



# Newton's Open Space and Recreation Plan 2020-2027

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# Community Engagement

#178-20

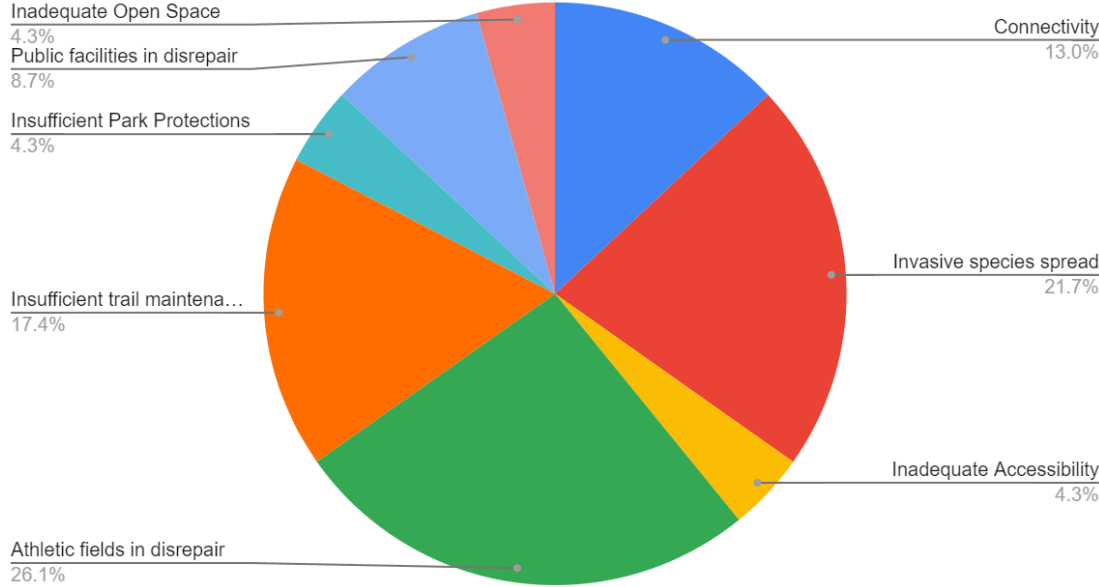


So far we have:

- Augmented the Plan to include issues of climate change, a trails database, and information on field use
- Worked closely with the City's OSRP Advisory Committee
- Worked closely with the Conway School of Landscape Design team
- Facilitated two community meetings, engaging roughly 75 attendees
- Engaged 1,360 residents through an online survey

# Community Meeting #1

## Problems Identified by Residents



## Problems & Examples Cited

- **Athletic Fields in Disrepair**
  - Albemarle Field
  - Warren Fields
- **Invasive Species**
  - Cold Spring Park
- **Insufficient Trail Maintenance**
  - Cold Spring Park
- **Connectivity**
- **Public Facilities in Disrepair**
- **Insufficient Park Protections**
  - Albemarle Field
- **Inadequate Accessibility**
- **Inadequate Open Space**

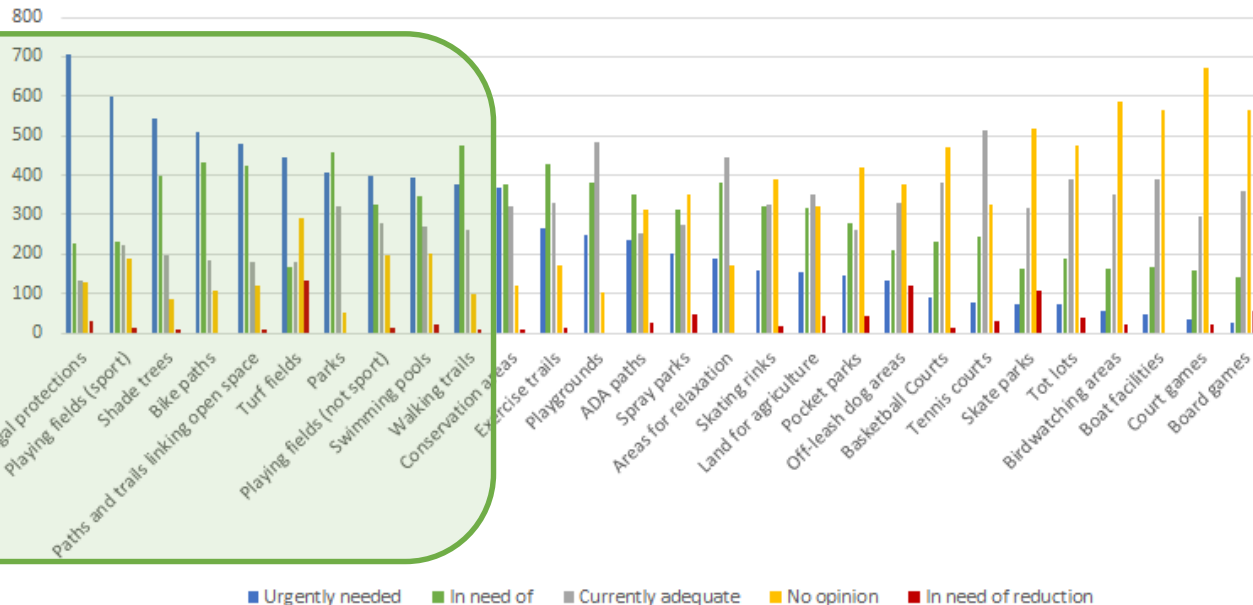


# On-line Survey Results

#178-20

Newton's open spaces are **heavily used, isolated, and in limited supply**, which is why residents have indicated that specific open space resources are urgently needed more than others. Meeting the growing demand for open spaces resources will require innovative ways to **maintain** and **steward** these places.

Please indicate the open space resources/facilities that you feel are urgently needed or should be expanded



## Top 10 Urgent Needs

1. Legal protections
2. Playing fields
3. Shade trees
4. Bike paths
5. Linkages
6. Turf fields
7. Parks
8. Playing fields
9. Swimming pools
10. Walking trails



# Proposed Goals

## Stewardship

Goal: Maintain and enhance parks and natural areas while balancing cost effectiveness with high quality design and best management practices.

## Connectivity

Goal: Link open spaces with accessible pedestrian trails and bike paths, while anticipating the needs of a growing and changing community.

## Protection

Goal: Protect and expand Newton's Open Space in a way that balances ecological value, climate resilience, and the community's need for equitable distribution and access.

## Equity and Access *(may be integrated into other goal sections)*

Goal: Equitable and universally designed access to quality green spaces and recreational facilities.

# Process / Timeline

#178-20

- 3.23.20 Conway School provides draft 1
- 3.23.20 ZAP holds introductory discussion & sets public hearing date
- 3.24.20 OSRP Committee meets to review draft 1
- 3.26.20 Staff returns initial comments to Conway School
- 4.30.20 Conway team provides draft 2; draft 2 given to ZAP; public comment period begins
- 5.8.20 Staff completes ADA section and gives to ZAP in Friday Packet
- 5.11.20 Public hearing at ZAP meeting
- 5.14.20 End of public comment period
- 5.29.20 Staff completes Public Comment section and share Final Draft with ZAP
- 5.30.20 Staff sends Final Draft to DCS-EOEEA, Mayor, and other required reviewers
- 6.8.20 ZAP votes on the Final Draft
- 6.15.20 City Council votes on acceptance of the Final Draft
- 6.16.20 Staff submits the Final Draft with all necessary letters of support to DCS-EOEEA