

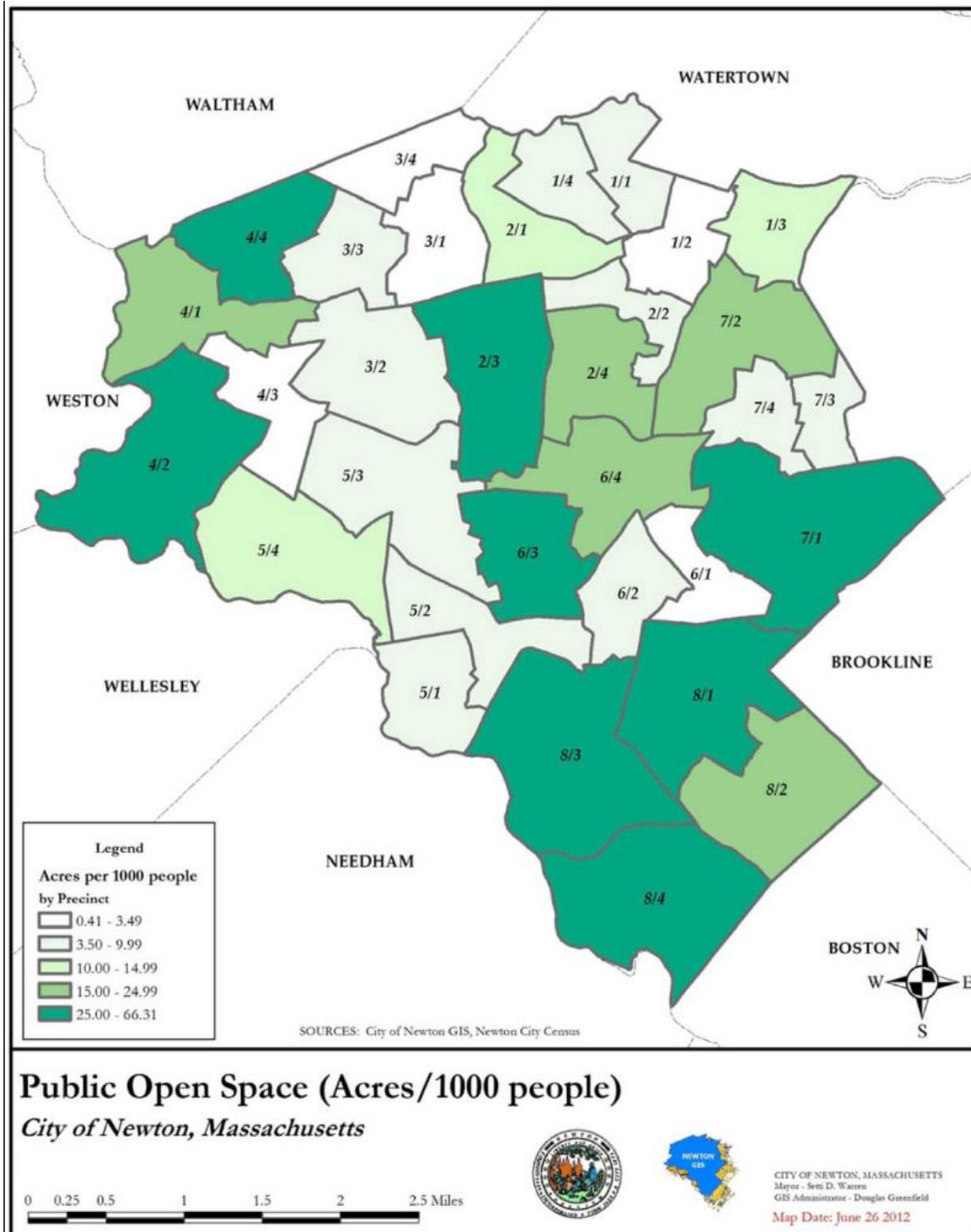
From: Julia Malakie <malakievvar3@gmail.com>

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Subject: Care about open space & recreation facilities? Meeting tonight at War Memorial

Date: Thu, Feb 6, 2020 4:59 am

Public input wanted tonight on Open Space & Recreation priorities for next 7 years



The reaction to the attempt to put NewCAL on a park, and the effort undertaken to preserve Webster Woods, were reminders how important parks and open

space and recreation plan...

The city is beginning the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), and the **first opportunity for public input on priorities is tonight, Thursday Feb 6, 7-9pm** at the War Memorial Auditorium at City Hall.

[This page](#) on the city website explains why we have the OSRP. It's both an inventory of what we have (both public and private spaces) and what we'd like to acquire or improve. It's a state requirement to have an OSRP and they must be updated every seven years.

Whether or not you can make it to the meeting tonight, please fill out the related [online survey](#) by February 13. It's mostly multiple choice, with space for your own comments at the end.

You can read the 2014-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan [here](#). There's a lot of info and it's interesting to read the list of goals (toward the end of the document) from seven years ago. Some have been accomplished, like the acquisition of the Waban Hill Reservoir and the Mishkan Tefila portion of Webster Woods, creation of the Upper Falls Greenway, and renovation of the Highlands Playground. Many others have not. (It was an aspirational list.) Some seem more achievable than others, e.g., pocket community garden plots citywide. Some are expensive/challenging but important, like remediation and conversion of the former Pine Street landfill into recreation space. At least one high priority site for a conservation restriction (2.8 acres on the Charles River at 56 Farwell Street), is instead being turned into house lots.

Based on the information on the city webpage, it looks like the next -- and maybe only other -- event-type opportunity for public input will be to comment on the draft of the new OSRP, sometime before a May deadline for completion.

Vote on landmarking moratorium postponed to March 2

An update on the landmarking moratorium docket item:

COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, AUCHINCLOSS, CROSSLEY, DOWNS, KELLEY, LIPOF, GREENBERG, KRINTZMAN, NOEL, LEARY, AND DANBERG proposing an amendment to Chapter 22 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, 2017 to temporarily suspend nominations made by the Historical Commission and the City Council for landmark designations of any land, buildings and structures in the City of Newton in order to allow the City adequate time to review the landmark ordinance and consider what revisions are appropriate. The temporary suspension will prevent and suspend the processing, and approval of any property currently under consideration for landmark designation and will temporarily suspend future landmark designations made by the Historical Commission and the City Council. Landmark nominations made by the Mayor, Director of Planning of Development and the Commissioner of Inspectional Services shall not be affected. This temporary suspension shall end no later than ~~December 31, 2020~~ June 30, 2020.

Zoning and Planning Approved as Amended 5-2. (Councilors Baker and Wright opposed); The temporary suspension shall end no later than June 30, 2020 with a condition that an interim report is provided to the Committee within 3 months of the effective date.

At the request of Zoning & Planning chair Deb Crossley, the City Council voted to postpone the vote to a date certain of March 2. Five councilors were absent on Monday night, and several may be absent for the next full Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, which falls during school vacation week.

This delay will, I hope, result in more residents becoming informed about this item before the vote. Four weeks from introduction to approval would have truly been a "rocket docket."

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