

# OPEN SPACE 2010

## Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Brookline

### ADDENDUM

**Note: This Addendum was prepared in early 2012 in response to comments from the state Division of Conservation Services and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Information from the Addendum will be incorporated directly into the next Open Space Plan.**

#### **SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION**

The three public forums were advertised on the Town calendar, in the local newspaper, on the Town's website, and by e-mail to all people requesting meeting notifications from the Town. The forums were intentionally held at three different locations across the Town to accommodate as many people as possible.

For Environmental Justice neighborhoods, enhanced outreach included holding the public forums in or immediately adjacent to the Environmental Justice neighborhoods, placing notices at these meeting locations in advance of the meetings, and notifying all Town Meeting members, including those from Environmental Justice neighborhoods, about the meetings. Brookline Town Meeting members often serve as a conduit of information to their constituents about topics of interest to their neighborhoods.

#### **SECTION 3 COMMUNITY SETTING**

##### **A. REGIONAL CONTEXT**

Brookline is a member of the Inner Core Committee, one of the eight subregions for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the regional planning agency for Metropolitan Boston. The Inner Core Committee includes 20 cities and towns that meet regularly to explore issues of common interest and to foster joint and cooperative action, including discussing regional open space issues and opportunities.

In 2008, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council adopted the MetroFuture Regional Plan, the official regional plan for Greater Boston. MetroFuture was developed with extensive participation by residents, municipal officials, state agencies, businesses, community organizations, and institutional partners throughout the region, and includes numerous goals and objectives and implementation strategies. Open Space 2010, the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Brookline, will help to advance many of the goals and strategies that are specifically related to open space, recreation and the environment. In particular MetroFuture has a strategy to *Plan for land preservation on a state and regional basis*, and Open Space 2010 includes discussions of regional resources (pages 7-8, 43), goals and action items related to regional planning (pages 159 and 180), and a discussion of "No Net Loss" of open space as noted in this MetroFuture strategy. Another MetroFuture strategy for protecting natural resources is to *Increase funding for priority land acquisition*, which is a significant need identified in Open Space 2010 (pages 150-151) with accompanying goals and action items for identifying and prioritizing open space, increasing funding to enable proactive land acquisition, and researching funding mechanisms (pages 153, 158). Open Space 2010 also directly addresses many of the MetroFuture strategies for conserving natural

resources, particularly with regard to *Implementing water/wastewater/stormwater utility “best practices” across the region* and *Promoting local treatment and recharge of stormwater and wastewater*, through its detailed assessment of watershed and infrastructure needs, focus on new approaches to infrastructure and technologies (pages 145-147), and specific related goals and action items (pages 155, 166-167). Open Space 2010 addresses climate change issues and the importance of open space throughout the plan, with many goals contributing to MetroFuture’s strategies to *Plan for sustainability* and *Conserve energy*. Finally, Open Space 2010 includes a wide range of goals that will help to *Improve urban parks and the urban environment*, including restoring and refurbishing parks, ensuring appropriate funding and staffing for maintenance of parks and the urban forest, and working with advocacy groups, as well as discussing maintaining walkable neighborhoods. This consistency with MetroFuture will help to ensure that important regional strategies are implemented, and will contribute to attaining these goals.

## C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### *Environmental Justice*

The following tables and text provide additional population characteristics for Environmental Justice populations including percent minority, income, English proficiency and foreign-born persons, as well as Brookline industries and employment trends. Additional business and household income information is in the Open Space Plan on pages 8-9.

Table A-1. **Racial Breakdown**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Percent of Population</b>
White	78.9%
Asian	14.0%
Black or African American	2.4%
Other Race	2.3%
Two or More Races	2.3%

Note: Hispanics or Latinos of any race are 5.1%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table A-2. **Place of Birth**

<b>Place of Birth</b>	<b>Percent of Population</b>
Native	76.3%
Foreign Born	23.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table A-3. **World Region of Birth of Foreign Born Persons**

<b>World Region</b>	<b>Percent of Foreign Born (excluding those born at sea)</b>
Asia	47.0%
Europe	31.8%
Latin America	13.1%
Northern America	5.1%

Africa	3.0%
Oceania	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table A-4. Language Spoken at Home and English Proficiency

Language Spoken at Home	Percent of Population (5 years and over)
English only	73.5%
Language other than English	26.5%
& Speak English less than "very well"	8.5%
Spanish	4.3%
& Speak English less than "very well"	1.1%
Other Indo-European languages	10.0%
& Speak English less than "very well"	2.7%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	9.6%
& Speak English less than "very well"	4.0%
Other languages	2.6%
& Speak English less than "very well"	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table A-5. Income Breakdown

Income and Benefits (in 2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	Percent of Households (23,888 total households)
Less than \$10,000	8.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3.9%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	4.5%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	4.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	8.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	18.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	8.8%
\$200,000 or more	19.4%

Note: Median household income is \$92,451 and mean household income is \$140,800.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table A-6. Occupation Breakdown

Occupation	Percent of civilian employed population 16 years and over
Management, professional, and related occupations	72.3%
Sales and office occupations	17.7%
Service occupations	7.0%

Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations	1.1%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	0.8%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table A-7. **Industry Breakdown**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Percent of civilian employed population 16 years and over</b>
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	38.8%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	21.3%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	11.2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	6.9%
Retail trade	5.5%
Manufacturing	4.2%
Information	3.7%
Public administration	2.6%
Construction	1.1%
Wholesale trade	1.0%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	0.5%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0.1%
Other services	3.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

### **Schools, Colleges and Universities**

Many schools and colleges or universities are located fully or partly in Brookline, providing educational and employment opportunities for residents and non-residents. Brookline has a total of nine public schools, including eight elementary schools and one high school (*Brookline School Department*). There are a total of seven private elementary and secondary schools (*Brookline Assessor's Office*). There are three colleges or universities within Brookline, including Newbury College, New England Institute of Art, and Pine Manor College. Finally, four other colleges or universities are located on Brookline's borders, or have a portion of their campus and/or some of their facilities within the Town limits. These include Wheelock College, Boston University, Hellenic Collage, and Northeastern University (*Brookline Assessor's Office*).

Table A-8. **Employment Status**

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>Percent of Population 16 years and over</b>
In labor force	69.3%
Civilian labor force	69.2%
Employed	66.5%

Unemployed	2.7%
Armed Forces	0.1%
Not in labor force	30.7%

Note: The overall percent unemployed was estimated at 3.9%.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

### Employment Trends

Based on estimates and data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, the percent of unemployed persons in the labor force has increased in recent years. The 2000 U.S. Census found that 2.4% of the civilian labor force, ages 16 and over, was unemployed. Using three-year estimates from the American Community Survey, the unemployment rate was 3.1% +/- 0.9% in the period from 2005-2007. From 2006-2008, the unemployment rate was 3.3% +/- 0.9%. And from 2007-2009, the unemployment rate was 4.3% +/- 1.3%. These numbers suggest that the unemployment rates in Brookline are rising, which may also be exacerbated by the current economic downturn.

Similarly the number of businesses was estimated at approximately 1,600 for the 2005 Open Space Plan, and there are now approximately 1,483 businesses (*Brookline Economic Development Division*). In both cases, this includes many businesses based in homes and sole proprietorships.

## **SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

### **G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

#### ***Forestry Issues***

Despite its urban setting, Brookline is fortunate to contain five publicly-accessible forested areas, over 11,000 public street trees, and close to 50,000 trees total including trees in parks and other public open spaces.

One of the issues faced by trees in Brookline, as elsewhere, are non-native invasive species. Several invasive insects, pests and diseases are currently impacting Brookline’s trees or have significantly impacted them in the past in this area, including Winter moth, Hemlock woolly adelgid, and Dutch elm disease. Various others are of concern to Brookline due to their potential risk, including Asian longhorned beetles, which were found nearby in Boston in 2010, and Emerald ash borers. More detailed information on these invasive species and measures the Town is taking to address them can be found in the Open Space Plan on pages 36-37.

In addition to forestry insects and pathogens, there are various non-native invasive plant species in Brookline, including tree species such as Tree of Heaven and Norway maples, which are no longer planted by the Town as they were in the past throughout the region. Although the Town aggressively manages invasive vegetation, it is more difficult to control invasives in more heavily vegetated areas, such as forested areas and nature sanctuaries. Some trees in these areas are currently being negatively impacted by invasives, especially woody plants and vines, including Japanese buckthorn, Japanese honeysuckle, Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, black swallow-wort, autumn olive, winged euonymus, porcelain berry, and fiveleaf akebia. The Parks and Open Space Division and volunteer groups are currently working to remove these species and replant with appropriate native species.

Due to its urban setting, Brookline has a relatively low tree canopy overall, but the Parks and Open Space Division generally plants more trees than are removed each year through the tree planting program, which helps ensure the canopy is maximized where feasible. The urban setting and large number of street trees also mean that many trees are impacted by urban stress, including soil compaction, low oxygen levels around roots, road salt and other water and air-borne pollutants, and occasionally root damage from development or utility work, and vehicular damage. Many street trees also grow near or around overhead wires, which can create problems for the trees. Tree crews conduct routine maintenance to help maintain the overall health of the urban forest, and the Town's Tree Warden works with the utility companies to ensure trees near wires are properly pruned. Additional information on the health of Brookline's street trees can be found on page 37.

### ***Environmental Equity Issues***

The Parks, Open Space and Recreation Strategic Master Plan is a planning document that complements the Town's Open Space Plan. Completed in 2006, this plan establishes priorities and policies to guide the delivery of parks, open space, recreation and leisure services, programs and facilities within the Town of Brookline through the year 2015 and beyond. This plan includes a GRASP™ Level of Service Analysis that addresses environmental equity issues by analyzing the existing parks, open space, trails and recreation systems to help determine how they serve the public throughout the town. The analysis considered "national standards" for amount of open space, and factored in the quality, condition, location, comfort, convenience and ambience of existing parks, recreation facilities, and open space. The data and maps produced by the analysis indicate that the distribution of these features is not always even across the town. Details on the results and implications of the GRASP™ analysis, and recommendations for improving access, can be found in the Master Plan.

## **SECTION 5                      INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST**

### **Importance of Open Space**

Despite the density of development, Brookline has significant land protected for public parks and open space that contributes greatly to the town. Parks, open space and recreation facilities form an essential component of Brookline's character and have a long and established history in the town. Brookline's parks contribute significantly to the character of the community, complement the dense development patterns, and strengthen neighborhoods. Existing parks and conservation lands provide numerous advantages and benefits to the community, including environmental protection, passive and active recreation, historic preservation, social and health benefits, and enhanced aesthetic appeal. The town is fortunate to have a wide variety of open spaces, which accommodates different needs and interests of visitors, as well as providing habitat and resources for a surprising variety of flora and fauna. Open space is also important to visitors and to migrating species, particularly since some of Brookline's open spaces are contiguous with large open spaces in other communities and all of the public open spaces are open to all. In addition, open space helps mitigate environmental impacts such as pollution and climate change. Open space in Brookline and beyond is extremely important for the town and the larger community, and needs to be protected and appropriately managed, beginning with an inventory of the open spaces.

## INVENTORY

### Condition, Recreation Potential, and Public Access

Each Town-owned conservation and recreation property in the inventory includes a description with specific information and details on that particular open space parcel. In addition, the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Strategic Master Plan uses the inventory from the Open Space Plan and expands the description of each open space parcel to include a physical description of site features and amenities. This contains information on the parcel's condition, the recreation potential, and public access.

### Grants

Some information on grants or donations used to purchase or renovate land is included in the Open Space Plan, in the park history sections of the inventory descriptions. Grants received in the last five years are listed here and will be incorporated into the inventory descriptions in the next Open Space Plan if they are not already included.

Open Space	When Awarded	Grant Name	Funding Agency	Project	Amount
Lost Pond Sanctuary	March 2008	Partnerships Matching Funds Program	MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation	Lost Pond Reservation Boardwalks	\$20,000
Fisher Hill Reservoir	July 2010	Land and Water Conservation Fund	National Park Service (via MA Division of Conservation Services)	Fisher Hill Reservoir Park Project	\$500,000
Skyline Park	November 2005	Urban Self-Help Grant	MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation	Front Landfill Park Development Project	\$500,000

### Zoning

Information on zoning for each open space parcel is listed below, and will be incorporated into the inventory descriptions in the next Open Space Plan. Note that there is not a defined open space zone in Brookline at this time and open space parcels are generally zoned the same as adjacent parcels. Definitions of zoning types can be found in the Brookline Zoning By-Law. Where applicable, open space protection, such as Article 97, is listed in the inventory descriptions.

OPEN SPACE CATEGORY & PROPERTY NAME	ZONING TYPE	ZONING DESCRIPTION
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#### Conservation Areas

D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary	S-10	Single-Family
Hall's Pond Sanctuary	S-7	Single-Family
Amory Woods	S-7	Single-Family
Lost Pond Conservation Area	I-1.0	Industrial Service
Lost Pond Reservation	S-15	Single-Family

**Historic Parks**

Brookline Reservoir	S-15	Single-Family
Emerald Necklace (1) – Riverway	S-7	Single-Family
Emerald Necklace (2) – Olmsted	S-7	Single-Family
Larz Anderson Park	S-40	Single-Family
Longwood Mall	S-10	Single-Family
Fredrick Law Olmsted National Historic Site	S-25	Single-Family
Town Green	S-15	Single-Family

**Community Parks**

Amory Playground	S-7	Single-Family
Brookline Avenue Playground	M-1.0	Apartment House
Cypress Street Playground	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Daniel W. Warren, Jr. Playground	S-10	Single-Family
Fisher Hill Reservoir (in development)	S-15	Single-Family
Harry Downes Field	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Skyline Park	S-10	Single-Family
Soule Recreation Center	S-25	Single-Family
Waldstein Playground	S-7	Single-Family

**Passive Parks**

Corey Hill Park	S-7	Single-Family
Dane Park	S-40	Single-Family
Knyvet Square	M-1.5	Apartment House
Linden Park	M-1.0	Apartment House
Linden Square	M-1.0	Apartment House
Little Field Park	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Mason Square	S-7	Single-Family
Monmouth Street Park	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Philbrick Square	S-10	Single-Family
Judge Henry Crowley Park at Saint Mark's Square	M-2.0	Apartment House
Town Hall Lot	G-2.0	General Business

**Neighborhood Parks**

Billy Ward Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Boylston Street Playground	M-1.0	Apartment House
Clark Playground	M-1.0	Apartment House
Judge Sumner Z. Kaplan Park at Coolidge Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Daniel F. Ford Playground at Emerson Garden	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Griggs Park	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family

John E. Murphy Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Juniper Street Playground	M-2.0	Apartment House
Lawton Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Lotta Bradburn Schick Park	SC-7	Single-Family & Converted For Two-Family
Mary E. Robinson Playground	M-1.0	Apartment House
50 Pleasant Street	M-1.5	Apartment House
Winthrop Square	M-1.0	Apartment House

### School Playgrounds

Baker School Playground	S-10	Single-Family
Baldwin School Playground	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Devotion School Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Driscoll School Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Heath School Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Longwood Playground	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Pierce School Playground	M-1.0	Apartment House
Runkle School Playground	S-7	Single-Family
William H. Lincoln School Playground (New)	S-10	Single-Family
William H. Lincoln School Playground (Old)	G-1.0	General Business

### Cemeteries

The Old Burying Ground	S-10	Single-Family
Holyhood Cemetery	S-15	Single-Family
Walnut Hills Cemetery	S-10	Single-Family

### Golf Course

Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course at Putterham Meadows	S-15	Single-Family
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### Agricultural and Recreation Land

Allandale Farm	S-40	Single-Family
The Country Club	S-40	Single-Family

### Traffic Medians, Circles and Triangles

Beacon Street Mall	Varies	Apartment House, General Business, Local Business
Brington Road Island	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Corey Farm Circle	S-7	Single-Family
Dudley Triangle	S-15	Single-Family
Dwight Square	T-5	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Eliot and Crafts Road Triangle	S-10	Single-Family
Francis J. Hickey Square	G-2.0	General Business

Francis X. Ryan Circle	S-10	Single-Family
Freeman Square	M-1.5	Apartment House
Hammond Pond Parkway	S-15	Single-Family
Horace James Circle	S-15	Single-Family
Pleasant Street Triangle	G-1.75	General Business
Single Tree Road Circle	S-25	Single-Family
VFW Parkway Median	S-7	Single-Family
Webster Street Triangle	G-1.75	General Business
West Roxbury Parkway	S-10 & S-15	Single-Family

**Other Small Open Spaces**

Clark Road Land	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Clark Road/MBTA Land	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Clinton Road Waterworks Land	S-7	Single-Family
Health Department Lot	G-2.0	General Business
Newton Street Parcel	T-6	Two-Family & Attached Single-Family
Reservoir Road Extension	S-10	Single-Family
Reservoir Road Land	S-10	Single-Family
Single Tree Reservoir	S-25	Single-Family

**SECTION 7 NEEDS ANALYSIS**

**II. COMMUNITY NEEDS**

***Access to Open Space***

The Open Space Plan discusses access to open space and the needs of handicapped persons or people with disabilities in the “Access to Open Space” section on pg. 149 of the Needs Analysis. Issues related to people with disabilities are also mentioned in other parts of the plan where appropriate, including in the action plan, which has an objective (#55) to advocate for improved access to open spaces for people with disabilities, and several related action items. A member of the Commission for the Disabled served on the Open Space Plan Committee and contributed to the discussion of needs of special groups, such as the people with disabilities.

The “Access to Open Space” section of the Needs Analysis was also intended to include the needs of elderly persons, though this is not specifically stated. This section does mention people with health issues and people who are not comfortable walking longer distances on rough terrain. Our analysis found that many of the needs of people with disabilities and elderly persons overlapped and these needs are highlighted in this section. In addition, the design development process for new parks, or more frequently park renovations, includes a significant amount of public process and input from the community and often includes comments requesting careful consideration of the needs of elderly persons. Needs that have been raised in the recent past include access to open spaces with sufficient parking nearby, the ability to enjoy open spaces and avoid challenges with navigating steep or uneven terrain, and the desire to

balanced more active recreation with quiet, safe spaces for passive recreation and seating, which is sometimes preferred by elderly persons.

### ***Financing Open Space Initiatives***

Another option for funding open space initiatives is the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund to raise money through a surcharge of up to 3% of the real estate tax levy on real property for open space protection, historic preservation, and affordable housing, as well as to obtain state matching funds. Brookline failed to pass the CPA when it was on the ballot in 2006. The CPA could still be adopted by Brookline in the future and would be a very useful tool for funding open space, including leveraging state matching funds. The CPA is also recommended by MetroFuture, the regional plan adopted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in 2008.

## **SECTION 9 FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

Brookline's Open Space Plan lists objectives and accompanying action items in its five-year action plan. The action items are each listed with the responsible party or parties, and a year when work will ideally begin on the action item. The years listed cover the next five years from 2011 to 2016, and also indicate the priority order for action items and objectives. Actions with an earlier year are considered a higher priority for the Conservation Commission and the Town. Some actions build upon one another and necessarily follow others in the timeline, which fits with the prioritization of the objectives and the specific actions necessary to achieve them. Ongoing objectives and actions are included in the plan and their year also designates their priority at this point.

The Action Plan addresses funding sources in a variety of ways, and includes specific funding sources where feasible. Several action items have approved Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding or grant funding and this is listed in the action plan (see Objective 40). Several objectives propose to obtain funding through the CIP, usually in conjunction with other Town departments (see Objectives 16, 17, 76) or to maintain adequate existing funding in the CIP (see Objective 46). The Conservation Commission recognizes that funding is not available to achieve all objectives at this time, which is why many objectives and action items include exploring funding options and obtaining funding (see Objectives 29, 42, 47, 49, 71, 73). Related to this, the Financing Open Space Initiatives section (see Objectives 62-68), includes various specific suggestions for additional funding sources and has action items to achieve funding goals. Finally, many objectives rely on staff time and efforts, and thus the Town's existing operations budget, or the time and efforts of board and commission members, who generously volunteer their time to serve the town.

## **LETTERS OF COMMENT**

Please see the attached letter of review from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, which is the Regional Planning Agency for Brookline and the surrounding area.

## **ADDITIONAL MAPS**

Please see the attached Regional Context Map and the Environmental Justice map. The regional context is also shown in the Watersheds in Brookline map on pg. 29 of the Open Space Plan. This map has been expanded since the previous Open Space Plan to intentionally show more of the surrounding area around Brookline and the watersheds connections and storm drainage to ponds, rivers and streams both within Brookline and outside the town boundaries. This map also complements Section 3A.

## **ADA ACCESS SELF-EVALUATION REPORT**

### ***Part 1: Administrative Requirements***

C. Stephen Bressler is the Director of the Public Relations Department, and is the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Brookline. Please see the attached documentation.

The Town of Brookline has a Grievance Procedure for the general public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made. Please see the attached Grievance Procedure.

Town of Brookline employees and the public are notified that the community does not discriminate on the basis of disability (see the attached ADA Notice). Notification is also provided to all employees, notification is available on the Town's website and in alternative formats from the ADA Coordinator, and notification is provided with all public meeting notices as follows:

The Town of Brookline does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Brookline are invited to make their needs known to the ADA Coordinator, Stephen Bressler, Town of Brookline, 11 Pierce Street, Brookline, MA 02445. Telephone (617)730-2330; TDD (617)730-2327; FAX 617-730-2296; by e-mail at sbressler@brooklinema.gov.

The Conservation Commission regularly invites the Brookline Commission for the Disabled to participate in the Open Space Plan planning process. The 2010 Open Space Plan Committee included a member of the Commission for the Disabled, who participated in meetings and contributed to the plan, including the evaluation of accessibility and incorporation of issues related to people with disabilities. People with disabilities are also welcome to attend all public meetings, including those related to the Open Space Plan and the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Strategic Master Plan.

### ***Part 2: Program Accessibility***

It is the mission of the Parks and Open Space Division to develop a safe, accessible, well-maintained network of parks and open spaces, which includes addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and not discriminating on the basis of disability. Restoration and new construction of parks is done in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Planned restorations are incorporated in the Town's Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The Parks, Open Space and Recreation Strategic Master Plan includes an open space inventory with a detailed assessment of public access to each facility, including parks, open spaces, recreational facilities and equipment, as well as noting issues with access and conditions. This plan also includes a GRASP™ Level of Service Analysis that addresses issues related to the needs of the community and people with disabilities. Finally, the plan includes recommendations for additional improvements, including for access.

***Part 3: Employment Practices***

The employment practices of the Town of Brookline are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please see the attached documentation.



April 13, 2012

Jeff Levine, AICP  
Director, Dept. of Planning and Community Development  
Town of Brookline  
333 Washington Street Third Floor  
Brookline, MA 02445

Dear Mr. Levine:

Thank you for submitting "Open Space 2010: the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Brookline" to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

The following are MAPC's recommendations for amendments to the Brookline Open Space and Recreation Plan:

**Subregion** - The open space plan does not mention that Brookline is a member of the Inner Core Committee which is one of eight MAPC subregions. ICC is a group of 20 cities and towns that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest and is an excellent forum for discussing regional open space issues and opportunities. We recommend that a reference to the Inner Core Committee be included in the section on Regional Context.

**Consistency with *MetroFuture*** - *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistently with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as 13 detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities to become familiar with the plan by visiting the web site at <http://www.metrofuture.org/>.

The Brookline Open Space and Recreation Plan does not specifically mention *MetroFuture*. We encourage communities to include a brief paragraph about *MetroFuture* in Chapter III under Regional Context. Ideally this paragraph should explain ways in which Brookline's Open Space and Recreation Plan will help to advance some of the goals and implementation strategies that relate specifically to open space, recreation, and the environment generally.

In the case of Brookline's plan, this shouldn't be too hard to do since we see many positive connections between your plan and *MetroFuture*, particularly in regard to Strategy 7A: *Bring Strategic and Regional Perspectives to Local Open Space Planning*. The Brookline plan includes a discussion of regional resources (page 43) as well as a discussion of the importance of walkable neighborhoods. These are consistent with *MetroFuture*.

For further information on the implementation strategies related to environmental issues, please see <http://www.metrofuture.org/strategy/11>.

**Environmental Justice** - We note that the plan does not address the issue of Environmental Justice (EJ) as required by the 2008 guidelines for preparing an open space plan. The environmental justice guidelines are spelled out in more detail in the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook.

In brief, the guidelines indicate two levels of addressing EJ. If a municipality includes EJ populations as defined by the state you must include certain information. If a city or town does not have identified EJ populations you are still required in the inventory section to consider and describe park and recreation inequities within the community as well as strategies to address those inequities.

Brookline meets all four of the criteria for environmental justice as per the state's website cited below<sup>1</sup>. You should consult the workbook for more details on these requirements and discuss these new requirements with the staff at the Division of Conservation Services. The workbook is on-line at [http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/pdf/osrp\\_workbook.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/pdf/osrp_workbook.pdf).

**Duration of the Plan** - The Division of Conservation Services now allows open space and recreation plans to be good for seven years if a seven year action plan is submitted. If you add two more years' worth of activities to your action plan it will extend the life of the plan.

**Community Preservation Act:** Adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a key strategy recommended by *MetroFuture*. There is no mention at all of the CPA in the plan. According to the Community Preservation web site, Brookline failed to pass the CPA in 2006. The plan should note this fact on page 150 where financing open space is discussed.

Furthermore, we encourage you to reconsider and to attempt to pass CPA again. It is an excellent way of encouraging open space preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that state matching funds for CPA communities have declined precipitously in recent years. We encourage you to support *An Act to Sustain Community Preservation (HB765/SB 1841)*, the CPA reform bill that has been filed in the Legislature by Senator Cynthia Creem (D-Newton) and Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington). In addition to strengthening the state matching fund, it would also allow participating municipalities to use certain other funds beyond the property tax surcharge to qualify for state match.

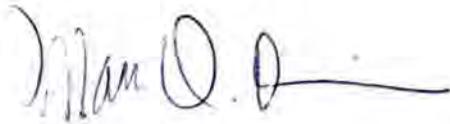
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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.mass.gov/mgis/ej\\_cities-towns.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/mgis/ej_cities-towns.pdf)

Brookline's Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and it should serve the town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

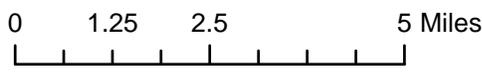
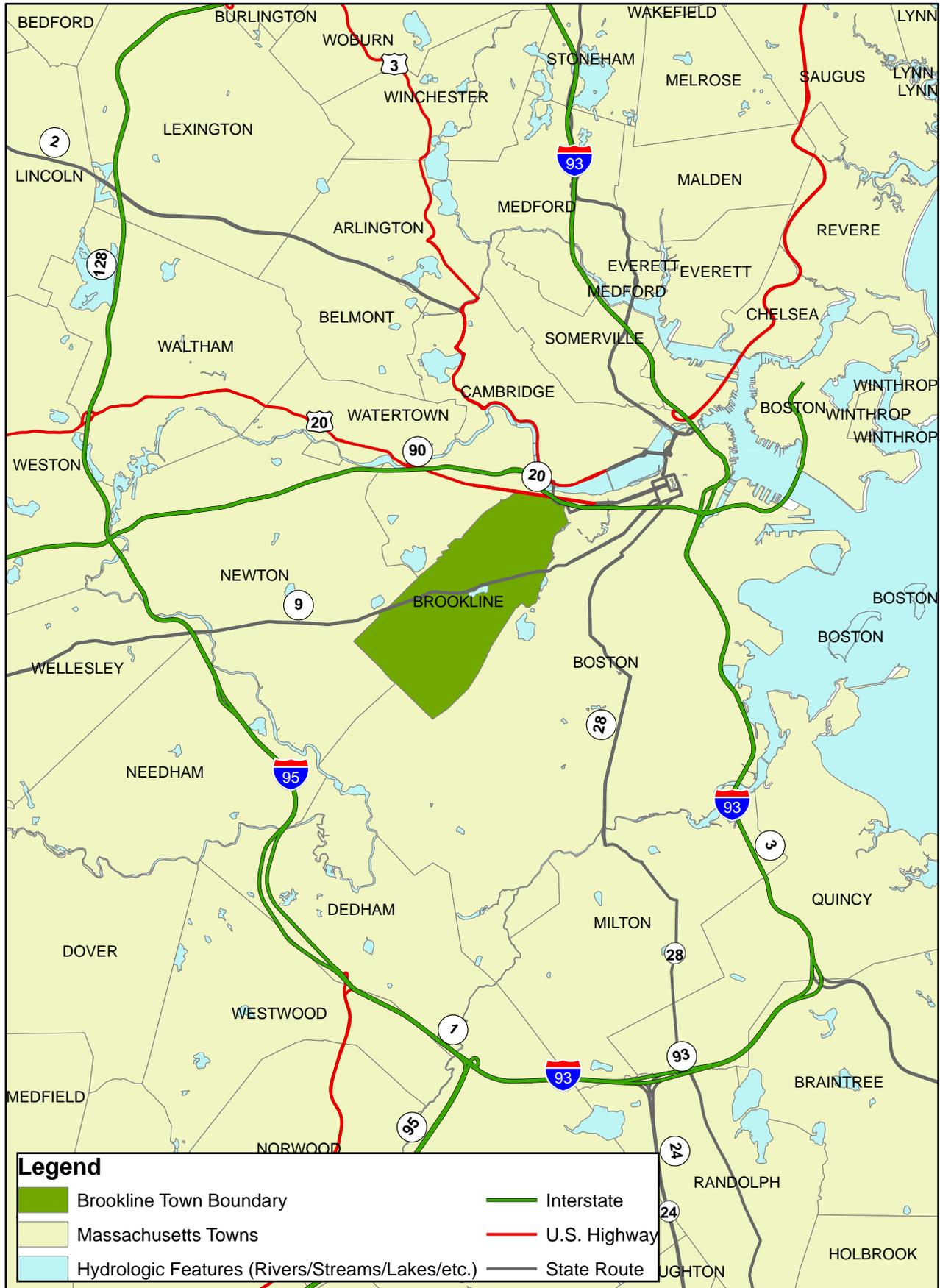
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Draisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marc D. Draisen  
Executive Director

cc: Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Services

# Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

## REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

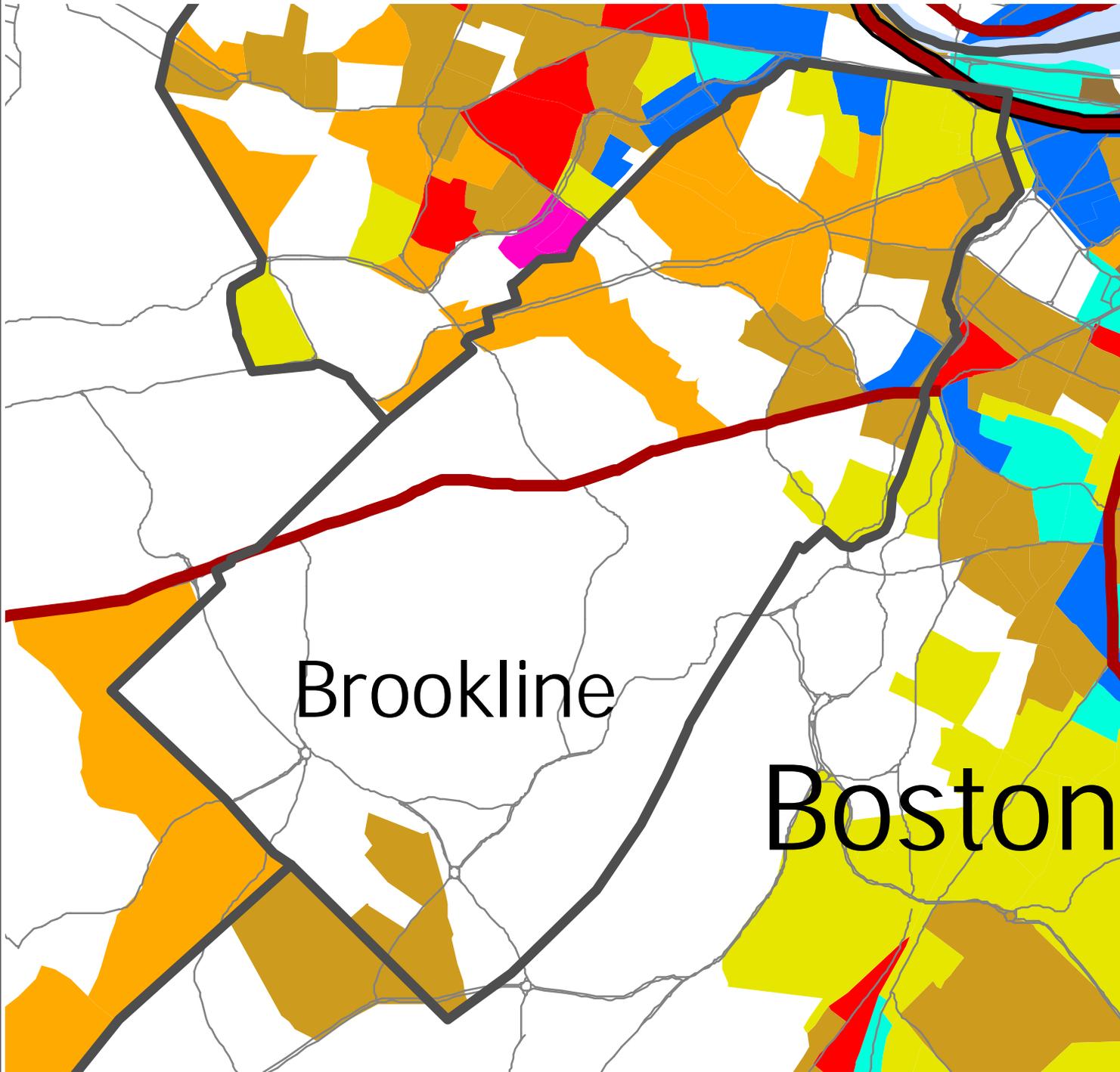


Map created 2/2012



# Environmental Justice Populations

## Brookline



Massachusetts  
Environmental Justice Criteria:

Environmental Justice (EJ) populations are determined by identifying all Census 2000 block groups that meet any of the following criteria:

Income	Households earn 65% or less of statewide median household income
Minority population	25% or more of residents belong to a minority group
Foreign-born	25% or more of residents are foreign-born
English proficiency	25% or more of residents lack English language proficiency

**Populations meeting one EJ criterion**

- income
- minority population
- foreign-born

**Populations meeting two EJ criteria**

- income and minority population
- income and English proficiency
- income and foreign-born
- minority population and English proficiency
- minority population and foreign-born

**Populations meeting three EJ criteria**

- income, minority population and English proficiency
- income, minority population and foreign-born
- minority population, English proficiency and foreign-born
- income, English proficiency and foreign-born

**Populations meeting all four EJ criteria**

- income, minority population, English proficiency and foreign-born

For more information contact:  
Energy and Environmental Affairs  
617-626-1000





# TOWN of BROOKLINE

## *Massachusetts*

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BETSY DEWITT, CHAIRMAN  
NANCY A. DALY  
JESSE MERMELL  
RICHARD W. BENKA  
KENNETH M. GOLDSTEIN

MELVIN A. KLECKNER  
Town Administrator

March 12, 2012

333 WASHINGTON STREET  
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445  
TEL. (617) 730-2200  
FAX: (617) 730-2054  
[www.brooklinema.gov](http://www.brooklinema.gov)

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that C. Stephen Bressler Human Relations/Youth Resources Director is the Town of Brookline ADA Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Melvin A. Kleckner  
Town Administrator

**THE TOWN OF BROOKLINE**

**THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**INTRODUCTION**

This grievance procedure may be used by any person who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Brookline.

This grievance procedure is established for the limited purpose of seeking informal resolution of complaints relating to discrimination on the basis of disability in the Town of Brookline.

Persons with disabilities who are aggrieved by discrimination on the basis of such disability are entitled to specific remedies that are provided for by law. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and/or the Department of Justice may be contacted for further information.

Alternative means of filing complaints will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request. Such requests should be made to the ADA Coordinator who is identified on page 2.

**COMPLAINT INFORMATION**

**COMPLAINANT'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINANT'S ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINANT'S TELEPHONE:** Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION, DATE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(If additional space is needed, please attach a separate page)

## **ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**This complaint should be submitted by the complainant or his/her designee as soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days after the alleged violation to:**

**STEPHEN BRESSLER, ADA COORDINATOR  
TOWN OF BROOKLINE  
11 PIERCE STREET, BROOKLINE, MA 02445  
(617) 730-2330  
TTY (617) 730-2327  
FAX (617) 730-2388  
steve\_bressler@town.brookline.ma.us**

**Within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will forward the complaint to a Conciliator. The Conciliator shall be determined as follows:**

**--If the complaint relates to an employment policy and/or practice of the Town of Brookline or the Brookline Public School Department, the complaint shall be forwarded to the appropriate Personnel Director. The Personnel Director or his/her designee shall be the Conciliator.**

**--If the complaint relates to the provision of services, activities, programs or non-employment related benefits offered or provided by a Department of the Town of Brookline, the complaint shall be forwarded to the appropriate Department Head. The Department Head or his/her designee shall be the Conciliator.**

**As soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of the complaint, the Conciliator shall meet with the complainant in order to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of such meeting, the Conciliator will respond in writing or, if appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant. A copy of such response shall also be forwarded to the ADA Coordinator.**

## **APPEAL PROCEDURE**

**If the response provided by the Conciliator does not resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the Conciliator within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the response to the Town Administrator or his/her designee.**

**As soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of the appeal, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions.**

**Within fifteen (15) calendar days of such meeting, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will respond in writing, or, if appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final disposition of the complaint. A copy of such response shall be forwarded to the ADA Coordinator.**

Town of Brookline

The Town of Brookline does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. The Town of Brookline does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Questions, complaints or requests for additional information may be sent to:

C. Stephen Bressler, Director and ADA/Section 504 Coordinator  
Brookline Human Relations-Youth Resources Commission  
11 Pierce Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02446  
(617) 730-2330 Voice  
(617) 730-2327 TDD  
(617) 730-2388 Fax  
e-mail address: [steve\\_bressler@town.brookline.ma.us](mailto:steve_bressler@town.brookline.ma.us)

Persons with disabilities who need either:

\*auxiliary aids and services for effective communication

\*written materials in alternative formats

\*reasonable modifications in policies and procedures

in order to access programs and activities of the Town of Brookline are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Coordinator.

This notice is available in alternative formats from the ADA Coordinator.



TOWN OF BROOKLINE  
*Massachusetts*

**HUMAN RELATIONS-YOUTH RESOURCES COMMISSION**

C. Stephen Bressler, Director and  
Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

11 Pierce Street  
Brookline, MA 02445  
617-730-2330

Fax: 617-730-2388

TTY: 617-730-2327

e-mail: [sbressler@brooklinema.gov](mailto:sbressler@brooklinema.gov)

[www.brooklinema.gov](http://www.brooklinema.gov)

March 5, 2012

Ms. Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

I, C. Stephen Bressler, am the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Brookline. I attest to the fact that the Town of Brookline's employment practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This compliance includes the following major categories: Recruitment, Personnel Actions, Leave Administration, Training, Tests, Medical Exams/Questionnaires, Social and Recreational Programs, Fringe Benefits, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and Wage and Salary Administration.

Please feel free to contact with me with any questions at (617) 730-2330.

Sincerely,

C. Stephen Bressler  
Director/ADA Coordinator