

Open Space Recreation Plan Questions for the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee

August 23, 2022

1. What words or phrases best describe the ideal state of Lexington's open space and recreation?

- 18:56:06 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Linkage
- 18:56:12 From pat moyer : taken care of, which it is not now.
- 18:56:40 From Renen Bassik : flexible and maintainable
- 18:56:41 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : well maintained
- 18:57:05 From Weiwei : To reach a harmony of nature and human
- 18:57:09 From Barbara Katzenberg : Managed in an environmentally sound way
- 18:57:27 From Renen Bassik : yes flexible application
- 18:57:36 From Sara Bothwell Allen : Vibrant/healthy
- 18:57:50 From Alex Dohan : available to all
- 18:57:51 From Kevin Beuttell : Identifying andBalancing multiple needs
- 18:58:13 From Lisa O'Brien : representative, accessible
- 18:58:13 From Suzie Barry : accessible
- 18:58:21 From Leslie Masson : be able to forage in a repectful way
- 18:58:25 From Renen Bassik : inclusive for all capabilities
- 18:58:28 From Ingrid Klimoff : managed to preserve trees....not always done now
- 18:59:07 From Pamela Tames : land cared for in environmentally healthy way
- 18:59:17 From Alex Dohan : include educational information/signage
- 18:59:52 From Renen Bassik : financially sustainable

2. Given your vision for the ideal state, what does it mean for the provision and management of parks, trails, facilities, and open space?

19:01:36 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Means town needs to support these areas financially every year.

19:01:49 From Barbara Katzenberg : Don't acquire land whose maintenance isn't funded in perpetuity

19:02:03 From Barbara Tarrh : remove invasives. ongoing funding for same

19:02:16 From Sara Bothwell Allen : Regular evaluation/monitoring

19:02:22 From Alex Dohan : Provide necessary resources, including staff

19:02:30 From Renen Bassik : proper future proofing for changing needs of the community

19:02:48 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Educate residents on importance of respecting our open space and recreation areas.

19:02:54 From Suzie Barry : collaboration, resources, clear communication

19:03:35 From Ingrid Klimoff : It means that we need to hire more staff to oversee the care of large trees..and not ignore ;o

19:03:42 From Pamela Tames : Land managed with equipment, processes and materials that preserves health of land and of people.

19:04:13 From Ingrid Klimoff : not ignore lianas. (vines that climb trees,,and kill them)

19:04:56 From Renen Bassik : partnerships with neighboring communities, look beyond our borders.

19:04:58 From Barbara Katzenberg : Have an idea of the right % of open space/recreational space in relation to other Town land use priorities.

19:05:42 From Lisa O'Brien : prioritize / commitment of town resources

3. How can we best balance the promotion of public use of recreation facilities and open space with the varying competing interests of user groups and conservation?

19:07:21 From Renen Bassik : engage the participants to contribute into the care and maintenance of areas. organized management

19:07:35 From Alex Dohan : education and clear communication between users and Town Depts

19:08:33 From Suzie Barry : non-siloed thinking...work together not in opposition to each other.....

19:08:33 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : In my mind, land preserved as conservation land under the oversight of the Conservation Commission needs to have a primary focus on conservation of natural

resources. Recreation on these lands should be secondary and not adversely affect the natural resources.

19:09:42 From Pamela Tames : Communicate about resources that are less used and encourage residents to explore them.

19:10:14 From Sara Bothwell Allen : Consider how to mitigate edge effects or light pollution and other aspects of conservation and/or recreation land and other land uses.

19:11:01 From Leslie Masson : Need to figure out what the "competing interests" are.

19:11:13 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Continue to support ACROSS Lexington as it exposes people to a wide variety of open space in town.

19:11:15 From Kevin Beuttell : Look for co-benefits. Would a new dog park fill an unmet need and also reduce maintenance pressure on open space and recreation facilities for example?

19:11:55 From Leslie Masson : Toilets

19:12:10 From Renen Bassik : explore private public partnerships, "sponsor" a space...

19:12:13 From Sara Bothwell Allen : (Light pollution is about neighborhoods and conservation lands too)

19:13:07 From Melinda Walker : I think some residents are unaware of the financial investments the Town through CPA has made to acquire/maintain conservation land. Although the following comment is anecdotal, but I have talked to a lot of people who don't 'know' the Wright Farm parcel exists.

19:13:19 From Alex Dohan : continue to build/support joint Conservation-Recreation programs

4. How would you describe your involvement with the 2015 OSRP action plan implementation?

19:14:48 From Leslie Masson : None

19:15:16 From Barbara Katzenberg : None

19:15:21 From Melinda Walker : None...

19:15:22 From Ingrid Klimoff : None

19:15:30 From Weiwei : None

19:15:34 From Lisa O'Brien : was not involved

19:15:40 From Pamela Tames : None

19:15:41 From Alex Dohan : GCC (Greeways Corridor Committee)

19:15:43 From Sara Bothwell Allen : I was not involved.

19:15:49 From Barbara Tarrh : none - not aware of it

19:15:57 From Suzie Barry : Select Board Member

19:16:04 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : None

19:16:07 From Alex Dohan : ConCom

19:17:41 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : If in implementation: I'm on the Conservation Commission.

5. How do you feel the 2015 OSRP goals were met the last seven years? What specific projects are you all most proud of/were the most impactful? What specific objectives do we need to have for the next seven years?

19:22:23 From Alex Dohan : GCC has made great progress with the ACROSS Lex routes!

19:22:42 From Mar : Across Lexington is great

19:22:55 From Alex Dohan : Trail markers have gone up on some conservation trails

19:23:17 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Additional conservation land (Wright Farm, Highland Ave parcel, for example).

19:23:23 From Barbara Katzenberg : Accessible trail increase

19:23:35 From Alex Dohan : Parker Meadow ADA trail!

19:23:39 From Leslie Masson : Across Lexington is great

19:23:42 From Melissa Battite - LexRec : ADA improvements incorporated into capital projects such as walkways, connectivity

19:23:47 From Sara Bothwell Allen : There's been a lot of work on playground accessibility! I love the additions of Across Lexington.

19:24:03 From David Horton : Online information for citizens

19:24:17 From Lisa O'Brien : center track - many different users

19:24:30 From Sara Bothwell Allen : Online resources esp for Across Lexington has been a big benefit for community members.

19:24:57 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Meadow rehabilitations

19:24:58 From Mary Rose : Love the Lincoln Park landscape with native plants

19:25:26 From sandra shaw : Bikeway popularity is encouraging.

19:25:51 From Weiwei : love the lighting on all field at night

- 19:26:02 From Renen Bassik : As a parent, keeping the pool open, staffed, and maintained
- 19:26:22 From Mary Rose : Increased visitation at LexFarm
- 19:26:22 From Karen Mullins : Comprehensive Conservation Land Management Planning for 5 Areas; Planning, Design and Engineering and Construction of Universal Access at two conservation Areas; Meadow and habitat restoration. Conservation land Acquisition and donations
- 19:26:56 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Establishment of Sustainable Lexington and work they are doing.
- 19:27:18 From Lisa O'Brien : next seven years ... covid increased demand for open space /recreation ... new high school, impact

6. What trends, challenges, and hot topics do we need to ensure are incorporated into this OSRP update?

- 19:27:27 From Ingrid Klimoff : I think we need to address maintenance of trees, and to not ignore invasives like Japanese knotweed (which the town seems to ignore....and in fact helps spread)
- 19:27:58 From Mar : yes Japanese knotweed a very big problem
- 19:28:13 From Renen Bassik : increasing costs of labor and equipment
- 19:28:16 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Need to address increased use of conservation lands by bicycles and associated damage done by creation of unauthorized off-road bike trails
- 19:28:57 From Mary Rose : How open space can help with climate change
- 19:29:08 From Mike O'Connor : Question 6 - there is growing interest in a municipal bike park (aka pump track)
- 19:29:27 From Alex Dohan : Wright Farm Barn -
- 19:29:35 From Barbara Tarrh : address increased needs of conserved lands as they are threatened by climate change, exotic pests
- 19:29:36 From Leslie Masson : Cars vs BikePath - I use the BP extensively and drive - it can be scary.
- 19:29:51 From Sara Bothwell Allen : Helping community members connect to the natural world, and understand their connectedness to it.
- 19:30:14 From Renen Bassik : increasing access and participation to water sports inside the town.
- 19:30:20 From Sara Bothwell Allen : Global biodiversity crisis.

19:30:33 From Melinda Walker : When parcels of land may become available for purchase , should housing for very low/low-income families be considered? Should we do more to invite people who do not live here but work here, esp. in service industries, be able to enjoy the excellent recreational facilities and open space?

19:30:52 From Leslie Masson : Would be great if Parker Meadow could support milkweed

19:30:58 From Pamela Tames : Encourage that open space explicitly include agricultural land, and that goals include the community's only working farm.

19:31:00 From Bobak : Lighting along the Minuteman Bike Path would help encourage more people to commute to Boston and other areas by bike leaving their cars behind. With the new connector in Somerville opening soon it would be much easier to bike off the roads all the way to Boston. For 6 months of the year, coming back at the end of the day, one has to bike basically in the dark.

19:32:33 From Ruth Ladd -ConCom : Looking at how affordable housing can co-exist with open space/recreational resources.

19:32:36 From Suzie Barry : Ensuring any impacts to Conservation Land or Recreation/Park land from the placement of the new High School are addressed in a manner that benefits all

19:33:18 From Leslie Masson : When planting consider how many species rely on those chosen.