

Town of Franklin

355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352



Phone: (508) 520-4907
www.franklinma.gov

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TO: PLANNING BOARD
FROM: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RE: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 23-899: MARIJUANA USE OVERLAY DISTRICT
DATE: JUNE 14, 2023

At their May 3, 2023 meeting the Economic Development Subcommittee voted to have Department of Planning & Community Development (DPCD) staff update the Marijuana Use Overlay District map.

In recent years there have been several changes in the Marijuana Use Overlay District, including the permitting of three marijuana grow facilities and three retail dispensary facilities, as well as the addition of a school on Grove Street. The Marijuana Use Overlay District map was last updated in February 2017 (by approval of Zoning Bylaw Amendment 17-781); with the recent development and continual land use changes within the underlying Industrial Zoning District, an update at this time is required. The current Marijuana Use Overlay District map is attached (Attachment 1).

The new marijuana-related facilities have brought a substantial amount of tax revenue to the Town; in order to continue allowing these facilities to come to Town, amending the Marijuana Use Overlay District Map is needed to identify areas for possible growth.

Current Zoning Regulations within the Marijuana District

§185-49 of Franklin Town Code provides regulations for the Marijuana Use Overlay District; all marijuana facilities must comply with these regulations. §185-49(5) provides a description of where in Franklin marijuana-related facilities are allowed; §185-49(5) has been pasted below for reference.

§185-49. Marijuana Use Overlay District.

5. Location

- a. The marijuana use overlay district consists of those parcels of land zoned industrial that are located south or west of the sideline of Interstate 495; and which are not within 500 feet of a public or private school, and not within 200 feet of a residential zoning district, library, church, child-care facility, park, and playground. The 500 feet and 200 feet distances shall be measured from all property lines of the proposed use; State Forest land shall not be considered when determining the proximity of a parcel to a residential zoning district.

While determining where to add or remove parcels, the criteria listed above must be met first.

Proposed Marijuana Use Overlay District Map Changes

DPCD staff conducted an assessment of all parcels within the Industrial Zoning District located south or west of the sideline of Interstate 495 to identify any parcels currently within the Marijuana Use Overlay District that should be removed, and if others should be added. DPCD created three maps that are at scales that is much easier to see parcel details than the Town-wide Marijuana Use Overlay District map. The three areas in the Marijuana Districts map are:

- Map A. In and around Forge Park
- Map B. Along the Grove Street Corridor
- Map C. In and around Franklin Industrial Park.

The three maps have been marked up in the following way: 1.) Where DPCD suggests removing parcels from the Marijuana Use Overlay we put a red **X**; 2.) Where we suggest adding a parcel we wrote **Add**. Recommended Marijuana Use Overlay District map changes are as follows:

1. Forge Park. The proposed changes in Forge Park are removal of two parcels within 200 feet of the Hockomock Area YMCA, and addition of five parcels that meet the location criteria in §185-49(5);
2. Grove Street Area. The largest proposed change within the Marijuana Overlay District Map is the removal of four parcels on Grove Street, made necessary with the siting of a new school at 122 Grove Street. In addition, one parcel on the west side of Grove Street was added, as it meets the location criteria in §185-49(5);
3. Franklin Industrial Park. Proposed changes in Franklin Industrial Park include removal of one parcel on Constitution Boulevard, as it directly abuts a daycare at the corner of Upper Union and Constitution Boulevard. In addition, three properties along Upper Union Street are being proposed for addition to Marijuana Use Overlay District Map, as they meet the location criteria in §185-49(5).

As mentioned above, proposed changes to the Marijuana Use Overlay District Map identify parcels that meet the Town's regulations, and areas for future growth of the Marijuana industry. Using the three attached maps and the above recommended changes, DPCD worked with the Town's GIS Department to update the Marijuana Use Overlay District Map and create Zoning Map Amendment 23-899 (Attached).

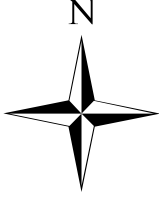
At their June 7, 2023 meeting the Economic Development Subcommittee voted to send the Zoning Map Amendment to the full Council for consideration. The Town Council then voted to send Zoning Map Amendment 23-899 to the Planning Board for a public hearing.

MARIJUANA USE OVERLAY DISTRICTS

- Marijuana Use Overlay District*
- Parcel Line
- Municipal Boundary

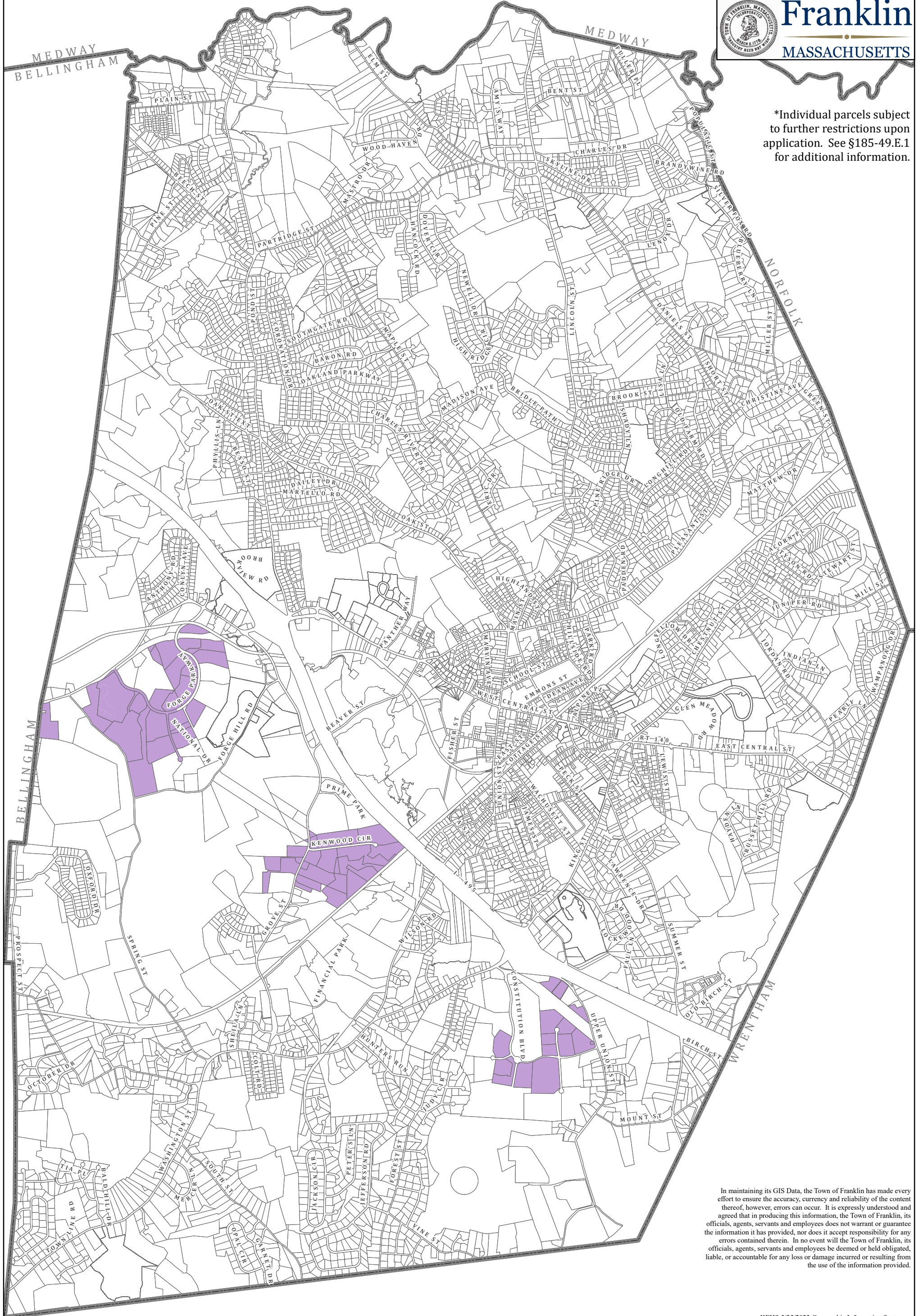
Kilometers 0 0.25 0.5

Miles 0 0.25 0.5





*Individual parcels subject to further restrictions upon application. See §185-49.E.1 for additional information.

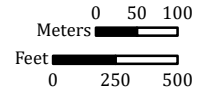


In maintaining its GIS Data, the Town of Franklin has made every effort to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of the content thereof, however, errors can occur. It is expressly understood and agreed that in producing this information, the Town of Franklin, its officials, agents, servants and employees does not warrant or guarantee the information it has provided, nor does it accept responsibility for any errors contained therein. In no event will the Town of Franklin, its officials, agents, servants and employees be deemed or held obligated, liable, or accountable for any loss or damage incurred or resulting from the use of the information provided.

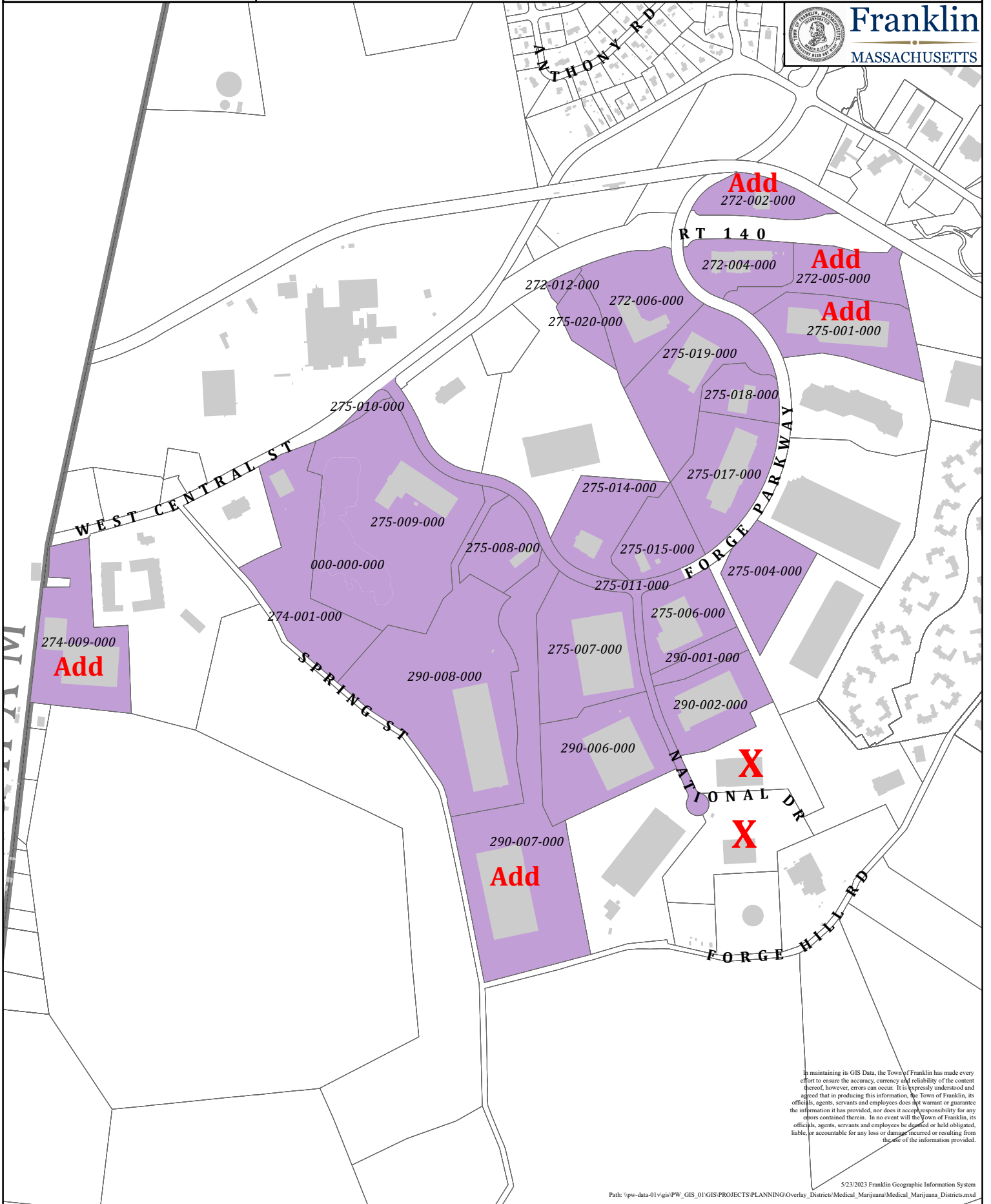
MARIJUANA District Detail

- Marijuana District
- Building
- Parcel Line

Attachment 2 Map A



Franklin
MASSACHUSETTS

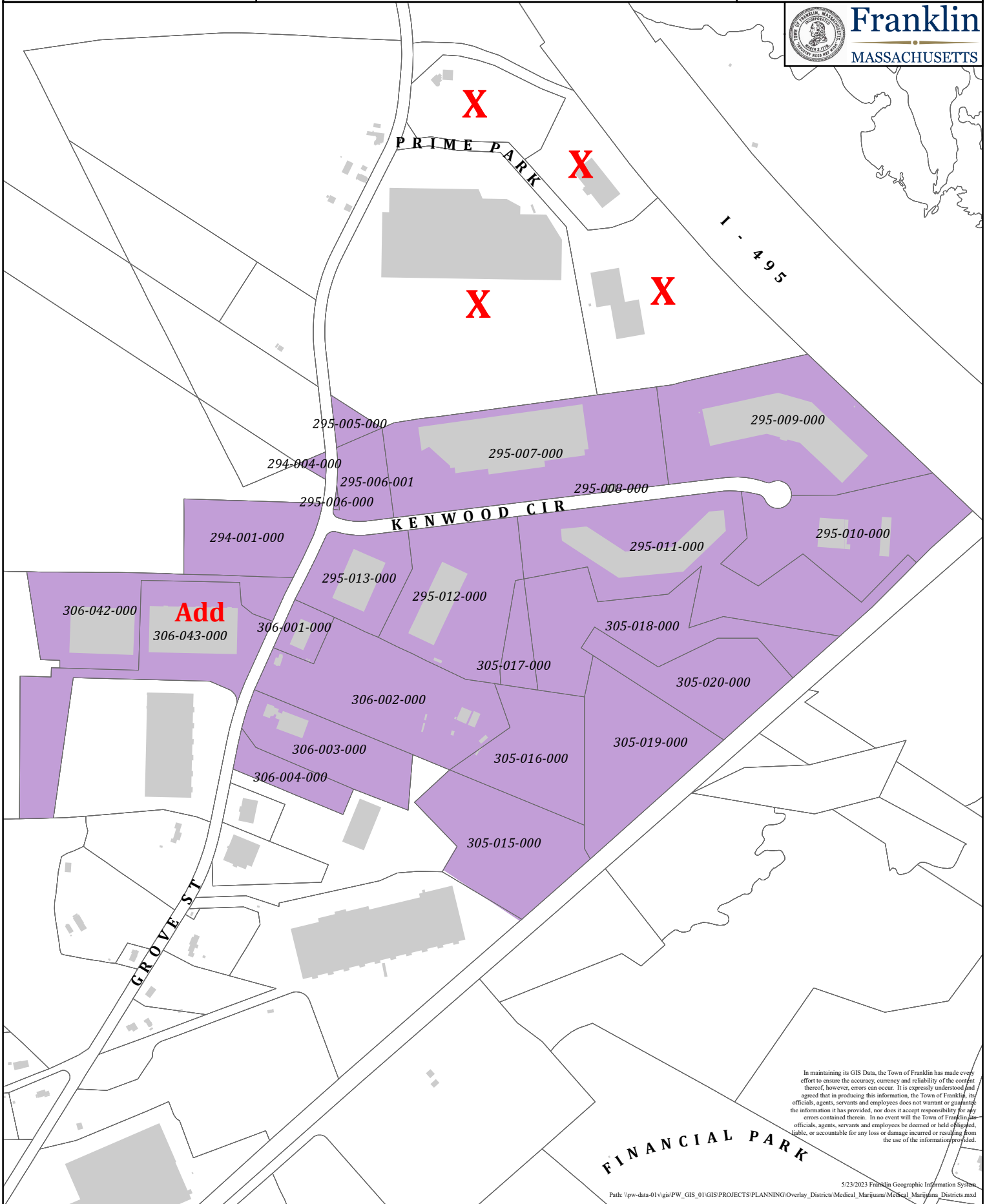
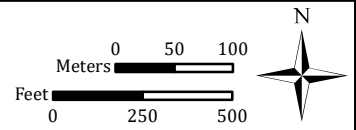


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MARIJUANA District Detail




- Marijuana District
- Building
- Parcel Line

Attachment 2 Map B

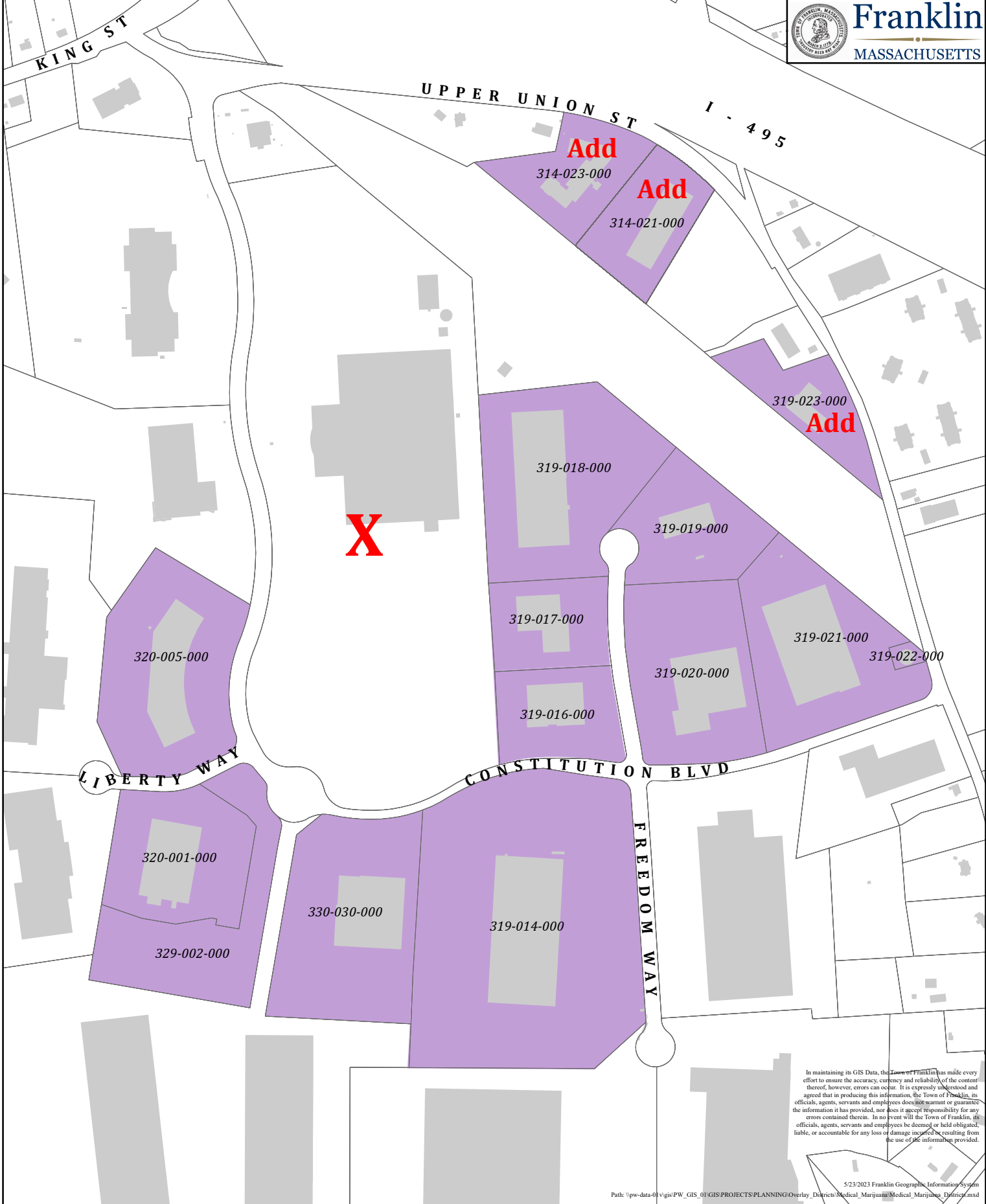
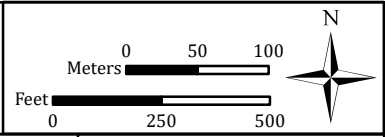


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MARIJUANA District Detail

-  Marijuana District
-  Building
-  Parcel Line

Attachment 2 Map C



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PLANNING BOARD

The following notice will be published in the Milford Daily Newspaper once on Monday, July 10, 2023 and again on July 17, 2023

FRANKLIN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM and the Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 16 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street (also available to be attended remotely) to consider amending Chapter 185, Section 5, Zoning Map of the Code of the Town of Franklin.

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT 23-899

That Chapter 185 of the Code of the Town of Franklin is hereby amended by removing seven (7) parcels of land from the Marijuana Use Overlay District and adding to the District nine (9) additional parcels of land as shown on the Marijuana Use Overlay Map.

The exact text of the proposed zoning bylaw addition is posted on the website along with the hearing notice.

Please contact the Department of Planning & Community Development at (508) 520-4907 if you require further information or if you need to make arrangements to provide translation services for the hearing impaired, or for persons with language barriers.

Copies of the plan and supporting documentation may be reviewed in the Department of Planning & Community Development during regular office hours.

Greg Rondeau, Chairman
Franklin Planning Board

Tom Mercer, Chairman
Franklin Town Council