

Town of North Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Survey

September 2013



The Town of North Kingstown invites residents and business owners to complete this survey to help inform and direct the strategic vision of North Kingstown's 2014 comprehensive plan. This survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your participation.

General Questions

1. Are you 18 years of age or older?
 Yes
 No (please stop here.)
2. Are you a resident of the Town of North Kingstown?
 Yes
 No
3. Do you own or operate a business in North Kingstown?
 Yes
 No

If you are not a resident and do not own a business, please do not continue survey beyond this point.

4. Do you work in North Kingstown?
 Yes
 No
5. Do you think the quality of life in North Kingstown is:
 Improving
 Staying the same
 Declining
6. How would you rate the quality of life in North Kingstown?
 Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Unsure

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7. What do you like best about North Kingstown? (Select up to 3)

- Central location within the state
- Physical environment / natural resources
- Small rural town character
- Public schools
- Narragansett Bay access (beaches, boat ramps, marinas) and vistas
- Public amenities (parks, trails, playgrounds, sports fields, bike paths, library)
- Good place to raise a family
- Municipal services
- Shops and stores
- Local arts community
- Proximity to work
- Proximity to family/friends
- Proximity to public transport (Wickford Junction train station & bus services)
- Wickford Village
- No opinion
- Other _____

8. What are your major concerns, if any, which may affect the future of North Kingstown? Please number 1-8 in order of significance. (1-high concern, 8-low concern)

- Housing types
- Taxes
- Public school funding
- Redevelopment of Quonset
- Municipal services (Police, Fire, Water, Library, Town Hall departments, road maintenance and trash/recycling)
- Emergency preparedness (emergency evacuation and shelters)
- Quality and of amount of open space
- Commercial Development

9. Which of the following statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following items in North Kingstown: Please circle one attitude per item.

Residential development	Too much/many	Adequate	Too little/few	Not the right type/ location/allocation	No Opinion
Commercial / light industrial development	Too much/many	Adequate	Too little/few	Not the right type/ location/allocation	No Opinion
Taxes	Too much/many	Adequate	Too little/few	Not the right type/ location/allocation	No Opinion
Open Space Provisions	Too much/many	Adequate	Too little/few	Not the right type/ location/allocation	No Opinion
Municipal services	Too much/many	Adequate	Too little/few	Not the right type/ location/allocation	No Opinion

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10. Which of the following statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following items in North Kingstown: Please circle one attitude per item.

Emergency preparedness	Needs more attention	Adequate	Needs less attention	Not planned correctly	No Opinion
Redevelopment of Quonset	Needs more attention	Adequate	Needs less attention	Not planned correctly	No Opinion
Public schools	Needs more attention	Adequate	Needs less attention	Not planned correctly	No Opinion

Housing

11. The town's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program aims to protect open space in certain areas at no cost to tax payers, while intensifying housing density in other designated growth areas and village centers. Do you support this concept to concentrate housing in areas served by transportation, infrastructure, and other improvements, in order to protect open space in town?

Yes
 No

12. In North Kingstown's growth areas and villages what housing variety/types do you think are appropriate?

Check all that apply.

Single-family homes
 Duplexes (Two-family)
 Accessory apartments attached to or within existing homes
 1-2 bedroom apartments
 Condominiums
 Age restricted
 Multi-level apartment buildings
 1-2 story apartment buildings
 Single level houses
 Mixed use (apartments over retail) etc,
 Other: _____

Transportation Planning

13. Have you used the MBTA commuter rail service at Wickford Junction?

Yes
 No (if no, please skip to question 16)

14. For what purpose have you used the MBTA commuter rail service at Wickford Junction?

Check all that apply.

Commute to work
 Commute to school
 Business travel
 Personal travel
 Not applicable

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15. To which station do you most frequently travel?

- T.F. Green
- Providence
- South Attleboro
- Points further north than South Attleboro
- Not applicable

16. What is your opinion on the Wickford Junction train service? Please select all that apply.

- It currently provides an adequate service
- Needs more daytime trains
- Needs more evening weekday trains
- Needs more weekend trains
- Increased frequency
- Increased late night trains

17. Have you used the RIPTA bus service in North Kingstown?

- Yes
- No

18. What is your opinion on the RIPTA bus service? Please select all that apply.

- It currently provides an adequate service
- Needs more daytime buses
- Needs more evening weekday buses
- Needs more weekend buses
- Increased frequency
- Increased late night buses

19. Which types of alternative transportation would you most like to see in North Kingstown? Select all that apply.

- Sidewalks
- Bike paths
- Dedicated bike paths (no cars)
- Striped bike lanes on streets
- Shared bike lanes on streets
- Carpool / rideshare programs
- Shuttle or car from neighborhoods to express bus and rail station
- Enhanced RIPTA bus scheduling
- Extended train services
- Ferry service
- Other
- None/currently satisfied with alternative transportation options

20. Would you use a shuttle service that travels between Wickford Junction, Wickford, Post Road and Quonset Business Park?

- Yes
- No

21. Would you use a shuttle service within Quonset Business Park?

- Yes
- No

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Municipal Services

22. Please evaluate and rate municipal services. Select one response for each service.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion or N/A
A. Street repair					
B. Snowplowing					
C. Police protection					
D. Fire protection					
E. Rescue services					
F. Emergency / disaster preparedness					
G. Town library					
H. Senior citizen services					
I. Town beach					
J. Town parks & recreation facilities					
K. Transfer station					
L. Recycling collection					
M. Public schools					
N. Town Hall administrative services					

23. Town taxes are used to pay for a variety of items. Please select the top three items which you would like to see the town focus on in terms of funding.

- Emergency/disaster preparedness
- Public schools
- Library
- Open space
- Public safety (police, fire)
- Recreation
- Recycling
- Sewers
- Senior services
- Town roads & highways
- Town Hall administrative services
- Economic development

24. The town does not currently offer garbage collection services. Do you think the town should offer a garbage collection service to residents and businesses for a fee, for example, a "pay as you throw" system?

- Yes
- No

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25. The value of residential property is affected by the reputation of the public school system in any community. How do you rank the North Kingstown public school system in the following areas:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion or N/A
A. Class size					
B. Quality of education					
C. Student discipline					
D. Student safety					
E. Drug prevention efforts					
F. Range of academic programs					
G. Range of extracurricular and sports programs					
H. Condition of buildings and fields					
I. Quality of teachers and administrators					

26. The town is in the process of installing sewer service on Post Road from the intersection of Devils Foot Road and Post Road south to the YMCA, and subsequently, further south down Post Road to the State Police Barracks*. Are you in favor or opposed to the town borrowing funds to expand sewer service for commercial purposes in the following areas:

	In Favor	Opposed	Not Sure
A. From the State Police Barracks into Wickford Village			
B. North on Post Road from Devils Foot Road to East Greenwich Town line			
C. Shore Acres			

*Only those connecting to the sewer system are charged for the repayment of funds borrowed to construct sewers.

Environment

27. Are you in favor of or opposed to the town spending tax dollars to acquire and conserve open space?
 In favor
 Opposed
 Not sure

28. Which of the following reasons best explain why you think North Kingstown should acquire and conserve open space? Please rank your selections in order of priority with 1 being highest priority.

- Protect wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas
- Protect the character of the town
- Protect farmland
- Obtain public access to the waterfront
- Protect the water supply
- Limit growth
- Protect historic areas
- Acquire additional active or passive recreation land

29. Which, if any, recreational facilities would you like see developed in the town? Select all that apply.

- Ice skating rink
- Municipal pool
- Neighborhood playgrounds
- Practice fields for team sports
- Roller-skating /skateboard park
- Trails or paths for hiking, running, biking
- Other _____

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30. Which of the following environmental issues are most important to you? Please rank your selections in order of priority with 1 being highest priority.

- Drinking water quality
- Quality and quantity of water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands)
- Air quality
- Urban sprawl
- Open space
- Refuse management and recycling programs
- Access to forest, game lands and natural areas
- Use of solar energy sources in municipal buildings and vehicles
- Use of wind energy sources in municipal buildings and vehicles
- Climate change / sea level rise

31. Do you think the town is adequately prepared in the event of an emergency?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

32. The Town of North Kingstown is studying the impact of climate change/sea level rise issues at present. How would you rate your knowledge of these issues? (Please select one.)

- Above average
- Average
- Below average

33. High tides and storms have caused flooding on Wickford Village's properties and roadways in recent years. Data from tide gauges in Narragansett Bay over the past 80 years shows an increase in sea level for the Bay and inlets, which are predicted to continue rising. What are some options for Wickford over the long term?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Relocate businesses that are exposed to tidal flooding.					
Use tax dollars to invest in engineering solutions, such as walls, bulkheads, and breakwaters, that preserve all existing properties as they are today.					
Consider new uses in Wickford Village that are water-dependent.					

34. Should the Town continue to invest municipal tax dollars in roads and bridges that are exposed to tidal flooding and sea level rise predictions? Please select one.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

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35. How often do you visit the following recreational sites in the town?

	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Beaches				
Bike paths				
Golf courses				
Marinas				
Parks and playgrounds				
Public access waterfront (boat ramps, fishing areas)				

36. Are you aware that the town has a twice a week lawn watering restriction?

- Yes
 No

Land Use

37. What are the most important actions that the Town of North Kingstown should do in managing land use?
Please rank in order of importance. (1 – Highest, 11 – Lowest)

- Preserve and protect the environment and open space
- Protect farmland
- Restore / reuse existing developed areas before building in undeveloped areas
- Strengthen building and site design guidelines
- Allow big box development
- Improve transportation and traffic circulation
- Promote mixed use development (retail stores on ground floor, office, etc. or residential apartments above)
- Direct growth to village centers like Wickford, Hamilton and Allenton
- Direct new development to growth centers like Post Road and Wickford Junction
- Increase areas zoned for commercial development
- Decrease areas zoned for commercial development

38. The Post Road district design standards and guidelines at present require that all new developments/reconstruction on Post Road are two stories high to allow for building design consistent with North Kingstown's community character. Do you think this is appropriate?

- Yes
 No

39. If you answered yes to question 38, please select the statement with which you agree:

- The second story should be useable space (retail, apartment, etc.)
 The second story should not be useable space (storage only or fake facade)

Technology

40. Have you visited the town of North Kingstown's website? www.northkingstown.org

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

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41. If you answered yes to question 40, what was the purpose of your visit(s) to the Town's website? Select all that apply.

- Town Council agenda/minutes
- Zoning regulations
- Planning Commission agenda/minutes
- Recreation & leisure activities/programs
- Zoning Board agenda/ minutes
- Town Clerk information
- Other town board or commission's agenda/minutes
- Water department information
- Access the personnel directory
- Public Works information
- Calendar of events
- Access public library's website
- Tax Assessor's online database
- Access public school system's website
- Financial and tax information
- Planning initiatives
- Other _____

42. What other ways could the Town effectively reach out to residents to inform them of Town happenings, meetings, and events (check 3)?

- Facebook
- Internet/Town webpage
- Twitter
- Newspaper -- local
- Newspaper - PROJO
- Newsletter
- Direct Mailings
- Phone calls
- TV advertisements
- Other _____

Demographics

43. Select your gender

- Male
- Female

44. What is your total household income before taxes?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 - \$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 - \$14,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 - \$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 - \$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 - \$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 - \$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 - \$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000 - \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000 or more |

45. How many cars do you have serving your household?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more

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46. How do the wage earners in your household usually get to work? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drives alone | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpool | <input type="checkbox"/> Works at home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public bus | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Train | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walks | |

47. What is your commuting distance to work?

- 10 minutes or less
 20 minutes or less
 30 minutes or less
 more than 30 minutes

48. What North Kingstown neighborhood do you live in or are closest to?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allenton | <input type="checkbox"/> Poplar Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annaquatucket | <input type="checkbox"/> Quidnesset |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belleville | <input type="checkbox"/> Saunderstown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Davisville | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrabbletown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton | <input type="checkbox"/> Slocum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lafayette | <input type="checkbox"/> South End |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mount View | <input type="checkbox"/> Wickford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North End | <input type="checkbox"/> Wickford Highlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post Road north of 403 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post Road south of 403 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

49. What are the demographics of your household?

	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Including yourself, how many people live in your household?					
Number of people under 18					
Number of people between 18-25					
Number of people between 25-30					
People in household between 30-45					
People in household between 45-65					
People in household over 65					

50. How long have you lived in North Kingstown?

Years Months

51. Do you own or rent your home?

- Own
 Rent
 Other

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Thank you for completing this survey. Your answers are appreciated.

Please return this finished survey to: North Kingstown Planning Department
55 Brown St
North Kingstown, RI 02852

If you have any questions on any of this information, please visit the North Kingstown Planning Department webpage at www.northkingstown.org or contact the Planning Department at (401) 268-1571.