



# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Vermont has a long and proud tradition of town-owned and managed forests. Over 168 municipalities own over 67,000 acres of forestland, all open for public benefit. The values of these town forests are diverse, including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, forest products, outdoor classrooms, and neighborhood gathering places. Outdoor forest-based recreation is both a great opportunity and a growing challenge. Recognition of the economic and community benefits of forest-based recreation is on the rise. Concurrently, increased pressure from multiple recreation groups accentuate the need for planning assistance to balance the growing recreation interests and the health of the forest. In response, the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program and its partners received a grant from the US Forest Service to develop a toolkit for recreation planning assistance to Vermont communities.

The toolkit will help our town develop an action-based town forest recreation plan. It will guide us through an innovative and robust planning process with a series of public workshops, a needs assessment and site analysis, and a final plan that provides actionable strategies to assist our community in taking the next steps.

This survey is all about understanding YOUR vision for our town forest. It dovetails with the first public visioning workshop, asking many of the same questions asked of the public at that event. At this point in the process we want to encourage you to think expansively about our town forest and your vision for forest-based recreation in our community. This is a time to express all your wants and desires and to get everything on the table. Try not to be bogged down in constraints on the site or current realities that might restrict what you think is possible in our town forest—we will grapple with what is possible on the site and the best ways to achieve our vision in the next phase of the project.

Please provide your email to stay tuned for project updates and meeting announcements. Thanks for taking the survey!

## ABOUT YOU

What town do you live in?

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What is your age?

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How many school age kids do you have? Please circle your response.

0

1

2

3

4+

How often do you use our town forest? Please circle your response.

Every day!

At least once a week

At least once a month

A few times a year

Rarely

Never

If you do not use our town forest please tell us why. Please circle your response.

Unaware of the forest

No public access

Limited/Challenging Access

Other - Write in:

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Do you have an affiliation with the Town (Conservation Commission, Town Forest Committee, etc.), interest group (trail club, rod and gun club etc.), or partnering organization (land trust, library, school district, etc.)? Please list if yes.

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Please provide your e-mail if you would like to receive project updates.

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# VISION

What word or phrase best describes your **EXISTING** experience with our town forest?

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What word or phrase best describes your **DESIRED FUTURE** experience with our town forest?

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## MANAGEMENT FOCUS

Town Forests can be managed to provide a wide range of activities and community values. Four common use areas are Recreation, Education & Land Use Demonstration Projects, Natural Resources & Habitat, and Timber & Forest Products. While most publicly accessible forests provide some measure of all four types of uses, they tend to “lean” in one management direction or another. **Circle the number** for how you value each use area in the management of the forest.

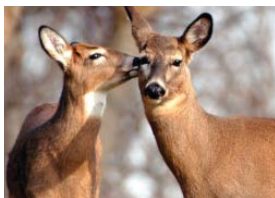
### Recreation



### Education & Demonstration Projects



### Natural Resources & Habitat



### Timber & Forest Products



## NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources on town forests can include areas that are ecologically significant such as significant natural communities, wetlands, larger streams and wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat can include deer wintering areas, vernal pools, beaver ponds, mast (oak and beech) stands, ledges and early successional forests. Some larger features, such as beaver ponds, are well documented, while the presence of other smaller features, such as vernal pools, is not. In both circumstances, documenting local knowledge about these resources is essential in understanding their significance and drafting appropriate management guidelines.

What natural resources are of note in our town forest?

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What kind of wildlife do you see using the forest?

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Are any of the following resources present? Circle all the resources you've observed.

Deer Wintering Areas

Vernal Pools

Large ledges or cliffs

Groundwater seepage areas

Forested swamps

Are there any human activities (existing or planned) that may conflict with these resources?

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# ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the activity.

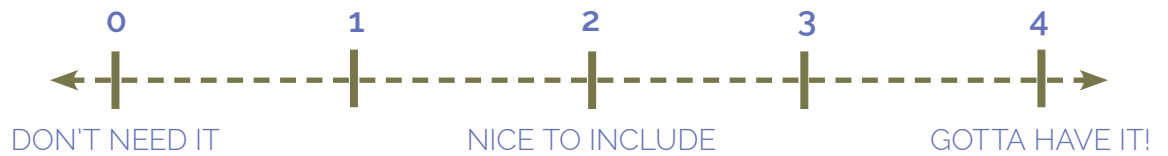
## Hiking/Running on Rugged Footpaths



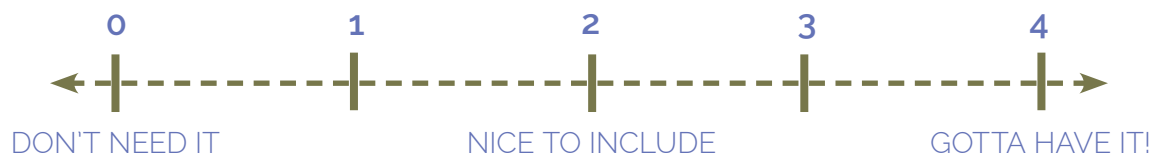
## Hiking/Running on ADA accessible paths (gravel or paved)



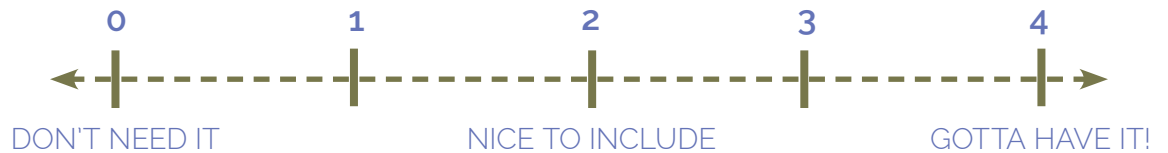
## Dog Walking



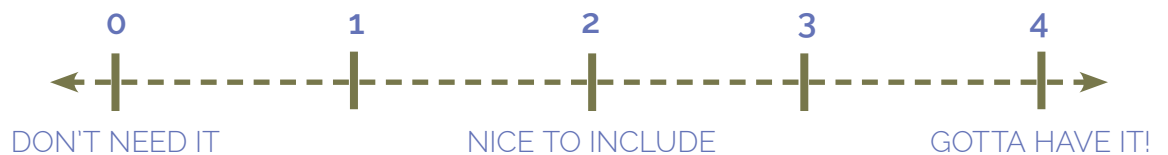
## Horseback Riding



## ATV/Dirt Biking



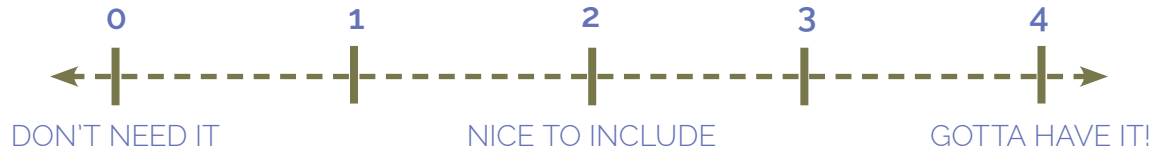
## Snowmobiling



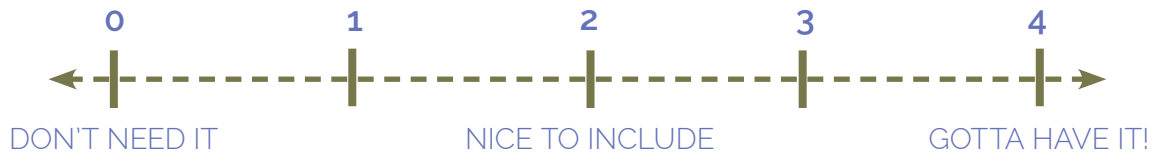
# ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the activity.

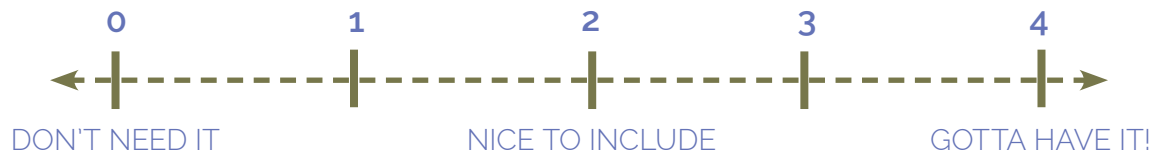
## Sledding



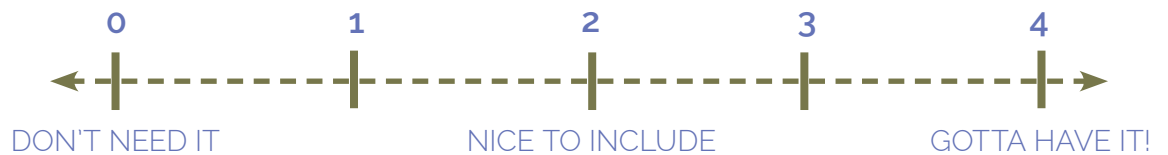
## Ice Skating



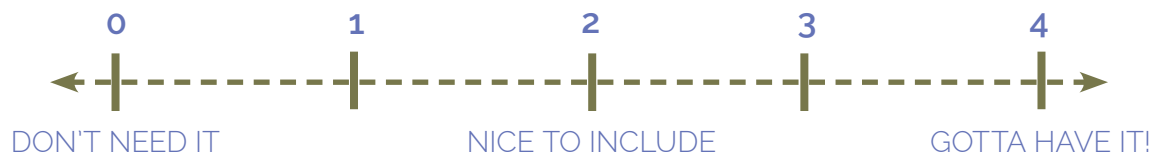
## Paddle/Watersports



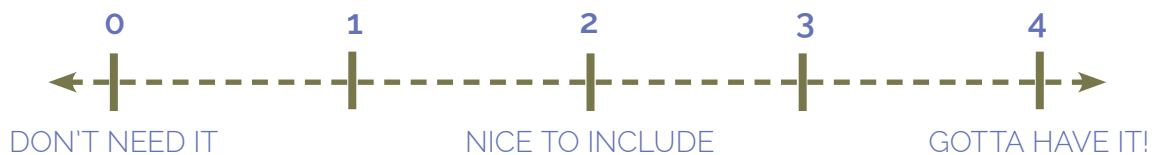
## Swimming Hole



## Fishing



## Hunting





# ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the activity.

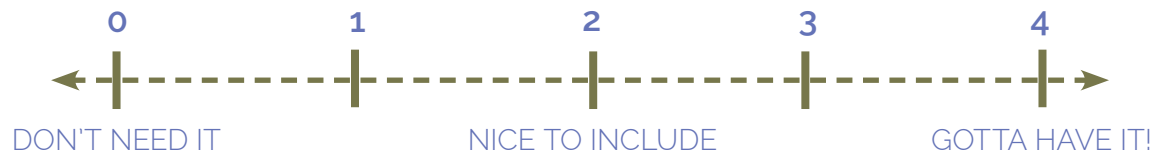
## Mountain Biking



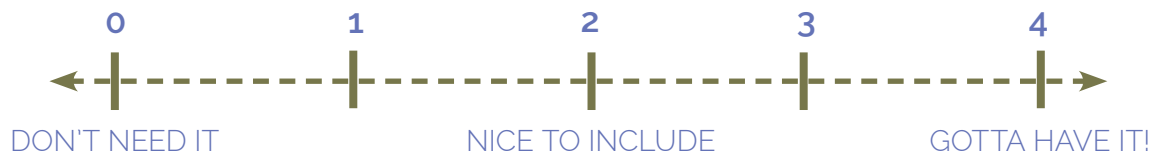
## Winter Fat Biking



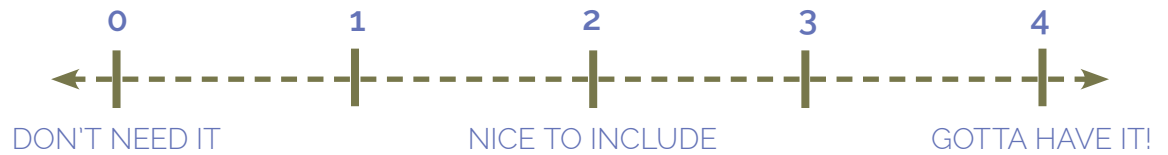
## Pump Track



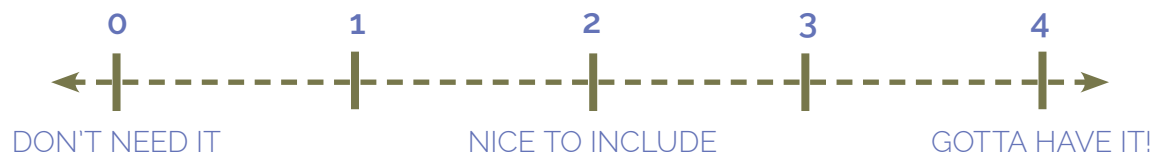
## Cross-Country Skiing



## Snowshoeing



## Backcountry/Glade Skiing



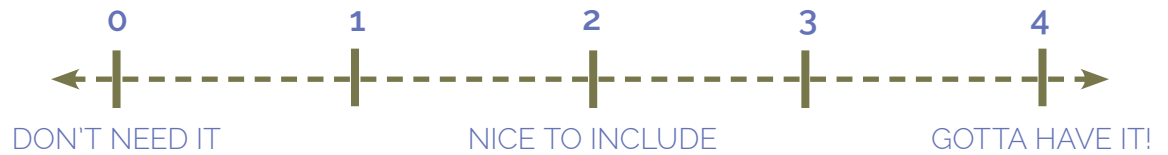
# ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the activity.

## Ropes/Challenge/Aerial Adventure Course



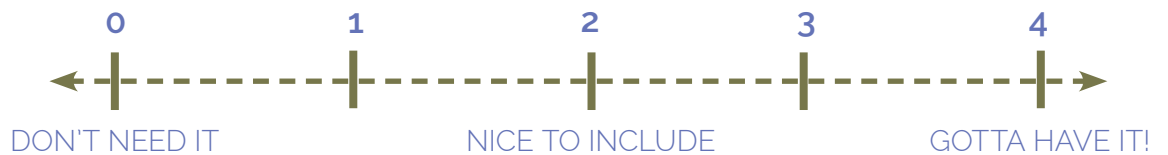
## Canopy Tours/Ziplines



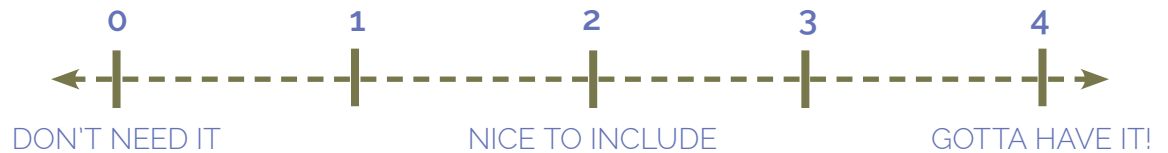
## Fitness Course



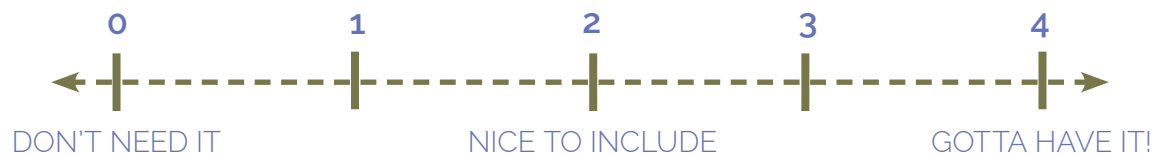
## Birding/Wildlife Watching



## Picnic/Sunset/Views



## Geocaching





# ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the activity.

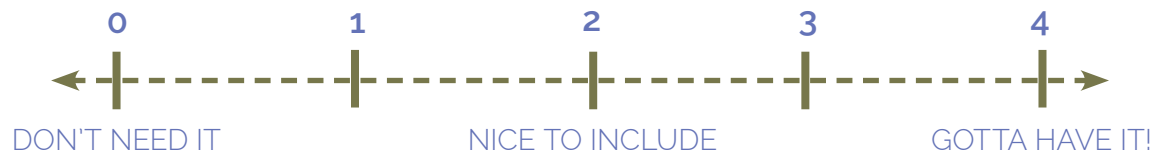
## Tent Camping



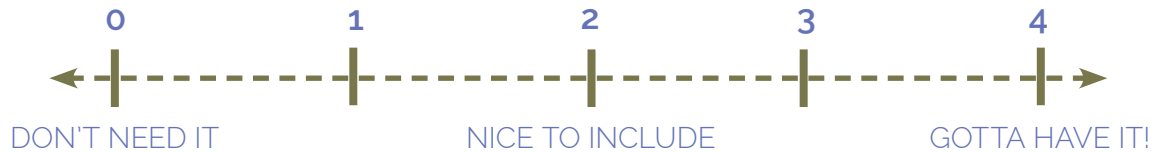
## Cabins/Huts/Lodging



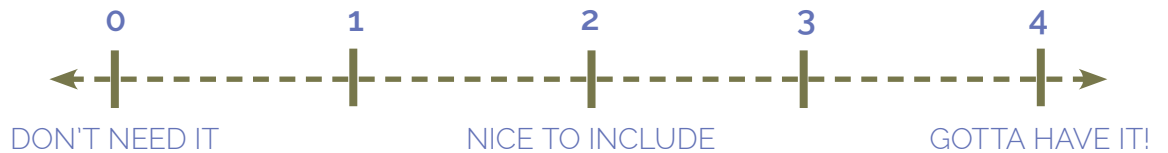
## Treehouse



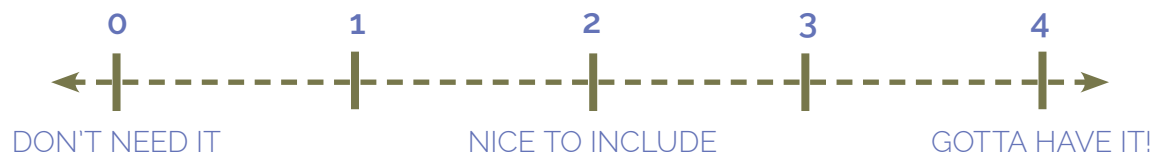
## Arts (fairy houses, nature installations, nature painting, etc.)



## Traditional Playground



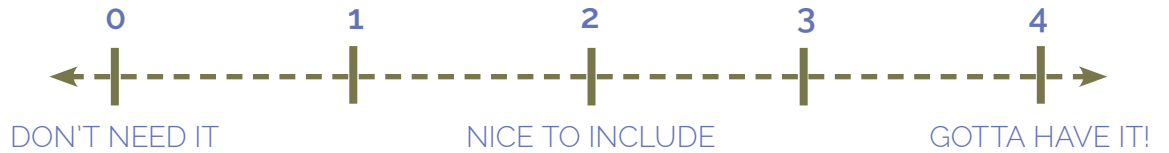
## Wildplay/Natural Playground



# ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the activity.

## 3D Archery



## Disc Golf



Are there other activities or facilities you would like to see added to our town forest?

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# PROGRAMS

What types of programs do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the program.

## Educational Programs/Outdoor Classroom



← |-----|-----|-----|-----|----->

DON'T NEED IT    NICE TO INCLUDE    GOTTA HAVE IT!

## Lessons, Skills Camps, and Clinics (mountain biking, orienteering)



← |-----|-----|-----|-----|----->

DON'T NEED IT    NICE TO INCLUDE    GOTTA HAVE IT!

## Kids Camps (summer, after school, etc.)



← |-----|-----|-----|-----|----->

DON'T NEED IT    NICE TO INCLUDE    GOTTA HAVE IT!

## Ecology Tours (wildflower identification, wildlife, etc.)



← |-----|-----|-----|-----|----->

DON'T NEED IT    NICE TO INCLUDE    GOTTA HAVE IT!

## Health and Wellness Programs (yoga, fitness, etc.)



← |-----|-----|-----|-----|----->

DON'T NEED IT    NICE TO INCLUDE    GOTTA HAVE IT!

Are there other programs you would like to see added to our town forest?

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## EVENTS

What types of events do you envision in our town forest? **Circle the number** that represents your feelings about the event.

### Race Events (marathons, triathalons, etc.)



### Race Series (mountain biking, trail running, etc.)



### Adventure Races (Tough Mudder, Warrior Dash)



### Festivals (music, arts, sports)



### Community Events (theater in the woods, haunted forest, etc.)



### Private Events (weddings, family reunions, team building, etc.)



## WRAP UP

Are there other events you would like to see added to our town forest?

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Are there any other thoughts, concerns, or comments you'd like to share about our town forest or outdoor recreation in our community?

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Thank you for filling out the survey! Please return it to the location you received the survey and we will add your responses to the input we received at the workshop.

We look forward to see your continued engagement in this process!

