

## Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey Results

The Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey results were obtained from a sample of the registered voters. Surveys were sent to every tenth voter: the sample size was 340 voters. The response was 197 returned surveys, or a 58% response rate.. The response provides a statistically valid prediction of the attitudes of the larger sample, i.e., all of the registered voters in Marion.

### Recreation

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

	<b>In Marion</b>	<b>In other</b>
a. golf	54	57
b. tennis	72	28
c. baseball	40	27
d. soccer	15	30
e. basketball	37	19
f. sunbathing	103	45
g. swimming	152	67
h. swimming instruction	18	16
i. sailing instruction	27	7
j. sailboat racing	23	11
k. recreational sailing	57	26
l. sail boarding	11	3
m. canoeing/kayaking	54	37
n. boating from trailer	28	14
o. boating from mooring	61	7
p. boating from dock	47	17
q. jet skiing	7	3
r. skating on bogs	45	23
s. skating on ice rink	45	16
t. x-country skiing	28	18
u. walking	156	67
v. jogging	77	34
w. biking	101	53
x. roller blading	34	19
y. trail biking	15	15
z. clamming	47	11
aa. quahogging	55	13
ab. oystering	25	5
ac. scalloping	15	4
ad. lobstering	14	7
ae. musseling	11	4

af. crabbing	15	2
ag. fishing	65	41
ah. hunting	15	8
ai. walking in woods	86	38
aj. birding towns	42	20
ak. play at schoolyard	56	13
al. picnicking	50	35
am. enjoying the view	130	60
an. tracking	9	4
ao. mushrooming	2	2
ap botanizing	14	6

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.

5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 4 points for #2 choice, and 3 point for #3 choice 2 points for #4 choice and 1 point for #5 choice.

a. golf	151
b. tennis	131
c. baseball	35
d. soccer	19
e. basketball	13
f. sunbathing	120
g. swimming	300
h. swimming instruction	20
i. sailing instruction	5
j. sailboat racing	31
k. recreational sailing	99

l. sail boarding	0
m. canoeing/kayaking	54
n. boating from trailer	39
o. boating from mooring	96
p. boating from dock	64
q. jet skiing	3
r. skating on bogs	6
s. skating on ice rink	23
t. x-country skiing	3
u. walking	355
v. jogging	175
w. biking	130
x. roller blading	9
y. trail biking	0
z. clamming	29
aa. quahogging	54
ab. oystering	12
ac. scalloping	6
ad. lobstering	3
ae. musseling	3
af. crabbing	4
ag. fishing	66
ah. hunting	8
ai. walking in woods	73
aj. birding	34
ak. play at schoolyard	22
al. picnicking	20
am. enjoying the view	134
an. tracking	0
ao. mushrooming	3
ap. botanizing	9

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.

a. golf courses	18 M	9 L	125 S
b. tennis courts	45 M	4 L	100 S
c. baseball fields	25 M	5 L	103 S
d. soccer fields	42 M	3 L	87 S
e. basketball courts	28 M	5 L	97 S
f. wildlife habitat	77 M	6 L	55 S
g. swimming beaches	60 M	3 L	95 S
h. swimming instruction	25 M	4 L	94 S

i. sail board launching areas	18 M	9 L	94 S
j. canoe access	39 M	3 L	89 S
k. boat ramps	23 M	3 L	102 S
l. boat moorings	59 M	14 L	65 S
m. ice rink	24 M	4 L	101 S
n. sidewalks	90 M	6 L	52 S
o. bike paths	102 M	16 L	34 S
p. shellfishing areas	41 M	6 L	89 S
q. shellfishing area access	46 M	6 L	82 S
r. permanently protected open space with public access	102 M	8 L	41 S
s. playgrounds	39 M	4 L	99 S
t. picnicking areas	58 M	5 L	78 S
u. bird habitat	54 M	5 L	71 S
v. playgrounds at schoolyard	30 M	3 L	104 S
w. viewing areas	51 M	4 L	87 S
x. wildlife habitat	69 M	5 L	64 S
y. endangered species habitat	58 M	6 L	66 S
z. quiet seashore	85 M	2 L	74 S

4. Of the facilities listed above, which five are in greatest need of improvement or expansion?

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

Answers for Question 4 and question 5 were added together with answers for Question #4 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.

a. golf courses	-225
b. tennis courts	-32
c. baseball fields	-37
d. soccer fields	+1

e. basketball courts	<b>-30</b>
f. wildlife habitat	<b>+94</b>
g. swimming beaches	<b>+42</b>
h. swimming instruction	<b>-4</b>
i. sail board launching areas	<b>-78</b>
j. canoe access	<b>-15</b>
k. boat ramps	<b>-49</b>
l. boat moorings	<b>23</b>
m. ice rink	<b>-95</b>
n. sidewalks	<b>+131</b>
o. bike paths	<b>+185</b>
p. shellfishing areas	<b>+31</b>
q. shellfishing area access	<b>+38</b>
r. permanently protected open space with public access	<b>+138</b>
s. playgrounds	<b>-14</b>
t. picnicking areas	<b>+14</b>
u. bird habitat	<b>-20</b>
v. playgrounds at schoolyard	<b>+11</b>
w. viewing areas	<b>-18</b>
x. wildlife habitat	<b>+68</b>
y. endangered species habitat	<b>+10</b>
z. quiet seashore	<b>+79</b>

6. Of the existing recreational programs and facilities in Marion, which of the following need upgrading? Answers were awarded +1 for Yes, -1 for a No then added together.

a. Washburn Park Athletic Fields	<b>+48</b>
b. Sippican School Athletic Fields	<b>0</b>
c. Point Road Basketball Courts	<b>+31</b>
d. Sippican School Basketball Courts	<b>-5</b>
e. Wings Cove Boat Ramp	<b>-7</b>
f. Old Landing Boat Ramp	<b>-56</b>
g. Point Road Playground	<b>+36</b>
h. Sippican School Playground	<b>+43</b>
i. Skating Area in Washburn Park	<b>+36</b>
j. Swimming Instruction	<b>-18</b>
k. Tennis Courts behind	

Town Hall	<b>+37</b>
l. Tennis Courts behind Sippican School	<b>-10</b>
m. Tennis Courts at Point Road Playground	<b>+19</b>
n. Baseball Field behind Town Hall	<b>-21</b>
o. Baseball Field behind Sippican School	<b>-16</b>
p. Baseball Fields at Washburn Park	<b>+4</b>
q. Boat Moorings	<b>-8</b>
r. Washburn Park Skating Pond	<b>+16</b>
s. Beach at River Road	<b>-1</b>
t. Beach at Oakdale Avenue	<b>-3</b>
u. Beach at Island Wharf	<b>+4</b>
v. Silvershell Beach	<b>-24</b>
w. Planting Island Causeway Beach	<b>+14</b>
x. Sail Board Launch Area on Planting Island Causeway	<b>-29</b>
y. Sail Board Launch Area at Silvershell Beach	<b>-37</b>
z. Holmes Woods	<b>-13</b>
aa. Basketball Court at Silvershell	<b>-38</b>
ab. Sailing Instruction	<b>-15</b>
ac. Band Shell	<b>-7</b>

7. Please indicate, using the letters above, which of the above facilities are in greatest need of expansion or repair. 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice.

a. Washburn Park Athletic Fields	<b>27</b>
b. Sippican School Athletic Fields	<b>5</b>
c. Point Road Basketball Courts	<b>9</b>
d. Sippican School Basketball Courts	<b>9</b>
e. Wings Cove Boat Ramp	<b>44</b>
f. Old Landing Boat Ramp	<b>3</b>
g. Point Road Playground	<b>98</b>
h. Sippican School Playground	<b>144</b>
i. Skating Area in Washburn Park	<b>35</b>
j. Swimming Instruction	<b>6</b>
k. Tennis Courts behind Town Hall	<b>80</b>
l. Tennis Courts behind Sippican School	<b>32</b>
m. Tennis Courts at Point Road Playground	<b>22</b>
n. Baseball Field behind Town Hall	<b>32</b>
o. Baseball Field behind Sippican School	<b>25</b>
p. Baseball Fields at Washburn Park	<b>18</b>
q. Boat Moorings	<b>59</b>
r. Washburn Park Skating Pond	<b>22</b>
s. Beach at River Road	<b>15</b>
t. Beach at Oakdale Avenue	<b>6</b>
u. Beach at Island Wharf	<b>39</b>
v. Silvershell Beach	<b>77</b>
w. Planting Island Causeway Beach	<b>88</b>
x. Sail Board Launch Area on Planting Island Causeway	<b>3</b>
y. Sail Board Launch Area at Silvershell Beach	<b>7</b>
z. Holmes Woods	<b>15</b>
aa. Basketball Court at	

Silvershell	<b>9</b>
ab. Sailing Instruction	<b>13</b>
ac. Band Shell	<b>56</b>

**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements by circling the number that most closely represents how you feel about it, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means you *strongly agree* and 5 means you *strongly disagree*.**

8. The following services and facilities should be located in Marion: (Average of the responses is given in bold.)

	<b>Strongly</b>				
	<b>Strongly</b>				
	<b>Agree</b>				
<b>Disagree</b>					
		1	2	3	4 5
a. Town to Town Bicycle Paths				<b>2.2</b>	
b. Horse-riding Trails				<b>3.3</b>	
c. Nature & Hiking Trails				<b>2.0</b>	
d. Roller Skating Rink				<b>3.6</b>	
e. Sidewalk system in Town					<b>2.3</b>
f. Teenage Center				<b>2.6</b>	
g. Year-round Swimming Pool				<b>2.9</b>	

9. Which of the facilities listed should be given the highest priority? 5 points were awarded for #1 choice, 3 points for #2 choice, and 1 point for #3 choice.

a. Town to Town Bicycle Paths	<b>383</b>
b. Horse-riding Trails	<b>11</b>
c. Nature & Hiking Trails	<b>254</b>
d. Roller Skating Rink	<b>42</b>
e. Sidewalk system in Town	<b>279</b>
f. Teenage Center	<b>176</b>
g. Year-round Swimming Pool	<b>166</b>





protected open space.

(See Appendix F.)

- 28. Marion should restrict the conversion of smaller houses to larger houses in order to maintain a mix of housing types. **3.3**
- 29. 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. **2.0**
- 30. In your opinion, has Marion's rate of growth been:
  - 1. much too slow
  - 2. somewhat too slow
  - 3. about right **3.5**
  - 4. somewhat too fast
  - 5. much too fast
- 31. Thinking about the Town's land use regulations (zoning ordinances, site plan reviews, etc.). would you say that:
  - 1. They are too restrictive in telling a person what they can and cannot do with their land;
  - 2. They strike a good balance between the need for regulation and property owner's rights **2.4**
  - 3. They are too lenient and do not provide enough protection for the public.
  - 4. I have no opinion.
- 32. In the spaces below, please list the three most important issues facing Marion. Please be as specific as possible.

**Finances**

- |  | <b>Strongly Agree</b> |               | <b>Strongly Disagree</b> |   |            |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|------------|
|  | 1                     | 2             | 3                        | 4 | 5          |
| 33. Land should be taxed at a lower rate if it has perpetual open space protection on the deed.  |                       |               |                          |   | <b>2.2</b> |
| 34. I would pay more for town water if the extra cost was used to protect the town wells through land purchases.   |                       |               |                          |   | <b>2.9</b> |
| 35. 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.         |                       |               |                          |   | <b>3.6</b> |
| Right now, over 80% of Marion is undeveloped. 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. |                       |               |                          |   |            |
| 36. What percent of the Marion should be permanently protected from development?   |                       |               |                          |   | <b>65%</b> |
| 37. How much do you think should be designated for open space?   |                       |               |                          |   |            |
| a. 1.0 %   | <b>8</b>              | d. 2.5%       |                          |   | <b>13</b>  |
| b. 1.5%  | <b>29</b>             | e. 3.0%       |                          |   | <b>19</b>  |
| c. 2.0%  | <b>59</b>             | f. no opinion |                          |   | <b>36</b>  |
| g. nothing   |                       |               |                          |   | <b>11</b>  |

## **Characteristics of Respondent**

(Please circle most appropriate answer.)

38. Present location in Marion:

- a. Marion Vill. **38**      d. Route 6 Area **25**  
b. N. Marion **25**      e. Converse Rd. & W. **33**  
c. East Marion **62**

39. Are you registered to vote in Marion?

**Yes**      No

40. In the last five years, how many Annual  
Town Meetings have you attended? **2.0**

41. In the last five years, how many times  
have you voted in the town elections? **3.8**

42. How many children do you  
have under the age of 18? **0.6**

43. Your age:

- a. 18 - 34      d. 65 - 74  
b. 35 - 49      e. 75 - 84  
c. 50 - 64      f. 86+

44. Number of years in Marion **22**

45. How many miles do you **18**  
travel to work each day?

## Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey Results 2004 Essay/Comments

The Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey results were obtained from a sample of the registered voters. Surveys were sent to every tenth voter: the sample size was 340 voters. The response was 197 returned surveys, or a 58% response rate.. While the response to the questions provides a statistically valid prediction of the attitudes of the larger sample, i.e., all of the registered voters in Marion, the essays/comments can be viewed as a snapshot of ideas and a useful tool to compare against previous and subsequent essay /comments inputs in other surveys.

Page 1 comments: (Which activities do you and your family members enjoy? Check as many as are appropriate.)

:

We need bike /walking paths on Converse and Point Roads.

In many countries the farm land has available and useable trails for walking. This allowed use of private land adds to open space use and enjoyment, ocean access, etc.

Do not spend town money on surveys like this.

#14. (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)

We have not lived here long enough but green lawn fetishes are apparent with the building of private wells to offset water conservation laws.

How about a fund to help those of us who will not be able to afford the new FEMA flood insurance rates!

Do nothing.

Try to extend sewers.

Limit nitrogen lawn care.

Down at our dock by the groin, a huge pipe drains out into the harbor. (location not specified).

Discourage use of lawn fertilizers.

Have free pump stations in each harbor on Buzzards Bay.

Offer discounts on natural lawn fertilizers to encourage homeowners and golf courses.

Encourage more organic lawn care products – monthly newsletter to all touting the health benefits of such.

More septic inspections.

Fines on boaters who pollute our water.

Upgrade and enforce existing rules and regulations.

Research & committees, etc. on how to improve.

Enforcement of Coast Guard requirements.

Fewer moorings in Sippican Harbor.

Education about Pesticides and herbicides.

Tabor's new athletic fields are an unknown; irregardless of Tabor's letter which conveyed very little information.

Ban pesticides on lawns.

Require boats to have holding tanks.

Review septic systems.

What relevance is this question to laymen? This is a question for research not unformed opinion!

Fines, monitoring of boat discharges by Harbormaster.

Discussion of use of lawn products– perhaps timing and types of products used?

Set aside land for beach access and walking parks etc. when and where possible.

#32 (In the spaces below, please list the three most important issues facing Marion. Please be as specific as possible.)

Intelligent growth.  
Sewer expansion.  
Open space.  
Potential for over regulation.  
Affordable housing.  
Expand the tax base.  
Support for local business.  
Since we are older, we don't use many of the town facilities. We need to get our kids and young families outside & places for them to enjoy!  
Zoning (ie) Joanne Drive: housing density.  
Safeguarding open space.  
Wetlands/harbor protections.  
Sewer expansion too slow.  
Tabor should pay more taxes.  
40B housing.  
Better control traffic – speeding on Route 6 and coming off of 195 ramps.  
Harbor management.  
Commercial development on Route 6.  
40B Construction projects.  
Stop future fast food restaurants on Route 6 by purchasing any commercial properties which are available.  
Planning.  
Sewer Extension.  
New development near the Wave (bad).  
Encouraging more businesses to town (good).  
Completion of Bike Path from Fairhaven to Wareham. (good).  
Land Taxes.  
Drainage into harbor.  
Many street s should be resurfaced.  
Rapid Growth.  
Environmental issues  
Preservation of village center.  
Low income housing.  
Increase property tax for new buildings.

The Rt6/ Spring Street intersection: The derelict buildings at the intersection of Route 6 and Spring Street are both ugly and potentially dangerous. The old Sweet Shoppe is a potential fire trap. Why can't this be improved by private ownership? If not, why can't we buy it as "open space?" in a beautiful place like Marion how can this eyesore be allowed?

Preserving village center.  
Bike paths on Converse Road and Point Road: kids are in danger on these roads.

Do you think Tabor should pay their fair share of real estate taxes? Yes!  
Should Marion implement a hiring freeze or have layoffs? Yes!  
Should we approve 99% of all articles at town meeting like we do now? No.