

# Community Survey Results

## Canterbury Master Plan Update

In preparation of this Master Plan Update, the Canterbury Planning Board released a Community Survey to gather input from residents and landowners to understand Canterbury's current needs and desired future. In total, 208 responses were gathered and helped shape the recommendations included in the Master Plan.

### Vision

As part of the Community Survey, participants were able to indicate what they want the perception of Canterbury to be. The following are quotes received in response to this question:

*"Need to balance services to lower the tax burden."*

*"A rural residential and farming community."*

*"Maintain the rural character of Canterbury. Promote land conservation/open space and a vital Town Center."*

*"Quiet, family, friendly, volunteering focused."*

*"Small, rural, quiet. Need more affordable housing and renting opportunities."*

*"Reduce the tax burden on its residents while maintaining the core of the town. I'd like to see more community collaboration and investment made by residents. Allow development in existing buildings in the town center."*

*"Keep it rural yet accessible to all."*

*"Strong sense of community. Commitment to conservation and addressing climate change. More affordable housing for work force and elderly."*

*"A cross section of social economic diversity. Tradespeople, professionals, artist, agricultural. White and blue collar. Diverse age groups from young to old. "*

*"Rural with strong school system, library and community eco life such as farmer's market and small farms."*

*"Welcoming, supportive, community oriented, neighbors helping neighbors, natural beauty."*

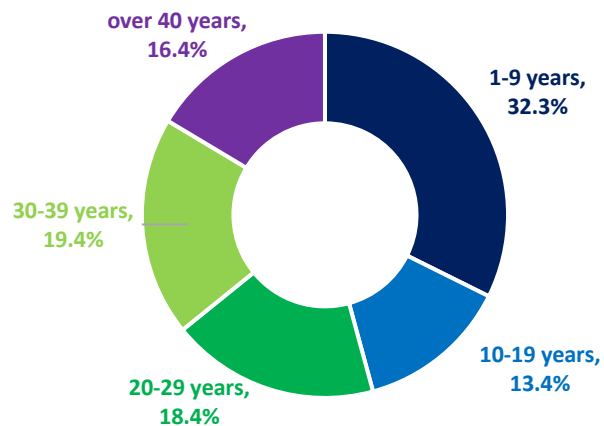
*"Low population density with lots of open space."*

*"Preserving our natural resources for coming generations."*

## Population and Economics

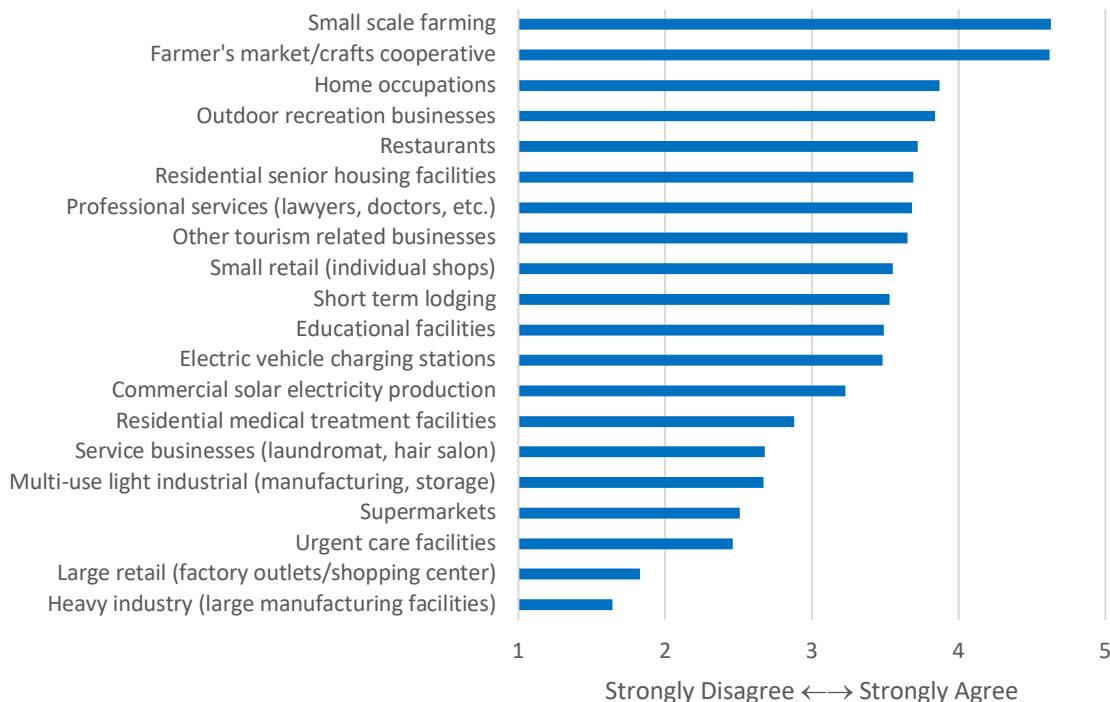
While reviewing the feedback gathered in the Community Survey, it was clear that residents highly value the quality of life Canterbury provides, and the sense of place and tight-knit community that residents create. This is further demonstrated by the high number of long term residents. As shown in data gathered through the Survey, the majority of respondents have lived in Canterbury for many years, with nearly 68% of respondents indicating that they have lived in Town for over 10 years.

How many years have you lived in Canterbury?



When reviewing potential commercial development, residents were most supportive of small scale farming, farmer's markets and craft cooperatives, home occupations, and outdoor recreation businesses. Many other commercial enterprises were also rated highly, as shown in the graphic. There was also concern expressed for the current tax rate, especially its impact on seniors and young families. Many were open to commercial development that could contribute to balancing the tax rate, though only in appropriate areas of Canterbury, such as near I-93 where such development would not impact the Town's historical buildings and rural character.

Should Canterbury encourage more of the following types of commercial and industrial development?

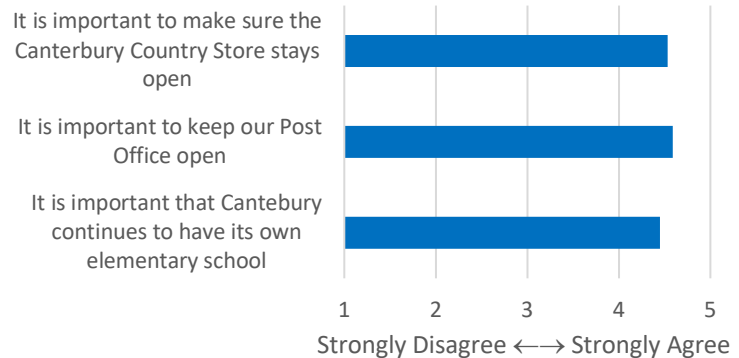


## History and Culture

Input gathered in the Community Survey consistently voiced a desire to preserve the rural character in Canterbury and the importance of historic character and cultural heritage to the overall quality of life. Responses to the Community Survey clearly demonstrated resident's appreciation for Canterbury Center, with 77.9% in support of the Historic District continuing in this area and all proposed development reviewed by the Historic District Commission. Additionally, 58.4% are supportive of the Town considering other ways to protect the historic and aesthetic values of Canterbury Center, such as architectural design review for new construction and external renovation.

Significant to Canterbury's identity and critical to resident's quality of life is the Canterbury Country Store, Post Office, and Elementary School. Respondents clearly indicated their desire for these services to remain for the years to come.

### With regard to Canterbury Center:

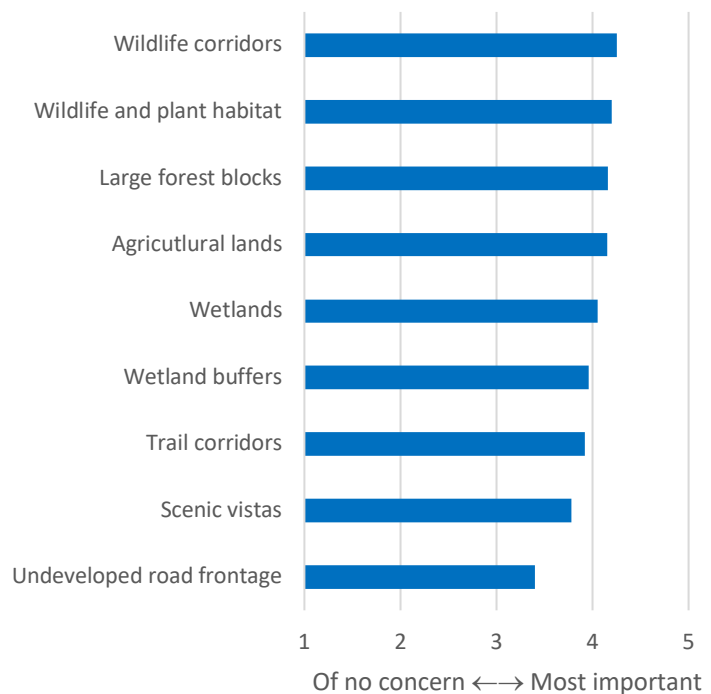


## Natural Resources

Throughout the survey, strong appreciation of Canterbury's vast inventory of natural resources was given, specifically for the rural character and high quality of life they provide. Similar to previous Master Plans, overwhelming desire and support was given for preservation of the Town's natural resources, including open space, scenic vistas, agricultural fields, forested areas, undeveloped lands, and the recreational opportunities they provide. Favorite locations frequently mentioned in the Survey were Morrill Pond, Kimball Pond, Shaker Village, Merrimack River, and the town beach.

Wildlife corridors were the highest rated priority for conservation of open space, followed by wildlife plant habitat, large forest blocks, and agricultural lands. This feedback provided will help establish a clear and consistent direction for the Town's future preservation of its natural resources.

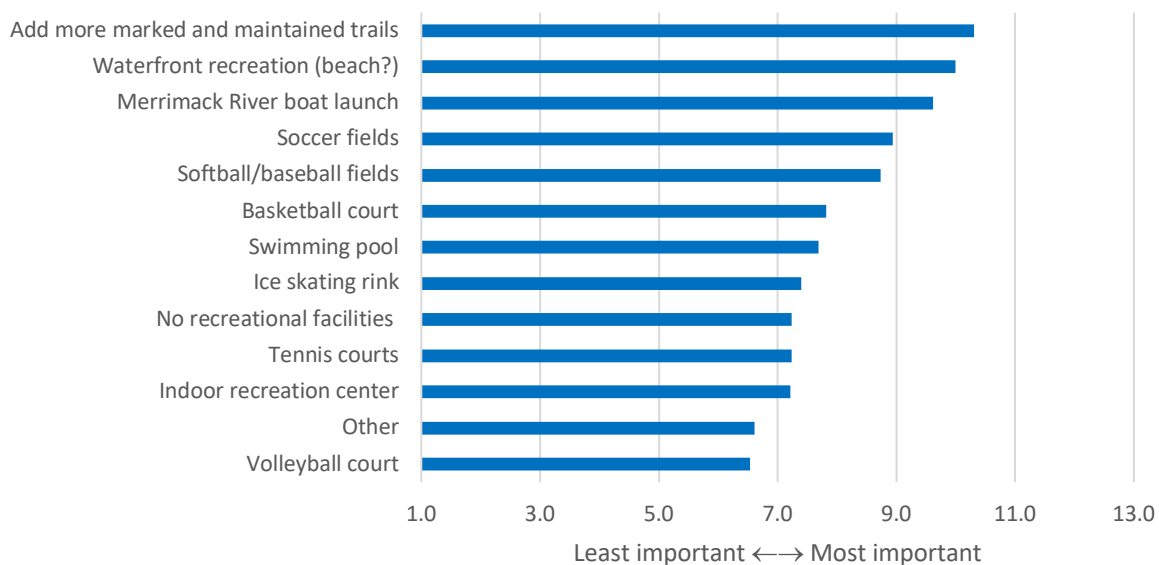
### What are your priorities for conservation of open space?



## Recreation

Another common theme throughout the Survey was the strong appreciation for the array of natural recreation opportunities in Canterbury. When asked about their favorite natural area respondents most commonly cited Shaker Village and its trails, Morrill Pond, and the Merrimack River. Following the trend of resident's favorite locations, hiking trails and waterfront leisure were found to be the most desirable forms of outdoor recreation. This was further indicated through respondent's rankings of facilities which the town should provide. Results favored the addition of more marked and maintained trails, followed by both waterfront recreation such as a beach and a Merrimack River boat launch.

### Should the town provide recreational facilities?

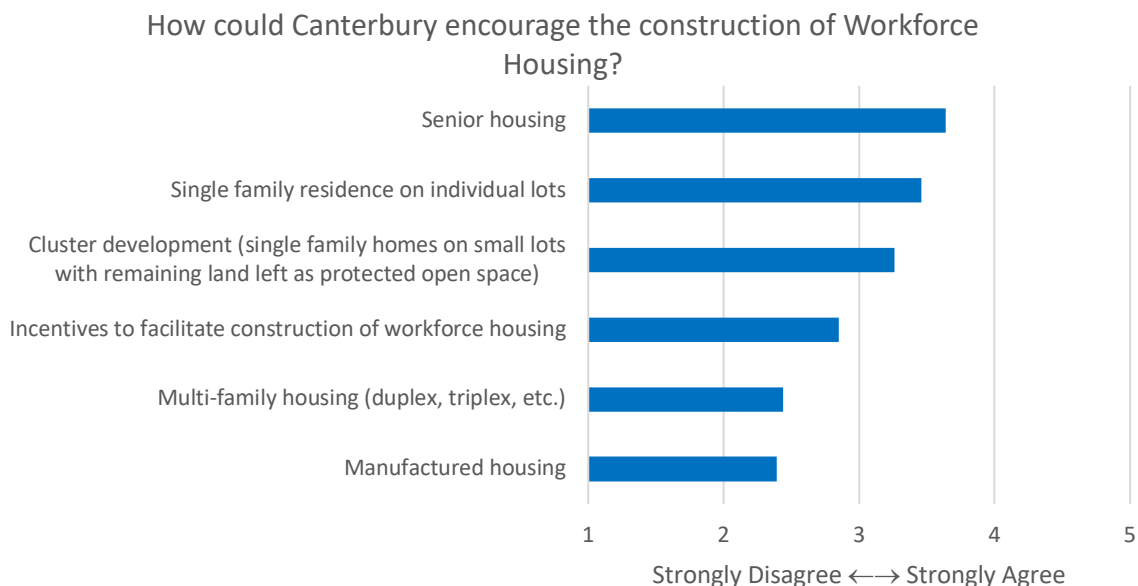


The overwhelming desire for a rail trail or multi-use trails network was suggested to serve a multigenerational purpose. Its addition would not only serve current residents, but also benefit aging seniors choosing to stay in Canterbury as well as attract new residents to Town.

## Housing

Input received through the Community Survey indicated resident's appreciation of the Town's rural character and small town feel, which includes a desire for housing that balances the needs of residents while preserving and protecting Canterbury's current landscape. Overall, there was strong support for workforce and affordable housing that will continue to keep Canterbury accessible for all ages and incomes, including downsizing seniors wishing to remain in Canterbury as well as attracting young families and those in the workforce. The Survey also indicated that 45.2% were in favor of providing more workforce housing through the adoption of specific zoning regulations.

This trend also prevailed in responses related to types of workforce housing that would be preferred. Respondents were most supportive of senior housing, single family residences on individual lots, and cluster developments that include protected open space.



### Existing and Future Land Use

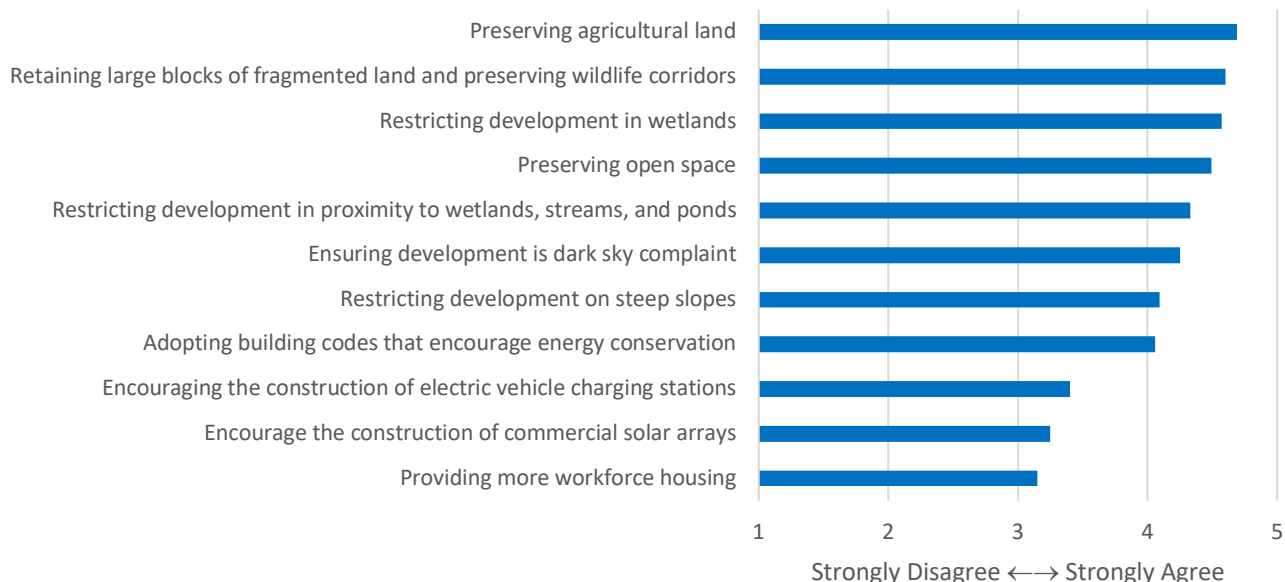
Community input highlighted residents appreciation of the Town's rural landscape and small-town atmosphere, including a vast selection of natural resources, recreational opportunities, and historical character of Canterbury center.

Concern was expressed about the current tax rate and its potential of forcing residents out of the community. With that, there is strong support for additional commercial development in areas of Town that doesn't compromise Canterbury's rural character, including the area around Exit 17 and 18 of I-93 and in the Commercial Zone along Route 106. Additional support was given for stand-alone retail development and offices in the commercial zone.

Land Use Initiatives Supported by Canterbury Residents and Land Owners	Percentage
Stand-alone retail in the commercial zone	64.1%
Stand-alone offices in the commercial zone	78.3%
Development in Commercial Zone at I-93 Exit 17	75.0%
Development in Commercial/Industrial Zone at I-93 Exit 18	65.7%
Development in Commercial Zone on Route 106	70.9%

Support for preserving Canterbury’s rural character was further demonstrated through resident’s support of certain zoning regulations, as shown in the graphic below. This includes preserving agricultural land, retaining large blocks of fragmented land and preserving wildlife corridors, restricting developing in wetlands, and preserving open space.

Should the Town consider adoption of zoning regulations specifically directed at:



Additionally, 60.4% of respondents noted that they can hear noise from the New Hampshire Motor Speedway on their property.

### Transportation

As part of the Community Survey, one of the main focuses was to learn about resident’s concerns related to road segments and intersections. Roadways and intersections commonly mentioned included Morrill Road at Kimball Pond Road, Baptist Road at Shaker Road, and portions of Hackleboro Road. While not every intersection or road segments was listed here, they are still important areas of concern that should be addressed in the years to come. In addition to these intersections and road segments, concern was expressed for speeding in Town and the wear and tear caused by high speeds, especially on roadways that are not paved.

There were also a few suggestions to add crosswalks in the vicinity of Canterbury Elementary School to increase the safety of students.

### Community Facilities including Public Utilities and Technology

As prevalent in the Community Survey, Canterbury’s array of natural recreational opportunities is directly connected to resident’s high quality of life. There was an overwhelming desire for a rail trail or multi-use trails network, with supported trail activities including hiking, cross country skiing/snowshoeing, and mountain biking.

Concern for the tax rate was also expressed throughout the Survey. While the overall tax rate is discussed in more detail elsewhere in this plan, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their priorities in regards to investments in community services. Shown in the graphic below, road maintenance was the highest priority, followed by fire protection and recycling. Of least concern was expanding the town office and library hours.

Keeping in mind that the Town has limited financial resources, where do you believe it is most important to invest our tax dollars over the next 10 years?



The Community Survey also indicated that the majority of respondents currently have adequate broadband internet service for their needs, with 76.1% of responses. The Survey also indicated that approximately 55.5% of respondents had adequate cell phone coverage. While it is clear that preserving Canterbury's rural landscape was of top priority, it is also understood that the availability of broadband internet and cell coverage is critical for the survival of home-based businesses or new businesses looking to relocate to Canterbury. There is also concern that lack of adequate coverage would discourage new residents from moving to Canterbury as the level of service doesn't fit their needs.

