



The results of the Atkins Field Interest and Experience Survey are in!! Electronic and paper versions of the survey were widely distributed, resulting in 144 respondents to the survey, almost all of which are from Hardwick and the surrounding towns.

**Results show us that there is a very high level of involvement with agriculture and the local food system by survey respondents:**

- More than two-thirds of respondents have or do work(ed) on a commercial farm
- 86.8% raise a garden
- 54.2% raise poultry
- 25% raise livestock
- Only 2.8% of respondents indicated that they do not raise any of their own food.
- Only 5.6% of respondents do not participate in any food preservation.
- 73.4% indicated that local food was an important factor in their food choices
- 94.6% disclosed attending a farmers market at least once in the past year

**A primary purpose of this survey was to get an idea from the community regarding their level of interest in particular services and activities that could potentially be offered at the Atkins Field Agricultural Center. Results of the most popular offerings show us that:**

- 79.2% were interested in community events
- Gardening support was of great interest (72.9%)
- Year-round farmers market (72.2%)
- Educational forest garden (68.7%)
- Performance amphitheater (68.1%)

**There was also significant interest in these proposed workshops and educational opportunities:**

- Food preservation (66.0%)
- Composting (65.3%)
- Food production (60.4%)

**Additional input on Atkins Field included:**

- Agriculture – Beyond having additional suggestions regarding potential agricultural activities at Atkins Field, several respondents reiterated their interest in both the community gardens and in an indoor farmers market.
- Food Processing and Storage – There was a significant interest in this category, with some additional ideas mentioned beyond the survey suggestions, as well as some particularly pointing out their interest in freezer lockers.

- Community Space – Community-building emerges more generally from the survey results as a strong and shared value, especially the importance of bringing together different segments of the community that may not normally associate.
- Education – There was strong support for the Atkins Field project providing educational opportunities to people of all ages.
- Art – Although art has not been the primary focus in the development of Atkins Field, it has the potential to benefit the location and its users, as well as attract additional visitors. Survey respondents made several specific suggestions.
- Recreation – The lack of recreational opportunities in the area led many to be excited about the potential for Atkins Field to fill in this gap. Again, although Atkins Field is not specifically intended for recreation, some possibilities could be easily incorporated and provide a valuable service for the community, while simultaneously giving exposure to agriculture and food systems.

**Thanks to everyone who filled out a survey and contributed to the development of this project!**

[View the Graph on our website.](#)

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