

## F. Critical Wildlife and Plant Habitat

There are several regions in the PPA that have been identified as estimated habitats of rare species and wildlife by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (October 2006). These areas are shown in Figure 5-6.

Of particular interest in the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) is the decline in eelgrass population over the past 50 years, and the subsequent replacement of microalgal mats in its place. Eelgrass provides a habitat for a number of estuarine invertebrates (The Ecology of Waquoit Bay).

## G. Protected Areas

1. **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's).** The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) designated the Waquoit Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern in November, 1979. This ACEC is centered around the Waquoit Bay Area and includes Waquoit Bay, Childs River, Moonakis River, Bourne Pond, and Quashnet River in the towns of Mashpee and Falmouth. Within this area and a buffer zone extending 25 feet landward from the edge of the ACEC, specific regulations regarding construction and land alteration are enforced in Mashpee (Zoning Bylaws, Town of Mashpee, 2000). The ACEC is included in Figure 5-6.

2. **Protective Districts.** Mashpee River and Quashnet River Protective Districts have been designated in the Town of Mashpee Zoning Bylaws. No new structures may be built within 100 horizontal feet from the natural banks of the Mashpee River (excepting the Pirate's Cove subdivision on the east side and those properties south of the southern boundary of the Stemberg property on the west side) or of the Quashnet River south of the southern side line of Route 151. These protective districts are delineated in Figure 5-7.



3. **Primary and Secondary Conservation Areas / Open Spaces.** The Town of Mashpee Open Space Incentive Development (OSID) Zoning Bylaw (174-46 OSID) requires that a minimum of 50 percent of the parcels included within the OSID be dedicated as open space. This open space must be located within the primary and secondary conservation areas designated on the Mashpee Open Space Incentive Plan (See Figure 5-8).

4. **Historic Districts.** The Mashpee Facility Plan (W&S, 1988) identified four (4) sites of prehistoric archaeological importance, listed on the State Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). These sites are in the vicinity of the Willowbend Development, although the exact locations are kept confidential by the MHC.

The Mashpee Historical Commission has identified or is researching various sites within the Town. The sites are important as archaeological sites, historic buildings, or burial grounds. There is an historic district currently proposed in the vicinity of the Mashpee Town Hall/Route 130. Approval of this district will be sought at the time of the October 2007 Town Meeting.

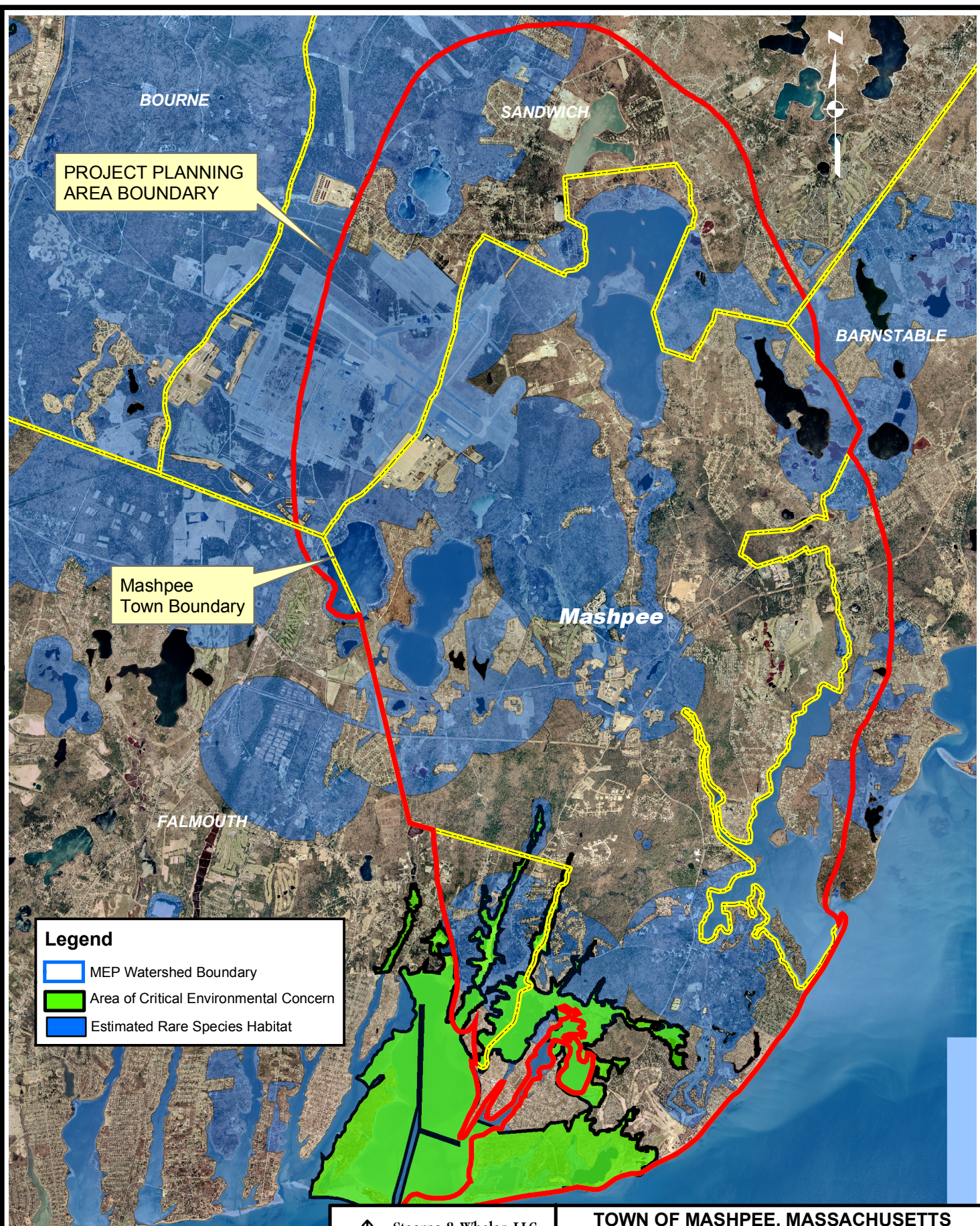
### 5.3 LAND USE AND ZONING

Town Planning Departments use State Classification Codes for identifying general uses of all of the properties in PPA. The uses can then be grouped as either residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional (which includes Town, State, and Federally owned properties). This information is useful because it provides a general overview of a Town's development and is a tool used in developing build-out estimates. Figure 5-9 illustrates the land uses in Mashpee.

#### A. Town Planning Zones

The Town of Mashpee is broken into 161 "Planning Zones," based on traffic flow and neighborhoods. The analysis done in this study will be based on the 161 planning zones, which are presented in Figure 5-10. The areas of the PPA that are outside of Mashpee lines have been given "planning zone" identifications for the purposes of this WNMP. These are not Town-designated





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**FIGURE 5-6**