



Seekonk, Massachusetts

Open Space and Recreation Plan | 2024

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

January 24, 2024

### PRESENTERS

Town of Seekonk

**Adeline Bellesheim**

Conservation Agent

Town of Seekonk

**John Aubin**

Town Planner

Weston & Sampson

**Brandon Kunkel**

Practice Leader

Weston & Sampson

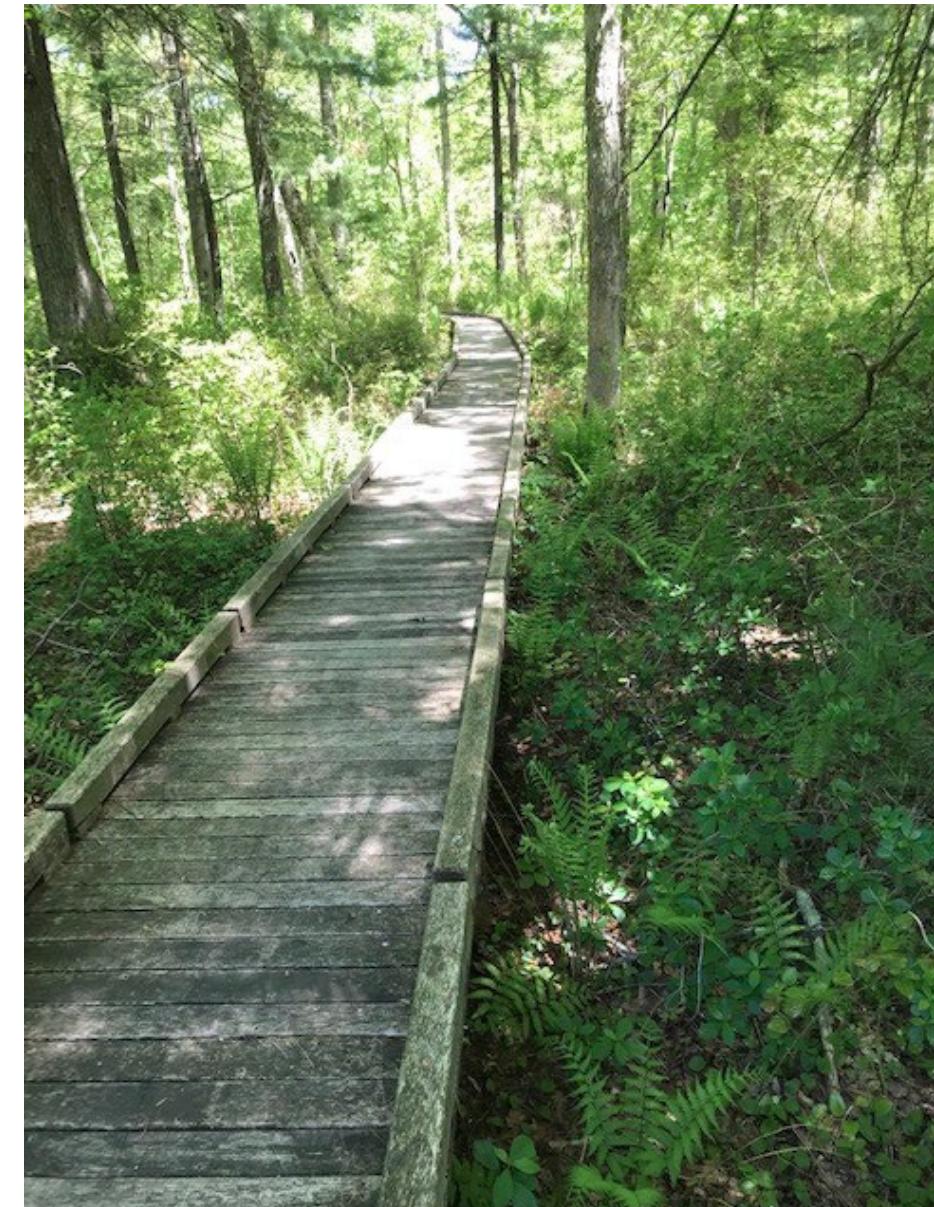
**Amanda Gaal**

Project Manager

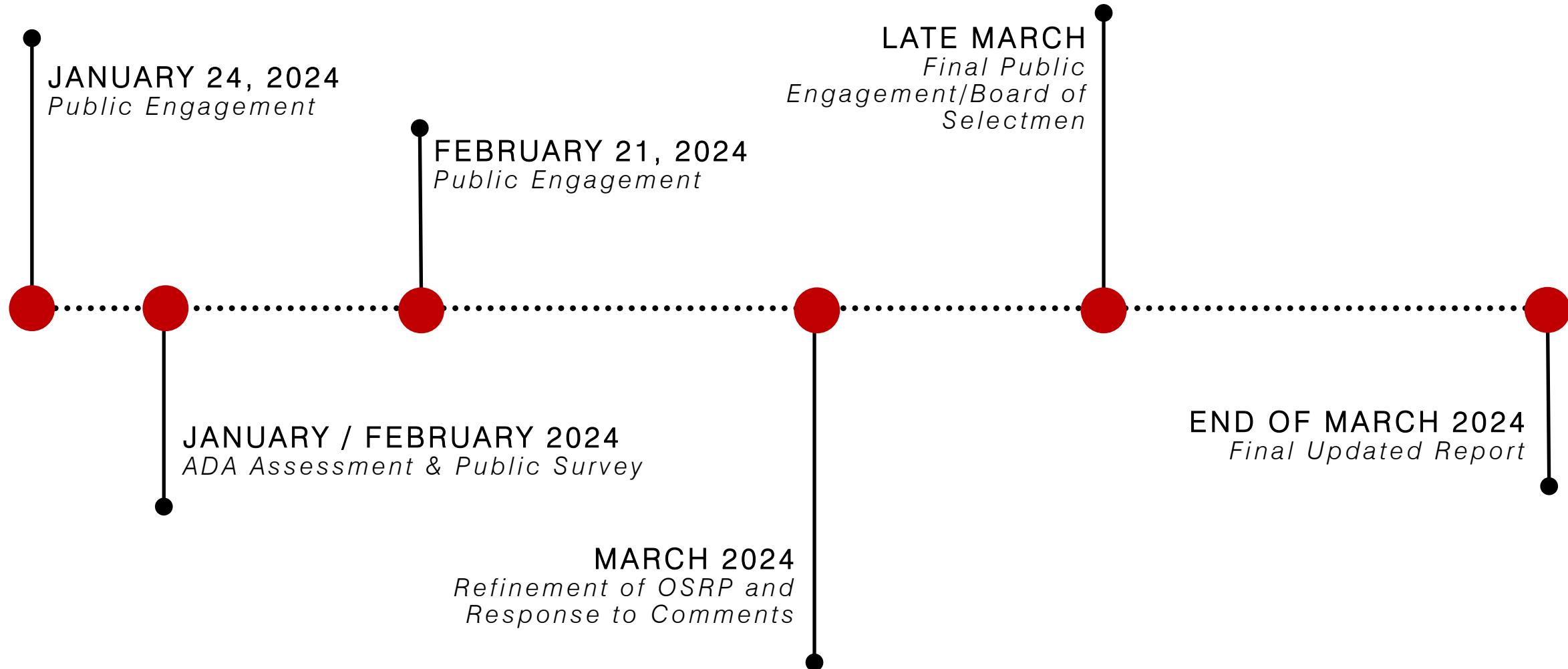


# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Project Schedule
- Summary of Property Types
- Site Visits
- Mapping Updates
- Preliminary Needs Analysis
- Goals & Objectives
- Action Items
- Recent Accomplishments
- Next Steps
- Q&A



# PROJECT SCHEDULE



# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## 1) TOWN OWNED LAND

### RECREATION



Town Hall  
Playground



Seekonk High  
School

### CONSERVATION



Burr's Pond



Gammino Pond

## 2) PRIVATELY OWNED LAND



Pawtucket  
Country Club



Swim and  
Tennis Club



Ledgemont  
Country Club



The Wheeler  
School

# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## 3) NONPROFIT

### RHODE ISLAND AUDUBON



### SEEKONK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

## TOWN OWNED LAND

RECREATION	CONSERVATION
Seekonk Meadows/Library	Burr's Pond Conservation Area
Seekonk Veterans Memorial	Gammino Pond Conservation Area
Town Hall Playground	Arcade Woods Conservation Area
Pleasant Street Athletic Field	Seakunke Sanctuary
Cole Street Athletic Complex	Town Forest
Water Lane Athletic Complex	Rocky Meadow
North School Athletic Complex	Lagerquist Property
Seekonk High School	Benson Property
Various Others (no names)	Turner Property
Medeiros Family Farm	Young Farm
	Peck-Chafee Reserve
	Aldo Rotondo Conservation Area
	Various Others (no names)
	Medeiros Family Farm

# SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

# PRIVately OWNED LAND

## The Wheeler School

## Ledgemont Country Club

## Pawtucket Country Club

## Seekonk Tennis and Swim Club

# Firefly Golf Course

## Waddington Property

## Wampanoag Rod & Gun Club

## Yaghjian Family Farm

# Ferry Farm

Mason Property

## Emlen Property

## Jencks Property

## Kendrick Property

## Pray Farm

## Webb Property

## Cuddingan APR

# NONPROFIT

RI Audubon

## Caratunk Wildlife Refuge

## Seekonk Land Conservation Trust

## Cushing Conservation Area

Edna Martin Wildlife Refuge

### Various Others (no names)

# SITE VISITS

## INVENTORIED PROPERTIES

- Arcade Woods Conservation Area
- Burr's Pond Conservation Area
- Cole Street Athletic Complex
- Gammino Pond Conservation Area
- North School Athletic Complex
- Seekonk High School-Football Field
- Seekonk Meadows
- Seekonk Veterans Memorial
- Town Hall Playground
- Water Lane Athletic Complex



# SITE VISITS



## ELEMENTS EVALUATED

- General conditions
- Roads, paths, & pavings
- Accessibility
- Fencing
- Site amenities
- Fields, courts, & active uses
- Trails & passive recreation
- Signage/monuments
- Water access
- Structures/facilities

# MAPPING UPDATES



## OPEN SPACE MAPS

- Regional Context Map
- Population Change Map
- Zoning Map
- Soils and Geologic Features Map
- Unique Features Map
- Water Resources Map
- Open Space Inventory Map
- Action Plan Map

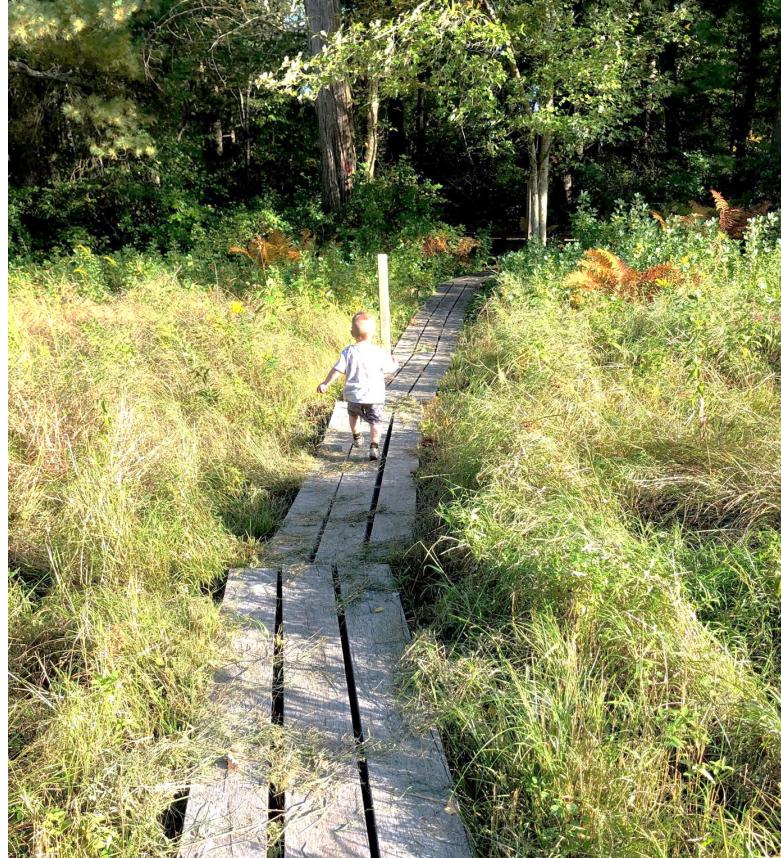
# PRELIMINARY NEEDS ANALYSIS

## NEEDS ARE DERIVED FROM

Community Input

Mapping & Information Gathered from the Town

Site Inventory Visits



## NEEDS ANALYSIS PRIORITY SUMMARY

1. Enhancement of Natural Resources
2. Greater Open Space System Connectivity
3. Continued Investment in Active Recreation Facilities
4. Integrated Park and Open Space Management
5. Design Open Space Improvements to meet the needs of a changing population

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

**GOAL 1** | Improve Active Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk

**GOAL 2** | Improve Passive Recreation Opportunities in Seekonk

**GOAL 3** | Enhance Connectivity between Various Open Space and Active Recreation Facilities

**GOAL 4** | Preserve Wildlife Habitat

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

**GOAL 5** | Preserve Seekonk's Rural Character

**GOAL 6** | Protect Waterways and Wetland Resource Areas in Seekonk

**GOAL 7** | Improve Climate Resiliency at Parks and Open Space

**GOAL 8** | Increase Public Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Amenities

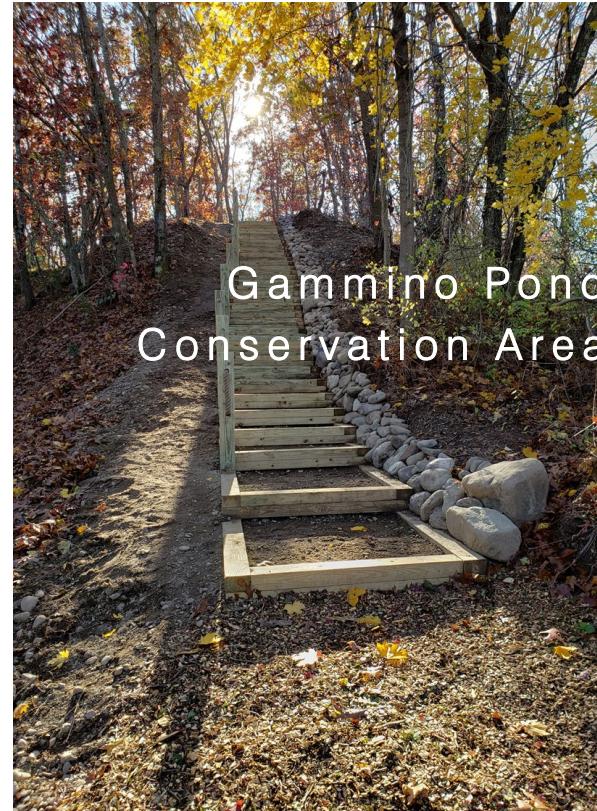
**GOAL 9** | Establish Effective Policies that Support Open Space Preservation and Recreation Activities

# ACTION ITEMS

- Allocate **funding** for renovations at existing **athletic fields** and **playgrounds** as well as the purchase of new properties for **active recreation**
- Continue to prioritize funds for **trail improvements** including signage, accessibility, and **connectivity**
- **Protect** and **preserve** Seekonk's **wildlife habitat** by identifying key parcels of land that provide important connections for wildlife and review/revise subdivision bylaws and regulations to increase protection of these parcels
- Study on site and **upstream impacts** to water bodies adjacent to open space assets and promote **public awareness** regarding **water quality**
- Continue to work towards the **goals established in the OSRP** and allocate funding to accomplish them

# RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Consistent with Future Action Items



Establishment of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Working Group has instigated more collaboration amongst town departments, committees, and trusts.

# RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Consistent with Future Action Items

PROPERTY/PROJECT	OWNERSHIP	DESCRIPTION
Town Hall Playground (1 <sup>st</sup> community playground)	Town Owned: Recreation	New playground & parking (2019-2020)
Arcade Woods Conservation Area	Town Owned: Conservation	Trails & picnic improvements (2014-2017)
Gammino Pond Conservation Area	Town Owned: Conservation	Staging area & trail improvements (2018-2020)
Lagerquist Property	Town Owned: Conservation	Acquired 72 acres of land for conservation (2015)
Turner Property	Town Owned: Conservation	Acquired 36 acres of land for conservation (2016)
Young Farm	Town Owned: Conservation	Acquired 21 acres of land for conservation (2016)
Pray Farm	Privately Owned	Town and state acquired APR on 10 acres (2019)
Various Properties	Seekonk Land Conservation Trust	Protected 2 properties (37 acres) through conservation restrictions
Various Properties	Seekonk Land Conservation Trust	Acquired 3 properties (47 acres) for conservation

## NEXT STEPS

Next Public Engagement Meeting | February 21<sup>st</sup>

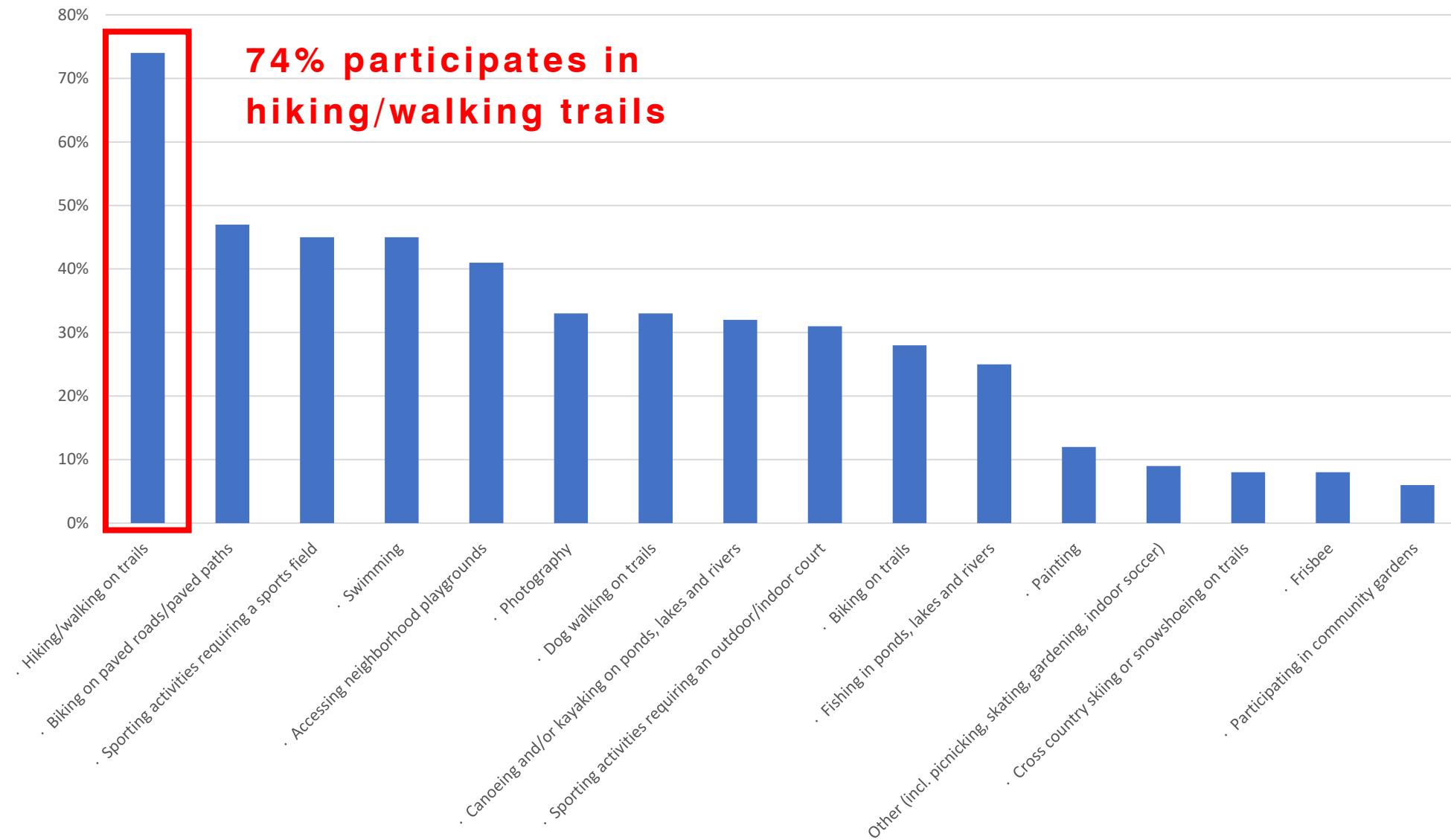
### Public Survey Link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5BTBYJW>

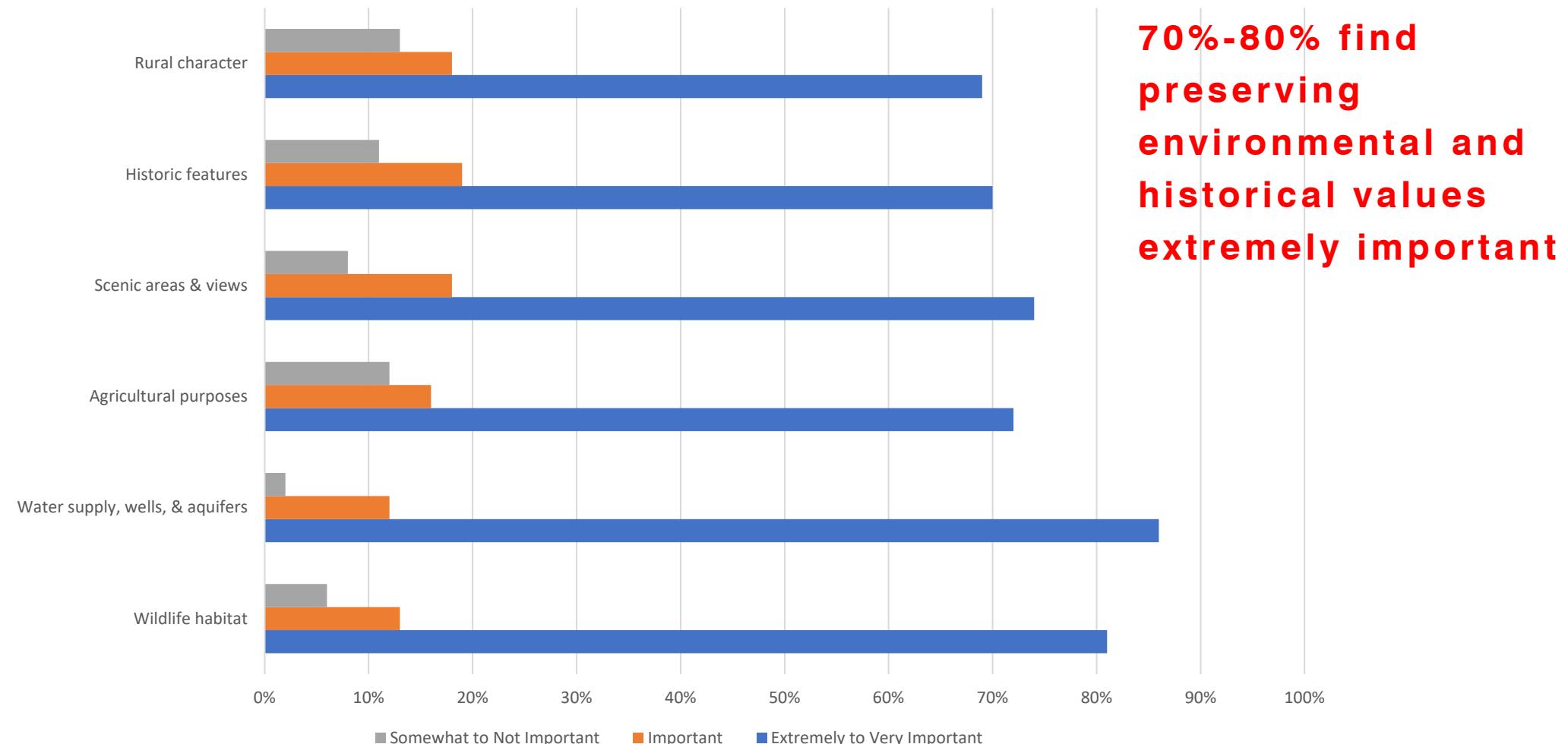


Survey Closes: **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### In which recreation activities does your household currently participate?



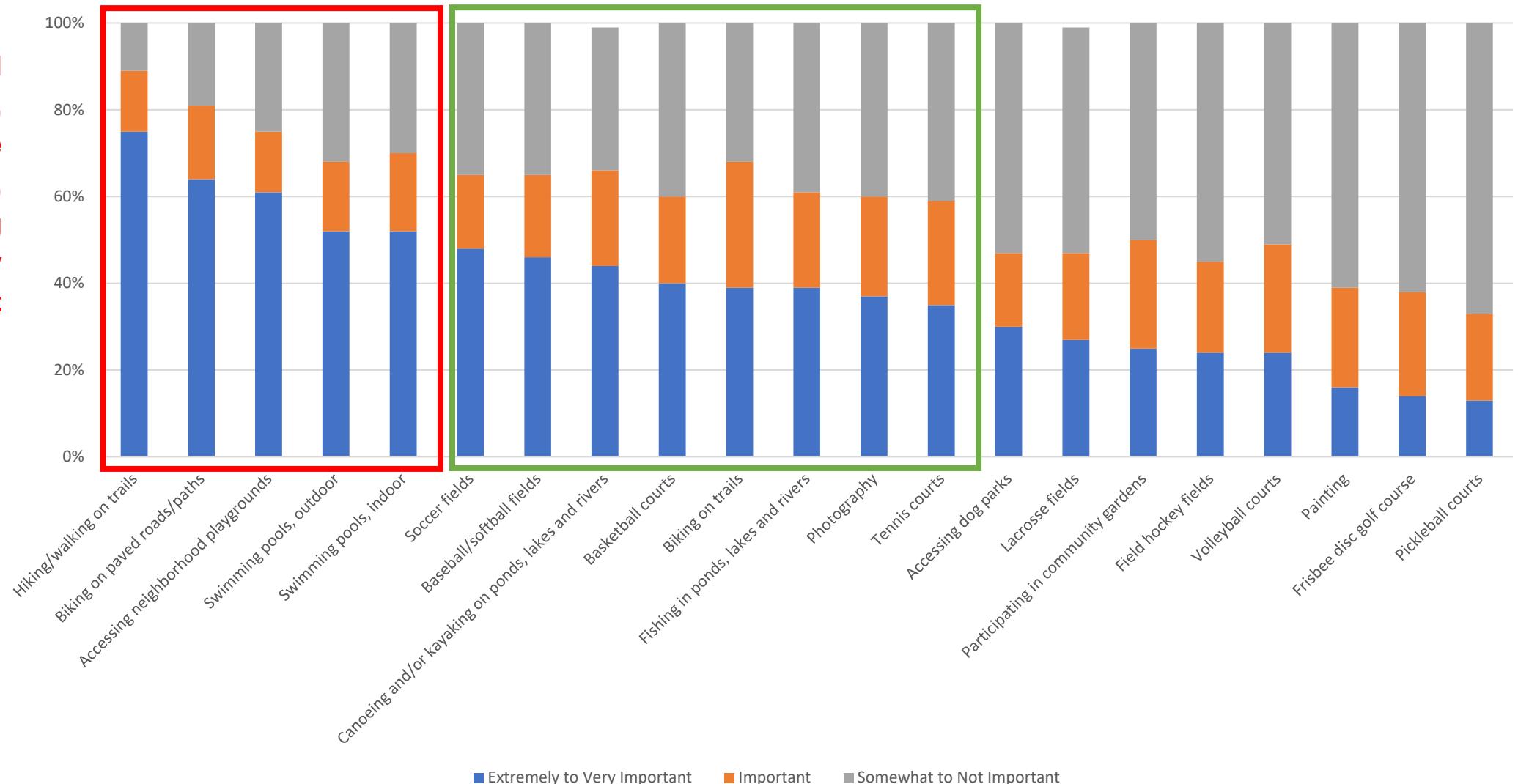
**How important is it to your household to conserve open space for the purpose of preserving the values below?**

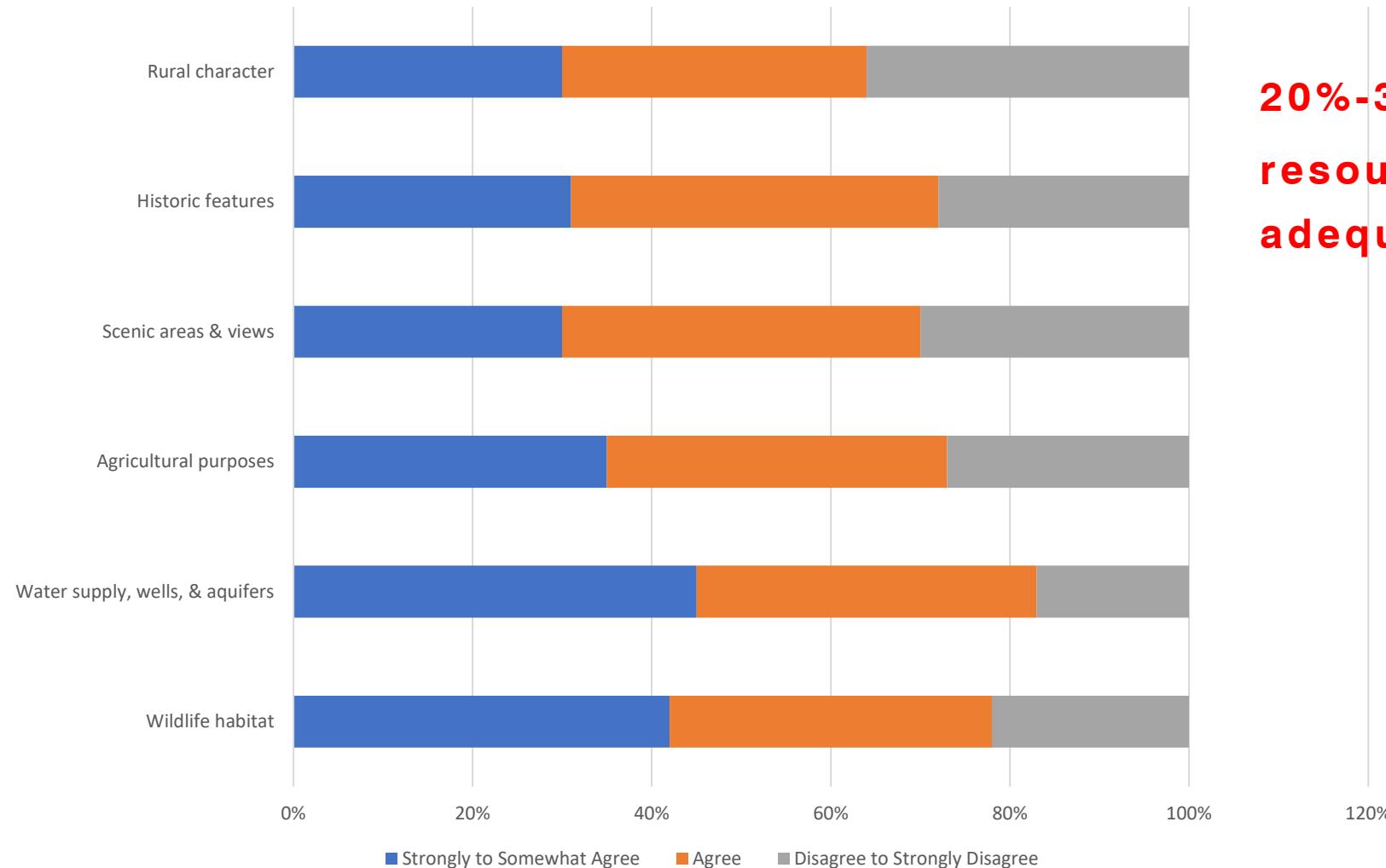


### How important are these recreation activities and facilities to your household?

50%-75% feel  
hiking, biking,  
accessible  
playgrounds,  
and swimming  
are extremely  
important

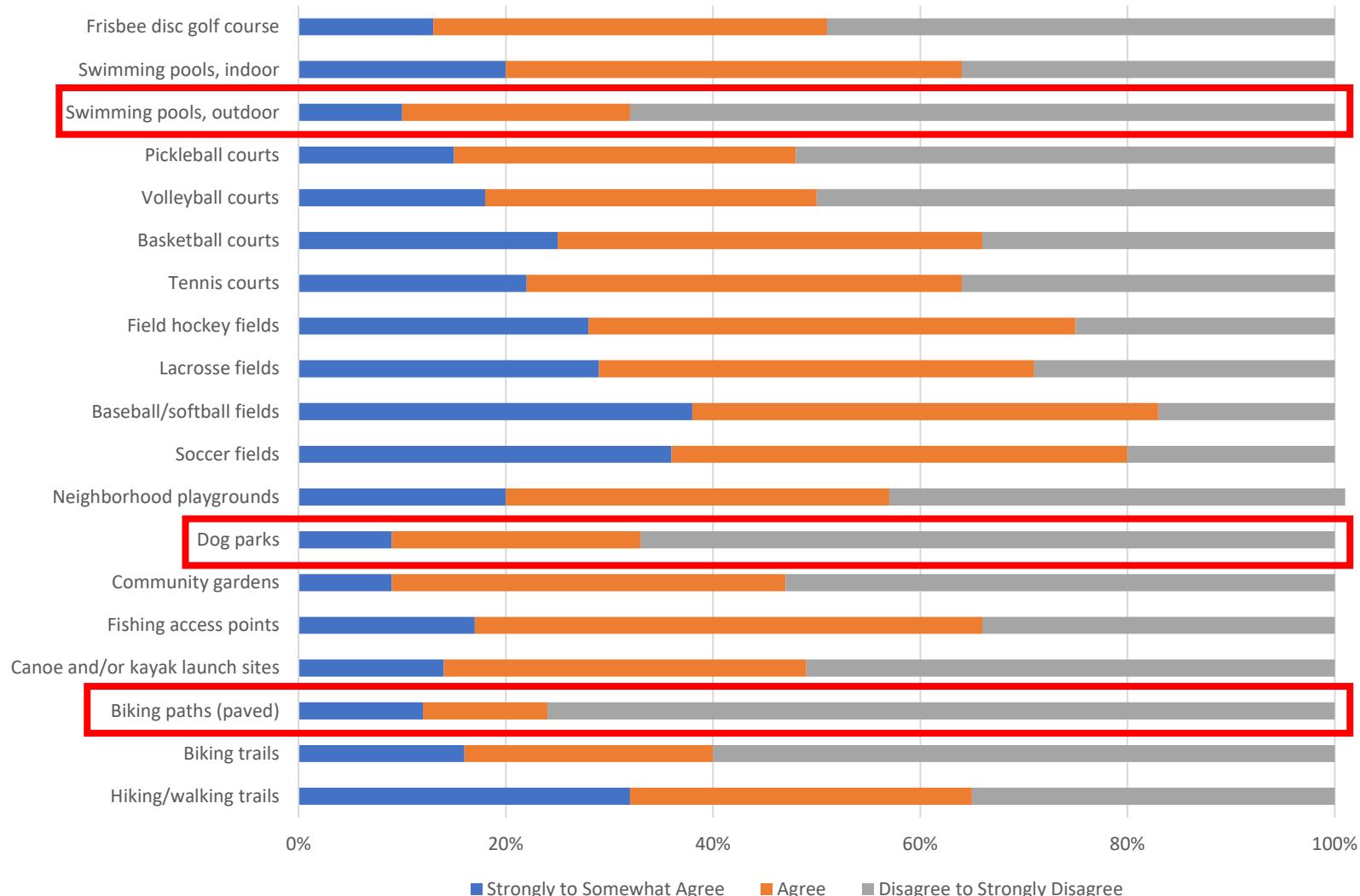
60%+ feel  
soccer fields,  
water  
activities,  
courts, and  
photography  
important to  
extremely  
important



**Do you agree that these resources are adequately conserved in Seekonk?**

**20%-36% feel these resources are NOT adequately conserved**

**Do you agree that there are an adequate number of these recreation facilities listed below in Seekonk?**



**20%-76% feel there is  
NOT an adequate  
number of these  
recreation facilities in  
Seekonk**

**THANK YOU!**

**THOUGHTS | QUESTIONS | COMMENTS**

**PLEASE STAY CONNECTED**

**Project Contacts**

Adeline Bellesheim, Conservation Agent

Email : [abellesheim@seekonk-ma.gov](mailto:abellesheim@seekonk-ma.gov)

Phone : 508.336.2944

John Aubin, Town Planner

Email : [jaubin@seekonk-ma.gov](mailto:jaubin@seekonk-ma.gov)

Phone : 508.336.2961