



TOWN OF LEICESTER

Office of Development & Inspectional Services

Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524

www.leicesterma.org

508-892-7003 (Building/Health) / 508-892-7007 (Planning, Conservation, ZBA)

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Board of Health
Building/Code Enforcement
Conservation Commission
Planning Board
Moose Hill Water Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 @ 6:00PM

ONLINE ONLY

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/911400173>

You can also dial in using your phone.

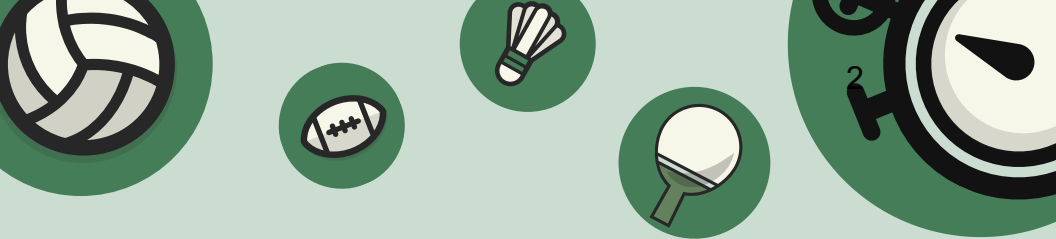
United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679

Access Code: 911-400-173

6:00PM – Open Meeting

1. Final Review of Draft Survey
2. Adoption of Minutes: 3/23/2021
3. Miscellaneous

6:30PM - Adjourn



LEICESTER

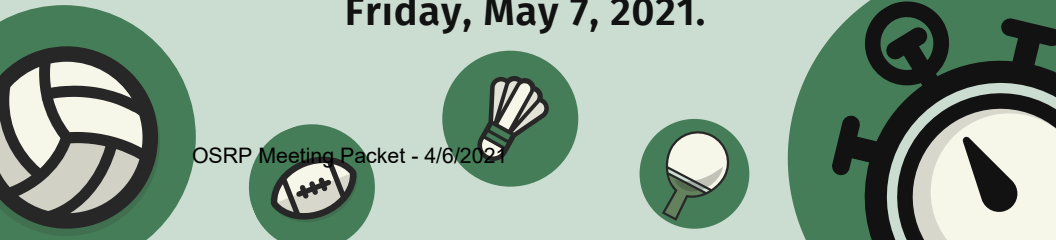
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLANNING SURVEY

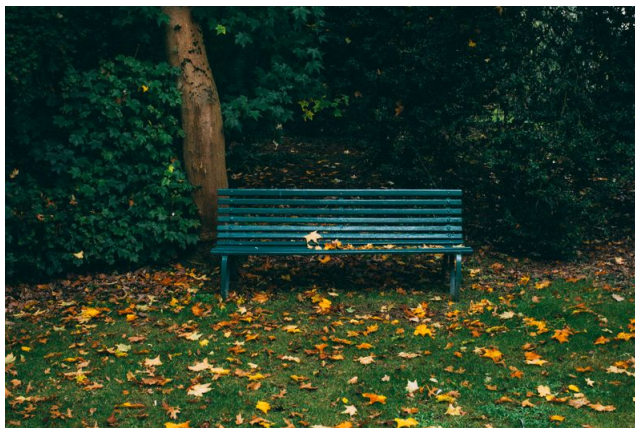
This survey is being conducted as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to understand the needs, concerns, and visions of Leicester's residents regarding open space and recreational facilities. Please complete the survey to share your ideas in planning for the landscape of Leicester's future!

If you have access to a computer, please help us by submitting your survey online at: <https://cmrpc.typeform.com/to/VZtxSLHU>



Please complete and submit your survey by
Friday, May 7, 2021.





Leicester Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey

This survey is being conducted as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to understand the needs, concerns, and visions of Leicester's residents regarding open space and recreational facilities. A complete Open Space and Recreation Plan guides the town in decision making as regards rural community planning, working landscapes, environmental conservation, and recreation opportunities. Please complete the survey to share your ideas in planning for the landscape of Leicester's future.

If you have access to a computer, please help us by submitting your survey online at: <https://cmrpc.typeform.com/to/VZtxSLHU>. Paper surveys may be turned in to the Leicester Town Hall drop box, or mailed to: Michelle Buck, Town Planner/Director of Inspectional Services at 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524

Please complete and submit your survey by Friday, May 7, 2021 at 10pm. Completed surveys will not be accepted after this date and time. Please complete only one survey per resident.

Yes, I'll help

- 1 → Do you feel there is a need to protect open space and recreation opportunities in Leicester? (Open space includes - but is not limited to - open fields, active agriculture fields, forests, plantations, parks, recreation facilities, trails, greenways, beaches, water access, watersheds, historic resources, and scenic vistas.)

☐ A Yes

☐ B No

2 → In your opinion, how important are the following characteristics of Leicester's rural environment?

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not So Important	Not Important
Clean Air	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clean Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dark Skies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quiet Nights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Preserves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working Landscapes (farms, orchards, timber)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Passive Recreation (walking, hiking, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Active Recreation (football, soccer, basketball, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Access (swimming, fishing, boating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low Density Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Affordable Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 3 → In your opinion, what are the top conservation issues for Leicester?
Please rank your choices accordingly with 1 being of highest
priority. *

Drag and drop to rank options

<input type="checkbox"/>	Open space for recreation use	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open space for scenic value	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water quality	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water access	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Working Farmland	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forests	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildings of historic interest	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic/Archaeological Sites	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe on the following screen)	⋮

OK ✓

- 4 → If you answered "Other" to the last question, in your opinion, what are the top conservation issues for Leicester?

- 5 → In your opinion, what are the top reasons you think Leicester should protect its open spaces and natural areas. Please rank your choices accordingly with 1 being of highest priority. *

Drag and drop to rank options

<input type="text" value="-"/>	To protect wildlife habitat	⋮
<input type="text" value="-"/>	To protect wetlands	⋮
<input type="text" value="-"/>	To protect the Town's surface and groundwater resources	⋮
<input type="text" value="-"/>	To maintain the character of the community	⋮
<input type="text" value="-"/>	To potentially raise property values	⋮
<input type="text" value="-"/>	Other (describe on the following screen)	⋮

OK ✓

- 6 → If you answered "Other" to the last question, in your opinion, what are the top reasons you think Leicester should protect its open spaces and natural areas?

7 → In your opinion, what are the three (3) greatest threats to open space in Leicester? *

Choose 3

☐ A Residential development

☐ B Commercial development

☐ C Industrial development

☐ D Foreclosures/Abandoned Lots

☐ E Vehicular traffic/congestion

☐ F Tourism

☐ G Rising property taxes

☐ H Depressed local economy

☐ I Economic stress to the farming community

☐ J Lack of recreational opportunities (incl. water access)

☐ K Pollution (incl. noise and light pollution)

☐ L Other

8 → What initiatives do you feel are worth considering in preserving Leicester's open space? *

Choose as many as you like


<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Dark skies - limiting light pollution
<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Quiet nights - limiting noise pollution
<input type="checkbox"/>	C	Clean water - protecting water supply
<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Farmland incentives - preserving working farms
<input type="checkbox"/>	E	Working forests - preserving working forests
<input type="checkbox"/>	F	Universal Access - the design of spaces to make them accessible to all people, regardless of age, disability or other factors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	G	Nature sanctuaries - preserving natural areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	H	Food security - preserving local food production (i.e. local farms, local value-added products, local wild food habitats)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I	Green infrastructure - implementing conservation projects that mitigate environmental impacts such as erosion and flooding
<input type="checkbox"/>	J	Green development - requiring any new development to set aside natural areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	K	Smart growth - restricting new development to already developed areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Public transportation - increasing the range and services of public transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	M	Greenways - connecting open space with natural corridors
<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Partnering communities - partnering with neighboring communities on open space initiatives
<input type="checkbox"/>	O	Eco-tourism - tourism based upon the preservation of open space
Key <input type="checkbox"/>	P	Environmental justice - giving special attention to environmental issues within low-income neighborhoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Q	Other

9 → I live in close proximity to the following landscape features:

	10 minute walk	10 minute drive	Neither
Public Lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Active Agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest or woodlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managed forest or woodlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orchards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water access (beaches, boat launch, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetlands or Bogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lakes or Ponds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rivers or Streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting Grounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wild Foods (berry patches, mushroom logs, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks with Equipment and Facilities (playgrounds, picnic tables, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks without Equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Active Recreation Facilities (sports fields, basketball hoops, soccer nets, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abandoned Buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abandoned Machinery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Point Source Pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10 → How do you travel to open space and recreation facilities in Town? *

Choose as many as you like

 A Walking or Running	 B Bike	 C Motorcycle	 D Car
 E Bus	 F Boat	 G Snowmobile	 H ATV
 I Wheelchair	 J Horseback		

11 → For each of the following resources, please indicate how frequently you use the facility for recreation.

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seasonally	Annually	Do Not Use
Becker College facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burncoat Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hillcrest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leicester High School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lions Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memorial School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mid State Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Moose Hill Wildlife Management Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rochdale Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Russell Memorial/Little League Field/Girl's Softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Towtaid Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leicester Middle School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leicester Elementary School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12 → What is your favorite open space or recreation area in Leicester?

- 13 → Describe any recreational facilities and/or open space you would like to see developed/expanded in town.

14 → Have you ever encountered physical barriers to any open space and/or recreation properties in Leicester?

i.e. Steps or curbs that block entrance or use of a sidewalk, lack of grab bars in restrooms, narrow parking spaces

☐ A Yes

☐ B No

15 → At which open space / recreation properties have you encountered physical barriers, and what were those barriers?

i.e. ABC Field - water fountains mounted too high to be accessed by wheelchair user.

- 16 → The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is funded through a local option surcharge on property tax bills and a state match up to a maximum allowable surcharge of 3%. Would you support a CPA surcharge to implement the recreational facilities and/or open space you would like to see developed/expanded in town?

☐ A Yes

☐ B No

☐ C Yes - but at an amount less than 3%

17 → Which of the following activities best describes how you or your household members use open space in Leicester and its surrounding communities?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seasonally	Rarely	Never
ATV/ORV/Snowmobiling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball/Softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating (motor boat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bowling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camping/Kayaking/Tubing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-country Skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Field Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing/Ice Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foraging/Primitive Skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frisbee Golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gardening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking/Snowshoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback Riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting/Target Practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice Hockey / Ice Skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain Biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paintball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnicking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running/Cross-country Running	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sight Seeing /Birding/Nature Photography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skateboarding/In-line Skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sledding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming (indoors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming (outdoors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Track and Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking / Dog-Walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18 → What places should a town trail system connect?

Choose as many as you like

☐ A Parks and active recreation facilities☐ B Villages and Town center☐ C Conservation Lands☐ D Stores☐ E Hunting and foraging lands☐ F Public transportation hubs☐ G Schools☐ H Developed trailheads☐ I Private lands☐ J Churches☐ K Other

19 → Regarding parks and recreation spaces and programming in Leicester? How satisfied are you with....

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Not Satisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Recreation facilities for kids under the age of 6?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation facilities for kids ages 6 - 12?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation facilities for kids ages 12 - 18?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation facilities for adults?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation facilities for seniors?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organized youth sports and recreation programs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organized adult sports and recreation programs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organized sports and recreation programs for seniors?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The universal accessibility of recreation facilities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20 → What general area of town best describes where you live?

☐ A Leicester

☐ B Cherry Valley

☐ C Rochdale

☐ D Greenville

☐ E I do not live in Leicester

☐ F Other

21 → How many years have you lived in Leicester?

☐ A Less than one year

☐ B 1 - 5 years

☐ C 6 - 10 years

☐ D 10 - 20 years

☐ E More than 20 year

☐ F I do not live in Town

22 → How much land do you (or your family) own in Leicester?

☐ A I rent

☐ B Less than 2 acres

☐ C 2 - 5 acres

☐ D 6 - 15 acres

☐ E 16 - 50 acres

☐ F 51 - 100 acres

☐ G Over 100 acres

☐ H I don't live in Town

23 → What is your age?

☐ A Under 18

☐ B 18 - 24

☐ C 25 - 44

☐ D 45 - 64

☐ E 65 or over

Brooke Hammond

From: Sarah Adams <sadams@cmrpc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Buck, Michelle; Brooke Hammond
Cc: Mary Hannah Smith
Subject: Leicester OSRP Revised Survey
Attachments: Leicester OSRP Survey Flyer.pdf; Leicester Survey Hard Copy.pdf

Hi Michelle –

I am attaching a PDF copy of the survey that incorporates edits discussed at last weeks' OSRP Committee meeting, as well as a flyer for the survey. [Here](#) is the link for the online version. You will notice that the paragraph relating to hard copy submittal only appears on the PDF (not the online version) so as the link gets shared via email / social media, folks will not see the option to submit a hard copy (only those who have picked up a hard copy at locations where the OSRP Committee elects to leave surveys will see the instructions to put in the drop box or mail to you). Please let me know if you would like me to make up a postcard with the survey link as well.

I am also copying my colleague Mary Hannah as she will likely be taking over as the primary contact for Leicester's OSRP. CMRPC has recently had some staffing changes that have required us to shuffle assignments around and Mary Hannah will be taking a lead on many of our environmental / resiliency projects so that I can take on more of our energy contracts. Mary Hannah is not able to attend the 4/6 meeting so I will attend to present the revisions (and will continue to be a resource for the duration of the project to support Mary Hannah and the Town!) but I have asked Mary Hannah to save the date for the regular April meeting (4/27 @ 6PM).

Thank you, and please let me know if you need anything else ahead of the 4/6 meeting.



Sarah A. Adams, AICP

(she/her/hers)

Principal Planner | Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520 | Worcester | MA | 01608

tel: 508.459.3336 | cell: 774.287.4268 | fax: 508.792.6818 | www.cmrpc.org



Please be advised that the Massachusetts Secretary of State and the Massachusetts Attorney General consider e-mail to be a public record, and therefore subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66 § 10.

****COVID-19 UPDATE:** Please note that in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, CMRPC staff will be operating remotely until further notice. I can be reached via email, or mobile, and am checking my office phone messages periodically. CMRPC staff will also not host or attend in-person meetings, project workshops, focus groups, or interviews. Our team will still be available to discuss projects, but we will attend all meetings virtually**

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES 3/23/2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dianna Provencher (Chair), Jim Reinke, Sharon Nist, Dawn Marttila, Sue Sears, Vaughn Hathaway (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Buck, Town Planner. Brooke Hammond, Department Assistant.

Agenda	
1	Review of Draft Survey Questions
2	Discussion of Draft Goals
3	Adoption of Minutes: 2/23/2021
4	Next Steps/Schedule Next Meeting
Adjourn	

Meeting opens at 6:01 PM

1. Review of Draft Survey Questions

Ms. Adams states the 2021 survey questions were adapted from the 2015 survey. The draft includes a total of 19 questions. A question was added asking residents if they would support a Community Preservation Act surcharge to implement the recreational facilities and/or open space residents would like to see developed/expanded in town. Another question was added asking residents what form of transportation they use to get to and from open/recreational spaces. The last new question added was asking residents to rank their satisfaction with recreational facilities for different age groups.

Mrs. Provencher says a question should be asked on how handicap folk enjoy open and recreational spaces. Mr. Reinke says Leicester parks lack accessibility, and a goal of this plan should be to increase universal access in future and existing parks. Ms. Marttila says Russell Memorial Park received a grant to increase its ADA access in the park and Burncoat Park is looking to add ADA accessibility. Ms. Adams says the term “universal access” will be added to questions 6 and 15. Mr. Reinke suggests a definition of “universal access” be added to the survey, so residents know exactly what it means. Ms. Marttila asks Ms. Adams to add an “other” option on the ranked questions. Ms. Nist asks that ATV and snowmobiles be added as transportation options. Ms. Buck says question 10 should specifically ask residents their favorite open space or recreational place.

The Board discusses where to place paper copies of the finished survey. Some suggestions are the Senior Center, Dunkin’ Donuts, Farmer’s Diner, the Town Clerk’s office, the Housing Authority’s Community Room and the public schools.

Mr. Reinke says the best way to distribute the survey electronically is on Facebook. A flyer with a QR code to the electronic survey will also be distributed. Ms. Adams asks the Board to mention the survey to the other Town Committees as well for maximum advertisement.

Ms. Marttila says all three schools should be added to the list of recreational spaces, and softball should be included with Russell/Little League Field. Mr. Parliament says horses should be included with transportation options.

2. Discussion of Draft Goals

Ms. Adams says goals will be finalized after the survey results have been reviewed. The goals will be a focus of the next few meetings, but no firm goals should be set until after the public forum.

3. Adoption of Minutes 2/23/2021

Motion: Ms. Nist moves to approve the February 23, 2021 minutes.

Second: Ms. Sears

Discussion: None

Roll-Call Vote: (4-0-1)

[Mr. Reinke abstained from voting as he did not attend the February meeting.]

4. Next Steps/Schedule Next Meeting

April 6, 2021 at 6 PM

April 27, 2021 at 6 PM

Motion: Ms. Nist moves to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ms. Marttila

Discussion: None.

Roll-Call Vote: (4-0-0)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Hammond