
Storage Capacity	155 million gallons
Surface Area	20 acres
Drainage Area	690 acres
Safe Yield	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)

The City undertook a multi-million dollar water improvement program during the 1980's. Two new filtration plants were constructed, one on the Ashley system, with an 8 million gallon per day (mgd) capacity and another on the Cleveland system, with a 20 mgd capacity. In addition four new water storage tanks were constructed throughout the City to better equalize pressure and improve fire flows.

Sewer

The City of Pittsfield has a sewage treatment plant located east of Holmes Road at the Lenox line which provides secondary treatment. At present, sewer is available to about 95% of the residents in the city. No expansion of the existing sewer system is currently proposed; however, a grant was secured by the City to replace the existing Pecks Road sewer line with a sewer of greater capacity. New sludge dewatering tanks became

operative in 1988. In addition, the city is working with many of its major industries on adopting a pre-treatment program.

Long Term Development

The City has changed significantly in the past thirty years. Since 1985, approximately 480 acres of agricultural land has been lost. In the same time period, there has been a 430-acre increase in residential use. Residential growth has been replacing farmland at a rate of approximately 30 acres per year. A Build Out Analysis conducted by BRPC, estimated the maximum potential growth for Pittsfield. The study showed a potential for an additional 17,398 new dwelling units, 71% of these units strictly for residential uses.

In addition to agriculture, mining, waste disposal, vacant land, wetland, and recreational uses have all seen small, but recognizable losses in acreage. However, the losses that occurred in these areas have been gained by forest, commercial, and industrial land.

The trend in land use since the 1950's, from agricultural and open land to increased residential, commercial and industrial development, can be expected to continue. In the 1980's, the City experienced a significant increase in subdivision activity, resulting in large parcels of undeveloped land being transformed into smaller lots. For example, in 1981, there was only one subdivision plan, consisting of 24 lots, proposed for the City. However, by the end of the decade, 10 subdivisions were approved, consisting of over 400 lots. Due to the economic recession in the 1990's, subdivision activity all but ceased. There was a rise in the interest for more residential development until the recession of 2007/2008.

The Dan Fox Drive area, in the southwest quadrant of the City, has spawned the Gordon Rose Tech Park. One of the first tenants in the park was the Silvio Conte Federal Archives. Other businesses are High Tech Mold and Tool, and Doctor's complex, specializing in hematology and oncology. A new resort hotel has been constructed at the corner of Dan Fox Drive and South Street (Route 7). This area is in close proximity to the expanding Pittsfield Airport. The Bosquet Ski Area has expanded its recreational activities to include more summer time opportunities. They have also constructed a planned unit residential development.

Of significance is the creation of the William B. Stanley Industrial Park on a 52-acre site of the former GE plant. This park has been expected to increase business opportunities in the City and region, but redevelopment of this area has been slower to come to fruition than anticipated. The City continues to work toward more vigilant oversight of all projects and effective land use controls to minimize the potential impacts created by development in environmentally sensitive areas. Most recently the City, through the Department of Community Development, the Community Development Board and the City Council, has adopted a flexible development zoning ordinance. The primary purpose of the ordinance is to offer a better alternative to traditional subdivision development that will allow for greater flexibility and creativity of design, while encouraging a less sprawling and more efficient form of development. Not only is this ordinance about growth in ways that make the most sense, it's also about protecting natural resources and ultimately creating a better environment that will enhance the quality of life.

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

4A Geology, Soils, and Topography

The City's physiography is generally rolling within the central portion where the average elevation is approximately 1,000 feet above mean sea level (see Map 2a Topography). Notable landscape features that exist throughout Pittsfield, such as smooth rolling hills, flat topped limestone ridges, long gentle slopes, rolling gravel and till knolls, and nearly level swampy areas are the result of the advance and retreat of the last continental ice sheet. Since the breakup and melting of the ice sheet, approximately 10,000 years ago, only relatively secondary changes have resulted at the hands of erosion and weathering. The activity of urban individuals, i.e., filling of large wetland areas such as Coltsville, Wahconah Park area and West/Center Street area, has resulted in more noticeable changes.

Pittsfield's land area is made up of three distinct bedrock types, which make up each physiographic region: the Taconic Mountains, the Berkshire Hills and the Berkshire Valley. The east slopes of the Taconic Mountain range rise along Pittsfield's western boundary and are composed of schistose rocks, mostly quartz-mica schist with a small amount of garnetiferous schist. The west slopes of the Berkshire Mountains reach within Pittsfield's east boundary and are made up of quartzite rock; comprised mostly of quartzite conglomerate and feldspathic quartzite. The Berkshire Valley region is almost totally underlain by carbonate rocks such as limestone dolomite and marble and are generally referred to as Stockbridge limestone.

A report was prepared by the United States Soil Conservation Service for the City of Pittsfield (March 1969) entitled *Soils and Their Interpretation for Various Land Uses*. According to that report, soils are mapped on a basis of properties, such as natural soil drainage, texture, slope gradient, amount of surface stones or bedrock, and other features which can be interpreted to determine the limitations of a particular kind of soil for a specific purpose. Consideration of soil properties, prior to development, can help alleviate such construction problems as poorly functioning septic system, erosion, sedimentation, foundation settlement, water seepage into basements, drainage problems, etc. This is also critical in the development of recreational sites. Table 4.1 shows how soils are distributed in Pittsfield using the soil classifications adopted by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for the City of Pittsfield. Map 4 Soils displays the soils found in the City.

There are very few areas of prime agricultural soils in Pittsfield. Prime agricultural soils are defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as those soils best suited to producing food, feed and fiber. These soils have the quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce a sustained high yield of crops while requiring minimal energy and resources. The only area in Pittsfield with significant amounts of prime agricultural soils is the area north of Polo Acres and Quirico Drive, between Holmes Road and East New Lenox Road. This area is currently in agricultural use by the Noble family.

4B Landscape Character

The Pittsfield landscape is a mix of lowlands and hillsides. The lowlands are located in the center of the city while the hills rise upward along the eastern and western borders. The largest concentrations of steeply sloped land in the city include areas in Pittsfield State Forest in the northwest corner, Oak Hill and the Boulders in the northeast, Sykes Mountain in the southeast corner, and Bouquet Ski Area and South Mountain along the southern border with Lenox. These areas contribute to the scenic character of the City's outlying areas and provide recreational opportunities.

The state of Massachusetts is divided into several ecoregions, which are landscape units within which are similar environmental conditions. Geology, hydrology, soil type, and climate determine the distribution of plant communities and animal populations. The majority of the City lies within the Western New England Marble Valley ecoregion, a region in the state that supports large areas of alkaline, high-pH waters. The calcium derived from the marble and limestone bedrock buffer the waters from becoming acidic, thus allowing specialized plant communities to thrive here. This extremely diverse ecoregion hosts flora and fauna often found nowhere else in the state. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) considers the calcium-rich wetlands as "hot spots" for rare species.

To help communities conserve important habitat areas within these ecoregions, the NHESP, The Nature Conservancy and Mass Audubon partnered to create BioMap2, a state-wide, GIS-based tool. BioMap2 is a program that delineates Core Habitats, identified as the most critical sites for biodiversity conservation across the state. Core Habitat areas identified are based on documented observations of rare species, natural communities, and exemplary habitats needed to preserve biodiversity in the region. Critical Natural Landscape areas identifies larger landscape areas that surround and connect Core Habitats in to offer long-term protective support for ecological processes, to buffer against disturbances, and provide the expanses and movement corridors needed by wide-ranging species.

The largest wetland areas are found in association with the East, West, and Main Branches of the Housatonic River, and north of Richmond Pond, as well as in association with other surface waters in the City. Wetlands represent areas that should be protected from development in order to maintain water quality, prevent flooding, and protect wildlife. For all practical purposes, wetlands and surrounding buffer areas should be considered undevelopable.

The City's most significant surface waters include Pontoosuc Lake, located along the City's northerly border with Lanesborough; Onota Lake, located in the City's northwest quadrant; and the Housatonic River, which is formed by the confluence of the Housatonic River's East and West Branches, and winds through the heart of the City. Pontoosuc Lake and Onota Lake are the City's most important recreational water bodies. Other surface waters include Richmond Pond, Mud Pond, Morewood Lake, Silver Lake, Goodrich Pond and Pecks Road.

The City also has a wealth of local, state and private open space and park land resources, which contribute to accomplishing many resource protection goals. Open spaces and parks are an essential component of the community's overall pattern of land use and development and play an invaluable role in the quality of life enjoyed by residents. Preservation of open space contributes to water quality protection, wildlife habitat preservation, mitigation of noise and air pollution and preservation of community character. Many conservation and recreation lands are located along the City's borders and spill into neighboring communities,

creating the need for cooperative planning on a regional scale to reap conservation benefits that transcend municipal boundaries.

4C Water Resources

Surface Water

The vast majority of Pittsfield lies within the Housatonic River watershed with the exception of 27 acres of land which drains into the Hoosic River. The three main branches of the river, the East Branch, West Branch and Southwest Branch, join to become the Main Branch Housatonic River in the center of the city. There are 20 named perennial streams that provide water to the river systems, lakes and ponds within the city, and there are several more unnamed perennial and intermittent streams. The city also hosts seven lakes and ponds that are five acres or larger in size. Lakes Onota and Pontoosuc are the largest waterbodies in the city. Lakes and ponds, streams, wetlands, FEMA 100 year floodplain, aquifers, public water supply wells, and interim wellhead protection areas are displayed on Map 3 Water Protection.

Table 4.1. Streams, Lakes and Ponds within Pittsfield

East Branch	West Branch	S. West Branch	Main Channel
Barton Brook	Pontoosuc Lake	New Lebanon Brook	Wampenum Brook
Unkamet Brook	Hawthorne Brook	Richmond Pond	Morewood Lake
Brattle Brook	Parker Brook	Shaker Brook	Sackett Brook
Goodrich Pond	Lulu Brook	Mud Pond	Sykes Brook
Silver Lake	Churchill Brook	Mud Pond Brook	
	Daniels Brook	May Brook	
	Onota Lake	Jacoby Brook	
	Onota Brook	Smith Brook	
		Maloy Brook	

Many of the waterbodies, streams and river segments have been designated at BioMap 2 Core Habitat areas, including Richmond Pond, Mud Pond, Goodrich Pond, Morewood Lake and Onota Lake and its main tributaries. A portion of the Southwest Branch and the full length of the Main Stem Housatonic River as it flows through Pittsfield is also designated as Core Habitat areas. Significant wetlands also designated include those surrounding Wild Acres, in and north of Brattle Brook Park and wetlands associated with the meandering Housatonic River.

Wetlands

In addition to the City's more obvious surface water resources, such as our lakes and rivers, Pittsfield also possesses a significant amount of wetlands. According to general land use data, there are approximately 2,400 acres of wetlands in Pittsfield, which is approximately 9% of the total land area of the City. Many of these wetlands are adjacent to the river systems, but some are isolated wetlands. The isolated wetlands provide wetland habitat in an otherwise upland environment, and their benefits should not be overlooked. They can provide the same wildlife habitat, flood storage capacity and other benefits that wetlands and adjoining rivers provide.

Wetland functions and values can be grouped into five (5) major categories hydrological, biological, recreational, educational, and aesthetics. Wetlands have a variety of hydrological functions such as flood control, groundwater recharge and improved water quality. The

effectiveness of wetlands for flood control is dependent upon the size, hydrological character, configuration and location of the wetland in the drainage basin. The relative effectiveness of different wetland types for flood control has not yet been well documented. However, it has been estimated that a watershed with 15% of its area occupied by wetlands or lakes could reduce flood peaks by 60 to 65% compared to a similar area with no wetlands or lakes.

Although not all wetlands are groundwater recharge areas, some do recharge groundwater supplies through infiltration or seepage. Because most wetlands soils are typically less permeable than upland soils, many upland sites represent better recharge areas.

Wetlands along streams and rivers tend to reduce the velocity of moving water due to the flatter and oftentimes broader expanse of these areas. This slower water velocity, coupled with the filtering action of aquatic plants, usually leads to an improved water quality. In addition to filtering sediment, wetlands increase the oxygen levels through photosynthesis, and also assimilate various nutrients, heavy metals, and hydrocarbon pollutants.

Wetlands also provide valuable habitat for numerous wildlife species, including rare plants and animals. Many of the wetlands in Pittsfield support rare plants and plant communities. This rich abundance and diversity of wetland wildlife provides many recreational and educational opportunities, such as wildlife observation, nature education, photography, hunting and fishing. In addition, hiking, canoeing, and cross country skiing are other compatible uses of wetland areas and their surroundings. Finally, wetland areas provide a particular land form which adds to the diversity of the landscape, thereby increasing visual aesthetics of an area.

Wetlands are located throughout the City, with several large wetlands of note. Some of the larger wetland complexes are found adjacent to and are associated with the Housatonic River and incoming tributaries, such as those associated with the convergence of the East Branch Housatonic and Brattle Brook in the eastern portion of the city, and that of the Housatonic and Sackett Brook in the southeastern portion. These wetland complexes, like most of the wetlands in the City, support rare plant and wildlife species, so maintaining the natural functions of wetlands is vital to providing long-term, sustaining populations of these species. Wetlands that are associated with lower order tributaries are equally important, providing valuable flood control and wildlife habitat throughout the City. For wetlands and rare species locations, refer to Maps 6 and F respectively.

In realizing the importance of wetlands and the need to protect their valuable functions, the City continues to employ a full-time Conservation Agent using the general City operating budget. Improvements to the Unkamet Brook wetland complex between Dalton Avenue and Merrill Road, including removal of invasive species and reestablishment of cattail habitat, has been conducted as part of the GE cleanup of PCBs in the Housatonic River system.

Groundwater

Groundwater is important to humans and nature for several reasons. From the quantitative and locational point of view: 1) the depth to the water table can significantly affect the type and vitality of vegetation; 2) groundwater provides the base flow for streams during dry periods and storage capacity during wet weather periods; 3) groundwater provides some of the inflow to all lakes, which is especially important for lakes Pontoosuc and Onota; and 4) groundwater provides an alternative to surface water for satisfying current and future water supply needs.

All areas have some underlying groundwater and all areas recharge some surface water to the ground. Where the quantity of groundwater is much greater than normal, it is called an “aquifer”. Technically, an aquifer is a saturated bed, formation, or group of formations which yields water in sufficient quantity to be of consequence as a source of supply. The areas of ground surface that transmit water to the aquifer at much greater than normal rates are called “primary recharge areas”. All other areas transmitting water to the aquifer are called “secondary recharge areas”. The secondary recharge areas include those areas having a significant soil mantle, with subsurface drainage toward the aquifer.

As noted on Map 6, Water Resources, there are two medium-yield aquifers in Pittsfield: The Secum/Daniels Brook aquifer located north and upgradient of Onota Lake, and the aquifer underlying the Unkamet Brook wetland complex north of Crane Avenue and east of Cheshire Road.

Floodplains

Riverine floodplains are areas that naturally periodically flood during times of high water flows, such as during spring snow melt and heavy precipitation events. Floodplains left in their natural state serve many ecological and social benefits, including absorbing, tempering and storing flood waters. This is especially important when development occurs in or near floodplain areas. Ecologically, floodplains are important and extremely diverse because they are where land and water meet and offer the elements of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These areas offer critical habitats for semi-aquatic and terrestrial wildlife that require both aquatic and terrestrial habitat to complete their life cycles. As examples, species such as many turtles, frogs, mink and waterfowl species require this type of habitat for feeding, breeding and overwintering.

Due to its low-lying topography, Pittsfield has a substantial amount of floodplain area, with almost 5,000 acres of total land area (~18%) within the 100-year floodplain. Of this floodplain area, approximately 680 acres is developed. This is one of the highest percent rates of floodplain development in Berkshire County. According to 2010 data there are 124 commercial buildings, 71 industrial and 933 residential buildings within the floodplain (BRPC, 2012), the majority built prior to modern zoning and floodplain management.

Today the City of Pittsfield only permits land use activities within the floodplain in accordance with floodplain district zoning to ensure that the development of land will be done with awareness and understanding of the potential for the flooding of these areas. The district overlies the other districts shown on the zoning map for the City and corresponds with those flood hazard areas delineated in the “Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps, City of Pittsfield, MA, Berkshire County”, prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, March 1978. The Department of Community Development may issue a special permit for proposed development in the flood plain area if the proposed use is in compliance with the requirements set forth in the zoning ordinance, which typically requires at a minimum flood storage compensation for that lost or impaired by the proposed development. In addition, the City may impose such additional requirements and conditions to protect and safeguard the surrounding area or reject the proposed use, if desired.

The largest area of floodplain within the city is the area along Brattle Brook and its unnamed tributary located in East Side neighborhood. This area includes commercial/industrial lands between East and Newell Streets, as well dense residential streets dotted with modest homes. This area also surrounds Brattle Brook Park. Maintaining this sub-watershed in an undeveloped state helps to protect these existing neighborhoods as well as those downstream of the brook’s confluence with the East Branch Housatonic River. Other floodplain areas of note include the meandering Main Stem Housatonic River in the southern

section of the city, the Shaker Brook wetland complex in the southwest corner of the city, the area surrounding Wahconah Park and on Unkamet Brook in Coltsville.

4D Vegetation

Although Pittsfield is the county's more urban community, the undeveloped areas outside the city center are largely forested. As a land use, forested land covers 46% of the City and agriculture covers 10%, much of which is hay or pastureland. The City hosts several different types of plant communities, including large tracts of forest, open fields, wetlands and open water, each with its own assemblage of plant communities. Northern hardwood forests dominate the region, with occasional stands of hemlock and white pine. Many of the residential streets are lined with mature shade trees that were planted decades ago, notably silver and sugar maples. More recently the City partnered with the American Chestnut Foundation to plant a Chestnut Seed Orchard at Springside Park in an effort to establish a blight-resistant hybrid species.

Plant Communities

Natural communities are recurring assemblages of plants and animals in similar chemical, moisture, geological and topographic environments (Frost, 2016). The NHESP has documented assemblages that are uncommonly found across the state, designating them as Priority Natural Communities. There are four such community types within Pittsfield, all of which are associated with wetland resources and all are found in the southern portion of the City (see Appendix, Map F for exact locations). Red Maple-Black Ash-Tamarack Calcareous Seepage Swamps are mixed deciduous-coniferous fairly open swamps occurring in areas where there is calcium-rich groundwater seepage that supports many rare calcium-loving plant species. Major-river Floodplain Forests are dominated by silver maple, where the soils are enriched with nutrients brought by annual floods, resulting in a diversity of plants and insects. These communities are found along the Housatonic River, below the confluence of the East and West Branches. Calcareous Sloping Fens are open, sedge-dominated wetlands on slight to moderate slopes with calcareous groundwater seepage, and are often 'hot spots' for uncommon species. The City's fen is located near Mud Pond south of Tamarack Road. The three communities just described are listed as Imperiled in Massachusetts as very few of these natural communities remain.

Pittsfield also has an exemplary example of an upland Natural Community, Red Oak – Sugar Maple Transition Forest. Red Oak-Sugar Maple Transition Forests have species typical of northern hardwood forests with white oaks that are more typical of central hardwood forests. This widespread forest type is moderate in moisture, pH, and nutrient availability. Rich Mesic Forests, which are a subset of northern hardwood forests, with moist soils that are rich in nutrients that supports an unusually diverse understory of ferns and wildflowers. This forest subtype has not been documented in Pittsfield but small patches are found in every surrounding town, so it is possible that they do exist here. If found, these forests should be targeted for protection.

According to study work conducted by Harvard Forest, several areas within Pittsfield have been identified as areas of possible Primary Forest. These forests are not Old Growth, but they do occur on land that has probably never been tilled. Even though they may have been used as woodlots and may have occasionally been used for pasture, untilled soil retain a greater native biodiversity, including wildflowers and some small animals, than adjoining areas that were tilled. It is not known if the 1830 forest areas in Pittsfield are Primary Forest, but the NHESP recommends that such a possibility be researched in order to

determine the ecological value of these areas. The areas that have been documented as being forested in 1830 and that are currently forested areas are scattered across the city. Large tracts of these forests are protected, as they lie within the Pittsfield and October Mountain state forests, within the Housatonic River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and within the Boulders. Other large tracts, most notably South Mountain southward to the Lenox town line, south and east of Brattlebrook Park, and in the Unkamet Brook watershed, are unprotected. There is a documented occurrence of a Red Oak-Sugar Maple Transition Forest in Pittsfield that is an older forest, and has been mentioned as possible Old Growth. The areas of potential Primary Forest are shown on Maps 5 and F.

Rare Plant Species

Pittsfield harbors an amazing array of rare plants, many of which are aquatic species, wetland species or prefer moist habitats. NHESP has records of 32 plant species of greatest concern living in Pittsfield, and of those 24 have been documented as living here within the past 25 years. Endangered species are typically found within the Core Habitat areas dispersed across the City, as shown on Map F. Many of the species prefer the alkaline water and soil conditions, which limits their range to areas like the Housatonic River valley. See Table ___ for the complete list. The NHESP lists rare species by the category, and the definitions for each category is as follows:

(E) "Endangered" species are native species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or which are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts, as documented by biological research and inventory. There are 13 species in this category, all except three of which have been documented in Pittsfield since 2000.

(T) "Threatened" species are native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory. There are six species in this category, only two of which have been documented since 2000.

(SC) "Special concern" species are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts. There are eight species in this category, all except two of which have been documented since 2000.

(WL) The "Watch List" species list is an unofficial, non-regulatory list of plants of known or suspected conservation concern that NHESP is interested in tracking for several reasons. Some are thought to be declining or vulnerable without sufficient evidence for a determination, while others were removed from the official MESA list but biologists believe are still in need of some conservation attention. A few species are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). There are 23 plant species in this category, 11 of which have been documented in since 2000.

Many of the rare plants favor or are restricted to calcareous/alkaline waters, which is why the Housatonic Watershed harbors such an array of unusual or uncommon species. Among the more notable rare plant species in Pittsfield (City of Pittsfield, 2009; Frost, 2016):

- Fries' Pondweed, an endangered species, is found in Mud Pond, one of only two known populations in Massachusetts.
- Comb Water-milfoil, an endangered species, is found in Onota Lake, one of only three known populations in Massachusetts.

- The state’s most outstanding population of Wapato, a rare relative of the Common Arrowhead, lives in the floodplains of the Housatonic River on the Pittsfield/Lenox border.
- Hill’s Pondweed, a globally rare plant species, is found in open areas of slow-moving or quiet waters of Wild Acres and Maloy Brook.
- Ogden’s Pondweed, also globally rare, is found in shallow, alkaline still or very slow-moving waters.

According to NHESP records, there are several animals and plants that have not been observed for more than 25 years, and so there is no longer any regulatory protection for them. The abundance and diversity of these species indicates that the natural ecosystems surviving within the city borders and beyond are worthy of protection. Areas on which priority conservation efforts should be focused include lands that support rare species and are adjacent to lands already protected, as they help to create large blocks of un-fragmented habitat. Unique Features Map 5 shows the NHESP Priority Conservation Areas, which are described in more detail later in this plan section.

in the BioMap2 Core areas that support or buffer rare species habitat and are adjacent to protected lands should be prioritized if possible. Other areas of focus should be those forests that are believed to be Primary Forest lands. NHESP is always interested in receiving observations of rare plants and animals to accurately document their existence and ensure their long-term protection. Specific focus areas in Pittsfield may include these areas:

- South of Dan Fox Drive to Lenox town border
- West of South Street and east of Tamarack Road
- Wetland complex north of Richmond Pond, fed by Shaker Brook
- East of New Lenox Road: upward to state land in the south and along Sackett Brook in the north
- Additional corridor lands along Housatonic River as it flows between the two Housatonic Valley WMAs
- Eastward from Brattle Brook Park
- Wetland habitat found in Wild Acres
- Wetlands forming headwaters of Maloy Brook WHERE IS THIS?
- Lands within the Onota Lake tributaries of Daniels, Lulu and Berry Pond Brooks

Table 4.2. NHESP List of Rare Vascular Plants for Pittsfield

Scientific name	Common Name	MESA STATUS	Last Obs.
Carex castanea	Chestnut-colored Sedge	E	2007
Carex tuckermanii	Tuckerman's Sedge	E	2008
Eleocharis quinqueflora	Few-flowered Spike-sedge	E	2004
Elymus villosus	Hairy Wild Rye	E	2008
Lonicera hirsuta	Hairy Honeysuckle	E	2003

Malaxis monophyllos var. brachypoda	White Adder's-mouth	E	2002
Myriophyllum verticillatum	Comb Water-milfoil	E	2013
Polystichum braunii	Braun's Holly-fern	E	1920
Potamogeton friesii	Fries' Pondweed	E	1990
Potamogeton ogdenii	Ogden's Pondweed	E	2009
Potamogeton strictifolius	Straight-leaved Pondweed	E	2004
Pyrola asarifolia ssp. asarifolia	Pink Pyrola	E	1983
Rhynchospora capillacea	Capillary Beak-sedge	E	2001
Cardamine dentata	Fen Cuckoo Flower	T	2001
Carex sterilis	Dioecious Sedge	T	1996
Eleocharis intermedia	Intermediate Spike-sedge	T	1999
Rhododendron maximum	Great Laurel	T	1983
Sagittaria cuneata	Wapato	T	2008
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's-root	T	1992
Carex hitchcockiana	Hitchcock's Sedge	SC	2005
Equisetum scirpoides	Dwarf Scouring-rush	SC	2004
Geum fragarioides	Barren Strawberry	SC	2013
Potamogeton hillii	Hill's Pondweed	SC	2009
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	SC	1919
Ranunculus pensylvanicus	Bristly Buttercup	SC	1992
Ribes lacustre	Bristly Black Currant	SC	
Symphyotrichum prenanthoides	Crooked-stem Aster	SC	2014
Galearis spectabilis	Showy Orchis	-WL/SWAP	1919
Malaxis unifolia	Green Adder's Mouth	-WL/SWAP	1946
Silene caroliniana ssp.	Wild Pink	-WL/SWAP	1964
Acer nigrum	Black Maple	- WL	2008
Bidens beckii	Water Marigold	- WL	2003
Carex retrorsa	Hooked Sedge	- WL	Pre-1922
Caulophyllum giganteum	Early Blue Cohosh	- WL	2000
Diplazium pycnocarpon	Glade Fern	- WL	2004
Dryopteris goldiana	Goldie's Fern	- WL	2004
Eleocharis erythropoda	Redfoot Spike-sedge	- WL	1986
Equisetum variegatum ssp. variegatum	Variegated Scouring Rush	- WL	2010
Heteranthera dubia	Water Star-grass	- WL	2004
Lobelia kalmii	Brook-lobelia	- WL	2006
Lythrum alatum	Winged Loosestrife	- WL	1986
Ribes americanum	Wild Black Currant	- WL	1998
Ribes triste	Swamp Red Currant	- WL	2007
Salix candida	Hoary Willow	- WL	1983
Salix serissima	Autumn Willow	- WL	1987
Schoenoplectus acutus var. acutus	Hard-stemmed Bulrush	- WL	2000
Scirpus pendulus	Pendulous Bulrush	- WL	1987

Utricularia minor	Lesser Bladderwort	- WL	2003
Uvularia grandiflora	Large-flowered Bellwort	- WL	1983
Viola selkirkii	Great-spurred Violet	- WL	1916

Source: Frost, 2016.

4D Wildlife

There has been a rapid increase in the number of non-consumptive wildlife users. These include nature study enthusiasts, photographers, birdwatchers, and wildlife observers. In Pittsfield, the Housatonic River and its associated wetlands, Onota Lake, Pontoosuc Lake, Richmond Pond, Goodrich Pond, Mud Pond, Wild Acres, and Canoe Meadows, are some of the better areas for these activities. Songbirds, because of their widespread occurrence in suburban areas, probably provide more enjoyment for Pittsfield residents than any other form of wildlife. They are found in backyard areas, greenbelts, woodland edges, and flower gardens. Bird feeders and nesting boxes are common, which adds to the quality of these habitats.

Fisheries and Wildlife

In general, wildlife is abundant in numbers and diversity in Berkshire County, even within Pittsfield. Although Pittsfield is the most densely developed community in the Berkshires, large tracts of undeveloped and forested lands are found all around the city center. Routes 7 and 8 can be dangerous for species moving or dispersing east/west, but species that were once greatly reduced or extirpated in the region have returned, including familiar species such as bear, deer and turkey, and predators such as bobcat, coyote, and fisher. Bald eagles can often be found along the Housatonic River and at any of the City's lakes or ponds, but they are most easily found on Onota Lake, where a breeding pair has been raising young for several years.

Although Pittsfield is the most urbanized community in Berkshire County, residents are fortunate to be able to fish and hunt in several areas within the city's borders. Several species of game are available to hunters, from small game like squirrel and cottontails to large game such as deer and bear. Hunting is allowed on all state-owned lands, including the Housatonic Valley WMA and Pittsfield and October Mountain state forests. Hunting is also available on many private properties with owner's permission. Pheasants are stocked in the Housatonic Valley WMA and in Brattle Brook Park land, and waterfowl are a favorite game bird in the Housatonic Valley WMA. Sportsman's clubs in Pittsfield, Lenox, Cheshire and Lanesborough provide educational programs and local shooting ranges.

The City also provides important wildlife corridors, particularly for a wide variety of bird species. Pittsfield hosts two Important Bird Areas (IBA) that have been designated by Mass Audubon. The Central Berkshire Lakes Area, which include Onota and Pontoosuc Lakes, are important stopover points for waterfowl migrating along the Housatonic River Valley. Significant numbers of geese, dabbling ducks, diving ducks, loons, and grebes are counted annually. There have also been many records of species that are considered rare or casual in western New England.

The second IBA is that of the Upper Housatonic Valley, a section of the river valley that starts in Pittsfield and extends southward into Lenox and Lee. This IBA represents some of the finest riparian habitat remaining in central Berkshire County, which tends to be more developed than the highlands. This riparian corridor serves as a breeding habitat for numerous wetland species, as well as serving as a migration corridor for many other species

of birds, with more than 200 species having been documented here. This designated area is within the Upper Housatonic River Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Onota Lake is managed for and produces excellent fishing for trout, chain pickerel, bass, and pan fish. Trout is stocked in the lake spring and fall each year. Public access is provided via Burbank Park and Dunn's Grove. The pier at Onota Lake provides handicap accessible fishing.

Pontoosuc Lake is also managed for and produces fine fishing. Like Onota Lake, trout is stocked twice a year. In addition, Town Brook, a major tributary of the lake, is stocked with trout in the spring. This lake is renowned for its ability to produce large, trophy muskies, and the lake is a popular ice fishing spot. Pontoosuc Lake currently holds the state record for a tiger musky, caught in 2001 at 27 pounds. Public access is provided at the southern end, and shoreline fishing is available here and at the causeway. Onota Lake is cited as a "best bet" for white catfish and carp by MassWildlife.

Other lakes and ponds include Richmond Pond and Goodrich Pond. Public access to the shoreline of Richmond Pond is limited but a state-maintained boat ramp does exist in Richmond. Shoreline access to Goodrich Pond is provided through Brattlebrook Park and Melrose Avenue. Wild Acres, owned by the Conservation Commission and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department, contains a small pond that is used for fishing, casting instruction and trout derbies. Trout are provided by the Friends of Wild Acres.

Trout and bass can be found in several streams and river sections throughout Pittsfield. Sackett Brook and the Southwest Branch Housatonic River are stocked with trout in the spring, but trout is abundant in many of the un-stocked streams. Naturalized brown trout are known to inhabit the Southwest Branch of the river. Although fish are abundant in the Housatonic River the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has imposed a fish consumption warning along the East and Main Branches of the Housatonic River, due to the presence of PCB's (poly-chlorinated biphenyls).

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are ephemeral wetlands which fill annually from snowmelt, rain and the rising ground waters of spring and early summer. Most years the pools completely dry out by mid-to-late summer (Kenney & Burne, 2000). The wet-dry cycle prohibits fish from becoming established, but it can support an array of small creatures with a seasonal home. Many woodland amphibians and reptiles need both aquatic and terrestrial habitats to complete their lifestyles, and numerous species have evolved life cycles that exploit the temporary nature of this wetland without the predation of fish. In many upland areas, where the nearest wetland or other waterbody is thousands of feet away, vernal pools are the only aquatic breeding grounds in the area. Some of the state's rarest amphibians are completely dependent upon vernal pools for their breeding grounds, including the mole salamanders (Jefferson, spotted, and marbled) and some species of freshwater snails, clams and other invertebrates.

Vernal pools are indispensable to biodiversity, both locally and globally. For a species with a narrow or small distribution, a specific vernal pool may be the only place in the region or on earth that the creature is found. If that pool is destroyed, that specific population of creatures could become locally extinct. Examples exist in the scientific literature of a species identified from one vernal pool, but not found again after the destruction of that pool (Kenney & Burnes, 2000). Since many of the region's rarest amphibians rely completely on vernal pools, it is important to identify vernal pools and prioritize those known to support rare species for protection.

Vernal pools that are associated with Wetland Resources are afforded some protection through the Mass. Wetland Protection Act. However, small isolated pools not associated with a Wetland Resource are not protected. The most effective way to protect vernal pools is to study and certify them. The certification gives the pools and their surrounding area some protection from development. Vernal pools are most often found in the Berkshire Region in woodland areas, where evaporation from sunlight is limited due to the forest canopy. There are currently 33 certified vernal pools in Pittsfield (Frost, 2015), up from 10 that were certified and noted in the 2009 *Open Space and Recreation Plan*. These pools were certified through the work of dedicated volunteer naturalists, led by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team.

In addition to certified pools, there are 35 sites that have been identified as potential vernal pools (MassGIS, 2016). Although a few vernal pools are located on permanently protected lands, and thus protected from development, the vast majority are on private property. Those that are in clusters and in the most easily developed areas should be targeted for study. One such cluster of pools is located along the Housatonic River corridor and it flows between the Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Areas.

Rare Animal Species

Pittsfield's landscape, with its mix of lowlands and hills, riverine and wetland ecosystems, set atop a calcareous bedrock and its associated soils, provide the unique environmental characteristics that support an abundant and diverse array of rare species. There are 22 rare species documented as having lived in Pittsfield, 16 of which have been documented since 2000. This is an unusually long list of rare species for any community, especially given that the city's more urban area. The definitions for the MESA Status is the same for rare animals as it is for rare plants (for reference see the section on Rare Plant Species).

Some of the recognizable rare animals that inhabit Pittsfield are the Wood Turtle, American Bittern, and Bald Eagle. The presence of these animals reflects the abundance of wetlands, slow-moving and open waters needed to provide habitat and cover. Upland areas immediately adjacent to these low-lying wetland resources are extremely important, in that they provide the terrestrial ecosystem that many animals, such as the Wood Turtle, need to fulfill their life cycles. Undeveloped uplands adjacent to wetland resources provide a buffer that limits human intrusion and helps to mitigate the nonpoint source pollution that is generated by development. NHESP suggests that a buffer of at least 600 feet be established around riparian and wetland resources to protect the turtles (City of Pittsfield, 2009). Because so little of the low-lying land is protected from development, any available land in the vicinity of rare species habitat should be carefully considered for conservation purposes.

Some of the rare species that inhabit Pittsfield are little-known creatures, such as amphibians, fishes, insects and shellfish. The Jefferson Salamander is a moderately well-known amphibian, a species largely dependent on vernal pools for reproduction. As was discussed earlier, vernal pool identification, certification and protection should continue to be a conservation focus, especially in areas where potential vernal pools are clustered in an area.

Two of Pittsfield's recreational lakes, Onota Lake and Richmond Pond, support the Bridle Shiner, a fish of Special Concern. This fish has declined or been extirpated in much of its range, but is known to inhabit sites within Berkshire County. This fish is an important part of the aquatic food chain, as it is prey for larger fishes, some of which are game fish.

Table 4.3. NHESP List of Rare Vascular Plants for Pittsfield

Scientific name	Common Name	Category	MESA STATUS	Last obser.
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	Bird	E	2008
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	Bird	E	1972
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	Bird	E	196-
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	Bird	T	2007
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Bird	T	2015
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail	Bird	T	1990
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	Bird	SC	2008
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	Reptile	E	1966
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	Reptile	SC	2013
<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Bridle Shiner	Fish	SC	2012
<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Jefferson Salamander	Amphibian	SC	2013
<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog	Amphibian	SWAP	2008
<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Spring Salamander	Amphibian	MESA delisted	1990
<i>Boyeria grafiana</i>	Ocellated Darner	Dragonfly	SC	2009
<i>Gomphus abbreviatus</i>	Spine-crowned Clubtail	Dragonfly	SC	2008
<i>Ophiogomphus aspersus</i>	Brook Snaketail	Dragonfly	SC	2008
<i>Ophiogomphus carolus</i>	Riffle Snaketail	Dragonfly	T	2010
<i>Papaipema sp. 2 nr. pterisii</i>	Ostrich Fern Borer Moth	Lepidoptera	SC	2009
<i>Euphyes dion</i>	Dion Skipper	Lepidoptera	T	2003
<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	Mustard White	Lepidoptera	T	2010
<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Triangle Floater	Mussel	SWAP	2009
<i>Valvata sincera</i>	Boreal Turret Snail	Snail	E	1961

Source: Frost, 2016.

Priority Conservation Areas

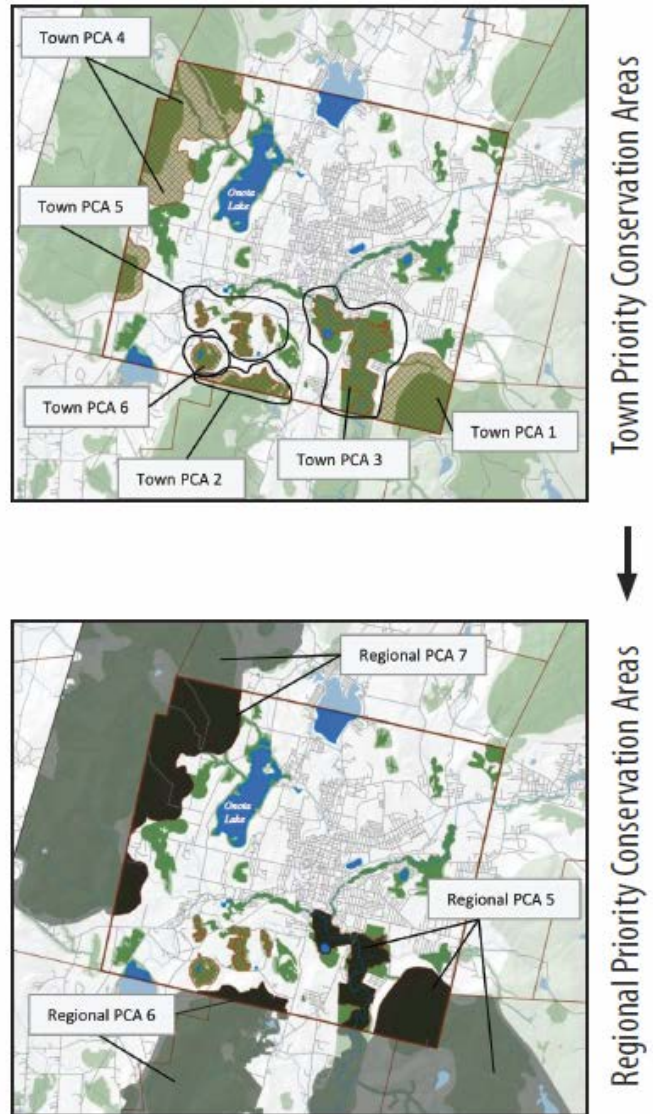
The NHESP oversaw biological field surveys conducted in the Housatonic River Watershed in 2008-09, adding these findings to their existing database of species of concern. Taking the results of these studies and combining them with the data within the BioMap2 project, NHESP outlined areas within each community in the watershed that warrant special conservation focus on both a local and regional basis. Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) are considered to be of high biodiversity value because they contain concentrations of state-listed species or Priority Natural Communities, or large areas of intact habitat.

Pittsfield contains six PCAs, four of which are also considered regional PCAs because they extend beyond the city boundaries. In Pittsfield's case the PCAs extend into Hancock, Lanesborough, Lenox and Washington. These areas are shown in Fig. 4.1., and on the Unique Features Map 5. Pittsfield PCAs are discussed in more detail in *BioMap2, Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts, Pittsfield* (2011), the full text of which is found in Appendix ___.

The City should prioritize conservation efforts for all areas within Pittsfield known or suspected of hosting rare species, as these are important to the long-term survival of local of many local populations.

The City will need to work cooperatively with surrounding communities to further conservation on a regional scale, focusing on expanding or adding to existing conserved lands to create large blocks of habitat for species dispersal and movement.

Fig. 4.1. Priority Conservation Areas



Source: NHESP 2011.

4E Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Scenic Landscapes

The City of Pittsfield is unique in the fact that it offers both an urban and rural environment. The city is ringed by the Berkshire Hills, two major lakes (Pontoosuc and Onota), plus other small ponds and the Housatonic River, as well as protected and unprotected open space in the form of parks, golf courses, conservation areas and farms. The open farms, wetlands and hills that run along the southwestern western portion of the City were recognized in a 1982 statewide identification and assessment of scenic landscapes. This area of the city has changed little since that time and has maintained its rural scenic qualities.

Examples of cultural areas range from the Berkshire Museum and the many historic buildings around Park Square, to Arrowhead, the historic home of Herman Melville. Along the Housatonic River, Canoe Meadows is an important archaeological site. This blend of the natural and the man-made environment gives Pittsfield its unique character.

The U.S. Senate passed legislation designating 29 towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts, including Pittsfield, as the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. This officially makes the region part of the National Park Service system.

Cultural, Archeological and Historic Areas

The City of Pittsfield has something many other communities around the nation want – historic character and a sense of authenticity. In some cases, historic assets have been preserved and protected by the government or through the efforts of local institutions and citizens. However, these efforts, though devoted, are often uncoordinated and largely dependant on committed individuals. Map 4b Unique Cultural Areas displays both historic points and historic areas.

The National Park Service maintains the National Register of Historic places, which is the official list of historic and cultural resources worthy of preservation. The register, which was authorized in 1966, includes districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history. Listing in the National Register honors a place, but does not oblige private properties to open their properties to the public, to restore them or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.

Listing in the National Register does bestow some benefits including:

- > Consideration of impact on the property in the planning for federally licensed or federally funded projects.
- > Eligibility for certain tax provisions such as a 20 percent investment tax credit for rehabilitation of structures. Depreciation advantages and other charitable contribution deductions are also available.
- > Qualification for federal historic preservation grants.

The National Register of Historic Places includes the following places in Pittsfield:

- > A.H. Rice Silk Mill
- > Allen Hotel – Wendall Avenue
- > Arrowhead – Herm Melville's House
- > William Russel Allen House –East Street
- > Berkshire Life Insurance Company Building –North Street
- > Eaton, Crane and Pike Company Factory –South Church Street
- > Samuel Harrison House – Third Street
- > Morewood School – South Mountain Road

- > Old Central Fire Station –Allen Street
- > Old Central High School – First Street
- > Old Town Hall –East Street
- > Park Square Historic District – Roughly bounded by East Housatonic, South, North and Fenn Streets and Wendell Avenue
- > Pilgrim Memorial Church and Parish House
- > Pittsfield Cemetary
- > Charles Whittlesey Power House - South Street
- > Providence Court - East Street
- > South Mountain Concert Hall - New South Mountain Road
- > Springside Park – North Street and Springside Avenue
- > Upper North Street Commercial District - North Street and Eagle Street
- > Wahconah Park – Wahconah Street
- > Wollison-Shipton Building - North Street

Hancock Shaker Village, which is located in both Pittsfield and Hancock, has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. Working with citizens throughout the nation, the National Historic Landmarks Program draws upon the expertise of National Park Service staff who work to nominate new landmarks and provide assistance to existing landmarks.

The city has two historic districts in the downtown area registered with the National Park Service. The Park Square Historic District centers on Park Square and extends north just past Fenn Street and south almost to East Street. In most cases, it is a block deep to the east as far as Wendell Avenue to the south and Pearl Street further north. The boundaries are shown on the accompanying map. The Upper North Street Commercial District is one property deep on both sides of North Street from Columbus Avenue to Madison Avenue on the west side of the street and from Eagle Street to Maplewood Avenue on the east side.

Along with Pittsfield’s architectural heritage, the city boasts a number of cultural resources that enhance the quality of life. Culture builds community and an investment in Pittsfield’s cultural assets is an investment in the city’s future.

The city’s Office of Cultural Development was created to enhance Pittsfield’s quality of life and its role as the cultural hub of the Berkshires by promoting, supporting and initiating cultural activities. The office works closely with the city’s Cultural Development Board and representatives of the city’s cultural organizations, individual artists, teachers, and community members to ensure that arts and culture are accessible to all Pittsfield residents. The Office of Cultural Development has initiated the development of *The Pittsfield Cultural Plan*, which is designed to serve as a roadmap over the next three years to establish the city as a center of culture, arts, and entertainment in Berkshire County and beyond, to enrich the lives of Pittsfield, residents and to contribute to the city’s momentum toward making Pittsfield a better and more attractive place to live and do business. The following are some of the cultural organizations in Pittsfield.¹

Pittsfield Performing Arts

Albany Berkshire Ballet
Barrington Stage Company

Berkshire Opera Company
The Colonial Theatre

¹ This list is courtesy of the Office of Cultural Development.

Berkshire Ballroom Dancers Association
Berkshire Children's Theatre
Berkshire Highlanders Pipe Band
Berkshire Hills Chorus/Sweet Adelines
Berkshire Hillsmen
Berkshire Museum
Berkshire Music School

Common Grounds Coffeehouse
News in Revue
Pittsfield City Jazz Festival
Pittsfield Squares
South Mountain Concerts
Studio One Dance
Terpsichore Dance Center
Town Players of Pittsfield
Youth Alive Drum & Dance Group

Pittsfield Visual Arts

Art.On.No Artist Collective
Artscape: Public Art in Downtown
Berkshire Art Association
Berkshire Fine Handcrafts
Berkshire Museum
Berkshire Community College
Koussevitsky Art Gallery
Cormier Art Gallery
Ferrin Gallery
Gallery Boreas
Le Petit Musee
Lichtenstein Center for the Arts
Storefront Artist Project

Pittsfield Literary Arts / History

Arrowhead, the historic home of Herman Melville
Berkshire Athenaeum
Berkshire Family History Association
Berkshire County Historical Society
Berkshire Museum
Berkshire Writers Room
Hancock Shaker Village
Pittsfield Elms Vintage Baseball Team
Rev. Samuel Harrison Society
Silvio O. Conte National Archives
Historic Wahconah Park
Word Street

Unique Environments

Pittsfield is a unique city for its rich history as a place of industry, and its extraordinary natural landscape. The land also contains numerous species of wildlife and plants many of which are endangered. Almost all of the City is located within the Western New England Marble Valley Bioregion, one of the most distinct and biologically rich ecoregions in Massachusetts and greater New England (refer to Map 4, Soils and Geologic Features and Map 5 Unique Features). The calcium in the marble and limestone bedrock buffers the acidity of the water and soil, providing an uncommon acid-neutral environment unique in Massachusetts. Although the unique geology is not visually evident, the resulting soils and water chemistry provide the medium to support rare plants species, some of which are not found elsewhere in the state.

According to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), 30% of the City's land area is designated as priority or estimated habitat and is critical for the long-term protection of biodiversity within the region and the state. Core Habitats represent habitat for the state's most viable rare plant and animal populations, including exemplary natural plant communities. Supporting Natural Landscapes provide contiguous non-developed buffers around these Core Habitats or travel corridors between Core Habitats. These designated areas have been identified as areas particularly important for conservation planning purposes. The majority of this Core Habitat and Supporting Natural Landscapes are on the periphery of the City and most of these areas are already protected from development. One exception is the Route 7 commercial corridor in the southern portion of the City.

The Core Habitat that includes portions of the Housatonic River, Sackett Brook, Yokun Brook, Pleasant Valley and Lenox Mountain supports rare species of salamanders, turtles, marsh birds, and butterflies. This Core Habitat includes riparian habitats and calcareous wetlands, as well as, large areas of Northern Hardwoods. The calcareous bedrock supports many high-quality natural communities that contain a wealth of diversity, including several important rare plant populations. Large portions of this Core Habitat are protected as conservation land and additional protection priorities include areas along the Housatonic River, the lower and middle reaches of Yokun Brook, and around Mud Pond.

Four of the City's waterbodies are within MassAudubon's Central Berkshire Lakes Important Bird Area (IBA): Pontoosuc and Onota Lakes, Mud Pond and Richmond Pond (the others are Cheshire Reservoir and Stockbridge Bowl). IBAs are sites that provide essential habitat to support high-priority species, large concentrations of birds, exceptional bird habitat, and/or have substantial research or educational value. The reason these waterbodies have been designated is because of their value as critical stopover and feeding sites for migrating waterfowl through the Housatonic and Hoosic River valleys. The undeveloped shorelines and associated wetlands also provide breeding habitat for several species, including the only known breeding site for the Marsh Wren in the region. MassAudubon cites invasive plants, recreation development and overuse of the lakes as the greatest threats for the long-term protection of these habitat. Additional potentially serious threats are non-point sources of pollution such as lawn fertilizer and pesticide runoff and leaking septic systems. More information can be found at www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/wildlife-research-conservation/statewide-bird-monitoring/massachusetts-important-bird-areas-iba/important-bird-area-sites/central-berkshire-lakes.

The southeast portion of Pittsfield is included in the Upper Housatonic River Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Upper Housatonic River and its surrounding area – a region of the Berkshires comprising 12,276 acres in Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield, and Washington - was approved on March 30, 2009 by Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles as the Commonwealth's 30th Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The designation promises greater protection for the region's unique natural and cultural resources. The ACEC includes a 13-mile corridor of the Housatonic River, adjacent floodplains, tributary streams, and the western slopes of October Mountain State Forest. The ACEC includes the Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in Pittsfield. The Sanctuary contains outstanding wildlife habitat resources, and is dedicated to wildlife habitat conservation and public education; trails in the Sanctuary are used extensively by the public for passive recreation, wildlife appreciation, and group programs.

4F Environmental Challenges

PCB Contamination

A major environmental problem is contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), a suspected carcinogen that was used as a cooling agent in in the electrical transformer and a few other divisions of General Electric (GE). Due to the company's processing, handling and disposal of PCBs at its facilities in Pittsfield, the Housatonic River system and many properties within Pittsfield were contaminated by varying levels of PCBs. The contamination extends along the Housatonic River and its associated wetlands and floodplains from Pittsfield all the way to Long Island Sound in Connecticut. Some of the highest concentrations in the US are found in Woods Pond, just a few miles south of Pittsfield.

In 2000 GE, the US EPA, MA DEP and CT DEEP signed a Consent Decree under which GE agreed to cleanup up PCBs from the 250-acre GE site, 20 specific areas associated with the

GE site (including Silver Lake), and several miles of the Housatonic River. During the years 1999-2007 GE conducted cleanup efforts in the first two miles of river, removing contaminated soils from the river channel and bank. Post-cleanup studies indicate that PCB levels in aquatic invertebrates and fish have been reduced due to the lower levels of contamination that they are exposed to.

In September 2014 the EPA released its proposed Remedy to clean up approximately 10 miles of the Housatonic River system downstream of the confluence of the East and West Branches in Pittsfield. The area below the confluence is commonly called the Housatonic Rest of River. The proposal calls for the removal of approximately 990,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments/soils, involving the capping almost 300 acres of riverbed, impoundments and backwaters and the removal of approximately 45 acres of floodplain soils. The EPA, with the support of the MA DEP and local governments, has directed GE to transport and dispose of contaminated soils in an off-site landfill licensed to receive hazardous materials. The Rest of River cleanup is projected to take 13 or more years to complete at a cost to GE of more than \$613 million.

While the EPA's proposed cleanup Remedy will remove PCB-contaminated sediment and soils that are at most risk of exposure to humans and/or suspension and transport through the river system, it is a compromise that allows large quantities of PCBs to remain in Pittsfield and the other Rest of River communities. The decision has received criticism on several fronts. Several citizen and environmental groups believe that the proposed Remedy does not clean up the river system enough, calling on the EPA and DEP to require that GE conduct a much more robust cleanup. Other citizen and environmental groups believe that the cleanup will cause undue damage to sensitive ecosystems, asking the agencies to reduce the amount of excavation and leave PCBs in floodplain soil where they are. GE claims that the cleanup proposal is too extensive and costly. The Remedy is being challenged by GE and others in court, undoubtedly causing several years' worth of court delay.

A potential environmental problem is the existence of the City's landfill in close proximity to the East Branch of the Housatonic River. This has not gone unnoticed by the City. Efforts are underway to address the problems that could be caused by contamination from the landfill.

Stormwater Management

Erosion and sedimentation is another environmental concern regarding new development. Increased residential development near Pittsfield's lakes could potentially increase eutrophication. More vigilant oversight of all projects and effective land use control can minimize the potential impacts created by this type of development.

The Pittsfield section of the *Berkshire Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* lists 14 specific areas scattered across the city that are prone to flooding (BRPC 2012). Flooding in several of these areas is due to stormdrain systems that are incapable of passing peak flows during storm events. As climate change is expected to increase the number of severe storms and their level of intensity, it is important that the city systematically improve conditions within the catchment area of these systems. Increasing the capacity of stormdrain systems may work to relieve flooding in some areas but must be designed so that the chance for flooding is not simply pushed further downstream. Other mechanisms that may be considered, perhaps in tandem with pipe size increases, include strategically locating retention/detention basins and creating improved infiltration upstream of the flood-prone areas. Encouraging or requiring Low Impact Development in all new development upstream of flood-prone areas will decrease the likelihood that new development will exacerbate future flood conditions.

Floodplain Development

Development historically occurred along the region's waterways, originally for fertile soils and later for industrial development. Worker housing and modest homes were erected in close proximity to the factories, leading to entire residential neighborhoods being developed in floodplain areas. Climate change projections indicate that the recurrence of the 100-year flood will be reduced to 49 years, with the 25-year storm occurring in the range of 7.5-15 years depending on the level of change that ensues.

An analysis of the FIRM flood hazard area maps indicates that there is more than 4,940 acres of land in the city within the 100-year floodplain, which is approximately 18% of the city's total area. Of this acreage, 680 acres (13.8% of floodplain) are developed. This development includes 124 commercial buildings, 71 industrial and 933 residential within the floodplain (BRPC, 2010). FIRM maps for the county are outdated, as they are based on precipitation data and hydrologic calculations conducted several decades ago, resulting in floodplain boundaries that likely underestimate the actual boundaries as they exist today.

Due to the number of commercial and industrial sites in the floodplain, there is an increased risk of spreading pollution during flood events from chemicals used or stored on these sites.

Wildlife Connectivity

Despite the City's urban core and the pockets of suburban development that radiate off of main roadways, Pittsfield still hosts large blocks of forest lands and wetlands (refer to Map C, Land Use). Unfragmented forest lands extend out of the city borders and contribute to large blocks of unfragmented forest habitat that supports a wide variety of wildlife, including wide-ranging species such as moose, bobcat and black bear. Unfragmented habitat also provide cover for species to migrate outward or to areas with better forage or breeding areas, and for dispersal of young who must leave their parents' territory. For example, Pittsfield forests in the northwestern portion of the city extend into the Taconic Range and southeastern portion extends into the October Mountain area, two forests that make up some of the largest unfragmented blocks of land in the state. Lenox Mountain is another large block of unfragmented land that begins on the Pittsfield/Lenox border west of Route 7/20.

While limiting development in these areas is extremely important on a regional scale, it is equally important to conserve natural areas within the City that provide linkages between larger blocks of habitat to allow safe movement of wildlife. Migratory pathways will become will become ever more important to allow both plant and animal species to adapt to habitat changes due to climate change, where some species may need to migrate northward or higher in elevation to continue to survive in the Berkshires.

Maintaining the ecological functions of river and stream corridors is particularly important for both aquatic and terrestrial species. Efforts to remove barriers to aquatic species, such as dams and perched culverts, is important for movement, especially for cold water species. For example, the City of Pittsfield continues to work with the owners of the Tel-Electric dam to remove the dam to improve aquatic habitat and to expand the Westside Riverway Greenway.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

According to the U.S. EPA, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground, picking up and carrying

pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. Many states in the US report that nonpoint source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality impairment.

Leaks within the City's sewer system can leak into the City's storm drain system, contaminating local streams and lakes. Recent water quality sampling being done by Berkshire Environmental Action Team and the Housatonic Valley Association helps the City identify possible sources so that they can be addressed.

Brownfields Redevelopment

Brownfield revitalization is an environmental challenge worth noting. There are currently 16 Tier 2 sites and 10 Tier 1D sites. Combining these sites with the 8 GE sites, Pittsfield has 34 tier classified brownfield sites. The returns on revitalizing these sites are two-fold: hazardous materials will be cleaned up, thus reducing harmful effects on the environment (soil and water quality) and the surrounding community; and existing commercial and industrial land will be recycled, decreasing the pressure to develop outlying, undeveloped land.

Invasive Plants

Another environmental challenge is the control of invasive species populations in Pittsfield. Unfortunately the geologic and soil conditions that provide the marble valley ecoregion with its vast array of unique plant communities also provides advantageous conditions for the establishment and proliferation of invasive plants. Many invasive species do particularly well in calcium-rich environments, including riparian areas. The infestation of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) along the Housatonic River and its tributaries is legendary, growing so thick some areas along the river that it has effectively created a monoculture along the riverbanks and wetlands.

Invasive aquatic species such as Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and water chestnut have invaded both Onota and Pontoosuc Lakes and slow-moving waters of the Housatonic River below the confluence. Intensive management efforts in both the lakes are required to control these plant populations. In addition lake managers conduct boat inspection stations to reduce the risk that the Zebra Mussel will be introduced into Pittsfield lakes. This snail has already established populations in Laurel Lake in Lee and has spread to the Housatonic River downstream of the lake.

Overuse of Public Open Space

Overuse of our many public resources are not considered by many as an "environmental" problem. However, erosion, sedimentation of adjacent water bodies and visual degradation can occur. The city has recognized that trail use by ATVs and motorcycles in Springside Park is a cause of sedimentation in the Springside Pond. The park's new master plan calls for a thorough review of the trail system, possibly closing some trail and re-routing foot traffic to reduce erosion.

The issue of erosion along the shores of Onota Lake are have become a recognizable issue in the past several years. The City and the Lake Onota Preservation Association (LOPA) partnered in 2010 to conduct shoreline stabilization projects in Burbank Park. The construction of the stabilization was supported by federal and state funds through the s.319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program. The efforts have been successful, limiting shoreline erosion at the project sites. The City and LOPA are considering applying for additional funds to address similar erosion sites along the shoreline within the Park.

Environmental Equity

Although public parks and open space areas abound and are scattered across the City, there are some sections where publicly accessible open space areas are less abundant. To determine areas where residents were served or underserved by open space and/or recreational lands, the city conducted an Urban Land Assessment as part of this open space plan update. Those areas of the City that were within a ¼-mile radius to a publicly accessible property were considered as being served by those properties. Areas not within a ¼ mile radius of any publicly accessible property were considered as not be served by open space lands. To further determine if and where environmental justice populations were not served, layers of demographic information were applied to determine the populations of greatest need. As shown on Map 2A Park Equity, there are some areas of the City that lack access to publicly owned opens space lands, with the lower portion of the Wahconah Street neighborhood being the largest area lacking public open space lands. While this neighborhood lacks access to public lands, it is located adjacent to St. Joseph's Cemetery, which offers paved walking routes and areas for quite solitude. A more detailed discussion of the Urban Land Assessment is found in Section 7B of this plan.

Climate Change Impacts

Precipitation changes will have far-reaching consequences for the Berkshire region, causing changes in precipitation patterns and warmer temperatures. Overall, the amount of precipitation throughout the Northeast is projected to increase, and much of this will be in the form of more numerous and more intense severe storm events. Winter precipitation falling as rain rather than snow will likely increase the number and impact of flooding events. As discussed previously in this section, the City already experiences localized flooding in several areas, and climate changes are expected to acerbate these conditions.

Heat stress and decreased soil moisture are likely to negatively affect the productive ability of several tree types in the Northeast. Some of the trees that are currently common across the Northeast, such as maple, birch, and beech, could experience a significant northward shift in their growing region. New and expanding pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Longhorn Asian Beetle and Wooly Adelgid will add to the stress felt by ash, maples and hemlock tree species. These climate shifts will have implications for landscape management in city-owned parks and conservation lands.

The stress and loss of specific trees and plant assemblages will also impact the animal species that rely on those ecosystems. Some species requiring cooler habitats may need to migrate northward or to higher elevation to continue to survive. It will be important to identify and protect migration corridors so that local populations of sensitive species can move to suitable habitat for long-term protection of these species. Two community-specific guides issued by the NHESP, *BioMap 2 Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts: Pittsfield* (NHESP, 2011) and *BioMap2 Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World: Pittsfield* (NHESP, 2012), provide information on where rare species populations are located and where community conservation efforts might best be focused.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Although Pittsfield is the urban center of Berkshire County, almost 70% of land within the City remains undeveloped, with forest being the largest proportion of undeveloped land cover. The undeveloped landscape is highly prized by residents, who consistently state that rural character, natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities are main reasons that they choose to live in Pittsfield. Pittsfield residents echoed this most recently during the regional Age Friendly Survey (BRPC, 2015), the Berkshire Young Adults Survey (2015) and in the Pittsfield Open Space and Recreation Survey (2016).

Undeveloped natural lands serve many natural and social functions, including wildlife habitat and corridors, water quality protection, flood control and, with the growing impacts of climate change, carbon sequestration. Conserved undeveloped lands offer residents, particularly those who live in the City's urban core, to enter a fresh and quiet environment and to reconnect with nature. Outdoor recreation is increasingly seen as a way to increase peoples' activity level and combat health issues such as obesity and diabetes. Pittsfield's publicly accessible natural areas, parklands and athletic facilities offer residents the opportunity to lead a more rewarding and active life.

Approximately 22% of the land area of Pittsfield is permanently protected from development, with the City owning approximately ¼ of those lands. In total there are 5,965 acres of land in the city that are permanently protected, with the Commonwealth owning 2,800 acres and the City of Pittsfield owning 1,606 acres. Other significant landowners are Berkshire Natural Resources Council (The Boulders) and MassAububon (Canoe Meadows).

Other large holdings of privately owned open space lands include four golf courses, three summer camps and cemeteries. While the golf courses and camps can only be used for recreation through a fee system, the golf courses are used by residents for snowshoeing and cross country skiing during the winter months. The locations of the lands discussed in this section are displayed on Map 7, Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest.

The *Open Space Planner's Workbook* (EOEA, DCS 2001) established the importance of planning for open space and recreation by stating that,

"Breathtaking open spaces, lands untouched by human development, critical plant and animal habitats that are legally protected, and quality outdoor recreation facilities more often than not, do not exist in our towns today by lucky accident. If our cherished natural resources are to be preserved, maintained, and restored, it is through thoughtful planning and active stewardship. Without planning, the appearance of a community, the lifestyle of its residents, and the condition of its natural resources can be dramatically altered in a short period of time due to ill-conceived changes in land use patterns."

Definitions of "Level of Protection"

In Perpetuity -

- Any lands legally protected in perpetuity and recorded as such in a deed or other official document. Noble's Farm APR is an example of a preservation restriction.
- Owned or maintained by City's Conservation Commission or by the City's Water Department.
- City-owned parks and conservation lands.

Temporary - Legally protected for less than perpetuity or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. The lands enrolled in the Chapters 61, 61A and 61B tax abatement program are considered temporary protections because the lands can be sold for development at any time. The law dictates that the municipality in which the land is located has a 120-day right of first refusal to purchase the land.

Limited - Protected by legal mechanisms other than those above, or protected through functional or traditional use. An example of this are the cemeteries, which are not protected through a deed restriction but are generally protected by traditional and sacred use. For the purposes of this plan, city-owned lands such as school parcels and the airport are being considered as having limited protection, because the schools and/or the airport lands could one day be transferred or sold for other uses.

Not Protected - Totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use (e.g. summer camps, private golf course, and private woodlands). Some lands in this category are a hybrid, such as the four golf courses in the city. Although they are all enrolled in the Chapter 61B tax program, these lands are not permanently protected.

5A Municipal Open Space

Pittsfield’s park system is comprised of conservation lands, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and school grounds. These lands come in all sizes, ranging from those that are smaller than ¼ acre (Sotille and Persip Parks) to 251 acres (Brattlebrook Park). Approximately 1,606 acres are owned and maintained by the City for the primary purpose of conservation and/or recreation. Nine City-owned properties are larger than 50 acres in size (see Table 5.1.).

Table 5.1. City-owned Open Space Lands >50 acres

Owner	Acres
Brattlebrook Park	251
Springside Park	237
Kirvin Park	226
Burbank Park / Controy Pavilion	217
Wild Acres	112
Wahconah Park / Carrie Bak Park	87
Barkerville Conservation Area	72
Pittsfield Watershed (in Pittsfield only)	65
Tierney Conservation Area	59
Total	1,326

Wahconah Park, constructed in 1919, seats 4,500 people and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of the last remaining wooden ballparks in the country and one of only two in which the batter faces the setting sun in the early evening. The park has played an important role in the City’s and the region’s recreational history serving a variety of purposes and creative uses as a large open-air arena. The park has a long history including, but not limited to, minor league baseball, football, soccer, boxing, and concerts.

Properties owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the School Department often are adjacent to each other, and use and maintenance of these abutting facilities and others involves both departments. Due to this proximity, a park-school system has been established after being in the conceptual stage and under consideration over the past two decades.

Day-to-day management of the park and conservation land system, as well as planning for the system, is primarily the function of the Department of Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Board of Parks Commissioners. The department is fully or jointly responsible for about 90% of the City’s open space lands, including 28 parks and playgrounds. It maintains not only the land formally deeded to it, but also the park property under general City title, which includes the Conservation Commission’s holdings, all 14 schools, and one Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) playground.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department coordinates its development and programming with all City agencies concerned with housing and neighborhood development, including the Department of Community Development, Public Works & Utilities, and Pittsfield Housing and Redevelopment Authorities. Also, the department maintains the playground adjacent to one of the Pittsfield Housing Authority’s subsidized housing developments.

5B Commonwealth of Massachusetts Open Space

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns 2,959 acres of open space lands in Pittsfield. The majority of the State open space lands are owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The department's most prominent holding is Pittsfield State Forest (1,795 acres), located in the northwestern corner of the city, with two disconnected properties along the western border of the city. The state forest offers 30 miles of trails for hiking, two trail which have self-guided tours and one trail which is wheelchair accessible. A subset of the trails are open for mountain biking, snowmobiling and ORV use. The facility also offers camping, fishing, hunting and a pass for group day use.

DCR properties also include the northern portion of the October Mountain State Forest, which expands southward through the towns of Washington and Lee. This state forest is the largest in the Commonwealth, totaling 16,500 acres, 460 of which are in Pittsfield. Main trailheads to access this forest are just south of the Pittsfield/Lenox line. Like Pittsfield, this state forest offers hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling and ORVs. Accessible camping, fishing, hunting and boating are also offered. DCR also owns a parcel of 79 acres where their Regional Headquarters are located. This is managed as a passive recreation area, with a visitor center, forestry exhibit and trails.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has property 308 acres most of which is in the southwest sector of the City along the Housatonic River known as the Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area. This land was acquired as a wildlife habitat and is open to the public for restricted use, including fishing, hunting and walking; motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Other major State holdings are is Berkshire Community College with 184 acres in the western part of the City. The college is equipped with indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, including a new soccer field, and trails are located behind north of the campus buildings. The state owns several smaller conservation parcels along the Housatonic River, including 24 acres of floodplain along the East Branch.

5C Nonprofit Open Space

A substantial portion of Pittsfield's open space assets are under the ownership of non-profit entities whose primary focus is on nature, land preservation or cultural and historical areas. Two land trusts own and permanently protect more than 1,177 acres of land. Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) owns 967 acres within Pittsfield, including The Boulders, Mahanna Cobble and the Dobow Reserve. MassAudubon owns Canoe Meadows and Pleasant Valle Wildlife Sanctuary. All these properties are open to the public for wildlife viewing and hiking. BNRC properties allow hunting and dogs, while MassAudubon properties do not allow these. Except for Canoe Meadows, all the properties listed here extend for additional acreage beyond the city limits, offering larger habitat and recreational opportunities.

Additional open space acreage within Pittsfield also includes Lakeside Christian Camp and Conference Center, Hancock Shaker Village, St. Joseph Cemetery, Camp Stevenson Witawentin and South Mountain Concert Hall. These lands are not deed protected as those owned by the land trust, so it will be important for the City to work with the owners if land use changes were proposed.

Hancock Shaker Village is located in both Pittsfield and Hancock. The Shaker Central Ministry closed the Hancock community in 1960 and sold the buildings and surrounding acres to a group of Shaker enthusiasts, collectors and scholars who formed the not-for-

profit corporation that eventually became Hancock Shaker Village. The property is a working farm and cultural museum, designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1968 and accredited by the American Association of Museums.

Recreation & Public Service Facilities

Pittsfield is fortunate to have several very active recreation and social service organizations located near the center of the City. The facilities of these agencies, Pittsfield Family YMCA, Gladys Allen Brigham Center, Boys & Girls Club of Pittsfield, Catholic Youth Center, Jewish Community Center and Salvation Army, are vital in supplementing the public recreation supply, with indoor play opportunities during the winter as well as programs in other seasons. Each of these agencies serves a city-wide clientele, and each has its individual focus or purpose. However, because of their downtown locations and their social service orientations, they are of particular benefit to the inner-city neighborhoods, helping ameliorate the relative lack of public parkland there. Many activities are free, and annual membership and any program fees are modest.

The Pittsfield Family YMCA, incorporated nearly a century ago, serves between 700 and 1,000 persons a day. In its downtown building are a gymnasium, swimming pool, handball courts, exercise and steam rooms, and various game and meeting rooms. Many of these facilities were rehabilitated and expanded in the early 90s, including a brand new swimming pool and facilities for the handicapped. Activities at the YMCA involve persons of all ages and backgrounds and both sexes. The agency is particularly well-known for providing competitive recreation opportunities, including its own basketball and volleyball leagues.

The Boys and Girls Club of Pittsfield is another extensive downtown recreation facility. Since 1906, it has provided "sport and wholesome exercise", now serving some 6,000 boys and girls. In 1962, a \$1.5 million expansion was completed. Facilities include an indoor ice skating rink, swimming pool, three gymnasiums, and game and meeting rooms. The Boys and Girls Club does considerable outreach to inner-city youth. In addition to recreational activities, the club is the locus of educational and social services, such as therapy and learning skill programs for the disadvantaged and vocational and guidance programs such as job banks, substance abuse and woodworking. The Boys and Girls Club summer camp facilities are located just beyond the Pittsfield border on Richmond Pond.

The Gladys Allen Brigham Center, formerly known as Girls Inc. and the Pittsfield Girls Club, has played a leading role in the delivery of recreation and human services since 1911. Its mission is to provide multiple services to empower children and youth, with a special emphasis on girls, to become responsible, confident and personally fulfilled individuals. Strong community service programs support the mission, including a pre-school. Girls at risk and teen parents are offered comprehensive services. An established outreach program provides 1,000 youth after-school and evening activities. Constructed in 1957, the club's modern building includes a swimming pool, gymnasium, auditorium, all-purpose rooms, two kitchens, and classroom areas. The club has increased its handicapped accessibility and replaced its heating system. The organization also has property on Onota Lake, which provides day camping for girls and community use.

The Jewish Community Center (JCC) has been in continuous operation since 1929. It has an active membership of patrons from two to ninety years of age. In the early 1950's, the JCC building was developed to include a full gymnasium as well as meeting and game rooms. The center also offers outdoor recreation programs at the Common, and provides social service programs, such as Head Start, which primarily serve the surrounding downtown neighborhoods.

The Catholic Youth Center (CYC) was founded nearly 70 years ago. It serves approximately 2,000 boys and girls, over half of whom reside in the inner city. Emphasizing spiritual and family concerns as well as recreation programs, the CYC facilities include a gymnasium and other smaller activity rooms and class areas. The agency also operates summer camp programs at its property near the Pittsfield State Forest.

The Salvation Army building is located a short distance from the other five social service agencies, on the western side of the downtown. It provides education and recreation programs for adults and for children ages six to 18. The Salvation Army also offers emergency crisis counseling, for alcoholics, drug abusers and others. Facilities include a gymnasium and athletic equipment. These are available for use by the agency's clientele and others in the community.

5D Private Open Space Parcels

The public supply of recreation and open space land in Pittsfield is supplemented by considerable properties under the ownership of local private and quasi-public entities, private clubs and summer camps. While the majority of this acreage is undeveloped and though much is restricted in terms of use, the property is nonetheless significant in depicting the total open space and recreation possibilities for Pittsfield. Some landowners, such as golf courses and camps, informally allow passive recreation in the winter months.

Even in the case of exclusionary organizations, it is possible that facilities could be opened for limited public use or special events, or that such properties ultimately will be available for public acquisition. It is imperative that the City maintain close working relationships with private recreation providers, not only for the possibility of shared facilities but also to avoid duplication of efforts and investment, and to plan for future needs.

Skiing: Bousquet is a 130-acre ski area and recreation facility, patronized by residents of the region and by tourists for many years.

Camps: Camp Winadu is a 45-acre private summer camp for boys located on the shoreline of Onota Lake. Camp Winadu's property includes a sports facility spacious courts, fields, pool, lakeshore, rinks and more. Camp Stevenson Witawentin is a 91-acre summer camp, located immediately to the south of Camp Winadu on the shore of Onota Lake. Camp St. Michael is a smaller camp of 13 acres a few miles west of Stevenson Witawentin. Lakeside Christian Camp and Conference Center, located on the northern shore of Richmond Pond, encompasses 223 acres.

Golf courses: Pittsfield is well endowed with four golf courses: Country Club of Pittsfield (256 acres), Berkshire Hill Country Club (159 acres), Pontoosuc Lake Country Club (120 acres) and GEAA (117 acres). All four are enrolled in the Chapter 61B tax abatement program.

Hancock Shaker Village: This property is made up of various parcels, totaling an area of 192 acres. This nonprofit institution serves as a cultural and agricultural museum, working farm and conference center.

Cemeteries: The St. Joseph's Cemetery is owned by the Diocese of Springfield and is 190 acres in size. The Pittsfield Cemetery is 139 acres. Although not designed nor maintained as public recreational facilities, the properties are landscaped and open to the public for passive walking and quiet solitude.

Miss Hall's School: a private boarding and day school sitting on a parcel that is 75 acres in size. Although the school campus has expanded in recent years, the majority of the land remains in an undeveloped, natural state.

South Mountain Concert Hall: This musical venue is famous for offering outstanding chamber music in a scenic and historic setting. The property is 57 acres in size.

5E Other Nearby Resources

Because of Pittsfield's extensive park and open space resources, city residents generally do not have to depend on facilities in nearby towns. However, the Berkshire region does contain numerous other options. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail begins just over the Pittsfield border in Lanesborough, spanning 12 miles before it terminates in Adams. For example, located in the county but beyond the city borders are over 20 golf clubs and courses, several tennis facilities, lakes and rivers, and areas for both cross-country and downhill skiing. The Appalachian Trail passes just a few miles from Pittsfield, and within a 20-mile radius, there are 17 state parks, forests and reservations.

5F Summary

Although the City and State land holdings appear to have adequate long-term protection, the private and quasi-public lands, in some cases, are vulnerable to a change in land use. As many of these private and quasi-public groups experience tight budgets and developable land in the City becomes more scarce, the pressure on these organizations to keep their lands in recreation or conservation use will increase. The City's loss of Ponterrill, a former YMCA camp, was a loss of not only open space but of a facility used by residents and the larger community for events and fundraisers. It is therefore important that the City continue to maintain its existing and be vigilant to future private land losses to not only insure the quality of life but increase recreational access for all citizens.

Key to Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest¹

Type of Ownership
S= State
C= County
M= Municipal
N= Private Nonprofit
P= Private for profit
B= Public Nonprofit
O= None of the above
X= Unknown
I= Inholding
W= Water body
Unconfirmed:
1= State or state
2= State or non-profit
3= State or municipality
4= State or private landowner

Level of Protection
P= In Perpetuity
T= Temporary
L= Limited
N= None
X= Unknown

Primary Purpose
R= Recreation
C=Conservation (activities are non-facility based)
B= Recreation and Conservation
H= Historical/Cultural
A= Agriculture
W= Water Supply Protection
S= Scenic (official designation only)
O= Other (explain)
X= Unknown

Public Access
Y= Yes
N= No (not open to public)
L= Limited (membership only)
X= Unknown
1= Public
2= Public (residents only)
3= Public (seasonal)
4= Private (public welcome)
5= Private (members only)
6= None

¹ Data Sources: MassGIS Protected and Recreational Open Space 2007 datalayer, Pittsfield assessor records, Pittsfield city staff.

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Allen Heights Playground	2.76	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J12	8	27	R-12
Allendale School	12.05	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	K11	7	29	I-G, R-12
Belanger Youth Athletic Facility	5.46	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J10	1	1	I-G
Berkshire County Softball Complex	21.15	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	M11	7	31	I-G, R-12
Brattlebrook Park	0.05	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	65	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.07	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	12	5	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.07	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	13	5	R-6, R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.07	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	12	7	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.09	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	11	6	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.09	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	63	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.09	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	15	12	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.10	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	61	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.16	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	20	4	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.18	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	14	5	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.23	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K10	8	4	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.37	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	18	7	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.51	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	12	9	R-6, R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.55	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	17	5	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	0.60	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	3	R-12
Brattlebrook Park	0.70	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	71	1	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.85	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	47	R-6, R-20
Brattlebrook Park	0.89	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	L10	1	1	R-6
Brattlebrook Park	1.19	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	J09	13	3	R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Brattlebrook Park	1.19	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	70	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	1.21	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K10	8	3	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	1.26	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	72	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	1.45	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	69	R-6, R-20
Brattlebrook Park	2.30	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	53	R-20
Brattlebrook Park	19.40	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K08	11	6	R-6, R-20, R-12
Brattlebrook Park	46.37	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	L07	8	111	R-20, R-12
Brattlebrook Park	56.46	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	L09	1	1	R-20, R-12
Brattlebrook Park	106.67	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K09	1	2	R-6, R-20, R-12
Burbank Park	0.30	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	1	3	R-20
Burbank Park	0.35	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	E11	1	2	R-20
Burbank Park	0.48	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	2	7	R-20
Burbank Park	1.45	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	1	4	R-20
Burbank Park	2.48	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	1	1	R-20
Burbank Park	4.34	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	2	8	R-20
Burbank Park	5.54	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	E11	1	1	R-20
Burbank Park	7.18	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F13	1	2	R-20
Burbank Park	12.91	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	1	5	R-20
Burbank Park	21.04	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F11	9	1	R-20
Burbank Park	32.67	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F12	2	1	R-20
Burbank Park	33.96	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y				R-20
Burbank Park	34.65	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y				R-20
Burbank Park	45.33	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F10	1	4	R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Camp Stevenson Witawentin	90.32	N	Pittsfield Girls Club Inc	N	R	N	E13	1	1	R-20
Camp Winadu	0.16	P	Winadu Real Estate Co LLC	N	R	N	E13	1	6	R-20
Camp Winadu	1.49	P	Winadu Real Estate Co LLC	N	R	N	E13	2	1	R-20
Camp Winadu	20.16	P	Winadu Real Estate Co LLC	N	R	N	E14	1	1	R-20
Camp Winadu	45.79	P	Winadu Real Estate Co LLC	N	R	N	E13	1	2	R-20
Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary	0.53	N	Massachusetts Audubon Society	P	C	Y	J06	3	2	R-43
Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary	254.99	N	Massachusetts Audubon Society	P	C	Y	J06	4	2	R-43, R-20, R-12
Capeless School	8.48	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	G14	1	2	R-12
Carrie Bak Park	8.66	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	G10	14	48	R-M, C-W-S
Clapp Park	0.31	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	H06	6	1	R-M
Clapp Park	2.12	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	H06	5	35	R-M
Clapp Park	43.14	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	G07	2	2	I-G, R-M, R-6, I-L
Conte School	17.07	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	G09	1	43	R-20, R-M
Coolidge Park	28.47	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	F10	2	2	R-20, R-6
Crane Playground	1.79	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J11	6	9	R-6
Crosby School	37.26	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	F08	5	17	R-12, R-6
Crow Playground	0.91	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I10	10	5	R-M
Deming Park	10.25	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J08	14	24	R-6, B-G
Dorothy Amos Playground	1.97	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	G09	8	1	R-M

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Dunham Mall	0.17	M	City of Pittsfield	L	H	Y	H09	7	2	B-D
Dunns Grove Conservation Area	5.82	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	E14	1	3	R-20
East New Lenox Road Site	12.73	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	K03	1	19	R-12
Egremont School	10.51	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J07	7	25	R-12
Fred Garner River Park	10.62	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I07	1	101	R-20
Hancock Shaker Village	0.34	N	Hancock Shaker Village	L	H	Y	A04	1	1	R-43
Hancock Shaker Village	27.21	N	Hancock Shaker Village	L	H	Y	B03	1	12	R-43
Hancock Shaker Village	39.93	N	Hancock Shaker Village	L	H	Y	B04	1	5	R-43
Hancock Shaker Village	58.01	N	Hancock Shaker Village	L	H	Y	B03	1	11	R-43, I-L
Hancock Shaker Village	66.49	N	Hancock Shaker Village	L	H	Y	A03	1	1	R-43
Hancock Shaker Village	151.45	N	Hancock Shaker Village	L	H	Y	A04	1	4	R-43
Herberg Middle School	21.09	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I06	6	17	R-12
Hibbard School	1.76	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J09	16	1	R-6
Highland Playground	2.20	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	F13	7	11	R-12, B-G
Housatonic Valley WMA	0.42	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	I06	1	25	R-12
Housatonic Valley WMA	0.63	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	I06	1	62	R-12
Housatonic Valley WMA	1.02	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J05	2	6	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	1.33	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	K02	1	3	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	1.95	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	I05	2	1	R-43, R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Housatonic Valley WMA	2.05	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J03	1	7	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	2.26	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J05	2	110	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	3.53	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	H06	4	13	R-20
Housatonic Valley WMA	4.43	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	K02	1	5	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	5.68	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	K03	1	1	R-43, R-12
Housatonic Valley WMA	6.28	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J05	2	105	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	7.41	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J04	3	12	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	20.28	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	K02	1	1	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	31.26	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	I06	1	27	R-12
Housatonic Valley WMA	35.02	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J04	3	13	R-43
Housatonic Valley WMA	53.05	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	H06	4	5	R-43, R-20
Housatonic Valley WMA	135.81	S	Department of Fish and Game	P	C	Y	J02	2	2	R-43, R-12
Kirvin Park	0.23	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	M04	3	204	R-20
Kirvin Park	0.96	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	M06	1	28	R-20
Kirvin Park	1.25	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	L06	2	3	R-20
Kirvin Park	2.39	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	L06	2	2	R-20
Kirvin Park	224.72	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	M06	1	1	R-43, R-20
Lakeside Camp and Conference Center	0.78	N	Northeast Baptist Conference	N	R	N	C03	4	10	R-20
Lakeside Camp and	135.61	N	Northeast Baptist	N	R	N	C02	1	1	R-43, R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Conference Center			Conference							
Lakewood Park	7.23	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	J09	23	26	I-G, C-W-S
Lebanon Park	5.89	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	D05	5	10	R-12, R-20
Marchesio Memorial Park	0.42	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	M10	1	52	R-12
Marchesio Memorial Park	18.44	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	M10	1	71	R-12
Morningside Community School	5.36	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I10	16	23	R-M
Noblehurst Cons. Property	1.02	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	I06	1	1	R-12
October Mountain State Forest	62.58	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	L04	1	1	R-43
October Mountain State Forest	193.42	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y				R-43
October Mountain State Forest	204.95	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	M02	1	3	R-43
Onota Dam Conservation Area	4.7944	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	N	F13	2	4	R-20, I-L
Osceola Park	8.203	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	E07	3	1	R-6
Park Square	0.64	M	City of Pittsfield	L	H	Y	H09	24	2	B-D
Persip Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y				B-D
Pitt Playground	2.53	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	G09	23	5	R-M
Pittsfield Cemetery	63.91	N	Pittsfield Cemetery Corp	P	H	Y	G12	1	12	R-20, R-G
Pittsfield Cemetery	74.88	N	Pittsfield Cemetery Corp	P	H	Y	G12	2	1	R-20, I-L, R-M
Pittsfield High School	0.21	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I08	27	19	R-M

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Pittsfield High School	0.23	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I08	27	20	R-M
Pittsfield High School	0.37	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	H08	14	17	R-M, R-6
Pittsfield High School	0.66	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I08	27	17	R-M
Pittsfield High School	8.79	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	H08	14	19	R-M
Pittsfield Sportsmens Club	52.10	N	Pittsfield Sportsmens Club Inc	L	B	5	I16	1	2	R-20
Pittsfield State Forest	1.56	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	A09	1	1	R-43
Pittsfield State Forest	8.98	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	C15	1	1	R-43, R-20
Pittsfield State Forest	17.88	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	A12	1	2	R-43
Pittsfield State Forest	20.23	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	C14	1	1	R-43
Pittsfield State Forest	28.62	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	A06	1	1	R-43
Pittsfield State Forest	96.01	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	D14	1	1	R-43, R-20
Pittsfield State Forest	112.34	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	B12	1	1	R-43
Pittsfield State Forest	290.42	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	C15	1	1	
Pittsfield State Forest	386.82	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	C15	1	1	

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Pittsfield State Forest	445.40	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	P	B	Y	C15	1	1	
Pittsfield Watershed Land	64.92	M	City of Pittsfield	P	W	N	M01	1	1	R-43
Ponterril - Camp Sumner	0.15	N	Pittsfield YMCA	N	R	5	H16	6	3	R-20
Ponterril - Camp Sumner	0.86	N	Pittsfield YMCA	N	R	5	H16	7	101	R-20, R-G
Ponterril - Camp Sumner	76.66	N	Pittsfield YMCA	N	R	5	H16	1	1	R-20, R-12
Pontoosuc Lake Park	0.85	M	City of Pittsfield	L	B	Y	H16	6	4	R-20
Pontoosuc Lake Park	11.01	M	City of Pittsfield	L	B	Y	H15	4	1	R-12, R-20
Quarry Lot	11.60	M	City of Pittsfield	N	C	Y	C11	2	4	R-43
Region V Headquarters	80.08	S	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	N	C	Y	H03	1	4	R-43, L-D-I, I-L
Reid Middle School	26.83	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	H12	8	1	R-6
Saint Joseph's Cemetery	74.10	N	R C Bishop of Springfield	P	H	Y	G14	1	1	R-12
Saint Joseph's Cemetery	115.57	N	R C Bishop of Springfield	P	H	Y	G13	2	3	R-12, I-L, R-M, R-G
Sotille Park	0.057	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	H09	18	6	B-D
South Street Memorial	2.01	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	H07	5	23	R-M, R-20
Springside Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I13	11	13	R-6
Springside Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I13	11	12	R-6
Springside Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I13	11	11	R-6
Springside Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I13	11	10	R-6
Springside Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I13	11	9	R-6
Springside Park	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I13	11	8	R-6
Springside Park	0.19	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	H13	11	16	R-6

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Springside Park	0.26	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I11	4	17	R-M
Springside Park	0.46	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I11	6	39	R-M
Springside Park	2.12	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	J12	11	5	R-6
Springside Park	233.02	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	I12	1	1	R-20, R-6, R-M
Stearns School	9.88	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	D05	7	5	R-12, R-20
Taconic High School	54.94	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	F10	2	1	R-20
The Boulders	0.73	P	Crane and Company Inc	P	C	Y	M17	1	1	R-20
The Boulders	16.44	P	Crane and Company Inc	P	C	Y	M15	1	2	R-20
The Boulders	32.64	P	Crane and Company Inc	P	C	Y	L16	2	9	R-20, R-12
The Boulders	44.13	P	Crane and Company Inc	P	C	Y	M15	1	1	R-20, R-G
The Boulders	86.91	P	Crane and Company Inc	P	C	Y	M14	3	1	R-20, R-12, R-G
The Boulders	345.61	P	Crane and Company Inc	P	C	Y	L16	2	10	R-20, I-G, R-12
The Common	6.77	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	I06	7	1	R-M, B-G
Tierney Conservation Area	58.70	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	E07	7	6	R-12
Tucker Playground	0.79	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	G10	11	13	R-M
Unknown	0.005	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I10	4	13	I-G
Unknown	0.02	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	H15	3	21	B-G
Unknown	0.05	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F14	1	3	R-6
Unknown	0.07	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I17	2	17	R-12, R-20
Unknown	0.07	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G09	8	17	R-M
Unknown	0.08	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I09	11	13	R-M

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Unknown	0.08	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I07	20	2	R-M
Unknown	0.09	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I08	10	2	R-M
Unknown	0.12	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	J09	23	2	C-W-S
Unknown	0.11	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I07	21	5	R-M
Unknown	0.11	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I02	14	1	R-12
Unknown	0.12	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G10	8	13	B-G
Unknown	0.13	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G15	6	7	R-12
Unknown	0.13	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I01	4	2	R-12
Unknown	0.13	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I10	4	6	I-G
Unknown	0.14	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I17	2	18	R-12
Unknown	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G15	6	3	R-12
Unknown	0.15	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	E08	3	10	R-12
Unknown	0.16	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	E06	3	4	I-G
Unknown	0.18	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	G11	8	14	R-6
Unknown	0.18	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I08	10	3	R-M
Unknown	0.19	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I17	1	5	R-12
Unknown	0.22	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	D04	4	1	R-12
Unknown	0.23	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	K10	16	1	R-6
Unknown	0.23	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	K10	9	9	R-6
Unknown	0.24	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	E06	3	3	I-G
Unknown	0.25	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	L13	7	2	C-W-S
Unknown	0.25	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I12	1	4	R-6
Unknown	0.27	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	C09	1	9	R-G
Unknown	0.29	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	B08	1	7	R-43, R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Unknown	0.32	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	J10	4	1	R-6
Unknown	0.33	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	H14	7	2	R-M
Unknown	0.34	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	H16	6	2	R-20
Unknown	0.34	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I17	2	17	R-12
Unknown	0.45	N	Berkshire Natural Resource Council	L	C	Y	D11	102	2	R-20
Unknown	0.47	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	6	R-20
Unknown	0.48	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	7	R-20
Unknown	0.51	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G08	6	1	I-G, B-G
Unknown	0.55	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	M07	5	4	R-12
Unknown	0.61	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	M07	15	1	R-20
Unknown	0.63	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	G03	3	112	R-43
Unknown	0.64	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	J14	3	13	R-20
Unknown	0.66	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	C04	1	222	R-12, R-20, I-L
Unknown	0.73	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	5	R-20
Unknown	0.75	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	204	R-20
Unknown	0.83	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	M04	1	1	R-20
Unknown	0.86	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	K02	1	4	R-43
Unknown	0.95	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	H15	4	2	R-12, R-20, B-G
Unknown	0.98	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	G03	2	111	R-43
Unknown	1.02	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	1	1	L-D-I
Unknown	1.08	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	M10	1	28	R-12
Unknown	1.18	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	104	R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Unknown	1.19	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G08	6	5	I-G
Unknown	1.26	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I08	4	8	R-M, B-G
Unknown	1.32	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G12	4	8	R-12
Unknown	1.50	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I14	4	46	R-20, R-6
Unknown	1.69	P	George W Noble Jr	P	A	N	K04	6	23	R-12
Unknown	1.98	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	I02	2	6	R-12
Unknown	2.13	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	F11	9	101	R-20
Unknown	2.32	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G12	3	6	R-M
Unknown	2.32	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	F11	8	122	R-20
Unknown	2.44	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	4	R-20
Unknown	2.60	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	D03	4	15	R-20
Unknown	2.704	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F12	3	7	R-20
Unknown	2.78	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	H14	2	7	R-12, I-L
Unknown	2.98	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	M14	2	4	I-L
Unknown	3.49	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	1	3	R-43, L-D-I
Unknown	4.26	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	D02	3	7	R-20
Unknown	5.01	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	F11	8	24	R-20
Unknown	5.06	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	H13	6	20	R-6
Unknown	5.50	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	H15	1	7	R-12, I-L
Unknown	5.78	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	F05	2	3	R-20
Unknown	5.80	P	George W Noble Jr	P	A	N	K04	6	24	R-12
Unknown	7.62	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	E04	2	1	R-20

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Unknown	8.14	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	D02	2	5	R-43
Unknown	8.82	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	L08	3	27	R-20, R-12
Unknown	9.70	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	D08	1	12	R-20
Unknown	11.29	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	J01	1	1	R-12
Unknown	12.16	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	M09	1	103	R-12
Unknown	13.58	C	Central Berkshire County	L	C	Y	L12	4	11	I-G
Unknown	14.08	M	Town of Richmond	L	C	Y	B01	3	1	R-43
Unknown	14.64	C	Central Berkshire County	L	C	Y	G02	1	1	R-43, L-D-I
Unknown	14.88	P	George W Noble Jr	P	A	N	K04	6	27	R-12
Unknown	23.21	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	L12	2	1	I-G
Unknown	25.67	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	G04	2	101	R-43, L-D-I
Unknown	28.82	S	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	L	C	Y	G13	2	2	R-12, I-L
Unknown	34.09	N	Berkshire Natural Resource Council	P	C	Y	G01	1	1	R-43
Unknown	43.05	P	George W Noble Jr	P	A	N	J03	2	1	R-43, R-12
Unknown	50.80	M	City of Pittsfield	L	C	Y	L11	3	1	I-G
Unknown	59.72	P	George W Noble Jr	P	A	N	K04	6	28	R-20, R-12
Wahconah Park	20.13	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	H11	1	102	B-G, R-M, C-W-S
Wahconah Park	57.82	M	City of Pittsfield	P	B	Y	G11	5	1	R-20, B-G, R-M, C-W-S, B-G
Wellesley Park	1.12	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y				R-12
West Memorial Park	3.55	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	L14	2	48	R-12, B-C
Westside Community School	6.06	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	G09	1	18	R-20, R-M

Table 5.2 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Site Name	Acres	Type of Ownership	Owner	Level of Protection	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Wild Acres Park	45.09	M	City of Pittsfield	P	C	Y	F04	1	1	L-D-I
Williams School	11.77	M	City of Pittsfield	L	R	Y	L07	6	32	R-12

Key to Municipal Open Space

Ownership & Management	
Department of Parks and Recreation	P&R
Conservation Commission	CC
School Department	S
Pittsfield Housing Authority	PHA
Airport Commission	AC
City (other city property, usually general or miscellaneous title)	C

Type of Park	
Local Open Space	LOS
Neighborhood Park	NP
Inter-Neighborhood Park	INP
City Park	CP

Recreation Potential	
High	H
Medium	M
Low	L

General Condition	
Good - minimal investment needed for full use	G
Fair- substantial improvement (capital) or maintenance needed	F
Poor- redesign or major rehabilitation required	P
Undeveloped	U

Grant Funded Improvement?	
Federal	F
State	S
Local (local non-profit award, etc)	L
CPA	C

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities														Recreation Potential	General Condition		
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic	Trails/Nature Area			Grant Funded Improvements?	
Allen Heights Playground	P&R	P&R	4.17	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●		●													L	F	
Allendale School	S	P&R	8.12	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●	●				●	●		●	●							M	F
BAK Playground	P&R	P&R	82.00	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●													F		L	F	
Belanger Park	C	P&R	0.00	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●			●										H	G	
Berkshire County Softball Complex	C	Other	11.60	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown			●													M	G	
Brattlebrook Park	CC	P&R	158.66	CP	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity														●		L	U	
Burbank Park	P&R	P&R	193.35	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●								●	●	●	●	●	●	S	H	G	
Capeless Elementary School	S	P&R	2.26	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●					●		●								M	G	

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities														Recreation Potential	General Condition	
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic	Trails/Nature Area			Grant Funded Improvements?
Clapp Park	P&R	P&R	40.19	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	S	H	G
Conservation Commission Land	CC	P&R	8.76	LOS	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity																H	G
Conte Community School	S	P&R	32.63	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●					●			●						F	M	F
Coolidge Park	P&R	P&R	42.37	INP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity			●		●								●		L	M	F
Crane Playground	P&R	P&R	2.62	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●		●			●									F	M	G
Crosby School	S	P&R	30.94	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							H	F
Crow Playground	P&R	P&R	0.97	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●					●									S	M	F
Deming Park	P&R	P&R	12.21	INP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●	●		●			●							H	F

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities														Recreation Potential	General Condition
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic	Trails/Nature Area		
Dorothy Amos Park	P&R	P&R	0.77	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●						●							S	H	G
Dunham Mall	C	P&R	1.16	LOS	Recreation	Yes	Unknown															M	G
Dunns Grove Conservation	CC	P&R	5.59	NP	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity											●		●		L	U
East New Lenox Road Site	P&R	P&R	13.83	INP	Conservation	Yes	Unknown															L	U
Egremont School	S	P&R	9.72	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●	●				●	●		●						H	F
Fred Garner River Park	CC	P&R	8.06	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity											●		●		M	G
Herberg Middle School	S	P&R	23.73	LOS	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●						H	F
Hibbard School	S	P&R	2.01	LOS	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●														L	P

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities														Recreation Potential	General Condition	
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic	Trails/Nature Area			Grant Funded Improvements?
Highland Playground (Porter)	P&R	P&R	8.92	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●		●												L	L	F
Hubbard St	CC	P&R	6.30	LOS	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity																	U
Kirvin Park	C	P&R	255.46	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●	●	●	●				●		●	●	●		H	G
Lakewood Playground	P&R	P&R	10.50	INP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●	●	●	●									L	H	F
Lebanon Playground	P&R	P&R	2.38	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●			●										M	F
Marchisio Park	P&R	P&R	19.60	INP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●			●										M	F
Morningside Community School	S	P&R	6.06	LOS	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●					●										M	P
Noblehurst Cons. Property	CC	P&R	3.13	NP	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity																L	U

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities													Recreation Potential	General Condition									
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic			Trails/Nature Area	Grant Funded Improvements?							
Onota Lake Dam	CC	P&R	7.87	LOS	Other	No	Unknown																						L	U	
Osceola Park	P&R	P&R	9.04	INP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●			●	●					●											M	F
Park Square	P&R	P&R	1.58	LOS	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity																				S, L	H	G		
Persip Park	P&R	P&R	0.00	LOS	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity																					H	P		
Pitt Playground (Durant)	P&R	P&R	2.55	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●		●				●							●					F, L	H	G			
Pittsfield Airport	AC	AC	288.79	LOS	Other	Yes	None																							U	
Pittsfield Cemetery	C	C	62.24	LOS	Other	Yes	In perpetuity																							U	
Pittsfield Cemetery	C	C	76.64	LOS	Other	Yes	In perpetuity																							U	
Pittsfield High School	S	P&R	8.75	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown			●				●	●		●											H	G		

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities														Recreation Potential	General Condition		
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic	Trails/Nature Area			Grant Funded Improvements?	
Pittsfield State Watershed	C	C	150.48	LOS	Conservation	No	In perpetuity																		U
Pontoosuc Lake Park	P&R	P&R	8.97	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity											•	•	•	•			H	F
Reid Middle School	S	P&R	27.00	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown		•		•			•		•								H	G
Sottile Park	P&R	P&R	0.00	LOS	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity																	H	F
South St. Memorial Park	P&R	P&R	2.28	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity																L	L	G
Springside Park	P&R	P&R	243.23	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	•	•	•				•				•				•	S, L	H	G
Stearns School	S	P&R	6.81	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	•	•	•				•			•							M	G
Taconic High School	S	P&R	67.09	INP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown		•	•	•	•		•	•	•								H	G

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities															Recreation Potential	General Condition	
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic	Trails/Nature Area	Grant Funded Improvements?			
The Common	P&R	P&R	5.66	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●	●	●	●	●	●					●					S	H	F
Tierney Conservation Area	CC	P&R	48.04	NP	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity														●			L	U
Tucker Playground	P&R	P&R	1.34	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●						●									F	H	F
Undeveloped Cons Land	C	P&R	13.98	LOS	Conservation	Yes	Unknown																		U
Undeveloped Cons Land	C	P&R	5.64	LOS	Conservation	Yes	Unknown																		U
Wahconah Park	P&R	P&R	82.00	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity		●	●	●	●	●										S	H	F
Wellesley Park	P&R	P&R	2.01	LOS	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity																S	L	F
West Memorial Playground	P&R	P&R	6.76	NP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●		●														L	F
West St. Con Com Parcel	CC	P&R	9.88	LOS	Conservation	Yes	In perpetuity																		U

Table 5.3 Municipal Open Space

Site Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Acres	Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Facilities													Recreation Potential	General Condition		
								Play/Game Apparatus	Baseball	Softball	Football	Soccer	Basketball	Tennis	Track	Gymnasium	Winter Sports	Swimming	Fishing/Boating	Picnic			Trails/Nature Area	Grant Funded Improvements?
Wild Acres	CC	P&R	70.66	CP	Recreation	Yes	In perpetuity	●		●				●				●	●	●		M	F	
Williams School	S	P&R	14.41	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●	●							●						M	G	
Wilson Playground	PHA	P&R	1.10	NP	Recreation	Yes	Unknown	●						●									L	F

Table 5.4 Chapter 61 Lands

Owner	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Abel Kingsbury Corporation	A09	1	4	R-43
Andrews, Bruce	C06	1	1	R-43, R-12, I-L
Andrews, Bruce	D06	11	201	R-12
Barry, John A Jr	D15	1	5	R-43, R-20, R-G
Barzousky, Roger J	C10	1	103	R-43, R-20
Berkshire Hills Country Club Inc	J13	2	21	R-20, R-12
Bodnar, George G	M03	1	1	R-43, R-20
Breault, Joseph J	G07	1	32	R-12
Brielman, Winthrop E	I02	2	5	R-12
Brielman, Winthrop E	I02	2	7	R-43, R-12
Brielman, Winthrop E	I02	2	14	R-43, R-12
Burbank, David O & Christine M	K04	5	303	R-43
Burbank, Evelyn Miller	K07	2	105	R-43
Butler, Leona Alice	K01	1	9	R-43
Butler, Leona Alice	K01	1	110	R-43
Butler, Leona Alice	K01	2	1	R-43
Butler, Wellington J	K02	2	2	R-43
Butler, Wellington J	L02	1	2	R-43
Butler, Wellington J	L03	1	1	R-43
Country Club of Pittsfield	H04	2	1	R-43
Country Club of Pittsfield	I04	1	1	R-43
Dailey, Thomas A	E16	2	1	R-20
Dailey, Thomas A	E16	2	15	R-20
Dubow, Eugene L	H05	1	101	R-43
Friederick, John	I01	2	102	R-12
George E Porter Family Trust	K05	2	10	R-43, R-20
Gingras Richard E	D02	1	110	R-43
Greenlead, Thomas P	F06	2	210	R-12
Guachione, Glenn D	D16	1	6	R-43, R-G
Guachione, Glenn D	D16	1	106	R-G
Halley, David E	D02	2	102	R-43
Hornyak, Frank M	B09	1	4	R-43
Howard Bertha K	C12	1	101	R-43
Kanz, Rita G	E01	2	1	R-43
Lawson Catherine M	D02	1	10	R-43
Levine, Joseph	D14	1	3	R-43, R-20
Lorenz, Howard C	E02	2	102	R-43
Mangiardi	E17	1	1	R-20
Mickle Gerald D	D13	1	102	R-43, R-20
OConnell Stephen G	C11	2	1	R-43, R-20
Olsen Family Realty Trust	E02	1	2	R-43
Olsen Family Realty Trust	E02	1	4	R-43
Pemble Marcel B	E16	1	15	R-20
Petricca, Perri C	I17	2	5	R-20, R-12
Pittsfield General Electric	I14	5	1	R-20
Pontoosuc Lake Country Club	F16	1	19	R-12
Pontoosuc Lake Country Club	F16	1	101	R-20, R-12
Rentz, Mary L	K04	5	203	R-43
Rotti Silvio V	C07	1	105	R-43, R-12, I-L

Table 5.4 Chapter 61 Lands

Owner	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Rotti Silvio V	D07	1	5	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D06	11	4	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D06	11	204	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D06	11	205	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D06	11	206	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D06	11	207	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D07	2	1	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D07	2	2	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D07	2	12	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D07	2	113	R-12
ROtti, Silvio V	D07	2	114	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D07	2	115	R-12
Rotti, Silvio V	D07	2	116	R-12
Royal Meadow Farm Nominee Trust	C09	1	118	R-43, R-20
Royal Meadow Farm Nominee Trust	C09	1	120	R-43, R-20
Royal Meadow Farm Nominee Trust	C10	1	2	R-43
Royal Meadow Farm Nominee Trust	C10	1	18	R-43, R-20
Royal Meadow Farm Nominee Trust	C10	1	20	R-43
Royal Meadow Farm Nominee Trust	C10	1	303	R-43
Scace, Raymond R	E01	1	3	R-43
Scace, Shirley	A01	1	4	R-43
Scace, William IV	C13	1	3	R-43
Scace, William IV	C13	2	2	R-43
Scace, William IV	C13	3	2	R-43
Selke, Whitney F	K06	2	12	R-43
Shaker Lane Nominee Trust	B05	1	4	R-43
Silverstein, Paul R	K06	2	11	R-43
Spaulding, Katherine R	B06	1	1	R-43
Spaulding, Katherine R	B06	2	1	R-43
Stevens, Gwendolyn S	L03	2	1	R-43
Stevens, Robert L Sr	K03	2	3	R-43
Stevens, Robert L Sr	K03	2	4	R-43
Tamarack Ski Nominee Trust	F02	1	7	R-43
Tamarack Ski Nominee Trust	F02	1	101	R-43
Tamarack Ski Nominee Trust	F02	1	103	R-43, L-D-I
Tamarack Ski Nominee Trust	F03	1	3	L-D-I
Tamarack Ski Nominee Trust	G02	2	1	R-43, L-D-I, I-L
Tatro John A	D12	1	102	R-43, R-20
Tatro Mickie L	D12	1	103	R-43, R-20
Teter, Elizabeth L	G01	2	1	R-43, L-D-I
Virgilio Del P Jr	C12	2	101	R-43
Watroba, Edwin	F05	1	2	L-D-I
Watroba, Edwin	F05	1	5	R-43, L-D-I
Watroba, Edwin	F05	2	8	R-20
Watroba, Edwin R	F05	2	9	R-20
Watroba, Edwin R	F05	2	10	R-12, R-20
Watroba, Edwin R	F06	2	110	R-12
Westbrook Farm Nominee Trust	B11	1	4	R-43

Table 5.4 Chapter 61 Lands

Owner	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Westbrook Farm Nominee Trust	C11	1	207	R-43
Westbrook Farm Nominee Trust	C11	1	208	R-43
Westbrook Farm Nominee Trust	C11	1	211	R-43
Whitney, Lynn K	C10	1	201	R-43
Whitney, Lynn K	C10	1	202	R-43
Winadu Real Estate Co LLC	E13	1	6	R-20
Zahn, Ester LE - Fiske Louisa & Crider	C12	1	3	R-43

Table 5.5 Conservation Restrictions & Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

Owner	Type*	Map Number	Block Number	Lot Number	Zoning
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	CR	M15	1	2	R-20
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	CR	M17	1	1	R-20
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	CR	L16	2	9	R-12, R-20
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	CR	M14	3	1	R-12, R-20
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	CR	L16	2	10	R-12, R-20
Berkshire Natural Resources Council	CR	M15	1	1	R-20, R-G
George W Noble Jr	APR	J03	2	1	R-12
George W Noble Jr	APR	K04	6	28	R-12
George W Noble Jr	APR	K04	6	27	R-12
George W Noble Jr	APR	K04	6	24	R-12
George W Noble Jr	APR	K04	6	23	R-12
Butler, Wellington J.	CR	K02	2	2	R-43

CR = Conservation restriction
APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction

Section 6: Community Goals

In 2009 the City of Pittsfield finalized an updated Master Plan, a process that included an update of its Open Space and Recreation Plan. As part of this process the City conducted an extensive visioning and public participation process, including a comprehensive survey. During that public process residents voiced their support for open spaces, natural resources and public parks. Survey respondents stated that the Natural Beauty of the area was the #2 reason for living in Pittsfield, with being near family the #1 reason for living here. During that same time residents and public forum attendants showed the greatest support for key improvements, including bike trail connections and bike lanes, City-funded protection of open space and farms, wetland protection and opening schools for after hour recreation.

Survey respondents to the 2016 open space and recreation survey - and the Community Preservation Plan public input process in 2018 – again reiterated many of the same priorities, stating that they would support or strongly support Pittsfield investing resources for the protection of scenic areas and creating greenways along main rivers and streams. In general respondents viewed with the least favor the creation of new recreational facilities, with the notable exception of extending the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail into the City, which received the highest rank of all options given in this question. Throughout the planning process for the OSRP update, residents consistently voiced a desire to create a biking/walking path by extending the rail trail.

During the planning process the five broad goals that were defined in the 2009 OSRP were reaffirmed:

- 1. Protect, preserve and maintain natural resources to ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space and water resources to maintain biodiversity and provide benefit to the public.**
- 2. Provide opportunities, resources, accessibility and quality facilities for both recreation and conservation uses.**
- 3. Ensure necessary funding for open space, natural resources, and park planning for the upgrade and maintenance of existing parks and to further the goals, objectives and strategies of the Open Space & Recreation Plan.**
- 4. Develop while preserving traditional land use patterns, decreasing sprawl and protecting large open spaces.**
- 5. Promote active public involvement through public awareness, open space stewardship, and ownership of Pittsfield's Open Space & Recreation Plan.**

These goals were again reaffirmed during the public outreach and survey portion of the Community Preservation Plan development in 2018.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

The City of Pittsfield owns almost 2,300 acres of open space lands, some of which are conservation, some of which are park lands, and some of which are a combination. Of these, approximately 1,600 are considered by city staff to be permanently protected open space. These lands are shown in dark orange on Map 7. The remaining 700 acres are not fully protected but currently provide open space, wildlife habitat and/or public recreation such as the airport and surrounding lands (~411 acres), the school properties and the softball complex. The within these acres the City maintains 52 individual properties, most of which are parks and school grounds. Pittsfield owns by far more public parks than any other municipality in the county. The sheer number of benches, swings, water fountains, planting strips, basketball nets, playing fields, lawns, trail systems, parking areas and so on requires an overwhelming amount of care to maintain.

According to the 2012 SCORP, a large percentage of protected lands are in the Berkshire Region. However, the Berkshire towns report the fewest number of total sites – perhaps because of larger size of sites and lesser population. However, even the number of wilderness and trail sites, which would be expected to be larger, is much lower than other regions. The results of the SCORP show that the attraction of lakes and ponds is by far stronger in the Berkshires, and this is reinforced by City residents who responded to the OSRP survey in 2016.

Pittsfield has experienced a few large development projects during the past several years, with residents voicing their concerns that existing open space is being lost. The City is the urban center of the region and will continue to grow, so it is therefore prudent to identify necessary measures to be able to grow while also being protective of significant blocks of land that provide open space and connectivity. The City should consider providing additional protection to sensitive environmental resources areas that could be degraded by development including floodplains, wetlands and buffer areas, water bodies, and prime agricultural land.

When asked specifically what programs the City needs more of, Nature Programs, Summer Youth Programs and Programs for Seniors topped the list. The high priority for additional summer youth programs is interesting given that 65% of respondents had no children under 18 years old within their household. Overall the majority of respondents who filled out the 2016 survey were middle-aged, with 65% of them being between the ages of 31-60, with another 24% being aged 61-75. When given the opportunity to fill in an open-ended question asking what outdoor activities Pittsfield doesn't already offer, a bike path, a dog park and more rest rooms were most often listed by respondents. The need for bicycling improvements was mentioned throughout the surveys in both multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions, with respondents often stating the need to extend the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail or improve on-road cycling throughout the City. Although teens are a segment of the population in Berkshire County that appear to be the least served by public recreational facilities, as noted in several open space and outdoor recreation plans throughout the region, this issue does not stand out in the 2016 Pittsfield survey, except for the desire for more skateparks throughout the city.

The 2016 survey indicated that Pittsfield residents engage in a wide variety of outdoor activities, with walking/running being by far the most popular activity (78% of respondents

stated that that they walk or run weekly or more). The next most popular outdoor activity among respondents was gardening, with 45% stating that they garden weekly or more. These response rates correspond closely with the results of the survey conducted by the Commonwealth for the 2012 *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP). Organized sports, Bicycling, Hiking and Swimming were the next four most popular activities where respondents engaged in these activities at least weekly.

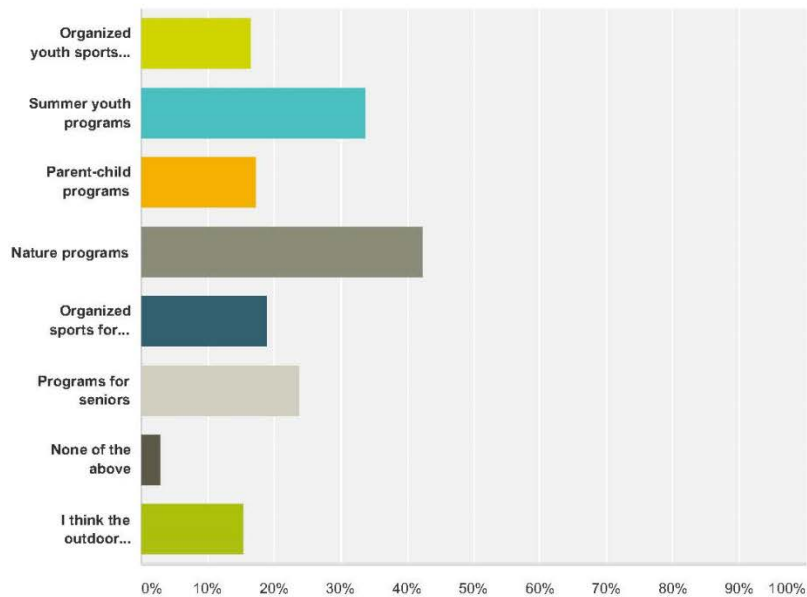
Linkage and accessibility were important considerations in Pittsfield's open space assessment. Access may not always be appropriate or even possible due to terrain or the fragility of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands. However, accessibility is fundamental for lands designated for recreational use. Creating linkages from one recreational area to another improves accessibility for both people and wildlife. At the same time, linkages create corridors for wildlife through acquisition, conservation restrictions, easement grants, or development agreements. It is crucial to protect contiguous properties to prevent the fragmentation of ecosystems, allow for migration, and enhance the value of properties. This is particularly important in the periphery of the City where much of the land is currently open space but vulnerable to fragmentation.

The City needs to develop a separate and focused strategic vision and action plan that lays the groundwork for a robust outdoor recreation economy. The purpose of such a strategy is to provide a framework to ensure that outdoor recreation management in Pittsfield's natural areas can respond to a growing interest and an increase in demand for conventional and emerging outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting the many values of these areas.

Pittsfield Open Space & Recreation Survey

Q11 Do you think the outdoor recreation programs in Pittsfield are adequate? If not, please choose the two that you would most like to see more of.

Answered: 201 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Organized youth sports outside of school teams	16.42% 33
Summer youth programs	33.83% 68
Parent-child programs	17.41% 35
Nature programs	42.29% 85
Organized sports for adults	18.91% 38
Programs for seniors	23.88% 48
None of the above	2.99% 6
I think the outdoor recreation programs in Pittsfield are adequate	15.42% 31
Total Respondents: 201	

7A Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Pittsfield is fortunate in having a wide range of natural resources. More than half of the City's total area is in a relatively natural state, with forest covering 46% of the City's land area and the lakes covering 10%. Lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, hills, forests, and fields provide diverse wildlife habitats and enjoyable environments for Pittsfield's residents. In order for the City to continue to benefit from these resources, it must continue to protect and improve identified land, water, and aesthetic resources.

As indicated in the public survey conducted in October 2016, Pittsfield residents support the protection of the City's scenic, natural and agricultural lands. Survey respondents were asked to vote for the types of open space / recreation that they would support investing in, and they generally support all of them. Their single, most strongly supported choice was to Extend the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail into the City, while also more strongly supporting the protection of scenic areas and greenways along rivers and streams. They least favor investing City resources into the creation of new public recreation areas, although responses were still overwhelmingly positive in favoring this effort. The full results of the survey are found in the Appendix.

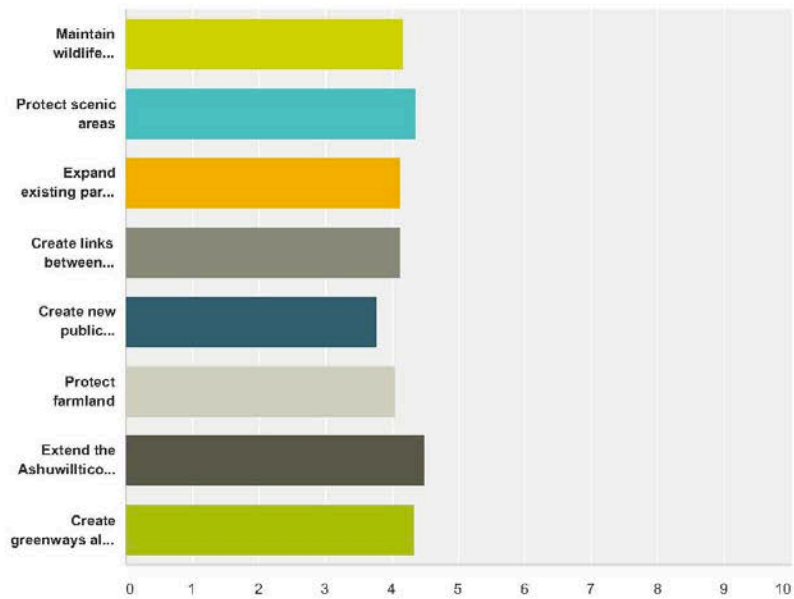
Of all the open space lands owned by the City, only a small portion seems to be permanently protected via deed restrictions, and these restrictions are not always clear and legally documentable. No in-depth analysis of the City's land inventory has been conducted to determine exactly which lands are protected through deed restrictions or other legal means.

For the purposes of this OSRP, the City is considering as permanently protected all the park and conservation lands shown in dark orange on Map 7 and in the corresponding inventory table in Section 5. While many of these properties are most likely not deed protected, reducing public access, changing the use or transferal of the land would likely be difficult politically. Open space lands that are shown on Map 7 in light orange are those with less protection from development, such as the school properties, the airport and a few other sites. The City has sold a few school properties in the past to private developers, and the loss of the adjacent playground, lawn or playing field could prove a loss of public space to those in the immediate neighborhood.

Pittsfield Open Space & Recreation Survey

Q12 How strongly would you support the City of Pittsfield investing resources in its effort to:

Answered: 201 Skipped: 0



	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support	Total	Weighted Average
Maintain wildlife habitat and travel corridors	1.02% 2	0.51% 1	17.26% 34	42.13% 83	39.09% 77	197	4.18
Protect scenic areas	0.51% 1	0.00% 0	7.58% 15	46.97% 93	44.95% 89	198	4.36
Expand existing parks and conservation areas	1.01% 2	1.52% 3	19.19% 38	38.89% 77	39.39% 78	198	4.14
Create links between existing parks and conservation areas	1.02% 2	1.52% 3	17.26% 34	42.64% 84	37.56% 74	197	4.14
Create new public recreation areas	2.58% 5	7.73% 15	29.38% 57	30.41% 59	29.90% 58	194	3.77
Protect farmland	0.51% 1	0.51% 1	25.76% 51	38.89% 77	34.34% 68	198	4.06
Extend the Ashuwillicook Rail Trail into the City	1.49% 3	1.99% 4	9.45% 19	21.39% 43	65.67% 132	201	4.48
Create greenways along main rivers and streams	0.50% 1	1.51% 3	10.05% 20	39.20% 78	48.74% 97	199	4.34

Critical Natural Resource & Open Space Protection Needs

Protection of Open Space. The City is fortunate to have a significant amount of protected open space. However, there is a concern that many significant open spaces do not have the degree of protection that can ensure that they will remain as open space. Many such parcels help define Pittsfield's character. It is important to protect those areas including rural areas and the "gateways" to the city. Protection of farmland and forestland is critical in maintaining the rural character of outlying areas. Permanent protection of large open space parcels and the linkage of open space parcels are critical to provide large natural habitat areas. Linking and expanding open space parcels provides for recreation and wildlife movement between large natural habitat areas. The loss of Ponterrill, a former camp that was accessed by the public, is an example of the type of loss of large parcels that can occur.

As can be seen on Map 7, there are large blocks of land across the City that are enrolled in the Chapters 61-61B tax abatement programs. These lands are temporarily protected from development due to the requirements of the abatement programs. However, it is important to note that the majority of these lands are privately owned and could be sold for development if the owners so wished. Under the terms of these programs, the City of Pittsfield would have the right of first refusal to purchase these lands if put on the real estate market, but it has only 120 days to exercise that right. Given the rising price of land in Berkshire County, it is unlikely that the City would have the resources to act on these lands within that short timeframe.

Protection of Habitat.

When considering wildlife protection, particularly sensitive habitats that support rare species and coldwater habitats, the city should refer to the NHESP's Priority Conservation Areas (shown on Map 5, the Unique Features) and Fisheries and Wildlife areas (Map F Vegetation, Fisheries, Wildlife). Together these maps highlight sensitive ecological areas that support rare species, and where development should be limited or carefully conducted in order to protect the species living there. As shown in the maps, conservation priority areas not protected from development and are likely the most vulnerable to development are located south of Dan Fox Drive and Tamarack Road, and along the western border south of West Street and west of Churchill Street. Many of the parcels within these areas are enrolled in the Chapter 21 or 21A Tax Programs, which means that they are temporarily protected but vulnerable if the City is not able to exercise its right of first refusal. Many of these lands abut permanently protected lands such as Pittsfield State Forest or lands conserved by Berkshire Natural Resources Council, which presents the opportunity to proactively work with those organizations to expand existing properties and create large, unfragmented blocks of habitat.

Other resources of note are cold water fisheries, which flow into Onota Lake, the Southwest and East Branch of the Housatonic River. Aside from the known impacts of development, the warmer temperatures and increased runoff volumes resulting from climate change could threaten the long-term sustainability of this resource. When targeting stormwater improvements as part of the City's MS4 permit, the sensitive nature of these receiving resources should be considered as priorities for improvement.

Protection of Water Resources. Wetlands are often overlooked but are proven to be vital resources which not only help to maintain ground water quality but provide a degree of protection from flooding and provide habitat for many different forms of wildlife. Our lakes are recognized to provide a variety of water-based activities to citizens from the City, the

region, and the State. However, all three of the lakes are severely infested by invasive aquatic plant growth, impacting the natural ecological balance of these water bodies and threatening to restrict recreational use. The Housatonic River is a dominant feature of the community and offers many resource and recreational benefits. However, its entire ecosystem remains severely contaminated by PCBs and recreational use is limited. The surface waters that serve as drinking water for the City are located in the Towns of Hinsdale, Windsor, Dalton and Peru. However, two medium yield aquifers have been identified within the City and should be protected in order to preserve their water quality and viability as a potential future drinking water source for the City or neighboring communities.

The West Branch Housatonic River flows through the center of the West Side neighborhood, one of the city's most disadvantaged areas. The West Side Initiative, a neighborhood advocacy group, has embraced the idea of developing a greenway along the river as a way to increase awareness and pride of the river and to offer a natural outdoor space in what is otherwise a densely developed neighborhood. As part of this plan the City has been taking vacant and/or abandoned lots and is in the process of creating a new riverside park, the Westside Riverway Park. The Dorothy Amos park has been remediated of PCBs and the facility improved, and Durant Park and other riverway improvements are listed in the City's Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022. The removal of the Mill Street dam is part of this overall river greenway vision, improving a segment of the river for both wildlife and residents.

The Housatonic River and its floodplain are contaminated with PCBs from the General Electric (GE) complex on East Street southward to its discharge into the Long Island Sound in Connecticut. Under a Consent Decree, GE and the US EPA have already conducted cleanup activities in the first two miles of the river in Pittsfield. Although PCBs remain in the river system that has already been cleaned up, the levels have been reduced. In 2015 the US EPA issued a permit for the next 10 miles of the river, setting cleanup standards and outlining how GE should proceed with this next phase of the cleanup. As of June 2017 GE is appealing the cleanup for a variety of reasons. The City of Pittsfield will continue to work with the EPA, state agencies and neighboring impacted communities in the ongoing cleanup process in order stay informed of all issues as they develop.

Invasive Species Management

Pittsfield residents are fortunate in that they have public access to three recreational lakes within the City's borders. While these lakes are natural resource gems, all three are colonized by invasive non-native aquatic plants that impair recreational use and impact the native aquatic ecology. All three lakes are enrolled in ongoing plant management plans that include herbicide applications and monitoring. Zebra mussel prevention inspections and programs are conducted at each of the lakes to keep them free of this invasive aquatic species. In addition, sedimentation has become an additional concern at Onota Lake. The City of Pittsfield is a primary partner in the development and implementation of the management plans, working closely with the lake associations of each of the lakes and, in the case of Richmond Pond and Pontoosuc Lake, working respectively with the Towns of Richmond and Lanesborough. These partnerships, if demanding, are critical to maintaining the quality of the lakes so that they continue to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Invasive plants and pests are found throughout the city, with a few key city-owned properties that are particularly effected. The Emerald Ash Borer has become well established in several areas of the City, with Wild Acres conservation land having become

"ground zero" for this pest. The City has been forced to cut down dead ash trees across several acres of active recreational areas of Wild Acres within the past few years in order to protect public safety. Additionally the city has been removing 50-70 dead ash street trees per year for public safety reasons. The cost of ash tree removal has come at a cost of thousands of dollars per year.

Hardy kiwi vine is another invasive species that is impacting Burbank Park at Onota Lake. This vine, if left uncontrolled, could easily spread into a monoculture, overwhelming and killing all groundcover and climbing trees to such a density that it would kill the trees and all vegetation that surround them. This invasive vine has spread and impacted more than 100 acres within Kennedy Park in nearby Lenox, where the plant has killed all vegetation in areas where it has become established. The Town of Lenox is spending more than \$30,000 to eradicate the plant species with a combination of cutting, hand pulling, herbicide treatment that will be conducted over a series of years. The City of Pittsfield currently partners with volunteers and BEAT to hand pull kiwi vine in Burbank park so that it cannot become the dominant and only vegetation

Protection of the City's Gateway Corridors and Scenic Roads and Views. The preservation or improvement of the scenic value of Pittsfield's main entrances to the community was noted as an important element of protecting the City's character and creating a positive imagine. There are several particularly scenic and rural areas within the City which provide both a transition and connector between Pittsfield and the surrounding area. These important visual links help provide continuity between open space sites. Throughout the City the vistas and "viewsheds" should be preserved.

Part of a Regional Outdoor Network

Conservation and outdoor recreational lands extend beyond the City's boundaries. The large blocks of protected undeveloped lands that provide wildlife habitat and linkages can also provide human recreational space and linkages. The City should continue to partner with conservation organizations to identify and act upon opportunities to acquire land or easements that add to or expand existing open space lands, and linkages between existing lands to create pathways for wildlife and recreational movement.

The Berkshire Natural Resources Council has initiated a Berkshire High Road concept, with the goal of "building a system of trails and conservation land that will tie together all the Berkshires' finest features: the mountains, the streams, the farm valleys and wildlands to the villages, cafes and cultural institutions." In Pittsfield, envisioned walking trail routes could link downtown Pittsfield southward to the Lenox Mountain conservation lands, westward to Pittsfield State Forest and the Taconics, and northeastward to The Boulders.

Other outdoor modes of movement, such as canoeing/kayaking the Housatonic River into Lenox or creating a bike path that joins the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in Lanesborough, offer additional opportunities for people of most abilities to enjoy the great outdoors for which the Berkshires is known. A recommendation of this Plan is for the City to develop a comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Strategy that is tied directed to economic development opportunities.

7B Summary of Community's Needs

Pittsfield is fortunate to have more than 6,000 acres of land open for public recreational use. This inventory includes large blocks of woodlands that offer a wide array of

recreational uses, and these are available year round. Some unfragmented lands offer residents the opportunity to spend the day in a natural setting and interact with nature. Other large blocks of land offer a more landscaped outdoor experience, including lakeside parks, heavily visited trail networks and golf courses. In most neighborhoods, especially in the more densely populated sections of the city, there is a park within reasonable walking distance. Residents in the urban core benefit from the ease of access to parks that serve them. However, with the increasing number of neighborhoods sprawling away from the urban center there are lower density areas that are underserved by parks.

As part of this OSRP update, the City conducted an Urban Land Assessment using a park equity model to determine which residents are underserved by open space and/or recreation lands. This GIS-based model identified all conservation and recreation lands within the City of Pittsfield that are open to public use free of charge, including public parks, public and nonprofit conservation and/or recreation lands, and public schools. A 1/4 -mile buffer was delineated around each of these properties to show the neighborhoods and residents served by each of them. Residents within a buffer were considered served by a local park or conservation area, while residents who were outside any buffer zones were considered not served. The 1/4 -mile buffer was chosen because it was considered to be within walking distance for the majority of the population.

Once unserved areas of the city were determined, the model then considered the demographics of the unserved residents to determine those with the greatest need. The 48 census block groups within the city were used to determine demographic groups. It was presumed that the greater the population density the greater the need for outdoor recreational facilities. It was also presumed that some segments of the population were inherently in greater need of outdoor recreation than others, including low income residents, minority residents, youth under 18 years of age and seniors over 65 years of age. The final scoring for each of the unserved areas show the relative need for recreational facilities given the demographics of that neighborhood. The lower the need, the lower the score; the greater the need the higher the score. As can be seen on Map 2A, there are a small number of neighborhoods within the City that would be served by the creation of a new facility or the expansion of an existing facility.

The model has acknowledged limitations. First, presumption that ¼ mile is a walkable distance is not fully true, as segments of the population such as the disabled, seniors and those with some medical conditions may not be able to walk that distance. However, the choice of ¼ mile is conservative, as some models have ½ mile as the determinant. Second, not all public space is created equal, and each space will not necessarily meet the needs of all individuals within the buffer region. For example, the small urban parks will not meet the needs of someone who desires a wilderness experience or a long-distance trail system, and likewise the state parks and City-owned conservation areas will not meet the needs of a family looking for a playground or ball field. Lastly, just being within a buffer zone of a public park or state forest does not guarantee public access because some of the larger properties provide few or possibly no entrances or trailheads in your vicinity; thus you may live within ¼ mile of a property but have to travel 1 or more miles to get to a sanctioned entrance.

Pittsfield's parks have seen a significant transformation over the past several years. Although this has not been an easy task, the City has worked to renovate many park areas and has been seeing results from a renewed commitment to the maintenance of the City's parks and open spaces. There have been many positive improvements occurring in Pittsfield as a result of the donation that established the Bossidy Fund, however, the ability

to continue this upward trend does depend in part on City, State and Federal funding through programs such as Community Development Block Grants, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Community Program and others. Capital improvements in City parks are largely dependent upon just those types of funds. Even with on-going preventative maintenance, infrastructure such as play equipment, court surfaces and park benches eventually need significant and costly repair or replacement.

In 2016 the City of Pittsfield adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA), a local funding mechanism to help the City preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop and maintain outdoor recreational facilities. Pittsfield has enacted a surcharge of one percent of the tax levy against real property, with a projected revenue of almost \$500,000 per year in City tax and state matching funds. CPA funds have already been identified as a potential funding source for several park improvements.

The change in recreation needs over the years towards more active uses that require more space, such as soccer, make it important to rethink the park system. It is essential that the City evaluate the existing park system to determine which parks are being utilized to their full potential and which parks are underutilized. The City may determine that some parks need to be redesigned to accommodate different use in response to changing interests, trends and demographics.

The need for improved bike routes, particularly the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, continues to be rated as the highest, single-most desired recreational improvement for the City. This kind of amenity makes the community more attractive to current residents and newcomers. Throughout the public participation process residents have stated a desire to have parks that are lit at night to offer extended hours of use. As an example, the desire for lights at Clapp Park has consistently been raised in past and current surveys and public forums. Lights at this park could complement the improvements planned for the baseball field, playground and bathroom facilities.

Critical Recreation & Park Needs

The Open Space and Recreation Committee, working through the public planning process, have identified the following as critical recreation and park needs:

Maintain and Improve Existing Recreation Areas. Parks and recreational facilities which are clean, safe, functional, attractive and easily accessible are essential to the community. Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing recreational parks and playgrounds is a high priority. Pittsfield residents have indicated a strong preference for expending City resources to maintain and improve the existing public parks and spaces that the City already owns, and less of a preference for the acquisition of new properties. Even with ongoing preventative maintenance, park infrastructure such as play equipment, court surfaces and park benches eventually need significant and costly repair or replacement. Adequate funding must be directed toward the maintenance and improvement of park and open space areas.

Provide a Diversity of Recreation Facilities. A wider diversity of recreation facilities is needed, especially for an aging demographic. Additionally, the City must continue to be responsive to new trends and changing interests. While there is ample public open space, there are limited indoor facilities to provide basketball courts, ice rinks, and swimming pools. User conflicts should be limited especially the safety issues identified in water based

reaction and those of the playing fields used for baseball, football, soccer, lacrosse, etc. Additionally, facilities for dogs must be considered.

Provide for Bicycles. More bike paths, bike lanes, bike routes and bike linkages are needed in the City. Many people have expressed an interest in bicycling for recreation, exercise and commuting. Very few roads within the City have adequate bicycle lanes or shoulders. Many areas within the City are not safe for cyclists. Often, roads or paths do not connect to provide access from one place to another.

ADA Accessibility. Most of the City's parks have some portion of the property that is ADA accessible, particularly the urban parks and playgrounds. However, there are large blocks of land that are not accessible to the disabled. Some conservation and park lands are challenging due to terrain such as slope, vegetation or other barriers. Others are challenging due largely because of a lack of funding. Improvements are made when opportunities arise such as when park improvements are conducted. Most recently The Common has become fully accessible, and new accessible restrooms at Pontoosuc Lake have been constructed. The Springside Park Master Plan includes the development of an ADA accessible trail, and Clapp Park improvements include ADA components. The City has recently completed the required ADA Transition Plan (February 2019), attached in the Appendix.

Provide Recreational and Entertainment Opportunities. Additional recreation opportunities should be provided and/or supported whenever and wherever possible. Summer programs that offer supervision for children and organized events have been embraced by the community. There is a desire to provide more structured activities at City properties open to the public (i.e., parks and playgrounds). Events such as concerts at Wahconah Park, "Live on the Lake", Friday night movies in the parks, and the annual beer festival on the Common have proven to be popular events.

7C Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

With limited capital, maintenance of existing municipal facilities is one of the most difficult tasks facing the City of Pittsfield. As funds grow scarcer recreation and maintenance funds become more limited as different municipal needs often conflict with each other. Unfortunately, most actions that address recreation and park area management needs require scarce resources.

Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing recreational parks and playgrounds remains a high priority. Still, many facilities are in need of substantial upgrading. Community participants expressed that inadequate maintenance and facilities remain a problem at City parks. However, the community acknowledged that the need for more maintenance is in part due to the limited number of staff and the number of facilities that they maintain. Several community groups suggested "public/private partnerships" in which volunteer groups conduct routine maintenance activities to help keep the parks safe and attractive. Safety was another concern raised at public meetings. The enforcement of laws, rules and regulations was raised as an issue. The lack of security was reported as an issue, as were issues related to off-leash dogs in city parks.

The survey revealed that a majority of respondents indicated that funding for protection of open space is important. They supported the use of grants, non-profit funding, donations and fundraising as methods to protect open space. A seven-year update of this Plan will find success only if the leadership and community of Pittsfield, including the Mayor and City

Council, are supportive of the Goals and Objectives in this Plan. Matters like exercising the right of first refusal for Chapter 61 lands and accepting additional grant revenue will require such support. The community, too, must be better informed and outspoken on its needs. The success of this plan depends upon communication and education among City departments, leaders and the community throughout the next five years.

Critical Management Needs

The OSRP update planning process has identified the following as critical management needs:

Increased Staffing. Increased staffing and support are needed for the maintenance of park and open space facilities. In addition, increased law enforcement support for park security and to address animal control issues has been a perennial theme.

Improved Communication. Improved communication is needed between city departments and residents concerning items such as long-range plans, park schedules and reasons for delays or closures. In addition, clearer channels need to be established for the community to report specific problems to the appropriate city department.

Increased Funding Support. The City of Pittsfield maintains a five-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), updating it annually. This plan is developed, per City policy, by the Finance Director in consultation with the Mayor and department heads. Although grants and dedicated revenue provide some funding for outdoor projects, the majority continue to be funded through the general fund. The CIP has identified the recently-enacted Community Preservation Act as a potential revenue source for parks and conservation land projects.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

Goal 1:

Protect, preserve and maintain natural resources to ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space and water resources to maintain biodiversity and provide benefit to the public.

Objectives:

- Provide a sufficient amount of open space to maintain biodiversity, support habitats, and fulfill the needs of residents on a City-wide scale, including in the downtown, and at neighborhood levels.
- Protect critical watershed areas including wetlands, aquifers and water bodies to maintain water quality, habitat, recreational value and aesthetics.
- Support the preservation of existing farmland, open fields and other areas of rural character and scenic beauty within the City.
- Preserve contiguous tracts of open space by providing connections between protected parcels, thereby reducing fragmentation of plant and animal populations, maintaining animal migration routes and facilitating public use of protected land.

Goal 2:

Provide opportunities, resources, accessibility and quality facilities for both recreation and conservation uses.

Objectives:

- Accommodate the growing demand for recreation interests and activities and the shared use of land for appropriate types of recreation activities in suitable areas.
- Plan for the development of new active recreation opportunities as identified in the public participation process, while upgrading and maintaining existing recreation facilities.
- Create linkages of green-space between recreation and conservation areas and cooperate with neighboring towns to create/connect/extend regional trail systems where possible.

Goal 3:

Ensure necessary funding for open space, natural resources, and park planning for the upgrade and maintenance of existing parks and to further the goals, objectives and strategies of the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Objectives:

- The City's abundant open space and recreation facilities will be adequately funded and maintained.
- Provide a sufficient amount of City Staff and adjunct resources to implement the recommendations of this Plan and the City's master plan, maintain existing open spaces, provide long-term planning for municipal open spaces, and develop necessary tools to protect and preserve open spaces and natural resources.
- Support partnerships with boards, commissions, charitable foundations, businesses and civic and conservation groups to enable the city to seek funding for unique initiatives designed to implement the goals, objectives and strategies of this Plan.
- Encourage dialogue with boards, commissions, and civic and conservation groups to avoid duplication of efforts.

Goal 4:**Develop while preserving traditional land use patterns, decreasing sprawl and protecting large open spaces.****Objectives:**

- Encourage and create incentives to promote infill and brownfield redevelopment and development in urban centers and zones identified for growth pursuant to the comprehensive planning process.
- Maintain traditional neighborhood development patterns and discourage development which damages the character of the community or the neighborhood.

Goal 5:**Promote active public involvement through public awareness, open space stewardship, and ownership of Pittsfield's Open Space & Recreation Plan.****Objectives:**

- Establish effective communication links with and between the public and private sector, promote the goals, objectives, and actions of this plan, and remind all constituencies of their responsibilities in implementing them.
- Involve the community at all stages of the decision making process to achieve a high degree of community awareness concerning the availability of recreational and open space resources within the City.

Section 9: Action Plan

Goal 1: Protect, preserve and maintain natural resources to ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space and water resources to maintain biodiversity and provide benefit to the public.

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
Provide a sufficient amount of open space to maintain biodiversity, support habitats, and fulfill the needs of residents on a City-wide scale, in the downtown, and at neighborhood levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the amount of privately-held open space through zoning provisions, flexible development, development agreements, deed restrictions, and/or public-private partnerships. 	ongoing	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the creation of watershed overlay districts to guide development in areas sensitive to development pressure such as the watersheds of Onota Lake, Pontoosuc Lake, and Richmond Pond. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant
Protect critical watershed areas including wetlands, aquifers and water bodies to maintain water quality, habitat, recreational value and aesthetics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water quality by utilizing the stormwater ordinance and low impact / Complete Streets development techniques including reduced street widths, limiting sidewalks to one side of the road, maintaining existing vegetation and treating stormwater by infiltration. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development & Department of Public Services/Engineering City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study the need for an aquifer protection bylaw. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the activities of public/private/non-profit entities efforts toward preventing and mitigating non-point sources of water pollution. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development & City Council City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate hillside and ridgeline overlay district to guide development on steep slopes and scenic views. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
Support the preservation of existing farmland, open fields and other areas of rural character and scenic beauty within the City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Present incentives for farmers to keep prime agricultural land in food production and promote land protection through state and federal programs. 	2 - 3	Department of Community Development & Agricultural Commission City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rebuild Pittsfield’s urban forestry program, enact an ordinance for the care, planting and maintenance of trees and consider need to be more active. 	2 - 5	Department of Public Services City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collaborate with other groups in their efforts to provide and care for street trees. 	2 - 3	Department of Community Development & Tree Warden City Operating Budget Public/Private
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adopt a policy to replace city owned trees such as a “no net loss” policy. 	2 - 3	Department of Community Development & Tree Warden City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with private landowners through conservation restrictions, or land acquisition by a land trust to protect contiguous parcels of open space. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development & Conservation Commission City Operating Budget Public/Private
Preserve contiguous tracts of open space by providing connections between protected parcels, thereby reducing fragmentation of plant and animal populations, maintaining animal migration routes and facilitating public use of protected land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify, protect and create natural corridors along streams, ridgelines and other natural features to allow for recreation and species migration. 	2 - 3	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget Riverways Program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Connect subdivision open spaces with other open space, schools, and municipal and state parks and trails. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget

Goal 2: Provide opportunities, resources, accessibility and quality facilities for both recreation and conservation uses.

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
<p>Accommodate the growing demand for recreation interests and activities and the shared use of land for appropriate types of recreation activities in suitable areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a strategic vision and action plan for a strong Outdoor Recreation Economy. 	1-3	<p>Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Address remaining ADA issues in all parks, playgrounds, and facilities. 	2 - 3	<p>Commission on Disabilities</p> <p>City Operating Budget</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enforce rules and regulations of City lands and waters through the Pittsfield Police Department to increase safety and security. Utilize the services of the auxiliary police to work with the park police during the summer season. 	ongoing	<p>City Council & Police Department</p> <p>City Operating Budget</p>
<p>Plan for the development of new active recreation opportunities as identified in the public participation process, while upgrading and maintaining existing recreation facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to provide a broad cross section of quality recreation programs and facilities, paying particular attention to the recreation needs of underserved populations. 	ongoing	<p>Department of Community Development & Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to properly maintain and to renovate, as appropriate, the City's parks, schoolgrounds, and conservation areas. Priority will be given to projects listed in the city's five year capital improvement plan. 	ongoing	<p>Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote recreation and cultural activities in the parks by encouraging and assisting the efforts of organizations and individuals. 	ongoing	<p>Department of Community Development & Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships</p>

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
<p>Create linkages of green-space between recreation and conservation areas and cooperate with neighboring towns to create/connect/extend regional trail systems where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue Westside Riverway Plan implementation to create a greenway along the west branch of the Housatonic River that connects Clapp Park and Wahconah Park, and support the development of the BNRC <i>High Road</i> through the City. 	ongoing	<p>Department of Community Development & Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships Department of Conservation and Recreation Trails Grant</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop walking/bicycling trails and/or quality on-road bicycle accommodations linking schools, parks, and fields whenever possible. 	2 - 3	<p>Department of Community Development & Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work toward a multi-purpose trail system and create access to greenways including nature trails, hiking areas, and cross-country ski trails on contiguous tracts of conserved land. 	2 - 3	<p>Department of Community Development & Parks Commission</p> <p>City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships</p>

Goal 3: Ensure necessary funding for open space, natural resources, and park planning for the upgrade and maintenance of existing parks and to further the goals, objectives and strategies of the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
The City's abundant open space and recreation facilities will be adequately funded and maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research and identify potential sources of funding from state and federal governments and local and regional charitable foundations for the acquisition and protection of open space and the construction and rehabilitation of recreational facilities. 	ongoing	Department of Community Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Utilize CDBG funding, insofar as possible, to address the redevelopment of parks and playgrounds serving low-income families. 	ongoing	Department of Community Development
Support partnerships with boards, commissions, foundations, businesses and civic and conservation groups to enable the city to seek funding for unique initiatives designed to implement the goals, objectives and strategies of this Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase programming in open spaces, including parks, plazas, and playgrounds ("Live on the Lake", outdoor movies, art exhibits, festivals, and other events). 	ongoing	Department of Community Development & Parks Commission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Organize community efforts to help maintain the park system and draw on volunteer support from neighbors and local businesses for playground construction, clean up, and discrete maintenance tasks. 	ongoing	Department of Community Development, Parks Commission & Conservation Commission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Investigate grant sources for joint public/private projects (e.g., community gardens, park enhancements, etc.) 	ongoing	Department of Community Development & Parks Commission

Goal 4: Preserve traditional land use patterns without promoting sprawl and protect large open spaces remaining in the City, including significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities.

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
Encourage and create incentives to promote infill and brownfield redevelopment and development in urban centers and zones identified for growth pursuant to the comprehensive planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote development in areas with existing infrastructure and discourage growth in areas without sewers or that have soils with severe limitations for on-site wastewater disposal. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review zoning every five years in view of new developments to determine whether desired results are being achieved and revise accordingly. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget
Maintain traditional neighborhood development patterns and discourage development which damages the character of the community or the neighborhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Revise the City's subdivision regulations to encourage development that utilizes low impact development techniques and maintains the character of the community. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant (FY06)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Utilize zoning mechanisms and incentives for new development to preserve open space. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Define that portion of rural areas and sensitive environments through zoning that preserves the character of that area. 	2 - 3	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preserve open space in perpetuity through the use of the flexible development ordinance that requires the dedication of open space within all new developments in rural areas and sensitive environments. 	2 - 3	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="610 264 1045 470">■ Establish land development procedures as part of the permitting process that ensure developers address open space plan considerations including context sensitive designs and continuity of open spaces. 	1 - 2	Department of Community Development City Operating Budget

Goal 5: Promote active public involvement through public awareness, open space stewardship, and ownership of Pittsfield’s Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Objective	Actions	Timeline	Responsible Party / Funding
<p>Establish effective communication links with and between the public and private sector, promote the goals, objectives, and actions of this plan, and remind all constituencies of their responsibilities in implementing them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hold well-publicized meetings to review progress towards meeting the goals of this plan and discuss ongoing obstacles. 	<p>1 - 2</p>	<p>Parks Commission City Operating Budget</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to support nature education programs provided by various private, non-profit conservation groups. 	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Department of Community Development, Parks Commission, Berkshire Environmental Action Team & Housatonic Valley Association City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships</p>
<p>Involve the community at all stages of the decision making process to achieve a high degree of community awareness concerning the availability of recreational and open space resources within the City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase public awareness regarding facilities and programs through flyers, brochures, open space maps, signage, radio, PCTV, and news releases. 	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Parks Commission City Operating Budget Public/Private Partnerships MET</p>

Section 10: References

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