

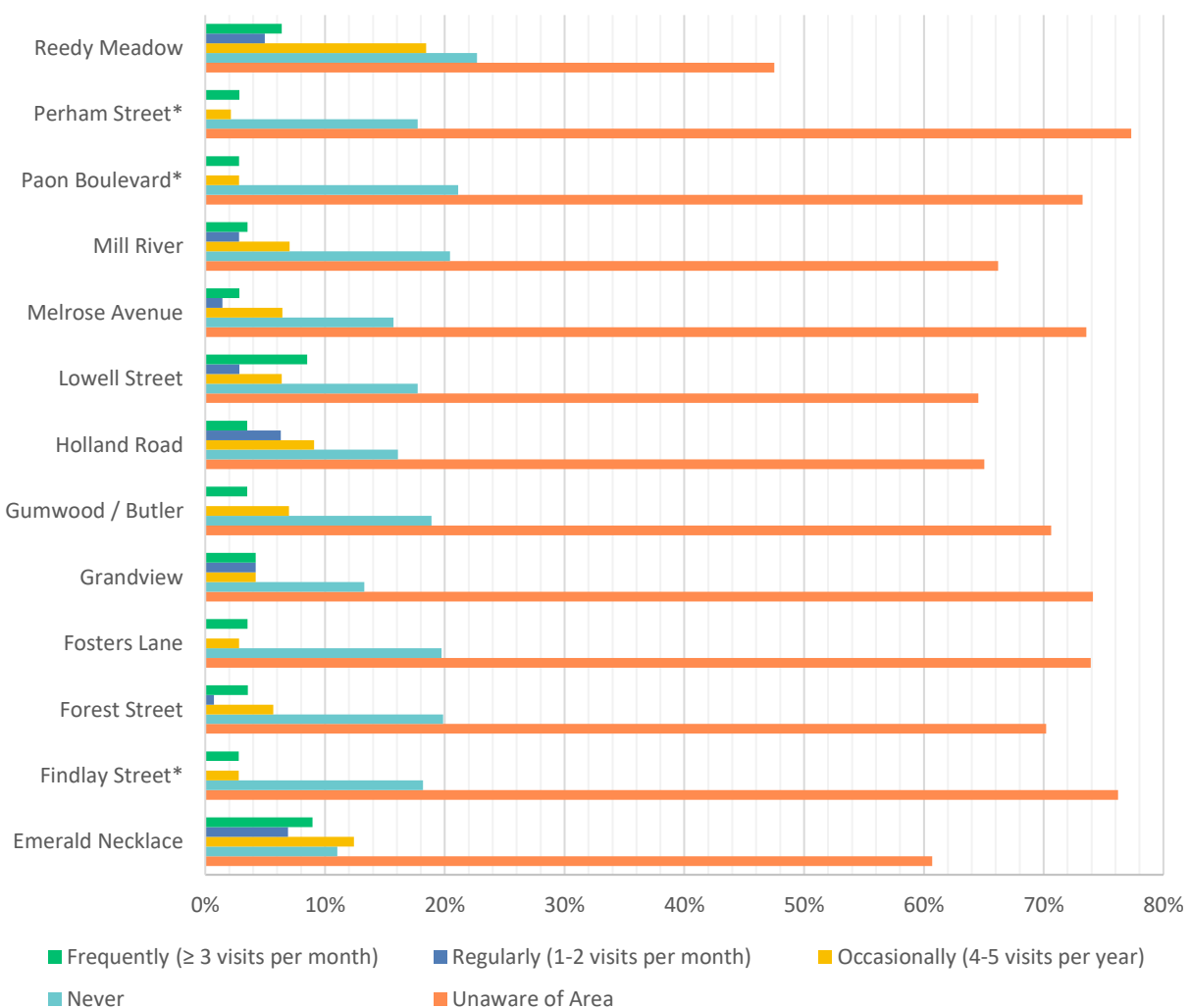
Wakefield Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey

The Wakefield Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) distributed a community survey as a supplement to its virtual public workshop held on April 27, 2023. The community survey was available from March 27 – August 5, 2023. As the Town has had several public meetings and surveys as part of its ongoing Comprehensive Plan update that touch on open space and recreation planning topics, the purpose of this survey was to confirm the views expressed as part of the Comprehensive Plan’s public initiatives, solicit more information about specific resources, and identify new themes and ideas. The survey was promoted by the Town through its website and social media outlets. The OSRC members also took an active role in promoting the survey through their networks with community groups and organizations. A total of 147 individuals participated in the survey.

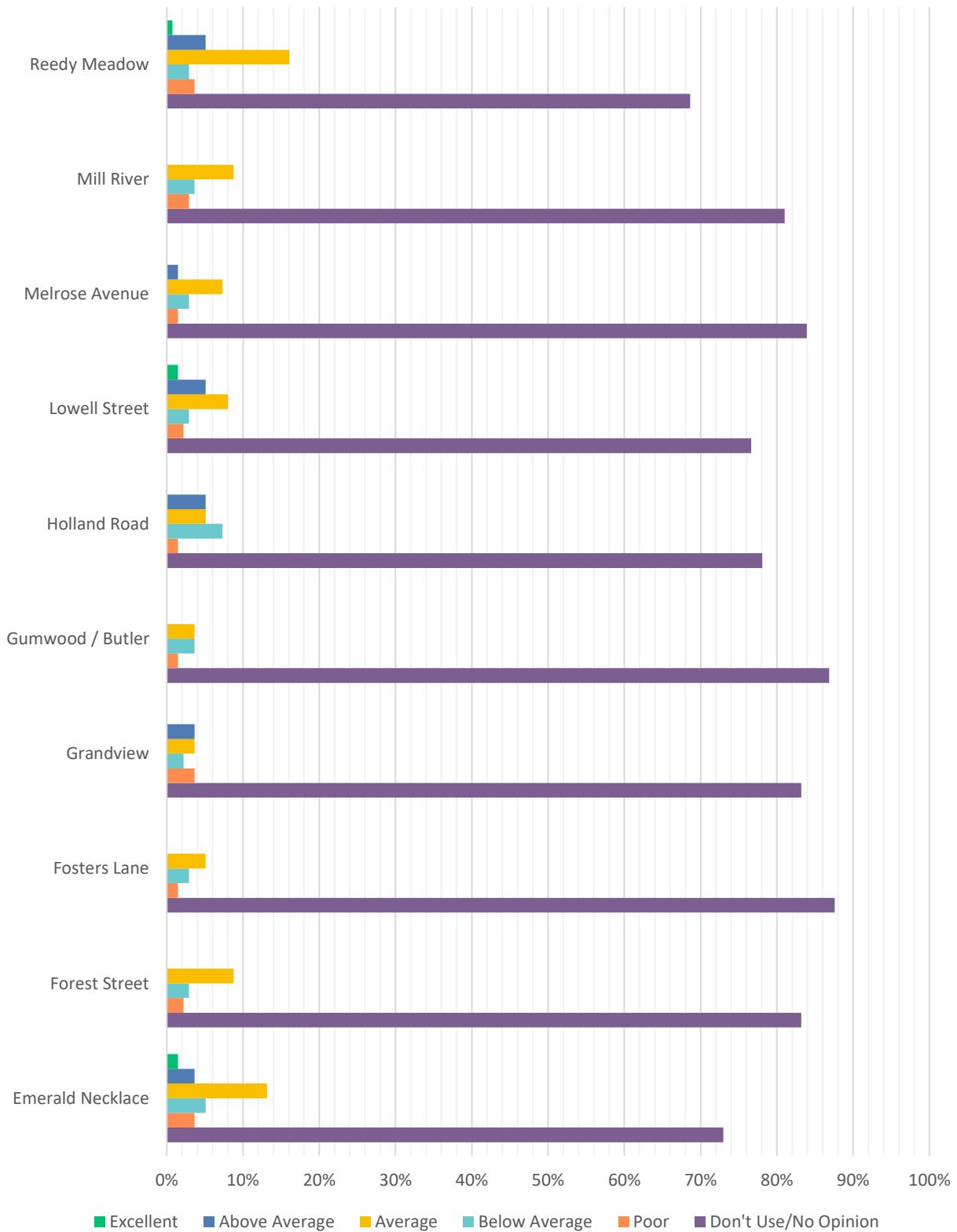
Conservation Areas

Note: conservation areas that are considered climate resilient habitat are denoted with an “*” symbol.

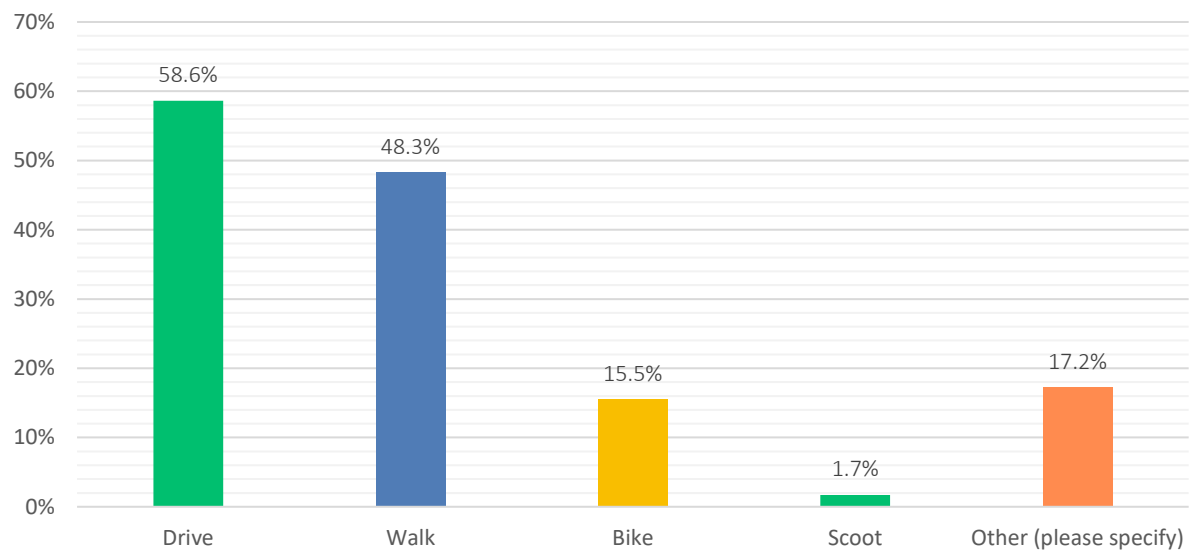
Q1. How often do you visit Wakefield’s conservation areas? (146 answered)



Q2. How would you describe the upkeep of Wakefield's conservation areas? (138 answered)

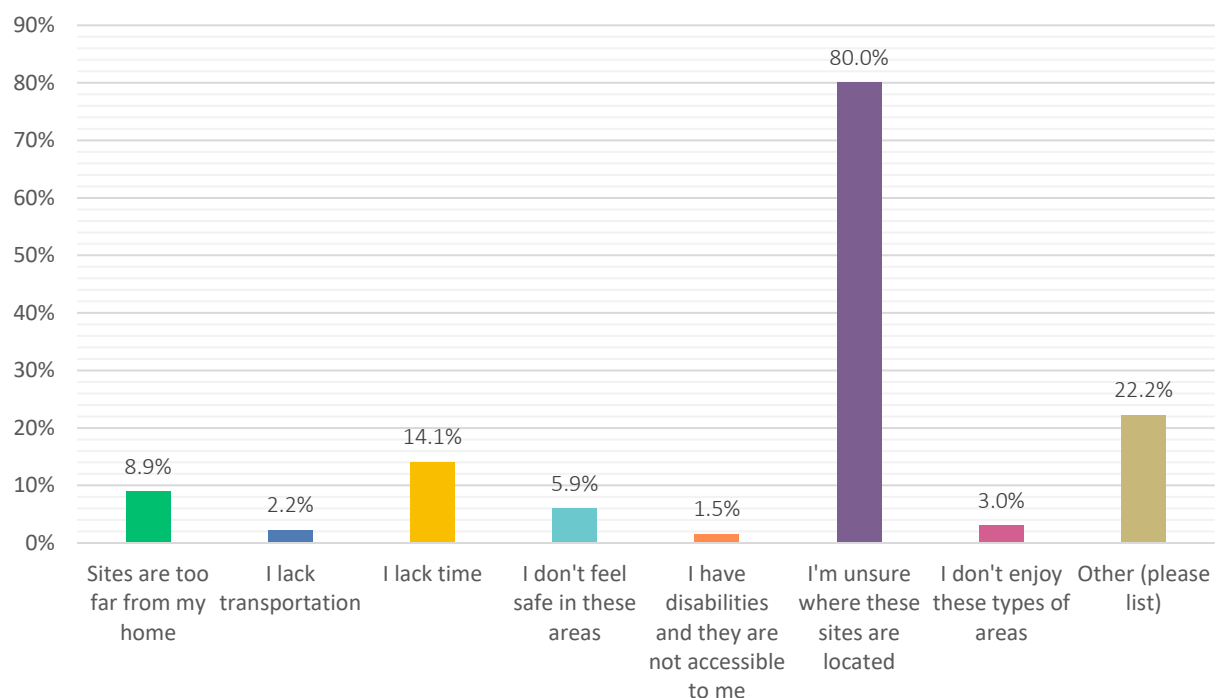


Q3. How do you typically get to Wakefield's conservation areas? Check all that apply. (116 answered)



Several respondents selected “Other” and provided additional information, though only one respondent indicated the mode in which they typically travel to Wakefield’s conservation areas (jogging). The other respondents provided feedback indicating that they do not visit conservation areas or felt that these areas were inaccessible or without walking trails that would encourage usage.

Q4. What limits your usage of Wakefield's conservation areas? Check all that apply. (135 answered)



Echoing Question 1, where many respondents indicated they are unaware of specific conservation areas, many respondents to Question 4 indicated they are unsure where conservation areas are located throughout town. Thirty respondents selected “Other,” with most providing feedback about locating sites:

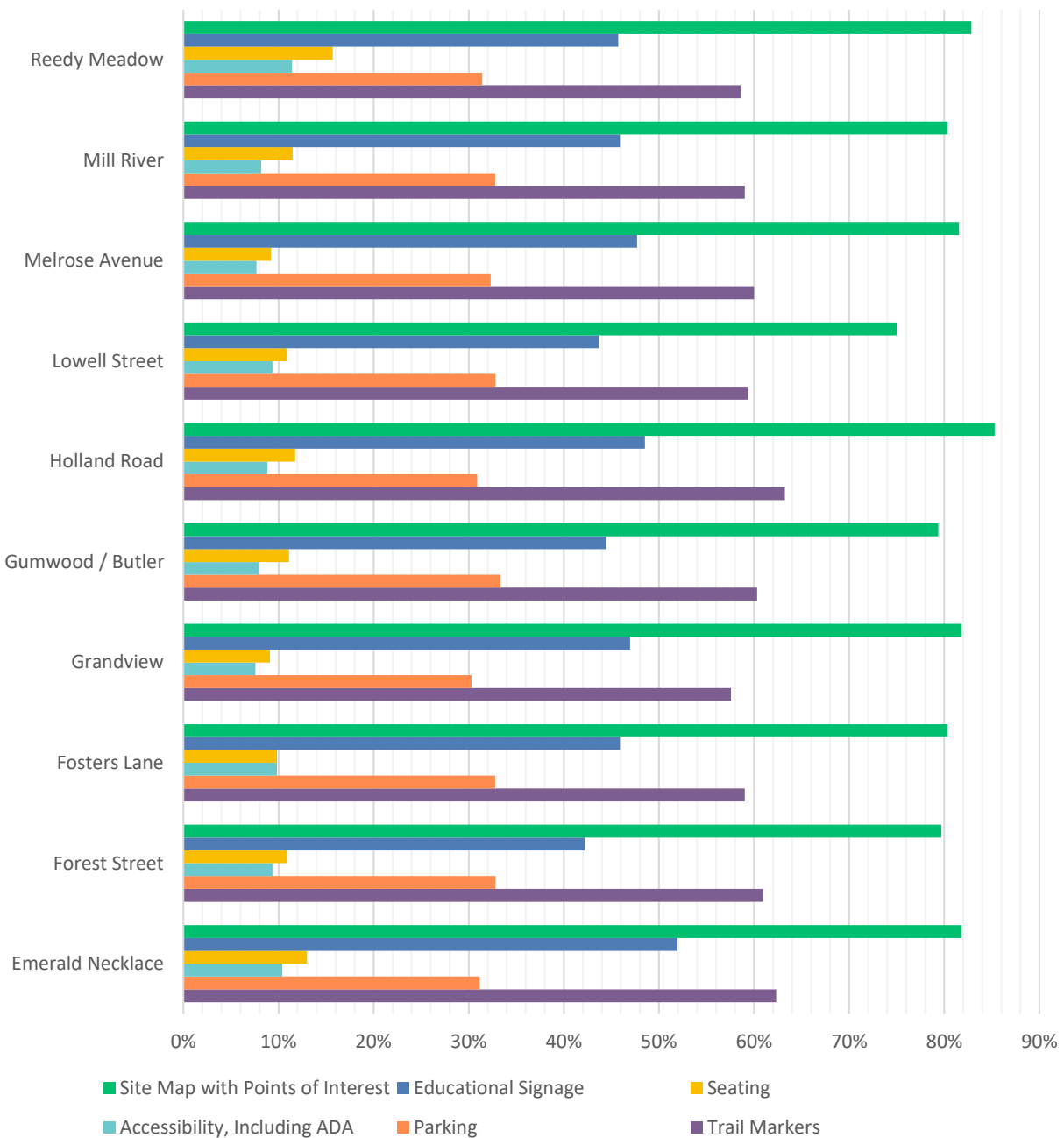
Unaware of sites: Many respondents answered that they were unaware sites existed and indicated they felt the Town should add signage to conservation areas. Similarly, several respondents also noted that they were unaware that sites had trails that could be accessed. Additionally, several respondents expressed interest in having the Town publicize information about the sites more widely (including online) and provide information to the public regarding a site’s accessibility, walking trails, and parking availability.

Unsure how to access sites: Several respondents noted that accessing the sites was difficult, even if they were aware of the site’s existence. Respondents noted that there are not easily identifiable access points, trailheads, or signage. Several respondents also said that overgrowth near possible access points discourages use.

Unsure how to use appropriately: A few respondents indicated they needed more information on how conservation areas could be used and were concerned that visiting the areas may impact the environment negatively.

Other comments: One respondent indicated they felt the conservation areas are not engaging for their children, while another respondent indicated that they were discouraged from visiting sites because of litter or felt common areas were monopolized by other users.

Q5. What are the needed physical amenities or improvements at Wakefield's conservation areas? (85 answered)



Nineteen respondents provided additional information about needed improvements for Wakefield's conservation areas:

Regular maintenance and enforcement: Many respondents indicated that regular maintenance is needed to keep sites clean and accessible (e.g., cleaning up trash, removing downed trees, general trail maintenance). Relatedly, a few respondents indicated that anti-littering enforcement or site cleanups are needed.

Townwide maps and information: Many respondents emphasized that townwide maps of trails and conservation areas and having information about conservation areas readily available online would encourage usage of conservation areas. One respondent indicated that it is important to include specific information about accessibility online to help users plan their visits.

Other amenities: A few respondents specified additional amenities that could be provided at conservation areas. These include fitness stations, bathrooms, and public tower viewers (i.e., mounted telescopes/binoculars).

Q6. What other general comments do you have about the Town's conservation areas? (63 responses)

Two-thirds of the responses were focused on raising awareness of conservation areas. Other responses also mentioned the need to adequately maintain conservation areas and protect natural areas for their environmental benefits.

Raise awareness of conservation areas: Many respondents noted they were unaware of the existence of so many conservation areas in Wakefield. Several respondents expressed that an online map (townwide or specific to the resource) would increase their ability to find conservation areas to visit, and installing signage, trail markers, and other wayfinding installations would encourage their use. Signage that promotes the public's understanding of how to appropriately use the site (e.g., leave no trace, no dogs) and the public's appreciation for the resource (e.g., environmental benefits of the site) were also mentioned.

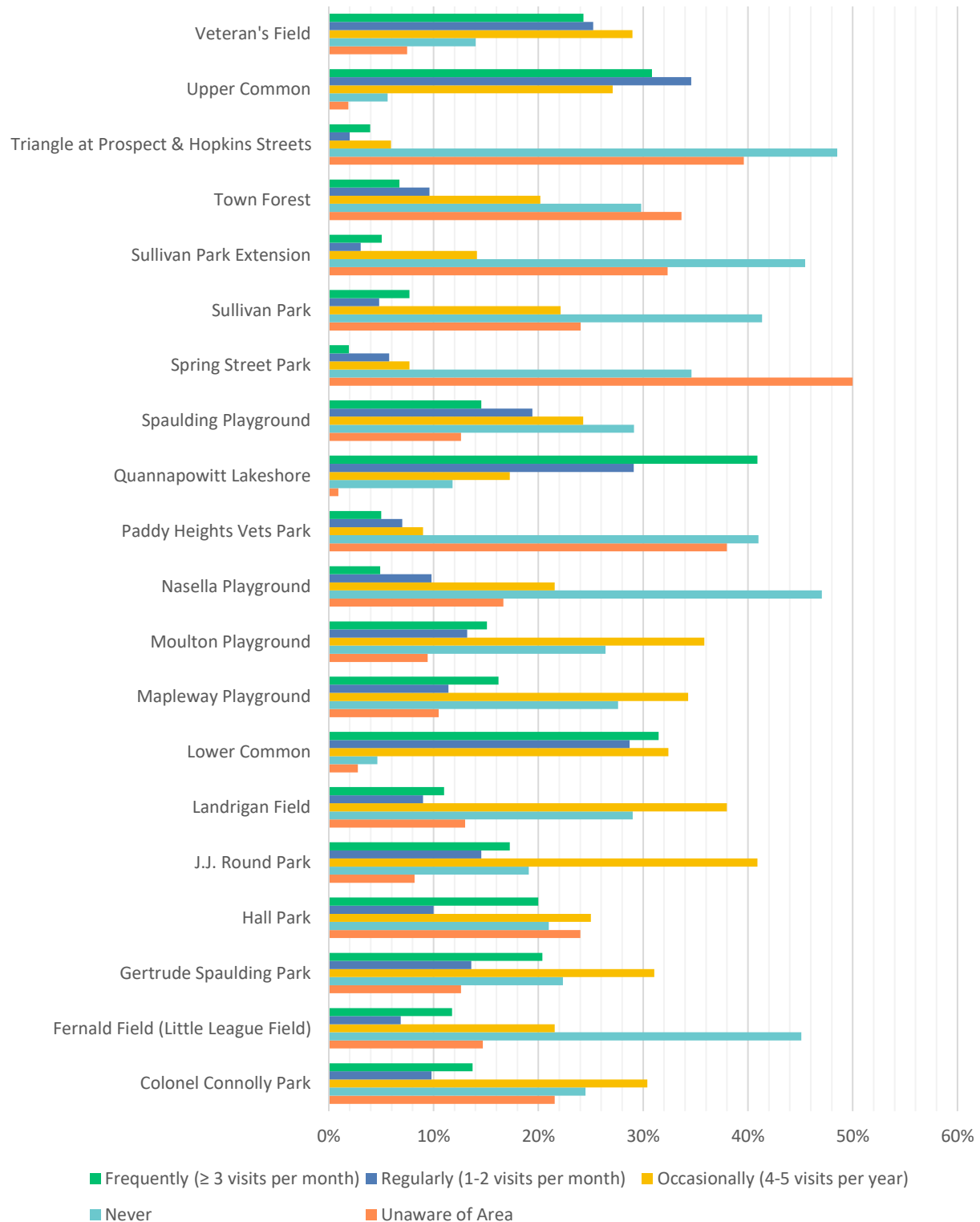
Protect natural areas: Several respondents expressed concern about overdevelopment and indicated that Wakefield should continue to pursue opportunities to enhance its existing conservation areas and acquire more. Four respondents mentioned concerns about the planned expansion at the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School and the loss of forestland.

Regular maintenance and enforcement: Some respondents expressed concern about litter, dogs, and invasive species that may result in degradation of natural areas. One respondent also noted the importance of enforcing fines for feeding wildlife and littering. One respondent noted concern about Town-owned vehicles parked at Crystal Lake and potentially impacting water quality.

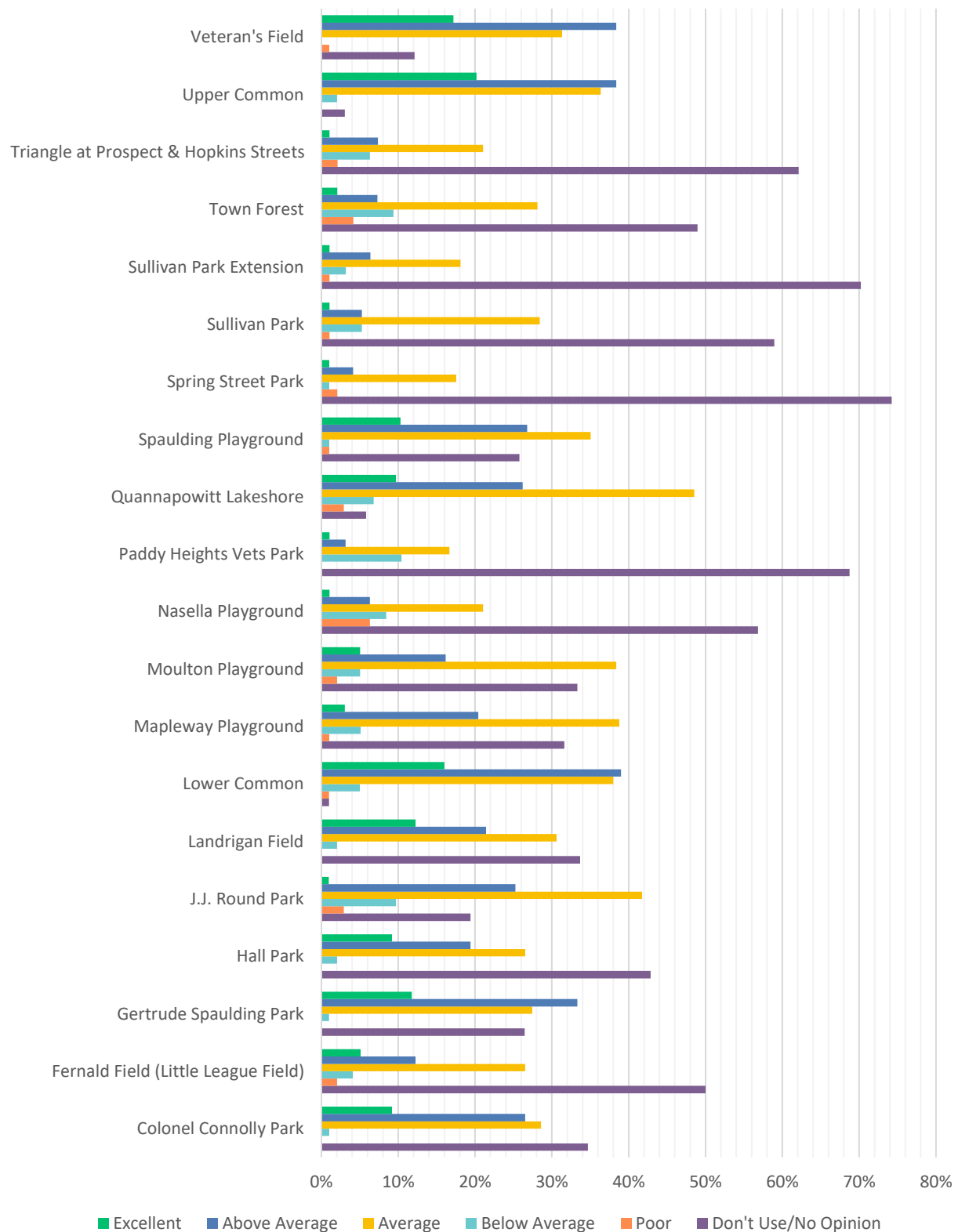
Programming: Similar to promoting conservation areas, some respondents noted that programming at conservation areas could increase residents' awareness of and appreciation for the sites. Programming ideas included children's nature events and guided hikes.

Parks and Recreation Areas

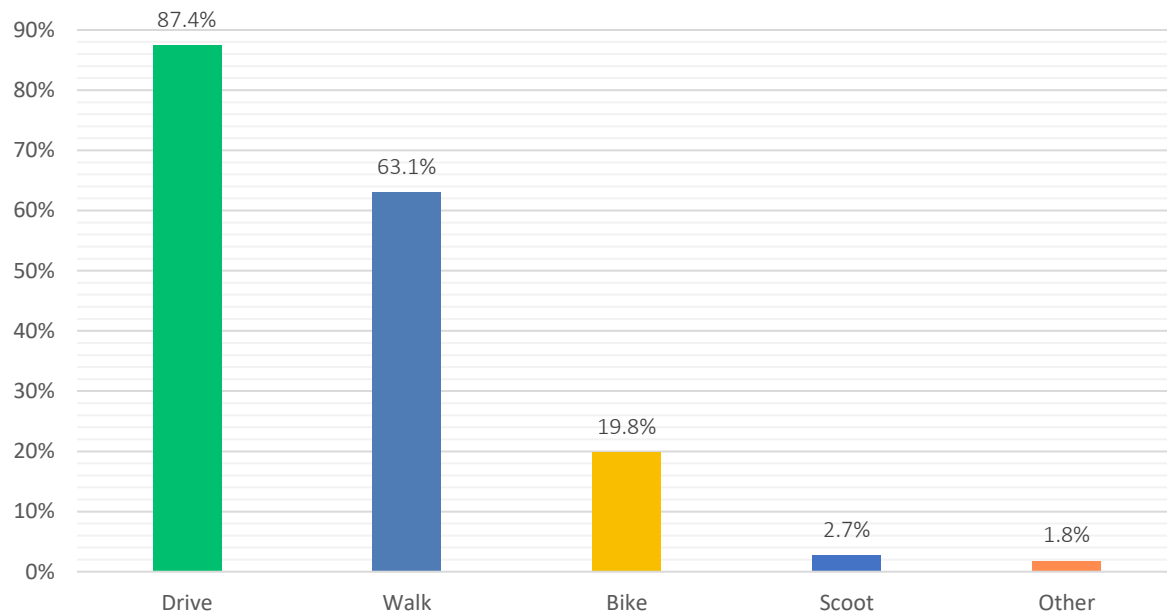
Q7. How often do you visit Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? (113 answered)



Q8. How would you describe the upkeep of Wakefield's parks and recreation areas (108 answered)

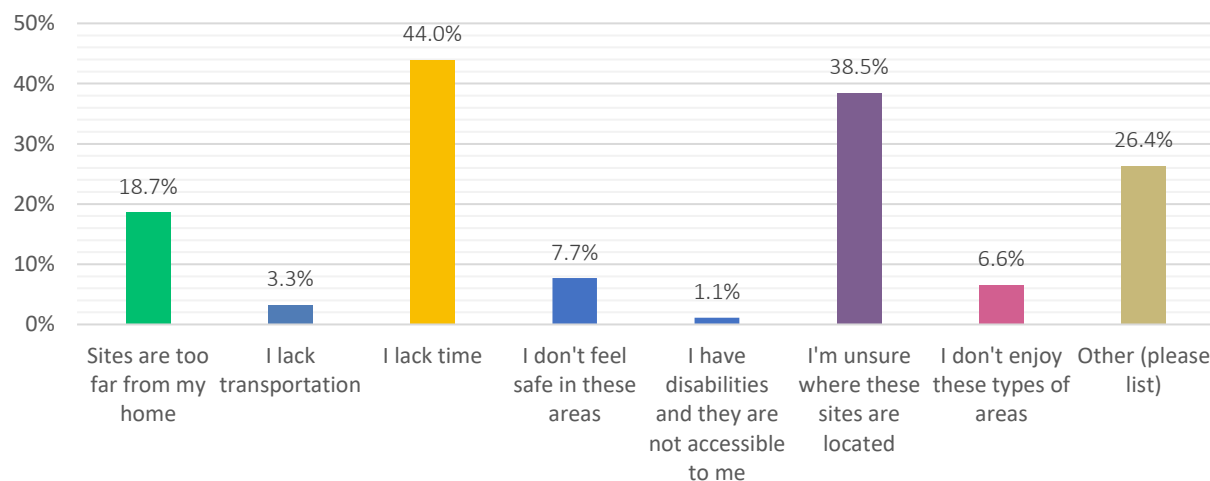


Q9. How do you typically get to Wakefield’s parks and recreation areas? (111 answered)



Two respondents selected “Other” and indicated that they jog to these destinations.

Q10. What limits your usage of Wakefield’s parks and recreation areas? Check all that apply. (91 answered)



There were 24 respondents who selected “Other.”

Aging out: A third of respondents indicated that they previously used these sites when their children were younger but no longer visit them frequently as their family has aged into other activities.

Safe walking, biking, and rolling connections: A few respondents expressed that better walking and biking connections would encourage their usage of the sites and make them feel safer accessing the sites.

Promoting parks and recreation areas: A few respondents said that it would be helpful for the Town to better promote the sites, including listing what amenities are available at each site, so residents would be better able to find sites that fit their needs.

Regular maintenance: A few respondents expressed the need for regular maintenance at parks and recreation areas, citing concerns about litter, broken glass, scheduled trash pick-up, and goose droppings (especially around Lake Quannapowitt).

Missing amenities: A few respondents listed amenities that they would like to see at parks and recreation areas, including bathrooms, shaded areas, fenced-in areas, bike paths, and play areas suited for older children.

Parking access: Two respondents noted that a lack of parking limits their usage of parks and recreation areas.

Q11. What are the needed physical amenities or improvements at Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? (89 answered, top 3 highlighted)

	Seating / benches	Shade / pavilion	Restroom	Lighting	More programs / activities	Public gathering spaces	Parking	Accessibility, including ADA	Trash / recycling	Signage	Upgrades
Colonel Connolly Park	40.5%	40.5%	50.0%	14.3%	26.2%	16.7%	23.8%	4.8%	33.3%	19.0%	31.0%
Fernald Field (aka Little League Field)	20.7%	44.8%	37.9%	10.3%	17.2%	10.3%	27.6%	3.4%	41.4%	13.8%	37.9%
Gertrude Spaulding Park	22.2%	46.7%	37.8%	4.4%	11.1%	17.8%	17.8%	6.7%	24.4%	15.6%	24.4%
Hall Park	15.4%	15.4%	53.8%	7.7%	11.5%	11.5%	26.9%	11.5%	38.5%	15.4%	26.9%
J.J. Round Park	32.0%	38.0%	48.0%	12.0%	22.0%	16.0%	22.0%	12.0%	36.0%	16.0%	34.0%
Landrigan Field	14.8%	37.0%	18.5%	11.1%	25.9%	18.5%	22.2%	11.1%	33.3%	14.8%	25.9%
Lower Common	25.0%	31.8%	52.3%	9.1%	25.0%	11.4%	27.3%	11.4%	29.5%	9.1%	29.5%
Mapleway Playground	37.2%	23.3%	41.9%	18.6%	25.6%	14.0%	16.3%	7.0%	34.9%	18.6%	37.2%
Moulton Playground	26.1%	37.0%	45.7%	10.9%	21.7%	10.9%	19.6%	8.7%	34.8%	15.2%	47.8%
Nasella Playground	25.8%	25.8%	32.3%	6.5%	12.9%	3.2%	19.4%	3.2%	29.0%	16.1%	61.3%
Paddy Heights Vets Park	29.2%	12.5%	20.8%	8.3%	25.0%	8.3%	20.8%	0.0%	33.3%	25.0%	33.3%
Quannapowitt Lakeshore	42.0%	24.0%	44.0%	14.0%	20.0%	12.0%	18.0%	10.0%	30.0%	12.0%	28.0%
Spaulding Playground	16.7%	23.3%	46.7%	6.7%	16.7%	10.0%	23.3%	10.0%	30.0%	13.3%	46.7%
Spring Street Park	12.0%	8.0%	16.0%	12.0%	12.0%	8.0%	20.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.0%	24.0%
Sullivan Park	21.7%	17.4%	39.1%	8.7%	26.1%	8.7%	26.1%	8.7%	26.1%	13.0%	47.8%
Sullivan Park Extension	20.0%	15.0%	35.0%	10.0%	10.0%	5.0%	20.0%	5.0%	35.0%	25.0%	40.0%
Town Forest	17.6%	5.9%	11.8%	2.9%	14.7%	20.6%	20.6%	8.8%	20.6%	55.9%	26.5%
Triangle at Prospect & Hopkins Streets	24.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	16.0%	0.0%	20.0%	28.0%	24.0%
Upper Common	30.6%	19.4%	47.2%	16.7%	27.8%	19.4%	22.2%	5.6%	30.6%	19.4%	30.6%
Veteran's Field	17.6%	26.5%	58.8%	17.6%	17.6%	14.7%	23.5%	11.8%	35.3%	11.8%	23.5%

Twenty-six respondents provided additional information about needed improvements for Wakefield's parks and recreation areas:

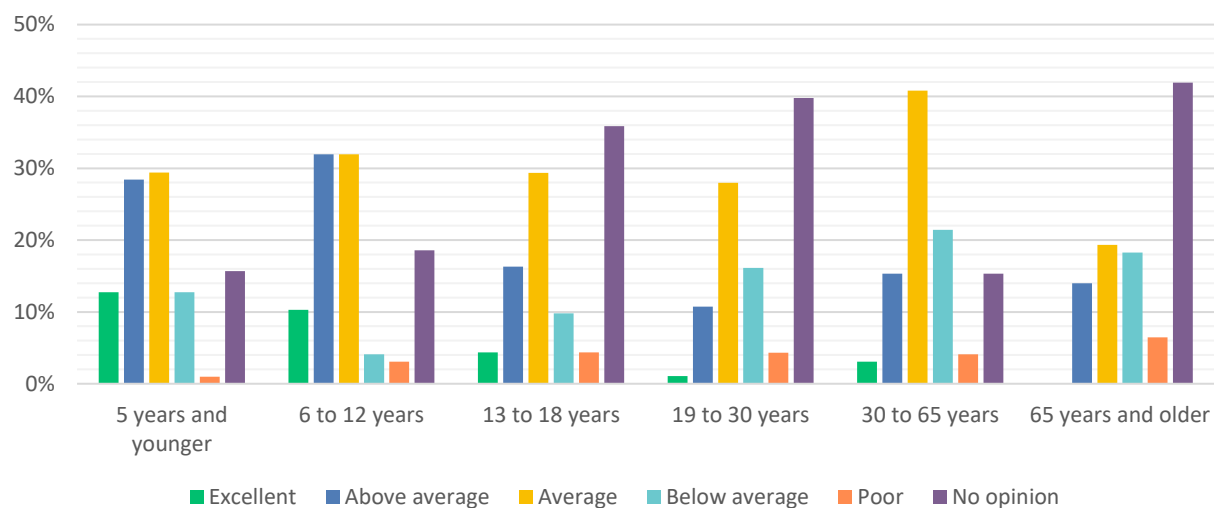
Physical amenities or improvements: Many respondents emphasized their answer choices, reiterating that shade trees, landscaping, bathrooms, and trash bins are important amenities to add.

Regular maintenance and enforcement: Several respondents mentioned the need for better maintenance at Wakefield's parks and recreation areas to improve safety and user comfort, citing concerns about litter, scheduled trash pick-up, invasive species, and goose droppings.

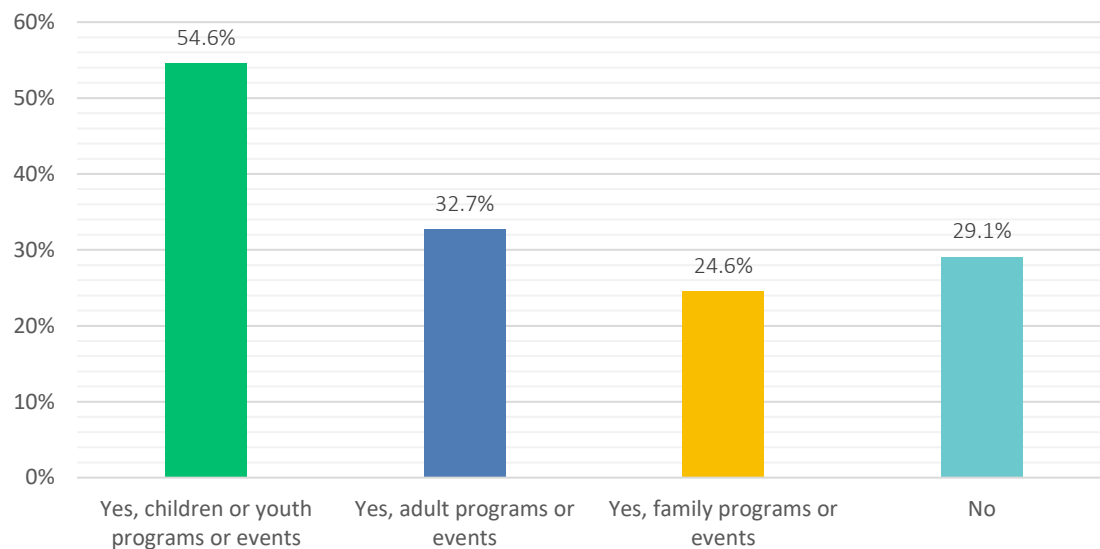
Other upgrades: Several respondents mentioned more extensive upgrades that would improve Wakefield's parks and recreation areas. These included adding a splash pad and adding more ADA accessible and inclusive design elements. Some respondents mentioned potential projects to update existing amenities, including at Moulton Playground, Fernald Field, Sullivan Park, and the BMX track at Sullivan Park.

More walking, biking, and rolling amenities: Five respondents indicated that improvements to paths and sidewalks are needed, including adding more paths and sidewalks. In particular, respondents were interested in improvements along Lake Quannapowitt. One respondent also mentioned adding bicycle parking.

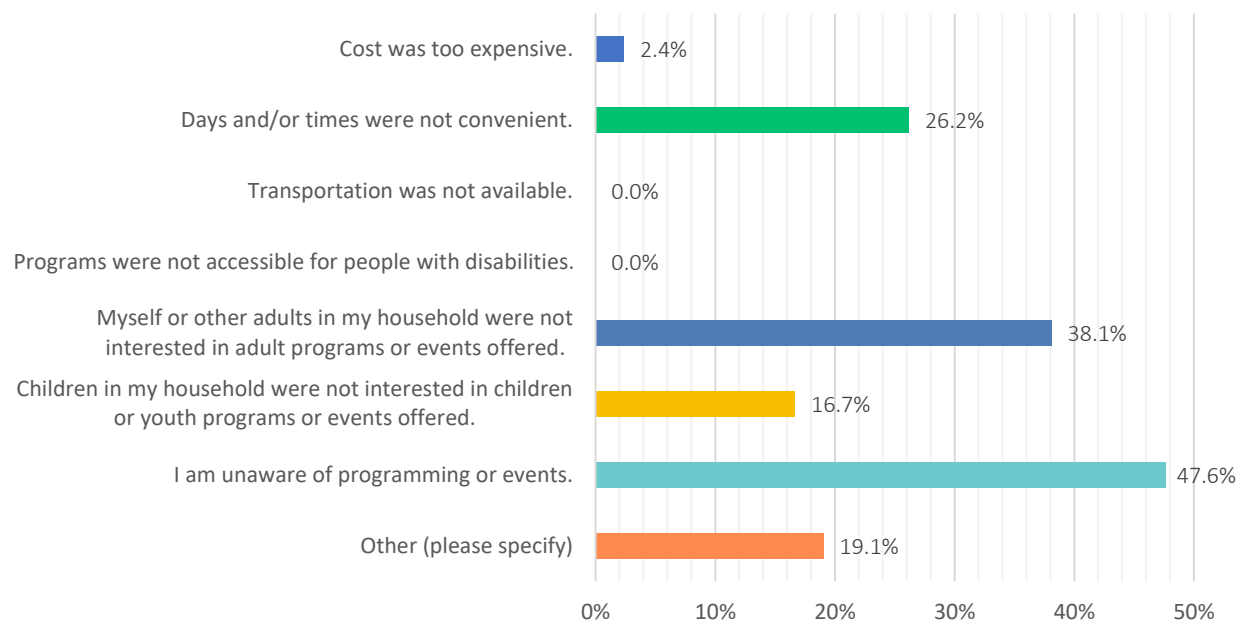
Q12. Indicate your level of satisfaction with the variety and quality of recreation areas and programs offered by the Town for each age group. (106 answered)



Q13. Have you or members of your household participated in programming or events offered by the Town Recreation Department in the past two years? Check all that apply (110 answered)



Q14. If you answered “No” to the question above, why not? Check all that apply. (42 answered)



Eight respondents selected “Other” and offered a variety of responses for why they do not participate in programming or events offered by the Town Recreation Department. In general, responses reiterated their answer choices. Three respondents noted that the timing did not work well for them, with one also noting that some programs were in high demand and difficult to get into. Two respondents indicated that

programming was oriented toward children rather than adults. Other responses indicated that additional programming could be added for adult fitness and exercise, similar to those programs already offered by the Senior Center.

Q15. What other general comments do you have about Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? (43 answered)

Comments covered a range of topics. Several comments focused specifically on conservation areas and the need to continue investing in and protecting natural resources.

Physical amenities, improvements, and upgrades: Many respondents cited specific amenities that could be added at parks and recreation areas to help with maintenance and increase their usage. These include trash bins and picnic areas. Other improvements may require more extensive planning and investment, such as lighting, turf fields, a splash pad, picnic pavilions, pickleball courts, sidewalk improvements, and outdoor volleyball court. Respondents also noted the need to upgrade facilities over the years to keep them in good condition and suited to the community's evolving needs.

Maintenance: Several respondents mentioned improvements around maintenance, particularly around trash, litter, and field upkeep. One respondent mentioned homeless encampments.

Diversity of programming: Respondents were generally complementary of the Wakefield Recreation Department's programming and noted that it has improved over the years. Respondents are interested in continued diversification of programming offerings (e.g., for teens, adults, seniors; outdoor/nature and STEM programs, etc.). Respondents would also like programs to be offered at times that can better accommodate work schedules.

More walking, biking, and rolling amenities: A few respondents expressed interest in walking, biking, and rolling amenities. Respondents wanted bicycle storage, additional connections to parks and playgrounds, and updates to the BMX track at Sullivan Park, and were also interested in finishing the bikeway.

Preservation of conservation areas/open space: A few respondents noted the environmental benefits of conservation areas and open space, including green space at parks and recreation areas, and expressed that these should be as valued and invested in as Wakefield's parks and recreation areas.

Raise awareness of parks and recreation areas: A few respondents reiterated that better promotion is needed to raise awareness of these spaces, including the amenities available at each site.

Maintenance: Several respondents mentioned maintenance, particularly around trash, litter, and field upkeep. One respondent mentioned homeless encampments.

Who Took the Survey?

Respondents were asked to provide information about themselves. This provides important information useful to understanding what parts of the community we are reaching and where we need to reach out in other ways.

Q16. How do you identify your race and ethnicity? Select all that apply. (108 answered)

Black or African American: 2.8% (3)

White: 88.9% (96)

Asian: 3.7% (4)

I prefer not to answer: 5.6% (6)

Q17. What is your gender? (108 answered)

Female: 65.5%

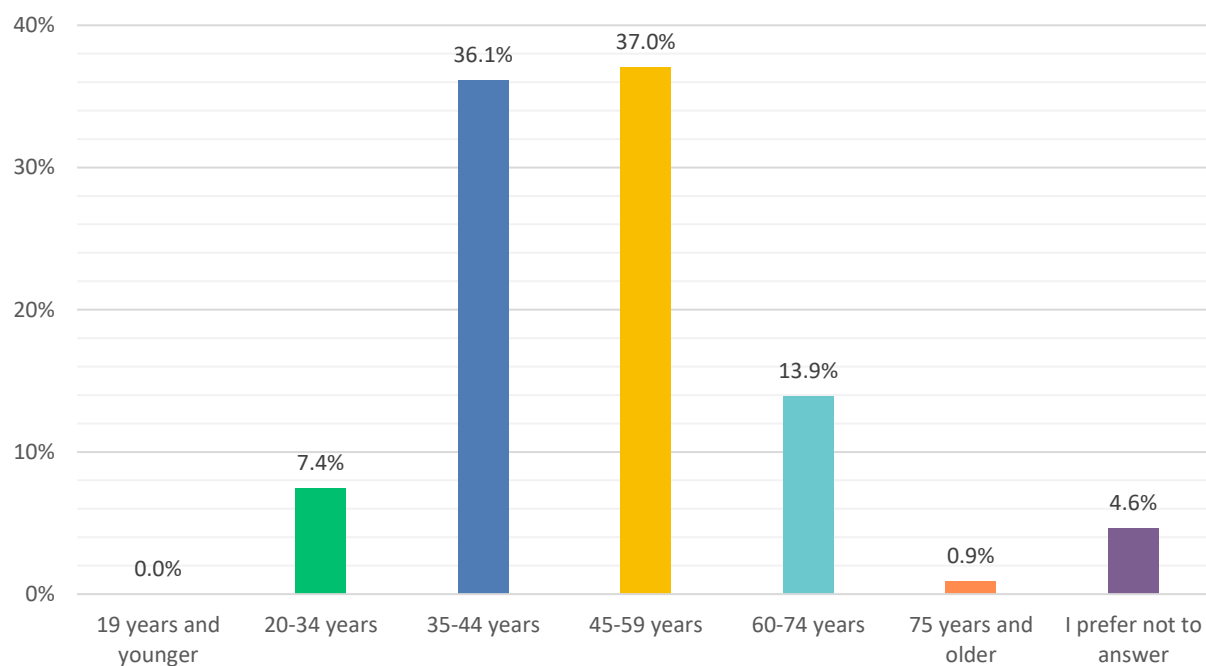
Non-binary: 0.9%

Male: 34.5%

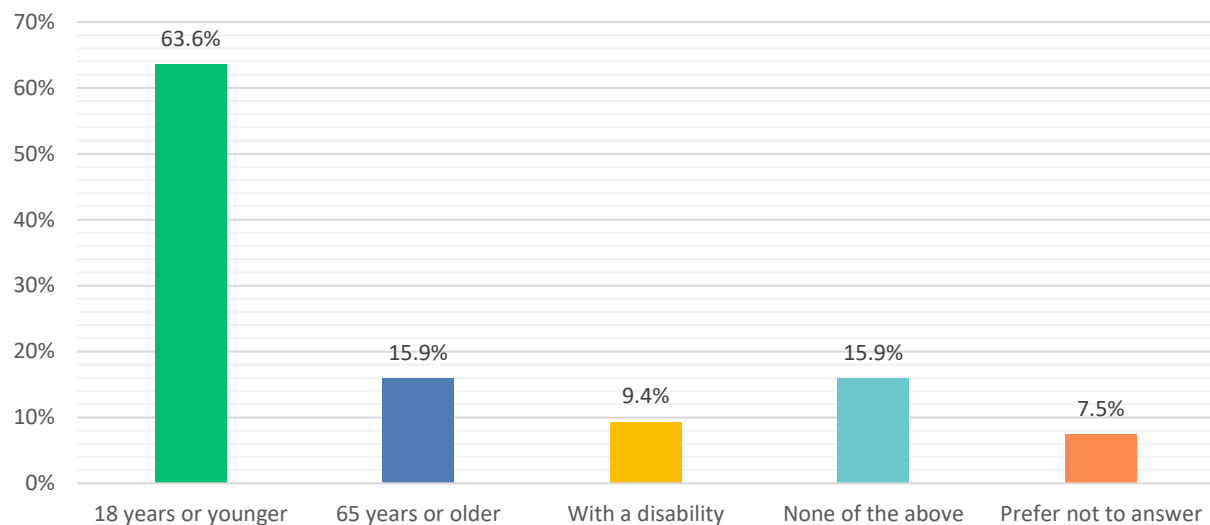
I prefer not to answer: 3.7%

Note: One response was removed because it was off topic.

Q18. What is your age? (108 answered)



Q19. Do you or any members of your household match the following descriptions? Please check all that apply. (107 answered)



Responses to Open-Ended Questions

Q3. How do you typically get to Wakefield's conservation areas? Check all that apply. (20 provided open-ended responses)

- Have not used.
- Don't go. Didn't know where they are.
- I would walk.
- If I knew where they were, I'd go.
- I had no idea these places existed! I go to the fells to walk. Would love to utilize these.
- Did not know we have Conservation areas we could hike.
- Do not go.
- I work too much.
- Depends on the proximity to where I live...walk or drive.
- Have never really visited these areas.
- We need better advertising or notice of what's available.
- If the areas have no access or paths, then the town does not upkeep these areas. This question was asking about too many very small tracts of land, most with no signage to name them. Most have no walking trails.
- Jog.
- If these areas are accessible, I would drive.
- Don't go.
- N/A (5 responses)

Q4. What limits your usage of Wakefield's conservation areas? Check all that apply. (30 provided open-ended responses)

- A mix of the above. A lot of the conservation area that I access is Breakheart (although that seems like it will be less accessible with the new Voke), JJ round and the area around the park, Mapleway and the watershed by crystal lake that doesn't even show up on the conservation map... which leads me to the next biggest impediment is that so many of these resources appear to be in privately owned/residential which limits accessibility.
- Looking forward to completion of the bike/rail trail path.
- I looked on Google Maps street view for most of the locations I didn't know, and I couldn't see any way to access any of them. None are labeled. There no entry paths. Everything looks overgrown. Maybe that's for the best, to keep them clean and safe from human activity. But if the goal is to encourage resident use, work would need to be done. Lastly, most are completely unknown to Google Maps... They are on the satellite view of course, but they are unlabeled, so probably un-searchable too.
- I'm either unfamiliar with most, or there are only limited walking trails.
- Lack of signage or knowledge of existence, parking. We hike all over the US and Europe. Never knew most of these places existed or if they are accessible. Hope you'll market those areas that are hike-able.
- Unaware of these areas.
- Trails are not well maintained. Invasive species are often allowed to run rampant. Little/no info is provided on site. Accessibility for ADA is limited.
- difficult to access. not well marked or identified.
- With our children, we generally only visit the areas nearest our home within walking/biking distance. Biking is unsafe for children where we live (Lowell @ Main) and therefore only visit the 1-3 sites within walking distance.
- I am older and have some medical issues, I have no idea these places even existed...even in my neighborhood.
- No limits at this time!
- I never knew about them, and would recommend more PR around how those areas can be used.
- Lack of signage / trails / accessibility / sidewalks / ability to walk on road ways that are nearby to these spaces.
- Didn't know about most of the places on the list. The Emerald Necklace area (which I didn't know was called that) is borderline dangerous due to how unkempt the trails are and the amount of shattered glass on the hillside/rock ledge nearest JJ Round Park.
- I had no idea these areas were here and I am curious to know what is in each area. Is there a resource?
- I am more concerned about when the rail trail extension will open and what the green space options will be along that path.
- I'm unsure where these sites are located, but would absolutely love more information about where they are. Also, it seems like Breakheart isn't on this list and we frequent that area often.
- Who would use these areas with The Fells and Breakheart both nearby?
- Do not know.
- Unaware of what is public and what is private.
- Never realized these areas existed.
- Residents should be made aware of ALL these areas- signage?!

- Wasn't aware of them.
- Time or crowded littered and overuse of common area particularly weekends when clans of connected family groups overtake the area from sunup to sundown.
- Unclear which sites can be accessed without impacting environment negatively, typically just walk on roadways adjacent to the sites.
- These areas are not publicized or signed. What trails are we to walk on? Why do our schools not use these areas for ecological studies? I have lived in Wakefield all of my life and know a lot about the town and still do not know where many of these areas are. Many are small tracts of land separating subdivisions and are not kept up as usable conservation walking or biking areas.
- Difficulty finding public access points. Lack of signage.
- I don't view recreational usage of true Conservation areas as being appropriate- much of their value is in remaining untouched for wildlife, water protection, and clean air. I prefer to walk and recreate in areas that are already developed for recreational purposes, in order to save the few virgin areas remaining.
- I have lived in Wakefield over 30 years and I had no idea so many conservation areas are in Wakefield. Conservation areas are treated like a big secret in the Boston area. Few of areas are shown online in any way. Wakefield should document where people can go, how to access the area, if there parking, and if it is accessible by wheelchair, and map the hiking areas.
- Too boring for kids

Q5. What are the needed physical amenities or improvements at Wakefield's conservation areas? (19 provided open-ended responses)

- I couldn't answer these only because I haven't visited any. I've heard of Reedy Meadow and have wanted to walk it but haven't yet.
- Public "birding" telescope or binoculars might be nice, especially on the future Reedy Meadow bike path, or other large areas, if access to them is improved.
- Trails.
- The rec dept, health and/or Conservation dept should be promoting access to the outdoors. Breakheart should be included and protected. Town map could be shared in wmgld bill. Also, in some areas, perhaps fitness stations could provided (ADA too!).
- CLEANLINESS and MAINTENANCE: The homeless camps are getting out of hand, old mattresses can often be found in the woods. Also, downed trees on the trails are not cleaned up in a timely manner, even after reporting to the DPW. The Boy Scouts can only do so much!
- I have not visited these areas so I don't feel I should answer.
- I was not aware of the conservation areas within our town. It would be helpful if the town did more to increase awareness of these areas so that residents could take full advantage of the benefits.
- There are two viewpoints in the Emerald Necklace area- one right above the JJ Round park, the other at the top of a trail near Shady Ave/Upland ave (with views to Boston). Both areas are always covered in broken glass and some trash. The glass makes it difficult to enjoy the spaces, especially with children.
- Clean bathrooms.
- There is a LOT of glass bottles in the Holland road/JJ Round wooded area.

- Do not know.
- Keeping grounds clean and uncluttered. Enforcing fines for littering. In general- most taxpayers from Wakefield won't litter but take pride in the town- outsiders that town counsel is begging to come to visit in hoards are more likely to preserve our areas of beauty.
- Regular trail maintenance and repair to make the areas accessible. Reedy Meadow is biggest need.
- There are 6 categories above. None exist at these sights therefore, they are all needed. Some of these sights are tiny. How do neighbors feel about added parking needs for these areas?
- Information on where these places are and what's there.
- Overall town trail map would be great.
- Cleanup.
- I think the amenities listed above are a good start, but these amenities are only needed if people know where they can go. Conservation areas should not be word of mouth. During covid lockdown, I searched and searched for conservation areas to visit to picnic or read. Almost impossible to find. If I could find, I needed to know what kind of accessibility is there. Is there handicapped Parking, Is the parking nearby the walkway, are there paved walkways that a wheelchair can navigate? This is typically not shown.
- N/A.

Q6. What other general comments do you have about the Town's conservation areas? (63 provided open-ended responses)

- Promote and advertise them
- Generally I'm concerned with the loss of forest by the Voke.
- More educ about sites needed esp why we have them and their importance
- Show that this allow public access
- I didn't realize that Wakefield had conservation areas.
- Generally unaware of them.
- Where would I find info on conservation areas?
- a map of town indicating where these are and generally what can be expected at each place.
- None
- Where are these located, never heard of them, only know Quannapowitt ..??
- What kind of nature programs can you offer for kids in these areas? Think Audubon, DCR, Camp Denison type programs.
- Crystal Lake has a beautiful lakefront that is restricted use - no one can enjoy it for recreation - but the towns vehicles are parked right at the edge, leaking all kinds of toxic fluids into our backup water supply.
- "Hopefully the in-progress bike path will improve access for Reedy Meadow. The rest... Some are so small, they may be best left hidden.
- Thanks for the link to the draft map. (It could have been improved for purposes of this survey, and maybe alphabetized, but since Google Maps seems completely unaware of their existence, your map was essential.)"
- All of the town areas need to be cleaned of trash AND roads are in unsafe conditions for driving and for biking - ALL roads require immediate attention. Thank You!

- I appreciate the volunteers giving their time and expertise. It looks like we have more areas than most ppl are aware. May I suggest more promotion of outdoor activities, getting in touch with nature in a safe, LNT (leave no trace) way. We have outdoor, natural gems in our own backyard!
- I wish the town would do a far better job at attempting to control invasive species, and also providing educational info at each site. Small signs, small trail maps, etc.
- Make people aware of them. Maybe have tours offered? Keep them green without seating or too many signs to clog up the conservation.
- Conversation areas are small aside from Reedy Meadow. And the Town is focused on buildable lots as opposed to maintaining conservation areas or increasing conservation areas
- More public education about each would increase knowledge and usage. My family would visit these areas if we knew where they were, how best to get there, if parking was available, and if there are accommodations for families (parking, good maintenance, strolling/scooting areas, shade, restrooms). Shady areas are often overlooked as a necessity and are important.
- I would like to see more info on the areas
- How about we have some signage or a campaign to highlight where these areas are?
- We avoid most because the couple of times we went for a hike, we came across homeless camps which were disgusting and filled with nips, human waste, toilet paper and trash.
- I wish I was more aware of them so I could utilize them more.
- None right now.
- Would like to know more about these areas with a map.
- I am unaware of any of the conservation areas on the survey. Perhaps provide more visibility that the areas exist?
- I would love for my family to take advantage of these areas. More promotion is needed
- I didn't know most of these areas existed. As a person who spends a lot of time outside running and walking, it's disappointing to me that our town isn't more pedestrian and green-space friendly... I don't mean just the center, I mean the whole town.
- This survey is the first time I was aware of these areas. Breakheart is the only area I frequent
- Promote them more.
- How would Someone find out about these locations and where they are located?
- It's interesting how the Voke project is being held up but the map does not show the area as conservation. 🙄
- A map of the trails near Mapleway would be super helpful.
- People need to be made aware these exist. We travel out of town or to Breakheart to hike.
- safety concerns.
- Taking this survey made me realize how many conservation sites there are in Wakefield but I've never known about them. I'm excited to visit them. Thanks!
- I have no idea how to access these or where they are - they should be on Google!
- I would love to lean more about what is in each one and how to get there.
- Highly concerned about the plans to cut down 2000 trees for the new voke school - the school needs to be built but should not require clear cutting in order to do so.
- It would be wonderful if the town promoted the conservation areas. Wakefield has a very active community on social media - even spotlighting an area a week over the summer / fall would bring so much awareness to the treasures many residents do not know that we have.

- No idea about these places.
- They are poorly advertised and need better signage and accessibility.
- The Conservation Areas should be better promoted and should have limited parking available. They should also be a source of education for the schools.
- I didn't know they exist!
- Unfortunately I've never visited or taken advantage of these areas. I'll definitely have to check them out.
- Awareness for residents please!
- Sadly our conservation areas are limited due to lack of preservation in the past and overbuilding causing more pollution. I'm glad these minimal areas are finally being noticed and protected. We need to enforce fines for misuse of these areas and things such as feeding the ducks. When are Wakefield homeowners going to have the privilege of having the town land protected and not abused by visitors?? Thank you conservation commission for stepping up to the plate!!
- We need to conserve more of our forests, Greenway, and waterways. The voice shouldn't be needlessly tearing down forest, we need all the sound barriers possible for our wildlife and from the loud hippidy boopidy scoot-scoots of civilization. Too much overdevelopment already in this high-traffic town!
- the waterways around the Wakefield Center nursing facility (Bathol Street) are full of litter; can someone speak to their management? There is otherwise no traffic in and out of that neighborhood.
- I get the sense that people are not really welcome in conservation areas in Wakefield - which is a stark contrast to the approach on other towns. There are no maps, no trail markers, and we rely on Boy Scouts to build trails.
- These areas lack the size, scope, and design of conservation areas that I use in surrounding communities. Wakefield has never advertised itself as a place to use conservation areas for recreation.... other than Breakheart Reservation...and the state runs that.
- Post a map on town website with location and where to parking. Locate trails on the map.
- Increased publicity needed.
- Please see comments above. Leaving untouched areas untouched benefits our townspeople by conserving wildlife, filtering runoff, and promoting clean air and green space.
- I am unaware of all of these conservation areas and the opportunity for public, passive use.
- Maybe the town needs to publicize the areas more.
- "I had no idea so many separate areas were available.
- Nice Open space map, but new to me.
- I'm very much wanting the Rail Trail to become a reality, and will use it almost as much as going around Lake Q."
- It would be helpful if the Town published a downloadable map showing all conservation areas and their access points. Trail maps should be available for individual areas.
- Keep them clean and protected in perpetuity :)
- Need more promotion.
- I think this is a wonderful idea to provide info on our open space and conservation areas. There is more to the outdoors than soccer and baseball fields. These areas should not be secret and I would like to see maps of these areas put on the towns website so we know where to go. All of

these areas should be posted no dogs and this should be enforced. Going to the Lynn woods is horrible, there are so many dogs off leash running around. Please just post no dogs and show where the local dog parks are; on main st. and in Breakheart. The list of amenities above is a great start of ideas to make our conservation areas more open to all.

- Please don't let the Northeast Metro Tech build new school on forested HILLTOP site. The HILLTOP site is bad for students and taxpayers.
- I don't know where they are.

Q9. How do you typically get to Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? (2 provided open-ended responses)

- Jog.
- Jog.

Q10. What limits your usage of Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? Check all that apply. (24 provided open-ended responses)

- Lack of parking
- I have no limits we use the parks close to our house and if my kids are playing sports.
- The parks I'm familiar with have play structures for little kids. As my kids age, they want bike parks and bike paths and building with nature, playing with sticks, building with branches, climbing trees.
- Parking, sometimes.
- "Spring Street Park" is down the street from my house but looks like a forested conservation area with no actual ability to use it? Town Forest is a good example of poorly maintained trails, no signage, etc. Invasive species are found in all of these areas. In areas where town has support from local groups like FOLQ, maintenance is good (Col. Connelly Park, Gertrude Spaulding, etc.).
- Visit frequently
- We regularly visit those areas which we can walk to with our children. Our biggest need is for a safe biking/scooting/walking path/trail which is protected from cars, as drivers are distracted and most streets in Town do not provide bike accommodates for users of varying ages and abilities. The sidewalk along the lake is too narrow and too busy to accommodate children on bicycles, scooters, and strollers. Consider hiring a consultant to design a sidewalk on the residential side of Main Street along Lake Q, and widen the sidewalk along Lake Q to meet requirements for a Shared Use Path. Otherwise, provide a buffer between vehicles, a bike lane, and parking. Limit parking to accommodate alternative modes of transportation where needed.
- I do walk around my neighborhood when I have time, I don't want to drive anywhere, I live in the Montrose area in the Chapman Rd area. I'm hoping to use play areas more when grandchildren are older.
- Cleanliness, again: Trash piled up, litter, broken glass. Mattresses and homeless camps. Beer cans and broken bottles in the town forest. It's telling that "keeping things clean" isn't even in your list of potential improvements in item 11 below!
- Pictures posted on social media of Wakefield playground with broken glass.
- Honestly the reason I sometimes avoid green spaces (especially around the lake) is the amount of goose poop all over the grass.

- Some of the places I have never heard of until now. I don't have kids at home so we don't frequent any of the playgrounds. Breakheart is the only real place to hike.
- Safe walking/biking routes.
- No real Reason. Enjoyed all the Sports field when Boys were Younger.
- This list has shown me how many playgrounds there are in this town, most of which I had never heard of. Promoting these locations would be wonderful so citizens can go and enjoy them.
- no bathrooms.
- Whether they are fenced in or not. Shaded areas. Access to ports potty or nearby restroom.
- A lot of those places are for sports my kids have aged out of. No longer a reason to go to them.
- Some of the sites above are tracts of land between streets...they are not usable as park land. Hopkins street island does not qualify as a park...and cars park on it.
- My Kids have aged out of youth and High School sports.
- My use has changed as I have aged - when my children were young - 25 years ago - I regularly used the ball fields and playgrounds. As I age I frequently walk the lake and Breakheart.
- When our child was younger (pre K to grade 12) we used the soccer fields in town and visited the Lake Q shore more frequently. Now that we are empty nesters, our usage of recreation space is less. Most of our outdoor time is dog walking.
- My children are grown and I do not go to kids soccer, baseball etc. games. However I think some of these areas like the town forest falls into a conservation area and should be on the other list of open area. I think enough is done for the sports fields for the kids.
- Lack of contiguous sidewalks to walk to parks.

Q11. What are the needed physical amenities or improvements at Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? (26 provided open-ended responses)

- Bicycle parking - covered and traditional at all locations
- The town needs to do more than just mow the lawns. The forests need to be cleared of standing dead wood and taken care of. The existing bathrooms need to be open and cleaned daily. The lake is gross. Put a fountain in it and dredge it out. We have the man power and equipment to do everything it instead town employees just drive around and site at different places all day long.
- 1. Modern trash receptacles (currently, barrels are filled, filthy, smelly, attract rats, unsightly), 2. ADA playground equipment ie wheelchair swing, braille, tactile play spaces, sounds, textured paths, sensory garden, 3. fitness stations, 4. Bike path, 5. Water stations, 6. Sunscreen dispensers (I see them in other states), 7. Upgrade bleachers, 8. Cleaner lake would be nice, 9. Calm noise and traffic speed
- Control for invasive species, better trails at the lesser known park areas. Signs to even indicate they exist.
- No pavilions or cluttering up parks with more things taking up open space. Though bathrooms are needed it would breed homeless people and shady activity. Who would clean them and prevent odors from infiltrating parks? Trash barrels are always overloaded though the DPW does a tremendous job of emptying them. People leave chairs and paint cans. Not enough monitoring especially on weekends when we invite clans to "Come to Wakefield". Lots of takeout containers, clearly not shopping in our "downtown"
- Better landscaping, shade trees,

- Shared Use Paths, Bike Paths/Lanes, Wider Sidewalk along Lake Q / new sidewalk on residential side
- Picnic tables at the playgrounds, portapotty, shade, more activities for the kids in summer, I worked on Recreation during the summer when I was attending college
- TRASH AND LITTER PICKUP.
- Moulton: allow or requiring people using baseball fields to have access to restrooms always. Otherwise, children and adults have been seen using grass and trees for this. Also, the tennis and basketball courts need upgrades. They are well-loved by neighbors!
- The porta potties by the lake are horrible! Went to the movie by the lake last week and had to go home so my child could go to the bathroom!
- Many outdoor spaces within our town are in very poor condition. Fields that our children use for baseball are filled with weeds and play equipment at many of these locations are incredibly old and in need of replacement. The secondary field at the Doyle did not have benches for children to sit when playing T-ball and was filled with weeds/bare spots. Yuell field has benches that are broken and very old. Seating lacks at most locations and while some locations appear to be cared for, the vast majority are not. It is very difficult to attract additional interest (and investment) in our community when the spaces we showcase are in very poor form and of a far lower quality than our neighboring communities.
- I think all the spaces need better trash / recycling bins. The current bins are not emptied often enough. Some of the playgrounds need repairs. Fernald Field could use a playground. Many towns have used some sort of creative idea to limit the goose poop (like hiring a dog to chase away the geese). Wakefield could use a splash pad. We spend a lot of time at our parks and playgrounds, especially the ones we can walk to, but some nearby towns have far better facilities.
- It would be nice to have restrooms at one location around the lake. Trash bins would be a plus in most used areas.
- Better Water Drinking Fountains.
- I'm an avid BMX rider & I started going to the track in the early 80s (I'm 50 now). The track is arguably the best it's ever been & it's 100% cuz of volunteers (many who don't reside in Wakefield). I realize BMX is a niche sport but there are only 4 public BMX tracks in MA. Wakefield is oldest in MA & only on Northshore. I don't think the uniqueness of the track is fully understood by many & it is definitely not well utilized by town. If the town would consider adding a paved pump track (similar to the one built in Boston a few years back) on the land adjacent to BMX track (it wouldn't take up a lot of room) the area would explode in popularity cuz it would open to bikes, skateboards, scooters, rollerblades, etc. & it would have almost year round usage (besides when it snows) unlike the dirt track. I'm not advocating replacing dirt track, just adding a feature to an existing area. It's low cost & it's not potentially dangerous like a skateboard park w ramps & obstacles, anyone at any level can enjoy a pump track.
- We would LOVE splash pad in town!!!!!!
- The people who live by Spring Street Park will harass you if you try and park on the street. its not worth even mentioning it as a park
- It's been a couple of summers since my son has played ball at Sullivan, but that field was awful. If work has been done recently, I apologize, but that was always dry and dusty, infield overtaken with weeds, no equipment available for simple maintenance, outfield fence overgrown. Just a terrible place to play.

- Trees!!! In the summer no one uses these because they are too hot. You cut down all the trees.
- Solar Belly containers!!
- The triangle at Hopkins is not a park. There are no crosswalks or sidewalks to reach it. The traffic on Prospect is too heavy and the speeding cars make it a poor location for a park. It should not be used as a park. The roads in that area are in terrible shape and the construction on Hopkins street is making the road even worse. Increased traffic due to the additional apartments will make this traffic island an even worse option for a park. It has never been considered a park.
- A much improved walkway around Lake Q is highly desired.
- Shoreline path along the west side (North Ave) side of Lake Quannapowitt. It is a shame that pedestrians need to walk along North Ave rather than enjoying the lake itself.
- Just keeping the trash off the areas would make a huge improvement. Also, keeping dogs out of play areas.
- I think that the sports fields in Wakefield are in good shape. Let's add amenities to the other areas in town people would like to go to. And spend some tax money on something other than sports fields for kids.

Q14. If you answered “No” to the question above, why not? Check all that apply. (8 provided open-ended responses)

- Program availability and times not communicated well.
- They fill up so fast. Some are only offered during the daytime (we work).
- Time, adult sports programs were not for my age level (activity wise), I didn't look at the schedule because I was assuming it was all for the kids.
- The Sports camp offerings during school vacations were very well run and enjoyed by my kids. Dates and time of offerings typically are mid-day and/or would not accommodate the schedules of working parents (of which there are many in this community).
- I hope the Albion St. Cultural Exchange building can be used as a recreational area. That building is far too often closed. I would love to have adult yoga, Pilates, and other offerings available. The Senior Center, for which I do not yet go, has classes that are filled weeks in advance. Certainly, there are needs not being met in that small exercise and recreational area.
- I regularly participate in exercise programs offered by the Senior Center, which I believe is an organization separate from the Rec Dept.
- Without reading the local newspaper, people are not aware of happenings. Maybe those controversial kiosks could be opened so that citizens could post events also.
- Most of the programs are for children with the exception of pickle ball. Pickle ball is not an accessible sport.

Q15. What other general comments do you have about Wakefield's parks and recreation areas? (43 provided open-ended responses)

- Better lighting. Need to prevent nips/public drinking at parks.
- I don't get the local newspaper so have no idea about events they are scheduled. How about a banner stretching across Main St like some events are announced?
- Communication is poor.

- Spray park would be nice.
- Program times are not conducive for working parents, recreation areas for tweens and teens are limited to basketball courts which are often used by adults.
- It is hard to know where the parks and recreation areas are! I've lived here for 15 years and I know the ones right by my house, but I am not aware of where the entry areas/parking etc. are for the others.
- There seems to be some regular volleyball on the common... A dedicated sand court would be nice. PLEASE consider an outfield net at Veteran's Field... When men's softball is on, I hate having to stop at that light... I've seen many home-runs come over that fence. I'm a little surprised there hasn't been a car accident or a pedestrian hurt yet. Expanding the width of the path around Lake Q. would be great, even if it is done in sections over decades. And more trash barrels along Main St. section of Lake Q, and more free dog-bag stations might help the occasional "land mine" problem.
- Keep them cleaner! Recycle SOLAR Belly barrels not green barrels without covers - change all to consistent look- the black barrels -
- Make the DPW work harder.
- Recreational offerings have improved over the years.
- Wakefield has done a nice job with our parks and recreation programs. Would be interested in seeing a picnic area at the Lower Common as well as a real public restroom. The park is very well maintained. Might consider offering more environmental stewardship programs for youth in conservation areas and Lake Q. Interested in seeing some upgrades to sidewalks leading to main parks and downtown.
- Rec department is doing amazing job of programs. We need more at the playgrounds. JJ round is a nice park but needs cleanup of glass on trails as kids drink there. Moulton playground is a great location but needs cleanup and new equipment. The lower common needs geese cleanup. Also should be regulations for birthday parties and clans lining the shore on weekends impairing Wakefield taxpayers from using the area. There should be privileges for Wakefield taxpayers for the use of the parks and recreation. In general the lakeshore is taken care of but it needs romping for visitors to take care of it.
- offering older adult activities after work hours would be nice.
- I realize it's costly for upkeep for the areas and personnel.
- Many of these areas have homeless camps set up, loaded with litter, empty nips, human waste and toilet paper and broken glass.
- The DPW should stop hanging out at Sabbatinos during the workday.
- Our girl scout troop would love a covered pavilion/picnic area where we could host outdoor troop meetings, but that offers shelter in case of inclement weather.
- Wakefield needs more Pickleball courts. Moulton Playground would be a perfect place for additional outdoor courts. Not enough is done in Wakefield for seniors recreation-wise.
- Sometimes the bugs ruin the experience.
- PLEASE finish the bikeway!!!!
- I don't even know how to find out about these things.
- We've had a lot of rain this year so the fields need to be mowed more. The grass is growing faster. There's been dog poop in the baseball fields as well. Trash should be emptied more

frequently. Mapleway park needs to be kept up more. Graffiti and glass on the playground is not ok.

- Yes. Would like to see more activities and fitness classes for adults that are offered in evening or early morning for people who work. This includes pickleball pickup games, classes for adults at the Moulton fitness court and other outdoor fitness activities at some of the parks in town.
Thanks!
- Wakefield is a wonderful community, however, many of our outdoor areas are run down or outdated. Many of us with young families will often go to neighboring towns to use the parks, which is unfortunate. With some investment in our town parks and outdoor spaces, we could really make Wakefield a place where people want to live (and stay) with their families.
- Again, I love our green spaces and parks, especially the proximity. They just need some time and attention. Also, the construction on Salem Street has taken over most of Sullivan Park area, but I know that's temporary.
- Concentrate on the upkeep of the Lake Q and Common recreation areas. Don't bother with bike lanes. Allowing the massive build at the old converse area is a MASSIVE MISTAKE
- Sports fields (baseball and basketball) could use more maintenance and upkeep, but otherwise Wakefield has great parks and playgrounds. Many are difficult to access without a car though, because walking and biking infrastructure is lacking near them.
- I think the Parks and Rec areas of Wakefield are Super. Don't let anyone Park on that new Softball Field Behind Woodville, That would be shameful. They can Park at Nasella and Shuttled up or just Park on the Street heading up towards Landrigan.
- Please see my comments above re: bmx track. I also utilize the Wakefield entrance to Breakheart for mountain biking & there is an even larger local mountain bike community & again it probably isn't fully realized by most. I'd be happy to answer any bike related questions as I realize not everyone who utilizes the bmx track lives in Wakefield: Joe Makseyn jmakseyn@gmail.com
- Would love to see a splash pad / wading pool!
- The town needs a splash pad! So many young families would frequent it all the time
- additional turf fields needed
- Need bike racks, including covered storage in some areas, particularly around lake
- Trash!! Everywhere- Certainly residents should do their part and be responsible, however Town employees need to do their job- every single day
- Please see prior comment to being more environmentally sustainable and respectful of a community. Defend our natural resources and human rights to clean and open environment spaces, object to more building development, focus and repurpose what is already existing land in use. Protect parks and create more visibility to programs and events. Let's have more events that bring visitors and money into the town, highlighting our parks and Greenway vs more real estate
- Programs offered by Rec department have been excellent, facilities/ infrastructure are more limiting. Would be great to have outdoor or nature programming in the woods for kids and adults, but it does not feel like we have a place to do that. Also, restrooms would make it easier to spend more time in an outside location. Multiple uses of spaces would be good, like the community garden and JJ rounds park. Generally, playground structures are great.
- Wakefield should focus on roads before parks. Our neighborhoods suffer with such poor conditions. Spend tax dollars closer to our front doors. Fix roads first. Whether we walk, drive,

or bike to a park....the roads taking us there should be improved. Roads should be the number one priority. When the town focuses on doing too many small things, it means the big things never get done.

- We are fortunate to have the lake area and Common, and some green space. Anything the town boards can do to preserve our remaining green space- including that part of Breakheart that is in Wakefield - would be of great benefit to our town. Thank you.
- Clean up this town!
- Beautiful green space improves quality of life for all!
- I think the recreation/sports areas are fine and enough money is spent on these. Attention and money should be spent on the conservation areas in town that all residents can use, not just children.
- I'd like more middle school activities for STEM interested kids on the wknds. I'd like more middle school STEM activities for school vacations.
- Please speak out against massive open space destruction at new Voke.