



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FEASIBILITY PLAN

TOWN OF SHARON | NOVEMBER 4, 2021

ACTIVITAS
landscape architecture | civil engineering





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Feasibility studies are most effective when the institutional knowledge of facility use is provided. We would like to acknowledge and thank the Working Group who helped provide information and data to assist our team throughout this study. Their input and excitement for this study shows the dedication the Town of Sharon has for recreation and the success that can be achieved working together.

TOWN OF SHARON



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1 | PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2021, Activitas, Inc. was retained by the Town of Sharon to review and analyze a number of outdoor Town athletic spaces relative to their fields and recreation needs. Activitas was tasked to make recommendations based on findings, recreational trends, and department input.

The recreational facilities of focus for the study include the following:

- Ames Park
- Deborah Sampson Park
- Gavins Pond Park
- Cottage Street School
- Heights School
- East Elementary School
- Sharon Middle School
- Sharon High School

Town Engagement

Activitas engaged with a Working Group consisting of Town personnel and league leadership to receive and work through usage data and site conditions. This input and data from the Town was the basis for the study analysis and was used to form the calculations to derive the recommendations and conclusions of the study.

Field Use Analysis

Activitas reviewed the data provided during the Town Engagement process. This data was broken down by site and included the following information:

- Sport Organization/ Type Use
- Season / Days / Times of Use
- Number of Participants per Use
- Number of Teams per Organization

For reference, the sport "types" were broken down by typical use of fields and include:

- Baseball / Cricket
- Little League
- Softball
- Multi-Purpose (rectangular fields, e.g. football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, etc.)

Activitas used this information to calculate "number-of-participants" and "hours-of-field use" per season per sport type and analyze this information in comparison to number of existing fields. The results showed the imbalance of fields based on sport type.

Following the Site Analysis (discussed below) the Field Use Analysis continued to determine how sites could be renovated to provide a more fair distribution of fields per sport type. The analysis then went one step further to include a Field Wear Analysis to ensure that changes in field quantities would not negatively affect a singular sport type.

Site Analysis

Activitas analyzed the recreational facilities using site visits and site mapping / GIS information to understand the physical conditions of the facilities and the associated site amenities. A detailed existing conditions and associated site analysis was performed and an analysis of each facility is included in this report that includes:

- General Property Information
- Site Overview
- Current Site Maintenance
- General Improvement Considerations
- Site Photos
- GIS Analysis
- Site Maps

The items provided insight to the general condition of the facilities for athletic uses as well as important site elements including: presence and proximity of resource areas; vehicular and pedestrian circulation; access points; parking; solar orientation; walking trails and pathways; fencing conditions; storage elements; lighting; existing topography; handicap accessibility; and signage/wayfinding.

This information was analyzed to identify the opportunities and constraints each facility poses and how that can connect to the Town's greater recreational needs by determining the ability to expand, renovate, and/or reorganize the existing facilities.

Site visits to review existing conditions were completed on 06/09/2021 and 06/13/2021. It should be noted that field conditions are shown following almost a year of limited use due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fields were used Spring 2021.

Results & Recommendations

The results of the Analysis show that there is an imbalance of athletic field distribution based on both "number-of-participants" and "hours-of-field-use" per season per sport type. With the current number of fields the analysis found:

	Participants / Field / Season	Hours / Field / Season
If balanced (goal)	107	219
Baseball/Cricket	75	204
Little League	62	108
Softball	37	97
Multi-purpose	207	391

What this shows is that multi-purpose fields are under-served in Town and that softball and little league have potential for a reduction of fields while not negatively affecting field surfaces. A more detailed explanation of these results is provided in Section 3 Field Use Analysis.

In reviewing the various facilities within the Town it was determined that renovation/reorganization of Ames Field, Cottage Street School, Deborah Sampson Park, and East Elementary will provide much needed additional multi-purpose field space. In addition, the relocation of the Community Gardens currently at Deborah Sampson Park to available Town property at Lakeview and Morse allows for the reorganization of Deborah Sampson and must be included with that potential renovation. The recommended renovations for these sites decrease the number of Little League fields by one (1) and increase the number of Softball fields by (1) and Multi-purpose fields by four (4). This adjusts the analysis values to:

	Participants / Field / Season	Hours / Field / Season
If balanced (goal)	88	181
Baseball/Cricket	75	204
Little League	77	135
Softball	20	81
Multi-purpose	132	249

While not completely balanced, this distribution moves to a closer balance of fields per sport type as well as continues to allow for hosting capabilities of various tournaments and does not negatively affect the playing surfaces from over use more than it does in the existing condition.

Layouts of the recommended improvements at the four sites can be found in Section 4 of this Report.

Next steps following completion of this study is to move into Schematic Design of these facilities on a phased basis. The SD Phase will provide more in depth layout and design of the facilities as well as dial into the potential Total Project Costs for the renovations.

2 | TOWN ENGAGEMENT

Over the past few years, the Town of Sharon has been encouraging and gathering public input on the utilization of their facilities. In 2015, an ad hoc working group titled the New Field Committee, developed a New Field Report documenting challenges with field space, inventory and use of existing fields, potential expansion opportunities, and data regarding demographics and community growth. This report was revised in 2020 with updated information and provided to Activitas for use in this report. Prior to the project kick-off, a similar Working Group comprised of community leaders, coaches, and recreation advocates met with Activitas to review these previous studies and provide important data and opinions of current site conditions. Activitas collected that information along with additional input from the Department of Recreation, the Department of Forestry and Grounds, and the Department of Public Works.

The information collected is broken down into the following charts divided up by individual facility. Within each chart, the usage is broken down by season and then within each season by individual use. Color-coding has been used as follows to help show use type:

Baseball / Cricket	Red
Little League	Orange
Softball	Green
Multi-purpose	Blue
Miscellaneous	Purple (this category includes uses that do not need a full field space, but do require space for activities)

The last column in each chart is Calculated Hours Per Use. This was calculated using the Dates / Day of Week / Time of the individual uses. The "# of Participants" and "Calculated Hours Per Use" per season is the information used for analysis.

Ames Fields

Sport/Organization	Dates	Days of Week	Time	Purpose	#Participants	# Teams	Calc'd. Hours Per Use
Fall: Weekdays 3-6:30pm Weekends 8am-6:30pm							
SYBSA Fall Softball	Sept/Oct	Wednesday & Sunday	5:30pm-6:30pm (Sunday 10:30am-4:00pm)	Softball	82		104
SYBSA Fall Softball - Pitching Clinic	Sept/Oct	Sunday	11:30-12:30pm	Softball	30		8
SYBSA Fall Tournament	October (One time)	Friday-Sunday	Friday 4pm-8:30pm, Sa-Su 7am-8:30pm	Softball	220+/-	20+/-	31.5
SHS Girls Soccer	August - Nov 9	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:00-5:30; Sat. 8-11am	Soccer	45	2	186
Sharon Soccer Association	Sept-Nov	Saturday	2-7 Saturday	Soccer	?		60
Sharon Rec	Sept-Nov	Saturday	10-2	Classes	45		48
Spring: Weekdays 3-8:00pm Weekends 8am-7:30pm							
SYBSA Spring Softball	April-June	M-Th & Su	5:30pm-7:45pm (Sunday 10am-5pm)	Softball	91		192
SYBSA Spring Softball - Pitching Clinic	April-June	Sunday	11:30am-12:30pm	Softball	35		12
SYBSA Spring Tournament	June	Friday-Sunday	Fri 4pm-8:30pm, Sa-Su 7am-8:30pm	Softball	220+/-	20+/-	31.5
SHS Softball	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00; Sat. 8-11am	Softball	30	2	248
Boys Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	55	3	200
Girls Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	35	2	200
Sharon Recreation	April-June	Saturday	10am-2pm	Classes	30	n/a	48
Summer: Daily 8am-8:30pm							
Sharon Recreation	June/July/Aug	Tuesday & Thursday	6:00-8:00pm	Softball	70	5	48
Sharon Recreation	July/August	M-F	8:45am-4:15pm	Summer	30		300
SYBSA Summer Softball	June-end of July	Monday and Wednesday	6pm-8pm	Softball	40	3-Feb	32
SYBSA Summer Tournament (One Time)	July	Friday-Sunday	Fri 4pm-8:30pm, Sa-Su 7am-8:30pm	Softball	220+/-	20+/-	18
Sharon Men's Softball	April-September	M, W, F	5pm-8pm	Softball	75	?	216

Deborah Sampson Park

Sport/Organization	Dates	Days of Week	Time	Purpose	#Participants	# Teams	Calc'd Hours / Use
Fall: Weekdays 3-6:30pm Weekends 8am-6:30pm							
SYBSA Fall Baseball Small Diamond	Sept/Oct	Thurs	5:30-8:00pm	Baseball	88	7.00	20
SYBSA Fall Baseball Small Diamond	Sept/Oct	Saturday	8am-6pm	Baseball	88	7.00	80
SYBSA Fall Baseball Tee-Ball and Clinic	Sept/Oct	Sunday	2-4pm	Co-Ed	40		16
SYBSA Fall Baseball 50/70	Sept/Oct	2x/week, Sunday	Weekday TBD, Sundays	Baseball	91	44198.00	40
SYBSA Fall Baseball 60/90	Sept/Oct	2x/week, 1 weekend day	TBD	Baseball	26	44198.00	40
Spring: Weekdays 3-8:00pm Weekends 8am-7:30pm							
SYBSA Spring Tee-Ball	April-June	Sundays	1-2pm	Co-Ed	80	10.00	12
SYBSA Spring Baseball Small Diamond	April-June	Mon-Fri, Sunday	5:00-8:30pm, (Sunday 12-6)	Baseball	200	19.00	282
SYBSA Spring Baseball 50/70	April-June	2 weeknights, Sundays	5-8:30pm Weeknight, TBD Sunday (has been anywhere from 9-6pm)	Baseball	15-28		192
SYBSA Spring Baseball 60/90	April-June	2x/week, 1 weekend day	TBD	Baseball	15-30		192
SYBSA Spring Baseball Sluggers Academy	April-June	Saturday	10-12pm	Baseball	50	Multiple	24
SYBSA Spring Baseball Tournament	Father's Day Weekend	Sat-Sun (Father's Day)	7am-9pm	Baseball	500	36.00	28
Summer: Daily 8am-8:30pm							
SYBSA Summer Baseball League Small Diamond	June-end of July	Monday-Friday	5pm-8:30pm	Baseball	85 Sharon (equal number of other town participants)	5.00	140
SYBSA Summer Baseball League 50/70	June-end of July	2 weeknights, Sundays	5-8:30pm Weeknight, TBD Sunday (has been anywhere from 9-6pm)	Baseball	15-28		192
SYBSA Summer Baseball League 60/90	June-end of July	Monday-Friday	5pm-8:30pm	Baseball	30	2.00	140
SYBSA Summer Baseball Williamsport	Last week of June, first 2-3 weeks of July	Mostly Thurs-Mon	5-9pm	Baseball	(multiple other towns as opponents. Could be 45 next year if 3)		80

Exclusive use of the field as there is fencing and no other sport is able to use the surface as a result

2 | TOWN ENGAGEMENT

Gavins Pond

Sport/Organization	Dates	Days of Week	Time	Purpose	#Participants	# Teams	Calc'd Hours / Use
Fall: Weekdays 3-6:30pm Weekends 8am-6:30pm							
Sharon Soccer Association - Fall Rec	Sep - Nov	Saturday	7:30am - 1:30pm	Soccer	325	32	72
Sharon Soccer Association - Fall Travel Soccer	Sep - Nov	Sunday - Saturday	Mon - Fri: 4:30 - 7:30pm Sat: 2:00pm - 7:30pm Sun: 8:00 - 6:00pm	Soccer	310	25	366
Sharon Recreation Stars Program	Sept/Oct	Sunday	12-1pm	STARS	25	1	8
Spring: Weekdays 3-8:00pm Weekends 8am-7:30pm							
Sharon Soccer Association - Spring Rec	Apr - Jun	Saturday	7:30am - 1:30pm	Soccer	350	35	72
Sharon Soccer Association - Spring Travel Soccer	Apr - Jun	Sunday - Saturday	Mon - Fri: 4:30 - 7:30pm Sat: 2:00pm - 7:30pm Sun: 8:00 - 6:00pm	Soccer	350	27	366
Summer: Daily 8am-8:30pm							
Summer Soccer Camp (2 weeks)	August	M-F	?	Soccer	?	?	60

East Elementary School

Sport/Organization	Dates	Days of Week	Time	Purpose	#Participants	# Teams	Calc'd Hours / Use
Fall							
SHS Boys Soccer	August - Nov 9	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:30; Sat. 8-11am	Soccer	65	3	216
SPRING							
Boys Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	55	3	150
Girls Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	35	2	150
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Thursdays	6:00 to 7:30	Lacrosse	50	3	12
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Friday	6:00 to 7:30	Lacrosse	15	1	12
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Saturdays	9:00 to 10:30	Lacrosse	15	1	12
SHS Boys Lacrosse	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00; Sat. 8-11am	Lacrosse	40	2	186

Sharon Middle School

Sport/Organization	Dates	Days of Week	Time	Purpose	#Participants	# Teams	Calc'd Hrs / Use
Fall							
SYCA	Sept - Oct	Sunday	4:00 - 8:00PM	Cricket	40	4	32
Flag Football	Sept - Oct	Sunday	9-1		160		32
Spring							
Boys Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	55	3	210
Girls Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	35	2	210
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Thursdays	6:00 to 7:30	Lacrosse	50	3	12
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Friday	6:00 to 7:30	Lacrosse	15	1	12
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Saturdays	9:00 to 10:30	Lacrosse	15	1	12
Sharon Lacrosse	April - Early June	Sundays	9:00 to 5:00	Lacrosse	180	8-10	64
SHS Girls Lacrosse	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00; Sat. 8-11am	Lacrosse	40	2	186
Summer							
SYCA (CRICKET)	June - September	Wednesday and Thursday	5:30PM - 8:00PM	Cricket	20	2	80
SYCA	June - August	Monday, Friday	6:00 - 8:00PM	Cricket	20	2	48
SYCA	June - August	Sunday	4:00 - 8:00PM	Cricket	100	10	48

Sharon High School

Sport/Organization	Dates	Days of Week	Time	Purpose	#Participants	# Teams	Calc'd Hours / Use
Fall							
SHS Boys Soccer	August - Nov 9	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:30; Sat. 8-11am	Soccer	65	3	216
SHS Girls Soccer	August - Nov 9	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:30; Sat. 8-11am	Soccer	45	3	216
SHS Field Hockey	August - Nov 9	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:30; Sat. 8-11am	Field Hockey	60	3	216
SHS Football	August - Nov 9	Monday - Friday; Sunday	M-F 3:30-6:30; SUN. 8-11am	Football	45	2	216
SHS Cross Country	August - Nov 9	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:30; Sat. 8-11am	Cross Country	45	2	216
Sharon Recreation	Sept/Oct	Tuesday-Thursday	6:00-7:00pm	Flag Football	107	12	24
	Sept/Oct	Sunday	10:00am-1:00pm	Flag Football	107	12	24
Spring							
SHS Baseball	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:30; Sat. 8-11am	Baseball	50	3	216
Boys Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	55	3	150
Girls Ultimate	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00	Ultimate	35	2	150
SHS Boys Lacrosse	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00; Sat. 8-11am	Lacrosse	40	2	186
SHS Girls Lacrosse	March - June 5	Monday through Saturday	M-F 3:30-6:00; Sat. 8-11am	Lacrosse	40	2	186

3 | FIELD ANALYSIS

Using the information provided by the Town (see Section 2) and the information collected in Site Analysis (Section 4) Activitas quantified field types, participants, and hours of use of fields for each season. From this, the season with the highest use by participants and hours was identified to be used for the analysis (numbers shown in yellow).

Using this information, the number of Participants and Average Hours / Field / Season was calculated for each sport type. This shows if there is an imbalance of the number of participants / hours of use for the various sports types - which it does. For example, in the current condition Softball draws an average of 23 participants per field, while Multi-purpose draws 161 participants per field. Ideally across the board these numbers would be much closer together, and the ideal number of participants per field for each analysis is provided.

Each analysis then goes on to calculate what the ideal number of fields for each field type is to provide the ideal balance and achieve the Goal # of Fields per sport type. These numbers differ slightly when using Number of Participants versus Hours of Use to calculate. This can be attributed to an increased number of participants during tournament play at the facilities for Little League and Softball.

It is understood that different sports use their fields in different ways especially as age groups are considered. However, an assumption was made that generally all sport types make similar adjustments to their field use in consideration of age groups and therefore from a calculation standpoint all sport types are being treated equally in the analysis.

Overall, it is clear that Multi-purpose fields are under-served in Town.

ANALYSIS BASED ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN HIGHEST SEASON		Room for Expansion?
	Ames	Y
	Deborah Sampson	Y
	Gavins Pond	N
	Cottage**	N
	Heights	N
	East El.	Y
	Middle School	N
	High School	N
	TOTALS	
Participants / Field / Season		
Balanced Participants / Field / Season		
Equal Adjusted # of Fields		
GOAL # of Fields		

ANALYSIS BASED ON HOURS OF USE IN HIGHEST SEASON		Room for Expansion?
	Ames	Y
	Deborah Sampson	Y
	Gavins Pond	N
	Cottage**	N
	Heights	N
	East El.	Y
	Middle School	N
	High School	N
	TOTALS	
Avg. Hours / Field / Season		
Balanced Avg. Hours / Field / Season		
Equal Adjusted # of Fields		
GOAL # of Fields		

# of Fields	Baseball / Cricket			Little League			Softball			Multi-Purpose (Rectangular)			Misc. Space Use																							
	Participants - Fall	Participants - Spring	Participants - Summer	Participants - Fall	Participants - Spring	Participants - Summer	Participants - Fall	Participants - Spring	Participants - Summer	Overlap BB/LL/SB?	Participants - Fall	Participants - Spring	Participants Summer	Participants - Fall	Participants - Spring	Participants - Summer																				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	82	121	185	1	Y	45	90	0	45	30	30																	
0	0	0	0	5	219	308	143	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	N	660	700	?	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	N	85	180	0	0	0	0																	
1	70	30	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	160	310	0	0	0	0																	
1	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	Y	322	170	0	0	0	0																	
2	70	80	150	5	219	308	143	5	82	121	185	7	0	1272	1450	0	45	30	30																	
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>75</td> <td>62</td> <td>37</td> <td>207</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">107</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.4</td> <td>2.9</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>13.6</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>16</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </table>																	75	62	37	207	n/a	107				n/a	1.4	2.9	1.1	13.6	n/a	2	4	2	16	n/a
75	62	37	207	n/a																																
107				n/a																																
1.4	2.9	1.1	13.6	n/a																																
2	4	2	16	n/a																																

* Note # of participants does NOT take into account users during tournaments as that would be double-dipping in participant numbers
 **Cottage has a field, but is not currently being used

# of Fields	Baseball / Cricket			Little League			Softball			Multi-Purpose (Rectangular)			Misc. Space Use																							
	Hours of Use - Fall	Hours of Use - Spring	Hours of Use - Summer	Hours of Use - Fall	Hours of Use - Spring	Hours of Use - Summer	Hours of Use - Fall	Hours of Use - Spring	Hours of Use - Summer	Overlap BB/LL/SB?	Hours of Use - Fall	Hours of Use - Spring	Hours of Use - Summer	Participants - Fall	Participants - Spring	Participants - Summer																				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	144	484	314	1	Y	246	400	0	48	0	300																	
0	0	0	0	5	156	538	412	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	N	446	438	60	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	N	216	522	0	0	0	0																	
1	72	192	316	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	32	706	0	0	0	0																	
1	0	216	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	Y	912	672	0	0	0	0																	
2	72	408	316	5	156	538	412	5	144	484	314	7	0	1852	2738	60	48	0	300																	
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>204</td> <td>108</td> <td>97</td> <td>391</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">219</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.9</td> <td>2.5</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>12.5</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>14</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </table>																	204	108	97	391	n/a	219				n/a	1.9	2.5	2.2	12.5	n/a	2	3	3	14	n/a
204	108	97	391	n/a																																
219				n/a																																
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2	3	3	14	n/a																																

* Note # of participants does NOT take into account users during tournaments as that would be double-dipping in participant numbers
 **Cottage has a field, but is not currently being used

3 | FIELD ANALYSIS

Based on the findings from the Site Analysis portion of this project and the facilities with potential for renovation / expansion, Activitas reorganized the field quantities per sport per site as shown below. The layouts for these renovated facilities can be found in Section 4 of this Report. The addition of fields allow for a refined "balanced" calculation as shown below, and with the reorganization of fields and addition of multi-purpose fields, the proposed "participant/field/season" and "hours-of-use/field/season" align closer to a balance between the sport types. While additional multi-purpose fields would further improve the balance, additional space in Town has not been identified. Other considerations like field surface type and athletic lighting, could additionally help balance field use, but has not been included as a consideration as part of this analysis.

PROPOSED FIELD QUANTITIES		BB/C	LL	SB	MP	Ren.
	Ames	0	0	2	2	Y
	Deborah Sampson	0	4	3	1	Y
	Gavins Pond	0	0	0	2	N
	Cottage*	0	0	0	1	Y
	Heights	0	0	0	0	N
	East El.	0	0	0	3	Y
	Middle School	1	0	0	1	N
	High School	1	0	1	1	N
	Total	2	4	6	11	
Balanced Participants / Field / Season	88					
Balanced Avg. Hours / Field / Season	181					
Participants / Field / Season	75	77	20.2	132		
Avg. Hours / Field / Season	204	135	80.6	249		

*Accounts for using the field at Cottage for multi-purpose use

A final important consideration for reorganizing the various fields is to ensure that removing a field type will not negatively affect the surface characteristics for a particular field type in general. For this analysis, Activitas uses a methodology that considers the "type" of use on a field, the hours of use on a field in a season, and considers this against the type of maintenance a field receives. Based on the maintenance protocols provided to us by the Town, it seems that the fields all fall into the Medium Maintenance or Medium to Heavy Maintenance categories as defined on the Maintenance for Activity Wear Index Values chart.

Since the impact of various sports on a field is different, a multiplier is used to help define the wear a particular sport generates on a field. The hours of use per season times the multiplier provides us with the Activity Wear Index Value (AWIV) that "equalizes" the impact of use for various sport types. As shown in the Field Wear Analysis Chart, Baseball, Little League, and Softball use a 1.25 multiplier, while Multi-purpose uses a 2.25 multiplier. Using these with the calculated Avg. Hours / Field / Season for the various sports on fields, BB / LL / SB all remain in a window of use where the current maintenance protocols will be adequate to maintain those fields in good condition. While the Multi-purpose category still has a high maintenance need, it is an improvement over the existing condition. To further improve the maintenance need for Multi-purpose, either a change to field surfaces should be considered or addition of more fields in Town.

ACTIVITY MULTIPLIERS

Activity	Multiplier		
Walking and/or Standing on a field.	1	Soccer w/cleats & Team Practices	2.5
Baseball and/or Softball	1.25	Sport Camp: Lacrosse	2.5
Parked Cars	1.5	Tournaments	2.5
Sport Camp: Baseball/Softball	1.5	Ultimate Frisbee	2.5
Marching Band Practice	1.75	Football w/cleats	2.75
Soccer wo/cleats	2	Sport Camp: Soccer	2.75
Field Hockey	2.25	Sport Camp: Football	3
Football wo/cleats	2.25	Football Team Practice	3.25
Lacrosse & Team Practice	2.25	Activity before/after Turf Dormancy	3.75
Rugby	2.5	Activity during/after Rain	4

MAINTENANCE FOR ACTIVITY WEAR INDEX VALUES

- Level 1 – Light Maintenance** **Below 250 hrs. AWIV**
Two or less Hollow Core Aerations a year.
- Level 2 – Light to Medium Maintenance** **251 - 300 hrs. AWIV**
Between two and four Hollow Core Aerations a year.
One top-dressing a year.
- Level 3 – Medium Maintenance** **301 - 350 hrs. AWIV**
Hollow Core Aeration once a month.
One Deep Tine Aeration a year.
One top-dressing a year.
One Over-seeding a year.
- Level 4 – Medium to Heavy Maintenance** **351 - 400 hrs. AWIV**
Hollow core aeration once a month.
Two Deep Tine Aeration a year.
Two top-dressings a year.
Two or less Over-seeding a year.
- Level 5 – Heavy Maintenance** **401 - 450 hrs. AWIV**
Hollow Core Aeration once a month.
Two or more Deep Tine Aeration a year, or One Deep Tine Aeration and one Deep Hollow Tine Aeration a year.
Two or more top-dressings a year.
Two or more Over-seeding a year.
Renovation, having to do field repairs by plugging
- Level 6 – Renovation** **Over 451 hrs. AWIV**
Hollow Core Aeration once a month.
Two or more Deep Tine Aeration a year, or one or more Deep Tine Aeration and one or more Deep Hollow Tine Aeration a year.
Two or more top-dressings a year.
Two or more Over-seeding a year.
Renovation, having to do field repairs by Sodding and Plugging.

FIELD WEAR ANALYSIS	EXISTING				
	Avg. Hours / Field / Season	204.0	108	97	391
	Field Wear Activity Multiplier	1.25	1.25	1.25	2.25
	Activity Wear Index Value (hrs)	255	135	121	880
PROPOSED					
Avg. Hours / Field / Season	204	135	80.6	249	
Field Wear Activity Multiplier	1.25	1.25	1.25	2.25	
Activity Wear Index Value (hrs)	255	168	101	560	

The background of the page is a detailed topographic map rendered in a light gray color against a darker gray background. The map features numerous contour lines of varying thickness and spacing, representing different elevations and terrain features. The lines are irregular and organic in shape, typical of a natural landscape. The overall effect is a textured, technical background.

4 | SITE ANALYSIS &
RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

4 | SITE ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Activitas reviewed eight (8) facilities identified by the Town with potential for renovation / expansion. The eight facilities were:

1. Ames Park
2. Deborah Sampson Park
3. Gavins Pond Park
4. Cottage Street School
5. Heights School
6. East Elementary School
7. Sharon Middle School
8. Sharon High School

Of these eight (8) facilities, four (4) were identified as facilities that could realistically be renovated and/or expanded to bring better balance to the field uses for the Town. Ames Park, Deborah Sampson Park, Cottage Street School, and East Elementary School were the four (4) facilities identified. It should be noted that the 2020 study completed by the New Field Committee identified a site at 250 East Foxboro Street that is owned by the Town that could be an opportunity for expansion. The study also identified Gavins Pond for expansion and use of the land occupied by the Community Gardens adjacent to Deborah Sampson Park. This report concurs on the Community Gardens and that is shown in the Deborah Sampson Park option, but found that due to the presence of endangered species at Gavins Pond that expansion would be difficult. The parcel at 250 East Foxboro Street was not included as part of this report, but could certainly be reviewed further for expansion of multi-purpose field space. This section of the report reviews the existing conditions and recommended improvements for each of the four (4) identified facilities.

The remaining sites reviewed were determined to not have adequate space for expansion and/or had close proximity to resource area and/or protected habitat that would make expansion difficult at these sites. The site analysis for these remaining sites can be found in the Appendix.

The Site Analysis is broken down with the following information

- General Property Information
- Site Overview
- Current Site Maintenance
- General Improvement Considerations
- Site Photos
- GIS Analysis
- Site Maps
- Recommended Improvements (for the 4 identified facilities only)

Using this information, Activitas was able to determine realistic renovation and expansion parameters for the sites and make a recommendation for the renovations for the four (4) facilities.



4.1 | AMES FIELDS

Address: 75 Ames Street
 Property Size: 11± Acres
 Zone: Single Residence B
 Parking: 145 Spaces at Pond Street + 40 Spaces at Ames Street + 1 Accessible Space
 Main Uses: Softball; Soccer; some Ultimate Frisbee

Site Overview

Ames Park contains four softball fields and a recreational basketball court. The outfields of the softball diamonds form a green space that is used for ultimate Frisbee and soccer games. Ames Park is located directly across Pond Street from Sharon High School, which uses the fields for softball games and practices in the spring and soccer games and practices in the fall. The field is also used by Sharon's Youth Softball League, which plays on the field in spring, summer and fall, and the adult men's softball club. Each softball diamond is served by two sets of three-row bleachers for spectator seating, and two fenced dugout areas.

The area also contains a large playground area dedicated to Dr. Walter A. Griffin, a renowned physician who treated tuberculosis patients in Sharon's pioneering pulmonary hospital for many years. The playground is separated from the softball fields by a system of 20' high athletic ball netting for children's safety. The playground is also used by the private school across the street for outdoor recess. The playground area features gathering areas, including a large covered space with picnic tables, and a building with indoor restrooms. There is no lighting provided at the playground and/or at the fields to facilitate nighttime play. Site lighting for pedestrians is lacking, and there is no lighting provided at team areas and spectator seating areas.

Nose-in parking is accessible off of Ames Street, adjacent to the playground. These spaces fill up quickly, but there is also ample off-street parking in a dedicated lot on Pond Street, across the street from the high school. During school days this lot serves as overflow parking for Sharon High School. There is no accessible path from the Pond Street parking lot to the site; the access path from the lot is steep, unpaved, and separated by a steep asphalt curb with nothing preventing users from parking in front of it. Bike parking is also insufficient for the site. In general, ADA accessibility is poor at the site.

The fields are adjacent to a forested area which contains a wetland and a small water body known as Hammer Shop Pond. The historic Massapoag Trail runs through the property between the fields and the pond.

Current Site Maintenance

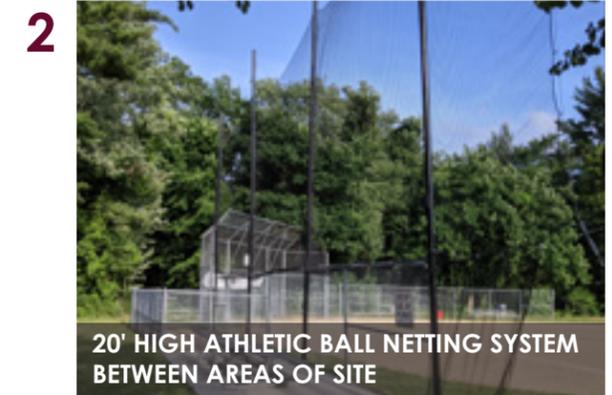
The fields are irrigated with Town water in the outfields only. Infield irrigation is provided via quick-connection. Drainage improvements were recently completed on the eastern side of the field adjacent to the wetland area to solve previous drainage issues. Currently, the fields drain well, but during rain events runoff from the Pond Street parking lot can wash onto Field C and cause flooding. The fields are mowed by the Town at least 3 times per week and are aerated and seeded 4 times annually. Additional mowing and grooming is performed on high school game days. The fields are fertilized through the April to September playing season and is treated as needed to prevent/fight pests and weeds. Maintenance of the fields is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Relocation of the softball fields could be considered. In this scenario, the field area would be converted to 2 flexible rectangular field space sized to host varsity-level soccer games.
- There is limited space for expansion because of the pond and wetland buffer; however, some room to the south could be considered to allow for a small field.



1 STORAGE SHED



2 20' HIGH ATHLETIC BALL NETTING SYSTEM BETWEEN AREAS OF SITE



3 SHADE STRUCTURE/GATHERING SPACE



4 INSUFFICIENT BICYCLE PARKING



5 UNPAVED, INFORMAL PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION THROUGH SITE



6 LACK OF ACCESSIBLE PATH FROM POND STREET PARKING

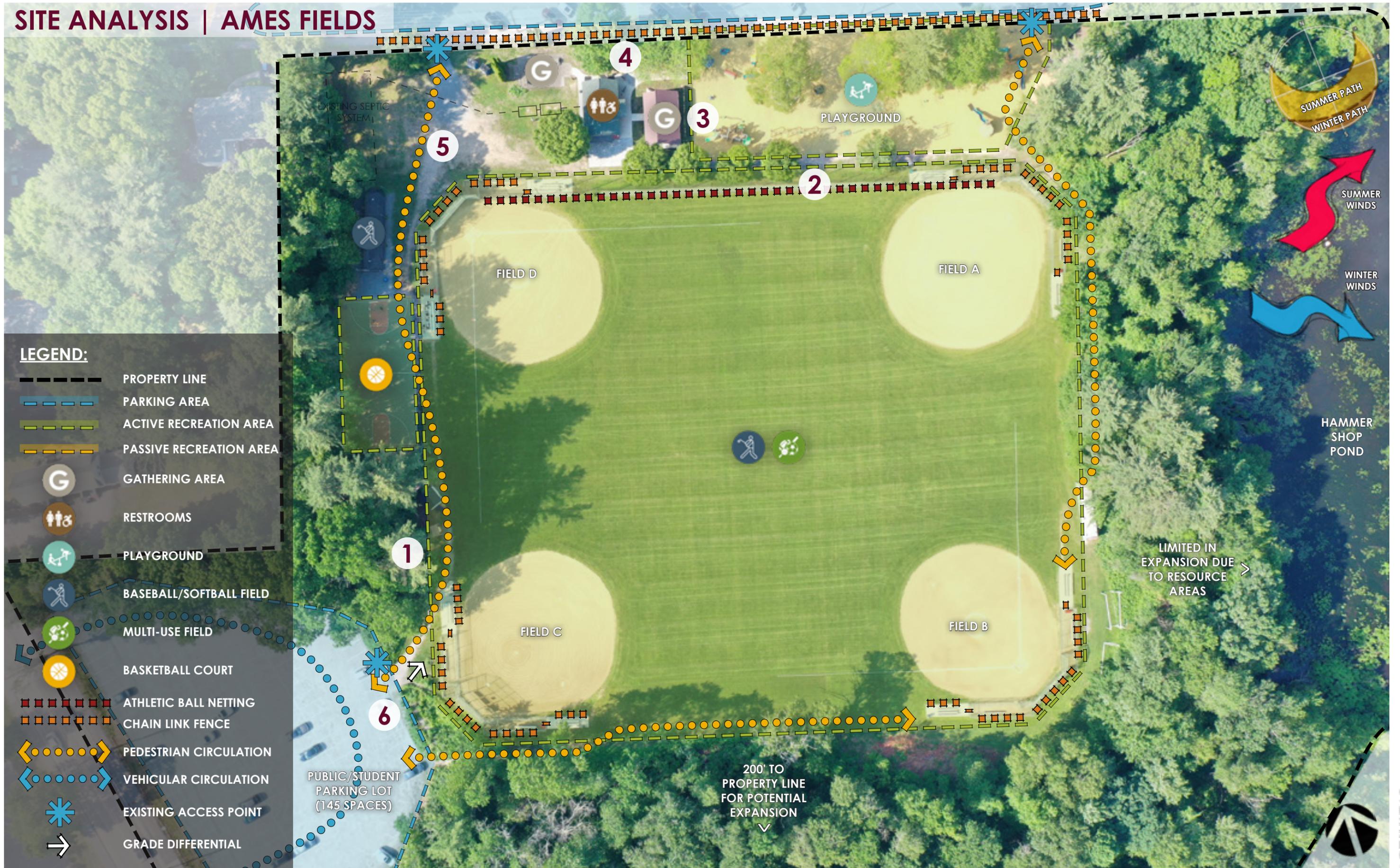
GIS ANALYSIS | AMES FIELDS



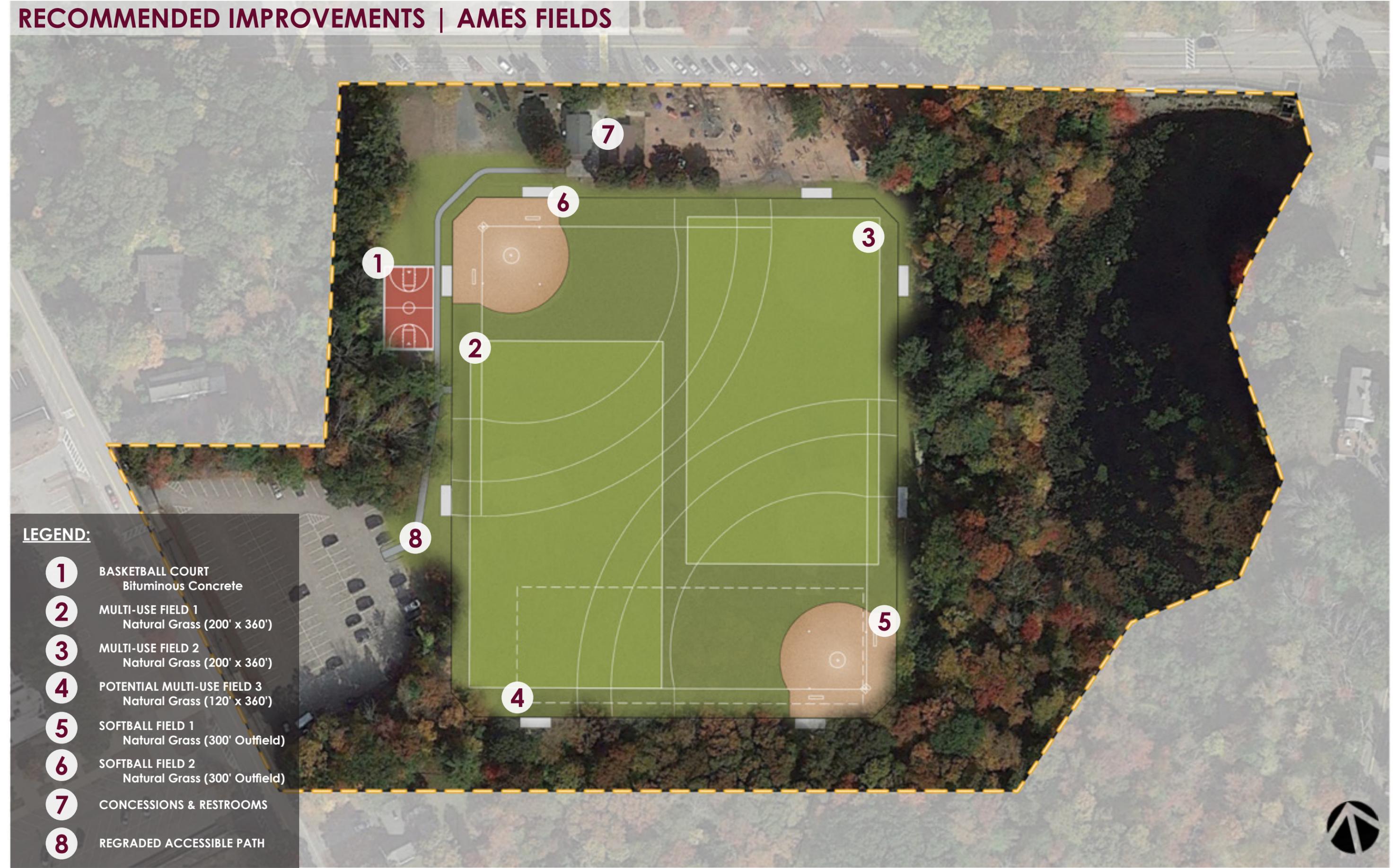
LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - Preservation Restriction
 - Massachusetts Historic Landmark
 - Local Historic District (LHD)
 - NRHP/LHD Combination
 - Inventoried Property
- DEP WETLANDS**
 - Shoreline
 - Hydrologic Connection
 - Mean Water Line
 - Apparent Wetland Limit
 - Closure Line
 - Edge of Interpreted Area
- NHESP AREAS**
 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

SITE ANALYSIS | AMES FIELDS



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS | AMES FIELDS



LEGEND:

- 1** BASKETBALL COURT
Bituminous Concrete
- 2** MULTI-USE FIELD 1
Natural Grass (200' x 360')
- 3** MULTI-USE FIELD 2
Natural Grass (200' x 360')
- 4** POTENTIAL MULTI-USE FIELD 3
Natural Grass (120' x 360')
- 5** SOFTBALL FIELD 1
Natural Grass (300' Outfield)
- 6** SOFTBALL FIELD 2
Natural Grass (300' Outfield)
- 7** CONCESSIONS & RESTROOMS
- 8** REGRADED ACCESSIBLE PATH



4.2 | DEBORAH SAMPSON PARK

Address: 25/30 East Foxboro Street

Property Size: 59 Acres

Zone: Rural District 2; Groundwater Protection District; Surface Water Protection District

Parking: 110 Spaces + 6 Accessible Spaces + unmarked parking for 52 cars + unmarked nose-in street parking for 49 cars

Main Uses: Little League (60' diamonds); Softball; Cheerleading; Flag Football; Tennis; Lacrosse (practice only); Ultimate Frisbee (practice only)

Site Overview

Deborah Sampson Park is a large park and natural area made up of two parcels divided by East Foxboro Street. The park is named for Deborah Sampson, a Sharon resident who disguised herself as a man to serve in the Continental Army and fight in several battles during the Revolutionary War. Deborah Sampson Park is home to four (4) 60' diamond Little League fields and one softball field, and is the primary site used by Sharon Youth Baseball. All of the fields are fully fenced with team and spectator seating. There is a decent amount of "dead" space between the fenced field areas. The softball field and one of the Little League fields are fully lit for evening games.

To support the use of the fields for Little League events, the park also contains two batting cages, three pitching practice mounds, and a concessions kiosk that is staffed by volunteers during events. Packaged snacks and drinks are served and grills may be set up behind the kiosk to provide food service during some of these events. The kiosk also provides restrooms. A concrete walkway provides an accessible route to the building; the rest of the site walkways are stonedust paths that could be repaved or recompacted to improve accessibility. Generally, the site is flat without grade concerns.

Across East Foxboro Street, the park continues, featuring a basketball court and four lit tennis courts, which are used by Sharon High School and Sharon Recreation's youth tennis programs. Two of the courts are striped for pickleball and a proposed expansion to create additional dedicated pickleball courts is planned for the site. The tennis facility was recently renovated with a system of LED lighting for evening events. A water fountain and several benches serve these facilities in close proximity and are in good condition. On the north end of this parcel is a large community garden that abuts East Foxboro Street.

A portion of the site adjacent to the parking lot was historically the location of the Sacred Heart School and was deeded to the Town for perpetual use for recreation. It is currently unprogrammed open space. The remainder of the site is forested and populated with walking and riding trails. Sharon High School Cross Country uses these trails for practices. One of the trails is marked as a Fitness Path featuring checkpoints along the route with wooden exercise equipment and signage explaining an exercise that can be done there. A short walk into the forest is a fenced dog park that is also accessible from Cedar Street.

There is ample off-street parking in a dedicated lot, which is also used for an annual carnival, which brings rides, games and vendors to the property in early summer each year. The carnival utilizes the parking area and patrons park along the street, on the grass and in overflow lots on neighboring properties. Additional parking can be found along East Foxboro Street, including reserved accessible parking. Adequate crosswalks are provided to access both areas of the park from either side of the road, though a system of warning lights could improve the experience of crossing, especially during games where the additional parking is heavily used.

Current Site Maintenance

One of the baseball diamonds, Field D, drains poorly along the left baseline.

The fields are irrigated with Town water. The fields are mowed 3 times per week and are aerated and seeded 4 times annually. The fields are fertilized through the April to September playing season and are treated as needed to combat pests/weeds. Maintenance of the fields is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Relocation of community gardens would provide an opportunity to expand field space. Town land at Morse & Lakeview has potential for this relocation with similar land size.
- Reorganization to make more efficient use of "dead" space between fields.
- Potential to expand programming at the former Sacred Heart School site, which was purchased by the Town to support recreational use.

1



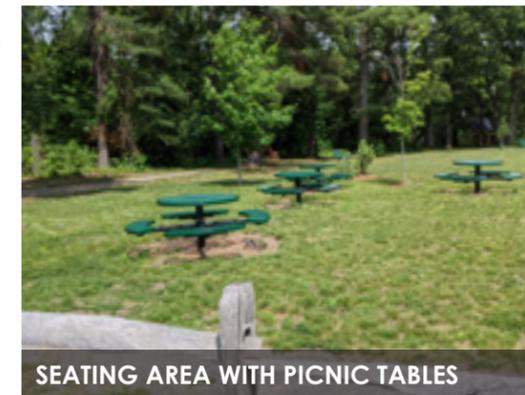
INCONSISTENT SIGNAGE AND LACK OF WAYFINDING SIGNAGE THROUGHOUT

2



LACK OF VEGETATION/STREET TREES

3



SEATING AREA WITH PICNIC TABLES

4



BASEBALL BACKSTOP & GAME MANAGEMENT, TYPICAL

5



TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURT

6



KIOSK/CONCESSION STAND

GIS ANALYSIS | DEBORAH SAMPSON PARK



LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - ★ Preservation Restriction
 - ★ Massachusetts Historic Landmark
 - ▲ Local Historic District (LHD)
 - ▼ NRHP/LHD Combination
 - Inventoried Property
- DEP WETLANDS**
 - Shoreline
 - Hydrologic Connection
 - Mean Water Line
 - Apparent Wetland Limit
 - Closure Line
 - Edge of Interpreted Area
- NHESP AREAS**
 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

PH 886

50 m
100 ft



SITE ANALYSIS | DEBORAH Sampson PARK

- LEGEND:**
- PROPERTY LINE
 - PARKING AREA
 - ACTIVE RECREATION AREA
 - PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
 - PICTURE REFERENCE
 - ACTIVE PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITY
 - GATHERING AREA
 - STORAGE AREA
 - RESTROOMS
 - BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD
 - BASKETBALL COURT
 - TENNIS COURT
 - PICKLEBALL COURT
 - ATHLETIC LIGHTING
 - WALKING TRAIL
 - ULTIMATE FRISBEE
 - BASEBALL BACKSTOP
 - CHAIN LINK FENCE
 - PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
 - VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
 - PARK BENCH
 - MEMORIAL
 - EXISTING ACCESS POINT



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS | DEBORAH SAMPSON PARK - OPTION A

LEGEND:

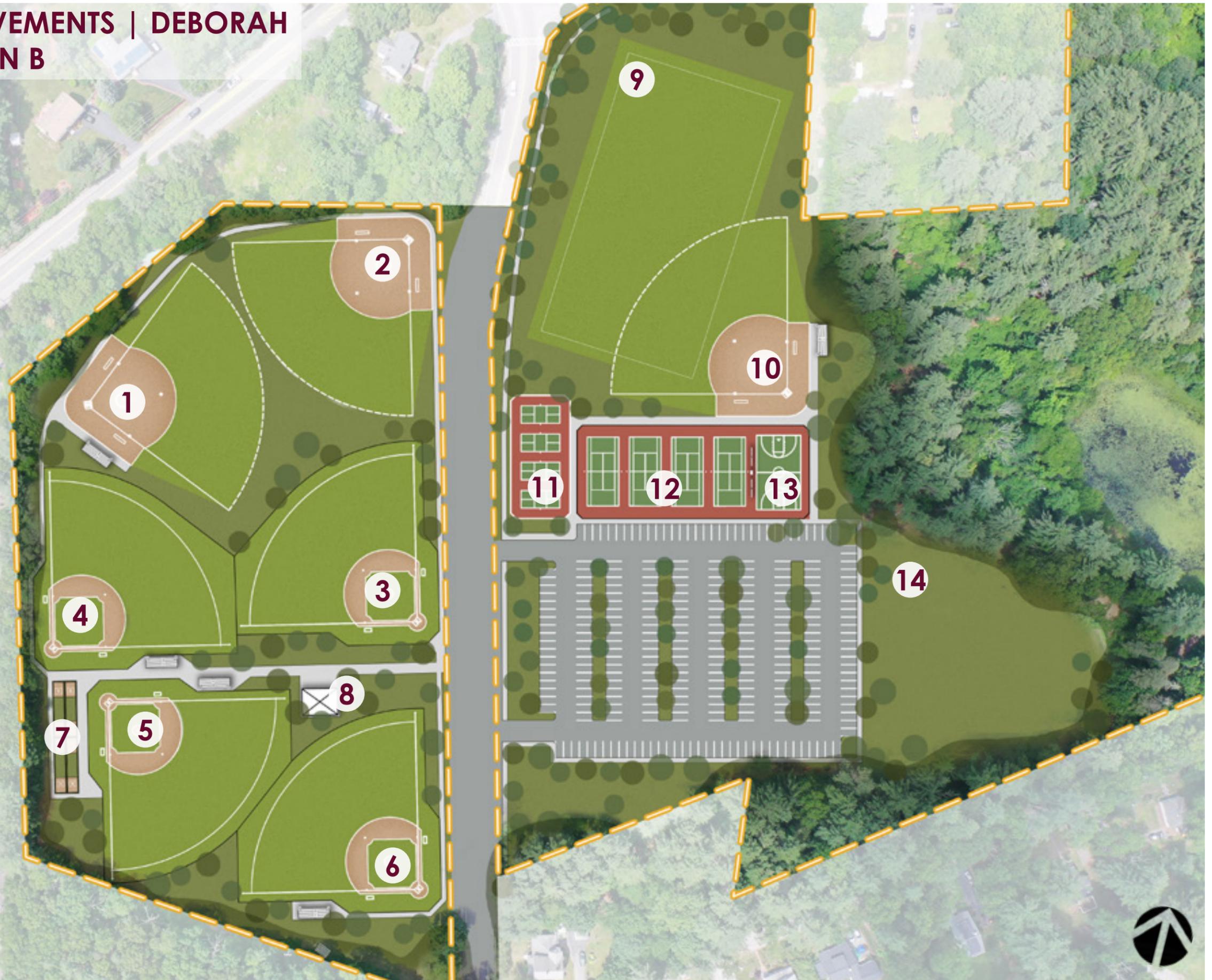
- 1** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 1
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 2** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 2
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 3** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 3
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 4** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 4
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 5** BULLPENS (4)
- 6** CONCESSIONS & RESTROOMS
- 7** SOFTBALL FIELD 1
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 8** SOFTBALL FIELD 2
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 9** SOFTBALL FIELD 3
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 10** BULLPENS (2)
- 11** PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Post-tensioned Concrete
- 12** TENNIS COURTS (4)
- 13** BASKETBALL COURT
- 14** MULTI-USE FIELD
Natural Grass



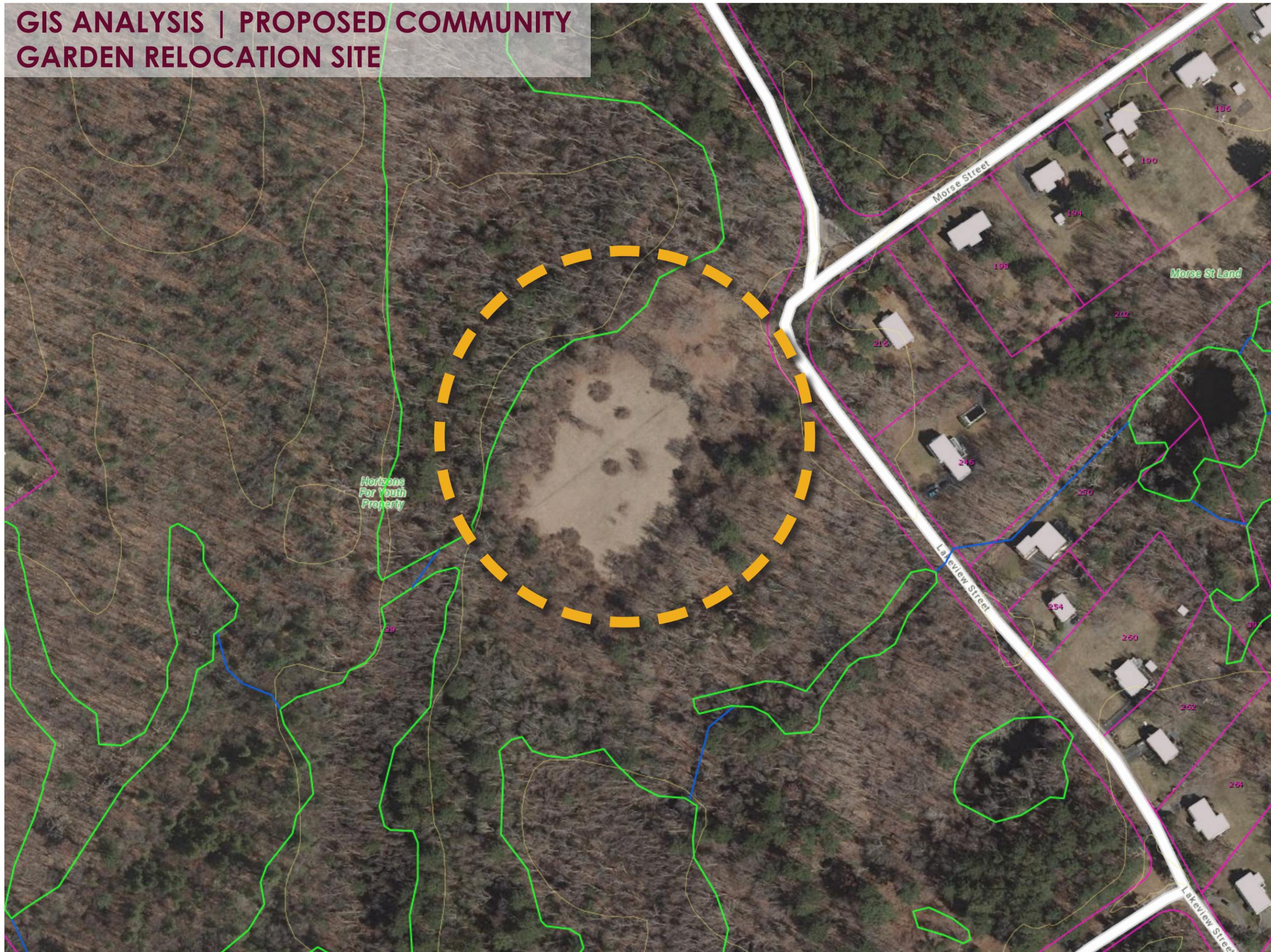
RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS | DEBORAH SAMPSON PARK - OPTION B

LEGEND:

- 1** SOFTBALL FIELD 1
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 2** SOFTBALL FIELD 2
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 3** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 1
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 4** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 2
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 5** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 3
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 6** LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD 4
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 7** BULLPENS (4)
- 8** CONCESSIONS & RESTROOMS
- 9** MULTI-USE FIELD
Natural Grass
- 10** SOFTBALL FIELD 3
Natural Grass (185' Outfield)
- 11** PICKLEBALL COURTS (4)
Post-tensioned Concrete
- 12** TENNIS COURTS (4)
- 13** BASKETBALL COURT
- 14** PASSIVE RECREATION AREA



GIS ANALYSIS | PROPOSED COMMUNITY GARDEN RELOCATION SITE



LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - ★ Preservation Restriction
 - ★ Massachusetts Historic Landmark
 - ▲ Local Historic District (LHD)
 - ▼ NRHP/LHD Combination
 - Inventoried Property
- DEP WETLANDS**
 - Shoreline
 - Hydrologic Connection
 - - - Mean Water Line
 - Apparent Wetland Limit
 - - - Closure Line
 - Edge of Interpreted Area
- NHESP AREAS**
 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

4.3 | COTTAGE STREET SCHOOL

Address: 36 Cottage Street
 Property Size: 19.59 Acres
 Zone: Single Residence B
 Parking: 67 Spaces + 4 Accessible Spaces (adjacent to the school building, not to the field)
 Main Uses: Youth Lacrosse

Site Overview

The Cottage Street Elementary School is a neighborhood public school serving approximately 450 students from Kindergarten to 5th grade. It is one of three public elementary schools in Sharon.

The school grounds contain an unmarked multi-use field which is currently unprogrammed. The field was once used as a baseball field and a skinned infield was installed but has returned to grass. A backstop still exists but is overgrown. The field is not large enough to host a full-sized multi-purpose field for use by high school athletes or youth athletes at the older levels. The field is separated from the play area by a steep slope, and there is a steep slope from the field into the woods beyond the perimeter fencing. At a corner of the field is a gate where a path connecting the site to the historic Massapoag Trail can be accessed.

An asphalt play area provides a recreational basketball court. A mature tree within a grassy area with seating provides some shade within the blacktop area, but shade is generally lacking except at the edges of the site adjacent to the neighboring wooded areas. Perimeter fencing that is in poor condition and is overgrown could be cause for concerns about safety and security. The playground features a beach volleyball court, two play structures for older and younger students, and two swing sets. Mulch is severely worn down in these areas, in some cases revealing asphalt beneath, which is a safety hazard. The mulch play areas are surrounded by steep asphalt curbing, making these areas non-accessible. This curbing runs the entire length of the field adjacent to the play area and parking lot, meaning that there is no accessible entrance to the field.

On the grounds, there are multiple spaces for outdoor learning, including a round seating area and a workbench located in a small gazebo. During the pandemic, an outdoor classroom was set up beneath a tent within the asphalt space. Formalizing these areas could benefit the school for use in the future.

Current Site Maintenance

There is no irrigation installed at this field. The field is not fertilized or aerated. Maintenance of the field including mowing is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Limited space for expansion due to steep slopes at field edges, but some expansion is possible.
- Providing an accessible route to the field should be considered.



1 PERIMETER FENCING IN POOR CONDITION



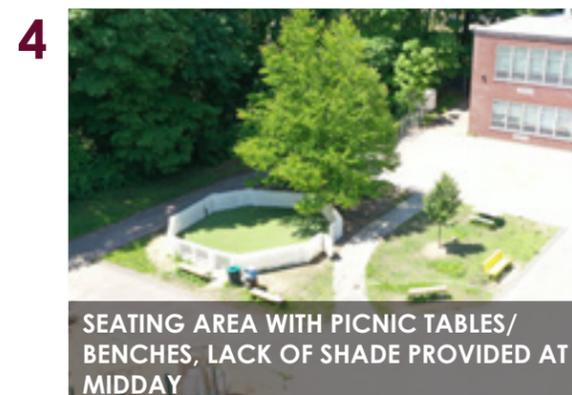
2 MULCH IN PLAY AREAS HAS WORN DOWN TO REVEAL ASPHALT BENEATH, EXPOSED CURBS ARE AN ACCESSIBILITY CONCERN



3 OUTDOOR TEACHING AREAS/ OPPORTUNITIES



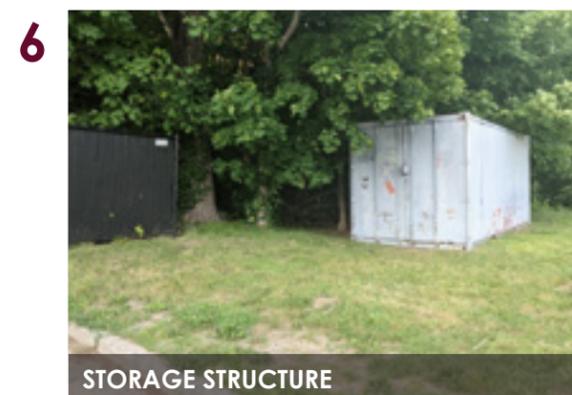
3 OUTDOOR TEACHING AREAS/ OPPORTUNITIES



4 SEATING AREA WITH PICNIC TABLES/ BENCHES, LACK OF SHADE PROVIDED AT MIDDAY



5 AMPLE PARKING FOR BICYCLES - LIMITED UTILITY FOR FIELD ACCESS

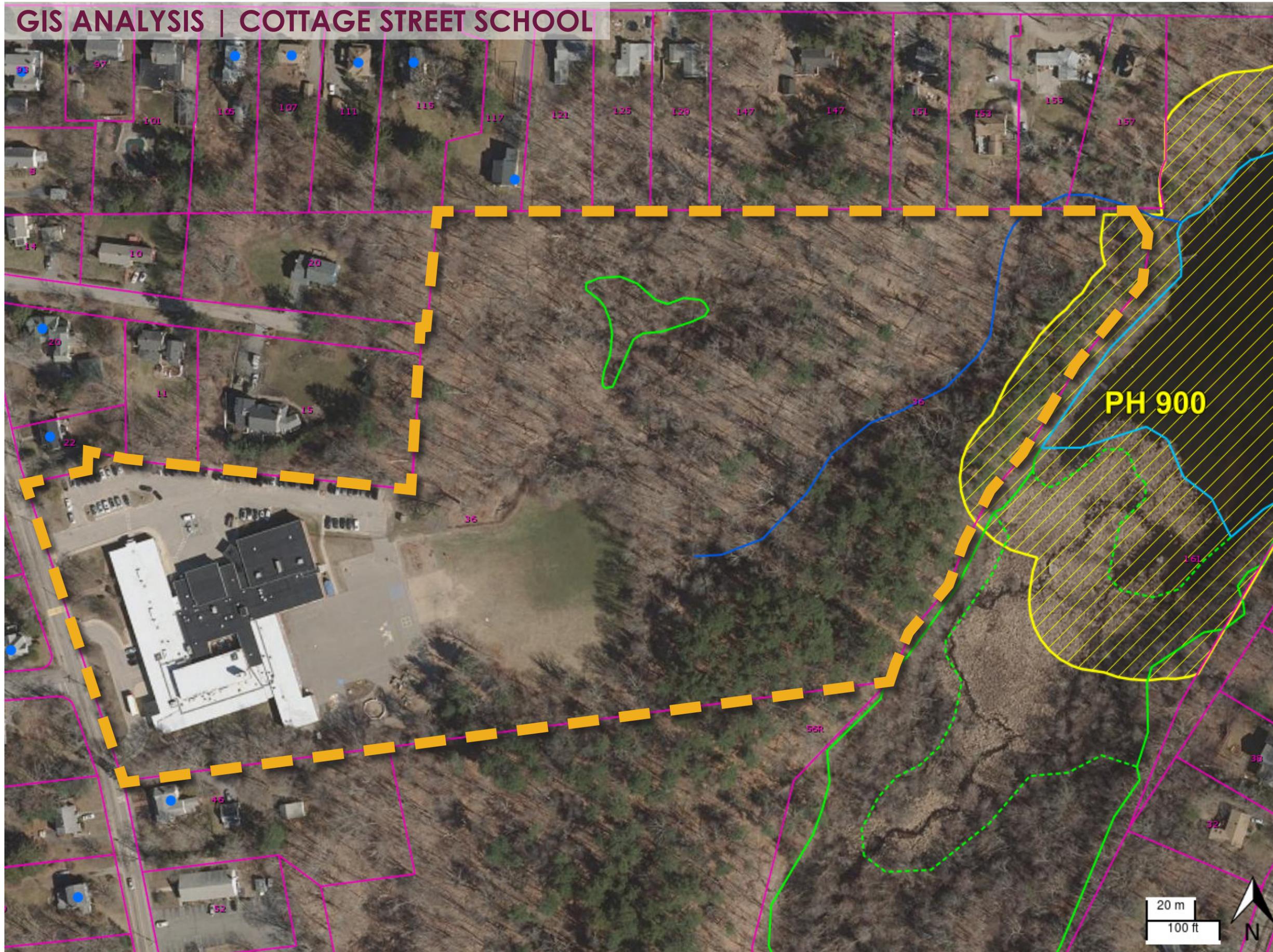


6 STORAGE STRUCTURE



7 FIELDS GENERALLY IN GOOD CONDITION

GIS ANALYSIS | COTTAGE STREET SCHOOL



LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
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 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



SITE ANALYSIS | COTTAGE STREET SCHOOL



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS | COTTAGE STREET SCHOOL



LEGEND:

- 1** MULTI-USE FIELD
Natural Grass (150' x 210')
- 2** VOLLEYBALL COURTS (2)
Post-tensioned Concrete
- 3** PLAYGROUND
Play Surfacing
- 4** BASKETBALL COURT
Asphalt Pavement



4.4 | EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Address: 45 Wilshire Drive
 Property Size: 14.39 Acres
 Zone: Single Residence A; Surface Water Protection District
 Parking: 105 Spaces + 5 Accessible Spaces
 Main Uses: Lacrosse; Soccer; Ultimate Frisbee

Site Overview

The East Elementary School is a neighborhood public school serving approximately 490 students from Kindergarten to 5th grade. It is one of three public elementary schools in Sharon.

The school grounds features two separate playgrounds for older and younger students and an asphalt area for blacktop games, which are marked on the asphalt. The blacktop is separated from vehicles by a fence that is severely weeded and overgrown. There is no shade provided at the blacktop area and only one small shade tree is located in proximity to the play structure.

Two multi-use athletic fields are heavily used by youth athletics and by Sharon High School sports teams. The lower field is full-sized for varsity athletics while the upper field is significantly smaller and only provides enough space to host boys' lacrosse. Informal pedestrian circulation from the blacktop is graded to provide an accessible route onto and between the fields, but the southwest corner of the field is significantly elevated and has been graded to form a very steep slope where the upper field was constructed over a leaching field associated with the school's septic system. There is an unprogrammed field space which is used for practice and warm-up areas for older players and as a playing field for younger youth sports teams. This area is sometimes lined for soccer. Storage is provided in a container on-site and a shed at the forested perimeter of the site, which is generally in poor condition.

Parking is adequate for school use and for field uses. The school building is surrounded by parking lots on three sides, one of which is covered by a solar panel shade structure.

Current Site Maintenance

The fields are only partially irrigated and are irrigated with town water. The upper field is only partially irrigated due to the presence of the septic tank beneath the field. Improper grading and saturated soils cause the upper field to drain poorly.

The grass shows clear signs of overuse and wear. The fields are mowed 3 times per week and are aerated and seeded 4 times annually. The fields are fertilized through the April to September playing season, as well as treated with pesticides and herbicides. Maintenance of the fields is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Limited room for expansion within property lines.
- Significant grade change over the leaching field prohibits field expansion or realignment.
- Some considerations for adjusted maintenance practices may help field surface conditions.
- Potential adjustment of blacktop allows for expansion of small practice field.

1



STORAGE STRUCTURE

2



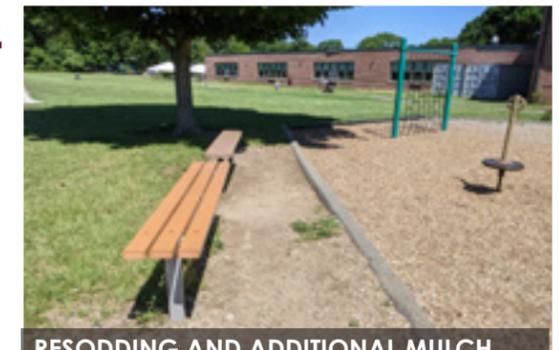
STEEP SLOPES ADJACENT TO FIELDS

3



MAINTENANCE NEEDED ALONG FENCE

4



RESODDING AND ADDITIONAL MULCH NEEDED AT PLAYGROUND EDGES

5



GATE IS MISSING AT TODDLER PLAY AREA

6



LACK OF SIGNIFICANT SHADE PROVIDED

7



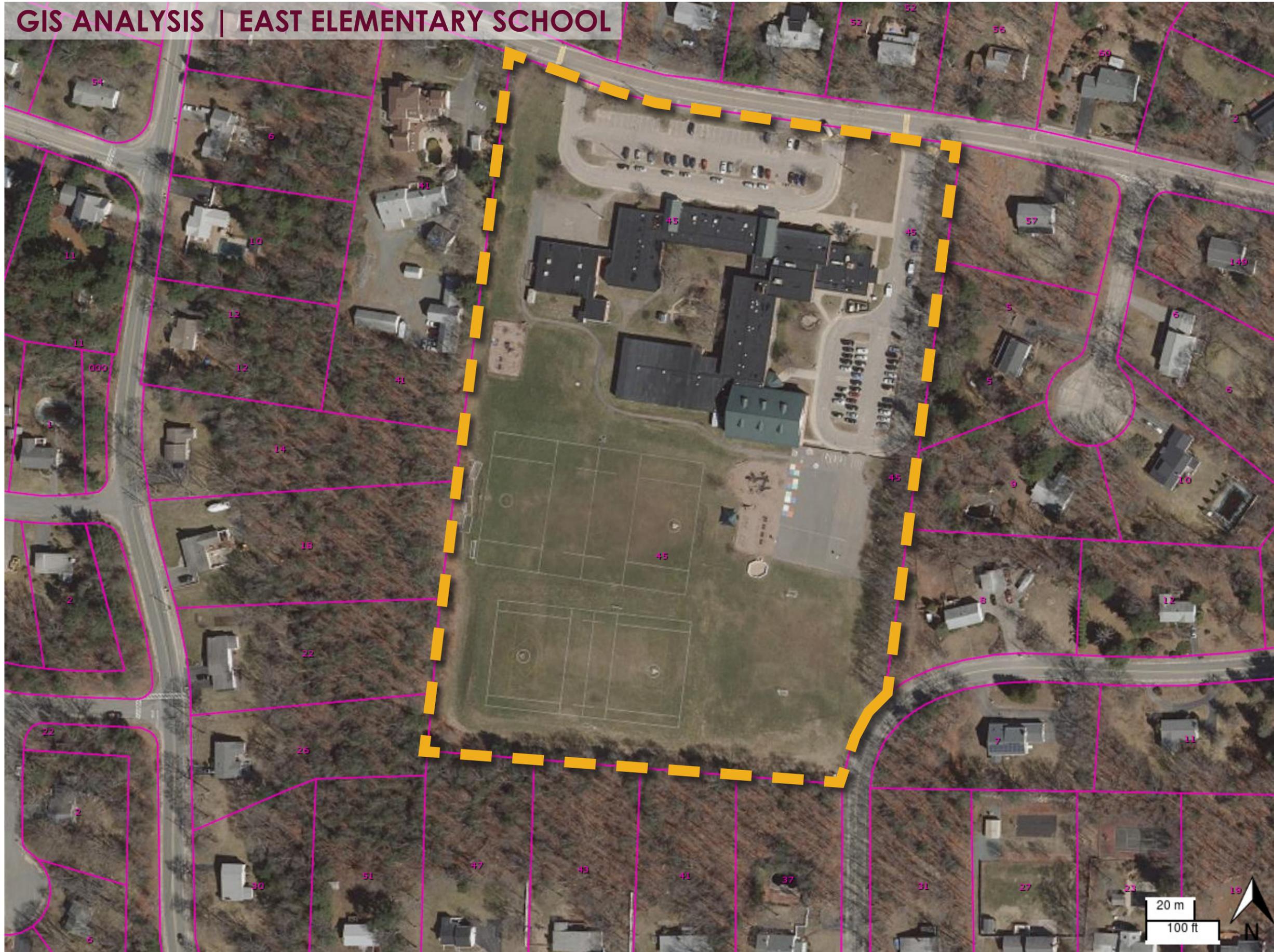
BIKE PARKING IS INADEQUATE AND IN DISREPAIR

8



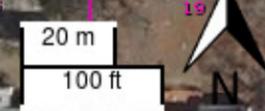
FIELDS SHOW CONSIDERABLE WEAR

GIS ANALYSIS | EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

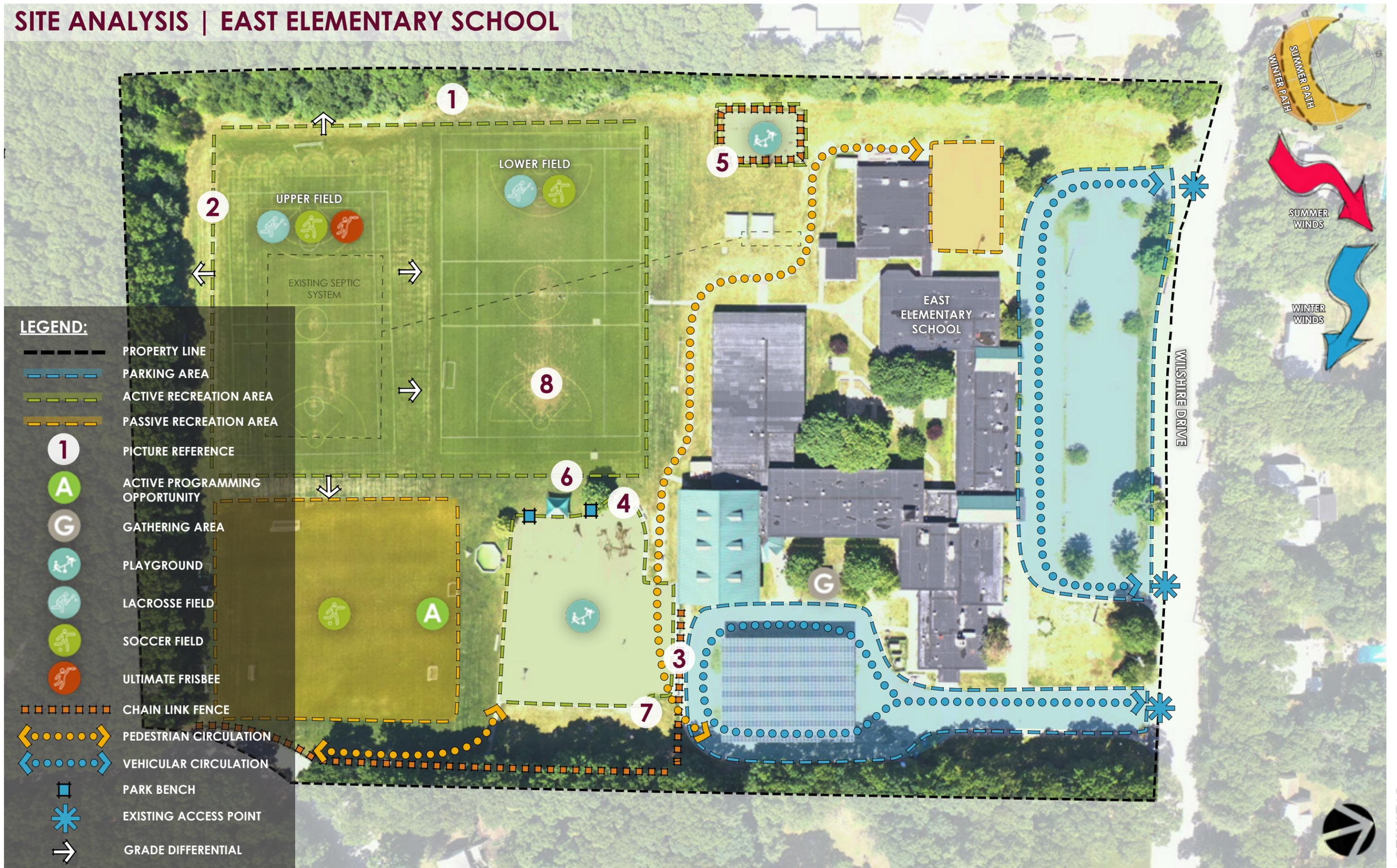


LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - ★ Preservation Restriction
 - ★ Massachusetts Historic Landmark
 - ▲ Local Historic District (LHD)
 - ▼ NRHP/LHD Combination
 - Inventoried Property
- DEP WETLANDS**
 - Shoreline
 - Hydrologic Connection
 - Mean Water Line
 - Apparent Wetland Limit
 - Closure Line
 - Edge of Interpreted Area
- NHESP AREAS**
 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



SITE ANALYSIS | EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS | EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



LEGEND:

- 1** MULTI-USE FIELD 1
Natural Grass (180' x 360')
Spectator Seating
Scoreboard
- 2** MULTI-USE FIELD 2
Natural Grass (180' x 360')
Spectator Seating
Scoreboard
- 3** MULTI-USE FIELD 3
Natural Grass (180' x 360')
- 4** PLAYGROUND
Play Surfacing
- 5** BASKETBALL COURT
Asphalt Pavement
- 6** FLEX/PRACTICE SPACE
Natural Grass

5.1 | GAVINS POND

Address: 161 Gavins Pond Road
 Property Size: 27.3 Acres
 Zone: Rural District 1; Surface Water Protection District
 Parking: 2 Accessible Spaces + unmarked parking for 116 cars
 Main Uses: Soccer

Site Overview

The Billings Brook Gavins Pond Land is a natural area made up of two wooded parcels, predominantly wetlands, owned by the Town of Sharon and open to the public. The property is accessed from Gavins Pond Road, a two-way street through a residential neighborhood. The northern parcel is densely forested and centers around Billings Brook, a tributary of Gavins Pond, which is encompassed by the southern parcel.

The southern parcel features hiking paths and two multi-use natural grass athletic fields primarily used by the Sharon Soccer Association (SSA) to host travel games and weekend recreational youth soccer activities. The fields are also used by Sharon High School soccer teams. The fields are enclosed by a chain link fence. Dedicated seating for spectators is missing or in disrepair, though portable team benches are provided within the fenced area adjacent to the fields. A small shed on the property serves as storage for the SSA and provides a space from which to operate a concessions booth during some events. Only portable restrooms are provided.

Parking is provided in an unpaved lot on Gavins Pond Road. The fields and additional parking areas are located off of this lot through a double gate. During soccer tournaments and recreational youth soccer events on summer weekends, this parking lot is undersized to meet demand. The parking area is uneven, compacted and drains poorly. Walking trails into the natural area of Gavins Pond are accessible from this additional parking area adjacent to the fields. The Town of Sharon is proposing to install elevated solar panels above the parking areas in the future.

The fields are accessed via an unpaved and non-accessible path near the shed. In general, circulation around the perimeter of the site is informal and walking areas are unpaved and uneven. The uneven terrain and lack of paved pathways create issues of accessibility. Accessible parking is provided close to the shed at the entrance to the field, but parking is generally unmarked.

Signage is lacking at the site itself and at the entrance to Gavins Pond Road from South Main Street, which is a major thoroughfare through Sharon and is highly trafficked in this area. The only sign at the entrance to the fields can be found within the unpaved parking area at the gated entrance to the field site. The text is too small to be legible from the road, creating confusion as to how to access the playing fields. There is no lighting on the fields, but temporary lighting has been proposed for the short term where the fields are being used for High School practices during the renovation of the high school.

Current Site Maintenance

The fields are irrigated with Town water. The fields are mowed 3 times per week and are aerated and seeded 4 times annually. Additional seeding is performed in areas of heavy wear. The fields are fertilized through the April to September playing season, as well as treated with pesticides and herbicides. Maintenance of the fields is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Limited space for expansion due to resource areas, NHESP habitats of rare species, and Surface Water Protection overlay.



UNPAVED PARKING LOT; NO SIGNAGE ALONG STREET



NARROW GATE IMPEDES ACCESS TO SITE



NO ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE OR GRADED PATH TO FIELDS



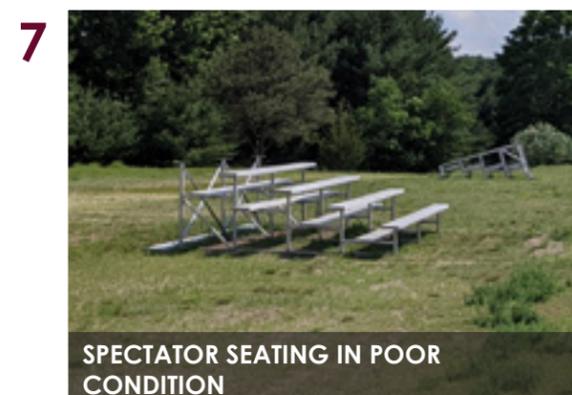
BIKE PARKING SEVERELY OVERGROWN; MAINTENANCE REQUIRED



STORAGE FACILITY



PORTABLE RESTROOMS

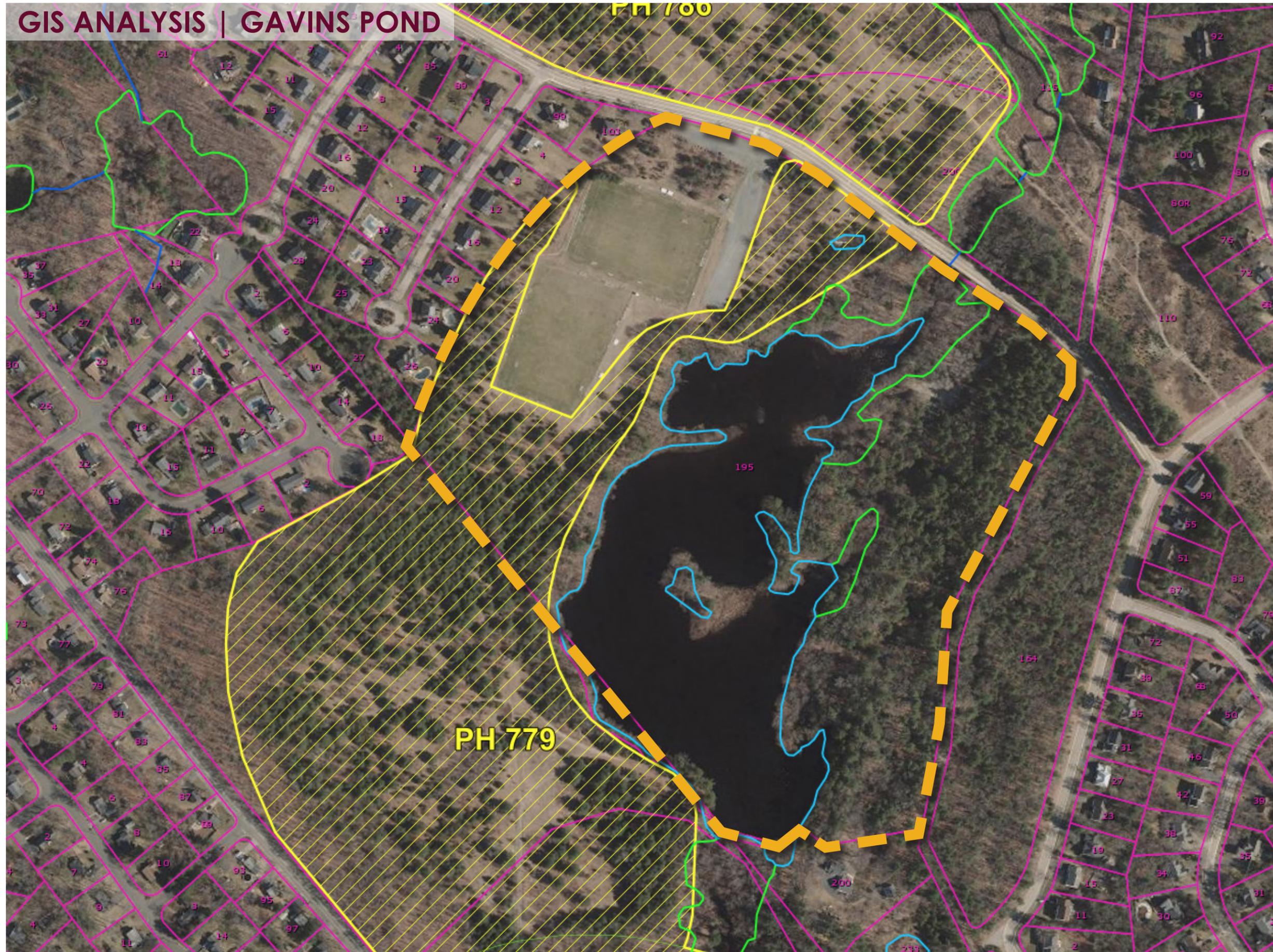


SPECTATOR SEATING IN POOR CONDITION



FIELDS GENERALLY IN GOOD CONDITION

GIS ANALYSIS | GAVINS POND



LEGEND:

OS RESTRICTIONS

- Conservation Restriction (CR)
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
- CR/APR Combination
- Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
- Other Legal Interest

HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- ★ Preservation Restriction
- ★ Massachusetts Historic Landmark
- ▲ Local Historic District (LHD)
- ▼ NRHP/LHD Combination
- Inventoried Property

DEP WETLANDS

- Shoreline
- Hydrologic Connection
- Mean Water Line
- Apparent Wetland Limit
- Closure Line
- Edge of Interpreted Area

NHESP AREAS

- NHESP Natural Communities
- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

SITE ANALYSIS | GAVINS POND



LEGEND:

	PROPERTY LINE
	PARKING AREA
	ACTIVE RECREATION AREA
	PICTURE REFERENCE
	SOCCER FIELD
	LACROSSE FIELD
	WALKING TRAIL
	PERIMETER FENCING
	PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
	VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
	PARK BENCH/SEATING
	EXISTING ACCESS POINT
	GRADE DIFFERENTIAL

5.2 | HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Address: 454 South Main Street

Property Size: 10.79 Acres

Zone: Rural District 1

Parking: 83 Spaces + 6 Accessible Spaces + unmarked parallel parking for 20 cars

Main Uses: No Dedicated Athletic Use

Site Overview

The Heights Elementary School is a neighborhood public school serving approximately 500 students from Kindergarten to 5th grade. It is the largest of Sharon's three public elementary schools and serves the most expansive of the Town's elementary school districts.

The school does not have any dedicated field space. A roughly triangular area of grass contains the playground and provides unprogrammed space for play during school recesses. The grass is heavily weeded and is uneven and pitted throughout the space. This area is large enough to provide an undersized baseball diamond, or it could be used to host practices for youth sports at the lower levels on small temporary fields. A proposal to expand a driveway to encircle the school and campus would further reduce the size of this field area in the future.

The school has two play areas for older and younger students which are kept distinct. The smaller "tot lot" is contained within a fence while the large play structure is secured only with perimeter fencing along the edge of the property adjacent to the fields and wooded areas. The play area is accessible from the street via a corridor that provides adequate emergency access but no security measures to prevent direct access to the playground from the street. An asphalt play area provides a recreational basketball court. Shade areas are lacking with no trees located within the play areas. There is a small shade area with picnic tables located within the grass area.

Near the large play area, the site contains a small teaching garden with raised beds that is currently overgrown. During the pandemic, temporary outdoor classroom facilities were erected on the grass, but more permanent outdoor learning spaces could be provided within the property.

Current Site Maintenance

Maintenance of the fields is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Limited expansion possibility due to proposed drive expansion and adjacent wetlands.



TEMPORARY STORAGE STRUCTURES



SHADE CANOPY WITH PICNIC TABLES



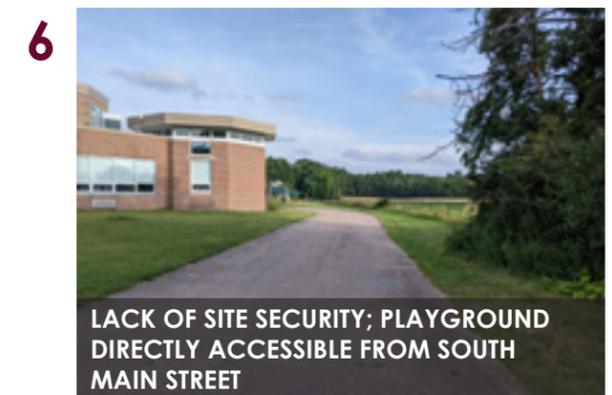
TEACHING GARDEN IS OVERGROWN, NEEDS REPAIR



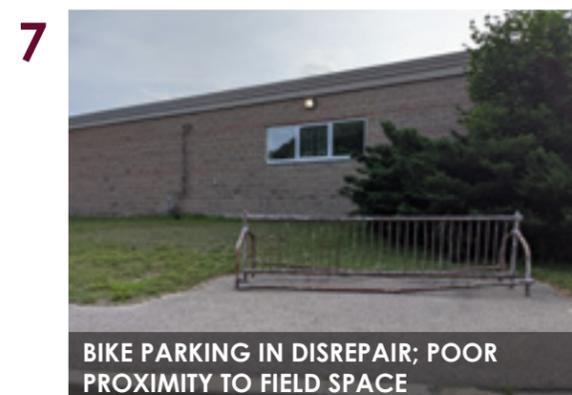
MULCH HAS DEGRADED AT PLAY AREAS



FENCED "TOT LOT"



LACK OF SITE SECURITY; PLAYGROUND DIRECTLY ACCESSIBLE FROM SOUTH MAIN STREET



BIKE PARKING IN DISREPAIR; POOR PROXIMITY TO FIELD SPACE



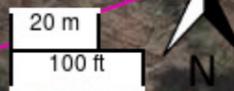
FIELDS GENERALLY IN POOR CONDITION

GIS ANALYSIS | HEIGHTS SCHOOL

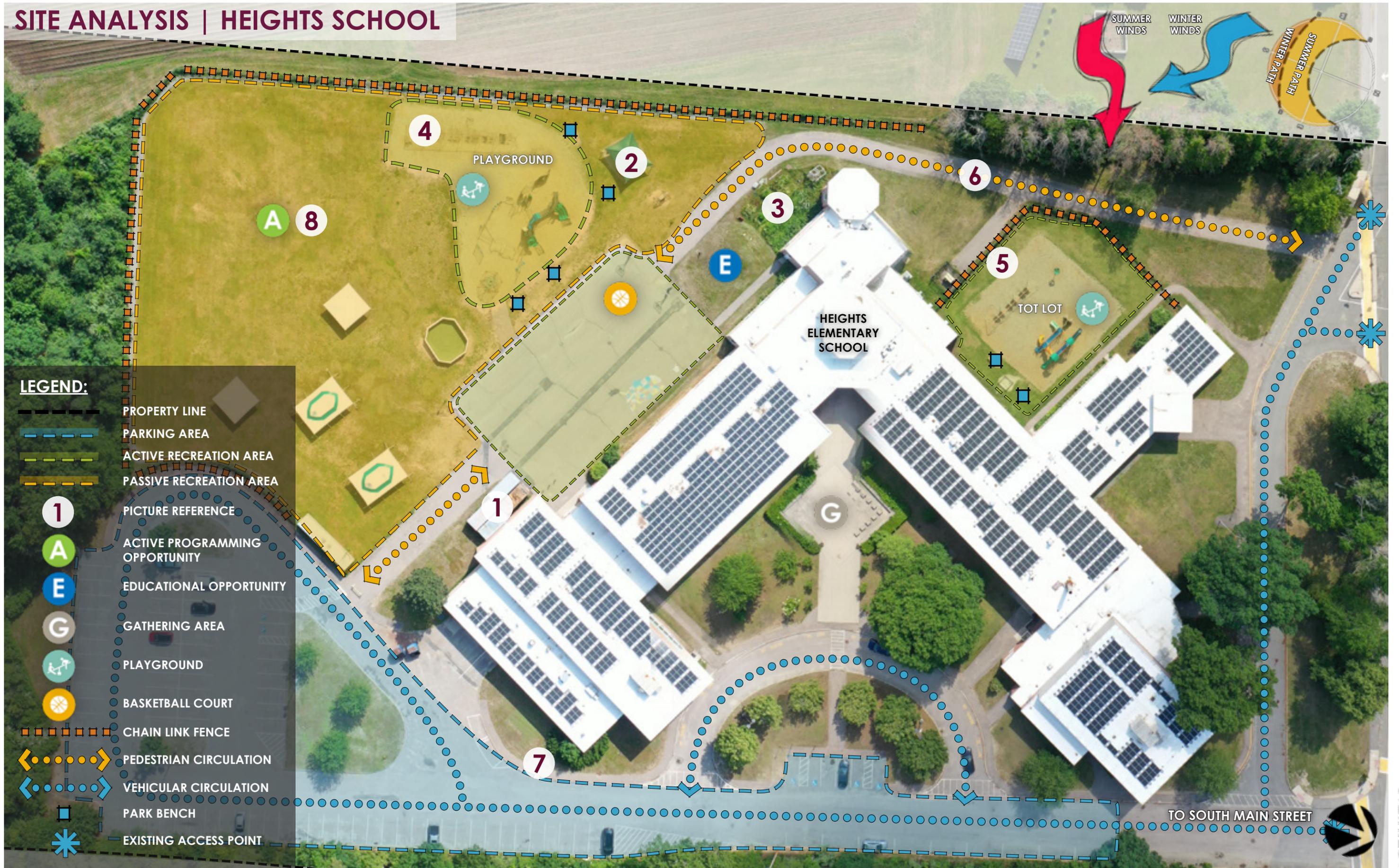


LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - ★ Preservation Restriction
 - ★ Massachusetts Historic Landmark
 - ▲ Local Historic District (LHD)
 - ▼ NRHP/LHD Combination
 - Inventoried Property
- DEP WETLANDS**
 - Shoreline
 - Hydrologic Connection
 - Mean Water Line
 - Apparent Wetland Limit
 - Closure Line
 - Edge of Interpreted Area
- NHESP AREAS**
 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



SITE ANALYSIS | HEIGHTS SCHOOL



- LEGEND:**
- PROPERTY LINE
 - PARKING AREA
 - ACTIVE RECREATION AREA
 - PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
 - PICTURE REFERENCE
 - ACTIVE PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITY
 - EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
 - GATHERING AREA
 - PLAYGROUND
 - BASKETBALL COURT
 - CHAIN LINK FENCE
 - PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
 - VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
 - PARK BENCH
 - EXISTING ACCESS POINT

5.3 | MIDDLE SCHOOL

Address: 75 Mountain Street

Property Size: 22.21 Acres

Zone: Rural District 2; Surface Water Protection District

Parking: 183 Spaces + 7 Accessible Spaces + additional parking lot for buses

Main Uses: Baseball; Cricket; Football; Lacrosse; Soccer; Tennis

Site Overview

Sharon Middle School serves approximately 900 students in grades 6 through 8. The school does not have its own school athletic teams as participation in Sharon's youth sports teams extends to the age of 14, or the 8th grade. The fields at the Middle School are used by Sharon High School sports teams and youth athletic leagues, as well as physical education classes in the middle school.

Sharon Middle School's athletic campus is centered around a multi-use natural grass athletic field surrounded by an asphalt track, named Cosgrove Field in honor of John Cosgrove, the founder of Sharon's Pop Warner football team and a former director of the Sharon Recreation Department. The field is sized to accommodate a full-sized football field and features permanent football goalposts. The field is not fenced and temporary ball netting is provided on portable 10' high frames. Spectator seating is provided at the field on three semi-portable 5-row bleachers and team area seating is provided on the field in the form of a single aluminum bench on each side. Within the track is an asphalt D-area and long jump runways used for track and field events. A discus cage is located some distance from the track at the baseball field, but is overgrown and in disrepair.

The school also has a baseball field on the property. In recent years, as interest in cricket has grown in the region, the outfield was retrofitted with an artificial turf cricket pitch used for youth and adult cricket workshops. The baseball field features a chainlink backstop that is rusted, ripped and overgrown. There is one 5-row bleacher for spectator seating and team area seating is provided within the bullpen and dugout areas. Team benches are in poor condition. Access to the field and spectator seating is via a steeply-pitched unpaved path that is uneven and in poor condition, and is potentially a barrier to accessibility.

A five-court tennis facility with recreational basketball hoops also serves the site. The courts, netting, and perimeter fences are in good condition. Parking on-site is adequate for school use and for games, and bicycle parking is adequate for the site. The field is separated from the parking lot by a wooden guardrail.

Current Site Maintenance

The fields are irrigated with Town water. The fields are mowed 3 times per week and are aerated and seeded 4 times annually. The fields are fertilized through the April to September playing season, as well as treated with pesticides and herbicides. Maintenance of the fields is performed by the Town of Sharon.

General Improvement Considerations

- Limited room for expansion due to proximity of resource areas and limited space.

1



TENNIS COURTS RECENTLY RESURFACED AND IN GOOD CONDITION

2



FIELD DEDICATED TO JACK COSGROVE

3



AMPLE PARKING FOR BICYCLES

4



UNPAVED ACCESS PATH TO BASEBALL FIELDS IS UNEVEN AND TOO STEEP

5



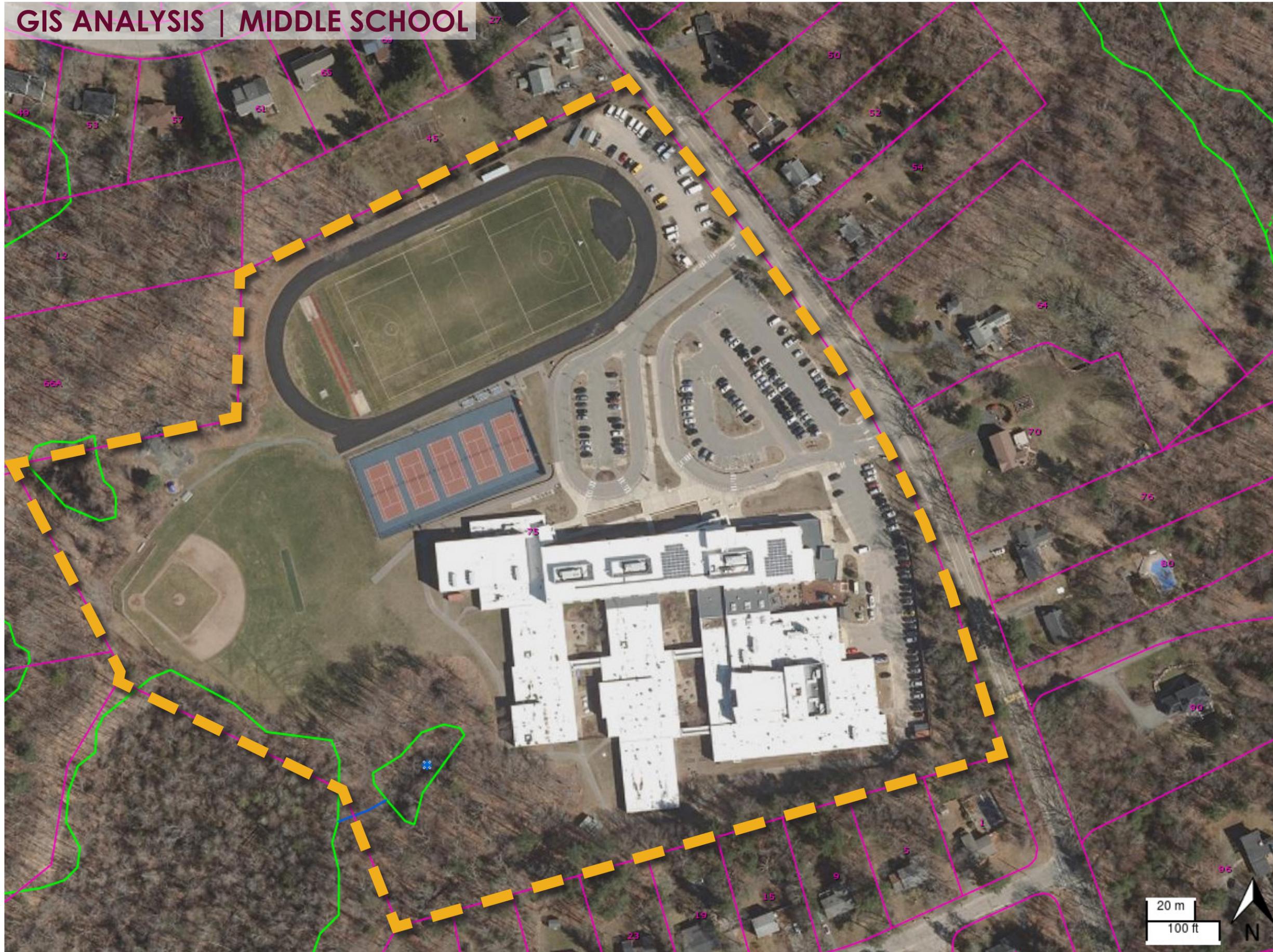
FENCING AT BASEBALL FIELD IS OVERGROWN AND RUSTED, NEEDS REPLACEMENT

6



PORTABLE BALL NETTING SYSTEM IN USE AT ENDLINES

GIS ANALYSIS | MIDDLE SCHOOL



LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
- HISTORIC COMMISSION INVENTORY**
 - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - ★ Preservation Restriction
 - ★ Massachusetts Historic Landmark
 - ▲ Local Historic District (LHD)
 - ▼ NRHP/LHD Combination
 - Inventoried Property
- DEP WETLANDS**
 - Shoreline
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 - NHESP Natural Communities
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 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

SITE ANALYSIS | MIDDLE SCHOOL

LEGEND:

- PROPERTY LINE
- PARKING AREA
- ACTIVE RECREATION AREA
- PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
- 1** PICTURE REFERENCE
- A** ACTIVE PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITY
- ULTIMATE FRISBEE
- FOOTBALL FIELD
- LACROSSE FIELD
- BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD
- CRICKET PITCH
- TRACK
- TENNIS COURT
- CHAIN LINK FENCE
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- PARK BENCH
- MEMORIAL
- EXISTING ACCESS POINT
- GRADE DIFFERENTIAL



5.4 | HIGH SCHOOL

Address: 181 Pond Street
Property Size: 28.5 Acres
Zone: Rural District 2; Surface Water Protection District
Parking: 180 Spaces + 6 Accessible Spaces + 4 Electric Vehicle Spaces
Main Uses: Supports High School Athletic Programming

Site Overview

Sharon High School serves approximately 1,100 students from grades 9 through 12. The school is the home of the Eagles, representing 45+ teams in 18 different sports at the freshman through varsity level.

Prior to an ongoing renovation project breaking ground, the school had on the property a full-sized football field used for multiple field sports, which was fully lit and featured extensive spectator seating at a permanent accessible pressbox building. The school also had an additional field space containing a baseball diamond, softball diamond and a flexible shared-outfield practice space used for youth sports and freshman-level games. The school also had four tennis courts and an additional unprogrammed field used for throwing events. The fields were used by Sharon High School sports teams and youth athletic leagues, as well as physical education classes in the high school.

As part of the renovation, the existing school building will be demolished and parking and sports facilities built in its place. This plan requires the new building to be completed and the existing building to be vacated before construction of new fields can begin. The renovation proposes expanding the tennis facility to five courts and rebuilding the softball and baseball diamonds on separate fields with a flexible outfield practice field associated with each. Construction began in 2020 with the demolition of the softball and baseball field space and the current construction timeline projects that the new fields will be open by Fall 2023.

During this time, practices and games have been required to temporarily relocate to various fields around Sharon. Before the renovation, Sharon High School's fields were heavily used by high school and recreational youth sports teams. It is expected that the additional use of other town fields by Sharon High School teams during the renovation will create excessive strain on fields that were already suffering from overuse. It is imperative that the use of the fields be carefully programmed during this time to mitigate damage from overuse.

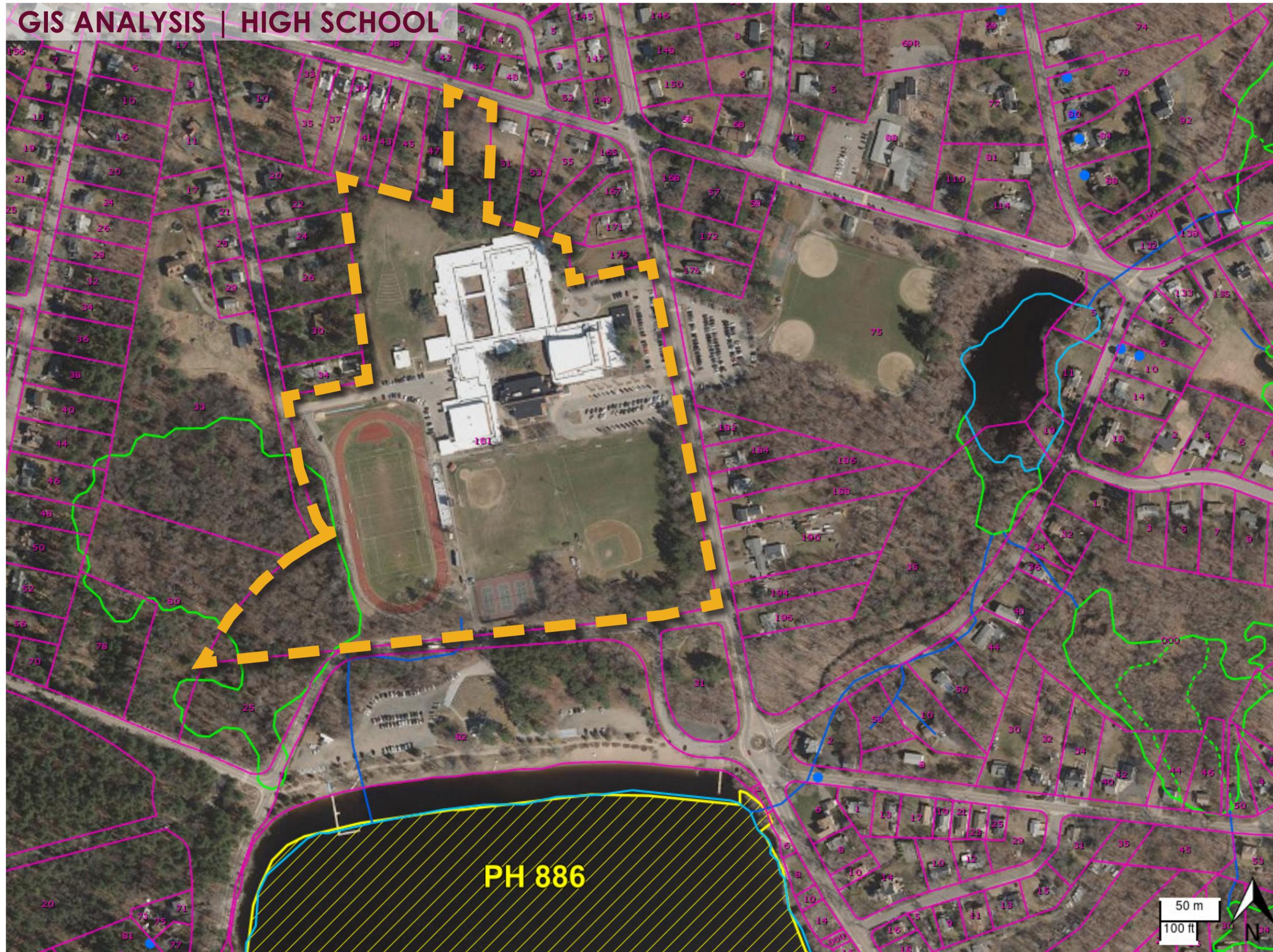
Parking at the site was inadequate for school and game uses even when combined with parking at the Ames Park softball fields across the street, but on-site parking will be expanded during the renovation following the demolition of the old school building. Dedicated parking for team buses is provided at the football field. The new site plan will bring spectator parking closer to the football field, improving accessibility to the field.

General Improvement Considerations

- No recommendations anticipated for this site.

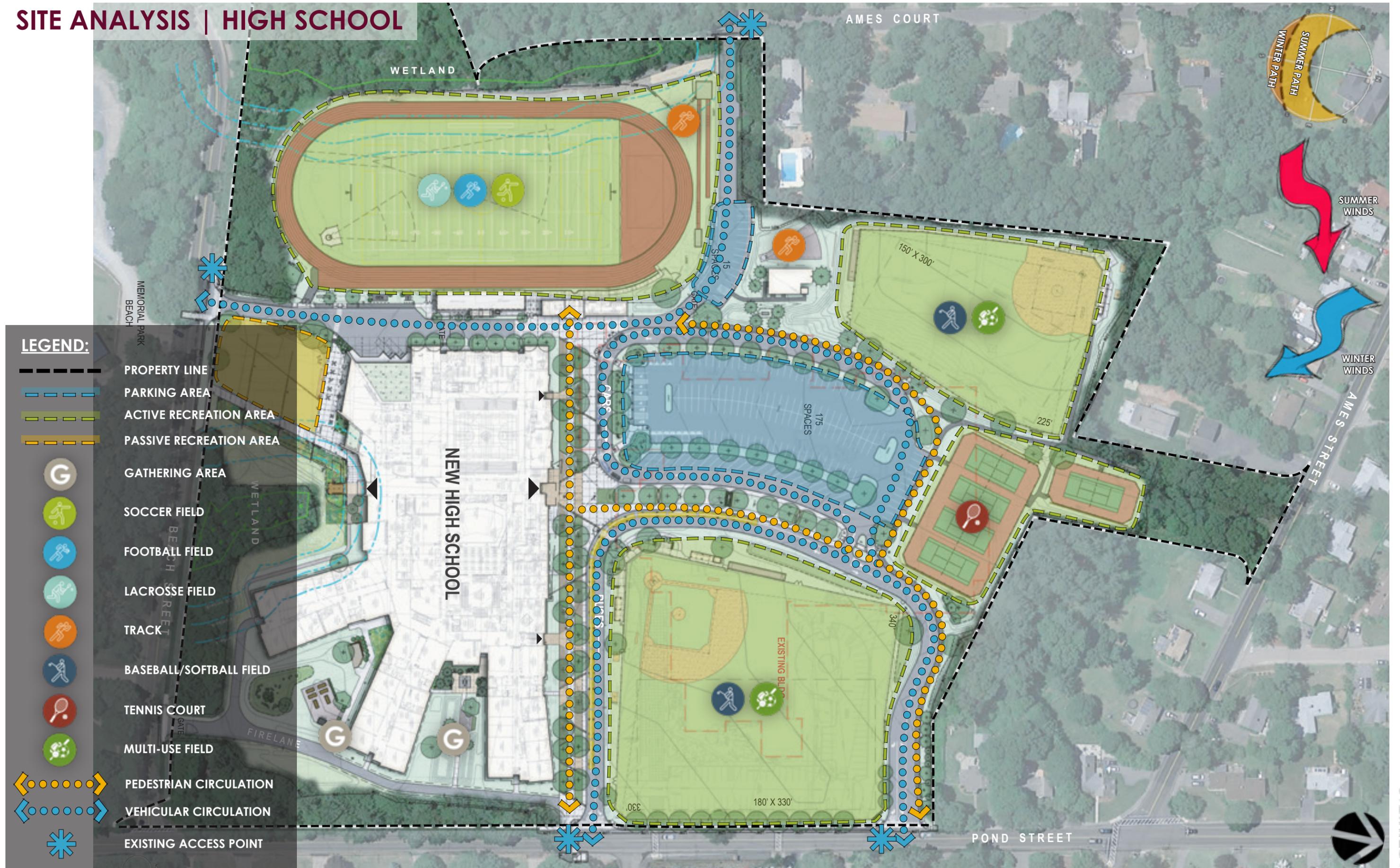


GIS ANALYSIS | HIGH SCHOOL



- LEGEND:**
- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
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 - Other Legal Interest
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 - NHESP AREAS**
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 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

SITE ANALYSIS | HIGH SCHOOL



5.5 | ADDITIONAL SITES SURVEYED

As part of the 2016/2020 report by the New Field Committee, one other parcel was identified for potential field conversion for recreational use. This was not studied as part of this project as 250 East Foxboro Street is controlled by the School Department and development would be a significant cost. While not studied, it could certainly be looked at in the future for multi-purpose field expansion.

250 East Foxboro Street

Address: 250 East Foxborough Street
Property Size: 17.25 Acres
Zone: Single Residence District A; Ground Water Protection District
Parking: None
Current Uses: Raw Forested Land

General Improvement Considerations

- The parcel is owned by the Town of Sharon, but controlled by the School Department.
- The site is considered prime forest land with significant topography that would require significant site development work.



GIS ANALYSIS | 250 EAST FOXBORO STREET



LEGEND:

- OS RESTRICTIONS**
 - Conservation Restriction (CR)
 - Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
 - CR/APR Combination
 - Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)
 - Other Legal Interest
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 - NHESP Natural Communities
 - Priority Habitats of Rare Species
 - ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- PRIME FOREST LAND**
 - Prime 1
 - Prime 2
 - Prime 3
 - Statewide Importance
 - Local Importance
 - Prime 3 Wet
 - Statewide Importance Wet
 - Local Importance Wet
 - Unique Wet