



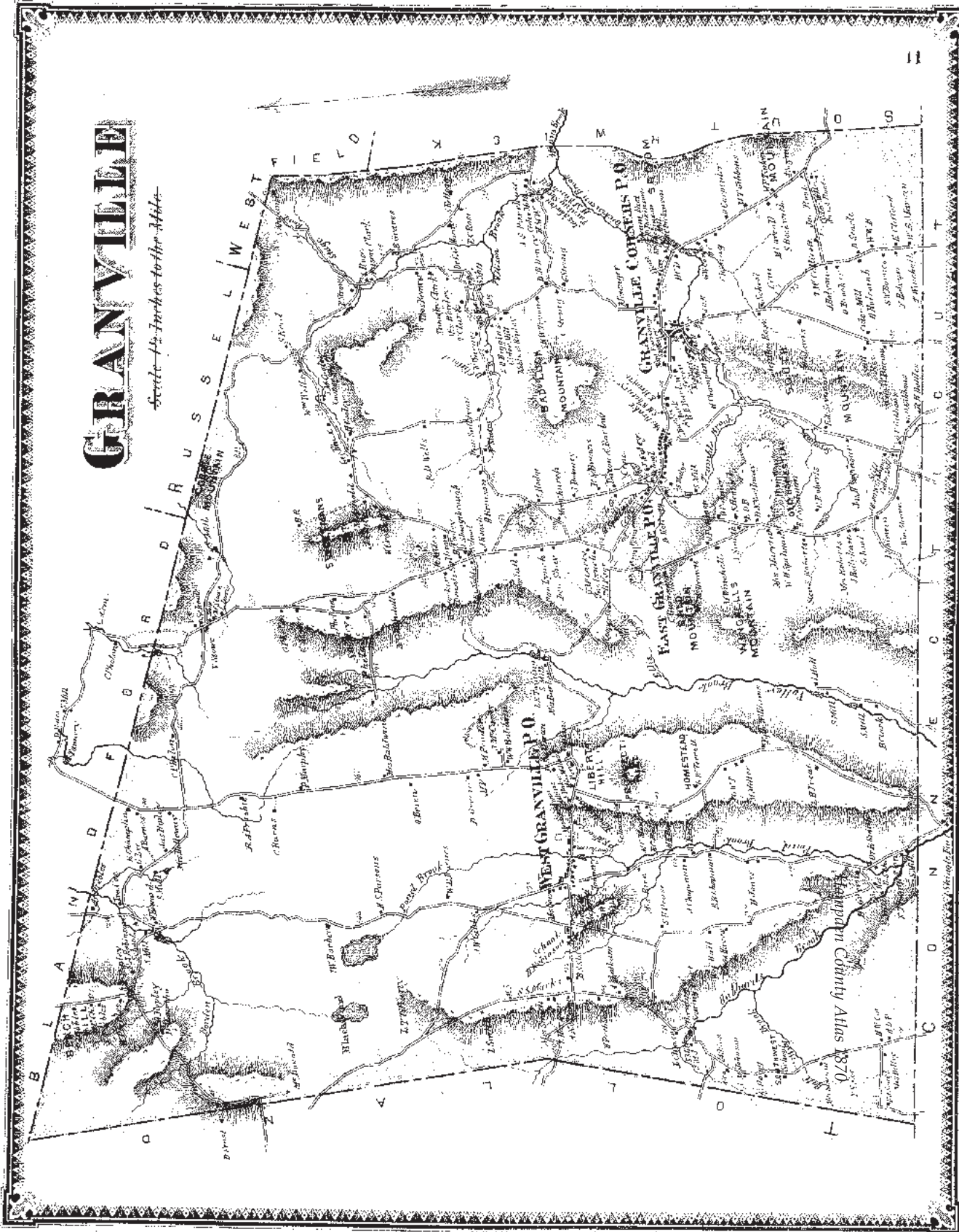
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2004

Town of Granville, Massachusetts

THE GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE
Cindy Tavernise, Richard Pierce, James Weber, Craig Phelon, Leon & Joyce Ripley

GRANVILLE

Scale 4 1/2 inches to the Mile



OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2004

Town of Granville, Massachusetts
Established in 1754



"We like it just the way it is."
— Granville Resident, 2002



Noble & Cooley's American flag on parade, July 4, 1981.

Acknowledgments

Granville's Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee members: Cindy Tavernise, Jim Weber, Leon and Joyce Ripley, Richard Pierce, and Craig Phelon, with support and assistance from Doug Roberts, Herb Hiers, Gary LaFrance, Jessica MacKnight, Rosy Campbell, Theresa Hodur, and Karen Walsh, wish to thank the many people who helped to develop this document.

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2004

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~ Section I ~
PLAN SUMMARY



An arched stone bridge at Borden Brook Reservoir

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
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Section I — PLAN SUMMARY

“Home, after all, is the place where finally we make our living. It is the place for which we take responsibility, the place we try to sustain so we can pass on what is best in it (and in ourselves) to our children.” (1)

Granville is a frontier town in many ways. It rests in the foothills of the Berkshires, west of the Connecticut River Valley. It has weathered major fluctuations in its physical and cultural characteristics over time. Yet, unlike many of its neighboring communities, Granville never completely embraced the Era of the Railroad or the Industrial Revolution. It has always maintained a quiet New England village atmosphere. The rapidly growing suburban sprawl from the east and south seems to stop at Granville’s border — at least for now — bunching up in neighboring Southwick and Westfield, and Granby, Connecticut.

Granville’s population of slightly more than 1,500 in an area of 43 square miles gives it a population density of 36 per square mile. This is in sharp contrast to Southwick’s 285 people per square mile and Westfield’s 860. Meanwhile, Berkshire County towns to the west are growing faster as recreational and resort communities due to their proximity to major north/south routes from New York and Connecticut. This leaves Granville in the middle, a still relatively sparsely populated pocket in rapidly growing Western Massachusetts. Due in great part to this, Granville’s natural and cultural treasures are many and unspoiled by frac-

tious and uncontrolled residential or commercial development. One might conclude that Granville is a defiant frontier town which champions rural values. If history or old Western movies have anything to teach us, the lesson is this: If you live on the frontier, sooner, rather than later, it is good to have a plan besides circling the wagons.

This Granville Open Space and Recreation Plan offers the tools and materials to move forward less

defensively beyond the wagons. The plan provides a sweeping look at Granville from its early history to its projected future. The town’s assets, liabilities and collective goals are considered in detail.

Chapters cover Granville’s population and cultural

characteristics, natural resources and governmental challenges. There is in-depth information on wildlife including species especially vulnerable to loss of habitat or environmental degradation. The plan describes the town’s vast unbroken tracts of valuable forest land, wetlands, farmlands, soil types, terrain, water quality, historic attractions, town-wide gathering centers, and how, why, and where they need protection. It explores resident’s needs and hopes for improved social spaces and recreational opportunities.



Connections to the past may be seen throughout the landscape.

Section 1 - PLAN SUMMARY

Perhaps most important, this plan presents the results of public discussions and a town-wide survey on residents' wishes for the future. It culminates by translating those wishes into concrete goals and an Action Plan. The members of the Granville Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee hope that this document provides a valuable overview

that can be useful as a reference to the town and its residents in many ways.

Granville just celebrated the 250th anniversary of its founding this year. What better time could there be to contemplate both Granville's past and possible future?

Footnotes:

1. p.89, *Uncommon Ground, Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*, Wm. Cronon, ed. W. W. Norton & Co. New York. 1996.



~ Section 2 ~ INTRODUCTION



*Granville's beautifully restored Old Meeting House,
built in 1802, is a source of community pride.*

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Section 2 — INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

After many attempts over the past 30 years, this Open Space and Recreation Plan is Granville's first comprehensive inventory of its cultural, historic, natural and recreational assets. Granville possesses a rich legacy of forests, orchards, wild blueberry fields, streams, ponds, scenic hilltops, historic buildings and winding country roads. The town is blessed with ample water resources and large tracts of undeveloped land with diverse habitat for wildlife and recreational enjoyment.

Granville offers a dramatic contrast to neighboring communities on its eastern border, whose commercial development and larger populations make them more typical of Massachusetts towns. Granville also has not experienced rapid growth as a bedroom community to the same degree as towns to the west.

In fact, about 90 percent of Granville's land mass is covered in forest, offering one of the state's unusual "deep forest" environments for wildlife. More than 13,000 acres, almost half the total area of the town, is protected from development by various types of restrictions.

A large portion of the town, more than 9,000 acres, is owned by three surrounding cities, Westfield, Springfield and Hartford, all of which draw

water from Granville and maintain reservoirs and wooded watershed areas. It is often noted that Granville's primary product is water.

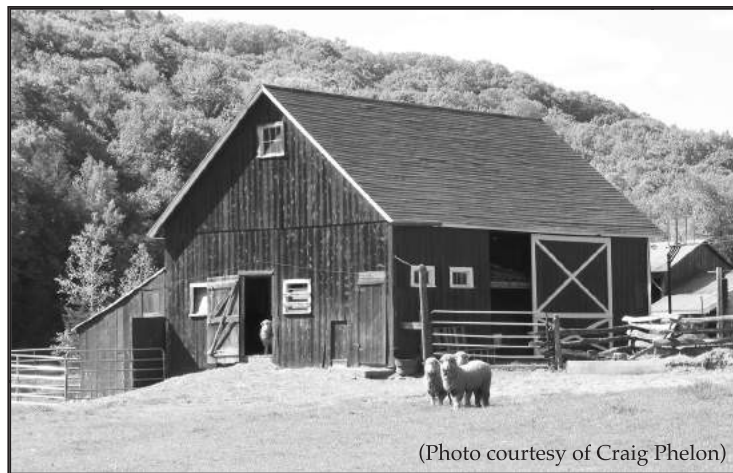
This is a mixed blessing for the town. It has secured an unusually large amount of undeveloped land with scenic views and natural habitat. However, much of this land is closed to public access

and the town's rich water resources have brought few economic benefits to its citizens. The three water districts make nominal payments to the town in lieu of taxes. Other types of business opportunities are limited partly by watershed concerns and partly by Granville's traditional

resistance to business development. This leaves residential taxpayers with the bulk of responsibility for supporting essential town services.

Even with large amounts of land taken out of the public domain, Granville is not immune to the same pressures for residential development that other towns face. Rapid economic growth in the nearby Hartford and Springfield metroplexes makes Granville a prime target for developers.

Through the Granville Open Space and Recreation Plan survey (which provided the basis for this report), most residents expressed a preference for the town to maintain its rural character and avoid



(Photo courtesy of Craig Phelon)

Scenes like this make Granville a pleasant place to live.

extensive residential development. In addition to studying the town's current assets and liabilities, the plan that follows weighs options and offers goals to help Granville negotiate the challenges that the town is likely to face in the near future. This Open Space

and Recreation plan is intended to help Granville control and channel the inevitable forces for change that come to all communities so that its residents can maintain the quality of life that they now value.



B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The foundation for this open space plan was laid in a series of efforts in the past by Granville citizens as they began to create a guide for the town's future. Besides an ongoing dialogue within the community, an understanding of the town's natural, cultural and economic resources was needed.

The first request for an inventory of Granville's natural resources was made in 1972 by the Granville Conservation Commission to the Hampden Conservation District. The scope and limitations of the inventory were established at a meeting of the Town Advisory Group, comprised of members of town boards, community organizations, and interested citizens. The resulting "Natural Resources Program of the Town of Granville, Massachusetts", was prepared by the Natural Resources Technical Team of Hampden County in conjunction with the Town Advisory Group in December of 1973. Aside from general background information on Granville's town facilities, agriculture, forestry, and wildlife, the document lists 71 specific sites in town for their potential open space and recreation use. Much of this

information has changed considerably over the past thirty years, but at least it was a good start.

Meanwhile, other efforts toward sound community development were underway. In the fall of 1987, Granville's Conservation Commission acted to reinforce the protection of water quality and other environmental resources where and when new homes were constructed in town. The Commission created the Building Approval Sheet which mandates on-site reviews during construction.



Granville recently remodeled its Town Hall.

In late 1987, the town's Conservation Commission members were willing to initiate the writing of an open space plan. Granville's Selectboard, on their behalf, applied for and received a grant from the Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Conservation Districts for financial and technical assistance. Though all intentions were to complete the plan within a year, as stipulated in the grant, the scope of the project eventually overwhelmed the Commission. As is typical of smaller communities with small staffs and overcommitted volunteers, work of this scope, realistically, takes an impressive amount of time. The

project was discontinued. However, foreseeing the possibility of the State to extend the upgrading and widening of Rt.57 west from Agawam to Southwick and potentially through Granville, an eleven-member team of town residents formed the Granville Survey and Planning Grant Committee in the fall of 1988. The Committee received funding through the Survey and Planning Grant Program of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to develop strategies for the broader protection of the town's historic resources. Granville's Historical Commission and its Planning Board worked together to consider the use of overlay zoning, historic districts, and scenic road designations. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was hired as a consultant to draft bylaws, guidelines, and support materials. Town goals, as defined at that time, by this project were:

- to retain open space and agricultural land;
 - to encourage development which is compatible with the town's historic character; and
 - to encourage new business to maintain a sense of rural character compatible with existing structures.
- (2)

The above project resulted in the delineation and posting of three National Register and Local Historic Districts along Rt.57, as it runs through the center of town.

In response to a burgeoning interest in the future of the community, a Long Range Planning Committee was formed in 1991. The major challenges the Committee listed which faced Granville were:

- monitoring the growth of the town when Rt. 57 is extended so that services are commensurate with increased population;
- protecting the environment so that our natural resources and rural atmosphere are maintained;
- increasing the number of participants in town government;
- generating additional tax base while maintaining the agricultural/residential status of the town; and
- implementing emergency services in these changing times.

Former town residents, John and Karen Mroz, arranged for a series of two-day workshops to be held at the Village School and conducted by David Allen of Insight Consulting Group of Los Angeles. The first two workshops, October, 1990, and January, 1991, were special management training programs in teamwork and productivity offered to all Granville boards, committees, and school staff. The third and fourth, entitled Vision 2020 (the fourth being conducted by Jane Johnston, a Business and Process Consultant from the AETNA company), were offered on March 16, and on May 11, 1991, to all town residents.

The Vision 2020 workshops helped townspeople formulate a vision of what Granville can and will be like in the future. Questionnaires to every Granville household were sent by the Long Range Planning Committee as a follow-up to the workshops to clarify further the intentions of the townspeople with respect to planning the community's future. Community consensus today seems to be consistent with that of ten years ago: that the 'rural' integrity of Granville is of paramount importance, and that enhancing the town's agricultural and small business economic base is crucial to maintaining its autonomy and to controlling growth. The Long Range Planning Committee, subsequent to the workshops, placed the following article in the June, 1991 issue of Granville's newspaper, "The Country Caller":

"Ideas were put forth that would foster controlled development and take advantage of the natural assets Granville has to offer. A hotel, health farm, or retirement complex would attract people who want to celebrate the beauty of Granville without being longterm residents. These businesses would create jobs, add to the tax base, and not overcrowd our school or make extreme demands on town services. A moderate flow of outsiders would benefit local artisans and businesses. Being positive about what we already have and promoting what Granville is right now is how we are going into the 21st Century."

There seemed to be strong agreement that the town must become more economically viable. Ironi-

cally, advancing business interest in Granville began to be perceived as a key to keeping the character of the town as it was. Generating money would give the town better control of planning measures to ensure that suburban sprawl and rampant commercialism would not dominate the landscape. In 1993 The Granville Business Association was formed, championing entrepreneurship consistent with the character of the rural community. In the years since, however, enthusiasm for the venture has become lukewarm. Town bylaws prohibiting business are still in place. The townspeople have yet to take that next step of revising the bylaws to encourage business consistent with the town's character.

A second attempt at writing a full-fledged Open Space Plan for the town was undertaken in 1997 by members of the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. By 1998 an incomplete rough draft had been formed. For reasons mentioned above, it too stalled and was shelved. However, much background work was accomplished, relevant parts of which were very helpful in the writing of this current plan.

A Chapter 61 Review Committee was formed in 1999 to oversee Chapters 61 and 61A land sales. The state of Massachusetts made available funds for land acquisition for communities which had completed Open Space and Recreation Plans. Motivation to forge a complete plan for Granville was high.

In the year 2000, the city of Springfield's Water and Sewer Commission, in their interest in protecting water quality in the region, urged the Town of Granville's Administrative Assistant, Kathryn Martin, to

apply for grant monies from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection towards Granville's open space protection strategies. A plan was already underway by the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to acquire land for bioreserves in the Cobble Mountain area of town. Along with properties in Quabbin Reservoir, and Mount Wachusett, Cobble Mountain Bioreserve Manage-

ment Plan was a product of that effort to protect water quality and provide controlled public access to these special sites. With an open space plan in hand, Granville could become a partner in the protection of these valuable stretches of forest land.

Kathryn obtained a grant approval in that same year of 2000 to provide for hazardous waste collection in town, and for the completion of an Open Space and Recreation Plan for Granville. To address the latter, a Committee was formed from town board members and other interested citizens, to reorganize, update, and rewrite all the town's past attempts at open space planning materials into a completed whole. Committee members

included: Doug Roberts, Rich Pierce, Leon & Joyce Ripley, Cindy Tavernise, James Weber, Craig Phelon, Gary LaFrance, Jessica MacKnight, Karen Walsh, Herb Hiers, and Rosy Campbell. With Cindy Tavernise as chair, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee met for the first time on July 11, 2001, and continued meeting generally on a weekly basis to guide and develop the planning process which resulted in this document.

Data gathering and analyses proved a daunting task. The Committee worked not only with Granville's town departments, but sought and received input from a variety of sources: The Pioneer



A sign in Granville Citizen's Park (the Town Green) welcomes visitors.

Valley Planning Department, The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts' Fish and Wildlife Department, MASSGIS, the Earth Science Information Office at the Univ. of Massachusetts, Farmington River Watershed Association, the Massachusetts' Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, The City of Westfield's Water Department, The City of Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, and The Highland Communities Initiative.

An Open Space Survey, including questions about demographics, community development, recreation, and economics, was distributed to all 570 Granville households in January, 2002 (see Appendix B). A total of 127 were returned, for a 23% response. A second survey was created for and distributed to Granville's school children. From the survey results, the committee gained insight into citizens' preferences for how to best capitalize on open space opportunities and how

Granville should move forward as a community into the future. In early 2003, the Committee held a well-advertised series of three Public Forums at the Granville Village School to engage the community further on their thoughts and questions about open space. Discussions followed presentations, with supplemental slides and maps, of the community's setting, natural resources, current land uses, and a draft of open space goals and objectives as guided

by the town survey. Public comments and concerns have been integrated into this plan.

Maps were generated by hand by the committee from US Geological Survey topographical maps and other maps, including aerial photography, supplied by the Pioneer

Valley Planning Commission. All illustrations are courtesy of Committee members or other interested Granville residents.



The Granville Country Store sells its own brand of cheddar cheese.

Footnotes:

2. pg.1, *Preserving Granville: An Historic Resource Protection Manual*. Pioneer Valley Planning commission. July 1989.



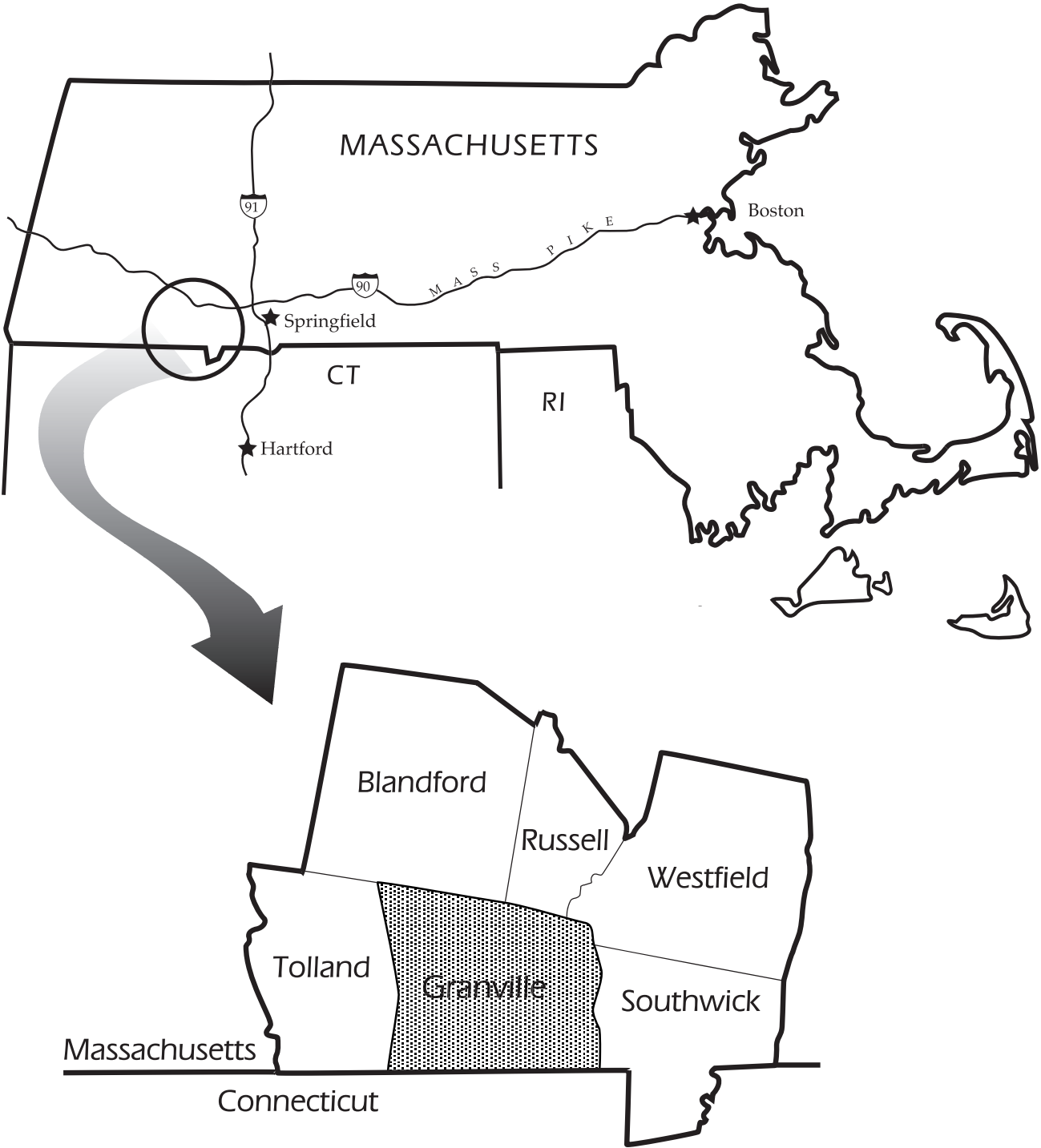
~ Section 3 ~
COMMUNITY SETTING



*Cobble Mountain Reservoir overlies the towns of
Granville, Russell and Blandford*

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Granville's Regional Context



11 x 17
Zoning Map

Section 3 — COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

"Quite scenic, but not really out there." (Granville 6th grader describing the town)

Granville, located in southwestern Massachusetts in the eastern-most foothills of the Berkshire Mountain Range, shares topographical features with a broad band of rural Massachusetts towns to the north and northwest commonly known as Berkshire Hilltowns. Route 57, the main east-west road through the center of Granville, links urban centers in the Connecticut River Valley to the east with hilltowns to the west. CT route 189 intersects route 57 in the eastern sector of town and provides convenient access to Hartford. Granville's ample water resources supply drinking water to the municipalities of Hartford, Westfield, and Springfield, which in turn sell the water to other systems. Numerous reservoirs, mountain streams surrounded by wild blueberries, and apple orchards distinguish Granville from other hilltowns in the region.

Granville lies within Hampden County, on the Connecticut state line, about 20 miles west of Springfield and 25 miles northwest of Hartford, Connecticut. Five communities frame its borders; Blandford and Russell to the north, Westfield to the northeast, Southwick to the east, Tolland to the west, and Granby, Connecticut to the south. It is a relatively sizeable hilltown, occupying 27,563.4 acres, or 43 square miles (Town of Granville Assessor Records) of predominantly forest-covered land. Its dramatic topography contrasts starkly with the gentler terrain of the Connecticut River Valley nearby. The rugged landscape affords a variety of recreational opportunities, making it a frequent



Small family farms and orchards are Granville's heritage.

destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Massachusetts is the third most densely-populated state in the country. The rarity of large unbroken tracts of rural landscapes in western Massachusetts is the reason why the lower Berkshire countryside is often referred to in terms

such as: "endangered species," "rural islands," "corridor of escape," "green space," "quiet zone", "spiritual recharge area," or "little Vermont."

Granville citizens have traditionally maintained control over the education of their children. With the exception of the town of Rowe, Granville is the only Massachusetts community with a population of 1500 west of Worcester which operates its

Section 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

own school system. The other 36 highland communities of western Massachusetts belong to some type of school region for part of their childrens' education. Granville residents view themselves as independent. Granville, having three times failed to vote to join, is not part of the regional school district of Southwick/Tolland. School children here attend grades one through eight in town. The ninth through twelfth grade students are tuitioned-out to a regional high school in Southwick.

Zoned only for agricultural and residential uses, Granville is still a thriving center for potters, visual artists, writers, quilters, antique dealers, and other home-based enterprises. Historic architecture dating back to the early 1800's, brilliant fall foliage, an excellent school system, cultural events, and Granville-aged cheddar cheese are only a few of the distinctive qualities that make the community unique and attractive.

There are two major watersheds in Granville. The Farmington River watershed flows to the south and the Westfield River watershed flows to the north and east. Variations in elevation along with an ample supply of water has resulted in Granville becoming a major drinking water source for the surrounding cities of Springfield, Westfield, and Hartford. According to the year 2000 Census figures, for every one person residing within its borders, Granville provides drinking water to over 500 others beyond its borders. Beginning in 1899, reservoirs were constructed in isolated valleys and glacial kettles. To date, the three metropolitan areas mentioned, in efforts to secure future drinking water supplies for their residents, have purchased approximately a third of Granville's total land base. One might consider this to be a positive step toward preserving open

space, however these acquisitions do come with drawbacks for the local residents.

Of the 9,117.5 acres (Town Assessor Records) owned collectively by the three cities, none is open to the public. Access to these areas has been historically restricted in an effort to preserve water quality. Efforts were being explored by the city of Springfield in association with the state of Massachusetts, to allow access to portions of the land, but the project fell to the latest state budget axe, and security concerns about Cobble Mountain Dam since September, 2001 have led to stricter access controls. Tax revenues from these properties are of minimum economic benefit to the town, but, on the other hand, development is prohibited.

Meanwhile, local residents rely primarily on private wells and springs. A small number of resi-

dents receive their water from a private water system in Granville Center. There are no public sewer facilities in town. Water quality is a concern to those who live in Granville and in surrounding communities.

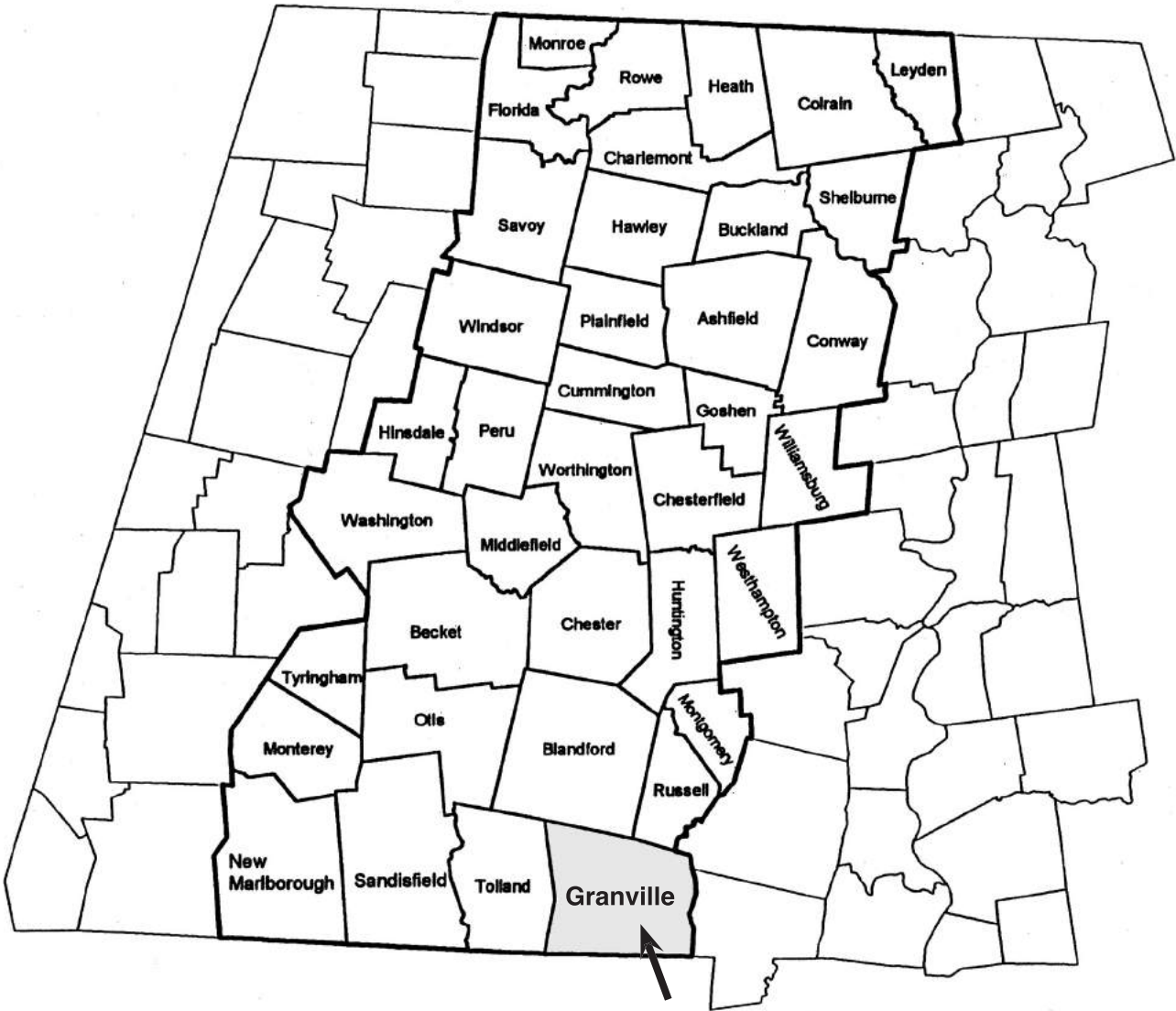
Despite the common natural resource base, western Massachusetts

lacks a unifying political structure. Cooperative ventures among the towns have been fragmented at best. Aside from mutual agreement for emergency services, few resources are shared. Granville, is, however, a participant in the recently formed Highland Communities Initiative (HCI). The HCI is a grant-funded program to promote land conservation and community preservation efforts in rural western Massachusetts. The organization seeks to encourage conservation of the natural and cultural landscapes of the "Highlands" Region of the 38 contiguous towns which lie between the Housatonic



Children attend the Granville Village School from grades first through eighth. The town is not part of a regional school district.

Highland Communities Initiative Region Map



Section 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

and Connecticut River Valleys, and the Vermont and Connecticut state borders. Granville is also working with the Pioneer Valley



Planning Commission to develop long-range goals to preserve the quality of life desired by its citizens.

The Granville Public Library is a fine example of Romanesque Revival style architecture.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

Until recently, rugged topography, thin stony soils, and distance to major economic centers were obstacles to development in the town's history. With the advent of the automobile and technological advances in farming practices and proper waste disposal, this all changed. Granville's quiet rural setting, excellent quality of life, and relative proximity to urban centers make it an attractive place to live, especially to those individuals who routinely commute moderate to long distances to work.

Granville's zoning Bylaws have historically been difficult to modify. Since adapted in 1966, the zoning Bylaws have been modified only three times. The last zoning Bylaw revision was in 1993.

A third of Granville is owned by municipalities outside of town. Granville citizens do not have access to much of this land for recreational purposes, and receive minimal economic benefits from its low tax revenue.

Political unity in western Massachusetts is a key factor in achievement of long-range planning goals that preserve the quality of life and rural character of Granville and other hilltowns.



B. History of the Community

(Note: A more detailed version of Granville's early history may be found in Appendix I.)

I would not change ... "the library, because it is very old."

(Granville 5th-grader response on the Children's Open Space Survey, Spring 2002)

Within the span of the 18th Century, Granville rose from a community of subsistence farming to a thriving commercial center. In 1810, a sizable faction split and moved westward to form Granville, Ohio. In the same year, the town lost 18,000 acres and about one third of its population when the Parish of West Granville was incorporated as the town of Tolland. Farming declined when the railroads opened up the more fertile lands in the Midwest. Small farms eventually folded as the Industrial Revolution drew workers to the cities. The early 20th Century was marked by displacement of scores of inhabitants due to the purchase of significant tracts of Granville land as watershed property for the cities of Westfield, Springfield and Hartford. Today Granville is predominantly a bedroom community, although there are still a scattering of family farms, orchards, light-industry, and home-based industries. The transition from an agricultural to residential community is on-going.

Before the early 1600's, the hill country wilderness west of present day Westfield and Southwick had been occupied, apparently only seasonally, by Native Americans as hunting and fishing grounds. In the summer of 1686, a six square-mile parcel of that wilderness was purchased from a Poquonnoc Indian chief by the name of Toto for, as legend has it, "a gun and sixteen brass buttons."⁽³⁾ Nearly half a century later, Bedford Plantation, as the land came to be called, had been divided and deeded out to about 40 proprietors. By 1735, Bedford's first settler had arrived. In 1738, to encourage settlement, the proprietors offered "100 acres to any family who would come there and live, build a Dwelling House, and 'have Six Acres of Land brought to, and Plowed



The West Granville Cemetery has graves dating as far back as the French & Indian Wars.

or brought to English Grass and Fitted for Mowing..."⁽⁴⁾ Settlers came, mostly farmers. The original land survey document, still in existence, indicates the total land area as 42,532 acres, bounded by the Farmington River to the west; by Simsbury, Connecticut to the south; Loudon (now Otis) and Glasgow

(now Blandford) to the north; and Woronoake (now Westfield and Southwick) to the north and east.

When Bedford was incorporated in 1754, its name was changed to Granville since a town in eastern Massachusetts was already named Bedford. As time passed, three distinct settlements evolved within Granville: the area east of Valley Brook; the area of present day West Granville; and the far western area, today's town of Tolland. Due to the steep terrain

Section 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

between these areas, each settlement was somewhat isolated and therefore developed independently. Major north-south roads were established in each of these centers. As Granville grew, political pressures mounted and taxes had to be collected to provide road improvements and other necessary services. With or without proprietors, the self-reliant settlers began to govern themselves. Despite the difficulties presented by the rugged landscape, farmers prevailed and Granville prospered.

Early Granville industries included wheelwrights, cobblers, tanners, blacksmiths, and coopers. Though each of the three settlements had its own meeting house, schools, store, and taverns, the center of social, religious and political activities, until the late 19th Century, was west of Valley Brook, in the present West Granville.

The first provision for public schooling on record was made in 1762. A number of school districts were set up and remained in effect until well into the 1800's. It wasn't until 1990 that all the schools were consolidated into one building, the Granville Village School on Main Road in the eastern section of town. Granville citizens have put great emphasis on education of their youngsters, producing a number of prominent lawyers, statesmen, physicians, writers, educators, politicians and spiritual leaders.

In 1810, a sizeable faction of citizens formed its own church and migrated to more fertile farm lands in the Midwest. There they founded the city of Granville, Ohio. In the same year 18,000 acres of Granville were incorporated as the town of Tolland. Despite the loss of population, the town continued to prosper. Mills were a considerable force in the town's economy. Due to the abundance of water power in the eastern part of town, the balance of socio-economic influence shifted from west to east

by the latter half of the 19th Century. In addition to the mills, there were 11 cooper shops, numerous blacksmith shops, a brickyard, cobblers, tanners, a haberdasher, wheelwrights, and a maker of spectacles. In 1851, a general store was established in Granville Village. The Granville Country Store still accommodates the needs of residents and travelers alike.

Silas Noble and James Cooley began manufacturing drums in 1854 on the banks of Dickinson Brook. With a high demand for military drums during the Civil War, the business became very successful, employing 60 workers and contributing to the shift of social power from west to east in town. One hundred and fifty years later, it is still in operation. In the 1950's it was described as being "the oldest and largest manufacturer of toy drums in the world" (5). After the Civil War, many young men migrated

to the cities where The Industrial Revolution had created more lucrative jobs. Although no steel tracks were cut through Granville, the advent of the railroads greatly affected local residents. Small scale farming declined as the railroads opened up the Midwest. Larger expanses of flat, fertile land, coupled with

more efficient transportation methods made farming more profitable elsewhere. The proximity of the railroad in Westfield, however, contributed in part to the economic success of business in the eastern section of Granville.

By the end of the 1800's the City of Westfield needed more water for its citizens. In 1899, the city purchased over 3000 acres of watershed land in the northeast quadrant of Granville and built Winchell and Japhet Reservoirs on Tillotson and Japhet Brooks. The City of Springfield followed suit and bought 2,236 acres of land in the north of Granville to construct the larger Reservoirs of Borden Brook and Cobble Mountain between the years of 1907



The Aaron Curtiss House, 1765, was once a tavern.

and 1932. Borden Brook Reservoir was first used in Dec. 1909, while Cobble Mountain Reservoir became fully operational in 1934. In 1928, Westfield constructed the Granville Reservoir, which drains the Bancroft and Tilotson Brooks and occupies almost 80 acres of land. A third major purchase of watershed rights was made by the City of Hartford, Connecticut. In the 1920's, Hartford began to purchase watershed land in the southwest quadrant of town to protect the Hubbard River, which empties into Connecticut's Barkhamsted Reservoir. Today those purchases total 2,959 acres. Many farms and buildings were razed in the process and citizens were displaced from these watershed lands. The forests, once felled for settlement, began to regenerate.

"Unrolling a 1914 map of the town, we stopped at every cellar hole and stone slab steps leading to imaginary front doorways. Trees grew like columns out of the parlors of the past. We brushed leaves from rusted farm equipment and horse gear to make out their functions. Old buggy wheels, leaning against trees, had rotted away leaving just the rims. But it was the names on the maps that got me. Here's Mary's house....here's Nellie's. Whole neighborhoods then. Only ghosts now. Entire lives were spent carefully building the barn foundation walls that loggers later indiscriminately trashed. What would it be worth to save these treasures? ...This was not a place

which evolved from cabin to shopping center. Like Anasazi ruins, it seemed to go backward in time." (Granville citizen while researching this Open Space project, 2002)



Noble and Cooley Company manufactured military drums which were used during the Civil War.



A cellar hole in watershed land was the center of a lively farm less than a century ago.

Electricity came to town in 1926. Paved roads and automobiles created a mobile and affluent society which was less economically dependent upon its own land. Nevertheless, most families in town, especially in West Granville, farmed the land up until the 1960's. During the economic and population fluctuations of the 19th and early 20th Centuries, there were a number of local farmers who managed to keep intact large tracts of their land throughout the generations. Much credit for the preservation of Granville's rural character is due to their foresight and pride in their land.

"We know enough of history by now to be aware that people

exploit what they have merely concluded to be of value, but they defend what they love." (Wendell Berry)

The World Wars reshaped the nation's economy as factories shifted products for the war efforts and experimented with new technologies. During the decades following the wars, not only Noble & Cooley of Granville, but Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford and the Armory in Springfield, employed a sizeable number of Granville people. State funding rebuilt a number of Granville roads washed out during the 1955 hurricane floods. With improved

roads, the town became more accessible to those living in urban areas, resulting in external pressure for growth and development.

By the 1970's, Granville was making a notable shift from an active agricultural community to a 'bed-room' community. This transition is ongoing. Small home-based businesses have burgeoned due in part to the 1981 Quilt Show and Sale in Granville. The highly publicized and well-attended show



Granville's October Harvest Fair has been an annual area attraction for the past 21 years.

became the precedent for the town's annual October Harvest Fair, where, for the past 21 years, locally produced goods & crafts are sold to regional crowds. The transition away from agriculture, however, without protective zoning measures or a town planning guide in place, is risky. This, unless ad-

dressed adequately, will lead to unwanted sprawl and substantial changes to the rural character of the town.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

The early settlers of Granville were a self reliant and tenacious people who preferred to govern themselves in the hilly, rock-strewn terrain west of the Connecticut River Valley. Their industriousness and skillful use of natural resources yielded early commercial successes and a blossoming population in three distinct settlements.

A significant number of historic built-structures still stand in Granville today and are listed in the National Register of Historic Districts.

Despite Granville's close proximity to urban centers, three major factors have kept it a rural landscape:

- **Acquisition of large tracts of land for watershed protection by three adjacent metropolitan areas,**
- **The relative inaccessibility of the landscape before the advent of the automobile, and**
- **Preservation of larger family farms through the generations.**

Today, pressure for development becomes ever more apparent as many workers are willing to commute greater distances from home to urban jobs, and many of those people prefer to live in the country.

Footnotes:

3. p.1082, History of the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts Vol II, Louis Everts, 1879. J.B.Lippincott & Co. Philadelphia.

4. p.296, Mass Archives, Town Series, Records of the Governor and Councils, Vol.114.

5. p.278, Wilson, Albion B. History of Granville, Massachusetts Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA. 1954.



C. Population Characteristics

*"Even though it's almost impossible to keep it small, I think we should try."
(Granville 7th-grader response when asked about what not to change about Granville,
on the Children's Open Space Survey, spring 2002)*

Though data reflects population swells and ebbs over the centuries, Granville currently is growing. The present population is over 1,500, up 51% from the 1970 level.

The first fifty years of Granville's history were marked by a dramatic increase in population. (See Historical Population Graph in this Section) The first Provincial Census, conducted in 1765, recorded 682 residents. Less than fifty years later, in 1800, Granville's population more than tripled and reached an all-time high of 2,309 residents. At that time, the town was characterized by a booming economy boasting a wide range of agricultural and commercial businesses and many civic and religious organizations. Within the next ten years, however, Granville lost more than 800 residents when many migrated to Ohio and when 18,000 acres of Granville land became incorporated into the Town of Tolland.

Over the next 110 years, reflecting the general decline of farming in New England and the exodus of workers from rural to urban centers, Granville's population continued to decline as well, except for marginal increases during the 1820's and during the decade prior to the Civil War. By 1920, the number of residents reached



Residents gather on the Town Green for Memorial Day Services.

an all-time low of 655. Then the advent of the automobile and the upsurge in economy during and after World War II brought a more mobile and prosperous citizenry to the 'hills'. In the last fifty years, Granville's population has more than doubled.

At the end of 2000, 1,521 permanent residents lived in Granville, marking an 8.4% increase in population from 1990. With an area of 43 sq. miles, the average number of people per square mile is 36. In comparison, the adjacent towns of Southwick and Westfield to the east and northeast have population densities of 285 and 860 residents per square mile, respectively. The town of Russell, to the north has 94; Blandford to the northwest has 23; and Tolland, to the west, only 13 residents per square mile. Population concentrations in Granville lie primarily along the main east/west State Route 57, in three areas: Granville Village to the east, Granville Center, and West Granville. The remaining population is sparsely scattered along established secondary roads.

Section 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

U.S. Census Bureau data from the year 2000 indicates that most people in Granville are of Caucasian European ancestry, with a small minority 1% of another ethnicity or race. School-age youngsters (5-19) comprise 23% of the population; preschoolers under the age of five, 6%; and seniors 65 years and older, 11%. The median age is 39 years, with the vast majority of residents, nearly 62%, between the age of 18 and 65. Only 3% of these are college-aged residents, ages 20 to 24. Half of those within the range of 18 and 65 are represented by younger adults between the ages of 25 to 44.

Granville residents are employed in virtually every sector of the economy (See Table Below).

There is very little commerce or industry in Granville itself. According to the 2000 census, the labor force consisted of 873 workers (aged 16 or older), of whom 5.6% were unemployed. About 91% of these workers commuted to work, most to surrounding urban centers. The mean travel time to work was about 30 minutes. Forty seven people indicated that they worked at home, and 34 were involved in agriculture or forestry. Granville has at

Granville Residents' Professions

<i>Job Types</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining _____	34	4.1
Construction _____	56	6.8
Manufacturing _____	160	19.4
Wholesale Trade _____	14	1.7
Retail Trade _____	90	10.9
Transportation and warehousing, and Utilities _____	73	8.9
Information _____	28	3.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental & leasing _____	55	6.7
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative _____	44	5.3
Educational, health, and social service _____	150	18.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food service _____	51	6.2
Other services _____	37	4.5
Public Administration _____	32	3.9

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2000

least 5% of its workforce who "worked at home" or 10% who were self-employed (in own incorporated business), or both according to the 2000 Census. These levels are 50% greater than the U.S. average. These self-employed entrepreneurs operating small businesses in town are sometimes called 'hidden tech.' (6) The enterprises are operated often by one or two individuals from a home base. Their support staff, generally part-time or subcontractors may be located anywhere in the world. High-speed Internet access has been available in Granville for over ten years. Cable television coverage was provided town-wide almost fifteen years ago.

Of the population 25 years or older, 92% had graduated from high school or higher, and 31% held bachelor's degrees or higher. According to the 2000 census, the median household income was \$53,000, and 3.4% of Granville residents lived below the poverty level, as contrasted with 9.3% state-wide. (7)

In the year 2000 there were 595 housing units in Granville. 556 were single family detached houses and, of these, relatively few, roughly 50 (according to town records), were rental units. There were 39 vacant housing units, of which 17 were for seasonal or recreational use only. A third of the homes in town were built before 1940. Within the past ten years,

there have been 73 new homes built, a growth rate of about 14% from 1990. The median value of a home in Granville in 2000 was \$142,300. The number of children enrolled in school in town in 1990 was 197. Today, in 2003, the enrollment is 232.



Left: Some small family businesses have become regionally popular.

Above: Hiking is a favorite outdoor activity in town.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

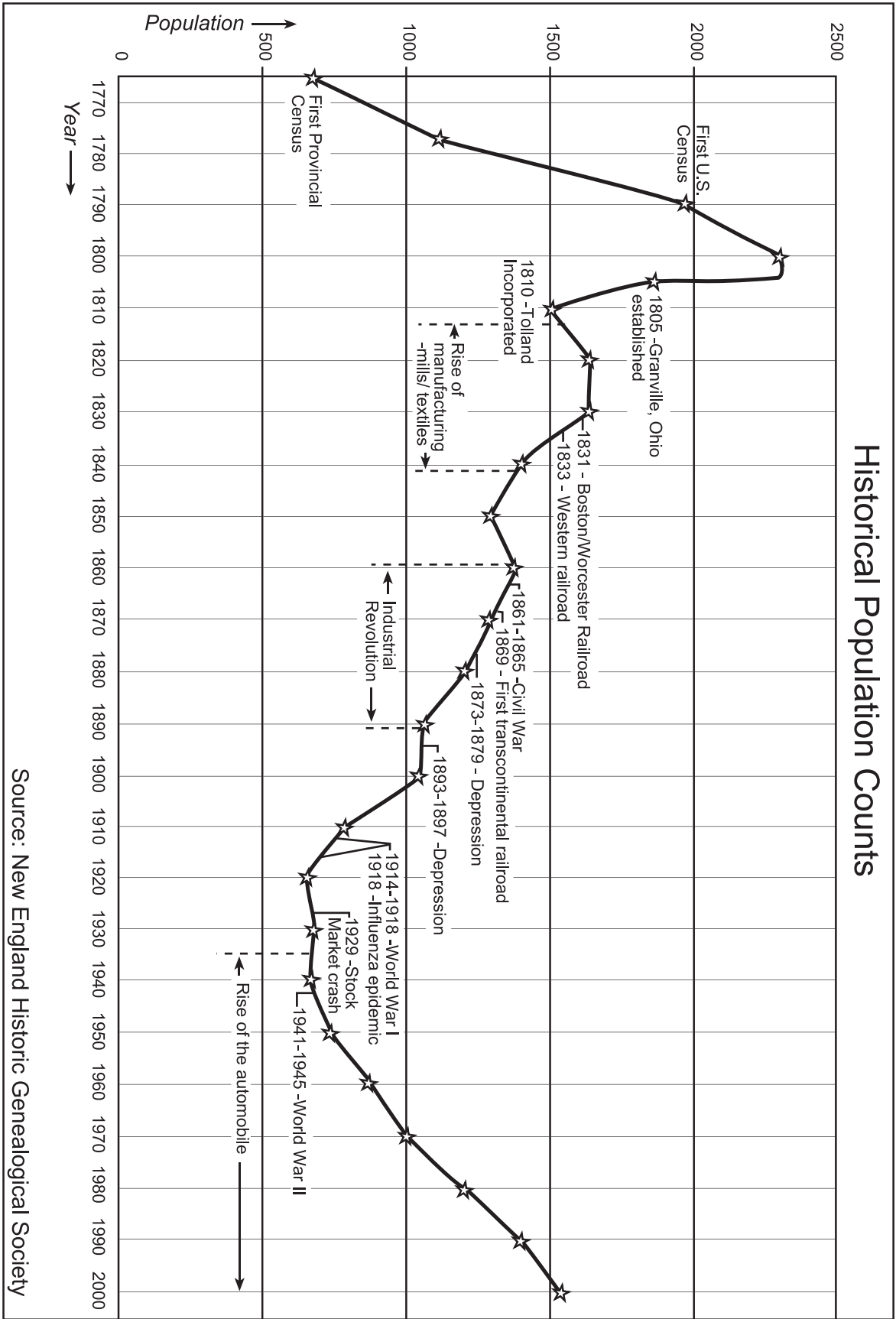
- The steadily increasing population in Granville reflects the national trend, within the past half-century, of a gradual shift in demographics from dense urban centers outwardly to more rural locations. This raises the challenge for communities such as Granville to accommodate growth while maintaining the very qualities of life which newcomers move to Granville for in the first place.
- Children in Granville under the age of 19 comprise well over a quarter of the population, yet, all organized outdoor sports are played outside of town. Granville does not have a regulation ballfield, swimming pool, or iceskating rink.
- With the median age almost 40, opportunities for more passive recreational activities such as swimming or hiking may need to be accommodated in the next few decades.
- Granville supports a growing population of self-employed entrepreneurs.
- Technical advances may become more important to long-term economic growth than transportation.

Footnotes:

6. p.8, *Western Massachusetts Economic Review* 2003. Western Massachusetts Electric Company. Pub. by Economic & Community Development Department. West Springfield, MA..

7. 50 *Socio-Economic Indicators from the 2000 Census as prepared by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission*, Oct. 2002.





D. Growth and Development Patterns

".....places are the contexts of human life and in some manner are themselves alive, for they grow, change and decline with the individuals and groups who maintain or ignore them." (Edward Relph) (8)

Granville is growing slowly, but steadily. Because of Granville's Zoning Bylaw road frontage requirements, residential development occurs along existing roadways, sometimes affecting scenic views of the land. There are no allowances for the establishment of industrial or commercial properties beyond those few already existing. Potential costs of town services such as highway maintenance could lead to financial quagmires with respect to development issues. Extensive municipal watershed properties as protected land, hold residential growth in check to a degree, but revenues from them are inadequate for the town's financial needs.

Overview · · ·

Granville was originally settled in three centers along the early east/west route (the current State Rt. 57) as it was cut westward through the center of Bedford Plantation. Secondary north/south routes were also established which connected to this original passage. Farms were carved out of the forests along these secondary roads as well, but in more scattered patterns than in the denser village centers of West Granville, Granville Center, and Granville Village.

There was a decline in the agricultural and commercial economy in town after the Civil War. At the turn of the last century, the purchase of major watershed lands by Springfield, Westfield, and Hartford added to this decline. As a result, many of the feeder roads which linked Granville



State Route 57 in Granville Center joins east to west.

with other towns north and south, and even one part of Granville to the other, were abandoned. Where farming neighborhoods once thrived, particularly in the northeast quadrant of town, cellar holes and abandoned roads are all that remain. A few homesteads and roads to

surrounding communities were submerged under the waters of Borden Brook, Granville, and Cobble Mountain Reservoirs.

During the post-Civil War era, the Connecticut River Valley's economic base shifted from agriculture to manufacturing and industry. The towns and cities surrounding Granville transformed themselves from trading markets for local farmers to urbanized factory towns. But there was very little burgeoning of industry in Granville. No railroad was ever built through town. One

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in nearby Westfield was enough of an access to outside markets that some commerce did flourish, including the businesses of Noble & Cooley Drum Shop and the Granville Country Store, both still in operation today. Yet, despite the dramatic fluctuations of population and economy in Granville throughout its history, the three distinct neighborhood districts remain today, each organized around its own central meeting space, or 'green'.

Today, distance to the workplace, or the necessity of having close neighbors for survival, are no longer major obstacles to where one might build. Rather than new homes being constructed within the existing village clusters, Granville's current zoning system allows a more scattered pattern of built structures across the land. Today, a build-up of new homes is predominant in West Granville along Crest Lane, North Lane, and Beech Hill Roads.

Large farm properties are increasingly vulnerable to division and sale as residential lots, and few relics of Granville's agricultural heritage survive. Small dairy farms, as typical in many parts of New England, cannot survive the economics of scale. The small tree fruit commercial enterprises in town are dwindling. The challenge is for Granville residents to meet the high standard of land stewardship they inherited.

Granville is part of the four-county western

Massachusetts region of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties, an area of 2,780 square miles, 101 cities and towns, and 818,000 people. It is also included within the

Pioneer Valley Region, comprised of 43 cities and towns of Hampshire and Hampden Counties. Population within the region as a whole will experience fairly slow growth. No community in the greater region is projected to experience more than 0.7% average yearly rate of growth, according to The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission 2003 figures. (9)

Building permit numbers issued in Granville have fluctuated over the years. Between 1986 and 1989, the number averaged 11.25 per year. Yet, in the decade of the 1990's, an average of 6.2 were issued per year, and between 2000 and

2003, 7 per year. While Granville grew by only 8.4% over the last decade, similar hilltowns such as Tolland, Otis, and Sandisfield grew by more than 30%. Population projections for Granville over the next thirty years are for a 3.1% increase; Tolland, a 15% increase; while Blandford and Montgomery may actually experience an overall decrease in population. At the same time, if projections are correct, the number of households will increase at more than three times the rate of population increase. Between 2000 and 2030, the number of households in Granville is projected to increase by 27.6% to over 700 households (10).



Borden Brook Reservoir is surrounded by trees.

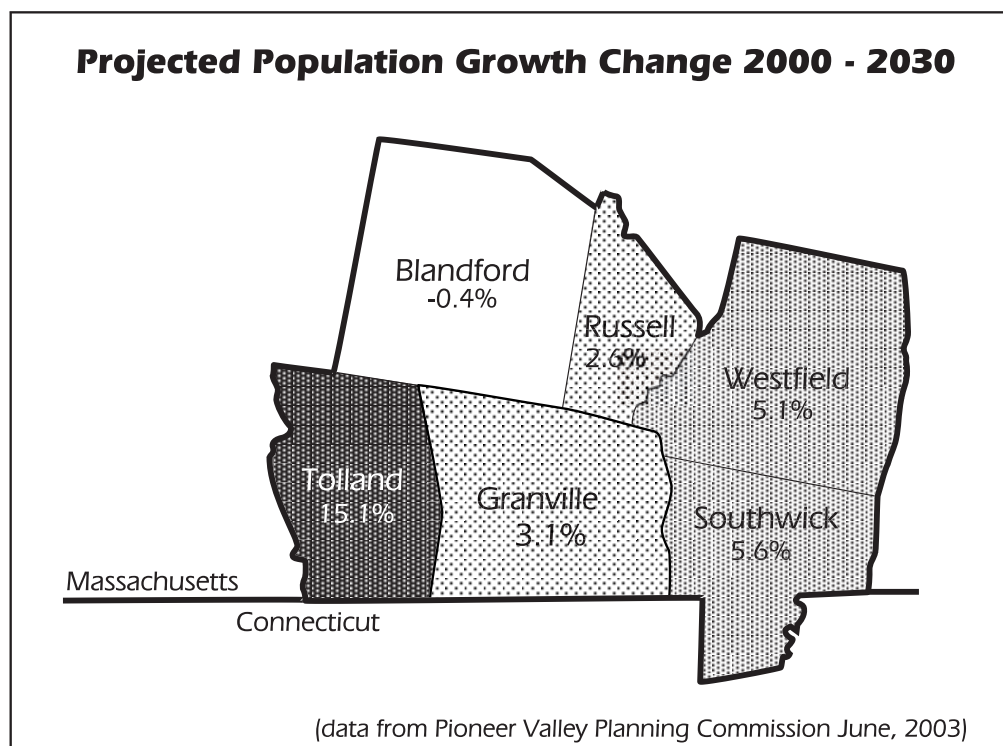


Granville Bounty...baskets of orchard fruit

Employment figures of the regions suggest a 6.7% increase between the years 2000 and 2015, and then a 6.6% decrease between 2015 and 2030, based upon age and sex of the workforce.

Granville's zoning system, which encourages residential development, and the proximity to major employment centers make the town an ideal candidate for residential growth. The lack of public water and sewer systems tends to slow household growth as does the aggressive purchas-

ing policies of both Westfield and Springfield Water companies, which have acquired substantial new acreage in Granville over the last few years (see Section 5). On the other hand, what land is available for development will carry a premium price because of its scarcity and the pressure for household growth. Future pressure for development may be brought by a proposed upgrade in Rte 57 from two-lane to four-lane into the town of Southwick in the next few years.



Infrastructure Roads . . .

"These Hilltowns are strangling themselves in the mire of not planning." (Granville resident)

There are roughly 80 miles (160 lane miles) of maintained roads in Granville. Of these are two state numbered roads. Massachusetts Route 57, the main corridor from Springfield, runs 9 miles east/west from Southwick to Tolland, and carries commuter, commercial, and substantial weekend recreation traffic. Its course evolved along with the major historic settlement patterns in town. Connecticut Route 189 joins 57 in Granville Village, carrying a

portion of the traffic south to Granby, Connecticut and to Hartford. The well-travelled Old Westfield Road connects Rt. 57 with Westfield to the north, from Granville Village. The remainder of the road network are secondary roads that are a combination of asphalt, chip seal, crushed stone and gravel travel surfaces. Most run north and south, for the most part along the higher ridges. Numerous old abandoned roads criss-cross the woodlands.

Over 70% of Granville's workforce commute to work (11). Within the past ten years, growing communities west of Granville, such as Tolland, have added to the increasing volume of traffic. For

Section 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

a community such as Granville, roads are critical issues for its future development. Roadways and development go hand-in-hand, since current town Zoning Bylaws dictate that building lots have at least 200 feet of road frontage. The legal status and maintenance costs of roads are so complex, and so interwoven into the town's financial health into the future, that they deserve prime attention in this report.

The Granville Selectboard, acting in their capacity as road commissioners, have adopted a Road System Management program in order to optimize the timing and treatment for the most cost-effective approach to surface management. The goal is to maintain travel surfaces to a high standard to allow for safe travel and also to avoid expensive reconstruction treatments.

The process of road layout and construction techniques spans the ages. In most cases, especially on secondary roads, the subbase configuration and drainage systems are inadequate for the current traffic volume and stress from commercial traffic.

Because of these factors, some roads such as Regan Road, Crest Lane, Wildcat Road, West Hartland Road, and McCarthy Road, have been reclaimed to their full depth and reshaped with a crushed stone surface. Paving them would result in a short-lived and ultimately failed surface treatment. It has been determined that for low-volume roads it is more efficient to maintain a crushed stone surface than to maintain asphalt on a flawed subbase. Therefore Granville has more miles of gravel roads now than it did 20 years ago.

The political elements of the debate concerning gravel roads vs. asphalt roads are often the

"Mason-Dixon Line" for the rural experience. For some, traveling or living on a gravel road is quintessential New England, like an eloquent line from one of Frost's poems, revered like autumn's colors and the first hints of spring. For others, gravel roads are a nuisance. They are muddy in the spring, dusty in the summer, and treacherous in the winter. Some believe that gravel roads decrease property values, and are tangible proof of the inadequacy of local government to accomplish a minimum level of accountability. When a road is converted from a paved surface to gravel, the superficial conclusion is that a giant step backward has been taken.

The practical middle ground lies in the dependent variables of the budget, applied engineering and use patterns. Despite significant construction



Sullivan Road, on watershed land, is one of many former roadways now inaccessible to the public.

and maintenance costs, gravel roads, if constructed and maintained correctly, with attention given to a durable travel surface in all seasons, are appropriate for low volume areas and are a logical option. Critical for residential acceptance and for the long-term quality of the travel surface, gravel

roads require specific winter plowing strategies, subbase attention where chronic spring mud is an issue, dust control and stabilization. Asphalt roads need efficient drainage, aggressive profile and frequent overlays, and, when reconstructed, must be laid down on a stable, compacted, well-drained base.

If maintained gravel roads are the "Mason-Dixon Line", then unmaintained roads are the Gettysburg of the rural experience. Nothing fires up a discussion in town more than the subject of unmaintained roads. Unmaintained roads and their specific legal status are a complex combination of conflicting legal issues, local traditions, and zoning

regulations. Most roads were abandoned because they no longer served the common good.

The confusion is compounded by the layers of overlapping authority and evolving perceptions of the role of local government to re-establish road maintenance services on long-abandoned roads. Until a road is legally “discontinued”, it remains a public right-of-way.

One of the fundamental problems is that the origin of and responsibility for some local roads is shared between the state and local government. The former Hampden County was also involved as a road-owning authority. After it was abolished in 1998, the county’s interests were transferred to DCAM (Department of Capitol Asset Management), a state agency, which has only clouded the issues concerning the line of authority and responsibility.

Some landowners reason that property with frontage along unmaintained roads is subject to development as Approval Not Required (ANR) property. This position is based upon the idea that because they have paid past taxes on the property, they are entitled benefits extended into the future. Therefore, they reason, the town should improve and maintain these roads as soon as building permits are secured, regardless of the cost and the long-past logic for abandonment.

In fact, there is town precedent for the granting of building permits on unmaintained roads; ie: Trumble Lane, Wendy’s Road, Farnum Road, portions of Beech Hill Road, North Lane (section north of Phelon Road), Lover’s Lane, etc. Some taxpayers see them as single purpose driveways maintained forever at the taxpayer’s expense.

In practice, Granville has repaired and maintained formerly unmaintained ways at enormous costs, as they have been developed. Justification for this maintenance is rooted in a sense of responsibility to new residents and their needs to be provided with services, although recently, this trend was challenged by the purchase of Wendy’s Road and the denial of ANRs on two non-maintained ways.

The costs of increasing the town’s network of maintained roads to provide access for residential development has not been calculated. A Build-Out Analysis, compiled by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and available on the mass.gov website, explores the environmental and economic impact of maximum development

permissible under the town’s existing zoning. (In this section see Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s Map 3: Composite Development and Partial Constraints, in which the middle-gray areas represent future developable land) The analysis articulates the financial dilemma

of unbalanced residential development on currently maintained roads. It is logical to conclude that if the expense of new road construction and maintenance are factored into the cost stream, the results are compounded.

This issue is far from settled and will perplex the leadership and citizens of Granville for a long time. One option may be for the town to offer to buy conservation restrictions (legal agreements between landowners and conservation organizations which permanently protects property from development) from landowners who have property on unmaintained roads. This approach could simultaneously



Sugar maple trees line a Granville country road.

*Composite
Development Map
.pdf*

be respectful of landowners' interests and prevent subdivisions built at the taxpayers' expense.

One important element of the character and look of Granville is its tree-lined streets. The declining maple trees are of special concern and in desperate need of replanting. Care is given to all street trees in the pruning process to attempt to promote tree health without compromising sight-lines. In order to give appropriate consideration to the visual aspects of highway design, construction and maintenance, Granville's Highway Department has adopted the principles articulated in the Vermont Highway Design Manual.

Economies are based on roadways as connections from home to places of work and play.

But roads are also the gateways to a community. Through roadways we experience the flavor of a place. We are apt to pass judgements about the character of a community simply by what we can view from its roads as we ride through. When roads are thoughtfully designed and maintained in respect to the local scale and development to make our traveling experiences more enjoyable, they reflect a community's pride in itself.

Land use attorney Alexandra Dawson writes:

"Whenever a country road is widened and flattened and straightened, the amount and speed of traffic and the danger to cyclists, children, and animals – in fact, the whole ambience of the rural neighborhood is going to change." (12)

Water Supply . . .

Thirty five residences, plus the Town Hall and Granville Fire Station, in Granville Center, obtain their water from the Granville Water Company community wells on Blandford Road. A few other scattered residents use spring water. But all other town residents with plumbing have private wells. The Granville Village School, The Granville Country Store, Prospect Mountain Campground, and The Granville State Forest are served by their own wells. The water company community wells and all non-community public wells are tested routinely for water quality.



(Photo courtesy of Craig Phelon)

Protection of water is important because most Granville residents have wells.

Sewer Service . . .

There is no public sewer system in Granville. All sewage is treated by individual septic systems.

Current technology, in compliance with Title V regulations allows for 'raised' soil absorption systems when soil conditions are inadequate for proper filtration of waste. This is becoming an ever more common practice in Granville where problematic soils are obstacles to development. Percolation tests

provide information about the suitability of the soil to transmit water from the soil absorption system to a depth of four feet below this elevation. Massachusetts state-wide regulations for percola-

tion rates have been relaxed from 30 min./inch to 60 min./inch for new home construction, posing greater pollution risks in looser, wetter soils. Because Granville's soil conditions are problematic, the town's Board of Health requires a perc rate of

20 min./inch, which provides a higher standard for building. Even so, Board of Health records indicate that five to ten septic systems fail in town each year. The town will continue to advocate to retain its ability to set its own more stringent local standards.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

- It will become Imperative to inventory the status of all Granville roads and to pass legislation granting town ownership, and thus control, of former county roads.
- On the one hand, municipal watershed properties are protected from being developed, but on the other, they provide insufficient financial compensation to the town for services the town provides.
- The acquisition of land by Westfield, Springfield, and Hartford will greatly influence what and along which corridors development takes place. If these entities continue to purchase tracts of land within their watershed areas and not develop them, then Granville may remain much the same as it is today. If, on the other hand, their policies change, as did recently on the part of Hartford, then large tracts of land may start to be developed. For example: Hartford MDC was unable to come to terms with a large landowner in town. The owner subdivided the land, which was on a county way (Wendy's Road, east end) with plans to sell six lots. The same landowner recently purchased over 100 acres of land along the same corridor from another owner who was unsuccessful in selling his land to the MDC.
- In comparison to other surrounding communities such as Westfield and Southwick, Granville actually has a healthy amount of open space. Unfortunately, since September 11, 2001, much of the land, particularly surrounding Cobble Mountain Reservoir, has become less accessible. Roadways leading into and out of previously accessible land have been closed and the land is now being patrolled for trespassing.

Footnotes:

8. p. 38, Edward Relph, *Dwelling, Seeing, and Designing: Toward a Phenomenological Ecology*. ed. David Seamon, State University of New York Press, 1993.
9. pp. 4-23. *Discerning the Future* for the Pioneer Valley Region, 2000 – 2030. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Regional Information Center, West Springfield, MA. June 2003.
10. *Ibid.*
11. US Bureau of the Census, Census 2000. Table DP-3, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000.
12. p.6, "Rules of the Road", Alexandra Dawson. "Sanctuary Magazine", March / April 2001. Mass Audubon Society.



E. Zoning

"Everyone who moves into town wants to be the last person." (Granville resident)

The original Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Granville was adopted in 1966 as a consequence of the state-wide Zoning Reform Act which was enacted at that time. That Bylaw, and the current document allow for Agricultural/ Residential Use throughout the town. The minimum lot size is 44,000 sq. ft. (one acre) with 200 feet of road frontage. A total build-out scenario, under the current ByLaw, indicates where new structures may be allowed to be built in Granville in the future, and is illustrated by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's "Map 3: Composite Development and Partial Restraints Map" in this section. The middle-gray areas depict future developable land.

A review of the map in conjunction with the Resources Composite Map in Section 9 suggests the devastating effect full development would have on the local ecological landscape. Native plants and animals, as discussed in the following Section 4, would lose significant habitat and the integrity of the precious water resources would be compromised. Habitat once lost to development would be almost impossible to regain.

There is no commercial district or zone (see Zoning Map in Section 3). Current businesses operating on properties in town existed prior to Zon-



Stone walls often marked property boundaries.

ing Bylaw adoption, thus operate as variances, or have been allowed to function as accessory uses to the main businesses. Over the years, Bylaws have been adopted to allow and delineate minimal rules for accessory uses including 'home-based' business by a resident tradesperson, artisan, or professional; outdoor recreational facilities, including campgrounds, and a meat processing facility.

During the late 1980's, a large-scale review of the Bylaws was undertaken by the Planning Board with contractual assistance from The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The review resulted in a proposal that was very detailed and lengthy. That proposed Bylaw and several revisions did not garner the necessary 2/3 vote at several town meetings. After the first negative vote, the Board of Selectmen appointed an ad hoc committee of interested citizens to assist the Planning Board with subsequent revisions. In May of 1993, a set of proposals was finally approved. While the actual content of the Bylaw did not change significantly, that vote allowed for a major reorganization of the Bylaw into clearly numbered sections and changed some provisions to reflect the current state zoning law.

The 1993 Bylaw revisions allowed new development of 'back-land lots' which have a 40-foot

Section 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

minimum frontage with five or more acres of land. Back-land lots may also be approved for lots existing in 1993 that have 40' of frontage with a minimum of three acres. The revisions allowed accessory apartments in single family dwellings with certain limitations.

"Our zoning process in Granville historically has been reactionary instead of preventative".
(Granville resident)

Subdivision regulations were adopted by the Planning Board in 1987, which require a development impact statement to be filed as part of the plan. They have received only minor updates since that time and need to be reviewed for adherence

to current law and to reflect updated performance standards that are considered as typical.

Overall, the text of the current Zoning Bylaw is relatively vague and leaves room for interpretation that can be confusing or inappropriate. Since the 1993 revision, there have been no formal proposals for Bylaw changes, but issues related to home-base business and other retail and commercial businesses need to be addressed. Additional effort needs to focus on revisions that would be consistent with open space planning and to meet the increasing pressures for additional housing in Granville's geographic area.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

- **Because the town is zoned for agricultural/residential land use only, few opportunities for business development exist. Home-based businesses, both technical and entrepreneurial will increase in significance.**
- **To minimize inappropriate patterns of development imposed on the landscape, town Zoning Bylaws must be revised.**



~ Section 4 ~
ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



Scenic view of Cooley Lake from White Rock on Sodom Mountain

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Section 4 — ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Geology, Soils and Topography of Granville

"While not truly permanent elements of character, landforms are often the most enduring. As a result, their visual impression is often the clearest element of character, and one of the strongest pieces of the common fabric that links a community to its history and cultural patterns."

(Walter Cudnohufsky Associates, 1/20/00)

The geology of Granville tells an ancient story of continental clashes, cyclic uplifts, and ensuing erosion. Glacial action within recent geologic time has left Granville with predominantly coarse, stony soil, exposed bedrock outcrops, and significant swells and depressions in the land. These characteristics on the one hand offer a rugged landscape of great beauty, yet create major challenges to farming and development. With new technological advances in construction techniques and septic system design, however, sites which were once off-limits for construction have now become vulnerable to development.

The topography of Granville is a rhythmic series of north/south low mountains and valleys, part of the Berkshire Massif of the Northern Appalachian Mountains. Surface water drains either to the Connecticut River Valley to the east, or to the Farmington River basin to the west. Hundreds of millions of years of rifts and collisions of continental plates, originally deep-water sedimentary and volcanic rocks, resulted in a highly complex composition of bedrock underneath Granville. Eons of cyclic uplifts subjected the rocks to enormous heat and pressure, which changed them to predominantly schist, quartzite, and gneiss, with some igneous intrusions. Uplifts in the bedrock were accompanied



Glacial till poses challenges for farming and for development.

by erosion which carved the north/south valleys and produced the undulating 'highland' landscape of western Massachusetts.

In more recent geologic times, from 10,000 to 100,000 years ago, glacial action further shaped the land by gravitational pressure from mile-high chunks of ice which later melted and receded to form lakes, ponds, drumlins and kettleholes and left behind substantial deposits of sand and gravel especially in lower elevations. The scraping and crushing of the underlying bedrock by the glaciers resulted the deposition of compressed layers of unsorted stony till upon much of the surface of the land, presenting a challenging situation to farmers in their efforts to clear and plow the land. Glacial outwash of sand

and gravel were deposited in the lower elevations, often to great depths. The remoteness of Granville as an upland 'wilderness' in colonial times is related directly to its geologic history. Even within Granville, the major north/south valley of Twining Hollow presented settlement patterns which isolated east from west.

Because New England's soils are relatively new in geologic history they tend to be of a coarse texture. Coarse soils such as the predominantly sandy loam found in Granville are generally well drained soils. The texture of a soil affects its absorption and percolation rates. Clay and silt percolate generally at a slower rate than deep sandy soil found in outwash deposits left by glacial melt water. On the other hand, leachates may enter the ground water if the percolation rate is less than two minutes per inch of soil. The mineral and organic matter from glacial till is the "parent material" of Granville's soil. Soils found in Granville may be classified as either shallow to bedrock or deep.

Approximately 50% of Granville has shallow soils of 40" or less deep, poorly suited for cultivated crops, hay, and pasture due to the surface stones and exposed bedrock as well as the steepness of slope in some areas. These shallow soils are found generally on the hillier sections and ridge lines running north to south. Bedrock can be found exposed on the soil surface and to about 40" below the surface. This bedrock is fractured at the surface but solid under-

neath. Predominant soil associations are Lyman/Tunbridge, common in the northwest and southwest portions of Granville; Westminster/Millsite, occurring along the north/south ridge lines of central

Granville; and Hollis/Chatfield, in southwest, south central, and higher elevations of eastern Granville. These soil associations have a surface soil layer of friable loam 1" - 6" deep. The subsoil varies from friable to sandy loam and anywhere from 14" - 29" deep depending on the depth to bedrock. They are excessively-drained and generally droughty with available water capacity being low to moderate. The permeability of these soils is moderate to moderately rapid.

Building excavation may be difficult due to the underlying and exposed bedrock. In steeper areas erosion is also a factor since sandy soils tend

to erode quickly where not held in place by vegetation. The bedrock depth and fast percolation rates are constraints to septic field installations.

Of the deeper soils, 60" or more deep, the most commonly occurring in Granville are those with a seasonal highwater table and slow permeability. Their associations are Buckland/Shelburne, Peru/Marlow, Scituate/Montauk, Paxton/Charlton, and Woodbridge/Paxton. These soils are found on the sides and crests of glacial uplands, scattered in the far northwest corner of town, in a broad, north/south band of high but relatively flat land in west central Granville, along the valley bottom of



Over eons of time, rushing water carved potholes into the bedrock of Little River Gorge.



New England climate splits a rock.

Twining Hollow, and the dominant portion of the southeastern quadrant of town. They are characterized as extremely stony with rock outcrops. The permeability of these soils is moderate to moderately slow with the available water capacity being from moderate to low. There is a seasonal high water table for brief periods of time during winter, spring, and after prolonged rains. The seasonal high water level presents a problem for constructions with basements below ground level. More costly Title V raised septic systems may be a requirement for development.

Deep soils of rapid permeability, yet poorly drained, such as Walpole, and Ridgebury / Whitman, are few and occur in a scattering of small patches of glacial depressions in the eastern half of town. Because of a seasonal high water table at or near the surface, they are problematic for development, however they are well suited to growing hay and pasture.

Sandy glacial outwash soils are very deep and lie in the lower elevations along the southern section of Valley Brook in Twining Hollow, and within the broad valley from Granville Reservoir south to Cooley Lake. Another notable pocket creates a crescent joining the two southernmost tips of Cobble Mountain Reservoir. Hinckley, Merrimac, and Windsor are the soil types. They are somewhat excessively-drained, droughty soils and consist of fine sandy loam surfaces with gravelly sand underneath. An exceptionally deep deposit of sand lies in the southeast of Granville on the Connecticut state border and is mined as an economic resource. The major limitation for building site development is the soil's rapid permeability since septic effluent may not be adequately filtered before reaching ground water. These sandy soils may be better adapted to

growing crops such as drought-tolerant produce, hay and pasture.

Within the category of deep soils are two small pockets of stone-free flood plain soils, one located at the mouth of Borden Brook on the southwestern tip of Borden Brook Reservoir, and the other in the low, flat plain just north of Cooley Lake. Their associations are Pillsbury / Peacham / Wonsqueak, Pootatuck, and Rippowam. As the phrase 'flood plain' implies, these are moderate to poorly-drained soils with a high water capacity. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid with a seasonal high water table from at or near the surface in winter and spring. Generally good for growing certain crops, these soils pose obvious construction problems due to flooding and frost damage.

Lupton soil is dark, finely textured organic matter, or muck, formed under hydric condi-

tions in outwash plains. It often lies in conjunction with Pillsbury, Peacham and Wonsqueak soils which are also very poorly-drained organic soils, free of stones. These wet soils underlie wetlands in Granville, and are scattered in small amoeba-like pockets from the northwest quadrant of town to the south-



Bedrock lies close to the surface in most of Granville.

central section. The water table is at or near the surface most of the year, creating windthrow hazards for trees and preventing suitability for septic fields or road construction. The bearing capacity for built structures is low due to its poor soil strength. Muck soils act as natural flood regulators because they absorb water and slow the flow of water downstream. They trap sediments and filter pollutants.

Recommendations are to:

a) Avoid or limit all development on soils with special problems such as poor drainage, high water table, extreme stoniness, or flooding hazard. Generally, most recreation or conservation uses are compatible with soils of this type. (13) and,

b) Absolutely no development should occur in areas with a seasonal highwater table of less than 3' from the surface. Such development would have a high impact on both surface and ground water systems. (14)

Topography ranges between 396' and 1,487' above sea level. There are three primary low mountain ridges in town. Drake and Sodom Mountains, the first, comprise the eastern geographic dividing line between the towns of Granville and Southwick. Their dramatic rise from the Connecticut River Valley floor and their historically difficult crossing in part explains the separation and isolation between Granville and the Connecticut River Valley settlements.

Munn Brook divides Sodom Mountain from Drake Mountain in a picturesque gorge as the stream flows eastward through the lowest elevation in town into Southwick. Cradled between the eastern ridge and the second wave of hills lies a quiet valley, the site of Granville Village, Granville Reservoir, and Cooley Lake. Sweetman Mountain, Bad Luck Mountain, and South Mountain form the west border of this valley. Conjoined with Cobble Mountain to the north and Winchell Mountain in the south-central section of town, these form the second upland swell of land.

Between this second swell and the third lies a deep narrow valley commonly referred to as Twining Hollow, originally called the 'Grand Valley'. Because of its steep rocky slopes and bottom cut through by Valley Brook, Twining Hollow divides the town of Granville into decipherable east/west halves. The third and highest swell in the land is actually a high plateau. Aside from Prospect Hill which mirrors Winchell Mountain across Twining Hollow, its features are less singularly dramatic. It includes, however, the highest point of elevation in town, a nameless knob of exposed bedrock about a mile and a quarter due-north of Prospect Hill from which, on a clear day, one can view Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. Lastly, north of the Granville State Forest and near the Tolland town border is a swell in the

land called Ore Hill. Squeezed between the depressions of Pond Brook and Hubbard River, it is actually part of the plateau described above.

Slopes of 15% gradient or greater cover roughly one third of Granville. Regrowth of forests during the preceding century has eliminated many

dramatic distant views as described within Granville in the Nineteenth Century. Though steep slopes are more expensive to build upon and highly erodable, they do not entirely preclude development. The greater land mass of slopes less than 15% occupies the northwest quadrant of town. This general area, however, is characterized by soil either with shallow depth to bedrock, muck, or seasonal highwater table with slow permeability.

Traditionally development has been along main roads in town and predominantly in the



Sandy soil erodes quickly without a vegetated cover.

eastern valley and flatter areas of the upland swells. More recently, however, homes have been constructed on the steepest slopes, prominent ridge lines, and wetland depressions due to improved construction methods and septic

disposal technology. Homes built along higher ridges may, in some cases, mar idyllic public views of the ridge lines and prevent the public enjoyment of aesthetically distinctive sites.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

- **Title V changes render previously unsuitable soil suitable for development.**
 - **The vast majority of Granville's soils are problematic for building upon due to shallow depth to bedrock, wetness, or extreme stoniness.**
 - **Steep slopes are constraints, but not prohibitive to development. Erosion on slopes with a 15% gradient or greater pose serious risks for water pollution and soil loss.**
 - **The rolling topography creates a natural setting of great beauty.**
 - **Granville land, for the most part, is more easily suited for recreational purposes than for traditional farming or development.**
-

Footnotes:

13. p.34, Toth and Murray, *Growth, Change, Environment Londonderry, New Hampshire* Regional Field Service, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, 1972.

14. p. 45, *Ibid.*

Information on soils is based on the soil survey maps compiled by the US Department of Agriculture from 1975 to 1980 aerial photography maps.



11 x 17
Map of Soils

11 x 17
Map of Slopes

B. Landscape Character

"There's nowhere to fish in a city." (Granville 8th Grader)

Granville is a quiet rural community of heavily forested hills and valleys sparsely dotted with open fields and orchards. Three historic town centers impart an atmosphere of pervading peace and calm. This pastoral setting contrasts dramatically with the more typical suburban and urban communities east of town.

Though forests occupy about 90% of the landmass of Granville, the perception of the landscape as viewed from roads within the town is one of a pleasant sequence of open fields and orchards, roadside forest canopy, farms, and quiet historic districts. Traversing the Main Rt. 57, which bisects Granville into north/south halves, one becomes aware also of the sequence of valleys, steep slopes, and upland ridges so characteristic of the east slopes of the Berkshire Hills. Despite the additions of new homes along roadways over the past fifty years, the three original settlements in town remain essentially intact and viable, and maintain a distinctly New England charm. Back roads wind through wild blueberry fields, deep rock cuts, ravines, roadside



Little Bluestem grass in a lowbush blueberry lot in late fall.



An apple tree displays dramatic beauty in every season.

wetlands and along picturesque streams. One is aware of the great diversity of wildlife habitats and variety of vegetation. Though forest cover restricts spectacular views in strategic places along the roads, potential for creating such views is great, and short walks off the roadways often provide opportunity to enjoy them.

What is remarkable is that while Granville lies in such close proximity to urban and suburban areas of the Connecticut River Valley, it has retained its distinctly rural flavor. Rural communities which border Granville to the north, west, and south offer similar physical attributes and as such provide character continuity from those directions. Because Granville is within commuting

Section 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

distance from Hartford and Springfield, however, it is more vulnerable to development than many of the other hilltowns between the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers.



Winding country roads are part of Granville's charm.

11 x 17
Surface Water
Resources

C. Water Resources

*"Water is earth's eye,
looking into which the beholder
measures the depth of his own nature."
(Henry David Thoreau)*

Granville's extensive forests and protected watershed lands currently help ensure the excellent quality of its water not only for its inhabitants, but for residents of surrounding communities. Erosion and siltation resulting from the unrestricted use of all-terrain sport vehicles, uncontrolled development, and contaminants from road run-off, could compromise this quality. Granville residents list the protection of the town's surface and ground water resources as a high conservation priority. (see OSRP Survey results in Appendix B)

Surface Water . . .

Granville lies about equally within two watersheds of the greater Connecticut River basin. (see Surface Water Resources Map in this Section) The northern and eastern sections lie in the watershed of the Westfield River while the southern and western portions drain into the Farmington River. The three major streams in town, Hubbard River, Pond Brook, and Valley Brook, flow southward into Connecticut's Barkhamsted Reservoir and belong to the Farmington River system. Flowing eastward, water from the Borden Brook and Cobble Mountain Reservoirs feeds the Westfield River via Little River, while outflow from Cooley Lake and Granville Reservoir run into Little River via Munn Brook. These streams and



Cobble Mountain Reservoir supplies drinking water to the City of Springfield.

the 200-foot buffer zones which flank them are protected by law so that they will function properly and maintain good water quality.

Although the eastern section of Granville, within the Berkshire Transition subregion (see D. Vegetation in Section 4.) contains

generally fewer natural lakes and ponds than the western portion which lies in the Lower Berkshire Hills subregion, all of the town's major bodies of open water lie within the Westfield River watershed and are man made. A smaller but noteworthy body of water in West Granville, Parson's Pond, is a natural pond of greater than ten acres, which drains into the Farmington River via Pond Brook. Parson's Pond is privately owned and is part of the Barber Memorial Camp on Beech Hill

Road. It qualifies as a natural 'great' pond and as such, the state owns the pond bottom below the ordinary low water mark. A right exists to seek public access to avoid trespass on this private land.

Borden Brook Reservoir and Cobble Mountain Reservoir, since the early 1900's, have provided drinking water for the city of Springfield. They are hydrologically linked by Borden Brook and fed by Ripley, Borden, Alder, Phelon, and Exit Brooks. The 80-acre Granville Reservoir supplies drinking water to Westfield residents. It is fed by Tillotson and Hollister Brooks. There are five reservoirs in Granville, including the smaller, inactive, Winchell and Japhet Reservoirs, and none of them supplies drinking water for Granville residents, or are accessible to the public for recreational purposes.

Cooley Lake, in the southeast section of town, was formerly a swamp. The lake was created in 1896 by Italian laborers under the hire of Ralph B. Cooley. It is now a privately-owned family lake. Trumble and Seymour Brooks, combined with the outflow from Cooley Lake, become Dickinson Brook. Where Dickinson is joined by Japhet Brook further eastward, they flow together as Munn Brook through the Granville Gorge into Southwick.

Granville receives an average 48" to 50"

of rainfall per year. Trees absorb excess water, filter pollutants, slow the process of erosion on steep slopes, and prevent sedimentation from flowing into reservoirs.

Granville's excellent water quality is due in large part to its extensive forests and good vegetative cover on its stream banks. Steep slopes are especially vulnerable to erosion and loss of topsoil. Due to Granville's typically thin soil and numerous steep slopes, it is especially imperative to closely monitor construction projects and logging activity in these areas.

Public recreation on waterways in town is limited. Fishing is allowed on Hubbard River and in Munn Brook. Swimming traditionally meant spending an afternoon in the beloved swimming hole in the Granville State Forest on Hubbard River,

but state budget cuts have forced residents to go elsewhere for this summer pastime.

Aquifer Recharge Areas . . .

An aquifer is a subsurface water body, otherwise referred to as the water table. Of the two primary types of aquifers, bedrock and surficial, there have been two medium-yield surficial aquifers documented in Granville (see Map of Aquifers, this Section). According to the Department of Environmental Protection, they will yield between 100 – 300 gallons of water per minute



Winchell Reservoir is now just a quiet pastoral pool.



Shaughnessy Swamp is an often-photographed site.

and have a transmissivity of 1,400 – 4,000 sq. feet per day. The smaller of these two aquifers lies in sand and gravel deposits within a larger aquifer of lower yield in north central Granville near Cobble Mountain Reservoir. It underlies part of Phe-lon Road and overflow from it drains into the reservoir. A second medium-yield aquifer lies within a larger system of low-yield aquifers underlying much of the broad valley in the eastern section of town, including Granville Reservoir. It extends northward from Cooley Lake in ancient sand deposits and expands underneath the flat, lower elevation of the meadow just south of Granville Village center. It is bordered by Granby Road (CT Rte.189) on the west and Rte.57 on its north. The quality of this water and that of the water which percolates into the soil surface throughout town is absolutely critical to the health of Granville citizens since almost all residents obtain their drinking water from wells. Especially vulnerable to pollution is the latter aquifer, since it underlies buildings and agricultural land and is subject to salt, oil, and gas runoff from paved roadways.

Wetlands . . .

Great ice sheets from the last Ice Age scraped and removed enormous quantities of soil and bed-rock from the land which later became Granville. Today, in many of these depressions or pockets on

the land surface, successful plant and animal communities thrive in what are called wetlands. They are highly sensitive and complex systems, producing more oxygen from carbon dioxide, acre per acre,

than any other type of natural environment. Wetlands associated with flowing surface waters, are protected with 100-foot buffer zones by The Wetlands Protection Act. Many numbers of wetlands lie outside of legal jurisdiction since they are not associated with intermittent streams. What makes wetlands such valuable natural resources is the fact that they function as a land's natural kidneys, absorbing nitrogen and phosphates while filtering out pathogens and toxic substances from the environment. Wetlands replenish fresh groundwater by acting as storage for floodwater and releasing water gradually as the excess water recedes.



Picturesque Ripley Swamp is part of a larger wetland system which crosses town borders.



Wetlands, such as this one along Alder Brook, provide valuable functions as natural water purifiers.

Wetlands are scattered throughout Granville, with the predominant number of them lying in the northwest quadrant of town. Major wetlands lie along Ripley Brook and Alder Brook. Other sizeable wetlands include Shaughnessy Swamp, Degano Pond, and Miller's Swamp. According to a 1971 inventory taken by the University of Massachusetts, Granville had a total of 417 acres of wetlands. This estimate proposed that 199 acres were open wetland, while 218 acres was forested wetland. The figures were based on aerial mapping during the warm season, and thus may not have been as accurate as data acquired

from photos taken during the dormant months, when leaves were off the trees. Since the species of vegetation itself is a determining factor for a wetland, there may be considerably more acres in wetlands, especially forested wetlands, than accounted for in the thirty-year-old inventory. Some serious updating of maps is needed before more accurate assessments can be made.

The largest wetland, according to the 1971 inventory, overlies the Tolland town border. It is Ripley Brook Swamp on Farnham Road in West Granville (refer to Surface Water Resources Map and Forest Cover & Core Habitat Map, both in Section 4). The wetland, at that time, occupied a total of 113 acres. It included 13 acres of seasonally flooded flats, 3 acres of shallow water, 49 acres of inland marsh, 9 acres in shrubs, and 39 acres in forest. It was rated high for management potential and uniqueness. No data was found on its current size, but it is a natural treasure of considerable beauty, as viewed from canoe.

It may be estimated that roughly a third of the documented wetlands in town lie on private, unprotected land. The other two-thirds exist in either permanently protected land or partially-protected, tax-reduced land under the state's Chapter 61 program.

Flood Hazard Areas . . .

The last major flood in Granville occurred in the fall of 1955. So many bridges and roads washed out, that communities outside of town were virtually inaccessible from Granville for several days. Rte. 57, through the Munn Brook gorge had to be rebuilt, while residents were forced to travel to Southwick via the original dirt access road over the south end of Sodom Mountain. Wetlands, filled to capacity, overflowed. In most cases, wetlands are congruent with major flood zones (refer to Maps: Surface Water Resources, Stream & Wetland Buffer Zones, and Forest Cover & Core Habitat). According to the Federal Insurance Administration, as detailed in reports dated August, 1974, the following are designated as "Special Flood Hazard Areas" in Granville (FIA

Flood Hazard Boundary Maps # H 01-15):

- Ripley Brook Swamp stores flood water within an area designated as 150 feet on either side of Case and Ripley Brooks and on Ripley Brook as it flows eastward. The area widens to 1,000 feet directly west of Beech Hill Road where it becomes a quiet floodplain just before emptying into Borden Brook Reservoir.
- Hall Pond Brook enters Granville from the west, at the Tolland border and flows south to the Granville State Forest. The hazard area is generally limited to a 150-foot strip on both banks.
- Hubbard River enters the town at the Tolland line on Rte. 57 and flows south to Granville State Forest. Though some of its banks are steep and carved into bedrock, flooding is still a concern. As on Hall Pond Brook and Valley Brook, the hazard area is limited to a 150-foot strip on both banks.
- Areas 150 feet on either side of Valley Brook are considered flood prone.
- Spring fed Cooley Lake stores water up to 150 feet along its circumference. A flood hazard area has been designated for 200 feet on either side of Dickinson Brook as it acquires outflow waters from the lake and meanders through the broad, flat meadow north of the lake. The meadow is the largest floodplain in town, and, typical of floodplains, contains nutrient-rich soils.
- A hazard area is designated as a 100-foot strip around Granville Reservoir and upstream on the Hollister and Tillotson Brooks as they enter the reservoir underneath Old Westfield Road.
- Also flood prone is the Little River, a tiny bend of which enters Granville north of Wildcat Road at the Russell border. Because of the potential volume of water entering the river from Cobble Mountain Reservoir through the steep gorge, a 200-foot strip on either side of the river is included as a flood hazard.

Though seemingly ideal locations for development because of their relatively level configurations and rich soils, floodplains are risky to build upon. Development can compromise the land's

stormwater retention capability and may cause worse problems downstream. Compounding the situation, the town's only two floodplains overlie its permeable aquifers, where water quality is particularly vulnerable (*see Soils Map and Aquifers Map*).

Vernal Pools . . .

Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools, and temporary woodland ponds are a unique and rare wetland class. They are depressions in the ground which typically fill with water in the autumn or winter with rising ground water and rainfall and remain ponded through the spring and early summer. Since they dry out completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years, they are not colonized by fish. They are essential breeding habitat for mole salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers, and other amphibians and invertebrates which can only successfully breed without the predation of fish. Loaded with potential as living classrooms and cradles of ecological biodiversity, vernal pools are being recognized nationwide for their significance.

Vernal pool habitat may include the area within 100 feet of the mean annual boundaries of the pool itself. It is protected if it occurs in an existing resource area within the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. This determination is made by the Conservation Commission, or the DEP on appeal. A pool is given automatic protection only if: 1) it occurs within the 100-year inland

floodplain or on isolated land subject to flooding or a bordering vegetated wetland; and 2) its existence and location have been certified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Upland vernal pools are currently not protected under the Wetlands Protection Act.

Although there are no Certified vernal pools in Granville, the NHESP has identified 60 potential pools using digital ortho-photography. Certification of these valuable habitats would be a big step towards protecting the overall quality and diversity of Granville's natural environment.

Granville Center Water Co. . . .

In 1910, Hattie Cooley Stevenson and John McAllister Stevenson built a sizeable cistern on Blandford Road to hold gravity-fed spring water from the hill. Willing to share the spring water with families on the Main Road in Granville Center, they formed a private corporation called the Granville Center Water Company. Though a mid-century drought necessitated drilling a well and pumping water near the original site, the company is still operational and currently supplies drinking water to 35 customers on the hill in Granville Center. All other Granville residents obtain their water from individual wells. Site-specific non-community public wells supply drinking water for Prospect Mountain Campground, The Granville Village School, and the Granville State Forest.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

Because Granville straddles two major watersheds and is the source of drinking water not only to its own residents but for three metropolitan areas in the region, the quality of its water is of critical concern. Development and activity where resulting pollution and the erosion of soil results in run-off and siltation of streams and wetlands, should be strictly limited.

Interruption, either by development, or road construction, of the filtration system and flood regulation capabilities of wetlands and floodplains must be carefully monitored, especially on rich valley soils.

Since Granville residents rely on private wells for drinking water, and septic systems which percolate down into the water table, citizen awareness of and understanding of how water quality is affected by individual's actions should be a priority of the town.

The generous number of wetlands, ponds, reservoirs, and streams in Granville lend a particular lushness and beauty to the landscape. Great potential exists for enjoyment of these natural resources either by swimming, fishing, hiking, or other forms of passive recreation appropriate to and respectful of the value these treasures hold to both humans and wildlife. It is important to be ever mindful of the critical services these resources perform for free.



11 x 17
Aquifers

11 x 17
Stream and
Wetland Buffer

D. Vegetation

"For those interested in enhancing their sense of place, I know of no better way than by becoming intimately acquainted with their local forests and the fascinating stories they tell." (Tom Wessels) (15)

Granville is predominantly forest land. Almost half of that forest land is being managed for commercial timber, and some for the production of maple syrup products. Granville is home as well, to three plant species listed either as of Special Concern or as Threatened by Massachusetts NHESP. Purity of the valuable surface water resources depends upon healthy forests as filters of pollutants and for erosion control. Forests keep Granville cool in summer and bring tourists from many regions to admire the dramatic foliage color in fall. Environmental stresses in recent decades, and the introduction of invasive species, however, may have rendered once-healthy forests vulnerable to pathogens and canopy decline. With the quality of Granville's forests, wetlands, and agricultural land top conservation issues for residents, encroaching development which displaces forests and fields could further jeopardize that quality.

An ecoregion is defined as an area in which "the topography, geology, soils, and plant and animal habitats are relatively homogeneous."

(16) Of the greater Northeastern Highlands ecoregion of New England, two subregions, the Berkshire Transition and the Lower Berkshire Hills, lie within Granville's borders and are delineated in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's map of the 13 distinct ecological subregions in Massachusetts."



The native paper birch, with its distinctive bark, is one of the first tree species to take root in open fields.

Forests . . .

Today over 90% of Granville is covered with unbroken tracts of forested land. This is in dramatic contrast to the same landscape as experienced a century and a half ago when nearly the same percentage of forest land had been cleared for fuel, timber, or pastures by the mid 1800's. The eastern two thirds of Granville is part of the subregion called the Berkshire Transition. It is characterized by large unfragmented blocks of forests, rock outcrops,

and a slightly lower elevation than land within the geologically similar Vermont Piedmont subregion to its north. Common forest tree species are transition hardwoods such as beech, maple, white ash, black cherry, and birch, but with a noticeable sprinkling of more southern species such as white pine, oaks and hickories. The oaks, hickories, white pine, paper birch, and aspen prefer the sandy areas and drier higher slopes while other northern hardwoods and hemlock favor the moister lower slopes. (see Appendix C for Latin names).

Vegetation in the western third of Granville is similar to the east, but with a slightly higher elevation than the east and lies within the subregion called the Lower Berkshire Hills. Northern hardwood species are mixed with hemlock and white pine, but there is less of an overlap with oaks (except for red oak) and hickories found in the eastern part of town. Red, or swamp, maple is the predominant tree species in Granville's forested wetlands. Throughout Granville, common understory species include laurel, witchhazel, serviceberry, hophornbeam, and striped maple. In wetter areas, winterberry, highbush blueberry, and hobblebush are prevalent.

Interestingly, there is a stand of tulip poplar trees mixed with white pine and hemlock growing on a northern slope of the Little River Gorge, on the north central border of Granville, which is estimated to be the largest stand of old-growth forest in Massachusetts. (17)

"Woodlands typically support more diverse assemblages of soil organisms than grasslands.

If soil organisms are included in the species count, temperate (Northern hemisphere [not part of quote]) rain forests are richer in biodiversity than tropical rainforests." (18)

Forty two percent of forested lands in Granville are active parts of the working landscape. On any given acre, according to a MA. state forest manual, between 12 and 15 commercial timber

species can commonly be found. (19) In 2004, 3,178 acres in Granville were classified under the Massachusetts Chapter 61 program. This program encourages the preservation and enhancement of forests by offering a tax break to residents who will make a long term commitment to forestry. Lumber, forest health, and

wildlife conservation are major focuses of management plans in town. Also, maple syrup and sugar are currently being produced for sale by two Granville enterprises. This is significantly fewer, however, than a century ago when many town residents boiled their own sap for home use.

Where forests have been accessible to logging, the tree stands are mostly in the pole to small sawlog size. There are stands of large sawlogs throughout town, but these are found on steep, inaccessible slopes or adjacent to many of the feeder streams of the town's watershed properties, and thus may never be logged. Several significant groves of mature hemlock cover cool moist pockets on north-facing slopes. A number of individual trees of unusually large girth have been sited in town and would be worth inventorying. A natural resource inventory conducted in 1973 found that "the quality and stocking of



Photo Courtesy J.P. Briggs

A rugged textural landscape is reflected in the trunk of an ancient tree.

these woodlands varies greatly with respect to past logging, soil and site conditions. In many of the highest points of town the timber quality is somewhat poor due to past (damage) from severe ice and snow storms..."(20) In addition, since almost 35% of the town is in protected watershed areas, the inventory suggested that much of the town's woodland is in need of some form of timber stand improvement. It recommended thinning, pruning, and regeneration harvesting by foresters to improve the quality of the timber, which in turn, protects the quality of water reaching the reservoirs.

In the 1920's and 30's, substantial red pine plantations were established especially within watershed properties of Borden Brook Reservoir and Cobble Mountain Reservoirs. Within the past five years, roughly 75 to 100 acres of these trees have been removed for timber due to an infestation of the Diplatia virus and Red Pine Scale. Generally, a forest comprised of a variety of tree species has a better chance of resisting pathogens. Trees often activate their own built-in chemical defense systems, but, according to ecologist Tom Wessels, the health of New England forests is being compromised by current levels of air pollution, introduced pests, invasive exotic plant species, and global climate change. "We could compare our forests to an individual with an immune system that is not working at full potential...unlike the more temporary changes produced by the clear-cutting of forest for pasture or the development of twentieth-century logging practices, the changes wrought by introduced forest pathogens will remain for thousands of years to come." (21)

Other forest pathogens of concern in recent decades are the Woolly Adelgid (*Adelgis tsugae*), which infects hemlock, and Pear Thrips (*Taeniothrips inconsequens*), initially found as a pest on fruit trees, but now widespread on sugar maples. Sugar maples and white ash are two tree species especially sensitive to environmental stressors. Along with red oak and butternut, they have exhibited measurable canopy decline in the past ten years throughout New England.

The process of reforestation which began over a century ago is beginning to reverse itself as more and more land is being cleared for development. Fortunately, forest fragmentation has not yet become a major factor in Granville. It could, however, become an increasing concern with the decrease in the size of private landholdings coupled with the decline of agriculture, as new homes are cut out of smaller chunks of land and lots are cleared for turfgrass cover. Unbroken tracts of forest provide wildlife with food, shelter, nesting sites, and corridors for migration. Forested lands in Granville are also used extensively for passive recreation by hunters, fishermen, hikers, skiers, trail-riders, and snowmobilers, who use old logging roads throughout town. For generations the public have enjoyed use of the Granville State Forest for such activities.

Where clearings appear in the forest, and where sunlight is more abundant along the edges of forests near fields, denser underbrush shelters smaller wildlife from predators and provides birds and mammals with abundant browse. Abandoned fields are nurseries for pioneering tree species such as paper birch, white pine, and aspen. Experiments in edge sites and sapling forest sites for wildlife are being carried out in the Phelon Memorial Forest



Photo Courtesy Joyce & Leon Ripley

A sugar maple tree yields valuable sap for maple syrup products.

on New England Forestry Foundation property between North Lane and Blandford Roads (see Open Space Map in Section 5, and see Tom Brule's article on an early successional habitat experiment in Granville: "Habitat Improvement Project" in Appendix G).

Wetlands . . .

Nonforested wetlands in Granville occur in greatest concentrations in the central and northwestern sections of town. Wetlands produce more oxygen from carbon dioxide, acre per acre, than any other type of natural environment. Fed by intermittent streams flooding the area, especially in the springtime, the emergent marsh community harbors predominantly hydrophytic plants such as reeds and sedges. These and other herbaceous plants provide shelter and support for many small mammals, which in turn support larger carnivores in the region. Common to Granville's open scrub/shrub swamps are Willows (*Salix* spp.), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum recognitum*), and highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). Open water wetlands such as Ripley's Swamp harbor water lilies (*Nymphaea* and *Nuphar*), floating-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), and water shield (*Brasenia schreberi*).

The Bog . . .

Within the granitic sand and gravel aquifer of the eastern section of Granville is a small quaking bog

(see Surface Water Resources Map in this Section). It spans approximately three acres of the landscape near the convergence of the El Paso Gas pipeline and the large overhead power transmission lines of

Northeast Utilities Co. Several generations of Granville children knew it well since it was the subject of field trips within walking distance from the Granville Village School. The peat moss in Granville's bog was harvested by local residents over a period of years.

Peat bogs, more commonly found in the northern boreal regions of this continent, are relatively rare in southern New England. True peat bogs depend upon cool temperatures and constant moisture. In a typical bog, water volume remains somewhat the same, with minor fluctuations. This bog may well be the remnant of an old glacial lake or kettlehole, and is fed by underground springs.

The study of bogs reveals a fascinating story. Peat moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), wherever drainage is impeded, establishes a root system and develops a dense mass. It is very slow to grow, but because of anoxic conditions, decomposes even more slowly. In time, thick layers of peat accumulate in mats which grow outward from the shoreline towards the lake center in the process of terrestrialization. The dense mat of peat may eventually almost enclose the body of water, and be home to many unique species of woody and herbaceous plants known to tolerate a nutrient-poor base. Walking or jumping upon the bog surface creates a vibration, hence the word "quaking bog."



Deep hemlock woods may eventually die out due to pathogens.



Lush Alder Brook wetland vegetation.

Gas and Power Line Easements . . .

Northeast Utilities Company maintains an excess of 6 miles of high voltage transmission power lines running north to south in the eastern half of Granville. The right of way is a clearcut 100-foot-wide (average) sun-drenched swath vegetated with forbes and grasses and small shrubs. Though herbicides are applied systematically every five years and handcutting is done routinely, the herbicides are state-approved for environmentally sensitive areas. Northeast Utilities and Mass.Audubon are coordinating on studies for these rights of ways potentially aiding bird habitat and nesting needs in particular sections along the easement.

The El Paso Gas Pipeline easement is not as wide, but is far longer, passing underneath roadways nine times. It cuts through the entire town in an east/west main line and a secondary line running north/south in West Granville. Their combined paths run over 12 miles of land roughly 80 feet wide. The company maintains the easement by periodic mowing and bushwhacking only, not with herbicides. These extensive rights of ways provide transition zones between shade-loving forest plants and understory plants preferring sun and their value as habitat for wildlife and successional plant species is important.

Fields . . .

Open fields for agriculture lie scattered throughout town, mainly along roadways. Hay is a main field crop. Corn is grown for silage. Three small dairy farms are active in town. On the hilltops of central and western Granville, wild blueberries

and highbush varieties are harvested. Granville is well-known in the region for its top-quality apples, peaches, pears, and plums, grown in the numerous orchards still in production. Several farms offer 'pick-your-own' opportunities when fruits are in season. However, as time moves forward, and young people seek jobs other than farming, fruit production declines. The larger pastures, orchards and berry lots of the past are being 'let go', as were the cleared pastures of the 19th Century. A concern is that the major large landowners who farm the land may be enticed to convert their once-lucrative farmland to other land use which could be detrimental to the forests and wildlife communities. That in turn may diminish the quality of life of the human community as well.



A peat bog harbors its own unique plant life.

Endangered Species . . .

There are two plant species protected under state law in Granville which are on the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program list as Threatened (see Glossary in Appendix A). They are the Climbing Fumitory (*Adlemia*

fungosa) and the Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum pusillum*). The Fumitory, a vine, likes open, moist, low-acidic rock ledges and rocky woods. It may be threatened by forest succession where shade and competition become dense. The fern, on the other hand, prefers acidic fens, open wet meadows, marshes, and moist clearings. Decrease of open wet areas results in the decline of this fern. Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), a rare plant, listed as a species of Special Concern (see Glossary), grows in moist deciduous woods and forested rocky outcrops, of which there are no lack of in Granville. Overharvesting of its roots along with habitat de-

struction threatens its survival. Core habitat areas, recognized in Granville by the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, need special protection and should be a priority for conservation measures. (see NHESP core habitats on Forest Cover and Core Habitat Map in this Section, and refer to Appendix D for detailed descriptions of species listed above)

Invasive species . . .

Invasive exotic plants are those which originate in countries outside the continental United States, escape from cultivated landscapes and out-compete our native plants for habitat. Their

aggressive behavior threatens biodiversity in our forests, wetlands and meadows. A number of them may be seen in increasing numbers in Granville and should be eradicated where possible. A partial listing includes Asiatic bittersweet, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, burning bush, Japanese barberry, buckthorn, Norway maple, phragmites, and purple loosestrife. Less commonly known, yet notorious, is the giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). It is known to have been growing in Granville since 1981 when it was inadvertently photographed in a news article in *The Springfield Daily News*, July 20, 1981, p.17. More recent articles have brought it to light as a health hazard. (22) (see Appendix H)

IMPLICATIONS . . .

With its large, regionally significant, unbroken tracts of deep forest habitat, Granville holds a responsibility to monitor the health of and to care for its forests.

Shrinking agricultural land diminishes another coveted asset in town: open space for scenic value. Development which displaces woodlands is perceived by residents to be one of the greatest threats to Granville's rural character.

Sites mapped by NHESP for the presence of plant species either of Special Concern or Threatened need to be a priority for protection.

All residents need to gain an appreciation for the critical physiological benefits to all life forms healthy forests and wetlands perform for free.

Footnotes:

15. p.21, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, Tom Wessels, The Countryman Press, Woodstock, VT, 1997.
16. p.30, *BioMap*, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2001.
17. p.2-8, *Cobble Mt. Bioreserve Management Plan*, Epsilon Associates, Inc. final draft, 2002.
18. p. 151, *The Once and Future Forest*, Leslie Jones Sauer and Andropogon Associates, Island Press, Washington, DC. 1998.
19. p.32, *Forest Use Manual: Planning, Protection, and Management in Massachusetts.*, Univ. of Mass. Cooperative Ext., Mass. Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife Management, and Mass. Dept. of Environmental Management.
20. pg.11, *Natural Resources Program, Granville*, prepared by Natural Resources Technical Team of Hampden County with Granville Advisory Group, Dec.1973.
21. pp. 96-97, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, Tom Wessels, The Countryman Press, Woodstock, VT. 1997.
22. pp.A-1& A11, "Noxious Weed invades WMass", Cheryl B. Wilson, "Daily Hampshire Gazette".



11 x 17
Forest Cover
Core Habitat

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Birdfoot's Grampa

*The old man
must have stopped our car
two dozen times to climb out
and gather into his hands
the small toads blinded
by our lights and leaping,
live drops of rain.*

*The rain was falling,
a mist about his white hair
and I kept saying
you can't save them all
accept it, get back in
we've got places to go.*

*But, leathery hands full
of wet brown life
knee deep in the summer
roadside grass,
he just smiled and said
they have places to go too.
(Joseph Brushac) (23)*

Extensive forests, numerous wetlands, streams, and edge habitat provide food, refuge and corridors for a wide variety of wildlife in Granville. Respondents on the town-wide 2002 Open Space Survey rated wildlife habitat protection and enhancement a top conservation priority. Core habitat areas in town, identified by the NHESP, harbor species both Endangered and of Special Concern. Though much of the land over which core habitats lie is protected as watershed land, misuse of off-road vehicular traffic continues to be an urgent environmental problem.

Granville Habitats . . .

Soils, climate, and aspect (see Glossary in Appendix A) qualify what species of vegetation will be found on a site. In turn, the plants support specific animals which reciprocate benefits by disseminating seeds, aerating soil, decomposing dead wood, producing fertilizer, and pruning. So interdependent are the plants, animals, and soils

in an area, that wildlife habitat is as variable in type and character as the diversity of the natural landscape itself.

Granville is blessed with a rich variety of habitats, including upland forests, open meadows, agricultural fields, open shrub habitat growing on power and gas line rights of ways, wooded and

shrub swamps, marshes and open water. Migrating mammals and birds use corridors provided by the extensive forests, unbroken by roads or development. Among these are black bear, bobcat, and moose. Smaller mammals such as the Northern flying squirrel, porcupine, and fisher require mature forests as well. Dense stands of hemlock are excellent cover for grouse and deer, especially in the wintertime, when energy conservation is more important than seeking food. Seeds and nuts are produced by hardwoods such as oak, beech, ash, and hickory. Shadblow, cherry, and dogwood trees offer fruit. Aging trees harbor insects and provide nesting and denning cavities. Deep forests support the pileated woodpecker, scarlet tanager, winter wren, and hermit thrush, veery, various species of warblers, owls and hawks. It is common to hear the haunting call of the vireo or the flute-like song of the wood thrush while hiking in Granville's woods in summer.

Not all wildlife live their entire life cycles within the deep forests, however. In fact, most do not. An estimated 85% or more species of birds and mammals which use the forests need seedling trees as part of their life cycle. And that's where edge habitat becomes such a valuable resource. Due to the greater availability of sunlight, transition zones between forest and open areas typically are covered with dense understory vegetation and young sapling trees. Thorny berry thickets, sumac, hawthorne, and other shrubby hedgerow plants, especially covering areas 20' to 30' wide and greater, create valuable escape habitat as well as food for wildlife. Wild turkey chicks feed on insects under their protective cover. Thickets also provide cover for ground nesting

game birds such as the American woodcock and Ruffed grouse. The nocturnal Whip-poor-will nests in dry open woodland near fields. The rabbit, fox, wild turkey and deer use fields and forests, as well as forest edge habitat. Tom Brule, New England Forestry Consultant working on early successional forest/edge habitat projects in Phelon Memorial Forest in West Granville, recommends that, to encourage the greatest wildlife diversity, the larger landscape needs to be averaged out into the following uses by percentage of acres:

10% - 15% clear-cut as open field habitat (herb/shrub, wetland, pasture, etc)

30% as young saplings

50% as saw-timber size trees (12" - 20" diameter), and

5% - 10% as mature trees (includes old-growth forests)

Past logging operation clearings, utility line rights of ways, and agricultural fields in Granville are home to the Eastern bluebird, cedar waxwings, and cardinals. Monarch butterfly caterpillars relish

sap from milkweed flowers along pasture borders in preparation for their magical transformations into adulthood. Bobwhites and meadowlarks nest in agricultural fields, as do white-footed mice and meadow voles. Raptors, in turn, prey on the rodents. Taking advantage of open agricultural fields, bats, nighthawks, barn swallows, bluebirds and purple martins scour the sky and pond surfaces in search of insects.

Many townspeople and visitors climb the rise to a rock outcrop on North Lane to watch hawk migrations. Others aim binoculars at the



Beavers provide valuable wetland habitat for many other animal species.

myriad of waterfowl feeding in Shaughnessy Swamp, or enjoy sightings of vultures, ravens, and eagles over Cobble Mountain. Still others seek to observe a quieter kind of migration when spring salamanders answer to their ancient call to couple. Unfortunately, roads present deadly obstacles to their migration efforts and the destruction of vernal pools threatens their existence as well.

The more frequent sightings in town of wild turkey, black bear, bobcat, and Eastern coyote attest to their emergence due to regrowth of the forests. The bear population, especially in western Massachusetts is increasing by 7-8% per year. Despite hunters' cull of about 6% of the total state population, bears have increased in number. According to state biologists James Cardoza and William Woytek of the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, there are currently an estimated 2,000, up from between 1,750 to 1,800 in 1998. Bear encounters with humans are more frequent since the animals seek food sources more easily available near human dwellings. During the month of November in 2003 there were two accidents between cars and bears reported in town.

Another emerging species observed now especially in the marsh areas of West Granville is the moose. Moose prefer a cooler climate, but wander southward occasionally, unable to resist the tender water lilies and pondweeds in open wetlands.

Wetlands . . .

While migrating Canada geese trumpet the change of season overhead, spring peepers herald the end of 'syrup season' and the coming

of warm weather with enthusiastic chorus in the numerous ponds and wetlands in town. Later in the season, bullfrogs and the tree frogs dispell the calm of a summer's night. Not surprising, considering the number of streams and wetlands in Granville, another sound rewards those who venture to these sites in summer: the warning slap! of a beaver's tail on water. These industrious vegetarians have been reclaiming their regional territory with vigor after having been almost exterminated two centuries ago for their valuable pelts. The beaver family will

build a lodge, eventually abandoning it and moving on to repeat the activity elsewhere when the site no longer provides them with food. This process creates a progression of habitats all in varying states of regeneration. Coarse, woody debris such as logs and branches piled up are important habitat for burrowing insects and are escape areas for turtles. Snags provide essential perches and foraging opportunities to many species.

"The beaver should be revered as the creator of a landscape mosaic – a rich assortment of varied wetland ecosystems. No other creature fashions such an array of habitats on which so many other species are dependent." (24)

Problems arise, however, when beavers cross



Photo Courtesy John Briggs



Photo Courtesy John Briggs

A wily Granville bobcat.

paths with human habitat. Repeated problems occur where Shaughnessy Swamp meets highway 57, and at the convergence of Ripley Brook and Borden Brook on Beech Hill Road.

Reptiles and amphibians, though less mobile than mammals or birds, play essential roles in the food chain, soil ecology, and energy recycling in Granville forests and wetlands. According to Mass-Wildlife biologists James Cardoza and Peter Mirick, "research indicates that these two faunal groups, especially the amphibians, may be among the best indicators of environmental quality." (25) They go on to mention that "Turtles, due to their extremely low reproductive rates, attraction to roadsides, and the propensity of people to capture and transport them, present a particularly difficult conservation challenge. Turtles are, in fact, the most threatened of the faunal groups in Massachusetts." (26)

Fisheries . . .

Other good indicators of environmental quality are the Eastern brook trout and the brown trout, both of which live in the cold waters of Valley Brook, Pond Brook, Hubbard River, and Halfway Brook. The three large reservoirs, Cobble Mountain, Borden Brook, and Granville Reservoirs have excellent potential as trout fisheries. However, they are currently used only as water supply areas and are closed to the public. MassWildlife stocks Hubbard River with brook trout, brown trout, and occasionally rainbow trout. Fishing is largely confined to this stream and to Munn Brook, since remaining local brooks are either on private property or watershed property closed to the public. Nine other fish species have been identified in recent limited surveys of Granville streams. (see Appendix C)

There is as yet no comprehensive list of Granville's flora and fauna. Lists of mammals, reptiles and amphibians (and their Latin names) found in Hampden County are included in Appendix C.

Increase in development is usually accompanied by an upsurge in the population of 'opportunistic' species such as the racoon, skunk, and crow which scavenge near human habitations. These animals along with domestic cats and dogs prey on songbirds, ground-nesting birds, small mammals and amphibians and can outcompete less aggressive species for territory. Dogs have been known to torment deer and bear. There is no leash law in Granville.

The deer population, unlike the bear, has declined in the past decade, and noticeably within



Fishing lesson in the Granville State Forest

the past three years. There are two factors contributing to this: extensive mature forests, and an upsurge in forest predator species. Tree size in the successional forest stands has increased from saplings to more saw/pole timber size over the past 30 to 40 years.

Larger forest mammals such as bear, bobcats, and coyotes occasionally prey on the fawns in spring. With less browse and protective cover for their young within the deep forests, deer move into the early successional forest slopes in Connecticut and the Connecticut River Valley. Biologist Woytek suggests that a healthy deer population for Granville would be 10 to 15 deer per square mile. It is currently estimated that around 8 deer per square mile live in town. Hunting is allowed in Granville with permission from private landowners.

Disease . . .

The incidence of Rabies, though not as pronounced as in the mid-1990's, is still very much a health factor for humans and wildlife alike in Granville. Bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes are listed as main carriers for the virus in this region. Though rabies is generally a well-known disease, Lyme disease is a relative 'newcomer' to the region. Better-known in the warmer areas of Connecticut and the river valleys east of the Berkshire Hills, it has progressed into higher elevations within the past ten years. Rick Vincunas, Granville veterinarian, estimates that roughly 50% of all dogs that are allowed to run outside their homes in town, are exposed to Lyme disease. The figure may be higher for communities east and south of Granville. According to the National Science Foundation, white-footed mice, the main carriers of Lyme disease-causing bacteria, seem more abundant in patchy forests than in unbroken tracts of five or more acres. (27) Keeping our forests intact, then, could help those concerned in the battle against Lyme disease by discouraging deer and white-footed mice in Granville.

Endangered Species . . .

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program lists the Northern Spring Salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*), commonly called the 'purple salamander', and the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) as species of Special Concern in Granville (see Glossary in Appendix A). The salamander lives in forested uplands which have cool, clear water in springs, seeps, or streams. Like most amphibians, it is very sensitive to pollution from road and agricultural run-off and from acid rain precipitate. It cannot survive in warm or mud-died waters. Since it has no lungs, it absorbs oxygen through its moist skin and throat membranes, and requires a well-oxygenated habitat. Logging and construction, or any activities near cold-water streams which result in siltation should be discouraged.

The box turtle gets its name from its ability to pull in its entire head and extremities within its shell when provoked. It requires a mix of upland

forests—usually oak- and wetlands, and sometimes pastures and marshy meadows. Keeping forests and wetland connections intact is important for the survival of this reptile. The decline of the species is attributed with habitat destruction and fragmentation, particularly by roads.

Though birds are the most mobile of creatures, their nesting sites, and often their food sources, are not. The omnivorous American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a highly-secretive ground-dwelling heron, spends most of its time stalking and feeding within tall marsh plants such as cattails and grasses of large freshwater wetlands. It is often pictured in conservation literature in its well-known stance taken when startled, with its beak pointing skyward, its wings contracted, swaying its body from side to side, appearing to mimic a reed in the wind. It is on the state's Endangered list (see Glossary in Appendix A). The bittern and the spring salamander share stream corridors and wetlands mainly in the western sections of Granville. All three species above are protected under state law. (see Appendix D for detailed descriptions of species listed here) The bittern and salamander are afforded extra protection since their typical habitats are protected under the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act.

Fortunately some of the extensive core habitat areas in West Granville overlap existing protected open space areas. In the eastern section of town, a smaller core habitat area in part overlies a larger area of protected land owned by the Westfield Water Works. Placing the remaining core habitat areas under protection may help insure the continued existence of jeopardized species. In order to insure the safety and protection of the above and other animals, the creation of public trails or recreation areas through core habitats should be restricted. Recreational use of motorized off-road vehicles are particularly destructive of natural habitat. Any recreational trails, especially for this use, should be constructed in less-sensitive areas.

Significant Regional Connections . . .

Large tracts of unfragmented forest land are needed to sustain and support many kinds of wild-

life, especially the larger mammals such as moose, bear, or bobcat. According to the American Bear Association, a male black bear, for instance, travels up to 100 square-miles of territory in its quest for food. A female bobcat's home range is from between 2 to more than 40 square miles of forested open space for food and denning needs. While edge habitat appears to exhibit the greatest diversity of species overall, the integrity of the deep forest habitat may be compromised by too small a size. The minimum size of an interior forest habitat removed from an edge, in order to sustain maximum health and biodiversity in itself, depends upon a myriad of factors. Research is not conclusive. However, it is generally agreed that the larger the forested area, the greater the number of species it will support (see Dave Kittredge & Anne Marie Kittredge's article "Interior and Edge: The Forest in Massachusetts" in Appendix G)

The Nature Conservancy, in its principles for conservation planning, define the characteristics of larger significant natural communities in terms of forest matrices (see Appendix G article: "Ecoregional Conservation..." by M. Anderson 9/99). The largest type of reserve in their portfolio is described as an area with a minimum of 15,000 acres of intact forest. With 90% of its 27,563 acres covered in forests, Granville, especially in conjunction with its forested neighbors to the north and west, holds potential as embodying at least a sizeable portion of a forest matrix community. Quoting M. Anderson for The Nature Conservancy: "Conservation of the matrix forest is particularly important to the biological integrity of the ecoregion." (28)

An estimated 80% of the northeast quadrant of Granville is protected as watershed land. This unbroken forest tract joins an even larger tract of protected forest land that spreads across the southern tip of the town of Russell. It envelopes the whole

of Cobble Mountain Reservoir and Borden Brook Reservoir. From Russell, this protected forest land continues diagonally northwest in an almost unbroken pattern across the entire town of Blandford and into Otis as part of the larger public water supply land holdings of Springfield.

Within the Farmington River Watershed basin, the combined acres of the Granville State Forest, Hull Forest Products conservation easement property, and Hartford's Metropolitan District Commission property protect almost 5,000 acres of contiguous forests north and south of route 57 in Granville. This same forest land extends across state borders where it is further protected by Connecticut's Tunxis



Wild turkey tracks near Blandford Road.

State Forest.

Significant NHESP core habitat along the western border of Granville overlies the two watershed basins of the Westfield and Farmington Rivers. This core habitat area is a system of wetlands which extend north and west into south-central Blandford and the eastern, especially northeastern section of Tolland. Converging fingers of this core habitat follow stream corridors below Rte. 57 in Granville and empty into the East branch of the Farmington River in Hartland, Connecticut. The Mass NHESP BioMap indicates that roughly half of this regional core area is under permanent protection.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

Granville lacks a comprehensive inventory of wildlife in town. New construction projects often disrupt wildlife communities and unwittingly destroy or disrupt critical habitat. 'Opportunist' species often move in where development displaces native wildlife populations.

Unprotected core habitat areas need to be better mapped and listed for protection where possible.

Resident encounters with larger wild species may become more frequent when habitat the animals require is protected. Understanding and respecting these creatures' behavior patterns is increasingly important for safety reasons.

The issue of habitat destruction by off-road recreational vehicles is an on-going major concern in town. As users and private landowners continue to meet to work out their differences, this problem, hopefully, will be resolved. Recreational needs, though important, should not compromise the health of major ecosystems in town.

Footnotes:

23. Joseph Bruchac, a Native American poet, from a book called *Near the Mountains* published by White Pine Press.
24. p.111, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, Tom Wessels, The Countryman Press, Woodstock, VT. 1997.
25. p.1, "MassWildlife's State Reptiles & Amphibians List", 3rd.ed., James E. Cardoza & Peter G. Mirick, *MassWildlife*, 2000. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife WEBSITE www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/dfwamph.htm)
26. p.7, *Ibid*.
27. Science Daily, National Science Foundation website: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/03/030328072802.htm>).
28. p.1 of 4. "Ecoregional Conservation: A Comprehensive Approach to Conserving Biodiversity". M.Anderson, The Nature Conservancy, Northeast and Eastern Divisions. 1999.



F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

"Places that are aesthetically enriching naturally encourage a sense of well-being in the people who live and work in them." (Elizabeth Courtney) (29)

With its mix of woods and open fields, mountains, valleys, pristine brooks, and nationally recognized historic village centers, Granville is an unbroken tapestry of rich scenic and historic resources. The village centers are gathering spaces for community events. Town and state roadways provide access to many pleasant vistas. The woods, wetlands, and meadows, home to a number of rare and endangered plant and animal species, provide a tranquil setting treasured by Granville's people.

Scenic Resources . . .

Below is a partial listing (refer to the Scenic & Historical Resources Map in this Section. the references are shown in parentheses):

- From a high point on **Beech Hill Road**, at the Ripley family's Maple Corner Farm, an open expanse of agricultural field rolls southward. It is viewed through the framework of mature sugar maple trees lining the road, and is beautifully contrasted against a backdrop of more distant hills densely vegetated with mixed forest cover. The field repeats the undulating landscape surrounding it and mimics the vast expanse of sky. There are no built structures within the view south or west. The landscape is currently intact. (S-13)

- Views of **Borden Brook Reservoir**, from almost anywhere along Borden Brook Road which surrounds it, are dramatic. Mixed hardwood and



Maple Corner Farm field offers an expansive view of rolling hills

softwood forest species border the quiet, 213-acre* reservoir with its picturesque dam and gatehouse. Currently views via this dirt road are not accessible to the public. From segments of Beech Hill Road as it winds its way around the southern end of the reservoir, the public is offered glimpses

through pine trees of the water. The only wide-open public view to the water, dam, and gatehouse is at the junction of Timberdoodle and Beech Hill Roads. This opening in the forest cover is due to recent logging of red pine. No recreation is allowed on the reservoir, therefore there are no boats, docks, or cabins interrupting the water or its edge. (S-12)

- **Ripley Brook Swamp**, located north of Farnham Road, off Beech Hill Road, contains approx. 90 acres of open water (1973 figure), dry-ki and swale grass. Beavers are active in this area as well

as many varieties of song birds, ducks and birds of prey. Access to this private land is from Farnham Road. Woodlands surround this beautiful wetland of blue water, snags, waterlilies, clumps of tall grass, and bordering native shrubs such as Arrowwood viburnums and Highbush blueberries. The scene is remarkably quiet, peaceful and serene. It is intact all the way to the town borders of Blandford and Tolland. (S-14)

- **Cobble Mountain Reservoir** affords dramatic scenery from all areas of Cobble Mt. Road as it parallels the reservoir's curving shoreline from Blandford Road to the Blandford town line. The 1,134-acre body of water is inaccessible for recreation of any type, so no boats, docks, or other built-structures are visible along the perimeter. A sequence of views to the water, surrounding forested hills, and an island, plus occasional views of Blandford hills in the distance are experienced as the traveler proceeds north along the flat roadway. Tall stands of conifers and white birch alternate with open expanses of bald, rocky shoreline and high granite overhangs in a rhythmic progression for about 2 miles as the road continues north into Blandford. The road passes over the spillway (in Granville), and the dam (on the Russell side), both of which offer breathtaking views down into the Little River Gorge. Unfortunately, the road is closed to the public. (S-8)

- **A distant view of Cobble Mt. Reservoir** is clear along a section of higher elevation of Blandford

Road south of its junction with Phelon Road. The spectacular view of the valley looks northward to the southern end of the reservoir and the arched bridge over its spillway. The reservoir is seen in a larger landscape context, as cradled by surrounding mountains, still completely forested. No homes or built-structures are within the view. (S-9)



View towards New Hampshire from the highest point in town



Cascade along the Hubbard River

- **The Highest Point in Granville**, elevation 1487', is a bald rock ridge. It lies within several acres of lowbush blueberry fields and small white birch saplings on the east side of North Lane and is within protected land owned by The New England Forestry Foundation. Because of the low vegetation on the promontory, broad views of distant hills in all directions, including Mount Monadnock in NH, are offered. Members of the National Audubon Society and other orga-

nizations often come to observe hawk activity here along this avian migration corridor. The location must be accessed on foot via a narrow dirt road, roughly 1/2 mile south of where the El Paso gas pipeline crosses North Lane. (S-11)

- **Hubbard River**, in the Granville State Forest, is accessed from the bridge on West Hartland Road, and from campground and picnic areas south of the bridge. Numerous sections of the river offer dramatic views of white water tumbling down over rocky ledges and ravines. On its way south toward the Tunxis State Forest region of Connecticut's Barkhamsted Reservoir, the river cuts through

densely forested, steep hills covered with glacial till. Visually dramatic in any season, the river continues to be a major scenic attraction in the region. Due to state budget cuts, the forest campsites are limited and swimming areas are no longer open to the public. (S-15)

- **Shaughnessy Swamp** is a 35-acre open water swamp, bordered on its south by Rt. 57. It is framed by low hills of hardwood forests and by native wetland shrubs at its shore. The shallow water is punctuated by numerous snags and stumps, natural perches for many species of water birds, including nesting blue herons. It is also home to a variety of wild ducks and geese. The reflective surface of the still water mirrors colors in the sky and surrounding vegetation, an appealing show of visual changes in every season. Travelers often stop to photograph the site. (S-10)

- Glimpses of the southwest and northwest ends of **Granville Reservoir** are offered through stands of coniferous trees bordering Old Westfield Road. The reservoir occupies 80 acres and is surrounded by forests along an irregular-shaped shoreline. Because it is watershed property, owned by Westfield, there is no recreational activity on the reservoir. No boats or docks, or homes are within sight. Long, very elegant views to a colonial-style engineer's station from the grassy field and enormous Sugar Maple tree which mark the former site of Samuel Bancroft's 1735 homestead are possible within the gated, private, Winchell Road access to the reservoir on the north end. (S-7)

- **Winchell Reservoir**, built in 1899, and owned by the city of Westfield, may be accessed by a public way section of Winchell Road (gated) off Old Westfield Road at the southern end of Gran-

ville Reservoir. Silted-in, overgrown, and shady, the several-acre reservoir has developed a bucolic character, more like a natural pond than man-made. It lies within a natural depression between hills. The turreted gatehouse and dam now seem small and quaint beside large mature trees on the site. Water cascades picturesquely over the many-tiered spillway, and the stream below spreads through a shady grass-covered glen, once enjoyed by Granville families for picnics. (S-4)

- Crossing the town line between Southwick and Granville through a sequence of curves, Main Road (MA Rte.57) passes through the **Granville Gorge**. The road, which connects the two towns, was cut into the rocky slope of the north end of Sodom Mountain in 1892. Because the resulting rock overhangs face north, ice from the many 'weepers' in

upper elevations, melts slowly. It accumulates into masses of fascinating formations. Minerals leaching out of the soils create varied hues of pastel colors within these frozen 'pipes'. (S-2)

- **Drake Mountain**, like its sister, Sodom Mountain, separates the town of

Granville from Southwick. The south summit of Drake Mountain rises over 500' above Munn Brook as the brook winds its way through the Granville Gorge. Views south and west from a rock outcrop near the stone town-line marker on the summit are spectacular. From it can be seen Granville Reservoir, Granville's forested hills to the west, Cooley Lake, and, on a clear day, the city of Hartford. The site may be accessed from a wooded unmarked trail ascending from the aqueduct trail out of Winchell Reservoir. (S-1)

- **Sodom Mountain** is the predominant land-



Winchell Road leads to Granville Reservoir which is owned by the City of Westfield.

scape feature separating Granville Village from the more populous town of Southwick to its east. Rising roughly 400' from the gentle rolling terrain of the southeast section of Granville, the mountain creates an imposing and sweeping backdrop for the valley settlement of Granville Village. Sodom Mountain, with its quartz rock outcrop locally named 'White Rock' near the summit, may be clearly seen as one exits the village center while heading east on Rte. 57. The mountain may also be easily viewed from almost any point along Sodom Street, which is bordered mainly by sparsely-settled open fields on the mountain's western base. A third, and pleasantly framed, perspective of Sodom Mountain is offered from Granby Road (CT. Rte. 189) from across the meadow clearing just south of Granville Village center. (S-5)

- Dramatic and sweeping panoramic views of Granville Village and more distant Granville Center may be seen from **'White Rock'**, a granite and quartz outcrop on private land near the summit of the west face of Sodom Mountain. Below, cleared farmland interspersed by forests create an idyllic scene punctuated by blue lakes and ponds. Sky meets West Granville hills in an undulating contour line along the far horizon. Views of the rolling green countryside typify the broader Granville landscape that is intact, and uninterrupted by any outward signs of commercial or residential sprawl. The outcrop is accessed by simply hiking from one of several private land parcels

up the steep, forested slopes of Sodom Mountain. No public trails exist on the Granville side of the mountain. (S-3)

- The **Mill on the Meadow** lies beside a small stream in a cultivated flat field which stretches from Granby Road (CT Rt.189) on its west to the meanders of Dickinson Brook just north of Cooley Lake. The meadow is a short walk to Granville Village center, and may be the oldest continuously-cultivated field in town since the town's settlement in the 18th Century. Ralph Hiers built the Mill in 1976 as a 'folly.' The Mill and the Meadow are best viewed looking east from Granby Road. The open clearing is defined in part by its charming surroundings of a large red wooden barn to the north, deep forest to the south, forested hills to the east, and all within the context of Sodom Mountain as a back-



Looking northwest into the valley from Sodom Mountain



Mill on the Meadow

drop. Often on summer mornings the meadow is blanketed in heavy mist, lending mystery to the space. (S-6)

"...places are the contexts of human life and in some manner are themselves alive, for they grow, change and decline with the individuals and groups who maintain or ignore them." (Edward Relph) (30)

Historic & Cultural Resources . . .

Below is a partial listing (refer to the Scenic & Historical Resources Map in this Section. the references are shown in parentheses):

- In **Granville Village**, citizens gather on the newly-established Town Green, created by citizen volunteers, for town-wide events such as the annual fall Harvest Fair, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and for outdoor concerts. Public gatherings and special cultural events also take place at the Granville Village School, The Granville Federated Church, and the Granville Public Library. The beautifully-restored 1802 Old Meeting House in **Granville Center** hosts weddings and concerts, art shows and various other cultural events which often extend out onto the front lawn. Near the Meeting House, the Granville Town Hall, shining with its recent renovations, is Granville's political center and space for many public events as well.

- A broad open square lawn in **West Granville Center** creates a stark, but elegant setting for a trio of historic buildings, the West Granville Congregational Church, the Academy, and Firehouse. The space is used for public functions such as craft fairs and fund-raising events. The town-owned West Granville School, a brick Colonial Revival structure, currently unused, sits nearby.

- Just north of the Ripley's farm, and on the west side of Beech Hill Road, a large boulder

with an historical plaque marks the site of the **first Methodist Episcopal Church** to be erected in Massachusetts west of the Connecticut River. The church was built in 1797 and was where the Third New

England Conference of Methodists was held in 1798. (H-7)

- A grassy field and enormous Sugar Maple tree beside Granville Reservoir's northeast shoreline mark the site of Granville's purported first settler, **Samuel Bancroft's 1735 homestead**. The actual location of the homestead is beneath the water of the reservoir, but stone remnants, such as a well and foundation slabs lie near the water. Bancroft was among Granville's first Selectmen when the town was incorporated in 1754. He was also a patriot who served in the War for Independence. Access to the site is through gated Winchell Road, a private way. (H-2)



West Granville Church, Academy & Firehouse in West Granville Center



Samuel Bancroft, one of earliest settlers, built a home on this site of the present Granville Reservoir property.

- Early settlers capitalized upon Granville's abundant streams for water power to run basic industries such as mills. Most fell into ruin before the end of the 19th Century. On Hollister Brook, elegant ruins of an impressive **Old Mill** remain. The mill site is located near where the former North Lane 1 converges with Wildcat Road, not far from Old Westfield Road. (H-3)

- A number of **Cellar Holes**, of homes or other buildings abandoned over one hundred years ago exist in town. Many of the old homes were purchased for watershed land acquisition. The sites are

spread throughout the town and lie beside existing roads, public and private, and roads discontinued as public ways. They speak of past communities and neighborhoods. The stone walls surrounding these properties remind us of how different the now-forested land must have looked as cleared farm fields during the 19th Century. Existing old maps indicate who lived where and when. Of particular note are those cellar holes along old North Lane 1, Sullivan Road, Wildcat Road, Sheets Road, and West Hartland Road. (H-4)

“Like the old stone fences that run through the forests of central New England, the fraying warp and weft of a worn landscape tapestry, abandoned pastures leave apparitions of their forgotten pasts.” (Tom Wessels) (31)

- **Borden Brook Reservoir arched Bridge and Gatehouse, Winchell Reservoir Gatehouse and Dam** are noteworthy for their style typifying late 19th and early 20th Century public works. (H-6, and H-1, respectively)

- There are five historic **Cemeteries** in Granville. Granville Center Cemetery on Rt.57 near the Town Hall, West Granville Cemetery on Rt.57, Woodland Cemetery on Blandford Road near Granville Center, Northeast Cemetery on the west side of Old Westfield Road near the southern end of Granville Reservoir, and Silver Street Cemetery near the junction of Granby Road (CT Rt.189) and Silver Street. In addition, the single grave of a Civil War soldier in 1864 is located in the southwest corner of town, on Searle Road. Many veterans of the War for Independence, the War of 1812, and the Civil War are buried in these cemeteries. The oldest cemetery is Main Road Cemetery and the first person to have

been buried there is Samuel Gillet in 1739. (see cemetery icons on Scenic & Historical Resources Map)

- In August 1987, The Granville Historical Commission and the Planning Board with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, completed a comprehensive survey of Granville's historic and architectural resources for the establishment of **National Register and Local Historic**

Districts. The goal of these districts is to provide the town with strategies to give broader protection to the town's historic resources, and, as such, aid in the preservation of Granville's pastoral character. The three districts are posted along sections of Granville Village, Granville Center, and West Granville. (Denoted on Scenic & Cultural Resources Map by striped pattern)

- A potential historical site is **Deacon David Rose's first house and Fort** against the Indians. Built of stone in about 1744, it is believed (according to Benjamin Jones' map of Granville in 1900, in the Granville Library's Historical Room) to have been erected on the hill across from the present junction of North Lane and

Rt.57 in West Granville. When Jones drew his map in 1900, two stone pillars remained of the fort. (H-5)

- According to old maps and records, there were approximately 12 **schoolhouse sites**, not including the Academies, listed in the National Register Historic Districts. (see schoolhouse icons on Scenic & Historical Resources Map)

- The history of the land before the Poquonoc sachem Toto gave James Cornish title to the Granville area in 1686 remains a mystery. However,



Traces of Granville's early economy, such as the old mill ruins on Hollister Brook, still exist.

a recent discovery may shed some light on early Granville and may also prove to be a major asset to the town. What appears to be a large ancient **Native**

American burial site has been discovered off Phelon Road in West Granville. The site is in the process of being documented and authenticated. (H-8)

IMPLICATIONS . . .

Granville residents have enormous opportunities to capitalize on the wealth of unspoiled scenic, natural, and historic resources in town. Potential exists for improving existing scenic views and creating new ones through imaginative roadside projects, attention to the aesthetic of the roads themselves, and the formation of trails. Sites abound to take advantage of land for family recreation areas such as picnic grounds and community parks. If protected and valued, wildlife will continue to coexist with, delight, and enhance the lives of Granville's people into the future. Historic sites can be inventoried, improved, made more significant, and thereby better inform generations to come of the community's heritage. The wise protection of the land and well-guided growth together will assure that these opportunities may not be missed.

Footnotes:

29. p. 9, *Vermont's Scenic Landscapes: A Guide for Growth and Protection*, Elizabeth Courtney. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Planning Division, Waterbury, VT. 1991.
30. p. 38, *Dwelling, Seeing, and Designing: Toward a Phenomenological Ecology*. Edward Relph. ed. David Seamon, State university of New York Press, 1993.
31. p.51, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, Tom Wessels. The Countryman Press. Woodstock, VT. 1997.



11 x 17
Scenic Historical
Resources

G. Environmental Problems

“Stewardship is quite different from management: it requires wisdom, restraint, and, above all, a commitment to and understanding of a particular place.” (32)

For the most part, Granville’s citizens have been good caretakers of the land. The abundance of relatively healthy forests, functioning wetlands, and clean drinking water attest to this. Nevertheless, there are major issues. The most pervasive environmental concerns Granville faces today are erosion of its soils, and encroaching development.

As society becomes increasingly aware of the interdependence of humans and their natural environment, changes in attitude are reflected by changes in citizen behavior and priorities for action. As inferred from answers to questions on Granville’s Open Space Plan Survey conducted in

2002, townspeople were most concerned about the following conservation issues: water quality, forest health, and wildlife habitat. Where previous generations might have routinely dumped trash somewhere out on their back lot or filled in wetlands prior to building, citizens of Granville today are schooled in recycling, are more likely to show concern about the quality of their well water, or support a fifth grade roadside clean-up campaign. The wheels of change turn slowly, however. Citizen education on sound ecological



Severe erosion is a problem in areas of loose sandy soils wherever vegetation is removed. This photo was taken near Cobble Mountain Reservoir.

principles needs to be ongoing into the next generations.

Erosion . . .

Granville soils are particularly vulnerable to loss by erosion. Steep slopes combined with thin, sandy soils erode quickly when their vegetation base is damaged or destroyed. Soil

loss is compounded by siltation in streams and wetlands, causing water pollution problems. In recent years, Granville’s eroding soils have aroused the attention of the public where the problem is most visibly noticeable: the El Paso Gas Pipeline. The pipeline stretches for roughly thirteen linear miles, criss-crossing the town, east-west/north-south. It may be seen, and accessed, from a number of points along public roadways. Although the pipeline and power transmission lines are easements on private properties, it is in-

correctly assumed by many that the easements are common land; open for use without permission.

Because the easement strips are open pathways of herbaceous and shrub-layer vegetation rather than forests, they are a popular choice for the use of motorized, all-terrain, off-road sport vehicles. As a result of the overuse of such areas by riders, most segments of the pipeline show from mild to severe loss of topsoil. Widespread ATV use is evident in many forested areas of Granville as well. Regardless of its popularity as a sport, ATV activity, when uncontrolled, not only causes erosion, but destruction of habitat, damage to sensitive wetlands, and noise pollution. Landowners complain that, despite laws protecting the rights of property owners against trespassing, law enforcement organizations in small towns lack the necessary resources to cope with the enormity of the problem.

Logging . . .

With the regeneration of Granville's forests over the past century, logging and forest management have begun to play a more significant role in land use. Between 10% and 20% of the town's mature forests have been harvested for timber in the past ten years.

Forest management plans, begun in the 1980's under the Massachusetts Chapter 61 program, require the harvesting of 10% to 20% of the timber stand on most lots every five to ten years. Harvesting is one facet of a Chapter 61 plan. Also included are: tree thinning, border delineation, laying out of access roads, and the inventorying of tree species. Most of the landowners of large, forested land parcels in town have forest management plans in effect.

The three metropolitan watershed districts, for instance, manage forests to maximize water absorption and quality. Other organizations or families manage for the encouragement of specific wildlife habitat, or for species timber stands. Though forests in Granville are managed for various purposes, logging activity in town, for the most part, has been market driven. Though

Massachusetts Chapter 132 regulations stipulate the best cutting practices for the health of the forest as a whole, a lack of understanding of forest dynamics is often a factor with landowners and loggers alike. Nevertheless, foresters and loggers as a rule are likely to be much more aware of the potential environmental risks that careless tree removal poses than developers who clear-cut land for built-structures.



Natural habitat areas and vegetation cover are vulnerable to damage or loss by uncontrolled use of all-terrain vehicles, especially along the gas pipeline.

Encroaching Development . . .

Faced with the pressure of increasing development, Granville is challenged with maintaining rural character its citizens so value. Inherent in the conventional approach to construction of new homes is the policy of clearing the lot first of all trees, scraping the land of all native vegetation, and replanting trees and exotic turf grass after construction. This results not only in increasing habitat destruction, additional chemical and fertilizer run-off associated with lawns, but risks a homogenous visual result in which Granville, Massachusetts begins to look like "Everywhere Else", USA. In addition, the disturbance of soils inevitably is followed by the introduction of the opportunistic and more competitive invasive exotic plants, displacing native

vegetation and diminishing biodiversity. Without town boards being vigilant and enforcing firm compliance with state laws protecting sensitive environments, and contractors building homes in ways which are sensitive to their natural sites, prospective land owners and developers may push through their own uninformed agendas, jeopardizing the integrity of the town. This is a particularly difficult situation for town boards in small communities such as Granville, in which dedicated volunteers are taxed with this overwhelming responsibility.

Water Use . . .

Water quality is of paramount importance to the citizens of Granville, and indeed to all life forms. Outside municipalities monitor the quality of water in the watershed property reservoirs daily. The quality of water is checked periodically in the non-community public wells such as for the Granville Village School, and for the community public well of The Granville Water Company in Granville Center. Individual homeowners on wells, however, are not required to test their water only upon construction of a well, or upon a change of property ownership. Since there are no sewers in Granville, all 640 households in town have septic systems. Approximately 5 to 10 failures of these systems are reported each year. Hartford's Metropolitan District Commission visually inspects all septic systems located in its watershed in Granville on a three-year cycle. Westfield Water Department and Springfield's Sewer and Water Commission do not have formal inspection systems for resident properties within Granville. With

State changes to Title V regulations allowing the current percolation rates of 30 min./inch to double to 60 min./inch, many areas of "tighter", problematic soils will be open to development, and the risk for ground water pollution will be even greater. Currently, Granville's Board of Health specifies a rate of 20 min.-per-inch percolation rate, but the town fears that the state will take away its powers to enforce these more stringent regulations.

Monitoring and careful regulation of potential pollution sources, especially near water and within particularly vulnerable soil sites, is essential to avert ground and surface water contamination, and assure excellent water quality into the future.

Sand and Gravel Operations . . .

Four gravel extraction operations are currently permitted in town under the Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permits. Changing the shape of the land has potential to alter surface and sub-surface drainage patterns and cause sedimentation in streams due to run-off. Permits require operators to have plans for the restoration of pit areas by grading and vegetation.

Road Contaminants . . .

Road salt and motor oil are well-known contaminants of soil, vegetation, and water. There are approximately 70 miles of roads in town. In 1995 Granville built a salt shed at the Town Barn on Old Westfield Road to contain its supply of salt. The town highway department has made it their policy to apply salt as sparingly as possible, without jeopardizing travelers' safety. Due to the curves and slopes prevalent on Granville roads, however, certain areas necessarily receive more salt application than others. This is particularly of concern in places such as Twining Hollow and the Southwick gorge section of 57, where road run-off potentially enters major streams. Water and sediment run-off onto roads from new construction sites and existing driveways can pose safety hazards to humans as well, especially in winter. No town ordinance exists to regulate this.

Fuel Oil as a Pollution Source . . .

Fuel oil and related petroleum products are potential problems wherever machinery is used. Petroleum enters the soil and water from roadways, junk yards, farm machinery, and parked vehicles. The few businesses in town which repair vehicles operate under permits, and are

monitored for compliance with state and federal regulations for waste oil disposal. Stormwater protection drainage plans up to current state and federal codes are in use for the Transfer Station, the Town Barn and other town buildings.

Underground fuel storage tanks and pipes are used for residential, agricultural, and commercial purposes in Granville. State and Federal regulations apply only to those units which are larger than 1,100 gallons. The state's standard release report still lists several spills present in Granville. Besides a leak and subsequent replacement of the underground fuel tank at the Village School in 1990, minor leaks include two from businesses and one from a private residence. Citizens should be made aware that checking the condition of their fuel oil storage tanks and service pipes, above or below ground, is an important measure to take in the prevention of costly oil pollution on theirs and neighboring properties.

Agricultural Contaminants · · ·

Few records exist of the incidence of environmental damage in town due to misuse, or excessive use of agricultural pesticides and herbicides during the first half of the past century, due to the unknown effects of their use at the time. The numbers of active orchards has dropped considerably, from 13 in 1988, to 3 in 2003. Blueberries, once a main crop in town, covered approximately 1,000 collective acres in 1950, now cover only around 200. But, for those orchard and blueberry growers still operating, the approach to pesticide application has changed. For example: by the 1970's, Granville farmers and orchard owners began a program of Integrated Pest Management. Instead of spraying fruit trees on a calendar basis for indiscriminant coverage, the approach is based upon pesticide application only upon need. Orchard owners began to see a financial savings on a selective approach to spraying in order to allow natural predatory insects to play a crucial role in pest control. Cooler temperatures of Granville's relatively higher elevation help deter certain pathogens as well.

Crop and dairy farming in town is limited,

due in part to Granville's hilly topography and stony, thin soils. Wild and cultivated blueberries, hay, and corn are the predominant field crops, and where commercial fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are used, they are used sparingly. A more worrisome use of the above may actually be by homeowners in their zeal for a perfect lawn or the biggest tomato. Nitrate contaminant run-off into streams or groundwater could be a concern and should be part of a citizen educational effort, especially in a community dependent upon wells.

There are three active dairy farms in town, all located in the lowland of east Granville. Under the federal Natural Soil Conservation Service, these operations have manure disposal plans stipulating the amounts of manure and how it is being used on the land. Each farm is monitored for run-off. Unlike the dairy farms, however, there are numerous small farms where horses and other farm animals such as sheep and goats are raised, but who are not bound by law to contain run-off contaminants from manure piles. Again, citizens could benefit from educational programs on environmentally sound farm practices.

Refuse Disposal and Hazardous Waste · · ·

1969 reflected another change in citizen awareness of the need for more responsible environmental practices. At that time, Granville instituted a facility on Water Street for the collection and transfer of household trash. Residents take refuse and recyclables to the Transfer Station to be hauled to regional facilities in the Springfield area. Some families hire outside businesses to collect their refuse. The Granville Board of Health periodically sponsors hazardous waste pick up campaigns for residents in designated collection sites in town. Despite this, there are still a few cases of illegal dumping occurring per year, mainly on the pipeline.

Citizen education on the causes of water pollution and habitat destruction and how they can be prevented by responsible behavior, is important to the continued good health of the community.

IMPLICATIONS . . .

Erosion of soils and destruction of sensitive habitat areas due to overuse by recreational vehicles is a major concern of Granville residents, particularly for those landowners whose properties are overlain by pipeline easements. By working together, law enforcement officers, concerned citizens and recreational vehicle users can achieve compromises which will result in reduced destruction to the environment, respect for individual land ownership, and user guidelines for more responsible recreational behavior.

Proper storage of and disposal of contaminating waste is an important ongoing issue in town, whether it be septic effluent, or fuel oil, or petroleum byproducts. Careful monitoring of storage units in environmentally sensitive sites should be done often, and units themselves must be up to code. Citizens must be educated about what they can do to minimize risks of water pollution.

Construction of new homes insensitive to the surrounding land on which they sit is not necessary. When designers and contractors shed conventional approaches to development and begin to respect and factor the intrinsic economic value of the existing land into the picture, development will cease to be such a monumental environmental problem. Intelligent planning for development which is mutually beneficial for the environment and all its inhabitants is the goal. And that is an awesome and exciting challenge for this town.

Footnotes:

32. p.57, *Ecological Design*, Sim Van der Ryn and Stuart Cowan, Island Press, Washington, D.C.



~ Section 5 ~
**INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION
AND RECREATION INTEREST**



Barber Memorial Camp is a privately-owned recreation center in West Granville.

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Section 5 — INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

“Somewhere behind most discussions about place and sense of place lies an image of quiet, simple landscapes where there are no great cities, no suburban tracts, no ugly factories, no money-based economies, and no authoritarian political systems. In this landscape, people know their neighbors, who share traditions and social rituals. People have an intimate familiarity with the local geography, and they feel a responsibility for maintaining the nameless qualities of their place with its intricate townscape and regionally distinctive architectural styles.” (33)

Granville Land Ownership Patterns (According to Granville Assessor Records, 2004)

Total Land Area is 27,563.4

Owner	Acreage	Usage
Springfield, Westfield, and MDC (Hartford)	9,117.5	Water Supply
Commonwealth of MA	1,759.6	State Forest
New England Forestry Foundation	978.0	Forest
Sportsmen’s National Land Trust	290.0	Hunting
Town of Granville	177.8	Municipal
Total Tax Exempt Land	12,324.6 acres	
Fowler Conservation Trust	360.0	Passive recreation
Jarvis Conservation Restriction	135	Private
Ripley Conservation Restriction	19.5	Private
Jones/ Brown Conservation Restriction	111	Private
Total Land Under CR	625.5 acres	
Total Land Under Chapter 61	3,178.37	
Total Land Under Chapter 61A	2,372.59	
Total Land Under Chapter 61B	17.20	

1. Approximate percentage of land owned by tax exempt organizations, including land owned by outside municipalities 45%.
 2. Approximate percentage of land owned by tax exempt organizations plus land under CR’s 47%.

3. Approximate percentage of land total under Chapters 61, 61A, or 61B.....20%.

Total acreage of land under these three programs (1,2, and 3)18,518.26.

This acreage translates into about 67% of Granville’s total land which is under some kind of protection.

Degrees of Land Protection

No land is inherently protected from development or change of land-use in the distant future. Even the most legally protective measures are baseless when land is taken by by state or federal entities by emminant domain. But for the foreseeable future there are practical degrees of protection afforded. The following is a loosely-heirarchical list of protection status applied to land in Granville, from best-protected to unprotected:

- Land which is under a permanent Conservation Restriction, or “conservation easement”, held by a conservation agency or nonprofit land trust (M.G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31-33) Under this program, the landowner retains ownership of the land, but the trust or agency holding the restriction allows only certain uses of the land. The intention is for a mutually beneficial situation, whereby the owner’s taxes are reduced and the holding agency realizes its policy of conserving land. This policy protects land from development into perpetuity.
- Private land trust parcels, other than Conservation Restrictions. Again, land is protected into perpetuity.
- Government-owned, or Municipal-owned land (including Town of Granville land, and cemeteries)
- Chapter 61 Lands in which the state of Massachusetts encourages landowners to manage land for forestry, agriculture or recreational uses. In return, landowners receive significant tax breaks.
- National Register Districts, recognized by the federal government as significant, but requires review for change only when there is state or federal involvement in the project.
- Unprotected private lands under full tax status

A. Most-Protected Lands

Private and public lands in Granville protected by Conservation Restrictions, land trusts, and/or by government or municipal ownership comprise over 13,000 acres. This figure is slightly less than half of the total land mass of Granville.

Note: Acreage figures used here are approximate from Assessors’ maps. All are based upon the total of 27,563 acres.

Public Lands . . .

Granville State Forest lies in the southwestern quadrant of the town. It is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and covers 1,760

acres of streams and heavily forested ravines. In the past, the forest has been a popular place for camping, swimming and picknicking along the scenic Hubbard River. There are trails for hiking and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as well. Since state funds have been cut, however, the State Forest has been closed to supervised swimming and camping.

Land owned by the town of Granville comprises 178 acres. The following is a list of town holdings:

Prior to 2001, The Granville Town Forest occupied 37 acres along the Connecticut state line and the southern leg of McCarthy Road. In 2001, due to a land-owner default on taxes, the town acquired 47 more acres abutting the forest from McCarthy road to South Lane. This provided over twice the former acreage. The town is developing a forest management plan for it, but as yet, no recreational purpose plans have been created.

Across Rt.57 from the Granville Village School, 22 acres of field and woodland were acquired by the town in 2000 as a site for a potential new well for the school. Currently, there are no recreation plans developed for that land for the townspeople's enjoyment. The land has great potential for use by the school for outdoor learning programs.

In March, 2004, the town of Granville voted to purchase 25 acres of land which had been slated for development, bordering Wendy's Road, deep in Twining Hollow. Wendy's Road, an old county road, is in poor condition, and is only between 8 to 10 feet wide in some sections. The acreage spills across both sides of the road and lies over rock ledge and deep hemlock woods. Valley Brook runs about 300 feet west of the northwest corner

of the parcel. There are no plans yet for how the town will use the land.

A number of smaller parcels of town-owned land, which hold mainly municipal buildings such as the Village School, the Old Meeting House, the Town Green, the Town Hall, The Town Garage, the Transfer Station, West Granville School, and a cemetery (other cemeteries are privately-owned), are scattered throughout the town, adjacent to roadways.



Children wade in Hubbard River on public land.



Birches and laurel grow on private property protected by a Conservation Restriction.

Private Lands . . .

To date, 2006 acres of private land are protected by various land trust holdings and Conservation Restrictions. Significant private parcels include New England Forestry Foundation's 978 acres in the north-central portion of town. Together with the abutting 290 acres of land owned by Sportsmen's

National Land Trust, they form the largest tax-exempt holdings, 1270 acres, in town. Both properties are actively managed for wildlife habitat. Within the Forestry Foundation's property are hiking trails to a bald rock outcrop, the highest point in Granville, where birders watch seasonal hawk migrations within an avian corridor.

Fowler Land Trust, under Hull Forestry Products, owns 360 acres of land in Granville bordered by the Town of Tolland to the west and by Rt. 57 on the south. Hall Pond Brook runs through them. A Conservation Restriction on these acres is held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Three other private properties in town, totaling 2006 acres, have Conservation Restrictions on their use. They include the 135-acre Jarvis property, formerly owned by Bogoslovski, on South Lane; 111 acres of the Brown property (home of the Gran-Val Scoop Dairy Farm) on Granby Road; and 20 acres of the Ripley property at the convergence of Borden and Ripley Brooks in West Granville. The Jarvis property restriction is held by the Town of Granville. New England Forestry Foundation holds the restriction on Brown's property. And, the restriction on the Ripley Farm property is held by the U.S. Government.

The story behind the transfer of the Bogoslovski property into the Jarvis family hands in 1988 is noteworthy because it was the first time the citizens of Granville voted to exercise their right of first refusal option on land which had been for years under Chapter 61A. Many discussions and informal meetings took place to debate the issue of land conservation options and the future of the town. Petitions were drawn up and the vote passed. The townspeople bought the property with house and barn and then sold them to the Jarvis family with the proviso that the land may be timbered, harvested for agricultural crops, or used for recreational purposes, but no additional built-structures will be permitted on the land into perpetuity.

Land Owned by Outside Municipalities . . .

By far the lion's share of ownership, 9118 forested acres, is held by the three outside municipalities of Westfield, Springfield, and Hartford

(see Open Space Map in this Section). Hartford's Metropolitan District Commission owns 2,959 of these acres which lie mainly in the Farmington River watershed in the western half of Granville. A significant portion is sandwiched between Beech Hill Road and Hull Forestry Product's parcel bordering the Tolland town line. But the greater MDC acreage spreads eastward from the Granville State Forest for roughly two and a quarter miles, abutting the Jarvis property on its east and the Connecticut state line on its south. It includes about a mile and a half of Valley Brook, which, along with Hubbard River, feeds Connecticut's Barkhamsted Reservoir.

2,606 acres within the Westfield River watershed are owned by the The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for the protection of Borden



The City of Springfield owns this shady road which surrounds Borden Brook Reservoir.

Brook and Cobble Mountain Reservoirs. The bulk of Springfield's lands surround the two reservoirs, located in the far north sections of town, bordering the town lines of Blandford and Russell. A sizeable chunk in the far northwest of town stretches across the El Paso gas pipeline and joins MDC lands to the south and to the north.

Thirdly, the City of Westfield owns 3,552 acres of forest land in the northeast quadrant of Granville. Springfield land abuts it to the north. The acres spread from Blandford Road, across Old Westfield Road, and eastward to the top of Drake Mountain on the border of Southwick. Cradled within is Granville Reservoir.

The bulk of these watershed lands were bought from Granville residents early in the previous century in order to protect the quality of water which drains into the four reservoirs of Gran-

ville, Borden Brook, Cobble Mountain, and Barkhamsted, three of which lie partially or wholly within the town of Granville. Remnants of old roads and cellar holes of farming communities which once thrived on lands in the 19th Century, criss-cross these woods. Recent land protection emphasis has been the purchasing of additional watershed lands, previously-owned by private individuals, by these cities. Within the past five years alone, collective municipal purchases were over 769 Granville acres, with another 639 acres currently being negotiated for sale to them. During 2000-2001, the State of Massachusetts offered to purchase Conservation Restrictions on watershed lands owned by Springfield, but has since rescinded the offer.



Much of Granville's land is owned by water districts from Springfield, Westfield and Hartford and is off-limits to public use. Revenue generated by this land is limited. The town's most scenic road, winding along the edge of Cobble Mountain Reservoir, is closed for security reasons.

that, legally, a municipality has the right to sell the land, or change its use, at any time, since most of the land was purchased for "general municipal purposes", not the stricter water Conservation Restriction that would require legislative approval.

To date, no access to these forest-covered lands has been allowed by the public, and these municipalities provide only a nominal amount of payment in lieu of taxes to the town of Granville, despite the significant acreage owned. The outside municipal-owned lands have been described here under Most-Protected section, since it remains in the best interest of their citizens to own and protect the land for water quality purposes. However, it must be made clear



B. Less-Protected Land

Private land holdings in Granville which are more vulnerable to development than parcels listed in section A. above, but still maintain a minor degree of protection, fall mainly into the category of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B Lands. Together with National Register Historic District parcels, they total 5,797 acres. The remainder of land in town, roughly 8,800 acres, less than a third of Granville, is privately-owned and unprotected.

Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B Lands . . .

Widely scattered throughout Granville are the 5,568 acres held under Massachusetts Chapter 61 programs. They represent 20% of Granville land and play an important part in the town's economy, physical character, and ecological health. Enrolling in Chapter 61, 61A, and/or 61B

substantially reduces property taxes on land used for forestry, agricultural/horticultural, or recreational purposes, respectively. Protection of lands under this program is afforded by landowner financial incentive to keep the land in current use as productive farm, forest, or open space and recreation land. The program is voluntary, has criteria for eligibility, and exacts penalties when land is removed from the program. The protection, therefore, is temporary. Though the Chapter 61 programs offer strong incentives to large landowners, development profits are often greater than the penalties a landowner must pay to remove land from them.

Under Chapter 61, land is managed for timber



(Photo courtesy of Craig Phelon)

On Chapter 61 lands, sound forest management practices yield a sustainable forest economy.

products and/or wildlife conservation. At least ten acres must be enrolled under a ten-year forest management plan. The plan is submitted to local assessors, who, upon approving it, reclassify the parcel as forest land, and the land becomes taxed at 5% of its fair market value. When the land is sold for a different use or there is a failure to comply with the plan, not only must

the landowner pay back taxes, but the interest as well.

Forty seven parcels, 3,178 acres in town are currently under Chapter 61. The largest single owner of land under this program is Hull Forest Products, Inc. and its subsidiary, B & N Land, LLC, with holdings of 561 acres primarily in West Granville. Also notable are the 178 acres owned by the Western Massachusetts Bird Dog Club in West Granville, managed for small game hunting. The Granville Center Water Company property of 53 acres, which stretches between Blandford and Regan Roads, is privately-owned. As long as the small water company remains viable, there is little chance of the land being developed. But, every year the

company struggles in the face of stringent regulations. If the company were to sell the land, which is currently under Chapter 61, and the town were not able to acquire it, the Approval Not Required acreage could then be open for development.

Chapter 61A land is managed for agricultural or horticultural products. To qualify, a landowner must enroll at least five acres, with gross sales at least \$500 per year. The State's Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission determines the value-per-acre. The town then reclassifies the land for Chapter 61A use and extracts taxes at a reduced rate. Though no interest is due, a rollback tax is due when the land is removed from the plan, or the landowner fails to comply with the terms of the program.

One hundred eleven parcels, a total of 2373 acres are currently enrolled under Chapter 61A in town. Commodities grown include timber, Christmas trees, orchard fruit, blueberries, hay, dairy products, and corn. The largest parcel, 609-acre Maple Corner Farm, belongs to the Ripley family in West Granville, who grow hay and blueberries during the warmer months, and harvest maple syrup in winter. They operate a cross-country ski touring center on the farm as well. There are three dairy farms in town, all located in the southeast corner of town. One, the Gran-Val Scoop, a family farm on Granby Road (CT Rt. 189), produces and sells gourmet ice cream on its premises.

Blueberry fields and apple orchards have become synonymous with Granville for almost a century. Many exist along roadsides, particularly along North Lane, South Lane, Sodom Street, and Old Westfield Road, and on either side of Rt.57 as it ascends from Granville Village to Granville Center. These open fields of low-growing crops and picturesque rows of fruit trees lend seasonal drama, a sense of order and harmony within

the open spaces framed by the denser forested land around them. They also are a testament to generations of hard-working landowners who settled and built this community. However, within the brief span from 1988 to 2003, farms producing apples and blueberries diminished from 13 to 3. Economical pressure from larger growers in Washington state and from juice industries, coupled with high labor costs and high production costs

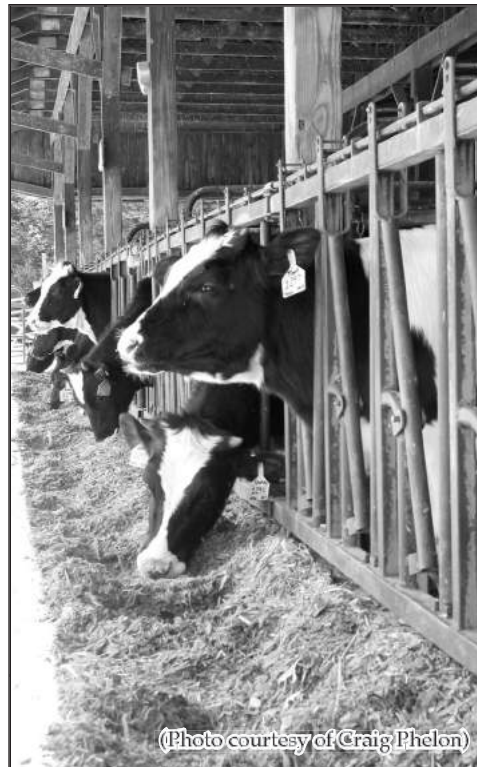
on the smaller farms have contributed to this reversal. Higher paying jobs in technology entice young people into work elsewhere.

At least five contiguous acres must be included to qualify under the **Chapter 61B** program, which is deemed recreational land. No commodity is required to be produced on Chapter 61B land since it is for recreational purposes. Nor is public access required if the property is kept in a 'natural' or wild state. Valuation of land under 61B may not exceed 25% of fair market value. Withdrawing the parcel from the program requires that the landowner pay a rollback tax, or a conveyance tax. There is only one small private parcel of land listed under Chapter 61B

in Granville. The 17-acre site sits in the gorge, at the Southwick town line, and is bordered by Munn Brook on its south.

Three of the private properties listed in A. Most Protected Lands, above, as permanently protected, are also under the Chapter 61 program: the Brown parcel, the Ripley parcel, and the Hull Forest Products (abutting Tolland) parcel.

When any Chapter 61 Land parcel is sold for different use, the town holds a 120-day right of first refusal option to purchase it for open space. Many small towns, though, cannot afford the cost of purchasing large tracts of land at full value when such sales are offered.



There are three dairy farms in town.

National Register Districts, formally recognized by the federal government as significant districts, are afforded only minimal protection from change of use through development. Unlike Local Historic Districts, established through a 2/3-majority town vote, changes in a National Register District must be reviewed only when the state or federal government becomes involved in a project, or when local zoning measures dictate review. The mixed properties of the three Granville National Register Historic Districts (see Scenic & Historical Resources Map in Section 4) lie along Rt.57. Within Granville Village, approximately 80 acres are recognized as historically significant. Granville Center recognizes roughly 46 acres as significant, while in West Granville, about 78 acres lie within the designation. Though the 204 acres seem but a tiny fraction of space, relative to the town as a whole, much of what Granville's citizens value about their community centers lies in the historic built-structures on these sites.

There are five properties in Granville used solely for active and passive recreation. All are privately owned, and none are under Chapter 61B. They include the Western Massachusetts Bird Dog Club parcel, surrounded by Springfield watershed land in

the far northwest corner of town; Sportsman's National Land Trust, located in the north-central section of town; and three parcels which are under full tax status: The Polar Bear Club, Barber Memorial Camp, and Prospect Mountain Campground. Polar Bear Club members enjoy snowmobiling in winter on their 357 collective acres on North Lane. The picturesque 298 acres of the Barber Camp, part of which about the Polar Bear Club land, are used by the Charlotte, NC. AME Zion Brotherhood Home Missions Youth Camp members during the summer months for swimming, camping, and hiking activities. Prospect Mountain Campground occupies 143 acres near the summit of Liberty Hill, where North Lane and Rt.57 intersect.

Roughly 75% to 80% of the MassBioMap core habitat land is owned collectively by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hull Forestry Products, Inc. and municipal watershed properties of Hartford, Westfield, and Springfield, and is protected through them. Of the remaining habitat acreage, about 90% is minimally protected under Chapters 61 and 61A. The great bulk of contiguous core habitat lies in the far western sector of Granville, bordering Blandford, Tolland, and the stateline of Connecticut. (see Forest Cover and Core Habitat Map in Section 4)

IMPLICATIONS . . .

Almost half of Granville's land mass is protected from development. And almost 40% of the remaining half is moderately protected. Although this would seem an enviable position in the eyes of many regional communities, it presents its own drawbacks. Opportunities for certain kinds of passive recreation such as hiking or picnicking outside the Granville State Forest are very limited. Many of the more dramatic scenic vistas, such as from White Rock or Liberty Hill, shores of reservoirs, and historic old mill sites are inaccessible to most residents because the sites lie on private land. Trail creation along mountain ridges such as Drake or Sodom Mountains is prohibited for the same reason.

There seems to be irony in this. Without access to Granville's natural areas, how does one gain an appreciation for and understanding of them? To be a good steward one has to invest a certain amount of emotional attachment to a place....born of physical experience and awe. Community stewardship is built on trust that fellow residents share a similar love and respect for the land. Often that trust is earned through compromises.

Footnotes:

33. p.25, *Dwelling, Seeing, and Designing: Toward a Phenomenological Ecology*. Edward Relph. ed. David Seamon, State University of New York Press, 1993.



11 x 17
Open Space Map

~ Section 6 ~
COMMUNITY GOALS



Alder Brook Bridge on Beech Hill Road

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

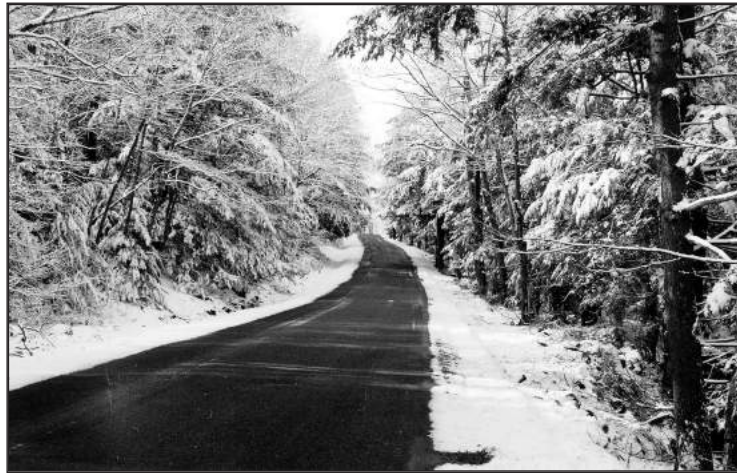
Section 6 — COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Description of the Process

"We're all close together. It's small. It's beautiful." (Granville 7th Grader)

The process for determining the goals of this community began long ago. When the first settlers arrived and tilled the soil, they envisioned a better life for themselves and their children. For as much as the people began to redefine the landscape, the rugged land defined the people. Through the centuries, the town governing body gave voice to citizens' concerns and shared a collective vision. Town boards were formed to handle specific aspects of the planning process and to guide the community in its work for change. In a real sense, the community goals proposed in this Open Space Plan are those basic goals which have evolved over the decades. This plan merely attempts to clarify them and give them voice.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee was formed in July 2001. Its members are all volunteers, come from a variety of professional disciplines, and are residents of Granville. The committee met fairly consistently on a bi-weekly to weekly basis to gather data, discuss collective town concerns, consult with environmental professionals, and to produce and revise drafts for this document. The work was accomplished often with members



Back-country roads such as this one contribute to the character of the community.

of town boards and with Granville's Administrative Assistant. Advice and assistance was also provided by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The Highland Communities Initiative staff lent welcome support and resource materials.

Through self-organized field trips, the committee hiked to less familiar areas of the natural landscape in order to better acquaint themselves with those features of the town and to better understand the problems to be addressed and opportunities to pursue. Hand-drawn maps were created through careful research and consultation. A number of informational articles were written in the town's monthly newsletter, "The Country Caller" to share what the committee were learning about the town, and to elicit comments and opinions from readers.

In order to clarify issues for prioritization as community goals, the committee distributed surveys to all 540 Granville households, plus 30 non-resident landowners, in early 2002. Responses reflected the views of 23% of those households. A separate survey was conducted at the Village School from grades 4 through 8, and administered by the school staff (see Appendix B for both surveys).

Using the results from these surveys, and a more comprehensive understanding of elements of the town's natural resource systems, the committee held a series of public forums in January 2003. A gallery of display-size maps delineating natural and cultural resources, including some enlarged historical

maps, accompanied the presentation and helped to generate further discussion. The process evolved from the survey and discussions to the completion of the text and maps. It is the committee's hope that the goals expressed here are faithful to the unspoken ones of the entire community of Granville.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

With a rich abundance of natural resources, bucolic scenery, historic architecture, and close-knit community centers, Granville citizens are fortunate to be in a position to face the challenge of building the future of their community without having to undo developmental blunders. This is due, thankfully, to wise leadership now and in the past. Residents have a unique opportunity to initiate strong planning measures to ensure that what they value most about their town is not compromised in the name of 'progress' or 'inevitability'. Steps to maintain the quality of life, clean water, a healthy environ-



Cross-country skiers enjoy a break on a Granville hilltop.

ment, vibrant community centers and a viable economy, are the top priorities of this Open Space Plan.

This plan's overriding goal is to provide a workable guide for Granville's governing bodies and its citizens through which to achieve desir-

able results consistent with residents' vision for Granville. The Action Plan of this document proposes measures to continue to protect the natural resources, to maintain or enhance the town's cultural treasures, to encourage the vibrancy of its community centers and farms, and to create additional recreational opportunities.



~ Section 7 ~
ANALYSIS OF NEEDS



Scenic Borden Brook Reservoir

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Section 7 — ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

"I would not like to see my apple orchards cut down and houses where they once stood." (Granville 4th grader)

Results of the 2002 Open Space Survey indicate that, for Granville's residents, protection of natural resources as well as town-guided development patterns far outweighed concerns for the need for trails or other planned community-based recreational activities.

The majority of the respondents to Granville's 2002 Open Space Survey (see Appendix B.) gave top priority for Granville to be maintained as a rural community, and that future generations enjoy it as a rural community. They indicated a strong desire, within that context, to continue to protect the quality of surface and groundwater resources, and to provide for and enhance the health of forests and wildlife habitat.

Conservation issues in town reflect this desire when listed by the survey respondents in order of importance to them: water quality, forests, wildlife habitats, working farmland, and open space for scenic value. Taking these as singular issues may be helpful for discussion, though in reality they all are interdependent. When maps depicting Granville's water resources, soils, forest cover, aquifers, scenic and historic resources are layered together, a composite map of sensitive natural & cultural resources emerges (see Resources Composite Map in this Section). It underscores the broad extent of those resources in Granville, the integrity of which could be jeopardized by development. This map, when combined with the Open Space Map (at the end of Section 5), indicates possible areas to target for priority protection.

Water Quality · · ·

With virtually every citizen in Granville rely-

ing on community or individual wells for drinking water, there is overwhelming support for that water to be of high quality. Regionally, residents of the three metropolitan areas outside of town also rely on the same quality for their water, supplied by Granville. Clean water is also necessary for healthy wildlife and forests.

Parson's Pond, Black Pond, Degano Swamp, Shaughnessy Swamp, and Cooley Lake are privately-owned. Cooley Lake lies within the town's largest aquifer. Black Pond, west of Parson's Pond, is deep within core habitat land. All other sizeable (2 acres or more) ponds, including the Peat Bog, are under private ownership. The reservoirs are all within protected watershed land owned by outside municipalities.

Road run-off on steep slopes of Twining Hollow leave Valley Brook vulnerable to pollution where the brook runs south of Rt. 57 and through about one and a half square-miles of private, unprotected properties until it reaches protected MDC land in the south central section of town. Like Valley Brook, Dickinson and Munn Brooks are also at risk from road run-off and siltation from Sodom and Drake Mountains. Sodom Mountain, on the Granville side, is all privately-owned and unprotected from development.

Porous soil with a high water table leaves the aquifer beneath the roughly half square-mile stretch

of land between Cross Road and Rt. 57 at risk for pollution. The land is all privately-owned and unprotected, with roughly a third under the Chapter 61 program.

The Granville Water Company currently supplies drinking water to 35 households in Granville Center. Its distribution system, built almost a century ago, is aging and could present problems to its consumers in the future. One of the two active wells lies adjacent to Blandford Road, within private unprotected forested land. Road pollutants so far appear to have minimal effect upon this water quality.

Forests and Core Habitat · · ·

Large unbroken tracts of forested land are required for the wellbeing of many of the larger mammal species of wildlife. Granville is regionally significant for its possession of such tracts, but a comprehensive study of wildlife corridors in town needs to be done in order to gain a better understanding of how and where and to what extent protection of these tracts is to be achieved. Emerging species such as the bobcat or moose are more easily observed, but for many smaller and less noticed species, habitat protection needs are less obvious. Ideally, a comprehensive inventory of Granville's wildlife would greatly aid in developing the best protection plan for its wildlife. But in lieu of this, the protection of a variety of vegetated landscapes seems the best way to insure the health and population of the town's fauna.

The major portions of the forested landscape, where the bulk of core habitats converge with wetlands and slopes is owned either by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or outside municipalities as protected watershed properties. However, even though land is protected as watershed property, widespread use of off-road vehicular traffic has adversely affected core habitat areas within those properties. This problem is an urgent one for the entire community.

Bordering the west side of Beech Hill Road's northern half, significant overlaps of core habitat, slopes, and wetlands lie within private unprotected

properties, over half of which are under the Chapter 61A program.

South of West Granville Center, along Hartland Hollow Road, several streams converge within core habitat areas and steep slopes on roughly one square-mile of land between Rt. 57 and MDC property to the south. The land is about 20% under Chapter 61, with the remainder as private unprotected land.

Core habitat areas overlap slopes and pockets of wetlands north of Rt. 57, immediately west of Old Westfield Road, on the east slopes of Bad Luck Mountain. The majority of this area of overlap is held under Chapter 61.



"Pick Your Own"

Remaining Farmland And Orchards · · ·

The limited economic benefit of operating a small farm creates increasing pressure on farmers to sell land for housing. The need for action to protect small farms is critical if Granville wishes to keep its large open fields and meadows. There are only three dairy farms and three orchard businesses remaining in town. Fortunately, so far, the actual agricultural acreage, though much has been let go to pioneering tree species, has not yet fallen to developers' bulldozers. This could soon change.

Scenic, Historic, & Cultural Resources · · ·

Granville is blessed with a generous share of scenic resources, three historic town centers, and cultural characteristics such as stone walls, church spires, and orchards, typical of traditional New Eng-

land. Quaint country roads, devoid of billboards or fastfood joints, connect its parts and offer access to the above. With so many other communities adopting a fast-lane face, these are truly resources worthy of protection. The protection, however, is not a simple process, and must be accomplished in a variety of ways.

It is along roadways, for instance, that most travelers experience Granville. Roads themselves can be assets or liabilities in the perception of a community. With no Massachusetts state guidebook for aesthetic considerations for road construction and maintenance, Granville's Highway Department has adopted the guidelines used by the State of Vermont in its booklet: The Vermont Backroad (see References in Section 11) for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of Granville's roads for scenic quality.

Some of the best views of reservoirs and other water bodies are from roadsides. Road access to views of Cobble Mountain Reservoir is limited to the public since 9/11. Notable scenic resources are plentiful and scattered throughout town. Because of the hilly terrain, the potential for distant views is great. The highest point in Granville, on the east side of North Lane, is within permanently protected land, accessible to the public, under the New England Forestry Foundation, a land trust. All other promontories holding potential scenic distant views are inaccessible to the public. They are held either as watershed lands or are privately-owned.

Ridge lines along both sides of Twining Hollow are all privately-owned and unprotected from development. The entire west face of Sodom Mountain is under private ownership, unprotected, and inaccessible to the public. Potential public trails

and overlooks would necessitate negotiations with landowners.

Historical and cultural points of interest are scattered throughout town and lie within land of every kind of status. A few of the goals and objectives in the following section of this report reiterate the need for protection of these sites and decide what kind of priority to give them in the future. Some protection is afforded to structures within the National Register Historic Districts, but it is minimal. Possible measures for protection of these resources may include the adoption of the Massachusetts Scenic Bylaws, establishing a Local Historic District, and passing the Community Preservation Act.

"...there should be a pat on the back to the many private individuals in Granville who have taken it upon themselves to preserve their historic houses at their own expense, which does indeed benefit the town. The collective efforts of private individuals in preserving, rather than destroying, their old homes is probably a bigger factor than anything else, including anything town government could do, in maintaining Granville's charming rural character." (Granville resident, 2004)

Pressure for Development

Community needs go hand-in-hand with natural resource protection needs in Granville. According to results of Granville's 2002 Open Space Survey (see Appendix B.), residents perceive the greatest threats to the rural character of the town to be uncontrolled development; development which displaces forests, brings a greater population density, increases vehicular traffic, and spoils ridge tops.



B. Summary of Community Needs

"In Granville you know most of the people. And all the people are nice. There is a small school and there is almost no crime anywhere in Granville." (6th Grader, Granville)

Respondents of Granville's 2002 Open Space Survey expressed an overwhelming desire for the town to remain rural. Town centers are popular town-wide gathering spaces, yet could benefit from improved accesses. There seems to be a growing urgency among residents for the need of a much healthier community economic base in order to gain better control over the town's future. Major obstacles to recreational opportunities exist due to private landowner vs public user needs.

Residents worry that the influx of a greater population coupled with the loss of active farms and orchards threatens that basic goal of remaining rural, and in so doing, will irreparably fragment wildlife habitats, eliminate the remaining working farms, jeopardize water quality, and diminish Granville's

scenic assets. Unless Granville becomes more aggressive in its planning process, the town will continue to act defensively instead of proactively, to protect its rural assets. The town needs to take tough planning measures in order to take control of its future.

The 'small town' atmosphere, the reason many moved to Granville in the first place, is of paramount importance to retain. This is evidenced by many comments voiced not only by adults in town, but by the children in this community (see Children's Open Space Survey, Appendix B). Though residents



Several of the town's larger ponds hold potential for passive recreation.

understand that growth and change are inevitable, they wish to keep new growth to a minimum.

A planning policy which the majority of survey respondents favored is to limit development in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, water-

sheds, wildlife core habitat areas, or viewsheds. Residents wish to direct residential and business growth to already developed areas, as in the three town centers.

The well-used town centers are popular sites for cultural events, but parking in all three is a problem. By far the most-used is Granville Village. Its center is the Town Green, which is an island defined by three busy streets and very limited parking in front of the Granville Country Store. The Old Meeting House, a choice location for concerts and weddings, in Granville Center to the west, offers

nowhere to park except in a private farm field adjacent to the building. Very limited parking is also the case for the trio of historic buildings in West Granville's center, which is the site of Church functions. Master Plans to increase parking and to organize vehicular movement in and around these centers would greatly enhance their enjoyment and attendance.

Long range planning measures must also study the future needs for school expansion, public library expansion, and a new, more centralized location for the Town Barn for Highway Department efficiency. The potential use of the West Granville School building for social, cultural, or recreational activities is currently being debated. A Master Plan for Granville should address these issues.

By and large, residents seem to think that larger lot sizes (greater than 1 acre) are best as a general overall zoning policy, but they would support zoning districts with smaller lots in town centers and larger lots outside of the centers. Sixty one of the 127 survey respondents objected to the policy of 'cluster development' because of concerns of well and septic separation issues. There was not a single vote for letting the market dictate growth.

Economic Issues . . .

With Granville's agricultural economic base eroding in recent years, there is renewed interest in town to allow other kinds of businesses to flourish in order to help keep the town fiscally solvent. People are in favor of *some* commercial development as long as it's consistent with the current character of the town. The kinds of ventures respondents would endorse are 'home-based' cottage industries, small businesses, or non-residential shops. Residents still consider commercial franchises, heavy industry, or strip-mall situations to be totally out of character for Granville.

Maintaining the historical emphasis on open space, forest and farmland, has economic benefits as well as contributing to the character of the town that residents perceive as important.

"...development is not a sure-fire economic boon and protecting the resource base pays off. Development that destroys community resources and natural features is both economically and environmentally wasteful... The Scenic Hudson and Cooperative Extension studies and others have shown that commercial and industrial land uses also demand less in services than they pay in taxes. However, it is important to remember that commercial and industrial growth encourages residential growth. Working farms do not." (34)

Studies conducted in the 1990's by two separate organizations seem to bear this out. The American Farmland Trust, in 1991 studied the cost of town services for three Massachusetts towns. The results are illustrated in the chart on the following page.

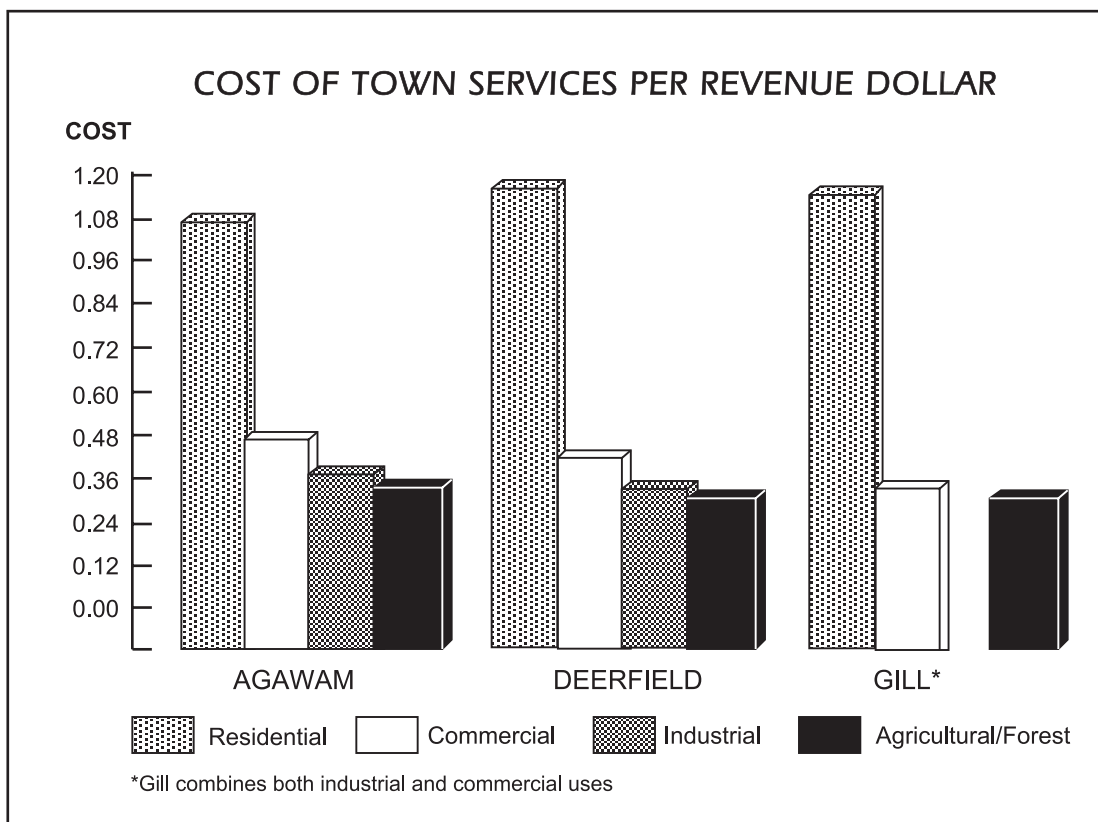
And in 1995, The Commonwealth Research Group of Boston found that, for the average Massachusetts community, in return for each tax dollar received, the cost of town services for residential property owners is \$1.09 while the cost of town services to commercial & industrial property owners is only \$0.83; and the cost of services for open space properties is only \$0.73. The conversion of open space to residential development can only result in a higher town tax rate.

It is interesting to note that in Granville and other similar towns, the percentage of total revenues from commercial / industrial uses is less than 2% of total revenues, while open space, farm and forest, contribute 10% - 15%.

"Fiscally, the existence of farm, forest and open space plays an essential role in town solvency by subsidizing the net loss in tax revenues that is generated by the residential sector." (35)

Recreational Opportunities . . .

The greater number of respondents to Granville's 2002 Open Space Survey were within the age bracket of 45 years and up. Answers to questions concerning recreation needs thus reflect a preference for generally more passive types of activities, rather



The results of three 1991 reports prepared by the American Farmland Trust showing the cost of town services for every tax dollar received for the towns of Agawam, Deerfield, and Gill, MA. The study indicates that agricultural and forest lands generate almost three times more revenue for a community than the cost for town services.

This graph was reproduced from The Forest Use Manual: Planning, Protection, and Management in Massachusetts, pg.21

than those such as organized sports. The most popular recreational past times of the survey respondents seem to be walking, jogging, gardening, hiking and climbing. Significant were water-related activities such as swimming, ice-skating, and fishing. Also, almost twice as popular as the use of ATV's and snowmobiles in town, were cross-country skiing and hunting.

There is currently no active Recreation Committee in town. Organized sports are played generally out of town or during the school season, during recess, on the ballfield behind the Village School. On the Survey, there was a lukewarm response to the question of whether or not the town should develop more recreational opportunities for its citizens. Though 77 respondents said they would use a map

of trails in Granville if one existed, fear of misuse of trails seems to override desires to create them. There seems little desire for a recreational facility to be built in town. Of the handful of those who do, seven ranked a skating rink as number one.

Existing opportunities for fishing are limited to Hubbard River and Munn Brook, since all large bodies of water and most smaller ponds are non accessible to the public. This is also true for swimming and ice skating, the latter of which is enjoyed on small private ponds by permission. The reopening of the Granville State Forest for swimming would be a boon to those who have enjoyed its beloved swimming holes in the past. Though the Forest trails are accessible to the public, some of its camp grounds remain closed. Also, perhaps in a future

time, limited recreational use of the larger reservoirs in town will be allowed.

Other than within the State Forest, there are no organized public trail systems in town. Though potential for wonderful public trails exists, people use their own lands for hiking. There are numerous old roads and trails in the woods that are on unpatrolled protected and private land. Mountain bikers and all-terrain-vehicle riders use them. Often they are the scenes of contention between landowner and illicit users.

Bike touring on roads, however, is unlimited, and popular with Granville residents as well as visitors. A Family Ski Hill on Granby Road was the only organized location for novice downhill skiers in town during the 1970's and 1980's, but the venture folded when insurance costs began to skyrocket. Instead, there is ample opportunity throughout town for cross-country skiers to enjoy a winter's day along backroads and trails within private or commercial establishments. Maple Corner Farm in West Granville draws not only local residents, but visitors from all parts of New England and the Mid-Atlantic states to its Ski Touring Center each year.

In Granville it is not necessary to obtain written permission by a private landowner in order to hunt on private land, however, hunting is allowed on unposted property only. Though hunting is considered a popular sport by many of the Survey respondents, there is considerably less hunting done

in town currently than in years past. Hunting is also enjoyed through private membership in the Sportsman's National Land Trust and the Western Massachusetts Bird Dog Club, whose members hunt small game on their respective properties in West Granville.

The Polar Bear Club is a private club for users of snowmobiles. Prospect Mountain Campground is a privately-owned establishment, and The Barber Memorial Camp, on Parson's Pond, is enjoyed by its private church membership for outdoor activities during the summer months.



Hiking across glacial potholes in Little River Gorge.

Granville is in the Connecticut Valley Region of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The supply side of the plan mirrors Granville. Most of the open space in Granville is owned or protected for water supply purposes, and most of the demand centers

around passive types of recreation. While the town does not do much to address the region's needs for more organized activities such as golfing, it is able to supply some of the region's needs for walking, hiking and biking.

To summarize, the most significant obstacles to improving recreational opportunities for Granville residents seem to be: 1) disrespect for private landowners' properties and landowner privacy, and 2) the fact that recreational use of the land often jeopardizes the health of habitats no matter how much care is given to protect them.



C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

"Basically the whole town is perfect the way it is with its awesome sites and great people. But I would like a few restaurants and maybe a coffee shop." (Granville 8th Grader).

How to Move Forward . . .

It's not that having one's 'community' cake and eating it too is unachievable.

However, it takes imagination, creativity, persistence, and hard work on the part of dedicated individuals who consider a fiscally healthy town in a rich natural environment by the next millennium a goal worthy of that work.

Exploring strategies to keep the spaces open is the most effective way of mitigating financial stresses on the town and keep its character rural.

How should the community preserve Open Space, at least for the foreseeable future? Respondents to the survey show a great support for a combination of public and private actions to restrict development in town. The most preferred method seems to be through zoning bylaw revisions. Those revisions, however, are not the total answer. Zoning bylaws cannot restrict development to any great extent. They can only control it. Only by restricting the amount of land which comes on the market can this community restrict development.

Viable farms will protect themselves if they are able to stay active and do not become isolated, by



The town's challenge is to balance economic needs with its desire to remain rural.

development, from their larger rural context. Ways to support local agricultural businesses above and beyond the Chapter 61 program must be explored.

Allowing more small businesses in town may offset the tax burden, but only in a very minor way. A

commercial establishment would have to be a significantly profitable one to reap any major relief to the community's financial woes. The down-side, of course, is that a surge in businesses may be accompanied by an upsurge in population.

There also seems to be support for town action to protect open space by the establishment of a town fund, or trust, to acquire land or Conservation Restrictions for conservation or recreational purposes. This is a better method for the town to gain financial strength since the purchase of Conservation Restrictions on the land prevents housing into perpetuity. Another preferred step is the pursuit of state funding and state legislative changes in support of open space objectives.

All of the above possible avenues are enumerated in the Goals and Objectives in the next section of this document.

As for specific management concerns Granville faces currently, having the staff capacity to oversee community issues as they emerge, and to govern the town well, is of major importance. As is typical of so many small Massachusetts towns, Granville's dedicated governing body volunteer their time and skills and are poorly recompensed for the overwhelming work load of managing all the needs of the town. This is especially the case as the town continues to grow and state mandates increase.

Simply having the funds to manage issues effectively is problematic for the town. As mentioned under 'Community Needs', the taxpayers burden is not shared equally by outside municipalities which own the lion's share of properties in Granville. There has been progress made, however, in resolving some community problems.

- The Granville Trail Committee was formed in 2003 to undertake the work of conflict resolution between all-terrain-vehicle users and landowners. The committee members meet periodically and have begun to gain on the problems. It is important for this ongoing work to be supported by the whole community, since the issues currently harbor fear, anger, and distrust among the parties involved. Health of the environment sits in the balance. Also, the issues hold the key towards the acceptance of future public trails or any other public-accessible project here in this town.
- Pollution control measures are in place which address erosion resulting from home construc-

tion. Soils and slopes are monitored on an ongoing basis during construction by the Conservation Commission in onsite reviews. Granville's Highway Department minimizes the potential for erosion during repaving and reconstruction of roads by using erosion and sedimentation control barriers and proper drainage techniques. Gravel road maintenance has become a priority within the past few years.

Other management issues still to be addressed include:

- the education of large landowners about their land use options;
- the creation of an inventory for the legal status of each road in town;
- the establishment of a fund for the town's purchase of land or conservation restrictions on lands; and
- the examination of policies such as the Historical Preservation Act, the Community Preservation Act, the Scenic Byways Act, etc. to see how they might help this town achieve its open space goals.

Working with state regulatory agencies and land trust organizations can significantly benefit the town in its efforts to meet these management needs.

Footnotes:

34. pp.1-2. "The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation". Holly L.Thomas, Senior Planner, Dutchess County Planning Department, Poughkeepsie, NY. Feb. 1991.
35. p.99, *The Cost of Community Services in Southern New England*. The Commonwealth Research Group. Boston. 1995.



~ Section 8 ~
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



*For many Granville citizens, scenes like this one near
Farnham Road are worth keeping.*

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Section 8 — GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

“Thinking is easy, acting difficult, and to put one’s thoughts into action, the most difficult thing in the world.” Goethe

The following goals and objectives have been distilled over a multitude of community planning discussions, public forums, visioning seminars, community surveys, and town meetings during recent years. They reflect an overview of collective wishes for this community and are formulated in the present tense, as achievable states.

GOAL 1 . . .

Granville continues to be a rural community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Citizens are informed of and participate in conservation issues.
- B. The town has adequate funds to purchase parcels of land that contribute to the goal of protecting open space.
- C. Landowners are aware of all incentive programs for preserving land and understand current alternatives to the sale of their property to development.
- D. A permanent Open Space Committee plays an active roll in advising town boards on issues of planned growth.
- E. Town Bylaws guide appropriate development.
- F. Landowners and home-builders are in strict compliance with town zoning ordinances, Conservation Commission reviews, and Board-of-Health rules.

GOAL 2 . . .

The town’s scenic, cultural, and historic resources are protected and maintained.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. There is strong communication and cooperation among town boards.
- B. There is constructive interaction between townspeople and their town government.
- C. Town gathering-spaces are safe and accessible to all.
- D. Municipal buildings are of adequate size and are located for efficiency.
- E. Granville supports its Historical Commission, Historical Society and Cultural Council.
- F. The children in Granville are aware of the town’s historical and cultural treasures.
- G. A comprehensive inventory of Historical, Cultural and Scenic Resources is created, updated, and made available to Granville residents.

- H. Scenic views from roads are evaluated and improved where possible.
- I. Town boards are proactive in their implementation of Granville's Open Space and Recreation Plan and in the protection of town historic, scenic and cultural resources.

GOAL 3 . . .

The community's agricultural landscapes remain intact and active.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. The community continues to encourage and support its working landscapes.
- B. The economic viability of local farms and forestry activity is improved.
- C. Forestry management practices in Granville are reviewed and updated.

GOAL 4 . . .

The excellent quality of Granville's streams, wetlands, ponds, and aquifers is maintained and protected.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Residents are aware of the effects of their activities on water quality.
- B. Activities leading to serious erosion affecting stream beds and water bodies are reviewed and prohibited.
- C. There is strict adherence to Health Board regulations for septic systems.
- D. Groundwater runoff pollution is reduced.
- E. The impact on water quality is given top priority when considering land use changes.
- F. There is strict adherence to the Wetlands Protection Act regulations.
- G. The locations and sizes of all Granville wetlands, open and forested, are updated on Mass GIS water resources maps.

GOAL 5 . . .

Protection and enhancement of natural habitat is a priority of the town.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Contiguous blocks of wildlife habitat are left intact to allow for migration of species.
- B. Residents respect and protect NHESP core habitat areas.
- C. Outreach programs educate the public about wildlife requirements, and how wildlife enhances quality of life in Granville.
- D. Vernal pools are identified and inventoried for protection.
- E. All state and federal wetland protection laws are reviewed and strictly enforced.
- F. Floodplains remain vegetated, where possible, and provide habitat for both plants and animals.

- G. Old-growth forest stands are identified and protected.

GOAL 6 . . .

Recreational opportunities are improved for all of Granville's citizens and visitors.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. The Granville State Forest is reopened for public enjoyment.
- B. The Granville Town Forest is accessible for recreation.
- C. Opportunities for an iceskating rink and/or swimming facility, and a ball field are studied.
- D. Public picnic areas are established and accessible to all.
- E. Feasibility of limited-use trails is studied.
- F. Feasibility of establishing a town recreation center and playing fields is studied.
- G. Explore acquisition of land in town for recreational purposes.

~ Section 9 ~
FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN



The Town Green, dressed-up for Halloween

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Section 9 — FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

*"We cannot improve the nature of our environment without improving the nature of our communities." **

The following chart indicates actions the community of Granville must take in order to achieve their long-range goals and objectives for open space and recreation as described in this section. Goals are listed in order of importance ; with Goal 1 as the highest priority. The chart must be revised in five years to reflect actions taken, those still in need of completion, and shifts in community priorities.

Groups Responsible for Initiating Specific Actions:

AC	Agricultural Commission
BI	Building Inspector
BOA	Board of Assessors
BOH	Board of Health
BOS	Board of Selectmen
CC	Conservation Commission
EMS	Emergency Management System
GBA	Granville Business Association
GS	Granville Village School
GTC	Granville Trail Committee
HC	Historical Commission
HD	Highway Department
LC	Library Committee
OSC	Open Space Committee
PB	Planning Board
PD	Police Department
SC	School Committee
TG	Town Green Committee
WGS	West Granville School Committee
ZBA	Zoning Board of Appeals

* p. 408. Kenneth R. Olwig, "Reinventing Common Nature", Uncommon Ground, Rethinking the Human Place in Nature. Wm. Cronon, ed. , W. W. Norton & Com. New York, 1996.

Goal 1: Granville continues to be a rural community.

Objective	Actions	When	By Whom
A. Citizens are informed of and participate in conservation issues.	1. Seek partnerships with educational institutions or other organizations that could help on specific restoration or preservation projects.	2005	PB, CC, HC
	2. Arrange for school children to study wildlife habitats in Granville (and use peat bog for science study).	2006	CC, GS
	3. Work with regional colleges to do internships in forestry or other conservation projects in town.	2006	CC
	4. Continue to work with Highland Communities Initiative and display their ongoing events.	2005	PB, BOS, OSC
B. The town has adequate funds to purchase parcels of land that contribute to the goal of protecting open space.	1. Pursue legislation to revise the calculation of payment in lieu of taxes borne by outside municipalities.	2005	BOS, BOA
	2. Study feasibility of purchase of unique sites such as peat bog	2005	OSC, BOS, PB, CC, AC
	3. Continue to update OSRP to be eligible for further state funding.	2009	OSC, BOS
	4. Establish a special fund for the purchase of land for conservation use.	2005	CC, PB, BOS
C. Landowners are aware of all incentive programs for preserving land and understand current alternatives to the sale of their property to development.	1. Contact National Conservation Resource Services for current year funded projects.	2005	OSC, PB, CC
	2. Hold Highland Communities Initiative workshops in town, such as: "Conservation Options for Landowners" to inform landowners of current programs available.	2005	OSC, BOS
	3. Submit information in local monthly newsletter, "The Country Caller"	on-going	OSC, BOS

D. A permanent Open Space Committee plays an active roll in advising town boards on issues of planned growth.	1. Establish a permanent Open Space Committee in Granville.	2005	BOS
	2. Continue to support the Chapter 61, 61-A, and 61-B Committee to review properties which qualify for Right of First Refusal.	2005	BOS, PB, AC, CC, BOA
E. Town Bylaws guide appropriate development.	1. Form a committee to begin implementing 'growth planning' measures by revising the current Zoning Bylaws.	2005	PB, ZBA
	2. Apply for a grant through HCI to revise and review current Zoning Bylaws.	2005	PB
	3. Study feasibility of amending Town Bylaws with the intent of creating an Upland Zoning Bylaw and a Scenic Roads Bylaw.	2006	BOS, PB, OSC
	4. Create a town road Bylaw to govern secondary roads and create policies relative to maintenance, construction, and for residential development along those roads.	2005	HD, BOS, PB
F. Landowners and home-builders are in strict compliance with town zoning ordinances, Conservation Commission reviews, and Board-of-Health rules.	1. Review the current building guide lines.	2005	BOS, BI, CC, BOH
	2. Incorporate non-judicial disposition wording in Town Bylaws and make enforcement of compliance a priority.	2006	BOS

Goal 2: The town's scenic, cultural and historic resources are protected and maintained.

Objective	Actions	When	By Whom
A. There is strong communication and cooperation among town boards.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct All-Board meetings quarterly or as necessary. 2. Sponsor 'get-together- with committees. 3. Recruit volunteers 	2005-2009 2005-2009 on-going	BOS All Boards and Committees All Boards and Committees
B. There is constructive interaction between townspeople and their town government.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use "Country Caller" as a vehicle for airing opinions on town issues on a regular basis (a town issue column, for example), and provide opportunity for responses as in, "Letters to the Editor". 	2005-2009	BOS, PB, CC, OSC
C. Town gathering-spaces are safe and accessible to all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a Master Plan for parking and traffic circulation for the Granville Village School events, Town Green events, Old Meeting House functions, and West Granville Center activities. 	2005	PD, EMS, BOS
D. Municipal buildings are of adequate size and are located for efficiency.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish long-range space plans for School expansion, Library expansion, and Highway Department facilities so that they can best serve the needs of users. 2. Make a decision about the use of the West Granville School building for potential social, cultural, recreational, or municipal activities. 	2006 2005	BOS, HD, SC, AC WSC, BOS, EMT
E. Granville supports its Historical Commission, Historical Society and Cultural Council.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A representative from each of these groups meets at the All-Board meetings. 	2005	BOS

F. The children in Granville are aware of the town's historical and cultural treasures.	1. Individual townspeople hold presentations, or field trips (for instance, to the library's Historical Room), to inform children of the town's history.	2005	various, HC, GS
	2. Encourage school staff and Granville student seniors to do town research projects as part of the curriculum.	2005	HC, GS, TG
G. A comprehensive inventory of Historical, Cultural and Scenic Resources is created, updated, and made available to Granville residents.	1. These inventories are continually updated.	2006	OSC, CC, HC, GS
	2. "Country Caller" articles are vehicles for informing townspeople of inventory and updates.	2004-2009	OSC, CC, HC, GS
H. Scenic views from roads are evaluated and improved where possible.	1. Study the feasibility of adopting the Scenic Roads Act and the Scenic Mountains Act.	2006	BOS, PB, OSC, HD
	2. Create historical, scenic, cultural interest signage in town, and display where they may be read by the public.	2008	various civic, HD
I. Town boards are proactive in their implementation of Granville's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and in the protection of town historic, scenic and cultural resources.	1. Study the feasibility of adopting the Community Preservation Act.	2005	BOS, PB, OSC, CC, BOA
	2. Educate official town boards about Granville's historical, scenic and cultural resources as mentioned in the Open Space and Recreation Plan..	2005	OSC
	3. Create a Site Plan Review Board or some process whereby prospective home builders can discuss construction options with relation to site planning in order to minimize their long term costs, enhance their enjoyment of their property, and to minimize environmental degradation of the site and its surroundings.	2007	PB, ZBA, BOS, CC

Goal 3: The community's agricultural landscapes remain intact and active.

Objective	Actions	When	By Whom
A. The community continues to encourage and support its working landscapes.	1. Encourage community-wide events, such as the Harvest Fair which support local businesses.	2005	BOS, CC, GBA
	2. Encourage opportunities for Granville residents to market their own products in town..	2006	AC, GBA
	3. Study the feasibility of a Farmer's Market, or other ways the town might support and encourage the sale of its local agricultural products.	2006	AC, GBA
B. The economic viability of local farms and forestry activity is improved..			
	1. Observe regional business Co-ops and make recommendations on how they might aid in promoting Granville farm profits.	2006	AC, GBA
	2. Educate farmers to take advantage of grant programs. (Look into Farm Viability grants.)	2005-2009	AC, GBA, OSC, PB
	3. Workshops and events, such as "Get to Know Your Land" fairs on how to manage their land are offered to citizens.	2006-2009	OSC, AC
	4. Be proactive in informing people about tax-reduction options in town.	2005-2009	OSC, BOA, AC
	5. Form an Agricultural Commission to promote economic viability and increase coordination between town government and local farmers.	2005	BOS
C. Forestry management practices in Granville are reviewed and updated.	6. Advocate locally and nationally for family farms.	on-going	BOS, AC, OSC, GBA
	1. Look into Farm Viability Grants.	2006	OSC, GBA, AC
	2. Offer educational workshops in forestry, such as "Managing Your Woodlot".	2006	OSC, AC

Goal 4: The excellent quality of Granville's streams, wetlands, ponds and aquifers is maintained and protected.

Objective	Actions	When	By Whom
A. Residents are aware of the effects of their activities on water quality.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study the feasibility of educational signs in relevant areas along roadways (near wetlands, for example). 2. Erect posters at Town Hall, Transfer Station, and School on what steps individuals should take to maintain good water quality in the community. 3. Promote educational workshops for community residents and school children on the steps they can take to keep Granville's water clean. 	<p>2006</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2007</p>	<p>OSC, CC, HD</p> <p>OSC, CC</p> <p>OSC, GS</p>
B. Activities leading to serious erosion affecting stream beds and water bodies are reviewed and prohibited.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the citizens' action group, The Granville Trail Committee, as they continue to meet and reach solutions to ATV / Landowner conflict. Make photographic inventory of problem sites. Study current enforcement policy. Hold more public forums to find out what citizens and private landholders think of the issue and what might be done to mitigate the problem. 	2004-2009	BOS, PD, CC, GTC
C. There is strict adherence to Health Board regulations for septic systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to insure that town officials receive updated information on regulations. 2. Continue to enforce regulations. 	<p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>BOS, CC, BOH</p> <p>BOS, CC, BOH</p>
D. Groundwater runoff pollution is reduced.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update building or construction requirements as related to new state standards for storm water run-off. 	2004-2009	BOS, CC, BOH

E. The impact on water quality is given top priority when considering land use changes.	1. Review watershed protection plan of Granville Water Company and assess any town action that needs to be taken. 2. Adopt private well regulations.	2006	BOS, CC, ZBA, PB BOS, CC, ZBA, PB
F. There is strict adherence to the Wetlands Protection Act regulations.	1. Explore possibility of creating watershed protection Bylaw for Town of Granville.	2007	CC, BOS
G. The locations and sizes of all Granville wetlands, open and forested, are updated on Mass GIS water resources maps.	1. Make thorough inventory of vernal pools in Granville for certification.	2009	OSC with NHESP Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Goal 5: Protection and enhancement of natural habitat is a priority of the town.

Objective	Actions	When	By Whom
A. Contiguous blocks of wildlife habitat are left intact to allow for migration of species.	1. Study Mass Wildlife Upland Program, a management program for early-successional habitats, and hold community workshops. 2. Talk to pipeline and power companies about establishment of edge habitat restoration.. 3. Study forest matrices (Nature Conservancy has data for this). Where and how much of our forests should remain as deep forest habitat. 4. Investigate habitat maintenance programs for native species and conduct a series of workshops on native species.	2008 2007 2008 2007	OSC, CC OSC, CC OSC OSC

B. Residents respect and protect NHESP core habitat areas.	1. Address the off-road motorized recreational vehicle problem.	2005	OSC, GTC, BOS, CC
	2. Revise town Bylaws to reflect sensitivity to habitat protection, especially in core areas.	2006	CC, BOS, ZBA, PB
C. Outreach programs educate the public about wildlife requirements, and how wildlife enhances the quality of life in Granville.	1. Teach individual landowners about Mass. Forest Stewardship Program.	2007	OSC, CC
	2. Educate about federal programs such as: WHIP, (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program). (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services in Mass., Amherst office ... Conservation Land (see Forest Stewardship packet).	2004-2009	CC
	3. Hold informative programs on problem invasive exotic species and how to deal with them.	2005	OSC, CC
	4. Erect roadside signs for wildlife viewing at strategic points, such as Shaughnessy Swamp.	2006	OSC, HD, CC
D. Vernal pools are identified and inventoried for protection.	1. Educate residents on the value of vernal pools.	2007	OSC, CC
	2. Landowners are encouraged to identify vernal pools on their property and apply for certification..	2007	OSC, CC
	3. Educate school children on the value and rarity of vernal pools and to look for them in their backyards.	2005	OSC, GS
E. All state and federal wetland protection laws are reviewed and strictly enforced.	1. Assess and monitor health of peat bog.	2004-2009	CC, OSC

F. Floodplains remain vegetated, where possible, and provide habitat for both plants and animals.	1. Make town officials aware of location of flood plains. Post floodplain maps at Town Hall.	2004-2009	OSC, PB, CC
G. Old-growth forest stands are identified and protected.	1. Locate significant stands and inventory by a professional forester. Monitor sites and update regularly.	2007	CC, OSC, AC

Goal 6: Recreational opportunities are improved for all of Granville's citizens and visitors.

Objective	Actions	When	By Whom
A. The Granville State Forest is reopened for public enjoyment.	1. Evaluate current services available, and demand for additional services, in Forest. 2. Advocate for State funding.	2005 on-going	BOS, OSC BOS, OSC
B. The Granville Town Forest is accessible for recreation.	1. Explore what kinds of recreation would be compatible, and evaluate potential costs for such a program.	2006	OSC, CC
C. Opportunities for an ice skating rink and / or swimming facility, and a ball field are studied.	1. Explore specific locations and costs (plus liability of town) for construction and maintenance of ice-skating rink/ swimming place and a ball field. 2. Explore the possibilities for establishment of citizen volunteer group for maintaining and creating rink and ball field.	2007 2007	OSC, BOS OSC, BOS

D. Public picnic areas are established and accessible to all.	1. Create a plan for establishment and maintenance of roadside picnic areas.	2006	HD, OSC, PD OSC
	2. Create public support for the above by setting one example which works well.	2007	
E. Study options for limited-use trails.	1. Explore definitive mixed-use plan that allows for protection of open space sensitive habitat balanced with recreational use (ATV problem).	2005-2009	OSC, CC, GTC
	2. Investigate available properties for trails for public use.	2005-2009	OSC, GTC
	3. Establish citizen volunteer group for trail maintenance.	2006	BOS, OSC
	4. Create a peat bog observation site on abutting town land.		OSC, CC, GS
F. Explore feasibility of establishing a town recreation center and playing fields.		2005	OSC, GTC, WGS
G. Explore acquisition of land in town for recreational purposes.	1. Approach owners of large tracts of land as to possible land acquisition..	2005	OSC, AC
	2. Encourage endowments, grant monies or donations for land acquisition.	2005	OSC, BOS

Action Plan Map

The following Resources Composite Map was created using the combination of those natural resource areas in Granville least suitable for development, such as wetlands, surface water and well-head buffer zones, steep slopes, problematic soils, and core habitat areas identified by the State. The **Action Plan Map** indicates where these sensitive natural resources are most vulnerable to change: on land that is less than fully protected. The map is intended as a guide for the acquisition of land by the town or other organizations, or for the benefit of private landowners considering placing land under conservation restrictions, where protective measures are needed most. It also guides the town in helping to decide which areas to target for acquisition in order to achieve Granville's larger community open space goals.

The natural resource areas depicted on the Action Plan Map are generalized and should be more thoroughly inventoried by the town and evaluated as to priority for protection; the peat bog, for instance, needs to be studied for its current biological worth. Nevertheless, some conclusions may be safely drawn at this point. The broad swath of land along Highway 57 from its entire length east to west is not only the most visible land in Granville, from the traveler's point of view, and heavily punctuated with sensitive natural resources, but also among the least protected. Erosion is most severe the full length of the east/ west segment of

the gas pipeline, causing decimation of habitat and siltation problems within the two major watersheds in town. The pipeline runs through protected as well as unprotected land.

In addition to the Massachusetts delineation of core habitat areas in Granville, identification of critical habitat for a wide variety of animals will be important to inventory and assess for wildlife cover, nesting, and food needs. Corridors that are important for migration of species should be identified and targeted for open space.

Scenic views and historic sites are scattered across land of various degrees of protection. The sites deemed more significant are depicted on the Action Plan Map. The town needs to evaluate these sites further for protection, restoration, and accessibility to the public. The three National Register Historic Districts, the heart and core of Granville's architectural charm, need to be better protected from drastic or inappropriate changes within their context. This will be a particularly exciting challenge for the town as it initiates ideas for better vehicular circulation and parking for town events within the separate town centers. Potential roadside rests or picnic areas will also need to be designed and sited well.

Plans for trail connections and sporting opportunities outside of the Granville State Forest will be explored in the years to come as viable ways for residents to work together for collective recreational goals.



*11 x 17
Resources
Composite Map*

11 x 17
Action Plan Map

~ Section 10 ~
PUBLIC COMMENTS



Small farms are valuable components of Open Space.

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

~ Section 11 ~ REFERENCES



*The Granville Country Store has been serving
customers since 1851.*

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

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Town of Granville Planning Board (Town Hall)

Town of Granville Conservation Commission (Town Hall)

Town of Granville Board of Assessors (Town Hall)

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. 26 Central Street, West Springfield, MA. (413) 781-6045.

Alexandra Dawson, Esq. Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners (413) 586-5586.

The Highland Communities Initiative. P.O. Box 253. 132 Main Street. Haydenville, MA. 01039 (413) 268-8219.

Charles Darling. Westfield Water Department Superintendent. Court Street, Westfield, MA. (413) 572-6270.

Rose Miller. Granville Public Library, Historical Archives.

Carmin Angeloni. DCR. Service Forester for Granville. Amherst, MA (413) 545-5750.

Tom Keefe. Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Department, District Wildlife Manager. Pittsfield, MA. (413) 447-9789.

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Photographs are by Cindy Tavernise, unless otherwise noted.

~ Section 12 ~
APPENDICES



Gatehouse turret at Borden Brook Reservoir

GRANVILLE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2004

Appendix A - Glossary

Approval Not Required (ANR)	The situation in which a land parcel meets all zoning Bylaw requirements prior to a request for construction on the parcel, without the need for the owner to apply for a variance to the Bylaw.
Aspect	The orientation of a slope as to whether it faces generally east, west, south or north.
Drumlins	Hard-packed glacial debris in rounded hills or hillocks.
Fauna	The animals of an area.
Flora	The plants of an area
Kettleholes	Pockets formed in the land when stagnant glacial ice plugs melt.
Leachates	Chemicals and other pollutants which seep into the soil from improperly constructed landfills, or faulty septic systems.
MassGIS	Massachusetts Graphic Information System, a system of mapping.
NHESP	The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, a division of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.
Endangered Species	Native species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or which are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts.
Threatened Species	Native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory.
Species of Special Concern	Native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked.
Old-growth forest	A forest which has never been cut.
Open Space	Forests, fields, wetlands, stream corridors, historic landscapes, farmland, and other areas that remain relatively undeveloped.
Riparian areas	Strips of land next to rivers and streams
Snag	A standing dead tree.
Watershed	The surrounding land where all surface and ground water flows downhill into a particular stream or river system.
Wildlife corridor	A pathway or stream that animals use for traveling short and long distances for feeding, breeding, and migrating.

**Appendix B -
Community Open Space Survey
Children's Survey
and Public Discussion**

To All Granville Residents:

January 1, 2002

The Granville Open Space Committee, comprised of representatives from the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and general community, along with assistance from other town boards and commissions are in the process of preparing an Open Space and Recreation Plan document for the town of Granville.

The purpose of an Open Space Plan is to:

- Establish goals and objectives to guide the town in its decisions affecting land use;
- Identify the town's ecological, cultural, and recreational resources; and
- Lay out strategies for the protection and enjoyment of the community character, natural resources, and open spaces.

When approved and on file with the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, the Open Space Plan (OSRP), allows Granville to be eligible for Federal and State grant funds.

Please take the time to fill out this survey. Your opinions are needed in order to develop a plan which will guide the town in its efforts to preserve the character of the town; to ensure the continued use of agricultural land for agricultural purposes; to protect water resources, forests and wildlife; to provide recreational facilities for the townspeople; and to direct reasonable balanced growth toward areas of the town which can best support it.

Please return the completed survey on or before February 28th, 2002 to any of the following (listed below). Return by February 14th to be eligible for PRIZES.

Drop-off boxes at:

- Town Hall
- Country Store
- Post Office

Give to any committee member:

Richard Pierce
Doug Roberts
Karen Walsh
Rosy Campbell
Cindy Tavernise
Jim Weber
Leon and Joyce Ripley

Or return by mail to:

Town of Granville
c/o Open Space Committee
707 Main Road, Granville, MA. 01034

Thanks for your participation! Those households who complete the survey by February 14th will be eligible for prizes!

four pages
OSRP Adult
Survey

six pages
OSRP Adult
Survey RESULTS

Additional Comments On Survey . . .

#10 -12 Questions related to recreational activities/facilities that should be developed and the willingness to pay higher taxes for these. Also trail use.

- Paved bike trails connecting to other major bike trail systems
- Perhaps more areas in the state forest for picnics, swimming, etc.
- No new recreational buildings, only more activities.
- Public land for legal ATV use
- Groomed and maintained snowmobile trails and for ATV's and dirtbikes.
- No recreational development, not feasible.
- Improve school ball fields.
- Gym & multi-purpose meeting room for dancing, exercise, music, lectures, rental.
- Don't wish to see wild land used for disruptive/ destructive forms of recreation.
- Benches or picnic areas in particularly scenic spots, possibly connected with trail system.
- Nature trail connected to school.
- Sheltered picnic areas w/ tables, grills, rest-rooms.
- The town doesn't need any of these things, I would pay more so we don't need to grow.
- Hiking trails cleared and maintained.
- A gazebo on the Town Green for more musical and cultural events.
- Motor vehicles should have separate trail areas from hikers.
- Keep abandoned roads for XC skiing and mountain bikes.

- Willing to pay higher taxes for public recreation, but this town has lost track of the taxes we already pay. You are losing your core citizens who can no longer pay for same.
- Use the West Granville school building for something. Create a committee to restore and develop the use of that wonderful space. A community house could be used for numerous activities.

#13 - Considering the greatest threats to Granville's character.

- Uncontrolled use of motorized recreational vehicles, ATV's dirt bikes and snowmobiles by out-of-towners.
- Lack of development plan is a definite threat.
- Erosion of soils from off-road vehicles.
- Committees that work with a 'holier than thou' attitude about what is 'best' for me – when people vote on things, the individual loses his/her private rights. Please keep your focus practical and low impact.
- We should have a regulation saying 'No biking when snow banks on side of road.'
- Too many city people moving in, with very different ideas.
- We do not want more traffic or sight-seers.
- House designs should be approved by a town historical preservation council.
- Greatest threat- Committees like this one forcing your ideas on other people.
- I think that commercial growth would be wonderful if selectively and carefully chosen, i.e. no McDonald's but OK for an antique shop.

- Large industry such as a warehouse which would support the town's tax base and lower our taxes.
- We would like to see something done about the reckless abuse of land and natural habitat from dirt bikes and ATV's. The forests in West Granville are now a tangled criss-cross of carelessly cut, intersecting trails which are grossly eroded.

#16 – Options for preserving open space

- Reduce tax to people who own the spaces and are currently stewards of them.
- Vote for zoning that private property can't be used as eyesore dumps.
- Harvest timber on town owned lands to buy more land.

#17 – Options for residential development

- Support architectural design restrictions of new residential houses.
- Single family dwellings on 2.5 acres or more.
- Limited commercial development with strict zoning.
- Multifamily dwellings only for housing for elderly.

#18 – Residential growth policy

- Allow more business throughout town.
- Limit property owner's rights to do whatever they want with their property.

#20 – Economic development policies

- I would like Granville to stay the same.
- Possibly develop senior housing.
- Allow for hotel, restaurant & travel services within town
- Professional building for services in town.

- No development.
- Business development on an application basis, approval required by all members of town w/ renewal required every 2 years.
- Create zoning districts related to potential impact of commercial development.
- Designate Main St. for business area, along with parts of Water St.
- No new commercial development.
- Low impact growth in existing structures or the renovation of degraded properties for new purposes.
- Direct growth to comply with the areas historic flavor, wherever it's situated.
- Businesses around the Town Green including the Town Hall. Industry on the outskirts. Do not allow development like 'hodge-podge' Southwick.
- I would love to have a grocery store in Granville – like Big Y and a lower price gas station and a YMCA with a pool and activities for children.
- Pick an area to zone industrial/commercial.

#21 – Specific places that are important and general comments that respondents added at the end of the survey.

- The town should keep its historic settings throughout. We have a very special town and residents move here because of that fact. There aren't too many places one can go to "escape". We are indeed fortunate.
- Keep farms and orchards as is.
- Keep up maintenance on the Meeting House and Town Hall.
- Don't make regulations you can't or aren't willing to enforce.
- We are more interested in actions that promote conservation & protection of natural resources, less interested in promoting recreational activities even if that means higher taxes or a

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restriction on our own use of the area.

- Would not want to see open land filled with suburban developments.
- Important to encourage the restoration of the older homes, they are not replaceable and are disappearing.
- We don't want to be like Southwick. We don't want to pay for services that we don't need. Granville is nice because its not commercialized and we don't have the frilly 'benefits' of a larger town. If we wanted things like that, we would live elsewhere.
- People live here because they want a "small town atmosphere". If you want convenience or commercialization, go to Feeding Hills or Southwick.
- The area of the Town Green is most important as a focal point. Something should be done with the Grange (perhaps a community center).
- The 'bomb site' (excavated area/ farm dump) just as you enter town from Ct. is a eyesore and detracts from the town's charm and character.
- We like it just the way it is.
- Do not change anything at the Green. Encourage expansion of the store and surrounding residences.
- No industry – that's why we're here. Let's keep it that way.



Kid's Survey

OPEN SPACE SURVEY

One hundred fifty years ago, you would have found life in Granville very different from today. The family horse was the only school bus. Your parents most likely would have been farmers who had cleared the land of all its trees, built stone walls to contain livestock, and brewed wild herbs for you when you got sick. The trip of the year had been to go to Westfield. Life was hard. You were lucky to live past 40 years. Even so, the townspeople would often meet to decide the best ways to make their community better.

Times change. Forests grow back into the open fields, automobiles replace the family horse, and now you can expect to live twice as long as those early children. But one thing has not changed. People still plan and dream and work to make life better. And that is what happens in Granville as it has happened in the past. Every week, every year, people meet and plan to make life in Granville better for you and for your children in the future. Now, this community belongs to you. What would YOU do to make it a better place to live?

Please answer the following questions as best you can. No need to sign your name. Also, no answers from mom or dad. They will have their OWN questions to answer in a later survey. Your ideas will be of great help to a group of people in town called Granville's Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. They need your opinions in order to write a document which will be a vision of Granville in the future.

If you need extra room to answer the questions, simply attach another sheet of paper to the questionnaire.

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When you have completed the questionnaire.....give it to.....Thank you for your help as a citizen of this community!

1. 2. How old are you now? ____

3. Let's assume you grow up and move away as an adult. When you are 50 years old and come back to this town, do you think it will be:

- a) pretty much the same;
- b) very different; or
- c) very **very** different!?

4. What changes do you think you'd see?

5. Are there any changes that would make you sad?

6. Would you see changes that make you happy?

7. Back to the present, how do you spend your outdoor recreational time? Circle the options below that most closely fit you:

- a) hike
- b) ride snowmobile or ATV
- c) swim or iceskate
- d) cross-country ski
- e) fish
- f) play organized sports (such as soccer or softball)
- g) ride a bike
- h) skateboard
- i) other? what?

8. If you could have one wish for a special outdoor recreation place, what would it be? Here are two examples:

- I wish there were interconnecting trails through the woods and fields from the school all the way to West Granville so Dad and I could hike to some cool places and maybe see a moose.
- I wish there were a mile-long hill where my friends and I could sled or snowboard.
- (YOUR WISH) I Wish...

9. Are there special places in town today you would NOT like to see changed? What or where?

10. If you could, would you choose to live in a big city rather than Granville?
Yes_____ No_____ Why?

11. Name some good things about living in Granville.

11. And, what would you change?

The Childrens' Open Space Survey Results 2002

4th GRADE: 9-10-year-olds 38 surveys completed

- Most do not think Granville will change drastically in another 40 years.
- The most marked changes in town will be more houses and more people.
- Sad changes would be loss of trees and other plants, a loss of old houses, plus the fact that people would be different.
- Happy changes would be a bigger store (or more stores), more recreation trails, and a recreation center
- The top 5 frequently done recreational activities, in order of frequency:
 1. swim or iceskate, 2. ride a bike, 3. organized sports, 4. snowmobile/ ATV, 5. hike (explore)
- The most wishes for recreational opportunities were for, in order:
 1. paths/trails for biking, roller-blading, dirt-biking, and hiking, 2. iceskating facility, 3. opportunities for horseback riding, 4. sports-field, 5. hill for sledding.
- 4th graders do NOT want the following to change, in order of most popular:
 1. Country Store, 2. School, 3. Town Green, 4. Meeting House, 5. Apple orchards.....Drum Shop.
- By far (only 2 voted otherwise) most of the children prefer living in Granville than the city. Reasons listed below, in order:
 1. peace, 2. safety, 3. nice people, 4. big outdoors, 5. it's home.
- Best things about living in Granville are, in order: 1. outdoors/nature, 2. caring people, 3. the school
- Most of the children would change nothing in town. 8 would: build a mall, a restaurant, install a pool, a rink, or snowmobile trails.

Choice quotes . . .

What changes to town would make you sad? "less animals, litter over the ground, less trees/plants"

Good things about living in Granville? "wild animals, lakes, and woods." "the views", "There are not a lot of cars"

And what would you change? "nothing"

Why would you choose to live in Granville rather than a city? "This is my hometown." "...because in a big city there isn't open space", "I will always love Granville. It is my favorite place." "...because it is a good community, and the scoop has great ice cream"

Special places you would not change? "I would not like to see my apple orchard cut down and houses where they once stood." "The cascade in back of my yard. The pond at the beginning of South Lane." "I don't want the store to be taken down." "The mountains"

5th GRADE: 10-11-year-olds 20 surveys completed

- Most 10-11-yr olds think the town will not change much in 40 years. Less than half think it will be very different.
- The noticeable changes will be more houses, more people, more stores, and a bigger school.
- Sad changes?: crowding, more houses, fewer woods, and loss of older buildings.
- Happy changes? bike shop, bigger school, store in West Granville
- Frequently done recreational activities, in order of frequency:
 2. bike riding, 2. swim or iceskate, 3. hike, 4. organized sports, 5. fish, 6. snowmobile/ATV, 7. X-Country ski
- The most wishes for recreational opportunities were for, in order:
 1. paths/trails for biking 2. sledding hills, 3. soccer field, 4. swimming pool
- 5th graders do NOT want the following to change, in order of most popular:
 2. older buildings, 2. Country Store, 3. Town Green, 4. School
- All children but 1 prefer living in Granville to a big city. Reasons listed in order:
 1. peace, 2. quiet, 3. freedom, 4. wildlife, 5. places to play.

- Best things about living in Granville are, in order: 1. peace & quiet, 2. privacy, 3. ample land to play in, 4. it's a friendly place
- Almost 50% of the children would change nothing in town. Others would: fix the Town Hall, and build a bike shop

Choice quotes . . .

What changes to town would make you sad?

"More houses might not be good because there would be less woods to hike in."

Good things about living in Granville? "The cars don't come down the road often. It's a nice place to hike in. It's quiet at night. And it's a cheerful place to live in."

Why would you choose to live in Granville rather than a city? "I wouldn't leave Granville if you gave me one million dollars." "because cities are too crowded and there's not a lot of wild life."

Special places you would not change? "The library, because it is very old"

6th GRADE: 11-12-year-olds 18 surveys completed

- Two thirds of the 11-12-yr olds think the town will not change much in 40 years. One third think it will be very different.
- The noticeable changes will be more new houses, bigger school plus a high school, and less land for forests and wildlife.
- Sad changes?: more houses, loss of older buildings, fewer woods.
- Happy changes? Most want no changes. They like the town as is.
- The frequently done recreational activities, in order:
 1. swim or iceskate, 2. organized sports, 3. hike
 4. snowmobile/ ATV, 5. fish, 6. X-Country ski
 7. ride bike 8. rollerblade/ skateboard
- The most wishes for recreational opportunities were for, in order:
 1. swimming pool 2 sledding/ snowboarding hill, 3. hiking trails, 4. ballfield, 5. ice rink, 6. horse trails/ ATV trails, and 7. smooth road for rollerblading/ skatebd.
- 6th graders do NOT want the following to change, in order of most popular:
 1. Country Store, 2. School, 3. Scoop, 4. Parson's Pond, 5. State Forest, 6. Meeting House, 7. Trees, 8. Gorge
- Fourteen prefer living in Granville rather than a city. Reasons listed in order:
 1. quiet, 2. not crowded. Four think city living would be more exciting.
- Best things about living in Granville are, in order: 1. not crowded, 2. peaceful, 3. Harvest Fair, 4. school, 5. library
- Seven of the children would change nothing

in town. Others would: build a high school here, make hill for sledding, create a park, build a restaurant, create more trails, and have a pool.

Choice quotes . . .

In 40 years, what changes in Granville do you think you'd see? "I think there'd be more houses, a bigger school, and a lot more gravestones in the graveyards."

What changes to town would make you sad? "... I live on a pond, and animals are all over! don't change that!" "They might wreck the woods and cut down the trees and destroy all of the pretty things."

If you had a wish, what would it be? "I wish we had a center that had like a baseball field, pool, tennis court, and things like that for the kids." "I would like it if kids didn't have to go so far to high school, also I would like more stores." "I wish that ther were more trails that start from a fimilliar spot and go to an unfamiliar spot so we could see something differnt."

Good things about living in Granville? "In Granville you know most of the people. And all the people are nice. There is a small school and there is almost no crime any where in Granville." "Small, nice, caring, fun, friendly, natural and lots, lots more!" "I feel very safe in Granville."

Is there anything you would change? "Nothing! I'd never want Granville to be like Southwick or Westfield." "I would probably make a recreation park." "Yes, I would like to have some stores and resteraunts, and maybe a park so I wouldn't have to drive at LEAST a half an hour to go somewhere."

Why would you choose to live in Granville rather than a city? "Because of the noise (in the city). More violence would occur. And there would be too many people!"

Special places you would not change? "Never change the Scoop or cut down the trees, so we can see the leaves change." "Water Street in the winter."

7th GRADE: 12-13-year-olds 31 surveys completed

- Most of the children think Granville will be very different in 40 years.
- The biggest changes in town will be more people and more houses.
- Sad changes would be CountryStore to change, more houses, fewer trees and less wildlife.
- Happy changes would be some stores, restaurant, and theater. 6 say that no change would make them happy. 3 say more dirtbike trails would make them happy.
- The most popular outdoor activities, in order of frequently done:
 3. swim or iceskate, 2. organized sports, 3. bike ride, 4. snowmobile or ATV, 5. hike, 6. xc ski.
- The most wishes for recreational opportunities were for, in order:
 1. downhill ski area, 2. indoor courts, 3. dirtbike / ATV trails, 4. swimming pool.
- 7th graders do NOT want the following to change, in order of most popular:
 1. School, 2. Town Green, 3. Country Store, 4. Meadow.
- Twenty one out of the 31 7th graders prefer living in Granville than the city. Reasons listed below, in order:
 1. safety, 2. quiet, 3. good people / know everyone
- Best things about living in Granville are, in order: 1. beauty / open space / nature, 2. friendly people, 3. small size

- 1/3rd of the children would change nothing in town. Four said to add more stores and buildings.

Choice quotes . . .

What changes to town would make you sad?

"I wouldn't like it if they were to change the 'atmosphere' of Granville..to make it more of a city and change the whole country, small town thing." "One change that would really disappoint me is that if the people of the town were not as good, kind, and open-hearted people as they are now."

What changes make you happy? "More stores would be nice." "... changes mean that the town is working hard."

Good things about living in Granville?

"Everyone her is willing to help, you always see a familiar face and that's really cool." "The animals roam around freely and the air is always fresh and clean." "The forests, animals, people, and the apples." "We're all close together. It's small. It's beautiful. It's a good place to raise kids."

"Not a lot of people, quiet, calm, not a lot of traffic. and a cool place to walk, and ride bikes and ATV's and snowmobiles and dirtbikes. and the fields and woods to hunting for deer and turkey. and the streams to catch Native Brook trout and Bass. Also the mountains were you can hike and see all of Granville. Granville is the best town in Massachusetts."

And what would you change? "I would try to make more interesting things for locals to do." "I'd like to when I'm older take my kids trick-or-treating in Granville." "I would make some improvements

on the school and on the store and church. I would also like to make a skatepark or a ice skating rink for the winter. I think some little changes will really change granville."

What would be your wish for a special outdoor recreation place in town? "That there was a certain spot where I could ride my quad without trespassing on anyone's property by accident."

Why would you choose to live in Granville rather than a city? "If I have kids I want to know there off in the meadow other than walking city streets." "Because Granville is safe, & everybody knows each other here. We're all like family!"

Special places you would not change? "I would not like to see the meadow change. I also wouldn't like the school to change because it's the best around. Even though its almost impossible to keep it small, I think we should try."

8th GRADE: 13-14-year-olds 28 surveys completed

- Most believe the town will either be much the same or moderately different.
- The biggest changes will be more houses, people and more stop signs.
- Sad changes?: more people and houses, loss of social gathering places such as Country Store, Scoop, and Town Green.
- Happy changes? More stores and a recreation center.
- Frequently done recreational activities, in order of frequency:
 1. ride bike, 2. snowmobile/ATV, 3. organized sports 4. swim/iceskate, 5. fish, 6. skateboard 7. xcountry ski
- The most wishes for recreational opportunities were for, in order:
 2. trails for bikes, ski, horses 2. pool and teen center 3. skatepark 4. sledding hill
- 8th graders do NOT want the following to change, in order of most popular:
 2. Country Store, 2. center of town, 3. School, 4. Meadow
- Out of 28, 16 prefer living in Granville rather than a city. Reasons listed in order:
 1. quiet, 2. good school, 3. You know everyone.

Ten think city living would offer more to do and more places to go.

- Best things about living in Granville are, in order: 1. quiet, 2. good school, 3. you know everyone, 4. near friends, 5. kind people 6. scenic but not really out there.
- What they would change: Create a place to meet friends (coffee shop, teen center, more stuff to do); dirtbike trails; more town-wide social events; repair and keep old houses.

Choice quotes . . .

What changes 40 years from now would make you sad? "No more historical buildings and no more woods. Just pavement and houses."

What 40-year changes would make you happy? "I would like to see more old houses being repaired instead of torn down." "Something for families to do and come together."

If you had a wish, what would it be? "I wish there were more places to go and just enjoy the scenery." "I wish there were many many trails that could get snow-groomed for snowmobiling in winter and could be ridden on in the summer by ATV's."

Good things about living in Granville? "Quite senic, but not really out there." "Granville

has very little violence and many kind people.”
“You get a lot of snow and when the trees change color that’s nice too.”

Is there anything you would change? “Coming together once a year (Harvest Fair) just isn’t enough.”

Why would you choose to live in Granville rather than a city? “I would like to live in a big city for a period of time in my life but I would like to

come back and send my kids to Granville School.”
“Theres no where to fish in a city theres no where to ride snowmobiles in the city.”

Special places you would not change? “Basically the whole town is perfect the way it is. With its awesome sites and great people. But I would like a few restaurants and maybe a coffee shop!”



OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Town Report Submission Jan. 2002

An Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has been formed to explore aspects of this community, its history, cultural and economic development, its natural setting, land use, and its hopes for the future. In an Open Space & Recreation Plan document, strategies are laid out for the protection and enjoyment of a community's character, its natural resources, and any undeveloped land with particular conservation or recreation interest. It directs development, where it does occur, to areas less environmentally sensitive, or to where the collective community interests will be less affected.

The project will outline a 5-year Action Plan. The Action Plan will spell out the community's goals for the future: to enhance the quality of life for humans and all life forms, and to provide profound economic benefits by avoiding costly mistakes of misusing or overwhelming available resources. Protected open space raises the value of adjacent properties and is less costly to maintain than residentially developed lands, despite the added tax revenues. With a state-approved OSRP in hand, Granville will become eligible for grant monies to help achieve the above goals.

The committee met for the first time in July, 2001. We are building upon the town's past efforts toward an OSRP and hope to have a rough draft of the document by June, 2002. We'd like to extend our appreciation to those people who have, over the years, helped amass the volumes of information needed from which to base good decisions, and also to thank the broad range of Granville citizens who have participated in the town OSRP survey. The greater the participation in the process, the more supportive the document becomes to effect community goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Tavernise, Chairperson

Doug Roberts

Rich Pierce

Leon & Joyce Ripley

Jim Weber

Gary LaFrance

Rosy Campbell

Karen Walsh

Theresa Hodur

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Town Report Submission Jan. 2003

An Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has been exploring aspects of this community, its history, cultural and economic development, its natural setting, land use, and its hopes for the future. In an Open Space & Recreation Plan document, strategies are laid out for the protection and enjoyment of a community's character, its natural resources, and any undeveloped land with particular conservation or recreation interest. It directs development, where it does occur, to areas less environmentally sensitive, or to where the collective community interests will be less affected.

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The committee has been meeting since July, 2001. Roughly half of the data research is complete and half of the writing of the document is done. A series of three Public Forums were held in January, '03. in which Open Space document progress, and results of the Open Space Survey were presented and opened to the public for comment. The committee aims for completion of the document within the year 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Tavernise, Chairperson

Doug Roberts

Rich Pierce

Leon & Joyce Ripley

Jim Weber

Herb Hiers

Jessica MacKnight

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Town Report Submission Jan. 2004

An Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has been exploring aspects of this community, its history, cultural and economic development, its natural setting, land use, and its hopes for the future. In an Open Space & Recreation Plan document, strategies are laid out for the protection and enjoyment of a community's character, its natural resources, and any undeveloped land with particular conservation or recreation interest. It directs development, where it does occur, to areas less environmentally sensitive, or to where the collective community interests will be less affected.

The project will outline a 5-year Action Plan for Granville. The Action Plan will spell out the community's goals for the future: to enhance the quality of life for humans and all life forms, and to provide profound economic benefits by avoiding costly mistakes of misusing or overwhelming available resources. Protected open space raises the value of adjacent properties and is less costly to maintain than residentially developed lands, despite the added tax revenues. With a state-approved OSRP in hand, Granville will become eligible for grant monies to help achieve the above goals.

The committee has been meeting since July, 2001. The data research is complete. Most of the writing of the document is done, and all but one map are ready for printing. The committee aims for completion of the document by summer of 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Tavernise, Chairperson

Rich Pierce

Leon & Joyce Ripley

Jim Weber

Craig Phelon

Herb Hiers

Doug Roberts

*Photocopied
Pieces*

**Appendix I -
Extended Version
of the History of Granville**

Appendix I - Early History of the Community

"As to where the schools stood in the importance of things the annual meeting of March 1774 is significant. In that year Reverend Smith received 55 pounds, schools 40 pounds, and all other (Granville) town expenses 25 pounds!"

(Leona A.Cliffords' "Long Ago Days", April 1981 issue of "The Granville Country Caller.")

By the early 1600's, Connecticut pioneers had acquired and settled the land of Woronoake, present day Westfield and Southwick. At that time, the hill country west of Woronoake, having been occupied, apparently only seasonally, by Native Americans as hunting and fishing grounds, became the wilderness frontier. In the summer of 1686, a six square-mile parcel of that wilderness was purchased from a Poquonnoc Indian chief by the name of Toto for, as legend has it, "a gun and sixteen brass buttons." (footnote 1) Nearly half a century later, Bedford Plantation, as the land came to be called, had been divided and deeded out to about 40 proprietors (show copy of original deed here?). By 1735, Bedford's first settler, purported to be Samuel Bancroft, had arrived. He built his homestead, the site of which is now under water at the Granville Reservoir, in the eastern section of the plantation. Stone remnants of his homestead remain near the water's edge.

In 1738, to encourage settlement, the proprietors offered "100 acres to any family who would come there and live, build a 'Dwelling House, and 'have Six Acres of Land brought to, and Plowed or brought to English Grass and Fitted for Mowing..." (footnote 2) In that same year, a complete land survey of Bedford Plantation was conducted. Settlers came, mostly farmers. The original land survey document, still in existence, indicates the total land area as 42,532 acres, bounded by the Farmington

River to the west; by Simsbury, Connecticut to the south; Loudon (now Otis) and Glasgow (now Blandford) to the north; and Woronoake (now Westfield and Southwick) to the north and east.

1. History of the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts Vol II, Louis Everts, 1879. J.B.Lippincott & Co. Philadelphia p. 1082.
2. Mass Archives, Town Series, Records of the Governor and Councils, Vol.114, p.296.

The largest influx of settlers came from Durham, Connecticut in 1741. Most were farmers, but a blacksmith and millwright were among those first inhabitants. During the 1730's the primary east-west road, now known as Route 57, was established through the forests and hills between Woronoake and Bedford. Around the same time, what became present-day Granby Road (CT Rt.189) was established from the eastern section of Bedford southward to Hartford, Connecticut. As Bedford continued to grow, political pressures mounted and taxes had to be collected to provide road improvements and other necessary services. With or without proprietors, the self-reliant settlers began to govern themselves.

When Bedford was incorporated in 1754, its name was changed to Granville when it was discovered that a town in eastern Massachusetts was already named Bedford. The town was named, it is believed, in honor of England's John Carteret, Earl of Granville, though some residents think it's

likely that the name was suggested by the 'grand valley' which marks the dividing line between East and West Granville. As time passed, four distinct settlements evolved within Granville: the areas east of Twining Hollow (or the 'grand valley') including present-day Granville Center and Granville Village; the area of present day West Granville; and the far western area, today's town of Tolland. Due to the steep terrain between these areas, each settlement was somewhat isolated and therefore developed independently. Major north-south roads were established in each of these centers.

Families cleared the forested land of its trees and built stone walls to enclose their fields for cattle, sheep, and grain. Despite the difficulties presented by the rugged landscape, farmers prevailed and Granville prospered. It was once said that forty church towers could be seen from Winchell Mountain by the mid-1800's when the land had been cleared of timber (footnote 3). The economy was based mainly upon mills and mixed grain agriculture. By 1790, Granville's population surpassed that of Springfield and by 1800 the population peaked at 2,309.

3. History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts Vol II, Louis Everts, 1879. J.B.Lippincott & Co. Philadelphia p.1082.

Granville's sacrifices of money, supplies, and soldiers toward the cause of American Independence is well known. Roughly 200 men were enlisted into service. 65 of these veterans are buried in town. The town's commitment to an undivided Union repeated itself during the Civil War. Monuments to these and Granville's soldiers of the French & Indian Wars, and the War of 1812 are scattered within the five historic cemeteries in town.

Early Granville industries were numerous. There were wheelwrights, cobblers, tanners, blacksmiths, and coopers. Though each of the three settlements had its own meeting house, schools, store, and taverns, the center of social, religious and political activities, until the late

19th Century, was west of Twining Hollow, in the present West Granville. West Granville Meeting House on the corner of Beech Hill Road and Main Road is one of the oldest surviving structures in town. In 1778 it received the well-known Lemuel Haynes as its first pastor. Reverend Haynes, who spent his formative years in Granville, was the new nation's first ordained African American minister. The original First Congregational Church was built in 1747 further east, in Granville Center. It was rebuilt in 1802 after a fire. As Granville's restored Old Meeting House, it is used today for social and cultural functions. A large, inscribed boulder marks the location on Beech Hill Road where stood, in 1797, the first Methodist Episcopal Church west of the Connecticut River.

The first provision for public schooling on record was made in 1762. A number of school districts were set up and remained in effect until well into the 1800's. One-room schoolhouses were typical in each district. Granville citizens have traditionally maintained control over the education of their children, and even today operate their own school as opposed to participating in a regionalized system with surrounding communities. Through the centuries, Granville has had three private academies, educating students from all over New England in Latin, Greek and Philosophy.

By the early 1800's a stagecoach line ran from Westfield to Granville to Sandisfield. As the primary means of public transportation, coaches carried passengers, freight and mail. Later another line was established which ran from Hartford to Granville to Blandford and eventually to Albany, New York. Visitors to the taverns and inns, which flourished along the now well-traveled east-west, north-south routes, were, at that time, the only source of news from the outside world. The Drover Inn, the last of the inns to survive, is now a private home on Granby Road (CT Rt 189), while the old Curtiss Tavern, also a private home, lies within a National Register Historic District in West Granville.

In 1810, a sizeable faction of citizens formed

its own church and migrated to more fertile farm lands in the Midwest. There they founded the city of Granville, Ohio. In the same year 18,000 acres were annexed from Granville to be incorporated as the town of Tolland. Due in part to these events, Granville lost about a third of its population. Despite the loss of population, the town continued to prosper. Mills were a considerable force in the town's economy. By 1854 there were 19 operating sawmills and many other grist, fulling and woodturning mills. Due to the abundance of water power in the eastern part of town, the balance of socio-economic influence shifted from west to east by the latter half of the 19th Century. In addition to the mills, there were 11 cooper shops, numerous blacksmith shops, a brickyard, cobblers, tanners, a haberdasher, wheelwrights, and a maker of spectacles. In 1851, a general store was established in Granville Village. The Granville Country Store still accommodates the needs of residents and travelers alike.

"Crockery; Having just received three crates of crockery which is more than I want to stock, I will sell for the next 60 days at about half the usual price. Come early as I have not half shelf room for it and must be disposed of at unheard of prices. All other goods very cheap. J.M.Gibbons, Granville Corners."

"Nathan Fenn, Mfg. and distributor of Pure Vegetable Medicines. All kinds of fevers immediately broken up if patient desires. West Main Street – West Granville."

(both advertisements found in "The Granville Sun" newspaper of summer 1880)

Silas Noble and James Cooley began manufacturing drums in 1854 on the banks of Dickinson Brook. With a high demand for military drums during the Civil War, the business became very successful, employing 60 workers and contributing to the shift of social power from west to east in town. One hundred and fifty years later, it is still in operation. In the 1950's it was described as being "the oldest and largest manufacturer of toy drums in the world" (footnote 4). After the Civil War, many young men migrated to the cit-

ies where the Industrial Revolution had created more lucrative jobs. Although no steel tracks were cut through Granville, the advent of the railroads greatly affected local residents. Small scale farming declined as the railroads opened up the Midwest. Larger expanses of flat, fertile land, coupled with more efficient transportation methods made farming more profitable elsewhere. The proximity of the railroad in Westfield, however, contributed in part to the economic success of business in the eastern section of Granville.

(4) Wilson, Albion B. History of Granville, Massachusetts Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA. 1954. pg?

By the end of the 1800's the City of Westfield needed more water for its citizens. In 1899, the city purchased over 3000 acres of watershed land in the northeast quadrant of Granville and built Winchell Reservoir on Tillotson Brook. A short time later they built the smaller Japhet Reservoir on Japhet Brook. In 1928, Westfield constructed the Granville Reservoir, which drains the Bancroft and Tillotson Brooks and occupies almost 80 acres of land. The City of Springfield followed suit and bought 2,236 acres of land in the north of Granville to construct the larger Reservoirs of Borden Brook and Cobble Mountain between the years of 1909 and 1932. A third major purchase of watershed rights was made by the City of Hartford, Connecticut. 2,959 acres were purchased (anyone know the date??) in the southwest quadrant of town to protect the Hubbard River, which empties into Connecticut's Barkhamsted Reservoir. Many farms and buildings were razed in the process and citizens were displaced from these watershed lands. The forests, once felled for settlement, began to regenerate.

Transportation access east toward Suffield, Connecticut, was over the steep south end of Sodom Mountain. Until the advent of the automobile, Granville remained fairly isolated from the more urban hubs east in the Connecticut River Valley.

"No electric cars, shrieking motors, no street lights here. Through the long day you sit and

Section 12 - APPENDICES

take your fill of silence; the crickets sing about the hedgerows and the old cellar holes, the swifts fly over the uncut grass in the old mowing fields. And through the long nights, under the wide dark skies unblemished by electricity, you hear in intervals of sleep the apples in the neglected orchards falling to the ground. No place can give the nervous city dweller more rest than this.” (“Bits of Old New England, Granville’s West and Center West Village’s Resurrection”, an article from Springfield’s “The Sunday Republican” news paper in 1903)

The town finally constructed the road around the north end of Sodom Mountain, following Munn Brook into Southwick by 1892, but it wasn’t until the 1930’s and 40’s that any of the main roads in

town were paved. Electricity came to town in 1926. Eventually the paved roads and automobiles created a mobile and affluent society which was less economically dependent upon its own land. Granville became more accessible to those living in urban areas, resulting in external pressure for growth and development. During the economic and population fluctuations of the 19th and early 20th Centuries, there were a number of local farmers who managed to keep intact large tracts of their land throughout the generations. Much credit for the preservation of Granville’s rural character is due to their foresight and pride in their land.

“We know enough of history by now to be aware that people exploit what they have merely concluded to be of value, but they defend what they love.” (Wendell Berry)



Appendix A. - Glossary

Appendix C - Plant and Animal Lists

Appendix D - Endangered Species

Appendix E
Matrix of Land Ownership in Granville

**Appendix F -
Zoning Articles and Title V**




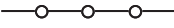


Appendix G - Text-related Articles

**Appendix H -
ADA Compliance and
Other Relevant Materials**

**Appendix I -
Extended Version of the History of Granville**

ZONING MAP

All of Granville is zoned
Agricultural / Residential

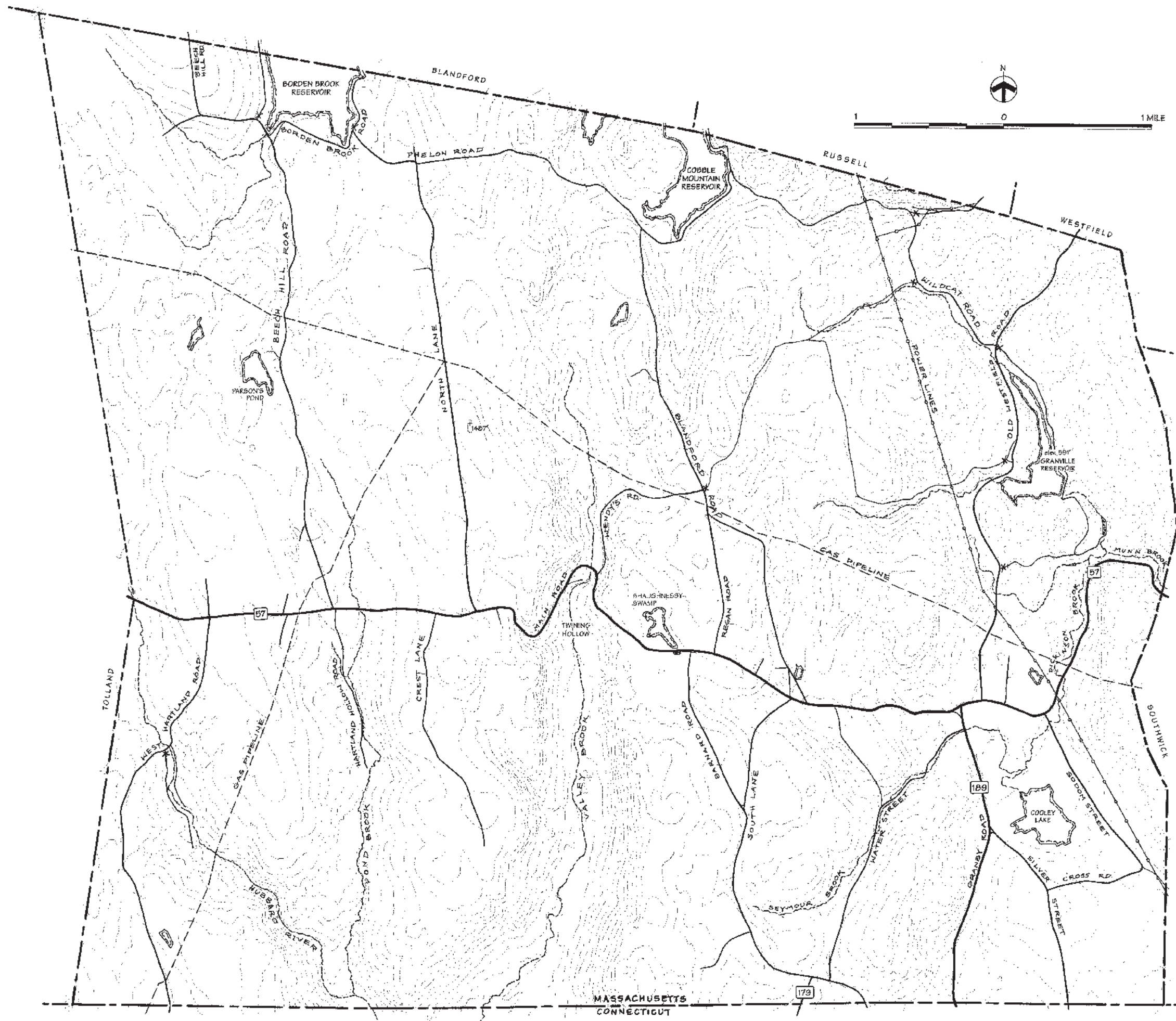
-  Road
-  Gated Road (no public access)
-  Gas Pipeline
-  Power Line
-  Open Water
-  River / Brook

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

GRANVILLE MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE PLAN

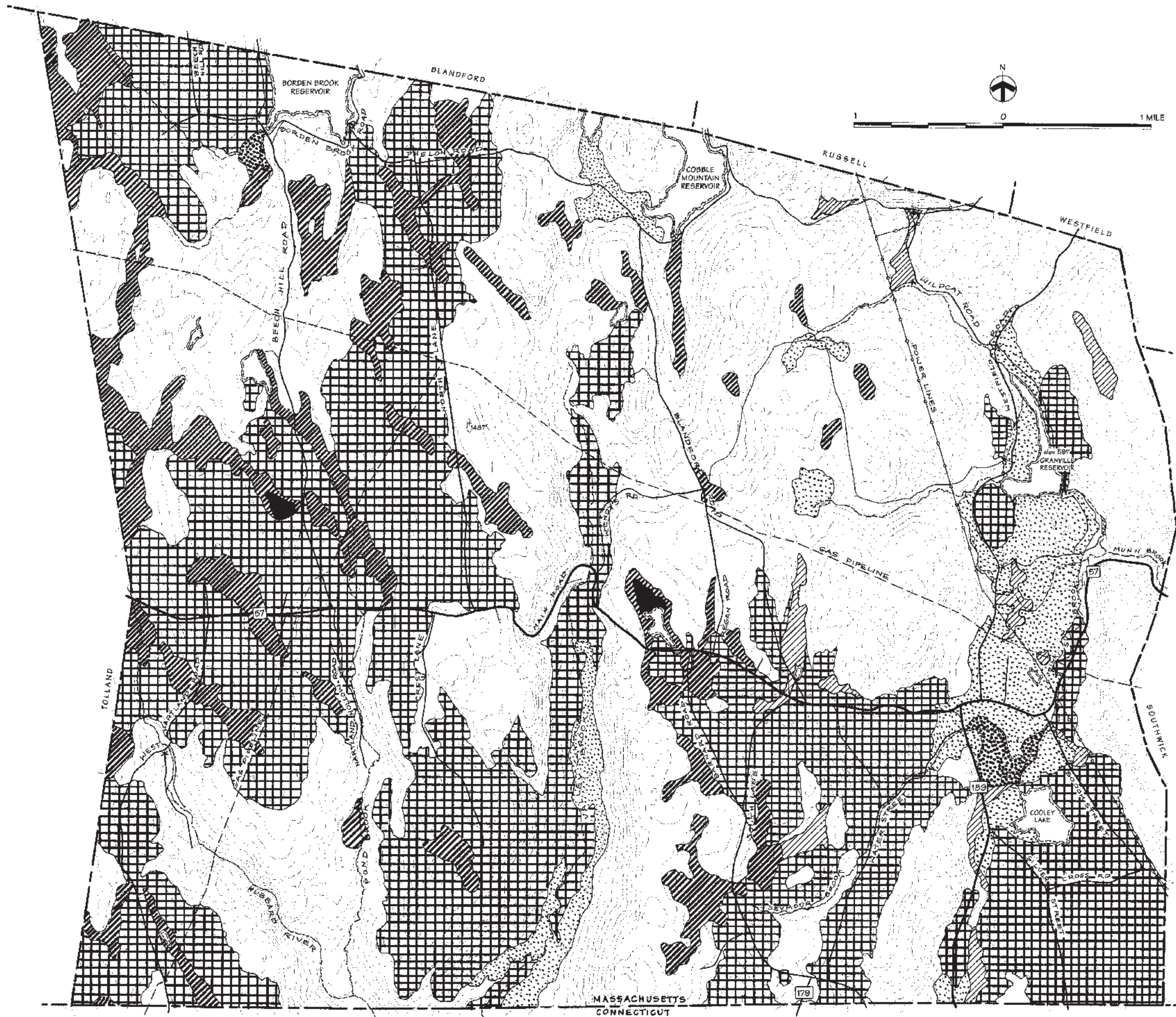
Granville Open Space &
Recreation Plan Committee
2004

Map sources: MassGIS 2000; Pioneer Valley Planning
Commission; Map 4 Orthophoto MassGIS 1999; Town
of Granville Assessors' Maps 1998



MAP OF SOILS

Most of the soils in Granville are either stony, or lie in areas of seasonal high water table.



SHALLOW SOILS up to 40" deep


☐ Stony surface,
Moderately rapid permeability

DEEP SOILS, 60" or more deep

 Droughty

 Seasonal high water table,
Rapid permeability

 Seasonal high water table,
Slow permeability

 Flood Plain,
Moderately to poorly-drained Wet

 Muck

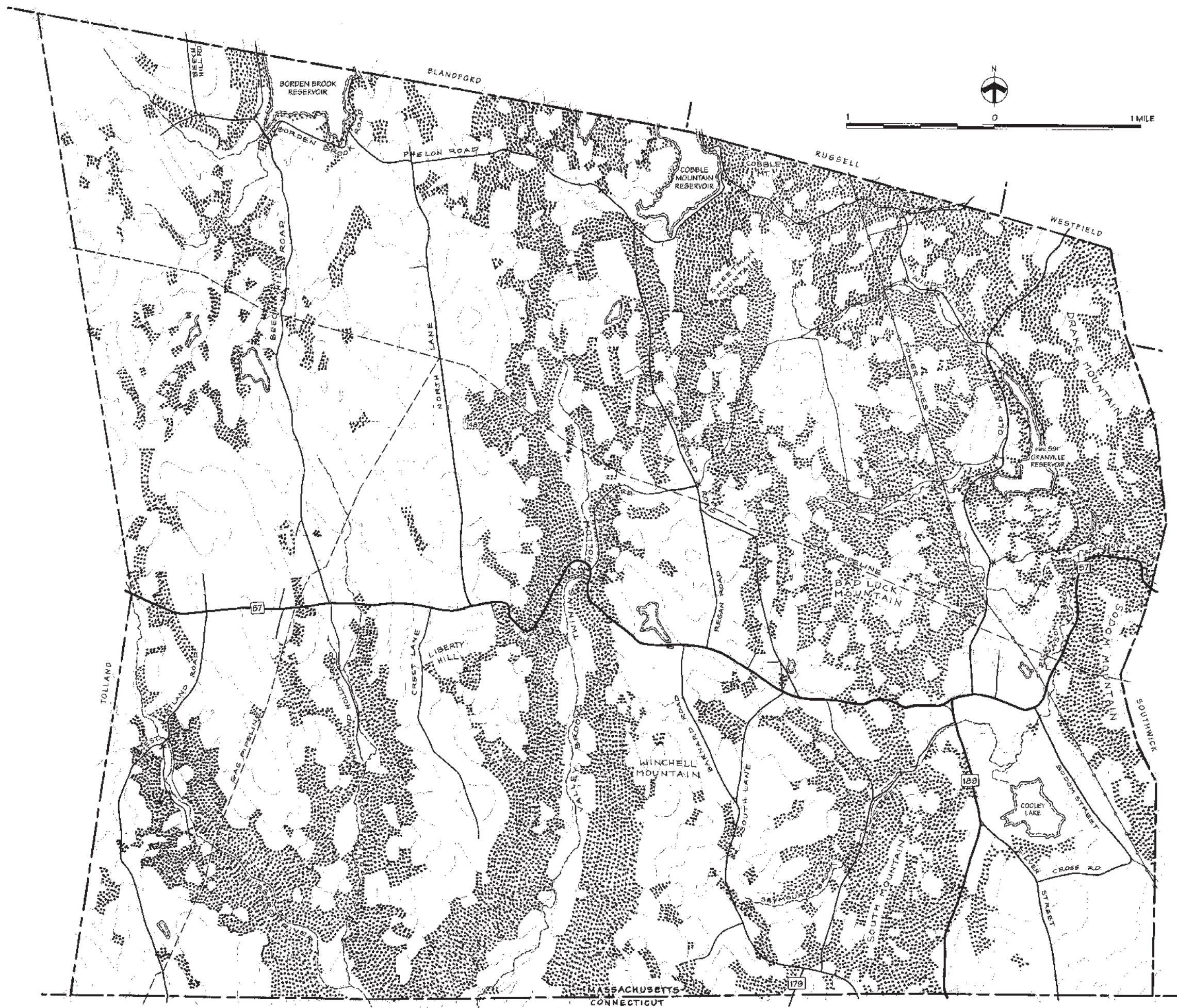
 Open body of water

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

GRANVILLE
MASSACHUSETTS
OPEN SPACE PLAN

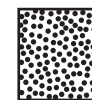
Granville Open Space &
Recreation Plan Committee
2004

Map sources: MassGIS 2000; US Department of the Interior Orthophoto Maps 1979; Soil Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture



MAP of SLOPES

Steep slopes cover about one third of Granville, posing risks for water pollution and loss of topsoil.



Slopes greater than 15%



Slopes less than 15%

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

GRANVILLE MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE PLAN

Granville Open Space &
Recreation Plan Committee
2004

Map sources: MassGIS 2000; USGS 1971

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES MAP

Granville supplies water not only to its residents but to three significant metropolitan centers. It straddles two major watersheds.

- Wetland
- Primary brook
- Secondary brook
- Delineation of major watersheds
- Open water
- Aqueduct
- Community public well head
- Non-community public well head
- Road

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

GRANVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE PLAN

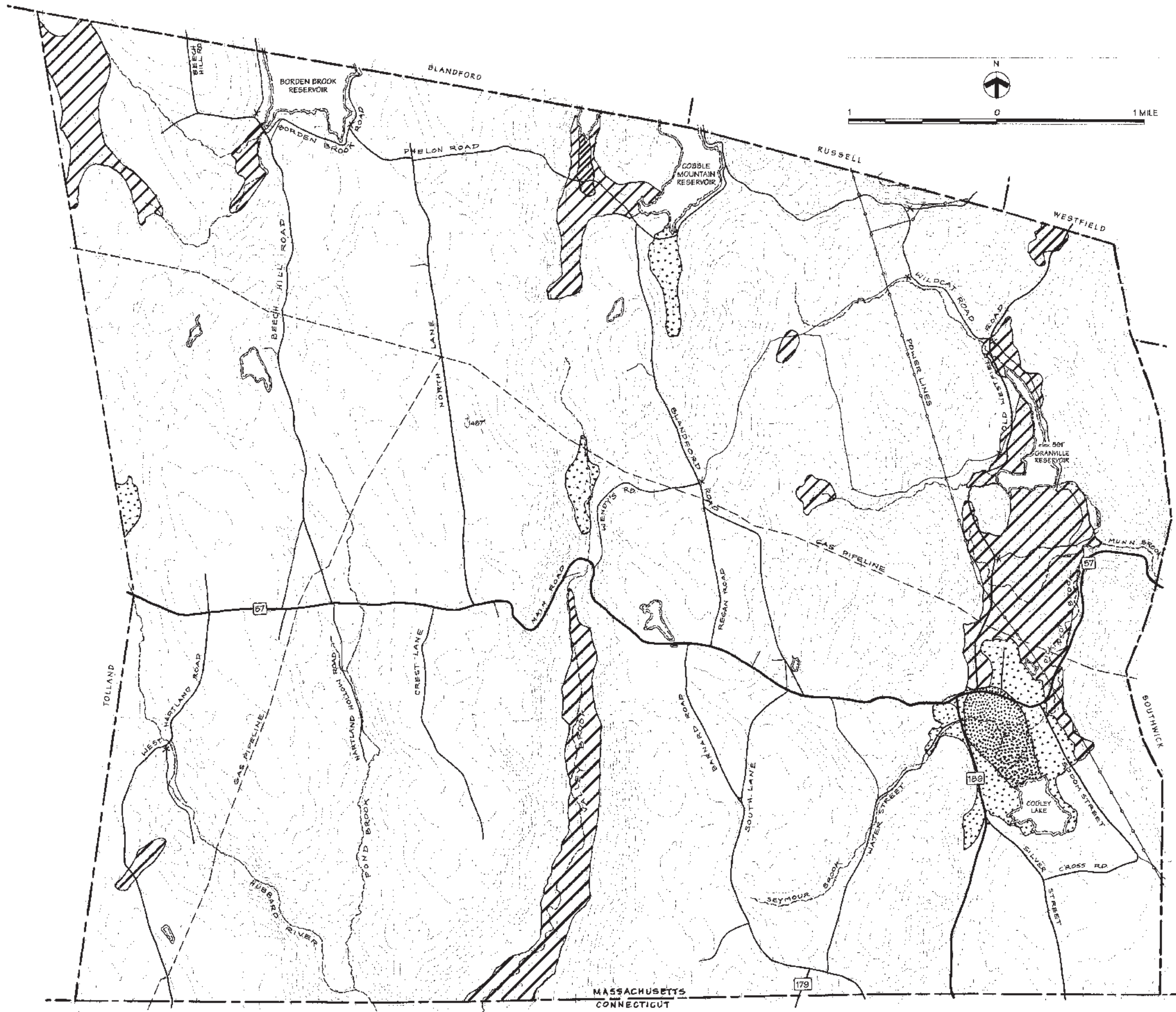
Granville Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee





2004

Map sources: MassGIS 2000; DEP Maps/SWP Town 'Granville' Surface Water Supply Protection, Aug. 09, 2001; MassGIS Map 4 Orthophoto 1999; Granville, Massachusetts Map 2: Developable Land & Partial Constraints, PVPC 2001; USGS West Granville & Southwick Quadrangles 1971-2.

MAP of AQUIFERS

Two medium-yield aquifers underlie parts of town and play important parts in the health of Granville's citizens.



-  Sand & gravel
transmissivity < 100 gal/min
-  Sand & gravel
transmissivity 100 to 300 gal/min
-  Sand
transmissivity < 100 gal/min
-  Sand
transmissivity 100 to 300 gal/min

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate








GRANVILLE MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE PLAN

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Map sources: MassGIS 2000; Water Resources of the Westfield & Farmington River Basins, Massachusetts, by Anthony Maevisky & David G. Johnson 1990, in cooperation with MassDEM, Division of Water Resources, Boston, MA

STREAM & WETLAND BUFFER ZONES MAP

Massachusetts laws protect land within 100' of wetlands, ponds and lakes. They also protect land within 200' of streams.

-  100-year flood zone
-  Road
-  River / Brook
-  Gas Pipeline
-  Power Line
-  Riparian, wetland & open water protection zones
-  Public well head protection zone

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate






GRANVILLE MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE PLAN

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Map sources: MassGIS, Mass DEP, Mass EOA 2001 Granville Surface Water Supply Protection Map; Mass GIS, PVPC, Mass EOA 2000 Granville, Massachusetts Developable Land & Partial Constraints Map; Federal Insurance Administration Flood Hazard Boundary Maps 1976, #H 01-05

FOREST COVER & CORE HABITAT MAP

Over 90% of Granville is forested land. Core habitat areas generally coincide with wetlands and streams.

-  Forested land
-  Non-forested land
-  Core habitat (plants & animals), NHESP
-  Open water
-  Wetland

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

GRANVILLE MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE PLAN

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Map sources: MassGIS Orthophotos 2002; Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program BioMap Core Habitat, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission 2000; Granville, Massachusetts Vegetative Cover Map, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission 2000

SCENIC RESOURCES & UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

Historical Resources

- | | |
|---|---|
| [H-1] Winchell Reservoir gatehouse & dam | [H-5] Dea. David Rose stone house & fort, cir. 1744 |
| [H-2] Samuel Bancroft's 1735 homestead | [H-6] Borden Brook Reservoir arched bridge & gatehouse |
| [H-3] Old mill ruin | [H-7] Methodist Episcopal Church site |
| [H-4] 19th Century cellar holes | [H-8] Possible Indian burial ground |
| Old schoolhouse sites | Historic cemeteries |
| Natl. Reg. Historic Districts | |

Scenic Resources

- | | |
|---|---|
| [S-1] Views from Drake Mountain | [S-9] View of Cobble Mountain Reservoir |
| [S-2] Granville Gorge | [S-10] Shaughnessy Swamp |
| [S-3] Views of Granville Village | [S-11] Views from highest point in Granville |
| [S-4] Winchell Reservoir | [S-12] Views of Borden Brook Reservoir |
| [S-5] View of Sodom Mountain | [S-13] Beech Hill Road views |
| [S-6] Mill on the meadow | [S-14] View of Ripley Brook Swamp |
| [S-7] Views of Granville Reservoir | [S-15] Hubbard River |
| [S-8] Views of Cobble Mountain Reservoir | |

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

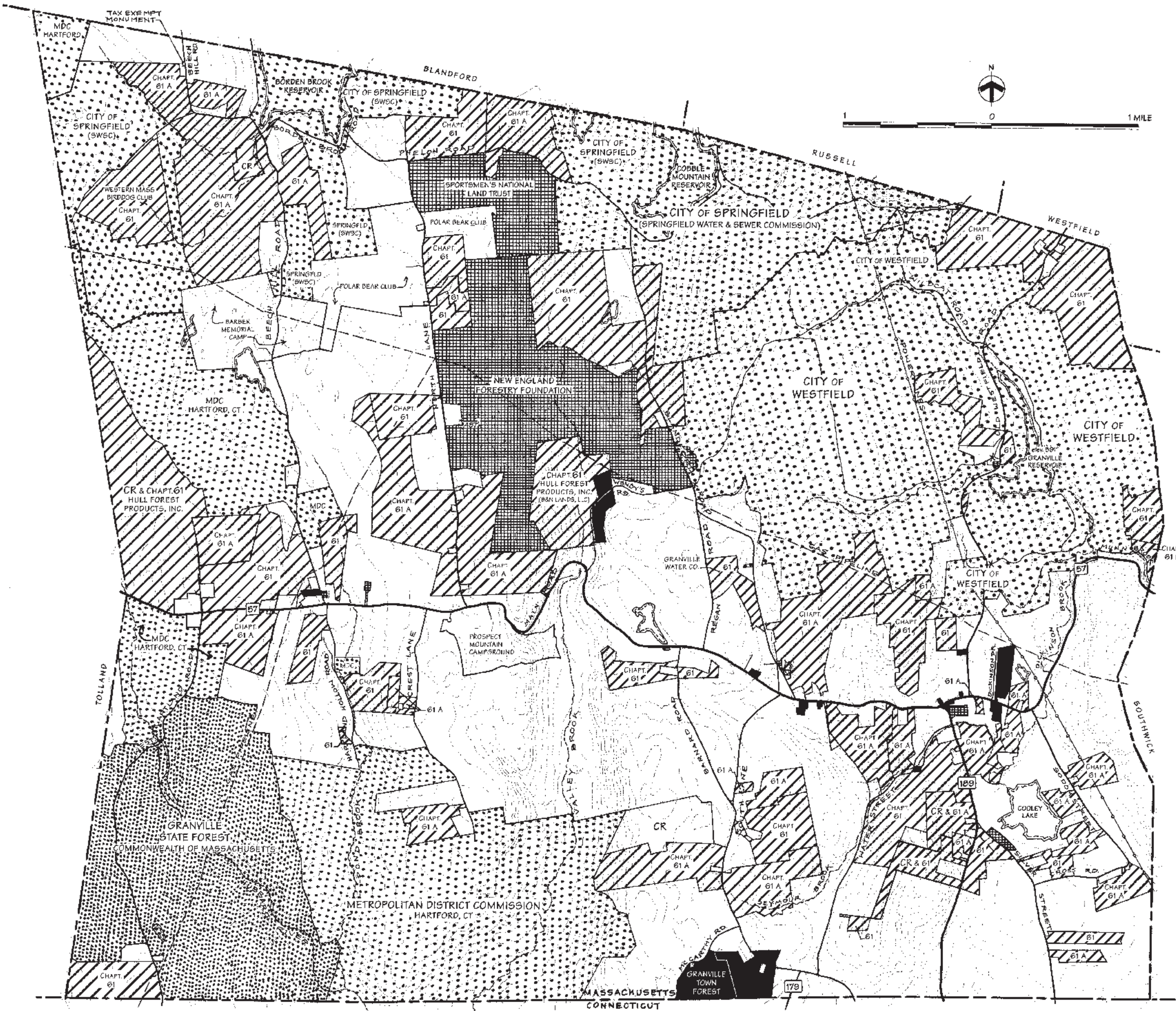
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Map sources: MassGIS 2000 (PVPC); "Preserving Granville: an Historic Resource Protection Manual" (PVPC 1989); "Hampden County Atlas" 1870; Granville 1900, (drawn by Benjamin Jones), Granville Historical Room; Westfield Water Works Map of Munn Brook Supply, (rev. 1941); Map of Granville (J.D. Scott Co. Phil, PA.) 1854

OPEN SPACE MAP
(CURRENT LAND USE)

Slightly less than half of the town's total land mass is permanently protected, but about one third of Granville land lacks any form of protection from development.



- State-owned land
- Land owned by outside municipalities
- Granville, town-owned parcels
- Non-profit, tax-exempt land
- CR Conservation Restriction
- Chapter 61, 61-A, & 61-B land
- Other private land (unprotected)

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

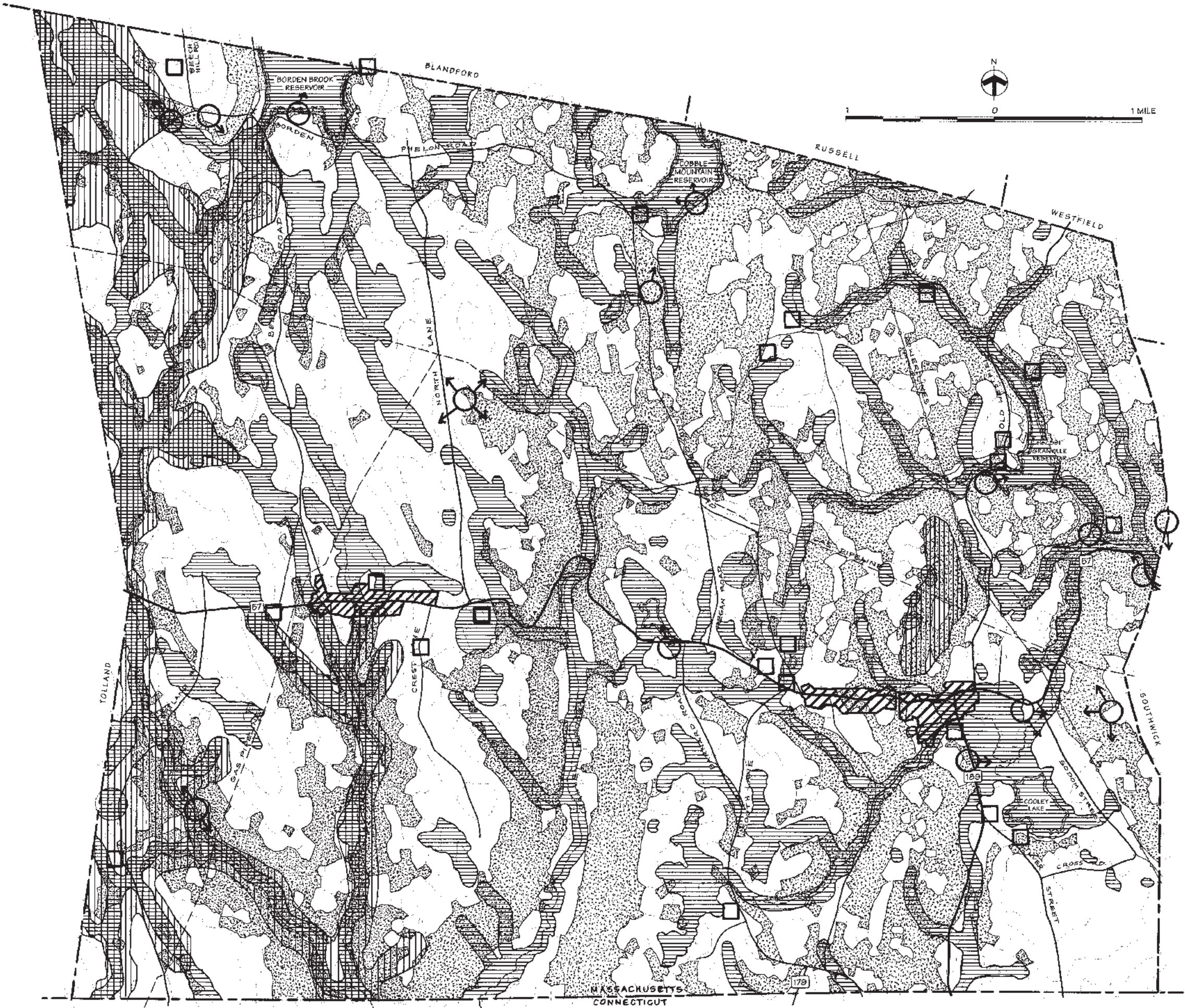
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Map sources: MassGIS 2000; Town of Granville Property Map, 1998. (Weiler Mapping, Inc. Horseheads, NY.) Granville Board of Assessor's Office

RESOURCES COMPOSITE MAP

Granville's most sensitive natural resource areas, in terms of development, cover a broad spectrum of the land mass of the town.



Core Habitat
(NHESP)



Slopes greater than 15%



Water resources
(wetlands, floodplains,
perennially-wet soils,
stream & wellhead
protection zones,
aquifers of transmissivity
>100 gal./ min.)



Historical or
Cultural resource



Scenic resource

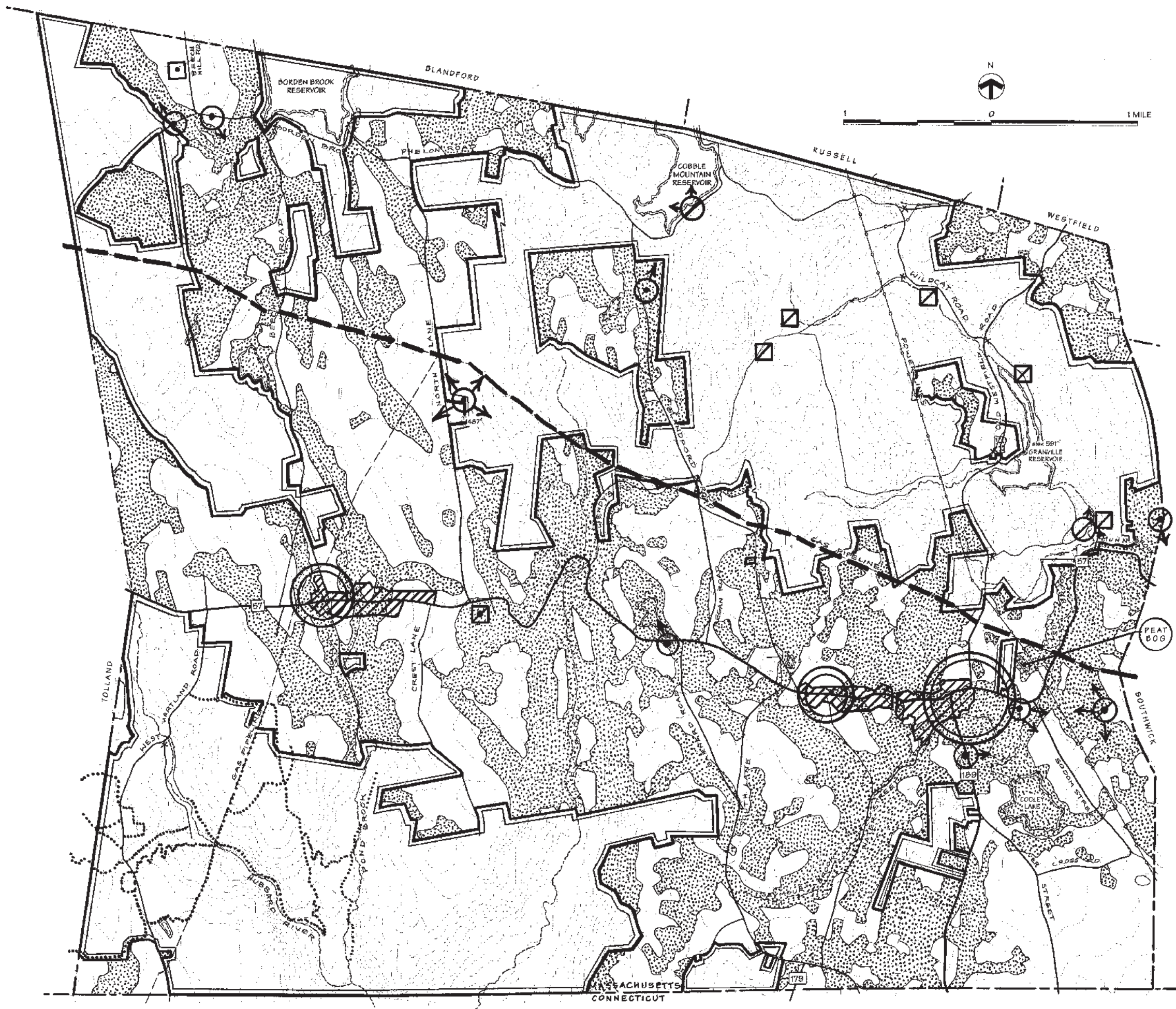


National Register
Historic District

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

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ACTION PLAN MAP

Sensitive natural resources, historic sites, scenic views, and locations of cultural events are the focus of this Action Plan.

- Fully-protected land
- Sensitive natural resources on land not fully-protected
- Pipeline erosion
- Scenic view on land not fully-protected
- Scenic view on land inaccessible to public
- Scenic view on land inaccessible to public & not fully-protected
- Historic or cultural site on land not fully-protected
- Historic or cultural site on land inaccessible to public
- Historic site on land inaccessible to public & not fully-protected
- Town center in need of master plan for parking and access to events
- National Register Historic District
- Granville State Forest trail system

Topographical contour intervals = 15 vertical meters
All measurements approximate

GRANVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE PLAN

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Granville is a Special Town

*Granville is a special town
With a wonderful story to tell.
It all began when James Cornish asked
Toto, would you like this land to sell?*

*It's a quaint little town
Nestled among the hills
Filled with forests, reservoirs, and streams
A place that has fulfilled many a man's dreams.*

*It was first known as Bedford Plantation
But another town already had that name
So they did some careful thinking
And Granville is what this land became.*

*Citizens in this town have fought many a war
Fighting for freedom and peace
Not only for Granville but the whole United States
They fought for our dreams to never cease.*

*As you travel the roads past the Old Drum Shop
The Mill in the Meadow and Citizens' Park
The Old Meeting House at the top of the hill
You'll notice that Granville has lots of charm still.*

*There's a new Post Office at the east end of town
And a Village School that grows and grows.
Don't forget the beautiful Granville Library
With its rich Historical Room taken care of by Rose.*

*Churches and cemeteries nestled throughout
Up the hill is our new Town Hall.
We have Historic Districts with beautiful houses
And many an old stone wall.*

*Granville has beautiful Mountain Laurel
And wildlife we may see day or night.
Its elderly Maple trees line the streets
And lend to a picturesque sight.*

*There are places to hike, swim and use your skis
Ride your horses and watch the changing of the trees
Summer, fall, winter and spring
Granville is the place to enjoy everything.*

*Things to eat and great smells too
Apples, peaches, blueberries and Granville cheese
Ice cream, maple syrup, and homemade relish
Try them all, if you please.*

*There are special times for gathering
The Fourth of July and Harvest Fair.
We have breakfasts, suppers and concerts
Times to get together, times to share.*

*Granville is an active town
With lots of volunteers
We thank you each and every one
For caring so much over the years.*

*You've coached, led the scouts and 4H,
And headed up the GPA
Helping our children to learn and grow.
The Library Club, Lions Club, Fire Department and
Auxiliary
You're appreciated much more than you'll ever know.*

*To keep us informed of Granville news
We have the Country Caller
Supported by the Council on Aging,
The Town, and many a donated dollar.*

*This is only part of our story
You know there's a lot more to come
It's called the future, the days ahead
There's oh so much more to be done.*

*So take some time now to reflect on our past
And look to the future too
And remember a town is what its people make it
And Granville we all love you!!!!!!*

Written by Linda Dickinson, Teddi Daley, Fran Wackerbarth, and Chris Teter,
on the occasion of Granville's 250th birthday, 2004

