

Appendix B - Open Space Survey and Results



Chestnut Hill Farm Reservation



WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

2008 Open Space and Recreation Survey Results Highlights

(Compiled by Mike Mokrzycki and Jean Lambert)

SURVEY BACKGROUND

- **WHAT** - In June 2008, the Open Space Committee, with input from the Park and Recreation Commission, conducted a survey of residents' use of and priorities for open space and recreation resources in relation to other town priorities.
- **WHY** - The survey results will help provide a roadmap for Open Space Committee recommendations and priorities and, as a major part of the Town Master Plan, will assist other boards in making decisions. Survey results will also drive the 2008 update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which the town is required to file every five years with the state and which qualifies the town for state grants.
- **HOW** - The Open Space Committee took several steps, within cost constraints, to encourage widespread participation and make the survey as representative as possible of all townspeople. A survey was mailed to all 1650 households in West Newbury. Surveys were also available at the 1910 Building, the GAR Library, as well as the Food Mart and could be printed from the Open Space website. The survey was publicized at Spring Town Meeting and in articles in local newspapers.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- **RESPONSE** - 334 adult residents completed the survey. (296 responses were from surveys mailed to households.)
- **TOWN PRIORITIES** - Respondents identified these ten priorities as **very important** for the town (on a scale from "Very important" to "Not at all important"):

Good schools	79%	Scenic roadside views	58%
Rural character	76%	Trails for hiking and other purposes	57%
Environmental preservation	69%	New well fields/water resources	50%
Working farms	66%	Historic preservation	47%
Wildlife corridors	60%	More access to the Merrimack River	32%

- **RURAL CHARACTER** – In addition to the above findings specific to rural character and relating to it, rural character emerged strongly as a valued attribute of West Newbury across the entire survey. **93%** of respondents said rural character was “very” or “somewhat” important to them, the same percentage as said good schools were very or somewhat important. In the **responses to open-ended questions** about what they like or disliked about West Newbury, an **outstanding majority** of respondents indicated that they highly valued West Newbury's rural character, including its open space, quiet, beauty, farms, sense of history, people, small town population, safety, sense of community, and family friendliness. Some lamented the form and pace of recent development.
- **OPEN SPACE** - West Newbury residents clearly place a high value on open space.
 - **PRESERVING LAND** - **92%** of respondents indicated that environmental preservation in West Newbury was important to them with over two-thirds noting it was very important.
 - **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA) SPENDING** - Open space was clearly the top priority for CPA spending, ranked number 1 by **55%** of respondents. (CPA funds can also be used for historic preservation, recreation facilities, and affordable housing.)
- **RECREATION PRIORITIES**
 - **USAGE**
 - **ACTIVE RECREATION** -The facility in town cited most for active recreation was **Action Cove** with 31% of respondents using it. Soccer fields and baseball fields were both used by 22%.
 - **PASSIVE RECREATION** - **Mill Pond/Pipestave** was by far the most popular passive recreational resource, used by 64% of the respondents.
 - **AWARENESS** - A number of residents desired more information about other open space resources, indicating limited awareness of the maps OSC published this spring and the OSC website: www.westnewburyopenspace.net.
 - **TRAILS** - **45%** of the respondents said they use **town-owned hiking trails**. **84%** of respondents indicated that trails were very or somewhat important to them.
 - **ADDITION/EXPANSION**
 - **RESOURCES** - **45%** of respondents support adding or expanding **trails**. 27% wanted more parks and. 25% wanted a working public boat ramp.
 - **PROGRAMS** – A number of respondents wanted to add or expand **youth programs**: **35%** cited a youth nature camp and another **35%** wanted a teen recreation program. 29% desired a youth summer camp.
 - **FACILITIES** - There were a number of different responses to the question on more recreation facilities but **no majority**. 28% would like to see a swimming pool. 14% wanted tennis courts expanded while 12% wanted a skateboard/rollerblade park and another 12% wanted an indoor skating rink.

2008 West Newbury Open Space and Recreation Survey

Paper questionnaire developed by the West Newbury Open Space Committee, June 2008

Total # responses: **334** adults.

Sampling error for a probability sample of this size would be about +/- 5 percentage points. See Methodology section for further information.

All results are unweighted. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Results by Question

A. Thinking about the town of West Newbury, how important is each of the following to you? (CHECK ONE BOX PER LINE)				
<i>Ordered by % saying "very important"</i>				
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important
A. n. Good schools	79%	14%	2%	3%
A. a. Rural character	76%	17%	2%	2%
A. t. Environmental preservation	69%	23%	4%	2%
A. l. Working farms	66%	26%	5%	1%
A. c. Wildlife corridors	60%	25%	8%	3%
A. b. Scenic roadside views	58%	28%	9%	2%
A. d. Trails for hiking and other purposes	57%	27%	11%	2%
A. o. New well fields/water resources	50%	33%	8%	6%
A. q. Historic preservation	47%	37%	10%	3%
A. h. More access to Merrimack River	32%	33%	23%	11%
A. m. Community gardens	28%	37%	23%	8%
A. i. Athletic fields	25%	27%	24%	22%
A. k. Playgrounds	25%	35%	24%	14%
A. p. Affordable housing	25%	30%	21%	21%
A. r. More small businesses	22%	38%	25%	11%
A. e. Fishing areas	20%	33%	25%	18%
A. g. Sledding areas	19%	39%	25%	14%
A. j. Indoor recreation facilities	16%	25%	28%	28%
A. f. Hunting areas	11%	10%	21%	54%
A. s. Larger/industrial businesses	3%	10%	17%	65%

B. Please note any specific parcels of land in town you believe should be preserved, and why:

4 % Sullivan
 2% None
 2% Any/All open space
 1% Mullen

Mentioned Twice

Ash St. and Georgetown Road
 Brown Spring Farm
 Grew Sheep Farm
 Maple St. Fields
 Mill Pond*
 Page School*
 River access
 Working farms

Mentioned Once

Ash St. swamp
 Behind the veteran's building on Main St.
 Between Mechanic/Merrill Sts. And Crane Neck/ Maple Sts.
 Boucher (on Coffin St.)
 Brake Hill along Dole Place
 Cherry Hill
 Christmas tree farms
 Cook
 "Corn field" on River Road
 Crane Neck Pond
 Elwell
 End of Bachelor St.
 Fields along Tewksbury Rd.
 Food Mart
 Huffnagel Land (in back between Cortland Drive and river)
 Indian Hill*
 Kimball Farm (viewed from Bridge St.)
 Pipestave*
 Large parcel near town currently for sale
 Riverbend*
 Reservoir
 The character of Main St.
 Walker

*Already preserved

C. Which active recreational facilities in town do people in your household use regularly? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
C.6. Action Cove	31%
C.1. Soccer fields	22%
C.2. Baseball fields	22%
C.7. Page School playground	21%
C.3. Tennis courts	16%
C.8. Boating areas	13%
C.4. Basketball courts	7%
C.5. Pentucket track	6%
C.9. Snowmobile trails	4%
C.10. Other (describe)	<p>7% trails in general, including hiking, walking, horse, cross-country ski trails, Mill Pond trails 7% walking, hiking, running 4% riding (horses) 4% Pipestave (equally split between the trails and the equestrian area) 3% Mill Pond 3% cross-country skiing 2% Use none currently 1% biking 1% Checked other but did not describe</p> <p><u>Mentioned Twice:</u> Dog walking Hunting Indian Hill Riverbend trails Sidewalks Swimming</p> <p><u>Mentioned Once:</u> Around the reservoir Birding Boat ramp (needs improvement) Brake Hill Crane Neck Management Area Food Mart Ordway Reservation Pike's Bridge Road Skating pond Tennis courts Was only aware of Action Cove Wildlife management area</p>

D. Which passive recreation resources in town do people in your household use regularly? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
D.14. Mill Pond/Pipestave areas	64%
D.4. Hiking trails	45%
D.11. Civic Center lawn and bandstand areas	23%
D.5. Cross-country ski trails	20%
D.2. Crane Pond Wildlife Area	19%
D.8. Cherry Hill area	16%
D.3. Fishing areas	15%
D.15. Mountain biking	14%
D.12. Riverbend area	13%
D.13. Equestrian trails	12%
D.10. Ferry Park (near Rocks Village Bridge)	12%
D.9. Pike's Bridge	10%
D.1. Picnic areas	
D.16. Thurlow Field (Greenbelt)	8%
D.7. Ordway Reservation (Greenbelt)	6%
D.6. Craven/Brake Hill area	5%
D.17. Chestnut Hill Farm conservation land	5%

D.18. Other (describe):	<p>2% use no passive recreational resources in West Newbury 2% were not aware of these resources and wanted more information (Four requested maps.)</p> <p><i>“Need more info/maps on existing resources -- we have lived here 6 years and still are not oriented to all resources.”</i></p> <p><u>Mentioned Once:</u> All Ash Rd. Biking Dunn Property off Chase I would make more use of these trails/areas but hesitant to do so alone for safety reasons. That's why I suggest a walking club/group. Lacrosse field Reservoir area Riding with Myopia Hunt in town River Rd walking Scenic walks We use Maudslay Park, Newburyport</p>
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E. Which recreational programs should be added or expanded in West Newbury? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
E.2. Youth nature camp	35%
E.3. Teen recreation programs	35%
E.1. Youth summer camp	29%
E.5. Senior recreation programs	21%
E.8. Outdoor exercise programs	21%
E.4. Adult sports programs	19%
E.7. Orienteering programs	13%
E.6. Youth weekend ski trips	7%
E.9. Other (describe)	<p>1% None 1% swimming</p> <p><i>“Swimming at Mill Pond – sandy beach with lifeguard for kids. West Newbury sticker needed to park.”</i></p> <p><i>“Swim team with an outdoor public town pool.”</i></p> <p><u>Mentioned Twice:</u> <i>Youth wilderness programs: Animal tracking & wildlife experience (work against nature deficit disorder) kids forgetting or never</i></p>

	<p>learning the joy of being in the woods as opposed to sitting in front of computers & TV; Youth orienteering</p> <p><i>Organized walking:</i> Evening/weekend adult walking club; Organized hikes</p> <p><u>Mentioned Once:</u> Adult downhill ski trips Bike trails Birding Boating Boy & Girl Scouts Dog park Hockey - street hockey and ice hockey Hunters education for youth Indoor/winter recreation options More open areas with paths PFPAF "Summer Blast" Snowmobiling Survival in wilderness Trail awareness – rules Transportation for seniors Yoga for all ages We need an outdoor basketball court.</p>
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F. Which recreation facilities should be added or expanded in West Newbury? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
F.7. Swimming pool	28%
F.4. Tennis courts	14%
F.6. Skateboard/rollerblade park	12%
F.5. Indoor skating rink	12%
F.3. Indoor basketball courts	11%
F.1. Soccer/lacrosse/football fields	10%
F.2. Baseball/softball fields	7%
F. 8 Other (describe)	<p>3% None: <i>"We have plenty"; "Not through taxes."</i></p> <p>2% Trails, including hiking, cross-country ski, bike, and snowmobile trails</p> <p>1% Outdoor basketball courts</p> <p>1% Boat launch ramp</p> <p>1% Community exercise facility Indoor/outdoor complex(skate park, basketball, cafeteria, etc).</p> <p>1% Swimming (Mill Pond)</p> <p><u>Mentioned once</u></p> <p>Berkenbush open to river</p> <p>Country Club</p> <p>Dog park</p> <p>Equestrian areas</p> <p>Gym availability for volleyball</p> <p>Hockey - street hockey + ice hockey</p> <p>Indoor equine riding area</p> <p>Indoor play facilities</p> <p>Middle and High School fields</p> <p>Mill Pond boating safety lessons</p> <p>New track for high school</p> <p>Off-leash dog walking important</p> <p>Outdoor Roller/Hockey Rink for warm weather hockey playing</p> <p>Outdoor theatre</p> <p>Scenic views/open space</p> <p>Sidewalks on busy roads to promote walking/jogging</p> <p>Senior recreation</p> <p>Teen center</p> <p>Water spray park</p> <p>We should be improving our schools, first!</p> <p>Wild spaces</p>

G. Which other recreation resources should be added or expanded in West Newbury? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
G.3. Trails	45%
G.1. Parks	27%
G.8. Public boat ramp	25%
G.5. Community recreation center	24%
G.7. Sledding hills	20%
G.4. Picnic areas	15%
G.2. Fishing areas	15%
G.6. Playgrounds	12%
G.9. Other (describe)	<p>1% None: <i>"We have a lot now!"</i></p> <p>1% Hunting areas</p> <p>1% Swimming/beach area</p> <p>1% Trails including cross-country ski and snowmobile</p> <p><u>Mentioned Twice:</u></p> <p>Teen center</p> <p><u>Mentioned Once:</u></p> <p>Scenic views/open space</p> <p>An outdoor basketball court by the Action Cove area would be nice.</p> <p>Community garden</p> <p>Crane Pond public shooting range similar to Newbury's public range.</p> <p>Dog park</p> <p>Equine activities</p> <p>Install sidewalks! (for safety of all)</p> <p>Golf</p> <p>Outdoor theatre</p> <p>Suggest developing a walkway in quiet part of town center (other than Main Street sidewalk) -- perhaps leading to Merrimack River?</p> <p>Senior center</p> <p>Walking areas</p>

H. As you may know, under the Community Preservation Act the town of West Newbury collects a tax surcharge and must allocate the proceeds for specified purposes. Please rank from 1 to 4 how you would prioritize town spending of CPA money:					
<i>Ordered by mean</i>					
	Mean	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
H.c. Open space	1.79	55%	22%	10%	6%
H.a. Historic preservation	2.49	13%	31%	34%	14%
H.d. Recreation facilities	2.68	14%	24%	27%	28%
H.b. Affordable housing	2.93	12%	16%	19%	44%

I. Which of the following comes closer to your view:	
The town should allocate money in its budget for trail maintenance and related needs on existing open space parcels, even if there are implications for taxes or other town priorities.	37%
The town mostly should rely on volunteers for open space maintenance, even if that means trail upkeep and related needs are not met as reliably as possible.	51%
<i>OMIT</i>	11%

J. What do you like most about living in West Newbury?

64% Rural nature – including scenic beauty, wildlife, serenity, open space, farm lands, the river, outdoor recreation opportunities (trails, horses)

“It is a rural community: small in population and size and with a hometown atmosphere. I love the abundance of conservation land and wildlife.”

“Open space, wooded areas, scenic views, rural aspect, a quiet small town.”

“The absolute beauty of the town, the openness, the river, the few farms left and their spaciousness.”

25% Community – including small town feel, the people

“Friendly residents and pride in community.”

“The strong sense of community.”

“Good place to raise a family.”

11% Location – the Merrimack River, near highways, Newburyport, Boston, the ocean, the mountains

“Its proximity to 95 and 495, proximity to beaches (Plum Island, Salisbury) and proximity to Newburyport (arts, restaurants).”

4% Schools

3% History, sense of history and architecture

Mentioned by Less Than 10 But More Than Two

Safety (10)

Farming (7)

Trails (7)

Not commercial (6)

Civic activism (5)

Protection of wetlands, open space (5)

Library (5)

Town services/government/police/fire (5)

Liked it the way it was (4)

Privacy (3)

My home (3)

K. What, if anything, do you dislike about living in West Newbury?

14% Growing too fast/overdevelopment leading to loss of rural character

“Developments are expanding too fast.”

“Too much building taking away from the small town character.”

“The city feel has crept in the last 5-7 years including a general lack of a small town feel.”

“McMansions being crammed in all over!”

“Recent efforts to make (West Newbury) a suburb.”

8% Taxes

“Property taxes are too high and keep going up.”

“Our taxes are too high for a town of our size.”

“The taxes are driving moderate income people out.”

8% Schools – quality of academics and facilities, lack of funding, leadership

“Being part of Pentucket Regional – held back from the best education in upper grades.”

“The schools and their upkeep are not the priority –needs attention desperately!!!”

“Failure to support our schools.”

“School district management.”

6% Traffic – too much, too fast, too noisy – especially on Main Street

“Cars speeding on roads.”

6% Lack of amenities, services, shops especially in the town center – restaurants, drug store, larger grocery store, gathering place like a coffee shop.

"Lack of a proper town center."

5% Town government

"Small town politics."

"Boards that don't listen to the community!"

"Same people on several boards."

3% No complaints

"We are very happy living here –it's a very special place to live."

Mentioned Less Than 10 times But More Than 2

Special interests – town groups, on town boards (10)

Lack of a sense of community (8)

Newcomers/yuppies trying to make West Newbury something it isn't – a "country club" town (8)

Lack of youth activities and facilities, family activities, active recreation (8)

Lack of affordable housing (7)

Excessive police presence (7)

Lack of sidewalks (6) - primarily Main Street

Difficulty for Seniors to remain in town (5)

Hunting (5)

Dogs (4)

Ticks (3)

Lack of Public Transportation (3)

Lack of population diversity (3)

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

- Question A** - Next to A. a. (**Rural character**) respondent wrote: "Too late."
 - Next to A. f. (**Hunting areas**) respondent wrote: "Should be banned in town because hunters do not obey posted areas."
 - Next to A. i. (**Athletic fields**) respondent wrote: "Chemical treatments unsafe for all."
 - At top respondent wrote: "Thank you for doing this!" Next to A.n. (**Good schools**), respondent wrote a star and said: "Most important!"
 - Next to A. n. (**Good schools**), respondent wrote a star next to "very important" checkbox.
 - Comment next to A. n. (**Good schools**): "Most important"
 - A. n. (**Good schools**): Circled and wrote: "!"
 - In space for B, respondent pointed to A. n. (**Good schools**) and wrote: "I can't believe that this is in 'other town priorities.' Open Space Committee or not, the most important part of our community should be our children."
 - Next to A. s. (**Larger/industrial businesses**) respondent wrote: "KEEP 'EM OUT."
 - Next to A. s. (**Larger/industrial businesses**) respondent wrote: "With no sewage or water: Forget it."

- Respondent checked two boxes each on A – **f. (Hunting areas) q. (Historic preservation) and r. (Small businesses)**. After A, respondent wrote: *WETLANDS MUST BE PROTECTED" (and checked 1 "very important").
- At **bottom of A** respondent wrote: "**Community pool**" and checked under "Very Important."
- Next to **A series** respondent wrote: "While most of these are not important to me as an individual they are important for the health of the community."

Question B - NA (Written Answer on parcels to be preserved.)

- Question C** - Next to C. **3. (Tennis courts)** respondent wrote: "(At PRHS, poor shape!)"
- Next to q. C. **4. (Basketball courts)** respondent wrote: "We don't have any in W. Newbury."
 - Next to C. **4. (Basketball courts)** respondent wrote: "If we had them - we would use them."
 - At q. C. **6. (Action Cove)** respondent wrote: "When younger all the time"; at q. C. **9. (Snowmobile trails)** respondent wrote: "Skiing, hiking."
 - Next to q. C. **6. (Action Cove)** respondent wrote: "Once frequented."
 - At q. C. **8. (Boating areas)** respondent wrote: "We'd like to, but the ramp is in disrepair."
 - Q.C. **9. (Snowmobile trails)** respondent omitted and wrote: "?"
 - Q.C. **9. (Snowmobile trails)** respondent omitted and wrote: "Do we have any?"

- Question D** - Comment **next to q. D**: "Don't know about most of these areas to be honest. Would use them if I did."
- Comment **next to q. D**: "I don't think this is publicized well -- I have no idea where hiking trails even are in town."
 - **Next to q. D** respondent wrote: "Would like to be able to access maps of these resources. Then we would use more. Don't know where some of these places are."
 - **Next to q. D** respondent wrote: "Don't know where most of these are."
 - **Next to q. D** respondent wrote: "Where are these?"
 - Next to q. D. **10. (Ferry Park)** respondent wrote: "Littered, crowded and overgrown."
 - **Next to q. D** respondent wrote: "(Regularly) when I have someone to join me."; next to q.D.**11. (Civic Center)** respondent wrote: "Concert times."
 - Next to .q D. **14. (Mill Pond)** respondent wrote: "Should be for TOWN only. Keep it clean -- it's a mess."
 - **Next to q. D** respondent wrote: "I still can't believe that the once-gorgeous Pipestave hills were levels and are now covered in pesticides and garbage."
 - Respondent **taped note to q. D** - wants maps, willing to help with maintenance and promoting existing resources:

Question E - Next to q. E (And F and G) respondent wrote: "Pie in the sky."

- Question F** - At q. **F. 3.** respondent crossed out "indoor" and wrote in "outdoor all court."
- Next to q. **F. 4. (Tennis courts)** respondent wrote: "(clay)"; next to **7 (Swimming pool)** respondent wrote: "Separate lap pool for adults."
 - Next to **F. 4. (Tennis courts)** respondent wrote: "Reinstate summer tennis camp."

- Next to q. F. **4. (Tennis courts)** respondent wrote: "Fixed/repaired."
- Next to q. F. **6. (Skateboard/rollerblade park)**, respondent wrote: "NO."
- Next to q. F. **7. (Swimming pool)** respondent wrote: "Too expensive."
- Next to q. **F (And E and G)** respondent wrote: "Pie in the sky."

Question G - Q. G. **3. (Trails)**, respondent wrote: "(Better maintenance)"

- Q. G. **3. (Trails)** respondent wrote "Walking not hiking."
- Next to q.G. **3. (Trails)** respondent wrote: "We enjoy cross-country skiing -- we do have nice existing trails"
- At q. G. **5. (Community recreation center)** respondent wrote: "For teens (or program in an existing space)."
- At q. G. **8. (Public boat ramp)** respondent wrote: "Fix the one we have."
- Next to G. **8. (Public boat ramp)** respondent wrote "the existing one is in horrible unsafe condition. There should be no parking except during daylight hours."
- Q. G, circled "**public boat ramp.**"
- Next to q. **G, (And E and F)** respondent wrote: "Pie in the sky."

Question H - Q. H, omitted, but wrote in "**1 Water supply.**"

- Q. H. **b. (Affordable housing)**, respondent wrote: "Let's get to 10%"; at bottom of questionnaire respondent wrote: "Ever consider using Survey Monkey -- saves lots of paper & postage costs, works great! A far greener choice!"
- At q. H (**CPA ranking**), respondent wrote in "(1) school maintenance."
- At q. H. **b. (Affordable housing)**, respondent wrote " -- for seniors."
- At q. H. **b. (Affordable housing)** respondent wrote: "No affordable housing."
- Next to q. H. **b. (Affordable housing)** item on CPA ranking, respondent wrote "None."
- Next to q. H. **c. (Open space)** respondent wrote: "Plus maintenance" and drew an arrow to I. **1. (Town allocating money to pay for maintenance.)**
- Next to q. H. **d. (Recreation facilities)** respondent wrote: "Maintenance."
- Next to q. H. **d. (Recreation facilities)** respondent wrote: "Except hunting."
- Q.H (**CPA**) appears respondent wrote 2 for both **a.** and **c.** but unclear.

Question I - Respondent added comment on Q. (**Re: Paying for OS maintenance**): "Proper maintenance is essential -- lack of resources to do so should constrain future acquisitions until adequate maintenance protocols are established."

- Q. I, respondent wrote, "Not sure -- volunteers won't work and tax burden is beginning to be a burden."
- **Next to q. I**, respondent wrote: "No more taxes!" (double underlined)
- **Next to q. I**, respondent wrote: "But a combination is best."
- Next to q. I (**Open space maintenance**) respondent wrote: "Buy open space only if you have a plan. Don't spend money to have a study after study."
- Next to q. I (**Open space maintenance**), **choice 1 (Use town budget for maintenance)**, respondent wrote: "Absolutely not!"
- Next to q. I **choice 1** respondent wrote: "No more tax increases!" and next to **choice 2** respondent wrote: "I don't think this would work."
- Next to q. I **choice 2 (Volunteers used for maintenance)** respondent wrote: "Plus modest user fee."
- **Next to q. I** respondent wrote: "Mix of both."

Question J - NA (Written Answer – like about living in West Newbury)

Question K - NA (Written Answer – dislike about living in West Newbury)

Question L - At q. **L (Gender)** respondent checked both, wrote in "We answered this together."
 - Next to q. **L (Gender)** respondent selected both and wrote "We did this together."
 - Respondent selected both M and F for **L (Gender)** and wrote: "We both filled it out."
 - Q. **L**, respondent picked both male and female.

Other - Respondent wrote at bottom: "Why does our CENTER of town have to be the passageway for most COMMUTER traffic from Haverhill/New Hampshire/Merrimack, etc? Because we allow it. (Church St. one-way to Rocks Village?)"

DEMOGRAPHICS

L. Are you:

Male	38%
Female	58%
omit	4%

M. To which age group do you belong:

18-34	6%
35-49	35%
50-64	39%
65+	17%
omit	3%

N. How long have you lived in West Newbury?

Less than 1 year	4%
1-5 years	14%
6-10 years	17%
11-20 years	27%
More than 20 years	39%
omit	*

* = less than 1%

O. Who is in your household?

Total	1	10%	Children through age 5	15%
adults:	2	72%	Children age 6-12	20%
	3	9%	Children age 13-17	15%
	4	5%	Seniors age 65 or over	20%
	5	1%		
	omit	4%		

P. Does anyone in your household have a disability, handicap or chronic disease that keeps him or her from participating fully in work, housework, school or other activities?

Yes	7%
No	88%
omit	5%

Q. Are you the adult who has the next birthday in your household?

Yes	50%
No	46%
omit	4%

METHODOLOGY

The survey was a paper instrument distributed mainly by being mailed to all 1,650 households in West Newbury, Mass., in June 2008. Copies of the survey also could be obtained at town offices at the 1910 Building, the G.A.R. Memorial Library, the Food Mart and the West Newbury Open Space Committee web site at <http://westnewburyopenspace.net>. Surveys were returned by U.S. mail or at drop boxes at the above locations.

The questionnaire was designed by the West Newbury Open Space Committee with input from the town Park and Recreation Commission.

To try to maximize response, the survey was announced in advance at April Town Meeting and in a press release published in local newspapers.

In order to maximize input from townspeople and keep the instructions simple, there was no selection within household of a respondent, and more than one member of a household could submit a survey by obtaining a copy from one of the aforementioned locations. Thus this survey cannot be considered a pure probability sample of West Newbury townspeople or households. However, the last question on the survey asked whether the respondent was the adult in his/her household with the next birthday, which provides a basis for a post-hoc estimated randomization.

In all, we received 334 completed surveys:

- 296 (88%) were mailed versions
- 8 (2%) were versions distributed at the 1910 Building
- 14 (4%) from the Library
- 11 (3%) from the Food Mart
- 5 (2%) were printouts from the Web.

50% were from respondents with the next birthday in the household, 46% were not, the rest did not answer that question.

If this were a true probability sample of all West Newbury adults or a sample of households in town, results would be subject to a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval.

Survey data other than open responses were entered into and analyzed in the statistical software program SPSS. Open responses were coded manually.