



Bennington Town Plan Survey

The Bennington Planning Commission is working on an update to the town plan. The town plan is a policy document that shapes the future of Bennington. The new town plan should reflect everyone in our community. That's why we want to know what you think! Please share what you love about Bennington, and what you think can be improved.

If you or someone you know needs translation or interpretation to respond to this survey, please contact Samantha Page at spage@bcrcvt.org.

Please return your completed survey to the Bennington Town Office care of Dan Monks (205 South Street, Bennington) or the Bennington County Regional Commission Office care of Samantha Page (210 South Street, Suite 6, Bennington).

Bennington & You

1. What is your relationship to Bennington? (Check all that apply)
 - I live in Bennington
 - I work in Bennington
 - I go to school in Bennington
 - I own a business in Bennington
 - I often visit Bennington
 - Other:

2. What do you like the most about Bennington? (Please select 2 options)
 - Community: my neighbors and friends, connecting with others who care about Bennington
 - Arts, culture, and creativity: public events, museums, music, unique public spaces
 - Size and scale: downtown surrounded by rural areas
 - Historic character: awareness of Bennington's history

Natural resources: trails, farm lands, local foods

Other:

3. What would you most like to see improved in Bennington? (Please select 3 options)

Housing options and affordability

Schools and the education system

Getting around without a car (walking, biking, rolling)

Parks and greenery

Economic and job opportunities

Diversity of the community

Responding to climate change

Other:

4. What is most important to you in deciding where you spend your time in Bennington? (Please select 3 options)

Near shops and markets

Easy to walk, bike, or take a bus

Diverse community

Near arts, culture, and nightlife

Near jobs and schools

Easy to get around with a car

Feel a sense of belonging

Affordable

Safe

Near parks

Environmentally friendly

Other:

5. To make Bennington a better place to live, work, learn, shop, or play, my top priority would be to _____. (Please select 1 option)

- protect the environment and protect people from climate change
- build good housing that is affordable to people who live or work in Bennington
- provide safe, convenient, and affordable public transit, sidewalks, and bike paths
- provide and maintain quality town services and facilities
- expand job opportunities
- improve access to nature
- expand child care access
- Other:

6. The main barrier to the priority I chose is . . .

7. If I could make one change to make Bennington better, I would . . .

8. Do any of the following apply to you? (check all that apply)

- I can't afford to rent a home in Bennington
- I can't afford to buy a home in Bennington
- I had to move or will move because of high housing costs in Bennington
- I know someone who has moved or is moving because of high housing costs in Bennington
- None of the above

Bennington & You, In Depth

9. How much do you agree or disagree with the following policy priorities?

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	I don't know
Bennington's historic character is important.				
More housing should be built in Bennington to relieve pressure on rents and home prices.				
More housing types should be provided to meet the needs of Bennington's population.				
Affordable housing should be encouraged throughout Bennington.				
People should be able to easily travel around Bennington without a car.				
Bike lanes, paths, and sidewalks should be built throughout Bennington.				
Electric vehicle chargers should be more common in Bennington.				
Downtown Bennington should have more parking.				
Downtown Bennington should have more parks and plantings.				
Bennington should welcome and support new people.				
Bennington should support increased access to fresh, local foods.				
Bennington should provide services for people experiencing homelessness.				

10. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bennington?

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	I don't know
I feel safe using the public streets, pathways, and parks.				
I feel safe in my neighborhood.				
I feel welcome.				
My opinions matter to town officials.				
It is easy for me to participate in town government.				
Town officials make decisions in view of the public.				
It is easy to get to the places I need to go.				
It is a fun place to live, work, or visit.				
There are not enough things to do.				
It has good educational opportunities.				

11. How concerned are you about the following impacts of climate change affecting Bennington?

	Not concerned	Neutral	Concerned	I don't know
Strong storms				
Flooding				
Extreme heat				
Air and water quality				
Vulnerable communities being negatively affected more often.				

12. Do you own a business or are you thinking of starting one?

- Yes
- No

13. If yes, what considerations influence your decision to start a business in Bennington? (check all that apply)

- Access to money
- Retail and commercial space
- Industrial space
- Businesses like mine in Bennington
- Workforce
- Transportation
- Internet
- Taxes
- Safety
- Quality of life
- Other:

Tell us a little about yourself!

14. How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18–29
- 30–44
- 45–59
- 60–74
- 75+
- I prefer not to answer

15. Are you a renter, homeowner, or other?

- Renter
- Homeowner
- I prefer not to answer
- Other:

16. What kind of housing do you live in?

- Single-family house
- Two-family housing (duplex)
- Condominium or townhouse
- Multi-family building (apartments)
- I do not have permanent housing
- I prefer not to answer
- Other:

17. What is your race?

- White

- Black, African, or African American
- American Indian, Indigenous, or Native American
- Pacific Islander
- Asian or Asian American
- Two or more races
- I prefer not to answer
- Other:

18. Are you Latinx or Hispanic?

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

19. In what country were you born?

20. Did you spend some or all of your childhood in . . . (check all that apply)

- Bennington
- another village or town in the Southshire
- another village or town in Bennington County
- another part of Vermont
- Rensselaer/Washington County, New York
- Berkshire County, Massachusetts
- I prefer not to answer
- Other:

21. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary / non-conforming
- I prefer not to answer
- Other:

22. What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more
- I prefer not to answer