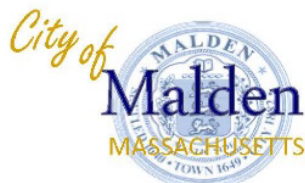




Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art

2026





www.cityofmalden.org

Gary Christenson, Mayor

June 3, 2026

Dear Malden Residents,

I am proud to share Malden's new Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art (OSRP). This plan recognizes the achievements of the 2017 OSRP, integrates the sustainability and resiliency goals of the City's Climate Action Plan and outlines how Malden will direct future investments to nurture our community's parks, open space, conservation land, recreational opportunities, and public art. This plan is the result of a strong public engagement process, which included interviews, focus groups, a survey, and public meetings. The plan ensures that Malden's diverse community needs will be met through inclusive, equitable, and culturally affirming open spaces and programming.

As we plan for the future of our parks and open spaces, we recognize the difficult financial constraints our City is facing. The success of our last OSRP was powered significantly by our ability to secure grants, especially for park improvements. Our new OSRP will help us remain competitive as we continue to seek grant funds for this critical work.

This plan is structured to align with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requirements. With a compliant OSRP, the City will be eligible for state and federal grant aid through EOEEA. Grant programs administered by the EOEEA have provided substantial investments to improve Malden's existing parks and recreation facilities and create new open space along the Malden River. These grants provide the City with critical funding to invest in our open space resources, ensuring we are maximizing the impact of local contributions and other funding sources.

The information gathered from the community through this process, as well as the resources the plan itself unlocks, will ensure that Malden continues to methodically develop and maintain community spaces and events that meet our needs. Some priorities identified, including a need for public water bottle filling stations, have already been implemented, with stations installed at key locations in the City. Malden River Works, the first riverfront park in Malden, will open to the public this summer. Improvements to Roosevelt Park are planned for later this year. We're excited to continue this work.

As noted, Malden residents have played a critical role in this plan's development. We thank our Steering Committee which helped design this plan's strategies and supported

City of Malden, MA

June 3, 2026

Page 2

organizations and residents - more than 1,200 of you - who participated in the interviews, focus groups, survey, and public meetings related to this plan. We could not have crafted this without your valuable input. Finally, we thank the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, which supported the City in this effort.

This Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art ensures that the Malden community can enjoy our recreational resources, physical and social, now and into the future. We're proud to share a plan which will make Malden more comfortable and connected for all residents and generations to come.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2	Overview of Conservation and Recreation Resources... 89
1 Executive Summary	4	Malden's Park and Open Space System 94
2 Introduction.....	6	Malden's Park, Open Space and Recreation Resources Inventory 98
Statement of Purpose	6	Regional Park and Open Space Resources 108
Planning Process and Public Participation.....	7	Open Space Equity..... 112
Environmental Justice Enhanced Outreach.....	11	Malden's Park Improvements 113
3 Community Setting	14	6 Community Vision..... 119
Regional Planning Context	15	Vision Statement for Malden OSRP+Art..... 119
Malden Historic Context	16	Guiding Values 120
Malden Parks and Open Space Resources.....	25	Open Space, Recreation, and Arts Goals 121
Demographic Characteristics	31	7 Needs Analysis..... 122
Growth and Development Patterns	44	Summary of Resource Protection Needs 122
4 Environmental Inventory and Analysis.....	53	Summary of Community Needs..... 126
Environment Overview.....	53	Considerations for Priority Populations..... 131
Water Resources	70	Summary of Management Needs..... 134
Plants and Wildlife	80	Park Prioritization..... 144
Environmental Challenges	84	8 Goals and Objectives..... 149
Environmental Justice and Climate Equity	88	9 Ten Year Action Plan 155
5 Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest.....	89	Goals and Objectives..... 155
		10 Letters of Review..... 168
		11 References..... 173
		Appendices..... 177

TABLE OF MAPS

Map 1. <i>Malden, Massachusetts, in its Regional Context</i>	13
Map 2. <i>Environmental Justice Communities in Malden, 2026</i>	40
Map 3. <i>Malden's Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity, 2025</i>	47
Map 4. <i>Malden's Land Use Zoning, 2024</i>	50
Map 5. <i>Malden's Soils and Topography</i>	58
Map 6. <i>Malden's Scenic Resources</i>	62
Map 7. <i>Malden's Water Resources</i>	71
Map 8. <i>Malden's Projected Future Flood Hazard due to Sea Level Rise by 2050</i>	79
Map 9. <i>Malden's Tree Canopy, Street Trees, Hot Spots and Park Serve Priority Areas</i>	82
Map 10. <i>Malden's Open Spaces by Protection Status</i>	96
Map 11. <i>Malden's Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map</i>	99
Map 12. <i>Malden's Open Space and Recreation Resources by Ownership</i>	107
Map 13. <i>Inventory of Vacant Lands in Malden</i>	124

Executive Summary

The 2026 Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art (Plan) updates Malden's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and has been approved by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). An OSRP offers a roadmap to direct a community's future investments in parks, open spaces, conservation lands, greenways, and recreational amenities. This plan also recognizes the value of arts and culture in community parks and open spaces incorporated through public art, cultural programming, and community events. Building on the efforts from the 2017 OSRP, this plan provides guidance to support future investments in parks, open space, and recreational and cultural resources for the next ten years.

Malden has made significant progress toward the goals of the 2017 OSRP and recently experienced landmark successes, including expanding future access to the Malden River via the attainment of full funding for the Malden River Works Park (MRW), which will create a climate-resilient waterfront park on the Malden River. Additionally,

the City is in the process of acquiring more open space as part of the Malden Hospital Redevelopment project and is looking to a future with more trails, walking paths, and space for passive recreation. In addition to these projects, there are growing aspirations to see more public art throughout Malden and investments in events and celebrations that reflect and represent its cultural diversity.

As these goals are pursued, Malden also has challenges that must be addressed. These include the maintenance of recreational facilities to support the intensive demand for youth and adult sports, coordination of decision-making with the existing parks and open space resources through the creation of a new Parks Commission responsive to community needs, and funding to implement the park master plans. There is great momentum for this work in the City, and this plan renews the City's commitment to ensure Malden's parks and open spaces remain publicly accessible and expand to be more inclusive to all community members.

The community process that informed this plan yielded six goals that anchor the plan around specific actions:



GOAL 1

Protect and preserve Malden's land and water resources for climate resilience.



GOAL 2

Ensure consistent maintenance plans and management policies to steward open space, recreational facilities and trails.



GOAL 3

Enhance and upgrade Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities with structural amenities to improve community experiences.



GOAL 4

Improve and expand access to parks, greenways, open spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural resources for all.



GOAL 5

Provide inclusive cultural and recreational programming that celebrates and reflects Malden's rich diversity.



GOAL 6

Build awareness, outreach, and education about existing parks, recreation, and local resources.

Introduction

Statement of Purpose

This document builds on Malden's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan. This Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art will guide the City of Malden's decision-making on open space and recreational resources, outdoor arts and cultural priorities for those resources, and financial investments for the next ten years. The Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art maps out key focus areas for parks, recreation, open space, and cultural resources to ensure that Malden's diverse community needs are met through inclusive, equitable, and culturally affirming spaces and programming. Guided by community voices shared through storytelling, conversations, survey responses, focus groups, and community forums, this Plan used a multi-faceted public process to identify community goals and actions that address Malden's most pressing needs and concerns around recreation and open space.

This 2026 Plan is structured to align with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requirements and guidelines. It was approved by those organizations as of [date]. With an approved Open Space

and Recreation Plan, the City will be eligible for state and federal grant aid through EOEEA. Grant programs administered by the EOEEA have provided substantial investments to update and improve Malden's existing parks and recreation facilities, and created new open space along the Malden River.

What is open space?

Open space is undeveloped land, usually without buildings or structures, and typically accessible to the public. There are generally two categories of open space: conservation land and recreation resources.

Conservation land is usually preserved in its natural state and is often, but not always, open to the public. Conservation lands may include animal and plant habitats, water resources including aquifer protection areas, and other natural, historical, or cultural features.

Recreation resources involve the use of space for specific activities. Active recreation includes team and individual sports using developed facilities. Passive recreation is any outdoor activity that brings minimal disturbance to an area's natural resources. Informal sports activities on an

open field are considered passive activities. Conservation lands can offer passive recreation opportunities.

This plan documents all forms of open space, including conservation lands, active and passive recreation areas, and cemeteries that serve as historical/cultural resources. Chapter 5 contains the inventory of Malden's recreation and open space resources.

What arts and culture elements are included in this plan?

In the past decade, Malden has made strides in its investments in arts and increasing the representation of local culture in the City's open spaces and parks. This Plan includes arts and culture considerations as part of its structure, engagement process, and recommendations for future investments.

Planning Process and Public Participation

Planning Process

The planning process was led by MAPC as a consultant to the City of Malden, with additional consultant services for a Climate Resilience Assessment on prioritized open space resources provided by Shadley Associates. The MAPC project team included staff with expertise in open space planning, arts and culture, and community engagement. The process was guided by a Steering Committee made up of community members, including city officials and residents appointed by Mayor Gary Christenson. The MAPC project team worked closely with staff in the Malden Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)

to coordinate the Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art process.

Open Space and Recreation Steering Committee (Steering Committee)

- Karen Buck, Malden River Works/Friends of the Malden River
- Karen Colón-Hayes, Malden City Councillor At Large
- Darren (DJ) Josey, Malden Great Outdoors
- Daniel Koff, Community Preservation Committee
- Laura Perez, Recreation Department
- Alex Pratt, Director of OSPCD
- Ari Taylor, Malden Ward 5 City Councillor
- Edward Rocha, Resident
- Julie Turner, Pop Warner Sports

Starting in May 2024, the Open Space and Recreation Steering Committee met monthly to guide the development of the Plan through March 2025, with a total of ten meetings. Each member of the Steering Committee brought a unique perspective relating to parks, open space, recreation, and arts and culture. The Steering Committee reviewed the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan and other studies, plans, and reports regarding open space. In partnership with Malden City staff and MAPC, the Steering Committee identified core stakeholder groups through asset mapping, supported the development of engagement

materials, led outreach and engagement efforts, and drafted the vision, values, goals, and actions for the Plan.

Community Engagement Process

To inform and guide the Steering Committee's approach to community engagement and ensure that the Plan would reflect community needs, MAPC developed a comprehensive engagement strategy with input from the City of Malden and the Steering Committee. The goals of the strategy were the following:

- **Inform** all residents about the significance of an Open Space Recreation Plan + Art and its impact on the City of Malden;
- **Engage** a diverse range of residents, especially historically excluded groups, in the planning process;
- **Understand** residents' needs and vision for Malden's open spaces, recreation, arts, and culture.

The strategy included three overarching elements:

- Engaging municipal staff and the Steering Committee,
- Engaging with organizations, and
- Targeted community engagement to reach priority populations.

Municipal Staff and Leadership: Municipal staff and Steering Committee members identified organizations, community leaders, and community partners to engage in

the planning process. MAPC led the Steering Committee through an asset mapping exercise to identify community partners, particularly youth, seniors, immigrant communities, and art-focused residents. Asset mapping is a strength-based approach that starts with what is working in the community rather than starting with the needs or what is wrong with a community. The intent of the asset mapping exercise was to identify initial contacts for community leaders and organizations. With ten participants in the exercise, this process generated a list of more than sixty (60) organizations and individuals to engage in the process.

Organizational Engagement: MAPC connected with community organizations, faith-based groups, and residents. The organizational engagement aimed to understand community priorities, learn about the work of local organizations, gauge organizations' interest in the project, and brainstorm collaboration opportunities.

Targeted Engagement: MAPC conducted extensive research to understand the needs of specific stakeholders, including, but not limited to, youth, seniors, immigrant communities, and art-focused residents. Through stakeholder mapping, the MAPC project team identified priority populations for engagement, including Environmental Justice (EJ) communities for focus groups and outreach. MAPC analyzed community feedback throughout

the process to ensure that feedback included as many voices in the community as possible.

Public Participation

MAPC developed multiple engagement opportunities and made efforts to connect and engage with diverse and representative community members throughout the planning process. Engagement included one-on-one interviews with local stakeholders and municipal staff, two community meetings, a community-wide survey, an exercise to collect stories from leaders of community-based organizations, four focus groups, and additional engagement events. Engagement was supported by the Malden OSRP+Art website, hosted by the City of Malden. The website shared the project timeline, materials, and engagement event information and recordings. Through these opportunities, the City of Malden exceeded its goal of engaging at least one thousand (1,000) residents in the planning process.

One-on-One Interviews

The official public kick-off for the planning process was informed by a series of one-on-one conversations led by MAPC to build relationships and initiate partnerships to create lasting change. MAPC conducted twelve (12) interviews with community leaders and community organizations to learn about their interests and the events they host. These conversations established a structure for community partnerships throughout the project

Community Meetings

The first community meeting for the Plan was hosted on

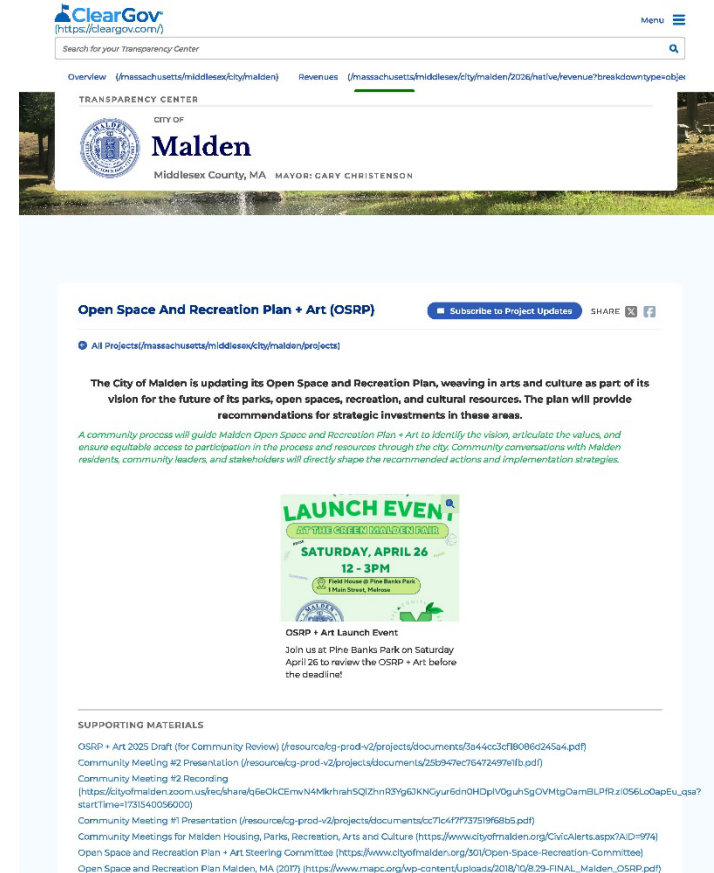


Figure 1. Malden OSRP + Art Website screenshot advertising final launch event on April 26, 2025.

Thursday, June 13, 2024, from 6-8 PM at Malden City Hall. This meeting engaged community members through conversations around poster boards and discussions facilitated by Steering Committee members and community volunteers. Approximately fifty (50) community participants

attended the meeting. A summary of the comments generated through these discussions is in Chapter 7.

The meeting was advertised through the City of Malden's social media and website and published in the *Malden Advocate*. Steering Committee members and community services organizations distributed digital and printed flyers translated into Amharic, Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

A second community meeting, held at the Mystic Valley YMCA in Malden on November 13, 2024, offered a hybrid format with a presentation and asynchronous engagement for those attending virtually. The meeting recording, with interpretation in Portuguese and Cantonese, was posted on the OSRP+Art website following the event. Attendees could give direct feedback on the draft vision, values, and goals for the Plan and share their stories about Malden's parks and open space. In total, there were thirty (30) attendees, seventeen (17) in person and thirteen (13) online.

Survey

A community survey, open for three months between August and October 2024, collected 1,289 quality-checked responses (after removing 10 duplicates and 11 bot responses). The survey was available in eight languages: Amharic, Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, English, Haitian Creole, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The survey collected eighty-four (84) responses in languages other than English, most commonly in Simplified Chinese.

The survey was advertised through the City of Malden's social media and website, through community partners, and shared throughout local networks. Paper flyers (also translated into the respective languages) were distributed at events including the Tuesday Night Concert Series at City Hall, Learn to Ride event along the Northern Strand Community Trail, Fall Public Safety Day, Malden Community Connection Day, and the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. In addition, the survey was provided directly to community organizations that serve limited-English speaking populations.

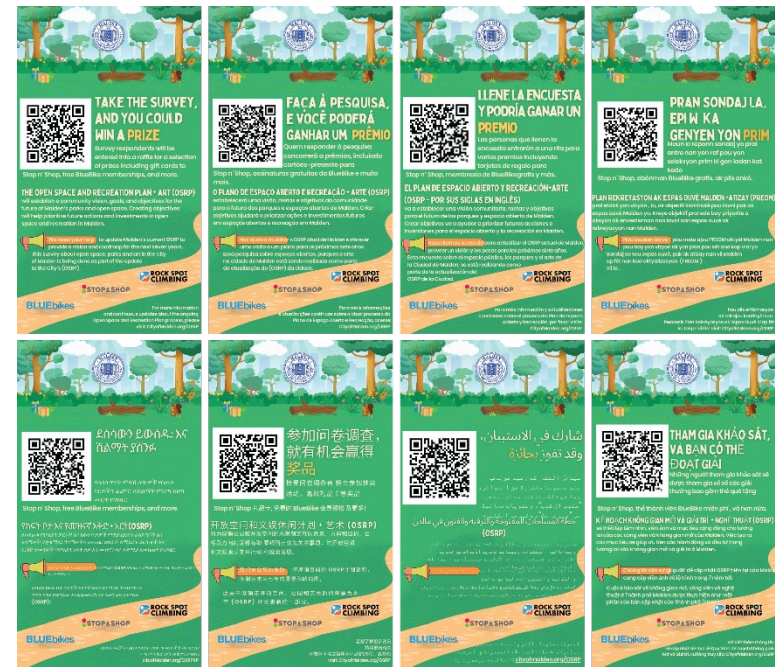


Figure 2. Flyer advertising Malden OSRP + Art survey in eight languages.

Focus Groups and Additional Engagement

MAPC conducted focus groups in February and March of 2025. Focus groups reached forty (40) participants across meetings with the Malden Youth Council, the Arts and Culture Committee, elders at the Senior Center during a Lunar New Year Celebration and students at the Immigrant Learning Center. Focus group conversations built off the survey findings and concentrated on improving access to Malden's parks and open spaces, supporting a stronger sense of belonging and ownership of spaces, and providing guidance on future investments in the arts. Summaries and analysis of these focus groups are reflected in the Community Needs Section of Chapter 7 and documented in Appendix A.

In addition, MAPC and Steering Committee members sought ways to engage in community events and other activities to expand opportunities for community members to inform the Plan's goals for open space, parks, recreation, and cultural programs. Examples include attending the 2024 Juneteenth event at the Ferryway K-8 School and following up on MAPC's initial one-on-one conversations with residents and community organizations. Steering Committee members also met with participants in the Teen Gardening Club, youth basketball and other youth sports programming.

Municipal Interviews

MAPC conducted eleven (11) interviews with municipal staff who support the operation, activation, and development of parks and open spaces in Malden. Findings from these

interviews informed the Management Needs Section of Chapter 7.

Environmental Justice Enhanced Outreach

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and other state agencies have been implementing an Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy since 2002 to help ensure that all Massachusetts residents experience equal protection and meaningful involvement concerning the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This policy is the result of the Commonwealth's recognition that low-to-moderate income residents in densely populated older industrial areas often lack open space and recreation resources and may live near old, abandoned, and/or contaminated sites that can pose risks to public health and the environment.

Environmental justice is an integral consideration in all EOEEA programs, to the extent applicable and allowable by law. The Environmental Justice Executive Order No. 552 requires Secretariats to take action in promoting environmental justice. The Executive Order requires new environmental justice strategies that promote positive impacts in EJ communities.

For example, EOEEA has now amended its Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) and Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) regulations to incorporate EJ into the award scoring system. Similarly,

the Riverways and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust will work with EOEEA to develop systems for integrating environmental justice as a criterion for awarding grants. EOEEA also has targeted its resources to more effectively create, restore, and maintain open spaces in neighborhoods where EJ populations reside.

In the Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art planning process, MAPC concentrated on enhancing outreach and connecting with EJ populations. This effort began with asset mapping and identifying community partners and service-providing organizations. Language access, understood as central to equitable participation and civic belonging, was a goal of the project. Access was provided through a survey shared in eight languages (Amharic, Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, English, Haitian Creole, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese), and through flyers and advertisements in the most commonly used languages used in the city. Interpretation services were a priority for both community meetings and were available for Portuguese and Cantonese speakers.

Other strategies used to enhance the participation of EJ populations included collaborating with culturally focused community-based organizations to help inform residents and make them aware of the project and its timeline and focus groups for seniors, youth, and non-English speaking populations. Future processes may benefit from shared leadership with community-based organizations to deepen engagement.

3

Community Setting

The City of Malden is an urban core community on the north side of the Mystic River in eastern Massachusetts in Middlesex County. The city sits five miles northwest of Boston and is bordered by Everett on the south, Medford on the west, Melrose on the north, Revere on the east, Saugus on the northeast, and Stoneham on the northwest.

The City of Malden is approximately 5.1 square miles or 3,264 acres, with 12,993 people per square mile. It is served by regional transit along the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Orange Line, Commuter Rail, and multiple bus routes, which provide convenient access to Downtown Boston and Boston's Logan International Airport. Major roadways such as Route 1, Route 16, Route 60, Route 128, and Interstate 93 connect Malden to regional amenities.

The City of Malden spans two coastal watersheds: the Mystic River Watershed (part of the Boston Harbor Watershed) in the west and the Northern Coastal Watershed in the east, which stretches up the coast from Revere to Cape Ann. Malden's most prominent water

feature is the Malden River, which is part of the Mystic River Watershed and extends 2.3 miles north from the Mystic River, bordering Medford and Everett. The river extends 0.7 miles along its banks into Malden and terminates just south of Charles Street, where it is culverted below ground. Originally brackish and surrounded by salt marshes, the Malden River is now a freshwater river due to the Amelia Earhart Dam in Everett. Two other brooks in Malden are part of the Northern Coastal Watershed. Town Line Brook and Linden Brook connect to the [Rumney Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern](#), encompassing "1000 acres of highly productive saltmarsh, tidal flats, and shallow subtidal channels" according to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Town Line Brook Channel was designated to carry runoff to the ocean via tide gates and protect neighborhoods in Everett, Revere, and southeast Malden from storm surge flooding and sea level rise.

The Middlesex Fells Reservation, which includes the northwest corner of Malden, is a regional open space and

recreation destination preserved and managed by DCR. The Reservation contains Boojum Rock, the city's highest point, at an elevation of 275 feet.

Regional Planning Context

Regional Planning Entities

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Malden is served by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, greater Boston's regional planning agency. Created in 1963 by an Act of the Legislature, MAPC is one of thirteen regional planning agencies in Massachusetts. MAPC works with member communities to support smart growth and regional collaboration in projects related to housing, transportation, land use, economic development, public health, and arts and culture. The agency is guided by its regional land use and policy plan, [MetroCommon 2050](#), which outlines ways the Boston region can become more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable. Adopted in 2021, the plan includes five action areas that organize recommendations, strategies, and policy actions, and is available online at <https://metrocommon.mapc.org/>. Malden is a member of MAPC's Inner Core Committee (ICC.), one of eight MAPC subregions. The Committee includes Malden and nineteen neighboring communities surrounding the urban core. The ICC meets regularly to discuss common interests, regional planning issues, and opportunities. The ICC is a forum where Malden shares and learns from other communities' experiences while working with neighboring municipalities to achieve regional open

space goals, including goals for the Northern Strand Community Trail and the Malden River Greenway.

Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)

As a steward of the Mystic River, the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) works with twenty-one (21) communities connected to the watershed. In 2017, MyRWA partnered with cities, local developers, businesses, community groups, and residents to create the Malden River Greenway Vision, a comprehensive vision for vibrant and connected parklands along the river. Utile, a design consultant, developed a master plan and recommendations for new parks, paths, and boating amenities along the Malden River. The resulting partnership among Everett, Malden, Medford, and local community groups, has positioned the Malden River to become a shared open space amenity for all three cities with new paths and park improvements.

Mystic Valley Development Corporation (MVDC)

The Mystic Valley Development Corporation formed as a partnership among the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Everett, Malden, and Medford in the 1990s to manage the River's Edge project (formerly Telecom City) and its designated developers. The Malden Redevelopment Authority, now Malden's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, continues to serve as the project manager. River's Edge is a residential and commercial development along the Malden River, developed on three adjoining brownfield sites in the three cities. Today, River's Edge boasts a 10-acre riverfront park with 1/3 mile of

frontage and two acres of wetlands along the Malden River.

Malden Historic Context

Malden's history—like that of most American cities—is layered, complex, and rooted in a shared landscape shaped by both resilience and struggle. This section aims to honor the breadth of that story: Indigenous stewardship, colonial transformation, immigrant labor, and the continuing evolution of community. The land now called Malden, Massachusetts, is part of the traditional territory of the Pennacook people, who have inhabited this region since time immemorial. Epidemics severely impacted the Pennacook population throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. While the Pennacook as a distinct tribal entity no longer exist, their legacy and descendants remain integral to New England's Indigenous history and contemporary communities.

English Puritans gained control of this land in 1629 through a process often described in colonial records as a "purchase." However, the context of devastating epidemics and immense cultural upheaval significantly diminished the Pennacook's ability to resist colonial encroachment. In 1639, additional land was granted by a prominent female Indigenous leader known in colonial records as Squaw Sachem of Mistick—a title now recognized as a colonial

mischaracterization—amid increasing colonial pressure and rapidly changing circumstances for Indigenous communities. Puritans settled in that area in 1640.¹ It was the same year that Thomas Coytemore established the grist mill which was Malden's earliest center of commerce.

The area was known as "Mistick Side" for its location north of the Mystic River and was part of Charlestown's common lands before becoming a separate settlement. Early European development in the area included the construction of the aforementioned grist mill by the pond in Malden Square on Three Mile Brook, which was later renamed Spy Pond Brook. The early Puritan settlers accessed the area by boat, traveling up the Malden River and landing at a place called Sandy Beach.²

On May 2, 1649, Malden was incorporated as a separate town, "Mauldeon," including 40 inhabitants and named after Maldon, England, chosen by early settler and landowner Joseph Hills. Hills compiled the first code of enacted laws printed in New England. Early residents included farmers, craftsmen, woodsmen, and builders. At that time, Malden originally included the land of the adjacent cities of Melrose and Everett until 1850 and 1870, respectively, as well as towns Reading and

¹ Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, "Malden," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://freedomsway.org/staging/6553/communities/malden/>; Arlington Historical Society, "Queen of the Mystic: Squaw Sachem,"

accessed April 27, 2026, <https://arlingtonhistorical.org/queen-of-the-mystic-squaw-sachem/>

² Friends of the Malden River, "Malden," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://maldenriver.wordpress.com/malden/>

Stoneham. In 1727, all of New England experienced a major earthquake, and in the mid-1730s, diphtheria also claimed the lives of many Malden residents.³

As early as 1653, records show evidence of enslaved individuals in the community, including a court case where Job Lane's servant was punished for running away, demonstrating an act of resistance to the institution of slavery.⁴ While difficult, understanding this history deepens our collective knowledge of how systemic inequity was embedded early in local land and labor systems. Enslaved community members actively shaped Malden's growth and economy. By the mid-1700s, their significant impact was evident through frequent mentions in wills and inventories, which, while dehumanizing in their appraisal, unintentionally highlighted their essential contributions. In the 1742 inventory of Deacon John Pratt, an elderly enslaved man was valued the same as a cow, underscoring both the harsh realities they faced and the depth of their involvement in the town's development. By 1764-1765, there were forty-eight Black individuals in Malden, many enslaved, reflecting the height of slavery in Massachusetts.⁵ Slavery was not outlawed in Massachusetts until after the Revolutionary War in 1783.

During the American Revolution, Malden's population was about 1,000, and residents were known for their early

³ Friends of the Malden River, "Malden."

⁴ Deloraine Pendre Corey, *The History of Malden, Massachusetts, 1633-1785* (Malden, MA: self-published, 1899), <https://archive.org/details/historymaldenma00coregoog>; "1754 Massachusetts Slave Census: Malden," Primary Research, accessed

Males		Females	
16	5		
Total 21			

Malden Slave Census of 1754
 For the support of Malden
 J. Wait
 J. Wait

Figure 3. 1754 Slave Census for Malden: 16 enslaved males and 5 females, not including children.

resistance to British rule. In May 1776, Malden was the first town to petition the colonial government to withdraw from the British Empire, which predated the Declaration of Independence written in July.⁶ In 2024, the City of Malden unveiled a new memorial in Bell Rock Cemetery to Revolutionary War Memorials Malden residents, honoring

April 27, 2026, <https://primaryresearch.org/slave-census/?town=malden&county=>

⁵ Corey, *History of Malden*.

⁶ City of Malden, "Malden Town Instructions," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://www.cityofmalden.org/690/Malden-Town-Instructions>

twelve Black soldiers who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Following the Revolutionary War in the late 1780s, Medford shipwright Lemuel Cox built two bridges across the Charles and Mystic Rivers.⁷ These bridges brought Malden much closer to Boston and supported the expansion of local industries. In the early 1800s, two notable businesses started utilizing waterpower along the Spot Pond Brook. In 1804, William Barrett opened a silk-dyeing business, which before 1850 was Malden's single largest employer and remained in business until 1882. Two years later, in 1806, Thomas Odiorne opened a cut nail factory neighboring the Barrett dye house, which remained in operation until 1838. These two businesses collaborated to build a shared canal along the Malden River in 1817, requiring approval from the Malden Town Meeting. The approved agreement reflected early concern for environmental conservation in that it required construction not to impede the river's alewife fish population from traveling up Spot Pond Brook to spawn.⁸ Other businesses active in the 1800s included Robinson Brothers & Company, soap manufacturers, the Malden & Melrose Gas Light Company, Gould's Herb Factory, and several blacksmith shops.⁹

⁷ Caroline E. MacGill and Balthasar H. Meyer, eds., *History of Transportation in the United States before 1860* (Washington, DC: Carnegie Institution, 1948), 39.
<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.224433/mode/2up>

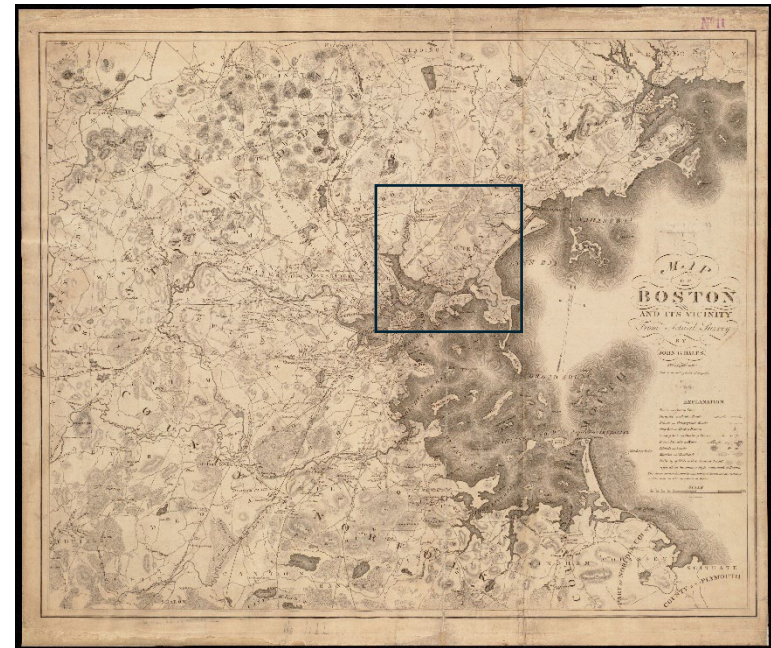


Figure 4. Map of Boston and its vicinity from actual surveys, 1833, by John Groves Hales ; Edwin Gillingham sc.. View close-up of framed area in Figure 5.

⁸ Linda Jean Thorsen, *The Merchants' Manufacturer: The Barrett Family's Dyeing Businesses in Massachusetts and New York, 1790–1850* (master's thesis, Harvard University Extension School, 2015).

⁹ Friends of the Malden River, "Malden."



Figure 5. Section of Map of Boston and its vicinity, 1833, showing Malden River and salt marshes, Spot Pond Brook, Malden Bridge, Dye House and Nail Factory.

Massachusetts outlawed slavery in 1783, and throughout the 19th century, greater Boston, particularly the North Shore, was a hub for the anti-slavery and abolitionist movements. This included the Malden Anti-Slavery Society founded in 1836.¹⁰ Malden was home to several notable

residents involved in the anti-slavery movement, including Lucretia Crocker, prominent abolitionist and women's rights advocate; Abrahm Fogg, who worked closely with William Lloyd Garrison, editor of *The Liberator*, and frequently hosted abolitionist gatherings in his home; and John Pierpont, a Unitarian minister who was a vocal critic of slavery, which ultimately led to a controversy in his congregation.¹¹ There were several incidents and protests around the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Acts for people who sought refuge from slavery in Malden. However, the United States did not end slavery until after the Civil War (1861-1865) and with the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

In the second half of the 19th century, Malden's population grew significantly as its industry expanded. The population grew from 3,250 people in 1850 to 24,626 people in 1890, which doubled again by 1900. This growth was aided by the construction of the Boston & Maine (B&M) Railroad and the Malden Canal project of 1845, which dramatically altered the geometry of the Malden River to allow barge traffic to reach Malden's industries. The canal project straightened, dredged, and filled in portions of the serpentine river (as seen in Figure 5). The resulting increase in barge traffic up the Malden River allowed coal storage yards, lumber companies, leather tanning, coal gasification, metal finishing, and textile and chemical manufacturing to

¹⁰ Malden Historical Society, "Did You Know?," section "Malden and Anti-Slavery," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://www.maldenhistoricalsociety.org/did-you-know/>

¹¹ Malden Historical Society, "Did You Know?," section "Malden and Anti-Slavery."

proliferate.¹² Civic and transportation infrastructure followed this industrial growth. By 1858, Malden had constructed a Town Hall at the corner of Main Street and Pleasant Street and established its first horse-drawn street railway, connecting Malden to Haymarket Square.¹⁴ The Town Hall became Malden's City Hall in 1882 and served as a center of Malden's government and community activity until 1975.¹³



Figure 6. Malden Pearl Street Station, circa 1906.

By 1873, Malden had two hundred eighty seven (287) manufacturing firms, and these firms employed many

¹² Friends of the Malden River, "Malden."

¹³ Library of Congress, *Malden Town Hall, Main & Pleasant Streets, Malden, Middlesex County, MA, Old City Hall*, Photograph 7, HABS

immigrants during the 19th and 20th centuries. Most famously, Elisha Slade Converse and his brother James W. Converse established the Boston Rubber Shoe Company in 1853 with its first headquarters in Boston and its first factory in Malden. This company became the world's largest manufacturer of rubber boots, shoes, and overshoes. Expanding to meet demand, the Boston Rubber Shoe Company opened a second factory in Melrose between the hills of Pine Banks and the Middlesex Fells. At its height, the company employed 3,500 people at factories in Malden and Melrose. Elisha's cousin, Marquis Converse, launched the Converse Rubber Shoe Company in 1908. The Converse Rubber Factory was in the Edgeworth neighborhood at the bottom of Pearl Street, home to the Converse "All-Star" Basketball Sneakers, and remained a local employer despite changing ownership. The factory remained in Malden until its final closure in 2001.¹⁴

Beyond the rubber shoe industry, Malden was home to many successful business ventures that manufactured products including shoe lasts, coal tar, linen fire hoses, and

MA-300, Historic American Buildings Survey, accessed April 27, 2026, <https://www.loc.gov/item/ma0300/>

¹⁴ Converse Family, "Boston Rubber Shoe Company," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://conversefamily.com/boston-rubber-shoe-company>

many others.¹⁵ Other notable residents of that time included Timothy Bailey, a tinsmith from Roxbury, who founded the first bank in Malden in 1833 out of his home at 20 Madison Street. That bank eventually relocated to the First National Bank building at the corner of Pleasant and Middlesex Streets. Designed in 1901, the bank remains open and active in downtown Malden today.¹⁶ Albert Davenport, the famous furniture designer and manufacturer, grew up in Malden and ran one of the country's most successful all-purpose design firms, including notable designs such as the 1902 White House renovation.¹⁷

The Converse family were instrumental in establishing many of Malden's public institutions and open spaces. Elisha Slade Converse, of the Boston Rubber Shoe Company, was a well-known civic leader and philanthropist in Malden. On March 31, 1882, Malden was incorporated as a city, and Elisha Converse was elected as the first mayor. Elisha and his wife, Mary, commissioned famed architect Henry Hobson Richardson, architect of Trinity Church in Boston, to design the Converse Memorial Building as a new home for the Malden Public Library, formerly located inside Malden Town Hall. The building was designed as a memorial to their son, Frank Eugene Converse, who was murdered at age 17 while working as a cashier at his father's bank in

¹⁵ Friends of the Malden River, "Malden."

¹⁶ Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System*, Inventory No. MAL.4, "Bailey, Timothy House" (1976); Inventory No. MAL.241, "Malden First National Bank" (2002).

¹⁷ Historic New England, "[Artifact record GUSN 293714]," accessed April 27, 2026,

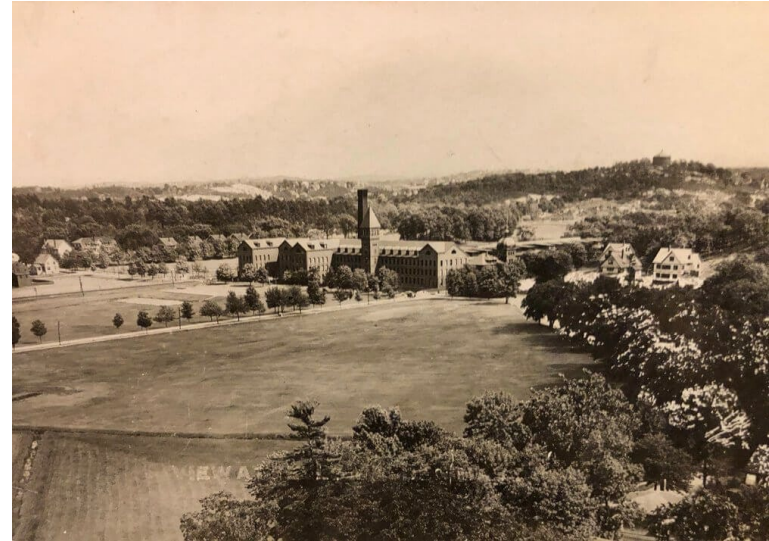


Figure 7. *Boston Rubber Shoe Factory, Malden, MA, circa 1900.*

1863. The family also established important parks in Malden. After a fire destroyed the Boston Rubber Shoe Company's Malden site, Converse constructed a reservoir out of swampland for future fire emergencies and eventually donated the land to Malden. This became Fellsmere Park.¹⁸ The Converse family also donated land for Malden Hospital, and Elisha bequeathed Pine Banks Park to both Malden and Melrose in his will after passing in 1904.¹⁹

<https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/293714>

¹⁸ Converse Family, "Boston Rubber Shoe Company."

¹⁹ Converse Family, "Boston Rubber Shoe Company."

By 1922, the population reached 49,103, and the city's neighborhoods were taking shape, reflecting Malden's social and economic classes. As businessmen made their fortunes and built grand houses on Belmont Hill and West End, Malden welcomed many recent immigrants who worked in the factories or started small businesses in other neighborhoods. Neighborhoods formed around ethnic enclaves, including Maplewood's Scandinavian community, Edgeworth's Irish and Italian communities, and Suffolk Square's Jewish community. Malden's Irish and Italian immigrants arrived in the mid to late 1800s and found jobs in local manufacturing. Malden's growing Jewish population initially immigrated from central Europe, then Russia and Lithuania at the turn of the century, and many sought greater opportunity and security during the World Wars.²⁰

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) was established in 1933 as part of the New Deal to refinance mortgages in default and prevent foreclosures. HOLC assessed the risk to mortgage lenders using a grading system based on neighborhood housing stock and demographic characteristics and encoded these assessments in maps. Between 1935 and 1940, Malden's neighborhoods were graded for "residential security," indicating the level of risk for banks, savings and loans, and other public and private lenders that made mortgages. Neighborhood grades were paired with an "area description" of housing stock and residents. If

residents were African American, or to a lesser extent, immigrants or Jewish, HOLC deemed them as a threat to the stability of home values and the neighborhood was given a "D" grade, coded with the color red. This practice of redlining was legal and used for decades, limiting access to loans and therefore homeownership in ways that continue to affect the wealth and health of immigrant, black, indigenous populations and communities of color today.²¹

Figure 8. Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) map of communities north of Boston, 1938.

Excerpts from the HOLC area descriptions offer characterizations of the Edgeworth neighborhood in the city's southwest corner, encompassing the industrial zone that surrounds the Malden River and today is bordered by the Orange Line extension to the east. This neighborhood was home to Malden's Italian American community. It was noted to have "strong Catholic influence with parochial schools," and

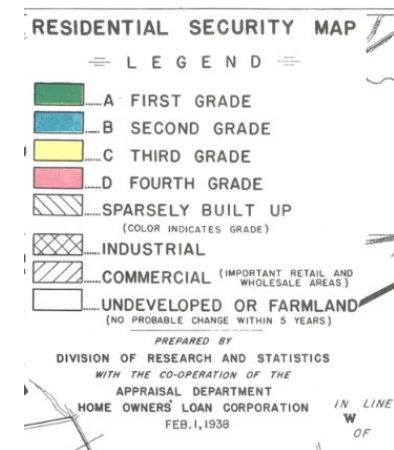


Figure 9. Legend for 1938 HOLC map shown in Figure 8.

²⁰ Beth Israel Congregation of Malden, "About," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://bethisraelmalden.org/about/>

²¹ Digital Scholarship Lab, *Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America*, directed by Robert K. Nelson, accessed April 27, 2026, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/>

continues to celebrate the Feast of St. Rocco every August since 1929. Worker housing was developed in the nineteenth-century, some of which remains along Hubbard Street. The Converse Rubber Factory was also in the southern part of this neighborhood. The HOLC maps also note an increase of the "Negro population" around Sherman Street starting in the summer of 1937.²²

The map also includes brief characterizations of the Maplewood and Forestdale neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are the furthest from industrial sites, have more access to greenspaces, and a decrease in housing density moving north, described by HOLC assessor as a "fairly desirable section of modest homes" though also noting 10% of the population is Italian, and there is "Jewish infiltration." According to the HOLC map, the only "desirable" area (in blue) in Malden is the West End neighborhood in the northwest corner by Pine Banks. These maps contextualize priority areas for Malden's redevelopment in the late 20th century.²³

On January 1, 1958, Malden streamlined its governing structure with a mayor and an 11-member city council using the original charter. Later that year, the Malden Redevelopment Authority (now part of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development) was established by state law as a quasi-public agency. From

1958 through 1972, the Malden Redevelopment Authority oversaw the administration of four federally funded and one state-funded urban renewal programs designed to clear dilapidated properties and the revitalization of the city's residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

Before 1950, Malden was a notable destination for shopping and restaurants. This shifted with the expansion and construction of major roadways such as Route 1 and Interstate 93 between the 1950s and the 1960s. The new transportation infrastructure for cars spurred the development of regional malls and shopping centers with large parking lots and drew businesses away from Malden's downtown.

In the mid-1970s, urban renewal projects reshaped Malden's downtown development and road networks to better connect commercial and industrial areas in the city to the new highway systems. Its General Neighborhood Renewal Plan intended to "create an attractive and efficient central business district," as well as to increase economic and social stability, expand public uses, improve transportation, and support growth. The plan included the relocation of Route 60 and the Central Business District.²⁴ In addition, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) moved to expand the rapid transit Orange Line to Malden, building off the Boston and Maine (B&M) Railroad

²² Digital Scholarship Lab, "Redlining Map of Malden, MA," in *Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America*, directed by Robert K. Nelson, accessed April 27, 2026, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/map/MA/Malden/context>

²³ Digital Scholarship Lab, "Redlining Map of Malden, MA."

²⁴ *Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Downtown Malden General Neighborhood Renewal Plan Area and the Industrial Park Urban Renewal Area* (Washington, DC: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1974), 11–12.

line, known as the Haymarket North extension. While initial plans included a station in Reading, ultimately, the MBTA only added two stations in Malden: Malden Center, which opened on December 27, 1975, with transfers to the Haverhill Line Commuter Rail, and the terminal station at Oak Grove station, which opened March 20, 1977. In the discussion of extending the line into Reading, there was concern about the train continuing through a narrow pass between Middlesex Fells and Pine Banks.

After the Orange Line stations opened, the City worked to redevelop the downtown area, constructing the Malden Government Center at 200 Pleasant Street, including a City Hall and Malden Police Department, and building parking garages for commuters and Malden visitors in Malden Center. Following a slow population decline throughout the 1980s, the City of Malden began a series of projects in Malden Square to improve urban design and invest in a mixed-use city center.

Revitalization efforts included the 1998 Malden Square Plan. Economic development initiatives continued into the late 2000s with the Small Square Initiative (2008), which renovated small squares throughout the city, purchasing a vacant church to develop the John and Christina Markey Malden Senior Community Center (2009), and the Malden Redevelopment Authority developing nine live/work space condominiums with a community art gallery and classrooms

called Irving Street Studios in a building that was once the Sacred Hearts convent.²⁵

At the turn of the 21st century, Malden began efforts to redevelop land along the Malden River in a tri-city effort with Everett and Medford as part of the Mystic Valley Development Corporation. The intent was to develop River's Edge, expanding open space and the access to the waterfront along the Malden River for residents of all three cities and remediating three adjoining brownfield sites. Decades of manufacturing left the Malden River one of the most polluted rivers in the Boston Harbor Watershed. The river sediments contain contaminants generated by the manufacturing of coal tar, rubber, steel, and numerous industrial chemicals throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Remediation of the site included the removal of thousands of tons of metal, 191 tons of tires, and an abandoned steel barge affixed to the southern bank for over 40 years. Throughout the 2010s, there was a groundswell of community leadership to improve access to the Malden River through the Friends of the Malden River group and the community steering committee-led Malden River Works (2019) for Waterfront Equity and Resilience project to redevelop part of the Malden Department of Public Works site located on the Malden River into a public park.

In the past decade, downtown redevelopment in Malden has included investments in public amenities and partnerships with private businesses. In 2020, the City

²⁵ Wicked Local, "Lofty Plans: Artist Studio Homes," October 9, 2008, [https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/observer-](https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/observer-advocate/2008/10/09/lofty-plans-artist-studio-homes/39204689007/)

[advocate/2008/10/09/lofty-plans-artist-studio-homes/39204689007/](https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/observer-advocate/2008/10/09/lofty-plans-artist-studio-homes/39204689007/).

finished building a new Malden City Hall. This transformation of downtown also included the establishment of the Malden Gaming District, a hub for immersive gaming experiences and a downtown entertainment district.

Malden's early legacy as a home for recent immigrants continues today. Between 1990 and 2016, the foreign-born population grew by 43 percent, welcoming residents from China, Brazil, Haiti, and India. Today, Malden is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Massachusetts, and in Malden Public School students speak over 70 different languages. Today, Malden is an attractive community for families and recently arrived immigrants due to its proximity to downtown Boston, transit connectivity with two Orange Line stations, and lower housing costs relative to other communities close to Boston.

By understanding this history—including who had access to land, leisure, and public spaces—we can more thoughtfully shape Malden's future open spaces to reflect the values of equity, healing, and inclusion.

Malden Parks and Open Space Resources

Malden's hilly woodland landscape and the ponds and tributaries leading to the Malden River have always been key to Malden's development and community life. In the early days of Malden's European settlement, as a small rural village, development only covered a small percentage of the land. At the time, the rest of the land in the town was held in common ownership. Farming was a significant industry. With so much open space and long

work hours required for farming - as late as 1850, the average man worked 69.8 hours per week - formal planning and the dedication of land for parks and recreation were not community priorities.

In the 1880s, Massachusetts began efforts to preserve open space by purchasing land, maintaining lands of natural beauty and history for the public and protecting these lands in perpetuity from development. Starting in 1890 with the incorporation of the Trustees of Public Reservation (now the Trustees of Reservations), and then in 1893, the Metropolitan Park Commission (now Department of Conservation and Recreation) formation, there were deliberate efforts to preserve lands across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Trustees of Public Reservation and the Metropolitan Parks Commission's responsibilities included identifying and protecting natural resources through preservation areas that crossed town boundaries, including the Middlesex Fells Reservation in the northwest corner of Malden.

Malden resident and Boston area journalist Sylvester Baxter closely followed the preservation discussion and the work of the Trustees. In Baxter's writing, he closely followed the developing mission of the Trustees, improving public discourse around preservation efforts. Eventually, Baxter joined the Trustees as a committee member and became integrally involved with creating the Metropolitan Park Commission. In Baxter's role in these associations, he formed a relationship with Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., one of America's most famous landscape architects and the

designer of Boston's Emerald Necklace. Baxter led advocacy for creating Malden's public parks and green space.

Formation of the Malden Park Commission

As Malden's population increased and development and industry intensified over the 19th century, preserving open space and parks became more critical. In 1889, the City of Malden accepted the Massachusetts Park Act of 1882, which authorized Massachusetts' cities and towns to create public parks within their boundaries. By accepting this Act, Malden could appoint three commissioners to effectively plan their park system to meet the growing population's needs and purchase parkland per those plans. Additionally, these commissioners could develop the parks and establish rules for their use. Any lands under this Act were to "be forever kept open and maintained as a public park or parks." In 1882, the Malden Parks Commission was formed, with Sylvester Baxter as Malden's first chair.

Under Baxter's leadership, the Malden Park Commission's early park inventory took shape through philanthropic gifts of land, including Fellsmere Pond and Pine Banks Park from the Converse family. These first gifted parks inspired the City to set aside additional capital funds earmarked for parkland acquisition to intersperse parks throughout the city. Malden's park system reflects the city's early business legacies and philanthropy through the history of their formation and, in some cases, the names of the parks today.

Notable Park System Design

Also through Sylvester Baxter, the Malden Park Commission sought the consultation of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and, later, the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm on several park projects to develop a park system throughout the city. Of the twelve original sites, Bell Rock Memorial Park and Fellsmere Park are the only two examples that survive intact today of an Olmsted-planned passive park within the more extensive Malden park system. Malden and Boston are the only Massachusetts communities with park systems designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.

Park Acquisition and Development

At the turn of the century, the Malden Park Commission's initial purchases included Newman Park (Ferryway Green), John D. Devir Park, and Hunting Field. By 1910, additional parklands in Malden included Pearl Street (MacDonald Stadium), Coytemore Lea Park, Bell Rock Memorial Park, O'Connell Park, Harris Delta, Amerige Field, Roosevelt Park, Waitt's Mount, and Linden Victory Delta. In 1917, the City received a deed to a small piece of land at the top of a 250-foot hill known as High Rock. In the 1920s, the park system expanded to include MacArthur (Green Street) Park, Devir (Pearl Street) Playground, Wallace Park, Hawkridge Delta, Trafton Park, and Tartikoff Park.

After World War II the park system expanded with Forestdale Park in 1947. In the 1950s, the City incorporated Oak Grove and South Broadway Park into the park system. As part of the City's urban renewal efforts in the 1960s, the Malden Redevelopment Authority (MRA) added four additional parks and open spaces in the

Suffolk Square area, including Miller Park, Grape Street Park, Kierstead Park, and Government City Plaza. In 1975, the MRA developed Callahan Park as part of the Industrial Park Urban Renewal Project, which was part of the General Neighborhood Renewal Plan and sought to “create a sound, safe, and orderly developed industrial park for the City of Malden.” This effort included the goal of “improvement of the Malden River, including cleaning and landscaping of its immediate surroundings.”²⁶

In 1955, the Malden Park Commission combined with the Public Works Department to promote efficiency. However, in later years, park maintenance declined considerably and the City reestablished the Parks Commission as a separate entity in 1977. At this time, the City began a significant improvement program with the assistance of federal funds administered through community development and open space programs. New equipment, including playground equipment, benches, basketball and tennis courts, and lighting, were added to many parks.

In 1998, the City of Malden commissioned a study of existing school facilities and projected needs, resulting in the City's decision to build five new public school buildings. Given Malden's dense population and limited undeveloped land, the City decided to use existing parkland as the land to construct the five schools, including portions of Roosevelt Park, Newman (Ferryway Green) Park, and Hunting Field. To mitigate the loss of open space, the City stipulated that the remaining portions of impacted parks would be

completely renovated and retained as open space. The City also identified new park sites, including Lincoln Common, the former site of Lincoln Junior High School, and Maplewood Park, a new park site adjacent to the existing Richard C. Howard Park (formerly South Broadway Park). With the addition of these two sites and the renovated school sites, Malden gained 7.81 acres of newly designed parkland and a net gain of 1.63 acres of new open space within the City's parkland inventory.

In the 21st century, Malden's parkland inventory continues to expand and improve. In 2011, the City acquired the High Rock property, a 6.6-acre open space, sometimes called Vietnam War Memorial Park. In 2012, the Northern Strand Community Trail (also known as "Bike to the Sea") opened a 3.5-mile section in Malden, connecting with other sections in Everett, Revere, Lynn, and Saugus for a 9-mile continuous recreational and intermodal commuter trail. The trail runs along the former route of the Saugus Branch Railroad, traveling past the old Maplewood and Linden rail stations, bisecting the city from east to west. Malden opened its first community garden along the trail between Bryant and Faulkner Streets.

Just south of Malden in Medford, along the Malden River, the Park at River's Edge opened in 2008, offering a 10-acre riverfront park with 2 acres of wetlands, connecting with the Wellington Greenway and providing a boathouse for the Tufts Crew team. In 2013, the City renovated Waitts Mount Park, adding new basketball courts, paved

²⁶ *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, 14-16.

walking paths, and a playground. The City also completed more than \$20 million of park improvement projects between 2010 and the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan, focusing on parks in designated Environmental Justice (EJ) areas.

Recent and Current Parks and Open Space Development

Since completing the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the City of Malden has led multiple efforts to renovate existing parks and partner with community coalitions to envision the new parkland along the Malden River and the former Malden Hospital Site. Simultaneously, the City engaged in many efforts to improve climate resilience and accessibility and activate parks and open spaces with public art and cultural events.

The Malden River Greenway planning started in 2017, led by the Mystic River Watershed Association, and includes a path connecting to the Northern Strand Community Trail. The Greenway is part of the Mystic Greenways initiative to connect 25 miles of paths, improve parklands, and engage with community members from the Mystic Lakes to the Boston Harbor.

Coalition building and organizing around the Malden River culminated in the 2020 Malden River Works Concept Plan, which includes an effort to redesign the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) Yard to incorporate a climate-resilient public park along the Malden River. In 2024, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) awarded \$3.5 million to the city through the Gateway City Parks Program, securing the final funding needed to

construct the Malden River Works Project. The project includes a complete stormwater management system and road salt containment at the DPW Yard, which is about 40% of the project cost, to comply with the MS4 regulations to protect the Malden River. This project is a five-year collaboration between the City, the project team, and the Steering Committee. As a result, there will be an accessible park that prioritizes climate resilience, recreational opportunities, and representations of Malden's diverse cultures in signage, cultural events, and outdoor classes. The City released a request for proposals and bids for park construction in March 2025.

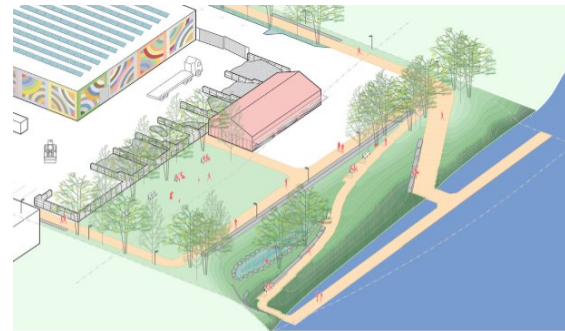


Figure 10. 2020 Concept Plan Design for the Malden River Works Project.

In 2024, Bike to the Sea opened the B2C Bike Kitchen as a community space with shop hours to provide bike stands, tools, and parts for people to fix their bikes, on 158 Canal Street along the Northern Strand in Malden. Additional investments along the Northern Strand Community Trail include the ARTLine, a series of murals and public art installations led by Malden Arts, which started in 2018.

Malden's Community Garden plots have doubled since 2017, providing 106 plots for community members.



Figure 11. B2C Bike Kitchen along the Northern Strand Community Trail at 158 Canal Street.

Expanding Malden's bike and pedestrian infrastructure, the Spot Pond Brook Greenway proposal traces the path of the historic brook, as it fed into the Malden River, to connect downtown, Oak Grove, the Northern Strand Community Trail, and the Malden River, and connect with the Mystic Highlands Greenway. This project is currently in the design phase.

In 2019, FitzGerald Park, a pocket park downtown, was renovated with new play equipment, benches, and a new mural honoring local illustrator Ed Emberley. In addition to expanding to new parkland sites, Malden renovated existing parks, including two park master plans in 2022, the Patchell Park Master Plan and the Fellsmere Park Master Plan. In 2023, Malden renovated Devir Park, the city's largest park; improvements included a brand-new playground with a splash pad, a community plaza, a new basketball court, a half court, and accessible walking

paths. Work also included planting new trees, new lighting, a water bottle filler, and upgrades to park entrances, fencing, utilities, and parking.

In 2023, the Linden Community Rink proposed a new community rink at the Linden School for street hockey and other court sports like futsal and pickleball.

The City of Malden undertook efforts to improve Roosevelt Park with a new turf field but ultimately canceled the project due to prohibitive costs. These planning efforts sparked active community debate on remediation efforts, recreational needs, and climate justice. As of 2025, the City intends to prioritize soil remediation to remove the contaminated soil in the fenced-off southeastern corner of the park.

The City implemented the Trafton Park 2018 master plan, including upgrades to the existing dog park, ball field, backstop, fencing, and two tennis courts, transforming one court into a $\frac{3}{4}$ basketball court and paved play space. The renovation includes new electrical service, irrigation, a drinking fountain and bottle filler, and landscaping in the final construction stages. Kierstead Park improvements include introducing a new playground and updating the existing Little League baseball field. Other playground improvements include the renovation of the Early Learning Center Playground to improve safety and accessibility for the Early Learning Center and the public, completed in 2024, and the Beebe School Playground, which improved ADA accessibility. Ongoing projects include replacing much of the surface of the Salemwood Schools Playground.

Malden also created its first Pocket Forest on Goodwin Avenue on a small piece of City-owned land, planting 21 trees on the vacant lot in October 2024 through a grant award from the state grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.²⁷

The Malden Hospital Redevelopment created an opportunity for the City of Malden to acquire 6.7 acres of land to be preserved as public open space. As part of Tufts Medicine's redevelopment of the Malden Hospital site, two-thirds of the proposed land in Malden is primarily wooded, hilly land that could provide walking and connect to Fellsmere Pond, and the remaining third has a flat area that can allow the City to create an additional passive recreation space.

Public Artwork & Monuments

Public artwork in Malden includes a variety of monuments, memorials, and a few recently installed murals and sculptures. Malden is home to notable monuments, including The Flag Defenders, a bronze monument located in Bell Rock Memorial Park dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of Malden who served in the American Civil War. The monument was designed and sculpted by Bela Lyon Pratt, a mentee of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, who was responsible

for the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial on the Boston Common.

In recent years, Malden Arts, a community arts-focused organization, has led multiple public art projects, including projects honoring Malden artists, musicians, and writers. This series has included the Wonderful World of Ed Emberley, painted by Malden high school students in 2018; the Spirit in the Sky mural in 2019, honoring former Malden resident Norman Greenbaum, who wrote the song by the same name; another Frank Stella Mural on the wall of Malden High School honoring his "Protractor" 1960s series of paintings; and nationally syndicated and award-winning cartoonist Keith Knight with a mural reflecting his popular comic series "Life's Little Victories" in 2022. Along the Malden ARTLine, Malden Arts commissioned the River of Ties project, and a section of the trail is the "Wonder Women of Malden" mural in 2023. Other installations included pocket parks around sculptures and public benches along the Northern Strand Community Trail.

The Malden Switchbox Project highlights local artists who paint town utility boxes with vibrant murals. This effort started in 2010 with Arts Malden and continues today under the leadership of Creative Malden, which commissioned eight new murals on switch boxes in 2024, including a switch box dedicated to honor Malden's 375th. Beyond murals and switch boxes, the City installed a new

²⁷ Christian Carapucci, "A Pocket-Sized Forest in Malden Brightens a Neighborhood," Neighborhood View, December 6, 2024,

<https://neighborhoodview.org/2024/12/06/a-pocket-sized-forest-in-malden-brightens-a-neighborhood/>.

sculpture of an owl in Coytemore Lea Park in September 2024.

Other arts endeavors include the [Malden River Creative Placemaking](#) initiative, supported through technical assistance from MAPC. The initiative built on the Malden River Works Concept Plan and increased residents' awareness of the Malden River as a resource and imagined how expanded open space along the river could provide space for artistic programming and improve climate resilience. The project piloted temporary art installations along the Malden River in 2020, and worked with community ambassadors to ensure the effort reflected Malden's cultural diversity.²⁸ Additionally, in 2022, MAPC and the Boston Society for Architecture provided technical assistance to engage Malden's arts and culture community in planning for the redevelopment of the former Malden District Courthouse at 89 Summer Street into a center for arts and culture. The City of Malden is working to identify funding sources to implement the [Malden Center for Arts and Culture Concept Plan](#).

Demographic Characteristics

Overall Population Characteristics

After falling since the 1950s, Malden's population has grown 24% since 1980. In the 2020 Census, Malden reported its peak population at 66,263 residents, a

density of 13,137 persons per square mile. The most recent America Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates from 2019-2023 report Malden's population is slightly lower at 65,509. As shown in Table 1, between 1950 and 1980, Malden saw a slight decline in population to a low of 53,386. However, since 1980, Malden's population has steadily increased, and between 2010 and 2020, it saw a 10.3% increase in population, which is the new peak population for the city.

Malden's population increase between 2010 and 2020 was not slowed by the global COVID-19 pandemic from 2020-2021. ACS 5-year population estimates hovered between 60,000 to 61,000 through the first half of the decade and jumped up to 65,000 to 66,000 starting with the 2017-2023 estimate, as shown in Table 2.

²⁸ Metropolitan Area Planning Council, *Malden River Creative Placemaking Strategy: Placemaking as a Catalyst for Change on the Malden River* (December 2020), [https://www.mapc.org/wp-](https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MaldenRiver_CP_Report_%C6%92inal.pdf)

[content/uploads/2021/01/MaldenRiver_CP_Report_%C6%92inal.pdf](https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MaldenRiver_CP_Report_%C6%92inal.pdf).

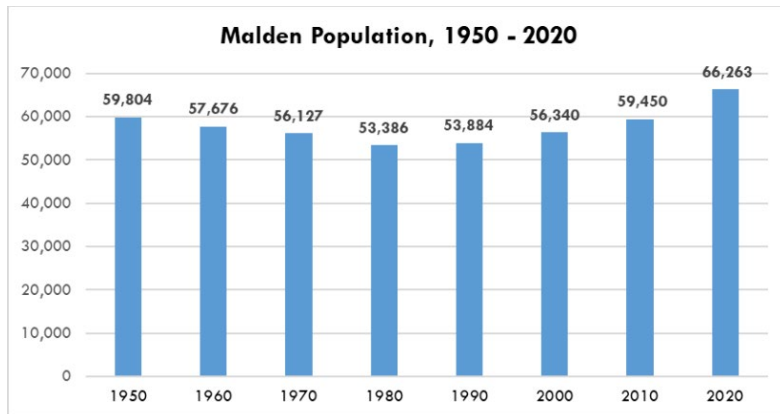


Table 1. Malden's population trends, 1950-2020. Source: U.S. Census

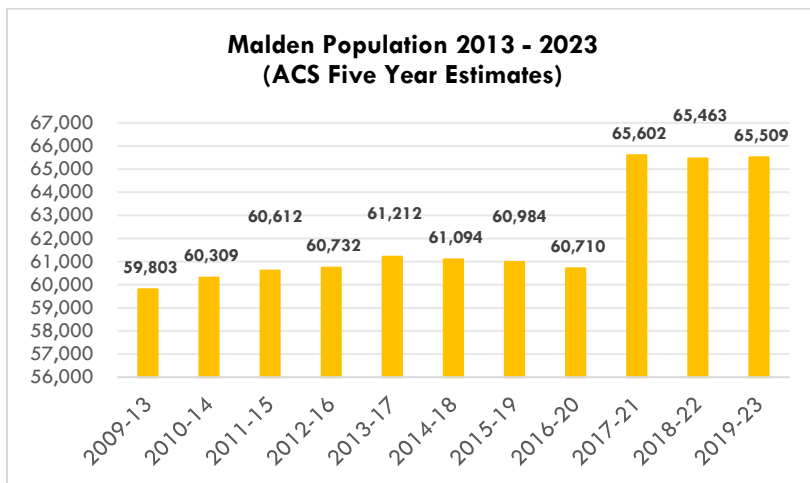


Table 2. Malden's population trends, 2013-2023. Source: American Community Survey.

As shown in Table 3, the decennial census population in 2020 surpassed previous population projection estimates for Malden through 2050. This population growth heightens

the need to provide ample open space and recreational opportunities for this growing community.

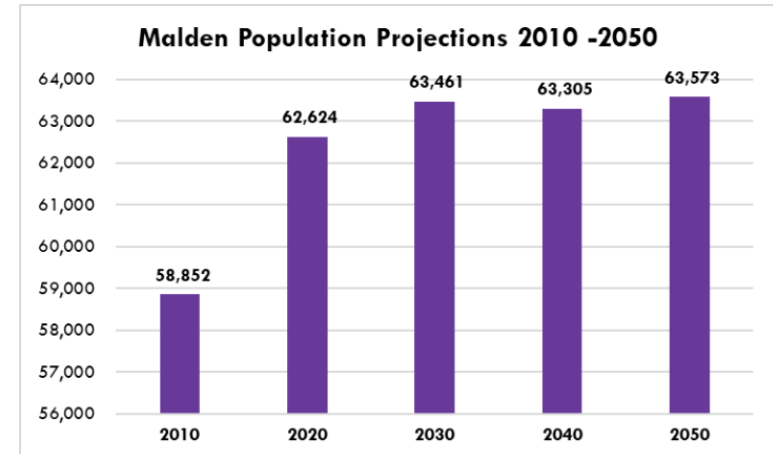


Table 3. Malden's Growth Projections, 2010-2050. Source: MAPC, 2023

Age Distribution

In the past decade of growth, Malden experienced approximately 10% growth in the overall population. Using American Community Survey 5-Year estimates from 2019-2023, compared to the 2009-2013 estimates from a decade prior, there are some notable trends in Malden's recent growth. As shown in Table 4, Malden's population (shown in green) saw the largest increases among residents aged 65 to 74, with a 33% population increase, residents aged 25 to 34, with a 23% population increase, and finally residents aged 85 years old and older. The most significant decreases (shown in purple) are found in populations under 24 years old, primarily among young adults and teenagers.

Age group (years)	2009-2013	% Total Pop	2019-2023	% Total Pop	Percent Change
Under 5	3,426	5.70%	3,833	5.90%	11%
5-9	2,837	4.70%	2,792	4.30%	-2%
10-14	2,953	4.90%	3,222	4.90%	8%
15-19	3,493	5.80%	2,822	4.30%	-24%
20-24	5,364	9.00%	4,755	7.30%	-13%
25-34	11,248	18.80%	14,536	22.20%	23%
35-44	8,847	14.80%	9,255	14.10%	4%
45-54	8,398	14.00%	8,370	12.80%	0%
55-59	3,719	6.20%	4,155	6.30%	10%
60-64	2,739	4.60%	3,102	4.70%	12%
65-74	3,307	5.50%	4,926	7.50%	33%
75-84	2,404	4.00%	2,471	3.80%	3%
85 +	1,068	1.80%	1,270	1.90%	16%

Table 4. *Malden's Population Change by Age. Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey estimates, 2009-2013 and 2019-2023.*

These changes suggest that over the next ten years Malden will need to meet the needs of an aging population as well as provide opportunities for young adults in their mid-20s

and 30s, ageing into their 30s and 40s over the life of the plan. The City should also prepare for the increased demand from school-aged children as the 11% population increase for children under 5 ages and additional school-aged children seek recreation activities over the next decade.

Access to natural and recreational space benefits all community members; however, there are different types of recreation facilities needed to serve different age groups. For example, the facilities required by youth sports leagues serving a school-aged demographic require facilities distinct from those that support more passive recreational activities frequently pursued by older residents or families with children under age 5. Assessing demographic trends and growing age groups in Malden can help direct future investments in parks and open spaces. Below are some considerations for Malden's population groups, noting each group has unique needs and characteristics.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Malden's racial and ethnic diversity shifted dramatically at the turn of the 21st century. In 1990, Malden's population was almost 90% white; the city's non-white population grew to over 50% of the total population by 2016. Malden's Asian American and Pacific Islander populations expanded the most, while the share of African American

and Hispanic or Latine²⁹ populations each tripled. Much of Malden's increasing diversity originates from immigration. Based on the ACS 5-Year estimate from 2019-2023, 40.8% of Malden's community is foreign-born and represents many regions of the world. Over 20% of the foreign-born population is Asian and over 12% is from Latin America. In Table 5, the top 10 countries of birth for Malden residents outside of the United States highlights the diversity among immigrants from Asia and Latin America.

Country of Origin	Population	% of Total
Total Population	65,509	100%
Total foreign-born population:	26,705	40.7%
China (excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan)	6,903	10.5%
Brazil	3,974	6.1%
Haiti	2,389	3.6%
India	1,876	2.9%
Vietnam	1,662	2.5%
Ethiopia	914	1.4%
Nepal	912	1.4%
Morocco	583	0.9%
El Salvador	538	0.8%
Taiwan	393	0.6%

Table 5. Top ten countries of origin for Malden's foreign-born populations. Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2019-2023.

Malden's racial and ethnic diversity is notable compared to peer cities and the greater region. Table 5 shows that

²⁹ Latine is used here as a gender-inclusive term, recognizing that individuals vary in their preference for terms to identify themselves.

Malden's population reflects greater racial and ethnic diversity compared with other communities in its subregion (Inner Core Committee), and with the MAPC region and the Commonwealth as a whole. Over a quarter of Malden's population identifies as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), and more than ten percent identifies as Hispanic or Latine. The share of non-Hispanic AAPI residents in Malden is more than twice the share of the region's, and Malden's share of non-Hispanic black residents is around twice that of the MAPC region and the Commonwealth.

Race or Ethnicity	Malden	ICC Subregion	MAPC Region	Mass.
White Non-Hispanic	40%	52.11%	63.94%	67.55%
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	25.9%	12.98%	10.32%	7.21%
Black Non-Hispanic	14.2%	11.53%	7.8%	6.5%
Hispanic and Latine	10.4%	16.98%	11.7%	12.63%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	6.6%	4.83%	4.66%	4.67%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	2.8%	1.45%	1.48%	1.31%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	0.1%	0.12%	0.1%	0.13%

Table 6. Share of racial and ethnic identities in Malden compared with other geographies. Source, U.S. Decennial Census, 2020.

While these broader categories used for U.S. Census data do not present the nuance of racial and ethnic diversity in a

community, it is undeniable that Malden's diverse growth presents many opportunities to recognize and celebrate cultural shifts in a community with a strong history of providing a home to recent immigrants in the Boston region. Between 2010 and 2020, Malden's racial and ethnic diversity increased in all populations except for its Native American and white non-Hispanic populations. As shown in Table 7, the largest increase in Malden's racial and ethnic diversity in the past decade was the city's multi-racial population, which nearly doubled.

Race or Ethnicity	% Change
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	+187.5%
Other Race, Non-Hispanic	+46.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	+43.9%
Hispanic and Latine	+ 38%
Black, Non-Hispanic	+11.1%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	0%
White, Non-Hispanic	-15%

Table 7. Change in Malden's population by race and ethnicity.
Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 2010 and 2020.

In 2021, the City of Malden published a Racial Density Dot map, based on data from the 2020 Census, shown on the following page as Figure 12. The map shows the geographic distribution of Malden's population by racial identity on the map, where one dot represents one person. The dot locations are approximate and accurate at the block level. In addition to showing the distribution of Malden's residents by race, this map also visualizes the density of Malden's residential communities.

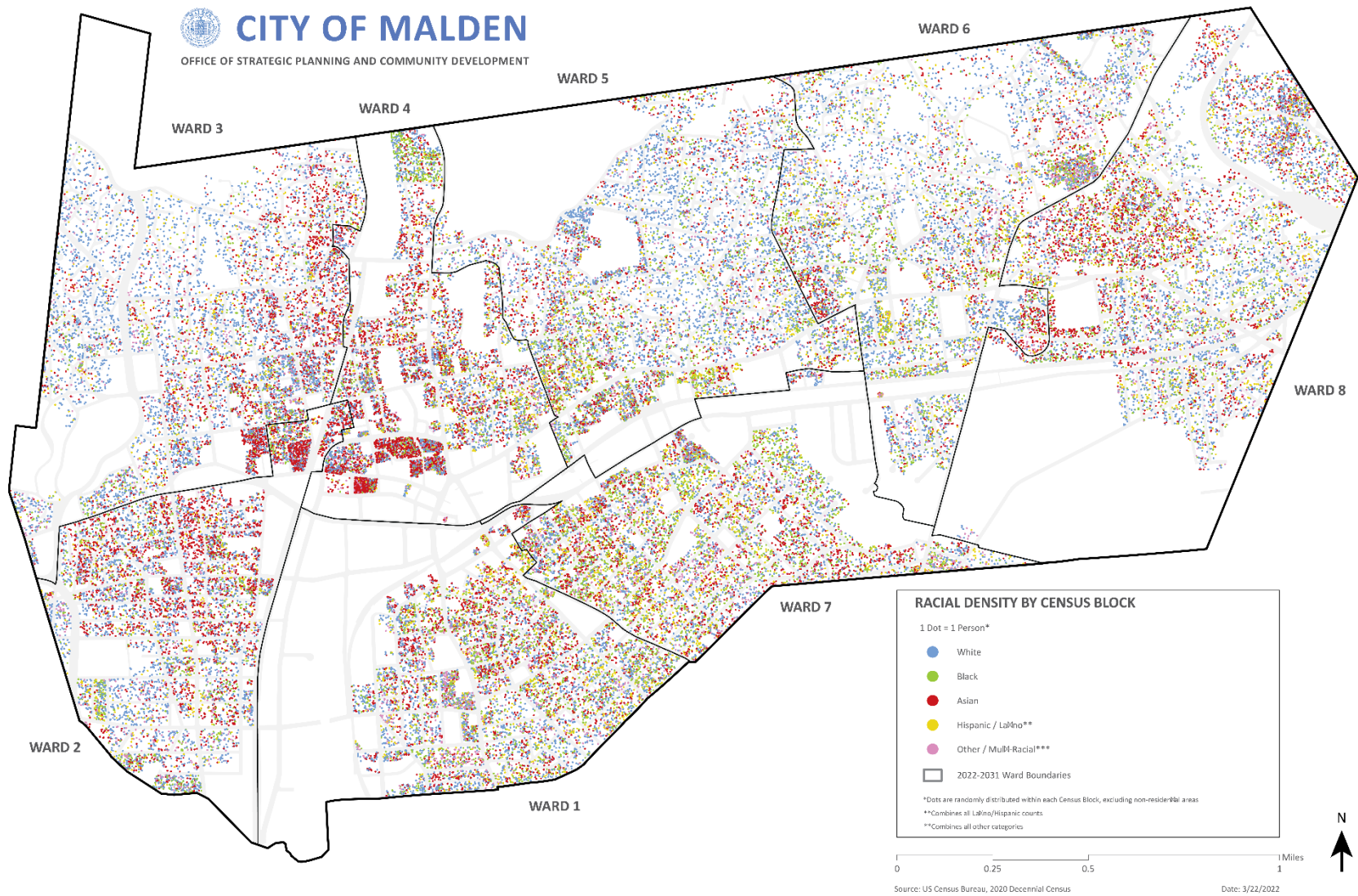


Figure 12. City of Malden Racial Density Dot Map, 2021. Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 2020.

Most strikingly, the map shows a dense concentration of Malden's Asian population in Malden Center and dispersed throughout the city's eight wards. This map highlights a higher concentration of Malden's Black or African American population in Ward 1 and Ward 7, along with greater representation throughout the eastern neighborhoods in the city. Malden's Hispanic and Latine population is distributed throughout each ward, with clusters in Wards 1, 5, 6, and 7. Malden's multi-racial community is distributed throughout the city. Malden's white population is most concentrated in the western part of Ward 3 and the eastern portion of Ward 5 and Ward 6, which are relatively less dense than other areas in Malden.

Malden's language diversity also reflects its broader multicultural community. In the Malden School District, 59% of students' first language is not English³⁰ Within Malden's foreign-born population, ACS data indicates that nearly 30% of households have limited English-speaking. In 2022, Malden established an office for Language Access with a Language Access Coordinator to support staff and City departments to ensure all community members have equal and meaningful access to municipal services, programs, and activities. As Malden works to ensure equitable access to parks and recreational resources, language access is a

critical focus for engagement and communicating information.

Population Density

Between 2010 and 2020, Malden's population per square mile increased from 11,788.2 to 13,137, an 11.4% increase. For context, this population density is nearly twice as dense as neighboring communities like Medford and Melrose and a little less than neighboring Everett. Malden and Boston have similar population densities, with Boston at 13,976.7 people per square mile. However, Boston has nearly ten times more land area than Malden. Table 8 shows Malden's density in comparison to its neighbors.

Revisiting Malden's Racial Dot Density shown in Figure 12, Malden's residential density is highly concentrated in Malden Center, correlating with a higher concentration of apartments and multi-family units and proximity to the Orange Line Stations, as well as the Overlook Ridge development in northwest corner of the city. The least dense areas in Malden are in the northwest part of the city in the West End.

³⁰ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, "Malden Public Schools, Enrollment Data," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=01650000&orgtypecode=5>; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education, "Malden Public Schools, Selected Populations (2025–26)," accessed April 27, 2026, <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=01650000&orgtypecode=5&leftNavId=305>.

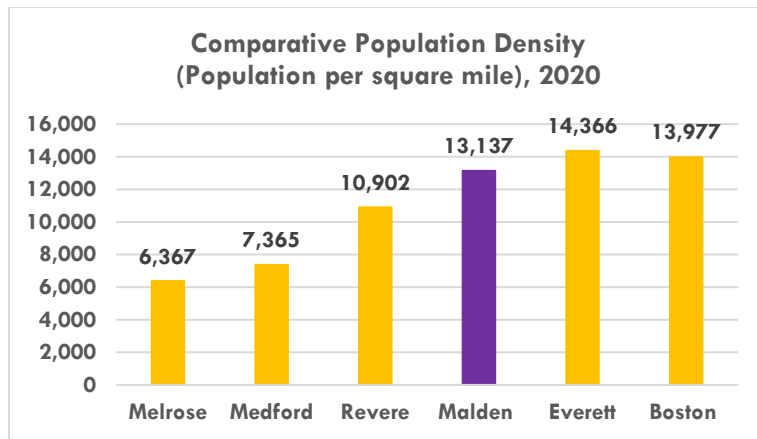


Table 8. Comparing Malden's Population Density to Neighboring Communities. Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 2020.

Household Characteristics

A broader picture of Malden's community informed by population trends and household composition yields greater insights into open space and recreational needs for Malden householders. Based on the 2020 U.S. Census, nearly 60% of Malden's household composition is family households, and over a quarter of households have children residing in these households. Similarly, a quarter of households include seniors over the age of 65. It is much rarer to find multi-generational households, including three or more generations living together in Malden, which comprise around 5% of Malden households.

Household Type	Count	% of Total
Total Households	26,024	100%
Total Family Households	15,437	59.3%
Total Non-Family Households	10,587	40.7%
Households with Seniors (65 and older)	6,718	25.8%
Households with Children (under 18)	6,851	26.3%
Multi-Generational Households (3 or more generations)	1,314	5.1%

Table 9. Malden's Household Characteristics. Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 2020.

According to the 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year estimates, there are 28,043 housing units in Malden. That ACS data also estimates the number of households in Malden at 26,319. Of these, 14,608 (55.5%) are characterized as native-born and 11,711 (44.5%) as foreign-born households, with 54% of foreign-born households characterized as naturalized and 46% without citizenship.

Among the 42% of housing units that are owner-occupied units, native-born households are slightly more likely to occupy these units at 45% versus 39% of foreign-born households and 20% of foreign-born households without U.S. citizenship. Among the 58% of units that are renter-occupied, foreign-born households are more likely to occupy these units at 61% than native-born households at 58%. Approximately 80% of non-naturalized foreign-born households are in rental units. This ACS data estimates the



Table 10. Malden Household Income Distribution Compared with Neighboring Communities. Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2019-2023.

Environmental Justice Populations

Malden is one of 137 communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with an Environmental Justice (EJ) population identified through analysis by MassGIS.

The following criteria determine EJ populations in Massachusetts:

- Households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income; or

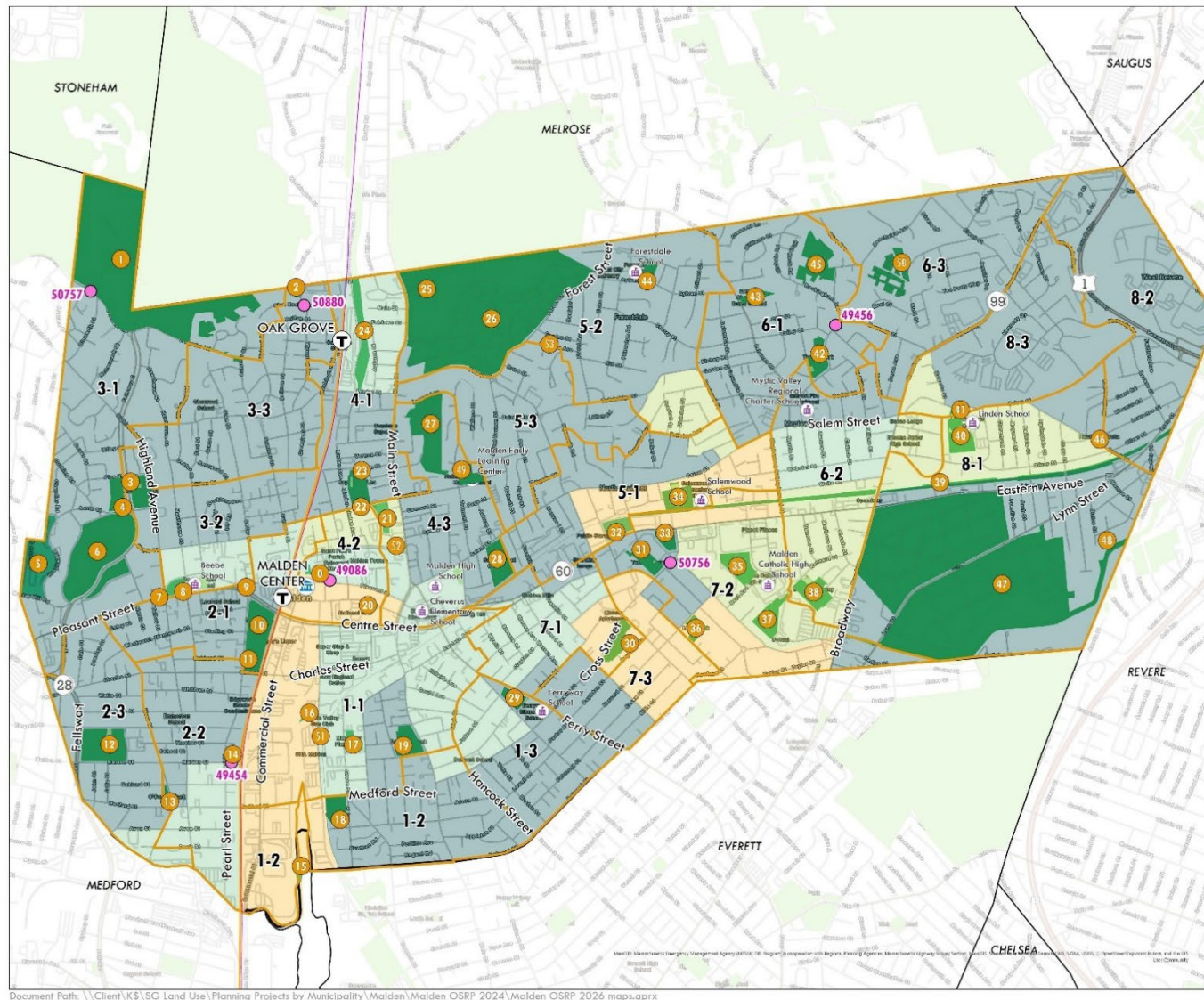
median value of owner-occupied housing units as \$607,500, and the median gross rent as \$2,066.

Household Income

Based on ACS 5-year estimates for 2019-2023, Malden's median household income is \$95,298. Median family income is higher at \$111,074, and median non-family income is lower at \$75,405. The City of Malden shares similarities with other cities in the region, particularly Revere and Everett, regarding median household income and income distribution. Approximately 23% of Malden's households earn less than \$40,000, with 10.7% earning less than \$20,000 annually, with about 47% of households earning \$100,000 or more. Of the remaining 30% of households, about 17% earn between \$40,000 and 74,999 and 13% earn between \$75,000 and \$99,999.

- 25% or more of the residents are minority; or
- 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or
- 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency.

The EJ Populations by Census Block Group Map indicates that 97% of Malden's population is located in EJ block groups. All except for two block groups include 25% or more residents of Malden that meet one or more criteria that define an EJ population.



Malden, MA

Open Space, Recreation, Arts and Culture Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS

- Malden City Hall
- Schools
- MBTA Station
- Orange Line
- Commuter Rail Line
- Open Space and Recreation CPA Projects
- Malden Playgrounds
- Malden Parks and Open Space Inventory 2024
- Wards and Precincts 2022
- 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) BLOCK GROUPS**
 - Minority
 - Minority and Income
 - Minority and English language isolation
 - Minority, Income and English language isolation



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

April 2026



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 MILES

Map 2. Environmental Justice Communities in Malden, 2026.

Open Space and Recreation Considerations by Demographic

Children and Young Families

Children and families with young children require parks, playgrounds, and open spaces easily accessible to strollers. Playgrounds for this age group, frequently called “tot lots,” include playground equipment for children ages two to five who require supervision. Seating, shade, and bathrooms are essential for caretakers and children around playground structures.

Youth and Adolescents

Many open spaces and recreation resources for youth and adolescents focus on both organized and informal youth sports. In engagement, there is a noted gap in activities for kids aged 10 to 14, which has been a growing population. Research shows that tweens want spaces for socializing, areas away from playgrounds and places to be spectators, and spaces for physical activities, such as places for ball games and climbing equipment. Youth identified the bike trails as an important space for connecting and accessing different parts of the community. Other meaningful facilities for this age group are the skatepark, the Teen Enrichment Center, and open spaces to gather.

Adults

Malden’s largest population group consists of adults, particularly young adults between 25 and 34 years old. Open space and recreation for this age group include a mixture of active recreational activities, including

organized recreational sports and group exercise activities. Facility needs include recreational fields, courts, and spaces for bike, pedestrian paths, and hiking trails. Additionally, places for gathering and socializing, at community events, and enjoying nature, while relevant for all age groups, are important considerations for this age group.

Seniors

The needs of Malden’s senior residents vary significantly between age and activity levels. Given the growth in Malden’s senior population, for both 65 to 74, presumed to be more active senior citizens, and the population 85 years old and above, generally requiring more therapeutic and social activities, both groups need to be considered in Malden’s parks and open space investments. Malden’s Senior Center provides a space for community members 60 and up, though activities and programming include exercise classes, fitness equipment, gardening, cultural celebrations, and places to walk and enjoy nature. Seating and shade are also concerns for this population as well.

Racially and Ethnically Diverse Communities

In the phenomena known as “The Adventure Gap” which documents the discrepancy between the percentage of ethnic communities in the U.S. population and the percent of their participation in outdoor recreation, as well as the understanding of barriers to participation for these same groups.³¹ These gaps are shaped by systemic and structural barriers, including transportation, economic

³¹ James Edward Mills, *The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors* (Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 2014).

access, and cultural programming alignment. Addressing The Adventure Gap requires deliberate connections and communication with Malden's ethnically diverse community, through trusted partnerships, ensuring language access, and encouraging local awareness to seed experiences in Malden's outdoor spaces.

People with Disabilities

Around ten percent of people in Malden have a self-reported disability, including difficulties with hearing (2.8%), vision (2%), cognitive learning (4.5%), and mobility (5.2%). In planning for Malden's parks and open space improvements and programs, these individuals have the right to participate in every recreation opportunity available to people without disabilities. In some cases, modifications or adaptations to programming may need to be made, though these must be done in the most integrated setting and with reasonable accommodation. Facilities and infrastructure include curb cuts, inclusive play structures, and accessible restrooms. Inclusive design should also consider sensory-friendly spaces and features that support neurodiverse residents.

The City of Malden evaluates physical barriers in parks and open spaces through the Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA) Access Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which can be found in Appendix D. In addition to the evaluation, this plan includes specific recommendations to address barriers to accessing existing programming and propose opportunities to serve this population better.

Employment Characteristics

In 2010, Malden became one of Massachusetts' twenty-six Gateway Cities, recognized as a mid-sized urban center that anchors the regional economy. According to data maintained by the State Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), 1,663 wage-paying establishments were in the City of Malden in 2023. Nearly 90% of establishments in Malden are service-providing industries compared to goods-producing industries in Malden a century ago.

Malden's largest employers, listed in Table 12, include National Grid utilities as the largest employer, followed by health and elder care providers, as well as healthcare technology. With proximity to transportation corridors and the MBTA Orange Line, Malden's residents are well positioned to access jobs throughout the region.

Industry	Establishments	Total Wages	Average Employment	Avg Weekly Wage
Total, All Industries	1,663	\$920,503,746	14,172	\$1,249
Education and Health Services	656	\$258,936,250	4,543	\$1,096
Health Care and Social Assistance	637	\$164,812,284	3,217	\$985
Other Services, Except Public Administration	153	\$38,302,005	847	\$870
Retail Trade	139	\$40,484,885	991	\$786
Construction	135	\$81,840,331	950	\$1,656
Professional and Technical Services	132	\$43,410,224	373	\$2,241
Accommodation and Food Services	109	\$44,639,208	1,394	\$616
Administrative and Waste Services	63	\$49,458,527	778	\$1,222
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	51	\$15,632,904	278	\$1,081
Wholesale Trade	40	\$40,407,327	441	\$1,764
Manufacturing	37	\$77,633,679	1,117	\$1,336
Finance and Insurance	35	\$12,327,279	163	\$1,457
Transportation and Warehousing	32	\$16,202,679	288	\$1,082
Information	30	\$18,038,356	144	\$2,413
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	20	\$5,968,407	146	\$784
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4	\$4,190,281	41	\$1,950
Utilities	4	\$55,301,937	361	\$2,943

Table 11. *Malden's Industries, 2023. Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.*

Employer Name	Product/Function	Estimated Employees
National Grid	Utility	430
Cambridge Health Alliance	Medical Administration	395
Mystic Valley Elder Services	Elder Care	330
KIC Ventures	Health Care Technology	300
Prospect Cleaning Services	Commercial Cleaner	250
Super Stop & Shop	Grocery Store	250
New England Security Group	Protective Services	242
Piantedosi Baking Company	Food Processing	210
New England Coffee	Food Processing	174
Hallmark Health VNA	Home Health Care	163
Pursuit Manufacturing	Manufacturing	154
Old Town Trolley	Tourism	150
Mystic Valley Regional Charter School	School	134
Cataldo Ambulance Services	Ambulance Services	130
Hoff's Bakery	Food Processing	101

Table 12. *Malden's Largest Employers, 2024. Source: City of Malden.*

Growth and Development Patterns

Malden is a highly developed community, with much of its land area occupied by existing residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas, recreational and conservation lands, and undevelopable wetlands and floodplain areas. As a result, new development primarily

occurs through the redevelopment of existing properties or in areas that were previously difficult to build on including Overlook Ridge, which served as a quarry.

The city's existing land use patterns mirror historical trends and offer a glimpse into its future development. The previous section on Malden's history provides a detailed account of the city's growth and development, tracing its evolution from a colonial settlement to a thriving manufacturing hub. This transformation was driven by the accessibility of water transportation along the Malden River and the expansion of the railroad.

Transportation Infrastructure

Malden is strategically located within the Greater Boston Area, benefiting from a well-developed transportation network that includes rail, air, and highway access. The city is situated between two major interstate highways, contributing to strong regional connectivity. Route 1 is a critical north-south corridor to the east, linking the Boston Metropolitan Area with northeastern New England and providing direct access to Interstate 95. To the west, Interstate 93 offers another key transportation link, connecting the Boston region with destinations to the north and south.

Only five miles northwest of Boston, Malden is highly accessible and well-connected to surrounding municipalities. Malden is also fully integrated into the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) network, with public transit options that include the Orange Line subway, the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line, and multiple MBTA bus routes. The city

benefits from one-seat transit access to downtown Boston and neighboring communities, making it a convenient hub for commuters.

Public Transportation

Public transportation in Malden provides residents with direct access to sixteen (16) communities, including all adjacent municipalities, downtown Boston, and other areas to the northwest. The MBTA operates the city's transit system, including bus, subway, and commuter rail access.

In 2023, the city completed the Malden Transit Action Plan (TAP), an initiative to evaluate existing multimodal transit services and transportation infrastructure. The plan identifies current transit conditions, proposes mobility strategies, and prioritizes recommendations to enhance connectivity, accessibility, and safety. The TAP provides a clear roadmap for Malden's future transit improvements and ensures that local transportation planning aligns with broader regional goals.

Bus Service

Malden is served by eighteen (18) MBTA bus routes, directly connecting eleven (11) communities beyond Malden. These routes are crucial links for residents to key destinations, including Malden Center, Oak Grove Station, Linden Square, the Salem Street Corridor, and Main Street. Additionally, the bus network connects Malden to important regional hubs such as downtown Boston, Encore Boston Harbor in Everett, Medford Square, Revere Beach, Somerville, and Cambridge. A geographic analysis conducted as part of the TAP found that ninety-four

percent (94%) of Malden residents live within a quarter mile of a bus route, while one hundred percent (100%) live within a half mile.

Rail Service

Malden has two rail transit options: the MBTA Orange Line subway and the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line. The Orange Line provides rapid transit service between Oak Grove Station in Malden and Forest Hills Station in Jamaica Plain. Malden residents can access the system at Malden Center and Oak Grove stations, key hubs for local commuters. The Haverhill Commuter Rail Line provides additional north-south connections between Haverhill and Boston's North Station. The rail service operates a mix of express and local trains.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Access and Infrastructure

Ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian and bike infrastructure is critical to Malden's transportation goals. Expanding pedestrian and bicycle facilities reduces dependence on single-occupancy vehicles, increases mobility for transit-dependent populations, and promotes environmentally friendly transportation options.

The City of Malden is committed to expanding multimodal transportation options through its Complete Streets Policy, adopted in 2016. This policy aims to ensure that Malden's roadways provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes, including walking, biking, transit, and driving, while accommodating people of all ages and abilities.

The City developed a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (CSPP) to guide these improvements in 2017, identifying twenty-three (23) projects across Malden. Since then, changes in roadway conditions and community priorities have created the need for an updated plan. Malden worked with Toole Design to refresh the CSPP, culminating with the final report in 2025, ensuring that it aligns with the City's evolving transportation needs.

Bicycle Network and Connectivity

Malden has approximately ten (10) miles of bike facilities, accounting for six percent (6%) of the city's roadway network. Most of these on-street bike lanes are concentrated around Malden Center, providing direct connections to the Malden Center T Station and the Central Business District via Pleasant Street, Exchange Street, and Florence Street.

The city is actively working to expand bike-friendly infrastructure, with projects like the dedicated bus and bike lane improvements on Centre Street, Main Street, and Eastern Avenue, which began implementation in the spring of 2022. Off-street bike paths, such as the Northern Strand Community Trail and the Spot Pond Brook Path, also contribute to Malden's growing cycling network. Malden is part of Metro Boston's Bluebikes public bike-share program, which provides a convenient, affordable, and sustainable transportation option for short trips. With a network of over four thousand (4,000) bikes and more than four hundred (400) stations across Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford,

Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown, Bluebikes makes cycling an accessible and efficient way to travel throughout the region.

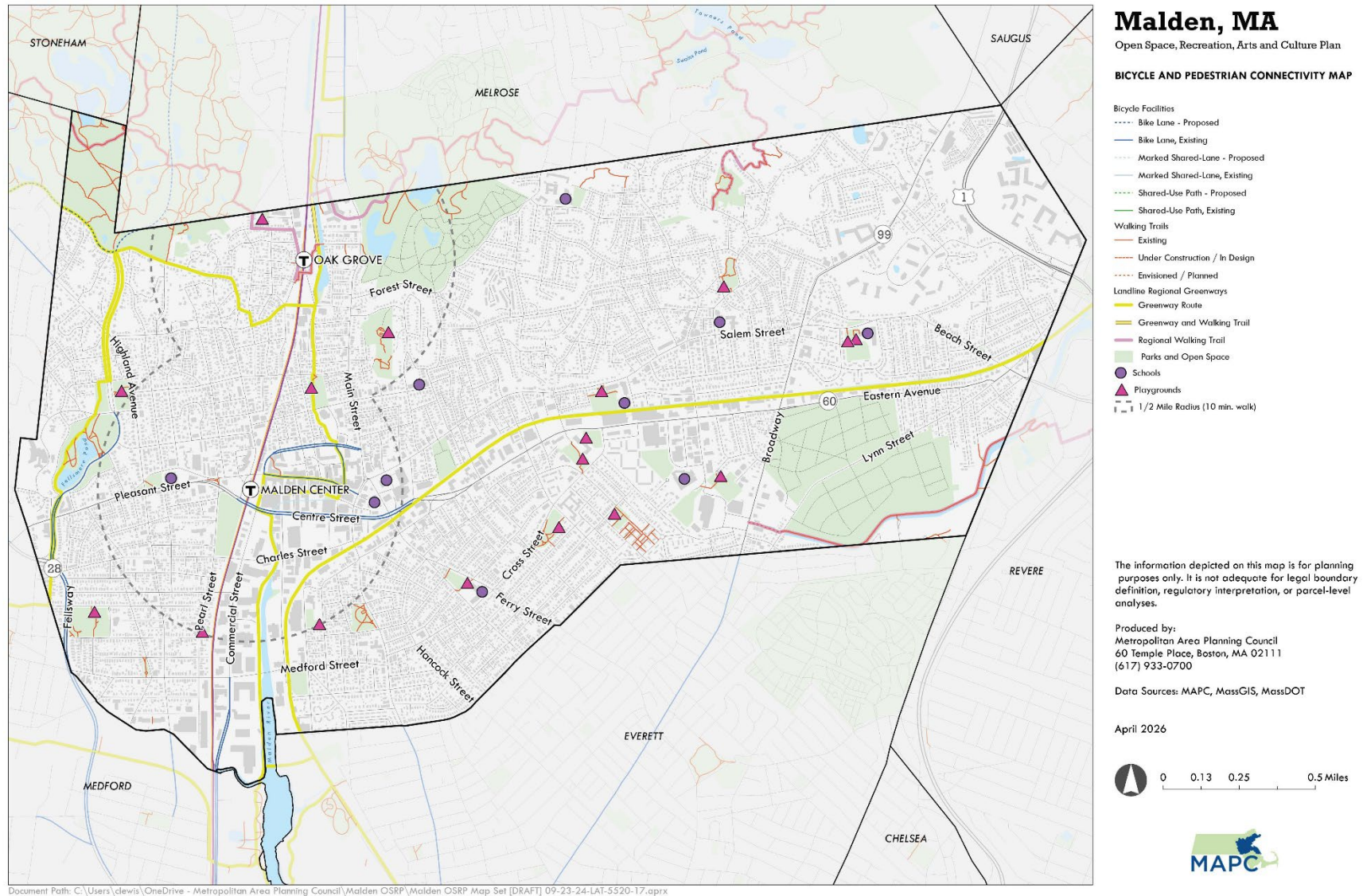
Sidewalk Network and Accessibility

Malden has a robust sidewalk network, with seventy-two percent (72%) of the city's roads featuring sidewalks on at least one side. However, sidewalk conditions vary, and some areas present challenges for pedestrian access and ADA compliance.

A citywide evaluation of sidewalk conditions found that areas with the highest transit ridership, like Centre Street, Main Street, and Salem Street, experience high levels of pedestrian activity and would benefit from upgrades to sidewalk width, surface conditions, and accessibility features.

Sidewalks in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should maintain a minimum width of four (4) feet, with bus stop boarding areas extending at least eight (8) feet deep. Several locations, including portions of Broadway, Sheafe Street, and the Melrose town line, have sidewalks that fall below these minimum standards and require targeted upgrades.

A map of Malden's bicycle and pedestrian access can be found on the following page.



Map 3. Malden's Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity, 2025.

Water Supply & Sewer Services

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) provides water and sewer services to the City of Malden through a network of regional transmission facilities that supply Malden's water and transport wastewater to the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. Malden works closely with the MWRA to conduct regular testing and monitoring, ensuring compliance with all regulatory and water quality standards. Locally, the Engineering Department and Water Department are responsible for maintaining and upgrading Malden's water distribution system.

To improve stormwater quality and reduce surface water impairment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) have implemented the NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit program. This program is designed to mitigate stormwater pollution and enhance regional water quality. The Engineering Department oversees the city's NPDES MS4 discharge permit.

Various other city departments, including Public Works, Facilities, and the Permits, Inspections and Planning Services Department are involved in the implementation of different components of the program. To guide compliance efforts, the Engineering Department has developed a Stormwater Management Program Plan outlining the measures Malden is undertaking to meet MS4 permit requirements. The availability of this essential infrastructure has been crucial

in supporting Malden's economic growth and enabling the development of a diverse range of housing options.

Land Use Patterns and Trends

The most recent land use data from the state, shown in Table 13, is based on aerial imagery collected in 2016.

Land Use Type	Acres	Percentage
Open and Bare Land	81	2.4%
Commercial	195	6.0%
Industrial	127	3.9%
Agriculture	0	0.0%
Forest and Shrub	216.2	6.7%
Wetlands and Shoreline	24	0.7%
Developed Open Space	217	6.7%
Impervious and Unknown	157	4.9%
Mixed use, primarily residential	36	1.1%
Residential - single family	743	22.9%
Residential - multi-family	796	24.6%
Residential, other	1	0.03%
Mixed use, other	5	0.15%
Mixed use, primarily commercial	1	0.04%
Right-of-way	636	19.60%
Water	8.0	0.2%
TOTAL	3,244	100%

Table 13. Malden's Land Use Distribution, 2016.

The table outlines the distribution of land use across sixteen (16) categories. Residential land uses are the dominant land use in Malden, making up 48.5% of the total land area, or fifteen hundred and seventy-six (1,576) acres, when all residential categories are combined. The second largest land use category is Public Right-of-Way (including streets and transportation corridors), which covers six hundred thirty-eight (638) acres, or about 20% of the city. Commercial and industrial areas together comprise two hundred twenty-two (222) acres, representing roughly 10% of the total land area. Open space, including developed open space, forest and shrubland, and open or bare land, makes up approximately sixteen percent (16%) of the city, reflecting Malden's mix of urban density and open space.

Recent Growth

Recent zoning updates in Malden reflect a growing commitment to managing development in ways that balance housing needs with the protection and enhancement of parks and open space. Downtown Malden has seen significant change in recent years, with more than one thousand (1,000) new housing units constructed, including the 320-unit mixed-use J Malden Center. While this type of infill development supports economic and housing goals, it also increases the demand for public open space, tree canopy, and stormwater infrastructure. Ensuring that growth is balanced with park and open space improvements is key to long-term environmental and community health.

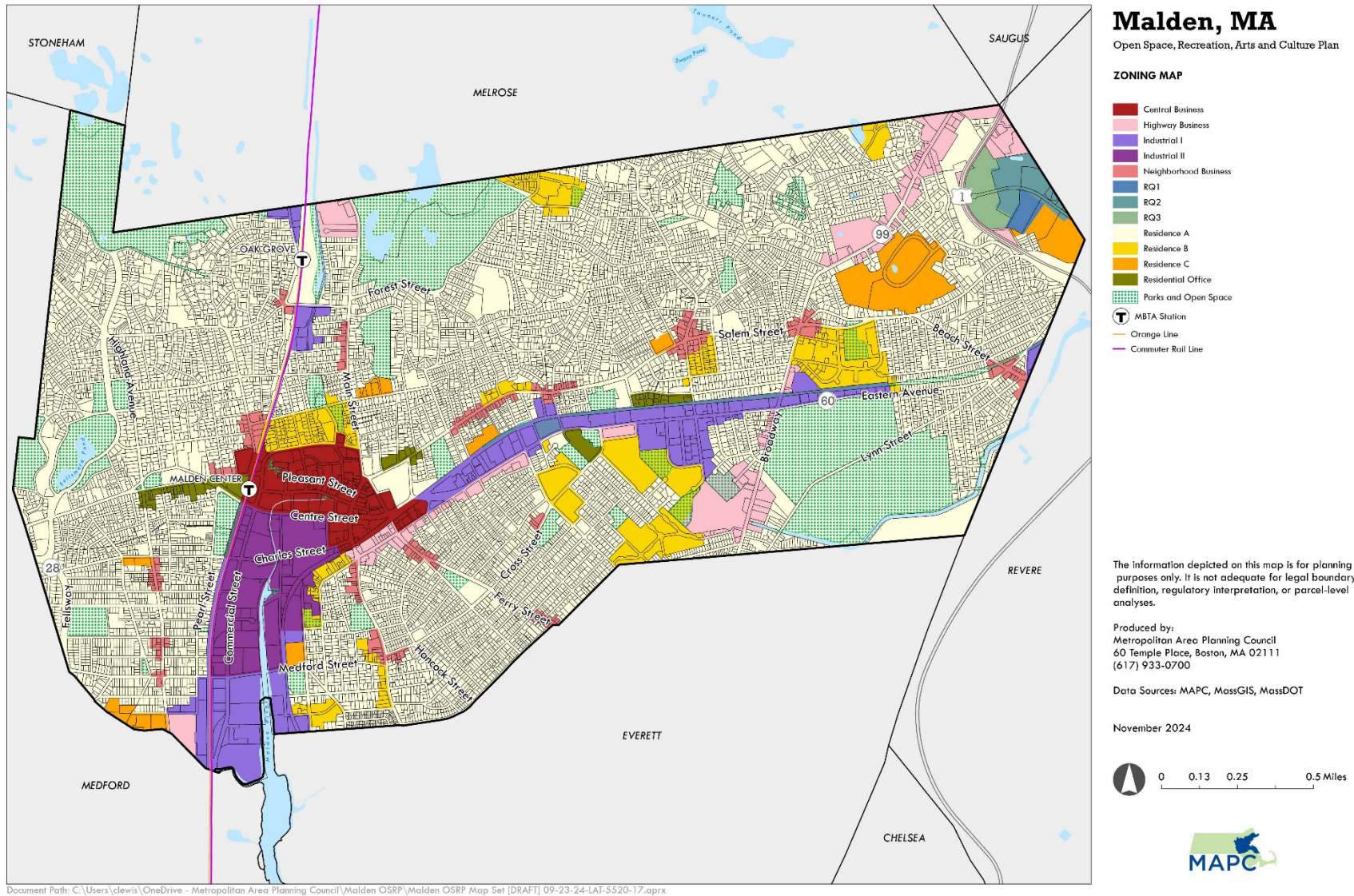
The redevelopment of the former Malden Hospital site after more than two decades of vacancy demonstrates how open space preservation can be integrated into new development. Tufts Medicine and Acadia Health are building a new 144-bed behavioral health facility on the seventeen (17) acre property. The site spans Malden and Melrose, and fourteen (14) acres are in Malden. As part of the project, nine and a half (9.5) acres will be permanently protected as open space, including 6.7 acres that will be owned and maintained by the City. This project, which received strong community support, reflects the importance of using land use decisions to meet both critical service needs and open space goals.

Land Use Controls: Zoning

The City of Malden controls land use through zoning, which divides the city into different zones and specifies permitted uses in each zone.

District Name	Class	Abbr
Residence - A	Residential	R-A
Residence - B	Residential	R-B
Residence - C	Residential	RC
Residential - Office	Mixed Use	RO
Business - Neighborhood	Business	BN
Business - Central	Business	BC
Business - Highway	Business	BH
Industrial	Industrial	I
Rowe's Quarry Reclamation & Redevelopment	-	RQRRD

Table 14. Malden's Zoning Districts, 2024.



Map 4. Malden's Land Use Zoning, 2024.

Malden's long-term development is shaped by economic trends, local land use regulations, and the availability of buildable land. Table 14 shows the nine (9) designated zoning districts in Malden. Map 3 depicts Malden's current zoning districts spatially.

Malden's Zoning Ordinance has several sections that relate to open space. These include the following:

12.12.300 – Inclusionary Zoning

Section 12.12.300 supports the city's affordable housing goals by requiring developers to include affordable units in new residential projects or contribute an in-lieu fee to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. While not directly linked to open space, this ordinance promotes compact, mixed-income development that helps accommodate population growth without expanding the city's development footprint, thereby reducing pressure on parks and open space.

12.12.400 – MBTA Communities Zoning Overlays

Adopted in December 2023, this zoning amendment guides residential growth around transit-accessible areas, particularly near Malden Center Station. In compliance with the state's MBTA Communities Law (M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 3A), the city established a zoning district that permits multifamily housing by right. This strategy directs development to underutilized downtown parcels, protects existing residential neighborhoods and

green spaces from displacement or overdevelopment, and supports a more walkable, transit-oriented urban core connected to parks and public spaces.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Zoning

Adopted in January 2025, to comply with the state's Affordable Homes Act, this zoning amendment allows ADUs up to nine hundred square feet (900 sf) by right in single-family zoning districts. This zoning change promotes more flexible and equitable housing options within existing neighborhoods, without requiring large-scale development or the conversion of open space.

10.20 – Wetlands Protection

Adopted in 2022, Malden's Wetlands Protection Ordinance protects resource areas such as wetlands, marshes, swamps, riverbanks, and flood-prone land. Many of these areas are located within or adjacent to Malden's parks and open spaces. The ordinance prohibits any alteration to these areas without approval from the Conservation Commission. Under the ordinance and related 2024 regulations, Malden established a one hundred fifty foot (150-ft) buffer zone from the upland edge of all resource areas, with a twenty five foot (25-ft) no-alteration zone. The ordinance expands beyond the requirements of the state Wetlands Protection Act by broadening the buffer zone, protecting isolated wetlands and uncertified

vernal pools, assuming jurisdiction over unlined canals, establishing a preference for the FEMA 500-year floodplain when delineating Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and including climate resilience provisions.

11.28.020 – Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance

The Stormwater and Land Disturbance Ordinance requires a Land Disturbance Permit for projects disturbing ten thousand square feet (10,000 sf) or more. Applicants must submit erosion and sediment control plans, stormwater management designs, and long-term operation and maintenance plans. Projects must follow state and federal stormwater standards and incorporate low-impact development (LID) strategies. These standards help protect habitat and biodiversity by prohibiting significant disturbance to areas mapped as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, and certified vernal pools.

12.12.110 – Floodplain Districts

The Floodplain Districts Ordinance protects against development in flood-prone areas. All development within these districts must comply with state and federal standards, including the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 § 40), the Massachusetts State Building Code for

flood-resistant construction, and DEP regulations for wetlands and wastewater.

12.12.200 – Malden River Site Plan Review

As part of the Site Plan Review process, developments near the Malden River must include improvements that support parks, open space, water quality, and overall environmental health. Continuous public pedestrian access to and along the river is required, along with a minimum ten-foot-wide riverfront walkway to expand connectivity. A landscaped buffer must be installed along the river, using native, non-invasive plants. These buffers must be designed to reduce stormwater runoff and support wildlife habitat. To enhance the city's tree canopy and provide shade, at least one canopy tree must be planted every thirty feet (30 ft) along public access areas. Collectively, these standards promote resilient riverfront development while enhancing community access to open space and the riverfront.

Collectively, these zoning tools help Malden manage growth in a way that aligns with open space preservation and climate resilience goals. Moving forward, thoughtful land use planning and zoning updates will be essential to expanding access to parks, enhancing environmental quality, and creating a healthier, more equitable Malden for all residents.

Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Environment Overview

Geology

Most of the bedrock of New England is a blend of portions of bedrock found in other parts of the world, and the bedrock beneath Malden specifically, has its geological origins in what is now West Africa. These segmented additions, or terranes, have been subjected for millions of years to tectonic forces that have ultimately fused them with the bedrock of North America during orogenies, or powerful collisions, which are how mountains are created.³²

Over six hundred million years ago, the Avalon Terrane formed as part of Gondwana, a supercontinent that was comprised of present-day Antarctica, South America, Africa, Madagascar, and Australia.³³ During the Avalonian Orogeny, the Avalon Terrane experienced intense volcanic

activity due to its location at a subduction zone, where one tectonic plate is forced beneath another.³⁴

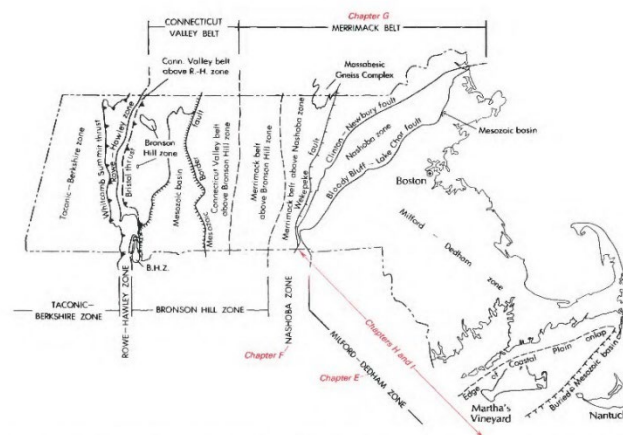


Figure 13. Map of Massachusetts showing the Bloody Bluff fault line and the Milford-Dedham zone. Source: "The Bedrock Geology

³² National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory Report* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2017), 1, 65, <https://npshistory.com/publications/boha/nrr-2017-1404.pdf>

³³ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory Report*, 65; National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works National Historic*

Site: Geologic Resources Inventory Report (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2015), 29, <https://npshistory.com/publications/sair/nrr-2015-929.pdf>

³⁴ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory Report*, 68.

of Massachusetts,” U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1366 E-J, 1991.

This activity formed the Milford-Dedham Zone, created from intrusive magma that penetrated existing bedrock before cooling and solidifying into rocks such as Milford Granite and Dedham Granite. This zone is located to the east and southeast of the Bloody Bluff fault line.³⁵

In contrast, the Lynn Volcanics Complex, found north of Boston in the Malden area, was formed through forceful

volcanic eruptions that produced extrusive rocks, including rhyolites, tuffs, and breccias. The rhyolite mined from the former Rowe Quarry in the northeastern section of Malden originated from these violent eruptions. South of Malden is the Boston Basin, whose geology is comprised of volcanic rocks that were created after the Lynn Volcanic Complex and are made up of lithics such as Roxbury Conglomerate and Cambridge Argillite.³⁶

³⁵ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory*, 65; National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works Geologic Resources Inventory*, 29; Richard Goldsmith, “Stratigraphy of the Milford-Dedham Zone, Eastern Massachusetts: An Avalonian Terrane,” in *The Bedrock Geology of Massachusetts*, ed. Norman L. Hatch Jr., United States Geological Survey Professional Paper 1366-E-J (Reston, VA: U.S.

Geological Survey, 1991), E2, E23–E24; Malden, *Open Space and Recreation Plan*, 26.

³⁶ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory*, 65; National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works Geologic Resources Inventory*, 29; Richard Goldsmith, “Stratigraphy of the Milford-Dedham Zone,” E2, E23–E24.

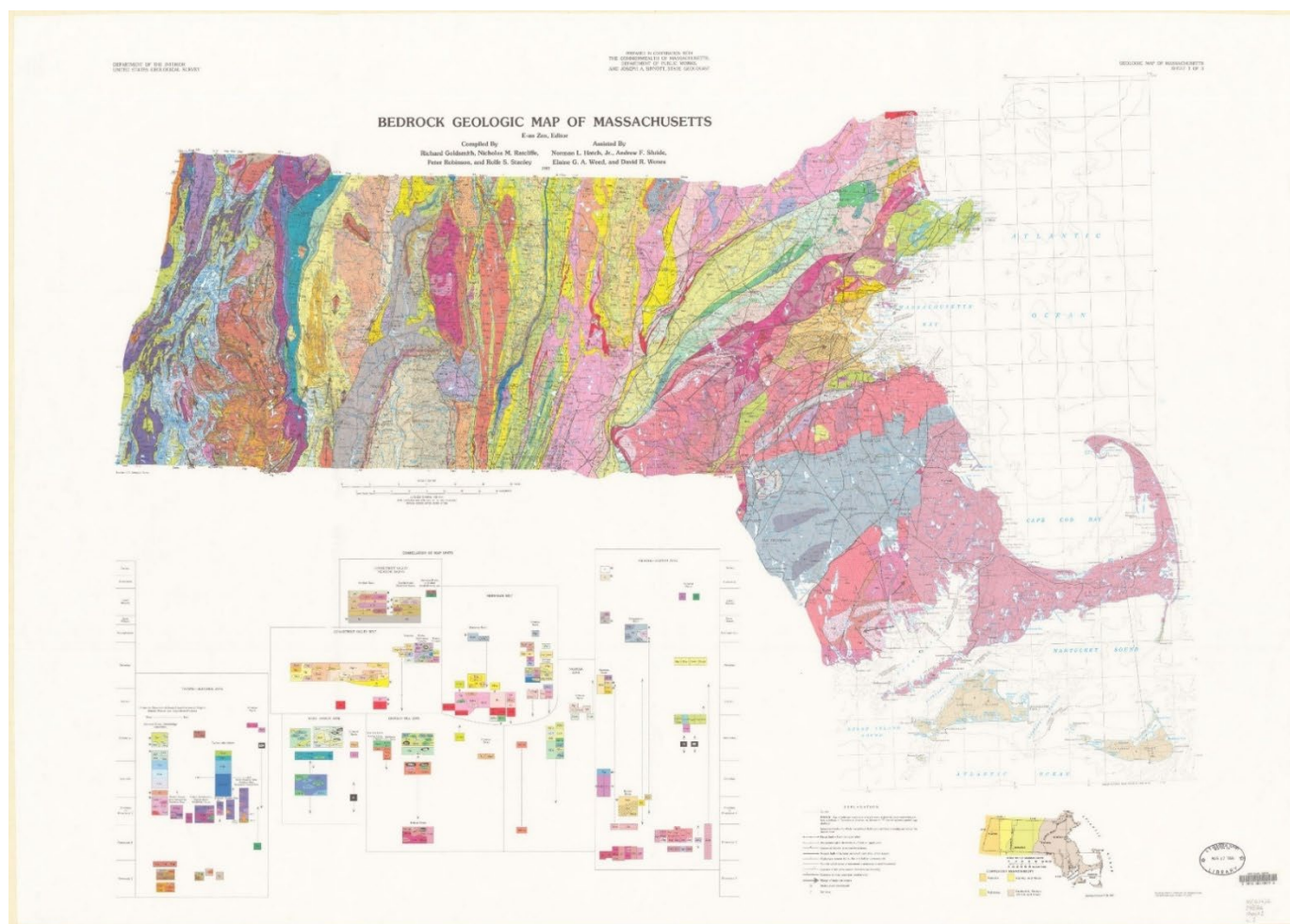


Figure 14. *Bedrock Geologic Map of Massachusetts, 1983.*

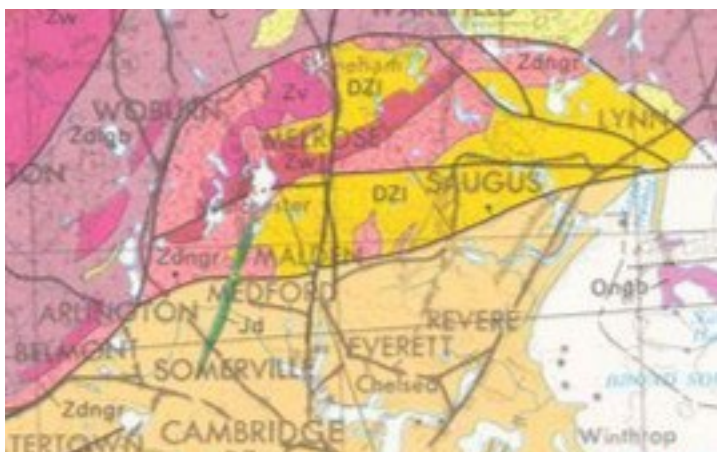


Figure 15. Close-up of Bedrock Geologic Map of Massachusetts.

Eventually the Avalon Terrane was rifted away from Gondwana, creating the Rheic Ocean, and moved toward the Iapetus Ocean and another supercontinent, Laurentia. Over the course of millions of years, the Avalon Terrane collided with Laurentia through multiple events before it finally merged with Laurentia through the collision of Gondwana into it, thus creating the supercontinent Pangea. It was during these events that the Appalachian Mountains were formed as part of the Central Pangean Mountains, which also include the modern-day Atlas Mountains of Morocco and the Scottish Highlands. This is also the time

which the Bloody Bluff Fault was formed in what is now Lexington, Massachusetts, by the Avalon Terrane being subducted, or pushed under, the Nashoba Terrane. It is important to note that this is not considered an active seismic zone, and not currently a threat to Malden's residents or infrastructure. This fault line is shown in Figure 14.³⁷

During the Triassic and Jurassic periods Pangea began to break apart. North America, which included the former Avalon Terrane, separated from the other continents, creating the Atlantic Ocean. While the land masses shifted and moved, volcanic intrusion of magma into the bedrock created diabase dikes and sills. Since this is a slow process that occurs deep below the surface, this period marked a relatively quiet period in the geological history of the region that would become Malden. During this time the most frequent surface geological occurrences were weathering and erosion. Figure 15 marks an intrusion of diabase dikes and sills along the green line, which are created deep in the bedrock when hot magma is forced into the cracks of the existing bedrock.³⁸

Throughout the Pleistocene period, glaciers altered the landscape of the region. These massive ice sheets eroded

³⁷ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory Report*, 1, 68–70; National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site: Geologic Resources Inventory Report*, 29–32; National Park Service, *Minute Man National Historical Park Geologic Resources Inventory Report* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2017), 46, <https://npshistory.com/publications/mima/nrr-2017-1523.pdf>; Robert J. Lillie, *Parks and Plates: The Geology of Our National Parks*,

Monuments, and Seashores (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2005), 74.

³⁸ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory*, 68; National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works Geologic Resources Inventory*, 32; Richard Goldsmith, "Stratigraphy of the Milford-Dedham Zone," E2, E24.

and deposited sediments as they expanded, shifted, and retreated. The most recent glacial episode, the Wisconsin glaciation, shaped the landscape of Massachusetts in recognizable ways. During that period, the ice sheets eroded underlying sediments and bedrock to form eskers, kames, and drumlins, which remain visible today. Drumlins are oval shaped hills, and the drumlins in Malden are an important and defining feature of its landscape.³⁹

As glaciers melted and retreated, the land rebounded from their immense weight, sea levels began to rise, and the environment became welcoming for the first Paleoindians to settle in the region.⁴⁰ From the time that people entered the area now known as Malden its stone reserves have remained an important natural resource. Native Americans were the first to utilize the region's stone materials, crafting tools such as rhyolite projectile points. This use of local stone evolved over time, culminating in large-scale economic enterprises through quarrying operations at Rowe Quarry.⁴¹ Over time human activity has played an increasing role in shaping Malden's geological landscape - through quarrying, filling, and grading - transforming it beyond the influence of natural forces alone.

³⁹ National Park Service, *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory*, 5, 13, 71; National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works Geologic Resources Inventory*, 32; United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2009), 4–6.

⁴⁰ National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works Geologic Resources Inventory*, 32.

⁴¹ National Park Service, *Saugus Iron Works Geologic Resources Inventory*, 32; National Park Service, "Types of Native American

Soils

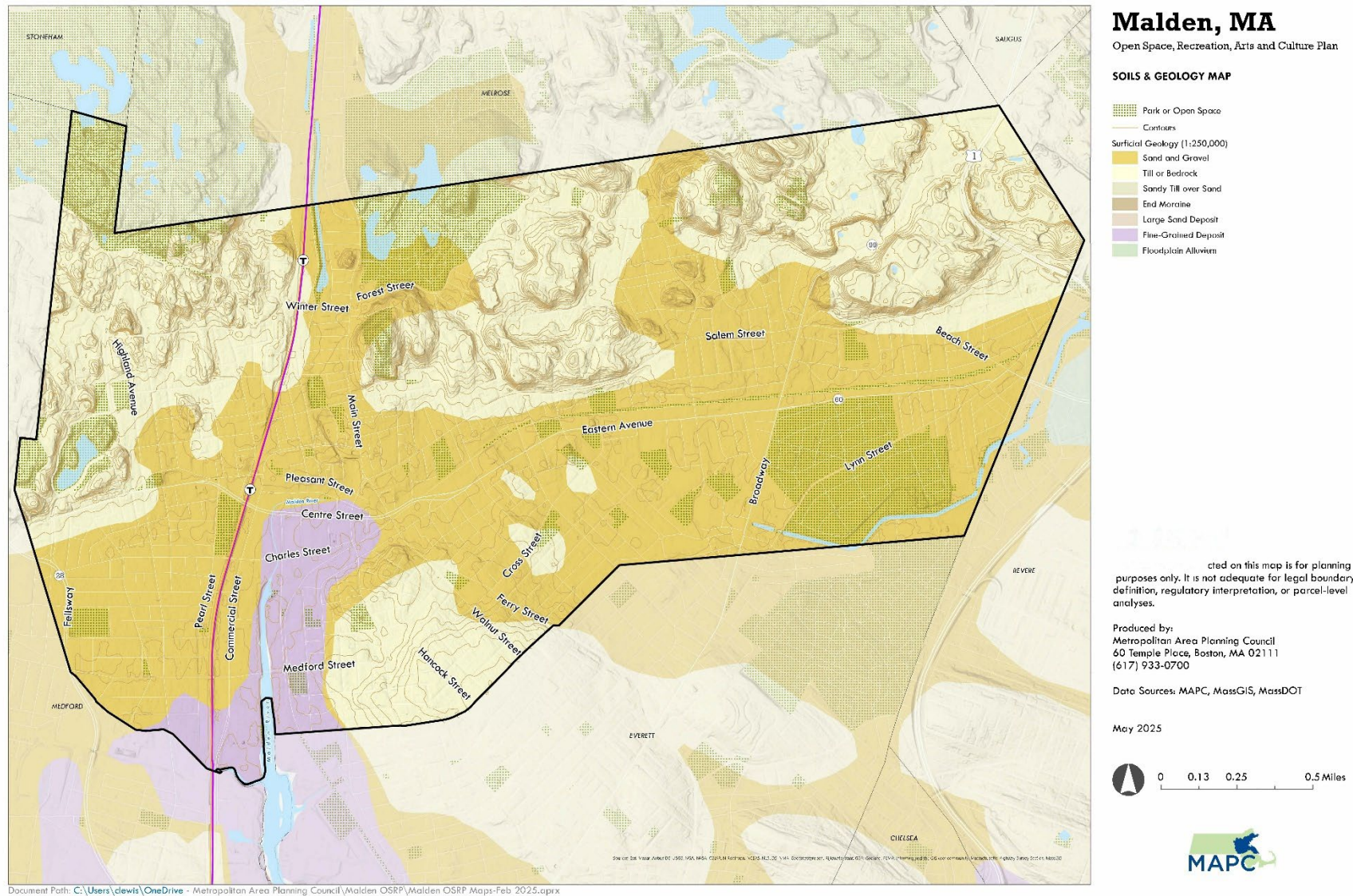
The soils and gravels found within Malden have been heavily influenced by geology, climate, and natural vegetation. The composition of bedrock in the surrounding area significantly contributes to the color, texture, and mineralogy of the soils present. One of the main processes in Malden for the creation of soil was the presence and activity of glaciers. Glaciers stripped bedrock and deposited materials, often near the parent bedrock. These deposits are categorized as glacial till and glaciofluvial, also known as glacial outwash. The soils in Malden and the rest of Middlesex County originate from the sediments left by the Wisconsin Glacier.⁴²

Glacial till is the mix of rocks, gravel, sand, silt, and clay that is left behind on the landscape when glaciers melt. Soils that are produced from glacial till typically have textures that range from gritty to smooth and have a brown, olive, or gray coloring to them. Such soils make up landforms such as drumlins. Some examples of soil from glacial till include Canton, Charlton, and Paxton.⁴³

Artifacts," September 28, 2021, accessed May 4, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/native-american-artifacts.htm>; Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), Inventory No. REV.F, "Rowe Quarry," Revere, Massachusetts, 2001.

⁴² United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, 5–7.

⁴³ United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, 6.



Map 5. Malden's Soils and Topography.

Glacial outwash is materials that were carried and sorted by the ice melt of glaciers. It primarily consists of sand and gravel, with very little clay or silt. Features such as terraces, kames, and eskers are comprised of these deposits. Hinckley and Windsor soils are formed by the outwash.⁴⁴

Many of the soils in Malden developed from granite and gneiss rock, which is why the light brown or yellowish material is sandy and filled with rocky fragments such as seen in Canton, Hinckley, and Paxton soils. In contrast, the soils of the Boston Basin formed from rocks such as schistose and phyllite, giving them a gray to olive-color as well as a smoother, silty texture as seen in the Pittstown soils, which make up some of the Newport-Urban land complex.⁴⁵

Just as quarrying and urban filling have reshaped the geological surface of Malden and surrounding areas, these activities have also created a more recent soil type called Udorthents which is soil that replaces or modifies native soil that was previously stripped away by human intervention.⁴⁶

Topography

Malden's topography is a product of millions of years of volcanic activity, erosion, and weathering as well as recent glacial deposits and human interference. The parts of the

city that lie nearest to the Boston basin are close to sea level and include the marshy areas around Norwell Creek and the Revere line. A notable exception is Belmont Hill in the southwest section of the city, which reaches approximately one hundred and ten feet (110 ft). This gently sloping landform was formed by glacial erosion and deposits and offers views of downtown Malden.⁴⁷

In contrast, the northern half of Malden has been heavily shaped by the outcroppings and ledge created by the Lynn Volcanic Complex. While millions of years of erosion and multiple glaciations have reduced these volcanic hills, they are still visible in areas such as the Middlesex Fells Reservation and Maplewood Highlands, with some elevations reaching more than two hundred and eighty feet (280 ft). In the Linden Highlands area, there are elevations of about two hundred feet (200 ft), which offer interesting views of not only the Atlantic Ocean but Boston as well. However, most of these steep, rocky areas are not conducive to development due to the steep inclines that make them hard to access or because the underlying bedrock and soils make construction not economically feasible.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, 6.

⁴⁵ United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, 5.

⁴⁶ United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, 13.

⁴⁷ United States Geological Survey, *US Topo Boston North Quadrangle, Massachusetts* [7.5-minute series map] (Reston, VA: U.S. Geological Survey, 2024), *The National Map; Malden, Open Space and Recreation Plan*, 27.

⁴⁸ United States Geological Survey, *US Topo Boston North Quadrangle, Massachusetts; Malden, Open Space and Recreation Plan*, 27.

Adding to this varied landscape is a unique drumlin field which extends towards the Boston basin and underscores the uniqueness of Malden's topography. These drumlins were formed by glacial erosion and are geologically tied to other drumlins in surrounding communities – including the ones that were used to fill in the shore of Boston to expand the city – as well as the ones that make up the Boston Harbor Islands.⁴⁹

The topography of Malden continues to evolve as the city further develops in a variety of ways to ensure that it meets the needs of its residents. An example of the ongoing transformation of the landscape is the blasting, excavation, and infilling that has recently occurred at the defunct Rowe Quarry, on the Malden-Revere-Saugus line. This area has now become the Overlook Ridge apartment complex, which required the landscape to be significantly reshaped to accommodate the construction of new housing.⁵⁰

Landscape Characteristics

The city is divided north to south between the Mystic River Watershed's rolling uplands and the Coastal Plain's flatter lowlands. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Division, Malden's location at the northern edge of the Boston Basin is "characterized by a relatively smooth plain with about 100 round and oval

hills called drumlins that rise sharply above the plain."

Glacial activity created these drumlins, and they are defining landscape features in Malden. Drumlins are found in Malden's highlands located in the northern section of the city at the Middlesex Fells, Waitts Mount, and High Rock. They are also found in the lowlands located in the southern section of the city within the Edgeworth, Maplewood, and Linden neighborhoods. The drumlins in Malden are unique in that they occur within the only known drumlin field to intersect a coastline. These geographic high points are geologically related to the hills historically used to fill in the modern-day Boston shoreline and the hills located on many of the Boston Harbor islands.

Today, these highpoints are predominantly undeveloped due to steep grades, which make access difficult, or challenging subgrade conditions that are not conducive to economical construction. Waitts Mount, High Rock and much of the Middlesex Fells are heavily wooded areas where pockets of soil exist between exposed bedrock. The low, flat areas of Malden are predominantly comprised of residential neighborhoods. These areas were developed in the early 1900's to accommodate the growing population and were more easily developed than the steep, rocky

⁴⁹ United States Geological Survey, *US Topo Boston North Quadrangle, Massachusetts*; Malden, *Open Space and Recreation Plan*, 27–28.

⁵⁰ United States Geological Survey, *US Topo Boston North Quadrangle, Massachusetts*; Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS, Inventory No. REV.F, "Rowe Quarry."; Malden Planning Board, "Minutes of October 23, 2024," October 23, 2024,

https://www.cityofmalden.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/_10232024-348; Prisco Tammara, "Rowe's Quarry Site Plan Review of Lot 12 for 326 Rental Units," *Patch* (Malden, MA), January 28, 2018, <https://patch.com/massachusetts/malden/rowes-quarry-site-plan-review-lot-12-326-rental-units>;

slopes to the north. At this time, nearly all of Malden's flatter terrain has been developed.

Scenic Resources

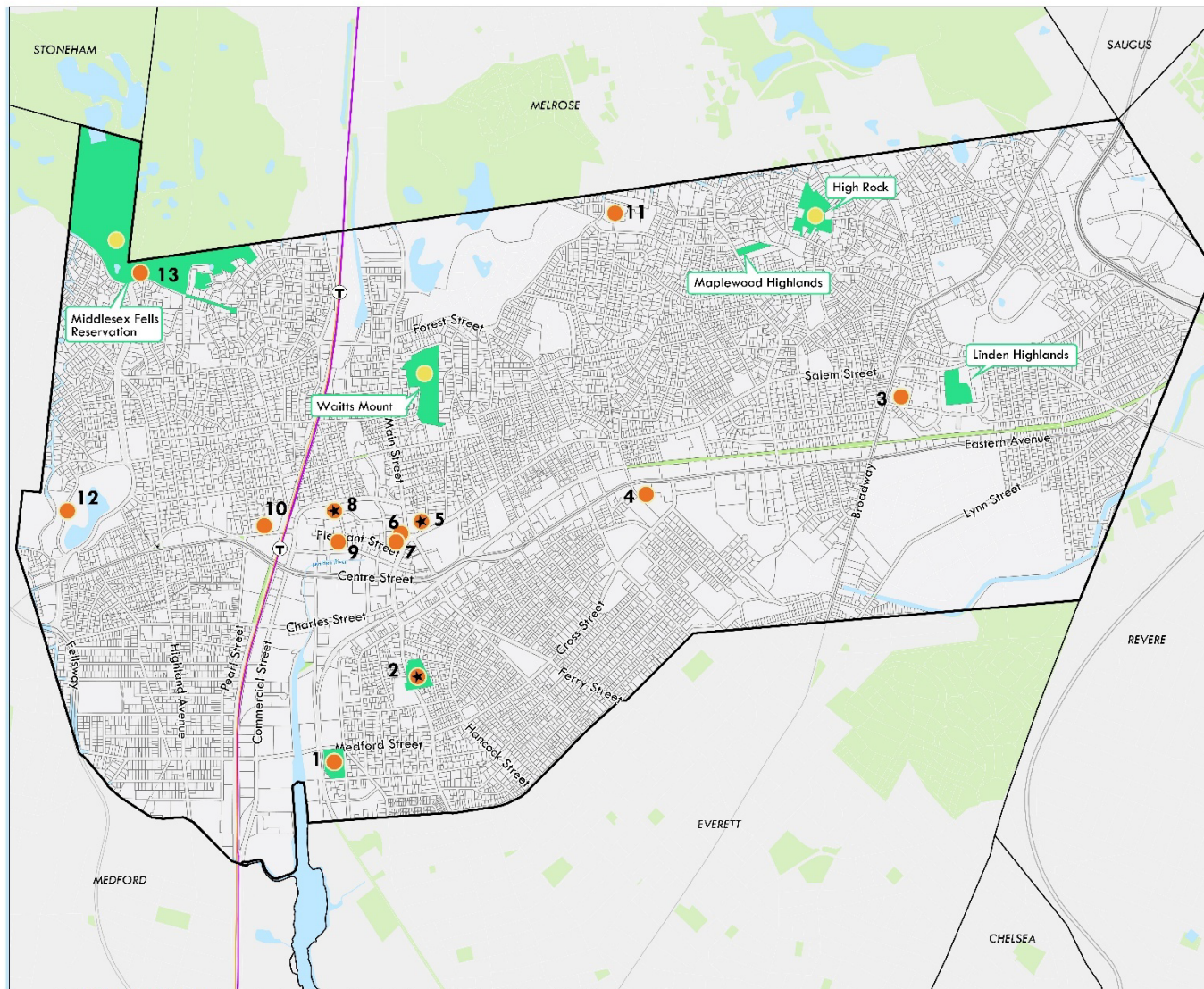
Malden contains several rock outcroppings that offer dramatic views of the city and its surrounding communities, the Boston skyline, and the Atlantic Ocean. These outcroppings include High Rock, Maplewood Highlands, Linden Highlands, Waitts Mount, and portions of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. High Rock, Waitts Mount, and the Middlesex Fells Reservation are permanently protected open spaces. Malden enjoys many of the scenic advantages of the nearby Rumney Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) located on the fringe of Rowe Quarry. Bell Rock Park and Bell Rock Cemetery are open spaces recognized as important historic resources through inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.



Figure 16. View of Boston from Waitts Mountain in Malden.
Source: Shadley Associates.

Unique Environments

According to MassGIS, the source for the Unique Environments map, there are no unusual geologic features in the Malden data layer. Important and distinctive rock outcroppings like High Rock, Waitts Mount and those in the Middlesex Fells are included in the open space inventory as permanently protected open spaces.



Document Path: C:\Users\clewis\OneDrive - Metropolitan Area Planning Council\Malden OSRP\Malden OSRP Maps-Feb 2025.aprx

Map 6. Malden's Scenic Resources.

Historic, Cultural, And Archeological Resources

As noted in Chapter 3, Malden's written history honors the land as the traditional territory of the Pennacook people. Incorporated in 1634 by Europeans, just outside of Boston, early Malden settlers were too far from deep water for shipbuilding. The land proved too rocky for any significant, long-term farming. As a result, Malden became a mill and factory town, which propelled Malden's evolution. As the city continues to grow and evolve, there have been multiple efforts to document and commemorate its historic and cultural legacies over the past three hundred and ninety (390) years.

Historic Resources

Malden's historical landscape includes many physical spaces of historical and architectural significance. Multiple efforts to document historical sites have taken place over the past fifty years. As a result, Malden has inventoried nearly 600 sites of historical or architectural significance throughout the city, including private residences, civic buildings, religious institutions, schools, parks, landscapes, neighborhoods, and commercial properties. All these sites are documented with the Malden Historic Commission and Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Efforts to document historic places and sites in Malden began in 1977, with an initial inventory of Malden completed an architectural survey. In 1998, another survey of the Converse-Sprague Historic District documented buildings in Malden Center tracing development from the mid-17th century to the mid-20th century. In the early

2000s, Malden's Historical Commission completed a Comprehensive Community-wide Survey Report in 2001, expanding the inventory, including municipal parks and cemeteries. Another Neighborhood Survey Project in 2008 documented properties in the West End and Edgeworth neighborhoods. The most recent survey completed was a Citywide Inventory completed in 2017 expanding to the Maplewood Square Area, as well as a few other areas around the city.

The results of these surveys and inventory efforts include documentation of municipal parks like Waitt's Mount, Fellsmere Park, Pine Banks Park, and Newman Park. These inventories document designs from Frederick Olmsted Sr, and the Olmsted Brothers, as well as improvements made by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). These inventories also document municipal and private cemeteries, noting that the Hebrew Charitable Burial Ground, also known as Maplewood Cemetery, is the oldest suburban Jewish cemetery in Boston dating back to 1851.

Recent preservation activities in Malden, funded by the Community Preservation Act, include the restoration and upgrade to surveyed sites that provide open spaces for the city, including Fellsmere Park, High Rock, Crescent Slope, and Waitts Mount.

Malden Sites on the National Register of Historic Places

Malden's historical sites also reflect important sites of national history. As of 2022, the City of Malden has eleven properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Bell Rock Cemetery (1649)

Bell Rock Cemetery is located at Green Street, Medford Street and Converse Avenue. Founded on the sandy banks of the Malden River, Bell Rock Cemetery is also known as the Common Burying Ground at Sandy Bank. Significant as a repository of the early mortuary art of New England, the cemetery's surviving gravestones, nearly all of which date before 1820, constitute some of the finest and earliest decorative carvings in Massachusetts. The burial ground also claims the distinction of being the resting place of settlers from the Great Migration of 1630, of Michael Wigglesworth, and of veterans from three colonial wars. Over the centuries through today, the three-acre grounds have served a secondary use as a recreational spot. Throughout the 18th century, the town permitted livestock owned by widows to graze on the site. Cows and horses pastured there during most of the 19th century. In later years, employees from adjoining factories regularly spent lunch hours sitting and strolling among the moss-covered gravestones.

2. Bell Rock Memorial Park (1908)

Bell Rock Memorial Park, located on Main Street has been a public open space since 1648. This park contains a significant natural rock outcropping that is known to be the site of Malden's first meeting house. In 1658, a bell

was hung from a wooden scaffold atop the outcropping to summon the townspeople to worship, giving the park its name. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., the park is one of twelve known Olmsted-designed sites within the City, and home to the bronze monument designed and sculpted by Bela Lyon Pratt. The monument, The Flag Defenders, is dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of Malden who served in the American Civil War. Overall, approximately 90% of the original park features are still in place and the original Olmsted "naturalistic design" remains clearly present. The walkways and terraced overlooks of this 3.41-acre park continue to serve the City for passive recreation and as a community meeting place for the commemoration of patriotic services, such as Flag Day.

3. Marcia P. Browne Junior High School (1905)

Located at 295 Broadway, this site was designed in the Colonial Revival style by Boston architect Edward I. Wilson and constructed in response to the rapid growth in the City's population due to industrialization. It was converted to its current use, assisted living for the elderly, in the 1990s.

4. Charles A. Daniels School (1906)

Located at 20 Daniels Street, this school was designed in Tudor Revival-style by the Boston architectural firm Brainerd and Leeds and

constructed in response to the rapid growth in the City's population due to industrialization. It was named for Charles A. Daniels, former principal of Malden High School and Superintendent of Schools, considered the father of the Malden public school system. It was converted to its current use, residential condominium housing in the 1980s.

5. Converse Memorial Building (1885)

Located at 36 Salem Street, the Converse Memorial Building is home to the Malden Public Library and Art Gallery. Designed by well-known American architect, H.H. Richardson, it was given to the City by Malden's first Mayor, Elisha S. Converse, as a memorial to his son slain by a bank robber.

6. Odd Fellows Building (1907)

Located at 442 Main Street, the Odd Fellows Building was designed in Second Renaissance Revival style by Boston architect and Malden resident, Louis C. Newhall. This prominent brick four-story building was built at the height of Malden's era as a streetcar suburb. Located in Converse Square, the building faces the historic crossroads at the commercial center of Malden: Main, Pleasant, Salem, and Ferry Streets. These were the earliest roads in the City and remained the major routes in and out of town throughout its history. The building was funded and historically occupied primarily by its

namesake fraternal organization for offices and meeting halls. The building is currently occupied for retail, office and other commercial use.

7. Waitt Brick Block (1848)

Located at 422-424 Main Street, this commercial block was designed in Greek Revival style and is the only surviving structure from the period. Constructed during the economic development of Malden Square during the mid-19th century, it is Malden's oldest brick building. The block's curved facade still reflects the early street pattern of Main and Pleasant Streets. The property is named after its financier, Thomas Waitt, Jr., a state representative, town clerk, and local Baptist deacon.

8. Saint Paul's Parish Church (1871, 1913)

Located at 26 Washington Street, the church was originally constructed as a wood frame church in 1871. The stone church building that is used today was built in 1913-1914 and designed in the Modern Gothic style by architect Ralph Adams Cram, of the prominent Boston firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Stained glass and decorative leaded windows were designed by the noted studio of Wilbur Herbert Burnham of Boston. In 1951, the original wooden church building was remodeled to serve as the Parish House. St. Paul's retains its

architectural integrity and remains relatively unaltered from the time of construction. The church is an early 20th century landmark for its transitional neighborhood, separating downtown Malden and residential districts.

9. Browne-Masonic Building (1894)

Located at 126-150 Pleasant Street, this four-story building is a good example of a late 19th-century commercial building designed by the Boston architectural firm of Hartwell and Richardson. Facing north on Pleasant Street in downtown Malden, it is also an intact early example of the commercial development of this section of Pleasant Street from the late 19th century in what became Malden's commercial and government center. The building was the primary meeting location for the Masonic Order of Malden for 85 years and is associated with other fraternal and social organizations.

10. Wilbur Fiske Haven House (1866)

Located at 339 Pleasant Street, the house is one of the City's earliest examples of the high-style, Italianate/Mansard or Second Empire. This well-preserved mansion-scale residence was built by Malden carpenter and contractor George Hanson Fall for well-to-do Boston hardware merchant Wilbur Fiske Haven, a native Maldonian. The property has regional historical significance for its location in "Doctor's Row," the section of Pleasant Street named for

the large concentration of physicians who maintained offices and residences in this area in the early 1900s. Also known for the professional achievements and contributions of later owners and occupants, including a street railway contractor who was also a banker, doctors and funeral home directors. The property is currently used for professional offices.

11. Malden City Infirmary (1871)

Located at 341 Forest Street, the Malden Almshouse or McFadden Memorial Manor is a well-preserved example of an almshouse. The building was later converted to the Malden City Infirmary. The complex was constructed in two phases, first in 1871 as an almshouse for nearly 60 years. Then in 1930, the transition to a City Infirmary brought additional construction. The complex is an increasingly rare example of a municipality facility for the care of the poor and elderly. The shift to the infirmary and nursing home demonstrates a trend seen throughout Massachusetts of municipalities converting almshouses caring for the poor, who were usually able-bodied to infirmaries, primarily caring for those who needed assistance and often elderly. The property continues to provide care for the elderly as an assisted-care facility was rehabilitated and known today as Forestdale Park.

In addition to these sites, Malden also has five resources on the National Register of Historic Places that are shared with abutting communities along the west side of the city.

Fells Connector Parkway (1895)

The Fells Connector Parkway in Medford and Malden, consisting of the Y-shaped system of roadways known as The Fellsway, Fellsway East, and Fellsway West, is significant as one of the earliest connecting parkways designed for the Metropolitan Park Commission by Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot and its successor firm, Olmsted Brothers. These heavily traveled, formal boulevards are curvilinear divided parkways that run north through early 20th-century residential and commercial neighborhoods. The Fells Connector Parkway connects the Middlesex Fells Reservation directly with Boston, the Mystic River Reservation and Parkway, and the Revere Beach Parkway.

Fellsmere Park Parkway (1914)

West Border Road and Boundary Road, two short border parkways, define the eastern and western boundaries of Fellsmere Park (1893), located approximately ½ mile south of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. These parkways have historical significance in the areas of community planning and development, conservation, engineering, entertainment/recreation, landscape architecture, and transportation. Fellsmere Park, a small park established in 1913, occupies land that was developed on either side of Fellsway East just south of the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

Middlesex Fells Reservation Parkway (1896)

Malden's East Border Road is one of the parkways of the

Middlesex Fells Parkway system, designed by Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot and its successor firm, Olmsted Brothers. Their significance mirrors that of the Fellsmere Park Parkway. The parkways within the reservation consist of an interconnected system of border and internal roads. Border roads were conceived by landscape architect Charles Eliot in the 1890s as a way of clearly delineating the boundaries of reservations and making them visible within the community. Internal parkways are roads interior to the reservation. The character-defining feature of these roads is the scenic setting of the reservation. The parkways travel through a mixed setting of wooded landscape, wetlands, and parks, and pockets of modern and historic residential and commercial development.

Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston (1893)

The regional park system established by the Metropolitan Park Commission is significant for its internationally recognized contribution to the American park movement of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. It is considered the first regional park and parkway system in the country and a work of visionary regional planning. The Metropolitan Park System represents the most significant accomplishment of landscape architect Charles Eliot, a partner in the Olmsted landscape architecture firm and journalist Sylvester Baxter of Malden, a long-time advocate for preservation of the Middlesex Fells. Middlesex Fells Reservation (c. 1895) is a natural and scenic reservation that crosses the boundaries of Malden and several other cities and towns: Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester.

Middlesex Fells Reservoirs Historic District (1893-1898)

The District is located within the 2,060-acre Middlesex Fells Reservation, which spans Malden, Medford and Stoneham. A public utility and recreational resource “carefully landscaped to blend with the surrounding woodland environment,” is significant in the areas of conservation, engineering, landscape architecture, politics, government and recreation. Land in the District was acquired for the Boston metropolitan park system in 1894, and portions of the area were also developed by the Metropolitan Water Board (formerly known as the Metropolitan District Commission and now known as the Department of Conservation and Recreation) between 1898 and 1903 as a water supply distribution point for communities north of Boston. The District was one of eight districts in 23 cities and towns included in the Water Supply System of the Metropolitan Boston Thematic Resource Area (1845-1926).

In recent years, efforts to recognize other open space properties for the National Register include Fellsmere Park, Forest Dale Cemetery, Waitts Mount Park, and Salem Street Cemetery. There is a desire to recognize how Malden’s cemeteries evolved to meet the needs of community members, initially starting with Bell Rock Cemetery, followed by Salem Street Cemetery in 1832, then Forest Dale Cemetery in 1885. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has surveyed these properties in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS).

Cultural Resources

In the context of open space and recreation plans, cultural resources include tangible evidence of past human activities that reflect historical events, trends, people and culture. Malden’s cultural resources include historic memorials and buildings documented in MACRIS, which inventories places with historic character including homes with distinctive architecture, notable monuments, and important civic buildings. Notably, the Malden Public Library hosts an art collection housed in the Converse Memorial Building, with three art galleries and archives, featuring artists with Malden area connections.

In addition to the spaces recorded in MACRIS, Malden’s community has made strides to invest in arts and cultural resources including more public art, cultural events and programming, and facilities for arts and culture. Malden’s cultural resources include a variety of memorials, public art installations, and ongoing programs that support a vibrant art and culture community.

As mentioned in Chapter 3, multiple arts organizations are leading public artwork installations throughout the city, including installations along the Northern Strand Community Trail as part of the ARTLine, in Coytemore Lea Park, on electrical boxes through the Switchbox Program, and recent murals in Downtown Malden. Organizations like Malden Arts and Creative Malden lead public art and programming efforts, and Urban Media Arts also hosts a gallery in addition media programs for adults and youth alike.

Malden's cultural organizations and celebrations also reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity within the city. Reflective of its Asian American population, Malden is home to organizations that serve as regional resources including the Chinese Cultural Connection, Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition (GMAACC), and Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy. In 2024, GMAACC also secured an earmark for an Asian American Community and Cultural Center in Malden to provide a dedicated space to celebrate Asian American culture. Since 2017, Malden Juneteenth has organized an annual Juneteenth Freedom celebration hosted in Lincoln Commons. Organizations like the American Association for Arab Women also found a home in Malden, and the Immigrant Learning Center is a regional hub for the greater Boston's global community.

Other notable events in Malden include Porchfest, which started in 2022, and provides opportunities for local musicians and performers, and Maplewood Festival, which hosts live music in Maplewood Square typically in September, and Malden Pride which takes place in June. Malden also hosts a World Music Concert Series reflecting global identities of community members.

Additionally, the Malden Gaming District established an entertainment district in Downtown Malden, built around play and anchored around game-related businesses. This includes business like Boda Boga, and activities like mini golf, escape rooms, bouldering, bowling, karaoke, and scavenger hunts. Notably, Malden also hosts many Pokémon Go events throughout the region.

There are ongoing efforts to coordinate Malden's arts and cultural communities. Local arts and culture leadership includes the Malden Cultural Council, which is the local cultural council under the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which primarily distributes grants for local arts and cultural programs and events. Malden's cultural planning efforts include Malden River Creative Placemaking in 2019, developing the Malden Center for Arts and Culture Concept Plan in 2022 and the formation of the Arts and Culture Committee in 2025.

Archaeological Resources

Since the land now called Malden has been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, precontact archaeological resources are an enduring part of this landscape. The Malden River, the broader Mystic River watershed, and the area's stone resources supported foodways, travel, trade, settlement, and toolmaking over thousands of years, leaving archaeological evidence of long-standing relationships between people, land, and water. Historic archaeological resources are also part of this layered landscape, reflecting centuries of settlement, agriculture, industry, transportation, and everyday community life that have shaped Malden over time.

In keeping with the policies of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, archaeologically sensitive areas cannot be publicly mapped because site locations are confidential under Massachusetts law. Even so, archaeological resources should be understood as part of the city's open space and land stewardship context. As a best practice, projects

involving ground disturbance, redevelopment, or significant landscape change should plan for archaeological review early in project development, whether or not review is legally required, to help identify potential resources, inform responsible decision-making, and strengthen stewardship of the landscape's layered cultural history.

Water Resources

Malden is split between two watersheds, the Mystic River Watershed in the west and the Northern Coastal Watershed in the east. The Mystic River Watershed includes all the networks of rivers, streams and ponds that flow into the Mystic River, and ultimately the Boston Harbor. Malden is home to medium and high yield aquifers. In addition, it has isolated areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding, particularly in the southwestern part of the city. These resources are shown on Map 6.

Mystic River Watershed Water Resources and Flooding

Surface waters in Malden connected to the Mystic River Watershed include the Malden River, the Spot Pond Brook, which was culverted below ground in the 1960s, and Fellsmere Pond, which was constructed as a reservoir from the original swampland in the area.

High and medium yield aquifers are in the Mystic River Watershed in Malden starting in the area where the river enters a culvert in Malden Center, extending west to West Street, north to the Melrose border, and east to the edge of the watershed.

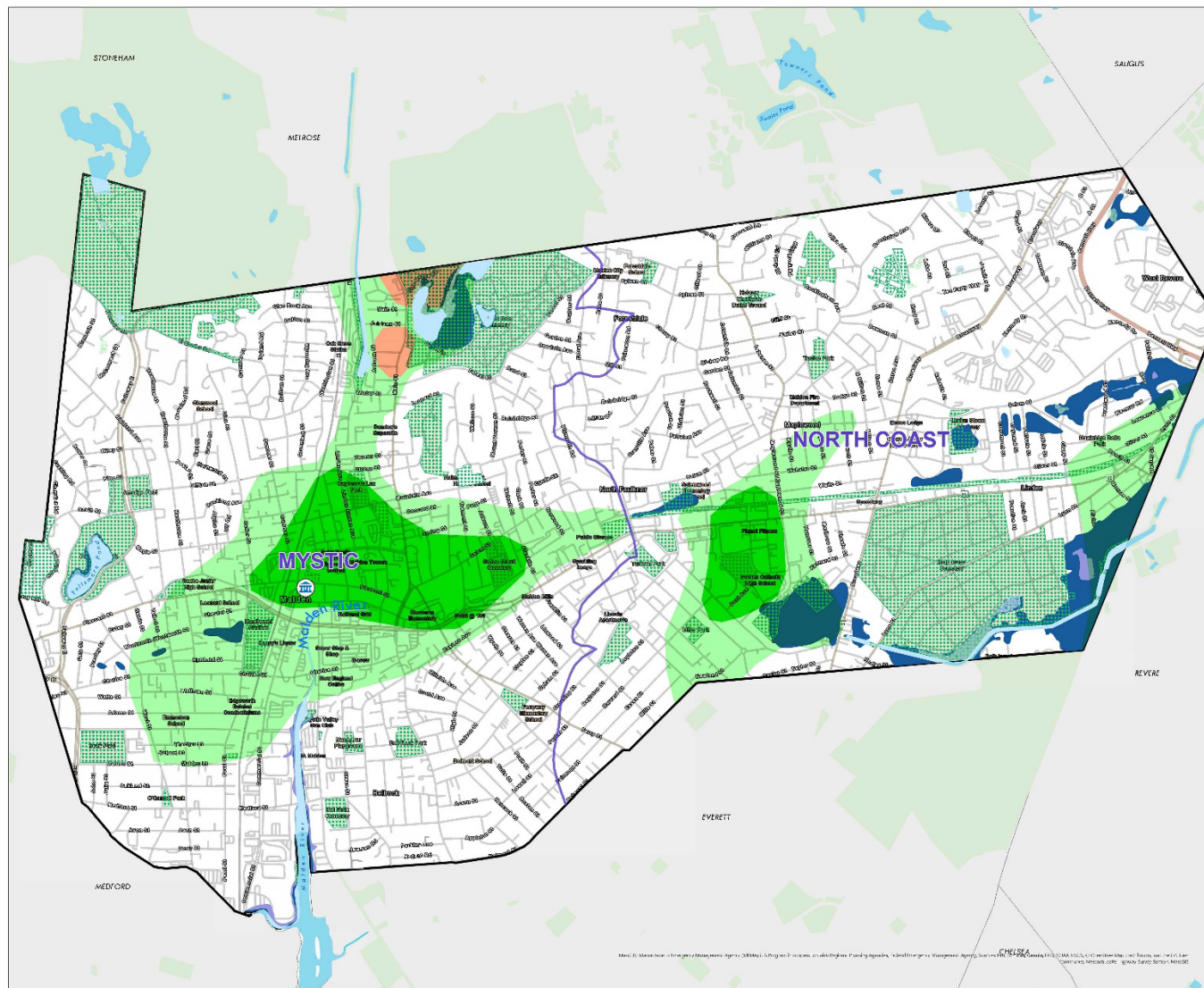
Flood risk is generally lower in this part of Malden due to the Amelia Earhart Dam, which was constructed to control flooding in the Mystic River Watershed. Isolated areas experience a 1% annual flood risk in the southwestern area of the city between Pleasant Street and Charles Street.

Northern Coastal Watershed Water Resources and Flooding

Surface waters in Malden that are part of the Northern Coastal Watershed include the Town Line Brook and Linden Brook. Town Line Brook and Linden Brook connect to the Rumney Marsh tidal system in Revere, which is a state-designated Area of Critical Concern (ACEC).

A high yield aquifer is in the area around the Malden Catholic High School, stretching north to Waite Street, east to Maplewood Street, and southwest to Alden Street. That aquifer is surrounded by a medium yield aquifer that reaches Salem Street in the northeast, Broadway in the southeast, Everett's border in the southwest, and Roosevelt Park in the northwest.

Larger areas face a 1% annual chance of flooding at the southeastern borders of the city and along a corridor from the eastern border between Salem Street and Oliver Street close to Broadway in the west. The area bordered by Broadway, Kennard and Newland Streets is also subject to 1% annual flood risk, as well as the area around the Salemwood Elementary School.



Malden, MA

Open Space, Recreation, Arts and Culture Plan

WATER RESOURCES MAP

- Malden City Hall
- Malden Parks and Open Space
- Watersheds

DEP WETLAND AREAS

- Marsh/Bog
- Wooded marsh
- Open Water; Open Water

AQUIFERS

- High yield
- Medium yield
- Non-aquifer area

FEMA FLOOD RISK

- High: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding
- Moderate: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

March 2026



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 MILES

Map 7. Malden's Water Resources.

Surface Waters

Malden River

The Malden River has been a defining and pivotal feature of Malden across centuries. As part of the Mystic River watershed, the Malden River was a critical resource for Indigenous people as a means of transportation, source of food, and opportunities for trade among the Pawtucket, Massachusetts, and Wampanoag peoples. This legacy continued when the first European colonists settled along the banks of the Malden River, which was bordered by salt marshes and tidal flats.

As Malden's economy transitioned from fishing and farming, so did the shape and use of the Malden River. Malden's industrial development is owed to the mills and factories along the streams feeding into the Malden River, including Spot Pond Brook. The Malden River originates from the outflow from Spot Pond in the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

In the mid-1800s to early 1900s, multiple engineering projects altered the shape of the Malden River. In 1847, the Malden Canal Project straightened, dredged, and filled in portions of the river to allow easier access for barges. In 1921, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers completed a 1.5-mile-long channel as part of the Malden River Navigation Project, extending from the junction of the

Mystic and Malden Rivers to the Medford Street Bridge. Originally a serpentine, brackish river surrounded by marshland, these projects created a straight, deep river with a northern terminus near the intersection of Canal Street and Charles Street. At this location, the river once transitioned to Spot Pond Brook, which continued north to Spot Pond in Stoneham.

Just south of Malden Center, along Charles Street and adjacent to Canal Street, the Malden River daylights from two sets of stormwater culverts (Spot Pond Culvert and Saugus Branch culvert) and flows south for 1.3 miles as open surface water (0.7 miles in Malden). Malden River's open surface waters run through the densely populated cities of Malden, Everett and Medford prior to its confluence with the Mystic River, just upstream of the Amelia Earhart Dam.

The Amelia Earhart Dam was constructed in 1966 with the primary purpose to protect against flooding in the Mystic River Watershed. One consequence of the dam is that it blocked the tidal flushing of river and transformed the river into a freshwater river. Before the construction of the dam, the waters of the Malden River were brackish and supported saltwater marshes and their ecosystems.⁵¹

In the 20th century, the Malden River largely remained underutilized and undeveloped, known for its history of contamination. Starting in the early 2000s, the U.S. Army

⁵¹ Cambridge, *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Part 2* (Cambridge, MA: City of Cambridge, 2017), <https://www.cambridgema.gov/->

/media/Files/CDD/Climate/vulnerabilityassessment/finalreport_ccvap_art2_mar2017_final2_web.pdf

Corps of Engineers (USACE) partnered with the Mystic Valley Development Commission (MVDC) to develop the “Malden River Ecosystem Restoration Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment,” with the overarching goal to restore the Malden River ecosystem to the “highest quality that it can reasonably support and sustain.” To that end, there are three primary restoration objectives: wetlands restoration, aquatic habitat restoration, and riverine migratory restoration.

In 2019, a Human Health Risk Study for Boating on the Malden River showed results were favorable for boating activities like canoeing, rowing, and kayaking, which was a tremendous breakthrough for recreational use of the River.⁵² Water sampling conducted monthly by the Mystic River Water Association (MyRWA) is provided to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MA EPA), which publishes an annual water quality report card for the Mystic River Watershed using baseline bacteria data. The grade is based on how frequently waterbodies meet bacteria standards for swimming and boating. While there are many places earning A and B grades, where it is safe to go boating and swimming on the Mystic River, the Malden River’s water quality was downgraded to a D in 2022. In 2024, testing showed that the Malden River was compliant with safe levels of bacteria only 49.7% of the time. This pollution is likely due to storm-water pollution as stormwater carries pollutants from streets, sidewalks and

properties to catch basins and nearby waterbodies. To support safe use of the river, MyRWA issues a daily Boating Advisory that estimates the water quality conditions for the Malden River during boating season. This advisory is most commonly issued in the days following a heavy rainstorm due to stormwater runoff that introduces pollutants into the waterway.⁵²

Today, the river is home to multiple crew teams, including high school teams from Malden, Everett, Medford and the Mystic Valley Charter School. Other rowing teams include Tufts and Wentworth universities, Living Root Dragon Boat Club and Gentle Giant Rowing Club. Both Everett and Medford utilize the riverfront along the Malden River, as part of Rivers Edge development led by the MVDC and the Malden River Greenway, spearheaded by MyRWA. In 2024, the Malden River Works Concept Plan for a climate resilient park received full funding to put the project out for bid for construction in the fall of 2025. Once built, the project will redesign the City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) Yard to incorporate a climate resilient public park along the Malden River. This project, a five-year collaboration among the City, the Steering Committee, and the project team comprised of City and non-profit staff and led by Landing Studio as the design lead, will result in an accessible park that prioritizes climate resilience, recreational opportunities, and representations of Malden’s diverse cultures in signage, cultural events and outdoor

⁵² Mystic River Watershed Association, “Malden River Cleared for Public Boating,” April 10, 2019,

<https://mysticriver.org/news/2019/4/10/malden-river-cleared-for-public-boating>

classes. The City released a request for proposals and bids for park construction in March 2025.

Led by a groundswell of community efforts led in partnership with the Mystic River Watershed Association, Friends of the Malden River, the Malden River Works, the Malden River is experiencing a remarkable transformation as a recreational destination for Malden community members.

Fellsmere Pond

Originally a swamp at the base of the Middlesex Fells rock ledge, Elisha Converse purchased the land in 1868. Following a fire at his Boston Rubber Show Factory he created a reservoir by constructing a dam at the outfall of the southern end of the swamp in case of future fires. This reservoir is known today as Fellsmere Pond. In 1893, the pond was gifted to the City of Malden as part of a 25-acre land donation to create Fellsmere Park, and in 1894, Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot, a world-renowned landscape architecture firm, was hired to design the park.

Fellsmere Pond and Park are owned by the City of Malden. However, in 1905 the City of Malden Board of Aldermen voted “to transfer to the Metropolitan Park Commission for care and control, including police protection, Fellsmere Park.” The Department of

Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is the statutory successor to the Metropolitan Park Commission. Nonetheless, the City of Malden maintains the Pond and Park.

There is an active Friends of Fellsmere Park group that has worked to improve the park, including attempting to control the influx of Canada geese at the pond. The walking path along the shore has been repaved and erosion control measures have been completed. Efforts to make improvements to the pond continue a community draft of a Management Plan and the development of the Fellsmere Park Master Plan process.⁵³ Notably, the pond received stormwater runoff. The pond is used for fishing, with a proposed fishing pier on the northwest side of the pond in the 2022 Master Plan.

Forest Dale Cemetery Pond

The land for the Forest Dale Cemetery was purchased by the City of Malden in 1883, on what was once 56-acre Pratt Hill Farm.⁵⁴ In recent years, the Forest Dale Cemetery was registered as a Level One arboretum, which requires 25 different species of trees, while the Forest Dale Cemetery is home to 90 species of trees, including newly planted trees.⁵⁵ In addition to its use as a public garden and arboretum, this area is also noted for birding.

⁵³ Friends of Fellsmere Park, *Fellsmere Park Management Plan*, rev. 1.4 (February 12, 2021), <https://www.maldenhistory.org/FOFP/FPMP/FPMPRev1.5.pdf>

⁵⁴ Elizabeth Scorsello, “Rebirth in Malden’s Forest Dale Cemetery,” *Neighborhood View*, June 8, 2014,

<https://neighborhoodview.org/2014/06/08/rebirth-in-forest-dale-cemetery/>

⁵⁵ Karen Buck, “An Arboretum Hiding in Plain Sight: Malden’s Tree Warden Cultivates Splendor at Forest Dale Cemetery,” *Neighborhood View*, January 31, 2025,

A key feature of the arboretum is a small surface pond that provides habitat for ducks and geese within the Forest Dale Cemetery. The water quality, algae pollution and drain work are being tested monthly by Malden's Cemetery Director and Tree Warden and remain at healthy levels. The pond is a favorite feature in the Forest Dale Cemetery, and there are currently efforts underway to rebuild the wall around the pond to help maintain water levels. A small wetland area also exists between the cemetery and Pine Banks Park.

Pine Banks Park Pond

Pine Banks Park is a 107.5-acre park located in Malden and Melrose that features a small pond, once called Island Pond. The pond is located near the playground and picnic sites, there is a one-acre pond in the Melrose portion of the park. Today, the pond is used for fishing, though catch and release, and swimming and boating are prohibited water.

Pine Banks Park is on land originally belonging to the Wampanoag people, later owned by the Lunde family in the early 1700s, and purchased by Elisha S. Converse. In his will, Converse bequeathed the park to both cities in 1905, instructing that it be managed by the cities jointly "forever as a public park." Today the park is managed by a non-profit corporation with a seven-member board of trustees from the two cities, including a descendant of the Converse family.

<https://neighborhoodview.org/2025/01/31/an-arboretum-hiding-in-plain-sight-maldens-tree-warden-cultivates-splendor-at-forest-dale-cemetery>

Some unmapped wetland areas also exist within Pine Banks. In 2024, routine soil testing found lead levels in a wooded area of Pine Banks Park that exceeds the thresholds established by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and remediation is underway. Elevated lead levels are likely linked to historical use of the park in the mid-twentieth century to dispose of ash from burning trash and refuse.

Town Line Brook

Town Line Brook is on the far east side of Malden near the border of Revere and Everett. The brook is 1.7-mile-long surface water body (1.0 mile in Malden) that runs from Broadway to Rumney Marsh in Revere through Everett.

Town Line Brook was diverted into a concrete-lined channel with an open top, for its entire length by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the predecessor agency to what is now known as the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Town Line Brook Channel was designated to carry runoff to the ocean via tide gates and protect neighborhoods in Everett, Revere, and southeast Malden from storm surge flooding and sea level rise. In a recent study of the Boston North Shore and regional floodgates, Town Line Brook is flagged as an area that floods with storm surge and sea level rising. In Malden there are currently 210 buildings in the 100-year floodplain located along the brook path.

Given the brook's proximity to Route 1, the ownership structure for this brook includes multiple state and municipal actors including Massachusetts DCR, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT), Malden, Everett, and Revere. Currently there is a project proposal underway for "Saugus River Coastal Storm Management Risk Management Feasibility Study" by the New England District Corps of Engineers.

The brook runs along the southern edge of the privately-owned Holy Cross Cemetery. Currently, there is an unpaved access road owned by DCR alongside the length of the brook, which could potentially be the site of a greenway or park space. A large strip of open land lies between the fence of the DCR property and a berm in the cemetery. A large undeveloped parcel (approximately 2 acres) is located along the access road. However, this is currently unmarked and unknown by most Malden residents.

Streams Channelized in Culverts

In addition to its surface waters, Malden has water bodies that have been placed in underground culverts, which are tunnels that carry streams or stormwater underground. Starting in the nineteenth century, Malden has been constructing culverts for its streams as the city developed, creating land on what was formerly a streambed. During the 19th and 20th centuries Spot Pond Brook and Linden Brook provided important resources for local industry and served as tributaries to the larger rivers in their respective watersheds. Spot Pond Brook originated at Spot Pond in

the Middlesex Fells Reservation through what is now Coytemore Lea Park and Malden Center before feeding into the Malden River. The brook has been channelized underground since the 1960s when this section was placed in a closed culvert. Today, the brook passes beneath Malden in channelized conveyances to a section near Oak Grove MBTA station that is channelized in an open culvert. Linden Brook stretched east into Revere and carries water underneath the Linden neighborhood through its culverts.

Other culverts include West End Brook and St. Mary's Brook, which eventually feed into the Malden River. The West End Brook Flood Control Project Plans date to 1970. St. Mary's Brook is culverted under Commercial Street into an environmentally sensitive and restored wetlands at Little Creek. This drains the Malden Fellsmere Highlands into the Malden River via Little Creek. In heavier rains, it floods along Route 60 storm drain at the border of Medford and Malden as it passes under Route 60 and daylights after passing under Commercial Street.

Aquifer Recharge Areas and Public Water Supply

Aquifers are the bodies of rock or sediment underground that hold groundwater. These can be used to provide water for communities. Aquifers require recharge areas where surface water is able to seep into the ground and refill the aquifer, filtering the groundwater in the process. Recharge areas are necessary for the health of an aquifer. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) delineates zones for all active and inactive surface water supplies throughout the Commonwealth.

While there are aquifers located in Malden, these do not supply water to the public. Malden does not contain any public water supply aquifers, nor does Malden have any Surface Water Protection Zones. There is no private well used for drinking water in Malden, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) provides water from two reservoirs in central Massachusetts, the Quabbin Reservoir and the Wachusett Reservoir.⁵⁶

Wetland Areas

In addition to the wetland areas along the banks of the Malden River, Town Line Brook, and the Forest Dale Cemetery, there are some isolated wetlands in the Middlesex Fells Reservation and the undeveloped areas of Malden. Malden lacks a comprehensive inventory of wetland resources including vernal pools and isolated wetlands. The Malden Conservation Commission can provide information to the public on some of these areas.

Flood Hazard Areas

Malden River

Areas along the Malden River are in the one-hundred-year floodplain (or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area), with select sections in Malden in the five-hundred-year floodplain (or 0.2% Annual Change Flood Hazard area). The channeling of the river and the Amelia Earhart Dam limit the extent of the river's flood zone area.

Town Line Brook

⁵⁶ Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, *2023 Drinking Water Test Results* (Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, 2023),

Land along Town Line Brook is in the one-hundred-year floodplain (or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area) starting at Maplewood Park, behind Malden Catholic High School, along the southern border of Holy Cross Cemetery and into Revere. These areas are in what is categorized as a Regulatory Floodway, which is subcategory of floodway that indicates that must be preserved to ensure that floodwaters can pass without increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.²⁵ There are residential properties that appear to be in the floodplain, and a section of properties off Cleveland Street located in the five-hundred-year floodplain (or 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area).

Linden Area

Sections of the Linden neighborhood are also in the one-hundred-year floodplain (or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area). The sections into land west of Broadway and north of the Northern Strand Community Trail, include the sections southwest of the Linden School in Hunting Field, as well as areas just west of Beach Street. To the northeast of Beach Street there are portions of the neighborhood that are in the one-hundred-year floodplain categorized as a Regulatory Floodway, including residential areas, and one section of this area in the five-hundred-year floodplain (or 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area) in proximity to a floodway.

Edgeworth Area

<https://www.mwra.com/media/file/malden-annual-water-report-2023>

There are a few sections of the Edgeworth neighborhood, north of Charles Street and West of Highland Avenue, as well as a larger area just west of Macdonald Stadium that are in the one-hundred-year floodplain or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area.

Spot Pond Brook

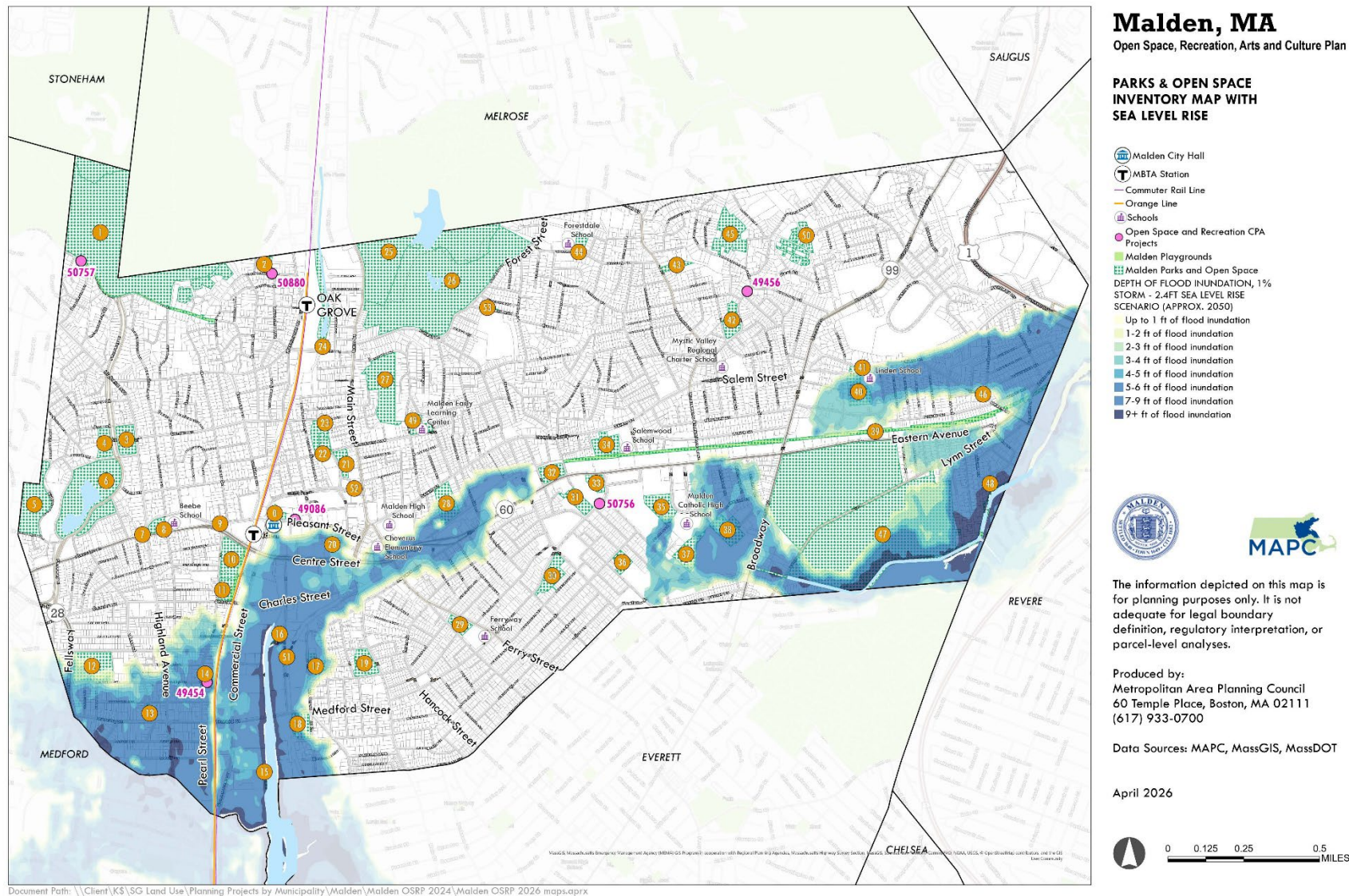
Areas along the brook close to Oak Grove Orange Line and Commuter Rail Station are also in the one-hundred-year floodplain or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area.

Other Areas in the one-hundred-year floodplain (or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard area) include: Fellsmere Pond, Pine Banks Park, Forest Dale Cemetery, Roosevelt Park, behind the Salemwood Schools, and the far northeast corner of Malden east of Route 1.

Future Flood Hazards

In addition to flooding due to storms, Malden also faces future flood risk due to sea level rise. Projections for sea level rise by the year 2050 show a much wider area of 1% annual flood risk with flooding from a one-hundred-year storm reaching a depth of more than nine feet in some areas.. This flooding largely follows the areas of Malden where surface waters and wetlands once existed prior to channelization and culverting efforts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration dedicated funding to redesign the Amelia Earhart Dam, which has been mitigating flooding risk in the Mystic River Watershed. The Administration noted that

projections show storm surge flooding will likely be bypassed around 2045.¹⁹



Map 8. Malden's Projected Future Flood Hazard due to Sea Level Rise by 2050.

Plants and Wildlife

Vegetation

Malden is a densely developed urban area with limited open or undeveloped land. Over time, its natural vegetation has been significantly shaped by urbanization. Historically, the city was almost entirely forested with central hardwoods, but today, only a few areas—such as parks, rocky ledges, and wetlands in the northern part of the city—remain wooded.

The Middlesex Fells Reservation and adjacent private parcels form the largest continuous natural forest in Malden, offering valuable green space and habitat. Pine Banks Park also contains a notable expanse of forest, including mature pine stands. These two locations represent Malden's most significant remaining woodlands, while smaller wooded areas throughout the city vary in size and ecological value. The presence of invasive plant species, which are plants that interrupt native plants' life cycles, is increasingly recognized as a threat to Malden's ecological health. Black Swallow Wort vines have been identified as a priority for remediation as they are decimating the Monarch butterfly population.

Native tree species in Malden include oak, maple, hickory, cherry, ash, locust, linden, elm, birch, aspen, beech, pine, and willow. However, outside of these preserved spaces, much of Malden's greenery consists of lawns, ornamental plantings, and shade trees. In addition to the threat from invasive plant species, invasive insects like the Emerald Ash

Borer and the Spotted Lantern Beetle pose a threat to Malden's urban tree canopy.

Malden's Urban Tree Canopy

Shade trees play a crucial role in creating a resilient and sustainable community, offering numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits. The City of Malden is committed to preserving and expanding its urban tree canopy, which includes public shade trees along streets, in parks, and on city-owned properties. These trees enhance air quality, provide shade, support biodiversity, and improve water quality.

The City's Department of Public Works plants approximately one hundred and fifty new trees annually as part of its commitment to expanding the city's tree cover. To ensure successful growth, the City's Tree Warden has developed a [Tree List and Planting Guidelines](#), which help guide the selection of species best suited to Malden's climate and soil conditions, increasing their survival rate and long-term health.

Malden's Tree Warden, whose office is housed within the Cemetery Department, is responsible for enforcing [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87](#) and city ordinances related to shade trees. The Tree Warden's key responsibilities include:

- Developing policies and programs to achieve a tree canopy that aligns with Malden's goals for public health, beautification, economic and environmental sustainability, and climate resilience.

- Reviewing and making recommendations on ordinances and zoning regulations related to trees.
- Engaging with residents and neighborhoods to address concerns or input related to urban trees.
- Recommending planting and maintenance strategies based on industry best practices and tree availability.
- Raising public awareness of the benefits of a strong urban canopy.

Malden has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation, an achievement that reflects the city's dedication to managing and expanding its public trees. The city is also an active participant in the [Greening the Gateway Cities Program](#), which aims to increase tree canopy cover in designated urban neighborhoods. This program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), provides free tree planting in areas with lower tree coverage, older housing stock, higher wind exposure, and a large renter population. The program's goal is to improve environmental conditions and promote climate resilience in historically underserved communities.

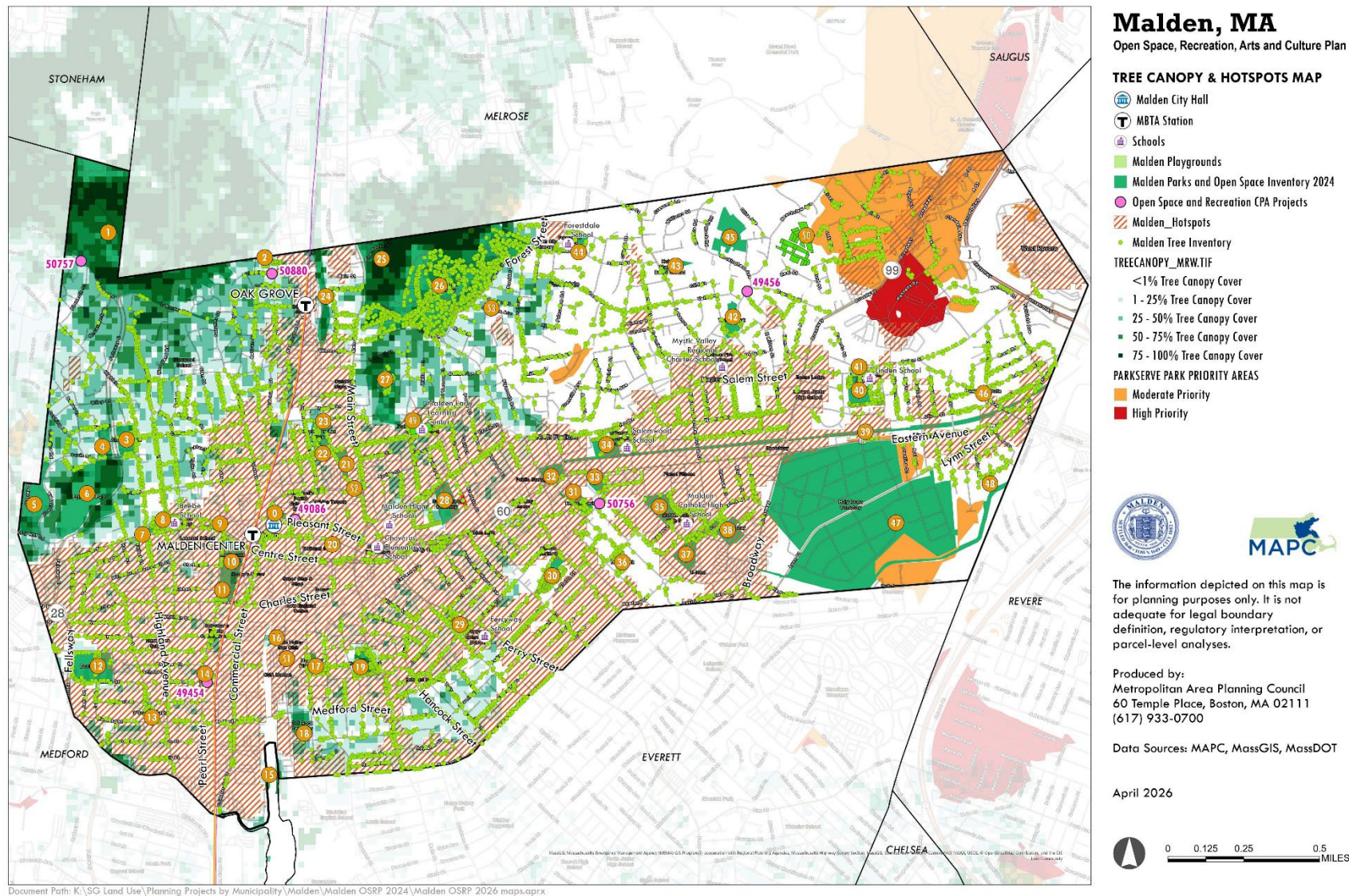
As of January 22, 2024, four hundred and twenty-nine (429) trees have been planted in Malden, with a long-term goal of two thousand four hundred (2,400) trees. The program not only enhances the city's green infrastructure but also contributes to improved air quality, cooler streets, and healthier neighborhoods. Through these efforts, Malden is working to preserve and grow its urban forest,

ensuring that future generations benefit from a greener, healthier, and more livable city.

Malden has limited preserved wetland vegetation and no unique natural resources beyond its protected open spaces, such as the Middlesex Fells Reservation. While the city lacks commercial agricultural land, it does provide community gardening opportunities for residents.

Malden Community Garden

The Malden Community Garden, located along the Northern Strand Community Trail between Bryant and Faulkner Streets, is a shared green space where residents can grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The garden features one hundred and six (106) plots, available to Malden residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Beyond gardening, members can participate in community events, collaborate with local organizations, and engage youth in nature-based activities. Residents can adopt a garden plot for just thirty dollars (\$30) per year, with a commitment to four volunteer hours per season to help maintain shared spaces. While gardeners provide their own seeds and plants, the City supplies water. The Malden Community Garden not only fosters local food production but also strengthens community connections and environmental stewardship in an urban setting.



Map 9. Malden's Tree Canopy, Street Trees, Hot Spots and Park Serve Priority Areas

Rare Plant Species

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has identified several rare plant species in Malden that are classified as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Special Concern (SC) under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). All are part of the vascular plant taxonomic group and are listed in Table 15. Unfortunately, most of these species have not been observed in over a century, reflecting the significant loss of natural habitat in the area. Another challenge for Malden's natural vegetation is the rise of invasive species, particularly Black Swallow Wort, an invasive vine that disrupts the lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly.

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Adder's Tongue Fern	Ophioglossum pusillum	T	1881
Bog Sedge	Carex exilis	T	1881
Lesser Snakeroot	Ageratina aromatica	E	1986
New England Blazing Star	Liatris novae-angliae	SC	1884
Shining Wedgegrass	Sphenopholis nitida	T	1853
Whorled Milkweed	Asclepias verticillata	T	1879
Willdenow's Sedge	Carex willdenowii	E	1863

Table 15. Malden's Rare Plant Species

Fisheries & Wildlife

Due to Malden's dense urban development, native wildlife is limited. Migratory songbirds are occasionally seen throughout the city, while small mammals and larger birds—such as squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, woodchucks, pheasants, ducks, and hawks—are more common near the city's edges, particularly in less developed areas to the east, north, and west.

Fellsmere Pond, Spot Pond Brook, and Pine Banks Park are popular habitats for ducks, both wild and domestic. As pollution mitigation efforts continue along the Malden River, sightings of shorebirds and waterfowl are gradually increasing.

Aquatic species such as goldfish, carp, shiners, sunfish, pickerel, bass, frogs, and turtles are most frequently found in Fellsmere Pond and, to a lesser extent, in the pond at Forest Dale Cemetery. The Malden River is slowly seeing the return of more resilient species as water quality improves.

While there are currently no formal wildlife corridors in Malden, ongoing and future redevelopment, particularly along the Malden River, may help restore and connect natural habitats, supporting greater biodiversity over time.

Rare Animal Species

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has also documented several rare animal species in Malden. While many of these have not been seen in decades, their historic presence highlights the city's

potential to support a broader range of wildlife if natural habitats are restored.

Taxonomic Group	Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Amphibian	Marbled Salamander	Ambystoma opacum	T	1932
Beetle	Hentz's Red-bellied Tiger Beetle	Cicindelidia rufiventris hentzii	T	1926
Beetle	Purple Tiger Beetle	Cicindela purpurea	SC	1903
Beetle	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	Cicindela duodecimguttata	SC	1903
Bird	Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera	E	1922

Table 16. *Malden's Rare Animal Species*

Environmental Challenges

Landfills, Hazardous Waste, and Brownfield Sites

Malden does not have any active or inactive landfills, dumps, or waste transfer stations within the city limits. The city contracts with Republic Services to handle trash and

recycling collection, and partners with Black Earth Compost to provide curbside composting for residents.

Hazardous waste sites are locations where harmful substances, most often petroleum based, have been released into the ground. These sites are commonly associated with motor vehicle-related land uses such as gas stations, service garages, and junkyards. One of the most frequent causes of contamination is leaking underground storage tanks. These tanks often contain heating oil for buildings or gasoline for fueling stations. Other common sources of hazardous waste include dry cleaners and industrial facilities that use chemicals in their operations. When these pollutants enter the soil, they can travel toward groundwater or nearby surface water. Cleaning up these sites is essential to protect public health and the environment. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) enforces laws requiring the remediation of contaminated sites under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21E.

As of January 2025, there were 371 sites in the City of Malden listed in MassDEP's Reportable Release database, both active and inactive. Of these, 45 sites have what are called Activities and Use Limitations (AULs). An AUL is a legal document that remains in place after a cleanup and informs future users of the property about any remaining contamination. It outlines what activities are allowed or restricted on the site and includes maintenance requirements to ensure continued safety. The City of

Malden is committed to prioritizing the cleanup and safe redevelopment of these sites.

Malden's industrial history, especially along the Malden River, resulted in a number of brownfield sites, which are areas with environmental contamination that require cleanup before they can be redeveloped. In recent years, the City has made significant progress in addressing these sites through coordinated redevelopment and remediation efforts throughout parks and open spaces.

The City's brownfields program, managed by the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), supports a range of innovative initiatives that assist public, private, and nonprofit partners in cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated properties. These projects have paved the way for new housing, parks, and commercial development in the city.

Malden has also collaborated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and neighboring communities to convert brownfield sites into vibrant public spaces. One notable example includes the Malden River Greenway and River's Edge, a joint effort among three cities to transform a 30-acre former industrial site along the Malden River into a publicly accessible, privately managed open space. Another example of collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) along the Malden River includes the Honeywell's Release Abatement Measure, along Little Creek.

Flooding

Flooding is the most significant natural hazard identified in Malden's 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan. While Malden is not vulnerable to coastal flooding due to its inland location along the Malden River and protection from tidal flows by the Amelia Earhart Dam in Everett, the city is still at risk from stormwater flooding caused by heavy rainfall.

Flood severity in Malden depends largely on local topography. In most cases, flooding results in standing water ranging from several inches to a few feet. The city is served by an extensive stormwater drainage system designed to manage typical storm events. However, changing weather patterns and the increasing frequency of intense storms sometimes overwhelm this system, leading to localized flooding.

A significant portion of the city's flooding occurs within the Town Line Brook watershed. The 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies twelve areas across Malden where flooding is a recurring issue. These locations, listed below, were identified by city staff based on observed and reported flood incidents:

- 1. Town Line Brook Adjacent Area:** Flooding occurs during high-precipitation events due to the limited height of the tide gate at Route 1.
- 2. Eastern Avenue near Holy Cross Cemetery:** Drainage systems back up during storms, causing flooding that blocks the roadway.

3. **Broadway Trailer Park:** Flooding typically occurs when storms bring more than three inches of rain. A small creek on the property, owned by MassDOT, is undersized for such events. Although the agency has agreed to dredge the creek, the work remains pending. A neighboring property (FW Webb) features a large rain garden that helps reduce flooding, though it has not fully solved the issue.
4. **Area East of Route 60 near Malden High School:** This low-lying area regularly experiences drainage backups and flooding during moderate to heavy rainfall.
5. **Bowman and Durso Neighborhood:** This area is served by a 48-inch culvert that drains to the Revere tide gate but not through the open channel. Runoff from higher elevations (Mt. View area) and tidal backups contribute to flooding, even though the area lies outside the designated floodplain.
6. **Fellsway and Pleasant Street:** Flooding is caused by an open brook that backs up during periods of heavy rain.
7. **Linden Neighborhood (Morris and Cleveland Streets):** Located within the Town Line Brook watershed, this neighborhood experiences flooding during heavy rainfall combined with high tides. The Route 1 tide gate limits the system's stormwater storage capacity, causing water to back up into the neighborhood.
8. **Hanover Street / Marlborough / Kennard Area:** In 2008, this area experienced basement and

backyard flooding due to insufficient storage space behind the tide gate and backups at high tide. The City has completed drainage improvements, including system cleaning and mapping of drain lines, to reduce risk.

9. **Mountain Avenue at Everett Street:** Flooding occurs at the intersection and impacts a nearby apartment building.
10. **Lower Pearl Street near Medford and Oakland Streets:** This area experiences regular street and intersection flooding.
11. **800 Eastern Avenue – Police Station:** High water levels during storms have reached the front entrance and the west end of the building.
12. **332 Pleasant Street – Fire Station:** Stormwater runoff regularly enters the building's basement from the west side.

Extreme Temperatures

Extreme heat is another major climate concern as average temperatures rise and heat waves become hotter, longer, and more frequent. A 2019 Climate Vulnerability Study found that Malden is in the top seven highest heat vulnerable communities in the Greater Boston Area.

The hottest neighborhoods in Malden are predominately highly developed areas with little tree cover. The map indicates where to target our efforts to cool the neighborhood and protect our most vulnerable residents from extreme heat.

Water Quality and Impaired Waters

Many of Malden's ponds and river segments are experiencing water quality problems, many of which stem from non-point source pollution such as stormwater runoff. These issues affect not only the health of aquatic ecosystems but also limit recreational use and public enjoyment of local waterways. Under Section 305(a) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), states are required to assess the condition of surface waters to determine if they meet their designated uses, such as swimming, fishing, supporting aquatic life, or serving as a source of drinking water. If a waterbody does not meet these standards, it is considered "impaired."

Massachusetts places each waterbody into one of five categories based on its condition. Waters in Category 5 are failing to meet standards due to specific pollutants and require the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a formula that defines how much of a given pollutant can enter the waterbody. Common causes of impairment include high bacteria levels, excess nutrients like phosphorus, low dissolved oxygen, and contaminants such as mercury. According to the Commonwealth's 2022 Integrated List of Waters 303(d) List, four waterbodies within Malden are currently classified as impaired. Malden's Conservation Commission has performance standards for stormwater discharge, parking lot resurfacing, and water filtration and softening systems that are relevant to addressing the harmful algae blooms in Fellsmere Pond.

Waterbody	Category	Impairment
Spot Pond Brook	3	"No uses assessed"
Fellsmere Pond	5	Harmful Algal Blooms
Malden River	5	Debris*, Water Chestnut*, Chlordane in Fish Tissue, DDT in Fish Tissue, Dissolved Oxygen, Dissolved Oxygen Supersaturation, Enterococcus, Escherichia Coli (E. Coli), Fecal Coliform, Flocculant Masses, Odor, Oil and Grease, PCBs in Fish Tissue, pH, High, Phosphorus, Total, Scum/Foam
Unnamed Tributary (Town Line Brook)	5	Alteration in Stream-side or Littoral Vegetative Covers*, Debris*, Flow Regime Modification*, Physical Substrate Habitat Alterations*, Fecal Coliform, Odor, Trash

**TMDL not required (non-pollutant)*

Table 17. *Impaired Waters in Malden*

Environmental Justice and Climate Equity

According to the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, an environmental justice (EJ) population in Massachusetts is a neighborhood where one or more of the following criteria are true:

1. annual median household income is sixty-five percent (65%) or less of the statewide annual median household income;
2. minorities make up forty percent (40%) or more of the population;
3. twenty-five percent (25%) or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well";
4. minorities make up twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the statewide annual median household income.⁵⁷

All of Malden's neighborhoods meet at least one of these criteria, and many neighborhoods meet multiple criteria. These communities have been disproportionately affected by pollution, noise, industrialization, and other environmental and health impacts due to decades of racist and discriminatory laws, policies, and development practices. Historically, they have been systematically excluded from state and local decision-making or been

unable to participate in local processes due to language and access barriers. Across the Commonwealth and in Malden, communities that face the greatest environmental and socio-economic burdens are often also those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate vulnerability maps help us understand where Malden's most vulnerable communities are located: generally, south of Route 60 (Pleasant St./Center St./Eastern Ave.). Based on the Commonwealth's map of environmental justice communities, these neighborhoods are also home to a higher proportion of lower-income residents, immigrants, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Environmental justice and climate equity were guiding principles for this plan and its implementation. Climate equity centers the voices and needs of the members of our community who are most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis. Embracing a climate equity approach is essential to be a community which values its diversity and truly addresses the full scale of climate change's impacts on all residents. Parks and open spaces are critical resources for mitigating the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat and flooding. Future investments in Malden's parks and open space resources require a decision-making process grounded in climate equity. This approach aims to prevent any community from being disproportionately affected by climate change and to ensure benefits are equitably distributed.

⁵⁷ "Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts," Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Accessed online April 30, 2026 at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>.

5

Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Overview of Conservation and Recreation Resources

Malden's park and open space system includes a variety of conservation and recreation spaces that differ in size, amenities, ownership, and levels of protection. Connected by a network of streets and trails, these parks and open spaces encourage physical activity, foster social connections, and offer both active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. In addition to their recreational value, these spaces provide important environmental, economic, and community benefits that enhance the quality of life in Malden and the surrounding region.

A key step in updating this OSRP involved reviewing the city's existing park, open space, and recreation assets. This process included updating and refining the inventory of Malden's conservation and recreation spaces using the most

current Geographic Information System (GIS) data available in combination with aerial photos, land records, construction drawings, and visual inspections.

Ensuring that city leadership, residents, and community stakeholders have a clear understanding of Malden's existing resources, along with a thoughtful analysis of future needs, will help prioritize and guide the city's investments in parks, recreation facilities, trails, open spaces, programs, and events over the next ten years.

Malden's Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Resources includes parks and open space at fifty-four sites, in addition to twenty-one playgrounds. Each element is considered part of the city's park and open space system. This chapter includes a comprehensive inventory of Malden's parks, spaces, and recreational facilities.

Definitions

The following definitions of "park and open space system," "park," and "open space" distinguish parkland from open space and landscaped areas in Malden.

Park and Open Space System

A network of publicly accessible parks and open spaces that serve the local community. The sites within this system are ideally well maintained and offer a diversity of sizes, designs, and facilities to meet a range of needs for residents and visitors.

Park

Land managed and primarily used to support recreation, leisure, environmental preservation, or the conservation of natural resources.

Open Space

Land preserved and managed primarily for its aesthetic, ecological, and natural resource value and typically characterized as more passive than active in development and use patterns.

Ownership and Jurisdiction

Ownership plays a critical role in protecting, accessing, and maintaining open space. Malden's park and open space system includes a mix of publicly and privately owned lands totaling approximately 441.54 acres. These spaces contribute to the city's livability, environmental health, and recreational opportunities.

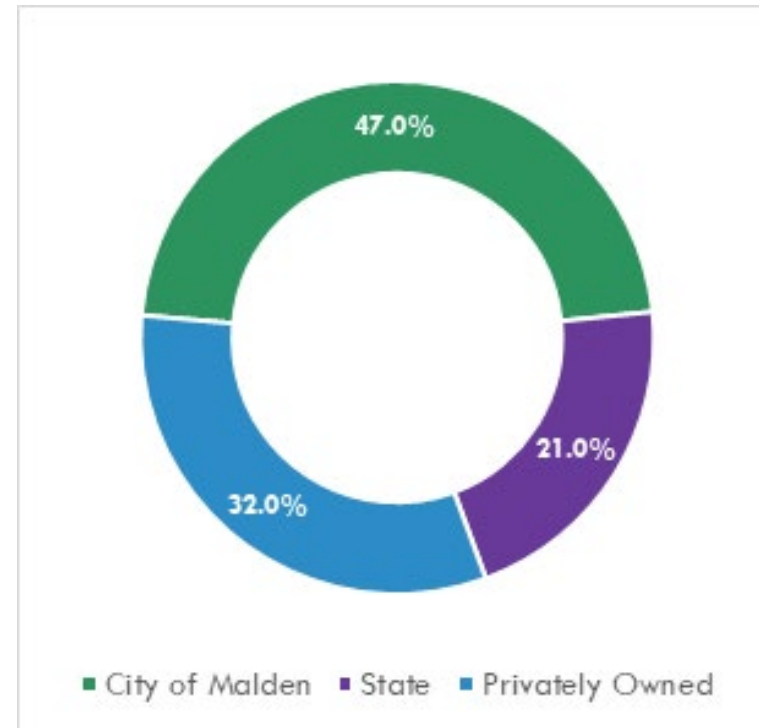


Figure 17. Ownership of Malden's Open Space and Recreation Land.

Publicly Owned Open Space

Publicly owned open space includes parks, conservation lands, forests, and watershed areas managed by municipal, state, or federal agencies. Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects public open space from conversion to other uses without legislative approval and typically protects these lands from development or other uses.

Parks and open space make up approximately 15% of Malden's total land area. More than two-thirds of land

used for parks and open space is publicly owned. The City of Malden owns and maintains 47% of the total land dedicated to open space and recreation, including key sites such as Fellsmere Park and Pond, Waitts Mountain Park, Forestdale Cemetery, Macdonald Stadium, and City Hall Plaza. An additional 21% is state-owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), including key regional assets like the Middlesex Fells Reservation and the Lieutenant Dennis C. Holland Memorial Pool.

Privately-Owned Open Space

Privately owned open spaces also contribute to Malden's park system. These include properties owned by nonprofits, businesses, and institutions that allow public access through formal agreements or zoning requirements. While not publicly owned and maintained, these spaces function similarly to public parks and provide valuable opportunities for recreation and community use. Examples include the athletic fields at Malden Catholic High School, the facilities at the Mystic Valley YMCA, and River's Edge in Medford. Altogether, privately owned open space with public access makes up approximately 32% of the city's land area dedicated to open space and recreation.

Owner	Acreage	% of Malden's Open Space
City of Malden	208.39 acres	47%
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	90.56 acres	21%
Privately Owned	142.59 acres	32%
Total	441.54 acres	100%

Table 18. Malden's Open Space and Recreation Lands by Ownership

Levels of Open Space and Recreation Land Protection

Parks and open spaces fall into several protection categories, depending on ownership, legal agreements, and intended use. These land protection tools help determine how likely a site will remain open space over time and how easily a site can be converted to another type of use. These protections can be established by the landowner or imposed by external agencies, and they may be long-term or limited in duration, legally binding, or subject to change.

In Malden, open space protection is accomplished through several tools, including Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, local zoning ordinances, environmental regulations, conservation restrictions, and conservation land trusts. These are defined in Table 19.

Table 19. *Malden's Land Protection Tools*

Tool	Description	Duration
Article 97	Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution which was passed in 1972 protects publicly-owned lands used for park, recreation, and conservation purposes from being sold, transferred, or converted to a different use, without a majority vote of the Park Commission or Conservation Commission and the City Council, the approval of the Mayor, and a two-thirds vote of the Massachusetts Legislature and the approval of the Governor.	Permanent/ In Perpetuity
Conservation Restriction	An agreement in which a landowner restricts certain uses of a piece of land—such as development—but retains ownership. These are highly customizable to the needs of the landowner. Conservation restrictions must be held and monitored by a qualified organization, such as a land trust or a Conservation Commission. OSCs cannot hold conservation restrictions.	Permanent/ In Perpetuity
Chapter 61	A program that reduces property taxes for landowners who enroll their lands in forestry, agricultural, or recreation programs. This does not permanently protect the property, but municipalities have a Right of First Refusal on properties that are enrolled in Chapter 61 when the landowner proposes sale for another use. Notably, municipalities can assign this Right of First Refusal to a land trust.	Limited/Temporary; in effect until the landowner withdraws from the program or does something to disqualify the land
Limited Development	A situation in which a landowner carves off a portion of the property for sale or development but conserves the rest. Sometimes mandated by zoning restrictions. Redevelopment of previously developed properties may also provide opportunities for conserving a portion of the property	Permanent/ In Perpetuity
Bequest	Donation of land or a conservation restriction through a will. This is a good approach if a landowner needs to keep the financial value of the property in reserve in case of unexpected medical bills or other needs but wants to be sure the land will be conserved if not sold within their lifetime.	Permanent/ In Perpetuity

Life Estate	Transfers real estate while maintaining a landowner's right to use the property for the rest of their life. Control of the property automatically transfers to the city/town or conservation organization upon the death of the landowner.	Permanent/ In Perpetuity
Public Waterfront Act MGL Chapter 91	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) administers the Public Waterfront Act, known as Chapter 91. Chapter 91 charges MassDEP to preserve the tidelands for water-dependent uses or uses that otherwise serve a proper public purpose. It also allows municipalities to develop a municipal harbor plan for the implementation of the Chapter 91 regulations for tidelands within their jurisdiction. Chapter 91 and associated municipal harbor plans mandate provision of open space amenities along the water's edge. This law provides a strong basis for open space planning along the waterfront, and for linking such waterfront open spaces to inland communities.	
Wetlands Protection Act	The Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) seeks to protect the lands continually or intermittently inundated by water. These are deemed to inherently possess values to be protected, such as flood storage and wildlife habitat. The Malden Conservation Commission (MCC) is tasked with administering the performance standards of the Wetlands Protection Act (Mass. General Laws c. 131, Section 40), and preserving the interests of conservation land. This law allows individual cities and towns to adopt municipal wetland protection law and regulations that are stricter than those found in the state law. In 2022, the City passed a Wetlands Protection Ordinance , which goes beyond the provisions of the state Wetlands Protection Act with a broader buffer zone, protection of isolated wetlands and uncertified vernal pools, holding jurisdiction over unlined canals, and designating a preference for the FEMA five-hundred year (500 yr) flood plain when delineating Border Land Subject to Flooding and climate resilience provisions..	
Rivers Protection Act	The Rivers Protection Act is an amendment to the Wetland Protection Act, designating a special resource protection area known as the Riverfront Protection Zone. In state law, the default is two-hundred feet (200 ft). Malden adopted the Riverfront Protection Zone in Malden and set the protection zone at twenty-five feet (25 ft) wide. By limiting development activities within this zone, it may be possible to create and protect open space corridors along rivers.	

Malden's Park and Open Space System

Malden's park, open space, and recreation system collectively refer to the City's parks, conservation areas, natural resources, recreation facilities, plazas, trails, and streets. These spaces are managed, maintained, and programmed to support both active and passive recreation. While some areas are designed specifically for recreational use, others prioritize the preservation of natural vegetation, wildlife habitats, and water resources, with little to no built infrastructure.

To effectively address the needs of both local communities and the city as a whole, Malden's parks and open spaces were organized into five primary categories: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Citywide Parks, Regional Parks, and Open Space. Park size is the primary classification criterion, as it typically defines a park's function, service area, and available amenities. This framework helps the City manage and enhance its parks, ensuring equitable access while addressing both broad and site-specific needs. The following section provides a brief description of each park type.

Park Types

Neighborhood Parks (1-5 acres)

Neighborhood Parks are small parks, typically 1 to 5 acres, that provide leisure activities for residents within walking or biking distance. Typical facilities include playgrounds, picnic tables, lawns, and open space areas. Sports fields, sports courts, and trailheads also may be

located within neighborhood parks to provide opportunities for local recreation.

Community Parks (5-10 acres)

Community parks are mid-size, typically 5 to 10 acres, which support sports and group gatherings for several neighborhoods or a portion of the city. Typical facilities include sports fields and courts, small group picnic areas, and specialized or unique facilities such as swimming pools, recreation/ community centers, and senior centers that support programming. Community parks typically include on-site parking, restrooms, and similar support amenities for more extended site visits. However, these sites usually have less variety and less green space than larger citywide parks.

Citywide Parks (10-100 acres)

Citywide Parks are Malden's largest parks. Typically more than 10 acres in size, these sites provide major recreation facilities, cultural venues, and natural areas that serve as destinations for events, programs, and activities, attracting visitors from across the entire city and beyond. Typical facilities and features include recreation centers, amphitheaters, swimming pools, sports courts and fields, skate parks, lakes, trails and trailheads, destination playgrounds, and group picnic areas. In addition to various support facilities, citywide parks may include concessions, reservable facilities, or other revenue-generating activities and infrastructure.

Summary of Malden's Open Space and Recreation Land Protections

Permanently Protected

Land is considered permanently protected when its status is recorded in a deed or official legal document. These properties are typically managed by the Malden Conservation Commission or Parks & Recreation Department and are protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. This category also includes land owned by state agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) or MassWildlife, nonprofit conservation land trusts, or any municipally owned properties that received state or federal funding for acquisition or improvement. These protections ensure that the land remains available for recreation or conservation purposes indefinitely.

Limited Protection

Open spaces with limited protection may be safeguarded for a specific time period or only as long as they are used for a particular purpose. This includes land covered by short-term conservation restrictions or properties that serve a current municipal or institutional use. These sites could potentially be developed in the future if their protection terms expire or their use changes. In Malden, this includes land managed by municipal departments for non-recreational uses, such as city-owned cemeteries, or cemeteries owned by religious institutions. While not officially protected for recreation or conservation, these sites are unlikely to be developed due to their historical and cultural significance.

Unprotected (No Legal Protection)

Unprotected open space has no legal or functional safeguards to prevent development. These properties are typically privately owned and can be sold or repurposed at any time. In Malden, examples include the Malden YMCA, the Malden Valley Forum ice rink, and athletic fields at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School and Malden Catholic High School.

Protected Private Spaces

Privately owned land can also be protected through a legal agreement called a conservation restriction. This tool allows landowners to limit development or certain types of use on their property while retaining ownership. Conservation restrictions are flexible and customizable to the needs of the landowner, helping to preserve open space while balancing private property rights.

Malden's Protected Open Spaces

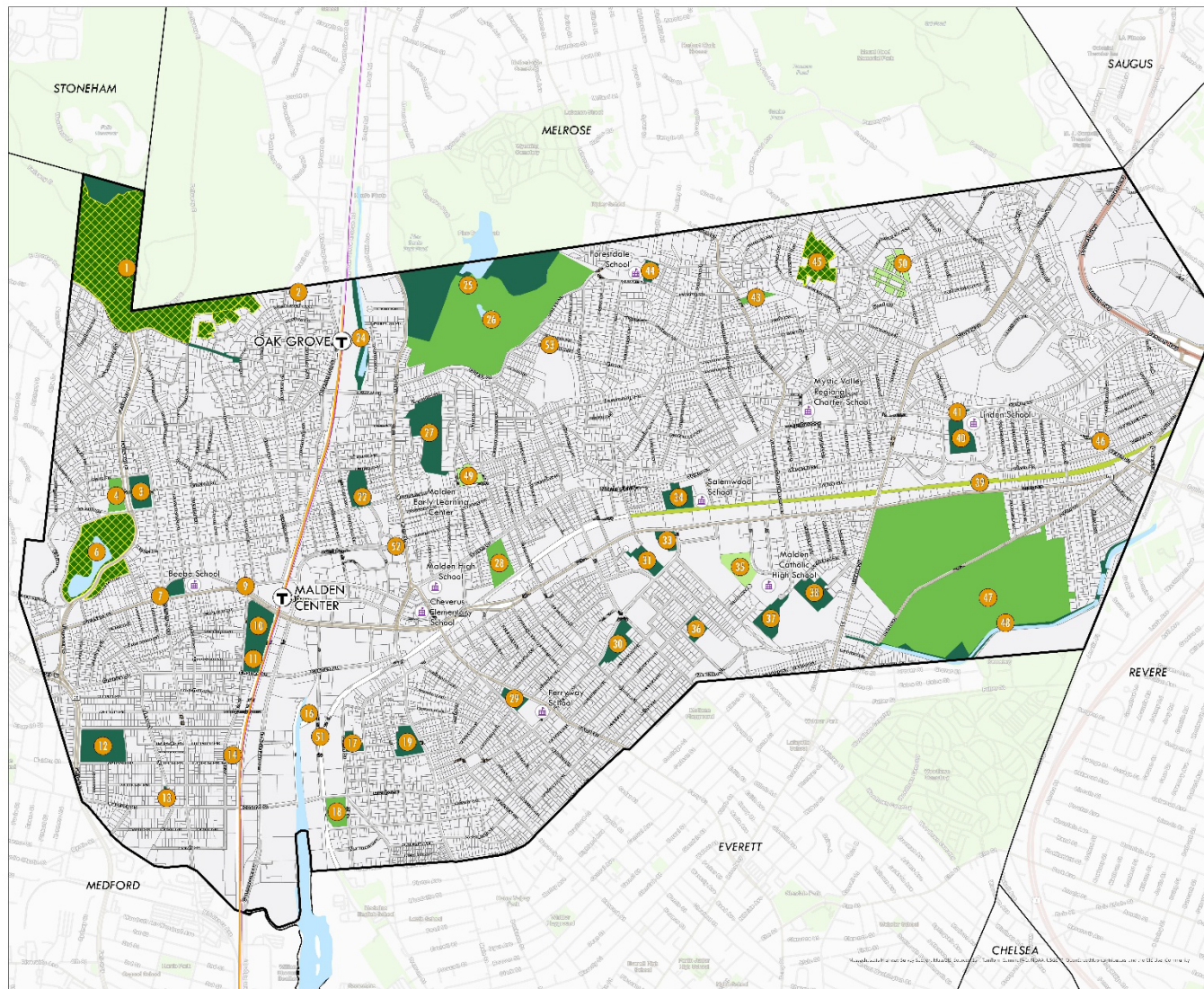
Many of Malden's open space resources are permanently protected or have limited protection. Of forty (40) open space resources owned by the City of Malden or the Malden Redevelopment Authority, twenty-seven (27) are permanently protected and another five (5) have limited protections. Four out of six state-owned open space resources are permanently protected, and three of six privately-owned open space resources have limited protection. Map 10 shows Malden's open space resources by protection status.

The map of *Open Spaces by Level of Protection* (Map 10) shows each parcel in the open space inventory color-coded by the value of field "Lev_Prot," Level of Protection. As described in MassGIS's information page for the Protection and Recreational Open Space data layer ([MassGIS Data: Protected and Recreational OpenSpace | Mass.gov](#)), the Level of Protection values include Permanent Protection, Limited Protection, No Protection, and Unknown. In Malden, 201 acres of the 434-acre open spaces are in Permanent Protection, while another 200 acres — mostly cemeteries — have Limited Protection. Parcels whose level of protection is unknown total 11.5 acres and comprise the MBTA-owned parcels of the Northern Strand Community Trail (greenway). The remaining parcels are not protected.

Further information on open space protection status was inferred from the field "Prim_Purp," Primary Purpose. Of the parcel records having a Level of Protection status of "Permanent Protection," 7 also have a Primary Purpose of Conservation. These include Fellsmere Park, High Rock, and the majority of Middlesex Fells Reservation. These Conservation lands are indicated in the map with yellow cross-hatching.

There are no lands with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in Malden, based on the fact that none of the parcels with "Level of protection" of "In Perpetuity" have a value of "A" for Agricultural use in the field "PRIM_PURPOSE."

There are no Chapter 61 lands in Malden. The Chapter 61 — forestland program ([Forest Tax Program Chapter 61 | Mass.gov](#)) is intended for privately-owned properties of 10 or more contiguous acres of forest land and is designed to help with "the cost to maintain farms, natural areas, and working forests." The only sites in the Open Space Inventory over 10 acres in size are cemeteries, parks that are Protected in Perpetuity, and the Northern Strand Community trail. Nearly all of these properties are owned by the City of Malden or by a state agency such as DCR or MBTA, all of which are already except from property taxes, and therefore would not benefit from Chapter 61. The only non-publicly owned site is the very large Holy Cross cemetery, which is owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and therefore is already exempt from property taxes.



Malden, MA

Open Space, Recreation, Arts and Culture Plan

OPEN SPACES BY LEVEL OF PROTECTION

- Malden City Hall
- MBTA Station
- Orange Line
- Commuter Rail Line
- Schools

LEVEL OF PROTECTION

- Permanent Protection
- Limited Protection
- No Protection
- Greenway

PROPERTIES WITH PERMANENT PROTECTION

- Primary Purpose: Conservation

Lands with Agricultural Preservation Restriction and Chapter 61 lands are not present in Malden.



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

July 2026



0 0.125 0.25 0.5
MILES

Map 10. Malden's Open Spaces by Protection Status.

Malden's Park, Open Space and Recreation Resources Inventory

Malden's residents enjoy a varied park system, ranging from smaller sites like Pearl Street Playground to large citywide parks such as Waitts Mountain Park. These spaces support a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, recreation programs, sports, and enrichment activities. Malden's Park, Open Space, and Recreation Resources Inventory includes almost three hundred acres of conservation and recreation land owned and managed by the City or the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The inventory provides details about each property, and all properties identified in the inventory are depicted in Map 11, Malden Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map.

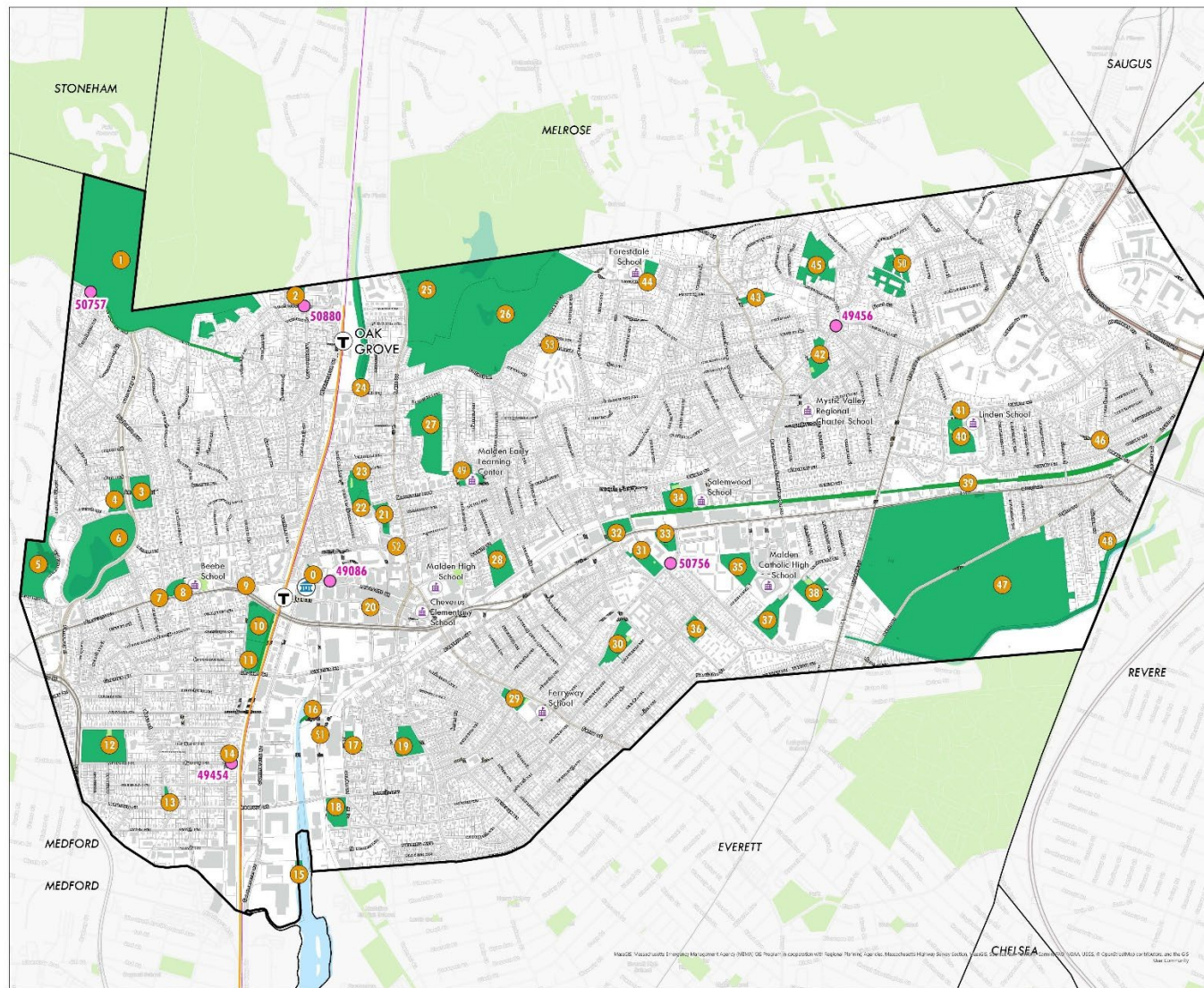
The Inventory matrix column headings are defined below:

1. **Site ID:** Number reference on inventory map.
2. **Name of Site:** Names the open space site.
3. **Current Use:** The current recreation uses on the site.
4. **Assessing Parcel # Map/Block/Lot:** City assessing information.
5. **Owner:** Indicates the owner of the property.
6. **Facilities Management (Mgt.):** The agency, department or entity responsible for managing and maintaining the parcel. Usually the same as the Owner, though for all City of Malden parcels, permitting is managed through Malden Recreation Department.

7. **Acres:** The size of the site, expressed in acres (1 acre=43,560 sq. ft).
8. **Funds Used:** Source of funding for the acquisition of the site, as known.
9. **Protection Status:** Legal level of open space protection. (P - In perpetuity, T - Term limited, L – Limited, N – None, X – Unknown)
10. **Public Access:** States whether these open spaces are available to the public.
11. **Primary Use -** Details the main uses for the site. (R - Recreation (activities are facility based), C - Conservation (activities are non-facility based), B - Recreation and Conservation, H - Historical/Cultural, A – Agriculture, W - Water Supply Protection, S - Scenic (official designation only), F - Flood Control, U - Site is underwater, O - Other (explain), X – Unknown)
12. **Condition -** Identifies the site condition (E - excellent, G- good, F- fair or P - poor).
13. **Recreation Potential -** For land not used for recreational purposes, potential recreational activities are identified. Cemeteries have very limited recreational potential.
14. **Zoning -** Identifies the zoning district in which the open space is located.

List of acronyms used in the inventory table:	
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB) City of Malden (COM) Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Gateway Cites (GC) Jefferson Apartment Group (JAG) Jewish Cemetery Association (JCA) Land and Water Conservation Fund; (LWCF) Malden Cemetery Commission (MCC) Malden Conservation Commission (MCON)	Malden Recreation Department (MREC) Malden Department of Public Works (MDPW) Malden Stadium and Athletic Commission (MSAC) Malden Public Facilities (MPF) Malden YMCA (YMCA) Mystic Valley Regional Charter School (MVRCS) Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Pine Banks Park Board of Trustees (PBPBT) Urban Self Help (USH) Bike to the Sea, Inc. (B2C)

List of abbreviations used for current and potential recreation uses:		
Baseball (Bb) Basketball (Bk) Bathrooms (Br) Benches (Be) Bicycle Parking (BP) Bicycling (Bi) Bird watching (BW) Boating (Bt) Camping (Cm) Dancing (Dn) Dog park (DP) Farmers market (FM)	Football (Ft) Frisbee (Fr) Gardening (Gr) Golfing (Gf) Hiking (Hk) Kayaking (Ky) Canoeing (Cn) Lacrosse (Lc) Lighting (Li) Outdoor fitness (OF) Outdoor performances (OP) Pickleball (Pk)	Picnicking (Pn) Playground (Pl) Public Art (PA) Rock Climbing (RC) Skateboarding (Sk) Soccer (Sc) Splash pad (SP) Street Hockey (SH) Swimming (Sw) Tennis (Tn) Walking (Wk)



Malden, MA

Open Space, Recreation, Arts and Culture Plan

PARKS & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY MAP

- Malden City Hall
- MBTA Station
- Commuter Rail Line
- Orange Line
- Schools
- Open Space and Recreation CPA Projects
- Malden Playgrounds
- Malden Parks and Open Space Inventory 2024



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

April 2026



0 0.125 0.25 0.5
MILES

Map11. Malden's Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map.

Malden's Park, Open Space and Recreation Resources Inventory Table

Site ID	Site Name	Primary Use	Owner
0	City Hall Plaza		COM
1	Middlesex Fells Reservation	C	DCR
2	Patchell Playground	R	COM
3	Amerige Field	R	COM
4	St Marys Cemetery	H	RCAB
5	Malden Hospital Site Open Space		
6	Fellsmere Park	C	COM
7	Harris Delta	R	COM
8	Wallace Park	R	COM
9	Pleasant St. Delta	O	COM
10	Macdonald Stadium	R	COM
11	Callahan Park	R	COM
12	Devir Park	R	COM
13	OConnell Park	R	COM
14	Pearl Street Playground	R	COM
15	Malden River Works		COM
16	Spot Pond Brook	O	DCR
17	Green St. Park (MacArthur Playground)	R	COM
18	Bell Rock Cemetery	H	COM
19	Bell Rock Memorial Park	R	COM
20	FitzGerald Park		COM
21	Mystic Valley YMCA	R	YMCA
22	Lt. Dennis C. Holland Mem. Pool	R	DCR
23	Coytemore Lea Park	R	COM
24	Spot Pond Brook	O	DCR
25	Pine Banks Park	R	COM
26	Forestdale Cemetery	H	COM

27	Waitts Mountain Park	R	COM
28	Salem Street Cemetery	H	COM
29	Newman Park	R	COM
30	Lincoln Commons Playground (Suffolk Park)	R	COM
31	Tartikoff Park	R	COM
32	Mystic Valley Regional Charter School Athletic Fields	R	MVRCS
33	Kierstead Park	R	COM
34	Roosevelt Park	R	COM
35	Donovan Field at Malden Catholic High	R	RCAB
36	Miller Park	R	COM
37	Maplewood Park	R	COM
38	Howard Park (South Broadway Park)	R	COM
39	Northern Strand Community Trail	R	MBTA
40	Linden Park (Hunting Field)	R	COM
41	Linden Victory Delta	R	COM
42	Trafton Park		COM
43	Maplewood Cemetery	H	JCA
44	Forestdale Park	R	COM
45	High Rock	C	COM
46	Hawkridge Delta	H	COM
47	Holy Cross Cemetery	H	RCAB
48	Town Line Brook	F	DCR
49	C.W. Holmes Early Learning Center Playground	R	COM
50	Malden Municipal Open Space	O	COM
51	B2C Bike Kitchen	R	MBTA
52	Florence St. Pocket Park	O	COM
53	Goodwin Pocket Forest	O	COM

Malden's Community Preservation Act Projects: Open Space and Recreation Categories

Project ID	Project Name	CPA Year	OS	Rec	Description	Status
49085	The ARTLine	2019	Y	N	Addition of pocket parks at 4 locations throughout the city for the enjoyment of the community focused on art murals. Installation of benches and bike racks	Complete
49086	Malden Community Garden Expansion	2019	Y	N	The creation of 50 new garden beds within 2 new enclosed garden spaces.	Complete
49087	Traffon Park Revitalization	2019	N	Y	Design phase for revitalization and capitalized improvements for Traffon Park.	Complete
49090	Roosevelt Park Revitalization	2019	N	Y	Design phase for complete rehabilitation of city owned recreational field. Next phase will be to construct based on design.	In progress
49101	High Rock	2019	Y	N	Signage, trails, picnic benches and Flagpole.	Complete
49454	Devir Park Revitalization - Design Phase	2020	N	Y	Procure services to perform community outreach and preliminary design for the revitalization of Devir Park, a multi purpose open space located in Malden between Malden St., Emerald St and the Fellsway (Route 28).	Complete
49455	Spot Pond Brook Greenway Phase 1	2020	Y	N	Provide funding for the public engagement and outreach, preliminary design and the development of The Spot Pond Brook Greenway Feasibility Study and preliminary construction work, including fencing and paving along Banks Place.	Complete
49456	Traffon Park Revitalization	2019	N	Y	Completion of 100% design, bid documents and procurement for the construction improvements and initial construction located at Traffon Park located on Granite Street Malden, MA.	Complete
50756	Kierstead-Tartikoff	2021	N	Y	This project is the first step in undertaking major capital improvements at Kierstead Park & Field and Tartikoff Park. The goal will be to assess the current use and state of repair of the existing parks, hold a series of at least 3 community meetings.	Complete
50757	Fellsmere Park	2021	Y	N	This project entails the creation of a Master Plan for the rehabilitation and improvement of Fellsmere Park, an 18 acre historic public park, whose goal will be to create an overall plan for future phased construction work which will guide improvements.	In progress

50880	Patchell Park	2021	N	Y	This project seeks to create a Master Plan for Patchell Park located in the Oak Grove area of Malden. In coordination with Shadley Associates, FOOGI and Paul Sieswerda will work with the community to create a plan that addresses the needed rehabilitation	Complete
52193	Malden River Works	2022	Y	N	The goal of this project is to develop a 75% design plan to create vibrant, climate-resilient public riverfront park for all. This project will reduce climate vulnerability by introducing nature-based solutions to the area including green stormwater infrastructure.	In progress
52194	Devir Park - Construction	2022	N	Y	The goal of this project is to revitalize Malden's largest park since it last received a major improvement 30 years ago. Following the creation of a Master Plan, the Devir Park Revitalization project will include the construction of fully accessible walking paths.	In progress
52195	Crescent Slope	2022	Y	N	The goal of this project is to improve Crescent Slope, a City-owned 11,868 square foot woodland with public access from Crescent Lane. The applicant seeks to restore the native habitat, and to eventually create a walking trail and seating in the area. CP	In progress
52196	Linden Ice Rink	2022	N	Y	The goal of this project is to convert a dilapidated street hockey rink into a new rink that can accommodate hard-surface sports in the summer months, and ice sports in the winter months. Prior to re-submitting their application to the CPC, the applicant	In progress
52197	Spot Pond Brook Greenway Phase 1	2022	Y	N	The goal of this project is to conduct preliminary engineering studies and design work to document existing conditions so that access to open space may be enhanced through the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle trail to connect the Northern Strand	In progress
52198	Woodland Street	2022	Y	N	The goal of this project is to obtain professional services to create an appraisal for a parcel of land on Woodland Street. This parcel is situated between two city-owned parcels of land that the City obtained through tax titles and has voted to preserve	In progress

Malden's Park, Open Space and Recreation Resources by Owner and Type

City Owned Parks and Open Spaces

Site ID	Site Name	Current Use	Acres	Manager	Protection Status (Level of Protection)	Protection	Public Access	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District
0	City Hall Plaza	FM, OP, Be, Dn, Li	0.5	COM			Y	E	PA, BP, OF	CB
2	Patchell Playground	Pl, Bk, Be, Li, BP	0.4	MPRD	P	A97	Y	F	Wk	RA
3	Amerige Field	Sc, Pl, Bb, Tn, Pk, Pn, Wk, Li, Be	3.5	MPRD	P	A97/ LWCF	Y	F	SP, OF	RA
5	Malden Hospital Site Open Space	N/A	9.1					F	Wk, Bi, BP	RA
7	Harris Delta	Be, PA	0.1	MPRD	P	A97	Y	G	N/A	RA
8	Wallace Park	Wk, Be	1.4	MPRD	P	A97	Y	G	N/A	RA
9	Pleasant St. Delta	N/A	0.1	MPRD	L	A97	Y	E	N/A	RO
10	Macdonald Stadium	Li, Be, Fb, Br, Lc, Sc, Wk, OF	5.5	MPRD	P	A97	Y	F	BP, PA	RA
11	Callahan Park	Bb, OF, Be, Li	2.3	MPRD	P	A97	Y	G	PA	RA
12	Devir Park	SP, Sc, Tn, Wk, Bb, Pl, Pn, OP, Li, BP, Be	7.8	MPRD	P	A97/ PARC/ LWCF	Y	E/U	PA	RA
13	O'Connell Park	Be, Wk	0.6	MPRD	P	A97	Y	E	PA	RA
14	Pearl Street Playground	Pl, Bk, Li, Be	0.3	MPRD	P	A97	Y	U	Li, PA	RA
15	Malden River Works	Bt, Be, Li, Cn, Ky, OP, Wk, BP	0.8	MRA					PA	I-1
17	Green St. Park (MacArthur Playground)	Pl, Bb, Bk, Be, Li	1.4	MPRD	P	A97 / LWCF	Y	E	BP	RB
18	Bell Rock Cemetery	Wk	3.0	MCC	L		Y	G	N/A	RA
19	Bell Rock Memorial Park	Wk, Be, Li	3.4	MPRD	P	A97	Y	G	N/A	RA
20	FitzGerald Park	Be, Li, Pl, PA	0.0	MRA				E	N/A	CB
23	Coytemore Lea Park	Wk, Be, Bk, OP, Pl, PA, BP	2.3	MPRD	P	A97/ PARC	Y	E	Bi	RA

25	Pine Banks Park	Bb, Be, BP, Bi, BW, DP, Hk, Li, OF, Pn, Pl, Sc, Wk	29.0	PBPF	P	A97/ USH	Y	G	OP	RA
26	Forestdale Cemetery	Wk	56.0	MCC	L		Y	G	N/A	RA
27	Waitts Mountain Park	Be, BW, Bk, Hk, Li, RC, OF, Wk	10.4	MPRD	P	A97 / LWCF	Y	G	N/A	RA
28	Salem Street Cemetery	Wk	4.4	MCC	L		Y	F	N/A	RA
29	Newman Park	Be, Li, Pl, Sc, Wk	1.7	MPRD	P	A97	Y	E	N/A	RA
30	Lincoln Commons Playground (Suffolk Park)	Pl, Bb, Be, Li, OP, Pl, SP, Wk	3.5	MPRD	P	A97	Y	F	OF, Pn	RA
31	Tartikoff Park	Sk, Wk, OF, Be, Li	2.5	MPRD	P	A97 / LWCF	Y	F	PA	RA
33	Kierstead Park	Bb, Be, BP, Wk, Li, Pl, Pn	1.7	MPRD	P	A97	Y	E	N/A	RA
34	Roosevelt Park	Bb, Li, Pl, Wk	3.5	MPRD	P	A97 / LWCF / CPA	Y	U	OF	RA
36	Miller Park	Be, Li, Pn, Pl, Wk	1.7	MPRD	P	A97	Y	G	N/A	RA
37	Maplewood Park	Bb, Be, Ft	3.7	MPRD	P	A97 / LWCF / USH	Y	U	BP	HB
38	Howard Park (South Broadway Park)	Bb, Be, BP, Li, Pl, Sc, Tn, Wk	4.1	MPRD	P	A97/ PARC/ LWCF	Y	E	PA	RA
40	Linden Park (Hunting Field)	Bb, Bk, Be, BP, Li, Pk, Pl, Sc, Wk, SH	4.0	MPRD	P	A97	Y	U	PA	RB
41	Linden Victory Delta	Be	0.4	MPRD	P	A97	Y	E	N/A	RA
42	Trafton Park	Bb, Bk, Be, BP, DP, LiPl, Tn, Wk	2.9	MPRD	P	A97	Y	E	PA	RA
44	Forestdale Park	Bb, Pl	1.3	MPRD	P	A97	Y	G	N/A	RA
45	High Rock	Hk, Pn,	6.6		P	A97	Y	G	N/A	RA
46	Hawkrige Delta	N/A	0.1	MPRD	L		Y	E	N/A	RA
49	C.W. Holmes Early Learning Center Playground	Pl, Be	0.4	MPF				E	N/A	RA
50	Maplewood Municipal Open Space	N/A	5.1					E	Wk, Be	RA

52	Florence St. Pocket Park	Be	0.0					P	N/A	RB
53	Goodwin Pocket Forest	N/A	0.0					E	N/A	RA
Total Acres:		206.8								

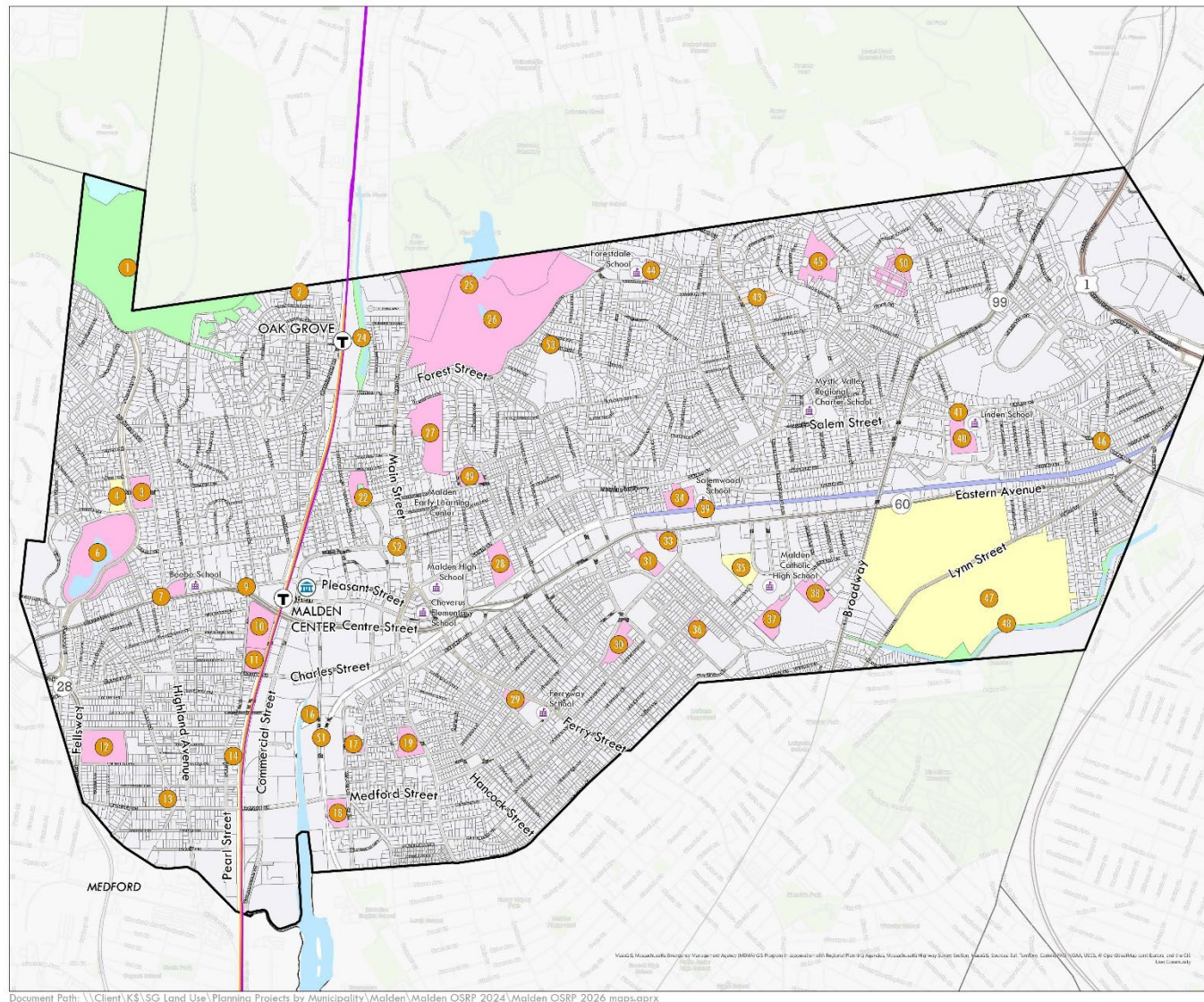
State Owned Parks and Open Spaces

Site ID	Site Name	Acres	Manager	Protection Status (Level of Protection)	Protection	Public Access	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District
1	Middlesex Fells Reservation	60.7	DCR	P	A97	Y	G	Y	RA
6	Fellsmere Park	21.4	DCR	P	A97	Y	F	Y	RA
16	Spot Pond Brook	0.5	DCR	P	A97	Y	F	Y	
22	Lt. Dennis C. Holland Mem. Pool	1.4	DCR	P	A97	Y	G	Y	RA
24	Spot Pond Brook	4.9	DCR	P	A97	Y	F	N/A	RA
32	MVRCS Athletic Fields	2.4	MVRCS				G	Y	I-1
39	Northern Strand Community Trail	11.6	-	X		Y	G	Y	
48	Town Line Brook	9.7	DCR	P	A97	X	F	Y	RA
51	B2C Bike Kitchen	0.01	B2C					Y	IB
Total Acres:		91.1							

Privately Owned Parks and Open Spaces

Site ID	Site Name	Acres	Manager	Protection Status (Level of Protection)	Protection	Public Access	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District
4	St Mary's Cemetery	2.5	RCAB	L		X	G	Y	RA
21	Mystic Valley YMCA	1.6	YMCA				G	Y	RB
35	Donovan Field at Malden Catholic High	4.1	RCAB	N		X	G	Y	RB
43	Maplewood Cemetery	1.1	JCA	L		X	G	Y	RA
47	Holy Cross Cemetery	133.3	RCAB	L		X	G		RA
Total Acres:		142.6							

Open space and recreation resources are labeled by ownership on Map 12 on the following page.



Map 12. Malden's Open Space and Recreation Resources by Ownership.

Regional Park and Open Space Resources

Regional parks and open space resources attract visitors from a broader area and meet a wide range of regional recreation needs. These parks often span multiple communities, requiring partnerships among neighboring municipalities, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations, along with significant funding for maintenance and upkeep. In addition to the parks and open spaces managed by the city, residents of Malden have access to several regional resources. These include the Middlesex Fells Reservation, Pine Banks Park, and the Holland Memorial Pool, which provide valuable recreational opportunities for the community.

Joint Use Sites

Joint-use sites are indoor and outdoor spaces that are owned, managed, or maintained by two or more entities, typically a municipality, a school district, or a private organization. These facilities include gymnasiums, swimming pools, playgrounds, athletic fields, stadiums, and parking areas. Joint-use agreements typically outline how these spaces are utilized, specifying access, scheduling, and maintenance responsibilities.

These facilities support a wide range of programs, including recreation, sports, education, and health programs and increase opportunities for children and adults to be more physically active. Depending on the terms stipulated in the joint use agreement, some facilities may have limited access and may not always be open to

the general public. In Malden, examples of joint use facilities include the Middlesex Fells Reservation, Pine Banks Park, Holland Memorial Pool, Macdonald Stadium, as well as athletic fields and playgrounds.

The Middlesex Fells Reservation is a state-owned and protected regional park encompassing over 2,200 acres across Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester, with approximately 67.5 acres located in Malden. The reservation offers more than 100 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. Popular amenities and activities include picnic areas, an observation tower, a “tot-lot” for children, boating, and rock climbing.

Pine Banks Park is a 107.5-acre park in Malden and Melrose, with approximately 100 acres in Malden. It was bequeathed in 1905 by Malden’s first mayor, Elisha S. Converse, to be used jointly by both cities “forever as a public park.” The park is managed by a nonprofit corporation that includes a seven-member board of trustees comprising representatives from both cities and a descendant of the Converse family. According to the stipulations of the will, both cities must equally share the costs of maintaining the park. This park is a popular recreational facility that hosts scholastic sports for Melrose and Malden and various youth programs operated by the cities. Pine Banks Park features two synthetic multi-sport fields, three natural grass fields, several large picnic areas, a pond, a playground, and numerous wooded hiking trails.

Holland Memorial Pool is a public swimming and wading pool operated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This facility provides residents and visitors with a refreshing way to cool down during summer. It features a regular-sized pool, with depths ranging from 4 to 6 feet, as well as a wading pool for younger children. The pool is open from late June to late August and includes lane lines for swimmers who wish to do laps. Swimmers can also take advantage of the locker rooms and showers.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Indoor recreation facilities include public and privately owned spaces, such as gyms, recreation and wellness centers, senior centers, art, performance, and cultural venues. These facilities connect community members and often provide space for parks and recreation departments, community-based organizations (CBOs), and private businesses to deliver programs and services for youth, adults, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. In Malden, notable indoor recreation facilities include the Malden Senior Community Center, the Mystic Valley YMCA, and the Malden Valley Forum ice rink.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Outdoor recreation facilities consist of both public and privately owned spaces designed for outdoor activities. These facilities range from parks, playgrounds, and tot-lots to athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a hockey rink, and swimming pools. They also include trails for walking, hiking, and biking and amenities such as splash

pads, picnic tables, grills, and benches. Examples of outdoor recreation facilities in Malden include MacDonald Stadium, Holland Memorial Pool, and the Malden Skatepark.

Other Open Space, Park and Recreational Resources

In addition to parks and conservation areas, Malden's open space system also includes cemeteries and burial grounds, community gardens, plazas, trails, greenways, streets, deltas, and landscaped islands.

Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

The City of Malden owns and maintains three public cemeteries: Forest Dale Cemetery, Salem Street Cemetery, and Bell Rock Cemetery, covering a combined total of approximately 63.41 acres. Of these, Forest Dale Cemetery is the only active site for burials. Interments at Forest Dale are limited to individuals who have been residents of Malden for at least five years prior to their death. The city's Cemetery Department is currently developing a system allowing the public to access an online listing of those buried at Forest Dale.

In addition to the city's public cemeteries, Malden is also home to three private cemeteries, all managed by religious organizations. These cemeteries collectively span about 138 acres. Holy Cross Cemetery, located in the southeastern part of the city, and St. Mary's Cemetery on Fellsway East are owned and maintained by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. The Hebrew Charitable Burial Ground, also known as Maplewood Cemetery, is located on Lebanon Street and is managed by the Jewish

Cemetery Association. These spaces serve as more than just sites for burial, mourning, and remembrance; they also offer amenities like walking trails and benches, creating opportunities for passive recreation and quiet reflection.

Malden Community Garden

The Malden Community Garden is along the Northern Strand Bike Path between Franklin and Faulkner Streets. The garden comprises one hundred and six (106) garden plots available for rent to the residents on a first-come, first-serve basis. Garden members can grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Through their stewardship, garden members become invested community stakeholders, giving back to the community by providing educational gardening events and activities, as well as helping, sharing, and collaborating with other community-based organizations and groups in Malden and connecting the city's youth to nature.

Malden High School Gardening Club expanded the plots at the high school, in partnership with Tufts University. Beyond growing fresh produce, garden members help strengthen community bonds through stewardship and engagement. They give back by hosting gardening workshops, partnering with local organizations to promote sustainability, and providing hands-on learning experiences that connect Malden's youth with nature.

Plazas

Plazas provide essential spaces for relaxation and social connection amid busy streets and buildings in a densely developed city like Malden. These spaces often include a

balance of paved and landscaped areas, providing social gathering opportunities and accommodating a wide variety of uses and activities. Plazas can offer places to sit, unwind, and gather, and depending on their design, they can also serve as venues for small events and community activities. For example, Malden's City Hall Plaza hosts seasonal events such as the Summer Concert Series and Welcoming Week. This annual celebration brings together residents to celebrate diversity and support immigrants and refugees in the community. Plazas may also feature small recreational amenities like chess tables, water elements, or play features, though they typically do not include athletic amenities.

The Northern Strand Community Trail

The Northern Strand Community Trail, also known as "Bike to the Sea(B2C)," is an 11.5-mile public shared-use path connecting the communities of Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn. The trail follows the former Saugus Branch Railroad of the Boston & Maine (B&M) Railroad. The 3.5-mile section of the trail in Malden runs primarily from east to southwest, extending from Beach Street to Green Street before continuing into Everett. Along the way, it links several of Malden's key open spaces, including Green Street Park, Malden High School, Kierstead Park, Roosevelt Park, and Hunting Field.

There are two primary access points to the trail in Malden. One access point is on the westbound side of Route 60 (Centre Street), across from Malden High School. The other is at the intersection of Route 60 (Centre Street) and Ferry

Street. The Northern Strand Community Trail is also part of the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile multi-use trail stretching from Maine to Florida, connecting 15 states and 450 cities and towns.

B2C Bike Kitchen

In the spring of 2024, Bike to the Sea (B2S) established a Bike Kitchen along the Northern Strand Trail in Malden, using repurposed shipping containers. Located at 158 Canal Street, the Bike Kitchen serves as a community hub, bringing community members and cyclists together to engage with the trail and one another while building and repairing bikes. Fully staffed by volunteers, the Bike Kitchen hosts weekly "shop hours," providing bike stands, tools, and affordable or free spare parts for bike repairs. According to B2S's 2024 Bike Kitchen Statistics Report, group volunteers served nearly 400 visitors and donated more than 60 refurbished bikes in 2024.

Streets

While streets are typically associated with vehicles and have a defined legal function, the spaces within street rights-of-way also serve as essential components of Malden's park and open space system. Beyond moving cars, streets support walking, biking, and a vibrant public realm, connecting people to destinations and offering opportunities for recreation and relaxation. Features like street trees, landscaping, green infrastructure, benches, awnings, and café seating enhance the pedestrian experience and create welcoming public spaces. Streets also host community life, whether through regular use or

special events. Temporary or recurring street closures for farmers markets, parades, street fairs, or bike routes transform these corridors into vibrant public gathering spaces. Additionally, some streets help define the edges of cultural and economic districts, such as Malden's expanding Gaming District, reinforcing their role as more than just infrastructure; they're shared public spaces that shape how people experience the city.

Deltas and Landscaped Islands

Trees, plantings, and small green spaces are significant in high-density areas with limited natural landscapes. These elements provide environmental, aesthetic, and health benefits in places where open space is otherwise scarce. The City of Malden maintains 46 public green spaces known as "islands" and "deltas"—terms that refer to their shape and typical placement at roadway intersections. These small but meaningful landscaped areas can be found in every ward of the city and contribute to the character of Malden's neighborhoods. Malden's Pocket Forest on Goodwin Avenue, dedicated in 2024, is a prime example of ways the City of Malden can use these parcels for conservation efforts including increasing biodiversity and promoting sustainability.

Open Space Equity

Access to open space for recreational use, connection to nature, and cooling is not evenly distributed across Malden. The largest gaps in park access in Malden are located in its northern neighborhoods, which are also characterized by topographic changes around hills and drumlins (see Map 6). While these neighborhoods have fewer open space and recreation resources inside Malden, they have easier access to large, regional open space destinations such as the Middlesex Fells Reservation and other parks in Melrose. These neighborhoods are less exposed to climate risks like flooding (see Map 9) and extreme heat (see Map 10) than Malden's southern neighborhoods, which are located on the former floodplain and surrounding marshlands of the Malden River. These neighborhoods are also where Malden's lowest income residents are concentrated (see Figure 22). Priorities for addressing open space equity include:

1. Increasing pedestrian safety in accessing Malden's open space and recreation resources.
2. Ensuring that Malden's open space resources promote climate resilience to mitigate climate vulnerability for Malden's residents.
3. Providing inclusive and culturally responsive programming to ensure that Malden's open space resources are accessible and inviting to all residents.
4. Improve signage, wayfinding, and disability access for Malden's parks and open spaces.

The park prioritization for this plan explicitly identifies areas where climate resilience, need for improvement, and proximity to Malden's lowest income communities converge.

Malden's Park Improvements

Since the completion of the 2017 Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan, the City of Malden has made significant improvements to parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. Table 20 documents these improvements by park, breaking down the cost, status, and funding sources.

Table 20. *Recent Park Improvement Projects*

Name	Address	Improvements	Cost	Status	Funding Source
Amerige Park	Fellsway East and Highland Ave	Pickleball courts installed in 2023; tennis court resurfacing limits on baseball field use.	\$60,000	Complete	ARPA
Beebe School Playground (Wallace Park)	401 Pleasant St	New accessible playground including a wheelchair ramp, ADA accessible group swing, and play structure.	\$206,337.46	Complete	CDBG and Malden Public Schools
Bell Rock Memorial Park	Main Street	Minor improvements completed related to the installation of veterans' monuments.		Complete	CPA Funds
Northern Strand Community Trail	Abandoned Railroad ROW (Boston-Maine Saugus Branch)	Recently added art installations (murals, COVID memorial, sculptures) and community gardens along the bike path.	\$204,139	Complete	CPA Funds
Callahan Park	Pearl Street	\$83K for minor improvements in 2018 for installation of new dugouts and benches. Outdoor gym equipment installed 2022.	\$83,000	Complete	CDBG & Blue Cross Blue Shield Fdn. Donation
Coytemore Lea Park	Mountain Avenue	Accessible playground improvements in 2015. Multiple improvement projects, including most recently addition of pedestrian lighting, electrical service and shed in 2019. Art installation in September 2024.	\$363,000	Complete	CDBG

Crescent Slope	Crescent Lane	Boundary survey conducted so local community members can stop illegal dumping, remove invasive species and improve site.	\$5,000	Complete	CPA Funds
Devir Park /Bruce Field	Fellsway West	\$4M major improvements in 2023 following 2020 Master Plan. Playground, basketball, utilities, walking paths, community plaza, and more.	\$4,000,000	Complete	ARPA, City bond, CPA, PARC, CDBG, and state earmark
Early Learning Center Playground	257 Mountain Ave	Community designed and built an inclusive, accessible, and modern playground that increases play opportunities, tree canopy, and safety completed in August 2024.	\$1,010,000	Complete	CDBG, CPA, and Malden Public Schools
Fellsmere Park/Pond	West Border Road/Savin Street/ Fellsmere Rd	2022 Master Plan identified \$9.2 million for upgrades. No funding secured.	\$100,000	Awaiting Funding for Upgrades	CPA Funds
FitzGerald Park	Exchange St @ CBD Garage	Phase II: Park for young children and families and downtown constructed with mural to honor former Malden resident and artist, Ed Emberly. Phase II will expand the play area to unused eastern mulch portion including new seating, play equipment, surfacing, and trees. Expected completion June 2025.	\$325,000	Community Engagement + Concept Planning	CPA, CDBG, and In-Kind design work from John Preotle
Forest Dale Cemetery	150 Forest Street	Dead tree and stump removal in the Arboretum, about 90 new trees have been re-planted and labelled since 2023. Solar-powered streetlights added. Construction of Malden's first fully permeable roadway and stone wall improvements are currently underway.	Tree Removal and Lighting: \$100,000 New Road: \$90,000 Stone Wall:\$475,000	Under Construction	DCR, EEA, MyRWA, State Earmark

Forestdale Park	Forest Street	Improvements in 2019 to ballfield backstop and playground. Playground surface improved in Spring 2025.	\$150,000	Complete	CDBG and State earmark
Green Street Park	Green Street	Improvements to playground underway in 2024, including refurbishing or replacing play equipment and replacing mulch with rubber surface. City exploring low-cost maintenance solution to basketball court cracking.	\$415,000	Complete	CDBG
High Rock	Rockingham Ave	Minor improvements in 2018 to improve signage, safety, flagpole	\$10,000	Complete	CPA funds
Kierstead Park	Eastern Avenue/ Willow St	\$2.2 million improvements completed in 2024, including total reconstruction of park: playground, ballfield, drainage, walking paths, bike parking, and more. Bluebikes installed in spring 2025	\$2,200,000	Complete	State Earmarks, City CPA, City CDGB grant, State PARC grant, City ARPA Grant
Lincoln Commons	Cross Street	Minor improvements in 2018 to Anderson Field (baseball field) for minor improvements to dugouts, bleachers, pathways, benches	\$103,000	Complete	CDBG
Linden Park / Hunting Field	Wescott Street	Improvements to the street hockey outdoor rink completed in 2024. Improvements to playground and field anticipated in future	\$740,000	Complete	CDBG CPA Funds ARPA Funds
Malden Hospital Site	100 Hospital Road	City is working with Tufts Medicine and nonprofit organization to secure 6.7 acres of open space, including wooded, hilly land and a potential area for a passive recreation space. Hoping to purchase property, add permanent conservation restriction, and then follow public planning process to program the space. Possible uses include hiking trails and similar passive recreation activities.	\$730,000	Acquisition	CPA Funds

Malden River Works	356 Commercial St	Malden River Works (MRW) brings together environmental advocates, government stakeholders and a coalition of community leaders, to create a climate resilient waterfront park on the Malden River at the Malden Department of Public Works site. It will reduce climate vulnerability by introducing nature-based solutions at the DPW that also benefit the park, including green stormwater infrastructure, increased tree canopy, restored landscape, and an elevated greenway path.	\$13,000,000	Construction	Mix of Federal, State, Regional, and Local Funding including CPA funds and ARPA funds.
Maplewood Park	Maplewood Street	Turf needs resurfacing. Work expected to begin late 2025-2026	\$2,500,000	Design	City General Fund
Miller Park	Harvard Street	Minor improvements since 2018	\$400,000	Complete	City General Fund
Newman Park/ Ferryway Green	Cross Street	New grass field added in 2024	\$100,000	Complete	ARPA
Patchell Park	Glen Rock Road	Master Planning process in 2022 resulted in \$2.4M planned improvements; would expand and connect park to Washington St. Further communications needed with abutting business owner about potential improvements. Significant funding hurdles; not in low-income neighborhood.	Complete	Master Plan Complete – Awaiting Funding	CPA Funds
Salvatore “Butch” Gennetti Park Playground	Pearl Street	Minor improvements in 2018, including drainage, pavement, curbing, plantings.	\$55,000	Complete	CDBG

Pine Banks Park	Main Street	Operated by a Board of Trustees funded by statute by both Melrose and Malden. Minor upgrades to track field (2024), turf baseball field, and the playground underwent a complete renovation (2025). Currently in great condition.	\$2,250,000	Complete	Bayrd Fdn, Piccolo Fdn.
Roosevelt Park	Salem Street	Long-time improvement project cancelled in 2024 due to high bids. Project would have built turf field, removed contamination, and improved drainage. City plans to remove contaminated soil in the fenced-off southeast corner of Roosevelt Park. Completion expected 2025-2026	\$850,000	Design	CDBG Section 108
Salemwood School Playground	Salem Street	In 2021 the existing playground was upgraded, including removal of the existing mulch surfacing replaced with a colorful, porous rubber safety surface. Five new play panels were also added.	\$150,467	Complete	CDBG and Malden Public School
Spot Pond Brook Greenway	Canal St, Charles St, Middlesex St, & Dartmouth St	The Spot Pond Brook Greenway is a new pedestrian path along the daylight section of the Spot Pond Brook adjacent to Banks Place and the Oak Grove T Station. CPA funded Phase I, the construction adjacent to Oak Grove Station. Secondly, CPA Funds helped support an engineering study for an additional section from Coytemore Lea to the Northern Strand Community Trail. Feasibility Study Complete in 2021. Public engagement has been ongoing since 2024. Phase II remains in the conceptual/design phase.	Phase I: \$133,000 Phase II: \$4,858,127 (Boston MPO TIP Estimate)	Phase I: Complete Phase II: Concept Design and Community Engagement	CPA; MassTrails; Mass Gaming Commission; Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation; Boston Region MPO

Tartikoff Park	Willow St/ Lyme St	Master Planning process in ~2022 (same as Kierstead, Willow St Greenway). No funding secured yet. May reduce scope. Councilor wants to expand skatepark.	\$50,000	Master Plan Complete – Awaiting Funding for Construction	CPA Funds, City Council Funds
Trafton Park	Granite St/ Jacob Street	Master Plan process completed in 2019. Phase I improvements include new playground, utilities, dugouts, walkways, completed in 2020-2021. Phase II improvements include a dog park, outfield, courts, and water.	Phase I: \$668,517.5 Phase II: \$987,466	Phase I: Complete Phase II: Active Construction	Phase II: PARC, CPA, mitigation funds Phase II: ARPA and CPA
Waitts Mountain Park	Leonard St/ Park St	Dead trees, poison ivy, graffiti, and glass removed along with new construction of trails, a playground, rain garden and drainage. There were also small improvements made, adding interpretive signage and improving access to the overlook point.		Complete	CDBG
Wallace Park	403 Pleasant St	Reconstruction of the historic granite wall supporting the park along route 60 (Pleasant Street).	\$150,000	Complete	CPA

6

Community Vision

Vision Statement for Malden OSRP+Art

Malden's parks and open spaces are well-maintained, accessible for everyone, and activated through inclusive programming and recreational activities year-round. Malden's open spaces and waterways support climate resilience and activate cultural connection.

Description of the Process

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee developed the vision, values, and goals for Malden's Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art. This vision builds on prior open space and recreation plans and studies while reflecting conversations, stories, and experiences of community members and municipal staff throughout the engagement processes. In Chapter 2, the Planning Process and Public Participation section notes the engagement activities completed throughout this plan. This plan uses a vision statement and six guiding values to guide future investments in Malden's parks and open spaces.

Community outreach included individual conversations with community leaders, a community meeting, a community survey, gathering of community-based organization leaders, a community forum, focus groups, collection of stories about parks and open space, and series of municipal interviews.

More details on the survey and survey findings, as well as notes and analysis from engagement events are available in Appendix A.

Guiding Values

In addition to the vision statement, the Steering Committee articulated the need to develop values to guide the planning process and inform the decision-making process for Malden's parks and open spaces. The intent is that each value is reflected and embodied in Malden's parks and open spaces.



BELONGING

Malden is rich in cultural experiences and stories, and we want these reflected in our open spaces and parks with artwork and community events that reflect and celebrate our cultural diversity in ways where all community members can gather and feel at home.



CONNECTIVITY

Malden's parks, open spaces, and waterways are critical assets for all community members. We want to ensure these assets are accessible through multiple paths, trails, sidewalks, and transportation routes to connect people with these places.



EQUITY

While investing in Malden's parks and open resources, we want to ensure fair and just inclusion for all of Malden's community members, equal access to opportunities and resources, and power in decision-making for Malden's investments.



HEALTH

Open spaces, parks, and waterways are resources integral to community health. We want to support community well-being through the benefits of accessing Malden's open spaces, parks, and waterways.



SUSTAINABILITY

As Malden faces climate change, parks and open spaces are resources for community members during extreme weather, such as floods and heat waves, and support sustainability through design.



STEWARDSHIP

Malden commits to stewardship of parks, open spaces, and waterways, highlighting community resources, supporting responsible maintenance, and ensuring people's safety.

Open Space, Recreation, and Arts Goals

The 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan goals provided a starting point for the Steering Committee to assess the goals for this plan. The Steering Committee reviewed the specific actions completed in the past eight years to determine areas of need and opportunity for this plan.

The following are the City's goals for open space and recreation for 2025 - 2035:

GOAL 1:

Protect and preserve Malden's land and water resources for climate resilience.

GOAL 2:

Ensure consistent maintenance plans and management policies to steward open space, recreational facilities, and trails.

GOAL 3:

Enhance and upgrade Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities with structural amenities to improve community experiences.

GOAL 4:

Improve and expand access to parks, greenways, open spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural resources for all.

GOAL 5:

Provide inclusive cultural and recreational programming that celebrates and reflects Malden's rich diversity.

GOAL 6:

Increase public awareness, outreach, and education about Malden's parks, recreation, and cultural resources.

7

Needs Analysis

This chapter aims to examine what is needed to achieve Malden's open space and recreation goals. There are three general categories of needs this Plan is required to address: Resource Protection, which focuses on environmental issues, trail networks, and riverways; Community Needs, which addresses issues raised by the demographic analysis, and through the survey and public forums; and Management Needs, which concerns staffing and the desire for facility management plans. This section includes a sub-category under Community Needs, which provides for public art investments, cultural programming, and representation throughout the city.

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Malden's natural resources continue to lay the foundation for the city's development, though now with more significant consideration for resource protection than in the past industrial eras. Both community and City-led initiatives are working to protect Malden's natural resources and expand access to green and open spaces throughout the city. As the City of Malden moves forward with these initiatives,

additional partnerships with the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) and Conservation Commission (CC) will be critical to support these efforts.

Improving Climate Resilience Along the Malden River

There is a coalition of community groups leading efforts along the Malden River, including Malden River Works, the Mystic River Watershed Association, Friends of the Malden River, and the Mystic Valley Development Commission. As the City of Malden continues to collaborate with these groups and learn from existing studies, there are multiple areas of consideration for the next ten years, related to preserving the environmental resources and natural habitats along the Malden River. Efforts to clean up the Malden River and improve water quality continue to be important to the community. Residents support natural conservation efforts along the Malden River, including strong support for retaining the natural habitats for animals and native species, such as ensuring areas needed for native bird nesting and salt marsh restoration efforts. People want to see native landscaping along the river,

which can include native plant gardens and native edible plants like mulberries and serviceberries, potentially with programmed classes on finding edible plants in nature.

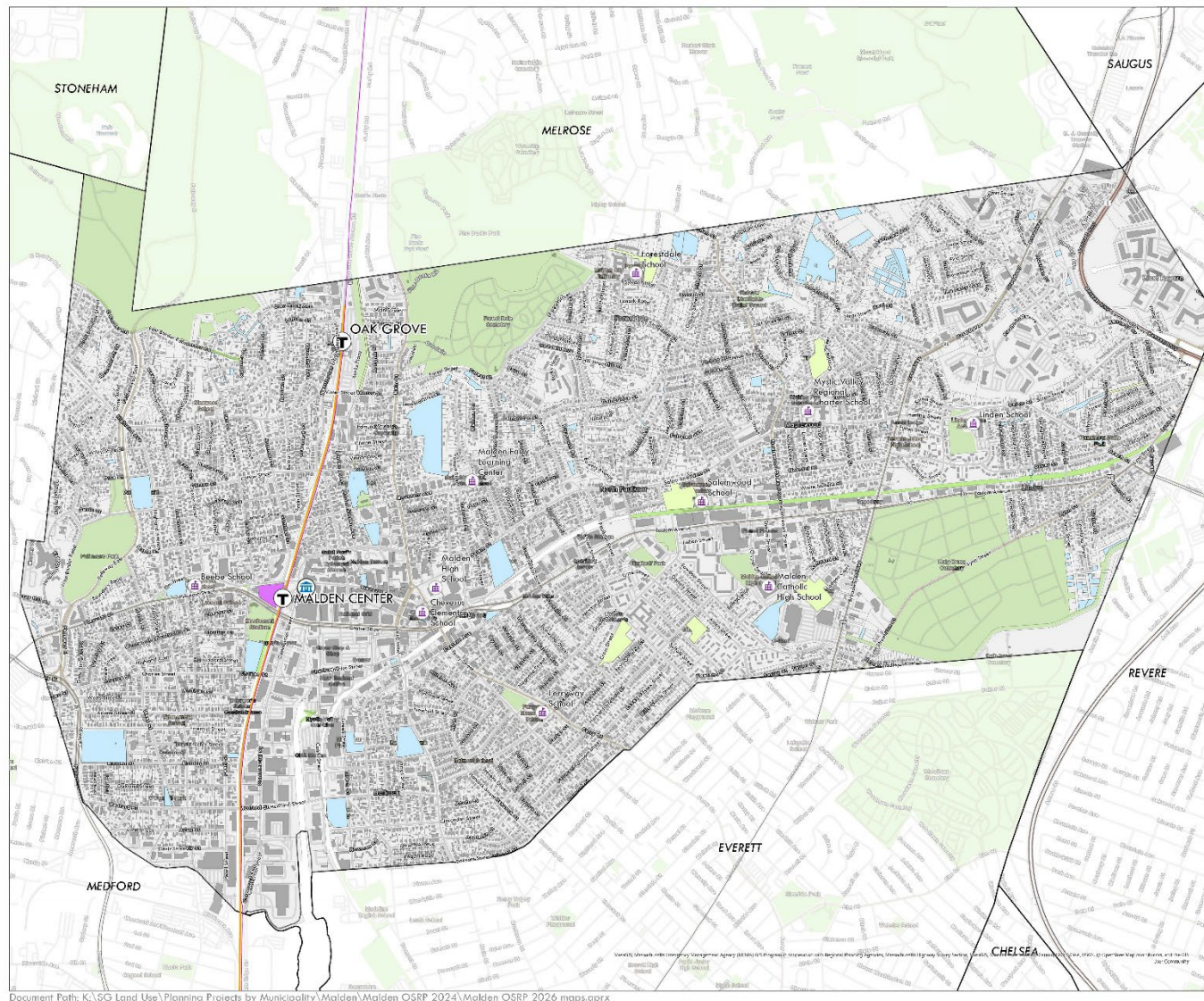
Preserving and Reimagining Open Space Investments

As the City of Malden decides how to use the open space acquired from the Malden Hospital site, its commitment to conservation and expanding access to open space remains important. Malden's opportunities for expanding public open space are extremely limited, and every effort to

preserve natural spaces is valuable. The City's investment in the Malden Hospital site offers an opportunity to reimagine a third of the space for passive recreation. In addition to acquiring land in the western part of Malden, ensuring equal access to nature and open spaces remains critical. As noted in the 2017 OSRP, the City should continue to evaluate vacant parcels as opportunities for future pocket parks and expand equitable access to open space throughout the city. These parcels are shown on Map 13 and summarized in the table below.

Table 21. *Summary of Vacant Land by Owner*

Use Description	Owner	Total Acres
Vacant (Educational Private)	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston	0.201506
Vacant, Conservation (Municipal or County)	City of Malden	19.824134
Vacant, Selectmen or City Council (Municipal)	City of Malden	77.999149
Vacant, Selectmen or City Council (Municipal)	Passageways	0.593558
Vacant, Selectmen or City Council, Other City or Town (Municipal)	City of Melrose	0.023964
Vacant, Transportation Authority	MBTA	2.303997
Grand Total		100.946308



Malden, MA

Open Space, Recreation, Arts and Culture Plan

VACANT LAND

- Malden City Hall
- MBTA Station
- Orange Line
- Commuter Rail Line
- Schools
- Structures

OWNERSHIP OF VACANT PARCELS

- Vacant (Educational Private)
- Vacant, Conservation (Municipal or County)
- Vacant, Selectmen or City Council (Municipal)
- Vacant, Selectmen or City Council, Other City or Town (Municipal)
- Vacant, Transportation Authority



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 933-0700

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

March 2026



0 0.125 0.25 0.5
MILES

Map 13. Inventory of Vacant Lands in Malden.

Connecting the Greenways Between Malden's Parks and Open Spaces

Community members strongly support the expansion of bike and pedestrian networks between the parks and open spaces. As Malden expands and connects its trail network through the Northern Strand Community Trail, Malden River Greenway, and commitment to the Spot Brook Pond Greenway, there is an opportunity for better connectivity and access throughout the city. Greenways can also be used to provide more shade and green space for community members throughout the city.

Expanding Malden's Urban Tree Canopy

With the leadership of Malden's Tree Warden, the City of Malden is poised to make meaningful commitments to expanding the urban tree canopy throughout the city that will serve generations to come. The successful installation of Malden's urban forest and the recognition of the Forest Dale Cemetery as an arboretum demonstrate the opportunities for growth in Malden's trees. Adoption of a proposed tree ordinance would allow for significant progress in improving the health of Malden's trees, reducing the effects of urban heat islands, providing much-needed shade during extreme heat, and mitigating historical disinvestment in areas with limited tree coverage. This ordinance has not yet been filed with City Council.

Pollinator & Community Gardens

In the past, the City of Malden made investments in community garden parcels along the Northern Strand Community Bike Trail and at Malden High School, and

pollinator garden in Coytemore Lea Park. As the community garden continues to experience growth and there is a desire for more opportunities for seniors to participate, future considerations for open spaces should prioritize this investment. Maintenance and support for these facilities require specific instructions for crews in charge of their care, particularly when mowing or landscaping. For future maintenance plans, including clear delineation of protected areas for maintenance could better preserve these areas for the future.

Wildlife Corridor & Removing Invasive Species

Development in Malden has the potential to disrupt local wildlife habitats, raising safety concerns for residents. One way to address potential conflict is to intentionally establish a portion of the city as a wildlife corridor. Wildlife corridors allow for natural migration of animals between habitats. There is an opportunity to develop a wildlife corridor in the Crescent Slope area, as found via a boundary study paid for using Community Preservation Act funds.

Another challenge Malden faces is the rise of invasive plant and animal species. Community groups have led park clean-ups to remove invasive plant species in addition to trash. Recent efforts to manage invasive animals include reducing food waste left in parks, though the city has been notably looking into methods to address the rat population. For residents, it would be helpful to develop kits on how to combat invasive species in backyards, along cliffsides, and open lands. Friends of Crescent Slope is leading this work

around the Crescent Slope area, with restoration and enhancement.

Managing Stormwater Infrastructure

As discussed in Chapter 4, multiple neighborhoods in Malden within the one-hundred-year flood plain are vulnerable to flooding due to compounding climate disasters of sea level rise and extreme weather events. As the City of Malden replaces stormwater infrastructure, the design of parks and open spaces can support better drainage, including bioswales, rainwater capture for irrigation, rain gardens, and retention ponds. It is particularly critical to consider these improvements and other interventions in the eastern parts of Malden, which have more significant flood risks.

Summary of Community Needs

Malden is a community passionate about its parks, open space, and natural resources. Community organizations and volunteers are a force for park and open space development and improvement, and residents of all ages are leading efforts to shape the city's public spaces. Throughout this planning process, the project team developed a community survey, hosted two community meetings, convened community leaders, collected stories, and met for focus groups to ensure this plan reflects an inclusive and representative understanding of community needs. This section provides a synthesis of community needs articulated throughout the planning process. However, Appendix A includes detailed summaries of engagement findings.

Consistent Maintenance and Upkeep

The most frequently raised concern throughout engagement and conversations about Malden parks and open space resources was the need for improved maintenance and trash collection. Trash and litter are persistent issues throughout Malden's open spaces, and community members want more public trash cans. Existing trash barrels overflow often and need more frequent, consistent service accessible year-round. Another pervasive waste management challenge is addressing the appropriate disposal of dog waste throughout the city. Other maintenance concerns include weeds, fallen trees, broken benches, and broken granite slabs.

Residents want a coordinated effort to clean up parks including a public messaging campaign to mobilize citizens for trash clean-ups, discourage littering, and encourage respect for Malden's parks and open spaces. In concert with this public-facing effort, residents would like to see the City increase oversight and maintenance of these spaces through increased staffing for the Department of Public Works, potentially establishing a dedicated parks department and a parks commission to support these efforts locally.

Greenspaces Throughout the City

Community members want increased access to parks, open spaces, and green spaces throughout the city. Recommendations include expanding access to green space through pocket parks and existing deltas and adding more trees throughout the walkable corridors. While 94% of

residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, the area in the northwest corner of the city, to the west of Route 1, is a priority area for new parks and green spaces.

Additionally, residents living in the areas south, east, and north of the Holy Cross Cemetery and the neighborhood between Forestdale and North Faulkner are outside the 10-minute walking distance from Malden's existing parks.

Another concern for many residents is improving the accessibility to green space for all of Malden's residents. Residents reported insufficient open spaces in Malden, particularly in less affluent areas and parts of the city that were formerly redlined. Some suggest investing in a larger central park in City Center, and others noted there is potential for pocket parks on city-owned land throughout Malden's neighborhood and off the bike path (e.g., at Playstead Road and Eastern Avenue). One specific concern raised is ensuring public access to green space, particularly preserving free parking and improving public transit access and safety of multimodal transit options serving city parks and open spaces.

Clear and Inclusive Communication

Malden faces a general need to strengthen promotion and communication efforts to increase awareness about Malden's parks, open spaces and recreational opportunities. Many residents note that parks and open spaces need improved marketing and communication efforts to improve awareness for all members of the community. Suggestions include developing a widely circulated map of Malden's parks and open spaces,

potentially noting the allowed uses for each facility and hours of operation. Some spaces are unclear about whether and when they are open to the public, how community members book private events in parks, or whether there are upcoming public events. Seniors recommend printing and distributing materials at the Senior Center and Public Library.

Community members also recognize the challenge of raising awareness of Malden's parks, open spaces, and resources, particularly for a multilingual population. Strategies to improve communication offered by community members included providing clear multilingual signage at the parks and wayfinding signs along the trails and sidewalks. Wayfinding signage along paths and trails could improve the legibility and safety of Malden's trail network. Relatedly, Malden's parks and open spaces would benefit from additional informational signage to clarify the rules, allowed uses, and hours of operation.

Malden Recreation Department can test these strategies to let people know about ways to participate in existing programming. Sixty percent (60%) of survey respondents do not have an account with the City of Malden's Recreation Department. Of that, over half did not know about Malden's Recreation Department programming, and an additional twenty-eight percent (28%) don't know what benefits there are for using an account with the Recreation Department. There is both a need and opportunity to improve communications about Malden's parks and recreation opportunities.

Shade and Amenities to Improve the Quality of Experiences

Shade is a pervasive need in Malden's parks and open spaces. Throughout every category of the survey, respondents noted the need for shade in open spaces, at sporting events, and playgrounds. This need includes natural shade trees, coordinated through the Tree Warden, and shade structures, like pavilions, shade sails, or public art that can provide shade for community members. Shade is important to seniors and youth and surfaced as a topic at every engagement event. Other amenities like bathrooms, seating, lighting, and water fountains are also important to community members. In prioritizing investments, survey respondents favor investing in park and open space infrastructure amenities over adding additional recreational facility improvements.

Increasing the tree canopy for shade is strongly supported throughout the city. In all open spaces, residents support efforts to plant more trees throughout the city's parks and open spaces, noting the work of the Tree Warden. Residents understand that trees are essential for naturally cooling these areas and are a valuable resource in the hot summer months. Additionally, residents want green spaces for conservation and community gardens, and natural areas for quiet contemplation.

Malden River Access for All

Improving access to the Malden River and awareness around this resource is a key concern for community members. Over eighty percent (80%) of survey respondents are either satisfied or very satisfied with the

experiences of Malden's water features. Survey respondents noted the exemplary work on the Malden River site, though more work is ahead. For the eighteen percent (18%) of respondents who reported dissatisfaction, their main concerns included general maintenance, accessibility, and awareness. Community members have many visions for future investments along the Malden River, including a publicly accessible dock with more opportunities for recreation on the water, greater activation of the Malden River through public performances and events, and improved bike and pedestrian access to the river.

Safety for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Walking is the most popular way community members to access Malden's parks and open spaces. Ninety percent (90%) of survey respondents report walking to Malden's parks and open spaces, followed by driving or rideshare (46%), then biking (32%), and finally public transportation (16%).

A primary safety concern is accessing the parks, which requires crossing roads with heavy traffic, high-speed limits and minimal crosswalks. Survey respondents mention the high speeds along the Fellsway, the lack of protection for cyclists, and the need for protected bike lanes to access parks and open spaces. For community members in wheelchairs or using a stroller, these safety issues compound and make accessing parks and open space even more dangerous.

Recreational Facilities

Malden is home to many active residents who participate in organized sports leagues, biking and running groups, and people who want to utilize the Malden River for recreation. According to the survey, nearly a quarter of residents utilize fields, courts, and recreational facilities weekly. While many survey respondents are satisfied with these facilities, these amenities also had the most significant proportion of "very dissatisfied" responses. Community members identified various core challenges for each facility type throughout the engagement process.

Most frequently referenced recreation facilities are Malden's fields. The primary challenges are coordinating schedules for shared facilities for sports and ensuring consistent field conditions. Community members primarily mention soccer, with special emphasis on the fact that no full-size 11 v. 11 grass field is available. Community members want a multi-use field for soccer, rugby, and other field sports. Maintenance and drainage are persistent issues across all ball fields. Furthermore, in the past year, community conversations around Roosevelt Park raised issues with installing turf fields, with varying concerns from community members about exacerbating the urban heat island effect, chemical exposure, and pollution issues.

The primary issue for courts is the condition of court surfaces with cracks. Courts at Amerige Park need resurfacing, naming existing cracks as a safety risk. Community members want more basketball courts throughout the city to expand the season and times the

courts are available, ensure maintenance for hoops, and improve the quality of the backboards and rims.

Malden community members primarily use Pine Banks Track and the Macdonald Stadium Track for track facilities. Community members raised issues around the damaged lanes, limiting Malden's ability to host track meets. Both tracks also need permanent areas for discus and shot-put.

Other recreational facilities that require attention include the skate park, which also needs resurfacing to address cracks in the pavement and uneven grades. Youth noted challenges for the crew team in accessing docks along the Malden River, and there is great support for expanding kayaking and other water sports along the river.

Playgrounds and Splash Pads

Survey respondents raise concerns around accessibility, particularly for families with strollers and mobility challenges. Malden's playgrounds need accessible and inclusive equipment that allows kids of all abilities to play, particularly thinking about kids in wheelchairs. Parents also note that playgrounds with fences are safer playgrounds for kids, protecting them from traffic or running off to other potential hazards. Residents would like to see a greater variety of playground equipment that appeals to a broader age group. Malden needs more swings that are adaptable for all ages and abilities. There is a need for play structures for older kids, potentially playgrounds that encourage imaginative play with distinctive architecture, such as pirate ships or castles in the parks.

Others mention that playgrounds and splash pads are not distributed equally throughout Malden. Inequal distribution of playgrounds and parks throughout the city compound inequities. Particularly given climate change, community members want to see more splash pads and waterplay options for families throughout the city, specifically at Trafton Park.

Arts and Culture Considerations

Arts and culture are integral to public parks and open spaces. This plan incorporates Malden's arts and cultural communities, artists, and cultural organizations to identify areas for arts and cultural activations in parks and open spaces. A section of the survey focused on future investments in arts and culture, including public art, cultural events, and programming. The project team had multiple conversations with cultural stakeholders, led a storytelling event, and hosted a focus group on March 3, 2025, with the recently formed Arts and Culture Committee at Malden City Hall as part of a hybrid meeting.

Public Artwork

In the past seven years, Malden has experienced multiple public art efforts in Malden, including the ARTLine, led by Creative Malden, Malden Arts, and City Councillors, and there is strong support for more, including both permanent and temporary public art installations. Public arts ranked as the third most important priority for future amenities and features in Malden's parks and open spaces. 60% of survey respondents want to see more murals in Malden. In both the survey and focus groups, many community

members envision an active role for Malden's youth in public arts programming. People envision various types of public artwork to reflect Malden's cultural diversity through murals, sculptures, mosaics, and interactive installations. Engagement also found that youth want a graffiti permission wall or area, potentially at the Tartikoff Parks skate park.

In the future, community members hoped to see public artwork that does the following:

- Commemorates Malden's histories
- Celebrates cultural diversity and queer identities
- Inspires environmental sustainability
- Reflects timeless themes and shared values
- Honors the role of science, innovation, and technology
- Shares distinct community identities and experiences

Cultural and Community Events

Community members envisioned parks as places for cultural activities and gatherings throughout the planning process. Many people participate in holiday celebrations in the parks like Independence Day and Juneteenth, and cultural events like Malden Porchfest, movie screenings, or live music in Malden Center.

Residents want additional opportunities to gather in parks and open spaces, particularly to experience arts events and programming. Arts events and programming include everything from live music performances to outdoor art exhibits and classes, outdoor theatre and movie screenings,

community dance events, and food and craft fairs celebrations. Community members see holidays as opportunities for neighborhood block parties.

People want to attend live music performances and concerts in parks, naming a variety of genres, including classical, hip hop, jazz, reggae, rock, and international music, reflecting cultural diversity in Malden. Others want to build on events like Porchfest to bring larger performances into the park spaces. Community members noted that current musical programming does not feel representative of Malden's cultural diversity and that leadership in these efforts needs to reflect Malden's diverse community. There is a desire for multicultural festivals that center on food, music, dance, crafts, and cultural traditions reflecting the multicultural identities found in Malden.

Across age groups and engagement, there is strong support for a farmers market. Over 65% of respondents support this idea for the future of Malden, with show strong interest in hosting an inclusive farmers' market that provides greater access to fresh produce from local vendors, reflects Malden's cultures through food, and accepts SNAP/EBT). The farmers market could also provide a space for local artists, crafts, and other vendors.

Arts Programming

Many residents want to see an expansion of arts programming available to both youth and adults. Examples of youth arts programming included support for public art initiatives, community theater productions throughout the city, and opportunities for dancing. Adult activities

mentioned throughout the engagement included connecting with the urban sketching groups and more opportunities to participate in theater and performances.

For all these efforts, it is important to note the existing arts and cultural programming offered through the Malden Public Library, Malden Recreation Department, and by the city's Poet Laureate. Community members want strengthened arts and culture initiatives that support local artists. Concerns from community members also included considerations of maintenance for existing public art, providing an appropriate budget for programming, and identifying capacity to implement programming efforts in parks and open spaces.

Considerations for Priority Populations

Youth, Seniors, and Non-Native English Speakers

Special considerations for the Open Space and Recreation plan included deliberate conversations with youth, seniors, and non-native English speakers. Findings from the focus groups generally reflect the broader themes discussed in the Community Needs Section. However, it is worth noting specific observations based on these targeted conversations.

In the community survey, 61% of respondents have children under eighteen years old in their households. In conversations with the Malden Youth Council about the role of the Northern Strand Community Trail as a community space, there is a strong desire to see greater access to the Malden River. Throughout all engagements, there is strong

support for expanding arts programs for youth in addition to the current recreational programming. Malden's youth are attuned to ongoing climate efforts and hope to see programming and public that reflect Malden's cultural identity.

For seniors, only eleven percent (11%) of survey respondents report being age 65 or older, and twenty-nine percent (29%) of survey respondents have a senior age 65 or older living in their household. As shown in Chapter 3, Malden's elder community is growing, and efforts to meet the needs of this population include programming through the Senior Center. In the engagement at the Senior Center during the Lunar New Year Celebration, seniors emphasized the need to prioritize walkability and accessibility to parks. There are opportunities to strengthen communications with existing programs about events in parks and open spaces, and a strong desire to have places to gather and garden.

As for non-native English speakers, the survey captured some feedback from Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese speakers, though 93% of respondents completed the survey in English. As part of the focus group with the Immigrant Learning Center and throughout the engagement, multilingual signage is a pervasive recommendation and need. Signage and information about the parks, including how to access parks with wayfinding at bus stops, would help direct community members to these spaces. Using bulletin boards as a multilingual communication tool at parks would help guide community

members. Finally, a communications tool that could benefit all populations is an accessible and widely distributed map of Malden's parks and open space resources.

People with Disabilities

In addition to these groups, community needs for people with disabilities and the findings of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Assessment are essential considerations for this plan. Seventeen percent (17%) of survey respondents have a person with a disability as a household member. In the survey, community members identified challenges for people with disabilities to access Malden's parks and open spaces and where parks were not compliant with ADA requirements. The plan process included an ADA self-assessment, which identified specific accessibility issues for parks and open spaces, including park entrances. These issues include incorrect curb cuts and limited ramps, making accessing Malden's parks and open spaces difficult for people using wheelchairs and devices to assist with mobility. Furthermore, the placement of the existing portable toilets often makes them dangerous to use and inaccessible.

The ADA-Self Assessment noted specific areas where Malden's parks, open spaces, and playgrounds require updates to meet ADA requirements, documented in Appendix C. One recommendation from the assessment is expanding programming and accessibility improvements to the Community Garden. Another survey finding echoed in focus groups is the need for arts programming for youth and young adults with disabilities.

Community Connectedness and Belonging

Engagement efforts included questions about the cultural representation of cultural identity in parks and the sense of belonging. Nearly twenty percent (20%) of the population does not feel like their cultural identities are appropriately reflected or represented in existing programming and events in Malden's parks and open spaces. In Figure 18, fifteen percent (15%) of survey respondents do not feel connected to their community when using Malden's parks and open space. Future events provide opportunities to address this gap and ensure representation and respect for Malden's diverse cultures.

In addition to lack of cultural representation in parks and open spaces, community members shared a few other reasons for not feeling connected to their community include:

- Park spaces near them do not serve their needs, and they need to go to other communities to access the resources they need.
- People don't interact or engage with others in Malden's parks and open spaces. Some enjoy using their time alone and just being in nature, while others want to see more community-based events, like free group fitness classes or clean-ups.
- Others note that Malden's existing parks have no central gathering spaces or open spaces for people to get together.

- There are not many community-wide events in parks, the events that do exist focus on families and are not well advertised.
- Many community members want more green space and improved maintenance of existing green spaces to help address safety concerns.

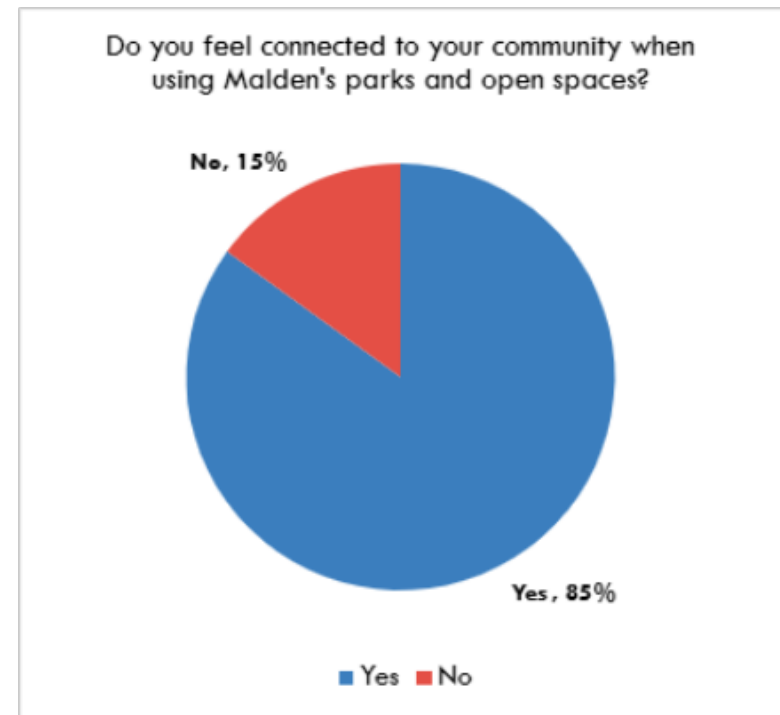


Figure 18. Survey Results, Sense of Connected to Community

Summary of Management Needs

Concerning Malden's management needs for parks and open space, there are a few key areas that need attention:

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for park and open space maintenance, leadership, and investments.
- Managing existing recreational facilities and prioritizing future investments to meet the demand for recreational opportunities.
- Ensuring accessibility and adaptive resources are available for all ages and abilities.
- Connecting parks and open space with arts and cultural initiatives.

Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities

Multiple municipal departments, committees, and commissions share responsibilities for Malden's parks and open spaces. One pervasive challenge throughout the history of Malden's parks and open spaces is the question of who is responsible for managing and maintaining these spaces. Park ownership and management are documented in Chapter 5, and this provides an overview of the parties responsible for park management. Within the City of Malden, multiple departments, committees, and commissions lead public efforts to maintain and improve parks and open spaces in Malden. The various entities and the roles they play in stewarding Malden's parks and open spaces are described below.

The Department of Public Works is primarily responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of parks and open spaces, while the Department of Public Facilities maintains all of the public-school playgrounds. Malden's Recreation Department manages all permitting and programming for Malden's parks and open spaces, from managing youth sports to the community garden. Malden's Tree Warden and Superintendent of Cemeteries is responsible for planting and managing the City's tree inventory of all public shade trees at schools, parks, and public buildings. As Superintendent of Cemeteries, this role also includes managing Forest Dale Cemetery, as well as Bell Rock and Salem Street Cemeteries with support from the Malden Cemetery Trustees. The Pine Banks Park Trustees manage a nonprofit responsible for Pine Banks Park, with Malden and Melrose dividing the park's annual cost, contributing \$500,000 each. The Water Utilities Department manages all water and sewer systems in Malden. The Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development manages parks projects and grant administration for parks, and planning efforts like this one.

Multiple local committees and commissions invest in, steward, regulate, and manage parks, open spaces, and recreational resources.

- Malden's Community Preservation Committee, adopted by the City ten years ago, plays an important role in funding community projects through a one percent (1%) local surcharge on property taxes, matched annually by the state's

Community Preservation Act (CPA) fund. CPA funds have restricted uses, and municipalities can only spend these funds on capital improvement projects related to historic preservation, affordable housing, open spaces, and outdoor recreation.

- Malden's Conservation Commission administers the performance standards of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act. The Commission preserves interests of conservation land and plays an advisory role for city boards and officials on conservation and environmental issues. As the primary regulatory body for protecting Malden's water resources and flood-prone areas, its purview covers a large portion of the environmental inventory.
- The Stadium and Athletic Field Commission is responsible for scheduling, maintenance, and major decisions regarding Macdonald Stadium.

Additionally, the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages the Middlesex Fells, portions of Fellsmere Park, and Lt. Dennis C. Holland Memorial Swimming Pool, Malden's only public pool. Malden's City Council members also actively advocate for projects and initiatives throughout their wards.

Exploring a Parks Commission

While all these entities work to ensure safe, accessible, and growing parks and open space networks, Malden lacks a Parks Commission, despite prior iterations of this commission

and the fact that there is a provision for a Parks Commission in Malden's City Charter.

In the community survey, when asked, "Would you support the City of Malden in appointing community members to a Malden Parks Commission to support the implementation of this plan and support efforts in Malden's parks and open spaces?" 91% of survey respondents said yes. Recent efforts led by the City Council indicate efforts to revive Malden's Parks Commission, which may help address some of the underlying issues identified in the Community Needs section. However, there are a few considerations based on the current municipal structure.

- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the Parks Commission in conversation with the existing management entities to ensure clarity and buy-in on ways a Parks Commission can support the Department of Public Works and best serve Malden's residents.
- Focus the Commission's role on stewarding facility management, similar to the current Stadium and Field Commission. This would allow the Commission to work on upkeep and maintenance needs for parks. This group could take responsibility for maintaining existing facilities, extending their useful lifespan, and funding facility improvements and maintenance.
- Ensure diverse community representation on the Commission and equitable resource allocation (e.g., prioritize outreach to underserved groups and

ensure community input is central to decision-making).

- Avoid expanding the governing bodies approving the uses of spaces, avoid micromanaging the day-to-day operations of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities, and do not lose the structures that currently exist.
- Include representation from relevant committees and staff to support the commission, including the Conservation Commission Recreation Department, and Department of Public Works, etc.

In addressing the maintenance issues for parks and open spaces, there is a lot of ground to cover for the Department of Public Works; volunteer groups and other entities often work to keep these facilities cleaned up together, building off the prior plan's efforts to mitigate litter. Another challenge is that households use the public trashcans in parks for residential trash, an unintended consequence of Malden's "pay as you throw" usage-pricing model.

Another maintenance challenge is managing which entities are responsible for upkeep of parks and open spaces. In some departments, there are overlapping responsibilities, such as tree maintenance, the maintenance of Fellsmere Park, and supporting the expansion and acquisition of open space for conservation. This plan recommends realigning efforts to support greater efficiency and cohesion between existing departments and leadership bodies. Additional staffing to support maintenance efforts

is occasionally requested, and there may be an opportunity to build on existing youth employment programs.

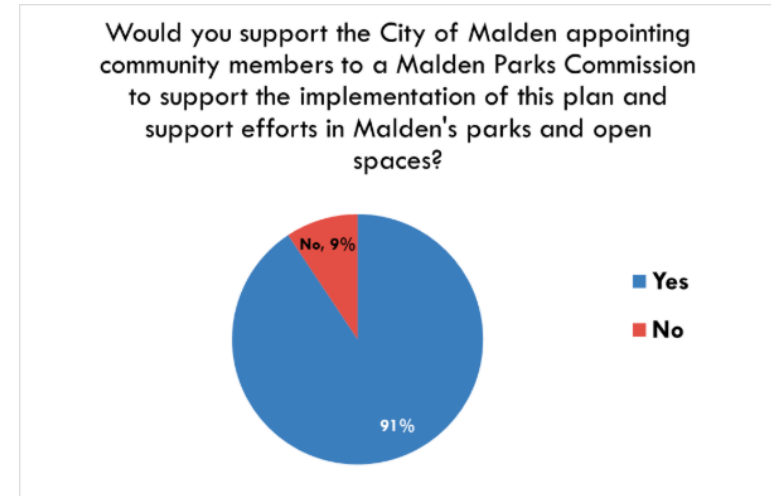


Figure 19. Survey responses related to establishing a Malden Parks Commission

Managing Existing Facilities

Malden boasts over thirty public parks, around twenty playgrounds, three splash pads, and over forty recreational facilities, including fields, courts, open spaces, and natural areas. Malden Public Schools offers thirty sports teams with multiple levels over three seasons. Managing these resources requires identifying the frequency of use and the demand for additional resources. Based on Malden Recreation Department data, the most frequently permitted parts are Howard Park, Linden Park, Maplewood Park, Macdonald Stadium, and Pine Banks Park.

There is a need for additional field space in the future that includes a regulation-size field for field hockey, soccer, or lacrosse. Often, these sports do not get enough field time, and the impact of limited field space trickles down to lower-level sports and younger teams. Desirable practice times are all typically right after school, and no one wants to practice at 6 pm. Fall (football, field hockey, soccer, cross country) and spring (baseball, softball, tennis, and track) seasonal sports have high demand on the existing facilities. Malden Youth Soccer is the second most frequent user of Malden's parks, following Malden Recreation.

While many community members shared strong opposition to additional turf fields, there is also significant maintenance cost with keeping up grass fields. These tradeoffs will require the City to set aside funding for the additional maintenance needs of natural grass fields and designs that prevent flooding. In older parks, blockages in drainage can cause more flooding. The City is working on design measures for irrigation and bioswales to reduce the impacts of flooding fields. Addressing grass field maintenance will require coordination with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Water Utilities Department. DPW manages field maintenance and responds to field flooding. Grass field conditions are subject to rain and flooding, which has a ripple effect on the recreational schedule for field use with canceled games and practices.

Facilities like Macdonald Stadium and Pine Banks Park provide the only running tracks available to the community. Macdonald Stadium is the only multi-use turf field available

to the public and the only space with stands holding roughly five thousand (5,000) people, following a two-million-dollar (\$2 million) renovation in 2006. Comparatively, there are three turf baseball fields available in Maplewood Park.

Table 22. Hours Permitted for Use by Park User Group. Source: Malden Recreation Department

Total Hours Permitted by Top User Groups in Malden's Parks in FY24 (Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)									
Malden Recreation Department		Malden Youth Soccer		Malden Public Schools		Malden Youth Baseball		Malden High School	
2790.6 hours		2700.5 hours		2400 hours		1652.5 hours		1295.5 hours	
Community Garden	253	Pine Banks Park	661	Roosevelt Park	480	MacArthur Park (Green Street Park)	408	Macdonald Stadium	595
Devir Park	64	Linden Park	490	Ferryway Green		Devir Park	408	Lincoln Commons	185
Callahan Park	57.5	Amerige Park	415.5	Wallace Park		Forestdale Park	408	Amerige Park	163.
Pine Banks Park	32.5	Devir Park	309.5	Forestdale Park		Lincoln Commons	341	Callahan Park	160
Howard Park	22.3	Howard Park	307	Linden Park		Pine Banks Park	75.5	Pine Banks Park	112

Rentals are another consideration when managing the existing facilities. There are some events and opportunities that make sense to host in Malden, including the Statewide Bay State Games and Special Olympics in May with Medford, Wakefield, and Revere. However, current

management also recognizes the tradeoffs with external rentals and aims to prioritize local use over rental structures for managing fields. Other recreational facilities, like Amerige Tennis and Pickleball courts, are also highly utilized, and resurfacing is needed. With limited resources,

these improvements need to balance the demand for public use and environmental concerns.

Ensuring Accessibility and Adaptive Resources

Based on Malden's ADA self-evaluation, investing in ADA-compliant facilities and programs is a priority of this plan. To make this happen, OSPCD needs to build on the partnership with the Disability Commission, like the recently completed Early Learning Center Playground renovations. From the initial design phase to the implementation phase, inclusion must be a core value guiding each park and open space project. Furthermore, future investments should prioritize underserved areas in Malden to ensure equitable access to existing facilities. Investments in accessibility measures, like communications boards and ADA-accessible surfaces for playgrounds, are priority areas. Another pervasive concern is ensuring safe and accessible pathways to access existing resources along paths and ensuring intersections have accessible ramps.

Connecting Parks to Arts and Culture Initiatives

This planning process recognizes that investments in arts and culture can make Malden's parks and open spaces more welcoming, inclusive, and reflective of Malden's rich cultural diversity. Currently, Malden's parks host public events for Independence Day, with a \$40,000 budget, based on the City's FY2025 Operating Budget, and there is also funding set aside for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. In addition to these investments, future investments in events and initiatives that celebrate Malden's cultural diversity as a key strength of the city are worth

considering. As shared in an interview with municipal staff, "(p)arks can become vibrant community hubs through cultural festivals, public art projects, and outdoor workshops that celebrate Malden's diversity."

Culturally representative events and programming require proactive outreach, tailored initiatives, and partnerships to support events celebrating the city's cultural richness. In the project budgets, there should be funding for inclusive communication strategies, prioritizing language access, and community-based partnerships. Building on the successes of Malden's Language Access Coordinator and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director, incorporating arts and cultural programming into events like Community Connection Day and Welcome Week, there are many opportunities to ensure Malden's parks and open spaces offer places of belonging for all community members. Malden's community is rich in cultural resources and has a chance to activate parks and open spaces with culturally relevant programming that supports cultural exchange, builds community pride, and makes residents feel a sense of belonging.

Establishing a Budget for Park Improvements

Malden funds park improvements through a variety of sources, as shown in Chapter 5 table documenting recent park improvements. Following distributions from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), the City of Malden allocated \$2.5 million to Outdoor Recreation and Programming. In the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, the City allocated \$1,029,547 to Parks and Recreation, \$599,878

to Cemetery, and \$8,511,286 to the Department of Public Works.

Community Preservation Act as a Tool for Parks and Open Space

As mentioned previously, the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (the “CPA”) permits cities and towns that accept its provisions to levy a surcharge on its real property tax levy, dedicate revenue (other than state or federal funds), and to receive state matching funds for (i) the acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use, open space, and community housing, and (ii) the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources.

Any city or town that accepts the provisions of the CPA will receive annual state matching grants to supplement the amounts raised by its surcharge on the real property tax levy and any other revenue dedicated pursuant to the CPA. The state matching funds are raised from certain recording and filing fees of the registers of deeds. Those amounts are deposited into a state trust fund and are distributed to cities and towns that have accepted the provisions of the CPA, which distributions are not subject to annual appropriation by the state legislature. The amount distributed to each city and town is based on a statutory formula and the total state distribution made to any city or town may not exceed 100% of the amount raised locally by the surcharge on the real property tax levy.

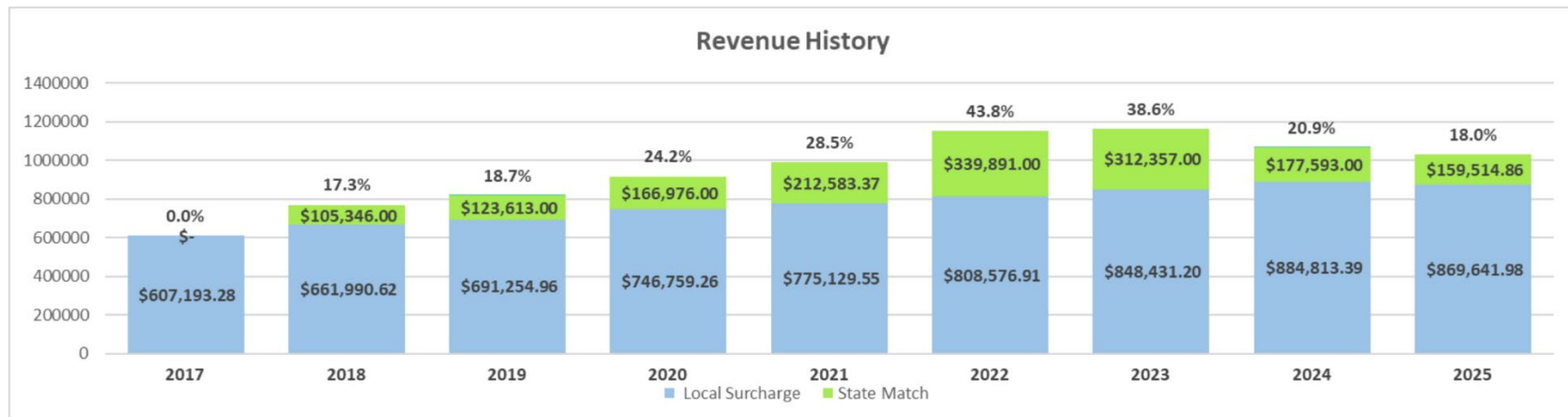


Figure 20. Malden Community Preservation Act Revenue, 2017-2025

The City of Malden adopted the Community Preservation Act Effective July 1, 2016. The City's surcharge rate is 1%. As of June 30, 2024, the City collected \$884,813 and received \$177,593 in State matching funds. The balance of the CPA Fund as of June 30, 2023, was \$3,595,415. Currently, the CPA surcharge rate is at the lowest possible rate at 1%. Nearly 70% of the Malden Community Preservation Committee funding has been allocated to open space and recreation projects, amounting to \$6,086,665. However, the number of applications for

community housing and historic preservation are increasing, meaning that the funding for improving parks and open space may decrease although CPC will still be required to meet a minimum allocation for open space and recreation.

In the community survey, over half of survey respondents support raising the surtax charger to 2% or 3% to provide additional funding for the CPC to distribute to parks and open space, as well as community housing and historic preservation.

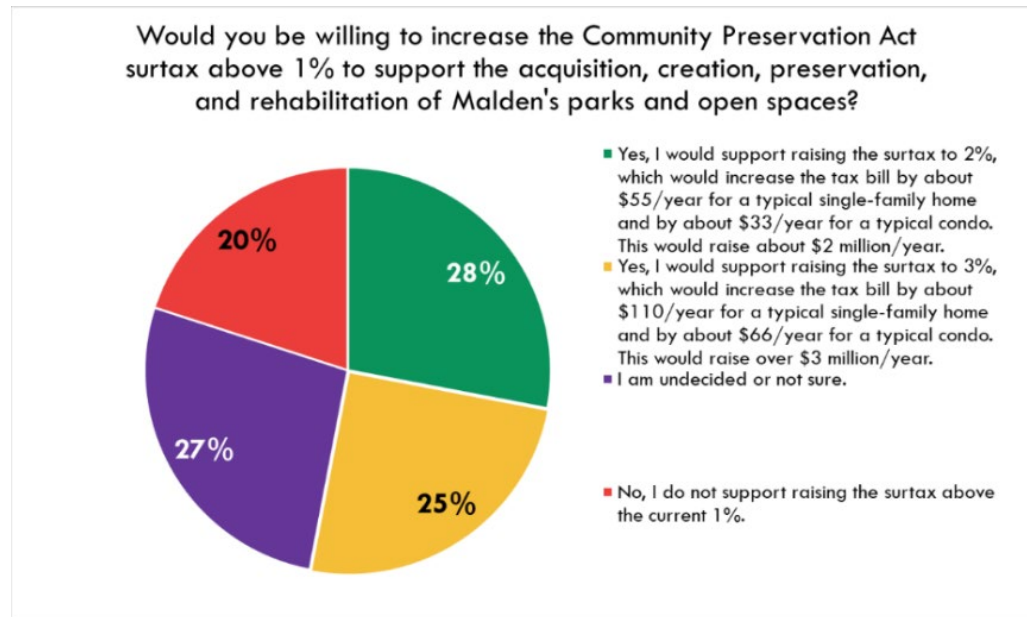


Figure 21. Malden OSRP Survey Response Related to CPA surtax

Statewide Opportunities

In addition to local funding opportunities, there are statewide opportunities that can further support the implementation of this plan. The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is currently focused on three pillars.

Promote: Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts.	Include: Outdoor Recreation for All.	Sustain: Promote restorative outdoor recreation research, principles, and practices.
We want more visitors coming and playing in the state, and more residents staying and playing in the state.	We want Massachusetts to be one of the most welcoming, inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible places to recreate.	We want to grow our natural capital as we also work to grow our community and economic capital.

The *MOOR Trails for All* initiative aims to create universally accessible trails, through intentional trail planning that removes barriers to access and brings outdoors to individuals of all abilities via trail improvements such as gentle grades, stable surfaces, and inclusive signage in Massachusetts. MOOR is also working to establish an Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance.

Massachusetts Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan

Malden's open space needs generally align with the state's plan guiding outdoor recreation, the Massachusetts Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP) published in 2023. Reviewing the SCORP's four goals and corresponding objectives, Malden's community

needs reflect similar focus areas for improving accessibility to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Goal 1. Improve Access to Beaches and Other Water-based Recreational Facilities

While Malden does not have any beaches, this goal reflects the local desire to improve access to the Malden River and opportunities to engage with Malden's water resources. The proposed objectives include providing park developments with spray parks, pools, kayak and canoe launch, and fishing opportunities. Malden community members articulate the desire to see more access to all water-based amenities, particularly to support climate resilient cooling strategies.

Goal 2. Support Trail Projects

Malden community members want bike and pedestrian paths that connect existing parks and green spaces, and to develop greenways along the Malden River and in tandem with existing trail networks, like the Northern Strand Community Trail. The state's goal to support trail projects reflects the need for local trail development, particularly for Environmental Justice communities in Malden and improved accessibility for people with disabilities and elders.

Goal 3. Create and Renovate Neighborhood Parks, Especially to Benefit the Underserved

Malden's parks and open spaces are sites of gathering and provide important community infrastructure for the daily life of Malden residents. Community members articulated the need for amenities to support gatherings, including arts and cultural gatherings, like concerts and festivals.

Amenities like restrooms and water fountains are a local priority in Malden, in addition to the state plan's amenities like community gardens, dog parks, and splash pads. Another alignment with local and state level goals is to use parks as places for climate resilience, which is another goal embedded throughout the city, particularly prioritizing Environmental Justice communities.

Goal 4. Create Opportunities, Especially for the Underserved, to Enjoy Protected Natural Areas

Malden is working to acquire more open space, particularly for passive recreational opportunities, which aligns with the state's findings and goal. However, locally,

there is also a greater need for active recreational space for ball fields and courts. Throughout Malden, there is a need to ensure that open space and outdoor recreation amenities are accessible to people with disabilities. Locally, there is also support for wildlife management areas in Malden, which also aligns with the statewide objectives.

Park Prioritization

To guide the City of Malden on which city-owned parks are the highest priority for near-term investment, the plan's park prioritization strategy relies on four metrics:

1. Park Condition (weighted at 100%) – parks rated at the lowest grade for condition are prioritized higher.
2. Hot Spots (weighted at 20%) – parks located in areas of the city designated as hot spots are higher priority.
3. Flooding (weighted at 20%) – parks located in areas at risk of flooding from storm events or sea level rise are higher priority.
4. Low/Moderate Income Population (weighted at 20%) – parks located in areas of the city with a higher percentage of low- or moderate-income households are higher priority.

Table 23. Malden's Prioritized List of Parks

Priority	Site Name	Priority Score	Site Type	Primary Use	Grade	Hot Spot	SLR2050 1% storm flood depth	Flood	LMI Area
1	Macdonald Stadium	4.60	Special Use	R	Fair	Hotspot	1 ft		81% to 99 %
2	Fellsmere Park	4.40	Community Park	C	Fair			1%	81% to 99 %
3	Salem Street Cemetery	4.40	Cemetery	H	Fair	Partial Hotspot	7 ft		61% to 70%
4	Tartikoff Park	4.20	Neighborhood Park	R	Fair	Hotspot			61% to 70%
5	Florence St. Pocket Park	4.20	Pocket Park	O	Poor	Hotspot		0	51% to 60%
6	Lincoln Commons Playground (Suffolk Park)	4.20	Neighborhood Park	R	Fair	Partial Hotspot			71% to 80%
7	Malden Hospital Site Open Space	4.00		R	Fair				81% to 99 %
8	Amerige Field	3.80	Neighborhood Park	R	Fair				51% to 60%
9	Patchell Playground	3.60	Neighborhood Park	R	Fair				8% to 50%

10	Bell Rock Cemetery	3.60	Cemetery	H	Good	Partial Hotspot	7 ft		71% to 80%
11	Forestdale Cemetery	3.00	Cemetery	H	Good			1%	8% to 50%
12	Bell Rock Memorial Park	3.00	Neighborhood Park	R	Good				71% to 80%
13	Miller Park	3.00	Neighborhood Park	R	Good				71% to 80%
14	Wallace Park	3.00	Joint–Use (Beebe School)	R	Good				81% to 99 %
15	Harris Delta	3.00	Open Space	R	Good				81% to 99 %
16	Waitts Mount Park	2.60	Regional Park	R	Good				8% to 50%
17	Forestdale Park	2.80	Neighborhood Park	R	Good				61% to 70%
18	Green St. Park (MacArthur Playground)	2.80	Neighborhood Park	R	Excellent	Hotspot	7 ft		71% to 80%
19	FitzGerald Park	2.80	Community Park		Excellent	Hotspot	7 ft		71% to 80%
20	Gennetti Park aka Pearl Street Playground	2.80	Neighborhood Park	R	Underway	Hotspot	7 ft		71% to 80%
21	Howard Park (South Broadway Park)	2.80	Community Park	R	Excellent	Hotspot	7 ft	1%	71% to 80%
22	Maplewood Park	2.80	Neighborhood Park	R	Underway	Hotspot	7 ft	1%	71% to 80%
23	High Rock	2.60	Open Space	C	Good				8% to 50%
24	Callahan Park	3.40	Special/Joint Use (MacDonald Stadium)	R	Good	Hotspot			81% to 99 %
25	OConnell Park	2.40	Pocket Park	R	Excellent	Hotspot	7 ft		8% to 50%
26	Pleasant St. Delta	2.40	Open Space	O	Excellent	Hotspot			81% to 99 %

27	Newman Park	2.40	Joint–Use (Ferryway School)	R	Excellent	Hotspot			71% to 80%
28	Linden Park (Hunting Field)	2.40	Joint–Use (Linden-STEAM Academy)	R	Underway		5 ft	1%	71% to 80%
29	Roosevelt Park	2.40	Joint–Use (Salemwood School)	R	Underway	Partial Hotspot		1%	61% to 70%
30	C.W. Holmes Early Learning Center Playgroun	2.20	Neighborhood Park	R	Excellent	Hotspot			61% to 70%
31	Hawkrige Delta	2.20	Open Space	H	Excellent		1 ft		71% to 80%
32	Linden Victory Delta	2.20	Open Space	R	Excellent		2 ft		71% to 80%
33	Coytemore Lea Park	2.00	Community Park	R	Excellent	Partial Hotspot			51% to 60%
34	Kierstead Park	2.00	Neighborhood Park	R	Excellent	Partial Hotspot			61% to 70%
35	Devir Park	2.00	Community Park	R	Excellent	Partial Hotspot	3 ft		8% to 50%
36	Maplewood Municipal Open Space	1.60			Excellent				8% to 50%
37	Trafton Park	1.60		R	Excellent				8% to 50%
38	Goodwin Pocket Forest	1.60	Pocket Forest	O	Excellent			0	8% to 50%

Each criteria received a score from one (lowest priority) to three (highest priority).

For condition grades, the scores were:

1. Excellent or underway
2. Good
3. Fair or Poor

For hotspot measures, the scores were:

1. Open space not located in hotspot
2. Open space partially located in hotspot
3. Open space fully located in hotspot

For flood risk measures, the scores were:

1. No risk of flooding from storms or sea level rise.
2. 1 foot to 3 feet of flooding from 100-year storm in 2050.
3. Flood risk with 1% storm today or 5 to 7 feet of flooding from 100-year storm in 2050.

For low-to-moderate income household areas, the scores were:

1. 8% to 50% of households in an open space census tract have low-to-moderate income.
2. 51% to 70% of households in an open space census tract have low-to-moderate income.
3. More than 70% of households in an open space census tract have low-to-moderate income.

In addition to the weighted metrics, prioritization was also guided by Malden OSPCD staff knowledge and assessment of parks and open space priorities. Staff prioritization guided ordering of parks with equal scores the placement of two parks in priority bands above (Waitts Mountain Park) and below (Callahan Park) their prioritization scores.

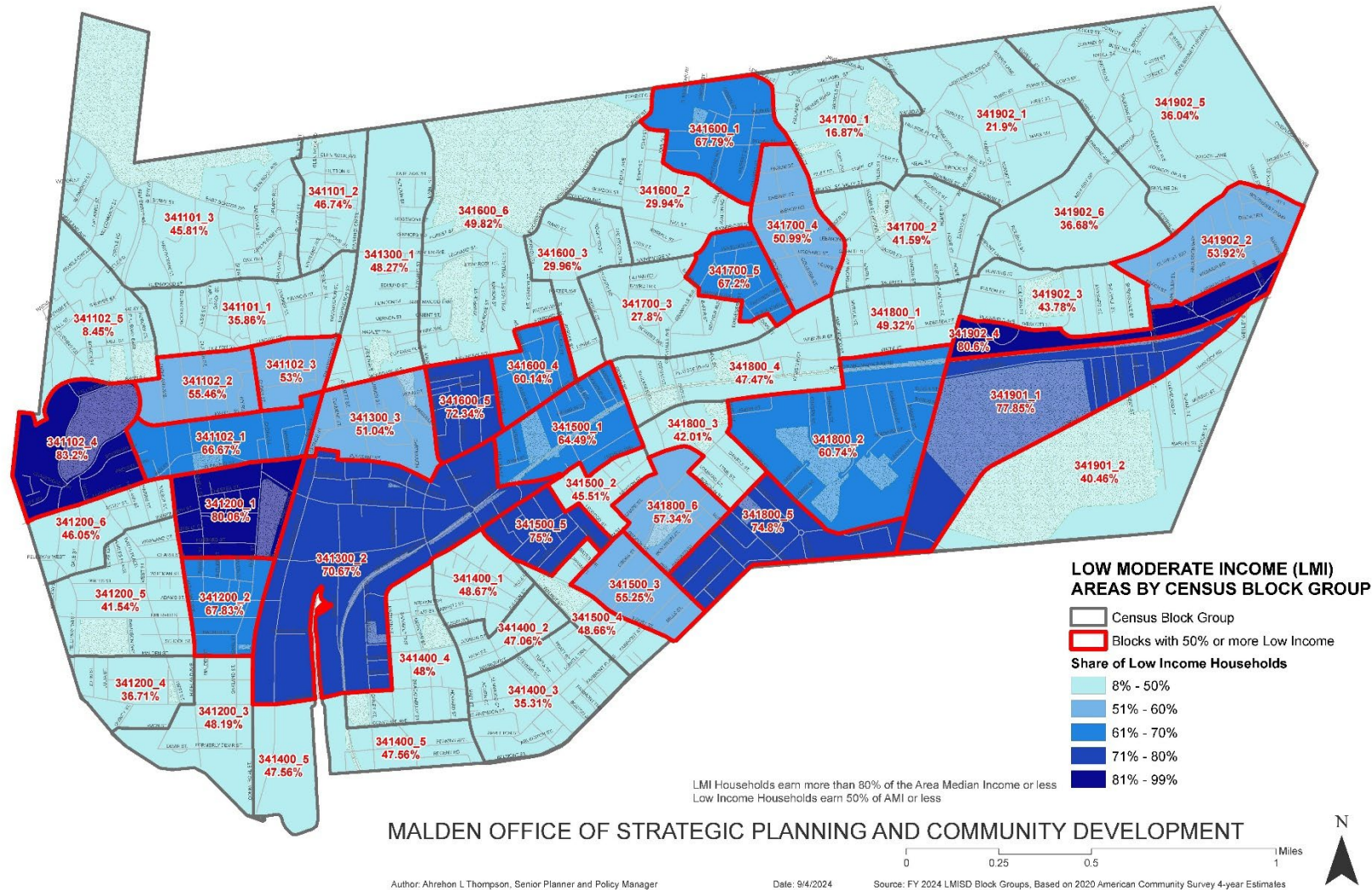


Figure 22. Malden Census Tracts by Share of Low- to Moderate-Income Residents

Goals and Objectives

For the update of Malden's open space and recreation plan, the goals describe and prioritize six focus areas for the next ten years. Beneath each goal are two to three strategies with recommended actions to reach this goal. These goals aim to reflect community feedback received during the preparation of the plan update and provide attainable milestones for the next ten years.

In Chapter 9, the action plan matrix documents potential funding opportunities to support these actions. Some actions may require the City to seek additional funding opportunities, update its capital spending plan, work with developers to implement the recommendations. These goals will guide local decision-making to reflect community priorities for open space, parks, and cultural investments.

GOAL 1

Protect and preserve Malden's land and water resources for climate resilience.

Strategy A: Utilize parks and open spaces to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat and flooding.

- Replace impervious surfaces with permeable pavements in parks and open spaces.
- Prioritize the conservation of existing open spaces and natural areas by permitting boards with project review and require mitigation efforts.
- Strengthen local community resilience efforts in parks and open spaces.
- Advance strategies and implementation actions from the [Malden Climate Action Plan](#) that relate to parks and open space, particularly those aimed at mitigating urban heat, reducing flood risk, and enhancing the city's tree canopy

Strategy B: Preserve and increase access to green areas throughout the city.

- Expand the tree canopy.
- Strengthen local permaculture efforts in open spaces, including urban gardening and pollinator gardens.
- Coordinate efforts to remove invasive species and natural pests from Malden's greenspaces.
- Continue to promote and implement the City's [Tree List and Planting Guidelines](#) to support the planting, preservation, and maintenance of street trees, canopy coverage, and native vegetation on both public and private properties

Strategy C: Support sustainable renovations along the Malden River and other water bodies.

- Continue to monitor and improve water quality in Malden's water bodies.
- Implement climate resilient strategies around the Malden River, Town Line Brook, and other water bodies.
- Improve enforcement of the Malden River Site Plan Review for setbacks for climate protection.



GOAL 2

Ensure consistent maintenance plans and management policies to steward open space, recreational facilities and trails.

Strategy A: Align leadership to advocate for and maintain parks, recreation, and open space.

- Coordinate leadership for Malden's parks and open spaces by establishing a Malden Parks Commission.
- Improve waste management processes for parks and open spaces.
- Establish city-wide community clean-up events for parks and open spaces.
- Clarify management processes for maintenance issues by department.

Strategy B: Address persistent maintenance issues and process for the public reporting maintenance issues.

- Develop maintenance plans for each park, particularly noting specific maintenance needs such as drainage systems, equipment, field upkeep, trash removal, etc.
- Improve awareness of Malden's [SeeClickFix](#) reporting system for maintenance issues in parks and open spaces.
- Develop a strategic communications plan to ensure regular and meaningful engagement with the community, creating consistent feedback loops to inform programming, facility improvements, and user experience.

Strategy C: Clarify processes for permitting and permissions for parks and open spaces.

- Simplify permitting processes to increase community use of parks and open spaces.
- Give clear guidance for allowed uses for parks on park signage.



GOAL 3

Enhance and upgrade Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities with structural amenities to improve community experiences.

Strategy A: Make improvements that support a variety of activities and experiences.

- Prioritize improvements in existing parks based on the on-site assessment. Improve recreational fields and courts.
- Expand playground equipment with accessibility in mind.
- Provide a variety of equipment and spaces for exercise and activities.

Strategy B: Invest in public infrastructure to improve user experiences.

- Increase shade coverage.
- Improve access to restrooms and water fountains.
- Provide more seating.
- Expand lighting infrastructure.
- Provide greater access to electricity.
- Improve water amenities.

GOAL 4

Improve and expand access to parks, greenways, open spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural resources for all.

Strategy A: Improve ADA accessibility for all park facilities, equipment, and entrances.

- Improve safety and access to parks and greenspaces.
- Upgrade playground facilities with inclusive and adaptive equipment.
- Modify the Community Garden to meet accessibility requirements.
- Routinely check that parks and open spaces meet the accessibility requirements.

Strategy B: Support connection between parks and open spaces by expanding multi-modal trail networks.

- Improve connectivity between existing trail networks (e.g., Northern Strand Community Trail, Spot Pond Brook Greenway, Malden River, and Mystic River Greenways).
- Support safety measures along the trails and greenways.
- Expand bike infrastructure in parks and open space destinations.

Strategy C: Prioritize investments that support more equitable access to recreational resources.

- Expand equitable park access for neighborhoods.
- Improve access and sense of community investment for the Malden River.
- Strengthen recreational programs that enable greater access, enjoyment, and use of parks and open space.



GOAL 5

Provide inclusive cultural and recreational programming that celebrates and reflects Malden's rich diversity.

Strategy A: Nurture a sense of belonging in parks and open spaces for all abilities, ages, and cultures.

- Host community events that cultivate community connections and a sense of ownership in parks and open spaces.
- Curate programming that reflects and celebrates local cultural diversity.
- Identify opportunities for community members to create and design elements of parks.
- Increase public art installations like murals, crosswalks, and creative branding throughout the city.

Strategy B: Invest in community infrastructure to support community gatherings, programming, and events.

- Establish a local farmers market.
- Design and develop spaces to facilitate gatherings and community events.
- Create public spaces to support performances.
- Support the development of the Malden Center for Arts and Culture.

Strategy C: Activate parks and open spaces with public arts and performing arts.

- Establish a public art program.
- Exhibit and share artwork in parks and open spaces.
- Host more live performances in parks, open spaces, and plazas.



GOAL 6

Build awareness, outreach, and education about existing parks, recreation, and local resources.

Strategy A: Make Malden's parks and open spaces more accessible and welcoming.

- Improve signage at the entrance of parks and open spaces by adding more informational signage and wayfinding elements.
- Form partnerships with existing community-based organizations to host or co-host events with the Recreation Department.
- Collect archival histories of Malden parks and open spaces to share with the public.

Strategy B: Improve coordination and communication for park services and programming.

- Promote the Recreation Department accounts for greater community use.
- Create a parks and recreation communications plan to connect with community members regularly.
- Improve communication and marketing for youth, seniors, and multilingual communities for parks.

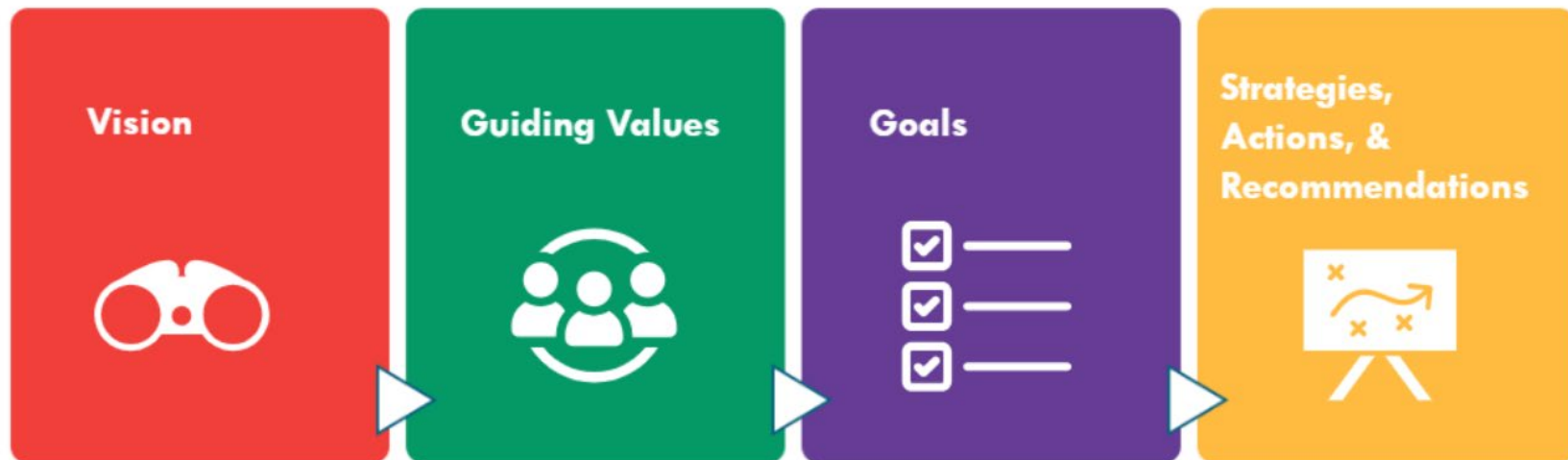
Strategy C: Develop educational resources to support access, activation, and awareness around Malden's park and open space resources.

- Advertise Malden's recreational and natural resources as local and regional destinations.
- Update and make publicly available a comprehensive community map of Malden's parks and open spaces for public use.
- Support environmental education programs.
- Explore opportunities for participatory budgeting for improvements in parks and open space.
- Partner with healthcare providers, including Tufts Medicine and other organizations, to raise awareness of the health benefits of parks and open space, and to encourage active, healthy lifestyles.

Ten Year Action Plan

Goals and Objectives

For the update of Malden's open space and recreation plan, the goals describe and prioritize six focus areas for the next ten years. The goals and objectives were informed by the vision and guiding values for the plan. The six goals aim to reflect community priorities related to parks, open space, recreation and cultural investments. Beneath each goal are two to three strategies with recommended actions to reach this goal. Each action includes a timeframe designation of short-term (ST), 1-3 years, medium-term (MT), 4-7 years, and long-term (LT), 8-10 years. In some cases, there are actions that are ongoing and range across multiple timeframes.



Some actions require the City to seek additional funding opportunities, update its capital spending plan, work with developers to implement the recommendations. In this chapter, there is also a table of potential funding sources

to implement the action plan and a list of stakeholders to support the plan as implementation partners. The table highlights priority actions by highlighting the action number in the matrix.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES	
ACR: MAPC Accelerating Climate Resilience Grant BRIC: FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities CB: City Budget CCIT: Community Compact IT Grant CFP: USFS Community Forest Program CPC: Community Preservation Commission CPA: MA CPC Community Preservation Act DCR: MA Department of Conservation and Recreation MTG: MA DCR MassTrails Grant Program UCF: MA DCR Urban and Community Forestry Grant DCS: MA Division of Conservation Services: CP: MA DSC Conservation Partnership Grant LAND: MA DCS DCS Local Acquisitions of Natural Diversity Grant LWCF: MA DCS Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund PARC: MA DCS Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant ORLPP: MA DCS Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program LPGP: MA DCS Landscape Partnership Grant Program DWSP: MA DCS Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program DFG: MA Department of Fish and Game MCBG: Massachusetts Community Biodiversity Grants	EEA: MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs DSR: MA EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program GCPP: MA EEA: Gateway City Parks Program MET: MA EEA Environmental Trust General Grant MTG: MA EEA MassTrails Grant MVP: MA EEA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program PAG: MA EEA Planning Assistance Grant FMS: US ACoE Floodplain Management Services Program FWS: MA Fish and Wildlife Service LIP: MA FWS Landowner Incentive Program Grant HC: MA Historical Commission HCSP: MA Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant HCPP: MA Historical Commission Preservation Projects Fund HMA: MEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program MADA: Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant MDAR: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Urban Agriculture MDOT: MA Department of Transportation Ch90: MA DOT Chapter 90 Program SRTS: MA DOT Safe Routes to School: Infrastructure Funding Program SSS: MA DOT Shared Streets & Spaces Program Funding MGC: Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Fund MCC: Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant Programs

DEP: MA Department of Environmental Protection • 604b: MA DEP Section 604b Water Quality Management Planning • WURP: MA DEP Water Utility Resilience Program • CWSRF: MA DEP Clean Water State Revolving Fund Clean Water Program • SMRP: Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant • RRRMG: Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants • WRIG: Waste Reduction Innovation Grants DER: MA Division of Ecological Restoration • SR: MA DER Streamflow Restoration Programs • DR: MA DER Dam Removal Program • URR: MA DER Urban River Revitalization Program • WR: MA DER Wetlands Restoration Program • CRMA: MA DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant DHCD: MA Department of Housing and Community Development • CDBG: MA DHCD Community Development Block Grant Program	LCC: Malden Cultural Council MOOR: Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation • IAOR: MA Inclusive and Accessible Outdoor Recreation Events Grant Program • ORAI: MA Regional Outdoor Recreational Asset Inventory Grants NEFA: New England Foundation for the Arts NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation • FSUW: Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant • NEFRF: NFWF New England Forests and Rivers Fund • NCRF: NFWF National Coastal Resiliency Fund NEAOT: National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Placemaking Grant SF: Stanton Foundation TIP: Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Program
--	--

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS		
AC: Animal Control ACC: Arts & Culture Committee B2C: Bike to the Sea/Northern Strand Community Trail BED: Business and Economic Development Cem: Cemetery CT: Cemetery Trustees CPC: Community Preservation Committee ConC: Malden Conservation Commission CAS: Commission on Climate Action and Sustainability CA: Malden Council on Aging CC: Malden Cultural Council CM: Creative Malden DC: Malden Disability Commission DCR: Department of Conservation and Recreation DPW: Malden Department of Public Works EM: Emergency Management FG: Friends Groups (e.g., Friends of Roosevelt, Friends of Fellsmere, Friends of the Malden River, etc.) HC: Malden Historical Commission HHS: Malden Healthy and Human Services MA: Malden Arts MACW: Mayor's Advisory Committee on Walkability	MassDEP: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection MAPC: Metropolitan Area Planning Council MBP: Malden Bike and Pedestrian Group MCC: Malden City Council MCanC: Malden Canopy Collective MChC: Malden Chamber of Commerce MED: Malden Engineering Department MFD: Malden Fire Department MGD: Malden Gaming District MGO: Malden Great Outdoors MIS: Malden Inspectional Services MLA: Malden Language Access MIT: Malden Information Technology MPL: Malden Public Library MO: Mayor's Office MOOR: Mass Office of Outdoor Recreation MPD: Malden Police Department MPF: Malden Porch Fest MPS: Malden Public Schools MRAB: Malden Redevelopment Authority Board MRec: Malden Recreation Department MRW: Malden River Works MSAC: Mass Senior Action Council MSC: Malden Senior Center	MTEC: Malden Teen Enrichment Center MWU: Malden Water & Utilities MVDC: Mystic Valley Development Commission MVYMCA: Mystic Valley YMCA MYC: Malden Youth Council MyRWA: Mystic River Watershed OSPCD: Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development PB: Malden Planning Board PF: Public Facilities PK: Malden Parking Department PWC: Malden Public Works Commission REC: Racial Equity Commission RMC: Resilient Mystic Collaborative SAFC: Stadium and Athletic Field Commission SDRC: Sign Design Review Committee TC: Traffic Commission TM: Tufts Medicine TW: Tree Warden UMA: Urban Media Arts

Goal 1: Protect and preserve Malden's land and water resources for climate resilience.

Strategies and Actions		Timeframe	Partners for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources
 Icon indicates priority actions				
1	Replace impervious surfaces with permeable pavements in parks and open spaces.	MT: 2-6 Years	ConC, CAS	CPA, EEA: MVP
2	Strengthen local community resilience efforts in parks and open spaces.	MT: 3-5 Years	DPW, CAS, MyRWA, FG	CPA, DCS: CP, LAND, LWCF, PARC, LPGP
3	Prioritize conservation of existing open spaces and natural areas by permitting boards with project review and mitigation efforts.	MT-LT: 3-10 Years	ConC, CAS, MIS, PB	CPA, DCR: PARC, DCS: CP
 4	Advance strategies and implementation actions from the Malden Climate Action Plan that relate to parks and open space, particularly those aimed at mitigating urban heat, reducing flood risk, and enhancing the city's tree canopy.	Ongoing	CAS, OSPCD, CED, TW, MyRWA, RMC	EEA: MVP, DEP: WURP, DER: CRMA, FMS, HMA
Strategy 1.B: Preserve and increase access to green areas throughout the city.				
 5	Expand the tree canopy.	Ongoing	TW, MCanC, DPW, CAS	CFP, DCR: UFG, DCS: LPGP, NFWF: NEFRF
6	Strengthen local permaculture efforts in open spaces including urban gardening and pollinator gardens.	ST: 1-3 Years	MRec, ConC, FG	CPA; DCS: LPGP; DFG: MCBG
7	Coordinate an effort to remove invasive species and natural pests from Malden's greenspaces.	ST: 1-4 Years	FG, TW, ConC	CPA, NFWF: FSUW, FWS: LIP
8	Continue to promote and implement the City's Tree List and Planting Guidelines to support the planting, preservation, and maintenance of street trees, canopy coverage, and native vegetation on both public and private properties.	Ongoing	TW, DPW, MIS, FG, PB	CB, DCR: UFP

Strategy 1.C: Support sustainable development along the Malden River and other water bodies.

8	Continue to monitor and improve water quality in Malden's water bodies.	Ongoing	FG, MyRWA, ConC, MRW	DEP:604b, WURP; DER: SR, URR, WR, CRMA, EEA: MET
9	Implement climate resilient strategies around the Malden River, Town Line Brook, and other water bodies.	MT: 2-6 Years	MRW, CAS, OSPCD, DWP, MWU, MED	EEA: GCPP, DER: CRMA,
10	Improve enforcement of the Malden River Site Plan Review for setbacks for climate protection.	Ongoing	OSPCD, MIS, ConC	CB

Goal 2: Ensure consistent maintenance plans and management policies to steward open space, recreational facilities, and trails.

Strategies and Actions



Icon indicates priority actions

Timeframe

Partners for Implementation

Potential Funding Sources

Strategy 2.A: Align leadership to advocate and maintain parks, recreation, and open space.

1	Coordinate leadership for Malden's parks and open spaces by establishing a Malden Parks Commission.	ST: 1-5 Years	ConC, DPW, SAFC, MRec, CT, CPC, DCR, FG, MCC, MO	CPA
2	Improve waste management processes for parks and open spaces.	MT: 3-10 Years	DPW, SAFC, DCR	CB, DCR, DEP: SMRP, RRRMG, WRIG
3	Establish city-wide community clean-up events for parks and open spaces.	ST: 1-5 Years	FG, MCC, MRec, MYC, MO, MCC	CB
4	Clarify management processes for maintenance issues by department.	ST: 1-3 Years	DPW, TW, MWU, SAFC	CB

Strategy 2.B: Address persistent maintenance issues and process for the public reporting maintenance issues.

 5	Develop maintenance plans for each park, particularly noting specific maintenance needs such as drainage systems, equipment, field upkeep, trash removal, etc.	ST: 1-3 Years	DPW, MRec	CB, DEP: SMRP, WRIG
6	Improve awareness for Malden's SeeClickFix reporting system for maintenance issues in parks and open space.	MT: 3-5 Years	MRec, IT, DPW	CB, CCIT
7	Develop a strategic communications plan to ensure regular and meaningful engagement with the community, creating consistent feedback loops to inform programming, facility improvements, and user experience.	Ongoing	MRec, DPW, OSPCD, MIT, MCC, MO	CB

Strategy 2.C: Clarify processes for permitting and permissions for parks and open spaces.

8	Simplify permitting processes to increase community use of parks and open spaces.	ST: 1-3 Years	MRec, MIT	CB, CCIT
9	Give clear guidance for allowed uses for parks on park signage.	MT: 3-5 Years	MRec, SDRC	CB

Goal 3: Enhance and upgrade Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities with structural amenities to improve community experiences.

Strategies and Actions	Timeframe	Partners for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources
 Icon indicates priority action.			

Strategy 3.A: Make improvements that support a variety of activities and experiences.

!	1	Prioritize improvements in parks based on the parks site assessment in Section 5.	ST:1-3 Years	OSPCD	CB
	2	Improve recreational fields and courts.	MT: 3-5 Years	OSPCD, SAFC, DPW	CPA, DCS: PARC, DHCD: CDBG, EEA: GCPP
	3	Expand playground equipment.	MT: 6-8Years	OSPCD, DPW, PF	CPA, DCS: PARC, DHCD: CDBG, EEA: GCPP
	4	Provide a variety of equipment and spaces for exercise and activities.	MT: 6-8Years	OSPCD, MGD, FG, MYC	CPA, SF, DHCD: CDBG, MADA, MOOR: ORAI
Strategy 3.B: Invest in public infrastructure to improve user experiences.					
	5	Increase shade coverage.	Ongoing	OSPCD, TW, DPW, CAS	CPA, DHCD: CDBG, ACR
!	6	Provide more seating.	ST:1-3 Years	CM, MA, B2C	CPA, DHCD: CDBG
!	7	Improve water amenities.	ST: 1-4 Years	MRW, FG	CPA, EEA:GCPP, DHCD: CDBG
	8	Improve access to restrooms and water fountains.	MT: 4-8 Years	OSPCD, MWU, DPW, B2C	CB, DHCD: CDBG, DEP: CWSRF
	9	Expand lighting infrastructure.	MT: 4-6 Years	DPW, MED, MIS	CPA, DHCD: CDBG, NEAOT, DCS: ORLPP
	10	Provide greater access to electricity.	MT: 4-6 Years	DPW, MED, MIS, MRec	CB, DCS: ORLPP, DHCD: CDBG

Goal 4: Improve and expand access to parks, greenways, open spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural resources for all.

Strategies and Actions		Timeframe	Partners for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources
 Icon indicates priority action				
Strategy 4.A: Improve ADA accessibility for all park facilities, equipment, and entrances.				
1	Improve safety and access to parks and greenspaces.	ST: 1-5 Years	MTC, DPW, PF, MBP	DHCD: CDBG, MDOT: SRTS, MADA
2	Upgrade playground facilities with inclusive and adaptive equipment.	ST:1-2 Years	PF, DPW	CPA, MADA, DHCD: CDBG
3	Modify the Community Garden to meet accessibility requirements.	ST:1-3 Years	MRec, MSC	CPA, MADA, MDAR
4	Routinely check that accessibility requirements are met within all Malden's parks.	Ongoing	MDC, MRec, MYC, MSC	CB, MADA
 5	Implement the priority recommendations from Malden's ADA/504 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to enhance physical and programmatic access to parks, open spaces, and recreational activities for people of all abilities.	Ongoing	OSPCD, MDC	CPA, MADA
Strategy 4.B: Support connection between parks and open spaces by expanding multi-modal trail networks.				
 6	Implement the prioritized recommendations and mobility strategies in the Malden Transit Action Plan .	Ongoing	OSPCD, MED	CB, MGC, MTOD: Ch90, SRTS, SSS; TIP
7	Improve connectivity between existing trail networks.	MT: 3-5 Years	OSPCD, B2C, MACW	CPA, EEA: MTG, MTOD: Ch90, SRTS, SSS; TIP

8	Support safety measures along the trails and greenways.	ST:1-4 Years	MED, MPD, MED, MBP	CPA, EEA: MTG, MGC, MTOD: SRTS, SSS; TIP
9	Expand bike infrastructure in parks and open space destinations.	MT: 4-8 Years	B2C, TC,OSPCD	CPA, EEA: MTG; TIP
Strategy 4.C: Prioritize investments that support more equitable access to recreational resources.				
10	Expand equitable park access for neighborhoods.	Ongoing	ConC, OSPCD	CPA, MOOR: IAOR
11	Improve access and sense of community investment for the Malden River.	ST:1-3 Years	MassDEP, MyRWA, MRW	EEA: GCPP, DER: ERR, NFWF: NCRF
12	Strengthen recreational programs that enable greater access, enjoyment, and use of parks and open space.	ST: 1-5 Years	MDC, MRA	CB, MOOR: IAOR, MADA
 13	Utilize findings from the Park Access Assessment and Environmental Justice Populations mapping in Section 5 to identify communities with the greatest need and prioritize investments that improve equitable access to parks and open space.	Ongoing	OSPCD	DHCD: CDBG, EEA: MVP, MOOR: ORAI

Goal 5: Provide inclusive cultural and recreational programming that celebrates and reflects Malden's rich diversity.

Strategies and Actions	Timeframe	Partners for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources
 Icon indicates priority action.			
Strategy 5.A: Nurture a sense of belonging in parks and open spaces for all abilities, ages, and cultures.			

1	Host community events that cultivate community connections and sense of ownership in parks and open spaces.	ST: 1-3 Years	CM, MA, CC, MRec, MCC, MLA	CB, MCC, LCC
	Curate programming that reflects and celebrates local cultural diversity.	ST: 1-5 Years	CC, MGO, MCC, MLA	CB, MCC, LCC, MOOR: IAOR
	Identify opportunities for community members to create and design elements of parks.	ST: 2-4 Years	MChC, OSPCD, MA, CM	MCC, NEFA
	Increase public art installations like murals, crosswalks, and creative branding throughout the city.	Ongoing	MA, CM, MCC, MGD, MChC, ACC, SDRC	NEFA, MCC, LCC
Strategy 5.B: Invest in community infrastructure to support community gatherings, programming, and events.				
5	Establish a local farmers market.	ST: 1-3 Years	BED, MRec, MChc	MOOR: IAOR
6	Design and develop spaces to support gatherings and community events.	ST: 3-5 Years	OSPCD, MRec, CC	DHCD: CDBG
7	Create public spaces to support performances.	MT: 5-8 Years	CC, ACC, OSPCD	DHCD: CDBG
8	Support the development of the Malden Center for Arts and Culture.	MT: 3-5 Years	CC, ACC	MCC, DHCD: CDBG
Strategy 5.C: Activate parks and open spaces with public arts and performing arts.				
9	Establish a public art program.	ST: 2-4 Years	CC, ChC, OSPCD, ACC	CB, LCC, NEFA
10	Exhibit and share artwork in parks and open spaces.	ST: 1-3 Years	CC, ChC, MA, CM, UMA, MPL	NEFA, NEAOT

11	Host more live performances in parks, open spaces, and plazas.	ST: 1-3 Years	CC, MPF	MCC, LCC, MOOR: IAOR
----	--	---------------	---------	----------------------

Goal 6: Build awareness, outreach, and education about existing parks, recreation, and local resources.

Strategies and Actions		Timeframe	Partners for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources
 Icon indicates priority action.				
Strategy 6.A: Make Malden's parks and open spaces more accessible and welcoming.				
1	Improve signage at the entrance of parks and open spaces.	ST: 1-2 Years	MRec, SDRC, MGO, MyRWA	CB, MOOR: ORAI, EPA
2	Form and strengthen partnerships with existing community-based organizations and volunteer groups, to host or co-host events and expand recreational programming offerings and support the Malden Recreation Department.	Ongoing	MLA, MGO, MVYMCA	CB, MCC, LCC, MOOR: IAOR
3	Collect archival histories of Malden parks and open spaces to share with the public.	ST: 2-4 Years	HC, UMA	HC: CHPP
Strategy 6.B: Improve coordination and communication for park services and programming.				
4	Promote the Recreation Department accounts for greater community use.	ST: 1-3 Years	MRec, MO, MCC, BED, MRW, MGO	CB, LCC
5	Create parks and recreation communications plan to regularly connect with community members.	ST: 1-3 Years	MRec, DPW, MO, MCC, MGO	CB, LCC
6	Improve communication and marketing for youth, seniors, and multilingual communities for parks.	ST: 1- 3 Years	MLA, MSAN, MSC, MYEC, MYC, MGO	CB, MOOR: IAOR

Strategy 6.C: Develop educational resources to support access, activation, and awareness around Malden's park and open space resources.

7	Advertise Malden's recreational and natural resources as a local and regional destination.	ST: 1-4 Years	MGO, BED, MChC	CB, MOOR: ORAI, MGC
8	Update a comprehensive community map of Malden's parks and open spaces for public use.	ST: 1-2 Years	OSPCD, MyRWA, MGO, MAPC, MIT	CB, MOOR: ORAI
9	Support environmental education programs.	MT: 3-5 Years	MRec, DCR, MGO, FB	MOOR: IAOR
10	Explore opportunities for participatory budgeting for improvements in parks and open space.	LT: 8-10 Years	OSPCD, MO, MCC	CB
11	Partner with healthcare providers, including Tufts Medicine and other organizations, to raise awareness of the health benefits of parks and open space, and to encourage active, healthy lifestyles.	Ongoing	TM, MyRWA	CB

Implementation of this plan will require a combination of initiating new approaches to management, maintenance, programming and coordination across the City and applying site-specific strategies and actions to park improvement projects guided by the park prioritization included in Chapter 9. Where practicable, each project should seek to implement multiple strategies and build toward a larger connected system of open spaces that enhance community health and climate resilience. Timeframes estimated above may need to be adjusted in response to emergent priorities as well as budget constraints and opportunities.

The creation of a Parks Commission to ensure the long-term sustainability of Malden's parks and open space system and the coordination of different projects to advance the City's long-term citywide open space goals has been identified as a high priority implementation action.

10

Letters of Review

1. **City of Malden Planning Board**
2. **Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Misc.**
3. **Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)**



City of Malden
Massachusetts

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES
215 Pleasant Street, Room 330
Malden, Massachusetts 02148
(781) 397-7000 ext. 2044

March 12, 2026

Alex Pratt, Director
OSPCD
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Re: "Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art 2025" (Draft)

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Malden Planning Board regarding the draft "Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art 2025" (the Plan). The Board appreciates the updates on the Plan that your office has provided since 2024 and being presented with the draft Plan for review in February 2026. The Board has reviewed the draft Plan, and at a public meeting on March 11, 2026, the full Board voted unanimously to submit these recommendations and comments.

The Board finds the Plan to be comprehensive, thorough and ambitious, and to reflect the spirit and needs of the community.

The Board recommends that the Plan include a statement as to how the City's current financial situation may affect the Plan, its implementation, goals, and proposed funding sources.

The Board expresses concern regarding the following:

1. Implementation.
2. How success is measured.
3. How projects are prioritized.
4. Whether timeframes may be adjusted in light of priorities and the budget.

The Board recommends that the creation of the Parks Commission be prioritized, and also recommends the following:

1. Include a current list of City-owned vacant parcels to correspond with proposed Map 8 (Map 8 is referenced in Appendix B but not included in this draft).
2. Include Goodwin Pocket Park in, "Malden's Park, Open Space and Recreation Resources Inventory Table - City Owned Parks and Open Spaces" (p. 85).
3. Clarify the meaning of "seek mitigation for the development impacts." (p.114, 119).
4. Include the Planning Board (PB) as an Implementation Partner (p.121).

Alex Pratt, Director
March 12, 2026
Page 2 of 2

5. Update GOAL 1 to include the Planning Board and Malden City Council as Implementation Partners for Strategy 1.A.2. (Prioritize conservation of existing open spaces and natural areas by permitting boards with project review and mitigation efforts), and Strategy 1.A.8. (Continue to promote and implement the City's Tree List and Planting Guidelines to support the planting, preservation, and maintenance of street trees, canopy coverage, and native vegetation on both public and private properties).
6. Update GOAL 3 to include Malden Inspectional Services as Implementation Partner for Strategy 3.B. 8 (Expand lighting infrastructure) and 3.B.9. (Provide greater access to electricity).
7. Correction (p.16): Elisha Slade Converse and his brother James W. Converse established the Boston Rubber Shoe Company in 1853 with its first headquarters in Boston and its first factory in Malden.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to review the draft Plan and consideration of these recommendations and comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

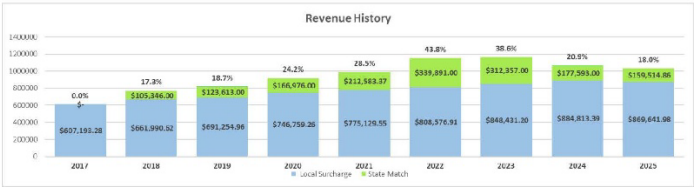
Charles D. Ioven
Chairman
Malden Planning Board

Board	Status/Comment
Planning Board	On February agenda; continued to March 11.
Conservation Commission	• Olivia Hemond: "Overall, I am excited about the plan and found it to be well-organized and thorough. I am in support of all the goals identified, especially those focused on climate resilience, maintenance & management, and expanding open space access. One suggestion I had is to include some level of priority for each of the actions in the Ten Year Action Plan (even just high/medium/low). If possible, it could also be helpful to flag which of the implementation partners is expected to lead each given action." • Isaac Slavitt: "The most important item: the description of the ordinance in the zoning section (around p.44) says it "establishes a 25-foot riverfront buffer." That's accurate for the riverfront area specifically, but it leaves out our most significant regulatory feature. Under the ordinance and the 2024 regulations, we have a 150-foot buffer zone from the upland edge of all resource areas, with a 25-foot no-alteration zone (where there is a presumption against any alteration). Describing our jurisdiction as just a 25-foot riverfront buffer significantly understates what we regulate, and I'd worry about other boards or applicants relying on that characterization. Maybe there could be a specific caveat to reference our documents for specifics? Similarly, the Land Protection Tools table (around p.73-74) mentions that the City passed the Wetlands Protection Ordinance in 2022 but doesn't describe how it goes beyond the state Wetlands Protection Act. Some of the key expansions worth noting: the broader buffer zone, protection of isolated wetlands and uncertified vernal pools, jurisdiction over unlined canals, a preference for the FEMA 500-year floodplain when delineating Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and climate resilience provisions. Since the OSRP is meant to inventory the tools Malden actually has for resource protection, it seems worth capturing these. A few smaller things: - The Rivers Protection Act entry in that same table says our

	Riverfront Protection Zone is 25 feet, which is correct, but it might be worth noting that this is a Malden-specific dimension (the state default is 200 feet) so readers understand the context. - The wetland areas section (p.61) doesn't inventory specific wetland resources, vernal pools, or isolated wetlands, which are all areas our ordinance protects. Unfortunately we don't have a comprehensive inventory yet so maybe just let people know they can check with us to see if we know. - Fellsme Pond is listed as Category 5 impaired for harmful algal blooms. Our ordinance has performance standards for stormwater discharge, parking lot resurfacing, and water filtration/softening systems (Sections 5.3 and 5.5 of the regulations) that are directly relevant to addressing nutrient loading in the pond. Might be worth a cross-reference. - In the action plan, Action 1.C.10 lists the Conservation Commission as a partner for improving enforcement of the Malden River Site Plan Review. I want to make sure we're understanding the intent correctly. It was my impression Site Plan Review is typically a planning board/OSPCD function -- we obviously have jurisdiction over resource areas along the river through the ordinance, but I want to be clear about what role is envisioned for us on that particular action. - On the management section (p.106), the description of the Conservation Commission's role is a single sentence. Given that the Commission is the primary regulatory body for protecting the water resources and flood-prone areas that make up a large portion of the environmental inventory in Chapter 4, a slightly fuller description might be helpful for residents."
BOH	None offered.
Misc.	Karen Buck: "Back in 1/25 is, I had commented on a working document with Ashley Judd of MAPC. I didn't see the changes that I had suggested about the Malden River in the draft that you sent. Or Maybe I missed them. I know it is late in the game and I am out of town. A couple of things that stood out for me was The water sampling information is wrong

	The water sampling is done by Mystic River Watershed Assoc and the data is used by the EPA. MwRA also samples the water and EPA uses their data. From Mystic River Watershed web page: "Every year MyRWA, together with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), issues a yearly water quality report card for the Mystic River watershed. Baseline bacteria data is used as the basis for this annual water quality report card. The grade is based on how frequently waterbodies meet bacteria standards for swimming and boating. The report shows there are many places to go boating and swimming on the Mystic—earning "A" and "B" grades! The grade also shows that much work lies ahead in realizing the promise of the Clean Water Act in many of our waterbodies—especially smaller tributaries and water bodies in environmental justice neighborhoods. Read our press release about 2023 grades here." Rowing teams on the Malden River include the high schools of Malden, Everett, and Medford and the Mystic Valley Charter School. Universities include Tufts and Wentworth, Living Root Dragon Boat Club and Gentle Giant Rowing Club"
--	--

Lastly, we've received the below CPA revenue graphic – please let me know if revisions are needed.





June 1, 2026

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St. – Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The City of Malden's 2026 "Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art" was recently submitted to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review. The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires every community in the Commonwealth to submit their Open Space and Recreation Plan to their respective regional planning agency (RPA) and receive a letter of review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While your office reviews open space plans for compliance with your guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with MetroCommon 2050, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

MetroCommon 2050 (<https://metrocommon.mapc.org/>) seeks to advance equity and foster a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable region. This Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) demonstrates a particularly strong connection between open space planning and arts and cultural priorities. Initiatives such as expanding public art installations and supporting the development of the Malden Center for Arts and Culture advance MetroCommon 2050's goal of Inclusive Growth and Mobility by promoting cultural development and preservation, enhancing the public realm, and integrating art into community spaces.

A notable strength of this plan is its robust and inclusive community engagement process. The project team employed a wide range of engagement strategies, including one-on-one interviews with local stakeholders and municipal staff, two community meetings, a community-wide survey, a storytelling exercise with leaders of community-based organizations, four focus groups, and additional outreach events.

The engagement process placed particular emphasis on reaching underrepresented populations. Targeted efforts included engagement with the Malden Youth Council, older adults at the Senior Center, and students at the Immigrant Learning Center. A major highlight of the plan is its strong commitment to language access, with surveys distributed in eight languages and interpretation services provided at community meetings. These efforts helped ensure that a diverse range of community voices informed the plan's development.

The OSRP also emphasizes the significance of regional open space resources in Malden, which is bordered by six communities: Everett, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Saugus, and Stoneham. Malden serves as a critical link in regional networks, such as the Middlesex Fells Reservation, which spans five municipalities, and the Malden River Greenway, a collaborative effort with Everett and Medford to create a continuous waterfront park system. The plan also discusses the Mystic Highland Greenway initiative to improve bicyclist and pedestrian access between Wakefield, Stoneham, Malden, Melrose, and Reading.

The Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art is comprehensive and should serve the City well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space, provide for the recreational needs of its residents, and celebrate its rich cultural diversity.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan. We wish Malden success in implementation.

Sincerely,

Josh Fiala, AICP AIA LEED AP
Director of Land Use

11

References

Buck, Karen. "An Arboretum Hiding in Plain Sight: Malden's Tree Warden Cultivates Splendor at Forest Dale Cemetery." *Neighborhood View*, January 31, 2025.

<https://neighborhoodview.org/2025/01/31/an-arboretum-hiding-in-plain-sight-maldens-tree-warden-cultivates-splendor-at-forest-dale-cemetery/>

Cambridge, Massachusetts. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Part 2. Cambridge, MA: City of Cambridge, 2017. https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/CDD/Climate/vulnerabilityassessment/financialreport_ccvapart2_mar2017_final2_web.pdf

Carapucci, Christian. "A Pocket-Sized Forest in Malden Brightens a Neighborhood." *Neighborhood View*, December 6, 2024. <https://neighborhoodview.org/2024/12/06/a-pocket-sized-forest-in-malden-brightens-a-neighborhood/>.

Converse Family. "Boston Rubber Shoe Company." Accessed April 27, 2026.

<https://conversefamily.com/boston-rubber-shoe-company>.

Corey, Deloraine Pendre. *The History of Malden, Massachusetts, 1633–1785*. Malden, MA: Self-published, 1899.

<https://archive.org/details/historymaldenma00coregoog>.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Downtown Malden General Neighborhood Renewal Plan Area and the Industrial Park Urban Renewal Area. Washington, DC: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1974.

Digital Scholarship Lab. *Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America*. Directed by Robert K. Nelson. Accessed April 27, 2026.

<https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/>.

Digital Scholarship Lab. "Redlining Map of Malden, MA." In *Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America*. Directed by Robert K. Nelson. Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/map/MA/Malden/context>.

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. "Malden." Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://freedomsway.org/staging/6553/communities/malden/>.

Friends of Fellsmere Park. *Fellsmere Park Management Plan*. Rev. 14. February 12, 2021. <http://www.maldenhistory.org/FOFP/plan.htm>

Friends of the Malden River. "Malden." Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://maldenriver.wordpress.com/malden/>.

Goldsmith, Richard. "Stratigraphy of the Milford-Dedham Zone, Eastern Massachusetts: An Avalonian Terrane." In *The Bedrock Geology of Massachusetts*, edited by Norman L. Hatch Jr.. United States Geological Survey Professional Paper 1366-E–J. Reston, VA: U.S. Geological Survey, 1991.

Historic New England. "[Artifact record GUSN 293714]." Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collection/s-access/gusn/293714>.

Library of Congress. *Malden Town Hall, Main & Pleasant Streets, Malden, Middlesex County, MA, Old City Hall*. Photograph 7, HABS MA-300. Historic American

Buildings Survey. Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ma0300/>.

Lillie, Robert J. Parks and Plates: *The Geology of Our National Parks, Monuments, and Seashores*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2005.

MacGill, Caroline E., and Meyer, Balthasar H., eds. *History of Transportation in the United States before 1860*. Washington, DC: Carnegie Institution, 1948.

Malden, Massachusetts. *Open Space and Recreation Plan*. Malden, MA: City of Malden, 2010.

Malden Historical Society. "Did You Know?" Section "Malden and Anti-Slavery." Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://www.maldenhistoricalsociety.org/did-you-know/>.

Malden Planning Board. "Minutes of October 23, 2024." October 23, 2024. <https://www.cityofmalden.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/10232024-3489>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, "Malden Public Schools, Enrollment Data," accessed April 27, 2026. <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=01650000&orgtypecode=5>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, “Malden Public Schools, Selected Populations (2025–26),” accessed April 27, 2026.

<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=01650000&orgtypecode=5&leftNavId=305>.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System*. Inventory No. MAL.4, “Bailey, Timothy House.” 1976. Inventory No. MAL.241, “Malden First National Bank.” 2002.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), Inventory No. REV.F, “Rowe Quarry,” 1500 Salem Street, Revere, Massachusetts, 2001.

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. *2023 Drinking Water Test Results*. Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, 2023.

<https://www.mwra.com/media/file/malden-annual-water-report-2023>

Metropolitan Area Planning Council. *Malden River Creative Placemaking Strategy: Placemaking as a Catalyst for Change on the Malden River*. December 2020. https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MaldenRiver_CP_Report_%C6%92inal.pdf.

Mills, James Edward. *The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors*. Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 2014.

Mystic River Watershed Association. “Malden River Cleared for Public Boating.” April 10, 2019.

<https://mysticriver.org/news/2019/4/10/malden-river-cleared-for-public-boating>

National Park Service. *Boston Harbor Geologic Resource Inventory Report*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, n.d.2017. <https://npshistory.com/publications/boha/nrr-2017-1404.pdf>

National Park Service. *Minute Man National Historical Park Geologic Resources Inventory Report*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2017. <https://npshistory.com/publications/mima/nrr-2017-1523.pdf>

National Park Service. *Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site: Geologic Resources Inventory Report*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, n.d.2015. <https://npshistory.com/publications/sair/nrr-2015-929.pdf>

National Park Service. “Types of Native American Artifacts.” September 28, 2021. Accessed May 4, 2026. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/native-american-artifacts.htm>

Primary Research. “1754 Massachusetts Slave Census: Malden.” Accessed April 27, 2026. <https://primaryresearch.org/slave-census/?town=malden&county=>

Prisco Tammaro, “Rowe’s Quarry Site Plan Review of Lot 12 for 326 Rental Units,” *Patch* (Malden, MA), January 28, 2018.

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/malden/rowes-quarry-site-plan-review-lot-12-326-rental-units>

Scorsello, Elizabeth. “Rebirth in Malden’s Forest Dale Cemetery.” *Neighborhood View*, June 8, 2014.

<https://neighborhoodview.org/2014/06/08/rebirth-in-forest-dale-cemetery/>

Thorsen, Linda Jean. *The Merchants’ Manufacturer: The Barrett Family’s Dyeing Businesses in Massachusetts and New York, 1790–1850*. Master’s thesis, Harvard University Extension School, 2015.

United States Department of Agriculture. *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2009.

United States Geological Survey. *US Topo Boston North Quadrangle, Massachusetts*. [7.5-minute series map]. Reston, VA: U.S. Geological Survey, 2024. The National Map.

Wicked Local. “Lofty Plans: Artist Studio Homes.” October 9, 2008. <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/observer-advocate/2008/10/09/lofty-plans-artist-studio-homes/39204689007/>.

Appendices

- A. Community Engagement Documents and Materials**
- B. Marketing and Outreach Materials**
- C. Malden OSRP Maps 11 x 17 Format**
- D. ADA Self Assessment and Transition Plan (2021)**
- E. Climate Resiliency Planning for Malden's Parks (2026)**

Appendix A: Community Engagement Documents and Materials

A.1. 2024 Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art Community Survey

September 3, 2024 – October 31, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for participating in this survey about open space, parks and art in the City of Malden, which is being done as part of the update to the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art (OSRP). This plan will guide the city's activities related to future parks and open space land acquisitions, management, and activities programming. For more information and continuous updates about the ongoing Open Space and Recreation Plan process, please visit: cityofmalden.org/OSRP

What to Expect

In this survey we will ask you a series of questions. All questions are optional, and your responses are anonymous. Thank you for taking the time to take the survey. Survey respondents will be entered into a raffle for a selection of prizes including gift cards to Stop n' Shop, free BlueBike memberships, and more.

We estimate that this survey will take approximately 14 minutes to fill out. At any time, you may save your progress on the survey and return to it later. The survey closes Monday September 30th.

Project Partners

City of Malden
Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering

Committee

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Questions?

Abbey Judd

Senior Arts & Culture Planner, MAPC

ajudd@mapc.org

Alex Pratt

Deputy Director, Housing and Community Development,
Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development
City of Malden

apratt@cityofmalden.org

Ward Map

Please let us know what voting district you live in. Sharing your ward and precinct will help us better understand how residents in different parts of Malden feel about our open spaces and recreational opportunities. If you need help identifying what district you live in, please consult the ward map below. A list of all the wards and precincts are below with their corresponding polling places.

Unsure (please specify)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Did you **attend the kick-off Community Meeting** for the Malden OSRP+Art on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Malden City Hall?

- Yes
- No

[If response is “no”] Please share why you did not attend the Community Meeting. (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ 1-1 Ferryway School
- ☐ 1-2 Ferryway School
- ☐ 1-3 Ferryway School
- ☐ 2-1 Community Room
- ☐ 2-2 Irish American
- ☐ 2-3 Irish American
- ☐ 3-1 Beebe School
- ☐ 3-2 Beebe School
- ☐ 3-3 Beebe School
- ☐ 4-1 Early Learning Center
- ☐ 4-2 Senior Center
- ☐ 4-3 Early Learning Center
- ☐ 5-1 Salemwood Field House
- ☐ 5-2 Forestdale School
- ☐ 5-3 Forestdale School
- ☐ 6-1 630 Community Room
- ☐ 6-2 Club 24
- ☐ 6-3 Malden Moose
- ☐ 7-1 Ferryway School
- ☐ 7-2 Disabled American Veterans Building
- ☐ 7-3 Suffolk Manor
- ☐ 8-1 Linden School
- ☐ 8-2 Linden School
- ☐ 8-3 Linden School
- ☐ I do not live in Malden

I was not aware of the meeting

I did not know if the meeting would be offered in my native language

I was not able to attend the meeting in person

I had a prior commitment that prevented me from attending the meeting

Other (please specify)

[If response is “no”] You can learn more about the background and context for the plan on the [project website](#).

Why are we here?

The Commonwealth encourages each community in the state to have an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which is to be updated every seven years. When an OSRP is completed and approved by the Division of Conservation Services (DCS), the community is eligible for grant programs administered by DCS to fund open space acquisition or enhance recreational facilities.

Visit the link below for a list of grants the MA Division of Conservation Services offers to municipalities to preserve open space and park renovations.

<https://www.mass.gov/grant-programs-offered-by-the-division-of-conservation-services/tasks>

The City of Malden, with the help of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), is preparing this OSRP. This OSRP is an update to Malden's 2017 OSRP and will guide the City's decisions on open space and recreation activities for the next seven years.

Why complete an OSRP+Art?

Open space and recreation plans assess the City's current parks and open space to identify future opportunities for investment and partnerships. This planning process also accounts for the role of arts and culture in Malden's parks, open spaces including cultural representation, programming and public art.

This plan will

- Provide a 7-year vision for Malden's parks, open space, arts and cultural resources
- Encourage community protection and stewardship of vital resources
- Establish recommendations and prioritization for park and open space improvements
- Update Malden's previous OSRP, which was completed in 2017
- Guide future arts and culture events, programming, and public art in Malden

Meet the Project Team

Open Space and Recreation Steering Committee

Karen Buck
Daniel Koff
Darren Josey
Laura Perez
Edward Rocha
Julie Turner

Learn more about the [Steering Committee Roles](#).

City of Malden

Alex Pratt, Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development
Ahrehon Thompson, OSPCD Senior Planner

MAPC

Abbey Judd, Senior Arts & Culture Planner
Courtney Lewis, Senior Land Use Planner
Javier Gutierrez, Community Engagement Director
Sam Berlus, Community Engagement Specialist

Why Parks Are Important

Parks and open spaces benefits include:

- Promote Healthy Lifestyles
- Stabilize Neighborhoods
- Promote Social Interaction
- Increase Healthy Foods
- Clean Soil

- Improve Air Quality and Temperature
- Capture and Clean Storm Water
- Create Habitat for Wildlife
- Provide Flood Protection

[If respondents answer “**no**” the survey respondent will start the survey linked below.]

PARK PREFERENCES



What is a “Park”?

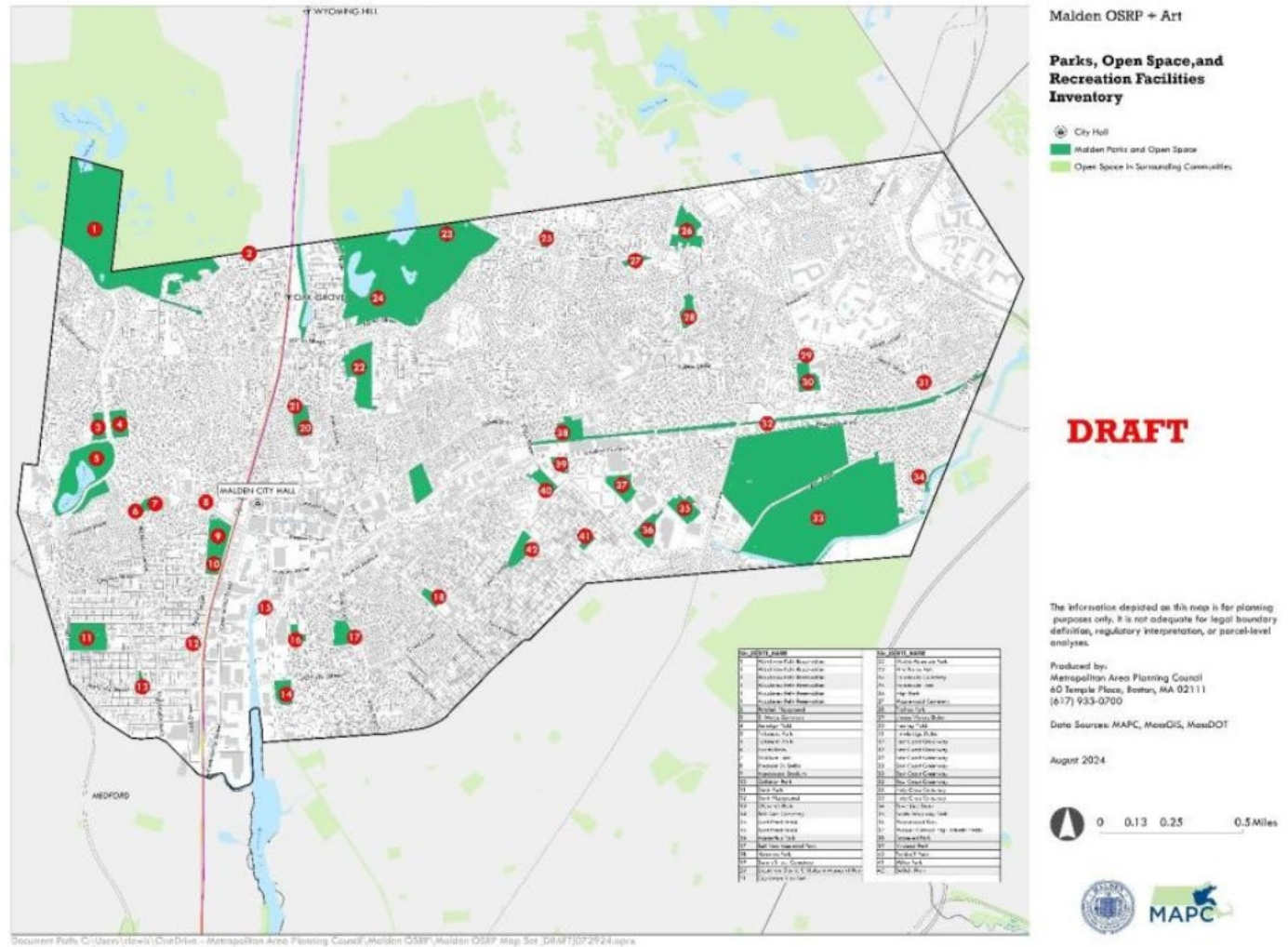
This section of the survey focuses on parks including playgrounds, recreation facilities such as ball fields and courts, and green spaces that have been developed to support recreation or gathering. This includes

public school facilities (playgrounds, gyms, and fields), publicly owned and maintained parks including land owned and maintained by City of Malden and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

1. What is your **favorite park** in Malden?

Click here to view and download a high-resolution version of the reference map below. (Note: this will open in another tab of your browser. To get back to the survey simply return to the open survey tab.)

Scroll **down** to see a full list of sites.



Malden's Parks

- Amerige Park
- Bell Rock Memorial Park
- Northern Strand Community Trail
- Callahan Park
- Coytemore Lea Park
- Devir Park / Bruce Field
- Fellsmere Park / Pond
- FitzGerald Park
- Forestdale Park / Alex Gentile Memorial Park
- Green Street Park / MacArthur Park
- High Rock Memorial Park
- Holland Memorial Pool in Coytemore Lea Park
- Howard Park (South Broadway Park)
- Kierstead Park
- Lincoln Commons
- Linden Park / Hunting Field
- Macdonald Stadium
- Malden Hospital Site Open Space (to be [designed](#))
- Malden River Works (to be [constructed](#))
- Maplewood Park
- Middlesex Fells Reservation
- Miller Park
- Northern Strand Community Trail - Bike Path
- Newman Park / Ferryway Green
- O'Connell Park

- Patchell Park
- Pearl Street Park
- Pine Banks Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Tartikoff Park / Malden Skate Park
- Trafton Park
- Waitt's Mount
- Other (please specify)

2. What type of activities do you like to do in Malden's parks? (Select all that apply.)

- Be in, on or near the water
- Enjoy playgrounds / play structure
- Study nature / bird watch
- Recreational sports
- Take part in events (festivals, race or sporting events, farmers markets)
- Gather with friends / family
- Walk my pet
- Walk / run / hike / bike on trails or paths
- Others (please specify)

3. How often do you or members of your household visit Malden's parks?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly

- 4-6 times a year
- 1-3 times a year
- Seasonally (please specify in which seasons)
- Members of my household don't visit Malden's parks

4. Do you or members of your household use or visit Malden amenities like (Select all that apply.)

- Playgrounds, swing sets, and splash pads
- Athletic fields, courts, and recreational facilities

- Trails and walking paths
- Bodies of water (for example, Malden River)
- Natural open space
- Other (please specify)
- No, members of my household do not use or visit these amenities



PLAYGROUNDS

5. How often do members of your household visit Malden's playgrounds and splash pads?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- 4-6 times a year
- 3 times a year or less
- Seasonally (please specify in which seasons)
- Members of my household don't visit or use playgrounds

[If response to question 5 is “Members of my household don’t visit or use playgrounds”, skip to Athletic Fields, Courts, Recreational Facilities section]

[If response is “Daily”, “Weekly”, “Monthly” “4-6 times a year”, or “3 times a year or less”] Which **playgrounds and splash pads** do you or members of your household visit?

Malden’s Playgrounds

- Amerige Park Playground
- Beebe School Playground
- Coytemore Lea Park Playground
- Coytemore Lea Park Splash Pad
- Devir Park Playground
- Devir Park Splash Pad
- Early Learning Center Playground
- FitzGerald Park Playground
- Forestdale Park Playground
- Green Street Park Playground
- Howard Park Playground
- Kierstead Park Playground
- Lincoln Commons Playground
- Lincoln Commons Splashpad
- Linden Park Playground
- Miller Park Playground
- Newman Park Playground
- Patchell Park Playground

- Pearl Street Playground
- Pine Banks Park Playground
- Roosevelt Park Playground
- Tartikoff Park Playground
- Trafton Park Playground
- Waitts Mount Playground

6. How **satisfied** are you with the quality of your experience with Malden’s **playgrounds and splash pads**?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

[If response is “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied”] Please explain why you feel **dissatisfied** with Malden’s **playgrounds and splash pads**.



ATHLETIC FIELDS, COURTS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

7. How often do members of your household visit or use Malden's **playing fields, tennis and basketball courts**, or other **recreation facilities**?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- 4-6 times a year
- 1-3 times a year
- Seasonally (please specify in which seasons)
- Members of my household don't visit or use recreation facilities

[If response to question 7 is "Members of my household don't visit or use Malden's playing fields, tennis and basketball courts, or other recreation facilities", skip to Programming and Amenities section.]

8. Which playing fields, tennis, basketball courts, or other recreation facilities do members of your household use?

- Amerige Park Softball Diamond
- Amerige Park Basketball Courts
- Amerige Park Pickleball Courts
- Amerige Park Tennis Courts
- Brother Gilbert Stadium Football Field
- Callahan Park Softball Diamond
- Callahan Park Fitness Court
- Coytemore Lea Park Basketball Court
- Devir Park Baseball Diamond
- Devir Park Softball Diamond
- Devir Park Basketball Courts
- Devir Park Tennis Courts
- Devir Park Batting Cages
- Forestdale Park Baseball Diamond

- Green Street Park Baseball Diamond
- Howard Park Baseball Diamond
- Howard Park Batting Cages
- Howard Park Tennis Courts
- Howard Park Soccer Field
- Kierstead Park Batting Cages
- Kierstead Park Softball Diamond
- Lincoln Commons Softball Diamond
- Linden Park Softball Diamond
- Linden Park Basketball Court
- Linden Park Fitness Court
- Linden Park Street Hockey Rink
- Malden Catholic High School Athletic Fields
- Macdonald Stadium Football Field
- Macdonald Stadium Track
- Miller Park Basketball Court
- Mystic Valley Regional Charter School Baseball Diamond
- Newman Park Baseball Diamond
- Patchell Park Basketball Court
- Pearl Street Park Basketball Court
- Pine Banks Park Softball Diamond
- Pine Banks Park Baseball Diamond
- Pine Banks Park Rugby Field
- Pine Banks Park Soccer Field
- Pine Banks Park Track
- Roosevelt Park Softball Diamonds

- Roosevelt Park Basketball Half Court
- Tartikoff Skateboard Park
- Trafton Park Baseball Diamond
- Trafton Park Tennis Courts
- Waitts Mount Basketball Court
- YMCA
- Other (please specify)

9. What **activities** do you use these playing fields and courts for (for example, cricket, ultimate frisbee, tennis, basketball, skateboarding, etc.)? (Select all that apply.)

- Tennis
- Baseball / Softball
- Basketball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Skateboarding

10. How **satisfied** are you with the quality of your experience with Malden's **playing fields, courts, and other recreation areas**?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

[If response is “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied”] Please explain why you feel **dissatisfied** with Malden's **playing fields, courts, and other recreation areas**



PROGRAMMING & AMENITIES

11. Do you have **an account** with the City of Malden’s Recreation Department?

- Yes
- No
- I’m not sure

[If response is “no”] Please share why you do not use an account with City of Malden’s Recreation Department?

- I don’t know about Malden’s Recreation Department programming
- I don’t know what the benefits are of using an account with Malden’s Recreation Department

- I am not interested in an account with Malden’s Recreation Department
- Other (please explain)

12. Do you or your household use recreation facilities offered by a **private provider** (i.e., YMCA, a private gym, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

[If response is “yes”] Which **private provider** do you use?

[If response is “yes”] Please share why you use [private provider] (Select all that apply.)

- They are close to my residence
- They offer services that Malden's parks do not
- They have higher quality facilities
- They have better programming/activities
- They have convenient hours of operation
- I was not aware of Malden's parks services, programming, and activities
- Other (please specify)

13. What **activity or recreation programs** would you like to see increase in Malden over the next 7 years? If there are programs that you would like see in Malden that are not currently offered, please select "Other" and list the program(s). (Select all that apply.)

- Aquatics programs (swim lessons, swim teams, lifeguard training)
- Basketball
- Bike programs (learn to ride, group rides, cycling, Bike Kitchen events)
- Boating (kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing)
- Cricket
- Cultural and performances events (concerts, celebrations)
- Dance
- Farmer/craft markets
- Gardening programs
- Group exercise programs

- Outdoor Learning (back-country navigation, plant identification)
- Pickleball
- Rock climbing
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Other (please specify)

14. What **amenities or features** would you like to see more of in Malden's parks, open spaces in the next 7 years?

- All-ability accessible playgrounds
- Baseball / softball fields
- Basketball courts
- Bathrooms
- Benches
- Bike lanes and trails for biking
- Bocce courts
- Community gardens
- Dog parks / off-leash dog areas
- Fitness equipment
- Football / lacrosse fields
- Grilling areas
- Lighting in parks
- More natural conservation areas
- Outdoor performance spaces/amphitheaters
- Pickle ball courts

- Picnic areas and pavilions
- Public art
- Skate parks
- Soccer fields
- Splash pads
- Street hockey rink
- Swimming pools
- Tennis courts
- Trails for walking, running, and biking
- Water fountains
- Water access points (rowing, kayaking, boating)
- Wifi
- Other (please specify)

15. How do you **find out about events**, recreational opportunities, and park programs?

- Word of Mouth
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Television
- Posters, flyers or noticeboard
- Social media
- Newsletters
- Malden Recreation Department website
- Other (please specify)
- I'm generally unaware of events, recreational opportunities, and park programs



OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS

What are “Open Space” and “Conservation Areas”?

This section of the survey focuses on natural open spaces

including natural or undisturbed land set aside for the preservation or conservation of natural resources, natural

features, or scenic/aesthetic values. This includes community gardens, cemeteries, and water bodies. Generally, natural open spaces are used for more passive uses like walking, bird watching, and fishing. But open spaces and conservation areas can also include areas for active recreation for rock climbers and jogging.

16. How often do you or members of your household visit Malden's **open spaces and conservation areas**?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- 4-6 times a year
- 1-3 times a year
- Seasonally (please specify in which seasons)
- Members of my household don't visit or use **open spaces and conservation areas**

[If response to question 17 is "Members of my household don't visit or use Malden's open spaces and conservation areas", skip to Natural Water Bodies section.]

17. Which **open spaces and conservation areas** do members of your household visit?

- Amerige Park
- Bell Rock Cemetery
- Bell Rock Memorial Park
- Callahan Park

- Coytemore Lea Park
- Crescent Slope Conservation Area
- Devir Park
- Fellsmere Park / Pond
- Forest Dale Cemetery
- Hebrew Charitable Burial Ground / Maplewood Cemetery
- High Rock Walking Trail
- Holy Cross Cemetery
- Kierstead Park
- Lincoln Commons
- Linden Park
- Malden Community Garden
- Malden Hospital Site
- Middlesex Fells Reservation
- Miller Park
- Newman Park
- Northern Strand Community Trail
- O'Connell Park
- Patchell Park
- Pine Banks Trail
- Pine Banks Dog Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Tartikoff Park
- Trafton Dog Park
- Salem Street Cemetery
- St. Mary's Cemetery

- Waitts Mount Park

18. How **satisfied** are you with the quality of your experiences with Malden's **open spaces and conservation areas**?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

[If response is "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied"] Please explain why you feel dissatisfied with Malden's open space and conservation areas.

19. Which **scenic overlooks/areas** do members of your household regularly visit to walk, photograph, sight-see, or take visitors to?

- Fellsmere Park
- FitzGerald Park
- Forest Hill Cemetery

- Frank Stella Mural
- High Rock Memorial Park
- Middlesex Fells Reservation
- Pine Banks Park
- Pinnacle Rock
- Spirit in the Sky Mural
- Waitts Mount Park
- Other (please specify)

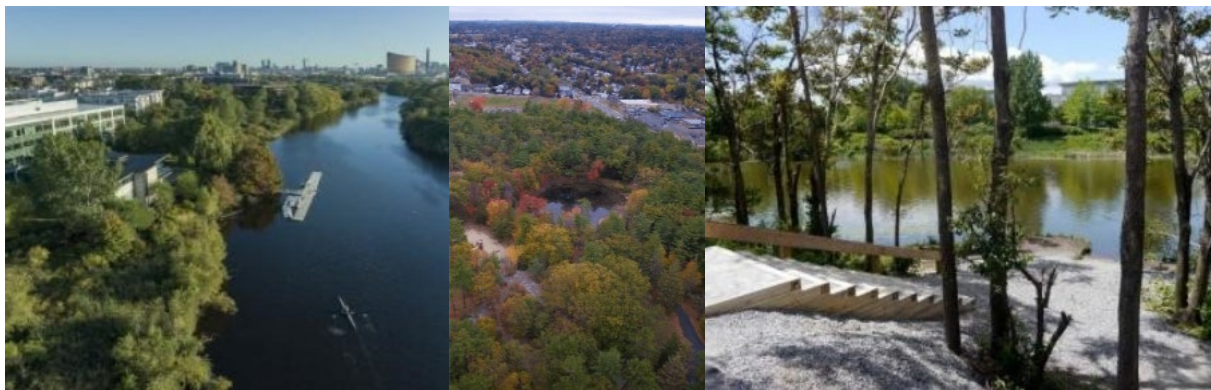


Image Credit: Greig Cranna

NATURAL WATER BODIES

What are “Natural Water Bodies”?

This section of the survey focuses on the water bodies found within Malden, including ponds and rivers. These natural water bodies provide opportunities for passive recreation activities like fishing and active recreation activities from water sports like canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and rowing.

20. How often do members of your household visit Malden's natural water features (ponds and rivers)?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- 4-6 times a year
- 3 times a year or less
- Seasonally (please specify in which seasons)

- Members of my household don't visit or use Malden's water features (ponds/rivers)

[If response to question 21 is “Members of my household don't visit or use Malden's water features (ponds and rivers)”, skip to Arts and Culture section.]

21. What is your favorite **natural water feature** in Malden?

- Fellsmere Park Pond
- Fells Reservoir
- Forest Dale Cemetery Pond
- Little Creek
- Malden River
- Malden River Boat Launch
- Pine Banks Park Pond
- Spot Pond Brook

- Town Line Brook
- Other (please specify)

22. How **satisfied** are you with the quality of your experiences with Malden's water features

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied

- Very dissatisfied

[If response is "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied"] Please explain why you feel dissatisfied with Malden's water access and amenities.

23. What **amenities** would you like to see along the Malden River (for example, boat launch, kayak rental, performance space)?



ARTS AND CULTURE

What is "Arts and Culture"?

This section of the survey focuses on arts and culture in Malden's parks and open spaces. Examples include parks that support arts and culture programs, events, and public arts. Arts and culture programming includes ongoing activities celebrating Malden's diverse cultural heritage.

Cultural programs include movie screenings, concert series, and dance and movement classes. Arts and culture events include holiday celebrations, annual community gatherings, and festivals. Public art can include permanent installations, like murals, sculptures, monuments, and memorials. Public art can also include temporary installations, like performances, digital projections, and photographs.

24. What **public programming and cultural**

events have you or members of your household attended in Malden's parks and open spaces?

Select all that apply.

- Dance classes (for example, Thai Chi, Haitian-folkloric, salsa, etc.)
- Holiday celebrations (for example, 4th of July, Juneteenth, Pride, Chinese New Year, etc.)
- Farmer/Craft Markets
- Outdoor movie nights
- Picnics and barbeques
- Outdoor appreciation (for example, Exploring the Malden River, Paddling the Malden River, etc.)
- Learning new skills (for example, Learn to Ride a Bike, Paddling the Malden River, Rock Climbing, etc.)
- Live music
- Other (please specify)
- Members of my household have not attended public programming or cultural events in Malden's parks and open spaces.

25. Do you feel that your **cultural identity** is

appropriately reflected or represented in programming and events in Malden's parks and open spaces?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

26. What types of **public programming and cultural events** would you like to see in Malden's parks and open spaces in the future?

27. As Malden considers **future investments in public art**, what types of artworks would you like to see in the city? (Select all the apply.)

- Graffiti permission walls
- Games
- Interactive installations
- Light installations
- Monuments or memorials
- Mosaics
- Murals
- Performances
- Permanent installations
- Sculptures
- Sound installations
- Temporary installations
- Wayfinding
- Youth arts and cultural programs

- Other (please specify)

28. Are there any **themes or topics** you would like to see reflected in Malden's public arts?



OVERALL PARK SYSTEM

This section of the survey focuses on Malden's parks and open spaces as a whole system. Questions focus on park and open space access, safety, and amenities.

29. How do you **access the parks and open spaces** you visit most frequently in Malden? (Select all that apply.)

- Walking
- Biking
- Public transportation
- Driving or Rideshare Service (for example, Uber or Lyft)
- Other (please specify)

30. Do you feel **safe** accessing and using Malden's parks and open spaces?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

[If response is "no"] Please explain why you do not feel safe accessing Malden's parks and open spaces (for example, lack of safe of transportation routes to access parks, lack of lighting in parks, lack of maintenance for amenities, dangerous trash in open spaces like glass bottles, etc.).

31. Are there **amenities and programs** that you would like to learn more about? (Select all that apply.)

- Boat rental

- Renting rock climbing gear
- Reserving parks for special events
- City of Malden special events (i.e., holiday celebrations)
- Live music shows, dance classes, or new art installations
- Updates on park projects currently under construction or being designed
- Others (please specify)

32. Are you and your family **satisfied** with Malden's parks and open spaces?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

[If response is "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied"] Please explain why you feel dissatisfied with Malden's overall park system.

33. Do you **feel connected to your community** when using Malden's parks and open spaces?

- Yes
- No

[If response is "no"] Please explain why you do not feel connected to your community when using Malden's parks and open spaces.

34. Do you feel like Malden's parks and open spaces areas are **easy to access** for events and programming?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

[If response is "disagree or strongly disagree"] **What kinds of barriers do you experience when accessing Malden's parks and open spaces** for events and programming (for example, lack of signage, limited transportation options, lack of ADA accessible spaces, lack of awareness about events) ?

35. Are there any **additional experiences or suggestions** you would like to share about Malden's parks and open spaces?

PARKS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

What is “Climate Resiliency”?

Climate change brings gradual changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and sea level. Climate resiliency is the ability to adapt, prepare, and respond to natural disasters caused by climate change. Malden's parks and open spaces are critical resources for adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Nature-based solutions can help during extreme weather events like heat waves, floods, and severe storms. Malden's Climate Action Plan provides a solid foundation to strengthen Malden's climate resiliency.



Image Credit: The Trust for Public Land

Connect: Trails and transit lines provide carbon-free transportation and link residents to popular destinations and each other.

Cool: Shady green spaces reduce the urban “heat island” effect, protect people from heat waves, and reduce summer energy use.

Absorb: Water-smart parks, playgrounds, and green alleys absorb rainfall, reduce flooding, and recharge drinking water supplies while saving energy for water management.

Protect: Strategically placed shoreline parks and natural lands buffer cities from rising seas, coastal storms, and flooding.

36. Please rank your climate resiliency concerns as related to Malden’s parks and open spaces.

- Accessing shade in Malden’s parks and open spaces
- Accessing Malden’s water resources

- Ensuring walkability and bike access to Malden's parks and open spaces
- Planting more trees in Malden's parks and open spaces
- Supporting flood mitigation along the Malden River
- Using Malden's parks and open spaces for storm water management
- Other (please specify)
-



PARK INVESTMENT, FUNDING, AND MANAGEMENT

What is the Community Preservation Act?

In 2015, Malden voters created the Community Preservation Act fund – a special fund that can be used for parks, open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing projects. The fund brings in about \$1 million per year and is paid for by a 1% surtax on local property bills – about \$55/year for a typical single-family home, or \$33/year for a typical condo. Since it began, the CPA surtax has raised over \$6.75m for improvements to Malden's parks and open spaces.

37. Would you be willing to increase the Community Preservation Act surtax above 1% to support the acquisition, creation, preservation, and rehabilitation of Malden's parks and open spaces?

- **Yes, I would support raising the surtax to 2%,** which would increase the tax bill by about \$55/year for a typical single-family home and by about \$33/year for a typical condo. This would raise about \$2 million/year.

○

- **Yes, I would support raising the surtax to 3%,** which would increase the tax bill by about \$110/year for a typical single-family home and by about \$66/year for a typical condo. This would raise over \$3 million/year. At 3%, Malden would be eligible for additional matching funds from the state government.
- **I am undecided** or not sure.
- **No, I do not support raising the surtax** above the current 1%.

Any changes to the CPA surtax would need to be approved by Malden voters in a local election.

38. Would you support the City of Malden **appointing community members to a Malden Parks Commission** to support the implementation of this plan and support efforts in Malden's parks and open spaces?

- Yes
- No



FUTURE ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Your Participation

Over the next several months, project partners will be hosting a series of events including focus groups and public events. Share how you would like to participate in the

Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan+Art in the future.

39. Please share **how you would like to be involved** in the Malden Open Space and

Recreation Plan+Art moving forward? (Select all that apply.)

- I would like to receive email updates on this project – including notices of upcoming public events
- I would like to receive future updates from the City of Malden about parks and open space
- I am interested in participating in a focus group, future community meetings and events
- I would like to be involved in the Malden OSRP+Art in another way (please specify)

[If checked any of the options above], Please share your **email address** for future engagement opportunities.

40. The City of Malden wants to ensure that residents, community organizations and businesses are included in the decision-making in this planning process. What is the **best way to engage you in decision-making** as the City makes investments in Malden's open space, parks, recreation and cultural facilities?



DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Tell us about yourself!

The following questions help us get a better understanding of who is participating in this survey and will help us to plan for outreach for future events, to ensure that all voices

of Malden are heard. All answers are optional and will be kept confidential.

41. What **age group** do you belong to?

- Under 18

- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 64
- 65+
- Prefer not to answer

42. What is your **gender**?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Other (please self-identify)
- Prefer not to answer

43. How do you identify your **race and ethnicity**?
(Select all that apply.)

- American Indian or Alaska Native or Indigenous
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latine/o/a or Latinx
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

44. How **long** have you lived in Malden?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 21+ years
- I do not live in Malden
- Prefer not to answer

45. Do you or any members of your household match the following **descriptions**? (Select all that apply.)

- Child(ren) under 18
- Senior(s) age 65 or above
- Person(s) with a disability
- Prefer not to answer

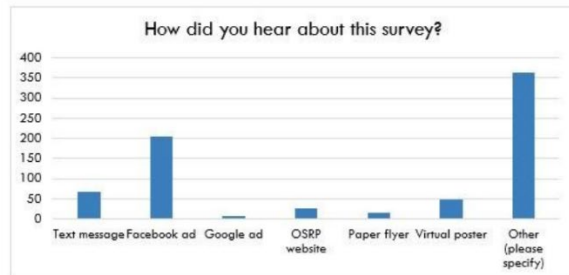
A.2. 2024 Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art Community Survey Findings

Malden Open Space & Recreation Plan + Art Survey Graphic Summary

November 2024



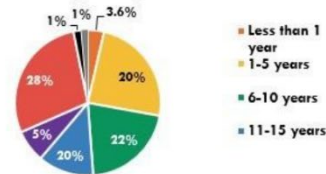
Survey Timeline August – October 2024



Total Responses: 1,310
Quality Check Responses: 1,269
Potential Duplicates: 10
Potential Bot Responses: 11

Survey Responses: Demographics

How long have you lived in Malden?



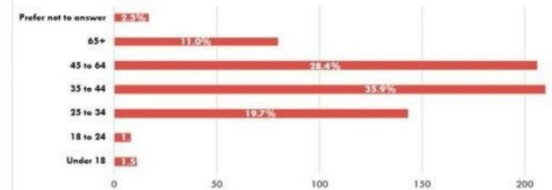
Survey Responses by Ward



Do you or any members of your household match the following descriptions? (Select all that apply.)

	Percentage	Count
Child(ren) under 18	61%	314
Senior(s) age 65 or above	29%	147
Person(s) with a disability	17%	87
Prefer not to answer	12%	63

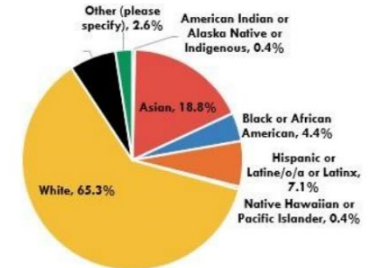
Age of Survey Respondents



Survey Response Language

Language	Count
Amharic	1
Arabic	2
English	1,226
Spanish	24
Haitian Creole	4
Brazilian Portuguese	17
Simplified Chinese	36
Vietnamese	0

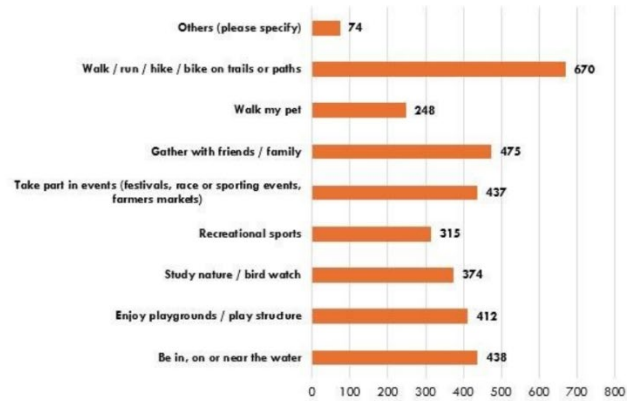
- American Indian or Alaska Native or Indigenous
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latinx/o/a or Latinx



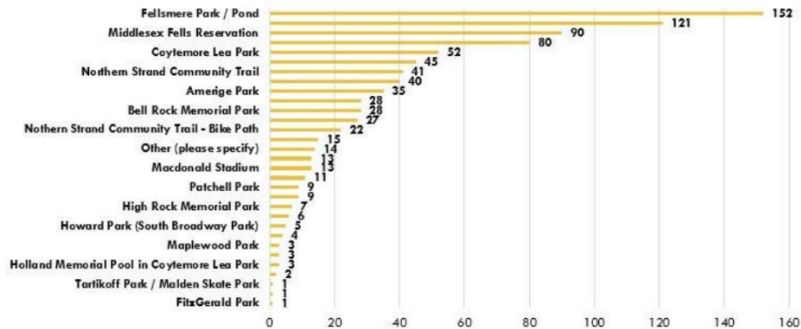
Race and Ethnicity of Survey Respondents

Survey Responses: Park Usage

What type of activities do you like to do in Malden's parks?



What is your favorite park in Malden?

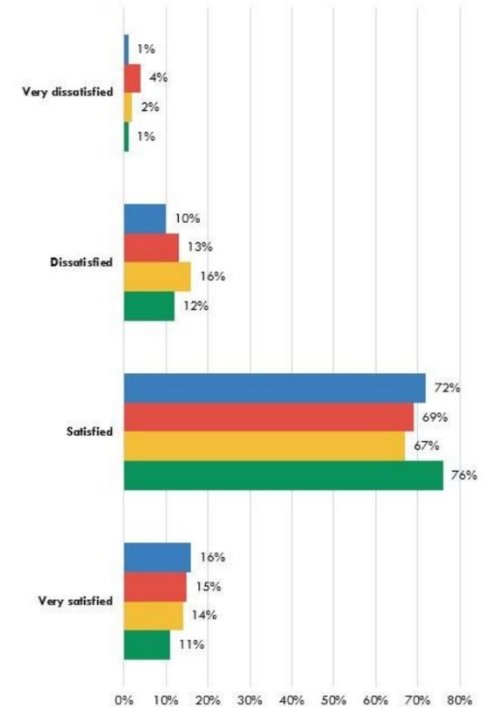


5

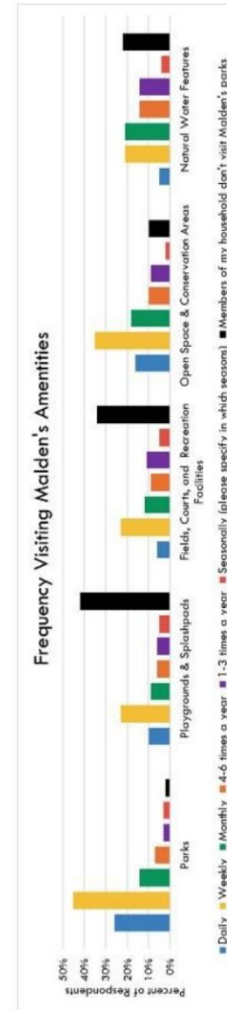
Survey Responses: Park Usage & Satisfaction

How satisfied are you with the quality of your experience of Malden's resources?

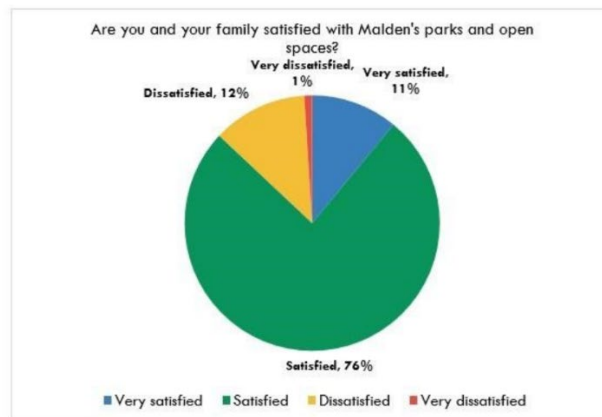
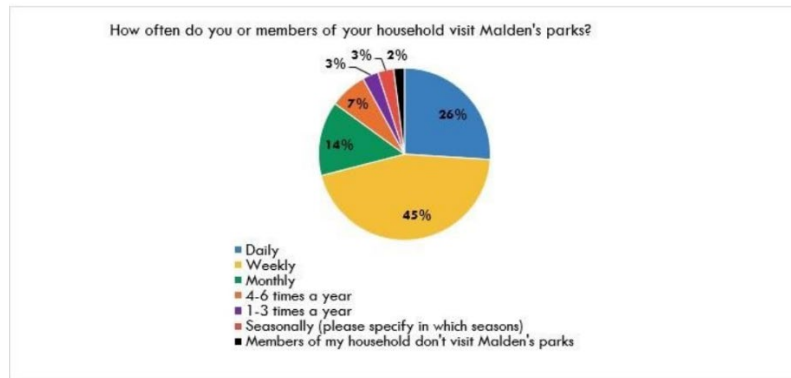
- Natural Water Features
- Courts, Fields, and Recreation Facilities
- Playgrounds and Splashpads
- Parks and Open Space



6



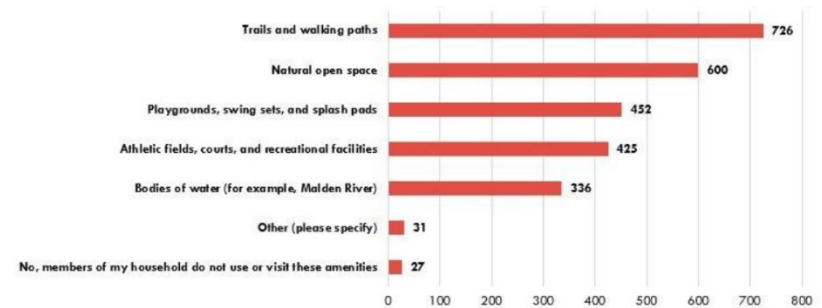
Survey Responses: Park Usage & Satisfaction



7

Survey Responses: Park Usage & Satisfaction

Do you or members of your household use or visit Malden amenities like...



Other areas mentioned:

Areas of quiet. Spaces to contemplate.

Benches and seating

Bike loops

Bike paths

Calisthenics machines and bars

city plazas; pocket parks

Dog park

grass and trees for nature study

Hills for sledding

Historic

Lincoln Commons

pet-friendly areas

Pool

Track

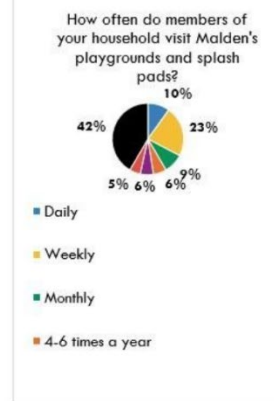
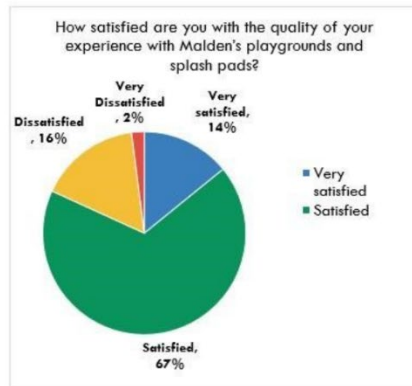
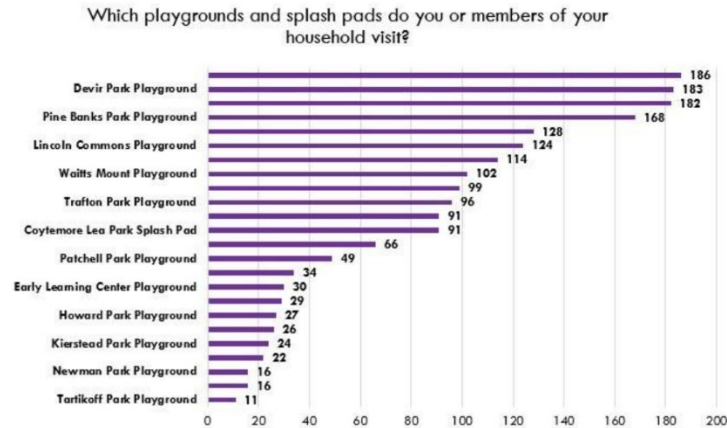
Waits mount climbing anchors

walking dog

We would like to do more, but Ward 1 is pretty limited in open green space.

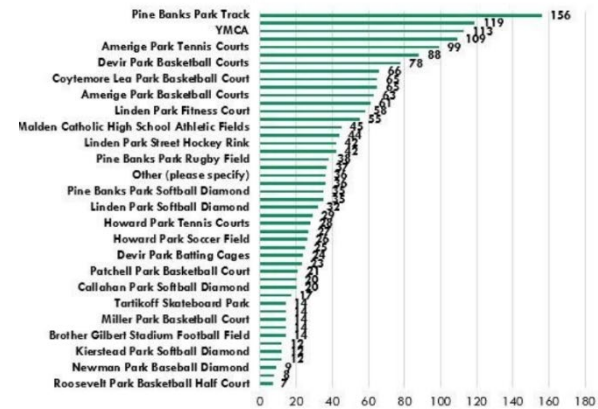
8

Survey Responses: Playgrounds and Splash Pads



Survey Responses: Recreation

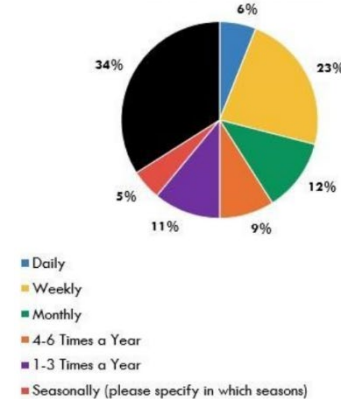
Which playing fields, tennis, or basketball courts do members of your household use?



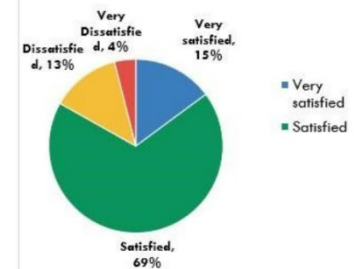
Other (please specify)

- Linden Soccer
- Amerige Park Soccer Field
- Bike to the Sea Path
- Devir Park Soccer Field
- Ferryway Softball
- Diamond & Amerige Soccer Fields
- Field behind Salem Wood
- Green St basketball
- YMCA
- Kierstead Park Baseball Diamond, Mazonson Basketball Court
- Macdonald softball field, exercise course
- Maplewood Park soccer
- Need more pickleball court
- Pine Banks and Macdonald shot put and discus sectors.
- Roosevelt Park Soccer Field
- Rotondi Field
- Tartikoff Park Sledding Hill
- Trafton basketball courts
- Waitts Mount track, Coytemore Lea field

How often do members of your household visit or use Malden's playing fields, tennis and basketball courts, or other recreation facilities?

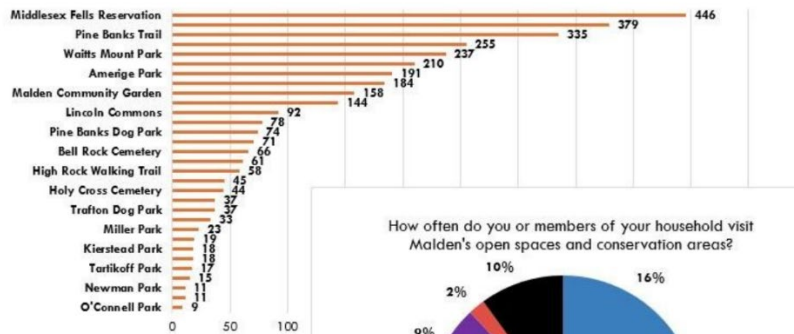


How satisfied are you with the quality of your experience with Malden's playing fields, courts, and other recreation areas?

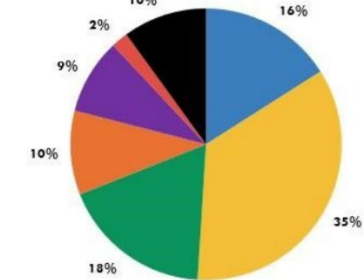


Survey Responses: Open Spaces and Conservation Areas

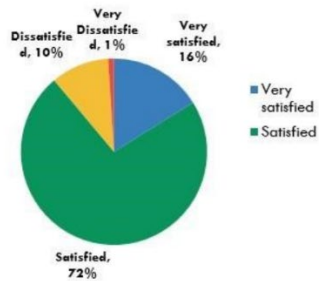
Which open spaces and conservation areas do members of your household visit?



How often do you or members of your household visit Malden's open spaces and conservation areas?

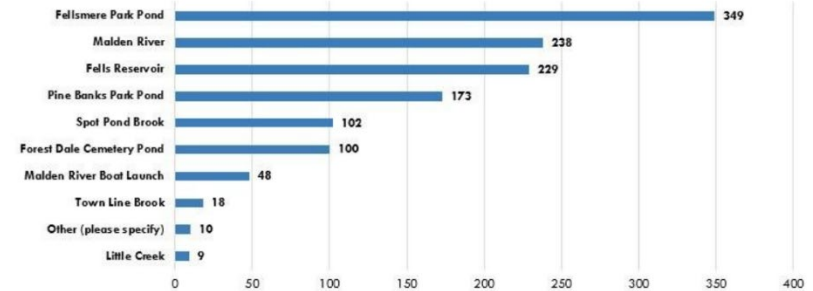


How satisfied are you with the quality of your experiences with Malden's open spaces and conservation areas?

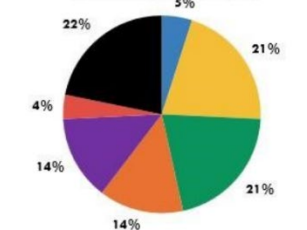


Survey Responses: Water Features

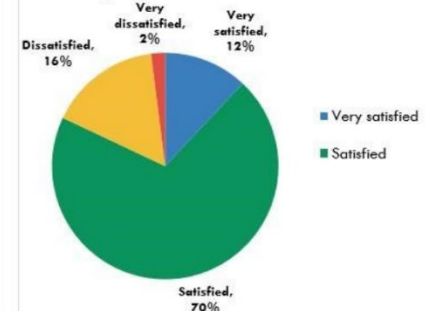
What is your favorite natural water feature in Malden?



How often do members of your household visit Malden's natural water features (ponds and rivers)?



How satisfied are you with the quality of your experiences with Malden's water features?



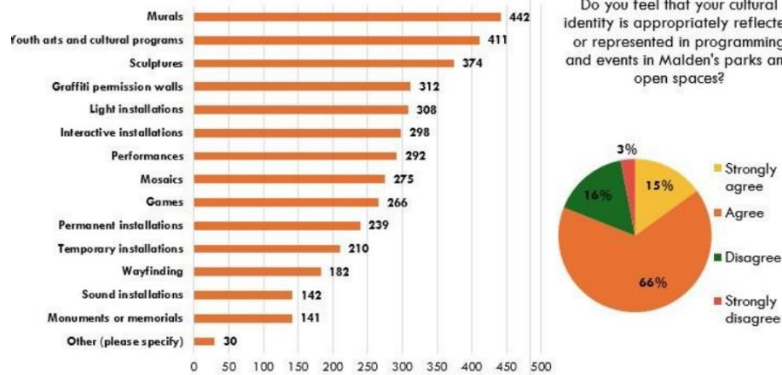
Other water features mentioned:

Cascade falls
Forestdale cemetery
MWRA Reservoir in the DCR Fells
Pines River
Pond in Pine Banks
Romney marsh
Shilly-shally Brook/ Cascade in the Fells
Somerville
Streams in the Fells

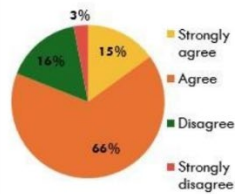
12

Survey Responses: Arts and Culture

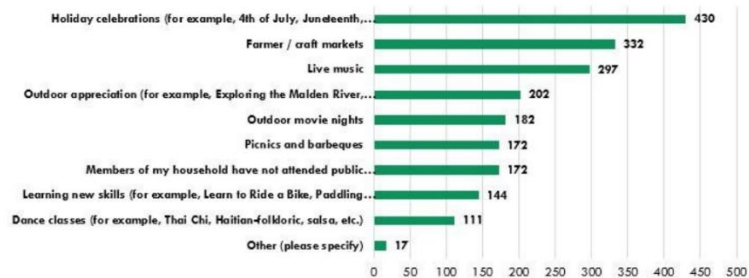
As Malden considers future investments in public art, what types of artworks would you like to see in the city?



Do you feel that your cultural identity is appropriately reflected or represented in programming and events in Malden's parks and open spaces?



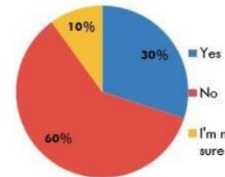
What public programming and cultural events have you or members of your household attended in Malden's parks and open spaces?



13

Survey Responses: Recreation Options

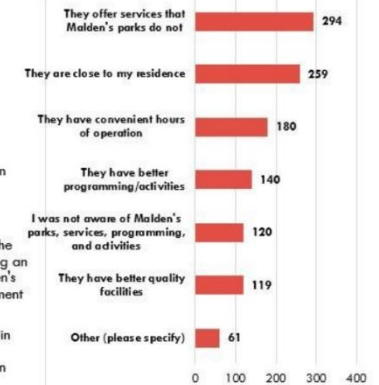
Do you have an account with the City of Malden's Recreation Department?



Do you or your household use recreation facilities offered by a private provider (i.e., YMCA, a private gym, etc.)?

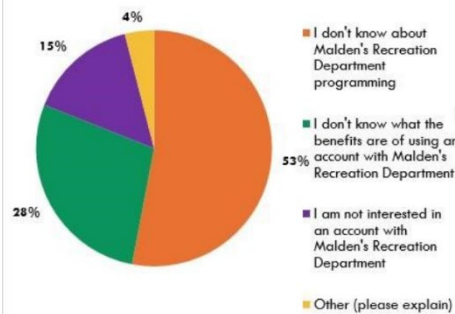


Please share why you use recreational facilities from a private provider.

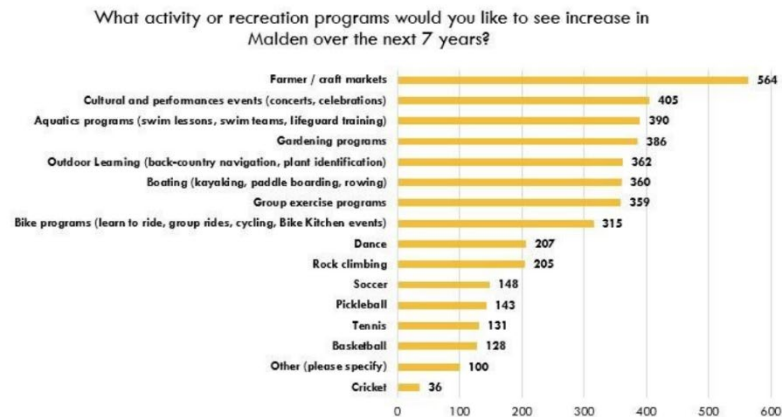
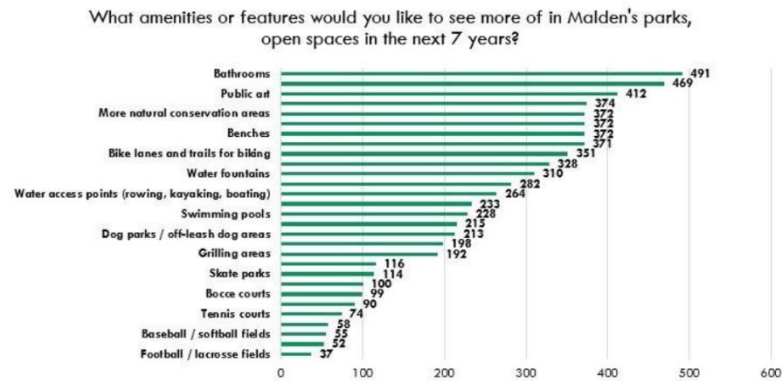


14

Please share why you do not use an account with City of Malden's Recreation Department.

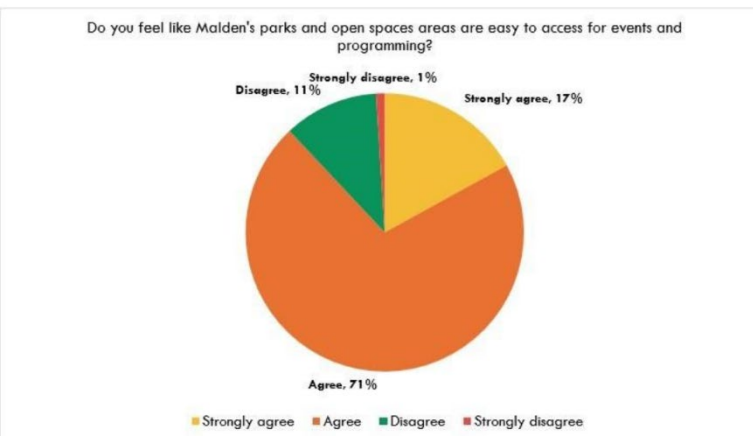
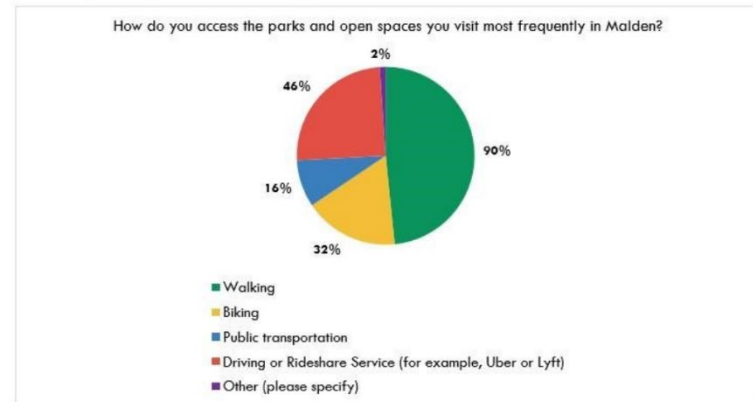


Survey Responses: Recreation Options



15

Survey Responses: Transportation



16

A.1.3. Takeaways June 13 Community Meeting

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Below includes the broader themes from small group discussions and comments shared by participants.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Wider sidewalks
- More curb cuts in parks
- Accessibly for disabled

AMENITIES

- Permanent public restrooms, such as Portland toilets
- Hydration stations and water fountains for people and animals
- Lighting in parks
- Public seating and benches, ideally facing one another
- Mature shade providing trees, as well as shade sails, noting heat islands in redlined neighborhoods and along the Northern Strand Trail, Malden Square, and for other gathering places
- Gathering spaces for groups, and flexible use spaces
- Picnic areas equipped with BBQs and grills, as well as table chairs, and picnic tables
- Playgrounds that encourage imaginative play (e.g., pirate or spaceships, animals)

- Adaptive playground equipment, inclusive play areas and spaces for toddlers
- Public musical play structures
- Community seed libraries
- Community gardens
- Cutting Garden
- Ping pong tables, with shade structures and seating
- Outdoor exercise equipment, including equipment for youth or parkour
- Roller skating park
- Frisbee golf greenway
- Charging stations for phones
- Space for soccer, pickleball, and cricket and tennis courts.
- Water features such as splash pads, cooling stations, sprinklers and wading pools
- Multiple points of access to the Malden River, and daylight Spot Pond Brook
- Historic markers highlighting Malden's parks history
- Dog parks, with a variety of sizes, and dog poop bags
- Desire to create more parks, including pocket parks, highlighting a variety of amenities, structures, and resources at different parks

COMMUNICATION

- Clearinghouse for information, city-wide to share information about events
- Bulletin boards within parks as a communications tool, in multiple languages
- Support for better outreach for programming, awareness of parks (circulating a map of the parks and their amenities),
- Posting access hours for MacDonald Stadium and reliably knowing the location of high school sports
- More educational information about the Malden River and Bluebike programs
- Clear signage for parks that makes it clear where parks are, including park history and interpretive signage, as well as where to report park needs, repairs, and maintenance

EQUITY

- Ensure inclusive neighborhood stakeholders in park decisions
- Native place names, naming indigenous histories
- Addressing environmental justice and racism in parks and open spaces in Malden
- Providing multilingual signage in parks

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Replacing impervious surfaces with porous surfaces

- Stormwater retention and management (bioswales, rainwater capture for irrigation, flood storage, rain gardens, retention, natural grass)
- Examples include Howard Park, Willow Street; Roosevelt Retention, Ward 8 need for open space.
- Mow grass higher and less often, utilizing clover seed
- Increase the setback along the Malden River
- Remove lead contaminated topsoil for remediation at Roosevelt Park
- Plant more native plants and trees, including pollinator gardens and wild spaces, support greater biodiversity
- No SGAR rat poison that kills local wildlife
- More environmental justice activities for youth, potential young adult jobs in field maintenance
- Address heat islands throughout the city, particularly in Ward 7
- Address toxic waste dumps

MAINTENANCE

- Role of a parks commission or natural resources department to support maintenance of parks, forestry and cemeteries
- Equipment and ongoing structural
- Skate Park improvements, tennis court cracks, field maintenance (particularly grass fields)

- Protection of neighbors' property
- Trees along city streets (trimmed, maintained, replaced)
- Long-term landscape plan that honors historic and present plans (Fellsmere Park)
- Safety, including patrolling parks, the bike trail, and improving lighting
- More resources for the Tree Warden and DPW
- Snow removal in winter along trails and winterized parks
- Trash and recycling with censored bins in parks and along the bike trail, and Malden River

PROGRAMMING

- Establish an events coordinator for the parks and City
- Reliable and consistent programming, that is family-oriented and designed for all ages.
- Options for youth beyond sports-based activities, including environmental justice activities, park clean ups, music and dance programs.
- Farmers markets and crafts, concerts, festivals and fairs that encourage people to visit Malden and to support small businesses, potentially fees to support park maintenance, making parks local destinations and rotating parks
- Supporting music, public events, outdoor movies, community theater, and dancing utilizing a

community stage with power outlets that is reservable by the public.

- Imagining events like a Park-fest, multi-cultural events for holidays, private vendors and concessions, like beer gardens
- Large games, installations that connect with Gaming District and outdoor gaming events, ideally on grass, including a permanent chess table.
- Sports fields and stadiums available to residents, and sports organizations, including pickleball
- Water activities such as fishing, boating and swimming
- Passport Park program with a walking and biking map of Malden's parks.
- Social resident gatherings, local children organized play, as well as group activities in the Fells – such as nature classes like birding, tree ID, insects/pollinators, and native plants.
- Supporting agriculture and gardening with farm programing and the Malden Garden Club.
- Highlighting Malden's Emerald Necklace
- Stargazing and astronomy

PUBLIC ART + CULTURAL EVENTS

- Participatory public art and educational materials showcasing Malden's assets and history
- Game-based installations to connect with the Gaming District

- Artwork that is from new and local artists, supporting unique, playful and interactive artwork that people can touch
- Youth led art efforts, potentially graffiti arts
- More murals and sculptures (large format, statues, memorials), one idea include a Converse Square Monument for the Converse Family
- Cultural themes for inclusion locally
- Updates on the Malden Center for Arts and Culture
- Art performance and studio facilities
- Painting classes
- More culturally appropriate activities in the City, including cultural art representation during holidays (e.g., Haitian Flag Day, Chinese New Year), that welcomes and educates
- World dance festival
- Effective promotion for arts and cultural activities

TRANSPORTATION

- Crosswalk into the Fells, Fellsmere Park along 55 and Pleasant, need a car to access the Middlesex Fells
- Improved parking for bikes and cars at parks, particularly at Lincoln Common and High Rock
- Improved access to parks via the bus, potentially with free fair and transportation within large parks (Pine Banks) or to the top of Waitt's Mount, and

improved safety for protected bike lanes and shaded walking paths

- Traffic calming measures to improve safety (e.g., speed bumps)
- Walking trails and paths, particularly along the Malden River, as well as hiking and biking trails, where residents can learn about nature and wildlife, mirroring the Emerald Necklace through natural greenways like Faucet, Willow Street, Fellsmere/Centre St, and Linden Square to Town

POSTER ENGAGEMENT

These are responses included on the posters from the Community Meeting.

Which ward do you live in?		
Ward 1	2	4.8%
Ward 2	7	16.7%
Ward 3	9	21.4%
Ward 4	10	23.8%
Ward 5	6	14.3%
Ward 6	3	7.1%
Ward 7	1	2.4%
Ward 8	4	9.5%

What parks/open spaces do you use in Malden?	Count
Forestdale Cemetery	17
Fellsmere Park	14
Middlesex Fells Reservation	14
Coytemore Lea Park	13
Waitt's Mountain Park	7
Devir Park	6
Callahan Park	5
Roosevelt Park	4
Hunting Field	3
Amerige Field	2
Bell Rock Cemetery	2
Devir Playground	2
High Rock	2
Spot Pond Brook	2
Trafton Park	2
Kierstead Park	1
Lincoln Commons	1

Linden Victory Delta	1
Macdonald Stadium	1
Maplewood Park	1
Northern Strand Trail	1

What do you love about Malden's Parks and Open Space?

- Vicinity, variety (2)
- LIVING GREEN space - room for kids to run - cool oasis - hear birds singing
- Diversity of people using parks
- Elevation and view of Boston from Waitt's
- The Fells: amazing A.C., wildlife (coyotes, owls, turkeys, etc.)
- Natural beauty, peaceful water features, connection to Olmstead
- Diversity of activities
- Accessibility, open

Programs people participate in:

- Malden Softball
- Non-Malden Rec Leagues
- Summer Dance in the Park (3)
- The Great Malden Outdoors (4)

Most important park amenities	Count
Trees	22
Restrooms	15
Trash and recycling bins	15
Bike paths	14
Shade structures	10
Public art	8
Water fountains	8
Bike racks	7
Community gardens	7
ADA accessible playgrounds	6
Dock access to river	6
Rock climbing	6
Benches	5
Hiking trails	5
Pavilions	5
Playground equipment	5
Splash pads	5

Sports facilities	5
Picnic tables	3
Exercise equipment	2
Outdoor grills	2
Ping pong tables	2
Skate parks	2
Musical installations	1
Sledding hill	1

Favorite Things to Do in Malden's Parks

- Forestdale Cemetery
- Linden
- Let my grandchild run + run + run + catch her at Bell Rock Park
- Climb and watch awesome sunset at Bell Rock Park
- Environmental justice advocacy
- Birding
- Socializing with neighbors, enjoying the environmental benefits, bird watching
- Running and bird watching :)
- Run, walk, hike, and swimming (when outdoor Coytemore pool is open)
- Walk, sit
- Walking

- Hiking, dancing, relaxing, meet-ups
- Relax
- Walk and photograph
- Walk, run, tennis, sit in the grass under the shade
- Sports
- Pickleball!

- Community theater, DANCE, pageants, LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC CONCERTS, CHILDREN'S THEATER
- All of the above
- Recreation for those with limited mobility / easily fatigued

Draw Your Ideal Park:

- Accessible protected bike lanes leading to our parks.
- Quiet shaded spaces for over-stimulated people and hearing impaired
- Watch sunsets, kids running and playing in natural setting. Also parks with slides, swings, sandboxes, water sports, wading pools. Lots of trees + green.
- More softball fields

Recreational programming that is missing or need to be expanded:

- Outdoor lawn games, bocce, croquet, ultimate frisbee
- Summer festivals with food and games!
- Water activities like swimming / canoeing / rowing
- Adult rec league (tennis, pickle ball)
- Adult rec league (tennis, pickle ball)

Improvements Needed	Count
Roosevelt Park	8
Waitt's Mountain Park	6
Coytemore Lea Park	5
Fellsmere Park	5
Hunting Field	5
Forestdale Cemetery	4
Trafton Park	3
Maplewood Park	3
The Fells	2
Pine Banks Park	2
Forestdale Park	2
High Rock	2
St. Marys Cemetery	2
Kiestead Park	2
Linden Victory Delta	2
Spot Pond Brook	1
Amerige Field	1

Macdonald Stadium	1
Spot Pond Brook	1
Bell Rock Cemetery	1
Salem Street Cemetery	1
Lincoln Commons	1
Northern Strand Trail	1
Town Line Brook	1
Hawkridge Delta	1
Tartikoff Park	1

One word to describe hope for the future of Malden's parks and open space.

- Maintenance!
- Accessible + open
- (Park) Commissioner
- Accessibility, public transportation
- Making them usable
- Natural grass, established nature, shade-producing trees, perennial native flowers and vegetation
- Nature
- Natural
- NATIVE plants and trees

- Greenways, resilience, FUN
- Accessibility, public transportation
- Trees + water
- Maintaining
- Litter free
- No plastic turf

How Malden's parks/open spaces/rec facilities/public art could better represent culture?

- Multilingual signs (3)
- pictorial signs for nonreaders, shade, familiar multicultural art
- More murals/public art that represents our diverse populations, multiple cultures and backgrounds. Hire up and coming artists rather than established.
- Doing a good job!
- More programs at various parts of the city
- NO ARTIFICIAL TURF. Plastic turf restricts diversity of park uses and activities (no food, etc.)
- Programming events: dance events, seasonal celebrations, music concerts, community theater
- Availability of some artificial turf SAVES THE GRASS at other parks because sports move off wet grass to the turf.
- No artificial turf
- Allow community groups to host cultural events (or publicize that they can)
- Redlined area - check out map

Existing Barriers to Accessing Recreational Programming

- A shaded place to sit, read, draw, and/or relax.
- NEED: Posters in different languages at bus stops, etc.
- Didn't know we had these programs!
- Didn't know we had these programs!
- Quiet shaded spaces for over-stimulated people and hearing impaired.
- Better publicity to events open to ALL.

Do you seek out parks during extreme heat events?	
Yes	20
No	8

Transportation Methods	Count			
Park	Walking	Biking	By Car	By Bus
Amerige Park	3	1	0	0
Bell Rock Park	1	1	0	0
Callahan Park	1	0	0	0
Coytemore Lea Park	10	1	0	0
Devir Park	2	1	0	0
Fellsmere Pond	4	0	3	0
Forestdale Park	3	0	2	0
Howard Park	0	0	2	0
Kierstead Park	1	1	0	0
Lincoln Commons	2	2	1	1
Linden Park	1	1	1	0
Macarthur Park	0	1	0	0
Maplewood Park	1	0	1	0
Miller Park	1	0	0	0
Patchell Park	0	1	0	0

Pearl Street Park	1	0	0	0
Pine Banks Park	6	4	3	2
Roosevelt Park	6	2	0	0
Tartikoff Park	2	1	0	0
Waitt's Mount	11	0	2	0
Wallace Park	0	0	0	1

Overall Transportation Methods for Accessing Malden's Park	
Walking:	61.30%
Biking:	18.30%
By Car:	16.10%
By Bus:	4.30%

Primary Barriers to Accessing Open Spaces and Parks

- Protected bike lanes to M. Fells and to Forestdale Cemetery.
- Protected bike lanes would help everyone move around the city more safely. Main Street isn't pleasant to walk on with trash, traffic, etc. and while an opportunity for a bike path into Malden center is possible it seems to be on hold.
- No bus down Commercial St.

- Lack of protected bike facilities for kids / families. Poor / no crosswalks into the Fells (DCR).
- No bike racks at the Fells.
- It would help tremendously to have a network of protected bike lanes!
- Can't get to Fells Reservation without a car.

Places you'd like to visit more but can't get to?

- We like walking along the Malden River behind where the apartments are, but that area is hard to get to from downtown Malden. Walking through empty business parking lots.

- The city is very easy to get around by bike. The city's new bike lanes aren't needed.
- Waitt's Mount Path is cool, but very difficult to climb up to. Wish there was a bus or something that could drop you off there; not sure if there is one currently.
- The state park by Tartikoff. Have to walk and take a bus, about an hour commute.

A.3. Community Forum Results November 13, 2024

MALDEN OSRP+ART COMMUNITY FORUM FEEDBACK | NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Feedback Collected in Person on Engagement Boards and Online via Google Form

Community members responded to drafted elements of the plan including the VISION STATEMENT, VALUES, and DRAFT GOALS (A-F). Additionally, community members ranked the existing goals by priority and identified additional goal areas and groups to engage with as part of the OSRP+Art planning process. Finally, attendees shared their priority improvements for parks based on a summary of park improvements collected in the Community Survey and initial Community Meeting held June 13, 2024.

VISION STATEMENT

Malden's parks and open spaces are well-maintained, accessible for everyone, and activated action offer residents through inclusive programming and recreational activities year-round. Malden's parks, greenways, open spaces, and waterways (Malden River, Spot Pond Brook, Pines River) support climate resilience, activate (support cultural , mediate connections means) cultural connection, and foster joy.

What is needed to make this vision possible? What is missing?

- *Add greenways*
- *Planning, Maintenance, Follow Through*

- *Add Malden River, Spot Pond Brook, Pines River*
- *Make/take/means for cultural connection*
- *Swimming open in summer time.*
- *I would use: "vitalize cultural connection"; I think well-maintained is important but shouldn't be the first "tic" item. I agree with Amanda that equitable should be forefront. I think that climate resilience is not a widely recognized term. An important one...but, perhaps environmental restoration. Public Health is a key term too... Malden's parks and open spaces are equitable and accessible for everyone. Our well-maintained parks and open spaces are inclusive through year-round programming and recreational opportunities. Malden's parks, open spaces, and waterways support public health and safety, vitalize cultural connection, and foster joy.*
- *"Activate" seems very much like planner jargon to me, and "activated through" is oddly passive. In the first sentence, you might replace "activated through" with "offer" or "provide opportunities for" (You can't say the parks "actively offer," because parks and open space are not people. In the second sentence, you could try "promote" or "encourage." instead of "activate" for cultural connection. I know this language is a lot less jazzy than "activate," but you want people to understand*

what you mean. "Activate" is like "leverage" in the business world.

- Love this, no notes!
- True

VALUES

BELONGING

Malden is rich in cultural experiences and stories, and we want these reflected in our open spaces and parks with artwork and community events that reflect and celebrate our cultural diversity in ways where all community members can gather and feel at home.

CONNECTIVITY

Malden's parks, open spaces, and waterways are critical assets for all community members. We want to ensure these assets are accessible through multiple paths, trails, sidewalks, and transportation routes to connect people with these places.

EQUITY

While investing in Malden's parks and open resources, we want to ensure fair and just inclusion for all of Malden's community members, equal access to opportunities and resources, and power in decision-making for Malden's investments.

HEALTH

Open spaces, parks, and waterways are resources integral to community health. We want to support community well-being through the benefits of accessing Malden's open spaces, parks, and waterways.

SUSTAINABILITY

As Malden faces climate change, parks and open spaces are resources for community members during extreme weather, such as floods and heat waves, and support sustainability through design.

STEWARDSHIP

Malden commits to stewardship of parks, open spaces, and waterways, highlighting community resources, supporting responsible maintenance, and ensuring people's safety.

What values resonate with you? Is there anything missing from these values?

- Make sure we have an equitable distribution of environmental assets and equitable distribution of environmental hazards.

- Look for community-based solutions for park improvements
- Let's not add environmental hazards anywhere in Malden
- Let's enrich community parks first in areas where there are too many environmental hazards
- Parks are where community members gather and bond
- Landscape design (all parks), 1 year, 5-year, 10-year, 20-year, Plan
- Please include neighbors feedback next time a redo is done
- Sustainability - incorporate natural solutions by design; Stewardship - we need to create the need for residents to be good stewards
- I'm not sure what the difference is between "cultural experiences" and just plain "experiences." Every time I bring up mobility impairment, someone starts talking about bike trails! Where is the access for motorized and NON-motorized wheelchairs? Where are the benches for people who can't walk distances or who use canes? Where is the bus access to Malden's portion of the Fells? Why is there only one handicapped parking place at Fellsmere Park, and why is it so far away from any of the trailheads? And so on.
- Transportation is ESSENTIAL to equity. I used to see Muslim ladies all the time, walking with babies in strollers at the track at Pine Banks, but they closed

the track to strollers and the trails at Pine Banks aren't good for them. If people who don't have access to cars can't take themselves and their children by bus to a park, they won't use that park!

- Stewardship of the parks has been sadly lacking. We prioritize ball fields and playgrounds, but neglect the grass and trees. We need a park budget that's separate from the recreation budget, and long-term plans for maintenance. I see absolutely NO sign of a city-wide commitment to parks as green spaces, and I feel that it's hypocritical to make that a goal when it clearly is not.
- Very minor note, but I wonder if the Sustainability value should be worded differently. I don't think it's really that the parks will be resources for people during extreme weather (ie, I think we probably don't want people to go to the parks during extreme weather events) but that by designing parks to be climate resilient, they will insulate us/protect us from the worst effects of extreme weather events.
- True

DRAFT GOAL LANGUAGE

Goal A: Increase public awareness, outreach, and education about Malden's parks, recreation, and cultural resources.

- What is the difference between A and D? Isn't A a means to D? GOALS
- Communication
- add education about Malden's ecosystems

Rating:

Excellent – 4

Good – 6

Average – 1

Poor – 2

Very Poor – 0

Examples of priorities based on community feedback:

- Install consistent multi-lingual signage throughout Malden's parks and open spaces.
- Improve coordination and communication between Malden's Recreation Department and community-based organizations.
- Create a comprehensive map of Malden's parks and open spaces for public use.

What communication and education would be effective to improve awareness for Malden's parks, recreation, and cultural resources?

- Info about invasive species

- Think about going into schools to give presentations on what open spaces they can visit (i.e. Middlesex Fells) +1
- Direct mailings for residents

Goal B: Ensure consistent maintenance plans and management policies to maintain open space, recreational facilities, and trails.

- Stewardship – some parks receive preferential treatment and others are neglected
- Organic growth maintenance
- Create new forestry department reporting to the tree warden
- Add, "through funding dedicated separately to maintain and support these three elements. (It's not going to happen if the money isn't appropriated.)

Rating:

Excellent – 7

Good – 4

Average – 0

Poor – 0

Very Poor – 0

Examples of priorities based on community feedback:

- Align efforts for open space maintenance with appropriate City departments, Friends groups,

and explore leadership through a Parks Commission.

- Refine process for addressing maintenance issues and needs for specific parks and open spaces.
- Clarify processes for permitting and permissions for parks and open spaces for residents and businesses.

What areas of maintenance are most critical in Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities?

- Parks Commission, Yes! Having maintenance plans and implementing them
- Yes to parks commission +2
- Addressing maintenance plan for drainage systems in the city
- Maintain fields for play
- Trash removal
- Upkeep of equipment

Goal C: Enhance and upgrade Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities with amenities to enrich community experiences.

- "multi-use" is often a code word for artificial turf. Artificial turf is not multi-use because there is a long list of prohibitive activities on turf.
- community experiences and public health.
- I'd like something less mushy than "enrich community experiences." How about "with clean, well-

maintained, amenities such as restrooms and potable water."?

Rating:

Excellent – 3

Good – 4

Average – 1

Poor – 0

Very Poor – 0

Examples of priorities based on community feedback:

- Assess investments for public infrastructure like lighting, bathrooms, water fountains, and outlets.
- Prioritize improvements that support multi-use activities and a variety of parks throughout Malden.
- Bring public artworks into Malden's public spaces.
- *What is missing from Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities?*
- Stages, amphitheaters, etc. for events
- Shade and bathrooms +1
- Upkeep and maintenance +2

Goal D: Improve and expand access to parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural resources for all.

- *Farmers markets, craft fairs, concert series, etc.* +3
- *Hold music and cultural events at parks* +1
- *Environmental justice, equity of distribution of living green space*

- Add greenways after parks
- access without cars
- What are "cultural resources for all"? What does this mean? Does it mean funding a curator for the art museum in the Library so that it's open more than once a week? Does it mean statues that aren't in cemeteries or aren't memorials of some kind? Whose culture? And if no one culture is specifically intended, then what is it?

Rating:

Excellent – 4

Good – 0

Average – 4

Poor – 0

Examples of priorities based on community feedback:

- Improve ADA accessibility for all park facilities, including equipment, entrances, and connections between parks.
- Support multi-modal trail network to connect Malden's parks and open spaces, including safety concerns.
- Nurture a sense of belonging in parks and open spaces for all abilities, ages, and cultures.

Examples of priorities notes:

- Transit issues for youth, lack of access to some parks and open space

- Green Street McArthur Park – no public engagement process when the park was remodeled

What accessibility challenges are most pressing in Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities?

- Safety, better lighting and accessible safe road crossing to Green St. Park and Bell Rock Park and speedbumps, ways to improve visibility for pedestrians
- Increase microparks and other small green spaces around the City (e.g., in the center)
- Overgrowth of poison ivy, paths in rough shape, particularly Fellsmere +1
- Walking Paths

Goal E: Protect and preserve Malden's land and water resources for climate resilience.

- Our parks are key to mitigating flooding and heat island effects
- Remove invasive species
- Promote permaculture
- Add a focus on native plants and pollinators +2
- Or no mow may and encourage it throughout the city
- Sustainability artificial turf moratorium
- Sustainability implement "leave the leaves" in city parks

- So...again...climate change resilience or public health and safety

Rating:

Excellent – 7

Good – 3

Average – 1

Poor – 0

Very Poor – 0

Examples of priorities based on community feedback:

- Activate Malden River to support activities and access to the water, as well as continued environmental restoration.
- Increase and preserve natural areas throughout the city, including tree canopies, community gardens, and green spaces.
- Utilize parks and open spaces to mitigate the impacts of climate change, like extreme heat and flooding.

What natural resources are most important to Malden's parks, open spaces and water resources?

- Add words “Malden River” to the goals
- Access to Malden River
- Enforce Chapter 91 and make riverwalks accessible to all
- Update Malden River set back ordinance +1

- Enforce Chapter 91 / river access and setback enforcement for properties along the water

Goal F: Provide inclusive cultural and recreational programming that celebrates and reflects Malden's rich diversity.

- I think you could leave out "inclusive" here. If the programming reflects our diversity, won't it automatically be inclusive? And if the programming celebrates the contributions of one particular ethnic group or class of people, does that make it exclusive?

Rating:

Excellent – 5

Good – 2

Average – 3

Poor – 0

Very Poor – 0

Examples of priorities based on community feedback:

- Provide programming for various sports, recreation activities, and camps offered in Malden.
- Support arts and cultural events, programming, and festivals within park and open space plans.
- Activate Malden's parks and open spaces as places of community gathering and celebrating Malden's cultural diversity.

What cultural and recreational programming would you like to see in Malden's parks, open spaces?

- Ward “block parties” using open space
- Field days or open events or little tournaments highlighting different sports played: soccer, cricket, volleyball (outdoors). May 15 comes see us play x , June 4, come see us play y, and connect it to that community or cultural institution but invite everyone.

GOAL RANKINGS

Goal E: Protect and preserve Malden's land and water resources for climate resilience. (14 votes)

Goal B: Ensure consistent maintenance plans and management policies to maintain open space, recreational facilities, and trails. (11 votes)

Goal C: Enhance and upgrade Malden's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities with amenities to enrich community experiences. (8 votes)

Goal D: Improve and expand access to parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural resources for all. (7 votes)

Goal F: Provide inclusive cultural and recreational programming that celebrates and reflects Malden's rich diversity. (5)

Goal A: Increase public awareness, outreach, and education about Malden's parks, recreation, and cultural resources. (2 votes)

PARKS COMMISSION

What role would you like to see a Malden Parks Commission have in Malden's parks and open spaces?

- Bandstand Fells – was one there
- Parks Department
- Build more parks
- Create a pocket park at Forest and Main with flowers and benches, people who go to funeral home can sit and talk.
- Help enforce abutting commercial properties to maintain (e.g., Malden River Works) +1
- Making decisions on how to use open spaces (e.g., what type of plants should be planted? Gardens? Playgrounds?)
- Help establish trash cans maintenance in all public open areas. Trash! Dogpoop! Agh! +1
- Upkeep, events, planning
- To include public opinion and expert advise.
- I would like a Parks Commission to at least have a voice (and, ideally, to lead) the review of projects proposed for our parks and open spaces. The disaster that was the Roosevelt Park athletic field fiasco would never have happened if people who care more about land stewardship, children's

health, and long-term usefulness, and less about grabbing for a grant for a short-term fix had been involved. I see that sort of thing as part of the role of a Parks Commission. It wouldn't necessarily have either project origination or veto power, but it should be able to make recommendations to the people who control the money.

- A Parks Commission would also be a way to involve people of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds in planning. There should be youth members! We should seek representatives with varying religious traditions!
- Help prioritize park improvements with an equity lens, help ensure park maintenance stays on track, stay engaged with community to ensure programming matches need
- Advisory

CPA TAX

What additional information would be helpful to know about the Community Preservation Act surtax?

- I support it
- I know the CPC has three money "pots" - historical preservation, housing, and open space. Would all of an increased surtax go to open space, or would it be spread among the three funding areas?

What GOALS are not included that should be in the Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art?

- Art: Define what type of art and where?
- Long term: design, landscaping, maintenance program
- Spaces for live music and events. My old town had a gazebo stage as part of the park and the whole community would come out.
- Park commissioner +1
- More green space i.e., trees, bushes, etc. Which will aid in the CO2 absorption as climate change becomes more extreme
- Education in open spaces about invasive specific, pollinators, etc.
- Acquiring vacant parcels and making mini-food forests/parks (see Boston Food Forest Coalition) +1
- Acquiring new land / property for open space and recreation +1
- Installing lighting that points down, satisfying dark sky requirements and minimizing light pollution
- Remove all artificial turf and convert to natural grass as parks turf reaches end of life
- Greenways and community connection +1
- There needs to be an explanation of what the ART is expected to add. Murals next to playgrounds and under bridges doesn't seem enough to me.
- More public art: sculptures, benches, fences, murals, etc. Increase the tree canopy. Get rid of artificial turf.

What VOICES do we need to hear from that are missing from the conversation?

- Children need to have input +2
- Think about the animals and pets too
- Indigenous people – land acknowledgement
- Everyone, leverage reverse all messages city text alerts, etc.
- We are missing the voices of folks who do not have access to parks and open space. Folks who live in densely populated neighborhoods.
- We need to hear what people actually want to DO in parks. For example, do people want picnic areas, as at Pine Banks? Do we need dog parks, and if so, where should they be?

PARK INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Based on feedback from the survey and community meetings, the following park improvements were identified. Which park improvements are the top three priorities for you?

Park + Comments	Votes
Roosevelt Park - Remediate soil and maintain natural group field	9
Spotwood Park Greenway	6
Malden River Works	4

-Department of Recreation canoeing programs of all ages <i>Malden Hospital Space</i>	
<i>Coytemore Lea Park</i> -There isn't a community garden (like on the Northern Strand Trail) <i>Waitts Mount</i> <i>Fellsmere Park</i>	3
<i>Lincoln Commons</i> - No easy way to park here when events are held here, not enough crosswalks to compete for parking <i>Malden River Walk/Greenway</i> - Finish Northern Strand especially at National grid by Medford Street Bridge. <i>Ferryway Park</i> - Any way to harken back to Olmstead (what a crime, which the former mayor has quietly admitted) - Larger playground <i>Devir Park</i>	2

-Add shade structures to the playground, playground in direct sunlight now all the mature trees were chopped down <i>Amerige Park</i> <i>Forest Dale Cemetery</i>	
<i>Linden Park/Hunting Field</i> -Fix the field grade aerate, cover to prevent glass and rocks coming up <i>Northern Strand Trail</i> -More lighting that points down, don't create excessive light pollution. - Bring in in wildlife on the trails – pelicans, storks, alligators, wetland animals <i>Macdonald Stadium</i> -No turf in all parks <i>Maplewood Park</i>	1

A.4. Focus Group Engagement Summaries

FOCUS GROUP & STORYTELLING EVENT | ENGAGEMENT SUMMARIES

As part of the Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art, there were deliberate efforts to connect with youth, elders, non-native English speakers, and members of the greater arts community. Additionally, as part of relationship building led by the project team, there was also a storytelling event with community-based organizational leaders. This appendix includes a summary of key takeaways from these engagement events.

MALDEN YOUTH COUNCIL | FEBRUARY 5, 2025

The project team partnered with Councillor Karen Colón-Hayes to meet with the Malden Youth Council to discuss the goals for the plan. Facilitators shared photographs of park amenities with the Council and the discussion focused on what amenities they would like to see in Malden's public parks and open spaces and their hopes for future arts investments. Below is a summary of key takeaways from the focus group.

In terms of amenities, the Youth Council focused on the following:

- **Improve and expand access to the Malden River** (e.g., dock access for local crew teams and public; supporting a more climate sustainable park by adding more trees, natural cooling, and permeable pavement; continue to address pollution and litter through community clean up.)
- **Invest in the Northern Strand Community Trail as a community space** (e.g., youth utilize the bike path as a social space and getting around, particularly in the summer; hope to see investments like lighting, charging stations, water fountains; improve safety at Cross Street potentially built spotlights in the ground)
- **Support greater access to fresh food through a community farmers market** (e.g., hosting a farmers market that accepts SNAP/EBT, support clean eating, and use the farmers market to reflect Malden's cultures, find ways to ensure the community fridge remains stocked along the bike path)
- **Promote youth led trash clean ups in Malden's parks and open spaces** (e.g., Malden Teen Center trash clean up events, create posters to post around the schools)
- **Provide more public restrooms, pavilions, and exercise equipment in the parks.**

Reflecting on arts investments, the Youth Council mentioned opportunities to:

- **Expand public art installations beyond Malden Center** (e.g., more art in the Maplewood area, graffiti art or a permission wall in the skate park, painting electrical boxes)
- **Involve youth in live music that reflects Malden’s cultural community** (e.g., expand Malden Porchfest outreach to youth)
- **Engage youth in a variety of artistic mediums** (e.g., fiber arts and crocheting, graffiti, community pain days, open studios, employment opportunities for marginalized communities)

MALDEN SENIOR CENTER LUNAR NEW YEAR | FEBRUARY 27, 2025

As part of the Malden Senior Center’s Lunar New Year Celebration, the project team engaged participants around questions related to accessibility, belonging, amenities and programming for Malden’s parks and open spaces. Participants also reviewed images of parks and recreation amenities, and showed the most support for additional restrooms, public exercise equipment, and benches. There were number participants as part of this engagement.

Key takeaways

Accessibility	• Improve walkability to parks and open spaces and parks (e.g., more lights for crosswalks, additional benches in parks and pedestrian paths support greater accessibility) • Address safety concerns for pedestrians (e.g., traffic calming measures, particularly around the Malden Senior Center and YMCA where someone was recently hurt) • Make the park entrances more accessible (e.g., not all are ADA accessible, needed especially for seniors) • Ensure dependable access to amenities like bathrooms (e.g., Macdonald Stadium, improve strategic planning on maintenance for portable bathrooms, inconsistent locations or poor communication seasonal use) • Improve access to alternative transportation options for parks and open spaces (e.g., many people either drive or walk to parks and open spaces; provide consistent bus service and advertise the pathways to Malden’s parks, prioritize quick and well described routes; more signage for transit to improve access) • Support greater awareness about parks, open spaces, and programming (e.g., use the Advocate to post more public events and programming, and the Malden Monitor’s calendar format, printed materials are best; leave
---------------	--

	printed materials at the Malden Public Library, the Malden Senior Center, and get events and programs in the local paper)	
<i>Belonging</i>	• Represent diverse cultures and histories in public spaces (e.g., represent Haitian culture; more Black and Indigenous history in parks and open spaces; more education around history) • Provide more places and amenities for seniors to gather (e.g., benches and tables; some seniors feel neglected with teens coming into the space, would like to see other investments in community for seniors to replace the space; more spaces for arts and culture groups, as well as youth and seniors) • Develop alternative ways to address public safety concerns (e.g., don't wish to call the police, want ways to address maintenance issues; find ways to make ClickFix more accessible, experience getting transferred often when calling the City, would like one line to report concerns)	
	<i>Amenities & Programming</i>	• Provide more events and programming in parks and open spaces (e.g., live music performances; different groups and displays of culture through music and dance; enjoys City Hall Plaza events; expand the public movie screenings like those at Salemwood Schools) • Expand the walkable corridors connecting parks and open spaces (e.g., enjoys the walkability between Malden Center Station and the Senior Center) • Improve the accessibility of parks and open spaces (e.g., ADA accessible communications boards for nonverbal children; memory boards for people with Alzheimer's) • Invest in shade structures and seating throughout the city • Expand the community garden program to the Malden Senior Center (e.g., in the old bocce ball area, or provide a greenhouse) • Add more recreational amenities like basketball courts • Provide programming that includes public education on local wildlife • Prioritize real grass for improvements at Roosevelt Park

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE | MARCH 3, 2025

The project team members facilitated a focused conversation at the Arts and Culture Committee at Malden City Hall as part of hybrid meeting, led by Councillor Ari Taylor. At the meeting, participants reviewed the survey findings about arts and culture, and reflected on public art, art-based programming, and community events. In total there were twenty-seven participants.

Key takeaways:

<i>Public Art</i>	• Public art programs that partner artists with youth, like for the Ed Emberley mural • Temporary (seasonal) and permanent public artwork • Murals • Graffiti permission wall • Sculpture ○ Reflecting Malden’s Converse history through painted all-star sneakers in Malden’s parks ○ Functional sculptures including creative designed bike racks and benches ○ Interactive sculptures including sound or kinetic elements ○ Iconic Malden sculpture • Light installations: projections on buildings, artist led light installations, and ambient lighting • Poetry along sidewalks • Multi-media artwork / Interactive ○ Metal interactive musical installations ○ Games (bocce, horseshoes)
-------------------	---

	• Named places: Maplewood Square, bike trails, Bike Kitchen, side of buildings, parking garages, storefronts, skate park in Tartikoff Park • Items for public art: public trash bins, crosswalks, traffic calming, sidewalks • Concerns: ○ Ensure language access for any public art process ○ Maintenance as part of the public art investments
<i>Art-Based Programming</i>	• Adaptive and inclusive programming • Existing programming with Urban Media Arts (UMA) • Arts sketching, partnerships with the library • Arts festivals in the parks • Theatre for youth of all ages to make use of the parks • Open mic nights in Malden • Poetry and Storytelling • Alignment with environmental efforts (nature walks, education on native species, biodiversity, vision for a sustainable future)
<i>Community Events</i>	• World Dance Festival in Roosevelt Park • Musical block parties, performances reflecting Malden's cultures, DJ events at City Happi

	○ Street permits • Moving bike party • Performances at train station (musicians and street performers) • Parks with natural amphitheaters: Waitts Mount, Pine Banks Park, Miller Park, Trafton Park • Other locations for events: Maplewood Square – smaller stage for performances; Pine Banks Park – Halloween • Farmers Market – where?
Questions and Concerns	• Budget for programming • Funding sources (state and implementation) • Capacity to implement – gazebos and shelters, shade, power access, flat space for programs • Systems for maintenance and repair • Connect with local businesses • Street Permits • Utilize Malden Public Library and the Senior Center • Ways to support local music and artists

IMMIGRANT LEARNING CENTER (ILC) | MARCH 6, 2025

In partnership with the Immigrant Learning Center, the project team met with eight students to talk about Malden's parks and open spaces with special consideration for accessibility, belonging, and desired amenities.

Key takeaways:

- **Improve transportation for open spaces, recreation, and parks** (e.g., additional bus routes and transportation, and additional free parking)
- **Expand signage and information about parks** (e.g., directions and address of parks more publicly known and accessible)
- **Address safety concerns for parks** (e.g., worries about drug usage and housing insecure folks living in parks, lack of lighting)
- **Invest in public amenities to improve user experiences** (e.g., lighting, public restrooms, water fountains and trashcans)
- **Create more open spaces that are not sports centered** (e.g., more quiet and relaxing spaces, dog parks, spaces for food trucks and vendors, a zoo)
- **Offer dance events, workout programming and stationary exercise equipment** (e.g., dance classes, Kompa, Zuma, Salsa; yoga and tai chi, stationary play areas)
- **Activate parks and open spaces with free events and markets** (e.g., arts and small business markets and project sporting events)

Additional notes:

- Asian and Haitian Adult Daycares on commercial Street
- IFSI and churches are successful

STORYTELLING EVENT | SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Building on the one-on-one conversations led by the project team with community-based organizations, community leaders were invited to a community conversation at the Malden Senior Center. At the event, participants mingled with one another, reviewed a map of Malden's parks and open spaces, where folks would like to see more arts and culture represented, and reflected on the challenges and barriers with parks and open spaces, and shared a personal story about Malden's parks and open spaces.

Mapping Exercise: Where the important spaces/parks? Why are they important? What can we imagine for the future of these spaces?	• Native planting and pollinator gardens with signage to inform community members of their purpose • Different groups can managed different spaces in parks • Parks like Fellsmere pond are great for performances, and could become a regular venue. • Desire to organize a world jazz festival along Pleasant Street or with different parks (partnerships with Berklee and local musicians) • City Hall Plaza could reflect a greater diversity of music and provide some shade for people • Use of parking garages for public artwork • Public art to support local businesses and elevate diversity. • Super 88 could improve as a gathering space for the community, potentially adding a duck path. • Some efforts are people powered, liek Tai Chi at the plaza • FitzGerald Park • 16 Spot Brook Pond, owned by DCR, though could be a parklet in partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance and provide outdoor exercise equipment • Designated times for programming in cemeteries, including fishing and birdwatching.
Challenges and Barriers	• Rock-climbing areas, many are covered with broken glass or are inaccessible • People of color not always feeling welcomed into these spaces is also an issue. • Trails in Pine Banks Park need engineering for drainage, particularly the area behind Forest Dale Cemetery

	• Booking park space can be challenge due to the capacity of the Recreation Department managing permits; people can get discouraged by the bureaucracy, though need more transparency and availability of parks, where procedures are well known the public calendar is online. • Need cultural ambassadors to different cultural groups for parks and open space. • Interpretive signage and reflect community change, honoring missing histories.
--	---

B.1) June Community Meeting

الحدايق والزفره والمساحات المفتوحة في مالدن

ساعدنا على تخطيط المستقبل

تخط إدارة مدينة مالدن مسبقاً مستشاراتها ومراقبيها وسكانهم للتقوية من خلال تحديث خطة لاسمايات التقوية والمراقب التقوية. ويريد إدارة المدينة أن تشركوا رأيكم معهم

الصعود إلى هنا
اجتمع عام تقوية
لنظام مراقبي التقوية والاسمايات المتقوية
والمتنزهات في المدينة

التاريخ:
الخميس الموافق 17 يونيو 2024
من الساعة 6:00 صباحاً إلى الساعة 8:00 مساءً

المكان:
Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

ما هي الخطة؟
أحتاج الترجمة أليس كذلك؟

هل تحتاج ترجمة؟
Scann the QR code

اذهب الى هذا الرابط:
www.cityofmalden.org/OSRP

帮助规划 MALDEN 未来的公园、娱乐和开放空间

摩顿市正在通过更新其开放空间和城市计划(OSRP)来规划未来的公园、娱乐设施和开放空间。我们想听听您的意见！

加入我们的公开会议，帮助我们创建城市开放空间、公园和娱乐区域的愿景。

时间: 2024年6月13日
星期四下午 6:00 - 8:00

地点: 摩顿市政厅 105室
215 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

需要翻译吗？
أحتاج الترجمة أليس كذلك؟

هل تحتاج ترجمة؟
Scann the QR code

有关 OSRP 进程的更多信息，请访问网站：cityofmalden.org/OSRP

GIÚP LẬP KẾ HOẠCH TƯƠNG LAI CỦA CÁC CÔNG VIÊN, KHU GIẢI TRÍ VÀ KHÔNG GIAN MỞ CỦA MALDEN

Thành phố Malden đang lên kế hoạch cho tương lai của các công viên, cơ sở giải trí và không gian mở bằng cách cập nhật Kế hoạch Không gian mở và Khu giải trí của thị trấn (OSRP) và chúng tôi muốn nghe ý kiến của bạn!

Hãy tham gia buổi họp công đồng với chúng tôi nhằm giúp tạo ra tầm nhìn chung về hệ thống không gian mở, công viên và giải trí của thành phố.

THỜI GIAN:
6:00 – 8:00 giờ tối
Thứ Năm, ngày 13 tháng Sáu, 2024

ĐỊA ĐIỂM:
Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

CẦN THÔNG DỊCH VIỆN?
Bạn cần dịch?
Scann the QR code

Để có thêm thông tin về OSRP process visit:
cityofmalden.org/OSRP

LAZER E ESPAÇOS AO AR LIVRE EM PENSANDO O FUTURO

A Prefeitura Municipal de Malden está reformulando o projeto de equipamentos de lazer e ao ar livre da nossa cidade e quer a sua opinião!

Participe da AUDIÊNCIA PÚBLICA to he! e construa conosco o futuro da infraestrutura de lazer de Malden.

DATA:
Quarta, 13 de junho de 2024
das 18H00 às 20H00

LOCAL:
Prefeitura de Malden
215 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

PRECISA DE TRADUÇÃO?
Você precisa de tradução?
Scann the QR code

Para mais informações sobre este projeto visite: cityofmalden.org/OSRP

IPLANIFICA EL FUTURO DE LOS PARQUES DE MALDEN, SU RECREACIÓN Y ESPACIOS ABIERTOS!

La Ciudad de Malden está planificando el futuro de sus parques, instalaciones recreativas y espacios abiertos actualizando su Plan de Espacios Abiertos y Recreación (OSRP) y queremos conocer tu opinión!

Únete a nosotros en una REUNIÓN PÚBLICA para ayudar a crear la visión del sistema de espacios abiertos, parques y recreación de la ciudad.

CUÁNDO:
Jueves, 13 de junio 2024
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

DÓNDE:
Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

NEED TRANSLATION?
¿Necesita traducción?
Scann the QR code

For more information about the OSRP process visit: cityofmalden.org/OSRP

HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF MALDEN'S PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

The City of Malden is planning the future of its parks, recreational facilities and open spaces by updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and we want to hear from you!

Join us for a PUBLIC MEETING to help create the vision for the city's open space, park, and recreation system.

WHEN:
Thursday, June 13, 2024
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE:
Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

NEED TRANSLATION?
Do you need translation?
Scann the QR code

For more information about the OSRP process visit: cityofmalden.org/OSRP

B.3. November Community Forum



Malden: Plano de Espaço Aberto e Recreação + Arte
Fórum da comunidade
Quarta-feira
13 de novembro
das 18h00 às 20h00
Malden YMCA
99 Dartmouth St,
3º andar do ginásio

Interpretação disponível:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
Moldar o futuro dos parques,
recreação, espaços abertos e
investimentos culturais de
Malden.



ԳԾԱԸՆ ԻՏԻՆ ԵՎ ՄՈՒԴՆԵՐ ԽՅՈՒՆ
ԳԾԱԸՆ ԻՏԻՆ ԵՎ ՄՈՒԴՆԵՐ ԽՅՈՒՆ
13 ՆՈՎԵՄԲԵՐ
ՈՒՄԲԵՐ 13
ԻՄԵՐ 6:00 ԼՆԻՄԵՐ 8:00 p.m.

ԳԾԱԸՆ YMCA
99 Dartmouth St.
3 ԷՆԴՈՒՆԻՄԵՆՏԻ

ԻՆՏԵՐՊՐԵՏԱԿՆԵՐԻՆԵՐԸ:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
ԳԾԱԸՆ ՄՈՒԴՆԵՐ ԽՅՈՒՆԻՆԵՐԸ ԻՆՏԵՐՊՐԵՏԱԿՆԵՐԻՆԵՐԸ ԵՎ ՄՈՒԴՆԵՐ ԽՅՈՒՆԻՆԵՐԸ ԻՆՏԵՐՊՐԵՏԱԿՆԵՐԻՆԵՐԸ



خطة المساحات المفتوحة والترفيه والفنون في مالدن
منتدى السكان يوم الأربعاء
13 نوفمبر
6 إلى 8 مساءً بجمعة
الشبان المسيحية (YMCA)
في مالدن
99 شارع دارتموث
قاعة الألعاب الرياضية بالمدرسة الثالثة

طلب خدمات الترجمة:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
شاركوا في تشكيل مستقبل الحدائق والترفيه والمساحات المفتوحة والجهود الثقافية في مالدن.



Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art
Community Forum
Wednesday,
November 13th
6-8pm
Malden YMCA
99 Dartmouth St,
3rd Floor Gym

Interpretation available:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
Shape the future of Malden's
parks, recreation, open space,
and cultural investments.



Malden: Plan Espas Ouvè ak Rekreyasyon + Atizay
Fowòm Kominatè
Mèkredi
13 Novanm
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Malden YMCA
99 Dartmouth St.
3yèm etaj Djim

Entèpretasyon ki disponib:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
Fòmè avni park, rekreyasyon,
espas ouvè ak envestisman kiltirèl
Malden yo.



摩顿开放空间 休闲及文娱艺术
社区会议
(周三)
11月13日
下午6:00 – 8:00
摩顿 YMCA
99 Dartmouth St.
三楼健身房

可预约注册服务:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
塑造摩顿公园、文娱、开放空间和
文化投资的未来。



Malden: Plan de Espacios Abiertos y Recreación + Arte
Forum Comunitario
miércoles
13 de noviembre
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
YMCA de Malden
99 Dartmouth St.
3er piso del Gimnasio

Interpretación disponible:
bit.ly/maldenopenspacemtq
Dale forma al futuro de los
parques, la recreación, los
espacios abiertos y las inversiones
culturales de Malden.

B.4. Focus Group: Immigrant Learning Center

Let's talk about the future of Malden's parks, open space, and public art!

Share your experiences to help guide the Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art!

ILC Focus Group
Thursday, February 27th at 11:30AM
@ the Immigrant Learning Center

Ann pale sou avni pak Malden yo, espas ouvè, ak atizay piblik!

Pataje eksperyans ou pou ede gide Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art!

ILC Focus Group Jedi 27
fevriye a 11:30 AM @ Immigrant Learning Center

Vamos falar sobre o futuro dos parques, espaços abertos e arte pública de Malden!

Compartilhe suas experiências para ajudar a orientar o Plano de Recreação e Espaço Aberto de Malden + Arte!

ILC Focus Group Quinta-feira, 27 de fevereiro às 11h30 no Immigrant Learning Center

malden **MAPC** **The Immigrant Learning Center**

B.5. Focus Group: Arts and Culture Committee

Let's talk about the future of art and culture in Malden's parks, open space!

Share your experiences to help guide the Malden Open Space and Recreation Plan + Art!

Arts & Culture Focus Group
Monday, March 3rd at 5:30PM
@ Malden City Hall

malden **MAPC** **The Immigrant Learning Center**

Appendix C. OSRP Maps in 11x17 Format

Malden, Massachusetts, in its Regional Context

Environmental Justice Communities in Malden, 2026

Malden's Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity, 2025

Malden's Land Use Zoning, 2024.

Malden's Soils and Topography

Malden's Scenic Resources

Malden's Water Resources

Malden's Projected Future Flood Hazard due to Sea Level Rise by 2050

Malden's Tree Canopy, Street Trees, Hot Spots and Park Serve Priority Areas

Malden's Open Spaces by Protection Status

Malden's Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map

Malden's Open Space and Recreation Resources by Ownership

Inventory of Vacant Lands in Malden

Appendix D. Malden American with Disabilities (ADA)/504 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (2021)

Appendix E. Climate Resiliency Planning for Malden's Parks (2026)