

WHAT MORE CAN LEYDEN DO
FOR YOU?

A SURVEY

2025

Leyden 2025 Open Space and Recreation Survey

This survey is an effort by the Open Space Planning Committee of the Town of Leyden to assess public opinion on urgent questions. The answers you give will guide protection of open space and natural resources, and the development of recreational facilities and programs in our town. In addition, they will form the basis for an Open Space and Recreation Plan for Leyden. This Plan will help Leyden qualify for Grants-in-Aid from federal and state government for the purchase of recreation and open space land. Given pressures on our land values, it behooves us to plan our open spaces and recreation areas before it is too late to do so. *Your answers will remain anonymous and will be used for planning purposes only.*

What is an Open Space and Recreation Plan?

An Open Space and Recreation Plan establishes goals and objectives to guide the Town in its decisions affecting open space, but it is not a legally binding document. It is NOT a plan for large-scale acquisitions of land by the Town, but it may recommend protection of specific areas, or their acquisition for public use. It can help preserve our heritage and plan for future need, insure space for recreation, and safeguard the rural character of Leyden.

Open space may be protected in many ways: by zoning bylaws; by existing state and federal laws (such as the *Wetlands Protection Act* and the *Clean Water Act*); by individuals placing forest or agricultural land under restriction for tax abatement; by farmers selling development rights to the town or state to keep it in production; by private donations and/or establishment of conservation restrictions; by direct purchase with town meeting approval or by purchase by a land trust; or some combination of any of these.



Please return your completed survey

**By mail to:
Open Space Committee
Leyden Town Offices
7 Brattleboro Road
Leyden, MA 01301**

**Or drop off at:
Town Offices**

If you or any family members would like additional copies of the survey they are available at the drop-off location. We encourage individuals in a household to fill out their own survey.

Q1. How important is each of the following in your decision to live in Leyden? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important.

		Very Important	Important	Not Important
a.	Rural or small town character	1	2	3
b.	Open fields, forests and trails	1	2	3
c.	Peace, beauty, and quiet	1	2	3
d.	Access to Leyden State Forest	1	2	3
e.	Access to Leyden Wildlife Management areas	1	2	3
f.	Air/water quality	1	2	3
g.	Local climate	1	2	3
h.	Safety from crime and vandalism	1	2	3
i.	Public school system	1	2	3
j.	Affordable housing	1	2	3
k.	Recreational opportunities	1	2	3
l.	Friends or relatives here	1	2	3
m.	Five college area	1	2	3
n.	Access to food, goods, shopping	1	2	3
o.	Job opportunities in the region	1	2	3
p.	Access to New Hampshire, Vermont	1	2	3
q.	Public services	1	2	3
r.	Sporting, physical fitness facilities	1	2	3
s.	Other (please list)	1	2	3

Q2. How important are the following to you? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important. For example, if you feel that an item listed is a necessary component of rural character, you would circle either 1 or 2, depending on how strongly you felt about it

		Very Important	Important	Not Important
a.	Large road-side trees	1	2	3
b.	Dirt roads	1	2	3
c.	Lack of industrial/commercial strips	1	2	3
d.	Historic structures	1	2	3
e.	Vernal pools	1	2	3
f.	Access to Leyden State Forest	1	2	3
g.	Access to Leyden Wildlife Management areas	1	2	3
h.	Moose, bobcat, deer and other wildlife	1	2	3
i.	Open fields	1	2	3
j.	Farm houses	1	2	3

	(How important?)	Very Important	Important	Not Important
k.	Scenic views	1	2	3
l.	Narrow windy roads	1	2	3
m.	Large forested areas	1	2	3
n.	Walking and hiking trails	1	2	3
o.	Low traffic volume/traffic speeds	1	2	3
p.	Farm animals	1	2	3
q.	Quiet	1	2	3
r.	Lower housing density	1	2	3
s.	Absence of city lights	1	2	3
t.	Clean streams and water bodies	1	2	3
	Other (Please list)			
		1	2	3
		1	2	3

Q3. How important is it to conserve the following natural resources and scenic resources? *Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Very Important; 2 = Important; and 3 = Not Important.*

		Very Important	Important	Not Important
a.	Dirt roads	1	2	3
b.	Forests	1	2	3
c.	Open fields	1	2	3
d.	Rural character	1	2	3
e.	Scenic views	1	2	3
f.	Stone walls	1	2	3
g.	Streams/ponds	1	2	3
h.	Wetlands	1	2	3
i.	Wildlife habitat	1	2	3
j.	Clean drinking water	1	2	3
k.	Farmland	1	2	3
l.	Historic structures	1	2	3
m.	Clean air	1	2	3
n.	Wilderness	1	2	3
o.	Green River and its watershed	1	2	3
q.	Other (please list)			
		1	2	3
		1	2	3

Q4. Which of the following recreational activities do members of your household do in, or near Leyden?

Please circle as many that apply.

		Where in town is the activity done? If not in Leyden, please indicate which town.
a.	Basketball	
b.	Baseball	
c.	Bicycling	
d.	Bird Watching	
e.	Boating	
f.	Camping	
g.	Canoeing	
h.	Cross-Country Skiing	
i.	Down-Hill Skiing	
j.	Fishing	
k.	Gardening	
l.	Golf	
m.	Hiking	
n.	Horseshoes	
o.	Hunting	
p.	Ice Skating	
q.	Jogging/Running	
r.	Pickleball	
s.	Picnicking	
t.	Rollerblading	
u.	Sledding	
v.	Snowshoeing	
w.	Snowmobiling	
x.	Softball	
y.	Swimming	
z.	Tennis	
aa.	Walking	
bb.	Other	

Q5. Which actions do you support to protect/consERVE open space and natural resources?

Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Strongly Support; 2 = Support; and 3 = Don't Support.

		Strongly Support	Support	Don't Support
a.	Town/State purchase of undeveloped land	1	2	3
b.	Town/State purchase of development rights	1	2	3
c.	Zoning changes for open space protection	1	2	3
d.	No additional town actions should be taken	1	2	3
e.	Acceptance of donated undeveloped land	1	2	3
f.	Acceptance of donated development rights	1	2	3
g.	Encourage land protection by private non-profits	1	2	3
h.	Encourage land protection by state agencies	1	2	3
i.	Encourage land protection by a combination of parties	1	2	3
j.	Comments			

Q6. How has the quality of the following changed over time? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Changed for the Better; 2 = Changed for the Worse; 3 = Remained the Same; and 4 = No Opinion/Unsure

		Changed for the Better	Changed for the Worse	Remained the Same	No Opinion/Unsure
a.	Local open space/undeveloped land	1	2	3	4
b.	Sense of community	1	2	3	4
c.	Leyden's rural character	1	2	3	4
d.	Leyden active farming	1	2	3	4
e.	Recreational facilities	1	2	3	4
f.	Recreational planning/programming	1	2	3	4
g.	Other	1	2	3	4

Q7. What are the two most significant threats to Leyden's sense of community and rural character?

Please circle two only.

- a. Residential development
- b. Lack of development
- c. Environmental pollution
- d. Rising property taxes
- e. Loss of working farms
- e. Other/s (please list) _____

Q8. How often do you utilize the following open space and recreational resources? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Daily; 2 = Weekly; 3 = Monthly; 4 = Every Six Months; 5 = Once a Year; and 6 = Never.

		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Every Six Months	Once a Year	Never
a.	Town common	1	2	3	4	5	6
b.	Leyden State Forest	1	2	3	4	5	6
c.	Playground at former elementary school (now Town Offices)	1	2	3	4	5	6
d.	Avery Ball Field/Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5	6
e.	Church Wood Sanctuary (248 East Hill Road)	1	2	3	4	5	6
f.	Hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5	6
g.	Basketball court/Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5	6
h.	Pickleball court/Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5	6
i.	8-acre woodlot behind Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5	6
j.	Millers River	1	2	3	4	5	6
k.	Library programming	1	2	3	4	5	6
l.	Recreational programming and planning	1	2	3	4	5	6
m.	Community events	1	2	3	4	5	6
n.	Snowmobiling trails	1	2	3	4	5	6
o.	Wildlife management areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
p.	South County Rd walking route	1	2	3	4	5	6
q.	Horsehoe Pit/Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Other	1	2	3	4	5	6

Q9. What is your opinion about the QUALITY of the following open space, recreation facilities, and recreational programming in the Town of Leyden? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Excellent; 2 = Good; 3 = Adequate; 4 = Poor; and 5 = No Opinion/Unsure.

		Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor	No Opinion/Unsure
a.	Town Common	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Leyden State Forest	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Playground at former elementary school (Now Town Offices)	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Avery Ball Field/Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Church Wood Sanctuary (248 East Hill Road)	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5

	(Quality)	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor	No Opinion/ Unsure
g.	Basketball Court at Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5
h.	Pickle Ball at Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5
i.	8-Acre Woodlot behind Avery Field	1	2	3	4	5
j.	Snowmobiling trails	1	2	3	4	5
k.	Library Planning and Programming	1	2	3	4	5
l.	Recreational Planning and Programming	1	2	3	4	5
m.	Community events, lunches	1	2	3	4	5
n.	Other	1	2	3	4	5

Q10. What is your opinion about the QUANTITY of the following recreational programming and facilities in the town of Leyden? Please circle a number for each item where 1 = Excellent; 2 = Good; 3 = Adequate; 4 = Poor; and 5 = No Opinion/Unsure.

		Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor	No Opinion/ Unsure
a.	Playgrounds/tot lots	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Sports fields	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Pickle ball court					
e.	Swimming areas	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5
g.	Horseback riding trails	1	2	3	4	5
h.	Snowmobiling trails	1	2	3	4	5
i.	Library planning and programming	1	2	3	4	5
j.	Recreational planning and programming	1	2	3	4	5
k.	Community events, lunches	1	2	3	4	5
l.	Other	1	2	3	4	5

Q11. What additional information would you like to share on the open space and recreational activities in Leyden?

<p>Q12. What is your age? <i>Please circle the range of ages that includes your age.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 0 – 19 years old b. 20 – 44 years old c. 45 – 64 years old d. 65 – 78 years old e. 79 years old or older 	<p>Q13. Please write the number of people in your household in each age group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ____ 0 – 19 years old b. ____ 20 – 44 years old c. ____ 45 – 64 years old d. ____ 65 – 78 years old e. ____ 79 years old or older
<p>Q14. How many years have you lived in Leyden? <i>Please circle one.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Less than 5 years B. 5 to 9 years C. 10 to 15 years D. More than 15 years 	<p>Q15. How many months a year do you live in Leyden?</p> <p>____ Number of Months</p>
<p>Q16. Do you own your property? <i>Please circle one.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. YES b. NO 	<p>Q17. If you own your property, how many acres do you own? <i>Please circle one.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Less than 2 acres b. 2-10 acres c. 10-25 acres d. Greater than 25 acres

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