

MOUNTAIN BIKING TASK FORCE REPORT- 2/23/21



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THE PROCESS

- > **PROPOSAL:** On July 14th, 2020 Henry Fenollosa, a middle school student, presented a proposal to the Park & Recreation Commission (PRC) to formalize and develop mountain biking features and trails in Crusher Lot for a variety of skill levels that can coexist with walking trails in a safe way.
- > **ACTION:** The PRC recommended creating a task force made up of proponents and opponents of the proposal. Based on the proposal, and feedback received from the community, the PRC recognized mountain biking as an unmet recreational need of an oft under-represented age demographic. The task force was formalized on July 29th.
- > **PARTICIPANTS:** Joe Connelly, Recreation Director; Phil Lasker, PRC; Scott Walker, PRC; Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent; Josh Fenollosa, Henry Fenollosa, Jonathan Koopman, Adam Glick, Lindsay Keach Bronstein, Joy Ahearn
- > **GOAL:** To identify possible locations to incorporate mountain biking features and trails within the Town of Arlington, under jurisdiction of the Park & Recreation Commission.

APPROACH OVERVIEW



GOAL

- To identify possible locations to incorporate mountain biking features and trails within the Town of Arlington, under jurisdiction of the Park & Recreation Commission



QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Excel survey to evaluate all aspects of 4 core categories following site visits held between August and October 2020
- Input from 10 Members of the Task Force



NEXT STEPS

- Comprehensive, thoughtful insights to inform next steps

SURVEY TOPICS

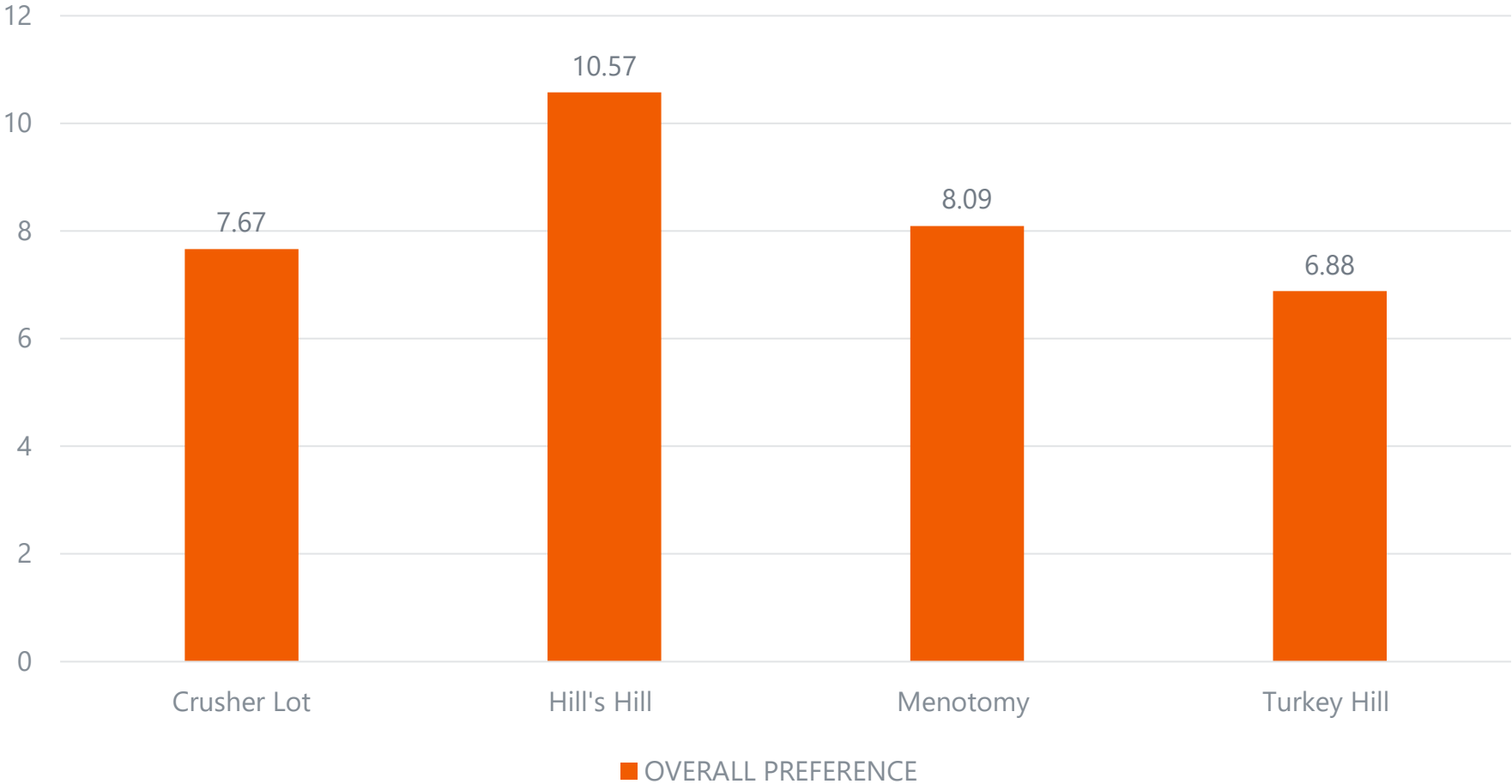
- > Core categories:
Access, Abutter impact, Constructability, Setting
- > Each category received an average score per respondent



	Crusher	Hill's Hill	Menotomy	Turkey Hill
Site visit held on	8/12/2020	9/11/2020	10/2/2020	10/28/2020
Access (e.g., a site with good access would have a 3 desirability, a site with limited access or access restrictions should be a 1 or 2)				
Factors to consider listed below:				
Does it have multiple points of access/gateways?				
Are there sidewalks/crosswalks adjacent to the site?				
Is the site accessible with a bike?				
Is there parking adjacent to the site for people traveling from other neighborhoods?				
Is the site accessible from the bike path?				
Is there a connection to other trail systems?				
Abutter impact (e.g., a site with no abutter issues would have a 3 desirability, a site that will cause a lot of issues should be a 1)				
Factors to consider listed below:				
How many sides of the site have direct abutters?				
Is there a vegetative buffer?				
Is there an active friends group?				
Constructability: the ability and effort involved (e.g., a site with easy constructability would have 3 desirability, a site with difficult constructability should be a 1)				
Factors to consider listed below:				
Can the existing site topography accommodate the following terrain?				
Beginner				
Intermediate				
Advanced				
Can the existing site topography/square footage accommodate the following features?				
Pump track				
Jump line				
Skills park				
Flow trails				
Technical (TTF)				
Picnic area				
Setting /Context (e.g., a site with a good setting/context would have 3 desirability, a site with a challenging setting/context should be a 1)				
Factors to consider listed below:				
Is the site compatible with existing trail inventory?				
Does the site have any Conservation Commission resource impacts?				
Does the site have active or passive recreation?				
Are there adjacent site amenities? (restrooms, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc.)				
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

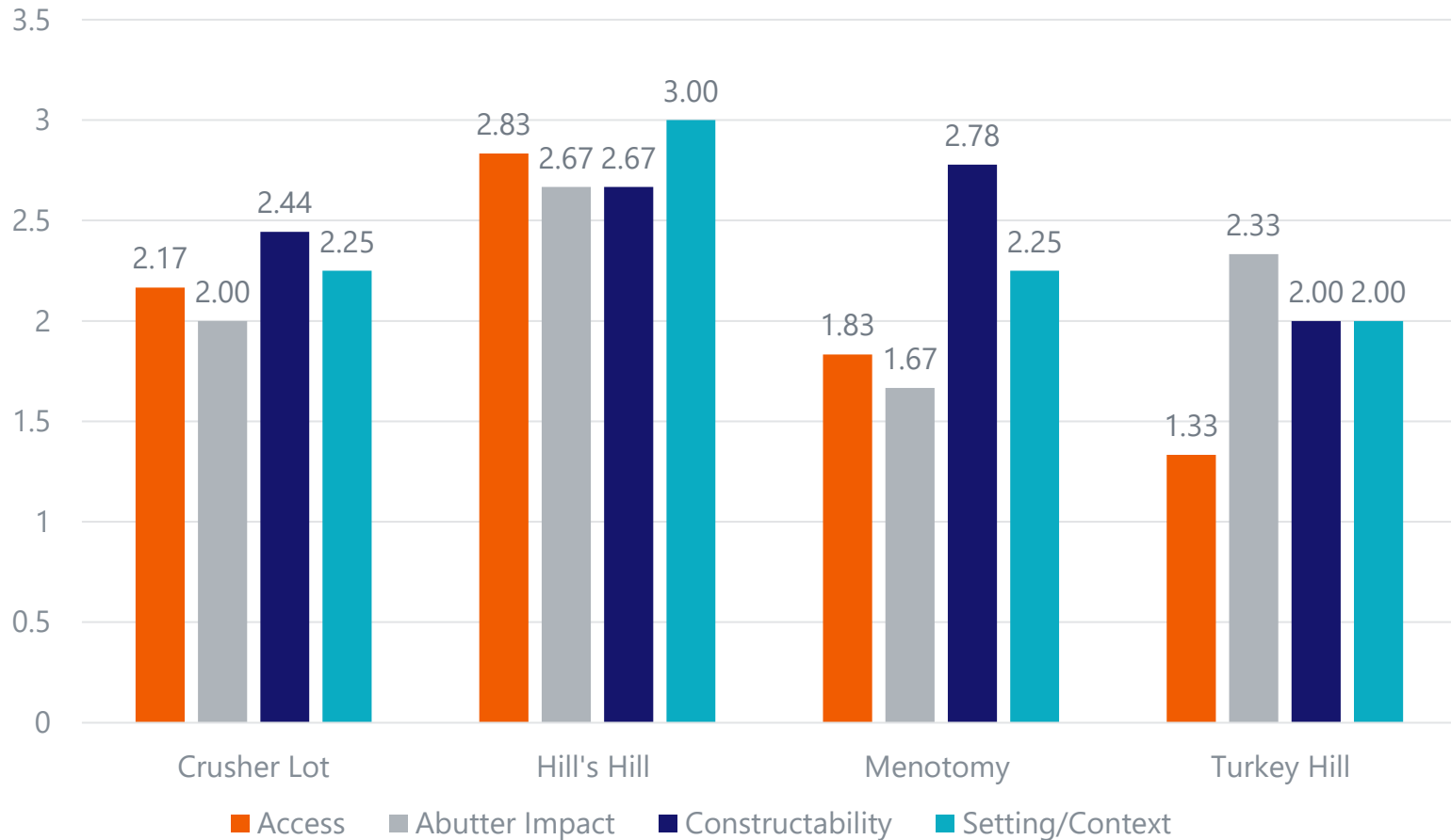
Taking all aspects of Access, Abutter Impact, Constructability, and Setting/Context into Account – **Hill's Hill** is the preferred location

OVERALL PREFERENCE



This analysis gives each category equal weight. **Hill's Hill leads all categories except for Constructability** where Menotomy has a very slight lead in preference

SITE EVALUATION BY CATEGORY



Summary



- > Cycling, including mountain biking, is a permissible activity on all existing multi-use trails and in all property under the jurisdiction of the PRC.
- > Trail building of any kind, for any use, is not allowed without the permission of the PRC.
- > Survey data showing Hill's Hill as a preferred location does not preclude the development of features in other locations to provide equal access to multiple neighborhoods.
- > The task force, during their site visits, identified opportunities for mountain biking features and trails at each location.

Recommendation

- > The task force recommends the FY2022 PRC feasibility study money be used towards the design and development of the Hill's Hill site for mountain biking features and trails.

