

Appendix F – Sample Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Questions

These are sample questions pulled from existing Open Space and Recreation Plans. You do not need to use all (or any!) of these questions in your survey. They are provided as a resource. Please edit as you feel is useful for your community.

1. How critical are the following open space and recreation issues in the ____ of _____?
 - a) Loss of community character
 - b) Disappearance of wildlife habitat and forest land
 - c) Disappearance of agricultural land
 - d) Degradation of water bodies and wetlands
 - e) Degradation of drinking water supplies
 - f) Lack of adequate recreation facilities

2. In order to preserve open spaces in _____, would you be willing to:
 - a) Vote to allocate funds to acquire or otherwise conserve open space
 - b) Sell some of your own land to the town/city at market value or at a bargain
 - c) Participate in maintenance/cleanup at a park/conservation area
 - d) Donate equipment or materials
 - e) Teach a class/lead an activity
 - f) Attend a meeting or join a committee
 - g) Support a requirement for all new residential developments to include conservation/open space areas
 - h) Favor zoning that provides for increases in density in existing developed areas in exchange for open space in less developed or environmentally sensitive areas
 - i) Consider allowing an easement (i.e. public access or development restriction) on a portion of your property in order to add to existing open space or connect to open spaces (e.g. to access a hiking trail or extend a bike path)
 - j) Supporting the community's application to state and federal grant programs

3. What should _____'s priorities be for open space expenditures?
 - a) Acquiring conservation lands for new passive recreation use (e.g. trails)
 - b) Acquiring land for climate change resiliency
 - c) Acquiring land to link open space parcels
 - d) Acquiring agricultural land
 - e) Acquiring scenic views and vistas
 - f) Improving passive recreation opportunities on existing conservation land
 - g) Improving/expanding wildlife habitat and corridors
 - h) Expanding/creating available parking at open space areas
 - i) Protecting water quality

- j) Protecting air quality
 - k) Conserve rural character of the community
4. What should _____'s priorities be for recreation expenditures?
- a) Acquiring land for new public athletic facilities
 - b) Improving existing athletic facilities
 - c) Expanding/creating available parking at recreational facilities
 - d) Expanding connections for walking or hiking (e.g. sidewalks, connecting trails)
 - e) Expanding connections for biking (e.g. off-road paths, on-road lanes, and rail trails)
 - f) Expanding recreation opportunities for residents under the age of 18
 - g) Expanding recreation opportunities for seniors
 - h) Acquiring land for beach land and access points for coastal recreation
5. What do you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in _____?
- a) Additional protected open space for biodiversity
 - b) Protection of agricultural lands
 - c) Water supply protection
 - d) Dog park
 - e) Outdoor performance area
 - f) Community garden
 - g) Pollinator garden
 - h) Swimming areas (in natural water bodies)
 - i) Swimming areas (in pools)
 - j) Multi-use trails
 - k) Bike lanes within the road
 - l) Hiking trails
 - m) Accessible trails
 - n) Benches along trails
 - o) Water bottle filling stations
 - p) Farmers market
 - q) Skate park
 - r) Outdoor fitness equipment
 - s) Boating facilities for motor boats
 - t) Boating facilities for kayaks/canoes
 - u) Hunting opportunities
 - v) Playgrounds with handicapped accessibility
 - w) Splash pad
 - x) Athletic fields (soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse)
 - y) Tennis courts
 - z) Pickleball courts
 - aa) Basketball courts
 - bb) Frisbee golf
 - cc) Playground
 - dd) Camping
 - ee) Dancing

- ff) Golfing
- gg) ATV paths
- hh) Bird watching

6. Which municipally owned open space or recreation lands do you and your family use? *[add in a list of the community's open space and recreation properties here]*
7. Is it important to be able to travel to open space and recreational destinations in _____ by:
 - a) Walking
 - b) Biking
 - c) Car
 - d) Public transportation
8. Are you satisfied with the condition of:
 - a) Existing recreational programs/opportunities for adults
 - b) Existing recreational programs/opportunities for children
 - c) Existing recreational programs/opportunities for teens
 - d) Existing recreational programs/opportunities for aging adults
 - e) Existing outdoor recreational facilities
 - f) Existing trails
 - g) Existing sidewalks
9. What keeps you from using conservation and recreation areas or participating in recreational programming?
 - a) I lack transportation
 - b) Entrance fee is too expensive
 - c) I don't have time to visit/attend
 - d) I am not aware of the programming being available
 - e) I am not interested in the programming offered
 - f) I have a disability and the area or program is not accessible
 - g) I'm concerned about safety
 - h) I need childcare to attend
10. How can _____ make open spaces easier to get to, comfortable, and open to all?
 - a) Pick up trash
 - b) Add benches, water bottle fillers, and other infrastructures
 - c) Better trail signage
 - d) Install signage throughout the community with directions to popular parks/conservation areas
11. Do you regularly travel to any nearby communities for open space and/or recreational opportunities? If so, which facilities?
12. Demographic questions:
 - a) Age

- b) Children
- c) Income
- d) Disability