

Prepared By:



architects + engineers
practical approach. creative results.

Prepared Date:
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Community & Public Participation

Purpose

The Open Space Plan cannot be written, nor recommendations made without input from the people who live, work, and visit Andover. Without valuable public input, this document will not accurately represent the wants and needs of Andover residents. The Open Space Plan Team is working hard to obtain ideas, opinions, feedback, and concerns from the public throughout the year long Master Plan process using “high touch” to “high tech” approaches, ranging from traditional workshops to online engagement. This collaborative approach provides community insight on the future of Andover. The goal for the online survey is to engage and enhance community outreach communicated by individuals to foster inclusivity and diversity of community assets. The Open Space Plan aimed to evolve such public engagement to proactively develop strategies for future implementation and development.

Public Input

An Open Space Plan Subcommittee comprised of Leonia community leaders is helping to guide the Open Space Plan process. The Open Space Plan Subcommittee believed input from residents through an online public survey would benefit the outreach effort and help to supplement the feedback from the community workshop. The website for the survey was <https://publicinput.com/AndoverOpenSpace>.

H2M has previously used PublicInput.com to create a promote a public survey to great success. The questions used in the survey were developed by the consulting team with consultation from the Open Space Plan Sub-Committee and Andover Township Professionals. The Public Input site was published in September 2021 and promoted by the Township to reach as many residents as possible. The survey closed in November 2021.



The Andover Township Open Space Plan Public Survey Report

Public Survey Summary for the Open Space Plan PublicInput.com Site

Andover Open Space Plan

Welcome to the Andover Township Open Space Plan website. The Township is developing a new Open Space Plan in 2021 to shape the physical, environmental, and recreational future of the community. The updated Open Space Plan will provide a framework for enhancing the Township's quality of life through improvements to open space and recreational opportunities.

The process will take several months to complete, with a goal to have the plan complete in late 2021.

The Township will be hosting a Community Workshop for the Open Space Plan on Tuesday, October 26 at the Township building. More details can be found on the event flyer [here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!

Who We Are

The Open Space Plan is facilitated by a Steering Committee, comprised of various township representatives from Andover's Environmental Commission and Land Use Board.

- Paul Messerschmidt - Land Use Board Chairman
- Eric Olsen - Environmental Commission
- Suzanne Howell - Land Use Board
- Joshua Osowski - Environmental Commission Chairman
- Patricia Busow - Township Administrator

H2M Associates is assisting Andover Township in the development of the Open Space Plan.

Quick guide to using PublicInput.com

Creating an account - You have many choices when participating on the PublicInput.com page. You can choose to sign up with your existing Facebook, Twitter, or Google account, sign up with an email, or choose to participate anonymously.

Taking the survey - You can only take the survey once. Once you've selected an answer, the response is logged, but you can change it if you think a different response is more appropriate. However, once you hit the "Continue" button at the bottom of the page to move on to the next section, you will not be able to change your answer. The survey results will reflect any changes that you do make.

View results - Clicking on this function will display the question results based on everyone who has answered the question thus far.

The website was also used as a way to directly communicate with Township residents. The H2M team used the website to consistently update residents on future public workshops and gave results and provided general Open Space Plan information.

The Open Space Plan website generated significant traffic with 525 views through the end of 2021. There were 166 participants for the survey who generated 4,986 responses and 347 comments. The results of the survey responses will be discussed further based on the section of the survey where it was asked.

Survey Breakdown

This survey was broken down into different topics generally corresponding to various aspects of the Open Space Plan. These topics included **(1) Park Utilization, (2) Facility Improvements, and (3) Future Open Space**. These sections of the survey were created as tabs on the website. Each topic included about 7-9 questions depending on the section. These questions included open ended questions where residents were asked to comment, multiple choice questions where residents were asked to select one or multiple among many other types of questions, and interactive mapping questions.

A summary of the results is located in the following sections and a report of all of the questions can be found in the **Appendix** of this report.



The Andover Township Open Space Plan Public Survey Report

Public Survey Summary for the Open Space Plan PublicInput.com Site

1. Park Utilization

- Andover parks and recreation facilities were used frequently by survey respondents; 77% use a park or recreation facility in the Township 2 or more times per month, 31% go 2-3 times per month, 33% go 2-3 times per week, 8% go 4-5 times per week, and 6% go daily or almost daily.
- The most visited parks and facilities in Andover Township were Kittatinny Valley State Park (75%), Hillside Park (59%), and walking and biking trails (58%). The least visited facilities were Long Pond Middle School Fields (6%), Florence M. Burd Elementary School Fields (5%), and Andover Nursing Home Fields (0%).
- Survey respondents mostly drive to parks and recreation facilities (56% drive with others, 54% drive alone). 23% walk, 17% cycle, and none take public transportation.
- Walking/running (67%), hiking (54%), and relaxation (44%) were the top reasons that respondents go to a park in Andover. Other popular reasons were nature watching (36%), bicycling (30%), playground/swings (27%), and sports (22%).

2. Facility Improvements

- While respondents said that the Township should prioritize walking/hiking trails and natural areas/nature parks (70% and 59%, respectively), 55% said they would like to see more walking/hiking trails in the township and 50% said they would like to see more natural areas/nature parks.
- Other facilities that respondents wanted to see more of were dog park (30%), paved bike trails (27%), community garden (22%), and neighborhood playgrounds (21%). The least popular options were tennis/pickleball courts (14%), viewing platforms (11%), and outdoor basketball courts (2%).
- The survey asked respondents to identify three top priorities for facilities improvements. There was strong agreement that the Township should prioritize upgrading park restrooms; 77% of survey respondents said restrooms should be prioritized. Other top priorities were benches (59%), wayfinding/interpretive signage (29%), tables (27%), and exercise stations (25%).
- Respondents were asked to indicate the condition of the parks' facilities. Kittatinny Valley State Park's facilities were considered to be in the best condition, while Lake Iliff Access's facilities were said to be in the worst condition.



The Andover Township Open Space Plan Public Survey Report Public Survey Summary for the Open Space Plan PublicInput.com Site

3. Future Open Space

- When asked whether Andover Township should take additional actions to maintain/build recreational areas 73% responded yes, 16% responded not sure, and 11% responded no.
- Out of several options for the renovation or rebuilding of the Barn at Hillside Park, most respondents said the best option was to renovate the existing building (66%), while the least popular option was to tear it down and move the municipal office to the Barn (4% said this was best).
- Environmental protection was considered to be an important goal for the Township by nearly all respondents (90% agreed).
- Respondents said that the township should prioritize preservation to create greenway linkages (49%), protect habitat (44%), for resource-based recreation (hiking, hunting, fishing) (44%), and to protect water resources (39%).



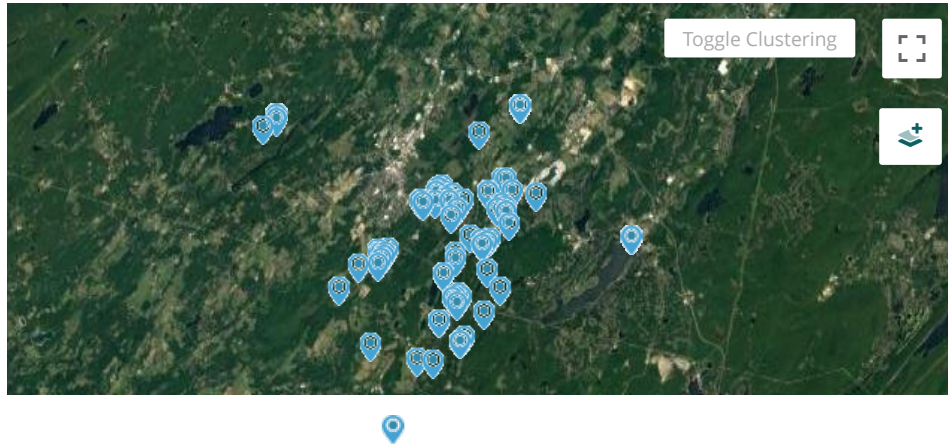
APPENDIX

Andover Open Space Plan

Project Engagement

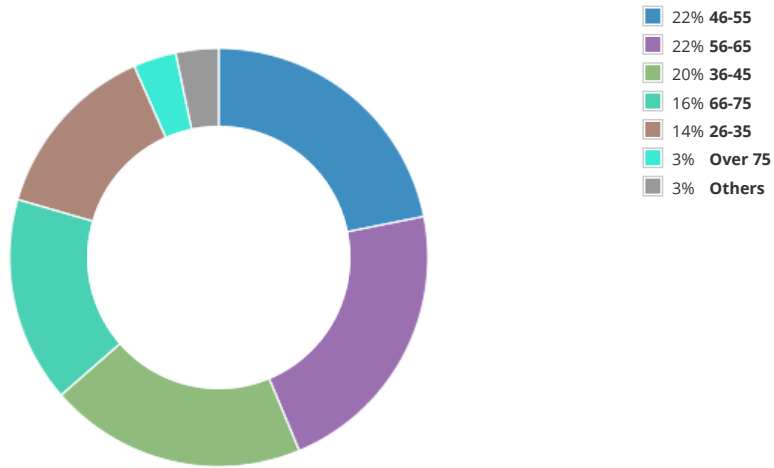
VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
525	166	4,986	347

Where do you live?



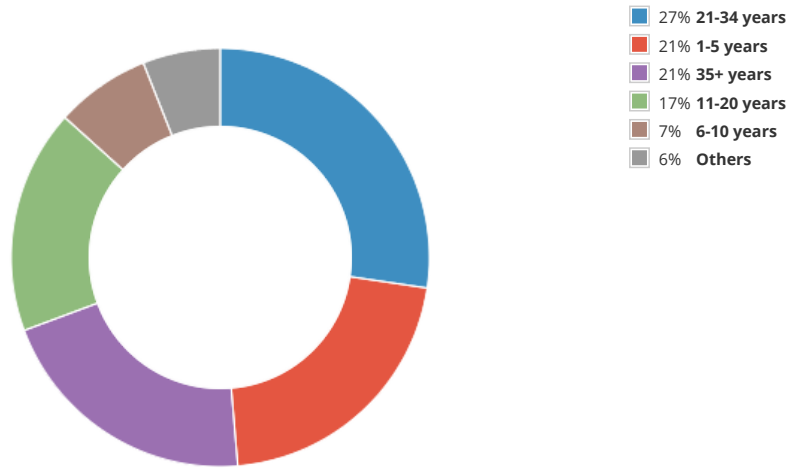
Imagery ©2022 TerraMetrics

What is your age?



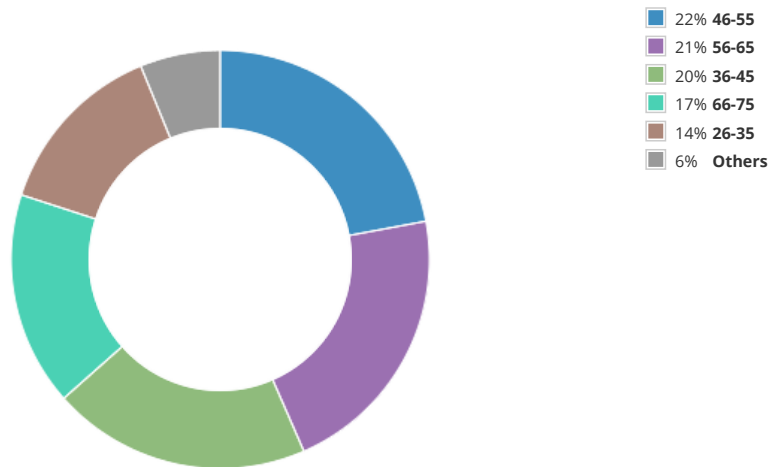
151 respondents

How long have you lived in Andover?



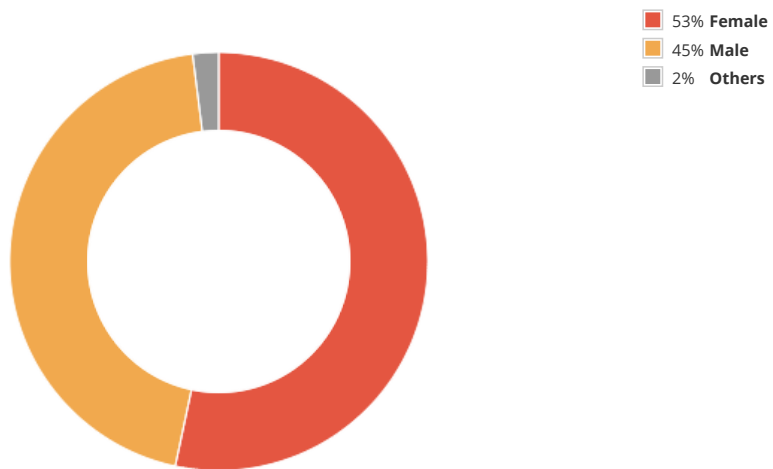
150 respondents

What is your age?



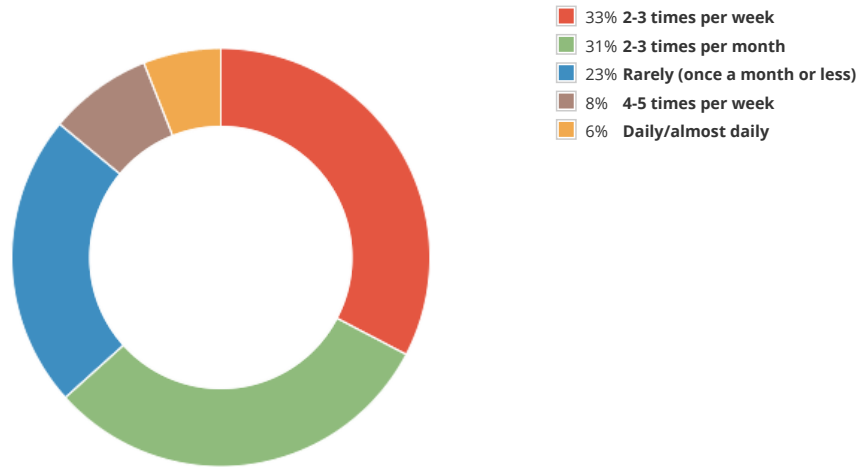
145 respondents

What is your gender?



150 respondents

How often do you go to a park or recreation facility in Andover Township?



150 respondents

If you rarely visit a park or recreation facility in Andover Township, what are the reasons why? (Select all that apply)

46%	Too busy	37 ✓
30%	The parks do not have the kind of facilities I want	24 ✓
17%	Other	14 ✓
15%	There is no convenient park where I live	12 ✓
9%	The parks are not in good condition or feel unsafe	7 ✓
4%	The parks are difficult to get to	3 ✓

81 Respondents

Which park or facility do you typically visit? (Select all that apply)

75%	Kittatinny Valley State Park	106 ✓
59%	Hillside Park	84 ✓
58%	Walking & Biking Trails	83 ✓
10%	Bodhi Monastery Fields	14 ✓
8%	Other	11 ✓
6%	Long Pond Middle School Fields	9 ✓
5%	Florence F. Burd Elementary School Fields	7 ✓
0%	Andover Nursing Home Fields	0 ✓

142 Respondents

How do you typically get to Andover's parks and recreation facilities? (Select all that apply)

56%	Drive with others	81 ✓
54%	Drive alone	79 ✓
23%	Walk	33 ✓
17%	Cycle	24 ✓
0%	Public Transportation	0 ✓
0%	Other	0 ✓

145 Respondents

Please rank your top three reasons why you go to a park in Andover.

67%	Walking/running	Rank: 1.68	91 ✓
54%	Hiking	Rank: 2.12	73 ✓
22%	Sports (basketball, tennis, baseball, softball, etc.)	Rank: 2.23	30 ✓
27%	Playground/swings	Rank: 2.57	37 ✓
30%	Bicycling	Rank: 2.71	41 ✓
36%	Nature watching	Rank: 2.94	48 ✓
44%	Relaxation	Rank: 3.14	59 ✓
13%	Other	Rank: 4.35	17 ✓
12%	Picnicking	Rank: 4.63	16 ✓
10%	Identifying wild plants	Rank: 5.79	14 ✓

135 Respondents

What facilities (playgrounds, etc.) would you like to see more of in Andover Township?

55%	Walking and hiking trails	77 ✓
50%	Natural areas/nature parks	69 ✓
30%	Dog park	42 ✓
27%	Paved bike trails	37 ✓
22%	Community garden	31 ✓
21%	Neighborhood playgrounds	29 ✓
19%	Picnic shelters/picnic areas	27 ✓
18%	Athletic fields (soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	25 ✓
17%	Boat launches	23 ✓
16%	Boardwalks	22 ✓
14%	Tennis/pickleball courts	19 ✓
11%	Viewing platforms	15 ✓
6%	Other	8 ✓
2%	Outdoor basketball courts	3 ✓

139 Respondents

Please rank the top three facilities that the Township should prioritize.

59%	Natural areas/nature parks	Rank: 1.96	74 ✓
70%	Walking and hiking trails	Rank: 2.16	88 ✓
25%	Dog park	Rank: 2.25	32 ✓
29%	Paved bike trails	Rank: 2.50	36 ✓
29%	Neighborhood playgrounds	Rank: 2.70	37 ✓
21%	Athletic fields (soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	Rank: 2.92	26 ✓
21%	Picnic shelters/picnic areas	Rank: 3.35	26 ✓
21%	Community garden	Rank: 3.35	26 ✓
9%	Other	Rank: 3.36	11 ✓
13%	Tennis/pickleball courts	Rank: 4.38	16 ✓
10%	Boardwalks	Rank: 4.42	12 ✓
14%	Boat launches	Rank: 4.89	18 ✓
9%	Viewing platforms	Rank: 5.18	11 ✓
8%	Outdoor basketball courts	Rank: 6.60	10 ✓

126 Respondents

What upgrades would you like to see at the parks?

68%	Restrooms	90 ✓
50%	Benches	66 ✓
28%	Tables	37 ✓
23%	Exercise stations	31 ✓
23%	Wayfinding/interpretive signage	31 ✓
14%	Electric vehicle charging stations	18 ✓
14%	Bike racks	18 ✓
13%	Other	17 ✓
8%	Additional parking areas	11 ✓
6%	Increased handicap accessibility	8 ✓

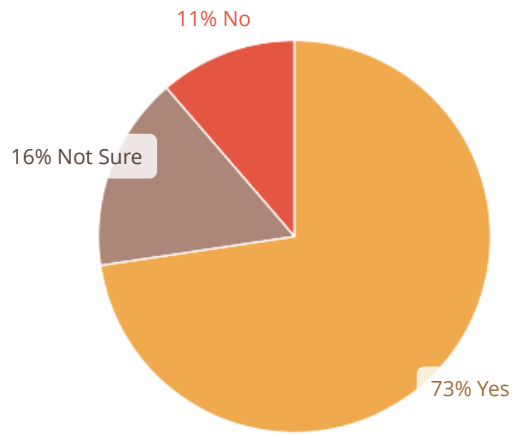
133 Respondents

Please rank the top three upgrades that the Township should prioritize.

77%	Restrooms	Rank: 1.29	89 ✓
29%	Wayfinding/interpretive signage	Rank: 2.21	34 ✓
59%	Benches	Rank: 2.22	69 ✓
10%	Other	Rank: 2.50	12 ✓
15%	Electric vehicle charging stations	Rank: 2.82	17 ✓
27%	Tables	Rank: 2.87	31 ✓
25%	Exercise stations	Rank: 2.93	29 ✓
19%	Increased handicap accessibility	Rank: 3.09	22 ✓
16%	Additional parking areas	Rank: 3.42	19 ✓
17%	Bike racks	Rank: 3.85	20 ✓

116 Respondents

Should Andover Township take additional actions to maintain/build recreational areas?



106 respondents

Please indicate the condition of the following facilities:

	Extremely good	Somewhat good	Neither good nor bad	Somewhat bad	Extremely bad
Hillside Park	31% Extremely good	53% Somewhat good	8% Neither good nor bad	7% Somewhat bad	1% Extremely bad
Lake Iliff Access	13% Extremely good	25% Somewhat good	36% Neither good nor bad	19% Somewhat bad	7% Extremely bad
Lake Iliff Trail	29% Extremely good	51% Somewhat good	19% Neither good nor bad	1% Somewhat bad	- Extremely bad
Goodale Park (Soccer Fields)	17% Extremely good	43% Somewhat good	32% Neither good nor bad	6% Somewhat bad	3% Extremely bad
Kittatinny Valley State Park	50% Extremely good	41% Somewhat good	8% Neither good nor bad	1% Somewhat bad	- Extremely bad

105 respondents

Also, there needs to be a link to connect the bike trails that are on east side of lake Aeroflex and the opposite side across the airport runway. Years ago you were able to walk across. Now it is gated.

4 months ago

[9 Agree](#)

A few benches on Lake Iliff Trail would be a nice addition.

4 months ago

[8 Agree](#)

The trails along Limecrest should be connected so you don't have to go onto the street

3 months ago

[3 Agree](#)

Bathroom amenities at Kittatinny would be nice!

3 months ago

[3 Agree](#)

Resting benches along the trails would allow people with limited mobility the opportunity to enjoy them more. It would also enable visitors to relax and enjoy the beautiful setting.

3 months ago

[2 Agree](#)

Occasional benches along main trails like Lk Iliff especially for seniors maybe every 1/2 mile . I made a bench & placed it under bridge N /S road. There is no seating along all trails . Maybe a school woods hop could supply. Heavy so not stolen..

3 months ago

[2 Agree](#)

The back 7v7 field and Goodale park is completely unusable

3 months ago

[1 Agree](#)

KVSP is the only one I frequent regularly. It's beautiful, but could use some better maintenance and attention paid to invasive species taking over. The Sussex Branch Trail is also great, but overall it needs regular maintenance work along the entire trail.

3 months ago

1 Agree

Parking limited in some areas.

3 months ago

1 Agree

Not enough parking at Goodale Park Soccer fields

4 months ago

1 Agree

Kittatinny Valley State Park has a great underutilized trail system, since most seem to stick to the paved loop or rail trails. Restored pedestrian access across the airport runway would be great for additional access to the trails.

2 months ago

They all are not perfect and need work. Clearing of trails from debris, downed trees, flooded areas, etc.. Does Andover have a Park and/or Trail Committee of volunteers that can meet monthly or seasonally to caretake our own township properties and work with and in conjunction with the state properties. There is always so much trash along Limecrest and other roads and areas. Who is responsible to cleaning this up?

3 months ago

KVSP is in Andover but owned by the state therefore it should not be considered in this question

3 months ago

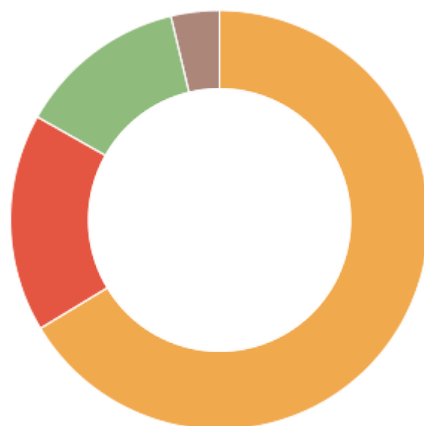
I dont go to Goodale Field

3 months ago

Conditions ok in Hillside. lake Iliff could use some work.

3 months ago

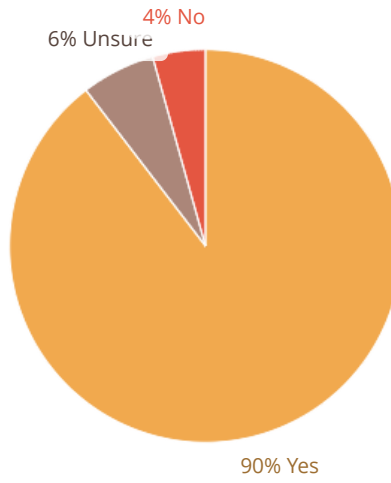
The Township is considering renovating or rebuilding the Barn at Hillside Park. Please choose one of the following options that you think is the best option.



- 66% **Renovate the existing building, i.e. replacing the roof, etc.**
- 17% **Tear down and build a new structure with a similar recreational use.**
- 13% **None of the above.**
- 4% **Tear down and move the municipal office to the barn.**

107 respondents

Do you believe that environmental protection is an important goal for the Township of Andover? Why or why not?



115 respondents

Please rank your top three choices for how the Township should prioritize the preservation of land.

49%	Preservation of land to create greenway linkages to recreation areas, trails, natural areas and local neighborhoods	Rank: 2.27	49 ✓
44%	Preservation of land to protect wildlife corridors and habitat	Rank: 2.30	44 ✓
44%	Preservation of land for resource-based recreation (hiking, hunting, fishing)	Rank: 2.36	44 ✓
39%	Preservation of land for the protection of ground water, including drinking water resources	Rank: 2.59	39 ✓
3%	Other	Rank: 2.67	3 ✓
34%	Preservation of land to preserve the rural quality of life in the Township	Rank: 2.76	34 ✓
21%	Preservation of land for protection of, or access to, surface water (streams, lakes, wetlands)	Rank: 3.00	21 ✓
33%	Preservation of land for active recreation areas (playing fields, playgrounds, etc.)	Rank: 3.18	33 ✓
15%	Preservation of farmland to preserve tillable land and prime agricultural soils	Rank: 3.40	15 ✓
20%	Preservation of the largest tracts of land which are most susceptible to development	Rank: 3.85	20 ✓
15%	Preservation of land with historical value	Rank: 3.87	15 ✓
7%	Preservation of the most affordable land (parcels that cost the least to the Township)	Rank: 6.14	7 ✓

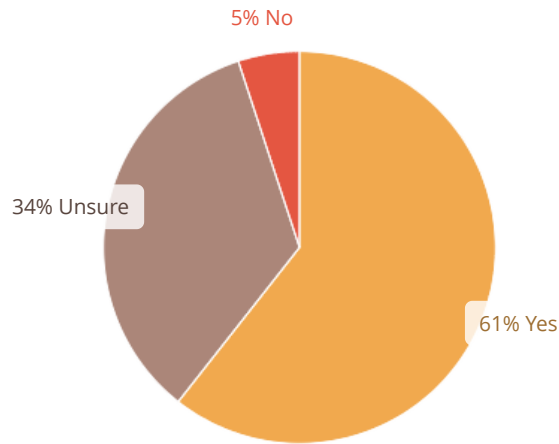
100 Respondents

What environmental resources within Andover Township do you value most highly?

71%	Lakes	Rank: 2.00	65 ✓
77%	Forests	Rank: 2.20	71 ✓
57%	Drinking water	Rank: 2.25	52 ✓
57%	Rivers/streams	Rank: 2.73	52 ✓
32%	Wetlands	Rank: 3.03	29 ✓
30%	Farmland	Rank: 4.11	28 ✓
17%	Steep slopes/rock outcroppings	Rank: 5.00	16 ✓

92 Respondents

Are there areas of Andover Township you would like to see preserved/enhanced/restored?



99 respondents

If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please indicate on the map below where in the Township you would like to see preserved/enhanced/restored.

