



Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

Introduction

Ever wonder where the vision guiding our community comes from? That vision is contained in our Town Plan. The plan is comprehensive, with sections on population, housing, flood resiliency, wildlife habitat, roads/sidewalks/trails, public safety, energy use and climate change, economic development, etc.

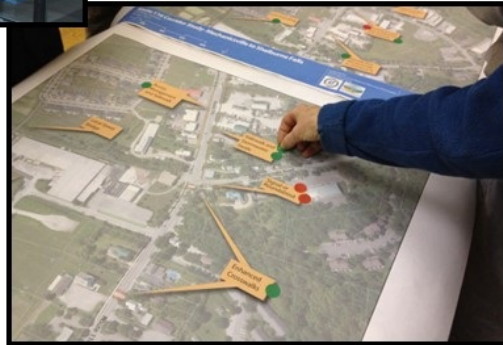
The plan was first adopted in 1971; it has been revised and adjusted many times over the years. The time has come once again to take another look. Our last community vision survey was done in 2014. Issues change over time and so does public opinion; hence our desire to do another survey.

The Planning Commission wants to hear from you BEFORE it starts working to revise the Town Plan. We realize that regular Planning Commission meetings and formal public hearings attract a small slice of the community, so we hope this survey will provide feedback from a larger percentage of those who live, work, or own property in Hinesburg.

The survey is simple and includes a place for your comments at the end. It should take 15 minutes or less to complete.

Written responses to open-ended questions will be reported but will be anonymous, and not associated with responses to other questions. Only combined summary results will be presented (not individual survey responses). Please, just one survey per person. Results will be posted on the Town website after the survey closes.

For more information, see the Town website at www.hinesburg.org or contact Alex Weinhagen (Director of Planning & Zoning) at aweinhagen@hinesburg.org or 802-482-4209.





Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

General & Quality of Life Questions

1. Do you feel Hinesburg is headed in a positive direction?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

2. Would you recommend Hinesburg to a friend as a place to live?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

Want to give your reasons? Keep going, there is a place for comments at the end of the survey!

*** 3. What do you like most about Hinesburg? Select up to three.**

- ☐ Sense of community
- ☐ Quality of school system
- ☐ Scenic beauty and natural resources
- ☐ Recreational opportunities
- ☐ Availability of goods and services
- ☐ Economic opportunity and jobs
- ☐ Rural area and lifestyle
- ☐ Village area
- ☐ Local government and municipal services
- ☐ Geographic location
- ☐ Size/scale of the community
- ☐ Housing affordability & availability
- ☐ Other (please specify)

*** 4. What do you feel are the top three challenges facing Hinesburg over the next 5-10 years? Select up to three.**

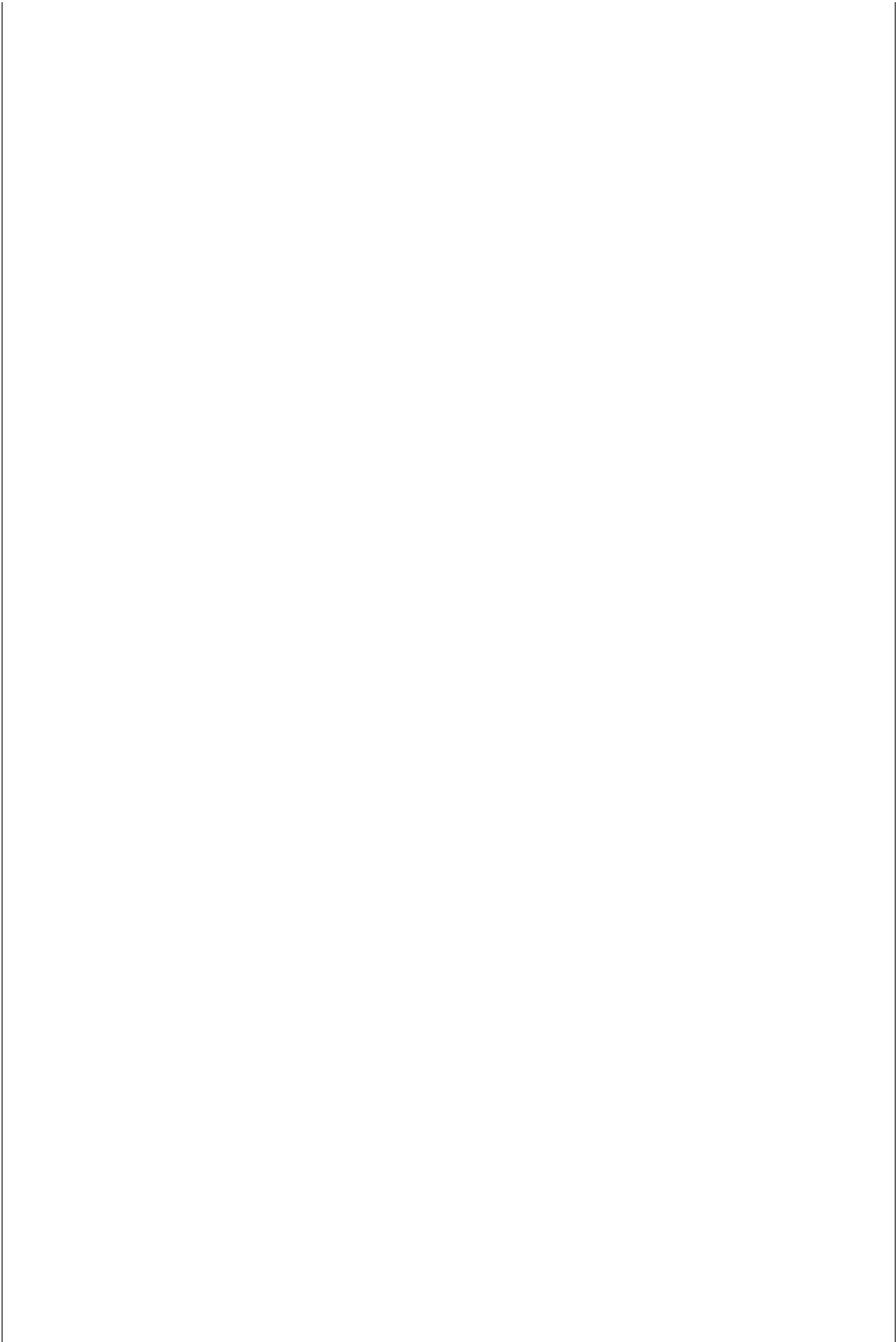
- ☐ Managing growth and development
- ☐ Providing affordable & adequate housing
- ☐ Conserving forest and agricultural land
- ☐ Controlling property taxes
- ☐ Preserving the character of the village
- ☐ Controlling traffic congestion
- ☐ Limiting the size and reach of Town government and regulations
- ☐ Facilitating economic and job growth
- ☐ Preserving water quality and natural resources
- ☐ Creating and maintaining community infrastructure (e.g., roads, parks, community buildings)
- ☐ Adapting to climate change and increasing resilience to storms/flooding
- ☐ Other (please specify)

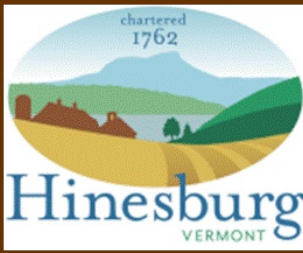
5. Do you feel Hinesburg is prepared for the top challenges the community will face over the next 5-10 years?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

6. The Town Plan helps guide town government decisions and actions. The Planning Commission will be updating portions of the plan in 2024. Which of the following parts do you think are most important to focus on?

	important	somewhat important	not important	not sure
Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land Use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural Resources & Ecological Systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Facilities & Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

Housing

Some context... Hinesburg's population is aging. The percentage of Hinesburg residents that are 55 or older has increased from 20% in 1990 to 36% in 2020. Not surprisingly, average household size is also shrinking. Additionally, Hinesburg's existing housing stock is out of balance with what most households need. Hinesburg's housing stock is predominantly 3-4 bedroom single-unit homes; however, over two thirds (67%) of households in Chittenden County are comprised of just one or two people.

Affordable housing continues to be out of reach for many households. The median home sale price has increased dramatically in recent years. It was \$435,000 in 2021. Only a third of Hinesburg households (those earning at least \$140,015 annually) could afford to spend 30% or less of their income to own the median priced home.

Figures from 2023
Hinesburg Housing
Needs Assessment

Figure 4

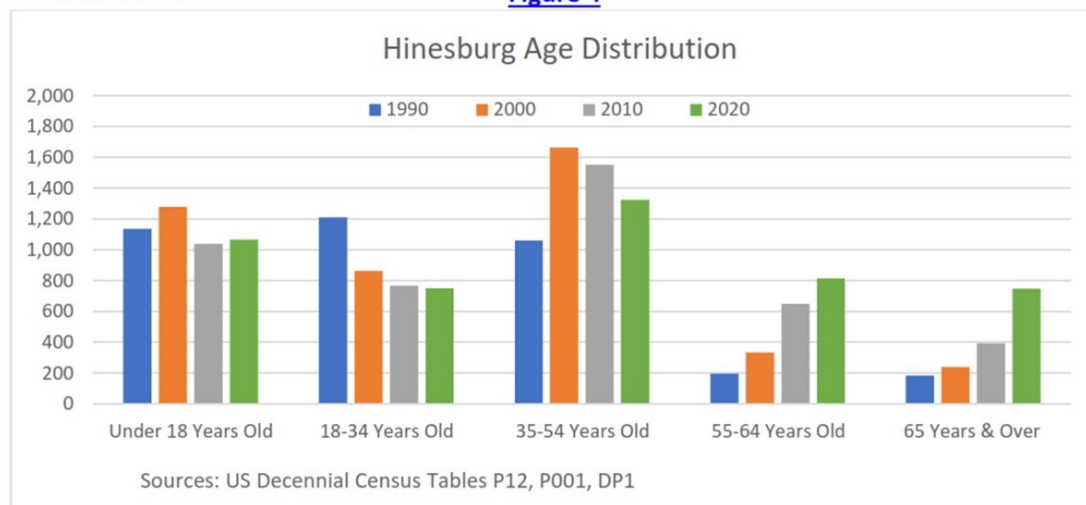


Figure 12

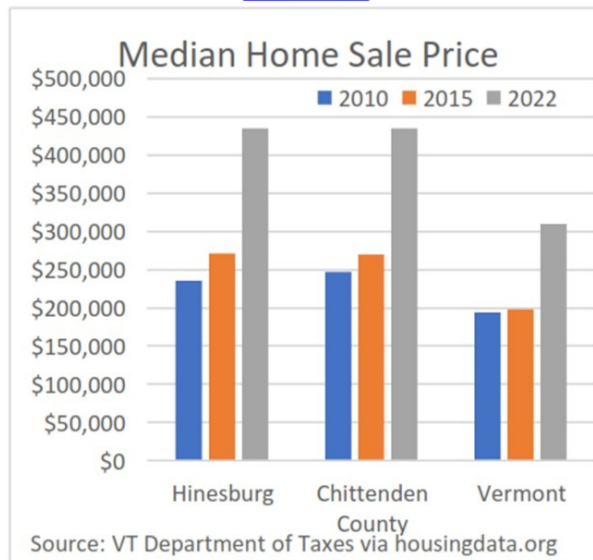
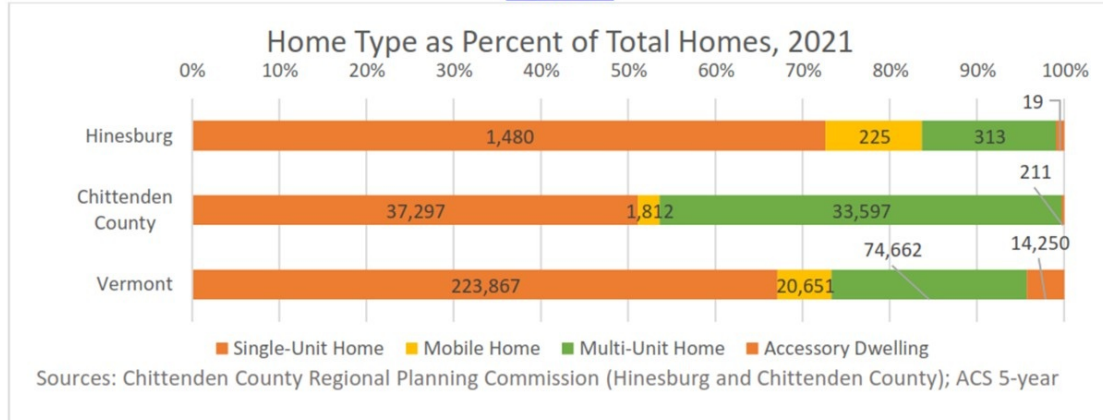


Figure 18



7. Do you support the creation of new housing in Hinesburg? Assume new housing is reviewed and meets the Town's development regulations.

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

8. Would you support the creation of new homes in your immediate neighborhood? Assume the new homes are reviewed and meet the Town's development regulations.

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

9. For new residential development in the Village Area, which housing types do you think are most appropriate?

	Appropriate	Somewhat Appropriate	Not Appropriate	Not Sure
Multi-unit building - 3-6 units per building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-unit building - 7+ units per building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Single unit building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Duplex (two-unit building)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessory Dwelling Unit (on same lot as a single unit building)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*** 10. In 2023, Vermont's HOME Act went into effect. The goal of the act is to facilitate the creation of more housing - both market rate and affordably-priced housing. On a scale of 1-5, how important do you feel it is to increase the supply of housing in Hinesburg? One star = not at all important. Five stars = very important.**

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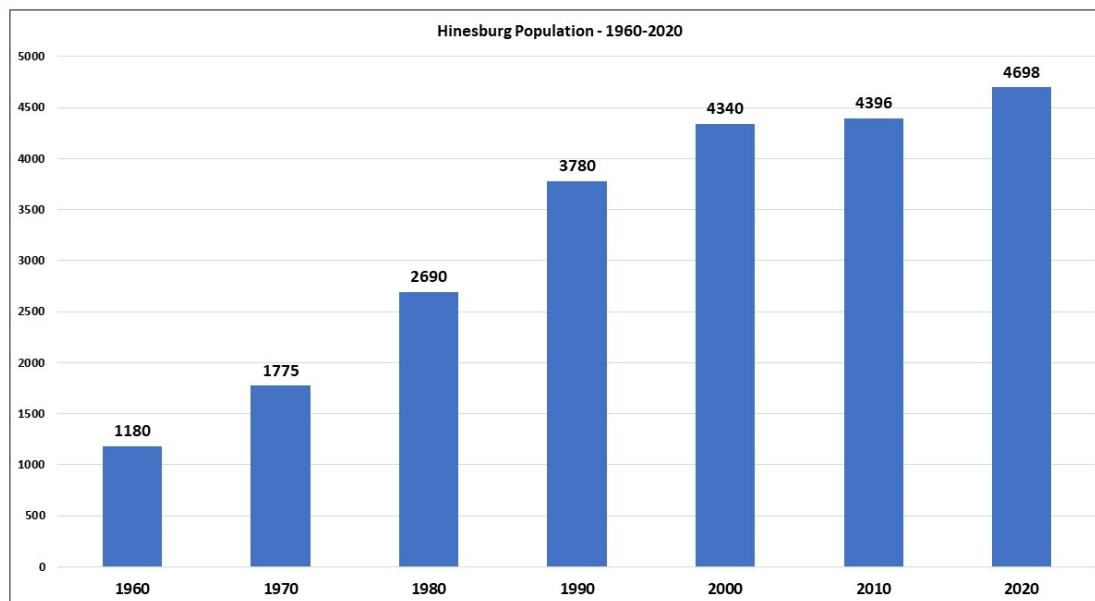
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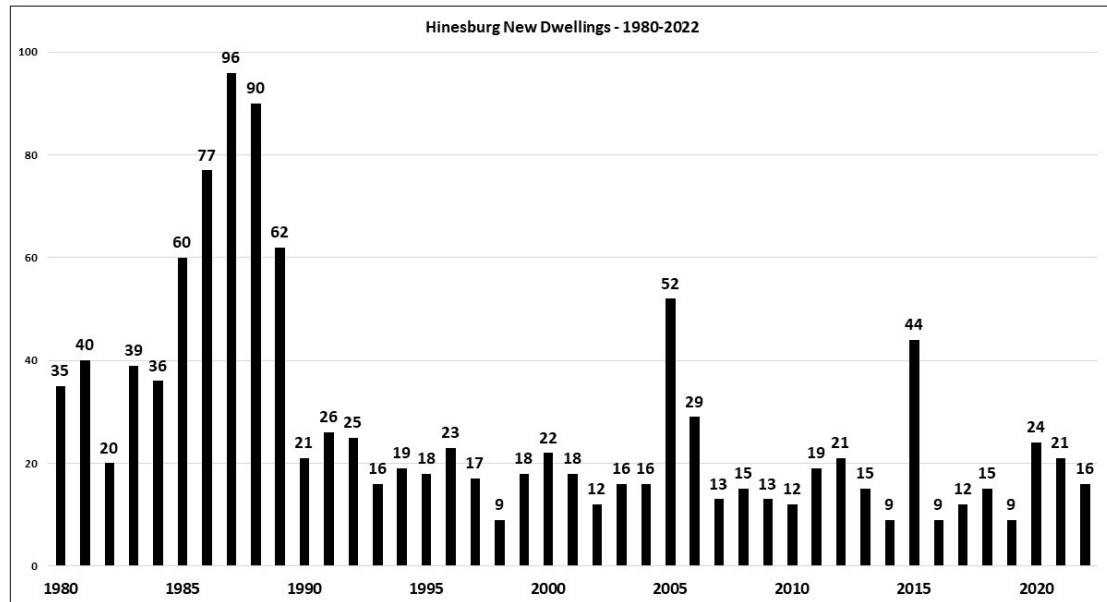


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Land Use & Economic Development Questions

Some context... From 2010 to 2020, Chittenden County's population grew by 7.5% (+11,778 people) while Hinesburg's population grew by 6.9% (+302 people). See below for charts showing Hinesburg's population growth and the number of new dwellings permitted.





11. Is Hinesburg developing too fast, too slow, or about the right pace?

	Too fast	About right	Too slow	Not sure
Village area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shoreline area (Lake Iroquois & Sunset Lake)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Does Hinesburg need more of the following commercial, industrial, civic uses?
For the purposes of this question, assume proper vetting/review of any new use regardless of the category.

	More	No more, OK as is	Too much already	Not sure
Retail (e.g., stores and shops)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Service establishment (e.g., optometrist, pet grooming)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Office space (e.g., engineering firm)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Light industry (e.g., food processing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heavy industry (e.g., wood pellet production)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restaurant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entertainment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor community/public spaces (e.g., common, park, playground)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor community/public spaces (e.g., community center)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture and/or forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments or other desired uses

13. If you could add one specific business or type of business to Hinesburg, what would it be?



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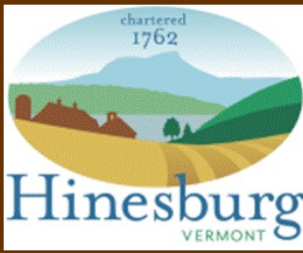
Transportation Questions

14. Please rate the importance/urgency of the following transportation matters.

	Very Important	Moderately Important	Not Important	Not Sure
Bicycle accommodation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic congestion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalks & trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Streetscape design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speed enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Road maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety (for all users)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ADA Accessibility (e.g., parking, sidewalks, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other important transportation issue? Specify here:

Want to say more about traffic, sidewalks, transit, or other transportation matters? Keep going, there is a place for comments at the end of the survey. You're almost there!



Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

Natural Resources & Recreation Questions

*** 15. Which natural/cultural resources should the Town focus its attention on over the next 5-10 years? Select up to three.**

- ☐ Forest land
- ☐ Agricultural land
- ☐ Non-agricultural open land
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Water quality
- ☐ Lakes and rivers
- ☐ Wildlife habitat
- ☐ Ecologically sensitive areas
- ☐ Scenic vistas/views
- ☐ Historic buildings
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. What recreational facilities, infrastructure, and public/private land activities did you use or enjoy in the last year in Hinesburg? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Playing fields
- ☐ Parks and playgrounds
- ☐ Nature areas
- ☐ Walking/hiking/x-country ski trails
- ☐ Mountain biking trails
- ☐ Sidewalks
- ☐ Recreational road usage (walking, biking, horseback riding, etc.)
- ☐ Golf course
- ☐ Facilities/courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, gym, ice rink)
- ☐ Hunting areas/access
- ☐ ATV or dirt bike trails
- ☐ Fishing areas/access
- ☐ Boat access (lakes/rivers)
- ☐ Swimming access (lakes/rivers)
- ☐ Snowmobile trails
- ☐ Other (please specify)

*** 17. In 2023, Vermont's Community Resilience & Biodiversity Act went into effect. The goal of the act is to plan for the permanent conservation of 30% of Vermont's land area by 2030. How interested are you in conserving additional land area in Hinesburg to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem function? One star = not at all interested. Five stars = very interested.**

★

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Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

Municipal Government & Services

18. How well does Hinesburg's municipal government listen to and consider community feedback?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Not so well
- ☐ Very poorly
- ☐ Not sure

19. What do you feel about the level/quantity of municipal services currently provided by the Town?

	More services needed	Level of service adequate	Fewer services needed	Not sure
Town Clerk's Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Manager's Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning & Zoning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Highway/Roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Works (water, sewer, sidewalks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire & Emergency Response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Town budgets are typically tight, and property tax burdens are often cited as a significant concern by many community members. With that said, the community still considers the need for new and/or improved services from time to time. Please indicate the level of need for the following potential new or improved municipal services.

	strongly needed	somewhat needed	not needed	Not sure
Fire Station expansion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Office expansion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bissonette Recreation Area amenities (playground, pickleball court, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Richmond Road sidewalk (segment from CVU Rd to North Rd)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stormwater control & flood resiliency (treatment areas, larger culverts, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*** 21. Storms are already bringing heavier and more frequent rain than in the past. This is projected to continue. How concerned are you about this issue with regard to your property and the Hinesburg community (safety, transportation, etc.)? One star = not at all concerned. Five stars = very concerned.**

☐★☐★☐★☐★☐★



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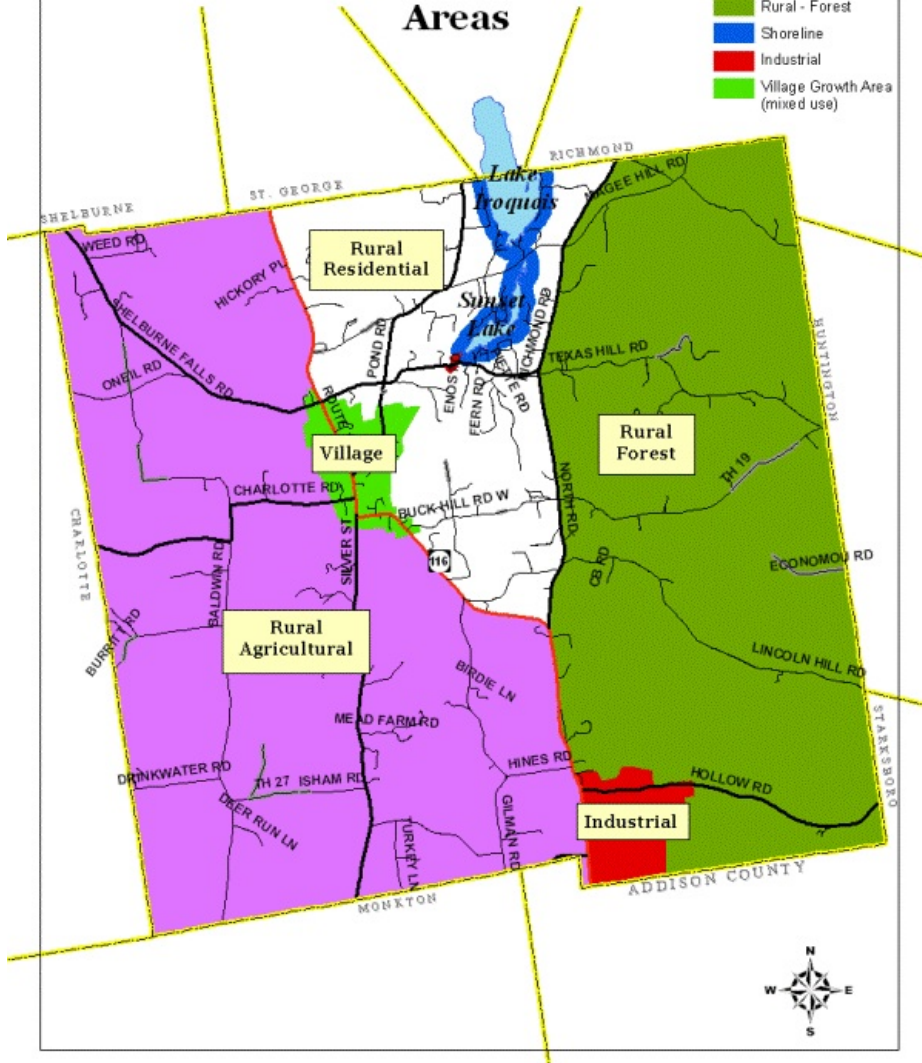
Demographic Questions

*** 22. What part of Hinesburg do you live in? See map below.**

- ☐ Shoreline - on/around Lake Iroquois or Sunset Lake
- ☐ Rural Residential Area
- ☐ Village Growth Area
- ☐ Rural Forest Area
- ☐ Rural Agricultural Area
- ☐ Industrial Area
- ☐ Not sure or between map areas
- ☐ Non-resident

Hinesburg Land Use Areas

- Rural - Agricultural
- Rural Residential
- Rural - Forest
- Shoreline
- Industrial
- Village Growth Area (mixed use)



23. How do you learn about what is going on in Hinesburg?

	often	sometimes	rarely or never
Direct communication with friends, neighbors, co-workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Media - e.g., Facebook, Tik-Tok, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Front Porch Forum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newspapers (print or online)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Television news (broadcast or online)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal and other local meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

24. How long have you lived, worked, or owned property in Hinesburg?

- ☐ less than 2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ over 20 years
- ☐ I don't live, work, or own property in Hinesburg

25. Do you see yourself living, working, or owning property in Hinesburg five years from now?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

26. How old are you? (Optional)

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

27. How many people currently live in your household, including yourself? (Optional)

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5+
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

28. Do you own or rent your residence? (Optional)

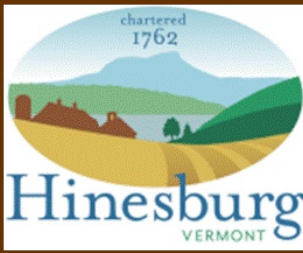
- ☐ own
- ☐ rent
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

29. What is your annual household income before taxes? (Optional)

- ☐ Under \$15,000
- ☐ Between \$15,000 and \$29,999
- ☐ Between \$30,000 and \$49,999
- ☐ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- ☐ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- ☐ Between \$100,000 and \$150,000
- ☐ Over \$150,000
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

30. What is your race or ethnicity? (Optional)

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Asian or Asian American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Multiracial or Multiethnic
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I prefer not to answer



Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

Open Comments

31. What does Hinesburg do well? (Optional)

32. What is one thing you would change about Hinesburg? (Optional)

33. Comments, feedback, suggestions, follow up to survey questions. (Optional)



Town Plan Survey - Community Vision

The End

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Survey results will be posted on the Town website (www.hinesburg.org) - hopefully by Town Meeting. Enjoy winter and look for more Town Plan happenings (e.g., community forums, speakers, etc.) coming soon!

