

# Oyster River Greenway (Milne Sanctuary, Mill Pond Park, Town Landing)

## Friday Updates Questionnaire Findings\*

Data collected May 5 – May 26, 2023; 66 responses

Question	Response
1. Durham resident?	99% were residents
2. # of people in group?	72% had 1 to 2 people per group; 25% had 3 to 4 people per group
3. Ages of people in group?	Over 65 years old (54%), between 45-64 (48%), between 35 and 44 (21%), and under 18 years old (27%).**
4. Why have you chosen to visit the Oyster River Greenway?	Top 4 vote-getters were: water views (89%), location (77%), natural environment (73%) and proximity to home (66%).
5. What activities do you do?	Walking (91%), birdwatching (54%), and pet-walking (20%). **
6. How often do you visit?	18% of people visit one to three times a week, 32% visit one to three times a month, and 43% visit several times a year.
7. When do you visit?	Most popular is weekday afternoons (72%) followed by weekend afternoons (63%), weekend mornings (47%) then weekday mornings (44%).**
8. How many hours do you spend each visit?	71% spend less than 1 hour, and 36% spend 1-2 hours, per visit.
9. Which seasons do you visit?	Summer is most popular (97%), followed by spring (92%), fall (88%) and winter (54%). **
10. What improvements are needed?	52% said no improvements needed. Other suggestions were more educational signage (20%), remove debris (19%) and more erosion control (17%). **
11. Have you always found a parking space at the Oyster River Greenway?	69% yes, 3% no, and 28% NA.
12. Where do you park?	55% on Mill Pond Rd, 88% at the Town Landing, and 8% at the Town Hall.
13. How do you access the Oyster River Greenway?	On foot (62%), car/motorcycle (55%), bicycle (15%), and by boat (8%). **
14. How did you find out about the Oyster River Greenway?	Word-of-mouth (75%) and town website (40%).
15. What other town properties do you visit?	Top vote-getters were Jackson's Landing (91%), Wagon Hill (87%), followed by Oyster River Forest (68%) and Doe Farm (65%). **

**What we learned:** This *Friday Updates* on-line questionnaire revealed that most respondents were from Durham and span a wide age range. Typical group size is 1 to 2 people. People come for the water views, location, natural environment and its proximity to home, primarily to walk but also for bird watching and pet-walking. Most visits last 1 hour or less, and people prefer to visit in the afternoons on both weekend and weekdays during spring, summer and fall. Parking is not an issue, and nearly one-third of respondents access the property on foot. They've discovered the property via word of mouth or the town website. More than half the respondents felt no improvements were needed on the property; other suggestions were more educational signage, debris removal and erosion control.

Other Durham properties that respondents visit are Jackson's Landing, Wagon Hill, Oyster River Forest and Doe Farm.

**Recommendations:**

1. Continue to manage for invasives and erosion in Milne Sanctuary and Mill Pond Park.
2. Provide input for issues associated with dam removal and area restoration.
3. Explore ways to implement historic/educational signage, especially at Town Landing.

\*Raw analysis data resides in the Durham Town Hall files

\*\*Respondents could choose more than one response.

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