

Appendix

E

**Appendix E: Sturbridge Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Forum Presentation from April 11, 2018.**

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# Town of Sturbridge

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Forum

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>  
PAIGE HALL AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE



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### Meeting Agenda

- Photo Contest
- Welcome and Purpose
- Presentation of OSRP Highlights and Survey Results
- 10-min. break (last voting opportunity)
- Small Group Discussions and Mapping Activity
- Small Group Report Back
- Next Steps
- *Photo Contest Results and prize giveaway!*

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### Why Plan for Open Space and Recreation?

- Open space "is as important to the economic future of a community as planning for schools, roads, water, and wastewater infrastructure."
- Obtain the benefits of development without losing valued environmental assets
- Help communities avoid misusing or overwhelming available resources
- A community with an approved Plan becomes eligible to apply for Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, Land and Water Conservation Funds, and other state grant programs
- Plan requires update every 7 years
- Most recent Plan was approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) in 2011

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### Planning Process

- **Community Organization**
  - Town Planning Department collaborating with CMRPC
  - Open Space and Recreation Committee
- **Data Collection**
  - Community profile: demographic, housing, other data from the American Census, State, and other sources
  - Environmental issues and concerns
  - Water quality
  - Inventory of open spaces
  - ADA Assessment of Town-owned recreational facilities
- **Community Input**
  - Survey
  - Community Forum
- **Document Preparation and Review**
- **Submit Plan Update to the State**
- **Review and Acceptance**

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## Photo Contest

- Residents encouraged to submit their original photos of their favorite open space/recreational areas to be included in the 2018 OS&R Plan update
- Open to Sturbridge residents of all ages
- Photo with the most votes will be featured on the cover page
- Prizes will be awarded to winners of each age group
- Age groups:
  - Under 13
  - 13-19
  - 20-34
  - 35-64
  - 65+
- Winners will be chosen by public vote using ballot system at public forum

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## Survey Methodology

- Survey was available online and in hard copy at the following locations:
  - Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall
  - Center Office Building
  - Sturbridge Senior Center
  - Sturbridge Library circulation desk
- Survey was open from March 9 to March 30, 2018
- Reminder postcard was mailed to every household (4,555) in town
- Total responses collected: **238**



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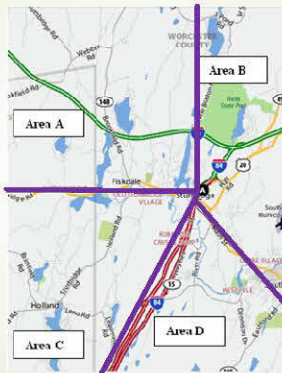
## Survey Response Rate

**Area A:**  
32%

**Area B:**  
40%

**Area C:**  
13%

**Area D:**  
15%



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## Town of Sturbridge Demographics

Age Distribution, 2016

	Sturbridge town	Worcester County, Massachusetts	Massachusetts
Under 20 years of age	25.3%	25.1%	23.7%
20 - 29 years of age	9.3%	13.2%	14.4%
30 - 39 years of age	9.9%	12.0%	12.5%
40 - 49 years of age	17.2%	14.2%	13.6%
50 - 59 years of age	15.7%	15.4%	14.5%
60 years of age and over	22.5%	20.2%	21.2%

Median Age

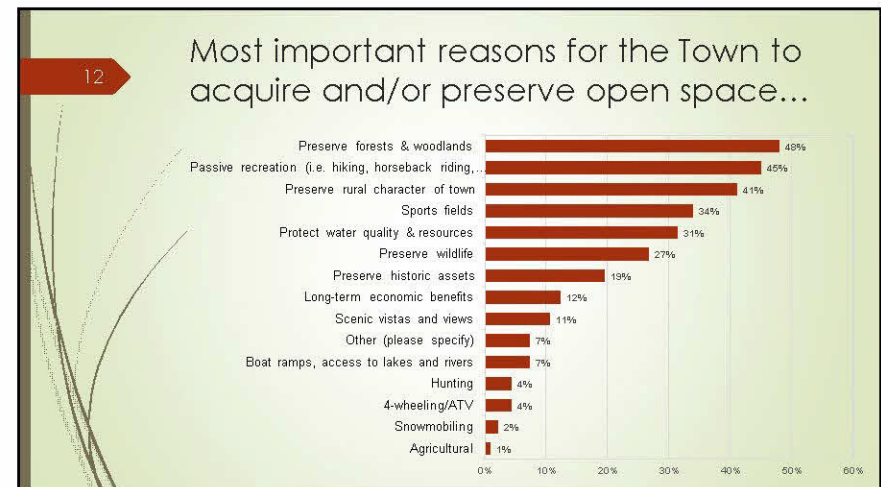
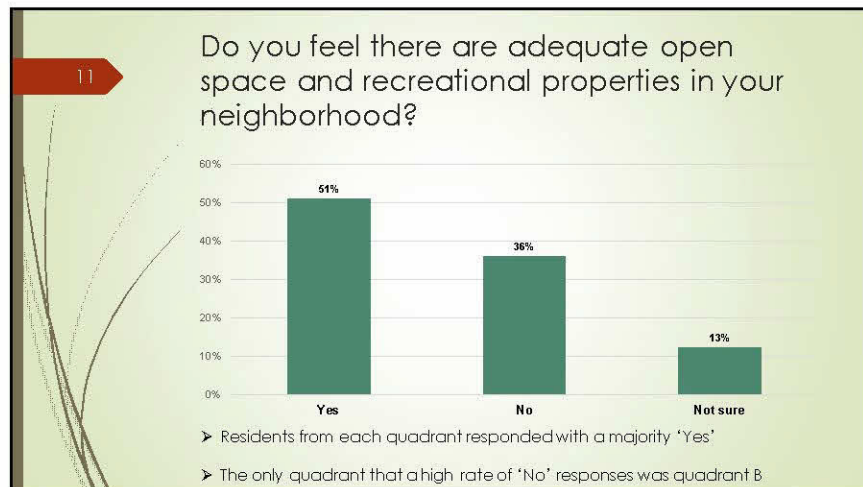
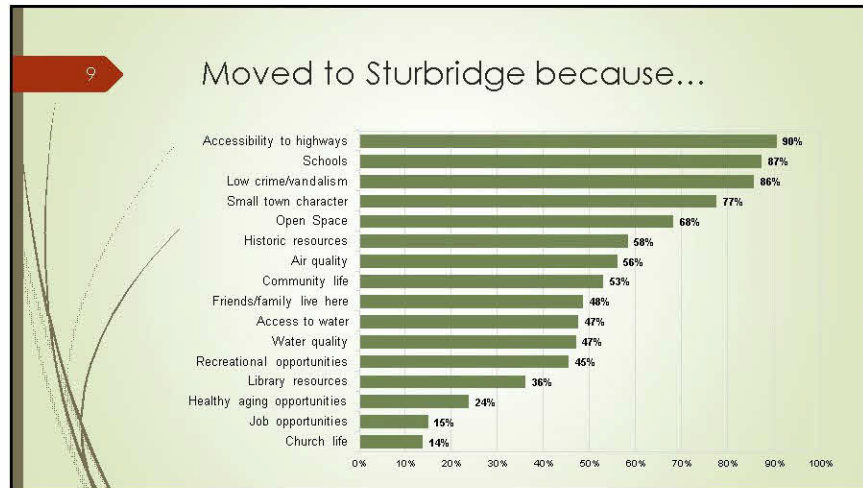
2000	2010	2016
39.3	41.6	43.1

Median Household Income

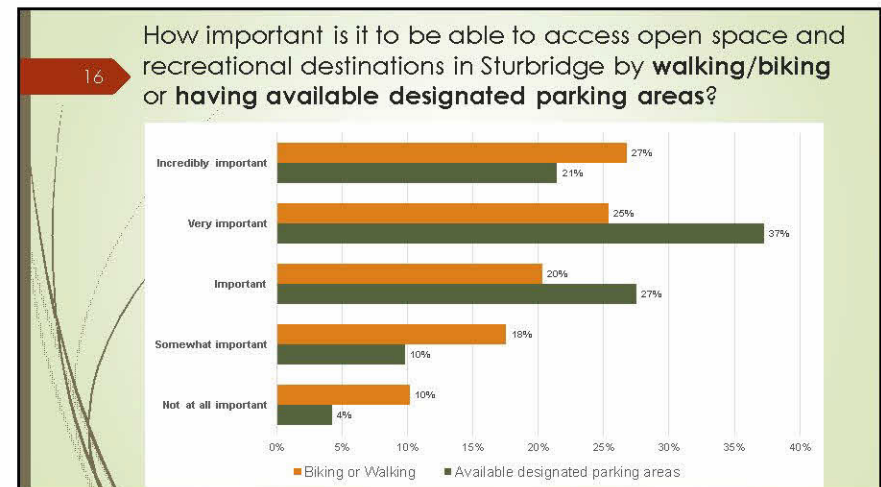
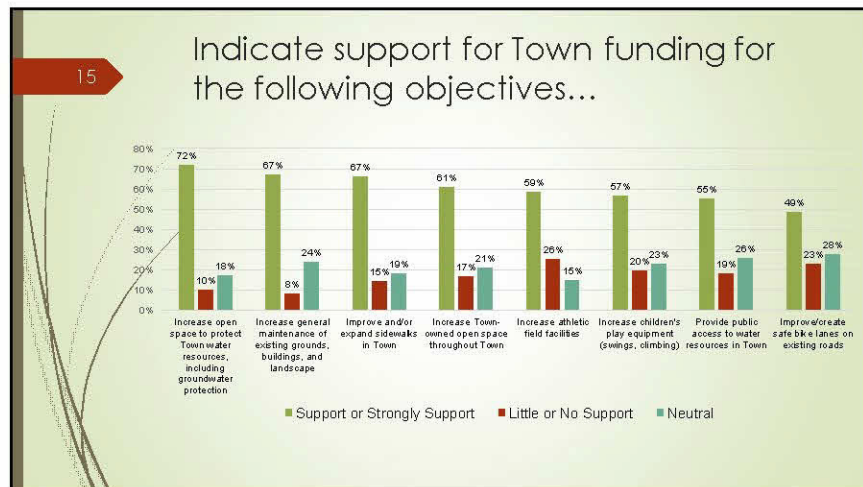
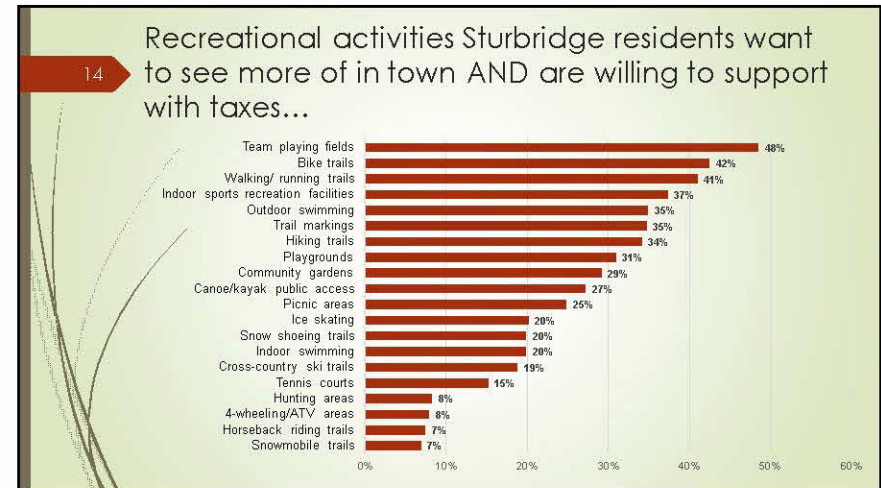
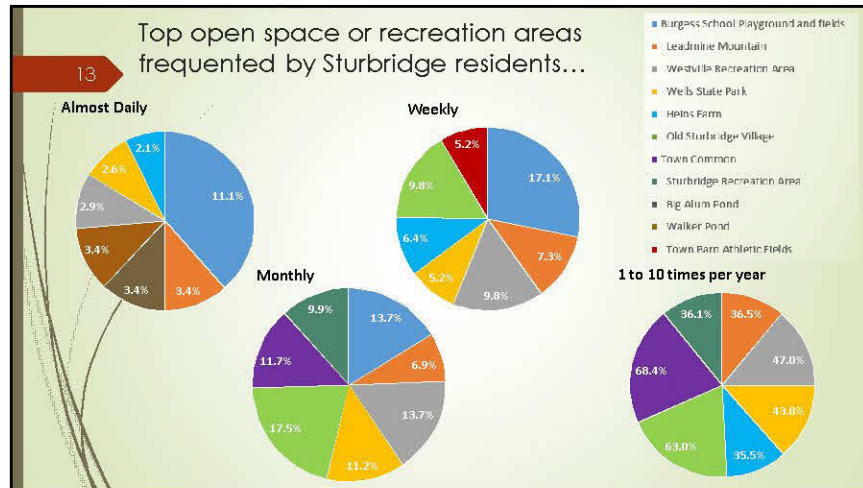
2000	2010	2016
\$56,519	\$71,807	\$85,000

Population Change including Projections, 1920-2030

	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Population	1,573	1,772	2,227	2,805	3,504	4,878	5,978	7,775	7,837	9,268	10,348	11,332
10-Year Change		199	455	678	799	1,274	1,099	1,799	62	1,431	1,080	984
% Increase		12.65%	25.88%	25.95%	28.46%	35.35%	22.81%	30.10%	0.80%	15.44%	10.40%	9.86%

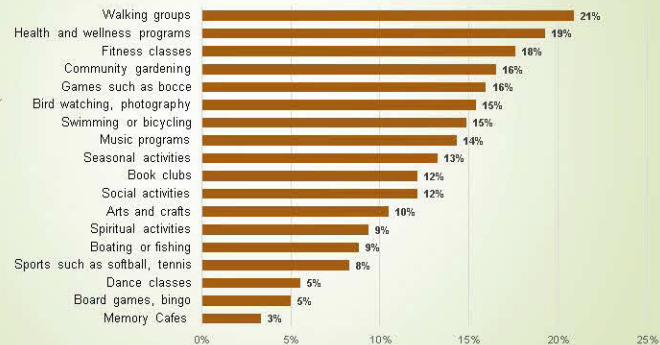






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If you are over the age of 50, what types of recreational activities would you like to see more easily available in town?



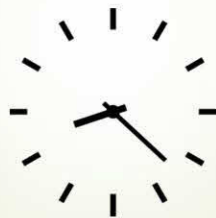
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## Conclusions

- The Town needs to balance open space and recreational offerings for aging residents as well as for younger families
- Large demand for passive recreation options such as walking, biking, and hiking trails
  - Call for improvements and/or expansions to sidewalks, plus more trail markings
  - Desire for activities like walking groups
- General support for increasing, acquiring, and preserving open space in order to preserve natural resources such as forests, woodlands, and groundwater
- Other takeaways:
  - Demand for dog park
  - Demand for playground that is not at a school
  - Demand for increased indoor or outdoor athletic field facilities and willingness to support with taxes

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**10 minute break**  
grab a snack! last chance to vote!




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## Small Group Activity

- Each table has an open space map
- Draw/mark down your favorite open space and recreation areas, natural resources, or historical landmarks on the map.
- Feel free to refer to the maps on the easels around the room
- Areas of concern or opportunity are also welcome

### Small Groups to Identify

- **Recreation** issues, challenges, needs, opportunities
- **Open Space** issues, challenges, needs, opportunities
- **Resource Protection** issues, challenges, needs, opportunities
- **Management and Policy** issues, challenges, needs, opportunities
- Designate a spokesperson to report back group findings
- Areas of consensus? Disagreement? Priorities? Unique perspectives?



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## Next Steps

- Document Preparation and Review
- Submit Plan Update to the State
- Review and Acceptance