

Appendix C  
Community Engagement Summaries

HATFIELD 2040



*A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper*

# Highlights from listening sessions and surveys

**Patty Gambarini - PVPC**

May 24, 2023

# Specific engagement to date

**01** Farmers – RDG, J. Pease  
Listening session  
Survey

**02** Older adults – PVPC, COA  
Listening session  
Survey

**03** Youth – Smith Academy  
Student led survey

## Why these populations?

Farmers - Location near Mill and Connecticut rivers; reliance on economic livelihood that increasingly difficult due to weather extremes and unpredictable seasonal temperatures; more frequent or new pest and invasive weed pressures; and greater exposure to extreme heat.

Older adults - Age, social isolation (household-composition of a single person), limited income, and lack of access to social networks and support services; and great health risks with increased extreme heat.

Youth - Generally growing chronic anxiety and stress over climate change, which may increase the risk of mental and physical problems.

# 01 Farmers – listening session, March 2, 2023

- Weather-related changes/challenges observed and/or experienced
- Major vulnerabilities to farm operation
- Areas of land, important crops, animals, or essential infrastructure priority to protect
- What most at risk
- Adaptation strategies or practices implemented or planning to implement
- Resources, funding, or opportunities to make possible implementation of new adaptation strategies or practices



*12 Hatfield farmers attended*

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# 01 Listening session - highlights

- High cost of land prohibitive for agriculture; without family land there is very little access.
  - Great need to rebuild soil organic matter.
  - Climate change impacts, unpredictable weather = somewhat/very concerned. It is costly and stressful. Farms are adapting out of necessity: cover cropping, shoulder seasons, tillage reduction.
  - Summer heat is getting too extreme, additional challenges in terms of labor.
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# 01 Listening session - highlights

- Inadequate infrastructure to adapt to “new normal” (including irrigation and drainage systems)
  - Extensive ditch system is no longer effective due to development and lack of maintenance. Standing water in fields that never used to flood.
  - Infrastructure grants essential now, cannot cover capital costs and stay in business. Unfamiliarity with available state & federal grants and assistance programs.
-

# 01 Year 2 activities with farmers



- One-on-one interviews to help make up for lack of response to survey (survey - 43 questions distributed to 19 farms and only 3 responses to date)
- Workshop to support best practices

## 02 Older adults listening session, April 18, 2023

- “Lunch, learn, and listen” event
- Discussion focused on assets and challenges for older adults in Hatfield



*16 people attended*



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## 02 Listening session - highlights

### **Assets**

- Senior Center & Library are appreciated
  - Library needs to be expanded, made more accessible
  - Senior Center needs updated bathrooms and fitness equipment
  - Flat geography allows for good walking & biking
  - You can see where your food comes from, and can buy fresh food directly from farms in town
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## 02 Listening session - highlights

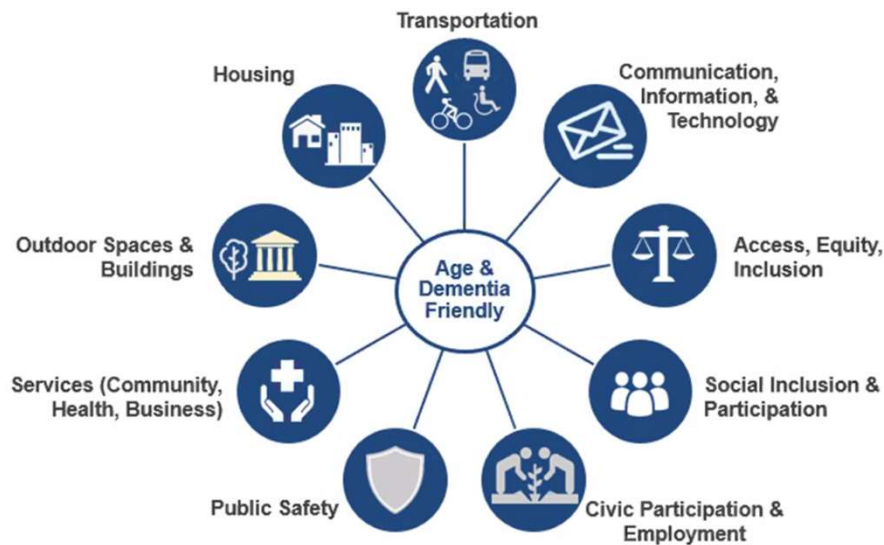
### Challenges

- Need to slow traffic to make safer for walking and biking (on Elm, Chestnut, and Prospect streets)
  - Lack of places to store bicycles; and need for rental bikes, especially trikes for seniors with balance issues
  - Few public transportation options - especially on-demand services
  - Long waiting list for affordable housing, very little rental property
  - Zoning frontage requirements excessive; need to allow for infill development to develop more affordable housing options (and protect farmland)
  - Exclusionary, racist language in some deeds – non-white people not allowed to own property
  - Capawonk is in flood plain and needs to be moved; and doubled in size (at least)
-

## 02 Older adults survey

Survey mailed to all residents over the age of 60

650 surveys with 84 responses (13% response rate)



- Survey addressed 9 domains of age and dementia friendly community, plus several questions related to climate change concerns
- Top three areas for Town to focus in next 5 years =
  - Housing (61%),
  - Transportation (54%), and
  - Health & Community Services (52%)
- Not overly concerned with increase in extreme heat or weather events

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## 02 Older adults survey - highlights

### Housing

- Security/finances
    - 12% say housing they live in now is not currently affordable
    - 44% say they are OK now, but worry about future
    - 6% said financial insecurity is biggest worry
  - 38% of respondents live alone; 56% live with spouse or partner
  - Main barriers for people aging in place are:
    - finding reliable contractors (54%),
    - finding help with yard work or snow shoveling (46%), and
    - finding personal care or housekeeping
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## 02 Older adults survey - highlights

### Housing (cont'd)

- 61% say extremely important to stay in town as they age; 60% extremely important to stay in their current home
- If circumstances change, requiring a move, preferences are as follows:
  - senior independent living apartments (51%)
  - single family homes (20%)
  - assisted living (11%)
  - accessory apartments (9%)
  - other

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## 02 Older adults survey - highlights

**Transportation** – Respondents chose modes of service that offer flexibility and independence when they can no longer drive

- 90% currently drive themselves, but 26% also said family member drives them
  - 20% say they walk as primary means of transport, 13% use senior center vans, and 10% bike
  - When driving is no longer an option, 83.5% said they would like to use senior center vans, 49% volunteer ride service, and 38% fixed route bus
  - 32% want safe routes to walk and bike
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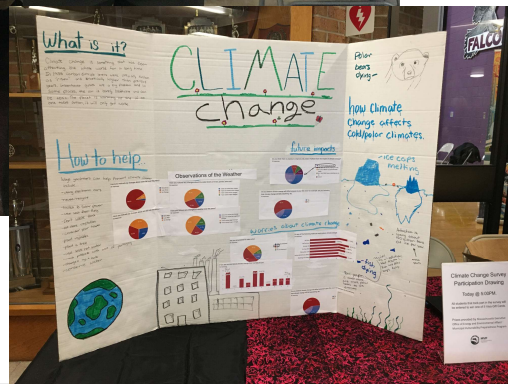
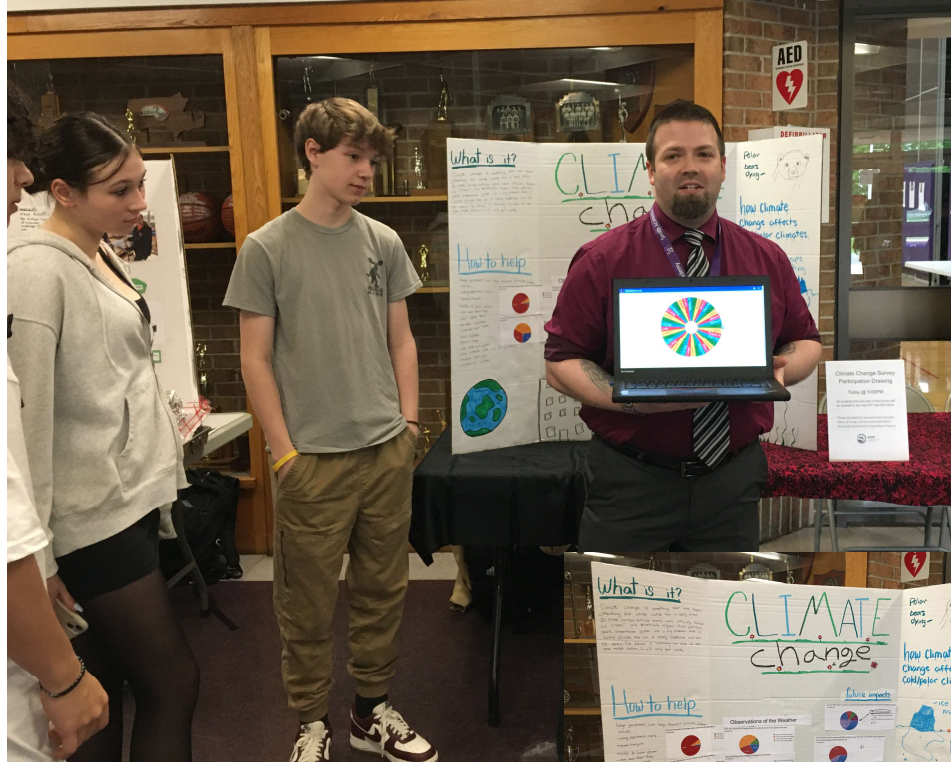
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## 02 Older adults survey - highlights

**Health and Community Service** – Help to support people aging in place, including access to health care

- Less than half respondents indicated having difficulty with accessing health care, though 13 indicated difficulty scheduling non-emergency medical appointments
  - Services indicated as lacking in Hatfield
    - Affordable, certified home health care providers is poor or unavailable (18%)
    - Support or programming for caregivers of people with dementia is poor or unavailable (18%)
  - Self or family member diagnosed with Alzheimer's, other dementia (11%)
  - Provide caregiving services to a family member (14%), 7 of which said do not have adequate access to respite services or support groups
-

## 03 Student Survey



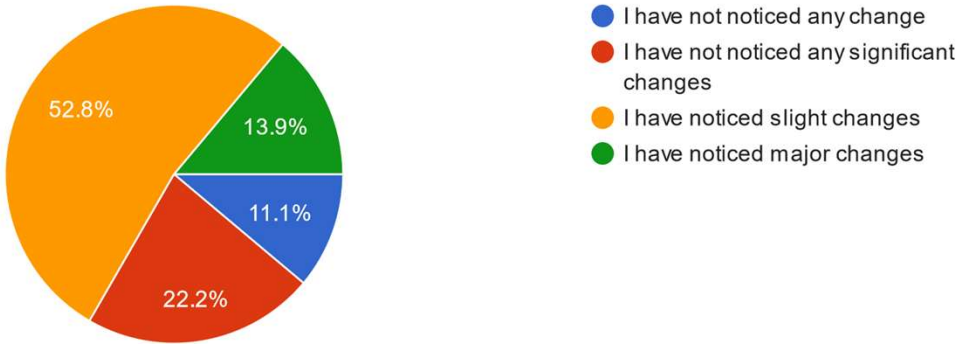
- Survey designed by Smith Academy 8th grade civics class students taught by Kevin Wall and issued to peers in grades 7-12
- 36 responses (27% response rate)
- Results shared at May 4 school event with several other classroom projects on stormwater management, history of floods in Hatfield, and nature in literature



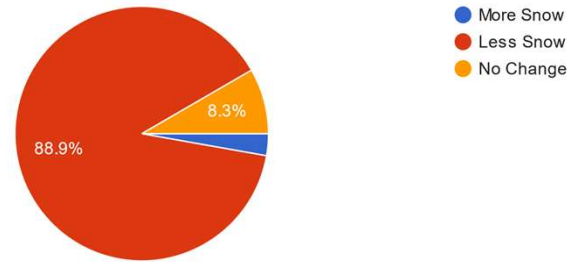
# 03 Student Survey - highlights

## What youth have noticed

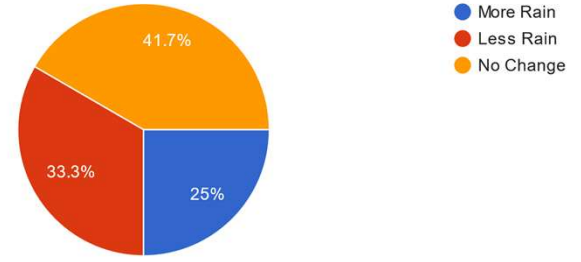
Have you noticed any changes of weather over the years?  
36 responses



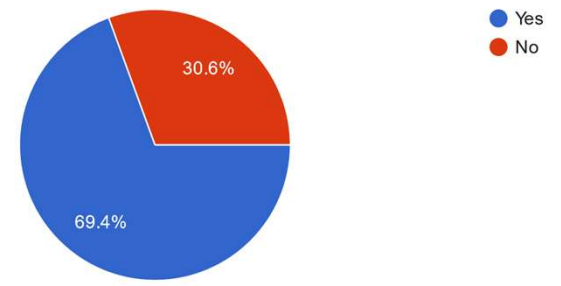
Have you noticed any changes about snow fall over the years?  
36 responses



Have you noticed any changes about rain fall over the years?  
36 responses



Have you noticed any changes about temperature over the years?  
36 responses



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## 03 Student Survey - highlights

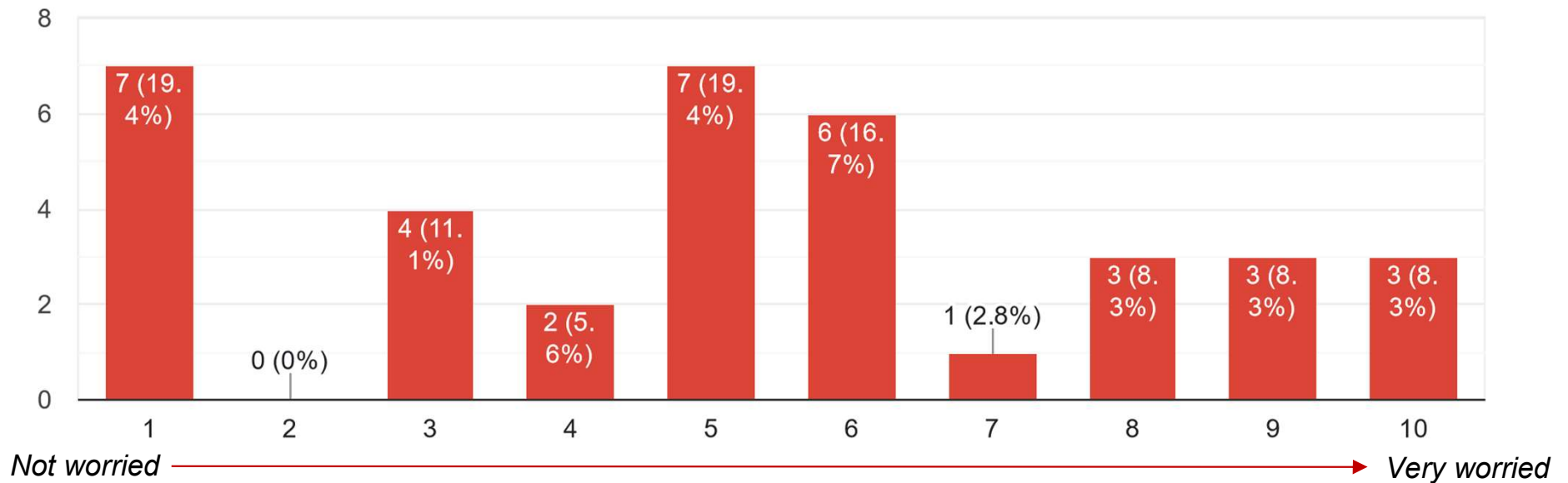
### Other changes noted by youth

- More fires
  - Weather getting warmer faster
  - More extreme summers and less snow in winter
  - Winters coming later in the year; no snow in December
  - Sky seems a bit less blue
  - Less snow in winter and then hot spring and really hot summer
-

## 03 Student Survey - highlights

If you are worried about climate change how worried are you.

36 responses



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## 03 Student Survey - highlights

### Specific worries about climate change

- Nothing (7)
- Extreme and changing weather, heat, too hot to breathe, oceans will rise, no winter (14)
- Animal species suffering and extinction (7)
- Planet Earth – uninhabitable, destroyed (4)

“The damage it will cause for future generations.”

“I don’t want to die from it.”

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## 03 Student Survey - highlights

### **What role should Town have in climate change?**

- I don't know (11)
- Use less electricity, and increase use of renewable energy sources (7)
- Reduce waste, stop littering (4)
- Fundraisers for organizations that help stop climate change (3)
- Cut out use of gas vehicles (2)

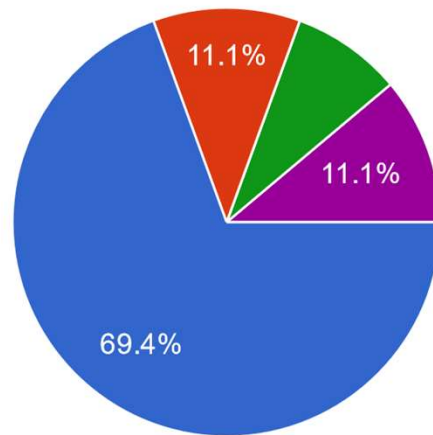
“They should do their best to combat climate changes with their policies and actions.”

“Nothing its not as bad as people say it is it has been a thing for years and nothing has happened.”

## 03 Student Survey - highlights

Do you think there is anyway to improve and protect Hatfield from the impact of climate change?

36 responses

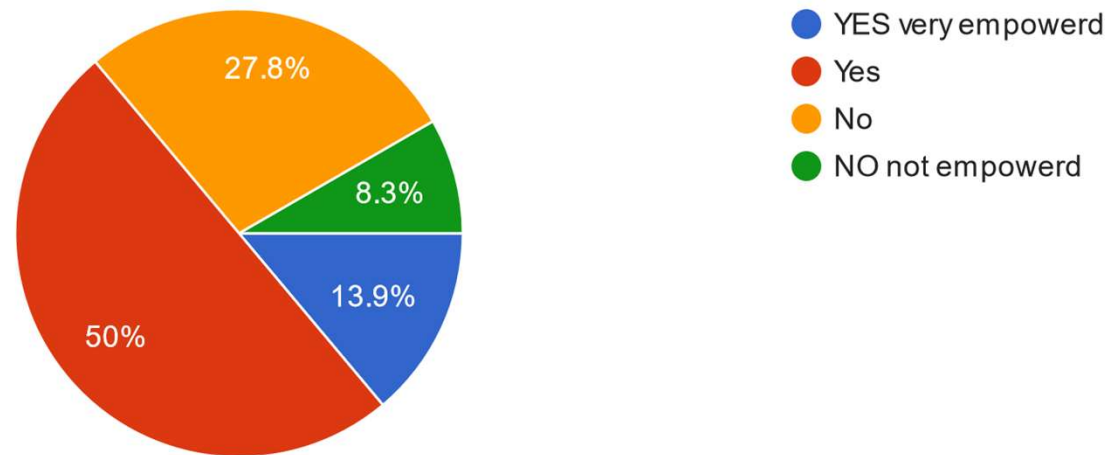


- Yes, but I'm unsure on how too.
- Yes, and I am already helping to do so.
- No, and it affects my physical/mental health.
- No, I don't think there is anything we can do.
- Unsure

## 03 Student Survey - highlights

Are you empowered to take action

36 responses



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Thank you!

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# Hatfield MVP Climate-Smart Comprehensive Plan Community Survey Summary

June 2023 - Summary prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI)

## Overview

### Community Survey in Brief

The Hatfield Comprehensive Plan Committee and technical team supporting planning for *Hatfield 2040: A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper* conducted a community survey in late spring 2023.

The survey was shared through a variety of channels with a total of 189 people responding. The input from the survey will inform planning work that continues into Year 2 of the comprehensive planning process. The survey is just one way community members were engaged in spring 2023, others including: forums with particular sectors (farmers, seniors and youth), an in-person event on June 10 and a virtual event on May 31.

### Methodology & Questions

The survey was conducted online. Open from May 31, 2023 to June 27, 2023, anyone was welcome to complete it. See full survey tool with answers that were included in multiple choice questions in Appendix A.

The following pages provide summaries of the survey responses organized by question. Note that responses to demographic questions are not included in the summary portion of this document, but they are included in Appendix B. Appendix B contains the complete responses to all 14 survey questions, including the number of respondents. For questions with ranking or prioritization, data tables are also included in the appendix.

### Table of Contents

<i>Overview</i>	1
<i>Question 6: What features in Hatfield do you value the most?</i>	2
<i>Question 7: What else do you value in Hatfield?</i>	2
<i>Question 8: Where would you like to see more information about events, programs, or planning processes in Hatfield?</i>	3
<i>Question 9: What are your main hopes as you think about the future of Hatfield?</i>	5
<i>Question 10: What are your key concerns as you think about the future of Hatfield?</i>	6
<i>Question 11: For each of Hatfield's most pressing climate hazards, how concerning should it be to the Town?</i>	7
<i>Question 12: If you were in charge of the Town's budget, how would you rank your budget priorities?</i>	8
<i>Question 13: What goals are most important for the Town of Hatfield to focus on in the next 10-20 years?</i>	8
<i>Question 14: Finish this sentence: The most important thing the town can do in the next 10 years is...</i>	10
<i>Appendix A: Survey</i>	12
<i>Appendix B: Survey Results</i>	15

## Question 6: What features in Hatfield do you value the most?

Survey respondents were asked to rank the following features in Hatfield, with 1 being highest valued and 12 being least valued. The list below shows the aggregate ranking from 170 survey responses with the most valued feature at the top and least valued at the bottom:

1. The rural, small-town atmosphere
2. Working farms
3. Hatfield school district
4. Residential neighborhoods
5. Access to open spaces
6. Town Center
7. Access to nearby attractions and recreational opportunities
8. Access to I-91
9. Proximity to Connecticut River
10. Forests
11. Historic buildings
12. Business tax base (commercial & industrial)

## Question 7: What else do you value in Hatfield?

Based on the responses provided, some key themes emerge regarding what people value about Hatfield:

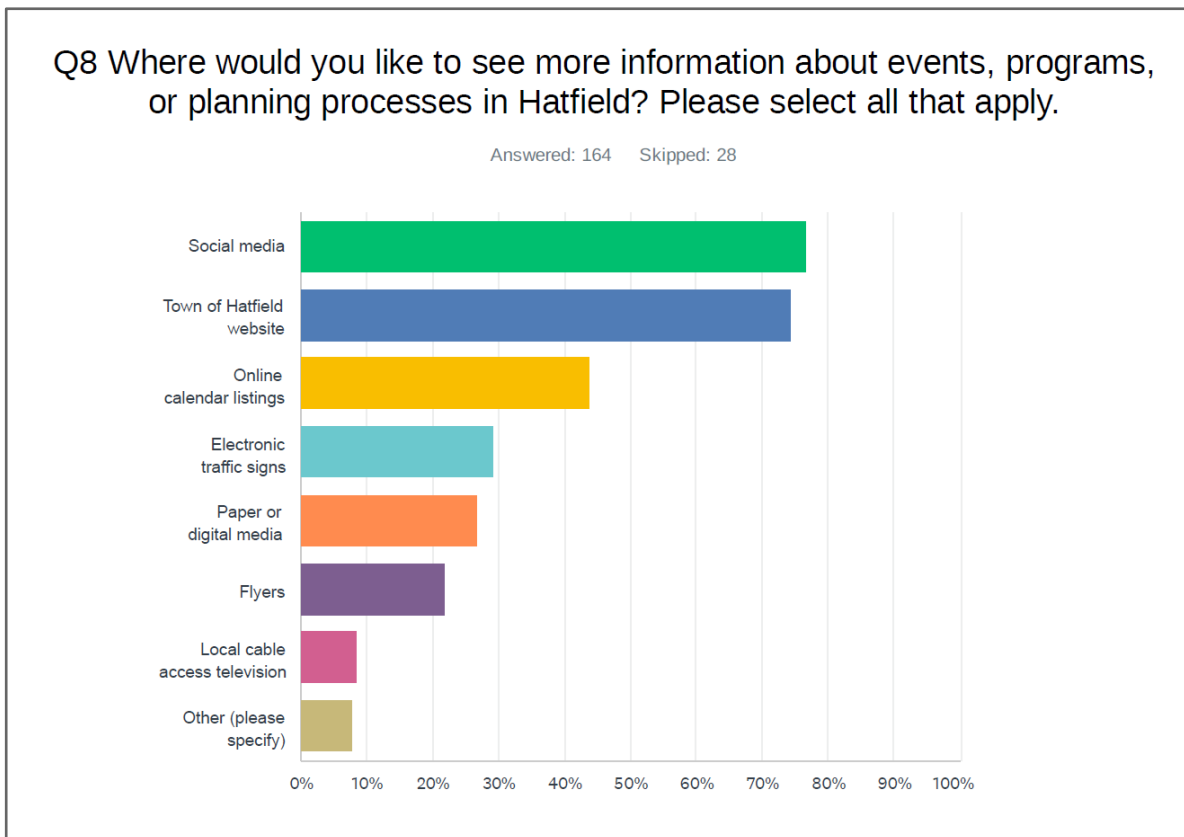
- **Community Spirit:** Many respondents mentioned the strong sense of community and community engagement in Hatfield. This includes local events, parades, and a sense of connection among residents.
- **Small Town Feel:** Several respondents appreciate Hatfield's small town atmosphere, describing it as quaint, safe, and with a tight-knit community. They value the town's smallness, lack of retail chain stores, and its commitment to preserving historical roots.
- **Proximity and Accessibility:** Hatfield's proximity to Northampton and other nearby areas is valued, making it easy to access amenities, colleges, and cultural opportunities. Respondents also mentioned the walkability of the town and its convenient location.
- **Natural Environment:** The open space, quietness, preserved farmland, and tree-lined streets are appreciated by residents. Hatfield's location in the Pioneer Valley and its close connection to nature, such as the river and walking trails, were also mentioned.
- **Infrastructure and Services:** The quality of streets, walkable loops, library, schools, and recreational opportunities were highlighted as valuable aspects of Hatfield. Residents also mentioned the importance of maintaining the integrity of the town, enforcing zoning regulations, and preserving the town's history.

- **Welcoming Atmosphere:** Respondents consistently mentioned the friendliness of the people in Hatfield and the welcoming nature of the community. Neighbors helping neighbors and a strong sense of pride in the town and its properties were noted.
- **Family-Friendly Environment:** Hatfield was described as a great place for families, with a strong school system, affordable housing, and opportunities for children to grow and make a difference in the town.
- **Environmental Consciousness:** Some respondents mentioned Hatfield's environmentally responsive approach, including the lack of light pollution, preservation of open spaces, and a growing liberal base with a focus on sustainability.

These themes provide insights into the aspects of Hatfield that residents value and appreciate, highlighting the town's community spirit, small-town charm, accessibility, natural surroundings, and quality of life.

### Question 8: Where would you like to see more information about events, programs, or planning processes in Hatfield?

This question was multi-select and respondents were asked to select all that apply. The graph below shows the most popular responses at the top and the least popular responses at the bottom.



Based on the responses provided to Question 8, here are some key themes regarding where residents would like to see more information about events, programs, or planning processes in Hatfield:

- **Social Media:** Some respondents expressed a desire for more information to be available on social media platforms. They specifically mentioned platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Social media was seen as a way to reach a wider audience, particularly the younger generation who are more likely to follow updates through these channels.
- **Traditional Mail:** Several respondents mentioned the use of mail as a preferred method of receiving information. This includes mailing of postcards, newsletters, and other physical mailings. Some specifically mentioned mailbox deliveries or the use of sandwich boards and lawn signs in outdoor town locations.
- **Email Communication:** Email newsletters and direct emails were suggested as a means of sharing information. Some respondents appreciated the convenience of electronic communication and found it effective in receiving updates.
- **Local Newspaper:** The presence of information in local newspapers, such as the Gazette, was highlighted as a valuable source of news and event announcements. Residents mentioned reading the paper daily and suggested utilizing this medium for sharing information.
- **More User Friendly Hatfield Website:** Respondents expressed a desire for a dedicated Hatfield website that would serve as a central hub for information about schools, churches, sports, social events, and more. They emphasized the importance of having a user-friendly website that provides relevant and easily accessible information specific to Hatfield.
- **Early and Comprehensive Website Updates:** Some residents expressed frustration with the lack of timely and comprehensive information on the town website. They suggested encouraging groups and organizations to submit event details to the website administrator well in advance to ensure that information is available earlier.
- **Phone Calls:** A few respondents mentioned phone calls as a preferred method of communication. They appreciated receiving auto-voice messages or direct phone calls to stay informed about events and programs.

## Question 9: What are your main hopes as you think about the future of Hatfield?

People who filled out the survey painted overlapping lovely hopes for Hatfield. Among these were a desire for conscious development, a community that still feels rural and supports farming, well-maintained infrastructure (including ambulances and sidewalks), affordable and more dense housing, a climate resilient community, rich community events and a decent commercial base for financial stability without increasing taxes.

Key themes revolve around maintaining Hatfield's rural character, ensuring a strong school system, improving infrastructure, fostering inclusivity, promoting economic development, and embracing sustainability while preserving the town's history and sense of community.

- **Education and schools:** There was a strong emphasis on the importance of maintaining a thriving school system, improving school ratings, offering college prep courses, and focusing on the needs of the students.
- **Rural and historic character:** Preserving Hatfield's rural and historic character was a common theme. Respondents wanted to retain the small-town feeling, open spaces, farmland, and the sense of community.
- **Infrastructure and amenities:** Several respondents mentioned the need for improvements to roads, sidewalks, bike paths, recreational facilities, and access to the bike path. They wanted a safe and enjoyable environment for outdoor activities.
- **Welcoming new people:** Many respondents expressed a desire for Hatfield to become more diverse, welcoming to newcomers (and everyone).
- **Economic development:** There were calls for attracting more businesses, increasing tax revenue, and providing more opportunities for young families. Affordable housing and commercial growth were mentioned as ways to support the town's viability.
- **Financial stability and low taxes:** Many respondents expressed a desire for Hatfield to be financially stable without relying on continuous tax increases.
- **Sustainability and environmentalism:** Some respondents highlighted the importance of sustainable practices, green energy sources, and reducing the likely impacts of climate change.
- **Community engagement and events:** Many respondents expressed a desire for more community events, recreational outlets, public spaces, and opportunities for neighbors to get to know each other.
- **Responsible decision-making:** There was a call for thoughtful and deliberate decision making that considers the town's education, environment, open spaces, and long-term viability.

## Question 10: What are your key concerns as you think about the future of Hatfield?

Responses to this question were largely the inverse of question 9 (hopes). If the hopes are not realized, what might happen? These answers focused on the tension and balance between a desire to protect key qualities of Hatfield (farming, open space, small town feel) while also finding the resources to grow what is needed to ensure a healthy, vibrant community where people can afford to live and essential services like schools and housing are available. Concerns are around not getting this balance right in which case Hatfield might become too suburban with more commerce, or might gradually age and not be able to bring in new families and stay too quiet to sustain itself over time.

Key themes include the following:

- **School system:** Many respondents express concerns about the viability and sustainability of the school district in Hatfield. There is worry about declining student populations, potential school closures, and the impact on the town's future, attracting families, and maintaining a quality education system.
- **Economic development:** Several respondents mention the need for a balance between preserving the small-town atmosphere and attracting more businesses for increased tax revenue. There is a desire to support local businesses and ensure they thrive, especially those that contribute to Hatfield's uniqueness.
- **Affordability and housing:** The issue of affordable housing comes up repeatedly, with concerns about housing costs being too high for younger generations to move into the town. There is a desire to provide more affordable housing options to attract and retain young families.
- **Community identity and resistance to change:** Some respondents said how important it is to maintain the town's identity and character. They want to preserve the small-town charm and resist overdevelopment (someone said Hatfield shouldn't "overgrow") or attempts to mimic other nearby towns.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Climate change and its impact on farmland, open spaces, and natural areas are a concern for some respondents. They emphasize the need to protect farmland, preserve open spaces, and adopt sustainable practices.
- **Taxes and budget:** The affordability of living in Hatfield is a recurring concern, with mentions of increasing taxes and the impact on residents. Some respondents worry about overspending and the need for responsible financial planning.
- **Community engagement and communication:** There is a desire for better communication between town committees and residents, with concerns about decision-making processes and

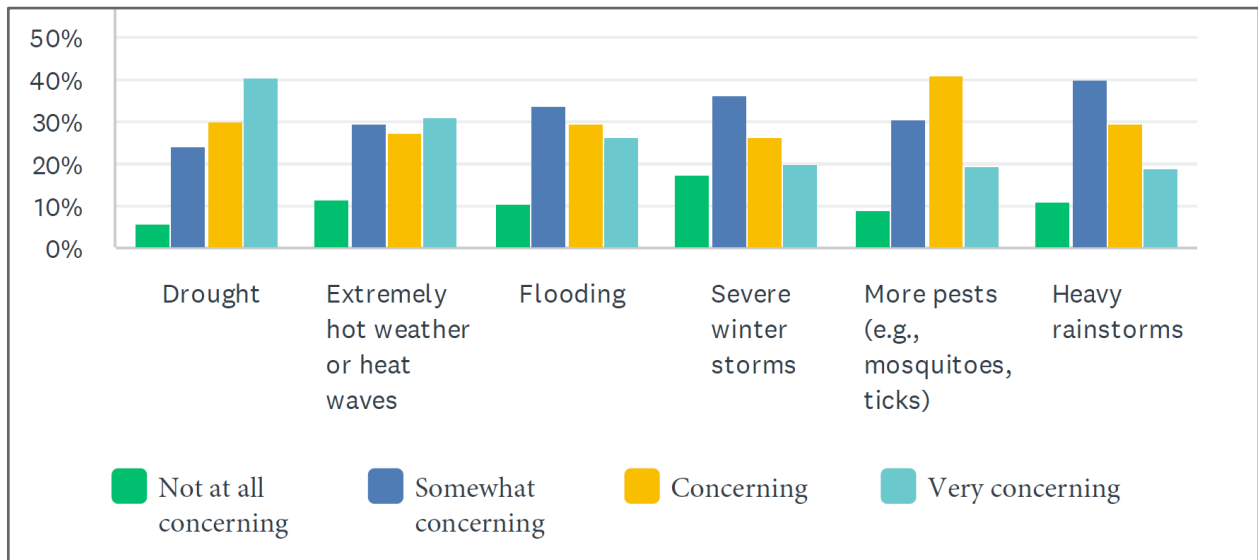
the need for more transparency. Some respondents want to see more community events and to foster a sense of connection among residents.

- **Diversity and inclusion:** A few respondents highlight the lack of diversity in Hatfield and express a desire for a more inclusive community.

## Question 11: For each of Hatfield's most pressing climate hazards, how concerning should it be to the Town?

Respondents were asked to indicate how concerning several climate hazards should be to the Town. The hazards are listed below with the most concerning at the top and the least concerning at the bottom:

1. **Drought** - concerning or very concerning to 70% of respondents
2. **More pests** (e.g. mosquitoes, ticks) - concerning or very concerning to 60% of respondents
3. **Extremely hot weather or heatwaves** - concerning or very concerning to 58% of respondents
4. **Flooding** - concerning or very concerning to 55% of respondents
5. **Heavy rainstorms** - concerning or very concerning to 48% of respondents
6. **Severe winter storms** - concerning or very concerning to 46% of respondents



Additional issues people named as of concern beyond the ones above included mosquitoes, weather extremes, invasive species, mild winters, climate change mitigation and preparation, ecosystem balance, impacts on energy costs, and the importance of trees in addressing climate hazards.

## Question 12: If you were in charge of the Town's budget, how would you rank your budget priorities?

This question was multi-select and respondents were asked to select all that apply. The graph below shows the most popular responses at the top and the least popular responses at the bottom.

1. **Public Schools** - the top priority for for 35% respondents and one of the top 3 priorities for 55% of respondents
2. **Farm Viability** - one of the top 3 priorities for 43% of respondents
3. **Environmental Resources** - the top priority for for 14% respondents
4. **Public Facilities & Infrastructure** - the top priority for for 11% respondents
5. **Open Space & Recreation** - one of the top 3 priorities for 27% of respondents
6. **Housing** - one of the top 3 priorities for 22% of respondents
7. **Growth & Development** - the top priority for for 5% respondents
8. **Economic Development** - one of the top 3 priorities for 21% of respondents
9. **Historic Preservation** - one of the top 3 priorities for 13% of respondents
10. **Climate Resilience** - one of the top 3 priorities for 13% of respondents
11. **Social Resilience** - one of the top 3 priorities for 4% of respondents
12. **Transportation** - one of the top 3 priorities for 8% of respondents

## Question 13: What goals are most important for the Town of Hatfield to focus on in the next 10-20 years?

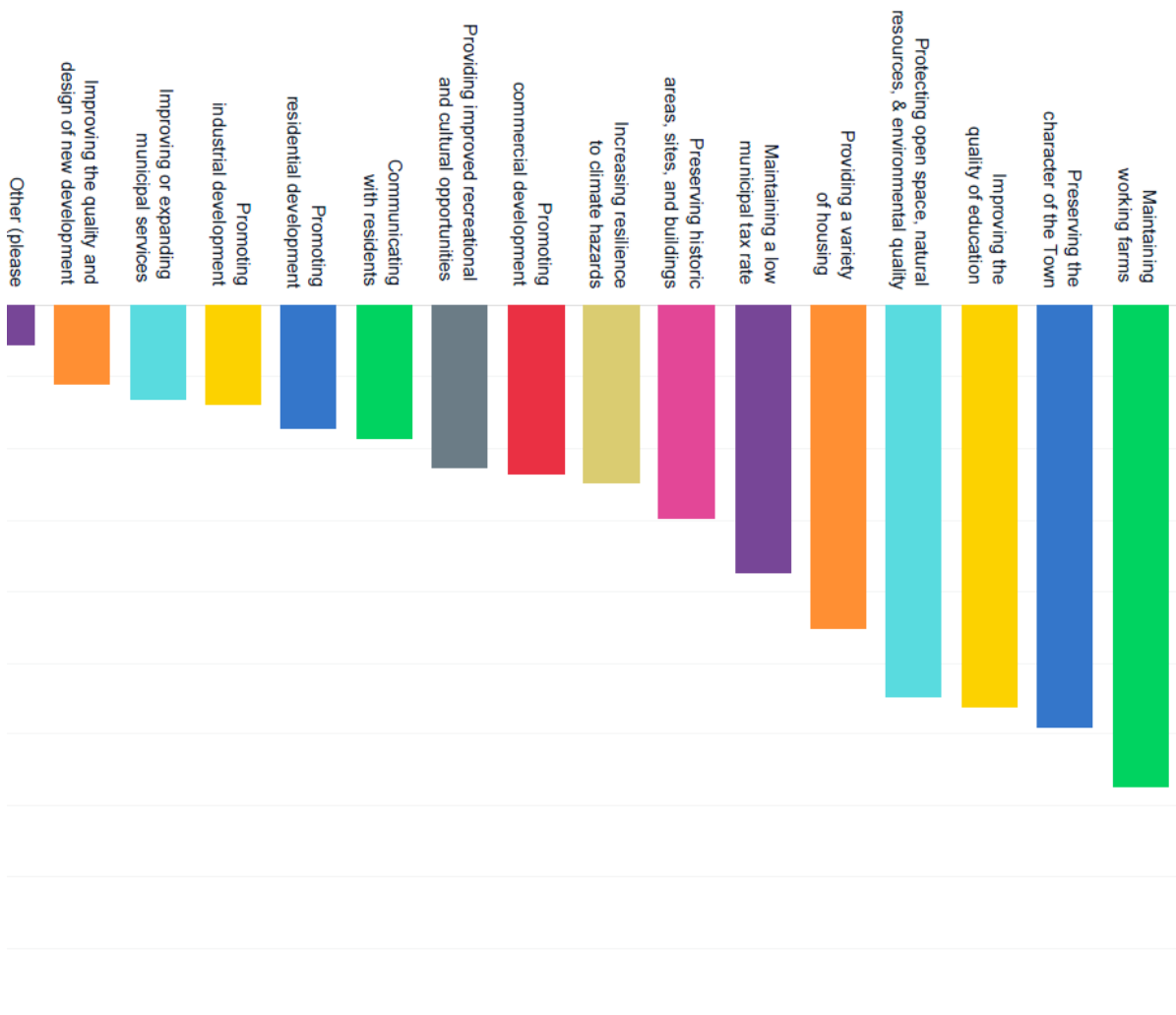
Survey respondents were asked to select up to 5 of the most important goals for the Town to focus on in the next 10-20 years. The graph on the following page shows the most popular answers from 144 survey respondents with the most popular goals at the top and least popular at the bottom.

Additional goals identified by respondents include:

- Becoming an inclusive town that is welcoming to families of color.
- Attracting and retaining businesses for tax revenue
- Town Budget sustainability
- Establishing grade separated bicycle lanes on main arterials
- Providing housing for low income families and individuals



Answered: 144 Skipped: 48



## Question 14: Finish this sentence: The most important thing the town can do in the next 10 years is...

The responses to this question focus on education, housing, maintaining Hatfield's unique character, land preservation, climate resilience, community engagement and fiscal responsibility. Key themes include:

- **Maintain and Improve Schools:** Many people would like the town to prioritize the maintenance, improvement, and support of schools in Hatfield. This includes increasing the student population, attracting families, investing in education, and ensuring academic and sports excellence.
- **Affordable Housing and Economic Development:** Many people highlighted the need for affordable housing and job opportunities. These are described as essential for keeping the younger generation in Hatfield, attracting families, increasing the tax base, and creating a sustainable community.
- **Preserve Farmland and Open Space:** Many respondents stated the importance of preserving farmland, protecting open space, and maintaining the town's rural character. This includes protecting working farms, increasing land under agricultural preservation, defending forests, and providing the public access to natural areas.
- **Maintain Small Town Feel and Character:** Many people wrote about the importance of preserving Hatfield's small town atmosphere, unique historical character, and distinct identity. This includes avoiding becoming a suburb of neighboring towns and maintaining a high quality of life and public safety.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Revenue Generation:** Several participants stressed the importance of fiscal responsibility, avoiding tax increases, and exploring alternative ways to generate income for the town. They would like to see more businesses and increasing tax revenue as well as creativity in finding ways to tighten budgets or look for external sources.
- **Climate Change Resilience and Environmental Protection:** Several people wrote about the need to proactively address the impacts of climate change, protect the environment, and prepare for climate-related challenges. They said this includes addressing flooding, soil erosion, potable water supply, and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Community Engagement and Inclusivity:** Many responses highlight the importance of community building, unity, and inclusivity. They talked about increasing deliberations and focusing on ways to ensure that all residents feel they are a valued part of the community.
- **Infrastructure Development and Public Facilities:** Some noted the need to improve infrastructure, including sidewalks, roads, and public facilities. This includes addressing issues related to traffic, flooding, and effective emergency preparedness.

- **Balanced Decision Making and Visionary Planning:** Several participants emphasized the need for balanced decision making, visionary planning, and forward-thinking. They talked about the value of considering diverse perspectives, thinking outside the box, adapting to change, and having a clear vision for the future.

### Learn More about Hatfield 2040

To learn more about the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan process, visit: [hatfield2040.pvpc.org/](https://hatfield2040.pvpc.org/)



## Appendix A: Survey

### What is our collective vision for Hatfield in 2040?

The Town is planning for the future of housing, land use, economic development, health, and the social environment and we want to hear about your thoughts on Hatfield's future.

*Hatfield 2040: A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper* is a two-year project made possible thanks to a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant to the Town of Hatfield from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

You can learn more about Hatfield 2040 here: <https://www.hatfield2040.org/>.

Please share your thoughts below to help shape the future of Hatfield.

Email [nlash@cbi.org](mailto:nlash@cbi.org) if you would like this survey in Spanish.

### SECTION 1: Demographic Information (optional)

1. Connection to Hatfield
  - a. I live in Hatfield
  - b. I work in Hatfield
  - c. I go to school in Hatfield
  - d. My child goes to school in Hatfield
2. Gender:
  - a. Male
  - b. Female
  - c. Non-binary
  - d. Prefer not to say
3. Age:
  - a. Under 18
  - b. 19 - 29 years old
  - c. 30 - 44 years old
  - d. 45 - 59 years old
  - e. 60 - 74 years old
  - f. 75+
4. Race and Ethnicity (*open ended*)
5. Education Level
  - a. Some High School
  - b. High School Diploma
  - c. Bachelor's Degree
  - d. Master's Degree
  - e. Ph.D. or higher
  - f. Trade School
  - g. Prefer not to say

### SECTION 2: Values

6. **What features in Hatfield do you value the most?** (Rank the following, with 1 being highest valued and 13 being least valued)
  - a. Access to nearby attractions  
recreational opportunities
  - b. Access to I-91
  - c. Access to open spaces
  - d. Business tax base (commercial &  
industrial)
  - e. Forests
  - f. Hatfield school district
  - g. Historic buildings
  - h. Proximity to Connecticut River
  - i. Residential neighborhoods
  - j. The rural, small-town atmosphere
  - k. The Town Center
  - l. Working farms
  - m. Other

**SECTION 3: Communication**

7. **Where would you like to see more information about events, programs, or planning processes in Hatfield? Please select all that apply.**
- a. Social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter
  - b. Online calendar listings, such as Google Events, Explore Western Mass, or EventBrite
  - c. Town of Hatfield website
  - d. Paper or digital media articles or ads, such as in the Hampshire Daily Gazette
  - e. Local cable access television
  - f. Large digital billboards
  - g. Flyers
  - h. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 4: Your Vision for the Future of Hatfield**

- 8. **What are your main hopes as you think about the future of Hatfield?** (open ended)
- 9. **What are your key concerns as you think about the future of Hatfield?** (open ended)

**SECTION 5: Our Vision for the Future of Hatfield** - In the questions below, we encourage you to consider the hopes, concerns, and most important issues affecting the entire Town of Hatfield and invite you to respond with your neighbors and community members in mind.

10. **For each of Hatfield's most pressing climate hazards, how concerning should it be to the town?** (each option ranked independently from least important to most important)
- a. Extremely hot weather or heat waves
  - b. Heavy rainstorms
  - c. Severe winter storms
  - d. Flooding
  - e. Drought
  - f. More pests (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks)
  - g. Other severe weather events (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
11. **If you were in charge of the Town's budget, how would you rank your budget priorities (with 1 being highest priority and 13 being lowest priority)**
- a. **Climate resilience** - ensuring evacuation routes are secured, emergency response planning,
  - b. **Economic Development** - business development, tax revenue, job availability, industrial areas, tourism, retail
  - c. **Environment** - water supply protection, wildlife habitat, air quality, streams/rivers)
  - d. **Farm Viability** - farm retention, agricultural business issues, land protection)
  - e. **Growth & Development** - growth management, new construction of homes & businesses, population issues
  - f. **Historic Preservation** - buildings and neighborhoods, historic views/vistas, local cultural history
  - g. **Housing** - affordability, range of choices, location
  - h. **Open Space & Recreation** - parks, ball fields, farmland protection, forest protection
  - i. **Public Facilities & Infrastructure** - water, sewer, waste disposal, telecommunications, town buildings
  - j. **Public Schools**
  - k. **Transportation** - traffic congestion, pedestrian issues, bicycle routes, transit

- l. **Social Resiliency** - the relationships, social structures, and communication channels that help communities survive and recover from things like natural disasters or economic problems.
- m. Other \_\_\_\_\_

12. **What goals are most important for the Town of Hatfield to focus on in the next 10-20 years?**

(select up to 5)

- a. to communicate with residents about ongoing initiatives and where to find resources
- b. to improve the quality and design of new development
- c. to improve or expand municipal services
- d. to improve the quality of education
- e. to increase resilience to climate hazards
- f. to maintain a low municipal tax rate for residents
- g. to preserve the character of the Town
- h. to maintain working farms
- i. to promote commercial development
- j. to promote industrial development
- k. to promote residential development
- l. to protect open space, natural resources, & environmental quality
- m. to provide improved recreational and cultural opportunities
- n. to preserve historic areas, sites and buildings
- o. to provide a variety of housing which is affordable for middle income families
- p. Other

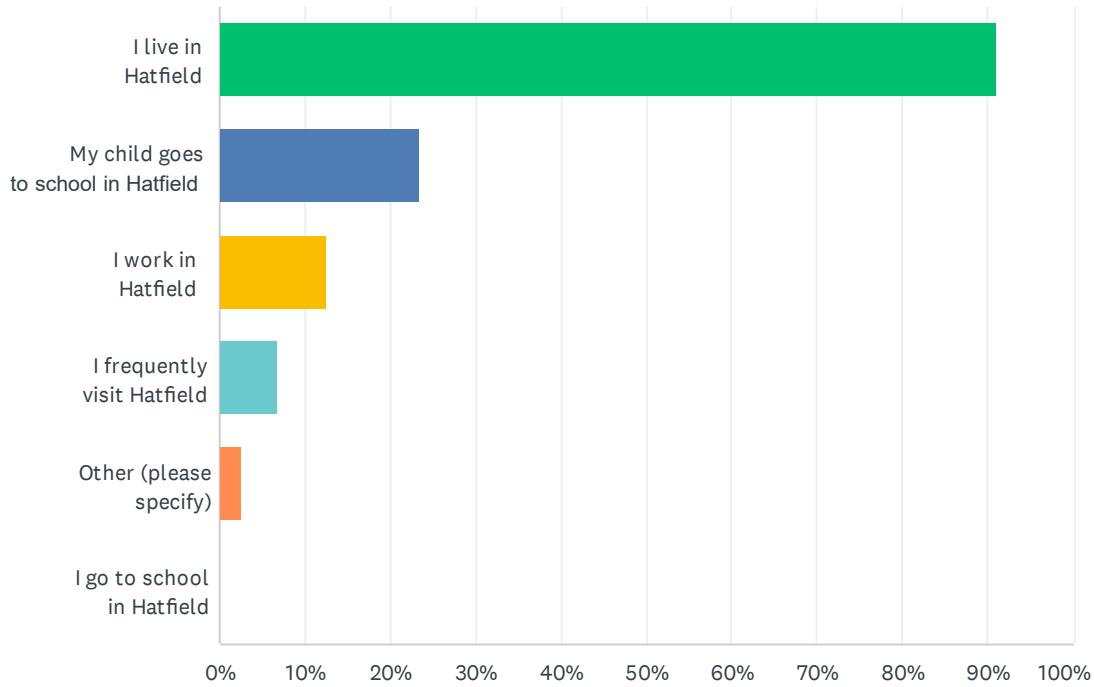
13. **Finish this sentence: *The most important thing the town can do in the next 10 years is...***

## **Appendix B: Survey Results**

(results begin on the following page)

## Q1 What is your connection to Hatfield?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 1



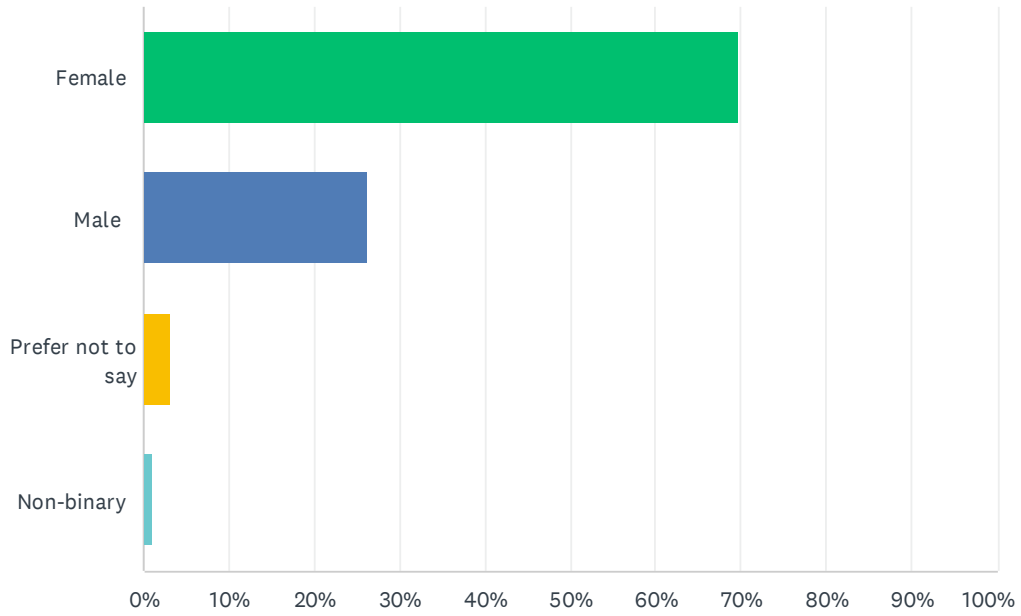
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I live in Hatfield	91.10% 174
My child goes to school in Hatfield	23.56% 45
I work in Hatfield	12.57% 24
I frequently visit Hatfield	6.81% 13
Other (please specify)	2.62% 5
I go to school in Hatfield	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 191	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Used to live in Hatfield	6/17/2023 3:15 PM
2	Grew up in Hatfield	6/16/2023 9:49 AM
3	I grew up in Hatfield	6/14/2023 10:24 PM
4	I went to school in Hatfield in 1999 as adult. My child attended school in Hatfield 2006-2011	6/13/2023 9:31 AM
5	My mother lives in Hatfield and I visit frequently.	5/30/2023 9:10 PM



## Q2 Gender:

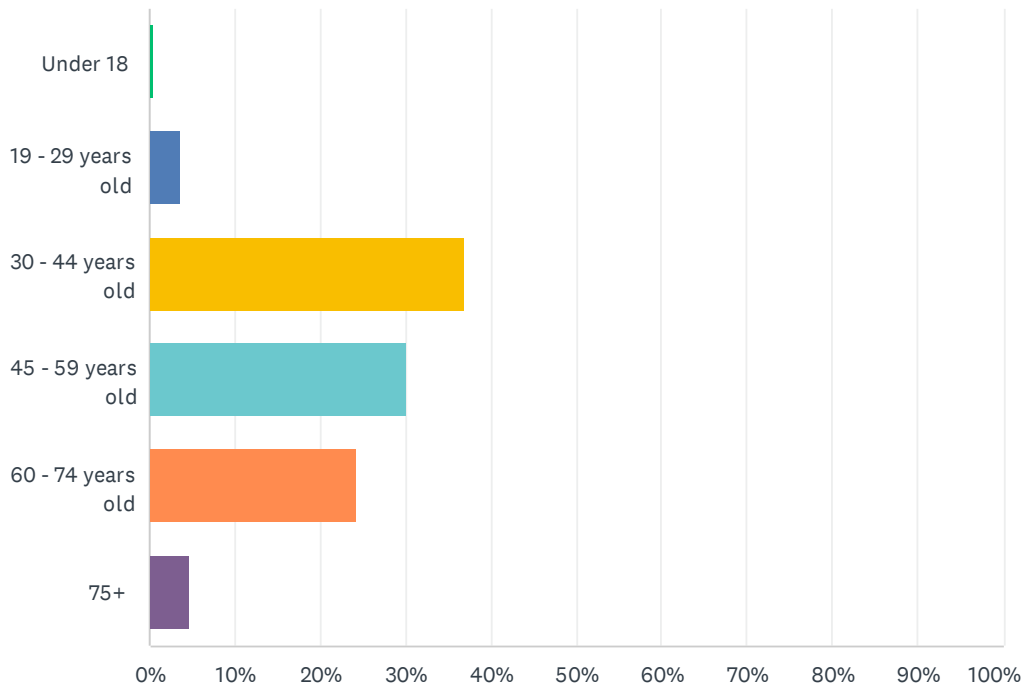
Answered: 191 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	69.63%	133
Male	26.18%	50
Prefer not to say	3.14%	6
Non-binary	1.05%	2
TOTAL		191

### Q3 Age:

Answered: 190 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.53%	1
19 - 29 years old	3.68%	7
30 - 44 years old	36.84%	70
45 - 59 years old	30.00%	57
60 - 74 years old	24.21%	46
75+	4.74%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>190</b>

## Q4 Race and Ethnicity

Answered: 135 Skipped: 57

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	White	6/26/2023 5:43 AM
2	White	6/26/2023 5:35 AM
3	White	6/23/2023 10:08 PM
4	White	6/23/2023 5:29 PM
5	Caucasian	6/23/2023 12:24 PM
6	White	6/19/2023 5:53 AM
7	Caucasian	6/18/2023 9:12 PM
8	Caucasian	6/18/2023 7:20 PM
9	White	6/17/2023 9:01 PM
10	White	6/17/2023 7:48 PM
11	White	6/17/2023 4:51 PM
12	White	6/17/2023 3:15 PM
13	White	6/17/2023 10:45 AM
14	White	6/17/2023 8:35 AM
15	White	6/17/2023 8:30 AM
16	White	6/16/2023 9:03 PM
17	white	6/16/2023 8:51 PM
18	wASP	6/16/2023 5:56 PM
19	white	6/16/2023 5:41 PM
20	White	6/16/2023 4:34 PM
21	White Polish	6/16/2023 3:30 PM
22	White	6/16/2023 2:46 PM
23	White	6/16/2023 2:05 PM
24	White	6/16/2023 1:45 PM
25	White	6/16/2023 11:40 AM
26	White	6/16/2023 9:49 AM
27	White	6/16/2023 8:57 AM
28	White	6/16/2023 7:45 AM
29	White	6/15/2023 8:59 PM
30	White	6/15/2023 4:59 PM
31	White	6/15/2023 8:08 AM
32	Asian	6/15/2023 6:09 AM
33	White	6/15/2023 5:43 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

34	Prefer not to answer	6/14/2023 10:24 PM
35	White	6/14/2023 10:24 PM
36	Caucasian	6/14/2023 10:06 PM
37	German, Polish, French	6/14/2023 9:21 PM
38	White	6/14/2023 9:18 PM
39	Eastern European	6/14/2023 8:01 PM
40	White	6/14/2023 7:57 PM
41	White Swedish/German	6/14/2023 6:59 PM
42	White	6/14/2023 6:52 PM
43	White	6/14/2023 6:47 PM
44	White	6/14/2023 6:01 PM
45	white	6/14/2023 5:06 PM
46	White	6/14/2023 5:02 PM
47	White	6/14/2023 4:56 PM
48	White American	6/14/2023 4:51 PM
49	White	6/14/2023 4:37 PM
50	White American	6/14/2023 4:36 PM
51	White	6/14/2023 4:34 PM
52	White	6/14/2023 4:32 PM
53	White	6/14/2023 4:25 PM
54	White	6/14/2023 4:22 PM
55	White	6/14/2023 4:14 PM
56	White	6/14/2023 3:45 PM
57	White	6/14/2023 3:45 PM
58	White	6/14/2023 3:40 PM
59	White	6/14/2023 1:08 PM
60	Caucasian	6/14/2023 6:06 AM
61	White	6/13/2023 8:35 PM
62	Jewish Ashkenazi	6/13/2023 9:31 AM
63	White	6/12/2023 11:16 AM
64	white	6/10/2023 10:47 AM
65	White	6/10/2023 12:04 AM
66	Caucasian	6/9/2023 9:54 PM
67	white	6/9/2023 6:15 PM
68	Semitic	6/9/2023 1:23 PM
69	White	6/9/2023 7:30 AM
70	White	6/8/2023 10:52 AM
71	White	6/8/2023 6:18 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

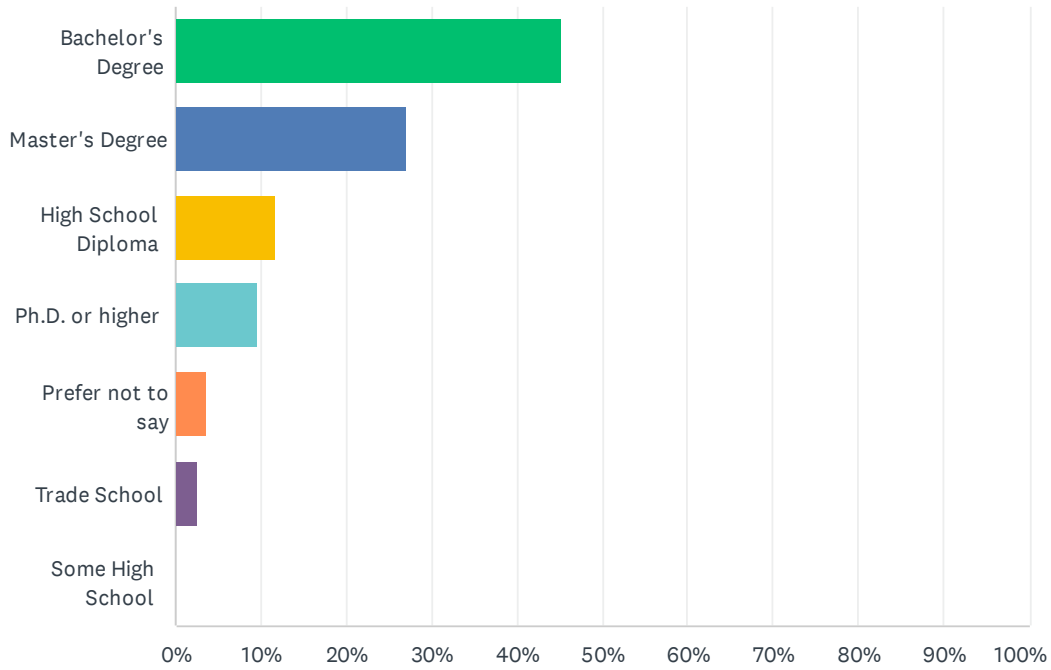
72	White	6/8/2023 12:52 AM
73	White	6/7/2023 10:03 PM
74	Not polish	6/7/2023 9:17 PM
75	White	6/7/2023 9:09 PM
76	White	6/7/2023 7:13 PM
77	white	6/7/2023 5:40 PM
78	Whitw	6/7/2023 5:28 PM
79	White	6/7/2023 5:08 PM
80	White	6/7/2023 3:23 PM
81	White	6/7/2023 2:55 PM
82	White	6/7/2023 2:43 PM
83	Caucasian	6/7/2023 2:19 PM
84	White, French	6/7/2023 1:49 PM
85	Caucasian	6/7/2023 11:42 AM
86	White	6/7/2023 11:11 AM
87	Caucasian	6/7/2023 9:26 AM
88	White	6/7/2023 9:23 AM
89	Caucasian	6/7/2023 8:02 AM
90	White	6/7/2023 7:20 AM
91	White	6/7/2023 6:46 AM
92	white	6/7/2023 6:33 AM
93	White	6/7/2023 6:31 AM
94	Asian	6/6/2023 11:22 PM
95	White Caucasian	6/6/2023 8:32 PM
96	White	6/6/2023 8:22 PM
97	White	6/6/2023 8:11 PM
98	Caucasian	6/6/2023 8:08 PM
99	White	6/6/2023 6:53 PM
100	White	6/6/2023 6:48 PM
101	Caucasian	6/6/2023 5:55 PM
102	White	6/6/2023 5:03 PM
103	white	6/6/2023 4:44 PM
104	White	6/6/2023 11:07 AM
105	Caucasian	6/6/2023 11:03 AM
106	White	6/6/2023 11:01 AM
107	White	6/6/2023 9:57 AM
108	human	6/5/2023 1:37 PM
109	White Polish	6/5/2023 1:14 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

110	White, non-Hispanic	6/5/2023 9:24 AM
111	White	6/4/2023 1:39 PM
112	White	6/3/2023 8:39 PM
113	Caucasian	6/2/2023 12:16 AM
114	White	6/1/2023 9:28 PM
115	White	6/1/2023 7:43 PM
116	Caucasian	6/1/2023 7:30 PM
117	White	6/1/2023 6:48 PM
118	Caucasian	6/1/2023 12:44 PM
119	White Caucasian	6/1/2023 9:00 AM
120	White	6/1/2023 8:55 AM
121	Caucasian	6/1/2023 6:37 AM
122	White	6/1/2023 6:30 AM
123	White	5/31/2023 9:56 PM
124	White, Western European	5/31/2023 8:15 PM
125	white	5/31/2023 7:56 PM
126	White	5/31/2023 7:45 PM
127	White, non Hispanic	5/31/2023 7:31 PM
128	White	5/31/2023 7:27 PM
129	White	5/31/2023 6:59 PM
130	White	5/31/2023 6:38 PM
131	white	5/31/2023 6:30 PM
132	White	5/31/2023 6:23 PM
133	White	5/27/2023 12:43 PM
134	Caucasian	5/26/2023 9:33 AM
135	White	5/25/2023 5:04 PM

## Q5 Education Level

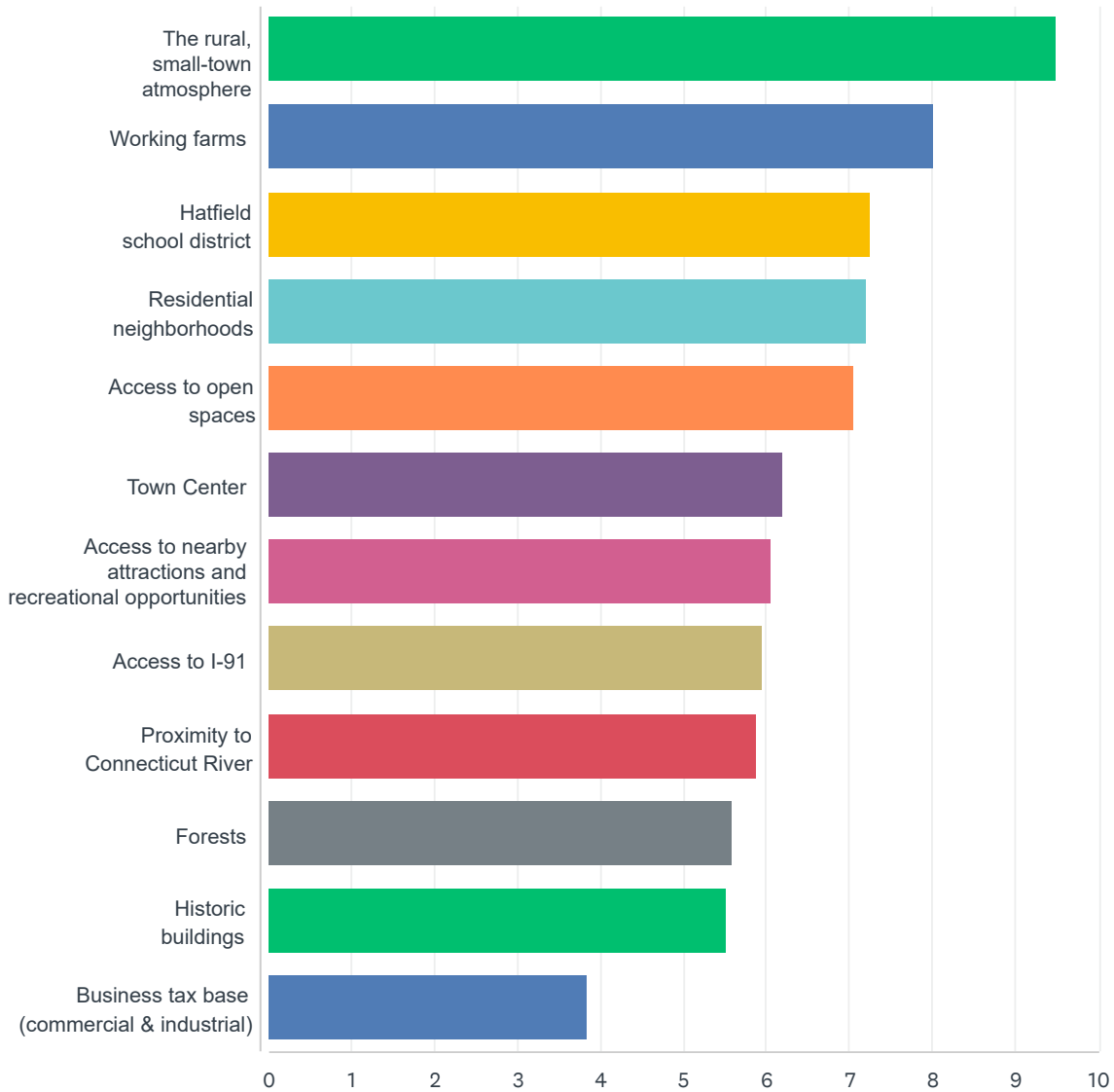
Answered: 188 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bachelor's Degree	45.21%	85
Master's Degree	27.13%	51
High School Diploma	11.70%	22
Ph.D. or higher	9.57%	18
Prefer not to say	3.72%	7
Trade School	2.66%	5
Some High School	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>188</b>

Q6 What features in Hatfield do you value the most? Please rank the following, with 1 being highest valued and 12 being least valued.

Answered: 170 Skipped: 22





## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
The rural, small-town atmosphere	35.29% 60	17.06% 29	12.94% 22	8.24% 14	4.71% 8	4.12% 7	4.71% 8	2.35% 4	2.35% 4	3.53% 6	2.35% 4
Working farms	12.35% 21	15.29% 26	14.12% 24	9.41% 16	7.06% 12	14.12% 24	4.71% 8	4.71% 8	6.47% 11	4.71% 8	4.71% 8
Hatfield school district	18.82% 32	14.71% 25	8.82% 15	4.12% 7	5.29% 9	4.71% 8	6.47% 11	4.71% 8	8.82% 15	4.12% 7	6.47% 11
Residential neighborhoods	5.29% 9	15.29% 26	7.65% 13	13.53% 23	8.24% 14	9.41% 16	11.18% 19	5.29% 9	7.65% 13	5.88% 10	5.88% 10
Access to open spaces	8.82% 15	7.06% 12	10.59% 18	11.18% 19	11.76% 20	7.65% 13	9.41% 16	8.82% 15	8.82% 15	5.29% 9	4.71% 8
Town Center	0.59% 1	5.88% 10	4.12% 7	8.82% 15	17.65% 30	10.00% 17	10.59% 18	17.06% 29	7.65% 13	5.88% 10	7.65% 13
Access to nearby attractions recreational opportunities	4.71% 8	3.53% 6	11.76% 20	7.65% 13	8.82% 15	10.00% 17	4.71% 8	8.82% 15	14.12% 24	10.59% 18	6.47% 11
Access to I-91	2.35% 4	8.82% 15	8.24% 14	11.18% 19	6.47% 11	5.29% 9	9.41% 16	7.06% 12	9.41% 16	12.94% 22	10.00% 17
Proximity to Connecticut River	4.12% 7	2.94% 5	5.88% 10	9.41% 16	10.00% 17	11.18% 19	11.18% 19	8.24% 14	10.00% 17	10.59% 18	8.82% 15
Forests	4.12% 7	4.71% 8	4.12% 7	7.06% 12	6.47% 11	9.41% 16	10.00% 17	15.29% 26	10.59% 18	11.18% 19	5.29% 9
Historic buildings	2.35% 4	4.12% 7	7.06% 12	7.06% 12	9.41% 16	5.88% 10	9.41% 16	10.59% 18	9.41% 16	15.88% 27	15.29% 26
Business tax base (commercial & industrial)	1.18% 2	0.59% 1	4.71% 8	2.35% 4	4.12% 7	8.24% 14	8.24% 14	7.06% 12	4.71% 8	9.41% 16	22.35% 38

## Q7 What else do you value about Hatfield?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 115

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The safety	6/26/2023 5:38 AM
2	Close to Northampton	6/17/2023 9:06 PM
3	Heritage	6/17/2023 7:50 PM
4	Small town feeling but has usable sidewalks and roads. Other towns don't have updated sidewalks but Hatfield does, which makes it nice to walk on with a stroller.	6/17/2023 3:18 PM
5	I value the walkable loops.	6/16/2023 8:54 PM
6	Library	6/16/2023 6:00 PM
7	Community spirit...local events like Memorial Day parade and Luminarium	6/16/2023 4:37 PM
8	No pot stores No large retail development No traffic signals	6/16/2023 2:49 PM
9	community	6/16/2023 11:43 AM
10	Sense of community, community pride, even people who move out still have connection it is the only town where people treat it like an Alma Mater.	6/16/2023 9:53 AM
11	the library	6/16/2023 7:47 AM
12	residents' support for maintaining the integrity of the town	6/15/2023 10:32 AM
13	The quality of streets, safety, potential for more recreation	6/15/2023 6:12 AM
14	Open space, quiet.	6/14/2023 9:27 PM
15	The people	6/14/2023 9:25 PM
16	It's not on the way to anywhere.	6/14/2023 8:10 PM
17	Small, quaint and safe	6/14/2023 7:58 PM
18	It's smallness	6/14/2023 7:03 PM
19	It's easy to get to Northampton from here.	6/14/2023 5:45 PM
20	Overall safety and a community that comes together. Small town traditional events.	6/14/2023 5:04 PM
21	Safety, close proximity to everywhere while living in the country	6/14/2023 4:42 PM
22	Our own select board and town politics	6/14/2023 4:37 PM
23	Community engagement. Community events.	6/14/2023 4:18 PM
24	Schools that are viable and can remain independent	6/14/2023 3:49 PM
25	The facts that it's zoned... but the town needs to enforce zoning better	6/14/2023 3:48 PM
26	People love living here.	6/13/2023 9:29 PM
27	Small town community where people have pride in their property and town. I appreciate the town spirit and willingness to help one's neighbors.	6/13/2023 8:37 PM
28	the people that live here	6/10/2023 10:49 AM
29	Large residential lot size, room to keep dogs & horses, lack of Chamber of Commerce-style grow-at any-cost attitude	6/9/2023 10:05 PM
30	Responsible, self-contained, friendly, supportive, environmentally responsive	6/9/2023 7:12 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

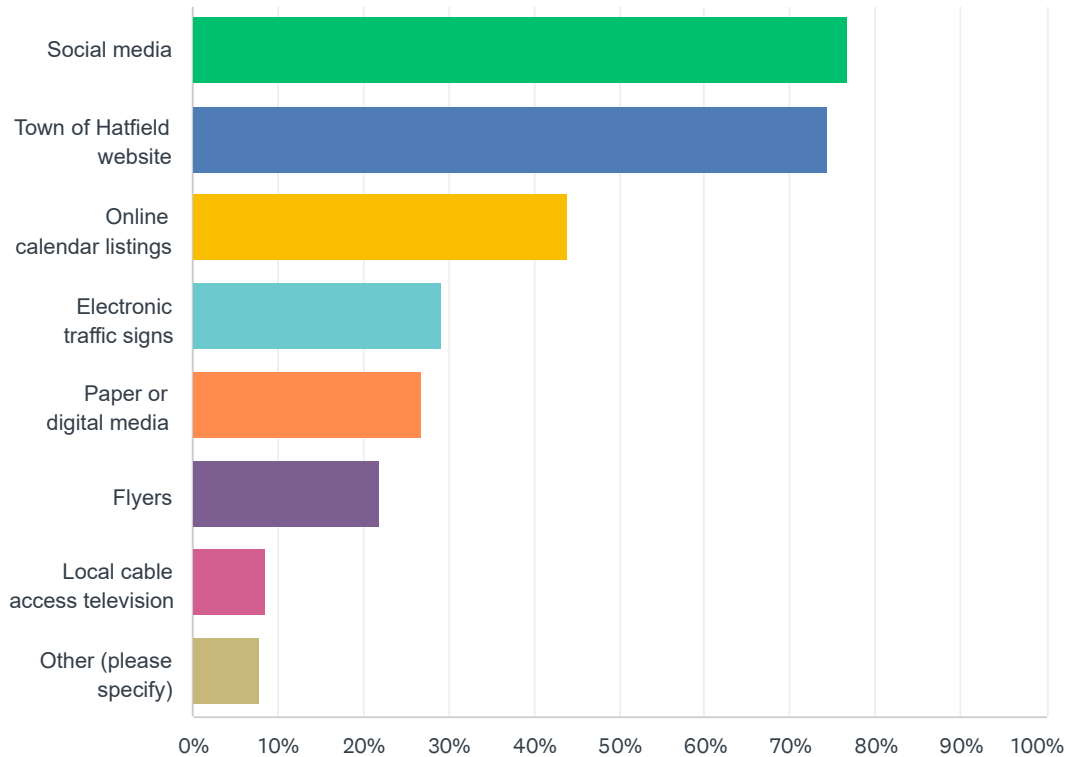
31	Community spirit	6/9/2023 1:25 PM
32	The people: neighbors helping neighbors.	6/9/2023 7:34 AM
33	I grew up in Hatfield as did my parents. I loved the "old" Hatfield feel. The "new" Hatfield feel has me worried we are losing what Hatfield is really all about, especially in the schools.	6/8/2023 11:00 AM
34	Not littered with retail chain stores or mini malls.	6/8/2023 12:55 AM
35	Rec dept. The history and love the library	6/7/2023 10:08 PM
36	Traffic and the lack of it. Commitment to historical roots of Hatfield. Preserving farmland	6/7/2023 9:42 PM
37	Tight knit community, cultural opportunities and traditions (park concerts, Luminarium, Memorial Day parade), mix of political ideas, peaceful safe and quiet atmosphere, great library programs!	6/7/2023 9:12 PM
38	Atmosphere of pride.	6/7/2023 7:15 PM
39	Community and walkabilty	6/7/2023 3:51 PM
40	Our farmland. Our location within the Pioneer Valley and that we're isolated enough by CT River to stay a small community.	6/7/2023 2:45 PM
41	The people are generally welcoming	6/7/2023 11:13 AM
42	Close to 5 Colleges	6/7/2023 9:29 AM
43	Walk ability, plowed sidewalks, town wide events, churches, schools (bring back the musical!)	6/7/2023 7:24 AM
44	Proximity to Northampton. Diversity of farmers, longtime residents, knowledge workers and new comers. More ethnic and racial diversity would be welcome.	6/7/2023 6:39 AM
45	Lose to Northampton	6/6/2023 11:31 PM
46	Pride in the history of the town and the sense of community.	6/6/2023 8:41 PM
47	Allowing families to keep the homestead in the family affordably	6/6/2023 6:00 PM
48	I value the strong community that is built upon the pride that the townspeople seem to have regarding the great town that we are so lucky to live in!	6/6/2023 5:57 PM
49	Friendly people	6/6/2023 4:46 PM
50	The friendliness of my neighbors, proximity to Northampton	6/6/2023 11:12 AM
51	We love that our neighbors stop and say hi when they're out and about. The walkability is great and feels like it really connects us to other folks in town. We would love love LOVE if the bike path were extended to expand on the walkability!	6/6/2023 11:07 AM
52	I love Hatfield's small town atmosphere while still being close to the amenities of Northampton. Additionally the sense of community and inclusion.	6/6/2023 9:59 AM
53	Tight knit community, farm stands, lack of poor land use such as a multitudes of self storage and other rural town blights	6/5/2023 1:40 PM
54	Maintaining the small town, farming and blue collar working culture and feel.	6/5/2023 1:23 PM
55	Friendly neighbors, ability to make a difference in the town	6/5/2023 9:26 AM
56	Exceptional school	6/4/2023 1:46 PM
57	The community garden, the public library, its location in the valley.	6/3/2023 8:53 PM
58	The community in my neighborhood	6/2/2023 6:08 AM
59	Tree-lined streets Clean/well-kept properties & streets Safety A growing liberal base	6/1/2023 11:53 PM
60	Preserved open spaces that remain undeveloped	6/1/2023 12:46 PM
61	Sense of community, strong property values	6/1/2023 11:28 AM
62	Community events	6/1/2023 9:02 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

63	The community and the open space	6/1/2023 8:57 AM
64	Proximity to family	6/1/2023 6:39 AM
65	Sidewalks and any signage to protect pedestrians	5/31/2023 9:59 PM
66	New, young families that want to move here.	5/31/2023 9:58 PM
67	a town that values and saves its history, but is making changes to better fit its current residents, and is also planning for the future.	5/31/2023 8:21 PM
68	Cleaniness	5/31/2023 7:58 PM
69	Schools! So important to have our own school system. Affordable housing to keep the town youthful	5/31/2023 7:47 PM
70	The small town feel, the loop and walking trails, the river side trails, the town spirit and events like the luminarium, the farm stands	5/31/2023 7:30 PM
71	Excellent for cycling	5/31/2023 6:41 PM
72	It's a walking town. There are lovely places to walk and many people take advantage of this element of the town.	5/31/2023 6:32 PM
73	Our library!	5/31/2023 6:25 PM
74	One thing that makes Hatfield special is the beautiful Main St. It is what dreamy~lovely and quiet. This is hard to find and makes the town center unique in my opinion. Please consider noise or traffic impacts in any future planning of town center land.	5/30/2023 9:22 PM
75	That its neighborhoods are quiet.	5/30/2023 12:02 PM
76	limited street lights, no light pollution. (the stars are more visible)	5/26/2023 9:37 AM
77	Old time values and ethics	5/25/2023 5:11 PM

## Q8 Where would you like to see more information about events, programs, or planning processes in Hatfield? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 164 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter	76.83% 126
Town of Hatfield website	74.39% 122
Online calendar listings, such as Google Events, Explore Western Mass, or Eventbrite	43.90% 72
Electronic traffic signs / variable message signs	29.27% 48
Paper or digital media articles or ads, such as in the Hampshire Daily Gazette	26.83% 44
Flyers	21.95% 36
Local cable access television	8.54% 14
Other (please specify)	7.93% 13
Total Respondents: 164	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Social media because it's easier for the younger generation to follow up on what is going on in Hatfield	6/17/2023 3:18 PM
2	Mailbox	6/15/2023 6:12 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

3	Mailing, postcards	6/14/2023 9:29 PM
4	Sandwich board or lawn signs in outdoor town locations. Council on Aging Newsletter	6/14/2023 8:12 PM
5	Mailings, phone messages, email newsletters	6/13/2023 9:30 PM
6	the less electronically dependent the better, I like the auto-voice-mails quite a bit. E-mails work well. I do not want to have to log onto Google or FB let alone twitter or Instagram (I don't, and WILL NOT, use them!)	6/9/2023 7:19 PM
7	Bring back putting info in Gazette. We read the paper every day	6/7/2023 10:09 PM
8	Yard signs	6/7/2023 3:51 PM
9	Lack of info is a big issue. I wish there was a Hatfield website for school, churches, sports, social events. Not a site where we have to wade through all local events. When Siobhan had the Only in Hatfield Facebook page, that was super helpful. But it's a lot of work and comments may need to be monitored.	6/7/2023 7:29 AM
10	Email newsletter	6/6/2023 8:26 PM
11	You tube as so many go there for catching up on meetings	6/6/2023 6:01 PM
12	Phone call	6/1/2023 6:34 AM
13	oftentimes info on Town events is not listed on the town website or not listed until a day or two before the event. Encourage groups to send in their info to the town website admin earlier, with full details.	5/31/2023 8:24 PM

## Q9 What are your main hopes as you think about the future of Hatfield?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 64

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Stays a small town feel	6/26/2023 5:41 AM
2	We need to figure out the future of the schools. We DO NOT offer a quality education for our students. Teachers are not compensated appropriately and for years we have been hiring from a different pool than other area schools. The high school needs updating/repairs.	6/23/2023 12:31 PM
3	That we can be financially stable without continuing to raise taxes. That we are all kept up to date on if our school system is thriving or not.	6/18/2023 9:28 AM
4	Stay rural	6/17/2023 9:08 PM
5	Remains the same with only needed improvements	6/17/2023 7:54 PM
6	I hope that Hatfield continues to update their roads with sidewalks and usable bike paths. Being about to enjoy outside without worrying of getting hit by a car is nice. I enjoy walking my dogs and baby in the stroller around Hatfield.	6/17/2023 3:23 PM
7	I hope that we will become more racially diverse by working on ourselves as a town -- be a small town, yes, but have an open heart--and inviting folks here and making them feel included. Get over our NIMBY mentality.	6/16/2023 8:57 PM
8	Viability of the school district	6/16/2023 7:22 PM
9	That it retains its historic and rural character.	6/16/2023 5:45 PM
10	No more 55 + housing we need young family that want to stay so our school system is sustainable in particular Smith Academy	6/16/2023 4:43 PM
11	That it maintain its small town feeling while moving forward with new infrastructure to keep buildings, roads, etc well maintained and up to date	6/16/2023 4:39 PM
12	Regionalize school system. Unsustainable. Sick of paying high taxes for a mediocre school system. Lack of college prep courses at high school. Too much emphasis on sports.	6/16/2023 2:52 PM
13	Focus on the schools and bring more school choice people in. Diversification of the town and bring in more businesses to increase tax revenue	6/16/2023 2:09 PM
14	More housing, focus on schools/library, growth of local businesses	6/16/2023 1:50 PM
15	equality in town services	6/16/2023 11:45 AM
16	I hope that Hatfield can both keep it's history and keep pace with technology and a modern life. The first keeps Hatfield special and the latter ensures Hatfield's success.	6/16/2023 10:00 AM
17	That it can retain its essential, small town character while continuing to expand opportunities for its residents.	6/16/2023 9:09 AM
18	Keep the schools	6/16/2023 8:09 AM
19	I would love to see Hatfield evolve towards a sustainable community using green energy sources and with pollinator-friendly spaces like meadows (which are also good for flood control)	6/16/2023 7:49 AM
20	To keep it a rural farming community which has been it's roots for generations.	6/15/2023 9:02 PM
21	Younger generations coming in. Keep the schools open	6/15/2023 5:03 PM
22	that the town can afford to "prepare and protect.." itself	6/15/2023 10:35 AM
23	That the town will stop wasting money and lower the taxes.	6/15/2023 8:11 AM
24	Expansion of school district, more recreation specifically tennis courts and bigger playgrounds, small town but a little more modern, bridge to Hadley	6/15/2023 6:17 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

25	Respect property owners property	6/15/2023 5:50 AM
26	I hope the schools become better	6/14/2023 10:29 PM
27	It doesn't change too much.	6/14/2023 10:29 PM
28	Decisions are thought out and made with education and research.	6/14/2023 9:33 PM
29	Retains its rural character and historic town center.	6/14/2023 9:28 PM
30	My hope is that Hatfield continues to be an affordable balance of small town New England with a decent commercial base. Keeping taxes low increases the opportunity to attract new residents and new business to out town.	6/14/2023 8:19 PM
31	Connect us to the bike path! Work on noise reduction along I-91 and around industrial sites. Expand cultural and festive events in town center.	6/14/2023 8:19 PM
32	To bring young families into our community	6/14/2023 8:00 PM
33	I hope we are able to remain current with change without loosing who we have always been.	6/14/2023 7:07 PM
34	Schools and moving into future keeping them sustainable ...	6/14/2023 6:06 PM
35	My hope is that Hatfield will be able to absorb change and progress.	6/14/2023 5:48 PM
36	I hope that my children and able to grow up with the same small town feeling I did here in Hatfield. I also feel that tracks drive too fast on prospect st.	6/14/2023 5:12 PM
37	I hope that the schools continue to be excellent, and that attention is paid to progressivism and environmentalism.	6/14/2023 5:09 PM
38	Maintaining a strong community support.	6/14/2023 5:07 PM
39	Improve school district	6/14/2023 4:54 PM
40	That we stay a small, rural, farming town that is safe...everyone knows everyone vibe.	6/14/2023 4:45 PM
41	That it stays rural	6/14/2023 4:45 PM
42	That Hatfield maintains the small town feel. They we do not continue to have useless overrides. You will drive residents out of town because it is becoming too expensive to live here. All some businesses to come in on 5&10 to help keep taxes down.	6/14/2023 4:42 PM
43	To talk to about our options as residents to create the most opportunities for our town resident children.	6/14/2023 4:41 PM
44	Think outside the box to bring in business to help defer tax cost.	6/14/2023 4:39 PM
45	Bridge reopen near mill, creating a destination	6/14/2023 4:30 PM
46	Schools ratings increase.	6/14/2023 4:22 PM
47	That is stays as IS!!!	6/14/2023 3:49 PM
48	I would like to see less of our farm land being sold off for housing. I would also like to see less large-scale industrial growth. I feel as though the loss of farmland and the growth of large industry in town are detrimental to the peace and tranquility of our town.	6/14/2023 6:15 AM
49	Keep the small town, farm atmosphere but attract new families to keep the town viable.	6/13/2023 9:31 PM
50	Honestly, I hope it doesn't keep changing. There are a lot of new people in town forcing it into a new direction. I hope we keep restoring the historical parts of town, maintaining our trees, roads and side walks. Keep the farms and the ability for farmers to work their fields. Increase the commercial tax base to relieve the burden on the residents.	6/13/2023 8:56 PM
51	Bike lanes , side walks , schools and master forestry plan	6/12/2023 1:32 PM
52	Bringing in more families with more school-aged children who can keep Hatfield Public Schools alive.	6/12/2023 11:18 AM
53	Keep the small town feel and small family farming alive	6/10/2023 2:04 PM
54	Bring in business to offset tax base but keep rural character. Make it easier for younger	6/10/2023 10:51 AM



## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

	families to move into	
55	Affordable housing (do we need 1 acre for new houses?) Continuing to educate students within the town Continuing community events like summer concerts	6/10/2023 12:09 AM
56	That planners will continue to value the rural, agricultural and residential atmosphere of Hatfield and provide more opportunities for sustainability and response to climate change	6/9/2023 10:20 PM
57	Maintain it's native ruralness More info on local public recreational outlets. I lived here for 29 years before I discovered there is public access to a beach on the CT River	6/9/2023 7:20 PM
58	Maintaining our rural heritage	6/9/2023 7:10 PM
59	To maintain small town values	6/9/2023 5:47 PM
60	Keep tax base low	6/9/2023 1:27 PM
61	Slow, careful growth. We already enjoy a low tax rate, we do not need to make our open spaces disappear adding large businesses.	6/9/2023 7:39 AM
62	Hope Hatfield stops changing from what it originally was. I wish people would stop moving here only to try to change what Hatfield & the school district is - I want people to move here because of what Hatfield already is. We are not Northampton 2.0! I hope the schools go back in the direction of what they once were - focused on academics and sports teams.	6/8/2023 11:07 AM
63	Preserve farm land and open spaces and forests/woods. Keep schools thriving.	6/8/2023 6:21 AM
64	Resiliency for the climate crisis. Clean energy, green infrastructure, green transportation including more bike friendly routes and connectivity to other communities. Keeping forests and farms - afraid of urban sprawl.	6/8/2023 1:01 AM
65	1. Preserving farmland -in order to maintain Hatfields historical roots and character 2. Moderate taxes and fees of farm businesses as to not overburden them to keep them in business maintaining farmland. 3. Economic sustainability of Hatfield public schools. 4.strengthen business and commercial sites for businesses to thrive.	6/7/2023 10:22 PM
66	We keep our school in town. We keep ambulance and we can expand the library	6/7/2023 10:11 PM
67	I hope hatfield will become more diverse and progressive while maintaining its safe, peaceful and beautiful character	6/7/2023 9:13 PM
68	To maintain small town/rural character of Hatfield.	6/7/2023 8:11 PM
69	Sustain its small town vibe with its open space and small neighborhood businesses. Maintain public river access.	6/7/2023 7:21 PM
70	Maintain a small town, farming community atmosphere with access to outdoor recreation	6/7/2023 5:33 PM
71	Affordable housing	6/7/2023 5:10 PM
72	Inclusive community with strong schools	6/7/2023 3:53 PM
73	The high school and middle school needs to regionalize.	6/7/2023 3:31 PM
74	Maintain small town vibe & feel while encouraging & progressing toward inclusion and diversity. Continue to support & grow business in town including the Agricultural community that is such a key piece of Hatfield's DNA. I think with creativity and care we can have both a strong respect & admiration for the history of the farming community and invite new business and new community members that compliment that history.	6/7/2023 3:14 PM
75	I hope Hatfield remains a farming community. I hope we can become a leader in how we preserve farmland while increasing the affordability of single-family homes. I hope we can become a cultural hub celebrating our history and arts as a destination.	6/7/2023 2:58 PM
76	Sustaining the current farms that operate in the town and keeping Hatfield's small town feel.	6/7/2023 2:24 PM
77	To foster a sense of community	6/7/2023 1:52 PM
78	We stay rural and don't "overgrow"	6/7/2023 12:33 PM
79	Keep this a farm-friendly community with access to great schools	6/7/2023 11:15 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

80	I hope that we can continue to make Hatfield accessible for young families. For the longevity of the town, we need to have a robust school district and a town that is friendly and open for families of all backgrounds and income levels. I also hope Hatfield continues to support farmers, particularly when it comes to land preservation	6/7/2023 9:31 AM
81	Retains rural character	6/7/2023 9:30 AM
82	Increased diversity - racially, economically, spiritually... Would like to see a lot more community events - picnics, BBQs, concerts, plays, work days, dances, contests, fun days, town fair, groups helping those in need. More ways to get to know neighbors.	6/7/2023 7:39 AM
83	That it can balance its budget without sacrificing vital services, like education.	6/7/2023 6:52 AM
84	That we can maintain our rural character, farmland and neighborhoods while developing more of a business tax base along route 5. Would also love to have PVTA buses or other public transit.	6/7/2023 6:46 AM
85	That we can remain a farming community and that farmers won't have to sell there land to houseing to pay the bills. And make it affordable for our future generations to be able to live in the town they were brought up in .	6/7/2023 6:42 AM
86	Affordable housing for young families to keep our schools.	6/6/2023 8:49 PM
87	That all the projects we keep voting in and funding can be met and finished within a reasonable time frame. So many projects are left unfinished for years and in the end it costs us 3 times the amount to finish them. Too many unfinished projects in our town the last 5 years.	6/6/2023 8:39 PM
88	That it will become more attractive/affordable for younger generations to live there.	6/6/2023 8:28 PM
89	We keep local long term families here. They are disappearing . We need more kids too.	6/6/2023 6:03 PM
90	I hope that we are able to maintain our rural vibe but also becoming progressive in what we can offer by ways of education for our children, community events, and outdoor spaces to enjoy.	6/6/2023 6:00 PM
91	I hope that it can retain open space and protect its working farms and farmland, wisely control development, maintain and expand an inclusive culture for its residents, and proactively work to address the impacts of climate change.	6/6/2023 11:19 AM
92	As a young family, we hope the schools stay strong and continue to attract more young families. We'd love to see an actual real park in town (outside of the school playgrounds and the sort of sad half park near the fire station) and we are fully supportive of the bike path, which we think would be an incredible value-add for the town at very little cost to us all.	6/6/2023 11:11 AM
93	That we continue to preserve open spaces and carefully monitor development. Within conscious development , I would like to see is prioritize attractive, affordable housing so more young families can move into town. Good for the community and for the schools. That we continue to support our schools. I would love for there to be more racial/ethnic diversity in our town. Would love to see more organic farming.	6/6/2023 11:10 AM
94	I hope Hatfield continues to retain it's small town feel while working to become a vision zero community. The town should endeavor to reduce speed limits and implement traffic calming on main arterials.	6/6/2023 10:06 AM
95	That it can remain a viable farming community, preserve open spaces and encourage public uses of those spaces	6/5/2023 1:45 PM
96	Growth while preserving our character and culture.	6/5/2023 1:26 PM
97	Ways to generate more tax flow income for the town. We need to move away from the need for a full acre of land and 200 feet of frontage to build a house. The only people who can afford that land build very large houses, and many of them school of choice their children out. More smaller neighborhoods will also bring a sense of community that's lacking. Everyone who has children would love to live in the acres. I'd fully support building lots needing at least 1/3 of an acre and 75-100 feet of frontage. This change alone would bring in the extra tax revenue needed, and with it more families with children that would be more likely to stay in Hatfield schools.	6/5/2023 1:19 PM
98	That the relatively low housing prices, and tax rate will attract families with children.	6/5/2023 9:29 AM
99	farm land preservation	6/5/2023 8:49 AM
100	That town won't go underwater due to climate change and that the farms prosper due to climate	6/4/2023 1:51 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

	change (higher temperatures, more sunshine and rain for plant productivity)	
101	That decisions are made that preserve and improve open access, and public facilities (add public restrooms), that it strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community, that the farmland is preserved and improved (not sold to be built on), that regenerative farming methods are implemented. Ecological and environmental protection efforts are a focus.	6/3/2023 9:01 PM
102	Preservation of existing architecture, preservation of rural community, design, continuation of small, quiet town character.	6/2/2023 6:31 AM
103	I would like to be able to add an external accessory dwelling for an elderly parent	6/2/2023 6:11 AM
104	That we don't do to Hatfield what Amherst has done to itself. That we can go in the direction of more self-sufficiency, such as municipal broadband or hydroelectric.	6/2/2023 12:23 AM
105	I hope we find opportunities for young families to move into town (available housing that is suitably priced... available being the key.)	6/1/2023 11:59 PM
106	I hope to see our town grow so it can continue to be independent and sustain the needs of its residents.	6/1/2023 7:48 PM
107	More businesses on route 5 not to include a marijuana business.	6/1/2023 7:41 PM
108	That we preserve the excellent public school system to draw in younger families	6/1/2023 6:50 PM
109	That i can grow old here, in a relatively quiet and preserved area of the region and country, and that Hatfield can thrive in the changing economy and climate conditions.	6/1/2023 12:48 PM
110	That Hatfield will be a community that accepts people and families of all backgrounds (no matter when they move to town). That we're an attractive community for younger homebuyers and have a flourishing, competitive school system that attracts local and school choice students.	6/1/2023 11:41 AM
111	Keep the small town feel, the community closeness.	6/1/2023 9:09 AM
112	A vibrant community of young adults who are getting involved.	6/1/2023 9:06 AM
113	Preserve open spaces, improve farming methods to be environmentally conscious	6/1/2023 6:40 AM
114	More families with children move to the area.	6/1/2023 6:38 AM
115	I hope that Hatfield is able to embrace change, is open to outside-the-box ideas and progress forward.	5/31/2023 10:02 PM
116	More communal areas for recreation and play for adults and kids.	5/31/2023 10:00 PM
117	that we stay a thriving farming town, that we get some more affordable housing, that we maintain existing town buildings and add places or events where we can come together, especially bringing together different ages.	5/31/2023 8:30 PM
118	Keep attracting young families to town and not price out young families	5/31/2023 7:48 PM
119	That it maintains its small town character, the rural and farming environment, good schools, beautiful main street	5/31/2023 7:34 PM
120	Hoping more younger families move to town that are open minded	5/31/2023 7:02 PM
121	Eliminate the 200 feet of frontage rule.	5/31/2023 6:42 PM
122	I hope the town sufficiently funds the school.	5/31/2023 6:33 PM
123	I hope that we can open up as a community to help everyone (all social, economic, political, etc) and find more ways to connect. Come together to help local businesses and families move here while also protecting the environment.	5/31/2023 6:31 PM
124	My hope is to see Hatfield center remain quiet and keep it's historic charm.	5/30/2023 9:28 PM
125	That it retains its rural, quiet atmosphere and its citizens respect the rights of their neighbors to enjoy those same rights.	5/30/2023 12:05 PM
126	That we remain committed to open space while also growing tax base where it makes sense.	5/26/2023 9:39 AM
127	Build either commercial or residential housing.	5/25/2023 6:10 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

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128	I hope Hatfield doesn't lose its small town charm to the pursuit of modernisation. I've lived here only a few years and it's been a joy just being a part of the community. Everyone I have interacted with, from the Town Hall to the DPW, has been extremely kind, easy going and down to earth.	5/25/2023 5:20 PM
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# Q10 What are your key concerns as you think about the future of Hatfield?

Answered: 126 Skipped: 66

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The middle and high school should regionalize. There is not enough money to sustain support of a school in which holds 200(ish) students.	6/26/2023 5:41 AM
2	People need to be willing to PAY for a better quality school system. If you want nice things, you need to PAY for them. We have a long way to go and I think most people have their head in the sand on this.	6/23/2023 12:31 PM
3	Schools closing, property values going down due to lack of town schools	6/18/2023 7:23 PM
4	That we find a good line between keeping the small town atmosphere but allowing in more businesses/tax revenue. Also, staying on top of whether keeping a keeping a school system is viable. I believe we need more residents that are invested in the future of Hatfield- that's families. We need a way to attract more families into town, whether that be affordable housing, recreation, or other things.	6/18/2023 9:28 AM
5	Less town domination to the politics	6/17/2023 9:08 PM
6	Migrants, Farming decline, Freedom, access to better Education, tax increases leaving the families who helped build this town to selling	6/17/2023 7:54 PM
7	My concern is Hatfield is not giving enough supporting to their local businesses and small business owners, especially small construction, mechanics, farmers and excavation companies. These businesses is what makes Hatfield unique. As well as giving support to police officers in making the area safe.	6/17/2023 3:23 PM
8	I would like to see a thriving coffee shop on Main Street. I hope we can keep the schools healthy.	6/16/2023 8:57 PM
9	Viability of the school district	6/16/2023 7:22 PM
10	No need to invite outsiders to use our walking and biking areas. It became a problem during covid especially with dogs	6/16/2023 5:45 PM
11	Smith academy. People are not school of choiceing in and many that live here our school of choiceing out of Smith academy.	6/16/2023 4:43 PM
12	Budget issues and our small school district	6/16/2023 4:39 PM
13	New folks trying to turn it into something it's not. Mimicking the failures of Northampton.	6/16/2023 2:52 PM
14	Hatfield community seems very stuck in an old mindset of "back in my day". People need to be open to change and growth	6/16/2023 2:09 PM
15	My chief concern is a small and shrinking school district. Small schools have fewer opportunities and make it less desirable for families to locate there. This is true in any rural school. This then cuts into the town's sustainable growth, leaving an aging population and sometime a more poor population. I see already class sizes are 1/3 what they were when I graduated. This is a problem. Small is nice, but there is such a thing as too small.	6/16/2023 10:00 AM
16	The schools	6/16/2023 8:09 AM
17	Lots of mowing and grass, which uses gas and is not good for the ecosystem. Limited public transportation. Limited public charging for electric vehicles	6/16/2023 7:49 AM
18	Farm landing being developed and going from a small rural town to a suburb.	6/15/2023 9:02 PM
19	Too expensive for younger generations to move in to town	6/15/2023 5:03 PM
20	\$	6/15/2023 10:35 AM
21	The town politicians. They are corrupt and do not make any impact on the success of the	6/15/2023 8:11 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

	town.	
22	That the generational residents will want to keep the town too small and that local businesses will continue to struggle because of it. Also that other restaurants and outside businesses won't be allowed in.	6/15/2023 6:17 AM
23	Small town charm. Maintain town properties. Stop adding things and not maintaining	6/15/2023 5:50 AM
24	The lack of diversity, and the schools	6/14/2023 10:29 PM
25	Home affordability.	6/14/2023 10:29 PM
26	The health of our school district.	6/14/2023 10:09 PM
27	Decisions are made without planning, research, knowledge and education.	6/14/2023 9:33 PM
28	More residential housing.	6/14/2023 9:28 PM
29	My concern is that, in the future, the school district would likely attract more school of choice children who require more in the way of special services. With that, the district should not try to become more like Northampton, Amherst, or even Easthampton with implementing a curriculum of wokeness; especially in the elementary school. Gone are the classes that teach kids how to become adults, which have been replaced with classes in the arts.	6/14/2023 8:19 PM
30	Better communication regarding committee decisions affecting town residents. Increases in taxes. How to deal with our horrible and expensive DPW director.	6/14/2023 8:19 PM
31	That the schools will close because we don't have enough students to keep them open.	6/14/2023 8:00 PM
32	I do not want to loose our rural essence.	6/14/2023 7:07 PM
33	Schools and tax base. Do we need more residential neighborhoods in order to generate more revenue for town	6/14/2023 6:06 PM
34	My key concern is that Hatfield is not able to absorb change and progress.	6/14/2023 5:48 PM
35	I am concerned about the future of the school. We are spending too much on dpw. They have too many new trucks and employees for a town of this size.	6/14/2023 5:12 PM
36	I am concerned that some residents since I moved here have been unfriendly to newcomers and resistant to change.	6/14/2023 5:09 PM
37	Lack of adequate funding for emergency services.	6/14/2023 5:07 PM
38	Small school system students leaving, cuts	6/14/2023 4:54 PM
39	That we lose our farming and community feel and move to a more liberal setting and we lose our identity	6/14/2023 4:45 PM
40	Maintain low tax base, limit developments, keep residential and farmland zoning	6/14/2023 4:45 PM
41	See above	6/14/2023 4:42 PM
42	The inability to staff the police department while passing the construction of a bike path. The inefficiency of our towns website to be a central location for information and meeting minutes. The high percentage of special needs children within the elementary school and a plan to offer all students an equal learning environment.	6/14/2023 4:41 PM
43	Taxes are getting too high and pricing too high to maintain school.	6/14/2023 4:39 PM
44	Trying to have less of the "us and them" vibe	6/14/2023 4:30 PM
45	Schools. Water quality.	6/14/2023 4:22 PM
46	The employees of this town, building permits not permitted, people cutting corners	6/14/2023 3:49 PM
47	I worry that we are going to continue to lose more farmland and have to rely more on food grown elsewhere. I also worry that we may become too industrialized, which would negatively impact the wildlife, woodlands, waterways, and residents. I think we should be preserving more farmland as "forever farms" and doing more to protect the woodlands and natural areas.	6/14/2023 6:15 AM
48	Maintaining the elementary school, affordable housing, maintaining open space/farm	6/13/2023 9:31 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

49	The schools. I'm not sure we have enough population to support smith academy and should think about closing the high school and keeping the elementary school. I think the schools are a drain on the budget. I'd like to see more money allocated to ambulance and fire, street lights and raised sidewalks in the center of town. Hatfield should focus on developing the 5/10 area where we could rezone some properties and allow more commercial growth. We should focus areas that can increase the town's revenue that's not based on residential tax or water rates or school choice.	6/13/2023 8:56 PM
50	Schools	6/12/2023 1:32 PM
51	Maintaining farmland but also providing and creating affordable housing.	6/12/2023 11:18 AM
52	Becoming unaffordable for future generations	6/10/2023 10:51 AM
53	Adequately funding schools Moving towards green energy for all town buildings	6/10/2023 12:09 AM
54	That planners will succumb to attempts to develop the Rte 5 corridor with big box stores/hotels/gas stations etc	6/9/2023 10:20 PM
55	How to increase number of students at Smith Academy	6/9/2023 9:22 PM
56	Too much commercialization	6/9/2023 7:20 PM
57	Affordable housing for young families	6/9/2023 7:10 PM
58	Ever increasing taxes, school system	6/9/2023 5:47 PM
59	Do not want too much development on open space	6/9/2023 1:27 PM
60	That business development will exceed residential development. We need more affordable housing to attract and retain young families so that our schools, churches and the community can survive and prosper.	6/9/2023 7:39 AM
61	I am greatly worried about the schools. We need to get back to academics, teachers that do not push agendas and get our sports programs back to what Smith Academy was known for. I feel the schools are trying to be Northampton 2.0 to draw school choice kids, but are in-turn losing Hatfield kids. Hatfield kids want what the Hatfield school district always was - good education and great sports teams.	6/8/2023 11:07 AM
62	School(s) may close	6/8/2023 6:21 AM
63	Urban sprawl, not using smart growth concepts.	6/8/2023 1:01 AM
64	1. Town budget 1a-Overspending and overcommitments in a small town of 3000 people. We can't have small town feel with a big town budget. 2. Affordable housing 3. Subtle racism	6/7/2023 10:22 PM
65	We lose the ambulance service would be detrimental	6/7/2023 10:11 PM
66	I would not like to see Hatfield become overdeveloped, busy, noisy or unsafe	6/7/2023 9:13 PM
67	To not overdevelop business growth on West St. Consider the many residents who live there just as you would be mindful of residential areas in all other parts of Hatfield.	6/7/2023 8:11 PM
68	Affordable housing. Open space Taxes River access	6/7/2023 7:21 PM
69	Climate change affecting the farms and homes in flood plains, future of schools as our student population changes, affordability of housing for younger generations	6/7/2023 5:33 PM
70	I would love to live in Hatfield forever but houses are too expensive.	6/7/2023 5:10 PM
71	More ways to generate tax revenue, school system, community services	6/7/2023 3:53 PM
72	The school system Affordable housing	6/7/2023 3:31 PM
73	I am concerned about the concentration of farmland and residential homes being bought up by a small number of families. I would like to see more diversification of crops on our farmland. I would like to see more farmland preservation. I would like to see smaller/more affordable 3+BR single family homes to support our schools without compromising farmland development.	6/7/2023 2:58 PM
74	New residents trying to change the town into a smaller version of Northampton	6/7/2023 2:24 PM
75	Funding for schools, essential services and the elderly. The issues coming up with the over	6/7/2023 1:52 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

	ride were unsettling!	
76	That we don't stay rural and "overgrow"	6/7/2023 12:33 PM
77	Aging population that is not connected to Hatfield and its history	6/7/2023 11:15 AM
78	I am concerned about the abundance of 55+ communities in Hatfield, and how expensive anything like renting is in Hatfield. I also worry about keeping farms and farming a key part of Hatfield, and making sure the town is still friendly for those who want to keep farming. I worry about Hatfield School District, and keeping it competitive as far as programs it offers for students	6/7/2023 9:31 AM
79	Affordable housing Viable farming	6/7/2023 9:30 AM
80	Lack of diversity, keeping Hatfield school district to Hatfield (plus school choice), while making sure lots of educational, character building, and social opportunities are available for the students (especially being able to take college courses in high school). More trade and life skills in school for all students. Protection from pollution. Heather and safety for farm workers and farm animals. Access to river for swimming, boating, recreation. Increased community spirit and connection. Stronger feeling of being known and home.	6/7/2023 7:39 AM
81	Riding the fine line of increasing funds without driving away residents with high tax rates.	6/7/2023 6:52 AM
82	Flooding, loss of open space and farmland to housing developments with 1+ acres per house. Would like to see some cluster housing with farmland and open space preserved.	6/7/2023 6:46 AM
83	Realestate costs are making it hard for starting families to live in town. work on resolving our high school tax burden	6/7/2023 6:42 AM
84	Finding the right balance of increasing the business tax base while at the same time keeping our small rural town feeling.	6/6/2023 8:49 PM
85	The school system taking over the majority of our town budget to the point that other needs of the town are not addressed and met. It's already happening.	6/6/2023 8:39 PM
86	The median population age keeps going up. With no new/younger people being able to call Hatfield home the town will eventually die	6/6/2023 8:28 PM
87	Too many rentals and less and less owner occupied. Very serious problem.	6/6/2023 6:03 PM
88	I am worried mostly about the educational opportunities for our children. I am so hopeful that the Hatfield Public Schools can be funded in order to innovate and make themselves attractive for families looking to relocate here and for families looking to school choice their children.	6/6/2023 6:00 PM
89	The increasing danger of flooding that results from climate change, the blanketing of agricultural land with residential development and/or solar panel arrays ( which belong on big box rooftops, parking lot rooftops, etc), poorly designed as opposed to well designed low - middle income housing (all for well-designed low income housing to scale).	6/6/2023 5:14 PM
90	Climate change impacts, loss of farmland to development, an aging population	6/6/2023 11:19 AM
91	We're concerned about eventually losing funding for schools and that the town will choose to become more insular instead of reaching out and connecting with the amazing communities that surround us.	6/6/2023 11:11 AM
92	Had we not passed the override, I would have grave concerns. A huge relief.	6/6/2023 11:10 AM
93	There are no dedicated protected bike lanes along Elm and main streets. This is especially concerning in the setting of the new bike path which Northampton will be constructing connecting the two communities. Bicycle and micro mobility infrastructure is critical not only for safety and recreation but also as an alternative to our current automobile centric model.	6/6/2023 10:06 AM
94	Economic pressures regarding loss of farm land and open space including outward real estate pressures and the difficulty small farms can have competing in the marketplace	6/5/2023 1:45 PM
95	Don't change (drastically) what has made Hatfield the community that we are. We are not Northampton, Amherst, Springfield, Boston, etc. While we need to move forward and evolve, we need to remember why we moved here/stayed here to begin with.	6/5/2023 1:26 PM
96	The sustainability of the school system and making Hatfield a destination to live in again. We need to make it more affordable.	6/5/2023 1:19 PM



## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

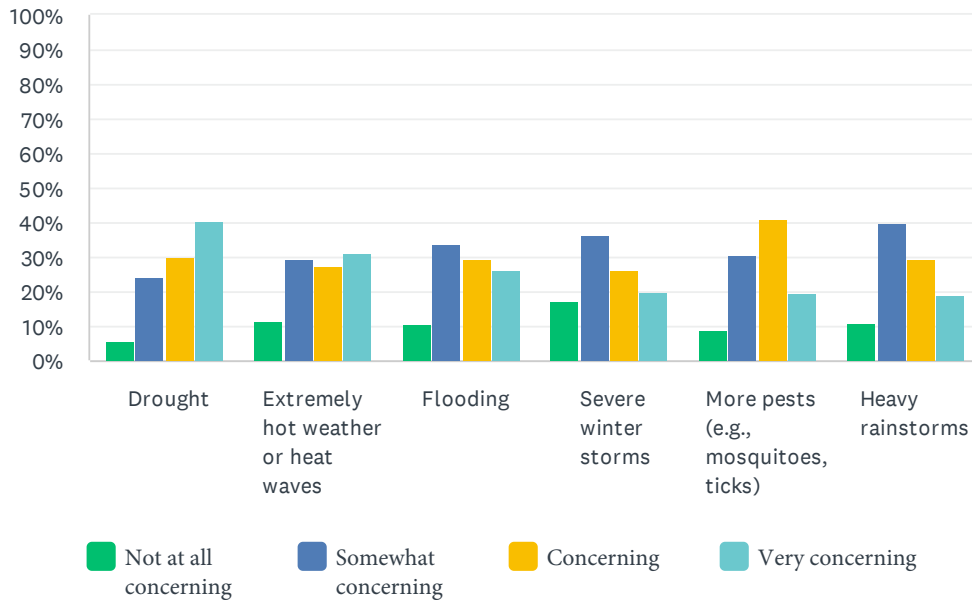
97	Loss of farm land, declining school enrollment	6/5/2023 9:29 AM
98	funding schools	6/5/2023 8:49 AM
99	With no new home growth, town will become a retirement community and not a rich, vibrant, multi-age and multicultural haven	6/4/2023 1:51 PM
100	That the rich farmland will be decimated by over use of chemicals; will be stripped of nutrients. That the small town vibe is maintained. That open space is maintained. That we prepare for, not just talk about protecting the town from the impacts of a changing world. That some of the retail promotes unhealthy habits ie. Smoking paraphernalia, ultra processed foods and sugary foods.	6/3/2023 9:01 PM
101	Maintenance of town departments and functions, supported only by residential taxes; "reinvention" of the town as a result of outside influences or social pressures from outside town; over-development of town resources (recreation, municipal) at the request of small but vocal constituencies in town , underwritten by the whole community.	6/2/2023 6:31 AM
102	That the regressive voices among our citizens will win and we become a dried up shell of a town like so many in the Midwest. The recent override vote gives me some hope we can stay of that track, but we must not get complacent.	6/2/2023 12:23 AM
103	We need a broader tax base with more business in the mix to help sustain services.	6/1/2023 11:59 PM
104	I am worried many residents are unable to see the potential for growth in our town. I am also concerned that our town is afraid to adapt to the changing world around us.	6/1/2023 7:48 PM
105	Decreased student population	6/1/2023 7:41 PM
106	School funding	6/1/2023 6:50 PM
107	That development will encroach on preserved open spaces.	6/1/2023 12:48 PM
108	The ability for Hatfield to attract young families and businesses to town.	6/1/2023 11:41 AM
109	It is too exclusive. No public transport or housing makes it hard for people of other income levels to move here. We act as if we are a close knit community, but I've often found that most people feel like they're on the "outside", even those who look like the insiders. We need more community events. Potlucks, get to know your neighbor events, etc...	6/1/2023 9:09 AM
110	Protecting open spaces and farmland when it's far more lucrative to sell land for development than for farming as older generations move or downsize. Making sure Hatfield is affordable for young families, with recreational options for small kids to use during the day during the school year. Hatfield turning into a retirement community that complains about the sound of tractors (and what comes along with them).	6/1/2023 9:06 AM
111	I worry that an over reliance on tradition will prevent open minded consideration of new initiatives that could support the town to prosper.	6/1/2023 6:40 AM
112	Farm land will be sold to make housing developments. Homes will be priced so high that they will remain vacant.	6/1/2023 6:38 AM
113	Hatfield's inability to embrace change and progress.	5/31/2023 10:02 PM
114	Losing the Hatfield schools or having schools that are underfunded.	5/31/2023 10:00 PM
115	How will climate change affect the town? 1) Hardships for farmers w/regard to irrigation and bad weather events; 2) town buildings/areas in the flood zone (COA in basement of Town Hall and basement of library; Congregational Church; fire and safety complex. Instead of needing to build new facilities for all those areas, can the levees be raised/strengthened/improved?	5/31/2023 8:30 PM
116	Losing the in-town schools	5/31/2023 7:48 PM
117	Financial challenges, too much development, not enough budget for the schools or town services, losing the historical and rural character	5/31/2023 7:34 PM
118	Funding for schools long term	5/31/2023 7:02 PM
119	Aging population/lack of kids	5/31/2023 6:42 PM
120	Increased residential infilling and losing the school.	5/31/2023 6:33 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

121	I'm worried that schools will close and there won't be enough people who care left to protect our culture and resources. We need more funding to help at-risk populations including children and elderly.	5/31/2023 6:31 PM
122	Of course this isn't just a concern for Hatfield but any drop in enrollment in public schools due to smaller family sizes and homeschooling etc. is a concern.	5/30/2023 9:28 PM
123	Overdevelopment and disregard towards the quiet enjoyment of their homes that people now have.	5/30/2023 12:05 PM
124	increase taxes and fee's s	5/26/2023 9:39 AM
125	Low population and keeping a school open that can't rely on school choice students to keep open	5/25/2023 6:10 PM
126	Big government enforcement of rules and regulations and the pursuit of growth that drowns out the peaceful, kind community Hatfield currently enjoys.	5/25/2023 5:20 PM

## Q11 For each of Hatfield's most pressing climate hazards, how concerning should it be to the Town?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 47



	NOT AT ALL CONCERNING	SOMEWHAT CONCERNING	CONCERNING	VERY CONCERNING	TOTAL
Drought	5.56% 8	24.31% 35	29.86% 43	40.28% 58	144
Extremely hot weather or heat waves	11.72% 17	29.66% 43	27.59% 40	31.03% 45	145
Flooding	10.34% 15	33.79% 49	29.66% 43	26.21% 38	145
Severe winter storms	17.36% 25	36.11% 52	26.39% 38	20.14% 29	144
More pests (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks)	9.15% 13	30.28% 43	40.85% 58	19.72% 28	142
Heavy rainstorms	11.27% 16	40.14% 57	29.58% 42	19.01% 27	142

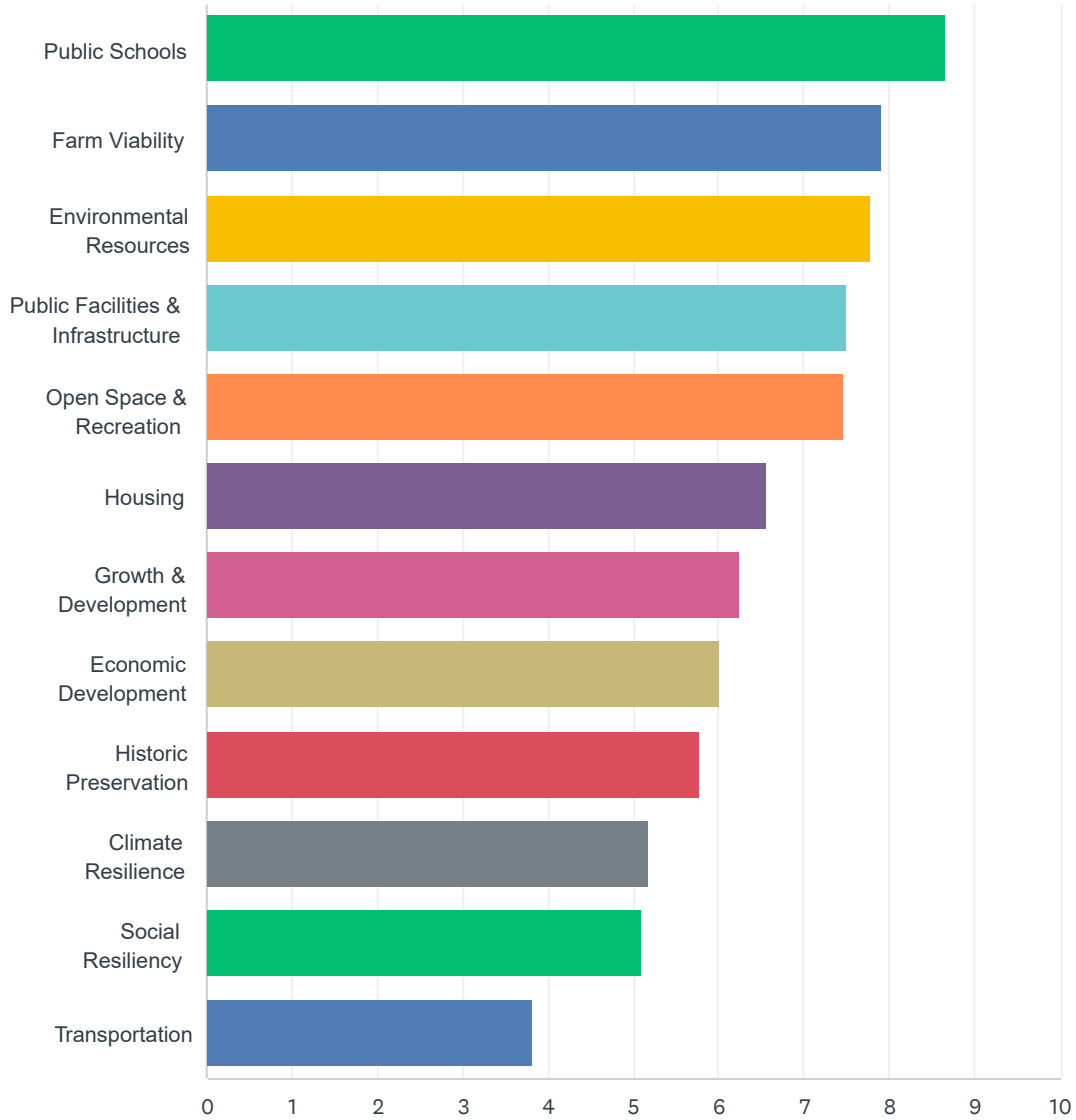
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Hatfield used to spray for mosquitos and ticks 40-50 years ago.	6/16/2023 5:52 PM
2	I would pay extra taxes if the town sprayed for mosquitoes more	6/15/2023 6:21 AM
3	Highway and train spills/accidents.	6/14/2023 8:28 PM
4	Are you kidding me?	6/14/2023 8:26 PM
5	Mosquitos are not as much a concern - part of climate change is the insect armaggeddon. Most insects are in decline - the good and the bad.ALL weather based extremes are of concern to the world at large but especially to agri-based communities.	6/9/2023 7:43 PM
6	Invasive species	6/8/2023 1:07 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

7	Electric prices	6/7/2023 10:34 PM
8	Our recent mild winters are very concerning	6/7/2023 9:35 AM
9	We need plans for climate change mitigation as well as thorough disaster preparation and emergency management.	6/7/2023 7:47 AM
10	Ecosystem imbalance	6/3/2023 9:09 PM
11	Nature will take care of itself. The best thing we can do is to allow natural storms, floods, droughts, etc. to occur, and to not overreact. Prepare for personal and public safety, but not attempt to "manage" the environment.	6/2/2023 6:40 AM
12	Need for more trees to bolster against heat and drought consequences	5/30/2023 12:17 PM

Q12 If you were in charge of the Town's budget, how would you rank your budget priorities? Please rank the following with 1 being highest priority and 12 being lowest priority.

Answered: 145 Skipped: 47



## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Public Schools	35.17% 51	13.79% 20	6.90% 10	6.90% 10	4.14% 6	4.14% 6	5.52% 8	4.14% 6	4.14% 6	3.45% 5	6
Farm Viability - farm retention, agricultural business issues, land protection	12.41% 18	13.10% 19	17.93% 26	11.72% 17	7.59% 11	6.21% 9	3.45% 5	7.59% 11	4.14% 6	6.90% 10	3
Environmental Resources - water supply protection, wildlife habitat, air quality, streams/rivers	14.48% 21	11.72% 17	6.90% 10	9.66% 14	12.41% 18	10.34% 15	9.66% 14	6.21% 9	6.90% 10	8.28% 12	2
Public Facilities & Infrastructure - water, sewer, waste disposal, telecommunications, town buildings	11.72% 17	12.41% 18	8.28% 12	13.10% 19	7.59% 11	7.59% 11	9.66% 14	8.97% 13	6.21% 9	6.90% 10	2
Open Space & Recreation - parks, ball fields, farmland protection, forest protection	2.07% 3	11.72% 17	13.79% 20	10.34% 15	15.86% 23	11.03% 16	12.41% 18	8.28% 12	4.14% 6	5.52% 8	3
Housing - affordability, range of choices, location	4.83% 7	7.59% 11	10.34% 15	10.34% 15	9.66% 14	9.66% 14	11.72% 17	4.14% 6	8.28% 12	8.28% 12	8
Growth & Development - growth management, new construction of homes & businesses, population issues	5.52% 8	8.28% 12	8.28% 12	10.34% 15	3.45% 5	8.28% 12	9.66% 14	8.28% 12	12.41% 18	11.72% 17	8
Economic Development - business development, tax revenue, job availability, industrial areas, tourism, retail	4.83% 7	8.28% 12	8.28% 12	8.97% 13	6.90% 10	6.90% 10	7.59% 11	7.59% 11	11.03% 16	8.97% 13	9
Historic Preservation - buildings and neighborhoods, historic views/vistas, local cultural history	2.07% 3	4.83% 7	6.90% 10	5.52% 8	12.41% 18	8.28% 12	9.66% 14	13.79% 20	12.41% 18	4.83% 7	13
Climate Resilience - ensuring evacuation routes are secured, emergency response planning	4.14% 6	5.52% 8	4.14% 6	4.14% 6	5.52% 8	9.66% 14	5.52% 8	13.10% 19	8.97% 13	17.93% 26	8
Social Resiliency - the relationships,	2.07% 3	1.38% 2	5.52% 8	4.83% 7	9.66% 14	11.72% 17	10.34% 15	8.97% 13	8.97% 13	9.66% 14	13

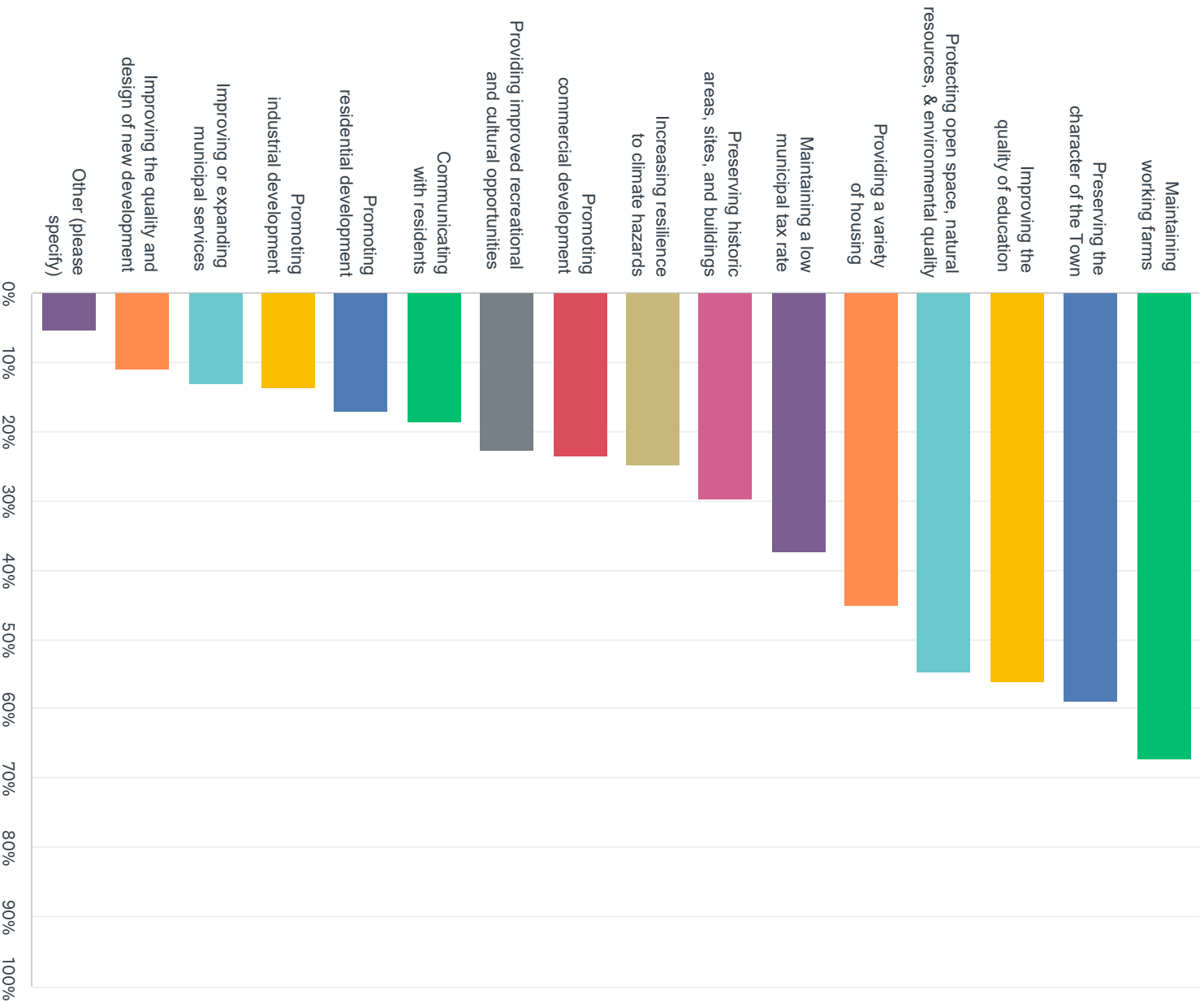
# Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

social structures, and communication channels that help communities survive and recover from things like natural disasters or economic problems.

Transportation - traffic congestion, pedestrian issues, bicycle routes, transit	0.69% 1	1.38% 2	2.76% 4	4.14% 6	4.83% 7	6.21% 9	4.83% 7	8.97% 13	12.41% 18	7.59% 11	17
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### Q13 What goals are most important for the Town of Hatfield to focus on in the next 10-20 years? Please select up to 5.

Answered: 144 Skipped: 48





## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maintaining working farms	67.36%	97
Preserving the character of the Town	59.03%	85
Improving the quality of education	56.25%	81
Protecting open space, natural resources, & environmental quality	54.86%	79
Providing a variety of housing which is affordable for middle income families	45.14%	65
Maintaining a low municipal tax rate for residents	37.50%	54
Preserving historic areas, sites and buildings	29.86%	43
Increasing resilience to climate hazards	25.00%	36
Promoting commercial development	23.61%	34
Providing improved recreational and cultural opportunities	22.92%	33
Communicating with residents about ongoing initiatives and where to find resources	18.75%	27
Promoting residential development	17.36%	25
Promoting industrial development	13.89%	20
Improving or expanding municipal services	13.19%	19
Improving the quality and design of new development	11.11%	16
Other (please specify)	5.56%	8
Total Respondents: 144		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Becoming an inclusive town. Be welcoming to families of color.	6/16/2023 9:00 PM
2	EMS, Fire, Police	6/14/2023 4:53 PM
3	Bringing in businesses and maintaining current businesses for tax revenue	6/10/2023 12:14 AM
4	Town Budget sustainability	6/7/2023 10:34 PM
5	Establishing grade separated bicycle lanes on main arterials IE Main and Elm St, Rt 5, etc	6/6/2023 10:06 AM
6	It is interesting that promoting housing which is affordable to middle income families is specified, when housing for low income families/individuals is also important as we move forward	6/3/2023 9:09 PM
7	Use government as a structure to manage and direct development in the town in a way that is economically and ecologically sound, while affording the greatest opportunity for privately funded development.	6/2/2023 6:40 AM
8	picking from these choices is like having to pick your favorite children...	5/31/2023 8:40 PM

## Q14 Finish this sentence: The most important thing the town can do in the next 10 years is...

Answered: 111 Skipped: 81

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Improve our schools and avoid regionalization.	6/23/2023 12:35 PM
2	Figure out how to maintain its schools	6/18/2023 7:26 PM
3	Teach people how to have an open mind. Some things will have to change for Hatfield to sustain its small-town, community atmosphere and afford a low tax rate and all the beautiful things we have, such as farms, the river, land, and forests.	6/18/2023 9:40 AM
4	Keep it from becoming Northampton.	6/17/2023 8:00 PM
5	To have affordable housing. The younger generation is getting pushed out to other towns and to cities because there's no housing. There is also a lack of job opportunities here to keep the younger generation. To create more jobs in the area it is important for the town to support the companies that already exist going, and create opportunities for new companies to come in to create more jobs.	6/17/2023 3:31 PM
6	support and develop their schools to increase student population and bring in revenue that is in keeping with the town's character to help with cost of living increases naturally occurring.	6/17/2023 8:43 AM
7	Invite diversity	6/16/2023 9:00 PM
8	Take care of what they have.No need for a gazebo, the space is being used very well. Expand golf cart usage No bike paths through hatfield. nice flat roads to ride a bike.	6/16/2023 5:52 PM
9	Improve SA so people don't elect to school of choice out ! Bring in more industry/ rec park-pool - dog Park . Possible also a way to make \$ / bring people to Hatfield	6/16/2023 4:48 PM
10	Invest in infrastructure and maintain our existing resources	6/16/2023 4:44 PM
11	Keep the status quo and stop raising taxes for little or no services.	6/16/2023 2:56 PM
12	Improve the schools to attract families of talented professionals who work from home and have money to spend and invest in local businesses.	6/16/2023 10:05 AM
13	Have a vision and a plan	6/16/2023 9:14 AM
14	Bring more families into town	6/16/2023 8:13 AM
15	affordable housing	6/16/2023 7:53 AM
16	Maintain the open space and farm land that continues to disappear. They don't make more of it	6/15/2023 9:11 PM
17	Invest in the schools and encourage young families to move in to town	6/15/2023 5:08 PM
18	FOCUS ON INCOME! without more \$, we will not be able to achieve any goal identified as a priority action plan of the CPC. ESTABLISH AN INCOME GENERATING COMMITTEE whose sole charge is to identify opportunities that could add at least \$100,000 additional income (or expense reduction) to the town annually for each of the next five years. Nine(9) member committee would be comprised of 1 each from: BOS, Fincom, DPW, Planning Bd, School Com, Capital Planning, Redev Auth, and 2 at large members.	6/15/2023 10:54 AM
19	Lower taxes and stop asking for overrides.	6/15/2023 8:14 AM
20	Continue to invest in the schools and bring in more recreational activities.	6/15/2023 6:21 AM
21	Keep farms and do something about schools more diversity, clubs, options for kids who don't like sports, have a good social Ed department	6/14/2023 10:38 PM
22	Make educated decisions that are evidenced and research backed.	6/14/2023 9:39 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

23	Residential Housing	6/14/2023 9:34 PM
24	Protect and defend our town water supply.	6/14/2023 8:28 PM
25	Streamline the school budget for use in other departments.	6/14/2023 8:26 PM
26	Build affordable housing to bring in families.	6/14/2023 8:02 PM
27	Face challenges remembering who we are	6/14/2023 7:14 PM
28	Generate more tax revenue for tons and schools	6/14/2023 6:10 PM
29	Increase the revenue stream.	6/14/2023 5:56 PM
30	Have no more overrides	6/14/2023 5:26 PM
31	Reduce the speed trucks are driving on prospect st. Increase business tax revenue from rt 5 industrial and business zoned areas. Reduce tax spending on dpw and police.	6/14/2023 5:20 PM
32	maintain and support high quality schools and environmentalism.	6/14/2023 5:11 PM
33	Allow for families to be able to afford housing in the community to raise families.	6/14/2023 5:10 PM
34	Keep the school open	6/14/2023 4:59 PM
35	Use common sense when deciding on big projects	6/14/2023 4:53 PM
36	Maintain our small town feel and safety.	6/14/2023 4:49 PM
37	Regionalization.	6/14/2023 4:45 PM
38	Figure out alternate ways of raising funds other than increasing taxes every year.	6/14/2023 4:43 PM
39	Improve the schools	6/14/2023 4:26 PM
40	Stay the same and stop firing whack jobs	6/14/2023 3:52 PM
41	Fix both schools	6/14/2023 3:43 PM
42	to protect and preserve woodlands, farmland, and wild areas from development or damage caused by neighborhood industry or over-development.	6/14/2023 6:24 AM
43	Preserve the small town qualities, while also thinking critically about spending	6/13/2023 9:38 PM
44	To maintain Hatfields unique historical character and not become a suburb of northampton.	6/13/2023 9:03 PM
45	keep the schools open!	6/12/2023 11:19 AM
46	Preserve farm land	6/10/2023 2:08 PM
47	Look at zoning bylaws to help increase housing for younger families	6/10/2023 10:54 AM
48	Keep educating children in town. Good schools ensure a healthy tax base and stable town.	6/10/2023 12:14 AM
49	realize that items mentioned in Ques 12 & 13 are not either-or. Preserving the character of the town can't be done without maintaining working farms, protecting open space and environmental resources. Protecting environmental quality also means providing residents with the ability to responsibly deal with disposal of trash, recyclables, hazardous waste, etc. Look outside-the-box to see how regional, national and international communities have successfully or unsuccessfully responded to the same issues Hatfield faces.	6/9/2023 10:46 PM
50	Maintain it's sanity! As the United States looks to becoming a land of anarchy and chaos every oasis of sanity will become integral to our survival: Town, State and Country.	6/9/2023 7:43 PM
51	Maintain our quality of life and rule character for all our citizens	6/9/2023 7:17 PM
52	Maintain farms, tax base and perform fiscal responsibility in regards to the school system	6/9/2023 5:50 PM
53	Carefully manage growth	6/9/2023 1:31 PM
54	To maintain its school system and work to ensure that all residents are respected. Hatfield is much more than just Town Center. Too many decisions are made based on what is best for the residents of Town Center.	6/9/2023 7:50 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

55	Have the schools go back to what they were known for - academics & sports so Hatfield children will stop leaving the district. And bring new tax revenue to Hatfield through industrial and commercial endeavors in appropriate spaces such as route 5 & 10. The planning board needs to stop giving business such a hard time about coming to Hatfield when these businesses are asking to be in appropriate places such as route 5&10 i.e the hotel wanting to be built, the pickle ball place that wanted to go in on 5&10.	6/8/2023 11:17 AM
56	Allowing farms to keep doing their jobs to put food on the table, help schools thrive so they don't close, get our drinking water more desirable.	6/8/2023 6:28 AM
57	Climate crisis plan	6/8/2023 1:07 AM
58	Preserve farmland and enable our schools to thrive	6/7/2023 10:34 PM
59	Keep tax rate low and expand library	6/7/2023 10:16 PM
60	Make Hatfield a great place to live without compromising its historic character and rural qualities. Farming makes hatfield what it is and should be prioritized and protected.	6/7/2023 9:17 PM
61	Please balance business growth with the small town feel in all parts of town.	6/7/2023 8:23 PM
62	Make smart development plans that protect the integrity and history of the town.	6/7/2023 7:29 PM
63	Put a sidewalk on route 5.	6/7/2023 5:13 PM
64	Strong fiscal leadership with long term planning and incorporating solar and other technologies.	6/7/2023 3:56 PM
65	Improve the school system by regionalizing.	6/7/2023 3:36 PM
66	Fund the schools properly to be an attractive place to work and send children, and work with a landowner/developer to create a new open space residential development that preserves farmland but allows for smaller lots = more affordable homes.	6/7/2023 3:05 PM
67	Preserve the farms that currently are operate in this town.	6/7/2023 2:28 PM
68	Protect the schools. If they were to ever close/ merge or significantly reduce offerings you won't have working families moving into town.	6/7/2023 1:58 PM
69	Stay rural and small.	6/7/2023 12:37 PM
70	Keep farming and schools a priority.	6/7/2023 11:21 AM
71	Keeping Hatfield accessible for young families and children.	6/7/2023 9:41 AM
72	Provide affordable housing while maintaining existing farmland	6/7/2023 9:35 AM
73	Build momentum through community projects and social opportunities so people will feel welcome and part of the town. High priority on prep for climate change, air/water/soil quality protected or improved.	6/7/2023 7:47 AM
74	Obtain additional funding from sources other than raising the residential tax rates	6/7/2023 6:57 AM
75	Protect open space and farming, carefully and thoughtfully expand business/industrial tax base to support the town.	6/7/2023 6:57 AM
76	to get our high school situation figured out .	6/7/2023 6:49 AM
77	Invest in our schools.	6/7/2023 12:17 AM
78	Idk..this is ALL important!	6/6/2023 9:07 PM
79	Implement rules and regulations regarding how many properties a single person or business can own	6/6/2023 8:36 PM
80	Get back to owner occupied possible through tax incentives to keep speculating landlords from consolidating all the homes. They are buying up the town.	6/6/2023 6:11 PM
81	Preserve the strong foundation of our Hatfield by finding ways to move forward.	6/6/2023 6:04 PM
82	Improve safeguards against river flooding and protecting agriculture	6/6/2023 5:21 PM
83	Proactively address the inevitable impacts of climate change on its residents, farmland, and infrastructure.	6/6/2023 11:30 AM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

84	Hard to choose between these two: protect and enhance the quality of our schools—because this is our future generation. And pay attention to climate and environmental issues so that as a town we are contributing to averting catastrophe. One way to combine these two is educational initiatives in the schools involving educating about climate issues.	6/6/2023 11:19 AM
85	Undo the damaged caused by automobile centric design including sprawl, no dedicated bicycle infrastructure, limited sidewalks, high speed limits on main arterials, no traffic calming	6/6/2023 10:06 AM
86	Increase the overall amount of land under Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, preserve more of the forested uplands in West Hatfield, and provide better public access to the Connecticut river. Better land management will naturally increase climate resiliency especially in regards to flooding, soil erosion and environmental health.	6/5/2023 1:55 PM
87	remember what made us who we are today.	6/5/2023 1:34 PM
88	Change the residential building bi-laws. This needs to be changed immediately, without this change, nothing else matters.	6/5/2023 1:22 PM
89	Being prepared for climate change impacting flooding, agricultural production and potable water supply	6/4/2023 2:00 PM
90	To not cater to outside, fringe, or special interests, but instead, to keep the scope of town government, as it is: fulfilling the statutory requirements of municipal government, provide for public facilities, maintenance (roads, water, wastewater, schools), and to create the legal and regulatory structures that allow private investment without public detriment. Government should manage public assets and protect public interests- not be a funding source for private "pet"projects.	6/2/2023 6:40 AM
91	Solidify emergency preparedness plans	6/2/2023 6:18 AM
92	get creative about what we can do together to improve quality of life for everyone in town.	6/2/2023 12:28 AM
93	increase revenues from new growth (because we need this to afford all the other important things.)	6/2/2023 12:10 AM
94	Fund the schools!!!	6/1/2023 6:53 PM
95	unify around a clear vision for the future, hopefully with adaptability and resiliency at core.	6/1/2023 12:57 PM
96	Attract young families and businesses to Hatfield.	6/1/2023 11:56 AM
97	Community building- making sure all residents feel like a part of the community we all love	6/1/2023 9:13 AM
98	Protect open spaces and working farms	6/1/2023 9:09 AM
99	Protect natural resources, communicate, and keep an open mind.	6/1/2023 6:44 AM
100	Help improve the schools	6/1/2023 6:42 AM
101	to think outside the box while accepting and absorbing change.	5/31/2023 10:14 PM
102	Connect Hatfield to the bike path.	5/31/2023 10:06 PM
103	get input from as many people as possible, and then have facilitated discussions to determine what is possible. My sense from reading these choices is that there are too many important issues and concerns for Hatfield's tax base to cover. Instead of having to choose so few, perhaps we need to focus on improving the tax base (and accessing grants whenever possible), so we can do and offer more.	5/31/2023 8:40 PM
104	Make a concerted effort to keep the town schools	5/31/2023 7:50 PM
105	Find a better balance between maintaining the town character and making our town accessible to middle class/working families. The last two Master Plans erred way too much in favor of preserving town character to the long term detriment of the sustainability of Hatfield.	5/31/2023 6:50 PM
106	If there is affordable housing for families in town, the town will continue to flourish. Without young people and families, we will lose the town and it will become part of the surrounding area.	5/31/2023 6:36 PM
107	Increase available housing for young, diverse families	5/31/2023 6:34 PM
108	Focus on climate resiliency and all the many things that entailsentails	5/30/2023 12:17 PM

## Hatfield 2040 Community Survey

109	have smart growth to preserve the beauty and tranquility of the town	5/26/2023 10:11 AM
110	Build residential, to increase students to make keeping the schools open more practical than relying on school choice.	5/25/2023 6:18 PM
111	Listen to the community	5/25/2023 5:24 PM

# Hatfield MVP Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan

## Virtual Community Meeting - May 31, 2023

*Summary prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI)*

### Community Meeting in Brief

A virtual gathering, including a presentation and facilitated conversation, to introduce and discuss Hatfield 2040: A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper. Hosted online by the Hatfield Comprehensive Plan Committee and Pioneer Valley Planning (PVPC) Commission, this community meeting was complementary to other community engagement efforts that have been conducted as a part of this comprehensive planning process such as communication and engagement with key stakeholder groups (farmers, seniors, and youth), an in-person drop-in event, and a community-wide online survey.

The meeting began with presentations from Town staff and consultant team members on:

- Project background and the process to develop the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Overview of what will be included in the plan
- Climate flood projections for Hatfield
- Findings from farmer & age-friendly & youth listening sessions

Presentations were followed by breakout discussions where residents were asked to share their hopes for Hatfield for 20 years from now and what they think is most important for this comprehensive plan to address. To learn more about the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan, visit: [hatfield2040.pvpc.org/](https://hatfield2040.pvpc.org/)

### Welcome

Ona Ferguson from CBI welcomed all attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda. Shawn Robinson and Micki Sanderson, Co-Chairs of the Comprehensive Planning Committee welcomed participants.

### Presentation Summary: What are we doing & who is involved?

Stephanie Slys, Town of Hatfield Planning Board Chair, provided an overview of the planning project including Hatfield's planning history, the 2021 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and current priority to develop a Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan that emphasizes a climate resilient town master plan and incentivizes climate-resilient farming. She explained that the plan will be developed over the next year and submitted in June 2024 for final approval.

A Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) has been convened to develop the plan:

- Shawn Robinson (Co-Chair) Council on Aging
- Micki Sanderson (Co-Chair) Historical Commission
- Garret Barry, Public Works
- Mike Bartlett, Community Preservation Committee
- Rebecca Bench, School Committee
- Angelika Dewey, Open Space Committee
- Julia Frisby, At Large
- Jalil Johnson, At-Large
- David Keir, At Large
- Jon Kostek, Recreation Committee
- Luke Longstreeth, Conservation Commission

- John Pease, Agricultural Commission
- Stephanie Slys, Planning Board
- Christopher Smith, Redevelopment Committee

Several partner agencies and consultants are also supporting the development of the plan:

- Hatfield Planning Board, Schools & Select board
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EOEEA)
- Consensus Building Institute (CB)
- Dpict
- Regenerative Design Group Cooler Communities
- Woodard & Curran

### Presentation Summary: What are we doing & what is the context?

Ken Comia, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, explained the purpose of a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and what the plan will include. He also shared the top priorities of the MVP:

- Create a climate resilient town master plan that enables and guides planning for climate impacts
- Incentivize climate-resilient farming that enables transitions to better practices related to soils, diversity of crops, and long-term farmland protection

The plan will include the following chapters:

- Economic Development
- Facilities, Services, and Social Resilience
- Farming
- Health and Social Environment
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Land Use
- Transportation and Circulation

Ken shared what the project team had learned so far about each of these categories which can be found on Slides 17-23 of the meeting presentation.

### Presentation Summary: Understanding Flood Risks - Climate Data & Projections

Rich Niles and Joseph Kirby shared data on flood risks and climate change projections that pose a threat to critical infrastructure in the town including:

- Chestnut St. to School St. to Town Hall/Main St. to Levee to CT River
- Bridge St. to Elementary School to Main St. to Levee to CT River
- Elm St. to Maple St. to Levee to CT River
- Town Hall
- The Fire Department

They also shared various strategies to protect critical facilities and infrastructure which can be found on Slides 32-37 of the meeting presentation.

### Presentation Summary: Highlights from Listening Sessions & Surveys

Patty Gambarini (PVPC) summarized the findings from listening sessions and surveys with farmers, older adults, and youth in Hatfield and emphasized the following themes that emerged:

- **Farmers:** Homes and fields located along rivers; reliance on economic livelihood that increasingly difficult due to weather extremes and unpredictable seasonal temperatures



- **Older Adults:** Age, social isolation, limited income, lack of access to social networks and support services; and greater health risks with increased extreme heat.
- **Youth:** Generally growing chronic anxiety and stress over climate change, which may increase the risk of mental and physical problems.

More detailed feedback from the listening sessions and surveys can be found in the meeting presentation.

### Breakout Discussions: Dynamic Tensions & Critical Conversations

Attendees were divided into three breakout groups to discuss two questions:

- What are your hopes for Hatfield for 20 years from now?
- What do you think is most important for this comprehensive plan to address?

Residents and CPC members engaged in robust breakout discussions that emphasized several dynamic tensions and critical conversations facing the town:

- **Balancing Affordable Housing and Farmland Preservation:**
  - The challenge of finding a balance between the need for affordable housing and the preservation of farmland.
  - Addressing concerns and potential opposition to affordable housing projects due to misconceptions about low- income housing.
  - Exploring creative zoning strategies that increase the number of affordable homes while preserving agricultural land.
- **Climate Change Resilience and Infrastructure Development:**
  - Managing the impact of climate change on infrastructure, including addressing issues related to flooding, extreme heat, and severe weather events.
  - Ensuring infrastructure development aligns with climate resilience goals and minimizes vulnerability to climate- related hazards.
  - Determining the cost of climate adaptation measures and balancing them with other infrastructure needs.
- **Managing Population Shifts and Demographic Changes:**
  - Addressing the needs and concerns of an aging population while attracting and retaining young families to ensure a diverse demographic and economic mix.
  - Ensuring that housing options and community resources support the needs of both long-time residents and newcomers.
  - Fostering inclusivity and addressing feelings of disconnection in a changing community.
- **Supporting Small Businesses and Economic Development:**
  - Exploring ways to support small businesses while considering the impact of emerging technologies, such as AI, on the local economy.
  - Finding strategies to stimulate economic growth and attract commercial development while preserving the character of the town.

- Balancing the need for commercial development with other priorities, such as affordable housing and preserving open spaces.
- **Enhancing Education and School System:**
  - Ensuring the quality of the school system to attract and retain residents.
  - Addressing the impact of school choices on property values and exploring complementary visions for the schools.
  - Finding sustainable funding models for education without burdening taxpayers.
- **Engaging the Community and Promoting Inclusivity:**
  - Effectively communicating with residents who have diverse communications preferences including a variety of digital tools and platforms as well as more traditional methods including printed materials.
  - Creating spaces and opportunities for community engagement, connection, and participation across different generations and backgrounds.
  - Addressing the challenges faced by busy parents and finding ways to involve newcomers in town Governance.
  - Balancing the town's rural character and charm with the need for diversity and inclusivity.
- **Promoting Climate Preparedness and Emergency Response:**
  - Raising awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of climate preparedness.
  - Strengthening emergency response plans and infrastructure to address climate- related risks and hazards.
  - Ensuring accessibility and assistance for vulnerable populations during emergencies.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Revenue Generation:**
  - Providing needed and desired services and amenities within a limited budget.
  - Exploring alternative ways to generate income for the town other than raising taxes for residents.

Detailed notes on the feedback shared during the breakout sessions can be found in Appendix A.

### [Learn More about Hatfield 2040](#)

To learn more about the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan process, visit: [hatfield2040.pvpc.org/](https://hatfield2040.pvpc.org/)

## **Appendix A: Breakout Discussion Themes and Feedback Clusters**

(Appendix A begins on the following page)

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

*"It's all connected..."*

# Dynamic Tensions & Critical Conversations

Dynamic tensions and critical areas of inquiry that surfaced from the May 31st meeting.

## Balancing Affordable Housing and Farmland Preservation:

- The challenge of finding a balance between the need for affordable housing and the preservation of farmland.
- Addressing concerns and potential opposition to affordable housing projects due to misconceptions about low-income housing.
- Exploring creative zoning strategies that increase the number of affordable homes while preserving agricultural land.

## Climate Change Resilience and Infrastructure Development:

- Managing the impact of climate change on infrastructure, including addressing issues related to flooding, extreme heat, and severe weather events.
- Ensuring infrastructure development aligns with climate resilience goals and minimizes vulnerability to climate-related hazards.
- Determining the cost of climate adaptation measures and balancing them with other infrastructure needs.

## Managing Population Shifts and Demographic Changes:

- Addressing the needs and concerns of an aging population while attracting and retaining young families to ensure a diverse demographic and economic mix.
- Ensuring that housing options and community resources support the needs of both long-time residents and newcomers.
- Fostering inclusivity and addressing feelings of disconnection in a changing community.

## Supporting Small Businesses and Economic Development:

- Exploring ways to support small businesses while considering the impact of emerging technologies, such as AI, on the local economy.
- Finding strategies to stimulate economic growth and attract commercial development while preserving the character of the town.
- Balancing the need for commercial development with other priorities, such as affordable housing and preserving open spaces.

## Enhancing Education and School System:

- Ensuring the quality of the school system to attract and retain residents.
- Addressing the impact of school choices on property values and exploring complementary visions for the schools.
- Finding sustainable funding models for education without burdening taxpayers.

## Engaging the Community and Promoting Inclusivity:

- Creating spaces and opportunities for community engagement, connection, and participation across different generations and backgrounds.
- Addressing the challenges faced by busy parents and finding ways to involve newcomers in town governance.
- Balancing the town's rural character and charm with the need for diversity and inclusivity.

## Promoting Climate Preparedness and Emergency Response:

- Raising awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of climate preparedness.
- Strengthening emergency response plans and infrastructure to address climate-related risks and hazards.
- Ensuring accessibility and assistance for vulnerable populations during emergencies.

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility

The residents are advocating for more sidewalks, improved public transportation and biking options, a shuttle service for seniors, accessible public restrooms, equal opportunities for low-income individuals, connectivity with neighboring towns, and reduced reliance on cars.

## Thematic Highlights

Walkability  
and Sidewalks

Public  
Transportation  
and Biking

Connectivity  
and Mobility

Accessibility  
and Inclusivity

Reduced  
Reliance on Cars

# Business & Economy

Residents are discussing small business support, the impact of AI on the economy, and the completion of sewer extensions that would trigger multiple projects. They are exploring ways to balance affordable housing and land preservation while considering commercial development near the food bank. Additionally, they are interested in the role of technology in employment and the importance of infrastructure development on Route 5 and 10.

## Thematic Highlights

Small Business Support

Impact of AI on the Economy

Balancing Affordable Housing and Land Preservation

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Reduced Reliance on Cars

# Farming

Residents recognize the importance of farming and maintaining agricultural land in the town. They acknowledge the need for affordable housing but also want to preserve farmland and support active farms. Priorities include maintaining the rural farming community character, exploring Farmland Trusts, and addressing farmers' concerns about preservation, diversification, and climate change.

## Thematic Highlights

Maintaining Rural  
Farming Community  
Character

Preserving Farmland  
and Supporting  
Active Farms

Diversified  
Farms in Town

Farmland Trusts  
to Dedicate Land  
to Farming



# Open Space & Recreation

Residents are discussing various recreational and open space initiatives. Suggestions include embracing water as a resource and creating recreational spaces, such as pocket parks with benches and swing sets. There is a desire for safe sidewalks, access to nature trails, and more park spaces for activities like pickle-ball and concerts. Concerns about vulnerable populations on trails and the need for facilities like bathrooms and handicap accessibility are also raised. Additionally, residents express interest in preserving land for agriculture, protecting wildlife, and providing education about the river ecosystem.

## Thematic Highlights

Preserving  
Natural Spaces

Recreational  
Infrastructure

Community  
Gathering  
Spaces

Accessibility  
and Inclusivity

Education and  
Awareness

# Climate & Infrastructure

Residents are recognizing the importance of emergency preparedness and protecting and improving infrastructure. Issues such as drought, tornadoes, flooding, and the need to enlarge the sewage treatment plant are raised. There is a focus on controlling growth, careful development, and protecting critical resources and infrastructure. The maintenance of a levee to protect against flooding is deemed crucial. Concerns about climate change, resilience during flooding, and the cost of action or inaction are also expressed. Additionally, there is a need for emergency planning, signage for evacuations, and assistance for individuals with mobility limitations or health risks.

## Thematic Highlights

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Flood Protection and Resilience

Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvement

Climate Change Adaptation

Resource and Asset Protection

# Character & Community

The residents are reflecting on the character and community of Hatfield. They express the desire for a community space to gather, a welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds, and a place that connects different generations and residents. They highlight the importance of welcoming newcomers to help them understand town governance and get involved. There is a recognition that despite being a small town, there is a need to address feelings of disconnection and improve accessibility. The residents emphasize the value of maintaining the town's rural character, preserving its charm, and remaining a close-knit community. They also mention the need for more community events, a historic area that can serve as a hub for all ages, and improved communication and interface among town committees. Additionally, there are discussions about retaining the town's identity while welcoming diversity and addressing the challenges faced by busy parents. The residents express the desire for a new library, better facilities, and a visioning statement that reflects the town's direction. They also stress the importance of taking care of long-time residents and fostering inclusivity.

## Thematic Highlights

Community  
Engagement and  
Connection

Community  
Spaces and  
Facilities

Welcoming and  
Inclusive  
Environment

Preserving Town  
Character and  
Charm

Communication and  
Integration Among  
Committees

# Schools

The residents express concerns about the future and strength of the school system, emphasizing the importance of good schools for attracting residents. They discuss the impact of schools on property values and the need to enhance the school experience. There is a desire to educate youth for a changing world and explore options to keep the schools open without burdening taxpayers. They also consider the impact of school choices on home values and explore complementary visions for the schools

## Thematic Highlights

Strengthening and Supporting the School System

Educational Opportunities and Adaptability

School Choice and Property Values

Community Engagement in Education

# Housing

Participants engaged in a discussion about housing and affordability in Hatfield. The conversation touched upon the importance of retaining and attracting young families to the area, the challenge of balancing affordable housing with preserving farmland, and the role of creative zoning in increasing the supply of affordable homes while preserving land. Concerns were expressed about potential opposition to affordable housing projects due to misconceptions about low-income housing. Access and availability for low-income individuals were emphasized, alongside the need to avoid displacing current residents while accommodating new families. The potential for increased rental housing and the possibility of creating neighborhood communities beyond the downtown area were discussed as well. Ultimately, the participants recognized the necessity of expanding housing options to promote a diverse demographic and economic mix in Hatfield.

## Thematic Highlights

- Housing Affordability and Availability
- Balancing Affordable Housing and Preservation of Farmland
- Creative Zoning and Land Preservation
- Impact of Affordable Housing on Property Values
- Access and Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals
- Creating a Mix of Economic and Generational Demographics
- Neighborhood Communities and Community Preservation Act (CPA) Projects
- Hatfield's Involvement in Affordable Housing Initiatives

# Youth & Elders

There is an awareness about children feeling anxiety and the need to address their well-being. The importance of not squeezing out seniors with new developments is emphasized. The long waiting list for facilities like Capawonk is mentioned, and options for the senior center are being explored. The goal is to keep people in their homes as long as they want to be there and address the overall needs of the residents. Attracting young families is seen as vital for the town's future, alongside supporting the aging population. The impact of climate change on young people's mental health is acknowledged. There is a dream of creating a sustainable future for the next generation.

## Thematic Highlights

Addressing Anxiety and Well-being of Children and Teenagers

Balancing the Needs of Seniors and New Residents

Access and Barriers to Retaining Residents

Infrastructure Improvements (Library, Safety Complex, DPW Facilities)

Attracting and Retaining Young Families

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility

A shuttle from senior center to pickleball courts/ tennis courts w/ handicap accessibility

Walkability, making sure we keep that prioritized

Nice to see folks gettin around on bikes

Some of roads are narrow, if we could have more sidewalks around town people would like that—

Public transport or making biking easier, for example

More public restroom facilities , possibly at Smith Academy or High School

access and availability for people with low income and low opportunities

Also mobility, would we get cut off from other towns, how do we stay connected and mobile

I would love to see more sidewalks in more neighborhoods in general

I'd like to see people get around more without having to get in their cars

We have 3 zip codes for a little town like ours

Accessibility



# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility: Recommendations

Public transport or making biking easier, for example

More public restroom facilities , possibly at Smith Academy or High School

Some of roads are narrow, if we could have more sidewalks around town people would like that—

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Walkability, making sure we keep that prioritized

We have 3 zip codes for a little town like ours

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility: Values, Principles, and Qualities to Protect

Nice to see folks  
gettin around on  
bikes

Accessibility

I'd like to see people  
get around more  
without having to get  
in their cars

access and availability  
for people with low  
income and low  
opportunities

Also mobility, would we  
get cut off from other  
towns, how do we stay  
connected and mobile

I would love to see  
more sidewalks in  
more neighborhoods  
in general

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility: Dynamic Tensions & Open Questions

Some of roads are narrow,  
if we could have more  
sidewalks around town  
people would like that—

access and availability  
for people with low  
income and low  
opportunities

We have 3 zip  
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town like ours

Also mobility, would we  
get cut off from other  
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connected and mobile

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

**Business & Economy**

# Business & Economy

Small biz support

AI—  
How will that affect the economy and the affordability

Finishing sewer extension will trigger 3-4 projects that are in the pipeline that we know of on our end

Maybe out of scope?

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

Near the food bank—seems we could get some commercial base added

Look at the town overall, consider zoning and the changes that have occurred /balanced with needs now

Between sewer and water lines on 5 and 10

I'm suggesting that the conversation needs to be had...will we grow or shrink?

Plenty of things that can happen when that project is completed

Curious about goes to vibrancy of local economy and how jobs are sustained as tech starts to change the nature of work

Would like to see development on route 5 and 10

Steibel Eltron is a big factory and they want to expand but they can't until the sewers are on board

Also curious about the role of technology on employment or livelihoods

WE received 12m dollar grant—that facility is 40 years old and is getting a whole new makeover, which will help a lot of other things to make su

# Business & Economy: Recommendations

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# Business & Economy:

## Values, Principles, and Qualities to Protect

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# Business & Economy : Dynamic Tensions and Open Questions

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Curious about goes to vibrancy of local economy and how jobs are sustained as tech starts to change the nature of work



# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

# Farming

# Farming

Maybe more diversified farms in town

## Farming

Farmland Trust so that the land is dedicated to farming in perpetuum

Farming still exists and thrives, but sounds like there are more problems than I was aware of

Those two go against each other - you don't want to use farmland for housing but we need affordable housing

Agriculture shifting toward regenerative ag and renewing for soil, not extractive

Farmers had specific things that I couldn't expand in. That their concerns are met

Ensuring we still have farm land and active farms in town

## Land trusts

History, agriculture, open space for community.

maintain rural farming community character

# Farming: Recommendations

Maybe more  
diversified farms  
in town

Agriculture shifting  
toward regenerative ag  
and renewing for soil,  
not extractive

# Farming: Protect & Preserve

## Farming

History, agriculture,  
open space for  
community.

## Land trusts

Ensuring we still  
have farm land and  
active farms in town

maintain rural  
farming community  
character

Farmland Trust so that  
the land is dedicated to  
farming in perpetuum

# Farming: Values and Principles, Dynamic Tensions, and Open Questions

Farming still exists and thrives, but sounds like there are more problems than I was aware of

Those two go against each other - you don't want to use farmland for housing but we need affordable housing

Farmers had specific things that I couldn't expand on. That their concerns are met

History, agriculture, open space for community.

Maybe more diversified farms in town

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Open Space & Recreation

# Open Space & Recreation

**Sit and embrace the water**

If field is going to be used for the town, preserved for recreation

**Safe sidewalks**

Concerned about vulnerable populations on trails ...Central Facility w/ bathrooms

**Pickelball courts !**

Could have a hiking club or walking club so people would know it was out there

Stephanie Slysz - Planning Board to Everyone (May 31, 2023, 7:27 PM)  
There's some space on the Hatfield Elementary School. I would love to see little pockets of town-owned/maintained land be 'pocket parks' with benches or swing sets, etc like the Cronin hill/straits rd intersection, or at all of our cemetery's

Some people are taking advantage of trails in west hatfield, there is a lot more we could have up tehre

Maybe some open park space would be help

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

Smith academy park—was taken care of by the board of trustees and got overgrown, and they did get some money CPA money and state grant to renovate the landscape, we also have some money to use for the pavilion but is has been cost and getting contractors, but going back to bid in June.

Maybe we can add on to pickleball courts to include other rec options

On the other end—recreation: open space committee is working on a bike trail into northampton.

**Pocket parks**

Gazebo would be nice to have (will be a post and beam structure now). Date TBD

Still in teh works and hope the town continues to support it

See lots of trespassing signs, a lot of that should not be up since they are publicly available for walking.

**more access to the river and resevoir**

You can walk the levee but there is no place to sit and enjoy nature

Making people aware there are more places to hike and walk

higher cost to educate because you still need the costly overhead to function

Would like to see more services/ welcoming for cyclists (parking, way finding etc. )

If anyone wants to start flower gardens the community would be open to that

Concerts will take place on that structure

Maybe wherever we are doing development, including pocket parks or playscaoes

**More open spaces, more protection for wildlife , recreation**

A shuttle from senior center to pickleball courts/ tennis courts w/ handicap accessibility

Up to state to fund so we can't do anything until that

Is there a commons or a park—somewhere you can sit on a bench or walk around—

**Basketball court near (fishtales? )**

**Land trusts**

There is one right across the street from your house

If you walked the block, there are a number of places where tehre are benches

The town maintains a hug part of that stip, maybe there were woodchips and a park, some families would love that

**Sports complex**

Helpful, doesn't increase tax rates but increases livability of town

Are there other ways to access the river that are safe?

We have defacto land preserved because of flood plain, but we could protect more land outside of the flood plain

**Recreation access**

If there were other areas of town where there were sidewalks people could do that in their own neighborhoods

Getting trikes from Northampton

We live on the river but the public doesn't have a place to sit and watch the river go by

Connected in the dike, there is a whole ecosystem—in addition to the farmland, how much education is there about the river ecosystem—wondering about that linked with educational comments from before

**Having a public facility**

# Open Space & Recreation: Recommendations

Pocket parks—  
Those could also  
be CPA projects

more access to  
the river and  
resevoir

Safe  
sidewalks

Recreation  
access

You can walk the levee  
but there is no place to  
sit and enjoy nature

Could have a hiking  
club or walking club so  
people would know it  
was out there

If anyone wants to  
start flower gardens  
the community would  
be open to that

Pickelball  
courts !

If field is going to be  
used for the town,  
preserved for  
recreation

Maybe we can add on  
to pickleball courts to  
include other rec  
options

Concerts will  
take place on  
that structure

There's some space on the Hatfield  
Elementary School. I would love to see  
little pockets of town-owned/maintained  
land be 'pocket parks' with benches or  
swing sets, etc like the Cronin hill/straits  
rd intersection, or at all of our  
cemetary's

Concerned about  
vulnerable populations  
on trails ...Central  
Facility w/ bathrooms

Smith academy park—was taken care of by the  
board of trustees and got overgrown, and they  
did get some money CPA money and state  
grant to renovate the landscape, we also have  
some money to use for the pavilion but it has  
been cost and getting contractors, but going  
back to bid in June.

Is there a commons or  
a park—somewhere  
you can sit on a bench  
or walk around—

Sports  
complex

Maybe wherever we are  
doing development,  
including pocket parks or  
playscaoes

The town maintains a hug  
part of that strip, maybe  
there were woodchips and a  
park, some families would  
love that

Would like to see more  
services/ welcoming  
for cyclists (parking,  
way finding etc. )

Gazebo would be nice  
to have (will be a post  
and beam structure  
now). Date TBD

Having a  
public facility

Basketball court  
near fishtales?

Pocket  
parks

Getting trikes  
from  
Northampton

If there were other areas of  
town where there were  
sidewalks people could do  
that in their own  
neighborhoods

On the other end—  
recreation: open space  
committee is working on a  
bike trail into northampton.

A shuttle from senior  
center to pickleball  
courts/ tennis courts w/  
handicap accessibility

Maybe some  
open park space  
would be help



# Open Space & Recreation: Protect & Preserve

## Land trusts

We have defacto land preserved because of flood plain, but we could protect more land outside of the flood plain

If you walked the block, there are a number of places where there are benches

Some people are taking advantage of trails in west hatfield, there is a lot more we could have up there

# Open Space & Recreation: Values & Principles

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

More open spaces,  
more protection for  
wildlife , recreation

We live on the river but  
the public doesn't have  
a place to sit and watch  
the river go by

Helpful, doesn't  
increase tax rates but  
increases livability of  
town

Making people aware  
there are more places  
to hike and walk

Connected in the dike, there is a  
whole ecosystem—in addition to  
the farmland, how much education  
is there about the river ecosystem—  
wondering about that linked with  
educational comments from before

Sit and embrace  
the water

See lots of trespassing signs,  
a lot of that should not be up  
since they are publicly  
available for walking.

Are there other  
ways to access the  
river that are safe?

# Open Space & Recreation: Dynamic Tensions and Open Questions

We have defacto land preserved because of flood plain, but we could protect more land outside of the flood plain

Connected in the dike, there is a whole ecosystem—in addition to the farmland, how much education is there about the river ecosystem—wondering about that linked with educational comments from before

We live on the river but the public doesn't have a place to sit and watch the river go by

Helpful, doesn't increase tax rates but increases livability of town

Concerned about vulnerable populations on trails ...Central Facility w/ bathrooms

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

Maybe some open park space would be help

See lots of trespassing signs, a lot of that should not be up since they are publicly available for walking.

Are there other ways to access the river that are safe?

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Climate & Critical Infrastructure

# Climate & Critical Infrastructure

emergency services a central rallying point

**Drought, tornadoes**

Protecting and improving infrastructure

Levee keeps river in to a certain extent, but as we get to south east area of town where the fields are it backs up into the mill river and comes back up into town that way

Flooding presentation, I didn't think of the question at the time, but you know, often that he revised that I mean, I guess, you know, I guess the risk is the town goes down to some level of planning and cost a lot and takes up a lot of time, but yet it's overestimated what the potential planners you know, so I guess that's hard to do these days, they're probably doing kind of worst case scenario to be safe but that that was the question I think I would have asked and I thought at the time,

controlled growth, careful development

sewage treatment plant may need to be enlarged

protecting the key resources

They examined some of the floods we had—1936 was the big flood—1984 there was a pretty big flood that cut people off from the town

Building a levee and creating protection from flooding is the most important issue

Resilience during flooding, or other climate instances

Protecting us from climate change and water which is inevitable

Protect critical resources and infrastructure

reimagining - the cost of action or inaction

Emergency planning

**The water is coming!**

Sewage treatment plant—also right next to the river and the flood plain, that's

**They levee must happen**

Flood zone presentation was pretty scary!

If we don't have a plan B?

expanding access to existing infrastructure - sewer and water

Signage for leaving town during an emergency

How do we provide assistance to evacuating those with mobility limitations or health risks

Flood stuff was intimidating—having to keep that in mind, anticipating changes with climate change and what that means for future building as well as stuff that exists

Hopefully we don't get that 20 foot flood

I don't know how to even approach starting to deal with that, but I guess it's part of the plan!

It would take a significant flood to get over levee, but it would have already backed up into town from the mill river

I'd love to see a brand new library, see the seniors get out of basement of town hall, and a new safety complex situated in the right place in town, and the expansion of our DPW facilities

The levee needs to be increased. Save lives, increase property value, protect us

**Wells can go bad**

# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Recommendations

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# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Protect & Preserve

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must happen

Protect critical  
resources and  
infrastructure

# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Values & Principles

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The water is coming!



# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Dynamic Tensions and Open Questions

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Character & Community

# Character & Community



# Character & Community: Recommendations

More community events...

Would like to bring communities together (kids, students, elderly)

A community space to gather

Make use of the Smith Academy

Identify a historic area that could be a hub for the community (integrated for all ages....)

Interface of town committees

make sure we have emergency services. everyone can support that

more integrated communication

Facility for health maintenance (gym equipment)

I'd love to see a brand new library, see the seniors get out of basement of town hal,, and a new safety complex situated in the right place in town, adn the expansion of our DPW facilities

Identify the elements of a visioning statement...the direction we are going

Stay similar to current character with increase in youth families bringing diversity

Would like to have an onboarding /welcoming for newcomers regarding town governance to help folks understand what is happening and how to get involved.

Would like a welcoming for newcomers

More accessible for people to move to Hatfield

# Character & Community: Protect & Preserve

Lot of charm in  
sleepy farm town

Development... preserving  
the personality of the  
town, the reason why  
people like Hatfield

Rural  
character

a quiet  
oasis

a sleepy,  
slow town

remain a small,  
involved  
community

Town  
center

take care of the  
people who built  
the town

# Character & Community: Values & Principles

Inclusivity

Accessibility

An effort to unite those who love the natural landscape with those who experience it as their home/town.

Having a place that is welcoming to people, wildlife, non english speakers

Feeling very welcomed

easy to become community members

Sense of community

easy to get in and easy to stay

# Character & Community: Dynamic Tensions & Questions

I have talked with folks in west hatfield who rarely come to town center

I've had a good experience but there's a sense that it's hard to get 'in' and be a resident

don't start squeezing people out while making room for new family

what else could draw new residents or retain current residents?

the only reason they would come is because they have to pay a bill

[Community?] is difficult to maintain in a world with busy parents always on the go

A desirable place to live...until the new FEMA report?!

How we stay connected—that the phone signal is really low

East side of 91 and west side and sometimes route 91 separates people a bit

a more diverse town would be a bonus which may be at odds with the old style

Yes, you want to move here...we're ahead of the FEMA projections!

Even though we are a small town I feel we are disconnected in some ways

Be a leader, be known for the fact that we have created a farm community while meeting the challenges in to support our school system

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

# Schools



# Schools

Smallest school system in the state

Personally most concerned about, the viability and strength in the school

Complicated conversation... can't wait too long (schools/housing)

The schools is a lingering threat as well

High community engagement in town

If you don't have good schools, affordable housing won't matter because people won't want to move here

Education—maybe comes in youth piece

Enhance the school experience or replace if the schools go away

Again, impacts the property values

the third rail - schools

How do we educate youth to exist in a changing world, changing landscape.

We've had such a great school choice in in the last 15 years, which has waned a bit, time to turn that around and get that back up again

what does the impact look like for schools, home values?

Also a way to keep the burden of keeping the schools open off the tax payers, by bringing them in

What are we teaching younger people so they are adaptive 20 years out

The schools keep our property values up but what if kids choose to go to larger schools

There are other visions that could complement the schools

# Schools: Recommendations

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the third rail  
- schools

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look like for schools,  
home values?

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

# Housing

# Housing

Moved here in 2021 in Bridge street

Housing affordability

Affordable housing

Hopes: hope we can keep plenty of families in the area, young families moving in

Good way to get a lot of people into town in 1 fell swoop

I have young kids from 2 to 8 who live the school system and balancing between young families, affordable housing

Places to buy in and have true ownership

Those two go against each other - you don't want to use farmland for housing but we need affordable housing

Moving if necessary

Suspect that if we come into town there would be fair amount of opposition because affordable housing is often associated with low income housing, and they are not the same

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

RE affordable housing development—there may be places we could utilize but there have been no proposed projects

Adding more affordable homes for families

Property value could go down

If you don't have good schools, affordable housing won't matter because people won't want to move here

access and availability for people with low income and low opportunities

don't start squeezing people out while making room for new family

what does the impact look like for schools, home values?

Almost half of Hatfield's housing is rented.

More opportunities to create neighborhood communities outside of downtown

Those could also be CPA projects

On housing: on board of valley CDC, we do a lot of affordable housing. Hatfield has not been on our radar

I'm not sure why, maybe because of space

more housing to allow younger families into town to mix the economic and generational demographics

# Housing: Recommendations

More opportunities to create neighborhood communities outside of downtown

Places to buy in and have true ownership

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# Housing: Values, Principles, and Qualities to Protect and Preserve

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Youth & Elders

# Youth & Elders

More children are feeling this anxiety in a serious way -

not squeezing out seniors with the new

400 people on a waiting list to get into facilities like Capawonk all around the area

## What about teenagers ?

dream that my daughter can inherit my home rather than a swimming pool...for all people of her generations, in her early 20s

Looking at options for the senior center

Addressing the needs of the elderly who want to be in their home

keep people in their homes as long as they want to be there

As a new resident, hope is town is thriving and young people are finding a home here still

An aging population and a young population that is declining

Will help us keep the town youthful

What will access and barriers do we need to address to keep enough people?

We have to take care of seniors and keep the time vital

Would like to understand the overall needs of the people who live here and play here

Deborah, We witness the anxiety of our children being afraid of their future, in tonight's presentation

I'd love to see a brand new library, see the seniors get out of basement of town hall, and a new safety complex situated in the right place in town, and the expansion of our DPW facilities

Didn't realize there as such a long waiting list for Capawonk

Protect the sanity of the young people and make them feel safe in the community of Hatfield

## What will attract young families?

20 years from now, don't know demographics, but the older group—making sure they feel supported in aging in place—making that happen while also

don't start squeezing people out while making room for new family

It's sad to see young people living with anxiety and fear of climate change

# Youth & Elders: Recommendations

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# Youth & Elders : Values & Principles

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# Youth & Elders : Dynamic Tensions and Open Questions

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# Hatfield MVP Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan

Community Drop-In Event - June 10, 2023

*Summary prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and*

*Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)*

*Graphic depictions of conversations by DPict*

*Photos by various staff from project consulting team*

## Overview

Hosted by the Hatfield Comprehensive Plan Committee, the community drop-in event at Black Birch Vineyard complements other community engagement efforts conducted as a part of the Town's year 1 climate-smart comprehensive planning process. The planning process and event are made possible by a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The other engagement activities to date have included listening sessions and surveys with farmers, seniors, and youth, a community-wide virtual meeting, and a community-wide survey.

This document summarizes the highlights of the June 10 in-person event, where people could drop in to participate from 8:30 a.m. to noon on a Saturday morning and stay as long as they liked. The event included three programmed conversations around Enhancing Community and Social Connections, Planning for Climate Change and Understanding Flood Risks, and Housing and Land Use. There were also a series of eight interactive stations where participants could stop by, learn a bit about a given topic from conversation with person staffing the station, as well as maps and posters located at the station, and then provide their thoughts on the topic through comments on index cards, post-it notes, or indicate priorities with dot voting.

To start the event, Ona Ferguson from CBI welcomed all attendees and invited people to engage with the variety of activities and learning opportunities available at the event including the conversations, interactive stations, community survey (QR code provided), and event raffle.

Stephanie Slys, Town of Hatfield Planning Board Chair, provided a project overview including Hatfield's planning history, the 2021 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and current priority to develop a Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan that emphasizes a climate resilient town master plan and incentivizes climate-resilient farming.

## Conversation #1: Enhancing Community and Social Connections

Patty Gambarini from PVPC introduced the topic of community and social connections by noting the following:

- During the Municipal Vulnerability Planning work, it was identified that residents who have lived in Hatfield for a long time and across generations contribute to strong community ties that people can call on when the town faces challenges.
- In the course of the current comprehensive planning process, the committee and consulting team have also been hearing how those relatively new to Hatfield, without those life-long ties, can be discounted.

- Why can't there be great value in both of these, the insights that come with having lived in one place for a lifetime and the insights that come from having experienced living in other places?
- Like many communities, Hatfield faces serious challenges:
  - Farming has become increasingly difficult with extremes in summer heat and the high cost of land
  - There are far fewer families with school-aged children within Town, impacting viability of the school system
  - Residents over 60 years of age now make up 33.6% of the population
  - The lack of housing diversity types means that there are not homes to serve people of varying needs, in particular older adults and young families

Patty suggested that in thinking about Hatfield's future, it seems important to create this space for conversation around community and social connections.

Ona Ferguson from CBI then invited attendees to share their ideas for: What could Hatfield do to improve community and social connection? Responses are summarized below:

- **Improve communication:** Residents expressed preference for a printed newsletter or independent Hatfield website over social media to Hatfield residents outside of downtown what is happening. Attendees also suggested:
  - Increase awareness of existing communication channels
  - Identify newcomers and provide a Welcome Letter from PTA, Town Administrator, etc. Potential formation of a Welcome Committee.
- **Provide reasons to gather during established events such as Town Meeting:** Conduct the Annual Town Meeting on a Saturday morning followed by a town BBQ. Older adults are hesitant to drive in the evening and follow-up BBQ is more likely to 1) engage families with children and 2) increase voter participation.
  - In other towns the Girl Scouts have been recruited to provide child care during the annual town meeting.
  - Connect with the school system to engage families.
- **Host more social/interactive events that attract and welcome diverse populations:** Participants suggested events such as block parties, reserving food trucks when the rail trail opens to provide a hangout spot for bikers, ice cream socials, and a midsummer "luminarium" type of event.
- **Establish Community Hubs where all age groups have a place to go**
  - Central recreation area that is well-maintained, currently basketball courts and baseball field are separated. Particularly to provide youth opportunities to socialize.
  - Park along the river
- **Strengthen connections with Hatfield private sector for social and economic benefits:** leverage the social and financial benefits of attracting, retaining, and growing local businesses (i.e., previous Master Plan was subsidized by a \$50,000 business grant)

- Directory of local businesses
- Hatfield used to have Ithaca Bucks/local currency – certain percent was given to charity
- **Address concerns of depopulation and community development:**
  - In the last year Hatfield lost 700 residents. Residents expressed concerns about Hatfield not meeting housing needs for current and potential residents and also identified welcoming of newcomers as an area of improvement.
  - There are paid staff positions tasked with furthering community development and the goals described above.

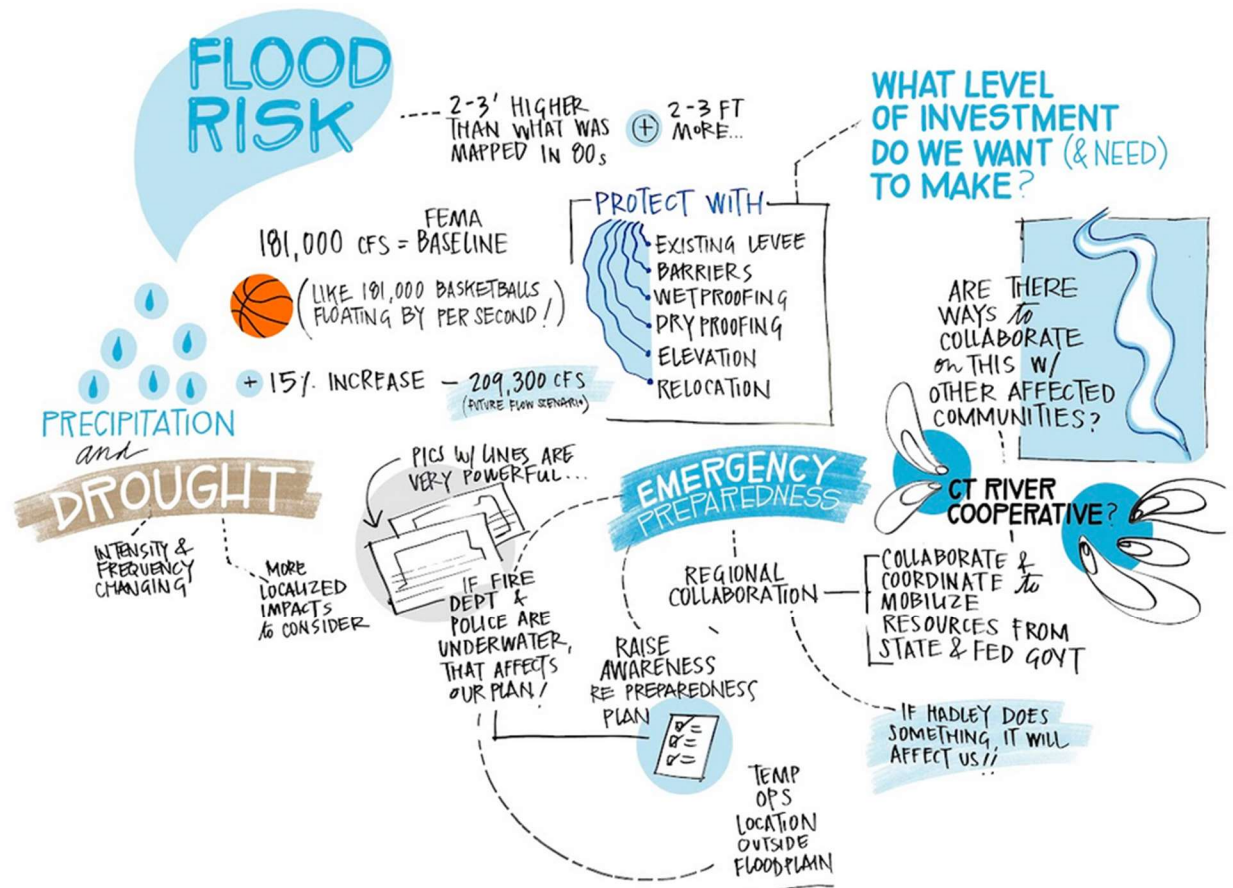


Graphic depiction showing content of conversation around enhancing community and social connections.

## Conversation #2: Planning for Climate Change and Understanding Flood Risks

Rich Niles from Woodard & Curran described the current conditions for flood risk, showcased critical infrastructure as identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and reviewed an updated (current) and future flood scenarios based on changes in river flows, including flood depths and impact on critical infrastructure. In summary, what used to be the 500-year flood is now the “new or updated 100-year flood” with flood depths that are 2-3 feet higher than what was projected in flood maps from 1978 and another 2 feet increase in depth is estimated by 2100 due to increased precipitation and river flows. Mitigation efforts (such as levee, barriers, wetproofing, dry proofing, elevation changes, and relocation) must consider the protection level that can be provided and if that is the right level of investment for the community.

Attendees shared their thoughts on what they would like to see the town do considering the risks from flooding and climate change including:



Graphic depiction showing content of conversation about planning for climate change and understanding flood risks.

- **Regional collaboration:**
  - Identify other communities that have been proactive with dealing with this issue.
  - This is a huge endeavor for a small town due to lack of resources and funds. It would implicate consistent maintenance cost.
  - Town of Hadley is looking into adding a levee since their downtown is in a floodplain. It is important to consider what neighboring towns are doing because if Hadley builds a levee, it will affect the river flow and resulting floodplain in Hatfield.
  - Is there an opportunity to partner with the Connecticut River Valley Cooperative and/or learn from Resilient Mystic River's regional collaboration efforts?
  
- **Incorporate additional data analysis:**
  - Projections for change in the river course (flow path) in the event of a 100-year flood to assess the areas that will be affected and adjust future plans accordingly.
  - Are there projections about heat, drought, dryness?
    - Becoming more erratic, intensity and frequency are changing.
    - Leads to more localized impacts that should be considered.
  
- **Emergency preparedness**
  - Regional collaboration is a need for emergency preparedness.
  - Raise residential awareness about evacuation plans, which are managed by the fire department.
  - Old water department building can serve as a temporary emergency service station. Can also consider other temporary facilities or rehabbing an old building, although either option is an expensive endeavor.
  
- **Communicate the Issue:** Pictures with the fire department flood lines are extremely powerful. How are we supposed to rely on the fire department if it's going to be under water?

### Conversation #3: Housing and Land Use

Ken Comia from PVPC described the current status of housing and land use in the town of Hatfield including the need for more affordable housing, preservation of agricultural heritage, boosting of economic development, and increased access to natural resources, open space, and recreation.

Ken shared how affordable housing is defined:

- Affordable housing is defined as at or below 80% of the area median income.
- Subsidized housing currently constitutes 3% of all homes, primarily senior housing, and consists of specific addresses filed with the executive office. Naturally occurring affordable housing does not count into this 3%.
- For towns that have less than 10% of affordable housing: developers who are going to help build affordable housing are able to bypass town regulations and go through an approval of comprehensive permits

Ken explained that the 2014 Master Plan reduced the lot sizes in different areas in town, primarily the town center, to encourage housing in the town center and maintain other areas in town where we want to allow more open space and agriculture. He noted that allowing for higher population densities in higher elevation areas would align with flood risk projections and disincentivize putting more houses in the flood plains at risk.



Graphic depiction showing content of conversation about housing and land use.

Attendees shared what they would like to see in Hatfield with regard to housing, land use, economic development, and open space.

- **Infill programs to protect agricultural land** for 55 and over, if we can do that for younger families.
- **Make home ownership more accessible** to younger families, houses that are affordable for first time home buyers.
- **More engagement from renters** in civic processes and town boards.
- **Creative funding mechanisms:**
  - We should pursue **low-hanging fruit** - there is money within PVCV, a state match.
  - Existing **open space development program** that has only been used once. Requires preservation of half the land and you are able to develop the same amount on another parcel. Usually it costs less for the developer because the infrastructure for 5 acres is the same as 10 acres.
  - A **fundraising strategy** to meet the goals of the plan
  - We need **more financial capital** but can't continue to rely on our homeowners solely.
  - The Town should **develop a committee** that focuses on community and business development and assesses grant opportunities for every other committee
- **Rezoning of Route 5 and 10 to encourage development to come**
  - People are doing business in this area even though it is not zoned for it. Some residents would like for it to be business zoned but some residents don't want to lose their neighborhood.
  - Balance input from residents that live on Routes 5 and 10 and evaluate what further development and rezoning means for their quality of life and health
  - Can't put everything in Route 5, we have to think of other areas too.



*Participants join for the conversation on Housing and Land Use.*

## Comments from Interactive Stations

The in-person event included eight interactive stations, providing opportunities for people to interact and/or comment on specific topics. At some stations, boxes were used to solicit input on index cards while at other stations participants could use post it notes to annotate maps or indicate preferences using sticky dots. Stations were: Station #1 - Starfish; Station #2 - Things to love; Station #3 - Climate change; Station #4 - Land use; Station #5 - Farms; Station #6 - Housing; Station #7 - Open space; Station #8 - Getting around. Following are the written comments provided at these stations by participants. Note that not all stations had written responses.

*Also, brackets in this document indicate illegible comments.*

### Station #1 - Starfish

This station involved a series of five boxes where participants were asked short brief questions about Hatfield. One additional box asked participants for their comment on what they made of the event.

#### 1. Start doing

- More sidewalks on the edges of town
- Land use/housing-identify target price range & % gas for the town. Set % as goals and develop incentives for that. Use [c...] rely on developers financial incentives to achieve the mix use [.ant]
- Land use/housing- consider housing for farm workers to support Ag, Hatfield needs attractive options for seasonal workers. Farms benefit from repeat workers
- REGIONAL COLLABORATION
- Protect more farmland
- Start [to] have cluster development to protect open space
- Smaller building lot sizes
- Participate in state complete streets program to get money to build sidewalks
- Be more encouraging of public participation in boards & committees
- Services for families, if you want families- support them. Before + after school programs + activities. Camps, etc. As a transplant... SO HARD to find support locally
- We have waterfront and no one would even know. Put in a beach! Invest in the boat launch! A new restaurant ON THE WATER would bring in \$\$\$ for taxes we need
- New technology
- Having town meeting on a weekend so young families can attend
- Given large % of disabled students + businesses focused on autism, prioritize disability access + training
- Increase marketing of communication channels (didn't know HOW to get information when I arrived)
- Develop a recreation Hub
- Open waterfront areas for business (e.g. restaurant) + park
- Increase business on Main Street to have more lively town center
- Build out educational opportunities across the lifespan



- Get some kind of facebook or instagram or weekly electronic newsletter for the town... there are a few but they're not maintained or curated. FD + PD are good though
- Build affordable housing

## 2. Keep Doing

- Encourage open space (cluster) development
- Update the Housing Production Plan
- Keep talking to evolve this town
- Events like this to raise awareness of these important topics
- Continue to be leary of spot zoning request
- Keep our school + library!!, This is our heart! With what is obviously an aging community- if we lose this... there will be no new blood
- Support public schools, protect farmland, remain farming/ ag community
- Support the schools
- Protect the local historic district
- WE LOVE the Friday concerts, school centric events, our library, fish trails
- Growing crops
- Having more kids

## 3. Stop doing

- Stop putting solar on farmland
- Stop building houses on good farmland. Stop putting solar on good farmland
- Do not allow uses that generate truck traffic in residential neighborhoods.
- Do not pave roads wider just make traffic go faster
- We attended our first town meeting this year. Wow- [thou] did not feel inclusive or welcoming. I don't know how to get involved or learn what's happening :( So STOP relying on word of mouth communication in town
- Pluteing
- STOP relying exclusively on volunteers to make community engagement happen. PTA, rec, ect... all volunteers and they only way we know about things.
- Pluting

## 4. More of:

- Protect farmers and the land, support our children and schools
- Fund a town plan to help to do all this work
- Community events
- Maintain + fortify levee
- Invite; encourage more businesses to make Hartfeild their home
- Affordable housing for young families
- Welcome new people [&] families to town to encourage diversity
- Advertise things outside of downtown. We live in west Hartfeild and feel very disconnected. How are we to know what is going on?
- Community building [&] things like community garden

- Infrastructure + staff to coordinate community engagement
- Funding the schools
- Advertise the great schools

5. Less of

- Infill housing may not be answer because people who live in town center may not want more density
- Less 55+ housing for people with fewer connections to the community
- Over 50 developments

What do you think of all this?

- Great event. Thank you for your community service. ♥
- This is great - getting input on the plan
- Thanks for this event and your efforts to get more community input

**Station 3: Planning for Climate Change**



*Rich Niles, background, from Woodard & Curran staffs Station 3.*

Rich Niles from Woodard & Curran staffed Station 3, helping attendees to understand the flood risk changes shown by more current delineations of inundation areas. Questions asked of participants at this station were as follows:

- What do you think about the flood damage and protection and adaptation measures?
- Do they seem adequate to manage flood risks, keeping in mind that they are larger, but less frequent floods?
- What are your thoughts on Town investments on flood preparedness?

Woodard & Curran will be providing a technical memo that will convey much of what transpired in the conversations at this station. Note too that there are good comments from discussion on this topic from Conversation #2 above.

Comments submitted on index cards at this station were as follows:

- We should invest in preparing for floods.
- Hatfield should cooperate with other towns regarding Connecticut river and rising floodings hazard/ levels
- Rich's recommendations make sense. The investment should be proportionate to the risk
- Move all EMS- fire, police, ambulance to the SAME flood-safe place
- Important to maintain the dike

#### Station 4: Planning for Land Use and Economic Development

Planning Board Chair Stephanie Slysz staffed Station 4 where the two major questions for event participants were:  
Do the priority conservation and development areas identified in 2014 still make sense?

How should we support small businesses and economic growth?

Written responses on index cards submitted at this station were as follows:

- Keep business growth balanced to all parts of Hartfield
- More businesses to make town center vibrant would be good
- Industrial development should go into the industrial park- in sites that are accessible to I91
- A lot of green on map. What can we actually develop?
- zoning changes. Grandfather 1)  
Do not penalize current



*Planning Board Chair Stephanie Slysz, left, staffs Station 4*

businesses + residents with them in 2) Businesses and commercial properties should be placed in higher traffic corridors and land that has lower agricultural land quality. High quality land should not be built upon

- Balance of residential business, high indus. Industrial
- Focus on better use of land near I91 and railroad tracks for larger companies to locate here to increase town bare of jobs!
- Support local small businesses by: - creating some promotional materials so people know what kind of goods & services they can buy locally, - talk to them to find out what they need
- Need to think/ plan for multi-family housing only building single family housing is not sustainable for the long term
- Complicated topic but importance of wetlands is increasing in time of climate instability. They protect us
- Industrial buildings going green
- We need more affordable housing not 55+, Please use cluster housing development with smaller homes

#### Station 5: Planning for Farms



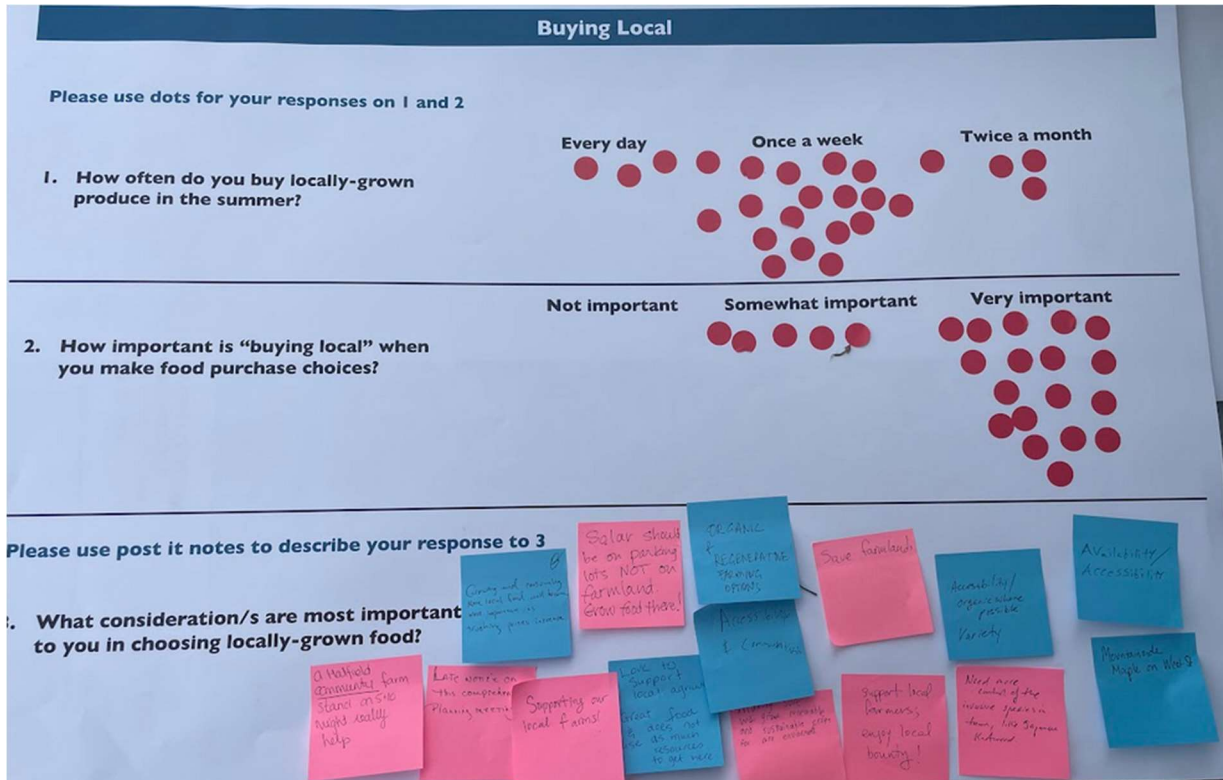
*Agricultural Advisory Commission member John Pease, background, staffs Station 5.*

Agricultural Advisory Commission member John Pease staffed Station 5 where participants were asked three questions:

- How often do you buy locally grown produce in summer?
- How important is “buying local” when you make food purchase choices? (

- What considerations are most important to you in choosing locally grown food? (write response on post-it note)

Responses to the first two questions are shown in the image and table below.



How often do you buy locally-grown produce in the summer?

Participants each put one dot in the cell that most appropriately represented their response.

Everyday		Once a week		Twice a month
3	2	16	1	3

How important is “buying local” when you make food purchase choices?

Participants each put one dot in the cell that most appropriately represented their response.

Not important	Somewhat Important	Very important
0	5	18

To the third question of what considerations are most important to you in choosing locally grown food, written responses were as follows:

- Mountainside maple on West St.
- Need more control of the invasive species in town, like Japanese Knotweed
- availability/ accessibility
- Accessibility/ organic where possible. Variety

- Save farmland
- Support local farmers; enjoy local bounty
- Making sure we grow renewable and sustainable crops for are environment
- Organic + regenerative farming options
- Accessibility & communication
- Solar should be on parking lots not on farmland- grow food there!
- Love to support local agriculture. Great food & does not use as much resources to get there
- Growing and consuming more local food will become more important as trucking prices increase
- Late notice on this comprehensive planning meeting
- Supporting our local farms!
- A Hatfield community farm stand 5 + 10 might really help

### Station 6: Planning for Housing

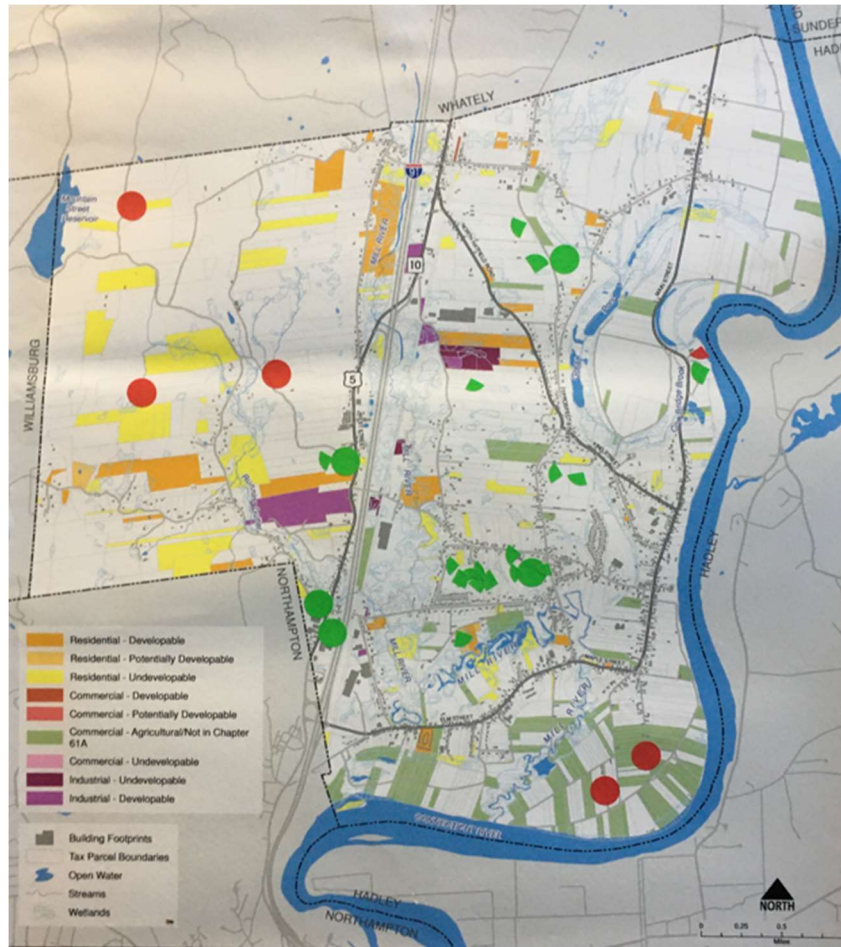
Historical Commission member Micki Sanderson staffed Station 6 where there were two questions for participants:

- Where would you support additional housing in Hatfield? (place green dot on map)
- Where would you NOT want to see housing developed and why? (place red dot on map and submit comment on post-it note).



*Historical Commission member Micki Sanderson, middle, staffs Station 6.*

The map below on development potential of vacant lands shows where participants indicated they would support (green dots) and would not support (red dots) additional housing in Hatfield.



Following are comments from Station 6 based on question of where would you NOT want to see housing developed and why?

- As long as it is done in an appropriate way environmentally sensitive! For the right particular location I think we need more housing & more people & diversity
- Need multi-family housing near transit and near sight family housing
- Let's look at landlocked farming parcels for limited development with increased density
- Smaller lots with open space. Affordable housing especially for families
- Create an ADU for Hartfield (plan 1)
- Assessors support tax for owner-occupied homes.

## Station 7: Planning for Open Space and Natural Resources

Chair of the Open Space and Recreation Committee Richard Abbott staffed Station 7 where participants were asked to show what was most important to them from the priority recommended actions published in the recently completed Open Space and Recreation Plan. Participants could place up to three sticky dots in their voting. The following table shows list of actions and tally of votes for each.

Priority Actions from Open Space and Recreation Plan	Votes received
Goal A Continue promotion of farmland protection by meeting with farmers	11
Goal B Continue promotion of farmland protection by meeting with farmers	6
Goal C Advocate for the preservation of the Mill River dam to maintain the wetlands upland of the Mill River	3
Goal D Review zoning to ensure drinking water supply has adequate protection	10
Review zone A, B, and 2 maps and prioritize lands for protection	0
Acquire land or purchase development within zone A, B areas	0
Prioritize and acquire land within the Town well's zone 2 area	3
Goal E Contract with forest management consultant to combat invasive plants on Horse Mountain	5
Expand recently established trail system to other woodland areas of town owned land	5
Goal F Continue trail building	2
Promote increased use of trails by posting maps on town website, printing maps to be available at town hall, and improve trail signage	9
Goal G Construct a pavilion in the newly renovated Smith Academy Park	4
Construct tennis and pickleball courts on town owned land	3
Create multi use pathway connecting Hatfield to Northampton	7
Improve Day Pond by dredging and creating walkway access	3
Complete construction of Smith Academy recreational walkway	1





*Chair of the Open Space and Recreation Committee Richard Abbott, left, staffs Station 7*

### **Station 8: Transportation**

Jeff McCullough from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission staffed Station 8 where people were asked three questions:

- Where are your favorite places to walk? Is there a sidewalk there?
- Where would you like more sidewalks or hiking trails?
- Are there places you'd like to see a bus stop?

In responding, people could mark up the map and leave post it notes. Two maps were updated with input from participants, a map showing sidewalks in Hatfield and a map showing bus stops. Written post it notes had the following comments:

- Sidewalk on North Hartfield Rd.
- Don't pave roads wider. We need to slow traffic down
- Bus service to center of Town with stops at locations where multi family housing and beforehand
- More sidewalks
- Sidewalks on the West. St. of Depot Rd.

- Bus stop down-town to grocery/ doctors etc.- help those unable to drive
- Hartfield is great place to walk
- Extensive of PVTA [semi] from Northayton a few there a day
- Too much traffic coming to town Elm St. too many trailer trucks!
- Sidewalks/ bike path up depot + the “S’s”
- Maintain what we have
- Bus stop at Depot Road
- Speed limit review + enforcement to promote walking on roads without sidewalks
- More sidewalks
- Sidewalks needed on West St.
- Depot Road Upper Main St.
- Fixing and redoing King St. sidewalks
- “On demand” bus service like the CORTA Hers in remote areas of Cape Cod
- “The Block”
- Extend FRTA Access Program into Hartfield
- FRTA/PVTA bus route along Main St.



*Jeff McCullough, right, from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission staffs Station 8.*



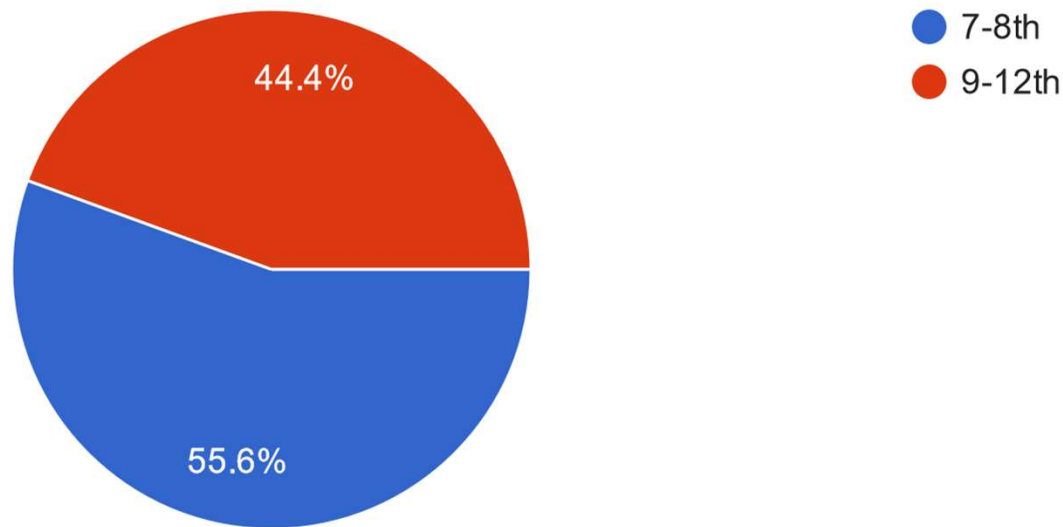
Several other fun interactive elements at the June 10<sup>th</sup> event included a poetry board where people could put words together about Hatfield. Another involved a portrait board where attendees could take their own photos on an instamatic camera and post their photos on a board and a Hatfield Future Hotline where people could use their cell phone to call and leave a message about their hopes and dreams for Hatfield in 2040.

# Youth – Survey highlights (36 responses)

*The survey was designed by Smith Academy 8th grade civics class and issued to peers in grades 7-12.*

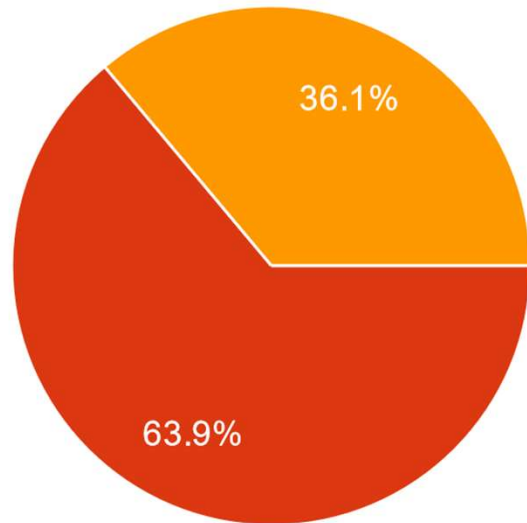
What grade are you in?

36 responses



## What is your connection to the town of Hatfield?

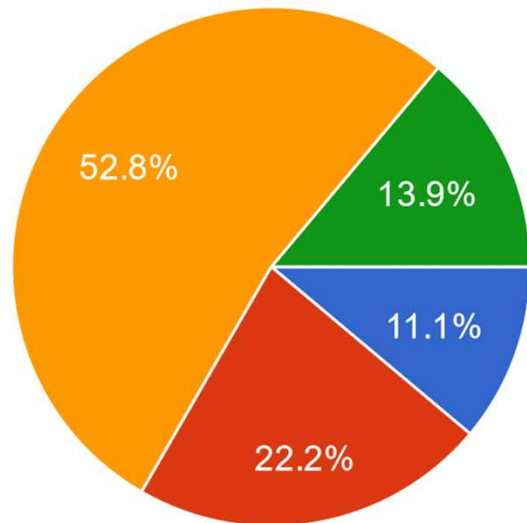
36 responses



- Part time Resident
- Resident
- School Choice
- Other

## Have you noticed any changes of weather over the years?

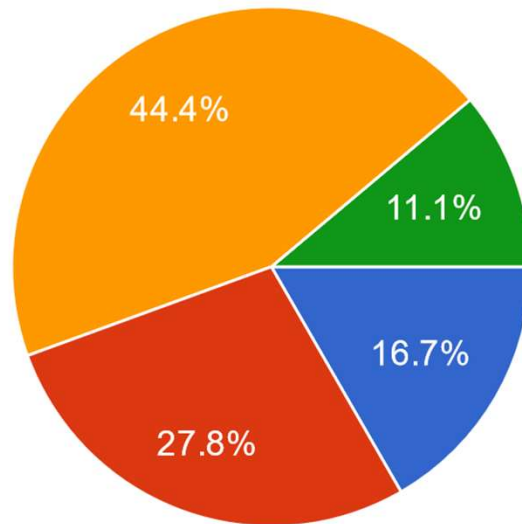
36 responses



- I have not noticed any change
- I have not noticed any significant changes
- I have noticed slight changes
- I have noticed major changes

## Have you noticed any changes about the water levels of rivers, ponds, lakes etc?

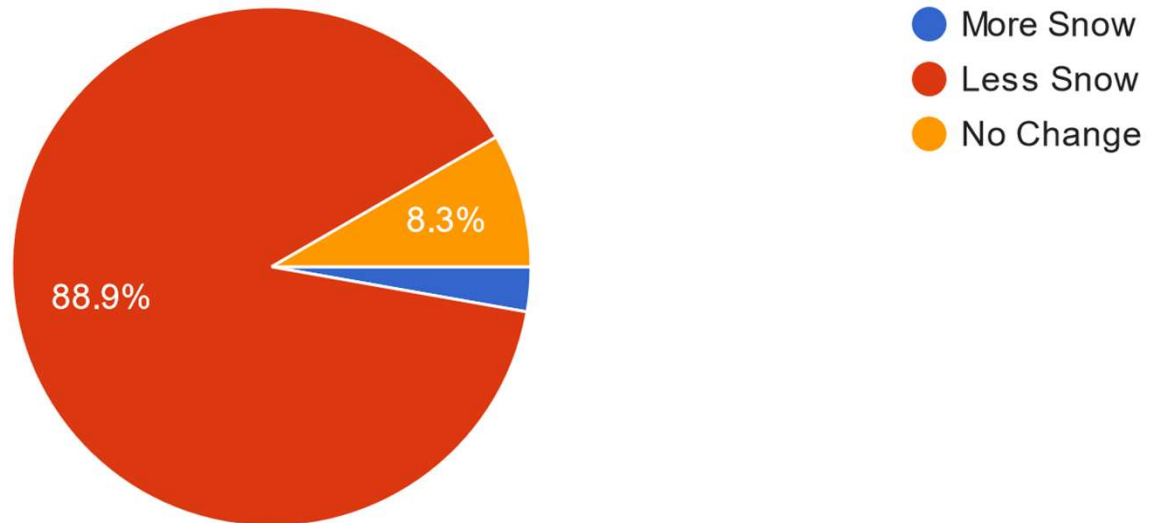
36 responses



- I have not noticed any change
- I have not noticed much change
- I have noticed some changes
- I have noticed major changes

## Have you noticed any changes about snow fall over the years?

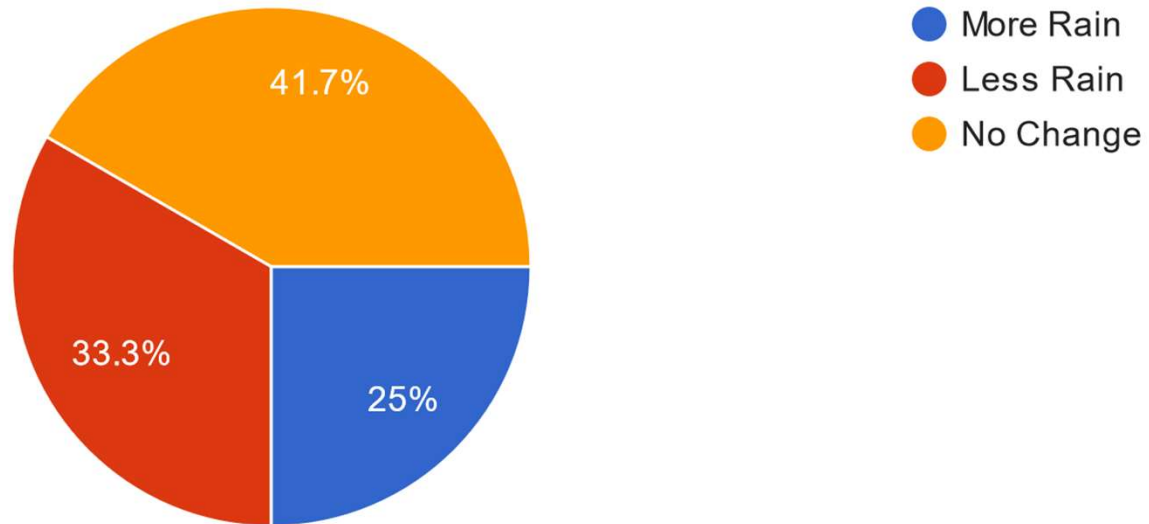
36 responses





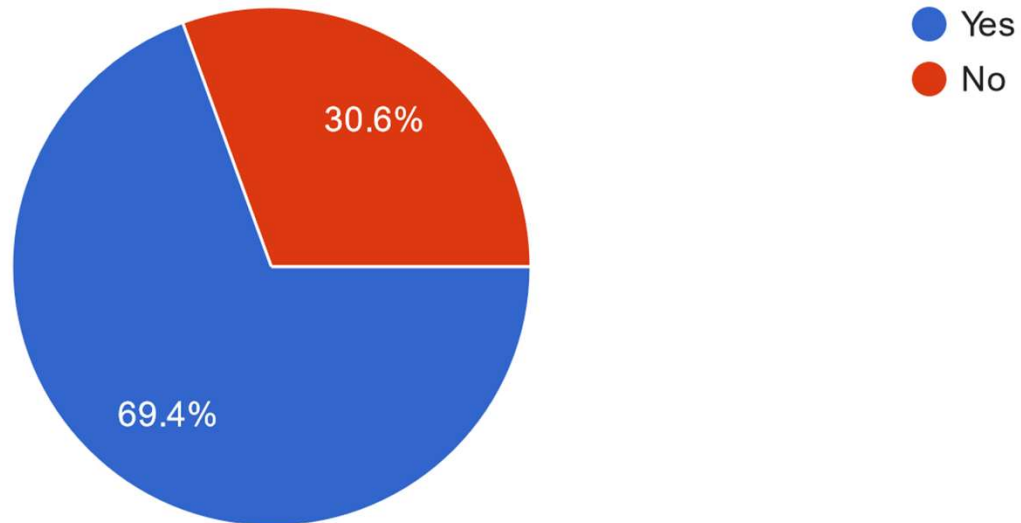
## Have you noticed any changes about rain fall over the years?

36 responses



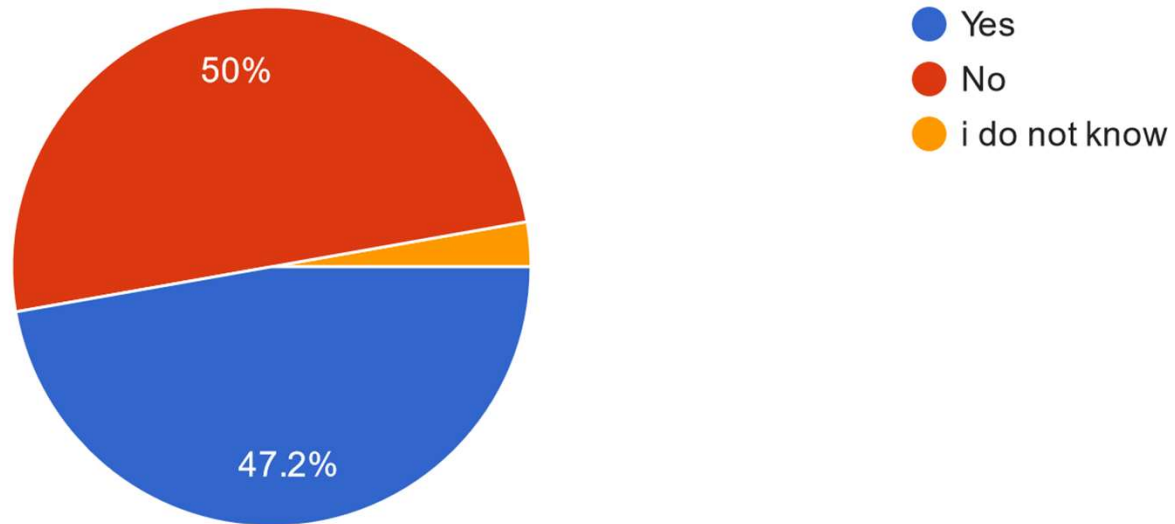
Have you noticed any changes about temperature over the years?

36 responses

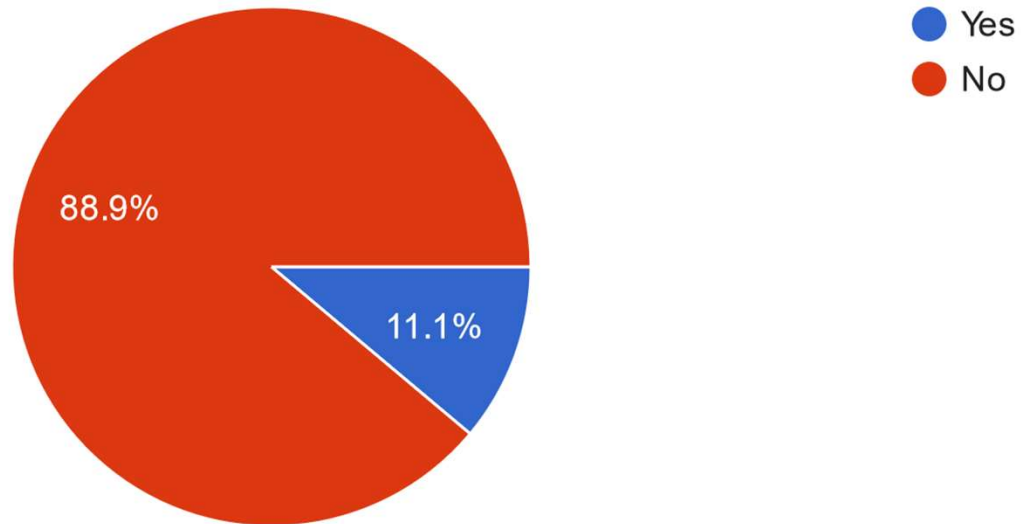


## Have you noticed any changes about storms over the years

36 responses



Have you noticed any changes about weather that have not been said yet up above  
36 responses



If you have noticed changes that have not been said about weather please describe what you have seen

10 responses

Wheather and stuff

i know there have been more fires

I have seen the weather get warmer faster

More extreme summers and less snow in winter.

There was not a lot of snow this year

Winter keeps coming later in the year. No snow in December.

none

The sky seems a bit less blue.

it is less snow in the winter and its nice out then hot spring and really hot summer

## Worries And Climate change

What worries do you have about climate change?

36 responses

none

No

Animals

The damage it will cause for future generations

I'm worried that some species of animals will go extinct because of the icebergs melting in the north.

That the changes in climate will become too extreme before we can do anything to stop it.

that some species of animals will go extinct

It will get too hot to breathe.

The oceans will rise, which will destroy coastal cities and towns.

That some animals might suffer because of climate change.

No winter. Everything would be hot

i worry that our generation wont see a good healthy earth only a grey dirty earth bc on the polution and climate change

None

Getting warmer faster

I worry about animals ways of trying to survive due to the climate change has impacted them and wildfires occurring more often

the environment can't survive

That the Earth will be uninhabitable by 2050.

Oceans rising and causing more extreme natural disasters.

none

the weather

nothig

It will ruin natural habitats

I don't like the heat very much

nothing

I worry that we will destroy the earth with what we are doing to the climate.

It scares me too think about what were doing to the earth

---

Will there be less snow

It could cause summers to become hotter and longer.

nothing

The planet warming up

I dont want to die from it

its gonna get to hot

the heat

that it is killing the planet



## What role should the town of Hatfield have in climate change?

36 responses

idk

Maybe

Not sure

The town and its residents should do as much as they can to help where they can

The town of Hatfield could possibly try to organize fundraisers for organizations that help stop climate change

They should do their best to combat climate changes with their policies and actions

they could try to use less electricity

Make cars illegal.

Work our best to become a green eco friendly town.

Organize fundraisers that help benefit climate change organizations.

I am not sure

hatfield should use solar and try to slowly but efficitly cut out of using gas vehicles. electric car batterys arnt good because of the resources needed to mine it to make them yet its the only thing thats not gas

No clue

No clue

To help stop it

Making sure not to have more waste than we really need and we can also make signs and put them up around Hatfield as a reminder Climate Change is still happening and it will only get worse if we do not do anything to prevent it from getting worse

have fundraisers to pay people to clean up trash

Encourage residents to cut down on fossil fuels, increase use of renewable energy resources, and only use water when necessary.

Making sure we stop littering in the town is definitely significant. I see lots of trash on the sides of roads. This hurts our environment!

i don't know

pick up after yourself

i do not know

I'm not sure

plant more trees

be cooler

We should try our best to take as much care as possible to not affect it as much.

A small role is all everybody needs as long as EVERYBODY works to help

I don't know

nothing its not as bad as people say it is it has been a thing for like years and nothing has happened

The best we can do is the cleaning of pollution and safe deposit of animal byproducts..

i dont know

Using less fossil fuels

Idk

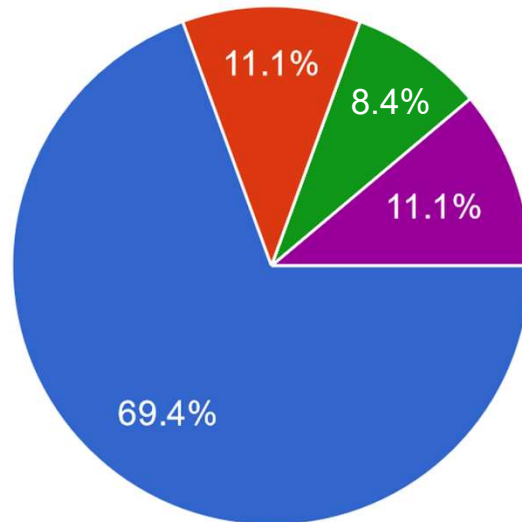
nothing

keep factories out of the town

trying to find ways to lessen our carbon foot print

## Do you think there is anyway to improve and protect Hatfield from the impact of climate change?

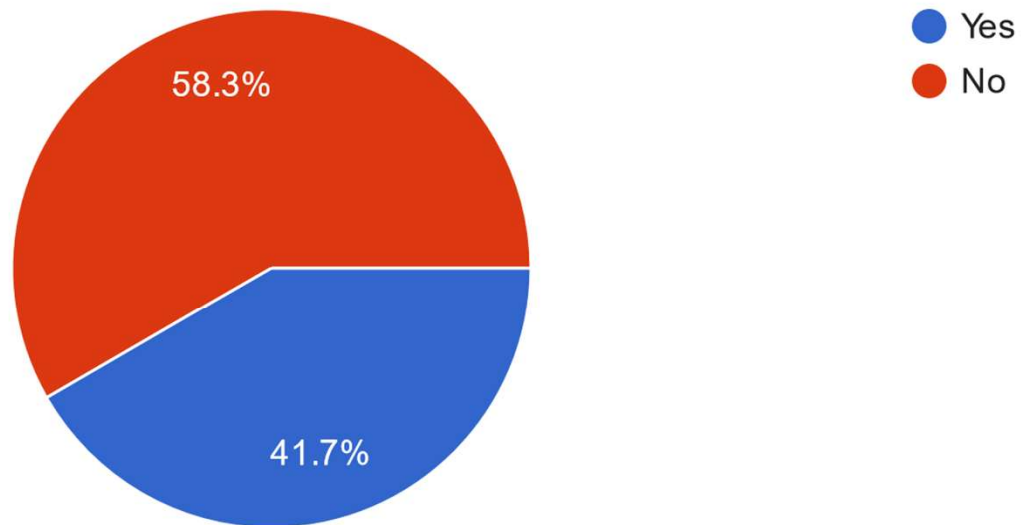
36 responses



- Yes, but I'm unsure on how too.
- Yes, and I am already helping to do so.
- No, and it affects my physical/mental health.
- No, I don't think there is anything we can do.
- Unsure

Do you believe climate change will effect anyone in your life time? for example: are you beliveing that climate change will kill everything. etc

36 responses



If yes, how will this affect people in your life?

18 responses

Maybe

Warmer

Climate change is already effecting the world

I think the weather will get more extreme and more severe storms will arise and effect people I knows homes.

It will worsen the air quality, maybe it'll hurt elders with poor respiratory systems.

Everything will be hotter and it would be too late to fix it

my kids whould lit live in a beutafull nice earth only a flooded earth and bad weather earth

It will kill all humans any many other species.

Natural disasters will increase and more extreme seasons.

Most likely not within my lifetime but I assume that eventually climate change will become too drastic to prevent

I don't think it will affect much in my lifetime but the future isn't looking so good.

It will probably be hotter

There will be less snow

I don't really know how it will effect people but it won't positively affect peoples health.

by making it hot

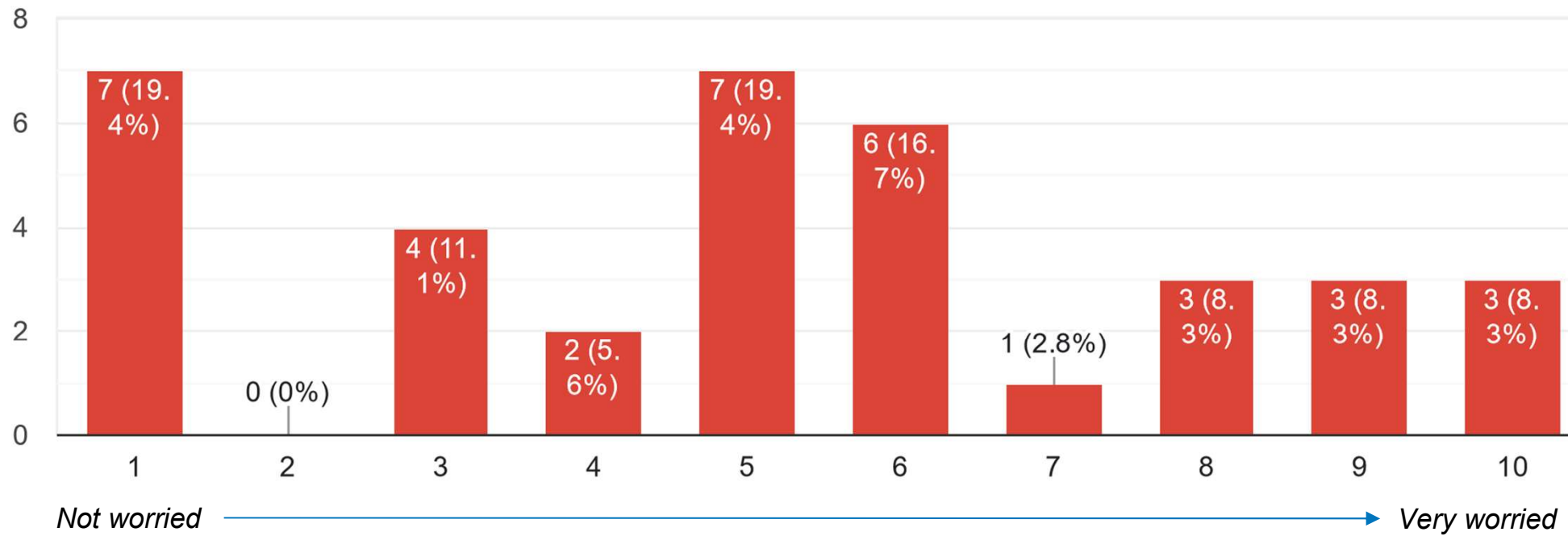
It will make them warmer

I might die

it doesnt

# If you are worried about climate change how worried are you.

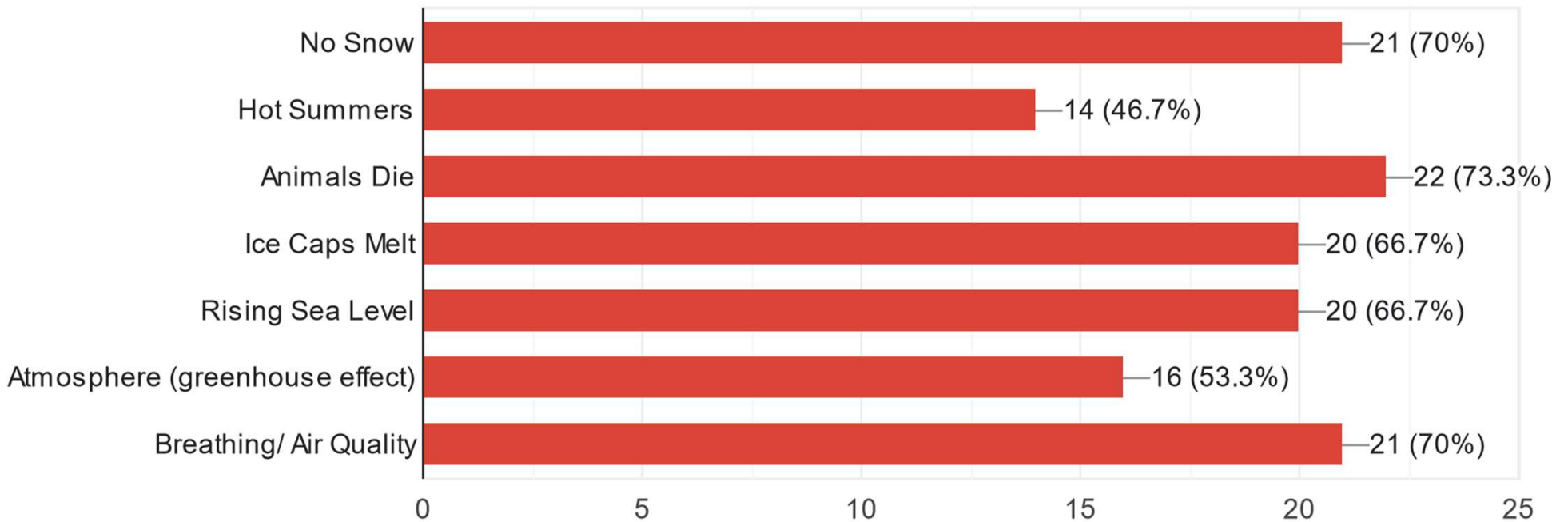
36 responses





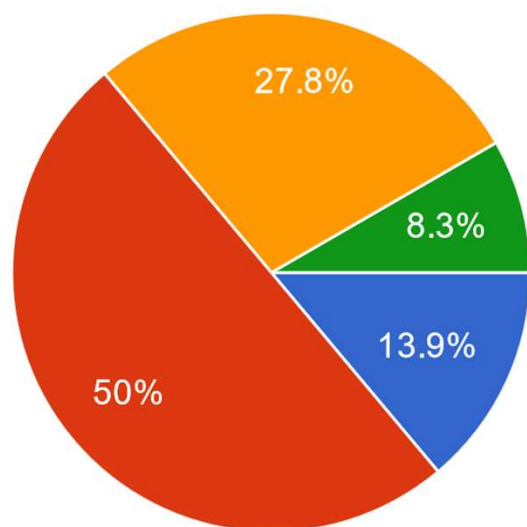
## Do any of the following make you worry about climate change

30 responses



## Are you empowered to take action

36 responses



- YES very empowerd
- Yes
- No
- NO not empowerd

## What are your desires for the future?

28 responses

Maybe

Make the world a better place

To do as much as we can to help

To stop climate change from getting worse

To help combat climate change

that we can try to use less gas and try to stop it as much as we can

Live long and prosper.

To have a sustainable earth for future generations.

Change

to stop world leaders from doing it and come to a full stop. people can walk and drive biks for a change some like me do not all

To help prevent it

For climate change to get better and to go back to how things were plus better

to have a better environment

To help slow climate change as much as possible.

to become a chef

?

Less pollution

Less heat

I hope that we can find a way to stop climate changes turns for the worse.

I wanna do big things (I don't know what yet)

More snow

to play hockey

Less pollution and large companies being held to greater standers on the safety of their products and how they produce them.

To help people

Im not sure

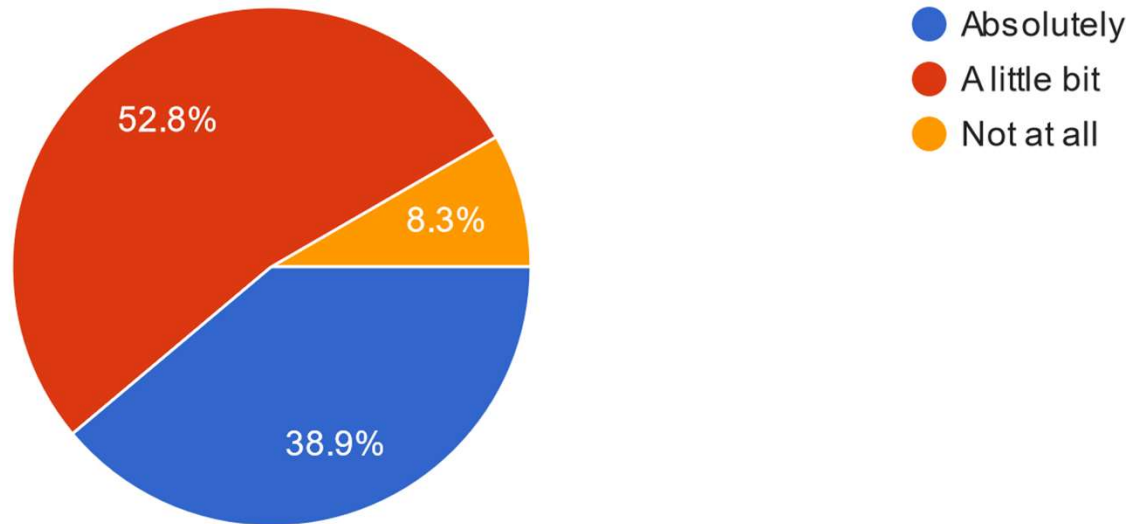
not to die

less hot

that the generation after ours will not have to worry about it

## Could climate change impact your future?

36 responses



# Hatfield Comprehensive Plan

## Health and Social Environment

### Engagement of Older Adults

Older adults were identified as a vulnerable population in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan for Hatfield. Therefore, this population was targeted for engagement along with farmers and youth, the other priority populations considered vulnerable in the face of extreme weather events.

#### Age & Dementia Friendly Communities Survey

A survey developed by PVPC staff to develop a regional assessment structured around the nine domains of an Age and Dementia Friendly Community. The survey was mailed to all Hatfield residents over the age of 60 by the Hatfield Council on Aging. Of 650 surveys that were mailed out, there were responses for a response rate of 13%. Some surveys were entered online, but the majority were returned in hard copy form and were entered by staff and interns at PVPC. All survey respondents were over the age of 60, and most (48%) fell into the 70-79 age group. Approximately 22% of respondents were over the age of 80, and 5 % over the age of 90. Almost 69% of survey respondents were female, 29% male, and 2% identified as gender nonbinary or “prefer not to say.” A little over 95% of respondents identified as being white. Over 70% of respondents had lived in Hatfield for over 15 years and 64% had lived in their current residence for over 15 years.

The top three areas that survey respondents thought that the Town should focus on in the next five years were **Housing** (61%), **Transportation** (54%) and **Health and Community Services** (52%). The following sections discuss responses to questions that are focused on these topic areas.

#### Housing

Most respondents (61%) said that it was extremely important for them to stay in Hatfield as they age, and 60% said it was extremely important to be able to stay in their current home. Seventy-one percent of respondents live in single family homes. However, when asked if circumstances were to change requiring a move, most (51%) said that they would prefer to live in senior independent living apartments, and only 20% in single family homes. Eleven percent said they would prefer to live in assisted living, and nine percent in accessory apartments. Very few respondents said that they wanted to live in an apartment building (4%) or multi-family home (1%). Additional responses included condominium, an intentional community such as a coop or co-housing, and one respondent said that they wanted to have outdoor access such as a balcony or patio. For those currently hoping to move to a smaller home, eight respondents said that they were not moving because it was too expensive. Thirteen respondents said the waitlist for senior or affordable housing were too long, and five said that they don't qualify for subsidized housing. Several open ended comments at the end of the survey mentioned the need for more affordable housing for older adults as well.

Financial worries are prevalent among older adults, with 12% saying that the housing that they live in now is not affordable. Forty-four percent of respondents said that their finances are OK now, but they are worried about the future. Six percent said that financial security is their biggest worry. A large percentage of survey respondents live alone (38% of survey respondents) while most (56%) live with a spouse or other partner. Thirteen percent live with adult children, and 5% with grandchildren.

Some older residents who want to remain in town but do not have the option to move to a smaller home or apartment may need help with maintaining their homes as they age in place. When asked whether people living independently were facing any barriers, most (55%) said that they had difficulty finding reliable and affordable contractors for home modifications or repairs, 47% said they had difficulty finding help with yard work or snow shoveling, and 35% had difficulty finding personal care or housekeeping services.

### Transportation

Currently Hatfield has little in terms of public transportation or services. Respondents chose modes of transportation services that would offer flexibility and independence when they can no longer drive. Facilities for walking and biking also came up in both the survey and listening session. Most survey respondents (90% currently drive themselves), but 26% also said that a family member drives them, and 20% said that they walk for as a primary means of transportation. Twenty percent of survey respondents said that they walk for transportation, 13% use senior center vans, and 10% bike. When driving is no longer an option, 83.5% of respondents said that they would like to use senior center vans, 49% volunteer ride service, 38% fixed route bus, 32% wanted safe routes to walk and bike.

Thirty-three percent said that shoulders or sidewalks are needed on some roads for safer walking and 29% said that speed limits need to be enforced.

### Health & Community Services, Communication

Health and Community Services ranked in the top three areas that survey respondents thought that the Town should focus on in the next five years. Community services help to support people aging in place, and access to health care is important as older adults are more likely to have multiple morbidities than younger people.

Less than half of survey respondents answered the question about whether they were having any difficulty with accessing health care. Of those who responded, most (13 respondents or 39%) had difficulty scheduling non-emergency medical appointments. Services or programs that were lacking in Hatfield (as well as other places) include home care or home health care providers, and support services for people with dementia. According to survey respondents, 18% said **affordable, certified home health care providers** were poor or not available; 18% said that **support or programming for caregivers of people with dementia** was poor or unavailable.

**Eleven percent** of respondents had either been diagnosed **with Alzheimer's or other dementia** or had a family member who was diagnosed. Fourteen percent **said they provided caregiving services** to a family member. Only seven survey respondents said that they were the primary caregiver of an older adult, two were primary caregivers for their grandchildren, and four said that they shared caregiving services.

Seven of respondents who were caregivers said they did not have adequate access to respite services or support groups.

### Buildings & Outdoor Spaces

The Age and Dementia Friendly Pioneer Valley Survey asked what could be done to increase usage of public buildings and outdoor spaces in the community. Most respondents (44%) wanted a new or larger senior center, 41% want benches in parks and along walking routes, 40% public restrooms, 38% signs or maps identifying trail difficulty and accessibility, and 36% wanted more accessible trails. In the open comments to this question, respondents mentioned the need for a wheelchair ramp at the Hatfield library, two called for a bike trail or extension of the rail trail, one suggested conveniently located waste containers, and one suggested public restrooms near the River trail. One person commented that the restrooms in the Senior Center were designed for elementary school children and have not been replaced in over 100 years.

### Communication, Social Participation & Inclusion

Social participation is critical to good health especially for older people who may be living on their own. The pandemic highlighted the importance of technology – including access to computers, tablets, affordable internet service, and the knowledge of how to use technology – for social connection and civic participation. Seventeen survey respondents said that they needed training on how to use technology, and fifteen wanted training on how to use video communication platforms. Eight respondents said that they were not interested in using technology.

Survey respondents were asked about feelings of loneliness and isolation. While most (63%) said that they often felt well supported, 14% said that they rarely or never felt this way. Twenty-two percent of respondents said that they feel lonely some of the time, and **27%** said that they feel **left out of their community** some of the time.

### Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness/Climate Change

Survey respondents were, for the most part, not overly concerned with the increase in extreme heat or weather events. However, 18% of respondents said they did not feel well informed about what to do in the case of a power outage. Eighteen percent said that their **health has been moderately impacted by extreme heat**, while 7% said their health had been severely or very severely impacted. Only five percent said that they had been very or severely impacted by **increased downpours**. **Fourteen percent were** very or extremely concerned about increased number of days of extreme heat; and 5% very or extremely concerned about downpours. Several of the open comments expressed concern about basement flooding.

### Lunch, Learn and Listen Event at the Hatfield Senior Center

PVPC staff attended a “Lunch, Learn and Listen” event at the Hatfield Senior Center on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Sixteen people were in attendance and engaged in a discussion about the assets and challenges for older adults in Hatfield.



**Assets** included the Senior Center and Library. However, participants noted that the library needs to be made more accessible, and others commented that it would be good to have fitness equipment and updated restrooms at the Senior Center. Other assets noted were the flat geography which makes it easier to walk and bike than in more hilly communities. One participant also noted the presence of farms which enable residents to see where their food comes from and offer numerous opportunities for people to buy fresh food directly from the farm where it was grown.

One of the biggest challenges noted by participants in the Lunch, Learn and Listen event was the lack of places to store bikes and the need for rental bikes or tricycles that could be used by older people with balance issues. Participants commented that the geography of the town was an asset to older people as it invited walking and biking. However, others noted the need to slow traffic on Elm, Chestnut, and Prospect Streets. The lack of public transportation was discussed and some thought fixed route loop would be useful, while others suggested more on-demand transportation options and orientation on how to use transportation services and what's available for those who have to give up driving.

Another high-ranking challenge was the lack of rental property. They commented that there are very long waiting lists for affordable housing units, and very little availability of rental properties in general. Participants shared stories about people who had to leave long-term rentals that were being sold and not being able to find another place to rent in the community. Several participants were from the Capawonk Senior Housing development near the town center and noted that the property is in the flood plain, and that it should be moved and expanded to accommodate the needs of more older people who wish to downsize and remain in the community. Suggestions for addressing the housing issue included reducing the 200 foot frontage requirement and allowing infill in the town center. Allowing many types of accessory apartments was also suggested as a way to increase rental opportunities.

One person commented that there is still racist language in some of the property deeds, something that should be investigated and addressed to create a more welcoming community.



HATFIELD 2040

# FARMERS' ROUNDTABLE



A discussion for Hatfield farmers on strategies for building farm resilience and adapting to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.



**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023, 6-8PM**

HATFIELD TOWN HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM 109

ALL HATFIELD FARMERS WELCOME  
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS SERVED



Hosted by: Hatfield Ag Commission, Hatfield 2040  
Comprehensive Plan Committee, Regenerative  
Design Group. Funding provided by the Executive  
Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs through  
the Municipal Vulnerability Program



For more information contact Seva at [seva@rdgland.com](mailto:seva@rdgland.com)

The Hatfield Comprehensive Plan Committee is gathering input directly from Hatfield farmers about how agriculture in town is changing and adapting to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. The last two growing seasons have demonstrated to many the need for improved irrigation, drainage, or both. Temperature swings, new disease pressures, and declining soil fertility are on the minds of many growers throughout the region - as well as opportunities to update infrastructure and try new farm management strategies.

Please join the Hatfield Ag Commission, Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan Committee, and Regenerative Design Group for a candid farmer-to-farmer discussion about the challenges you are facing and changes you are making to adapt.

### **Hatfield 2040 Farmer Roundtable**

**Date: March 2, 6-8 pm**

**Location: Hatfield Town Hall, Conference Room 109**

This event is for commercial Hatfield farms of all sizes, both conventional and organic. Family members and additional farm operators are encouraged to attend. The topics discussed will also inform a follow-up workshop to provide additional learning, recommendations, and resources (technical assistance, grants, etc.) for Hatfield farmers. Funding for this work has been provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs through the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Program.

Food and refreshments will be served. [Please RSVP](#) so we know how many are attending. Notes from the meeting will be shared with all RSVP'd attendees after the event.

Thank you and hope to see you there!



*TOWN OF HATFIELD*  
*MASSACHUSETTS*  
MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
59 Main Street  
Hatfield, MA 01038

*Select Board*

~  
*Diana M. Szynal, Chair*  
*Edmund E. Jaworski*  
*Brian F. Moriarty*

*(413) 247-9200, Ext. 100*  
*(413) 247-5029 FAX*

*Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator*

Hatfield Farmers' Roundtable  
Mar 2, 2023, 6-8PM  
Town Hall Conference Room 109

Agenda/Outline

1. Introductions

John Pease: Welcome, Intro RDG

Seva: Intro MVP Project. Who's in the room?

Jono: General observations, projections, concerns. Updated FEMA Maps (5 mins)

2. Open Discussion/Roundtable

Harrison Bardwell - kickoff

Framing Questions/Prompts:

- What recent weather-related changes/challenges have you observed and/or experienced on your farm?
- What are the major vulnerabilities of your farm operation? What areas of land, important crops, animals, or essential infrastructure area priority to protect? What is most at risk?
- What adaptation strategies or practices have you implemented or plan to implement in the near future?
- What resources, funding, or opportunities would help make it possible for you to develop and/or implement new adaptation strategies or practices on your farm?

3. Next Steps

Handout survey

Fall Workshop - topics? Ideas?

Follow Up - research? who else should be part of this conversation?

Hatfield could protect the rare resource of its high-quality soils, the cultural identity of its residents and local farming economy by helping its farmers transition to climate resilient farming practices. **An MVP action grant could enable the town to set up direct assistance in helping farmers make this transition**, or to create a plan to incentivize climate resilient and carbon farming in other ways. MVP Implementation grants from Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, ranging from \$10,000 - \$2,000,000 are available to municipalities upon completion of the MVP planning process. The Grant RFR is typically released in spring.

# Please Sign In!

Hatfield Farmer Roundtable 3/2/23

	First Name	Last Name	Farm/Organization	Please fill out preferred contact info only:		
				Email	Phone	Mailing Address
1	James	Golonka	Golonka Farm	GolonkaFarm@comcast.net	413 247 3256	
2	Jeff	Zac Duin	Honesty Farm	Lugznas@me.com	413 563 1178	
f2 3	Kathryn + Jon	Chiravalli	Grandview Farm	info@AmhurstLincolnRoadny.com	413 695 9800	
4	Bernie	Smiarowski	Ted Smiarowski Farm	tedfarm@comcast.net	413 567-7688	
5	DAVID	JACKSON	PROSPER MENDON SERVICENET	DFJACKSONSERVICENET.ORG	413-276-6000	
6	Harrison	Bardwell	Bardwell Farm	bardwellfarm@gmail.com	413-588-7341	49 Main St
7	MICHAEL	BARTLETT	LITTLE MORE FARM	BARTLETT34@COMCAST.NET		
8	John	Perse	Ag Comm.	johnperse1954@gmail.com	413-320-2166	
9	Robert	Schrader	Chesnut Mt. Tree Farm	schraders0@gmail.com	413-687-1806	55 Arlington St Northampton
10	Fatzy	Cambasini	PVPC	pvpcfarm@gmail.com	413-887-7837	
11	Alicia	Wondolowski	MA Wondolowski Farm	WondolowskiFarm@gmail.com	413-626-3902	
12	MARK	Wondolowski	?	?	413-336-0801	

	First Name	Last Name	Farm/Organization	Please fill out preferred contact info only:		
				Email	Phone	Mailing Address
13	Matthew	Karas	Hampden-Hampshire Conservation District	Matthewhkcd@gmail.com	360-480-3700	24 Baptist Corner Rd Ashfield
24	Seva					
35	Jono					
4	Marlene					
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						

## **Hatfield Farmer Roundtable - Hatfield Comprehensive Plan**

**March 2, 2023**

Meeting Notes

### **Present:**

Jim Golonka, Golonka Farm  
Jeff Zgrodnik, Honey Pot Farm  
Bernie Smiarowski, Teddy C. Smiarowski Farms  
Dave Jackson, Prospect Meadow Farm  
Harrison Bardwell, Bardwell Farm  
Bob Schrader, Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm  
Mark & Alicia Wendolowski, Wendolowski Farm  
Michael Barlett, Little More Farm  
Jon and Kathryn Chiavaroli, Grand Giver Farm  
Marlene Michonski, Hatfield Town Administrator  
John Pease, Hatfield Agricultural Commission  
Matthew Karas, Hampden Hampshire Conservation District  
Patty Gambarini, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
Seva Water, Regenerative Design Group  
Jono Neiger, Regenerative Design Group

### **Key takeaways:**

- Unpredictable weather is costly, stressful. Farms are adapting out of necessity - cover cropping, shoulder seasons, tillage reduction
- Extensive ditch/drainage system no longer effective due to development and lack of maintenance. Standing water in fields that never used to flood.
- Irrigating now in places that were always wet
- Even subsoiling is not doing it anymore; need to rebuild soil organic matter
- Heat is getting too extreme for labor
- Land access: impossible to farm in Hatfield without family land. Cost prohibitive
- Infrastructure grants are essential now; cannot cover capital costs and stay in business

### **Ideas for follow-up:**

- Grant for fallow fields? Every acre is planted, not an option. Land swapping? Difficult because infrastructure is not level in different fields.
- Hadley maintains ditches; could Hatfield do the same? Town-wide grant to rebuild them?
- Development changes the water table; Building codes or bylaws? Educate residents?
- Explore no-till; some vegetables are too difficult to no-till. Cost-effective? Best practices?
- U of Maine innovation in irrigation?
- Community program in Nantucket that tripled the APR value of a farm to make it worthwhile
- Infrastructure grants are essential now; cannot cover capital costs and stay in business
- Schedule of grants? So info can be prepped ahead of time when busy season hits

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Harrison Bardwell

8 years of farming, I've seen a changes already in weather patterns year to year. 2019 was the last decent year. Long family history of farming. No more normal anymore, we are at nature's mercy. Consistently seeing extremes becoming more apparent. Every year is different. 5 inches of rain in a day and a half. Best soils in the world but our soils can't handle that kind of weather. Being a diversified veggie farmer means planting throughout the season - irrigation becomes essential. Trying to figure out ways to retain moisture. How to better enhance soil quality and be more resilient to extreme weather conditions. Keep top soil in place. Growing in structures, more in high tunnels where we have better ability to control environment. Excessive summer heat and humidity, more insect and disease pressure. I'm seeing new pests that weren't hear 5 years ago. Have to keep changing and adapting. It's going to cost more in the long run. Interested in no-till. Growing more into shoulder seasons, into November and even December. July August is too hot.

Michael Bartlett

Can we get a grant for a fallow year? We've been pounding the ground for so long and taking the nutrients out of the ground. Plums of dirt blowing all over the valley. There should be a cover crop on every field all the time.

John Pease

Seeing water standing in the fields more than ever. Bridge street used to be pasture is now flooding multiple times a year. The ditches have now all filled in that were put there to improve drainage. Houses displace the water too. Pumping out cellars, putting into drainage systems that feed into river. Development on school street was the first big home development that was all once farm fields. Houses filled in ditches causing water problems in the whole area.

Bob Schader

Climate change is the biggest thing I see - looking for thunderstorms in summer not just rain. NRCS funded well to irrigate trees. How do you deal with the heat, the big storms? Christmas Trees and hay. 8-9 year rotation, so we have to look to the longer term to take care of the trees.

Mark Wendolowski

Trying to improve soil structure. Best option is to go to no-till but some vegetables and crops are too difficult to do no-till. We farm a lot of small pieces and pick up all the runoff from streets, houses, straight into the farm field. We used to have better ways of  
If you loose 100 feet of ditches from development you might have 100 acres under water.  
Maybe if the ditches were piped instead of open?

Jon Chiavaroli

Conservation people don't want you to dig the ditches. You're sandwiched between and you can't touch it. Soil conditions vary throughout town, but without the drainage ditches - more like speed bumps now - we can't grow. Everyone is afraid to go near the ditch. Hadley residents complain that the town maintains their ditches and mows them every year. We can't even take care of our ditches.

Mathew Karas

Father was always trying to predict the weather - now the stress of it is so much harder, constantly overwhelming. Best way to deal with this is to share challenges and work together, can't be done alone. Father would never have come to a meeting like this. Father also told me not to be a farmer because it was too hard. If I were farming

Mark Wendolowski

Already off to a bad start with the mild winter, the disease and pest pressure is going to be astronomical

Jono Neiger

Are people likely to reach out and work together? Or silo away on their own farms?

Jeff Zgrodnik

Can take the boy out of the farm but can't take the farm out of the boy!

Michael Bartlett

Farming I lose about 10 an hour, I could be out doing carpentry for 30 an hour. There are days when you wish you only lose a hundred dollars a day.

We do it because we love it but we are not making any money

Chemicals are so expensive, fuel.

Jim Golonka

Use to be able to grow pumpkins without spraying but now you have to. Used to be so many more farmers, people use to go and clean out the ditches. Now with developments you don't own the ditch, people dump their trash. Pumps in the cellar running constantly but the ditch is too filled in. Developments in some places have changed the water table - highway, railroad. Not maintained.

No ability to control what happens to ditches downstream - trees fall, critters.

Easier to put water on than to take water out.

I do a lot of trickle irrigation and could do more. Last year a bit stressful for non-irrigated crops  
U of Maine innovation in irrigation.

Bernie Simarowski

Can we get a list of specific grants that could address challenges we're mentioning here?

Drainage, fallow

Every year we subsoil. Potato seed is so expensive - grow on your lightest soil

9 center pivot, 2 traveling, Solid set in the strawberries



2 years ago was worst year ever on the farm, even with subsoiling. Doesn't perk through if there's not enough organic matter. Can't get a good cover crop at the end of the season, late harvested potatoes.

Dave Jackson

We focus on human resource part - the heat was too extreme. Labor is already hard to come by, going to have to look more and more at where to find labor. You can't sell it if you can't pick it. Can't do it all yourself.

Water table is up, water table is down. Ditch behind the farm is now only 6" deep (Used to be 20 feet)

Could be conflict between farmers and landowners, so whole community conversation about how to unlock that piece.

There are flag wetlands around but the ditches were extensive

Mark Wendolowski

Used to be a hundred miles of ditches

Jim Golonka

Dug by dynamite

Michael Bartlett

I harvested 200 trees that I couldn't sell. No workers at the sawmill. Wouldn't even take the logs for free. Who is going to work in 100 degree weather?

Harrison Bardwell

Can't do fallow because already too hard to grow enough. Not a single acre that's not taken. Every acre is planted. Even if we land swapped you could never touch that amount of rotation. Potatoes compared to every other crop - veggies, tobacco.

No one wants to switch up because too tied down with infrastructure, site specific costs

Meadows can't get a single drop of water to it. Big undertaking for one farm to get water out of the CT river.

Mark Wendolowski

4 acres of peppers in a swamp dried up this year. You would never think to put irrigation on a mud hole. So unpredictable, total gamble.

Harrison Bardwell

We all have small fields, some land we don't own. Can't put a well on someone else's land and hope you'll be growing there more than one year.

Mark Wendolowski

Most veggie land doesn't have access to water.

Harrison Bardwell

NRCS High tunnel program - can grow things earlier, harvesting earlier, grow later or even throughout the winter. Helps with keeping labor, year round revenue.

Growing outside some things I won't even try doing any more. Yes more inputs and energy into it but almost 90% guaranteed to get a good harvest out of it. That said, the humidity can be killer even with good ventilation fans. I wouldn't buy a high tunnel but these programs really help. Took years of research, talking, Umass Ext. to learn how to grow. Vital aspect to diversify farm. Grant covers almost the whole cost (minus labor).

## **IDEAS**

Michael Bartlett

What does a cover crop cost to plant per acre?

Mark Wendoloski

\$50-60, roughly

Harrison Bardwell

Growing brassicas with big root systems, maybe as good as a cover crop too. Have to use the shoulder seasons

Mark Wendolowski

More wind, bigger temperature swings. You can see it when we lose a half inch of soil in a wind storm.

Michael Bartlett

What is the average age? What are we going to do in 10 years? Do you want to be doing this in 10 years? Maybe 55. How many people are farming land from their family? Everybody here. Big barriers to land access.

Mark Wendolowski

If I had to buy land to farm I wouldn't be doing it. Cost prohibitive.

Some land was owned by great grandparents. If you walked into Hatfield and had no ties in town, I don't think you could get a single acre to farm on.

Jeff Zgrodnik

Use to plow 24, 36", now plows are 60-70' wide, everything is getting squared off. Marginal land and edges, wet areas ignored, shrinking the land base

Ditches are way back in the woods, completely overgrown

Bob Schrader

Popularity of Stockbridge school is high but access to land is huge barrier. There are people who want to step up but how to you get access to affordable land. Hatfield has to figure out if they want to keep land in farming.

A lot of support for agro tourism in Hatfield. We sell Xmas trees and hay retail. Our property has a CR. If we want to look at doing a fall festival, hayrides, etc. it would be nice to get town support. Have to look at getting the longest dollar possible out of the resources you have. Does CR allow agrotourism? Sometimes easier to ask forgiveness than permission!

Jeff Zgrodnik

APR is not worth it, doesn't pay enough

Mark Wendolowski

Real estate prices have gone up tremendously. Hard for the program to compete.

They don't want to pay anything for land in a floodplain

Land prices in Nantucket - Community program tripled the APR value to make it worth while.

Worth \$7.5 million

Bob Schrader

Always going to be more value for development than farm, how to get around that?

I could never have bought the land without it having a CR on it. Have to find ways to keep the land in agriculture.

Mark Wendolowski

Neighbor did a bunch of fill and it raised the water table in my field - nothing you can do about it

Jeff Zgrodnik

3 things farmers need: Money, labor and good weather

## **GRANTS**

Bob Schrader

I've had good success with NRCS, whole irrigation system. MDAR to extend power, add solar.

CET with help you fill out applications. Grinspoon Foundation grants \$2500, easy application.

Michael Bartlett

Need farmer health insurance - \$15,000 out of pocket every year

Tyson gets everything

Matthew Karas

Need to apply for funds - if not enough applicants, funding will decrease.

HHCD wants to help you all connect to funding - mainly NRCS but anything you're looking at.

Harrison Bardwell

NRCS pretty much does everything for you, easy to work with. Using the grants to invest in infrastructure is essential. 30-40 years ago they weren't essential but now they are. We need the money to stay in business. Worth the time to dive in.

Mark Wendolowski

Is there a database that has them all?

Harrison Bardwell

Certain windows to fill them out. Always at the wrong time of year. Get all the information ahead of time and have it ready for when the grant becomes available.

Matthew Karas

There is a lot of money out there but there are staffing shortages at NRCS, bottleneck to get responses.

Jeff Zgrodnik

Anything the state has to do with is convoluted and backwards. Why do farm plates renew in Sept? 61A applications? Who comes up with that.

Bob Schrader

Ashley Randel is now Ag Commissioner!

Harrison Bardwell

We're all separate but there are town wide things that could help - drainage system. Can we get a bigger grant to deal with that rather than for one of us?

Mark Wendolowski

Can we get maps from the 1950s to show where the ditches are?

Jeff Zgrodnik

Could be written on the deeds?

Michael Bartlett

Who is not here that should be? Williams, Swaz  
Government agencies

Jeff Zgrodnik

Can we get NRCS or someone here to talk to us?

Michael Bartlett

Presentation on grants?

Patty Gambarini

Regional MVP - food insecurity is a top priority for CT River Valley. Focus on nature based solutions. I work on storm water issue and one thing that is in urban areas is the idea of stormwater systems that are plant and soil based rather than into catch basins into the river. Land protection is another way.

Looking at regulations and controls on development, problems being exacerbated around ditches.

Mark Wendolowski

Problem is not just ditches but changing water table from development

Jeff Zgrodnik

Natural filtration projects

In this state we are so ecofriendly and want to regulate everything. Can we stop using so much salt on the roads? They don't use it in NYC because they learned the hard way.

It goes into the ditches, brooks, rivers. Pine trees are dying, salt isn't good for anything.

Can't use the recycled sand on farm roads anymore either

Patty Gambarini

Westfield is investing in a brine system as alternative to salt

Mark Wendolowski

Some folks are doing no till but can't adapt every crop

Matthew Karas

Ways to do better tillage, wiser tillage, less disturbance, ways to build healthy soil. Hard to scale no till, still experimental, people still trying to figure out how to do it.

We will have no-till mentorships eventually to help people try something new.

Harrison Bardwell

Look into time, fuel and labor savings of no or low till

Matthew Karas

Most sought after is seed drill to drill into cover crops, more so than no-till veggie transplants.

Flail mower, or roller crimper

Jeff Zgrodnik

Have seen the roller crimper used around here, seems workable. Timing is the biggest thing to watch for.

Michael Bartlett

Secretary of CPA Committee

Testing at Day Pond for sediments and water quality? If they find contamination do they have to mitigate?

**Hatfield Farmer Roundtable - Hatfield Comprehensive Plan**  
**March 9, 2024**  
**Workshop Notes**

**Present:**

John Pease, Hatfield Agricultural Commission	Bailey Albert, Farm Service Agency
Betsy Speeter, Hatfield Agricultural Commission	Stephen Taranto, CISA
Jim Golonka, Golonka Farm	Caro Roszell, American Farmland Trust
Bernie Smiarowski, Teddy C. Smiarowski Farms	Lisa McKeag, Umass Extension
Michael Barlett, Little More Farm	Senator Jo Comerford
Luke Longstreeth, Mountainside Maple	Matthew Karas, Hampden Hampshire Conservation District
Ian Modestow, Black Birch Vineyard	Patty Gambarini, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Kelvy Bird, resident	Seva Water, Regenerative Design Group
Max Bartlett, Hatfield Agricultural Commission	Jono Neiger, Regenerative Design Group

**Agenda:**

9:00 Welcome & Introductions, including MVP project overview by Patty Gambarini - PVPC  
9:15 Presentations on Climate Adaptation and Resiliency  
Caro Roszell - AFT, Lincoln Fishman - Momentum Ag, and Jono Neiger - RDG  
10:30 Break  
10:45 Group Activity: Prioritize & Discuss Recommendations  
12:00 Funding Opportunities and Technical Assistance

**Important web page resources for farmers**

Presented by Stephen Taranto from CISA:

<https://www.buylocalfood.org/resources-for-farmers/climate/>  
<https://climatesmart.org/>

**Group Activity:**

- Challenges from previous discussions and recommendations/ideas from the chapter draft were briefly reviewed.
- Farmers were given two stars to distribute between the three charts of recommendations to indicate which recommendations would most benefit their individual farm.
- Everyone was then given two dots (color coded) to distribute between the three charts to indicate which recommendations would most benefit agriculture in Hatfield as a whole.

-Results were then discussed as a group: additional ideas, concerns, missing information, and obvious next steps were touched on for each category of recommendations

### Final Results from Recommendations Charts - GROUP ACTIVITY

#### Farmer Top Priorities:

1. Improve Drainage
2. Improve Soil Health
3. Collaborate on Funding Opportunities

#### Top Priorities for all Hatfield agriculture (using weighted total):

1. Re-activate Agricultural Commission
2. Encourage Public Support and Advocacy
3. Protect Farmland
4. Improve Drainage
5. Collaborate on Funding Opportunities

#### Farmer Recommendations-----

##### Two highest priorities:

- Improve Drainage
- Improve Soil Health

##### Not as highly ranked:

- Diversify and Plant Perennial Crops
- Collaborative Marketing Opportunities

#### Discussion:

- All of these recommendations are important
- If Taylor Swift says we are in the driver's seat, MDAR and NRCS should kick in more.
- The idea of Taylor Swift, like Farm Aid, seems young people could help blow up this whole concept of the importance of farming. Create some big momentum.
- In all my years of farming, I've **never been called about opportunities to improve the soils** on my farm. And this is not a criticism, it's more of an opportunity now.
- Getting grant funding on soil health would be great if the Town is able to help with grants.
- CISA has done a great job at starting to reach out on funding opportunities. They have sent out notices, but I agree that it is still hard to know when and where dollars are available. System is still not there. At the same time, farmers are competing against nonprofits, other farmers, people who really know how to get grants.
- **Who initiates it?** How does it start? If I had done work to improve soil health on my farm 20 years ago, soil health on my farm would be world class. It has essentially been a monoculture in my lifetime and it **seems 50 years too late.**
- USDA office seems filled with people who can help.
- Agency people may not have the personal connections.

- Town does not have capital to help improve practices.
- Average age of Hatfield citizen is 58 years old. How much longer will be able to continue farming?
- A lot of farming in Hatfield – multi generational farms. Now done by a smaller select group of farms. Seems the end of intergenerational farming.
- 40-50 years ago everyone had their 10 acres of land, had some animals, grew food.
- As important as farming is to identity of Hatfield, **so few people farming now.**
- If the Town can get more creative with zoning, allowing for smaller frontages, and allowing for farming in the back acres, would help get more people taking advantage of that.
- A lot of farms are going to change hands. And perhaps suddenly big parcels will get subdivided. Not sure anything Town can do to prevent that.
- So much productive farmland in the flood zone.
- Last year, floods destroyed so much. It was the perfect time to do a cover crop. But didn't happen - **opportunity lost.** Money major obstacle. Already lost a lot so not possible to shell out more. Have some set aside.
- There was a program to pay for cover cropping from NRCS so I invested in cover cropping, but I **have not seen a penny** yet back from NRCS.
- After floods last year, would have been great to have a source locally to get money for seeds to sow cover crops.
- Northwest CT Conservation District has cover crop program.
- Could aggregate grant requests for farms as part of application and then disburse funds with award.
- American Farmland Trust – free grant writing assistance on soil health.
- How can public funds be used to help farmers on private properties? What is available?
- CISA representative noted that the technical assistance program they are now running needs to be reported as taxable by farmers. (One avenue may be to look into other programs that are **set up as a loan, but with forgiveness over time** so not a tax liability for farmers. Examples of home modification loan program and Springfield Rain Garden program run by PVPC.)
- With 2” rainstorm this past week here in March, so much water in the fields.
- With July floods, lost 240 acres of potatoes out of 600. Tile drainage would have helped so much with drainage. NRCS recently approved tile drainage as eligible practice. Not an eligible activity, however, under CISA program.
- A good next step could be **hiring a grant writer.** Are there grants to enable hiring of a grant writer?



## Municipal Recommendations-----

### Two highest priorities:

- Improve drainage systems
- Protect farmland

### Not as highly ranked:

- Develop local mapping resources
- Restore wetlands
- Update zoning bylaws
- Diversity housing
- Provide financial assistance
- Increase land access

### Discussion:

- Can put some of these recommendations together (like mapping and wetland restoration) into improving the drainage system.
- Impact of highway and rail lines on drainage is an important consideration.
- Getting through red tape of DEP on drainage ditches became apparent at a recent workshop in Deerfield. The ditches are a problem for many, not just in Hatfield. There will **need to be some legislation to enable farmers to restore ditches**. Now so much concern about getting caught if need to fix ditches.
- Conservation Commission has recently been exploring the possibility of a **town wide NOI Notice of Intent to do ditch work**.
- A good next step toward implementation of fixing ditches, could include mapping to assess where there are major problems, technical assistance on what fixes ought to be, all of which could help lead to the possibility of Town-wide NOI. If done piece by piece, process seems so long and cumbersome.
- Important to know too what **exemptions** may be due to status as agriculture.
- Where had very little water on my 10.7 acres, it now takes very little storm to flood...so much development since I came to Hatfield.
- There is a large educational gap in understanding by newcomers of drainage implications. Seems important to **increase awareness** of what has been here. What's been going on with land over time so that people know that ditch has important meaning and connection to a longer story on the land.
- Citizens of Town put high priority on farmlands, but do not recognize that ditch is important to keeping farms in production. Seems a **key role in Ag Commission to bridge this gap** in understanding.
- Did not realize how important the Ag Commission role could be, including networking and connections between different farmers. One farmer noted that he is already serving on 3 different town committees so hard to step up to serve on another.
- Depot Road – DPW doing work on either side of the road to clear out ditch, but ditch extends so much more than just on each side of the road.
- Question asked who would be farming once 10 years pass. Only **one hand** raised in the room. Remarked how hard it is to keep going and that even now, need to hold down another job to keep farming.

- Recognizing the **issue of succession**, question asked what is going to happen in town? What does future look like? This warrants a whole additional level of discussion.
- Noted that there are threats like upcoming November election, where outcome could mean that immigrant workers are all sent home. That has huge implications for farming and food.
- UMass extension (Lisa McKead) is in a phase of rebuilding after decades of loss. New soil health specialist, educator on technical, urban ag educators, fruit educators. Historically a lot of 1 on1 about production. Hope we can keep ramping that up. A lot of connections lost, but need to rebuild.
- Recommended that UMass could help with **ensuring that farmers and farm workers have access to MassHealth**. Providing subsidized health care for farmers and farm workers is important.
- HH Conservation District (Matthew Karas) has received a grant to buy equipment for loaning to help build soil health. Applying for additional equipment and looking for input on what equipment would be most useful.
- Great difficulty in that **deadlines for grants typically conflict with farming cycles**. Example given that MA Soils Act funding applications likely due in June.
- Issue of funding even for organizations meant to support farmers. Still waiting to hear from state on grant request submitted in August. Now saying we could hear back next month.
- CISA (Steven Taranto) been working on project in Amherst where it has taken 2 years already to get permission to fix a ditch. Agencies seem to be paying more attention now fortunately. Ditch maintenance on APR land funding is now being offered by MDAR. CISA is happy to help on ditch maintenance issues. Mapping is an important part of the permitting process. And this has all become so much more complicated because these systems were put in place for a hydrological regime that existed some 200 years ago. The **hydrological regime has changed drastically** since then.
- CISA is involved in a big USDA project that extends from South Carolina to Maine. Called Climate Smart Farming and Marketing, the program offers assistance on 28 NRCS practices and covers 100% of costs with no match. The program operates parallel to NRCS so can move without a lot of the typical red tape. Can enroll in this program with one or more practices. Only need to fill out a form that takes about 15 minutes. Form is on the PASA website (Pennsylvania Ag program) and you can select CISA or NOFA-MA as your local provider. This is a 5 year program that currently runs to 2028. Farmers get a \$1k signing bonus and 75% up front based on the average NRCS payment rate (regional average). The reason the word “marketing” is in the name of the program is that we eventually hope to have enough information and data to demonstrate the effectiveness of climate smart farming and farmers can then start selling their products based on the benefit of these practices. When you sign up, you get assigned a Technical Assistance Provider who becomes your caseworker. There is not any heavy associated grant writing, but there is a lot of conversation. If you are already doing certain practices, you can still apply. The amount of funding is based on acreage and the program anticipates about \$20k per farm.
- CISA website has a Resources for Farmers that is a hub for key information, including 6 different areas of resources. Also have YouTube page with playlists on specific farm topics.

- An important next step is to have **more farmer representation on town boards**. Problem is that everyone is older.

**Citizen Recommendations**-----

*– meeting did not get to this category, but some items covered in discussion above.*

Two highest priorities:

- Reactivate agricultural commission
- Encourage public support and advocacy

Not as highly ranked:

- Increase public education

# Why a comprehensive plan?



From cover of 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Brings community together to discuss and define what would like to see for the future.

Benefits of a plan include:

- 1. Ability to make informed decisions**
- 2. Consistency in decision making**
- 3. Achieve predictability**
- 4. Wise use of resources**
- 5. Preserving community character**
- 6. Produce positive economic development**

Important to update regularly to change with the times. Last Comprehensive Plan done in 2002, called [Hatfield's Master Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)

# How we got here today...

2021

2022

**July**

Hatfield developed its Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan. Plan identified a Comprehensive Plan as a priority.

**September**

Hatfield receives MVP Community designation from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, making Town eligible for MVP action grant funds.

**April**

Hatfield applies for MVP Action Grant with PVPC help to cover costs in development of Comprehensive Plan.

**August**

Baker Administration awards Hatfield grant for Climate-Smart Comprehensive Plan.

# HATFIELD 2040



*A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper*

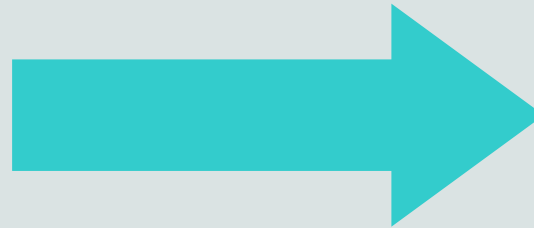
## Through June 2023

### **Community Engagement**

- Monthly meetings of the Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Youth—School Program
- Listening session with Farmers
- Listening session with Seniors
- Community-wide meetings and survey
- Web page

### **Data Collection and GIS Mapping**

- Special focus on climate change risks



## Through June 2024

### **Community Engagement**

- Additional outreach to Farmers
- Community meeting to share plan

### **Plan Development**

- Chapter working groups with Comprehensive Plan Committee (September—November)
- Monthly meetings of the Comprehensive Plan Committee (December – May)
- Drafting chapters, organizing narrative under themes that emerged as meaningful during engagement

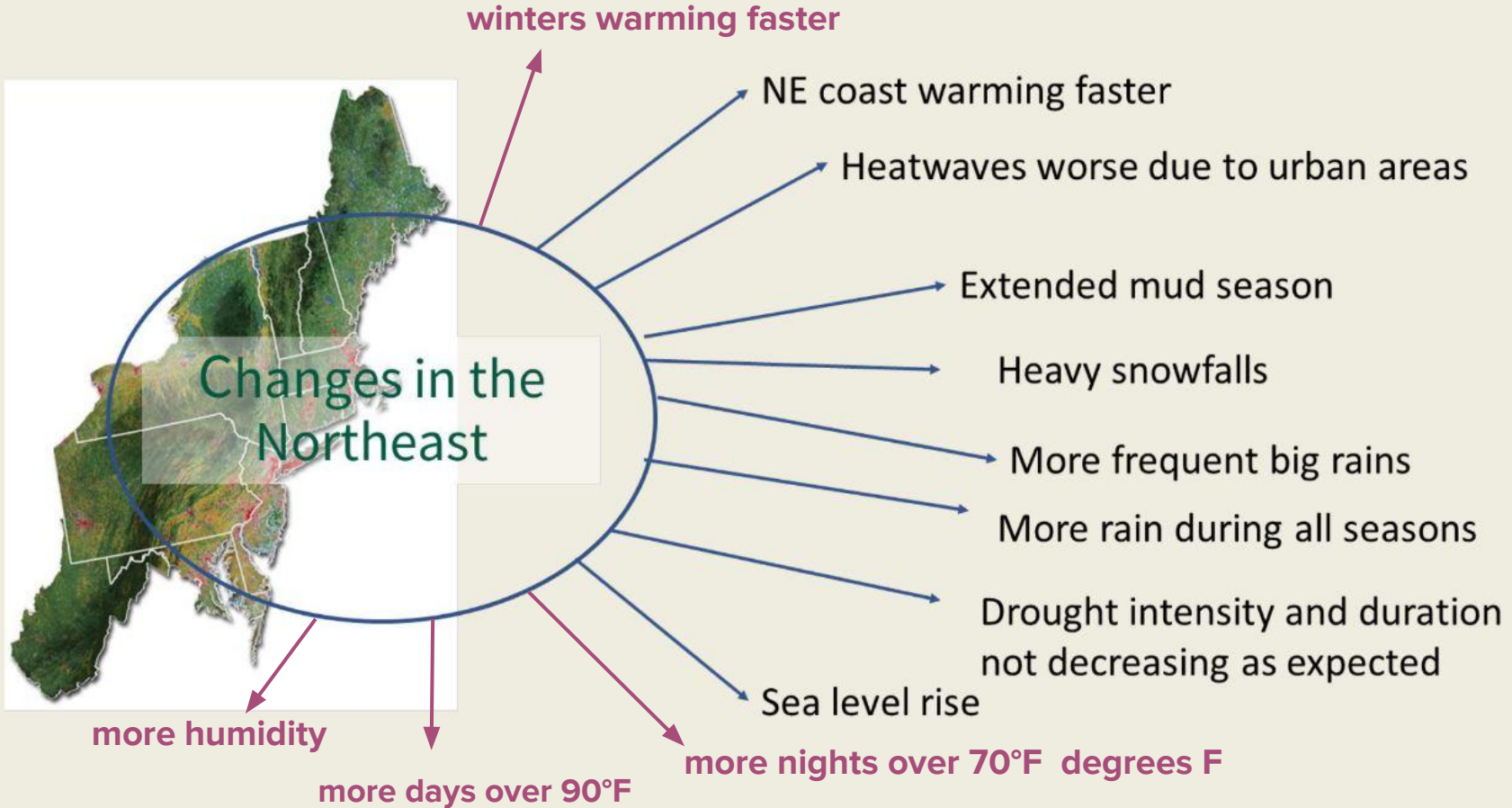
# Soil Health Assessment and Planning Approaches for Climate Adaptation



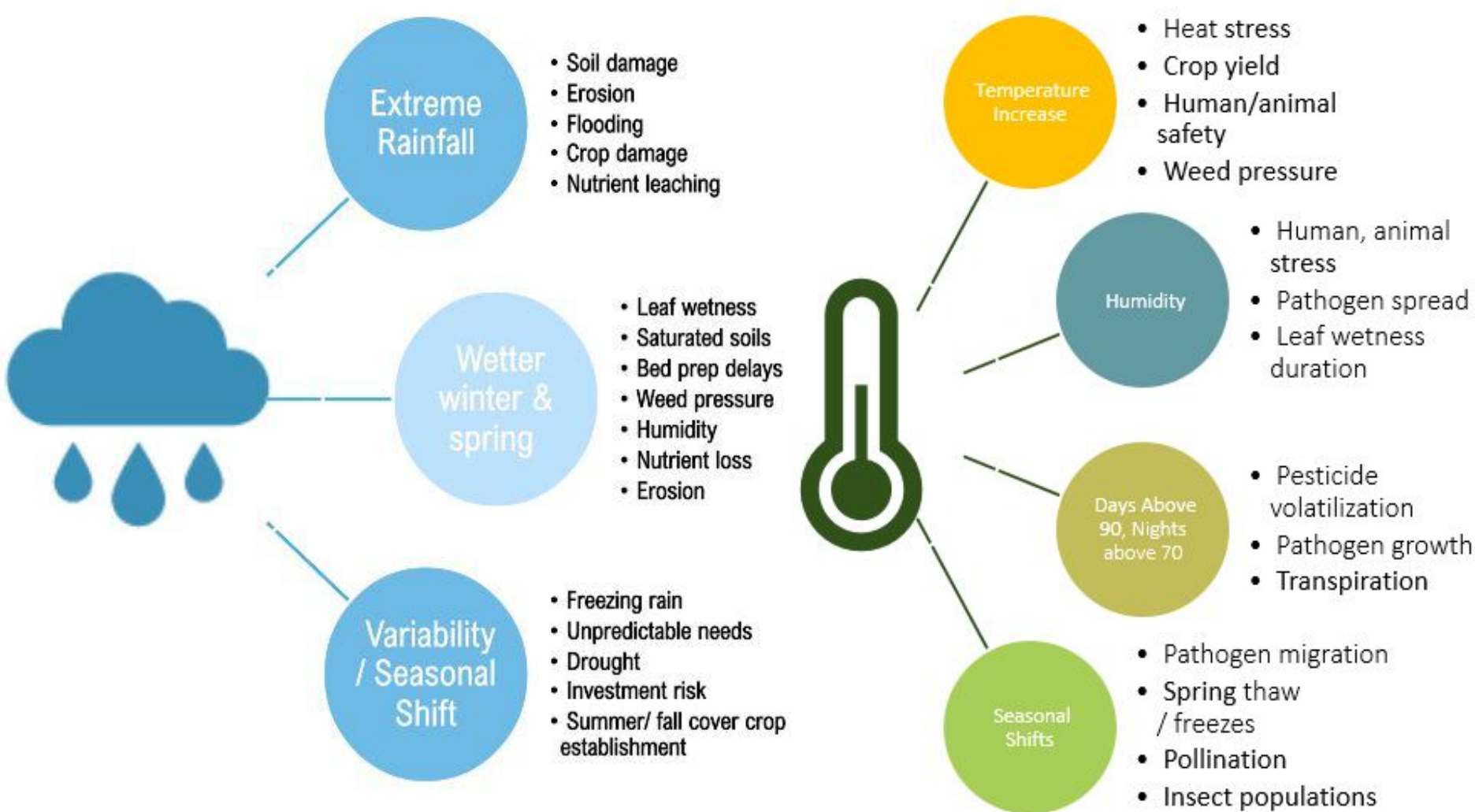
**Caro Roszell, New England Soil Health Program  
Manager, American Farmland Trust**

**Hatfield 2040: The Future of Farming**

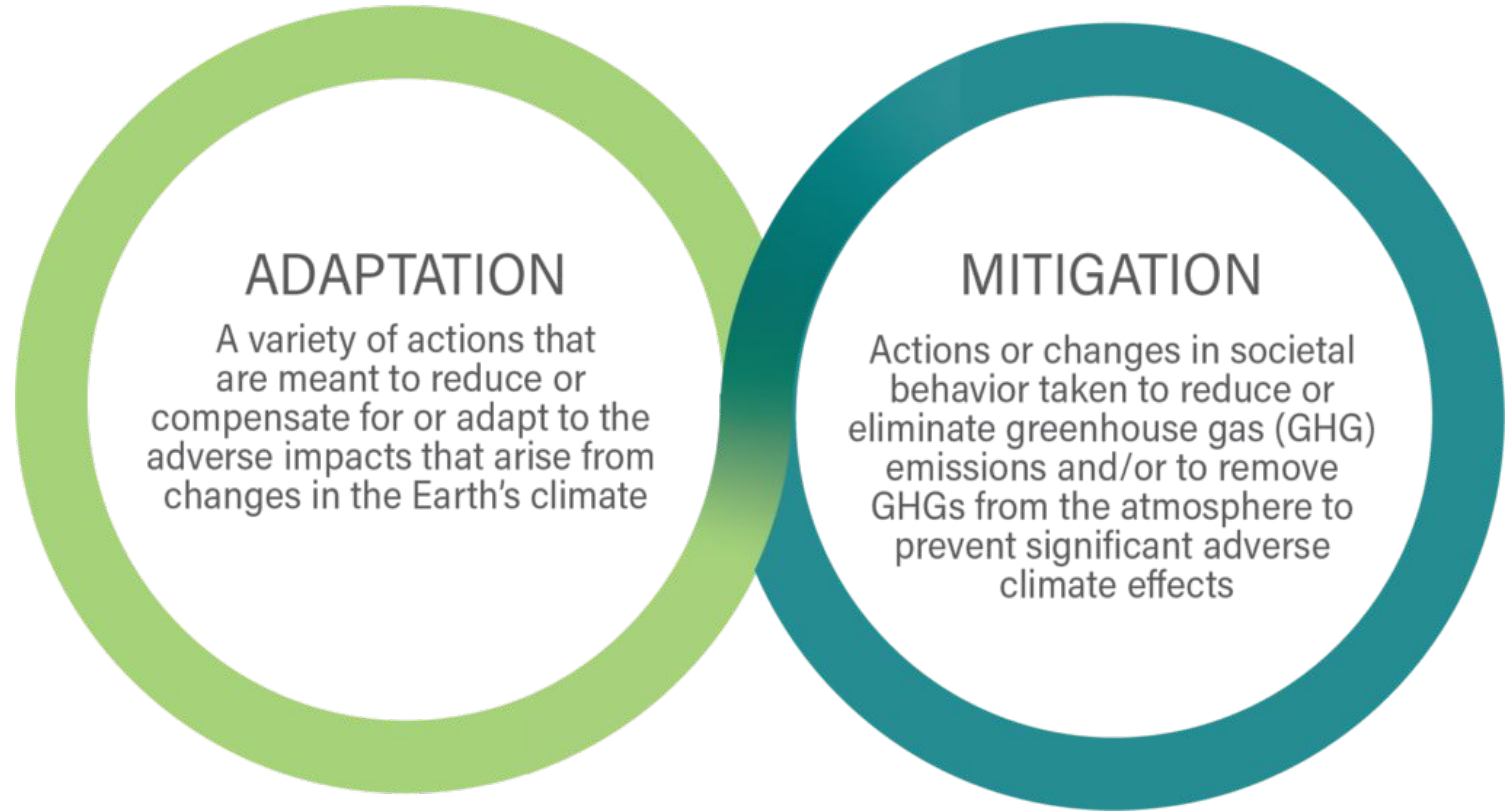
# Climate Impacts, Northeast







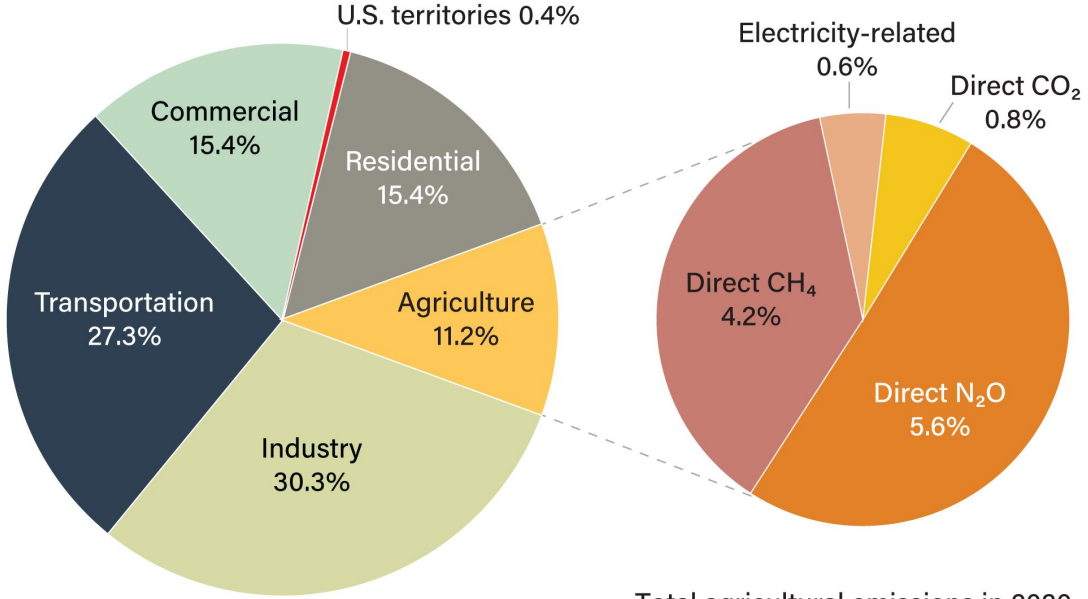
# ADAPTATION VS. MITIGATION



# Mitigation : GHG

“From 2019 to 2020, agricultural greenhouse gas emissions declined from 699 to 670 million metric tons of **carbon dioxide equivalent**... 11.2 percent as a share of the U.S. economy. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated that in 2020 agriculture produced **5.6 percent as nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)**, **4.2 percent as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)**, **0.8 percent as on-farm carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)**, and 0.6 percent emitted indirectly through the electricity that agriculture consumes. Emissions come from cropping activities that emit nitrous oxide, such as fertilizer application and manure storage and management, and enteric fermentation (a normal digestive process in animals), which produces methane.”

## Estimated U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by sector, including electricity use, 2020



Total U.S. emissions in 2020 = 5,981 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

Total agricultural emissions in 2020 = 670 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

Notes: CH<sub>4</sub> = methane. N<sub>2</sub>O = nitrous oxide. CO<sub>2</sub> = carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide emissions associated with electricity consumption are allocated to each end-use sector in the left pie chart.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2020, April 2022.





# ADAPTATION VS. MITIGATION

**Adaptation, mitigation, or both?**

- 1) Unheated hoop houses**
- 2) Putting solar panels on the barn**
- 3) Tillage reduction**
- 4) Cover cropping**
- 5) Converting from annual crops to perennial crops**

# ADAPTATION VS. MITIGATION

## Adaptation, mitigation, or both?

- 1) **Unheated hoop houses**  Adaptation but not mitigation
- 2) **Putting solar panels on the barn**  Mitigation; can be adaptation
- 3) **Tillage reduction**  Adaptation; mitigation is case by case (do N<sub>2</sub>O emissions outweigh CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration benefits?)
- 4) **Cover cropping**
- 5) **Converting from annual crops to perennial crops**  Adaptation AND mitigation

# Assessing Climate Risk

## Factors influencing your specific risks:

- 1) What crops / livestock you raise
- 2) Your microclimate (s)
- 3) Your soil texture
- 4) Slope and topography
- 5) Site & soil hydrology
- 6) Water access
- 7) Infrastructure
- 8) Soil health

Perennial or annual crops and/or livestock?

Are your fields sheltered or exposed? North or south facing? Have you built many greenhouses and tunnels?

Is your soil light and sandy, or heavy with clay?

Is your farm sloped or flat? Is it in a valley or on a hill?

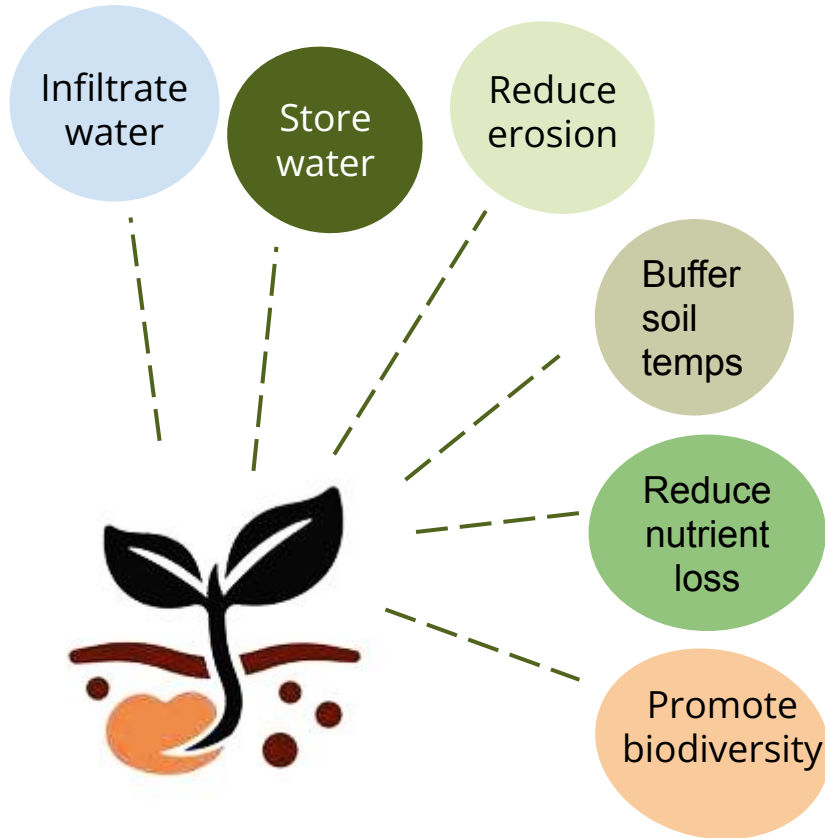
How does water move through your farm and fields?

What is the physical and ecological condition of your soil?

Tunnels, barns, outbuildings, irrigation equipment, water lines

Do you have reliable wells or surface irrigation sources?

# Soil health as climate adaptation

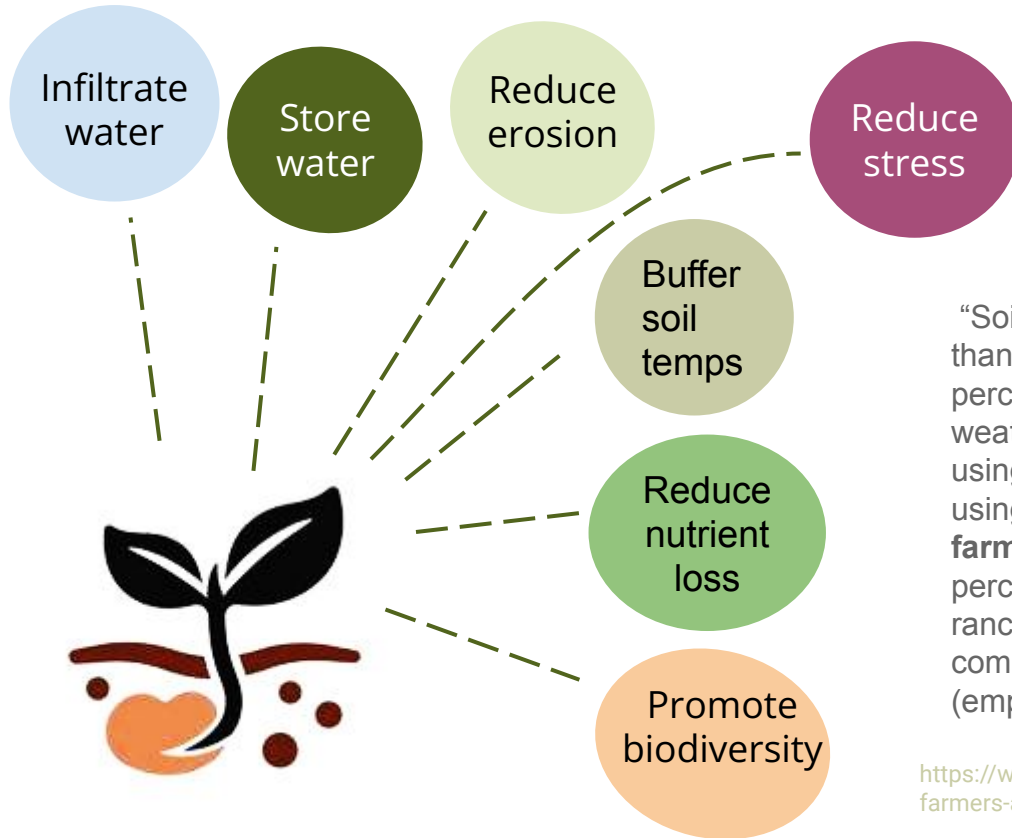


**Soil health does not solve all of the climate impacts to agriculture, but it**

- **Is something you have a relatively high degree of control over compared to other risk factors**
- **Buffers many crop stressors and land related impacts from increased heat, drought, and winter/spring precipitation**

**AND...**

# Soil health as climate adaptation



## Soil health can also help reduce **YOUR** stress

South Dakota State University survey:

“Soil health producers were **significantly more optimistic** than their conventional counterparts (83 percent vs. 60 percent) that their operations would be more resilient to weather extremes...Even among producers who reported using some soil health practices on their operations, the ones using more of those practices reported **less stress, greater farming satisfaction** and greater optimism... more than 30 percent of soil health producers described their farming or ranching experience in 2019 year as “challenging but **fun**” compared to only 12 percent of conventional producers.” (emphasis added)

<https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/2020/03/survey-results-south-dakota-soil-health-farmers-and-ranchers-more-optimistic-less-stressed-than-conventional-farmers/>



# Assessing Climate Risk: Soil Health

Organizations and agencies like NRCS, RDG and AFT can help you assess your soil health, but the best tool is your own observation:

- 1) **Soil organic matter:** lab results OR: color comparison (field edge / in field), presence of visible soil organisms, biopores, surface crusting, soil aggregation, 'greasiness'
- 2) **Erosion:** Rills, gullies, wash outs, sedimentation of ditches and ponds
- 3) **Waterlogging / ponding:** Standing water; minor waterlogging can be assessed by color, height variation in crops and cover crops; algae
- 4) **Soil physical features:** structure/ aggregation (what kind of cheese does it resemble?) do roots tend to grow straight down and appear well-branched, or do they flatten or turn sideways more than they should?



# Visual Assessment of Soil Health: Soil Structure



# Visual Assessment of Soil Health: Surface Crusting



# Visual Assessment of Soil Health: **Biopores**



Image: USDA ARS; Soil biopore estimation: effects of tillage, nitrogen and photographic resolution. *Soil & Tillage Research* 62, 111-116 (2001)

A



B



Image: Wendel, A.S., Bauke, S.L., Amelung, W. et al. Root-rhizosphere-soil interactions in biopores. *Plant Soil* 475, 253-277 (2022).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-022-05406-4>



Images: Caro Roszell

# Planning for Soil Health

## MAXIMIZE CONTINUOUS LIVING ROOTS

- Crop Rotation
- Relay Crops
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Perennial Crops
- Cover Crops

## MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE

- No-till
- Reduced Tillage
- Controlled Traffic
- Avoid Tillage When Wet
- IPM
- Reduced Chemicals
- Reduced Fertilizers

## MAXIMIZE BIODIVERSITY

- Crop Rotation
- Rotational Grazing
- IPM
- Pollinator Plantings
- Organic Fertilizers
- Legumes in Mix
- Agroforestry
- Cover Crops
- Crop/ Livestock Integration

## MAXIMIZE SOIL COVER

- Mulching
- Reduced Tillage
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Residue Retention
- Cover Crops
- Green Manures



# Planning for Soil Health

**Make soil health management part of your crop planning:**

*“What soil health practices can I plan with this crop?”*

Aim to meet all 4 principles of soil health with each crop

Crop	Practice	Principles
FIELD TOMATOES	USE PLASTIC MULCH INSTEAD OF BARE SOIL CULTIVATION	KEEP SOIL COVERED
		MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE
	GROW CRIMSON CLOVER IN THE PATHWAYS	MAXIMIZE LIVING ROOTS
		INCREASE BIODIVERSITY



Frost killed tomatoes with living clover pathways

# Planning for Soil Health

**Make soil health management part of your crop planning:**

*“What soil health practices can I plan with this crop?”*

Aim to meet all 4 principles of soil health with each crop

Crop	Practice	Principles
CORN	NO-TILL PLANT	MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE
	ROLLER CRIMP	KEEP SOIL COVERED
	PLANT GREEN	MAXIMIZE DAYS IN LIVING COVER
	COVER CROP	INCREASE BIODIVERSITY



Bar-Way Farm, South Deerfield MA

# Planning for Soil Health: Advanced

**Align soil health observations with practices to optimize outcomes:**

<b>Field S.H. Observation</b>	<b>Crop</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Principles</b>
Low Organic Matter, Compacted	Field tomatoes	Vertical tillage	Minimize disturbance
		Mulch beds with compost and mulch straw	Soil cover Minimize disturbance
		Grow a cover crop mix with daikon radish in the aisle	Soil cover Maximize living roots
		Interseed overwintering cover crop in to tomato beds in late summer	Minimize disturbance Increase biodiversity



# Planning for Soil Health: Advanced

**Align soil health observations with practices to optimize outcomes:**

<b>Field S.H. Observation</b>	<b>Crop</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Principles</b>
Cold, seasonally waterlogged soils	Field tomatoes	Make raised beds previous summer, plant winter-killed cover crop mix	Minimize disturbance Maximize living roots
		No-till plant tomatoes (1 row) intercropped with rows of lettuces, mustard greens, or scallions	Increase biodiversity Soil cover
		Seed cover crop mix in aisles	Soil cover Increase biodiversity Maximize living roots

# Planning for Soil Health

**Think about your rotation sequences in terms of soil health management practices. How does each practice build on each other?**

## Examples:

- **Residue layer building:** follow mulched crops with drilled cover crops that can be mowed to build up a thicker residue layer
- **No-till stale seedbedding:** intensive rotations with tarping to exhaust surface annual weed seed bank
- **'Saving' tillage for rodent sensitive crops in rotation**
  - **Note:** turning in your surface organic matter every 4-7 years alleviates compaction and may improve carbon sequestration by burying OM; this slows decomposition and can reduce soil surface CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions.



# Planning for Soil Health: Innovations

**SPLIT FARM:** Intensive 'market garden' approach for short-season crops, frees up land for more soil health practices on low-rotation / field crops. Ex. Simple Gifts Farm; rotate 2-3  $\frac{1}{3}$  acre parcels into 'market garden' blocks for 2-3 years. Tighter spacing, heavy compost, 2-3 successions, tarp termination, mixed tractor & hand scale practices. Remainder acres; longer CC rotations, transferred mulch, some regular tillage.



# Planning for Soil Health: Innovations

## Roller crimper, no-till burn down, zone till and conventional till trial on silage corn at Bar Way Farm

- 3 plot comparison. Switched from RC to ZT in 2023. No till and zone till plots cost \$100 less per hour to harvest. ZT plot provides more consistent stand; we expect that compaction will also be a little better in the zone tilled plot (data forthcoming) while retaining some benefits of no-till.
- **Adaptive management; reduced till**



# Planning for Soil Health: Innovations

## Planting into living clover

Lincoln Fishman, Sawyer Farm,  
Worthington MA

- 3y rotation: Y1, clover after spring crops; Y2 crops into clover, Y3 clover plowed before next crop
- Strip tillage with modified planter
- Clover closes back in; some weed pressure in strip
- Which crops work in this system is site-dependant (microclimate and soil type)



# Opportunities

- **NRCS:** IRA funding for climate smart practices. Reach out to your local field office if you are interested in technical support that could lead to financial assistance.
- **Soil Health Testing:** AFT can provide 3 free soil health tests. 15-minute survey required. Email [kantoszewski@farmland.org](mailto:kantoszewski@farmland.org) to participate.
- **Soil Health Management Planning Cohorts:** Livestock producers in the region can participate in a year long program to craft their own soil health management plan with technical and peer support.



# Opportunities

## - MDAR Grants: FSIG and CSAP:

- **Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program (FSIG): Now open.** Includes water management such as wells, ponds, and irrigation, infrastructure, and season extension (hoop houses).
- **Climate Smart Agriculture Program (CSAP):** Water, energy and climate grants– includes no-till equipment, irrigation systems, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and projects that work to increase soil carbon sequestration. “This section also includes projects that help agricultural operations address vulnerabilities to expected impacts from climate change.”

**<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/food-security-infrastructure-grant-program>**

- American Farmland Trust and external partners can assist with grant application for soil health and climate related grants. (Understanding eligibility, how to craft a strong application, how to solicit letters of support, etc). **<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-to-the-climate-smart-agriculture-program>**





**American Farmland Trust**  
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

Caro Roszell  
New England Soil Health  
Program Manager  
[crozell@farmland.org](mailto:crozell@farmland.org)





Save the date!

# Hatfield 2040: The Future of Farming

Saturday, March 9th 8:30am-1:00pm  
Hatfield Legion, 1 Prospect St.

Please join the Hatfield Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Agricultural Commission for a workshop on climate resilience and a roundtable discussion to prioritize recommendations for the Hatfield Comprehensive Plan.

**FREE BREAKFAST PROVIDED**  
**PLEASE RSVP**



[www.hatfield2040.org](http://www.hatfield2040.org)  
or contact Seva 413-824-1840

# HATFIELD 2040



*A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper*



## MVP PROJECT GOALS



1. Understand current challenges facing agriculture in Hatfield today
2. Identify opportunities for the farming sector to mitigate and adapt to climate change
3. Develop key adaptation and resiliency actions and recommendations to enhance agricultural viability in town

## WHAT WE HEARD



### Major Themes & Challenges:

- Flooding
- Drought
- Erosion
- Heavy precipitation
- High winds
- Temperature fluctuation
- Extreme heat
- Shifting seasons
- Warmer winters
- Increased weeds, pests and diseases
- Ditch management
- Limited land access/land affordability
- Increasing capital and infrastructure costs
- Decreased soil fertility
- Limited labor supply
- Farm succession planning
- Limited market access
- Help applying to grant programs
- High local taxes

## WORKSHOP AGENDA



9:00 Welcome & Introductions

9:15 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

10:30 Break

10:45 Discuss and Prioritize Recommendations

12:00 Funding Opportunities and Technical Assistance



## OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Farmers	Municipality	Citizens
<p><b>Address Climate Change Challenges with Strong Collaborations and Partnerships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Soil Health</li> <li>• Diversity and Plant Perennial Crops</li> <li>• Collaborate on Funding Opportunities</li> <li>• Explore Collaborative Marketing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Utilize Town Resources to Support Hatfield Farmers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Mapping Resources</li> <li>• Improve Drainage</li> <li>• Restore Wetlands</li> <li>• Update Zoning Bylaws</li> <li>• Diversify Housing</li> <li>• Provide Financial Assistance</li> <li>• Increase Land Access</li> <li>• Protect Farmland</li> </ul>	<p><b>Celebrate Local Agriculture and Create Cohesion between Farmers and the Community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-activate Agricultural Commission</li> <li>• Increase Public Education</li> <li>• Encourage Public Support and Advocacy</li> </ul>



## FARMER RECOMMENDATIONS

### IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH

- fund a local cover crop incentive program
- participate in paid farmer education and mentor programs to reduce tillage and help develop new cover cropping strategies
- obtain grant funding to help fallow, diversify, intensify



## FARMER RECOMMENDATIONS

### DIVERSIFY AND PLANT PERENNIAL CROPS

- plant tree crops for alley cropping and other agroforestry integrated systems
- develop productive conservation areas and plant riparian buffers





## FARMER RECOMMENDATIONS

### COLLABORATE ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

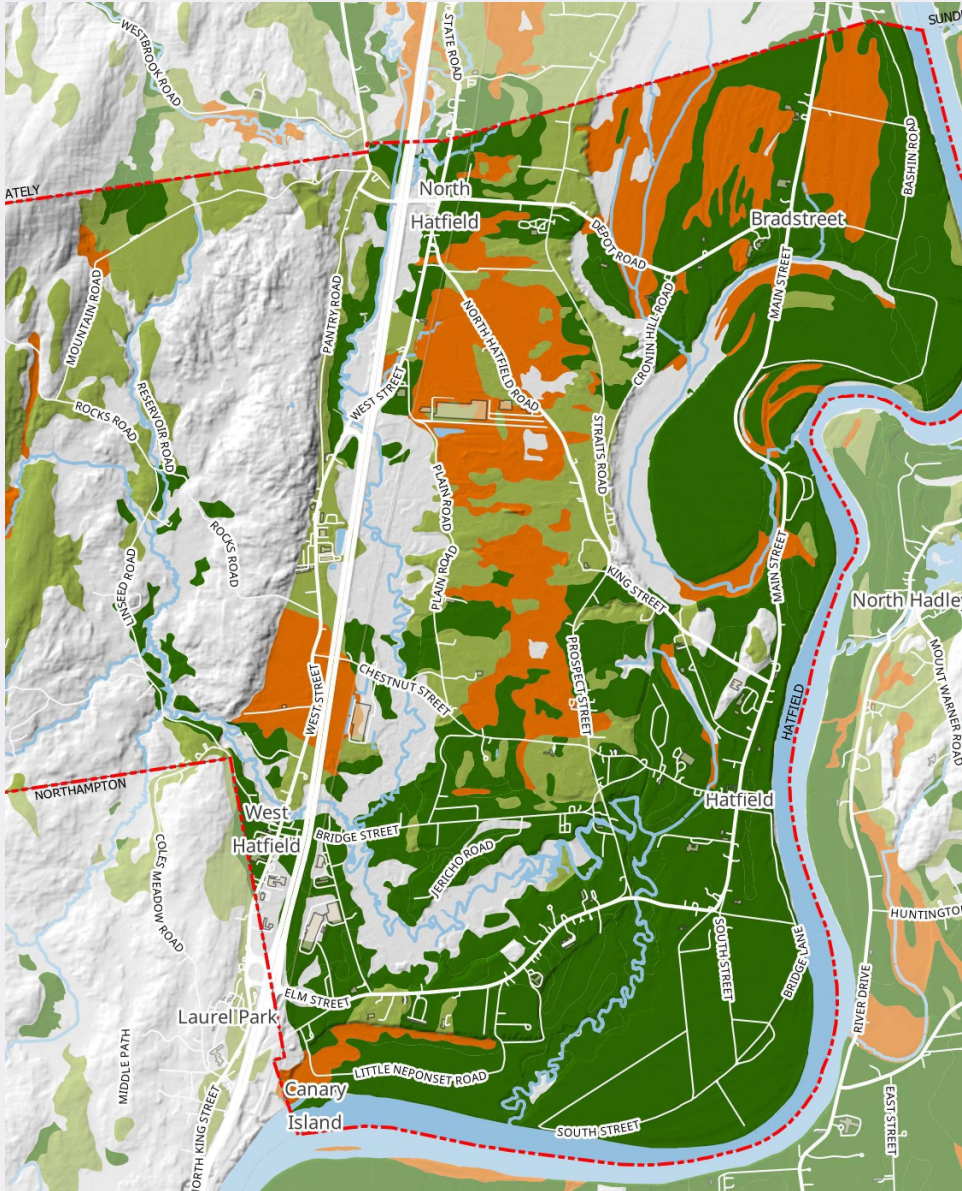
- develop annual roadmap on funding opportunities for the upcoming year
- work with other farms and partners to apply for multi-farm grants through NRCS, Healthy Soils Act Funding, etc.



## FARMER RECOMMENDATIONS

### EXPLORE COLLABORATIVE MARKETING

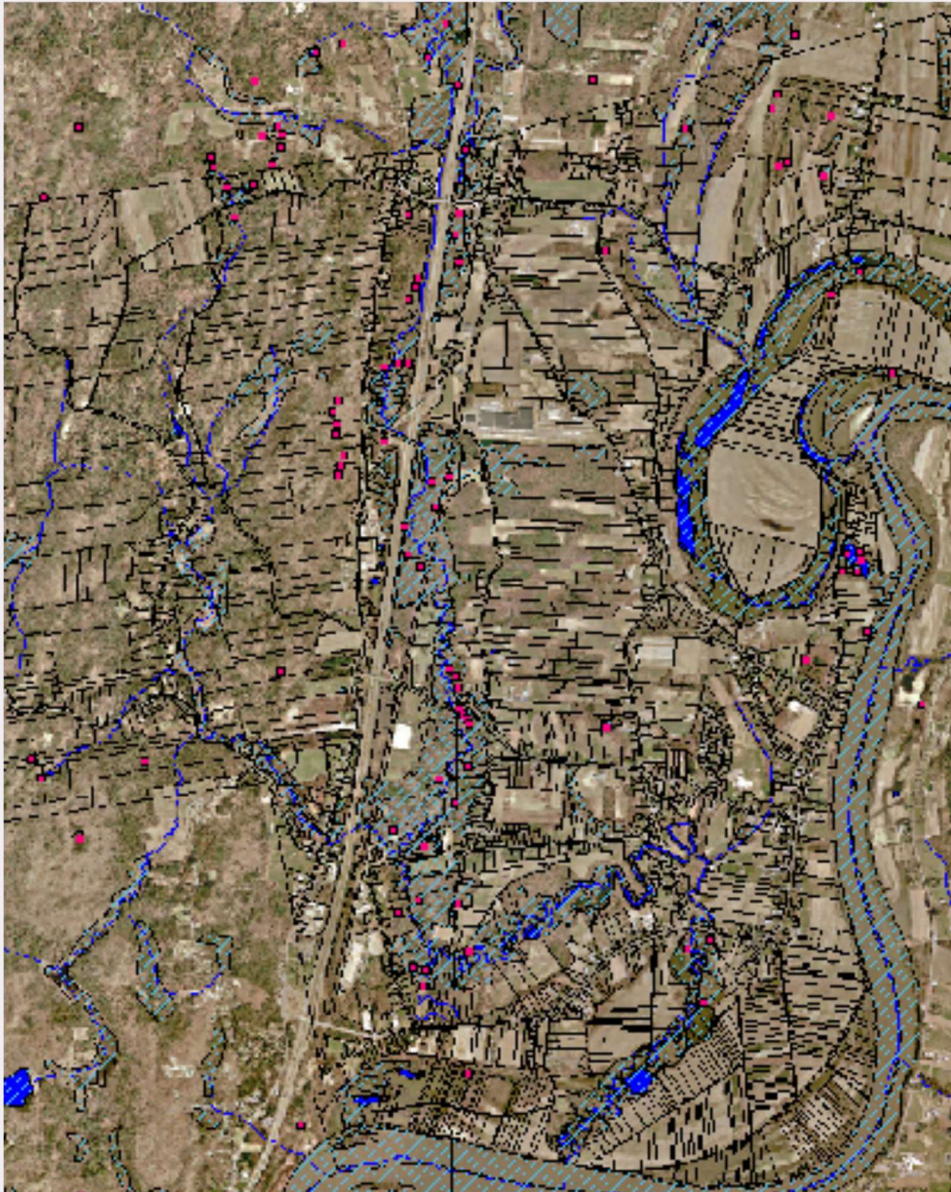
- reinvigorate local school purchase program (with grants)
- pursue other hyper local wholesale opportunities
  - cross-promote Hatfield farm products in existing retail spaces
  - explore online local aggregation market opportunities



## Municipal Recommendations

**DEVELOP LOCAL  
MAPPING RESOURCES**

- more granular detail on inundation and flooding on specific areas and parcels
- create a degraded lands inventory
- map the current ditch and drainage network



## Municipal Recommendations

### IMPROVE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

- utilize innovative ditch management techniques, e.g. vegetated ditches and two stage ditches
- work with adjacent and non-farm land owners to manage ditches via a public education series
- provide funding and/or incentives to private landowners to maintain ditches



## Municipal Recommendations

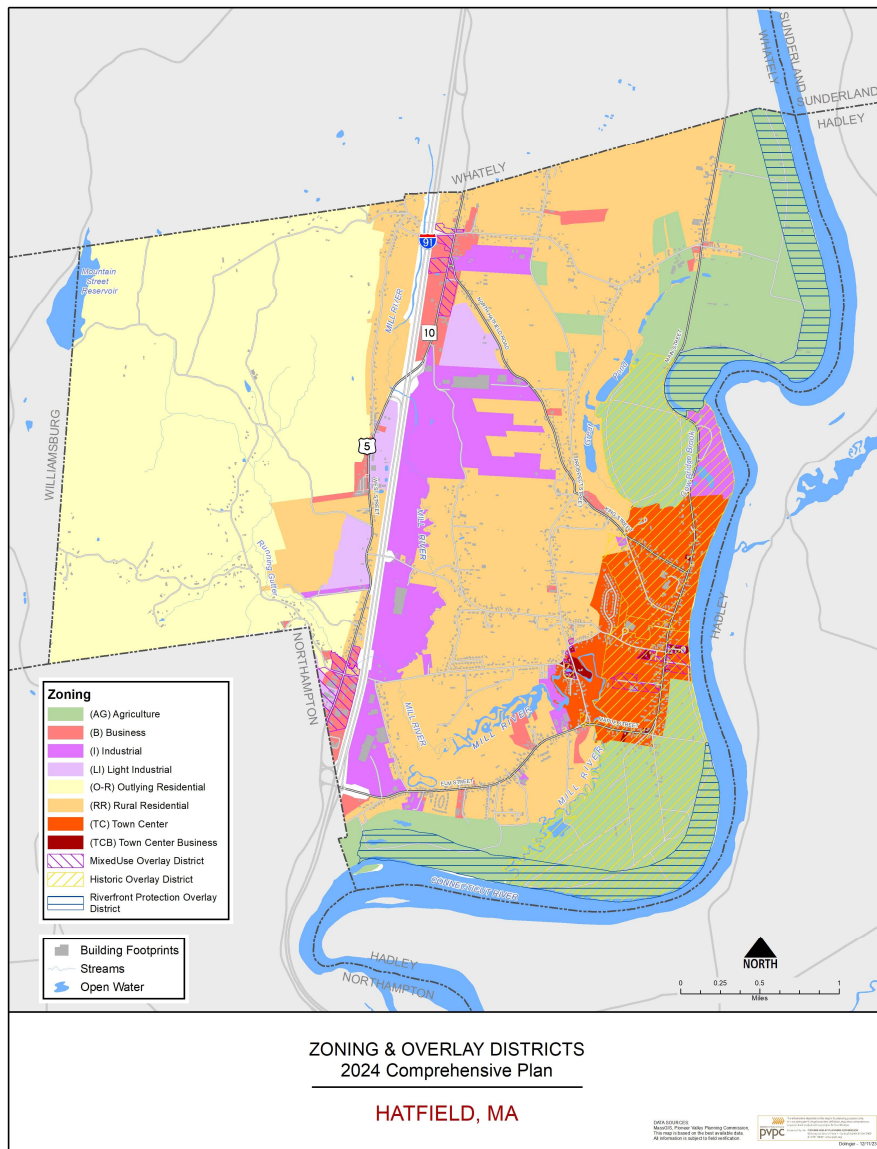
### **RESTORE WETLANDS**

-identify highest risk land and  
provide targeted assistance to  
landowners for wetland restoration

## Municipal Recommendations

# UPDATE ZONING BYLAWS

- use Agricultural Protection Overlay District (APO) to protect prime farmland and regulate development
- create Ag Zone 1 and Ag Zone 2 for different intensities of zoning restrictions
- create a solar overlay district





## Municipal Recommendations

### **DIVERSIFY HOUSING**

- open conversations between farmers and developers to increase affordable housing stock using open space development bylaw
- allow farms to build additional dwellings (ADUs) for family or farm labor



## Municipal Recommendations

### **PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- subsidize agricultural water use during drought years
- lower assessment rate on ag buildings and structures
- implement a tax incentive for conservation farming practices
- build capacity in the town to pursue grant opportunities for farmers





## Municipal Recommendations

### INCREASE LAND ACCESS

- open access to small plots of town owned conserved farmland for beginning farmers

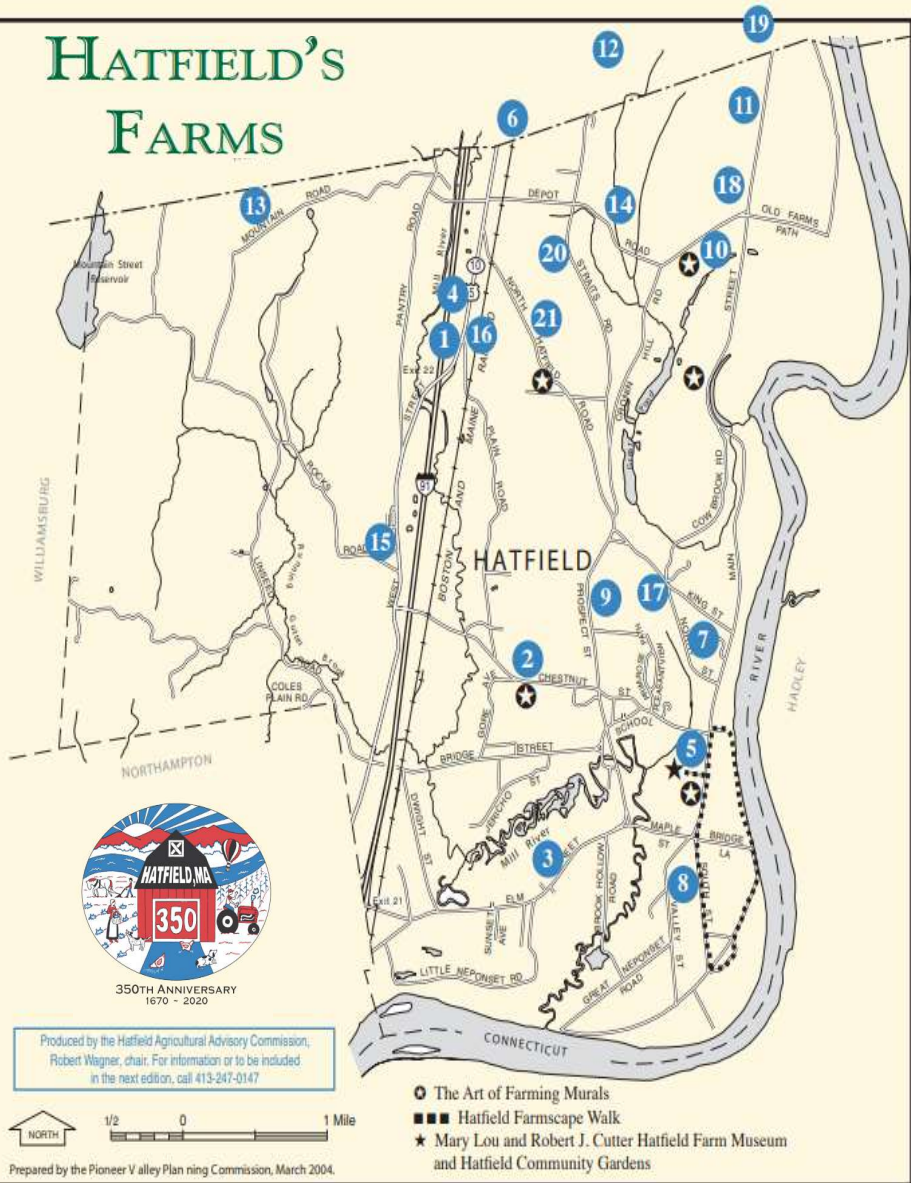


## Municipal Recommendations

### PROTECT FARMLAND

- use more Hatfield CPA funds for farmland protection
- partner with the USDA to provide more opportunities to protect farmland of local importance

# HATFIELD'S FARMS



## Citizen Recommendations

**RE-ACTIVATE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

- improve representation of farmers in town gov't
- launch a conservation farmer of the year award
  - promote year-round agritourism in Hatfield
  - update ag com farm map
- offer residents a regular town ag newsletter to stay informed
- connect farmers to new funding opportunities, send grant deadline reminders, and share resources to help them apply for grants.



## Citizen Recommendations

### INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION

- offer regular public engagement events on farming and gardening
- keep citizens informed about the impact of climate change on local farms and what they can do to help



## Citizen Recommendations

### ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

- educate residents about ways they can advocate for a stronger food system
- connect regularly with local legislators on behalf of farmers
- promote the New England Food Vision (50% by 2060)



## OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Farmers	Municipality	Citizens
<p><b>Address Climate Change Challenges with Strong Collaborations and Partnerships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Soil Health</li> <li>• Diversity and Plant Perennial Crops</li> <li>• Collaborate on Funding Opportunities</li> <li>• Explore Collaborative Marketing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Utilize Town Resources to Support Hatfield Farmers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Mapping Resources</li> <li>• Improve Drainage</li> <li>• Restore Wetlands</li> <li>• Update Zoning Bylaws</li> <li>• Diversify Housing</li> <li>• Provide Financial Assistance</li> <li>• Increase Land Access</li> <li>• Protect Farmland</li> </ul>	<p><b>Celebrate Local Agriculture and Create Cohesion between Farmers and the Community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-activate Agricultural Commission</li> <li>• Increase Public Education</li> <li>• Encourage Public Support and Advocacy</li> </ul>

### GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Farmers: What would make the biggest difference for you/your farm?
2. Everyone: What would make the biggest difference for all Ag in Hatfield?