



Town of
Boxford
Massachusetts

Town of Boxford
Open Space and Recreation Plan
Survey Results

April 12, 2023

1. How important is it to you that the Town has acquired land in the past for:



2. How important is it to you that the Town continues to acquire land for:



3. How important is it to you that the Town provide:



4. What elements or characteristics, if any, within Boxford do you feel are important contributors to the Town's scenic/rural quality?



1. How important is it to you that the Town has acquired land in the past for:	Protecting groundwater/drinking water resources		Protecting wildlife habitat		Protecting forests		Protecting farmland		Active recreation (organized sports)		Passive recreation (hiking/birding/etc.)		Protecting the town's scenic/rural quality	
Very Important	329	80.24%	250	60.98%	248	60.49%	177	43.17%	106	25.85%	216	52.68%	241	58.78%
Important	66	16.10%	116	28.29%	120	29.27%	140	34.15%	123	30.00%	150	36.59%	95	23.17%
Less Important	10	2.44%	35	8.54%	34	8.29%	72	17.56%	128	31.22%	29	7.07%	50	12.20%
Not Important	4	0.98%	8	1.95%	6	1.46%	18	4.39%	50	12.20%	12	2.93%	20	4.88%
No Opinion	1	0.24%	1	0.24%	2	0.49%	3	0.73%	3	0.73%	3	0.73%	4	0.98%

2. How important is it to you that the Town continues to acquire land for:	Protecting groundwater/drinking water resources		Protecting wildlife habitat		Protecting forests		Protecting farmland		Active recreation (organized sports)		Passive recreation (hiking/birding/etc.)		Protecting the town's scenic/rural quality	
Very Important	305	74.39%	232	56.59%	237	57.80%	167	40.73%	83	20.24%	198	48.29%	222	54.15%
Important	78	19.02%	112	27.32%	110	26.83%	118	28.78%	117	28.54%	130	31.71%	104	25.37%
Less Important	10	2.44%	40	9.76%	41	10.00%	87	21.22%	116	28.29%	52	12.68%	46	11.22%
Not Important	17	4.15%	26	6.34%	22	5.37%	35	8.54%	91	22.20%	28	6.83%	34	8.29%
No Opinion	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	0.73%	3	0.73%	2	0.49%	4	0.98%

3. How important is it to you that the Town provide:	Parks and community gathering spaces		Paved bike paths		Bike lanes		Rail trail		Sidewalks in town centers		Sidewalks around schools		Sidewalks in neighborhoods		Community garden plots	
Very Important	148	36.10%	103	25.12%	86	20.98%	144	35.12%	91	22.20%	109	26.59%	64	15.61%	30	7.32%
Important	159	38.78%	78	19.02%	79	19.27%	148	36.10%	86	20.98%	131	31.95%	46	11.22%	83	20.24%
Less Important	76	18.54%	119	29.02%	126	30.73%	75	18.29%	103	25.12%	84	20.49%	106	25.85%	121	29.51%
Not Important	26	6.34%	107	26.10%	116	28.29%	40	9.76%	125	30.49%	79	19.27%	183	44.63%	166	40.49%
No Opinion	1	0.24%	3	0.73%	3	0.73%	3	0.73%	5	1.22%	7	1.71%	11	2.68%	10	2.44%

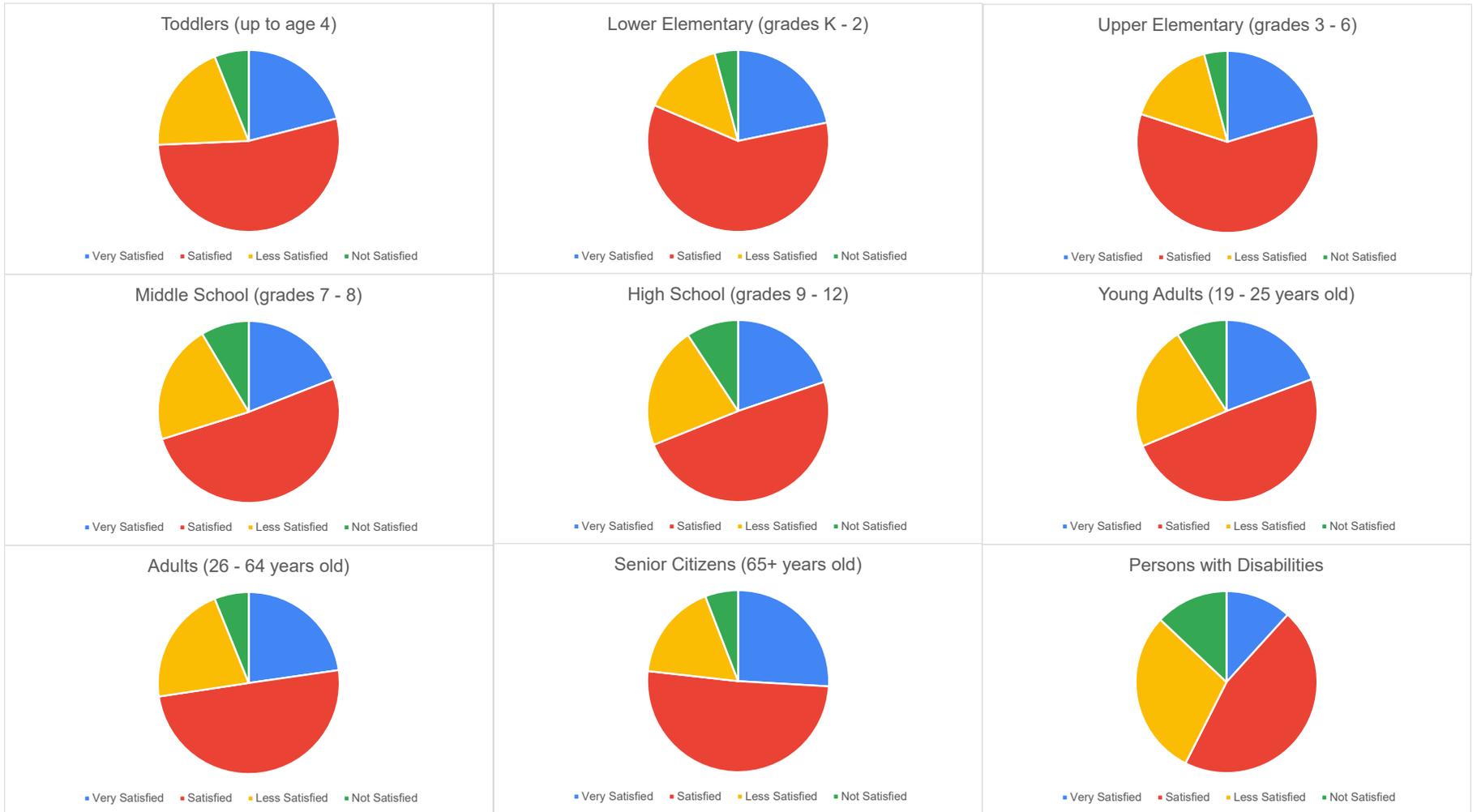
4. What elements or characteristics, if any, within Boxford do you feel are important contributors to the Town's scenic/rural quality?	Roadside trees		Open landscapes (fields, meadows, wetlands)		Forested landscapes		Lakes, rivers, and other water bodies		Rustic, natural stone walls		Historic districts		Farms		Narrow roadways		Space between neighbors		Civic buildings		Civic spaces (town green, parks)	
Very Important	178	43.41%	214	52.20%	224	54.63%	266	64.88%	194	47.32%	124	30.24%	141	34.39%	65	15.85%	215	52.44%	37	9.02%	92	22.44%
Important	155	37.80%	155	37.80%	139	33.90%	128	31.22%	143	34.88%	144	35.12%	164	40.00%	94	22.93%	126	30.73%	142	34.63%	184	44.88%
Less Important	58	14.15%	33	8.05%	41	10.00%	10	2.44%	59	14.39%	100	24.39%	79	19.27%	138	33.66%	43	10.49%	156	38.05%	97	23.66%
Not Important	16	3.90%	6	1.46%	3	0.73%	2	0.49%	12	2.93%	38	9.27%	23	5.61%	99	24.15%	23	5.61%	67	16.34%	36	8.78%
No Opinion	3	0.73%	2	0.49%	3	0.73%	4	0.98%	2	0.49%	4	0.98%	3	0.73%	14	3.41%	3	0.73%	8	1.95%	1	0.24%

5. Please identify the recreational activities which you or your family currently participate in or would like to participate in:

Please identify the recreational activities which you or your family currently participate in or would like to participate in:	Number of Responses	%
Birding	324	9.04%
Jogging	315	8.79%
Swimming	225	6.28%
Field Hockey	169	4.71%
Indoor Basketball	169	4.71%
Frisbee	168	4.69%
Tennis	152	4.24%
Canoeing/Kayaking/etc.	143	3.99%
Track and Field	139	3.88%
Ice Skating	137	3.82%
Sailing	136	3.79%
Fishing	132	3.68%
Cross Country Skiing	127	3.54%
Pickleball	126	3.51%
Outdoor Basketball	113	3.15%
Cross Country (running)	97	2.71%
Walking	95	2.65%
Mountain Biking	92	2.57%
Softball	88	2.45%
Golf	76	2.12%
Snow Shoeing	72	2.01%
Baseball	64	1.79%
Hunting	55	1.53%
Hiking	51	1.42%
Soccer	46	1.28%
Horseback Riding	45	1.26%
Lacrosse	37	1.03%
Frisbee Golf	31	0.86%
Cycling (road)	30	0.84%
Skateboarding	30	0.84%
Flag Football	24	0.67%
Football	23	0.64%
Playground	22	0.61%
Picnicking	22	0.61%
Ultimate Frisbee	10	0.28%

Others	Number of Responses	%
Dog Activities	6	0.17%
Meditating in the Woods	1	0.03%
Star Gazing	1	0.03%
Volleyball	1	0.03%
Yoga	1	0.03%
Pilates	1	0.03%
Tai Chi	1	0.03%
Drama Class	1	0.03%
Music Pavilion	1	0.03%
4-Wheeling	1	0.03%
Enjoying Wildlife	1	0.03%

6. How satisfied are you with the Town's number of recreational places for each of the age groups listed below:



7. How satisfied are you with the amenities available at the Town's recreational facilities (equipment, parking, shade, etc.) for each of the age groups listed below:



8. How satisfied are you with the condition of the Town's recreational fields and facilities for:



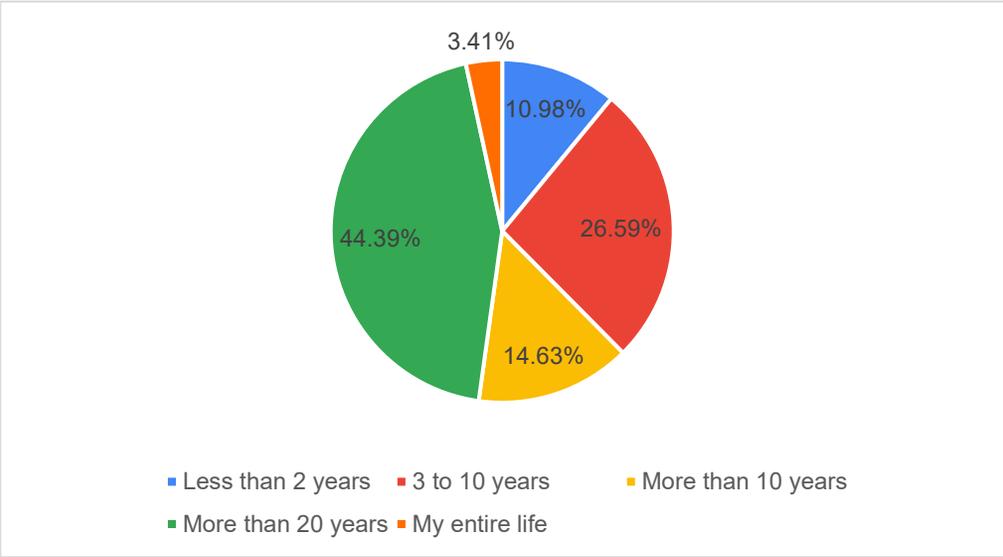
6. How satisfied are you with the Town's number of recreational places for each of the age groups listed below:	Toddlers (up to age 4)		Lower Elementary (grades K - 2)		Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 6)		Middle School (grades 7 - 8)		High School (grades 9 - 12)		Young Adults (19 - 25 years old)		Adults (26 - 64 years old)		Senior Citizens (65+ years old)		Persons with Disabilities	
	Very Satisfied	86	21.03%	89	21.76%	83	20.29%	78	19.07%	81	19.80%	79	19.32%	93	22.74%	106	25.92%	48
Satisfied	218	53.30%	244	59.66%	244	59.66%	209	51.10%	201	49.14%	202	49.39%	204	49.88%	208	50.86%	187	45.72%
Less Satisfied	80	19.56%	59	14.43%	65	15.89%	87	21.27%	89	21.76%	91	22.25%	87	21.27%	71	17.36%	121	29.58%
Not Satisfied	25	6.11%	17	4.16%	17	4.16%	35	8.56%	38	9.29%	37	9.05%	25	6.11%	24	5.87%	53	12.96%

7. How satisfied are you with the amenities available at the Town's recreational facilities (equipment, parking, shade, etc.) for each of the age groups listed below:	Toddlers (up to age 4)		Lower Elementary (grades K - 2)		Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 6)		Middle School (grades 7 - 8)		High School (grades 9 - 12)		Young Adults (19 - 25 years old)		Adults (26 - 64 years old)		Senior Citizens (65+ years old)		Persons with Disabilities	
	Very Satisfied	80	19.56%	79	19.32%	79	19.32%	74	18.09%	79	19.32%	80	19.56%	82	20.05%	91	22.25%	56
Satisfied	228	55.75%	241	58.92%	240	58.68%	229	55.99%	222	54.28%	217	53.06%	224	54.77%	220	53.79%	195	47.68%
Less Satisfied	73	17.85%	65	15.89%	67	16.38%	79	19.32%	77	18.83%	79	19.32%	81	19.80%	73	17.85%	114	27.87%
Not Satisfied	28	6.85%	24	5.87%	23	5.62%	27	6.60%	31	7.58%	33	8.07%	22	5.38%	25	6.11%	44	10.76%

9. How satisfied are you with the condition of the Town's recreational fields and facilities for:	Toddlers (up to age 4)		Lower Elementary (grades K - 2)		Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 6)		Middle School (grades 7 - 8)		High School (grades 9 - 12)		Young Adults (19 - 25 years old)		Adults (26 - 64 years old)		Senior Citizens (65+ years old)		Persons with Disabilities	
	Very Satisfied	85	20.78%	83	20.29%	86	21.03%	87	21.27%	92	22.49%	87	21.27%	86	21.03%	92	22.49%	59
Satisfied	225	55.01%	235	57.46%	220	53.79%	216	52.81%	219	53.55%	218	53.30%	222	54.28%	211	51.59%	199	48.66%
Less Satisfied	74	18.09%	67	16.38%	78	19.07%	76	18.58%	65	15.89%	74	18.09%	74	18.09%	81	19.80%	108	26.41%
Not Satisfied	25	6.11%	24	5.87%	25	6.11%	30	7.33%	33	8.07%	30	7.33%	27	6.60%	25	6.11%	43	10.51%

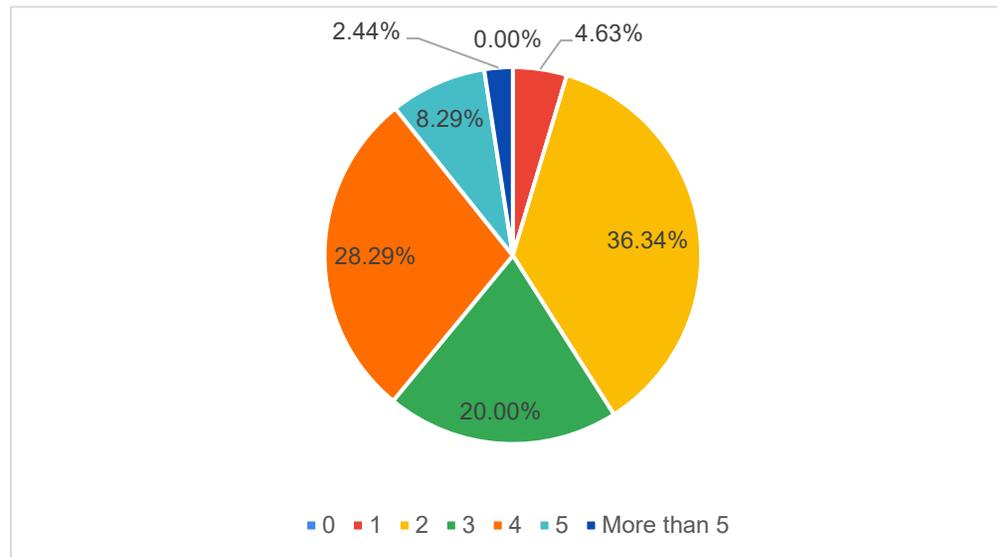
9. How many years have you lived in Boxford?

How many years have you lived in Boxford?	Number of Responses	%
Less than 2 years	45	10.98%
3 to 10 years	109	26.59%
More than 10 years	60	14.63%
More than 20 years	182	44.39%
My entire life	14	3.41%



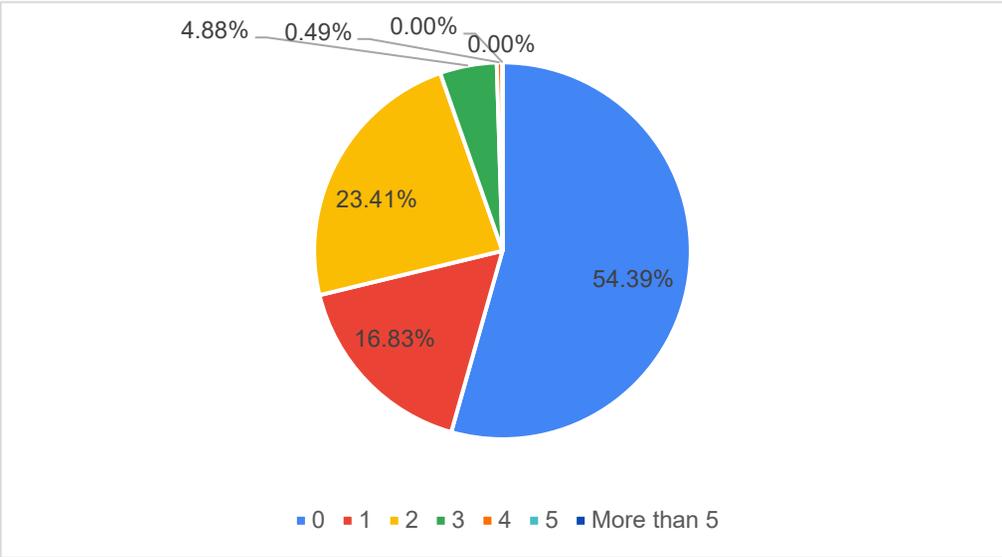
10. How many people reside in your household?

How many people reside in your household?	Number of Responses	%
0	0	0.00%
1	19	4.63%
2	149	36.34%
3	82	20.00%
4	116	28.29%
5	34	8.29%
More than 5	10	2.44%



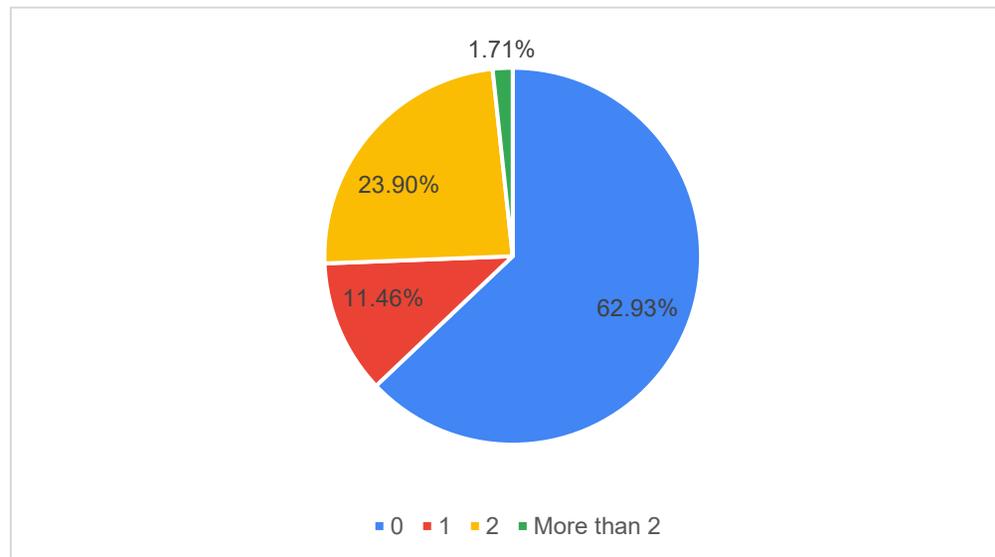
11. How many people in your household are children (18 or younger)?

How many people in your household are children (18 or younger)?	Number of Responses	%
0	223	54.39%
1	69	16.83%
2	96	23.41%
3	20	4.88%
4	2	0.49%
5	0	0.00%
More than 5	0	0.00%



12. How many people in your household are 65 or older?

How many people in your household are 65 or older?	Number of Responses	%
0	258	62.93%
1	47	11.46%
2	98	23.90%
More than 2	7	1.71%



13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

I feel like I have filled this same survey out several times. There is zero chance of significant sidewalks in Boxford. While "sports fields" are nice and important, I am very much against the idea of dugouts, snack bars, etc that just result in more things to maintain. Playgrounds are now extremely expensive to build due to the surface requirements etc, I guess I am more of a back to basics person, but an open field, a bat, a baseball and a couple of bases ought to be plenty. Morse field in West Boxford used to be fine for baseball, now the BAA thinks it is not good enough. The baseball field at Stiles pond is often wet. Maybe we should fix the fields we already have before listening to the BAA complain that they do not have enough baseball fields. Perhaps the kids involved with the sports and their parents ought to be involved with actually improving the fields.

There should be a "No Opinion" column for the Satisfaction questions. We are retired and no grandchildren, so how would we know what the facilities for Toddlers are?

Boxford roads do not lend themselves to safe walking or bike riding.

Strongly believe there should be a side walk on ONE side of MAJOR ROADWAYS only in Boxford. Currently, it is extremely dangerous for people of ALL AGES to walk/hike/run/etc on the major connecting roadways (Georgetown Rd, Ipswich Rd, Main St, Topsfield Rd, Herrick Rd, etc.). This would be the MOST BENEFICIAL and UNIVERSAL improvement the town could make.

I enjoy the walking trails in Boxford

Replace park at Johnson field. People get hurt there.

There really is not anything for kids to do in town. Nothing except the parks at school which they're at every day anyway. And boyscout park is not fun for older kids and always has bees. The fields for baseball are embarrassing. Put in some things for kids like indoor/outdoor basketball, an arcade room with snack bar, indoor bouncy house, sidewalks so kids can walk or ride a bike to their local food store in the centers to meet friends. I do enjoy the trails so kudos to BTA/BOLT!

Installing benches in trail areas and public recreation areas would be beneficials

A town swimming pool would be awesome for those who cannot put one at their house. Elementary soccer fields are terrible.

The fields and playground behind town hall are very sub par.

We would love to see more inclusive and accessible environments and experiences for children and individuals with disabilities. Our daughter has Down syndrome and we are always wanting to build an inclusive community for her.

I love this town and hope it stays just as it is.

Maintenance of any park, field, recreational area and garden area in town is problematic. Ongoing maintenance is poor to nonexistent.

I would like sidewalks and shoulders where sidewalks are not feasible. It's impossible to walk anywhere in town. You have to choose between potentially being hit by a car or being bitten by a tick while catching poison ivy.

If buying more land means higher taxes then it is the wrong thing to do. This behavior will drive the elderly that love and live in this town out of town. Has anyone though of reducing spending and therefore reduce taxes?

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Would love to see sidewalks/hike/bike trails connecting the elementary schools to their surrounding areas. Specifically Spofford to the Library/Town Hall and Cole to Boxford Common and East Boxford Center/10 Elm - especially if there will be future children's/youth programming there. Would also love more playground/rec choices and more links throughout town to the Topsfield hike/bike trail so our older kids can ride to Topsfield Center, Library, and the new Pump Track there. There seems to be some issues with the upkeep of the Boyscout Park playground. There is always SO MUCH trash on the playground and during the late fall/winter there is no trash can either. I try to take a trashbag when we go and collect, but it really is pretty gross. Some of the equipment is broken/worn and I'd love to see it updated/expanded while keeping the original character. And finally, I'd love to see something done about the playground behind the Police Station. It would be a lovely little area for a playground, more tennis/basketball/pickleball courts and maybe an outdoor concert/gathering space for the library and community to use as well. If this area is supposed to be a town center (as home to the town hall and library) let's make it look and act like one so that it becomes a place people actually want to spend time. Thanks for listening and for all the work you do for Boxford! :)

We don't need to destroy any more land. Plenty of spaces not used as it is. Where are the select board? Where is the oversight? Why isn't the town administration fighting to protect land? You aren't representing me.

Great idea getting a survey with demographics. Boxford is a great town to raise your kids, and I think, move away when empty nesters. Having 2 in college and 2 in high school, that's our plan. It been a great 13 years with plans of another 6-8 more! Thank you

Why can't DPW provide trash cans in all parks and trailheads in town? It's ridiculous that we're the only town around that encourages littering and pet waste left for animals choke on.

no experience to make a statement on seniors or the disabled so mark not satisfied. there was no option to say not applicable.

would like to see better use of open spaces for recreation and/or sports

. Wild spaces are a schoolroom for developing life long values of respect for nature and regard for others and oneself.

Tennis courts could be better maintained. Nets are in bad shape. Power wash periodically for safety.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

I feel it is very important to keep acquiring open space and forests, for all the obvious reasons, but also to try to mitigate against climate change. We are all on well water so are relying on clean, safe water, streams and brooks. We need to be protecting habitat and forests and encouraging a more climate friendly/healthy way of living in the suburbs.

If we are to develop housing it should be affordable housing, built in a "green" and sustainable way, not like the horrendous Willows Homes - which are only for the wealthy. We need to actually plan town projects. Now we have the disappointing COA buildings, which should have been done in an environmentally friendly way.

We should be only planning and repurposing our town buildings in "green and sustainable" ways.

We do not need any more ball fields - we need to take care of what we have.

Thank you VERY much for doing this survey and for all your hard work!

Perhaps no more ball fields.

would like to see a community garden

Parking at Boxford commons field is horrible. Johnson field playground should get a major update

We need a dedicated dog park!

Playgrounds need improvement and updating. Glad to finally see a new community center in process. Roads are dangerous to walk for adults and treacherous with children and pets. Fields have improved since our family was using them but more improvement is needed. Community activities would enhance community involvement and neighborly feeling. Better communication regarding townwide events would encourage broader participation. We love the rural feel but also want safety. Trees and roadways need to be maintained too. Way too much trash on side of roads...so unsightly and unnecessary. Animal waste on trails and roadside should be picked up. Pride in our community should be encouraged. Need a campaign to promote this.

The Elm St. project should be open soon. Let's see how it works out with the many spaces.

I have the same 'complaint' each time I attend an event or go to an area for a hike or use of the facility - we need to do better with more seating so that folks who want to sit and enjoy the area and watch or maybe are older and require rest stops have something to use. I also think we need to address more parking spaces at all local trail heads.

The recreational fields in town ie: the baseball and soccer fields need a lot of work and way more upkeep especially the overgrown weeds and grass. They are an embarrassment to the town. The playgrounds specifically Boy Scout always has overgrown weeds and a nasty bee problem that my kids don't even want to go near it in the summer. It's disappointing for such a beautiful town.

Too much focus on old ways and preservation. Town has to modernize, ie sidewalks and safe roads. The idea that narrow roads add to the rustic or forrest-y atmosphere is folly. Recreation is very nice..... Boxford Town Commons is an absolute gem, Masconomet should be able to use it for the girls soccer and field hockey teams MUCH more often. The improvements of the rail trail are also very exciting.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

The baseball fields in town and the park st Johnson field are a disgrace
Boxford is a beautiful forested quiet town which offers land and privacy between neighbors which is the reason we've been living here for over 20 years. I just hope you're not trying to turn this into a North Andover. For the people who want to transform Boxford, move to another town.
A renovation to the softball field and playground at the Town Hall is desperately needed. Also our little league fields at all levels are an embarrassment compared to other towns in the area
I do not favor any taxpayer monies being spent on recreational facilities, but would welcome those who wish to use such to pay fees to cover those expenses.
We live in a modern world mixing all ages with cars, bikes, and pedestrians. I would like to see a modern rural friendly approach that improves walk-ability/ bike-ability of Boxford in a safe way that is compatible with cars on the bigger thoroughfares. We have ample space to offer bike lanes and sidewalks as part of town right of ways, but it seems that preserving evolving definitions of rural beauty is winning out over utility.
Survey needs a 'no response' option for satisfaction by age group. Survey takers may not know what options are afforded to all age groups I marked Satisfied for all as I didn't have a reply.
Boxford is such a rare place so close to Boston. It is critical that we continue to preserve the rural character. If we don't we will lose what makes Boxford special forever and it will become just like any of the 100s of towns around the area.
Basketball court at 10 Elm
Boxford' s value has decreased and not kept up to other towns. Price per sq/ft is less than neighboring towns. Amenities, lack of community all contribute to this in my opinion. Folks move after their children graduate.
We need more spaces for organized activities that compare to neighboring towns. Thanks!
Keep boxford a quiet, rural town. Too many towns in Essex county are overdeveloping, and it is ruining the state, as well as the environment. Boxford must stay a rural town with minimal to no development
Baseball fields need a lot of work. Improperly graded, lots of tripping hazards in outfields, infields are rocky/gravelly (we are always envious of other fields in Middleton/Topsfield). Playground at Johnson need to be replaced. Turf field at Boxford Commons is great but parking is brutal.
More benches or log to sit and meditate

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

This plan must include recommendations and support for improving existing recreational sites before advocating for new sites. The Morse Field in West Boxford should be improved and dedicated to girls youth softball. The tennis court near the police station should be dedicated to tennis. Pickle-ball courts could be built behind the closed West Boxford library next to the gazebo and also at Colby Park, Boy Scout Park and at the new Council on Aging site. All these have existing parking areas. The men's softball fields should be improved. Can you imagine being a pitcher and go from one field to another and having the pitching The poor conditions at these fields are dangerous. It is not the fault of the understaffed DPW. The Recreation Committee and BAA should work together with DPW to develop an annual budget for maintenance and improvements of the ballfields, soccer field and work to get approval from the Finance Committee and Select Board. This should be a well thought out budget developed well in advance of the annual Town Meeting, not rushed and slapped together without building support.

Important to be able to ride a bike and walk in the town. Knew when I moved here that the roads were narrow and sidewalks limited however as long as the police monitor the speeds and traffic I am happy. The open space and freedom that the environment offers is why I moved to Boxford. If I wanted a more organized outdoor space I could move or would have chosen a different town.

Middle aged people and parents with small children who often stay close to home could benefit from programming and spaces for us. The new community center seems like a great opportunity to help with that.

Sidewalks would make our town much much safer.

Minimal activities/amenities for young parents,

I noticed that the latest bta/bolt map does not include all of the trail updates (sheffield rd to boxford commons & btc in boxford forest). An updated trail map would be much appreciated- especially for those newer to boxford. I always like a laid out trail run for a 5k,10k,halfmarathon with a few markers -- maybe an eagle scout project?

Thank you for conducting the survey

We don't use the playgrounds or playing fields besides the tennis courts and are not able to say if we are satisfied, but it appears necessary to answer in order to submit this survey. We enjoy the tennis courts by the police station. The high school courts are not as nice and a windscreen would be helpful there.

I feel the Town should continue to acquire and protect open space when possible. I also feel that existing recreational facilities such as Boy Scout park, around Town Hall, the COA area, Stiles Pond, the old West Boxford library, the new park near the West Boxford store, and at the schools, should be maintained and/or improved before building new facilities on undeveloped open space.

Don't need any more building projects

Stop buying land for no purpose other than open space. We have more than enough.

Pickleball courts would be amazing. And they are inexpensive to build

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

While the spaces between neighbors in most of the town and the rural atmosphere are critical, I do think we could find some room for small sections of somewhat denser more affordable housing, particularly along some main roads.

The town center on Georgetown Rd. needs a facelift

I would like more trails in Boxford that connect to rail trails in neighboring areas. I would also like more tennis courts. Pickle ball has crowded out a lot of the available court time.

Parks are not just about soccer fields. Build some tennis/pickleball courts, walking paths, etc.

A town stage or bandstand would be great, for performances of youth and local bands, speakers, holidays. Similar to what N Andover has in their green space.

We would love sidewalks in more areas, especially near schools and village centers (west Boxford village etc.)

Keep real estate taxes from rising low, thus no expensive projects and keep Town on a financially conservative base. Open space and water quality is very good currently, not an issue really. Keep private wells free. Focus on Boxford first, and limit influence activist outside organizations such as IRWA that want to tell Boxford residents how to live there lives. IRWAs agenda is control your private wells and take away your private property rights. Limit Boxford officials involvement with IRWA (conflicts of interest), put Boxford first. Keep Boxfords wells free (Boxford has enormous water resources and limited number of residents, well water usage a non-issue.). Keep 2 acre zoning.

Thank you for the survey. It's important to maintain the atmosphere of Boxford, however the constant and long term power outages have to end. If that means trimming more tress and getting aggressive then that need to happen

We need sidewalks on the main roads (i.e. Ipswich, Main) and more recreational fields.

You should have provided a list of town recreational facilities. I couldn't think of any for some of the age groups.

I have lived here my entire life (30 years old). I bought a home here as soon as I could after graduating through our school system. I am planning on raising my family here and staying a resident till I die. I have always enjoyed the trails for hiking and biking and have almost been killed on the paved roads for years now just walking my dog. I would love to see some widened roads with a walking lane or paved pedestrian lane on the main roads. I often find myself hiking around town through the trails and coming out to a main road miles away from where I began. It takes hours to hike back through to the beginning. It would be much safer to walk or bike a pedestrian lane on my travels back to my car or house. (At least for the main roads). Boxford is also a major cycling route between Beverly and Newburyport. We have had countless accidents and disputes involving motorists and cyclists, a pedestrian lane could minimize these issues. It's my understanding that the town already owns the space from pavement to rock wall on many main roads. A responsible city planner could design a pedestrian lane that seamlessly fits into our town without destroying the rural beauty. Hey maybe we would see even more people walking about and interacting with each other. I understand speeding cars are a constant issue but you can't control everyone in the world, you can however provide alternative and safer paths for people to travel.

We miss a gathering spot for middle and high schoolers to give them something to do on Friday/Saturday evenings (and I am not thinking about the library). My kids at 16 and 20 and that has been the most mentioned by them. There is nothing to do in Boxford for us!!

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Roads are extremely dangerous to step foot on. Sidewalks and ways to slow traffic are imperative. Wenham has done a good job of adding sidewalks to areas that are wooded and uneven with stone walls mixed in. Amenities around recreational fields are not existent and parking is less than satisfactory.

Boxford has between 1200 and 1600 licensed dogs each year. Leash laws and traffic hazards of walking on local roads makes it difficult for our canine pets to socialize with other dogs and get needed exercise. BOXFORD NEEDS A DOG PARK like many other towns in the area. L. J. Guilbault, 978-352-4174

Boy Scout park playground needs fix up. For example - baby swing straps (formerly there) now missing. Tight rope on ground. Several decorative plaques (pumpkins, leaves, etc) missing. Trash is also all around.

The playground by the dump needs to be repaired (very outdated swings, monkey bars, spinning wheel/merry go round). Boy Scout Park has the underlayers of the playground bottom coming up (big pieces of fabric sticking up from the ground). Paved bike paths and sidewalks would be safe and great for families! THANKS!

I like the town to be small, peaceful and rural.

This town doesn't care about conservation. Hell, you would regulate a fart if you had the chance. This is a BS question and you are only doing it because you are required to, not because you actually care about what your taxpayers have to say about it. You won't change jack squat. The conservation commission is ruining this town and the commission is not experienced in anything other than being Boxford lifers and Ross knows it; he used to be a respected environmental attorney; now he's just a puppet of petulant public nuisance. All you care about is wetlands and not the tax payers who cannot thrive because Ross found a puddle on their lawn or some West Boxford farmers and horsemen don't like you; you can't have a back deck or fence but they can walk their horses down your street and leave feces on your driveway. Or some old town corpse had an ax to grind against their neighbor; the town files are littered with the complaints of a set few bullies. And the turtles and beavers don't pay taxes; just saying. DO BETTER! The bylaws are poorly written and the leadership is subjective and have their own personal interests and the interest of their friends. Get some ethics, start there, then ask your survey questions, FIX YOUR BYLAWS!

Sidewalks would be amazing to be able to take a family walk without almost getting hit by a car

Boxford has purchased more than enough recreation fields/soccer parks recently. In addition, the boxford library is part of the Merrimack Valley consortium of libraries so we do not need to act as if it is the only library around for 200 miles.

Paving more roads!

Raised our kids in Boxford

I would much rather having an actual business in Boxford than another park/farm/etc. Every other town around here has businesses which offset taxes and help residents have some place to shop. Parking at Boxford Common SUCKS. And why are there no bleachers? Who designed that place?!?! Please don't put in bike lanes. We already have tiny windy roads. Cars won't be able to drive if we have more people on bikes in wider lanes.

Keep Boxford a quaint town!

Masconomet fields need serious investment

Playground at Johnson is a dump and dangerous.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Sidewalks down the major roads like main st would be good. Mailboxes on both sides of the streets.
New field across from Spofford were a good addition, though they screwed up some nice cc skiing trails with spring flooding
we moved to Boxford because of the school system and the rural feel of this town. We have used it for over 40 years. We have had animals - horses, goats, pigs, etc. We have utilized the town and school sports and been happy with what the town had to offer. People should learn more about where they are moving to and accept it for what it is and its benefits. There are many other towns in the area that have other things to offer.
Land conservation is my primary concern. Save the trees!
Please keep Boxford rural. Please no sidewalks street lights, no bike lanes. Keep it a small town and anyone who doesn't like it move plenty of room in Cambridge for you
While the idea of the Boxford Common is great, it is a disgrace; parking, bathrooms, stands, scoreboard, etc make it embarrassing to be a resident of an affluent town.
Too much is spent on sr center. I do not support any hunting.
Improving the bridle path in Lockwood and upkeep. We are one of 2 agricultural towns in Massachusetts. We should celebrate and embrace that. That is why we live here. Helping farms stay farms and not be developed.
More recreation and sidewalks in boxford would be great
No big developments, ruins the feel of the town. The best part of town is quiet streets and neighborhoods and minimal traffic. Large developments disrupt all of that.
The he questions that asked me to answer on my feelings about resources for age groups I do t have should have a button of na or that I am unable to answer- for example I have never used the rec fields so I cannot answer how well they work
Given the quality of recreational facilities, fields, parks, and parking availability in surrounding communities, Boxford is not on par. Boxford should be meeting or exceeding the quality of what's available compared to surrounding communities, but it is not. Parking is a constant issue, as well as field availability and quality.
It would be great to have access to an indoor 25 yd/meter swimming pool facility within 5 miles of the center of town. Either exclusively for Boxford or the Masco community of towns.
You should include a selection for "unknown" in the questionnaire. I can't speak to the situation for toddlers in Boxford since i don't have contact with them.
Boxford needs more open space that's visible from our roads, like it looked 100 years ago. The center of town could use a few more commercial buildings like a coffee shop, hardware store, grocer. Also, we should not let people divide our farmland. For example, the current small farm/home for sale on Main Street near the center. We have a fond of trails, which is awesome! We also need to get people to drive slower near our ponds. The roads near baldpate pond have so many crushed animals on them and people just drive too fast. Thanks for listening! :-)

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

The most important way to improve the rural nature of the town would be to put electrical wiring underground, particularly in the 2 village centers. The current overhead system, is unsightly and has forced most households to install inefficient and expensive individual generators, and has resulted in the need to remove many trees (recently along Georgetown Rd and parts of Herrick Rd.) the cost of which is passed onto consumers.

New plantings on town-owned land should be restricted to native species. That should apply to the electric company installations; e.g. at the junction of Pond St. and Ipswich Rd. and at the 10 Elm St. property.

I was very disappointed that Boxford built a beautiful new senior citizen center but played it cheap with the library which would have served people of all age groups. I guess this reflects the aging demographics of the town.

I like the rural nature of the roads but I don't think they're safe/conducive to recreation (anything other than motor vehicle traffic). I would like to see semi-paved paths to take the walkers/hikers/dogs/bikes OFF of the vehicular roadways. For example, Middleton road is a very dangerous road due to it's heavy use by cyclists and walkers. I would like to see pathways through/around Boxford State forest to give those folks alternatives to using vehicular spaces for non-vehicular uses. I'm sure the same can be said for many other town conserved areas. We have a TON of open space. Why isn't any of it conducive to getting from A to B so as to avoid the sidewalkless town roads? Ideally, one could traverse all of Boxford from East to West or North to South via rail trails, walking paths, etc without ever hitting vehicular roadways.

This survey was difficult to answer as I needed to answer N/A to many questions since our children are all grown and I do not have an opinion on spaces for younger people not should I because it does not matter to me.

No more artificial turf

We love Boxford and support any endeavors to continuously improve or preserve its history, wildlife, forests & trails, outdoor activities, family events and overall charm.

Keep Boxford the way it is. That's what enticed us to move here.

I appreciate all the forests for hiking and biking and am a road biker, but worried about the big groups of riders who ride parallel to one another and take up all the road, it is dangerous for them and auto drivers. I also think a comprehensive plan for recreation is necessary to benefit all the age groups in town as the equipment at places like Boy Scout and Johnson need repairs and replacement while some of the fields and parking lots and trails need some TLC as well. I recognize that it is a big undertaking and I appreciate you asking our opinions and wanting to do more for the citizens of Boxford. Thank you

Town Forest parking areas should have trash receptacles or at least "Do Not Litter" signs, and police patrols to discourage sex/drinking/marijuana usage. "No guns!" signs would be appreciated.

Boyscout park has so many bees. We can rarely go and stay because they are not removed or treated to keep them out. We have to go to other town playgrounds.

Boxford is full of natural beauty and we hope it stays that way and are happy to volunteer our time to help keep it so.

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Love Boxford! Lived here since 1996, raised my family here, who were very involved with sports. They have all grown and moved to NYC (go figure), but each time I visit, I am excited to be home. Boxford is truly my slice of paradise on earth. Thank you immensely to those who work in public service. My sincere gratitude to you. And, thank you to the townspeople who love Boxford and work hard to maintain its charm and integrity.

We need safe sidewalks and bike lanes to enjoy the beautiful nature in boxford without fear of getting hit by a car/truck. The trails could be better marked for new residents.

Mens softball fields are terrible. The men's softball league is very important in this town and these fields need to be better maintained

I love our rural community but I would also love to see more bike-able and walkable spaces in town. Thank you!

I would like to see an emphasis on using Native plants in our landscapes. Also, should have included an N/A or unknown as option.

Most Boxford residents greatly appreciate and enjoy the many natural areas we are lucky to have in town.

The rail trail is important, but it is not important that it be paved (there are important reasons that it not be).

We have enough playing fields, e.g. for middle and high school students and adults.

Please do not clear any more forested areas (especially no more clearing within areas of MA Estimated Habitat of Rare and Endangered Species or other environmentally sensitive areas) for playing fields. Any future playing fields should be constructed only in areas that currently are fields, without trees, and not within or next to environmentally sensitive areas.

Perhaps we need a designated area/paths where mountain bikes specifically are allowed. The devastation of trails and sensitive natural areas, including documented areas of endangered species, in Wildcat Conservation Area (including with created, unauthorized, heavily used "bike" trails) is truly heartbreaking and should not be allowed to continue.

Preserve, protect, restore...

Last year's (2022)drought was especially hard on everything and everyone living in Boxford, including its people. Lack of water, including lack of drinking water for humans, has severe consequences, including long-term detrimental consequences. Every proposal for development of open space for recreational purposes must include and require preservation of quantity and quality of water resources.

- Except where removal is necessary for creating a trail or because of clear danger, preserve the trees, which store significant amounts of water, absorb CO2, etc.,

- No irrigation (except as may be necessary for some agriculture),

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

We have much open space currently- maintenance is a must. With 2 acre + zoning we have naturally created self owned open space. Any walking and riding bikes on our roadways is unsafe. This limits the ability of any age group to get exercise or go to a destination safely without getting into a car. On another note, it's time our elected officials addressed the zoning in our 2 centers for small scale nonresidential zoning, to include housing for residents to enable them to sell their big homes and age in place in smaller units in their town. Clearly there is a demand! Controversial to many, but very much needed.

Leave west village alone. Get rid of artificial surfaces in playgrounds sport areas

Drama class and craft spaces :)

The town offers Very Very little for anyone!!! If you do not play group sports there is nothing. Buying historical hayfields was a joke and will be for years to come!!! Put money into a decent library and hire staff that actually runs activities for kids, young teens and teens. For our taxes we get NOTHING!!! It is just so sad. Few things for seniors but from 12 to 60 there is nothing if you do not play sports.

We need side walks! I want to walk/jog outside of my home without risk of getting hit by a car every time. I want my kids to have access to the roads as well. I always imagined them being able to walk and bike to their friends homes and school, but it's impossible because it is so dangerous in this town. I would also like to see the town remove the infestation of poison ivy we have in town. When we do risk our lives to go for a walk we have to walk in the road because the streets are lined with poison ivy. I am more than happy to help with this. But please, give us sidewalks.

I love boxford, the only thing that I would like to see more of is safer walking/biking areas in the neighborhoods. I'd like to be able to go for a run/walk without having to drive and not feel like I'm going to get hit by a car.

It would have been helpful to have an "Unsure" option" Very Satisfied-> Not Satisfied questions, since I think we are fairly unaware of what's available, other than the new project on Elm.

Keep Boxford wild

Some of my answers are based on what I remember from when my kids were young (youngest is now 25). Not sure of what changes or upgrades have been made to the fields, the parking, or availability. I still feel that there should be more offered in town for children such as an outdoor skating rink, a community ctr for pick up sports....

The questions regarding satisfaction with recreational fields & facilities for the different age groups should have a N/A answer option. I am neither satisfied nor dissatisfied for most of these, as no one in our household is a user of, or knowledgeable about, the recreational fields & facilities for most of the age groups listed. So my answers as being "satisfied" are mostly meaningless for these specific questions.

I don't think we need more ball fields just better maintenance of the ones we have(eg. Boxford Common field). A pickle all court would be great but shouldn't be near homes due to the noise. Bike lanes would be helpful for safety!

Investment into moving power lines underground! Also, it would be amazing to have more commercial areas in the town center for some small businesses like coffee shop, bakery etc

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

I raised my 3 children in Boxford and coached sports throughout their childhood. The condition of the fields, particularly in baseball, was terrible. This does not mean that new fields were needed, it means that the fields that we had needed to maintained.

Stop spending unnecessary money. Our taxes are too high for the services received

Hi, I have great hopes for the new Center at 10 Elm which is why I rated the Town's recreational facilities for Seniors as very satisfied. If they can add multigenerational and youth programming then I think the town will be on its way to providing for our younger generation. I feel we are always behind on providing services and recreational spaces for those with disabilities and we need to rebuild our playground at Boy Scout Park to be accessible! Lastly, sidewalks in the East Village make sense - to connect the school/fields to the new Center -- it will help Boxford become a safer healthier community.

We should not build new playgrounds/ courts/ballfields/parking lots until the ones we have can be well maintained.

There is little information about recreational opportunities in and around Boxford. The Town relies too much on BTA/BOLT and the BAA. At the very least let's get good, current, easily accessible information on the Town's web site.

Boxford has purchased enough open space. We need to create housing for residents to age in place. Take a look at surrounding towns and what they have in place - Boxford's Andrews Farm is a fraction of what we should be doing. We can build while maintaining Boxford's rural charm. The town also has to sink some cash into maintaining the buildings that we have. The west side of town could use a rehaul of the ball field at the old west library. Tear the building down and create a playground for all ages, next to the basketball court. Add a track for walking around the perimeter of the property for some safe exercise. The gazebo is there and would make a great gathering area for residents at that end of town. Put our cpa \$\$ to good use. Let's take care of our kids and the wellness of our adults (physical and mental) and create places on land we already own to draw folks outside. The key is utilizing the space the town already owns. We need to create more revenue to offset taxes, and taking land off our tax rolls is not the way to do it. Let's move forward and be progressive.... and generate some tax revenue.

Although we are over 65, we use all the toddler/preschool facilities for visiting grandkids!

Ackerman and Johnson parks are great but need updates!

Would like to see dedicated pickleball courts perhaps at Boxford Commons.

The woods, fields, farmland and trails are, for me, what makes Boxford special. I hope that efforts continue to protect the remaining unprotected open space and trails.

Our town NEEDS sidewalks. We can't walk safely along our beautiful windy roads. It's a shame and goes against the town's "rural living" commitments when our only option is to drive down the road to a neighbors'! I think cement sidewalks would not be pretty, but our town does such a beautiful job with maintaining our trails, what if we essentially built dirt walking trails on both sides of the roads, allowing people to be off the street when walking.

Town lands that I appreciate are conservation areas with hiking trails

How about a dog park?

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

<p>We are always enthusiastic about helping with continued trail maintenance and improvement. We live in the Stiles Pond area, and it would be great to develop some more trail connectors, for example between Wildcat and Lords Woods as well as Leonard Farm and Witch Hollow. There are existing easements and I'm sure enthusiastic landowners that might be willing to support an expansion of our beautiful trail network in town.</p>
<p>I know 0 about younger needs. Forced to answer all questions, I check them "Not Satisfied."</p>
<p>I am unable to comment on facilities for people with disabilities and young children, however the survey required a response. Please disregard.</p>
<p>Please create more parking at hiking spots throughout town. Or have the small lots cleared of snow in the winter.</p>
<p>Need more safe, updated playgrounds. Need a space for toddlers both indoors and out.</p>
<p>I understand there is a big push for more fields for team sports. As a long time resident, senior citizen, never with children, I feel I've supported enough playing fields in town. If any more are built it should be supported by "pay for play". We could use a playground for little kids in the West village. We could also use a park for picnics or a dog park (I don't have a dog). City type parks would also provide an area for residents with disabilities. We have enough trails and hiking paths. I will definitely vote against additional funds spent on fields and any more recreational expenditures in "East".</p>
<p>Would love to see more progress on the rail trail!! and information disseminated about any of this in a town newsletter of sorts...</p>
<p>I am concerned about the cost of open space.</p>
<p>We need to be wise in preserving land that will keep our rural qualities but also keep our tax rate at a reasonable level.</p>
<p>We need bike or walking lanes</p>
<p>Townpeople tend not to understand the resource value of trees and native plants for water quality and flow, and for all native species of birds and animals. A goal of educating the townspeople would be useful.</p>
<p>Traffic on streets is out of control and it is dangerous to walk or bike since there is no space except on street. Kelsey Rd should have no through traffic. It is very narrow and the bike trail and Kelsey Nursery are both there.</p>
<p>It doesn't seem like our athletic field locations are set up to have multigenerational use. It would be nice if our spaces had offerings for everyone. Our roads are busier and it's getting less safe to ride bikes or even walk on our roadways. Investment into spaces where everyone can remain active as they age would be beneficial to our entire community. It seems like we have a lot of focus on athletic fields for our youth, but not much to offer our older residents.</p>
<p>Boxford is a rare jewel of a town thanks to its rural, bucolic nature. Please, let's encourage more preservation, conservation and retention of the Town's natural qualities. Reducing development and expenses should be the primary goal.</p>
<p>Peace and quiet is very important!!</p>
<p>The playground at Johnson Field/Town Hall could use an update.</p>
<p>Boxford has several meeting centers (2 churches for example) and outdoor venues (trails etc.), available at present. The addition of the new "COMMUNITY CENTER" will greatly add to the list - IF people decide to take advantage of them. It is a wonderful Town, with many generous volunteers who give of our time, talent and treasure. I am pleased to live here!</p>

13. Please feel free to share any additional information or ideas below.

Be sure to retain roadways for safe bicycling (narrow and shaded with slow speed limited to keep 'cut through' drivers from using Boxford roads.) Do not cut down forests with hiking trails for ball fields.

Don't widen the roads to make it easier for people to cut through town.

The town NEEDS to stop buying property. There is no need to mortgage all of this land "in case" we may need it in the future. Because it "might be nice to have" is not a reason to go further into debt.

This survey is identified as a plan. However continuing to take out more bonds on land and projects may not be beneficial for the needs of the town when the projects such as the land purchased at Cole school for example sits unfinished and unused. The new community/senior center seems to cover many opportunities for the residents of our community.

The Kelsey Arboretum at 18 Kelsey Road can offer many opportunities for participation by families at all levels. Jr and Sr High School internships have been offered.