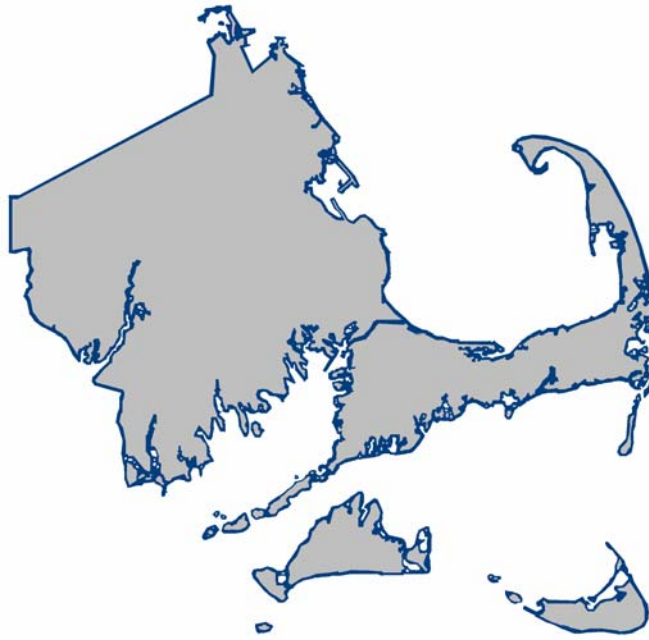


# THE PILGRIM RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) AREA

# AREA PLAN

June 2002



Prepared by the Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc.  
15 Cranberry Highway  
West Wareham, Massachusetts 02576

Serving Southeastern Massachusetts  
Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Nantucket and Dukes Counties

With assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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AREA PLAN**

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**Board of Directors  
&  
Officers**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
William Napolitano	President	Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Planning and Economic Development District
Lee Davis	Vice President	Barnstable County Commissioners
Peggy Fantozzi	Treasurer	Cape Cod Conservation District
Jim Watson	Secretary	Old Colony Planning Commission
Robert Culbert		Dukes County Commissioners
Tim Soverino		Nantucket County Commissioners
Georgia Chamberlain		Plymouth County Commissioners
Sumner Martinsen		Bristol Conservation District
Joe Freitas		Plymouth Conservation District
Mary McBrady		Community at Large
Elaine Purdy		Community at Large
Iain Ward		Community at Large

With assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Under the authority of the Agriculture and Farm Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-98) and the Farm and Agriculture Act of 1962 (P.L. 87-703),  
and cooperating local, state and federal agencies.

*All RC&D Program assistance is available to the public  
without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sex, age or handicap.*

## **WHAT IS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a unique Program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The RC&D Program is administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The RC&D Program activities are guided and driven by a local volunteer Council. The Council helps people care for and protect natural resources in a way that improves the local economy, environment and living standards throughout the Area. RC&D is a way for people to work together, communities to work together, to plan and solve shared resource, economic and environmental problems.

The RC&D Program consists of 368 RC&D Councils nationwide. Each Council is organized and directed by local people focused on meeting local needs. The purpose of RC&D is to promote natural resource conservation, economic development and utilization of natural resources in a way that enhances the local economy and environment.

The RC&D Program is based on a number of concepts that make it truly unique:

- ❑ Public-private partnerships have great value in addressing best use of limited resources and leveraging dollars to accomplish local goals.
- ❑ Grass-roots involvement is necessary in local decision-making process
- ❑ Balancing natural resource protection and economic development is achievable.

## **OVERVIEW - PILGRIM RC&D AREA**

The Pilgrim RC&D Area is sponsored by County Commissions, Conservation Districts, and Regional Planning Agencies. The RC&D Council Board of Directors is comprised of one representative from each sponsoring organization and several members from the community-at-large. RC&D is based on the fact that local residents know best what challenges and problems they face and what is needed to solve these problems.

The purpose of this document is to provide long term direction (5 years) to the Pilgrim RC&D Area Council. The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council recognizes that development must be based on sound, sustainable, long-term consideration for the Area's natural resources. Through this plan, the Pilgrim RC&D Area Program will emphasize prudent use, management, and conservation of the Area's natural resources as an integral component of economic development strategies.

The first Area Plan for the Pilgrim RC&D Area was written in 1975. It was used as a tool for people in southeastern Massachusetts to identify and seek solutions to their natural resource based problems. Since 1975, the Area has changed, population has increased significantly and in 2002 is 1.2 million, and this region is the fastest growing area in the State of Massachusetts.

Within the next 15 years the population is projected to grow by more than 200,000, increasing stress on our water supplies, wetlands, productive farmlands and existing agricultural businesses, open spaces, cultural and historic resources, valuable wildlife and habitat, transportation systems and more. This new Area Plan has been developed to address the changes in the Area and the most pressing resource needs.

The Pilgrim RC&D Area is located in southeastern Massachusetts.

- ❑ Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Nantucket and Dukes Counties.
- ❑ 65 Towns and 5 cities, all with distinct and different forms of local governance
- ❑ 1,190,000 acres (1,859 square miles) (24% of state)
- ❑ 1.2 million population (year 2002) (20% of state)
- ❑ 8 River Basins ( Ten Mile River, Mount Hope Bay, Narragansett Bay, Buzzards Bay, Taunton River, Cape Cod Bay, Cape Cod, Southcoastal)
- ❑ 1,000 miles of saltwater coastline
- ❑ Over 1,100 inland lakes, ponds and reservoirs
- ❑ 122,000 acres of Agricultural land (11% of Area and 23% of states)

Resources of Regional Importance:

- ❑ The area founded by the Mayflower Pilgrims in 1620.
- ❑ Home to federally recognized Wamponoag nations
- ❑ Over half the worlds cranberry production
- ❑ Two large populated islands, accessible only by air or boat
- ❑ 300 historical sites
- ❑ Cape Cod National Sea Shore
- ❑ Recharge areas to existing and future water supplies
- ❑ Recharge area to coastal embayments
- ❑ Inland and coastal wetlands and their recharge areas
- ❑ Inland and coastal ponds
- ❑ Floodplains, beaches, banks an dunes
- ❑ Commercial and recreational shellfish and finfish habitat
- ❑ Rare plant and animal habitat
- ❑ Private Open space
- ❑ Town Conservation Lands
- ❑ Economic, Historic and Cultural Resources
- ❑ Historic villages
- ❑ Working waterfronts and harbor areas
- ❑ 18 State Parks and Forests
- ❑ Active agricultural and aquacultural areas
- ❑ Scenic landscapes

5 Counties: 65 Towns, 5 Cities

Distinct and separate forms of governance.

<u>Bristol County</u>	<u>Plymouth County</u>	<u>Barnstable County</u>	<u>Nantucket County</u>	<u>Dukes County</u>
Acushnet	Abington	Barnstable	Nantucket	Chilmark
Berkley	Bridgewater	Bourne		Edgartown
Dartmouth	Carver	Brewster		Aquinnah
Dighton	Duxbury	Chatham		Gosnold
Easton	E. Bridgewater	Dennis		Tisbury
Fairhaven	Halifax	Eastham		Oak Bluffs
Freetown	Hanson	Falmouth		W. Tisbury
Mansfield	Hingham	Harwich		
N. Attleborough	Hull	Mashpee		
Norton	Kingston	Orleans		
Raynham	Lakeville	Provincetown		
Rehoboth	Marion	Sandwich		
Seekonk	Marshfield	Truro		
Somerset	Mattapoisett	Wellfleet		
Swansea	Middleborough	Yarmouth		
Westport	Norwell			
<b><u>Cities</u></b>	Pembroke			
Attleboro	Plymouth			
Fall River	Plympton			
New Bedford	Rochester			
Taunton	Rockland			
	Scituate			
	Wareham			
	W. Bridgewater			
	Whitman			
	<b><u>City</u></b>			
	Brockton			

## **CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

Southeastern Massachusetts is a large area in transition. It is a region of 65 towns and 5 cities that share common challenges; managing change to ensure a high quality of life, to protect a unique environment and enhance their economic future. A vision has emerged for southeastern Massachusetts through a regional "Smart Growth" effort - this vision has been established to fully meet the challenges by the year 2020.

Unmanaged growth will create problems in every community in land use, the environment, economic development and infrastructure and the delivery of local services. Ideally the citizens within the region should manage the economic and physical change through consensus and avoid irreversible problems. Equipped with good public policy, plans, regulations, technical and educational services, communities can support actions that keep southeastern Massachusetts a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

Southeastern Massachusetts retains fragile rural qualities and historic towns, cities, and cultures that are threatened by sprawl and uncontrolled development. Growth management means investment management, promoting high quality of life, efficient use of public resources and enhancing private investment opportunities while sustaining a healthy environment.

The forces of economic change and location preferences are rapidly converting vast amount of land in southeastern Massachusetts into a monotonous pattern of sprawl. Long and economic "backwater" of New England, the region has emerged as one of the strongest growth areas in the Northeast. This trend is consuming open space, erasing the historic character of communities, threatening important environmental resources, and burdening a strained infrastructure in the region that covers nearly 1.2 million acres and contains 1.2 million residents.

Southeastern Massachusetts is the state's new growth frontier. By the year 2020 there will be over 200,000 new residents in the region. Between 1960 and 1990, southeastern Massachusetts grew by more than 10,000 people per year, or a growth rate of 46 percent. This rate is triple the rate for Massachusetts as a whole. An addition of 10,000 new residents requires an additional 3,500 housing units, 28,000 extra vehicle trip days, consumes an additional 710,000 gallons of water per day and enrolls 2,157 new students per year.

Growth stresses the community fabric causing problems that are difficult to resolve. The cost of pressures and problems diminishes the overall quality of life within the region. Many communities actively seek industrial and commercial development without regard for the impact of such development on their own or neighboring towns. Agricultural land is under increasing pressure for development. Traditional town and city centers continue to decline in the face of more competitive, auto-oriented retail locations. Commuters are frustrated with long delays and local traffic fills constricted roads. The expansion of school systems, utility systems and community services stretch budgets. Communities compete for non-residential development to help build their tax base because new housing developments frequently do not pay for the increased services they require.

Growth in the region is not uniform. The population of Brockton, Fall River and New Bedford grew by only 3.6% over the last thirty years, while the balance of the region grew by more that 80%. Some cities have lost population, but must continue to maintain the infrastructure designed to support a larger population. The large urban areas remain captured in long-term economic stagnation linked to the steady decline in the manufacturing sector. These cities would welcome growth. Population and income growth in the urban communities are far behind the regional or state averages. In the urban areas the cost of managing large and underutilized infrastructure consumes scarce local resources.

The growth population is concentrated in communities that increasingly serve as commuter suburbs. Residents on the Cape find that Boston is a reasonable commute and commuters no longer consider bridges a limit to commuting. From Plymouth to Pembroke and from Mansfield to Hyannis, residential construction dominated by single family housing is underway. Eight municipalities gained over 3,000 new residents

between 1980 and 1990. Plymouth alone gained almost 10,000 new residents. The town of Mansfield, which is one of the fastest growing communities in Massachusetts, has more than doubled its population since 1970. Concern about the rate of population growth and land use changes are major issues for residents in Barnstable County. Between 1980 and 1990 the population of Barnstable County had a growth rate of 26%. With the increase in population have come other changes. Between 1980 and 1990, the greatest amount of growth occurred along the south shore and in towns within commuting distance of Boston. Towns within commuting distance to Boston now include the Cape. These towns will continue to grow. Nineteen communities have projected growth rates greater than 30% over the next 20 years, 11 of these communities are in the center of the region.

Cape Cod is a finite place, with a limited capacity to sustain new growth. Respondents to the 1996 survey used to develop the Cape Cod Regional Policy plan indicated that the following factors were very important in their decision to live on Cape Cod: 60% cited the air and water quality, 55% cited proximity to the coast, 52% cited rural character, 48% cited small town life style. Respondents ranked traffic congestion, population growth, ground water pollution, pollution of coastal waters, loss of open space as the most serious problems facing the Cape over the next 5 years. Fifty four percent of the respondents to the survey indicated that over the past 25 years population growth in their town has worsened the quality of life. Under existing regulations, the build-out potential of the Cape is substantial and population growth is expected to continue. If not properly managed such growth could result in additional environmental degradation and a diminished quality of life, which in turn can undermine the economic health of the region. Another commuter hub is Hyannis, on Cape Cod, providing bus services to residents who commute to Boston daily.

Portions of Cape Cod's sole source aquifer have been contaminated by incompatible uses, discharges of hazardous material and excessive densities; thousands of acres have been closed to shellfishing due to pollution; open space and scenic vistas have been lost to subdivisions and overhead utility lines and the architectural quality and economic viability of the Cape's historic villages have been undermined by commercial sprawl.

Income is unevenly distributed. While the residents of a few suburban communities have extremely high average incomes, most towns and cities rank near the bottom in average income for the state and have many residents whose skills are poorly matched to growing economic sectors with higher paying jobs.

Land use patterns are changing. Land is being consumed to serve a mobile culture. Land in southeastern Massachusetts is being consumed at a rate two and one-half times the rate of regional population growth. Between 1951 and 1985, one-third of the agricultural land and open land was converted to urbanized land uses. Agricultural and open land declined from over 200,000 to 122,000 acres today. In the same time urbanizing land use more than doubled. By the year 2020, without change in current development patterns, the percentage of land in southeastern Massachusetts that is developed is liable to increase an additional 20%.

*"Uncontrolled growth is destroying what we cherish about New England,, Sprawl destroys farms, weakens towns and city centers and forces us to spend more time in cars away from our families. It reduces the choices we have increases our taxes and pollutes our environment. And it doesn't have to be that way...but we must change." (John Bullard, 2020 Task Force Member, SEMAP member).*

In addition to being used for new housing, open space is being converted into retail and commercial facilities on large lots with convenient highway access, where the cost of development is relatively low. The resulting pattern of development is dependent upon people driving cars. Meanwhile, picturesque town centers and historic downtown districts continue to decline throughout much of the region.

Agricultural land is steadily converted to other uses as landowners make reasonable economic decisions to sell their property for substantial gain. Even specialized high-value crops are affected. Southeastern Massachusetts ranks near the top of the most productive cranberry growing regions in the world. Bristol

County grows more vegetables than any other county in the state. Cranberry lands and crops grown for direct consumption require large amounts of clean, low cost water in a region where supplies of this basic resource are under pressure to service residential and other development needs.

Stresses are apparent in other aspects of the region's infrastructure. Sewer extensions encourage residential and commercial growth on agricultural, forested and open rural lands because frontage fees and higher taxes compel owners to develop their land, There is little consideration of decentralized wastewater treatment, nor is there a history of matching development to existing infrastructure.

Adequate water supply and good water quality are problems throughout the region. Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket's drinking water sources are underlying sole source aquifers. Southeastern Massachusetts has the largest sole source aquifer in the state, the Plymouth/Carver aquifer, which needs special protection. Some communities are disadvantaged because their water needs for commercial and residential development do not meet their supply. There are no regional strategies to ensure clean and sufficient water for all communities in southeastern Massachusetts. Cape Cod has long been concerned about the limits on its water supply, a resource that is considered scarce today.

Water quality is of concern throughout the Area. Cape Cod, which relies on ground water as its sole source of drinking water is particularly vulnerable to groundwater pollution from sources like onsite sewage disposal systems, dumping and burial of toxic materials on military basis. Nonpoint pollution discharge to surface waters and wetlands from roads, lawns and agriculture pose a threat to shellfishing areas. Over the past 20 years, the residents of Cape Cod have become aware of the fragile nature and limited availability of the Cape's land and water resources.

## **PRESENT & FUTURE DIRECTION**

Southeastern Massachusetts should retain diverse land use patterns that reinforce contrasts between rural, small town and urban places. There must be distinction between large open spaces and areas of concentrated development, rather than monotonous sprawl of low-density development that is economically inefficient and consumes excessive land. By increasing the diversity of land use in southeastern Massachusetts, there will be more choices for places to live, work and play.

Natural resources, agriculture and undeveloped landscapes throughout the Pilgrim RC&D Area represent fundamental components of the economy and culture of the region. These natural resource systems include wild rivers, undeveloped stretches of coastline, hundreds of ponds, extensive farm and forestry lands and the nationally significant Plymouth Pine Barrens. The region is home to an abundance of wildlife and has among the highest densities of rare and endangered species of plants and animals in New England. Open space should be protected as an environmental resource and for watershed and habitat protection.

Agricultural industries must be recognized as valuable economic resources. Agriculture also serves open space and wildlife and habitat functions. Development pressure threatens land that has been in agriculture for hundreds of years. The region must find means to accommodate continued expanded growth while discouraging conversion of agricultural land to sprawl-type development. Effective water supply planning is essential to regions environmental, agricultural and economic health.

Land planning should complement long-term economic values by preserving and enhancing the attractiveness of the region's communities and the quality of life within them. The historic character of the communities in the region is a highly valued quality to be preserved by programs that restore worthy historic structures and preserve culturally significant places and landscapes.

Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands are finite places, with a limited capacity to sustain new growth. Nantucket has 10,000 residents year round and is home to 40,000 in August. Nantucket's special environment is threatened by growth and the Island has long been struggling to mitigate the affects of development. Issues to address include forest conservation and fragmentation reduction, open space

retention and acquisition, waste management, composting, marketing and moving material off-island, surface and groundwater quality protection. Of great importance is the protection of coastal embayments. Coastal area management, so as to safe guard and perpetuate their biological, economic, historic, maritime, and aesthetic values has high priority. In broad terms, southeastern Massachusetts (Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Nantucket and Dukes counties) should retain its distinctive character established by its historic past and culture, and become a region with:

- ❑ A diverse economy that includes rural areas that retain economically successful and environmentally sensitive agricultural, aquaculture and forestry industries,
- ❑ Areas that retain and protect significant areas of open space,
- ❑ Towns that are physically distinct, that retain individual character and that offer a high quality of life,
- ❑ Cities that are vital centers of cultural life, that retain diversity of economy, promote social, and environmental enhancement,
- ❑ Sustained prosperity for its residents and businesses,
- ❑ A natural environment that is sustained (used, managed and protected) and enhanced,
- ❑ A regional infrastructure that supports regional needs through private, local, state and federal partnerships and coordination. Local independence is maintained while regional linkages are developed to address common concerns.

Natural Resource Conservation and Rural Economic Development Goals established by Town and Regional Efforts are the foundation from which the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Plan are built. The following set of goals and objectives reflect the issues and needs identified by communities in the Area, and are those that the Pilgrim RC&D Area Council and Program staff are well positioned to provide assistance.

# PILGRIM RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

**“Investment in Environmental Quality is essential to a healthy economy”**

The Martha’s Vineyard Commission

**“Encourage sustainable growth and development consistent with carrying capacity of the natural environment in order to maintain economic health and quality of life.”**

Vision 2020 Southeastern Massachusetts

## VISION

**NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION  
IN A WAY THAT IMPROVES THE ECONOMY,  
THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN  
SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS' COMMUNITIES**

## MISSION

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY IN AND AMONG  
SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS' COMMUNITIES AND  
RESIDENTS; PROVIDING THEM WITH THE MEANS TO ADDRESS  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AT  
THE LOCAL LEVEL.**

### GOAL A. HEALTHY LAND RESOURCES:

- Objective 1: Preserve and enhance agricultural uses that are environmentally compatible with the natural resources in order to maintain opportunities to enjoy the traditional occupations, economic diversity and scenic resources associated with agricultural lands. Facilitate retention of agricultural land and land uses and protect lands with agricultural potential.
- Objective 2: Protect Open Space in order to preserve and provide wildlife habitat, recreational Opportunities, protect unique natural resources, historic character, scenery, ground water quality, air quality and character of the region.
- Objective 3: Promote the Acquisition, Management and Stewardship of Open Space (wetlands, wildlife habitat, unique or rare, culturally and historically significant, environmentally valuable, aesthetically valuable...)

- Objective 4: Foster wildlife protection and enhancement, with particular attention to rare, threatened and endangered species. Maintain existing populations and species diversity. (prevent loss or degradation of critical wildlife and plant habitat; minimize the impact of new development on wildlife and plant habitat)
- Objective 5: Support the Forest retention, reduce forest fragmentation, and promote sustainable forest management on private and public lands.
- Objective 6: Soil Quality Protection and Enhancement: Customers utilize accurate, useful soils information in land use decision-making. Soils are conserved and managed to retain and enhance productive capacity, reduce runoff, and reduce erosion and sediment movement.

**GOAL B. HEALTHY WATER RESOURCES:**

- Objective 1: To maintain the overall quality of ground water to ensure a sustainable supply of untreated drinking water and to preserve and restore the ecological integrity of fresh surface and marine waters.
- Objective 2: Preserve and restore the quality and quantity of inland and coastal wetlands.
- Objective 3: Promote Water Conservation and Water Quality Planning and Management on watershed basis.
- Objective 4: Promote Protection and Management of Lakes, Ponds, Wetlands, Waterways and Coastal Embayments.
- Objective 5: Encourage methods of onsite sewage waste water treatment and disposal that reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and virus movement to ground and surface waters.

**GOAL C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Objective 1: Promote businesses that are compatible with the region's environment, cultural and economic strengths in order to ensure balanced economic development.
- Objective 2: To encourage the preservation and creation of village centers and downtown areas that provide a pleasant environment for living and working.
- Objective 3: Provide municipalities with unbiased, best available technical and scientific information regarding natural resources so they may make informed decisions regarding land use change impacts within their towns. (Environmental Review Team studies)
- Objective 4: Strengthen Agricultural Viability and Sustainability as a Critical Component of Regional Sustainable Growth Initiatives.
- Objective 5: Encourage and promote natural resource-based, agriculture and aquaculture business – And environmentally and economically productive farming.
- Objective 6: Support the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP).

- Objective 7: Support the organization of Town Agricultural Commissions.
- Objective 8: Expand Markets for Natural Resource Based businesses (agriculture to composting).
- Objective 9: Develop and Conserve Aquaculture and Shellfishing Resources.
- Objective 10: Encourage Economic Development Opportunities in Aquaculture.
- Objective 11: To protect and preserve important historic and cultural features of the landscape and environment that are critical to the regions heritage and economy.

**GOAL D: MANAGE AND DEVELOP FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE RC&D MISSION AND VISION**

- Objective 1: Provide Long Term Financial Support for Council Activities
- Objective 2: Seek opportunities for partnering and leveraging human and financial capital.
- Objective 3: Council Members are trained in not for profit organization responsibilities and the Board of Directors manages the Council and activities accordingly.
- Objective 4: Promote and Manage Howard and Mary Hayward Scholarship Fund.

**GOAL E: STRENGTHEN AND BROADEN SUPPORT FOR THE PILGRIM RC&D PROGRAM**

- Objective 1: Improve Visibility of the Pilgrim RC&D Council and Program.
- Objective 2: Utilize media strategically.
- Objective 3: Develop healthy relationships with legislators and utilize legislature strategically.
- Objective 4: Support Projects/Programs and Activities of Pilgrim RC&D Area Sponsoring Organizations .
- Objective 5: Develop and Implement RC&D Council Board of Directors Strategic Plan.

## COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc. agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the non discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts a and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal Financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for nonprocurement, suspension, and debarment, and State review.

The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. hereby adopts this TRC&D Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the US Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

**The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc.  
West Wareham, Massachusetts**

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**William S. Napolitano, President**  
Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James Watson, Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 .

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

**Acknowledged by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cecil B. Currin, State Conservationist**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**NARC&DC UNDERREPRESENTED SURVEY**

**Pilgrim RC&D Area (Southeastern Massachusetts)**

1. Provide the following demographic information for your RC&D Area

**Population (total):** 1,245,669

**Male:** 49.04%

**Female:** 50.96%

**Race:**

White: 90.48%

African American: 3.82%

Asian: 0.78%

American Indian: 0.54%

Hispanic: 2.10%

Other: 2.28%

**Urban/Rural:** 64 Towns and 5 Cities within the RC&D Area  
54 Urban:15 Rural  
3.6:1

**Age:**

<5: 5.44%

0-18: 22.74%

18-65: 62.48%

>65: 14.78%

**Income:** \$43,565.00 (Average Median Income)

2. List the underrepresented groups (i.e., African American, American Indian, Hispanic, Asians, low income groups, people with disabilities) your Council serves.

RC&D services are available to all and RC&D reaches out to all of our communities. We serve all farmers equally, male, female, Cape Verdean, and Portuguese. We serve Native American population and African American populations as we work on small watershed protection projects and 319 Water Quality Projects.

3. Briefly describe your RC&D Council projects with under-represented groups. For example:  
Agricultural Economic Viability - Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership - reaches out to 1,000 farm businesses services are accessible and available to all.

Billington Sea 319 Project - Assessed functioning of septic systems throughout lakeside community. All residents had access to educational programs, assessments and recommendations. All African American residents participated (~15). An African American woman is now a member of the Lake Association Board of Directors.

4. Are there underrepresented groups in your communities not being services by your RC&D Council  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the perceived barriers to serving underrepresented groups?

No perceived barrier

## **Resources & Sources utilized for Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. AREA PLAN**

1. 1996 Final Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan, approved by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates and County Commissioners, November 1996.
2. Prospect Cape Cod, Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development Commission, First District Court House, Barnstable MA, 1987 – 1992.
3. Southeastern Massachusetts: Vision 2020 “An Agenda for the Future,” June 1999.
4. Southeastern Massachusetts Planning and Economic Development District.
5. Old Colony Planning Council.
6. Cape Cod Commission, John Lipman, former Sustainable Development Director, MA EOEa.
7. Nantucket County and Community Preservation, EOEa.
8. The Martha’s Vineyard Commission, Regional Island Plan