
Chapter 6: Public Services And Facilities

Introduction

In many respects, Southampton is at a crossroads regarding how it will grow in the future. Local decisions about public services and facilities are funded and built will be critical in determining which direction the town takes.

During the master plan process, some residents expressed the concern that increasing town services, such as the installing a public sewer system, will allow new development that will change the town's rural character, which is treasured by so many residents.

Indeed, information throughout this master plan documents the fact that Southampton is one of the region's fastest growing communities due to its convenient access to goods and services and jobs. Its rural agrarian character, substantial open spaces and natural resources continue to attract new residents. Unfortunately, this increased growth is placing new burdens on public infrastructure and the environment. In particular, the lack of wastewater infrastructure in portions in town with poor soils is leading to a growing number of failing septic systems. This affects not only residential lots, but also limits the ability of the town to provide affordable senior housing for its residents.

Therefore, the Master Plan Committee has agreed that providing a limited public wastewater system to serve the portions of town that have an identified need for sewer service, such as the Town Center and the southeasterly portion of town, will improve the overall quality of life for all town residents. A public wastewater system in limited areas of the community could also provide opportunities to designate some areas for increased residential and commercial development, which would help increase the municipal tax base while possibly discouraging development in the outlying areas of town with limited or no public wastewater and water infrastructure. Additional tax funds could be used to support facilities and programming at the outstanding elementary school, and increase staff and materials at the public library.

While these decisions may alter the rural character at some designated locations in the community, it is the hope that by allowing water and sewer infrastructure in limited locations will in turn allow an increase in services to town residents, and improve the overall quality of life in the community.



Old Town Hall, East Street *Photo: PVPC*



New Town Hall, 210 College Highway *Photo: Robert Floyd*

6.1 Trends and Data

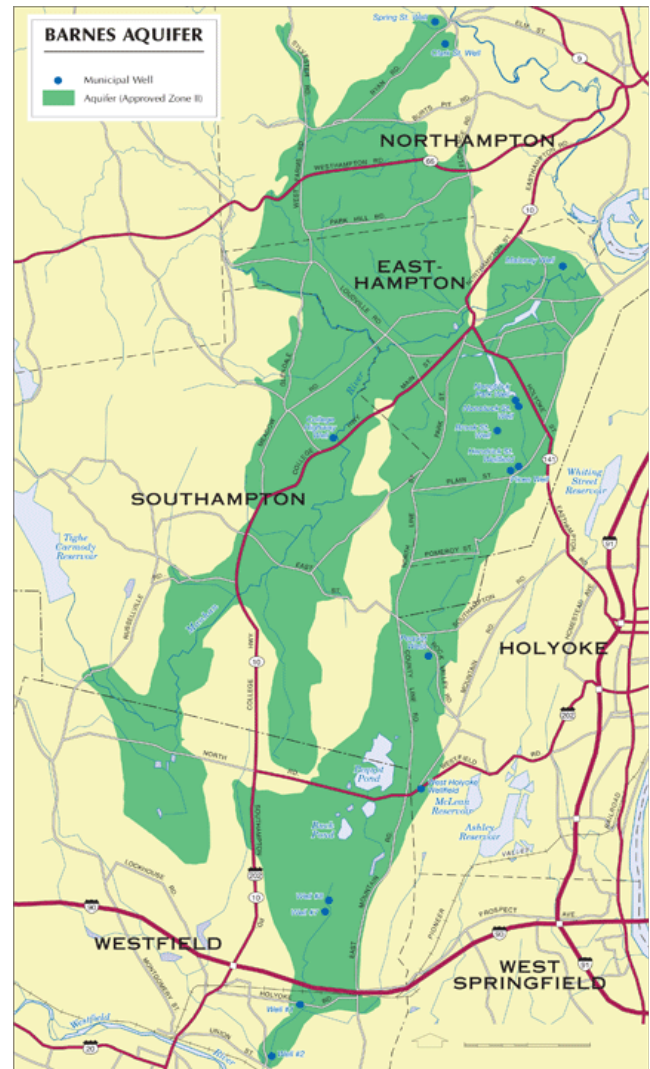
6.1.1 Infrastructure

Public Water

The Barnes Aquifer is one of Massachusetts' most important regional groundwater supplies, and provides 21 million gallons of water per day to 60,000 residents in Easthampton, Holyoke, Southamptn, and Westfield. Water drawn from the aquifer is the sole public water source for the majority of the Southamptn residents, so protection of the aquifer is a high priority. Regionally, the aquifer's recharge area is under development pressure from large-scale residential subdivisions and industrial parks, which could cause contamination to the water quality. In 1989, the Chief Elected Officials from the four Aquifer communities signed a Memorandum of Agreement establishing the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC). The compact gave BAPAC the authority to review and comment on Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) in the aquifer recharge area, as well as the authority to develop and implement a regional aquifer protection strategy. Town officials in Southamptn are active on the Committee and should continue to sit on the committee in the future.

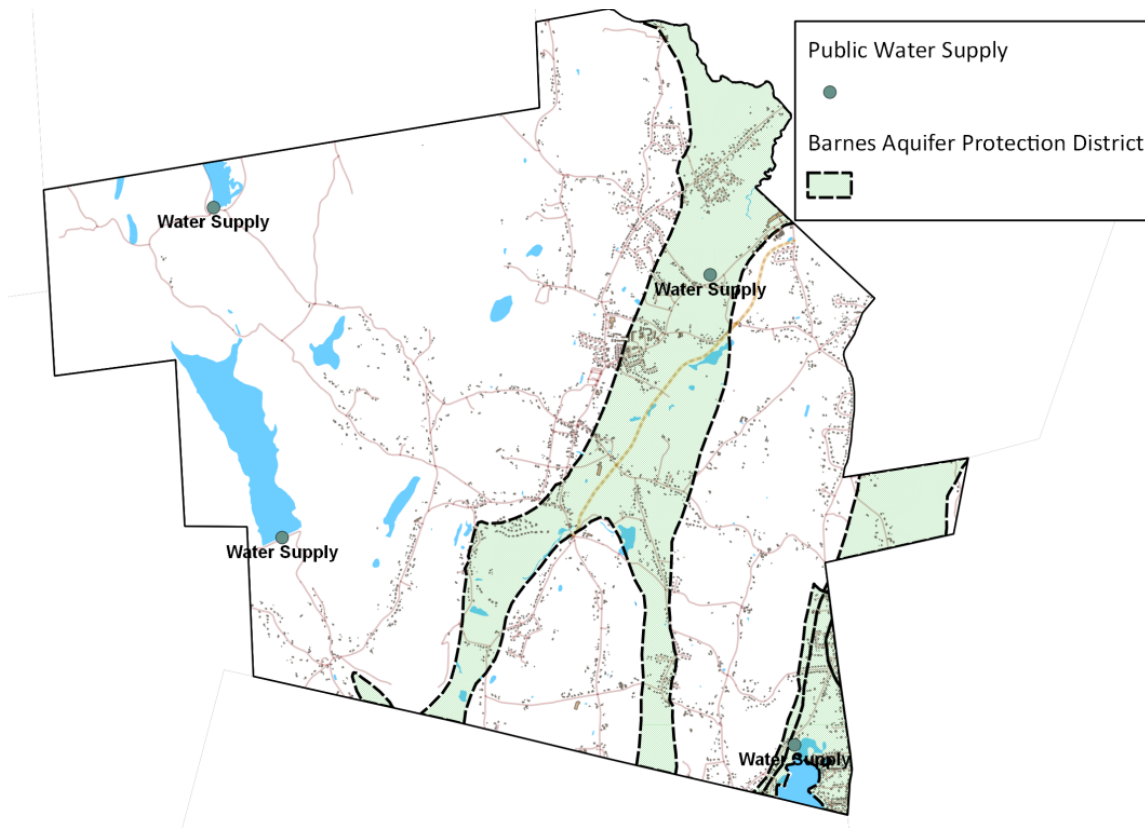
The Barnes Aquifer boundary within Southamptn (see Fig. 6-1) is also designated by the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a Zone II wellhead protection area, which is an area that has been determined by hydro-geologic modeling and approved by the DEP Drinking Water Program. The Zone II is essentially the pumping zone for the well. Certain land uses should be either prohibited or restricted in Zone II wellhead protection areas to avoid water contamination, according to state regulations (310 CMR 22.21(2)). Southamptn has met these standards through its Water Supply Protection zoning overlay district, which covers approximately 51% of the town (see Figure 8-7). The district includes the Barnes Aquifer primary recharge areas, the Zone II, and the watershed for the Tighe-Carmondy Reservoir.

The water from the Barnes Aquifer is so pure that in 2008, the town won the Great American Water Taste Test held by the National Rural Water Association. The taste test is held each year on Capitol Hill in conjunction with the Association's Annual Rally in Washington, D.C. The goal is to show that great tasting water comes straight from the tap.



Source: PVPC

Figure 6-1: Barnes Aquifer Boundaries in Southampton



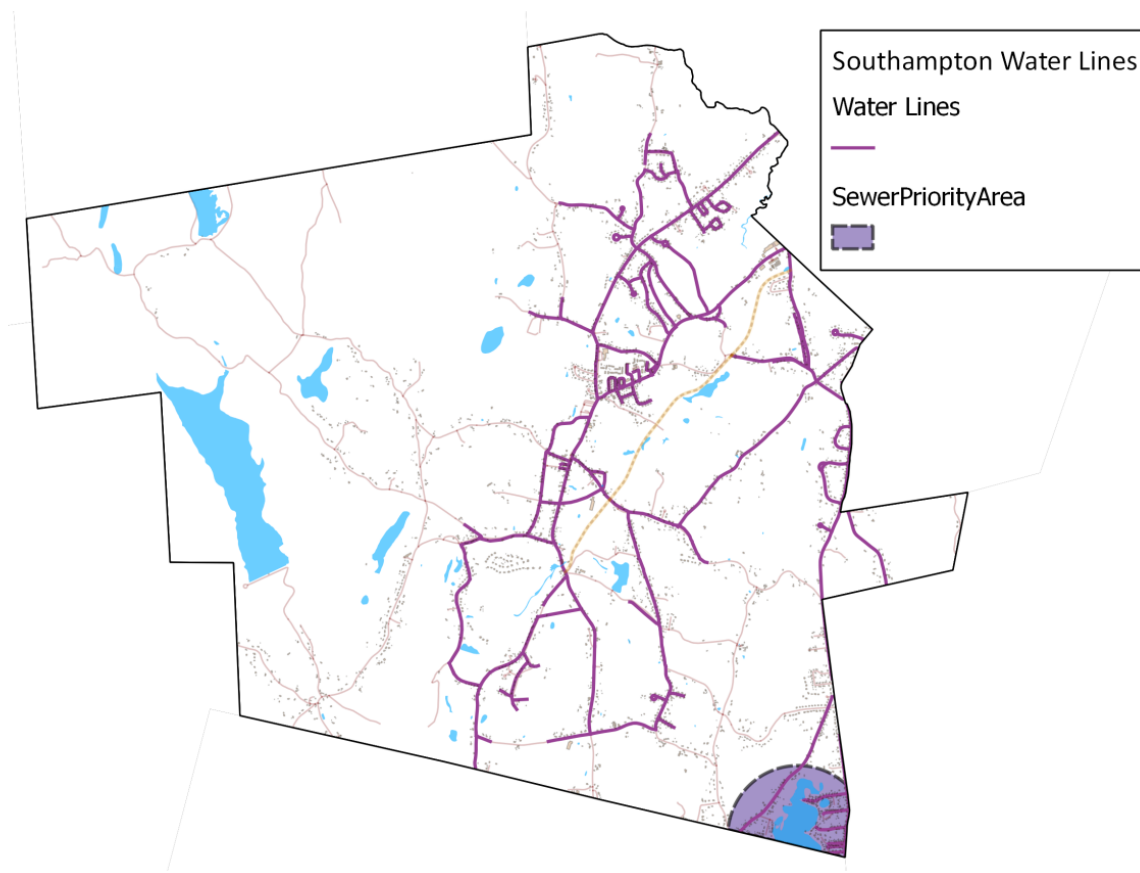
Southampton's municipal water supply network (see Fig. 6-2) extends along College Highway from Valley Road north to the Easthampton town line, serving about 75% of town residents. This system has two sources.

The first is the Town Well located at Glendale Road/College Highway and is the primary public water source for the community. Located within the Barnes Aquifer, the well was rebuilt by the town in 2002. Yields from the well easily meet the town's current water demand.

A backup water supply is available through the City of Holyoke through the Manhan Reservoir and a pipeline connection on Pequot Pond. Southampton last used this back-up water supply about ten years ago.

There are also two water treatment facilities connected to the Holyoke pipeline system. These facilities are only operated when the Glendale Road well cannot meet demand.

Figure 6-2: Southampton Water Lines and Sewer Priority Area



The Water Commission has identified three priority water infrastructure projects for the future. The highest priority is to build a 1.5-mile piping system that would loop Pequot Road to Valley Road and connect to an existing water main on the Westfield town line. The second priority would be to build a new water tank that would strengthen water capacity for the Ponds area to accommodate new growth in that area. Finally, the town should extend a water line about 6,000 feet to connect to an existing water line on East Street.

In the 1980s, there was a breakout of Trichlorethylene (TCE) that impacted about 400 households on well water in the Ponds area. Trichlorethylene, a solvent widely used as an industrial degreaser, is a suspected carcinogen. A public health assessment conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Bureau of Environmental Health in 2007 stated that trichloroethylene wastes that affected the Ponds area were released at two Holyoke residential properties and the former Southampton Sanitary Engineering in Southampton in the 1950s. As a result, the groundwater was contaminated on the east side of the ridge from Middle Road to East Street and the Easthampton town line. The town spent approximately \$500,000 to provide bottled water to the affected households for a year. In addition, Easthampton was forced to build a \$2 million water treatment plant and Southampton voters in early 1999 approved borrowing \$998,000 to complete a 10.5-mile extension of the town's water system to serve households in the Pequot Pond area whose well water was contaminated. About 25% of the affected households did not tie into the public water system and continue to pull drinking water from wells despite the known risks.

Recently, there have been discussions between the Town of Southampton and the City of Westfield to extend the water mains along Route 10 to service private homes in Southampton and Westfield with public water. This discussion was a result of a sample water testing and a report conducted by BAPAC and Smith College. Four rounds of water sampling from 2006 to 2010 from private wells in the Route 10 and Route 202 area found a number of private well impacted by road salts. The Water Departments in Southampton and Westfield are currently evaluating the possibility of extending town water to these impacted homes. Southampton would also service a limited number of homes in Westfield, as the City is unable to extend water service to their residents due to topography and gravity.

Southampton has also taken appropriate water conservation measures by switching to a metered rate rather than a flat rate for all residential, commercial and industrial users. This has dropped the water usage per household and helped the town maintain the state water withdrawal permit requirements.

Wastewater

For over thirty years, there have been discussions, studies, reports and town meeting votes on developing public sewer / wastewater treatment facilities for specific locations within Southampton. As the town continues to experience increased population growth and residential development, as well as increased number of failed septic systems in places such as Pequot Pond, town officials and Southampton residents understand there is a need to reach consensus on the availability of public sewer infrastructure, where it should be located, and how it may impact the rural, small town character in the community.

Currently, sewer is available on Route 10 from the Easthampton town line to the car wash through a tie-in to Easthampton's system. All of these systems are privately owned and were installed at the expense of the developer. These developers also pay premium rates to tie into the City's system, approximately 10% to 15% more than the cost to Easthampton residents. The remainder of the community is on individual subsurface disposal systems. Land currently zoned as Industrial, along the Westfield town line, has no access to public sewer unless access is requested through the City of Westfield. Lands identified as "Priority Sites for Economic Development" in Southampton's 2004 Community Development plan also have no access to sewer infrastructure. These lands will be difficult to develop for commercial / industrial uses unless the community invests in public wastewater systems to these community-identified locations.

A comprehensive Wastewater Facilities Plan drafted for the town in July 1997 by SEA Consultants provided a detailed analysis of sewerage needs, wastewater alternatives, and recommendations for 12 identified "subareas" in Southampton. The boundaries of the subareas were defined based on drainage basins and topography, existing development patterns, growth potential, and the limitations of conventional sewage collection. The subareas were then categorized based on a High, Moderate, or Low needs for study priority. Areas that were categorized as Low were not included in the study, as these areas had sparse development, adequate soil conditions, large lots, and infrequent disposal problems.

Several past wastewater disposal reports, including the 1997 plan, identified two areas in Southampton as problem areas for wastewater: the Town Center and Pequot Pond area. The Town Center is in an area geologically unsuitable for on-lot disposal, a problem further complicated by small lots sizes and antiquated systems resulting in potential health and odor problems. The Pequot Pond area does have suitable soil conditions; however seasonal homes have been converted to year round dwelling, thereby increasing the volume of wastewater entering undersized leaching fields.

The 1997 report recommended the town handle wastewater from Central Southampton (including the Town Center) and Pequot Pond through a conventional gravity sewer system, with treatment at the Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). In conjunction with sewerage, rehabilitation of existing systems in sparsely populated areas of Town was recommended (Table 1). The report suggested sewerage to be completed in Phases, with the first and highest priority phase to be the Pequot Pond areas (Table 2). The estimated capital cost for completion for this first phase in 1997 was \$4.6 million (\$6.5 million in 2011\$). Recent attempts to approve conditions to the Westfield WWTP have been unsuccessful at gaining public support at Town Meeting.

Table 6-2: Determinations of Southampton Sewerage Needs (1997)

Area	Description	Category	Rationale	Final Recommendation
1	Town Center	High	Small residential lots, antique & failing disposal systems, poor soil	Conventional gravity sewer system connected to Westfield's collection system
2	Fomer Road Area	High	Small residential lots, located in well recharge area	Conventional gravity sewer system connected to Westfield's collection system
3	Brickyard Road / Presidential Development	High	Poor soil (glacial till), suspected leaching to river, residential development suspended due to perc test failures	Conventional gravity sewer system with sewerage directed to small pump station off Brickyard Road
4	College Highway So.	Moderate	Poor soil conditions, anticipated development	Conventional gravity sewer system connected to Westfield's collection system
5	Strong & Valley Rds.	Moderate	Located in well recharge area, housing in low, wet areas	Rehabilitate existing subsurface disposal systems
6	Pequot Pond East	High	High residential density, overloaded disposal systems, private wells, known pond pollution	Conventional gravity sewer system connecting to Westfield; five pump stations installed around Pond
7	Pequot Pond West	High	Moderate residential density, overloaded disposal systems, private wells, known pond pollution	Conventional gravity sewer system connecting to Westfield; five pump stations installed around Pond
8	Strong Rd./Landfill	High	Future landfill leachate, located in well recharge area	Rehabilitate existing subsurface disposal systems
9	Pleasant St. / East St.	Moderate	Low wet area, private wells, livestock farming	Rehabilitate existing subsurface disposal systems
10	Pomeroy Meadow/ Glendale / College Hwy.	High	Multiple unit housing with system failures, continued development anticipated, located in well recharge area	Conventional gravity sewer system connected to Westfield's collection system
11	Pomeroy Meadow	Moderate	Shallow wells, further development anticipated	No public sewerage needed
12	Russellville Rd. / Flat Hill	Moderate	Poor soils, disposal problems suspected by Town Officials	Rehabilitate existing subsurface disposal systems

Source: Wastewater Facilities Plans for the Town of Southampton, SEA Engineers Architects, 1997

Table 6-3: Recommended Phases for Wastewater Disposal System and Cost

Phase	Description	Est. Capital Cost (1997\$)	Est. Capital Cost (2011\$)*
Phase I	Sewering Pequot Pond neighborhoods and connecting to Westfield's Long Pond Pump Station	\$4.6M	\$6.5M
Phase II	Sewering Town Center and College Highway south and connecting to Westfield's Arm Brook Interceptor	\$7.8M	\$10.9M
Phase III	Sewering Central Southampton and tying into the Town Center's system	\$2.5M	\$3.4M
Phase IV	Sewering Glendale and Gunn Roads and Presidential neighborhood	\$4.7M	\$6.7M
TOTAL		\$19.6M	\$27.5M

Source: Wastewater Facilities Plans for the Town of Southampton, SEA Engineers Architects, 1997

*Source: US Inflation Calculator (www.usinflationcalculator.com), based on a 40.1% inflation rate

Recently, town officials have been in discussion with officials in the City of Easthampton to discuss a possible connection to the city's wastewater system. The location for the system in Southampton has preliminary been identified as one line running along Route 10/College Highway and a second line running on Country Road North to the Cook Road pump station in Easthampton. These preliminary routes could service 47 homes and address failed septic systems for institutional and commercial uses along this route.

Telecommunications

The availability of broadband technology in a community plays major role in advancing economic development – as the saying goes “Be Wired or Be Fired”. Companies are less likely to locate to a community where broadband is unavailable. In addition, broadband and high-speed internet connections are necessary for those residents who chose to work from home. Recent trends have also shown that the availability of Wi-Fi can help define community gathering places, especially for members of the “Millennial Generation”. Areas that offer free Wi-Fi appear to have a competitive edge over other neighboring locations.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has identified Southampton as a “served” community for broadband technology, which means that this infrastructure is available to at least half the households in the community and more than 40% subscribe to broadband. MBI, through \$45 million in federal funding, is currently building 1,338 “middle miles¹” of fiber-optic cable to connect 123 communities in western and north central Massachusetts. There are 43 communities in Western Massachusetts, just a short drive from Southampton, that have little or no broadband services and no cable provider. According to the MBI website, “middle mile” cable will be installed along Route 10 from the Easthampton town line to the Southampton Town Center. Although Southampton is already a served community, this installation may connect and benefit neighboring communities without broadband service.

Charter Communications is the licensed cable television provider for Southampton. They have constructed Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC), a type of broadband, throughout the town and provide a full range

¹ In the broadband industry, the “middle mile” is the segment of a telecommunications network linking a network operator's core network to the local network plant. Middle-mile provision is a major issue in reducing the price of broadband Internet access, and many proposals for government broadband stimulus initiatives are directed at building out the middle mile.

of digital video programming, high speed internet, and telephone service to both residential and business customers. Charter offers a range of Internet speed for both residential and business customers. Service is very well received in Southampton, with 82% of residents subscribing to Basic Cable service, and 69% subscribe to High Speed Internet service.

Dams

In 2009, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission conducted a regional inventory and assessment of municipal dams to assist communities in meeting the revised dam safety regulations (302CMR 10.00-10.16) enforced by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Office of Dam Safety. The revised regulations now require dam owners to register, inspect, and maintain dams in good operating condition. These requirements have brought with them increased financial burdens that are especially difficult where dams no longer provide a useful function, such as water supply or power generation². In addition, communities can face more significant costs if a dam should fail partially or catastrophically from neglect, including emergency evacuations, and liability for loss of life and property.

Based on PVPC's regional inventory and more recent information from the Office of Dam Safety, Southampton has four dams of various hazard potential index ratings³: Tighe-Carmody Reservoir Dam (High), White Reservoir Dam (Significant), Lyman Mill Pond Dam (Low), and Alder Pond Dam (Low). Two other dams in town, Cedarhurst Swimming Pool Dam and New Intake Dam are non jurisdictional due to size. These are dams that are recorded as not in excess of six feet in height regardless of storage capacity, and not in excess of 15-acre feet of storage capacity regardless of height. The table below lists these dams, and includes other relevant information.

The Tighe-Carmody Reservoir Dam and the White Reservoir Dam have been of concern to the Town of Southampton in the past due to the age of the structures and lack of information about the status of these dams. For the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir Dam, it was not clear whether the owner had developed an Emergency Action Plan, which is required for all high hazard potential dams in Massachusetts. An Emergency Action Plan identifies the extent of inundation with dam failure and establishes an emergency notification procedure. Information provided by the Office of Dam Safety indicates that an Emergency Action Plan was completed in December 2006. Emergency personnel in Southampton should have a copy of this plan and it may be worth investigating the possibility with the owner of a joint emergency response exercise related to the plan. For the White Reservoir Dam, the City of Holyoke and Office of Dam Safety report that the dam is in poor condition. The impoundment has been drained, though it now functions as a retention basin. It will continue to operate as such and the owner must inspect the structure every year until improvements have been made.

Depending on the Hazard Index Rating, the frequency of inspections on dams typically varies: for high hazard dams, inspections must occur every two years; for significant hazard dams, every five years; and for low hazard dams, every ten years. PVPC's regional survey identified the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir

² This increased financial burden to municipalities based on the new regulations was affirmed in a report issued in January 2011 by the office of the Massachusetts Auditor entitled, *Local Financial Impact Review: Massachusetts Dam Safety Law*.

³ Hazard Index Ratings for Massachusetts dams are defined as follows: **High Hazard Potential** refers to dams located where failure will likely cause loss of life and serious damage to home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, important public utilities, main highway(s) or railroad(s). **Significant Hazard Potential** refers to dams located where failure may cause loss of life and damage home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, secondary highway(s) or railroad(s) or cause interruption of use or service of relatively important facilities. **Low Hazard Potential** refers to dams located where failure may cause minimal property damage to others. Loss of life is not expected.

Dam and the White Reservoir Dam as among the top dams in the region in need of inspections. In 2008, the City of Holyoke had received a letter of non-compliance from the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety regarding the White Reservoir. The inspections on both of these dams have since been completed and as is noted in the table, the City of Holyoke is working with the Office of Dam Safety to improve conditions at the White Reservoir Dam.

It is important to note, that there is a bill specific to dams that is advancing through the Massachusetts Legislature with a good likelihood of passage before June 2012. Known as An Act relative to dam repair, removal, and replacement, highlights of the bill include the following:

- Expanding requirements for Emergency Action Plans to all dams rated with a Significant Hazard potential;
- Increasing frequency of inspections so that no dam goes more than five years without inspection;
- Establishing a revolving loan fund for private dam owners to better comply with dam safety regulations;
- Providing municipalities with greater latitude for addressing problem dams within their jurisdiction, including assessing betterments.

Table 6-4: Inventory of Southampton Dams, 2011

ID #	Dam Name	Hazard index	River	Year Completed	Owner	Notes
MA00499	Tighe Carmody Reservoir Dam	H	Manhan	1957	City of Holyoke	9-22-10 inspection indicates in satisfactory condition
MA00606	White Reservoir Dam	S	Manhan	1912	City of Holyoke	Impoundment has been drained since 1982. Acts as retention basin. Until improved, City has agreement with Office of Dam Safety to continue operating as such. Continues to carry poor rating and need to inspect every year. (per Holyoke Water Dept.)
MA00500	Lyman Mill Pond Dam	L	Manhan	1900	Glenn West	Last inspection 5/25/07
MA00498	Searle Pond Dam/Alder Pond Dam	L	Alder Meadow Brook	1962	Ed Searle, Myron H. Searle, Reed and Barton	Last inspection 7/5/77
MA01982	Cedarhurst Swimming Pool Dam	NJ		0	Janet Brown	Non jurisdictional status is new; had been listed previously as low hazard.
MA02349	New Intake Dam	NJ	Manhan	0	City of Holyoke	Non jurisdictional status is new; had been listed previously as low hazard.

Buildings

A recent Preliminary Energy Conservation report by Siemens Building Technology for the Town of Southampton indicated the implementation of over 30 Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) at five municipal facilities could save energy and reduce operating costs for the town up to \$40,000 annually. The report provided recommendations for building improvements at the William E. Norris Elementary School, the Fire Department, Old Town Hall/Police Department, Public Library, and the Highway Garage. The Preliminary Report suggested the following recommendations for the five municipal buildings:

Table 6-5: Building Efficiency Inventory

Building	Square Feet	Recommendations	Projected Annual Cost Savings
William E. Norris Elementary School	73,000	Lighting and controls; boiler replacement; energy management system; motors & drives; domestic hot water upgrade; building envelope; network controller; reduce solar gain surface; booster heater conversion; cooltrol freezer controls; vending machine controls; solar photovoltaic	\$25,285
Fire Department	4,158	Lighting and controls; new programmable thermostat; building envelope; AC upgrade; new overhead doors	\$432
Town Hall / Police Dept.	3,456	Lighting and controls; furnace replacement; energy management system; building envelope; network controller; window replacement; solar domestic hot water	\$14,774
Library	7,326	Lighting and controls; energy management system; building envelope;	\$590
Highway Garage	11,775	Lighting and controls; boiler replacement; new programmable thermostat; building envelope; AC upgrade; new overhead doors	\$266
TOTAL			\$41,347 (25.4% savings)

At Town Meeting in 2011, voters approved to spend municipal funds to proceed with an Investment Grade Audit (IGA). This document will provide a detailed design and installation costs for the identified ECMs for the five buildings. The town could decide to move forward with a Performance Contract with Siemens to install the equipment. Performance Contracting is a financing technique that uses the cost savings from reduced energy consumption to repay the cost of installing energy conservation measures. The town has the ability to spread these cost savings over a 20-year period.

6.1.2 Services

Town Hall Services

Citizens conducting business with the Town of Southampton can access services at the Town Hall during regular business hours. The Town Hall is closed on Fridays, but provides extended hours on Tuesday nights. It was noted at the public visioning workshop in April 2010 that residents would like to see extended hours at the Town Hall. For those citizens that cannot make it to Town Hall to conduct business during regular office hours, it can be difficult to pay fees, bills, and process other paperwork required as a town resident or business owner.

Citizens have come to a time in our society where purchasing and consumer activities often occur via a computer, smart phone, or other handheld device, frequently in the evenings after the work day. Many municipalities have accepted this trend, and are moving to an “e-government” system where residents can conduct town business accessed through municipal websites to provide residents with a 24/7 alternative to heading to town hall. Southampton has a through and up-to-date official municipal website. Information regarding available municipal services for all town departments and boards is available on the website. Access to the general and zoning bylaws is also available. Over the past two years, the Southampton has taped and posted video of Select Board meetings.

In the Pioneer Valley, several municipalities have online bill pay systems and allow residents to pay their excise tax, real estate tax, personal property tax, water and sewer bills, and parking tickets online through the municipal website. Southampton implemented an online payment program in 2011 which allows residents to pay real estate and personal property tax bills online. This system could easily be expanded to include water bills in the future.

In addition to the existing online payment system, the town could also consider implementing an online permitting system, where residents and business owners could apply and pay for building permits online. Some online permitting systems allow applicants to submit information for projects requiring a higher level of review, such as special permits. As a first step, Southampton could provide online access to copies of the forms required for a building permit, special permit, subdivision applications, or Approval Not Required to allow residents and business owners the ability to print and fill out the forms at home rather than in Town Hall. These forms should also provide information regarding the fee applicable to these different permitting processes. The town could also provide information on the permitting process for development projects on the web and at Town Hall. These can be done through flowcharts, spreadsheets, or a Permitting Guidebook which provides contact information on the various staff persons, departments and boards involved with the development process in the town, including meeting schedules, permits granted, and process to receive permit.

Many communities in the region have also digitized its assessors’ data and make digital property cards accessible to the public. Often this assessors’ data is linked to a GIS database which also provides the user with additional information such as parcel lines, land use, zoning, open space, wetlands, Natural Heritage/BioCore locations, and other information that could be available digitally in a GIS format. These systems can be tied to an online permitting system, and track the history of permits applications for parcels. Currently, an effort is underway to develop a regional online streamlined permit system. The PVPC will be applying for Regionalization Incentive Funds in 2011 to pay for the upfront costs of implementing a regional online permitting system. Town officials should be aware of this effort and participate in the regional effort.

Library Services

Edwards Public Library (EPL) has healthy user statistics with a strong collection of 44,790 resources that are widely used by 2,687 registered borrowers (as of July 1, 2011). The library currently meets its annual acquisitions requirements while also providing space and services for its growing patron base. Three challenges face EPL in the immediate and long-range future: thoughtful and changing collection management, the need for increased appropriations to meet acquisitions mandates from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), and the need for increased staffing levels to ensure patron and staff safety in the library.



Edwards Public Library Photo: Robert Floyd

Table 6-6: Library Size and Operation

	Population Served	Average Household Income (2010)	Total Library Holdings	Total Holdings (per capita)	Total Annual Hours	Full Time Equivalency
Ashburnham	6,070	\$82,654	50,320	8.3	2,054	2.94
Berkley	6,498	\$84,337	25,656	3.9	1,417	2.85
Mattapoisett	6,519	\$80,867	43,246	6.6	2,058	4.72
Merrimac	6,609	\$77,400	48,185	7.3	2,134	4.91
Rochester	5,312	\$89,554	25,641	4.8	2,288	3.35
Southampton	5,991	\$80,667	38,376	6.4	1,937	2.65

Source: Library Statistics Database, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners 2010;
American Community Survey, 2010

Among communities of similar size presented in Table 6-5, Southampton has an average-sized collection of 6.4 volumes per capita. Maintaining this collection size is crucial because on the one hand, over-acquiring more materials will deplete crucial library space but, on the other hand, the library is mandated by the MBLC to spend a sum equal to 19% of its annual municipal appropriation on new books and materials (in both print and electronic formats)⁴. Acquiring new materials in diverse formats while also discarding uncirculated and damaged materials will make for an efficient, accessible collection appropriate to staffing levels. While EPL maintains slightly lower-than-average operating hours for the comparable communities presented in Table 6-5, Southampton staffs the library at the lowest FTE rate among these libraries, presenting a significant gap between the number of operating hours and the staff available. This gap must be closed to ensure patron and staff safety at all times.

⁴ As with many libraries, EPL is unable to reserve 19% of the municipal appropriation for book expenditures and makes-up the shortfall through donations and fundraising. For example, in FY2012, salaries and utilities comprised 89% of the municipal budget, leaving only 11% of the 19% mandated by the MBLC for acquisitions.

Table 6-7: Library Income and Expenditures

	Total Library Operating Income	Appropriated Municipal Income for Library	Appropriated Municipal Income (per capita)	Total Salaries	Total Material Expenditures
Ashburnham	\$192,267	\$176,540	\$29	\$104,006	\$52,624
Berkley	\$113,750	\$104,695	\$16	\$78,245	\$18,239
Mattapoisett	\$279,897	\$271,121	\$42	\$188,192	\$51,817
Merrimac	\$259,985	\$219,978	\$33	\$124,808	\$48,932
Rochester	\$188,132	\$180,652	\$34	\$115,649	\$39,235
Southampton	\$110,044	\$ 97,672	\$16	\$75,081	\$21,670

Source: Library Statistics Database 2010, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Among libraries and communities of comparable size, as presented in Table 6, EPL is the least municipally-funded library, alongside Berkley at \$16 per capita. The next lowest in this list—Ashburnham—nearly doubles its per capita funding at \$29. Additional funding at EPL would first be used to meet the MBLC acquisitions mandate and then to fill the staffing gap.

Table 6-8: Library Circulation

	Number of registered borrowers	Number of registered borrowers (residents)	Total Direct Circulation	Total Circulation per capita
Ashburnham	3,315	2,957	36,881	6.1
Berkley	2,240	2,090	30,745	6.2
Mattapoisett	4,457	3,741	62,232	11.0
Merrimac	3,850	3,804	75,053	12.6
Rochester	2,485	2,248	53,783	11.8
Southampton	2,550	2,550	44,582	8.4

Source: Library Statistics Database 2010, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

EPL has healthy circulation statistics and while the FY2012 Annual Report of Information Survey (ARIS) submitted to the MBLC indicated 1,228 fewer books were borrowed by Southampton patrons in FY2011 (32,430 in FY2010; 31,202 in FY 2011), more than 500 additional DVDs and eBooks were borrowed by patrons than over the previous year, reflecting a shift in media preference among borrowers. As compared with libraries and communities of similar size presented in Table 7, Southampton ranks right in the middle in terms of circulation. Any increase in circulation will present a serious strain on current staffing levels and customer service. For EPL to meet patron demand, the collection will need to continue to diversify its holding with the acquisition of books, magazines, DVDs, audio books, and other electronic materials. Resources not held in Southampton are regularly borrowed from other libraries in the C/W MARS (Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) network. In FY2011, Southampton borrowed some 8,363 materials from, and lent 5,501 materials to, other network libraries, all of which reflects a healthy rate of exchange for the community. Participation in the C/W MARS

network expands the collection from the nearly 45,000 titles held locally to the 1.9 million titles available across the region.

The greatest asset for EPL is the building itself which marked its 15th anniversary in 2011. There is great demand from patrons for more meeting space while shelves are full and in some cases, stuffed with books. The solution is a more efficient use of space: recognizing a shift in borrowing trends from books to electronic materials while also maintaining a careful balance in the collection between all resource formats. Southampton does not need a new or bigger library, either in 2011 or in 2030, but it must maintain a collection development policy that balances local and network resources. Trimming the collection of out-of-date and non-circulating materials, meeting the acquisitions mandate set by the MBLC, and also expanding meeting space at the specific request of patrons is the primary challenge for EPL in the next ten years. The second challenge is funding. Currently the Town of Southampton only funds 11% of the annual materials acquisition requirement from MBLC. The remaining 8% comes from cash donations and the herculean fundraising efforts of the Friends of Edwards Public Library. A light year of fundraising could mean the inability to meet the acquisitions mandate from MBLC with consequences such as decertification of the library and loss of state aid. In order to secure the future of the library, the Town of Southampton must work to increase their appropriation for books and materials so that library certification and state aid do not loom over library operations in the absence of annual fundraising. Lastly, Table 6-5 emphasizes the serious gap in staffing for EPL to maintain first-rate service provision. A minimum of 3 FTE, consistent with staffing levels in Rochester, Merrimac, Mattapoisett, and nearly Ashburnham is essential to ensure patron and staff safety, particularly as the community grows. EPL remains an inviting and actively-used resource for the people of Southampton and the surrounding area. Closing the relatively small gaps in acquisitions funding and staffing, and making better use of existing space to meet patron demand, will keep EPL open for future generations.

Elder Services

With an aging Baby Boomer population and people living longer than previous generations, the number of residents living over the age of 60 will be higher than in previous generations. As a result, communities need to ensure that town services and the built environment meet the need of this growing population. According to the U.S. Census, about 1,200 residents, or 21% of the total Southampton population, are age 60 years old or older (Table 8). Since 1990, this population has doubled in size, and trends show this population group will only continue to grow.

Table 6-9: Elder Population Trends, 1990-2010

	Total Population			60 years and older		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Southampton	4,478	5,387	5792	587	739	1,208
Granby	5,565	6,132	6240	880	953	1,262
Hadley	4,231	4,793	5250	984	1,119	1,389
Hatfield	3,184	3,249	3279	642	675	876
Hampden	4,709	5,171	5139	761	944	1,347
Ware	9,808	9,707	9872	2,008	1,814	2,066

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

Income levels show that approximately 160 householders 65 years old and over in Southampton meet the poverty thresholds for 2010. Poverty thresholds are set annually by the federal government. In

2010, the poverty threshold for one person households 65 years and over was \$10,458, and \$13,180 for two person households 65 years and older.

Table 6-10: Income Estimates for Southampton Householders 65 Years and Older

Income Level	Estimate
Less than \$10,000	25
\$10,000 to \$14,999	134
\$15,000 to \$19,999	43
\$20,000 to \$24,999	13
\$25,000 to \$29,999	42
\$30,000 to \$34,999	12
\$35,000 to \$39,999	13
\$40,000 to \$44,999	42
\$45,000 to \$49,999	0
\$50,000 to \$59,999	37
\$60,000 to \$74,999	15
\$75,000 to \$99,999	73
\$100,000 to \$124,999	14
\$125,000 to \$149,999	0
\$150,000 to \$199,999	14
\$200,000 or more	14

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

In recent years, Southampton has had an active Council on Aging that provided information, referrals, transportation, and activities to seniors. Activities of the Council have been limited until the new Senior Center is complete and a new director is named. The renovated Senior Center will be adjacent to the new Town Hall and will offer an expanded space for services and activities. A kitchen facility will be part of the new renovation; however due to septic issues, the Council will only be able to provide one hot meal a month to town seniors. If a town sewer system was developed and expanded to the Town Center, the Senior Center would be able to provide hot meals on a daily basis.

Currently, transportation services with a wheelchair equipped van are provided on request by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority. The Council also organizes a Property Tax Work Off program, which gives seniors the opportunity to receive up to \$750 tax credit per fiscal year on their taxes by working in a Town department. There are 10 slots available annually to senior households who earn no more than \$30,000 annually. At this time, only two seniors take advantage of this program. Estimates from the American Community Survey show there are about 250 senior householders in Southampton that could qualify for this program (Table 9). Lastly, Southampton seniors can participate in the RSVP (Retire Senior Volunteer Program) through the Hampshire Council of Governments in Northampton. The RSVP is a nationwide volunteer program for adults age 55 and older.

Trash and Recycling Services

Trash and recycling services are maintained by the town at the Transfer Station at Moose Brook Road. The transfer station is open three days a week, and the town has a "pay as you throw" system which has been in place since 1996. The town has done an extraordinary job removing material from the waste stream and has an extensive recycling and composting program. As a result, Southampton has the second highest recycling rate in the state. The town also collects more hazardous waste and composts more material than any of the surrounding communities.

William E. Norris Elementary School
Photo: www.facebook.com/pages/William-E-Norris-Elementary-School

Table 6-11: Municipal Recycling Rates, 2008

	Total Tons Disposed	Total Tons Recycled	Total Tons Composted	Tons Hazardous Products/ Difficult to Manage Wastes	Recycling Rate
Easthampton	7,997	443	266	42	9%
Holyoke	8,364	2,132	3,457	77	40%
Huntington	714	197	160	3	34%
Northampton	7,535	3,425	1372	128	40%
Southampton	811	1,328	3,773	137	87%
Westfield	19,418	4,749	2,086	113	26%
Westhampton	346	149	111	9	44%

Source: MA Department of Environmental Protection, 2008 Municipal Residential Recycling Rate Summary

The town does face some future challenges if and when the regional transfer station in Northampton closes, which is anticipated to occur in 2012. The town officials are currently exploring other regional facilities to divert waste to once the Northampton facility is closed.

Public Schools

The town of Southampton has one public elementary school and participates in a public regional school system for middle and high school students. The William E. Norris Elementary School is for grades pre-K through 6th grade and is located on Pomeroy Meadow Road. The Hampshire Regional High School is located in Westhampton and serves the communities of Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton, and Williamsburg for grades 7-12.

William E. Norris Elementary School

Enrollment Trends

In the 2010-2011 school year, total enrollment at the elementary school was 557 students. Less than 6% of the population was categorized as a race of ethnicity other than White. About 2% of the population was categorized as Limited English Proficient. Low-income students accounted for about 12% of the total student population. Approximately 15% of the student population received free lunch, and almost 3% received reduced lunch. Special Education students comprised almost 18% of the total school population.

In the 2010-2011 school year, almost 9% of the students at the Elementary School were School Choice students from outside the community. The School Choice program allows parents to send their children to schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside. Tuition, which was capped at \$5,000, is paid by the sending district to the receiving district. In FY11, the school received \$300,000 from school choice students, and paid \$15,000 to send three Southampton children to neighboring districts. Over half of the School Choice students for the 2011-2012 school year are from Easthampton. Other communities represented by School Choice students include Holyoke, Westfield, Huntington, South Hadley, Florence, Westhampton, and Springfield. At this time, Norris a few available spots for the School Choice students in a few grades; however this number can change depending on the number of local students that will attend in any given school year.

Table 6-12: School Choice Pupils and Tuition, William E. Norris Elementary School

Fiscal Year	Receiving		Sending	
	FTE Pupils	Tuition	FTE Pupils	Tuition
FY00	--	--	3	\$9,996
FY01	--	--	1.9	\$6,569
FY02	--	--	3.2	\$13,351
FY03	--	--	5.0	\$22,355
FY04	--	--	5.3	\$85,449
FY05	--	--	3.1	\$16,446
FY06	10	\$42,159	3.0	\$17,226
FY07	35	\$165,773	2.3	\$20,897
FY08	42	\$215,221	3.7	\$30,459
FY09	45	\$212,570	1.2	\$11,860
FY10	48	\$243,500	3.0	\$15,000
FY11	60	\$300,000	3.0	\$15,000
FY12	70	\$350,000	--	--

*Source: MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School Profiles database;
Administrators at Norris Elementary*

The School Choice program is a major source of revenue for the Southampton school system. With these funds, the administrators at Norris have been able to bring back faculty positions that were cut a decade ago. As a result, class size has been reduced, and administrative positions such as an Assistant Principal and a half-time nursing position are now staffed. Without funds from School Choice, the town would have a difficult time funding these positions. However, this does place the community in an interesting financial position. School Choice funding has allowed the school to raise its level of service to the students and the community. This investment into the service and programs that are offered at the elementary school has also attracted new families to move into Southampton. As stated previously in this plan, Southampton is one of the fastest growing communities in the Pioneer Valley region. In addition to all the other benefits Southampton provides its residents – rural character, easy access to jobs, goods and services – a good public school system also attracts new families to the community. More local students at the school results in less School Choice spots, and in turn, less revenue to be used to support those services and programs that make the school and town an attractive place to live. As a result, the town will either need to step up and fill the funding gap to keep the services at a high level, or there could be less investment into the school’s services and program through School Choice revenues.

Expenditures

Norris Elementary had a total expenditure of \$5.8 million in 2010, with the largest expenditure for teaching staff. The lowest expenditure was for professional development. Total expenditures for Norris have incrementally increased, with a slight drop in expenditures between 2009 and 2010. In FY11 the town received about \$2.4 million from Chapter 70 state aid, \$2,700 from school lunch program, and \$305,000 for school choice receiving tuition. The town appropriated \$3.8 million for the Norris Elementary and \$170,000 for School Transportation in FY10, for a total appropriation of \$4.08 million.

Figure 6-1: Southampton Total Expenditures FY2010

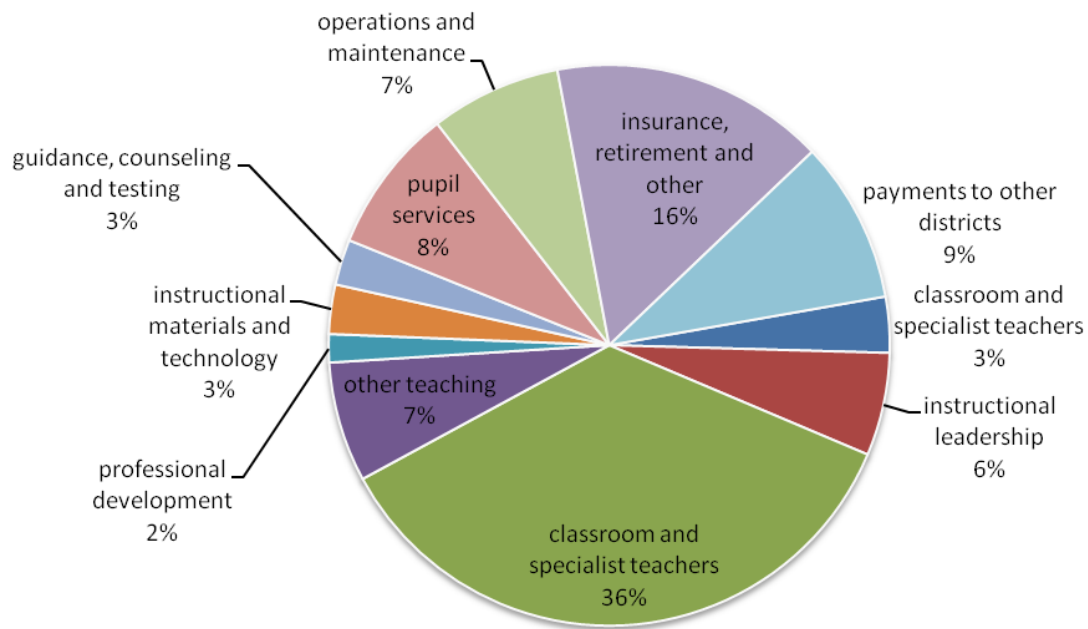


Table 6-13: Total Expenditures Per Pupil, 2005-2010

Year	Total Expenditure	Per Pupil (District)	Per Pupil (State)	Difference
2005	\$4,606,421	\$8,243	\$10,626	\$2,383
2006	\$5,126,645	\$8,986	\$11,210	\$2,224
2007	\$5,786,338	\$9,754	\$11,858	\$2,104
2008	\$5,825,893	\$9,555	\$12,448	\$2,893
2009	\$5,982,581	\$9,938	\$13,006	\$3,068
2010	\$5,842,919	\$9,574	\$13,055	\$3,481

Source: MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School Profiles database

The per pupil cost averages to around \$9,500 per student in 2010, which is about \$3,500 less than the state average. In comparison to school districts that are identified by the state as comparable schools in terms of grade span, enrollment, and special populations, Southampton also ranks the lowest for per pupil expenditures (Figure 6-2).

Figure 6-2: Per Pupil Expenditure Comparison for Similar School Districts, FY10

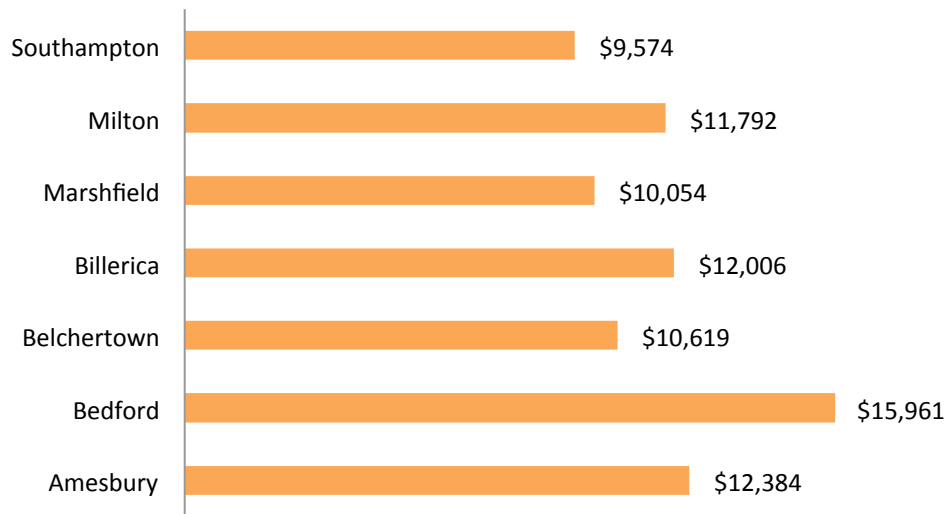


Table 6-14: Southamptton Direct Special Education Expenditures as % of School Budget, FY2001 to FY2010

Fiscal Year	Total Special Education Expenditures	Total School Operating Budget	Special Education as % of budget	State average %
2001	\$ 629,936	\$ 3,348,387	18.8%	17.2%
2002	\$ 727,128	\$ 3,531,898	20.6%	17.4%
2003	\$ 862,856	\$ 3,876,987	22.3%	17.7%
2004	\$ 910,218	\$ 4,109,250	22.2%	18.6%
2005	\$ 861,857	\$ 4,062,329	21.2%	18.9%
2006	\$ 785,161	\$ 4,532,957	17.3%	19.1%
2007	\$ 899,521	\$ 4,870,765	18.5%	19.4%
2008	\$ 914,998	\$ 4,943,968	18.5%	19.8%
2009	\$ 878,372	\$ 4,944,173	17.8%	20.1%
2010	\$ 925,327	\$ 5,176,846	17.9%	20.0%

Source: MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

About 18% of the Elementary Schools budget goes to special education, which is consistent with the statewide average. In FY10, special education costs were approximately \$925,000 of the total budget. The school has a fully staffed Special Education department, as well as an occupational therapist and speech and language pathologists. The school contracts a physical therapist. For hearing impaired

students, the school offers a system which provides the teacher with a microphone and the student with an earpiece. The school holds pre-K to Grade 1 screenings to identify student developmental issues.

The school also makes every effort to ensure that a student is reading at a first grade level before entering the second grade. A year-round ELA morning support program is provided for those students in Grades 1-3 who do not qualify for Special Education or LLI services. Students receive tutoring in fluency, comprehension, or phonics based upon their need. Twice a week from 8:20 AM to 9:00 AM, each student will work one to one or in a small group setting with a tutor. Students remain in the program until they have mastered the skill. Students enter the program on a rotating, as needed basis. The hope of the school is that they will see significant improvement in the students' reading performance.

Transportation

Every child enrolled at Norris Elementary is offered a seat on a public school bus. A lack of sidewalk infrastructure and safe, walkable areas adjacent and connecting to the school has resulted in busing services available to all students, whether they use them or not. A large number of parents do drop off or pick up their children in the mornings or afternoon rather than use the public school bus. School administrators noted that pick up time can become a problem due to traffic congestion, but changing the structure of the parking area is cost prohibitive at this time.

The Norris School is a partner school enrolled in the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program. The Safe Routes to School program helps to reduce congestion, air pollution, and traffic congestion near schools, while increasing the health, safety, and physical activity of elementary and middle school students. In August 2005, the federal transportation legislation allocated federal funds over a five-year period for Safe Routes to School initiatives nationwide. States now have dedicated funds to encourage and enable students to walk and bicycle to and from school through program activities and capital improvements. SRTS funding can be used for infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities.

This federal program is managed within each state through a Safe Routes to School Coordinator. The Coordinator in Massachusetts is based through MassRIDES, a statewide travel options program. Total funding appropriated in Massachusetts since 2005 is around \$13 million, with \$3.8 million granted in FY11. Southampton has received free promotional materials through MassRIDES to support walking school busses, walk to school days, traveler ticket activities and walk across America initiatives as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety education which consist of both student and staff training. Southampton would like to receive funds for infrastructure improvements, and would use these funds to expand the sidewalk network to the center of town, and construct crosswalks to the school. If these infrastructure improvements happen, then the public school bus system could be limited to those students who do not live within walking distance to the school.

Administrators also noted that adjacent to the Elementary School is an apartment complex along College Highway. Currently, there is no safe way for these students who live adjacent to the school to get to school without using the bus. Creating a way to collect this apartment complex development through walking paths to the school should be a priority.

Programming / Curriculum

As of the 2011-2012 school year, Norris Elementary will institute over three years the Common Core State Standard for curriculum. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear educational standards for English language arts and mathematics that states can voluntarily adopt. The development of these standards was coordinated by the National

Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare children for college and the workforce. Only six states and three territories in the United States have not adopted the standards. Massachusetts adopted the standards in July 2010.

Some of the successes of the Norris School have been in the use of technology as a teaching tool. The school has received funding through the Small Rural School Achievement Program “REAP” grant for the past six years, which has built a technology infrastructure that supports 21st century learning. Currently every classroom between 2nd and 6th grade use interactive “smartboards” as a teaching tool. The elementary school has been able to purchase these device incrementally over several years through the Capital Improvement Plan.

A smartboard is a large interactive display that connects to a computer and projector. A projector projects the computer's desktop onto the board's surface where users control the computer using a pen, finger, stylus, or other device. The board is typically mounted to a wall or floor stand. The teachers at Norris Elementary use this technology in a variety of ways, such as capturing and saving notes written on a whiteboard to a PC, using an Audience Response System so teachers can poll a classroom or conduct quizzes, capturing feedback onto the smartboard, and hooking up a microscope so all students can see the image at once. Teaching staff have also used these systems to create “virtual field trips” through video streaming acquired through the Discovery Channel and Public Broadcast System. The smartboards are also used with Promethean Planet, a professional development tool for educators. This website helps educators find educational materials and resources aligned with the state curriculum standards, and share lesson plans and ideas with other teachers from around the world.

Due to budget cuts, a general computer lab was eliminated; however the school has up to 27 wireless laptops that are available to every teacher in the school on four C.O.W.S. – Computers on Wheels. The laptops are stored on a cart which can be wheeled to any classroom that requests the use of the laptops. Teachers also have access to an ITouch Pad that can be signed out and used at anytime. A member of the janitorial staff who is knowledge in computers provides the IT support to the school. Administrators noted that several of the laptops are in need of replacement and software upgrades, and there are limited funds to accomplish this on a year to year basis. Computers are also available in the school's library, but these computers also need to be upgraded and replaced.

Music

The music program at the Norris School provides once weekly music instruction for grades Kindergarten through Grade 6. Children participate in activities of singing, dance/moving/responding and listening to a variety of music. Children learn about different styles of music, significant contributions to music by composers and performers. The student body performs an annual program for Veterans, and children in Kindergarten through Grade 4 give an annual Winter and Spring Concert, to which parents and friends are invited. Grade 4-6 students may participate in free after school guitar lessons, and after school instrument / band lessons for a nominal fee.

Library

The Richard E. Dragon library at the Norris School fosters lifelong reading and supports students as they become proficient in 21st Century Learning skills including critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration paired with an integration of emerging technologies. The library strives to meet the resource needs of classroom teachers.

Students in Grades K-2 are introduced weekly to picture books in a variety of genres and by various authors. Beginning, middle, and end, writing and illustration style and series are introduced and examples of these shared. Caldecott medal winners are highlighted, as well as classic fairy tales. Students in Grades 3-4 are gradually learning about the organization and best use of the library. Folk tales and legends and fables are explored. Beginning research skills are discussed and practiced. Students in grades 5 and 6 are becoming increasing familiar with using technology as a research tool, evaluating resources, and citing sources, with an eye toward preparing them for the many research challenges that will be presented in Middle School.

Afterschool Activities

The Norris Ski Club is a five-week program at Blandford Ski Area. Students may sign up for lessons, rentals and/or lift ticket. Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade need to have a parent/guardian present. Transportation is provided at additional cost. The club registers for Friday nights, usually beginning the first week in January. Chaperones include teachers and parents.

The Norris Drama Club is open to 5th and 6th grade students. Students learn basic acting skills and work on creating a performance. Students also help with painting, publicity and costumes. The club meets once a week for each group (due to large number of participants, we usually have two groups). Teachers who are involved volunteer their time.

Parent Teacher Organization

The mission of the William E. Norris PTO is to promote the educational welfare of the children of Norris school in school and the community and to also keep parents involved in their child(s) school activities. All parents and guardians of students and all teachers at the William E. Norris Elementary School are automatically members of the PTO. They are encouraged to attend PTO meetings and to make their vote heard.

School Facilities

Originally built in 1956, the school was expanded and renovated in 1996. Despite this renovation, the building is in need of repairs and maintenance, and an upgrade in energy efficiency as noted in the Investment Grade Audit. The roof is in need of replacement, and is patched yearly to avoid leaking issues. And estimate of roof replacement in 2007-2008 was \$570,000. The town could not afford to replace the roof at that time, but will need to consider this major upkeep in the near future. The school would like to explore the possibility of a green roof if grant funding were made available for this work. The sidewalk in front of the school also needs to be repaired and replaced.

Chapter Sources:

1. *Common Core State Standards* (<http://www.corestandards.org>)
2. *Data Bank Report for FY11, MA Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services*
3. *Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Library Statistics Database* (<http://mblc.state.ma.us/advisory/statistics/services/index.php>)
4. *Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School Profiles database* (<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu>)
5. *National Center for Safe Routes to Schools* (<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>)
6. *Public Health Assessment for Evaluation of Environmental Concerns Related to the Barnes Aquifer and Cancer Incidence, 1982-2000, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, November 16, 2007*
7. *Regional Dam Services Assessment, Final Report, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, December 2009*
8. *Southampton Community Development Plan, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2004*
9. *Town of Southampton, Annual Town Report 2010*
10. *Town of Southampton Preliminary Energy Conservation Report, Siemens Building Technology, August 2010*
11. *Wastewater Facilities Plan for the Town of Southampton, SEA Consultants Inc, July 1997*

6.2 Goals and Strategies

Target Dates for Completion are organized into four categories: Short-term (1-5 years); Mid-term (6-10 years); Long-term (11-15 years); and Ongoing.

Goal 6-1: Continue to protect Southampton’s public water supply and the Barnes Aquifer for generations to come and assure that all infrastructure is up to date and in good repair.

Strategy 6-1A: Continue and strengthen homeowner education / awareness about the importance and vulnerability of the Barnes Aquifer, particularly residential areas that cover recharge areas.

Responsible Party: Conservation Commission, Public Health, Water Commission, BAPAC

Resources Needed: Volunteer time, funding for outreach materials

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

Strategy 6-1B: Continue to educate landowners with contaminated wells and determine solutions to tie into the public water system.

Responsible Party: Water Commission

Resources Needed: Staff time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-1C: Build a piping system to loop Pequot Pond to Valley Road and connect to an existing water main in Westfield.

Responsible Party: Water Commission

Resources Needed: Funding for infrastructure improvements, staff time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-1D: Build a new water tank that would strengthen water capacity for the Ponds area to accommodate new growth in the area.

Responsible Party: Water Commission

Resources Needed: Funding for infrastructure improvements, staff time

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-1E: Build a new water line to connect to an existing water line on East Street.

Responsible Party: Water Commission

Resources Needed: Funding for infrastructure improvements, staff time

Target Date for Completion: Long-term (11-15 yrs)

Goal 6-22: Work with owners of existing dams in Southampton to maintain structures and ensure public safety.

Strategy 6-2A: Make an inquiry with the City of Holyoke Water Department to get a copy of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the Tighe-Carmondy Reservoir Dam.

Responsible Party: Water Commission, Police Dept, Fire Dept

Resources Needed: Staff time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-2B: Request that the municipalities of Holyoke and Southampton collaborate in an emergency response dam exercise.

Funding for such an exercise might be obtained through the Homeland Security Advisory Council (Massachusetts, Western Region).

Responsible Party: Police Chief, Fire Chief

Resources Needed: Funding through Homeland Security Advisory Council

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-2C: Let the City of Holyoke Water Department know that the Town of Southampton would like to be kept abreast of developments at the Tighe-Carmondy Reservoir Dam, White Reservoir Dam, and the New Intake Dam.

Provide the contact name, e-mail, phone, and mailing address of someone in Southampton to be copied on all information relative to these structures.

Responsible Party: Water Commission, Select Board

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-2D: Approach the owners of the Searle Pond Dam/Alder Pond Dam to ascertain the status and condition of this structure. If information is not forthcoming, make an inquiry about this dam at the Office of Dam Safety.

Responsible Party: Police Chief, Fire Chief, Select Board

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Goal 6-3: Make public wastewater (sewer) system available in priority areas identified in past wastewater reports.

Strategy 6-3A: Continue discussions with the City of Easthampton to extend public wastewater service along Route 10 / College Highway to the Town Center and to County North Road.

Responsible Party: Highway Department, Select Board

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

Strategy 6-3B: Determine solutions that are economically and politically feasible to provide wastewater services to thickly settled areas with a high rate of septic failure, such as Ponds area.

Responsible Party: Select Board, Highway Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Health

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time, funding for infrastructure

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Goal 6-4: Establish land use and development policies that respond to infrastructure capacity.

Strategy 6-4A: Consider adopting zoning regulations that allow for greater development densities where infrastructure is available or is planned.

Responsible Party: Planning Board, Housing Authority

Resources Needed: Volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-4B: Selectively invest in infrastructure improvements to direct new residential units to areas that have been identified for growth.

Responsible Party: Highway Department, Water Commission

Resources Needed: Funding for infrastructure improvements

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

Goal 6-5: Implement “e-government” solutions to provide expanded town hall services and hours of operation.

Strategy 6-5A: Maximize the Town’s website and create a “one stop shop” for permitting documents and forms from many departments, which can be downloaded and filled out at no cost to the applicant.

Responsible Party: Planning Board, Building Inspector, Board of Health, Town Administrator, Webmaster

Resources Needed: Staff time, Volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-5B: Participate in a regional Online Permitting project facilitated by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Responsible Party: Town Administrator, Planning Board, Select Board, Building Inspector, Finance Committee

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-5C: Provide information on local permitting process on the town website and at Town Hall, such as flowcharts or a Permitting Guidebook.

Responsible Party: Planning Board, Building Inspector, Board of Health, Webmaster

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time, funding for consultant

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-5D: Create an online GIS based parcel information system which can be accessed through the town website that includes property card information from the assessors’ office, land use and conservation information, abutter identification, and permitting information.

See examples from Easthampton, South Hadley, Ludlow, Chester and Agawam.

Responsible Party: Town Administrator, Webmaster, Planning Board, Select Board, Conservation Commission

Resources Needed: Funding for consultants, staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Long-term (11-15 yrs)

Goal 6-6: Support the public library system to meet patron demand and provide an expanded collection that meets 21st century standards.

Strategy 6-6A: Increase municipal appropriation for books and materials to the library can continue to meet state certification and aid in the absence of annual fundraising.

Responsible Party: Select Board, Finance Committee, Board of Library Trustees

Resources Needed: Funding

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-6B: Increase municipal appropriation for full time staff to the library to ensure patron and staff safety, particularly as the community grows in population.

Responsible Party: Select Board, Finance Committee, Board of Library Trustees

Resources Needed: Funding

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-6C: Find solutions to provide additional community meeting space for patrons and community members.

Responsible Party: Board of Library Trustees, Friends of the Edwards Library

Resources Needed: Volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-6D: Work with library director to create a careful balance in the collection between all resource formats, and in particular increase electronic materials.

Responsible Party: Board of the Library Trustees, Friends of the Edwards Library

Resources Needed: Volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

Goal 6-7: Increase public services available through the Council on Aging and Senior Center to meet future increase in elder populations.

Strategy 6-7A: Expand the number of staff by adding a full-time director and increase the number of hours for the part-time assistant.

Responsible Party: Select Board

Resources Needed: Funding

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-7B: Connect the new Senior Center to any future wastewater system in the Town Center to allow the Center to increase the meals program from once a month to daily.

Responsible Party: Highway Department, Board of Health

Resources Needed: Staff time, funding for infrastructure improvements

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-7C: Conduct outreach to town seniors in order to have greater participation in the Property Tax Work Off Program.

Responsible Party: Council on Aging, Select Board

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

Goal 6-8: Support Southampton's public elementary school facilities and programming to assist with ongoing student achievement.

Strategy 6-8A: Decrease reliance of School of Choice revenue and increase municipal appropriation to maintain a high level of school services and programming.

Responsible Party: Select Board, Finance Committee

Resources Needed: Funding

Target Date for Completion: Mid-term (6-10 yrs)

Strategy 6-8B: Apply for infrastructure funding through the Safe Routes to Schools program to develop a sidewalk and crosswalk network to the Town Center to allow students to walk to school safely.

Responsible Party: Highway Department, School Committee, School Principal

Resources Needed: Staff time, volunteer time, funding for infrastructure improvements through the Safe Routes to Schools program

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)

Strategy 6-8C: Work collaboratively with school officials to apply for technology grants to replace aging computer hardware and software.

Responsible Party: School Committee, School Principal, Town Administrator

Resources Needed: Grant research, staff time, volunteer time

Target Date for Completion: Ongoing

Strategy 6-8D: Find funding to address priority facility repairs and maintenance, such as a new roof.

Responsible Party: Highway Department, Select Board, School Principal

Resources Needed: Staff time, funding for infrastructure improvements

Target Date for Completion: Short-term (1-5 yrs)