WORTHINGTON

OPEN SPACE
and
RECREATION PLAN

Prepared by: Worthington Open Space Committee and the Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire Conservation District

(1987 text, scanned in 2005)

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Introduction

Like many small communities, Worthington has experienced rapid and unexpected growth over the last ten years. Between 1975 and 1985, the town's population has increased by 27% While the growth has had some beneficial side-effects, such as keeping the elementary school open and encouraging new small businesses, it has brought with it many complex problems that are beyond our capacity to deal with without outside assistance. Among the most pressing issues facing us are:

1. Loss of agricultural land.

For a hilltown community Worthington has an unusually large amount of land in agriculture production (14%). Unfortunately, most of this land has large amounts of road frontage, is relatively level, and much of it is on the municipal water supply. In short, it is prime land for both agriculture and housing development. The preservation of agricultural land is critical to our future since it is the town's major factor in the rural character and quality of life in the town. There has been a large increase in housing development on agricultural land in the last five years.

2 Lack of affordable housing.

While housing needs are traditionally difficult to quantify in a rural area, there is a growing sense that housing is becoming unavailable to many long-time Worthington residents. As the town has grown with an influx of residents from outside the community, land and home prices have more than doubled in the last five years. For many people who work in traditional rural occupations such as farming, logging, and service trades, a gap has developed between what people can afford to pay and what the going rates for housing are.

The problem is compounded by the lack of rental housing. In the last year, we have become aware of several instances where young working people, who are second and third generation residents, are unable to find or afford housing in town. They must chose either to live with family, or leave their community. This situation is obviously creating anxieties that must be addressed. As more people discover Worthington as an attractive place to live, we see no end in sight to rapidly escalating real estate prices which will place added pressure on long-time residents and people of average incomes.

3. Groundwater contamination.

While the town strongly desires to maintain its agricultural heritage, a dangerous side-effect has been groundwater contamination by pesticides. Temik, used on our major crop of potatoes, has been found in several wells. This is a particular problem for new housing built on or near potato fields. The town's growth will place additional pressure to increase the area served by the municipal water system, which now serves about 50% of the town. This poses an immense supply and infrastructure problem that the town may not be able to meet.

4. Development on unsuitable land.

The pattern of growth in Worthington has been the division of large parcels into minimum frontage/acreage lots (400 feet/2 acres). Much of this land division is taking place on property unsuited for development due to topography and soil conditions. Most of the town is steeply grades, and housing in these areas brings infrastructure problems and higher costs to both the town and homeowners. Worthington soil is

primarily of a clay composition, and many areas are only marginally able to support a proper septic system. Although a PERC test may pass in such areas at a given time, we are experiencing recently installed septic systems that operate with only marginal efficiency. This poses additional threats to groundwater and public health. Clearly, we must explore options that will direct growth to more suitable areas, so that housing can be more economical and environmentally appropriate.

5.Land use related litigation.

For many years, Worthington seldom needed a lawyer. Now we are facing an increasing number of legal cases concerning land use and zoning issues. We have had four cases in the last 18 months where town by-laws have been challenged, or we have taken action against an unscrupulous builder. We believe that escalating land values and growth pressures have created a climate for these actions. Since the town cannot afford to be continually involved in litigation, we must explore other land use options that may relieve the pressure.

In the face of such growth management problems, Worthington has actively sought appropriate solutions for several years. Some of our past projects, some of which need updating and revision, are:

1.Land Use Plan.

In 1976, the town hired the land use planning firm ENVICO to survey residents and prepare a land use and zoning master plan. At that time it was cited by many professionals (including staff at EOCD) as being the best example of a rural land use plan in the Commonwealth. Following much community debate and discussion, the plan was narrowly defeated. Many people now regret having voted against it since growth over the last ten years has been random and unmanaged. A major part of our project under the Strategic Planning Program will be to update and utilize this excellent resource.

2. Elderly Housing.

In 1978, Worthington became a charter member of the Hampshire County Regional Housing Authority. Our hope was to address the problem of elderly housing within our own community. However, the RHA did not choose Worthington as a host site, so the town left the RHA. Rather than give up, residents and officials formed a non-profit corporation and contracted for the development of an 8 unit project using HUD funds. We are told that such an accomplishment by a town our size is unique. We believe the success of the project in meeting a critical community housing need shows our commitment to the issue of affordable housing in the community.

3. Flood Plain zoning.

In 1981, the town noticed that housing was being built in low-lying areas along the Westfield River. With assistance from the Federal Emergeny Management Agency, we mapped the flood plain areas and developed and adopted a flood plain zoning by-law. This was a major first step in directing growth away from environmentally sensitive and unsuitable areas.

4. Agricultural Preservation.

In 1980, the Planning Board worked with the Dept. of Food and Agriculture and the Trustees of Reservations to preserve the town's second largest farm from development.

With a restriction act almost agreed to, the owner instead sold to a land speculator who has since resold parcels for homes. There are now 8 houses scattered among the 100 acres, situated in way that could not have been worse from an open space, agricultural land use perspective.

The town has also had a successful experience with the state's APR program, completing an arrangement with the Commonwealth and the Trustees of Reservations in 1985 to preserve approximately 50 acres of prime farm land in a location that would have lent itself to large scale, inappropriate residential development.

5. Open Space Plan.

An effort by the Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and interested citizens is now under way to develop and adopt an open space plan. A survey was distributed to all residents and landowners in the spring of 1985 to determine attitudes on growth and land use planning. We received an overwhelming 43% response. The results indicate a strong desire to manage future growth in a manner consistent with our rural character.

We believe that these efforts have shown a willingness by the town to seek options and solutions to deal with our critical growth problems. However, we have accomplished most of what we can do on our own. We now need professional planning assistance for research and implementation.

The entire Hilltown region is experiencing similar problems, an essential part of our approach is the recognition that rural communities have unique problems that require creative solutions. Traditional "top-down" planning approaches will not work in a small town like Worthington. We intend to actively involve a broad spectrum of the community in our project. We will gather relevant data and information and will explore a variety of planning options such as land trusts, cluster development, agricultural preservation restrictions, increasing rental stock, promoting energy efficient and owner built housing, and revising our zoning by-laws. Our project will result in appropriate rural strategies that can work in Worthington, and towns like it. Our major objective is to devise strategies that will both manage and accommodate growth to meet local land use and human needs, and that will preserve the rural heritage and quality of life in Worthington.

Methodology

In 1985, the Planning Board, Selectmen, and other town boards began expressing substantial concerns in regards to the substantial growth they observed occuring within the town. During the ten year period between 1976 and 1986, the population of the town increased from 600 to over 1100 people. This growth has occured during a time when Worthington has yet to formalize proper guidelines and goals to effectively manage and direct this increase in development and population.

In January of 1985, a committee was formed to develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan. The members of this committee are from various town boards as well as the community at large, thus giving a varied and broad view to the planning process.

The first action of the committee was to develop and conduct a survey of the attitudes and desires of the community regarding the future of Worthington. The survey results

indicated a clear mandate by the residents and property owners to direct planning efforts towards preserving the character of the town as a rural, agricultural community.

During the Spring the background information was gathered by various members of the committee, the survey results were tabulated, and the goals and objectives as indicated by the background analysis and survey results, were developed.

It is the intent of the Open Space Committee that the Goals and Objectives of this document represent the wishes, needs, and desires of the residents of Worthington. In conjunction, it is also our intent that it reflect some of the basic needs that are coming into the forefront of public awareness in many of the communities of Western Massachusetts, those being:

the preservation of water resources and quality;

the development of appropriate planning strategies for guiding growth and development;

the preservation of the town's rural, agricultural character;

and the acquisition of lands by the town for the purposes of conservation, recreation, and the preservation of open space, in ways that are financially feasible for the town and do not place a financial burden on the town's budget.

Our work as a committee will continue as this document goes out for public comment and review, so that we may incorporate necessary revisions and begin organizing so that we may move forward into the actualization of our five year plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Location and Topography

The township of Worthington, situated at the Western border of Hampshire County in Massachusetts, comprises an area of thirty three and a half square miles crisscrossed by sixty-five miles of maintained roads and numerous small streams.

Considered one of the Hilltowns, it is a region of mountain ranges and valleys. Its center is characterized by a high plateau area approximately 1500 feet above sea level. The towns is about half wooded hills and half broad cultivated fields bordered with stone walls and hedgerows.

Bashan Hill rises 2,033 feet in the northwest corner to be Worthington's highest point. A mile to the southeast of Bashan is Knowles Hill which rises to 2,011 feet. The lowest points in town average around a thousand feet above sea level and are those parts along Bronson Brook and the middle branch of the Westfiele River. There are magnificent views to be enjoyed from many parts of Worthington and parts of five states may be seen from either Bashan or Knowles' Hills.

Bronson Brook and Stevens Brook join along Capen Street (a section of the present Dingle Road which connects Route 143 to Christian Hollow) to form the west branch of the Westfield Rivel just above Stevensville. Both Watt's Stream and Ward's Stream rise from springs in the Worthington State Forest and flow more or less parallel through the town to join at Ringville and become Little River.The Kinne Brook rises in the hills in

the southwestern part of town and flows on through Chester and into the middle branch of the Westfield River at Dayville.

While there are no sizeable natural bodies of water in Worthington, the face of the earth has been changed considerably by man in the years since its founding in 1768. A view from the air today would show the landscape to be dotted with water holes of varying sizes. The colonies of beavers in several parts of town have made their dams to back up water and make some small ponds periodically. Farm ponds have been made for irrigation and fire protection, too.

Land Use

The Town of Worthington covers 33.5 square miles or 21,440 acres. Approximately 67% of this total acreage is undeveloped with nearly 17,000 acres of forest land and just under 3,000 acres of agricultural land. Approximately 2,644 acres of forestland are enrolled in Chapter 61 (Forestland Assessment Act) and nearly 1,000 acres of land in current agricultural use are classified under Chapter 61A (Agricultural/Horticultural Assessment Act.) Land use on these Chapter 61A lands in town consists of pasture, hay, forage lands, wood lots, sugarbush, corn and potato production.

Population density within the town is 30 people per square mile. The town has experienced a 27% increase in population in the ten year period from 1975-1985.

Within the town's boundary lies nearly 6,000 acres of public lands managed by the Department of Environmental Management and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. There are just over 1,000 acres of privately owned recreation lands in town including a 9-hole golf course and a cross country ski center. The town owned park, approximately 11 acres, has 2 ponds and playground equipment.

The pattern of development in Worthington has been the division of large parcels into minimum frontage/acreage lots. (Worthington is zoned Agricultural/Residential with a 400 foot frontage and 2 acre lot requirement). Much of the land is unsuitable for development due to steep slopes and clay soils. As a result, the farmland in town (open, level, good soils) is the most obviously suitable land for development.

In 1976, residents defeated a Land Use Plan by a narrow margin. In 1985, the Town was awarded a Strategic Planning Grant to fund the study of the growth which has occurred over the past ten years and make recommendations as to the possible growth management strategies the Town may want to consider.

Transportation

No systems of public transportation serve Worthington directly. The nearest bus stop is 12 miles from the center of town, and the nearest long-distance bus station with frequent service is 17 miles away, in Northampton. Bradley Field Airport in Connecticut is 42 miles away.

The nearest three shopping centers used by town resident are 18, 18, and 25 miles from the center of town.

Transportation to any of these facilities, and to any other destination within the town or in contiguous towns, is by private sedan or pickup truck.

The three main routes leading out of town, whether for emigration or for diurnal purposes, lie to the south on state highway through Huntington to Westfield and Springfield, to the west on county roadway toward Pittsfield, and to the east on county roadway through Williamsburg to Northampton, Hadley and Amherst. The 1984 survey showed that "to shop, work, or to seek entertainment" 13% of the population use the excellent state road south, 26% use the good county road west, and 42% ruin their shock absorbers on the county road east. 8% stay home.

The reputation of the Town in highway maintenance is excellent, in the sense of both winter storm combat and structural repair.

As private transportation by road is essential to the townspeople's existence, it should not be neglected or slighted through consideration of open-space values. Indeed, good roads take up very little acreage compared to the acreage they open for use and enjoyment.

Climate

The climate of Worthington is typical of the hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. The winters are long and cold with comparatively short but warm summers.

The climate conditions are well suited to the growing of general farm crops and market. garden crops and to orcharding, dairying, livestock and poultry raising, and forestry.

The precipitation is seasonally well distributed and generally allows for sufficient groundwater and recharge of water supplies, although with the current increase in population, the existing town water supplies may prove insufficient for further development.

The mean temperature for winter is 26.5 degrees F, spring 46.3 degrees, summer 71.4 degrees and fall 50.9 degrees. Average rainfall throughout the year is about 4.0 inches per month.

The average date of the last killing frost is May 4 and of the first is October 2. Frost has been recorded as early at September 6 and as late as May 26.

The climate in Worthington is well suited to growth for a small New England town. It is attractive for winter sports with a beautiful countryside in spring, summer and fall.

Zoning

The By-Law of the town of Worthington was originally adopted on June 3, 1970.

The purpose of this by-law is to provide for the town of Worthington all the protection authorized by the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Chapter 40A as amended.

The Town of Worthington is designated as Residential/Agricultural District.

Uses permitted under this type of zoning are agricultural use, one family dwellings and religious, educational or municipal uses.

Uses which are authorized after issuance of a special permit and relate to open space planning are Ski Tow, Riding Stable, Private Club, Recreational Camp, Seasonal Dwelling and Camping Area.

Also contained in the By-Law are regulations concerning Flood Plain Zoning. This zoning seeks to preserve the natural flood control characteristics and the flood storage capacity of the flood plain, and to preserve and maintain the ground water table and water recharge areas within the flood plain.

The purpose of the By-Law is to protect and preserve the Rural/Agricultural residential nature of Worthington.

Water

The Water Department currently serves residents at 130-150 service connections along the water distribution system. The system is supplied by 2 reservoirs which are fed by a series of piped springs as well as 4 bedrock wells. Three of the wells are currently pumping at a rate of 30 gallons per minute (gpm) while the fourth can produce only 5 gpm. The first well was installed some 35 years ago, with other following the early 1960's. The last well was installed in 1984. All of the wells are on the order of 150-200 feet deep. The most dependable well is the oldest of the four. The pump from the 5 gpm (installed in the 1960's) is to be pulled and used to replace the pump in the older well. The 5 gpm well will then be abandoned. As noted, the springs and wells discharge to the two reservoirs located on Cold Street to maintain water elevation. The first reservoir dates back to about the same time as the first town well and has a capacity of approximately 750,000 gallons. The second reservoir was constructed in the mid 1960's and has an approximate capacity of 500,000 gallons. The water flows by gravity from the reservoir to a chlorinator station just upgradient of the medical center before entering the distribution system.

*[1]Water usage in Worthington appears to be increasing steadily with the increase in town population. The Water Department has been maintaining water use records since at least 1982. The total volume used per year is presented below.

1982 12,521,310 gallons

1983 12,467,140 gallons

1984 13,154,580 gallons

1985 15,445,390 gallons

Preliminary readings of water use for 1986 suggest that 1986 usage will approach or exceed the 1985 high of 15.5 million gallons.

The normal water use is current by running, at 30-35,000 gallons per day with peak rates in the range of 40-50,000 g.p.d. Using a worst case drought situation, where the springs feeding the reservoir were dry, the town would have to depend on the three supply wells to maintain reservoir levels. Pumping all three wells for 8 hours would provide 43,000 gallons, or somewhat less than current peak daily demand. One of the three wells (1984 well) is unable to sustain an 8-hour pumping day without being periodically shut down to recharge. Thus, the 43,000 gallons estimate may be high. Depending on drought, pump wear must also be considered over the long term.

Water Quality

In general, the water quality of both private and publc water supplies in Worthington are quite good. The water is generally soft with low concentrations of dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium which increase water hardness. Some waters have been shown to be mildly corrosive and the igneous and metamorphic rocks have been shown to impact excessive iron in some private wells.

The most pressing need in Town with regard to hydrological considerations is the quantity of water available to the water supply. As noted, members of the Board of Water Commissioners are concerned about additional service connections being added to the Town distribution system. Perhaps 20-30 more connections are presently available.

In an effort to prepare for future supply considerations, the Water Commissioners should consider *acquiring Town land for future water development potential* and *watershed management*. Five locations in Town have the potential for future water development in the form of bedrock wells. Of these, one must be currently eliminated due to a *groundwater contamination* problem.

A fire at Albert Farms in the early 1980's led to a contamination of private wells along Radiker Road. A new water main was run to the affected homes along this road to replace their systems. With assumed groundwater flow directions, the potential supply along Ward's Brook from Radiker Road to Ringville must be discounted. The remaining four supplies are:

(1) Along the middle Branch from the area around Fuller Brook to south to the Southern town boundry.

(2) Along the brook on Dingle Road from Cudworth Road almost to Williamsburg Road.

(3) From Williamsburg Road approximately half-way between the Town line and Route #112 to a point near the Chesterfield town line.

(4) From Ringville, 2/3 of the way down Route #112 to South Worthington.

Sewage

Sewerage in Worthington is handled, for the most. part, by individual homeowners in septic systems. A 16 household 'sewerage district' serving homes in the Worthington Corners is the only system serving more than individual lots. Recent tests by the Mass. Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) and Board of Health have suggested that this system has failed leading to a high coliform count along its receiving water body, Ward's Brook. A "perc" test was recently conducted by the "district" and observed by the Board of Health and DEQE. Designs for a new system are being investigated.

[1]Given this scenario, and in discussion with a water commissioner, it is apparent that many more service connections to the system would seriously threaten the safe operation of this supply.

Demographics

The most recent data available was taken in 1980. The population of Worthington has grown since that time and some of the categorical breakdowns shown may have changed somewhat. However, a brief synopsis of the 1980 data is offered here to all interested parties who are unfamiliar with Worthington.

POPULATION

At the time, Worthington's population was 932, with 218 of these being children 14 years or less, 564 being people from 15 to 59, and 146 being people 60 years and older. The town had 318 households; roughly one half containing one to two members and the other half having three or more members. Over one third of the population is of English ancestry with significant numbers of French, German, and Irish people as well. Over one quarter of Worthington's residents were born in other states. A significant indication of growth and population movement was the finding that in the period from 1975 to 1980, 214 of the town's residents had moved here from other counties and states. The population density was found to be 30 people per square mile.

EMPLOYMENT

In 1980, a total of 699 town residents were at least 16 years of age; 453 of these were employed, 252 were not, being either homemakers or retirees, and 24 people were unemployed. The average travel time to work was 34 minutes. The town showed substantial numbers of households at both relatively low and high income levels with 64 households earning less than $10,000 dollars per year and 34 households earning over $40,000 dollars per year. The mean annual income was $21,139 dollars per year. As in many communities today, over half of the mothers with children at home were members of the labor force.

EDUCATION

At the time of this census, 23% of Worthington's population was comprised of youngsters of nursery school to high school age. Of the adults in Worthington aged 25 or older, 80% had finished high school and 42% had attended or finished college.

DWELLINGS

In 1980, Worthington had a total of 453 dwellings. Of those, 84 were not considered year round homes. Of the remaining 369 homes, 283 were owner occupied, 26 were seasonally occupied, 37 were renter occupied and 23 were vacant.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Forestry

The town of Worthington, Massachusetts is comprised of a land area of 33.5 miles or 21,440 total acres. Of this 21,440 total acres 2,812 or 13% is considered developed, a figure that has decreased since the peak years of developed land in the 1800's. Soils are a mixture of Mica Slate and Talcose Slate for the most part that in most areas of town limit the ability of the soil to accept water and quite often make logging a process that

must be carried out on frozen ground or in the dead of summer. Soil conditions are far from ideal. Elevation ranges from 2033' on Bashan Hill to the North of the town to 1050' in the White Rock area to the south of the town. The area of Bashan Hill, the North end of the town also contains a number of locations of similar elevation, Knowles Hill 2011' and Parsons Hill 1775' for example. These areas of high elevation are subject to extreme ice and wind damage and as a result contain the poorer quality timber in the town. Spruce, Beech, Soft Maple with other mixed associates abound in these areas and for the most part are short, (1-1 1/2 Logs), and are for the most part of poor quality. The area called White Rock to the extreme South of the town is of the lowest elevation in town and contains the best timber quality and species in the town. In this area excellent quality Hard Maple, White Ash, Cherry and Red Oak exist which due to lower elevation exhibit excellent height, (1-3 Logs), and quality. As in anything, there are exceptions to the rule in that timber composition in Worthington can be variable.

In the past, it appears that the forest resource in Worthington has been for the most part "high graded" time and time again, and in many areas the residual timber that has been left over time is basically 'junk'. In some areas this is an unfair appraisal, in that a good portion of the acreage presently in woodland is actually old agricultural land reverting to woodland that is composed of pioneer species such as White and Gray Birch, Aspen and Soft Maple. The fact is that the best interest of some areas capable of good timber production has not been served.

During the last 20 or so years and with increased interest in Chapter 61, many areas in the town have been improved in regard to stand quality and composition and it is the feeling that areas now producing about 1000 board feet per acre during a cutting cycle of say 20 years, could produce 2000 board feet per acre in a 10 year cutting cycle through good forest management. One thing that should be mentioned, is that during the past 10 years or so, firewood has been in demand, and as a result material has been able to be removed from the forest at a profit that in the past, completely an improvement nature that in the past would have been killed standing and left in the forest at quite an expense.

In this light, Chapter 61 has been attractive to many landowners; low tax, dictated work done at a profit, etc. With changing times the actual concept of Chapter 61 must be enforced so that the required work is completed for the benefit of Worthington and does not become a tax dodge for the self serving.

As far as future silvaculture in the town, good management will provide appreciable benefit over the long haul; "high grading" will continue to degrade the forest. Existing parcels should be managed for their best use. If Hemlock grows well, grow it. If Hard Maple grows well, grow that. If you have a choice, Hard Maple and White Ash seem to do as well, if not better than any other species quality wise and are easily sold in the hardwood areas of the town. In areas of softwood, White Pine should be favored over Spruce and Hemlock if possible. The main objective should be to grow the species suited to your site, of as good quality as possible, in the shortest period of time possible.

The Town has been in existence some 218 years. Let’s hope that the next 218 will continue some of the grandeur of our original forests.

Wildlife

The predominant habitat is a northern hardwoods-hemlock forest covering 74% (1978) of the area. Much of the forest is approaching maturity after being cleared in the last century. It contains a mix of species which vary with the topography. In well drained areas, the dominant trees are sugar maple, beech and yellow birch with lesser amounts of white ash, black cherry, basswood, red maple, red oak, hemlock and others. Poorly drained areas may have red maple, butternut, balsam poplar, black ash, eastern cottonwood and silver maple. Stands of white pines may be found in former clearings and abandoned fields.

The herbaceous plants of the forest are mostly spring blooming perennials and include Canada mayflowers, anemones, bloodroots, trilliums, violets, columbines, starflowers, dog-toothed violets, lady slippers, jack-in-the-pulpits, wood asters and many more.

Up to 25 species of ferns, clubmosses and horsetails may be found. Limestone pockets and ravines may contain rare species.

Excluding residential and agricultural land which cover about 20% of the town, the rest of the land is wetlands and transitional areas such as abandoned fields and orchards.

Wetlands have a wide diversity of flora and fauna and provide abundant food for wildlife. Common plants in marshes include water lilys, pickerel weed, arrowheads, burrreeds, cattails, sedges and rushes. In swamps the predominant tree is often the red maple. In town there are extensive wetland areas behind Tyler Farm on Old Post Road, along the Westfield River on Parish Road and Jackson swamp in South Worthington. There are also about eleven active beaver ponds.

Transitional areas include fields with grasses and annuals, shrub stages with brambles, multiflora, blueberries, spirea, shadbush and sumac, small tree areas with apples, birches, aspens, pines and the seedlings of forest trees.

In order to maintain the diversity of landscape and wildlife we now have, a wide variety of habitats should be protected, such as wetlands, forests and open areas. If possible, protecting contiguous parcels of diverse land is better than protecting isolated ones. Land that contains features such as temporary spring ponds that facilitate reproduction of various wildlife species and stands of old nut trees that provide valuable winter food are especially valuable.

Another factor to consider is that, due to natural causes, the landscape will always be changing and decisions will have to be made about whether to actively manage an area. Entire species such as the chestnut may disappear due to diseases and others such as purple loosestrife, a European native, may appear and take over large areas. Marshes accumulating silt and organic matter over the years can turn into swamps and then into forests. If fields and pastures are to be protected, they have to be actively managed or they will become overgrown and eventually return to forest.

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program, there are no documented occurances of rare or endangered species within the town of Worthington.

Soils

The soils of Worthington are derived from the glacial till region typical of Hampshire County. These soils are comparatively young and unleached and not so poor as traditionally supposed. They compare favorably with soils of the eastern United States.

The quantity of stones in the soils is enough to limit the agricultural development of many areas. However, the textures and structure of these stony New England soils allow ready root penetration, adequate drainage, and good moisture-holding capacity, all of the factors necessary for crop production. The combination of the soils and the humid climate make Worthington a prime forest region. Where the land is cleared, these same conditions favor the production of grass.

Of the soils of the Western Massachusetts highlands, the Worthington Soils are the most important agricultural soils. Worthington loam is the most important as it represents the largest area of comparatively stone free soil with smooth surface relief. It is developed on the flattened ridge tops mainly in the towns of Worthington, Plainfield, Cummington, Goshen and Chesterfield. The surface soil of cleared fields is very dark brown loam from 6-10 inches deep. The substratum of the soil does not prevent penetration and serves as a resevoir for holding moisture. These characteristics make a good grass soil. The cleared lands of Worthington are suitable for hay, potatoes and apples as well as vegetables.

Agriculture

Agriculture has been and continues to be an integral part of Worthington's rural heritage. As the town's largest employer, agriculture also plays an important role in this hilltown's economy. Nearly 14% of the town's total acreage is in active agricultural production, with approximately 1,000 acres enrolled in the Chapter 61A program. These lands represent a significant portion of the Town's open space and scenic quality. Much of the farmland is located along the main roads, is open and flat, with soils which provide good perc, and as such are a prime target for development.

Of the land currently in production, potatoes are Worthington's main crop, followed by hay and corn. There are also a number of small truck farmers who produce fresh vegetables for market, as well as several maple sugaring operations. The town has two dairy farm operations (100 head total), approximately 100 head of beef cattle, and a smattering of pig producers.

Agriculture demonstrates the immutability of the law of supply and demand, in Worthington as elsewhere. The town was settled by people who used the local hemlock bark to tan the hides of the sheep they raised; they exported the wool and the hides, and, when transportation improved, the meat, and they prospered. Meanwhile they grew their own produce for subsistence. Times changed, transportation worldwide became easier, tariff barriers were relaxed, and it became cheaper for the wool and hide merchants of eastern Massachusetts (whom Worthington's shepherds had helped to establish) to import their materials from high-production ranches in Australia and the American west rather than from New England.

Worthington lost its sheep and shepherds. The situation was exacerbated by the opening of farmlands further west where subsistence farming was easier and, again, improved transportation gave the western farmer access to the seaboard markets. Beef

production, while never as important as mutton, fell off in the same way and for similar reasons though a small amount of beef is still raised here.

The prominent exception to the farm goods that travelled long distances to market was milk. Until refrigerated transport became possible, New England supplied its own milk, and Worthington exported it to nearby cities. But refrigerated transport did become possible and New England now imports all but 15% of its milk from the higher-production areas further west.

Until recently, potatoes grown in Worthington could be marketed at prices competitive with those from other places. Today that is no longer always true. The worldwide economic conditions dictate, from year to year, whether Worthington can grow and sell potatoes in competition with other states and foreign countries.

The following statistics concerning domestic animals bear on the conversion of Worthington's economy from that of agricultural production to service. (It is perhaps redundant to point out that the entire United States has undergone the conversion from production to service, though not as thoroughly as has Worthington.)

In 1890 there were 591 dairy cattle in town, in 1900, 669, but then occurred an almost uninterrupted slide to 35 in 1980. Since then, the two herds in town (as of 1985, three herds) have been stable at a total of about 100.

Beef herds suffered a corresponding, though less even, slide from 420 head in 1890 to 111 head last year, in 9 herds. (one animal can make a 'herd'.)

The sheep that had been so important still numbered 308 in 1890, but by 1900 were down to 79. Remaining fairly constant to 1940, they dropped to 4 by 1950. One could assume that in 1950 the wool of these sheep did not provide a significant Worthington income. Since 1950, the number of sheep and of goats that first were counted then, has varied, with a high of 30 sheep in 1985 and 21 goats in 1984.

The pattern that emerges is that of people engaged in service (either within the town or as commuters to larger centers), some of whom subsist partly on the products of their own land. This is a way of life chosen by a minority of people in our society, and it is protected by the lack of interest ("too far", "too quiet", "too rocky") that society in general has in Worthington.

Threats to this blend of wage-earning and agriculture come mainly in the form of increased societal interest in the town. if Worthington becomes not too far, through faster transportation; not too quiet, through improved home entertainment; not too rocky, when the price of less rocky land becomes prohibitive, then there will be an increase of interest.

The residents of this community have repeatedly cited the importance of agriculture and farmland to the overall quality of life enjoyed here. And although agricultural activity has declined in Worthington, as elsewhere, it continues to be the thread which weaves through the fabric of life in this rural hilltown.

Hydrology

a) Rivers and Streams

b) Wetlands

c) Floodplains

RIVERS & STREAMS

Middle Branch of Westfield River

Fuller Brook

Whitmarsh Brook

Ward's Brook

Watts Brook

Kinne Brook

Little River

Others un-named

The entire Town of Worthington lies within the watershed of the Westfield River Basin. The shallow igneous and metamorphic bedrock in town realistically represents the lower confining layer to recharging precipitation and thus a large percentage of this precipitation leaves the area as runoff before recharging the groundwater system in the fractured bedrock.

The baseflow and runoff is drained predominately in a southern direction following the strike of the north-south trending bedrock ridges in Town. The two largest flowing rivers are the Middle Branch of the Westfield River and Little River. The former water course defines the western town boundry from the Chester border in the south up to where the town jets out to the West at Middlefield. To the east is the Little River which follows Route 112 for much of its course in Worthington. These two main water bodies are separated by a long thin ridge line which runs the entire length of the Town. The top of this ridge line is the effective runoff divide to these two separate rivers.

Numerous small brooks wind down from the central ridge and other smaller ridges near Old Post Road to the east and the hills of Peru to the west. The Middle Branch is supplied by Fuller Brook and other smaller unnamed brooks. Little River is fed from the north by Whitmarsh Brook, Ward's Brook, Watts Brook, Kinne Brook, and other un-named brooks in the eastern drainage divide. Ultimately the two main rivers discharge to the Westfield River in the Town of Huntington.

WETLANDS

The larger wetland areas in Worthington are mapped by the United States Geological Survey on their quadrangle sheets. The locations of these wetlands are coincident with flood prone areas in many places where topographic lows collect runoff and recharge that water slowly. These wet areas are also locations where groundwater elevations are greater than surficial topography, generally near brooks.

There are two large swampy areas in the upper reaches of the Middle Branch, and several smaller wet areas east of the rivers along the feeder brooks. The most extensive wetland area in Town however, is a series of discontinuous swampy areas that are located along the entire eastern border between Worthington and the Towns of Chesterfield and Huntington. One of these wetlands in the southeastern corner of Town has been named Fuller Swamp.

The preceeding description is a general description of wet areas as described by USGS mapping. From a regulatory approach, many zones which do not appear on any maps would be considered "wetlands" as defined by the Massachusetts Wetlands Regulations 310 CMR 10.00. Any development, excavation or land clearing activities should be discussed with the Conservation Commission before work begins to have a determination made as to whether wetlands exist. Under this law, no more than 5000 ft2 of any wetland area may be disturbed and, at the Commissions discretion, re-creation of disturbed wetlands 5000 ft^2 may be required.

FLOODPLAINS

The USGS has also mapped flood prone areas in the town of Worthington. The four areas described are:

(1) Along the Middle Branch from Osgood Road south to the town line at Chester.

(2) Along Ward's Brook from Radiker Road to Indian Oven Road.

(3) A small section in the northeast corner of town along Fairground Road on Tower Brook.

(4) Along a wetland on Trout Brook beginning at the northwest corner of town and continuing south for some 3000 feet.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Cultural Features

A survey of this town shows it to be outstanding among the several Hilltowns as a center for culture covering many interests.

Foremost is perhaps the Sevenars Music Festival founded in 1968, the year of the town's Bicentennial, by Robert and Rolande Schrade of New York City and South Worthington. The festival is now in its 18th year of presenting a summer concert series that has been rated by Time Magazine as "one of the best small music festivals in the U.S.A." It draws an audience from a wide area and has put South Worthington on the map in music circles.

For nearly thirty years, Worthington singers have been a strong part of the Hilltown Choral Society founded by Roberta Cowell of Cummington. Their winter and spring concerts have enriched the whole area for all of those years.

The Worthington Library was established in 1884 through the efforts of the Rev. Frederick Sargent Huntington who was at that time pastor of the Congregational Church. The present building at Worthington Four Corners was built and opened to the public in 1915. Presently there are nearly 10,000 books catalogued there and the circulation for books, magazines, records and inter-library loans for the past year added to 6,899 according to the librarians's annual report. That was an increase of 742 over the previous year.

Friends of the Library sponsor several cultural events at the library on a regular basis. The Writer's Guild meets on third Wednesdays and includes in its membership several published authors as well as providing a forum for beginning authors. The Natural

History Club meets on third Wednesday evenings at the library and also organizes field trips according to the season.

Community Forums are held at the library to discuss current events and controversial subjects as interests dictates. New residents are welcomed to town and introduced to the thirty or more organizations here in a reception held at the library with representatives from each group taking part.

The local Council on the Arts has been active in showcasing the town's artists in showing their work at the library, opening each show with a reception for the featured artist. Many artists, amateur and professional, make their home in Worthington.

Reading contests for children are held at the library through the summer under the direction of the librarian, and children's movies and special programs are held there on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the year. Adult book discussions are held at the library with leaders from the Five College area as guests from time to time.

The local Council on Aging offers classes in a wide variety of skills for senior citizens. The COA also sponsors programs and organizes trips to points of interest. Monthly potluck dinners are held by the COA in addition to the annual Christmas party and picnic with appropriate entertainments.

Piano lessons are available in town and ballet lessons have been given here for many years under experienced teachers. Swimming lessons and golf lessons for the town's young people are sponsored by the Swim Club and by the Worthington Golf Club.

Worthington Grange was first organized in Worthington in 1875. Through the years, they have presented programs promoting agriculture and country living. They provide a forum for their members to express themselves and encourage their young people to become responsible leaders through their training courses. The Grange Community Service projects reach out to serve the whole town.

Local citizens volunteer their skills each spring in teaching mini-courses to the pupils of the local elementary school. These introduce the children to interests they might otherwise miss in the everyday school curriculum, and at no cost to the school dept.

Perhaps the town's greatest cultural resource is found in its people who make up one of the most cosmopolitan population to be found anywhere. Worthington residents represent many schools and come from a varied background of experiences. Many are professionals in their respective fields and are widely travelled. A frequent sharing of their experiences go to enrich the lives of their neighbors.

Worthinqton's proximity to the cultural offerings of the Five College area to the east, and also to those of the Berkshires to the west further add to the town's own resources and thus make it an ideal place to live.

Historical Features

Worthington's most famous son, Russell H. Conwell, gave the world much that his native town stands for. The Conwell homestead in South Worthington and the nearby memorial boulder mark the spot where this great man was born, and the place which he returned in his last years. He was world renowned as lawyer, teacher, preacher, lecturer and journalist. His words, especially his lecture, "Acres of Diamond," influenced the lives of millions all over the world. The money he earned with the lectures was used in

the founding and support of, Temple University, Baptist Temple and the Samaritan Hospital in Philadelphia. The local consolidated school at Worthington Center was named in his honor when it was built in 1941 to replace the several district schools in town.

A total of seven memorial boulders have been placed by the Historical Society to mark spots of local historical significance. One placed in 1923 in front of the Rice homestead at Worthington Four Corners marks the birthplace of Brig. Gen. James Clay Rice who distinguished himself in the Civil War and whose thesis on the early history of Worthington is still a valuable reference work.

In 1925, a bronze plaque was put on a boulder on the lawn of the library to commemorate the site of the Old Pearce Tavern where the Marquis de Lafayette spent the night with his entourage on June 13 in 1825 en route from Albany to Boston to lay the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument.

The Conwell birthplace boulder was dedicated in 1930 and in 1946, the big boulder on the common opposite the town hall at Worthington Center was placed with a bronze plaque to honor all the serice men who served the town in World War I and in World War II.

As a part of the town's Bicentennial celebration in 1968, a bronze plaque was placed on a boulder at the intersection of Sam Hill Road and West Street to mark the site of the first church in town built in 1771 when that area was the center of the town's settlement.

An extensive collection of history books of neighboring towns and counties are a part of the local Frederick Sargent Huntington Library, as well as local history books and papers relating to Worthington people and places. The Worthington Historical Society and the Worthington Historical Commission are the stewards and custodians of genealogical materials and artifacts from residents and former residents. These are presently kept in the two upper rooms allotted to them in the library and also in the Riverside School on Dingle Road in Christian Hollow which serves as the official headquarters of the Historical Society. The old school house was a gift to the society by Henry H. Snyder and was renovated in 1968 as an example of a one-room school. Annual meetings are held there in September and it is open to the public on special occasions and by appointment any time.

The present Worthingtin Town Hall, built in 1855 to replace a simple town house that stood on the common below the Congregational Church, is of Greek Revival design and a handsome ornament to the town.

Facing the town hall across the common is the Congregational Church built in 1888 to replace the big colonial church which burned on the same site in 1887. The former Methodist Church in South Worthington was built in 1848. It has been "de-consecrated" and is presently the property of the South Worthington Church Society which maintains it as an historical building where special services are held each year to commemorate Russell H. Conwell on the third Sunday afternoon in August. A second Methodist church stands in West Worthington in a dilapidated condition and is privately owned.

There are many fine old homes in town that are being included in the historical survey of homes built prior to 1900. One of them, the Four Corners Farm on old North Road

has been accorded historical site status in 1985 to preserve it from future development. It is being operated as "The Worthington Inn" by the Shaw family.

Three handsome houses built in 1905 have interesting histories of their own. The Rice homestead at The Corners was in that family for more than one hundred years and diagonally across the Corners stands the house sometimes referred to as "The House of Lawyers" because for more than 100 years, the owners were barristers. It was there in 1811 that William Cullen Bryant was placed in charge of Judge Samuel Howe "to be initiated into the mysteries of Blackstone, Stephens and Coke". The Samuel Buffington residence at the intersection of Ridge Road and Buffington Hill Road was the third house built in 1805 near the site of Alexander Miller's Tavern where the first town meeting was held in the 1760's.

The first post office between Northampton and Pittsfield was established in Worthington in 1795. It was in the ell of the house on Buffington Hill Road presently owned by Muriel Cottrell and where the William Ward store originally was located. In later years, it was relocated across the Corners intersection to the present site of the Corners Grocery.

For many years, Worthington was a favored summer resort especially by Springfield people who came for the season and stayed at the several summer boarding houses in town or at the old Worthington inn which stood on the present site of 'Brickhaven' the residence of Henry H. Snyder on Old Post Road. The Worthington Golf Club was founded in 1924 and incorporated in 1930 and is a major attraction for the summer colony as well as the full-time residents.

In conclusion, Worthington's most valuable historical resources are contained in the library and the Historical Society, as well as in its historical buildings and markers.

Natural Features

Sometimes round the mid 1800's, a small stream rising in Jackson Swamp in the southern part of town, on the Russell H. Conwell property in South Worthington, was dammed to make an ice pond which has been a favorite fishing spot through the years. It was about 1900 when Conwell, Worthington's most famous son, yearned for a pond of his own close by his home. Not satisfied with the old ice pond some distance from the house, he hired a crew of Italian laborers and engineered a dam across the brook at the foot of his lawn. Thus was created the large pond which he name "Little Galilee".

The late A. E. Albert and his son, Bernard M. Albert, prominent potato growers, are responsible for the numerous irrigation ponds that have been built since they came to town in 1936. Since about 1940, more than thirty private swimming pools have been built in addition to the natural ones dug in brooks.

Indian Oven is a natural curiosity located in the woods about a half mile from Route 112 and just off the left side of Indian Oven Road approaching from Route 112. The oven is a three foot deep, oval shaped hole in a boulder. Now overgrown and mostly overlooked, it was in horse and buggy days a popular place for lovers and picnickers.

In West Worthington, far off River Road in the edge of the Peru State Forest is a depression in the ground, now overgrown and approached over difficult terrain, where “gold ore" was taken out by ox cart and horse teams in 1890 and taken to the railroad in

Hinsdale to be shipped to Boston and assayed. Stock in the "Mine" was sold and when the ore proved to be of low value, the enterprise fizzled.

At nearly opposite ends of Worthington are spectacular water falls. West Worthington Falls, sometimes called Thayer Falls, located in the middle branch of the Westfield River, falls about 50 -feet into a rocky gorge close by River Road just below the Newborne Company. Bradley Falls, in the Little River just below the bridge in South Worthington, follows a rocky path for about 500 feet, cascading into a right angle drop to a rock-bound gorge 50 feet below.

Conservation/Recreation Inventory

The Town of Worthington is most fortunate to have established public and private parcels of land for conservation and recreational uses. The goal of this Open Space Plan is to inventory this acreage and to detail it on a base map.

Public lands include forests managed by the Commonwealth Dept. of Environmental Management, wildlife management areas under the auspices of state Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Town buildings, parks and playgrounds. Private lands are those under individual ownership, yet open to the public under a membership or fee basis and are governed by their respective rules and regulations. This listing includes a golf club, pool and tennis club, rod and gun club, ski touring area, and a private campground. This also includes non-profit conservation land set aside as a sanctuary in trust (The Trustees of Reservations in Milton).

Site	Acreage	Ownership/Management
Worthington Golf Club	175 Acres	Private

This private nine hole golf course has its clubhouse located on Ridge Road. Members join on an annual fee basis, guest fees apply.

Worthington State Forest	175 Acres	D.E.M.

Located between Route l43 and Buffington Hill Road, this state forest was known as the Jones Lot in a 1923 survey. Situated southeast of Knowles Hill, this is a conservation area of mixed hardwood forest and is primarily used by hunters and hikers.

Peru State Forest	3,150 Acres including Peru	D.E.M.

Peru State Forest lacks established facilities and trail systems and D.E.M. has no plans to develop any. This forest is under a sustained yield timber management plan by the state. Access to this forest is gained by hikers and hunters via Curtain Road on the Peru side or by the AT&T right-of-way crossing River Road in West Worthington.

Fox Den Wildlife Mgmt. Area	748 Acres	Div. of Fish and Wildlife

The Middle Branch of the Westfield River forms the western boundary of the area and provides good trout fishing. A fairly steep west-facing slopes, this area has mature stands of pure and mixed hardwoods and softwoods. Another 114 acres is about to be deeded to this tract with plans to increase the parcel towards Almond Johnson Road. This important conservation land also abuts Glendale Falls Reservation in Middlefield owned by The Trustees of Reservations.

Memorial Park	11.2 Acres	Town

Located south of the Town Maintenance Building, this recreation area has 2 duck ponds used for ice skating in winter. Swing sets and playground equipment are available for use by children.

Berkshire Park Campground 216 Acres Private

Located on Harvey Road, this private campground has facilities for 52 tent sites and 40 trailer units; hiking, swimming, as well as camping accommodations are available.

Worthington Swim & Tennis Club Private

With an outdoor pool and 2 tennis courts (courts still open?), this swim club offers instruction and recreation to club members and is sited near the Fire House on Route 112.

The Glen Grove Sanctuary 53 Acres Private

Dingle Road. Set aside as a nature sanctuary by Mr. Davis

Hiram H. Fox Wildlife Mgmt. Area 21022 Acres in 4 towns MA Div. of Fish & Wildlife

Also known as Canada Hill, this conservation area includes acreage in Worthington, Huntington, Chesterfield, and Chester. Marked access is on Goss Hill Road Off of Route 112 in South Worthington, detailed maps available from the state.

Town Hall Gymnasium Town

This indoor sport facility is used primarily for basketball and volleyball activities by town residents.

Conwell School Playground Town

This school playground is next to the school building and has typical playground equipment for the recreational use of town school children.

Hickory Hill Touring Center 600 Acres Private

Open to the general public under a user fee system, this cross-country ski center has extensive trails that are groomed for ski touring. Follow signs from the village center up Buffington Hill Road.

Another appropriate recreational listing is the Worthington Snowmobile club. This active organization maintains snowmobile trails and activities in Worthington. A naturalist club, sponsored by the Worthington Library, meets monthly and organizes local outings that visit many of the recreational sites listed.

The residents of Worthington also have access to conservation and recreation sites in close proximity in adjoining hilltowns. A basic listing of these sites include:

Dorothy Rice Wildlife Sanctuary in Peru. Operated by the New England Forestry Foundaion who maintain a trail-side museum with naturalist in residence during summer.

Middlefield State Forest, Middlefield. 1,849 Acres D.E.M.

Glendale Falls Reservation, Middlefield, Trustees of Reservations

Chesterfield Gorge Reservation, Chesterfield, Trustees of Res.

Notchview Reservation, Windsor, Trustees of Reservations

This recreation area has an extensive ski touring trail system in winter; these same trails are for hiking in summer. (the total acreage of Notchview is approximately 3,000?)

Knightville Dam, Huntington, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Although established for flood control of the Westfield River, this federal land has picnic facilities, restricted to sanctioned groups (Girl Scouts etc.) in a section off Route 112 called Indian Hollow. The entire site is open to the public for hiking and hunting.

Deer Hill State Reservation, Cummington, 259 Acres D.E.M.

East Branch State Forest, Chesterfield, 2,000 Acres

C.M. Gardner State Park, Huntington, 29 Acres D.E.M.

D.A.R. State Forest, Goshen, 1,517 Acres D.E.M.

Mass Audubon Society Sanctuary, Plainfield, 1300 Acres

Survey Assessment and Analysis of Needs

In 1974, an opinion questionnaire was distributed to all registered voters and taxpayers in the town. The results were tabulated and reported in a comprehensive land use plan. Since this plan was not accepted by the town, a similar questionnaire was distributed in 1984 as part of a renewed effort to draw up an open space plan for the town of Worthington. The following is a summary and comparison of the results of these two surveys.

In developing any land use plan, the most important guideline coming from the surveys is the question addressing the town's general atmosphere. There was an overwhelming response from people desiring that Worthington not lose its country town rural atmosphere (93% in 1974 and 85% in 1985). Similarly, another question asked if residents were interested in preserving the historical and colonial character of the town. An even higher percentage of the respondents, 94% in 1974 and 98% in 1984, indicated that they desired to retain this heritage.

Other questions in the surveys gave specific directions and ideas for developing a land use plan. One asked what type of residential growth policy people favored. Here, a decided increase, since 1974, in public desire for growth restriction was noted. When first surveyed, 24% preferred that growth be restricted to specific undeveloped areas ("cluster development") in order to encourage the preservation of green spaces and agricultural and forestry uses of land. However, in 1984, the percentage of people favoring current development patterns dropped to13% and 49% favored cluster development. It is interesting to note that between 1974 and 1984, the percentage of people reportedly using their land for farming and forestry rose from 7% to 25%.

In both surveys, the majority of respondents (95% in 1974 and 90% in 1984) were interested in maintaining open space. Not surprisingly, some contradictions to this goal were also evident in comparing these two surveys. in 1974, when asked whether the town should develop a program of buying open space to meet future town needs, 77% responded affirmatively. In 1984, this approach was favored by less people (59%). Additional questions were asked in 1984 regarding development of town- owned land for recreational uses. When asked if they would like to see the municipal park, located

south of the fire station, developed further as a recreational area, 51% said yes and 30% said no. When asked if they would like to see additional land for recreational uses acquired by the town, 43% said yes and 33% said no. In comparing these two surveys, one other major change in response was noted. The question as to whether Worthington should begin planning for a sewage disposal system drew a 46% positive response in 1974, but only 27% favored such a system in 1984.

In conclusion, the people of Worthington have favored and continue to favor preservation of the town's rural character and historical heritage. Since 1974, the percentage of persons in favor of limiting development has increased. In addition, interest in centralized sewage disposal has decreased. This is understandable since such a system might have a strong tendency toward attracting growth. However, when asked about specific approaches such as further development of town recreational lands and/or acquisition of new lands, people's support was decidedly less strong. This does not seem unusual since people have different concepts of how best to make provisions to retain the character of a community. All these concepts should be considered in any land use plan.

Goals and Objectives

#I, Goal: Preservation of Water Quality and Quantity for present and future needs.

Objectives:

Employ a civil engineer/hydroligist to aid in the mapping of the four and possibly more potential water resource areas identified in the Open Space Plan. These future water resource areas, once identified more specifically, should be solicited for conservation restrictions or easements to insure their viability for potential use. This program would include a feasibility study of incorporating the existing water company or fire district into future municipal water resource planning. Funding sources include The Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin Conservation district technical assistance grant and Hampshire County Department of Planning and Regional Services.

Testing program for wells and water supplies along major roads in Town for sodium levels. Review existing State and Town road salting practices and develop a policy to reduce levels if necessary.

Draft an amendment to the Zoning By-laws which would establish aquifer protection and watershed zones and present to Town Meeting for approval.

Work with Water Commissioners in assisting them to apply for grants to upgrade portions of water distribution system. Support a policy to expand protection of reservoirs either through acquisition of adjacent acreage or through conservation restrictions of these bordering lands on Ridge Road. Also, assist in analysis of conservation measures applied to existing water system, possibly installation of metering system. Funding sources include: DEQE's Aquifer Land Acquisition Program and the Division of Conservation Service Self-Help Program.

#2, Goal: Increase use of and preserve existing recreation lands.

Objectives:

Promote the use of open lands by establishing a liaison with local Rod and Gun Club and snowmobile club: Encourage landowners to establish "safety zones" rather than outright "posting" of all property.

#3, Goal: Preserve and Maintain scenic quality of Worthington.

Identification of specific parcels of land to be of conservation interest to the Town. This listing would include land of particular interest along major roadways, prime agricultural land, open fields, flood plains, aquifers recharge areas. Scenic elevations, vistas, river corridors, possible Town Common land would also be inventoried.

Open spaces most valuable to the community should then be protected through conservation or agriculture restrictions. This policy should have priorities established so that the erosion of tax base is not severely compromised, yet acreage most valuable to the community as open space is protected in perpetuity.

Acquisition of these lands by the Town may be desirable and could be facilitated through a Conservation Commission Reserve Fund. This effort would also include working with Hilltown Land Trust, Massachusetts Conservation and Farmlands Trust, The Trustees of Reservations, as well as Fisheries and Wildlife Division. The possibility of drafting a local Land Bank initiative should be studied as well.

Promote the review by the Town Planning Board of "Cluster housing" concepts where a formula of total road frontage and number of new housing units could promote open space planning. Reviews of increased set back regulations may also apply, as well as possible adaptation of By-laws supporting site review policies.

The programs are currently in effect in Worthington that promote preservation of our scenic tree lines that line many of our roadways. Both the Tree Warden and the Conservation Commission have established programs for either pruning damaged maple trees or planting of new trees. These budgets are limited, but efforts should be coordinated and funding increased to more effective levels. Funding sources include annual Town budgets and state tree planting programs by Fish and Wildlife Division.

Support of current State legislation in The Scenic Mountains Act, applicable only to Berkshire County at present, to include all elevated highlands in the Commonwealth. This would enable us to regulate building of structures on the mountaintops in Town and thereby protect our scenic views.

Support the conservation of land along the Westfield River as outlined in the Greenway Plan. Work with interested landowners in establishing conservation easements or restrictions along the river. Assist interested landowners in the application for funds for acquisition of lands along the river. Funding sources: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Management, Self Help Program.

#4, Goal: To facilitate increased communication and cooperation among town boards on issues that affect protection of the Town's cultural, historical and natural resources.

Objectives:

Regularly scheduled monthly meeting of representatives from all boards to exchange information.

Encourage Town boards to develop growth guidelines which facilitate and are compatible with resource protection.

Implement strategies for environmentally responsible growth and development.

#5, Goal: To encourage the growth and preservation of economically viable agriculture.

Objectives:

Work with interested farmland owners for the preservation of existing agricultural lands, particularly the open fields along Route 112, Old North Road and Old Post road, primarily through assistance from the state Department of Food and Agticultuidels Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Chapter 61, 61A legislation.

Draft an amendment to the Zoning By-laws which would allow for directing development away from the most valuable agricultural soils and submit to Town Meeting for acceptance.

Increase the existing conservation fund to enable the Town to take advantage of the right of first refusal in the case of Chapter 61 or 61A land.

Work with the Hilltown Community Development Corp. to promote locally produced vegetables, maple syrup, etc. Investigate feasability of attracting a food-related industry (i.e. food processing) to Worthington

Five Year Action Plan

WATER RESOURCES

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Employ a civil engineet/hydilologist	x				
Draft an amendment...		X			
Work with water commissioners ...	X		X		
Testing Programs for wells	X	X			
Educate residents		X			
Evaluate action plan and consider revision as necessary	X	X	X	X	X

CONSERVATION LAND & RECREATION FACILITIES

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Work with Council on Aging	x				
Work with School officials	x				
Promote the use of	x				
Evaluate	x	x	x	x	x

SCENIC QUALITY/OPEN SPACES

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Identification	x				
Open spaces most valuable		x			
Acquisition of these ...			x		
Provide the review	x				
Two programs are...			x		
Support of current state	x				
Evaluation	x	x	x	x	x

COOPERATION AMONG TOWN BOARDS

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Regularly scheduled monthly meeting of reps from all boards to exchange information	x				
Encourage Town boatids to develop growth guidelines which facilitate and are compatible with resource protection	x				
Educate residents as to the importance of and need for growth guidelines that stress resource protection		x			
Implement strategies developed fot environmentally responsible growth and development				x	
Evaluate Action Plan and consider revisions as necessary					X

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Identify parcels that ate threatened by development		x			
Work with interested land owneti		x			
Draft an amendment		x			
Increase existing conservation land		x			
Work with Hilltown CDC.		x			
Evaluate Action Plan and consider revisions as necessary	x	x	x	x	x

APPENDIX

A-1 WORTHINGTON CLIMATE – TEMPERATURE

From "PAPERS ON THE HISTORY OF WORTHINGTON," Elizabeth Payne has written:

"A distinction of the hilltowns of Massachusetts is the diversity in their seasons. Winters may bring snow that will cover the ground for five months. It delights the lovers of winter sports and dismays homeowners and commuters. Awareness of its inevitability, however, has led to adequate provisions for coping with it. Roads in Worthington are very soon opened after even the heaviest snows. Snows are soon forgotten during the delightfully moderate summers, and the beauty of the autumn foliage brings visitors through town by the busloads.

Records of officially kept precipitation have been filed monthlywith the Massachusetts Division of Water Resources since 1917. Through the month of October 1986, the records show an average precipitation rate of 46.15 inches annually.

For the papers on The History of Worthington", Mrs. Payne has culled out some of the extremes since 1943 since these are more interesting than averages. Months having the most precipitation included August of 1955 where there was 16.82 inches in that month alone adding to 61.75 inches for that year; 1972 had 63.38 inches, 1975 had 61.83; 1977 bad 63.77, and 1979 recorded 64.72 inches.

Years during the same 38 year period that had the least precipitation, all with less than 40 inches were: 1949, 1957, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1973. Note that five of these years came in succession in the 60's.

As for monthly records, only six months in all of the 38 years each had less than an inch, whereas some months must have seemed very wet. In October of 1962 there were nine days in succession when some precipitation was recorded, but that month did not hold the record. In that same 38 year period, there were seven months each with as many as 21, or 22 days of rain or snow.

Measuring actual snowfall is difficult because of drifting and the differences in snow quality. For official records, it is necessary to melt the snow to water for measurement. Depth records are kept just the same and the years having records for the most snow are: 1956 with 136.25; 1958 with 130.50; 1977 with 174.50; and the years with the least are: 1970 with 36.50 and 1973 with 32.75.

1979 is a year to remember of recent years. In that year, there were 12 days in succession with temperatures below zero, ranging from -2 to -18 degrees; and in that summer there were more hot days than most Worthington summers ever have. There were 49 days above 80°, eleven of those days with recorded temperatures of 90 to 93 degrees.

Temperature records are not available, but from personal ones, it may be presumed that the average temperature would be around 45 and 46 degrees, and that is what was reported in 1887 by William A. Rice in a speech he made at the laying of the cornerstone for the present Congregational Church.

In conclusion, 45 inches and 45 degrees are convenient figures to remember as an approximate amount for both the annual precipitation and the annual average temperature for the town of Worthington, Massachusetts.

Mild Summers; average temperature

Wet Springs average Precipitation 4.3811 April June

Cold to mild Winters;"average temperature

Average last frost is in late April

Average first frost is in mid October

gives a growing season of about 160 days

Using Massachusetts Water Resources Commission Precipitation Report 1943 - 1985

Average Precipitation is about 46" per year

Average Temperature is about 46o

(Precipitation is a measure of rainfall and snow melt)

Ten year Comparison - 1975 1985

Precipitation averaged 52.1

Wetter than average springs 5.2"

Average Precipitation days 10/month; 30%

Temperature Average

Tornado Probability

Hurricane Probability

Flood Probability

Drought Probability

A-2 Acid Rain Statistics

Acid rains are the result of the reaction of industrial air pollutants such as sulfur and nitrogen compounds with atmospheric moisture to create acids (nitric and sulfuric acid among others) which come down in the rain often at great distances from their sources. The acid rain can alter the water chemistry of ponds and rivers and adversely affect the wildlife and plants within them.

Various water bodies are being monitored four times a year through the Massachusetts Acid Rain Monitoring Project. Three of the streams monitored are in Worthington the Middle Branch of the Westfield River, Conwell Pond and Bronson Brook. A body of water is considered acidified if the pH is below 5 and the alkalinity is 0 or less. An alkalinity under 2 is considered critical, between 2 and 5 is endangered between and 10 is highly sensitive and between 10 and 20 is sensitive.

Water bodies monitored in the Massachusetts Acid Rain Monitoring Project are classified according, to their vulnerability to acid precipitation based upon the results of the EPA alkalinity analyses, which provide an indication of the buffering capacity of the water:

	EPA Alk. (mg/1)
Acidified	0
Critical	>0 - 2
Endangered	>2 - 5
Highly Sensitive	>5 - 10
Sensitive	>10 - 20
Not Sensitive	>20

A.R.M. III-PRELIMINARY DATA

MA55ACHUSETTS ACID RAIN MONITORING PROJECT

UMASS WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

LAKE/STREAM NAME	CODE NO.	DATE SAMPLED	pH	EPA ALK (mg/1)	STM ALK (mg/1)	COMMENT
Conwell Pond	32025	04-06-86	6.68	7.2	9.4	
Damon Pond;Burnell P.	32029	04-06-86	5.10	0.3	1.2	
Long Pond	32048	04-06-86	6.00	3.2	4.1	
Norwich Pond	32054	04-06-86	6.60	6.6	B.9	
*WHITE RESERVOIR	34100					
ROARING BROOK	3210000	04-06-86	6.73	5.5	7.4	
FACTORY BROOK	3210475	04-06-86	6.50	6.6	7.4	
GLENDALE BROOK	3210900	04-06-86	6.76	6.2	8.2	
POND BROOK	3211050	04-06-86	6.59	5.4	7.6	
FLORIDA BROOK	3211200					
DEAD BRANCH (BROOK)	3211225	04-06-66	6.15	2.0	3.5	
WEST BRANCH (BROOK)	3211525	04-06-86	6.80	6.3	7.5 If*	
BRONSON BROOK	3211550	04-06-86	6.66	2.7	4.6	
BREAKNECK BROOK	34l8725					
MIDDLE BRANCH WESTFIELD	3210725	04-06-86	6.49	3.0	4.6	

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY DISTRICT I - MARCH 1983

PRELIMINARY DATA

MASSACHUSETTS ACID RAIN MONITORING PROJECT

UMASS WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

LAKE/STREAM NAME	CODE NO. SITE	DATE SAMPLED	pH EPA ALK.	St.M. ALK.	ACID
E. Branch Mill River	343419150	3 / 20/ 83	6.5	4.29	
Swift River		3/07/83	6.5	3.4	
N. Branch Westfield		3/07/83	6.55	7.1	
West Branch	3211525	3/ 2 2 / 83	6.30	2.35	2.75
Bronson Brook	3211550	3 / 2 2 /83	6.50	3.0	2.0
Potash Brook	3419125	3/ 2 2 /83	6.45	11.25	3.5
Grass Hill Brook	3419000	3/22/83	6.7	9.2	3.0
Beaver Brook	3418975	3/ 2 2/ 83	6.40	8.5	3.5

Water bod ies, monitored in the Massachusetts Acid Rain Monitoring Project are classified according to their vulnerability to acid precipitate ionbased upon the results

of the EPA alkalinity analyses, which provide an indication of the buffering capacity of the water:

	EPA Alk. (mg/1)
Acidified	0
Critical	>0 - 2
Endangered	>2 - 5
Highly Sensitive	>5 - 10
Sensitive	>10 - 20
Not Sensitive	>20

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY DISTRICT 2 - OCTOBER 1985

A.R.M. III -PRELIMINARY DATA

MASSACHUSETTS ACID RAIN MONITOING PROJECT

UMASS WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

LAKE/STREAM NAME	CODE NO.	DATE SAMPLED	pH-	EPA ALK (MG/L)	STM ALK (MG/L)
DEAD BRANCH (BROOK)	3211225	10-20-85	6.75	5.4	8.2
ROARING BROOK	3210000	10-20-85	6.75	7.8	9-7
POND BROOK,'	3211050	10-20-85	6.69	e.4	10.7
LITTLE RIVER	3211100	10-20-85	7.25	19.2	21.0
FACTORY BROOK	321C)475	10-20-85	7.19	13.0	16.0
MIDDLE BRANCH WESTFIELD	3210725	10-20-85	7.05	7.4	10.2
NORTH BRANCH MANHAN RIV	3418400	10-20-85	6.77	10.9	12.7
WEST BRANCH	3211525	10-20-85	7.35	12.6	15.7
BRONSON BROOK	32211550	10-20-85	7.10	7.5	10.2
STEVEN BROOK	3211575	10-20-85	6.71	8.0	9.4

A.R.M. III -PRELIMINARY DATA

MASSACHUSETTS ACID RAIN MONITORING PROJECT

UMASS WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

LAKE/STREAM NAME	CODE NO.	DATE SAMPLED	pH	EPA ALK (MG/L)	STM ALK (MG/L)
DEAD BRANCH (BROOK)	3211225	01-12-86	6.38	5.6	7.5
ROARING BROOK	3210000	01-12-86	6.64	7.6	9, 4
POND BROOK	3211050	01-12-86	6.50	6.7	B. 9
LITTLE RIVER	3211100	01-12-86	7.30	16.2	113.6
FACTORY BROOK	3210475	01-12-86	6.72	1.3.2	15.0
MIDDLE BRANCH WESTFIEILD	3210725	01-12-86	6.70	7.3	9.8
NORTH BRANCH MANHAN RIV	3418400	01-12-86	6.53	8.8	11.2
WEST BRANCH	3211525	01-12-86	6.90	11.6	12.7

BRONSON BROOK	3211550	01-12-86	6.76	6.8	8.8
STEVEN BROOK	3211575	01-12--86	6.70	8.6	10.3

A-3 Land Use Patterns

LAND USE

Inventory & Use change

Land Use Patterns 1952 1972

Mass. Agriculture ExperimenTal Station

Worthington

	1952	**1972**
LAND USE	**Acres**	**Acres-**
Forest	16,472	16,891
Agricultural & Open	3,500	2,458
Wet Land	212	226
Urban Land	--	547
Outdoor Recreation	--	62

1952 Survey did not include

all outdoor recreation types

Agricultural types T.U., N, PI, H

Wetland types Sf, B, Ism, DSM, Bp

Urban types VRF, VCR, VE.

A-4 Chapter 61A Inventory-Agricultural-Horticultural Lands

CHAPTER 61A INVENTORY -- AGRICULTURAL/HORTICULTURAL LANDS

Assessor's Map Number	Parcel Ownership Worthington p.1	Address of Owner(s)	Number of Acres	Parcel Usage	Parcel Number	Grid Number	Comme:
01-42	Albert, Bernard	Huntington Rd Worthington 01098	61	Potatoes			
660	"	"	241	"			
661	"	"	121	"			
662	"	"	353	"			
663	"	"	268	"			
664	"	"	30	"			
	Buff, Franklin (leased-Paul Senna)	Kinne Brook Rd Worth.	20.26	Hay			
	Carr, Helen (leased- John Sawyer)	Cummington Rd. Worth.	34	Pasture, hay			
00/230	Cage, David	old North Rd. Worth.	30	Sugarbush			
	Lake William	Kinne Brook Rd.	Inc	Pasture, hay			

A4

Assessor's Map Number	Parcel Ownership	Address of Owner(s)	Number of Acres	Parcel Usage	Parcel Number	Deed Numbe	Comme.
	Worthington	P.2					
	Mason, Jeffrey	Rinne Brook Rd. Worth.	20	maple syrup			
	Mollison, Howard	West St. Worth.	43	Pasture, hay			
CO 410	Morey, Dean	Nash Rd. Cummington	45	hay			
	Paciselli, Thomas	Old Post Rd. Worth.	90	Hay, Pasture cordwood			
	Sawyer, John	Cummington Rd. Worthington	48	Pasture			

A4a

CHARTER OAK CORP.

A-5 Birds

great blue heron
ruffled grouse
bobwhite
American woodcock
black duck
mallard
woodduck
hooded merganser
Canada goose
crow
goshawk
American kestrel
sharp-shinned hawk
Cooper'shawk
red-tailed hawk
red-shouldered hawk
broad-winged hawk
northern harrier
barn owl
common screech owl
great horned owl
long-eared owl
sawwhet owl
whip-poor-will
nighthawk
chimney swift
ruby-throated hummingbird
common flicker
pileated woodpecker
red-bellted woodpecker
yellow-bellied sapsucker
hairy woodpecker
downey woodpecker
Eastern kingbird
great-crested flycatcher
Eastern phoebe
willow flycatcher
belted kingfisher
wood thrush

A-6 Mammals

gray and red fox	hoary, silver-haired and red bat
white-tailed deer	Eastern chipmunk
beaver	mink
Eastern and New England cottontail	masked, smokey and water shrew
striped skunk	otter
snowshoe hare	black bear
fisher	muskrat
Virginia op ossum	Eastern mole
porcupine	groundhog
red, gray and flying squirrels	little brown myotis
Eastern coyote	woodland jumping mouse
longtailed and shorttailed weasel	bobcat
pine vole	white-footed mouse
woodchuck	raccoon

The mammal and bird populations fluctuate regularly due to food availability and migrations. Older forests especially those with oaks, support more wildlife due to heavier nut production

A-7 Reptiles and Amphibians

The following reptiles and amphibians may be found in this area. Most of the amphibians depend on the availability of temporary ponds for reproduction.

Jefferson salamander

painted turtle

blue-spotted salamander

snapping turtle

red-spotted newt

wood turtle

Eastern box turtle

red-backed salamander

Eastern worm snake

Eastern spade foot

Northern ringneck snake

wood frog

leopard frog

black rat snake

Eastern milk snake

bull frog

Northern brown snake

American toad

red-bellied snake

Fowler's toad

Eastern garter snake

spotted salamander

Eastern hognose snake

marbled salamander

Northern copperhead

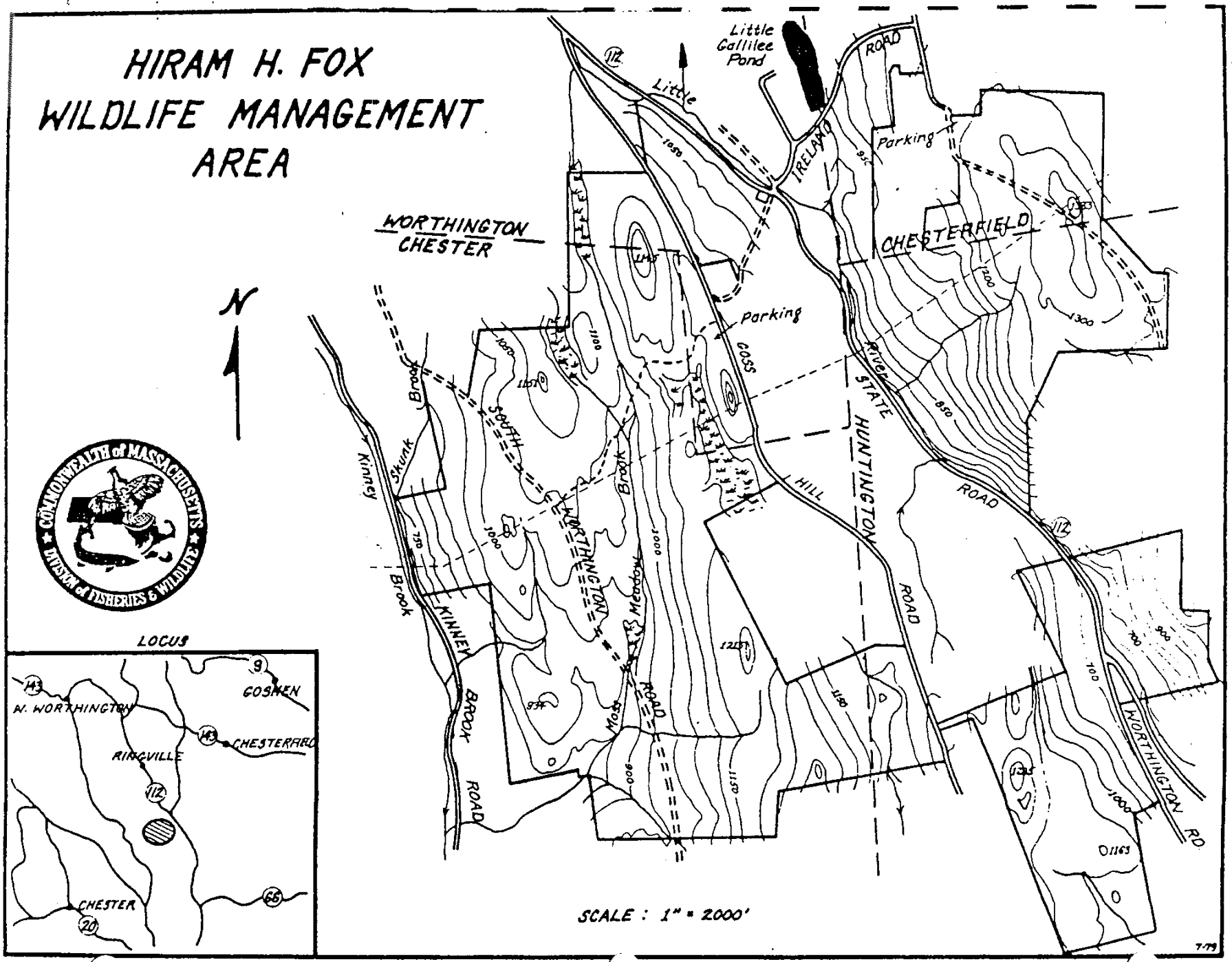
spring peeper

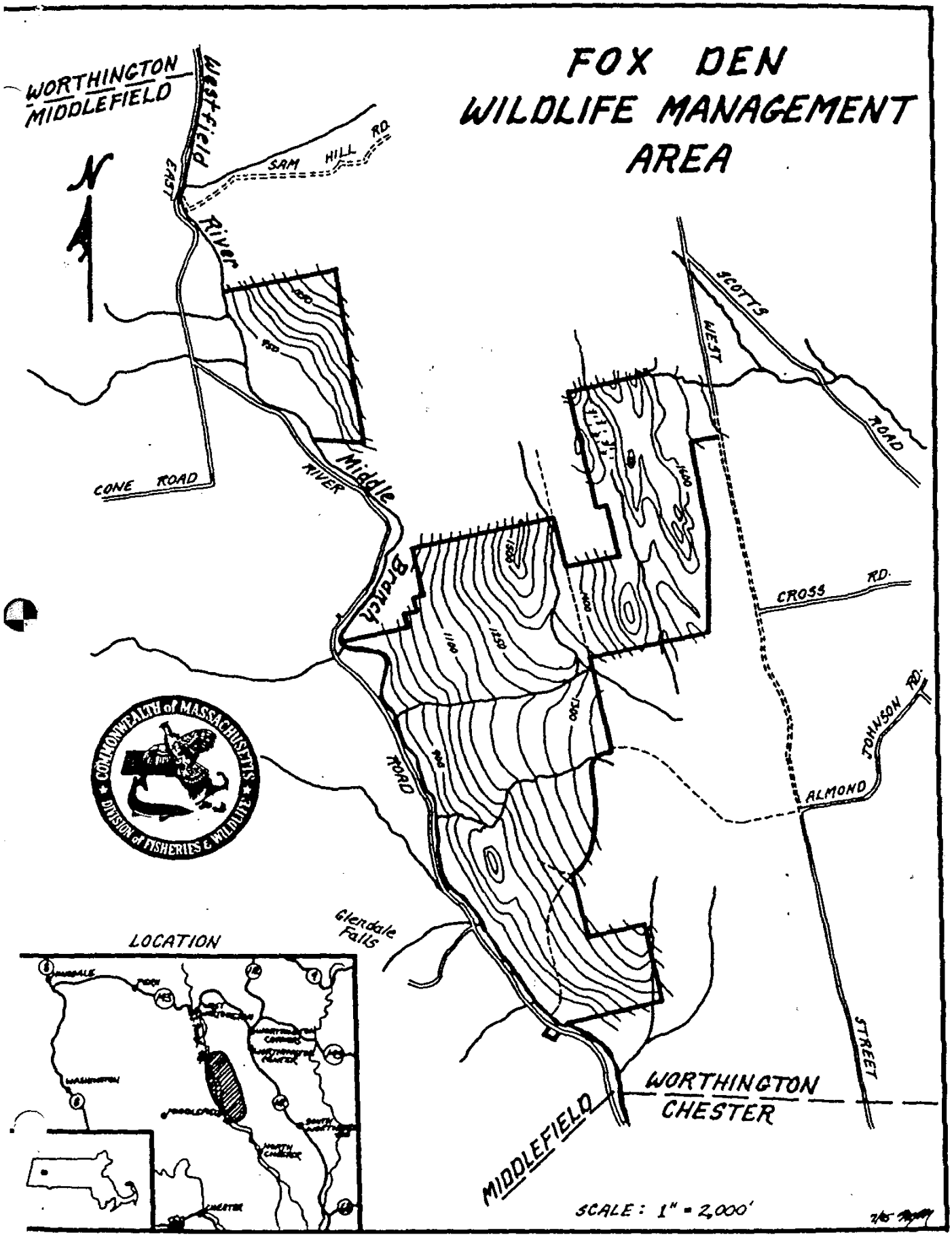
timber rattlesnake

gray tree frog

A-8 Locus Maps

1. Hiram H. Fox Wildlife Management Area
2. Fox Den Wildlife Management Area
3. Conservation & Recreation land inv. map (MISSING from our original)
4. Agricultural Soils Map (MISSING from our orginal)


HIRAM H. FOX
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA
WORTHINGTON
CHESTER
CHESTERFIELD
Little Gallilee Pond
Little
IRELAND
ROAD
Parking
Parking
COSS
RIVER
STATE
HUNTINGTON
ROAD
HILL
ROAD
Broad
Skunk
Kinney
Brook
SOUTH
NORTHINGTON
Meadow
Brook
KINNEY
BROOK
ROAD
Moss
ROAD
WORTHINGTON RD
N
SCALE : 1" = 2000'
LOCUS
W. WORTHINGTON
GOSHEN
CHESTERFIELD
RINGVILLE
CHESTER
112
143
9
20
66
COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION of FISHERIES & WILDLIFE


FOX DEN
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA
WORTHINGTON
MIDDLEFIELD
WESTFIELD
EAST
SAM HILL RD.
River
CONE ROAD
Middle
RIVER
Branch
SCOTT'S
WEST
ROAD
CROSS RD.
JOHNSON RD.
ALMOND
ROAD
STREET
Glendale
Falls
LOCATION
WORTHINGTON
CHESTER
MIDDLEFIELD
SCALE: 1" = 2,000'
COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION of FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

A-9 Population/Labor/Education/Dwellings Statistics 1980

I. POPULATION

A Total - 932

B By age

C Households by 11/ior

D Ethnic groups over 1/3 English with significant #s of French, German & Irish

E Population movement

1) 270 from other states & countries
2) 1975-1980, 214-moved in from other counties & states

*F Density - 30 people/sq. mile

II. LABOR

A Total:

Over 16 in labor force	447
Over 16 not in labor force	252.(homemakers, retirees, etc.)

B Occupations table #29

C Travel mean = 34 minutes time

D Income (household)

0	- 10,000	64
10	- 20,000	107
20	- 30,000	86
30	- 40,000	27
40	+	34

III.EDUCATION

A Current enrollment nursery→ high school

210 youngsters = 23% of total population

B People 25 years & older:

80% finished high school

42% attended &/or finished college

IV. DWELLINGS

A Total 453

B Breakdown:

1)Year Round:

Owner occupancy		283
seasonally occupancy		26
renter occupancy		37
vacant		23
Total	-	369

2) Not year round 84

---

*mean $21,139

A-10 Local Organizations/Boards (Missing from our original)

A-11 1985 Open Space Survey

INTRODUCTION

An objective of this questionaire is to identify long range goals concerning the needs and uses of open space in Worthington.

Other information will be compiled from natural resource data and conservation and recreation sites inventory data.

Please consider answering these questions as a family so that our results reflect the broadest possible population.

1.Do you live in Worthington?

A. Yes B. No

2.If yes, how long have you lived in Worthington?

A. Less than 5 years B. 5-10 years C.10-20 years D.Over 20 years

3.If you own land in Worthington, how much?

A. I acre or less B. 2 to 3 acres C. 3 to 10 acres D.10 to 50 acres E. Over 50 acres

4.What do you use your land for?

A.Residence B.Farming C.Forestry D.Recreation E.other

5. Is your land posted?

A. Yes B. No

6.If yes, do you allow any of the following uses?

A.Trapping B.Hunting C.Fishing D.Snowmobiles E, Hiking/Nature walks

(circle those you would allow)

7.Do you earn an income from your land?

A, Yes B. No

8.If yes, are you aware of state tax incentives to assist owners of forest land manage their woodland under accepted forestry practices?

A. Yes B. No C. Question does not apply

9.Do you feel there is adequate enforcement of zoning by-laws?

A. Yes B. No C. Don't know

10.Worthington has a country town, rural atmosphere. Which statement is closest to your feeling on our Town?

A. Would regret Worthington losing its country town rural atmosphere.

B. Like rural atmosphere, but would be content to see Worthington become larger, more suburban.
C. Prefer Worthington become larger, more suburban.
D. Other

11.What type of residential growth policy do you favor?

A.Continue our present development patterns.
B. Plan to keep growth around existing moderately developed areas.
C, Spread growth throughout town.
D. Restrict growth to specific undeveloped areas, keep green spaces, encourage agriculture and forestry uses of land.
E. No growth.

12.Do you want to preserve the historical and colonial character of the Town?

A. Yes B. No

13.Would you like to see open spaces maintained?

A. Yes B. No C. Don't know

14.Should Worthington develop a program of buyin g open space under Federal and State programs inorder to meet future Town needs?

A. Yes B. No C.Don't know

'15.Would you like to see the municipal parkp located south of the fire station, developed further as a recreational area?

A, Yes B. No C.Don’t know

16.Would you like to see open land for recreational uses acquired by the Town?

A. Yes B. No C.Don't know

17.Would you be willing to purchase a special permit to use these lands?

A. Yes B. No C.Don’t know

18.Should the Town consider building a community center that could serve as a recreation and meeting area for residents of all ages?

A, Yes B. No C.Don’t know

19, If yes to 18, how would you propose to fund such a project?

A.Town appropriations B.Bonding C* Membership dues D.Hourly fees E.Combinations of the above.

20.How important do you think it is to protect our central water supply

A.Very important B. Important C. Status OK D.Does not affect me

21.The water district for- the Town of Worthington, which supplies a central water system is Privately owned. Are you a subscriber to this system?

A. Yes B. No

21a. Would you favor an enlargement of the present system?

A. Yes B. No

22.Should Worthington begin planning for a sewage disposal system?

A. Yes B. No C.Don't know

23.A system of numbered houses in rural areas help to locate individuals in the event of emergencies or deliveries. Would you be in favor of such a system for the Town of Worthington?

A. Yes B. No

24.To shop, work or to seek entertainment, what area do you travel to primarily?

A.Worthington B.Pittsfield C.Northampton D.Huntington/Westfield E.Other

25.Your age group is?

A. 18-25 B. 26-40 C. 41-61 D. 62 and over

26.Does the dramatic improvement of roads in Worthington enhance or threaten the quality of country life as found in our Town?

A. Enhance B. Threaten C .Don't know

27.Are there any specific questions you feel that the Open Space Plan should address? Please comment on any specific area or theme that is of concern to you:

Town of Worthington

Open Space Planning Committee

Worthington Ma. 01098

A-12 1985 Open Space Survey Results

Question	No. Responded	% of each answer				
		A	B	C	D	E
1	239	69	31			
2	179	26	21	17	36	
3	236	11	17	24	31	16
4	298	45	12	13	23	7
5	234	20	80			
6	185	8	19	24	13	36
7	234	12	88			
8	134	43	9	48		
9	238	35	16	48		
10	256	85	10	0	5	
11	245	13	12	9	49	17
12	243	98	2			
13	243	90	1	9		
14	243	59	16	25		
15	242	51	30	19		
16	250	43	33	24		
17	239	34	41	25		
18	240	39	42	19		
19	122	11	10	12	7	55
20	245	69	7	1	23	
21	236	30	70 21a	186	52	48
22	240	27	42	31		
23	228	66	34			
24	318	8	26	42	13	11
25	252	3	33	37	27	
26	244	50	32	18		

A-13 Handicapped Needs

The needs of the handicapped in the community have to a great extent been accommodated as issues arise. Our new Town Hall is being built with specific plans to allow for handicap access and use. Our community health center caters to the needs of the handicapped and has developed many programs to address their special requirements.

Handicap access will be a primary goal for all future recreation and municipal projects.

A-14 Comments from Town Boards

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

PLANNING BOARD

Worthington, Massachusetts 01098

February 11, 1987

The Worthington Open Space and Recreation Plan is an impressive collection of information about the town and its land use, and the committee should be congratulated for the sustained effort required to pull all this together. So the comments that follow are meant to be constructive, not critical.

1. The report needs a good editing job to correct minor errors and to merge diverse writing styles.

2. The inclusion of a map would be very helpful. It could show some topography (high and low points), streams, roads, wetlands, and conservation/recreation lands listed in the inventory. Might include Chapter 61 and 61A lands.

3. It seems that the section on p. 20 should be "Wildlife Habitat", not "Wildlife" - see pp. A5 - 7.

4. There should be a Chapter 61 lands inventory in addition to the Chapter 61A inventory.

5. There ought to be a detailed list of proposals for action to protect open space, such as recommendations that the town adopt specific by-laws, acquire certain parcels of land or seek certain conservation or scenic easements.

6. If the report is to be widely circulated in town, a list of options for private action might be appropriate, such as: state programs (61, 61A, 61B, APR), conservation restrictions, or land trusts, with specifics on who to contact for further information.

Robert Cook, Chairman

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Worthington, Massachusetts 01098

TO: Jack Millman, Open Space Committee

DATE: January 30, 1986

RE: Comments on Open Space Plan

The draft Open Space Plan contains quite a bit of useful information about the town, and conveys a good sense of the physical characterictics and the need for preservation of open space. Where it could stand improvement is in the specifics of identifying what land is most crucuial to the present character of the town. For example, in the section titled "Goals and Objectives", there is a statement under goal # 3 to: establish policy and programs to facilitate the acquisition of lands identified as valuable to the towns scenic quality". Yet nowhere in this plan are any of these lands named. It would not be difficult to list several in the report, such as the McCann property, Jarvis property, several parts of Alberts Farms, perhaps Sena's property along Ridge Rd., etc. By identifying some specific important parcels, the town will be in a position to apply for state self-help program funds to possibly acquire some of these properties. Mention of the McCann property is especially important at this time. Wherever possible in the report, specifics should be given.

Also, the report should contain a detailed list of the results of the survey. This could be just listed on a copy of the survey that is already in the appendix. People want to know precisely how townspeople responded to specific questions, and the data is needed to build a base of statistical support for some of the conclusions that have been reached about growth management. The narrative summary of the survey results is good, and should be retained.

This is a very readable report, and the contributions of time and expertise of many people is evident. It is good to have it so near to completion.

February 21, 1987

Mr. Jack Millman
Old Post Road
Worthington, MA 01098

Dear Jack:

The Worthington Conservation Commission is pleased to endorse the draft Open Space Plan prepared by the Worthington Open Space Committee. The plan reflects the many hours of work put in by this volunteer group and its many members are to congratulated for their fine effort.

The broader the input that any community has into the planning process, the more effective the result will be and so we expect a positive reaction from the town in general. Development of the Open Space Plan proved to be an excellent catalyst for discussion, as residents began to identify what they consider important ingredients to their living in Worthington.

The Commission would like to point out that not only has discussion been generated about such issues as open space, recreation needs, water resources protection and farmland protection, but for the first time a plan of action has evolved. Implimentation of these goals and objectives will be more focused and specific as we proceed. Identifing those parcels of particular scenic, natural or agricultural valve, followed by working with individual landowners and funding sources in an effort to achieve our goals, must proceed the development of any specific acquisition strategy.

The Conservation Commission will continue to be actively involved in the implimentation and refining of the plan over the next five years. We look forward to working with the Division of Conservation Services in achieving our goals.

Best regards,

Jim Dodge, Chairman
Worthington Conservation Commission

cc: Worthington Selectmen

Harvey Road
Worthington, Massachusetts
February 11, 1987

Jack Millman
Old Post Road
Worthington, Massachusetts

Dear Jack:

Thank you for the copy of the Worthington Open Space and Recreation Plan. It certainly provides a fairly comprehensive yet concise picture of our current situation, as well as the various options and issues we will need to consider in the coming months. At the last two meetings of the Board of Assessors we have discussed the Goals and Objectives as well as the Five Year Action Plan. The themes that run through these two parts of the Plan are consistent with the concerns of the Board. There is little question that our current building patterns impact in a negative way on our tax base, and we think run counter to our goals of open space and farmland preservation. The key to preserving the essential character of the town may have more to do with these two areas than with the total numbers of people that might live here.

We fully endorse the goals and enthusiastically support the goal of improved town administration through increased Boards communication and coordination. The realization of this goal will help develop the kind of concensus we will need to implement the Five Year Action Plan.

Lastly, it seems we have the necessary framework or blueprint to begin work. We look forward to it.

Very truly yours,

John E. Reagan, Chairman
Board of Assessors