

2011 Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey Results

The Open Space and Recreation Survey results are from the tabulation of 152 surveys returned to the Open Space Acquisition Commission in the Spring of 2012. The results will be used by the Open Space Acquisition Commission to guide land purchases and to direct the focus of the new Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Surveys with similar questions were done in 1994 and 2004. To add context to the 2011 results, we have added information regarding the 1994 and 2004 survey results where appropriate.

Methodology: The Open Space Acquisition Commission started with a list of 3627 voters supplied by the Town Clerk's office, which was modified twice, based on past survey return rates. The first modification was to remove residents with an address of 15 Mill Street (Sippican Longterm Healthcare Center), as past Open Space Surveys sent to 15 Mill Street have caused difficulties for the staff. The second modification was to remove residents with an out of town address, other than a Post Office box in Rochester, Mattapoissett, or Wareham.

Starting with the first person on the list, and then every tenth resident, the random sample group of 345 residents was created. Of the 345 surveys sent out, 15 were returned for various reasons as undeliverable, leaving a final sample size of 330. 152 surveys were returned, giving a 46% return rate.

Summary of Results

Marion residents walk - a lot. Of the 152 surveys returned, 128 said they walked. They want more places to walk - bike paths, sidewalks, and nature trails.

Marion residents want more permanently protected open space and they are willing to pay for it. Those wanting more open space outnumber those who don't by a margin of 6 to 1. Those willing to pay for more open space outnumber those who aren't by a margin of 4 to 1.

Residents believe pollution from runoff is the biggest problem facing Marion's marine resources.

They believe that the rate of growth is "about right."

By a wide margin, residents think open space should be required in all subdivisions, and that at least 25% of Community Preservation funds should be spent on open space.

Recreation

Question 1. Which activities do you and your family members enjoy? Check as many as are appropriate.

[Tabulation Notes: Respondents were asked to indicate if they participated in the activities below in Marion and/or other towns. The total number of responses is provided for each activity in Marion and activities that take place in other towns. Activities were listed below by their respective rank of total users.]

	In Marion	In other towns
Walking (Ranked #1)	_128__	_39__
Swimming (Ranked #2)	_116__	_43__
Enjoying the view (Ranked #3)	_110__	_43__
Biking (Ranked #4)	_95__	_37__
Sunbathing (Ranked #5)	_86__	_30__
Walking in woods	_80__	_37__
Recreational sailing	_60__	_13__
Boating from mooring	_54__	_7__
Fishing	_52__	_21__
Canoeing/kayaking	_48__	_24__
Jogging	_48__	_19__
Tennis	_43__	_18__
Quahogging	_43__	_7__
Playing at schoolyard	_42__	_11__
Skating on ice rink	_41__	_15__
Golfing	_40__	_46__
Birding	_38__	_4__
Clamming	_38__	_4__
Sailboat racing	_36__	_7__
Picnicking	_35__	_14__
Boating from dock	_34__	_8__
Sailing instruction	_30__	_5__
X-country skiing	_29__	_15__
Skating on bogs	_29__	_10__
Basketball	_27__	_10__
Oystering	_24__	_2__
Boating from trailer	_22__	_4__
Baseball	_18__	_16__
Roller blading	_18__	_10__
Swimming instruction	_18__	_8__
Scalloping	_17__	_1__
Trail biking	_15__	_13__
Soccer	_9__	_11__
Sail boarding	_7__	_2__
Hunting	_6__	_5__

Response Notes: Question 1 has the same top five ranked activities as the 2004 and 1994 survey results.

Question 2. Of the activities listed above, which ones do your family do the most? You can list up to five, using the letters used in Question 1. Please list in order of use.

[Tabulation Notes: 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 4 points for #2 choice, 3 points for #3 choice, 2 points for #4 choice, and 1 point for #5 choice. The points were then added together to produce a relative score for each activity. The activities are listed by rank.]

Walking (Ranked #1)	335
Swimming (Ranked #2)	233
Biking (Ranked #3)	164
Enjoying the view (Ranked # 4)	128
Recreational sailing (Ranked #5)	112
Sunbathing	95
Walking in woods	92
Golfing	88
Jogging	79
Tennis	75
Boating from mooring	74
Fishing	48
Sailboat racing	48
Birding	42
Canoeing/kayaking	38
Playing at schoolyard	33
Quahogging	32
Boating from dock	32
Basketball	31
Boating from trailer	21
Skating on ice rink	19
Soccer	17
Baseball	15
Sailing instruction	14
Hunting	13
Clamming	13
Picnicking	11
X-country skiing	9
Oystering	8
Skating on bogs	8
Scalloping	6
Roller blading	5
Trail biking	5
Sail boarding	4
Swimming instruction	3

Response Notes: Question 2 had four of the same top five ranked activities as the 2004 and 1994 survey results. (Walking, Swimming, Biking, and Enjoying the View.)

Question 3. Which of the following recreational facilities do we need more of? Which less? Check M for more, L for less, or S for satisfactory.

[Tabulation Notes: The facilities are listed by rank.]

Bike paths (Ranked #1)	103 M	3 L	22 S
Sidewalks (Ranked #2)	89 M	2 L	31 S
Permanently protected open space with public access (Ranked #3)	80 M	4 L	38 S
Wildlife habitat (Ranked #4)	67 M	2 L	46 S
Quiet seashore (Ranked #5)	58 M	2 L	57 S
Picnicking areas	42 M	2 L	64 S
Endangered species habitat	40 M	6 L	55 S
Viewing areas	39 M	2 L	64 S
Bird habitat	37 M	3 L	59 S
Shellfishing area access	37 M	4 L	64 S
Swimming beaches	37 M	2 L	82 S
Tennis courts	32 M	6 L	34 S
Shellfishing areas	31 M	4 L	64 S
Boat moorings	29 M	10 L	64 S
Canoe access	25 M	3 L	71 S
Playgrounds	20 M	3 L	79 S
Soccer fields	19 M	6 L	72 S
Ice rink	17 M	2 L	72 S
Swimming instruction	16 M	2 L	74 S
Boat ramps	15 M	3 L	80 S
Baseball fields	15 M	4 L	80 S
Basketball courts	14 M	7 L	73 S
Playgrounds at schoolyard	13 M	2 L	85 S
Sail board launching areas	6 M	4 L	79 S
Golf courses	3 M	8 L	94 S

Response Notes: Question 3 has the same top five ranked recreational activities as the 2004 and 1994 survey results.

Question 4. Of the facilities listed above in Question 3, which five are in greatest need of improvement or expansion? Please list highest need first.

Question 5. Of the facilities listed above in Question 3, which five least need improvement? Please list the lowest need first.

[Tabulation Notes for Questions 4 & 5. Answers for Question 4 and Question 5 were added together to produce a score that would indicate perceived need. Answers for Question #4 were awarded 5 points for #1 choice, 4 points for #2 choice, 3 points for #3 choice, etc. Answers to Question #5 were awarded -5 points for #1 choice, -4 points for #2 choice, -3 points for #3 choice, etc. The facilities were then arranged by their rank.]

Bike paths (Ranked #1)	309
Sidewalks (Ranked #2)	256
Permanently protected open space with public access (Ranked #3)	126
Wildlife habitat (Ranked #4)	100
Shellfishing area access (Ranked #5)	45
Quiet seashore	40
Shellfishing areas	22
Swimming beaches	21
Viewing areas	18
Picnicking areas	-2
Bird habitat	-4
Boat moorings	-4
Basketball courts	-5
Swimming instruction	-6
Canoe access	-7
Endangered species habitat	-11
Boat ramps	-13
Soccer fields	-18
Ice rink	-29
Tennis courts	-35
Baseball fields	-39
Playgrounds	-56
Sail board launching areas	-70
Playgrounds at schoolyard	-82
Golf courses	-265

Response Notes: Questions 4 & 5 had four of the same top five facilities as the 2004 and 1994 survey results. (Bike paths, Sidewalks, Permanently Protected Open Space, & Wildlife Habitat.) The fifth ranked item, Shellfishing Area Access, ranked #8 in 2004 and only #16 in 1994.

Question 6. Of the existing recreational programs and facilities in Marion, which of the following need upgrading?

[Tabulation Notes: Answers were awarded +1 for Yes, -1 for a No, then added together. The facilities and programs were listed by their respective rank.]

Washburn Park Athletic Fields (Ranked #1)	+27
Point Road Playground (Ranked #2)	+26
Tennis Courts behind Town Hall (Ranked #3)	+25
Point Road Basketball Courts (Ranked #4)	+23
Beach at River Road (Ranked #5)	+13
Tennis Courts at Point Road Playground	+10
Washburn Park Skating Pond	+8
Tennis Courts behind Sippican School	+7
Baseball Field behind Sippican School	+3
Beach at Oakdale Avenue	0
Planting Island Causeway Beach	0
Sippican School Basketball Courts	-9
Sippican School Athletic Fields	-13
Wings Cove Boat Ramp	-14
Sailing Instruction	-14
Swimming Instruction	-15
Beach at Island Wharf	-16
Holmes Woods	-17
Sail Board Launch Area on Planting Island Causeway	-19
Baseball Field behind Town Hall	-21
Sail Board Launch Area at Silvershell Beach	-25
Basketball Court at Silvershell	-40
Band Shell	-43
Sippican School Playground	-63

Response Notes: Question 6 had three of the same top five facilities as the 2004 and 1994 survey results. (Washburn Park Athletic Fields, Point Road Playground, & Tennis Courts behind Town Hall in 2004, and Washburn Park Athletic Fields, Point Road Playground and Point Road Basketball Courts in 1994.)

Question 7. Please indicate, using the letters above, which of the above facilities are in greatest need of expansion or repair. Please list in order of importance.

[Tabulation Notes: 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice, then added together. The facilities were listed by their respective rank.]

Washburn Park Athletic Fields (Ranked #1)	99
Planting Island Causeway Beach (Ranked #2)	82
Tennis Courts behind Town Hall (Ranked #3)	77
Point Road Basketball Courts (Ranked #4)	67
Point Road Playground (Ranked #5)	63
Washburn Park Skating Pond	60
Wings Cove Boat Ramp	34
Beach at River Road	31
Swimming Instruction	30
Sippican School Athletic Fields	29
Beach at Island Wharf	29
Sailing Instruction	27
Band Shell	24
Tennis Courts behind Sippican School	24
Holmes Woods	17
Sail Board Launch Area on Planting Island Causeway	16
Sail Board Launch Area at Silvershell Beach	16
Tennis Courts at Point Road Playground	16
Beach at Oakdale Avenue	11
Basketball Court at Silvershell	11
Baseball Field behind Sippican School	10
Baseball Field behind Town Hall	8
Sippican School Basketball Courts	5
Sippican School Playground	3

Response Notes: Question 7 had three of the same top five facilities as the 2004 and 1994 survey results (Planting Island Causeway Beach, Tennis Courts behind Town Hall, and Point Road Playground). The Washburn Park Athletic Fields ranked #12 and #19 (tie) in 2004 and 1994 respectively, and the Point Road Basketball Courts ranked #19 in the 1994 survey.

Question 8. The following services and facilities should be located in Marion:

[Tabulation Notes: Residents were asked to rate their agreement with the need for the following statements on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating “Strongly Agree”, and 1 indicating “Strongly Disagree.” The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. Where there was no corresponding question in 1994, not applicable (n/a) is inserted.]

	Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011			2004			1994
Town to Town Bicycle Paths	4.3			3.8			4.3
Nature & Hiking Trails	4.1			4.0			4.1
Sidewalk system in Town	4.0			3.7			n/a
Teenage Center	3.2			3.4			3.5
Horse-riding Trails	2.7			2.7			2.9
Year-round Swimming Pool	2.7			3.1			3.3
Roller Skating Rink	2.1			2.4			2.3

Response Notes: The Bicycle Path response has generated the strongest support of any facility since the first survey on the issue, the 1974 Master Plan Survey. Support was reaffirmed by the the League of Women Voters 1986 Marion Survey, the 1989 Open Space Survey, and all subsequent surveys.

Question 9. Which of the facilities listed in Question 8 should be given the highest priority? Please list in order of importance.

[Tabulation Notes: 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice, then added together. The activities are listed by rank.]

Town to Town Bicycle Paths (Ranked #1)	417
Sidewalk system in Town (Ranked #2)	291
Nature & Hiking Trails (Ranked #3)	202
Teenage Center	82
Year-round Swimming Pool	67
Horse-riding Trails	9
Roller Skating Rink	1

Response Notes: These results repeat the 2004 survey results.

Question 10. For which of the facilities listed in Question 8 would you pay a user fee?

[Tabulation Notes: 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice, then added together. The activities are listed by rank.]

Year-round Swimming Pool (Ranked #1)	238
Teenage Center (Ranked #2)	109
Roller Skating Rink (Ranked #3)	107
Town to Town Bicycle Paths	47
Nature & Hiking Trails	30
Horse-riding Trails	14
Sidewalk system in Town	3

Response Notes: The top three choices for user fees, Year-round Swimming Pool, Teen Center, and Roller Skating Rink, have not changed since the random surveys were first started in 1994.

Question 11. Which of the facilities in Question 8 would you be most willing to support through your local taxes?

[Tabulation Notes: Notes: 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice, then added together. The activities are listed by rank.]

Town to Town Bicycle Paths (Ranked #1)	330
Sidewalk system in Town (Ranked #2)	237
Nature & Hiking Trails (Ranked #3)	116
Teenage Center	83
Year-round Swimming Pool	71
Roller Skating Rink	11
Horse-riding Trails	2

Response Notes: Bike paths and sidewalks have had the most consistent support in the past three surveys.

Environmental Issues

Question 12. A big problem facing the future of Marion's marine resources and harbor management is:

[Tabulation Notes: Residents were asked to rate their agreement with the following statements, starting with the statement above, on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating “Strongly Agree” and 1 indicating “Strongly Disagree.” The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.]

	Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011			2004			1994
Pollution from runoff	4.2			3.8			3.9
Pollution from septic	4.0			3.9			3.8
Pollution from lawn care products	3.9			3.6			3.3
Pollution from boats	3.8			3.8			4.0
Pollution from the town sewage plant	3.4			3.4			3.5
Pollution from geese	3.4			3.4			3.3
Lack of access	3.1			3.2			3.0
Overfishing of shellfish beds	3.0			3.1			3.4
Too many moorings	3.1			3.3			3.6
Too many moorings	3.1			3.3			3.6
Too many mooring areas	3.0			2.9			3.1
Too many docks	2.6			2.7			2.6

Response Notes: The biggest difference from past surveys on this question is an increased concern regarding pollution from storm water runoff.

Question 13. Of the possible problems facing the future of Marion's marine resources and harbor management, from the list above, please list the letters of what you believe to be the three biggest problems in order of importance, with #1 being the most important.

[Tabulation Notes: 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice, then added together. The issues were listed by rank.]

Pollution from runoff (Ranked #1)	256
Pollution from boats (Ranked #2)	187
Pollution from septic (Ranked #3)	161
Pollution from lawn care products (Ranked #4)	141
Pollution from the town sewage plant (Ranked #5)	89
Pollution from geese	87
Overfishing of shellfish beds	33
Too many moorings	28
Lack of access	20
Too many mooring areas	17
Too many docks	5

Response Notes: The results demonstrate a growing awareness of the pollution that can be caused by storm water runoff. Pollution from runoff, now ranked #1, was ranked #3 in both the 2004 and 1994 surveys. Pollution from lawn care products, now ranked #4, was ranked #7 in 1994.

Question 14. How would you improve any of the above?

[Tabulation Notes: The essay question responses have not yet been tabulated.]

Question 15. Marion should set aside funds to identify and preserve environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, woodlands, marine habitats and natural open spaces)

[Tabulation Notes: Residents were asked to rate their agreement with Question 15 on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating “Strongly Agree” and 1 indicating “Strongly Disagree.” The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.]

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	3.8		4.1		4.1	

Response Notes: 63 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 14% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Questions 16-19 *Note: The statements in Questions 16-19 were preceded by the following statement: “Conservation Commission regulations should be strengthened to include the following:”

[Tabulation Notes: Residents were asked to rate their agreement the statements in Questions 16 - 19 on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating “Strongly Agree” and 1 indicating “Strongly Disagree.” The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.]

Question 16. Expanded protection for wetlands

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	3.6		3.8		3.7	

Response Notes: 53 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 18% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 17. Restriction of house density for future building in the floodplain zone.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	4.0		4.1		4.2	

Response Notes: 69 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 8% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 18. Prohibition of future building in the velocity zone.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	3.6		4.0		4.0	

Response Notes: 54 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 18% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 19. Prohibition of future building in the floodplain zone.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	3.6		3.9		3.9	

Response Notes: 57 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 21% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Planning

[Tabulation Notes for Questions 20-27: Residents were asked to rate their agreement with the statements in Questions 20-27 on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating “Strongly Agree” and 1 indicating “Strongly Disagree.” The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. Where there was no corresponding question in 1994, not applicable (n/a) is inserted.]

Question 20. The Town should allow future residential development in some areas of Marion to take place on smaller lots if, in exchange, developers would be required to preserve large amounts of open land.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	3.3		3.5		3.6	

Response Notes: 50 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 27% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 21. Open space should be required in all future development. Marion currently allows "cluster zoning" by special permit. This allows the same number of houses in a given area as regular zoning, but placed closer together leaving permanent open land.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	4.0		4.3		4.3	

Response Notes: 70 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 14% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 22. Marion should provide incentives to promote cluster zoning development.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004		1994	
	3.1		3.3		3.4	

Response Notes: 37 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while 30% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 23. Marion should provide incentives to promote endangered species protection when cluster development is proposed.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	3.5		3.7			n/a

Response Notes: 50 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 21% indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 24. Marion should form a “historic district” to protect the village area.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	3.3		3.4			n/a

Response Notes: 46 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while 28 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 25. Parking areas are needed for commercial development. Parking areas should not be visible from the street.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	3.0		3.1			n/a

Response Notes: Only 30 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while 34 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 26. Marion should restrict the conversion of smaller houses to larger houses in order to maintain a mix of housing types.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	2.8		2.7			n/a

Response Notes: Only 37 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while 40 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 27. Expansion of the town sewer areas may cause additional growth. However, expansion of the sewer areas may solve existing environmental problems. In spite of growth concerns, sewer should be expanded to solve existing environmental problems.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	3.9		4.0			n/a

Response Notes: 68 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 10 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 28. In your opinion, has Marion's rate of growth been: (circle one)

[Tabulation Notes: The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.]

1. much too slow			
2. somewhat too slow	2011	2004	1994
3. about right	3.2	3.5	3.3
4. somewhat too fast			
5. much too fast			

Question 29. Thinking about the Town's land use regulations (zoning ordinances, site plan reviews, etc.) would you say that: (circle one).

[Tabulation Notes: The raw score for each choice is given at the end of the statement. The 2011 average of statements 1-3 is given in bold at the end of the sequence, with the 2004 average in red and the 1994 average in green.]

1. They are too restrictive in saying what a land owner can and cannot do with his/her land: **38**
2. They strike a good balance between the need for regulation and property owners' rights: **64**
3. They are too lenient and do not provide enough protection for the public: **12**
4. I have no opinion: **29**

2011	2004	1994
1.8	2.4	2.1

Response Notes: This response has changed over the last several years. Right now respondents are leaning somewhat toward Marion's land use regulations as being “too restrictive.”

Question 30. In the spaces below, please list the three most important issues facing Marion. Please be as specific as possible.

[Tabulation Notes: The essay question responses have not yet been tabulated.]

Finances

[Tabulation Notes for Questions 31-33: Residents were asked to rate their agreement with the statements in Questions 31-33 on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating “Strongly Agree,” and 1 indicating “Strongly Disagree.” The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.]

Question 31. Land should be taxed at a lower rate if it has perpetual open space protection on the deed.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	3.8		3.8			4.0

Response Notes: 61 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while only 14 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 32. I would pay more for town water if the extra cost was used to protect the town wells through land purchases.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	2.5		3.1			3.1

Response Notes: Only 27 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while 50 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Question 33. Expensive houses pay more taxes for the same amount of services. Marion should encourage the conversion of smaller houses to larger, more expensive houses to help with the tax burden.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2011		2004			1994
	2.2		2.4			n/a

Response Notes: Only 12 % of the responses indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Agree” (circled a 5 or 4), while 46 % indicated “Strongly or Somewhat Disagree” (circled a 1 or 2).

Response Notes to Questions 15 -33: The results for Questions 15 through 33 indicate a slightly more conservative approach to land use control than past surveys. This should not be unexpected, as respondents also indicate that the current rate of growth is less of a problem than in past years.

Note: **Introduction given in the survey for Question 34:** “Right now, about 80% of Marion is undeveloped. Half of this, or 40% of the town, is permanently protected from development. This undeveloped land not only helps maintain the “look and feel” of Marion, but also helps maintain the water quality in Marion’s harbors and coves.”

Question 34. What percent of Marion should be permanently protected from development? (Note: An answer of 40% means you think we should have no additional open space; an answer of 80% means you think that all remaining open land should be protected from development. Our last survey results indicated a middle ground.)

Tabulation Notes: The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.

2011	2004	1994
60%	65%	24%

Response Notes: Of the 152 returned surveys, 140 responded to this question. 84% of those wanted more open space, while 13% did not. (For 3% of the respondents, we couldn’t figure out their answer.) In 1994, the question was phrased differently, (“Right now, about 8% of Marion is in permanent open space protection. For comparison, Nantucket has set a goal of setting aside 33% of the town for open space protection. What should be Marion’s goal?”), which can explain the dramatically different results of the 1994 survey results from the from 2004 and 2011 surveys.

Note: **Introduction given in the survey for Question 35.** “ With every tax bill, 2% goes to the Community Preservation Fund for the protection of open space, creation of affordable housing, and rehabilitation of historic resources.”

Question 35. Of the total collected, how much do you think should be designated for open space?

[Tabulation Notes: The raw score for each choice is given at the end of the statement.]

All of it	17
75% of the total	29
50% of the total	28
25 % of the total	30
None of it	9
No opinion	13
It depends	21

Response Notes: 147 of the 152 returned surveys responded in some way to this question. 14% said “it depends” and 9% expressed no opinion. Only 6% felt Open Space should get no Community Preservation Funds (compare with the 13% who don’t want any more open space as expressed in Question 34). 12% felt that 100% of Community Preservation Funds should go towards open space purchases (the legal limit is 80%). 31% of the respondents felt that at least 75% should go towards

open space purchases, 50% agree that number should be at least 50%, and 71% agree that 25% of Community Preservation Funds should be used on open space purchases.

Characteristics of Respondent

Question 36. Present location in Marion:

[Tabulation Notes: The raw score for each choice is given. The 2004 results are given in red.]

	2011	2004
Marion Village	32	28
North Marion	25	25
East Marion	51	62
Route 6 Area	15	25
Converse Rd. & West	23	33

Response Notes: The 1994 results for this question were not tabulated.

Question 37. Are you registered to vote in Marion? Yes No

Response Notes: This is a question we use as a quality control check, as the survey is only sent to registered voters.

Question 38. In the last five years, how many Annual Town Meetings have you attended?

[Tabulation Notes: Average given in bold for 2011 and red for 2004. The 1994 results for this question were not tabulated.]

	2011	2004
	1.9	2.0

Response Notes: Of the 144 respondents for this question, 59, or 41% do not attend town meetings, while 24% have attended at least four meetings.

Question 39. In the last five years, how many times have you voted in the town elections?

[Tabulation Notes: The average of the responses is given in bold for 2011 and red for 2004. The 1994 results for this question were not tabulated.]

2011	2004
3.8	4.0

Response Notes: Of the 143 respondents for this question, 17, or only 12% did not vote in town elections, while 76% voted in at least four elections.

Question 40. How many children do you have under the age of 18?

[Tabulation Notes: The average of the responses is given in bold for 2011 and red for 2004. The 1994 results for this question were not tabulated.]

2011	2004
0.5	0.6

Response Notes: Of the 147 respondents for this question, 107, or 73% do not have children in the household.

Question 41. Your age:

[Tabulation Notes: Response in bold given for each group. There was no tabulation of this questions for the 2004 or 1994 surveys.]

18 - 34	4
35 - 49	32
50 - 64	52
65 - 74	35
75 - 84	17
86+	3
Did not answer:	9

Question 42. Number of years in Marion.

[Tabulation Notes: The average is given in bold for 2011 and red for 2004. The 1994 results for this question were not tabulated.]

2011	2004
25	22

Response Notes: The answers ranged from 1 to 76 years.

Question 43. How many miles do you travel to work each day?

[Tabulation Notes: The average miles for those driving to work is given in bold for 2011 and red for 2004. The 1994 results for this question were not tabulated.]

2011	2004
20.3	18

end of survey