

2009 Town of Washington Comprehensive Plan Survey

August 10, 2009

Dear Neighbors,

Last year the Washington Town Board appointed the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and charged us with the task of creating a new Comprehensive Plan for the town of Washington. We have had the assistance of more than 40 residents working in citizen study groups to research background and trends facing the Town. Our objective is to envision what the Town will look like ten to fifteen years from now—and to propose a roadmap for how we can get there.

As defined in state legislation, a comprehensive plan is a document that presents goals, objectives, guidelines and policies for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the community. Also known as a master plan or land use plan, a comprehensive plan provides guidance to local, county and state leaders to ensure that the needs of the community will be met. It will serve as the reference for all laws the Town adopts related to planning and land use, including the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

Our first step in hearing your views is this survey. We would like all residents of Washington age 18 and older to complete the survey. Each member of a family is encouraged to complete the survey. The survey seeks your thoughts regarding the future of the Town, rather than its past, or what it is like today. Your responses are confidential.

Completing the survey online will greatly simplify the data entry and analysis steps and reduce our costs. If you choose to complete a paper copy of the survey, please mail it back to us at Town of Washington, P.O. Box 1225, Millbrook NY 12545 (return postage is free) or drop it off at the Town Hall or the Millbrook Library. Extra copies are available at the Town Hall.

Our goal is to write a plan which will truly reflect the opinions and aspirations of the people of Washington. We want to hear from everyone - old timers and new comers, renters and owners, weekenders and full timers - young, old and everybody in between. At the end of this introduction is some basic background information that may be helpful to you in completing the survey.

Please return this survey by August 24, 2009.

Our first town-wide meeting will be held in late September. Please watch for information about this workshop. We look forward to seeing you then!

Should you desire additional information about the Comprehensive Plan process please visit the Town of Washington web site at www.washingtonny.org or contact Thomas Beaumont or Don Hansen, co-chairs of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

We thank you for your time.

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I. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON?

A. What three words or phrases best describe your vision for the Town of Washington in the next ten years:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

II. WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON?

For each planning category, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the statement presented. Indicate your opinion by checking “SA” if you STRONGLY AGREE, “A” if you AGREE, “D” if you DISAGREE, and “SD” if you STRONGLY DISAGREE. If you neither agree nor disagree, check **No Opinion**.

A. OPEN SPACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Town should focus on the following open space and environmental actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Identify and protect scenic views and ridgelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Protect water supplies and aquifers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protect stream corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Protect forested areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Identify and protect wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Identify and protect wildlife habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Purchase open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Protect rural character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Provide incentives for private land conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Encourage cluster development to conserve open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Use zoning to protect critical environmental areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Adopt tighter standards to protect rural character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

B. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Town should focus on the following historic preservation actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Protect historic homes, places and buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Continue to inventory historic buildings, sites and locations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Provide tax incentives for rehabilitation of historic buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Protect stone masonry and walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Protect historic resources from new development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

C. AGRICULTURE

The Town should focus on the following agriculture actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Protect agriculture from impact of development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Improve farmer representation on local boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Purchase development rights for open lands to preserve working farms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Encourage community-supported agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Work to market local farm products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Encourage niche or specialty farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Preserve agricultural character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

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D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town should focus on the following economic development actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Encourage new businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Retain existing businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Improve the environment for small business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Encourage home-based businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Limit development to existing commercial areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Expand the amount of land for commercial uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Provide more convenience retail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Support a "buy local" campaign	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Help arts based businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Help "green" environmentally friendly businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Create businesses that meet the needs of senior citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Support agricultural based businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

E. HOUSING

The Town should focus on the following housing actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Encourage development of homes affordable to first-time homeowners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Encourage affordable apartments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Encourage single-family homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Encourage high density manufactured (mobile) homes in the Town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Encourage affordable senior housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Encourage assisted living facilities for seniors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Encourage more second home development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Encourage nursing homes/acute care for seniors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Help seniors to remain in their homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

F. TRANSPORTATION

The Town should focus on the following transportation actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Improve road conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Pave gravel/dirt roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Create public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Develop walking/bike paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Make the town more walkable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Improve facilities for bicyclists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Improve / provide transportation for seniors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

G. INFRASTRUCTURE

The Town should focus on the following infrastructure actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Improve high-speed internet service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Improve cable/satellite television service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Promote alternate energy: solar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Promote alternate energy: wind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Develop a mass evacuation plan from high population centers (NYC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Develop town sewer system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Develop town water system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Support recruitment of volunteers (i.e. fire/rescue)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

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H. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION

The Town should focus on the following community facilities and recreation actions over the next decade:

	SA	A	D	SD	No Opinion
1. Improve town parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Develop multi use trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Improve community spaces such as a community center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Provide new recreational services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Develop more teen/youth services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Develop more senior services i.e. recreational, day care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____					

Please identify the five issues that are most important to you. Use the codes (i.e. A-6, C-7, etc.) from the sections A through H.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 4. _____ 5. _____

III. OTHER QUESTIONS

A. What do you like best about living in the Town of Washington?

B. What do you like least about living in the Town of Washington?

C. What worries or concerns you most about the future of the TOWN?

D. What worries or concerns you most about the future of the VILLAGE?

E. Why do you live and/or own property in the Town of Washington? Check all that apply!

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close friends live here | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner born here | <input type="checkbox"/> Close family lives here | <input type="checkbox"/> I was born here |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural atmosphere | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic beauty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Great place to retire | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe community | <input type="checkbox"/> Good schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family friendliness | <input type="checkbox"/> Small town feel | <input type="checkbox"/> Raised here and moved back | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |

F. Where do you live?

- Area 1 (Northwest)
 Area 2 (Northeast)
 Area 3 (Southwest)
 Area 4 (South East)
 Area 5 - Village of Millbrook



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IV. TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

A. How old are you? Under 20 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 Over 70 Over 80

B. Where do you work? Retired Unemployed Home Town of Washington (outside of the Village)
 Village of Millbrook Dutchess County Westchester NYC Other

C. Do you own or rent your home in the Town of Washington? Own Rent Don't live here

D. How long have you owned property in Washington? 5 or less 6-10 10-20 20 plus Don't own

E. How do you use your property you own in The Town of Washington? (Check all that apply)

Main residence Vacation home Weekend home Business Investment property Vacant land
 Don't own property here Second home Farm

F. How many years have you lived here? 0-2 3-5 6-10 10-20 20 plus Don't live here

G. What portion of the year do you live in Washington?

All Year Mostly weekends Mostly summer months Weekends and summer Don't live here Other

H. What is your annual household income range?

Less than \$25,000 \$25,000-\$50,000 \$50,000-\$100,000 \$100,000-\$250,000 \$250,000-\$500,000
 Over \$500,000

I. What is your gender? Male Female

J. What is your family status?

Single, no children Single, with children Single, children no longer at home Teenager
 Couple, no children Couple, with children Couple, children no longer at home Other

K. What is your employment status? Full Time Employed Self-Employed Part Time Employed

Homemaker Retired Looking for work Full time employed (Home Based)

Do you have any concerns or topics not covered by this survey?

Please visit the Town of Washington website at www.washingtonny.org for up to date information on the Comprehensive Plan, Recreation and other town news.

Surveys are to be returned by August 24, 2009. You may send them to the Town of Washington, PO Box 1225, Millbrook, NY 12545 or drop them off at the Town Hall, Village Hall or the Millbrook Library.