Longmarsh Preserve Questionnaire Findings*

Data collected Jan 1-Feb 12, 2023; 63 responses

Question	Response
1.Durham resident?	87% were residents
2.Access point?	Longmarsh Rd West (63%), followed by Longmarsh Rd East (47%), then Dame Rd/Sweet Trail (30%).**
3. # of people in group?	87% had 1 to 2 people per group; 13% had 3 to 4 people per group
4. Ages of people in group?	Over 65 years old (41%), between 55 and 64 (26%), between 45 and 54 (25%), and under 18 years old (20%).**
5.Why have you chosen to visit Longmarsh?	Top 4 vote-getters were: Natural environment (87%), river and beaver pond views (83%), proximity to home (77%) and location (72%). Next 4 were wildlife watching (60%), not crowded (58%), solitude (57%) and access to Sweet Trail (57%)**
6. What trails do you access?	Sweet Trail (88%), Blue Trail (Colby Marsh, 80%), Green Trail (Old Class VI rd to parking, 63%) and Yellow (Langmaid Farm, 42%).**
7.What activities do you do?	Walking/hiking (97%), pet-walking (43%) and birdwatching (33%). **
8. How often do you visit?	10% of people visit one to three times a week, 28% visit one to three times a month, and 49% visit several times a year.
9. When do you visit?	Most popular is weekend mornings (69%) followed by weekend afternoons (66%), then weekday mornings (59%) followed by weekday afternoons (49%).**
10. How many hours do you spent each visit?	Most (74%) spend 1-2 hours per visit.
11. Which seasons do you visit?	Fall is most popular (95%), followed by spring (87%), summer (84%), and winter (74%). **
12. What improvements are needed?	Top 3 are (1) boardwalks over sensitive areas (56%), (2) more posted information (24%), and (3) no improvements (24%).
13. Have you always found a parking space at Longmarsh Preserve?	66% yes, 15% no, and 19% NA.
14. How do you access Longmarsh?	Car (79%), on foot (39%) and bike (10%).**
15. How did you find out about Longmarsh?	Word-of-mouth (73%) and internet (24%).
16. What other town properties do you visit?	Wagon Hill (87%) and Doe Farm (83%) are predominant, followed by Oyster River Forest (68%), Thompson (65%) and Jackson's Landing (62%). **

What we learned: This *Friday Updates* on-line questionnaire revealed that most respondents were from Durham, and they access the Longmarsh Property primarily from Longmarsh Rd West but also from Longmarsh Rd East and from the Dame Rd parking area. Typical group size is 1 to 2 people, across a wide spectrum of ages. People love the natural environment, proximity to home, and the river and beaver pond views. They primarily access the Sweet Trail, but also use the blue, green and yellow trails. Nearly everyone comes to walk, while about half come to pet-walk for two hours or less each visit, in all seasons of the year. The most popular time to visit is weekend mornings while least popular is weekday afternoons. Most people find parking, and one-third access the property on foot.

The major suggestion for improvement is boardwalks over sensitive areas. Most Longmarsh visitors also visit Wagon Hill and Doe Farm, followed by Jackson's Landing, Oyster River Forest and Thompson Forest.

Recommendations:

1. Brush out trails this winter, before ticks resurface.
2. Replace boardwalk over sensitive areas, as time and funding allow.
3. Improve signage and educational materials at 3 parking area kiosks.
4. Give careful thought to the best way to address the 350' bridge next to the beaver dam. Meanwhile, erect temporary signage at both ends of the beaver dam boardwalk, warning walkers that "the boardwalk may be unsafe – proceed at your own risk".
5. Erect signage that informs users of Longmarsh that hunting is allowed on adjacent properties including those traversed by the Sweet Trail.

*Questionnaire available via *Friday Updates* and QR code on-site. Raw analysis data resides in the Durham Town Hall files

**Respondents could choose more than one response.