



Participant/Small Groups Summary

Dedham – Open Space and Recreation Public Workshop – March 7, 2017

Instructions

We would like to understand how residents gauge the Town's progress in meeting needs for natural resource protection and recreational opportunities. Follow along with the facilitator at your table to answer these questions. Please leave this worksheet with your answers at the sign-in table before you leave.

Question 1. What are we doing well? What is the Town doing well by way of protecting the natural environment and/or providing recreational opportunities for residents?

- Recreational and sports opportunities for kids/teens all year long (15)
- Number and geographic location of parks (2)
- Good communication with Parks and Rec. (3)
- Awareness of open space amenities, and in turn, stewards of sites (7)
- Creation of trails for recreation (Dolan Center, Wilson Mountain) (22)
- Access to Charles River and other water trails (18)
- Maintenance of fields/parks (12)
- Bridge repair
- Playgrounds (3)
- Protection of riparian areas (4)
- Dedham Day (3)
- Using volunteers to run recreation programs for youth (2)
- Improving playgrounds
- Maintenance of Wilson Mountain
- Fairbank restrooms/concessions (2)
- Dog park (2)
- Avery School (2)
- Indoor recreation/pool (3)
- Track facility at HS (3)
- Continuous improvements to parks
- James Joyce Ramble
- Youth soccer
- Installing synthetic fields
- Organized trips (L.L. Bean) from Dolan Center (2)
- Open Space Committee is active
- Lots of ballfields
- Securing funding for park improvements (Gonzalez) (2)
- Community gardens at Dolan center/Greenhouse at Endicott

- **Vernal pool designations**
- **Consideration of the CPA**
- **Development at Striar Park**
- **Consideration of rail trail**
- **Conservation Commission is well run**
- **Events at Endicott**

Question 2: What could we do better? What existing recreation facilities could benefit from improvements? How could they be improved? What natural resource protection strategies being used by the Town could be strengthened?

- **Better balance/maintenance of youth sports/fields (equal opportunities for space) (39) #1 Priority - Group 1, 2, #3 Priority - Group 3, 4, 5**
- **Equal recreation opportunities for all ages/demographics (primarily adults) (8) #2 Priority - Group 1**
- **Davis Field at Memorial Park needs improvements (4) #3 Priority - Group 1**
- **Better communication of programming by age group/demographic (branding/marketing) (10) #2 Priority - Group 2**
- **Better promotion of access to open space resources (8)**
- **Striar property original uses (5)**
- **Better access to Wigwam Pond (8)**
- **Splash pads at playgrounds are needed (2)**
- **Port a johns/restrooms are needed (7) #3 Priority - Group 2**
- **Promote the rail trail (7)**
- **Protect our water supply (2)**
- **Better clean-up/trash pick-up (43)**
- **Maintenance of fields (31) #1 Priority - Group 3, 5**
- **Better connectivity/bikes/pedestrians (21) #2 Priority - Group 3, #1 Priority - Group 4**
- **Improved access/maintenance of waterways (6) #2 Priority - Group 4**
- **Make Endicott Estate more park-like (2)**
- **Make the pool bigger, cleaner (3)**
- **Tennis facilities (4)**
- **More 'pocket parks' (5)**
- **Access to Wigwam Pond (5) #2 Priority - Group 5**
- **More fields to grow lacrosse program (and others) (4)**
- **Dolan Center is underutilized (good offer senior programming during the day)**
- **Dedham Commons lacks access/benches/sidewalks**
- **Parks and Rec. is underfunded**
- **River access with small boat put-ins (3)**
- **Improved collaboration between Town/Private and State-run properties**
- **Low Impact Development techniques at sites**
- **Allow on-leash dogs in Town parks**
- **Improvements at Gonzalez Field**
- **Access/parking at Town Forest**
- **Improve trail maintenance at Wilson Mountain**
- **Certify vernal pools**
- **Offer more undeveloped recreation areas**
- **Connect Whitcomb Woods and Cutler Park**
- **Capen Fields (2)**
- **Paul Park**
- **Sprinkler systems/irrigation for fields**

Question 3: What is the Town not doing? What are new recreational opportunities that the Town should consider? What natural areas need protection but are not? What are some new strategies to protect the natural environment?

- Community gardens throughout the Town (3)
- **Programming for growing senior population (8) #2 Priority - Group 5, #3 Priority - Group 4**
- Make some parks accessible in inclement weather (2)
- Street/Ice rinks (3)
- **More lacrosse fields (12) #1 Priority - Group 1, 2**
- **Safety (sidewalks, cross walks and traffic lights) at/near parks (Fairbank and Memorial Park) (12) #2 Priority - Group 1, 2**
- **On road bike lanes (3) #3 Priority - Group 1**
- Green space in Dedham Square/the Village (5)
- Protection of marsh lands for wildlife
- Access to Wigwam Pond for recreation (6)
- **Improved communication on open space/programming amenities (12) #2 Priority - Group 4, #3 Priority - Group 4**
- **Swimming spots in summer (4) #3 Priority - Group 2**
- **Striar property...do something! (12) #1 Priority - Group 3**
- Purchase/acquire more open space (3)
- Indoor/outdoor arts performance space (2)
- Bocce and horseshoes (maybe at Endicott) (4)
- **Bike paths (8) #2 Priority - Group 3, #3 Priority - Group 5**
- **Splash park/outdoor pool (6) #3 Priority - Group 3**
- Improved connectivity (2)
- **Improved field maintenance (17) #1 Priority - Group 4**
- Improved boating opportunities
- **Rail Trail (18) #1 Priority - Group 5**
- Public basketball court
- Need winter programming (2)
- Need walking trails/shade trees around ballfields (secondary uses)
- Low Impact Development
- Work with schools for curriculum/field trips/community service centered on environmental protection
- More vernal pool designations (2)
- Implementation of CPA
- Street tree planting
- Enforce trash/clean-up
- Level/flat walking trails for seniors
- Parks and Rec. operating budget is underfunded
- New field at Capen (2)
- Public 'Clean Up Day'
- More lacrosse fields

What are the top 5 sports you, your brother/sister, or other family members do on a weekly basis?

- **Cross country (2) #1 Priority for Children's Group**
- **Hiking**
- **Baseball (2)**
- **Basketball (3) #1 Priority for Children's Group**
- **Soccer (3) #1 Priority for Children's Group**
- **Swimming (3) #1 Priority for Children's Group**