



Montague Planning & Conservation Department

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Phone (413) 863-3200x207 Fax (413) 863-3222 (fax) Email planner@montague-ma.gov

MONTAGUE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION SURVEY

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Which of the following outdoor recreation areas do you or your family use? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Memorial Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peskeomskut Park (Turners Falls) | <input type="checkbox"/> Montague Center Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Park (Turners Falls) | <input type="checkbox"/> Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard Park (Turners Falls) | <input type="checkbox"/> Montague State Forest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club | <input type="checkbox"/> North St. Wildlife Mgmt. Area (Montague Center) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highland Park (Millers Falls) | <input type="checkbox"/> Canalside Trail Bike Path |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Which of the following outdoor recreation activities do you or your family participate in: (check all that apply)

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/Birdwatching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

Which of the following should be the Town's HIGHEST recreation priorities? (choose up to three)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing recreation programs for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing an outdoor swimming facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing recreation programs for adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing walking trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining existing recreational facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing other outdoor recreation facility: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'd rather focus Town effort on schools, roads, etc | |

Are there any outdoor recreation activities that you enjoy outside of Town and want the Town to provide?
(If you list more than three, please note your top three choices)

OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Land can be protected from development when it is owned by a public conservation agency, such as the Town Conservation Commission or State Department of Fish and Game. Land also can be protected by a conservation restriction or agricultural preservation restriction, which means that the land stays in private hands and on the tax rolls, but cannot be developed. Finally, some towns protect land by changing the zoning to allow fewer houses and less commercial activity.

How do you feel about the amount of open space that is protected in the Town of Montague?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too much | <input type="checkbox"/> Just right | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Which of the following should be the Town's HIGHEST resource protection priorities? (choose up to three)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting productive farmland/encouraging agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting land along the Connecticut River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting forest land | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting land along the Sawmill River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting groundwater resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting other natural resources: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting scenic views | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd rather focus Town effort on schools, roads, etc. |

Are there any specific parcels of land or areas of Town that you feel should be protected from development?
(If you list more than three, please note your top three choices)

Methods of land protection and funding for conservation & recreation

Which of the following land protection strategies do you support? (check all that apply):

- Encouraging private donations of land to a public agency or nonprofit organization
- Purchase of land by a public agency or nonprofit organization
- Purchase of conservation restrictions by public agency or nonprofit organization
- Changing zoning to make land harder to develop
- Changing zoning to make it easier for developers to protect open space while still allowing development

I support the following funding sources for land protection: (check all that apply)

- Private donations
- Town funds
- State funds
- Federal funds

I support the following funding sources for the development of recreational facilities: (check all that apply)

- Private donations
- Town funds
- State funds
- Federal funds

If the Town had an outdoor swimming area, how much would you be willing to pay for a family permit to use it?

- Less than \$50 per year
- \$50 to \$99/year
- \$100 to \$149.99/year
- \$150 to \$200/year

Do you support adoption of the Community Preservation Act in Montague? (To allow the Town to raise money for conserving land through a property tax surcharge. Towns that adopt the Act may also qualify for state matching funds. For a house valued at \$100,000 in 2000, a 1% surcharge = \$14.29/yr; 3% surcharge = \$42.87/yr.)

- I don't support adoption of the CPA in Montague
- I support a 2% surcharge for conservation
- I support a 1% surcharge for conservation
- I support a 3% surcharge for conservation

Comments on open space and recreation priorities or funding sources: (please feel free to attach additional comments)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gender: Male Female

Age: Under 18 18-24 25-44 45-64 65 or older

Household structure:

- Single or married, no children
- Family w/children at home
- Family w/children not living at home

How long have you lived in Montague?

- less than 5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- more than 20 years
- whole life

Which village do you live in?

- Lake Pleasant
- Millers Falls
- Montague Center
- Montague City
- Turners Falls

Please check any of the following that apply:

- Rent house or apartment
- Homeowner
- Commercial property owner
- Own working farm or woodlot
- Own > 10 acres of undeveloped land
- Own > 50 acres of undeveloped land

Annual gross household income:

- Less than \$5,000
- \$5,000 to \$9,999
- \$10,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- More than \$100,000

Please return this survey to the Planning & Conservation Office, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 by September 25
Surveys may also be left in marked boxes at the following locations: Montague Center Library, Millers Falls Library, Carnegie Library in Turners Falls and Town Hall. Thank you for your help!

Number of surveys returned: 40

All percentages based out of total number of responses for each question

Q1. Which of the following outdoor recreation areas do you or your family use? (check all that apply)

Canalside Trail Bike Path	68%
Unity Park (Turners Falls)	65%
Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area	50%
Montague Center Park	38%
Peskeoskut Park (Turners Falls)	30%
Skateboard Park (Turners Falls)	28%
North St. Wildlife Management Area (Montague Center)	25%
Thomas Memorial Golf Course	20%
Highland Park (Millers Falls)	20%
Montague State Forest	20%
Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club	13%
Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club	5%
Other	
E. Chesnut Hill Rd. from Wendell	3%
Library	3%
Montague Conservation Land	3%

Number of responses: 40

Q2. Which of the following outdoor recreation activities do you or your family participate in? (check all that apply)

Biking	73%
Hiking	58%
Nature/Birdwatching	55%
Camping	50%
Fishing	30%
Skiing	28%
Running	25%
Hunting	13%
Other:	
skateboarding	8%
swimming	8%
walking	5%
snow shoeing	3%
snowboarding	3%
tennis	3%
skating	3%
dirt biking	3%
sledging in Unity Park	3%

Number of responses: 40

Q3. Which of the following should be the Town's HIGHEST recreation priorities? (choose up to three)

Maintaining existing recreational facilities	58%
Increasing recreation programs for children	40%
I'd rather focus Town efforts on schools, roads, etc.	33%

Number of responses: 40

Developing an outdoor swimming facility	33%
Developing walking trails	33%
Increasing recreation programs for adults	15%
Developing other outdoor recreation facilities:	15%
community gardens	3%
swimming	3%
developing bike paths	3%
Montague City	3%

Q4. Are there any outdoor recreation activities that you enjoy outside of Town and want the Town to provide?

	total # of responses
swimming	3
canoeing/kayaking	1
sky diving at the airport (you asked)	1
tennis	1
Boston Aquarium	1
Museums	1
Programs/activities	1
I go to the YMCA to workout. I would love to have a closer	1
Love the bike trail. Would love to see more bike trails (e.g. TF Road is a dangerous way to get to Turners!).	1
cross-country skiing	1
We want the town to work with the State to make a bridge on North St. Conservation Land in Montague Center	1
Barton's Cove	1
Laurel Lake	1
Outdoor swimming at state parks, Puffer's Pond and at Conway Town Pool.	1
Trails	1

Q5. How do you feel about the amount of open space that is protected in the Town of Montague?

Too much	0%
Just right	30%
Not enough	35%
Don't know	38%

Number of responses: 37

Q6. Which of the following should be the Town's HIGHEST resource protection priorities? (choose up to three)

Protecting productive farmland/encouraging agriculture	68%
Protecting groundwater resources	55%
Protecting forest land	50%
Protecting land along the Connecticut River	33%
Protecting land along the Sawmill River	33%
Protecting scenic views	20%
I'd rather focus Town effort on schools, roads, etc.	13%
Protecting other natural resources: (list below)	10%
air quality	3%
endangered species	3%

Number of responses: 40

wildlife	3%
----------	----

Q7. Are there any specific parcels of land or areas of Town that you feel should be protected from development?

	total # of responses
Montague Plains	2
Urban plots for community gardens	1
Area near Airport w/ Native American significance (burial and stone markings)	1
Riverside in Turners Falls	1
North St. Wildlife Management Area	1
Montague Center Park	1
Montague Center	1
Woods behind juddwire	1
Land along the Connecticut River	1
Library - take advantage of state matching funds to improve/build new buildings	1
Library	1
Aquifer area	1
Montague Center farmland (Garbiel's, Smiaroski's, other)	1
Woods - i.e., Dry Hill/Chestnut Hill	1
Town parks	1

Q.8 Which of the following land protection strategies do you support? (check all that apply)

Encouraging private donations of land to a public agency or nonprofit organization	70%
Purchase of conservation restrictions by public agency or nonprofit organization	60%
Changing zoning to make land harder to develop	53%
Purchase of land by a public agency or nonprofit organization	50%
Changing zoning to make it easier for developers to protect open space while still allowing development	47%

Number of responses: 30

Q9. I support the following funding sources for land protection (check all that apply)

Federal Funds	94%
Private donations	88%
State funds	88%
Town funds	61%

Number of responses: 33

Q.10 I support the following funding sources for the development of recreational facilities (check all that apply)

State funds	88%
Federal funds	88%
Private donations	81%
Town funds	75%

Number of responses: 32

Q11. If the Town had an outdoor swimming area, how much would you be willing to pay for a family permit to use it?

Less than \$50 a year	68%
\$50 to \$99/year	26%
\$100 to 149.99/year	6%
\$150 to \$200/year	3%

Number of responses: 31

Q12. Do you support the adoption of the Community Preservation Act in Montague?

I don't support adoption of the CPA in Montague	30%
I support a 1% surcharge for conservation	47%
I support a 2% surcharge for conservation	13%
I support a 3% surcharge for conservation	20%

Number of responses: 30

Q13. Comments on open space and recreation priorities or funding sources (please feel free to attach additional comments)

Safe swimming is a priority but families in Turners most at risk in current conditions cannot afford to pay for permits. Green Pond should be re-opened, FREE of charge. Although I do not use skate park, it is a very high priority for me - much used by downtown residents.
Personally I support the CPA for Montague, but I don't believe the citizens in general can afford it at this time.

Q14. Gender

Male	33%
Female	70%

Number of responses: 30

Q15. Age

Under 18	3%
18-24	6%
25-44	31%
45-64	60%
65 or older	3%

Number of responses: 35

Q16. Household structure

Single or married, no children	43%
Family w/children at home	46%
Family w/children not living at home	14%

Number of responses: 35

Q17. How long have you lived in Montague?

less than 5 years	11%
5-10 years	23%
11-20 years	31%
more than 20 years	20%
entire life	17%

Number of responses: 35

Q18. Which village do you live in?

Turners Falls	47%
Montague Center	32%
Millers Falls	21%
Montague City	3%
Lake Pleasant	0%

Number of responses: 34

Q19. Please check any of the following that apply

Homeowner	63%
Rent house or apartment	40%
Own > 10 acres of undeveloped land	6%
Own > 50 acres of undeveloped land	3%
Commercial property owner	3%
Own working farm or woodlot	0%

Number of responses: 35

Q20. Annual gross household income

Less than \$5,000	6%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	15%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	15%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	12%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	24%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	24%
More than \$100,000	0%

Number of responses: 33