

# TOWN OF FALMOUTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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## Falmouth Community Survey

The Town of Falmouth is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan. The updated comprehensive plan will guide future growth and policy decisions in Falmouth over the next decade. The planning process is built upon the work completed during the Vision and Values initiative and goals and priorities established in the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.

The purpose of this survey is to confirm feedback that we have heard so far at community workshops and through other engagement activities as well as current Town planning documents (e.g., Bike/Ped Plan, Open Space Plan, future Climate Action Plan). For additional project information and additional opportunities to share your thoughts for the future of Falmouth, please visit the Comprehensive Plan project website.

All questions are required. Thank you for sharing your input for the future of Falmouth!

Completed surveys can be returned to Town Hall (in person or by mail to 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) or the Community Programs Office (Mason-Motz Center). **Please return by October 10, 2023.**

1. Through the Vision & Values initiative, the Town established six pillars that comprise the Town's values and priorities for the future. Which pillars are most important to you?

*Please rank the pillars from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).*

\_\_\_ Pillar One: Continue to pursue environmental protection and sustainability practices

\_\_\_ Pillar Two: Respect the physical character of established residential areas

\_\_\_ Pillar Three: Foster the development of village centers in core mixed use areas

\_\_\_ Pillar Four: Strengthen community fabric and commitment to life-long learning

\_\_\_ Pillar Five: Encourage more diverse housing options to increase livability

\_\_\_ Pillar Six: Enhance infrastructure for recreation, multimodal transportation, and connectivity

**The following questions relate to how the Town should move forward with each of the six pillars through policies and actions in the next comprehensive plan.**

### **Pillar One: Continue to pursue environmental protection and sustainability practices**

2. How should the Town prioritize open space management initiatives in the future?

*Rank in order of importance from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).*

\_\_\_ Work to connect existing open spaces and trail networks

\_\_\_ Continue to work with the Falmouth Land Trust to purchase new open space

\_\_\_ Manage open space for recreational uses

\_\_\_ Manage open space for wildlife habitat and wildlife mobility

\_\_\_ Work to eradicate invasive species

\_\_\_ Manage existing open spaces to create healthy forests and ecosystems and implement recommendations from existing forest management plans

3. What are your greatest concerns related to climate change? *(Select up to 3.)*

- Impact on air quality
- Warmer, more variable temperatures and heat-related illness
- Increase in diseases related to warming
- Increasing weather intensity
- Impact to water quality
- Strain on critical infrastructure (e.g., stormwater, wastewater, electrical grid)
- Protecting Town Landing and other critical sites from sea level rise, coastal flooding, and erosion
- Impacts on ecosystems and wildlife
- Economic impacts
- Social impacts (e.g., impacts on vulnerable populations)
- I am not concerned about climate change
- None of the above
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. What capital investments should the Town prioritize related to sustainability? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Plant more trees
- Additional solar arrays
- Mitigation of coastal erosion and flood resiliency
- Protect water quality
- Funding for energy efficiency upgrades for residents and businesses
- Acquisition of open space
- More bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure
- Alternative transportation options (e.g., micro-mobility, on-demand transportation, bus service, etc.)
- I do not believe the Town should prioritize these investments
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. How should the Town balance efforts to minimize taxes with regard to environmental protection and sustainability? *(Select one.)*

- Cut spending in these areas.
- Limit new spending on environmental protection and sustainability and focus on initiatives that have minimal budgetary impacts.
- Prioritize new spending on environmental protection and sustainability initiatives but focus on cost-effective solutions.
- Prioritize investments in environmental protection and sustainability initiatives even if this results in increased taxes.

**Pillar Two: Respect the physical character of established residential areas**

6. The features that contribute most to the character of my neighborhood are: *(Select all that apply.)*

- Style of residential architecture
- Style of commercial/non-residential architecture
- Pattern/density of development
- Open space and undeveloped land
- Local businesses
- Community/religious institutions
- People who live in the neighborhood
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. The potential changes to my neighborhood that I am most concerned about are: *(Select all that apply.)*

- More traffic
- Safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Noise from construction
- Noise from development, once completed
- Loss of scenic views
- Loss of open space
- Increased water runoff due to more impervious surfaces
- Impact to my property value
- Environmental concerns/wildlife habitat disruption
- I am not concerned about potential neighborhood changes
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. The potential changes to my neighborhood that I am most excited about are: *(Select all that apply.)*

- Opportunities for neighborhood retail (e.g., neighborhood market, café)
- Better street and trail connectivity within the neighborhood and to adjacent neighborhoods
- New neighbors and greater sense of community
- Beautification or physical improvements to my neighborhood
- Impact to my property value
- I am not excited about potential neighborhood changes
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. What policies should the Town pursue in the future to preserve or enhance the character in established residential areas? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Architectural design standards
- Open space or tree canopy requirements for new development
- Limit the development of new residential units in existing residential neighborhoods
- Limit the development of commercial or neighborhood retail uses in existing residential areas
- Beautification initiatives (e.g., landscaping, hanging baskets, art)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. How should the Town balance efforts to minimize taxes with preserving residential areas? *(Select one)*

- Limit growth to the extent possible, even if it will result in an increase in taxes.
- Prioritize fiscal impacts over preserving neighborhood character.
- Balance preservation of existing residential character with fiscal impacts.
- Limit change to existing residential areas while minimizing fiscal impacts.

**Pillar Three: Foster the development of village centers in core mixed-use areas**

11. Which policies or amenities do you think would best support the development of village centers and foster community interaction? *(Select all that apply.)*

	Along Route 1 North?	Along Route 1 South?	Along Route 100?	None of these areas?
Allow and/or encourage housing development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow up to 4 stories for new development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow more than 4 stories for new development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow a mix of housing types (e.g., townhouses, low-rise apartments, condos, single-family homes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster a variety of non-residential uses (e.g., retail, restaurants, entertainment, personal services, offices)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve walkability and pedestrian connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve bikeability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce parking requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create more public gathering spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Require more trees and green space with new development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. How should the Town balance efforts to minimize taxes with the desire to encourage the development of village centers? *(Select one.)*

- Discourage the development of village centers.
- Encourage development in village centers that positively impacts the Town’s budget.
- Prioritize the development of village centers over spending on other initiatives.
- Restrict the development of village centers, even if it has negative tax impacts.

**Pillar Four: Strengthen community fabric and commitment to life-long learning**

13. How are you engaged with your community? If you are not engaged, why not? *(Select all that apply.)*

	Currently engaged	Not applicable or interested	Lack of options	Lack of time	I am not engaged
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enrichment programs/events (e.g., lectures, educational events)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic engagement (e.g., participation on boards or committees, volunteering)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Within my neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks, trails, and other public spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At local shops, cafes, restaurants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Town-sponsored events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Through engagement with community groups and organizations (e.g., Lions club, knitting group, run club)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. What amenities, programs, or infrastructure would encourage you to be more engaged with your community? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Town-wide events
- Adult educational programs
- Opportunities to informally connect with neighbors (e.g., neighborhood market, café, park)
- Volunteer opportunities
- More gathering spaces
- A more welcoming environment at Town events/meetings
- A more welcoming environment at non-Town events/meetings
- More/different youth programs/events
- More/different senior programs/events
- Better accessibility to events and programs (physical access, language access, financial access)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. How important is the Falmouth Public School system to the well-being of the community? *(Circle one.)*

1	2	3	4	5
Not important				Very important

16. What changes to the school campus do you think would provide the greatest benefit to the community as a whole? (Select all that apply.)

- Childcare facility
- Community center facility
- Community access to new and existing recreation facilities
- Connectivity to Community Park
- Sidewalks and multi-use paths connecting the campus to adjacent neighborhoods
- Community access to other education resources (e.g., art facilities, technology, community gardens)
- Better communication between the schools and the community
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. How should the Town balance efforts to minimize taxes with strengthening community fabric and commitment to life-long learning? (Select one.)

- Cut spending on community programs and learning initiatives.
- Limit new spending on community programs and learning initiatives and focus on initiatives that have minimal budgetary impacts.
- Prioritize new spending on community programs and learning but focus on cost-effective solutions.
- Prioritize investments in community programs and learning, even if this results in increased taxes.

**Pillar Five: Encourage more diverse housing options to increase livability**

18. Do you think more of the following housing types are (select all that apply):

	Needed in Falmouth?	Appropriate along or near Route 1?	Appropriate along or near Route 100?	Appropriate in developed residential neighborhoods?	Appropriate in currently undeveloped areas ofTown?
Accessory dwelling units	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Two-family homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior housing/age-restricted housing (multi-family structures)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low-rise apartment buildings (2-3 stories)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid-rise apartment building(s) (4 to 5 stories)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid-rise to high-rise apartment building(s) (more than 5 stories)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attached single-family dwelling/ townhomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lot sizes with 6-10 units per acre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lot sizes with 5 or fewer units per acre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. How do you anticipate your housing needs changing in the next 10 years? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Larger home to accommodate a growing family
- Larger home or additional dwelling for multi-generational living (e.g., to care for aging relatives, adult children)
- Smaller home/downsizing
- ADA accessibility
- Transition to seasonal residence (part-time in Falmouth and part-time elsewhere)
- Home that is closer to services and amenities
- Home in a walkable neighborhood
- Transition from homeowner to renter
- Transition from renter to homeowner
- Transition to an assisted living option
- More affordable home than current residence
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. What policies or activities should the Town pursue in promoting affordable housing? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Incentives in zoning ordinance to encourage more affordable housing units
- Requirements in zoning ordinance to mandate affordable housing units
- Create a housing committee
- Allow affordable housing unit development on surplus Town-owned land
- Partner with housing organizations to develop affordable housing/subsidize the development of affordable housing
- Change zoning to allow housing in areas where it is currently not allowed (e.g., Route 1 North)
- Nothing
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

21. How should the Town balance efforts to minimize taxes with supporting more housing options? *(Select one.)*

- Cut spending on housing initiatives.
- Limit new spending on housing initiatives and focus on initiatives that have minimal budgetary impacts.
- Prioritize new spending on housing initiatives, but focus on cost-effective solutions.
- Prioritize investments in housing initiatives, even if this results in increased taxes.

**Pillar Six: Enhance infrastructure for recreation, multimodal transportation, and connectivity**

22. To what extent would the following changes positively or negatively impact your or your family's quality of life? (Select one response per row.)

	Negatively impact		No impact		Positively impact
	1	2	3	4	5
Additional pedestrian infrastructure in commercial areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional bike lanes and routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More open space trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New community center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More retail and service businesses along Route 1 (e.g., café, salon, boutique)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More retail and service businesses along Route 100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased Fire and EMS response time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decline in other Town services (e.g., code enforcement, infrastructure maintenance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional recreation programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional community programs (non-recreation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvements to public schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23. How would you anticipate you and your family's transportation needs changing in the next years? (Select all that apply.)

- I am aging and will likely need to walk or take public transportation to access parts of Town.
- I would like the ability to walk or bike to services in Falmouth.
- I would like the ability to walk or bike to school or for my child to walk or bike to school.
- I would like increased public transportation options to access parts of Town and the region.
- I would like increased rideshare or other shared mobility options to access parts of Town and the region.
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

24. Where should the Town prioritize improvements or additions to sidewalks and bike lanes/routes to improve connectivity?

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25. How should the Town balance efforts to minimize taxes with enhancing recreation and transportation infrastructure? (*Select one.*)

- Cut spending on infrastructure for recreation, multimodal transportation, and connectivity.
- Limit new spending on infrastructure for recreation, multimodal transportation, and connectivity and focus on initiatives that have minimal budgetary impacts.
- Prioritize new spending on infrastructure for recreation, multimodal transportation, and connectivity but focus on cost effective solutions.
- Prioritize investments in infrastructure for recreation, multimodal transportation, and connectivity, even if it results in increased taxes.

**Closing question:**

26. What question was not asked in this survey that you wish had been asked?

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**Demographic Questions:**

*The following questions are intended to help us understand who survey respondents are and how representative respondents are of the broader community.*

27. Do you... (*Select all that apply.*)

- Live in Falmouth full-time
- Live in Falmouth seasonally or part-time
- Work or own a business in Falmouth
- Go to school in Falmouth
- Visit Falmouth regularly

28. Do you... (*Select all that apply.*)

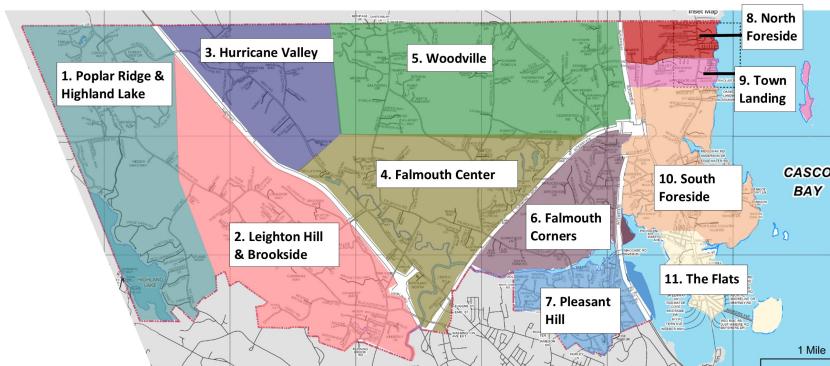
- Own a home in Falmouth
- Rent your home in Falmouth
- Live outside of Falmouth
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

29. How long have you lived in Falmouth? (*Select one.*)

- Less than 5 years
- 5 – 10 years
- 11 – 20 years
- More than 20 years

30. What neighborhood do you live in? (Select one.)

- Falmouth Center
- Falmouth Corners
- Hurricane Valley
- Leighton Hill and Brookside
- North Foreside
- Pleasant Hill
- Poplar Ridge and Highland Lake
- South Foreside
- The Flats
- Town Landing Woodville
- Live outside of Falmouth
- Not sure



31. What is your age?

- Under 10
- 10 - 19
- 20 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 - 69
- 70 - 79
- 80+

32. Which race or ethnicity group best describes you?

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Black / African American
- Hispanic / Latino
- White / Caucasian
- Multiple ethnicity/ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**The following information is required to help the Town ensure the integrity of survey results.**

33. Provide your first and last name: \_\_\_\_\_

34. Provide your email address (or physical address if no email address):

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_