

Stevens Woods *Friday Updates* Questionnaire Findings*

Data collected months of March and April, 2022, 76 responses

Question	Response
1. Durham resident?	90% were residents
2. # of people in group?	90% had 1 to 2 people per group
3. Ages of people in group?	45% were ≥ 65 years old, 25% were 45-54 years old.
4. Why have you chosen to visit Stevens Woods?	Top 5 vote-getters were: Natural environment, proximity to home, location, not crowded, and quality of trails (all $\geq 65\%$). **
5. What activities do you do?	Walking/hiking (95%), pet-walking (32%) and birdwatching (30%). **
6. How often do you visit?	32% of people visit one to three times a month, 31% visit several times a year, 23% visit one to three times a week.
7. When do you visit?	Most popular is weekday afternoons (65%); weekday mornings and weekend AM or PM were equal at 50%. **
8. How many hours do you spent each visit?	Most (72%) spend 1-2 hours per visit
9. Which seasons do you visit?	Fall and spring (93%) were favored over summer and winter (70%). **
10. What improvements are needed?	Boardwalks over sensitive areas were top priority; others were more posted information, more trail markers and more erosion control.
11. Have you always found a parking space at Stevens Woods?	97% said yes.
12. How do you access Stevens Woods?	Mostly on foot (75%) and/or via the Kenny Rotner bridge (45%); 45% via car. **
13. How did you find out about Stevens Woods?	Word-of-mouth and town website
14. What other town properties do you visit?	People visited many of the town's properties: Wagon Hill Farm predominated, followed by Oyster River Forest, Thompson Forest, Longmarsh and Doe Farm. **

What we learned: This *Friday Updates* on-line questionnaire revealed that Stevens Woods, as well as many town properties, attracts Durham residents who learned about Doe Farm via word-of-mouth or the town web site. They are primarily walkers/hikers, and about one-third are pet-walkers and birdwatchers (hmm, conflict there?) who equally appreciate the natural environment, proximity to home, location, lack of crowds, and the quality of trails. About one-quarter of folks visit up to 3 times a week, and one-third visit up to several times a month. Popular visiting times are weekday afternoons (65%), for 1 to 2 hours (72%). Folks visit all seasons of the year, but especially in the fall and spring (93%) compared to winter and summer (70%). Parking was not an issue (97%), and most people accessed the property on foot (75%). Top priority for improvement was boardwalks over sensitive areas; other suggestions included more posted information, more trail markers and more erosion control. Additional comments were complimentary and very appreciative of Durham's trails. One voiced that "Dog users must comply with the leash law. It is not a matter of liking or disliking dogs."

*Raw analysis data resides in the Durham Town Hall files

**Respondents could choose more than one response

Stevens Woods *In-person* Questionnaire Findings*

Data collected Apr 24-May 15, 2022, 10 responses

Question	Response
1. Durham resident?	60% were Durham residents (40% were UNH students).
2. # of people in group?	85% had 1 to 2 people per group.
3. Ages of people in group?	80% were 18-44 years old.
4. Why have you chosen to visit Stevens Woods	Location, solitude and proximity to home/trails/terrain were top vote-getters (60-90%). **
5. What activities do you do?	Walking was predominant at 90%; running, birding, pet-walking and snowshoeing were each 30%. **
6. How often do you visit?	40% of people visit 1-3 times a week. 30% visit several times a year and for 20% of the people, it was their first visit.
7. When do you visit?	Weekdays (AM and PM) are more popular than weekends. **
8. How many hours do you spend each visit?	Most spend 1-2 hours per visit
9. Which seasons do you visit?	Spring is most popular (100%), followed by fall (80%), winter (70%) and summer (60%). **
10. What improvements are needed?	Four people would like more educational signage, and three each suggested more boardwalks and trail markers.
11. Have you always found a parking space at Stevens Woods?	Yes (100%).
12. How do you access Stevens Woods?	80% on foot, 40% via car. **
11. How did you find out about Stevens Woods?	Word-of-mouth predominated at 70%, followed by town website at 45%. **
14. What other town properties do you visit?	All properties listed were visited; Wagon Hill was top vote-getter (70%) with Oyster River Forest, Doe Farm and Milne tied for second. **

What we learned: This 2022 spring questionnaire of people visiting Stevens Woods, albeit a small sample size, revealed that the property attracts local Durham residents and UNH students who can access the property on foot. They learned about it via word-of-mouth, love visiting in the fall, on weekdays, and walking is their primary activity. Respondents visit all Durham properties, especially Wagon Hill, but also Oyster River Forest, Doe Farm and Milne Sanctuary. They appreciate the location, solitude, and proximity to home for their 1 to 2 hour visits. One comment suggests clipping brush along trail (tick precaution) and felling rotted trees.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Be vigilant about the need for boardwalk/erosion control.
- 2) Investigate the need for identifying and removing rotting trees near parking lot.

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**Respondents could choose more than one response.