

# **TAUNTON RECONNAISSANCE REPORT**

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## **TAUNTON RIVER LANDSCAPE INVENTORY**

### **MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM**



**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation**

**Taunton River Wild & Scenic Study Committee**

**Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District**

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## INTRODUCTION

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Heritage landscapes are places that are created by human interaction with the natural environment. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of the community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. This wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character; yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature, or the Taunton River corridor.

To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities along the Taunton River. The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. The focus is on landscapes that have not been identified in previous survey efforts in a given community. Another important goal of the program is to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a Pilot Project including 15 communities in three southeast Massachusetts watersheds in 2002. This project is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land*. Experience from the pilot project provided guidance for a similar program in 24 Essex County municipalities. Now the program is extended to six communities along the Taunton River: Berkley, Fall River, Freetown, Raynham, Somerset and Taunton.

Each participating community appoints a Local Project Coordinator (LPC) to assist the DCR-SRPEDD consulting team. The LPC organizes a heritage landscape identification meeting at which interested residents and city officials offer community input by identifying potential heritage landscapes. This meeting is followed by a fieldwork session including the consulting team and the LPC, usually accompanied by other community members. This group visits the priority landscapes identified in the meeting and gathers information about the community. The final product is the Reconnaissance Report, prepared for each participating community. It outlines the history of the community; identifies the resources and documentation that provide background information; provides a short description of the priority heritage landscapes visited; discusses planning issues identified by the community; and concludes with a brief discussion of survey and planning recommendations. A list of all of the heritage landscapes identified by the community is included in the Appendix.

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## TAUNTON HISTORY

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Native Americans traveled through Taunton and periodically settled here from as early as the Archaic Period (9000 – 1500 BCE). While there are no confirmed Contact Period (1500-1620) sites, Native Americans were present at the time of the European settlement and in East Taunton during the first years of the Colonial Period (1620-1675). This area was called Cohannet by the first Europeans who arrived from Dorchester in 1639. The name was changed to Taunton in 1640 when the town boundaries were established. These boundaries included the present day Taunton as well as six nearby towns, all of which had separated by 1770. The first meetinghouse was constructed on the Church Green in ca. 1647. Taunton became a city in 1864.

Just as the Native Americans before them, early settlers benefited from the natural resources – they farmed in the rich lowlands and they fished the Taunton River where they built early fish weirs. Bog iron was found in the river as well as in Watson Pond and Scadding's Meadows. The first successful industry in Taunton was the making of bog iron. This was followed by shipbuilding established by 1699 on the most inland part of the Taunton River that was accessible to ships. This geography made Taunton an important protected center for shipbuilding and trading. While fishing for herring was lucrative, iron and metal works prevailed with bloomeries in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries followed by nail, tack and shovel factories. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century metal companies such as Mason Machine Shop and Glenwood Range Co. were established. The iron and metal industries were joined by brick mills and cotton mills established on old mill privileges at Whittenton, Hopewell, Westville and East Taunton. To support these industries, immigrants from Ireland, England and Canada followed by the Portuguese, Italians and Cape Verdeans came to Taunton. Again the Taunton River played a major role in the success of the industries making shipment of products – bricks, ironware, nails and cotton materials – from these inland Taunton River locations possible. Silversmiths were also successful here with the most renowned being Reed & Barton which continues in business today.

The Taunton River was an important and primary transportation route for Native Americans and for early settlers. The first known land transportation route was the Native American Massachusetts Bay Path which followed Bay Street, and possibly Weir Street and Somerset Avenue (now Rt. 138). An early easterly connection was made at Weir Village between the Bay Path and the Taunton River and probably followed Plain and Hart Streets. Other routes fanned out from the center in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Taunton-South Boston Turnpike was laid out in ca. 1807, and the Taunton-Providence Turnpike in 1826. In 1835 the Taunton Branch Railroad opened connecting Taunton to Boston, Providence and New York. Several other railroad lines passed through Taunton. Horse drawn trolleys began in 1871 and were electrified in 1893. A railroad station was built in 1882 at Whittenton Junction, one of about seven in the city. Rt. 138 became a state route by 1930. Rt 24 passes through the eastern part of Taunton. Rt. I-495, built in 1982, passes through the northern part of the city.

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Not until 1776 when Taunton achieved its present boundaries (with the exception of Myricks which became part of Berkley in 1879) is it possible to know or compare population figures. Early figures include the area of six other towns, all of which had separated from Taunton by 1776. In that first year of Taunton as we know it today, 3,259 people lived here, a figure that nearly doubled by 1830 when 6,042 people are reported to have lived in Taunton. Taunton became a city in 1864 and after that grew rapidly as is evidenced by late 19<sup>th</sup> century figures. The population doubled from 18,629 in 1870 to 36,161 in 1915. By mid century just over 40,000 people lived in Taunton. The 2000 population figure was 55,976.

## **RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION**

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This section of the Reconnaissance Report identifies planning documents and tools that provide information relevant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program. Taunton's position on the Taunton River, its rich farmland, and its industrial activity much of which was associated with the river, are all parts of its rich history worthy of preservation.

### **Inventory of Historic Assets**

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets is a statewide list that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. This searchable database, known as MACRIS, is now available online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc>.

According to the MHC, Taunton's inventory documents over 750 individual resources and many areas that date from pre-Contact Period to 1988. Most of the inventory has been recorded on traditional single building B-forms. Survey forms were completed throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

### **State and National Registers of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. All National Register properties are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Taunton's National Register program began in 1977 with the listing of the Church Green Historic District. It was substantially expanded in 1984 with a Multiple Resource Area Nomination (MRA) that listed six districts and 86 individual listings. One property, the Taunton State Hospital, is listed as part of the State Hospitals of Massachusetts Thematic Nomination. Three archaeological sites were determined eligible (DOE) in 1978.

Also listed in the State Register are those properties protected by a preservation restriction, drawn up in accordance with MGL Chapter 183, Sections 31-33. A

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preservation restriction (PR) runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation strategies available. All properties which have preservation restrictions filed under the state statute are automatically listed in the State Register. Taunton has two properties that are protected by a preservation restriction; the First Parish Church and the School Street School.

### **Local Historic Districts**

Local historic districts, which are administered at the municipal level, are special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected by a local historic district commission. Taunton adopted a local historic district ordinance in 1979 and designated the Church Green Local Historic District. The boundaries of the Local Historic District are substantially larger than those of the Church Green National Register district.

### **Planning Documents**

The *Taunton Master Plan* was written in 1998. The plan has a wealth of information about the city and its population, land uses, housing needs, economic development trends, open space, and historic and cultural resources. The final section of the plan presents 45 goals with a long list of objectives under each goal. Many goals relate to heritage landscapes such as:

- Preserve attractive vistas, streetscapes, and scenery.
- Protect and preserve open space.
- Provide areas for economic development consistent with the community's character and resources.
- Establish patterns of development that promote the creation and maintenance of cohesive neighborhoods.
- Preserve Taunton's unique urban/rural mixture of community character.
- Encourage economic development that is compatible with the city's natural, historic and cultural resources.
- Protect Taunton's historic and architectural resources and their traditional settings.

The objectives are tools that can help the city achieve the goals. For instance, a number of the goals list developing neighborhood strategic plans as a strategy or objective for reaching the goal. Because the plan is seven years old it may be helpful to determine which strategies have been implemented and to consider the impacts that implementation has had.

The *City of Taunton Open Space & Recreation Plan 1998* provides goals and objectives for preserving the city's character. Those related specifically to the heritage landscapes include:

- Preserve Taunton's unique urban and rural mix.
- Protect, maintain and enhance access to open space, natural resources and recreational opportunities.

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- Protect ecologically sensitive areas from over-development.
  - Protect Taunton's historic and architectural resources and their traditional settings.
  - Increase awareness of and access to Taunton's natural and cultural resources.

The action plan details the facilities to be developed; the local, regional and state moneys that may be available; policies for acquiring and protecting land; and policies for protection other than acquisition, such as APR and CR programs for private land and zoning and other land use regulations changes.

The 2004 *Taunton River Stewardship Plan* is an important regional document prepared by the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee to substantiate the need for designation of the Taunton River as a National Wild & Scenic River, and to form partnerships among the watershed communities to work towards the important goal of preserving and restoring the Taunton River corridor. Specific information about cultural resources, natural and scenic qualities and environmental issues in Taunton is included.

### **Planning Ordinances and Other Tools**

Taunton's demolition delay ordinance provides a six-month delay of demolition. Any property slated for demolition that is over 50 years must be reviewed for historical and architectural significance.

Taunton has a Cluster Residential Development section in its Zoning Ordinance. It requires a special permit from the Planning Board and is an alternative to traditional subdivision with the purpose of conserving open space. There are two standards; one for suburban residential development and the other for rural residential development. This fact emphasizes the contrast found in parts of Taunton. An important standard in Taunton's Cluster Development ordinance requests that a developer design buildings that show harmony with the terrain and the surrounding neighborhood. There is a minimum open space requirement for urban or rural and single family or multi-family developments.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program was initiated in Taunton in 1987 and continues to operate. It is responsible for some of the façade improvements and unification of signage in the downtown area. It is reported to be the longest standing Main Street program in Massachusetts running continuously for 18 years.

### **PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES**

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The Taunton Heritage Landscape Identification meeting, attended by six residents, some representing city boards and local non-profit organizations, was held on June 27, 2005. During the meeting residents identified a lengthy list of Taunton's heritage landscapes, which is included in the Appendix. Once the comprehensive list was created, attendees were asked to articulate the value of

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and the issues relating to the preservation of each heritage landscape on the list. Based on the information gathered, community members identified a group of high priority heritage landscapes to be visited by the consulting team during the fieldwork. Each of the priority landscapes is highly valued, contributes to community character and is not permanently protected or preserved.

The following text describes the priority heritage landscapes that are the focus of the reconnaissance work in Taunton. In most instances intensive survey work will be needed to fully document the physical characteristics and the historical development of the landscape. These heritage landscapes, which are listed in alphabetical order, represent a range of scale from a single property to a river corridor.

### **Cobb Brook**

Cobb Brook meanders its way through the southwestern part of the center of Taunton. It is enclosed in a pipe in most places and splits in the area of Rt. 138 and West Water Street. The two sections flow into the Taunton River near an industrial area on the Taunton River through two pipes one of which is 10" and the other 12". At the point of entry the tidal river flows in one direction against a rising tide. When Cobb Brook is full with large amounts of the city's runoff during storms, flooding occurs in areas near the confluence of the brook and the Taunton River, particularly if these conditions occur at high tide.

### **Dever School – Camp Myles Standish**

The campus of the Paul A. Dever State School has had a number of uses, giving the campus an interesting history worth noting. Formerly known as Camp Myles Standish, it was a staging area for troops entering into and returning from the European theater of operations during World War II. Train loads of troops came to the camp in Taunton through Whittenton Station. The camp was built in 1942 taking land of dairy and crop farmers and constructing approximately 1200 buildings at a cost of \$13 million. For a short time it also was a Prisoner of War camp where approximately 4,000 Italians and 3,000 Germans were detained. Following WW II the military camp was purchased by the Commonwealth's Department of Mental Health and converted to the Myles Standish State School where there were up to 3,000 patients with various degrees of mental retardation. The 1,400 bed hospital of the military camp was one reason that the school was established here. Most of the military buildings were demolished or deteriorated over time. New brick buildings were erected for use by the new institution. The school's name changed in 1959 when it took on the name of a former Massachusetts Governor, Paul A. Dever (1903-1958). The school continues to operate, using some a small number of the buildings while the others are vacant. Presently about 700 acres or three-quarters of the area has been converted to the Myles Standish Industrial Park. Some land has been reserved for open space and water protection.



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The school buildings, which are connected by a tunnel system, date from the 1940s to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The circulation through the campus is via a meandering roadway over the modestly hilly terrain.

### **East Taunton**

East Taunton has a mix of former mills, mill housing and farms. It is more rural than other parts of Taunton. Most prominent are the Peirce Dairy Farm on Middleborough Avenue and Spring Rain Farm, also known as McCaffery's, where they grow strawberries and cranberries.

An old cotton mill sandwiched between the Taunton River and the railroad at 96 Old Colony Street has been converted into housing and is called River Bend Condominiums. A short street of housing just south of the railroad is Battle Row where the Irish traditionally lived on one side and the Polish on the other. Small neighborhoods with strong ethnic traditions have modest gable front houses with discreet lots marked by fencing, manicured gardens and profusions of color in flowers and statuary. Along Middleborough Avenue is a string of back-to-back two (or four) family houses which were built for the Corr Manufacturing Company (cotton yarn spinning) in ca. 1900. Near the housing is the Taunton Municipal Airport, used by the Civil Defense during WW II. According to all reports East Taunton functioned as a separate community up through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century in part due to its ethnic populations and in part due to the rural aspect of much of the area, which was so different from the city of Taunton.



### **Gertrude Boyden Wildlife Refuge**

This city-owned refuge in the Westville section of the city was the Laura Thomas Estate, a summer residence. It was purchased by the city in 1968 using funds donated to the city by Gertrude Boyden designated for purchase of a bird sanctuary. This property, which comprises about 52 acres on the Three Mile River, is one of the only parks in Westville; however access is by car only as there are no sidewalks or public transportation to make access easier for those

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living in the area. The wildlife refuge is varied with open fields, wooded areas, fishing areas and about two miles of nature trails. There also are a fragrance garden, covered bridge and look-out cabin. Approached by a long driveway from Cohannet Street the refuge is open to visitors with parking and a visitors' center on the left side of the drive and a picnic area overlooking the river on the right side. The property suffers from lack of maintenance and is little used probably due to lack of knowledge as there is little published information. Some significant erosion has led to closing of some trails. In the past there have been kite and other festivals held at this location. The conservation commission office used to be located in a former caretaker's cottage converted to a visitor's center on property. There has been some discussion of assembling several land use organizations to use the property as headquarters so that collectively they would be stewards of the property.

### **Portuguese Village**

The area around Bragga Square and School Street is known as Portuguese Village for the ethnic population which continues to live in the area. Many Portuguese came to Taunton to work in the mills in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Cultural influences are evident in the Portuguese American Civic Club (PACC) and St. Anthony's Church where Mass is said in Portuguese. Most of the housing consists of one and one-half and two and one-half gable front dwellings, most of which now are covered with synthetic siding. Properties are defined by fences that are steel (chain link) or wood with hedges behind. Many gardens have grape vines often growing on arbors. The stone work of paths and retaining walls also is notable.

### **Reed & Barton**

The Reed and Barton Company comprises large brick mill buildings, brick mill housing and stone-lined sluiceways dating from the mid to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century all built on the Mill River northwest of the center of the city. The dam is north of the complex and allows the water to spill into the sluiceways which run through the complex adjacent to the mill buildings. The sluiceway, which is lined with stone retaining walls, some stretches of which are topped with cobblestones, can be viewed on the south side of the complex from Danforth Street. The brick mill houses on the Reed and Barton campus are Cape Cod style cottages from ca. 1855.

In the 1830s Charles Barton and Henry Reed established their silver works at what is now known as Brittainiaville. They had apprenticed in pewter works and after experimenting with metals launched one of Taunton's most successful and long enduring industries with the production of silver holloware. By 1888 the company had expanded to 16 long, brick factory buildings with stair towers, corbelled cornices and segmental arched window openings.



### **Taunton Green Area**

This National Register district is central to Taunton's history as part of the original green or common established in 1637 when the Church Green area was the central part of the newly formed town. Now Taunton Green and Church Green are separated by two or three city blocks of commercial buildings, many of which are brick structures that have been embellished with granite, limestone and cast iron detail. Buildings range from ca. 1825 to 1979, with the majority constructed in the Victorian Era, resulting in the predominance of Second Empire and Italianate style buildings. Some of the commercial building include the Union Block and the Cohannet Block constructed in 1860, the Leonard Block (107-111 Main Street) built in 1870 (contains the 1879 Star Theatre), the Jones Block (1874), the Taylor Building (10-18 Taunton Green, 1889) and the Crocker Building (1898). The Star Theatre is an important feature of the Leonard Block.

The rectangular shaped Green comprises a granite post and iron rail fence around the perimeter, several military monuments, a flagpole near the center, some flower beds surrounding historically appropriate lighting standards and diagonally placed paths that lead from each corner to the centrally located Soper Memorial Fountain plaza. Trees line the southern edge of the Green. Wide roads frame the Green and each has significant buildings on the far side of the roadway. Two key government buildings that face the Green are the Bristol County Courthouse (1894) and the U.S. Post Office (1932). Nearby is the second county courthouse which was moved to Court Street in 1894 to make way for the imposing Romanesque Courthouse, now known as the Bristol County Courthouse. The relocated Courthouse, now known as the First District Court, is a fine example of the Greek Revival style with its monumental columned portico. The 1869 Central Station on School and Leonard Streets is reported to be the oldest operational fire station in the United States. Opposite the fire house is the School Street School (1896-97). Out on Broadway north of Taunton Green is the

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St. Mary's complex (Broadway, 1868) which includes the church, rectory and school.

Taunton Green was the site of mustering out for various conflicts as well as the location of welcome home celebrations. It is reported to have the oldest holiday display dating back to 1914.

### **Taunton State Hospital**

Established in 1854, the Taunton Lunatic Asylum as it was first named was planned and constructed on the bank of the Mill River. The first buildings, designed by Elbridge Boyden, were constructed from 1851 to 1853. The high stone wall lining the perimeter of the campus was erected in ca. 1860 using large stones that were removed from the site for the building construction. Cottages and larger residential buildings were added to the complex from 1869 to 1937. The newer part of the complex, on the west side of the main drive was constructed between 1937 and 1963.

The campus setting is framed by the six-foot high perimeter wall which is an important feature of the setting. A main north-south drive bisects the campus with the main entrance at the southern end at Hodges Avenue and Morton Street and the rear entrance along Danforth Street on the northwest perimeter of the State Hospital campus. Building architecture is notable, particularly the early Boyden buildings in the Classical Revival style. These buildings now are vacant, in a state of disrepair and are blocked by a 10 to 12 foot high chain link barrier fence. Some fine mature trees – maple and beech – remain on the campus. A rolling greensward is near the northern end of the property. Agricultural fields are on the southern end of the campus and a modern water tower (1953) rises high above the landscape also on the southern end of the property.

### **Thayer Farm**

Now known as the Melo property, this farmland (approximately 50 acres) on North Walker Street in the Westville section of the city is in a flood plain with confirmed Native American sites on the upland part of the property. The Native American artifacts known to have come from this property make it highly significant. The Thayer family harvested hay here in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today the property is hayed; however it is proposed for development.

## **PLANNING**

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### **Preservation Strategies**

Taunton has many vital heritage landscapes worthy of recognition and preservation. Its rivers and vast watershed make much of the area extremely vulnerable to change. Through the Heritage Landscape Inventory program, Taunton is looking beyond the traditional historic resources to the landscapes, neighborhoods and other natural and cultural assets that define the overall fabric

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of the community. Like most southeastern Massachusetts communities, Taunton is under pressure for development. Special places within the community such as some of the ethnic villages, factory complexes and institutional campuses, which may be taken for granted, now are more vulnerable than ever to change.

### **Planning Issues**

At the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting attendees expressed concerns about the changing character of the community, which is directly related to the rich heritage landscapes that were discussed. Each of the critical planning issues affects at least one of the priority landscapes. These issues are arranged in alphabetical order.

#### ***Loss of Agricultural Land***

While only a few working farms remain in Taunton they are important aspects of the city's character in the outlying areas such as Westville and East Taunton. In addition the farmland at the two state institutions – Taunton State Hospital and the Dever School – is no longer farmed which changes the character of these landscapes and means that they are more susceptible to development.

#### ***Maintenance of Cemeteries***

Taunton has approximately 64 cemeteries and burial grounds that are privately and publicly owned. Conditions vary and budgets for maintenance and repair are less than adequate. Most privately held cemeteries have no budget so that conditions have deteriorated completely if no longer receiving new burials.

#### ***Neighborhood Change – Loss of Institutions***

In many neighborhoods the institutions such as schools, churches, libraries and local stores reflect the cultural aspects of the neighborhood and bind people together. Loss of these institutions as well as the commercial businesses that cater to the neighborhood often leads to lack of unity or cohesiveness in an area which in turn leads to less of a sense of the characteristics that bind neighborhoods together. Changes in ownership and absentee owners often lead to substantive changes in housing stock and in the use and appearance of commercial property. Loss of cultural influences in neighborhoods is loss of part of the city's history.

#### ***Open Space Monitoring – Cluster Development***

The cluster development ordinance requires a certain amount of land to be set aside as open space in exchange for denser development on the rest of the parcel. These pieces of open space are recognized for a short time and then forgotten, with no monitoring to guarantee the retention of the open space with no inappropriate intrusions including ill effects caused by adjacent uses, such as poorly constructed drainage systems.

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## PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

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Preservation planning is a three-step process involving identification, evaluation and protection. Four useful documents to consult before beginning to implement preservation strategies are the Massachusetts Historical Commission's *Survey Manual* and *Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances*; the Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Reading the Land*; and the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee's *Taunton River Stewardship Plan*. Each publication provides necessary information for the identification, evaluation and preservation of the rich cultural heritage of a community. General recommendations are listed first, followed by more specific recommendations.

Taunton will have to determine the best way to implement the recommendations presented here. One approach that might help Taunton begin the process is to form a Heritage Landscape Committee, as described in *Reading the Land*.

### General Recommendations

Recommendations that apply to a broad range of resources are discussed below. These general recommendations are listed in an order in which they are most logically addressed when applying the three-step preservation planning process as described above. Thus the goal will be to (1) identify, (2) evaluate and (3) protect.

### *Inventory of Heritage Landscapes and other Historic Assets*

The vital first step in developing preservation strategies for heritage landscapes is to record information about the resources. It is important to know what the features of an agricultural landscape are and which features the community treasures in order to make a case for preservation of these settings. New procedures that are more comprehensive and link properties in a more coherent way than in the past may enhance Taunton's survey, most of which was completed 15 to 25 years ago. Thus, using the Massachusetts Historical Commission survey methodology, record Taunton's heritage landscapes, beginning with the priority landscapes listed in this report:

- Compile a list of resources that are under-represented or not sufficiently documented, beginning with heritage landscapes –particularly the farms, factory complexes and ethnic neighborhoods.
- Document unprotected resources first, beginning with threatened areas.
- Make sure to document secondary features on residential properties, such as outbuildings and stone walls.

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### ***National Register Program***

Taunton has many properties listed on the National Register; however, most listings date to the 1980s with the exception of the State Hospital which was listed in the 1990s and the Mount Hope Cemetery listed in 2002. New survey work will require National Register evaluation. This will provide new information about the eligibility of properties that can be listed in the National Register. Thus to develop Taunton's National Register program:

- Form a National Register listing plan, taking into consideration a property's integrity and vulnerability. Properties that are in need of recognition in order to advance preservation strategies should be given priority.

### ***Agricultural Landscapes***

Preservation of agricultural landscapes means preservation of the farming activities; otherwise, it simply is the preservation of land as open space. It is important to know what the features of an agricultural landscape are and which features the community treasures in order to make a case for preservation of these settings. Some preservation tools are available that can assist communities in preserving the actual farming activities. Taunton residents expressed concern about the loss of agricultural land; thus some of the following strategies may be worthwhile for the few remaining farms. Consider the following options.

- Form an agricultural commission to address farm preservation in Taunton.
- Adopt a right-to-farm ordinance which allows farmers to carry on farming activities that may be considered a nuisance to neighbors.
- Review the city's cluster ordinance for refinement of buffers, particularly between development and farmland.
- Raise funds to purchase development rights on farms or to assist farmers in the restoration of historic farm buildings for which the farmer would be required to donate a preservation restriction.
- Continue public-private partnerships to preserve farmland through purchase of farms or purchase of conservation restrictions on farms.

### ***Burial Grounds and Cemeteries***

Taunton has about 64 public and private burial grounds. Some documentation on MHC forms has been completed for many of these burial grounds. Concerns are long-term stone maintenance issues and general burial ground care that needs improvement. The DCR publication *Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries* provides guidance on developing preservation plans for burial grounds including identification and

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evaluation of the resources as well as preservation strategies. Using this guide Taunton should:

- Update existing or prepare new survey forms for all burial grounds and cemeteries that have been in use for more than 50 years.
- Develop a preservation and management plan for each cemetery taking into consideration repair of stone markers, stone walls and stone fencing related to cemeteries, repair of iron work, removal of invasive growth, and on-going maintenance of plant material.

### ***Neighborhood Character***

Nearly all preservation strategies address neighborhood or village character in some manner. As described above, thorough documentation on MHC inventory forms is an important first step in the preservation planning process, followed by National Register listing where appropriate. There are three traditional preservation tools: demolition delay, local historic district designation (MGL Chapter 40C) and neighborhood conservation district designation. A demolition delay ordinance which provides a time period in which the city can consider alternatives to demolition has been adopted by Taunton. Districts recognize special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected. Each type of district is a local initiative, adopted by a 2/3 vote of the City Council and administered by a district commission, appointed by the Mayor and City Council. As Taunton knows, local historic districting is the strongest form of protection for the preservation of historic resources. In the Church Green Local Historic District, any proposed changes to exterior architectural features visible from a public right-of-way are reviewed by the Taunton Historic District Commission. Neighborhood conservation districts are less restrictive but still embrace neighborhood character.

- Amend the demolition delay ordinance to give the Taunton Historical Commission authority to invoke a delay of demolition of up to one year, rather than just six months. Publication of demolition requests reminds residents of historic resources and reinforces the value of local historic resources; therefore include a publication requirement in the ordinance.
- Determine whether any of Taunton's historic neighborhoods would be appropriate local historic or neighborhood conservation districts. Areas with a high level of historical significance and integrity should be considered as potential local historic districts and be designated as such by the City Council following a full study report that is reviewed by the MHC and the Taunton Planning Board.
- Alternatively, pass a neighborhood conservation district ordinance. Neighborhood conservation districts are special areas that are preserved by regulating scale, massing and materials of additions and new construction. Such districts may be the most appropriate way to preserve



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the land use pattern of an area where there are changes in materials but the overall size, scale and orientation of structures within the heritage landscape are retained.

### ***Water Resources –River, Reservoir and Estuary***

Taunton has a history of valuing and using its water resources, and is currently working to protect some of them. Many of the goals and recommendations in both the Master Plan and the Open Space and Recreation Plan are directed at preserving these historically and environmentally significant resources. The main goals are to control pollution and provide access to these fine resources. The coalition that has been established to advocate for the designation of the Taunton River as a National Wild & Scenic River already knows the important strategies for preservation of this rich resource. Continue to work towards solutions in the following ways.

- Define ownership of each segment of the waterfront on the Taunton, Mill and Three Mile rivers including beaches, wetlands, and marshes.
- Define public ways and parking areas for access to the rivers and any landings.
- Form public-private partnerships with neighborhood groups and Boy Scouts (or similar community groups) to develop stewardship programs for access points.
- Develop a public landings brochure to remind abutters and city residents of the public access to these landings, particularly any city-owned landings.
- Adopt and enforce strict conservation and zoning ordinances that regulate pollution. These may be strategies such as waste water treatment and storm water run off that is more restrictive than is minimally acceptable under Title V.

### ***Funding of Preservation Projects***

Funding for preservation projects is an important aspect of implementing preservation strategies. Both the MHC and the DCR have had funding programs to assist communities in preservation related issues including:

- Survey and Planning Grants administered by the MHC support survey, National Register and preservation planning work.
- The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) administered by the MHC funds restoration and rehabilitation projects.
- The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP) administered by DCR funds planning, rehabilitation, education and

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stewardship projects focused on historic landscapes, including cemeteries.

Funding for these programs varies from year to year. When planning Taunton's heritage landscape inventory program, contact relevant agencies to determine whether funding currently is available. In addition close attention should be paid to the designation of the Taunton River as a Wild & Scenic River. Once this designation has occurred there may be funding sources available for projects that will affect the quality of the river. SRPEDD may be helpful in updating communities and directing them to other funding sources.

Towns and cities that have adopted the Community Preservation Act find it to be an excellent funding source for many heritage landscape projects; however Taunton first would have to adopt the Act. While tricky to pass in lean economic times, the number and types of projects that are benefiting across the Commonwealth is worthy of consideration. The CPA establishes a mechanism by which municipalities can develop a fund dedicated to historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Funds are collected through a .5% to 3% surcharge on each annual real estate tax bill. The Commonwealth has established a dedicated fund which is used to match the municipality's collections under the CPA.

Adoption of the Community Preservation Act, by a majority vote on a ballot question, fosters partnerships among historic preservationists, conservationists and affordable housing advocates. At least 10% of the funds must be used to preserve historic resources; at least 10% must be used to protect open space; and at least 10% must be used to advance affordable housing. The remaining 70% must be used for one of these three uses as well as recreational needs and can be distributed in varying proportions depending upon the projects that the city believes are appropriate and beneficial to the municipality.

Cities, like Taunton, which have a local historic district ordinance, may apply for Certified Local Government (CLG) status which is granted by the National Park Service through the MHC. After the city completes an application and is accepted as a CLG, it files an annual report on the status of applications, meetings and decisions. In return the city is eligible for federal funding that is distributed by the MHC. The matching funds are competitive; however the MHC must pass along a proportion of its federally allocated annual funding to CLGs through its Survey and Planning Grant program.

### **Specific Recommendations**

The following recommendations are offered for specific resources or areas that were either priority heritage landscapes or discussed as critical issues.

#### ***Cobb Brook***

Cobb Brook's problem of flooding, and the steps that need to be taken to solve this issue are well stated in the Taunton OSRP; however, solutions are difficult to

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implement due to the private ownership of most of Cobb Brook. The OSRP recommends developing additional impoundments to hold the water back during flooding conditions. In addition the rerouting of the city's runoff may alleviate some of this flooding. Care should be taken to review subdivision and site plans for impacts as runoff from new development may potentially have an impact on Cobb Brook.

### ***Dever School – Camp Myles Standish***

Much of the Dever School campus already has been converted to the Myles Standish Industrial Park. In order to preserve some of the campus particularly for the quality of the open space in this part of the city consider the following steps:

- Identify key features by completing MHC inventory forms using the heritage landscape methodology.
- Work with the Commonwealth to ensure that attention is paid to the condition and maximum potential use of the property.
- Develop a master plan for the property that includes retaining some of the open space and the campus setting.

### ***East Taunton and Portuguese Village***

The character of these two neighborhoods is worthy of preservation; yet there is a fair amount of change that has occurred in each. For this reason a neighborhood conservation district form of protection would be an appropriate and effective tool in retaining the overall neighborhood layout, size and scale.

- Update inventory of resources using heritage landscape methodology combined with traditional MHC survey methodology.
- Complete National Register nominations for the neighborhoods.
- Form a neighborhood conservation district study committee to potentially recommend an ordinance and designation of a neighborhood conservation district with design review guidelines that specifically address the resources in these neighborhoods.
- Amend zoning ordinance to reflect preservation strategies particularly for such neighborhoods.
- Engage the Old Colony Historical Society and other preservation organizations in developing up-to-date tours, brochures, power point presentations and website information to draw interested residents and visitors to these neighborhoods.

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### ***Taunton Green Area***

Preservation of Taunton Green and its surrounding architecture is critical to the health of the city as well as its character. The Taunton Green Historic District (including 27 properties on Broadway, Court and Main Streets and Taunton Green) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Main Street Program, known as the Heart of Taunton, has been influential in physical improvements. The program first began in Taunton in 1989 and is reported to be the longest surviving Main Street program in Massachusetts. Its mission is to improve the cultural, economic and physical aspects of the city. The Heart of Taunton should be supported in its efforts to address vacancies, to better clean the area, and to address parking issues. Economic development is the necessary ingredient to sustain the area. The condition of the Green is a critical asset of the area; the Heart of Taunton plays a significant role in caring for this space. An ongoing maintenance plan for the Green, including guidelines on changes and uses, would solidify partnerships between the privately funded Heart of Taunton and the City. Adjacent to this area is the Church Green Historic District which is a local historic district with design review of changes. It may be difficult to expand this type of review to the Taunton Green area; however design review guidelines for commercial properties may assist property owners in making changes that will help to unify the area and contribute to enhancing the historic character of Taunton Green.



### ***Taunton State Hospital***

The campus is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The original buildings are in dire need of a reuse plan that will preserve some of the best parts of these architecturally and historically significant buildings. Thus far the Commonwealth has done little to preserve the original buildings of the State Hospital. Unfortunately this lack of attention has a direct negative impact on the resources and a perceived negative impact on the neighborhood and the city. The tactic of leaving the buildings to deteriorate beyond repair sets a bad precedent and becomes a burden on the city. Because Taunton has two state properties – the State Hospital and the Dever School – it should receive some attention from the Commonwealth and assistance in developing reuse plans. Consider forming

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a committee to include state and local legislators to seek reuse plans for these Commonwealth owned resources.

***Thayer Farm (Melo Property)***

Due to the richness of archaeological material on this farm it is essential that a proper archaeological survey be conducted using MHC methodology.

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**CONCLUSION**

The Taunton Reconnaissance Report is a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Taunton and in beginning to think about preservation strategies. However, it is only the first step in the planning process. Landscapes identified in this report, especially the priority landscapes, will typically need further documentation on MHC inventory forms. The documentation in turn can be used in publicity efforts to build consensus and gather public support for their preservation. Implementation of recommendations will require a concerted effort of and partnerships with municipal boards and agencies, local non-profits, and state agencies and commissions.

Distribution of this Reconnaissance Report to city land use boards and commissions will assist in making this one of the planning documents that guides Taunton in preserving important features of the community's character. The tasks that are recommended will require cooperation and coordination among boards and commissions, particularly Taunton's Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee. It also is advisable to present this information to the Mayor and City Council. Finally, distribution of the Report to the Old Colony Historical Society, neighborhood associations and other preservation minded organizations will enhance Taunton's heritage landscapes.

## APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list is a summary of all landscapes discussed at the Heritage Landscape Identification Meeting held in Taunton on June 27 and the follow-up fieldwork on July 12, 2005. This is a working list and can be updated by the community. **There may be other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** Landscapes are grouped by type. The chart has two columns – the name of the resource and the location are in the first and notes about the resource are in the second.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction  
LHD = Local Historic District  
PR = Preservation Restriction

CR = Conservation Restriction  
NR = National Register  
\* = Priority Landscape

<b>Agriculture</b>	
<b><i>Couto's Cranberry</i></b>	12-15 acres bequeathed to the Bristol Agricultural School and restriction requires that it be used for agriculture only and cannot be sold.
<b><i>McCaffery's Farm</i></b>	East Taunton. Also known as Spring Rain Farm. Grow strawberries, and until recently also raised livestock. Presently for sale with city having right of first refusal. The family has been known to have a strong belief in agriculture and preserving the living landscape.
<b><i>Pierce Dairy Farm</i></b> 196 Middleborough Ave.	East Taunton. Was a dairy farm and also did some timbering. Still hayed. Building constructed out of wood from the land – old farmhouse, barns and silos remain.
<b><i>Reed Farm</i></b> South Walker St.	APR. 138 acres most of which is in Taunton and some in Dighton.
<b><i>Stapleton Farm-Shannon</i></b> Highstone & Precinct Sts.	Cranberry farm.
<b><i>Thayer Farm-Melo Property*</i></b> North Walker St.	Now owned by Melo family. Approximately 50 acres of farmland in a flood plain with confirmed Native American site in upland area of farm. Historically harvested hay and grew market garden crops. Now is hayed.
<b><i>Warner Blvd. Farms</i></b>	Wooded areas of which at least half are under development – other half to be open space.
<b>Burial Grounds and Cemeteries</b>	
<b><i>Black Cemeteries</i></b> Berkley & Pratt St.	Two cemeteries on the corner of Berkley and Pratt Sts., one in which there are early burials of African Americans.
<b><i>Dever's Burial Ground</i></b>	Part of the state school.

<b>East Taunton Cemetery</b> Caswell St.	Also known as Caswell Street Cemetery in East Taunton. Established in 1741.
<b>Mayflower Hill Cemetery</b> 235 Broadway	53.53 acres extending along East Britannia Street and Washington Street. Thousands of stones from the 1800s to present day. Civil War monument.
<b>Mount Pleasant Cemetery</b> Crocker, Cohannet & Barnum Sts.	NR. Approximately 10 acres framed by hills – Mt. Pleasant, Crocker Hill, and Ridge Hill. Laid out in the 1830s in the garden style with a path system laid out in 1836. Over 500 markers. Majestic trees that are important aspects of the character.
<b>Neck of Land Cemetery</b> Summer St.	NR. This is the oldest public cemetery in Taunton. It is at the confluence of the Mill and Taunton Rivers. Burials range from 1687 to 1889 and there are approximately 123 stones noted in the cemetery according to the MHC form.
<b>St. Joseph's Cemetery</b> 475 E. Britannia St.	19 <sup>th</sup> century cemetery with over 1,000 stones with burials continuing into the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.
<b>St. Mary's Cemetery</b> 100 E. Britannia St.	19 <sup>th</sup> century cemetery with approximately 50 to 100 stones.
<b>Walker-Blake Graveyard</b> Somerset Ave. & Cleary Flood Dr.	Second oldest cemetery in Taunton – ca. 1678 to 1912 with 169 known burials. Also known as Walker Burial Ground, Rose Cemetery and Richmond Cemetery. Surrounded by a security fence. One person left an endowment to maintain cemetery so there is a level of care here not available in other private cemeteries.
<b>Civic / Commercial</b>	
<b>Church Green</b>	NR, LHD. The Green was established in 1638 and most of the surrounding buildings date from 1825 to 1900. The 1829-30 First Parish Church is the fourth meetinghouse at this location. Across Summer Street is the 1848/1896 Taunton City Hall. The statue is of Robert Treat Paine who practiced law in Taunton before serving in Continental Congress and signing the Declaration of Independence.
<b>Squares</b>	Named after WWI and WWII veterans and important persons in United States history. Documentation on file at Old Colony Historical Society but need public awareness so names are not lost.
<b>Taunton Green *</b> Broadway, Main, Weir, Winthrop, Cohannet and Court Sts.	NR. Downtown area. Star Theatre (Main St.), Central Station (School and Leonard, 1869 – reported to be the oldest operational fire station in the US), Masonic Lodge, Leonard Block (105-111 Main St., 1870), Superior Court House (NR-has lost its flame), St. Mary's complex (Broadway, 1868). Taunton Green was the site of mustering out for various conflicts as well as the welcome home. Has oldest holiday display dating from 1914.
<b>Industrial</b>	
<b>Anchor Forge</b>	Located in Westville on the Three Mile River.

<b><i>Old Colony Iron Works Site</i></b> 96 Old Colony Ave.	NR. This site was a mill complex from ca. 1824 to ca. 1920, producing shovels, nails and then cotton goods. Nemasket Mill Complex built in ca. 1895 to replace the Old Colony Iron Works which burned in 1881. Nemasket Mill produced cotton products and in 1900 became New England Cotton Mill and produced yarn. The cotton factory has been converted to the River Bend Condominiums.
<b><i>The Quarry</i></b>	Located in the Whittenton neighborhood. The use of the quarry once retired from quarrying is the subject of the recovery plan, which is in place and which is essential to the quality of life in the area. It must be enforced. Now owned by Aggregate Industries.
<b><i>Reed &amp; Barton*</i></b> W. Britannia and Danforth Sts.	A 14-acre site on the Mill River at Britanniaville. First the mill produced “Britanniaware” which was a fine grade of pewter, then converted to silver holloware and other silver and later stainless steel flatware. Raceways and dams remain as well as buildings ranging in construction dates from ca. 1830s to 1890s with a couple of modern buildings added in the mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b><i>F. B. Rogers Silver Company</i></b> West Water St.	On the Taunton River at the old Weir Stove Company site, is the abandoned F. B. Rogers Silver Company building which operated until 1982. It is a large three-story brick structure along the Taunton River.
<b>Institutional</b>	
<b><i>Churches</i></b>	St. Mary’s (complex – church (1868), rectory (1903), school (1907) on Broadway), St. Jacques (Whittenton St., construction dates: 1906, 1953), West Congregational Church (Winthrop St. 1824, NR), Pilgrim Congregational Church(45 Broadway, 1852, NR), Immaculate Conception Complex (construction dates from 1918 to 1954 in Gothic and Colonial Revival styles, Bay St.), Synagogue Agadath Achim (Winthrop St., 1913).
<b><i>Paul A. Dever School *</i></b> Bassett St. & Bay St.	Also known as Camp Myles Standish, a staging area during WWII. State-owned property of which only part is occupied. Has a burial ground.
<b><i>Masonic Lodge *</i></b>	On Taunton Green area. Important civic and institutional property. Was the Francis Baylies House. Built by Joseph Lord, Taunton’s sixth postmaster.
<b><i>Schools</i></b>	Cohannet School (will house courthouse offices temporarily), Hopewell School, School Street School (renovated for city offices – NR district), Walker School (Weir Village area).
<b><i>Synagogue</i></b>	Agadath Achim (Winthrop St., 1913).
<b><i>Taunton State Hospital *</i></b> Danforth St.	Established in 1854. On bank of Mill River. Designed by Elbridge Boyden as State Mental Asylum. Only part of campus used today.
<b>Natural Features</b>	
<b><i>Big Bearhole Pond</i></b> Highstone Street	Part of a three-pond system located in Massasoit State Park. Bog iron pits here.
<b><i>Bunk Pond</i></b> Off Rt. 495	City-owned man-made pond in Hockomock Swamp area. Just south of Rt. 495. Good fishing, however access is limited.



<b><i>Cain Pond</i></b> (Rt. 79) Rhode Island Rd.	City-owned pond used for canoeing.
<b><i>Cobb Brook *</i></b>	Small brook or stream that flows through the western edge of the city center, former mill site. Threatened by development and no partners to advocate for quality of water. Need to maintain proper drainage so that the brook which flows diagonally through the center of Taunton flows to the Taunton River properly.
<b><i>East Pool Pond</i></b>	Bog iron source.
<b><i>Hocomock Swamp</i></b>	The swamp has about 16,950 acres and is the largest vegetated freshwater system in Massachusetts. Taunton's acreage is all the land north of Rt. 495 and includes part of the Snake River which goes through the swamp. An Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
<b><i>Mill River</i></b>	This river runs from Lake Sabattia (on Bay Street) into Mill Pond, over the Mill Pond Dam and through the center of Taunton into the Taunton River. Scenic stone lined raceways and several impoundments.
<b><i>Oakland Mill Pond</i></b>	Some canoeing and fishing with limited access.
<b><i>Lake Ricco</i></b>	Part of a three-pond system in Massasoit State Park including Big Bearhole Pond, Middle Pond and Lake Ricco. Most of land bordering the ponds is state-owned and undeveloped. Bog iron source.
<b><i>Richmond Pond</i></b> Middleborough Ave.	Located in East Taunton. Early mill site.
<b><i>Sabbatia Lake</i></b> Bay Street	Part of the Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Connected to Watson Pond and feeds into Mill River. Developments of early to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century summer cottages on its shores with poor waste water disposal systems. Bog iron pits here.
<b><i>Segregansett River</i></b>	Located in the southwestern part of the City. Part of Somerset water supply.
<b><i>Silver Maple Floodplain Swamp</i></b>	In Oakland. Borders city-owned golf course.
<b><i>Taunton River</i></b>	Application in progress for federal Wild and Scenic Designation.
<b><i>Three Mile River</i></b>	Application in progress to obtain an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation for this river which passes through three communities (Dighton, Norton and Taunton). 253 acres of agricultural land in Taunton along the ACEC corridor. Passes through Westville and Oakland villages of Taunton. River begins at the Wading and Rumford Rivers in Norton and flows to the Taunton in Dighton.
<b><i>Watson Pond</i></b> Bay St.	In Watson Pond State Park. Also part of the Canoe River ACEC. Bog iron pits located here.
<b>Open Space /Parks</b>	
<b><i>Gertrude M. Boyden Wildlife Refuge</i></b> 1298 Cohannet St.	City-owned refuge in Westville. It was the Laura Thomas Estate which the city purchased in 1968 using donated private funds that were designated for purchase of a bird sanctuary. Approximately 52 acres with wooded trails on the Three Mile River. Features are open fields, fishing areas and about two miles of nature trails. There also are a fragrance garden, covered bridge and look-out cabin. Suffers from lack of maintenance, little used due to lack of knowledge as there is little

	published information. Major erosion problems which have led to closing of trail. Gates have been left open. Once had kite and other festivals. Conservation commission office once was located on the property. Application pending for Urban Self-Help funding.
<b>Hopewell Park</b> Hamilton St.	Ten acres of city owned park and recreation land on Mill River. Amenities include a bathhouse, baseball and softball fields, football field, swimming pool, basketball courts and a playground.
<b>Hutt Forest</b> Kingman St.	City-owned land at Big Bearhole Village. Former Emma Hutt estate including 500 acres of wooded upland and forest which is undeveloped.
<b>Idella Lewis</b> North Walker St.	City-owned golf course on corner of Fisher St. and North Walker St. opposite the Sharpe Estate. In Oakland section.
<b>Lagoon's Park</b> East Water St.	City-owned park on Taunton River. Historic Weir Village Port. Poor condition.
<b>Memorial Park</b> Somerset Ave.	Park area has walking trails and a pond and is used for passive recreation.
<b>John F. Parker Municipal Golf Course</b> Fisher St.	This 185-acre parcel has a nine-hole course that is city owned.
<b>Plonka Property</b> Gordon Owen Pkwy.	City owned.
<b>Scaddings Pond Area</b> Scaddings St.	City-owned field in North End section of city. Snake River. Bog iron pits here.
<b>Segregansett Golf Club</b> Gulliver St.	Private club that is well maintained. A small cemetery is on the property.
<b>Sharpe Estate</b> North Walker St.	On corner of Glebe Street West and North Walker St. City-owned open space and conservation land that was formerly an estate. The Conservation Commission manages this 253-acre site which is protected in perpetuity. Fall Brook runs through the property.
<b>Taunton Green</b>	Part of NR district. See Taunton Green under Civic - Commercial.
<b>Terra Property</b> Paul Revere Terrace	City-owned property.
<b>Woodard Spring</b> Harvey St.	A trolley park on Three Mile River in the Oakland section of Taunton.
<b>Weir Riverfront Park</b> East Water St.	City-owned park on Taunton River. Historic Weir Village Port. Only 2.5 acres with athletic fields, a shade pavilion and a playground all of which are used frequently and require maintenance. Weir Corporation involved.
<b>Woodard Spring</b> Harvey St.	A trolley park on Three Mile River in the Oakland section of Taunton.

<b>Residential (Neighborhoods, Village)</b>	
<b><i>Britanniaville</i></b>	On Mill River. Location of Reed & Barton.
<b><i>East Taunton *</i></b>	Farm land, open space and state forest in East Taunton. Silver City Galleria built here.
<b><i>Historic Houses</i></b>	Many on Winthrop Street and on Broadway.
<b><i>Hopewell Village</i></b> Hopewell, Albro, Bay Sts.	On Mill River. Brick tenements, capes, Greek Revival houses from ca. 1818 to 1860s. Old cotton mill structures of Taunton Manufacturing burned in 1903.
<b><i>Middleborough Ave.</i></b>	Workers' housing in East Taunton.
<b><i>Oakland</i></b> Tremont St., Mill Lane	Cotton mill and associated housing of capes and Greek Revivals on the Three Mile River.
<b><i>Portuguese Village*</i></b> School St.	Distinctly cultural influences. Portuguese American Civic Club (PACC) , St. Anthony's Church where mass is said in Portuguese. Bragga Square at School St. Includes several side streets.
<b><i>Hopewell Mill Area</i></b> Albro Ave.	Mill housing some of which dates to early 1800s on Albro Avenue. Also on Cottage St., Danforth St., W. Britannia St. Housing on Bay St. and Broadway meshes with that of various mills.
<b><i>Weir Village</i></b> Water, Weir and Ingall Sts.	On Taunton River. Historically ship building businesses and boarding houses on Plain St. Walker School, Weir Grammar School, Weir Park, Taunton River Park. Peripheral areas of neighborhood are the most vulnerable to change. Cohannet Mills #3 (1890) was a cotton spinning mill. Also 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century residences and commercial buildings.
<b><i>Westville</i></b> So. Walker, No. Walker, Winthrop, Cohannet Sts.	NR. On Three Mile River. Cotton mill here in 19 <sup>th</sup> century replacing 18 <sup>th</sup> century iron foundry. Housing includes capes and Italianate style. West Congregational Church of 1824 is a Federal style meetinghouse.
<b><i>Winthrop St.</i></b>	Housing. Many stately houses owned by former industrialists, bankers, etc.
<b><i>Whittenton Village</i></b> Bay & Whittenton Sts.	On Mill River. A 17 <sup>th</sup> century bloomery became a tack factory and a cotton mill. Historically a French Canadian followed by Polish neighborhood. Housing predominately 1880 to 1910 Italianate with 20 <sup>th</sup> century commercial structures.
<b>Transportation (Bridges, Landing, Roads)</b>	
<b><i>Dean Street Railroad Bridge</i></b> Dean St.	Dean Street is Route 44 from the Raynham town line westerly to Church Green. The bridge crosses the abandoned railroad line just east of the center of Taunton.
<b><i>Old Colony Railroad Station</i></b> 40 Dean St.	Built by the Old Colony Railroad in 1876 near the center of Taunton

<b><i>Railroad and Trolley Tracks</i></b> Various locations	
<b><i>Railroad Bridges &amp; Street Bridges</i></b>	Spring Street Bridge over Mill River was constructed in 1929. Summer Street Bridge was constructed in 1934. Tremont Street Bridge over Three Mile River was constructed in 1936. W. Britannia Street Bridge over the Mill River was constructed in 1927.
<b><i>Taunton Municipal Airport</i></b> Middleboro Ave. & Westcoat Drive	NR listing for King Airfield Hanger. Est. in 1919 in East Taunton area known as King's Field. Played a significant role in the development of the first flight school training pilots after WWI. Became a public municipal airport in the 1960s when 109 acres were taken by eminent domain from the King Family. Richmond pond and a frog pond on property. The airport expanded by 1964 to be 241 acres.
<b><i>Weir Bridge</i></b> Plain Street	The Weir Bridge carries Plain Street over the Taunton River in the Weir section of the city. The current 1955 steel beam bridge replaced a swing bridge which replaced a draw bridge both of which could be moved for ships carrying cargo up the Taunton. By 1955 the Taunton River no longer had ships needing clearance coming up this far, thus the 1955 bridge did not have to accommodate this mode of transportation.

# TAUNTON OPENSOURCE & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Note: Default Legend, all categories may not appear on the map.

- DCR
- DCRS/DFG
- DFG
- Other State
- County
- Municipal
- Federal
- Land Trust
- Non-Profit
- Conservation Restriction
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction
- CR/APR Combination
- Other Legal Interest
- State Historic Resources
- Interstate
- State
- Local Road

N

1. Cobb Brook
2. Dever School - Camp Myles Standish
3. East Taunton
4. Gertrude Boyden Wildlife Refuge
5. Portuguese Village
6. Reed & Barton
7. Taunton Green Area
8. Taunton State Hospital
9. Thayer Farm