

The background image shows a historic wooden mill building with a stone foundation. A small waterfall cascades over a stone wall in the foreground, surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. The scene is set in a rural, wooded area.

Paxton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2013



Purposes of an Open Space and Recreation Plan

- serve as a planning tool**
- allow eligibility for grants from state agencies**

Content of the Plan

Summary

Introduction

Community Setting

Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Community Vision

Analysis of Needs

Goals & Objectives

Five-year Action Plan

Public Comments

Major Tasks Required for Update

- conduct community survey **(complete)**
- conduct public hearing **(in progress)**
- update data tables **(mostly complete)**
- rewrite text **(partly complete)**
- distribute draft to Planning Board, Selectboard, regional planning agency, other town boards
- review and incorporate comments
- submit for approval from MA Division of Conservation Services

Citizen Survey

- 1700 surveys distributed
- 644 (38%) surveys returned
- characteristics of responders
 - median age 51-60
 - 48% lived in Paxton for 20+ years
 - 77% married

Most Frequent Recreational Activities

- 398 jogging/walking**
- 218 use of playground**
- 203 visit historical site**
- 203 bicycling**
- 163 use of ball field**
- 141 bird watching**
- 139 picnic**

Recreational Facilities Needed

- 234 hiking trails**
- 209 swimming pool**
- 204 conservation areas**
- 189 bike trails**
- 173 jogging track**
- 130 picnic areas**
- 127 town beach**
- 101 soccer fields**

Most Critical Problems Facing Town

- 457 local tax burden**
- 248 need more commercial development**
- 243 absence of town sewerage**
- 225 absence of sidewalks**
- 159 loss of agricultural land**
- 144 lack of local job opportunities**
- 142 too much housing development**
- 134 loss of rural character**

Land Protection Priorities

(highest possible score = 5.0)

4.2 Watershed protection

4.0 Conservation and passive recreation

3.9 Architectural, archeological, historical interest

3.8 Active recreation

Favored Means of Preserving

yes/no

424/142 Town zoning

366/196 Town appropriations to acquire conservation areas

351/200 Easements, conservation restrictions, purchase of development rights

345/209 Town appropriations for acquisition/construction of recreational facilities

less popular

152/407 Donate money to purchase land

55/492 Contribute land to town



**Your comments
and suggestions:**
