



NORTHWOOD MASTER PLAN 2023/2024 UPDATE

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

Housing & Demographics

Natural Resources & Water Resources

Recreation

Community Facilities

Last Updated: June 28, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains input received during public engagement activities designed for the development of four Master Plan Chapters:

- Housing & Demographics
- Natural Resources & Water Resources
- Recreation
- Community Facilities.

Several engagement activities were held in 2023 and 2024:

July 30, 2023	Tabling at the Bean Hole Bash, Northwood’s 250 th anniversary
July 28, 2023 -Sept 12, 2023	Housing Survey
Jan 29, 2024	Housing Forum
Jan 3, 2024 – Feb 16, 2024	Natural Resources & Water Resources, Recreation, and Community Facilities Survey
March 4, 2024	Focus Group Discussion: Conservation and Stewardship
March 11, 2024	Focus Group Discussion: Transfer Station
March 14, 2024	Focus Group Discussion: Water Resources
April 2, 2024	Focus Group Discussion: Recreation
April 4, 2024	Focus Group Discussion: Community Facilities

The input received during these engagement components directly informed the development of the chapters and recommendations.

The Project Team maintained a website (NorthwoodMP.info) with up-to-date information about the chapter development process. The Team also attended monthly or bi-monthly Master Plan Subcommittee Meetings and several Planning Board meetings. A public hearing on the chapters is scheduled for July 15, 2024.

BEAN HOLE BASH

Public Engagement on July 30, 2023

We had a table at the event spent several hours engaging the attendees on the topic of Northwood's future and soliciting their opinions.



HOUSING SURVEY

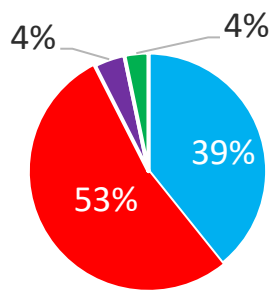
Housing & Demographics Chapter Input

Survey Open: July 28, 2023 - September 12, 2023

Total Survey Responses: 221

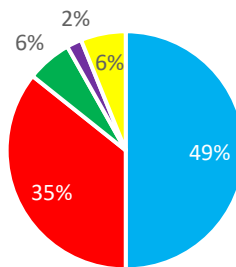
Average Completion Rate: 73%

I currently:



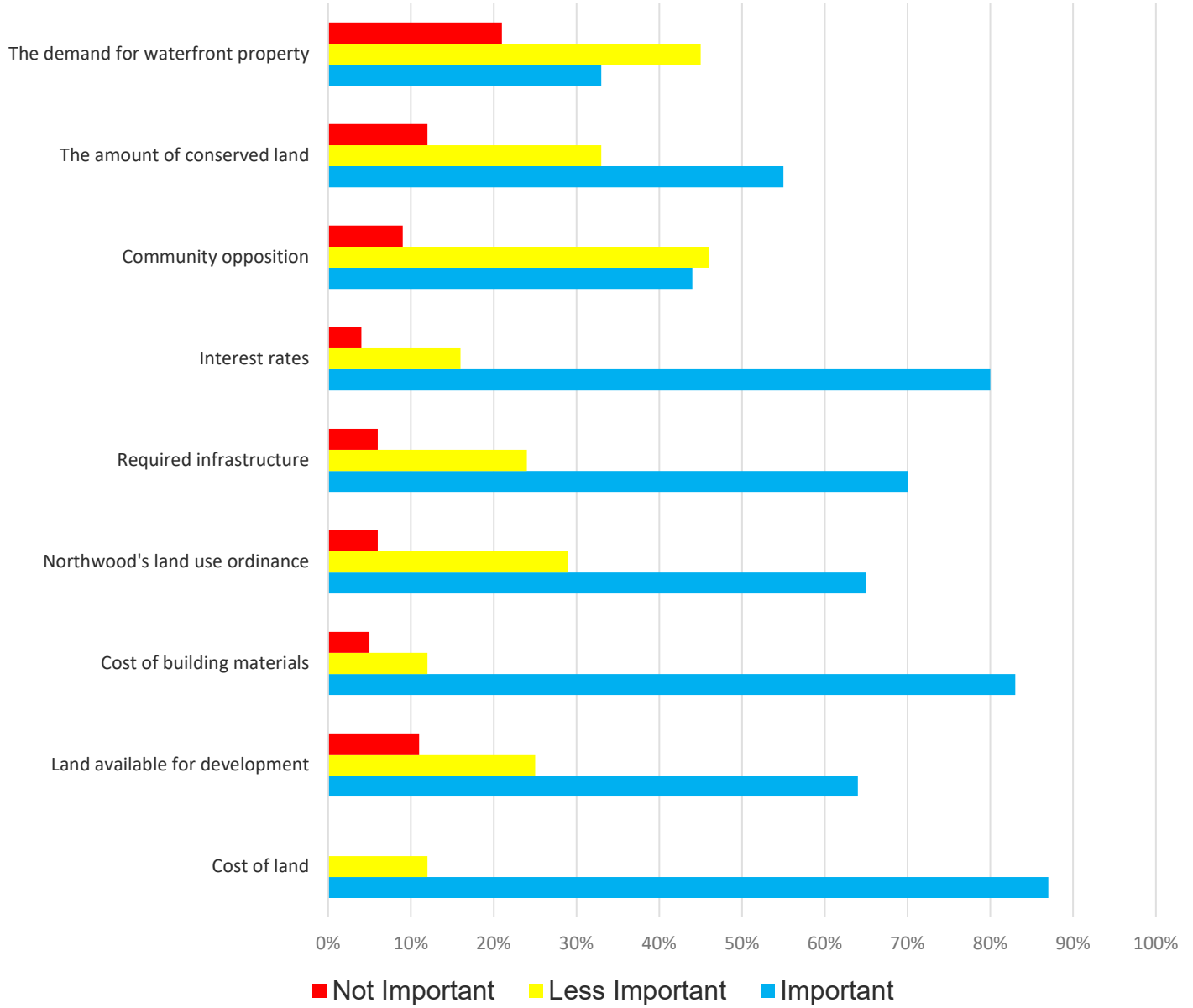
- Own my home without a mortgage
- Own my home with a mortgage
- Rent
- Other

Please select the statement that best describes your housing cost (includes mortgage/rent, utilities, insurance, and property taxes):

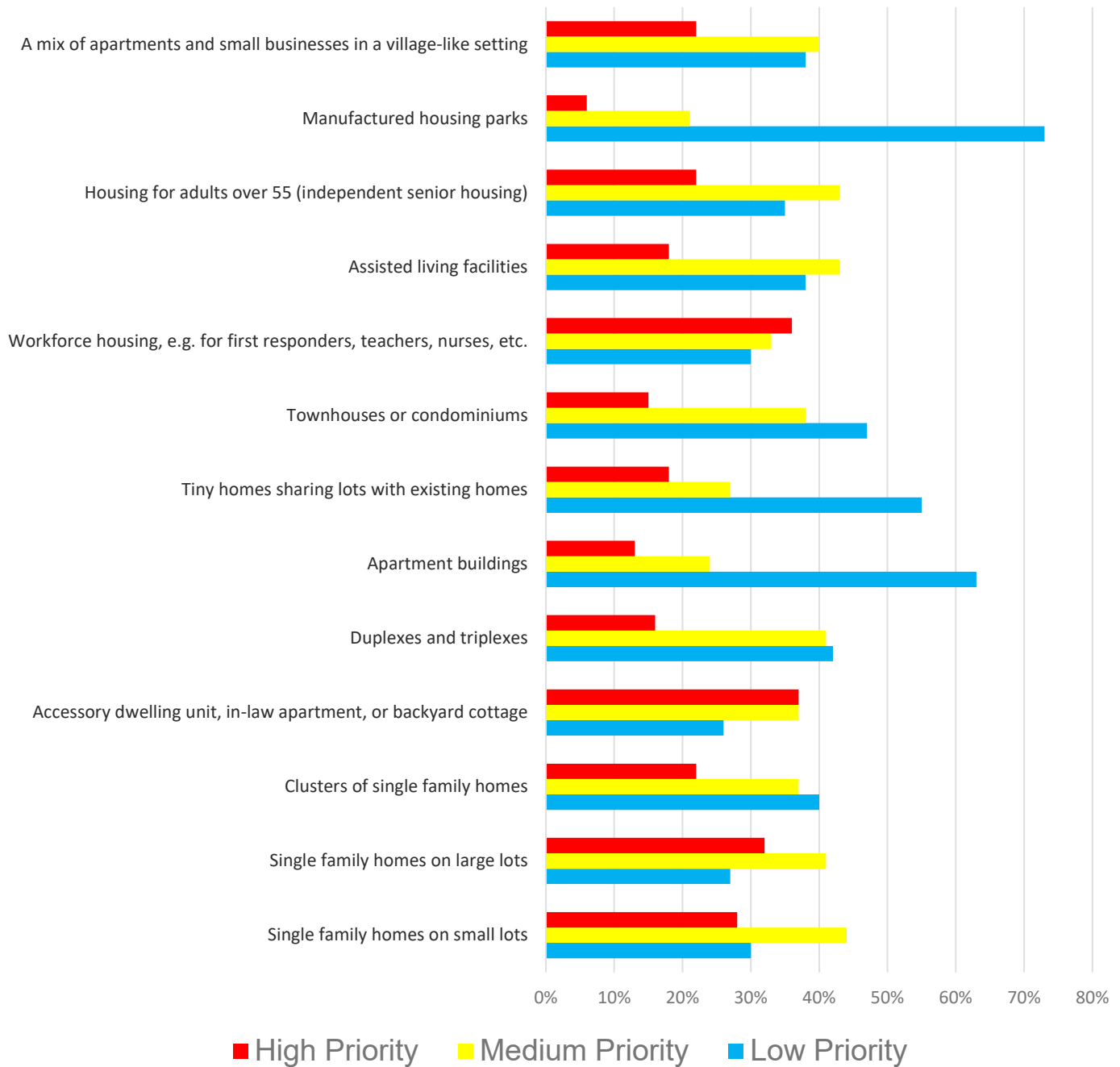


- My housing cost is less than 30% of our household's total income
- My housing cost is between 30%-50% of our household's total income.
- My housing cost is greater than 50% of our household's total income.
- I do not pay for my housing.
- I don't know

How important are the following factors in determining the cost of housing?



NH and the nation are experiencing an unprecedented housing shortage. The NH legislature directed regional planning commissions to calculate estimates for new housing needed in each municipality. What should new housing in Northwood look like?



In your opinion, are there any housing types that would not work well in Northwood? If so, which ones and why?

- Apartment complexes
- Apartments
- Apartment buildings. Not enough work tax.
- Large apartment or condo complexes
- Large apartment buildings
- cluster village like setting
- Apartment complexes, too far from major job centers & not accessible enough to shopping for elderly
- No more SFH permits until a quota of multi-family or workforce housing units is met. It's time for Northwood and small towns to contribute their fair share.
- No
- Large lot homes due to lack of land space
- Large apartment buildings
- None
- Apartments - country community too commercialized.
- High rise apartments due to obstruction and population concentration services.
- A large number of single homes which require development of large amount of property.
- na
- Any more Manufactured home/Trailer parks, Run down old homes turned into Apartments!
- Mobile Homes due to maintenance issues.
- Structures over 35' in height; lack of fire fighting apparatus
- Cluster housing
- No project type developments. Elderly housing would keep seniors isolated from transportation to hospitals, parks, shopping centers etc. leading to loneliness. We are losing our rural town to urbanization. We are losing our fields and forests. All the new wealthy families moving here from big cities are not in favor of hunting and are posting their land. We natives are losing our freedoms and traditions. City people want city amenities. Since houses are being built on class 6 roads, these roads are being upgraded and paved and maintained causing speeding traffic through our once quiet neighborhoods. more housing is creating traffic problems. Route 4 is impossible to cross or make a left turn onto. Think of all the added costs to the taxpayers that comes with more housing. And our children who grew up here can't stay here because all the new houses and land are being bought up by wealthy newcomers. Northwood has allowed increased housing to get out of hand already. The traffic and speeding and air pollution is worse then ever. I can barely afford my property taxes. Am I going to be driven out of my town as time goes on? More housing means more people with more demands.
- The continuation of 2 acre lots for single family houses. We have to stop things like that in order to build attractive, affordable homes for a younger generation that might move here.
- large apartment complexes.
- Trailers. There are already too many trailer parks and they look awful. Trailers simply don't hold up well.
- Cluster development on small lots
- Large apartment buildings- not in keeping with the character of the town.
- large apartment building, it would destroy the country feel of the community
- Buildings over 3 stories high. Would require specialty fire fighting equipment.
- Apartment complexes — I prefer to keep the rural nature of our town
- Apartment complexes; Trailer Parks
- homes too close together unless in a development
- manufactured housing parks..we have enough.
- No
- Tiny Homes
- SFH cookie cutter subdivisions. You say your ordinances are to promote "community/rural character" but this is the easiest thing to build in Northwood. Work on a creative village feel with character instead. Yes, this means people actually have to live there too.
- apartment complex would add too many commuters to an already over used route 4, high school impact and EMS impacts
- Large apartment complex
- Big/many-unit apartment or condo buildings
- manufactured housing parks
- Trailer parks. Doesn't look nice. Makes Northwood look dumpy. They should be phased out.
- Duplexes / triplexes / condos / apartments / assisted living facilities - they do not fit in with Northwood's rural character, the rural essence of our town needs to be maintained.
- Low income or government assistance as well as trailer parks

- Condos for higher income clientele
- More large homes on one to two acre lots are not necessary and are inefficient
- No
- Do not allow low income housing We don't have police dept to deal with the crime that comes with those
- I believe Assisted living are best placed in more urban areas where medical facilities are more easily accessible.
- Multi family housing in single housing area
- Condominiums- keep the town small
- apts not a city its counry
- Large apartment complexes. Does not fit our rural character
- Large density apartments
- No
- any non single family style housing on common land . (mobile home parks,condos)
- **None that I can think of**
- Apartment buildings or rental properties of any kind. We do not have sufficient means to support an influx of children in our schools or emergency personnel to manage
- large apartment complexes because of the need for wells & septic instead of town water/sewer
- Nothing too tall; might require special equipment.
- apartment buildings
- Large apartment complexes because any larger lots of land that are still available in Northwood should be made into conservation
- Large Apartment Complex. Density of population in one spot including parking, septic, water
- Expensive single-family houses on large lots. We need to allow lots smaller than 2 acres, and allow and encourage multi-family housing.
- Apartment complexes (we don't have the infrastructures like municipal water and septic to support.) Manufactured housing and trailer parks are definitely out!
- assisted living facilities aren't really needed. Housing for younger families is needed
- Houses on 3+acres take up too much usable land and forest.
- Clustered housing, apartment buildings, etc potentially can change the nature of a small semi-rural community and needs to be carefully considered.
- Any change to the ordinance in place need to keep specific lot sizes
- Mobile home parks- we have several already
- Multi-unit apartment buildings would not work well as they invite lower income and individuals not interested in community values.
- n/a
- Apartment buildings
- No
- Apartment buildings
- I low income housing bring undesirable people on welfare to town. Their kids usuall have issues that tax the schools . Keep it out. Nicer homes and more businesses make for over towns
- N/A
- The half million dollar plus large houses. You're trying to push regular people out of town and only cater to the wealthy ones. Senior citizens, people of low income and the handicapped are struggling to make ends meet
- I think we should follow a healthy "bell curve" strategy with a minimal amount of low income and high income housing on the extreme ends of the curve. Middle-class single family homes should be the overwhelming majority for a small town in NH.
- Not sure
- Over 62. Does not make any sense. Low income housing and apartments would overwhelm Coe Brown and other schools.
- Senior housing located outside of business hubs. Needs to be within a walkable community area with services and sidewalks
- Apartment complex-not good for town resources, over priced McMansions - not affordable for residents.
- Condos. I do not like the legal arrangement (HOA).
- Trailer parks, and small lot housing developments
- Apartment Buildings
- manufactured housing due to low tax revenue compared to higher use of town services
- NO
- There are already too many former agricultural fields broken up into lots with unimaginative and poorly designed housing developments. Cluster housing with open space makes a lot more space. Northwood should adopt open space housing elements more effectively.
- Big apartment complexes
- Developments
- No housing for immigrants.
- Large apartment complexes. Not enough local business to support added population
- Apartment complexes as we are a rural small town
- Large apartment buildings. Want to keep the

town with a look of a small town and not a look of a city.

- Large apartment com
- Apartments. We have no municipal water or sewer to support a large concentration of people in one location.
- cluster housing and mobile holmes
- No
- We must preserve the integrity of our town, and I'll sell out to development, especially from richer people from out of state that drive out to local people who are lesser income
- Apartment complexes, burdens resources without the taxes to cover said resouces.
- HOA type development
- 4 story apartment complexes
- Cluster communities would bring too many people in all at once and would overwhelm our systems
- Too many clusters of Over 55. Reason, the cluster tend to not truly function for over 55s, rather like assisted living homes. Builders driven approval of oversized housings. Northwood is a village and needs be treated as such, oversized developments don't fit into village settings, not unless the developers want to drive out the generation that would love to return but could not afford to. The so called "three seasons" homes for example are gradually becoming oversized even when it is 2nd homes for owners who at times live only 45 minutes away!
- Large apartment buildings or large 55+ developments. Immediate impact to town services, i.e. police/fire
- Large Apartment Buildings
- We should not continue to promote or build single homes on large lots. We don't need more 55 over housing. Need to think of younger, single adults and families. They need smaller affordable homes, tiny homes, ADUs.
- Any housing that is out of reach for the average family.
- Apartment buildings because of burden on infrastructure and public safety.
- Townhomes, apartments, half way house, senior housing. Too populated with not enough staff for first responders and overload on school system which the primary is sub par to the academy. Also to help defer high turn over and reduce a rise in substances in community
- High-rise due to demands on fire/rescue. Low income.
- Apartment complexes. Renters don't pay taxes and owners find too many loopholes.

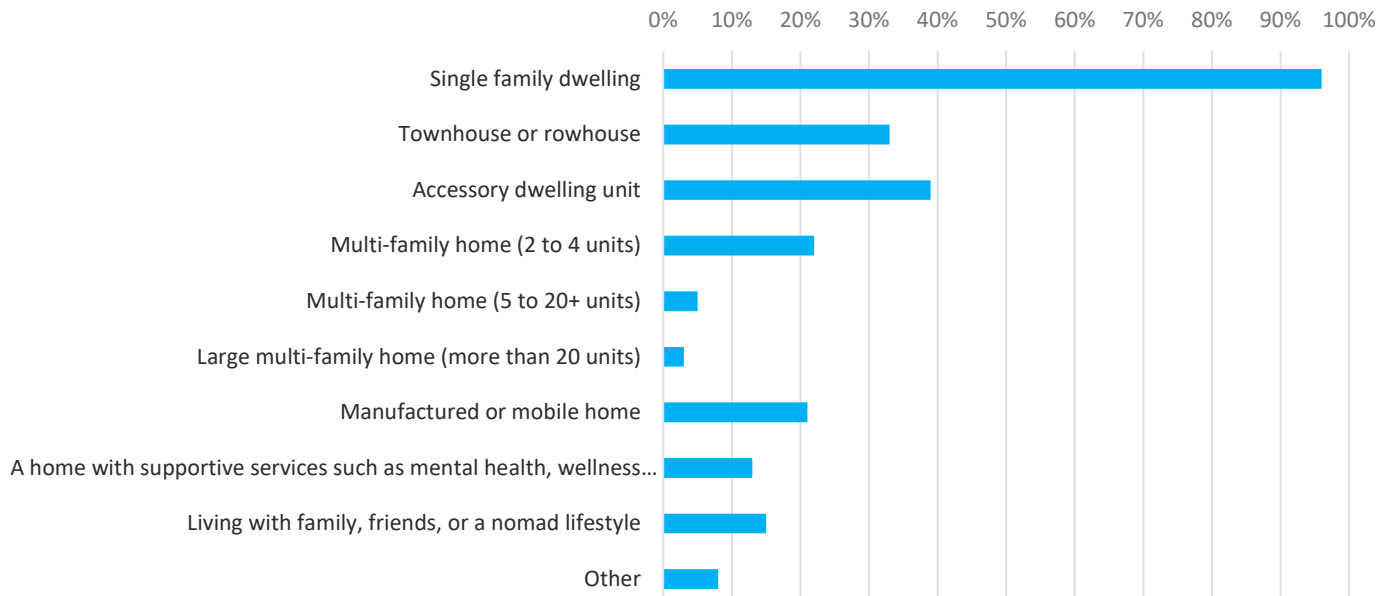
- Large apartment complexes
- Mobile homes
- Large apartment complexes would change our current way of life.
- Overly large, fancy houses are not needed. People need to have adequate for their needs and affordable housing.
- Anything to help people get AFFORDABLE housing they need
- No opinion
- Low income housing of any kind because it brings a bad element to your area
- Large lots with one house
- Large apartment complexes, the roads are not made for the kind of traffic a large complex would bring.
- no
- apartment buildings. Does not fit with the feel of the town
- Not sure
- Over 55 housing for financially secure person(s) that should have to afford a standard home.
- Apartment complexes. They tend to take up more land and would require more infrastructure like sewer and water.
- Hi rise apartment buildings would not work.
- Apartment complexes. They bring in crime, drugs, and are a burden to tax payers.
- Three families.. personally single level ranch with basements. 3br price range homes under 300k
- N/a
- manufactured housing parks
- Large lot requirements are not necessary
- None
- No. Barriers to developing more housing include lot sizes, perceived zoning and an anti development mentality of the town fathers and especially the new building inspector are a major deterrent for me to decide on more investment in Northwood. Please lighten up! It used to be a great town with many ideas that were considered...not a suburb of California rules and regs! Let Northwood grow and its citizens prosper without the heavy hand of this small town
- government. It's really ok

- Large homes with large lots. This is what Northwood already has plenty of. There is a great demand for smaller 2-3 bedroom homes with 0.25-1 acre lots at most so that new families can buy homes. Right now home prices are far too high for

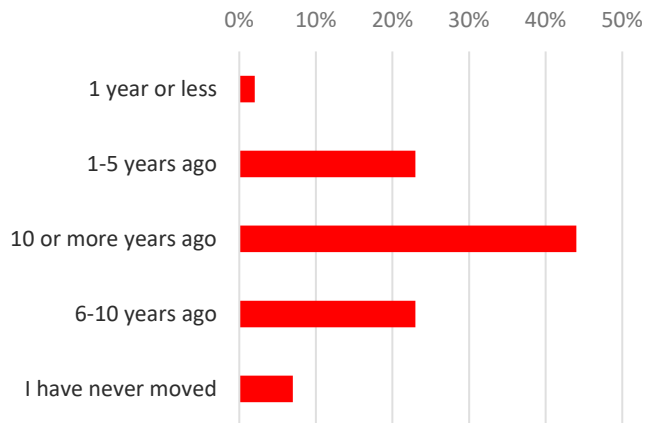
anyone starting out to have a chance at owning a home.

- No

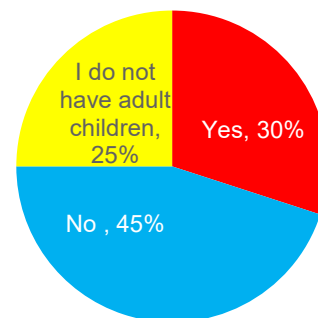
What type of housing would you consider living in, regardless of affordability? Please choose three.



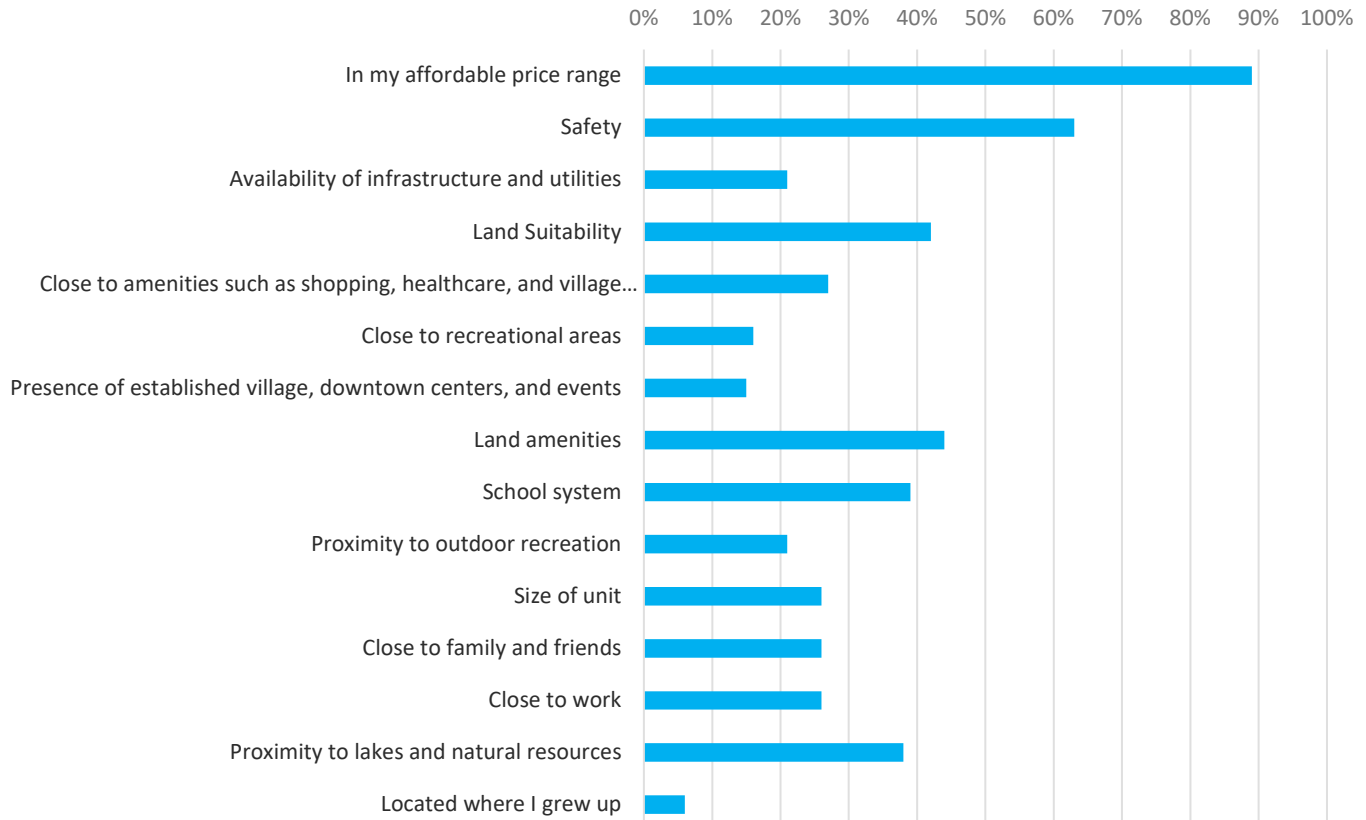
When was the last time you moved?



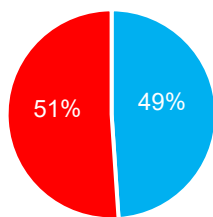
If your adult children wish to reside in Northwood, can they afford to do so?



When you choose a neighborhood to live in, please indicate the characteristics that you consider. Choose no more than five.

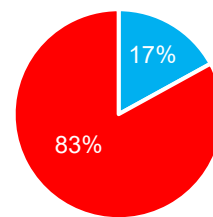


Have you, or anyone with whom you are acquainted, had a difficult time finding housing in Northwood?



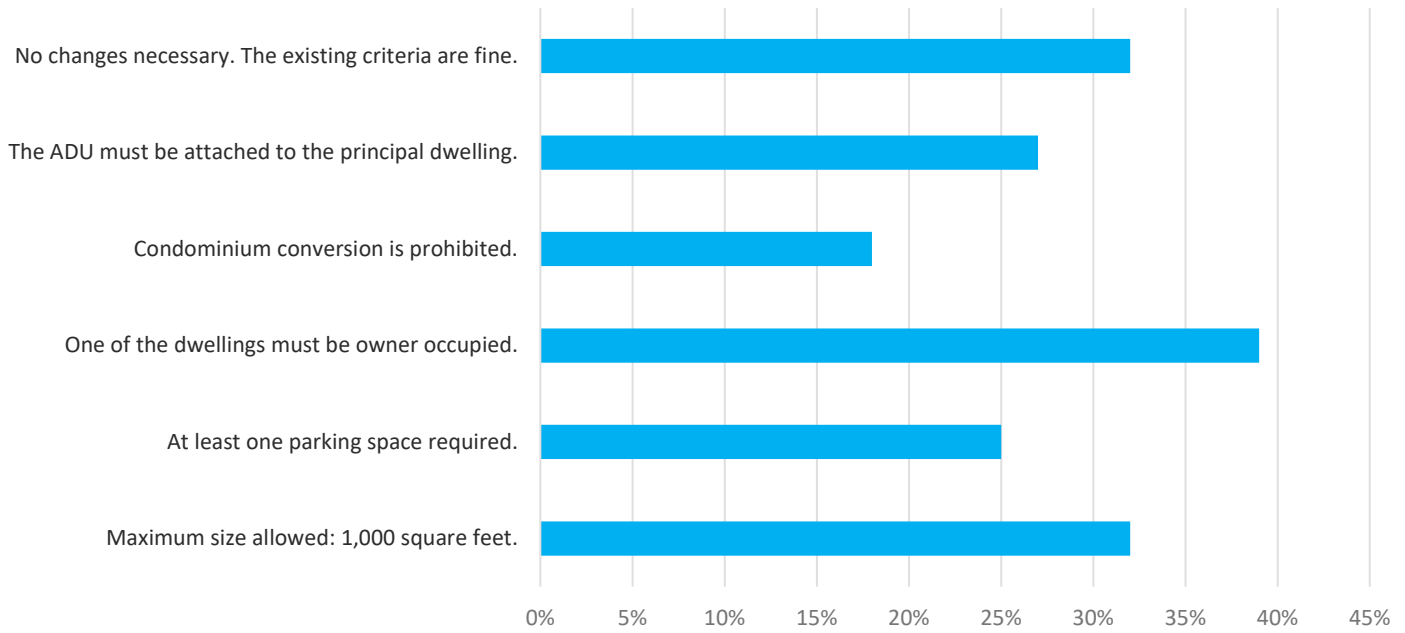
■ Yes ■ No

Have you, or anyone with whom you are acquainted, had a difficult time downsizing in Northwood?

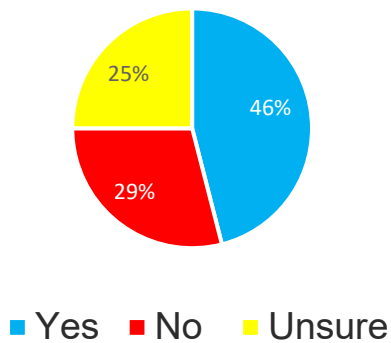


■ Yes ■ No

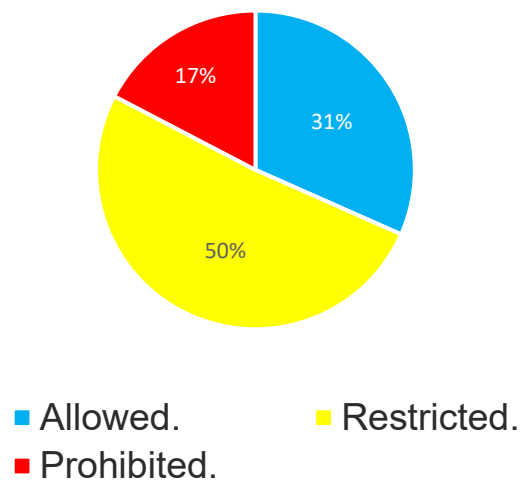
Northwood's Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) are small dwellings attached to the principal dwelling. They typically have a living space of 1,000 square feet or less and are permitted by the Land Use Ordinance. If the Town were to adjust the criteria for per



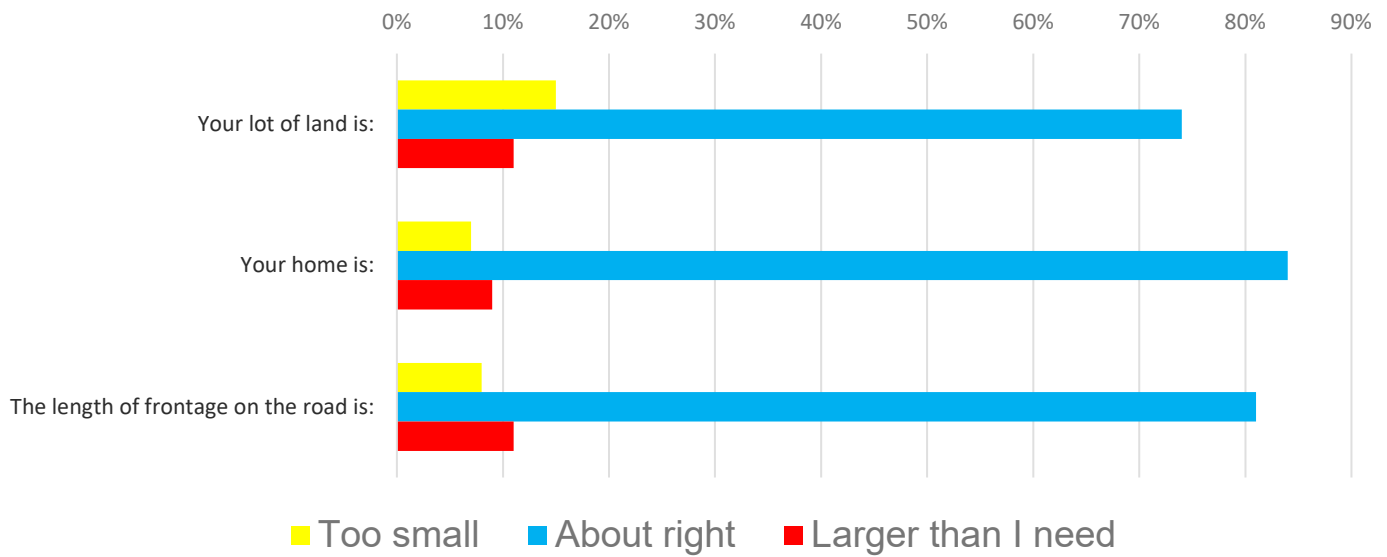
New cottages in a nearby community are each sized at roughly 400 square feet. They rent for \$800 to \$1,000 monthly. Should Northwood's Land Use Ordinance permit this type of development at appropriate locations?



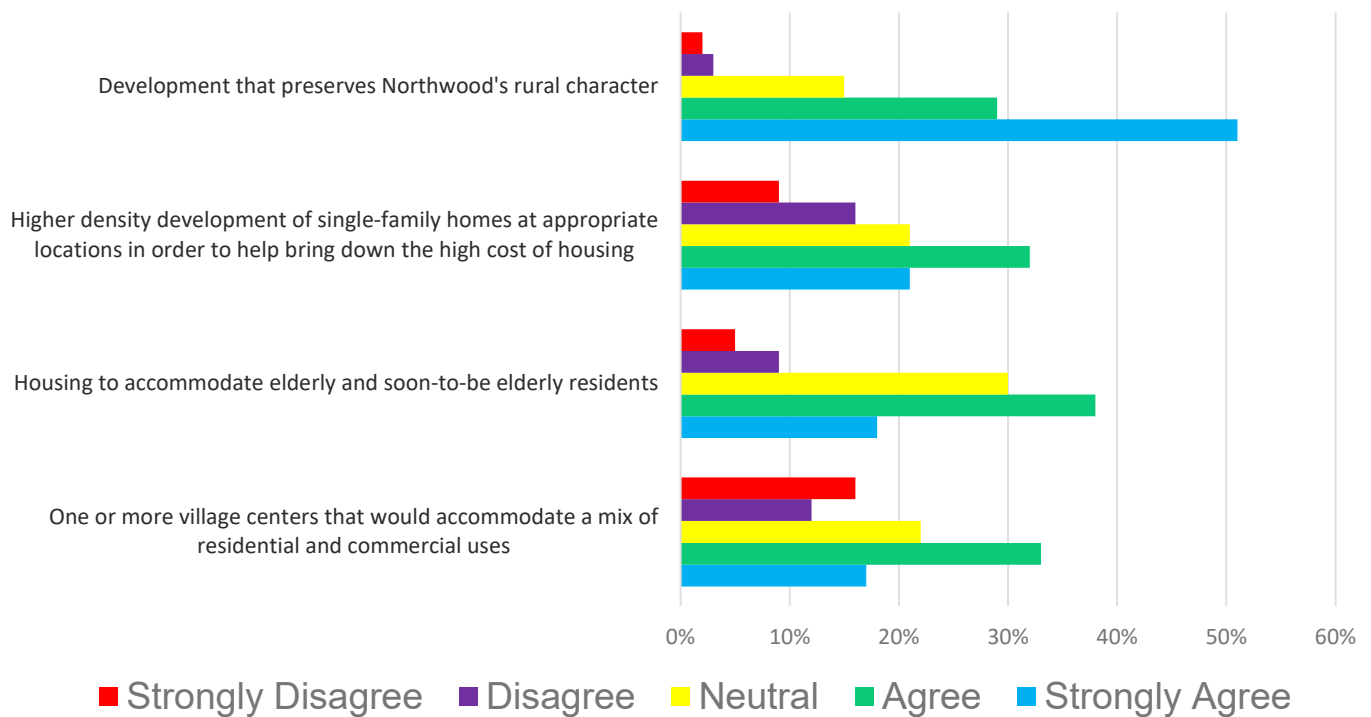
How should new residential development on agricultural soils be regulated?



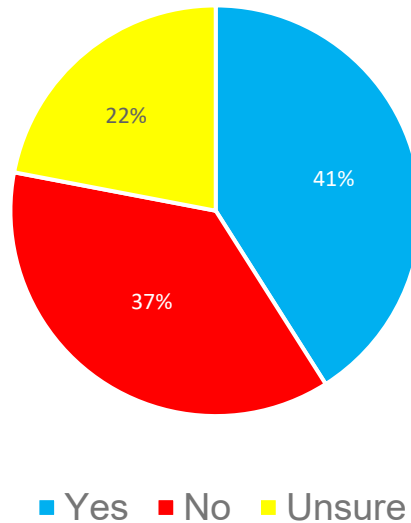
In the place where you currently reside, do you feel that:



Should Northwood encourage the development of:



In order to help preserve Northwood's rural character, should the Land Use Ordinance encourage homes to be set further back from roadways so that they are less visible from the public way?



How should Northwood respond to the regional housing shortage?

- Adjust regulations so lower priced housing can be built.
- Determine need.
- Not much Northwood can do. Cities need more housing.
- Some limited housing while maintaining the rural feel. Don't overly stress the natural resources.
- n/a
- Get involved. Very general, I know.
- Would like to add to existing house or be able to put in a small cottage/tiny home on other half of lot. Lot size .98 acre.
- responsibly - looking for ways to create affordable housing
- Affordable town property taxes would lower the cost of moving here.
- Contribute its fair share!! Stop assuming Concord and the Seacoast will pick up the slack. A Portsmouth city employee was found to be living in their vehicle recently. Notes Northwood is a lakes community but it is perfect for couples with one job in Concord and one on the Seacoast - let families start here. Northwood has an opportunity to change the culture for small towns. Northwood could build more sidewalks and bike paths and reduce the number of cars on Route 4.
- Discontinue the restrictions
- Not sure
- Let the market dictate.
- Tiny communities with tiny homes. Accessory units!
- Development of single family affordable homes
- ADU's, small group housing with shared sewage treatment.
- Expand selected housing units to maximize available housing without separating the rural character and conservation lands that make Northwood attractive.
- unclear
- reduce the planning process and lower taxes.
- Have areas in town that allow more intense residential development rather than the entire town
- By remaining a haven amongst all the other towns that will be even more developed and populated.

ADU's are a wonderful solution for growing families and rentals.

- All of the above already discussed. No more traffic. No more developments. The housing project happening now in the beautiful field at Johnson's restaurant is an eyesore.
- Aggressively! We have a good school and the state has a shortage. We could attract young, active families if we supported those strengths with housing that encouraged those families to move here. We would only become stronger and more interesting.
- Conserve open spaces with allowing for smart development of smaller projects. No large subdivisions or apartment buildings that will add costs to lacking infrastructure.
- Allow building on class 6 roads. We have many of them that will offer home building opportunities
- Maintain small town character
- Encourage green building, tiny homes, no more McMansions.
- With strong considerations to maintain the rural integrity and heritage of Northwood
- Allow a few tastefully designed clusters of smaller homes with a village center
- building more cluster homes with regulations
- Improve attached apartment rules. Encourage tiny houses, allow cluster housing in certain areas.
- Unsure
- ADD UNITS. It's that simple. You were given a number by the regional housing needs assessment. You know you're a bedroom community. You're in the crossroads; Northwood is perfect for a couple with one working on the seacoast and one in manch/concord. There are literally hundreds of resources out there for rural communities to provide enough housing while maintaining a certain look. Stop looking to developers for answers.
- Due to our unique town layout we need to be careful that our resources are preserved.
- Not the towns business to respond
- Build lower-cost housing that NH desperately needs
- Get the labor pools out of Portsmouth and concord over here. Advertise in those high COL / more affluent cities and bring the families and business our way. Incentivize developers to work on phasing out old buildings, trailer parks and churches. Also, hire the people now that are necessary to maintain the roads and land. There's a huge backlog of projects and work but we don't spend money on the people needed to make this place operate well and look nice.
- Prudently maintain Northwood's rural character

while properly applying existing ordinances. Be CONSISTENT with all those who come before the Planning Board, so persons have faith that the Planning Board is unbiased and treats each case within the rules. NO FAVORABILITY!

- Build and regulate more affordable units
- More multi family units, attract multi use development. Improve knowledge and quality of planning board members to be able to understand the value and not bring their personal agendas to development reviews
- I'm not sure small towns can do much to respond to the regional housing shortage.
- They shouldn't
- Affordable housing
- vrrrrrrrrrycarefully
- Don't make it so hard for people
- Encourage less expensive homes
- Allow tiny homes
- Allow density increases
- it s not Northwood's problem to solve any "housing shortages" .Northwood should be focused more on controlling growth at a reasonable rate
- I don't have that answer, sorry
- Reduce minimum lot size and reduce the onerous process involved in putting a housing development
- smaller "starter homes", like were built in the 50s, with unfinished second floors. cheaper to buy when starting out & can be finished when one has ability to do so
- Build
- allow cluster housing that isn't restricted to affordable housing
- Look into renovating existing structures and allow for additions to accommodate multifamily situations. I do not believe encouraging further development of large parcels of land in town will yield the desired results as the current trend seems to be to build and price new houses far above what the average residents in the region can afford.
- Smaller lot sizes, but limit the amount to development
- Northwood should develop affordable housing that has three bedrooms and has no age restrictions for residence.
- Encourage the building of single family homes by increasing the number and efficiency of Northwood building inspection so inspections are timely.
- By allowing higher density and multi-family housing.
- Huzzah! Northwood rides to the rescue! But ideally, Northwood is a great location between multiple municipalities and employment areas.

We are a "bedroom town" and need to focus on the quality of life for our residents and seasonal guests.

- allow more rental properties
- Develop a town center with more amenities with the hope of lowering living costs. We don't need more \$700,000 houses on 4-5 acre tracts. Smartly designed cluster developments may also help.
- I like the idea of affordable housing for police, fire, teachers, town employees etc. but concerned that might be discriminatory in some ways.
- Not Northwoods problem
- I don't know.
- Allow development of lower cost cluster housing. A bad idea is to build more \$600,000 units as is currently being done in the Narrows.
- Allowing tiny home/cottage neighborhoods
- Let supply and demand play out naturally. Stop knee jerk reactions that we will regret later. We all moved here to live a rural life and get away from the cities and suburbs. Do not bring the cities and suburbs here, we get enough of that with the Massachusetts summer people.
- Just say no!
- It shouldn't
- Fire the planning board
- Homes built should be smaller to maintain reasonable prices.
- Have really affordable housing for families and seniors and not these huge houses that seem to be a status symbol and are unattainable to ordinary people.
- We should grow at a slow rate to keep our town safe and less populated and not be pressured into growing fast due to social influences that don't matter.
- Affordable one story condo's
- Why is it Northwoods responsibility? It isn't
- Build a couple of large apartment bldgs near the 4 corners.
- The town is already setup with regulations to respond.
- Northwood should not respond to the housing shortage. Let the cities respond to that. If people want to move to the country and build a home and life they will have to figure it out like the rest of us. I moved here to get away from people like that.
- Allow some development
- Unsure.
- Dense housing, flag lots.

- Northwood should compromise on the regulation of type of housing to be developed. I am for small housing. I feel this is the compromise necessary to address the housing shortage.
- Stay out of the issue all together.
- Cluster housing of smaller units so more affordable.
- Allow single family homes to be built, but also considering current resident opinions
- Don't know
- Not sure.
- Allow more housing on route 4 The old antique shops are outdated and not providing revenue for the town
- Allow more housing development and if properties are rental only for Air BNB-need to restrict
- Allow development.
- Establish locations where higher density, cluster housing is permitted.
- Allow unattached ADU's Allow for cluster housing with less required acreage per house
- We are doing ok
- Not sure
- Bigger towns around us are expanding, and I think it's important to preserve a real character in at become like Epsom period they have to be some holdouts that incest and keeping the role character period if we lose the pristine waterways and lands of Northwood, then no one will benefit
- Possibly by looking at reduction of minimum lot size to open up available lots for single family home development or conversion of Class 6 road to town maintained
- Allow garages to be converted to adu's
- Lower our taxes and not re access before due date due to higher cost to make us pay more! That was bs
- Build with reasonable sense of preservation of the village life and setting. Not caving to the business minded builders who are not residents, or treating the setting like a city.
- By carefully analyzing the current zoning regulations and updating them to favor residential development. Love the idea of this survey. It's a great first step!
- Allowing home owners to renovate and add small apartments.
- Promote ALL landowners and developers to build new housing through tax incentives and loan alternatives. Praise those who do!! Everyone is affected by the lack of housing because it impacts workforce availability across all services and industries. We own a large plot of land in Northwood and would build housing but the town

us not helping us in any way - really just keeping it hard, time consuming and costly. We will be voting for local offices going forward with housing as our primary issue.

- Allow development with reasonable land minimum requirements
- Given the tax structure of this State, I don't think we particularly owe the wealthy commercial/industrial centers with low property taxes anything in the way of housing the masses. We cannot support all the services that should reasonably and rightfully be expected without more relief from property taxes at the State level. Sales tax is best option, IMO.
- I'd like it to have a town center with shops and restaurants I'd like it to look better than just a road (Route 4) cutting through town It lacks appeal
- Support the development of multi-family housing through less restrictive zoning and planning ordinances for certain dwelling types.
- By making more land available. We have much available
- Build more rental housing.
- I don't know.
- Start allowing for the town to actually build and improve the local community, businesses, and neighborhoods. It is time for things to change and look to improve the community. It is possible to do so and still maintain a rural feel.
- Require home buyers and selling agents to uphold a bit of integrity. It's great for people selling their homes to make as much profit as possible, but it comes with more Massachusetts plates on the cars, an inability for local families to afford homes in areas they want to stay in, and most importantly, we begin to lose our identity as a small, rural, town in New Hampshire. We don't need a village center, we don't need condo associations for over 55 residents. By making

housing affordable to families who wish to live in Northwood for what it is, not what people 'want it to be,' Northwood will stay a place we all cherish and refuse to move away from.

- Find ways to accommodate without overwhelming the public services to the point of raising taxes and making housing even more unaffordable especially for current residents.
- Approve smaller home developments and independent living elder housing
- Reduce the road frontage requirement from 100' to 75'. Allowing for more house lots.
- Allow tiny houses on smaller plots Allow homes on smaller plots Allow detached ADU's Elderly housing Allow some small apartment buildings Allow Townhouses
- The housing shortage was caused from Poor democrat policies. Respond to the shortage by voting out democrat policy.
- Like i said more single level affordable houses
- N/A
- developing appropriate parcels of land
- Encourage development via taxes and regulations
- ?
- Loosen up and allow building on smaller and less desirable lots. Allow conversion of some of the camps on smaller lots. Basically loosen up. It's time!
- ldk
- nothing
- They should not
- Reduce the ordinance requirements and allow more homes to be built. We need homes that are 2000sqft or less and 1 acre or less that don't require tons of updating and repair.

One word I would use to describe how I want Northwood to be in the future is:

businesses Peaceful Welcoming residents town Northwood homes
 Family friendly Growing Rural community Affordable s
 small Desirable Safe people

HOUSING FORUM

Public Engagement on January 29, 2024

On the evening of January 29, a housing forum was convened at the Town Hall. The results of the housing survey were presented and elicited a number of comments. There was a general consensus that the cluster/open space provisions in the Land Use Ordinance were well intentioned, however revisions to the ordinance would be required to achieve a more desirable outcome.

The establishment of mixed-use village centers was also discussed at length. The majority of attendees favored exploring this concept further, and starting the process to identify appropriate locations.

The Strafford Regional Planning Commission's Regional Housing Needs Assessment generated many comments, and it was agreed that the 2040 goal for new housing is reasonable and achievable.



NORTHWOOD HOUSING FORUM

January 29, 2024
6:30pm – 8:30pm
Northwood Town Hall

All are welcome and encouraged to join the discussion on:

Housing and Demographic Trends
Northwood's Housing Survey Results
Housing Types, Costs, and Opportunities

save the date!



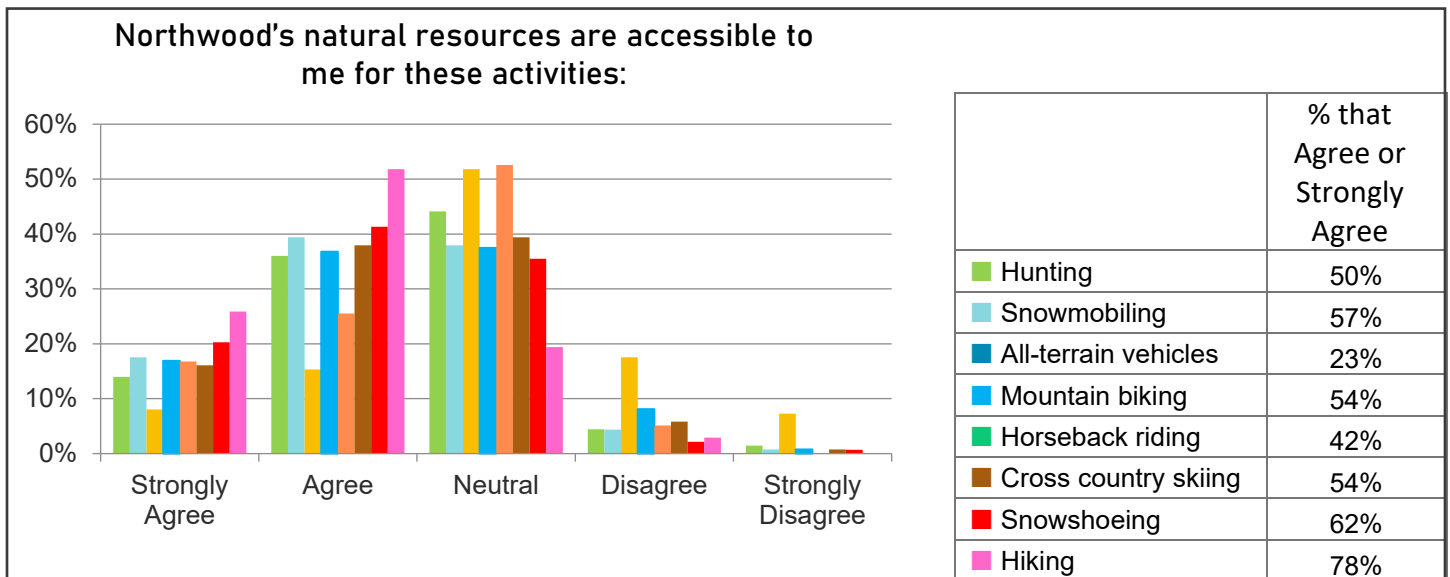
Contact Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Land Use Supervisor at lfweaver@northwood.org or 603-942-5586 for more information. Visit northwoodmp.info to learn more.

**NORTHWOOD
MASTER PLAN**
2023/2024 UPDATE

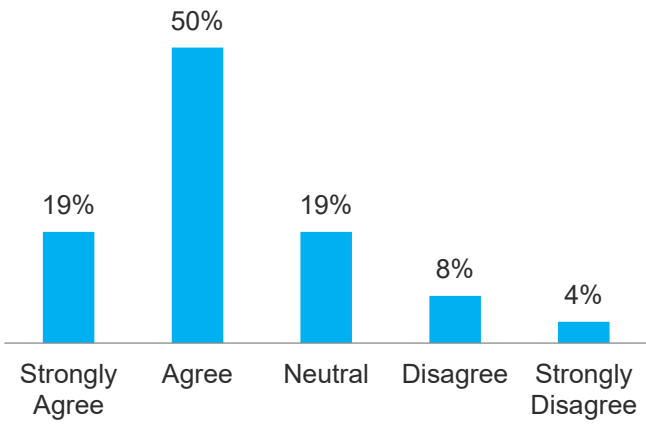
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER RESOURCES, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES SURVEY

Natural Resources & Water Resources Chapter Input

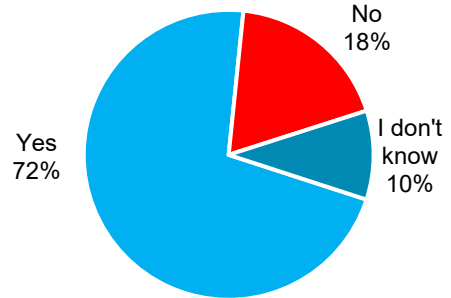
Survey Open: January 3, 2024 - February 16, 2024
 Total Survey Responses: 169
 Average Completion Rate: 82%
 Questions specific to Natural Resources & Water Resources: Questions 7-12
 Completion Rate of Natural Resources & Water Resources Questions: 80%



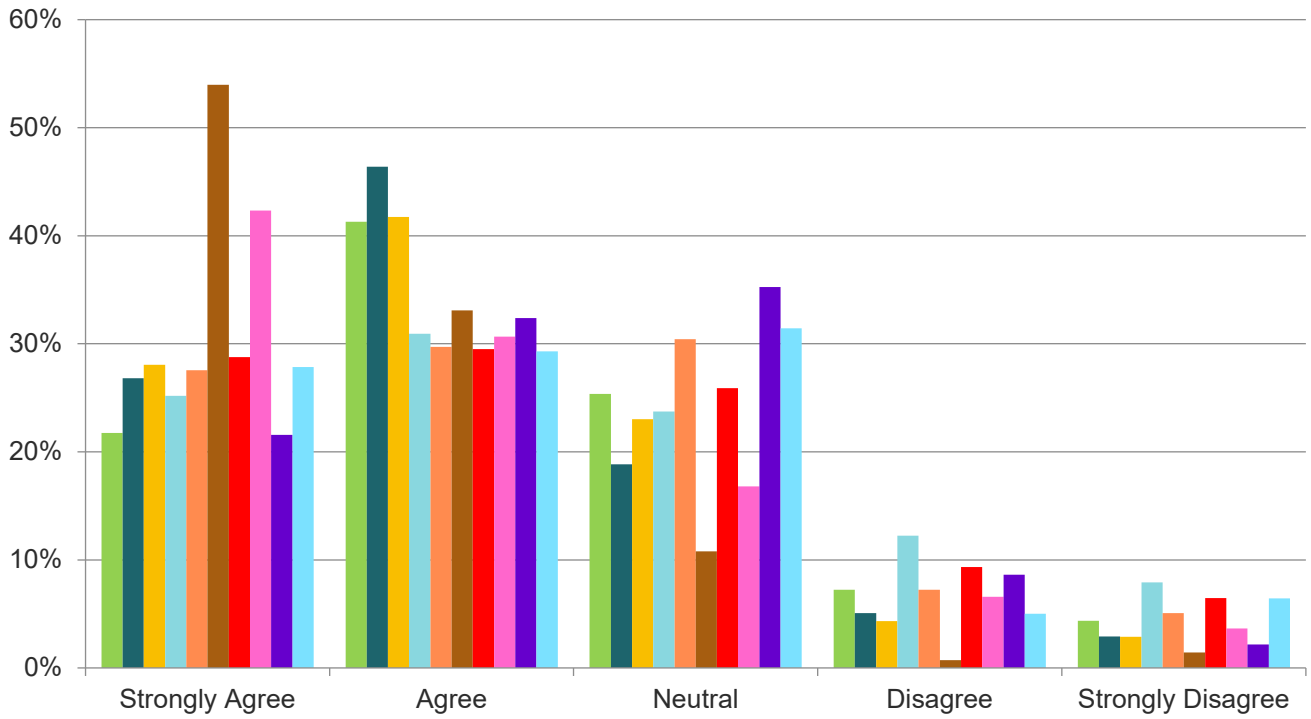
Northwood's water resources are accessible to me.



Should the Town work with interested and willing property owners to conserve a greater percentage of land in the town?



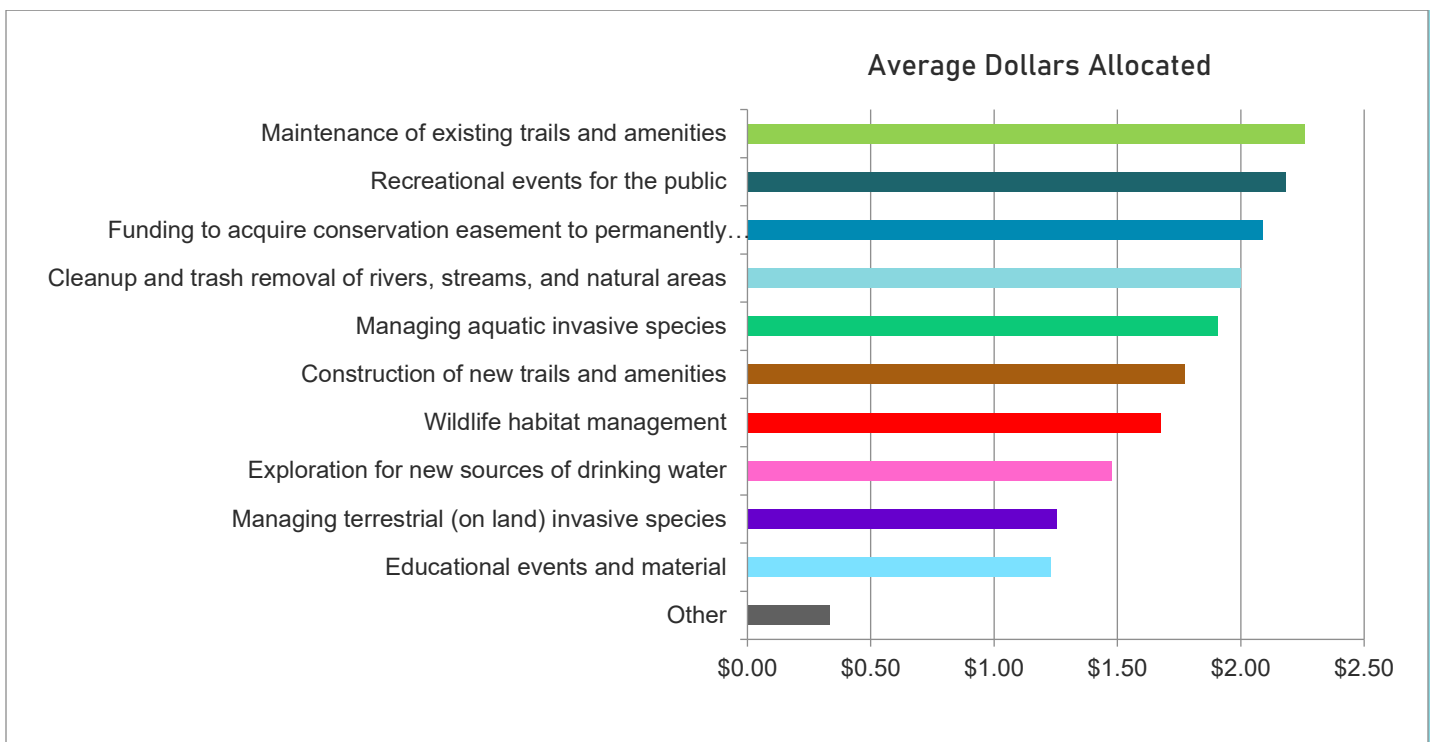
To better protect natural resources and water resources, are you in favor of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission proposing the following model ordinances and regulations to Town Meeting:



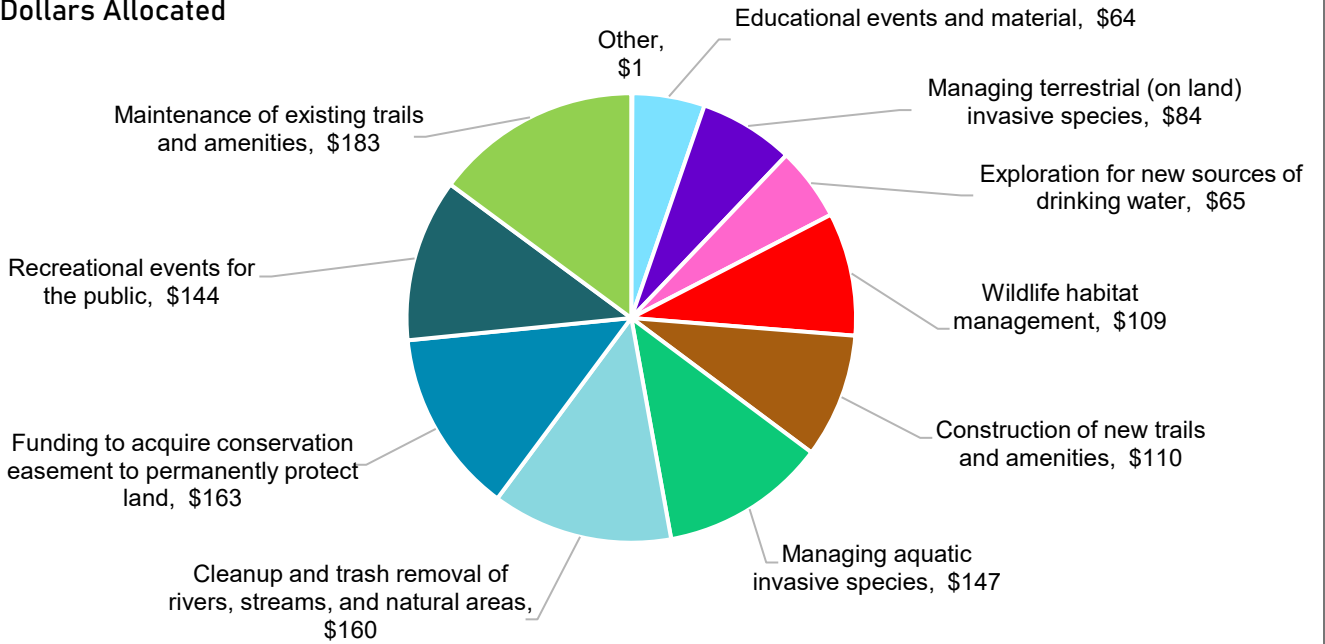
	% that Agree or Strongly Agree
Stormwater management regulations	63%

■ Groundwater Protection Ordinance	73%
■ Drinking Water Quality Buffer Ordinance	70%
■ Shoreline protection standards and regulations for building setbacks and tree removal that are stricter than the state standards	56%
■ Impervious surface area limitations within the shoreline area or another defined area surrounding water bodies	57%
■ Regulations to limit pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers near waterbodies	87%
■ Stronger regulations, including increasing the setbacks for primary structures for all waterbodies	58%
■ Stronger regulations, including increasing the setbacks for septic systems from water bodies	73%
■ Expansion of the Conservation Overlay District to include more natural areas	54%
■ Greater amount of land set aside in conservation subdivisions	57%

If you were responsible for allocating \$10 to natural resources, how would you spend it? Please assign a dollar value to each category. The total must equal \$10.



Total Dollars Allocated



When the Northwood Conservation Commission evaluates whether to conserve or permanently protect a property from development, what values or characteristics should they consider? Choose up to 5 that you think are most important.

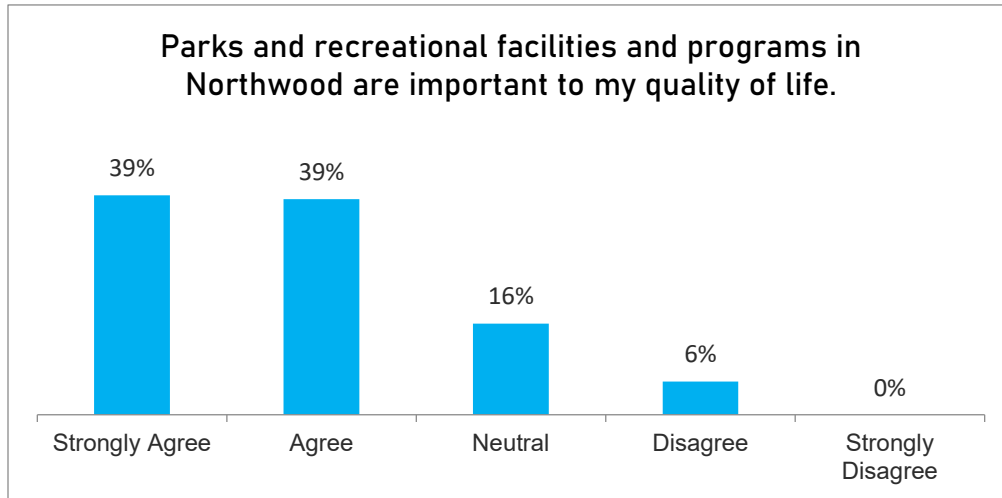


Other:

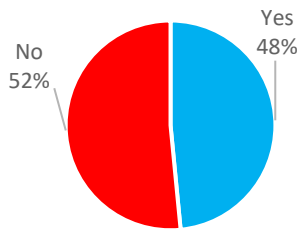
- All of them
- The town should conserve land to defend it from more growth.
- Many of these overlap. As houses pop up in our fields, I think that these need to be preserved to help feed the livestock in our town.
- Land I. The Big Woods
- All of the above are important. It was difficult to choose only 5.
- All of the selections are quite important.
- Government should stay out of it.
- Land that abuts private property within 100ft
- Historic Land
- I would choose more if I could!

Recreation Chapter Input

Survey Open: January 3, 2024 - February 16, 2024
 Total Survey Responses: 169
 Average Completion Rate: 82%
 Questions specific to Recreation: Questions 13-19
 Completion Rate of Recreation Questions: 69%



Do existing recreation facilities and programs meet your needs? Please explain.



Top responses included interest in a community center / rec center and activities and programs for seniors. Comments on youth sports (pro/con) and staff/volunteer capacity (pro/con) were also frequent.

Please explain:

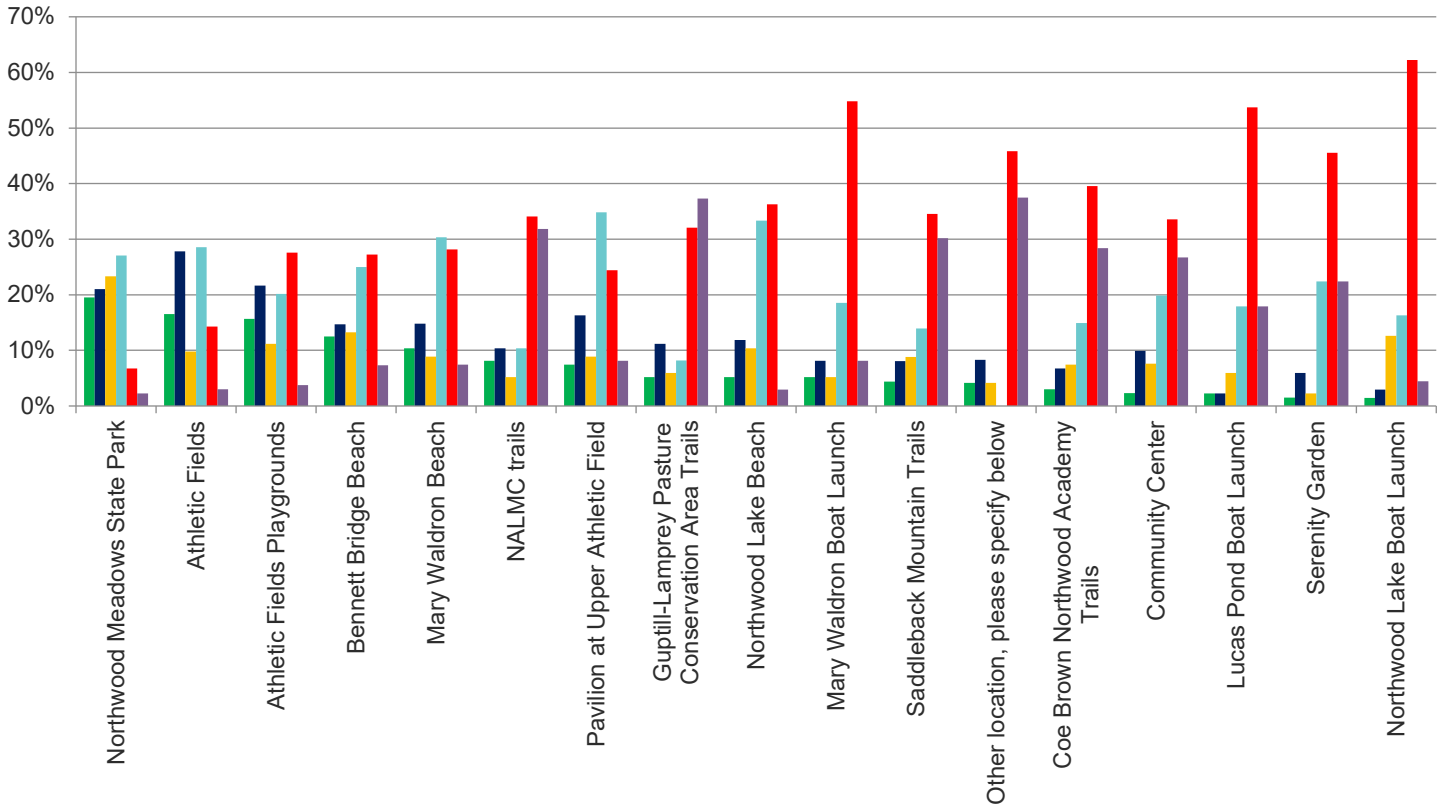
- Need more for folks over 65
- No community center. No programs for adults.
- Sr. center/meeting
- Nothing for seniors or parents who are home with young children

- Northwood Meadows is awesome year round.
- Yes, they meet my needs, but would like more.
- need recreation center and ATV trails
- The fields are in horrible shape, no walking path around fields for older folks, no public basketball courts
- Not enough diversity of activities available
- There is not an indoor Rec building.
- Nothing on going for seniors
- Not enough of anything
- Love the trails, kids programs and events
- Limited space and staff. We are only able to barely coordinate youth sports and a few events. It is not currently a resource to build community.
- Need more
- We are loving the improvements of the athletic fields! So we would like to see these continue to improve. A community center would be a wonderful addition as well.
- I'm 79, and have 5 acres and lakefront. I don't need much more than that
- Retired...I have not found anything of interest, yet, to participate in. We do utilize playground for grandchildren.
- Better Lucas Pond beach, steps, benches, launch. More robust public gardening opportunities for flowers and food.

- No facilities for seniors. Where are the bocci courts? The horseshoe pits? The shuffle board? The walking track? The stretching and muscle tone building playground suitable for seniors?
- The recreation director is doing an excellent job with the resources he has, but more resources are needed. We need a physical building for recreational activities at a central location that all ages can use.
- There are good thoughts, but not enough employees to execute. Wages are too low for posted positions. So, progress is slow, but progress nonetheless.
- need more for seniors
- Would love to see these areas expand focus to offer opportunities for older populations like walking/ handicap path and expanding recreation offerings for seniors
- I think we have ample opportunity in Northwood for recreation and programs.
- I use the state park more than any other facility
- This is important for our younger families in town.
- To much focus on youth sports
- They are moving in the right direction. More and better development of the athletic field area would be great. Ie) larger playground, more shade areas to eat/rest, better signage of the adjacent walking trails,
- Rec. is misnamed. It's a sports only program. Does nothing for general or senior recreation.
- There are NO programs available in Northwood for Seniors or others not interested in sports. The current recreation director is doing nothing to develop programs.
- Parking issues, not enough volunteers to assist, space very limited for indoor activities.
- Pickleball and/or a public basketball court would be great, as would a bike track
- Don't make use of them
- More Senior activities
- Very little specifically for the seniors.
- There are none except for school age children
- Plenty of recreational options for swimming, hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, play areas
- We need a multi indoor facility
- We need another gym and/ or a space to offer affordable group fitness.
- Need expanded programs and facilities.
- My kids are grown and gone. I'll leave it to younger adults to determine what would be good to add.
- Need more senior activities
- Inadequate access/parking limits my desire to use facilities or attend recreational events
- Shouldn't rely on the meadows that is State property
- no viable community center. What we have is small, antiquated, and dangerous
- More senior programs
- Please offer swimming lessons at one of the town beaches or make a deal with a neighboring town to use their resources. Please make an option for a more competitive sports team for ages 8+. We have 3 young boys who are enthusiastic about sports. And the rec sports are nice but they aren't very competitive even though there are a lot of very talented kids that could benefit from a more competitive team. Maybe a few towns could get together and form some more competitive teams.
- Difficult for kids to get to independently, ie sidewalks. No drinking water available. Limited to daylight use. Skate park or bb hoops would be great.
- Parking, lighting, fencing, drainage are all inadequate
- The one park is great - but its not safe to pull into or out of given its location along route 4. This makes the spot daunting, especially for families with young children. A second park in a different part of town would also serve more of the community. Shade at the existing park is absolutely needed. Whether by planting trees or installing canopies. A water resource in town besides the lakes would also be useful (splashpad, fountain, etc).
- Facilities need to be cleaned up, readily available and schedulable.
- I would like to see a wider variety of activities for all ages and abilities. I feel youth sports is quite strong, and there have been more all-age activities as of late and I'd like to see those continue.
- Need more programs, better sports programs for younger age groups currently no games or teams
- We need more fields, trails, and courts as well as an indoor recreation facility that is part of a multi-generational community space.
- The fields are great and if I needed a playground it's good. But for what we pay per child to utilize those fields for sports why are we also paying for them in tax dollars
- There is no legal areas for all terrain vehicles
- Need more professional coaching support
- Scott and Jessy are always making events for the town
- Put in pickle ball courts
- We use the fields and state park frequently
- they need more support to better maintain
- town needs a rec center
- Need more amenities

How often do you visit these locations? Please choose the best option. Choose only one per row.

■ At least once per week
 ■ Once per month
 ■ Once every two months
■ Once or twice a year
 ■ Never
 ■ I am not familiar with this resource

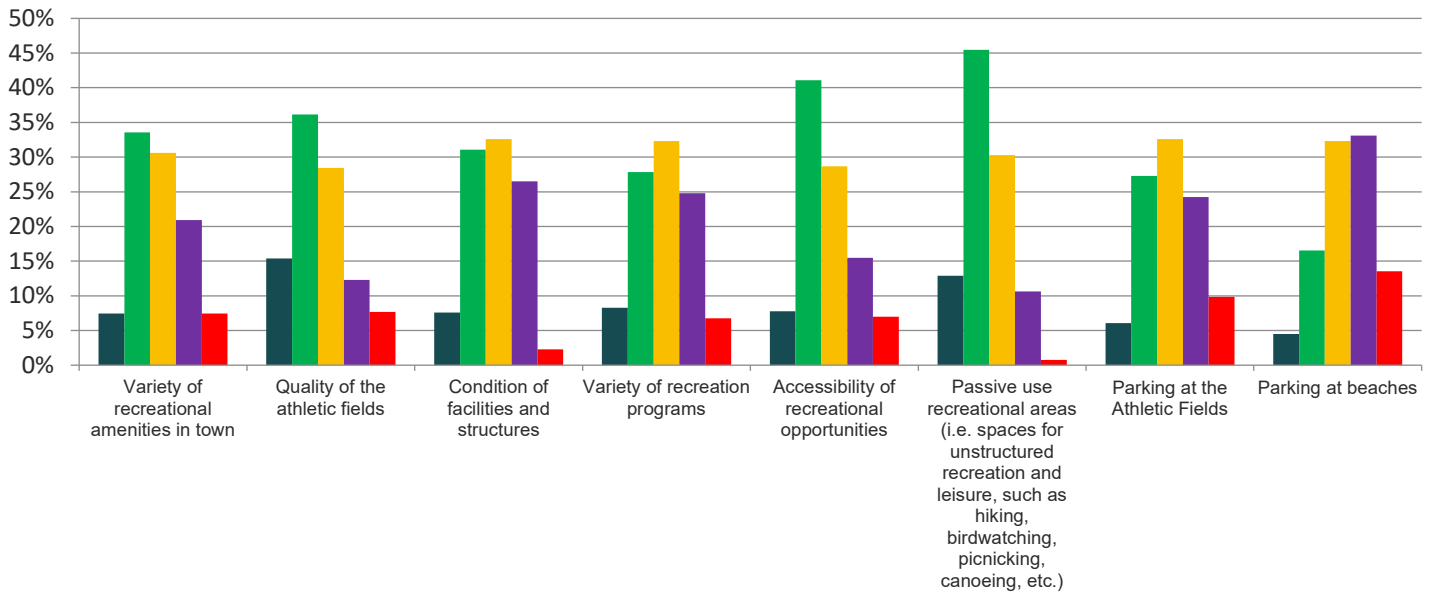


Other Locations:

- Snowmobile Trails
- Big Woods - the area in the north portion of town
- Big woods

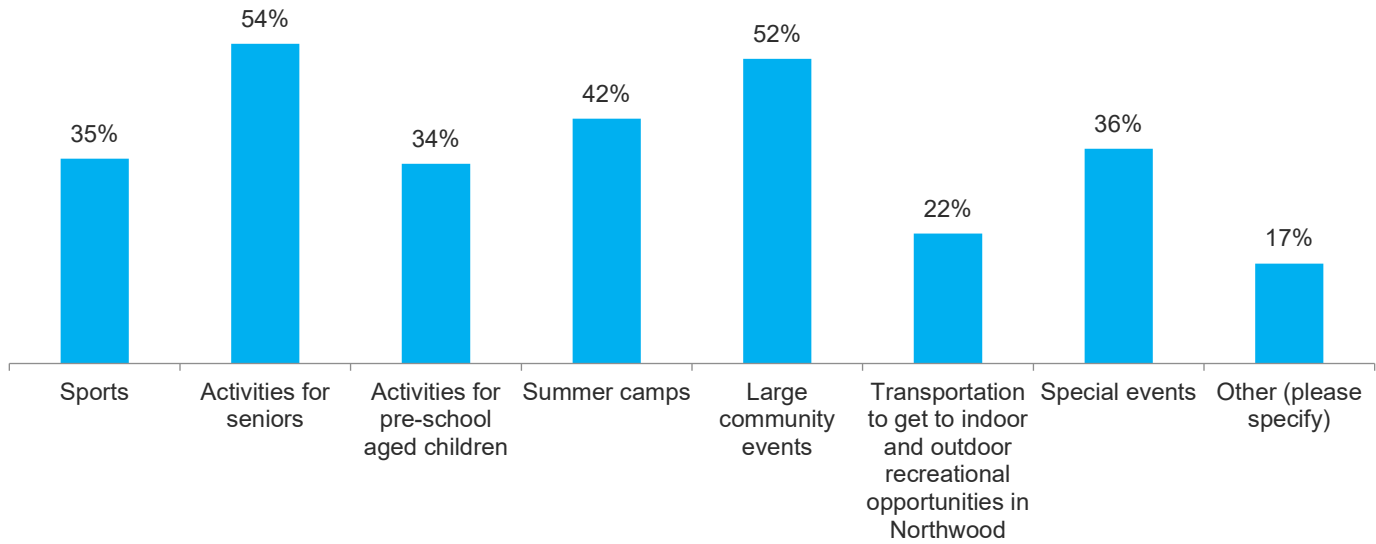
How satisfied are you with the following in Northwood:

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very Unsatisfied



	% that Agree or Strongly Agree
Variety of recreational amenities in town	41%
Quality of the athletic fields	52%
Condition of facilities and structures	39%
Variety of recreation programs	36%
Accessibility of recreational opportunities	49%
Passive use recreational areas (i.e. spaces for unstructured recreation and leisure, such as hiking, birdwatching, picnicking, canoeing, etc.)	58%
Parking at the Athletic Fields	33%
Parking at beaches	21%

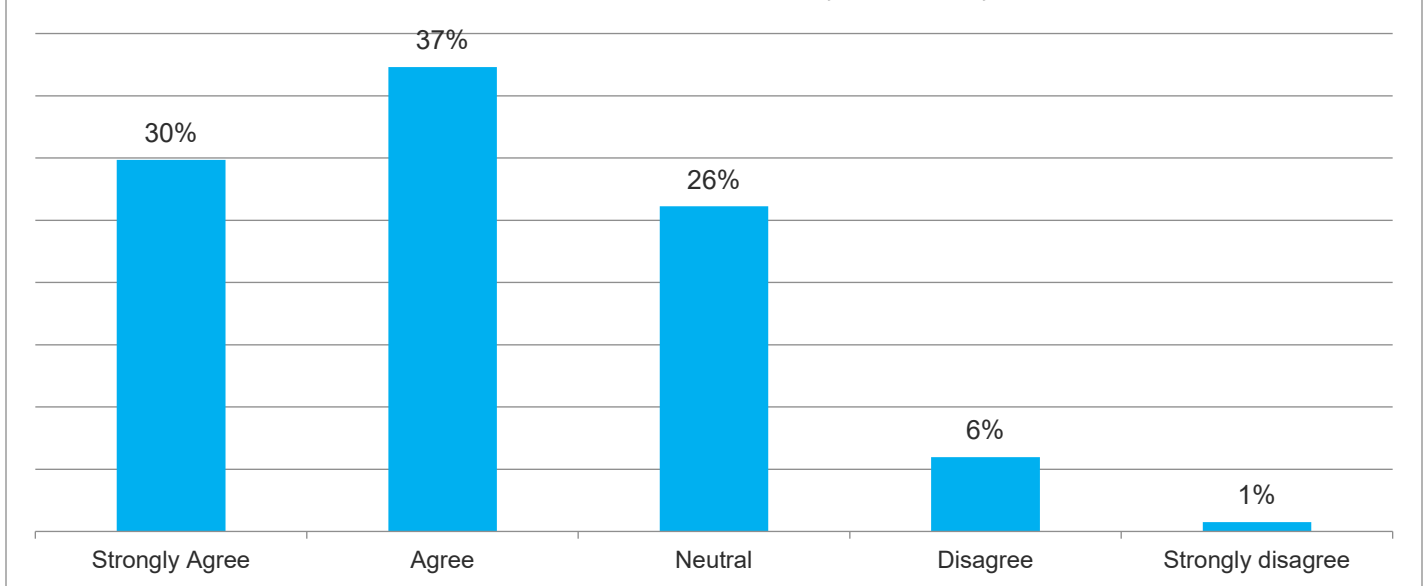
**What types of additional programming would you like to see in Northwood?
Select all that apply.**



Other comments:

- Trips to various places
- I have valued the events that bring us together - eg - trunk-or-treat, bean hole bash.
- swimming lessons
- Improved concert capability/parking at Pavillion, can big concert seating work? Seems like the side road is where "moshpit" would be.
- trail maintenance help
- Adult sports leagues
- More community events to promote better community spirit
- I would love to see more events that pull a variety of age groups together to build a bigger sense of community.
- Senior citizen activities
- concerts
- Senior playgrounds. Rec commission is oblivious to the concept and needs.
- Love the Bean Hole Bash
- Northwood needs to have a recreation director that actually works to develop programs that are accessible to all ages. Currently, all that seems to be offered is sports related or large events with an occasional offering of fort building etc.
- None
- Transportation for ski programs
- Community Gardens
- Adult group fitness
- Pavilion needs to be moved to where an audience can sit in front of it. Still, it would need connection to electricity. Currently, the audience sits in the middle of a roadway around the upper rec. field. Awkward!! Also, it should be raised like a gazebo so more folks can see the players/performers. We need a big town room/hall for community events. Currently private halls must be rented and two of those are no longer available (The Lake Shore Farm Barn and the Masonic Hall). Another idea is that the town schedules an outdoor summer music series like so many other towns do. Nice community builder for everybody that isn't centered on kids' athletics.
- Adult activities, gardening clubs, hiking groups, herbalist/nature/conversation walks

Trail systems, recreational areas, schools, and other destinations should be better connected and more accessible by foot or bicycle.



Please use this space to tell us about additional recreational opportunities and amenities you would like in Northwood.

Top responses related to seniors, maintenance, communication, and a community/rec center.

- It would be nice to have a real Community Center. Thank you, a caring senior.
- Clear out drains & ditches
- Fix the dam at the Meadows. I know the State has budgeted around a \$1,000,000 to start it but more is gonna be needed for completion
- ATV trails
- Safe passage (trail or sidewalk) from Northwood school to the Athletic fields.
- Keep the town small and rural. We have more than enough recreational opportunities and amenities but folks are not aware of them. There should be a spot on town website dedicated to it with maps of locations
- I put \$1 in each category of Question 9, but could not get the survey to accept that. I gave up, and didn't enter any response!
- Regarding Northwood Town Beach...if we are going to keep this open, better oversight of the beach space and water area in regard to boating into the beach space. We watch from afar and this seems like a big safety concern.
- Please get some professional help regarding rec facilities for seniors. It seems like the rec commission has never talked to anyone that has planned or developed senior facilities. All I hear is talk about yet another basket ball court when there are many unused ones in town. Doesn't seem like the best use of our scarce resources - the land on the upper field.
- We need a central location for a recreation center with plenty of parking and scheduled events.
- "Outdoor basketball court (at least 2), pickleball court (at least 2).
- Would like to see the decommissioning and removal of dated and unused things in town.
- The athletic fields needs serious tree and brush removal. The wooded area with the picnic tables at the lower fields is frankly a little creepy and uninviting.
- I'd also like Northwood to hire quality vendors when building structures and facilities. Don't go for the cheapest. These things should last decades. The concrete at the pavilion doesn't have the correct expansion joints and cracked. The water pump shed looks a little shabby (no offense) and there was a live and unprotected Romex wire running along the ground for months leading to that water pump shed. I haven't checked in a few months to see if it properly enclosed, but I'm surprised that passed inspection and was left like that for months.
- I believe this is a great survey and people want more... but I don't understand how we can achieve this financially. The labor rates are way too low. This will mean a tax rate increase which I support, but good luck getting the rest of the town on board. I don't like how the job postings for seasonal beach attendees limit age to high school or college. Are people older than 22 years old not qualified?
- I also do not support using taxpayer money to fund a private snowmobile club. If the public was able to use the land that this club cleans up year round, then I would be in favor. However it is private and sections of the trail are off limits to non-club members. I would like Northwood to make sure there isn't other spend like this happening."

- A town map of hiking trails, family outdoor activities and places to bring animals on leash
- There is a lack of community spirit with no central area to meet other residents and enjoy community bonding. Not enough events and poor communication for existing events.
- Activities, crafts and activities for our older populations.
- more emphasis on preserving cleanliness of our roads; an anti-litter campaign. Special invitations to school events for those without children in the school system
- Way too much focus on youth sports. Rec com does not look at overall community and what we need. I heard that there are plans to build yet another basket ball court. Hello. We already have too many and they are hardly used. Look at what senior communities have. Horseshoe. Bocce ball. Senior playground equipment for stretching, balance, etc. Nothing like this is even being discussed.
- Take a look at other towns and all of the recreational activities that they do for their citizens. All of our money is going to just a few kids who happen to like sports.
- Continued development of Northwood Athletic Fields including walking trails that are suitable for older people and perhaps link to existing trails, community garden, programming for seniors and younger children.
- Basically, my opinion, adding more will not help, it seems to be the lack of communicating an activity and get support from the Town, seem to be very clickish and if someone in the "in" group the activity/sport or anything introduced doesn't take off, or town folk do not hear about it until too late.
- Pickleball, basketball, ski program, summer camp, babysitting class
- Please look at the senior communities in states like Florida, where they have facilities geared towards seniors: bocci courts, horse shoe pits, flexibility playgrounds and other equipment suited to seniors. We have nothing like that. And it appears the Rec commission is still focused on youth sports. That needs to change.
- Weekly senior activities
- I've said it all already.
- The town needs to acquire more property and needs to construct an all purpose recreation building and needs to complete the recreation field complex upgrades. The current status of the school and recreational fields in this town is embarrassing!
- Town Park, as above.
- An indoor track or walking facility
- More awareness of current offerings and how to engage.
- "Same as above:
- Please offer swimming lessons at one of the town beaches or make a deal with a neighboring town to use their swim classes even for a fee from non-residents. Like Deerfield?? Maybe northwood kids could come for a small fee once or twice a week?
- Also, Please make an option for a more competitive sports team (soccer, basketball, baseball) for ages 8+. We have 3 young boys who are enthusiastic about sports. And the rec sports are nice but they aren't very competitive even though there are a lot of very talented kids that could benefit from a more competitive team. Maybe a few towns could get together and form some more competitive teams. "
- Keep our rural small town, small. We all moved here for a rural life, not a city life.
- Improvement to the quality of the rec fields. The fields are often uneven and at times unsafe for the players. The upper field is very patchy, with rocks and ruts.
- Sidewalks, please!
- Scott and Jessie are doing a great job bringing events for all ages.
- Rec dept is a gem! please support them more!
- trails open for ATVs



Community Facilities Chapter Input

Survey Open: January 3, 2024 - February 16, 2024

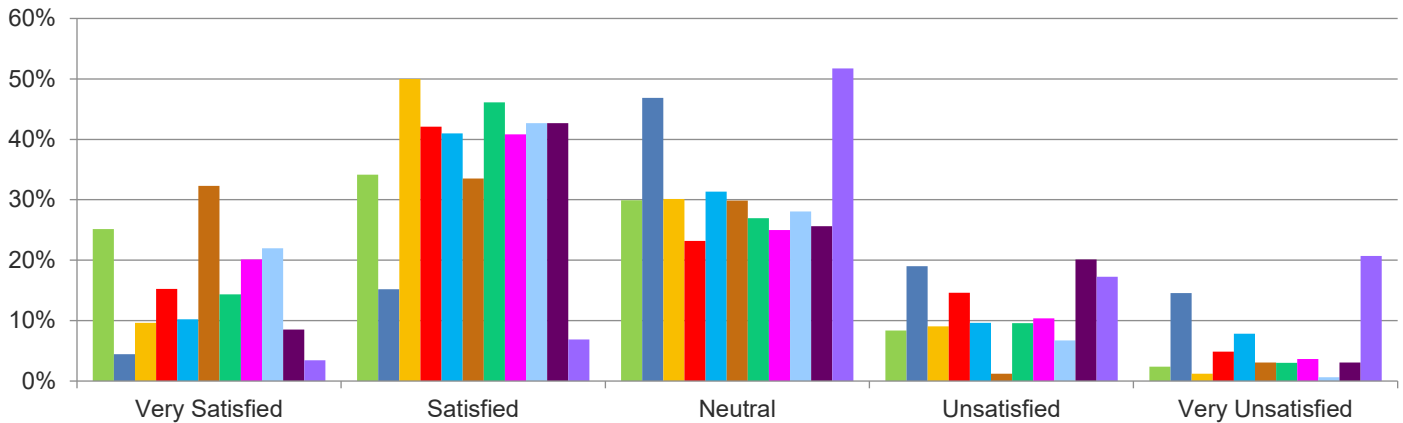
Total Survey Responses: 169

Average Completion Rate: 82%

Questions specific to Community Facilities: Questions 1-6

Completion Rate of Community Facilities Questions: 88%

At the present time, how satisfied are you with these town services?

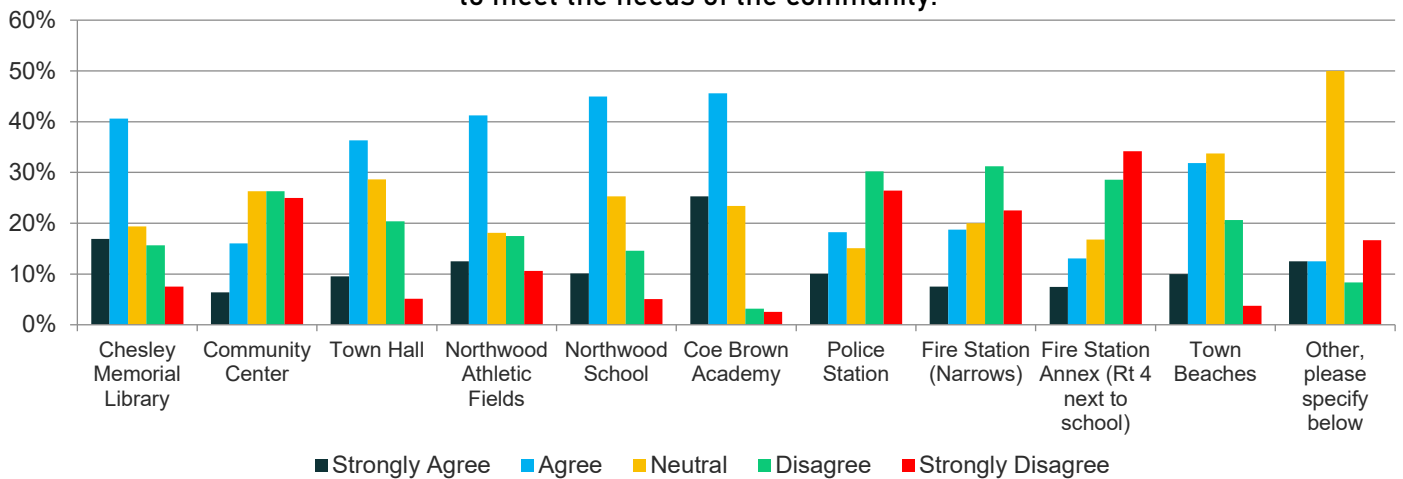


	% that Agree or Strongly Agree
Chesley Memorial Library	59%
Community Center	20%
Town Hall	60%
Northwood Athletic Fields	57%
Northwood School	51%
Coe Brown Academy	66%
Police Department	60%
Fire Department	61%
Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)	65%
Town Beaches	51%
Other, please specify below	10%

Other Comments:

- Town Beaches - no sand on Mary Waldren
- Community Facilities
- No rec facilities for seniors at the rec fields
- Much more space, meeting rooms, etc., is needed for community events and recreation for all ages.
- Winter Rec - take advantage of northwood natural resources and establish a maintained winter skating area on one of our lakes
- I do not use town facilities all that much.
- Transfer station
- Transfer Station
- BOS, DPW
- No big town park for strolling, sitting, visiting, reading, playing board games, having a parade (vs. good kids' athletic fields that we are developing). Also, no big Community Center room.
- The town needs to acquire more property and needs to construct an all purpose recreation building and needs to complete the upgrades to the recreational field complex!
- Transfer Station
- plowing services are below average
- The condition of the fire house.
- The Northwood Athletic Fields need maintenance to improve grass.
- You need to fix the dam on Harvey Lake

During the next 10 years, these town facilities (buildings and spaces) will be sufficient to meet the needs of the community.

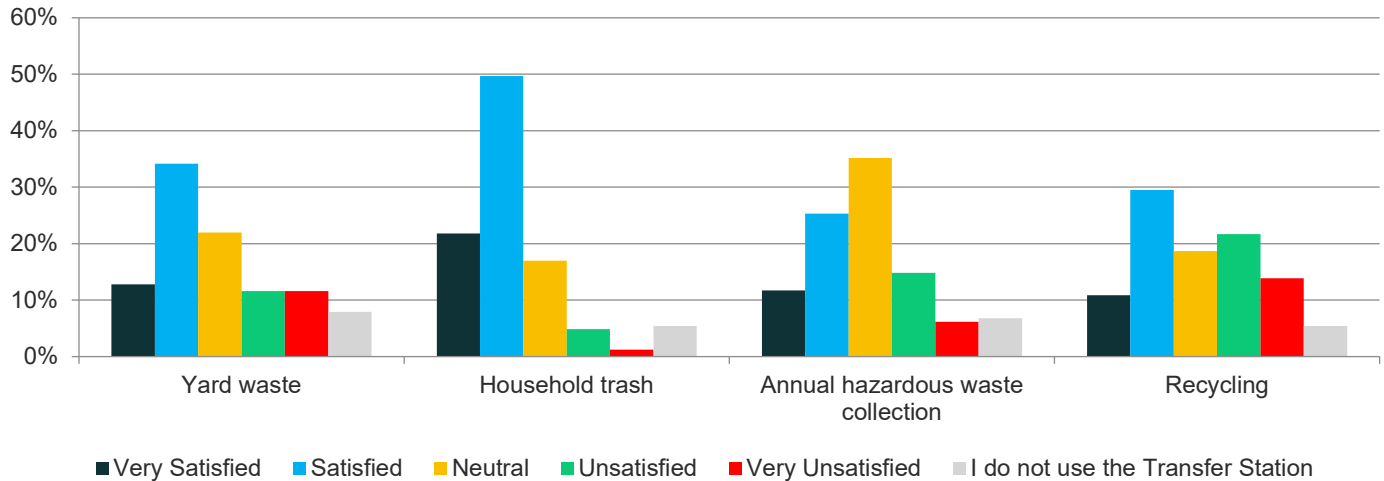


Other Comments:

- We need a public safety complex.
- The athletic fields needs more parking.
- Mary Waldron Beach is disgusting! Grass has all grown through the sand and there isn't enough sand!
- We need more/better meeting space. Such space is available at the Northwood Congregational Church. Kitchen facilities, AD compliant, 2 bathrooms. I hope that they Town rents it - at least on a trial basis - to assess its practicality and value to the town organizations and the Rec Committee.
- It was a travesty that no care was taken of Center School.
- Need dedicated space for community gardens.
- Would love to see our town look at a new town complex to support our towns police, fire and

- EMTs from a safety perspective and work towards more longevity of staff. Seems like we need to hire often. Additionally it would be nice to incorporate community facilities and/or town services in the same building. same
- Transfer station
- A rec. dept. gym is needed!
- Town Dump will be inadequate to handle all the trash coming in, particularly the ability to hold dirty/toxic gray water in that little dirty pond.
- The town needs to upgrade the rec field complex and construct an all purpose recreation building.
- Transfer Station
- You need to repair the dam on Harvey Lake

How satisfied are you with the Transfer Station?



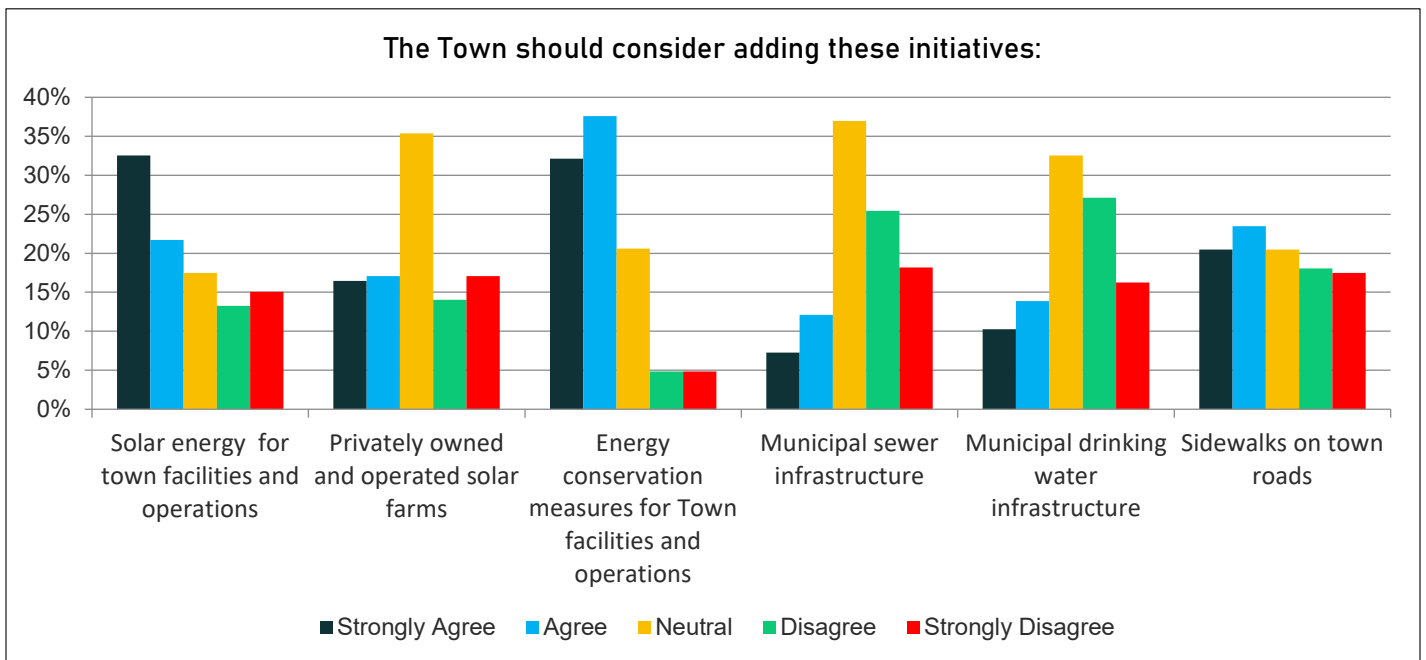
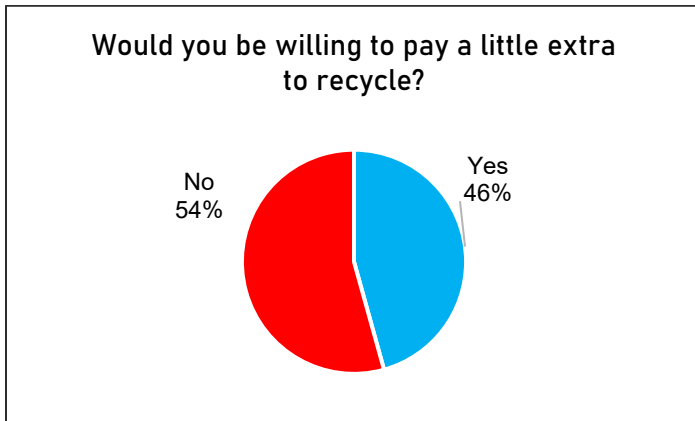
Other Comments:

- The Swapshop is great. Get back to glass recycle.
 - No recycle of glass? No recycle of batteries?
 - Staff is very helpful. More specific signage for various areas.
 - I have stated before that there should be hazardous waste program. One day a year 30 miles away that takes several hours due to huge demand is not sufficient
 - Swap shop should be open during all hours
 - I want to recycle glass again!
 - Wished they actually recycled glass
 - The transfer station needs attention. The workers need a better building to be in. The dump needs better container collecting more often.
 - Wish the burn pit was back
 - Glass is one of, if not the most, recyclable product. Throwing glass in my trash now is ridiculous.
 - Do we do annual hazardous waste? I usually go to Rochester - or is that what you mean?
 - Opportunities for yard waste to burn. Recycling opportunities such as glass should be available! Payment for construction/household demo waste is inconsistent and I often feel "ripped off" or at the whim of the attendant.
 - The compost pile has been willfully unplowed and blocked by trucks, unacceptable. Need glass recycling back.
 - Need to publicize more the annual hazardous waste dates and information. Need to recycle glass. Need to be able to bring food scraps to create compost.
 - They need to enforce the windshield permits, bring back the brush and wood pile pit (and have each load inspected so another car axle / EPA incident doesn't happen again) and video surveillance to deter people from breaking the law. Also, you earn revenue from recycling so it is confusing to ask why we would pay extra especially when we can't recycle glass.
 - Really would like to see yard waste area back and recycling refocused to reduce things going to a landfill. Love the swap shop to allow residents to repurpose and reuse unwanted items. landfill
 - We should be recycling anything that is recyclable regardless of cost.
 - Why not set up a regional location for glass recycling or anything else not affordable as a small community.
 - Do not waste our money trying to recycle stuff that does not make a profit.
 - We need to stop asking to recycle stuff that is not going to make us money
 - Bring back the burn pits or have another way of disposing of brush
 - We need a burn pit.
 - Folks do not appear to realize that we have considerable recycling revenue. Folks should not ask to recycle things that will lose money or do not have long term markets.
 - New attendants don't help people
 - Plastic recycling needed.
 - No glass recycling program? Maine has one that appears to pay for itself. Are we incapable of doing what Maine has done? What the heck?? And the dirty water pond, as mentioned above.
 - The transfer station should be cleaned and upgraded
 - Not recycling glass is an issue
 - I'd like to see more recycling options and composting.
- Other comments (continued):
- The staff at transfer station are great and very helpful
 - We should have the ability to recycle glass
 - I always glance around for stickers on cars and more often than not people don't have town stickers. The attendants don't enforce the stickers

- The town desperately needs to work with the NRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association). The fact that we have such dismal recycling procedures despite the wide availability of information related to proper recycling (which could actually lead to the town making a PROFIT!) is disappointing. Look at Lee or Durham as examples of very nearby towns with stellar recycling programs that are actually improving their communities.
- need to recycle more

- Dump stickers should be made available at transfer station
- Needs to include glass recycling.
- I miss the glass recycling
- Northwood really needs to step up and improve recycling options. Other towns do it, we should as well.
- They need recycling
- need the burn pits back

**Note: Comments about specific individuals were removed from the survey results by the consultants.*



What additional facilities and spaces will the town need as it grows?

- larger community center with more different activities available
- Safety Center PD & FD
- Community Center
- Senior housing that is affordable
- Community Center. Affordable senior housing.
- Community Center

- New safety facility for police & fire. Affordable senior housing. Community center/senior center.
- When the town votes for selectmen who actually care about the town of Northwood
- Curbside waste collection.
- Recreation department facilities
- Recreation Center
- A middle turning lane more often along rt4 for less rear end collisions
- A large community center for kids to attend camps/ activities and events. Businesses that keep people here vs. going to concord/ Rochester/ Portsmouth etc.
- The town could really use an update to the current emergency services infrastructure. Both the police station and the annex fire house are in dire need of modernization. The town should consider building one complex that could house the fire, police, and public works like many other towns are doing.
- A Rec building for sports!
- Fix the ball fields at the Northwood school, adding additional softball fields and baseball fields would make it possible for tournaments to be held in our town. Coe Brown needs a proper performance theatre - go look at Sanborn regional High School. Coe Brown needs a football field and a team to play on it.
- The town should keep itself from unnecessary growth and keep the town the size it is. Put more property in conservation and keep big industry out.
- Public tennis and pickelball courts
- Nothing. Keep the town small and rural. Those who want city services need to move to the city
- More recreation
- Should propose a new plan for a public facilities building that includes a room or area for community use as well.
- H2O infrastructure is too expensive and unneeded beyond the H2O District. There is no foot traffic in town to require sidewalks.
- A real safety facility. A full fledged Community Garden, and a Food Pantry Garden at the Center School site. A second Community Center handicapped accessible and open and kitchen. We used to rely hugely on Lake Shore Farm and still need that.
- New Police and fire department buildings
- Public transportation especially to provide rides for senior citizens.
- "Move the fire station from Northwood school to the old dollar store by hanaford. Tear down the fire station, clear up the woods and bring the grade up behind the school and do an expansion for Northwood school and put a fence up to block view of the graveyard. I could go on about this.
- Install a fenced in paved basketball court (maybe 2 full courts) and pickleball court (maybe 2-3 full courts) in the athletic fields. Continue to clear out invasive and

unnecessary brush and trees to expand parking capacity and keep people from driving on the baseball / soccer field.

- There needs to be a sidewalk at minimum from hanaford to coe brown and a turning lane for the whole length. Max speed 40. Bow lake road also needs widened, a sidewalk from Mary Waldron all the way to route 4, and painted lines (people drift all of the time). These projects would also allow you to trench and run a new water line along route 4 for future municipal water facility.
- "I think there are many active community members in town... While I'd love to see ""sidewalks"" in high traffic areas I think they are unrealistic and would cause winter maintenance nightmare. Perhaps as we repair-repave roads making an effort to widen them slightly for safer recreation (walking, running, bike riding, horseback riding etc)... IE parts of Bow Lake Rd are very narrow for parking around athletic fields and curvy sections headed down towards the lake are dangerous to walk/ run etc given limited sightings and speed of traffic etc.
- Increased cell tower/service in town for resident safety.
- Take a harder look at roadside trees and trimming given the fact that in the past few years we have many large dying ash trees that could effect both safety and power."
- Low income senior housing
- Replace dilapidated Police and fire buildings
- We need to replace the dilapidated Police and Fire department buildings.
- Better mapping and signage for town forests
- expand water facilities to 4/202/9 interchange
- None

What additional facilities and spaces will the town need as it grows? (continued):

- The town is growing, we need to meet facilities to meet items that have no place to go for the community. We also need to hold onto our historical facilities as well.
- Safety complex
- We have more than enough rec facilities for the youngsters. Please stop building more. Focus all the new rec infrastructure on things that reflect we are an aging community.
- Large meeting hall for elections, voting, and other town events
- "New police and fire
- New community space"
- Bike lanes
- We need a safety complex and a rec. dept. gym. These could be one building.
- "Larger Community Center with parking.
- Better police and fire facilities.
- Community Garden."

- Better Fire/Rescue and Police facilities. Large Community Center space. Town Park/Green as mentioned previously, expanded Town Library space (buy building(s) next door?)
- The town needs to acquire more property and needs to construct an all purpose recreation building and needs to complete the upgrades to the recreation field complex.
- All of our buildings are outdated, have limited/difficult access & parking. The sidewalks sound great but don't make a lot of sense unless the speed limit on Rt 4 is reduced to 30, Sidewalks to where?
- Pedestrian friendly infrastructure. Not necessarily on Rt 4, but it'd be great to be able to walk around.
- Community garden(s), secured open space/conservation area(s).
- All in one community rec/emergency services large enough and equipped enough for town family needs
- I believe the town should have some traffic lights heading up and down route 4
- Priority should be given to emergency services facilities. A centrally located combined emergency services facility for police, fire, and EMT departments would be ideal.
- The library is a sufficient space but could use more funding for the children's story time. Compared to Nottingham our library is lacking. They have a 1-2 hour story time each week with multiple activities, crafts, songs, and lessons.
- The athletic fields need water for drinking and cooling and more shade area for spectators. Temps are getting hotter. Drainage for larger rain events needs to be considered. A revenue source like a snack shack should be erected to finance. Sidewalks on main roads will help promote non driving transportation and a collab with state or private for better drainage will help with larger rain events. Better municipal wayer/sewer will help promote business opportunities at strategic locations. The beaches will be more crowded in the next decade due to heat. More shade needed. Drinking water fountains possibly. Emergency services should be modernized, consolidated and centralized. All efforts should be made for self sustainability- solar, wind, hydro thermal, etc. Northwood could be a leader and grow more independent in the meantime. Oh yeah, bring in reliable internet!
- "Keep our rural small town small. There's no need to spend money on services that people can get by moving to a city.
- Our library needs to start serving the people of Northwood instead of its employees. No library should be closed on school vacations. There's also no need for more than 1 employee on some library shifts. "
- Lower taxes and get a better elementary school or you won't have to worry about the town growing.
- Improved gather spaces both indoor and outdoor. A splash pad or other outdoor space for toddlers and school aged children. In general - more resources for young families to actually attract young families to the town. More trails on town owned protected lands (Town Forest land, etc) besides just the Meadows.
- Improvement to the athletic fields, senior center or community center, new/updated police station.
- More outdoor recreation spaces and options.
- More recreation space and programs for kids. More life skills and technical programs at the high school. Additional resources for library. Expanded sports programs
- Preservation of nature.
- A functional community center. The current center is too small, not ADA compliant, and booked to capacity by a small number of groups who use it on an ongoing basis.
- Just deal with what we have no need to invest in sewer and water systems when you can't even have a safe fire station or school
- Town wide solar infrastructure for residents

What additional facilities and spaces will the town need as it grows? (continued):

- Northwood is beautiful however, due to its inevitable growth, it has to improve the facilities. The library is beautiful, but not nearly large enough to provide proper services such as children's activities, senior citizens groups. The community center leaves much to be desired. And our police and fire services need far better accommodations.
- We need a community building that can house events, basketball for rec programs, programs etc
- additional personnel to better maintain current facilities

**Note: Comments about specific individuals were removed from the survey results by the consultants.*

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Focus Group Discussion: March 4, 2024

Participants: Conservation Commission Chair Grace Levergood, Vice Chair Wini Young, Members Mike Romano, and Tom Chase. Master Plan Subcommittee Members: Planning Board Chairman Tim Jandebour and Planning Board Member Betty Smith. Town Staff Present: Land Use Supervisor Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

Following a brief overview of the chapter content and survey responses, participants discussed the following topics:

Monitoring, stewardship, and maintenance needs at existing properties

- **Which properties does the conservation commission actively monitor?**
 - A lot have trails and are constantly looked at, explored Yeaton lot, found boundaries on most of properties.
 - Would like to have a baseline on all the properties
 - Have signs for all properties
 - Have been out on the majority of lots
 - Some don't have trails, but majority we have monitored and maintained
 - CC has a spreadsheet of properties
 - Town forest into conservation easement – working with Bear Paw- vote next week
 - More than 50%
 - Talk to SRPC about GIS data
 - Talk to GRANIT about the data
 - In general, we are doing a pretty good job. Lands that are conserved included a variety of different types, reason they are there, legacy of school lots to heat the schools
 - Want to make sure what the boundaries are – town forest school lots

- **Do you have any concerns about uses or impacts?**
 - Encroachment issue around Lucas pond school lots, as part of forest management, surveyed last year
 - #3 Carey lot, took it out of conservation, in the big woods, remote, encampment
 - ATV impacts on the school lot #34, joined operation land share so there are signs prohibiting motorized vehicles
 - On the Guptil Lamprey Pasture snowmobiles are allowed, there aren't trails
 - Collaborate with New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) – very helpful
 - Open space lots (conservation subdivision lot) aren't monitored or maintained, some ATV activity, no jurisdiction from the town, no way to stop it without an association,
 - Monitoring? would need to be donated to the land trust

- **Are there any projects that you would like to complete at any Town-owned property (trails, bridge, boardwalk, etc.)?**
 - Adirondack benches, bridges at some trails, trail maintenance in general,
 - NEMBA does a lot of work, maintenance, have insurance, they know what they are doing,
 - Materials needed
 - Heavy equipment
 - Funding for loppers, handsaws,
 - Metal detector for boundaries and wildlife cams for signs (people taking), crank pullers have a section on old mountain road, caught people talking signs down, not a lot of repercussions

- Would like a town policy that prohibits ATVs on unmaintained roads, if it's not posted they don't automatically have permission
 - Surveys for lots, have a separate lot
 - Vandalism of kiosks and signs
 - Because there isn't as much snow, we are going to start seeing more ATVs instead of snowmobiles, what are the implications in terms of maintenance, signage, etc. -Climate change, landowners who allow snowmobiles aren't going to want ATVs
- Maintenance and cleanup of existing town lands rose to the top in our survey question about what to allocate funding too. What are the barriers/needs to increased maintenance and cleanup?
 - East end of old mountain road, Chris Brown came out with his assistant, going to pave and put parking areas
 - Funding to enhance parking
 - Signs cost money
 - Trails on the Giles lot, there is an open area but parking is needed
 - **Are there any management (invasive species, mowing) needs?**
 - We did a workshop a while ago, more people wanting to know more
 - Meade field lots of invasives because it was going to be developed but wasn't
 - Encouragement to developers or condo associations to mow land
 - Athletic field has every species, knot weed, multiflora, bittersweet
 - Encouragement to prevent that
 - Not as much on the trails
 - We were going to schedule a talk about the emerald ash borer, but a year went by and all the ash were dead
 - Lake owners of Northwood Lake, lake host programs, prevention or spread of aquatic, mitigation and suppression of existing milfoil, in place for 4 years or more
 - Cyanobacteria
 -

Expanding or enhancing stewardship and recreational opportunities

- **How can connectivity between properties be enhanced?**
 - Reaching out to certain landowners, neighbors, living in the water district, just happened this fall, have connectivity with Strafford. Letting landowners know what is good about that
 - Neighbors talking to neighbors, introducing it
 - Conservation funds for transactions
 - Would like to see more happening in the big woods
 - Add language in the chapter about conservation land, easements, have an event in town, educational event
- **Education**
 - Education/engagement about septic systems
 - Education/engagement about invasive species
 - Earth day event gathering with the master plan
 - Green up day, April 20th. Recreation and Conservation joining up to do this – trash pickup – 8am-9am register, trailers at the community center, park and ride, and here – flyer at website
 - Rec director has a lot of connections, email list
- **How could we increase access for different users (ex. kids, mobility impaired, seniors, or mountain bikers, skiers, etc.)**

- **In thinking about new conservation lands, do you have established criteria for evaluating conservation lands?**
 - Combined checklists, looking at existing land, parcels over 10 acres
 - Danger of being developed
 - Contiguous to other conservation land

Does the conservation commission have a reliable funding source for conservation and stewardship?

- Conservation fund, 50% of current use land use change
- Used to be able to buy land but it's too expensive now, easements the biggest bang for the buck
- Approached selectmen about waiving the timber tax, going to do logging on town lots, 10% would go to the town general fund, going to be about \$10,000, selectmen said no,
- Have a timber management fund, have to go to selectmen to use it, has to go through a warrant article

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: TRANSFER STATION

Focus Group Discussion: March 11, 2024

Participants: Master Plan Subcommittee Members: Hal Kreider, Betty Smith, Tim Jandebour; Residents: Jim Vaillancourt

Town Staff: Building Inspector/CEO Devin Haley, Department of Public Works Foreman Chris Brown

Following a brief overview of the chapter content and survey responses, participants discussed the following topics:

- Glass
 - \$50/ton on top of tipping fee, Hollis a good example, they get compared the tipping fee vs
 - If you dispose of it in the trash, it's \$62/ton, recycling facility it's \$110
 - All based on the market
 - Hard to plan long term for recycling
 - Cost down the road about long term waste
 - If town budgets for glass, what happens if the glass market crashes? Our budgeting process doesn't have a way to deal with that. Need a way to protect us against budget.
 - Glass can be used as a substrate for roads, shipping a challenge, needs to be screened, processed, hauled each way
 - Glass was previously being used as land fill in Northwood, just being crushed, never recycled
 - Glass does wear and tear exponentially on the compacting
- Recycling is a challenge at the national level because of the way products are made.
- Need to stay ahead of the curve as far as new technologies
- Chris can track down the data and fees on the materials and costs
- Transfer Station equipment right now is not in good shape, supports rotten out, retaining wall is giving out and has already been repaired, bracing is urgent, lot of hydraulics, if the machine isn't properly supported someone is going to get hurt, whole thing needs to get redone
- Town used to have a transfer station committee but perception that the selectmen didn't listen to ideas
- Look at others, Deerfield, if we are going to spend money fixing it, we should take a look at it and come up with a long-range plan to fix it to where it's a little easier.
- Large load can block people
- Town needs to decide what it wants to do
- Need to fix roof
- Required lagoon closure
- Cease and desist on the landfill to do a landfill plan and closure
- Nothing spent on maintenance of transfer station
- Look at plastics – 1,2 are the only ones that there is hope of accepting
- In your ideal world, what does disposal look like?
 - New design, circular thing, could change the use of the dumpsters as different things change, more user-friendly, some people don't mind getting out of their car, some like assistance, need better flow, need to resurrect the transfer committee to go out and look at the design
 - The condition and the system irritate everyone
 - The little house is in terrible condition
 - Whether it's the transfer station of another project, I don't want to be patching it, would rather come up with a plan that would take 5 years

- Think about accommodating the future population
- Take a regional perspective – within 5 years, common place for a transfer station
- Burner that would go from town to town – Candia has one
- Burn pit closed down, over top of unclosed landfill, people were throwing other things in it
- Residential dumpsters around town so people don't have to deal with the transfer station
- Staff capacity, down to one, 3 attendants full time
- Swap shop is volunteer-based, so it needs more people
- Not good at explaining things, need more education
- Recycle all batteries
- Laziness more an issue but better signage could help
- Set it up one way only to help flow
- Waiting issue – 6 parking spots
- 90% of recycling is good
- Seasonal population – free for all
- Composting?
 - Not permitted for other types of composting (ex-food scraps) – haven't thought of it, space in facility, have a 2-acre mount of gravel we can't use (old landfill)
 - Container picked up from Portsmouth to concord – mr fox?
 - Margaret walker at the library did some presentations about composting at home, home composting buy bins and sell them back to the town at cost.
- At some point we are going to have to have a conversation with the selectmen, walls tipping over, next 5 years a full revamp
- Town goal for reducing waste:
 - Cost effective
 - Education
 - Meet the needs of the community waste disposal
 - Flexible to deal with technology and policy and market changes
- People don't understand that there are laws RSAs that we can or can't do
- How the selectboard didn't take the ideas into account for the transfer station – What was the problem?
 - Board of selectmen don't seem very interested in the transfer station. Ex Look at brush, it got pushed off, there are things we can do with brush.
- In the process of moving the compost pile
- Need a preliminary understanding of the permit, can't be on the landfill
- Working with GZA – 10 years to close it, need to raise money to do the plan, do the closure and get funding.
- Lagoon also an issue – talk to Neil
- Grants or funding for closure
- \$1400/month for glass
- Turnkey pilot \$55/ton, crushed and then landfilled , so many towns using the program at turnkey that they have to landfill it,
- Could put a warrant article for \$17,000 for glass recycling, but then what do we do the following year? What do we do?
- Coins for paying for disposal
- Lamprey River Coop – defunct sort of, still honor our contract, reduced price coop at turnkey, would have to pay about \$30/ton more to turnkey if not part of the coop
- EPA charged with rural waste disposal mechanisms
- Cost comparison of regional vs paying more for Northwood
- Relate back to the portion of the tax bill that the Town actually gets
- Hard to get people involved and people don't think anyone is listening to them.

- Don't have the facility to do single stream
- Making \$800-\$1200/week on cardboard and plastic now
- Appearance of the transfer station when people drive in is important
- Northwood has historically underfunded all of that stuff, now we are in a \$25,000 deficit to keep things going, needs to be repaired now.
- Ask Devin for inspection reports
- Budget committee needs to look at the amount of money we have and whether we are really being fair in how we spend it?

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: WATER RESOURCES

Focus Group Discussion: March 14, 2024
 Participants: Planning Board Members: Chair Timothy Jandebour, Vice Chair Judi Anthony, Selectman Representative Hal Kreider, Members Betty Smith, Karen Robinson, David Copeland, Don Manter, and Alternate Bob Strobel. Conservation Commission: Vice-Chair Wini Young, Mike Romano, Tom Chase; Town Staff Present: Land Use Supervisor Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

Following an overview of the survey questions and results, the following items were discussed:

Regulations

Table a. Summary of Existing Ordinances and Regulations and Recommendations from the Pleasant Lake Watershed Restoration Plan and the Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment

Regulation/Standard	Northwood's Ordinance and Regulations	Pleasant Lake Watershed Restoration Plan Recommendations	Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment Recommendations
<i>Wetland Buffers</i>	None		Adopt buffers on all waterbodies, including wetlands
<i>Building and Septic Setbacks from Wetlands</i>	20 ft; 100 ft for High Priority Wetlands	100 ft from all wetlands and water bodies	Adopt 100' setbacks for septic and primary structures for all waterbodies
<i>Conservation Subdivisions</i>	33% of lot size	50% of lot size with no more than 50% of that area being wetlands	
<i>Other Recommendations</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend stormwater management ordinances to define LID techniques, and to encourage LID use to the maximum extent possible. • Develop a Watershed Protection Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Southeast Watershed Alliance Model Stormwater Management Regulations • Adopt fertilizer application setbacks for all water bodies

- **Do board and commission members feel that water bodies are sufficiently protected? Has the board considered strengthening any regulations to better protect water resources?**
 - Problems with water bodies resulting in milfoil, cyanobacteria, etc.
 - Some changes were made this year, and this is a start, and we are moving in the right direction. All of the survey results have indicated concern for the Town's water bodies and we do need to do more to protect the water bodies.
 - There is a real need for code enforcement for proper protection of septic systems.
 - The lake areas are already built up and there is a lack of viable land.
 - Today's standards will need to be met and septic systems will be approved. There are still many existing camps; however, it likely won't get worse unless there is an influx in the

- population. As properties are sold, the Town could require inspections for the existing septic system and then require systems be replaced.
- NH Lakes has programs for watersheds and management. There is an upcoming webinar on cyanobacteria.
 - Setbacks and buffers, activity within the buffers, and the need for protection. It is important to maintain the buffers and vegetation not just around the lake.
 - Require plantings.
 - The Planning Board, in the past, suggested an amendment about wetland buffers, shoreline buffers, and not using pesticides; however, it did not pass.
 - The Board could try again with the vegetation buffers.
- **What are the educational needs for the board, applicants, and general public? Fertilizer, septic maintenance/replacement, etc.**
 - need to educate the public regarding the types of fertilizers being used and the problems caused by the fertilizers washing into the water; there are alternatives.
 - groundwater is a concern as well as surface waters.
 - Continuing issues with result in surface waters also being affected, which will affect fishing, boating, and other impacts.
 - Every business depends on the water and the water is what is unique for Northwood.
 - Land that is around the water bodies could be placed into conservation; it is the easiest way for protection.
 - There can be great rules and regulations; however, a lack of enforcement means that nothing will happen, which is why we are in this position.
 - **Other educational needs and opportunities:**
 - The Town should be utilizing the website and social media for awareness and to educate residents.
 - Residents need to be accountable, and the Town needs to enforce.
 - Budget for and send out a quarterly newsletter that could provide information about Town items, concerns, events, etc., utilized by Town departments, any board/committee/commission and this may assist in educating residents
 - Is there a list of the conserved land with access points noted or if there is no access available? Can new homeowners be required to do a water test?
 - Where is the high priorities wetlands map? Have you thought about conducting an updated prime wetlands survey?
 - Is flooding an issue in any locations in town that you are aware of?
 - The transformer by Hannaford, Old Turnpike Rd., and Gulf Rd.
 - The floodplain ordinance was updated to standards recommended by the State.
 - Have you received applicant pushback? Wavier requests for stormwater?
 - Are there may special exception requests for structures within wetlands?
 - Agricultural land – best management practices?
 - Open space design required for subdivisions on 10 acres or larger with a sum of 25% or greater in agricultural land with prime soils or soils of statewide significance

- Wellhead protection overlay district – all land within 1320 ft of active community water supplies or a parcel of land 20 acres or greater that contains a portion of an aquifer with transmissivity in excess of 1,000 sq ft per day
 - Aquifer protection was also noted, and wellhead protection overlay district. There are not a lot of areas with high transitivity; not a lot of the Town that is protected. There there is a gravel site in Town and there were impacts to the aquifer; it needs to be protected.
 - There should be more exploration in underdeveloped areas, such as the Water District where some of the best water in the State is. Exploring other sources should also be considered.
 - Northwood is at the top of three watersheds and the water comes from the aquifer; it is recharged.
 - Homes are tapping into the water; the reality is that many people don't understand that all the wells are at each other's mercy interdependent on the water source.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: RECREATION

Focus Group Discussion: April 2, 2024
Participants: Recreation Commission Members
Staff: Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director
Residents

Following an overview of the survey questions and results, the following items were discussed:

- **What places would you tell someone to visit for recreational purposes if they were new to Northwood?**
 - Outdoor recreation, swimming, ice skating, developing larger athletic field, have 2 nice little fields for soccer, lacrosse
 - Can't use Coe Brown any time
 - I can bring my grandchildren to the playground
 - Not a lot of indoor rec, not a lot for seniors
 - Small town
 - Being a small town doesn't preclude us from having nice things
 - Land and conservation grant funded the playground
 - If there is enough of a groundswell for a new building that's great
 - Access to the school when the school isn't using it
 - Community center space isn't great
 - Indoor rec center in Seabrook, did a summer camp
 - NW lake not accessible due to closures
 - Better way to monitor and fix problems we have
 - Library is beautiful but there is nowhere to sit and read
 - Working out of the community center for the last 2 years, approached the rec director, trying to build and activity location for square dancing, just added a 15th person, was holding them in the community center but the water was shut off
 - Northwood Meadows State Park
 - Town trails that connect to Northwood Meadows from athletic fields
 - New England Mountain Bike Association
 - Alternative route to school, DOT
 - Coe Brown Academy trails nice
- **What do trails, natural areas, and beaches need to make them better places for recreation for all ages?**
 - Programs would help get them there
 - NW lake pollution is a problem, tried to get sand on the parking lot took a long time
 - Parking, signage, enforcement of nonresident access to parking lot
- **What maintenance, repairs, or upgrades would you prioritize?**
 - Athletic fields, upper field needs upgrades, loam grass seed, leveling, parking on the back corner, drainage, handicap accessibility of the pavilion, pad for port-a-potty out of compliance,
 - Maintenance fund for recreation
 - Trails and connectivity to Blakes Hill, much is out of shape, policy for unmaintained sections, non-motorized except snowmobiles, upgrade or prevent further erosion,

- Invasive species – plants and insects, knotweed on the backside of the fields, managing invasives in the lakes, but trail work needs attention, emerald ash borer, need a plan for managing plants and animals
 - Boy Scouts of America
 - Memorial day parade – don't have a big parade here
 - No girl scout troops in Northwood, lack of leaders
 - More programs for kids that teach them how to be community members
 - Safety festival with police and fire
 - Need things for seniors
 - May have done national night out
 - Communication -word of mouth, no more newspaper, Rec Desk email feature, Facebook 1500, email distribution feature
 - Northwood's website is not user friendly, no online community calendar – was a staffing issue
 - No place to naturally congregate, most people see each other at the grocery store
 - Vision for the athletic complex is for it to be a town center – spans generations, all uses and purposes
- **Who else can play a role in enhancing recreational opportunities in the community? What are the opportunities for partnership and collaboration (ie Library and Rec, Conservation Commission and Rec, etc) and who else needs to be involved?**
 - Contact scout leaders if there is a parade
 - Place for volunteer opportunities?
 - Connections Peer Support
 - Volunteer opportunities and communications
 - Rotary Club, Lions club, Friends of Northwood Meadows, Friends of Northwood Recreation, Friends of the Library
 - Lot of good grass roots organizations, but siloed, need a central communications calendar but that has been a barrier. Communications not necessarily municipal
- **We can anticipate more heatwaves and warmer temperatures as well as changes in precipitation. How does this impact long term planning for recreation (i.e. how we design, build, and maintain recreational spaces, types of opportunities in winter and summer, health and safety)?**
 - Things we are seeing now- impacts on water bodies in town
 - Included education in the warrant article changes
 - Having an indoor facility
 - Water and electricity for heat waves
 - Maintaining lakes
- **Other comments:**
 - Where can people work out? There is one small gym
 - Anytime fitness is a private gym
 - Planet fitness at the lee traffic center
 - Have talked about trying to get a fitness trail developed

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Focus Group Discussion: April 10, 2024

Participants: Master Plan Subcommittee Members: Hal Kreider, Betty Smith, Tim Jandebaur

Planning Board: Bob Strobel

Residents: Jim Vaillancourt, Mike Smith

Town Staff: Land Use Supervisor Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Department of Public Works Foreman Chris Brown

After a review of survey responses, the following topics were discussed:

- **What are the near- and long-term needs for the Town Offices?**
 - Sometimes people talk about wanting to vote here still – no way that could happen due to space and parking
 - Voting has taken place at the school, has occurred mostly at the church since for several years, there are complaints about closing school, parking
 - Can't have daycare at the church and public going in and out
 - School was able to help but they have to close the school
 - Formerly (in maine) voting and school happened at the same time.
 - People don't like voting at school
 - School doesn't want anything other than school activities there
 - Town office meeting space needs work – a corner is partitioned off
 - 3 in one room, used to be 5, building office has 3 or 4,
 - Downstairs room that used to be a food panty, town clerk uses for her storage
 - Wall and counter work well
 - Parking outside, have to park so that you are in the grass, need to add fill and a retaining wall, safety thing with snow. Handicap access is a problem. Can park there but then crossing all the incoming traffic
 - Have heard that people like the sign board
- **Do you have any suggestions or ideas about services offered at the Town Hall?**
 - Think that a lot of the services are going to be regionalized
 - Direct everyone to the website – but website isn't that accessible
 - Different floor levels, people confused about that
 - One-time visitors could use signage
 - Renovate town hall so that the services people need are upstairs and other things are downstairs
 - Everything online, taxes, car registration
 - Over the years, a lot of people have said that the planning process is too complex for a mom and pop business – have had to tell people that they need to hire a consultant – in economic development – put it in zoning or provide the help – considering change of use, checklists, etc
 - Has come a long way over the last 40 years with respect to economic and commercial development, likely going to see more active development.
- How about spaces available? Enough meeting space? Condition of space? Concerns?

- The Town Hall and other facilities need a number of repairs and upgrades. What should the Town do to stay on top of repairs in the future? What information do you as residents need and want when the Town is asking the community to support the costs associated with repairs?
 - Building inspector looked at all the buildings in the town. Town has kicked the can on maintenance for the last 20 years, urgent needs are about \$350K, put an additional \$30k to the budget and some staff time, with the default budget, none of that is included, just going to have to kick the can down the road again. About \$150k worth of stuff that if you don't do it you it's going to be way worse (ex. not painting and then needing new siding)
 - Town didn't want to pay
 - Most likely the structures on site are going to have to be demoed – shoe shed, etc. which was brought from Nottingham
- **Community Center**
 - 20% of survey respondents indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the community center services now. Some respondents didn't know there was a community center.
 - 22% indicated that they strongly agree or agree that the Community Center building will be sufficient to meet the needs of the community during the next 10 years.
 - Why is it important for Northwood to have a community center?
 - Most people will say its hard to schedule – booked by demo, rotary
 - Demand for a space 20-30 people
 - Library doesn't have much different space
 - Library doesn't have any big space
 - Library doesn't have any meeting rooms
 - Different categories of people, some need to store materials, some leave no footprint
 - What uses should a community center host?
- **Transfer Station**
 - Recycling is a concern. Many survey respondents expressed concern about the lack of glass recycling, but less than ½ of survey respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay more to recycle. Some were not aware that although the Town previously accepted glass, it wasn't recycling it, just crushing it. Part of the challenge is budgeting for fluctuating markets that determine the prices. As small portion (6%) of the Town's budget goes to solid waste (about \$45 for a property assessed at \$400k or \$0.81 per every \$1,000 of assessed value).
 - **Should the Town consider a pay as you throw program? About 40 municipalities (17% of communities) have a pay as you throw program. Residents pay for bags. Many examples of how this system reduces tonnage of waste and disposal costs.**
 - People didn't want to pay taxes and a bag
 - Stickers are a pain, not happy with getting bags
 - Wouldn't fly today
- **Other Comments:**
 - In the future , you aren't going to be able to recycle a computer, a car, etc, so the need for recycling is going to change
 - Lagoon closure, mapping where the landfill is, where we can and can't do stuff
 - What is the landfill going to look like in 10 years? Water samples come out clear and perfect
 - Out of room at the Transfer Station , originally designed for 2,500 people
 - Regionalizing
 - Transfer Station generates revenues that can be used for certain things, operating still comes out of the town's budget
 - BCEP private trash pick up at Rt 107

- Economically viable to have specialized processing facility
- Disconnect between what you are paying for and what you are getting
- Economic development – nowhere to buy things
- Still a lot of people