

Dedham Open Space and Recreation Survey

Survey Collector was open March 7 - April 26, 2017 (7 weeks)

The Town of Dedham wants to know what you think about open space, environmental and recreation issues in Dedham. The Town is updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan so that Dedham can continue to be eligible for state funding and map out goals and objectives for the community. The purpose of the plan is to inventory and assess current open space and recreation resources, to articulate community needs, goals and objectives, and to prepare an action plan for the next seven years.

What do we mean by “open space” and “recreation” resources?

Open Space Resources - Land that is protected from development in perpetuity. Protection can allow public access to nature (e.g. walking trails), protect water quality, or protect wildlife habitat (e.g. wetlands, eelgrasses, etc.).

Recreation Resources - Indoor and outdoor facilities for recreation, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, ball fields, indoor gyms, and centers.

We look forward to your feedback and involvement in this process.

1. List 3 open space, recreation facilities or places that you and/or your family use in Dedham. (469 responses)

- Wilson Mountain (189)
- Memorial Park (130)
- Paul Park (60)
- Dedham Recreation Building (49)
- Endicott estate (47)
- Mucciaccio Pool (45)
- Rustcraft (38)
- Condon Park (30)
- Charles River (29)
- Riverdale (26)
- Dedham HS Track (20)
- Temporary Dog Park (20)
- Nobles (18)
- Playgrounds (15)
- Gonzalez Field (15)
- Dedham Water Trail (15)
- Cutler Park (13)
- Dedham Community House (12)
- Oakdale Playground (10)
- All (9)
- Tennis Courts (8)
- Baseball Fields (8)
- Canoe Launch (8)
- Dedham HS Turf Field (8)
- Soccer Fields (8)
- Churchill St. Playground (7)
- Dedham HS basketball (6)
- Mother Brook (6)
- None (5)

- Middle School Playground (5)
- Capen (3)
- New Bridge Trail (3)
- Stony Brook (2)
- Brookdale (2)
- Vine Rock/Candy Mountain (2)
- Fairbanks Park (2)
- Parks (2)
- Dedham Health Athletic Club (2)
- Town Forest (2)
- Sugrue Field (1)
- Indoor Gym (1)
- HSL Path (1)
- Manor Fields (1)
- Planet Fitness (1)
- Lowen Field (1)
- Norfolk Co. Land (1)
- Rail Trail (1)
- Rash School (1)
- Nicole AHL Dance Studio (1)
- Boch Skating Rink (1)
- Franklin Park (1)
- Stone Park (1)
- Heron Trail (1)
- Sullivan Field (1)
- Dedham Public Library (1)
- Mill Pond Park (1)
- Dedham Travel Soccer Fields (1)
- Sidewalks (1)
- Kehoe Park (1)

2. List 3 open space areas and/or recreation facilities that Dedham needs. (435 responses)

- Rail Trail (120)
- Bike Paths (65)
- More Protected Woods/Hiking/Walking Trails (58)
- Turf Lacrosse Field (57)
- Ice Skating/Hockey Rink (37)
- Splash/Spray Park (37)
- Soccer/Baseball Fields (35)
- Maintain Existing Facilities (30)
- Striar property (27)
- Improved Tennis Courts (20)
- Permanent Dog Park (20)
- On-Road Bike lanes (19)
- Parks/Recreation/Teen Center (18)
- Outdoor Pool (18)

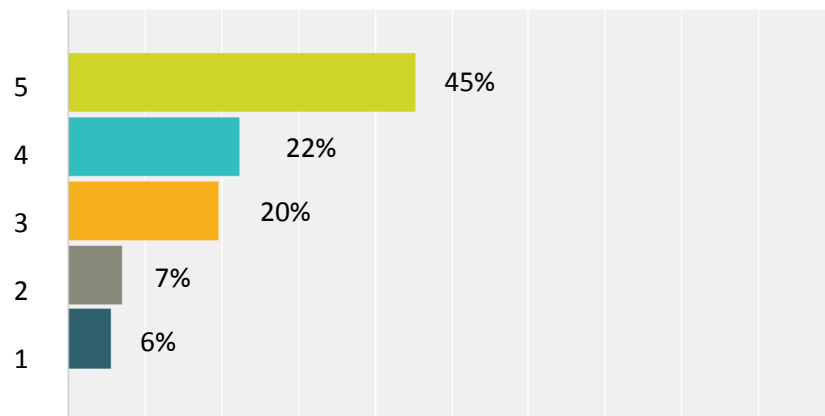
- Access/Boardwalk at Wigwam Pond (18)
- Outdoor basketball (16)
- Sidewalks/Crosswalks (16)
- Updated/Improved Playgrounds (16)
- Turf Field (15)
- Access to Water/Rivers (15)
- Community Gardens (13)
- Open Space (12)
- Athletic Field Complex (12)
- Charles River Park access (12)
- Paved Walking/Biking Paths (10)
- Connectivity of Green Space (9)
- Town Common (9)
- Designated Dog-Friendly Areas in Parks (9)
- Kayak Rentals on Charles River (7)
- Town Indoor Gym (7)
- Mother Brook Walking Trail (7)
- Picnic Areas (6)
- Amenities (restrooms) (5)
- Running Trail (5)
- Fishing Areas (5)
- Indoor Play Space for Rent (5)
- Track (4)
- Tot Lots (4)
- Playing Fields (4)
- Playground in the Manor (4)
- After-hours Access to Indoor Recreation Space at Schools (4)
- Forest Trail (4)
- Senior Center (4)
- We have all that we need (4)
- Skate/Bike/Scooter Park (4)
- Senior Meet/Walk Area (3)
- Playground at Dedham Square (3)
- After-hours Access to HS Track (3)
- Indoor Soccer Fields (3)
- Vest-Pocket Park at Police Station (3)
- Neighborhood Playgrounds (3)
- Council on Aging (3)
- Indoor basketball (3)
- Bocce Courts (2)
- ADA Trail with Low Impact Stations (2)
- Pickleball Court (2)

- Outdoor Gym (2)
- ADA Structures at Playgrounds (2)
- Football Field (2)
- Cross Country Skiing (2)
- Community Pavilion (2)
- Space for Kids to Ride Bikes (2)
- Bigger Pool (2)
- Lighting on baseball Fields (2)
- Street Hockey (2)
- Large Auditorium (2)
- Dedicated Agricultural Space (1)
- Don't Know (1)
- Manor Fields (1)
- Parks (1)
- Park Area at Dedham Square (1)
- None (1)
- Paddle Courts (1)
- Kayak Launch on Charles River (1)
- Wilson Mountain (1)
- YMCA (1)
- Less Building Development (1)
- Recreation/Linear path along Route 1/Charles from Marine Corp Rotary to VA Hospital in West Roxbury (1)
- None, if it means higher taxes (1)
- Public Access to Manor Fields (1)
- Rock Spot Climbing (1)
- Outdoor Handball/Raquetball Courts (1)
- Benches at Paul Park (1)
- Town Fitness/Recreation Center (1)
- Wildlife preservation Areas (1)
- Trails in Fowl Meadow(1)
- Community Fire Pit (1)
- Extended Lighting at Dedham Track (1)
- Enough Soccer Fields...Don't need More (1)
- Rugby Pitch (1)
- Batting Cages (1)
- Older Children Playground (1)
- Town Hall (1)
- More Programs for Kids (1)
- Dolan Dog Park ADA-Compliant (1)
- Civic center (1)
- Ropes Course (1)

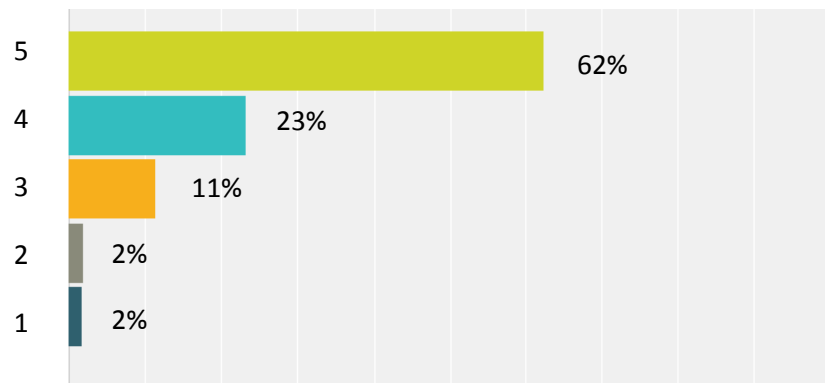
- Town beach (1)
- JV Football Field (1)
- Salt water Pool (1)
- Mixed-Use Parks (1)
- Rebuild Boat House on Ames St. (1)
- More Outdoor seating for Restaurants in Center (1)
- Art, Coding, Archery, Science Club, Lego Club for Children (1)
- Family Dancing (1)
- Dedicated Pop Warner Facility (1)
- Walking Trail with Workout Stations (1)
- Night Classes (1)
- Frisbee Golf Course (1)
- Water Fountains (1)
- Park/Playground in Precinct 1 (1)
- Snack Shacks at Fields (1)
- Summer Day Camp (1)
- Longer Library Hours (1)

3. How important is it for you to preserve or acquire: (5 = very important – 1 = least important)

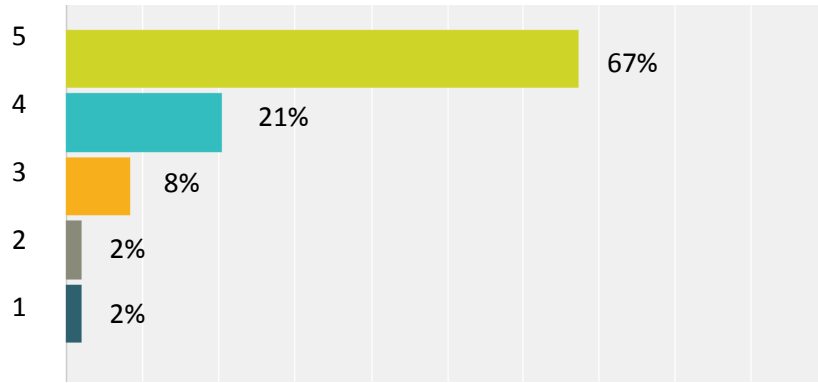
Buildings and places of historical importance...(495 responses)



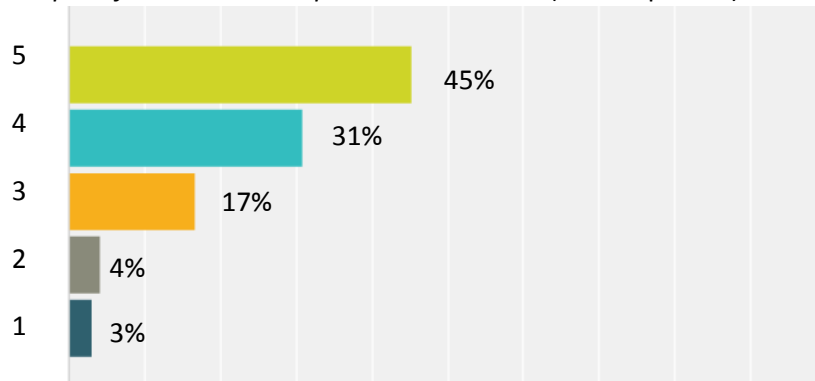
Open space to meet water/conservation needs...(494 responses)



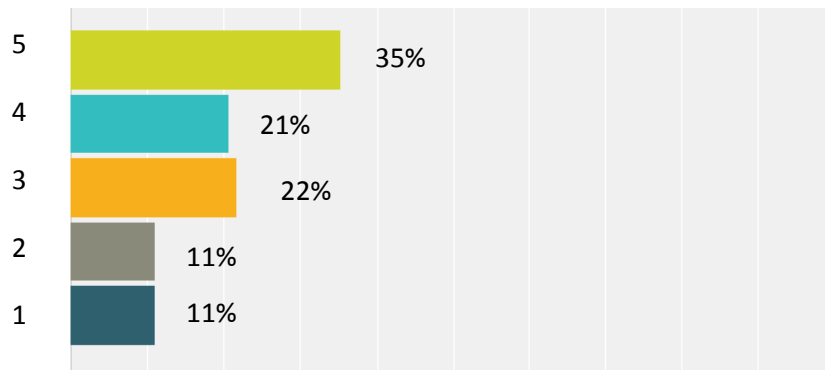
Open space to meet active recreation needs...(494 responses)



Open space for aesthetics or passive recreation...(493 responses)



Open space to create a network of green spaces...(484 responses)



4. How satisfied are you with existing open space and recreation facilities in Dedham for the following age groups: (5 = very satisfied – 1 = very dissatisfied)

<i>Under 5 years</i>	5 – 15%	4 – 30%	3 – 33%	2 – 16%	1 – 7% (456 responses)
<i>6 - 12 years</i>	5 – 11%	4 – 28%	3 – 32%	2 – 19%	1 – 10% (440 responses)
<i>13 - 17 years</i>	5 – 6%	4 – 20%	3 – 40%	2 – 24%	1 – 11% (427 responses)
<i>18 – 29 years</i>	5 – 3%	4 – 21%	3 – 41%	2 – 24%	1 – 12% (427 responses)
<i>30 – 54 years</i>	5 – 25%	4 – 22%	3 – 36%	2 – 27%	1 – 13% (447 responses)
<i>55 and over</i>	5 – 3%	4 – 15%	3 – 35%	2 – 28%	1 – 21% (431 responses)

5. General comments on level of satisfaction:

- The fields that are available for sports are awful. We should be ashamed of our town to have other towns travel here and use our disgraceful fields.
- Trees are needed over gathering areas and at playgrounds. Links are needed to existing spaces.
- For kids 6-17, it's about the sports fields. Ours are in terrible shape compared to surrounding towns, and we seem to have fewer of them.
- Our fields for soccer don't even come close to being acceptable. It's sad when there are homeless people sleeping in the same place our kids play soccer.
- It's a disgrace that we don't have proper soccer fields.
- We could use some turf fields for Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer. They last longer and can be used in early spring/late fall
- Permanent town owned athletic facilities are needed with equal access for all programs....snack bag and restroom access as well.
- As a family, I find that I am disappointed in the condition of parks, the accessibility of downtown by sidewalk/bike/walk. The fields we use are in poor condition for baseball, soccer, and lacrosse. There is little green space to enjoy as a family that is central to town. We often travel out of Dedham for better parks, playgrounds, water parks, fields, and courts.
- I think we need to spend more money on renovation and upkeep of the facilities that we have. We do need more (i.e., Greenlodge) but we first need to care for what we have.
- The training field (Bridge and High St) is a disgrace. It's a prominent part of what visitors see and the grass is terrible, moss, never cared for.
- All Dedham fields are in deplorable condition, embarrassed when other towns come to play Dedham teams.
- In light of current high property taxes, Dedham needs to catch up with neighboring towns.
- Would love to see a turf lacrosse field and hockey rink dedicated to Dedham youth hockey.
- At least get the grass to grow on the pitches and make sure our kids are not playing on dust or mud.
- More walking paths near Mother Brook.
- When you compare Dedham with area towns particularly BAYS league towns -- our fields are a total embarrassment. Don't we have a lot of money saved up at town hall? What is going on?
- The quality and maintenance of the fields is horrific and lazy. Sprinkler systems and well pressure have been inoperable for far too long. Lazy.
- I just don't think of Dedham as a place with nice parks. I spend more time at Hale and in Canton.
- Could use more adult open spaces that are easier to find, I am fairly new to the town and don't know about any of the spaces that exist.
- Totally dissatisfied with current situation with regards to BOTH Open Space and Recreation Resources. Our fields are dramatically worse than those of our children's competitors in neighboring towns. Our grass fields are in horrible condition. They are not adequately maintained and watered. They are often dustbowls. We have a number of potential spaces for Open Space that are undeveloped (Route 1/the Charles as noted above, Wigwam Pond, Rail Trail). There is not adequate Green Space near the Square. There are no community gardens except for Endicott where the waiting list is ridiculously long.
- Pros -- addition of Dolan Center and access to Softball field and Charles River Cons -- loss of tennis courts/basketball courts since building the two new schools, loss of use of the old Queen of Apostles for pop warner and soccer, and not developing Striar Property.
- Bike path would bump all scores up a notch. Good for all ages. It would be great to have a obstacle course.
- Some years ago it was proposed to develop a sort of drop in center for teens. In East Dedham, in unused portion of ED Plaza. Cost money, would be a hangout failed.

- I don't believe there are enough places for the over 30 to go for some outdoor classes or rec. opportunities. I think the fields are only used for soccer, baseball or high school. If you don't belong to one of these groups or associations, there aren't choices for high school, middle school aged children.
- I feel Dedham has acceptable outdoor, recreational and sports activity areas. We need to maintain what we have.
- I really think we could benefit from an increased network of walking and biking trails that join our green spaces and create new ones. Play parks are not enough. Thanks to the new Water Trail we have another great option.
- As I have gotten familiar with our fields due to sports and my own interests, I am embarrassed by what our town has to offer. The fields are often so poorly maintained that they are unsafe. They are not pleasing to look at or watch events. I have traveled to other towns and have been impressed by what they have to offer. We need to do better. There needs to be better communication about responsibility of upkeep as well as limit personal problems with the maintenance of fields.
- The playing fields are always in fair to messy shape unfortunately all seasons.
- Need senior center.
- I grew up in Dedham and did not know what I was missing until I lived in Central PA for 5 years. I know that Dedham doesn't have as much open space as central PA, but we should have the funds to create something equally as great. In the first town I lived in (State College, PA) there were many parks that not only had ball fields but also had walking paths around or through the parks, open field space for playing whatever you wanted, covered picnic areas that you could reserve at certain times for parties for low cost (some even had electricity and grills, playgrounds (sometimes multiple ones), and plenty of parking. The second town I lived in (Lewisburg) did not have as large a population, but even with only about 6,000 full time residents they had a better playground/skate park/pool area and a rail trail. They even had walking paths built around and near the newest grocery store and shopping center that was put in. I had a baby last year and moved back to Dedham to be closer to family. As I started to use the park space this spring I find that I'm disappointed. I think we have plenty of space for sports rec. and the playgrounds are newer and better than when I was a kid but I know we can do better. Improvements to rec. space in Dedham would help convince me to stay here rather than moving to a more kid friendly town nearby with better resources.
- I don't know all the open space and facilities that are available. Dedham could send a brochure out that lists what is available and what amenities they offer.
- Waiting for senior center for 20 years...Just take care of the trails we have. Dedham trail can use some work.
- The young adults could use better playing fields/courts. Light outdoor facilities.
- We need safe open gathering spaces for teens to bike, skateboard, and play field games. We need a safe path for them to get on bike or foot from Riverdale to the town center and the high school.
- Playgrounds are good. Wish there were places for walks/to ride bikes/scooters.
- The fields are a mess in comparison to other towns.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission focuses more on the use of recreational spaces for group oriented sports and not those that might be used for individuals or families. It seems they listen more to the youth sports associations such as soccer and baseball. The use of those fields has also meant more traffic for neighborhoods and less quality of life for families. There is no place other than the street for example to ride a bike as a family which in Dedham would be risking your life.
- Very unsatisfied!
- There are parks for young children to play in but they grow out of that. There are things for children to do if they participate in a town or school sport. But what about those that don't? There is no safe skate park or bike path. As adults we utilize Wilson Mtn. but what about those that face mobility

challenges? A paved place with access to recreation would be a wonderful addition and hit more age groups and abilities.

- Fields are terrific
- This is a great town but the traffic continues to impact the walking and bike riding opportunities. The bike trail on the old railway lines is such a great solution. It would be a shame if this project doesn't happen.
- At present, organized sports are the primary focus. We need to broaden the scope to include opportunities for all ages and abilities. There is really nothing for older adults.
- We need an open area like Bird Park in Walpole or Millennium Park in West Roxbury. All the space we have is dedicated to baseball or soccer. There's no leisure space. You're not going to see someone set up a picnic blanket out on Memorial Field.
- If I want to walk my dog or walk with my child in a wheelchair and want to be off the streets I need to go to West Roxbury where I can hear birds, breath clean air and not have to navigate cross walks without good curb cuts.
- Plenty of play areas for the under 12 set. But not much available for the teen set outside of organized sports groups. And as one ages out of teen years to adulthood open spaces to use is rather limited.
- Most parks and rec. space caters to organized sports for school age children, which is important. But, there is very little space/recreation for adults and the elderly.
- Dedham has many elementary and preschool children who cannot stay home alone during summer in school vacations and we the working parents rely on good quality town programs and summer camps and we are not getting them here in Dedham. I personally choose Westwood or Brookline recreation facilities for summer and school vacation child care & rec. programs while I'm at work. These programs are very well run and organized. The Dedham town recreation website needs a lot of work with organization as well. Dedham is a great town but I think we could strive for better by using these other towns as examples.
- We have great playgrounds and fields for kids but no picnic areas and few walking trails and the ones we have are tick infested and used mainly by people with dogs.
- There are sports fields but not many paths - plus our sidewalks are in terrible shape
- Really could use more bike and walking paths. Would also love to see a connector to legacy place and the Dedham corporate center that didn't involve the highway
- I would like to see the Recreation Department develop more recreation opportunities for the 55 and older group in the evenings as well as during the day. Yoga, tai chi, cribbage tournaments, etc.
- There are no places for our youth to congregate without the neighbors calling the police and asking them to move along. We need a safe place where our kids can practice sports, play instruments and gather, under supervision. They are an important part of our community as are our seniors. It can't all be about sports. What options do we have for kids on Friday nights/weekends?
- Need more hiking and open space areas clean of trash and garbage and lately graffiti. More areas where wildlife can thrive. More paved trails for the elderly in some open space areas./old railroad beds
- Moms and young children need small parks to socialize and exercise. Seniors who exercise stay healthier and require fewer services.
- Dedham has pretty good playgrounds for younger folks, and some great walking trails. I feel like we could do more to encourage biking and walking by linking up bike lanes. I also feel like we're lacking running paths. How great would it be if we could turn Wigwam Pond into something like what's around Jamaica Pond?
- Not qualified to answer 4. Since we are seniors and do not have younger family members who reside in Dedham.
- I believe that what we pay in taxes does not represent what the town should look like. Combine parks with Highway and save all that money.

- Parks/Fields/Playgrounds need much improved maintenance.
- The only nice space for recreation is the high school girls track which is policed by a nasty old man. Rashi soccer field that is not considered Dedham's...we are visitors and that is very clear when they hold games there and padlock the restrooms. No place in Dedham is dog friendly...that needs to change.
- Most of the fields at the schools need updating and maintaining. Most of the kid parks are in pretty good shape. Oakdale needs updating.
- Ball fields need constant upkeep.
- The younger the child, the less need for open spaces. They are happy if they are playing with someone who loves them more than where they are playing. Seniors and working adults need welcoming areas. Youth are already a priority in Dedham.
- More walking trails and maybe bike trails.
- Definitely need more open space easily accessible from residential areas; more walking/hiking trails (biking even better); better access to the banks of the Charles & Mother Brook. We have great natural areas in Dedham, but don't take enough advantage of them; open up the Water District properties more, water towers off Sandy Valley.
- All of Dedham's children can't afford sports, so their activities decrease as they grow.
- We love the dog park. The open fields and the playgrounds, they are great places that we love to go and have family time.
- We need more interesting playgrounds, perhaps even a sprinkler park.
- Dedham has some good playgrounds for young children, but it doesn't have well maintained courts for older kids and adults.
- Could we use more and protect/improve what we have...yes....but very happy with what's available.
- Conditions of athletic fields are embarrassing.
- Parks could use better upkeep compared to surrounding towns. I tend to find myself going to Westwood/ Needham/West Roxbury for the better parks. Also many in Dedham are not completely fenced in making it difficult for parents with multiple kids. Also surrounding towns have more variety in activities particularly for children under 2. It's also easier to sign up for other towns as a non-resident than Dedham's resident activities. More swimming classes/pools year round.
- Park and Rec. is run very well. They deserve more funding to be able to fulfill what they'd like to do.
- We've lived here for 4 years and we LOVE the current open spaces that Dedham currently has. We travel out of town for sprinkler parks and this is the one thing that we'd love to see here.
- I think we have great parks for little kids, but once kids are past the playground age (which my son seems to be already at age 8) there is less for them to do. We love going to the indoor pool in the winter. We'd love an outdoor pool in the summer even more. We'd also like to use the boats and paddle boards, but the kids aren't old enough. Why such a high age limit? My son has been safely paddling a kid-sized kayak for two years and younger than that, they're perfectly safe with a life jackets sitting in front of mom or dad.
- It seems like if it's not for youth soccer, it very hard to get a field reserved in Dedham.
- There are not many organized activities around the open spaces we already have for people not going to playgrounds.
- Spring is a mess -- Dedham needs four times the number of available fields to accommodate soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse and other sports.
- There are amenities for kids who play team sports. Not so much for the rest of us.
- Relatively satisfied. Could improve night time access to recreational facilities. Outdoor fields are currently only lit for permitted/organized sports and not lit for recreational users.
- Dedham is not consistent in providing safe walking sidewalks, biking paths, & similar accommodations, and is not realizing its potential. Route 1 is a disaster for anything other than car

access, and it divides the town, isolates Riverdale and prevents commercial entities from realizing their full potential.

- We need more open space for hiking/walking/biking.
- We could do better and offer a lot more for each generation.
- There are many playgrounds, ballparks, and basketball courts in horrible condition. There are also many areas with horrible sidewalks which cause limited access to outdoor space for elders.
- Dedham has a bunch of land it can use for Recreational space. There is a lack of Recreation and Open space in Dedham.
- Soccer fields are in really poor condition when compared to surrounding towns. It's embarrassing when we host travel teams from other towns. Used the high school pool for preschool swim lessons 8 years ago- so disappointed in the facility, I haven't been back since.
- Fields are not well maintained. Brush over grown. Grass not in good shape. Some Playing fields are embarrassing and they can cause risk for injury as they aren't level.
- We need sports fields for all sports not just year round soccer. Let Lacrosse have a field. Don't take baseball fields in the spring for soccer. Don't let soccer overwhelm every field year round.
- The playgrounds for the preschool kids are great, but we need older elementary playgrounds.
- Need better fields designated for all town sports programs instead of piling on the same fields not designed for all the sports meeting there.
- I can't speak for most age groups, but I wish there were just a few more ways to spend time outdoors without having to drive more than a few miles.
- Poor maintenance and upkeep detracts from most Dedham facilities. Just one example: grass fields at Rustcraft Road are usually dust bowls by June since sprinklers don't work because they aren't maintained properly.
- I wish there were more for the older generations to do and use - more than the baseball field on Eastern Ave. I would love for Dedham to become a more active community and provide space for the older generations. There are a ton of runners in this town and other than the trails on the north side of Dedham, there are no walking or running spots in the town.
- Fields need more attention.
- Dedham truly needs a rec. path to highlight the great outdoor spaces that exist.
- I am a senior and I walk at Wilson Mountain. This is the only place we can walk no place to sit and talk to Dedham residents.
- No matter what you have for facilities if you do not have the employee's who care enough to maintain at a high level you get what we have which is junk.
- Lack of walking and biking CONNECTIVITY limits use. Streets lack sidewalks for getting off streets safely, resulting in kids being driven everywhere.
- Town lacks programming for seniors, also many ballfields with unusable green space around them.
- Maintenance is poor. Fields are not "groomed". Areas are not cleared out. Trash is not picked up in these areas. Basketball courts are crumbling.
- We do not have enough walking paths or places to ride bike safely.
- Making more open space accessible for seniors would be very helpful.
- Overall Dedham has good access to open spaces and recreational facilities, but there's always room for improvement.
- Dedham is very disjointed between precincts getting across Route 1 is downright dangerous. More bike/walking paths that connect parks to one another.
- I feel like Dedham doesn't have much to offer especially compared to other towns. I spend a lot of time at Hale.
- New to town.

- Neutral level of satisfaction. DHRT is a great idea but we should also do something to improve & utilize the Mother Brook more. It could be a gem & an attraction but right now the land abutting the Brook only collects garbage.
- I think Dedham does a great job of providing organized sports and activities for kids age 5-18 but we're lacking in activities for adults and aging population and open space and recreation needs to include the ability of residents to walk and bike. I think Parks & Rec. coordinating with Public Works, Planning Board and other groups to make town a much more safe place to walk and bike, extending sidewalks, making safe passage across Providence Highway, Route 1 to enable bike/ped. access to ball fields, recreation facilities, advocating for Dedham rail trail enable more bike ped. activity, get people off of cars. I love Dedham's natural areas but, say, Cutler Park, Wilson Mountain, Mary Louise Kehoe Park, Memorial Field, but I can't get there without driving. I think there are options for expanding sidewalks or creating a thinner blacktop strip (like the kind that's along part of High Street (Route 109) toward the old Dexter School (site of new Early Childhood Center).
- We have to go to Norwood or Walpole to register for outdoor pool program etc... for our kids it is a shame. I'd rather give the money towards my town.
- There are no passive recreation options. There is no space for community or public art.
- My kids are grown, I would like to stay here, but I would like to see things geared to activities that we can access Blue Hills via bike or access Charles River via kayak which is too heavy for me to put on and off my car. That is why I suggest a place I can "rent" for my Kayak.
- All the active rec. stuff seems fine . . . as long as you're a kid
- More or better soccer, baseball, lacrosse fields
- Outside of ball fields, there aren't a lot of open green spaces for kids to hang out and play. Would love to have walking trails and paths and a good place to teach my 7-year old how to ride a bike.
- I have twins. When they were 3 and under, the only nearby playground I felt comfortable taking them to by myself was in Westwood (their tot lot). Because twins sometimes run in opposite directions and I couldn't always be right next to both of them, I found comfort in the fact that it was completely fenced and that the structures were low enough to the ground that if they did fall off, the injuries would not be severe. I would have loved that in Dedham. Although I no longer need a tot lot, I think it would benefit other families with more than one child under 3 or 4.
- I feel frustrated by the high number of outdoor open space sports fields for children. WHY do we need so many? Why do I see other town's teams using them or seeing the, sit unused. WHY are we spending money on artificial turf when this product is currently being researched to show a connection to child cancer rates?
- There needs to be more, updated modern facilities where multigenerational learning and fun can happen.
- There are simply not enough open/recreational spaces. Running/biking in Dedham is very dangerous and there are no tennis courts (other than the high school) and only one derelict basketball court.
- Playgrounds for young kids are generally in good condition, but shade trees and amenities would be a big improvement. Also, maintenance of mulch could be improved and cleaning up of trash or managing teens on weekend nights is a big issue. Adults can use hiking trails, but bicycling routes would be great, also connectivity would be great. Other options - ultimate frisbee, archery, mountain biking, trail running - would be nice. However, I understand we only have so much space here in Dedham. Seniors and handicapped people have very limited resources for passive recreation. The rail trail and the Striar fields would provide great opportunities for accessible recreation. Better access (parking) to the HSL trails would also be beneficial. We also need safe sidewalks to get to all neighborhood playgrounds.
- Not sure what is available for adolescents beyond team sports and rec. classes, which are both quite good. I think the Charles River access is underutilized by this age group especially. As a side note, it is troubling to see SO MANY dogs way off leash on public trails. It discourages me and my family from

using them because we are adverse to being approached by strange dogs. Dog owners should be held to a standard of conduct with their dogs in our precious public spaces.

- Dedham seems completely focused on team sports and active recreation programs. Parks are an afterthought. When my kids were young I always drove to towns with better playgrounds - water features, equipment, seating for adults, picnic tables. We never had a shortage of youth sports options, but there is not a safe place to walk or ride a bike. The fact that so much of the town lacks safe sidewalks and crossings makes the need for safe walking and biking routes even more critical.
- Offer more classes for kids after school at school.
- Since we have lived here - over 20 years - all we see is emphasis on ball fields and other facilities for kids.
- There seems to be an over emphasis on sports related fields and recreation potentially at the expense of other opportunities.
- There is no place for casual walks or for exercising.
- Facilities need better ongoing maintenance.
- We drive to walk everyday (how ridiculous is that?!)... instead of being able to walk 1 street over to a safe rail trail. We'd LOVE to teach our kids how to ride bikes on a safe trail!!!
- Dedham appears to cater to those middle and upper class residents with children in the 6-18 year age range. Other age and income level are not made a priority.
- My children enjoyed town sports and played for Dedham HS. I appreciate the work that volunteers put in to make those programs for young people over the generations. But what does the town offer for kids who don't play organized sports?
- Need more open space fields for multi-sport use, such as soccer, lacrosse, football games and practice.
- Dedham town committees and officials concentrate on sports fields and don't "see" need for recreation that doesn't include hitting/kicking/throwing a ball.
- I would love to see Manor Fields receive Funding. The fields will offer something for everyone.
- I think right now both the children and elders accomplish a lot in their little spaces.
- I think there are a lot of playgrounds and baseball fields. There are not tennis or basketball courts in walking distance of all neighborhoods. The playgrounds don't have a lot of tot spaces.
- Without kids in each band Question 4 is not easy to answer.
- My family has been in Dedham for 3 years. We really appreciate the events hosted downtown and the parking/sidewalks. I haven't tried the public swimming pool, but plan to.
- There really is no place where a senior can ride a bike without worrying about automobile traffic.
- There is nothing in walking distance to our home in East Dedham (other than the cemetery) that is a park-like setting and not a ball field of some sort. The cemetery is not appropriate for recreation but it is the only safe place in town to ride a bike - if you are not a seasoned cyclist willing to risk your life on the roads. You have to get into a car and drive to a recreation area - and this leads us to drive to other towns for recreation - such as Holliston - because of their rail trail. For people who are sick of driving, it is not relaxing to get into traffic to go recreate - it would be great if there were more options throughout the town.
- A Bike path would be awesome! Fence around toddler play ground at Riverdale Park would be great. That playground is specifically designed for very young children and I have anxiety about a small child running off to the river while mom/grandma/dad etc has back turned.
- Dedham is a great town! There seems to be little for our 15-17 as they age out of organized town sports/activities other than HS sports. Youth Commission is AMAZING, but can only take so many kids.
- We have a few great playgrounds, but they could use some improvements. For example, Memorial Park should be completely fenced in. Toddlers love to run fast and it is on a busy road. Crazy! Also, Paul Park is woefully lacking seating. All parents stand inside the fence to watch little ones, but all the

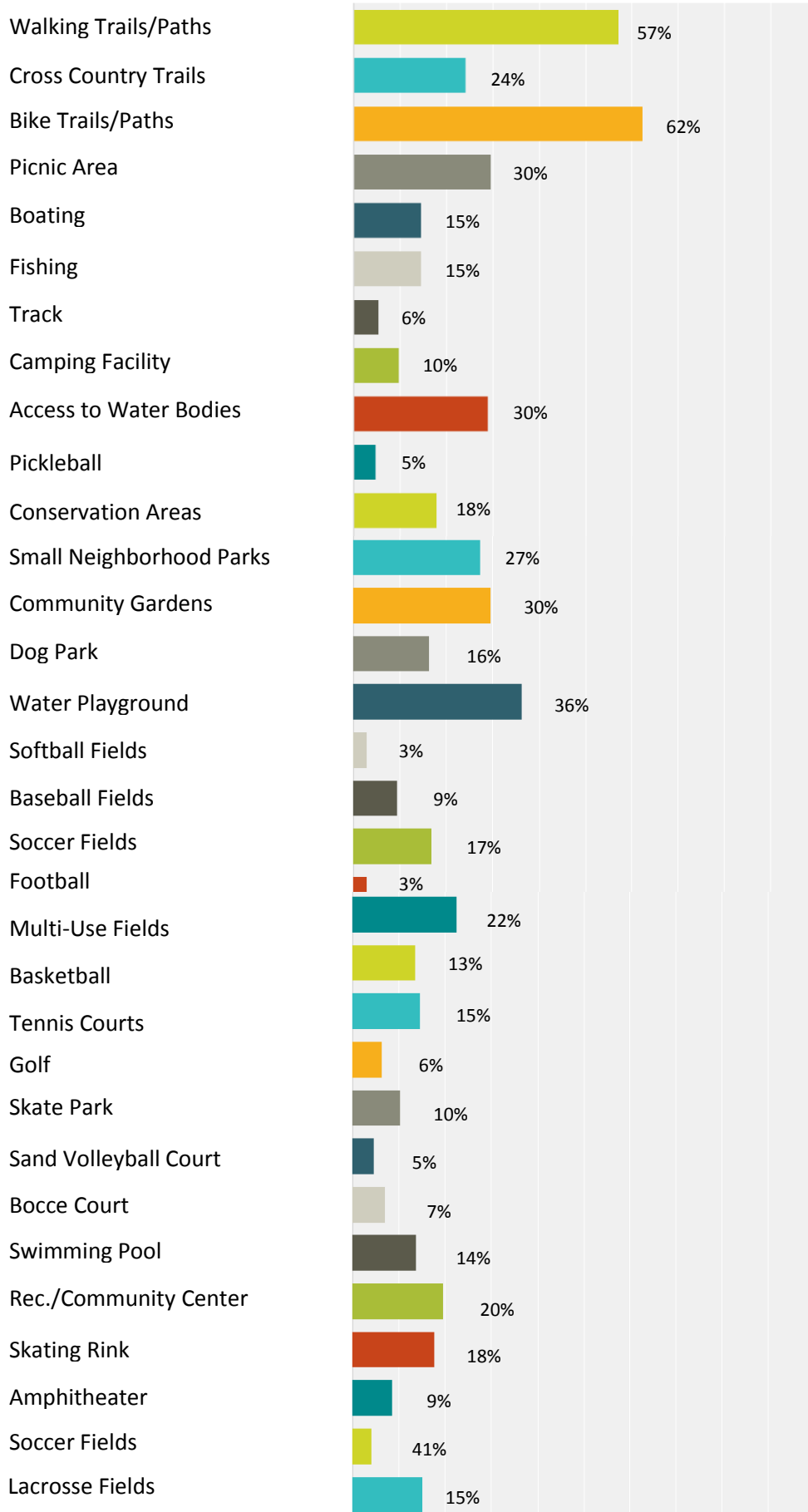
seats are on the outside of the fence! Everyone sits on the black garden edging close to the ground. Any weekday morning of the summer, you won't find one parent/care giver who disagrees with that.

- Things for older residents....Skate park? Outside exercise park? Paved walking trail for strollers, bikers and runners off of main roads.
- Dedham has options but I generally find myself being outside in other towns that offer more-millennium park, West Rox tot lot, Houghtons Pond, bird park, Larz Anderson Park etc.
- There are a few playgrounds, but compared to neighboring towns, Dedham seems to lack the same resources, which forces parents to drive to those locations for resources.
- We keep developing new buildings and do not preserve any open space. Even Boston is doing a much better job than Dedham.
- Plenty of playing fields, not so much places for family and individual recreation (biking, running, walking),
- Other towns seem to be using their tax dollars to greater effect.
- I am not sure about anyone other than around my own age group (young adult to middle-aged adult). More access to trails that are stroller-friendly or wheelchair-friendly would be good, but not at the expense of changing or losing current trails or wilderness areas.
- I can't speak for teens or the older set
- Playgrounds everywhere. Football shares field with soccer & men's softball. 3 teams at Condon sharing small field and 2 nets so have to take turns. Rashi only provided one day per week.
- The grass on the school playing fields is terrible. My kids play travel soccer and I find Dedham fields to be worse than most towns.
- Playing fields for elementary ages are often in poor condition. There is insufficient access to trails and options for the elderly or physically limited.
- It would be nice to have some less challenging walking trails that could be used by senior citizens.
- WE must open the GYMS. Face to Face time is extremely important.
- No comments.
- Dedham needs serious overhaul of all its youth sports fields. They are down-right embarrassing.
- I only have experience with my baby who is only 3 months old!
- I can only comment for my toddler and myself. The options for him are GREAT. But I'd love a quiet park to read in, more non-recreational green space to just sit and enjoy some peace.
- There are too many programs trying to share the same field space. The fighting that takes place should not have to happen in order to get field space.
- There really are no nice parks in Dedham to go to. My daughter practices Dedham town soccer at ECED and swims at Dedham Health Athletic Club, her LAX is played at Nobles Fields because honestly Dedham doesn't have nice facilities or any for the above. My son plays soccer as well and is in the same position. He plays town hockey which mostly they go to St. Sebastian's School, Hyde Park or Boch. Again no other options in Dedham.
- Nothing seems poor, but there is room for improvement.
- Would be great to see more programs for children under 5 on weekday nights or weekends so working parents can participate.
- Recreation Department recycles same very small slate of programs annually unlikely every other nearby town. There is a one page flyer instead of a catalog of programs like every other town. Dolan Center is dirty, as well as the pool too (water nice, facility dirty). I coached youth sports and found the staff to be poor communicators. I don't know if lazy or just never trained.
- I would like to see more activities for under 5 on the weekends or evenings to allow working families a chance to participate
- I would like to see more spaces for family activities and spaces for older kids to go.
- I am not aware of spaces for seniors but it is important to me.
- I often have to pick up beer cans and trash when I take my son to the park in the morning.

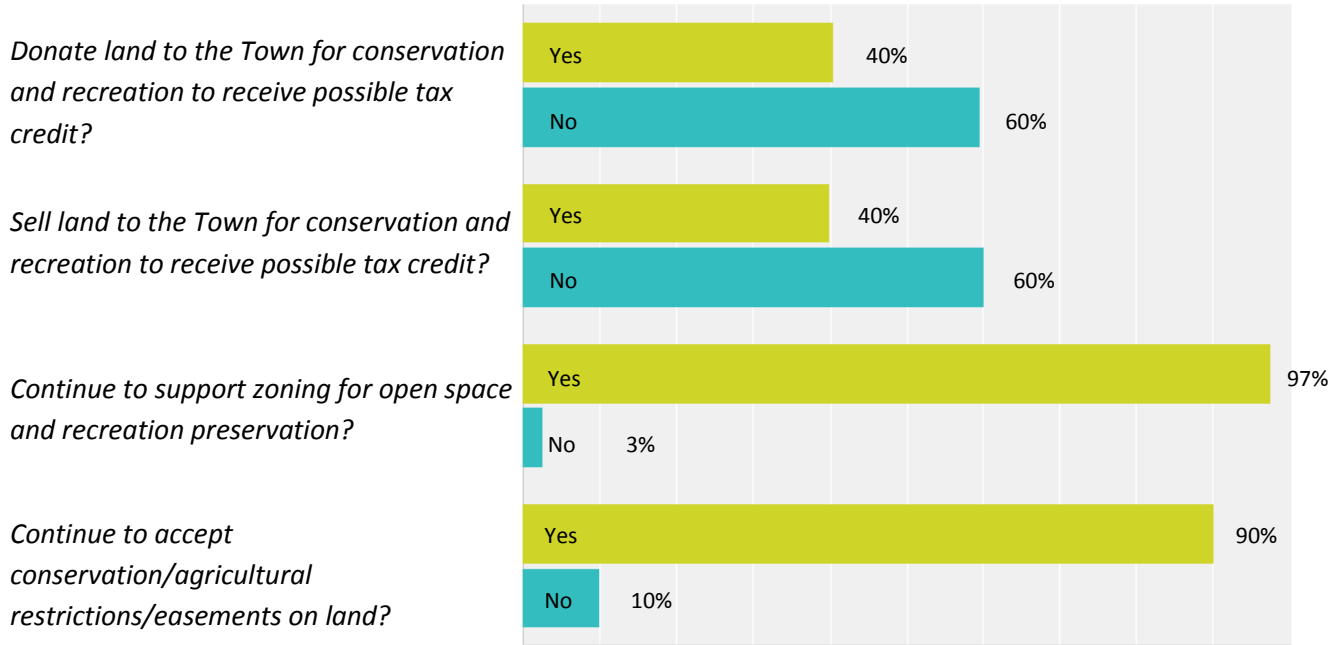
- For the taxes we pay, we should have better facilities. Period.
- There is no public playground in Precinct 1.
- The Manor lacks any community meeting area. There is nowhere for neighbors to gather, no close playground for young children
- I think there needs to be more programming and also safe space to "hang out" for teenagers. I also think we need more programming for active seniors and retirees.
- I believe the parks we have are well maintained. It would be nice to see Dedham a safer walking and biking town. Slow the stressed out drivers passing through town to get to work. More bike lanes.
- Parks and playgrounds could use proper and regular up keep. The Riverdale playground has been broken for all 6 years that I've lived nearby.
- Existing fields are some of the worst managed in the State.
- I am still new to Dedham, so I am really still learning about the outdoor spaces. I have a 1 year old, and a dog, so we do enjoy and appreciate Wilson and the dog park.
- Dedham is a large district surrounded by very competitive teams in neighboring towns who have the fields and facilities to attract better coaching and to better handle the requirements of a competitive sports environment. I think we need to consider building a large dedicated indoor facility that will allow for year round training for all sports.
- Dedham has many designated playgrounds that need to be made compatible with 21st century expectations. Young families seeking to move to Dedham look at the condition of the playgrounds. The town needs modern facilities dedicated to the sports and outdoor activities children-teenagers play - soccer, baseball, lacrosse. The football field is adequate.
- There are very few parks/playgrounds, other than at the schools which are off limits during the day. The soccer fields are mostly dirt, not well grassed. No lacrosse fields!!
- Seriously lacking activities for the senior demographic.
- The lack of fields really hurts older age groups and adult recreation.
- My wife and I are in our 30's and have a baby daughter, we love the Wilson Mountain Trails and wish the Whitcomb Woods would be mapped for use. The only decent outdoor basketball court is behind the middle school, and there's little access to any courts in the winter. The water trail is fantastic, I've done the whole loop. It really is an asset to the town.
- I think the spaces exist, and just need to be maintained better and advertised more so people know what is available
- I don't think we have great outdoor spaces. We could do a lot better. All I see around town is every empty space being developed (houses and business space) and there are empty businesses all around town. I feel like we need fewer buildings and more outdoor recreational space (e.g., walking trails, better fields for youth sports -- the soccer fields at Riverdale are awful, and more useable outdoor space).
- There are great sports fields and playgrounds for kids.
- The parks we go to are great for toddlers and smaller children. I just wish there were more in our neighborhood and more open play area (The Manor). Nothing is currently walkable.
- Toddler park at Riverside Park needs updating.
- I used outdoor spaces much more when my kids were young and I had a puppy and thought space was adequate back then. I think we've gained some nice open space and accessibility since then, which is good. More the better!
- Youth sports can't access fields or must use fields in poor condition to practice/play.
- Very disappointed because the town is always focused on space for children's sports and no other demographic.
- There seem to be a lot of spaces for playgrounds and sports. I would like to see more nature trails and access to the wetlands, Mother Brook, and other areas with natural habitats.

- Young and middle aged adults need spaces that allow them to engage in popular exercise activities among those age groups, like running and biking. I would LOVE to have a trail that I could run and walk on, especially one that would take me to different focal points in Dedham (like Dedham Square to Oakdale).
- For years Dedham was solely focused on ball fields and programming for kids. That focus met the needs of some, but not all, kids, and did nothing to meet the needs of adults. While the focus has expanded, particularly with development of the Dedham Water trail, we still have zero accessible walking trails for older adults and people with disabilities. Dolan Center, Cutler Park, Wilson Mountain are great for people who can hike, but I cannot take my 70 year old mother to those trails, and the town's network of sidewalks and crosswalks for walking is spotty at best. There's not even a great place for a picnic in town. Given how little use the softball field at the Dolan center seems to get, I would much have preferred for that to be a park and picnic area, that would allow all of Dedham's residents to use the space and enjoy access to the river. Even the definitions at the top of this survey are troubling - I worry that if you do not include passive recreation in the definition of "Recreation Resources" we will continue to prioritize developing and maintaining spaces which do not meet the needs of the majority of our residents.
- While I feel that there are a number of facilities in the town for all age level, the upkeep of the areas leave a lot to be desired. You need to add an update/maintenance plan into the recreational master plan for all areas.
- High school winter track team has to practice in the hallways. Need more areas and lighting for people to run and walk.
- All of the fields at the Elementary schools are in terrible shape, yet this is where Dedham youth sports expect teams to practice and play. The PTO at Riverdale has offered to aerate and reseed the field but the town has rejected that offer and the field continues to remain a mud plot in the fall, winter and spring and a dust bowl in the summer. The only spaces that seem to get proper grooming are Rustcraft, Lower Memorial and the new High School Field. I do think the areas providing access to the Charles River around Riverdale has been a positive development. The aesthetics and the work near Cutler Park should improve that area very nicely. I also think Paul Park is a very nice area as well. If we could keep our elementary school fields and playgrounds in the same condition as Paul Park, I think I would have a higher satisfaction level.
- Would like to see the projects already in progress get finished. Fix the sidewalks we have before starting a sidewalk that will cost well over \$3 million that will be intrusive to the abutters.
- Would like a safer walking path at Riverdale Park.
- Something geared towards toddlers/preschool would be nice, as well as seniors.
- Dedham is a town full of young families, there is not one playground in precinct 1. Wouldn't it make sense to have a terrific nature themed playground at the rec. center as Needham and other surrounding towns have?
- I would like to see the parks cleaned up more. I have small children and I'm always finding trash or broken bottles on the play group (specifically Oakdale and Paul Park)
- I have long been dissatisfied with the number and quality of playing fields, going back to my childhood in the 70's and 80's through to today now that I am a parent of a 7 year old! The school playing facilities are part of our open space and recreational assets but are very poorly maintained. This needs to be addressed organizationally within the Town. (I know it's a separate budget but it's a problem that needs solving.)
- The conditions of all school fields are poor. The conditions of all baseball fields could be a lot better. Waiting for Gonzalez to start?
- Poor sidewalks and lack of trails leads people to drive to other communities to enjoy the outdoors.

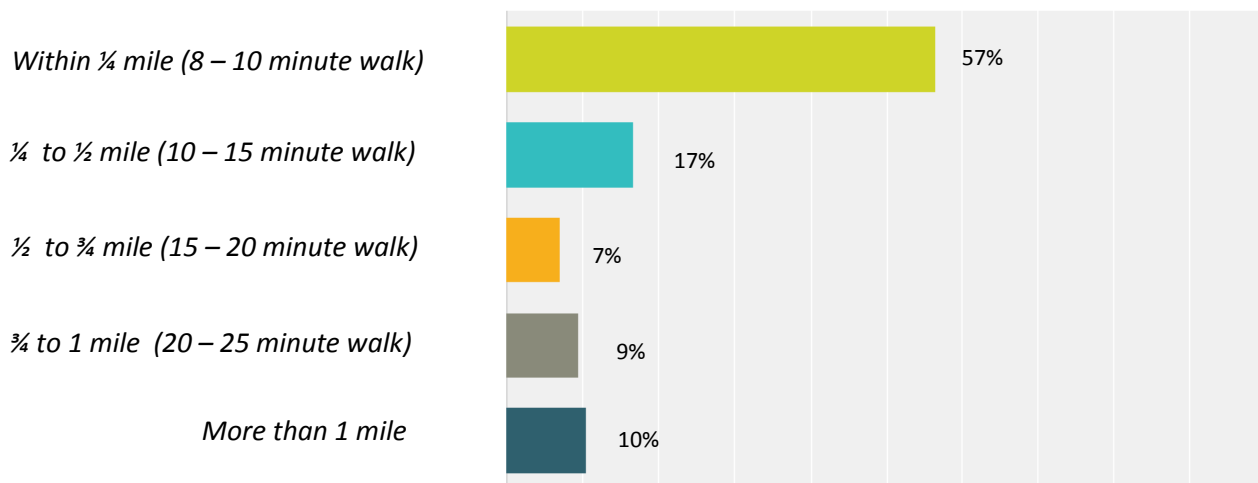
6. Choose 5 activities or facilities you feel are NOT provided sufficiently in Dedham. (490 responses)



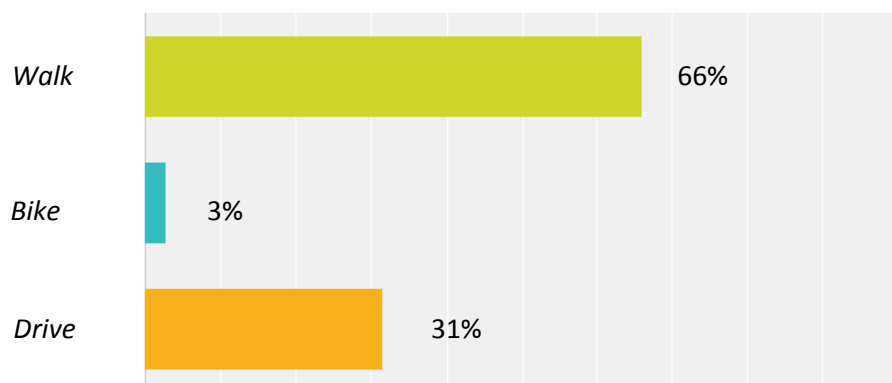
7. To preserve open space, would you: (484 responses)



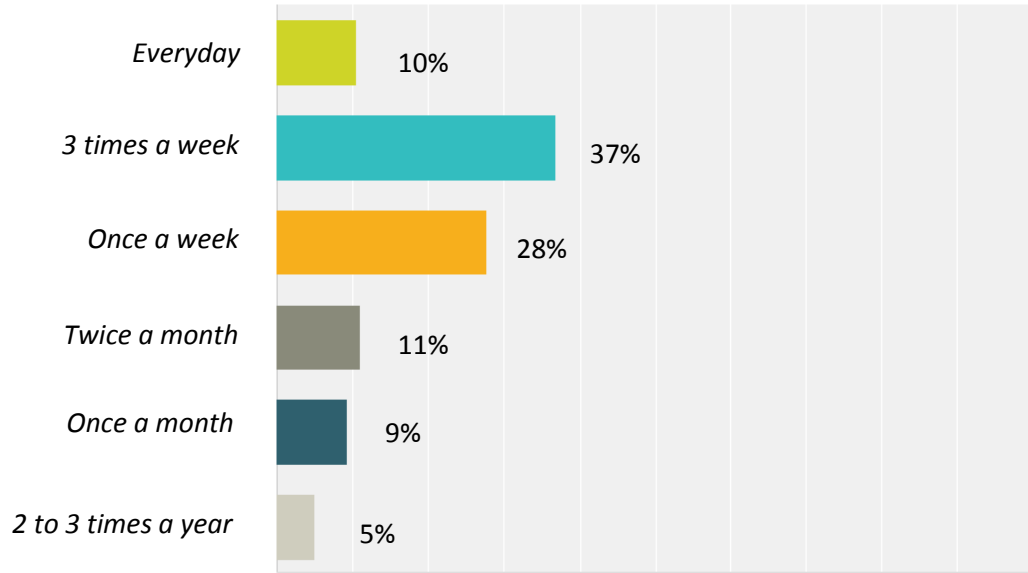
8. How far is the closest open space or recreation facility from your home? (498 responses)



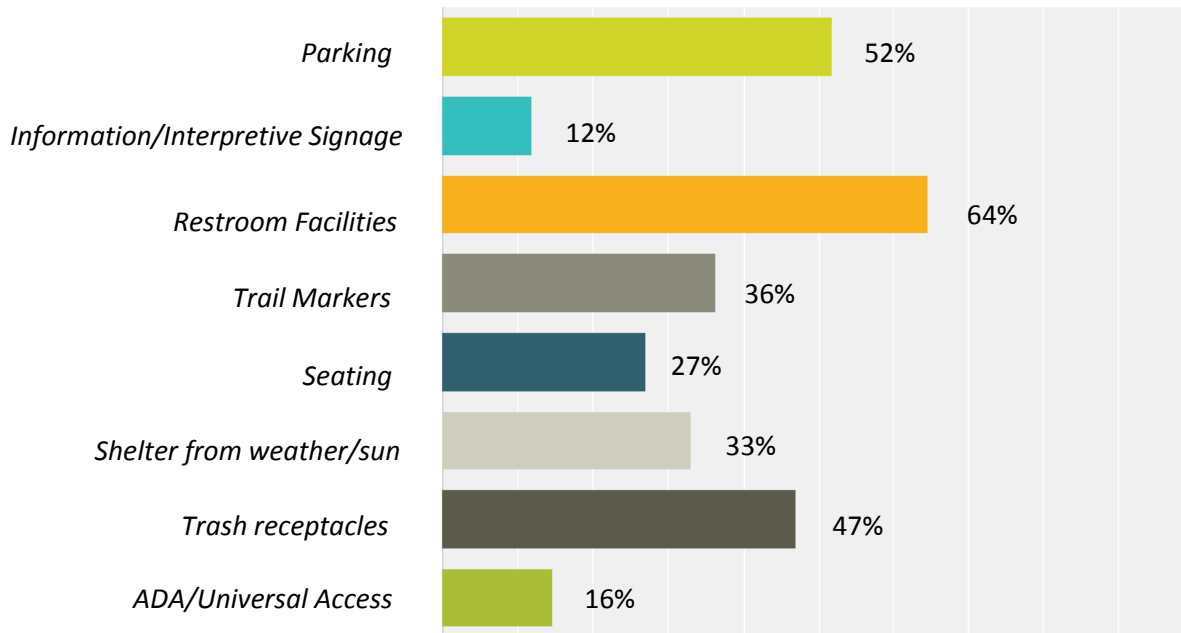
9. How do you usually get there? (493 responses)



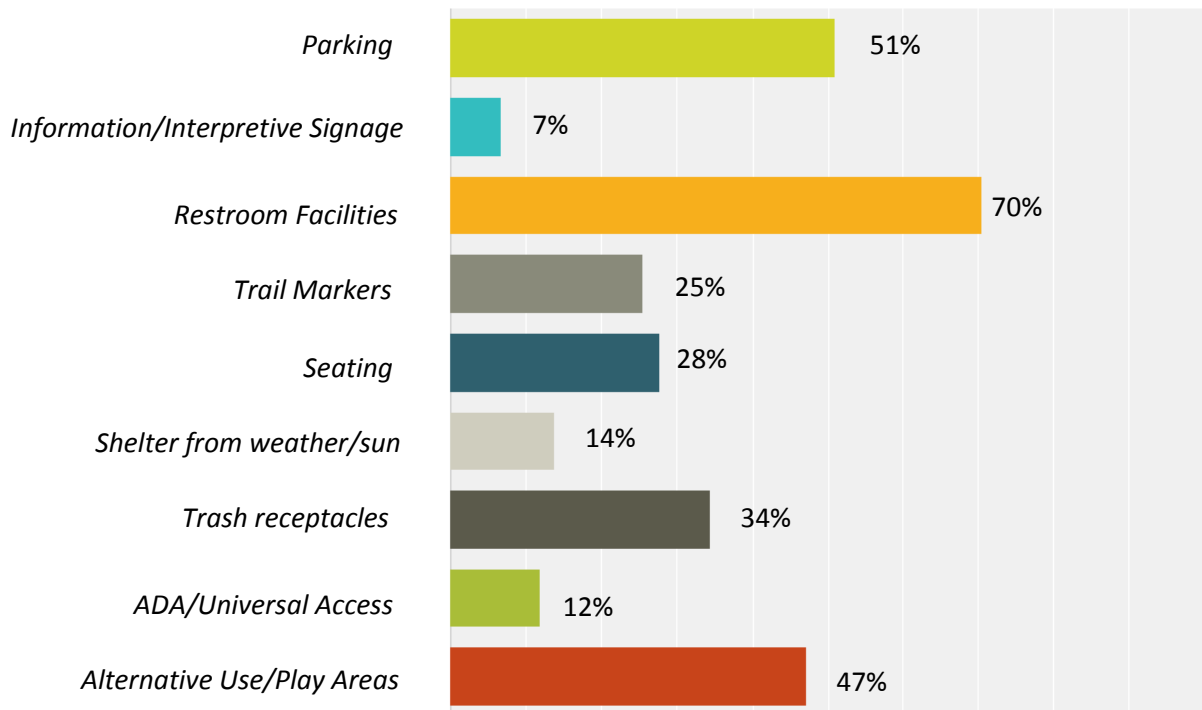
10. How often do you visit open space or recreational areas in Dedham? (488 responses)



11. Please pick the top three amenities you feel would enhance your experience the most when utilizing open space areas in Dedham? (488 responses)



12. Please pick the top three amenities you feel would enhance your experience the most when utilizing recreational facilities in Dedham? (459 responses)



13. What do you like BEST about Dedham’s indoor and outdoor recreational experiences and open space? (259 responses)

- Good variety, just not enough.
- I appreciate the Dedham pool which is a great low cost recreational resource for citizens of Dedham.
- Plenty of grassy area to run
- There are many to choose from but they are all sub-par compared to other towns. I am specifically referring to soccer.
- Normally, highly accessible and clean. Thank You.
- Some of the facilities are very nice (DHS Turf Field).
- We have some great playgrounds.
- I feel these areas are a safe environment for those that use.
- Sadly Dedham's best facilities are the privately owned facilities. There is great potential at Memorial and Gonzalez.
- Enjoyable, clean, up to par for what they are and when they were built.
- Love the small community feel. Used the indoor pool when kids were younger.
- I appreciate that Wilson Mountain is a large open space.
- Nothing.
- Accessibility.
- Clean.
- Close proximity.
- Good memories of my son learning to swim in the Dedham Pool and pretty parks.

- Do we have indoor that isn't connected to the school system? The best is the high school football field and track.
- Parks are relatively clean.
- That their potential is totally untapped.
- The High School Pool is a great asset.
- Clean, modern playgrounds; large number of ball fields; fantastic HS track.
- I've seen great improvement over the years! Great job on creating a plan!
- Several parks in close proximity to my home makes using the parks very convenient.
- They are safe!
- Memorial how it's open to all and can be seen by the public which keeps it safe.
- I can't think of a positive thing to say.
- Baby swings and newer playgrounds. Memorial appears to be the best for toddler play because of the padding. Paul Park is much improved over recent years and I'm satisfied with the number of baby swings.
- I feel that there are a fair number of outdoor options.
- We have a nice variety of options.
- Cleanliness.
- Family friendly atmosphere.
- Within walking distances, fields well maintained, parking is fine for where we go.
- Wilson Mountain is a great hidden gem.
- Wilson Mountain is amazing.
- Several sites, variety of options.
- The community really uses the spaces and so they do feel like community activities.
- The only thing as an individual I can really use is the track. Some of the state trails don't feel safe as a woman or for my family because of how isolated or wooded they are.
- Soccer fields.
- Riverside Park is nice with benches and a paved path.
- Walking trails at Wilson Mt. and Whitcomb Woods.
- The fields are kept up really well.
- I enjoy walking Wilson mountain tranquility.
- The boys at the DPW keep it clean!
- It is good that there are many opportunities for people who like organized sports. That seems to be the main priority. As someone who is not involved in organized sports, I typically leave Dedham to go to other towns to bike or hike.
- Charles River access/boating at the Dolan Center.
- That there are at least some. I know some cities/towns don't have much to offer.
- There are many.
- The outdoor nature and recreational trails (walking and boating).
- Condon Park playground.
- I like the fact that there is variety - we have Wilson Mountain, playgrounds for kids, basketball courts, tracks, and baseball fields.
- Proximity of all open space areas due to small size of town.
- It's there. Could be better maintained if there was diverse leadership with creative ideas.
- Ballparks and fields.
- The dog park.
- Glad you asked for our opinions. They have potential to be better.
- The recent focus on rehabilitating these spaces
- They're somewhat close together however too much development being allowed around them.

- The pool is nice.
- Accessibility of the water trail. Seeing wildlife on the water trail.
- Aesthetics along Charles. You mostly do not realize you are in a close-suburb. Feels like you are in the country.
- Hopefully a conversation will continue to focus on planning, health, safety, and equal access for all residents.
- The sheer amount of them is something to be proud of.
- We have some incredible, diverse open spaces.
- The beauty around our home at New Bridge.
- We have a lot of them.
- All the outdoor spaces do a great job of maintaining cleanliness.
- Nothing.
- We have a little park close to our house which is fantastic.
- Needs improvement.
- There are a variety of different kinds.
- The variation of trails around Wilson Mt. and down by the Dolan Center. Just learning about the water trails.
- Quantity, I think there is a good number of spaces.
- The variety.
- The new park and rec. building is nice.
- Spread through many neighborhoods.
- Dedham has some hidden gems - like the Charles River, Wilson Mountain and path from Rec. center to HSL.
- Pool staff and Swim and Gym staff are great.
- Great community feel! Lots of parks.
- I love walking the grounds of the Endicott estate as it is convenient to my home.
- Great town for children so many things and not too expensive for parents.
- That the kids have access to play with each other all over town.
- Like having green space and opportunities for hiking.
- Lots of different facilities available.
- The parks are kept pretty clean.
- Many options.
- Parking.
- That it is a great place for family's to relax with each other and not plugged into our phones.
- We have many of them.
- Variety.
- They are well maintained.
- Seem to be options in every neighborhood.
- I enjoy the towns effort in the up keep of nature trails, water access near Dolan center, etc. don't know if the libraries qualify as recreational but the programs/ activities they run are excellent.
- Cleanliness and upkeep.
- I recently fell in love with the Dedham water trails.
- Love the low prices at the pool!! Love that there are so many playgrounds to choose from.
- Each section of town has a playground.
- The accessibility.
- Love the swimming pool and access to the fields at the high school. When field and track were redone a few years back it was amazingly nice.
- The facilities we have are well kept.

- Many and varied sports fields.
- There is a sports field closer to me but I don't use it. This question and 9 are confusing. Glad we finally have river access.
- Easy access to many parks and facilities. The creation of trail links to the Dolan Center and access to the Charles River.
- Dedham is an awesome low key place to live and has great potential which we hope is realized with careful planning over time. Recreational opportunities and spaces are pretty good; they could be great!
- Cool.
- Wilson Mtn. is amazing. The rec. center could easily be bigger. The playground is not great. I am unaware of other recreational experiences?
- The concerts at Endicott estate.
- I like that there is a TON of potential and opportunity. There is a real opportunity to make the recreational offerings great in Dedham!
- Variety of options.
- In general, playgrounds are nice and in good condition. Dolan rec. center is ok for gymnastics but the dance studio floor is too slippery and the wrong type of flooring. Endicott is a great indoor/outdoor resource
- We have a lot of outdoor rec. space. The access to the Charles I enjoy the most
- The boat launches are great - lots of convenient parking.
- Number of places to choose from.
- The playgrounds we use are great for kids of varying ages.
- There are a good number of facilities for most youth sports though maintenance leaves a lot to be desired.
- Dedham does a great job with keeping up with the functionality and cleanliness of the areas.
- Great parks for young children.
- I love the beauty and peace of Wilson Mountain.
- Good sports programs for kids.
- Many options, but not accessible to all.
- Existing walking trails and Pool.
- We have a decent amount of both.
- I like that Wilson Mountain is so close.
- Cleanliness.
- Fields well maintained. Wilson is beautiful and a good hike.
- The river.
- The playgrounds are well maintained and there are many options for families.
- The new water trail is fabulous!
- There are a good variety of open spaces and recreational areas in Dedham.
- Love Wilson mountain trails and the access to Charles River for water sports.
- Meeting up with old friends and making new friends.
- Dedham has lots of neighborhood parks for children, and centralized opportunities for active recreation.
- I don't use them so couldn't really say.
- All of these spaces are very high quality.
- The pool is great.
- That they're used so much, that the Town is committed to them and that they provide so much, especially for the youth of the Town.
- It's accessible to everyone at low or no cost.

- We seem to have a lot of fields, I wish they were better maintained.
- Wilson mountain and access to Charles River at the Dolan center
- The town has come a long way in developing a trail system giving better access.
- They are well maintained.
- I think that Dedham has a great recreational department program. My kids have enjoyed participating in both indoor and outdoor activities. The number of programs and cost are great!
- The dog park! And affordable access to Dedham pool.
- Many playgrounds, one very close to my house.
- Wilson Mountain.
- Do not know since Dedham does not seem to have them
- I have a playground and an open space area very close to my home. My husband uses the fields to play soccer.
- Love the facilities we have, Wilson mountain and other wood trails in particular. But we need quite a bit more, especially for biking/running, of which we have none.
- Access/affordability.
- Diversity, opportunity to connect with community, proximity of many recreational parks with natural habitats.
- That Dedham values its open spaces and natural areas.
- I love the small neighborhood playgrounds. Creates a sense of community.
- Water trail is a great addition, though I wish that had been designed as a comprehensive park. It would be great to see a picnic area, shelter of some sort, resources so that families could spend time at the river and really enjoy the space.
- Decent variety of class offerings, Dolan center, collaboration with LL Bean, proposed rail trail.
- Nothing we go to other towns.
- Access to nature.
- Proximity to home.
- The convenience and accessibility for my young children and myself.
- Love the dog park. Bob Stanley is very responsive.
- The outdoor areas seem to be well maintained.
- How open they are and how spread out they are.
- Variety.
- Close to home.
- The new facilities on 135 towards Needham are excellent but many lower income children cannot access these due to transportation limitations.
- Lots of opportunities.
- Sense of community and close proximity to home.
- Various playground options for our children.
- Baseball complex is good.
- We are starting to recognize that using open space is also recreation.
- Open space is essential to a town's well being. I love that we have Wilson Mountain, Town parks and Endicott Greenhouses.
- That there is a pool available for kids to use year round and the amount of parks available for families to use.
- I think there is a lot geared toward families with young children.
- The people. Those who work in all aspects of Dedham rec. are very committed.
- I like the sports fields.
- I think that Dedham has a great base of recreational and open areas but they need upkeep and rejuvenation.

- Easy to walk to.
- Enjoying nature and open space.
- Dedham and its neighboring towns have a nice variety of outdoor destinations.
- Close by.
- Wilson Mtn., the Water Park, are very nice. It's great to have the good beginnings of a park system.
- Very Clean and Well Maintained.
- We frequently use the playgrounds. They are kept in good order and rarely are things broken or vandalized. They are always clean. It is clear that the town cares about and has the resources to maintain the parks. Thank you!
- Having different options. Proximity.
- I like the access to the pool and the pricing to use it. The Dedham community house is also a great place for smaller kids. The playgrounds nearby are easy to get to, they are kept in great shape and updated.
- The range of options available for people of all ages.
- Playgrounds are not in disrepair that I have seen (except for wood chips needed under equipment).
- There is a TON of fields between schools and recreation that are available.
- That they exist and are available.
- Love there are a range of options but could be more long, clean, safe, flat space for bike riding & stroller pushing.
- There is some available.
- I think the Endicott greenhouse is great with a fantastic community of people.
- I like having easy access to a few different short trails close to my home.
- There are a large number of open spaces, many a short walk from my house. It's wonderful to be able to hop out to the park when the kid is antsy. There's a nice variety for a smaller town.
- Plenty of playgrounds.
- The newly developed areas for easier access (boat launch and walking trails behind Dolan Center.)
- Wilson mountain.
- They do not contain any advertising.
- The space.
- They're numerous and close-by.
- That my children have access to these areas.
- Have honestly never used them because either very old i.e. the pool and outdoor space isn't nice or close enough for kids to just walk to.
- Summer rec. program at parks.
- Access to outdoor space, like the water trail and hiking/walking paths off the road.
- Family friendly.
- Love the pool and staff at the pool.
- We live in a naturally beautiful area.
- Not far from our home.
- Wooded trails.
- We use the playgrounds for play dates. A great way to get the kids out and about.
- There are a lot of smaller playgrounds (and attached play spaces) that are great for little kids.
- Pool, Endicott.
- Love the swimming pool at the high school.
- Fun with family.
- I'll be honest, I think the facilities leave a lot to be desired, compared to neighboring towns.
- Public outdoor pool at Community House. Love the openness and size of Wilson mtn. Appreciate the residential zoning of Dedham Village/ former Precinct 1 area.

- Outdoor-Kept clean and groomed.
- The playgrounds and walking trails.
- The new track at the high school is a great resource for level walking away from traffic and I use it frequently for exercise. I also love that we have pool.
- The parks are maintained very well. Dedham is fortunate to have the Charles River run through it. Dedham is a very walkable town except for the stressed out drivers.
- Wilson mountain.
- Centrally located.
- Not much, very limited options.
- There really isn't anything updated in Dedham. I have to go elsewhere to take my 2 year old to a park he can play at.
- Dedham works hard with what system they have available.
- Good amount of conservation land and walking trails by water.
- There's much variety.
- They are heavily and cooperatively used. Dedham rec. does its best to be fair with limited space.
- Wilson Mountain has well marked and mapped trails that are excellent, the water trail is great. My wife and I take our daughter to Oakdale and Memorial Parks, I also have played in softball leagues that have games at Mill Pond park and they are maintained at a slightly better than average level compared to Boston fields.
- Availability.
- I like the children's programs offered by the park and rec. dept. and the other youth sports organizations in town.
- There is so much potential!
- I've only used the outdoor, but everything is in good shape and works well for my 3 year old.
- Everything seems worn down and depressed. (I know that's the opposite of what you asked.) I like that we have some fairly decent options.
- Generally, the parks are safe spaces to play.
- Wilson Mountain, The Endicott Estate, The James Joyce Ramble, The Flag Day Parade, Summer concerts at Endicott Youth sports offerings.
- They normally pretty clean but limited because in many areas dogs even on leashes are not allowed.
- Is typically in excellent condition.
- Easy parking and multiple points of access to the open spaces.
- There are plenty of options for youth sports, also resources for adults playing team sports. Water trail access is a fantastic improvement, as is the ability to rent boats.
- Regarding the playgrounds we most frequent, they are always clean and well kept.
- Right now my husband and I are using the Dedham Pool about three or four times a week. The staff are very nice; the pool itself is well maintained, but the locker rooms could use some work. It is not a pleasant experience to be showering with moldy shower curtains!
- Can't comment because I see what other town have in comparison to DEDHAM.
- I think the new HS field and track is great. I think the new Avery play ground is great. Paul Park is a fantastic place. Water access in Riverdale has improved. DCH has a great field and the community pool is a nice addition.
- Lots of playground options.
- We have a lot of variety.
- Dedham does a great job with fields for sports. It is great that Dedham has a town pool.
- I like the access to the River, now.
- That we have them and they're spread out around town so everyone can have access.
- There is a lot for the people of Dedham to do here in town. The free summer camps at the playgrounds is incredible.

- I like that the playgrounds are fairly new and they are all over town. If it doesn't have something another will.
- The Rec. department runs some high quality programs at a very affordable cost.
- I like that youth baseball can have 3 games playing at the same time. It's a feeling community.
- We enjoy the trail at New Bridge when the weather is good.
- The Staff.
- Many choices.
- Lots of small parks but no thought on better connectivity other than sidewalks and roads.
- They are accessible from the main road.

14. What would you IMPROVE about Dedham's indoor and outdoor recreational experiences and open space? (298 responses)

- Field availability and conditions.
- One large area where there are multiple playing fields.
- I would prioritize development of the Striar property to create more fields, tennis courts, bocce court, walking trail. Perhaps put artificial turf at the pool field - closest to the actual pool. I realize turf is going in at Gonzalez.
- More trees and more playgrounds.
- The quality. We do not water our playing fields, from what I can tell, and so they are mostly dirt. It is bad for the kids but also embarrassing for the town.
- Put in turf or dedicate an entire complex to sports like most towns do.
- More turfed areas, especially near playgrounds.
- Grass fields are over used and not enough to be readily available.
- Shut down anything paid for by tax.
- We mostly use fields for team sports. I feel that the grass could be better maintained and that they should all have public bathrooms/port-a-potties.
- Updates to them to make more appealing for use.
- Open gym time in the winter for kids. Follow thru on the Striar Project, whether it be fields or walking/hiking paths.
- Almost everything.
- Upgrades and better maintenance to existing fields and more fields in Greenlodge area.
- Need designated sports fields for particular sporting event, primarily lacrosse.
- Senior activities/space /exercise. More teen activities and safe space.
- The Dolan Rec. center could offer many more programs and would get more interest if in a larger building closer to Dedham Ctr. The Community House space is not very functional.
- Many of the fields that do exist are in tough shape, which makes it dangerous when kids are playing/practicing on them. Training field (Bridge & High) St is in terrible shape. Needs re-seeding and some landscaping help.
- Maintaining.
- Grass quality.
- Bathrooms.
- More space for different activities it seems soccer is using most of space.
- Fields are in terrible shape and should have dedicated care.
- Free swimming lessons to residents with financial difficulties.
- Improve the condition of the grass fields, add turf fields, make sure there are bathrooms, better seating, trash barrels. We always look like the fields, etc. are an after-thought. We are too poor a town to afford keeping the recreational areas up (this can't be true!!).

- More restrooms.
- They need to be taken care of better, water and proper mowing. STOP driving the DPW and Parks trucks on the fields. It is insane and once again... LAZY.
- More info/signage, promote events at open spaces, make them better known for us new folks in town.
- The quality of the current recreational venues. Increase the access to currently undeveloped open spaces.
- Lighted Tennis Courts and Basketball courts for summer evenings.
- Bikes paths would be used by all towns people in all seasons. There is currently no safe place to teach a kid to ride a bike or rollerblade.
- I wish there more programs for teenagers or those middle school students. They need things to do on the weekends and not everyone wants to play soccer or baseball.... Programs for the moms/dads who drop their kids off at practice. Yoga while you wait for your child....
- Improve pool. Baseball and soccer field maintenance at schools. Bathroom facilities. Parking.
- Better/more frequent trash clean up and removal, removal of debris including trash and dead trees from waterways.
- Better maintained fields, parks & public spaces. I would also like to see a water/splash park for younger kids. I'd like to see the Striar property developed at some point as well.
- I'd love to see more of them, and connected, so that families could explore more than one area safely.
- Amount of areas.
- The fields need to be maintained. There needs to be more fields available for town needs.
- Need recycling. People recycle at their homes, why not in public areas.
- Memorial needs to be enclosed so that toddlers can't run away. (There's currently a big gap in the fence).
- Accessibility by sidewalk improvements.
- The fields need to better maintained. Often they are just dust bowls with no grass, especially on designated soccer fields. They are embarrassing when compared to other towns.
- I think we should concentrate on maintaining and improving the facilities we already have. The back ball field at Memorial is in poor condition for example. We also need to improve access to Wigwam Pond.
- Need more options.
- Finish projects already started, fix sidewalks, improve/update what we already have.
- Ease of navigation around town without a car.
- Dedham rec. center could use some sprucing up, walking trails.
- I would improve the fields and add a green space with seating to the square.
- Communication and ease of finding information online.
- Fields not well kept, restrooms not available at all sites.
- Rec. center is very small, particularly given how much use it gets.
- Open the dog park to your neighbors. I live right on the West Roxbury/Dedham line, but I am a Boston resident, so I don't qualify to use the park. This area has been working toward a fenced in dog park (Millennium, etc.) but as of yet, there is not one convenient. I have 3 dogs who would love to play there.
- Less focus on often male-dominated sports and focus on creation of spaces that can be used by families and individuals to enjoy the outdoors. More natural spaces that keep the town from continuing to look more like a city.
- Almost everything especially TREES!!!
- Quality of grass on fields needs to be a priority! We don't have a facility for indoor sports like other towns.

- More open space and trails for walking. Develop bike path. Improved access to the river.
- I have reached out to P&R Dept in the past and still feel strongly about the current playground's level of safety. With the parks geared toward small children - small children love to "bolt" from their parents despite how good of an eye you keep on them. With the rise in autism in children we are also dealing with another level of safety for them as well. Please consider making our parks safe for them. Paul Park is the ONLY park that the entire play area is actually fenced in with a working gate door. Memorial park's chain link fence has openings on either side. Please consider adding a function gate on these open sides. The white wooden fence that surrounds the park is not enough to keep small children in and also does not have a gate. This goes for Condon park as well.
- The town needs revenue. A bigger rec. center that can offer basketball and volley ball and more group exercise offerings would bring much more revenue into the town.
- Develop Stair property.
- Rest rooms at Wilson mountain and more parking. The rail trail will be awesome! Safe traffic free area to walk!
- More access to the Charles River and more bike/walking from the rail trail.
- I would use some of the current parks - such as Endicott Estate, more if they were enhanced with park benches, shade tree plantings, etc.
- Create access to Cutler Park from Whitcomb Woods / NewBridge Trail. Connect the two trail systems in some way either with a bridge over the Charles River or street level access.
- More of them. Ice rink is a must in my opinion.
- More trees, there's no shade at Endicott, Memorial, Rustcraft.
- Better access and parking at water trail boat launches.
- ADA accessibility is very important whether you're mobility challenged from being overweight, injury, progressive illness or age. The ability for safe walking and cycling, for families with strollers and kids with training wheels etc is very important.
- Bathrooms! Leave the lights on later for the track at middle/high school - especially the fall/winter. There have been so many times that I've wanted to walk after work, but the lights go dark so early.
- Offer more choices for town programs for children & improve the facilities these programs are held at. We would love to see more of the Mother Brook Art facility expand some art programs in the community too.
- Grassy areas - the Town does not spend enough money on the grassy areas of school properties. Greenlodge is awful, the field is underwater when it rains, no green areas.
- Improve maintenance, aesthetics add more seating areas for leisure visits.
- Better representation of all of Dedham on the committee. Did you know women live in Dedham? And people of color? Wouldn't know it with the all white men on the committee.
- More Trails. Connecting Dedham to its neighbors.
- Way more bike and walking paths.
- Universal access.
- Use the Striar property SOON.
- Development of the Striar property.
- Taking a page out of the local historic towns like Concord and Lexington and emulating their efforts.
- Buffer zones against development. More trash pickup and barrels.
- More hiking trails.
- Access to Weld, Wigwam and Little Wigwam ponds. Walking/running trails.
- Dedham has quite a few ponds. Not sure how many sit on public land, but maintaining these ponds and providing public access would be wonderful for fishing, ice skating.
- Get a "field house" where indoor sports can be had that does not use a school gym. Something like a sport court type surface or field turf to allow anytime use. Use of a bubble system or metal building.

- Creating equal 'walking' access to recreational opportunities. That means getting across Rt. 1. Expand the opportunities for open space beyond the focus of fields for sports team and maintenance.
- I think Dedham should be more proud of its open spaces and consider the town a destination for residents of surrounding towns.
- The condition of Town fields is extremely poor.
- We need so much more of both.
- Publicity of current options.
- Better swimming hours
- Privatize them, and get rid of the poor performing employees as a whole.
- Baseball Fields upgrades/better maintenance.
- There are no spray parks for kids, and it's VERY hard to find safe spaces for biking.
- Dog friendly Get rid of wood chip dog park dogs return filthy Landscape lawn care edging weeding general up keep
- Improved parking. Improved maintenance, especially trash collection.
- Addition of rail trail for many reasons and Daily rentals of river crafts on the river. Add fishing docks at Wigwam pond and other spots. Also better maintenance of exhibiting areas.
- Lack of recycling, lack of public restrooms.
- We need more walking trails, bike paths, and public bathrooms near parks.
- Develop the Striar property. Update parks build fields.
- Monitor recycling at the facilities - too much ends in the trash.
- Move the dog park. Drivers drive way too fast in the driveway and make it unsafe for youth attending classes inside the facility.
- More program options-how about a hiking club. More trails with markers so I can opt for an easy 1 mile hike or rigorous 2 hour hike, etc.
- More indoor spaces, or water indoor that in NOT privately owned = more affordable for all residents
- Outdoor pool, more walking trails.
- Walking paths along the Charles River.
- I would love to see bathrooms available and shaded places to sit for the parents and grandparents.
- Lots of towns have a town beach.
- Have activities for children that outgrew the playgrounds.
- Dog park is a mud pit in the spring would like to see that dried up somehow.
- Restrooms.
- I do not know at this time.
- MAINTAIN them - many fields need work - (ex: baseball fields with no grass in infield, basketball courts cracked and no baskets, tennis courts cracked). All areas should be free of trash - but generally are not - no one is cleaning them up.
- Clean up currently vacant open space, particularly in East Dedham.
- Need the rail trail.
- Advertising! If one is new to the area but isn't lucky enough to hear about things via word of mouth, they will probably be missed.
- More options for all ages and activities better up keep on parks and buildings.
- More walking/running areas.
- The long ditch area of the water trails could be cleaned up a bit as well as the Needham Street bridge, which is currently under construction.
- More playgrounds with areas that appeal to both grade school and preschool/toddlers aged kids.
- Update the playgrounds make them more user friendly for all ages.
- Use existing funding more appropriately.
- The public pool hours are terrible.

- This town needs a multi-use facility for our youth sports. And we need a hockey rink. We give a lot of money to other rinks in area (Nobles, Boch, St. Sebastian's, Bajko). This town's youth program alone could help.
- More trails and pleasant open space areas for individual recreation and enjoyment.
- It seems like each space has been developed with a narrow focus. Example: Sports fields for youth sports, but without thinking about how to make the space works for everyone. We often could not bring grandparents to kids' games because there was not shade or seating. I wish there were a holistic view toward making sure people of all ages and interests have recreation options. I frequently leave Dedham to have picnics, go for a hike, ride a bike, take a walk because we don't have good facilities for those activities.
- Availability to individuals not involved in organized sports.
 - Bike access to the Blue Hills, Legacy Place, Dedham Square and other biking trails in Needham, Boston etc. Sidewalks to access the stores and businesses in East Dedham.
- Too much emphasis on athletics and fields. Need MUCH more focus on activities/services for teens and adults who are not participating in team sports.
- More area dedicated to hiking.
- Cool.
- More options for trail walking, swimming, community center with pool, track running, biking.
- It is not equitably distributed throughout the town. Areas around the high school have much better spaces.
- Better maintenance and up keep. Better sidewalks and ways to get to open space and parks. More Neighborhood Parks.
- Raise the fine for dogs on park property and actually enforce the law and fine the dog owners.
- Fields need to be kept in better condition. Lights are needed in all corners of the playing fields. Parking is inadequate at lower memorial field. A small fenced in toddler park (like the one in Westwood by the Senior Center) would be great near the Endicott library. Add a skate and sprinkler park to existing playgrounds/fields.
- Need new tennis courts the ones we have are in deplorable conditions and were supposed to be replaced after middle school built.
- A turf lacrosse field with lights, just one that we can call home 3 months a year. We happen to be building that field this summer. But soccer thinks they should get it. We need balance in youth sports.
- I was shocked when I realized a month after we moved here that Dedham didn't have a bike path. I grew up with one and took it for granted that someplace with so much public space would have one. We had to scramble to find a place to teach my kid how to ride a bike.
- Need to improve amenities so families can stay longer with kids (many don't have trash cans or bathrooms).
- There needs to be more with easier access. There's a great open space on Rustcraft Rd., but there's no sidewalk access to walk there, and it doesn't have any sort of playground for small children. The nearest playground is more than a mile away and we have to drive.
- Improve maintenance. Add more outdoor fields (e.g., develop Manor/Striar fields).
- Provide more seating for adults and more shade for the kids at playgrounds. Actually just more seating for adults at parks in general.
- Listening to our parks and rec. director.
- Path/trail connecting rec. areas.
- Too little free swim time at town swimming pool. Connectivity of all walking/hiking paths and a map to show all available resources. Baseball program needs to clean up the assignment of kids based on their status on middle and high school teams; e.g., coaches prioritize and play kids they know from years of public school friendships (too much insider prejudice).
- Update to more usable passive recreation.

- Upgrade pool. Offer adult hours in day, evening. Publicize New and existing programs better. I don't really know what Parks and Rec. already offers.
- Need to maintain and update.
- We need to add restrooms to all the sports fields.
- More parking, esthetically not well kept.
- Add walking paths that all could use despite physical abilities.
- Add whenever land is available.
- I would like parking for a trailer for kayak launch as I can't lift my kayak onto my car.
- Easier and safer access for kids on bikes and walking would be nice. Some of the streets and road crossings are not very safe.
- Indoor building need to be updated and more activities for involvement. Open spaces could use some beautification some of the parks are run down.
- An outdoor pool with shade, concessions, swim lessons, reasonable summer memberships, with full daytime hours (DCH is only available after 4 during the week)
- Improve the network of walking trails, passive recreation opportunities, and open space connectivity throughout town. Manage natural resource areas. Connectivity to water. Active recreation opportunities for adults (e.g. tennis, tracks) outside of the downtown (walking distance / accessible to neighborhoods like Sprague/Manor).
- Again, don't use them.
- I believe turning the unused rail property into a trail will benefit young, old, and also property values in a constructive way.
- Town Fields that allow all Sports (incl. Lacrosse) to have a dedicated space for practice and games.
- Create perimeter park space with shaded trees, benches etc. at ball fields. Commit to a recycling program at the ball fields with clearly identifiable barrels (Westwood does a good job of this) and make coaches/teams/parents responsible for putting trash and recyclables in correct barrels at end of games/practice.
- Better parking better restrooms more weather sheltering and play areas.
- Turn the rail bed into a walk path and a park for public art.
- More of them and perhaps connecting them with a bike trail.
- More recreation opportunities in our open space.
- Develop Manor Fields.
- Take advantage of the rail corridor and develop a turf field.
- Approve the Rail Trail.
- Would love to have an open green space in the town center! There are so many great places, but no place to sit outside and let the kids run around. More walking trails and more information about existing trails would be wonderful. We live near the Wigwam pond area, but I don't know if I can access that area or if there are trails.
- Extended lap swim and open swim times for Dedham pool. And a rail trail and tot lot.
- More options for young children.
- Create more walking areas, such as the proposed Rail Trail.
- Activities, price, times, places, upkeep, trash, age groups, more updated facilities.
- Walking trails.
- A trail for walking/biking near my home so I can take my baby stroller for walks and my preschooler can ride his bike away from street traffic.
- Just need more! See above.
- Better playgrounds/parks kid friendly walking trails bike friendly.
- Amenities (bathrooms, water fountains), shade and seating, passive walking/alternate activity areas.

- Stricter guidelines for dog owners before every trail, feels like a free-for-all for canines. Not everyone is a dog person. Cleaning the windows of the pool. Cleaning area behind Condon park by the canal. It's lovely but seems shady.
- More formalized areas for recreation.
- Pocket parks Park/rail trail using abandoned rail bed Additional bike and walking trails - can something be done by Wigwam, to connect to Rustcraft fields? Can something go along Charles across from Dedham Mall, etc. The existing trails (Dolan center, Wilson Mtn., Cutler) are not sufficient for older adults, and it's silly that we have to drive to go for a walk.
- More offerings for school age children at schools. Turf field at Gonzalez soccer area.
- Bike path.
- Open space that is used by all ages, does not have to be fancy. Very little places can walk safely or pleasantly.
- Better transportation, especially safe biking routes.
- Bike paths.
- Resources for rail trail
- There is a dearth of clean & safe walking/biking trails that are accessible and available to the majority of Dedham residents.
- Continued improvements to indoor pool, shaded areas at playgrounds.
- I would like to see a walking/running trail (rail trail).
- Maintenance of youth athletic fields is substandard. Ongoing regular maintenance needs to be drastically improved.
- We drive to Millennium Park or Wilson Mtn. everyday. Having a rail trail would mean that we could just walk to exercise in our own neighborhood.
- Improved access and more affordable summer programming in lower income areas.
- More paved trails.
- Let more people know about them and share in their stewardship.
- More shelter from sun.
- More land for open space
- I would change Dedham Town officials and committees' bias against open space also being recreation . . . please reread questions 13 and 14 to see what I mean.
- Make more accessible areas throughout Dedham to encourage walking/biking to these areas.
- I would love to see more access to some of our bodies of water. Also, better signage for the trails next to the Dolan Center.
- Safe walking areas, shaded seating at fields.
- I would like to see more for adults and whole-family activities.
- The Dolan center needs to either expand or be rebuilt with more class space, waiting room space and parking. Especially when the field is in use.
- There are not enough playgrounds in Dedham.
- Make them have multi-functional and multi-generational use. I think a bug thing for both the older generation and young parents is bathrooms!! And I really think having shelter from the sun be it trees or sort of shading maybe that can have solar panels that could help provide lights for the fields. I also think the rail trail would be a great feature to add!
- More of them and for a wider age ranges.
- Take care of and improve existing open land before acquiring more.
- Fenced in areas for little kids so they don't run out. And benches for parents to sit while supervising.
- In terms of improving existing options - making Endicott Estate into a beautiful and usable park would go a long way. It is at the heart of the town, is already a wide open space - like a blank canvas, and could be transformed into a magnificent park that would serve a large portion of town. At present, it is a large, bland, field that bakes in the sun and that is mostly useful for car shows... It's not inviting to

anyone who would like to stroll or sit out there and not get skin cancer! A good landscape designer with a creative vision could do well by it. Tree plantings, gardens, seats, a playground area, sprinkler park - could all be placed in this one massive piece of land. Yes it would require maintenance but it could be the gem of the community and well worth the investment. Also, the abandoned rail corridor - if transformed into a rail trail/linear park - such as those that are in 70+ other communities and counting, would be a beautiful and practical connector to recreation opps. such as the Striar Property, Gonzalez field, and eventually, Memorial Field, Wigwam Pond, etc. There is no safe way to bike/walk between any of the current recreation amenities and the desire for bike-able and walkable communities is growing for all ages. Finally, there is an absolute need for a green space in the heart of Dedham Square. No more 4 story apartment buildings please.

- Fencing around playgrounds.
- Parking can be tough but I would not want to sacrifice open space for a parking lots. Affordable activities: Gym, Fitness classes, art classes (Mother Brook is nice but classes are pricey and not lengthy). I love the Norwood Rec. Center but they will not let other town residents use their facilities/activities.
- As mentioned above, seating at Paul Park playground and enclosing Memorial Park with gates to keep little ones in.
- Ability to rent the town pool for birthday parties or scout events. Better Trash pick-up at school playgrounds and fields.
- Better playgrounds/play areas for younger children. Bathroom facilities!
- Providing bathrooms would be an amazing feature. Also having some type of water area for the hot summer months that could be used by all for free.
- More outdoor options like the rail trail and the water trail.
- More trails! Maybe open space in center of town like Norwood, Walpole, Westwood etc.
- Allow dogs in more areas (even if on leash or only when children aren't present or something.) For example, the park on Paul Street is almost always empty when I walk my dog by, and he'd love to chase squirrels through the trees.
- Build the rail trail.
- Need more.
- Improve awareness and make involvement easier. In not sure I know everything available.
- More options, more availability, continue development of trails and connections between trails; detailed and available trail maps.
- Bike trails and paths connecting the neighborhoods and downtown would be welcome. The rail trail would help with this.
- Need a bike trail, better grass on fields, more woods for multi use including mountain biking.
- Better access and maintenance to passive areas (trails).
- We have so many neighbor gyms that need to Open Up after school / early evening / and weekends. Children and Adults need more Face to Face Time. How much could a janitor and a little electricity cost?
- Ball fields and school fields are a mess, someone is going to get hurt. Dog park is a muddy mess.
- Make them usable for all age groups.
- Adding more fun things to do with the kids around.
- Sidewalks so kids can ride bikes to fields. Level the grass fields and install turf fields.
- The way the town manages and maintains the outdoor spaces. They have been poorly managed for over 40 years and not properly maintained.
- Parking. Rest rooms.
- Towns such as West Roxbury have the Roche Hockey Rink, Roche Community Center, Millenium Park which offers everything for dog walkers, hikers, boating dock etc., Hynes Field. So many options for outdoor and indoor play for kids... Dedham lacks all the above

- Move the dog park to a more central location so I can drop off/pick up children from activities at Dolan Center. Lights for playgrounds and ballfields.
- More funding for playgrounds. Compared to neighboring towns, our playgrounds are out of date and could be more fun.
- The same thing: access to outdoor space, like the water trail and hiking/walking paths off the road.
- Have more distributed throughout Dedham.
- More open gym for kids. Basketball.
- Training the administrative staff at the Dolan Center on customer service and communication. Make and maintain a functional website.
- More hiking areas.
- Safe place for bike riding.
- More options, better fields (no more dust/mud field).
- More non-sports recreation types like wooded trails and bike paths.
- Maintenance. Walking trails. Shelters in parks.
- Really really need a field for lacrosse and baseball. The town gives too much to their "year-long" soccer program that should be limited to a season like all the other sports.
- More things for older kids and adults
- Concentrate on maintenance
- We need more fields dedicated to and for YOUTH sports.
- There is no centralized indoor rec. space (indoor pool at Dedham High is in E. Dedham, Community house gym is in downtown Dedham, Dolan Rec. center is in West Dedham). Programs are spread out all over town. Also, Dedham parks & rec. website is NOT user friendly or informative. Outdoor fields have a lot of litter, poorly maintained soccer fields throughout town.
- More water access, develop park/rec. off Common St. better access to water. Canoe, fishing ect...
- Neighborhood parks and better walking trails.
- I would like more safe ways to bicycle, either for transportation/commuting or for exercise. My children rarely ride their bikes because it is not safe to ride on the roads.
- Make the roadways more amenable and safer for pedestrians and bicycles.
- More parking, more space update facilities, more access to indoor facilities as well as outdoor.
- Maintaining more.
- Dedicated training facilities for year round use. Summer programs to help advance skills. Equal access to the concession facilities, right now only Football seems to have the right to use the concession stand and to BBQ.
- A water park would be nice. Community center for older people that is affordable.
- Capital improvements to existing recreational facilities and the staff to maintain them, to continually modernize. Initiate a 311 call in line to report damage and/or misuse. Centralize facilities management under one office. All Playgrounds should have rubber surfaces.
- I would like a bike trail.
- Newer pool - open to public. Town operated ice rink (not just privately run).
- Need to better promote options. Be more creative, all inclusive, with design of property around ball fields. All projects should be more accommodating to all demographics.
- More. More. More space.
- We need the rail trail, I run and I'm always pounding the pavement and leaking into the streets. I also walk to the commuter rail and am often forced into the streets by snow, which is unsafe. I would like to see Whitcomb Woods mapped, it's great for the 5k on parks day but I can't revisit it during the rest of the year because I don't know my way around. Outdoor basketball is limited, and indoor space is near impossible. I was part of a group that was playing at Riverdale school but it faded off recently. It's more expensive to keep a gym open for 2 hours in a town I pay taxes to than it is to play in a league with 2 referees and 2 scorekeepers with uniforms. This is more programmatic, but

information about recreational events is impossible to come by. When is flag day this year? I heard it's on a weekend. how do you sign up for the softball league at Memorial? Is it even a league anymore? I'd love to be more involved but everything is word of mouth, the website is not update frequently although the new design is at least an improvement.

- Cleanliness.
- I think the pool/locker rooms could be improved; I think the soccer fields at Riverdale shouldn't be used they are dirt pits filled with ground bees and ants; and the playgrounds aren't great for all ages. I think we should have more walking trails, more parking at Wilson mountain, something for people in Greenlodge/Manor that we can walk to. We walk to Paul Park sometimes but that is really it, maybe have a trail that connected to Fowl Meadow trail in Canton that is run by DCR? Also think about developing the Striar property, I've seen the plans but haven't heard any talk of it coming to fruition (maybe if it's because of the sight lines it could happen after the ECEC moves out of the Capen school?).
- Develop Striar. There are so many possibilities for activities that benefit all ages.
- More trails for walking, running. How about access to woods and wetlands, public art, mini parks in neighborhoods or especially near Dedham town village, affordable pools and gym for all ages, canoe/kayak launch and rentals, shady picnic areas, a skate park under the providence highway overpass, organized group exercise community programs for adults at schools or outdoors in fields in warm weather?
- A year round indoor facility for the winter. I'd also like more parks in my area with a place to bring lunch.
- East Dedham needs more resources.
- Improve the recreational fields...they are in terrible condition and embarrassing compared to surrounding towns and a hazard to the kids.
- Restrooms, making riverside park off leash place for dogs
- Communication about where they are when they're available. Town tennis program for all ages. With improved courts and competition. Recycling collection at parks and public places.
- walking access to some of the areas is insufficient. Specifically - safer access to Rustcraft from all directions and safer access to parks & rec. building, Wilson Mt. trails. Paul Park needs benches on the inside of the tot lot.
- Clean up the watertways- create paths and access around Wigwam ponds, add a fishing dock, expand the kayak rental program (or contract out to a company to run a full time kayak rental program spring/summer/fall) Turn Fairbanks park into a bona fide Little League park, with grass in the outfields on all 3 fields, better seating, dugouts and scoreboards for all three fields, and a better concession stand (one that can offer hot food besides hot dogs regularly). Have a landscaping company donate turf for the outfield grass. Make it look respectable for hosting tournaments. Better maintenance of soccer fields- youth sports shouldn't be playing on fields covered in goose poop. More tennis courts, and a better instructional program in the summer for kids- and adults- to learn to play tennis Recreational facilities for teenagers- an accessible rec. center where they feel welcome, with lit outdoor basketball courts, indoor video games or pool tables or whatever else they think is fun- space for them to hang out and text each other and stay out of trouble Intergenerational recreation- raised bed community gardens near playing fields (like at Newbridge), community fishing docks, better sidewalks linking parts of town together.
- More facilities for citizens with dogs and older citizens.
- We don't need anymore fields.
- It would be great to have more spaces that accommodates adult activities like biking, running or walking.
- Develop the Striar property for recreation.

- More connection between open spaces - like Wigwam Pond to the Rustcraft fields and pond behind Red Cross building would be wonderful. Bike and Walking trails. This is important for recreation and transportation. The existing trails are not sufficient 1) they aren't easy for older adults to navigate and 2) they require driving to get to them. The bike trail would provide access to the outdoors and recreation for people of all ages and abilities, and thousands of residents could access it without having to get into a car first. And it would provide many kids with a safer way to get to Memorial and Gonzalez fields for those who use them for sports. Picnic spaces and parks that encourage people to get outdoors for passive recreation and community building Pocket parks. I would love to see Parks and Rec. consider the parks aspect of their title. For instance, how can we push for a pocket park at the new Town Hall, which would benefit seniors visiting the senior center as well as the neighborhoods nearby (who have no park within walking distance). With plans to spark redevelopment of East Dedham, where is the potential to create pockets of green space with seating? I would like to see Dedham commit to finding ways to increase access to open space, parks, and recreational experiences large and small, across the entire town.
- The Riverdale School Field is a disgrace! I have been up there for my grandchild's soccer and baseball games. They play in either dust or weeds. Pay more attention to maintenance. I know it is difficult to find field space, but you really after to figure out a schedule of field rotation so that you can seed and rest the turf on the fields.
- Have to see what space is available. Have more time and availability for running and walking.
- Get the word out.
- It's embarrassing when you have home games and there are no restrooms to use or the kids are playing in a dust pile. It's not acceptable.
- We need an indoor field for winter/poor weather training. I think putting benches on the field for sports would be great for teams. I do like rail trail idea for biking and walking and running. Most importantly though is the maintenance of the elementary school fields. They are in terrible shape and we use them for everything.
- More open spaces for passive recreation/enjoying nature.
- Update what we have, the pool, tennis courts are a mess, sidewalks need repair, maintain playgrounds, exercise charts and stable equipment on trails in playgrounds for when children are playing so adults can maybe do strengthening exercises while watching their children play.
- It is so nice that Dedham has a pool but they need to put money into it. It could be such a great feature of the town but it has broken diving boards and is not very clean or well kept. Would like to see some money put into the pool. Dedham should also consider putting up a real hockey rink in the winter in which they could charge a minimal fee to use. I think it would be a great addition to the town open space in the winter.
- More activities for all ages in all areas so we can all get to know all the open and recreational areas throughout the town.
- When my children were little we had an awful time at the playgrounds. There are no facilities and very little shade. Especially at Memorial.
- Dedham needs to improve walk ability. If the rec. and green spaces aren't safely accessible for a pedestrian then there's no point. Currently the sidewalks or lack thereof makes it extremely difficult for families with young kids to enjoy.
- The Rec. website is awful - Facebook should not be relied upon for Rec. info. The cost to rent a gym is ridiculous. The times to us the gyms should be expanded for high school kids on Friday and Saturdays to give them something to do. There are plenty of people that would want to volunteer to do something in the town, just ask.
- Just the cleanliness. Hate seeing trash and broke bottles left behind. Maybe a few more trash barrels would help?

- Improve the quality of playing fields, including those now on school property. Riverdale School "soccer fields" are simply flat areas of dust and trash, not actual fields, for example. - Add a simple splash park area to one of the playgrounds. This seems easy to do and maintain. - The outdoor tennis and basketball courts are in rough shape and always have been in my many years living in Dedham.
- Lights, make scheduling activities. People work till 5:00 and beyond, and it is hard to our kids' games and practices.
- We would love a bike path for safe bike riding off the street.
- Signage/Parking at locations with multiple entry points, and at lesser known trails.
- Open to new ideas
- Rail trail that improves mobility and connects communities
- I wish there were more spaces.

15. What are the most important actions the Town should take in the next 5 years regarding open space and recreation opportunities? (319 responses)

- They should develop the Striar property finally! They should also fix all the school fields, they are an embarrassment to the town.
- Develop the Striar property to provide more fields, tennis courts, biking/walking trail.
- Improve access to Wigwam Pond and the Charles River. Add more variety to the current spaces.
- Purchase Boch Ice and make it a town ice facility.
- Enforce homeless folks not being able to sleep at parks during games. Put in restrooms at fields. Put a committee together to clean up soccer fields.
- A lacrosse field.
- Acquire new sights for multipurpose, or turf so they can be used more.
- Cut taxes and encourage private funding.
- Develop and maintain all available space for sports programs. We should have better fields for multi-sports soccer, lacrosse, baseball.
- Acquire large parcel for multi sport use.
- Develop a plan to prioritize and pay for the renovation of existing facilities and to properly budget for their upkeep. Put maintenance obligation and responsibility with one entity and hold them accountable for doing the work properly.
 - Build Dedham Heritage Rail Trail. Build lacrosse fields. Use eminent domain to acquire the blighted lots across from Endicott Estate and turn them into sports fields or a park. Improve access to Dedham town forest.
- Develop a site whether an existing field or land town has and create specific fields w/ lighting for sports, particularly lacrosse.
- Preserve the amount of open space currently in existence. Invest in and maintain the Rail Trail. Create a lacrosse field or designate one of the current playing fields as multi-use.
- The town needs to concentrate on maintenance of the existing fields (including training field) to be able to utilize the existing facilities.
- Maintaining the fields.
- Improved maintenance and to designate a lacrosse area.
- Acquire abandoned property on East St. opposite Endicott Estate and build a sport complex.
- Initiate a program to have a dedicated space with specific sports focus.
- Keep developing Mother Brook walkways and waterways.
- Improve fields for youth sports; invest in communicating that we care about our youth and then make Dedham a place that can be attractive to younger families so that they will STAY in Dedham and not move to Westwood or Needham, etc. when they can afford it!
- Acquire more of it and develop what currently exists.

- Go forward with the rail trail.
- Launch a PR campaign to educate residents how woefully inadequate our facilities are relative to those of the towns against which our children compete. Convince taxpayers that spending money in this area is a worthwhile investment. Acquire as much property as possible to develop both Open and Recreational spaces.
- To acquire land for recreational use.
- Develop the bike path!!
- Should acquire as much land/open space as possible. Don't be afraid to use eminent domain. Put immediate freeze on development (so called mixed use).
- Redo existing space with gymnasium and multipurpose field and add parking!
- Concentrate on maintenance and upkeep of present properties and not purchase new.
- The town needs to find a way to work with the various groups to improve our open spaces, parks & fields. Politics often get in the way - people forget the greater good and reasons for improving our spaces. We have volunteers to help improve things but have been prohibited from taking advantage of those volunteers because it violates the union that Parks & Rec. belong to. Yet, there is a constant battle for P & R to do the work asked of them by various organizations in town (i.e. maintaining various fields). It's inefficient. If the end goal for everyone were to make Dedham a better place to live (i.e. improving open spaces, parks, fields etc) and people could have THAT as the primary goal, perhaps more work would get done. There certainly is plenty of work to accomplish.
- Rail trail, focus on bike lanes, and continue to encourage outdoor social events.
- The town should buy property away from any land owning residences so it stays peaceful.
- STRIAR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT NO RAIL TRAIL!! NO RAIL TRAIL!! NO RAIL TRAIL!
- Striar property, Wigwam Pond, Wilson Mtn.
- CONCENTRATE ON MAINTENANCE FOR SURE. Acquire more land - the MBTA land.
- I think we should connect the rail trail, Wigwam pond and Striar in one big walking/biking open recreational area.
- Bring back Wigwam Pond for recreational use.
- Maintenance of fields, build with what you have ...Striar field.
- Mother Brook could use some TLC.
- While general upkeep and improvements to current sites are important I think adding onto or developing new sites that can meet the needs of the greater population would be a good goal to have. I would be awesome to be able to have restroom facilities at parks as well as picnic areas (even if these all were only seasonal), and safer spaces to move around with pets and small children like walking paths.
- Get Striar Done!
- Focus on sidewalks to allow safer walking (in general) and walking to open space/recreation facilities. DON'T build a rail trail. Our money is better spent other ways.
- Don't acquire more spaces...update the spaces we have. Don't need another small trail, do more maintenance on Dedham trail and more markers.
- Concentrate on maintenance of the fields.
- The town should concentrate on the Striar property as it has the most potential to accommodate all sorts of activities for the greatest number of residents. We should not be wasting town resources on things like a ridiculously expensive and utterly illogical rail trail.
- Develop Striar property into recreational space, don't waste taxpayers money on a rail trail to nowhere, focus on Manor area recreational space.
- Develop Striar Property. Incorporate walking trail from Dedham square to Needham walking trail.
- ALL - Go to our PUBLIC FB page and take the Park and Rec. survey. I can NOT post here because a SHARE button appears - which means EVERYONE can view the posting. Do not acquire new property, finish Striar, update Pool, make improvements to Wilson, Dedham Trails and Wigwam, beauty

improvements to East Dedham, Riverdale and the Manor! Do not want to spend millions on 1.3 mile trail.

- Develop Striar property into walking/biking trail. Wigwam, Wilson Mt.
- Unsure.
- Rail Trail, walking paths around Wigwam Pond?
- Develop the Striar property and redo all the fields with irrigation.
- Develop the proposed DHRT into a functional and beautiful linear park; work out the details with Boston to connect to Readville station.
- My first choice would be for an athletic field complex comparable to neighboring towns. Next choice rail trail.
- Walking/biking trails.
- Rail Trail-focus on individual recreation spaces.
- Develop a master plan, acquire land, plant trees meet the needs of all age groups and do it all sooner than later. It is possible!
- Fix the fields!!!! Improve seating and quality of the fields. This needs to be a priority!! More fields are needed so teams can practice more. More access to the river, with picnic area, etc would be nice.
- More open space, pursue development of bike path.
- The town needs to acquire a property that can House a basketball court and an indoor track. These things could bring in serious revenue.
- Build the rail trail.
- Develop Stair property.
- Save open space for walking, hiking etc.
- The town should do everything they can to push for the rail trail to happen. Also the access points to the Charles River should be more convenient. The man-made canal that connects the section of the Charles river from across Millennium park back to the bridge on Needham Street needs to be cleaned up.
- The Town should support the creation of the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail.
- Convert the rail corridor into the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail. The funding is there for the construction, it is a no-brainer.
- Create the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail.
- Handle existing fields better. Our soccer teams play on hay if they are lucky. Usually it is dirt. A Dedham owned hockey rink. If Boch isn't willing to be a part of Dedham hockey, another should be built.
- More leisure space, not specifically dedicated to sports.
- Develop the rail trail and other bike paths.
- Argue for a walking trail.
- Develop the Striar Property.
- A dog park and dog friendly trails. The rail trail!
- I think we have land/options, we just need to focus on them and put together a budget/plans. I think the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail should be looked at asap and we should begin the grant process asap while there is the potential for funds to offset the costs of development. The Striar project is a more long-term planning project but it should be considered as we have the land.
- Get Striar done!!
- Again, Dedham needs to improve the town website and also the recreation programs that are offered to children. Teenagers also need a place to go where they want to get in trouble...they are important as well.
- Forget the rail trail.
- The town needs a Capital improvements plan for parks and playgrounds.
- They should develop the Striar property and have some more class offerings

- Maintenance of all existing fields is of utmost importance, including adding appropriate benches/seating for athletic events and spectators. Is there an opportunity to look at trails around Wigwam pond? Figure out a way to acquire the abandoned property across from Endicott Estate and do something with it!!
- Support the Rail Trail.
- Rail Trail, More walking paths.
- Make the city more bikeable especially to public transportation.
- Connect existing green space so there's a safe and easy way to explore the town on foot or bike.
- Develop Striar Property mini parks.
- Develop the Striar Property.
- Clean up! There is so much trash around the main roadways (near Best Buy, BJs wetlands). Implement town cleanup days, use students and citizens to provide community service and show civic pride. Often people want to be involved and don't know how. No need to wait for Earth Day to do things like this.
- Stop building in certain areas of the town. Keep them to Rte 1.
- I believe the rail trail should be completed.
- Preserve open space and open access to with trails and landings.
- Take advantage of water (Charles, ponds, etc).
- Convert old Capen school fields into better multipurpose fields.
- Pass CPA and acquire land.
- Short of blowing up Rt. 1 (the great divide) allow Parks and Rec. to take a lead role in facilitating healthier lifestyles in every neighborhood. Stop rewarding special interest groups that attempt to inhibit the development of existing open space areas. Make healthier lifestyles a priority over politics.
- Seek out partnerships to improve trails, access, and historical interpretation at mother brook; market the town as an open space leader and destination.
- Maintain existing properties, consider ways to increase multi-use.
- I cannot advise because I do not have enough info at this time to suggest meaningful programs.
- Forget about a multi use field and improve the fields we have. Run a decent program for disables/impaired residents without charge.
- Improved maintenance for existing Fields including upgrades in the form of irrigation, leveling of holes/bumps and mowing services.
- RAIL TRAIL is top of the list, along with developing a spray park.
- Baseball complex for all levels well groomed w/ parking. Soccer complex with grass. Ice rink/complex.
- Develop Striar property.
- I am not sure, besides the Rail Trail, what other properties without plans there are. The Striar property? Open spaces should be monitored & maintained regularly.
- Rail trail!!! Daily water craft rentals on the river. Better maintenance of existing spaces and areas.
- Access to Charles.
- The town should complete the rail trail/ bike path.
- Develop the Striar property.
- Improve bathrooms at the fields concentrate on maintenance.
- Make Striar a passive rec. area with a dog park and soon. The fact that this has been studied to death is embarrassing. We do not need more ball fields. And this area is currently used as a dumping ground. Throw in some paths and parking and make it the next Wilson Mountain.
- Please acquire the property across from Endicott. It is an unsafe abandoned property. Owner should be heavily fined and town should take property under code for abandoned property.
- Acquire sad house and large land across from Endicott!
- The town should acquire the lot next to the gas station by Endicott variety and use it as a parking lot for commuters at Endicott Station

- No trail rail.
- I don't know give me a choice. Probably more land acquisition.
- Bike trails. Water access.
- Would love to see the rail trail put in or a public track/walking area.
- Historic preservation of significant older houses outside preservation areas, like Justice Brandeis's home.
- Stop approval of anymore condos, Dedham is losing its town charm.
- Develop a bike/walk path into the city of Boston.
- All of the above. They are all important things to do.
- Develop Striar property as a walking/hiking area (not athletic fields) like Wilson Mountain.
- Build the bike path.
- Field turf at Gonzalez field.
- The town needs to develop a paved walking trail. The hiking trails in town are nice, but not accessible for those of us using strollers. We need a safe, accessible trail available for ALL.
- Rail Trail.
- Seating and enclosure around parks as well as maintenance. Providing more activities through the town like surrounding ones Westwood/Walpole/ and Needham.
- A larger rec. center.
- The empty parking lot on Rt1. next to FitWorx, where the McDonalds used to be would make a nice area for a parking lot with a canoe launch and some nice landscaping.
- Don't know specifics, but would love to see more walking trails, lake access, outdoor pool/water play area.
- Repair the baseball fields at Rustcraft. They are an embarrassment.
- Rail trail, ice rink or roller hockey rink.
- Bike/running/walking path concentrate on maintenance of current facilities, work to maximize hours facilities (pool) are open for recreation.
- This town needs a multi use facility for our youth sports.
- Come up with a plan for the Striar property that works for everyone in the town, not just the kids and families in organized sports, and is within budget.
- More land conservation. Rehabbing of old buildings. Preservation. Fewer new buildings.
- Purchase and develop open space near Manor and create Soccer complex and adjoining trails.
- Bite the \$12+ bullet and develop Striar; develop the Heritage Rail Trail!
- Develop rail trail, make small improvements to existing parks so they can be enjoyed by all ages - picnic tables, water/splash fountains, seating, shelter, trails.
- Invest in current open space and recreation properties. make Wigwam Pond and surrounding area easy to access. Create more parks at current playing fields not just an athletic facility. Work with the state to move MLK Park under control of the Town of Dedham. Prioritize the Striar Property in the both the Town and P&R / Open Space master plans. Improve the fields and open space at school properties.
- Build the Dedham Heritage Trail 2) Build access to Wigwam Pond; request buy-in and support from Legacy Place and Rte. 1 Businesses. Wouldn't it be lovely to stroll by the pond before or after shopping?
- Develop the rail trail. Improve access to Wigwam Pond and provide walking/seating there. Develop Striar.
- Cool.
- To not build a rail trail!!!!!!
- Develop a range of options- see above.
- Put a recreational facility near the area where the Village Manor is located.

- The town should ease restrictions on conservation land and develop a budget to create parks and recreational opportunities. I don't think the town needs to spend a ton of money on a large recreation complex. They can simply improve what already exists and build modest additions.
- No idea.
- Focus on improving what you already have first, Host more community, family friendly events to help promote use of the spaces Dedham has. Love the rail trail idea but I'm concerned it's a lot of \$\$ for only 1.5 miles of trail.
- Utilize the Striar property which was purchased a long time ago but nothing has been done. Are there grants that Dedham could apply for to develop that into a recreational area.
- Better use of the sports fields we have. Better maintenance and limit the use of them. Don't let them get over run by one sport. Sports should limit their numbers based on the town fields they are given. After that they can go to private fields for space. A town hockey rink should also be on the long term plan.
- Bike path.
- The busier roads need better pedestrian access... all around.
- Develop the Rail-Trail as a fully functional linear park and bike path with a bridge connection to Gonzalez Field. Then develop a town-wide plan so that biking and walking paths, sidewalks, and bike lanes connect to every part of town and to neighboring towns and T stops.
- Open the rail trail and open the manor fields.
- Need a lacrosse field and purchase the Boch ice arena.
- Develop the Dedham rail trail.
- Open trails and build bridges through conservation areas for use! Too much open space is not used. Connect walkers to trails. Build/develop rail trails. School admin needs to cooperate more with town recreation.
- Fulfill needs of seniors.
- Have more programming for 55+. Currently 31% of Dedham residents are over 55. The projections for 2030 increase to 41%! Explore what other towns offer to adults, especially for 55+. Offer pickle ball and other games. Offer movement, dance. Make better use of Dolan Center for this and other purposes.
- The town should improve on the sports facilities in town and add a walking/bike path.
- The Town should develop the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail. As a runner, I am routinely dodging cars turning onto side streets as I am crossing. The Rail Trail will provide a safe area for running/walking without the concern for traffic.
- Initiate one program that will manage all open spaces for Dedham such town youth sports, playground use and opportunity for party rental/picnics.
- The town should be looking to acquire open space when available. They should be looking for potential land. Don't keep building. Dedham is too crowded.
- Utilize or sell the Striar property.
- Preserve as much open space as possible, and make it accessible to all as much as possible.
- Access to open spaces in each of the areas of Dedham. It is nice to have areas in your neighborhood to enjoy.
- Support the rail trail.
- Love to see the rail bike path developed and sidewalks improved for safety in crossing from one part of town to another.
- The town should finally advance its plans to develop Manor Fields. If funds are an issue, I would support scaling back the plans for sports fields since Dedham youth seem to have a lot of active recreation spaces. I would focus on walking trails, improving the natural spaces, and more flexible / daily active uses like tennis, basketball. Perhaps a passive open field area for picnics, frisbee, etc. that all can use. Or an outdoor exercise course with walking / running route.

- Develop Wigwag pond board walk and create a pocket park nearby.
- I think lighting, safely, cleanliness and access would be important.
- I believe turning the unused rail property into a trail will benefit young, old, and also property values in a constructive way.
- Support and make happen the Dedham Heritage Rail trail. Support and help make happen access to Wigwam Pond in form of safe, accessible, well-identified and attractive entry point and a perimeter or partial perimeter trail around Pond starting near Eastern Avenue (there are models we could look at like Kendrick Pond in Newton). Instigate cross board communication with Planning Board and DPW so any new development (Planning Board) along as well as DPW plans and priorities always include bike and ped. access (those activities themselves passive recreation activities) and work to make ball fields and open spaces accessible by extending sidewalks, creating bike lanes etc. to say, make it possible to walk along Needham street to get to Cutler Park. Right now sidewalk ends near Rosemary Road. Create pocket park near existing natural site. My choice would be installing a few benches and creating a very small green space just off Eastern Avenue (that road everyone uses to get to Papa Gino's Plaza and the big box stores) to allow people to sit and watch birds and other wildlife who hang out in that strip of water and wetlands that connect to Wigwam Pond.
- I think the ecec location right now could be utilized and turned into a highly efficient outdoor pool for our kids in the summer and outdoor/ indoor sport facilities.
- Approve and move forward the construction of the Dedham Rail Trail.
- Open Wigwam Pond to the people.
- Develop Manor fields.
- Take advantage of the rail trail, create bike routes around town (to legacy place) Turf field.
- Get as much open space as possible.
- Make the Rail Trail a reality and connect it immediately with a broader network.
- None.
- Of course, maintenance is always crucial, but as said previously, it would be nice to develop a site for a tot lot, and to develop more trails. Do we have canoe/kayak rentals? That would be nice too. Also, it should be easier to find detailed information on park and playgrounds on the town website. I don't see Paul Park or the park in Riverdale listed at all, and there is no mention of available facilities for the sites that are listed.
- Dedham Rail Trail! The proposed rail trail is the only open space recreation opportunity that would truly benefit every age group. It's not specific to families, or dog owners or elderly or disabled, it is inclusive of ALL these groups. I would be happy to contribute financially that would benefit more than my family.
- Save all open-space areas and build picnic and walking trail.
- Find an area for a community center where it is all localized and convenient to everything, even local bus and school bus stops, offer before care and after care, intergenerational, plenty of activities for different age groups at the same time so parents don't have to wait with younger or older siblings. Really be about helping the community live better, healthier and stronger. All in a fun exciting atmosphere among friends new and old.
- Create a walking/biking trail.
- Develop the Dedham Rail trail
- Maintain/refurbish existing spaces. Most importantly, devote resources to the rail trail project which would provide access and a safe running, walking, biking space for all ages, and could easily kill several birds with one stone by adding playground equipment, a community garden and artwork.
- Redevelop the train tracks for rail trail.
- To prevent further development, we need to work with private land owners and either acquire private land for conservation or assist land owners in designating land for conservation purposes and getting possible tax credit. We need to continue to survey biodiversity in Dedham and establish

priority habitats for protection. We need to inform residents about open spaces and how to access them, possibly through newsletters or public programs.

- Look closely at opportunities for Wigwam Park. I feel like it's just sitting there. Maintenance on those groovy windows at the pool. They are very cool, but they look mildewed - yuck! Offering guided water tours on the Charles.
- Town should absolutely create the rail trail.
- Develop the rail trail from Dedham Square to Readville. Can we get a map of all of the parks and trails? Emphasize parks - that's not even really in the descriptions at top of survey.
- Completion of the Rail Trail project.
- Bike path.
- Rail trail development.
- Develop safe off-road bike paths.
- Commit to Rail Trail
- Walking trails and better bike paths.
- Make rail trail work, even if it starts up by the high school for an initial phase. I have already biked the entire length and was surprised how it is already quite usable (with a few obvious obstacles).
- I feel it's imperative that the Rail Trail needs to be developed so that Dedham residents of all ages can have a safe and clean green space away from the dense traffic and highly developed parts of our town. Not only is this beneficial to the health and well-being of our residents, it will also positively contribute to the aesthetic appeal and market value of Dedham's residential areas.
- Force Gobi to clean up his property (or take from him!) across from Endicott Estate-it is shameful! Access to the wetlands near BJ's without disturbing the environment or habitats, create mini parks by adding trees and benches to small parcels, continue to acquire properties for open space.
- Rail trail with programming around it
- Fund and build Heritage Rail Trail 2. Acquire dilapidated property adjacent to Endicott Estate and protect as open space.
- Develop rail trail, pickleball court, dog park.
- The town needs to concentrate on maintenance. The town needs to far better maintain the existing facilities prior to adding new facilities, such as a Rail Trail or the Striar property for example.
- Make the Rail Trail a reality! For health, convenience, neighborhood interactions and home values.
- We need the Rail Trail. What about access to the Charles River off of the VFW? Sporting opportunities for adults-besides men's slow pitch softball what else is there for the adults?
- Preserve natural spaces from development and pollution.
- Rail trail, add a toddler/younger children friendly section to the park by Mother Brook.
- Acquire property!!!
- Walking and water access to Wigwam Pond connect the trails develop the Striar property.
- Turn land into parks.
- The rail Trail I think is very important.
- Create a mixed use park with facilities.
- Let more people know about the water trails and walking trails available on the Charles.
- I'd love to see the rail trail project move forward.
- The town should prioritize wetland conservation, obtaining the land next to Dolan center, and updating the pool (ok- at least have a company come and bleach the grout).
- Dedham should add more playgrounds.
- The big thing would be maintenance first for existing facilities and then on developing new sites.
- Continue improving infrastructure such as providing safe sidewalks throughout all the neighborhoods to encourage more walking.
- Do a great job on Rail Trail such that people view it positively.
- Would love the rail to trail path!

- Rail Trail is important to me.
- Adopt and create the rail trail. Maintain existing parks.
- Utilize the properties which are currently owned by the Town and not in use (i.e. Striar Property).
- I don't really know what all the practical choices are, but I definitely support any changes/additions that help keep our town healthy. My daughter loves spending time outside and the easier it is for families and individuals to live a healthy lifestyle, the better - and the better it is to make Dedham a desirable place to live.
- Check surrounding towns and see programming that is offered. Programming for children in Dedham is low. Would like to see more one day options and school vacation week options.
- Use existing resources, concentrate on maintenance, update existing areas.
- Take a look at what they have, look at the budget and come up with a plan to utilize the space to provide what the residents want.
- When the Dedham Police Department moves out of their building in the square, make it into a park.
- Build the rail trail and develop the Striar property.
- Develop the Rail Trail.
- Save wetlands, save open green space, buy land and convert to green space!
- Build the bike path!
- Build the rail trail.
- Build the rail (Heritage) trail. Build bike lanes.
- Maintain and improve what we currently have. And work on organizing volunteer corps.
- Have dedicated fields for specific sports, such as lacrosse and volleyball.
- Maintenance and expansion of wilderness areas, both for use and for conservation.
- Complete the rail trail and develop plans to connect the neighborhoods to each other and downtown with bike trails.
- Develop manor fields.
- Protect the woods.
- Develop a multi-purpose facility and create fully accessible biking or wheelchair accessible trail (Liner park - Rail Trail).
- Protect open space, forests, and wetlands from development!!
- We have so many neighbor gyms that need to Open Up after school / early evening / and weekends. Children and Adults need more Face to Face Time. How much could a janitor and a little electricity cost?
- Redo the ball fields starting with Capone. More dog parks. Clean up Cutler park. Open town ice rink.
- All of the examples above.
- Develop and introduce areas to residents. For example the town forest. Maybe a guided tour? Many open spaces are not publicly known. How about a walking or biking tour of these areas?
- Adding more dog parks around the neighborhood.
- Acquire/create more fields.
- The town should develop and maintain a set of fields for all youth sports. No one youth sport is more important than another. All fields should be lined as a multi-purpose field.
- The town should complete the rail trail as its top recreation priority.
- Possibly hold on to some space and create a rec. center for all sports, families and animals to enjoy.
- Connect Gonzalez and Memorial Fields; restroom facilities at parks/playgrounds and ball fields.
- Develop the abandoned rail bed running from Gonzalez field to the Readville train station into an accessible, continuous walking/bike path, with alternative route to school for students at Avery, DMS, and DHS.
- More green space for recreation and dog walking.
- Sprinkler playground.

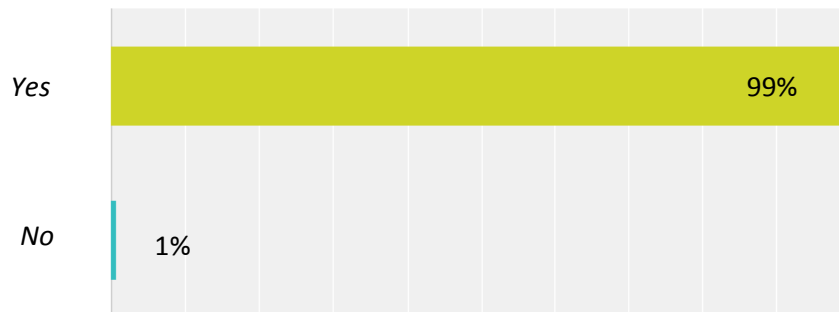
- More hikes, more canoes, more opportunities to explore outdoors.
- Focus on areas for teens to recreate, spend time together, in a well-lit, fun area.
- Concentrate on protecting and preserving wetlands and watershed protection.
- Build the rail trail.
- Develop the Rail Trail and pass the CPA!
- Maintenance on current spaces, more properties - fields, courts (tennis, basketball), use current parks for community gatherings - family events.
- The town should acquire the open space to preserve it from development ... actual uses can come later but it seems that the town is slow to act on acquiring the land for future use.
- Maintenance. Good green project for the lot where snow plows are, High St behind Brookdale cemetery.
- Needs to dedicate a field to lacrosse!!!
- Open a bike/walking trail, build a lacrosse/multi sport field.
- Better prepare for water shortages and bans -- last year fields suffered -- and better maintain the Water Trail and Athletic fields.
- Develop the land they have with multi-use YOUTH fields.
- Maintain & preserve existing conservation land, improve condition of public athletic fields, designate a field for lacrosse, maintain h/s turf field & track, build a public playground near Dedham Square. Improve Parks& Red website.
- Town has Striar Property (down by the manor) develop this property.
- Acquire the lot off Hastings road in the manor and turn it into a playground.
- Develop bike lanes and paths, improve maintenance of fields, conserve and acquire open space, improve access to Charles River/Wigwam pond.
- Expand interconnectivity. Feel free to plant trees whenever possible. Local community gardens.
- Let leashed dogs on fields. Develop more fields for sports.
- Develop an indoor site at the back of memorial field to assist with year round training.
- Please fix the sidewalks!!!!
- Move forward with the rail trail - bike path. No property values have ever decreased in any town as result of implementation - See minuteman bike way, cape cod bike way as referral modernize all playgrounds modernize - designate fields to soccer, lacrosse and baseball.
- Stop building condos and build some more recreation facilities.
- Preserve and expand open space, develop unused or inaccessible space.
- Concentrate on maintenance, develop the Striar property.
- Build out the Striar property. Connect Trail systems throughout town.
- The acquisition and development of a large outdoor soccer/lacrosse/other area.
- Rail Trail. Improvements to current outdoor courts and playing fields.
- Better upkeep/trash removal of outdoor spaces.
- Develop the Striar property, add more walking trails along the Charles by the Dolan center, and build the rail trail.
- Develop Striar. Set aside money each year or develop a plan to put money in a fund to purchase land when the opportunity arises. I don't believe the vote will support the CPA question.
- Trails! (I'm so tired of walking or running along my neighborhood streets, or having to drive to natural areas in other towns for trails).
- Mother Brook is an untapped resource. We could do so much more with it.
- Concentrate on improving and maintaining all fields. Develop recreational fields in Capen.
- Concentrate on beautification and maintenance. We have too many ugly buildings going up with unmaintained landscaping. So the Town needs to counter that by keeping up what we do have.
- Go forward with the Manor Fields project.

- Follow best practices that other towns have in place when it comes to field maintenance. Dedham has the worst playing fields in Eastern MA, and the excuses of money and over usage are wrong. Other towns have fewer resources and better fields. If the people maintaining the fields worked in the private sector, they'd be fired. For example, watering a field in the middle of the day in July when it is in full sun will cause it to brown out. Cutting the grass too low will cause it to die. Find out how Westwood, Needham, Canton, Stoughton, Sharon, Braintree, Franklin, Mansfield, Milton, Medfield, Raynham, Walpole, West Roxbury maintain their fields and follow suit. Build a sidewalk from Fairbanks field to the train station/ Legacy Place to improve safety and walkability...more people walking along the road now between General Dynamic and the train, likely to get hit. Follow through with the Striar field plan. Stop talking about it and get it done.
- A large dog park and more areas where people could walk their dogs even if they are on leash. A rail trail.
- Develop the rail trail.
- Put in the Dedham Rail Trail, put in a sprayground/water play area for summer time.
- The town should develop the Striar property that it has been talking about doing for several years.
- Develop the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail, including helping abutters mitigate the change by offering substantial landscaping and/or fencing to those who are very close to the trail. Begin to plan for climate resiliency - in the next one or two decades the Northeast is forecast to have an increase in summer temperatures overall and days of extreme heat. We should be looking for opportunities to prepare for this before it gets worse, such as planting additional trees at fields and parks to provide increased shade as they reach maturity. This is a simple step the town can take now that will save money down the road. Examine spaces that Dedham might wish to acquire for open space and recreation planning, and ask for right of first refusal in case the property is placed for sale. Develop a unified map of Dedham parks and open space. It is currently impossible to get this in one place - Dedham P & R has individual links to/maps of fields, Dedham Trails has individual links to trails. We need a unified map and site that allows people to understand the resources that we do have, since so many are hard to access or find out about.
- The town should be working on developing the Striar property. With the new construction of the ECEC, we should be looking into that property has a way of accessing the lands behind it. Then the town could develop walking trails, fields, tennis courts (possibly) in that area.
- Publicize what the town has available to not create duplication of resources.
- Riverdale park near Charles river should be owned and operated by Dedham.
- Develop the Rail Trail.
- Save Mother Brook.
- Finished unfinished projects.
- Fix the pool (Facelift for pool and locker rooms and fix the diving boards) - Real Skating rink in winter - Hopefully the rail trail can go in to provide a running path.
- Create the proposed rail trail. Create and improve bike paths and bike lanes throughout the town.
- Not sure if the Town owns Riverdale Park or shares it with the State but I would like the town to own it and maintain it. Also would like some type of museum to showcase the canoe houses of the past and its athletes...some that went to the olympics.
- Concentrate on walkability and access.
- Fix up the current fields they have. The maintenance on the fields is AWFUL!!! - if the town needs help ask for volunteers, then ask. This makes going to the website being awful, ask for volunteers there, or ask for field feedback on the site and actually do something with the feedback. I clean up Manor Field walking trails, I fixed up the ECEC basketball court, I fixed the Rustcraft baseball field pitching mounds last season, I fixed up the Oakdale School basketball hoops, I'm about to put new nets on the basketball courts at Paul Park. Why didn't the town do any of this, or ask for help? Use

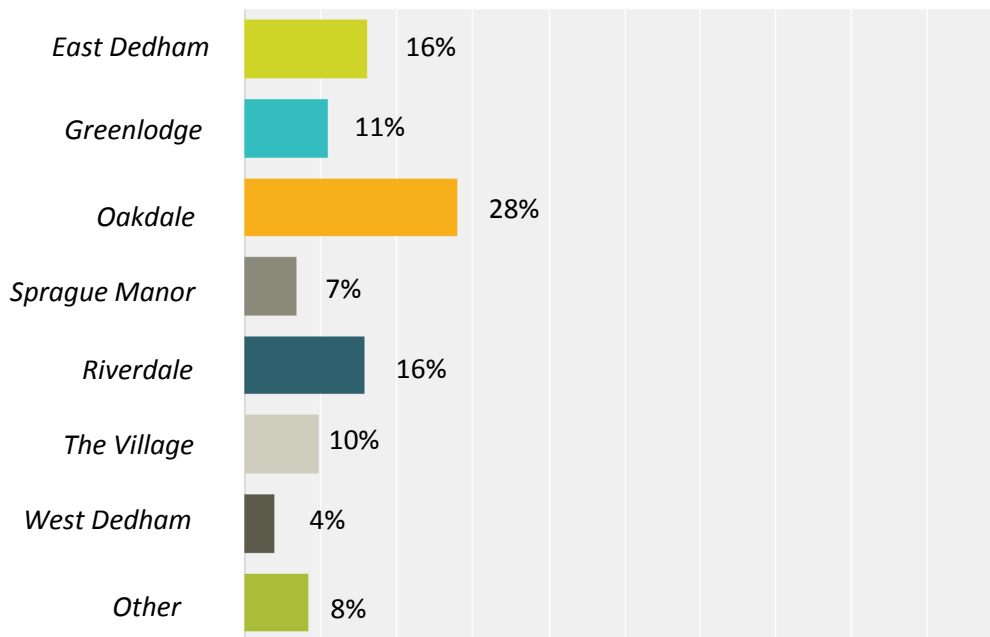
the multiple fields we have for multiple things. Get rid of the baseball fields at the ECEC and use that for the Lax field, if the Lax field is a big deal.

- Hockey rink, fishing spot, lacrosse space.
- Concentrate on maintenance. Overall I think the parks are great.
- We need to serve all generations, not just families. However, we have never had a great field complex for our youth sports. This is a baseline amenity for a suburb these days. It is a must have. We need to acquire land or develop Town owned land to create a safe, high quality complex of fields.
- Get Gonzalez field done, add light to all ball fields, fix and maintain fields. They are worst around. The worst part about it the kids know.
- Approve the bike path/ rail trail.
- Develop Striar property Develop Rail Trail Maintain and improve Dolan Rec. Center.
- Hire a new program director.
- Rail Trails are hot right now. Popping up all over MA. We need a safe space that is off of the main roads for biking walking and commuting.
- More open spaces.

16. Do you live in Dedham? (497 responses)



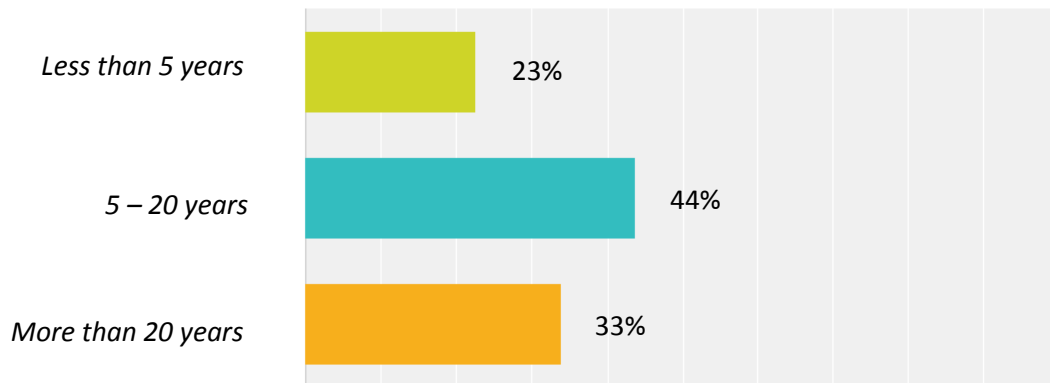
17. In which part of Dedham do you live? (492 responses)



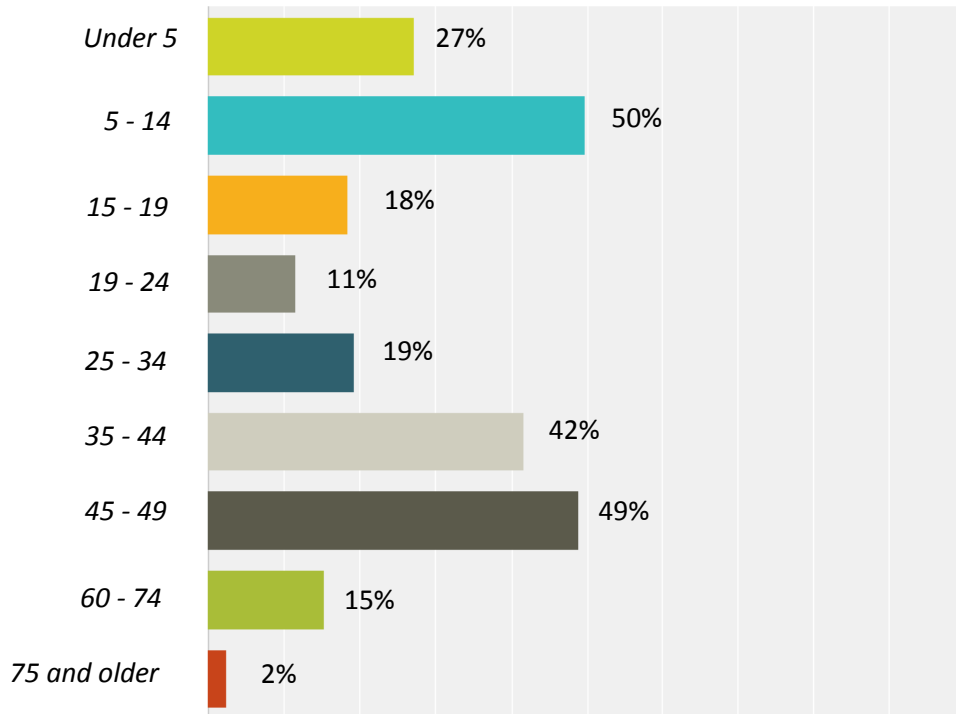
Other:

- Dedham Center
- Precinct 1
- Dexter
- In West Roxbury right near Riverdale. Shop often with great parks.
- Dexter
- High school area
- Fairbanks area
- Precinct one
- Clark Street
- NewBridge
- Actually that is a great question. I believe we are in Oakdale, but redistricting put neighborhood kids in Avery school. Live right near Fairbanks house.
- Wilson Park/Legacy Place
- Churchill
- Dedham Square
- Endicott
- East Dedham, Village border
- In the High school/pool and new elementary school neighborhood-near St. Mary's
- Paul Park Area
- Don't know if we have a name. School is split between Avery/Riverdale but live near the Square off Washington.
- Edge of Oakdale and East Dedham. Not sure with rezone
- Should be by precinct 6

18. How long have you lived in Dedham? (492 responses)



19. Check all age groups that live in your house? (498 responses)



20. Are there any other comments you would like to add about Dedham's open space and recreational opportunities? (162 responses)

- I have lived in Dedham my whole life and there has not much been done to the fields. I have no idea as to why the taxes are not going to improve the sports fields and the school fields. Fix what we have and not add to the project list. No Rail Trail!!!!
- I feel Dedham has such limited open space that we should strive to preserve as much as we reasonably can from non-recreational development.
- The pool building needs replacing. The existing spaces need better links to them.
- As a coach of Dedham Youth Lacrosse (and someone that sees what facilities other communities have), I feel that the facilities, fields, etc that are available to and dedicated to the sport of lacrosse are grossly insufficient. We could certainly use a multi-sport field, but we would need the field to be lined for lacrosse, have lights, and be made available consistently during the spring season for practice and games.
- I am embarrassed by our town soccer fields.
- Hold a fundraiser, stop all the ridiculous tax hikes and schemes.
- Dog friendly fields. Multi field complex. Affordable ice rink.
- Would love to have a dedicated lacrosse field. This sport has become very popular, and would be a great benefit to the development of our town program.
- There are some remarkable coaches that bring together the community from all different schools and backgrounds. Sports are a huge bonding mechanism for kids and community.
- Mother Brook is wonderful for East Dedham--historically, visually and the work on it by people is admirable. I just hope work continues on it.
- The rail trail should be a no brainer. The opposition arguments show the townies that are against progress and against Dedham moving into the 21st century.

- Keep up the good work. Would love to see Tennis Courts and a partnership with schools on their fields -- Riverdale overused for DYS and other field not well maintained.
- Would love to see a boat house at the Dolan Center.
- Dedham has a lot to offer in comparison to other towns, which is why we didn't look to purchase a home anywhere else. However, we have a lot of room for improvement.
- Thanks for make this survey available!
- NO RAIL TRAIL! TOO EXPENSIVE! TOO MUCH RISK OF INCREASED CRIME TOWN NEEDS TO PUT MONEY TOWARDS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS- PAVE ROADS, SENIOR CENTER, STRIAR PROPERTY NO TO RAIL TRAIL TOO EXPENSIVE DECREASED PRIVACY INCREASED CRIME.
- I would love to see Dedham become the best it can be for all its residents.
- Now that my family is older we don't use the fields as much anymore. I would like to see better upkeep in general. Better communication (especially on pool closings). Better way to pay for pool. Consider using the app MindBody to pay and check in. Better community-wide programs for tennis, pickle ball--perhaps start leagues or clubs for community competition for adults. I don't have land to donate but it should be a nice incentive for people who do. Better recycling needs to happen on the fields. So much plastic and aluminum goes to the trash. There should also be composting at events with food.
- No rail trail.
- There is no need for proposed rail trail right now....complete other current projects!
- Striar Property should have a trail.
- Focus on the land and facilities that were already purchased, and on sidewalks.
- Please do not proceed with the rail trail!
- Not every space needs to be "developed." Stands of woods and general open space provides for pleasant aesthetics. It also allows wildlife to flourish.
- No to rail trail....the property is most likely a hazardous waste site...considering all the pollutants that "old" trains dumped into the ground.....the abutters wouldn't buy pieces of the rail bed beside or behind their properties when it was offered years ago..Same issues as found in the old Readville train yards.....Without major and expensive site work on the rail bed...it would seem that it isn't safe for most activities. FYI, an article addressing this issue appeared in the Dedham Times several years ago. Sorry, I thought that I'd kept a copy, but good researching will find it.
- I used to live in Dedham and will be moving back in two years. Currently in a nearby town. Open space and recreation is very important to our family!
- The recreation department has little to no activities for teens and adults. How about adult tennis lessons for instance? We frequently look to surrounding towns for rec. activities because Dedham doesn't offer a lot.
- The town including Parks and Recreation need to do more to outreach to families who do not speak English. Putting notices in other languages or having features via Google Translate to provide that option to families. There are many families in Dedham who don't have access to the information of what is available.
- I'm glad you're doing a master plan. Please address the fields, every other town has better fields than we do! Buying property for an outdoor public pool would be wonderful.
- No.
- Please develop the Striar property.
- If town website could keep a detailed list of all walking and hiking trails.
- The rail trail has to happen.
- Many people in Dedham are open to the possibilities for improvement especially as their own families age and grandparents can't attend games because of accessibility issues.
- To have more options with regards to using the current open spaces. Right now most are already in use w/team athletics & school sports.

- To have more options with regards to using the current open spaces. Right now most are already in use w/team athletics & school sports.
- Dedham is a great community & I would like to see it improve to the point where it is comparable to surrounding upscale towns like Westwood & Needham. A more aesthetically appealing Dedham would also be nice but I think the town programs could use a big improvement.
- Please support the Rail Trail. It will be a transformative change that will benefit the town.
- Sidewalks should be eliminated (very poor condition) make wider streets. Our sidewalks force people to drive, when they could walk.
- We should preserve all the open space we currently have and encourage developing more open space.
- Let's focus on rehabbing the spaces we have and thinking outside of the regular sports field box. We need spaces for multigenerational use. Skate parks and walking trails are just as important. This town has the space and the interest to do great things.
- We need more of them. I usually go out of town to recreate.
- I definitely support the Rail Trail! I would also love to see pedestrian access to the ball fields from Dedham Square (walking down Eastern Ave) simplified. If you cross with the light from the square you have to cross Eastern Ave to stay on the sidewalk or walk on the grass.
- Thank you for making this survey.
- I look forward to checking the local paper as to this topic.
- Fix the decrepit school fields. Fix the landscaping and grass areas. Let the Highway Department administrate the Parks Department.
- Existing fields desperately need more attention in the form of weekly maintenance services as compared to what is evident in surrounding towns.
- I've tried very hard to volunteer to run a youth program through sports and rec. and it was impossible after a year to make any headway, mainly because it wasn't an existing offering. I even went in to meet parks and rec. folks in person, and spent two hours applying (successfully) for a full equipment grant. Being more receptive to community members would be very welcome.
- Rail trail would provide a unique open space that would service all ages and a wider variety of recreation than other open spaces. It would lift up the entire town in many ways.
- Thank you for doing this, please keep at it. Is there a chance to pull-in solar into the unused open spaces to benefit the town?
- More adult activities - like yoga or dance in the evening. Or add aqua aerobics to the pool offerings without charging extra for it. If you made it available with a pool membership, more folks would join the pool. You would collect more money (\$200/year) rather than \$60/class. Make yoga available during youth program times (clipper swim team or gymnastics, etc.) so the parents do not hover. If you expand the youth offerings to at least 1.5 hours and put the yoga (or whatever) class within that time period, it would benefit family offerings and generate more money for the Rec. department.
- Offer more programs. Norwood recreation has floor hockey, etc.
- Great parks, would like to see a way to encourage folks ALL around Dedham to go to different areas, outside the ones they're use to - meet neighbors in diff areas.
- We need a rail trail.
- Always keep and maintain as much open space as possible. Once lost it is rarely reclaimable.
- I would love to see a park, playground, open field picnic area within walking distance for grandkids.
- Good basic bones, needs more work.
- Add restrooms.
- I love the many different parks and indoor/outdoor recreational things that are in Dedham. If I were to make any big plans it would be to keep them as they are but continue with the upkeep and keep them running and working well.

- We do not want to spend a lot of money building unnecessary fields. Let's maintain the current fields and clean up what we have. If we cannot maintain current space how will we maintain additional rec spaces?
- I support the rail trail.
- Keep up the good work with the maintenance of the playgrounds!
- Overall, Dedham P&R is great!
- Thank you for asking the Dedham Resident's opinion via survey.
- The great parks and rec. department is one of the things that has kept us in this town. Keep up the great work and keep improving and we'll continue to make Dedham the
- We have plenty of playing fields. We do not need a more competitive sports related stuff. We need conservation, green space, preservation.
- How can we make roads safer for bicycles?
- Can we get recycling bins at the fields?
- Yes, please increase community garden plots.
- Wilson Mountain and the Water Trail are gems. Need better enforcement of leashing dogs at Wilson Mountain. The Rail Trail would be an excellent addition. Free Wigwam Pond!
- Don't build a rail trail and build out the manor fields that have been on the waiting list for 15 years!!!
- Sidewalks are needed to access these areas that are discussed in this survey.
- Dedham is a large town that functions as a small town. Dedham should develop a CPC and start funding recreational and open space pursuits. There is a lot of potential if everyone worked hard and dug their heels in! Also, the Parks and Recreation Department should step and offer more programs and push to take care of the land better. They don't do much right now. They should create a program offering brochure and mail to every resident like every other town in MetroWest does.
- A light on the sign at the Dolan Center would be nice so people could find the entrance at night.
- Would love to see a climbing wall at some of the playgrounds. The parks and recreation department needs to do a better job of communicating with residents about the opportunities available through the parks and recreation department.
- We need a lacrosse field, did I mention that earlier? Cleaning up and maintaining the Charles River boat access would also be nice.
- Bike paths add to the health of all ages in a community. They are safe and sought after. Look into the Minuteman Trail. Hard to imagine not having one.
- I think that the Manor fields would add some much needed recreational space on this side of town. I also believe the Rail Trail would be beneficial for all generations - kids could learn to ride their bikes on it, the middle schooler's and high schooler's could use it for cross country track meets, and the older generations could use it for a safe place to run away from car traffic. Also, the rail trail could help bridge neighborhoods. I also think that having a dedicated ice hockey rink would be wonderful. Right now, all the Dedham teams are forced to spend tons of money and go to all the rinks nearby.
- Our fields are not the best and overused, we need more fields.
- If the town is going to spend money on upgrades/more space make sure you have the infrastructure to maintain said purchases. Otherwise you get what we have which were once nice fields fallen into complete disrepair. On top of that a school department that refuses to allow access to the only turf field in town without involving a fee. What happened to Boch Ice making an access way to little Wigwam?
- Dedham needs to improve quality of life for various age groups. Streets are largely unsafe for kids on bikes. Bus needs to stop at legacy rather than making walkers sprint across Route 1. Recreation space and access needs to be integrated using schools, town and town-owned land/facilities of all types and uses. Why can't we "fly above Dedham" and look at where people want to go and ask how would they get to everything without a car using safe, interconnected trails, sidewalks and bridges? How can we make Dedham connected to all of the similar facilities in adjacent towns? Make Newbridge

owners live up to their zoning and development commitment to make their soccer field available to Dedham residents. Overall: we need to redefine "open space" and "conservation areas" to include more use or transit through these areas.

- We lack promotion /marketing of outdoor spaces.
- Explore what other towns like Norwood, Canton and Needham offer. Poll people about new options they would like.
- Don't spend a bunch of money building new spaces/facilities, just take care of the ones we have.
- Dedham trails are great! As a parent of a young elementary school child that participates in three season sports it is frustrating to hear the sports organization having difficulty in finding space for practice I.e. Soccer, lacrosse
- I fully support the Dedham rail trail. I think it would increase property values, increase sense of community and encourage more outdoor enjoyment.
- Add more programs for seniors to enjoy the outdoors.
- I would love to see the area under the Route 1 bridge by town square turned into usable space- art or maybe permanent chess/dominos tables. It would also be a great space for gardeners market on rainy days!
- I support the proposal for the Dedham Rail trail, as long as the proposed bridges can be developed without impacting truck delivery and existing businesses in town. Sprague / Manor is isolated from the Town by the railroad tracks. Many kids and adults cross the tracks daily to head towards Oakdale Square. Improving connectivity of neighborhoods in order to support connectivity, biking, and walking should be a priority. Dedham's unique water resources are an important asset.
- I am happy about the water trails. We should look at other towns across USA for out of the box ideas on open space and rec. opps.
- We don't have children so we don't use the recreational facilities.
- We need to put parks back into Parks & Rec. I love that the town does so much for organized sports but we desperately need more park and passive recreation space and incorporate biking and walking access to our recreation fields and open spaces to make this happen. Thanks for all your hard work.
- Our youth have no place to go hang out in the summer time unlike our neighboring towns they roam around town they have nowhere to go to have some fun outside.
- I am an abutter to the rail bed, and like most abutters we support the Dedham Rail Trail initiative. There are a few folks that are against it because they are severely miss-informed. A better job has to be done in informing people of the benefits of this great initiative.
- Approve the Rail trail for biking & walking.
- I strongly supported adding a dog park soon after I moved to Dedham. Thanks so much for implementing it!
- I appreciate the trash cans. The Condon Playground is always very clean and well taken care of.
- Keep working it.
- More promoting of activities should be done. Maybe a couple open houses as the seasons change to showcase activities available to families.
- Please make a walking/biking trail! Thank you!
- I think the proposed rail trail would be great for the community and for real estate values.
- Dedham is more than 1/3 Open Space - but much of that is not accessible due to it being wetlands. Still, the residents of this town should know that it exists and be educated about the town's biodiversity and natural history. Knowledge is the most important thing when it comes to protecting our natural resources and engaging our community to help use and preserve our open space.
- Let's continue to invest in open space and recreation to keep Dedham great!
- I'd love to see thoughtfulness around resources for all ages, abilities, and interests. To date we've focused on youth athletics to the detriment of other age groups and interests.
- I am an abutter to the proposed Rail Trail and I completely support its construction and completion.

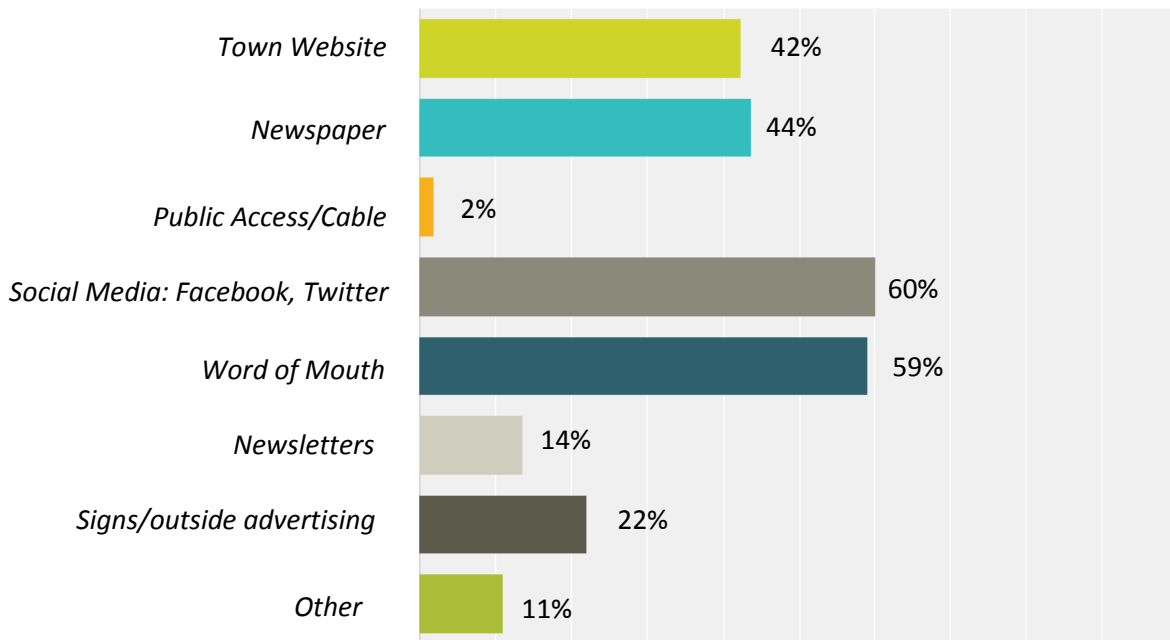
- Create email list of residents to advertise opportunities.
- We need an area to compost.
- Please remind all the doubters how they felt about purchasing SMA Fathers land. What an asset that is to our town!
- I would love to see the Rail Trail happen! I think it would add a lot to the community.
- I'd like to see Parks & Recreation employees to be better trained and held more accountable for better ongoing maintenance of fields. In comparison to surrounding communities, our fields are embarrassingly bad.
- We live ridiculous close to the rail trail and are so excited to have it happen. It is a myth that all who live close do not want it.
- We support the Rail Trail. Would love more walking-friendly opportunities for the entire family.
- Please acquire more land for sports for our youth.
- I would love to see opportunities for community rowing or crew. I noted that Dexter has river access- why can't the town?
- It would be great for little kids to have a splash pad or water feature in a couple of the playgrounds.
- Adding a bike trail
- Thank you very much to the Parks & Rec. team for doing a great job on involving the whole community in this process.
- Cease consideration of building the 'Rail Trail.' It is too intrusive into area neighborhoods. Cost is prohibitive and future safety issues and maintenance will only increase our tax bills.
- More options offered for school vacations. Summer and school breaks. Parents want options to bring their kids in town. Some programs become boring after a few years for kids. Hire companies that can bring STEM programs, LEGO, cooking etc. Scouts want an open area to fly kites, set off rockets, teach robotics, teach cooking etc.
- We love Dedham and all of the improvements being made. Love when special attention is given to outdoor spaces to create a real destination.
- There are MULTIPLE landscape architects living in Dedham. Put us to work! We'd love to see the existing spaces connected. Would love you know if there's actually any kind of trail in the public land near Goshen Street, if I can keep walking where Greenlodge Street ends without trespassing or stumbling into a commuter or freight train.
- We love Dedham and would love to see the Rail Trail Become a reality!
- Develop open space and passive recreation.
- We desperately need more parking and safety crosswalks for everyone. Parking lots are very dangerous now.
- Thanks for taking the time to put together this survey!
- Most of the time we drive to nearest open space because walking is too dangerous with lack of sidewalks, speeding cars & constant road work.
- We have so many neighbor gyms that need to Open Up after school / early evening / and weekends. Children and Adults need more Face to Face Time. How much could a janitor and a little electricity cost?
- Baseball fields!
- There is a lack of public knowledge about these areas and opportunities especially in the Riverdale area. Other parts of Dedham have rolling signs about sign ups or team victories. Riverdale is always left out. We are part of Dedham too!
- Bocce court.
- NO to the Dedham Trail. Enough money has been spent on under-used facilities/park.
- I really wish there was walking trails, open (clean) green areas. The area near the river and Riverside Drive is always dirty, I wouldn't want to picnic on that grass. I'm a big biker and would love Dedham to be more bike friendly.

- It is nice to see it being addressed and hopefully words turn into actions.
- Thanks for looking into this.
- Thanks for asking.
- It is often hard to determine what fields / facilities are available for non-organized activities. In general it is difficult to use a single website to get a good understanding of how town facilities are used and by what groups.
- There is abundant litter throughout the town. While Dedham Civic Pride has done great things to beautify intersections and small plots, there is still far too much litter, which leaves a bad impression.
- I am happy to see some real thought and effort put into planning for the next 5-10 years to meet the needs of our changing demographics.
- Thank you for the wonderful work you do. We can take pride in Dedham's parks because of your work and dedication.
- Better notification of events.
- Keep at it. That is how changes are made.
- Thanks for caring about these important parts of the community.
- Better promote the Dedham Trails website and the information available.
- This is anonymous but I'd be happy to help in any way we can, please feel free to reach out grenier.evan@gmail.com
- The rail trail is a bad idea. It is way too close to people's home's to be safe, and there are much better options for walking trails around Dedham, such as better maintaining current facilities like Wilson Mountain.
- Let's make Dedham a more livable and inviting community with lots of outdoor recreational opportunities. People outside of Dedham think of us as Rte. 1 only, I think prioritizing projects that improve quality of life over more real estate (residential and business) development is key to sustaining the quality of life of our residents.
- Thanks for keeping everything looking so great. My main thought is that there are now plenty of sports fields and playgrounds, how can we create more walkable, enjoyable nature spaces for people of all ages? Inspiration: Franklin park woods in Boston, arboretum in Jamaica Plain pond, southwest corridor in Jamaica Plain, Millennium park, Noanet woods, Cutler park, etc.
- Please improve the open space and recreational fields in Dedham. Especially in this day and age with technology, we need to improve our parks, recreation and open space to maximize the opportunity to keep our kids outdoors, active and in the community for both mental and physical health and continue on through their lives as they get older and participate in sports and a healthy lifestyle.
- We need more consistency and better communication. For instance, I'm a semi-regular swimmer at the Dedham Pool and I never know when it's open. I show up when it's supposed to be open and nobody is there. That really bugs me. Also, usage and drive/walk/bike depends on season. More walking/biking could be done if sidewalk shoveling was enforced. It is not. Washington Street is always un-walkable because residents don't shovel their sidewalks.
- Support the rail trail and a state of the art dog park. Also off leash trails.
- This survey seems VERY skewed to getting traction for the Rail Trail. The town needs to start listening to the people who live ON the trail that do not support it. 98% of those with yards on the trail Do Not want it. We need to all respect that and look for other areas for a similar path system.
- You might consider revising questions 8 and 9. If you keep 9 as is, you should revise 8 to read "How far is the closest open space or recreation facility _that you regularly use_ from your home?" I live close to a field and can walk to it, but that has only been of value when I had kids in organized sports. So while my answer to 9 explains my proximity to a field, it does not explain how far I have to travel to get to a space that is of value to me. Also, why is it relevant to ask how long someone has lived in Dedham? I worry that people will be tempted to cater more to the desires of people who have lived

here a long time, but I think the needs of people who have recently committed to Dedham with an intent to raise their families here are just as valid.

- As for recreational opportunities, I think that Park and Rec. needs to offer more classes for physical fitness, lifetime sports. Why can't those classes be offered at local schools in the evening? Boston has a community school network (or at least they did when we lived there back in the day) that brought programming to neighborhoods.
- Not at this time.
- The majority of the abutters of the proposed Dedham Heritage Rail Trail think it is a waste of taxpayers money and also would infringe on their privacy, let alone the cost as well as the safety and security of our homes and families. At a proposed cost of over \$3 million, it is a glorified sidewalk with no natural scenery, only the backs of homes and business as well as going through two schools. .
- Dedham is on the right path. Thank You!
- I wish the people in charge of the recreational opportunities we just more responsive and seemed to enjoy their jobs more. Conversations with them make are short and make you feel as if you are annoying them. Having to pay a janitor an hour before and after an event at a school is great for some activities, but not for all. If the janitor isn't needed before or after you shouldn't have to pay for a full hour.
- Devoting millions of dollars to a 1.4 mile rail trail would be a huge waste of money, whether these are state grant funds or town funds or a mix. We have had many more pressing needs for a very long time. We should take care of those needs before spending millions of dollars and antagonizing our property owners and businesses. I will be very disappointed if the rail trail issue hijacks this recreation planning effort. Thank you for seeking ideas and comments.
- Programs need to be publicized more. Perhaps by inserts in Dedham Times, Dedham/West Roxbury Transcript, Needham newspaper 3-4 times a year, perhaps by roadside signs.
- More trails.

21. How do you receive your information about parks, recreation and open spaces areas and programming? (484 responses)



Other:

- Emails
- School fliers/emails

- I would like to see an informative eletter.
- Precinct 7 Facebook
- Town meetings
- The Dedham Times
- Via school info
- Don't actually hear much about it. Could be better for sure.
- Email from committees
- I search it out. Emails from the Rec. dept are also helpful. However, we do a poor job reaching out to the newer residents. Dedham real estate agents could provide a welcome to Dedham booklet with all the town services and opportunities.
- Friends of the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail
- I don't get this information.
- Town website previously was unusable and not kept current. Hope new site continues to improve. Existing parks/recreation website has dead links and "klutzy" feel. Use more "push" info on web to town residents.
- I don't really see programs that relate to me. I think Parks and Rec. only offer youth sports. If more, I don't know about it.
- Private sports organizations
- Town GIS system, Open Space Plan
- Dedham Patch
- Never hear anything
- Don't get much information, I have to search for it
- Emails from parks and rec. and people involved with open space
- Neighbors
- Flyers from school or at rec. events
- Nextdoor.com is becoming important
- Parks & rec. dept email blasts
- Internet searches
- Dedham Patch
- Web search
- Announcements in the public schools
- Parks and rec. email
- In reality, I don't receive information despite attempts. Friends in the neighborhood feel the same way. I'd love be able to get them more involved.
- Neighborhood association emails
- Town Website is unreliable for updated information on pool closings.
- Newspaper websites (not the paper itself)