

Thank you for attending the Durham Open Space Plan Public Workshop!

Your ideas and comments helped us learn a great deal about the places and resources that matter most to Durham residents. When the activity results were reviewed, several clear themes emerged.

### **Water Resources**

Many participants highlighted the importance of the Runaround Pond Recreation Area for its water access and trails, while noting challenges with trail maintenance, invasive species, and nearby wildlife crossings. Residents also identified the Androscoggin River as a vital water resource and raised concerns about flooding, limited amenities, and restricted water access at both the Boat Launch and River Park.

### **Wildlife and Habitat**

Runaround Pond and the Androscoggin River were identified as significant wildlife areas with several nearby wildlife crossings. Invasive species have been identified at Runaround Pond Recreation Area, the Boat Launch, and River Park and could negatively affect native plants and animals within these wildlife areas. Participants also identified area of concern on several privately owned properties around Durham.

### **Recreation**

Many participants identified Runaround Pond as their favorite recreation area, though several noted that the trails could benefit from improvements such as better drainage, wider paths, and bridges. Concerns were raised regarding River Park due to its location on a busy road and challenges regarding water access. Participants also noted that many residents are not aware of all publicly accessible open spaces in Durham and would like clearer information about where recreation is allowed. Many residents expressed interest in working with private landowners to improve public access and in better communications about existing recreational opportunities across Durham.

### **Agriculture**

Residents emphasized the importance of protecting farmland and maintaining Durham's rural character. Several participants pointed to existing farms as important parts of the community's landscape.

### **Flooding and Climate**

Participants identified flooding as a greater concern in Durham than erosion or dry wells. Many pointed to flooding along the Androscoggin River, particularly near the Boat Launch and River Park, and flooding along the East Branch of Chandler Brook as major issues within the community.

### **Future Priorities**

The two future priorities receiving the most support were protecting water resources and preserving wildlife corridors and habitat (including forestry). Participants also indicated that future spending should focus on coordinating with private landowners to expand public access and developing non-motorized trails.

Thank you again for taking the time to participate. Your input will help guide the development of Durham's Open Space Plan. We look forward to sharing future updates and additional opportunities for input as the plan continues to take shape.