

2009

# Warwick Open Space and Recreation Plan

## Why should I take the time to complete this survey?

- Your answers will form the basis for an Open Space and Recreation Plan for Warwick and help the Town as it continues to develop land-use policies and priorities for town government’s use in planning for future growth and protecting our natural, scenic and historic resources—all of the things that make Warwick a special place to live. The plan will help Warwick qualify for federal and state funding for land protection. All responses are anonymous.

## What is Open Space?

- Open space is public or privately owned, undeveloped lands that are important to Warwick residents for a variety of reasons, including recreation, agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, or simply because of their scenic qualities and contribution to the overall character of our Town.

*Please take the time to answer all the questions in this survey. We value your input—and welcome **comments, which should be written on a separate sheet or sheets, identified by the number of the question they refer to, and attached to the survey.** Fold the completed survey in half and staple or tape it closed. Then deposit it in the black mailbox in front of Town Hall. If you prefer, you can put a stamp in the upper right corner of the address panel, where the address is printed for your convenience. If you or any family member would like an additional copy of the survey, they are available at the library and can be downloaded from the town Web site ([www.warwickma.org](http://www.warwickma.org)), and, upon request to the Webmaster ([Webmaster@warwickma.org](mailto:Webmaster@warwickma.org)), will be emailed to you as an MS Word document or jpg image for you to e-mail back.*

*We encourage everyone in a household to fill out a separate questionnaire.*

## Please return your completed survey by Friday, May 15, 2009

Please place a check mark (√) or x in the box that best reflects your answer to each of the questions below and write in responses, as appropriate:

### **A. Your current uses:**

**A1. Which of the following recreational activities do you and your family pursue in Warwick and elsewhere?**

Activity	Pursue in Warwick	Pursue elsewhere	Activity	Pursue in Warwick	Pursue elsewhere
a. Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	q. Downhill skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	r. Ice skating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	s. Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Bird watching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	t. Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	u. Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Boating/power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	v. Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Boating/non-power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	w. Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Biking—ten speed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x. Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Biking—ten speed & mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	y. Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Four-wheeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	z. Rollerblading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Dirt biking (motor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	aa. Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ab. Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Jogging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ac. Golfing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ad. Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ae. Rock climbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Cross-country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	af. Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **B. Your views on land use and conservation**

**B1. Please indicate the importance of each of these in your decision to live in Warwick:**

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	N/A <sup>1</sup>
a. Rural or small-town character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Open fields, forests and trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Peace and quiet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Access to state forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Air/water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Public services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Local climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Safety from crime and vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Public school system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	N/A
k. Recreational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Friends or relatives here	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Easy commuting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Five-College area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Job opportunities in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Participatory governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. My/our perception of town values	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Access to major shopping areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s. Well maintained town infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t. Other (Specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B2. How important do you consider it to conserve these natural and scenic resources?**

	Very important	Important	Not important	N/A <sup>2</sup>
a. Dirt roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Woods roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Open fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Rural character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Scenic views	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Stone walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Lakes/streams/ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very important	Important	Not important	N/A
j. Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Clean drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Historic structures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Clean air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Town center and commons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B3. Please indicate the level of your support of each of the following actions designed to protect/conservate open spaces and natural resources:**

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose
a. Town purchase of conservation land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Town purchase of development rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Zoning changes for open space protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. No additional town actions should be taken.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Acceptance of donated conservation land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Acceptance of donated development rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Encourage conservation by private non-profits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very important	Important	Not important	N/A
h. Encourage conservation by state agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Encourage use of Chapter 61 (Forest Tax Law) to lower taxes on forest land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Encourage use of Chapter 61A (Farmland Assessment Law) to lower taxes on farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Encourage use of Chapter 61B (Recreation Law) to lower taxes on land reserved for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B4. How has each of the following changed while you have lived in Warwick?**

	Changed for the Better	About the Same	Changed for the Worse	No Opinion/ Unsure
a. local open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. sense of community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Warwick's rural character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Changed for the Better	About the Same	Changed for the Worse	No Opinion/ Unsure
d. recreational facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. recreational programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> NA = "does not apply" or "I do not consider this to be true of Warwick."

<sup>2</sup> NA = "does not apply" or "Warwick does not have this resource to conserve."

**B5. Which of the following do you consider appropriate use of town land?**

	Appropriate	Inappropriate	Unsure		Appropriate	Inappropriate	Unsure
a. "Passive" recreation (hiking, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Institutional/commercial development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Lease for private recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. "Active" recreation (tennis, softball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Community buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Lease for private development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Community infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Low-income housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**B6. Do you feel the town should develop Fire Ponds and dry hydrants throughout town to aid in firefighting?** Yes No

**B7. Should the Commonwealth do more to develop its land in Warwick for the following uses?**

	Yes	No	Unsure		Yes	No	Unsure
a. Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Four-wheeling (off-road vehicular use)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Trail riding (bridle paths)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Dirt biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Mountain biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Tennis/badminton courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Boating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. Volleyball court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n. Softball/baseball diamonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Swimming (Sheomet Pond, Laurel Lake)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	o. Commercial/institutional purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Snow-mobiling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	p. Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**B8. Should Warwick encourage or discourage the following in town?**

	Encourage	Discourage	No Opinion		Encourage	Discourage	No Opinion
a. Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Snow-mobiling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Four wheeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Dirt biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Boating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Mountain biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**B9. Should Warwick identify and protect historical and archeological sites in town?**

Yes No Unsure

Should town historical and archeological sites be made more accessible? Yes No Unsure

**B10. Should Warwick try to obtain trail rights through private lands?** Yes No Unsure

Would you support tax-funded trail maintenance? Yes No Unsure

### C. Demographics

**C1. Is any of your household income derived from natural resources (e.g., forest products, maple syrup, cordwood, farming, camping, trapping, gravel pits, etc.)?** Yes No

If Yes, please indicate the natural resource(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**C2. Have you had your drinking water tested in the past five years?** Yes No Unsure

**C3. What is the source of your drinking water?**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Deep well    | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Spring                  | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Don't know       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Shallow well | <input type="checkbox"/> d. Commercial source/store | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Other (specify): |

**C4. How long have you lived in Warwick?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Fewer than five years      | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Between ten and fifteen years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Between five and ten years | <input type="checkbox"/> d. More than fifteen years       |

**C5. Which ten of these aspects of life in Warwick mean the most to you?**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Large road-side trees | <input type="checkbox"/> i. Scenic views              | <input type="checkbox"/> q. Slower traffic                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Dirt roads            | <input type="checkbox"/> j. Narrow, winding roads     | <input type="checkbox"/> r. Lower housing density             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Historic cellarholes  | <input type="checkbox"/> k. Large forested areas      | <input type="checkbox"/> s. No city lights                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Historic structures   | <input type="checkbox"/> l. Walking and hiking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> t. Clean streams and bodies of water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e. Vernal pools          | <input type="checkbox"/> m. Mount Grace               | <input type="checkbox"/> u. No industrial/commercial strips   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f. State forests         | <input type="checkbox"/> n. Local ponds and lakes     | <input type="checkbox"/> v. The people                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g. Open fields           | <input type="checkbox"/> o. Quiet                     | <input type="checkbox"/> w. The school system                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> h. Farmhouses            | <input type="checkbox"/> p. Low traffic volume        | <input type="checkbox"/> x. The recreational opportunities    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> y. Other(s) (specify):               |

**C6. Where does the main income in your household come from?**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Warwick-based work | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Telecommute      | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Pension/annuity/other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Commute to work    | <input type="checkbox"/> d. All of the above | <input type="checkbox"/> f. None of the above     |

**C7. Do you own Property in Warwick? Yes No**

If you own one or more dwellings in Warwick, which of the following apply to them?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. I live here year-round | <input type="checkbox"/> c. I rent out one or more dwellings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. I live here seasonally | <input type="checkbox"/> d. None of the above                |

**C8. How many acres do you own in Warwick?**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. None                 | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Between two and ten   | <input type="checkbox"/> e. More than fifty acres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Fewer than two acres | <input type="checkbox"/> d. Between ten and fifty |   |

**C9. Please use the blanks to write the number of people in each of the following age groups in your household.**

_____ 0 to 19 years	_____ 45 to 64 years
_____ 20 to 44 years	_____ 65 to 78 years
	_____ 79 years and older

**C10. If you are the first person in your household to fill out this survey, please check here:  (This will help us track household vs. individual responses)**

**C11. Are you Male or Female?**

**C12. Please list below any specific areas in town (ponds, shores, stream banks, trails, other natural or historical areas) that you feel the town should try to protect or keep natural:**

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**C13. If you would like to comment on any of the questions or answers above or add information or opinions we have not asked about (e.g., suggested additional amenities for teenagers, seniors, or disabled people), please comment below or attach another sheet or sheets—and don't forget to note the number of the question you are referring to.**

**Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey!**