

Dedham Open Space and Recreation Survey

Survey Collector was open March 7 - April 26, 2017 (7 weeks)

The Town of Dedham wants to know what you think about open space, environmental and recreation issues in Dedham. The Town is updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan so that Dedham can continue to be eligible for state funding and map out goals and objectives for the community. The purpose of the plan is to inventory and assess current open space and recreation resources, to articulate community needs, goals and objectives, and to prepare an action plan for the next seven years.

What do we mean by “open space” and “recreation” resources?

Open Space Resources - Land that is protected from development in perpetuity. Protection can allow public access to nature (e.g. walking trails), protect water quality, or protect wildlife habitat (e.g. wetlands, eelgrasses, etc.).

Recreation Resources - Indoor and outdoor facilities for recreation, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, ball fields, indoor gyms, and centers.

In an effort to better understand the preferences/input of survey respondents with respect to specific questions, several comparative analyses were performed. First, an analysis of responses across Census Block Groups/Village Areas (Question 17) was completed for Questions 6, 8, 11, and 12 to determine if there is a difference in how respondents feel regarding:

- Activities/facilities not provided for in Dedham
- Proximity to open space/recreation facilities
- Amenities to enhance experiences at open space areas
- Amenities to enhance experiences at recreation facilities

Next, an analysis of responses that considered the age groups of the household members (Question 19) was completed for Questions 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, and 12. Since 2015 population estimates (American Community Survey) reported household compositions in Dedham that include ‘Families’ (64.6%) and ‘1-Person’ (32%), it was important to differentiate responses from both groups, and not assume they are similar across the spectrum. ‘Families with Children’ (participants that identified household members under the age of 19) were separated out from ‘Other Participants’ regarding:

- Open space/recreation facilities currently utilized
- Open space/recreation facilities Dedham needs
- Satisfaction with open space/recreation facilities
- Activities not provided sufficiently
- Amenities to enhance experiences at open space areas
- Amenities to enhance experiences at recreation facilities

General Findings

1. List 3 open space, recreation facilities or places that you and/or your family use in Dedham. (469 responses)

Below represents the highlights and consensus of responses (top 12 responses):

- Wilson Mountain (189)
- Memorial Park (130)
- Paul Park (60)
- Dedham Recreation Building (49)
- Endicott Estate (47)
- Mucciaccio Pool (39)

- Rustcraft (38)
- Condon Park (30)
- Charles River (29)
- Riverdale (26)
- Dedham HS Track (20)
- Temporary Dog Park (20)
- Nobles (18)

Comparative Analysis Findings

Families with children (337 responses)

- Wilson Mountain (141)
- Memorial Park/Fields/Playground (120)
- Paul Park/playground (60)
- Rustcraft (53)
- Endicott Estate (48)
- Dedham HS (track, field) (38)
- Condon Park/Field/Playground (34)
- Dolan Center (33)
- Mucciaccio Pool (30)
- Gonzales field/park (19)
- Riverdale park/fields (19)
- Charles River (19)

Other participants (132 responses)

- Wilson Mountain (73)
- Memorial Park/Fields/Playground (26)
- Endicott Estate (23)
- Mucciaccio Pool (15)
- Dog park (14)
- Charles River (13)
- Cutler Park (11)
- Whitcomb Woods (11)
- Condon Park/Field/Playground (10)
- Riverdale park/fields (8)
- Dedham HS (track, field) (8)
- Mother Brook (6)

Just about three-fourths of the top 12 responses were reported across both ‘Families with Children’ and ‘Other Participants’ groups. Notable differences between the types of open space/recreation facilities utilized by the two groups show more of an emphasis on team and/or field sports or active recreation (Paul park/Playground, Rustcraft, Dolan Center, and Gonzalez Field/Park) for ‘Families with Children’, as compared to an emphasis on conservation areas or passive recreation (Dog park, Cutler park, Whitcomb Woods, and Mother Brook) for ‘Other Participants’.

2. List 3 open space areas and/or recreation facilities that Dedham needs. (435 responses)

General Findings

Below represents the highlights and consensus of responses (top 12 responses):

- Rail Trail (120)
- Bike Paths (65)
- More Protected Woods/Hiking/Walking Trails (58)
- Turf Lacrosse Field (57)
- Ice Skating/Hockey Rink (37)
- Splash/Spray Park (37)
- Soccer/Baseball Fields (35)
- Maintain Existing Facilities (30)
- Striar property (27)
- Improved Tennis Courts (20)
- Permanent Dog Park (20)
- On-Road Bike lanes (19)

Comparative Analysis Findings

Families with children (317 responses)

- Rail trail (71)
- Bike path (57)
- Lacrosse field/facility (46)
- More protected woods/hiking/walking trails (38)
- Ice skating/hockey rink (36)
- Soccer field/facilities (improved/better) (32)
- Splash/spray park (30)
- Tennis courts (more/improved) (21)
- Access to/around Wigwam Pond (16)
- Maintain/improve existing facilities (16)
- Baseball complex/field (15)
- Permanent dog park/area (12)

Other participants (118 responses)

- Rail trail (36)
- Bike path (27)
- Striar Property (16)
- Permanent dog park/area (14)
- Access to/around Wigwam Pond (13)
- More protected woods/hiking/walking trails (12)
- Tennis courts (more/improved) (6)
- Bike lane (5)
- Walking trails (3)

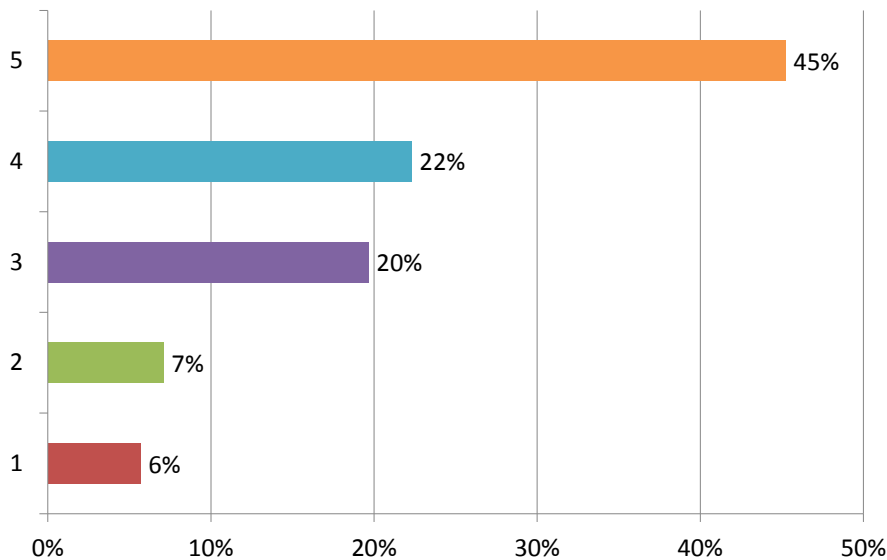
Similar to the findings in Question 2, just about half of the top 12 responses were reported across both ‘Families with Children’ and ‘Other Participants’ groups. Notable differences in the open space/recreation facilities Dedham needs, as reported by both groups, show more of an emphasis on team and/or field sports or active recreation (Lacrosse field/facility, Ice Skating/Hockey rink, Soccer field/facilities, Spray/Splash Park, and Baseball field/complex) for ‘Families with Children’, as compared to an emphasis on open space areas or passive recreation (Striar property, and Walking trails) for ‘Other Participants’.

3. How important is it for you to preserve or acquire: (5 = very important – 1 = least important)

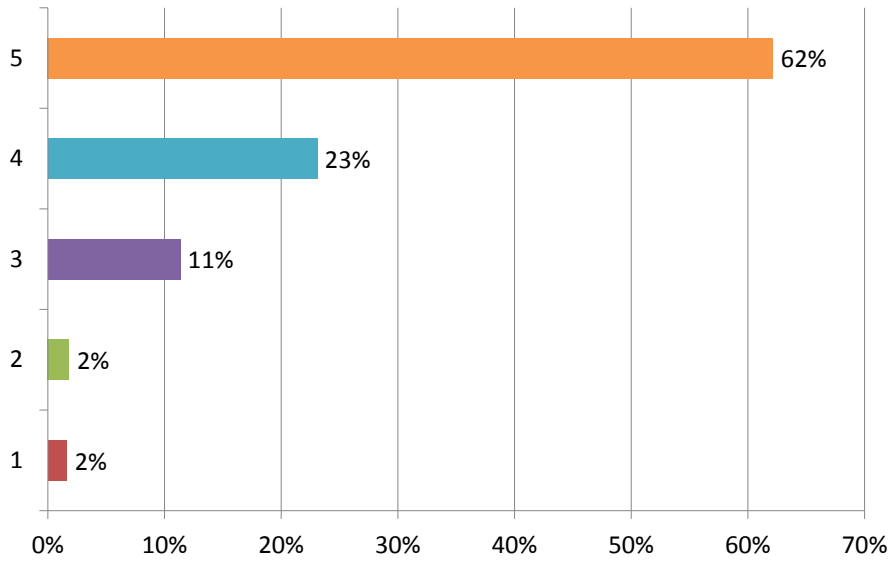
Majority of respondents generally support the preservation and/or acquisition of the following:

- Buildings and places of historical importance (67%)
- Open space to meet water conservation needs (85%)
- Open space to meet active recreation needs (88%)
- Open Space for aesthetics or passive recreation (76%)
- Open space to create a network of green spaces (56%)

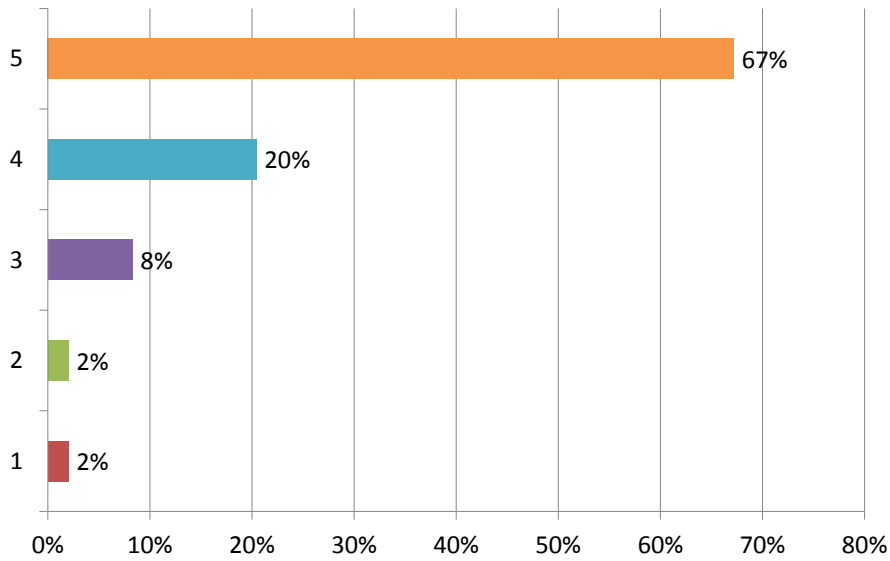
***Buildings and places of historical significance?
(495 responses)***



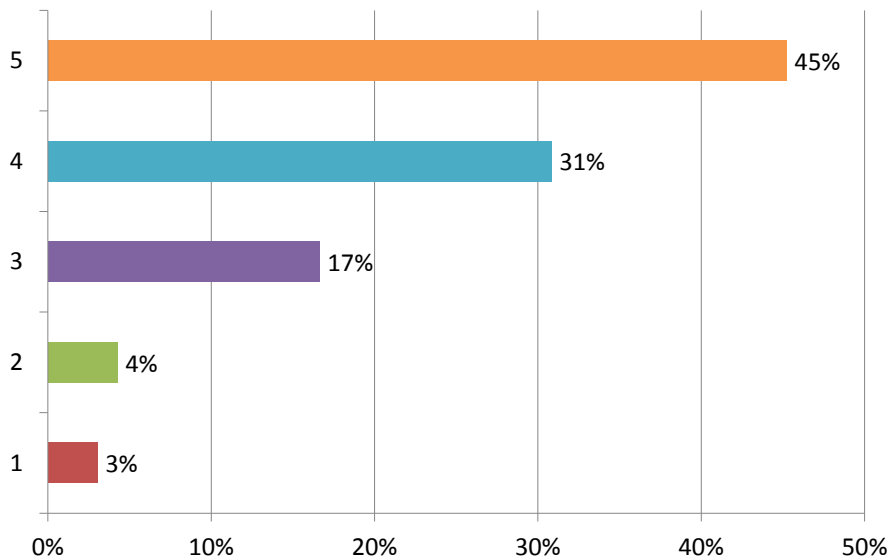
Open space to meet water and conservation needs?
(495 responses)



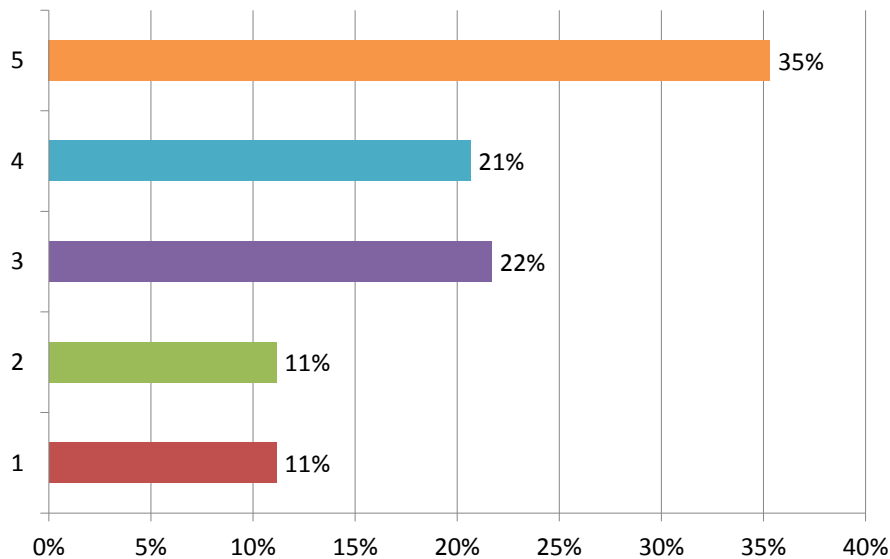
Open space to meet our active recreation needs?
(495 responses)



Open space for aesthetics or passive recreation?
(495 responses)



**Open space to create a network?
(495 responses)**



4. How satisfied are you with existing open space and recreation facilities in Dedham for the following age groups:

General Findings

Overall, respondents identified a mix of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with existing open space and recreation facilities in Dedham:

- Under 5: Majority of respondents very satisfied/satisfied (45%) or neutral (33%)
- 6 – 12 years: Majority of respondents very satisfied/satisfied (39%) or neutral (32%)
- 13 – 17 years: Majority of respondents neutral (40%) or dissatisfied/very dissatisfied (35%)
- 18 – 29 years: Majority of respondents neutral (41%) or dissatisfied/very dissatisfied (65%)
- 30 – 54 years: Majority of respondents very satisfied/satisfied (47%) or neutral (36%)
- 55 and over: Majority of respondents neutral (35%) or dissatisfied/very dissatisfied (49%)

Comparative Analysis Findings

Bolded numbers identify the greatest number of participant responses for a group of respondents and age group.

The majority of respondents across both groups identified they were satisfied/very satisfied with existing open space/recreation facilities in Dedham for the 'Under 5' and '6 – 12 years' age groups. 'Families with Children' returned a much higher rate of dissatisfaction with existing open space/recreation facilities for the '13 – 17 years' age group, as compared to 'Other participants' at 20% dissatisfaction...which is also consistent with what has been reported from other outreach efforts. 'Other Participants' returned a much higher rate of dissatisfaction with existing open space/recreation facilities for the '55 + years' age group...also consistent with what has been reported from other outreach efforts.

	<u>Families with children</u>		<u>Other participants</u>	
	Satisfied/ Very satisfied	Dissatisfied/ Very dissatisfied	Satisfied/ Very satisfied	Dissatisfied/ Very dissatisfied
Under 5	43%	26%	48%	13%
6-12 years	35%	34%	51%	12%
13-17 years	21%	40%	43%	20%
18-29 years	22%	39%	27%	27%
30-54 years	25%	39%	26%	39%
55+ years	18%	44%	16%	59%

5. General comments on level of satisfaction:

Below represents the highlights and consensus of responses (top 12 responses):

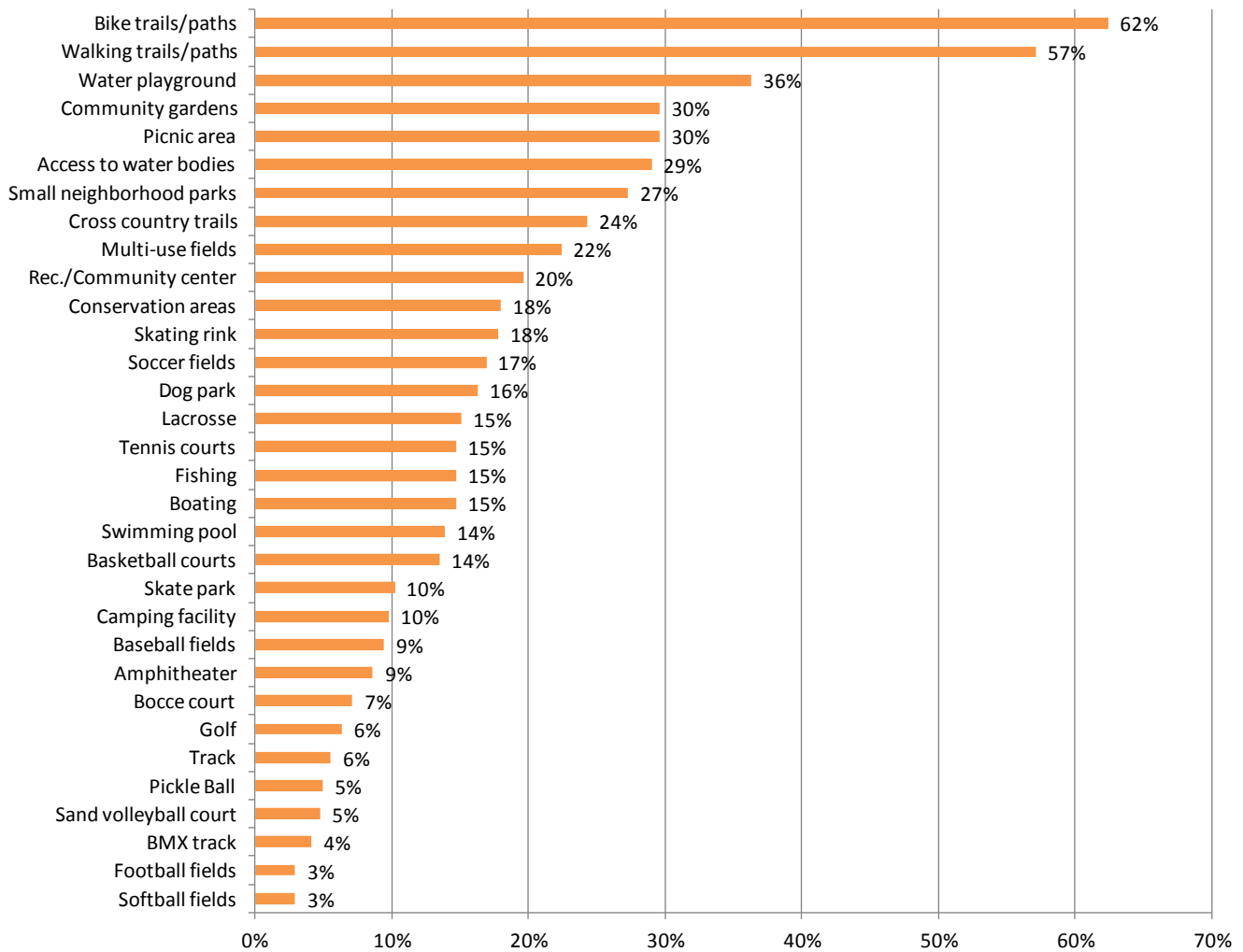
- Overwhelming unsatisfactory response regarding field maintenance/upkeep (30)
- Teen Center/programming is needed (outside of organized sports) (12)
- Programming for seniors is needed (Council on Aging/senior center, programs, classes) (11)
- Connectivity/Accessibility (lack of): specifically ADA/universal access and sidewalks/crosswalks (11)
- More emphasis on parks (passive recreation) and not just organized sports programs (10)
- Programming for adults is needed (8)
- Paved surfaces for walking and biking (moms/families/seniors) (3)
- Communication/Dissemination of information (3)
- Amenities such as shade trees, benches, restrooms are needed at all sites (3)
- Turf lacrosse fields are needed (2)
- Water Park/Splash Pad is needed (2)
- Picnic areas are needed (2)

6. Choose 5 activities or facilities you feel are NOT provided sufficiently in Dedham.

General Findings

Respondents identified a range of activities and/or facilities NOT provided sufficiently in Dedham:

**Choose 5 activities or facilities you feel are NOT provided sufficiently.
(490 responses)**

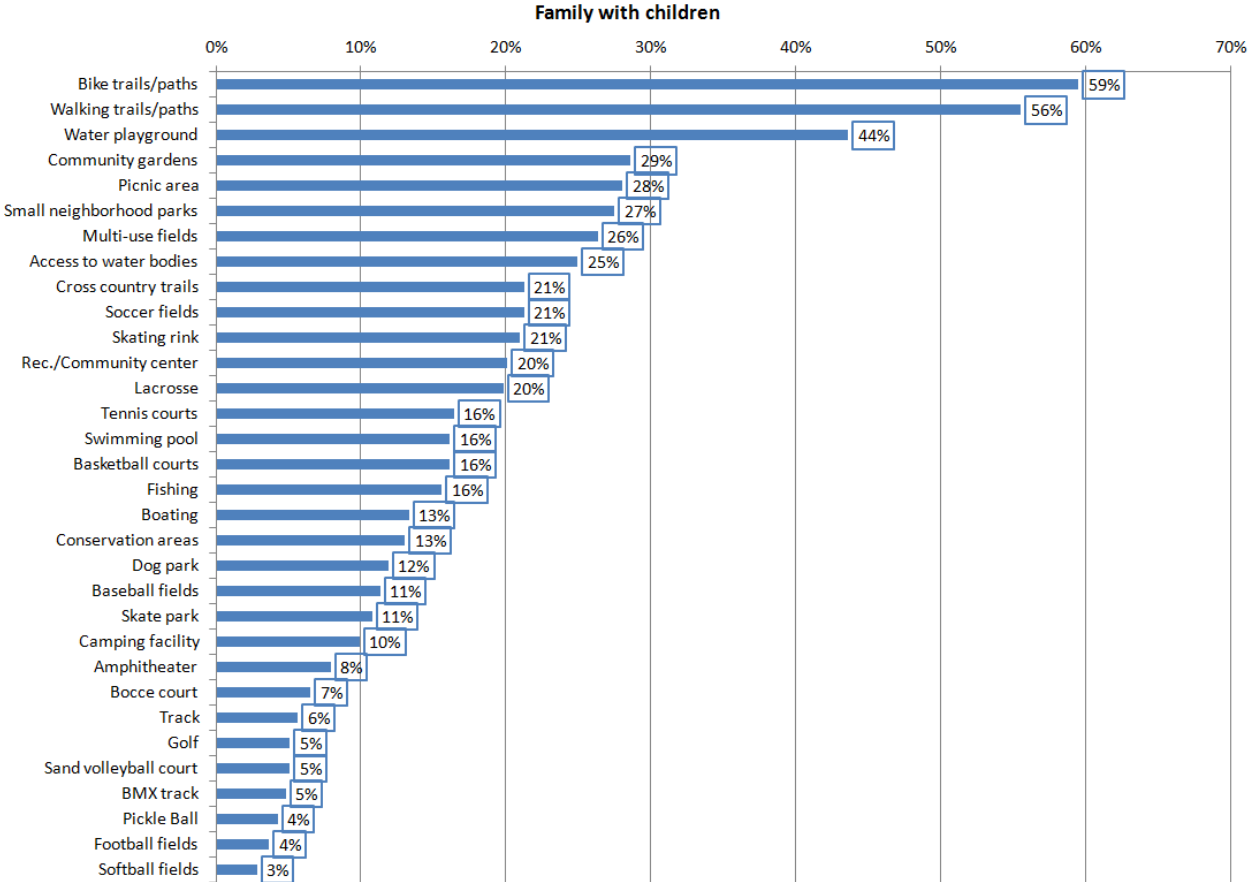


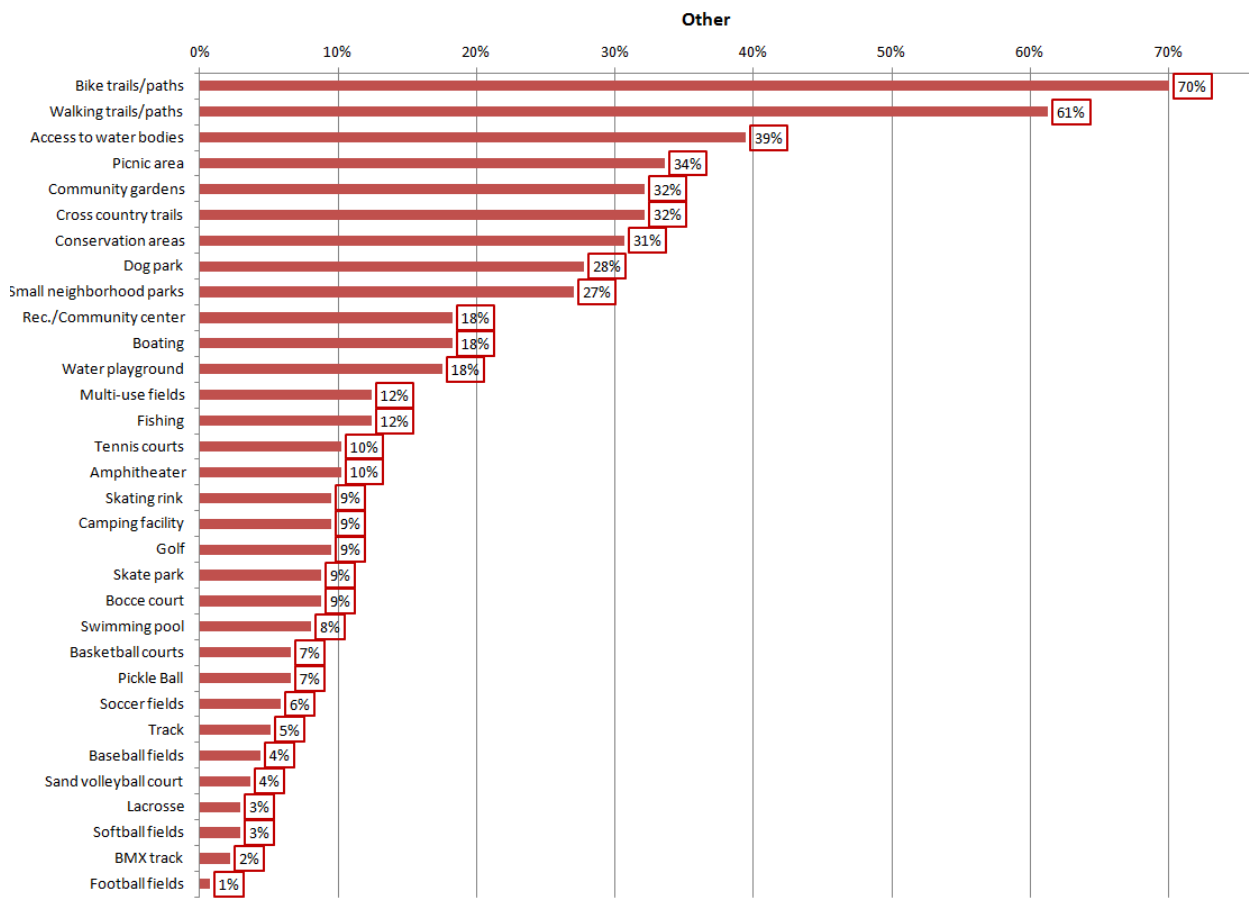
Comparative Analyses Findings

In a comparison across the seven Census Block Groups/Village Areas (Question 17) and identification of 5 activities or facilities residents feel are NOT provided sufficiently in Dedham, all areas consistently identified **Walking Paths/Trails** and/or **Bike Paths/Trails** as the top two NOT provided for sufficiently. The third top activity/facility identified across the same comparison areas reported several consistencies as well:

- Water Playground
 - 1) Greenlodge
 - 2) Oakdale
 - 3) Sprague Manor
- Community Gardens
 - 1) The Village
- Picnic Areas
 - 1) East Dedham
- Access to Water Bodies
 - 1) Riverdale
 - 2) West Dedham

Both household groups responded similarly to the top two activities/facilities NOT provided sufficiently in Dedham (Bike Trails/Paths and Walking Trails/Paths). From there, similar activities/facilities were identified (Community Gardens, Picnic Areas, and Small Neighborhood Parks) across both groups as priorities, but with more active recreation activities/facilities identified for ‘Families with Children’ and more passive recreation activities/facilities identified by ‘other participants’...also similar to findings in Question 1.

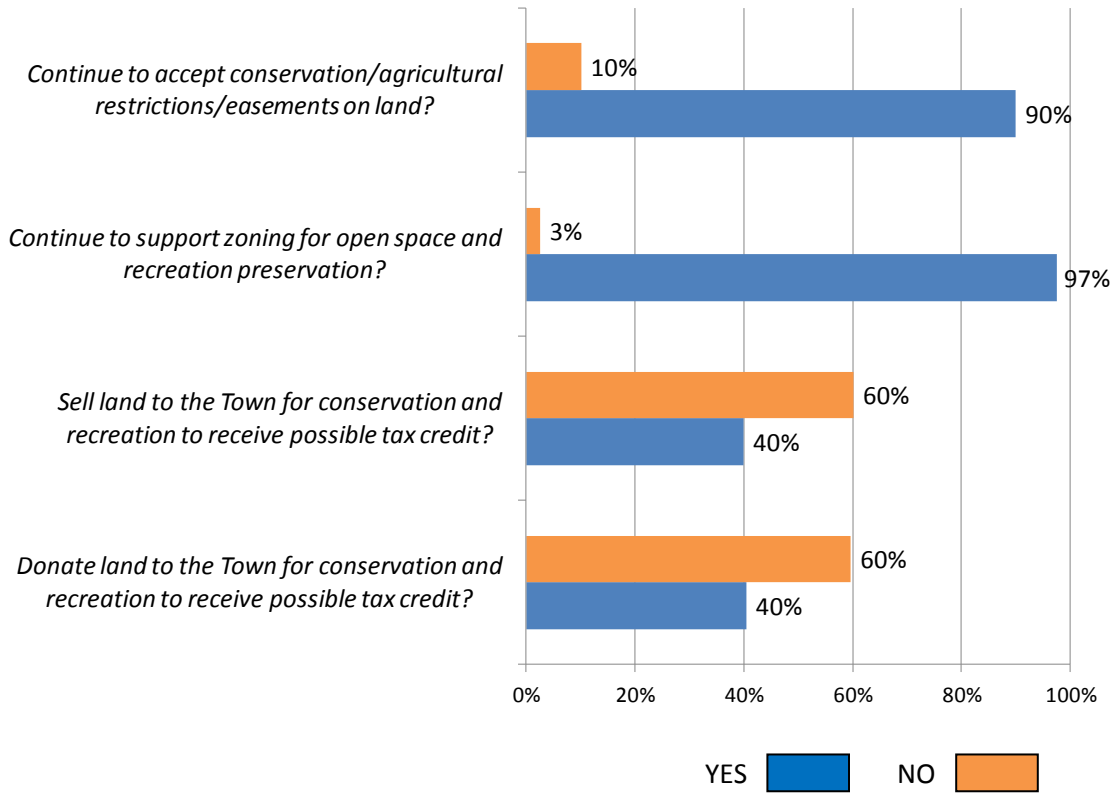




7. To preserve open space, would you:

Regarding efforts to preserve open space, respondents generally support the Town in zoning for open space and recreation preservation (97%), as well as accepting conservation and agricultural restrictions/easements (90%). However, residents donating or selling land to the Town in return for tax credits for the same purposes was not overwhelmingly supported (both at 60% not in favor).

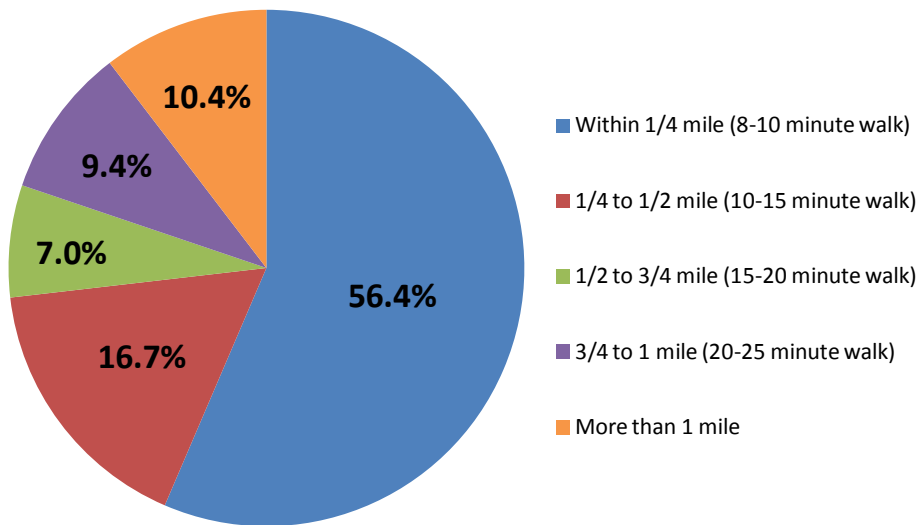
**To preserve open space, would you:
(484 responses)**



8. How far is the closest open space or recreation facility from your home?

General Findings

How far is the closest open space area or recreation facility from your home? (498 responses)



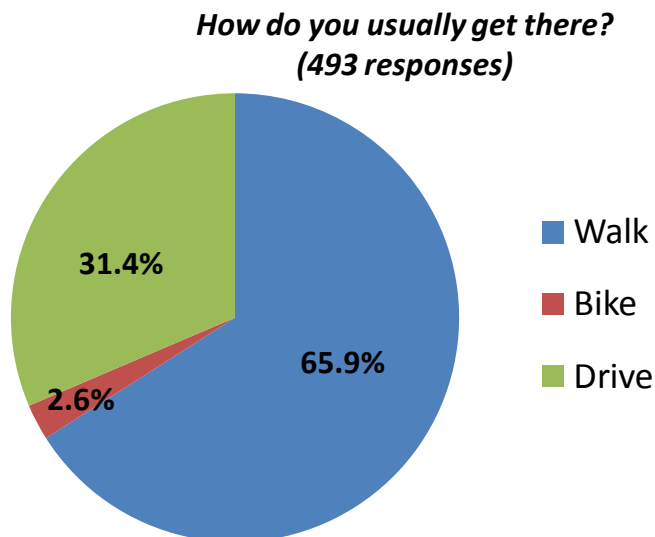
Comparative Analyses Findings

Overall, a majority of respondents (56%) indicated the closest open space/recreational facility is within ¼ mile (8-10 minute walk) of their home. In a comparison across the seven census block groups/village areas (Question 17) and distance to closest open space or recreation facility, five of the seven areas had a majority of respondents (50% or greater) indicating that they live within a quarter mile (8 – 10 minute walk) of the closest open space or recreation facility:

- Within a ¼ mile
 - East Dedham
 - Greenlodge
 - Oakdale
 - Sprague Manor
 - Riverdale
- Between ¼ mile and ½ mile
 - The Village
 - West Dedham

9. How do you usually get there?

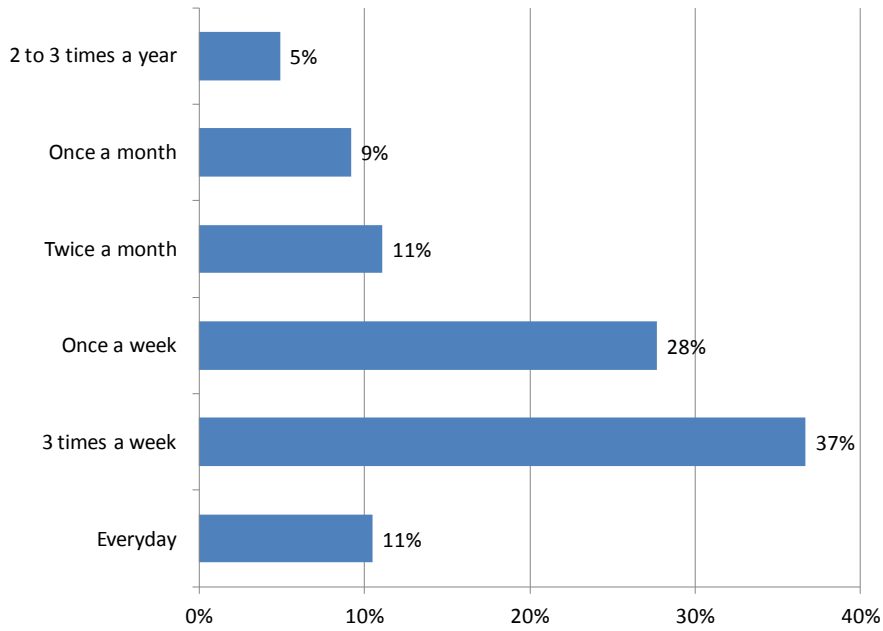
Although attributed to an individual’s willingness to walk varies greatly depending on age, health, time availability, quality of surroundings, safety, climate, and many other factors, most people are only willing to walk a quarter-mile to get to a destination. Just under half of respondents reported living further than ¼ mile from the nearest open space or recreation facility (Question 8). Despite this, a majority of respondents (66%) indicated they still walk to the closest open space/recreational facility, even if it is outside the typical ¼ pedestrian shed.



10. How often do you visit open space or recreational areas in Dedham?

Almost half of respondents (48%) visit open space/recreational areas a minimum of at least 3 times a week, which is also consistent with the age cohorts represented in this survey (Question 19)...parents with children likely participating in organized sports programs.

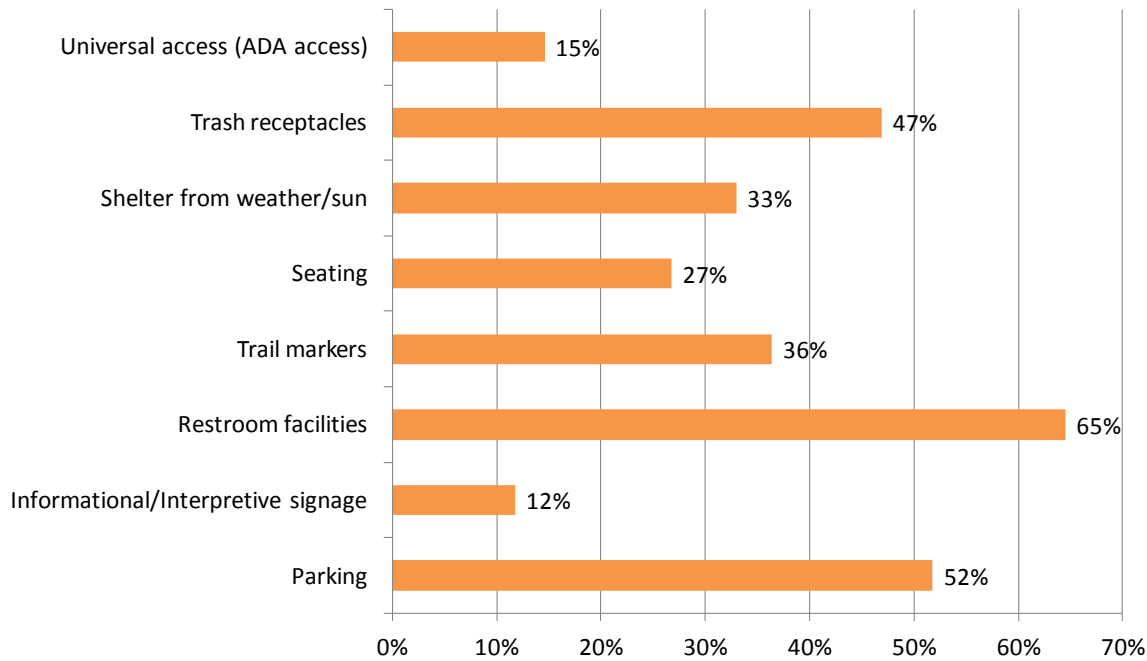
*How often do you visit open space areas or recreation facilities in Dedham?
(488 responses)*



11. Please pick the top three amenities you feel would enhance your experience the most when utilizing open space areas in Dedham?

General Findings

***Please pick the top three amenities you feel would enhance your experience the most when utilizing open space areas in Dedham:
(473 responses)***



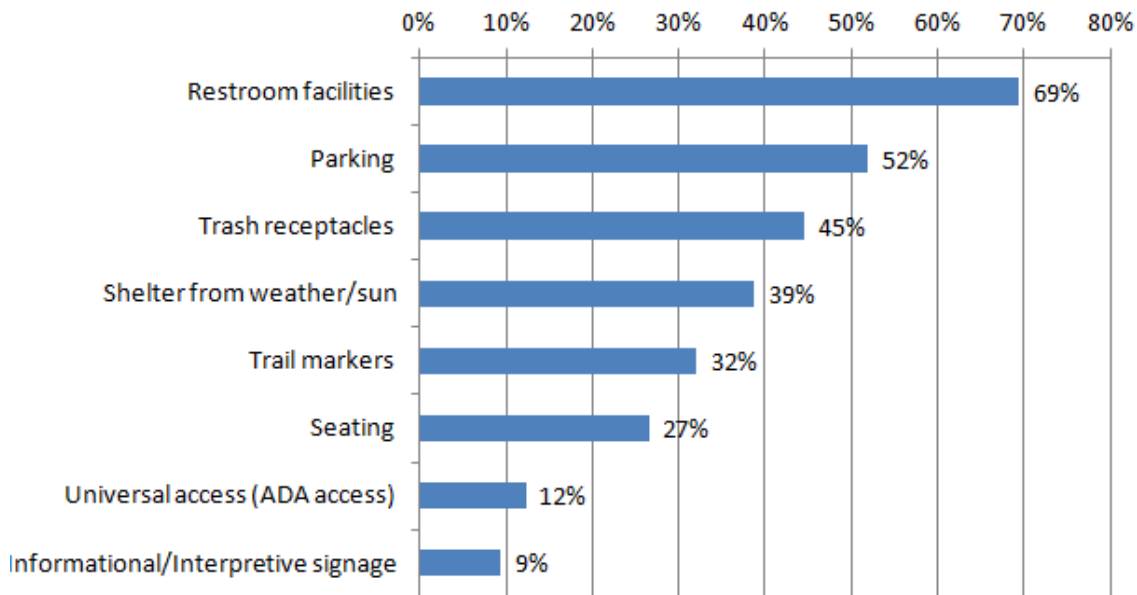
Comparative Analyses Findings

In a comparison across the seven Census Block Groups/Village Areas (Question 17) and identification of top 3 amenities that would enhance respondent’s experiences when utilizing open space areas, all areas consistently identified **Restrooms** and **Parking** as the top two amenities desired. The third top amenity identified across the same comparison reported several consistencies as well:

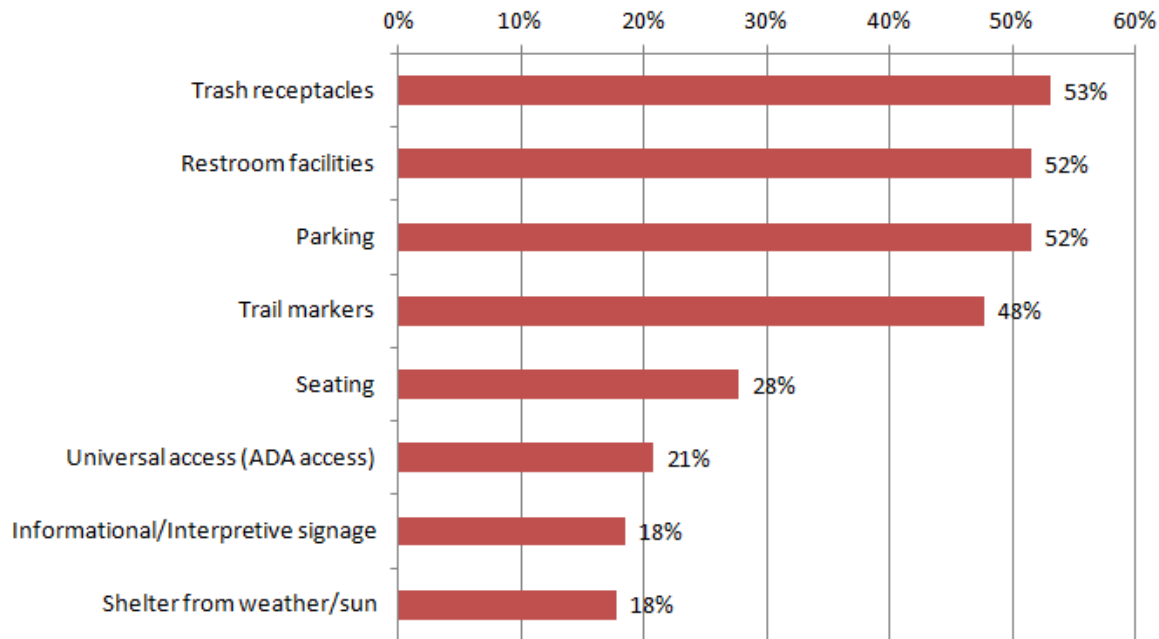
- Shelter from weather/sun
 - 1) East Dedham
 - 2) Greenlodge
 - 3) Sprague Manor
- Trash receptacles
 - 1) Oakdale
 - 2) Riverdale
 - 3) The Village
 - 4) West Dedham

Findings across both ‘Household Type’ groups consistently identified **Restrooms, Parking and Trash Receptacles** as the top three amenities necessary to enhance experiences at open space areas in Dedham, along with the remaining top five amenities as well, with slightly different preferences/priorities.

Family with children



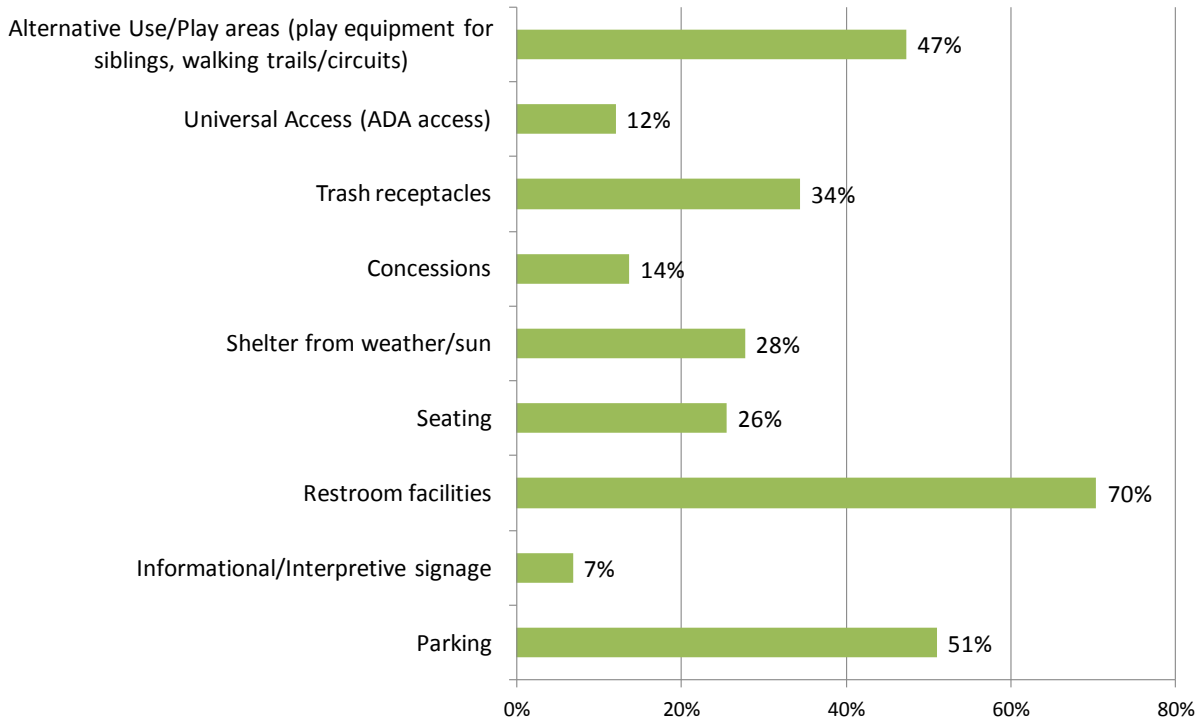
Other



12. Please pick the top three amenities you feel would enhance your experience the most when utilizing recreational facilities in Dedham?

General Findings

**Please pick the top three amenities you feel would enhance your experience the most when utilizing recreational facilities in Dedham:
(459 responses)**

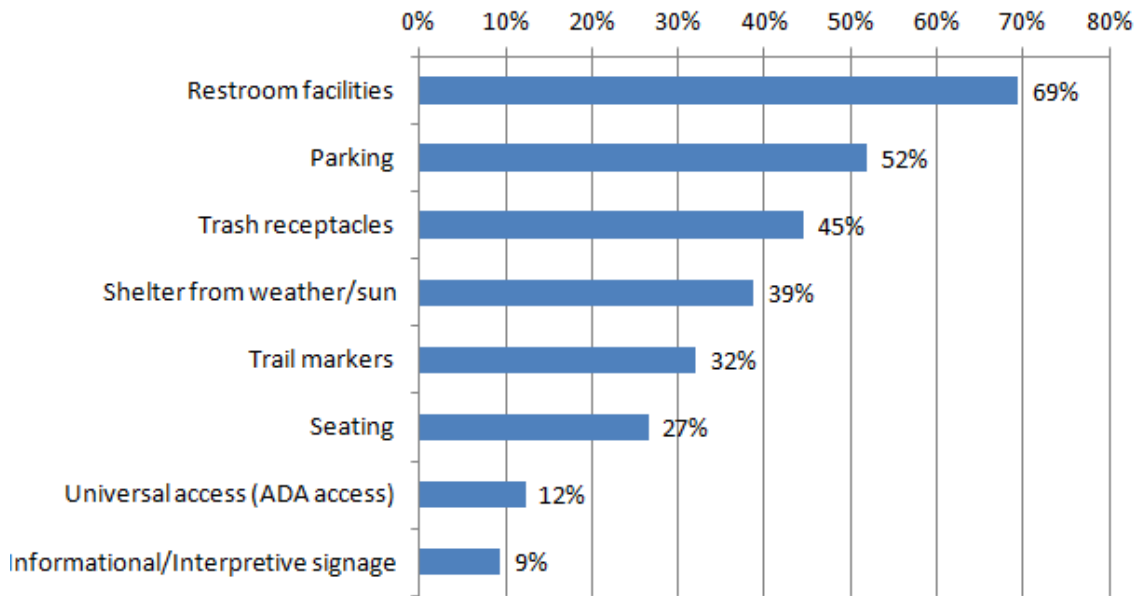


Comparative Analyses Findings

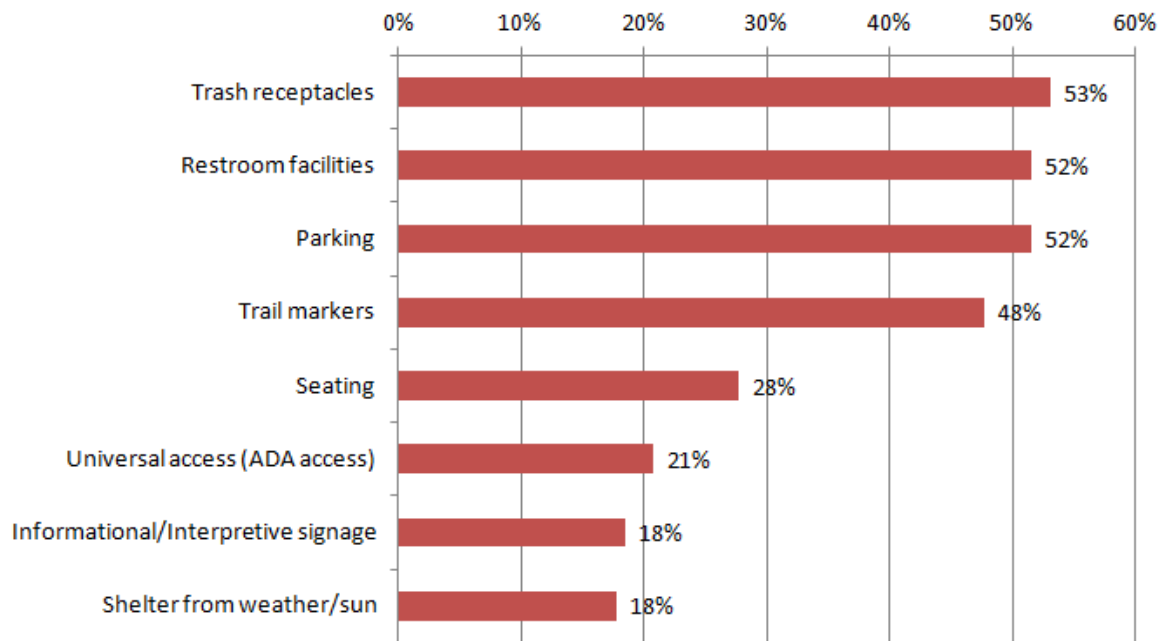
Consistent with amenities desired at open space areas (Question 11), respondents also identified **Restrooms** and **Parking** as the top two amenities desired when utilizing recreational facilities. The third top amenity, **Alternative Use/Play Areas**, was identified consistently across the same areas (Question 17).

Findings across both ‘Household Type’ groups consistently identified **Restrooms, Parking** and **Trash Receptacles** as the top three amenities necessary to enhance experiences at recreational facilities in Dedham, along with the remaining top six amenities as well, with slightly different preferences/priorities.

Family with children



Other



13. What do you like BEST about Dedham’s indoor and outdoor recreational experiences and open space? (259 responses)

Below represents the highlights and consensus of responses (top 12 responses):

- Proximity and cleanliness (40)
- Great variety and affordability (36)
- Various playground options for children (23)
- Overwhelmingly, Wilson Mountain (21)
- Love the pool and staff at the pool. (18)

- Dedham has a great base of recreational and open areas but they need upkeep and rejuvenation. (14)
- Dedham Water Trail/Charles River access (13)
- Dedham recreational department program. Kids have enjoyed participating in both indoor and outdoor activities. The number of programs and cost are great. (11)
- Nothing/Nothing to Say (9)
- Endicott Estate/Greenhouse is great with a fantastic community of people. (8)
- Town continues to make improvements, great job! (5)
- The dog park (3)

14. What would you IMPROVE about Dedham’s indoor and outdoor recreational experiences and open space? (298 responses)

Below represents the highlights and consensus of responses identified by more than one respondent:

- Field availability and conditions/maintenance/quality (37)
- Provision of amenities...restrooms, shade trees, benches, accessibility (26)
- Approve rail trail (18)
- Access to Weld, Wigwam and Little Wigwam ponds. Walking/running trails (15)
- ADA accessibility is very important (15)
- Better communication/advertising of programs/facilities (10)
- Bikes paths...there is currently no safe place to teach a kid to ride a bike or rollerblade (10)
- Connectivity of open space/recreation sites (9)
- Less focus on often male-dominated sports and focus on creation of spaces that can be used by families and individuals to enjoy the outdoors (8)
- More Trails, connecting Dedham to its neighbors (8)
- Prioritize Striar site development (7)
- Accessibility by sidewalk improvements (5)
- More neighborhood parks/vest-pocket parks (5)
- More turf playing fields (5)
- Designated fields for specific sports programs (3)
- More info/signage, promote events at open spaces, make them better known for us new folks in town (3)
- More programs for teenagers or those middle school students. They need things to do on the weekends and not everyone wants to play soccer or baseball.... Programs for the moms/dads who drop their kids off at practice. Yoga while you wait for your child.... (3)
- Dolan Center needs to either expand or be rebuilt with more class space, waiting room space and parking (3)
- Dedicated training facilities for year round use. Summer programs to help advance skills (2)
- East Dedham needs more resources (2)
- Recycling at Town sites (2)
- Lighted Tennis Courts and Basketball courts for summer evenings (2)

15. What are the most important actions the Town should take in the next 5 years regarding open space and recreation opportunities? (319 responses)

Below represents the highlights and consensus of responses identified by more than one respondent:

- Build Dedham Heritage Rail Trail (86)
- Develop the Striar/Manor Fields property to provide more fields, tennis courts, biking/walking trail (39)

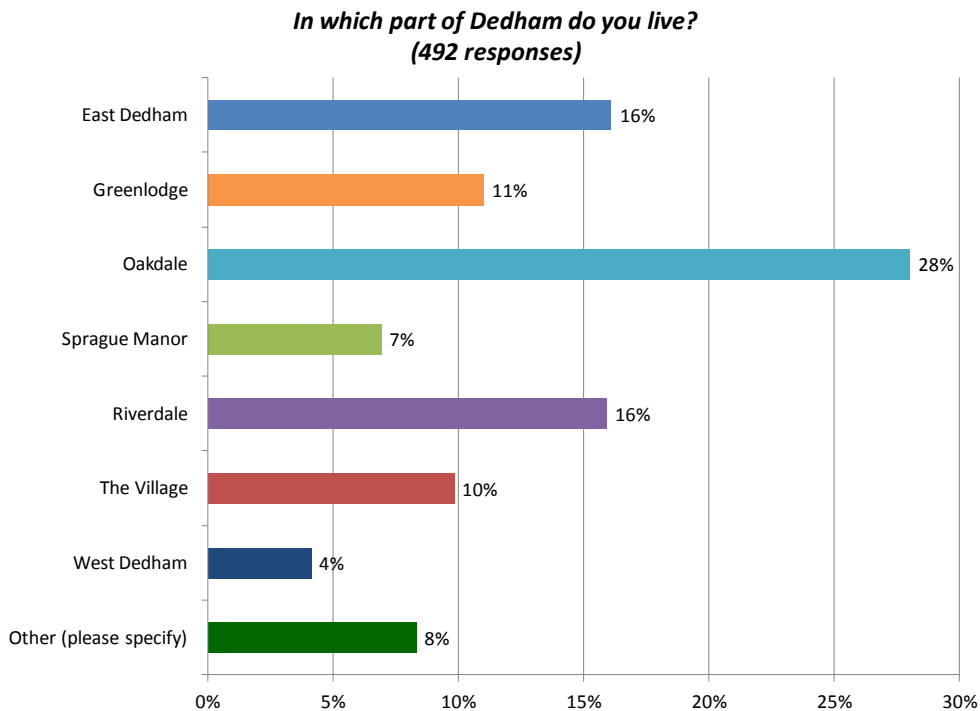
- Concentrate on maintenance of the existing fields (including training field) to be able to utilize the existing facilities (22)
- Walking/biking trails (14)
- Striar property, Wigwam Pond, Wilson Mtn. (11)
- Dedicate a field to lacrosse (7)
- Prioritize wetland conservation (6)
- Communicate facilities/programs better/PR campaign (6)
- Developing Mother Brook walkways and waterways (6)
- Acquire new sights for multipurpose, or turf so they can be used more (5)
- Ice rink or roller hockey rink (5)
- To not build a rail trail (5)
- Expand Endicott by purchasing adjacent property (4)
- Improve access to Wigwam Pond and the Charles River (3)
- More leisure space, not specifically dedicated to sports (3)
- Pass CPA and acquire land (3)
- Fulfill needs of seniors (2)
- Historic preservation of significant older houses outside preservation areas (2)

16. Do you live in Dedham? (497 responses)

Almost all respondents (99%) responded they live in Dedham.

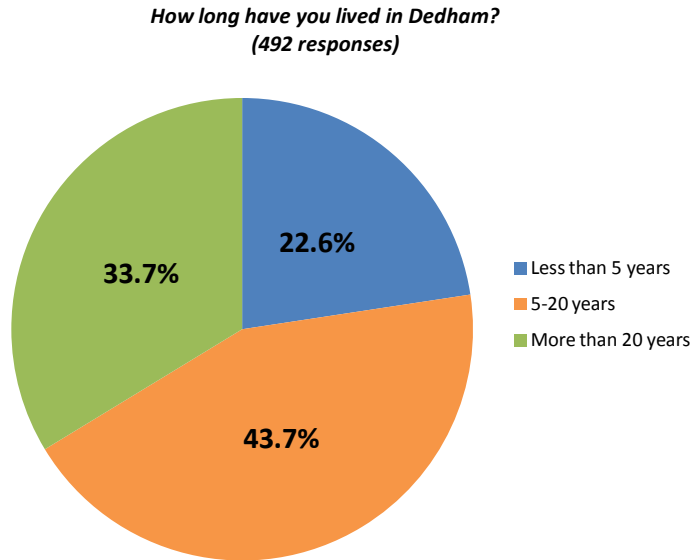
17. In which part of Dedham do you live?

Each census block group/village area was represented by at least 20 respondents, or more. Oakdale represents the majority of respondents with 28% (or 138 respondents) followed by Riverdale and East Dedham (both at 16% or 79 respondents each), consistently reported as the census block groups with higher population densities.



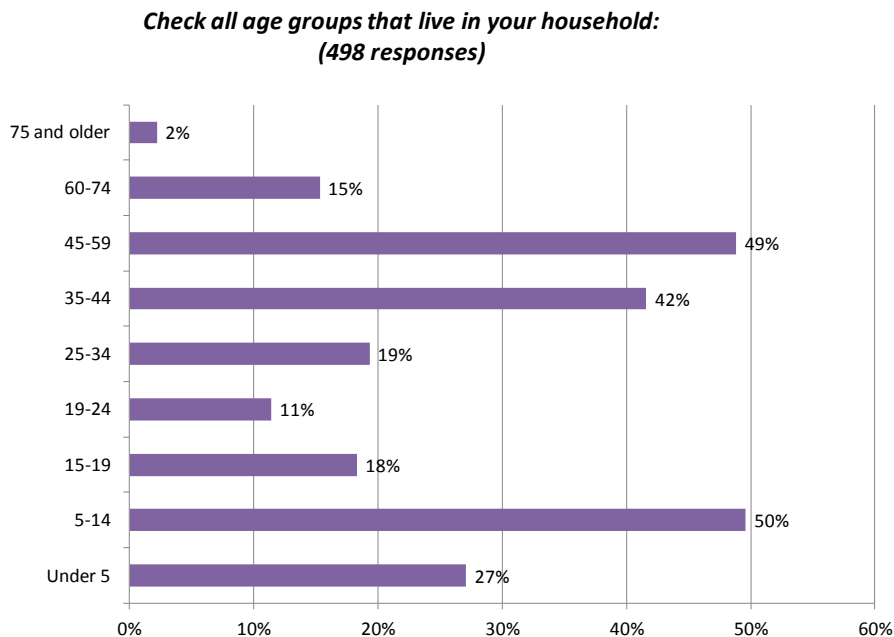
18. How long have you lived in Dedham?

Over three-quarters of all respondents (77%) have lived in Dedham at least 5 or more years, with one-third living in Dedham more than 20 years. This higher percentage of long-term residents have likely experienced more of the open space and recreational sites and facilities through raising their children in Dedham, as compared to the 23% of respondents reporting less than five years in town, likely representing newer, young families.



19. Check all age groups that live in your house?

Respondents reported similarly to the population statistics reported by the MAPC Regional Growth Projections for 2016, with a majority of age cohorts falling between 35 yrs. old – 59 yrs. old (parents) and 19 yrs. old and under (children).



20. Are there any other comments you would like to add about Dedham's open space and recreational opportunities? (162 responses)

Respondents provided a number of general comments regarding Dedham's open space/recreational opportunities, including:

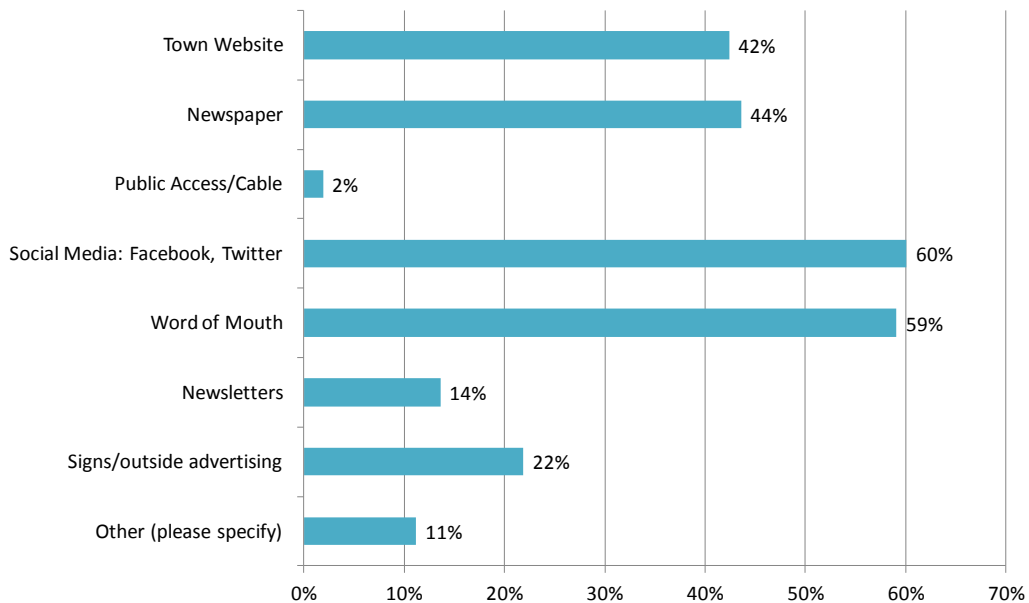
- I have lived in Dedham my whole life and there has not much been done to the fields. I have no idea as to why the taxes are not going to improve the sports fields and the school fields. Fix what we have and not add to the project list. No Rail Trail!!!!
- The pool building needs replacing.
- As a coach of Dedham Youth Lacrosse (and someone that sees what facilities other communities have), I feel that the facilities, fields, etc that are available to and dedicated to the sport of lacrosse are grossly insufficient. We could certainly use a multi-sport field, but we would need the field to be lined for lacrosse, have lights, and be made available consistently during the spring season for practice and games.
- I am embarrassed by our town soccer fields.
- Hold a fundraiser, stop all the ridiculous tax hikes and schemes.
- Dog friendly fields. Multi field complex. Affordable ice rink.
- Would love to have a dedicated lacrosse field. This sport has become very popular, and would be a great benefit to the development of our town program.
- There are some remarkable coaches that bring together the community from all different schools and backgrounds. Sports are a huge bonding mechanism for kids and community.
- Mother Brook is wonderful for East Dedham--historically, visually and the work on it by people is admirable. I just hope work continues on it.
- The rail trail should be a no brainer. The opposition arguments show the townies that are against progress and against Dedham moving into the 21st century.
- Would love to see a boat house at the Dolan Center.
- NO RAIL TRAIL! TOO EXPENSIVE! TOO MUCH RISK OF INCREASED CRIME TOWN NEEDS TO PUT MONEY TOWARDS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS- PAVE ROADS, SENIOR CENTER, STRIAR PROPERTY NO TO RAIL TRAIL TOO EXPENSIVE DECREASED PRIVACY INCREASED CRIME.
- The town including Parks and Recreation need to do more to outreach to families who do not speak English. Putting notices in other languages or having features via Google Translate to provide that option to families. There are many families in Dedham who don't have access to the information of what is available.
- I'm glad you're doing a master plan. Please address the fields, every other town has better fields than we do! Buying property for an outdoor public pool would be wonderful.
- Thank you for making this survey.
- I look forward to checking the local paper as to this topic.
- Fix the decrepit school fields. Fix the landscaping and grass areas. Let the Highway Department administrate the Parks Department.
- More adult activities - like yoga or dance in the evening. Or add aqua aerobics to the pool offerings without charging extra for it. If you made it available with a pool membership, more folks would join the pool. You would collect more money (\$200/year) rather than \$60/class. Make yoga available during youth program times (clipper swim team or gymnastics, etc.) so the parents do not hover. If you expand the youth offerings to at least 1.5 hours and put the yoga (or whatever) class within that time period, it would benefit family offerings and generate more money for the Rec. department.
- How can we make roads safer for bicycles?
- Can we get recycling bins at the fields?
- Yes, please increase community garden plots.
- Would love to see a climbing wall at some of the playgrounds.

- I would love to see the area under the Route 1 bridge by town square turned into usable space- art or maybe permanent chess/dominoes tables. It would also be a great space for gardeners market on rainy days!
- I strongly supported adding a dog park soon after I moved to Dedham. Thanks so much for implementing it!
- Dedham is more than 1/3 Open Space - but much of that is not accessible due to it being wetlands. Still, the residents of this town should know that it exists and be educated about the town's biodiversity and natural history. Knowledge is the most important thing when it comes to protecting our natural resources and engaging our community to help use and preserve our open space.
- I would love to see opportunities for community rowing or crew. I noted that Dexter has river access- why can't the town?
- It would be great for little kids to have a splash pad or water feature in a couple of the playgrounds.
- Thank you very much to the Parks & Rec. team for doing a great job on involving the whole community in this process.
- More options offered for school vacations. Summer and school breaks. Parents want options to bring their kids in town. Same programs become boring after a few years for kids. Hire companies that can bring STEM programs, LEGO, cooking etc. Scouts want an open area to fly kites, set off rockets, teach robotics, teach cooking etc.
- We have so many neighbor gyms that need to Open Up after school / early evening / and weekends. Children and Adults need more Face to Face Time. How much could a janitor and a little electricity cost?
- Baseball fields!
- There is a lack of public knowledge about these areas and opportunities especially in the Riverdale area. Other parts of Dedham have rolling signs about sign ups or team victories. Riverdale is always left out. We are part of Dedham too!
- Bocce court.
- There is abundant litter throughout the town. While Dedham Civic Pride has done great things to beautify intersections and small plots, there is still far too much litter, which leaves a bad impression.
- Better promote the Dedham Trails website and the information available.
- We need more consistency and better communication. For instance, I'm a semi-regular swimmer at the Dedham Pool and I never know when it's open. I show up when it's supposed to be open and nobody is there. That really bugs me. Also, usage and drive/walk/bike depends on season. More walking/biking could be done if sidewalk shoveling was enforced. It is not. Washington Street is always un-walkable because residents don't shovel their sidewalks.
- Dedham is on the right path. Thank You!
- Programs need to be publicized more. Perhaps by inserts in Dedham Times, Dedham/West Roxbury Transcript, Needham newspaper 3-4 times a year, perhaps by roadside signs.

21. How do you receive your information about parks, recreation and open spaces areas and programming?

In a comparison across the seven census block groups/village areas (Question 17) and identification of how respondents receive information about parks, recreation and open space areas, most areas consistently identified **Social Media** and **Word of Mouth** as the top two ways to receive information. Sprague Manor and West Dedham consistently reported **Word of Mouth** and **Town Website** as the top two ways to receive information. The **Newspaper** was the next top selection for getting information across the majority of areas.

***How do you receive your information about parks, recreation and open space areas and programs?
(484 responses)***



Other responses included:

- Emails
- School fliers/emails
- I would like to see an informative eletter
- Precinct 7 Facebook
- Town meetings
- The Dedham Times
- I search it out. Emails from the Rec. dept are also helpful. However, we do a poor job reaching out to the newer residents. Dedham real estate agents could provide a welcome to Dedham booklet with all the town services and opportunities.
- Friends of the Dedham Heritage Rail Trail
- Private sports organizations
- Town GIS system, Open Space Plan
- Never hear anything
- Neighbors
- Nextdoor.com is becoming important
- Parks and rec. email
- Neighborhood association emails