

2022 Mitchell Field Survey Questions B-3 Responses

B-3 What do you like LEAST about Mitchell Field as it is today? (443 Responses)
Admin building
Dog leash ruled
N/A
The big ugly building at the waterfront is a real eyesore, seriously detracts from beautiful outdoor space.
Although Running Tide is an exemplary tenant, i do not think commercial activity should be permitted at MF. This survey may point to another direction, but I believe that the openness and lack of development of the Field is the main attraction to everyone who is a regular user; based on what they have told me.
Difficult kayak launching, people not picking up after their dogs, the old rotting picnic tables
lack of a pier
Nothing
No boat ramp, launch for kayak isn't great.
Old buildings...should be used
It could be developed into so much more. There is so much space that is not being utilized. People don't adhere to the speed limit all the time. I think more signs should be posted. Lately I notice that people are not cleaning up after their dogs. Some people even leave full bags on the trails for others to pick up and dispose of.
Lack of clear identity. Is it a recreational area? Is it an industrial/business area? Mitchell field is a wonderful resource for Harpswell, but its identity remains murky.
much of what is there (moorings, business) benefit a very small slice of harpswells population. So essentially these are being subsidized to benefit very few people.
I'm not happy with the towers, but recognize they do service a purpose.
No boat ramp, no float, no food trucks
That it's a place where I can take my dog to swim and can enjoy the natural beauty of the area.
DOG OFF LEACH WHEN THEY SHOULD NOT BE
The 15 mph speed limit and people are walking on the road to avoid the bugs in the shaded portion on the trail.
not enough moorings, feels like a lot of rules with the signs everywhere not as welcoming as it used to be
not enough to do, not enough moorings
There are a lot of signs with rules and it feels like they keep posting new ones. The relaxed atmosphere of going to the beach is disrupted by people nagging and signs every 6 feet.
Drain of Town funds
Needs more cross paths to vary walks
no dock or boat ramp access for local boating. very very limited water access for boaters, it would be good to open this up for the town/public
challenging boat access
Nothing
Dogs that run up to me and my wife, often jumping up on us with dirty paws. Scares my wife
It much crowded then in the past, but it is hard to find that as a negative.
A constant drain on town's resources.
signage
The rotting picnic tables and the bike rack in the road. The dogs of leash. Dogs should never be off leash in public areas! There are a plethora of signs but never anyone to speak to the owners. With having young children it is a concern to never know how a dog may react when passing by. Plus the amount of feces being left behind.
Red ants
Too much rotting seaweed at the beach
I dislike it when people walk their dog off leash during the times when they are supposed to wear one. My dog has been attacked three times by off leash dogs during those
Parking. It would be nice if the parking was more logical, and that roadside parking with possible. It is a bit odd that buildings are being rented out to private businesses in a public space.
That ugly concrete building in the middle of it
No restroom
Ineffective enforcement of dog-leash rules
The fact that dogs have to be leashed
the buildings are looking run down and could be of more use to the town

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Dog off leash
Unleashed dogs that are NOT dog friendly. Also people flying threw in vehicles
Location...too bad this is not centrally located
owners not picking up their dog poop
Speeding cars and dogs not under voice control and dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs.
There are not enough distance markers to measure a short walk. The ones there now only indicate the start of a walk and the end. If you want only a short walk you can't tell how far you walked. It would help if there were markers for 1/4 and 1/2 mile.
Dog poop everywhere, too many people now, unnecessary swimming bouys.
People not taking their dog waste away with them
Keep it the way it is.
The fishing used to be much better.
Nothing
It's a waist of space get some local businesses in there and get a decent dock for locals to use
It gets very busy with people from away and the ticks are out of control.
That so many people don't clean up after their dogs.
limited facilities
I don't like that there are times of the day when we have to use leashes.
dog droppings, debris left by picnic parties.
Dogs off leash
Such an amazing location, but it still feels like a relic of a Navy facility and not a place that is really welcoming and enjoyable for people to come and spend time there. Needs a well-planned makeover. And a boat launch.
No trash cans for litter, the porta potties, and the float used in the swimming area is made of styrofoam, terrible for the ocean.
People do not always cleanup after their dogs.
Disregard for speed limit on main road to beachfront; some cars go way too fast
I don't have a least favorite.
The cell tower that was installed
Nothing
not enough parking at the entrance area
Dogs on leashe should be optional
Little shade
Lack of organized activities
I can't think of anything.
presence of some of the old industrial/Navy buildings (unattractive)
Trash on the beach. The business has changed the area a bit.
It seems under utilized
Little to do there, except walk and go to the beach. Also don't like the leash law during daytime hours.
It's not promoted enough to let residents and visitors knew that this beautiful area exists. Promote beach and picnic areas for families.
Parking
Limited space at the water and parking
Lack of a fishing pier
No designated dog park that's fenced in.
Limited hours
Wish Mitchell field have wash hand, feet, etc water access to use. Some driver drive fast!
There is no dog park
none
Ugly institutional vibe of the military buildings
Needs more bathrooms when there is a larger event, walking path cleared of overgrowth
not island friendly
There is not enough handicapped parking at the entrance area.
Lack of easily accessible boat/watercraft launch

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not enough trees for shade
No major complaints, but hopefully the walking trail is maintained long term.
could use a few benches along the paths, not many just apced for those who need to rest
the underused buildings
Unleashed dogs are an annoyance and a hazard
all of the new signs, they ruin the feel of the place, its over regulated.for an area that is really not that heavily used
too many signs
Parking and tall grass areas
Lack of shade, lack of infrastructure, lack of reason for spending much time there. Seems like it's more of a dog park then a people park.
not enough to do
parking
Aggressive dogs with owners who don't seem to care.
It has a lot of potential but there is a lot of unused space. It feels abandoned and not well planned out.
Probably not being used to its full potential as a community resource.
The paths have too many roots and make bike riding difficult. I would love to go there more often, but the cracks and the roots on the paths make it uncomfortable when riding bikes, but I don't want to ride on the road, so it's about the only option.
NA
The mooring situation is rough. Took three years to get dinghy racks. The dock and boat launch are no where in sight. Of course, the cell tower practically went up overnight and it doesn't even carry Verizon. Also, the gate should have a combo lock for mooring holders like Popham State Park has for fishing pass holders, so we can access early morning and evenings after sun down.
Easy access
POOR ENFORCEMENT of dog leash rules. I was bitten by a dog who "loves everyone, don't be scared!" I LOVE dogs, but I deserve to use the park without having to be afraid.
The water is very cold?
Not many benches, tables, places to sit, no bathrooms
NA
Not enough shady walking paths. No Pickleball
No boat ramp!
Condition of remaining buildings
The road in.....
not enough organized activities there
parking; lack of signage / clarity on rules
could be a little more spruced up and developed
nothing
Probably the flies along the wooded trail but that's getting picky
nothing
doesn't have a cohesive feel
Parking can be a bit of a challenge at the concerts but its always doable
Some areas are run down.
lack of shade.
It's clearly a work in progress, keep it simple do it can be simply maintained
The old unused buildings are unattractive and feel like they could be used better
It's far away from where we live in Harpswell.
It is being under utilized.
people not picking up dog poop
cigarette butts at end of pier (what was the pier)
I wish that there was a boat launch and proper parking for boat trailers here. The beach also doesn't seem like it's developed for larger use.
parking
Some of the buildings are eyesores
Needs more bathroom facilities
no restroom
Not sure
Lack of things to do there

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decaying buildings
Rest room facilities
No bathroom facilities; the port-a-poties are okay, but running water would be excellent for washing hands; even with the leash rules during peak hours, many people still let dogs run off leash
The illegal shop planted in front with all the pink.
The illegal shop set up out front.
Limited food availability near by.
Too far for me
No kayak racks, old ratty buildings
n/a
The parking. It needs more.
not familiar enough to answer
No bathrooms in the cold months
The commercial zone.
Dog owners who let their dogs run loose
just wished we lived closer
organization
Threat of more commercial activity, any initiative that twill be noisy or environmentally invasive
nothing to dislike
not enough community engagement
n/a
waste of opportunity for other uses
The ugly buildings
unleashed dogs and dog poop. I still see poop in parking lot behind/next to bldg. I see dogs off leash at all hours.
Brown tail moths - need to keep browntail moths in check or we will have big trouble.
Nothing. It is a great asset and I look forward to seeing how you choose to improve it
It's military look and feel
no dock to access boats
so much unused potential
No dock for dinghy's and terrible access for moorings.
no small garbage collection baskets
dogs that are loose even though we are dog owners
dog owners are careless
could be better used
n/a
love it as it is
busy
the brick buildings are unsightly. They should either be removed or leased/turned into something beautiful like a snack bar.
Not Sure.
Dogs off leash. (I like dogs but I don't like dogs I don't know charging up to me, even as the owner shouts "Oh, she's friendly.")
Some areas of the pavement need maintenance.
People who don't pick up after their dogs.
Traffic has seemed to increase with car speeds increasing. The lack of use of the majority of the fields seems wasteful.
Rocky beach. There is no boat launch. Mitchell Field needs a good boat launch
Old facilities and buildings
A bit of industrial flavor. Would like woods trails
old infrastructure unattractive
Needs more options/activities
Would love to see a building there that community could use
Invasive species
other end of town
still looks commercial at end. needs more recreational activities
Insects

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wish I could go more
unsightly buildings
not enough benches
more activities - playground for kids?
nothing
I would like a food truck down there
unleashed dogs
under utilized
oyster farm, decrepit buildings
clam business, unused buildings
No dogs on North Beach!
too far!!
Drivers driving too fast. People who don't clean up after their dogs.
can't answer
I think it's fine.
The decaying and dangerous buildings
n/a
not much
No one can decide what to do for the property. IE solar farm? Sea Salt Company? etc.
parking
n/a
Designated parking closer to bandstand
Dogs not off leash 10am-4pm
There is no stop sign for people exiting Mitchell Field onto 123. Cars, walkers, and bicyclists do not stop regularly and do not look for oncoming traffic
ticks and more people
n/a
missing its potential, not maintained as well as it could be
can't think of a thing I don't like
The roads and paths are too bumpy and need to be re-paved
industry
no bathrooms
no boat launch. no dog park
water access is poor for swimming
All good
So little shade along the top stretch
NOTHING
NO COMPLAINTS
NOTHING
MEETING A DOG THAT IS NOT LEASHED
NOTHING, MITCHELL FIELD IS A GEM!
THE PEOPLE WITH THE DOGS THAT SIT ON PICNIC TABLES AND DON'T HAVE THEM LEASHED MAKES IT HARD TO WALK BY THAT AREA WITH MY LEASHED DOGS
I like it fine. I wish the oyster farm people offered oysters for sale (i.e., to eat) at a booth outside their facility.
commercial use
a few cracks in pavement
none
not sure
No path through the field. The ugly buildings
dog poop
Unknown hazards
Dogs off leashes - they scare my kids when they run up to them.
not enough parking at gate.
none

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Too many unleashed dogs between 10-4
I have watched people walk their dogs near the high water mark near the shrubs on the beach and they fail to pickup their dog's poop.
allowing dogs to swim
Too many people do NOT leash their dogs and allow them to wander.
the restriction on dogs
In winter, there are no afternoon off-leash hours because it's dark by 4pm. Also don't appreciate the apparent hostility towards dogs.
General water access and lack of bathroom facilities
abandoned buildings
People driving too fast on access road
People who don't pick up after their dogs
no bathrooms
doesn't have bigger beach, more picnic tables, better parking for concerts, real bathroom
dogs
Derelict buildings, chainlink fence, too much blacktop pavement (hot in summer), field itself underused, picnic area not ideally sited near parking
The ongoing issue with unleashed dogs.
Winter Access and ice not good for walking
Rules, restrictions, it's become it's own 'nanny state' over the years.
Not fully utilized
The fast traffic
Nothing!
Some people drive too fast or the grumpy folks who hate people and dogs.
Not everyone follows the leash laws; could use better bathrooms
The odd unused building that are shuttered
The speeders and moorings
No public rest rooms
it's a little sparse
Must people drive too fast on the road
Cars.
The invasive bittersweet that is taking over.
dog feces not cleaned up, especially in winter
n/a
boat launch missing
dogs in the swimming area - dogs are fine swimming, just not in the marked swim area
n/a it's a great place
few events
need more dog "off leash" hours
No boat ramp
Dogs off leash
Fear of contamination
would like better restroom facilities
Despite being oceanside, I know little about swimming or boating opportunities there
Relative to the rest of Harpswell, it's not that pretty
It's not a pleasant place and still feels industrial
the abandoned buildings, dirty porta john, and people that don't follow leash laws
A dock for larger boats would be so nice (dock & ramp)
ticks
unused buildings
should be used for more events
see E4, E5, C4, E1, all of E2
needs more infrastructure
too many dogs
that the town pays a lot of money to maintain it
too far from Harpswell Islands

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no public boat docking, launching, moorings
The dilapidated chain link fences
chain link fence, dilapidated buildings
walk paths
lack of bathrooms
It feels a bit industrial and barren
The seaweed. If that was removed it would be better
no bathrooms @ beach
poor 'bathroom' facilities, long hours when dogs have to be leashed
hate the porta potties and dog running loose
haven't been there enough
would love another picnic table in the shade for hot summer days
Beyond walking, not much else
bathroom access
no opinion
does not make use of the existing buildings enough
dogs going to bathroom on beach where people swim
people walking dogs on beach and defecating
parking can be a challenge
static state of disrepair
car traffic
commercialization
commercial enterprise
oyster farm
no comment
unleashed dogs
Nothing really, I recognize the value of having a giant park nearby, anything else would be nitpicking.
abandoned buildings
The roadway
no opinion
to many dogs
DOG POOP
decrepit old buildings
Miss the water tower. Do not like unleashed dog policy
not all owners pick up after pets. Wishing that changes. Some people don't follow speed limits: add speed bumps?
the run down buildings
openness
limited events
needs to be more developed
old military buildings
nothing comes to mind
Trying to make it too big and crowding the beach and the road
not well maintained, no security, dark
increased traffic
limited park facilities - pavilion, grills, rest rooms
smelly porta potties
not used to the fullest extent
would like to see the buildings removed or repurposed (be in active use)
Sometimes there are lots of people - I don't like the commercial use beside the MF = private ice cream business.
not enough amenities at the waterfront
our favorite
cell tower isn't improving cell service
still waiting for the boat launch

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no major concerns
Users who feel they own the place, no regard for others
old buildings
like it - but needs better bathrooms - outhouse is gross
The ugly buildings; no trees; retains an 'industrial' feel
mosquitos
I like it all
lack of parking
limited parking at certain times of the day, dog 'hygiene'
that so much of the land has not been developed
windy open to ocean
Those few people who don't clean up after their dogs.
Dogs - stay with your dog! As a dog owner I don't like how freely dogs roam with NO owner in sight. I have young children and a sweet older dog. We do not want to be approached by a strange dog. I would like the off leash policy to be certain areas only.
nothing not to like
parking area / restrooms
idle acres
crummy picnic tables
not enough parking
no bathrooms
only available to 1/2 the town
road, summer people
long drive in
ticks!
we lost our nice fishing pier
nothing
lack of information
town burden - should be making town money
woods trails could be better maintained and marked
lack of shade trees in the large open field
pavement on perimeter trail and perimeter fence
invasive plants, so open
no boat launch
road bumpy
not much
too far
The oyster farm - it occupies too large on area, both on land and in the water
leash rules too restrictive, prefer more off leash hours
The divets in the tar on the paved paths, not very good with a stroller. Not a whole lot. Just worried it might become too crowded in future.
not having dogs off leash
Big build up of seaweed and junk at the beach
old buildings not in use
That the empty buildings are not being used
KINDA BARREN - WOULD BE NICE TO BE MORE PARK LIKE
Old buildings
Restrictions (within reason)
old unattractive building
speeding cars on inside road
too far away
DEER TICKS
TOO MANY NON-RESIDENTS
WAY TOO MANY NON-RESIDENTS. DRONES ARE ANNOYING!! DO KIDS FLY KITES ANYMORE?

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The traffic from the people that work at the end. Even though I don't like drones, MF is very good for that.
nothing
lack of sanitary toilets
speeders
It seems under used. Wasted space
coming across the bridge
People that don't follow simple rules, etiquette
dog rules
parking
few 'attractions'
nothing
no boat ramp
overgrown vegetation
still appears under appreciated by the town
buildings should be put to use
dog waste
dumpily unmaintained area
crabby people who don't like dogs
People not following rules - keep dogs leashed!
Bugs in summer, but that can't be helped
old buildings not in use
drone flying
it is not used enough
bathroom access / seating / shade
industrial look, not enough trees/landscaping. too much tarmac
Don't think there is anything
nothing
It should be closer to my house on Great Island :)
Lack of reasonable hours for walking well behaved dogs off leash
It is restrictive for dog walking as far as times
increasing rules
brick buildings, former base remnants
Nothing comes to mind - we enjoy it as it really :)
invasive vine
dog policy during winter months - it is dark at 49m! Caveat - Dog walking is very good at MF but I think the off leash restrictions should only apply from May to October.
Not much shade - benches would be nice for seniors
wish it was closer
cracks in asphalt - dogs
no ramp or dinghy dock to access mooring
unused space
not central in town
no restrooms
Dogs not on a leash, go after each other, charge at you! I have seen dogs large claws on the picnic tables!
1. Most vehicles go fast 2. Toilet availability.
Leased property looks like a junkyard. Where are the lease performance standards?!