



Bennett Field Master Plan



June 2011

City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks
Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division

Weston & Sampson
environmental/infrastructure consultants



Bennett Field Master Plan | June 2011 | Table of Contents

Acknowledgements Page 1
 Introduction | Executive Summary Page 2
 Project Background Page 5
 Community Participation Page 5
 Existing Conditions Page 8
 Preferred Master Plan Recommendations Page 18
 Budgets and Phasing Page 25
 Funding Considerations Page 27

Charts

Listing of Major Facilities Page 5
 Public Input Meeting Schedule Page 6
 Elevations at Representative Park Locations Page 9
 Recreation Facilities Site Assessment Page 15
 Budget Page 25
 Phasing Page 26

Plans

Preferred Improvements Plan Excerpt Page 4
 Existing Conditions Survey Plan Page 8
 Existing Conditions Aerial Image Page 11
 Preferred Improvements Plan Excerpt Page 19

Appendix

Preferred Concept Plan 1 Sheet
 Preferred Concept Plan (Enlargement of Parking Area) 1 Sheet
 Existing Conditions Site Aerial 1 Sheet
 Existing Condition Images 2 Sheets
 Existing Conditions Survey 1 Sheet
 Other Various Aerial Images 2 Sheets
 Deed Information 1 Page
 Public Hearing Sign-in Sheets 2 Pages
 Parks, Recreation and Cemetery meeting Sign-in Sheets 4 Pages
 Wetlands Delineation Narrative and Plan 2 Pages

Acknowledgements

We gratefully recognize the residents of the City of Worcester; especially those representing the Gates Lane School of International Studies (hereafter referred to as the Gates Lane School) community and the neighborhood surrounding Bennett Field whose participation at various public meetings helped forge this Master Plan. The recommendations and priorities that are established within this document address the needs of the school community, the surrounding neighborhood and the needs of various other stakeholders that make use of the important recreational amenities located at Bennett Field. Master plan solutions are intended to be pragmatic, and intended to recognize the basic fact that municipal governments like Worcester, must continue to provide a high level of service in a time of great financial uncertainty. To this end it becomes essential that Worcester residents who enjoy the benefits of this important park and schoolyard continue to advocate on its behalf and continue to be diligent custodians in a way that helps to encourage maximum appropriate use and by default discourages abuse by others.

Bennett Field is an important park and open space resource and we believe that this Master Plan strikes the right balance by providing renovated or new facilities that meet the needs of the three main constituent groups identified below:

- Neighborhood
- School Community
- City sports leagues

When implemented, the improvements identified within the master plan will provide enhanced opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Bennett Field will be a place where citizens of the city come to enjoy passive and active recreational opportunities, and engage in educational and environmental pursuits.

To those who participated in this process, the Bennett Field of the future will be filled with park patrons of all ages engaged in positive activities that help to maintain good health, good will and good cheer within our society.

We also wish to express our appreciation to members of the Worcester City Council, Worcester Statehouse Delegation, Worcester City Manager's Office, Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks, other committed public and private servants who contributed to the development of this Master Plan.

Thank you,

The Weston & Sampson Project Team

Introduction | Executive Summary

In late 2010, the City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks- Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division engaged Weston & Sampson and began collaboration with community stakeholders to develop this comprehensive Master Plan for Bennett Field.

Between January 2011 and June 2011, representatives of the Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division and Weston & Sampson developed conceptual and final master plans, which were generated in response to the expressed needs and desires of residents, Gates Lane of International Studies Elementary School representatives and city sports leagues. A workshop was held with members of the school community and several general public hearings were also held at the Gates Lane School. At the meetings, opinions were voiced on a wide range of topics that included:

- The condition of existing site features and facilities
- Programming protocols
- Security matters
- Maintenance concerns
- Trash generated by softball uses
- Traffic and circulation systems (including near gridlock conditions experienced during school day pick-up and drop-off periods)



With input from the various park stakeholders, the designers established a series of concept plans aimed at addressing the needs and priorities of those attending the public meetings. The Final Master Plan, as represented in this document, is to be presented to the Worcester Parks & Recreation Commission during a June 2011 public hearing. The plan represents the preferred alternative, but might also be called the “consensus plan” as it matches the goals and aspirations of the majority of the individuals that participated in the planning process. It is understood that the plan will be implemented over a period of time and when improvements are fully realized it will have achieved a number of primary community objectives including:

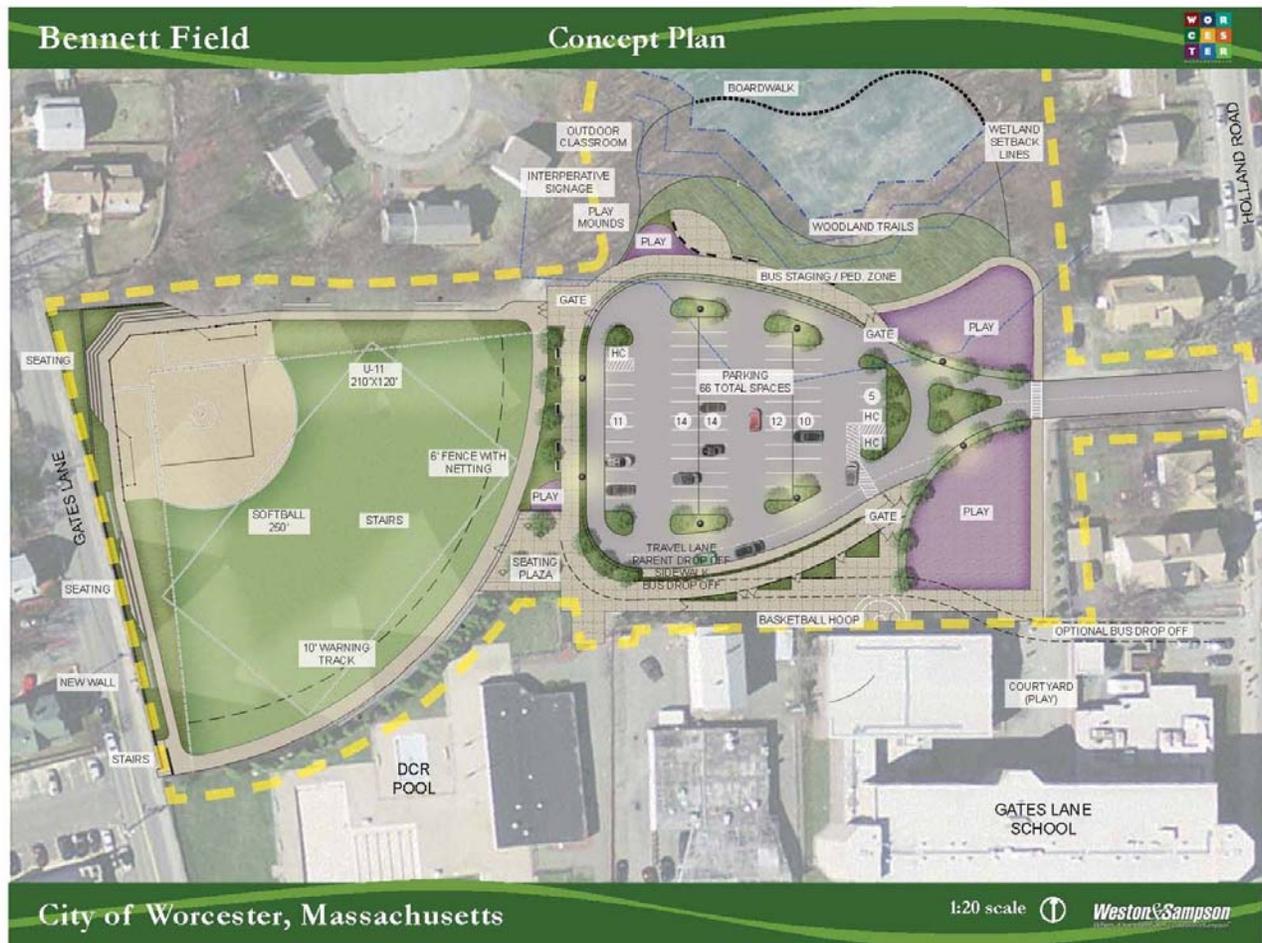
- Restoration of a deteriorated retaining wall system that forms the western edge of the property at Gates Lane
- Improved multi-use field
- Improved children’s playground facilities
- A new, small scale basketball facility
- Improved vehicular and pedestrian circulations systems

- Improved parking
- A dedicated bus drop-off and pick-up lane
- A new environmental trail and a restored woodlands/wetlands area
- New pedestrian pathways and seating areas
- Tree plantings and other landscape improvements
- Improved aesthetics throughout the site
- A cleaner, safer park
- A “greener” park
- A setting that is multi-ethnic and multi-generational and ADA compliant



The preferred Master Plan, which is described in great detail later in this report, includes several major initiatives that would bring significant positive change when compared to current conditions. These big ideas or major themes of the preferred plan are summarized in quick form below.

- **Field Complex-** The field complex remains in the same location, but would be reconstructed for softball and U-11 use and include new infields and outfields, a new backstop, new players benches, new options for spectator seating and new irrigation and subdrainage systems.
- **Courts-** A small basketball court amenity, with a single hoop and slightly less than half court pavement area would be constructed adjacent to the Gates Lane School.
- **Playground-** A refurbished and expanded children’s playground to include a more diverse range of equipment geared to children of all ages and abilities.
- **Parking and Circulation-** Dramatically reconfigured parking, access drive and pedestrian circulation systems including a new, dedicated bus drop-off and pick-up lane.
- **Gates Lane Retaining Wall-** A reconstructed retaining wall at the western park edge with integral spectator seating options.
- **Wetlands Woodlands Complex-** A plan to enhance the wetlands and woodlands complex located to the north of the parking area through invasive plant species controls, trash and debris removal and new boardwalk and pathway construction.



The Preferred Master Plan showing a reconstructed retaining wall and integral bleacher system along the Gates Lane park edge, renovated multi-use field, renovated parking area with dedicated bus drop-off and pick-up lane, expanded play facility, restored wetland/woodland area and other site park and field enhancements.

This report represents the culmination of the master planning process. The document contains narrative and graphic depictions of the preferred Master Plan with relevant sections dedicated to identifying the full extent of potential improvements, potential phasing scenarios and implementation strategies. The general theme was to improve facilities and programming opportunities, foster community interaction, improve park aesthetics, and improve environmental stewardship.

Implementation of the improvements outlined in this Master Plan will require significant effort. The Funding Opportunities section of the report identifies potential granting agencies, non-profit entities and other sources of capital dollars or in-kind services that might help with the refurbishment of various spaces and facilities.

It is important to note that a “Master Plan” is typically general and that recommendations are not “cast in stone”. It is fully intended and anticipated that as particular projects are implemented the actual, detailed scope of improvements will generally follow the recommendations contained in this report, but they will be refined or adjusted in order to meet actual site conditions and funding idiosyncrasies.

Project Background

This master plan was undertaken on behalf of the Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division on behalf of the residents of the Bennett Field constituent community and was completed by our core team of landscape architects and park planners. The specific tasks that were accomplished included:

- Deed research, utility compilation and field survey work to provide complete and recordable property line and topographic/detail base mapping of Bennett Field
- Inventory of all existing site facilities, features and conditions
- Participation in a public outreach process through the hosting of a series of public hearings and stakeholder interactions
- Development of preliminary and final master planning documents
- Presentation of the finished master plan to the Worcester Parks Commission and City Council

The Master Plan addresses the entire Bennett Field parcel, which encompasses approximately 5 acres of land, including the long forgotten undeveloped wetlands/woodlands area located to the north of the parking area. The park is divided into approximate thirds made up of:

- Open Field
- Parking area/schoolyard/children’s playground
- Undeveloped woodlands wetlands

Developed sections of the park contain the following major facilities:

Bennett Field - Major Facilities
Multi-purpose Field (softball and soccer and other informal uses)
Children’s Playground
Parking Area and Access Drives
Retaining Wall at Gates Lane
Woodlands / Wetlands Complex

Community Participation

In order to develop a master plan that met the recreational needs of the Gates Lane School, surrounding neighborhood and Worcester residents at large the Department of Public Works and Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division and Weston & Sampson conducted a series of workshops and public meetings to present ideas and receive community input. Over the course of four months, the Department of Publics Works and Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division and Weston & Sampson representatives met with Gates Lane School administrators, teachers and residential abutters to present concept plans for the property, receive comments, and address a variety of concerns. Following is a listing of the major public forums that were held.

Public Input Meetings		
Date	Public Hearing Location	Meeting Purpose / Participants
February 8, 2011	Gates Lane School	Introduction to the master planning process to the Gates Lane School PTO
March 7, 2011	Gates Lane School	Presentation of initial opportunities, reactions from meeting participants to the concepts, other general public input
April 11, 2011	Gates Lane School	Presentation of master plan, reactions from meeting participants to the concepts and other general public input
May 23, 2011	Worcester City Hall	Presentation of basic Master Plan proposals to the Conservation Commission to receive feedback related to work within the wetlands/woodlands area
February 14, 2012	Parks Commission Meeting	Presentation of the master plan to the Parks Commission, final Parks Commission approval
February 28, 2012	City Council	Present final preferred master plan

It should be noted that attendance at the various meetings was somewhat sparse, and included mostly those affiliated with the school community and a handful of neighborhood residents. Attendance notwithstanding, several consistent lines of conversation and observations became clear from the various interactions as summarized below:

- The fair to poor physical condition of the two basic recreational elements (field and playground) may discourage wider use by neighborhood residents.
- The school community rarely makes use of the field complex because it is difficult to safely access from the school yard and a row of evergreen trees blocks views into the area. The lack of visibility creates security concerns for potential facility users from the school community and surrounding neighborhood.
- Due to the relatively small size of the park parcel and the dominating presence of the Gates Lane School and adjacent DCR Pool Complex, the field is relatively hard to access and out of view to park passersby. As a result, it has been used primarily for permitted activities that include adult softball and youth soccer.

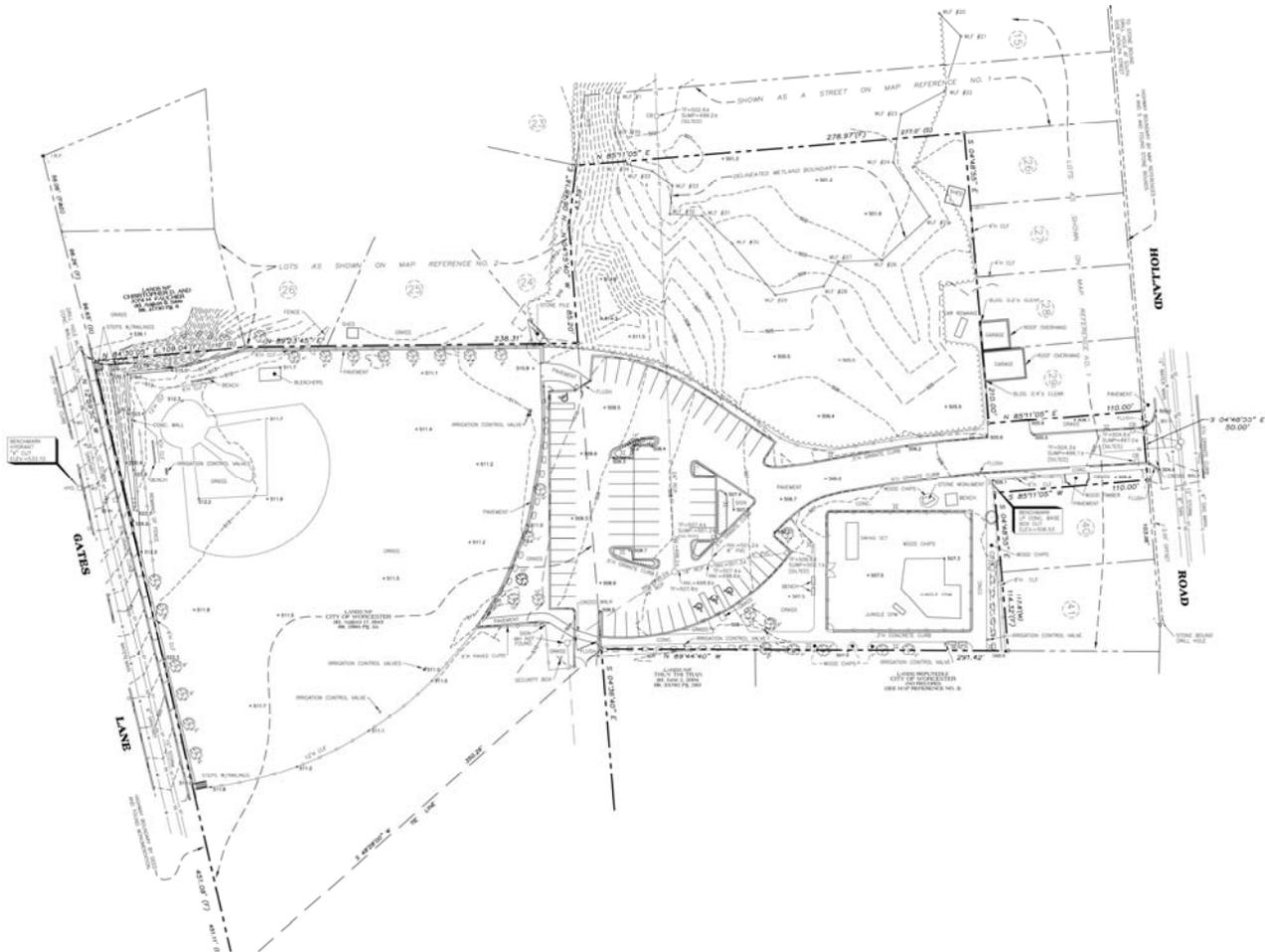
The factors referenced above have left the property in a bit of limbo in the sense that a lack of visibility, poor physical conditions and a perception that the park property is not quite park and not quite schoolyard have caused a lack of stewardship. It was generally agreed that the function and performance of all existing facilities must be improved and new recreational offerings must be offered in order to build a strong constituent stakeholder base. In this way, new park stewards from the school, neighborhood and city sports community will have been established. The best way to protect future investments at this property is through the creation of formal and informal recreational offerings that attract residents of all ages to the property in the pursuit of activity and enjoyment. Proper uses during all seasons of the year and all times of the day will help to discourage the inappropriate uses that often compromise public safety and enjoyment within parks and open space properties like Bennett Field.

The Master Plan attempts to address the challenges referenced above by identifying a series of phased improvements that provide maximum recreational benefit to the various stakeholders. In the end, the Master

Plan represents a balance between active and passive recreation, school use and neighborhood use, natural and developed landscapes and bus/vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

Existing Conditions

During the early stages of the project, representatives of Weston & Sampson gathered all available mapping and plan information to support the master planning study and development efforts. The City provided GIS mapping for the property and aerial photography was obtained for the development of all conceptual master plans and drawings. Weston & Sampson staff also completed deed research and performed on the ground property line and topographic surveys of the site. The plans that were yielded through these efforts will be suitable for development of construction documents for all future improvement programs. A copy of the survey is included below.



Weston & Sampson representatives also undertook a considerable amount of field reconnaissance work to observe how facilities are used, to better understand the physical characteristics of the site and to record the conditions of all natural and man-made features at the property. The following is a summary of our findings.

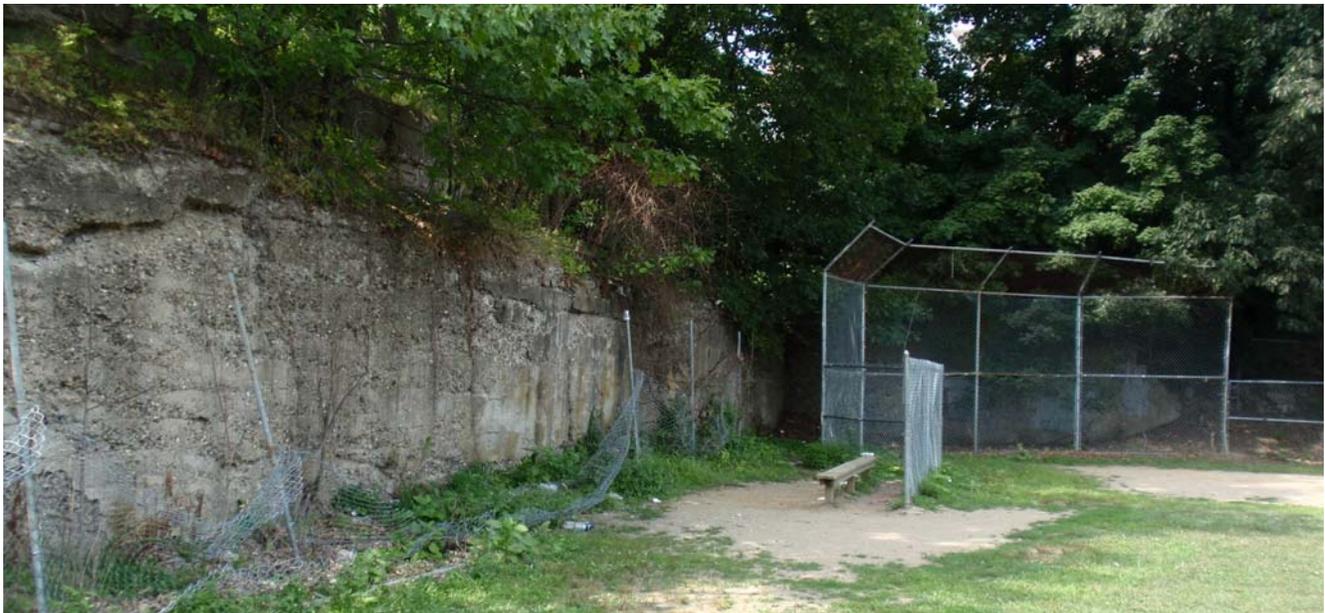
Topography

With the exception of the park edges located along the western (Gates Lane) and northern (residential abutters) park perimeters, the balance of the Bennett Field park site is relatively flat with little change in elevation from one area to the next. At Gates Lane the roadway and sidewalk that parallel the western edge of the park is located between 8 and 21 feet above the elevation of the field and other surrounding areas.

The flatness of the multi-use field in particular, combined with heavy use, lack of formal drainage systems and limited size makes it difficult to maintain good playing conditions, and water ponds and puddles in places during major storm events. Elevations from select locations of the park are indicated below:

Representative Park Location	Elevation
Northwest corner at Gates Lane	+ 535 FT
Base of wall behind home plate	+ 515 FT
Southwest corner at Gates Lane	+ 518 FT
Southwest corner at field/base of wall	+ 512 FT
DCR Pool Complex	+ 510 FT
Entry Drive at Holland Road	+ 504.5
Parking Lot (middle)	+ 508 FT
Wetlands/Woodlands (High)	+ 506 FT
Wetlands/Woodlands (Low)	+ 501 FT

Work within and adjacent to wetlands is tightly controlled to ensure that future developments at the park protect and enhance all environmental resources and inherent drainage characteristics. As actual improvement projects are outlined and implemented, permits will be required through the Worcester Conservation Commission. In essence, no net loss of storm drainage storage area within the Bennett Park property will be permitted and provisions must be made to protect all wetland resource areas both pre and post construction. The filling of wetland resources is not contemplated under the preferred master plan program.



The image above shows the deteriorated retaining wall located behind the field along Gates Lane. There is a 21 foot elevation change between the field at the back of the backstop and the city sidewalk along Gates Lane (at top left in image).

Vegetation

Existing vegetation at the Bennett Field property is characterized and summarized as follows:

- Deciduous shade trees planted around the perimeter of the multi-use field (mostly red maple with some honey locust) and around the perimeter of the parking lot.
- Evergreen hedgerows (arborvitae) that form the perimeter of the property at the DCR State Pool Complex and that separate the field from the parking area.
- Silky dogwood, multi-flora rose, leather leaf and poison ivy make up much of the understory vegetation with the wetlands/woodlands area. Exotic invasive plant species constitute some of the upper story vegetation within this same area.
- Very limited plant diversity overall.
- Scrub and weed growth along the Gates Lane side of the field, much of it growing within and adjacent to the deteriorated retaining walls.

As future projects are planned, it will be essential to include new, strategic tree plantings and limited tree removals to provide a safer and more functional and attractive park landscape for future generations. Tree plantings are critical elements in any park setting as they provide:

- Shade for those seeking relief from the hot summer sun
- A place for a picnic or social gathering
- Aesthetic qualities that benefit a neighborhood
- Refuge for birds/wildlife
- Visual screening to reduce impacts of various park activities to surrounding properties



Deciduous shade trees (mostly red maple and honey locust) and a hedgerow of arborvitae form the edges of the multi-use field complex. The density of plantings separating the field from the school yard and DCR Pool Facility and creates a feeling of isolation within the field area. Breaks within the plantings would help to create stronger links between divergent park areas and improve visibility and security.

Neighborhood Setting

Bennett Field is located approximately 2.8 miles southwest of Worcester Center (City Hall), just .2 miles from Webster Square and is surrounded by roadways on two sides as follows:

Gates Lane- a two-way, primarily residential street that links Main Street to Mill Street in the vicinity of Coes Reservoir. Gates Lane and the deteriorating concrete retaining wall form the western edge of Bennett Field.

Holland Road- a short, two-way, primarily residential street that connects Main Street to Catalpa Street. Catalpa is a private, unimproved residential street that links to Montague Street.

Main Street- Bennett Field is separated from Main Street by the DCR Pool Facility, a commercial property (dry cleansers) and the Gates Lane School. A major thoroughfare, Main Street is also known as State Route 9, and it connects to Worcester Center to the northeast.



The image above shows neighborhood context. Main Street (designated as Route 9) is a major transportation corridor with mixed uses including a shopping center and other retail, commercial, residential and institutional uses. The Gates Lane School, DCR Pool Facility the grade change at Gates Lane and narrow opening at Holland Road make the Bennett Field location feel remote and off the beaten path.

There are hundreds of city residents living within a very short walk of the Bennett Field property. The City is looking to form and maintain partnerships with local park stewards and the Gates Lane School in order to achieve the basic goals of a cleaner and safer Bennett Field. The preferred master plan seeks to improve access to the park and visibility from both within the park looking out and from outside the park looking in.

From a demographic perspective, incomes of residents within the Webster Square/Main Street neighborhood are significantly lower compared to the City as a whole. The passive and active recreational amenities to be provided at Bennett Field will therefore be of critical importance to residents who may have limited options for recreational pursuits.

Vehicular Park Access, Parking, Circulation and Pedestrian Park Circulation

Vehicular Access | Vehicular access is provided from a single location via the entrance drive from Holland Road. The Bennett Field property is at its narrowest at this location. The access drive is used for school pick-up and drop-off and for both DCR Pool Facility and Bennett Field park use. The servicing of the DCR Pool Facility is also achieved by negotiating the Bennett Field parking area, as no other service access is available.

Parking | Parking is provided within the core of the Bennett Field site. The parking area must serve:

- Gates Lane School during the school year and lower intensity summer session
- DCR Pool Facility during the summer season
- Bennett Field park property, primarily during the spring, summer and fall seasons

The parking area contains 71 total spaces, of which 4 are accessible. The parking area is located toward the geographic center of Bennett Field. Due to limitations in the design of the parking area, gridlock conditions occur during peak drop-off and pick-up periods at the Gates Lane School. The central location also serves to isolate the school yard (to the east) from the multi-use field (to the west). Parents, teachers, school administrators and area residents have all reported that the gridlock conditions create hardships for all during extended periods of time.



Other limited parking can be secured on area streets, although the on-street parking on the three closest streets is permitted/not permitted as follows:

Gates Lane- not specifically prohibited, yet the narrow width and steep terrain that prevails along this residential street make parallel parking unlikely and unsafe.

Holland Road- not specifically prohibited, and residents and parents picking up children do attempt to parallel park in various locations, creating further narrowing of the roadway.

Main Street- parallel parking is not permitted in the vicinity of the DCR Pool Facility or Gates Lane School.



Parents begin cueing up for pick-up at the Gates Lane School well before the actual release time. By the time children are released gridlock conditions prevail with frequent conflicts between buses and passenger vehicles. The cueing also blocks access to parking stalls throughout the lot.

In short, there is a severe lack of parking at Bennett Field since it serves by default as the sole parking facility for the Gates Lane School community. At present, dozens of parents and teachers make use of a private parking area located across Main Street at the Webster Square Shopping Center. It was noted and recognized that if the retail space within the shopping center were to approach capacity, parking would be in much greater demand and teachers and parents might be precluded from making use of the shopping center parking area.

For normal park activities, the parking area has sufficient capacity. The problem is that peak park use periods often overlap the school season or the DCR Pool Facility summer season, when parking spaces are again in very high demand. This is particularly the case since the DCR Pool Facility underwent a major reconstruction prior to the 2010 season. The pool facility has no formal parking of its own and service access to the pool is only available through the Bennett Field property and a service gate located adjacent to the parking area.

Pedestrian Access | Pedestrian access into Bennett Field property is available from two locations, which contributes to the feeling of isolation that prevails within the field vicinity. Pedestrian access is provided as follows:

Gates Lane- pedestrian access is provided at the southwest corner of the park site via an old concrete staircase from Gates Lane down to the field level. A simple opening in the chain link fence at Gates Lane forms the entrance. It is low visibility and hard to see and many park and/or school patrons are unaware of its existence. School representatives also mentioned that it is not a viable alternative for school access, because the field is out of view from Gates Lane and the schoolyard is out of view from the field due to the evergreen hedgerows that separate the two spaces.



View of the staircase that provides access into the Bennett Field property from Gates Lane. A second staircase is located at the northwest corner of the park site, but it has been long abandoned and is unsafe for use.

Holland Road- a sidewalk follows the entrance drive from Holland Road into the core of the site. Uninterrupted pedestrian flow can be achieved to the school, pool complex and field complex.

Park Edges

As previously referenced, Bennett Field is not highly visible to the public because it has few edges that border public streets. In fact, the only real street edge is located along Gates Lane, and the visual connections are not strong because the park edge has become overgrown with invasive tree and shrub growth and because there is a significant grade change between the street and the park.



Views looking south (park on the left) and north (park on the right) respectively along Gates Lane. Significant grade changes, the old chain link fence and invasive plant growth block views to the park below.

Other park edges are formed by residential properties to the north and by the DCR Pool Facility, private commercial use and Gates Lane School property to the south. To the east, a minor park edge is present in the form of the entrance drive from Holland Road. However, to the average passerby there is little sense that a parks property lies beyond the core parking area which appears to support the adjacent school and nothing more.

In the end, lack of visibility impacts public perception, public access and public use of the Bennett Field property.



Although a minor pedestrian pathway provides access, the field complex is not highly visible from the core parking area and Gates Lane School vicinity, which has caused administrators to shy away from use of the field for school activities.

Recreation Facilities

The chart below identifies conditions summaries for the major facilities and features that are located at Bennett Field. In general, conditions of most park facilities are fair or poor, and suffer from a lack of recent capital improvements and deterioration that is beyond what can be corrected through on-going maintenance efforts by city parks forces. The children’s playground and the concrete retaining wall at Gates Lane were noted to be in the poorest condition.

Facility	Condition Assessment
Multi-use Field	The infield is in poor to fair condition, the outfield grass areas are in poor condition due to heavy use and poor drainage. Grading is irregular in places and heavy use has further exacerbated this condition by compacting and depressing large extents of the field. The backstop is in generally poor condition and players’ benches are in poor condition. Bleachers are in fair condition. The irrigation system is not functioning. The field area is impacted by the very poor condition of the Gates Lane retaining wall, which is in an extremely deteriorated state.
Playground	The children’s playground is in poor condition and all equipment requires replacement. City representatives have announced plans to significantly upgrade children’s play facilities.
Access Drive and Parking Area	The condition of curbs, pavements and drainage systems are generally fair. The lighting system works intermittently and requires upgrading.
Gates Lane Retaining Wall	The wall is in an extremely deteriorated condition. A comprehensive structural assessment has been completed in conjunction with the master planning effort. The structural report has been furnished separately to city representatives.
Wetlands/Woodlands	This undeveloped area is often not even associated with the park or school properties because access is restricted by a high chain link fence. The wetlands and woodlands are adversely impacted by trash and debris, invasive plant growth and a large number of damaged, dead or diseased deciduous trees that are scattered throughout.
Pedestrian Pathway Network	Pathways are limited and located within the school and parking area environs and along the access drive. Pathways are in generally fair or good condition and are constructed of asphalt or concrete. There is no formal pathway system within the multi-use field vicinity.
Site Furnishings	Benches, fences and other site furnishings vary in condition from generally good and to be retained to poor and in need of removal and replacement. Additional site furnishings are desirable in order to support daily use and special events at the park site.

Following are a series of photographs that serve to document the existing conditions of various park facilities and furnishings.



The multi-use field is in fair to poor condition throughout.





Play equipment is in fair to poor condition and does not meet current safety standards. City representatives have announced plans to begin an initial renovation effort at the playground.



Gates Lane retaining wall is in very poor condition. In recent years temporary chain link fencing has been used to keep park patrons away from the base of the wall. The retaining wall forms the entire Gates Lane park edge and a portion of the northern park perimeter that is shared with residential abutters. Invasive plant growth is exacerbating the condition.



The wetland/woodland area located to the north of the parking area provides opportunities for passive recreational opportunities, environmental enhancement and education in a way that would compliment other active recreational pursuits at Bennett Field.



Cement concrete sidewalks are in good condition and provide good access to the children’s playground and rear student entrance to the Gates Lane School.

Preferred Master Plan Recommendations

There is a great opportunity to improve passive and recreational facilities and other site features at Bennett Field so that the neighborhood, school community, DCR Pool Facility users and the city as a whole can benefit and be better served. This section of the master plan identifies the basic scope of recommended park improvements. It is important to note that the range of these improvements has been validated by public interaction and comment from the public hearing process.

The improvements identified in the Preferred Master Plan address the following basic needs, which were all identified through within the collaborative master planning process:

- The need to provide upgraded recreational facilities
- The need to provide upgraded playground facilities
- The need to provide improved vehicular access, circulation and site user safety
- The need to accommodate the bus drop-off and pick-up operation in a manner that reduces conflicts and the traffic gridlock that occurs during peak periods of use
- The need to address safety issues related to the deteriorated Gates Lane retaining wall and children's play equipment
- The need to provide new recreational opportunities to attract a wider audience and to build the next generation of park stewards
- The need to improve visibility throughout the property in an effort to discourage inappropriate park activities where offenders take advantage of the rather remote feeling of the field and surrounding park areas
- A need to provide new and improved/expanded outdoor gathering spaces to support school and community functions
- A desire to upgrade park aesthetics overall
- A critical need to design all future facilities in a way that recognized the city's ever evolving ability to provide strategic and specifically targeted maintenance and upkeep services

Master planning process participants recognized that the cost for major renovation efforts is well beyond the financial means of the city at this time, and that under the best of scenarios improvements must be prioritized and implemented under many phases. A time frame of 5-10 years will likely be needed to accomplish the majority of desired improvements and the participation of both the Worcester DPW - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division and the Worcester School Department will be needed.

Specific Site Improvements

The narratives that follow describe the basic scope of improvements to be undertaken within the Bennett Field property. It is important to note that the potential scope of improvements has been presented to the public at numerous forums. The Master Plan itself represents a good-faith attempt to provide new and refurbished recreation improvements in a manner that improves conditions and opportunities for enjoyment to the school community, residential abutter community and other park users alike. The narratives describe and support graphic plan images that are included throughout the section. These plans are conceptual in nature and likely to be refined and expanded upon during future final design and implementation phases of work.

The overall Bennett Field Preferred Master Plan is presented on the following page. The plan shows the preferred and recommended range of improvements for the entire property. We then use excerpts from that plan to identify and describe in more detail the full range of intended improvements. An 8 ½ X 11 inch version of this plan is contained in the Appendix.



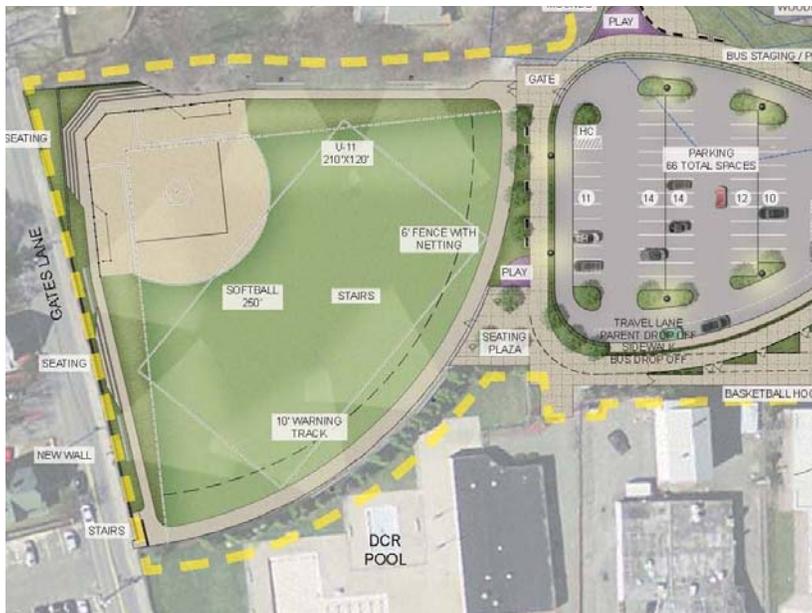
The plan above represents the final, preferred master plan with a range of improvements that best meet the wants, needs and aspirations of the Bennett Field neighborhood, Gates Lane School and the city as a whole.

Recreation Facilities | Fields

Primary recommendations for the multi-use field complex include complete reconstruction of the infield and outfield areas. The field will continue to be programmed for adult softball and for youth sports activities. The master plan identifies a single U-11 soccer field footprint, which makes use of the softball outfield area. The softball field remains in the same basic location, although shifted slightly to accommodate refurbishment of the Gates Lane retaining wall.

In conjunction with reconstructing the retaining wall, it will possible to incorporate bleacher style seating behind the backstop in order to offer good views for spectators. Other specific improvements that are likely to be part of a major field renovation project will include the following:

- New backstop and fencing
- New player’s benches/dugouts
- Re-grading throughout and new infield and outfield
- Removable goals for soccer
- Drainage systems
- Irrigation systems
- Pathway connections to parking areas, park entrances and other facilities
- Athletic field, parking and pedestrian lighting



The field improvements will allow for more flexible programming opportunities and support a wider array of sports league and neighborhood use.

Recreation Facilities | Children's Playground

There is a critical need to implement a series of playground initiatives to replace the deteriorated play equipment that is currently in place at Bennett Field. The City plans to embark on the first playground improvement initiative as this master plan continues through the approval process. Basic goals, as depicted in a very conceptual way on the adjacent plan excerpt, will include the following:



- The established of a dynamic and highly interactive series of play pods at four locations. This encourages movement between spaces and a more exciting and interactive play environment that is also focused on exercise and associated health benefits.
- Incorporation of both traditional (using manufactured play equipment) and non-traditional play experiences (using other landscape features) that promote creative play, use of imagination and provide enjoyment for children of a variety of ages and abilities.
- Establishment of tree plantings, gathering spaces of various sizes and other park furnishings that support parents, grandparents and supervisors and a range of outdoor activities.

The master plan excerpt above identifies a variety of play pods scattered around the perimeter of the parking area.

More specifically, it is anticipated that the playground and ancillary spaces would support both Gates Lane School and general neighborhood users and include the following basic amenities:

- Age appropriate play equipment for children with differing abilities
- Age appropriate signage
- Access ramps, walks and transfer stations for ADA compliance

- Resilient surfacing
- Gathering spaces and nodes with benches, tables, trash receptacles and other furnishings
- Landscaping and related site amenities

Recreation Facilities | Small Scale Basketball Court

Recognizing the need to introduce new active recreational opportunities to support school and neighborhood use, the master plan identifies the potential for constructing a small scale, less than ½ court basketball amenity adjacent to the Gates Lane School. This feature would include:

- Paved court surface
- Color sealcoating to denote the key
- A single basketball backboard, rim and net

Other Park Improvements | Entrances

As part of park improvement undertakings it is recommended that park entrances be upgraded to be more visible and more attractive and designed in a manner that alerts passersby that there is a major parks resource located beyond the entrance. The preferred master plan identifies the need to upgrade the pedestrian arrival experience at two locations through the installation of simple amenities that might include:

- New pavements treatments and stairs (where applicable)
- New park signage
- New gateway features (piers, columns, arbors etc)
- Tree plantings
- Other landscape enhancements

Other Park Improvements | Edges

In conjunction with the reconstruction of the Gates Lane retaining wall (this is the only major park edge that abuts a city street), it is suggested that improvements be made to the park edge to potentially include:

- Removal of invasive plant species
- Park signage
- Ornamental (metal) fencing
- Entrance improvements as described previously
- Upgrading of the city sidewalk that parallels Gates Lane

Other Park Improvements | Pathway Systems

Interior Paths | A new pathway/warning track is proposed around the perimeter of the multi-use field in order to accomplish the following:

- Add a new recreational element (loop path) to encourage exercise by members of the school community and surrounding neighborhood
- Provide ADA compliant access between the parking area and the field complex
- Serve as an actual warning track for the softball use

- Provide linkage to the pedestrian park entrance at Gates Lane

Surfacing options for the path include stonedust and asphalt pavement. Asphalt pavement is suggested for high use areas that would include the area behind the backstop and the two pathway legs that connect to the parking area and pedestrian park entrance via the stairs to Gates Lane. The warning track area will be stone dust.

Other Park Improvements | Gathering Spaces

Inherent to any successful park and schoolyard space are gathering areas that help to support a wide range of park and school activities and community events and that foster social interaction and camaraderie among park stakeholders. The preferred master plan suggests establishing a simple series of gathering spaces. Spaces are situated around the core parking area and in close proximity to the Gates Lane School and to the various play pods. The largest proposed seating space would be situated at a major park crossroads near the center of the site and function as a gateway between the school, multi-use field and DCR Pool Facility. In particular, the spaces are intended to offer an outdoor educational venue to the Gate Lane School community for use during nice weather. Specific improvements within community gathering spaces are likely to include the following:



- Special pavement treatments
- Furnishings such as benches, tables
- Shade shelters or pergola
- Interpretive signage
- Electrical system hook-ups
- Shade tree plantings

Other Park Improvements | Parking Area and Bus Loop

A major aspect of the master plan is to redevelop the core parking area in order to improve circulation and reduce conflicts between vehicles, buses and pedestrians. For nine months each year, the most obvious and intensive use of Bennett Field relates to the activities and needs associated with the Gates Lane School. At present, gridlock occurs each school day during the morning and afternoon drop-off periods with parents, caretakers and bus drivers all competing for the same turf. The situation creates hardship to residential abutters, who often can not reach their homes via Holland Road. Moving into and out of a parking space becomes virtually impossible during these periods of time as buses and personal vehicles cue to pick up children and block all travel routes. The plan excerpt at right establishes a separate, dedicated bus lane that would wrap around the outside perimeter of

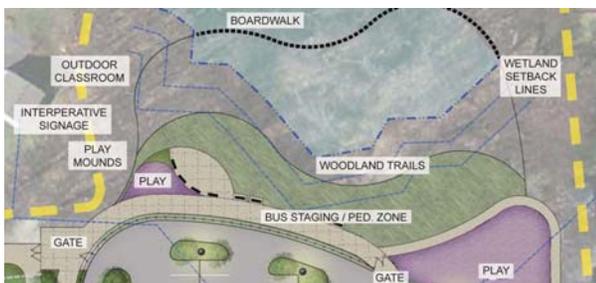


the parking area. The lane would be gated at both ends and be opened and closed on a daily basis to facilitate exclusively the bus drop-off and pick-up operation. When not in use the gates are closed and access by vehicles (other than buses) is prohibited. When not functioning as the bus lane, the area serves as a perimeter pathway and pedestrian travel corridor.

The design of the parking area is also simplified and with bus conflicts eliminated, parents and teachers will be able to access actual parking stalls and cue for student pick up in a more organized fashion without interrupting the flow of buses. Specific improvements within the parking area would include:

- New pavements
- New or realigned curbs lines
- Adjusted storm drainage systems
- Adjusted lighting systems
- Dedicated bus lane with specially articulated surfaces
- Wood guardrails to channel traffic
- Gates to restrict bus lane access
- Landscaping
- Snow storage
- Other fence lines and gates to define the schoolyard and prevent students from accessing the parking area during outdoor recess and during other times of outdoor school activities

Other Park Improvements | Wetlands/Woodlands Enhancements



In order to restore a stressed wetlands and woodlands environment and in order to provide new passive recreational opportunities that help foster a new generation of environmental stewards, the master plan calls for the restoration of the wetlands/woodlands area located to the north of the parking area. This area is presently off limits due to the extent of chain link fencing that prevents access. But this fact has made the area more susceptible to abuse and openings in the fence allow

access for dumping and other inappropriate activities. The basic concept is to restore this area from an environmental perspective and to make it look and feel a part of the overall Bennett Field property (which it is). To this end, improvements would entail:

- Removal of invasive plant species
- Removal of damaged or diseased trees and shrubs
- Removal of trash and debris
- Supplemental planting of native plant species
- Introduction of a wetland/woodlands trails to include elevated boardwalks through sensitive areas
- Introduction of interpretive signage that explains the environmental benefits of a healthy, fully functioning wetlands/woodlands condition

Other Park Improvements | Gates Lane Retaining Wall

As noted throughout this document, the Gates Lane retaining wall is in seriously poor condition and constitutes a safety hazard to park users. Periodically, small sections of the wall crumble and fall to the field surface. For this reason, a temporary chain link fence should be maintained in place along the base of the wall to prevent pedestrian access to the area. The City is presently exploring ways to add reconstruction of this retaining wall to the capital budget. Since the wall serves to retain a public way (Gates Lane) other sources of funding (beyond traditional park sources) are being explored. A Structural Report has been prepared in conjunction with this master plan and furnished separately to the city.

It is recommended that the Gates Lane retaining wall be reconstructed in advance of refurbishing the field, as a restored retaining wall may include an integral bleacher and construction vehicle access to the wall must occur over the field, which will create disturbance.

Other Park Improvements | Landscape Enhancements

While major master plan recommendations are discussed in detail above, there are other miscellaneous improvements that if incorporated into various park improvement initiatives would help to dramatically transform the overall look, feel and function of Bennett Field. These improvements include:

- Installation of new shade trees at select locations
- Installation of new park furnishings including benches, picnic tables, a shade shelter, trash receptacles, bike racks, fences and informational signage

Summary

Through the community process it became evident that:

- Bennett Field is underused and under serves both the school and neighborhood communities
- A new generation of park stewards must be established to help protect the park as future improvements are implemented
- The city is committed to upgrading the park through a series of capital improvement programs
- Improvements will help to establish or reestablish a wide range of passive and active recreational amenities that meet the needs of the Bennett Field community
- The full renovation of Bennett Field will take numerous phases to be fully realized

A successful Bennett Field will host residents aged 1 to 91 and improvements will help to better establish a diverse park environment that supports a variety of uses and therefore tends to discourage inappropriate use. The new Bennett Field will foster a safe and healthy environment for all members of the park community.

Budgets and Phasing

The Budget Summary included below identifies the initial breakdown of costs associated with the various improvement programs. All costs are in current (2011) dollars, have been rounded and are estimated based on the preferred master plan designs that has been developed for the community.

Park Improvement Element	Budget Cost	Notes
Contractor's General Conditions	\$125,000	
Demo & Site Prep	\$200,000	
Gates Lane Retaining Wall Renovation	\$800,000	Integral bleachers
Renovate Existing Softball Field	\$300,000	New infield, turf, irrigation, grading
New Fencing for Fields	\$96,000	Backstop, dugout & side fencing
Ball Field Netting	\$30,000	Netting between field and parking lot
Players Benches & Bleachers	\$96,000	
Athletic Field Lighting	\$300,000	
New Stairs from Gates Lane	\$14,400	
Specialty Pavement areas	\$144,000	Concrete walkways and bus loop
Informal Path Systems and Woodland Trails	\$72,000	
New Parking Lot	\$360,000	Asphalt, curbing, drainage, lighting, planted islands
New Fencing/Guardrail at School and Parking Lot	\$60,000	
Vehicular Maintenance Gates	\$43,200	3 double swing gates
Playground & Game Areas	\$240,000	
Benches, trash receptacles, bike racks & other amenities	\$24,000	
Utility Services	\$60,000	Upgrading if deemed necessary
Landscaping & Misc. Elements	\$120,000	
Subtotal	\$3,084,600	
Contingency (10%)	\$308,460	
Grand Total	\$3,393,060	
Say	\$3,400,000	

Given such a large dollar value associated with the total potential improvement program, it is critical to establish basic priorities so that the most critically needed improvements are undertaken as part of the earliest initiatives. To this end, the city has already earmarked funding for a first round of playground improvements. This work is identified as Phase 1, below.

Park Phase	Description
1. Children’s Playground Upgrades	Replace existing playground equipment within existing play envelope at back of Gates Lane School
2. Gates Lane Retaining Wall	Reconstruct the retaining wall, construct integral bleachers behind backstop and install new park entrance and staircase at southwest corner of park from Gates Lane to field
3. Field	Reconstruct field for optimal play.
4. Parking	Reconfigure and reconstruct parking lot.
5. Additional Playgrounds	Install playgrounds in areas created by parking lot realignment.
6. Wetlands	Create boardwalk and pathway system through existing wetlands.

Funding Considerations

There are many potential sources of funding from both public and private entities that could help to pay for potential improvements to Bennett Field. Donations, both large and small, can be lumped together to create the financing needed to undertake meaningful improvements. The Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division will aggressively pursue a variety of funding and implementation strategies that could include:

- **Traditional Public Bidding-** Develop plans, specifications and estimates for the desired improvements, publicly advertise, receive bids and award a construction contract to the lowest qualified bidder. Projects typically range from small (say \$50,000 or so) to very large (many hundreds of thousands of dollars).
- **In-kind Services-** Implement improvements making use of city labor forces, materials and equipment. This method is typically appropriate for projects that are limited in scope, such as the construction of a parking area or driveway, or refurbishment of adjacent city sidewalks. As funding, material, equipment and human resources permit, other minor improvement efforts can be planned and undertaken. The removal of dead or diseased trees, pruning of healthy trees, and the installation of other limited site or utility elements are examples of work efforts that can sometimes be completed by using city forces and materials.
- **Donations / Corporate Sponsorships / Community Build-** Implement improvements for projects through a variety of means that might include, construction of a children’s playground by a corporation or community group or construction of a park feature or facility with funding generated through linkage or mitigation arrangements (often originating from the approval of a large area development). In certain cases, improvements can also be undertaken by contractors looking to donate their services.

For consideration, a number of potential funding sources and mechanisms have been identified. Many of the governmental sources identified allocate millions of dollars per year for parks, open space and athletic facility improvement programs, but competition is intense. The actual improvements are then implemented through a public design, bid and construct process.

Partnerships

Partnerships can also play an important role in the overall plan to improve, manage and maintain various park properties. As an example, there are many privately managed sports leagues in Worcester with a history of supporting certain maintenance and capital improvement initiatives. City’s and Town’s are increasingly relying on these types of public/private partnerships to create the types of facilities and related playing conditions that are needed to support sports programming.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Division of Conservation Services (DCS)

This state agency has funded hundreds of park, open space and recreation projects throughout Massachusetts over the past several decades. Each June, the agency receives applications from municipalities for improvements to parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities or assistance in the acquisition of open space properties. DCS administers several programs including the “**LAND**” program, which generally funds acquisitions and limited enhancements to open space properties. The funds for acquisitions are designed to protect natural resources by eliminating threatened development for conservation. The “**PARC**” program typically funds the purchases and the renovations of parks, playgrounds and athletic facilities in larger communities that have fewer outlets for recreation. Demographics play a role in the grant award process. Communities that are more urban in nature with high percentages of low-income residents tend to fair better

in the decision-making process as compared to smaller communities or larger communities with higher income levels. Worcester has a very successful track record in applying for and receiving funding from both of these long established programs.

DCS also receives Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds for distribution to communities that are considering park improvements or land acquisitions as described above. The allocation for Massachusetts for the upcoming year has not been determined, although the funds, when available, may be used to supplement both the Self-help and Urban Self-help programs.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Ch. 91 Funding

Worcester and every other city and town in Massachusetts receives annual Chapter 91 funding through MassDOT. This funding is intended to pay for the restoration of local streets and roadways. Chapter 91 funding could be considered for the reconstruction of the Gates Lane retaining wall, which forms an integral part of this city street.

Other Alternative Methodologies for Implementing Improvements

The City of Worcester, through the Department of Public Works and Parks - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division, receives annual quotations for a variety of public improvements that can be ordered on an as-needed basis. The installation of fencing, bituminous concrete pavements for roadways/parking areas, and curbing are examples. As deemed appropriate, ordering work through this method could be used to complement or support other improvements that are accomplished through other means.

Bennett Field Master Plan

APPENDIX

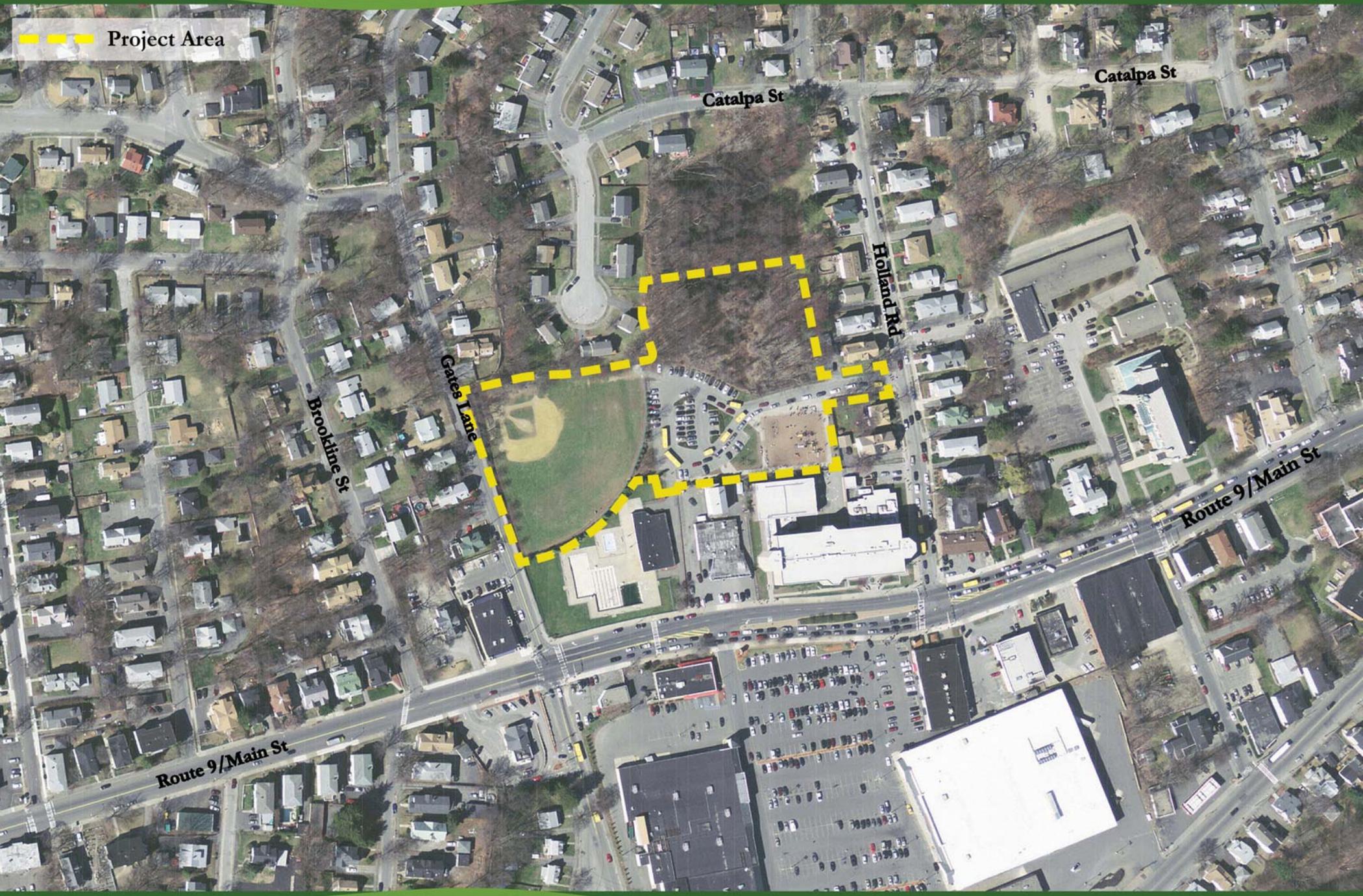
Bennett Field

Concept Plan

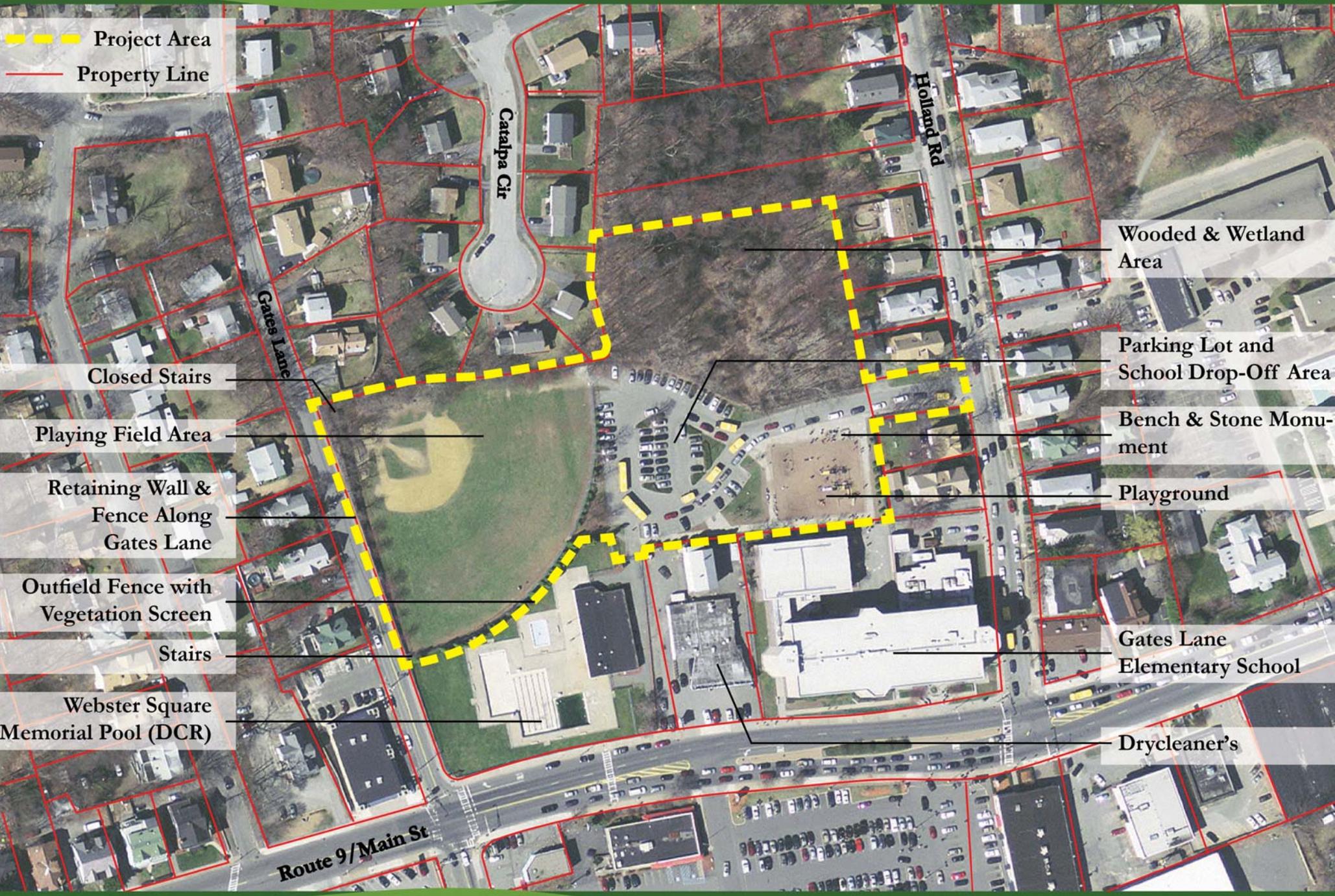




 Project Area



 Project Area
 Property Line



Fence and Wall



Playground & School



Edges & Entrances



Parking Lot

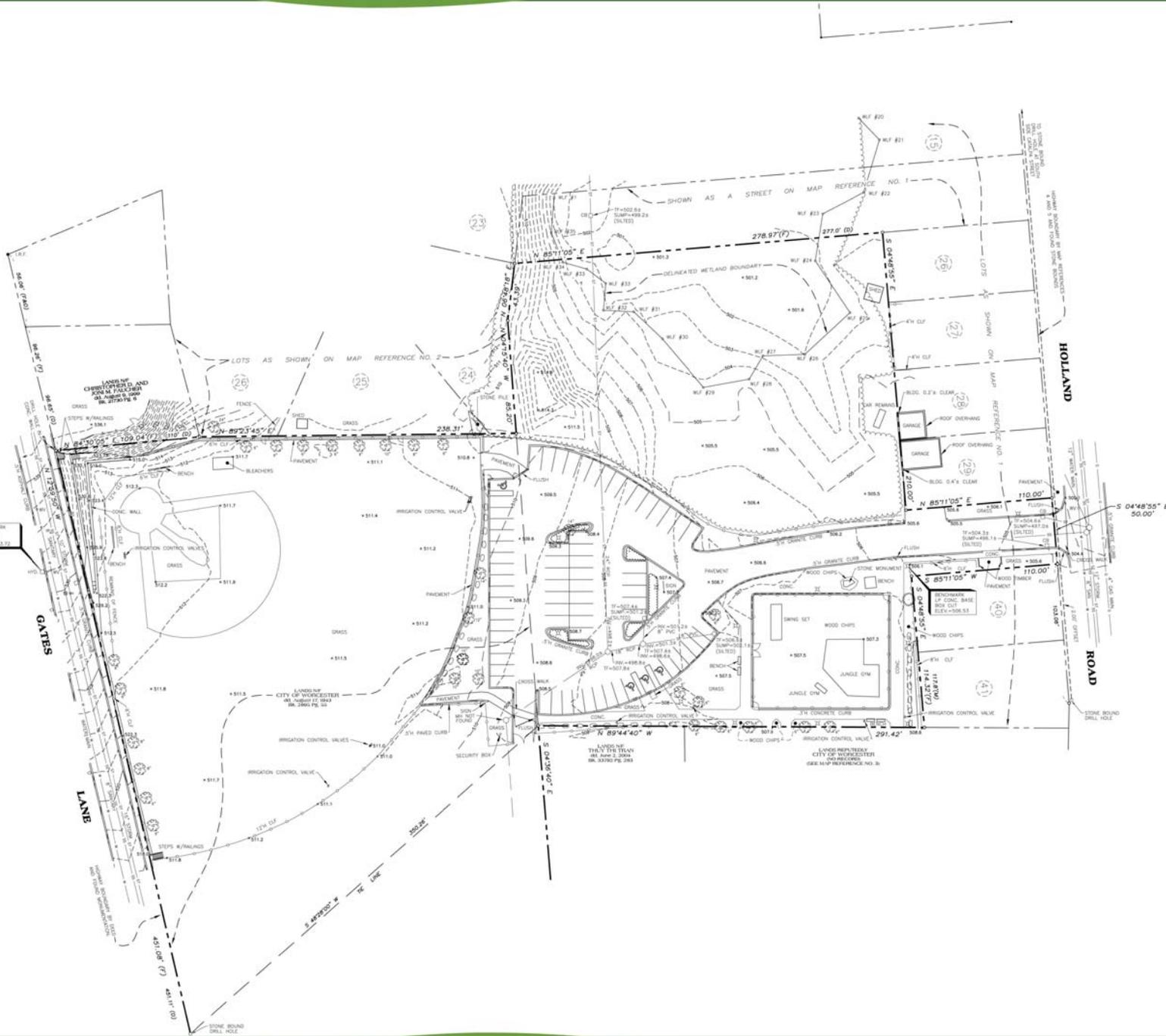


Woodland & Wetland



Playing Field





LEGEND

- TREE CANOPY
- DECIDUOUS TREE
- CONIFEROUS TREE
- SHrub/BUSH
- SOIL
- SPEED BUMP
- UTILITY POLE
- LIGHT POLE
- ELECTRIC TRANSFORMER
- ELECTRIC BOX
- ELECTRIC METER
- HYDRANT
- WATER VALVE
- MANHOLE
- RECORD MANHOLE
- CATCH BASIN
- METAL POST/BOLLARD
- CHAIN LINK FENCE
- OVERHEAD UTILITY WIRES
- GAS LINE
- WATER LINE & WATER VALVE
- SANITARY SEWER LINE
- STORM SEWER LINE
- CURBING
- UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
- DENOTES FIELD
- DENOTES DEED
- DENOTES MAP

GENERAL NOTES:

- 1) LOT NUMBERS REFER TO LOTS SHOWN ON MAP REFERENCE NO. 1 AND 2.
- 2) UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATIONS SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON UTILITY EVIDENCE VISIBLE AT GROUND SURFACE AND RECORD DRAWINGS AND ARE SUBJECT TO FIELD VERIFICATION BY EXCAVATION. UTILITIES SHOWN DO NOT PURPORT TO CONSTITUTE OR REPRESENT ALL UTILITIES LOCATED UPON OR ADJACENT TO THE SURVEYED PREMISES.
- 3) THIS SURVEY IS SUBJECT TO ALL ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD AND TO ANY FACTS ENCLOSED BY AN UP-TO-DATE TITLE REPORT.
- 4) ELEVATION DATA IS BASED ON THE FRAME ELEVATION OF THE STORM MANHOLE IN THE PAVED PARKING LOT AS SHOWN ON MAP REFERENCE NO. 3. ELEVATION IS 807.14.
- 5) ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE CITY OF WORCESTER TITLE TO SUBJECT PREMISES WAS ACQUIRED BY:
 1. CONVEYANCE DATED AUGUST 17, 1943 AND RECORDED IN THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 2890 AT PAGE 58 AND
 2. TAX LOTS, CITY OF WORCESTER V. ALBERT A. ROYVAL, DATE OF FORFEITURE 1937, PLACED UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BY VOTE OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE IN CITY COUNCIL, JUNE 14, 1943.

MAP REFERENCES:

- 1) "PLAN OF BUILDING LOTS OWNED BY ALBERT S. CURTIS", PREPARED BY THOMPSON & WHEELER CIVIL ENGINEERS, DATED 1939, BOOK 1943 PAGE 833 WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
- 2) "DEFINITIVE PLAN WINDMILLS MAJOR SECTION 4 WORCESTER MASS.", PREPARED BY BOYLE BROTHERS INC., REGISTERED LAND SURVEYORS, DATED SEPTEMBER 22, 1987, PLAN BOOK 864 PLAN 63 WORCESTER REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
- 3) "CITY OF WORCESTER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH & CODE ENFORCEMENT, GATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN", DATED DECEMBER 1, 1993.
- 4) "HOLLAND ROAD WORCESTER MASS 1905", OFFICE OF CITY ENGINEER, NOVEMBER 1905, PLAN BOOK 10 PLAN 33 WORCESTER REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
- 5) "HOLLAND ROAD, CATALPA STREET, WINDMILLS STREET, ESTIMATED RETERMENT ASSESSMENTS", PLAN BOOK 88 PLAN 28 WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS.





BENNETT FIELD

1943. Acreage 5.67A (247,114 sq. ft.)

3.23 A (140,618 sq. ft.) Main Street and Gates Lane

Bought from Worcester Street Railway Company

Cost \$1,406.18 (for playground purposes)

.33 A (14,500 sq. ft.) Private Street. Between yard pro-

perty 2.11 A (91,996 sq. ft.) Holland Road

Land Court - Tax lien case City of Worcester vs.

Albert A. Ridyard - date of foreclosure 1937

Placed under the jurisdiction of the Parks and

Recreation Commission by vote of joint standing

Committee on Finance in City Council June 14, 1943

to be used as a playground.

BENNETT FIELD

1944 Stone Posts - Gift of William A. Bennett. Two stone

posts erected and inscribed "BENNETT FIELD" \$410.00 Cost.

Work done by S. J. Virgilio Construction Co.

Stone used for posts taken from site of Old Normal School,

Normal Street.

1947 Fence \$103.80

BENNETT FIELD

1955-56	Baseball Backstop	\$490.00
	Eastern Fence & Wire Co.	
1957-59	Raising, relocating Baseball Diamond	\$955.99
	Docimo & Sons	
1965	Comfort Station	incomplete as of 1966 ?
1966	Basketball court w/ lights and chain link fence	\$5,298.00
1966	150' of 10' chain link fence at baseball diamond	\$ 450.00
1966	Remodel baseball diamond	\$2,723.00
1968	Comfort Station completed	



DPW & Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division

Bennett Field Playground Community Outreach Meeting # 1

Gates Lane School PTO Meeting - Tuesday, February 08, 2011 @ 9:45 AM

Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Assistant Commissioner

	Name (PLEASE PRINT)	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail Address
1	GIFY TANDIAH			
2	Donna Macdonald			
3	MariSol Gonzalez			
4	Debbie Hendrickson			
5	LISA BROWN			
6	Ann Swenson			
7	GRACE Stankiwski			
8	See Granger			
9	Amy Oates			
10	SHEEN MARISSA			
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				



DPW & Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division

Bennett Field Master Plan Public Hearing # 1

Gates Lane Elementary School - Monday, March 07, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Assistant Commissioner

	Name	Address	Phone No.	Affiliation/Resident
1	Coccie Butcher			
2	W. V. Butcher			
3	Mary Sullivan			
4	Bill Sullivan			
5	Donna MacDonald			
6	JUDITH T. HOSEMER			
7	DAVID SIMONELLI			
8	John Stewart			
9	John Eckel			
10	Ann Swenson			
11	Lisa Brown			
12	Ann Olaf			
13	PHIL GUNNERTSON			
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Parks & Recreation Commission Sign-in Sheet June 23, 2011

Name

Address

Item of Interest

PETER & MARY O'Rourke

BENNETT FIELD

Anthony Bovenzi

WONNA SALLUM GEORGE

Worcester Pride Park
Permit

EDWARD SALLUM, JR.

Bennett Field
Parking & Safety

Edward Richard

BENNETT FIELD
PARKING & SAFETY

Jesse Rack

Bennett Field

Bob Murdoch

Worcester Pride

Ken Stafford

Destination Worcester

Colleen Sharer

Institute Park Use

Cosy Smith
FOR BOB NELSON

Institute Park Use

Inda Russo
Worcester HeCo

TRASH

Erroy Boas

software permits

"Serving Our Community"

"Pride In Our Parks"

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Parks & Recreation Commission Sign-in Sheet June 23, 2011

Name

Address

Item of Interest

E GARDELLA

D DAVID

Kim Elwert

Kevin Rodriguez

BEAVER BROOK

- Bennet field
- parking
- bottle neck
exit + entrance
- garbage disposal
trash cans

Beaver brook

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MICHAEL MOONAN
FROM: MEL HIGGINS (WESTON & SAMPSON, INC.)
SUBJECT: WETLANDS DELINEATION – BENNETT FIELD PARK, WORCESTER, MA
DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2010
CC:

On October 25, 2010, a Weston & Sampson, Inc. employee, trained in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, located wetlands behind the Bennett Field Park, located off of Gates Lane in Worcester, MA. The wetland boundaries were marked using pink flagging.

The wetland resource area was delineated using the sharp change in geography (from wetlands to upland bank), soils, vegetation and hydrology characteristics. The majority of the area had obviously been filled for development, with wetlands located to the bottom of bank. Vegetation, soils and hydrology were also used as indicators of the limit of the wetland when the bank was not present. The wetlands flags were marked and numbered WF-1 through WF-35

One 10 x 10 foot wetland plots was investigated at the site. This plot was located just within the wetlands resource area at flag WF-1. The soils, hydric indicators and vegetation at this plot are as follows:

Soils:

Ehibiting layering of O, A, B and C horizons. All values and chromas were taken from the munsell Color Chart.

- O-horizon = 0-1” below ground surface (bgs) contained dark black organic soils (10YR 2/1)
- A-horizon = 1-3” bgs contained dark brown mineral soils (7.5YR 2.5/1)
- B-horizon = 3-6” bgs contained light brown mineral soils with iron oxidation (mottling) present (7.5YR 6/4)
- C-horizon = 6-18” bgs contained light grey clay (7.5 YR 7/1)

Hydric indicators:

The hydric indicators at this plot include saturated soils in upper 12 inches and water stained leaves.

Vegetation (% cover):

- shrub layer
 - o Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) (FACW) (50%)
 - o Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) (FACU) – 20%
 - o Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) (OBL) – 10%
- cover layer
 - o Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) (FAC) – 10%
 - o Unidentified grass – 10%

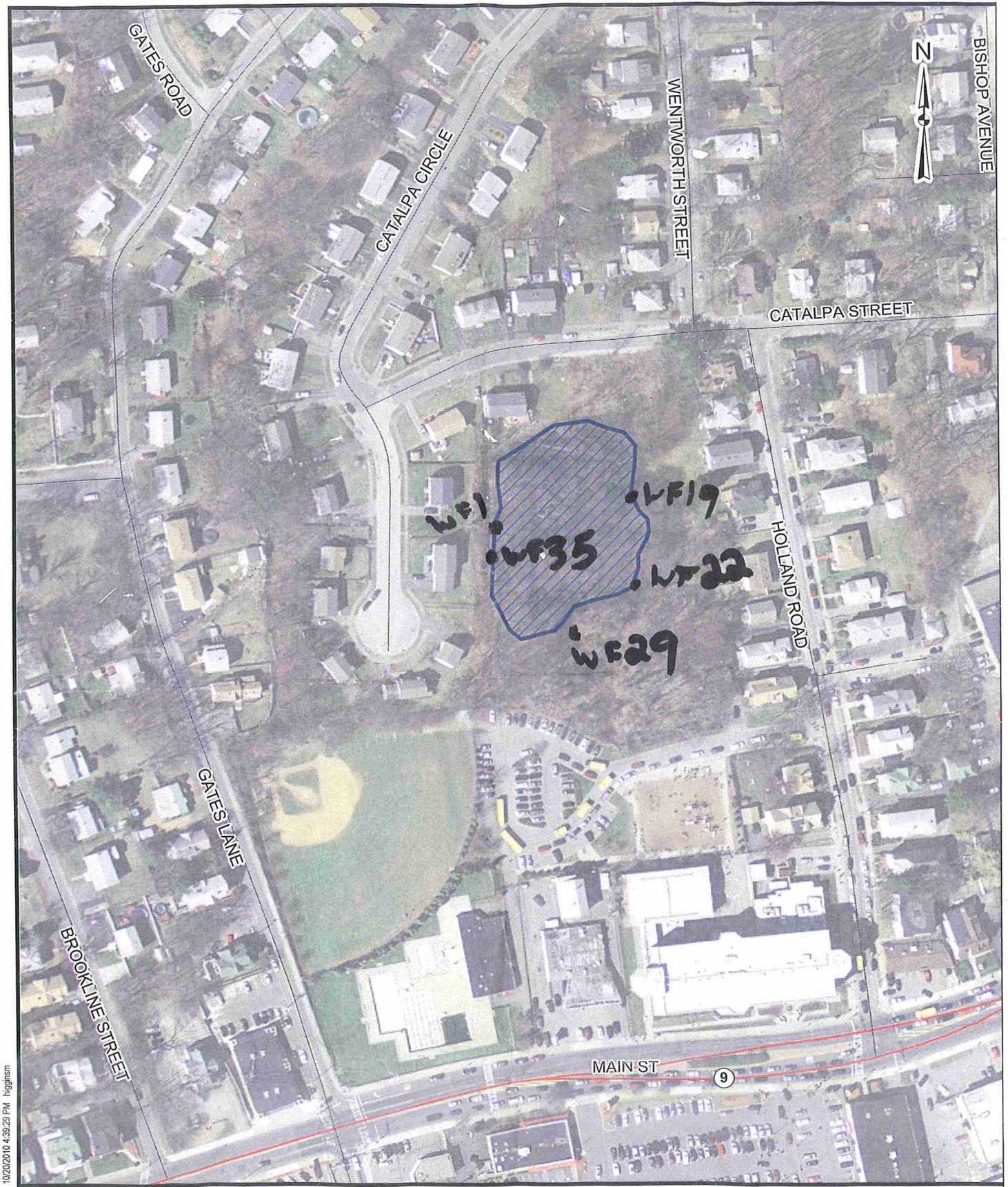


FIGURE 1
Worcester, MA

Wetlands

 DEP Wetlands



Weston & Sampson.

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Master Plan Approved by Worcester Parks Commission
February 14, 2012

Master Plan Approved by Worcester City Council
February 28, 2012

City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks

Weston&Sampson[®]
environmental/infrastructure consultants