

IV

Preserve historic features and public access to open spaces.

Public open spaces can help a community create a strong sense of place while promoting active and healthy lifestyles. Open spaces can also become venues for community-based activities and town organized events—like farmer’s markets—that add to residents’ overall well being. By looking at available open spaces, a town can focus on acquiring more open space or work to more effectively utilize existing open spaces so that people can connect, play, and have nice places to be outdoors.

TIPS FOR ACCURATE SCORING:

- Review town plan, zoning, subdivision regulations
- Review parcel maps
- Talk to town residents about what access they have to open space

A. Do town residents have easy walking access to public parks and playgrounds?

- Yes. Parks and playgrounds are available in all larger neighborhoods, and can easily be reached by walking from other parts of town 3
- We have some parks and playgrounds, but they cannot be easily reached by walking from all parts of town 2
- No. We have very few parks and playgrounds..... 1

B. Do town residents have local access to open space for hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.?

- Yes. Most large parcels of open space are either publicly owned, or privately owned but open to public use..... 3
- Most large open parcels are privately owned; some are open to public use 2
- No. Most or all open parcels are privately owned and closed to the public 1

C. Has the town planned for future access to parks and/or open space?

- Yes. The town plan maps existing parks and open space, and has plans for expanding them, acquiring more, and/or connecting them 3
- The plan outlines the importance of parks and open spaces, but is not specific about how to acquire, improve, or retain them..... 2
- No, the community has not addressed this 1

D. In the case of new developments, how do local regulations provide for open space and continued access to existing trailheads and public spaces?

- New developments must conform to the town’s open space plan, creating additional open space and connections to adjacent open spaces (either existing or planned, such as a planned park or recreation trail) 3
- Larger developments must provide accessible, open spaces, but regulations do not specify types and locations of these open spaces 2
- There are no provisions for open space with new developments 1

Open space
 “Open space” is more than just sweeping vistas. It is a term used to describe land that is not occupied by structures, buildings, roads, rights-of-way, and parking lots, and which has been designated, either through an easement or permit restriction, to remain undeveloped. Open space may include include farm fields, parks, and blocks of forests.





E. Which of these options best describes the conditions of historic buildings in your community?

- Most are well-maintained and in use 3
- Most are in poor condition, but they are in use..... 2
- Most historic buildings are vacant or have been demolished 1

F. What actions is your town taking to protect historic buildings and other features?

- We have defined a historic district, along with guidelines for development within it. We have (or are in the process of applying for) a state designated downtown or village center that allows us to access historic building tax credits 3
- We have highlighted the importance of historic buildings and other features, but we have no specific strategies to maintain or enhance them 2
- We have made little or no mention of historic buildings and features 1

Score: _____

Scoring	Suggested Steps for Building Resilience
11-12 Resilient Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an open space plan incorporating local and regional resources. • Pursue land conservation for parks, recreation, and conservation purposes, using local funds or a land trust. • Develop design review regulations for historic areas of town.
7-10 In Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct landowner outreach to promote reasonable public access to private land. • Add open space requirements to zoning and subdivision bylaws. • Define a historic district or a state designated village/downtown.
4-6 Needs Your Attention!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for parks and open space in the town plan or official map. • Establish a town forest. • Form a conservation commission and historic preservation group and/or look into working with a land trust.