

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY REPORT

January 2026

LANSDALE
LIFE IN MOTION

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Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
Public Opinion Survey Report

January 23, 2026

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Lansdale Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan Community Survey Findings

What We Heard and Why It Matters

The Lansdale Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan survey generated 418 responses, most from Borough residents, indicating strong community interest in the future of parks, trails, and public spaces. The volume of responses and the depth of open-ended comments show that residents are not only frequent park users, but also thoughtful about how parks fit into daily life, neighborhood quality, and the Borough's long-term character.

How Residents Use Parks

Parks are a regular part of life in Lansdale.

- Most respondents visit Borough parks daily, weekly, or seasonally
- Very few indicated that they never use parks
- White's Road Park, Stony Creek Park, and Memorial Park are the most heavily used
- Many residents also use:
    - Regional trail systems
    - Montgomery County parks
    - Nearby township parks and facilities, mainly in Upper Gwynedd and regional bike trails

What this tells us:

Lansdale's parks are valued and well used, but residents often travel outside the Borough for longer trails, more immersive nature experiences, or better-connected systems. This points to an opportunity to strengthen local offerings and connections so more recreation can happen closer to home.

What Matters Most to the Community

When asked to rank what is most important in the "big picture," respondents were clear and consistent. The top priorities were:

- Safe places to walk and bicycle
- Enjoying nature close to home
- Scenic beauty
- A lively, walkable downtown
- Fitness and health

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Indoor recreation, arts and culture, and expanded recreation opportunities followed, but at a lower priority.

What this tells us:

Residents see parks, trails, streets, and downtown spaces as one connected system. Parks are not just destinations. They are part of how people move, relax, socialize, and experience Lansdale every day.

How Parks Are Used

Survey responses show that Lansdale's parks support a wide range of everyday activities:

- Walking and running
- Enjoying nature
- Attending events and festivals
- Socializing with family and friends
- Swimming and pool use
- Exercise and stress relief

What this tells us:

Parks in Lansdale function as health infrastructure, social space, and mental health support, not just as locations for organized programs. Comfort, cleanliness, safety, and good maintenance directly influence how well parks serve these roles.

Satisfaction with Existing Parks

Overall satisfaction with parks and recreation facilities is strong:

- Most respondents rated facilities as good or excellent
- Very few respondents rated parks poorly

What this tells us:

Residents clearly value Lansdale's existing parks and recreation system and view it as a strong foundation; rather than seeking major change, they are asking for targeted improvements that strengthen connections, enhance stewardship and care, and improve everyday usability to meet evolving needs.

Desired Park Improvements

When asked to identify desired improvements, respondents prioritized upgrades that improve day-to-day usability:

- Improved restrooms

- Better walking paths and trail connections
- Expanded bicycle network
- Cleaner, better-maintained parks
- Protection and enhancement of open space and natural areas
- An indoor recreation center
- A centrally located dog park

Requests for additional sports fields ranked lower.

What this tells us:

Residents are prioritizing quality, comfort, and access over expansion. The emphasis is on making existing parks work better for more people, more often, and across all seasons.

Programs and Who They Should Serve

Residents expressed strong support for inclusive and intergenerational recreation. Groups most frequently identified as benefiting from more opportunities include:

- School-age youth and teens
- Families and multi-generational households
- Adults and older adults
- People with disabilities
- Residents facing financial barriers

Top program interests include:

- Nature-based programs
- Community events and festivals
- Fitness and wellness
- Arts, culture, music, and performances
- Volunteer and service opportunities

What this tells us:

The community values shared experiences, access, and inclusion, and supports a broader definition of recreation beyond traditional sports leagues.

In the BIG PICTURE, what is your idea for one single thing that you would most like us to do to improve parks, recreation & trails in Lansdale?



What ideas do you have for improvements to make our parks, recreation facilities and trails more fun, accessible and welcoming for all?



Communication Preferences

Residents want to stay informed, but they want information to be easier to find and understand. Preferred communication channels include:

- Email
- Borough website
- Social media
- E-newsletters

Printed materials and park kiosks remain important, but secondary.

What this tells us:

The need is not just for more communication, but for clearer, more coordinated, and more visible messaging, including better on-site information within parks.

Key Themes from Open-Ended Comments

Several consistent themes emerged from written responses:

- Safety concerns, especially related to traffic speeds, street crossings, and conflicts between walkers, cyclists, and wheeled devices
- Strong interest in nature-based management, including native plants, meadow conversions, invasive species removal, and ecological education
- Desire for dog-friendly amenities, particularly a walkable, in-Borough dog park
- Maintenance concerns, including snow removal, broken glass, and deteriorating courts
- Interest in a more vibrant, walkable downtown connected to parks
- Significant and conflicting views on homelessness in parks

What this tells us:

Residents care deeply about safety and stewardship, but there is also a clear tension around complex social issues. This highlights the need for thoughtful policies, clear expectations, and coordination with social service partners beyond the parks system.

Planning Takeaways

Taken together, the survey results provide a clear direction for the Plan:

- Focus on safe, connected walking and bicycling
- Strengthen nature, stewardship, and environmental quality
- Prioritize maintenance, cleanliness, and comfort
- Expand year-round and indoor recreation opportunities
- Deliver inclusive, accessible programs and events
- Improve communication and visibility
- Address sensitive issues with balance, clarity, and compassion

The survey demonstrates that Lansdale residents see parks, recreation, and open space as essential to quality of life. The Plan has a strong mandate to build on what works, address real concerns, and align parks and public spaces with the community's vision for a healthy, connected, and welcoming Borough.

Open Ended Comments – Printed as submitted

What do you think is most important?

1. Interested in preserving open land and less building of anything.
   There are too many buildings not being used.
2. People go too fast and don't pay attention so I feel unsafe. People go down the wrong way on green st. Frequently. There are no leading pedestrian indicators. It's so unsafe to cross the raod
3. Scenic beauty and nature kinda go hand in hand
4. By having more restaurants and fill all the store fronts
5. The appearance of safety is very important. The first block of Walnut st off of main looks dangerous. Closed store fronts should have a window facade the looks somewhat appealing
6. More preserved space, less townhomes and strips malls
7. Lansdale needs more restaurants like Lansdale Tavern. I would love to see more pubs and american dining restaurants.
8. Maybe a trail could work for exercising
9. safe connections to parks and to main street
10. lawn to meadow conversions and using native plants- education about ecological services
11. P&R really do offer a lot, but it is sometimes hard to know all that is going on.
12. Screen 2 will not allow to prioritize
    **would like existing Whites & Stony Ck Parks to be more dog friendly.
13. Enhancing open spaces with proper management
14. Workout track around a playground.
15. Walking trails and open space for kids to play
16. More entertainment and fun things to do.
17. More opportunities to listen to live music. Live music is therapeutic. If the bands are paid well, they will be here. Small fees if needed to get a thriving music scene in Lansdale. Also, more opportunities to learn about a variety of cultures.
18. More outdoor restutants, lights, shops
19. Update to Memorial park and ball field
20. How can there be any more beauty with sloppy "tent people" taking over the parks. With their 5 ft. high piles of junk near by. They need to be removed... There are places that can supply Shelter for these people. This is #1!t
21. Lansdale parks needs to remove snow from walkways within the parks! What good is cleaning off the parking lot if the walkways are trecherous.
22. With e-bicycles and motorized skateboards and onewheels, it has gotten less safe for walkers. I value safety for walkers in our parks - not bicycles.

Facilities and Programs

23. Other Parks: AT, Peace Valley Park
    "What prevents you from using parks" - The homeless
24. State Parks/Bucks county or township parks
25. There are many people with dogs (me included! so yes, selfishly!) that would benefit from a dog park. I believe a dog park would entice more people/families to come to the parks to take advantage of myriad other park resources...
    re: rec programs...something involving nature photography
26. State parks and parks in other counties.
27. The bike/walking trail on 202 up to Doylestown.

    I would love it if these improvements could impact all community members, but I get the sense that teens do what they want to do either way. And I'm not sure if young adults can afford to live in this area anymore!
28. Other parks I visit: Peace Valley
29. Peace Valley Park and Green Lane Park
30. Would be great to have a roller hockey rink or surface in the borough. Somewhere to play hockey without ruining the surface of a tennis court or breaking windows with pucks
31. Frick Trail - Hatfield, PA
    Unnamed foot trail behind cemetery at Immanuel Leidys Church at Leidys Rd/ W. Cherry Ln, Souderton, PA
32. All people
33. I like Peace Vally park for walking & cycling. Nockamixon for kayaking & paddle boarding.
    I think using a park building for a homeless shelter encourages more homeless people to live in or near the park. We need to be compassionate, but we also need to provide safety for actual tax-paying residents.
    Shouldn't the proposed "fitness" pool really be called a "lounge" pool-there's nothing "fit" about lounge chairs in the waater-we NEED lap lanes that aren't in the middle of the main pool!
34. Odd question. Do we really need to be segregated into "diverse groups and genders"?
35. Would like safer street crossings and better sidewalks to get to parks. Thinking about 4 way stop at Penn st and Line st; and crossing Hancock at end of Line st to get to Stony Creek.

36. both pools are GREAT!
37. Plains Park
    Peace Valley Park;

    I'd use borough parks more if I knew what there was to do there...I usually go to Peace Valley or Morris Arboretum for a good hike, but it'd be great if I could get some healthy, safe outside time closer to home. I'd also love to be able to stay active with others during colder months, so the indoor rec center is intriguing. Something basic, like pickup basketball or soccer for middle aged ladies who just want to stay active without competing hard.
38. everyone
39. Frick trail Hatfield, school road park Hatfield, heebner park, peace valley park, forsworn preserve ,
40. 1. More fruit trees
    2. A "free play" area like is next to Peace Valley Park's Nature Center, ideally on the far side of the tennis courts at WR Park
    3. Tennis courts at WR Park are completely falling apart and need to be resurfaced
    4. Free admission to pools if you are a borough resident AND can show you're on public benefits (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, etc.)
    5. Develop a walking/biking trail allong Wissahickon Creek connecting multiple parks and open spaces
    6. Splash park at Railroad Plaza
41. Some things I wanted to note and not sure where to add:
    - It seems clear at some point in its history much of White's was a dumping ground for the community, Can something be done about all the old broken glass embedded in the dirt?
    --Would LOVE to see programs for community garden's/ public orchards! Is there a way for community members to pitch initiatives and ideas?
42. We like to use the Montgomerville Dog Park on Knapp Road. We wish there was a dog park in the borough, not so far along the outskirts. We right in town, and so if we could walk to a dog park, we would use it weekly. It would also be cool to have a connected walk/bike path that connected the East and West side of the borough, from Knapp Elementary all the way through to Squirrel Lane somehow. It would be great if my kid to could walk home from Knapp without crossing lots of traffic.
43. We need a safe place for our pets. A dog park would be amazing.
44. I just want to say I really hope they have the White's Road summer camp this summer that includes taking the kids over to swim practice. It really would benefit our family and community for more people to be able to join the swim team since the practice is in the middle of the day! Thanks.

How would you spend $100?

45.	Invasive plant removal and natural plantings to improve wildlife habitats. Interpretive signs in parks about ecological functions and nature.
46.	Page 4 didnt work for me. 30/30/30 split... Downtown/Bike-Ped/Beautification
47.	I'd use it all to rip up the abominable concrete pad that was poured at Whites Road Pool and bring that space back to grass and plant some trees there. Then I'd rebuild the kiddie pool as it was, instead of the splash pad that's not going to initiate kids into the sensation of being immersed in water. Then I'd rip up every artificial playground surface that research has shown off-has toxic forever chemicals in the heat and replace them with wood chips.
48.	This section made me do some soul searching! I wanted to make clear that when I felt the need to put so much towards "a lively downtown" I don't mean once a month big activities, I mean a vibrant downtown in a day-to-day sense. A main street where there are basic essentials, third spaces for all ages to congregate, a pleasant and walkable pedestrian focused experience. Our parks/pools are vital and fantastic and I don't want anything taken away from them! We just need a town that's alive too.
49.	We do not generally participate in government run programs like childcare and sports (leave that to private industry). We prefer to cut taxes and programs. But if you must - spend money to create beautiful safe outdoor spaces for recreation. We sometimes rent the rec hall for parties, which is nice and affordable. Spend money on controlling speeding through borough streets. Study what programs are actually being used, and cut unused ones. Make that public.
50.	Again, I valued the pedestrian improvements. With the Stony creek connecting bike trail, that is as much as we can do within the parks. I would prefer the other parks were no wheels except strollers, wheelchairs, and kids under 10
51.	REMOVE THE HOMELESS
52.	Thank you screen with demographics
53.	I feel conflicted about people camping at Stony Creek - especially the man who cut down 10 trees. But I do not want resources directed to making parks inhospitable. I appreciate there are benches to sit on and restrooms at Whites Rd - I don't want to see everyone potentially suffer for trying to deter campers.