Haverhill's Open Space & Recreation Plan

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Pat Lavigne, Christine Kwitchoff, Lisa Marzilli, Larry Olasky, Erin Thompson-Bertrand



What is Open Space?

Land valued for:

- Nature and wildlife
- Agricultural and forest production
- Beauty
- Active and passive recreation

Such lands include:

- Forests and grasslands
- Farms
- Parks
- Stream and river corridors

Open space may be protected or unprotected, public or private.



https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/usfs-open-space-conservation-strategy.pd



Open Space Benefits

- Clean Air & Water
- Water Supplies
- Natural Flood Control
- Food
- Timber, Forage, & Other Products
- Wildlife Habitat & Corridors
- Endangered Species Recovery
- Climate Regulation & Resiliency
- Scenic Beauty
- Recreation Opportunities & Access
- Community Revitalization
- Improved Human Health
- Opportunities To Connect Youth With Nature
- Increased Property Values

https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/usfs-open-space-conservation-strategy.pdf

Open Space & Recreation Plan

- Tool through which a community plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources
- Eligible for PARC, LAND, and other DCS grant programs



Open Space & Recreation Community Survey: 858 Responses

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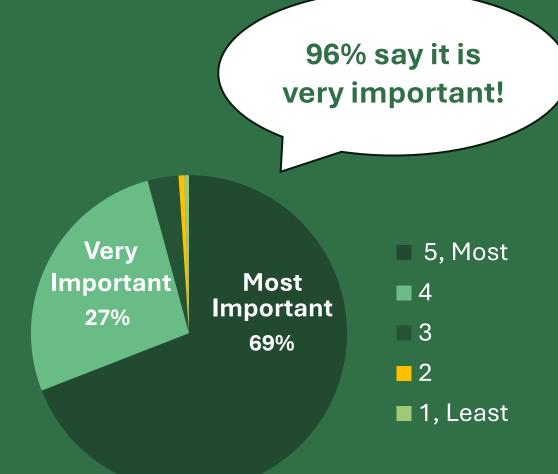
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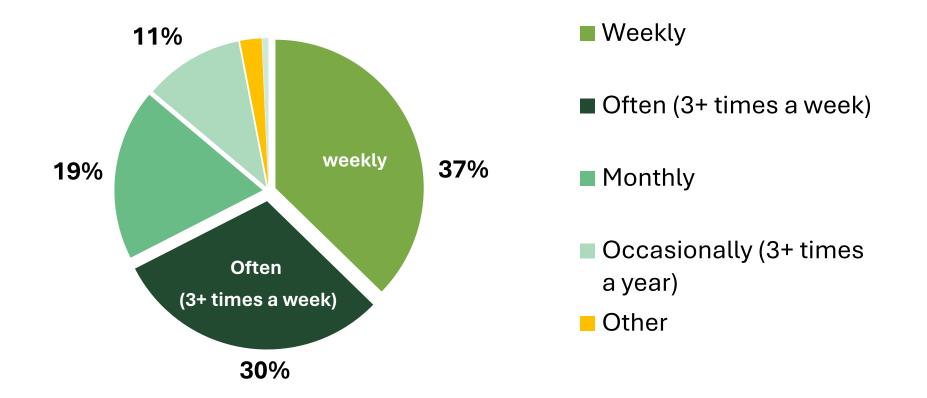
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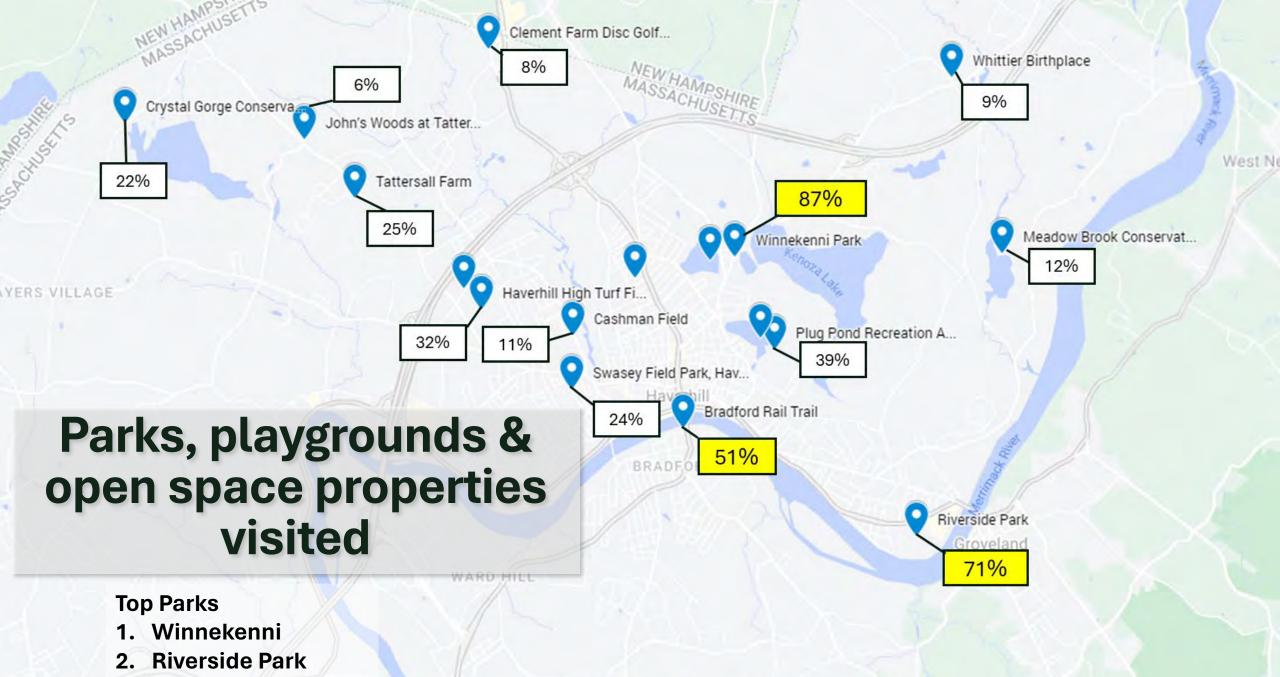
How important are parks, recreation, and open space issues to you?



How frequently do you visit Haverhill's parks, recreation, and open space areas?



67% of respondents visit at least weekly

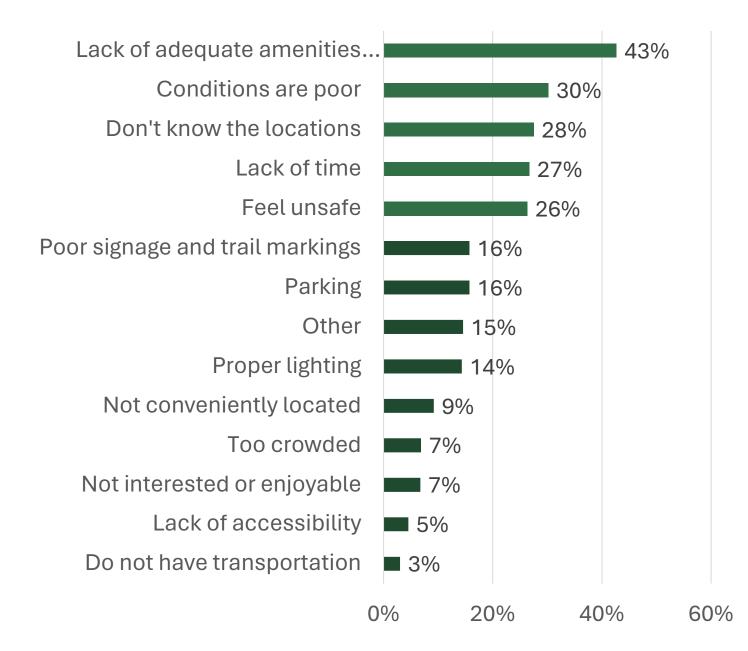


3. Bradford Rail Trail

Reasons that limit your usage of parks, recreation, and open spaces?

• Amenities include bathrooms (especially in winter), trash barrels, seating/shelter

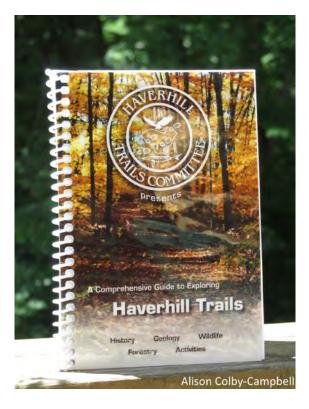
• Safety, litter and regular maintenance of parks, fields, and open space are concerns





Trails & Conservation Areas

- Trail markings
- Parking
- Trail improvements
- Awareness of location
- Preserve open space











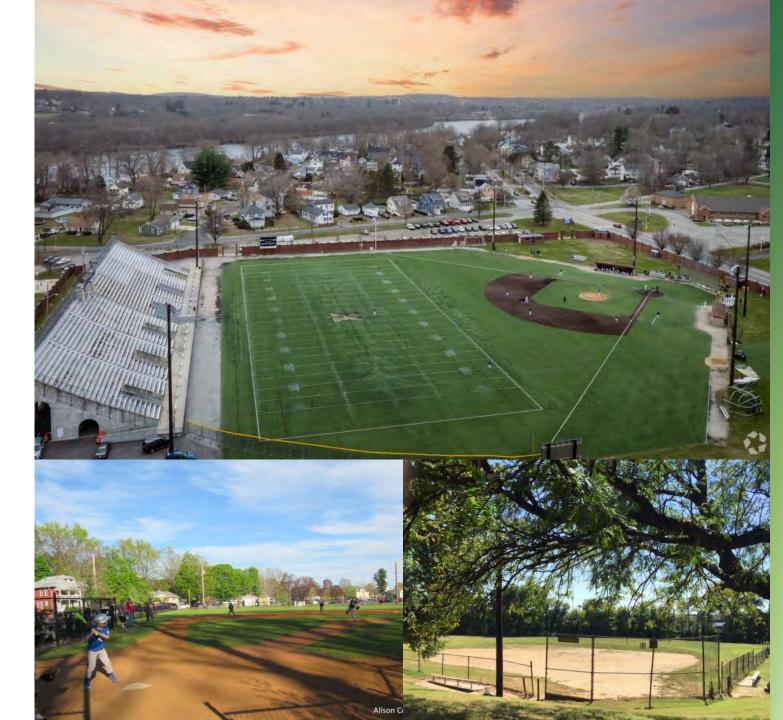
Parks & . Playgrounds.

- ADA accessibility
- Bathrooms, seating, lighting
- Maintenance, litter
- Safety

- Age-appropriate play sets
- Transportation, sidewalks

Sports Fields

- Maintenance
- Amenities: Bathrooms
- Aesthetic improvements



Recreation

- Water access & boathouse
- Community events
- Youth centered activities
- Skatepark



Survey Comments



Requested Recreation Improvements

Pickleball court	Tennis court	Skateboard park	Basketball court	Disk golf
Dog park	Sports fields	Handicap accessible playgrounds	Age- appropriate playgrounds	Water access
Boat house	Community events	Bike racks	Rail Trail	Pump Track

How to Participate

- Provide your feedback
 - On the sheets around room
 - Discuss with survey committee

• Keep updated

- Provide email- completed open space plan, news and updates from Conservation Dept.
- Indicate your interests







Robert Moore, Haverhill Conservation

Tracy Fuller, YMCA

Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Greenbelt Association

Justine & Elaine, Brightside

Marie Caprio, Make IT Haverhill (Spanish Translation)

Last Open Space & Recreation Plan

Haverhill Trails

Haverhill Recreation









How to reach us?



Conservation Department Website

• <u>Welcome to Haverhill, MA (cityofhaverhill.com)</u>

Follow us on Facebook

City of Haverhill MA Conservation Department

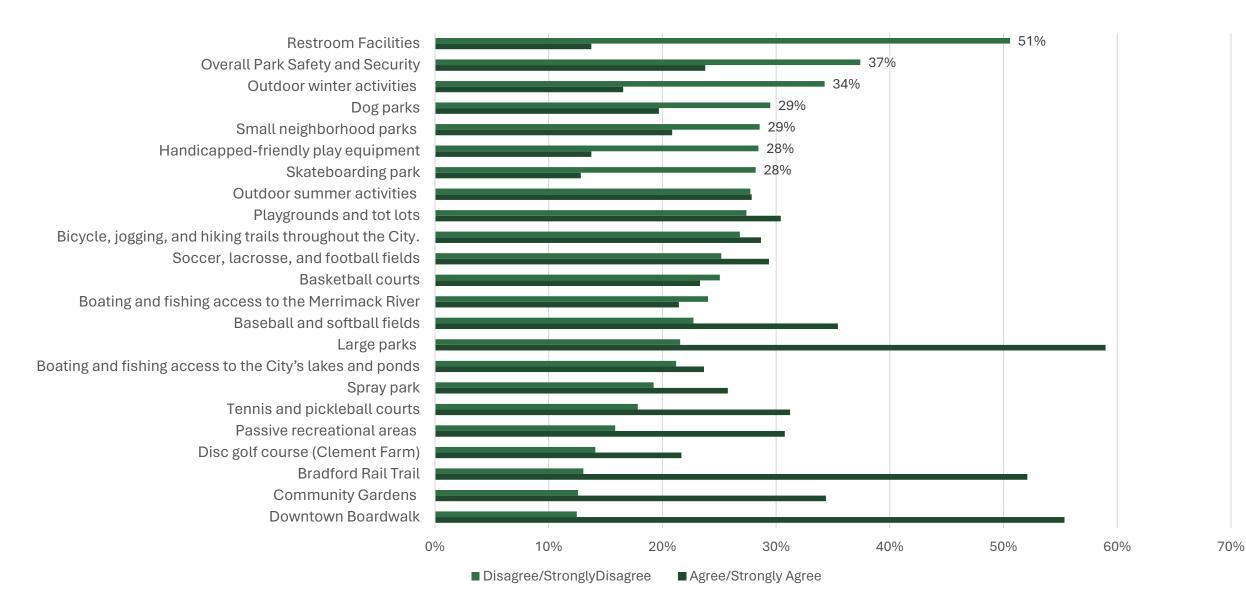


Email Conservation Department

- Rob Moore (rmoore@haverhillma.gov)
- Mckayla Arsenault (marsenault@haverhillma.gov)

Back up slides

The City meets my expectations providing and maintaining the following:



What facilities/activities would you like to see more of in Haverhill?

70%	36%	26%	21%	20%
Maintenance & Improvements to current structures	Trail Improvements: Signage, expand/connect the Rail Trail, post locations/parking	Preserve Open Space and provide related education	Improved access to the River and build a boathouse	Concerns regarding impacts of rapid housing development

What Would Enhance Our Community?

	24%	21%	14%		12%	12%
	Community Engagement	Parks & Trails	Housing & Development		Merrimack River	Sports Fields
•	Recreational center/spaces	center/spaces Improve	 Limit new development 	•	Boat launch/access	UpgradeImprove
	Youth programs		Improved roads		Boat house	maintenance
•	Skatepark				Seating/Amenities	5