

## Thompson Forest Questionnaire Findings\*

Data collected March 24-April 4, 2023; 48 responses

Question	Response
1. Durham resident?	92% were residents
2. # of people in group?	79% had 1 to 2 people per group; 21% had 3 to 4 people per group
3. Ages of people in group?	Over 65 years old (48%), between 45-64 (48%), between 35 and 44 (23%), and under 18 years old (23%).**
4. Why have you chosen to visit Thompson Forest?	Top 4 vote-getters were: natural environment (80%), proximity to home (74%), not crowded (70%), and location (65%). **
5. What activities do you do?	Walking/hiking (95), birdwatching (44%), and pet-walking (38). **
6. How often do you visit?	8% of people visit one to three times a week, 12% visit one to three times a month, 17% visit once a year, and 50% visit several times a year.
7. When do you visit?	Most popular is weekday afternoons (63%) followed by weekend afternoons (48%), weekday mornings (46%) then weekend mornings (38%).**
8. How many hours do you spend each visit?	46% spend less than 1 hour, and 56% spend 1-2 hours, per visit.
9. Which seasons do you visit?	Fall and spring are most popular (88% each), followed by summer (69%) then winter (42%). **
10. What improvements are needed?	54% said no improvements needed. Other suggestions were more erosion control (18%), more educational signage (18%), and more trail markers (13%). **
11. Have you always found a parking space at Thompson Forest?	74% yes, 5% no, and 21% NA.
12. How do you access Thompson Forest?	Car (75%), bike (8%), and on foot (33%).**
13. How did you find out about Thompson Forest?	Word-of-mouth (50%) and town website (52%).
14. What other town properties do you visit?	Wagon Hill (92%), followed by Oyster River Forest (85%), Doe Farm (77%) and Jackson Landing (77%). **

**What we learned:** This 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 natural environment and its proximity to home, primarily to walk but also for bird watching and pet-walking. Visits last 2 hours or less, and people preferred weekdays to weekends. Parking is not an issue, and one-third of respondents access the property on foot. More than half the respondents felt no improvements were needed on the property; other suggestions were more educational signage and more erosion control. Other Durham properties that respondents visit are Wagon Hill, Oyster River Forest, Doe Farm, and Jackson Landing.

### Recommendations:

1. Improve trail signage, brush in herd paths.
2. Keep trails properly mowed to minimize poison ivy and tick exposure.

### 3. Update kiosk to include trail lengths.

\*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.

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