

## SECTION 6 Community Goals

### ***Description of Process***

The Open Space Committee hosted public meetings and requested public input on the Open Space Plan update. Two public hearings were held on January 21, 2010 and October 14, 2010. Residents were requested to provide comments on an on-line survey beginning on November 15, 2010 and ending on December 9, 2010.

### ***January 21, 2010 Public Meeting***

Residents and the town's various boards/committee members discussed the following:

Resource Areas-Priority areas include land in the Canoe River Aquifer, any land along a major waterbodies, remaining forested land in Great Woods section of Norton, and the preservation of local historic/archaeological/scenic resources. One specific property for acquisition is the Bucklin land on Meadowbrook Lane. The Land Preservation Society of Norton (LPS) would like to focus on the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat project and the town residents expressed interest in having the whole town certified with Community Habitat status. The Open Space Committee is interested in continuing the forestry projects at the Town Forest and the Lincoln Woods Conservation Area.

Community-The majority of attendees were focused more on active recreation for this category. We identified a need to keep more recreation field/programs despite recent budget cuts. Residents would like to add places for ice skating, like the former Slattery property on John Scott Blvd and maybe at the Fernandes Park. One resident requested that we add a dog park (1 ½-2 acres). Local sport teams' representatives identified needs for a large high school complex, 4-5 more little league baseball, pop warner fields and softball fields, a centralized recreation complex with trails, food stand and bathrooms, skateboard park, neighborhood parks, and a rollerblade trail (bike trail).

Management-Most attendees recognized the importance of maintaining the athletic fields. Residents also have concerns about the amount of local off road vehicle (ORV) damage particularly on Red Mill Rd. and illegal dumping. The Open Space Committee and the LPS recognize the immediate need for quick response to new invasive plant infestations and for long-term eradication program. Sports teams' representatives would like to add management of the use of fields between school and after-school organizations, and including gates/wood chips.

Residents specifically identified the following need/projects:

1. Slattery master plan
  - Start new committee with board of selectmen
  - Make sure wetlands are flagged for appropriate land use
  - Get site plan
2. Recreation Complex
  - Start new committee with board of selectmen
  - Advertise for members
  - Assess individual sport groups needs
  - Facilitate resources within town hall
  - Visit other towns projects/fields
  - Evaluate existing town property for compatibility
  - Evaluate other property for purchase if not compatible on existing town property
3. Several members of audience will meet to start this project in the immediate future.

#### 4. Wildlife habitat

LPS is starting new Wild Backyards Program

Education/outreach includes talks at library, into on LPS website, newspaper articles and scouts

#### October 14, 2010 Public Meeting

On October 14, 2010 Massachusetts Audubon held a workshop at the Norton Public library geared toward more cooperative efforts of conservation and recreation for joint projects. Stephanie Elson and Priscilla Chapman led the discussion. The focus of their presentation was:

- Norton's natural resources and recent land use trends, with ideas and suggested principles for guiding open space planning moving forward and
- Green Infrastructure Approach to Community Planning

The main points taken from the meeting were:

- The Open Space and Recreation planning process aims to determine the open space needs and the desires of the community – the few involved with the process don't necessarily represent the whole of the town
- The questionnaire (in the works) will go a long way towards determining the above
- In earlier meetings between the Recreation and Open Space communities in Norton, there arose a desire for better connection between the two groups. The Open Space community doesn't always have recreation goals or needs / desires in mind, and vice versa. For instance, an area proposed as a recreation area by the Rec community might not have sensitivity for important habitat areas nearby the proposed site, whereas an area proposed by the Open Space community might not have sensitivity to easy access to the site for parents and players.
- Working together throughout the planning process could change the game.
- There is a new 'mini Fenway' proposed that seemingly could solve many recreation problems by creating a large, centralized hub of fields and rec opportunities, while generative revenue for the town
  - IDEA: maybe a small portion of the admission cost to the facility (0.25 cents per admission?) could be dedicated to Conservation and Recreation uses in Norton?
- Discussion of the trail walks and clean-ups that the Open Space Committee holds throughout the year. Perhaps Parks & Rec could help advertize these events on their website and Facebook page, helping to spread the word and get a more diverse group involved with the appreciation of Norton's natural landscape.
- Linking Open Space/ Conservation / Recreation together – we are all part of the town's green infrastructure and can work together / help each other towards common goals.
- Parks & Rec can help the open space committee in efforts to connect people and nature.
  - Suggestion to hold a trail walk or nature exploration event nearby a field when a game is going on. Perhaps Mass Audubon, the Open Space Committee, or another group could lead this event for moms and younger kids.
- The Open Space Committee has a system for identifying the habitat value of different parcels of land in town.
  - Suggestion that this system be used to look at the town as a whole, not just parcel-by-parcel, to help complete an analysis of the important areas to protect, and areas where development might make the most sense.

- Perhaps recreation interests could be mapped as well (proximity to major roads, other recreation needs / desires), to be part of the layering process when selecting sites suitable for recreation
- Suggestion to look at SRPEDD's PPA / PDA analysis to see whether it has anything to lend to this discussion. Here is the link to the PPA / PDA map:  
<http://www.srpedd.org/commuterrail/Maps/nortppapda%20map7.pdf>
- Discussion of wetlands bylaw – it seems that town residents need a lot of education about the need for this bylaw and the truth about what it would mean for town residents before this can come to a vote again. The next year or so could be spent on working to educate and raise awareness of town members on issues related to water quality, so that next time this comes around, there will be less fertile ground for the opposition's un-truths.
  - The Parks and Rec website, Facebook page and email-blasts could be a good way to spread the word about water quality issues and the need for protection efforts – from wetlands bylaws to education about lawn care / fertilizer use and other issues
- Discussion of town boards, each board is relatively isolated. The OSRP process includes a required meeting with all town boards, but only after the plan is largely developed. Perhaps this OSRP revision could work to include a meeting with reps from all town boards, early in the process to help get everyone's minds focused collaboratively on the future of Norton's landscape.

#### Open Space and Planning Survey

On November 15, 2010, the Open Space Committee launched the Open Space Survey. Nancy Durfee of the Southeast Regional Planning Economic and Development District (SRPEDD) was able to take our survey and place it on Survey Monkey. This enabled the Committee to conduct the survey on-line, saving us a significant amount of time and effort in calculating the results. Notices were placed in five local newspapers, the town's website mainpage, Conservation Commission website, Open Space Committee website, Recreation Commission private website and Facebook pages, local cable station, email lists, and posted in the Library, Post Office, Produce Barn supermarket, etc. Paper copies were available at the Conservation Office and Public Library for those unable to access the internet. The survey lasted 3 weeks and 79 responses were received. The results of the survey are found on the next pages.

#### **Statement of Open Space and Recreational Goals**

In general, the overriding goals of the community have not changed much from the 2005-2010 OSRP. Residents hope to continue to acquire open space for drinking water protection, wildlife habitat and for active recreation fields.

The goals of the 2011-2018 OSRP are:

Goal 1: Protect wetlands, water supply and watershed lands

Goal 2: Increase educational opportunities

Goal 3: Support natural resource protection in our three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Goal 4: Protect wildlife habitat

Goal 5: Improve public access to the town's water bodies, conservation and recreation areas

Goal 6: Protect historical, archaeological, scenic and heritage landscapes

Goal 7: Prevent agricultural losses

Goal 8: Improve funding options for open space and recreation projects

Goal 9: Expand recreational opportunities

## ***Open Space and Planning Survey***

The open space survey was advertised and ran for three weeks. Norton received 79 responses to the on-line survey. Paper copies were not submitted to the Conservation Office. The results of the survey were tallied by SurveyMonkey and are listed below.

Question 1 asked residents to rank in importance the activities they like to do the most. The responses are ranked in order below:

1. Hike, bike, walk, horses
2. Play organized team sport
3. Play at neighborhood park
4. Hunt, fish
5. Boat
6. Use motorized vehicles

Question 2 asked residents how often they visited specific area attractions.

There wasn't one clear location in town that residents visited "often". Residents visited Borderland State Park in Easton, the Everett Leonard Complex, Norton School Lands, Norton Community Playground, Norton Reservoir and the Town Forest "sometimes". Many residents had never been to many of the locations listed in question 2. Finally, residents didn't even know where some of the locations were, despite the property having visible signs or being on major local roads. Locations residents didn't know included the Lee Burchill Fields, the Canoe River Greenbelt Area, the LA Foster Wildlife Refuge, Lake Sabbatia in Taunton, Norton Historical Society Lands, Rose Farm and Woodward Woods. No one skipped this question.

Residents also responded in additional spaces that they visit the Erwin Wilder Wildlife Management Area and the Antonio Medeiros Wildlife Preserve. A few locations out of town that residents frequent include F Gilbert Woods and the Nature trail behind Bass Pro Shop in Foxboro, the Sheep Pasture in Easton and Watson Pond in Taunton.

Question 3 asked residents to rank the activities for which Norton should dedicate more land. The top five answers were:

1. Walking/equestrian trails
2. Active recreation
3. Bike trail
4. Aquifer land protection
5. Sledding/skating

Residents were asked in Question 4 if it is important to preserve open space. Seventy percent (70%) said it was very important, 29.9% said it was important and 0% said it was not important.

Reasons for preserving land in Question 5 were extremely varied and 59 of the 70 respondents used the opportunity to write an answer.

Residents did list certain properties that they felt should be preserved. The list includes

- Rt 495 land owned by the Commonwealth of MA
- Farm on Pine St
- Former bogs on East Hodges St

- Various vacant lands on Dean St
- Property near the Reservoir
- Parcel between Meadowbrook Lane and Crane St surrounded by river
- Land abutting Canoe River on RT 123 before Red Mill Village
- Land abutting Bay Rd cranberry bogs
- Areas near Leo Yelle Conservation Area and W Main St
- Non-conforming lots around Winnecunnet and Reservoir
- Land behind Valentine Tools
- Former bogs on Newland St (current proposed Comprehensive permit site)
- 25 acres on Reservoir near Tsangs and the island

Most residents felt that the community character of Norton is changing for the better but not by much. 56% said it was better to the 43% who felt it was changing for the worse.

Question 8 asked residents to explain why.

Question 9 asked residents to rank ways Norton can keep its community character. The responses are shown below in order:

1. Adopt bylaws that protect scenic ways/wetlands
2. Encourage creation of local parks to create neighborhoods
3. Plant shade trees, hang flags, use decorative lighting
4. Design road entrances to preserve unique features of a parcel
5. Encourage cluster development
6. Allow common driveways

Residents took the opportunity to write additional suggestions for keeping Norton's community character. Creating neighborhoods, walkable areas between developments and buffers with trails were listed as ways to keep the community feel. Limiting the amount of trees that can be cut on a lot and required replanting was one suggestion. Other respondents suggested changing the style of crosswalks near Wheaton College and developing a town center.

Question 10 asked residents if they would be willing to pay a small fee to use a boat ramp or recreation facility. Most residents said yes (79%).

Residents were most willing to pay 0-\$5.00 (61%), thirty percent said they would pay \$6-\$10.00 and 8% said they would pay more than \$11.00.

In question 11, residents were asked to rate in importance activities they would like to see improved or provided at local lakes/ponds. The responses are listed in order below:

1. Picnic/scenic view areas
2. Canoe/kayak car-top access
3. Bird watching areas
4. Fishing piers
5. Motorized boat access

In question 13 residents stated that in order to acquire open space residents are willing to:

1. Vote for town meeting articles to purchase land
2. Vote to increase a department's budget
3. Donate money, serve on commission/board
4. Donate land/conservation restrictions
5. Sell land at "below market value"

Sixty percent (60%) of residents said that they had done one or more of the above activities in the last five years.

Question 15 asked residents to rank the most important areas to acquire. The responses are ranked in order below:

1. Aquifer land
2. Recreation land
3. Wildlife habitat
4. Historic/archaeological areas
5. Agricultural land

In question 16 residents listed the following activities/facilities they felt were lacking. An excerpt of the list is below:

- "neighborhood parks scattered throughout town or in areas with the densest development"
- "access to fresh water swimming"
- "bike trails, skate board park"
- "safe trails with lights and picnic areas"
- "scenic views for picnicking"
- "town track and golf programs (facilities here, no or little access, no formal programs that I'm aware of"
- "multi-use public parks"
- "boat launch areas"
- "recreational programs for 20-30 age bracket"
- Senior-friendly walking areas

In question 17 residents ranked activities they and family members enjoyed the most. The top five answers are listed below:

1. Hiking/walking (86.8%)
2. Ice skating (64.5%)
3. Swimming (63.2%)
4. Picnicking (56.6%)
5. Canoeing/kayaking (52.6%)

Sledding was listed twice in the additional comments section; no other comments were made. The activities respondents least enjoyed were downhill skiing, horseback riding, hunting, dirt bike/4 wheel, motor sports.

Residents felt they had convenient access to the following (top five answers):

1. Conservation areas (55.1%)

2. Children's play areas (49.3%)
3. Ball fields (44.9%)
4. Hiking trails (40.6%)
5. Golf courses (33.3%)

Residents are only "somewhat" satisfied with available recreation opportunities for all age groups of question 19 including seniors, adults, young adults and students.

In question 20 residents ranked reasons that hindered recreation opportunities in town. The responses are listed in order below:

1. Lack of facilities available in town (85.2%)
2. Lack of amenities (restrooms, trash receptacles) at recreation facilities (51.9%)
3. Lack of activities (46.3%)
4. Lack of affordable recreational opportunities (29.6%)
5. Lack of lighting at recreational facilities (24.1%)
6. Lack of maintenance of ballfields and parks (16.7%)

Respondents listed several other reasons that hinder their recreation potential. Lack of sidewalks and safe routes to get from one place to another was listed a few times. Lack of funding, time, parking, information about recreation programs and areas were also listed frequently. Concern over hunting and invasive plant control in water bodies was also voiced.

Only 36.6% of respondents have seen the 2005-2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

When asked how well the goals of the OSRP had been reached, people responded that the goals of the plan were accomplished:

1. somewhat well (42.9%)
2. 27.1% did not know
3. 20 % said not well enough
4. 10% said very well

Residents were then asked how the town could better achieve those goals. A few are mentioned below:

- "we need better ways of getting information to people about programs but then again people seem to want to be spoon-fed and not take an active role in finding activities themselves or participating"
- "offer maps to town people showing all the open space/rec places and explain its amenities (sic)"
- "more publicity"
- Communication and getting more people involved was mentioned quite a few times
- "Its apparent that this town does not want to adequately fund initiatives to support the plan"
- restore library funding
- "better volunteer program and participation of residents"
- "find a way to get people to read and understand what the plan is all about"

## 1. Town of Norton Open Space Plan Survey

This survey is being conducted to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The OSRP is a planning tool used by residents and town officials to address the concerns and needs of the community to preserve agricultural, scenic, historic, recreation and wildlife habitat areas that maintain our community's character. A current OSRP is required in order to apply for any type of state and federal grants including transportation, highway and recreation projects. By participating in this survey, you are helping to shape the future look of the town. Thank you for participating!

The deadline for the Town of Norton Open Space Plan Survey is December 8, 2010. Paper copies of the survey can be returned to the Conservation Office.

## 2. Default Section

### 1. Rank in importance the activities you like to do the most. (1-most 6-least)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Hike, bike, walk, horses (passive recreation)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunt/fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play at a neighborhood/town park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play organized team sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use motorized bikes, ATVs, jet ski, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)



Q:#1

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. run my dogs   | Thu, Dec 9, 2010 2:02 PM   |
| 2. Golf  | Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:58 AM  |
| 3. waterski, swim, fish  | Mon, Dec 6, 2010 6:24 PM   |
| 4. golf  | Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM   |
| 5. My grandkids also live here and love team sports                          | Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM  |
| 6. Dog Park  | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 4:42 PM  |
| 7. 5) play organized team sports 6) use motorized bikes, ATVs, jet ski, etc. | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 1:23 PM  |
| 8. Birding   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:50 PM  |
| 9. none of the above   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 11:13 AM |

## 2. How often do you visit the following?

	Often	Sometimes	Never	Where? (Do not know where it is?)
Barrowsville Pond	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 51.4%	<input type="radio"/>
Borderland State Park, Easton	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 49.3%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lee Burchill Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 32.4%
Cane River Greenbelt Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 38.2%
Camp Edith Read	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 58.3%	<input type="radio"/>
Camp Finberg	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 50.7%	<input type="radio"/>
Chartley Pond	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 49.3%	<input type="radio"/>
Everett Leonard Complex	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 39.1%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Johnson Acres	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 42.9%
LA Foster Wildlife Refuge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 45.1%
Lake Sabbatia, Taunton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 47.1%	<input type="radio"/>
Leo Yelle Conservation Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 39.1%	<input type="radio"/>
Lincoln Woods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 33.8%	<input type="radio"/>
Lyon's Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 40.8%	<input type="radio"/>
Norton Historical Society Lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 38.6%
Norton School Lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 42.3%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Norton Community Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 42.3%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Norton Reservoir	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 43.1%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Oak Knoll Sanctuary, Attleboro	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 36.8%	<input type="radio"/>
Rail to Trail, Mansfield	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 36.1%	<input type="radio"/>
Rose Farm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 51.4%
Slattery Property-former (John Scott Blvd)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 42.9%	<input type="radio"/>
Town Forest	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 43.7%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wheaton Farm, Easton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 51.4%	<input type="radio"/>
Winnecunnet Pond	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 45.2%	<input type="radio"/>
Woodward Woods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 43.9%
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>			

Q #2

1. Wilder, Red Mill Road	Thu, Dec 9, 2010 2:02 PM
2. I visit them daily	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 6:24 PM
3. F Gilbert Woods, Foxboro	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 4:59 PM
4. Nature Trail behind Bass Pro Shop in Foxboro	Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM
5. most only once; very little access; most age-related; Edith Read for Girl scouts, only. How do you visit the reservoir or winnecunnet if you don't live on them?	Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM
6. Wilder - often	Mon, Nov 29, 2010 9:02 PM
7. Great Woods trails on Oak St	Sat, Nov 27, 2010 7:29 PM
8. Erwin Wilder WMA	Thu, Nov 25, 2010 11:57 AM
9. where are these places? why arent they advertised?	Tue, Nov 23, 2010 11:35 AM
10. We are very concerned about ticks this year in the wooded paths.	Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM
11. Great woods	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 9:13 PM
12. Misty Meadows, Antonio Medeiros Wildlife Preserve and Mederios Family Wildlife Preserve	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:50 PM
13. Sheep Pasture, Easton and Watson Pond, Taunton	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 9:36 AM



**3. Rank the activities for which Norton should dedicate more land. (1-most, 5-least)**

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>4</b> Aquifer land protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>2</b> Active recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>11</b> Beach areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>6</b> Canoe/boat/kayaking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>10</b> Community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>14</b> Fishing piers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>8</b> Forestry management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>16</b> Future school sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>12</b> Future town uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>17</b> Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>18</b> Motorized vehicle trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>7</b> Neighborhood parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>13</b> Public boat docks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>5</b> Stepping hills/skating ponds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>15</b> Skateboard park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>1</b> Walking/equestrian trails	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>9</b> Wildlife identification programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>3</b> Bike trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**4. How important is it for Norton to preserve open space?**

- ☒ very important **70.1%**
- ☐ important **29.9%**
- ☐ not important

**5. Why do YOU think Norton should preserve open space?**

**6. List three specific areas/parcels of land that should be acquired for open space?**

**7. The community character of Norton is changing for the better or worse?**

- ☒ Better **56.9%**
- ☐ Worse **43.1%**

Q#5

1. Because our natural resources are precious and once they are gone, it is too late. Tue, Dec 14, 2010 5:37 PM
2. Very few communities have open space to preserve, and it is important for wildlife diversity as well as human recreation. Thu, Dec 9, 2010 2:02 PM
3. preparation for climate change, encourages infiltration of rain water to replenish the aquifer, wildlife habitat, nature study Thu, Dec 9, 2010 9:40 AM
4. to help preserve wildlife and for better education of children re:environmental issues; outdoor walks, hikes, swimming, etc. contribute to mental and physical health of people of all ages Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:10 PM
5. We need to keep out water supplies safe and our air clear Wed, Dec 8, 2010 4:31 PM
6. Because there is not that much left! Wed, Dec 8, 2010 3:24 PM
7. To keep the "town" feel, rather than built-up city Wed, Dec 8, 2010 1:34 PM
8. I grew up in West Bridgewater - a small, rural community. When my wife and I were looking to buy a new home, we chose Norton because of its location, but also for that rural "feel" that I knew growing up. Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:58 AM
9. Wildlife Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:28 AM
10. OPEN SPACE IS AT A PREMIUM. MORE AND MORE OF OPEN SPACE IS DISAPPEARING EACH YEAR. WE CAN HEAR MORE TRAFFIC (IN THE LAST 5 YEARS) FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. FROM WHERE WE LIVE. Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:25 PM
11. to protect the land for overdevelopment. Tue, Dec 7, 2010 12:01 PM
12. Once it is gone , it is gone Tue, Dec 7, 2010 11:16 AM
13. for the appearance and for the wildlife Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:59 AM
14. It is important for Norton to control development, and over building in the town. Our ecosystems and wildlife need this. Mon, Dec 6, 2010 6:24 PM
15. So we aren't overloaded with housing Mon, Dec 6, 2010 4:59 PM
16. limited opportunities must be prepared for land use and action plans Mon, Dec 6, 2010 2:25 PM
17. We have some wonderful resources in this town and everyone should have use of them. At this time, not all areas are accessible for public recreation or other uses. I think a community garden is an important teaching tool as well as a wonderful community opportunity. Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:19 AM
18. it will create places for local people to meet and enjoy the environment. Increase values of homes and attractiveness to living in Norton. we may not have a lot Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:04 AM



Q#5

of money as a town, but we certainly have a lot of undeveloped land to preserve.

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 19. The amount of open space in Norton was why we moved here—we didn't want a congested town/city which was all built up. We wanted to have places to go to take walks, hike, bird watch, etc. And we wanted to live in a house that was surrounded by woods for the privacy it offers.                              | Sat, Dec 4, 2010 9:01 PM   |
| 20. However small an impact it may have, open space fights global warming  | Fri, Dec 3, 2010 3:49 PM   |
| 21. Town has already grown quite a bit over past decade and will continue to change if space is not limited  | Fri, Dec 3, 2010 1:01 PM   |
| 22. Open space for passive recreation is only important if it can be maintained. The town is turning into trash heap, piles of debris sit beside the roads and highway exits, wet lands are spoiled with fast food wrappers, etc. Take care of what you now have, not spend more money to let more land deteriorate. | Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM   |
| 23. I grew up in Stoughton and it's way to congested & commercialized. I love the contrast of Norton.  | Thu, Dec 2, 2010 12:41 AM  |
| 24. For our future generations   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 11:53 PM  |
| 25. I think it is important to keep the town small and affordable but I also think that some land could possibly used for commercial use. We could use something like this to help with the tax base.  | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 6:18 PM   |
| 26. to create wildlife buffer zones that can be quietly enjoyed  | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 5:58 PM   |
| 27. to allow for strategic growth in other areas   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 3:15 PM   |
| 28. so house's are not built and wildlife stays in area  | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:08 AM   |
| 29. Norton should preserve open space because if there are more places for people to go, people will go outside more and participate in recreational areas. It's nice to have a place to walk around in a park or on a trail, go sledding, or ice skating on a pond.   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:03 AM   |
| 30. because i moved to this town for its charm and open space with no over crowding. I love the feel of a small community and dont want to see it change   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 8:08 AM   |
| 31. To protect drinking water and wildlife and rural character of town.  | Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM |
| 32. To maintain the integrity of the town, property, landscape, and wildlife.  | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 10:48 PM |
| 33. protection of flora & fauna, less noise with more trees, less traffic  | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 9:02 PM  |
| 34. Due to the increased size of development areas and population we need to create balance with preserved   | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 11:53 AM |

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A\\_2fj8JD\\_2bUvr2s\\_2bqSgNUappq4jV\\_2bk...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A_2fj8JD_2bUvr2s_2bqSgNUappq4jV_2bk...) 12/20/2010



Q#5

areas.

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 35. It is important for youth activity.  | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 9:42 AM  |
| 36. I feel that open space can benefit all town residents; not just for physical activity, but also for the beauty it can provide. This, in turn, brings more value to the town and the area.  | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 8:46 AM  |
| 37. maintaining a healthy environment and providing a variety of outdoor venues for activities and conservation benefits all residents of our town   | Fri, Nov 26, 2010 9:00 PM  |
| 38. The more Norton owns, the less commercial development there will be. I'd simply prefer Norton to be more rural than more commercial.   | Thu, Nov 25, 2010 12:50 PM |
| 39. Since moving to town 15 yrs ago the construction in the area has exploded and put tremendous pressure upon wildlife habitat, clean water, and other activities that occurred in what were other recreational areas that were privately owned (Great Woods, areas around the reservoir and three mile river). Areas that are wetlands have also felt pressure (Bay road).   | Thu, Nov 25, 2010 11:57 AM |
| 40. To maintain the character of the Town and space for area residents.  | Mon, Nov 22, 2010 4:49 PM  |
| 41. Without open spaces protected from development, we will end up with houses side by side without the calming effect of forests and fields. Without the trees and plants, the production of energizing oxygen into the air we breath will be dangerously reduced.  | Sun, Nov 21, 2010 6:52 PM  |
| 42. Towns seem to overdevelop over a short period of time which squeezes out the natural populations of many different species   | Fri, Nov 19, 2010 7:45 PM  |
| 43. For Future usage as we never know what may be around the corner. Keep our options open for future endeavors is important.  | Fri, Nov 19, 2010 8:58 AM  |
| 44. Because it's disappearing fast and once it's gone it's gone forever. I do not think we really need another house in town and certainly NOT another development. We need to protect our drinking water (aquifer) by keeping the land open. Not to mention that open space adds to the tranquility of a setting thereby lessening stress that people experience. There are proven health benefits to children playing in an unstructured way out in nature (lower obesity, improved ability to cope). Children aren't allowed to do this anymore, everything is scheduled to the hilt! | Thu, Nov 18, 2010 8:35 PM  |
| 45. Land is a finite commodity. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. ex. for roads, housing developments. The price of land continues to go up. Its availability declines with time. So, the town should buy as much land as it can for  | Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM  |

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A\\_2fj8JD\\_2bUvr2s\\_2bqSgNUappq4jV\\_2bk...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A_2fj8JD_2bUvr2s_2bqSgNUappq4jV_2bk...) 12/20/2010

Q #5

its citizens with a plan for its use in mind.

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 46. So that future generations and wildlife have a place to go.   | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 4:42 PM  |
| 47. to allow for recreational activities and to preserve aesthetic appeal   | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 1:23 PM  |
| 48. I don't want Norton to turn into Mansfield. Mansfield is over developed and congested. We need dedicated open space to preserve a sense of country living. Building in and around our aquifers is endangering our future water quality.   | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 8:51 AM  |
| 49. It is good for environment and community.   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 3:18 PM  |
| 50. There is so little of it left anywhere. Open space areas bring in wildlife and help to enrich our understanding of the natural world  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:50 PM  |
| 51. Wildlife Habitat, Wetlands Protection, Clean Air and Water, Passive Recreation, Education   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:41 PM  |
| 52. Recreational use, aquifer protection, and habitat   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 1:48 PM  |
| 53. 1 To preserve the image of Norton<br>2. To protect the natural wildlife, both animal and floral<br>3. To allow for future development<br>4. To prevent Norton from becoming like other towns  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 12:38 PM |
| 54. For the future of the children  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 11:13 AM |
| 55. It currently has space to preserve. After these are built up, it becomes very difficult to transform them back.   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 10:00 AM |
| 56. We need to find a balance between preserving all of our open space and the ability to build taxable properties in Norton  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 9:36 AM  |
| 57. Passive recreation needs to be preserved for a economic & physical standpoint. Economically for low maintenance & physically for natural visibility.  | Sun, Nov 14, 2010 10:25 AM |
| 58. We need that land so the other animals in our town have a place to live with us. If we overpopulate the town, the animals will end up overpopulating in our backyards and will become a burden. We don't want to kill off many rare species that Norton has for wildlife and I think its the town's duty to respect our wildlife and space for them to live so that we can live too without fear of them moving into our neighborhoods. | Fri, Nov 12, 2010 2:10 PM  |
| 59. Norton youth sports programs are in dire need of additional space.  |                            |



Q#6

28

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Large parcels that were farms or have Endangered Species habitats or are within aquifer protection districts.   | Tue, Dec 14, 2010 5:37 PM  |
| 2. not knowledgeable   | Thu, Dec 9, 2010 2:02 PM   |
| 3. daggat crandall land on newland/north washington st, pine st former horse farm, lincoln meadows   | Thu, Dec 9, 2010 9:40 AM   |
| 4. land on Winnecunnett shore;<br>land on Reservoir<br>land along other water sources, Canoe River, etc.   | Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:10 PM  |
| 5. Balfour Farm, any land abutting water and conservation areas  | Wed, Dec 8, 2010 4:31 PM   |
| 6. Open space comity   | Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:28 AM  |
| 7. I think the town already owns the area off South Lakeview. There is a great open space to build a park and beach. However, it wouldn't hurt to dredge the Reservoir to create a better resource for public swimming.  | Mon, Dec 6, 2010 12:52 PM  |
| 8. Rt 140 next to the reservoir and across from the liquor store. This could be a great boat launch area - it is not in a "neighborhood" and has direct access to Rt 140. Should not be an issue for neighbors. High visibility area would also deter kids from hanging out or trashing it.                    | Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:19 AM  |
| 9. anything abutting an existing open space or rec facility  | Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:04 AM  |
| 10. do not know Norton well enough to answer   | Fri, Dec 3, 2010 3:49 PM   |
| 11. don't know   | Fri, Dec 3, 2010 1:01 PM   |
| 12. What ever happened to the land promised by the state at rt 123 exit off of rt 495? That was supposed be be for recreation. It now houses the state's road salt, great for protecting the aquifer! We need to find space that affords the greatest access, not buy isolated parcels that few will utilized. | Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM   |
| 13. farm on pine street, property at mary jo street off East Hodges St. (dirt road before Richmond St), various vacant lands on Dean St.   | Thu, Dec 2, 2010 12:41 AM  |
| 14. town forests, historical sites   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 11:53 PM  |
| 15. near the reservoir   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:08 AM   |
| 16. One or two developed park spaces along Reservoir St with another one or two developed park spaces along Rt. 140 adjacent to the Reservoir.   | Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM |
| 17. Parcel between Meadowbrook Lane and Crane Street which runs near the river.  | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 11:53 AM |

Q#6

18. I am not aware of any that would be available Fri, Nov 26, 2010 9:00 PM
19. Area between Crane Street and Meadowbrook lane (40acres) that borders the three mile river.  
Land abutting canoe river corridor (123 before RedMill village)  
Land abutting cranberry bogs on bay road Thu, Nov 25, 2010 11:57 AM
20. Open areas abutting Leo Yelle Conservation area nearest to Main St. Mon, Nov 22, 2010 4:49 PM
21. The misc. non-conforming lots around Winnecunnett and the Grove that are too small and too numerous to open to development. The 25 acres near Tsangs on the reservoir...and Island Fri, Nov 19, 2010 7:45 PM
22. Sorry not sure where the open land is, but we should be acquiring some. Fri, Nov 19, 2010 8:58 AM
23. I am sad to say that I don't know town well enough to know an answer. Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM
24. I know thr Valentine family has extensive tracts of land on West main as well as No. Worcester st.It would also be nice to acquire the land on Newland st.the former Marrione property. Tue, Nov 16, 2010 8:51 AM
25. I would have to do more research on available land. Sun, Nov 14, 2010 10:25 AM
26. I'm not familiar enough with the area, I just moved here Fri, Nov 12, 2010 2:10 PM

50 responses per page



8. Based on Question 8 explain why?

9. How can Norton keep it's current character? (check all that apply)

- ☒ 1 Adopt bylaws that protect scenic ways/wetlands
- ☒ 6 Allow common driveways
- ☒ 4 Design road entrances to preserve unique features of a parcel
- ☒ 5 Encourage cluster developments
- ☒ 3 Plant shade trees, hang flags, use decorative lighting
- ☒ 2 Encourage creation of local parks to create neighborhoods

Other (please specify)

10. I would pay a small fee to use a facility such as a boat launch area/recreation area.

- ☒ Yes **79.7%**
- ☐ No **20.3%**

11. If yes, what are you willing to pay?

- ☒ 0-\$5 **61%**
- ☐ \$6-\$10 **30.5%**
- ☐ greater than \$11 **8.5%**

12. Rate in importance the following activities you would like to see improved or provided at our local lakes/ponds.

	Most				Least
<b>3</b> Bird watching areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>2</b> Canoe/kayak car-top access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>4</b> Fishing piers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>5</b> Motorized boat access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>1</b> Picnic/scenic view areas	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q#8

1. The citizens voted down the Wetland Protection Bylaw and it makes me nervous for the future of natural resources protection in town. People do not listen to facts and do not want to be educated and that is why natural resources are destroyed. Tue, Dec 14, 2010 5:37 PM
2. Budget issues have reduced Norton's ability to focus much beyond fire and police, or boy toys (big machines of various kinds). Thu, Dec 9, 2010 2:02 PM
3. people initially believe the bad things before the good, but there are a lot of people who are trying to make a positive improvement. Some residents do feel a sense of stewardship for the town and act in a positive way to accomplish things that benefit the whole town. Thu, Dec 9, 2010 9:40 AM
4. I think more people are aware of the need for clean water and the need for saving natural habitats Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:10 PM
5. People are not paying attention to the diminishment of the green areas and do not realize how delicate our water sources are. Wed, Dec 8, 2010 4:31 PM
6. Neighborhoods are being created again. Wed, Dec 8, 2010 2:57 PM
7. To much traffick Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:28 AM
8. TO MUCH CONSTRUCTION. CONSTRUCTION HAS WANED IN THE RECENT PAST DUE TO THE ECONOMY BUT PRIOR TO THAT BIG HOUSING DEVELOPEMENTS WE BUILT DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM. Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:25 PM
9. I see so many houses and yards in foreclosure, everthing looks like a mess. Mon, Dec 6, 2010 4:59 PM
10. It is starting to look like Route 123 in Attleboro. Businesses everywhere without zoning. Don't feel safe on sidewalks. Too many houses being built on small parcels, creating more traffic. If you walk/run/bike on any street in Norton you are risking your life. Mon, Dec 6, 2010 12:52 PM
11. I think we need more school involvement in community service and more things for kids to do. If people feel more connected it is always beneficial to the town in terms of volunteers and caretaking. Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:19 AM
12. More programs for children Fri, Dec 3, 2010 3:49 PM
13. Trash and litter abound, zoning is a joke - looks like Junction City KS, lack of viable & attractive businesses, need to bury utility wires in center of town, no long range planning, sewer the entire town to protect the aquifer. I avoid the center of town because it's a traffic planners horror. Stores are empty, or if occupied, it's more of the same used car/part shops, pizza joins, inferior businesses. What quality business want to locate to such a mismanaged town? Looking ahead to the boat launch Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM



Q #8

issues - Bay Road is a public safety problem in the making in summer. Boats are blocking the road, cars park wherever, kids run out into the streets without looking, people should not be fishing from bridges in town unless there is a real sidewalk - same goes for the fishing on Rt 140 - very dangerous.

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 14. When I moved here 22 years ago it seems people looked out for another more, now they seem to step upon one another to get what they think they "deserve". The kids in the public schools are horrible and the way they treat the town and its residents is deplorable. Gone is the quaint little town of Norton it once was. | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 11:53 PM  |
| 15. I believe there is some hope with the the younger people in town who although they didn't grow up here, care passionately about the town.  | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 6:18 PM   |
| 16. not sure   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 5:58 PM   |
| 17. the growth does not seem to be planned   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 3:15 PM   |
| 18. more playgrounds and recreation land   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:08 AM   |
| 19. I think Norton could change for the better by preserving those outdoor areas and making sure there is still open space.  | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:03 AM   |
| 20. there are more active residents attending meetings, and heading up committees and depts. that truly care about our community   | Wed, Dec 1, 2010 8:08 AM   |
| 21. Development is car-based; little opportunity to walk neighborhoods; no pedestrian-friendly commercial or recreational spaces.  | Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM |
| 22. Community coming together for organized projects, activities, and town projects.   | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 10:48 PM |
| 23. Encouragement of community service and of people to be active in their communities seems to have enhanced the character of Norton. More programs open to the citizens should be announced with increased frequency.  | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 11:53 AM |
| 24. Law enforcement is too strict.   | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 9:42 AM  |
| 25. A more diverse population is bringing forward-thinking ideas. This comment is coming from a person who was raised in the town beginning in the 1950's.   | Mon, Nov 29, 2010 8:46 AM  |
| 26. I don't have the information required to answer #7   | Fri, Nov 26, 2010 9:00 PM  |
| 27. too many high density, homogeneous developments have put pressure on pricing and changed the character of the town. Avoid using common driveways - you will end up with a Nantucket problem of not being able to adequately control how many units off of each spoke.  | Thu, Nov 25, 2010 11:57 AM |
| 28. there are no places for kids or teens to go be kids & be   | Tue, Nov 23, 2010 11:35 AM |



Q#8

#8

safe. Where are they??

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 29. Keep big box stores and chains out, family shops in. Needs more of a downtown.  | Mon, Nov 22, 2010 4:49 PM  |
| 30. The recent destruction of the woods along the railroad tracks in Chartley was devastating to the people who live in this section of town. Having a business of this size in the middle of a residential area is disheartening. The loss of the forest has dislocated the birds and animals who lived there. One poor owl has moved onto our street, and calls his sad hoots at 3AM. | Sun, Nov 21, 2010 6:52 PM  |
| 31. Based on 7. It seems we are putting more emphasis on Education with the new High School Reno. project and with the election voting this past Nov. it seems more of us are realizing who should be in office and who should not, though it didn't pan out Locally for us we are moving in the right direction.   | Fri, Nov 19, 2010 8:58 AM  |
| 32. Aquifer protection is not as good as in many towns. Twice the town has voted down the zoning law to help to protect wetlands. The citizens immediately put out signs "Vote No" on any open space type articles on the warrant.  | Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM  |
| 33. I live there now.   | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 4:42 PM  |
| 34. departments and services are underfunded  | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 3:32 PM  |
| 35. Norton has lost it's small town charm. There are very limited activities or recreational areas within the town's boundaries and a weak sense of community. It is a very plain and boring town.  | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 1:23 PM  |
| 36. In my opinion we are due for another house building boom in the next 2 years. Traffic is already an issue as well as public service is taxed.   | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 8:51 AM  |
| 37. Active Conservation Agent and Land Preservation Society acquiring and preserving desirable parcels  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:41 PM  |
| 38. Not sure.   | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 1:48 PM  |
| 39. too many people, too many cars, too many signs used to be quiet and nice  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 11:13 AM |
| 40. I am assuming you mean question 7. The town's income is not keeping up with the demands of the town. It is great to have a ton of open space but we also need to factor in that people are not willing to pay for what they want  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 9:36 AM  |
| 41. Passive recreation needs to be improved for the increasing number of seniors.   | Sun, Nov 14, 2010 10:25 AM |
| 42. The quality of our public services have gone down. I think there are too many town officials who get paid inflated salaries and we don't have enough money for town public services like public parks, a better library, more natural trails. I think we are losing the sense of community in   | Fri, Nov 12, 2010 2:10 PM  |

Q#8

Norton because there is zero funding in these public services. People will stay here and send kids to school here if we were competitive with other towns. I have a neighbor who sends her child to Mansfield for school because she said the quality of Norton public schools are subpar and her child will not benefit a thing in Norton. I do not have kids, but if this doesn't change and I have kids, why would I send my child to Norton Public Schools if they are poor? I won't and that's my answer....if the school system doesn't shape up.

43. losing it's character and charm

Thu, Nov 11, 2010 10:20 AM

## Survey Results

Page 1 of 1

#9

Q#9

1. Import citizens who Tue, Dec 14, 2010 5:37 PM
2. LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TREES THAT CAN BE REMOVED FOR CONSTRUCTION OR REQUIRE CONTRACTORS TO PLANT REPLACEMENT TREESTREES Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:25 PM
3. maintain character by not allowing any large retail/business Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:04 AM
4. Current equals stagnant - time to move ahead! Change the crosswalks at Wheaton to either brick like Attleboro, or do with stencil design like Dedham has in their business areas. Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM
5. Help & encourage children and adults to play organized sports by creating more fields for town usage Thu, Dec 2, 2010 12:41 AM
6. strategic development of a Town center Wed, Dec 1, 2010 3:15 PM
7. creating neighborhoods will keep the small town charm Wed, Dec 1, 2010 8:08 AM
8. provide connections between neighborhoods and other spaces assessible by foot, both along road and off-road. Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM
9. Prioritize large parcels of land for sale that contain wetlands and protect them. Thu, Nov 25, 2010 11:57 AM
10. Buffer areas around new developments with trails. Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM
11. Encourage those who own large parcels of land to protect them - tax breaks. Mon, Nov 15, 2010 10:00 AM

25 responses per page



**13. To help acquire open space, I am willing to... (check all that apply)**

- ☒ 5 Donate land/conservation restrictions
- ☒ 3 Donate money
- ☒ 6 Sell land at "below market value"
- ☒ 4 Serve on a commission/board
- ☒ 1 Vote for town meeting articles to purchase land
- ☒ 2 Vote to increase a department's budget

**14. I have done one (or more) activities from Question 14 in the last five years.**

- ☒ True 60%
- ☐ False 40%

**15. Rank the most important areas to acquire. (1-most, 5-least)**

	1	2	3	4	5
5 Agricultural land (farms, bogs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
1 Aquifer land	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Historic/Archaeological areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Recreation land	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**16. List any recreational programs or facilities (active and passive) you feel are lacking for any age group or activity.**



Q#16

16. List any recreational programs or facilities (active and passive) you feel are lacking for any age group or activity.

	Response Count
Hide replies	29
1. neighborhood parks scattered throughout town or in areas with the densest development would be nice. girls sports are typically underfunded and not seemingly as high a priority.	Thu, Dec 9, 2010 9:40 AM
2. access to fresh water swimming	Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:10 PM
3. Bike/walking trails!!	Wed, Dec 8, 2010 2:57 PM
4. something for the teenagers to engage in to keep them out of trouble.	Wed, Dec 8, 2010 1:28 PM
5. BIKE TRAILS SKATE BOARD PARK	Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:25 PM
6. safe bike / walking trails, with lights, also picnic areas	Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:59 AM
7. Walking and jogging paths as a substitute to walking and accessing by dangerous roads and areas lacking sidewalks	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 2:25 PM
8. Dog Park	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 1:06 PM
9. Bike trails, swimming	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 12:52 PM
10. Safe, quality walking/running areas. Riding a bike on anything other than a cul de sac is dangerous in this town - young drivers have a propensity for trying to drive you off the road if you are either walking or biking. Why do the police not stop young kids who are riding bikes without helmets? Have the schools ever considered running a bike safety program to inform parents & children about helmet use and traumatic brain injury?	Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM
Did anyone read this survey before posting it? Look at quest # 14, it only applies to itself!!!	
11. more youth baseball/softball fields are needed	Wed, Dec 1, 2010 3:15 PM
12. dog parks picnic areas ways to waste	Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:08 AM
13. I think there should be more walking trails with scenic views. There should be nice places where you can have family picnics or gather with friends.	Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:03 AM
14. Not much for teens to do; town track and golf programs (facilities are here, no or little access, no formal programs I'm aware of for access)	Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM
15. Public skating rink	Mon, Nov 29, 2010 9:42 AM

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A\\_2fj8JD\\_2bUvr2s\\_2bqSgNUappq4jV\\_2bk...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A_2fj8JD_2bUvr2s_2bqSgNUappq4jV_2bk...) 12/20/2010

Q #16

16. -multi use public parks containing walking/biking paths, picnic areas, play areas, water access  
-public water access Fri, Nov 26, 2010 9:00 PM
17. skate park or recreational area of any kind for older kids. Tue, Nov 23, 2010 11:35 AM
18. bike or roller blading paths. It would be great to have a very simple bath going through all the conservation areas. Mon, Nov 22, 2010 4:49 PM
19. There are few walking paths and no biking trails in this area. We have to resort to taking our lives into our hands to avoid traffic while walking down the roads, lovely though many of them are. Sun, Nov 21, 2010 6:52 PM
20. boat launch/rec area could be like Watson Pond with a playground for the kids Fri, Nov 19, 2010 7:45 PM
21. We need a Dual-plex Ice Rink. It will benefit all ages and bring in out of town Revenue. Fri, Nov 19, 2010 8:58 AM
22. swimming on the reservoir and Winnecunnet pond, a sledding hill Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM
23. Senior citizens love walking, but hiking trails are too strenuous and the towns streets lack scenery and sometimes even sidewalks. I personally know senior citizens who are hesitant about walking down their streets because there are no sidewalks and people speed by in their cars. Tue, Nov 16, 2010 1:23 PM
24. The resevoir needs to fixed. Access is limited, underwater stone walls are dangerous to power boats. This is an area for all age groups to enjoy. Tue, Nov 16, 2010 8:51 AM
25. Baseball fields, picnic areas, general recreational gathering areas. Mon, Nov 15, 2010 9:36 AM
26. Walking & bicycle paths for senior recreation. Sun, Nov 14, 2010 10:25 AM
27. We don't have an recreational programs for the 20-30 age bracket. I feel like thats lacking and because we lack any activities for them, we lose the sense of community for the town. We have activities for the youth and elderly, but not this group. Fri, Nov 12, 2010 2:10 PM
28. walking trails Thu, Nov 11, 2010 10:20 AM
29. Youth sports fields are severly lacking in facilities. Everything seems temporary. We need more permanent space for youth sports that can be developed.

50 responses per page

answered question 29  
skipped question 50

Survey Results

Page 1 of 1

#17

Q #17

1. need places with hills to SLED Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:04 AM
2. sledding Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM



**17. Which activities do you and your family members enjoy? (Check as many as are appropriate)**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 Golf 40.8%           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Canoeing/Kayak 52.6%    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 Mountain biking 32.9%     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17 Tennis 23.7%         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Ice-skating 64.5%       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 Birding 36.8%             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 Baseball 31.6%       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 Rollerblading 22.4%    | tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 Camping 42.1%          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20 Softball 18.4%       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19 X-Country skiing 21.1% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Picnicking 56.6%           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 Soccer 39.5%         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21 Downhill skiing 18.4%  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 22 Horseback riding 18.4%    |
| tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 Basketball 26.3% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 Fishing 46.1%           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25 Motor Sports 5.3%         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Swimming 63.2%        | tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 Road biking 42.1%   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24 Dirt bike/4 wheeling 7.9% |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Skateboarding 18.4%   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Hiking/walking 86.8%    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 23 Hunting 14.5%             |
| tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 Boating 26.3%    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 Jogging 43.4%           |  |

Other (please specify)

**18. To which of the following facilities in Norton do you currently have convenient access? (Check all that apply)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 Bicycle/pedestrian paths 24.6%            | tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 Picnic Areas 11.6%                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 Ice skating rinks 8.7%                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Golf course 33.3%                        |
| tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 Campgrounds 1.4%                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Swimming pool 30.4%                      |
| tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 Large park with many facilities 5.8% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Hiking trails 40.6%                      |
| tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 Local neighborhood parks 23.2%        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 Tennis courts 15.9%                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Conservation areas 55.1%                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 Boat ramps 10.1%                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 Outdoor amphitheater 4.3%                | tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 Public fishing areas 23.2%           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Ball field 44.9%                          | tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 Equestrian center/riding trails 58% |
| tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 Recreation center 11.6%              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 Skate board parks 0.0%                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Children's play area 49.3%                | tie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 X-Country ski trails 1.4%           |

**19. How satisfied are you with the places in Norton which are available for recreational use for each group below: (Rate response to each)**

	Not	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
Seniors	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 54.5%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 63.5%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young Adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 54.4%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Students	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 52.6%	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Please indicate any of the following problems that hinder your recreation opportunities in town.

- ☒ 3 Lack of activities 46.3%
- ☒ 1 Lack of facilities available in town 85.2%
- ☒ 4 Lack of affordable recreational opportunities 29.6%
- ☒ 6 Lack of maintenance of ball fields & parks 16.7%
- ☒ 2 Lack of amenities (restrooms, trash receptacles, etc.) at recreational facilities 51.9%
- ☒ 5 Lack of lighting at recreational facilities 24.1%

Other (please specify)

21. I have seen/read the 2005-2010 Open Space Recreation Plan.

- ☐ True 36.6%
- ☒ False 63.4%

22. The 2005-2010 Open Space Recreation Plan listed the following goals for open space: Protect wetlands, water supply and watershed lands, prevent agricultural losses, expand recreational opportunities, improve funding options for open space and recreation projects, protect historical, archaeological, scenic and heritage landscapes, increase educational opportunities and protect wildlife habitat.

How well has Norton accomplished these goals in the last five years (check one)

- ☐ very well 10%
- ☒ somewhat well 42.9%
- ☐ not well enough 20%
- ☐ I do not know 27.1%

23. How would you recommend Norton better achieve the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan?

If you are interested in participating in open space projects please contact the Town of Norton Open Space Committee. 508-285-0275

Thank you for participating in this survey!

Sincerely,

Open Space Planning Committee



Q#20

1. I don't participate in "active" recreational activities.	Tue, Dec 14, 2010 5:37 PM
2. the treating of Lake Winnecunnet. Inform residents which chemicals are proven to be safe to use in combating millfoil.	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 6:24 PM
3. Lack of Sidewalks Near Reservoir Street	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 4:59 PM
4. Lack of knowledge of what exists	Sat, Dec 4, 2010 9:01 PM
5. lack of funding for recreation	Wed, Dec 1, 2010 3:15 PM
6. I've recently moved to Norton and am having a hard time finding out what parks/etc. are available. When I go to the playground by the middle school there is often no where to park so I go to a park in Mansfield instead.	Sun, Nov 28, 2010 9:40 AM
7. general lack of recreational areas	Fri, Nov 26, 2010 9:00 PM
8. I did find the sign for the Johnson Acres, but could not find a place to park, nor an entrance.	Sun, Nov 21, 2010 6:52 PM
9. Lack of time...lol	Fri, Nov 19, 2010 7:45 PM
10. In The Grove there are no playgrounds, ballfields, trails,swimming areas,parks	Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM
11. illegal hunting is and has been allowed to go on in this town. It is very dangerous to be walking in some of the Norton Land Preservation Lands. Hunting, both legal and illegal is being conducted too close to people and homes.	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:50 PM
12. Lack of Information about recreation opportunities	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 12:38 PM
13. Lacking the time	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 11:13 AM
14. Boat ramps; parcels of land in which to hunt	Mon, Nov 15, 2010 10:00 AM

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A\\_2fj8JD\\_2bUvr2s\\_2bqSgNUappq4jV\\_2bk...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A_2fj8JD_2bUvr2s_2bqSgNUappq4jV_2bk...) 12/20/2010

Q #23

23. How would you recommend Norton better achieve the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan?

	Response Count
Hide replies	28
1. we need better ways of getting information to people about programs but then again people seem to want to be spoonfed and not take an active role in finding activities or participating.	Thu, Dec 9, 2010 9:40 AM
2. I am at a loss to answer this! money is needed to develop recreational opportunities - how to find it? aggressive grant writing?	Wed, Dec 8, 2010 10:10 PM
3. Have more citizens of the Town of Norton actively participate and join the committees	Wed, Dec 8, 2010 4:31 PM
4. offer maps to town people showing all the open/space rec places and explain its amenities	Tue, Dec 7, 2010 8:59 AM
5. I would like to see the town of Norton spearhead the treating of Lake Winnecunnit, with the assistance of the lake residents. There are plenty of residents/ users of the lake who would contribute monies/time to treat the lake and rid/ control the millfoil.	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 6:24 PM
6. take an active role when land is available for agreed upon land use pursuits	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 2:25 PM
7. Since there are so few people that attend town meetings, it may be important for people to push for a more representative government. If I remember correctly, this was recommended by a committee a few years ago, but has never been acted upon.	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 12:52 PM
8. More publicity.	Mon, Dec 6, 2010 11:19 AM
9. Clean up & maintain what you currently have, then develop a long range plan that can be implemented in stages depending on funding sources. Asking residents to pay more to preserve space is an insult. Clean up what you now have and get creative in ways to fund projects. If the town continues to appoint the sme names and faces to al these boards, it will continue to be a joke. Get some well educated new comers on boards and committees.	Thu, Dec 2, 2010 1:26 PM
10. As an adult softball player and a coach of a girls softball team, there is a dire need of more fields in Norton. During the season there aren't enough fields in Norton. The girls softball fields are few and far between and in rough shape. Additionally, the superintendent now charges outrageous fees for the adult softball league I'm affiliated	Thu, Dec 2, 2010 12:41 AM

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A\\_2fj8JD\\_2bUvr2s\\_2bqSgNUappq4jV\\_2bk...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A_2fj8JD_2bUvr2s_2bqSgNUappq4jV_2bk...) 12/20/2010



Q#23

with forcing us to find another location for our games. Now we need a non-school field in the area and are having a hard time finding one. Additionally, my family frequents the bike rail trail in Mansfield and would love to see this extended into Norton. We love to ride bikes in a safe & secure manor with our children and street riding isn't great with young children. We love Norton and will stay in Norton for many years. I'd also love to see a clean up of the Slatery property. We frequently walk our dog there and there is so much debris it's awful. I do carry a trash bag with me to pick up cans & trash but most of it is road debris, tires, etc. that aren't easily removed by a casual walker. Thank you for all you do in Norton - I hope further improvements can be made.

11. paid recreation staff, instead of volunteers Wed, Dec 1, 2010 3:15 PM
12. get more people in town involved, but that will not happen. Advertise the areas in which town people can utilize. Most people in town don't know that there is open space in which they can use. Wed, Dec 1, 2010 9:08 AM
13. One measure would be to attempt to acquire easements to allow the linking of the dead end roads off of Reservoir St. and to provide a more developed space on the Reservoir at Elm St. Even a wood platform with trash receptacles and collection would enhance and make more safe use of that viewing/fishing area. Could enlist the Boys and Girl scouts and HS'ers needing community service hours. Tue, Nov 30, 2010 12:19 PM
14. Communicate, communicate, communicate. Emails are welcome. Mon, Nov 29, 2010 10:48 PM
15. work closely with other town government departments Mon, Nov 29, 2010 9:42 AM
16. Its apparent that this town does not want to adequately fund initiatives to support the plan. I think other areas of funding need to be actively pursued such as applying for grants, partnering with conservation organizations or seeking corporate sponsorship. Fri, Nov 26, 2010 9:00 PM
17. I would like someplace to walk. There are few places to walk that are 1) not in the forest, 1) that have paved walking paths, 3) that not adjacent to a highway. If I want to walk outside near where I live, I have few choices: I can walk on the sidewalk on route 123, but that's not too pleasant. I can walk circles around my cul de sac, but that gets boring. I can walk in the road on Oak Street and highly risk getting hit by a car. Or, I can walk in the woods, but I am not too eager to do that for a number of reasons. Ideally, I'd like a smaller version of the Arnold Arboretum in which to walk, but that's unlikely. / Separately, I'd like nice roads to go road biking. Norton has much better roads, at least where I live, compared to our neighboring towns. Unfortunately, to do any reasonable amount of biking, I need to go through the Thu, Nov 25, 2010 12:50 PM

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A\\_2fj8JD\\_2bUvr2s\\_2bqSgNUappq4jV\\_2bk...](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=A_2fj8JD_2bUvr2s_2bqSgNUappq4jV_2bk...) 12/20/2010



Q#23

other towns, where the roads may not have ideal pavement, potholes, etc...

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 18. WE NEED A SAFE PLACE FOR OUR OLDER CHILDREN TO BE.   | Tue, Nov 23, 2010 11:35 AM |
| 19. focus on recreation areas and getting residents outside, but in Town, more often.  | Mon, Nov 22, 2010 4:49 PM  |
| 20. Need to involve more people and inform people more about events and activities. We are all too busy and need to be reminded on what is going on and coming up.   | Fri, Nov 19, 2010 7:45 PM  |
| 21. The citizen's seem to still see themselves as several small villages (like it was in the beginning of the town's history). They don't vote or respond at town meeting with pride in their "whole" town. They are unwilling to spend monies on recreational activities, including the library (which has recreational value also, ex. reading). The selectman and finance committee don't seem to encourage the citizens to vote for quality of life articles; like open space, senior center (activities), etc., library, opening up our small town swimming pool in the summer to all for extended hours, etc. The people must be encouraged by town officials to support your committee and the other recreational ones, or its useless. | Wed, Nov 17, 2010 8:41 PM  |
| 22. The town should raise awareness of wetlands and wildlife habitat issues by introducing the community to these areas through guided recreational activities and tours. People are attracted to nature and natural scenery. Showing them the scenery of areas around them that they did not know existed will create a stronger will to get involved in land protection and preservation. If the town sponsored events such as fishing tournaments, nature walks, canoe trips, and town picnics, then Norton would be a much more lively and inviting town. This would boost the amount of available recreational activities for all ages and build a stronger sense of community.   | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 1:23 PM  |
| 23. The resevoir is a jewel in the rough. We started strong with the sewer connections around the water and then the ball was dropped when it came to finishing what we started. It needs to be dredged and made a viable part of town.  | Tue, Nov 16, 2010 8:51 AM  |
| 24. Keep on doing what you are doing.  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 2:50 PM  |
| 25. Increase funding for open space and enhance access/ammenities at facilities  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 1:48 PM  |
| 26. better volunteer program and participation of the residents  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 11:13 AM |
| 27. Find a way to get people to read and understand what the plan is all about.  | Mon, Nov 15, 2010 9:36 AM  |



Q#23

28. Increase taxes and less spending

Fri, Nov 12, 2010 2:10 PM

50 responses per page

answered question 28

skipped question 51