



## Q&A and Comments

**Comment:** A community member commented that continuing to acquire open space may be a matter of diminishing returns. They gave an example of 39 Highland Avenue, noting that they were unsure of the ecological value of the land and that it only expanded an existing conservation parcel. The community member wondered if the intent of the acquisition was to block further development. The community member would like to see TOL explore expanding open space and densifying housing at the same time.

**Q: Does open space include sports facilities (courts, etc.)?**

A: Yes

**Q: Is this only about recreation associated with open spaces? Or does this include general recreation, such as tennis, pickle ball, etc.?**

A: It includes general recreation.

**Q: I'm very interested in work parties and other volunteer opportunities to tackle invasive species. Will this be addressed in this plan?**

A: LIVE ANSWERED. Yes, this would be appropriate to include in the plan and would be identified as an objective. As part of the OSRP there is the Seven Year Action Plan (section 9) where all the goals and objectives identified in the plan are laid out for when they will be accomplished in the next seven years.

**Q: The new Lexington Highschool will be built during the same timeframe as the Open Space Rec Plan update. Is there an opportunity to identify daylighting Vine Brook as part of this plan?**

A: The parcel you're referring to (49-90) includes the highschool as well as the Center Rec Complex and is comprised up of many smaller parcels acquired in different ways with different levels of protection. The Town Manager established a working group to discuss/ assess options for renovation/ construction options of the new highschool over the next 18 months.

**Q: The way the town currently manages reservations for pickleball is based on a tennis model. Is there a way to get designated courts for pickleball in town or expand the timeframe for reservations to accommodate pickleball players?**

A: The Town has experienced a significant increase in the demand for tennis/pickleball courts over the past 2+ years during the pandemic. There are 17 Town-owned tennis courts in Lexington (10 at the Center Recreation Complex (Gallagher Courts), 3 at the Clarke Middle School, 2 at Adams Park, and 2 on Valley Road). In recent years, the Town has adopted an approach with the courts similar to the athletic fields where they are available for multiple uses. While there are currently no standalone pickleball courts, multiple courts are lined for both tennis and pickleball. There are currently 18 pickleball courts lined on the existing tennis courts (4 at Gallagher, 6 at Clarke, 4 at Adams, and 4 at Valley). Additionally, new this year, Clarke #3, which has 2 pickleball courts, is available to be reserved for pickleball play only. This is the first time that a court has been designated exclusively for pickleball use. While these are preliminary measures that have been taken, staff will continue to work with the community in an effort to expand the pickleball opportunities available in Lexington.





**Comment:** A community members stated that a recent UN report came out in the last year or two that stated the natural environment is experiencing two global crises simultaneously. One being climate change and the other being loss of biodiversity. They hope that the OSRP update includes how these lands in Lexington can be managed and can contribute to ameliorating the impacts of the crises locally, as well as setting an example for other municipalities.

**Q: How would the town manage its open space and conservation land differently if climate mitigation and carbon sequestration were key priorities?**

A: This is a great comment and is a great topic suggestion as a potential goal or action item for the plan.

**Q: Why doesn't Pine Meadows have better clubhouse with some basic food options?**

A: Pine Meadows Clubhouse is currently in the Recreation Committee 5-year capital plan. The use of the building and potential expanded use will be part of this planning process. The design and engineering phase is currently scheduled for FY2024, followed by construction in FY2026.

**Q: How was this Zoom meeting advertised and promoted?**

A: Through regular established practice such as Town's Information Officer, Town's website, direct emailing to stakeholders and interest group, at conservation land kiosks, etc.

**Q: How will the plan consider agricultural land?**

A: LIVE ANSWERED. All the goals and objectives for the plan will be generated through these public meetings, then finalized after meetings and discussions with various boards in towns. We recognize that LexFarm is an open space parcel in town used for agriculture, the Conservation Commission licenses out a few parcels for agricultural purposes, we also know there is a high demand for community gardens in town as well. However, we are looking for feedback and public input from the community on what they would like to see regarding agriculture in town. All follow up comments can be submitted through the feedback form on our website here: <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/1337/Open-Space-and-Recreation-Plan>

**Q: Is there a mailing list or do we have to monitor that website for updates?**

A: LIVE ANSWERED. We have created an email list opt in on our website here: <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/1337/Open-Space-and-Recreation-Plan>. You will also be able to hear updates through "Link to Lexington", the Conservation newsletter, and the Recreation newsletter. You can opt in to link to "Link to Lexington" and Conservation newsletter options (and more) here: [https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001OkYV23r4voB1ZWZ4Df35dSTbew\\_Zyl6j27JtJH2IJ8JJ0MkyW43g\\_IC1L4Hnq5ZvlmMI1ijxVKwlhjwH242UIM6n1tFUpVdHXeHJJ1jM7YM%3D](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001OkYV23r4voB1ZWZ4Df35dSTbew_Zyl6j27JtJH2IJ8JJ0MkyW43g_IC1L4Hnq5ZvlmMI1ijxVKwlhjwH242UIM6n1tFUpVdHXeHJJ1jM7YM%3D)

You can sign up for the Recreation Newsletter here:

[https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001OkYV23r4voB1ZWZ4Df35dSTbew\\_Zyl6j27JtJH2IJ8JJ0MkyW43g\\_IC1L4Hnq5ZvlmMI1ijxVKzT001rvcCmzVhXVlcEPHq865NIkaRk9gdhQ1qQ4buUVAP3oCn3GsEBf9RSGOsBxJvNf7Z9\\_LosqrA9DITBvVCDVyb5ALhIAR4IUUhgg64aRoodpU7VYtPj](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001OkYV23r4voB1ZWZ4Df35dSTbew_Zyl6j27JtJH2IJ8JJ0MkyW43g_IC1L4Hnq5ZvlmMI1ijxVKzT001rvcCmzVhXVlcEPHq865NIkaRk9gdhQ1qQ4buUVAP3oCn3GsEBf9RSGOsBxJvNf7Z9_LosqrA9DITBvVCDVyb5ALhIAR4IUUhgg64aRoodpU7VYtPj)

