

2021 Conway Open Space and Recreation Survey

The Conway Open Space Committee invites you to participate in a survey that will be used as a guide in developing Conway's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Thank you for your participation!

The survey will take you approximately 10 minutes to complete.

THE DEADLINE IS

Why should I take the time to complete this survey?

- Your answers are an essential part of our town's effort to plan for future growth and to protect our natural, scenic, historic, and recreation resources – things that make Conway a special place to live.
- Your answers will form the basis for an Open Space and Recreation Plan for Conway and will help the Town as it develops future land use policies and priorities.
- Your answers will remain anonymous and will be used for planning purposes only.

What is Open Space?

- Open space is generally defined as public or privately owned undeveloped land. In Conway, open space includes agriculture, forestland, meadow, wetland, streams and rivers, ridgeline and scenic views, and significant historical structures and landscapes.
- Open space may be important to Conway residents for a variety of reasons, including agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, water quality, climate resilience, recreation, or simply because of its scenic qualities and its contribution to the overall character of town.

What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?

- It establishes goals and objectives to help guide Town decisions on land use, open space, and recreation.
- It qualifies Conway for federal and state funding for recreation and open space land.
- It provides the Select Board a framework for decision-making when Chapter 61 lands become available.
- It can be used to preserve our heritage, protect our natural and scenic resources, and ensure space for recreation while allowing growth and development to occur in ways that maintain the character of our community.

ALTERNATIVE TEXT:

The Town of Conway wants to know what you think! The Conway Open Space Committee is working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to update Whately's Open Space and Recreation Plan—a tool through which Whately plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources. Once approved by the state, the plan also makes the community eligible for Department of Conservation Services grant funds for conservation and recreation projects for up to seven years.

Please take 10 minutes to fill out the survey below or online to help make sure the plan's recommendations reflect the needs of the community. Your response is an essential part of the Town's ongoing work to identify, prioritize, and develop projects that 1) meet the recreation needs of residents, 2) protect our natural, scenic, historic, and recreation resources, 3) plan future land use,

and 4) help make our community more resilient to a changing climate. Your participation is important!

Deadline: Wednesday, March 24th

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OPEN SPACE

Answers to the following questions will help us understand which open space places and functions are valued by the community.

1. Imagine the Town of Conway has received \$1 million from an anonymous donor to spend on open space projects. How would you recommend the Town allocate this money among these general categories, either for protection, access, or improvement? *Please enter percentages adding up to 100%. Enter numbers only - do not include the % symbol.*

Farmland

Drinking water quality and supply

Rivers, streams, floodplains and swamps

Scenic views, roads and ridges

Historic buildings, markers and monuments

Trails and wayfinding

Forests and wildlife habitat

2. Please tell us your three favorite outdoor places in Conway and why they are your favorite. *Include the place and why together in each box.*

1.

2.

3.

3. Over the past several years, the Town of Conway has helped to, among other things, renovate the Town ball field, preserve agricultural land, study and restore floodplain on the South River, permanently protect the Conway Swimming Pool land. Which of the following open space and recreation projects do you think the Town should prioritize in the future? *Please add your ideas to "Other". Choose up to three.*

- Develop a town-wide trail network
- Develop of an inter-town trail network
- Create signage and maps for public trails
- Improve public access to Deerfield River
- Adopt river corridor bylaws
- Continue South River flood mitigation work
- Protect farmland
- Develop pollinator corridors/habitat
- Protect forests for wildlife migration, biodiversity, and large blocks of contiguous forest
- Protect swamps
- Other (please specify):
- None of the above

4. Are there specific places in Conway that the community should improve, protect access to, or limit development from? *Please list up to three. Include the place and why together in each box.*

1.
2.
3.

5. What do you consider to be threats to the things you love most about Conway and what should the Town do in response?

Answers to the following questions will help us understand which recreation activities are the Conway community values.

6. Which of the following recreation activities do you and members of your household do in, or near, Conway?

| | What do you like to do in Conway? | What would you like to do more of in Conway? |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| ATV riding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Baseball and softball | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Boating (canoeing, kayaking, motor boating) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cycling (road biking) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Field team sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hiking or trail running | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Horseback riding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ice skating (hockey, figure) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Off-road biking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nature observation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Skateboarding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sledding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Snowmobiling | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tubing (river) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Road walking or running | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

7. Please tell us about up to three recreation programs or events (e.g. guided hikes, talks, youth programs, seasonal events) you would like to see provided in Conway. *Specify the target age group in the same box.*

1.

2.

3.

8. How often do you utilize the following open space and recreation resources **per year**? *If a resources was not included in this list, add it to "Other"*.

| | 10+ times/year | 1 - 9 times/year | Never | I don't know about this resource |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Grammar School fields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grammar School playground | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fournier Lot Forest (behind Grammar School) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Field fields (baseball, soccer) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Field courts (tennis, basketball) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South River Meadow | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bigelow Property (across from Howland Cemetery) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Farm Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conway Community Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conway State Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South River State Forest (Conway Station) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South River State Forest (west of Bardwells Ferry Road) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MassAudubon Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flagg Mountain Wildlife Management Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mount Esther Wildlife Management Area (Whately line) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deerfield River | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mahican-Mohawk Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South River swimming holes (excluding Conway Station) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public-access trails on private land | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

9. How do you perceive the quality of the following open space and recreation resources? *If a resource was not included in this list, add it to "Other".*

| | Good | Neutral | Poor | No opinion |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grammar School fields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grammar School playground | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fournier Lot Forest (behind Grammar School) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Field fields (baseball, soccer) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Field courts (tennis, basketball) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South River Meadow | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bigelow Property | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Farm Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conway Community Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conway State Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conway Station (South River State Forest) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MassAudubon Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flagg Mountain Wildlife Management Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mount Esther Wildlife Management Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deerfield River | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mahican-Mohawk Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local swimming areas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public-access trails on private land | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

10. Do you choose to not use any of the above recreation resources because of poor quality or inability to access them? *Please answer yes or no and explain.*

TRAILS

11. Are you interested in having the town explore the development of a multi-purpose trail network?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Other (please specify)

12. Are there particular routes or destination points that you would like to see connected by a trail?

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OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION INFORMATION

Answers to the following questions will help us understand how best to communicate about open space and recreation with the community.

13. Would you like more information made available on any of the following topics? *Please check all that apply.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle use | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing land for wildlife habitat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Good forest stewardship and forest cutting practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational programming for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Land conservation via conservation and agricultural preservation restrictions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational programming for adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Estate planning for conservation donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational programming for seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 61 Current Use Tax Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change vulnerability and resilience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Threats to and best practices for groundwater quality protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Septic betterment loan program | <input type="checkbox"/> South River flood resilience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive plant species management | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature-based solutions to stormwater management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting pollinators | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | |

- None of the above

14. How do you generally get your information about Town matters? *Select all that apply.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town website | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conway Currents | <input type="checkbox"/> Public committee meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Facebook pages | <input type="checkbox"/> Public events (speakers, forums) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other social media besides Conway Town Facebook pages | <input type="checkbox"/> Handouts available at school, Town Hall, Town Meeting, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

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DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Your answers to these questions will help us understand what preferences different populations (new or long-time residents, youth or seniors, etc.) have.

15. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18 to 24 years old
- 25 to 44 years old
- 45 to 64 years old
- 65+ years old

16. How many people in your household in each age group, including yourself?

Under 18 years old

18 to 24 years old

25 to 44 years old

45 to 64 years old

65+ years old

17. How many years have you lived in Conway?

- Less than 5 years
- 5 to 14 years
- 15+ years

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THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!

If you are interested consulting someone about a public trail easement on your land or if you are interested in volunteering for open space and recreation planning in Conway, please use this url to provide your contact info:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConwayContactCollector>