



NH Association of Conservation Commissions Conf. 11-03-12

Public Input for the **Central New Hampshire Regional Plan:**

A GRANITE STATE FUTURE

Event Summary



CNHRPC attended the **NH Association of Conservation Commissions Conference** in Concord on 11-03-12 as an exhibitor to gather public input on the **Central NH Regional Plan** and inform attendees about the initiative. Within the **CNHRPC** Region, conference attendees from **Bradford, Canterbury, Concord, Pembroke, Pittsfield, and Sutton** visited the **CNHRPC** exhibit and participated in public input activities at this event. Input from participants outside of the Central NH Region also participated, and exceeded the number of this Region's participants. All were invited to complete **Granite State Future Cards (Comment Cards)** and a Visual Preference Survey (**Picture Survey**). A total of **34** people participated, contributing their ideas and preferences for the future of their community and region in which they live.

Granite State Future Cards (Comment Cards)

Participants completed the two-question Cards indicating what they like best about their community and area and what could be improved.

Comment Card responses include:

Total Cards Completed: **34**

What do you like best about your community or the area? (CNHRPC Region responses)

- "Access to government, number and quality of small parks, air quality."
- "Walkable school locations, arts community, open space recreation opportunities."
- "Canterbury: This is much forested land and farmland, wildlife, frontage on Merrimack River, historic places (e.g. Shaker Village)."
- "Rural countryside and forests."

What do you like best about your community or the area? (Other Region representative responses)

- "Lakes and streams, mountain views, low population."
- "Town forest, wetlands, protected lands, biodiversity."
- "Access to both lakes, seacoast, and mountains."
- "Farms and rural character, wildlife, home/farm foods, local foods."



What could make your community or the area even better? (CNHRPC Region responses)

- "Connect open spaces across town boundaries."
- "More conserved land, town-owned, easements, SPNHF, etc."
- "More opportunities for small business, more housing choices/different price points."
- "Anti-sprawl policies, bike friendly policies, smart traffic lights/night light reduction."

What could make your community or the area even better? (Other Region representative responses)

- "Commuting lanes for bicycles on roads."
- "Make more conservation areas, limit development."
- "Better clustered, energy efficient housing."
- "More density in already developed area."

**A Granite State Future
Is Your Future.**

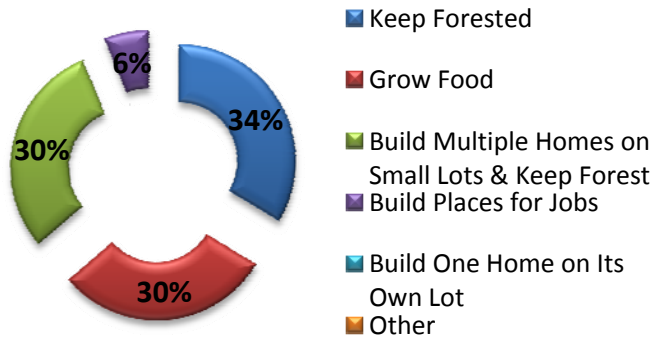
Visual Preference Survey (**Picture Survey**)

Average Dots Per Category: **108**

The Picture Survey was a poster with five pictures in each of five categories relating to community planning issues: **Use of Land, Recreation, Housing, Getting Around, and Businesses**. Participants were given three colored dots (“votes”) per category to choose which community characteristics they preferred. An *Other* choice was provided so participants could write in additional preferences. Charts indicating the percentage of responses within each category are shown:

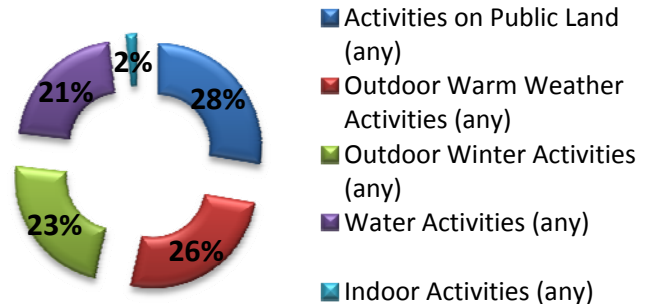
Use of Land

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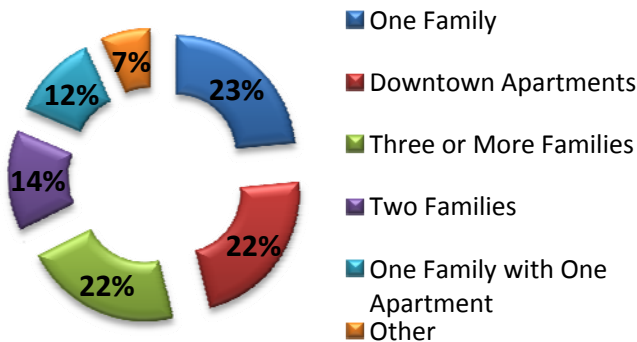
Recreation

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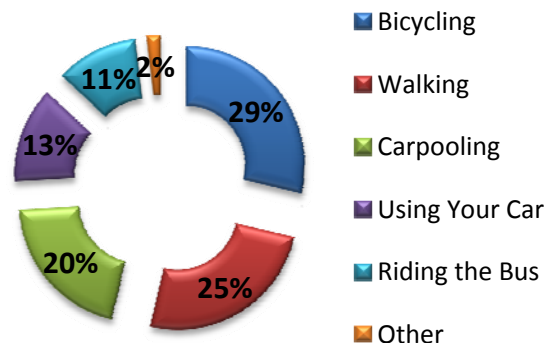
Housing

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Getting Around

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Visitors who did not complete their *Granite State Future* Cards at the event could visit www.granitestatefuture.org and click on **Share Your Idea** to submit online, or could return completed **Comment Cards** to a Listening Box in their community. With the insight into what people feel is important to their community, the **Central New Hampshire Regional Plan** will be designed as a living document reflecting local values and priorities. Communities could then incorporate some of the practical recommendations suggested from this public input process into their own local Master Plans.

Business

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