

**The Shutesbury Open Space Plan Committee**  
**invites you to participate in a survey that will be used as a guide in**  
**developing Shutesbury's Open Space and Recreation Plan.**



Town Celebration 1937 Courtesy of the Shutesbury Historical Commission

### **Shutesbury 2006 Open Space and Recreation Survey**

This survey is an effort by the Open Space Plan Committee to gather public opinion on questions regarding Open Space and Recreation in the Town of Shutesbury. The survey findings will be used to create a new Open Space and Recreation Plan for the town, as well as to provide information for other town committees to help guide them in their endeavors.

*Your answers will remain anonymous and will be used for planning purposes only.*

#### **What is an Open Space and Recreation Plan?**

“Open Space” in this survey refers to undeveloped land (fields, forests and wetlands) with particular conservation, recreation or scenic interest. An Open Space and Recreation Plan develops conservation and recreation goals for the town. It will include an analysis of the cultural and natural resources in town, identify open space and recreation needs, and outline a five-year action program with specific recommendations. While not a legally binding document, the Open Space and Recreation Plan will help identify the most important open space areas in town and the best ways to conserve them.

#### **Why is an Open Space and Recreation Plan important?**

- It will enable the town to apply for state grants for land conservation and recreation development and be positioned for other state competitive grants.
- It will provide the Select Board with a framework for decision-making when Chapter 61 lands or other properties become available.
- It will identify recreation needs of Shutesbury residents.

**Please return your completed survey by MARCH 1, 2006. Please fold the survey making sure the address on the back of the last page is showing. Staple or tape closed. One survey per person please.**

#### **Mail To:**

Shutesbury Open Space Plan Committee  
c/o Shutesbury Select Board  
Town Hall  
P.O. Box 276  
Shutesbury, MA 01072

#### **OR**

#### **Drop in the labeled box at the following locations:**

M.N. Spear Library, Post Office, or Town Hall

*If any of your family members would like their own copies to fill out, they are available at the drop-off locations, and maybe on the Shutesbury website (<http://www.shutesbury.org/index.htm>), if we get really organized.*

*If you need special assistance, please contact Leslie Bracebridge, Town Clerk at 259-1204.*

**Q1. How important was each of the following in your decision to live in Shutesbury? Please circle the number that best indicates how you felt about each characteristic.**

	Reasons to live in Town	Very Important	Important	Indifferent	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a.	Rural or small town character	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Friends or relatives here	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Proximity to area colleges	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Easy commuting	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Participatory government	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Lower housing densities	1	2	3	4	5
g.	Perception of community values	1	2	3	4	5
h.	Peace & quiet	1	2	3	4	5
i.	Forests	1	2	3	4	5
j.	Trails	1	2	3	4	5
k.	Access to Quabbin Land	1	2	3	4	5
l.	Air/water quality	1	2	3	4	5
m.	Safety from crime and vandalism	1	2	3	4	5
n.	Public school system	1	2	3	4	5
o.	More affordable housing	1	2	3	4	5
p.	Recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
	Other reasons (please list below)					
		1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5

**Q2. How do you feel about protecting the following natural, historical and scenic resources in town? Please circle the number that best indicates how you feel about each resource.**

	Natural & Scenic Resources	Very Important	Important	Indifferent	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a.	Tree-lined country roads	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Dirt or gravel roads	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Historic cellar holes	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Historic buildings	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Old stone walls	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Old stone structures (beehive caves, Town Pound, altar etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
g.	Wetlands	1	2	3	4	5
h.	Lake Wyola	1	2	3	4	5
i.	Habitat for wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
j.	Open fields	1	2	3	4	5
k.	The Old Town Hall	1	2	3	4	5
l.	The Spear Memorial Library	1	2	3	4	5
m.	The Town Common	1	2	3	4	5
n.	The Church on the Common	1	2	3	4	5
o.	Scenic views	1	2	3	4	5
p.	The "S-Curves" as they are now	1	2	3	4	5
q.	Large areas of forest	1	2	3	4	5
r.	Walking and hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5
s.	Brown's Pond & wetland	1	2	3	4	5
t.	Roaring Brook	1	2	3	4	5
u.	Peace & quiet	1	2	3	4	5
v.	Absence of city lights	1	2	3	4	5
w.	Clean streams and water bodies	1	2	3	4	5
x.	Clean air	1	2	3	4	5
	Other (Please list below)					
		1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5

**Q3. Where would you rather see future development occur? Check one of the following:**

- Along roadsides, to keep large tracts of back land undeveloped.
- Set back from the road, to keep the roadside view less developed.
- Other options – please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q4. How often do you use the following open space and recreational resources in town? Please circle the number indicating the category of use.**

	<b>Open Space &amp; Recreational Resources</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Seasonally</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Never</b>
a.	Quabbin Reservoir lands	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Lake Wyola State Park beach & facilities	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Randall Rd Town Beach	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Boat Ramp	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Lake Wyola Association beaches	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Atkins Reservoir land	1	2	3	4	5
g.	Powerline rights-of-way	1	2	3	4	5
h.	Abandoned roads	1	2	3	4	5
i.	Trails on public lands	1	2	3	4	5
j.	Trails on private lands	1	2	3	4	5
k.	State forest land	1	2	3	4	5
l.	Field behind Town Hall	1	2	3	4	5
m.	Field behind Fire Station	1	2	3	4	5
n.	Elementary School playground & fields	1	2	3	4	5
o.	Town Common	1	2	3	4	5
p.	Shutesbury conservation lands	1	2	3	4	5
q.	M&M hiking trail	1	2	3	4	5
	Other places (please list below)					
		1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5

**Q5. What would encourage you to use these resources more often?**

**Q6. Which of the recreational opportunities below would you like to see developed in town? Please consider that town committees, run by volunteers, would do the work and that improvements to land would have to be funded by grants and or taxes. Please indicate your priorities by circling a number.**

	<b>Recreational Opportunities</b>	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>
a.	Soccer fields	1	2	3
b.	Ice skating rink	1	2	3
c.	Tennis courts	1	2	3
d.	Basketball court	1	2	3
e.	Public mountain bike trails	1	2	3
f.	Public nature/hiking trails	1	2	3
g.	Public cross-country skiing trails	1	2	3
h.	Handicapped accessible areas at Lake Wyola	1	2	3
i.	Community concerts/dances/movie times	1	2	3
j.	Recreational/social programs for teens	1	2	3
k.	Recreational/social programs for seniors	1	2	3
l.	Improved all-purpose playing field	1	2	3
n.	New playground	1	2	3
o.	Community gathering place	1	2	3
p.	Universally accessible trail behind Town Hall field	1	2	3
	Other (please list below)			
		1	2	3
		1	2	3

**Q7. Are there specific natural/historical/archaeological areas in Shutesbury that the Town should try to acquire, protect access to, or otherwise protect? If yes, please list:**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

**Q8. Public use of trails on private property is at the discretion of the private property owner, who can withdraw their permission at any time. Types of activities allowed on public land are determined by the public agency which owns or manages it, including conservation and watershed land. With this in mind, what activities do you support or oppose on public land or your land in town? Please circle a "1" in the column to the right of the activities you support, a "2" if you are neutral about the activities, or a "3" if you oppose the activities, for the different circumstances represented in each column.**

	For each Activity	If trails crossed your land			If trails are on public land and roads only			If trails are posted with trail standards & encouraged trail etiquette		
a.	Hiking, walking, running	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
b.	Horseback riding	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
c.	Mountain biking	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
d.	Snow-shoeing	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
e.	Cross-country skiing	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
f.	Snowmobiling	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
g.	All Terrain Vehicle use	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
h.	Other motorized vehicles	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

**Q9 Have you personally experienced problems with motorized vehicles on trails in town? Yes [ ] No [ ]**

**Q10. The Town acquired the property Lot O32 across from the Highway Department on Leverett Road last year for future municipal use. How do you think it should be used? Please indicate your feelings about each by circling a number.**

	Possible uses for the O32 property	Yes	Uncertain	No
a.	New library complex	1	2	3
b.	New highway, police, or fire station building	1	2	3
c.	Athletic fields	1	2	3
d.	Conservation land	1	2	3
	Other (please list):			
		1	2	3
		1	2	3
		1	2	3

**Q11. What interesting wildlife have you seen, or seen signs of in town in the past few years? Please circle each animal name:**

a. bear	b. coyote	c. moose	d. great horned owl
e. bobcat	f. fisher	g. wood turtle	h. snowshoe hare
i. wild turkey	j. beaver	k. mountain lion	l. eagle
others (please list):			

**Completion of the following questions is optional; they are asked just to see what kind of representation of opinion we are getting from different areas of town, and different groups of residents. You may answer some questions and not others if you wish.**

**Q12. What part of town do you live in? Please circle one:**

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| a) Lake Wyola Area       | e) Cooleyville Road Area | i) Sand Hill & Pratt Corner Roads Area |
| b) Town Center Area      | f) Pelham Hill Road Area | j) Wendell & Locks Pond Roads Area     |
| c) Leverett Road Area    | g) West Pelham Road Area | k) Baker & Schoolhouse Road Area       |
| d) Atkins Reservoir Area | h) Montague Road Area    | l) Leonard Road Area                   |

**Q13. What is your age? Please circle the range that includes your age.**

- a) 19 years old or younger
- b) 20 – 44 years of age
- c) 45 – 64 years of age
- d) 65 – 78 years of age
- e) 79 years of age and older

**Q14. How many years have you lived in Shutesbury? Please circle the range that best reflects the number of years you have lived in town.**

- a) Less than 5 years
- b) 5 to 14 years
- c) 15 to 24 years
- d) 25 to 49 years
- e) 50 years or more
- f) I am a native, I was born here.

**Q15. How many people are in your household?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

**Q16. Please circle the phrase that best describes your housing situation.**

- a) Renter
- b) Seasonal Resident (property owner)
- c) Year-round Resident (property owner)
- d) Other (please explain)

**Q17. If you own property in town, how many acres?**

*Please circle one.*

- a) Less than 3 acres
- b) 3-9 acres
- c) 10-49 acres
- d) 50-99 acres
- e) Greater than 100 acres
- e) I do not own property in town.

***Thank you very much for taking the time to complete and return this survey.  
We appreciate your input.***

*If you have any additional comments you would like to add, you may do so here:*

**Shutesbury Open Space Plan Committee  
c/o Shutesbury Select Board  
Town Hall  
P.O. Box 276  
Shutesbury, MA 01072**