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SECTION 5 INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

The rural character of Sterling is a great attractant to residents and visitors alike, as evidenced by information from public surveys for past Open Space Plans as well as this current Plan. Sterling residents express concern for the preservation of the rural character of the town. The vast majority of large blocks of permanently protected open space owned either by the state or the town are located north and west of Rte 12; while a disproportionate area on the east side of town, closer to Clinton and Lancaster lacks permanent protection for much of the open space. Community-based land protection measures offer means to protect properties exemplifying this rural character as well as to protect valuable water resources from pollution and urban encroachment.

Sterling encompasses a land area of 30.53 sq miles, or 19,539 acres, of land; and it has 808 acres of water. Of this land, a total of 6,974.3 acres (approximately 35.7 percent) is permanently protected open space, as summarized below in Table 5-1. Of this substantial percentage, the Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR-DWSP) owns or holds in conservation restriction approximately 5,500 acres, the result of nearly two decades of concerted open space acquisition effort to protect the water quality of Wachusett Reservoir (at a time when development in central Massachusetts was booming).¹ To paraphrase a DCR official, one could rightfully say that Sterling's present rural character is, for the most part, a by-product of the effort to protect drinking water. Most of the DCR land is in the Stillwater drainage basin and does not go beyond what DCR designates as the Wachusett watershed boundary (roughly west of Rte 12 for most of its land holdings in town). Another state agency, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife owns 93 acres on Stuart Pond in the northwestern part of town and holds conservation restrictions on the Clinton water supply Wekepeke properties protecting another 487.4 acres north of North Row Rd and bordering Leominster water supply land.²

The MassOutdoors 2006 report notes that Sterling is among one of a number of towns in the central part of the state with significant state-owned protected open space, however Sterling is not listed as a community with significant blocks of town-owned permanently protected properties. (Holden is the only adjoining community noted with substantial town open space holdings in the MassOutdoors 2006 report.) The Town owns 424.6 acres of protected open space (nearly 2 percent of the total land area) comprised of Conservation Commission and Town Forest holdings. Town held conservation restrictions protect at least 31.8 additional acres. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife owns 93 acres in Sterling while MassWildlife holds conservation restrictions protecting another 487.4 acres. The Sterling Land Trust owns 57 acres and controls additional lands through conservation restrictions.

Much of the permanently protected open space is open to some form of recreation, most of which is limited to passive recreation (non-motorized) activities. The DCR-DWSP lands are the most restrictive on recreation access, depending on the location of the property in question. This situation causes confusion, frustration, and concern for both citizens and visitors to the area; the MassOutdoors 2006 report notes this as a major dilemma that must be addressed (See Section 5, Community Needs, and Recreation). There is little information available to citizens regarding recreation activities on town-owned forest and conservation lands.

In the MassOutdoors 2006 report, the most frequently mentioned preference in central Massachusetts was for golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and tot lots (63.9%). Given the infrequent but broad use of these facilities noted above, this pattern suggests that facilities are nearby and desired, but may be over capacity, under maintained or both. According to the Sterling Recreation Department, developed recreational facilities in town are unevenly distributed throughout the town. A large block of developed recreation facilities are located between Boutelle, Muddy Pond and Griffin Roads, encompassing school playgrounds and ball fields; multiple town ball and soccer fields, walking track, marked fitness trail, football field, new playground facility for young children, and a refurbished pond with a walking path and benches. This large area also abuts protected DCR-DWSP land along the Stillwater River and Muddy Pond. Beyond this complex are two ball fields (one with a tennis and basketball court), the Memorial Park, and the town beach and boat ramp on East Lake Waushacum. The beach includes picnic areas, bathhouses, a basketball court, and a volleyball court, and the beach parking lot is utilized heavily in the summer for the Recreation Summer Camp. The town website offers well described information about town recreation opportunities and programming. Local newspapers always publicize activities offered by the Recreation Department and a sign in front of the 1835 Town Hall posts important recreation reminders. OSIC survey results also reflected a high level of citizen knowledge and awareness of Sterling's Town Recreation programming.

¹ This situation was also noted in the MassOutdoors 2006 Report.

² Verified in a conversation between Jim French of DCR, and Marion Larson.

The tables that follow list the parcels of land that are of conservation or recreation interest to the residents of Sterling by protection status (permanent, limited, temporary, or unprotected) and by public and private ownership (and illustrated on the *Open Space Inventory Map*).³ The information is the best available, although OSIC has identified a few discrepancies in the assessor's records that remain unresolved as of this writing.

Table 5-1: Acreage of Open Space in Sterling by Level of Protection

Land Permanently Protected from Development	Area in Acres
Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Land Owned in Fee	93.0
Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Restrictions	487.4
DCR-DWSP Lands Owned in Fee	5,074.4
DCR-DWSP Conservation Restrictions	486.6
DSR-Leominster State Forest	63.0
Sterling Conservation Commission Lands Owned in Fee	303.3
Sterling Conservation Commission Conservation Restrictions	29.4
Sterling Town Forest	121.3
Sterling Land Trust Lands Owned in Fee	58.0
Sterling Land Trust Conservation Restrictions	31.8
Agricultural Preservation Restrictions	226.1
Subtotal	6,974.3
Land with Limited Protection from Development	
Cemetery	28.8
Sterling Active Recreation Areas	77.7
Sterling Parks for Passive Recreation	15.6
Other State Open Spaces	15.3
Other Municipal Open Spaces	172.2
Subtotal	318.4
Land Temporarily Protected from Development	
Chapter 61 – Forestry	116.7
Chapter 61A – Agriculture	2,708.5
Chapter 61B – Recreation	337.35
Total	3,162.6
Total Open Space Land	10,455.3

According to the EOEEA Division of Conservation Services, land owned by the Town's Conservation Commission, one of the State's conservation agencies (MassWildlife or DCR-DWSP), or a nonprofit land trust (the Nature Conservancy or the Sterling Land Trust), is permanently protected, especially if the Town received State or Federal funds to purchase or improve the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) has been placed on the property, or if DEP has placed a conservation restriction on it as part of the Wetlands Conservancy Program. Removing land from permanent open space protection status so that it may be developed requires an affirmative vote by two thirds of the State Legislature. In most cases, the watershed district would be required to show the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection just cause for converting the use of the land.

A town-owned parcel of land under the authority of the Select Board instead of the Conservation Commission has limited protection. Such a parcel could serve as a wildlife sanctuary, but still lack the long-term protection afforded to Conservation Commission lands. Without permanent protection status, and a legal restriction on uses attached to the deed, it is possible to convert town-owned parcels to school playgrounds, parking lots or other town uses, upon Town meeting approval to do so. The level of protection afforded to publicly owned parcels with limited protection

³ Source: Sterling Assessor's Office, May 2008

depends on the policies of each community. Sterling has a total of 318.4 acres of land with limited protection, used for cemeteries, Town-sponsored active recreation, parks, and other public services. In addition, there are 15 acres of land in state ownership used for public services such as highway maintenance facilities.

Chapter 61 tax abatement programs afford parcels temporary protection. The Chapter 61 programs offer landowners a reduction of their property taxes in return for signing a contract promising that the predominant use of the land will not change during an agreed upon time (ten years for Chapter 61 and 61B, one year for Chapter 61A). The Chapter 61A program helps farmers by reducing their taxes while they farm their land. The Chapter 61 program helps lower the expenses of maintaining actively managed forestland. Landowners with parcels in the Chapter 61B program receive lower property taxes in exchange for keeping their land in recreational open space for ten years. The tax abatement programs can also provide the community an opportunity to protect land permanently. When parcels enrolled in one of the Chapter 61 programs are put up for sale, the Town has right of first refusal over the property giving the Town the opportunity to purchase the property during a one hundred and twenty (120) day waiting period.

A. PRIVATE PARCELS

1. Agricultural Properties

The Allen Properties on Heywood and Tuttle Roads are a significant agricultural resource for which the Department of Food and Agriculture has approved an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on 177 acres. The Conservation Commission holds an "Orchard CR" on 13.3 acres owned by the Rittenhouse family. In addition, on April 24, 2008, the Sterling Planning Board endorsed a plan brought by Philip Philbin to place his 35.78-acre parcel at 15 Chamberlain Road under an APR.

2. Areas of Significant Water Resources

Both the Clinton land holdings and the Wekepeke Aquifer represent significant water resources in the northern tier of Sterling. The properties owned by the town of Clinton support their reserve water supplies, and to some extent, the Division of Watershed Protection and the Conservation Commission protect these resources through their property holdings. The Wekepeke aquifer has a Zone II delineation that represents the boundaries of the Water Supply Protection Overlay District. Stricter standards for land use apply in this district, yet the best method for protecting a water supply is to acquire the land that supports it. Wekepeke Brook and its watershed are the recharge area for the aquifer and efforts to protect these assets should include protection of land resources around the brook.

3. Priority Areas for Natural Heritage

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (DFW-NHESP) has identified extensive areas in Sterling as Core and Supporting habitats for rare plants, rare animals, and natural communities, as illustrated on the State of Massachusetts BioMap. The BioMap project, conducted by the DFW-NHESP, identifies those areas most crucial to protecting the State's Biodiversity, through an evaluation of their extensive records of rare plants, animals, and natural communities. The BioMap also includes the supporting natural landscape areas that safeguard the Core Habitat. The MassGIS distributes information contained on the BioMap in GIS data layers available for conservation planning efforts.

The BioMap prominently features Sterling as part of the Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills geographic region. (See Appendix G) The Town is notable for having extensive portions of the Core and Supporting Habitats already in permanent protection. Core Habitat areas include the lands surrounding the Heywood Reservoir, the lands off of Flanagan Road and Albright Road, and uplands of the Stillwater River from the confluence of Bailey Brook and Rocky Pond Brook to the Wachusett Reservoir. Supporting habitat areas include the Southwest corner of Sterling west of Route 140, the northern tier of Sterling encompassing all of the water resource lands and the headwaters of Wekepeke Brook, and the hillsides northwest of I-190.

4. Private Recreation Lands

Davis's Farmland on Redstone Hill Road is a seven generation, 129-acre family farm operating as a farming oriented recreation center aimed at children aged one to eight. They also run a large field maze, named the Mega

Maze, in a field of sorghum. Visitors can encounter many species of farm animals, participate in interactive playscapes, ride ponies, take hayrides, collect eggs, milk the cows, and feed baby animals. They recently added a water spray ground featuring ground bubblers, misters, a pretend car wash, and a water tower geyser. Programming at the farm runs from April through October.

The Eight Point Sportsmen's Club, on Beaman Road, owns 66 acres in the Chapter 61B program dedicated to the use of hunting and fishing enthusiasts. The site features a shooting range for skeet and trap, a pond used for fishing derbies, and an archery range.

B. PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT PARCELS

1. Public, Conservation, and Recreation Resources

The inventory of protected open space in Sterling totals 6,974.3 acres, and is comprised of only that land owned by the Conservation Commission, Water Department, a state conservation agency, or a nonprofit land trust; land purchased by the town with state or federal funds; or land with a deed restriction in perpetuity or DEP Wetland Conservancy conservation restriction. (See *Open Space Inventory Map*)

In Sterling, the Department of Conservation Division of Water Supply Protection, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Sterling Conservation Commission, and the Sterling Land Trust hold the publicly owned, permanently protected parcels. The privately held, permanently protected parcels have an Agricultural Preservation Restriction held by the U.S. Department of Agriculture attached to their deeds.

Although Sterling landowners have generally not taken advantage of this program to date, one popular way to ensure that farmland remains in its current use is to enroll the parcel in the Agricultural Restriction Program (APR). Adopted by state legislature in 1977, the APR program ensures the permanent protection of large blocks of farmland by making it economically feasible for farmers to keep farming. Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, this program offers farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and "agricultural value" of their land in exchange for a permanent deed restriction on the property precluding uses that may harm the agricultural viability of the land. The farmer continues to own the land and can sell it, but only for agricultural uses.

a). State

The Massachusetts Commonwealth owns approximately 5,074.4 acres in Sterling, most of which the DCR-DWSP procured (5074 acres) for the protection of the upland watershed of the Stillwater River, the Quag, and West Lake Waushacum, as well as the Wachusett Reservoir. The DCR-DWSP controls an additional 486.6 acres through conservation restrictions. The DCR Division of State Parks also owns 63 acres at Leominster State Forest, and MassHighway owns 26 acres. Some portions of the DCR-DWPS properties are open to the public for passive recreation such as fishing, hiking, hunting, or bird watching; however, the DCR-DWPS restricts other activities to protect against pollution of the Stillwater River and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds.

Public access to and recreational use of drinking water supply lands and surface water supplies can serve as potential routes for the introduction of disease causing agents, so purveyors of drinking water must exercise caution when considering policies for recreation on water supply lands. The DCR-DWPS's Public Access Plan describes the public access policies, as outlined below in Table 5-2.⁴ Table 5-3 lists the DCR-DWPS holdings as of July of 2008. Three policy boundaries govern DWSP lands in Sterling: the Intake Zone, the Reservoir and Tributary Shorelines and West Waushacum Ponds Zone, and the Tributary Headwaters Zone. The Intake Protection Zone affects the Southeastern corner of the Town, where the DCR-DWPS has a no-access policy. The boundary extends roughly from the Wachusett Reservoir, northward along South Meadow Brook to Fitch Pond near Chace Hill Road. The boundary between the Tributary Headwaters Zone and the Reservoir & Tributary Shorelines and West Waushacum Ponds runs roughly from the intersection of I-190 and Route 140, up Route 140 to Princeton Road, then east along Princeton Road to I-190, then northeast to the edge of the watershed.

Table 5-2 - Wachusett Reservoir Watershed Access Rules Affecting Sterling

⁴ <http://www.state.ma.us/mdc/pacc.htm>

Management Zones	Authorized Activities
Intake Protection Zone	4-Mile No-Access Zone at North & South Dikes
Reservoir & Tributary Shorelines, West Wauschacum Ponds	Walking/Hiking , Seasonal Shore Fishing , Boat Fishing** , Non-Motorized Boating** , XC- Skiing , Organized Tours* , Field Sports*
Tributary Headwaters Zone	Walking/Hiking , Seasonal Shore Fishing , Year-Round Fishing , Fishing with Waders , Canoeing , Bicycling* , Hunting* , XC-Skiing

*DCR-DWPS “Special Use” Permit required, **Allowed at West Waushacum Pond Only

Prior to the completion of the 2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan update, the town digitized the assessor’s database, and in the process assigned a new numbering system to the parcel list. Table 5-3 lists the DCR-DWSP holdings by the new numbering system. Two parcels that had previously held DCR-DWSP conservation restrictions now lack current parcel identifiers. One is a 157.7-acre parcel off Johnson Road; the other is a 95-acre parcel on Upper North Row Rd.

Table 5-3: State-Owned Open Spaces within Sterling

Parcel #			
Map-Lot	Location	User code	Acres
Leominster State Forest			
4-7	69-85 Justice Hill Road	9100	63.0
MassHighway			
159-13	12-38 Redemption Rock Trail	9010	7.3
66-10	Chocksett Road	9150	12.7
66-1	Leominster Road (Off)	9150	5.2
137-6	2 Old Gates Road	9150	0.8
	Subtotal		26.0

DCR Division of Watershed Protection			
Parcel #	Location	User code	Acres
56-2	Off South Nelson Road	9010	25.4
17-1	Off Justice Hill Road Cutoff	9150	58.4
55-7	18-52 South Nelson Road	9150	64
58-14.1	Off Redemption Rock Trail	9150	7.2
58-12.8	Pheasant Hill Lane	9150	4.3
153-3	Metropolitan Road	9150	78.9
168-1	Metropolitan Road	9150	27
152-3	Off Metropolitan Road	9150	3.6
148-23	139-185 Newell Hill Road	9150	92.6
155-2	2 Campground Road	9150	24.9
157-18	6-22 Mortimer Road	9150	23
155-3	44 Campground Road	9150	55
137-2	6 Gates Road	9150	10.8
147-24	Campground Road	9150	54
	Off Worcester/Campground		
165-1	Roads	9150	59
165-4	Fairbanks Street	9150	0.3
167-1	Metropolitan Road	9150	473
165-5	4 Palmer Lane	9150	0.5
164-2	Off Palmer Lane	9150	2
39-1	406-466 Redemption Rock Trail+	9150	31.3
126-4	113-123 Worcester Road (Off)	9150	169
126-1	Worcester Road	9150	3.6
127-5	77-91 Newell Hill Road	9150	14.8
127-1	76-112 Newell Hill Road	9150	161
35-1	Off Justice Hill Road	9150	794
147-25	29 Worcester Road	9150	54
156-12	Campground Road	9150	0.9
156-14	10-30 Campground Rd	9150	2.8
137-68	3 Bean Road	9150	3
138-4	64-70 Boutelle Road	9150	116
145-8	63 Dana Hill Road	9150	3.9
145-5	68 John Dee Road	9150	99
145-6	65 John Dee Road	9150	14.9
105-31	201 Worcester Road	9150	0.8
158-6	121 John Dee Road	9150	40
101-31	253 Princeton Road	9150	291
101-2	16 Reed Road	9150	83
101-4	208 Greenland Road	9150	32
101-29	262 Princeton Road	9150	3
98-3	340 Princeton Road	9150	73
120-16	27 Pikes Hill Road	9150	1.2
101-13	282 Princeton Road	9150	1.5
101-7	213-229 Redemption Rock Trail	9150	75
154-27	22 Chace Hill Road	9150	4.6
135-17	Newell Hill Road	9150	0.7
148-11	194 Newell Hill Road	9150	0.9
117-7	144 Greenland Road	9150	18
98-8	Rear 4 Burpee Road	9150	4.1
123-12	9 Fox Run Road	9150	8.3
3-6	43 Lucas Road	9150	7.6
76-18	At Beaman Road	9150	29.7

166-14	Campground Road	9150	267
95-7	Off Princeton Road	9150	111
94-17	91 Princeton Road	9150	77
18-19	121 Justice Hill Road	9150	25.5
14-7	3 Lucas Road	9150	1.9
97-7	273 Redemption Rock Trail	9150	5.8
59-30	3 North Oakdale Cutoff	9150	5.6
61-11	86-94 South Nelson Road	9150	1.2
159-14	Off Legg Road	9150	522
3-1	38-58 Lucas Road	9150	43
76-1	56 Wilder Road	9150	53.4
123-1	Redemption Rock Trail	9150	161
61-1	Off South Nelson Road	9150	10
77-23	133 South Nelson Road	9150	1
77-22	135 South Nelson Road	9150	1
77-21	135-137 South Nelson Road	9150	2.5
60-11	Off Beaman Road	9150	6
60-12	South Nelson Road	9150	12
60-13	Off Beaman Road	9150	20
57-1	Off South Nelson Road	9150	39
61-5	Off South Nelson Road	9150	45
159-6	Redemption Rock Trail	9150	0.4
146-6	Worcester Road	9150	4.3
63-6	112 Rowley Hill Road	9150	9
19-1	Off Roper Road/Justice Hill	9150	315.5
104-5.1	Off Old Princeton Road	9150	17.9
101-6	276 Princeton Road	9150	1
76-5	71 Wilder Road	9150	1.6
34-10	Justice Hill Road	9150	30
159-7	Redemption Rock Trail	9150	1.4
93-48.1	Princeton Road	9150	1
116-2	Off Greenland Road	9150	0
157-7	50 Bean Road	9150	12.4
123-9	10 Fox Run Road	9150	1
165-3	Off Fairbanks Street	9150	2.5
162-4	Redemption Rock Trail	9150	0.1
73-25	68 Rowley Hill Road	9150	16.8
159-10	0 Redemption Rock Trail	9150	0.4
97-6	260 Redemption Rock Trail	915C	6.2
101-12	228 Redemption Rock Trail	915R	35.8
Subtotal:			5,074.70

b). Municipal Land

Sterling Conservation Commission owns approximately three hundred (303.5) acres, as listed in Table 5-4 and identified by name and street address. Two notable parcels are the Heywood parcels abutting Hardscrabble Road and Upper North Row Road, over which a memorial trail, dedicated in memory of Milford MaGaw, leads south from Upper North Row Road, through sloping woodlands to power lines, then east a short distance to a second parcel that abuts the Fitch Basin. Refer to Appendix E for a comprehensive listing of Conservation Commission properties, maintenance and management, zoning, and public access.

Table 5-4: Sterling Conservation Commission Properties under Permanent Protection

Parcel#	Map-Lot	Location	Owner	Use Code	Acres
Land Owned by Town Of Sterling--Conservation Commission					
73-5		22 Taft Road	Conservation Commission	9030	4.7
67-1		Chockett Road	C/O Conservation Commission	9030	0.9
42-14		Justice Hill Road	Conservation Commission Heywood	9030	5.0
45-4		Tuttle Road (Off)	Conservation Commission (Percival)	9030	56.0
70-17		209-221 Pratts Junction Road	C/O Conservation Commission	9030	3.1
134-17		27 Swett Hill Road	Conservation Commission B Hall	9030	13.4
19-3		Hardscrabble Road	Conservation Commission	9030	17.0
34-12		North Row Road	Conservation Commission (Wass)	9030	24.3
33-2		Heywood Road	Conservation Control	9030	19.9
76-25		42 Tanglewood Road	Conservation Commission	9030	1.2
98-1		300-312 Princeton Road	Conservation Commission W S Athletic Field	9030	7.9
98-5		Princeton Road	Conservation Commission	9030	4.0
98-6		Justice Hill Road	Town Forest C/O Cons Commission	9030	5.0
117-10		Off Greenland Road	Conservation Commission	9030	17.2
14-27		210 Justice Hill Road	Conservation Commission	9030	2.1
138-1		3 Griffin Road	Board Of Selectmen (Con Com)	9030	1.0
138-2		1 Griffin Road	Board Of Selectmen (Con Com)	9030	1.0
145-4		5 Griffin Road	Board Of Selectmen (Con Com)	9030	1.0
126-7		4 Greenland Road	Conservation Commission	9030	0.3
33-1		Off Hardscrabble Road	Conservation Commission	9030	5.0
76-16		124 Beaman Road	Conservation Commission Munoz (Rocky Brook)	9035	20.0
134-19		10 Hall Avenue	Conservation Commission	9035	0.3
66-12		Off Chocksett Road	Conservation Commission	9035	10.2
91-32		Off Redstone Place		9035	8.7
62-3		Off Osgood Road		9035	33.2
107-3		7 Redstone Place		9035	1.0
129-31.1		9 Tara Lane		9035	34.1
85-53		57 Leominster Road	Conservation Commission	9035	6.0
Total					<u>303.5</u>
Conservation Restrictions Held by Town of Sterling--Conservation Commission					
129-31		87-91 Kendall Hill Rd	Rittenhouse		13.3
130-12.1		Chace Hill Rd off	Griffin		16.08
Total					<u>29.39</u>

2. Nonprofit Lands

a). Local Land Trusts

The Sterling Land Trust owns two adjacent properties along the Lynde Brook, off Heywood Road, adjacent to the Clinton Waterworks property surrounding Lynde Basin. Abutting lands have temporary protection under Chapter 61A. The Trust owns another parcel along the Wekepeke Brook, off Pratts Junction Road. Recent improvements at this property include a small wooden bridge that crosses the brook and a large laser-carved stone demarking the land, which was a gift from the Spratt family. A path runs through the woods, westward along the banks of the brook, to the Boston and Maine railroad.

Table 5-5: Lands Held by Local Conservation Land Trusts

Parcel#	Location	Use Code	Acres
46-38	52-66 Pratts Junction Road	9200	9
43-7	47 Heywood Road	1010	1.0
43-8	43 Heywood Road	6100	18
130-2	136 Kendall Hill Road	9200	30
Total			58.0

C. OPEN SPACE WITH LIMITED PROTECTION

Parcels with limited protection from development fall into two categories: those protected due to their current use and those parcels owned by a Town department other than the Conservation Commission. Two examples are parcels used to protect water supplies and lands used for railroad purposes. Any change in use of these lands would require either a vote at Town Meeting or a decision by the Select Board. The Town of Clinton also owns 462.7 acres of land classified as open space with limited protection, mostly held as reserve water supply lands, however these lands recently received permanent protection through a conservation restriction granted to MassWildlife by the Town of Clinton. Refer to Appendix E for a comprehensive listing of Recreation Department properties, maintenance and management, zoning, and public access.

Table 5-6: Municipally Owned Properties with Limited Protection

Parcel #	Location	Description	Use Code	Acres
Town Of Sterling--Town Forest				
31-3	Off Tuttle Road	Town Forest	9030	10.0
31-5	Off Tuttle Road	Town Forest	9030	32.0
31-4	Off Tuttle Road	Town Forest	9030	8.4
98-7	Off Holden Road	Town Forest Howe Lumber	9030	14.5
100-27	Off Holden Road	Town Forest Newhall	9030	10.0
100-28	Off Holden Road	Town Forest	9030	46.4
Subtotal				121.3
Town Of Sterling--Cemetery				
85-57	25 Clinton Road	Cemetery Dept	903i	14.5
133-15	112 Chace Hill Road	Cemetery Dept Fairbanks	9030	0.3
85-55	20 Clinton Road	Cemetery Dept	9030	10.0
146-10	13 Boutelle Road	Cemetery Dept	9030	0.6
159-2	43 Redemption Rock Trail	Cemetery Dept Legg	9030	2.0
92-11	7 Clinton Road	Cemetery Dept Reed	9030	1.5
Subtotal				28.8
Town Of Sterling--Active Recreation Areas				
138-3	44-48 Muddy Pond Road	Hwy Dept Griffin	9030	8.0
134-35	2 North Cove Road	C/O DPW	9030	0.9
134-34	1 Hall Avenue	Town Beach	9030	0.3
129-24	Swett Hill Road	Town Beach C/O DPW	9030	11.5
137-11	20 Boutelle Road	Houghton/Chocksett School	9033	57.0
Subtotal				77.7
Town Of Sterling--Parks For Passive Recreation				
92-74	1 Park Street		903i	13.7
93-11	3 Waushacum Avenue	DPW Memorial Area Mitchell	9030	0.1
93-16	4 Cross Street	DPW Memorial Area	9030	0.6
93-17	5 Waushacum Avenue	DPW Memorial Area	9030	1.1
Subtotal				15.6

Table 5-6: Municipally Owned Properties with Limited Protection (Cont.)

Parcel #	Location	Description	Use Code	Acres
Town of Sterling--Other Open Space (Multiple Owners)				
66-9	129-135 Leominster Road	Police Department	903i	11.0
51-7	Leominster Road	Selectmen	9030	24.0
66-8	137-145 Leominster Road	Highway Dept	9030	10.0
54-29	135 Rowley Hill Road	School Dept	9030	0.2
9-38	2 Williams Street	Selectman	9030	0.3
157-51	7 Sunset Drive		9030	1.0
92-62	Btwn Maple & Waushacum	DPW Penn Rail Road	9030	1.5
75-26	17 Tanglewood Road	C/O Board Of Selectmen	9030	0.6
92-112	1 Bridge Street	Hwy Dept Allen	9030	0.3
92-86	Clinton Road	Select railroad R O W	9030	3.1
80-3	Redemption Rock Trail	DPW Pumping Station	9030	2.3
80-2	Redemption Rock Trail	DPW Pumping Station	9030	26.0
80-1	Redemption Rock Trail	Sterling Town Hall	9030	1.5
92-7	Maple & Clinton Road	DPW Penn railroad	9030	1.2
150-2	73 Chace Hill Road	Attn: Selectmen	9030	24.9
21-15	Upper North Row Road	Attn: Selectmen	9030	17.0
73-31.1	Tuttle Road		9030	2.3
134-5	38 Swett Hill Road		9030	14.0
134-6	40 Swett Hill Road		9030	1.0
101-18	294 Princeton Road		9030	0.3
101-22	298 Princeton Road		9030	0.5
101-15	288 Princeton Road	School Dept	903c	0.6
101-16	290 Princeton Road	Selectmen	9030	0.2
93-30	7 Cross Street	Fire Dept	9030	0.0
52-9	Off Leominster Road	Board Of Selectmen	9030	28.3
92-44	7 Bird Street	Sterling Housing Authority	903c	7.1
93-1	31 Main Street	Selectmen Town Hall Bldg	903c	0.2
93-15	5 Main Street	Fire Dept	903c	0.3
114-62	171 Worcester Road	Hwy Dept	903c	3.6
29-19	27 Pratts Junction Road	Electric Light Dept	903i	1.0
92-79	2 Leominster Road	Municipal Light Dept	903c	0.8
126-3	Worcester Road	Water Dept	903i	4.2
92-78	50 Main Street	SMLD	903c	0.9
93-61	2 Meetinghouse Hill Road	Library Bldg	903c	0.1
82-42	9 Osgood Road	Water Dept	9030	0.9
58-7	Redemption Rock Trail	DPW Gravel Pit	9030	0.4
114-63	163-165 Worcester Road	DPW Wheeler	9030	0.3
114-61	177 Worcester Road	Sanitary Land Fill	9030	0.3
113-6	Kendall Hill Road	Water Dept	9030	0.5
93-18	20 School Street	Highway Dept Estabrook	9030	0.1
95-33	Beaman Road	D.P.W	9030	0.1
106-48	2 Kendall Hill Road	Dept Public Works	9035	0.1
92-72	3 Maple Street	Selectmen	9030	0.1
93-29	18 School Street	Highway Dept Buck	9030	0.4
93-27	School Street	Selectman	9030	0.1
105-51	6 School Street	Highway-W W & Davis	9030	0.0
93-31	5 Cross Street	Highway Dept Clinton Trust	9030	0.0
156-18	3 Gates Terrace	Board Of Selectmen	903r	0.2
126-2	Worcester Road	Highway Dept Worc St Railroad	9030	2.3
Subtotal				196.3

Table 5-6: Municipally Owned Properties with Limited Protection (Cont.)

Parcel #	Location	Description	Use Code	Acres
Unknown Owner (With 900 Series Tax Classification)				
91-41.4	Off Redstone Place		9030	0.0
25-2	Off Legate Hill Road		9030	0.0
82-34	Old County Road		9030	1.2
Subtotal				1.2
Town Of Clinton Owned Lands				
21-32	49-103 Heywood Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	127.0
32-1	40-56 Heywood Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	62.0
20-9	281-323 Heywood Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	137.0
20-10	247-279 Heywood Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	27.0
10-2	Heywood Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	90.0
12-1	Rear Upper North Row Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	9.3
12-2	Heywood Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	6.2
46-34.1	Off Pratts Junction Road	Clinton Water Works	9030	1.8
132-2	Off Chace Hill Road	Clinton Town Of	9030	2.4
Subtotal				462.7
92-68	30 School Street	American Legion Post 189	903c	0.3
TOTAL				903.9

D. OPEN SPACE WITH TEMPORARY PROTECTION

The privately owned parcels enrolled in one of the Chapter 61 tax abatement programs (Chapter 61, Chapter 61A, or Chapter 61B) have temporary protection from development. Under these programs, if a landowner intends to sell the classified land or convert it to another use, he or she must notify Town officials by certified mail. The Town has the right of first refusal and assesses a penalty in the form of either a conveyance tax or a roll back tax. Sterling has 14 lots totaling 265.5 acres in Chapter 61, 11 lots totaling 422 acres in 61B, and 141 lots totaling 2708.5 acres in Chapter 61A. Currently undeveloped, these lands are of interest for both conservation and recreation purposes, since they constitute a significant amount of open space that could provide linkages between existing conservation and recreation lands to form a greenway network. Tables 5-7 and 5-8 list parcels of temporarily protected land by type and include their location, ownership, Assessors' map and lot, and the acreage. (See the *Open Space Inventory Map*).⁵

Table 5-7: Inventory of Chapter 61 Forestry and 61B Recreation Parcels

Chapter Program	Map Lot	Location	Grantee	Use Code	Acres
61 Forestry	112-1	Off Chamberlain Road	Chase Valerie V.	601V	15.3
	26-1	Off Ford Road	Gaw C Vernon & Victoria P	601V	4.4
	175-209	Campground Road	Wauashacum Village	601V	24.0
	43-8	43 Heywood Road	Sterling Land Trust, Inc	6100	18.0
	133-23	129 Kendall Hill Road	Gauld, William J	610V	39.0
	119-40	Off Holden Road	Harper James S Iii	610V	2.1
	16-2	98 Justice Hill Road Cutoff	Baker, Janeen T	610V	14.0
Total					116.7
61B Recreation	67-31,32	Albright Rd	Lanster Corp/Sterling Cc	3800	166.0
	117-4	Greenland Rd	H. Ciborowski*	3890	164.0
	10-15	Heywood Rd	Bird William W Sr & Anne M	8030	7.4
Total					337.4

⁵ Table Based on Assessor's Database as of 4/7/2008, Town of Sterling. Items marked with an asterisk were not searchable based on 600 series tax code within the database.

Table 5-8: Inventory of Chapter 61A Parcels—Agriculture

Parcel #	Location	Grantee	Use Code	Acres
90-6	112 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy Inc	713v	1.0
90-5	Redstone Hill Road	Davis Farms Trust	713v	15.1
89-3	168 Redstone Hill Road	Perry Russell C	713v	11.0
89-5	170 Redstone Hill Road	Perry Russell C	713v	7.3
98-18	272 Princeton Road	Thompson Ronald S	713v	6.5
98-16	319 Princeton Road	Thompson Ronald S	713v	5.5
28-4	32-50 Flanagan Hill Road	Ford Karen	713v	22.0
144-17	67 Redemption Rock Trail	Kristoff George W Jr	713v	1.4
144-18	Redemption Rock Trail	Cote Christine Trustee	713v	3.2
131-2	Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	713v	1.0
144-20	55 Redemption Rock Trail	Kristoff George W Jr	713v	5.3
108-6	40 Rugg Road	Hagberg Nancy M	713v	6.9
144-21	58 Dana Hill Road	Kristoff George W Jr	713v	3.8
107-21	Maple Street	Greene Joel Trustee & Sawyers	713v	19.4
108-7	Rugg Road	Greene Joel Trustee & Sawyers	713v	27.6
90-2	92-98 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Farms Trust	714v	13.6
90-3	100 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Farms Trust	714v	0.3
90-4	100-106 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Farms Trust	714v	11.3
110-5	1-9 Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	12.5
130-19	206 Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	4.1
131-1	178-186 Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	21.0
110-1	204r Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	39.3
131-6	Off Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	11.7
18-16	142 Justice Hill Road	Justice Hill Inc	714v	48.5
118-5	24-26 Johnson Road	French Arthur W	714v	1.0
131-8	Off Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	20.0
109-2	Hawkins Lane	Broderick William E	714v	1.0
109-3	23-31 Hawkins Lane	Broderick William E	714v	22.0
109-5	17 Hawkins Lane	Broderick William E	714v	7.1
110-10	Hawkins Lane	Broderick William E	714v	16.0
110-11	Hawkins Lane	Broderick William E	714v	5.0
118-4	0 Redemption Rock Trail	French Arthur W	714v	3.6
131-6.1	Off Chace Hill Road	Chandler David	714v	1.7
31-1	Off North Row Road	Drenova Georgia & Generalis B	7150	13.1
89-18	145 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	716c	12.8
133-2	123 Chace Hill Road	Rota David H	716c	49.4
96-1	186 Princeton Road	Bigelow Nurseries Inc	716i	89.8
70-24	97 Clinton Road	Senter James B	716v	10.2
10-21	159 Upper North Row Road	Padula Michael L Trustee	716v	8.3
27-2	28 Ford Road	Gaw C Vernon & Victoria P	716v	5.8
27-4	34 Ford Road	Gaw C Vernon	716v	53.0
89-12	161-163 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	716v	9.0
23-1	52-64 North Row Road	Drenova Georgia	716v	34.7
23-2	70 North Row Road	Orr Brian Harrington & Deborah	716v	64.0
64-6	44-70 Tuttle Road	Hopfmann Ralph M&Ruth M Truste	716v	5.9
53-30	31-69 Tuttle Road	Hopfmann Ralph M&Ruth M Truste	716v	75.0
89-17	Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy Inc	716v	42.8
89-2	160 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	716v	16.1
53-29	Off Tuttle Road	Allen John & Sara Miller Nancy	716v	27.0
44-4	109-155 Tuttle Road	Allen John & Sara Miller Nancy	716v	61.9
43-14	173-199 Tuttle Road	Starbard Eric	716v	27.0
44-2	116-172 Tuttle Road	Allen John & Sara Miller Nancy	716v	26.0
90-9	121-123 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Farms Trust	716v	7.5
90-8	Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc	716v	9.7
89-10	169-179 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	716v	32.0
29-33	221-241 Leominster Road	Golas Walter	716v	5.5
64-4	Kilburn Road	Alty Joyce	716v	14.5
63-37	2 Kilburn Road	Murray Ann E	716v	5.9

41-3	28 Justice Hill Road	Lanciani Thomas	716v	18.6
47-1	58-96 Flanagan Hill Road	Heinrich Mary E & James T Trst	716v	55.6
90-13	44 Rugg Road	Nourse Ralph B & Mary	716v	6.8
42-6	6 Justice Hill Road	Nickerson Robert L Jr	716v	1.9
10-20	155 North Row Road	Padula Michael L. Trustee	716v	41.0
15-4	104-106 Justice Hill Cutoff	Williams Ernest R	716v	2.0
76-20	87-117 South Nelson Road	Hulick Henry F & Marion J	716v	9.0
88-20	12-18 Wiles Road	Davis Dairy, Inc	716v	12.5
89-9	Off Clinton Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	716v	1.1
88-10	Off Clinton Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	716v	21.0
104-6	54-62 Princeton Road	Gargulinski Edward	716v	5.0
94-13	107-111 Princeton Road	Burzenski William J	716v	15.3
144-2	8 Merrill Road	Cote Christine Trustee	716v	8.1
64-12	43 Tuttle Road	Hopfmann Ralph M & Ruth M	716v	3.7
64-11	45 Tuttle Road	Hopfmann Ralph M & Ruth M	716v	3.5
63-1	74 Rowley Hill Road	Murray Bruce & Ann	716v	28.5
64-2	14-18 Kilburn Road	Murray Bruce & Ann	716v	18.5
43-1	Heywood Road	Pillsbury Charles A	716v	16.5
43-11	6 Heywood Road	Pillsbury Charles A	716v	13.6
43-17	1 Heywood Road	Pillsbury Charles A	716v	20.0
123-4	142-150 Redemption Rock Trail	Janowicz Walter M	716v	55.0
61-10	76-80 South Nelson Road	Janowicz Walter M	716v	50.0
88-21	Wiles Road	Konola Jukka T	716v	2.0
113-4	60 Kendall Hill Road	Smiley Robert Ian	716v	1.0
108-5	42 Rugg Road	Hagberg Nancy M	716v	6.1
132-1	Chace Hill Road	Harvey Flora M	716v	20.0
150-21	81 Chace Hill Road	Bedrosian Doris E	716v	18.5
107-25	Maple Street	Melone Anthony Richard	716v	12.5
107-28	Maple Street	Melone Anthony Richard	716v	9.3
139-44	28 John Dee Road	Hendrickson Elisabeth M Trustee	716v	9.6
126-49	35 Jewett Road	Mcnamara, Iii William F	716v	0.7
126-45	34-38 Jewett Road	Mcnamara, Catherine G Le	716v	5.0
115-1	Jewett Road	Mcnamara Catherine G Le	716v	1.1
126-43	19 Greenland Road	Mcnamara Catherine G Le	716v	1.0
126-42	27 Greenland Road	Mcnamara Catherine G Le	716v	8.0
23-6	43 North Row Road	Lynn Marian Trustee	716v	13.7
20-11	231 Upper North Row Road	Murray Verne S Et Al	716v	12.9
49-2	74 Albright Road	Decker Robert	716v	16.0
139-41	18 John Dee Road	Cutler Brothers, Llc	716v	9.2
89-12.1	165 Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc	716v	4.1
125-6	95 Greenland Road	The Trust For Public Land	716v	10.3
125-10	Off Greenland Road	The Trust For Public Land	716v	24.8
59-25	191-197 Beaman Road	Carlson John R	716v	27.8
82-12.1	44 Beaman Road	Keddy James W	7170	12.1
10-1	146 North Row Road	Padula Michael L Trustee	717v	57.0
31-2	Off Heywood Road	Allen John & Sara Miller Nancy	717v	4.0
71-19	Off Redstone Hill Road	Davis Dairy, Inc.	717v	11.6
28-7	Off Flanagan Hill Road	Davis Farms Trust	717v	17.8
111-1	Hawkins Lane	Broderick Henry T	717v	22.1
44-5	Off Tuttle Road	Davis Farms Trust	717v	17.0
152-2	Metropolitan Road	Brodmerkle Mary Et Ali	717v	11.0
44-6	Off North Row Road	Lynn Marian Trustee	717v	91.0
151-1	Metropolitan Road	Brodmerkle Mary Et Ali	717v	21.0
54-31	Off Rowley Hill Road	Starbard Eric&Ann	717v	21.4
91-13	Redstone Hill Road	Nourse Ralph B & Mary E	717v	18.0
125-7	57 Greenland Road	Kristoff John C	717v	19.0
15-1	114-118 Justice Hill Road	Williams Ernest R	717v	2.6
14-2	188-194 Justice Hill Road	Blanchard John V	717v	6.2
14-21	193-195 Justice Hill Road	Blanchard John V	717v	0.9
42-12	Off Hardscrabble Road	Bates III Oren R Trustee	717v	51.3
104-7	49-63 Princeton Road	Gargulinski Edward	717v	11.9
120-22	Holden Road	Thompson Ronald S	717v	16.0

119-3	36 Holden Road	French Arthur W	717v	35.0
98-11	7-9 Burpee Road	Simpson James E	717v	10.5
98-15	8 Burpee Rd	Thompson Ronald S	717v	1.1
118-14	Off Johnson Road	French Arthur W & Dorothy A	717v	12.0
28-6	2-32 Ford Road	Ford Karen	717v	16.5
88-22	21 Wiles Road	Konola Jukka T	717v	16.9
118-7	32-43 Johnson Road	Strang Joan S Trustee	717v	4.0
122-14	Off Holden Road	Strang Joan S Trustee	717v	40.0
122-15	Off Redemption Rock Trail	Strang Trustee Joan S	717v	40.0
22-18	91 North Row Road	Orr Harrington Brian	717v	4.1
107-27	Off Kendall Hill Road	Philbin Philip A	717v	7.5
18-18	Off Roper Road	Campobasso Colleen Trustee	717v	95.0
64-17	75-99 Rowley Hill Road	Murray Bruce	717v	13.5
64-10	Off Tuttle Road	Roseberry Armand	717v	52.9
110-9	Hawkins Lane	Broderick William E	717v	37.5
63-28	69 Osgood Road	Vaghini Family Ltd Partnership	717v	30.0
75-41	67 Osgood Road	Vaghini Family Ltd Partnership	717v	45.2
64-20	0 Rowley Hill Road	Murray Bruce & Ann	717v	10.1
116-1	Off Greenland Road	The Trust For Public Land	717v	50.0
4-5	15-37 Lucas Road	Nelson Herbert A	7180	21.7
90-11	Rugg Road	Nourse Ralph B	722v	48.9
Total				2708.5

E. OPEN SPACE OF UNKNOWN OWNERSHIP

In 2002, a few parcels existed that were of undetermined ownership at the time of the 2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan. These parcels do not seem to be listed in the current assessor's database. Some of these are substantial in size and they abut other parcels of conservation interest already protected so they may be of conservation interest. Parcel 43-4 is adjacent to the Clinton Waterworks property at Fitch Basin. Parcel 45-15 is adjacent to Conservation Commission land off Tuttle Road. Parcel 46-33 is adjacent to I-190 between two bridge structures. Parcel 74-1 is adjacent to a DCR-DWPS parcel off Taft Road. Parcel 104-5.1 sits adjacent to I-190, near the gravel mine. Connelly Brook runs across this property. Parcels 49-49 and 113-9 are subdivision roads. Parcels 147-3, 154-10, and 154-25 are railroad rights of way.

Table 5-10: Parcels of Interest

Map & Lot #	Acres
43-4	13.3
45-15	55.9
46-33	5.1
49-49	6.5
74-1	18.2
104-5.1	18.1
113-9	7
147-3	4.8
154-10	7.4
154-25	10.7
Total	147.1

F. STATUS OF HANDICAP ACCESS EVALUATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION LANDS

In 2000, the Massachusetts Office on Disability conducted a Municipal Access Survey statewide. At that time, Sterling did not have a Coordinator or a Committee on Disability. Since then, the town established a Committee on Disability, and appointed members and ADA coordinators, but the committee and the ADA compliance officers have not remained in office. The regulations require that the coordinator be an employee of the Town, preferably one who has experience working with various disabled populations. On September 30, 2009, the BOS appointed Matt Marro, the Town Conservation Agent, to the position of ADA coordinator. Matt also works for the

Department of Mental Retardation and is very experienced with ADA requirements. As of this writing, the BOS is moving forward with appointments to the Committee on Disability. Failure to comply with ADA regulations puts the town in danger of ineligibility to apply for various state grants.

Recreational opportunities and facilities for people with disabilities are scarce in Sterling. In 2002, the Open Space and Recreation Committee conducted a 504 Self-Evaluation survey of seven conservation and recreation properties that are representative of the recreational experiences in Sterling, in accordance with the State's planning requirements. These sites are under the jurisdictions of the Conservation Commission, the Board of Selectmen, or the Department of Public Works. For each site, the committee recommended several improvement strategies to create compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, setting the groundwork needed for a Transition Plan (**See Appendix E**). The Town has not completed the work for this plan yet as funding for a trained person to conduct an update the self-assessment is not available as it had been with the 2002 Open Space Plan.

In 2009, the Town moved the Recreation Department office from the Butterick Building, which has limited accessibility, to the 1835 Town Hall. The first floor of the 1835 Town Hall is handicap accessible via a ramp at the back of the building and the Town has painted handicapped parking spaces there. The Recreation Department holds most or all of its programs on the first floor.

In the summer of 2008, as part of the information gathering for the Open Space and Recreation Plan 2009 Update, OSIC member Marion Larson gave Judy Janda, the Recreation Department Director, several forms used by the MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation that assist with the inventory and assessment of accessibility of recreation facilities and recreation programming. Janda felt these forms could be very useful for conducting a comprehensive assessment for Sterling. It should be noted that nearly all Town Forest parcels and selected conservation parcels in Sterling are landlocked by private lands, making public access of any kind, never mind for people with disabilities, technically impossible.

Since the 2002, the Town has installed handicapped accessible portable toilets at the Town Beach at Sholan Park and at the playing fields at Griffin Park. Judy Janda, in a 2008 conversation with OSIC, stated that for the children's swim programs the department provides additional aides for participants with special needs. She also expressed strong interest in exploring ways in which to make programs and facilities more inclusive for people with disabilities and expressed enthusiasm with the idea of hosting a workshop to be open for towns in the region that focuses on ways to make outdoor programming accessible. In 2009, the facilities of the Recreation Department and the new conservation area at Waushacum Overlook were visited and evaluated using the DCS forms. Since the previous plan, there have been no changes in ADA status on the various conservation properties.

Open-air concerts at Memorial Park attract a variety of people of varying ages and abilities. A few cars with handicapped placards have been observed parked at the edge of the park with people in the cars on a bench or in wheelchairs or scooters enjoying the concerts. However, at times people without handicaps have been observed parking in spaces designed for the disabled. The Town does not have a bylaw or ordinance authorizing the police to ticket/tow cars parked illegally in these spaces, nor is there a volunteer parking patrol program. Bus trips scheduled by the Recreation Department currently do not offer any special accommodations for people with disabilities.

Sterling Recreation Department advertises its programs in paper flyers, newspapers and in electronic format on the Town website. In 2009, the Town relocated the Recreation Department from the Butterick Municipal Building to a new office in the 1835 Town Hall. A number of recreation programs are held in this building throughout the year. The building has parking spaces designated for the handicapped, a ramp, and nearly compliant accessible bathrooms on the ground level. Though Sterling is not an Environmental Justice (EJ) community, the bordering towns of Clinton, Leominster, and West Boylston do contain EJ populations.