

## 2022 Mitchell Field Survey Question G Responses

I treasure quiet, nature, and open space. Unfortunately not too much left in our society. Please protect the gift that is Mitchel Field. Please avoid the temptation to fill it up. Thoreau - "A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone."
We appreciate that the Harpswell Anchor was allowed to use the bandstand and surroundings without a fee for its anniversary celebration.
Keep securing the natural beauty of this amazing spot! Thank you
much potential and room to accommodate a lot
Thank you for taking the effort for feedback. Harpswell is worth the investment of good thought and thorough discussions to build on what already is a beautiful place to live.
no sarcasm intended, don't think part time taxpayers count much in decisions made.
We must keep an eye on the brown tail moth situation at Mitchell Field and act early to keep them from causing serious problems.
We think it is a tremendous asses to the town!
I'm not familiar at all with Mitchell Field.
Waterfront is so precious. Why isn't the town doing more to develop Mitchell Field Waterfront for boaters?!
A lot of money needs to be spent to make a dock and serious launch ramp with supporting parking (including trailers) and other amenities, rest rooms, etc. But it could be done to provide a facility that would be used by commercial fishermen and recreational boaters from all over town. Can allowing more commercial development in the area help pay for it?
See comments about the lack of a mooring access. And thanks to the town for such a great place to live!
Thank you to members of Mitchell Field committee. Looking forward to new boat ramp and dock system.
People have told me dogs have a right to run free. So do the frail elderly.
I feel that at this time of inflation etc. etc. that any unnecessary (or non urgent) spending should be curtailed until the economy rebounds enough to ease the burden on taxpayers. It is more than enough that my property tax has increased \$212.75 this year even with the rate down .086!
A valuable space with much potential for our community
Its is a lovely space ... let's maintain that quality!
Thanks for distributing this survey.
It's a beautiful spot and I'd like to see it kept as open as possible. It'd be great to have some mown paths across the fields to vary our walks. An informal skating rink would be great if not to complicated. Thank you for taking such good care of it.
Encourage food truck vendors at all concerts and weekend days
Mitchell Field is a wonderful space, and as young residents for over 5 years we have seen how quickly the space has grown in popularity. While we love the increased traffic, we see the need for more use of the space and support developing this for community use.
Dog leash policy - some people seem to ignore the current policy allow their dogs to freely roam.
I appreciate the survey. Love living here!
more housing. Let's concentrate on the pressing needs of the whole community. How about one large library, lecture meeting room for all of Harpswell. Eliminate the small libraries and use for meetings, clubs, etc.
I support ecologically sound practices at Mitchell Field
It's a wonderful treasure and we so appreciate it. Keep it natural and keep auto traffic to the bare minimum. The cars are loud and pollute and make pedestrians on edge/on guard. It's a real hazard. The deer and wild animals and birds have their habitats here and they need to remain undisturbed, don't you think? The berry bushes feed the birds and animals. I think kayaks,, sail and row boats are preferable to petrol boats. Oil and gas pollute the ocean and beaches. Thanks, the community garden is a wonderful aspect on the project. A note about dogs - well behaved dogs are no problem. Some dog owners allow their dogs to bark and chase children, bicyclist, and walkers. That is not OK.
The committee is doing a great job and it is appreciated. Thank you for your time. Only in Harpswell!
Live on Orr's Island and enjoy boating
I love Mitchell Field. It's a great asset to the community. We are so lucky to have acquired it. Please don't ruin it with businesses. Maybe solar panels for town energy use. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.
I liked the old policy on dog leashes - 11-1 on leash; but would be okay with 11-2 or 11-3 on leash.
My interests, age/flexibility fail to coincide.
One of the very best surveys I have ever encountered. Sincere congratulations
It's a great open space; keep it that way. If more waterfront unavailable for fishing, lobstering, etc. could be developed for use by resident lobstermen and other marine uses for a fee.
It is a gift - open space + water access
I very much believe Mitchell Field is a treasure that the town needs to nurture. The town has done very well so far.
This is a very important public facility which should be developed for future green space/recreation uses, but not for more commercial or residential uses.
It is a wonderful community resource. It would be desirable to relax off-leash dog policy from November through March
multiple launch ramps
It is a great space for the community. We LOVE the Bandstand by the Sea, the bands need an indoor space for inclement weather and possible off season events.
people do not abide by dog leash rules, need some monitoring

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I am a gardener at the Community Garden. The grandchildren like the beach. A playground would be nice
Parking support - depending on the event/location needs. Dog leash policy - do not have enough knowledge
Thank you to the committee for your hard work and commitment to improving Mitchell Field!
no
Get more cellular companies on the tower please! Start a town sponsored campaign. We will help.
Are we sure it's not a superfund site?
Love Pammy's Ice Cream Stand!
The park should be used for recreation only not more businesses. The grass area could be used for sports ie football, basketball, soccer, tennis pickleball, etc.
I am a resident. I walk at Mitchell Field regularly with my dog all year. I am a naturalist. I enjoy the woods and the field and the water year round. I would not like to see it become industrialized, commercialized or specialized to suit certain interests unrelated to the environment that Mitchell Field currently offers. Do those things after I die if you must! I have lived here for 10 years and have enjoyed walking at Mitchell Field all those years, previously with my husband, who has passed, but by myself and occasionally with a friend now. I am older so perhaps resistant to change, but believe that we need to consider "seven generations" if we are thinking about making a change and remember once done it will be very hard to undo. I appreciate those who have done such a nice job keeping the "park" up!
Possibly use structures after renovations for small cafe/restaurant. Would attract more people and add revenue to Harpswell
We love Mitchell Field!
The field is a gift that we should protect and keep as a preserve! Mitchell Field is a sanctuary for wild life who have lost their habitat to development. It is also a place for people who want to slow down and have a place to relax.
Permanent toilet facilities
I am a former year round resident, now seasonal. It's commercial potential remains underutilized. This limits its importance and value to the town as a whole. Its size, location, and deep water features make it a unique property on the Maine coast. It's potential for maritime, commercial, recreational and open-space uses in a balanced, creative land use plan could create employment and tax revenues benefiting the entire town. (Witness the Great Island Boat Yard expansion, employment, and capital investment on sites(s) with lesser physical and locational attributes.)
Please do not change it. It's for people to enjoy nature. This does not mean a boat ramp and adequate parking for the same would bother me.
It is a joy to go there - a simple, refreshing place. Try to resist further temptation to monetize it.
no
Keep up the good work that is being done now!!
would like to see dogs leashed at all times.
Harpswell resident for 31 years. Mitchell Field is one of the MAIN reasons we opted not to relocate south. We are getting another puppy in October and are very happy to have the field to play and walk in. Thank you for creating this very important survey!
no
I'm 40 with 3 young kids (4,7,10)
It's becoming too crowded, the boat ramp will make things much worse.
please bring more music concerts and plays to Mitchell Field. Thank you for conducting this survey.
Love Mitchell Field. Love the Concerts. Want bathrooms. Playground would be great. Things for children.
Attract more seasonal businesses. Pammy's Ice Cream is doing well it seems. I would like to see some more businesses here.
I don't believe affordable housing belongs at Mitchell Field.
It's a great resource, though not very central. Why didn't you ask about boat launch?
I wouldn't mind leaving portions un-mowed, maybe a rotation. Much fewer birds now that it's always mowed. Many of the old species no longer show up there.
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK - GREAT TOWN ASSET
NICE SPOT! KEEP IIT FOR THE COMMUNITY. WE LIKE FAMILY'S [Pammy's]
I LIKE TO GO THERE AND WALK MY DOG.
I'M A SEASONAL RESIDENT OF ORRS ISLAND, TAKE DAILY WALKS AT MITCHELL FIELD WITH MY DOG.
THANKS FOR ASKING. "IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT"
LIVE ON BAILEY ISLAND - SO DON'T VISIT MITCHELL FIELD OFTEN. DO FEEL IT IS AN IMPORTANT ASSET FOR HARPSWELL AND SUPPORT ADD TO ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL HARPSWELL RESIDENTS.
70 year old with 2 dogs live on the neck and own my own home. I love the place and attend the event that George Mitchell came to in his honor
Thank you for your hard work and energy in trying to continue creating a positive public park for the people of Harpswell. It's a fabulous site and deserves to be thoughtfully studied and well used.
Somewhat likely to support additional parking - depending on an acceptable master plan. Rarely do I feel unsafe. Dogs - very good plan in place. It is a beautiful treasure - do not over develop it!
love it
solar system? provide power for the town / solar system credits
We go there all the time to walk or to the beach

## 2022 Mitchell Field Survey Question G Responses

Dogs that should be leashed usually are not. Well behaved dogs are usually leashed. Dogs aren't the problem, arrogant and entitled owners are. Don Miskill is wonderful. He works hard and is ALWAYS friendly and pleasant. He deserves recognition - alot.
Thank you for this survey. Please keep us informed!
During 8-10 & 4 on, when dogs are free to be off leash, dog owners whose dogs are on lease should not expect off leash dogs to be held
no
My grandparents owned one of the properties taken by the navy. It's a sore spot. It doesn't keep me away though.
Lovely place / worth preserving
Just thank you! It's a wonderful place for our community!
Please don't spoil it!
It's a great walking option for anyone who needs pavement to walk on. Because it's mostly fenced, it's also a nice option for dogs to be off-leash. It's unfortunate that Harpswell is increasingly punishing all dogs and their owners with restrictions because a very few dog owners are irresponsible. It would be better to find a way to target people who allow their dogs to cause problems.
During winter, the dog leash hours should change to allow dogs off leash after 3pm. It's dark by 4pm
Don Miskill does a great job as steward. I've volunteered a few times to help with eliminating invasive species.
Please don't go too commercial
I would like to see it keep its naturalness
Beautiful space, people like its accessibility. Lots of potential for recreation use. maybe keep it for recreation.
Hire a landscape architect (or someone might donate the service) to come up with a cohesive plan for entire area (versus hodgepodge). While we haven't yet attended a band concert there, it's only because of the work schedule in Portland that one of us still has. We love that usage! Is it possible to do anything on weekends? If not, we'll definitely be there when we're both retired starting in 2024.
Entry removed for derogatory comments not related to the intent or goals of this survey.
I would increase my time spent there if the dog issues were taken care of.
The Town has done a nice job administering this resource!
D. Dogs: poorly worded question. Better question 1. Do you agree with the leash law? 2. How would you change the current policy?
D: Dogs - some owners don't control their dogs off leash, but generally not a problem.
D. Dogs - very few follow this rule
We appreciate the effort in maintaining and developing this wonderful area
C5 - most obey speed limit posted signs. D1 - As long as owner accepts responsibility if a bit or injury.
I love it! You do a great job!
One of our favorite places in Harpswell. We love the accessibility for young families to enjoy a walk/bike ride and the beach. We like the 'open' feel (not much development) to enjoy the beautiful outdoors.
D. Dog - people need to clean up after their dogs
How about its own website? You did not include among activities Nordic skiing, snowshoeing.
Most towns are trying to recreate open space. We already have it and should treat Mitchell Field as the valuable resource it is as a natural retreat.
Please keep open spaces and keep it relatively undeveloped
Yes, use a portion for workforce housing (retirement also). As a place for younger working families who can no longer afford to live in the town where they work, especially in the working waterfront businesses (already designated in master plan)
Need off season hours at end of day. Dark in winter.
I am so glad to have this beautiful spot in our town. We have snowshoed there in the winter.
Thank you for asking
See above, Area should be lightly developed to make it a destination for Harpswell boaters.
Like the concept (dog leash policy) but don't know if it is working so well.
I have no opinion on dog policy but seems reasonable.
A small library and a small café.
D. Dogs - (leash policy) that is fine, but people have dogs (not swimming) off leash almost every time we go there during the early afternoon. Don't get me wrong - I love dogs and most are well behaved ... only had a problem one time
A small library and a small café.
D. Dogs - (leash policy) that is fine, bu+A115+116:116+A115+116:116
Bring back summer festival and bean suppers/chicken BBQs
no
I love (dog leash policy)!
It is an amazing area for so many!

## 2022 Mitchell Field Survey Question G Responses

D. Dogs - anywhere else in Harpswell it is a fineable infraction. As I understand it, the field has a reputation for its dogs ... as it is. What possible difference does this make (do you own a dog)?
Unfortunately, not everyone will complete this survey. If they did you might find that the divisiveness over Mitchell Field continues. The survey itself pretty much indicates continued and increased spending and an attitude of "if we don't spend the budget we won't get as much next year" ... all this in a period of high inflation and increased property taxes. Including this in our tax bill mailing 2 weeks before 1/2 is due is not cool!
D. Dog - would prefer always off leash
Install more benches ie: on the pier, on the trails
Great AT&T phone reception across Harpswell sound!
F1 - undeveloped lot owner
Please restrict dogs from beach at all times.
The field represents an incredible resource for generations to come. We applaud ongoing work of the committee
Field is a great resource for town. Thoughtful development important!
D. Dogs: I'm not comfortable around dogs so (opinion on dog leash policy) is a hard question.
A beautiful place to work and enjoy the outdoors
Mitchell Field likely has some intangible benefits to the residents as well. One example ... we found it the only safe place in town at off hours for our granddaughter under our supervision to practice her driving skills in prep for her license.
D. Dog - we would like longer hours, especially earlier, in the afternoon during winter
Love it! My family were among the first settlers of European decent to land in Harpswell, Cundy's Harbor at least 5 generations back
we love going there, would love to see more activities for small children
I did have dog - he died 3 weeks ago
MF is an exception piece of property something any town would want!
A place of beauty and tranquility
Town need to maintain open spaces. Not every bit of land needs a building on it!
D. Dog - not being enforced so some people do not abide by the policy. Seems to always be the same few people.
It has been a huge part of our lives since we moved here (this year) and we hope that it would remain an open space and that any additional development was well considered so it's a positive addition and we keep a lot of the open space and walkability for people and dogs that makes the field so important
Love MF! Love that the lobster boat races were held there this summer. Beautiful and love the natural setting and wildlife
I think it has been carefully developed over time. Our grandchildren ride their bikes there in the summer and enjoy the beach for swimming and exploring. The summer concerts are wonderful.
It is a beautiful place, it is well kept
keep it dog friendly! Dog walking off leash is important.
It's beautiful and breath taking. We appreciate it!
Please note: I only answered questions that applied to me. I haven't used MF lately.
D. Dogs - during winter would be helpful to move the afternoon 'off leash' time an hour earlier (due to darkness around 4pm)
As the Anchor is the source of communication that binds our community, MF is the physical space that allows physical gathering of the community!
Would like to see dogs on leash at all times - with separate area to run free, not through fields.
I would love to see a venue for local artists to publicly display/sell their work
Need year round bathroom facilities or port-a-potties.
Change the name to "Mitchell Park" and develop it as such. Plantings, tennis/pickle ball, bocce, etc. First place to start development of building into a library, business center, meeting rooms, social area.
no, thanks for asking!
no, thank you
Please keep MF as close to the way it is. This park is for Harpswell residents. There will be friends and some other area that will come. We do not need to accommodate other towns.
Don't ruin it. Maintain multi use. Demolish empty, unused buildings
great place to snowshoe/x-country ski
Can I put a sailboat mooring there? Parking area at a currently gravel area
Thank you!
permanent bathrooms, docking & moorings for boats
D. Dogs - Perfect and should make everyone happy
I can see that the space could be used for small scale, light, appropriate industry, possibly a maker's space. However, the town should not over develop the space either a business or recreational activities.

## 2022 Mitchell Field Survey Question G Responses

The space is large enough to encompass a variety of uses - walking and running; community garden; recreational facilities (skating, pickleball, basketball); boating and kayaking; swimming; hosting community organizations. It has the potential to be a space that gives the community a gathering space and attracts families to Harpswell Neck
Interest in encouraging small boat (sail & motor) use
When we retire in a few years and spend more time in Harpswell, I will have more to say! Seems like a great resource for the community - went to concerts/fireworks with my parents when they lived in Harpswell. Thanks
What a wonderful place to promote the true community spirit typical of Harpswell - a special place.
D. Dogs - somewhat agree when adhered to
Would like to see more businesses (commercial fishing and non-fishing) as well as affordable housing - need to generate more income. Heartily support a library at MF
Great place! Keep up the concerts!
Six generation Harpswell native. My grandfather worked at MF for 30 years, retiring in 1979
C4 - I hope parking will not go in meadow or waterfront. D1 - Most people have their dogs under voice control; occasionally; someone doesn't. Maybe some education is needed - a sign explaining what voice control means (with example and non examples). Thank you to everyone who has made MF such a treasure for all members of the community and guests from elsewhere. It's part of the reason we moved to Harpswell a few years ago.
D1 - many leave their dogs off leash at all times Make into into a community center, a use extra land for additional business to pay for development and up keep.
I love this walk, gathering place - wonderful spot in Harpswell!
We love it!
Great place, thanks to Senator Mitchell and others who help to secure it.
We love it
Keep it peaceful. Keep the courts and play ground at the current location (to be improved) next to Elijah Kellogg
It's a great community amenity. Keep up the good work. Thank you for reaching out for opinions from local residents
I love the place and Pammy's ice cream!
Keep as is. It's a great resource.
I do not use it
I think the town should charge a higher rent for the new business that is there.
we use our house year long
no
no
D. Dogs - We have leash laws in Harpswell, either have them enforced or eliminate them across the board
Keep as much natural field and woods habitat as possible for wildlife. "Improvements" like parking, tennis courts, etc. should be concentrated in one area. minimize the number of new trails to limit disturbances to wildlife.
It's a community gem so let's make it ever better! Thank you!
We did have a dog and loved walking MF. Thank you
homeowner for 2 years
plow the paved walking paths in winter
We love using the property and appreciate the outreach regarding the future direction
D. Dogs - may need "neighborhood watch" for pick up dog poop with some consequences for frequent offenders! It was such a gift to find so much waterfront space and open to the public! This is unique! Would vote to keep it open, available, simple, natural and attract those who appreciate its gifts and beauty. As I said earlier...don't need an amusement park and everyone I've met using it so appreciates the natural beauty of it all!
So much potential - great community asset
Keep renting town property to Pammy! And don't debate 'what to do ' with the MF for years! Put your bureaucratic hats away and let Helen contribute to renovations! Make decisions promptly!
I'm retired, marketing executive, Mainer 4 generations, widowed, and love Harpswell. Glad you are thinking about what to do with it. I'd hire a superb planner to come up with a master plan including beach facilities, park/picnic areas, gardens, play grounds. A real opportunity for a community draw.
D. Dogs - Don't have a dog so I've never thought about (leash policy).
D. Dog - I am a dog person, so I prefer off all the time; not all dogs are well trained. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.
Nice job landscaping! Great mix of open fields and woods
No more money spent on MF

## 2022 Mitchell Field Survey Question G Responses

<p>READ THIS. DON'T TOSS IT. HONEST OPINION SHARED BY MANY PEOPLE (LOCAL), KNOW THEIR OPINIONS DON'T MATTER, BUT YOU ASKED! WHY WOULD A 'TOURIST OR VISTOR' HAVE ANY SAY ABOUT WHAT WE SPEND TAX MONEY ON? LEAVE IT ALONE. STOP TRYING TO DEVELOP EVERY FIELD/OPEN SPACE YOU SEE. LEAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CHILDREN TO ENJOY!</p>
<p>Yes - please see written notes and thank you for reading my notes and reaching out to the community for feedback. Harpswell is such a wonderful town to live in! D. Dogs - My dog can't go off leash so other dogs off leash approach him usually at a run which makes him nervous.</p>
<p>keep ticks away</p>
<p>We love to walk there and appreciate the open lands, especially in winter (run frequently in winter there).</p>
<p>Looking forward to a launch facility</p>
<p>MF perfect as is. Put the old benches back and add a few more.</p>
<p>Glad it's there for us to enjoy</p>
<p>Thanks for asking</p>
<p>no</p>
<p>Support and develop a green crab processing, management, eradication, incubator business. This species is decimating the salt marshes and shore line - impacting species and water quality.</p>
<p>This town has the most shore frontage in the state and the worst boat ramp access. MF is a good spot to start to fix this problem</p>
<p>8 month/yr residents</p>
<p>beautiful, priceless location, under used, under appreciated. Needs beautification and enhanced services.</p>
<p>Unsafe - Cundy's Harbor road needs to be cut back regularly!</p>
<p>We enjoy going to the field for occasional events. It does not have to compete with Fyrberg!</p>
<p>I value it for the whole community</p>
<p>Attempt to have the leases for the marine businesses fund all maintenance and improvements and not rely upon municipal funds collected via taxes.</p>
<p>Need more rest room facilities</p>
<p>We love it!</p>
<p>It is a beautiful place and its natural beauty should be preserved as much as possible while moving forward.</p>
<p>I think it would be nice and appropriate to name something at MF in honor of the Merryman family whose homestead farm was taken from them by eminent domain when the USA needed it for the fuel depot</p>
<p>no</p>
<p>I am seasonal resident and will answer as per the months (June, July, August). Love the add of MF to Harpswell!</p>
<p>Use building for library</p>
<p>with trees, plantings, shrubs, benches, a statue or two, or maybe a fountain. MF could be a model au par with Deering Oaks and Coburn Park. It will take investment so maybe a town wide drive to raise money would help</p>
<p>We love Mitchell for the nature and the peaceful place that it is. Putting in courts, playgrounds, etc. will change the area and disturb the wildlife we share this world with. It's a place that children can learn about nature, it's a place that our 5 year granddaughter loves to be.</p>
<p>It is a great asset for the Town. Don't feel in a rush to improve it. It's nice to have a quiet place to visit and enjoy the sunsets.</p>
<p>Mitchell Field used to be a great place where we would meet our adult children, also residents, and walk our dogs together as a family. We would also take out of town visitors. Since dog restrictions were put in place and commercial ventures started we've stopped and rarely visit.</p>
<p>D Dogs - prefer unrestricted walking with dogs off leash. Thank you Senator Mitchell. Get Verizon 5g on tower.</p>
<p>This is the best boater access east of Portland!! Must make sure it is not taken over by either commercial or pleasure use at expense of the other! To keep the scenic beauty - the invasive vine needs to be properly managed - once the trees are covered - all wildlife may suffer - and believe me - it's ugly!!!</p>
<p>D Dog - It works fine from late fall until late spring but there is essentially no week day off leash options for residents who work when it's dark at 4pm! I appreciate the town's work to make it a great place. The warden [steward] is terrific! don't overbuild but more parking on the right as you enter would be good. A small marine based business would be great too and help with tax rate. No library!</p>
<p>wish I knew more about the pros and cons</p>
<p>Great nature area - do not commercialize!</p>
<p>should have some income to support improvements - other than taxes</p>
<p>D dog - I don't like to be around dogs running loose at any time</p>
<p>It is a wonderful, open, beautiful place - develop it carefully</p>
<p>D Dog - I have had dogs, and love dogs - but in public places they should be on a leash - not all dogs are well trained. All dogs should be on a leash in public spaces!</p>
<p>D Dogs - When not on a leash they come running at you ... older people get scared of falling .... leash law should be in place in Harpswell!</p>
<p>D Dog - Works well to accommodate most everyone. Few people do not have dogs under control, but most do. There is (was this summer at least) someone in a black SUV drove fast down road with their dog loose outside vehicles, dog sometimes near car. Thanks to the town for asking!</p>
<p>Long timer in town who appreciates the many conservation projects that help make this town a special place. Thank you to Don Miskill!</p>