

Wellesley Open Space and Recreation Plan Update





What is in the Open Space and Recreation Plan?

- 11 Required Sections
- Community Snapshot
- Resource Inventory
- Needs
 - Natural Resource protection, Community and Management
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Plan
- Environmental Justice Outreach

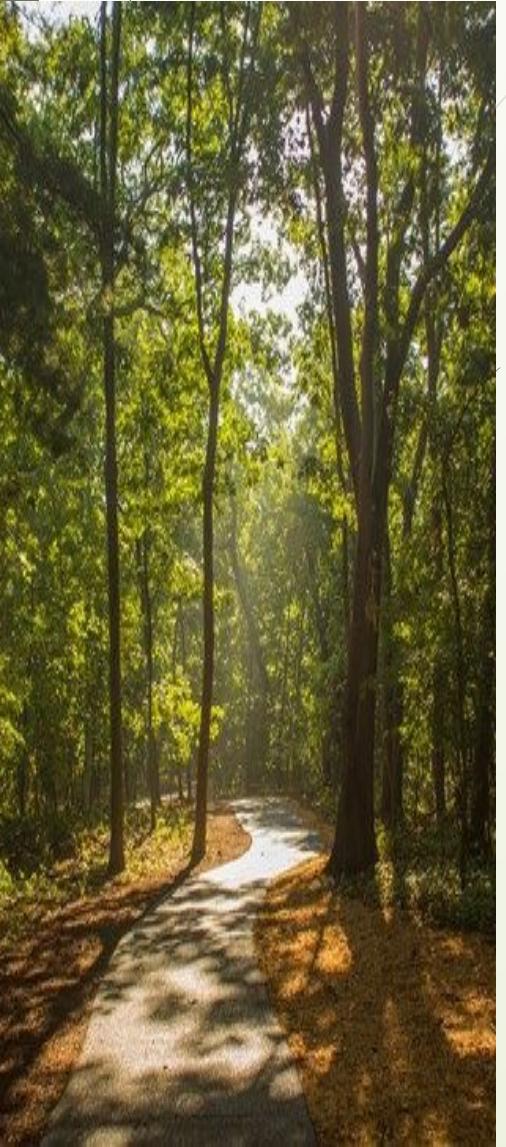


Overview/Benefits of the OSRP

- 1. Guide policy decisions for open space, natural resources, and recreational issues
- 2. Maintain public spaces and recreational facilities
- 3. Protect open spaces
- 4. Develop and implement a capital improvement program
- 5. Improve public access and awareness



What is “Open space”?



- **Public and private land that is undeveloped for...**
 - Public access to nature (e.g. walking trails)**
 - Protecting water quality**
 - Protecting habitat (e.g. wetlands, threatened species, etc.)**

What is “Recreation”?

- Indoor and outdoor facilities
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Multi-use fields
- Basketball/tennis/pickleball courts
- Ballfields
- Programming



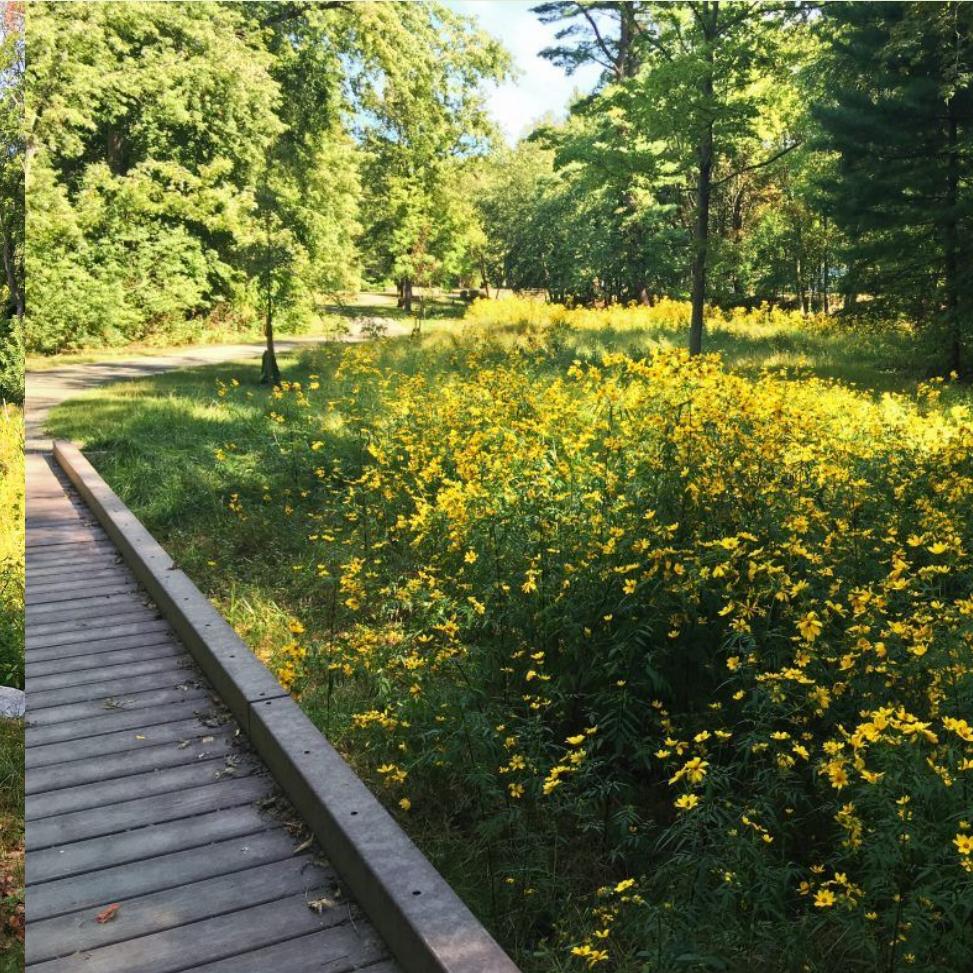
Wellesley's Open Space and Recreation Plan

- 2015-2022 OSRP: 4th edition
- NRC prepares and monitors OSRP
- Now working on 2022-2029 plan
- 11 Goals, 110 Action Steps

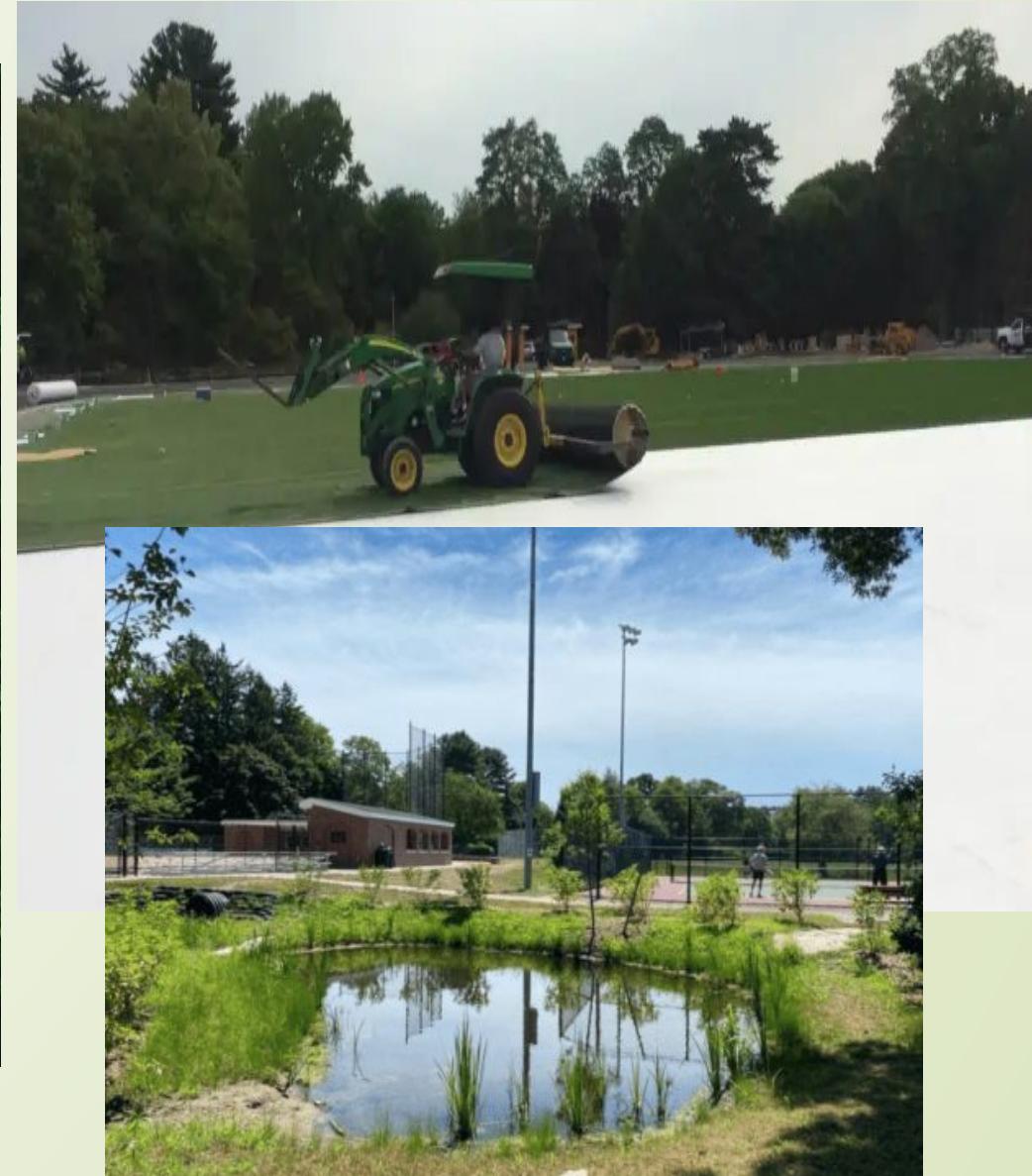
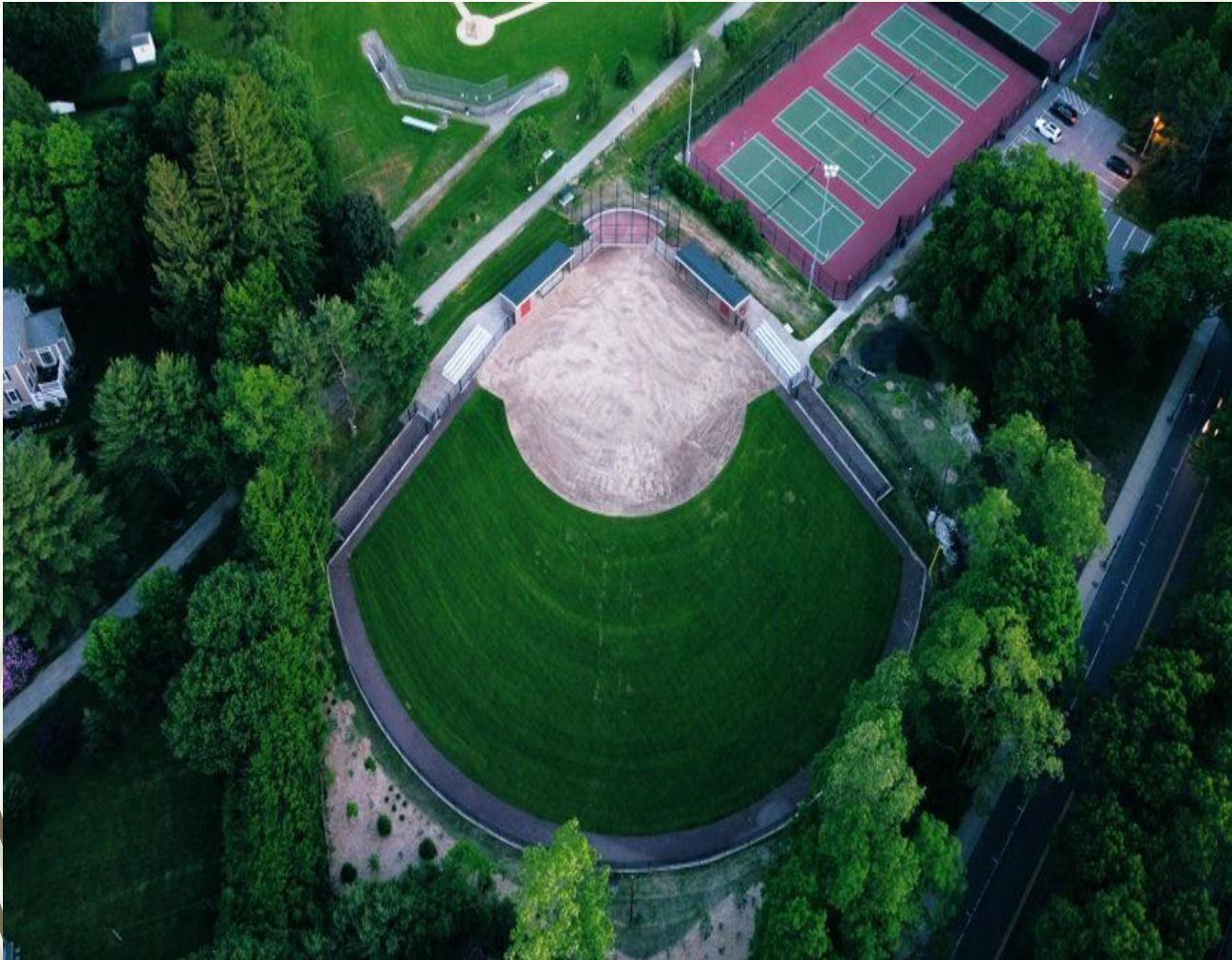
Info available here:

<https://wellesleyma.gov/1745/Open-Space-and-Recreation-Plan-2021-Update>

Accomplishments: Fuller Brook Park Restoration



Renovations at Hunnewell Field



Ongoing Management and Shoreline Restoration at Morses Pond



Pollinator Friendly & Native Landscapes

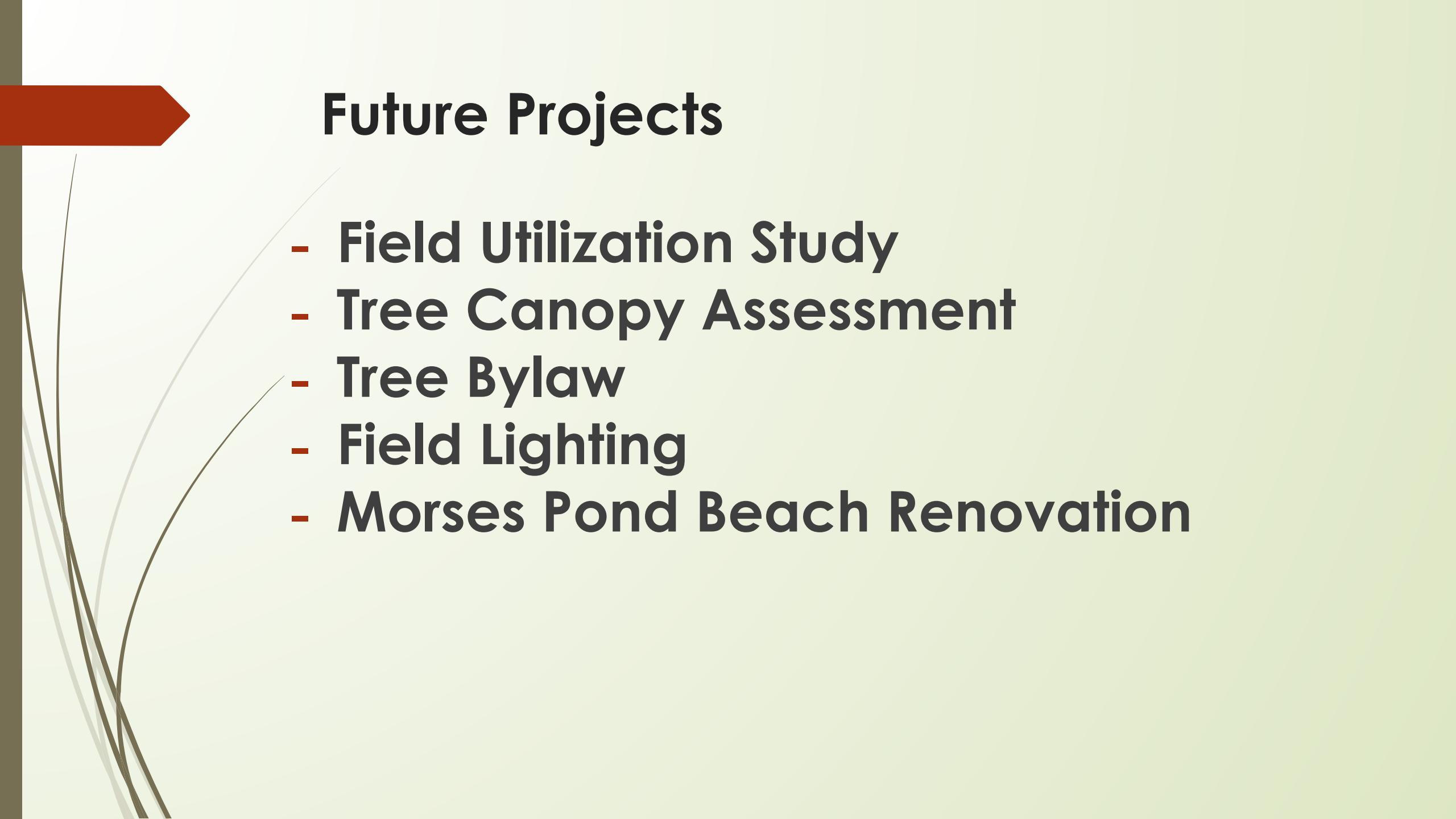






Additional Accomplishments

- Natural Resources Protection District
- Revisions to the Tree Preservation Bylaw
- Comprehensive Pond Management Plan
- Town Forest Stewardship and Bird Habitat Plan
- Town Plastic Bag Ban
- More



Future Projects

- Field Utilization Study
- Tree Canopy Assessment
- Tree Bylaw
- Field Lighting
- Morses Pond Beach Renovation

Update Process

- Secured Funding to Support Update: 2021 ATM
- Engage Contract with Horsley Witten
- Reviewed Prior Plans and Data
- Develop/Implement Survey
- Public Forum: Confirm/Adapt/Create Action Steps
- Update Text and Maps
- Complete ADA Self-Evaluation
- Letters of Review**
- Submit to State

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLANNER'S WORKBOOK

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Deval Patrick, Governor
Tatiana Hilliard, Lieutenant Governor
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Matt Kowalski, Secretary

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES
Anne O'Connor, Director
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
www.mass.gov/eeca

SECTION	SUBSECTION	MUST BE REVISED	MAY NEED REVISION	NO CHANGE NECESSARY
I: PLAN SUMMARY		X		
2: INTRODUCTION	Statement of Purpose	X		
	Planning Process/Public Participation	X		
3: COMMUNITY SETTING	Regional Context		X	
	History of the Community			X
	Population Characteristics	X		
	Growth & Development Patterns		X	
4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	Geology, Soils, and Topography			X
	Landscape Character		X	
	Water Resources		X	
	Vegetation		X	
	Fisheries and Wildlife		X	
	Scenic Resources and Unique Environments		X	
	Environmental Challenges		X	
5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST	Private Parcels		X	
	Public and Nonprofit Parcels		X	
6: COMMUNITY GOALS	Description of Process	X		
	Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals	X		
7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	Summary of Resource Protection Needs	X		
	Summary of Community's Needs	X		
	Management Needs, Potential Change of Use	X		
8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES		X		
9: FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN		X		
10: PUBLIC COMMENTS		X		
11: REFERENCES		X		



Plans, Reports & Studies Informing the Update

- 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Unified Plan
- Playground Master Plan
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan
- Climate Action Planning process
- Updated GIS information
- Survey Data

Survey Data Summary

Question 43: If you live in Wellesley,
for how long?

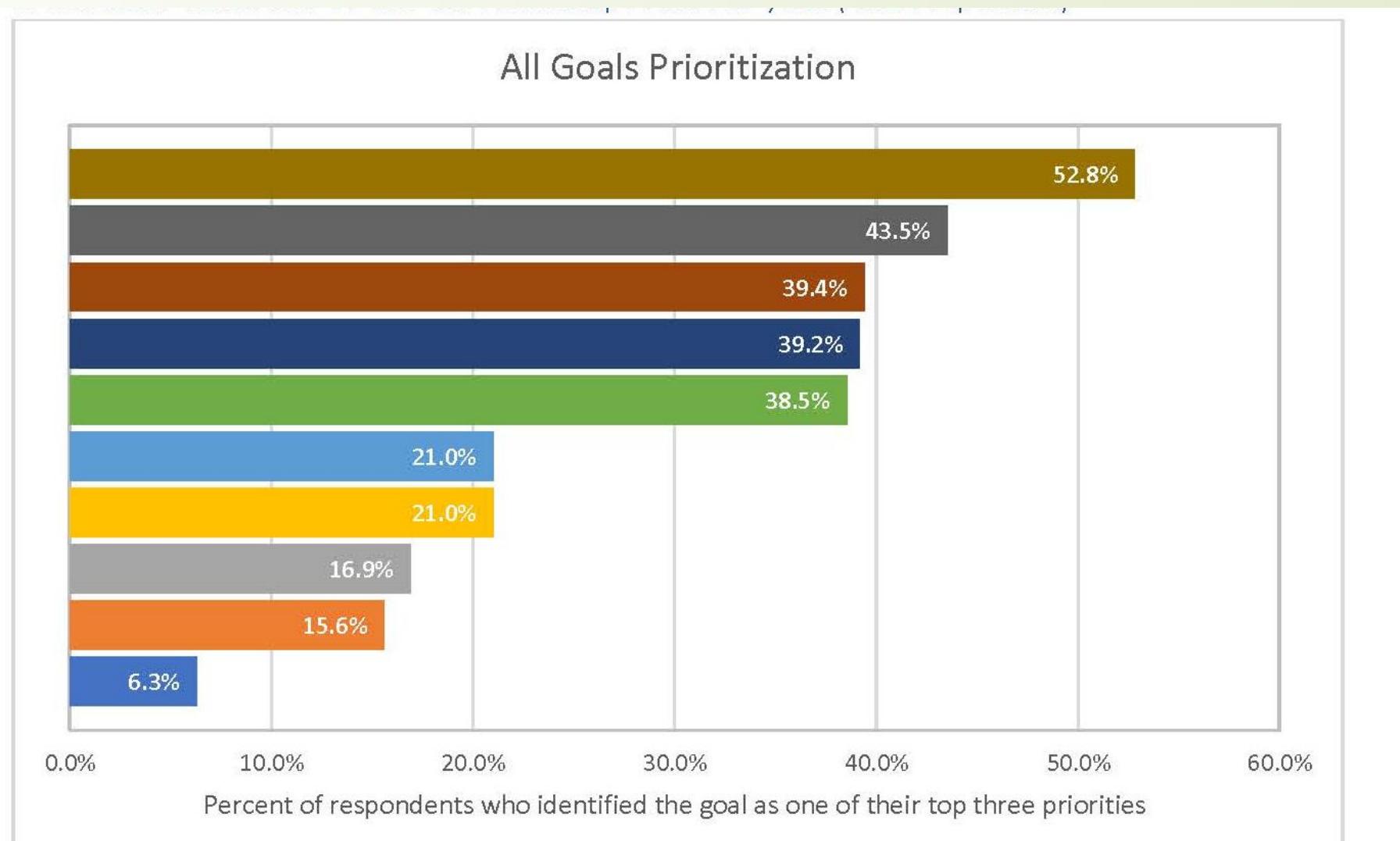
Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 5 years.	11.16%
5 – 10 years	16.09%
10 – 20 years	30.90%
More than 20 years	41.85%

Question 44: How old are you?

Answer Choices	Survey Respondents	2019 ACS Population Estimate
Under 18	11.37%	25%
18-24	2.32%	19.5%
25-34	2.32%	5.2%
35-44	13.26%	9.2%
45-59	34.53%	33.7*
60-74	27.79%	
75+	8.42%	7.4%

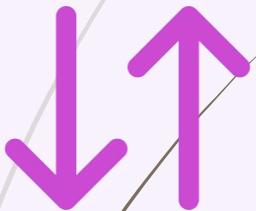
- Goal 1: Restore, preserve, and enhance open space for water, air and habitat protection, biodiversity, climate mitigation, enhancement of community character, and enjoyment of the public. **52.8%**
- Goal 2: Protect, enhance, and restore Wellesley's sensitive land, water, and wetlands resources, especially those resources that have been degraded or impaired. **43.5%**
- Goal 10: Provide opportunities for safe and enjoyable walking and bicycle access throughout the Town. **39.4%**
- Goal 4: Prevent damage to natural resources and human health from hazardous materials and environmentally harmful practices. **39.2%**
- Goal 5: Take action to address the accelerating climate change crisis by encouraging sustainable policy and practice within Town government and throughout the community. **38.5%**
- Goal 9: Ensure that open space and recreational programs continue to meet the needs of the Town. **21.0%**
- Goal 3: Expand and protect the tree canopy. **21.0%**
- Goal 8: Promote the awareness and use of Wellesley's parks, recreation facilities, and open space resources for the use and enjoyment of the public. **16.9%**
- Goal 7: Create resource management strategies to protect and increase open space and environmental resources. **15.6%**
- Goal 6: Promote stewardship through environmental education outreach and programs. **6.3%**

Goal, Objective and Action Development





Goal One: Restore, preserve, and enhance open space



Rank the Following Actions for Goal 1: Restore, preserve, and enhance open space



Goal One: Restore, preserve, and enhance open space

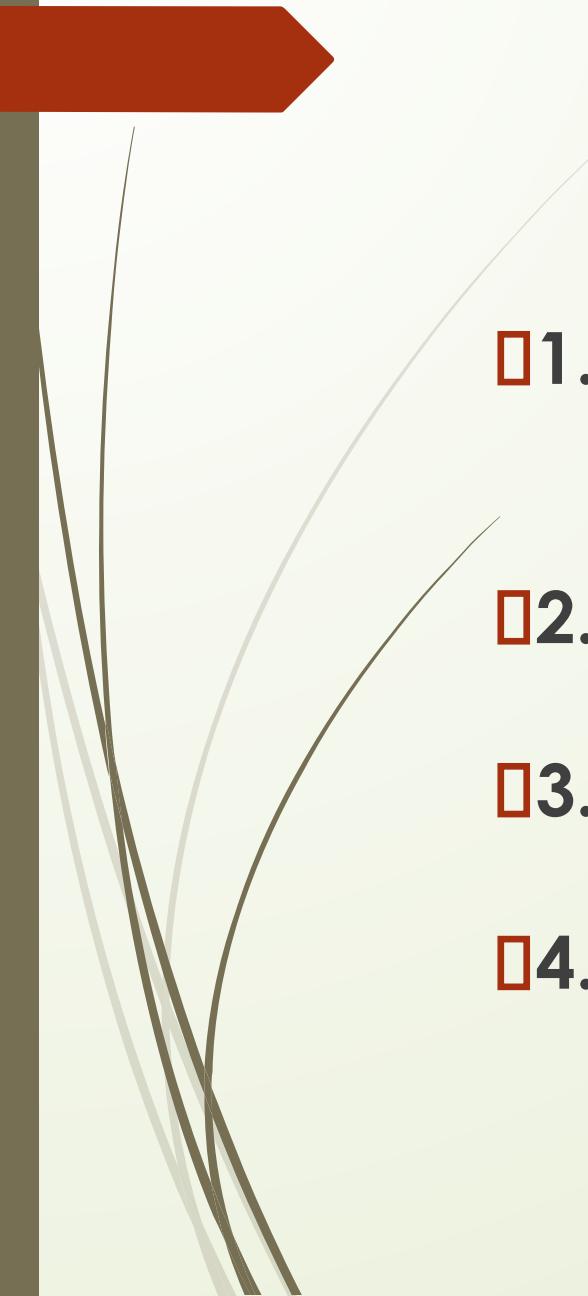
Action Steps

Protecting trees, limiting tree removal during development, and ensuring proactive vegetation management.

Encouraging densification in appropriate areas.

Limiting development and/or the effect of development near wetlands, surface water features, and wildlife habitat areas.

Protecting existing protected lands by enforcing leash laws and minimizing harmful human practices.

- 
- 1. What is the Town doing well to meet community needs?**
 - 2. What could the Town do better and how?**
 - 3. What more can the Town do?**
 - 4. What opportunities are missed?**



Encouraging densification in appropriate areas.

Strengthening enforcement of existing regulations.

Raising awareness of tree canopy benefits and educating residents to encourage more tree plantings (especially on private property).

Instituting new regulations or focusing on enforcement of existing regulations, although three respondents questioned the need for more regulations and/or enforcement.

Need for regional or institutional partnerships and increasing technical capacity to support the goal and/or its objectives

Land acquisition and/or preventing development from destroying natural habitat. Partner with local private land trusts to pursue land acquisition.

Increasing dedicated cyclist and pedestrian pathways (especially bike lanes that are separated from vehicular traffic).

Questions

