

**Core Westford Walkway**  
Healthy Westford Committee  
Bill Harman, and Don Galya, 15 January 2021

To the Select Board.

This memo applies to our presentation to your board on January 26th.

One of the Healthy Westford Committee projects focuses on the health benefits of walking outdoors. Realizing that many people in Westford are currently walking a lot, we are analyzing walking patterns and considering possible improvements.

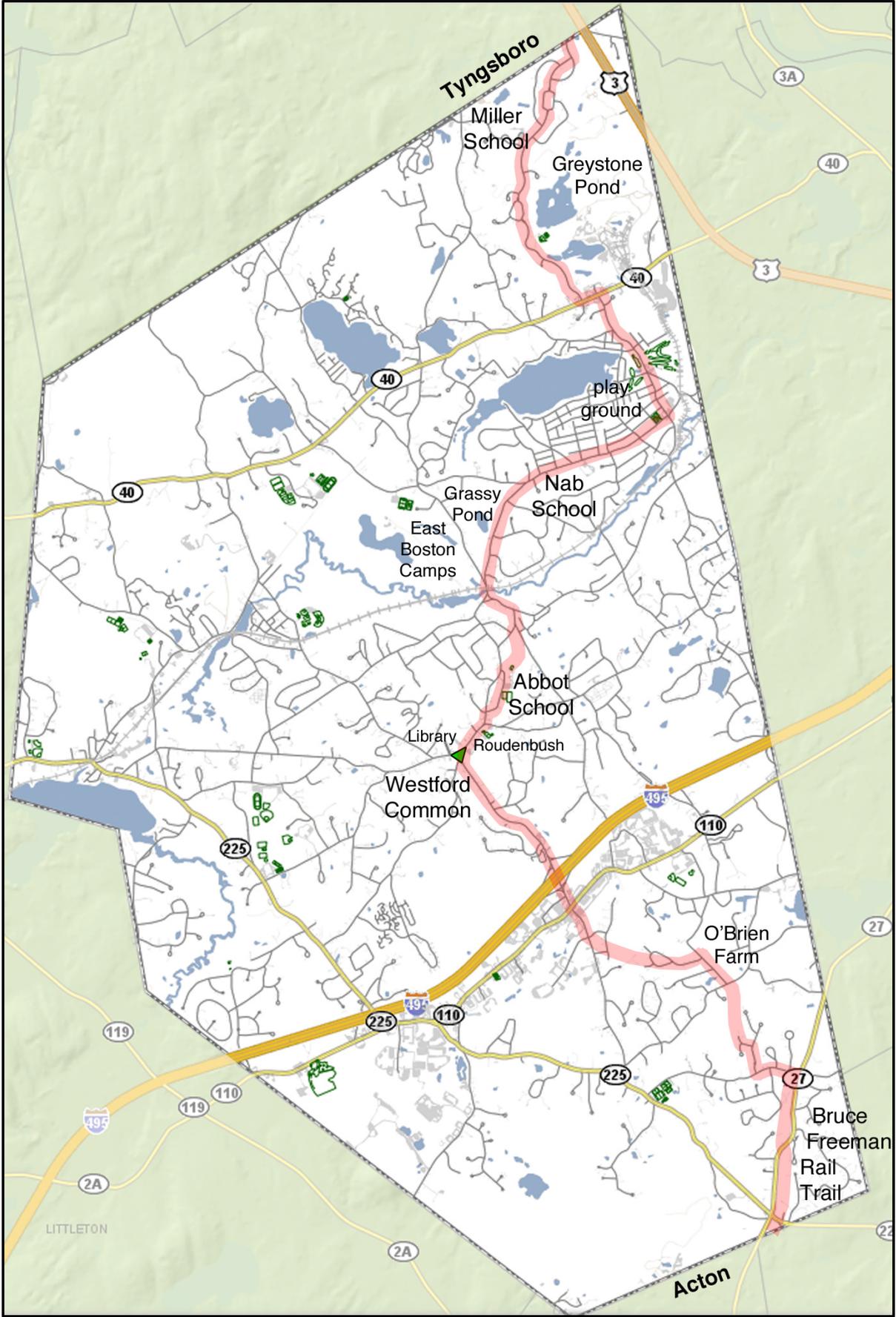
Core Westford Walkway. One unifying principle we are considering is the idea of a pedestrian walkway extending through Westford from north to south, town-line to town-line. We call this the “Core Westford Walkway”, illustrated in the map below.

In the north part, currently there are existing sidewalks from the Tyngsboro town line well into Westford. The existing sidewalks extend a long way through the large Greystone neighborhood to Groton Road. There are existing sidewalks on Groton Road, which lead to sidewalks on Oak Hill Road. Continuing in that general directions, new sidewalks are approved continuing along Oak Hill Road to Plain Road, where there are existing sidewalks from that point along Plain Road to Nab School and beyond.

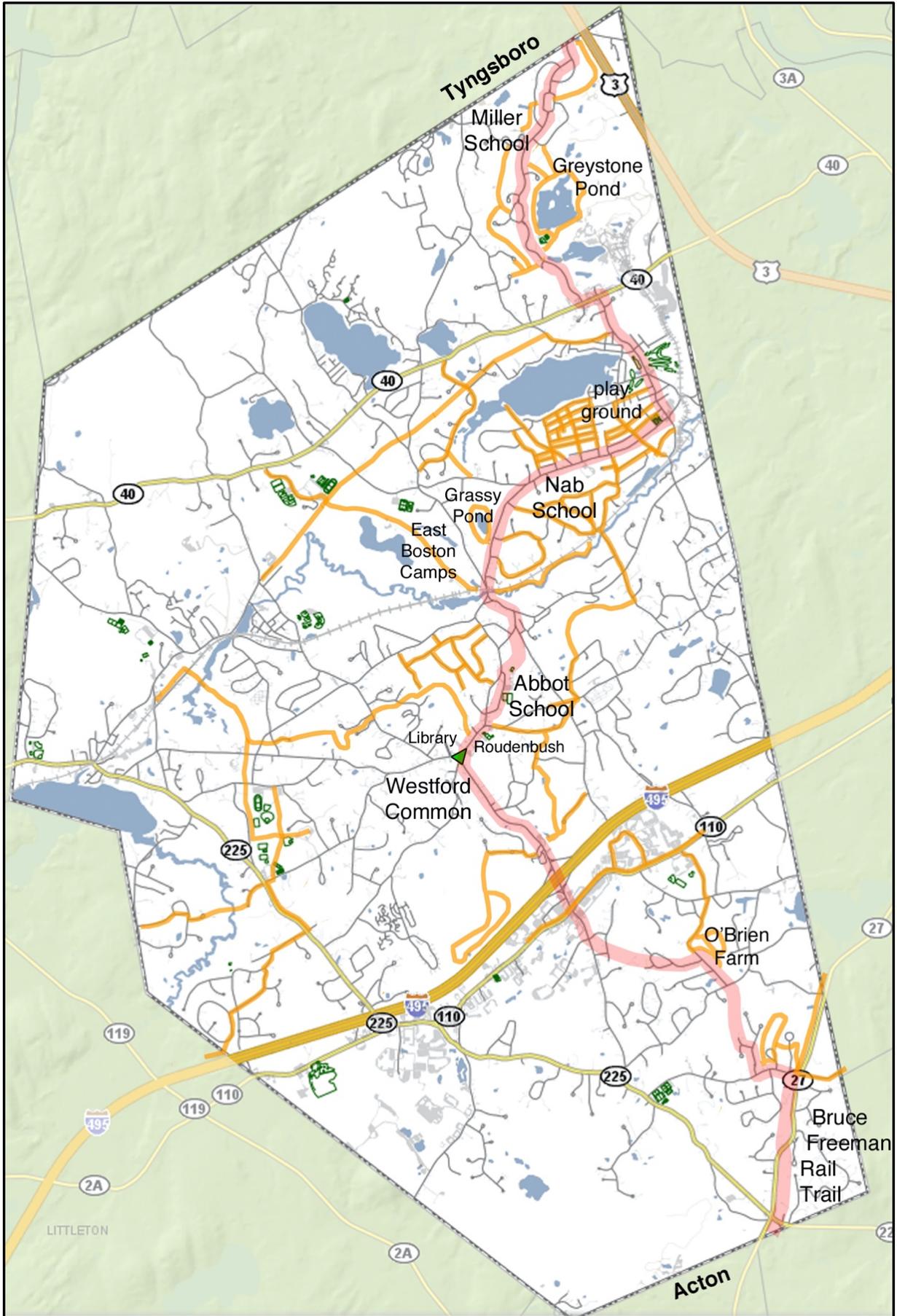
Connecting walkways. There are many existing walkways to and from the Core Westford Walkway shown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> map below. These provide a considerable amount of accessibility from many neighborhoods. Some of these connecting walkways are destinations. An example is the East Boston Camps area, which has many spectacular trails.

Many of the issues being address by the Healthy Westford Committee are also involved in the work of the Pedestrian Safety Committee. These two committees are regularly working together, particularly on the Core Westford Walkway. Don Galya is a member of both committees.

We are working on a plan to fill a walkway gap between the southern end of the existing sidewalk on Plain Rd and the intersection of Plain Rd with Depot St. We are considering evaluating two alternatives for the walkway section adjacent to the Grassy Pond Conservation Area: (1) continuing the sidewalk along Plain Rd or (2) diverting the walkway along a wheelchair accessible trail through the conservation area.



Core Westford Walkway



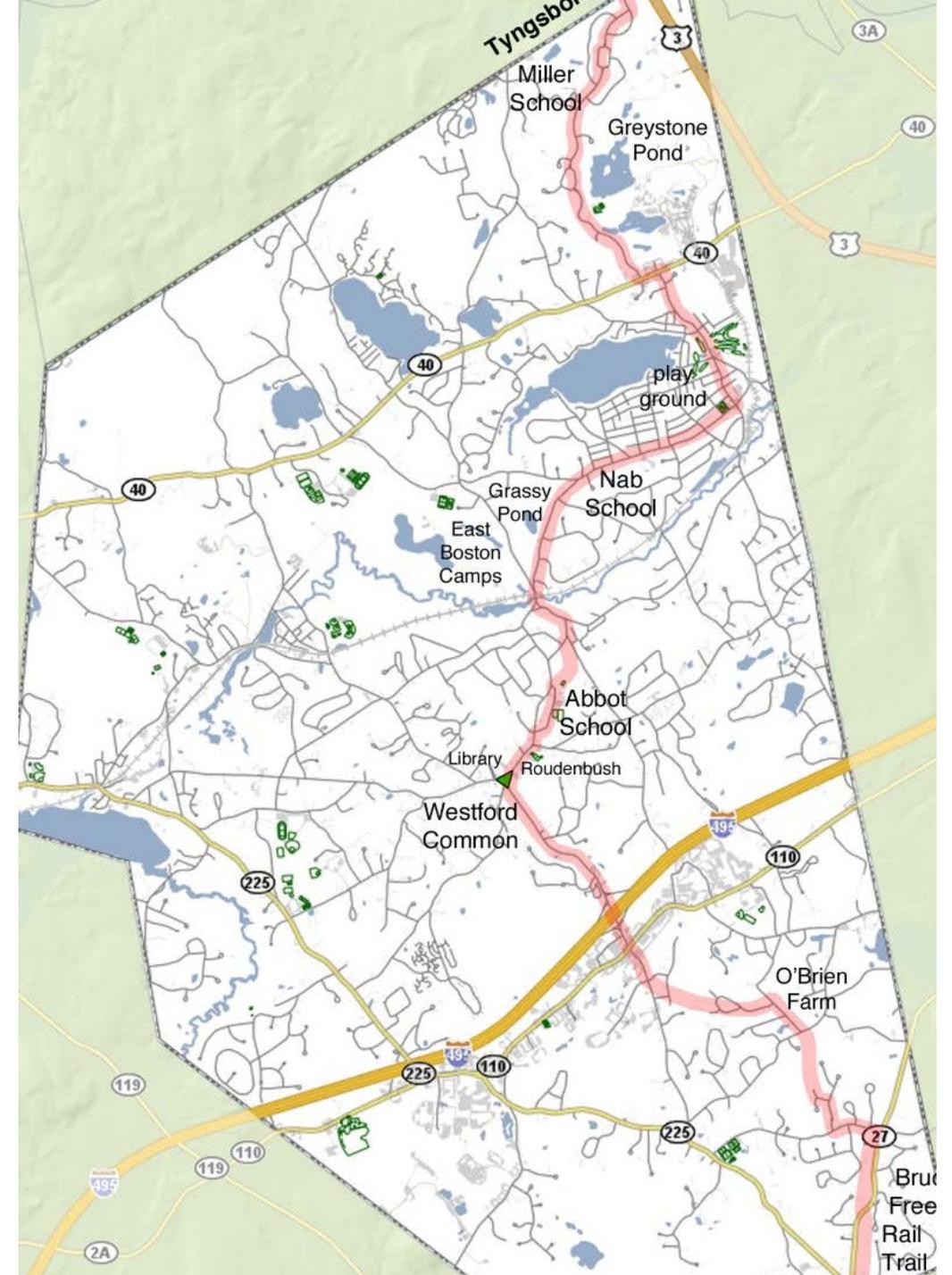
Many connecting walkways

# Core Westford Walkway

January 26, 2021

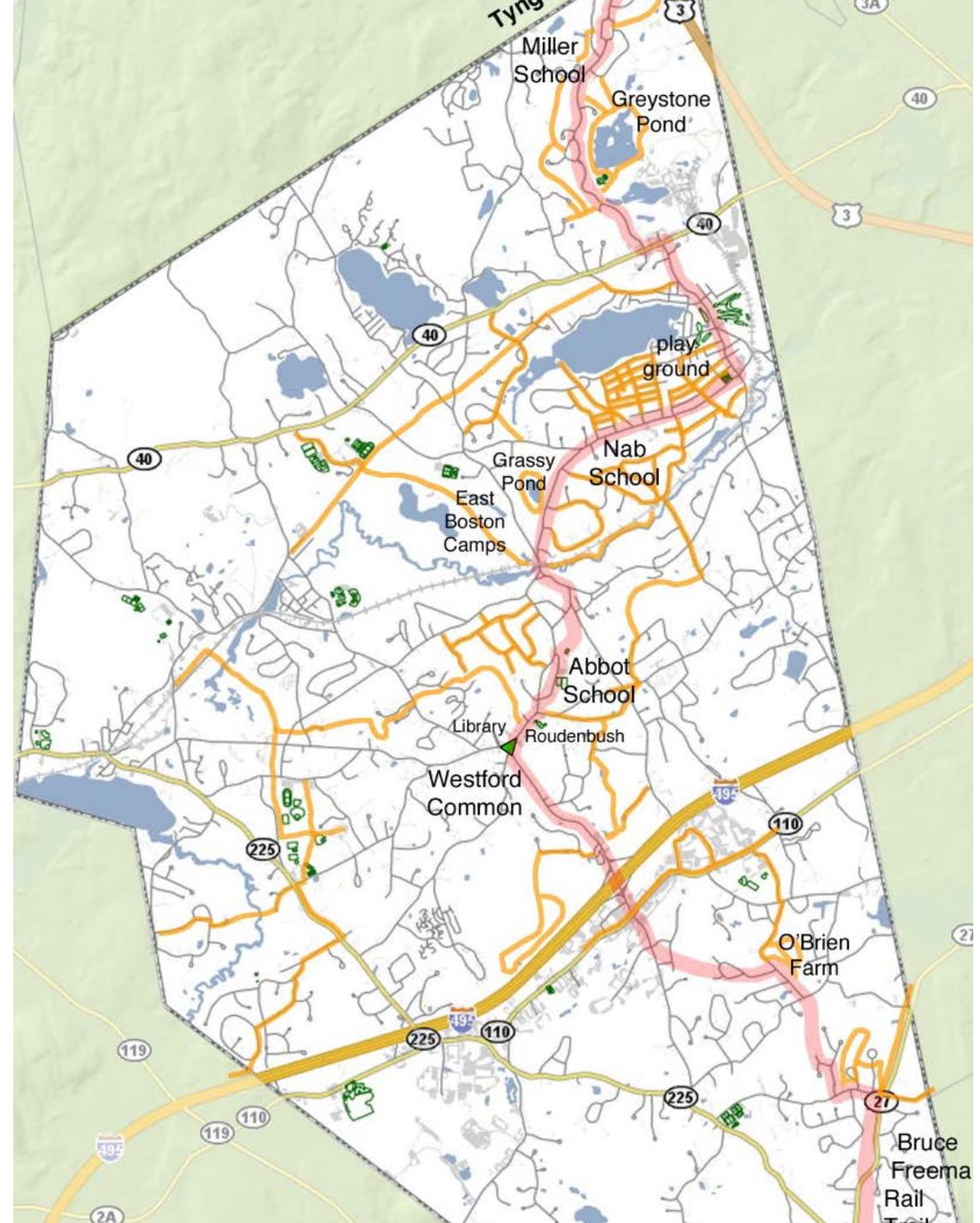
# Features

- Covers entire length of Westford
- Links populated areas & destinations
- Much already exists
- Takes advantage of planned sidewalks
- Consists of sidewalks, trails & roads with light traffic



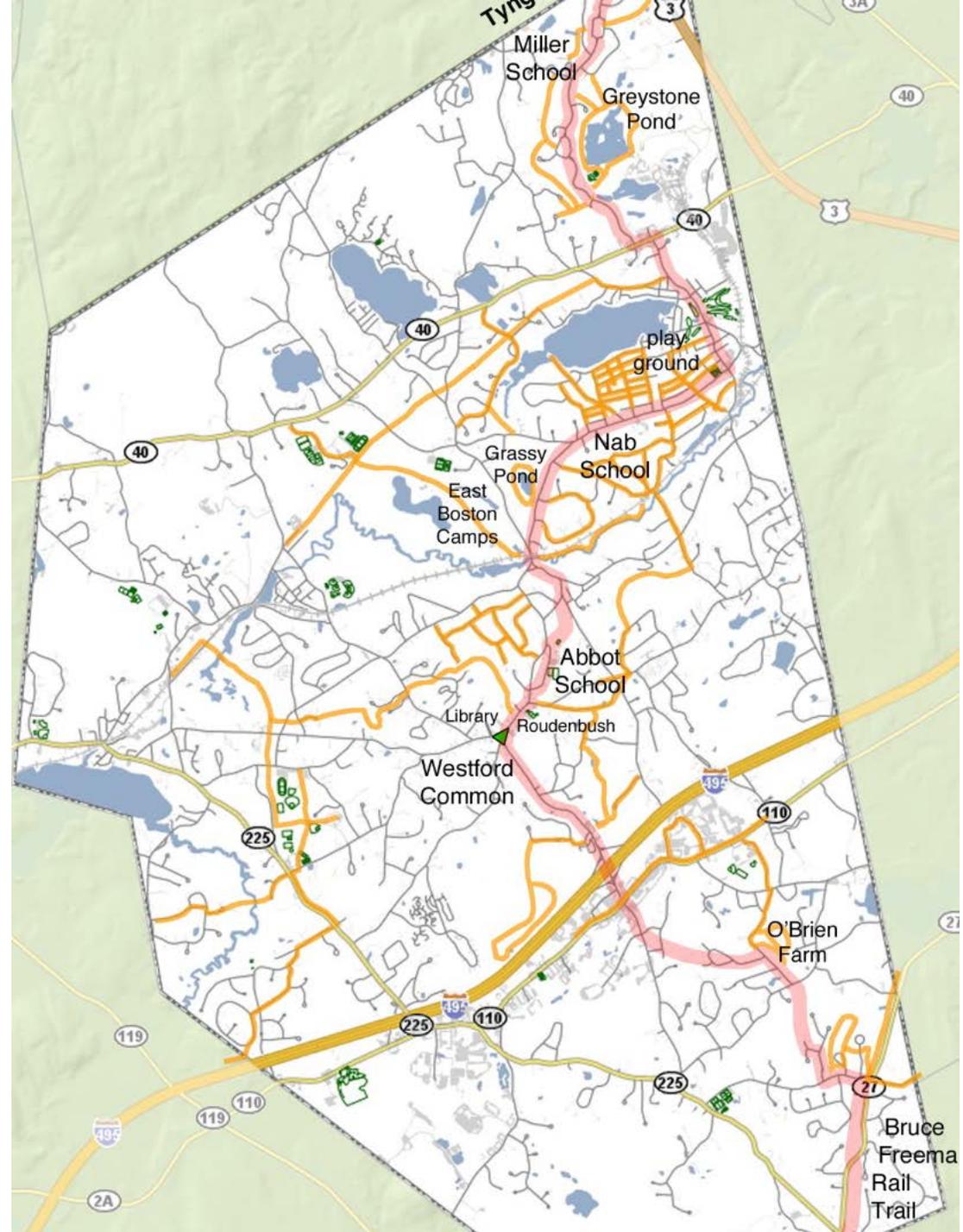
# More Features

- Forms core of walkway network
- Connects to town center, 5 schools, >20 conservation areas, commercial district
- 3 gaps remain



# Objectives

- Link neighborhoods & connect to destinations
- Enhance Westford's walkability
  - Highlight our progress
- Map of interconnected walkways
  - Information on town walking routes
  - Facilitate planning
- Provide inspiration for additional connecting walkways



# HW/PSC Request

- Support of \$80K phase 1 Plain Rd walkway design fund request previously submitted to Capital Planning
  - Has been on PSC priority list for years
  - Fills Gap 1
  - Considering wheelchair accessible trail in Grassy Pond Conservation Area for part of the walkway