Mashpee Soils with Potential for Openland Wildlife Habitat

Map 4-11

April 26, 1996

Mashpee Planning Department; Source: U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Barnstable County Soil Survey

soil survey, “these areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. Wildlife attracted to these areas include bobwhite quail, pheasant, meadow vole, meadowlark, field sparrow, cottontail and red fox.” Map 4-12 indicates soils typically related to habitats suitable for woodland wildlife, such as ruffed grouse, woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, squirrels, gray fox, raccoon and deer. Such habitats consist of areas of deciduous plants or coniferous plants or both and associated grasses, legumes and wild herbaceous plants. Habitat for wetland wildlife, for which suitable soils are indicated on Map 4-13, consists of open, marshy or swampy shallow water areas. The soil survey lists ducks, geese, herons, shore birds, muskrat, frogs and tree swallows as some of the wildlife attracted to such areas.

By far the most important feature of Mashpee’s soils is their ability to act as our sole source of drinking water. Because of their sandy, gravelly nature they serve admirably for that purpose, and a well drilled almost anywhere in town will produce a plentiful supply of water. Unfortunately, they also serve as our sole depository of wastewater. The same characteristics that suit them so well as a water supply make them a horrible place to put septic systems, septage lagoons, sewage treatment plant leaching areas and sanitary landfills. Because they are either too wet, or are too permeable to act as an effective filter for septic system effluent, the county soil survey lists every single soil type present in Mashpee as having “severe” limitations for use of septic tank absorption fields, sewage lagoon areas and trench- or area-type sanitary landfills.

The implication for open space planning in Mashpee is, therefore, that every bit of ground preserved as open space is one where our groundwater can be recharged by rainfall rather than wastewater. In more practical terms, it means that it is very appropriate to focus open space protection efforts on those areas which are most likely to provide groundwater recharge to our public water supply wells, as well as on those areas which are most likely to affect the quality of water in our ponds, streams and bays.

Mashpee Soils with Potential for Woodland Wildlife Habitat

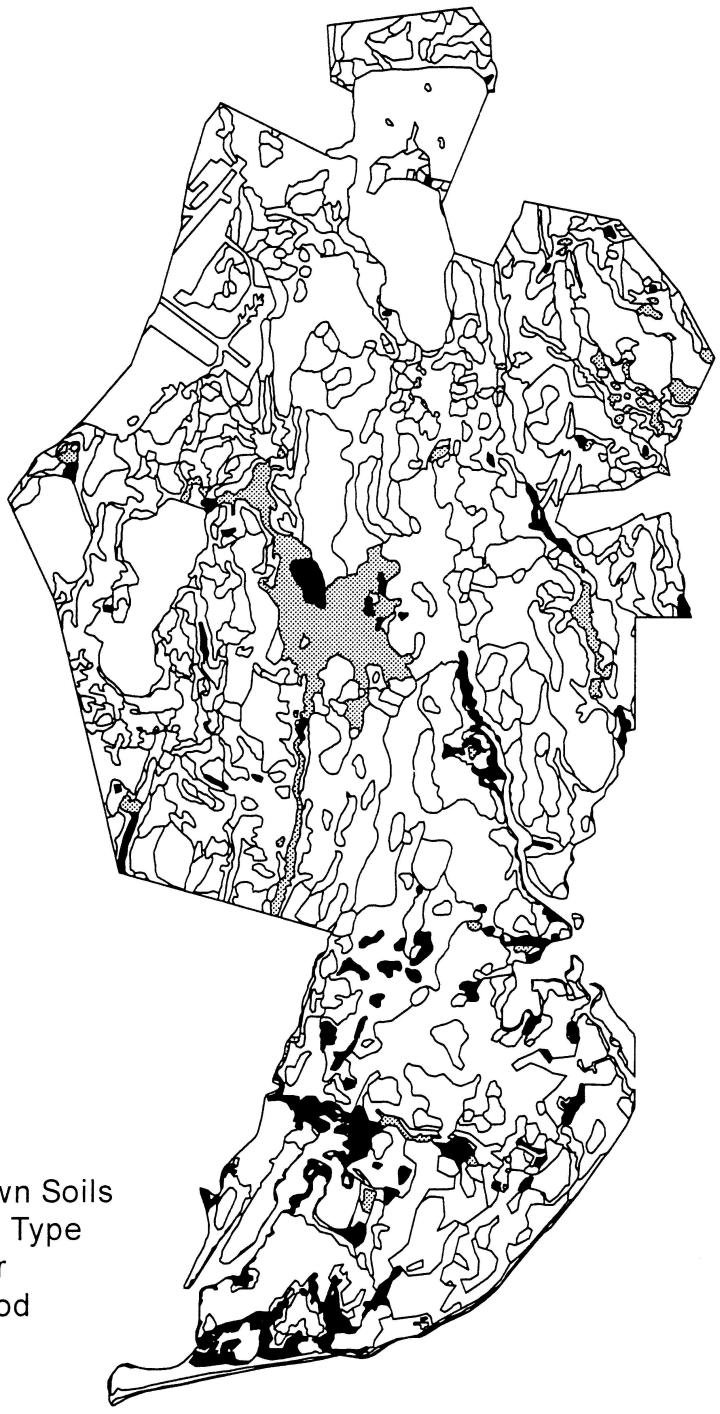
Map 4-12

April 26, 1996

Mashpee Planning Department; Source: U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Barnstable County Soil Survey

Mashpee Soils with Potential for Wetland Wildlife Habitat

Map 4-13



April 26, 1996

Mashpee Planning Department; Source: U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Barnstable County Soil Survey