

Massachusetts Heritage Landscapes

a guide to identification and protection

Reading the Land

dcrcr

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

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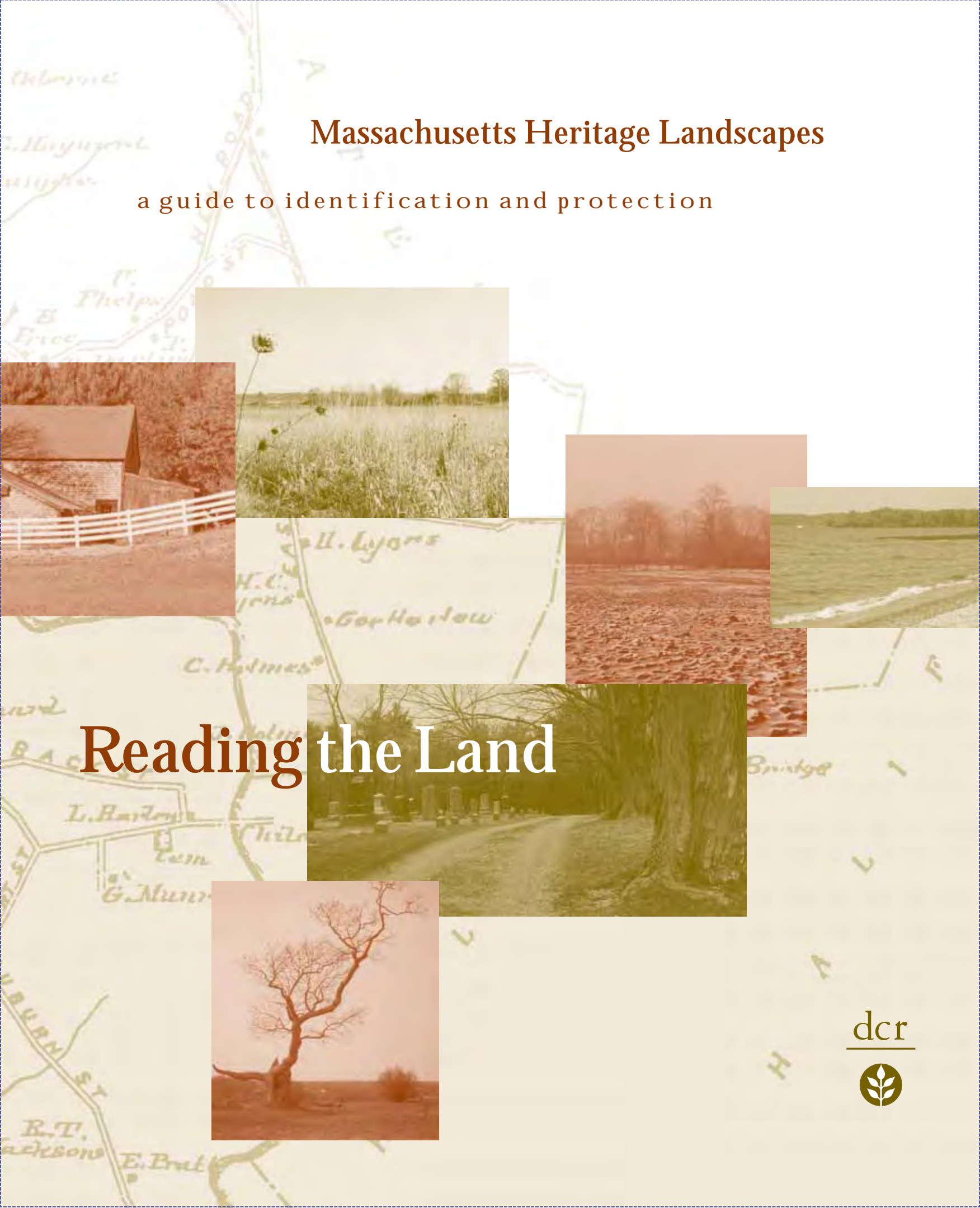
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“A rich and beautiful book

is always open before us.

We have but to learn to read it.”

Landscape. John Brinckerhoff Jackson. 1951

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM

PREPARED BY PAL
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS



Contents

1	3 Introduction
	Purpose of the Guide
	Heritage Landscapes Defined
	Past Initiatives
	Value of Heritage Landscapes
	Preservation Issues
2	14 Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in Southeastern Massachusetts
	Pilot Study Area and Objectives
	Project Evolution
	Discoveries
3	21 Create a Heritage Landscape Program in Your Community
	Every Community Needs a Heritage Landscape Program
	Learn About Heritage Landscapes
	Develop Partnerships
	The Inventory
	Evaluate the Significance of Heritage Landscapes
	Distribute Survey Forms
	Plan to Preserve — The Next Step
4	33 Planning and Decision-Making
	Know and Understand Heritage Landscapes
	Educate the Community's Citizens
	Build Community Support
	Plan for Preservation
	Know Preservation Strategies
	Key State, Regional, and Local Agencies and Organizations
	Epilogue — Looking Forward
42	Appendices
	Suggested Readings
	Contacts
	DCR Heritage Landscape Inventory Program Fact Sheet
	Sample Introduction Letter
	Heritage Landscape Survey Checklist
	Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project — Surveyed Landscapes

Photographs by PAL and DCR, except as otherwise noted.

Introduction

1

“... a landscape is not a natural feature of the environment, but a synthetic space, a man-made system of spaces superimposed on the face of the land, functioning and evolving according to natural laws, but to serve a community—for the collective character of the landscape is one thing that all generations and all points of view have agreed upon.”

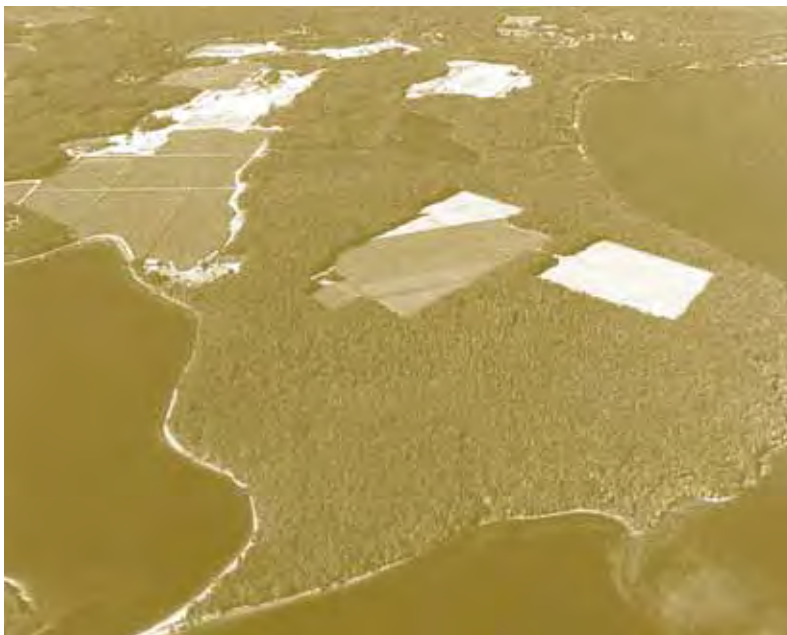
Discovering the Vernacular Landscape. John Brinckerhoff Jackson. 1984:8

Reading the *Land, Massachusetts Heritage Landscapes: A Guide to Identification and Protection* celebrates the beauty and character inherent in the landscapes of every community. This rich legacy is sometimes as obvious as a breathtaking scenic vista. At other times the value is obscured by layers of vegetation or construction, or concealed by lack of recognition of a pattern or plan. *Heritage, or cultural, landscapes is a broad term for the special places created by human interaction with the environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past.* The story told by the physical record of the history, interwoven with the natural environment, becomes clear as our ability to read the landscape increases. The study of heritage landscapes reveals habits, concerns, and lifestyles of those who came before us and shaped the environment we know. Recognition of heritage landscapes and their meaning becomes the presence of our past.

Local government officials, preservation advocates, conservation activists, and citizens who are enthusiastic about preserving local community character will find information in this Guide to assist the process of recognizing, understanding, and protecting local heritage landscapes. Once we have identified important landscapes, we must consider the vulnerabilities of these fragile resources and the preservation opportunities available to protect them. The three sequential preservation phases of identification, evaluation, and protection are addressed in this Guide. The recently completed Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in southeastern Massachusetts provides examples of heritage landscapes and decision-making situations.

The far-reaching goal of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is to lay the groundwork at the local level for an integrated planning approach to preservation of the overall

Purpose of the Guide



Betty's Neck, Assawompsett Pond Complex

The Assawompsett Pond Complex in Lakeville, Middleborough, Freetown and Rochester is a series of freshwater ponds and important adjacent land formations, rich in natural and cultural resources, with a long history stretching back 10,000 years to the earliest periods of Native American occupation. This natural, agricultural, and archaeological landscape with significant scenic qualities is comprised of six interconnected ponds and adjacent land in Lakeville, Middleborough, Rochester and Freetown, demonstrating that water resources require attention from constituents of neighboring communities. This fact is compounded by the ownership of much of the complex by the cities of New Bedford and Taunton for which the ponds are a main part of their water supply. The complexity of this rich historical and natural heritage landscape is unique and worthy of preservation in the context of continued planning and development pressures from adjacent towns and from the cities that own the water supply. Long Pond, one of the six ponds, is used for recreational activities, which presents yet another set of complex management issues. Lakeville and Middleborough treasure the Pond Complex and the land peninsula of Betty's Neck for their natural beauty and for the rich archaeological potential of the area. In short, the number of pressures is large, as is the number of constituents to advocate for the landscape that has been recognized by the inventory process.

cultural landscape: the historic, scenic, and environmental qualities that define each community and region. Through the identification of heritage landscapes, public officials and citizens will gain an understanding and appreciation of the broad range of historic and natural landscapes that are central to the identity of their communities. The process of gathering and using the information will bring together different constituencies and provide a framework for future conservation and preservation planning.

Heritage Landscapes Defined

Heritage landscapes are dynamic and evolving, reflecting the relationship between human culture and history, and the natural ecology that influenced land use and development of an area. Four principal categories of heritage landscapes exist: historic vernacular landscapes, historic designed landscapes, historic sites, and ethnographic landscapes.

Landscapes often fit into more than one heritage landscape category. For example, a ceremonial site on tribal lands may be a historic site as well as an ethnographic landscape. A river valley of contiguous farms is a historic vernacular landscape, and may also contain an estate with a historic designed landscape of formal gardens. A scenic road may be a designed parkway with historic vernacular landscape components along the edges and in the vistas. Many town commons are as much historic vernacular landscapes as they are historic designed

landscapes. Recognizing and understanding this overlap of categories is an important element of the identification and evaluation process.

In addition to representing one or more heritage landscape categories, heritage landscapes can encompass numerous landscape types. For example, a heritage landscape may include multiple contiguous elements such as a road, as well as farms, residences, and burial grounds along its route. Each landscape type may be associated with any of the four heritage landscape categories. A residential landscape may be a designed subdivision or a collection of farmsteads arranged in a linear fashion along a country road forming a vernacular landscape. The frequency and distribution of landscape categories and types illuminates land use patterns and the history of a community or region.

Many heritage landscapes also have scenic characteristics, or notable picturesque elements, that are usually associated with natural landscapes. Heritage landscapes with scenic characteristics reveal the history of land use and ecology; and they are both visual assets as well as natural and cultural resources. These heritage landscapes often are large and may encompass several types of landscapes. Boundaries may be difficult to define, particularly for heritage landscapes with scenic vistas, such as ocean dunes, beaches, forests, river valleys, and geologic formations.

Past Initiatives

Massachusetts is a longtime national leader in the identification and preservation of important landscapes. The picturesque quality of Massachusetts' landscapes has been recognized for generations, however, the first formal statewide recognition occurred in 1929 when a Governor's Committee commissioned Charles W. Eliot II to prepare a statewide landscape inventory. In 1933, landscape architect Bradford Williams for The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) identified the most valuable scenic areas in the Commonwealth. This study was

the first statewide effort at listing the range of landscape types and was accompanied by a call to preserve this rich heritage.

Fifty years passed before two distinctly different inventory efforts revisited the concept of landscape inventory in the early 1980s. In 1982, DCR undertook the *Massachusetts Landscape Inventory*, which built on the earlier work of TTOR and identified large-scale scenic landscapes. The other initiative, a survey of 10 public landscapes designed by the Olmsted firm, was conducted by a public-private partnership led by the Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks involving the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the Beacon Hill Garden Club, and the Hubbard Educational Trust. The resulting report, *Olmsted in Massachusetts: the Public Legacy* (1983), a pilot project for a national inventory, stimulated statewide interest and support for the preservation of public parks.

Recently planners and policy makers have recognized the need for an integrated approach to survey all types of landscapes as a critical tool for community planning. One of the first steps taken by Robert Durand while Secretary of Environmental Affairs was the formation of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Initiative in 1999. In response to growth pressures and strong

preservation constituencies, the Community Preservation Initiative was established to preserve and enhance the quality of life across the Commonwealth. The work of the Initiative, community-based and organized by watersheds throughout the state, was the model adopted for DCR's Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program.

The Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program was launched in partnership with interested public and private organizations and is overseen by a Statewide Advisory Committee that includes representation from DCR, MHC, and two private non-profit organizations, PRESERVATION Mass (formerly Historic Massachusetts, Inc.) and TTOR. The June 1999 publication of an important report, *Conserving our Common Wealth: A Vision for the Massachusetts Landscape*, published by the Land Conservation Center of TTOR, provided a precedent for examining the statewide context of heritage landscapes including threats and conservation efforts.

*Heritage landscapes convey aspects
of our shared history that forge
our cultural identity.*

Heritage Landscape Definition and Categories

Heritage landscapes are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment.



Horseshoe Pond, Wareham

Historic vernacular landscapes reflect everyday lives and activities. They are the largest category of heritage landscapes. Nearly every landscape without a formal design is vernacular. Examples include archaeological sites, rural farmsteads, town centers, cranberry bogs, mill complexes, maritime ports, and shipyards.



Unity Close, Easton

Historic designed landscapes were planned and laid out using a recognized style or tradition of landscape architecture. Examples include civic spaces, parks, gardens, cemeteries, institutional grounds, campuses, estates, planned communities, and parkways.



Tremont Advent Christian Campmeeting Association, Marion

Ethnographic landscapes are a collection of resources regarded as culturally associated with a particular group of people. Examples include Native American reservations, religious or ceremonial sites, and contemporary settlements associated with a specific cultural or ethnic group.



Council Oak, Dighton, historic view

Tree succumbed to disease, vandalism, storm damage, and age in fall of 2002.

Historic sites are landscapes that derive their importance from an association with a historic event, activity, or person. Examples include battlefields, burial grounds, and birthplaces or homes of a president or other important person.

Value of Heritage Landscapes

The everyday value of heritage landscapes has been reinforced across the Commonwealth by citizens in many communities who voice concerns about the preservation of community character. Reasons stated for living in a particular region or community nearly always refer to aspects of the landscape—the scenic qualities of rural farms, the pastoral character of village centers, the sight and sounds of a river passing over a waterfall, the waves of the sea lapping on a rocky coastline, or the bustle of a thriving city streetscape. Heritage landscapes are all around us, giving form to our lives. The intrinsic value of heritage landscapes provides lasting personal value as memories for residents and visitors and is captured as places of the heart that evoke specific past events or nostalgia

for a bygone era. These landscapes convey aspects of our shared history that forge our cultural identity. Heritage landscapes also reflect ecological and environmental conservation concerns, affect the real estate market, and attract tourism and recreation.

Heritage landscapes provide each community with its own unique sense of place. Once we begin to look with an informed view, we see the wealth of knowledge that such landscapes convey about our community's past, the emotional connection many have to certain places, and how this awareness can improve our communities and our lives.

Preservation Issues

Citizens throughout the Commonwealth recognize the need to preserve the unprotected heritage landscapes that are an asset to the character and vitality of their community. This acknowledgment is generating interest in and support for preservation opportunities. However, more work needs to be done in educating residents about heritage landscapes, recognizing threats to heritage landscapes, and building frameworks for their preservation.

The Heritage Landscape Inventory Program addresses a general lack of understanding and concern about the significance of heritage landscapes that continues to exist despite many past and ongoing landscape initiatives. The gap results from our sometimes limited ability to read the characteristics of heritage landscapes, which are frequently complex and not easily recognized. We also have a tendency to view cultural, natural, and scenic qualities as separate entities. They are not, however, independent. These qualities intertwine to create the special place that we may take for granted and not truly see, even though we know it as an integral part of a community. Can we interpret how topographic features, including water, terrain, and soils, have significantly influenced land use patterns, particularly in prehistoric and early historic period settlements? The breathtaking view from a mountaintop or over the sand dunes is easily understood; but what can help us recognize hidden evidence of historical development within those landscapes? What do we not understand about the industrial ruin with a collapsing dam, or the overgrown fields of an abandoned farm?

The particular nature of landscapes can make them difficult to understand, and the apparently continuous presence of a heritage landscape may



Crane Farm, Norton

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE TYPES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Prehistoric
Historic

AGRICULTURAL

Farm Complex
Truck/Market
Dairy
Orchard
Cranberry Bog
Viticulture
Farm Land
Wall/Fence/Structure

BURIAL

Burial Ground or Site
Cemetery

CIVIC

Village or Area within a Community
Pound
Streetscape
Grounds of Public Buildings
Commemorative

COMMERCIAL

Central Business District

ETHNOGRAPHIC

Religious/Ceremonial Site
Ethnic Settlement

INDUSTRIAL

Mill
Factory
Mill/Factory Village
Mine
Quarry
Port
Harbor
Shipyard

INSTITUTIONAL

School
College Campus
Museum
Religious
Social/Medical

MILITARY

Battlefield
Fort

NATURAL

River/Estuary
Lake/Pond
Wetland
Topography/Geology
Forest
Beach

OTHER

Non-classifiable Places of the Heart
Vista

RECREATIONAL/OPEN SPACE

Common
Training Field
Park
Garden
Resort
Active Recreation
Fairgrounds

RESIDENTIAL

Estate
Neighborhood

TRANSPORTATION

Road
Boulevard/Parkway
Trail
Railroad
Waterway
Bridge

Natural and Historic Features in Heritage Landscapes



Titicut Green, Middleborough



Village Cemetery, Rehoboth



Dodgeville, Ten Mile River, Attleboro

Heritage landscapes embody a layering of natural and historic elements and reflect the relationship of those factors over time.

Crane Farm, Norton

Layering of land use is evident in a farmstead heritage landscape that may include archaeological sites, an eighteenth-century farmhouse, mid-nineteenth-century barns, and twentieth-century agricultural patterns and building types demonstrating the impact of new technology.

Titicut Green, Middleborough

Layering of land use is evident in a village center laid out at the intersection of roads that once were Native American trails, around a green or common that was part of an eighteenth-century land grant, with dwellings and institutional buildings representing two centuries of construction.

Village Cemetery, Rehoboth

Cemeteries and burial grounds reveal decades of history in every community and period of development. Cemeteries follow natural or modified topography and are usually located in relatively rock-free soils. A cemetery may contain eighteenth-century burials and the archaeological site of a long-gone meetinghouse, surrounded by elaborate monuments, entrance gates, and a chapel reflecting nineteenth- and twentieth-century aesthetics and attitudes toward death.

Dodgeville, Ten Mile River, Attleboro

Water features such as coastal areas, rivers, lakes, and ponds have influenced transportation, settlement patterns, food production, land fertility, and power for industrialization throughout all periods of development.

Route 105, Rochester

Initial settlers took the path of least resistance in laying out roads, following the terrain and, often, existing Native American routes. Later, improved road-building technology linked town centers and industrial nodes in a transportation network increasingly dictated by efficiency rather than natural features.

Assonet Cedar Swamp, Lakeville

Natural resources such as woodland, bog iron, and fertile soils influenced the location of agricultural settlements, industry, residential neighborhoods, and civic centers.

Route 105, Rochester



Assonet Cedar Swamp, Lakeville



COMMON THREATS TO HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Lack of Knowledge or Concern
Ownership and Stewardship
Planning and Development
Environmental Changes
Deterioration and Neglect
Lack of Long-Term Protective
Mechanism

lead to an assumption that it will be ever present in its current form. The essential elements of a country road lined with cow pastures and fields of corn may appear unchanged over the last century. We are lulled into assuming that it is an enduring part of the local cultural landscape. The town common ringed by eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings—church, town hall, and library—may look like a permanent fixture, immune to alteration. Landscapes that have limited access and visibility, such as old mill remnants or riverbanks lined with salt marsh hay on private property with no public road, may generate no communal knowledge of their existence or significance. In fact, landscapes are dynamic, changing natural and cultural systems in which integrity and significance are linked to transformation through time. Yet, sharp differences exist between the inevitable and evolutionary changes inherent in a heritage landscape and the intrusive impact of an external force at odds with the character of that landscape.

Lack of access or interest can keep a property out of community focus and afford some protection. Generally however, it is difficult to gain the community support necessary to preserve an unrecognized heritage landscape in the event that something occurs or is planned that may have a negative effect on the property. The more communities recognize and understand threats, the better equipped they will be to counter with appropriate preservation techniques. The Heritage Landscape Inventory Program seeks to inform citizens about the values and vulnerability of the character-defining features that make a community special.

Threats to Heritage Landscapes

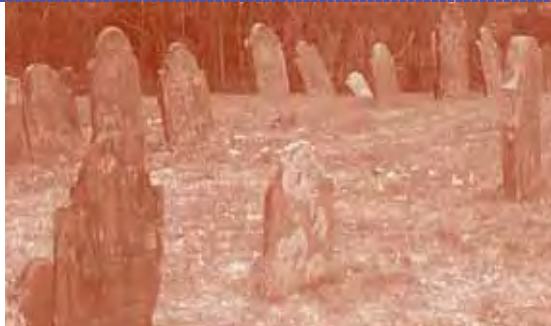
Pressures that can threaten the preservation of heritage landscapes may be imminent or long-term. The most common threats to heritage landscapes relate to lack of knowledge or concern, type of ownership and stewardship, planning and development potential, environmental issues, deterioration and neglect, lack of secure long-term protective mechanism, or a combination of pressures. A threat to one landscape may not endanger another and some pressures are more immediate than others; therefore it is important to recognize the context and issues surrounding each heritage landscape

and every potential threat. In basic terms, the unprotected landscape is one that does not have a long-term legal mechanism in place to preserve the quality of the resource.

Ownership and stewardship influence access, visibility, and advocacy and are key aspects that contribute to the future of character-defining heritage landscapes in a community. Landscapes in private ownership without long-term legal protection may be vulnerable in the future for economic and social reasons. A farm in service today may not be economically viable tomorrow, or the next generation may not choose to farm the land in the future. An estate that retains its designed landscape and scenic qualities may not be sustained by the next generation, particularly if the heirs no longer remain in the area. There may be no advocates because of a lack of access and visibility, and little knowledge of these landscapes.

A publicly or institutionally owned heritage landscape may appear to be in good hands, but may not be protected in the long term. The owner may have no long-term management, use, or preservation plan for the property, or sufficient funds to preserve the resource. A community may acquire a property—a farm or an estate—for its heritage landscape value. If no plan is in place, and no legal covenants and restrictions on future use exist, the same legislative body that elected to receive or purchase the property also may elect to change the use of the property to one incompatible with the resource. A school or a hospital in a campus setting may close, which could lead to a new use that is incompatible with the heritage landscape in which the institution exists today. The use of a cemetery is not likely to change, but the budget of the municipality may not support current maintenance needs, threatening the future preservation of the landscape.

Planning and development possibilities are pressures experienced everywhere and can alter any resource that is not permanently protected against such threats. Potential or imminent development pressures are informed by many variables such as the economy; soil conditions; transportation options; and local, state and federal regulations. A heritage landscape may be sub-



Powder House Graveyard, West Bridgewater

The Powder House Graveyard, also known as the Matfield Street Cemetery, in West Bridgewater is a well-documented small municipal burial ground with strong associations to the families who occupied the neighborhood in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The general character of the burial ground has been well preserved but severe biological growth threatens the stones, many of which have become largely unreadable. This deterioration poses an imminent threat to the historical and artistic record of the headstones. The failing mortar in the front wall also poses a potential hazard. Lastly, many of those headstones located closest to the street are leaning dangerously forward. The town lacks the funds and technical expertise to undertake more substantial preservation treatments.



Greg Guimond of SRPEDD, photographer

Wankinco River, Wareham

The Wankinco River and its tributaries extend roughly north-south through the center of Wareham. The upstream areas include portions of a large and regionally significant Pine Barrens, which is one of four on the eastern seaboard. In addition to its value as a natural resource, the Wankinco River is connected to the industrial and agricultural history of southeastern Massachusetts. With excellent waterpower and proximity to interior towns of Plymouth County, Wareham became a center for iron-related industries in the nineteenth century. A transportation canal with two locks linked two nineteenth-century mills. By the end of the late nineteenth century, cranberry bogs became a fixture within the Wankinco River landscape.

During the twentieth century, Wareham became a leading cranberry distribution center. The construction of cranberry bogs on the river significantly altered the river's natural setting. Currently, 1,000 acres of privately owned cranberry bogs are located adjacent to the river's banks, for which there is only limited access. Preservation concerns for the Wankinco River are centered on the possibility of large-scale development that would affect 6,000 acres in three towns and would halt generations of cranberry farming as well as threaten the archaeology of the ironworks. Environmental and development pressures are brought to bear by the largest development project proposed in New England to date.

Redway Plain, Rehoboth

Redway Plain, owned by the Town of Rehoboth, is a highly visible open field adjacent to the Village Cemetery and valued by the community for its historical associations and as an open space with scenic qualities. The Plain once was part of Redway Farm and was used as a training ground during the Revolutionary War. Pressures are related in part to the town's interest in additional recreational facilities. Soccer fields with a structure such as an equipment or maintenance shed have been proposed for this open space. This recreational use would require grading to level the playing fields and possibly result in the need for parking. Clearly this would alter the pastoral view across Redway Plain and change the feeling and ambiance of the area. Building an advocacy group to counter such a conversion sometimes can be challenging when there are conflicting interests that address community needs.



stantially altered by residential, recreational, utility, or commercial development that is spurred by economic benefits. Traffic volume and patterns affect the use of land in a newly laid out subdivision or at the town center where a once scenic road becomes a through route.

Environmental changes that impact heritage landscapes may be related to regulations or to natural conditions. An invasive plant, such as purple

loosestrife growing at the edge of a millpond or river shore, may be picturesque today. However, the invader can drive out native plants and change the local ecology, creating a large threat to the future retention of that water source. Erosion along shorelines or from man-made fissures such as dirt bike paths can threaten the integrity of archaeological sites and landscape topography. The management and maintenance of the water control

Drift Road, Westport

Drift Road is a scenic road that runs along the west side of the East Branch of the Westport River for approximately 7 miles. The northern end of the road begins in the historic village of the Head of Westport, comprised of several industrial sites, a schoolhouse, a town landing, and historic residences. Whaling was the principal industry in Westport until 1875, when petroleum was discovered. Many of the residences along Drift Road near the Head of Westport and at Westport Point date from the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century. With the demise of the whaling industry, Westport's economy focused on agriculture and fishing. This shift is well represented by the historic buildings, outbuildings, fields, and stone walls along Drift Road. Drift Road is unique, as it offers two different types of settings; a riverine-agricultural setting and open scenic vistas that are part of the river on the northern section, and the dense woods that line the road obscuring early dwellings and the river on the southern end. Major threats to Drift Road include pressure for residential subdivisions.



DEVELOPMENTAL TIMELINE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Native American Occupation	European Contact
<p>12,000 Before Present – 1500 a.d. Archaeologists document 12,000 years of prehistoric Native American occupation of the region. Settlement was based on hunting and collecting along and across waterways, then shifted to coastal habitation. Large populations lived in nucleated settlements and developed complex social ties, with language, kinship, ideology, and trade linking groups across the northeast.</p>	<p>1500–1620 Native Americans favored seasonal sites near water, linked by trail networks. Groups coalesced into tribes known as Massachusetts, Mohegan, Nauset, Nipmuck, Pennacook, Pequot, Pocumtuck, Pokanoket, Narragansett, and Wampanoag. European explorers and traders brought new material goods, ideas, and diseases.</p>

components of industrial sites on ponds or rivers may be affected by threats to the water quality and remedy regulations.

Neglect is a significant threat to heritage landscapes and usually leads to deterioration and loss of the integrity of those qualities that are the assets of the landscape. The neglect may be related to lack of knowledge and interest in a resource or it may be related to monetary issues. Nearly every community reports that there is not enough money in the public budget to properly maintain the local cemeteries, so the deterioration of markers, fences, paths, and plant material is not addressed. Neglect may take the form of lack of use that changes the nature of a resource eventually leading to a new incompatible use. Discontinuing the plowing of a farm field leads to volunteer plant growth that eventually obscures the field and makes agricultural use impossible without a major clearing effort. Neglect often leads to vandalism, which involves a host of senseless, physically damaging activities that can mar or permanently destroy a resource.

In general, secure long-term protection is gained only through acquisition or a legal contract, such as a conservation or preservation restriction on the property, which does not allow negative changes and is difficult to amend. Other mechanisms afford a lesser degree of protection, but can be important

tools. Local regulations, such as local historic districts or special overlay zoning districts can guide development to be compatible with the historic context of the area. Some landscapes have short-term protections associated with use or physical characteristics, such as farmland and woodland that have temporary conservation use restrictions related to tax advantages. Some heritage landscapes are listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places and others are eligible for listing. Such listing, while an important recognition and honor, only provides an advisory review of a state or federally funded or permitted project affecting the National Register or State Register resource. Often this review provides some form of mitigation, such as archival documentation, but does not change the final outcome of a project that may have a negative impact on a recognized heritage landscape. A Register listing, however, can pave the way to asserting the importance of a resource, the preservation worthiness of the landscape, and to encouraging community support. Heritage landscapes chosen for documentation during the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project met the definition of unprotected landscapes because they had no long-term protective mechanism in place.

*The stories told by heritage
landscapes draw many people to
cherish those resources.*

Porter Mill and Dam,
West Bridgewater



Early Settlement

1620–1700 Europeans established Plymouth, changing the landscape of America. Coastal settlement spread to interior along rivers, and Native American paths developed into road systems. Land clearing and the extraction of mineral resources created a landscape of dispersed farms and small water-powered industrial sites. Town political boundaries were established.

Colonial Years to the American Revolution

1700–1775 The landscape's topography, waterways, and agricultural soils influenced settlement patterns. Developing road networks linked farmsteads and industrial sites to local civic centers, with their meetinghouses, burial grounds, and training fields.

Revolutionary War to Industrial Revolution

1775–1830 Connections among communities were influenced by transportation routes, commercial activities, and economic development; and in turn affected by topography and natural resources. Villages emerged and developed as places of economic and social activity, with residences, workshops, stores, and meeting places clustered around established meetinghouse centers, crossroads, and industrial sites. New turnpikes cut across the landscape instead of following natural contours.

Preservation Opportunities

The Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project established that heritage landscapes are highly varied and endure all around us, that they do have value to individuals and communities, and that a critical need exists for their preservation. The stories told by heritage landscapes draw many people to cherish those resources. Protection of these qualities is important in preserving the past and maintaining the sense of place for the future. The significance of the studied heritage landscapes, combined with the community interest and support for this project, demonstrate the need for the preservation of these landscapes, and provide encouragement to continue the program across the Commonwealth. Each heritage landscape identified in the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project, for example, has been documented and is now in position to be preserved.

Preservation should focus not only on protecting the physical characteristics of a heritage landscape

*The opportunity to preserve
heritage landscapes lies in
uniting the various constituencies*

but also on retaining the original use or a compatible use, which often is the essence of the landscape. A farm, for example, is not just open space or a broad expanse of fields that

define the visual character of the community; it also is defined by the use of those fields as animal pastures or for growing crops. If the original use

cannot be sustained, then a new compatible use that supports the character and qualities of the landscape should be considered.

The diversity of heritage landscapes, in terms of their physical characteristics and historical and present uses, provides opportunities to engage broad constituencies in the process of recognizing and preserving these rich cultural resources. The key participant is the owner, whether public or private; every effort should be made to engage the owner throughout the preservation process. It is easy to identify issues affecting nearly all heritage landscapes that are of interest and concern to various municipal boards and commissions. The local historical commission, whose mission is to identify, evaluate, and protect local historic resources, has a large stake in identifying and preserving heritage landscapes. Most land use issues concern the local planning board and the conservation commission. Many issues are of concern to the local parks and recreation board, water department, and board of health. To engage each of these groups that oversees specific parts of the full range of land use issues is to develop a complete picture of the context and to understand the way in which the various features of the overall landscape are woven together. Adding to this, any special interest constituencies such as a historical society, a land trust,

South Middleborough,
Middleborough



Early Industrialization

1830–1870 Industrialization, with a shift from water to steam power, accelerated settlement. Urban centers evolved near road, rail, and coastal shipping transportation routes with concentrations of commercial activity, residential development, and industrial expansion. Greater demands for housing and institutional services developed at an urban scale with a social hierarchy.

Industrial Growth to World War I

1870–1915 Railroad and streetcars, as well as technological changes such as electric service, guided industrial expansion and suburbanization. Faster overland transportation channeled growth to interior towns and cities. Urban centers continued to expand with industries, parks, and densely developed suburban neighborhoods. Cranberry cultivation expanded, and summer resorts shaped coastal and inland landscapes.

World War I through World War II

1915–1945 Increased mobility and major economic shifts wrought havoc on industrial communities. Survivors possessed a diversified economic base. Agricultural production increased, particularly dairy and poultry farming, orchards, and cranberry cultivation. The automobile brought new roads and commercial development. Summer resorts, recreation, and tourism grew with interests in historical sites and the preservation of natural resources. Commuter and suburban residential expansion concentrated around cities, larger towns, resort communities, and began along rural roads.

neighborhood associations, and friends groups is to provide the opportunity to think broadly and act coherently to preserve heritage landscapes.

The future use of a heritage landscape, which is embedded in the reason for preservation, will help to define advocates for the resource. Preservation of the town center may serve economic development, which will be of interest to business owners as well as local residents. Preservation of a river

corridor may attract conservation activists, recreational users such as boating enthusiasts, hikers, and wildlife advocates as well as business owners to support the tourism or the recreational activities. Much of the opportunity to preserve heritage landscapes lies in uniting the various constituencies and building partnerships so that heritage landscapes become part of the vision for each and every community in the Commonwealth.

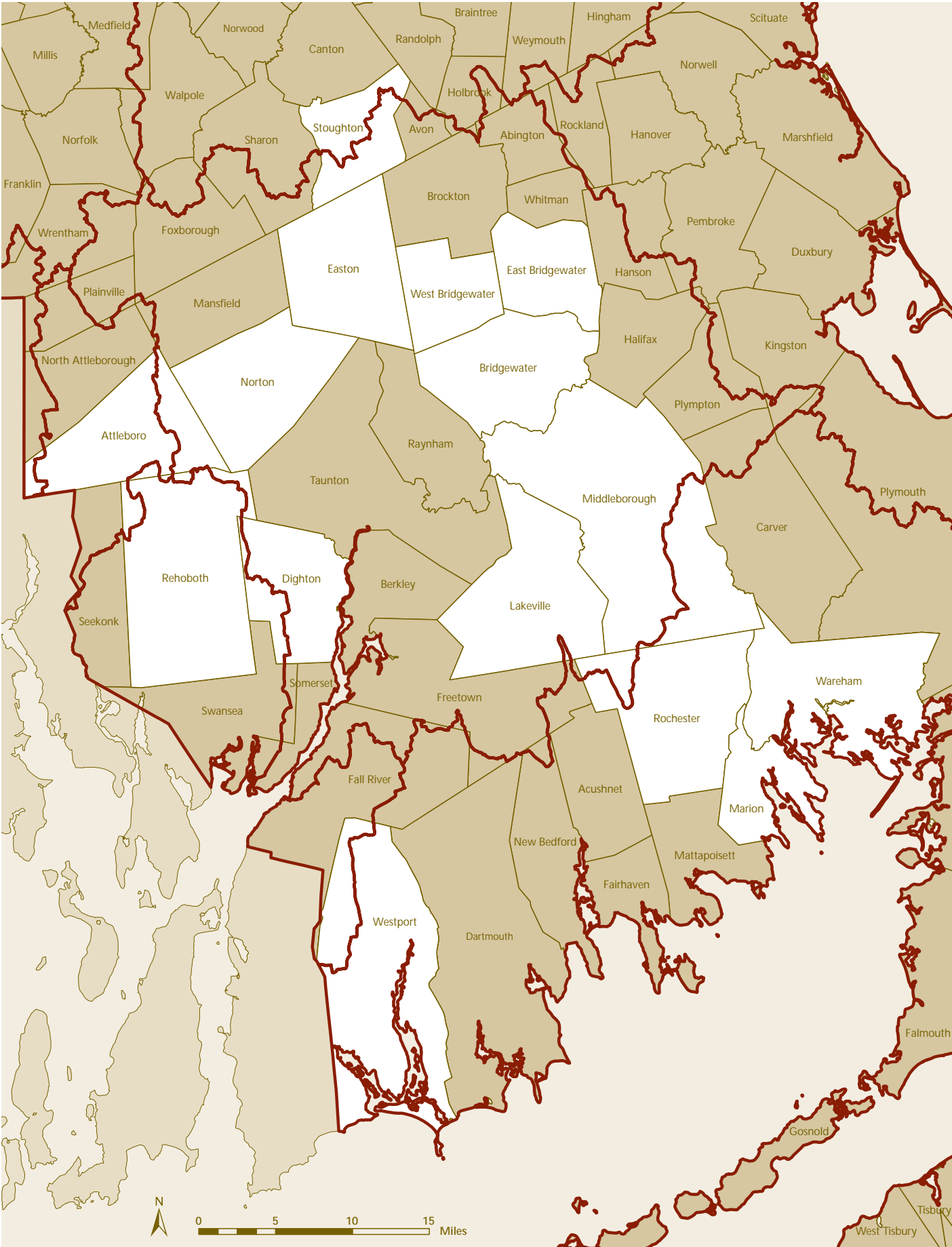


Elmwood Center, East Bridgewater

Elmwood Center, an assemblage of residences, a cemetery, and a few institutional and commercial properties, is centered on the village's principal crossroads just south of the larger commercial East Bridgewater Town Center. While the former post office, church, and firehouse are at the Bedford Street and East Street-West Street intersection, the predominant character is the intermittent rows of modest-sized cottages. A section of Bedford Street south of the intersection, lined with cottages having even setbacks and rhythmic uniformity, stands out not only for its architectural significance, but also as a scenic streetscape. This stretch of Bedford Street and its adjacent cross streets offer a visual relief for motorists traveling on the congested thoroughfare. Ownership and development pressures are issues that can adversely affect this heritage landscape. The town's need to accommodate through-traffic, the closing of the post office branch, and individual owners' need for property often are not consistent with the preservation of the character of this heritage landscape.

Suburbanization, Sprawl, and Preservation

1945–Present Highway construction, commuter rail service, and a postwar building boom spurred the abandonment of urban centers for suburbia. Suburbanization absorbed large tracts of land for residential subdivisions and commercial strip development along main roads. Few local zoning restrictions existed to control the quantity and arrangement of growth. Thousands of acres of once open space were lost. Historic and natural resources preservation interest and regulations grew at the local, state, and federal level.



Southeastern Massachusetts

- INDICATES WATERSHED BOUNDARIES
- PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in Southeastern Massachusetts



“Where is the oak tree marked with an H? Where is said wall? And where does it all begin?
To know a place, to know the real map of the world, you have to get out onto the land and walk.”

Trespassing. John Hanson Mitchell. 1999:59

The primary objective of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project was to develop a methodology for documenting heritage landscapes throughout the Commonwealth. After testing and refining that process in southeastern Massachusetts, this Guide introduces the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program.

Three southeastern Massachusetts watersheds—Taunton River, Buzzards Bay, and Narragansett Bay/Mount Hope—formed the focus area for the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project. They were selected as the pilot project region following a series of community-wide buildout studies and Community Preservation Initiative meetings that recognized increased growth pressures across the Commonwealth. These studies and meetings confirmed that southeastern Massachusetts is the fastest growing region in the state, and that little of the region’s land is shielded from this rapid development through long-term protection.

Following the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) selection of a consultant team to complete the work, 15 municipalities in the three southeastern Massachusetts watersheds were chosen to be part of the pilot study. These communities were selected through a competitive application process, and the number of inventoried landscapes in each community was determined by the size and scope of the resources balanced with an equal distribution of funds.

The pilot inventory focused on heritage landscapes that were not currently systematically documented and protected by a long-term mechanism. Therefore, specific evaluation criteria guided the selection of landscapes for intensive survey. The criteria related to the character and condition of the heritage landscape, the threats to its future preservation,

Pilot Study Area and Objectives

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Range of landscape categories and types sought
- Threats to the landscape
- Integrity of the landscape
- Community’s understanding of and interest in the landscape
- Landscape’s ability to convey its significance through interpretation

Taunton Copper Works, Norton

The Taunton Copper Works is an archaeological site that is significant as an early supplier of ship hull sheathing and for the production of coin blanks for the U.S. Mint. The complex system of waterpower with power canals along the Wading River, ruins of processing sites, and waste disposal sites is on private property. Despite its importance to the early American copper industry, this landscape is practically unnoticed in the community.

the level of community recognition of the landscapes, and the potential for public education through interpretation of the landscape. Based on these criteria, many highly significant and visible heritage landscapes in participating communities were not studied in the survey because they were already identified, evaluated, and protected. A list of the 57 inventory forms encompassing approximately 75 heritage landscapes that were prepared in the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project is in the Guide Appendices.

Project Evolution

A quick review of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in southeastern Massachusetts will provide other communities with inspiration to initiate their own studies. Once this process was completed in the study area, the appropriateness and efficiency of the procedures used were reviewed. Chapter 3 provides more detailed direction about how to proceed with a heritage landscape inventory in your community.

The inventory process has two major parts: the reconnaissance survey and the intensive survey. The community, assisted by the consultant team, completed the initial collection of information in the reconnaissance survey, which yielded a large preliminary list of heritage landscapes for possible study. The smaller group of landscapes selected for intensive survey was derived from this preliminary



Taunton Copper Works, Norton

list. The consultant team completed the intensive survey, which provided more detailed information about each of the selected landscapes and an evaluation of their significance.

Reconnaissance Survey

Each community appointed a local project coordinator (LPC), usually a staff member of the local conservation commission, planning board, parks or forestry director, or a town manager. The LPC formed a local committee drawing on the interest and expertise of various land use boards and committees and interested parties. As instructed by DCR, each local committee was directed to identify at least 10 heritage landscapes in the community, for a total of approximately 150 landscapes identified in the pilot project. The selected landscapes represented a broad range of types of landscapes that are part of the community character, and that were not permanently protected or pre-

Thompson Street, Middleborough

The pastoral settings of the farms along Thompson Street surrounded by abundant pastureland and agricultural fields, display one of the best-preserved agricultural landscapes in the region. Continued agricultural use of the farms helps to preserve this important heritage landscape, which is comprised of a dairy farm, a poultry farm, two horse farms, a few flower and vegetable market garden farms, nearby cranberry bogs, and an 1845 schoolhouse, that has been used as a 4-H Club since 1942.



Lower Taunton River, Dighton

The lower Taunton River flows south to Narragansett Bay and represents a complex vernacular landscape that can be best viewed in southern Dighton. Eighteenth-to twentieth-century resources along the wide and brackish Lower Taunton River represent agriculture, salt haying, shipbuilding, navigation, and commerce activities. The Corman Shipyard Historic District and the Dighton Wharves Historic District, both National Register districts, were thriving shipbuilding establishments through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today the wharves are used for recreational boating, and the areas maintain a residential character. The Bristol County Agricultural High School, established in the early twentieth century, maintains expansive agricultural fields overlooking the river. The 1896 Berkley-Dighton Drawbridge is an important transportation connection across the river with substantial impact on the community's character because of its capacity limitations.



served. The consultants met with the LPC and the committee to learn about the character of the landscapes, the threats to those landscapes, and any other sensitivity issues. Discussions about the landscapes and other regional issues continued while the consultants visited the landscapes with the LPC and committee members.

The consultants developed a historic context for the region, suggested other landscapes where appropriate, and assisted the LPC and the committee in choosing three to five landscapes for intensive survey documentation. The historic context for southeastern Massachusetts used the Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) *Historic and Archaeological Resources of Southeast Massachusetts*, town reconnaissance reports, open space plans, master plans, and other texts that provided information about the general trends that contributed to forming the heritage landscapes that remain in this region today. The consultants prepared a brief reconnaissance report for each participating community presenting the results of this project phase. Each community summary noted the planning issues, recounted the site visits, and recommended the heritage landscapes for intensive survey. These were provided to the LPC for the community's review. A synthesis report submitted to DCR included a methodology statement, historic context, and the community summaries.

In the pilot study some communities considered categories and types of landscapes, while others

chose specific sites. For instance, cemeteries, a type of heritage landscape found in all communities, were listed as a group or individually, cemetery by cemetery. Another resource type that was looked at both broadly and specifically was the scenic road. One community listed all the scenic roads, each with a variety of scenic qualities, while another community was interested in understanding and preserving a specific road that retains a high degree of agricultural character.

Rivers presented far broader study and management issues than most other landscape types. One community listed all three rivers as one heritage landscape type worthy of study. Several communities listed one river corridor, which in one instance also ran through adjacent communities participating in the pilot study. The magnitude and complexity of the river corridors presented challenges for which the intensive survey methodology had to be adjusted.

Intensive Survey

Once the list of heritage landscapes for intensive survey was finalized, the LPC prepared packets of materials including historic maps, locations of research material, and present-day assessors' maps of the properties to be surveyed. The LPC also

Palmer River, Rehoboth

The Palmer River in Rehoboth is a multifaceted river corridor with a wealth of archaeological, agricultural, industrial, natural, and recreational heritage landscape property types. Roads offer vistas of the river and the adjacent scenic farmland, providing access to working farms, industrial locations, recreation sites, and a late-eighteenth-century burial ground. Extending from Shad Factory Pond southerly toward the Rhode Island border, the picturesque area is defined by the natural beauty of the river and the working farms lining Barney Avenue and Mason Street. The Orleans Manufacturing Company industrial mill site at the edge of Shad Factory Pond, as well as brick kilns and sawmills off Mason Street provide archaeological evidence of manufacturing. The 1925 South Seekonk Gun Club, the 1958 Rumford Hunting and Fishing Club, and excellent fishing sites enrich the area.



Dry Pond Cemetery, Stoughton

The Dry Pond Cemetery in Stoughton, a vernacular landscape, is the second oldest burial ground in the town. Dry Pond Cemetery was laid out in two parts, the original cemetery established circa 1749, and a new section established in 1976. The original cemetery is a small cohesive unit with a diverse collection of burial markers dating from the mid-eighteenth century through the twentieth century. It is the burial place of many of the Dry Pond neighborhood's early citizens.

Lower Taunton River, Dighton





Capron Park, Attleboro

J. S. Martin of Providence designed Capron Park in 1901 on land donated by the Capron family. Martin and Hall, architects, designed the Capron Park Casino in 1902. The landscape architectural firm of Olmsted Brothers was consulted in the 1910s and 1920s regarding the Soldiers Monument and the Spanish War Memorial and may have offered some advice on the park as a whole at that time. New structures and features were added in the 1910s and 1930s, and new plantings were installed after the hurricane of 1938. Major distinguishing features of the 40-acre park include the curvilinear road and path system, the plantings, the pond, a large number of memorials, and seven buildings, six of which are in the zoo complex.

sent an information letter to the property owners where access was an important part of the inventory. The intensive survey work, carried out by the consultant team in each of the 15 communities working with the LPC and the committee, involved site visits, photography, research, and writing to document the cultural and natural elements of the 57 selected heritage landscapes on MHC inventory forms. Key resource persons in many communities attended the site visits and were available for assistance. The team also conducted documentary research and informant interviews. Research relied on both historical sources traditionally consulted, and also utilized materials such as master plans, open space plans, and environmental studies with water quality, soils, and wildlife information.

The team adapted the MHC survey methodology for the intensive inventory and recorded the heritage landscapes on standard MHC forms. In most instances the Area Form format was used to convey the description and history of a large area or broad range of resources. Even a single farm with multiple outbuildings and surrounding agricultural land was described on an Area Form. The description and statement of historical significance of each area emphasized the overall landscape features that unified an area, and was supported with maps and photographs. The survey form integrated the cultural and natural features giving primary emphasis to the landscape and less emphasis to buildings and structures, in contrast to the approach in traditional building-based inventories. Nearly all the landscape categories and types discussed in Chapter 1 were represented in the inventoried heritage landscapes. This work sheds light on the value of the landscapes that communities are striving to preserve.

National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Evaluation

An evaluation of the significance of inventoried heritage landscapes helps define exactly what characteristics are valued and worthy of preservation. Different significance standards exist at the local, state, and national levels. A commonly used framework is the evaluation of significance that assesses the eligibility of a historic cultural resource for list-

ing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service and is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that are deemed worthy of preservation. Other standards can be established to assess the value of the resource in the community, as is the case for local historic districts and local landmarks, or even at the national level, as for National Historic Landmarks.

For the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project, the consultant team evaluated the significance of each intensively surveyed heritage landscape and its potential eligibility for inclusion in the National Register. In some instances individual properties and districts that comprised or were within the surveyed heritage landscapes already were listed on the National Register. However, National Register listings that occurred before 1990 generally did not account for the landscape features in the description or the significance statement. Nearly all of the landscapes studied were recommended as eligible, in part or as a whole, for listing in the National Register by the consultants. This inventory project showed that many of the resources studied are eligible because of the landscape features that unify the area, physically and historically, providing an important context in which to understand the rich heritage they convey.

Discoveries

The heritage landscape pilot study demonstrated that a wealth of natural and cultural landscapes exists in every community and that, for the most part, the residents are aware of their existence and interested in their identification, evaluation, and preservation. In fact, requests for planning assistance surfaced even in the reconnaissance survey. These topics form the basis for discussion in Chapter 4 of the Guide.

The approximately 75 heritage landscapes that were documented in the 57 forms in the pilot study represent a range of landscape types and categories. Many were multifaceted and crossed types and categories. Landscape types that recurred in nearly every town included farms, scenic roads, village centers, industrial site ruins, and water with its

related resources at the river's edge, on a pond, or along harbor coastal waters.

Historic vernacular landscapes were the most frequent category. They included farms, industrial locations, archaeological sites, burial grounds, recreational places, river corridors, and roads. Most communities in the study area selected a farm or collection of farms that evokes part of the community character. The integrity, significance, and survival of farms are related to their present-day economic viability.

The pilot inventory included several historic designed landscapes including formal gardens, cemeteries, town greens, parks, campuses, and the setting of a municipal building with elements of a designed landscape.

Two ethnographic and one historic site landscapes were identified in the pilot inventory.

A significant methodological challenge arose when the scale of some landscapes exceeded initial expectations. Several communities introduced the concept of studying a full river corridor or a scenic road. This approach is consistent with watershed based planning. The idea led to the survey of several very large landscapes encompassing many types of resources, although political boundaries did often restrict the size of the landscape below its full potential. While the magnitude of information necessary to document the diverse resources was not contemplated in the beginning of the project, it led to a more comprehensive understanding of the issues as well as an opportunity to join forces with



Queset Lodge, Easton

The west side of Main Street in Easton integrates industrial remnants, estates, and municipal and religious structures all that are historically connected to the Ames family. The family's successful industrial use of the natural resources made the rest of this rich heritage landscape possible. Historic and modern maps show the Queset River, Hoe Shop Pond and Shovel Shop Pond, power canals, and buildings built by the Ames family's ironworks established in 1807 by Oliver Ames. The Shovel Manufacturing became so successful that the mid- to late-nineteenth-century generations were able to build fine houses set in pastoral and designed landscapes, all befitting their accomplishments. Besides their houses they financed the construction of numerous institutional buildings. The noted architect Henry Hobson Richardson designed many of the buildings, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the well-known landscape architect, consulted on a number of the projects. In the early twentieth century an Italianate garden was added to the Queset Lodge residence, and Fletcher Steele designed a garden for the 1860s home of Oliver Ames known as Unity Close.



Unity Close, Easton



Council Oak, Dighton, 2001

The Council Oak tree in Dighton and surrounding field traditionally was a meeting ground for subtribes of the Wampanoag Native American tribe. In 1663, European settlers purchased the land that became Dighton from King Philip at this spot. Only the large trunk and one branch of the 500-year old oak tree remained during the survey, and in the fall of 2002 even those succumbed to age, vandalism, and storm damage. The tree was a symbol of the rich Native American traditions of the area.

many different constituencies. Furthermore, this method clearly pointed out the reliance of one part of a system on another. For example, the relationship of a dam upstream to the natural and historic resources below the dam was better understood.

The pilot study was organized in three watersheds, with participating communities from each one; however, the survey work did not necessarily strictly follow the watershed approach. The survey structure was dictated in part by the distribution of the participating communities within the watersheds and their geographic proximity to one another. Several river corridors passed through more than one community. When selected for intensive survey, a river corridor was surveyed in all of the participating communities through which it passes, however, stretches in neighboring, non-participating communities were not addressed. It was clear, however, that life on the river in an adjacent town would have an impact on nearby

communities. Three communities included Route 105, a regional state road with many historic and scenic qualities, in their reconnaissance lists, but the corridor was not reviewed as a whole, or surveyed intensively. The need for adjacent communities that share a common resource to communicate and plan together for preservation was confirmed. This also underscored the need of town boards to work together, given the range of resources and concerns revolving around the preservation of each landscape. It was not possible to differentiate, beyond generalities, among the three watersheds or to draw similarities other than overall planning issues. This lack of conclusions about the overall character of each watershed was partly because the study of scattered sections in each watershed did not draw a complete picture of any one of the three watersheds.

The pilot inventory generated a wealth of valuable information including the history, ecology, and current planning conditions in each of the communities and watersheds investigated. All of the heritage landscapes studied help tell the story of the development of southeastern Massachusetts from the seventeenth to the twenty-first century and provide a basis for the participating communities to make informed planning decisions. In addition, the experience has provided valuable lessons that communities can use in undertaking inventories of their special places.

TACCA, Marion

The Tremont Advent Christian Campmeeting Association in Marion is nestled on the shores of Hammett Cove at the northern end of Sippican Harbor. The campmeeting grounds were established in 1905 for a place in which Advent Christians came to worship. They set up tents and built small gable front cottages as well as other necessary buildings around the pine grove. This campmeeting boasts a long record of summer meetings every year for the last 150 years in the Tremont part of Wareham and nearly 100 years at this location. The feeling of this site along with the physical evidence of an intact ethnographic landscape conveys the ongoing history of this spiritual community.



Create a Heritage Landscape Program in Your Community

3

“What are the natural features which make a township handsome? A river, with its waterfalls and meadows, a lake, a hill, a cliff, or individual rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful; they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent. If the inhabitants of a town were wise, they would seek to preserve these things...for such things educate more than any hired teachers or preachers.”

Henry David Thoreau. 1861

Modern life threatens the future of nearly all of the Commonwealth’s heritage landscapes, and examples disappear every day. The buildout studies and numerous meetings of the Community Preservation Initiative confirm the vulnerability of once plentiful heritage landscapes. Every community perceives that the rate of change has accelerated through the last quarter of the twentieth century. Citizens speak out about development pressures in each region of Massachusetts. These forces bring increased traffic volumes and changes in traffic patterns; open space is lost to new residential and commercial construction in rural areas and to urban sprawl around cities. The loss of agricultural land through development also becomes an environmental concern, when measured by the increase in water consumption, necessary waste disposal, and the need for improved infrastructures. The introduction of new utilities, including telecommunication towers, windmills, and hydroelectric facilities, can potentially alter important landscapes. One of the most telling barometers of the accelerating rate of change over the last 25 years is the rapid increase in transportation routes, particularly highway development, and the recent reintroduction of commuter rail service. Environmental concerns also affect heritage landscapes, including the deterioration of water quality, the destructive nature of invasive species, and the removal of dams and factories along rivers.

Every community encompasses a variety of heritage landscapes; these landscapes are best known to local citizens. A heritage landscape program in your community will publicly recognize these special places and features of your surroundings. It will provide a basis for generating community support for the preservation of significant heritage landscapes. The first steps are to establish a Heritage Landscape Committee and prepare

**Every Community
Needs a Heritage
Landscape Program**

by learning about heritage landscapes. The next step, the inventory, which is the basis upon which you will build the advocacy and protection, has two distinct steps: the reconnaissance survey, followed by the intensive survey with evaluation. After the inventory has been completed, set priorities for preservation and disseminate the information to your fellow citizens and officials to build the high level of interest necessary to preserve the special places in your community.

In all likelihood, implementing the program in your community will need some funding. The amount will depend upon the extent to which you plan to use the services of a consultant and the

types of community outreach and publications you plan to produce as part of educating the public about the heritage landscapes. The two agencies that you will contact for technical assistance, the Department

of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Preservation Planning Division at the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), may also offer grant programs to assist your community in financing the program. Funds available through the Community Preservation Act, if passed in your community, can also be utilized.

Learn About Heritage Landscapes

The Suggested Readings section in the Guide Appendices recommends key reading materials that introduce the vocabulary and concepts of

heritage landscapes and their preservation. Some essential background and technical texts for preparing and undertaking a heritage landscape inventory are mentioned here.

Preserving Cultural Landscapes, a collection of essays describing cultural, heritage, vernacular, and ethnographic landscapes defines useful terms. *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape* explains the meaning of “vernacular” and discusses ways in which local culture is reflected in the landscape. *Conserving our Common Wealth: A Vision for the Massachusetts Landscape*, prepared by the Land Conservation Center of The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) in June of 1999 is an important booklet on the Massachusetts landscape and served as a springboard for the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. Each member of a Heritage Landscape Committee should have a copy of this booklet, which is available on the TTOR web site listed in the Contacts section of the Guide Appendices.

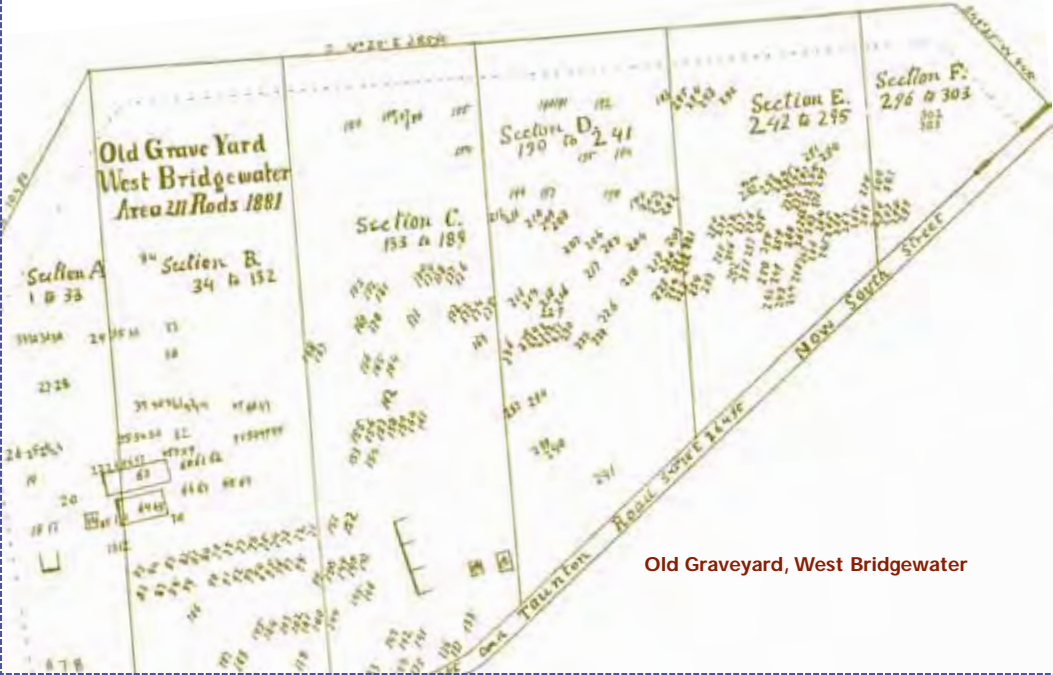
The MHC’s *Survey Manual* and *Regional Reports* provide guidance on survey methodologies and summarize historical development patterns in the state. The National Park Service (NPS) offers excellent general resources including the identification, evaluation and protection of designed and rural landscapes, traditional cultural properties, cemeteries and burial grounds.

Local history materials will aid in understanding the development of the community and in defining the types of landscapes to expect during the survey. Familiarity with historic maps and historic photographs of your community will help the surveyor to anticipate land use patterns in the surrounding landscape. A review of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in southeastern Massachusetts, outlined in Chapter 2 of this Guide, will provide valuable examples of landscape types and completed MHC inventory forms.

Develop Partnerships

The establishment of an effective Heritage Landscape Committee (Committee) and the ultimate success of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program in your community will be related to the involvement of a broad representation of the community. The

The ultimate success of the
Program will be related to
broad community representation



Old Graveyard, West Bridgewater

program is a local initiative; therefore, be sure to welcome anyone who wants to participate. Participants can involve a wide-ranging constituency with local, regional, and state representation.

The Committee should include representation from the full range of groups concerned with land use issues in order to offer a comprehensive view of heritage landscapes. Members of the Committee will become the ambassadors of the program. The experiences of the community, the types of heritage landscapes that represent the character of the community, the threats to the landscapes, and a general consensus of features that are worthy of preservation will be determined by the Committee. For this reason a balanced and broad-based Committee is an important ingredient for the success of the program.

The Committee may include representatives (staff and members) of municipal boards, commissions and committees, as well as delegates of local organizations such as historical societies, trusts, and neighborhood groups. Local residents knowledgeable about local history and ecology, or local professionals in a related field, should be identified. They can be an important addition to the Committee membership, or may provide volunteer



Bridgewater, 1879

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY STEPS

- Learn about heritage landscapes and past inventories
- Establish a heritage landscapes committee
- Build support from citizens and elected officials
- Explore possible funding and technical assistance options
- Consider engaging a consultant for the inventory
- Conduct the survey (reconnaissance, followed by intensive inventory)
- Evaluate the significance of the surveyed landscapes
- Establish goals for future inventory work
- Set priorities for preservation planning based on known or anticipated threats
- Share the information in the community, region, and state

SUGGESTED HERITAGE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Community Preservation Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Forestry Department
- Historical Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Historical Society
- Interested Citizens
- Local Experts in Related Fields
- Local Historic Preservation Trust
- Local Land Trust or Conservancy
- Local Native American Tribes
- Local Neighborhood Organization
- Master Plan Committee
- Open Space Planning Committee
- Parks & Recreation Board/Commission
- Planning Board or Commission
- Regional Watershed Association
- Selectman/Alderman

POTENTIAL INVENTORY PARTICIPANTS

- Adjacent Communities
- Consultants
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Heritage Landscape Committee
- Interested Citizens
- Local Project Coordinator
- Massachusetts Historical Commission
- Native American Representatives
- Property Owners
- Regional Planning Agency



Survey Fieldwork

services during the survey or review processes. It is helpful if at least one member of the Committee is a municipal employee who has access to various municipal agencies, the rules and regulations governing the use of land, and materials such as assessor’s maps and other records. Each Committee should assign a Local Project Coordinator (LPC). The LPC, in effect, heads the Committee and should be responsible for gathering input and organizing existing documentation about landscapes.

Depending upon the expertise and time of the Committee members and the budget available for the project, committee members may complete the inventory or hire a professional consultant to provide technical assistance. Some communities may seek the expertise of a consultant for certain tasks such as assisting in the selection of landscapes, recommending ways in which to consider each landscape, or consulting in the evaluation process. Other communities may turn the entire project over to a consultant. In all instances, it is of utmost importance to engage the Committee and the community in the selection of the landscapes to be documented.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation administers the Heritage Landscape

RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Preparation

- Be clear on the goals of the inventory
- Review available literature on heritage landscapes
- Become familiar with the range, categories, and types of heritage landscapes
- Review the primary historical and land use themes in the community
- Review existing MHC survey forms for the community
- Review National Register nominations for the community
- Review existing natural and cultural resources planning documents
- Review any existing lists of landscapes
- Review the Criteria for Selection of Heritage Landscapes
- Choose a large-scale map on which to locate landscapes
- Review a land-use map of your community.
- Establish and understand the scope and goal of the program
- Predict the range of landscape types that may be present and their general location

Making the List

- Meet to gather ideas and discuss suggestions
- Consult with knowledgeable historians and Native Americans
- Make a comprehensive list
- Conduct site visits
- Refine list by priorities for intensive survey

RECONNAISSANCE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Type of landscape
- Threats to the landscape
- Integrity of the landscape
- Public understanding and appreciation of the landscape
- Access

Inventory Program in Massachusetts. As you begin, contact DCR for useful background materials, guidance on how to proceed, and copies of completed heritage landscape forms showing the appropriate breadth and depth of research and writing. The Department also conducts a variety of ongoing Historic Landscape Preservation programs that may be able to provide further technical assistance on specific landscape types. The MHC has all the information gathered through previous surveys, National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listings, and MHC-sponsored grants programs for properties in your community. Neighboring communities and regional planning agencies may be invited to participate, as heritage landscapes by their very nature are not limited by political boundaries and often require the interest and concern of more than one municipality.

The Inventory

Identify Heritage Landscapes —
Reconnaissance Survey

The Reconnaissance Survey is a broad-brush overview of the natural and historic features that make up the heritage landscapes of each community. The list generated from this part of the survey process should be a preliminary and inclusive list, based on a clear set of criteria. The criteria used to measure potential heritage landscapes will justify the selections made and ensure a list that reflects the range of landscapes and preservation needs in the community. The criteria developed for the pilot project can be amended and revised as appropriate for your community.

Selecting heritage landscapes that convey your community’s character is easy and fun if the Committee is properly prepared. Prior to the reconnaissance survey it is critical to review background information, and to understand the scope and

goal of the program, selection criteria, and the potential types and locations of landscapes. Study area and management issues can reach beyond boundaries of one community and include a variety of landowners, thus you may consider teaming with adjacent communities to study overlapping resources.

Consider the organization and classification of resources while generating the reconnaissance survey list. You will want to ask the following questions: Will you list all landscapes, such as cemeteries or roads, or just select one specific example? Is there a large notable landscape that will incorporate multiple landscape types such as a scenic road paralleling a river, farms with buildings and agricultural fields, and archaeological sites such as ruins of a waterpowered industrial complex or Native American sites? Will any landscapes cross municipal borders to neighboring communities?

Try to have all members of the Committee assembled to proceed with preparing a comprehensive reconnaissance list, since important features are recognized during a lively discussion with a variety of viewpoints. Once you are familiar with the criteria for selecting landscapes, and have determined the scope and goal of your local project and the range of resource potential in your community, brainstorm to **prepare a list of landscapes and discuss why each landscape meets the criteria.** Be sure to get input from local historians and representatives of local Native American tribes if they are not able to serve on the Committee. Consider holding a public meeting to solicit input from the community at large.

You probably will limit the survey to those landscapes that are unprotected by a long-term legal mechanism. However, do include properties that truly elicit the community character that you wish to preserve. A protected landscape that continues to top the list of significant heritage landscapes deserves to be highlighted for its importance and preservation value.

After you have prepared a comprehensive reconnaissance list of all the landscapes that you wish to document, **visit each site or area, preferably as a Committee, and discuss what you see at each property or collection of properties.** Although the data collection will occur in the intensive survey, the reconnaissance survey site visits are opportunities to make initial contacts with owners



and to take slides of the landscapes, which can be used in any public informational programs that you plan in the future. If owners are not certain whether to participate, explanations about the process and goals may be helpful. As you develop your plan for intensive survey you may be able to use the slides to inform any Committee members that were unable to attend the site visits.

Following the site visits you will **prepare the intensive survey plan, including a refined list with priorities for further study.** The initial reconnaissance list should be prioritized or narrowed to perhaps 10–15 landscapes for the initial intensive survey. You may want to rank the heritage landscapes in a matrix to reflect types, significance, imminence of threats, status of information, and visibility in the community. The immediate intensive survey project may not be able to encompass all the landscapes identified during the reconnaissance, in which case you may want to develop a phased approach. A key unprotected, vulnerable, and highly significant landscape, which already has been documented, can remain on the reconnaissance survey list but be eliminated from the intensive survey. Try to have a range of types and scales represented in the landscapes on your intensive survey list, particularly in the first phase of a multiphased project. A variety will be helpful in building interest and preparing models for future survey work.

Fieldwork on the Nemasket River





Elmwood Center, East Bridgewater

Collect Detailed Information— Intensive Survey

The intensive survey of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program involves collection of detailed descriptive and historical background information about each selected heritage landscape in order to prepare MHC inventory forms documenting the appearance, history, organization, primary natural and cultural features, and boundaries of the heritage landscapes. Before you begin the Intensive Survey, review the MHC *Survey Manual* for the recommended general survey methodology. This Guide should always be used in conjunction with the Survey Manual when documenting landscapes. Communities and consultants should discuss landscapes with DCR to determine which types of MHC inventory forms are most appropriate to use. A checklist of intensive survey information is provided in the Guide Appendices.

Preparing for fieldwork entails collecting pertinent maps, existing inventory forms, and National Register nominations, as well as assembling the necessary field items. Make a list or standard data form of basic information that you will gather during the fieldwork; this will serve as the basis for formal data sheets attached to the final inventory form. If the number of the street address is not shown on each parcel of your town's assessor's maps, take the time to annotate the maps. This information is invaluable when working in the field particularly if your assessor's maps do not have building footprints. Often it is difficult to translate the parcel lines of the map into the field without that added information.

Prior to fieldwork, the LPC will contact each property owner of the heritage landscapes to be documented. In some instances, permission to access a property will be required. The contact

should include an invitation for the property owner to participate in the inventory process and planning. The cooperation of property owners will be an important result of effective ambassadors representing the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. A sample introduction letter is included in the Guide Appendices.

Fieldwork can be one of the most enjoyable parts of the project, especially if you can pick a sunny clear day to view those character-defining features of your community. Generally, a team approach of two persons working together is a benefit, especially for larger, more complex landscapes. Juggling the paraphernalia, recording the data about the heritage landscapes, and piecing together the maps, the facts, and the history often are easier and more productive when working with someone else, and certainly more fun.

One person easily can document a small landscape, such as a cemetery or a single site, while two or more persons may better handle a far-reaching, multifaceted landscape. Long complex river corridors or scenic roads with a variety of resource types and distant vistas may lend themselves to additional expertise to interpret the field information. Some field data may be best gathered from a boat, canoe, or kayak. The experience of navigating a river is far different than the view from the shore and affords greater access to and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources.

Safety factors should be considered when planning fieldwork. A second person is recommended when a vehicle will be operated along the side of a road. The driver can concentrate on traffic conditions while the surveyor records and photographs the landscape. Safety vests, bright colored clothing, and cell phones are useful.

Fieldwork begins by viewing the subject area. Drive and walk around the entire site. Become



Blackinton Park, Attleboro



East Branch of the Westport River, Westport



Tabor Academy, Marion

Heritage Landscape Descriptive Information

BOUNDARIES

Define the boundaries, which may be as small as a significant feature, such as a rock or a tree or as large as the vista from a hilltop or across a swamp, lake, or harbor. Boundaries generally relate to assessor's maps lot lines, municipal limits, visual barriers such as a modern highway or a change in land use, and historical association. In some instances the boundaries may be changed once additional information is gathered.

OVERALL CONTEXT AND CHARACTER

Describe the overall context and character of the landscape, which is the essence or the reasons that it is characterized as a key feature in the community. The context describes the immediate surroundings, the neighborhood, adjacent land uses and the broader landscape whether it be a village center, a civic center, a rural farming region, or an industrial center. Character makes a place special in a community and emerges from topography and natural features such as water features, vegetation types, scenic qualities, and man-made structures.

UNIFYING FEATURES

Identify any unifying features or unique characteristics, which are generally man-made and refer to land use. Often they are formal or informal edges of a property or collection of properties, and make appropriate boundaries for the surveyed landscape. They may also be found intermittently throughout a landscape. Stone walls, fences, and hedges may define the house lot on a farm and mark the surrounding pastures or they may establish the boundaries of an estate, a cemetery, or a campus. Waterways often tie together industrial complexes, or can be a feature that holds together a larger area encompassing a wide range of resources. A tree line may provide a canopy over a road or define an agricultural field.

ARRANGEMENT OF FEATURES

Describe the arrangement of features within a landscape, which tells the story of the use and historical development of the landscape. The assemblage of buildings around a town common or on a campus, the relationship of farm buildings and farmland to one another, the linear arrangement of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial centers, or the curvilinear arrangement of features and circulation patterns in a park all convey information about the use and design of the landscape.

NATURAL AND VEGETATIVE FEATURES

Describe the natural and vegetative features that are essential parts of the character of the landscape. Natural features such as coastal harbors, rivers, streams, and lakes informed the historical use of land and continue to influence development today. Ponds may be natural or man-made as the result of damming of rivers to capture the waterpower for industry and agriculture. Vegetation in fields, forests, salt marshes, cedar swamps, orchards, and gardens contribute to the scenic quality of the landscape and provide information about the use of the land.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Describe buildings and structures in the landscape. They are the man-made features that enrich the story of historic land use. The dates, types, styles, and materials of these features illuminate the periods of development and contribute to the scenic quality of a landscape. Structures such as mill ponds, dams, and mill buildings or ruins tell about the industrial history of a site. The nature of roads such as width, surface materials, curbs, walls, drainage, bridges, and plantings conveys a feeling about an area. Farm buildings suggest the type of farming conducted on the land. Institutional buildings and monuments around a town common or on a hospital or educational campus tell of the period of development as well as the history of the community.



Stiles and Hart Conservation Area, Bridgewater

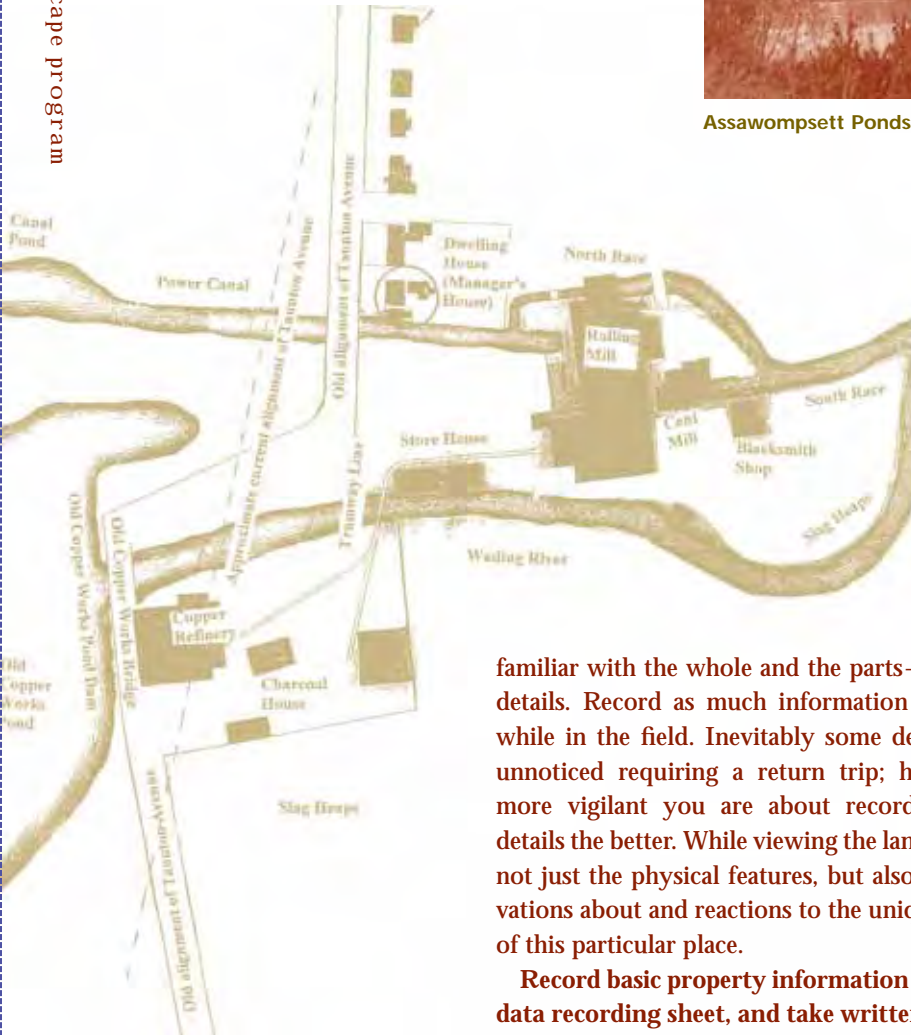


Berkley-Dighton Bridge, Taunton River





Assawompsett Ponds Complex, Lakeville and Middleborough



Taunton Copper Works, Norton

familiar with the whole and the parts—notice the details. Record as much information as possible while in the field. Inevitably some detail escapes unnoticed requiring a return trip; however the more vigilant you are about recording all the details the better. While viewing the landscape note not just the physical features, but also any observations about and reactions to the unique qualities of this particular place.

Record basic property information on the field data recording sheet, and take written notes that further describe the boundaries, features, arrangement, character, and setting of the property. The importance of locating all the resources on your map or making a sketch map in the field showing the arrangement and frequency of the resources cannot be overstated. Use colored markers to map features on a property, properties within a larger landscape, and any systems of features that you may discuss collectively such as stone walls, road surface, orchards, wood lots, corn or hay fields, pastureland, etc. Organizing the way in which you view a property or collection of properties can facilitate the interpretation of the landscape as well as the recording in narrative form later.

Take black-and-white photographs for the inventory forms that will convey the details and

the essence of the landscape. Be sure to record the photographs noting the address, the topic, and the view or direction of the photograph. Film should be processed only with black-and-white development methods and photographs should be printed only on black-and-white paper. Color slides and digital photography are useful supplements to black-and-white photography; however, **digital and colored photographs cannot be submitted with MHC forms.** Color slides are invaluable in developing educational and advocacy programs. Therefore if possible proceed with two cameras unless you were able to take slides of the landscapes in the reconnaissance phase. If a digital camera is available, use it to provide colored photographs, which are helpful when writing the survey form for each landscape and can be used to prepare literature and public presentations to advocate for the preservation of these landscapes.

In conjunction with fieldwork, **conduct background historical and environmental research on each surveyed property.** Primary and secondary town and regional histories contain information on locales, events, and people. Some volumes include useful historic views and portraits. Historic maps and historic photographs and prints in flat file collections document the development of an area and its appearance at different points in the past. Town records and annual reports provide statistics and data about certain types of resources. These materials are likely to be found in the local library, historical society, and town hall. Property owners may also possess a treasure trove of historical information and images of their property.

Land deeds, wills and probate, and other legal records are located in the county courthouse. However, deed research to create a chain-of-title is not necessary for survey research. The State Library and State Archives contain valuable annual reports, census statistics, as well as information about the architects and drawings of many publicly accessible buildings. Information about natural resources and ecological systems is contained in documents such as in master, open space and recreation, water quality management, and special purpose plans. These reports are located in town halls and libraries. The goal of research is to form a historical narrative about a property that discusses the general development and themes of its history and ecology to the present day and places it in an appropriate historical context.

Record Information on Survey Forms

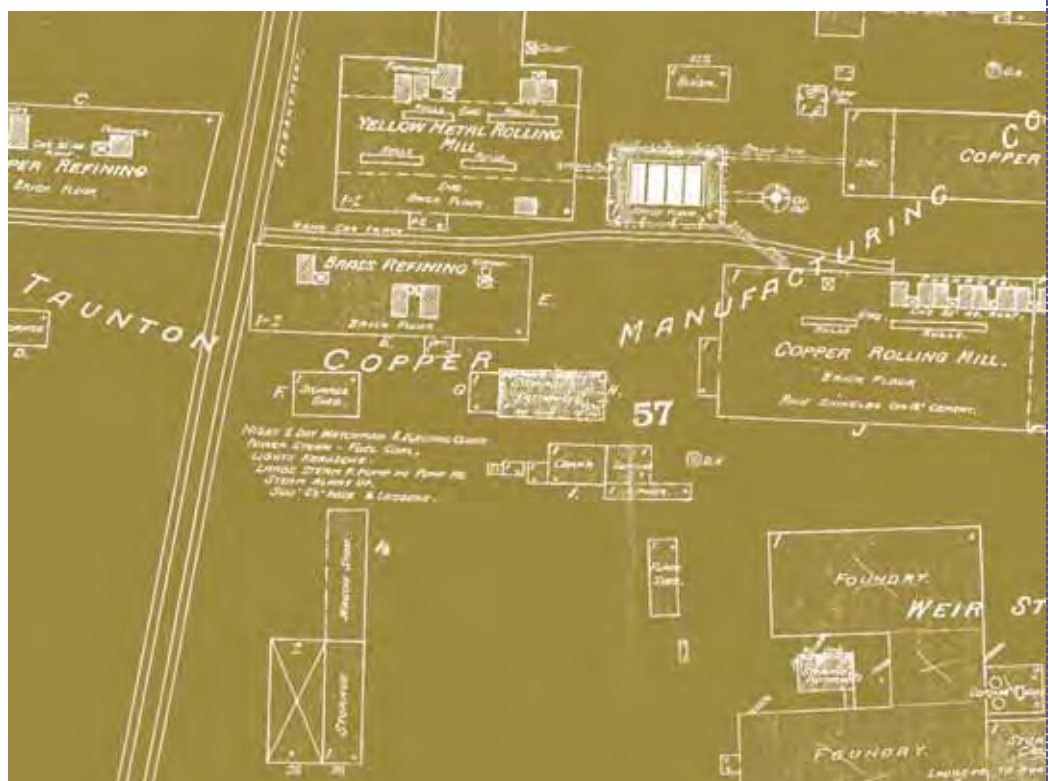
Following fieldwork, **complete the appropriate MHC inventory forms**, which will standardize the information gathered in the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. The forms are available in electronic format. The Area Form has proved to be the most useful for complex landscapes. Simpler landscapes will be recorded on other form types, such as a single cemetery on the Burial Grounds Form, and a single park on the Landscape and Parks Form. These and other form types are discussed in the MHC *Survey Manual*. Consult with DCR for guidance on forms for complex landscapes. Examples of completed forms for heritage landscapes are available upon request to DCR.

Final survey forms consist of basic location and descriptive data plus two small essays: one describing the current appearance and conditions of the heritage landscape, the other relating the developmental history of the landscape. In addition, a completed form has several photographs showing key features of the landscape, maps locating the resource and showing the location of the features within the resource, a bibliography, and a data sheet that lists individual features in the landscape.

The **description essay** begins by establishing the boundaries of the landscape, and should refer to its general location within the community. The attached maps will help to support the description. Following the boundaries, describe the overall character of the landscape. The description of the unifying features and the arrangement of all features will amplify the overall character. Finally descriptions of the natural, vegetative, and built features

all contribute to the visual image of the landscape. Subjective discussion of the evocative and overall aspects of a landscape should accompany the description of the salient features present.

The **final data sheet**, which is attached to the back of the form, includes a variety of information that is tailored to each landscape; however, every data sheet contains certain basic information. The MHC and DCR can provide guidance on completing data sheets and should be consulted particularly for guidance in the MHC numbering process. Items listed on a data sheet will include landscape features such as stone walls, trees, a mill pond, orchards, agricultural fields, houses, farm buildings, mill structure, a town hall, a church, and monuments. The assessor's parcel number should be given except in the case of a feature that is found on many parcels such as a system of stone walls in



1888 Plan of Taunton Copper Works, Norton

a landscape. In such an instance only the assessor's map number is given, not all the parcel numbers involved. Similarly the address for a feature on more than one property should only be the name of the street. Any known historic names associated with a property should be recorded on the data sheet. The resource type refers to the feature type such as "river" or "stone wall." The type or style of a structure could be "L-Plan" or "Colonial Revival." In these instances, use whichever terminology conveys the most information about the resource. The date of features may be general such as "19th c." or as specific as "1887" if known through historic documentation. You may want to record associated resources that enhance the understanding of a property. Some examples of associated resources are a garage, a silo, a stone wall, a monument, a fountain, or grave markers.

The data sheet requirements tend to skew the process in favor of spending large amounts of time on developing data sheets. However, this

quantitative information is important for identifying resource types and provides a mechanism by which properties can be counted, mapped, and recognized for future local, regional, and statewide preservation activities.

The **historical narrative** begins with a summary of the development of the general area to place the property's history in an appropriate context. The narrative discusses the origins and development of the natural and cultural aspects of the heritage landscape and the features within the landscape. It may describe appropriate aspects of the agricultural, commercial, social, economic, industrial, or ecological activities that have happened in the immediate area and how they relate to the historical trends and events of the community or the region. Larger complex landscapes will warrant more detailed context than smaller simpler landscapes. Usually presented in chronological order with beginning and end dates, the narrative mentions the landscape's associations with individuals such as property

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SIGNIFICANCE EVALUATION

Evaluate the integrity of the heritage landscape

- Has the location of the features of the resource been changed?
- Does the landscape retain elements of the historic setting?
- Are there elements of the original design still distinguishable?
- To what degree do original and historic materials remain on the site?
- Is there evidence of historic workmanship or craftsmanship?
- Does the landscape still reflect its association with its historical past?
- Does the landscape convey a feeling of its historical past?

Evaluate the significance of the heritage landscape

- Is the landscape associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history?
- Is the landscape associated with the lives of persons significant in our past?
- Does the landscape embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction?
- Does the landscape represent the work of a master?
- Does the landscape possess high artistic values?
- Does the landscape represent a significant and distinguishable entity (for example, a historic district or complex heritage landscapes) whose components may lack individual distinction?
- Has the landscape yielded, or is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (usually applied to archaeological sites)?
- Does the landscape possess high scenic value?
- Does the landscape generate a strong positive reaction from the community for reasons of the heart?



Langwater, Elm Street Estates, Easton

owners, tenants, builders, and designers, with entities such as religious and ethnic groups, and with organizations important to the history of the area. Special historical circumstances or environmental occurrences that marked a change in the use or appearance of the landscape are outlined.

Evaluate the Significance of Heritage Landscapes

Evaluation is the link between survey and preservation activities and helps define approaches and priorities for protection planning. The evaluation of the significance of heritage landscapes involves an assessment of several factors using a systematic set of criteria. Usually the factors that are considered include the type and extent of changes that have occurred and the importance of the landscape. Heritage landscapes can be significant for a variety of historic, scenic, natural, architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, or archaeological associations. Often the present-day community value and educational potential of a landscape are also appropriate considerations. Significance criteria can be widely established standards such as those created by NPS for the National Register, or they can be tailored to a community's specific needs. The DCR and MHC can provide guidance about selecting the right evaluation criteria system for your inventory and preservation needs.

The evaluation system should be selected at the outset, as the evaluation process really begins in the reconnaissance survey when landscapes are selected, particularly if there is a high level of local participation. Once the physical and historical evidence has been recorded in the intensive survey, establishing the context and development patterns, the significance of the landscapes can be evaluated. Responses to evaluation questions should be woven into the descriptive and historical statements on the intensive survey forms for each heritage landscape and reflect local interests and priorities. A landscape's visual quality and local citizens' perceptions may influence the evaluation outcome. Often scenic qualities are the reason that the landscape has been recognized in the reconnaissance survey, and it is the scenic value that may be the easiest selling point when convincing the community of the worthiness of preservation. Determining the type and degree of changes over time, sometimes



Mount Hope Finishing Company Village in North Dighton, Dighton

referred to as integrity, focuses on what remains to convey the history and character-defining features of the landscape, to show how it was or is used, and to demonstrate why it is important in the community. Changes can be significant in their own right, and landscapes are by nature changing, dynamic entities.

As you prepare to develop a preservation plan for heritage landscapes you may want to record evaluation information in a format that helps to form a list of priorities for preservation efforts. Clearly those heritage landscapes that are most significant will rise to the top of the list of preservation needs. However, you also will want to highlight landscapes that have deep importance to your community, but that may not meet the National Register significance standards.

The National Register significance criteria consider the elements of integrity that are used to assess eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. In addition, National Register significance examines the role of the resource in conveying an



North Dighton

important aspect of our history in terms of: A) patterns of important events, B) associations with important people, C) masterworks or distinguished groups of resources, and D) the ability to yield important information. The National Register requires significant properties to be 50 years old or older unless they possess specific kinds of exceptional significance. The National Register Criteria Statement is a formal evaluation statement attached to the final MHC inventory form. The statement describes how properties that are assessed as eligible for listing meet the criteria. Contact DCR and MHC for further assistance with the National Register criteria.

Distribute Survey Forms

A primary objective of the inventory program is to let the public know about the special features of your town so that citizens are on board when the time comes to preserve those heritage landscapes. The survey forms are the beginning of your public relations materials and should be used wisely.

Make sure that survey forms with original photographs are delivered to DCR's Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, MHC, and your local historical commission. Make a master copy set with high quality photographic resolution from which additional copies can be made in the future, and distribute a set of

Only those who value the heritage landscape can define the solution or the desired outcome of preservation

copies of the heritage landscape survey forms to the local public library, the school libraries, and the clerk's office. The planning board and the conservation commission also should have their own set of survey forms. Send a copy of the form to the

property owner of each heritage landscape, particularly for those properties for which access was necessary. You may have chosen to document a large area with multiple property owners in which case it may be more prudent to have the local press run an article directing readers to the library. Encourage the local press to run a series of articles featuring some of the heritage landscapes. The inventory information can be effectively incorporated into tourism materials, local history curricula, and form the basis for a variety of educational programs.

Plan to Preserve — The Next Step

Once you have completed the inventory and have distributed it widely, you will want to build on the momentum by formulating a plan to preserve the heritage landscapes that shape your community's character. In all likelihood you will have short-term goals and long-term goals. The timing may be based on the nature of the pressures exerted on your most cherished heritage landscapes. In any event the information garnered in the inventory program will help to choose the appropriate preservation mechanisms. The Heritage Landscape Committee should continue to convene to guide preservation efforts and to enliven public interest in heritage landscapes.

If you were unable to document all significant landscapes in the first phase of your heritage landscape inventory, an important short and long-term goal will be to complete the documentation of important landscapes. A thorough reconnaissance survey effort will enable you to know all heritage landscapes that should be documented in the future.

Preservation planning will match the pressures threatening each unprotected heritage landscape with the preservation solutions. Planning and decision-making for heritage landscapes is the topic of Chapter 4.



Libby Farm, Stoughton

Planning and Decision-Making

4

“The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

Remembrance of Things Past. Marcel Proust. 1922

Heritage landscapes are rich, diverse, and can be found throughout the Commonwealth. They include Native American archaeological sites, farms, town commons, parks, institutional campuses, and burial grounds across Massachusetts; fishing ports of New Bedford or Gloucester; mills and factories in Waltham, Lawrence, Holyoke, or Springfield; estates in the Berkshires or in Essex County; orchards in Worcester County; and cranberry bogs in the southeast.

Heritage landscapes inform us about land use, neighborhood development, and the reasons for a community’s distinctive physical and cultural characteristics. Landscapes help us understand how those who came before us shaped their lives and how the environment in which we live today evolved. The historic context of our communities and the region is revealed in heritage landscapes. General historical trends of a region are clues to what may be found in a specific community. In turn, identification and evaluation of a community’s heritage landscapes will round out the picture of the area’s history, creating a basis for informed decisions. In respectfully preserving the tangible traces of the past in our communities, we are participating in the continuous transformation process of history. The vestiges are a hybrid, ever-changing combination of what they were, how they are seen through our lenses, and what they will become in the future.

Preservation planning looks for appropriate preservation solutions to the pressures threatening each unprotected heritage landscape. This pairing of challenges and responses enables the selection of the most effective mechanisms to protect heritage landscapes. Public participation in this process is essential. Only those who value the heritage landscape can define the desired outcome of preservation. Once there is a consensus about the preferred outcome, the array of preservation tools at the federal, state and local levels, and in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, can be examined to determine the

**Know and Understand
Heritage Landscapes**

INCLUDE HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IN LOCAL PLANS

Master Plan / Comprehensive Plan
Open Space Plan
Preservation Plan
Neighborhood Plan
Heritage Landscape Preservation Plan
Recreation Plan
Historic Resources Survey Plan

appropriate means. The key steps in establishing a process for addressing preservation of heritage landscapes at the local level are education, community support, and planning. Examples drawn from the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in southeastern Massachusetts illustrate recent preservation activities for heritage landscapes.

Educate the Community's Citizens

The pace of our lives today leaves little time to focus on why our surroundings appear as they do. Yet a sense of place can be the one constant in life that is reassuring and soothing for its familiarity as well as its cultural and scenic value. Citizens in all communities have tales of the negative impact experienced by the change or loss of special places. Even though most people intuitively know that certain landscapes are important for their visual appeal and their timelessness, many do not recognize the ongoing vulnerability of such places. Through increased education leading to a better understanding of the richness of the landscape and knowledge of why a place looks like it does and evokes certain responses, citizens are more easily convinced that they can play a role in the preservation of those special places.

Education opportunities for heritage landscapes abound in the development of school curricula, adult education programs, tourism materials, exhibits, special events, and formal recognition of the heritage landscapes in your community. While it may be inappropriate to place signs at privately owned landscapes and the location of archaeological sites should not be publicized, a marker program may be a good way to convey significance of most publicly owned heritage landscapes. Brochures can simply describe heritage landscapes or be designed for use as a walking or driving tour of the landscapes in your community. Special events such as clean up days, inviting public access to a private property, guided tours, or similar activities can be invaluable for building public awareness.

Build Community Support

The information gleaned from the inventory and evaluation process can help to raise awareness and persuade citizens of the need for their support to preserve heritage landscapes. The implementation

of many regulatory or funded strategies to preserve heritage landscapes will require town meeting or city council approval. Thus broad-based community support is essential. It is important to gain the support of the elected and appointed officials, which can begin during the inventory process if the Heritage Landscape Committee includes representatives from the various land use boards and agencies of the community.

Educating citizens, both adults and children, will help garner support for landscapes; an existing or newly formed friends group can focus on a specific landscape or group of landscapes. Special attention should be directed toward encouraging the support of owners and neighbors of heritage landscapes. In many instances, successful preservation cannot occur without the owner's consent. Negotiations may require great diplomacy and persistence, involving identifying trusted representatives to initiate one-on-one meetings.

The ability to develop partnerships among interested constituencies is an important result of building community support. While a variety of planning tools are available to preserve various types of landscapes, advocates are the most important ingredients. Furthermore the preservation of many significant landscapes will be more successful when a variety of constituencies work together in partnerships bringing a range of tools to the task. In fact those partnerships that are developed through building constituencies are pivotal to developing and implementing preservation plans for all heritage landscapes.

Plan for Preservation

Communities are eagerly seeking guidance and technical assistance to preserve and enhance appreciation and understanding of heritage landscapes that define their community's character. Once a community has undertaken the first step of the preservation process by surveying their heritage landscapes and a preservation constituency has been established, it is time to develop a plan to protect those landscapes for which there is public interest. Communities that in the past have undertaken a community-wide survey should update those surveys to include heritage landscapes.

Beyond the desire to preserve community character, any inventory or plan to preserve heritage landscapes benefits from defining and being guided by specific goals or reasons for preservation.



Anderson Farm, West Bridgewater

Heritage landscapes may contribute to tourism based on historic or scenic qualities in coastal, mountain, and notable historic locations. In other instances the preservation of a heritage landscape may be desirable for recreational activities such as walking trails along a river connecting old mill sites. Preservation of a heritage landscape may contribute to the economic development of a town center or the conservation of farms. Threats to heritage landscapes may derive from public or private development, neglect, and the absence of a plan that ensures appropriate use and maintenance under current or future owners.

The effective management of heritage landscapes involves planning for positive change as well as preventing negative alterations. Some landscapes may require site-specific planning that could include consideration of in-kind replacement of declining vegetation, reproduction of furnishings, rehabilitation of structures, accessibility provisions for people with disabilities, interpretive programming, or the treatment of industrial properties that are rehabilitated for new uses. In all communities, heritage landscapes and recommended preservation strategies should be included in land use plans.

Know Preservation Strategies

Preservation strategies for cultural resources come in several categories: site specific, community, regional, and statewide master planning; federal, state and local legislative actions and regulations; private and public grant and technical assistance programs; and public-private partnerships. Many programs are specific to a certain type of resource such as a cemetery technical assistance program, or a water quality grant program. While there are many types of planning strategies, it cannot be overstated that the two most permanent and certain efforts are acquisition and legally binding permanent restrictions. Partnerships, often between public entities and private parties, are necessary to accomplish such definitive protection.



Stiles and Hart Conservation Area, Bridgewater

Master Planning

The statewide Heritage Landscape Inventory Program assists communities in recognizing the nature of heritage landscapes so that they can be afforded the protections necessary to maintain community character. Throughout the second half of the twentieth century communities have developed a variety of land use plans that generally have not addressed heritage landscapes in a comprehensive fashion. In the past, neighborhood and community-wide preservation plans have tended to focus on the built environment, with less understanding and appreciation of the landscape context. Master planning efforts have treated historic resources versus natural and open space resources as separate entities. Recognition of heritage landscapes now provides a more integrated approach to understanding and preserving the cultural and ecological heritage of the neighborhood, the community, and the region.

Comprehensive plans come in all shapes and sizes and can be general or specific usually depending upon the size of the community and the amount of time and funding available to develop the plan. Although there has been a general mandate

Acquisition and legally binding permanent restrictions provide the best protection

(MGL Chapter 41, Section 81D) to prepare comprehensive plans, there have been few sources of state funding to encourage their preparation. In 2000 the Governor of Massachusetts enacted Executive Order 418 (EO418) to encourage the development of community plans. The Order offered a \$30,000 grant to each municipality in the Commonwealth to develop a “community plan” that addresses housing, economic development, open space and resource protection, and transportation. These grants are no longer available, however, many communities were able to successfully use this grant program to augment other comprehensive planning efforts. A comprehensive plan should address identification, evaluation, and protection of cultural and historic resources, including heritage landscapes. Recommendations should be consistent with local zoning code, regulations, and other local mechanisms that could be used to preserve the heritage landscapes.

Most municipalities have prepared open space plans and updated them every five years since 1967 as an application requirement for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) grants and technical assistance programs. While most open space plans recognize and may indirectly address certain types of landscapes that are heritage landscapes, to date Massachusetts has not had a

comprehensive approach toward planning for heritage landscapes as now is advocated by the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), enacted by the State Legislature in September 2001, is a recent planning and protection opportunity. It enables communities to establish a local Community Preservation Fund. This fund must be dedicated to open space, low and moderate-income housing (referred to as community housing), and historic preservation. Some monies can also be dedicated to recreation. Revenue for the fund is generated through a surcharge of up to three percent of the local property tax, and state matching funds. Local municipalities must adopt the Act by ballot referendum.

Once a municipality has adopted the CPA, it is obliged to establish the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), the make-up of which is similar to the recommended Heritage Landscape Committee. The first task of the CPC is to develop a plan that will guide the community in identifying appropriate projects that conserve open space, preserve historic resources, and provide community housing. The heritage landscape inventory can be used to identify projects that may qualify for two of the three disciplines for which money will be spent. To date, 63 communities have adopted the

Open Space Plan with Cervelli Farm
at Vaughn Hill, Rochester



CPA. Each of those communities, now ready to consider preservation needs, would benefit from the parallel Heritage Landscape Inventory Program to identify and document the landscapes worthy of preservation. In the case of preservation of large heritage landscapes, communities will rely on broad-based constituencies that will facilitate combining funding strategies for acquisition, in part or in whole, of key landscapes.

State Laws and Regulations

The most protective and permanent restriction mechanism for land-based resources such as heritage landscapes is a permanent preservation or conservation restriction that is given by the owner of a property and is recorded with the deed. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 184, Sections 31-33 governs preservation and conservation restrictions. The use of this state enabling legislation is the preferred method of granting restrictions (also known as easements) for two reasons: it is the most secure way to grant an easement or restriction in perpetuity, and through a preservation restriction the property is listed in the State Register of Historic Places (State Register). The State Register recognizes significant historic resources including all properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), those in local historic districts, and those for which preservation restrictions have been recorded with the deed. The State Register and National Register listings may be necessary for certain grant programs. The use of a conservation restriction can result in property tax advantages.

Other permanent restriction programs are specific to a particular type of resource. For instance, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR) preserve not only farmland but also the use of that land for farming. The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) within EOEA administers this program. It offers to pay farmers the difference between the “fair market value” and the “agricultural value” of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction that precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on



APR Program farms on the East Branch of the Westport River, Westport

its agricultural viability. Farmers that own working farms of 5 acres or larger are eligible. Since 1980, deed restrictions have been placed on 602 farms totaling approximately 52,716 acres in 148 towns.

Potential options that offer short-term protections and that position a property for possible future funding opportunities are the property tax reduction statutes of MGL Chapters 61, 61a and 61b. In allowing for reductions in property tax on lands in active forest, agriculture, and recreational use respectively, this DAR program provides incentive for landowners not to develop their land, but does not permanently protect the land as property can be removed from Chapter 61 program classification.

While not as permanent and restrictive as a preservation or conservation restriction, a variety of alternative protective mechanisms are available to communities and to individuals seeking to preserve heritage landscapes. The most complete compilation of information about regulatory measures in use throughout the Commonwealth is the Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) *Preservation Through Bylaws and Ordinances*. This continually updated review document summarizes more than 30 tools and

*Develop partnerships among
interested constituencies*

techniques, and analyzes their use in communities across the Commonwealth. Many operate through the local zoning by-law or ordinance and require a two-thirds vote of the legislative body. Other mechanisms do not become part of the zoning code but are adopted as a local bylaw or ordinance by the local legislative body. Communities and individuals are encouraged to obtain a copy of this very useful MHC document.

Non-Regulatory Tools

A variety of state technical assistance and funding programs address specific types of heritage landscape resources found in all communities. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers many of the most effective programs. The DCR's Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative created a manual, *Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries* (2nd edition, 2002) that offers valuable stewardship information for these important historic landscapes that are public open spaces with a vital link to our past. Although this program focuses on municipally owned resources, the recommended approach is suitable for private property.

The identification of heritage landscapes is the critical first step in the preservation of these resources and forms the core of this Guide. The DCR provided the funding for the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project in southeastern Massachusetts and hopes to provide technical assistance and fund future inventory projects to bring this program statewide. Financial assistance to complete a heritage landscape inventory may also be sought through the Survey and Planning

Grant Program administered by the MHC. Most of these matching grants are awarded to municipalities, and CPA funds can be applied to this program.

The DCR and MHC oversee two other key grant programs that rely on the availability of state funding. The Massachusetts Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program administered by DCR is a state-funded competitive grant program established in 1997 to support the preservation of public historic landscapes. Applicants must be municipalities. Many of the most cherished public landscapes across the state are over a century old and continue to suffer from deferred maintenance, intrusive additions, and limited resources. By providing funding and technical assistance to these important, historic landscapes, DCR hopes to promote community preservation throughout the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Grant Program administered by the MHC is a state-funded 50 percent matching grant program established in 1984 to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or non-profit organization. Historic cultural resources in public and non-profit ownership frequently suffer from deferred maintenance, incompatible use, or are threatened by demolition, all due to lack of sufficient funds. These important resources represent a significant portion of the Commonwealth's heritage. By providing assistance to historic cultural resources owned by non-profit or municipal entities, MHC hopes to ensure their continued use and integrity.

Key State, Regional, and Local Agencies and Organizations

Many other grant and technical assistance programs administered by state agencies may be used to protect heritage landscapes. A natural partnership for the protection of heritage landscapes is a public entity—a state agency or a local government and a private land trust, which can be a state organization or a regional or local group. Partnerships between state, regional, and local agencies and private organizations bring together disparate constituencies with common goals and can be



Titicut Conservation Area, Bridgewater



Old Bridge Street Bridge,
Nemasket River, Lakeville and
Middleborough

critical in leveraging funds and technical assistance. The broader the interested and involved constituencies are, the more likely is the success of the preservation process.

The two key state agencies that should be contacted for guidance in the identification, evaluation, and preservation of heritage landscapes are DCR and MHC. Departments within EOEA administer additional programs that may be related to heritage landscapes. The DCR can help your community identify programs and partners both within DCR and in other state agencies. The DCR administers many programs that are pertinent to the preservation of heritage landscapes and can be used to achieve multiple goals. Interested readers should check the DCR web site for the most up-to-date information about DCR programs. Other divisions of EOEA also administer useful programs such as the Historic Parkways Initiative, the Division of Conservation Services self-help programs, the Office of Coastal Zone Management's coastal and remediation and monitoring programs, the Department of Fish and Game's Riverways Program, the Department of Agricultural Resources' programs that assist owners of agricultural properties, a Private Forest Lands Initiative that encourages forestry management, and the Department of Environmental Protection's water quality programs. The Community Preservation Initiative provides technical assistance on related issues and is a freestanding initiative within EOEA that has partnered with the University of Massachusetts to form the Community Preservation Institute. The Institute provides education in community preservation and works closely with the Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) on certain projects.

Key regional and local agencies may collaborate to apply for some of the programs noted above. The 13 RPAs in the Commonwealth represent a collection of towns that tend to be in the same one or two watersheds. The RPA is eligible to apply for many of the grant programs on behalf of several towns in its

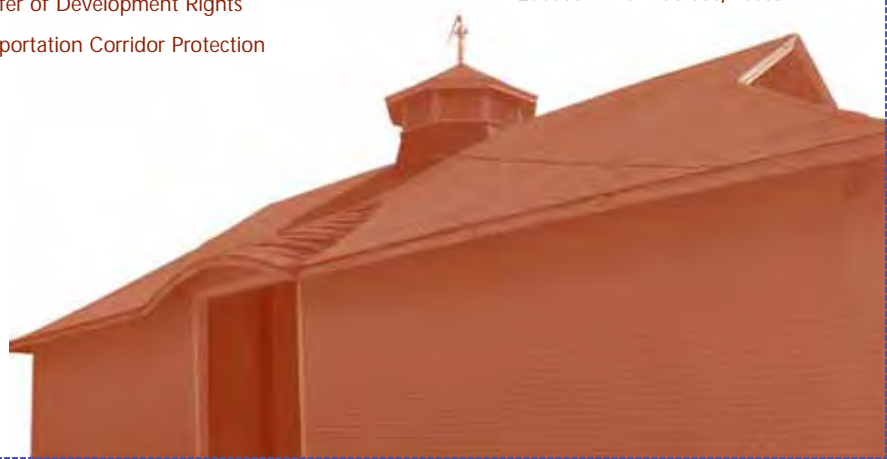
ZONING MECHANISMS TO PRESERVE HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

- Archaeological Resource Protection
- Agricultural Preservation Zoning
- Backlot Development Zoning
- Downtown Revitalization Zoning
- Downzoning
- Flexible Development Zoning
- Great Estates Bylaws
- Major Residential Development
- Open Space Zoning
- Overlay Zoning
- Planned Unit Development
- Slope and Elevations Protection
- Site Plan Review
- Village Center Zoning

LOCAL BYLAW AND ORDINANCE MECHANISMS TO PRESERVE HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

- Demolition Delay
- Design Review Boards
- Local Historic Districts
- Local Option Property Tax
- Neighborhood Conservation Districts
- Scenic Roads
- Scenic Vista Protection
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Transportation Corridor Protection

Queset — Main Street, Easton



area. This approach is especially appropriate for conducting inventory of, or creating or implementing a protection plan for, a regional heritage landscape such as a river or transportation corridor.

Private organizations such as The Trustees of Reservations, Trust for Public Land (TPL), and local land trusts are critical partners in the preservation of heritage landscapes. They can work in partnership with governmental entities and often can perform certain tasks that are inappropriate or too cumbersome to be completed by local government. For instance, a local land trust may raise funds, purchase a property, place necessary restrictions, and then turn part or all of the property over to a local municipality, following the local legislative body's vote to acquire or accept a particular property. Often land protection must be executed in a shorter amount of time than it would take a municipality to go through the town meeting process necessary to authorize the purchase and sale of property. There are many examples of local land trusts working in partnerships with other private groups such as friends groups and historical societies to preserve heritage landscapes.

The most successful approach for all of the combinations of partnerships and strategies is to build a diverse and broad-based constituency. The more people that are involved and aware of the richness of the community's heritage landscapes the greater the success of a Heritage Landscape Program in that community. Furthermore public-private partnerships involving heritage landscape owners, and broad community support are essential for implementing two of the most significant and far reaching preservation strategies: acquisition of heritage landscapes and the donation of permanent preservation and conservation restrictions.



Cranberry Commons, Wareham

Epilogue — Looking Forward

The Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project has demonstrated the value of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program for all communities in the Commonwealth. Participating communities are using the inventory in conjunction with a variety of tools to achieve their preservation goals, as illustrated by several examples. Wareham is using the Heritage Landscape Inventory results to identify preservation needs, community-wide survey opportunities, and potential CPA funding projects. The partnership between the Natural Resources Trust (NRT) of Bridgewater and the town is currently an excellent example of a municipal and nonprofit partnership to achieve a common goal. In order to assist the town, the NRT has been able to obtain (through multiple sources) funding for the creation of management plans for some of the larger town-owned conservation land, concentrating on those with historical significance.

In Stoughton, the town meeting voted in January 2003 to authorize the purchase of the 81-acre Libby Farm. One of the properties documented in the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project, Libby Farm includes historic buildings, wetlands, forests, meadows, and rocky outcrops, and is crossed by popular hiking trails and old cart roads. Libby Farm is the town's highest priority for protection because of its location surrounded on three sides by other conservation lands. The purchase included the land, while the buildings remain on a separate parcel that will remain in private ownership. Most of the new town property will be managed as a conservation area, with the remainder set aside for recreation fields. The town secured funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and private trusts, including TPL, and foundations. Work continues to raise additional funds for the project. This example of a



Tihonet Dam, Wankinco River, Wareham

public-private partnership will preserve additional land adjacent to an existing conservation area as well as the context of the historic farmstead, which while set off as a separate parcel will remain surrounded by farm land.

Native American tribes in the local area and the region can also be valuable sources of information and partners in recognizing and protecting heritage landscapes. Betty's Neck, a 483-acre peninsula that juts into Assawompsett Pond in Lakeville is a site of national cultural and historic value that contains critical watershed resources and rare species habitats that have been preserved. Betty's Neck was the homeland of Massasoit, the leader, or sachem, of the Wampanoag tribe and his descendents until the 1930s. Archaeological remains telling the story of Indian life in southeastern Massachusetts can be found in abundance at Betty's Neck. For the last 50 years, the property had been owned and farmed by a cranberry growing operation that considered development of the property when cranberry prices fell in recent years. By pooling state, municipal, and private funds, the Town of Lakeville acquired 292 acres on Betty's Neck and a conservation restriction over an adjacent 150 for \$8.4 million. The remaining 38 acres were purchased for \$600,000 by the TPL. When full funding is in place, TPL will deed the land to Lakeville and donate a conservation restriction to the state. Saving Betty's Neck from development has preserved the integrity of land containing more than 10,000 years of history and a place that resonates as a cultural heart of the Wampanoag people.

.....

Heritage landscapes embrace many aspects of the relationship — pragmatic, creative, and spiritual— between human actions and the natural environment. Beyond simply the safeguarding of historic places and scenic vistas, the protection of heritage landscapes supports sustainable land use, the conservation of biological diversity, and the preservation of community character. A community's sense of stewardship and grass roots commitment is the key catalyst for inventory and planning initiatives. Inventories capture the physical characteristics, history, and intangible essence of heritage landscapes. Planning decisions that are informed about and respectful of heritage landscapes and the community's priorities benefit the present residents and future generations with an enhanced sense of place and an improved quality of life.



Betty's Neck, Assawompsett Ponds, Lakeville



Libby Farm, Stoughton

Appendices

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Queset — Main Street, Easton

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Contacts

General Landscape Preservation Information

Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation
www.ahlp.org

American Farmland Trust
202.331.7300 • www.farmland.org

American Society of Landscape Architects
202.898.2444 • www.asla.org

Catalog of Landscape Records in the US at the Mertz Library
718.817.8604 • www.nybg.org

Library of American Landscape History
413.549.4860 • www.lalh.org

National Park Service—National Register of Historic Places
202.354.2213 • www.cr.nps.gov/nr/

National Park Service—Historic Landscape Initiative
202.354.2257 • www2.cr.nps.gov/hli/

National Trust for Historic Preservation
202.673.4000 or 617.523.0885 • www.nthp.org

Scenic America
202.833.4300 • www.scenic.org

The Nature Conservancy
617.423.2545 • www.tnc.org

Trust for Public Land
617.367.6200 • www.tpl.org

Massachusetts Resources for Landscape Preservation

Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies
617.524.1718 • www.icls.harvard.edu

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
617.489.3930 • www.maccweb.org/home.html

Massachusetts Audubon Society
781.259.9500 • www.massaudubon.org

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
617.626.1250 • www.mass.gov/dcr/

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
617.626.1700 • www.mass.gov/dfa/

Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
617.626.1000 • www.state.ma.us/envir/

Massachusetts Historical Commission
617.727.8470 • www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc/mhcidx.htm

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
978.897.0739 • www.massland.org

New England Small Farm Institute
413.323.4531 • www.smallfarm.org

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
617.232.4073 • www.nps.gov/frla/oclp.htm

PRESERVATION Mass
617.723.3383 • www.preservationmass.org

The Trustees of Reservations
978.921.1944 • www.thetrustees.org

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The Heritage Landscape Inventory Program is a new program that is built upon prior efforts to identify and document those heritage landscapes of our Commonwealth that are vital to the history, character, and quality of life of our communities. Through this project, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is aiming to increase awareness about the many different types of heritage landscapes found throughout Massachusetts and help communities plan for their preservation.

What are Heritage Landscapes?

Heritage landscapes are those special places and spaces that help define the character of your community. They are the result of human interaction with the natural resources of an area, which influence the use and development of land. These geographic areas contain both natural and cultural resources. In short, heritage landscapes are those physical aspects of your town that make you feel familiar, comfortable, and at home. Heritage landscapes come in many forms—some you may already be aware of, and some you may not have considered as having the qualities that would make them a heritage landscape. Here are some examples:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| archaeological sites | estates | parks |
| campmeeting grounds | farms | river corridors |
| cemeteries | formal gardens | shipyards |
| commons | institutional campuses | scenic roads |
| cranberry bogs | mill sites | village centers |



Tremont Dam, Wareham

What are the products of this program?

The primary products that will result from a Heritage Landscape Inventory project in your community will include a reconnaissance report summarizing the heritage landscapes that were discussed and visited by the survey team and the Heritage Landscape Committee, and Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) inventory forms for those landscapes selected for intensive survey.

How are properties selected for intensive survey?

Focusing on heritage landscapes that are not currently protected from development via any long-term protective mechanisms—chiefly through a deeded conservation or preservation restriction, or an agricultural preservation restriction—a list of prioritized landscapes will be developed by the Heritage Landscape Committee. These landscapes will then be visited by the survey team, and discussed in depth with community members and DCR. After factoring in resource significance, integrity of the landscape, potential for development or other threats, extent of prior documentation, access issues and project budget, specific heritage landscapes will be selected for intensive survey and documentation.

Inventory Forms—What they are

An inventory form is a compilation of baseline documentation that has been assembled for a historic resource or a historic area. Each form assembles the history of the resource or area and a description of its current appearance. All observations needed to complete these forms will be made from a public way. For large properties, or those that are not visible from a public way, permission for access to the property will be requested of the owner by the survey team. If permission is not granted, surveyors will not trespass on private property. Upon completion, copies of these forms will be retained on file for public use with DCR, MHC and the local historical commission in each community. The resources documented within each form are then a part of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth as well as a part of the Inventory of Heritage Landscapes in Massachusetts. Once on file, these forms will be utilized for local, regional, and statewide planning purposes. The forms will provide the basis for any local educational initiatives that are developed to raise awareness about heritage landscapes and community character. Inventory forms will also serve as a research tool for a number of people interested in heritage landscapes and historic resources, including preservationists, historians, students, and local community members.

Inventory Forms—What they are not

The completion and submittal of an MHC inventory form for your property does **not** list your property on the State or National Register of Historic Places. It does **not** mean that your property taxes will go up (or down!), and it alone does **not** place any restriction on your property or your use of it. Inventory forms may be used as an identification tool for the implementation of locally enacted ordinances and bylaws that are designed to promote historic preservation.

Are there other benefits to being inventoried?

The completion of an inventory form allows you to pursue listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Listing on the State Register makes properties owned by non-profit or municipal entities eligible to apply for grants, when state funding is available, through MHC's Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund and DCR's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant program. Listing also makes income-producing properties eligible to apply for the Investment Tax Credit program.

Where can I receive more information about Heritage Landscapes?

Contact a member of your local Heritage Landscape Committee to find out more about the plans to implement a survey of heritage landscapes in your community. Contact DCR to find out how to obtain a copy of DCR's publication *Reading the Land, Massachusetts Heritage Landscapes: A Guide to Identification and Protection*. Visit the DCR website at www.mass.gov/dcr/, for regular program updates, or contact Jessica Rowcroft, Preservation Planner at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, at 617.626.1380 or jessica.rowcroft@state.ma.us.



Titicut Parish Cemetery, Middleborough

Sample Introduction Letter

TOWN AGENCY
TOWN HALL
MAIN ST
ANYTOWN, MA 01234



Poor Farm, East Bridgewater

DATE

Re: Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory

Dear [NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER],

The Town of [ANYTOWN] and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are conducting a survey of Heritage Landscapes in our community. Representatives from our community will assist cultural resource management consultants from [NAME OF FIRM, IF APPLICABLE] and the staff of DCR with the completion of this project. For more information please refer to the enclosed information regarding the Heritage Landscape Inventory program in Massachusetts, including [LIST OF APPLICABLE ENCLOSURES].

We are pleased to inform you that your property has been identified as a significant heritage landscape and selected for inclusion in the intensive survey.

During the coming weeks, members of the survey team, including [NAMES OF SURVEYORS AND OF CONSULTING FIRM, IF APPLICABLE], will be visiting the selected properties in order to complete Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory forms. They will take photographs, record physical descriptions, and prepare brief site histories. The fieldwork will be complemented with additional in-depth research of town and state records, applicable literature, historical maps, and information made available by property owners. While the survey team will be visiting local libraries and historical societies, if you have additional knowledge of your property’s historic uses and architectural or landscape significance (particularly outbuildings and site features such as stone walls), the survey team may wish to speak with you directly.

It is the survey team’s hope to access and walk around all properties for the purposes of this study. They will not need to enter building interiors. We respectfully ask your permission to enter your property to note, sketch, and photograph buildings, landscapes, and site features. If you do not want the consultants to enter your property, please let us know by contacting [NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE LOCAL PROJECT COORDINATOR]. In this case, they will simply observe and photograph from the street, if possible, or your property will be dropped from the survey. Once the field schedule is developed, the local project coordinator will be contacting property owners as a courtesy.

Please feel free to call [NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE LOCAL PROJECT COORDINATOR] with questions about the documentation process and site visit scheduling. Other questions about the Heritage Landscape Inventory can be directed to [CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DCR].

Sincerely,

JANE Q. PUBLIC
ANYTOWN HERITAGE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Heritage Landscape Survey Checklist

This checklist can be copied and used as a general guideline to make sure that you are gathering all pertinent information during the survey of a heritage landscape

Landscape Name

Owner

If private, has access been requested?

Has access been permitted?

Landscape location — street address

Assessor's number(s)

Acreage (taken from assessor's records)

Landscape Category (This is likely to be determined before and after — but not necessarily in the field)

Preparation

Assemble the following items prior to fieldwork

Base map of town/region

USGS topographic map

Current assessor's maps

Historic maps—list dates

Existing MHC survey forms for resources in vicinity

National Register nominations for resources in vicinity

Town histories

Regional histories

Town planning documents: Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Preservation Plan, etc.

Field Supplies

Remember to bring these items with you when surveying

Camera with black-and-white film (digital photographs and photographs produced from color film cannot be submitted with MHC forms)

Color slide film (optional)

Digital camera (optional)

Pens and pencils

Clipboard

Two or three colored marking pens

Field data recording sheets to itemize resources and track photographs

Assessor's maps showing map number, parcel numbers, street addresses

USGS map showing topographic features

Fieldwork

Information to gather about the landscape while in the field

Landscape Type

Estimated dates (where applicable) of laying out, construction, and use

List of all cultural features—include any buildings, structures, paths, walls etc. Include type/style where appropriate

List of all natural features—include use of specific vegetative features

Describe the landscape, noting the following elements

Boundaries

Overall context and character

Unifying features

Unique characteristics

Arrangement of features

Vistas, if applicable

Describe any other aspects that make this landscape special and help to convey the sense of place

Annotate the USGS map and the assessor's maps, locating the property and proposed boundaries

Draw a sketch map noting locations of specific features

Take black and white photographs

Take color slides (optional)

Take digital images (optional)

Record all photos on a photo log, documenting film type, roll#, frame#, view and date



Farm on Drift Road overlooking East Branch of Westport River, Westport

Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Project

Surveyed Landscapes



Horseshoe Pond, Wareham

Blackinton Park, Attleboro (H)	Titicut, Middleborough (A)
Capron Park, Attleboro (H)	Thompson Street, Middleborough (A)
Ten Mile River, Attleboro (A)	South Middleborough, Middleborough (A)
Flagg Street School, Bridgewater (B)	Crane Farm, Norton (A)
Prattown School, Bridgewater (B)	Jasperson Property, Norton (D)
Stiles & Hart Conservation Area, Bridgewater (D)	Norton Common, Norton (H)
Sturtevant Pond, Bridgewater (D)	Taunton Copper Works, Norton (A)
Titicut Conservation Area, Bridgewater (D)	Wading River, Norton (A)
Council Oak, Dighton (D)	Bad Luck Pond/Anawan Club, Rehoboth (A)
Dighton Rock Dairy Farm, Dighton (A)	Palmer River, Rehoboth (A)
Lower Taunton River, Dighton (A)	Redway Plain, Rehoboth (H)
Mount Hope Finishing Company, Dighton (A)	Village Cemetery, Rehoboth (E)
Elmwood Center and P.O., East Bridgewater (A)	Cowen's Corner, Rochester (A)
Town Poor Farm—Kormarinsky's Farm, East Bridgewater (A)	Hartley Pond and Mill Site, Rochester (A)
Town Center, East Bridgewater (A)	Vaughn Hill, Rochester (A)
Lucius Howard Farm, Easton (A)	Snipatuit Causeway, Rochester (F)
Queset—Main Street, Easton (A)	Capen Reynolds Farm, Stoughton (A)
Elm Street Estates, Easton (A)	Clapp-Way-Libby Property (Libby Farm), Stoughton (A)
Assonet Cedar Swamp, Lakeville (A)	Dry Pond Cemetery, Stoughton (E)
Crooked Lane, Lakeville (A)	Pearl Street Cemetery, Stoughton (E)
Assawompsett Ponds Complex, Lakeville and Middleborough (A)	Cranberry Commons, Wareham (A)
Nemasket River, Lakeville and Middleborough (D)	Horseshoe Pond, Wareham (D)
Burr's Boatyard, Marion (A)	Tremont Dam, Wareham (D)
County Road and Front Street, Marion (A)	Wankinco River, Wareham (A)
Island Wharf and Barden's Boatyard, Marion (A)	Anderson Farm, West Bridgewater (A)
Tabor Academy, Marion (A)	Old Graveyard, West Bridgewater (E)
Tremont Advent Christian Campmeeting Assoc., Marion (A)	Powder House Cemetery, West Bridgewater (E)
	Porter Mill Pond and Dam, West Bridgewater (A)
	Drift Road, Westport (A)
	Westport River—East Branch, Westport (A)

Key to MHC Inventory Form Types

- A Area
- B Building
- C Object
- D Archaeological Site (historic or prehistoric)
- E Burial Ground
- F Structure
- G Streetscape
- H Park and Landscape

Contact DCR to obtain copies of sample inventory forms.

Acknowledgements

This guide benefited from the support of many agencies, staff, organizations, and individuals. The time, energy, and insight of all those involved have contributed to the process of developing this document, and are appreciated. Special gratitude is due to The Trustees of Reservations and PRESERVATION Mass (formerly Historic Massachusetts, Inc.) for their extensive time working with the legislature to recognize the importance of preserving heritage landscapes throughout the Commonwealth.

Statewide Advisory Committee

Debbie Cary • Director, Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Massachusetts Audubon Society (1997–present)
Margaret Dyson • Former President, Historic Massachusetts, Inc. (1999–2001)
Corliss Engle • Horticulturist (2001–present)
Julius Gy. Fabos • Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Massachusetts (1997–2000)
Elsa Fitzgerald • Former Assistant Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission (1998–present)
Betsy Shure Gross • Executive Director, Office of Public and Private Partnerships, EOEA (1997–present)
James Igoe • President, PRESERVATION Mass (2002–present)
Robin Karson • Director, Library of American Landscape History (2001–present)
Edith Makra • Urban Forestry Program Coordinator, Department of Environmental Management (2000–2002)
John Martin • Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Massachusetts (1997–2001)
Judith McDonough • Former State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission (1997–2001)
Lauren G. Meier • Historical Landscape Architect, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (1997–2003)
Nora Mitchell • Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (1997–1999)
Keith Morgan • Professor of Art History, Boston University (2001–2002)
Eric O'Brien • Director, Massachusetts Park and Recreation Association (1997–2001)
Leslie Reed-Evans • Director, Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (1997–1999)
Phillip Rodbell • Director of Urban Forestry, DEM (1997–2000)
Clarissa Rowe • Chair of the Board, Historic Massachusetts, Inc. (now PRESERVATION Mass) (2000–2001)
Jennifer Jillson Soper • Division of Conservation Services, EOEA (1998–2001)
Michael Steinitz • Director, Preservation Planning Division, Massachusetts Historical Commission (2001–present)
Liz Vizza • Boston Society of Landscape Architects (1997–2000)
Wesley T. Ward • The Trustees of Reservations (1997–2000)

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cara Metz • State Historic Preservation Officer
Michael Steinitz • Director, Preservation Planning Division
Leonard Loparto • Archaeologist / Preservation Planner

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Massachusetts Watershed Initiative 1993–2003

Karl Honkonen, Director of Watershed Initiative
David Janik, Buzzards Bay Watershed Team Leader
Andrea Langhauser, Narragansett Bay / Mt. Hope Watershed Team Leader
Patrick Rogers, Taunton River Watershed Team Leader

Pilot Project Participating Communities

Local project coordinators, municipal staff, volunteers, and property owners within each of the following participating communities:

Attleboro, Bridgewater, Dighton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Lakeville, Marion, Middleborough, Norton, Rehoboth, Rochester, Stoughton, Wareham, West Bridgewater, Westport





COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Conservation and Recreation

251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114

617.626.1250 WWW.MASS.GOV/DCR

