

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)

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

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE Tuesday, March 23, 2021 @ 6:00PM **ONLINE ONLY**

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

https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/412451165

You can also dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 Access Code: 412-451-165

6:00PM - Open Meeting

- 1. Review of Draft Survey Questions (p. 2)
- 2. Discussion of Draft Goals (p. 22)
- 3. Adoption of Minutes: 2/23/2021 (p. 23)
- 4. Next Steps/Schedule Next Meeting

7:00PM - Adjourn



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 a 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 Clerk's Office in Town Hall, or mailed to: Leicester Planning Board, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524

Please complete and submit your survey by Friday, April 30, 2021 at 10pm. Completed surveys will not be accepted after this date and time. Please complete only one survey per resident. Paper surveys should be delivered to the Leicester Town Clerk's Office at 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524. Specific questions regarding this survey can be referred to sadams@cmrpc.org.

Yes, I'll help

- 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
 - в 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	\bigcirc				0
Clean Water	\bigcirc				0
Dark Skies	\bigcirc				0
Quiet Nights	\bigcirc				0
Nature Preserves	\bigcirc	\circ		\circ	0
Working Landscapes (farms, orchards, timber)	\circ	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	0
Historic Preservation	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Passive Recreation (walking, hiking, etc.)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ		\circ
Parks	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Active Recreation (football, soccer, basketball, etc.)	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ
Water Access (swimming, fishing, boating)	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0
Low Density Housing	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Affordable Housing	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	0

OK ✓

1 of 19 answered

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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

Open space for recreation use	::
Open space for scenic value	::
- Water quality	::
- Water access	::
- Working Farmland	::
- Forests	::
- Wildlife	::
- Buildings of historic interest	::
- Historic/Archaeological Sites	::

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

- To protect wildlife habitat	::
- To protect wetlands	::
- To protect the Town's surface and groundwater resources	::
- To maintain the character of the community	***
- To potentially raise property values	::

5→ 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
- Foreclosures/Abandoned Lots
- E Vehicular traffic/congestion
- F Tourism
- **G** Rising property taxes
- H Depressed local economy
- Economic stress to the farming community
- J Lack of recreational opportunities (incl. water access)
- K Pollution (incl. noise and light pollution)
- L Other

4 of 19 answered

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6→ What initiatives do you feel are worth considering in preserving Leicester's open space and rural character? *

Choose as many as you like

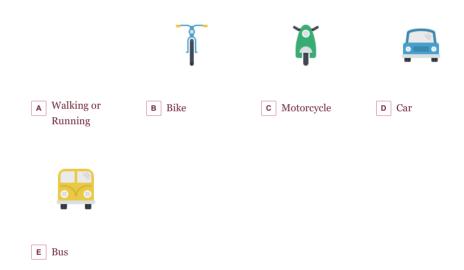
- A Dark skies limiting light pollution
- B Quiet nights limiting noise pollution
- c Clean water protecting water supply
- **P** Farmland incentives preserving working farms
- **E** Working forests preserving working forests
- F Nature sanctuaries preserving natural areas
- G Food security preserving local food production (i.e. local farms, local value-added products, local wild food habitats)
- H Green infrastructure implementing conservation projects that mitigate environmental impacts such as erosion and flooding
- Green development requiring any new development to set aside natural areas
- J Smart growth restricting new development to already developed areas
- Rublic transportation increasing the range and services of public transportation
- Greenways connecting open space with natural corridors
- M Partnering communities partnering with neighboring communities on open space initiatives
- N Eco-tourism tourism based upon the preservation of open space
- Environmental justice giving special attention to environmental issues within low-income neighborhoods
- P Other

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

	10 minute walk	10 minute drive	Neither
Public Lands	\circ	\circ	\circ
Open Fields	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ
Active Agriculture	0	\circ	\circ
Forest or woodlands	\circ	\circ	\circ
Managed forest or woodlands	\circ	\circ	\circ
Orchards	\circ	\circ	\circ
Water access (beaches, boat launch, etc.)	\circ	\circ	\circ
Wetlands or Bogs	\circ	\circ	\circ
Lakes or Ponds	\circ	\circ	\circ
tivers or Streams	\circ	\circ	\circ
Junting Grounds	\circ	\circ	\circ
7ild Foods (berry patches, mushroom logs, c.)	0	0	\circ
arks with Equipment and Facilities laygrounds, picnic tables, etc.)	\circ	0	\circ
urks without Equipment	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ
ctive Recreation Facilities (sports fields, asketball hoops, occer nets, etc.)	0	0	0
rails	0	\bigcirc	\circ
reenways	\circ	\circ	\circ
ew Development	\circ	\circ	
bandoned Buildings	\circ	\circ	\circ
bandoned Machinery	\circ	\circ	\circ
Point Source Pollution	0	6 of 19 answered	
		3 3. 13 4./5#0104	

 $8 \Rightarrow$ How do you travel to open space and recreation facilities in Town? *

Choose as many as you like



7 of 19 answered

9→ 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	0	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0
Burncoat Park	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Community Fields	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	0	0
Hillcrest	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Leicester High School	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Lyons Park	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Memorial School	0	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	\circ
Mid State Trail	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Moose Hill Wildlife Management Area	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Rochdale Park	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Russell Memorial/Little League Field	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Town Common	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	0
Towtaid Park	0	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	0

OK ✓

10→ What is your favorite place in Leicester?



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



- 12→ 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
 - в No
 - c Yes but at an amount less than 3%

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

	Dany	weekiy	Monthly	Seasonany	Kareiy	Nevel
ATV/ORV/Snowmobiling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseball/Softball	0	0	0	0	0	0
Basketball	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bicycling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boating (motor boat)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bowling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camping/Kayaking/Tubing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cross-country Skiing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Sports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishing/Ice Fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foraging/Primitive Skills	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frisbee Golf	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gardening	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golf	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hiking/Snowshoeing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horseback Riding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunting/Target Practice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ice Hockey / Ice Skating	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mountain Biking	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paintball	0	0	0	0	0	0
Picnicking	0	0	0	0	0	0
Running/Cross-country Running	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sight Seeing /Birding/Nature Photography	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skateboarding/In-line Skating	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sledding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swimming (indoors)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swimming (outdoors)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Track and Field	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volleyball	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walking / Dog-Walking	0	0	0	0	0	0

11 of 19 answered

14→ 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
- Stores
- E Hunting and foraging lands
- F Public transportation hubs
- G Schools
- H Developed trailheads
- Private lands
- J Churches
- K Other
- OK ✓

15→ 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?	\bigcirc		\bigcirc	\circ	0
Recreation facilities for kids ages 6 - 12?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Recreation facilities for kids ages 12 - 18?	\circ	0	0	\circ	\circ
Recreation facilities for adults?	\bigcirc		\circ	0	\circ
Recreation facilities for seniors?		\bigcirc		\circ	\circ
Organized youth sports and recreation programs?	0	0	\circ	\circ	0
Organized adult sports and recreation programs?	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ
Organized sports and recreation programs for seniors?		\circ	0	0	\bigcirc
OK ✓					

11 of 19 answered

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- ¹⁶→ What general area of town best describes where you live?
 - A Leicester
 - B Cherry Valley
 - c Rochdale
 - Greenville
 - I do not live in Leicester
 - F Other

17→ 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
- More than 20 year
- F I do not live in Town

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

- A Don't own / 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

19→ What is your age?

- A Under 18
- В 18 24
- c 25 44
- D 45 64
- 65 or over

Submit pre

press Ctrl + Enter ∉

2007 Goals

- Preserve, protect, connect, and enhance Leicester's conservation and natural land resources.
- Provide, maintain, and improve diverse recreational opportunities to meet the needs of Leicester's growing population.
- Preserve and improve the quality, character, and health of Leicester's community and environmental resources by remediating degraded lands, protecting common resources, and preserving cultural heritage.
- Build a strong constituency of open space and recreation advocates through education and collaborative partnerships.
- Identify funding and other resources to support implementation of the actions identified in the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.

2015 Goals

- Protect open space and natural resources, particularly water resources
- Provide and maintain recreational opportunities
- Develop and maintain partnerships
- Expand revenue sources and resources
- Establish a continuous open space planning process

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00PM

[Note: this meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting]

Members Present: Sue Sears, Dianna Provencher, Sharon Nist, Dawn Marttila, Vaughn Hathaway (alternate)

Staff Present: Michelle Buck (Town Planner), Brooke Hammond (Department Assistant)

Members Absent: James Reinke

Order of Business:

6:00PM – Open Meeting

- 1. Committee Organization/Appointment of Chair
- 2. Overview of Update Process & Timeline
- 3. Next Steps/Schedule Next Meeting

7:00PM – Adjourn

Ms. Buck introduces the Select Board appointed Committee members. The 2021 Plan is Leicester's 6th Open Space Plan.

1. Committee Organization/Appointment of Chair

Motion: Ms. Nist nominates Ms. Provencher as Chair.

Second: Ms. Marttila

Discussion: None

Roll-Call Vote: (5-0-0)

2. Overview of Update Process & Timeline

Process

Ms. Adams, Principal Planner at CMRPC, explains the process. There are three aspects that go into plan preparation: Community Participation/Meetings, Research and Data Gathering, and Document Preparation. The plan should be complete by December 2021. The 2021 plan will focus on updating points made in the 2015 plan, as well as create new goals. There are also state-required criteria each plan must meet, as outlined in the meeting packet. An updated plan allows Leicester to apply for many different grants and funding. A lot of sections will remain the same. Any ownership changes or new parcels will be updated, as well as some of Leicester's goals and objectives. CMRPC will prepare the plan, survey, census, and any presentations. The Committee is responsible for providing feedback, an ADA evaluation for any recreation facilities, getting Committee/Board letters of support for the plan, and promoting outreach.

The Committee will be meeting roughly once a month.

Timeline

Public Forum to be held sometime in July or August. After forum the Committee will adjust the goals based on community feedback and prepare a draft. By October a draft plan will be ready,

and the final plan will be compiled by November/December 2021. The relevant documents will be prepared by Ms. Adams monthly. She will be using the 2007 and 2015 reports as reference.

3. Meetings

Meetings will be monthly starting at 6 pm. Next meeting will be held 3/23/21 at 6 pm.

Ms. Buck says meetings will be open to the public. Alternates will be added so there is quorum at each meeting.

4. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Nist moves to close the meeting.

Second: Ms. Marrtila

Discussion: None

Roll-Call Vote: (5-0-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:34PM

Respectfully Submitted, Brooke Hammond, Department Assistant

Documents included in the meeting packet:

- Plan Timeline
- OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS