

TOWN OF WESTFORD 2009 COMMUNITY SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Westford Planning Commission will soon undertake the latest update of the Westford Town Plan. As part of that effort, we would like to gather public opinion on the important issues facing Westford. The community was last surveyed in 2003. Of the 886 surveys sent to all Westford households and property owners, approximately 282 were returned. That means nearly 1 in 3 households (32%) responded to the survey. Although this is an *excellent* return rate, let's see if we can out do ourselves this year! Please take a moment of your time to answer the questions below because your comments are important to the future of Westford!

Please answer the following survey questions and return the questionnaire **BY MARCH 3, 2009** in one of the following manners:

- ✓ Mail to: Town of Westford, 1713 Vermont Rte 128, Westford, VT 05494
- ✓ Place in the drop-box at the Town Office
- ✓ Place in collection box at Town Meeting

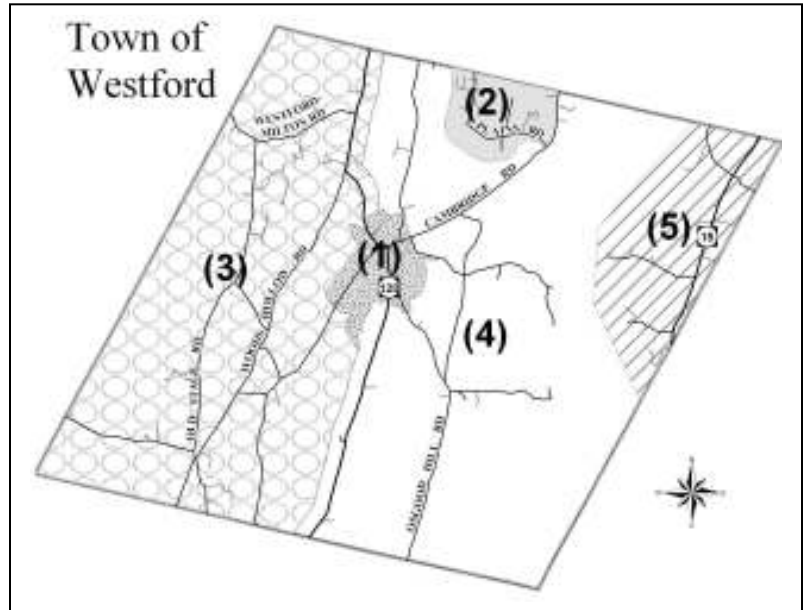
Thank you for participating in the Town of Westford's planning process and efforts!

1. Please indicate your age group:

Under 18 ____ 18 – 29 ____ 30 – 39 ____ 40 – 49 ____ 50 – 59 ____ 60– 69 ____ 70+ ____

2. Please indicate which part of Westford you live in:

- Area 1 (Town Center) ____
- Area 2 (Plains Road area) ____
- Area 3 (West of Rte 128) ____
- Area 4 (East of Rte 128) ____
- Area 5 (Near Rte 15) ____
- I do not live in Westford ____



3. I have lived here ____ years.

4. I plan to live in Westford for:

- Less than 1 year ____ 1 to 5 years ____
- More than 5 years ____

5. Do you work from your home on a regular basis?

Yes ____ No ____

6. What do you think the three most critical issues facing Westford are?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

7. What in your opinion is in the most need of improvement in Westford?

8. What in your opinion do we need in Westford that we currently do not have?

9. The following is a list of **PLANNING GOALS**. Please indicate your opinion on the level of importance of each item to the people and the future of this community.

	Very Important ←————→ Not Important					No Opinion
	5	4	3	2	1	
a. Provide affordable housing						
b. Provide elderly housing						
c. Provide housing for all income levels						
d. Provide opportunities for economic growth						
e. Maintain and improve roads						
f. Maintain and improve school quality						
g. Improve recreation facilities						
h. Develop community facilities						
i. Control the amount and rate of growth						
j. Control property taxes						
k. Protect historic and archaeological sites						
l. Conserve energy use						
m. Conserve significant natural resources						
n. Conserve forest land						
o. Conserve agricultural land						
p. Preserve scenic views						
q. Preserve rural character						
r. Encourage small business						
s. Encourage large or medium business						

10. How might Westford foster a stronger sense of community?

The following statements deal with the topic of **DEVELOPMENT**, please check the box which appropriately reflects your opinion:

11. RESIDENTIAL growth in Westford has been:

Too Rapid ____ Just Right ____ Not Rapid Enough ____ No Opinion ____

12. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL growth in Westford has been:

Too Rapid ____ Just Right ____ Not Rapid Enough ____ No Opinion ____

13. Please indicate your opinion on the level of importance of each type of development to the people and future of the community.

	Very Important ←————→ Not Important					No Opinion
	5	4	3	2	1	
a. Affordable & elderly housing						
b. Small scale sales & rental of goods, merchandise and equipment						
c. Small scale office, clerical, research and services not related to goods or merchandise						
d. Light manufacturing and businesses associated with assembling of goods or merchandise and equipment.						
e. Educational, cultural, religious, social and fraternal						
f. Recreation						
g. Amusement & entertainment						
h. Institutional residence or care facilities						
i. Restaurants & cafes						
j. Bars & taverns						
k. Motor vehicle-related sales and service operations						
l. Storage facilities						
m. Waste transfer stations						
n. Services and enterprises related to animals						
o. Farming & forestry						
p. Agriculture-based manufacturing industries						
q. Towers and antennas						
r. Open air markets and horticultural sales						
s. Commercial greenhouse operations						
t. Nursery schools, day care centers						
u. Cemeteries						

14. Other types of use the town should provide for: _____

15. The Town should adopt architectural standards for RESIDENTIAL structures in the town center area?

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

16. The Town should adopt architectural standards for COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL structures in the town center area?

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

17. The Town should promote RESIDENTIAL development?

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

If so, where? _____

18. The Town should promote COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL development?

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

If so, where? _____

19. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements:

	Strongly Agree ←————→ Strongly Disagree					Not Sure
	5	4	3	2	1	
a. Concentrated development should not be permitted anywhere in the Town						
b. Development should be evenly distributed throughout the Town						

20. The Town should promote cluster development with the intent of preserving large tracts of land?

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

21. The character of recent development has been appropriate.

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

22. Landscaping and screening has been adequate for RESIDENTIAL subdivision developments.

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

23. Landscaping and screening has been adequate for COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL development.

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

24. The Town should protect ridgelines from residential and commercial development.

Strongly Agree ____ Agree ____ Disagree ____ Strongly Disagree ____ No Opinion ____

The following is a list of **ENERGY-RELATED** actions. Please indicate your opinion by checking the appropriate area:

25. Would you support the construction of PERSONAL-USE RESIDENTIAL wind turbines?

Strongly Support ____ Support ____ Do Not Support ____ Strongly Do Not Support ____ No Opinion ____

26. Would you support the construction of SMALL SCALE COMMERCIAL wind turbines?

Strongly Support ____ Support ____ Do Not Support ____ Strongly Do Not Support ____ No Opinion ____

27. Would you support the construction of INDUSTRIAL wind farms?

Strongly Support ____ Support ____ Do Not Support ____ Strongly Do Not Support ____ No Opinion ____

28. Please rate the quality of the following **SERVICES** in Westford:

	Excellent	Adequate	Poor	No Opinion
a. Fire service				
b. Police service (Protection)				
c. Police service (Speed Limit Enforcement)				
d. Recycling/trash				
e. Public road maintenance				
f. School				
g. Town library				
h. Town office				
i. Selectboard				
j. Planning & zoning dept				
k. Listers				
l. Planning Commission				
m. Conservation Commission				
n. Recreation programs				

29. Do you agree that the provision of municipal services has **kept pace** with the rate of new development?

Strongly Agree _____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Strongly Disagree _____ No Opinion _____

30. The following is a list of **TRANSPORTATION-RELATED** actions. Please indicate your opinion on the level of importance of each item to the people and the future of this community.

	Very Important ←————→ Not Important					No Opinion
	5	4	3	2	1	
a. Maintain town roads in their current condition						
b. Improve the quality of roads with work on roadbase, filter fabric, and ditching						
c. Improve roads by adding pavement						
d. Construct a sidewalk connecting the Library to the Brick Meeting House						
e. Research pedestrian path connections within the town center area						
f. Research pedestrian path connections between the town center area and rural areas						
g. Improve trail networks within town and to neighboring towns (trails that can provide an alternative transportation link around and between towns)						
h. Promote safe use of public roads for equestrians, bicyclist & pedestrians						
i. Construct a park-and-ride facility on Route 128						
j. Construct a park and ride facility at the bottom of Old Stage Road near Essex						
k. Coordinate car or van pooling						
l. Should the town support and promote student transportation options (especially for high school)						

31. The town now charges school impact fees for new housing units. Should the town also adopt a ROAD IMPACT FEE, requiring new development to pay for any public road improvements made necessary due to new development? Yes _____ No _____

32. Should the town also adopt a FIRE DEPT IMPACT FEE, requiring new development to pay for the purchase of additional fire department equipment necessary to serve an increased number of dwellings? Yes _____ No _____

33. Should the town support efforts to improve the availability of the following **recreation activities**? Please also indicate whether town funding should be used to support that activity.

	Very Important ←————→ Not Important					No Opinion	Support with Town Funding?	
	5	4	3	2	1		Yes	No
a. Walking/hiking/XC ski trails								
b. Bicycle areas/trails								
c. ATV areas/trails								
d. Snowmobile areas/trails								
e. Recreational path connections								
f. Hunting areas/access								
g. Fishing areas/access								
h. Swimming access								
i. Natural areas								
j. Playing fields								
k. Community centers								
l. Recreation dept. programs								

34. Other recreational activities: _____

35. Please look at the following list of **open land** uses and indicate your opinion on the level of importance of each item as part of the town's future.

	Very Important ←————→ Not Important					No Opinion
	5	4	3	2	1	
a. Agricultural land						
b. Silviculture land for sugaring, logging, etc.						
c. Forest land						
d. Open land that is not actively farmed						
e. Areas with scenic views						
f. Areas for recreational use						
g. Access to recreational use						
h. Wildlife corridors						
i. Floodplains						
j. Stream protection						
k. Environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands						

36. In recent years residents have offered concerns to town boards regarding the development of land located near town trails. Much of the land adjoining town trails is currently undeveloped, located near hill-tops, contains significant unfragmented wildlife habitat and natural areas and is privately owned. Would you support a conservation district with a minimum lot size requirement greater than 10 acres on lands adjoining town trails in the Osgood Hill area?

Strongly Support _____ Support _____ Do Not Support _____ Strongly Do Not Support _____ No Opinion _____

