



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



#178-20

# Improvements to the 2014-2020 OSRP



- **More robust public engagement** – community survey, youth survey, 2 public working sessions, public comment period, and advisory committee
- Addresses **climate change**
- Updated comprehensive **inventory information**
- Adds a **trails** database
- Close **coordination with Parks, Rec. & Culture, Conservation, and the administration** to ensure buy-in/implementation



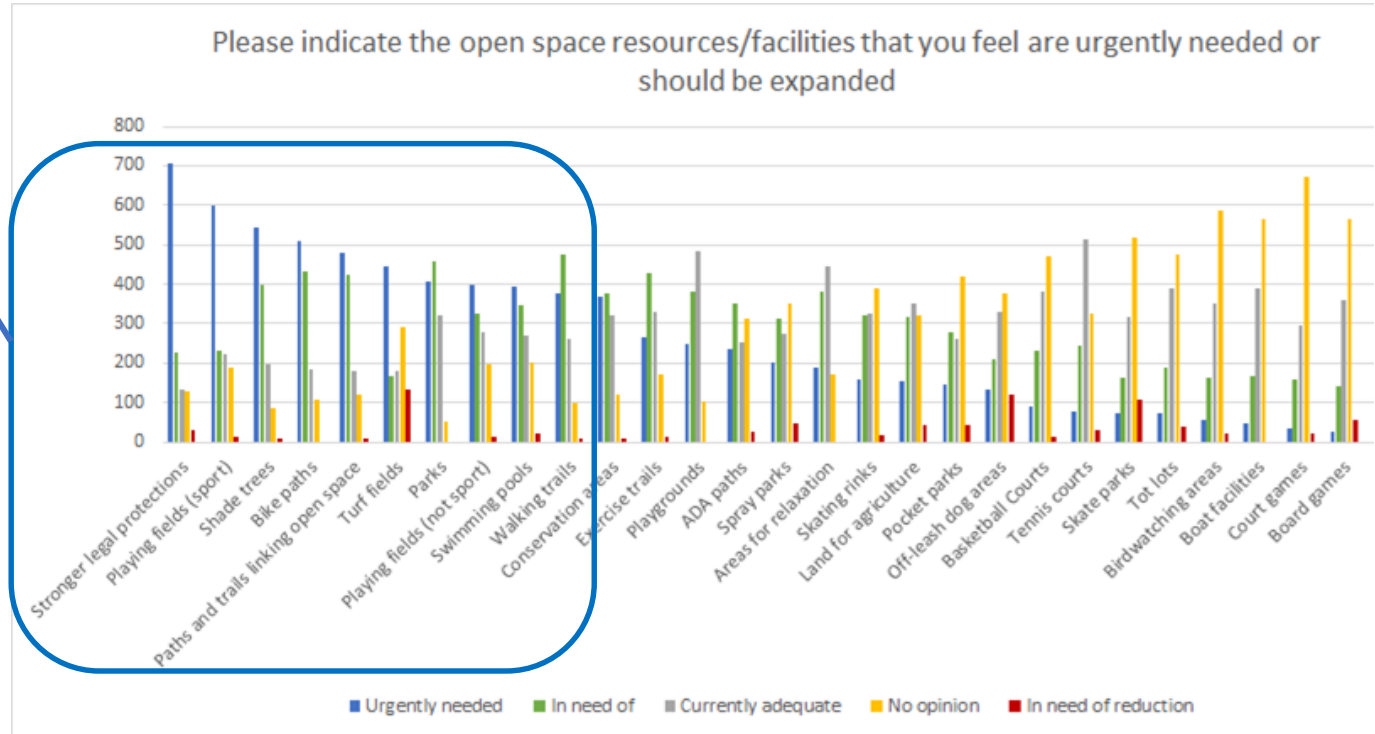
# Community Survey Results

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Newton's open spaces are **heavily used and in limited supply**. Meeting the growing demand for open space resources will require innovative ways to **maintain and improve** these places.

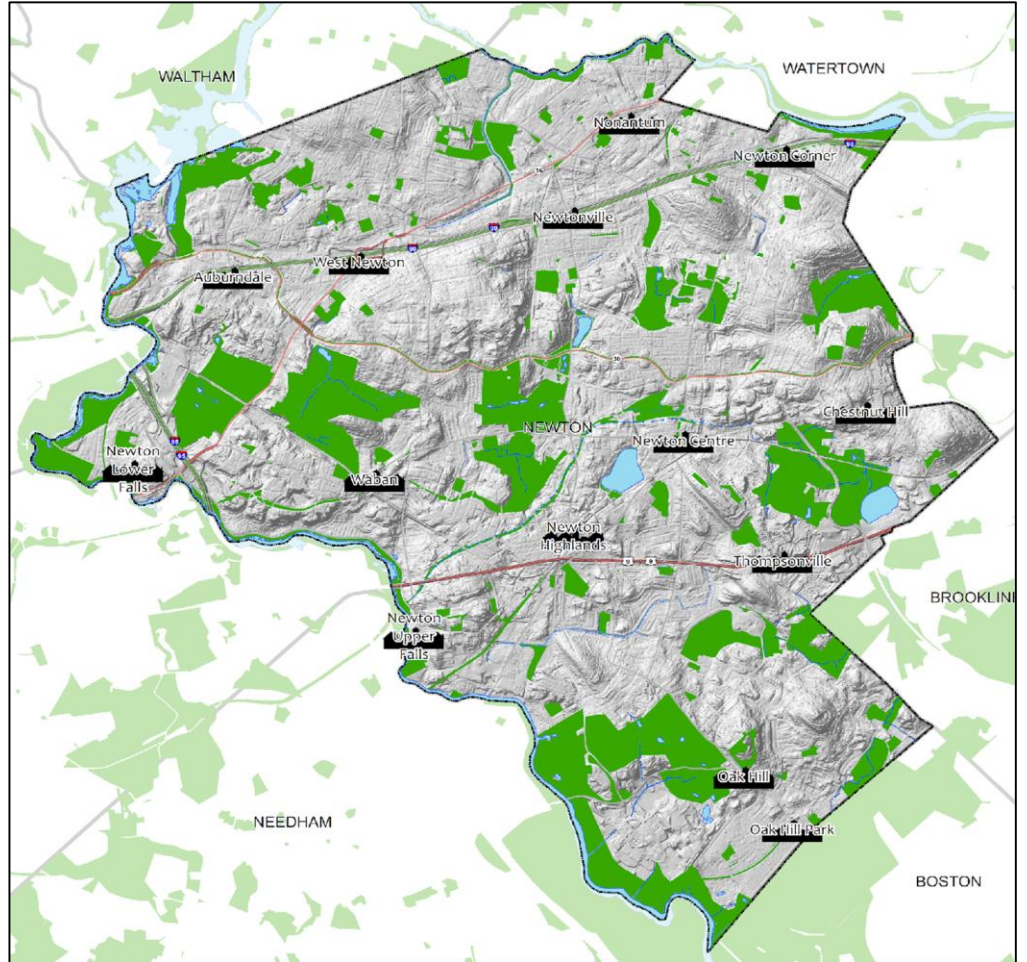
## Top 10 Needs

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



# Community Vision

The City of Newton will **steward, connect, and protect** its existing **open space resources** in a manner that ensures **accessibility** to all and **equitably distributed** spaces that support **ecological diversity, climate change resilience**, and a healthy, inclusive community.



# OSRP Goals

- 1. Implementation:** Coordinated planning and adequate funding for the management and maintenance of the City's open space resources through the establishment of an implementation committee to prioritize actions and gather community support.
- 2. Maintenance and Improvement:** Enhanced routine maintenance and capital improvement of the City's open space resources (e.g., fields and parks).
- 3. Accessibility:** Maximized accessibility of as many of Newton's Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Natural Open Spaces as feasible.
- 4. Minimized Gaps in the Availability of Open Space Resources:** New and improved open space resources in areas of greatest need (including, but not limited to Environmental Justice areas, urban heat islands, and areas lacking diversity in local open space resources).
- 5. Connectivity:** Linked open space resources with accessible paths, bike lanes, and trails.
- 6. Protection:** Protected and expanded open space resources.

# Implementation Objectives

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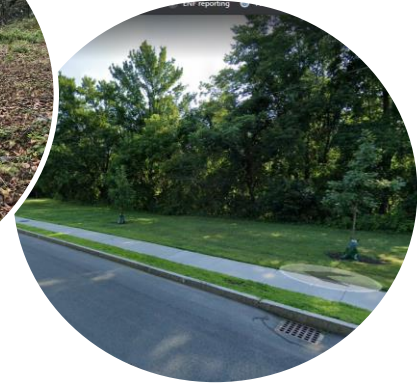
An **OSRP**  
**implementation management**  
**team**

Metrics, priorities, working groups, budgeting

# Maintenance and Improvement Objectives

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Comprehensive Outdoor Athletic Field  
Development & Operation Plan  
The Park District of Oak Park, IL



**A comprehensive City-wide plan to assess existing and future active recreational facilities.**

**Improved City parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities.**

**Improved trails, paths, and infrastructure (e.g., surfacing, bridges and boardwalks).**

**Natural areas with optimized ecological health and expanded passive recreation potential.**

**Increased street tree canopy coverage especially in vulnerable areas.**



# Accessibility Objectives

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Increased accessibility in the City's park land.



Increased accessibility in the City's conservation land.



Improved accessibility to the City's open space resources, including accessible parking.



# Minimized Gaps in the Availability of Open Space Resources - Objectives

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**Improved existing open space resources** where the need is greatest.



**Expanded and diversified park and playground assets** where the need is greatest.

# Connectivity Objectives

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Enhanced **bike network** that connects natural open spaces, parks, and schools, especially in less-served areas.

Safe walking routes to the City's schools.

New and/or enhanced trail/path connections to less-served parts of the City.

Expanded trail/path connections throughout the City that are consistent with regional plans.

Improved publicly available bike/pedestrian wayfinding and navigation measures.

# Protection Objectives

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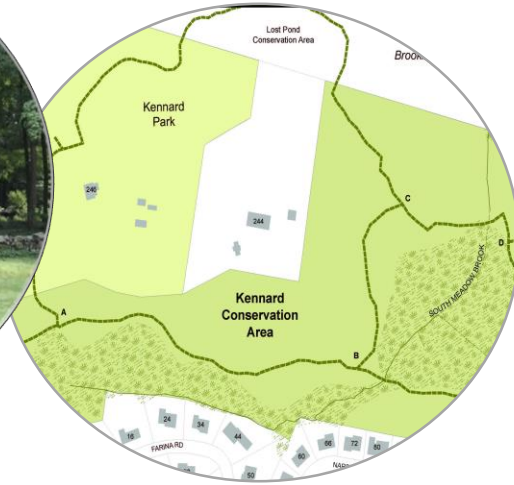
A strategy for addressing the potential of one of the City's golf courses being offered for sale.



Policies that ensure that new large developments create an appropriate scale and nature of public open space.



Communication with owners of key parcels with high ecological or recreational value.



Legal restrictions on priority/high-value Conservation and Parks land, where appropriate.



# Process / Timeline

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- 4/30/20 **Draft 1** **Public Comment opens**
- 5/7/20 **Draft 1** **ZAP/P&D public hearing**  
Seeking letter from P&D; support from ZAP to present to full Council
- 5/14/20 **Draft 1** **Public Comment ends**
- \_\_\_\_\_ -- **Staff incorporate comments** into Draft 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Draft 2** **Staff send Draft 2 to DCS, Mayor, and MAPC** for preliminary review
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Draft 2** **Staff solicit required letters of support** (P&D, Mayor, MAPC)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Draft 2** **Staff receive conditional approval from DCS** - Newton is grant eligible
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Draft 2** **City Council votes on adoption**
- \_\_\_\_\_ -- **Staff incorporate DCS comments and letters of support** into FINAL
- \_\_\_\_\_ **FINAL** **Staff send FINAL to DCS** for approval

