

Wiswall Dam & John Hatch Park

Friday Updates Questionnaire Findings*

Data collected July 2 – August 15, 2023; 51 responses

Question	Response
1. Durham resident?	92% were residents (no UNH students)
2. # of people in group?	67% had 1 to 2 people per group; 31% had 3 to 4 people per group, and 2% had >10 people per group.
3. Ages of people in group?	Over 65 years old (47%), between 45-64 (34%), between 35 and 44 (22%), and under 18 years old (31%).**
4. Why have you chosen to visit Wiswall Dam & John Hatch Park?	Top 4 vote-getters were: river access (70%), natural environment (60%), proximity to home (54%), and location (54%).
5. What activities do you do?	Walking (76%), swimming (41%), pet-walking (33%), birdwatching (29%), and fishing (27%). **
6. How often do you visit?	12% of people visit one to three times a week, 14% visit one to three times a month, and 59% visit several times a year.
7. When do you visit?	Most popular is weekday afternoons (66%) followed by weekday mornings (48%), weekend afternoons (42%) and weekend mornings (26%). **
8. How many hours do you spend each visit?	43% spend less than 1 hour, and 53% spend 1-2 hours, per visit.
9. Which seasons do you visit?	Summer is most popular (84%), followed by fall (75%), spring (73%), and winter (35%). **
10. What improvements are needed?	No improvements need was the top vote-getter (41%), followed by remove debris (39%), more erosion control on trails (28%) and more educational signage (15%). **
11. Have you always found a parking space at Wiswall Dam & John Hatch Park?	44% yes, 30% no, and 26% N/A.
12. How do you access Wiswall Dam & John Hatch Park?	Car/motorcycle (69%), on foot (37%), via bicycle (18%) and via boat (6%). **
13. How did you find out about Wiswall Dam & John Hatch Park?	Word-of-mouth (75%), kiosk (15%) and town website (13%).
14. What other town properties do you visit?	Top vote-getters were Wagon Hill (70%), followed by Jackson's Landing (66%), Packers Falls Park (64%), Doe Farm (62%) and Oyster River Forest (56%). Least visited were Wagon Hill North, Weeks, The Meadows and Stolworthy (2-14%).**

What we learned: This *Friday Updates* on-line questionnaire revealed that nearly all respondents are from Durham, have 1 to 2 people in their group, and one-third are under age 18. People come for the river access and natural environment, as well as its proximity to home and great location. Most people visit the park for walking, but also for swimming, pet-walking, birdwatching and fishing. Most visits last 2 hours or less, and most respondents visit several times a year. People prefer to visit during the week (mornings and afternoons); the least visited time is weekend mornings. Favorites seasons to visit are summer, fall and spring. Parking is available to nearly half the respondents but is

not always available to one-third of the respondents; one-quarter of people cite parking as N/A. Although most people access the property via car/motorcycle/bike, over one-third access it on foot, and a minority via boat. They've discovered the property via word of mouth or the kiosk and town website. Nearly half of respondents thought no improvements were needed on the property, while about one-third cited "remove debris" and "more erosion control on trails". Other Durham properties that respondents visit are (in descending order of popularity) Wagon Hill, Jackson's Landing, Packers Falls, Doe Farm and Oyster River Forest.

Recommendations:

1. Add a town kiosk, including a map of the property which shows the many features of John Hatch Park.
2. Identify and mark property borders.
3. Correct "Amenities" on town web site (Currently incorrectly reads "Trail leads from the Wiswall Dam along the Lamprey River and crosses private property").

*Raw analysis data resides in the Durham Town Hall files

**Respondents could choose more than one response.