



Seekonk, Massachusetts

Open Space and Recreation Plan | 2024

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

March 28, 2024

PRESENTERS

Town of Seekonk
John Aubin
Town Planner

Weston & Sampson
Brandon Kunkel
Practice Leader

Weston & Sampson
Amanda Gaal
Project Manager

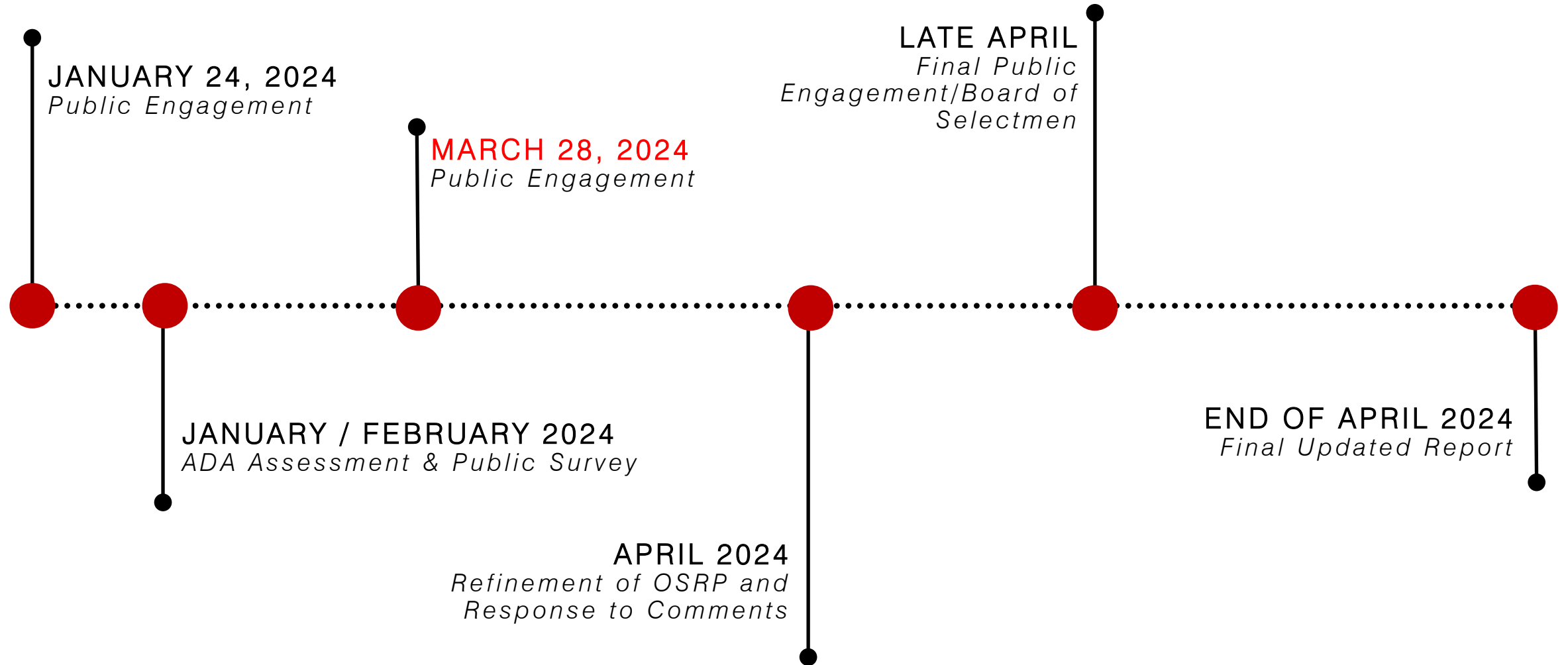


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Project Schedule
- Summary of Property Types
- Site Visits
- Mapping Updates
- Survey Results
- Preliminary Needs Analysis
- Goals & Objectives
- Action Items
- Recent Accomplishments
- Next Steps



PROJECT SCHEDULE



SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

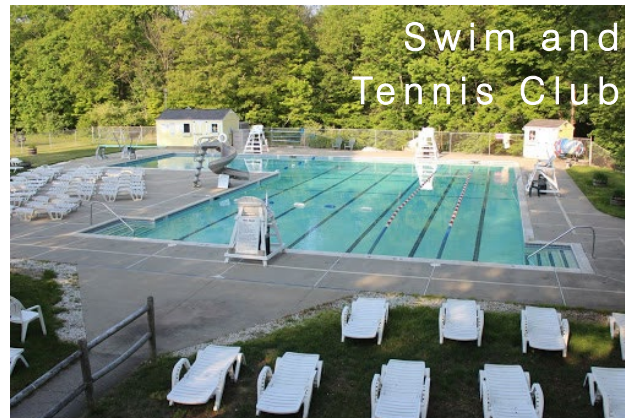
1) TOWN OWNED LAND

RECREATION



CONSERVATION

2) PRIVATELY OWNED LAND



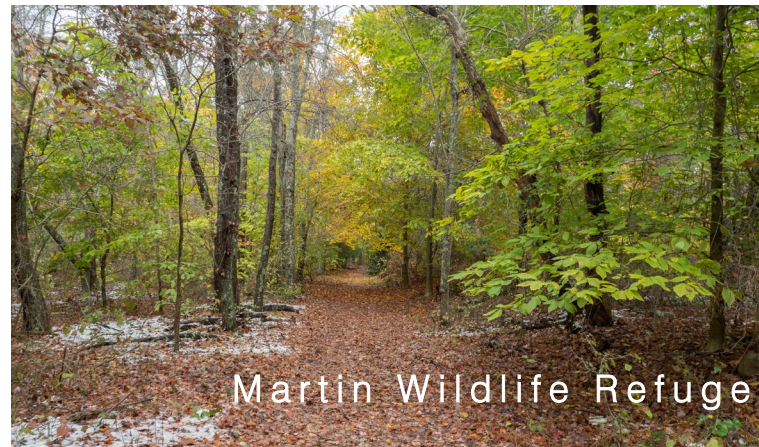
SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

3) NONPROFIT

RHODE ISLAND AUDUBON



SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

TOWN OWNED LAND

RECREATION	CONSERVATION
Seekonk Meadows/Library	Burr's Pond Conservation Area
Seekonk Veterans Memorial	Gammino Pond Conservation Area
Town Hall Playground	Arcade Woods Conservation Area
Pleasant Street Athletic Field	Seakunke Sanctuary
Cole Street Athletic Complex	Town Forest
Water Lane Athletic Complex	Rocky Meadow
North School Athletic Complex	Lagerquist Property
Seekonk High School	Benson Property
Various Others (no names)	Turner Property
Medeiros Family Farm	Young Farm
	Peck-Chafee Reserve
	Aldo Rotondo Conservation Area
	Various Others (no names)
	Medeiros Family Farm

SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND

The Wheeler School

Ledgemont Country Club

Pawtucket Country Club

Seekonk Tennis and Swim Club

Firefly Golf Course

Waddington Property

Wampanoag Rod & Gun Club

Yaghjian Family Farm

Ferry Farm

Mason Property

Emlen Property

Jencks Property

Kendrick Property

Pray Farm

Webb Property

Cuddingan APR

NONPROFIT

RI Audubon

Caratunk Wildlife Refuge

Seekonk Land Conservation Trust

Cushing Conservation Area

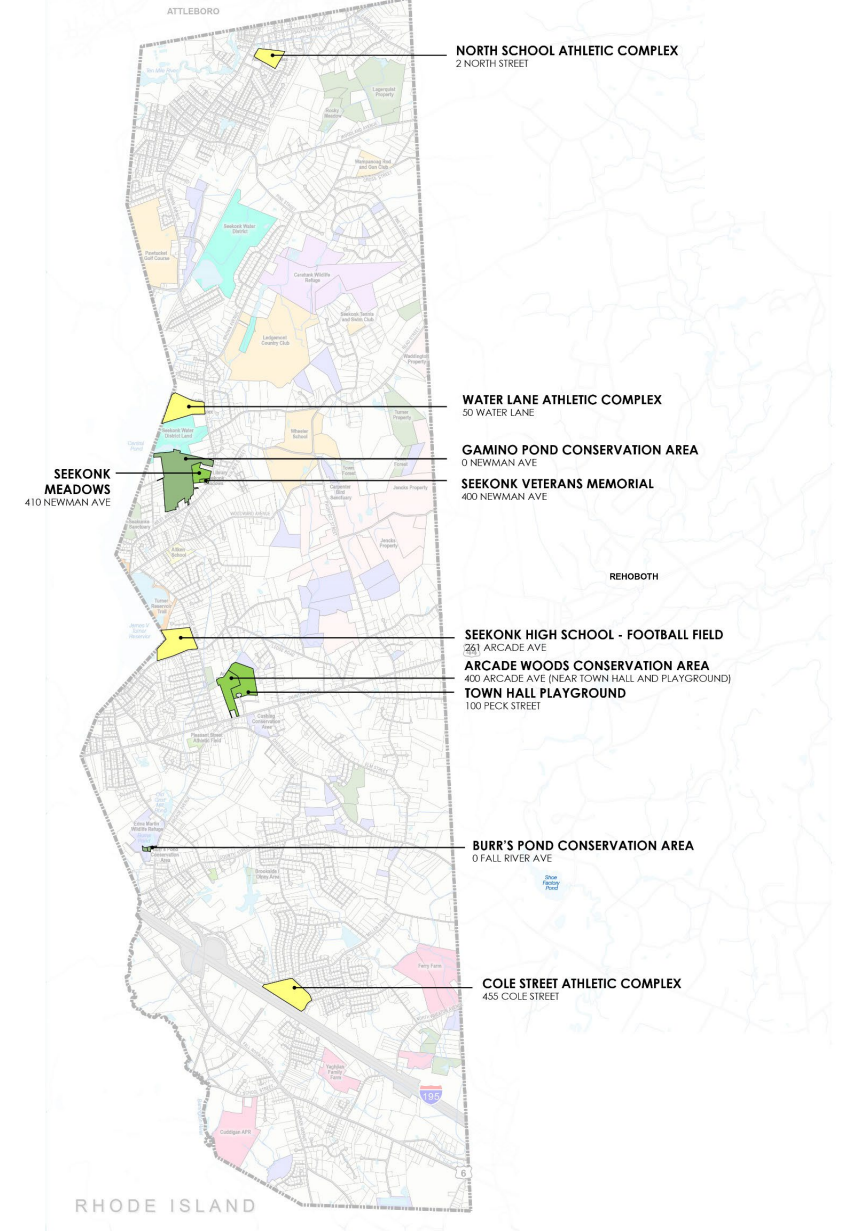
Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge

Various Others (no names)

SITE VISITS

INVENTORIED PROPERTIES

- Arcade Woods Conservation Area
- Burr's Pond Conservation Area
- Cole Street Athletic Complex
- Gammino Pond Conservation Area
- North School Athletic Complex
- Seekonk High School-Football Field
- Seekonk Meadows
- Seekonk Veterans Memorial
- Town Hall Playground
- Water Lane Athletic Complex



SITE VISITS



ELEMENTS EVALUATED

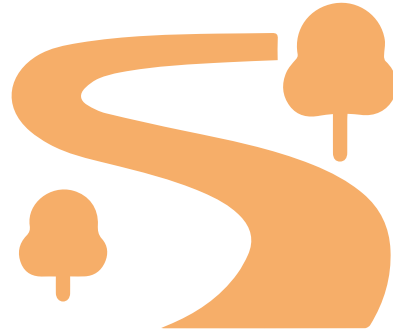
- General conditions
- Roads, paths, & pavings
- Accessibility
- Fencing
- Site amenities
- Fields, courts, & active uses
- Trails & passive recreation
- Signage/monuments
- Water access
- Structures/facilities

ADA EVALUATIONS



Accessible Parking Improvements Needed

Arcade Woods Conservation Area
Burr's Pond Conservation Area
Cole Street Athletic Complex
Gammino Pond Conservation Area
North School Athletic Complex
Water Lane Athletic Complex



Pathway Improvements Needed

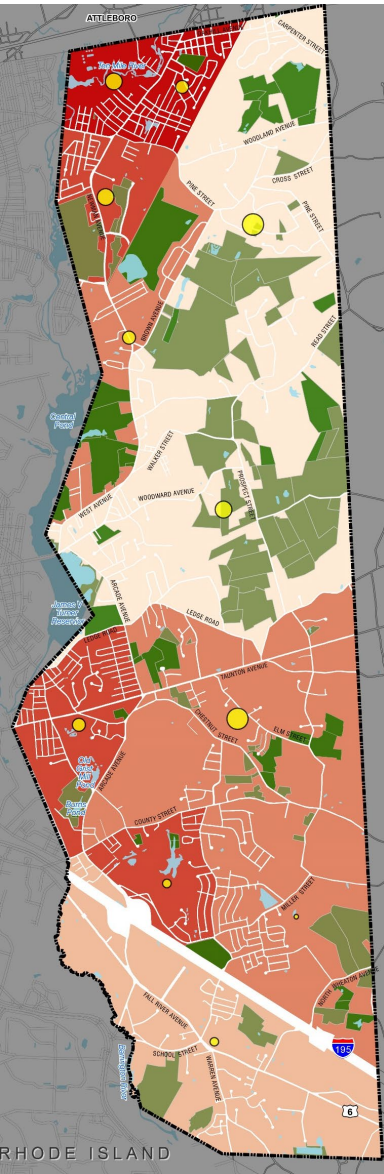
Arcade Woods Conservation Area
Cole Street Athletic Complex
Gammino Pond Conservation Area
North School Athletic Complex
Seekonk Meadows
Town Hall Playground



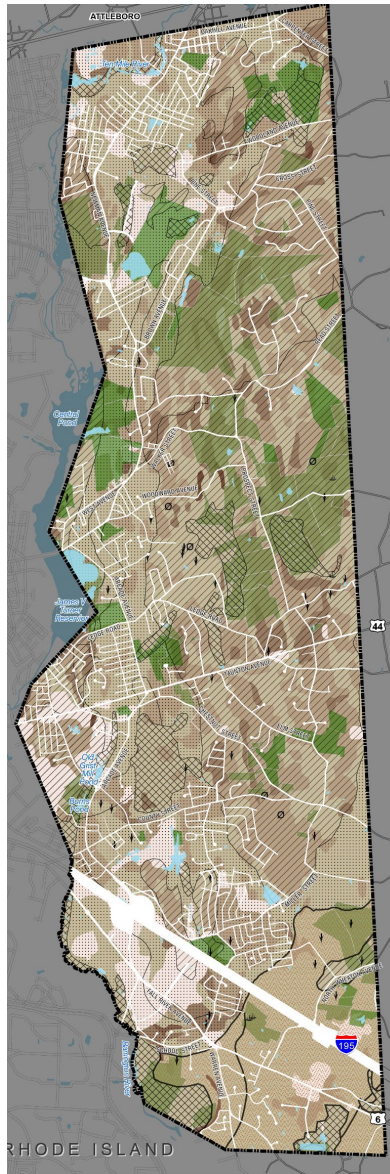
Accessible Amenities Needed

Arcade Woods Conservation Area
Cole Street Athletic Complex
Gammino Pond Conservation Area
North School Athletic Complex
Seekonk Veterans Memorial

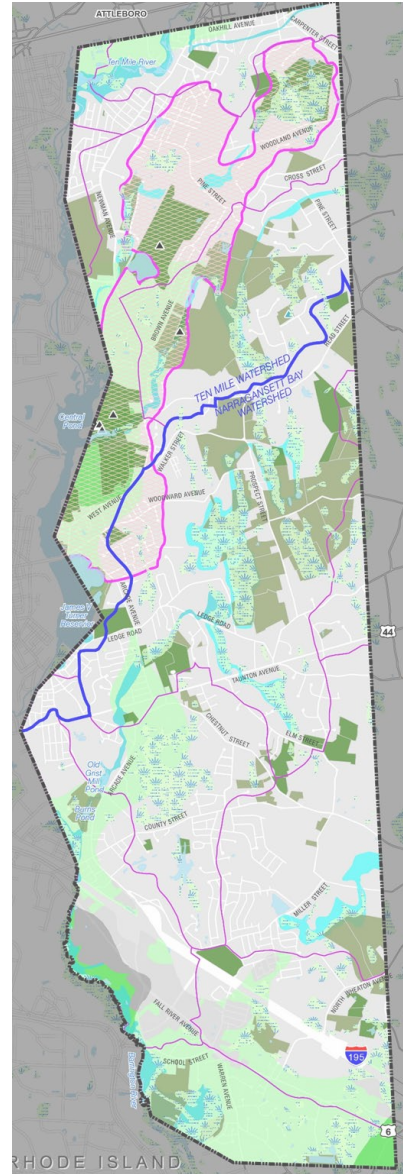
MAPPING UPDATES



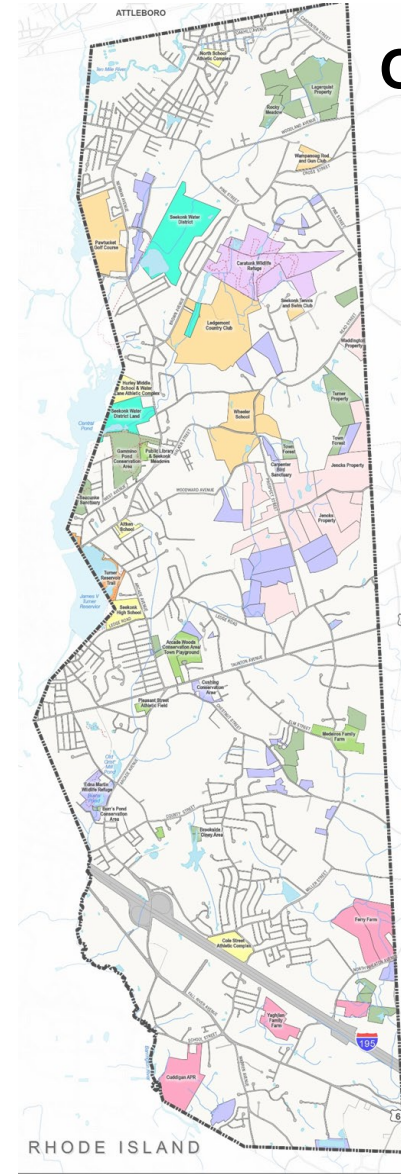
**POPULATION
CHANGE**



**SOILS & GEOLOGIC
FEATURES**



WATER RESOURCES



**OPEN SPACE
INVENTORY**

OPEN SPACE MAPS

- Regional Context Map
- Population Change Map
- Zoning Map
- Soils and Geologic Features Map
- Unique Features Map
- Water Resources Map
- Open Space Inventory Map
- Action Plan Map

SURVEY RESULTS

demographics

194

People responded
to the online survey

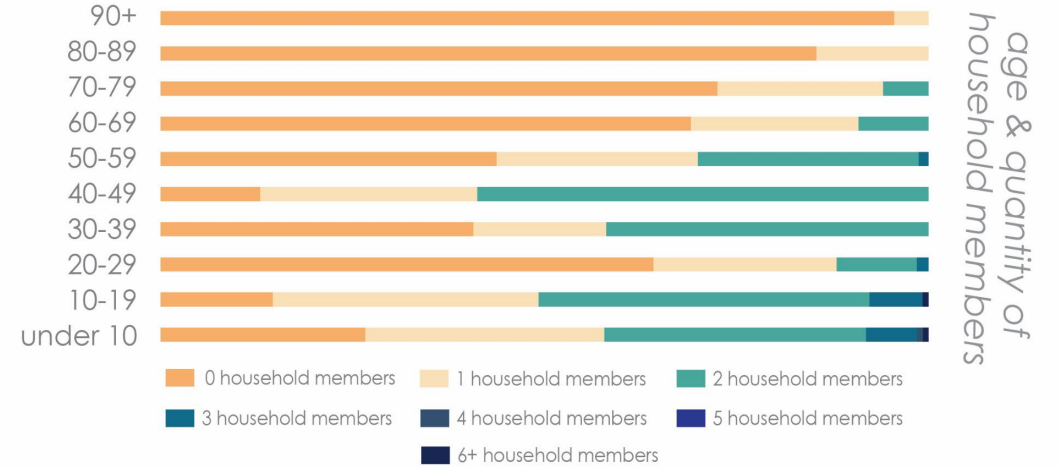
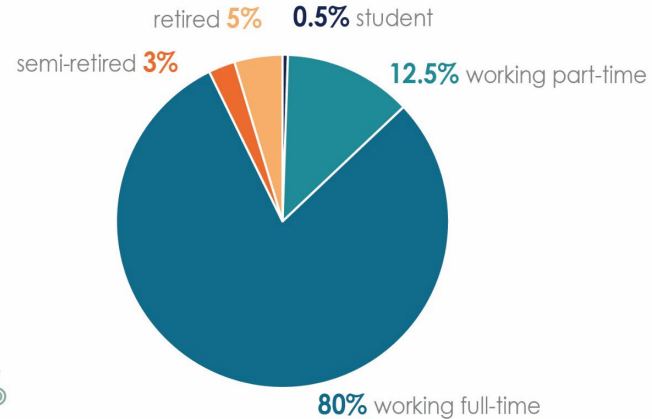
100%

Seekonk
Residents

12.5% person with
disability

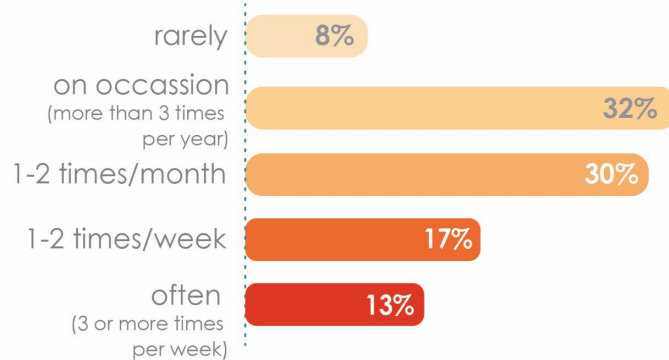
84.5% person without
disability

3% prefer not
to say

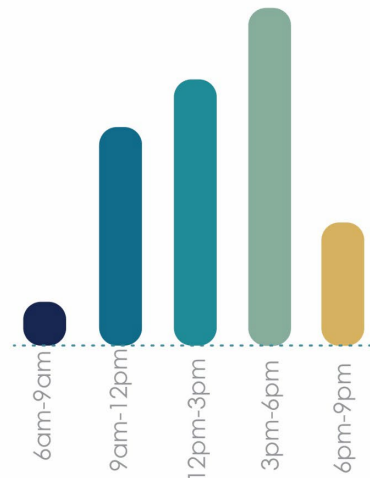


existing parks & open space

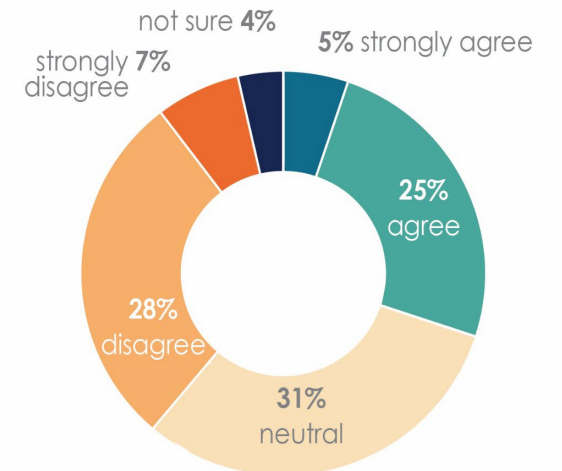
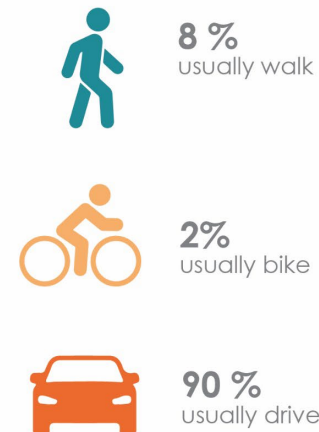
frequency of parks & open space use



when?



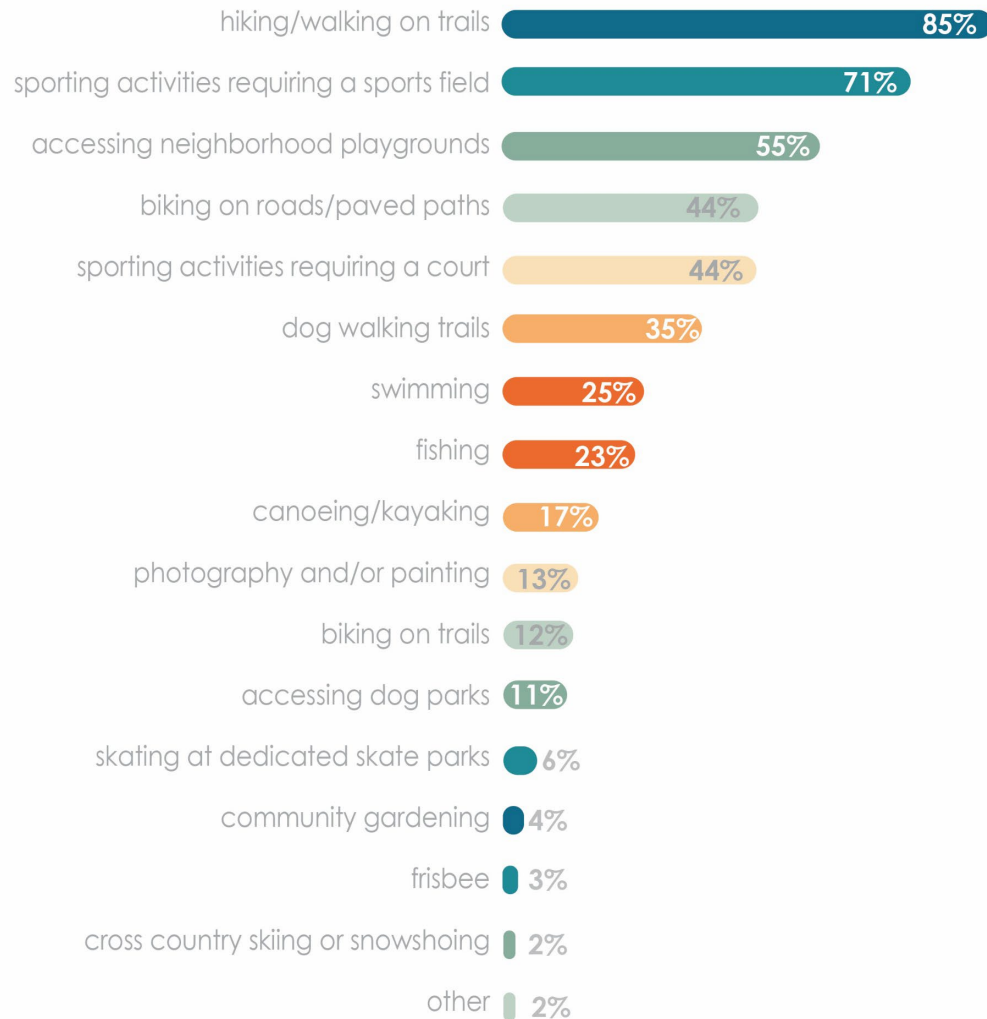
how?



"Your neighborhood is adequately
served by the Town's existing parks,
recreation, and openspace system"

SURVEY RESULTS

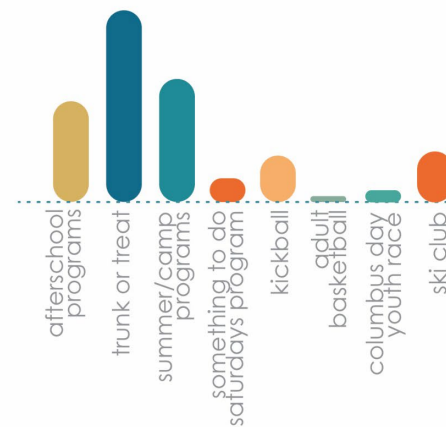
recreational interests



use of open space and recreation properties



seekonk parks & rec. program participation



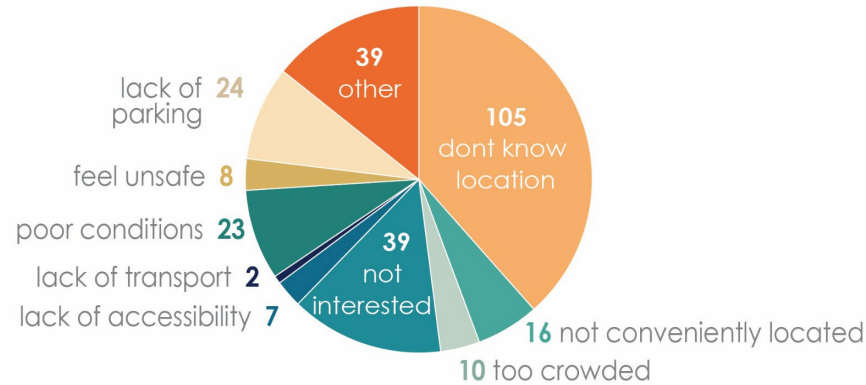
"Do you agree that these resources are adequately conserved in Seekonk?"



SURVEY RESULTS

improvements

reasons people don't visit seekonk open space and rec. facilities



amenities the community feel are lacking in seekonk

- ✓ indoor and outdoor **swimming pools**
- ✓ need **bike paths** and bike lanes throughout town
- ✓ **dog parks** and designated off-leash areas
- ✓ more **sidewalks** and safe means for pedestrians to access the open space assets

in your words...

"No place to take dogs to play with other dogs."

"Access for things to do indoor during winter for children. Either access to indoor pool for swimming/ access to gym courts during winter for basketball."

"Improved side walks through out the town. Bike lanes for bikers. Our town does not have safe sidewalks or bike lanes"

"I'd like to see better ways to get to the open spaces. For example there is no sidewalk leading to the town hall playground on 44."

identified likes and dislikes

- ♥ the **town playground** is beloved and additional playgrounds in town would be desired
- ♥ **nature trails** and trail maintenance
- ♥ **Preservation** of land for wildlife

"We love the walking trails and playgrounds and visit them often with our children. Keeping these spaces and creating more spaces that are free for use and not used for development would be great."

"Upkeep at Gamino Pond has been very good. Thank you to the people who work on that."

"Seekonk must preserve land for our wildlife"

"My biggest problem with this town is the horrible conditions of the side walks and how unsafe it is to bike around Seekonk"

"The baseball and softball facilities are substandard compared to adjacent communities like East Providence."

"I would LOVE to see pickleball courts as well as more structured play-type areas. "

"Put out more info on what and where current spaces and programs are."

- 👎 lack of **sidewalks** and **bike paths**
- 👎 condition of the **ballfields**
- 👎 **lack of information** on open space and recreation assets
- 👎 lack of **pickleball courts** in town

top 5 open space and recreation desired improvements



#1
protecting open space from development



#2
water facilities (spray parks, pools)



#3
programming (concerts, educational programming, special events)



#4
restrooms



#5
multi-use courts (b-ball, handball, pickleball, tennis)

PRELIMINARY NEEDS ANALYSIS

NEEDS ARE DERIVED FROM

Community Input

Mapping & Information Gathered from the Town

Site Inventory Visits



NEEDS ANALYSIS PRIORITY SUMMARY

1. Enhancement of Natural Resources
2. Greater Open Space System Connectivity
3. Continued Investment in Active Recreation Facilities
4. Integrated Park and Open Space Management
5. Design Open Space Improvements to meet the needs of a changing population

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 | Improve Active Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk

GOAL 2 | Improve Passive Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk

GOAL 3 | Enhance Connectivity between Various Open Space and Active Recreation Facilities

GOAL 4 | Preserve Wildlife Habitat



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL 5 | Preserve Seekonk's Rural Character

GOAL 6 | Protect Waterways and Wetland Resource Areas in Seekonk

GOAL 7 | Improve Climate Resiliency at Parks and Open Space

GOAL 8 | Increase Public Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Amenities

GOAL 9 | Establish Effective Policies that Support Open Space Preservation and Recreation Activities



ACTION ITEMS

- Allocate **funding** for renovations at existing **athletic fields** and **playgrounds** as well as the purchase of new properties for **active recreation**
- Continue to prioritize funds for **trail improvements** including signage, accessibility, and **connectivity**
- **Protect** and **preserve** Seekonk's **wildlife habitat** by identifying key parcels of land that provide important connections for wildlife and review/revise subdivision bylaws and regulations to increase protection of these parcels
- Study on site and **upstream impacts** to water bodies adjacent to open space assets and promote **public awareness** regarding **water quality**
- Continue to work towards the **goals established in the OSRP** and allocate funding to accomplish them

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Consistent with Future Action Items



Establishment of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Working Group has instigated more collaboration amongst town departments, committees, and trusts.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Consistent with Future Action Items

PROPERTY/PROJECT	OWNERSHIP	DESCRIPTION
Town Hall Playground (1 st community playground)	Town Owned: Recreation	New playground & parking (2019-2020)
Arcade Woods Conservation Area	Town Owned: Conservation	Trails & picnic improvements (2014-2017)
Gammino Pond Conservation Area	Town Owned: Conservation	Staging area & trail improvements (2018-2020)
Lagerquist Property	Town Owned: Conservation	Acquired 72 acres of land for conservation (2015)
Turner Property	Town Owned: Conservation	Acquired 36 acres of land for conservation (2016)
Young Farm	Town Owned: Conservation	Acquired 21 acres of land for conservation (2016)
Pray Farm	Privately Owned	Town and state acquired APR on 10 acres (2019)
Various Properties	Seekonk Land Conservation Trust	Protected 2 properties (37 acres) through conservation restrictions
Various Properties	Seekonk Land Conservation Trust	Acquired 3 properties (47 acres) for conservation

NEXT STEPS

- Present final draft to Board of Selectmen | Late April
 - Submitting Final OSRP to the State | Later April





THANK YOU!

THOUGHTS | QUESTIONS | COMMENTS

PLEASE STAY CONNECTED

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