



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Becket to host Community Forum**

The Town of Becket is updating its open space and recreation plan, and invites residents to attend a Community Forum to help them identify community needs and desires regarding future development, open space protection and recreational improvements. The Town is updating its plan because of an increase in development and a change in resident demographics.

Although seasonal housing continues to be the major component of the housing stock, more and more seasonal residents are converting their homes to year-round use and becoming Becket residents. According to the 2000 Census, more than 50% of residents have moved to town or within town since 1990. Also, the population of Becket is aging: the population of people 65 years of age and older increased 35%, while the number of children five years of age and younger declined by 29%. An emerging community of elders will have very different needs and interests than a community that includes a large number of families with young children.

Realizing this, town officials feel the need to revisit the goals and objectives of the outdated open space plan and modify them to meet the needs of an evolving community. They can only do this with the help of Becket residents. Results of the town-wide survey will be summarized at the meeting. The Community Forum will be held on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.