

PLAN → YARMOUTH



Summer Public Engagement Results & Analysis November 2023

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Overview

The Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan team connected with the community during summer 2023 in two main ways: through a survey and through pop-up events at various locations in Yarmouth. Understanding that engagement during the summer months can be difficult, we chose to offer a survey as well as go to where the Yarmouth community may be during the summer.

Summer Survey

The Comprehensive Plan team administered the topic-based survey to gauge community responses to questions based on data highlights from the inventory chapters, as well as reaction to the vision statement drafted in 2022.

The survey was open from June to September 2023, available online and in paper format, and received 123 responses. The survey asked 17 questions on the following topics: vision statement, housing, economy, recreation & open space, transportation, and demographics, along with general open-ended questions about the future of Yarmouth.

The survey was advertised on the Town's website, and through the Town's newsletter and social media channels. In addition, paper copies of the survey were made available at all of the summer pop-up events, at Town Hall, and at the Library.

Community Values and Draft Vision Statement

Before beginning the comprehensive plan update, in 2022 the Town of Yarmouth completed a visioning and engagement initiative called *Imagine Yarmouth* with the support of consulting firm Berry Dunn. The purpose of the initiative was to identify common values and priorities for the future through community input in a fair and representative engagement process. To guide the development of a vision for the Town, a robust public engagement effort was conducted to obtain input from as many Town residents and stakeholders as possible. The feedback gathered as part of the *Imagine Yarmouth* initiative, such as community values, priorities, and goals, informed the creation of a vision statement.

The following values were expressed by residents and stakeholders throughout the visioning process. While not all participants agreed on how the Town should move forward, there was consensus on the community values that are fundamental to the Town's identity:

*We value the **natural environment**, including the numerous parks, open space preserves, rivers, and Casco Bay, and prioritize preserving and protecting these areas for enjoyment by all and as critical ecosystems.*

*We value a **connected community** where residents have strong social bonds through a shared commitment to civic engagement, and where community members can safely and easily access services, amenities, recreation, jobs, and social opportunities within the Town.*

*We value the **history and culture** of the people and land that is now the Town of Yarmouth and the physical environment that embodies that history, from the natural land and water features to the built environment.*

*We value a **welcoming and inclusive environment** where neighbors help one another and a strong sense of community brings all people together, regardless of background.*

The draft vision statement was developed based upon the themes and values that were expressed by community members throughout the visioning process:

The Town of Yarmouth is a small coastal community with a vibrant and picturesque village center. Yarmouth's identity is deeply rooted in the Town's history, beauty, and commitment to community. The walkability of the Town's historic Main Street, abundant open space areas, and active community groups all contribute to community members' sense of connectedness to the Town.

The Town is dedicated to protecting and preserving what makes Yarmouth a great place to live. At the same time, residents recognize the significant local, regional, and global challenges that the Town faces, and are committed to addressing these issues with careful consideration for the Town's history and culture and with creativity to leverage opportunities to enhance the Town's defining characteristics – beauty, history, inclusivity, abundant open spaces and recreation opportunities, and commitment to volunteerism – to build an even stronger community.

To meet the needs of residents and community members, the Town will plan and make decisions through a lens of equity, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility to ensure that the community's values and critical assets are sustained for future generations.

This statement is intended to be a clear but broad aspiration for the future of Yarmouth and is meant to guide the development of the Town's next Comprehensive Plan, but to also be adaptable as the planning process moves forward and additional research, discussions, and engagement exposes new aspects and nuances of the Town's future goals.

Analysis

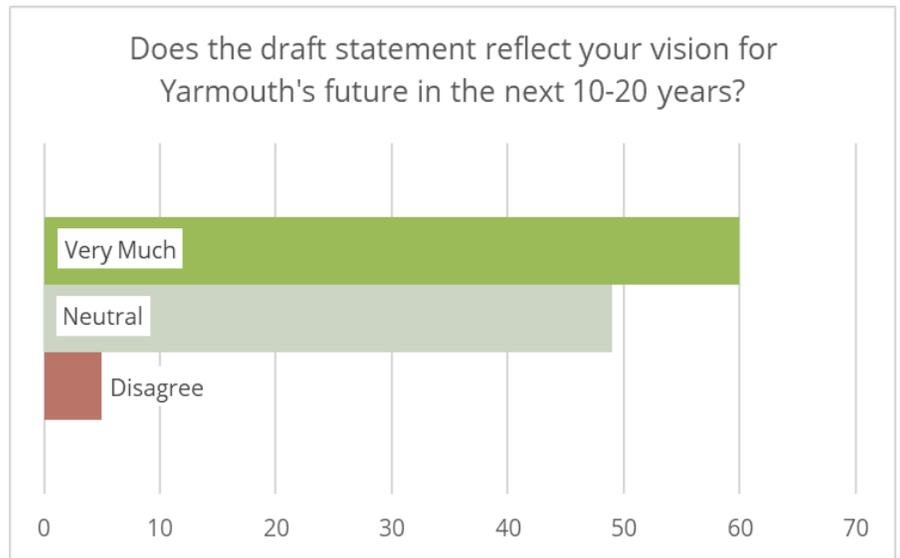
This analysis was completed by the Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan Team to understand what respondents' thoughts were on the draft vision statement and community values, as well as comprehensive plan topics housing, economy, recreation, and transportation. A qualitative analysis of the open-ended questions about the future of Yarmouth is also included.

Draft Vision Statement

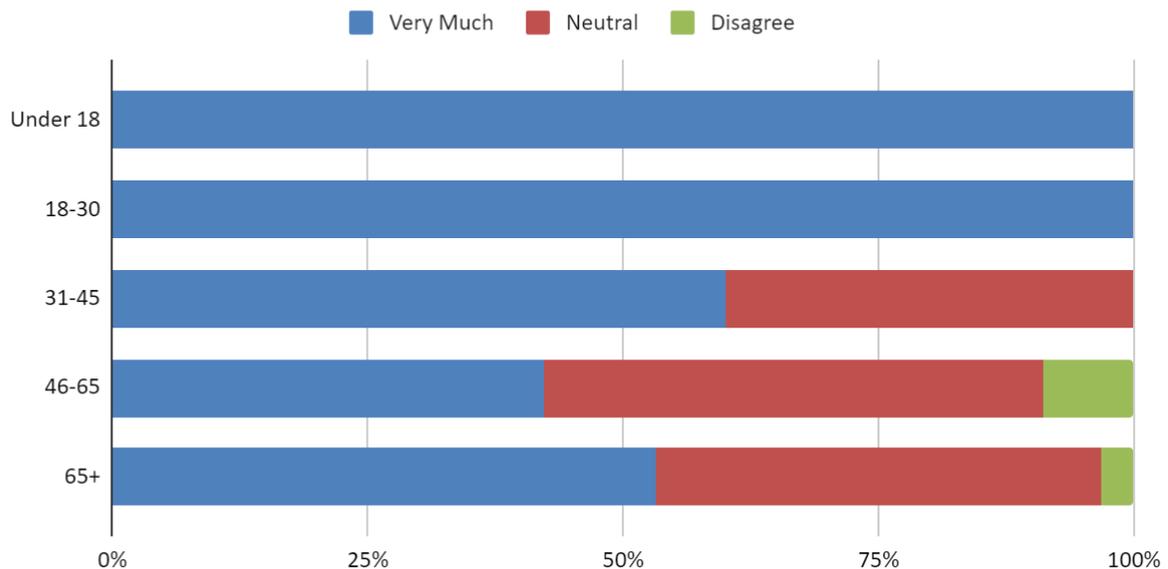
Most respondents agreed the draft vision statement “very much” reflected their vision of Yarmouth’s future for the next 10–20 years, or were neutral.

The survey asked for the respondent’s age, so the Comprehensive Plan team is able to review more closely how the draft vision statement reflects the values

of different age groups. 114 respondents out of the 123 respondents completed both these questions.



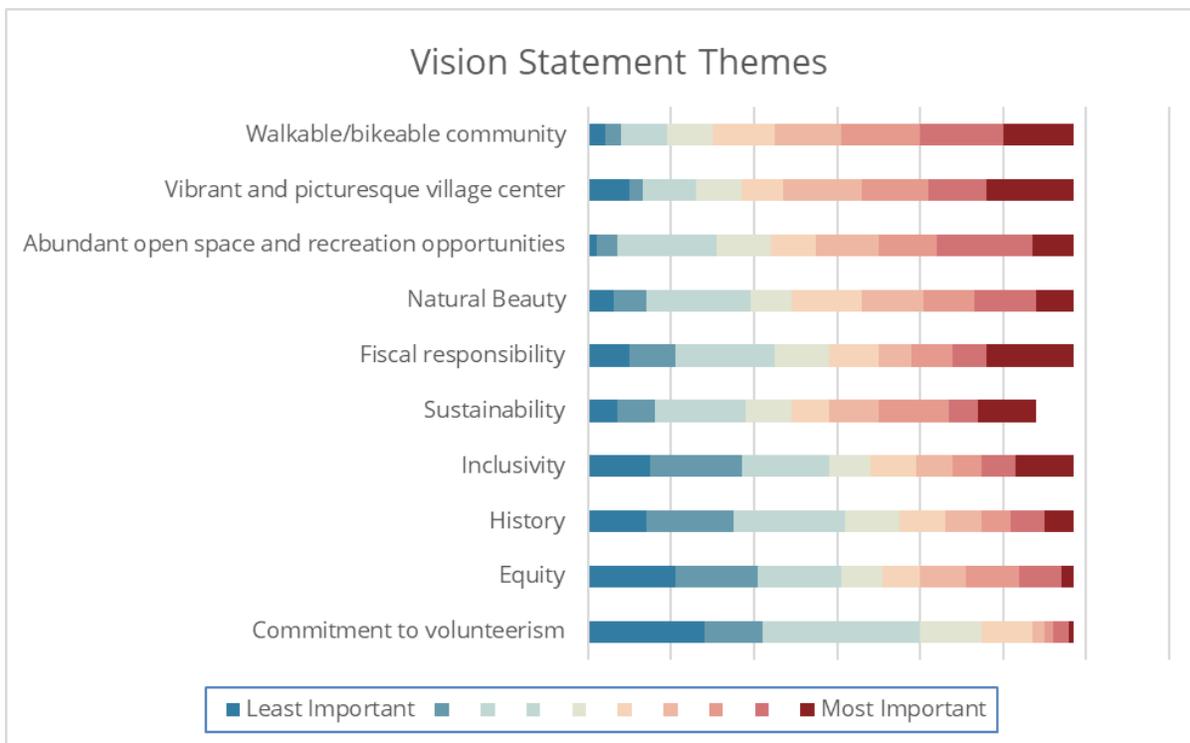
How well does the draft statement reflect your vision for Yarmouth by Age?



As can be seen in the chart above, no one under the age of 30 disagreed or had a neutral opinion of the draft vision statement. No one under the age of 45 disagreed with the draft vision statement. In the age demographic of 46 to 65 years old, the

data was nearly split between those who agreed with the draft vision statement and those who had a neutral view of the draft vision statement. Similarly, in the 65 years and older demographic, the responses were nearly split between those who agree or had a neutral position on the draft vision statement.

Respondents to the survey were asked to rank the themes in the draft vision statement in order of importance. A walkable and bikeable community, vibrant and picturesque village center, and abundant open space and natural resources were the most highly ranked themes.



The high priority themes were also broken out by age cohort:

Highest Ranked Themes by Age Cohort

Ranking	Under 18	Ages 18-30	Ages 31-45	Ages 46-65	Ages 65+
#1	Sustainability	Sustainability	Walkable/ Bikeable Community	Walkable/ Bikeable Community	Vibrant and picturesque village center
#2	Equity	Walkable/ Bikeable Community	Abundant open space and recreational opportunities	Fiscal Responsibilit y	Inclusivity
#3	Walkable/ Bikeable Community	Abundant open space and recreational opportunities	Vibrant and picturesque village center	Vibrant and picturesque village center	Fiscal Responsibilit y
#4	Inclusivity	Inclusivity	Natural Beauty	Abundant open space and recreational opportunities	Equity
#5	Commitment to Volunteerism	Equity	Sustainability	Natural Beauty	Sustainability

When comparing the highly ranked themes across the different age cohorts, there are some themes that appear across the age spectrum including sustainability and a walkable and bikeable community. Those respondents under the age of 30 indicated that sustainability, equity, a walkable and bikeable community, and inclusivity are highly ranked themes. Those respondents in the older age groups noted fiscal responsibility, abundant open space and recreational opportunity, and a vibrant and picturesque village center as highly ranked themes.

Overall, the highly ranked themes are generally consistent with the community values identified as part of the *Imagine Yarmouth* initiative. They focus on the health and resilience of the community (sustainability, walkable and bikeable community, and fiscal responsibility), a welcoming and diverse community (commitment to volunteerism, equity, and inclusivity), the natural environment (abundant open space and recreational opportunities and natural beauty), and history and culture (vibrant and picturesque village center).

The survey provided space for respondents to let the Comprehensive Plan team know what was missing in the draft vision statement. There were a significant number of comments about balancing priorities over the next several years, such the two comments below:

"Everything on the list above is relevant. There is something needed about balancing population growth with changing demographics of the area along with the desire to have a minimalist ecological footprint. Maintaining affordability for all age groups, exploring ways the community can grow and manage the pressures of growth. I hope the Town will continue to be a leader in education, seeking alternatives to cars and exploring ways to be inclusive to new residents while welcoming long-time families. Let this be a community where new ways of living can be tried."

"I believe that the statement should acknowledge the intense period of growth that the town has experienced in the past ten years and the importance of assessing the feasibility of maintaining this vision in the face of rapid building and population growth."

Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting our natural resources was also a focus of the open-ended responses:

"I think Yarmouth should be leading the environmental responsibility charge (among other communities) in Maine, as the broader impacts of climate change are becoming impossible to ignore/deny."

Many comments also focused on the need to support the whole community. The comment below highlights the struggle to select one theme that addresses all of these concerns, such as affordability, diversity, safety and accessibility, supporting Yarmouth's small business community, and the working waterfront.

"Not sure how to phrase it, but Yarmouth needs to be a place where people of all ages and income levels can live and enjoy all the town has to offer. Perhaps inclusivity covers that, but increasingly Yarmouth has become a wealthy suburb of Portland, and it is difficult for young and old residents to be able to afford to continue to live here."

Finally, the open-ended comments highlighted the fact that many of words used in the community values and draft vision statement can mean different things to different people, and the updated Comprehensive Plan should highlight simple calls to action needed to spur implementation:

"Yarmouth's vision is about concrete qualities of the Town, not trendy buzzwords that mean different things to different people."

Housing

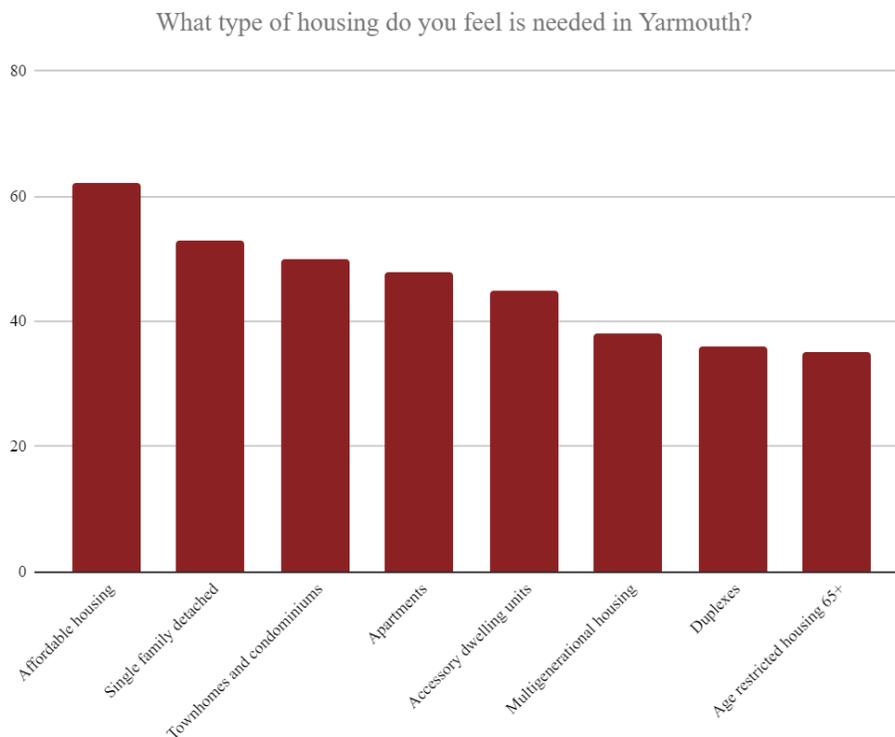
The survey asked two questions about housing in Yarmouth: what type of housing is needed in Yarmouth, and where should new housing be located in Yarmouth. In both questions, respondents were given a number of responses and could select as many responses as desired. For both questions, "other" was an allowed response with space for additional thoughts.

The question "what type of housing is needed in Yarmouth" gave respondents the option of selecting any of the following responses: single-family detached, duplexes, townhomes and condominiums, apartments, accessory dwelling units, multigenerational housing, affordable housing, and age restricted housing for those

aged 65 and older. Of the 123 responses received, 109 respondents completed this question.

Survey respondents believe that a wide range of housing types are needed in Yarmouth, as shown in the chart below. No responses were received in the “other” category, suggesting that the list provided respondents with all housing types that might be considered in Yarmouth.

“Affordable housing restricted to people earning below median income” was the most frequently selected type of housing needed in Yarmouth. The open-ended responses provided throughout the survey suggest that both deed-restricted housing as well as housing that is affordable to a spectrum of households is needed in the community.



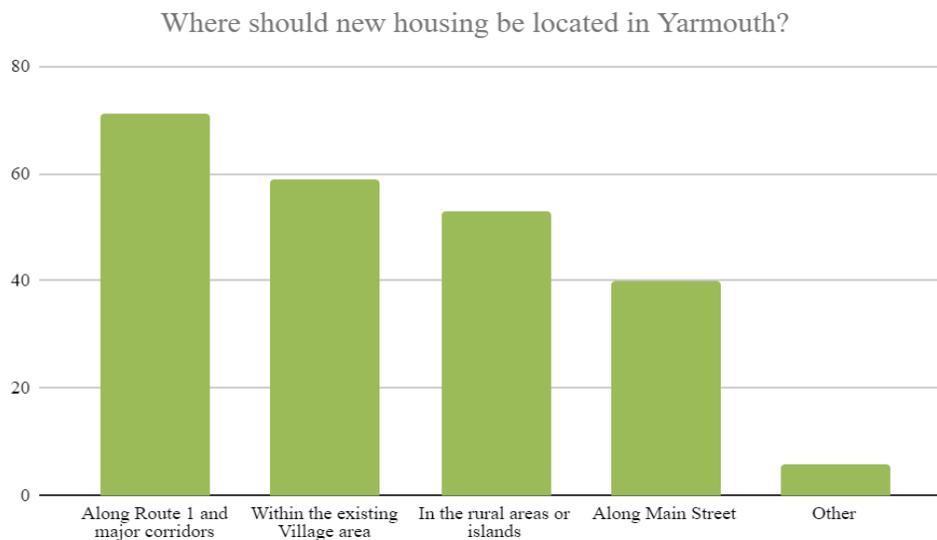
Housing, and the related affordability of Yarmouth, were also themes in responses about the draft vision statement, with comments generally supporting the results of the housing survey questions:

“We are experiencing a severe housing shortage. There is no mention of housing at all in the vision statement or list of priorities.”

“There should be a recognition that historically Yarmouth was a mix of blue collar workers, middle class folks and some wealthy people. There is a shift underway toward wealthy people, leaving blue collar people and even lower middle class people out of the town’s future... an ominous trend for our town’s future as a healthy, vibrant and resilient place to live.”

The second housing question asked respondents where new housing should be located in Yarmouth from a number of options: along Route 1 and major corridors; within the existing Village area; in the rural areas and islands; and along Main Street. An “other” open-ended response was also allowed. Of the 123 responses received, 110 respondents completed this question.

“Along Route 1 and major corridors” was the top selected response followed by “within the existing Village”. Interestingly, along Main Street was selected less often, perhaps due to the perception that Main Street is the center of Yarmouth’s small business community and people would not want to replace businesses with housing.



Six respondents filled in the “other” response regarding location of new housing. Two locational responses were provided:

- Backyards: when you talk about accessory dwellings, they just kind of "fit snugly in" to everything else.
- Portland Street and/or areas that are not quite rural but also not in the village.

One respondent noted that new housing needs an area that is properly zoned and available, connecting housing with land use. Similarly, a respondent noted that new housing should be "carefully located to preserve the values of Yarmouth's vision" consistent with other open-ended responses that balancing all of the priorities of Yarmouth must be a cornerstone of an updated Comprehensive Plan.

Finally, "no new construction" was mentioned in two different ways. One respondent wrote "No new construction. Repurpose existing structures in town. Ensure that all existing buildings are fully utilized." Another respondent wrote "I would say NO to all of it! No more apartments, no duplexes, no affordable housing. Just stop cramming in more homes/apartments/banks into our community." While the second comment suggests an outright moratorium of housing in Yarmouth, the first comment as well as the comment about accessory dwellings in backyards noted above, suggest that there are ways that Yarmouth can be innovative in developing new housing.

Economy

Two questions about Yarmouth's economy were asked in the survey: one about business growth in Yarmouth, and the other about the respondent's work arrangement and commute. In both questions, respondents were given a number of responses and could select as many responses as desired. For the first questions, "other" was an allowed response with an open response for additional thoughts.

The first question "What kind of business growth would you like to see in Yarmouth?" gave respondents the option of selecting any of the following that applies to their preferences:

- Small businesses and shops;
- Restaurants and cafes;
- Entertainment activities (theater, bowling alley, etc);

- Large employers and national brands;
- Industrial and manufacturing facilities;
- Coworking spaces;
- Art studios and maker spaces;
- Business and technology incubator;
- New business park;
- More tourism-based businesses;
- Working waterfront and ocean-based businesses.

117 of the 123 survey respondents answered this question. Restaurants and cafes and small businesses were the top selections for business growth for Yarmouth, as shown in the chart below. The working waterfront and ocean-based businesses and art studios and maker spaces were the next highest rated business growth for Yarmouth. Entertainment activities, business and technology incubator, and coworking facility were clustered together, as were a new business park, tourism-based businesses, large employers and national brands, and industrial and manufacturing facilities.

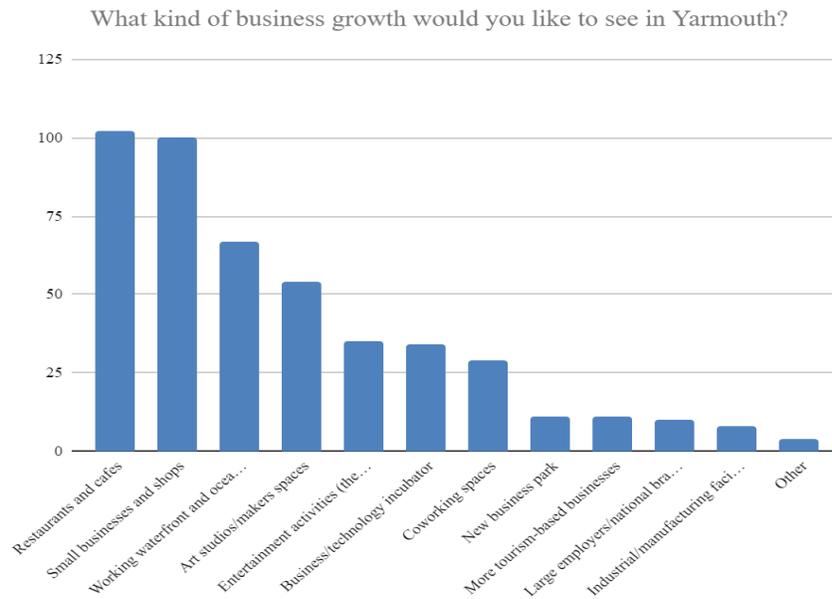
Respondents provided more detailed information about types of businesses needed in Yarmouth in the open-ended question on the draft vision statement such as the following comments:

“Yarmouth could use a retro arcade or maybe a cool ping pong lounge like you'd find in bigger cities -- it's a perfect place for kids to hang out). We need more indoor places for our kids to burn off energy or relax with friends during the cold or wet months. Also, a cafe that also serves kid-friendly drinks - hot milk steamers, cocoa, Boba tea drinks, with comfy sofas and lots of board games would be great.”

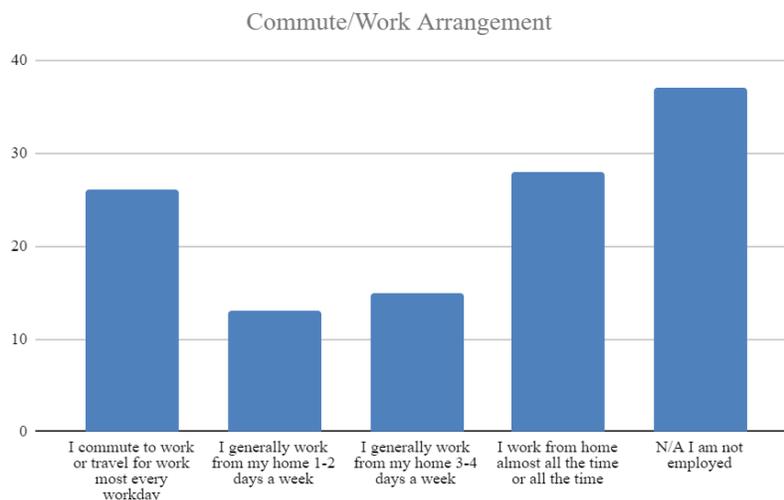
“Support small businesses and local businesses over national chains.”

In the open-ended responses, three respondents provided more detail on recreational desires, such as a skate park and splash pad, a fitness center with swimming pool, and outdoor activities companies. These responses overlapped with

the responses in the next section on public recreation facilities or activities missing in Yarmouth.



The second question in this section asked respondents to describe their work arrangement. Of the 123 survey responses, 118 respondents answered this question. The most respondents selected that they are not employed, although this question did not allow respondents to expand on this response (i.e., retired, high school or college student, stay at home parent or guardian). Overall, most respondents either exclusively commute or travel for work on workdays, or are exclusively working from home, as shown in the chart below.



Recreation

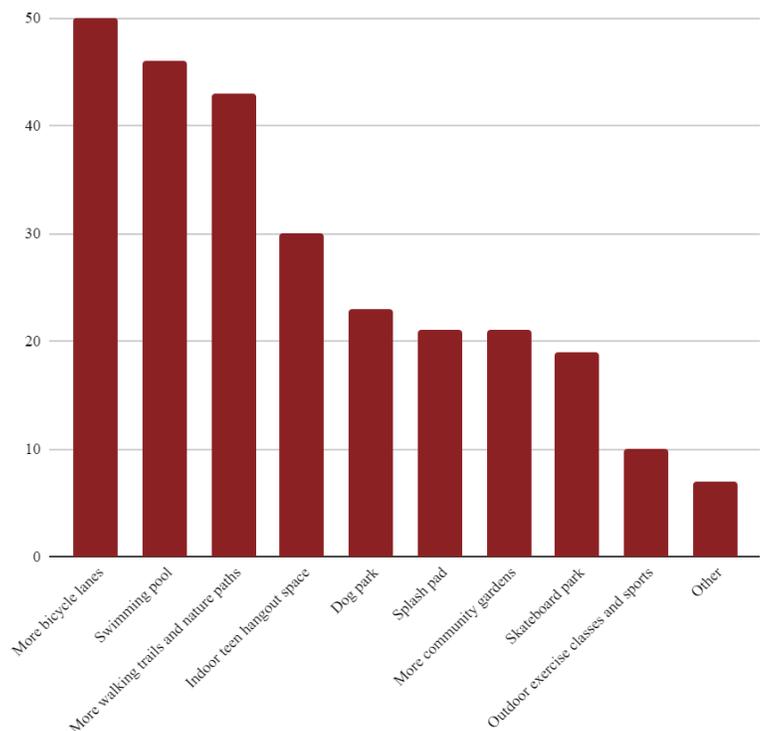
The survey asked respondents what types of public recreation facilities or activities are missing from Yarmouth. In response to this question, 114 respondents selected from the following options:

- Swimming pool;
- Splash pad;
- Skateboard park;
- Indoor teen hangout space;
- Dog park;
- Outdoor exercise classes and sports;
- More bicycle lanes;
- More walking trails and nature paths;
- More community gardens;
- More places to access the river or ocean.

The question also allowed an open-ended “other” response.

The top three most selected responses were more places to access the river or ocean; more bicycle lanes; and a swimming pool, as shown in the chart below. Behind those were more walking trails and nature paths; indoor teen hangout space; a dog park; splash pad; community gardens; and a skateboard park. The desire for a swimming pool currently being pursued by a separate interest group in Yarmouth, which

What types of public recreation facilities or activities are missing from the Town of Yarmouth?



collected over 400 signatures in support of a public pool during 2023.

The “other” responses provide some clarity on the responses given to the previous question, such as:

- Access to water (like Sandy Point) that is handicapped accessible; handicapped accessible fishing platforms.
- Recreational activities for the elder community.
- Connecting all the open spaces in town and surrounding community through walk/bike paths.

Other specific suggestions included a community center, dedicated tennis courts and pickleball courts for public use, and a performing arts amphitheater. One respondent suggested that the multiple-choice options offered in the question were inappropriate for and unneeded in Yarmouth.

Transportation

Survey respondents were asked two questions about transportation around Town:

- What actions could the town take to encourage forms of transportation besides single-occupancy vehicle travel?
- What places in Yarmouth do you regularly walk or bike to?

In response to both questions, respondents could select from multiple options.

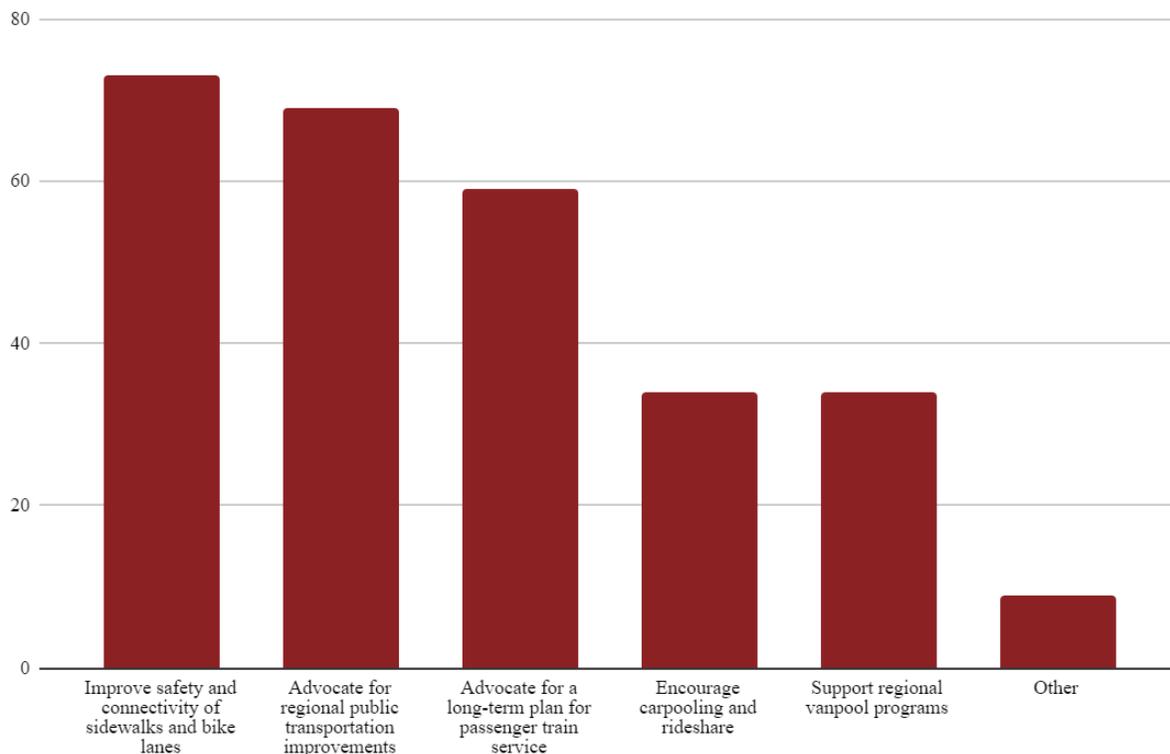
In response to the first question, 111 respondents answered this question, selecting from the following responses:

- Improve safety and connectivity of sidewalks and bike lanes;
- Encourage carpooling and rideshare;
- Support regional vanpool programs;
- Advocate for regional public transportation improvements;
- Advocate for a long-term plan for passenger train service.

An open-ended “other” response was also provided.

The top ranked response suggested that the town should improve the safety and connectivity of sidewalks and bike lanes. The second and third ranked responses were related to alternative modes of transportation, including advocating for regional public transportation improvement and advocating for a long-term plan for passenger rail service. Behind those responses, was support for carpooling, ridesharing, and vanpooling.

What actions could the town take to encourage forms of transportation besides single-occupancy vehicle travel?



Respondents that selected the “other” response provided the following additional feedback in three general categories about actions the Town can take around transportation:

- Local and regional shuttle service: “Town shuttle to locations in Yarmouth and maybe Falmouth center”

- Support of regional trails: “Create a bike/pedestrian path where the railroad currently sits. This will connect Yarmouth to other communities including Portland.”
- Breez bus service: “Support Breez ridership- it’s an amazing service that is not well-used”

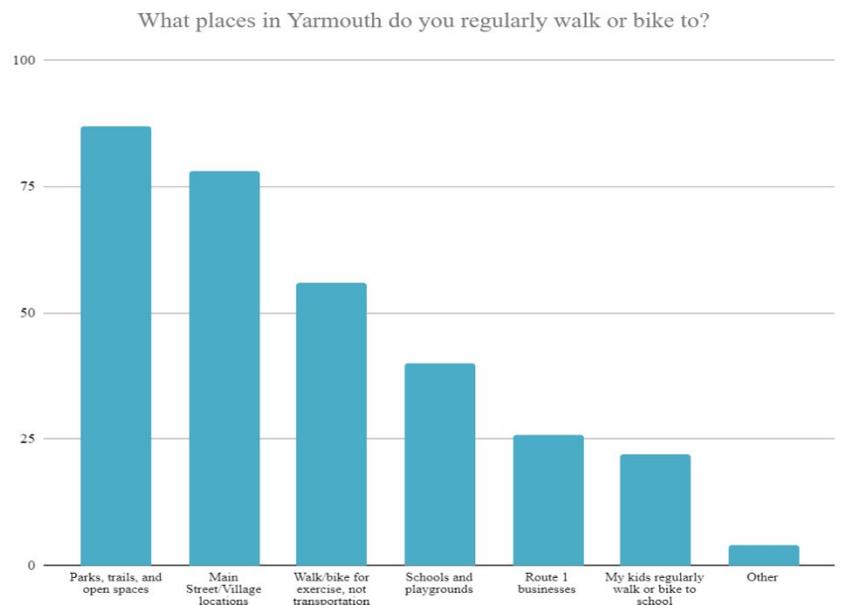
The second question received 116 responses out of the 123 survey respondents on where the respondent regularly walks or bikes to within Yarmouth. The respondents selected from the following options:

- Route 1 businesses;
- Main Street/Village locations;
- Parks, trails, and open spaces;
- Schools and playgrounds;
- My kids regularly walk or bike to school;
- Walk/bike for exercise, not transportation;

Respondents had the option of providing an “other” response.

The top two responses included parks, trails and open spaces, and Main Street or Village locations. Respondents selected schools and playgrounds and Route 1 businesses less often. Many respondents also indicated that they do not walk or bike for transportation, only for exercise. Very few respondents indicated that their kids regularly walk or bike to school.

Three respondents provided specific locations such as Intermed and the Library, and to points on Cousins Island in the “other” response.



Open Ended

The survey concluded with two open-ended questions for respondents to provide additional comments to the Comprehensive Plan team:

- What is one thing that would make Yarmouth a better place?
- Is there anything else you want us to know as we move forward with the comprehensive plan update?

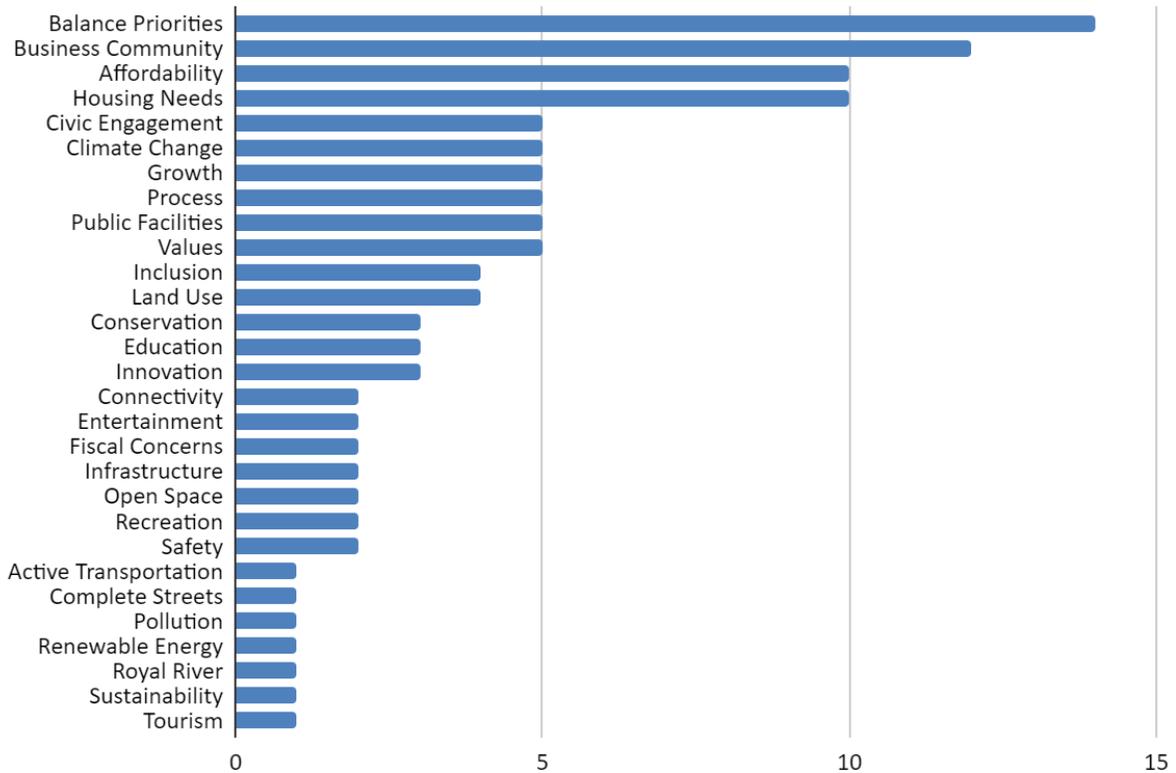
The Comprehensive Plan team reviewed the responses and identified the themes in each response for analysis. Four themes appearing in the most comments rose to the top: Balance Priorities, Business Community, Affordability, and Housing Needs. Overall, the respondents to the survey made it clear that Yarmouth is special and how important it is to remember the important qualities that make Yarmouth a desirable community.

The people. A wonderful community. Been here 22 years.

Yarmouth is a special community that is in high demand. It is in high demand for a certain set of reasons. We must not lose sight of why their community is so desirable and we must not fundamentally change it into something different.

Strengthening an already strong sense of community. We must not dilute that feeling and work to make it stronger.

Survey Themes



The top four themes and representative comments are described below.

Balance Priorities

The following comments that were categorized as “Balance Priorities” are representative of open-ended survey responses. Respondents consistently acknowledged that there is a desire to have the best of everything, but little discussion on how those desires relate to each other. In addition, respondents note that Yarmouth is already a great Town, and express concern that too much growth or development will change what makes the town great already. There is a delicate balance to ensure that Yarmouth continues to be a community that is desirable.

My concern is that we have the potential to "Love Yarmouth to Death".

Creative planning and budgeting. Lower expectations from 'always wanting to be the best' to setting goals to improve (we are already

doing most things better than others). Slow the growth of people and improve the resources that are already here.

I was hoping to read more about how many of these values and how to sustain them, are interconnected. Walkability, village, open spaces, environment, fiscal responsibility & housing for instance are inextricably linked. We need to start talking about them together and their relationships to each other instead of as separate issues.

I would love to see more about preserving the land and the small town feel, and keep growth to a sustainable levels. Expansion and growth at too accelerated a pace would cause both environmental as well as infrastructure issues (schools, roads, land) that I don't think the town is ready for.

Business Community

The small business community in Yarmouth was repeatedly identified as something that makes Yarmouth great and should be supported, consistent with the responses on the economy above. Although there were strong opinions expressed that Yarmouth did not need any more pizza places or banks, there is some desire for access to general merchandise stores.

The thoughtful development of Main Street with small boutique retail businesses. Maples really proved a point, that we are all looking for informal places to gather and be together. I think Handy's also proved the same point. We want those central places to take walks and see one another.

Opening up Main Street on a summer night for walking with some signs of life with music from local restaurants

Closer/easier access to a general-merchandise store like Target.

Anchor more into Main Street on a community-basis (ie: Second Saturday type encouragement to get out similar to First Fridays in other places) - not necessarily to draw other towns in, but to encourage those who live in Yarmouth to come out more through organized events. Similarly, more summer park movies!

Affordability

Respondents noted that Yarmouth is becoming less affordable for residents new and old. There is concern that if Yarmouth is no longer affordable, community members will have to leave the town, including seniors, teachers, police, and service workers.

We just finished digesting significant budget increases. It's a good time to manage the day to day and let people's finances catch up. We'll run fixed income people right out of town if we aren't careful.

A return to the traditional mix of occupations, income and housing to include blue collar, lower income brackets and multi family housing.

Housing Needs

As discussed above in the targeted questions on housing, affordable housing is a concern of survey respondents. Innovation is needed to create new housing options in Yarmouth. Density is one means to an end, but being creative in allowing new housing options should be balanced alongside calls for increased density.

Making an absolute commitment to affordable housing rather than lip service that has been the case over several cycles of comp plan. Continue to encourage all types of diversity.

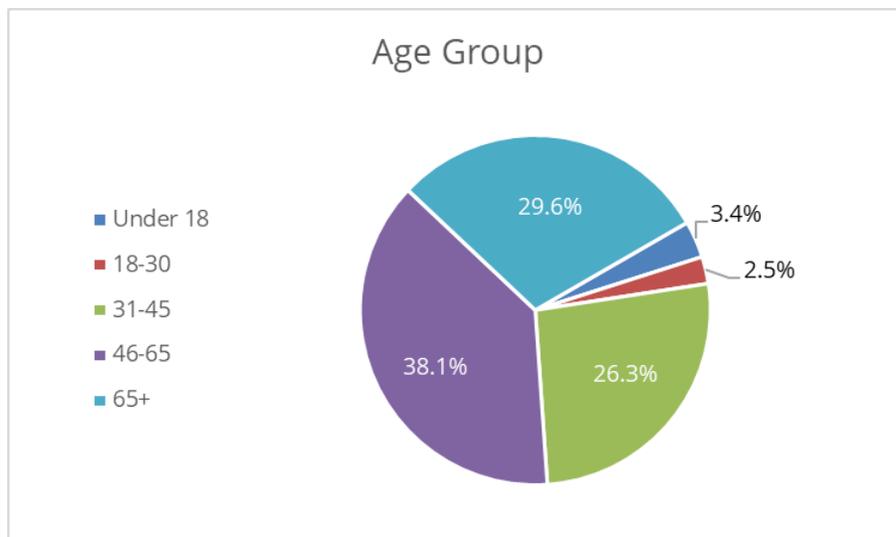
Continued development of the village/main street area, especially multi-unit, energy efficient and affordable housing.

Consider that increasing density is not the only answer to providing more diversity in housing.

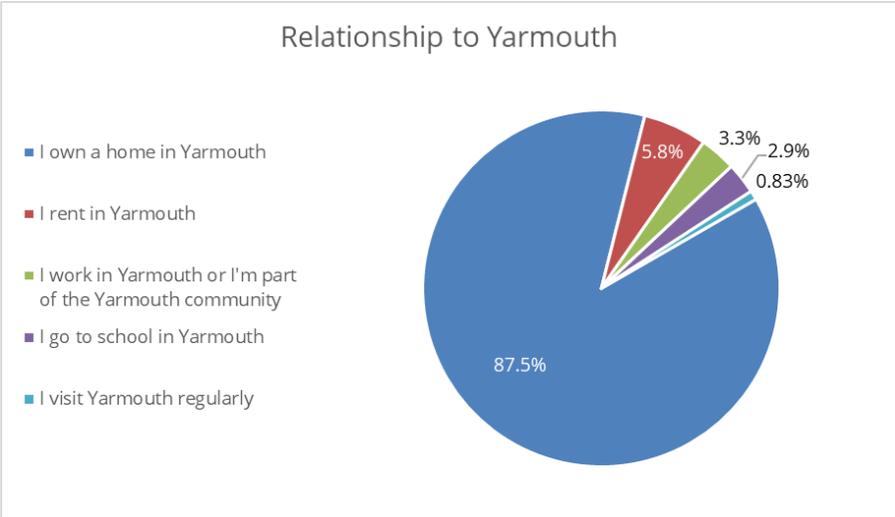
Demographics

The survey asked three demographic questions to understand who responded to the survey. Those demographic questions include age group, relationship to Yarmouth, and length of time associated with Yarmouth. These questions were optional for respondents.

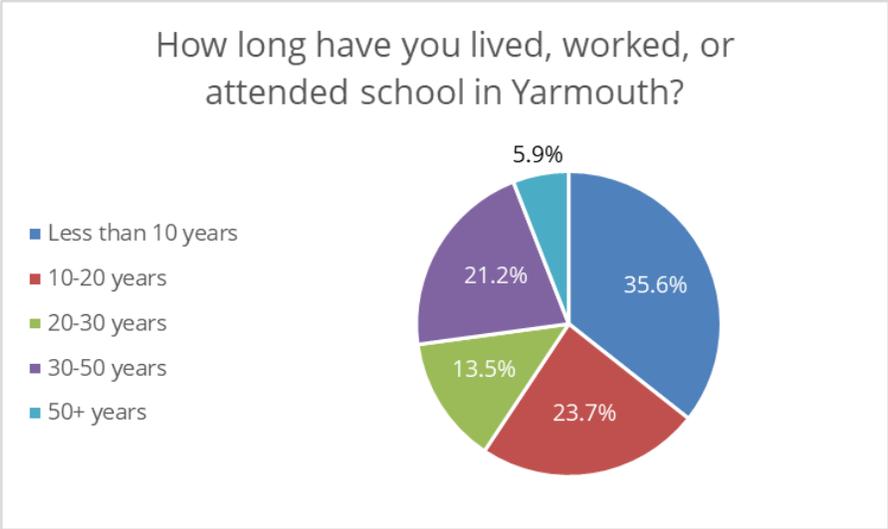
The survey respondents were primarily over the age of 31, with about 26% of respondents aged 31 to 45, about 38% aged 46-65, and about 30% over the age of 65. About 6% of respondents were under the age of 30.



The large majority of the respondents (87.5%) own a home in Yarmouth defining their relationship to Yarmouth. Just under 6% of respondents rent a home in Yarmouth. About 3% work in Yarmouth, define themselves as part of the Yarmouth community, or go to school in Yarmouth. Less than 1 percent of respondents were people who don't live in Yarmouth but visit regularly.



The largest share of respondents (35.6%) have lived in Yarmouth for less than 10 years, followed by 23.7% of respondents living in Yarmouth for 10 to 20 years. 21.2% of respondents have lived in Yarmouth for 30 to 50 years. The smallest shares of respondents have lived in Yarmouth for 20 to 30 years (13.5%) and more than 50 years (5.9%).



Summer Pop-Ups

The pop-up events were designed by the Comprehensive Plan team to provide informal and fun ways to let the community know about the Comprehensive Plan update, how to get involved, and solicit input. As noted, the primary goal of the summer pop-up events was to introduce to the community to the Comprehensive Plan Update through methods other than email, website postings, and mailings. Instead of asking the community to come to us, the Comprehensive Plan team went to the community. Nineteen events were held in Yarmouth during June, July, and August, including having a presence at the Yarmouth Clam Festival.

The following pop-ups were held:

- June 15: Coffee with Community hosted by Yarmouth Community Services
- June 22: Yarmouth Farmers' Market
- June 24: Brickyard Hollow
- June 30: Storytime hosted by the Merrill Memorial Library
- July 12: Royal River Park Daytime Concert
- July 14: Yarmouth Food Pantry
- July 17: Merrill Memorial Library
- July 20: Yarmouth Farmers' Market
- July 21: Yarmouth Clam Festival
- July 24: Clayton's Cafe and Bakery
- July 28: 317 Main Community Music Center
- July 30: Cousins Island & Littlejohn Island Improvement Association Summer Social
- August 2: Royal River Park Concert Series
- August 9: Royal River Park Concert and Movie Night
- August 15: Merrill Memorial Library
- August 17: Chebeague Transportation Company Ferry Dock on Cousins Island
- August 19: Artascope Plein Air Festival
- August 22: Merrill Memorial Library
- August 24: Yarmouth Farmers' Market

Wrapping up the summer engagement pop-ups, the Comprehensive Plan team hosted a Trivia Night in conjunction with the Yarmouth History Center and the Yarmouth Historic Preservation Committee on August 31. Beyond the summer months, the Comprehensive Plan team was present at the Yarmouth Public Schools

back to school nights and the weather-delayed Bartlett Woods barbeque in September.

In addition to an introduction to the Comprehensive Plan update, two simple questions were posed to those who chose to engage with the Comprehensive Plan team:

- Where are the places to protect and preserve?
- Where are the places that should have new investment, growth, and change?

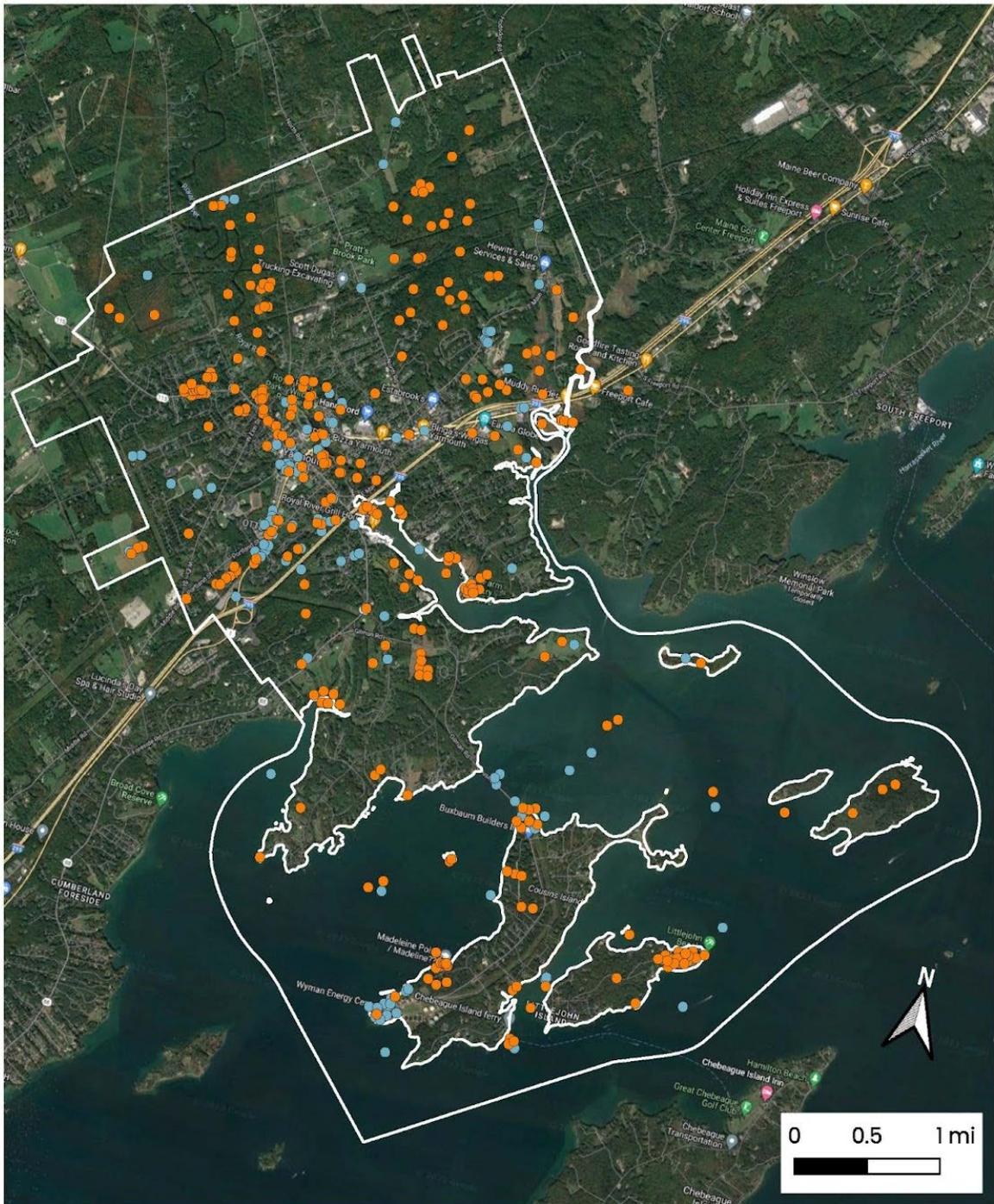
A large poster of Yarmouth was presented and those who chose to engage could add different colored dots to the map to indicate their preferences. In addition, participants could add other notes to the poster to provide any clarifying comments or to share any additional information. This activity was also duplicated on the project website.

The aggregated results of the exercise are presented in the map on the following page. The results of the mapping exercise are not unsurprising when taken in conjunction with the results of other engagement, such as the summer survey and the Community Conversations.

The places to protect and preserve are along the Royal River, large open spaces adjacent to existing open space such as Frank Knight Forest, coastal and estuarine areas along Casco Bay, the islands, and areas along the Cousins River.

Wyman Station and areas along Route 1 were identified as places where new investment, growth, and change should be focused. In addition, the Cousins Island Bridge and other critical infrastructure have been designated for investment, growth, and change.

Summer Pop-Ups and Online Survey: Map Results



- Places that should be preserved and protected
- Places that should have new investment, growth, and change

Regarding the comments received during the pop-up events and online were categorized into five categories: safe streets, connectivity and open space, public access, Town amenities and facilities, and islands.

Safe Streets	More bike paths and sidewalks that connect to places where people want to go like the YMCA and into Portland Vehicular speeds are problematic in some areas in town
Connectivity and Open Space	Wayfinding is important for locals and visitors alike Wildlife corridors should be established through open space preservation Preserve farmland and existing open space
Public Access	Water access points need investment Parking is limited at Royal River Park and other loved open spaces and parks Accessibility to and within town-owned access points is needed
Town Amenities and Facilities	Desire to see more restaurant options Affordable housing is needed Recreation opportunities like a pool
Islands	Island neighborhoods are unique Wyman Station presents opportunities

Other comments included some thoughts on flooding and resilience within Yarmouth. In general, the responses are consistent with the results of the summer survey described in this report and the other engagement efforts that continued into the fall of 2023.