



This session is intended to be an open-ended conversation with steering committee members around their vision for their town forest, their expectations for the plan, their ideas for the future, and the potential challenges they see in the process. The main thrust of the conversation should be around understanding the committee members' visions for their town forest.

Please take notes on this sheet for your future use!

Start the discussion by stating a few ground rules and expectations for the conversation:

1. Let the committee know the main thrust of the discussion: understanding their visions for their town forest.
2. Let them know that this is a point in the process where we want to get everything on the table. This is a brainstorming session where there are no wrong answers. Big ideas and visionary thinking is encouraged. Try to imagine an ideal future without all the constraints they are experiencing today.
3. While there are no off-limit topics, we do want to stay at the "10,000-foot visioning level" and not get bogged down in specifics in this discussion. This discussion is about the future direction, uses and general tone and feeling of the forest. We should talk about uses, but try to stay out of the weeds on specific facilities, activities or policies. If it feels we have gone beyond the "visioning level" on certain topics the facilitator may ask folks to shelve the specifics for later discussions.
4. We've got just one hour—so we need stay focused—but don't worry there will be plenty of opportunities to provide further input.

After the ground rules have been established you should allow everyone to introduce themselves. Ask participants to not only say their name, but to also say a few words about what brought them to the town forest steering committee. It might be specific passions, concerns, roles in the community, etc.

Participant 1 Name: _____ Role/Interest: _____

Participant 2 Name: _____ Role/Interest: _____



Participant 3 Name: _____ Role/Interest: _____

Participant 4 Name: _____ Role/Interest: _____

Participant 5 Name: _____ Role/Interest: _____

Participant 6 Name: _____ Role/Interest: _____

After introductions, we can move into the full discussion. A few prompts, or prod questions, are provided below to keep the conversation going, but the main goal is to keep committee members talking and sharing their ideas.

1) Start the group talking about their values and the values of town forest users – what do they and others in the community care about and prioritize? _____



2) What types of recreational activities do you see happening in your town forest?

Check boxes for activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/running on rugged footpaths | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/running on gravel or paved paths | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground (traditional or natural) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts (fairy houses, natural installations, stick shelters, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter fat biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational programs/outdoor classrooms and interpretive information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross country skiing/snowshoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Lessons and camps (i.e. kids, mountain biking, trail running, orienteering) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry/glade skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecology tours (wildflower identification tours, wildlife tours, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Races/festivals (music, sports, arts) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt biking/ATV | <input type="checkbox"/> Community events (haunted forest, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle/watersports | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birding/wildlife watching | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | |

Others: _____

3) What major issues/concerns around the town forest have you heard about in the community? _____

4) How aligned is the community around a vision for your town forest today? _____



5) What steps have you taken to get community input about your town forest? What has worked? What didn't work? _____

6) Then, do an exercise where people envision what it would be like to leave town for 20 years and come back. What would be implemented in that dream-like future state?
