

WOLCOTT COMMUNITY FOREST SURVEY October 2022: **MANAGEMENT FOCUS**

| Category | Question | Raw | Average like/ | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | favor | neutral | disfvr |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Management focus | Natural Resources & Habitat | 636 | 4.61 | 97 | 31 | 8 | 1 | 1 | | 128 | 8 | 2 |
| Management focus | Recreation | 561 | 4.16 | 58 | 50 | 19 | 6 | 2 | | 108 | 19 | 8 |
| Management focus | Education & Demonstration Projects | 513 | 3.81 | 43 | 46 | 28 | 12 | 6 | | 89 | 28 | 18 |
| Management focus | Agricultural & Forest Products | 372 | 2.81 | 13 | 26 | 36 | 37 | 21 | | 39 | 36 | 58 |

WOLCOTT COMMUNITY FOREST SURVEY October 2022: **ACTIVITES**

| Category | Question | Raw | Average like/ | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | favor | neutral | disfvr |
|------------|---|-----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Activities | Hiking/Running on Rugged Footpaths | 607 | 4.53 | 94 | 21 | 16 | 2 | 1 | | 115 | 16 | 3 |
| Activities | Snowshoeing | 601 | 4.52 | 89 | 26 | 16 | 2 | 0 | | 115 | 16 | 2 |
| Activities | Cross-Country Skiing | 592 | 4.38 | 85 | 24 | 21 | 3 | 2 | | 109 | 21 | 5 |
| Activities | Sledding | 537 | 4.09 | 59 | 36 | 27 | 8 | 1 | | 95 | 27 | 9 |
| Activities | Walking/Hiking/Running on ADA Accessible Paths (gravel) | 526 | 4.02 | 55 | 37 | 29 | 6 | 4 | | 92 | 29 | 10 |
| Activities | Fishing | 509 | 3.93 | 50 | 30 | 41 | 7 | 2 | | 80 | 41 | 9 |
| Activities | Backcountry/Glade Skiing | 504 | 3.88 | 53 | 24 | 40 | 10 | 3 | | 77 | 40 | 13 |
| Activities | Dog Walking Leashed | 498 | 3.75 | 43 | 33 | 42 | 10 | 5 | | 76 | 42 | 15 |
| Activities | Swimming Hole | 484 | 3.71 | 45 | 29 | 36 | 14 | 7 | | 74 | 36 | 21 |
| Activities | Mountain Biking | 481 | 3.56 | 51 | 21 | 33 | 12 | 19 | | 72 | 33 | 31 |
| Activities | Community Firewood Program | 465 | 3.53 | 35 | 38 | 33 | 13 | 13 | | 73 | 33 | 26 |
| Activities | Winter Fat Biking | 462 | 3.43 | 40 | 24 | 40 | 15 | 16 | | 64 | 40 | 31 |
| Activities | Snowmobiling on existing designated VAST trail* | 378 | 2.90 | 15 | 24 | 46 | 23 | 23 | | 39 | 46 | 46 |
| Activities | Horseback Riding | 378 | 2.88 | 9 | 26 | 50 | 32 | 15 | | 35 | 50 | 47 |
| Activities | Hunting | 333 | 2.53 | 17 | 17 | 30 | 22 | 46 | | 34 | 30 | 68 |
| Activities | Dog Walking Unleashed | 325 | 2.48 | 22 | 10 | 25 | 27 | 46 | | 32 | 25 | 73 |
| Activities | Trapping | 247 | 1.88 | 8 | 9 | 16 | 24 | 75 | | 17 | 16 | 99 |

Any other ACTIVITES?

- Music events. Maybe a place for retreats
- I have seen lots of erosion on trails caused when over used by horses or bicycles. And if bicycles are allowed, does that include electric bikes? If VAST trail already exists, so be it.
- I really believe if this is all geared toward an educational opportunity for children as listed above, I will improve everyone's lives in the future, and the parents, grandparents of now. grandparent involvement would be awesome....."the grandparent" committee of knowledge!!
- To have this as a natural wildlife corridor
- First Nations access and input on usage of this land
- All activities on feet no animals because of waste left by them please think this thru no mountain biking for sure Stowe made a single track and their woods and ruined it call them ask them they'll describe what they go through with the people from New Jersey and New York rude drunk people that leave trash everywhere they'll come here and do it
- I would love to see the grant money go towards mountain bike trails! They are the hardest to build and would have the most positive impact on our town!
- NOTE ABOUT HORSES ,,,,,,, IF PEOPLE HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER THIER DOGS DO POEPLR RIDING HORSE HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE HORSE POOPS? LOT MORE MESS THAN A DOG FOR SURE
- I know snowmobiles are allowed on the VAST part of our forest, but I just wanted to indicate how much I loathe them. Nothing like using fossil fuels for an activity that requires snow and a functioning climate.
- Horseback riding and Mountain biking even hiking should not be done in early spring, as it causes erosion of the trails. Trails would have to be done so they do not cause erosion. Maybe like the bike path or something else. I am a biker but we have to be careful of erosion to the land, especially in early spring. None of this should be done until May 15.
- Keep it natural, accessible SIMPLE easy to manage
- NO BUILDINGS

Activity Comments from outside Wolcott (from Hardwick, Morrisville)

- ◇ Food Forest!
- ◇ Technical mtn bike trails are incompatible with hiking, xc skiing. Yet a mtn bike trail design company is apparently involved from the start. I suggest investigating how the Hardwick trail system is working.
- ◇ Hunting allowed where people are always walking/hiking/running is dangerous. There is so much land that hunters already have access to and there is little land allocated to such a great cause such as this. Although if hunting were needed to control population of wildlife then perhaps hunting could take place with hunters who are hired and specifically trained to hunt in the area.
- ◇ Mountain bike trails are a priority in my opinion.

WOLCOTT COMMUNITY FOREST SURVEY October 2022: **BUILDINGS/FACILITIES**

| Category | Question | Raw | Average like/ | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | favor | neutral | disfvr |
|----------------------|---|-----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Buildings/Facilities | Composting Toilet | 555 | 4.07 | 68 | 35 | 16 | 10 | 7 | | 103 | 16 | 17 |
| Buildings/Facilities | Wildplay/Natural Playground | 529 | 3.95 | 56 | 35 | 30 | 6 | 7 | | 91 | 30 | 13 |
| Buildings/Facilities | Pavilion(s) for private or community events | 479 | 3.59 | 43 | 36 | 24 | 18 | 12 | | 79 | 24 | 30 |
| Buildings/Facilities | Backcountry Hut* | 472 | 3.53 | 35 | 42 | 27 | 18 | 12 | | 77 | 27 | 30 |
| Buildings/Facilities | Treehouse | 428 | 3.24 | 27 | 29 | 40 | 21 | 15 | | 56 | 40 | 36 |
| Buildings/Facilities | Tent Camping Sites | 376 | 2.92 | 20 | 28 | 25 | 33 | 23 | | 48 | 25 | 56 |
| Buildings/Facilities | Traditional Playground | 372 | 2.88 | 16 | 19 | 45 | 31 | 19 | | 35 | 45 | 50 |

Any other BUILDINGS & FACILITIES?

- Significant area(s) developed for specifically large and small community gatherings and events that could also be approved for private functions by reservation, including parking, electricity, and facilities.
- Rustic campsites (by reservation?)
- Bathrooms are important for public health and maintaining clean trails. Some kind of trash and recycle storage that will be maintained by the town, Potable water filling station.
- A water hit or building that people could get drinking water, bathrooms, and/or access to emergency call boxes.
- None
- Would love someone to open up a pup or coffee house in town to gather after a nice ride or hike
- My only concern about a community pavilion: what would prevent it from becoming an after hours party spot. Litter and other issues? Who monitors it?
- Sports facilities, ie soccer field
- Once built, what plans are in place for upkeep?
- little worried about maintenance and vandalism with any building project. maybe ck in with original Native Americans to get their thoughts ...algonquin or abenaki (sp maybe off). and go with something again that teaches about heritage
- A few small lean-to I would help build I was in the state park system and non profit back country builders
- If you are looking at Vermont Huts Association, we should look at connections to catamount trail or start to expand a gladed area on the hill side
- LESS IS BEST KEEP IT NATURAL
- Buildings are a bad idea. Mostly it would encourage loitering .
- Rather than a composting toilet, just having access to traditional port o let at points where the trucks can service them would be sufficient in my mind.
- Composting toilet only. Nothing for rent. That would be horrible free stuff only .
- BIRDWATCHING BLINDS
- Love the pavillion for PRIVATE use only.
- Keep it simple, easy to manage. Allow for future growth, but let's just keep it forest/outdoor rec initially

Comments on BUILDINGS & FACILITIES continued

- Pavilions: depends on the noise level, area taken up by parking, whether ADA accessible. Forests should be quiet for most times. No big concerts or fireworks.
- None. Leave as is!

Comments on BUILDINGS & FACILITIES from outside Wolcott (from Hardwick, Morrisville)

- ◇ Fire pits?
- ◇ little pop up areas with picnic tables that can seat about 20 children so we can do walking classrooms lectures with areas to stop and tables to write on/eat at

WOLCOTT COMMUNITY FOREST SURVEY October 2022: **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

| Category | Question | Raw | Average like/ | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | favor | neutral | disfvr |
|----------|---|-----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Programs | Ecology Tours (Birding, herb and wildflower ID, mushroom ID) | 606 | 4.49 | 89 | 29 | 13 | 2 | 2 | | 118 | 13 | 4 |
| Programs | Educational Programs/Outdoor Classroom | 593 | 4.46 | 84 | 30 | 17 | 0 | 2 | | 114 | 17 | 2 |
| Programs | Education, Participation, and Events with the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe (hikes, dances, seasonal celebrations) | 570 | 4.26 | 74 | 30 | 23 | 4 | 3 | | 104 | 23 | 7 |
| Programs | Lessons, Skills Camps, and Clinics (mountain biking, x-c skiing, foraging, wildlife and woods care) | 565 | 4.23 | 71 | 35 | 19 | 4 | 5 | | 106 | 19 | 9 |
| Programs | Kids' Camps (summer, after school, etc) | 548 | 4.15 | 66 | 34 | 21 | 8 | 3 | | 100 | 21 | 11 |
| Programs | Health/Wellness Programs (yoga, meditation, fitness) | 492 | 3.90 | 51 | 34 | 25 | 9 | 8 | | 85 | 25 | 17 |
| Events | Public arts and community events such as Music/Theater/Art Festivals - local scope, 1 day or less duration | 498 | 3.80 | 49 | 38 | 23 | 11 | 10 | | 87 | 23 | 21 |
| Events | Sports events such as Race Events (running, mountain biking, x-c skiing) - local scope, short duration | 442 | 3.37 | 38 | 31 | 26 | 14 | 22 | | 69 | 26 | 36 |
| Events | Private Events (Weddings, Reunions, Team Building, etc.) | 404 | 3.12 | 21 | 37 | 29 | 21 | 22 | | 58 | 29 | 43 |
| Events | Public arts and community events such as Music/Theater/Art Festivals - larger scope, weekend or longer duration | 383 | 2.95 | 22 | 23 | 33 | 30 | 22 | | 45 | 33 | 52 |
| Events | Sports events such as Race Events (running, mountain biking, x-c skiing) - larger scope, longer duration | 362 | 2.78 | 21 | 19 | 33 | 25 | 32 | | 40 | 33 | 57 |

Any other PROGRAMS?

- Possibly some VT fish & wildlife education, hunting training.
- Exclude mountain bikes in forest.
- Community Group walks and group snowshoe events.
- All of these programs sound wonderful for a variety of target audiences in the community!
- History, the real history of Vermont.....We all should be proud of our actions r/t the civil war/slave protection, there is lots of hx especially in and around the n.e.k.
- I believe the forest should be left alone. Maybe whip up a few trails and maintain those and call it good. We do not have enough people in town to enforce regular policy and town rules. Let alone a parking lot, buildings and the like. This town doesn't have money for this stuff. If you have grant for trails build trails. What you are going to get is a meeting spot for people to hangout and do drugs and leave trash. That's what the town baseball field is currently used for and no one deals with it. Maintaining something is the hard part. In the future where is the money going to come from to take care of the Town forest once it's built?
- For the kids' camps and wellness, I'm most enthusiastic if the camps and classes have a nature focus. I'd strongly support classes and clubs that teach kids mountain biking, x-c and back country skiing, any of the health-promoting human-powered sports. We need deep cuts in the use of fossil fuels for kids' and families' recreation, like ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, etc., and in the process help Vermonters grow out of those activities. And we all need more exercise!
- Manage a significant area in the direction of an old growth or climax community instead of cutting every tree that gets a trunk of marketable size. I have noticed that if one wants to see large specimens of trees, one would best go to a city, as in rural places they regard trees as just another crop to be harvested.
- No organized events except trail maintenance
- Restoration and Watershed protection
- (emphasis on Foraging, wildlife and woods care)

Comments on PROGRAMS from outside Wolcott (from Hardwick) continued

- ◇ Designated safety personnel to watch over the safety of the whole forested environment Connect recovering addicts to the benefits of being in nature. Health and wellness retreats Girl and boy scout/summer camps Chapel in the woods

Any other EVENTS?

- School Field trip opportunities!
- Art workshops for adults. Plant ID walks. Facilitated mushroom walks. Facilitated Mountain bike clinics to teach new people to bike (in collaboration with Little Bella's or Craftsbury Outdoor Center). Facilitated meditation or forest bathing events. Weekly yoga outdoors
- School field trips, community running/jogging groups, disabled/handicapped accessible areas for exercise and nature walks/activities.
- I do big Ironman events and have done Marathons and bike races. Do not want this for Wolcott.
- I would like to see it all start small with the potential to grow if town members support it. Sporting events- exclude mountain bikes in forest.
- Artisan and maker fair, pop up food/food truck festival
- Not much of a gatherer. Looking forward to meeting quiet folk who enjoy the natural world. Eventful in itself.
- bring back fiddlers contest, banjo contest in a controlled 1 day event, no camping and oh lady of giant zucchini fest.....there use to be one in elmore. could spin on that for a giant pumpkin, or ?? what have you raised! events featuring dairy cows, horses, sheep, ect.....and again there is that teaching mode!!!
- Would like to know that someone is keeping up with public areas and making sure to keep vagrants from squatting
- Community garden/food forest with group events to grow with harvest festival in the fall
- Concerned about litter/garbage/erosion for longer events and private events.
- No events, keep it free and simple
- Why events? It's a forest, not woodstock! Who would manage this? Who would clean up? Noise! Lights, traffic, what are the pros??
- High decibel rock bands are not compatible with forests. Races, etc: what about effect on wildlife? They were here first.

Comments on EVENTS from outside Wolcott (from Hardwick)

- ◇ Antique flea markets

WOLCOTT COMMUNITY FOREST SURVEY October 2022: **FEATURES**

| Category | Question | Raw | Average like/ | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | favor | neutral | disfvr |
|----------|---|-----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Features | Marked Trails for Hiking | 606 | 4.53 | 90 | 30 | 10 | 2 | 2 | | 120 | 10 | 4 |
| Features | Rustic Paths | 579 | 4.38 | 71 | 42 | 18 | 1 | 0 | | 113 | 18 | 1 |
| Features | Portion reserved for Legacy old-growth forest and wildlife sanctu | 595 | 4.37 | 87 | 24 | 18 | 3 | 4 | | 111 | 18 | 7 |
| Features | Constructed Trails for Multipurpose use | 522 | 3.84 | 55 | 34 | 26 | 12 | 9 | | 89 | 26 | 21 |
| Features | ADA-Accessible Gardens/Seating | 515 | 3.84 | 43 | 47 | 30 | 8 | 6 | | 90 | 30 | 14 |
| Features | Informational Kiosks, describing natural features/natural history | 500 | 3.66 | 36 | 49 | 30 | 12 | 10 | | 85 | 30 | 22 |
| Features | Fruit Orchard | 475 | 3.60 | 34 | 35 | 45 | 12 | 6 | | 69 | 45 | 18 |
| Features | Designated Swimming Area(s) | 482 | 3.59 | 46 | 24 | 37 | 17 | 11 | | 70 | 37 | 28 |
| Features | Permaculture Forest Garden/Edible Landscaping | 469 | 3.58 | 32 | 38 | 41 | 14 | 6 | | 70 | 41 | 20 |
| Features | Informational Kiosks describing community history (Note: see be | 447 | 3.45 | 25 | 40 | 41 | 15 | 9 | | 65 | 41 | 24 |
| Features | Active Timber Management, Timber Harvesting | 368 | 2.79 | 9 | 22 | 48 | 38 | 15 | | 31 | 48 | 53 |

Any other FEATURES?

- connection trails to wolcott elementary
- extremely well-marked trails to facilitate access and usability.
- Dedicated areas for hunting that are separate from recreational activities
- Manage the forest, but do not develop.
- Disc golf course
- Picnic Table, Bench
- I love the concert or other events idea
- I think it is necessary to create an environment similar to a State Park area that gives access to nature and Vermont wilderness. Giving local schools opportunities for educating and skill building for students. Even a collaboration to give students a sense of community responsibility and value with activities to help care for our/their town forest! Will create more visitors to our town as a recreational resource. Which then will help grow our businesses and community. This can also help give our community something to do for fun and recreation. It can also help in education and hands on learning about global warming and impacts on our environment. The town could even be a resource and/or an example for Vermonter's on how to combat global warming by carrying for our environment while using it to the fullest. Oh yes, I have lots of ideas... but let's start by just creating a community environment with this forest that can blossom into something beautiful! 😊
- Trail running & mountain biking
- Food Forest
- Not sure what is included in "multipurpose use". I would vote for no motorized vehicles or bicycles.
- Preserve the woods. No bikes are either. Keep it silent

Comments on FEATURES continued:

- Timber management thoughts. Planting tree species adapted to predicted climate change when creating forest plan. Harvesting tree species with limited lifespan. ie balsam
- Improving wildlife habitats by increasing or sustaining early successional forest areas.
- there is such a huge learning opportunity here especially for the children of Wolcott Elementary, and possibly Hardwick, Morrisville, Elmore. Teaching about the sky, the wildlife, the woods and how all are viewed and used by multiple industries...get these children thinking about something other than a device!! also we older folks are never too old to learn a new trick!!!
- Hiking walking trails skiing and showshoe and small shelter for a hike thru to out for further adventure
- Would love to see mountain bike trails!
- Signage which identifies native/non-native trees and plants. Identification of areas specific to types of habitats and species within those habitats.
- not kiosks but nice signs would be better,
- especially love the idea of wheelchair accessible anything
- I'm assuming/hoping the vast majority of these Features, like trails, will be in a portion set off from areas needed by wildlife (in all its forms). I also hope that in each decision, Nature wins out--not human ease, profit, or fun. For once on this beat-up planet.
- Mountain bike trails!
- This form keeps disappearing on me. Keep it simple. Trails, parking ,composting toilet and a few signs no buildings!!! Free dogs
- I like more quiet wooded areas for winter snowshoeing.
- Covered shelter for education and information sharing
- Multi-use trails for hiking or mountain biking. A separate network for each use if feasible.
- Keep it Vermont Natural Please no dirtbikes or motorized vehicles. So much Beautiful wildlife. Birds amphibians and so many creatures please please don't destroy the habitat Thank you
- RESTORATION OF NATIVE PLANTS, PLANTS FOR BIRDS AND BEES AND INSECTS
- Native Biodiversity restoration
- I am all for getting people outside as this is a natural therapy for the brain. Also people need to carry out what they carry in. Meaning Trash, do not trash the land. So there is a lot of teaching and training to be done which will be good for children and older people.
- designated path to the Rail-trail
- designated swimming would need parking area
- Disc golf course

Comments from outside Wolcott (from Hardwick, Morrisville)

- ◇ Food forest!!!!
- ◇ FOOD FOREST!
- ◇ Community gardens in which people can have their own garden space, space for outdoor weddings and receptions with back up indoor space, pavilions for family reunions and get together and birthday parties, space for food truck vendors and ice cream, space for outdoor music festivals, art shows, antique/flea markets, community events to include a covered stage and/or outdoor theater (Google American Players Theatre located in Spring Green, WI), sponsor education for how to use forested areas to grow crops like mushrooms and ginseng, community building shared space for artisans, wood workers, furniture refurbishers, etc. to rent space to grow their small business
- ◇ I would love to see dedicated, purpose built mountain bike trails. The North Branch trail network in Montpelier is an excellent example of a trail network that has blended user friendly, wider nature trails with dedicated mountain bike trails.

Are there other uses, programs, or events you would like to see in our Town Forest?

- Though I opposed the forest from the beginning, I understand why we ended up with it. We need to focus on other failing infrastructure throughout the town, then we can improve
- Activities that people can do on their own and or with the community.
- Would love to see the elementary school use it for educational purposes or just to help kids connect with the woods!
- Pumpkin patch and Halloween haunted forest and/or hayride
- A natural playground with opportunities to create through imagination would be wonderful. By providing only poles of varying lengths, log rounds for rolling or sitting, and alder trees with their branches intact, I watched a group of third grade students build a village complete with Fire pit for cooking, drying racks for meat and fish, and an apothecary/museum filled with cones, mushrooms, lichens, and seeds. Various lodges, granaries, and art installations came and went with the seasons. It's a low input high value use of a natural area.
- well i will not be here, i am moving away, but ive followed this from the start and wish only the very best and most for the children of Wolcott.....
- Look like you covered all of the important areas!
- KEEP IT SIMPLE AND FRESH PLEASE DO NOT OVER DO OUR BEAUTIFUL FOREST
- A sanctuary for the animals without hunting would be the best idea. Keeping people out of there altogether.
- I'm for anything that increases and protects wildlife habitat as its first and foremost aim. Am also for anything that increases human understanding of our forests in a way that doesn't privilege humans as per usual.
- Control of invasive non-native plants such as Japanese knotweed.
- Anything that is community based and not too polluting or crowded!
- Maple sugaring
- Leave it forest. Like Worcester woods. A picnic area and natural trails.
- Low ropes course, geocaching, sugarbush? If areas must be used for firewood, bring in experts from UVM and ANR to develop a low impact solution (wether planint cert species o suppot this use, select cutting, etc.)
- Old age forest and quiet paths Doges have to be on a leash and pick up poop Don't leave on Trail, same with horses
- Hike, sledding, fruit orchards – nature
- Disc Golf course

Comments about uses, programs or events from respondents outside Wolcott.

- ◇ I truly believe that a food forest has HUGE potential on that land and would be happy to help implement it to the best of my ability. (Perhaps the CAE could be involved?)
- ◇ Quiet musical events
- ◇ Loove the gardening and ADA accessibility idea. I help with the WOWs and garden, and this is just a great idea- making the outdoors accessible and approachable to those who otherwise may not use.
- ◇ Is there any opportunity at all to allow space for private business to build, such as restaurants or cafes? Or for private housing to be built? Having regulations and guidelines set in place so these are constructed in a way to foster the preserved area. RV/camper grounds
- ◇ I would love to see a space that could be used for both educational and athletic instruction. Outdoor classroom programs have done really well in other parts of the state and this could be a great resource for local schools. I also think this could be a great way to get kids out playing less conventional sports. I had a tough time in elementary and middle school because I did not have any interest in team sports. Thankfully I found mountain biking and skiing at a young age. Those are two lifetime sports that can be done alone or in a small group.

If you were opposed to any of these activities, please share why

- Other than on an owner's private property, dogs should always be leashed. Horses are large animals which have the potential to tear up trails and leave behind large piles of manure. They can also be dangerous on narrow, multi use trails.
- Unleashed dogs can pose risks for small children. Timber-Lets let the forest grow.
- Unleashed dog-walking is a shit-show, pun intended. Since it is always, "My dog never... fill in the blank", but somehow it is always someone's dog that does. Contradiction here? Keep 'em leashed= problems solved. Horses- From my experience, they can singlehandedly (hoofedly) descimate the LVRT surface. They get spooked by dogs, people, bicycles, etc. There are plenty of places to ride a horse without these concerns. Trapping- Plenty of places where people and pets are less-likely to be wandering about. I think trapping is a valuable vocation, but the risk factor is too high to justify it on public property. Walking/Hiking/Running on ADA Accessible Paths (gravel)- Use the LVRT. This type of infrastructure is expensive to build and maintain. A great alternative exists 300 meters down the road (LVRT).
- All of the recreational activities are already just up the road in craftsbury and will end up costing the town thousands either to build, or after Grant money, maintain. Our tax rate is already incredibly high and we can't sustain this kind of growth at this time.
- Hunting and trapping. I don't want to see it. Don't want to be afraid to walk in the forest.
- I Have young children so Hunting seems risky to me if we were To hike.
- Would prefer to not have hunting and trapping so that I can be assured it is safe for people to explore and wander anywhere during any season.
- Hunting and trapping- unsafe to visitors
- I don't want to turn Wolcott into Burke, Stowe, or Craftsbury-places where events and sports have attracted airbnbs, urban values, and displacement of local people/ customs. Once people bring their \$5000 bicycles to drink \$5 coffees and \$10 beers it will become illegal to hunt or trap, regular people won't be able to live here, and we won't be able to take a quiet walk in the woods.
- Trapping is cruel and should not be allowed anywhere, IMHO
- Opposed to tent sites as who would maintain them and manage registration. Opposed to promoting swimming in a remote spot
- Not necessarily opposed to any activities, just want to be cautious about the environment.
- I believe the concept of a forest should be maintaining the area as close to natural as possible. To me, that is conducive to walking trails and associated non-motorized equipment uses (biking, swimming, fishing, etc) as they have minimal impact on the flora and fauna. I strongly oppose using this as a tool to attract tourists. However, done right, it could be a great amenity to attract residents.
- I would like to see a map of the proposed trails and shelters, if any. My property borders this land so I am curious how close these activities would be to my land.
- Loose dogs can be harmful to wildlife, people and their dogs on leash. Hunting and trapping shouldn't be where people are enjoying nature. Keep it quiet and natural.
- Hunting, trapping are cruel, unnecessary and outdated.
- As I wrote, do not like the use of mountain bikes in the woods due to erosion. Who would monitor during mud season or rainy times? Fat bikes in winter on snow would be ok, but hard to mix with skiing on narrow trails. Also have seen serious erosion caused by horses. Again, who 'policies'?
- Hunting seems risky in an area primarily used for hiking trails.
- Dogs unleashed. Though I would love to take my dog to trails unleashed, I believe, for the enjoyment of the community as a whole, pets should be leashed as a matter of respect for others. Having a dog owner yell, "It's ok, they are friendly", as their dog charges unsuspecting hikers is distressingly unnecessary. Traditional playgrounds are in direct opposition to the purpose of a community forest. This is a natural area with potential to expose the community with a different experience. We have many area playgrounds. This is a chance to be so much more.
- I don't think a playground is necessary with a school so nearby.

If you were opposed to any of these activities, please share why, continued

- I oppose trapping as it would put other wildlife in danger as well as dogs walking on the trails. Also, I oppose hunting because it puts other people and their pets at risk who may be in the woods at the same time.
- The thing I would like to not have too close to non-motorized trails are snowmobiles. We had one that ran by a walking area we used to go to. The exhaust stinks and also lingers in the air. It's difficult to enjoy a winter walk or snowshoe when you can't even breathe fresh air.
- I don't see how hunting could be allowed and provide for community use to be safe.
- I opposed active timber harvesting because I'd rather preserve the forest. I interpreted this differently from timber management, which I would support. I opposed ADA garden and seating because I'm not in favor of the forest as a garden space. We have other public spaces for that. I oppose hunting in this area for safety reasons. I oppose trapping in general. I oppose the traditional playground idea because it doesn't fit my vision for our forest. There are other nearby spaces for that.
- if we are harvesting timber, i believe we must do so with extreme caution and much thought for future
- No bikes No atv No snow mobiles
- No mountain biking they leave a mess they trash the place no ATVs no snowmobiles I'm sorry
- I know there are some extremely well behaved dogs who do okay off-leash, but they seem to be few and far between. Off-leash dogs are never as well behaved as their owners seem to think they are.
- ADDING RACES ETC IS WAY TOO MUCH LESS IS BEST KEEP IT SIMPLE AND BEAUTIFUL IF I WANTED TO BE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE I WOULD GO TO BURLINGTON TO HIKE
- Don't feel the area should be used for hunting and trapping, especially being close to the school and for the protection of the wildlife.
- We need not have events or buildings there for reasons explained above.
- I would rather have an area that is quiet and somewhat hidden for locals to enjoy. I don't want Wolcott to become a destination for tourists
- please do not create another MT bike area, there are so many other options
- There are ample places for hunting without Wolcott worrying about who is walking these lands with guns or cross bows/bows particularly near the school.
- I am opposed to hunting and trapping because I think it's nearly impossible for everyone to peacefully enjoy nature when hearing gunshots in the distance
- SAFETY Keeping the forest natural
- I worry about hunting and trapping if the area is being used for other things too. Safety.
- I'm ok with limited hunting, since I assume hunters eat what they kill. But trapping should happen ONLY if there are damaging/overpopulated species, as determined by a degreed wildlife specialist, and if those species are harming themselves and other species. But only if it's conducted by wildlife specialists, and NEVER by drowning on a wire, poison (threatens raptors) or any method where the animal is left struggling in a trap. Surely there are sensors, etc. that can monitor that, if it's necessary. Trapping should not occur for "sport" or profit or because someone wants a hat. Fur is totally unnecessary as clothing or sport--or tradition, for that matter, just because your daddy did it. Only exception, in my book, would be for indigenous cultural purposes.
- races are difficult to control adequately. Some come only to AGGRESSIVELY win.
- I am opposed to recreational use of motorized vehicles. I am opposed to so-called "sports" and hobbies that involve killing animals.
- I'm not opposed to sporting events but when the Craftsbury Outdoor has sporting events, it makes certain trails off limits. It would be nice to have a place with trails that are reliably available to the community.
- I like open land for hunting one of the drawbacks in living in Vermont is that so much of our land is hunted being out in the woods for pleasure drops off mid October through early December which is always a disappointment. If there was a way to a hunting I'm part of the land while preserving a large quantity for recreation and quiet space, that would be preferred.

If you were opposed to any of these activities, please share why, continued

- Dog walking trails quickly evolve into a place for them to just shit and piss everywhere and a lot of people don't clean up especially when others are not around. Don't want to see any gardening stuff because people lose interest after a while and they start to look terrible. I see it at lots of small local parks. Minimal signs and structures because it takes away from the natural state and require money to upkeep which will be harder to find the money for in the future economy.
- I'd really prefer not to see any motorized anything in this area. We have snowmobiles and dirtbikes and we're respectful but it always seems like there's one idiot who ruins it and isn't respectful. Would rather just avoid it all together.
- Do not want to interact with uncontrolled dogs. Way too many bad experiences, and the repercussions for someone injured by a dog is for life, while the responsible human goes on with little consequence.
- I didn't oppose anything outright. I would prefer that there were no crowd events that were multiday because I think that the area is getting crowded enough already! Also I really appreciate quiet forests.
- I don't want hunting as we want a safe area for animals and humans. Our land possibly borders the forest and we want to help to continue the wildlife corridor.
- For safety purposes dogs should remain on leashes and in control of their owners. Residents with children need to feel safe.
- I would prefer not to have large gatherings and noise as to scare wildlife. Keep the forest more serene.
- No trapping. Possibly of domestic animal or kids playing getting hurt.
- I envision the forest as a low-key place for the enjoyment of local residents. Using the area as a venue for commercial timber harvest, or large events that would dominate the area for more than a day, seems to detract from that vision.
- I oppose trapping in general and don't want to see the town land used for this purpose.
- The point was to preserve this land for the wildlife. Not for money making purposes. Please do the right thing and keep our birds, amphibians and all wildlife safe. Please do not destroy like what was done to the Railtrail. It's heartbreaking 🖤😞
- No snowmobiles or motor operated vehicles
- Longer events with larger crowds creates more potential safety hazards for kids and the environment
- I don't want this to become an out-of-stater attraction. I don't want our sweet little town to become a huge touristy destination.
- Swimming hole: draws cars, people hang out, litter party. If it's there, let people find it on their own. Trapping: cruel inhumane, irresponsible. Pavillion, etc: Put it on the unused ball field.
- No Buildings. It's natural now! Leave it that way.
- Don't want the forest to feel over-developed or loud with motorized vehicles, hunting, etc

Comments on opposition to activities from outside Wolcott (Hardwick, Morrisville, Elmore, Eden)

- ◇ Sporting events disrupt normal activity and can make a public place feel less accessible
- ◇ I'm hesitant to support ideas that clash - ie: off leash dog walking and snow mobiles etc.
- ◇ I don't like the idea of hunting or use of motorized recreational vehicles. My ideal town forest would be peaceful with connection to the land and it's flora/fauna
- ◇ I don't support any form of trapping and loose dogs are often problematic on trail systems.
- ◇ I'd like to see the park stay quiet, naturally rugged, and no need for paved roads. Some of the uses I opposed I think are not necessary because these are already available in the area.
- ◇ more technical mtn bike trails inhibit multi use.

If you were opposed to any of these activities, please share why, continued (from outside Wolcott)

- ◇ Swimming Hole - Potential for camping out indefinitely like Zack Woods. Unleashed Dogs - Enough lost dogs posted daily on FPF already. Please note, I am a long-time dog owner and support recreation for dogs, just not unsupervised. Trapping - Hate it. Events - A disaster in the making. Crowds descending into the quiet. We have Stowe to handle such events like weddings, reunions, eg. I have lived in this area (2 miles up the road) since 1984. I can only imagine the negative impacts.
- ◇ I don't like children's books posted page by page along the trail- first time I saw it, I thought it was cute. Since then, I feel like it just adds clutter to the side of the trail, the posts lean over and the pages come off the posts. It detracts from the beauty and peacefulness of being outside, in my opinion. As a former mtn bike racer, I'm not keen on having races in town forests. It seems they are usually held rain or shine and if it's wet, a lot of erosion can happen in one day. But maybe modern mtn biking culture would cause a race to be cancelled in wet conditions.
- ◇ I guess not - opposed- , but have found that fast moving non- ambulatory activity (back country glade ski/ mtn bike) changes the energy and peace of a forrest- although I honor those who like to do these activities, just maybe not in a community forrest. Have been blown off a path numerous times while in other woods by mtn bikers flying through. Also, oppose hunting and trapping in a community forrest - plenty of areas to hunt around VT, and trapping is a hard no.
- ◇ Hunting as noted above
- ◇ I see horses as a big source of conflict on multi use trails. Horses spook easily, so horseback riders often take issue with other users (especially those not on foot like skiers and bikers). They also ruin the trail surface for all other users by leaving big footprints, droppings, and mud in their path. I also take issue with trapping. While I am not a hunter, hunting has long been engrained in our culture here in VT. The hunting season is short and I think hunters deserve it. They also know not to shoot people or pets (obviously!) Traps on the other hand pose a threat to kids, dogs, and non targeted wildlife.
- ◇ For-profit forestry isn't the purview of communally owned land. Uses too much land without enough economic benefit to justify it.