

# What We've Heard

## Results from the NRPC's Regional Outreach

NRPC staff conducted two surveys during the summer and fall of 2012 throughout the Nashua Region. The first survey had 771 responses and asked two questions: (1) "What is best about this area?", and (2) "What could make this area even better?" The second survey asked respondents to choose which forms of housing, retail, office, and transportation they preferred.

## How We Reached Out

---

### Listening Boxes

Survey cards placed in popular buildings around the region

### Website

Surveys were available on [www.granitestatefuture.org](http://www.granitestatefuture.org)

### Litchfield Community Survey

The two-question survey was incorporated in Litchfield's planning survey.

### Group Meetings

NRPC staff met with small groups like a Rotary Club, seniors groups, and a public health commission.

### Public Events

NRPC staff spoke with people around the region at the following events:

- Hudson Old Home Day, August 18
- Nashua Tree Streets Block Party, September 8
- Mason Old Home Day, September 9
- Pelham Old Home Day, September 15
- Hollis Old Home Day, September 15
- Lamson Farm Day, Mont Vernon, September 29
- Merrimack Fall Festival and Business Expo, September 29
- Milford Pumpkin Festival, October 6 and 7
- Southern New Hampshire Business Expo, October 18

## Major Themes

---

There are many themes in the responses, but a few consistently rose to the top.

### Rural Character, Economic Vitality

The people of the Nashua Region tend to enjoy living in rural, quiet places that feel like small towns, but also have access to conveniences of more urban settings, like restaurants, shopping, and job centers.

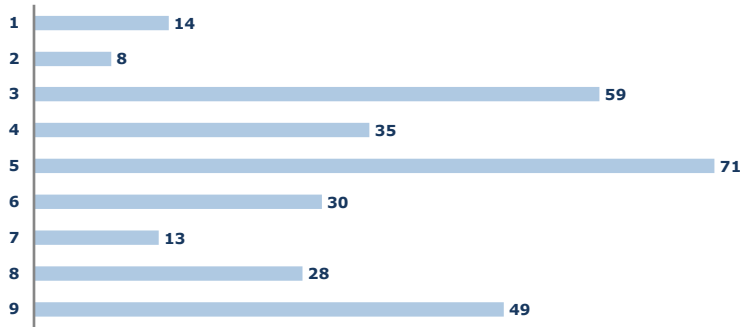
### Transportation Choices

Respondents consistently expressed a desire to get around in ways other than the automobile. Adding walking and biking infrastructure to communities was particularly popular, although there were plenty of comments regarding rail and bus travel.

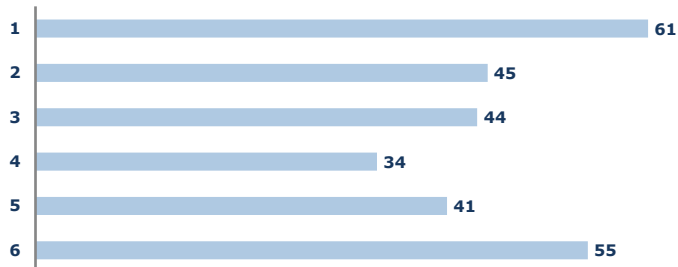
# Visual Preference Survey

Over 200 people from around the Nashua Region took our visual preference survey and expressed their preferences for what they found visually appealing in places to live, shop, and work. The survey also asked respondents to choose the kinds of transportation that they prefer. Respondents selected pictures that represented various forms of architecture, site design and transportation.

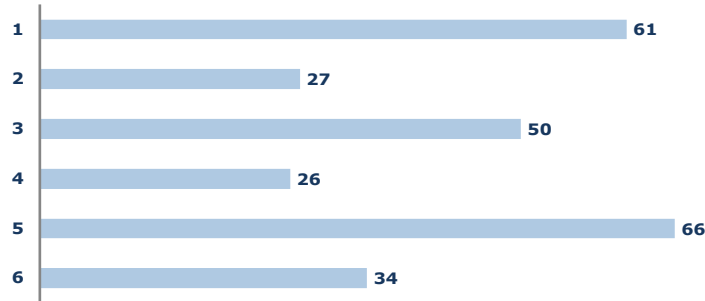
## Housing



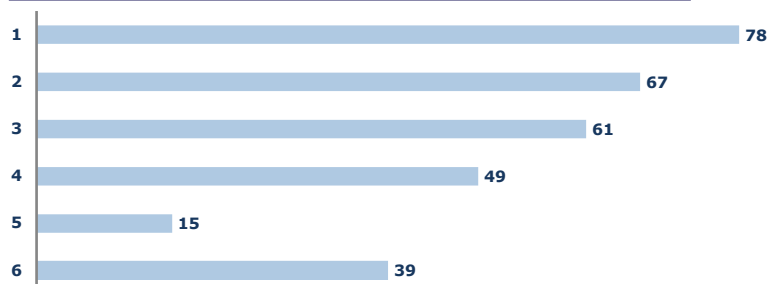
## Retail



## Workplaces

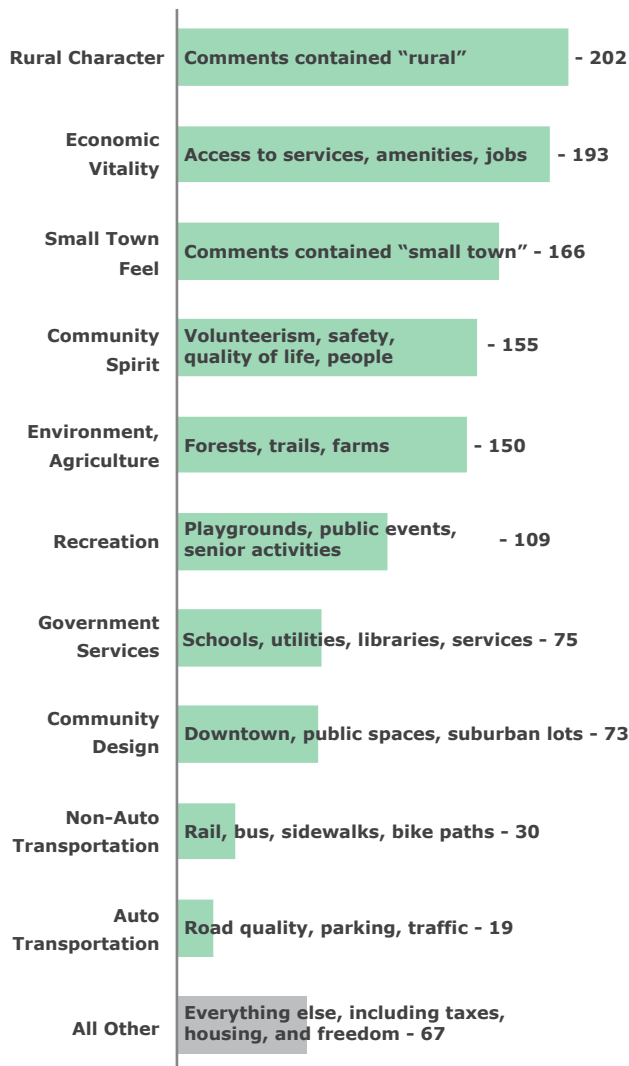


## Transportation



# What is best about this area?

## Responses by Frequency



## Rural Character

"Quietness - rural" - Amherst

"Ruralness (except that there is too much building and has been). Safety, neighbors." - Brookline

"Rural feel, but close to shopping when you want." - Hollis

"That it is still rural." - Hudson

"People, rural but close to things to do." - Mont Vernon

"The rural beauty and nature of the area." - Pelham

## Economic Vitality

"Litchfield's location is one of its best features. You get the quietness of the country within a short distance of essential retail places." - Litchfield

"Pickity Place. Annual barbeques." - Mason

"The blend of residential and business is good." - Merrimack

"Combination of rural areas and easily accessible shopping & services & entertainment." - Milford

"All stores and amenities are close in town." - Amherst

"Safe community, good shopping and restaurants. Affordable housing and close proximity to other attractions." - Hudson

"Wilton Town Hall Theatre." - Wilton

"Restaurants. Hollis Auto, atmosphere." - Hollis

## Small Town Feel

"I like the small town flavor and rural feel of Mont Vernon. Also the lack of commercial interests." - Mont Vernon

"Wealth of resources, urban area but remains naturally beautiful. Nashua has small town feel for a city." - Nashua

"Sense of community, small town feel." - Pelham

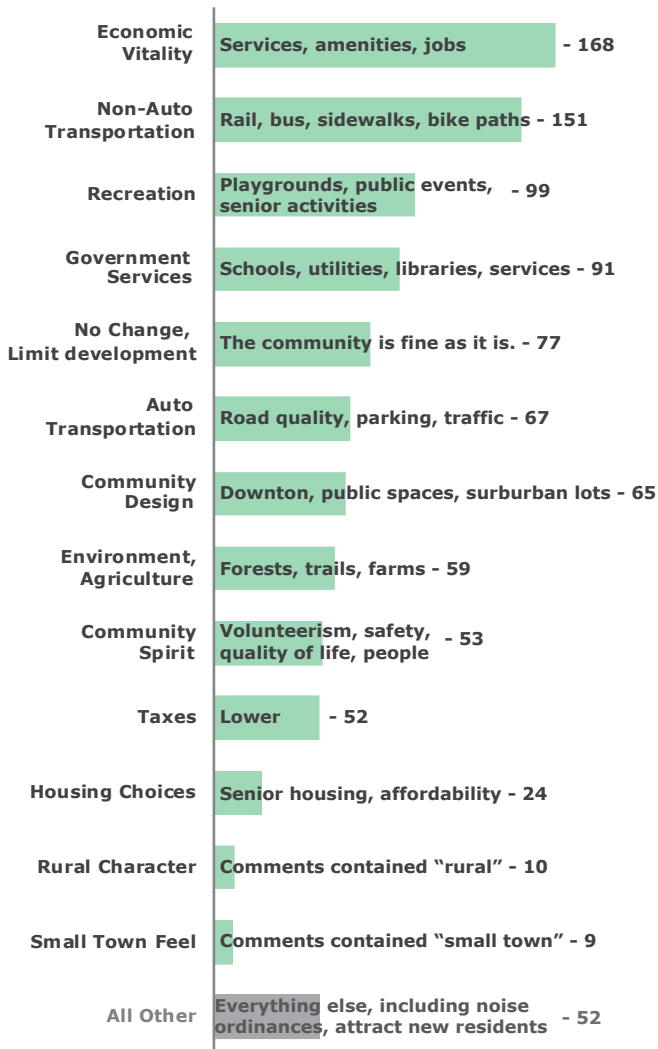
"Small town character surrounded by larger cities." - Wilton

"Small town - close knit - slower lifestyle." - Mason

"Small town atmosphere, SHARE, shops downtown, bus service, rails to trails." - Milford

# What could make this area even better?

## Responses by Frequency



## Economic Vitality

"More small businesses - food related." - Amherst

"More quaint shopping and eateries." - Hollis

"Make it more attractive to businesses. Streamline the process of opening a store so that businesses want to open here. There are a lot of empty stores in town and the community would benefit from more of them reopening." - Hudson

"More professional businesses, less industrial, more high-end dining." - Litchfield

"Closer grocery store. Finish second ball field." - Mason

"Local restaurant." - Mont Vernon

## Transportation

"More marked & paved bike trails. A TRAIN!" - Mason

"Rail transport to Boston." - Milford

"Bicycle paths, share the road programs for bicycles between communities, hiking trails." - Nashua

"If we could have better transportation for seniors. Bus could be in better condition." - Wilton

"More access to public transportation." - Amherst

"Better public transportation options for commuters to Boston/south." - Hudson

"Rail!!!" - Merrimack

## Recreation

"Something for older kids ages 12-18 to do other than the schools playground or the general store. A small hangout." - Mont Vernon

"More recreational buildings. Sidewalks." - Pelham

"More playgrounds and anything that appeals to young families." - Litchfield

"More family attractions." - Merrimack

"Some recreational facility in town." - Hollis

"A park for younger kids, so teenagers don't invade. Also something for teenagers." - Milford