

Open Space and Recreation Public Forum – March 8, 2017
Open Space and Natural Resources Breakout Session Questions and Results

Q. Are you aware of Lancaster conservation and recreation areas and facilities?

If yes, then how often do you use them?

All in attendance were familiar with the Town's facilities. Most of the facilities on the list are being used often.

If no, then would you use them more if you were aware?

There was much emphasis on connections between conservation areas and recreational facilities. Some examples included:

- *Expanding/connecting spaces*
- *Bike riding with good bike paths connecting to good trails*
- *Connections build appreciation; key to getting people active*
- *Foot bridge between the Cook CA and the Pellechia RA*
- *More blue trails*
- *Connections between our conservation areas, especially riparian areas*

Q. What conservation and recreation facilities do you use?

Examples:

Cook Conservation Area
Lancaster Town Forest
Lancaster State Forest
Bolton Flats State Wildlife Management Area
Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Turner Pond Conservation Area
Ballard Hill Conservation Area
Frommer Park and Bartlett Conservation Area
Atherton Bridge Greenway Conservation Area
Eagle Ridge Conservation Area
Lancaster Community Center
Lancaster Senior Center
Lancaster Town Beach
Thayer Field
Mill Street Field
Dexter Drumlin
Skating rink

All in attendance were familiar with the Town's facilities. Most of the facilities on the list are being used often.

Q. What types of *infrastructure* would you like to see?

Examples:

Bicycle paths
Hiking and walking trails
More crosswalks
Street lights at intersections
Community park
More sidewalks
Meeting space
Walking track
Dog park
Fishing areas
Canoe/kayak launches
Board ramps
Community pavilion / gazebo
Playground

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *Snowmobile and mountain biking trails*
- *Dog-friendly trails*
- *Specific outdoor exercise equipment for adults (see Europe as an example)*
- *Tennis/pickleball courts*
- *A "real" senior center*
- *Foot bridge to connect the Cook CA and the Pellechia RA*
- *A single source for information on all of the Town's facilities; in the form of a guide book, on-line information or a mobile application*

Q. Is there any open space in Lancaster (publicly or privately owned) which you would like to see protected?

- *Farm land*
- *Nashua River Greenway*

Q. Do you live in a neighborhood in Lancaster that is lacking in public open space?

If yes, would you support the protection of open space in your neighborhood?

There was not sufficient time to address this question.

Q. Do you live in a neighborhood in Lancaster that is lacking in public recreational facilities?

If yes, would you support the expansion of public recreational facilities in your neighborhood?

There was not sufficient time to address this question.

Q. Do you feel there should be more, less or the same residential growth?

There was not sufficient time to address this question.

Q. Do you feel there should be more, less or the same commercial growth?

There was not sufficient time to address this question.

Q. What actions by the Town of Lancaster do you favor to preserve open space?

____ Town purchase of private lands without the financial assistance of grants, even if it temporarily raises my real estate taxes for several years. ____

____ Town purchase of private lands only if funded at least 50% by grants, even if it temporarily raises my real estate taxes for several years.

____ Town purchase of private lands only if it does not raise my real estate taxes.

There was not sufficient time to address this question. One person checked off the first two answers.

Other Comments:

There was much emphasis on public education in the following areas:

- *Education/awareness of economic value of open space*
- *More education of our resources*
- *Build education into the school curriculums*
- *Vernal pool certification*
- *Education on natural resources in existing conservation areas*
- *Surveys of flora and fauna*
- *Horticultural heritage and future*

- *Need information on agricultural grants and preservation programs*
- *Promotion of farms and their associated uses*
- *A single source for information on all of the Town's facilities; in the form of a guide book, on-line information or a mobile application*

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Recreation Breakout Session Questions and Results

Q. What types of *Youth Recreation programs (ages 6-18)* would you like to see?

Examples:

Summer day adventure field trips (movies, roller skating, bowling, other)
Summer full-day camp
Summer half-day camp
Summer counselor-in-training (CIT) camp program
Swimming lessons
School vacation childcare
Basketball clinic (summer, fall, winter)
Indoor soccer clinic
Indoor floor hockey program
Fitness classes (Zumba, strength training, general fitness, other)
Art and crafts classes
Drawing classes
Skating lessons
Ice skating party
Geocaching
Golf lessons
Skills and Drills basketball clinic
Tennis lessons
Frisbee golf
Lacrosse clinic
Softball clinic
Golf lessons
Kayak lessons
Paddleboard lessons
Block dance party
Destination trail hiking

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *Hiking/walking clubs*
- *Theater, drama, music programs*
- *Cycling club*
- *Camping*
- *Magic show*
- *Gymnastics*
- *Concerts, movies*
- *Farm tours, festivals*
- *River festivals*

- *Billiards*
- *Canoe lessons*
- *Rope tying*
- *Astronomy and telescope*
- *Gardening classes*

Q. What *Parent and Young Child programs* would you like to see?

Examples:

Morning summer camp
 Young child safety program
 Music and movement classes
 Sign and say classes
 Tikes and Trikes playgroup
 Preschool group
 Developmental sports clinics
 Parents Night Out with Kids Night Out
 Stroller walking group
 Stroller fitness classes
 Arts and crafts

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *Guided nature walks*
- *Movies*
- *Child day care*

Q. What *Adult programs* would you like to see?

Examples:

One-day trips (Boston, NYC, Block Island, whale watching, other)
 Multi-day trips (Wash DC, Nantucket/Martha's Vineyard, Block Island, other)
 Parent outings (daytime, evening)
 Co-ed softball (summer, fall)
 Winter men's basketball program
 Summer volleyball league (summer, fall, winter)
 Fitness classes
 Fitness education
 Walking group
 Ballroom dancing classes
 Ballroom dancing outings
 Square dancing

Zumba classes
Golf lessons
Golf weekly outings
Tennis lessons
Tennis pick-up league
Pickleball (indoor, outdoor)
Game night (board games, cards, cribbage)
Geocaching
Kayak outing
Paddleboard outing
Destination trail hiking

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *Auto repair*
- *Arts and crafts, beading*
- *Glass blowing*
- *Knitting, crochet club*
- *Yoga*
- *Dinner club*
- *Concerts*
- *Canoe outings*
- *Billiards*
- *Astronomy and telescope*
- *Gardening classes*
- *Bunko (?)*
- *Town-wide yard sales*
- *Walking group that is more than once a week*
- *Outdoorsman activities, such as hunting, archery, fishing*
- *Community gardening*

Q. What types of *infrastructure* would you like to see?

Examples:

Bicycle paths
Hiking and walking trails
More crosswalks
Street lights
Community park
More sidewalks
Meeting space
Walking track
Dog park

Fishing areas
Canoe/kayak launches
Boat ramps
Community pavilion / gazebo
Athletic field space
Playground

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *More space in general*
- *A “real” senior center*
- *Mitigation from developers for more recreational spaces*
- *A single source for information on all of the Town’s facilities; in the form of a guide book, on-line information or a mobile application*

Open Space and Recreation Public Forum – March 8, 2017
Senior Breakout Session Questions and Results

Q. What types of *programs* would you like to see for Seniors?

Examples:

Painting
Photography
Gardening
Lectures
Exercise – yoga, aerobics, pilates, thai chi
Movies
Travel/day trips
Cultural activities – concerts, theater
Socializing with other seniors, families, and young children
Health – CPR class, wellness screening, flu/pneumonia shots
Lunches, dinners
Elder daycare
Dancing
Board games, cards, bingo
Crafts
Coffee and conversation
Volunteer opportunities
Swimming

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *Adult day care*
- *Tai chi*
- *Teas*
- *Men's night*
- *Poker, bridge*
- *Walking club*

Q. What types of *infrastructure* would you like to see for Seniors?

Examples:

Bicycle paths
Hiking and walking trails
More crosswalks
Street lights at intersections
Community Center

More sidewalks
Meeting space
Walking track
Dog park
Fishing areas
Canoe/kayak launches
Boat ramps

These were all considered to be great ideas. Some others that were mentioned:

- *More space in general*
- *A “real” senior center*
- *Tennis/pickleball courts*
- *Specific outdoor exercise equipment for adults (see Europe as an example)*

Q. What types of *services* would you like to see for Seniors?

Examples:

Town services for private roads (plowing, sweeping, maintenance)
Transportation services – senior van
Public transportation
Free legal and tax assistance

Some additional services that were mentioned:

- *Adult day care*
- *Respite for caregivers*

Q. What type of *benefits* would you like to see for Seniors?

Examples:

Reduced taxes for age 60+
Volunteer positions to reduce property taxes

Some additional services that were mentioned:

- *Holding taxes for seniors until sale or death*