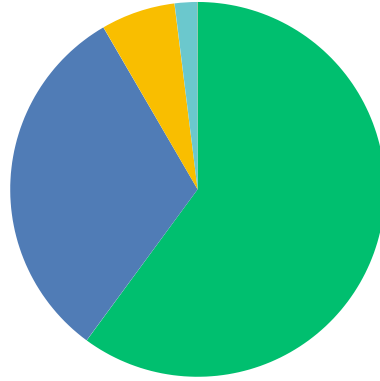


Petersham Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey Results 2023

Total surveys received: 209 or 17.5% of 1,194 residents (2020 Census).

Q1 How important is it to you for the Town to acquire or conserve open space?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 6

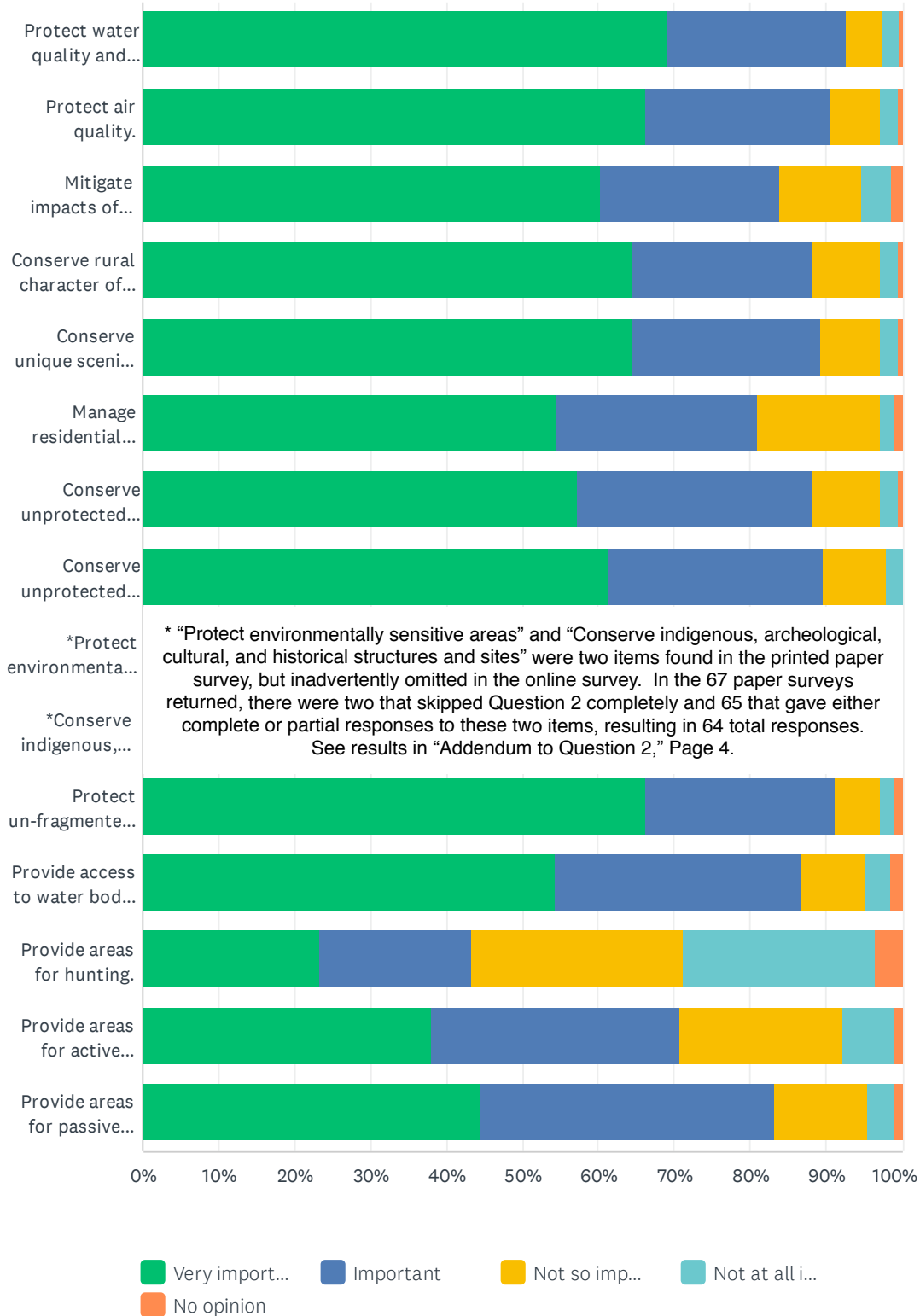


Very import... Important Not so imp... Not at all i...
No opinion

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	60.10%	122
Important	31.53%	64
Not so important	6.40%	13
Not at all important	1.97%	4
No opinion	0.00%	0
TOTAL		203

Q2 Specifically, how important is it to you for the Town to acquire or conserve open space for the following reasons:

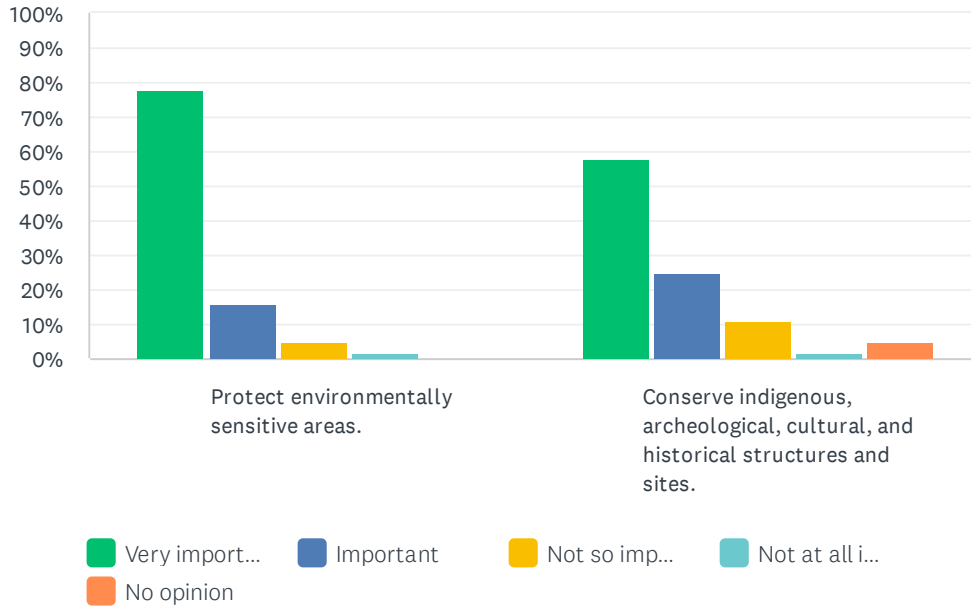
Answered: 206 Skipped: 3



	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT SO IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Protect water quality and wetlands.	69.12% 141	23.53% 48	4.90% 10	1.96% 4	0.49% 1	204	1.41
Protect air quality.	66.18% 135	24.51% 50	6.37% 13	2.45% 5	0.49% 1	204	1.47
Mitigate impacts of climate change.	60.29% 123	23.53% 48	10.78% 22	3.92% 8	1.47% 3	204	1.63
Conserve rural character of the town.	64.39% 132	23.90% 49	8.78% 18	2.44% 5	0.49% 1	205	1.51
Conserve unique scenic areas and vistas.	64.39% 132	24.88% 51	7.80% 16	2.44% 5	0.49% 1	205	1.50
Manage residential growth.	54.63% 112	26.34% 54	16.10% 33	1.95% 4	0.98% 2	205	1.68
Conserve unprotected farm land.	57.35% 117	30.88% 63	8.82% 18	2.45% 5	0.49% 1	204	1.58
Conserve unprotected forest land.	61.39% 124	28.22% 57	8.42% 17	1.98% 4	0.00% 0	202	1.51
*Protect environmentally sensitive areas.	See "Addendum to Question 2," Page 4.						
*Conserve indigenous, archeological, cultural, and historical structures and sites.	See "Addendum to Question 2," Page 4.						
Protect un-fragmented habitats and wildlife corridors.	66.34% 136	24.88% 51	5.85% 12	1.95% 4	0.98% 2	205	1.46
Provide access to water bodies and conservation land.	54.41% 111	32.35% 66	8.33% 17	3.43% 7	1.47% 3	204	1.65
Provide areas for hunting.	23.41% 48	20.00% 41	27.80% 57	25.37% 52	3.41% 7	205	2.65
Provide areas for active recreation.	38.05% 78	32.68% 67	21.46% 44	6.83% 14	0.98% 2	205	2.00
Provide areas for passive recreation.	44.61% 91	38.73% 79	12.25% 25	3.43% 7	0.98% 2	204	1.77

Q2 Specifically, how important is it to you for the Town to acquire or conserve open space for the following reasons:

Answered: 65 Skipped: 2



	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT SO IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Protect environmentally sensitive areas.	78.13% 50	15.63% 10	4.69% 3	1.56% 1	0.00% 0	64
Conserve indigenous, archeological, cultural, and historical structures and sites.	57.81% 37	25.00% 16	10.94% 7	1.56% 1	4.69% 3	64

Q2. Other reasons or comments, please specify:

Open space is the most important resource that we have. After air, water, and land, open space along with clean air and clean water are the only factors that really ensure that we have the resources that are needed to keep this planet livable for humans! I include the earth under the land in open space. Once commercial interests have access to the deep resources of this Earth, we cannot ensure that the integrity of the land, water, air and us will remain as intact as possible.
Preserve habitat for wildlife and pollinators.
No to the Town acquiring open space, yes to the Town conserving open space.
I think of the earth as our mother, and I want to treat her as such. Thanks.
For the health and wellbeing of future generations.
Petersham already has much protected open space but the town could add more specifically for the reasons above, and particularly in or near the center of town.
While the environmental concerns are most important, we are lucky to already have many protected areas thanks to Harvard Forest, Mass Audubon, the Trustees, and local land trusts. A newer concern is the changing character of the town "thanks" to the booming housing market. If we continue to allow parcels of land to be sold off, divided, and developed into cookie cutter homes which sell at prices locals cannot afford, then Petersham will no longer be Petersham.
Conservation must include partnership with the Nipmuc tribal government, rather than the usual conservation easements, and I would prefer that the conservation plan also include direct, unimpeded (meaning no CR) land transfer to them. Re: preserving the character of the town, I mostly worry about subdivision, gentrification (there is very little affordable land/housing anymore), and ground-mounted solar being installed on forest and prime ag soils.
Keeping land open for a variety of uses, easily accessible, ensures people can utilize that land and thus feel ownership - feel they are stewards of the land. Restriction has the opposite effect. Keeping open space available is a gift to future generations!
Very important: Conserve and rematriate indigenous (Nipmuc) land (this option seems to be missing from the online survey).
The reason that I listed "Manage Residential Growth" and "Maintaining Rural Character" as "Not at All Important" is because I feel that some zoning and conservation decisions made in the past in Petersham with the stated goal of protecting against "development" and/or "maintaining the rural character" have actually been antithetical to conservation goals and have led to the further fragmentation of critical habitats, open space, and farmland.
We don't need more untaxable land.
Mitigate impacts of climate change - ?. Conserve unprotected farmland - where? Protect environmentally sensitive areas - ?
I think moreso than conserve land for the reasons above, we recognize the inevitable need for affordable housing, the importance of increasing diversity in our town, and righting the wrongs of Petersham's past and rematriating (giving back) land to Indigenous peoples (Nipmucs).
My husband and I moved to Petersham for the open space that is protected. We all have walked and cross-country skied on many of the town's trails. We had also biked a lot in town. I have never lived in a city and have no desire, too. As a child, I biked and hiked through fields and pastures.
I'm for conservation, but conservation for others at my personal expense is frustrating.
It is critically important so make land conservation an immediate priority. There are too many people "developing" land here and in surrounding communities. Logging (strip clearing forests) is going on everywhere, including the delicate Nichewaung (Glen Valley Road areas). Look at the devastation along 32A just beyond the Marvel property toward Hardwick - also Phillipston - indiscriminate development and "forest clearing" is ruining this region permanently. Act now.
Need to protect wildlife and native plants.
Petersham - and Massachusetts as a whole - is overdeveloped. Protect undeveloped land - and un-developing land - should be the highest priority.
Circled "indigenous, archeological..." for emphasis. Historical structures are not so important to me.
What is "passive recreation"?
open areas to residents, but also everybody including Nipmuc Nation and other members of Historically Underserved Communities. (Remember: Petersham's nickname: "Volunteer Town!")
Preserve space BETWEEN neighbors to maintain peace.
Harvard Forest, Trustees, Audubon, Mount Grace, and DCR offer numerous justifications for the land within our town. Allocating tax funds to address the very same purposes that private organizations already excel at appears duplicative. What our town truly lacks is a focus on promoting active recreation.
Petersham has an enormous amount of conserved land for a town of its size. Most was conserved by DCR, Harvard Forest, Trustees and Audubon. Several of these are able to purchase more. Petersham has not made the most of these benefits. If tax payer dollars are available for Open Space and Recreation, I hope they will be focused upon improved access to land conserved and trails for the public to connect with and experience the conservation tracts.
Do not send multiple choice questionnaires.
Preserving the rural beauty and character of Petersham would be my highest aim. Everything else on your list follows from that.
My answers reflect the importance of balancing ideas and goals of multiple stakeholders.
manage residential growth: these cookie cutter houses popping up are degrading the character of our town. Some modification of zoning (or other town) laws needs to set specs on misuse of cheap building materials.
The previous questions are difficult to answer regarding Petersham. There are already many conservation properties in Petersham: MDC, Harvard Forest, EQLT, Brooks Conservation, etc. I think the conservation is important. With so much already in town I don't see the need for the town to acquire more land.
I live in Petersham because the things I consider important are listed above.
I support low impact recreation such as hiking and snowshoeing (not motorized recreation or hunting).

I don't think the town needs to acquire MORE land, but it should care for land already owned. With all the land in town already in some form of public ownership or protection, I don't in principle think that residential growth needs to be tightly managed - except for the fact that the school cannot handle any more enrollment without a significant increase in tax rates (which are quite low and I would support raising!).

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IS RISKY BUSINESS

I would say conserving unprotected farm and forest land is highest priority

Need to have landowners and hunters, active recreation users to meet and discuss concerns

Quabbin has plenty of room already for hunting. And there are many conserved acres of farm land and forest land already protected here.

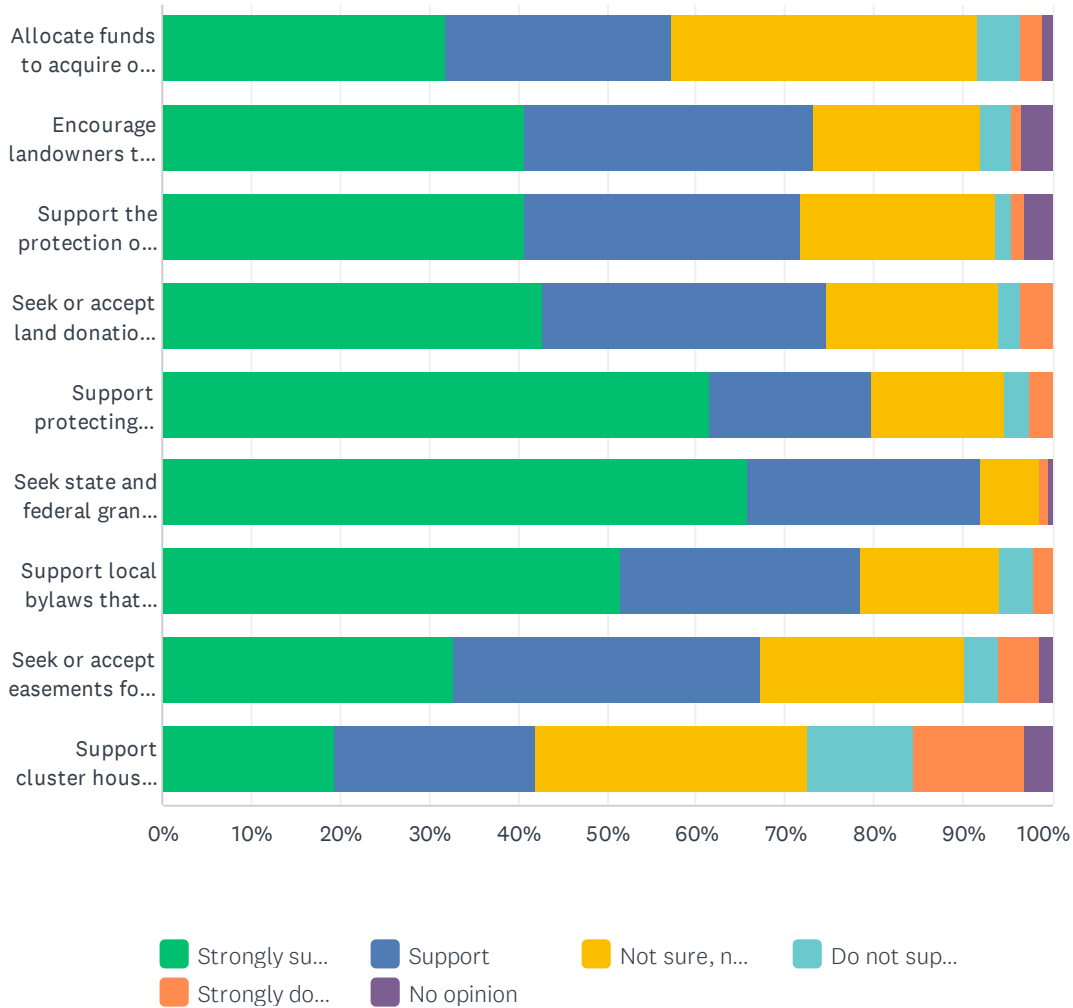
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more open space for hunting and fishing for the kids

NO HUNTING!

Q3 In order to conserve open space in Petersham, what actions by the Town would you support?

Answered: 205 Skipped: 4



	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	NOT SURE, NEED MORE INFO	DO NOT SUPPORT	STRONGLY DO NOT SUPPORT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Allocate funds to acquire or conserve more open space.	31.84% 64	25.37% 51	34.33% 69	4.98% 10	2.49% 5	1.00% 2	201	3.01
Encourage landowners to use Chapter 61 property tax reduction program for forest, farm, and recreation land.	40.59% 82	32.67% 66	18.81% 38	3.47% 7	0.99% 2	3.47% 7	202	2.48
Support the protection of indigenous, archeological, cultural, and historical structures and sites.	40.59% 82	31.19% 63	21.78% 44	1.98% 4	1.49% 3	2.97% 6	202	2.51
Seek or accept land donations and development rights from landowners.	42.79% 86	31.84% 64	19.40% 39	2.49% 5	3.48% 7	0.00% 0	201	2.37
Support protecting forests from clear-cutting for industrial solar projects.	61.58% 125	18.23% 37	14.78% 30	2.96% 6	2.46% 5	0.00% 0	203	2.01
Seek state and federal grants for land protection and management.	65.84% 133	26.24% 53	6.44% 13	0.00% 0	0.99% 2	0.50% 1	202	1.60
Support local bylaws that further protect wetlands and forests from other development.	51.47% 105	26.96% 55	15.69% 32	3.92% 8	1.96% 4	0.00% 0	204	2.15
Seek or accept easements for public access on privately owned land in order to access or connect public open spaces (e.g. to access a hiking trail or extend a bike path).	32.67% 66	34.65% 70	22.77% 46	3.96% 8	4.46% 9	1.49% 3	202	2.73
Support cluster housing or multi-family housing to protect more open space.	19.50% 39	22.50% 45	30.50% 61	12.00% 24	12.50% 25	3.00% 6	200	3.73

Q3. Other actions you recommend or comments, please specify:

"industrial" needs to be defined. Support small-scale solar projects/Don't support clear-cutting at all/So many questions to ask - very site specific
Many people don't know about Chapter 61. Seek or accept land donations and development rights from landowners to the town or land conservation organizations. Seek state, federal, and foundation grants for land protection and management. Think more broadly - there are many land protection/conservation non-profits that can have the protection role, not just the Town!
Don't seek but only accept land donations or easements for public access on privately owned land.
How about supporting solar panel installations over our parking in area schools? - instead of in fields. I think that cluster housing helps create neighborly community.
Excellent options, especially the last two.
Some I noted as "support" above are supported in theory but more information is needed, such as how the town would handle stewardship of lands it conserved or lands it was donated. Not sure how we'd handle it, but we may have volunteer interest? Also, overall, I strongly support land conservation but there is a question of whether the town needs to directly conserve or just work with the many existing orgs (noted in my comment above) already set up to do this work. It seems the town's work more aligns with researching best practices, enacting strict bylaws re: solar and development, educating land owners re: options, partnering with land trusts, etc.
I'm just not sure we have the bandwidth as a town to hold and steward more land. I'd love to see it but the bandwidth issue to do it right is real! Also, re: housing - I'd like to see affordable housing in Petersham but I don't think clustered housing is the right answer here as there are few places to work, no public transportation, and few resources in the schools, etc.
Solar is great when it does not destroy open space. Clear cutting and logging can have hugely beneficial impact on the forest.
Housing must be at least partly affordable
I strongly support cluster development and other changes to existing zoning bylaws and approaches open space conservation that prioritize affordable housing, including multi-family dwellings. I'm not sure about the current numbers but I am sure that Petersham is well below the 10% state-mandated standard for affordable housing stock. Being proactive about encouraging ecologically sound development of new affordable housing stock and repurposing existing stock should be a priority for the Town. I also think that taking on more conservation land as a town requires significant dedicated funding, including funding/resources for monitoring of all CR properties held by the town.
Implement annual building cap for smart growth
Allow accessory residential units
Definitely support solar. Just want to make sure it's done with minimal environmental impact, and that it benefits consumers/residents.
No new taxes.
Senior housing to free up existing homes
Try to create income, not lose tax money.
Allocate fund to acquire or conserve more open space - only if giving away. Seek or accept land donations and development rights from landowners - * cultural use easements. Support cluster housing or multi-family housing to protect more open space - as long as it's affordable!!! Seek land donations for repatriation to Indigenous tribes, for whatever use they see fit: Incentives black + People of Color farmers to live and farm in Petersham.
"Little or no development, please" written next to Seek or accept land donations and development rights form landowners. Save the uniqueness and beauty of Petersham - beautiful open fields and gorgeous vistas.
Moratorium on "logging". More control over permitting "development".
Support cluster housing... also indicated No opinion.
Town should join Community Preservation Act
Need to share more info on Chapter 61 to residents. Land donations need strict evaluation before accepting.
The 4th category is ambiguous. What's important is what happens to the donated lands and development rights.
"indigenous, archeological" circled for emphasis. Historical structures are not so important to me.
One great trail would be along the stream from uptown P'ham to the Swift River, Trustees of Reservations. Several owners could grant public access: TOR, Selden, Lockhardt, Corey, Mitus, Barnes, P'ham.
Don't want multi housing under any circumstances.
Avoid communisism as it is leathal
Would be great to have support at the town level for any property owner considering the Section 61 process.
cluster/multi-fam housing: only support if the design is in keeping with the historic nature of the old architecture in this town
Consider cluster zoning for senior housing on the Nichewaug site
There is no shortage of forested land in this part of the state. I support large scale solar in currently forested areas, but not with a blank check. It does need to be planned and executed in a way that protects the local ecology as much as possible.
In terms of industrial solar I think we all need to do our share and while I don't think Petersham is a good fit because it's so hilly I do want to support solar.
.
The town desperately needs to develop a comprehensive zoning plan!!
In addition to protection of indigenous sites, I also strongly support returning land to indigenous people
More intense use of existing housing should be encourage as opposed to new construction.

Q4 Is there open space in Petersham that the Town should try to acquire through donation or purchase to conserve or use for recreation OR if already owned by the Town, to convert for recreation or other uses? Let us know up to three locations and the potential purpose.

Answered: 77 Skipped: 132

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Area and purpose:	100.00%	77
Area and purpose:	31.17%	24
Area and purpose:	19.48%	15

Q4. Let us know up to three locations and the potential purpose.

Area and Purpose 1:
Part of the Nichewaug Inn/Maria Assumpta Academy site.
Former Nichewaug site - open space.
See below.
don't know
Nichewaug- permanent fire pit
All or part of the Nichewaug Inn parcel should be used for recreation.
No ideas, other than the eternal question of what to do with the Nichewaug?
Former Nichewaug space near the Common - something for the community (playground, park with benches/etc)
N/A
Any unused town-own land considered for rematriation
Nichewaug site, for recreation or extending the 'common'
"For Sale" Wetland on West Street - preserve wetland
Former Nichewaug Inn and Academy for apple orchard with walking paths and park benches, possible wedding site (ceremony only)
Nichewaug Inn site for both active and passive recreational uses.
None
15-year-old conservation restriction with 87 acres at 18 Hammond Lane, will be donated to EQLT in memory of Miss Alice J. Downs. Purpose: woodland trails.
Former Nichewaug lot, multi-purpose
Academy land should remain open space
Not sure
former Nichewaug Inn location - passive recreation and environmental education
Don't know specific plots, but I know there are unused land plots that could be rematriated to the Nipmucs with zero impact to Petersham... other than the knowledge that we'd be righting the wrongs of history.
Save Perkins farm Maple Ln prettiest land in town. Gorgeous sunsets.
Parcel in back of fire pond on West St. - to protect watershed to Quabbin Reservoir and as wildlife refuge.
Nichewaug property - an acre or so of land should be given to Library for future building and a small play area for young children.
Every place you can. STOP PERMITS for at least a year and study what's been going on without any apparent oversight!
Old Nich property - walking path, benches, covered seating, plant indigenous trees - NO PLAYGROUND, PCS has a great one -
Not sure what is available for this.
Waterfront land for town recreation access
No ideas
?
Purchase U. of Wild before that land is misused.
Davenport pond deck - great base system is already there, but the deck wood is all rotten down. Great look out for the lake.
Not sure
Need more info
On the Common- Music/arts/ space with some rentable business space
Nichewaug inn site
next to the library, Town fairs, evening movies stuff to gather the community together
the 10 acres w/fields at the top of Hardwick Rd. J Baker bought, had proposed CR not finalized. Scenic & Ag land w/good location for possible farm stand
land on East Street for community farming
A plot on Doe Valley. It was clear cut a few years ago. It be a nice area to make into an access spot into Davenport Pond.
Rice's Roots land currently for sale on Chimney Hill
?
It seems that with 75% of the land area already protected there isn't much need to add more.
Town owned parcels for cemeteries
Maria Assumpta parcel, Playground & Pavilion
Nichewaug site for recreation
na
Nichewaug Property
Open space currently for sale on East Street (Perkins farm and Rices' Roots farm) is part of the iconic rural beauty of Petersham and might require more protection?
Site of Nichewaug Inn should be used for something and not just grass sitting there
can't think of any at the moment
Nichewaug site/public gathering center of some type
nichewaug area- parking w solar or electric car charging
Mrs Siccardis historical pink house on Main St
Former Nichewaug land
Nichewaug lot, put up a pavilion with public restrooms.

Nichewaug Inn Property
Land beside library - landscape and use for either passive or active recreation
Brown's Pond for resident recreation, including swimming
NO
Nichewaug Inn site & Pickleball court/small garden walk
Nichewaug Inn- cluster elderly housing and community center
In general creation of a trail network throughout the conserved areas
former Nichewaug property: community gardens, park, donate part to library for expansion
No clue
.
A number of plots of land along Nichewaug Road have been purchased recently. I urge the town to closely monitor the clear cutting of property and destruction of habitat along the ridge that overlooks the Swift River Valley and Reservation.
Need more info
Nichewaug property for both passive and active recreation.
Nichewaug: passive recreation/ pollinator friendly
any open space but it should remain open for ALL lawful recreation including hunting and fishing
former Nichewaug Inn location
Nichewaug site for active recreation
Field next to the Library/ picnic tables, fire pits or grills to cook on, a place for kids to run around.
Carter Pond Road (King property) watershed preservation
There are two lots for sale currently on Monson Turnpike on the Athol border that are wetlands and home to a significant amount of wildlife, including keystone species. This wetland area should be preserved.
Undeveloped parcel for sale on West Street; conserve as undeveloped wetland space.
Area and Purpose 2:
More active encouragement of folks to use public walkways and other protected land in Town, such as the Davenport Pond, Babbitt, and just south of the Center of Town.
don't know
Cultural use easements (share use with Nipmuc)
Nichewaug Inn - preserve open space
Improve access and install benches for skating at Harvard Pond
Not sure
Rice's Roots - keep open or farm.
Purchase land as needed if parts of Rice's Roots or Sweetwater Farm won't be used for farming.
On a pond- summer boating / winter ice skating rink /winter sports / with some rentable lodge / pavilion business space
conserve land along all rivers and major stream corridors for water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation.
Site of the former Nichewaug Inn
Cemeteries for green burial grounds
Browns pond for swimming
na
nichewaug - plant berry bushes or food type plants
The blueberry field at the end of Sunset Lane
Getting Harvard Forest to commit to preserving their acreage.
North Common Meadow--ask for space for indigenous gardening, wetu
No clue
.
The Coolidge Property has recently been logged. Is this a prelude to the development of the land?
The field next to the library would look a LOT nicer if something were done with the brick storage building. It's a real eyesore.
All "public footpaths" should have Article 97 protection. One has already been paved with support from the Conservation Commission which is a shame
Potential farmland for sale on Maple Lane; conserve as farmland.
Area and Purpose 3:
Encourage use of Mass Audubon and Trustees land; Town website could have descriptions and maps of places to use outdoors.
don't know
Perkins Farm - preserve agricultural character
Allow for daily and weekend access to Center School Gym for pickleball and convert outdoor basketball court to multiuse including Pickleball.
Not sure
Make sure that Harvard Forest land (all) is protected.
Nichewaug Inn site should remain open space and recreational space.
Land along Tom Swamp Rd and east of Rte 32 abutting Old Poor Farm
leave it to the wildlife
Having Harvard pay PILOT monies

No clue
.
The town needs to be aware of efforts to transfer ownership of town land to political groups.
Farmland on Maple Lane and land at Nichewaug. Both contain prime agricultural soils
Undeveloped parcels for sale on New Athol Road; conserve for forest and wetlands.

Q5 In particular, do you have ideas for recreation or other uses at the Town-owned Nichewaug Inn site in Town Center? Let us know up to three ideas in order of priority.

Answered: 150 Skipped: 59

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Idea 1:	100.00%	150
Idea 2:	64.00%	96
Idea 3:	44.67%	67

Q5. Let us know up to three ideas for the Town-owned Nichewaug Inn site in order of priority.

Idea 1:
Embrace the cold!!! Tennis/pickleball court that could be flooded in winter for a town skating rink! Winter-related town activities could be held there - much safer for kids and adults to skate upon. Lots of possibilities for this use.
3-5 units of senior housing (my preference is for connected housing).
Open space
Communal vegetable gardens.
A permanent fire-pit for town bonfires!
It's lovely to have the open space.
Permanent fire pit
Protected open space with a recreational component (pavilion, dog park, garden). Keep it simple so does not cost town money to maintain.
Outdoor gym equipment for all ages
Multi-generational playground
Give some of the land to the library
Town park - picnic area, maybe BBQ "pits" like a state forest.
Park with bocce courts or other easy to maintain recreation activities for all ages
Ice skating rink in winter.
Affordable housing for older adults, farmers, families
picnic benches
Chapter 40B affordable multi-unit housing. The town could make large strides towards its affordable housing stock targets without increasing further ecological impact.
Apple orchard
Apple orchard park with walking paths and benches, possible wedding site (ceremony only), as mentioned above
Moderate income housing
Indoor recreation center with ping pong, dance studio, and board games
Plant trees, shrubs, public garden with paths, benches, sculptures plus bocce court, tennis/pickle ball court.
Native wildflower meadow with mowed paths
None
Senior housing
Some senior housing units for Petersham's seniors.
Community Center
Band shell or small amphitheater
Community Garden
Outdoor concert venue with concessions
Basketball court
A passive recreation and park area that educates about the environment (e.g. native species and pollinators) and about what we can do in stewarding our own properties in ways that contribute to healing the environment.
Senior Center
Go kart race track
Cultural use easements - invites to share use and mgmt of town conservation land with the Nipmuc.
Let it stay open. It compliments the North Common Meadow. Being the oldest historic district in MA, let's keep it the way it looks now.
Leave like it is.
Community center; space for: meeting, events and indoor and outdoor recreation.
Possible area for town firepit - community activity/bonfire gathering
Ice skating rink
A walkway around the perimeter with plantings, trees, shrubs, etc.
Nothing concrete: study climate change effects on biodiversity on edges with help from local colleges/universities/scholarly research institutions.
Open space meadow/garden/greenspace. "No development".
Park w/seating
Open space... nice open space
Pickle ball court
Keep as open field
Walk with benches around perimeter
Covered seating areas - no plastic
Maintain as open space with possible garden/park space and planting
As an abutter, I am concerned about noise and other pollution and also vandalism on my property. So, I support letting the land become a wild forest
Allow Petersham Memorial Library to acquire land behind the building for outdoor library-oriented activities and to provide for an updated septic system.
Pavilion with stage for music and events.

Playground
Pickleball court
Dog park as long as dog injuries are not responsibility of Town.
Senior Housing with Community Center close by or as co-located or as 2 wings of one building.
lawn games: badminton, horseshoes, etc. store in common locker
Orchards
Open space - recreation or gardening
Walking paths with resting spots w/benches - safe for elderly.
Everybody loves shuffleboard! Community activities/sports...
Give Library the needed land to update well & septic.
Wood bank
Open space/park
Appropriately sized and architecturally congruent inter-generational housing
Keep natural-no low income or multi-family housing
Dog Park, due to ticks, difficult to walk pet in woods. Have used when lived in South. Pets really enjoy
Music/arts / center
Community green space
Baci courts
Ice skating rink
Open space
skating rink using the Inn's old high-capacity well as water source
leave it alone
A park similar to Boston common
community recreation: pool, tennis courts, ball fields
Town Park with some passive recreation; great sunset location worth saving
small houses for senior living, maybe duplexes or triplexes
Structure for concerts/cultural events
Tennis court
Community Center - mixed use - w.architecture matching other town center properties
lawn
Picnic area
open air theater
Open space with a covered open-air seating area offering educational stations on why conservation is so important
Yes! A town 'recreation' area that supports a burn pit/fire area to have town activities/get togetherst!!!!
outdoor "living room" in collaboration with library.
leave it as open space
Town playground, barbecue area and seating
Leave as attractive meadow and open space
Park with dog area
Tennis
Pavilion
Town park
multi-purpose pavilion
Tree farm
Open field use for times when School field is not available
It's beautiful as an open field
Leave as an open field
Family friendly park with playground and space for outdoor activities
open space
Community resource center
see above
Senior housing designed in keeping with the old architecture of the town
Playground
Public Park
Native / pollinator garden
Town park
Looks great as an open space right now. Low maintenance.
allotment gardens
Community garden and orchard for use by all
Rest rooms
Tennis or pickle ball courts
small area to provide septic field for library
Answered in previous question
A cluster zoned senior housing community

Seating throughout year, some suited to inclement weather
Flow field for library water/sewage management.
Something that brings in tax revenue! It doesn't have to become a dunkin donuts, but come on, there's got to be something profitable that can be done there!
COMMUNITY GARDEN
Senior affordable housing
See above
Senior housing.
Walking paths through gardens of native plants
Gardens
Build new-construction Senior Housing
already answered this
soccer field
Multiple units of housing
.
Expand the Library and provide parking spaces.
Fruit orchards
Return land to Nipmuc
Keep it open
Outer circle trail/walk year-round access for seniors/others
Track for walking/ running
Natural space - gardens with native plants
Tennis courts
Too early to weigh in on possible uses of this property.
Community farm and garden with covered open space event facility.
residence can apply for a divided section for flower/botanical gardens. Would be a nice walk through them.
tiny house village for mixed-generation housing
Active recreation
amphitheater
Passive open space with walking trails and community gardens, orchards
A public seasonal skating rink in the flat field directly behind the library. https://ezicerinks.com/?rink=kiddie&style=1%2C1%2C1&features=#shoprinks
Provide area for updated septic system for library
Recreational fields- soccer, etc
A multi-use timber-frame pavilion for outdoor classes, workshops, community events.
Idea 2:
Recreation, including ice rink, exercise trails (see equipment made by folks that made new school playground equipment).
Passive recreation
Picturesque area, that would take good photos, like weddings, prom, etc.
Housing for elderly? and family oriented.
Tennis court, ice skating rink
Event space
Nothing that would change or take away from the historical look and feel of the town center.
Idea 1a - Perhaps amphitheater. Bolton did this and it is great.
Athletic fields for youth sports
community garden
Multi-use space including sports fields, native plant landscaping, outdoor amphitheater, place for community ice-rink in the winter, etc.
Community farm
The apple trees could be donated in honor or memory of individuals and families (i.e. the family tree) and maintained by the town. Trees would receive a small sign or marker with family name. Becomes literally a family tree.
recreation center
Outdoor pickleball and basketball and baseball fields
Pavilion with large outdoor fireplace/grill
Senior center
Along with idea 1 - A senior center building for meals and arts & craft, including all adults for arts & crafts!
Friday Market
Dog Park
Playground
Playground
Pickle Ball courts
Pickleball courts
Housing for farmers of color who are farming in the area

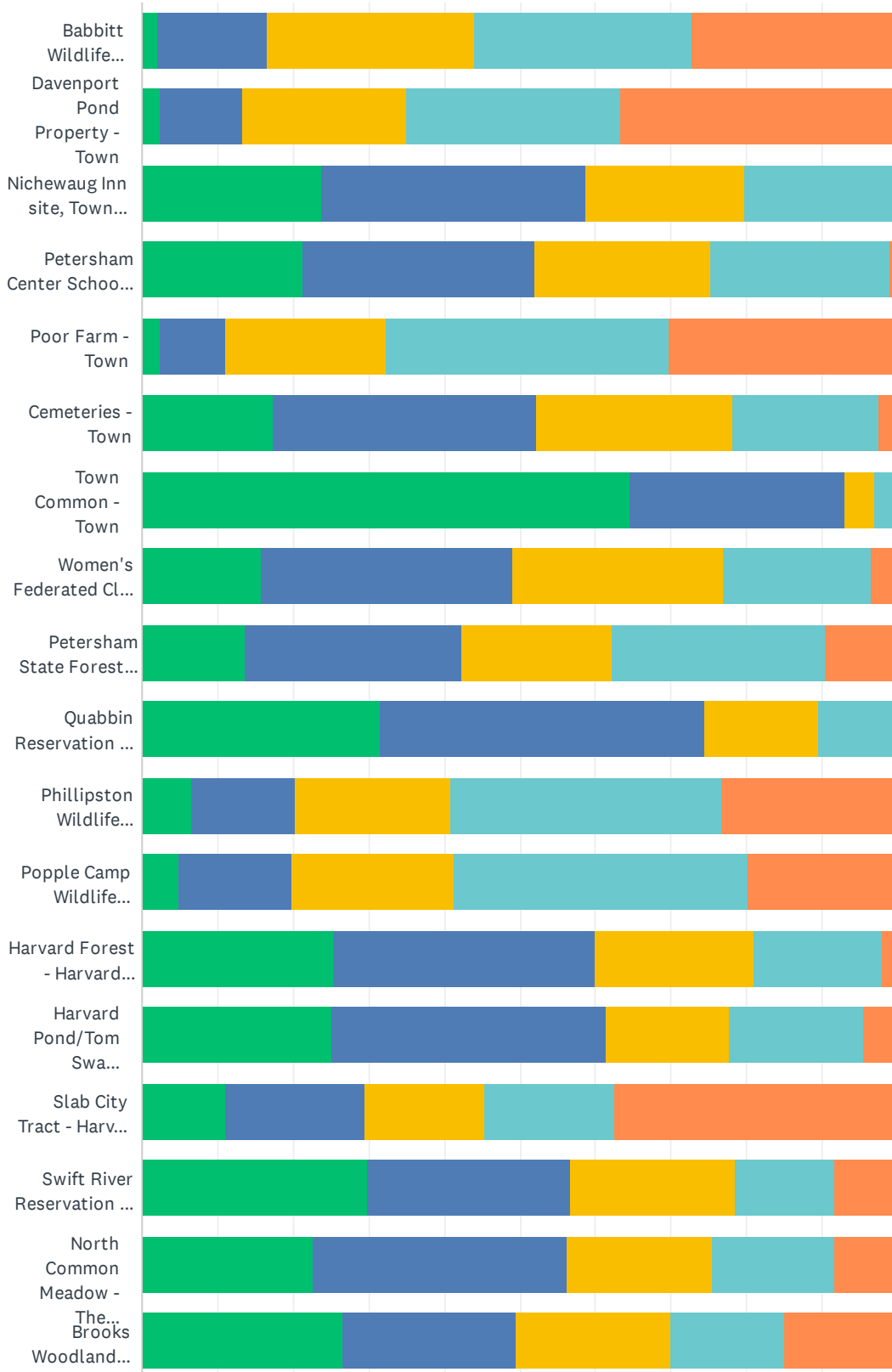
House lots?
Designated area for dog park
bocce court
Areas for croquet, badminton, volleyball, wiffleball, horseshoes, cornhole, etc.
Picnic area w/some area for active sport, e.g. tennis
Make it part of Common - grass and trees
Temporary ice rink for winter use
Walking path
or an orchard
Rec center - senior, teen
Picnic pavilions with grills to rent for events
Picnic area
Indoor gym w/swimming pool (like at YMCA)
pickleball court, tennis, "pitch" for rugby, cricket, baseball, etc.
Gardens
tennis court
Replicate mini gazebo version front of Nichewaug with info of areas to hike, vistas, local businesses, for visitors.
And tennis?! Skating rink? Community center?
Plant tree/flower gardens. make a walking path w/benches.
Community garden
Gardens/park
Preserve the historic look of our beautiful common - a requirement if anything is built there.
Learning center /summer camp
Ice skating
Open field
Community garden
bocce court
promote community garden
outdoor amphitheater in summer/kiddie snow park in winter
Space for various recreational activities (skating, workouts, tennis/badminton)
ice skating
field
Butterfly garden
town bocce court
Fenced in dog park
Volleyball
Playground
pickleball courts
Arboretum
Elder Housing
Senior housing
public berry patches
Multi-family housing, again in keeping with old architecture
Sport fields
Public recreation area
Common
Community garden
pavilion
Gardening
Dog park
Community garden
Designated parking spaces for library and town events.
LEAVE AS IS
A community center
Playground that young kids can use when school is in session
Concerts
Plenty of recreation out of the center
Create a town botanical garden with planted and open space.
Swimming pool and/or ice-skating rink
Open air pavilion for summer movies, events - winter skating
Community garden
Toddler playground
Outdoor fitness circuit / workout stations
expanded community garden (with separate till and no-till sections)

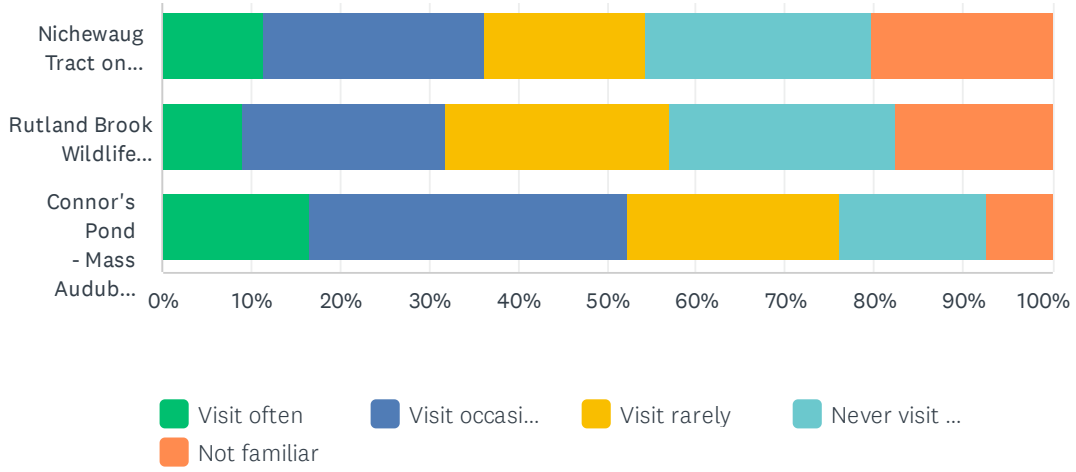
structure to house recreational equipment for all town use
One acre for library
Open space to walk dogs, etc
Build a roofed, timber framed structure for outdoor reading and meeting space
Mixed use - community gardens, active rec
Seasonal outdoor skating rink (removable after winter).
Idea 3:
Senior community center (social, multi-purpose). All three ideas all with shared facilities with the Memorial Library. Land should not be given to the library or even sold, when they have no immediate plans for it. Septic and water facilities can easily be shared!
Pollinator gardens
A gazebo, maybe?
Affordable housing incorporated with elderly housing and restaurant.
Park with playground area for small children
Spring blossoms would be stunningly beautiful and an annual marker of Spring. A beautiful setting for all to enjoy with minimal cost.
Ice skating/skateboarding
Studio and personnel for free piano and other instrumental music lessons
Community gardens, orchard
If this is too big an idea, perhaps a small building for seniors, like the small senior center in Wendell, MA?
Community Garden Space
Tennis, pickleball, & basketball courts
Grassy meadow
Tennis court
Lawn games - corn hole
Affordable housing - there is a housing crisis - how can we sit idly by with all this land, and keep it all for ourselves? for fun?
Designated walking area
kite flying, volley ball court
A dog park.
Sell land for a single-family home
Competitions - bocce, cornhole, horseshoes, etc.; pavilion, multiuse; pollinator areas
Plant indigenous trees and a "native and historic garden"
or other community garden uses
Nature classroom programs
Dog area
Reforest w/native trees
trail good for wheelchairs with benches. *keys @ Country Store, Town Office Bldg, Library?
Let grow wild for birds and bees, with a few trails
volleyball, bocce ball, croquet, etc.
Art, music, learning center...
After 1 above, plant the rest as a wildflower meadow.
Gravel walkway with plantings and bench for those that can't hump through woods.
Plant trees and gardens
Senior condos w/ restaurant
Town garden
Playground
pickleball court
parking w/ EV stations + park w/ maze + park w/dog agility stations
Geothermal walkways for safe winter walking/running
exercise trail
Why is that garage still there - get rid of that!!!!!!
walking paths
Basketball, tennis, pickle ball court = any sport field
Basketball
skating rink
Solar farm
recreation fields
Buildings for businesses such as restaurant, bookstore, art space, performance space, theater/music space; built in keeping with architecture of old town
Town garden
Walking paths
horse shoe courts
General Recreation
Medium sized ice rink (cold weather use)
Aesthetic attraction such as labyrinth or sculpture garden.

Fairs
Labyrinths peace circle walk
Leave it as open space.
Community orchard (example: Bloomington Community Orchard)
Continue gardens, add pollinator plots, bird houses, picnic tables
Pollinator gardens
Wildflower garden (low maintenance)
native plant garden/park
community garden
An open pavilion with architectural elements that echo the Nichewaug building. It should have a Russian style masonry stove where people could gather perhaps to cook but mainly to sit on the warm stones and have a place where meetings could be held in the open air with some protection from the elements. This could be designed in conjunction with the library to provide some sheltered outdoor space for performances and meetings when they are best not held indoors.
More expanded/purposeful use of the community garden plot.
Pollinator meadow with walking trails
Community gardens, greenhouse, and accessible paths for every mobility.

Q6 Do you visit any of the following open spaces in Town and are they familiar to you?

Answered: 208 Skipped: 1





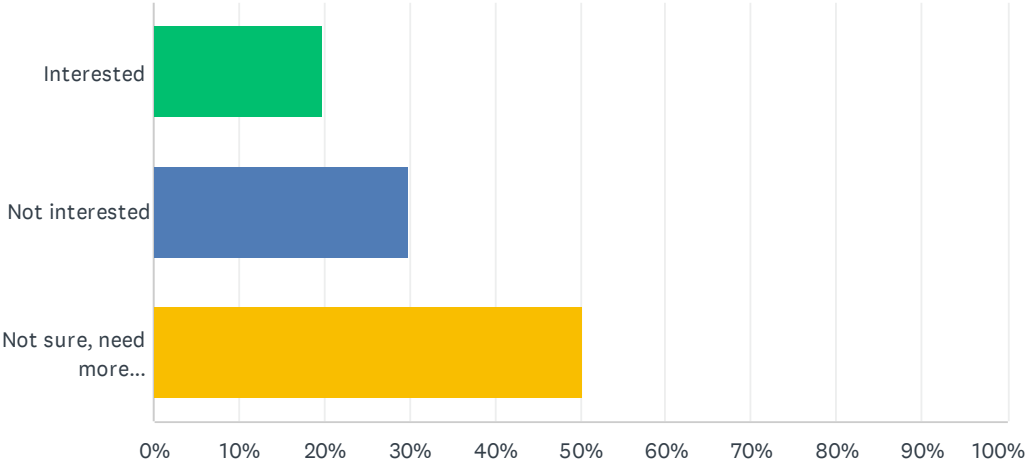
	VISIT OFTEN	VISIT OCCASIONALLY	VISIT RARELY	NEVER VISIT BUT FAMILIAR	NOT FAMILIAR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary - Town	2.02% 4	14.65% 29	27.27% 54	28.79% 57	27.27% 54	198	3.65
Davenport Pond Property - Town	2.54% 5	10.66% 21	21.83% 43	28.43% 56	36.55% 72	197	3.86
Nichewaug Inn site, Town Center - Town	23.65% 48	34.98% 71	21.18% 43	19.70% 40	0.49% 1	203	2.38
Petersham Center School fields, playground, gym during non-school hours - Town	21.36% 44	30.58% 63	23.30% 48	23.79% 49	0.97% 2	206	2.52
Poor Farm - Town	2.49% 5	8.46% 17	21.39% 43	37.31% 75	30.35% 61	201	3.85
Cemeteries - Town	17.41% 35	34.83% 70	25.87% 52	19.40% 39	2.49% 5	201	2.55
Town Common - Town	64.68% 130	28.36% 57	3.98% 8	2.49% 5	0.50% 1	201	1.46
Women's Federated Club State Forest - DCR	15.69% 32	33.33% 68	27.94% 57	19.61% 40	3.43% 7	204	2.62
Petersham State Forest - DCR	13.78% 27	28.57% 56	19.90% 39	28.06% 55	9.69% 19	196	2.91
Quabbin Reservation - DCR	31.53% 64	42.86% 87	15.27% 31	10.34% 21	0.00% 0	203	2.04
Phillipston Wildlife Management Area - Fish & Wildlife	6.57% 13	13.64% 27	20.71% 41	35.86% 71	23.23% 46	198	3.56
Popple Camp Wildlife Management Area - Fish & Wildlife	4.98% 10	14.93% 30	21.39% 43	38.81% 78	19.90% 40	201	3.54
Harvard Forest - Harvard Forest	25.37% 52	34.63% 71	20.98% 43	17.07% 35	1.95% 4	205	2.36
Harvard Pond/Tom Swamp - Harvard Forest	25.25% 51	36.14% 73	16.34% 33	17.82% 36	4.46% 9	202	2.40
Slab City Tract - Harvard Forest, Town	11.00% 22	18.50% 37	16.00% 32	17.00% 34	37.50% 75	200	3.52
Swift River Reservation - The Trustees	29.85% 60	26.87% 54	21.89% 44	12.94% 26	8.46% 17	201	2.43
North Common Meadow - The Trustees	22.66% 46	33.50% 68	19.21% 39	16.26% 33	8.37% 17	203	2.54
Brooks Woodland Preserve - The Trustees	26.50% 53	23.00% 46	20.50% 41	15.00% 30	15.00% 30	200	2.69
Nichewaug Tract on Nichewaug Road - The Trustees	11.39% 23	24.75% 50	18.32% 37	25.25% 51	20.30% 41	202	3.18
Rutland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary - Mass Audubon	9.00% 18	23.00% 46	25.00% 50	25.50% 51	17.50% 35	200	3.19
Connor's Pond - Mass Audubon, Harvard Forest	16.67% 34	35.78% 73	23.53% 48	16.67% 34	7.35% 15	204	2.62

Q6. Other open spaces you visit in Town and frequency, please specify:

<p>Popple Camp Wildlife Management Area - Fish and Wildlife - If this was given by Elliot Wayne; Rutland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary - Mass Audubon - used to live here in summers! I look for old cellar holes and wells and I search for old cemeteries, visit the cemeteries for history and for connection to older, dead folks of Town.</p>
<p>Trail across from Deb Bachrach. Trail by Roaring Brook. Trail by Fred Day.</p>
<p>We used to walk the Brooks Preserve much more often, but not much now. Is it because I am older? Access is not easy? I want to discover the Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary! I want also to discover Davenport Pond</p>
<p>We visit the Feldman's property (Cutthroat Brook Farm off Brigg's Rd.) regularly, and a part of that is located in Petersham. Based on the many properties listed above that I've never heard of it would be helpful to have a resource of some kind (pamphlet, website) that provides info on our open spaces (name, location, parking, trail info, etc.).</p>
<p>I like sledding in winter on the former country club land that is now Harvard Forest. Also, not sure if this is technically an "open space" but I love walking/cross-country skiing on the Woolsey property's trail off of North St</p>
<p>Harvard off Birch Drive/DCR off Monson Tpk. Many other areas which are privately owned.</p>
<p>Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm (Gnome Trails) Athol/Petersham</p>
<p>Old Maid's Mile - daily. This is very popular walking route among many residents. A lot of people walk their dogs here, along the Common, and along North Main Street.</p>
<p>Browns Pond (East St)</p>
<p>The Woolseys' lovely woods trails off North St. - visit often. "Not familiar" may mean that we can't match a place to the name given.</p>
<p>Sledding on Harvard Forest land - the old golf course. Quaker Lane road - walk my dog.</p>
<p>Davenport Pond property</p>
<p>I'm on the Cemetery Commission</p>
<p>I don't know names of places but I'll pick a gate and walk. 35, 40?, 41?</p>
<p>Simes tract - rarely; Sunset lane Blueberry Field - frequent; Raccoon Hill Wildlife Management Area - rarely</p>
<p>I mostly don't visit open spaces because I feel unsafe walking alone in these areas. Are there meet-ups or groups that go for regular walks?</p>
<p>-- Beaver pond near intersection of Nichewaug and South St. - nobody knows about our great pond: "Hallberg's Pond" several spots for parking could easily be maintained at Nichewaug/South St. intersection. This is a great canoe spot! INVASIVES ARE BAD HERE. HOW ABOUT A PUBLIC CANOE RACK?</p>
<p>Petersham</p>
<p>Behind town highway barn (photograph herons in nest)</p>
<p>Visit often - East St. cemetery. Have online and little booklet with maps of trails and businesses in area they might also like to visit. Restaurants, Inns, groceries, gas, etc.</p>
<p>The reason I checked so many of these as unfamiliar is not because I haven't heard of them (I have heard of all of them), but because I either don't know for sure where they are or don't know how/when they can be accessed. Online resources/maps are much needed to make those areas more likely to be found & used.</p>
<p>Davenport pond as it is near my home. I think the deck near the pond needs to be fixed. Then, people would really enjoy the view. The basics are still stern and strong.</p>
<p>town common and walk dogs on up town side walks</p>
<p>Petersham</p>
<p>Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm. Weekly</p>
<p>How do I find out about all these great places I'm not aware of?</p>
<p>Private land under conservation restriction behind my house</p>
<p>My own property every day possible due to physical constraints</p>
<p>Quaker Drive - to walk/drive in area several times a year</p>
<p>Woolsey trust private property</p>
<p>Brown's Pond</p>
<p>Is there a way to better advertise these sites to residents and visitors?</p>
<p>I walk on the Quabbin gate walks almost weekly</p>
<p>Rubin property on Camel Hump Road</p>
<p>.</p>
<p>The land along the East Branch of the Swift River from the new bridge to Rte 32A</p>
<p>Trails at Quabbin Gates</p>
<p>I enjoy walking on Quaker Drive with access to Trustees and Harvard Forest spaces. I love the views from Maple Lane.</p>

Q7 Would you be interested in volunteering to help maintain and steward one of the Town's open spaces?

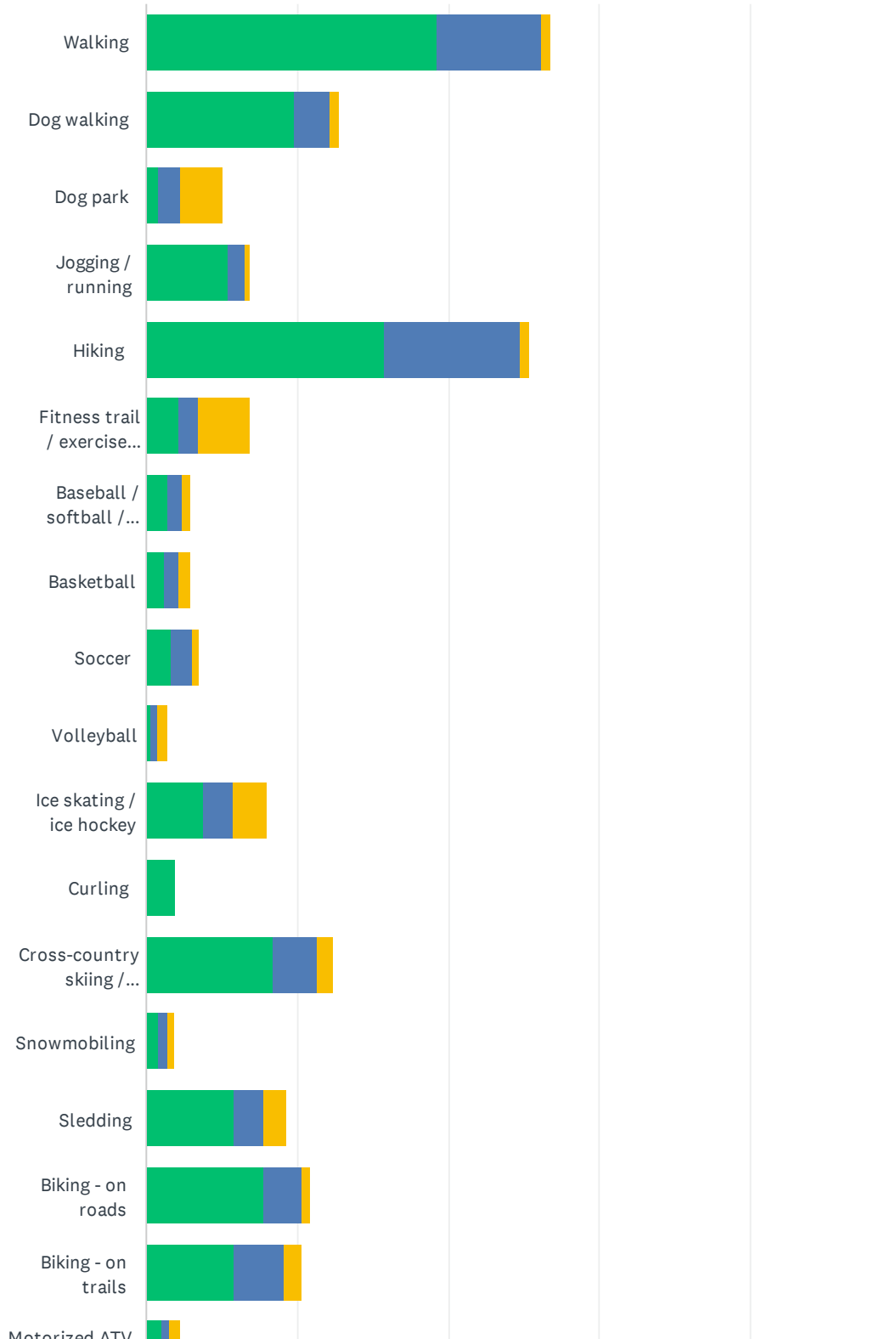
Answered: 197 Skipped: 12

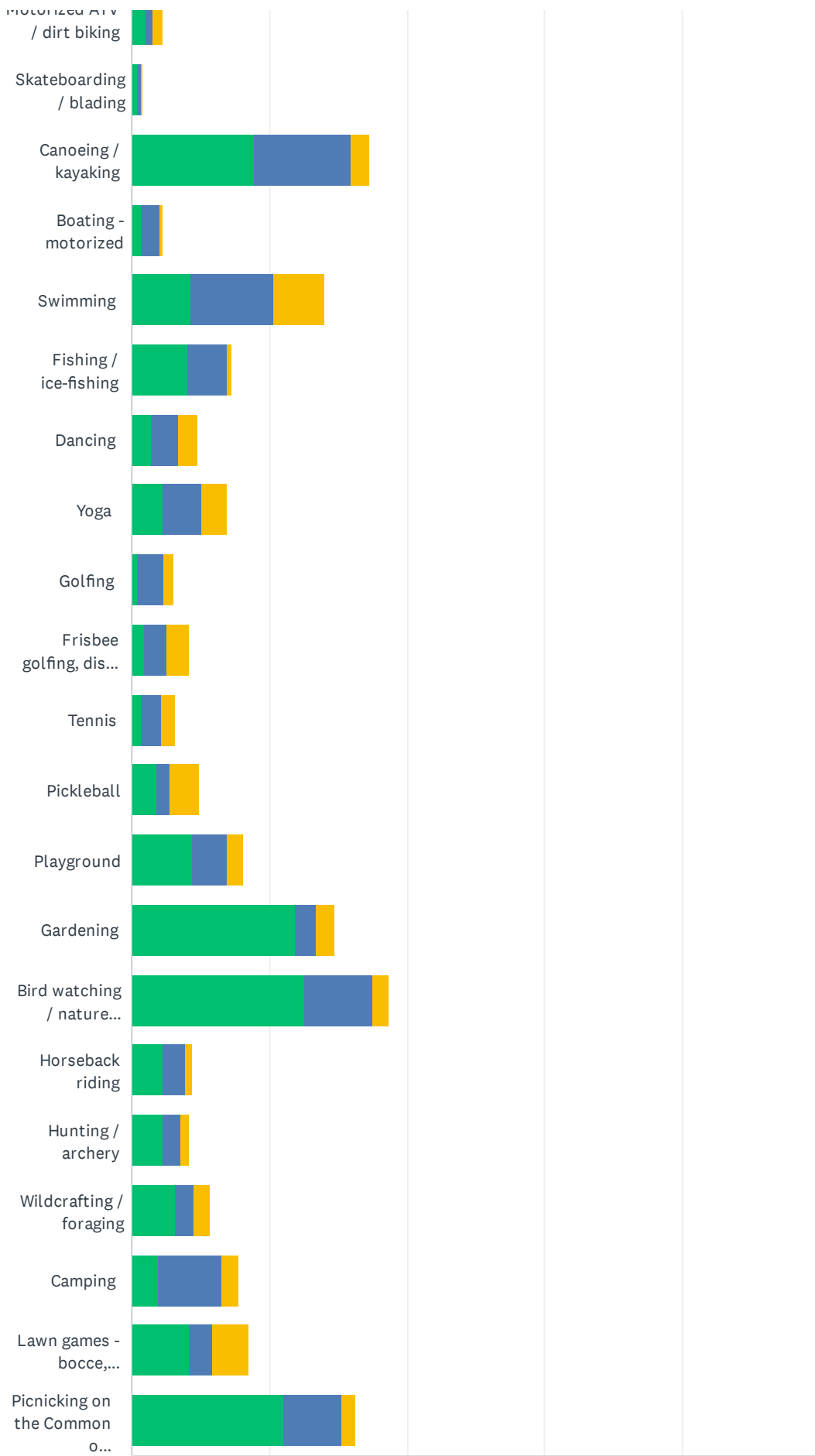


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Interested	19.80%	39
Not interested	29.95%	59
Not sure, need more information	50.25%	99
TOTAL		197

Q8 Which of the following activities do you enjoy now (whether it's in Petersham and/or other towns) and which ones do you wish you had the opportunity to do in Petersham? (Check as many options as you like.)

Answered: 205 Skipped: 4





0 100 200 300 400 500

Number of Responses

■ In Petersha... ■ In other to... ■ Town wish L...

	IN PETERSHAM	IN OTHER TOWNS	TOWN WISH LIST	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Walking	98.97% 192	36.08% 70	3.09% 6	194
Dog walking	96.08% 98	23.53% 24	5.88% 6	102
Dog park	17.02% 8	29.79% 14	61.70% 29	47
Jogging / running	94.74% 54	19.30% 11	5.26% 3	57
Hiking	94.58% 157	54.22% 90	4.22% 7	166
Fitness trail / exercise circuit	34.43% 21	22.95% 14	55.74% 34	61
Baseball / softball / wiffle ball	58.33% 14	41.67% 10	25.00% 6	24
Basketball	52.17% 12	39.13% 9	39.13% 9	23
Soccer	64.00% 16	60.00% 15	16.00% 4	25
Volleyball	23.08% 3	30.77% 4	53.85% 7	13
Ice skating / ice hockey	62.30% 38	31.15% 19	37.70% 23	61
Curling	100.00% 19	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19
Cross-country skiing / snowshoeing	91.30% 84	32.61% 30	10.87% 10	92
Snowmobiling	57.14% 8	42.86% 6	28.57% 4	14
Sledding	80.56% 58	27.78% 20	20.83% 15	72
Biking - on roads	95.12% 78	30.49% 25	6.10% 5	82
Biking - on trails	81.69% 58	46.48% 33	16.90% 12	71
Motorized ATV / dirt biking	62.50% 10	31.25% 5	43.75% 7	16
Skateboarding / blading	80.00% 4	60.00% 3	20.00% 1	5
Canoeing / kayaking	78.07% 89	62.28% 71	11.40% 13	114
Boating - motorized	41.18% 7	76.47% 13	17.65% 3	17
Swimming	46.74% 43	65.22% 60	40.22% 37	92
Fishing / ice-fishing	89.13% 41	63.04% 29	6.52% 3	46

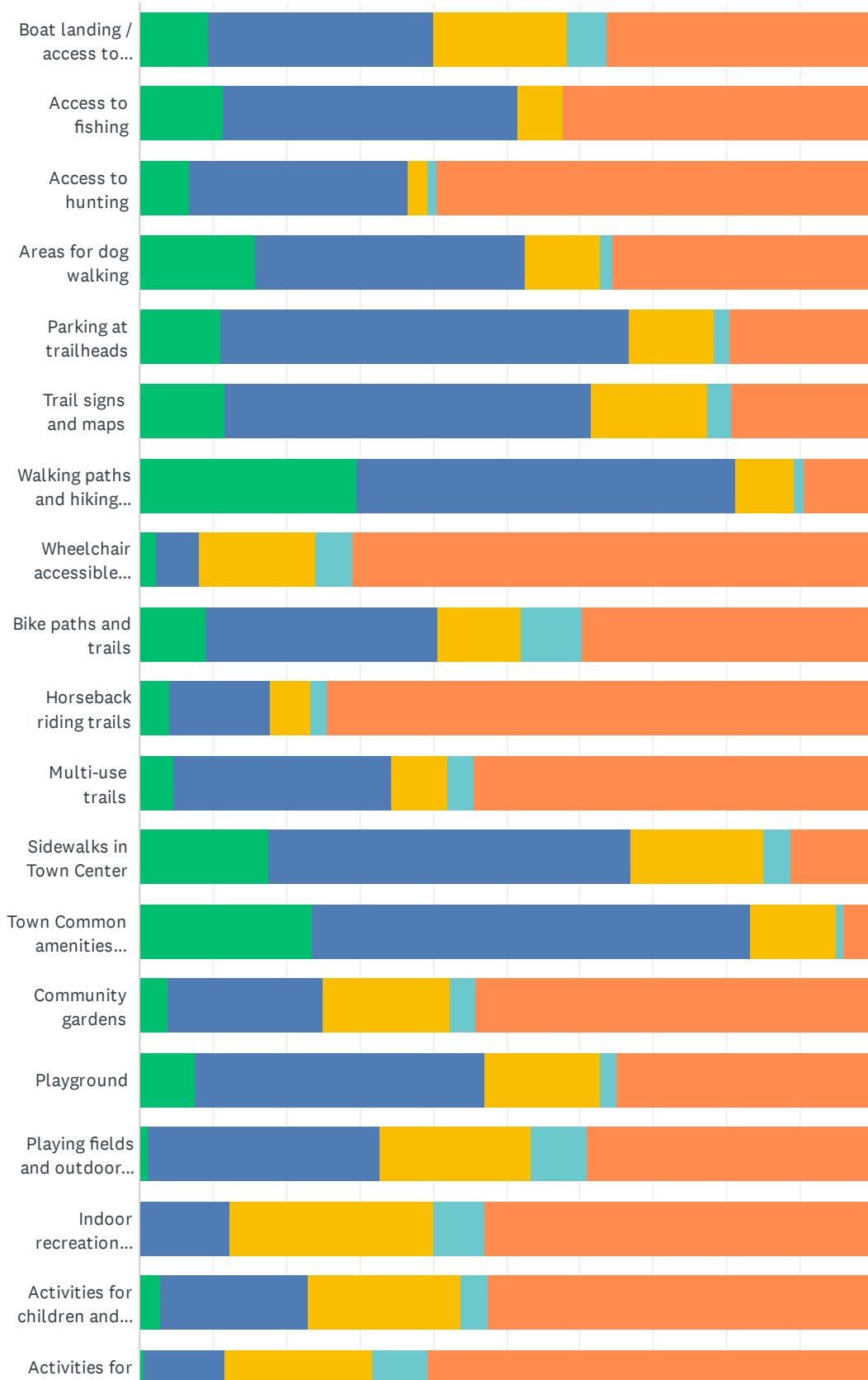
Dancing	40.00% 14	57.14% 20	40.00% 14	35
Yoga	37.93% 22	50.00% 29	32.76% 19	58
Golfing	14.81% 4	74.07% 20	25.93% 7	27
Frisbee golfing, disc golfing, ultimate frisbee	30.00% 9	56.67% 17	53.33% 16	30
Tennis	29.17% 7	58.33% 14	45.83% 11	24
Pickleball	46.15% 18	25.64% 10	53.85% 21	39
Playground	84.62% 44	50.00% 26	21.15% 11	52
Gardening	92.97% 119	11.72% 15	10.16% 13	128
Bird watching / nature observation	95.45% 126	37.12% 49	9.09% 12	132
Horseback riding	66.67% 22	51.52% 17	15.15% 5	33
Hunting / archery	85.19% 23	48.15% 13	22.22% 6	27
Wildcrafting / foraging	80.00% 32	32.50% 13	30.00% 12	40
Camping	32.76% 19	79.31% 46	22.41% 13	58
Lawn games - bocce, badminton, ping-pong, etc.	62.69% 42	23.88% 16	40.30% 27	67
Picnicking on the Common or other open space	90.91% 110	34.71% 42	9.09% 11	121

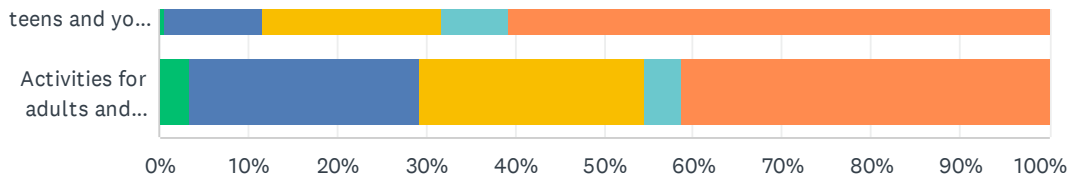
Q8. Other activities you do in Town or wish you could do in Town, please specify:

I wish we had a skating rink (outdoor) that was centrally located to bring people together for winter fun.
Ice rink for when pond ice isn't safe. Re: cross-country skiing - Please don't groom our trails! Re: canoeing/kayaking - We don't have the best places. Re: playground - Need a playground for toddlers when school is in session. Re: Lawn games - Need Town facilities! Re: Picnicking on the Common - Need more tables!
Flying models.
Swimming on Town Wish List - really would love.
The library is fantastic - could some adjacent available land be useful for their programs?
Dog park: not at the Nichewaug, thank you, but it would be nice to be allowed to use the fenced in area next to the baseball field at PCS. From what I can tell it doesn't get used for anything. And even the field itself could be an option when not in season. Just require folks to pick up after their dogs.
Fitness Center (wish list)
Loved Old Home Day with croquet tournament and other festive, wholesome activities.
Circled snowshoeing
Soccer - youth
Ice skating/ice hockey - used to, Harvard Pond; Sledding - old golf course; Biking on trails - Quabbin; Canoeing/kayaking in other towns - Comet Pond; Swimming in other towns - Comet Pond; Gardening - in my backyard.
No to Motorized ATV/dirt biking
Sailing in other towns; Town Wish List - town gardens. Dog park would need to be monitored closely for proper use and clean up - make a gated area with key fob access for LICENSED dog-owners.
Historic sites in Petersham and other towns
townspeople should automatically be allowed to treat invasive plants on town land. INVASIVES SHOULD BE #1 PRIORITY ON P'HAM LAND.
Petersham
Exercise with weight machines, play volleyball or badminton, bocce ball, croquet
dog Park
Petersham
none of the above, I am physically unable
outdoor concert space, fireplace and covered picnic areas
Join a walking club or Pilates or karate class
I think Petersham has lots of opportunity for individual outdoor recreation. Depending on what others, especially young people want it would be great to see some organized activities like outdoor pickle ball.
Moonlight walks led by interpreter
Petersham
I enjoy pickle ball in the Center School gym. One or two multi-use outdoor courts would be nice.

Q9 How satisfied are you with the following recreation resources in Town?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 6





■ Very satisfi...
 ■ Satisfied
 ■ Not satisfied
 ■ Very unsati...
■ Not sure or...

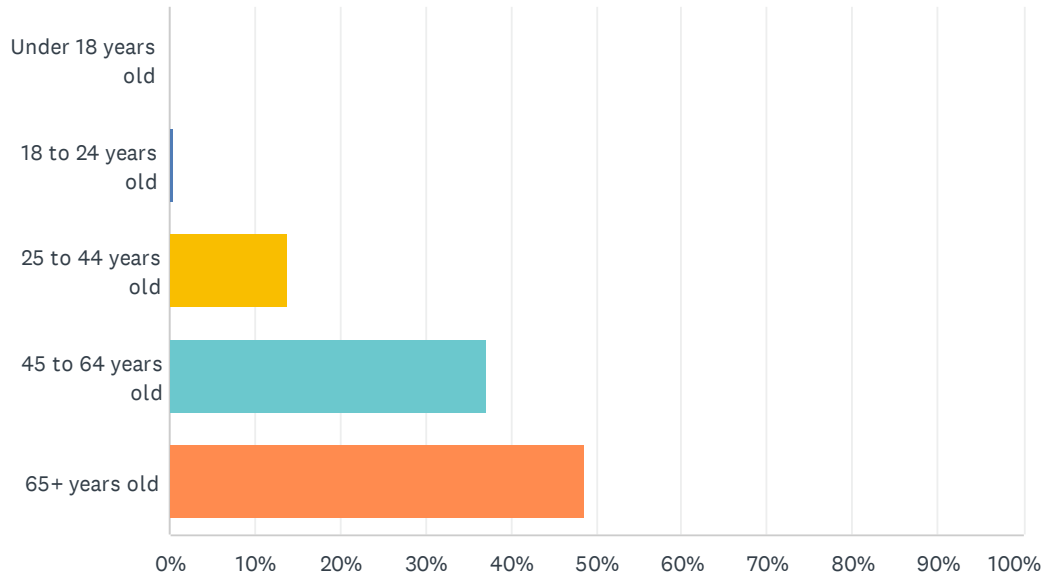
	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED	VERY UNSATISFIED	NOT SURE OR NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Boat landing / access to waterbodies	9.38% 18	30.73% 59	18.23% 35	5.21% 10	36.46% 70	192	3.29
Access to fishing	11.41% 21	40.22% 74	5.98% 11	0.00% 0	42.39% 78	184	3.22
Access to hunting	6.74% 12	29.78% 53	2.81% 5	1.12% 2	59.55% 106	178	3.77
Areas for dog walking	15.85% 29	36.61% 67	10.38% 19	1.64% 3	35.52% 65	183	3.04
Parking at trailheads	11.11% 21	55.56% 105	11.64% 22	2.12% 4	19.58% 37	189	2.63
Trail signs and maps	11.58% 22	50.00% 95	15.79% 30	3.16% 6	19.47% 37	190	2.69
Walking paths and hiking trails	29.69% 57	51.56% 99	7.81% 15	1.56% 3	9.38% 18	192	2.09
Wheelchair accessible paths and trails	2.33% 4	5.81% 10	15.70% 27	5.23% 9	70.93% 122	172	4.37
Bike paths and trails	8.94% 16	31.84% 57	11.17% 20	8.38% 15	39.66% 71	179	3.38
Horseback riding trails	4.17% 7	13.69% 23	5.36% 9	2.38% 4	74.40% 125	168	4.29
Multi-use trails	4.73% 8	29.59% 50	7.69% 13	3.55% 6	54.44% 92	169	3.73
Sidewalks in Town Center	17.65% 33	49.20% 92	18.18% 34	3.74% 7	11.23% 21	187	2.42
Town Common amenities (picnic tables, benches, etc.)	23.44% 45	59.90% 115	11.46% 22	1.04% 2	4.17% 8	192	2.03
Community gardens	3.95% 7	20.90% 37	17.51% 31	3.39% 6	54.24% 96	177	3.83
Playground	7.56% 13	39.53% 68	15.70% 27	2.33% 4	34.88% 60	172	3.17
Playing fields and outdoor courts for sports	1.15% 2	31.61% 55	20.69% 36	7.47% 13	39.08% 68	174	3.52
Indoor recreation spaces and courts for sports	0.00% 0	12.21% 21	27.91% 48	6.98% 12	52.91% 91	172	4.01
Activities for children and youth	2.92% 5	19.88% 34	21.05% 36	3.51% 6	52.63% 90	171	3.83
Activities for teens and young adults	0.58% 1	10.98% 19	20.23% 35	7.51% 13	60.69% 105	173	4.17
Activities for adults and seniors	3.45% 6	25.86% 45	25.29% 44	4.02% 7	41.38% 72	174	3.54

Q9. Other resource recommendations, please specify:

Re: Boat landing - Access on Harvard Pond is more difficult after rebuilding landing! Re: Trail signs and maps - Need online access and description of allowed uses. Re: sidewalks in Town Center - Need to extend further North! Re: Playground - Could use access during school hours for toddlers. Re: Activities for adults/seniors - Need more outdoor group activities/games for all.
I'd just love more hiking/walking trails everywhere in Town, so you don't ever need to go on the main roads.
Re: Town Common amenities - more. Re: Community gardens - have my own.
Re: Access to fishing, may need to know more. Re: Bike paths and trails, need more info, need bike trails. Re: Multi-use trails: ?/not sure. Re: "Playground" through "Activities for adults and seniors" unsure because I need more information.
I think for a small town Petersham does a really good job providing activities for kids and adults, and we have amazing outdoor spaces. It would be nice (if possible?) to have better water access. As for the town sidewalks, they are really important for people with mobility issues as a place to walk, so if those could be shoveled/plowed in winter that would be great. It's too much to expect of individual home owners and 'businesses' as is the norm in cities (too much sidewalk and too much snow!), but perhaps the town could afford to hire someone with a snow blower or mini snowplow to take care of the walks around North Common and up to North Street, just as mowing is budgeted for the rest of the year.
Mostly selected very satisfied or satisfied. That is NOT saying things cannot be improved. Petersham is a gem. While these areas are better than many places, they could still be improved.
The picnic tables on the Common are very popular. A few additional tables could be beneficial. Also, a sidewalk or "walking lane" on Spring Street could be helpful for pedestrians. More defined crosswalks at the Town Common could be helpful, too
Sunday/Saturday morning 'meet-ups' for group runs or group bike rides (split up according to conditioning and goals)
I'm sorry, I think I was messed up on my understanding of Section 9. "How satisfied"?
Activities for children and youth - Not satisfied? Activities for teens and young adults - Not satisfied? Community Outdoor & Indoor Recreation Space in Center
Community gardens - do we have one?
Community Gardens - no need. All ages can walk in nature and find wonderful things and appreciate the silence and the beauty of nature in all its glory.
A sign indicating what birds have been seen and where. To be updated by enthusiasts
Need more youth after school clubs and activities.
Fewer parking areas please! And no paving! Don't over-maintain trails! Better conditions for walkers in town and less precedence for vehicles would be a good idea. No need to pave sidewalks. Just make space for walking.
Regarding "Sidewalks in Town Center" and "Bike paths and trails" - I think my main dissatisfaction comes from not having sidewalks and/or bike paths along 122. There is barely a shoulder and it feels very unsafe. It's also fairly difficult to go around a block or make a loop without going along 122, which is frustrating if I want a shorter exercise loop than the Maid's Mile or up 32.
Pickleball courts
Use Inn site for playground, why not?
Small parking spots all around town (e.g., ones like this modest spot at Glen Valley Rd. and Swift River) - you gotta check it out!!! Question: Where is "Gebo's Cabin"?
Walking paths and hiking trails safe for elderly. Would like to see some kind of Senior (affordable) Living so our elderly can stay in town. Would like to see Nichewaug property with safe walking paths with little gardens, flower & vegetable, berry, apple and benches to rest on.
Petersham residents/other town residents that are on Quabbin Res should have more/free access to the water. Need more dog friendly trails.
Strict traffic control: Hazards for walkers; truck and car noise.
Senior Center/housing needed
accessible picnic areas, covered, room for several independent groups
I'm sorry to see the community garden be neglected and if we knew what activities (in this area) young people wanted I would like to provide some. I also know that TTOR has restricted mountain bikers and I think both hikers and bikers could use these trails if they just communicated with each other as they encounter each other.
a lot is offered, people need to pay attention and take the opportunities that are offered
Unleashed dogs are a safety issue on town land and trails.
Some central indoor location for ping pong, billiards, cards, etc.
I think the public should have more access to the Center School property
I chose "not sure, no opinion" for activities I don't do at present and feel I can't comment accurately.

Q10 What is your age?

Answered: 208 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18 years old	0.00% 0
18 to 24 years old	0.48% 1
25 to 44 years old	13.94% 29
45 to 64 years old	37.02% 77
65+ years old	48.56% 101
TOTAL	208

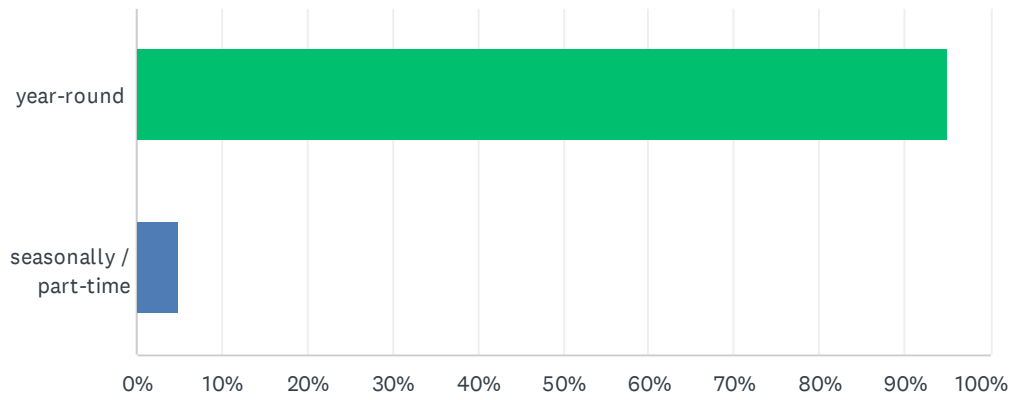
Q11 How many people in your household are in each age group including yourself?

Answered: 201 Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18 years old:	28.36%	57
18 to 24 years old:	15.92%	32
25 to 44 years old:	30.85%	62
45 to 64 years old:	46.27%	93
65+ years old:	59.20%	119

Q12 Do you live in Petersham?

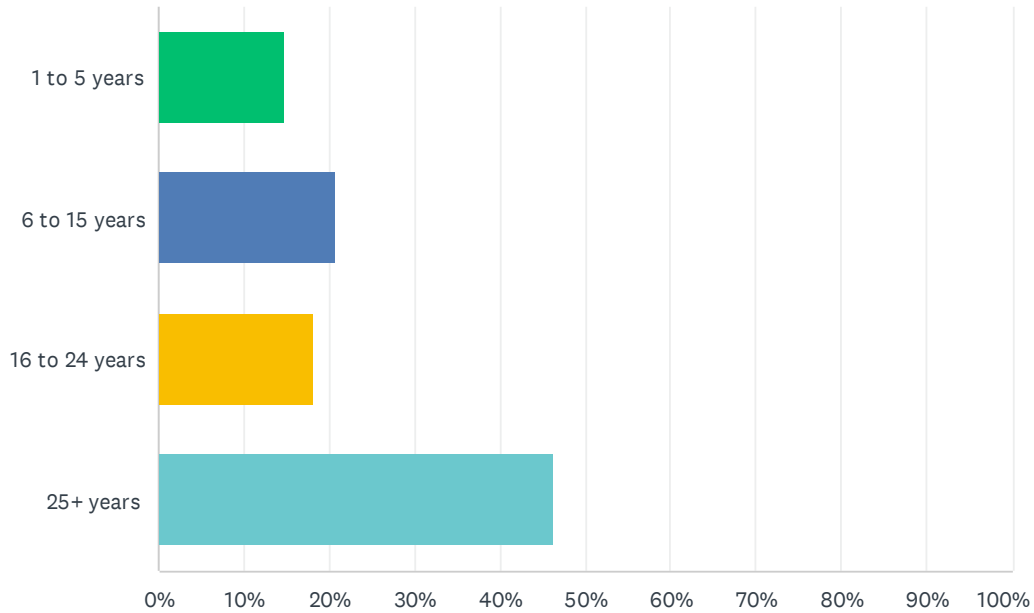
Answered: 201 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
year-round	95.02%	191
seasonally / part-time	4.98%	10
TOTAL		201

Q13 How many years have you lived in Petersham year round or seasonally / part-time?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 to 5 years	14.78%	30
6 to 15 years	20.69%	42
16 to 24 years	18.23%	37
25+ years	46.31%	94
TOTAL		203

Q14 If you would like to get more involved or like us to follow up with you about your survey comments, please provide your name, email address, and phone number. If not, move onto the final question.

Answered: 53 Skipped: 156

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name:	100.00%	53
Email Address:	86.79%	46
Phone Number:	83.02%	44

Q15 Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about open space, land conservation, and/or recreation in Petersham?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 130

Q15 comments begin on next page.

Q15. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about open space/land conservation/recreation in Petersham?

Would like to be involved w/Open Space Planning group!
Allow additional access to Quabbin Watershed land managed by D.C.R. Cross country skiing, dog walking, mt biking, horse back riding.
Happy to talk personally! I've been in town for a long time for a "Newcomer." My and my family's use of available resources changes over time, with interests, family household configuration, availability and condition of resources, and availability with changing ecology, wildlife, and climate. Well done!
I appreciate that there is as much conservation land as there is! I just love walking/hiking conservation land.
Would appreciate handicap accessible trails.
Re: Question 7/volunteering - I don't think I am able to. It's so beautiful here; I am so lucky to live here! Community gardens are a great idea! Not sure what is happening with them. Many people in P'ham have gardens at their homes. But, the aspect of bringing people together around growing is important, I feel.
Thank you for your work!
My two major concerns about recreational and open space in town are 1) limited access or poor connectivity between trails, and 2) few bicycle-friendly (relatively smooth) trails. Otherwise I think Petersham is just wonderful for lovers of the outdoors. Thank you for doing this survey.
Thank you for doing this important work!
Thank you for taking this on. I wonder about the experience of immigrants and people of color (both growing communities) in Petersham as pertains to land. Should signs be in multiple languages? Do people of color feel safe? Also: Petersham's founding was a tragic period in our history (based on scalp bounties of Indigenous civilians during King Philip's War) and we need to think very seriously about what reparations looks like to the tribe (Nipmuc) that is STILL HERE and able to work with us on this.
Wished I lived here at a young age! Would know a lot more. Love the town.
Regarding Question 7, my son helps maintain and steward open space with The Trustees. Improving and maintaining open space access and usability is vital to both protecting the environment and developing a citizenry proud to be stewards of the land!
We love Petersham and hope to preserve the character/charm, while also exploring new recreation options for the townsfolk!
I'd like to see Petersham grow and welcome new and diverse individuals (and offer alternative housing for elders wanting to downsize) through affordable, smart, clustered housing development, while protecting wildlife corridors and forests. I'd like to see much more engagement with the Nipmuc in regards to shared use and repatriation. I support smart, cost-effective recreational offerings that create a strong quality of life for all residents, old and new, young and old, and from all racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Please refer to the Franklin County/NQ Age-Friendly Action Plan for best practices on recreational opportunities for older adults. Thank you to the Committee for this survey. I did notice some questions were missing from the online version.
We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful town. The historic and scenic preservation defines the town and provides its unique character and charm that is irreplaceable. Everyone who moves to Petersham feels blessed to live in such a peaceful place with a kind, caring community. Thank you for all of your efforts in pulling together a comprehensive survey with an excellent response. I look forward to your results and further community participation!
Build on the state's recent erection of signs warning motorists about safe passing distance from cyclists. Declare Petersham roads as 'multi-use' for walking, running, cycling, skipping, hopping and leaping. "You are entering a recreation-focused town and will encounter pedestrians and cyclists enjoying themselves!"
Petersham is a beautiful and unique town with some of the most beautiful trails in the state. Wish you could get rid of the ticks!
Thanks so much for doing this! I'd be interested in volunteering on: - Community garden - Trail maintenance - Planting wildflower meadow habitat to support native pollinators.
Keep as is.
I like to imagine other public trails? My place towards the areas of Quaker Drive at Moccasin Brook.
Thank you
I love Petersham the way it is and I'd like to preserve the small, New England, rural charm. I would prefer minimal development of any kind.
The Town does not need more untaxable open space!! It will drive people out of their homes if taxes are too high.
Daphne would be interested in knowing whether the Conservation Commission* is considering ways to make information available to Petersham residents about what we can do, here in this town, on our own property or as volunteers on town-owned land, to contribute to restoring/creating the factors that support a healthy environment. * or any other town organization or committee
How many years have you lived in Petersham? 40 years this December. What is your age? 66-68
Keep Larry Buell off the committee
Petersham could be an example of how to do it right - manage land and share land and resources in an inclusive way, in a historically restorative way, and in a way that conserves the small-town feeling, while not shying away from the problems of today - lack of affordable housing, poverty, gentrification, lack of diversity and unwelcome feelings towards diverse residents and different cultures, lifestyles in rural New England. Just as land trusts have changed their definitions of what it means to protect land (see Mt. Grace), in keeping with the evolving needs and dire circumstances of society, the Open Space & Recreation Committee can do the same. I love all the activities and sports mentioned in this survey - and I'd love all of it... but not at the expense of ensuring the people of this country not getting basic needs met. Imagine a Petersham where we can have it all - a welcoming, diverse (racially, socioeconomically, culturally) population that recreates together, plays together, honors Indigenous peoples and atones for our past colonialist sins together. And when other towns realize this is the way of the future, they will look to Petersham as a blueprint of how it can be possible.
Keep Petersham the way it is or else conserve more land and prevent development. Look into ways solar panels could be put on the elementary school. Put up a raised up small solar array behind the library to produce electricity for the town office buildings and public spaces. Raise the solar panels up, so they can be mowed or tilled beneath them.

Regarding Question 7: I would help maintain between my farm & volunteering on the Rabbit Run trail in Athol, that's it. I would like to have a designated bikeway and walkway on the breakdown lane on Rt 32 from Athol to Rt 122. This would be legal. Make a parking lot across from the Town Hall. This would be legal-Clint. Someday a car will be pulling off the breakdown lane and be hit by a car on Rt 32. I understand the car coming out of the breakdown lane would be at fault.
No subdivisions. Community center to anchor a host of activities.
I think there is plenty of open space in town, and that increasing the tax burden on an aging population to conserve yet more open space is ill advised.
GO FOR IT! Essential for community building and mental/physical health!
I feel we have good knowledgeable people looking into these issues and I am pleased by the care and attention and science behind the decisions made. I don't want much responsibility.* I just want to reap the rewards! [I may volunteer now and again for something.] *Change of heart - my work with the land is sacred. I would like to see where that brings me and if the town could someday find space for whatever I create in that realm.
This is a beautiful, rare place worth preserving! We need to make certain that it stays that way and not fall prey to developers with "big ideas" because I can assure you (as a former resident of two lovely, rare places that were utterly and irrevocably destroyed by development) that once it's gone - it will be gone forever.
I doubt anyone wants to admit they wanted the gate to close after they moved in. I am, however, concerned about the rate of new construction. The gate for new construction does need to stay open, just needs to be monitored given recent changes like the change in ownership of the Quabbin Retreat. There is a concern funding needed for maintaining open space will be diverted to areas beyond our control.... no, we can't control everything.
Picnic tables should not have benches attached. Senior citizens can't get in. Seats should be moveable.
Increase info on this topic on TOWN website, not Roy's - Have ability to sign up for areas of interest on website - More info on where plants, cut logs, etc. can be picked or picked up for crafting projects, winter greenery, weddings, etc.
Don't overdevelop. (Yes, I know I'm repeating myself!)
I enjoy Petersham and wish there were more places to gather with groups for a cook out or party.
Has any consideration or discussion been had with indigenous peoples who may want their land back? If we are thinking of acquiring more land as a Town, do indigenous peoples have something like the right of first refusal and are at least offered the option before the Town purchases?
We want Petersham and neighbors to know our 100+ acres are publicly accessible. We would like our nearby neighbors to create with us a right of passage from the Swift River TOR properties north to Petersham Center. In particular this right of passage would be reserved for members of the Nipmuk Nation. WE OWE THEM LOTS!! Please see attached map of these 100+ acres, including modest forest trails. Remember "Nichewaug" means "the place in between".
We went from limited construction to too much construction! I live next to the new church of "Our Lady of Perpetual Construction," a joke referring to the FOURTH year of noise from 95 Birch Drive. This was a virgin plot of old growth, wetland forest; a 2nd house now being built. Zoning laws must protect the owners expecting peace and quiet -- not excavation, chain saws, gunfire, ATVs and more. This was an open space I tried to buy so it would not be developed. Every day, I regret not getting that land to protect it.
Our many conserved/town owned properties allow us the opportunity to enjoy recreational usage of land in our community which is wonderful. The amount of new builds in town has many of us concerned and I think the protection of open space for use by all has been brought to the forefront in recent years. I've even heard scuttlebutt about limiting building permits on any annual basis. Everyone is interested and concerned about what will be happening with the Nichewaug Inn property in the future. I think this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.
Regarding Question 11: Both mom and dad's family for generations lived here. I was born and raised here, left for a few years and came back!! We have to be ever vigilant to protect our open land and back properties now. Stick to zoning laws and don't let certain ones over ride them, they are in place for good reason. More updated laws may need to be created. Big dollars and entitlement should not be deciding factors in how land is bought and sold. Thank you to all committee members for helping protect our rural atmosphere! "For all to enjoy," Martha
Love to see more community space! Like community center, community fun space/sports/activities/games/music/art/dance/physical activities center. Community garden would be great too!
Interested in developing food and energy security within the town so we are more self-sufficient as a community.
See comments under Item 6 - a lot more could be done re: online info, maps, signs, etc. to make current resources easier to find/use & more residents & visitors likely to use them.
During Corona time, I found Petersham has many good trails. I hope more people know that. Petersham has great resources! Specially the Davenport pond would be a much better place if the places the previous owners have left behind. They did build several good places. As those places are not paid attention, they are disappearing.
Thank you!!! We love our beautiful town and would like to keep the natural beauty and protection of the land and wildlife.
Indoor, outdoor, space for all ages, & pets. Socialize, recreational, places to meet up all seasons.
EV charging station and Wi-Fi in town
we need more things for young adults, adults and children to do. A community center or just an activities director for the town to keep the town together. Small town but many neighbors are new and strangers to some of us.
Open space, land conservation and recreation are incredibly important for the physical and mental health of residents of all ages.
As a Petershamite, born and bred, I feel the essence of the town is its rural, welcoming, country character; this is something that seems to be getting squeezed out of some other places. Don't want to see it happen here.
I would love easy access to walking that is not on a road, ie, a fairly well-groomed trail where you don't have to worry about twisting an ankle, picking up a dozen ticks, getting lost. A trail 1-3 miles would be great.
A general guide to all conserved lands and bodies of water in Town is needed. Babbitt land needs access for hiking, etc. If there is access, information would be helpful.

Don't spend taxpayers' money. Donations and grants only. Keep our taxes manageable!!
Love being here and the passion for this town and want to make sure we are honoring/repaying indigenous people and being open to all who come here.
We own a farm in Petersham that we rent to farmers. It is our goal to keep the farm, its fields and forests in active management. We support maintaining open space but not creating bylaws and restrictions that prevent farmers from realizing the value of their land when necessary.
As I noted in a previous space provided, I strongly feel we need to focus effort and resources on the open space we have already under protection by various agencies in our town. People value and invest in what they can see and enjoy first hand. Having a collection of protected open space is valuable for wildlife, for environmental health, water and air quality, climate warming mitigation etc. To emphasize those values and further the conservation of unprotected land at municipal expense, I think we have to enhance opportunities to access and experience what we already have in town. The trails which have been created by various entities are not linked, nor are they comprehensively mapped. Trail linkage and mapping for public use are priorities I'd support and work towards. Thank you for surveying residents' opinions. Stephanie Selden
As much as we would all like to have more and better I believe Petersham's infrastructure is enough to financially support where our taxes are residential based. The bigger you get sooner or later you can no longer support the upkeep and that nice little town we once had will be no longer.
Let the bears roam free
In general, I think any purchase of land for conservation should be based on a Town vote as should selling any Town owned property. I would support sale of small Town-owned lots for single family dwellings or elder housing.
Acquiring and protecting open space should be a high priority for the town if it is to retain its rural character.
Some of my answers about not being satisfied with activities for town residents is because I work full time and many activities for folks of all ages are during traditional working hours. It would be great if there were more weekend options for my family to participate in.
I would love to have more areas, indoor and out, to partake in group sports.
Recreation is the one that needs the most improvement.
Suggest that the town promote a careful and clear understanding of the use of private lands. To encourage etiquette. To encourage respectful use. To reduce uncertainty/conflict.
There is a lot of building going on locally and we need to move in order to protect more land before its gone.
Get DCR to lighten up
Have to travel for good water access due to most ponds are manmade and swampy, can only use the Quabbin for certain size boats. Hiking trails are wonderful.
N/A
.
I am very troubled by the lack of zoning. In particular the lack of delineation between farm land and residential. There are a number of situations where large animals are kept on postage stamp lots. This is unhealthy for the animals, owners and the abutters. Reasonable acreage limits based on usage will serve to protect the character of the town and the health of its residents.
Just very glad that you all are pursuing an updated plan and potential funding for our beautiful town. Thank you!
The town playground at the Center School is not resident friendly. Even during the summer they restrict the use of the site to school children. There should be a more user-friendly approach for families in town to use the facility.
I think that the speed on local roads is a huge problem for recreation throughout the town and especially in the town center. I would include traffic calming as a priority to allow people to access passive and active recreation on our protected areas.
Act now
Glad that the survey has started! Hopefully, we'll glean helpful information from it.