

# Norwell Pathway Committee

## Public Opinion Survey

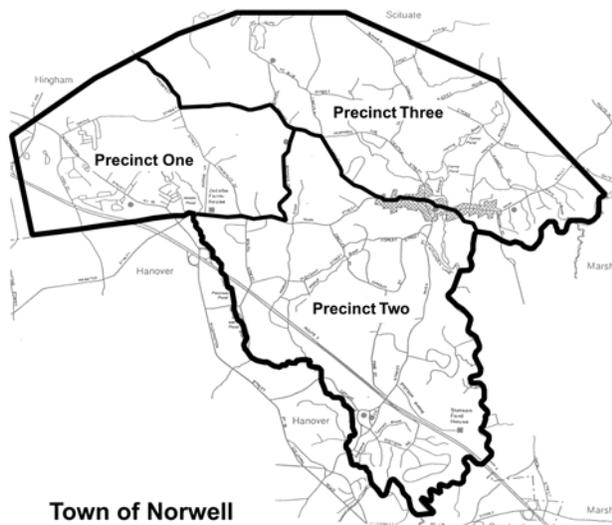
### Our Mission:

To develop a plan for an integrated network of pathways for recreational use within the Town of Norwell.

### We want to know what you think:

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Return it before **June 30, 2008** by one of the following methods:

- **By mail:** Pathway Committee P.O. 295, Norwell, MA 02061
- **By fax:** Attn: Todd Thomas  
781-659-7795
- To a collection box at the Norwell Public Library or Planning Board Office at Town Hall.



## Let's make connections! Where shall we go?

### Total Surveys Completed – 187

#### Respondent Profile

1. How many in your household?

\_\_\_ 377 \_\_\_ adults

\_\_\_ 315 \_\_\_ children

2. How many years have you lived or worked in Norwell?

\_\_\_ 41 \_\_\_ 0 – 5 years

\_\_\_ 41 \_\_\_ 6 – 10 years

\_\_\_ 48 \_\_\_ 11 – 20 years

\_\_\_ 57 \_\_\_ more than 20  
years

3. In what precinct do you live?

1-59 2-54 3-51 1-work only

4. What is your age group?

\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_ 20 or under

\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_ 21 – 34

\_\_\_ 73 \_\_\_ 35 – 44

\_\_\_ 75 \_\_\_ 45 – 64

\_\_\_ 33 \_\_\_ 65 or over

#### Suggested Destinations

1. (49) Wompatuck State Park
2. (52) Jacobs Pond
3. (31) Cole School
4. (34) Vinal School
5. (45) High School/Public Library
6. (34) Middle School
7. (28) Town Hall
8. (57) Norwell Center/James Library
9. (42) North River Landing at Bridge St.

10. *Others* - Greenbush (9), Norris (18), Scituate Driftway, Gaffield Park (8), Pine Street Fields, Norwell Center (3), Ball Fields (5), Jacobs Pond (3), Stetson Meadows (2), 7/11 at Grove St, 123 to Harbor, Assnippi Corner, Fogg Forest, Mount Blue, Miller Woods, Hatch Lots, As many as possible, COA (2), Pine St to Gaffield, Pine St to South St, Hanover Mall (2), Church Hill, Barque Hill (2), Queen Anne Corner, Stop & Shop, Friendship Home, UCC, Open Fields, Vinal to Norwell Center (2), Cross St. Cranberry Bogs (3), Tree Berry Farm, Kings Landing, Churches, Library, Science Center, Bear Cove Park Hingham.

5. If there are children or teenagers in your household, what are their ages?

- 45   4 or younger
- 84   5 – 8
- 81   9 - 12
- 50   13 – 18

**Respondent Preferences**

6. Check off the ways you would use a Recreational Pathway?

- 170  Walking
- 89  Jogging
- 50  Roller-blading
- 46  Cross-country skiing
- 26  Snowshoeing
- 143  Bicycling
- 9   Horseback riding
- 62  Picnicking
- 56  Nature education
- 36  Bird-watching
- 5   Wouldn't use the Pathway

Other – Tennis Courts, Little league Fields, Scooters, Dog Walking, Children use/travel, bike to work (gas \$ too high), Commuting/errands, Pushing a stroller

7. What places, e.g. businesses, institutions, churches, public places should be linked to the pathway?

*See end of document for results*

8. In order to establish priorities for creating links to various locations, please rank the following from 1 - 12, with "1" as the most important:

*See end of document for results*

- Neighborhoods
- Schools
- Playing fields
- Public Library
- Norwell Center
- Norris Reservation
- Stetson Meadows
- Black Pond Bog
- Wompatuck State Park
- Route 53
- Greenbush Train Station
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

9. What concerns, if any, do you have about a pathway network in Norwell?

*See end of document for results*

11. Are you in favor of sidewalks or pathways along or near our busy streets (yes or no)?

- Y-149, N-6  Main Street (Rt. 123)
  - Y-124, N-16  Grove Street
  - Y-118, N-20  River Street
  - Y-111, N-17  Norwell Avenue
  - Y-115, N-16  Old Oaken Bucket Road
- Other - Summer St, Pleasant St, Tiffany Rd, Wildcat Lane, High Street, Only rural paths, no sidewalks*

12. Would you like to be notified of future meetings and events relating to the planning for a Norwell Pathway Network by email or phone?

*55 responses*

**Thank you for completing this survey. Your answers will be helpful to us in planning the Norwell Pathway Network.**

**Pathway Committee Members \***

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Kevin Cafferty  | Scott Raeside     |
| Debbie Hill     | Anne Staples      |
| Steve Ivas      | Sally Turner      |
| Betsy Jackson   | Dick Twigg        |
| Christine Josti | David Vose, Chair |
| David Osborne   |                   |

\*Appointed by Planning Board and Selectmen

**Question 8:** Rate from 1-12, with "1" as the most important.

**Other:**

Town Hall  
 Gaffield Park  
 Grove St – Prospect St – Rt. 53

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Neighborhoods	30	15	19	12	10	9	12	6	7	5	6	
Schools	34	30	21	15	15	10	5	4	1	2	1	2
Playing Fields	12	26	22	25	18	12	6	7	4	2	2	
Public Library	8	10	21	17	18	22	15	9	7	3	3	
Norwell Center	32	26	13	19	16	15	8	7	2	1	1	
Norris Reservation	14	16	16	14	23	15	19	9	4			
Stetson Meadows	2	5	2	6	3	9	17	19	23	17	8	
Black Pond Bog	3		6	5	4	2	5	18	21	23	19	1
Wompatuck State Park	8	4	10	11	8	18	15	20	17	11	6	3
Route 53	3	10	5	7	9	11	7	8	10	19	28	6
Greenbush Train Station	5	5	10	11	8	6	13	7	8	15	23	9

**7. What places should be linked to the pathway?**

-Norris,

Driftway to Harbor  
 Miller Woods  
 Fogg Forest  
 Hatch Lots  
 Main Street  
 Senior Ctr. (COA)  
 Path from Jacobs Pond to Norwell Gardens  
 Hanover Mall  
 North River  
 Jacobs Pond  
 Landing  
 Recreation  
 Churches  
 Restaurants – local stores

Neighborhoods, Main Street (Loops to make it easier to ride)  
 -Schools, Norris Reservation, Main Street, Jacobs Pond, Soccer field, baseball field, Stop & Shop, Hanaford, Main St shopping  
 -Schools, churches, etc.  
 -Restaurants, store (snacks & water), Gaffield park, Wompatuck, North River, Schools, Norris, Norwell Center  
 -Post office, coffee shop, cemetery, schools, library  
 -St. Helen’s  
 -Primary concern to connect to town center.  
 Priority should radiate outward from town center  
 -1. Link neighborhoods. 2. Provide access to recreation destinations – school, ball fields.  
 3. Access to stores. Since Rt. 53 added sidewalks, the kids use it to get to convenience stores and restaurants.  
 -Main St, River, Central  
 -Town Center, Jacob’s Pond

- None. Path thru meadows, woods, farm area, away from busy streets & auto, trucks, etc.
- Greenbush train
- Greenbush train station, town center, town hall, Jacobs pond, Norris reservation
- Commercial Districts, schools, recreational areas
- Town hall, Norwell Center, high school
- UCC Church, First parish, River Street, Norwell Center
- Coffee shop or similar
- Not businesses
- Hanover Mall
- Businesses and recreation
- Anything feasible-one of the only detractors from Norwell is having no sidewalks and such narrow streets that it's dangerous to walk/ride/jog
- Not so concerned about linking to any particular place, just would like to see a safe place to walk & ride a bicycle
- Athletic Fields, Schools. I would like to see the ability of safe bike travel for children in and around Norwell.
- Library, Cole School, 7 Eleven at Grove & Washington
- Public places – Churches
- Schools, sports fields, neighborhoods
- I'm not in favor of any paths in the woods-but sidewalks would be great
- Libraries, Norris, Gaffield park, North River at Bridge St.
- Downtown – Mt. Blue
- “Downtown”, Gaffield Park
- Nature is good!
- Town Center – UCC – NMS
- Library-high school-Jacobs Pond-Norwell Center
- Town Center to Norris. 5-mile jogging/biking loop.
- Town Center – Can we get an ice cream place in there some day?
- Churches, public places, Library
- Jacobs Pond
- Library
- Mall, library, YMCA
- St. Helen's Church
- Supermarkets, Hanover Mall, Stores, Churches
- Schools – town hall

- Schools, parks, business districts
- South Shore Science Center, Town of Norwell online
- Schools, library, Wompatuck, Center of Town, Rt. 53 & Queen Anne's Corner
- Norwell Center, Driftway Scituate, Rt. 53
- Any way to link up with the new bike path on the Driftway in Scituate so we could ride our bike to the harbor
- As many as possible
- High School, Library, Outdoor Retail (Independent Stores only)
- Jacobs Pond, North River Landing @ Bridge Street
- Hanover Mall via South Street, Town Hall, Post Office
- Post office, town center, library, playing fields
- To go from Winter Street safely to town center and Norris by bike
- Children's ice cream, bank, restaurant, play ground, schools, Rt. 53
- Schools, libraries, town center, neighborhoods
- Town center, post office, library, schools, Gaffield Park, Norris
- Schools, center of town
- All of Main Street and all of Grove Street. The intersection of South & Pleasant through the woods to the cross-country path
- Hannaford supermarket plaza (for teenager jobs)
- Schools, library, Norris, North River, Pine Street Field
- Library, high school, middle school, Town center, Norris
- Stop & Shop, Hannaford's, Mall, Little League Fields, Science Center, That Blooming Place, Cranberry Bogs/Cross St.
- Neighborhoods, fields (Pine St)
- Places with parking available.
- Downtown, Norris, Wompatuck, Black Pond Bog (there is no parking), Greenbush
- Norwell Center, All Norwell Schools, Library & James
- Schools, Churches, Downtown & Library
- Center, Scituate & Norris
- It would be great if the bike path could also be a way of transportation – getting to and from schools, shops, library etc.
- Connection over to Greenbush train station from town center would be great.

- Merchant's Row, Norwell Center & Post Office, Areas around senior housing older adult communities.
- Schools, Down town eating establishments.
- Drums, Gaffield Park
- Food stores, restroom access
- Schools, Reaching Norwell Center Stores & restaurants all over Norwell including Queen Anne's Corner
- Schools, Parks, Historic Norwell
- Science Center, downtown, Norris, Jacobs Trail
- Areas where parking is available for someone to leave vehicle.
- Tree berry farm, Cross St / Cranberry bogs
- Town Center & Assinippi
- Libraries, Parks & Rec, Schools, Town Hall
- Town center, parks, playgrounds, historical sites
- The pathway should begin at the center of Norwell. It is the heart of our town. Link the center to all highly used public places: Gaffield Park, Public Library, High School, Middle School, Cole & Vinal Schools, Norris, Wompatuck, etc.
- Cemetery, playing fields
- Vinal to Cole, Rt 123 from Assinippi, Scituate, playgrounds.
- Schools, library, safe pathways over 123
- Town center should be connected plus UCC Norwell plus the schools and the library and town hall, Woodworth field. Connecting to our current walking locations such as Norris & Wompatuck
- Our town center needs to be the "center" of town activity. Without access, kids must be driven everywhere, leading to car congestion, gas usage & crazy drivers
- Library, schools, sports fields, town hall.
- Schools, soccer fields, baseball fields
- Library, St. Helen's, Downtown, Fields

## **9. What concerns do you have about a pathway network in Norwell?**

- Intersections, children having to cross busy roadways.

- Lighting, safety (railings), access, route markers & destination signs
- Excellent way to promote physical activity
- Safety/lighting, separation from road, funding?, usability (location, convenience)
- None, I'm so excited!
- Maintenance
- Dog walking, sex (younger generation)
- Who is donating land? Imminent domain? Great idea but will it get bogged down in property usage negotiations
- It won't be long enough or cover a big enough area
- The Selectmen's stubbornness because of the failed Main Street sidewalk/widening issue years ago. Can they please not hold a grudge?
- Riff raff, hangout for undesirables
- No bike trails at first.
- Getting a suitable (non-street route) other areas have taken 12-15 years with state assistance. Town Meeting would low priority it!
- None! Please move forward with this quickly!
- Safety
- Private property taking cost for maintaining pathways
- We need to create a safe place away from traffic for people to walk.
- Keeping trails litter free
- Never get it done, always talk
- Concern-off trail encroachment and damage to wetlands and other resource areas/habitat
- Who will maintain them?
- Safety-sidewalks on our busy streets (Grove, Main, Norwell Ave, 53) would be a huge step to making Norwell a "walkable" community. Appropriate traffic calming resources must be incorporated into the design in order to maintain safety.
- That people along the pathways won't allow them, or will fight them
- Safety adjacent to major roadways. Leadership of town related to improvements on Rt. 123
- Let's put sidewalks on our busy streets first, like Grove Street from Prospect to Washington. Safety.
- It will not be finished
- Not really. Clear if you're aiming at paths in the woods or sidewalks. I'd love to have sidewalks on the main roads.

- Availability to rescue.
- How they will be monitored for safety.
- Cost, safety day/night
- Do not want the town to look urban. Norwell is unique. I think pathways should be installed carefully and thoughtfully. They should circle around unusually old trees and stonewalls. Pathways should enhance the town not detract from our biggest asset – Rural Charm.
- To keep the community safe. We would like to see the bike paths run through the woods, not along major roads (as much as possible)
- Lots of light
- Well lit
- Needs to be safe for both walkers/joggers and bikers at the same time
- That pathways encompass all sections of town.
- Safety in secluded areas.
- Sidewalks
- Walking, safety concerns.
- Must be off highways
- Level pathways
- Not near 53
- Make sure it is in all sections of Norwell, not certain favorites.
- Walkers on roadways
- Privacy
- Safety
- Safety, continual care
- Dogs
- Maintenance – upkeep, kids drinking, dirt bikes, quads
- I think it's a fabulous idea!
- The upkeep and the ignorant people that litter
- Very! We lived in Scituate prior to this. It is linked by sidewalks. We could walk or jog or bike to downtown and to friends everyday and we did. In Norwell, we are very disconnected as it's unsafe to bike or walk around town.
- As gas prices get higher, more and more people are going to start to walk, bike, etc. and, as of right now, it's not as safe as it could be (especially with all the sharp turns).
- Will not be wide enough
- Safety for lone joggers. Trash pick up.
- Maintenance of trails.
- Safety concerns.
- How will they be monitored for safety?
- Affordability

- Safety – well lit, no bushes, Wide enough to pass people on bikes
- No sidewalks or black top, keep it dirt paths – rural/country feel
- Safety for children
- Desperately needed
- How long it will take to implement and build
- Concerns would be about safety for pathway users (i.e. crossing busy streets)
- Lighting, security
- Safety in isolated areas
- Upkeep
- Cost
- Room to accommodate riders & pedestrians, safety of users (prevent assaults and access to our homes by “bad guys”, lighting, 911), able to use cell phones (in an emergency) throughout— there's a dead cell area on Grove St, pick up after horses & dogs, trash management.
- Driveways & backing up, ticks
- I don't see enormous benefit in pathways in the middle of the woods – it makes young and single walkers vulnerable. Sidewalks would be safer and more useful.
- LOVE the idea!
- None. I think it's a great idea. I live on Main St and I would have loved a sidewalk but it was voted down.
- Littering
- That it will never happen
- May disrupt trees
- Getting assaulted on some secluded woodland path
- Keeping it somewhat natural, simple paved pathway
- If we do it, it would be safe for kids to use, well-marked & good crossing areas.
- Just that it is safe! And good for bicycling
- Any need to worry about out-of-towners who may be looking for trouble (Greenbush)?
- Worried about connecting very public places with very private places
- Safety at road crossings
- It is very needed!
- No concerns. It would make the town more connected and not so fragmented
- That it won't be easily accessible. On-going maintenance.
- Rt. 123 speed of traffic

- The pathways shouldn't be intrusive to individuals homes, but should connect neighborhoods and business areas
- Must have adequate parking and several areas where can jump on or off path. It will obviously attract users from many other communities. Any way to generate income for upkeep?
- When will it be functioning?
- Next to street whenever possible
- That it won't happen! Let's do it!
- Maintenance of pathway after it is established.
- It must be well protected from traffic-guard rail and/or sizeable shoulder
- People littering, Maintaining trails, Respect of property owners nearby
- That voters will find other than positives re: network & it will never see light of day
- My only concern is that the pathway network will not be built quickly enough.
- No horses! Safe crossovers over busy roads, maintenance
- Maintenance. Walkable and bikeable.
- Safety at busy road crossings (drivers don't drive the speed limit)
- If I could access a pathway from my house. When will the pathways be completed?
- The only concern I have is that it will not take children's and family's needs into account.
- None. I think it would be amazing!
- Safety – lighting and safety from pedophiles if children were to use the path.
- Safety would be my only concern.
- Cost
- Safety, maintenance

## 11. Additional Comments

- I would love to see Norwell more bike friendly
- Sex offenders alert, No "parking" (sex, younger ages partying, looters, drugs, alcohol, dealing)
- We have been in need of sidewalks/pathways for a long time. I live on River Street and feel very isolated. I am afraid to walk to Gaffield & Norris and they are only 1/8 mile away.

- I live on Brantwood Rd. off of Rt. 53. The sidewalks on 53 have connected our neighborhood to other roads and to commerce. I'd love to see pathways connect us to Jacobs Pond and Cole School.
- Please do ASAP
- Measure twice and cut once. Take your time and do it right.
- Make them wide enough for walkers and bikes
- Thank you for being so energetic and starting so strong
- Mariner updates will be helpful
- It's a waste to have them in small neighborhoods!! Put the developers money to better use.
- Look at what Lincoln, MA did.
- I think this would be a real plus for our town and add safety and entertainment for families, teenagers and most residents.
- Link up the existing trails, hatch lots, etc.
- Thank you for asking and thank you for all your work.
- Much needed. Would be wonderful for our community.
- Create a track around the soccer field at Pine Street.
- Thank you, thank you for your time and effort.
- Some people don't want them. But Hingham does a great job building theirs and we could copy them.
- Sounds like you're already on the right "path"!
- Think long term and good luck. Great idea. Maybe get a sponsor of certain sections of the road (i.e. McDonald's Mile).
- The town needs sidewalks!
- I think this would be a real plus for our town and add safety and entertainment for families, teenagers and most residents.
- Look at Scituate path from new roundabout going about 2 miles toward Scituate Center. Note dotted yellow line separating two-way bicycle traffic – looks good.
- Want to get to mountain biking trails at Wompatuck
- What a wonderful improvement to our town – less dependent on driving everywhere! A dream come true!

-Norwell has needed pathways (sidewalks) for many years. It will make the town 100% more livable.

-We would love sidewalks!

-I think this is one of the highest priorities of the town

-Great idea! This will improve quality of life in Norwell

-Each road when paved should incorporate sidewalks.

-Thank you for working on a project that will increase the safety, beauty and ability to explore all Norwell has to offer to families.

-We live at 803 Main St (corner of Main & Winter). Put a sidewalk in front of our house! We would love it.

-Make them easily accessible

-Please build it! We cannot walk safely in this town

-This will be a wonderful asset to quality of the community

-Don't take 10 years to build it.

-Please note that most recently the town of Norwell has purchased 15 acres of land adjacent to Wompatuck State Park and Prospect Street. This property would link a path between the park and an un-used cow path on the property.

-Kudos to you for undertaking this! Maybe Norwell can modernize and offer to its taxpayers what all the other towns already do (most of them have less taxes)

-I love the idea of walkways/bike it should connect business areas and it will help with gas prices and pollution.

-Long overdue! A wonderful idea to take advantage of the beauty of our town.

-Thank you for working on this important project. This is a great way to build our community.

-Would like to see dirt paths and not paved. Would like to see them promoted by town officials and encourage more walking than driving.

-“Quaint” is a work used by voters who no longer look forward. The word is often used in defense of holding back progress. The town of Norwell is no longer just “quaint” – it’s robust, family friendly town that needs sidewalks/pathways

-I strongly support sidewalks and bike paths in Norwell. Given the opportunity, I would gladly walk to town center with my children. Also, I think children in town need a safe place to ride their bikes.

-Sidewalks and bike paths would strengthen the sense of community in Norwell, get us out of cars, and bring us face to face with our neighbors.

-Summer Street sidewalks too

-Fitness & overall health will increase if given public access to pathways

-I am 100% behind this effort. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to make this all happen.

-We fully support establishing pathways. Pathways would provide a safer alternative for visiting friends, parks, and library, as well as, enhancing options for exercising with our children.

-Have “smart bike” rentals available and places to park bikes at all intended locations.

-If the parkway is large enough, add some trees for shade and benches along the way

-Have a sidewalk on Main. St.

-Not too close to neighborhoods. Can attract high schoolers at night?

-There are no safe ways for children to access Norwell. We are not a town without walkable and readable pathways to link us.

-Definitely need somewhere to walk or ride bikes, more recreation

-I just think any type of pathway would be GREAT!

-We totally support pathways in Norwell, especially bike trails.

-We love the idea!

-The lack of sidewalks/bike paths is a major drawback for the town.