



HUDSON RECREATION SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

An on-line survey was widely disseminated to Hudson residents. The survey was open from April 2, 2018 to May 18, 2018. Hard copies were also available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. There were 407 respondents.

WHO TOOK THE SURVEY

The majority of respondents were:

- Female (75%)
- Hudson residents (95%)
- Between the ages of 35 and 49 (68%)
- With children under 10 years old (55%) and with children between 10 and 18 (51%)
- Married (83%)
- Live near Forest Ave. (29%) and Farley Elementary School (26%)

PERCEPTIONS AND COMMUNICATION

- A large majority (58%) of respondents reported an overall **positive perception** of Hudson Recreation when asked this question directly. Additionally, a large number of respondents when asked for additional comments expressed positive feelings towards Hudson Recreation by their comment **“Great Job. Thank you.”** A number also expressed their **appreciation for the survey**.
- A very large majority (80%) said they find Hudson Recreation programs and events to be **affordable**.
- Many survey respondents use **social media**. Most (88%) use **Facebook** regularly and a majority (56%) report that they follow Hudson Recreation on Facebook, however, a significant number (44%) say they do not.
- The majority of respondents (41%) stated that the **most pressing issue facing Hudson Recreation** is **Funding**. This was followed by Maintenance (27%) and Lack of Programs (25%).

KEY SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The following are ideas compiled from responses from all the survey questions. For the most part they represent majority opinions, although some are ideas suggested by only a few, but seemed to be in the same spirit as the opinions of others.

Respondents offered various ideas regarding ways to improve existing facilities and programming as well as suggestions for additional new ones.



NEW FACILITIES

Most **popular suggestions regarding new facilities and programs** included:

- **Dog Park**
- **Community/Recreation Center**
- **“Central Playground”** (like that in Littleton, Sudbury, Northborough)
- Expand **non-athletic programming** (to include art, STEM, cooking, etc.)
- **Turf field** (especially at Morgan Bowl)

The **number one** new facility respondents said they would like to see by far was a **DOG PARK**

Also:

- Pool (indoor/outdoor)
- Outdoor basketball
- More walking/hiking trails

Some respondents stated that they preferred taking better care of the existing facilities and improving these to extending to new ones.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

Facilities most cited as needing improvement (this may to some extent be influenced by the age(s) of the respondents' children and/or where they live in relation to the various parks and playgrounds and therefore, which ones they visit/use):

- **Wood Park**
- **Moulton's Field**
- **Cherry St.**
- Forest Ave.
- Centennial Beach

The three park/playgrounds/fields respondents felt were **most neglected** and in the greatest need for maintenance and upgrading are **WOOD PARK, MOULTON'S and CHERRY STREET.**

Improvements called for include:

- Addition of Amenities
 - Bathrooms
 - Shaded seating areas, tables, picnic areas, bleachers
 - Trash/recycling bins
 - Fencing around play areas, especially the Splash Pad
 - More parking
- ADA accessibility
- Upgraded equipment, regular monitoring for safety
- Opportunities for wide range of ages to enjoy
- Attention to cleanliness and safety
- Improve access
 - Review rules regarding use (including for non-residents)
 - ADA accessibility

SUGGESTIONS FOR OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents had a number of suggestions regarding ways to improve the management and operation of the Hudson Recreation Division. These included:

Better access to information

- More timely dissemination of information regarding programs (esp. with regard to summer programming)
- Update website
- Create on-line calendar
- Informational signage at facility locations

Some respondents reported being unaware of some of the Town's existing resources and offerings.

Expand seasons/times

- Working parents expressed a desire for programs to be more aligned with their needs, e.g. during half school days, afterschool, summer, etc. (some said they end up going to other Towns for additional programming, better hours)

Improve Maintenance

- Cleanliness, trash pick up
- Trimming grass, picking up brush and branches

Increase capacity

- Hire more staff
- Recruit more volunteers
- Create more opportunities for teens to volunteer
- Partner with relevant others (including schools, non-profit, private organizations)

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Non-fitness oriented:

- STEM
- Beading, sewing
- Art, painting, pottery
- Movie editing
- Wood working instruction
- Food related (Fairs, food contests, cooking lessons for all ages)

Sports/fitness-oriented

- Cross-country skiing
- Sailing lessons
- Ice-skating
- Adult fitness classes (Yoga, Pilates)
- Rock climbing
- Hip-hop /Dance
- Tae Kwon Do/Karate
- Summer programs (7)
 - Kids curling program
 - More swimming lessons (different ability levels)
- Nature education and hiking

Events

- Block dances (summer)
- Day trips
- Outdoor concerts
- Family movies (including summer outdoor movies)

POPULATIONS NEEDING ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

(according to survey respondents):

- Pre-school
 - Use of school playgrounds- allowed?
 - Baby swings made available in all playgrounds
 - Update/upgrade for safety (e.g. flooring under playgrounds, fence-in play areas)
- Special needs, including autism
- Those needing handicap access (ADA access/universal design)
- Adult fitness
- Grandparents

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS...

Options Attention Great Job Littleton and Sudbury Park Yoga Classes Rec
Splash Pad Area Hudson Year Round Programs
Great Work Town Good Work School Association Community Far
Survey

PARK COMMISSION - RECREATION FACILITIES

Assabet River Rail Trail
Centennial Beach
Boutwell Little League Fields 1, 2, 3
Cherry Street Field & Playground
Farina Field
Intel Field & Playground
Moulton Field & Playground
Sauta Fields & Playground
Sauta Cornfield (Brook Street)
Tripps Pond at Lamson Park & Swings
Cellucci Park, Playground & Splash Pad
Hudson Skate Park
Warren Chamberlain Recreation Facility (Outdoor Rink)
Liberty Park
Wood Park & Playground
Kelley Playground (at the Hubert School)
Park Commission facilities surrounding Hudson High School:
Riverside Park: Field, Tennis Courts, Playground
Rimkus Clubhouse
Morgan Bowl Track & Fields
O'Donnell 1 & 2 Fields
Busch Memorial Field
Fossile Field

RECREATION PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Day Programs (with Field Trips) - **RECKids**
(formerly 4/5's, Playlot, Outdoor Activities, Sunshine & Adventure)

Centennial Beach

Swimming Lessons

Tennis Lessons

Track and Field

Unified Sports (Basketball)

Recreation Basketball

Travel Basketball

Clinics: Basketball, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, HS Soccer,
Golf, Baseball, Softball

Special Events:

Pumpkin Fest

George Chiasson Fishing Derby

Golf Tournament

Freedoms Way - Hidden Treasures

Free Tennis Day

Wood Park Summer Concerts

Cellucci Park Summer Concerts

Past Special Events:

Charter Bus Trips to Theaters (Boston & Providence)