

# **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Town of Needham**

Public Forum#1 November 16, 2016

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**Tracy Adamski, AICP**, Tighe & Bond

# Agenda

## ■ Introduction (15 min.)

- What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?
- Public Process
- 2007 Goals

## ■ Group Discussion (80 min.)

## ■ Discussion Summary (20 min.)

## ■ Next Steps (5 min.)



# What is Open Space?

- Conservation land
- Forested land
- Agricultural land
- Athletic Fields
- Playgrounds
- Small / Pocket parks
- Green buffers along roadways
- Undeveloped land of conservation / recreation interest



# What is an OSRP?

- Roadmap for prioritizing open space and recreation projects and expenditures
- Pre-Requisite for MA Division of Conservation Services grants

- **OSRP Components**

- Plan Summary and Introduction
- Community Setting
- Environmental Inventory
- Inventory of Lands
- Community Goals
- Analysis of Needs
- Goals and Objectives
- Five-Year Action Plan
- Public Comments
- ADA Inventory

- **Public Process**



# Public Process

## ■ Advisory Group:

- Approximately 40 volunteers
- Help develop political interest and support
- Provide guidance & input on the OSRP
- Conduct Open Space Inventory Surveys
- Provide input on the Public Survey
- Review goals from previous OSRP for applicability to 2017

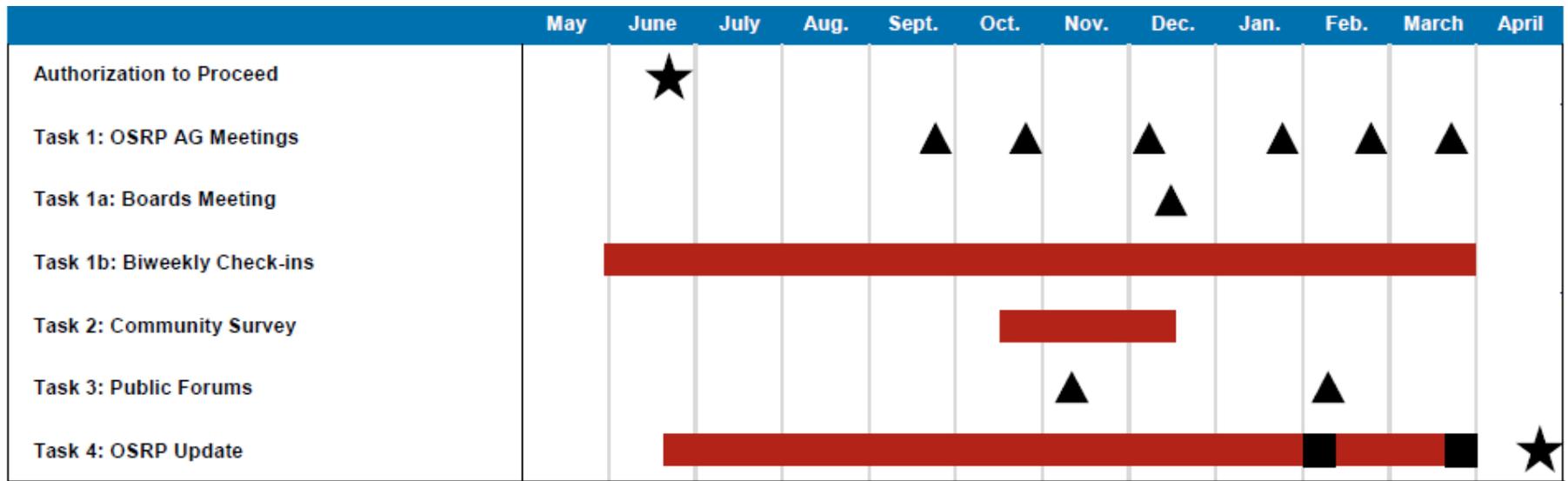


## ■ Plan Review and Approval

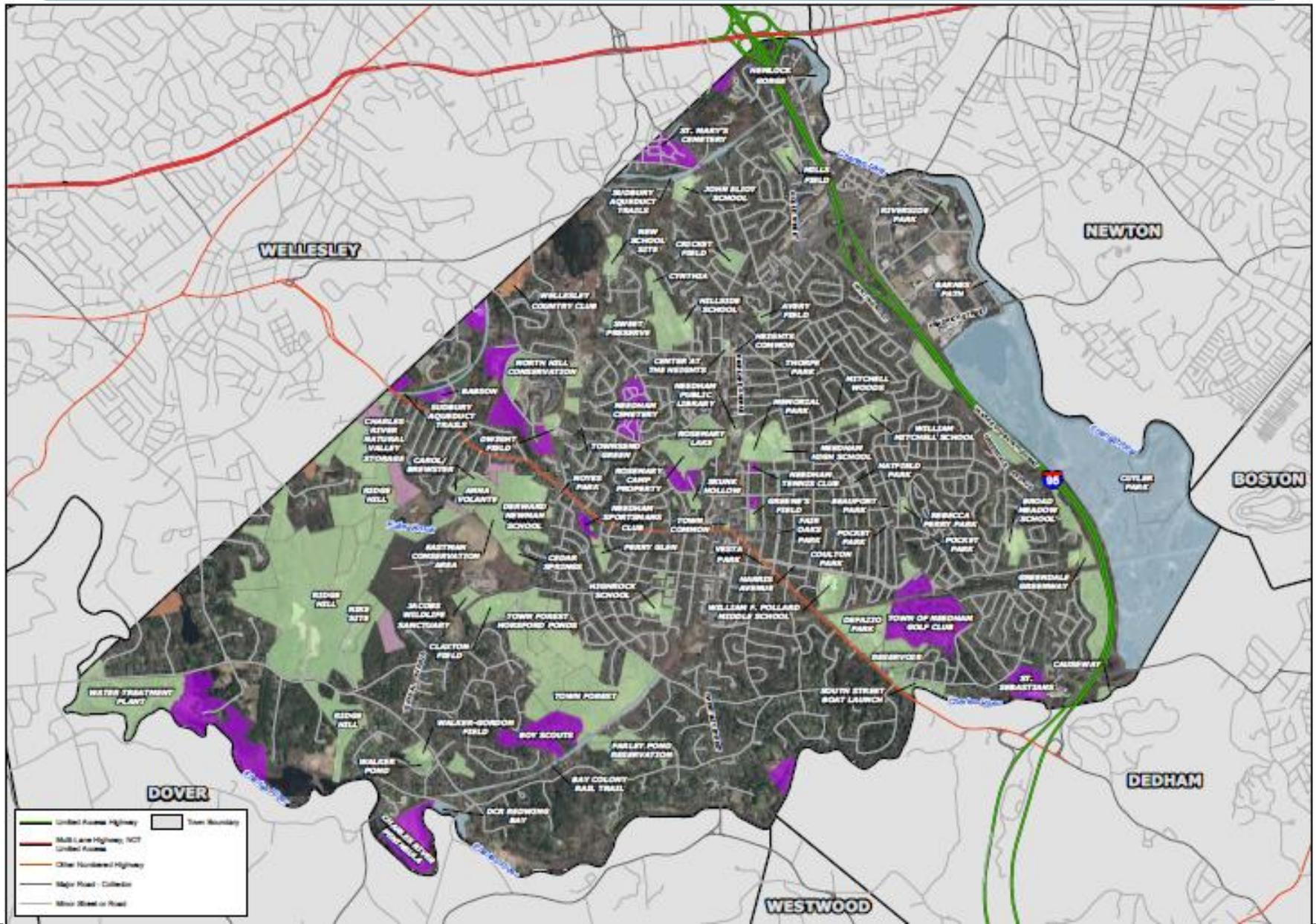
- Conservation Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Board of Selectmen
- Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
- Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services

# Public Process

- **Advisory Group Meetings**
- **Survey – Now through December 31**
- **Two Public Forums**



# Open Space Inventory

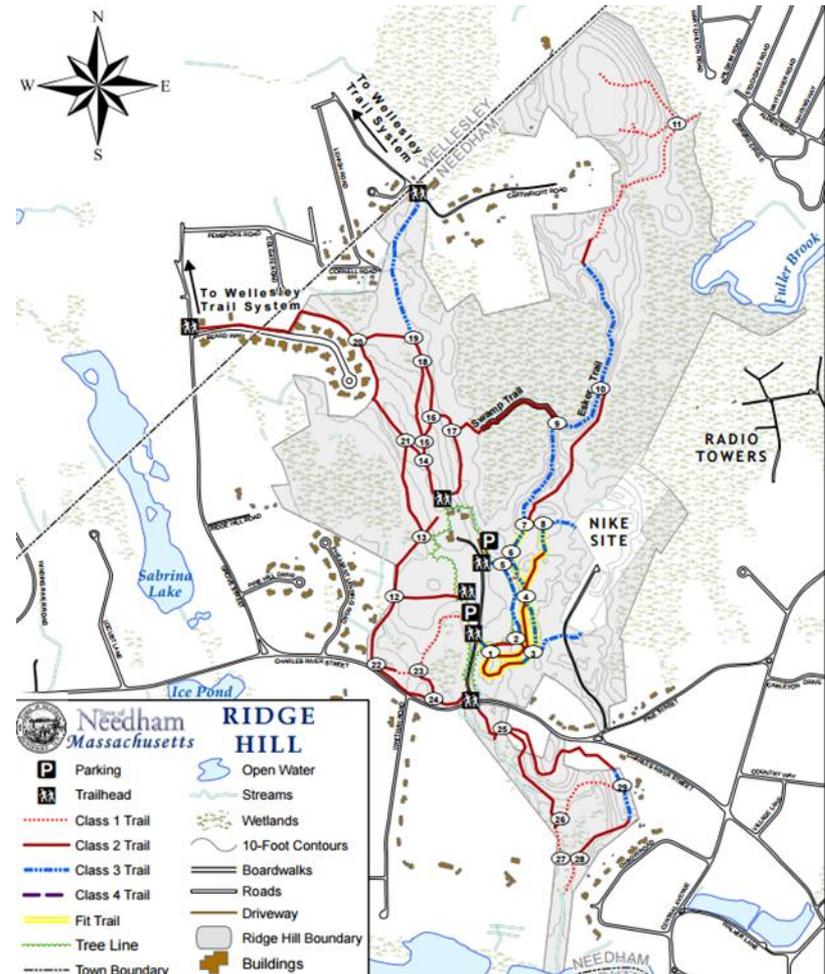


# Open Space Inventory

| <b>Trails</b>                   | <b>Fields /<br/>Playgrounds</b> | <b>Conservation</b>                                  | <b>Commons/Pocket<br/>Parks/Other</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Barnes Path (DCR)               | Avery                           | Anna Volante   | Beaufort Park                          |
| Bay Colony Rail Trail           | Broadmeadow                     | Carol/Brewster                                       | Coulton Park                           |
| Charles River Peninsula (TTOR)  | Claxton                         | Fuller Brook (Army Corps)                            | Fair Oaks Park                         |
| Cutler Park Reservation (DCR)   | Cricket                         | Cedar Springs area                                   | Harris Avenue                          |
| Eastman Conservation Area       | DeFazio Park                    | Charles River Natural Valley<br>Storage (Army Corps) | Hatfield Park                          |
| Farley Pond Reservation         | Dwight                          | Cynthia Road area                                    | Heights Common                         |
| Greendale Greenway              | Eliot                           | Jacobs Wildlife Sanctuary                            | Noyes Park                             |
| Hemlock Gorge Reservation (DCR) | Greene's                        | North Hill Conservation                              | Thorpe Park                            |
| Mitchell Woods                  | High Rock                       | Perry Glen   | Town Common                            |
| Reservoir                       | High School                     | Skunk Hollow   | Townsend Green                         |
| Ridge Hill Reservation          | Hillside                        | Sweet Preserve                                       | Vesta Park                             |
| Rosemary Camp Property          | Memorial Park                   |  | Center at the Heights                  |
| Sudbury Aqueduct (MWRA)         | Mills                           |  | Red Wing Bay boat<br>launch (DCR)      |
| Town Forest                     | Mitchell                        |  | South Street boat launch               |
|                                 | Newman                          |  | Rosemary Recreation<br>Area (proposed) |
|                                 | Pollard                         |  |  |
|                                 | Rebecca Perry                   |  |  |
|                                 | Riverside                       |  |  |
|                                 | Walker-Gordon                   |  |  |

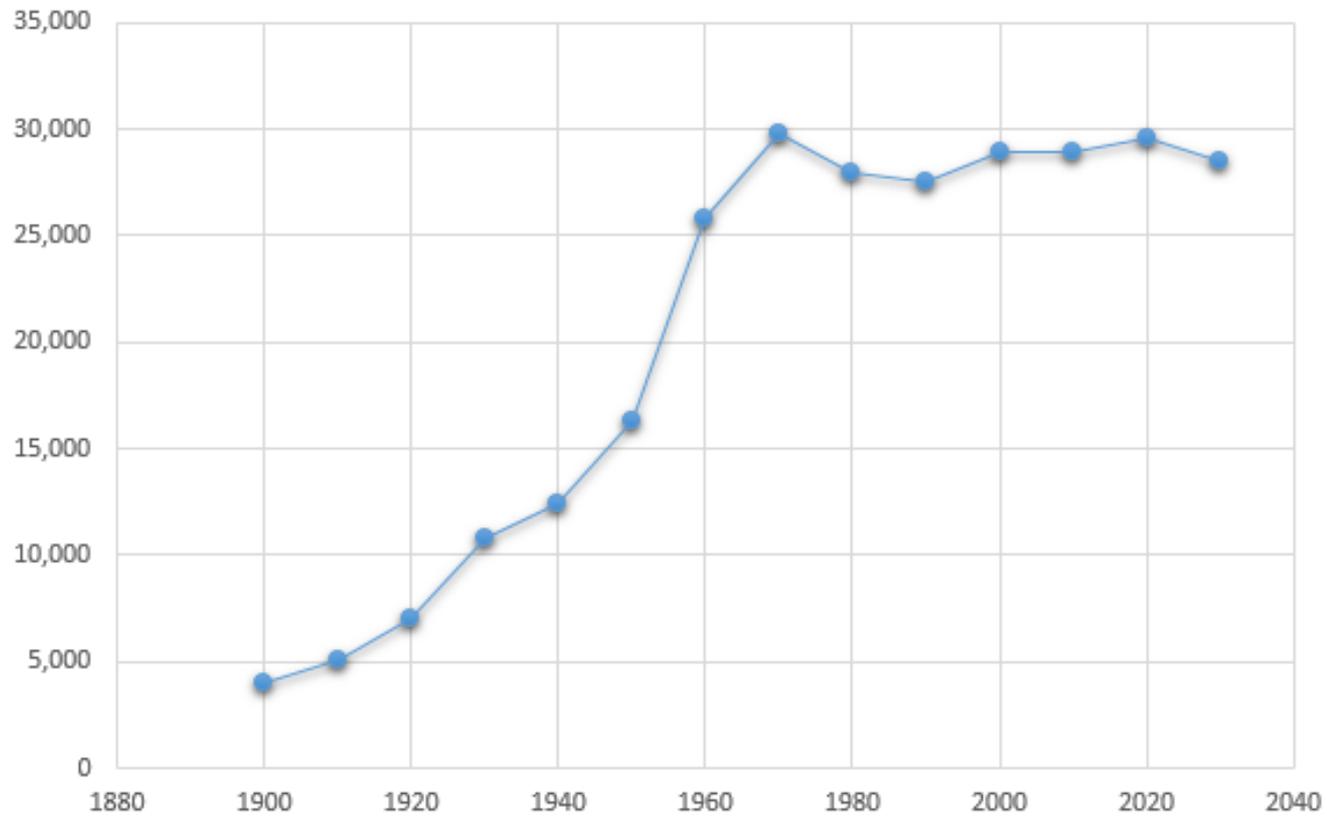
# Initial Observations

- Approximately 23% of Town is protected “open space” (similar to 2007)
- Variety of Open Space types and uses
- Signage & wayfinding improvements
- Greenways and forested land

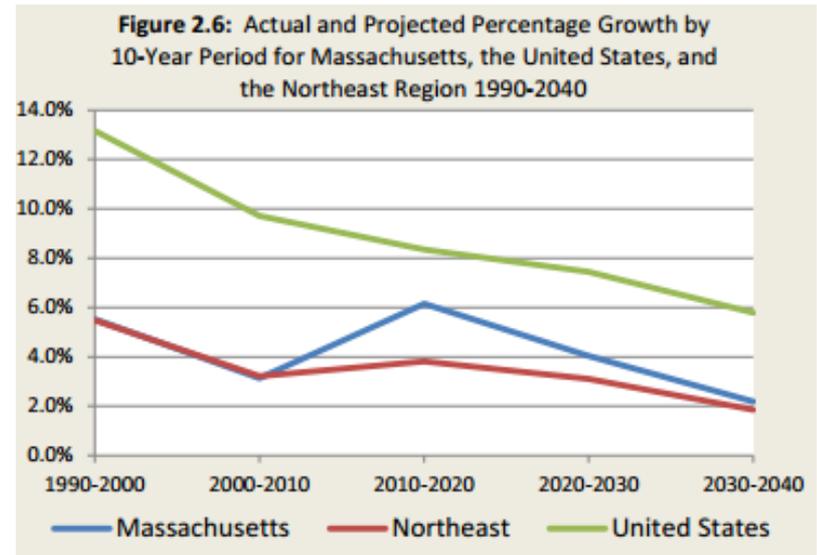
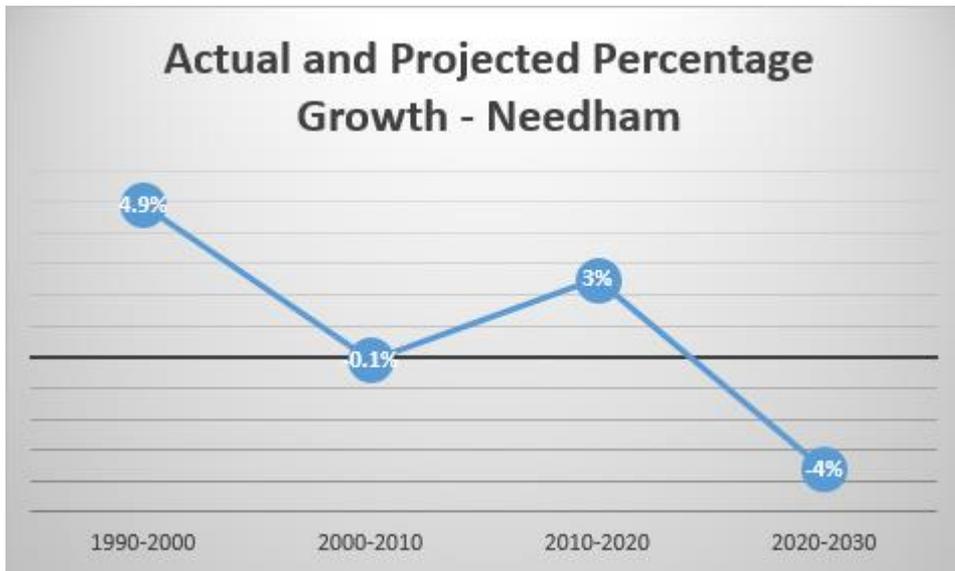


# Population Trends

Population Trends

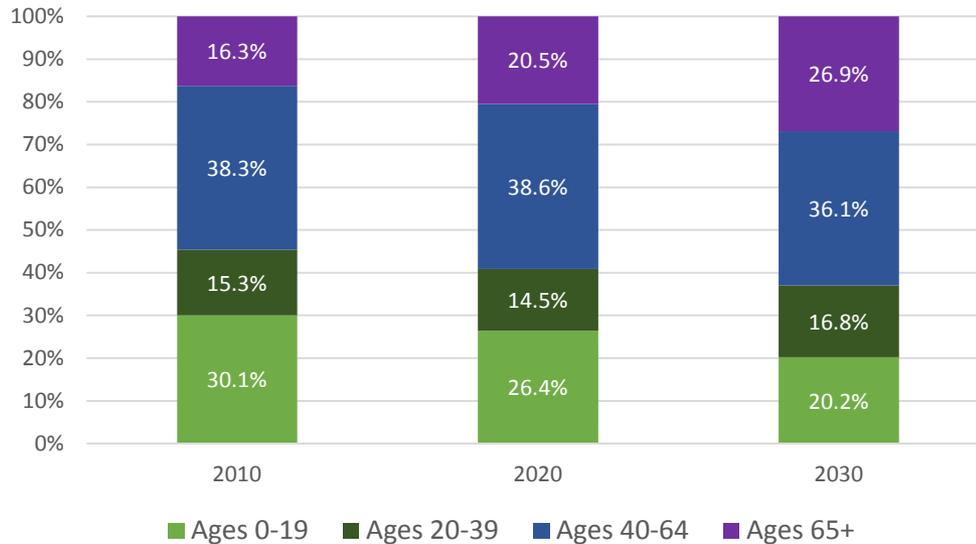


# Population Trends

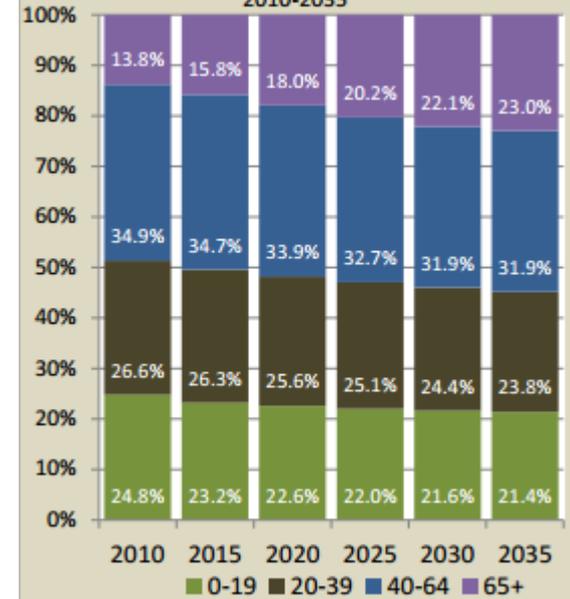


# Population Trends by Age

## Population Trends by Age - Needham

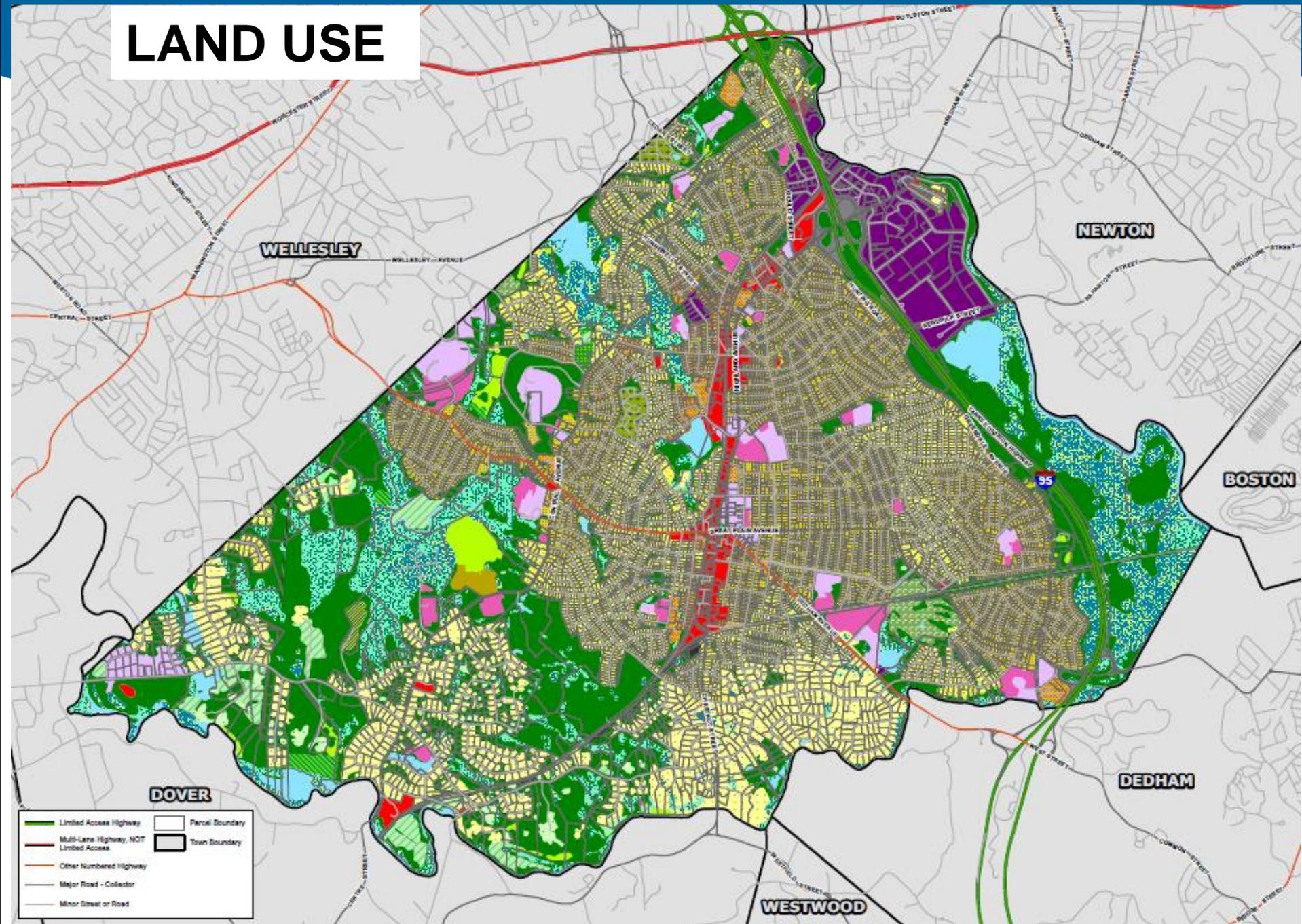


## Figure 2.5: Massachusetts Projected Population Distribution by Age Group, 2010-2035



Source Data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1; UMass Donahue Institute Population Projections 2015.

# LAND USE



# 2007 Goals

- **Acquire/Protect Additional Open Space**
- **Enhance and Expand Recreational Facilities**
- **Expand Access, Promote Awareness and Support Responsible Stewardship of Needham's Natural Resources**
- **Protect Water Resources**



# Progress Since 2007

- **Acquired Carol/Brewster Conservation Land**
- **Incorporated Integrated Pest Management practices**
- **Installed of Bleachers at Memorial Park**
- **Established a community garden and dog park at the Nike site**
- **Developed a Trail Master Plan**
- **Constructed a trail on the Sudbury Aqueduct**
- **Conducted Town cleanup days 2x/year**
- **Maintained Tree City USA status for 21 years**
- **Constructed stormwater best management practices**

# Breakout Groups

- **We are here to listen today**
- **15-20 minutes per topic**
- **Topics**
  - Open Space
  - Recreational Facilities
  - Stewardship of Needham's Natural Resources
  - Protect Water Resources
- **Attendees will cycle through each topic**
- **6 questions to guide the discussion**



# Breakout Group Questions

- **What are Needham's greatest assets?**
- **What are Needham's greatest needs? How and where can these needs be met?**
- **What are the challenges?**
- **What if any improvements to access, public education, signage, etc. are needed?**
- **What facilities outside of Needham do you use/like? What about them do you like/want for Needham?**
- **What should be Needham's funding priorities?**

# Next Steps

- Please take the public survey
- Refine the OSRP goals and objectives
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Forum in early 2017
- Thank you!



# Contacts

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# What Brought You Here Today?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Open Space</b>                       |  |
| <b>Recreation Facilities</b>            |  |
| <b>Stewardship of Natural Resources</b> |  |
| <b>Water Resources Protection</b>       |  |