

APPENDIX 2

The following is a synopsis of the results of the survey that was part of this Master Plan update. A full tabulation of the results follows. There were 553 responses to the survey, split almost evenly between full time (271) and seasonal residents (282). There was a mix of employed, self-employed and retired people in both groups. The vast majority of people lived in single family homes on less than five acres of land. About 40% of the seasonal folks plan to become full time residents at some point. About two-thirds of those folks will be moving here when they retire.

The results of the survey are quite similar to the one taken as part of the 2003 Master Plan. Both groups expressed that what they liked most about Thornton was the environment; the uncrowded living conditions, the peace and quiet, the outdoor recreation and the scenery. The only concern that was expressed by over 50% of respondents was taxes. Land values, roads, junked cars and diminishing open space were other concerns expressed by significant numbers of people.

Respondents from both groups looked favorably on most town services.

The answers in the area of growth were somewhat inconsistent. When asked a simple question, would you like to see growth continue at its current rate, a faster rate or a slower rate, both seasonal and permanent residents were split almost evenly between those happy with the current rate of growth and those wishing no growth. Only 5% of both groups wanted to see faster growth. However, when asked about specific types of growth, between 12% and 28% of people wanted to see additional growth depending of the specific type.

There were a number of questions about new services and facilities that residents might like to see. Bike paths, noise ordinance and wetlands protection received a “yes” on slightly more than 50% of the survey responses. Recreation facilities were noted as being the town service with the lowest favorability rating. While many people expressed a desire to see the town spend money on recreation facilities, no specific activity garnered a majority.

There were four questions dealing with additional housing for senior citizens. The only type receiving over 50% YES responses was over 55 housing (62%) if nonresponses were not included. The full survey results follow. They are presented in two ways. The first set of data includes the “no responses” in the tabulation, the second does not. Please note that in those questions where multiple answers were possible, the percent is a percent of the respondents who gave that answer.