Warren Conservation Committee

2006 Town-Owned Land Survey Report

August 15, 2006

The Warren Conservation Committee is working on developing management plans for three town-owned parcels. To that end, the committee sought input from community members on how they would like to see these parcels used and managed. The committee was also interested in getting feedback on additional topics related to conservation. Therefore, the committee presented a survey at Town Meeting 2006. The survey was also available at the Municipal Building, Warren Library and upon request through the month of March. The following report presents the results of the survey questions along with the respondents' written comments. Also included in this report are the tabulated data and a copy of the survey itself. The Conservation Committee will use this info to assist us in our decision-making process as we move forward with development of management plans for three town-owned parcels and other conservation-related projects.

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Eaton Parcel

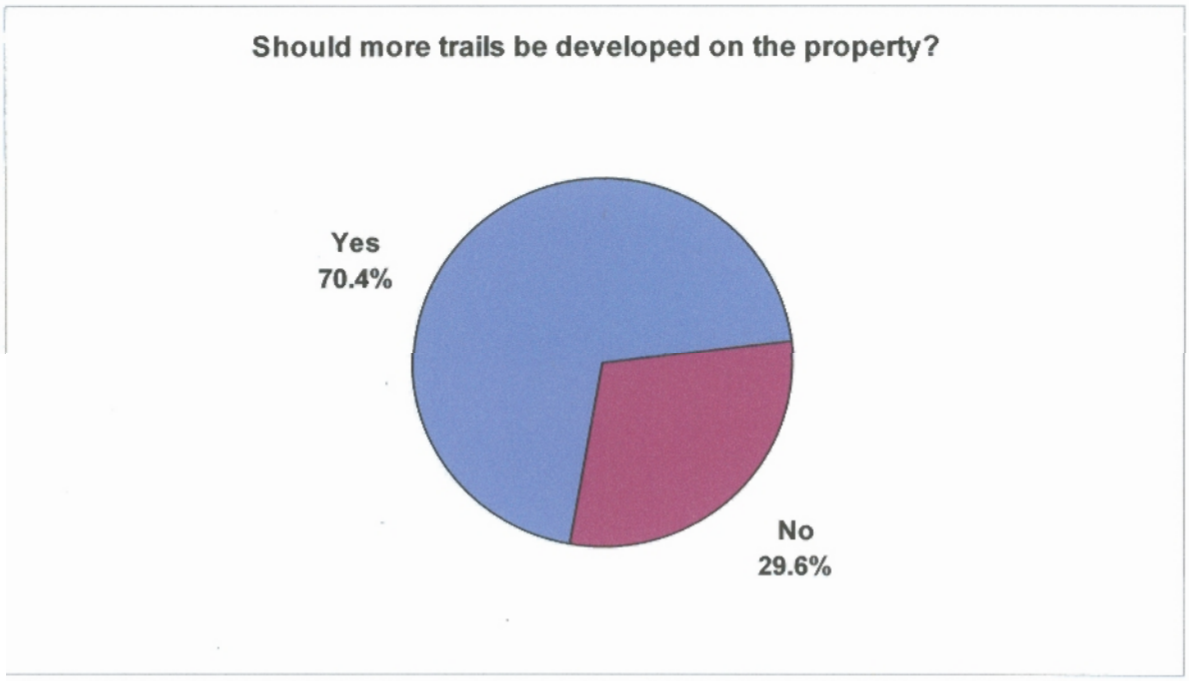
1. Should the following recreation uses be permitted on this parcel?

	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
Mountain Biking	**35.2%**	18.2%	**25.0%**	6.8%	14.8%
ATVs	2.3%	0.0%	10.3%	**12.6%**	**74.7%**
Snowmobiles	7.2%	2.4%	**18.1%**	9.6%	**62.7%**
Hiking	**89.4%**	**7.1%**	2.4%	0.0%	1.2%
Skiing/Snowshoeing	**88.9%**	**7.4%**	2.5%	0.0%	1.2%
Camping	**22.8%**	13.9%	**35.4%**	6.3%	21.5%
Hunting	**20.0%**	10.6%	17.6%	9.4%	**42.4%**
Dog-walking without leash	**40.7%**	16.3%	11.6%	5.8%	**25.6%**

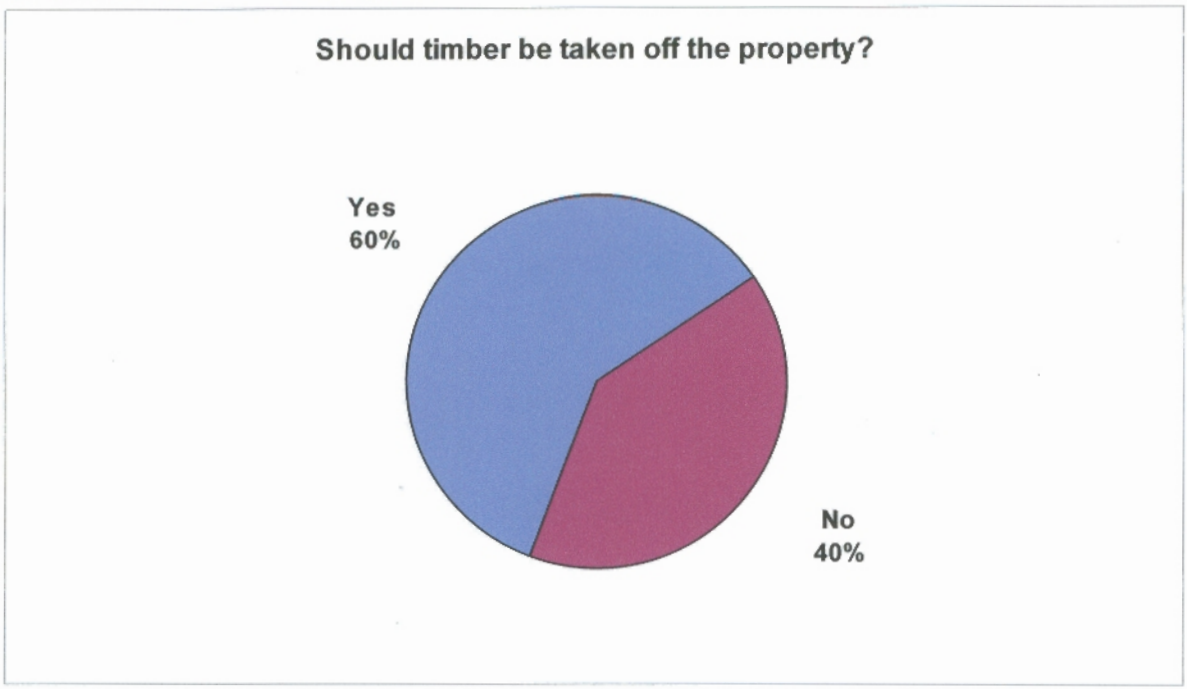
2. Please rank the following in order of priority for management of this parcel **(1 being the highest, 3 the lowest).**

	1	2	3
Recreation	45.6%	38.0%	16.5%
Wildlife/Natural Area	54.4%	39.2%	6.3%
Forestry	11.4%	16.5%	72.2%

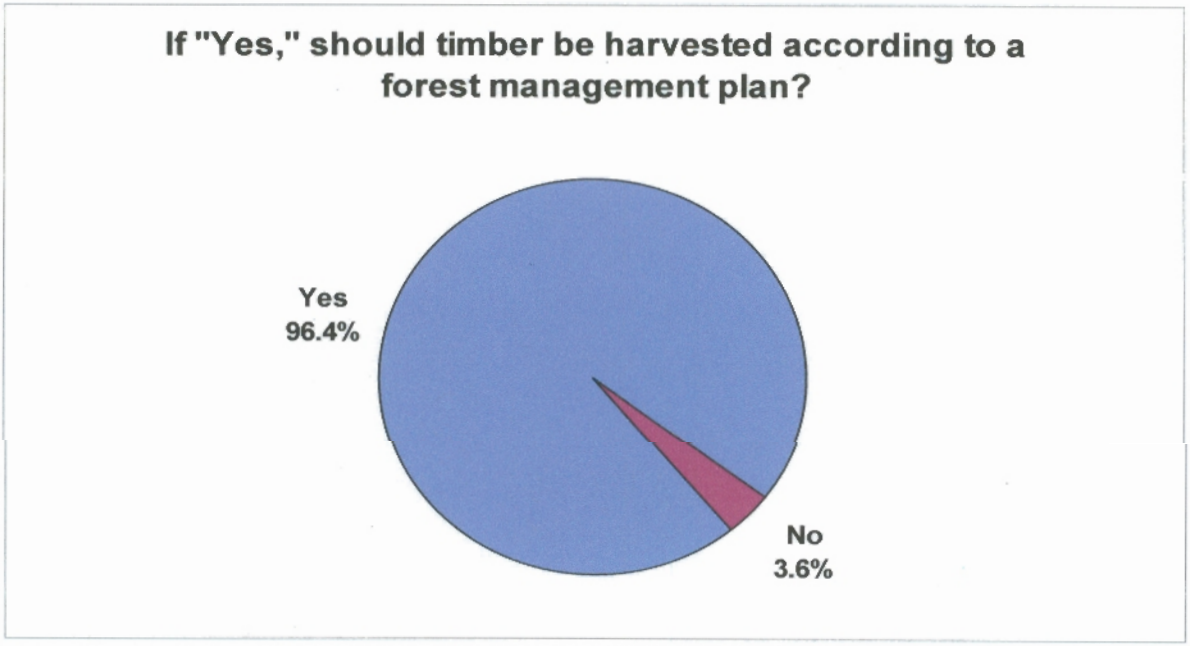
3. Should more trails be developed on the property?



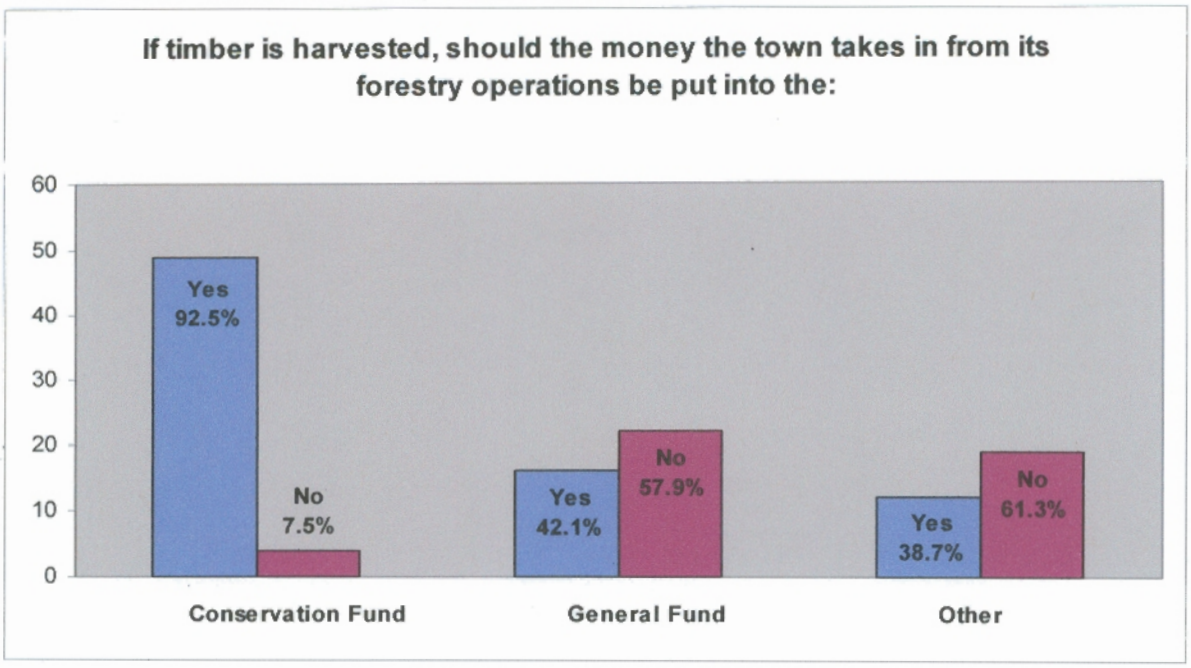
4. Should timber be taken off the property?



5. If "Yes," should timber be harvested according to a forest management plan?



6. If timber is harvested, should the money the town takes in from its forestry operations be:

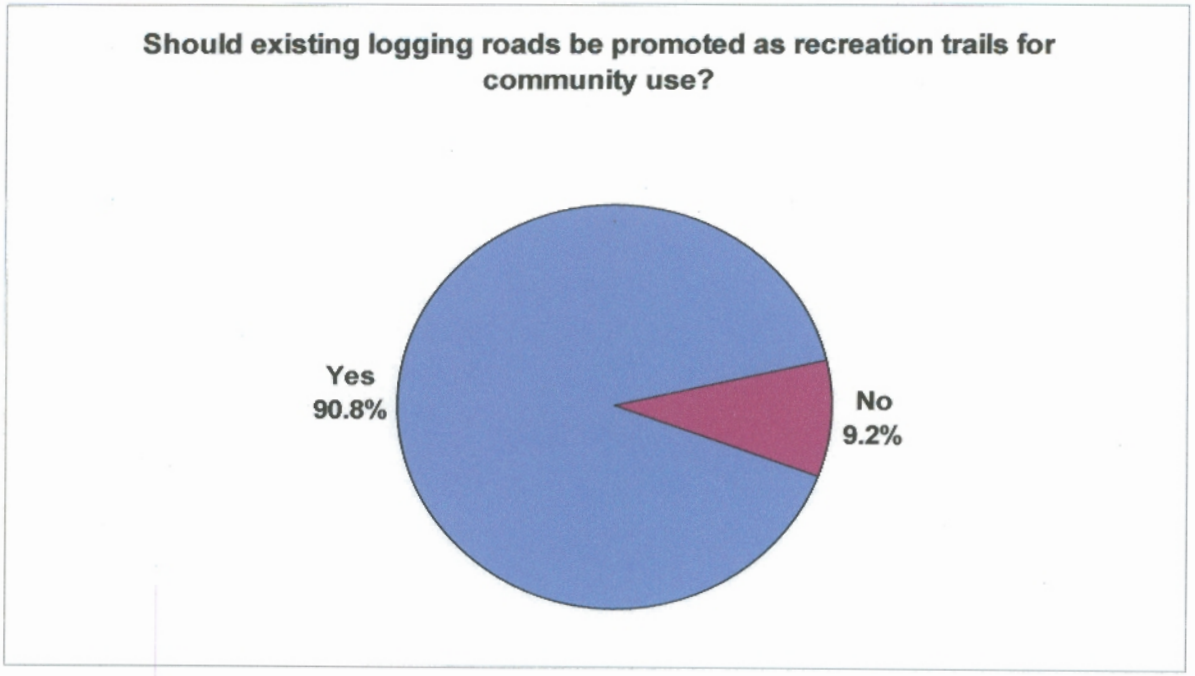


Gravel Pit Parcel

1. Please rank the following in order of priority for management of this parcel **(1 being the highest, 5 the lowest).**

	1	2	3	4	5
Forestry/Log landing	10.3%	19.1%	14.7%	**25.0%**	**30.9%**
Future supply of town water	**27.3%**	**24.2%**	**24.2%**	13.6%	10.6%
Wildlife	**28.4%**	20.9%	**25.4%**	14.9%	10.4%
Recreation	8.7%	21.7%	14.5%	**27.5%**	**27.5%**
Sand Extraction/gravel storage	**43.5%**	**17.4%**	14.5%	10.1%	14.5%

2. Should existing logging roads be promoted as recreation trails for community use?

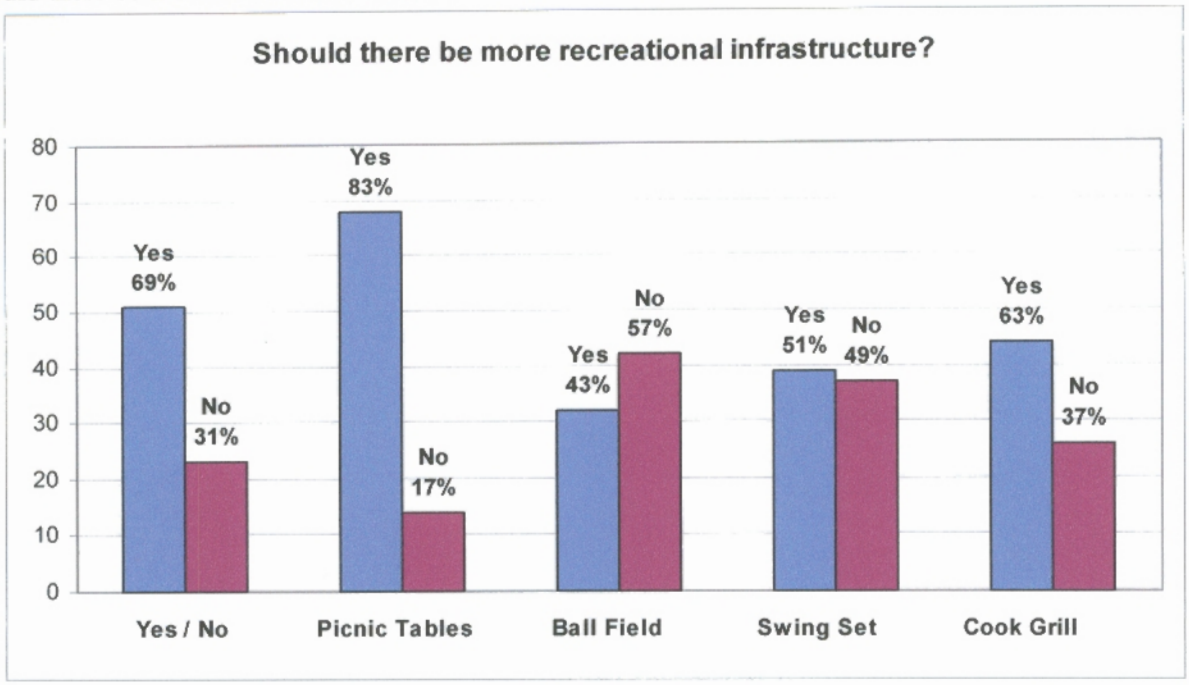


2. Should the following recreation uses be permitted on this parcel?

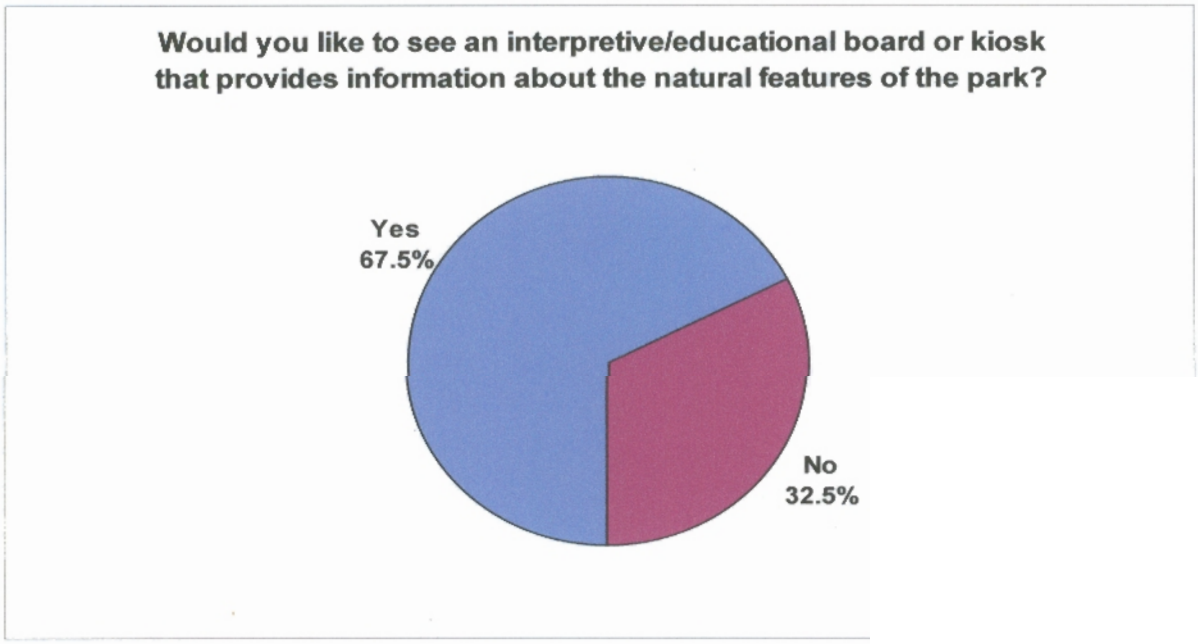
	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
Mountain Biking	**35.0%**	25.0%	**26.3%**	3.8%	10.0%
ATVs	3.9%	5.2%	**11.7%**	10.4%	**68.8%**
Snowmobiles	5.2%	9.1%	**18.2%**	9.1%	**58.4%**
Hiking	**73.1%**	**19.2%**	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Skiing/Snowshoeing	**75.6%**	**14.1%**	9.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Camping	**20.8%**	16.7%	**31.9%**	9.7%	**20.8%**
Hunting	17.9%	16.7%	**20.5%**	12.8%	**32.1%**
Dog-walking without leash	**32.9%**	17.7%	20.3%	3.8%	**25.3%**

Riverside Park

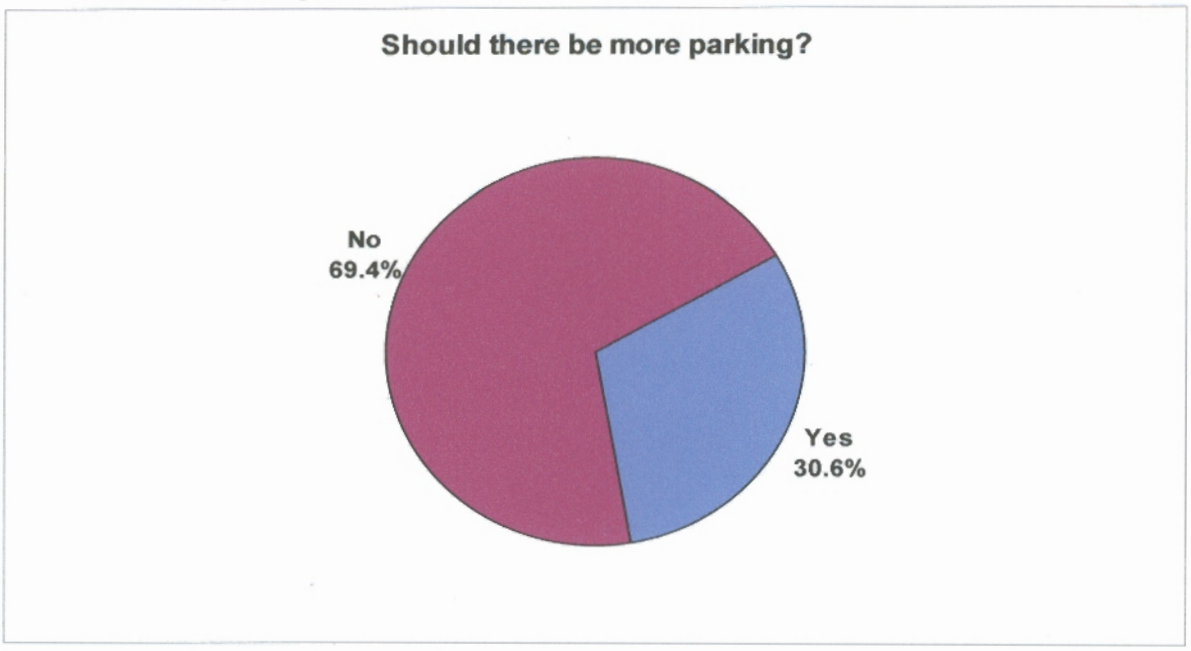
1. Should there be more recreational infrastructure?



2. Would you like to see an interpretive/educational board or kiosk that provides information about the natural features of the park?

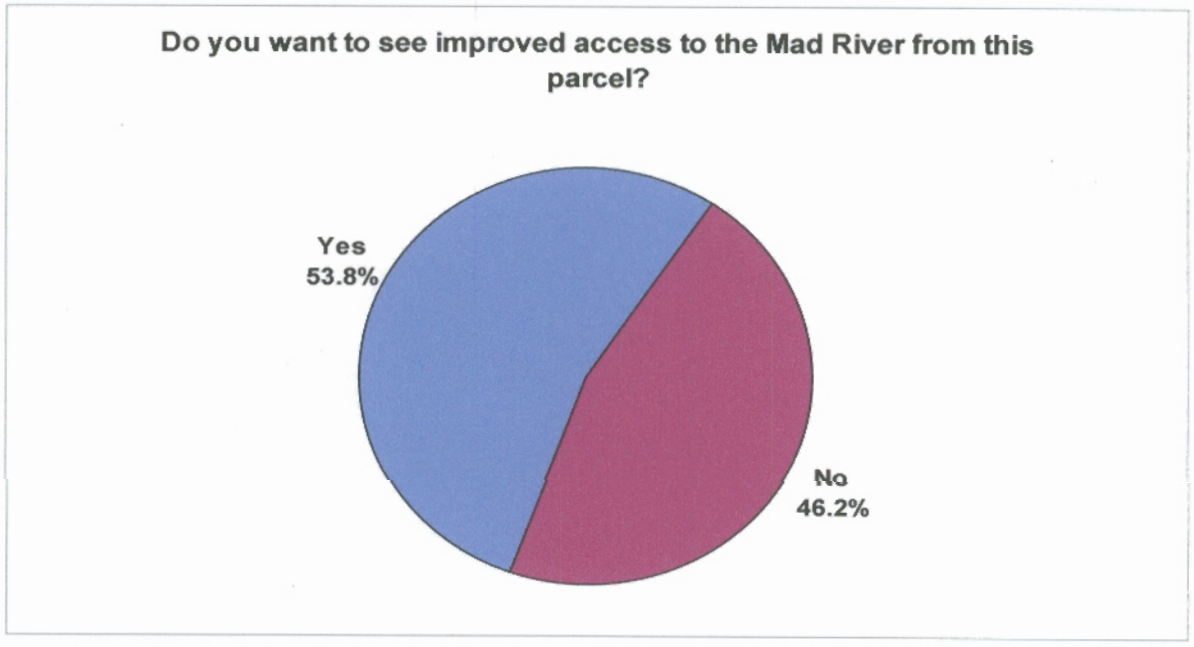


3. Should there be more parking?

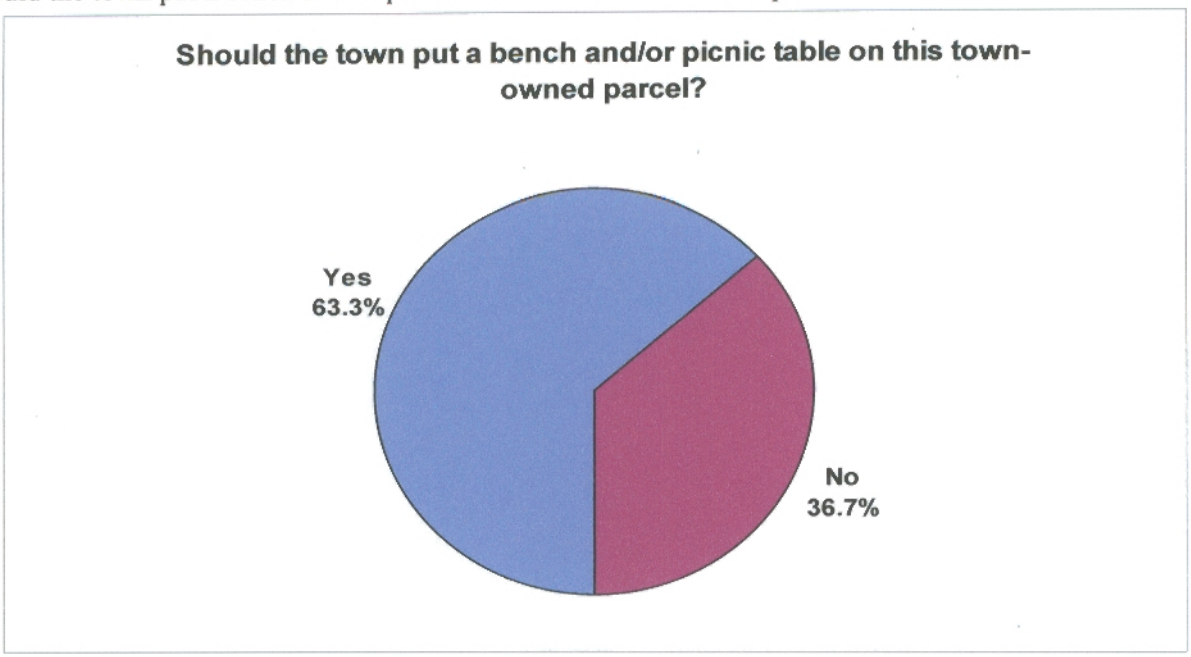


Nightingale/Goodwin (former LaRock) Parcel

1. Do you want to see improved access to the Mad River from this parcel?

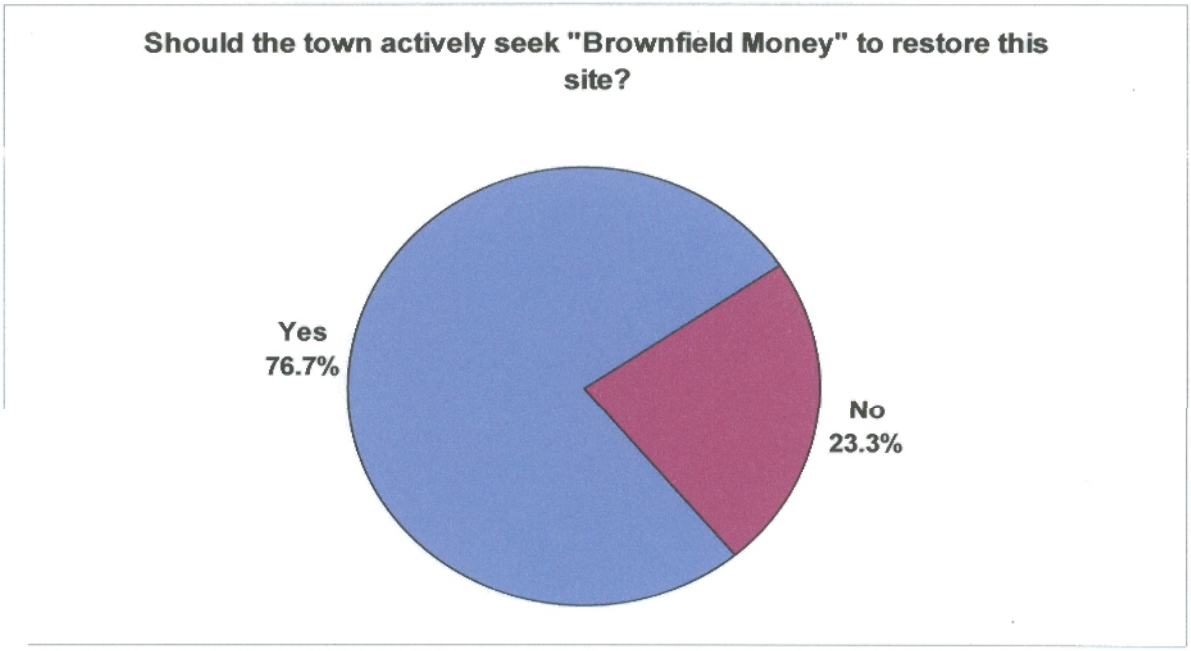


2. Should the town put a bench and/or picnic table on this town-owned parcel?



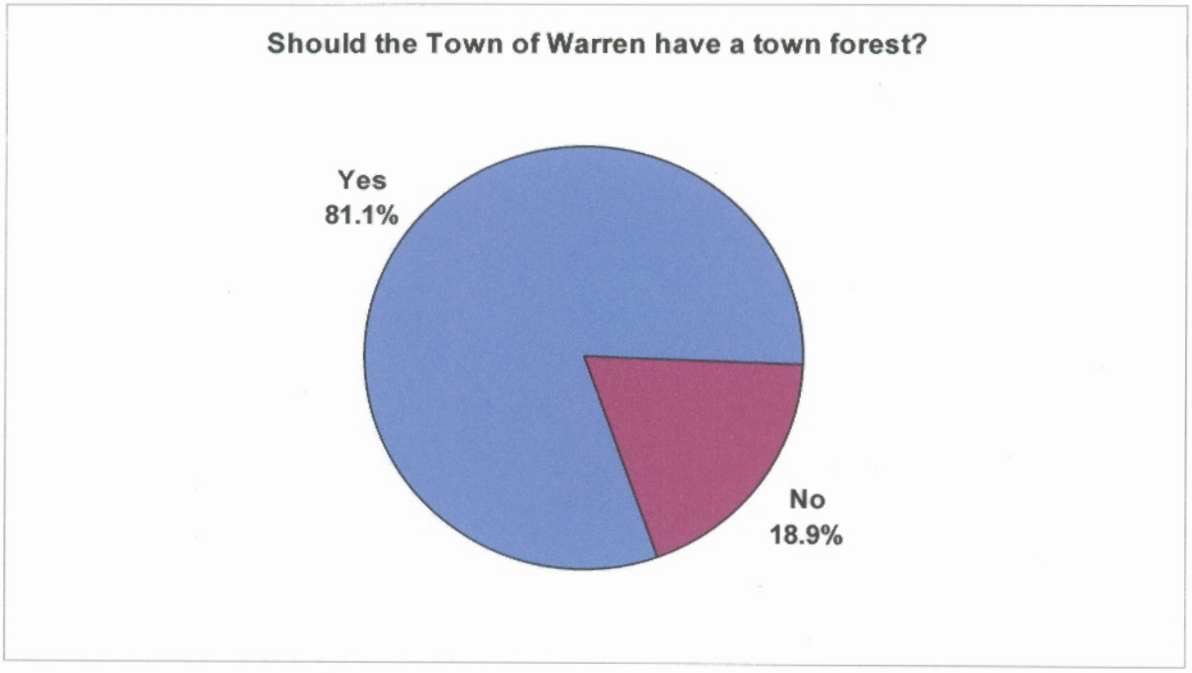
"The Dump" Parcel

1. Brownfields are areas of land tainted by previous uses that in, their current state, are unfit for human use or habitation. Should the town actively seek "Brownfield Money" to restore this site?



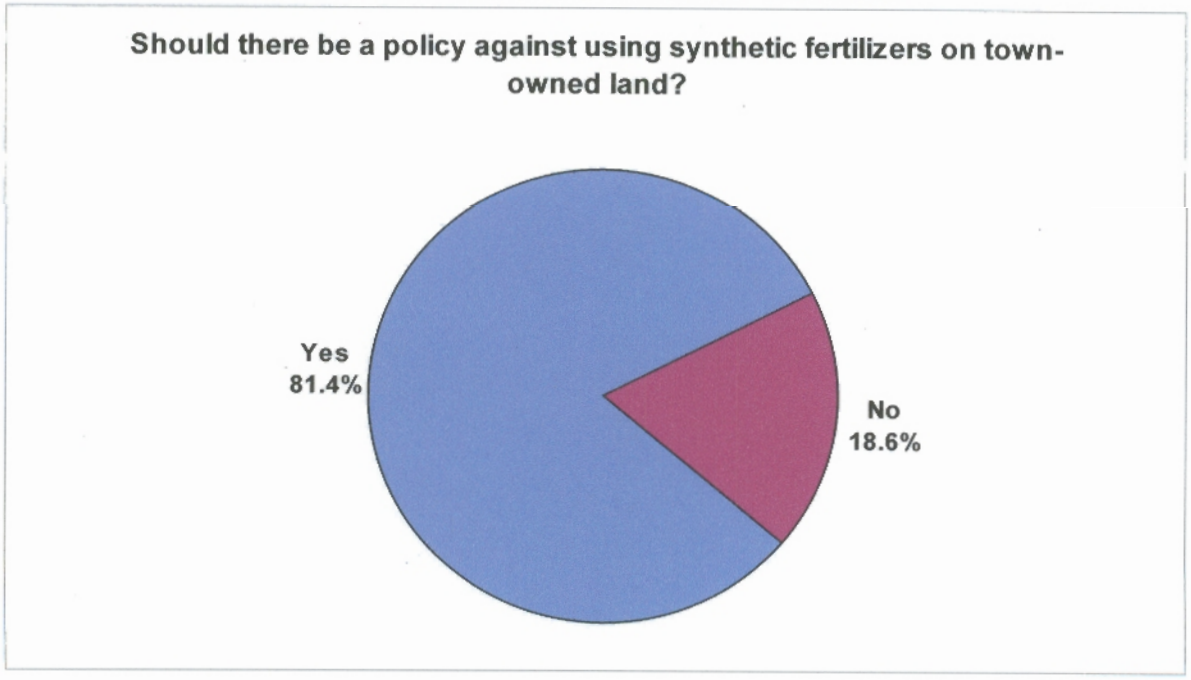
Town Forests

1. A town forest is typically a forested area of a town that is set-aside as a conservation area for the production of timber and for the enjoyment of that town's residents. More specifically, a town forest is a piece of municipal forestland officially designated by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Town residents often have the opportunity to participate in planning for how a town forest is used via a questionnaire such as this one, or a public meeting where input from the public is solicited.
   Should the town of Warren have a town forest?

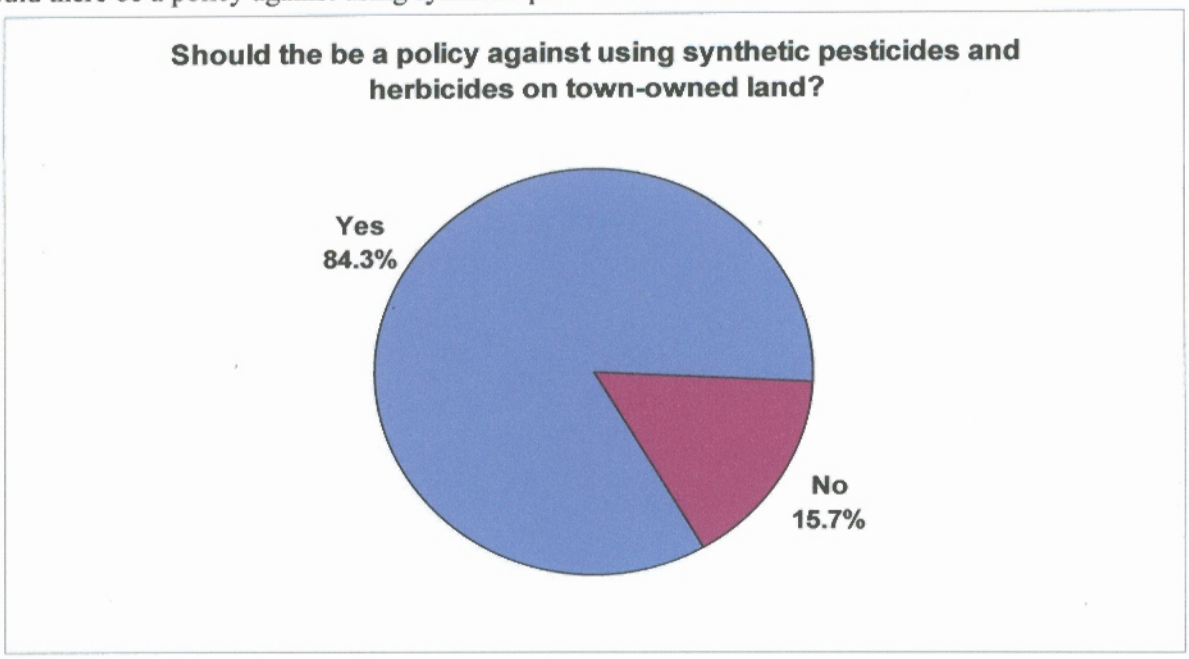


Other

1. Should there be a policy against using synthetic fertilizers on town-owned land?



2. Should there be a policy against using synthetic pesticides and herbicides on town-owned land?



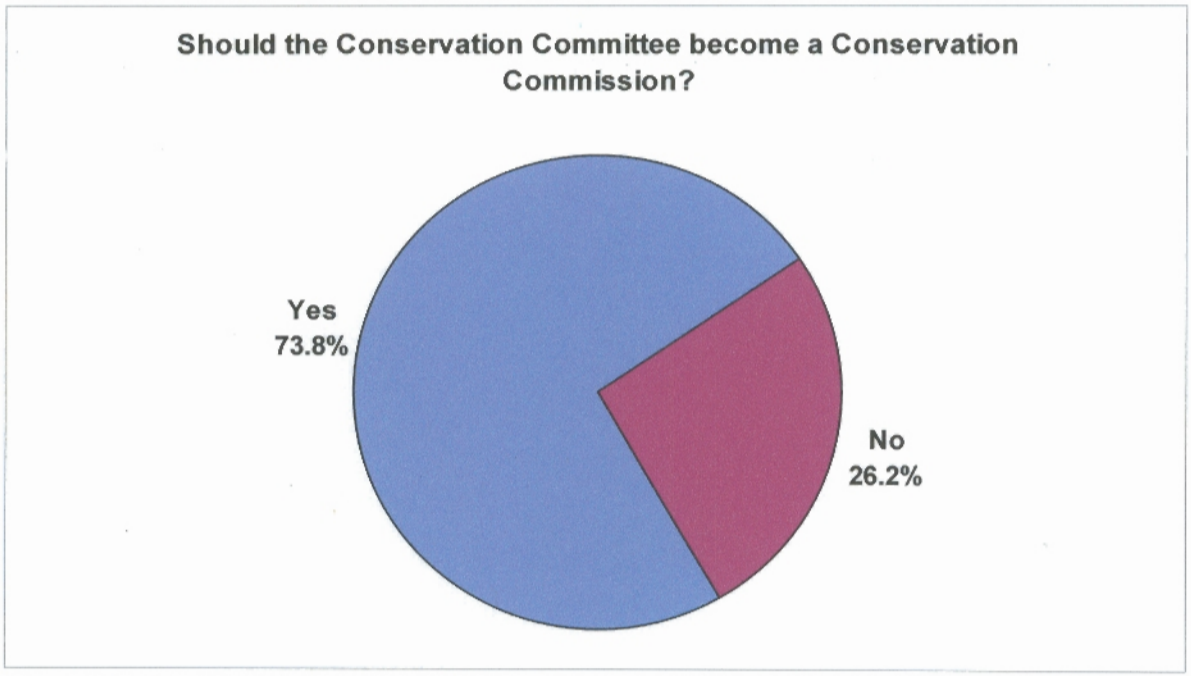
3. What would people like to see in the recently cleared area off the corner of the current Brooks Field? Please rank the following in order of priority for additional recreation at Brooks Field. **(1 being the highest, 5 the lowest)**

	1	2	3	4	5
Soccer field	**66.7%**	13.3%	13.3%	0.0%	6.7%
Softball diamond	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Baseball diamond	22.2%	11.1%	**33.3%**	**33.3%**	0.0%
Combination	**77.8%**	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Conservation Commission

Currently the town of Warren has a Conservation Committee, which is mainly charged with cultivating conservation projects and advising the town on management of conservation properties. A Conservation Commission would be a more formal town board that would be eligible to apply for state and federal funds, and receive technical assistance from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, as the other town boards currently do.

Should the Conservation *Committee* become a Conservation *Commission?*



2006 Town-Owned Land Survey Report – Qualitative Answers

Eaton Parcel (Question 1)

- Education
- Offset prop taxes
- Nature study related to school
- Horseback riding
- Timber should be taken off only if it benefits the forest
- Develop as ____ creation ____
- Should be used for affordable housing
- We have ordinance

Eaton Parcel Timber Harvest (Question 6 and Further Thoughts)

- Wood waste utilization
- Mowing meadowland
- Keep it as natural as possible w/limited foot/bike traffic w/connected Mad River Path
- Ideal for affordable housing (x2)
- This parcel abuts the Rodgers property. This parcel is closed to public use. This allows wildlife a place to live undisturbed
- Use it for the people and especially the children - if woods are harvested let the money be used for education.
- I am disappointed and amazed that there is an option to walk dogs without leashes. Isn't this against Town ordinance? Never do anything to encourage no leashes.
- School cost reduction
- firewood for municipal buildings
- Clean the trails! For runners and hikers, the past couple years the trail has been full of fallen trees.
- Recreation
- Take off point to rec path to Waitsfield
- Small scale housing
- Friendly dog area off leash

Gravel Pit Parcel (Question 3)

- Use of existing log landing for access to adjacent parcels on long term basis
- There are many other trails for recreation. People can use other trails for enjoyment. From the description above… the area does not seem appropriate for trails.
- This parcel does not seem to be appropriate for recreational use. Perhaps some trails (if safe) could be used for hiking and snowshoeing
- Horseback riding
- Not sure about motorized vehicles there should be areas allocated if conducive to motorized vehicles
- More public trails!
- No dogs without leashes anywhere!
- If dog under control by verbal commands
- Use should be allowed but no money spent of trail maint for rec.

Riverside Park Other (Question 1)

- Covered picnic shelter
- Parents/families can bring lawn-based games
- No swing set because of vandalism and accidents
- No grill because too much trash and people are careless w/fire
- Ample trash containers available if picnic tables are place
- Bathrooms!!
- Maybe one acre used for housing

Riverside Park Other (Question 1) - continued

- Have ball field available and leave it alone and natural
- Overnight camping
- port-o-lets please
- volley ball net
- Don't encourage activities that generate trash.
- Just enough to make it more usable, but not overkill!!
- port-o-potty

Riverside Park (Question 3 and Further Thoughts)

- Very pleasant spot
- Keep it simple
- This could be a really nice recreational area for the town - we really don't have such an area now
- Same parking with ability to enlarge for special events by dropping chain
- Best low-hazard swim hole we have - needs mowing of Japanese knotweed
- It is a very nice park the way it is. Keep it simple
- Developed as a swim hole?
- Improve streamside vegetation
- How many vehicles now park?
- Not sure what the capacity is now.
- Be careful of floodplain
- Keep dogs allowed!
- As little impact as possible
- it is a fabulous facility
- A right-of-way should be located for the future town road to the Airport (includes a bridge over river).
- Part of rec path to Waitsfield
- Keep it quiet – promote Lareau Swimhole
- Dogs on leash
- Keep it simple. It's beautiful now.
- Good Dog Park. MAYBE FENCED AREA FOR DOGS.
- keep it low key
- Natural & Simple
- keep it simple – what about fishing!
- meant for walking! it's gorgeous!
- Just keep it clean

Nightengale Parcel (Question 2 and Further Comments)

- Since it is not currently maintained, as an adjoiner I would be concerned about picnic table and trash
- Keep it simple… a nice bench would be appropriate
- Broadleaf landscape architecture (which maintains adjoining property) should be consulted on any design plans
- port-o-potty
- make a swim hole there, leave gravel behind Dam, fix covered bridge abutment
- make sure it is used for parking and recreation

Dump Parcel (Question 1 and Further Comments)

- Perhaps a location for affordable housing??
- If it's a toxic hazard it should be cleaned up
- Perhaps if brought back to safe conditions could be used for affordable housing
- Mainly harmless trash-maybe test water at bottom to determine toxic content, otherwise leave alone
- Is "brownfield money" coming from the state?

Town Forests (Question 1) - continued

- yes
- Eaton or Gravel Pit as long as they remain open for hunting /fishing.
- Another property - more of the existing are good logging lands
- Brooks Field, Gravel Pit
- use parcel already owns
- or add to an existing parcel
- seek another parcel of this purpose

Other (Question 3 – RE: newly cleared area at Brooks Field)

- Unsure
- Whatever is most needed
- Public area
- 2 diamonds in opposite corners, utility soccer, lacrosse, rugby field in adjacent softball outfields
- Tennis courts with lights?
- Whatever the greatest need is
- Volleyball court/badminton
- Nothing
- Multiple use, not just team sport oriented
- pool
- leave it alone. I can't believe you did this to begin with!
- Nothing!
- field hockey, volley ball
- Picnic Area
- skate park
- off leash dog park
- ultimate frisbee

Conservation Commission (Comments)

- As time moves forward-this will be even more responsible and needed
- A big thank you to all the committee members
- However I have a concern re: cost of such a commission- hope it does not cost more than it already does
- Maybe
- Would like to know difference more fully but Commission sounds good
- Just use your own common sense and value
- It seems there may be a downside to being a commission, multiple layers of governance, district boards, etc. I need to know more.
- Very strongly support this
- Slow down
- No because it would become dominated by zealots and self-important bureaucrat. It needs to remain subject to the SB.
- But the purpose should be consistent with Thoreau: to preserve the "beauty of the Town," which includes not just preserved areas but also well-used areas. Conservation and wise public use are not incompatible.
- See no real current need.

3. Should the following recreation uses be permitted on this parcel?

	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
Mountain Biking	1	2	3	4	5
ATVs	1	2	3	4	5
Snowmobiles	1	2	3	4	5
Hiking	1	2	3	4	5
Skiing/Snowshoeing	1	2	3	4	5
Camping	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Dog-walking without leash	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please list): _____

4. Further thoughts on the Gravel Pit Parcel: _____

Riverside Park

Located on the east side of Route 100 just south of the Sugarbush Access Road intersection, this parcel is approximately five acres. The Town of Warren acquired this parcel after the 1998 flood. It has an open field used for various forms of recreation, has approximately 1,200 feet of frontage along the Mad River, and provides popular access to the River.

1. Should there be more recreational infrastructure? Yes_____ No _____

   Picnic tables Yes_____ No _____
   A ball field Yes_____ No _____
   Swing set Yes_____ No _____
   Grill for cooking Yes_____ No _____
   Other: _____

2. Would you like to see an interpretive/educational board or kiosk that provides information about the natural features of the park? Yes_____ No _____
3. Should there be more parking? Yes_____ No _____ Same _____
   Comments: _____
4. Further thoughts on Riverside Park: _____

Nightengale/Goodwin (former LaRock) Parcel

This parcel is on the west side of the covered bridge in Warren Village, acquired after the 1998 flood.

1. Do you want to see improved access to the Mad River from this parcel? Yes_____ No _____
2. Should the town put a bench and/or picnic table on this town-owned parcel? Yes_____ No _____
3. Further thoughts on the Nightengale/Goodwin Parcel: _____

"The Dump" Parcel

Decommissioned more than 20 years ago, this7.2-acre parcel is on the east side of Dump Road just outside the Village.

1. Brownfields are areas of land tainted by previous uses that in, their current state, are unfit for human use or habitation. Should the town actively seek "Brownfield Money" to restore this site? Yes_____ No _____
   Comments: _____
2. Further thoughts on The Dump Parcel: _____

3. Should the following recreation uses be permitted on this parcel?

	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
Mountain Biking	1	2	3	4	5
ATVs	1	2	3	4	5
Snowmobiles	1	2	3	4	5
Hiking	1	2	3	4	5
Skiing/Snowshoeing	1	2	3	4	5
Camping	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Dog walking without leash	1	2	3	4	5

Other (please list): _____

4. Further thoughts on the Gravel Pit Parcel: _____

_____

Riverside Park

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   Picnic tables Yes_____ No _____
   A ball field Yes_____ No _____
   Swing set Yes_____ No _____
   Grill for cooking Yes_____ No _____
   Other: _____

2. Would you like to see an interpretive/educational board or kiosk that provides information about the natural features of the park? Yes_____ No _____
3. Should there be more parking? Yes_____ No _____ Same _____
   Comments: _____
4. Further thoughts on Riverside Park: _____

_____

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2. Should the town put a bench and/or picnic table on this town-owned parcel? Yes_____ No _____
3. Further thoughts on the Nightengale/Goodwin Parcel: _____

_____

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   Comments: _____
2. Further thoughts on The Dump Parcel: _____

_____

NIGHTINGALE/GOODWIN PARCEL

	YES	NO	Total
1 Do you want to see improved access to the Mad River from this parcel?	42 53.8%	36 46.2%	78 100.0%

	YES	NO	Total
2 Should the town put a bench and/or picnic table on this town-owned parcel?	50 63.3%	29 36.7%	79 100.0%

DUMP PARCEL

	YES	NO	Total
1 Should the town actively seek "Brownfield Money" to restore this site?	46 76.7%	14 23.3%	60 100.0%

TOWN FORESTS

	YES	NO	Total
1 Should the town of Warren have a town forest?	60 81.1%	14 18.9%	74 100.0%

OTHER

	YES	NO	Total
1 Should there be a policy against using synthetic fertilizers on town-owned land?	57 81.4%	13 18.6%	70 100.0%

	YES	NO	Total
2 Should there be a policy against using synthetic pesticides and herbicides on town-owned land?	59 84.3%	11 15.7%	70 100.0%

	1	2	3	4	5	Totals
3 soccer field	10 66.7%	2 13.3%	2 13.3%	0 0.0%	1 6.7%	15 100.0%
softball diamond	2 20.0%	2 20.0%	2 20.0%	2 20.0%	2 20.0%	10 100.0%
baseball diamond	2 22.2%	1 11.1%	3 33.3%	3 33.3%	0 0.0%	9 100.0%
combination	28 77.8%	8 22.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	36 100.0%

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

	YES	NO	Total
Should the Conservation *Committee* become a Conservation *Commission*?	48 73.8%	17 26.2%	65 100.0%

EATON PARCEL - Continued

	YES	NO	Totals
6 Put into the Conservation Fund?	49 92.5%	4 7.5%	53 100.0%
Put into the general fund?	16 42.1%	22 57.9%	38 100.0%
Used for other purposes?	12 38.7%	19 61.3%	31 100.0%

GRAVEL PIT PARCEL

	1	2	3	4	5	Totals
1 Forestry/Log landing	7 10.3%	13 19.1%	10 14.7%	17 25.0%	21 30.9%	68 100.0%
Future supply of town water	18 27.3%	16 24.2%	16 24.2%	9 13.6%	7 10.6%	66 100.0%
Wildlife	19 28.4%	14 20.9%	17 25.4%	10 14.9%	7 10.4%	67 100.0%
Recreation	6 8.7%	15 21.7%	10 14.5%	19 27.5%	19 27.5%	69 100.0%
Sand Extraction/gravel storage	30 43.5%	12 17.4%	10 14.5%	7 10.1%	10 14.5%	69 100.0%

	YES	NO	Total
2 Should existing logging roads be promoted as recreation trails for community use?	69 90.8%	7 9.2%	76 100.0%