

TOWN FOREST SURVEY

Results of the Town Forest Survey
administered on behalf of the Reading
Town Forest Committee

June – August, 2012

By: Kim Honetschlager, GIS Coordinator, Town of Reading

October 22, 2012

TOWN FOREST SURVEY

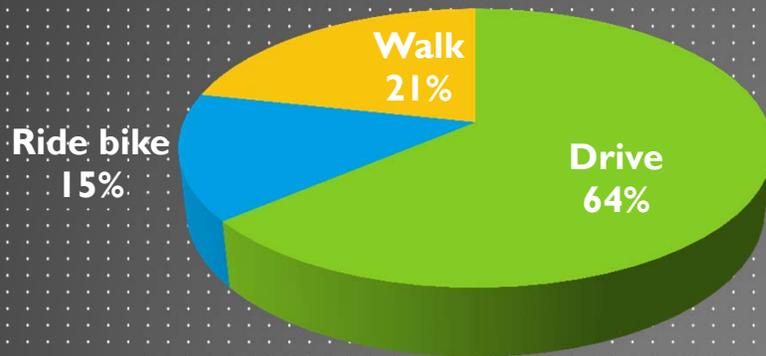
- ▶ 278 respondents
- ▶ Ran from mid-June to late August, 2012
- ▶ Purpose: provide metrics on Town Forest use
- ▶ Town Forest is most heavily used conservation area in Reading -
87% of Open Space survey respondents use the Town Forest

TOWN FOREST SURVEY

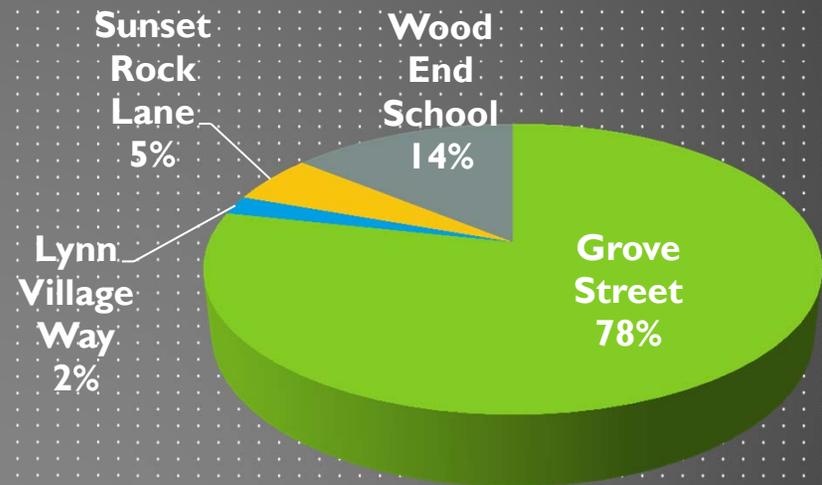
- ▶ Handful of respondents do *not* use the Town Forest (44)
 - ▶ Unaware that it exists (11%)
 - ▶ Have no interest (35%)
 - ▶ Do not know where it is (54%)
- ▶ Among Town Forest users:
 - ▶ Half use it at least monthly
 - ▶ Use is highest on weekends (9% weekdays, 38% weekends, 52% both)
 - ▶ Use is highest morning & afternoon (32% each), as opposed to midday (24%) or evening (13%)

TOWN FOREST SURVEY

How do you get to the Town Forest?



Where do you park?

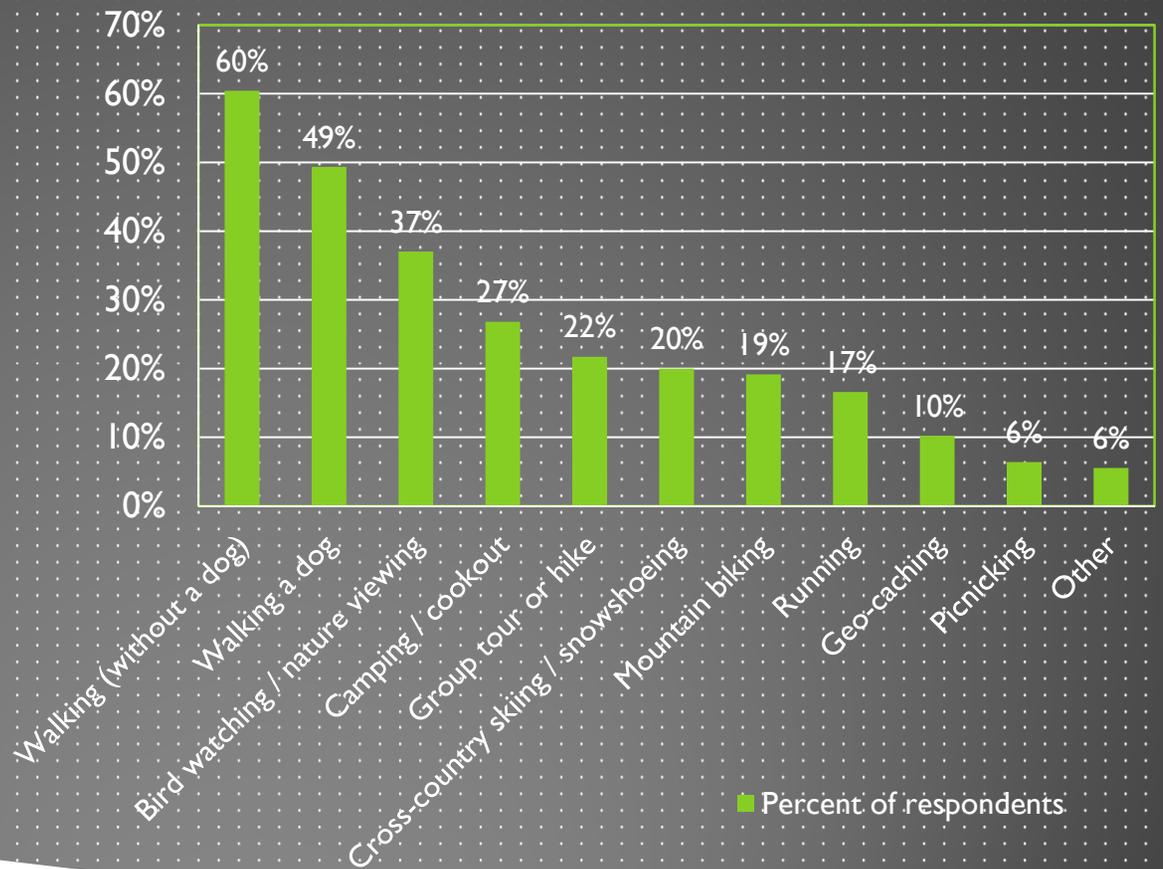


TOWN FOREST SURVEY

Which activities do you do?

▶ Other activities:

- ▶ Journaling
- ▶ Meeting friends
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Play in open field
- ▶ Water quality monitoring
- ▶ Airsoft (against the rules)



TOWN FOREST SURVEY



▶ Leash use

- ▶ 24% of dog walkers always use a leash
- ▶ 30% sometimes use a leash
- ▶ 46% never use a leash

▶ Dog waste

- ▶ 76% always pick up after their dog
- ▶ 10% sometimes do
- ▶ 14% never pick up

▶ Other statistics:

- ▶ 74% walk one dog; 7% walk three or more dogs.
- ▶ 48% (also) walk their dog in other parks and conservation areas.
- ▶ There are over 2,540 licensed dogs in Reading. An increase of 36% over 10 years.

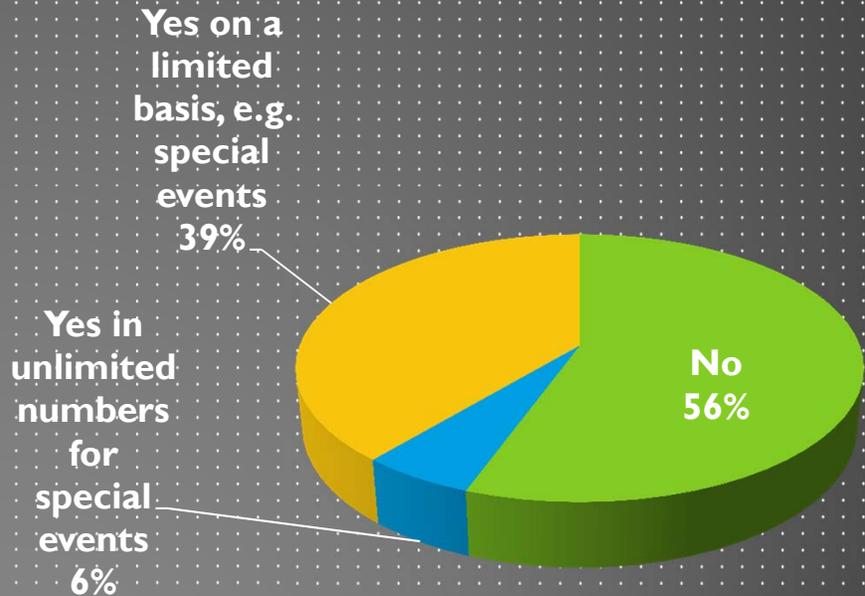


TOWN FOREST SURVEY

Would you be willing to pay a fee to use the Town Forest if the fees were used to maintain the Town Forest?

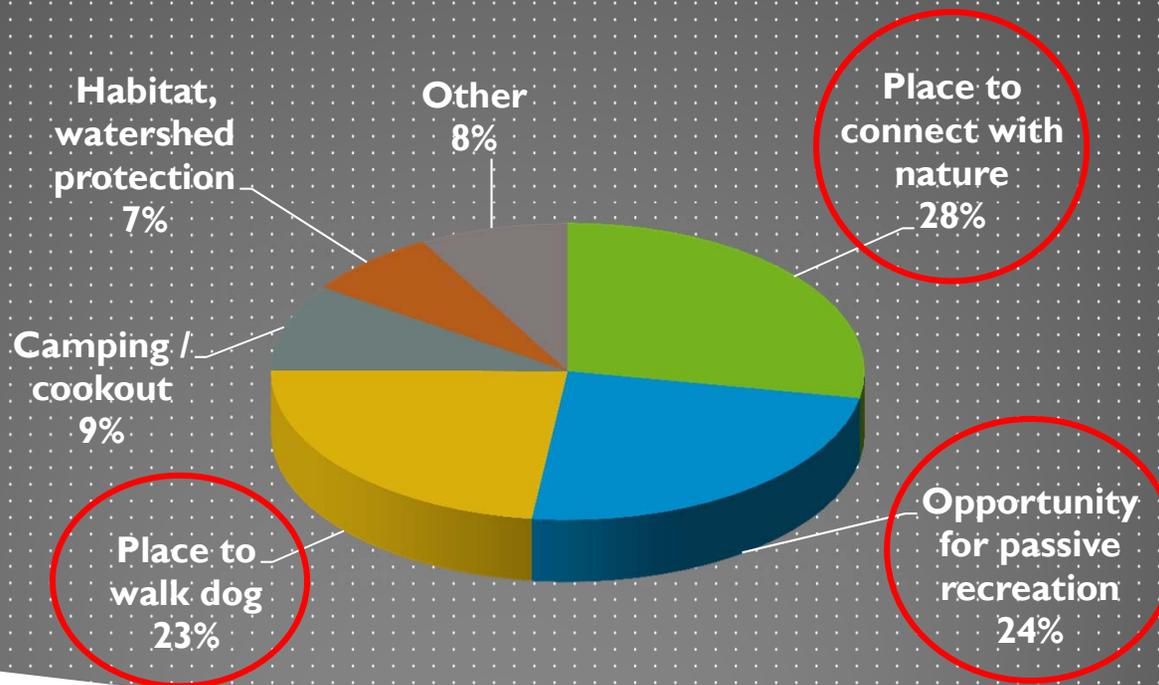


Should private vehicles be allowed in the Town Forest?



TOWN FOREST SURVEY

What do you value most about the Town Forest?



Roughly equal proportions value connecting with nature, passive recreation, and dog walking.

TOWN FOREST SURVEY

I love the town forest...
a hidden gem...
adds to the value of
living in Reading.

Our dogs love the
Town Forest as
much as we do!

I enjoy having a
place where I can
trail run and
mountain bike.

It is a gift to have such
a peaceful, beautiful
open space to walk
right here in Reading.

I went there in the 60's
as a boy scout when I
lived in Reading and
found it rather boring.
I've never been back as
there was nothing of
interest there.

- Connecting with nature
- Passive recreation
- Dog walking

THANK YOU

For more information please see the Town
Forest Committee webpage:

www.readingma.gov/Pages/ReadingMA_BComm/forest