

Stowe Town Plan - Community Survey

2008

Total of **479** surveys: 330 residents and 149 2nd home owners.

1.) Please rank all that apply (1 being the most important) issues facing the Town of Stowe today.

(Top 5 choices are counted.)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
70%	92%	85%	State property tax reform
70%	89%	89%	Preserving Stowe's landscape and protecting remaining open spaces
51%	81%	84%	Maintaining Stowe's economic vitality
51%	81%	81%	Controlling development
44%	81%	75%	Maintaining Stowe Village as the town's social, cultural and commercial center
42%	79%	64%	Maintaining Stowe's school system at current standards
42%	78%	60%	Providing a diverse housing stock for people of all income levels
26%	74%	67%	Addressing traffic congestion

2.) Please rank all that apply (1 being the most important) you feel are Stowe's greatest assets.

(Top 3 choices are counted.)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
77%	95%	97%	Scenic beauty
12%	72%	53%	Good neighbors
7%	53%	40%	Diverse population
27%	72%	45%	Quality school system
4%	51%	34%	Business opportunities
25%	77%	68%	Traditional village center
52%	84%	82%	Recreational opportunities
27%	77%	72%	Quiet lifestyle
3%	50%	32%	Employment opportunities
28%	76%	61%	Personal/family safety
9%	62%	56%	Cultural amenities
3%	58%	43%	Quality public/government services
13%	68%	70%	Restaurants and shopping

3.) Are you generally satisfied or unsatisfied with the variety and quality of arts and cultural activities in Stowe?

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
81%	87%	90%	Satisfied
19%	13%	7%	Unsatisfied

4.) Are you generally satisfied or unsatisfied with the recreation activities and services in Stowe?

(New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
	92%	96%	Satisfied
	8%	2%	Unsatisfied

5.) Are you generally satisfied or unsatisfied with the recreation facilities in Stowe? (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
	76%	90%	Satisfied
	23%	7%	Unsatisfied

6.) Please rank all that apply (1 being the most important) strategies for improving Stowe, that you most strongly support. (Top 3 choices are counted.)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
59%	79%	85%	Preserve additional open space to maintain the rural landscape
40%	52%	54%	Develop conference/performing arts center to attract visitors during non-peak periods
28%	61%	54%	Attract additional special events (such as tennis tournaments / British Invasion)
21%	33%	21%	Designate location(s) for an industrial/office park(s)
19%	34%	32%	Expand the Stowe-Morrisville Airport to accommodate commercial passenger service
17%	66%	49%	Develop state-of-the-art telecommunications network in Town of Stowe
15%	41%	33%	Provide services and facilities to attract retirees
9%	30%	21%	Encourage additional commercial development
4%	21%	17%	Encourage development of discount retail center(s)
5%	5%	8%	None of the above

7.) Over the past 10 years, how would you characterize the quality and rate of growth and development that Stowe has experienced?

Rate of Growth and Development

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
31%	40%	30%	Grown too fast
55%	40%	30%	Grown just right
2%	5%	5%	Grown too slowly

Quality of Growth and Development

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
25%	26%	30%	Development has been of generally high quality
42%	46%	52%	Development has been acceptable
16%	24%	13%	Development has been poorly planned

8.) Please rank all that apply (1 being the most important) the areas of Stowe in which you feel as though additional commercial development should be encouraged over the next ten years.

(Top 5 choices are counted.)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
34%	55%	50%	In specific locations along the Mountain Road
28%	70%	64%	In the Lower Village
26%	61%	60%	In Stowe Village
22%	32%	39%	At the base of Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak
18%	34%	37%	Along the length of Route 100
9%	37%	32%	In Moscow Village
7%	25%	24%	Along the entire Mountain Road

9.) Should the Town: Do more to protect open spaces, scenic properties and natural areas in Stowe?

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
75%	74%	81%	Yes
16%	15%	9%	No
6%	9%	7%	No opinion

Should the Town: Work with local and state conservation organizations in supporting the preservation of open spaces, scenic properties and natural areas in Stowe?

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
53%	48%	60%	More active
35%	44%	32%	About the same
6%	5%	3%	Less active

10.) Do you support the use of additional local tax dollars or bonds to fund any of the following programs?

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
20%	23%	23%	Promote tourism through marketing and advertising
21%	26%	27%	Help fund the construction of a performing arts/conference facility
38%	58%	57%	Extend the Stowe Recreation Path
44%	45%	51%	Purchase land or development rights to preserve open spaces, scenic properties and natural areas
16%	29%	20%	Develop additional recreation facilities
	7%	5%	Develop additional ball fields
	32%	17%	Provide additional public parking lots in Stowe Village
	17%	4%	Construction of a parking garage in Stowe Village
16%	47%	22%	Construct additional sidewalks
33%	51%	33%	Designate bicycle lanes along main roads
25%	36%	15%	Hide the utility lines along Main Street in Stowe Village
	24%	13%	Renovate the "Rotary Barn" for use as a community center
	29%	17%	Develop the area around the ice rink/recreation center facility
12%	5%	18%	None of the above

11.) Should the town adopt an impact fee on new construction and use the revenue for capital facilities?
(New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
---	71%	63%	Yes
---	21%	23%	No

12.) Please rank all that apply (1 being the most important) ways to improve the Stowe Village (downtown area)? (Top 5 choices are counted) (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
---	37%	49%	I like the Village the way it is
---	37%	21%	More sidewalks
---	23%	12%	More street lighting
---	37%	17%	More free parking
---	20%	13%	More parking even if I had to pay
---	51%	49%	More variety of retail shops and merchandise
---	26%	41%	Additional restaurants
---	31%	23%	Music in the streets
---	21%	10%	Sidewalk sales
---	24%	11%	Street vendors
---	23%	10%	Street performers
---	39%	41%	More festivals and performing arts
---	15%	12%	More museums
---	41%	25%	More utilization of Lower Village
---	20%	16%	More utilization of Maple Street
---	24%	10%	Expansion of Village along Thomas Lane

13.) How satisfied are you with the current level of the following municipal services (rate 1 through 5 where 1 is very satisfied and 5 is very dissatisfied)? (New question)

	Satisfied (1 & 2)	Satisfied (1 & 2) 2 nd Home	(3)	(3) 2 nd Home	Dissatisfied (4 & 5)	Dissatisfied (4 & 5) 2 nd Home
Schools	49%	41%	13%	6%	16%	4%
Town Roads / Maintenance	58%	65%	16%	11%	19%	10%
Fire Protection	78%	59%	4%	5%	7%	6%
Police Protection	70%	61%	10%	7%	10%	5%
Snow Removal	81%	74%	4%	8%	7%	5%
Library	75%	53%	7%	9%	7%	4%
Solid Waste Disposal	56%	35%	8%	12%	11%	10%
Recreation Facilities	52%	53%	19%	8%	13%	8%
Use of Community Facilities	39%	30%	20%	8%	9%	6%
Office of Town Clerk	65%	39%	8%	6%	9%	5%
Public Water Supply	36%	33%	9%	4%	9%	7%

14.) How would you describe yourself (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
---	93%		Year-round resident
---	5%		Seasonal resident
	3%		Non-resident landowner
	1%		Non-resident business owner

15.) If resident, do you currently... (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
---	89%		Own
---	6%		Rent
	1%		Time-share

16.) Your commute to work or school is: (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
	29%		Under 5 miles
	18%		6-20 miles
	6%		21-35 miles
	9%		36-50 miles
	1%		More than 51 miles
	34%		Does not apply to me

18.) How many years have you lived full-time in Stowe? (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
	8%		2 years or less
	13%		Between 2 and 5 years
	16%		Between 6 and 10 years
	27%		Between 11 and 25 years
	31%		Longer than 25 years
	3%		Part-time resident

19.) In which age range are you? (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
	1%		25 years or younger
	8%	8%	26-40 years
	27%	31%	41-55 years
	33%	45%	56-70 years
	18%	16%	Older than 70 years

Within the next five (5) years do you expect to: (New question)

1998 Survey	2008 Residents	2008 2 nd Home	
	71%		Stay in Stowe
	5%		Move to a warmer climate
	6%		Retire and live in Stowe
	4%		Retire and live elsewhere
	1%		Sell my Stowe vacation property
	22%		Leave Stowe because it is too expensive to live here.