

Dudley 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dudley 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear residents, visitors, and business owners,

Please help the Town of Dudley update our Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) by participating in this important survey. This survey is being conducted to understand the needs and concerns of Dudley residents, visitors, and business owners regarding the Town's open space and recreation facilities. Your input will directly impact how the Town of Dudley will manage open space and recreation resources, and will inform future projects that the Town hopes to pursue.

If you are interested in open space and recreation opportunities in Dudley, please take a few minutes to answer the following survey questions. Responses for this survey will be anonymous and not attributed to individuals. Surveys must be completed by October 31, 2022. A public forum will be held in Winter 2023 to discuss potential open space and recreation improvements for the Town.

Sincerely,
The Dudley Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

With staff support from The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

For more information please contact:

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Dudley 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Open Space, Recreation, and Agriculture

1. How critical are the following open space and recreation issues in the Town of Dudley?
Please rank from least critical (1) to most critical (10):

	1 (Least Critical)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Most Critical)
Destruction of Town character.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disappearing wildlife habitat and forest land.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disappearing agricultural land.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degradation of water bodies and wetlands.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degradation of drinking water supplies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of adequate recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

2. Do you support Dudley protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned land for the following reasons:

	Yes	No	Neutral/No Opinion
To help preserve the Town's character and sense of place?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To protect habitat for the Town's wide diversity of flora and fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To preserve the water resources in Town (groundwater, wetlands, surface waters)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To reduce the effects of climate change?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To absorb storm water and reduce the effects of	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

flooding from extreme weather?

To provide facilities and programs for active recreation (sports, fields, courts, hunting and fishing programs, etc.)?

To provide areas for passive recreation (bird watching, walking, hiking, biking, etc.)?

To preserve unique scenic areas and vistas?

To preserve historic sites?

To control residential growth?

To link existing conservation land together to increase landscape connectivity, habitat space, and the ecological value of our open space?

To link existing trails together to increase and improve the walkability of the Town?

3. Do you support Dudley protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned water resources for the following reasons:

	Yes	No	Neutral/No Opinion
To protect habitat for the Town's wide diversity of flora and fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To remove invasive species to improve water quality and habitat?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To remove invasive species to improve aesthetics?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To absorb storm water and reduce the effects of flooding from extreme weather?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To provide areas for non-motorized boating (kayaking, canoeing, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To provide areas for a public beach and/or swimming?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To provide areas for fishing and/or wildlife viewing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. In order to preserve open spaces in Dudley, would you be willing to:

	Yes	No	No opinion or would need more information
Vote to allocate town funds to acquire or otherwise conserve open space?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support a requirement for all new residential developments to include conservation/open space areas?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Favor zoning that provides for increases in density in existing developed areas in exchange for open space in less developed or environmentally sensitive areas?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consider allowing an easement (i.e. public access or development restriction) on a portion of your property in order to add to existing open spaces or connect to open spaces (e.g. to access a hiking trail or extend a bike path)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you're interested in allowing an easement on your property, please leave your contact information.

5. Do you have any interest in volunteering to participate on a Town Board or assist a Town project that promotes the preservation of open space and/or recreation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide your name and email address if you would like to be contacted.

8. What do you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in Dudley? Please rank the following from least needed (1) to most needed (10):

	1 (Least Needed)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Most Needed)
Additional protected woodlands, meadows, or stream corridors to protect the diversity of flora and fauna	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation areas that serve as educational and research areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of agricultural land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water supply protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town common improvement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performance area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pollinator garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public access areas to water bodies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Are there any other unmet open space needs in Dudley that were not mentioned?

10. What do you consider to be the biggest unmet recreation needs in Dudley? Please rank the following from least needed (1) to most needed (2):

	1 (Least Needed)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Most Needed)
Multi-use recreational trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike lanes within the roadway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking and cross-country skiing trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds with handicap accessible equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Handicap accessible splash pad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic fields (e.g. soccer, baseball, football)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lighted artificial turf field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational opportunities for disabled persons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lacrosse fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frisbee golf course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motocross/ATV paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking track	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kayaks and/or canoes available for use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upkeep of parklands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Large park with many facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Are there any other unmet recreation needs in Dudley that were not mentioned?

12. What open space and recreation facilities do you enjoy most? Please select all that apply:

- Pierpont Meadow Sanctuary
- Slater Woods
- Shepard Hill Estates
- Ardlock Acres
- Quinebaug Rail Trail
- Tufts Branch Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
- Baker Pond
- Wieloch Woods

13. What Agricultural events would you be interested in?

- Educational
- Farmers Markets
- Soil Testing and Gardening
- Livestock Raising
- Beekeeping
- Other (please specify)

14. What type of Agriculture would you like to see more of in Dudley?

- Flowers and Vegetables
- Livestock
- Hemp
- Cannabis
- Dairy
- Honey
- Eggs/Poultry
- Other (please specify)

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Access and Utilization

15. How often do you go to a park or other open space in Dudley to...

	Daily or Weekly	Monthly	Never
Participate in or watch formal youth sports leagues?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in or watch formal adult sports leagues?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in an informal playgroup or pick up game?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attend a special event at a park?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Utilize public play area/playground?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Utilize hiking, biking, horse-back riding, or cross country ski trails?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit a park or other open space?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walk or jog on a sidewalk or public way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike on public streets or roadways?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scooter or skateboard on public streets or roadways?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boat or fish along a river, stream, pond, or other water resource area?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swim along a river, stream, pond, or other water resource area?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Is it important to be able to travel to open space and recreational destinations in Dudley by:

	Yes, it is important.	No, it is not important.	Neutral/No opinion
Walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Automobiles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there any areas in Town where installing or upgrading sidewalks would improve access to open space and recreation destinations? Please list the areas of Town and suggested improvements.

17. Are you satisfied with the QUANTITY of:

	Yes, I am satisfied.	No, I am not satisfied.	Neutral/No opinion
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for adults?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for teens?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for the aging adults?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing indoor recreational programs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing outdoor recreational facilities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing trails/other passive recreation opportunities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing sidewalks?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing parking facilities at Dudley's open spaces?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Are you satisfied with the QUALITY of:

	Yes, I am satisfied.	No, I am not satisfied.	Neutral/No opinion
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for adults?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for teens?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing recreational programs/opportunities for the aging adults?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing indoor recreational programs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing outdoor recreational facilities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing trails/other passive recreation opportunities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing sidewalks?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing parking facilities at Dudley's open spaces?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. What are your favorite open space and recreation destinations in Town? Please check all that apply.

- Shepherd Hill Regional High School (gymnasiums, soccer, football, baseball, softball, field hockey, tennis, basketball)
- Dudley Middle School (gymnasium, playground, soccer, baseball, softball)
- Dudley Soccer Association Fields
- Nichols College (volleyball, tennis, basketball, swimming pool, field hockey, lacrosse, baseball, soccer)
- Webster-Dudley Golf Club
- Dudley Sportsman's Club
- J.M. Crawford Veteran's Memorial Field
- Pine Street Park
- Eben Stevens Parks
- Skate Park
- Fun Zone
- Kid Zone/Mason Road School Playground
- Dudley Elementary School Playground
- Hiland Park/Slater Woods
- Keekamoochaug and Tufts Branch Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Pierpont Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
- Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail (Grand Trunk Trail)
- Quinebaug River Bikeway
- Wieloch Woods

Do you have any suggestions to improve these open space and recreation facilities?

20. Do you regularly travel to any nearby communities for open space and/or recreational opportunities? Please list community and the activity for which you travel there for.

21. Are there any additional comments, suggestions, or questions that you would like to provide?

22. How would you prefer to get information about open spaces and/or recreational opportunities and events in Dudley?

- School Community Bulletin or Listserve
- Email
- Public Bulletin Boards
- Town website
- Facebook
- Other social media (Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- Information from community groups or athletic leagues
- Flyers or signs around Town
- Word-of-mouth
- Local newspapers
- None of the above

Other

23. Would you like to be added to an Open Space and Recreation Plan email list? If yes, please provide your name and email address.

Name

Email

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Demographics

24. What is your age?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 18 | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 18-24 | <input type="radio"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="radio"/> 25-34 | <input type="radio"/> 75-84 |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 | <input type="radio"/> 85+ |
| <input type="radio"/> 45-54 | |

25. Do you have children under the age of 18 living with you?

- Yes
- No

26. What is your household size?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

27. Do you currently reside in Dudley?

- Yes
- No

If no, please specify what town/city you live in:

28. If you currently live in Dudley, how long have you lived here?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 - 3 years
- 4 - 6 years
- 7 - 9 years
- 10 - 20 years
- More than 20 years
- I do not live in Dudley and I have never lived there
- I used to live in Dudley, but I no longer live there

Dudley 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Thank you for your input! We greatly appreciate your involvement!

Sincerely,

The Dudley Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

With staff support from The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).