

Town of Bridgewater
Master Plan Review Survey – Winter/Spring 2005
Results

Land Use: Should we attempt to maintain the rural quality of the town, preserve forest, pastoral open spaces, surface and sub-surface water by:

Strongly agree -----Disagree

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
Encouraging creation of trusts to hold open space						1.44
Promote good farm and forestry practices						1.29
Preserve quality of lakes, rivers, wetlands, and streams						1.04
Maintain the attractive rural quality of the town						1.23
Establish design guidelines for commercial and light industrial development that reflect this modern New England community						1.55
Promote a system of refuse management for commercial, light industrial and residential settings						1.65
Provide architectural or landscape screens, systems of cul-de-sacs and service roads						1.97

Recreation: Acquire, develop and improve recreation facilities for the public.

Strongly agree -----Disagree

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
Recognizing that additional tax expense may be involved, should we continue to encourage acquisition and development of land for recreation purposes?						2.51

Transportation: Provide a safe and efficient transportation system that ensures preservation of cultural, historic, scenic and environmental resources.

Very satisfied-----Not satisfied

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
Are you satisfied with the current transportation network in the town						1.8

Environment:

Very satisfied-----Not satisfied

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
How satisfied are you with the level of protection afforded to Bridgewater's environment and natural features:						1.92
Also, rate your satisfaction with the protection of the following:						
Prime wetlands						1.87
Rare and endangered species						1.87
Flood plains						1.91
Water quality of lakes, wetlands, floodplains, streambanks, woodlands, aquifers.						1.83
How satisfied are you with the coordination of utility line placements in the town?						2.31

Communications:

Very satisfied-----Not satisfied

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
How satisfied are you with the level of communication from the following:						
Selectmen						1.57
Planning Board						1.96
Public Safety						1.88
Zoning Board						2.12
Town Clerk						1.77
Tax Collector						1.86
Highway Department						1.75

Commercial, Retail and Office Facilities:

Very satisfied-----Not satisfied

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
How satisfied are you with the growth of small businesses that are essential to service the basic needs of the Bridgewater citizens						2.05

Do you wish to broaden the Town tax base by encouraging development of small retail shops, restaurants and professional offices?

Yes 58% No 42%

Preservation of the Historic Environment:

Very satisfied-----Not satisfied

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	Average Response
How satisfied are you with how we are preserving the Town's historic sites and structures?						1.83

What is the best thing about living and/or owning property in Bridgewater? (see attached spreadsheet of responses)

What do you think is the one most important change that needs to happen to improve Bridgewater?
(see attached spreadsheet of responses)

What is your age:

Under 25 yrs 0% 25-40 yrs 3% 41-55 yrs 36% 56-65 yrs 25% Over 65 yrs 36%

Respondents were generally distributed within the 41-65 yr range

What is your resident status:

Year Round Resident 53% Seasonal Resident 32% Non-Resident Property Owner 16%

How long have you been a resident or non-resident property owner?

Less than 1 yr 1% 1-5 yrs 13% 6-10 yrs 12% 11-20 yrs 25% More than 20 yrs 48%

Best Things about Bridgewater

Rural aspect/Beauty/Lake/Quality of life	78
Dedicated Selectmen/Good Town Management	16
Slow Growth	9
Friendly people	7
low taxes	10
Water quality	2
Safe Roads	1
Girl next door that I married	1
No Crime	1

Thing that need Improvement

Conservation slow development	19	
Enforce Ordiances	10	
Clean Up Indust areas/Rt3A and River Road	13	
Town Beach	9	How about sharing beach with Hebron?
Have own post office	2	
Clean up town beach river	1	
Town Clerk open at night once a month	1	
Conserve land around Dick Brown Pond	1	
Create a town center/green	1	
Dictactor mentality of selectmen	2	
Enforce noise ordiance	1	
Want tax payers to have more a voice in town meetings	2	
More involvement of year round residents in decisions	1	
Fix culverts and water drainage	1	
More hours for incinerators, tax collector, clerk	1	
Night classes for needy children	1	
Create bike/walking paths better recreation	4	
Have more access for seasonal like pay fees online	2	
Control Jet skis	2	
More light industry/tourist attractions	1	
Do away with planning and zoning boards	1	
High property taxes	3	
Move clerks office to lake side some of the time	1	
Improve rec facilities	2	
Selectmen more considerate of town workers	1	
Increase speed limit of 3A except around school area	1	
More police presence	1	
Complete paving of Dick Brown Road	2	was given a reason but not satisfied
Better notice of meetings, Sat meetings?	2	
Control grade of private driveways	1	
Pave Shore Drive North	1	
Selectmen make spending decisions without approval	2	
Promote growth on Rt 3A but maintain arch. standards	1	
Allow non resident trash in incinerator but charge them	1	
better schools	1	
Cable access for the whole town	1	
better aces for 4 wheeler and dirtbikes	1	
make sure no cell towers	1	

Encourage development of small shops	1
Get rid of property tax, fairer way to pay for services	3
stop working so hard to keep young people out	1
laundry mat and car wash	1