

2017 Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey Results

The Open Space and Recreation Survey results are from the tabulation of 169 surveys returned to the Open Space Acquisition Commission in the Fall of 2017, and Winter of 2018. 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, 2004, and 2012. To add context to the 2017 results, we have added information regarding the 1994, 2004, and 2012 survey results where appropriate.

Methodology: The Open Space Acquisition Commission started with a list of 4035 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 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.

Starting with the first person on the list, and then every tenth resident, the random sample group of 392 residents was created. Of the 392 surveys sent out, 23 were returned for various reasons as undeliverable, leaving a final sample size of 369. 168 surveys were returned, giving a 46% return rate.

Summary of Results

Marion residents walk - a lot. Of the 168 surveys returned, 143 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 8 to 1. Those willing to pay for more open space outnumber those who aren't by a margin of 7 to 1.

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

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. We added “In Marion” to “Both” to determine what the Marion folks do most in Marion, and ranked the answers.]

	In Marion	In other towns	Both
Walking (Ranked #1)	__81__	__1__	__62__
Enjoying the view (Ranked #2)	__73__	__0__	__63__
Swimming (Ranked #3)	__82__	__43__	__5__
Sunbathing (Ranked #4)	__82__	__5__	__31__
Biking(Ranked #5)	__64__	__1__	__51__
Walking in woods	__55__	__6__	__48__
Canoeing/kayaking	__53__	__30__	__13__
Golfing	__31__	__12__	__34__
Fishing	__37__	__10__	__26__
Jogging	__37__	__1__	__21__
Boating from mooring	__56__	__5__	__1__
Recreational sailing	__44__	__2__	__9__
Tennis	__40__	__6__	__9__
Shellfishing	__43__	__3__	__5__
Picnicking	__27__	__6__	__18__
Playing at schoolyard	__35__	__0__	__9__
Boating from dock	__35__	__4__	__6__
Sledding	__26__	__7__	__12__
Skating on ice rink	__33__	__5__	__4__
Birding	__27__	__2__	__15__
Skating on bogs	__30__	__6__	__4__
Swimming instruction	__24__	__6__	__9__
Sailboat racing	__25__	__4__	__0__
Basketball	__17__	__3__	__8__
Boating from trailer	__17__	__1__	__8__
Trail biking	__10__	__7__	__14__
Snowshoeing	__14__	__3__	__10__
Sailing instruction	__20__	__2__	__2__
X-country skiing	__16__	__11__	__3__
Rollerblading	__12__	__6__	__6__
Soccer	__8__	__11__	__8__

Baseball	<u> 8 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	<u> 6 </u>
Hunting	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 8 </u>

Response Notes: Question 1 has the same top five ranked activities as the 20011, 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: We used a weighted score to give more important emphasis on the first choice relative to the fifth choice. We did the same thing in previous surveys, so it's easy to see any changes from past surveys. 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. We included in brackets the score broken down by:

$$5*n\#1 \text{ choice} + 4*n\#2 \text{ choice} + 3*n\#3 \text{ choice} + 2*n\#4 \text{ choice} + n\#5 \text{ choice.}]$$

Walking (Ranked #1)	389	(215+92+45+26+11)
Swimming (Ranked #2)	223	(70+72+39+30+12)
Golfing (Ranked #3)	149	(90+36+15+2+6)
Biking (Ranked # 4)	146	(35+56+21+22+12)
Walking in woods (Ranked #5)	125	(30+32+36+22+5)
Recreational sailing	117	(60+40+15+0+2)
Enjoying the view	115	(30+8+36+24+17)
Sunbathing	109	(45+20+21+14+9)
Canoeing/kayaking	102	(20+32+27+20+3)
Fishing	95	(20+44+24+4+3)
Boating from mooring	81	(20+44+6+10+1)
Jogging	67	(10+20+18+18+1)
Tennis	59	(25+24+6+2+2)
Playing at schoolyard	43	(10+8+15+4+6)
Shellfishing	39	(10+0+15+8+6)
Boating from trailer	35	(5+20+6+4+0)
Sailboat racing	34	(20+4+6+4+0)
Boating from dock	32	(10+8+6+6+2)
Birding	30	(5+12+12+0+1)
Soccer	30	(10+0+12+6+2)
Boating from dock	32	(10+8+6+6+2)
Skating on ice rink	17	(10+4+0+2+1)
Snowshoeing	17	(0+4+3+8+2)
Basketball	16	(5+8+0+2+1)

Trail biking	14	(0+4+6+4+0)
Skating on bogs	13	(0+0+9+4+0)
Baseball	12	(5+4+3+0+0)
Rollerblading	9	(5+0+3+0+1)
Sailing instruction	9	(0+4+3+2+0)
Picnicking	7	(0+0+3+4+0)
Swimming instruction	6	(5+0+0+0+1)
X-country skiing	3	(0+0+0+0+3)
Sledding	5	(0+0+3+0+2)
Hunting	1	(0+0+0+0+1)

Response Notes: Question 2 had three of the same top five ranked activities as the 2011, 2004 and 1994 survey results; namely, Walking, Swimming, and Biking. Golfing jumped from a #8 rank in 2011.

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 of those facilities by the # of More (M) selection. Also included is the # of those selecting “Less (L) and the “Same” (S)]

Bike paths (Ranked #1)	119 M	2 L	22 S
Sidewalks (Ranked #2)	105 M	1 L	40 S
Permanently protected open space with public access (Ranked #3)	88 M	2 L	53 S
Wildlife habitat (Ranked #4)	67 M	1 L	64 S
Quiet seashore (Ranked #5)	62 M	0 L	79 S
Swimming beaches	62 M	0 L	84 S
Endangered species habitat	60 M	3 L	66 S
Viewing areas	59 M	0 L	71 S
Canoe/Kayak/Paddleboard access	55 M	3 L	74 S
Bird habitat	46 M	1 L	77 S
Picnicking areas	46 M	3 L	81 S
Shellfishing area access	41 M	4 L	79 S
Tennis courts	40 M	6 L	87 S
Shellfishing areas	40 M	4 L	81 S
Boat moorings	36 M	9 L	78 S
Soccer fields	27 M	5 L	87 S
Ice rink	27 M	5 L	91 S
Sail board launching areas	22 M	3 L	91 S
Basketball courts	20 M	5 L	91 S
Playgrounds	18 M	2 L	101 S
Boat ramps	14 M	6 L	97 S
Golf courses	13 M	11 L	112 S
Playgrounds at schoolyard	12 M	1 L	108 S
Baseball fields	11 M	5 L	107 S

Response Notes: Question 3 has the same top five ranked recreational activities as the 2009, 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. This was done in past surveys too, so by doing this interpretation we can track any changes from survey to survey. Details for the conglomerate score are provided and use the following formula:

$$(5 * \text{1choice Q4} + 4 * \text{2choice Q4} + 3 * \text{3choice Q4} + 2 * \text{4choice Q4} + \text{5choice Q4}) - (5 * \text{1choice Q5} - 4 * \text{2choice Q5} - 3 * \text{3choice Q5} - 2 * \text{4choice Q5} - \text{5choice Q5}).$$

The facilities were then arranged by their rank.]

Bike paths (Ranked #1)	315	(165+116+24+26+13-15-4-6-4-0)
Sidewalks (Ranked #2)	305	(190+88+36+12+3-10-9-4-1)
Permanently protected open space with public access (Ranked #3)	132	(55+36+33+26+9-15-9-2-1)
Wildlife habitat (Ranked #4)	65	(40+24+18+10+2-10-12-3-4-0)
Swimming beaches (Ranked #5)	62	(65+24+27+6+5-5-28-27-2-3)
Endangered species habitat	53	(20+4+36+12+6-15-4-2-4)
Canoe/Kayak/Paddleboard access	51	(20+20+21+8+5-5-4-9-4-1)
Viewing areas	43	(15+28+15+22+5-10-16-6-8-2)
Bird habitat	30	(5+24+15+12+4-5-8-9-4-4)
Shellfishing area access	28	(10+24+9+4+4-5-12-0-4-2)
Quiet seashore	19	(5+32+3+8+5-15-4-9-4-2)
Shellfishing areas	19	(20+8+9+12+1-10-0-15-4-2)
Sail board launching areas	-12	(5+16+0+2+0-10-12-3-8-2)
Tennis courts	-13	(40+32+12+6+2-15-64-15-6-5)
Picnicking areas	-19	(0+8+24+6+7-15-32-3-12-2)
Ice rink	-23	(10+24+33+6+6-5-52-21-20-4)
Boat moorings	-24	(30+16+9+6+3-30-20-27-6-5)
Boat ramps	-32	(15+8+6+0+1-5-12-27-10-8)
Basketball courts	-33	(10+4+9+6+0-10-24-12-12-4)
Soccer fields	-43	(5+4+9+0+3-15-12-21-12-4)
Playgrounds	-49	(5+8+9+4+3-35-8-21-8-6)
Baseball fields	-75	(5+4+9+2+2-15-48-21-10-3)
Playgrounds at schoolyard	-85	(5+0+0+4+1-30-20-12-20-13)
Golf courses	-280	(10+0+9+4+3-275-16-6-4-5)

Response Notes: Questions 4 & 5 had four of the same top five facilities as the 2011, 2004, and 1994 survey results; namely, Bike paths, Sidewalks, Permanently Protected Open Space, & Wildlife Habitat. The fifth ranked item, Swimming beaches ranked #8 in 2011 and #7 in 2004.

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

[Tabulation Notes: To compare with past surveys, answers were awarded +1 for Yes, -1 for a No, then added together. The facilities and programs were listed by their respective rank. DK responses are given for (n “don’t know” + n “not sure.”)]

Village Sidewalks (Ranked #1)	+37	(Y-69	N-3,	DK-33+1)
Tennis Courts behind Sippican School (Ranked #2)	+28	(Y-45	N-17	DK-81+2)
Beach at River Road (Ranked #3)	+25	(Y-32	N-7	DK-101)
Washburn Park Skating Pond (Ranked #4)	+24	(Y-35	N-11	DK-93)
Planting Island Causeway Beach (Ranked #5)	+19	(Y-52	N-33	DK-51+1)
Sail Board Launch Area on Planting Island Causeway	+15	(Y-31	N-16	DK-84+1)
Tennis Courts at Point Road Playground	+13	(Y-27	N-14	DK-100+2)
Wings Cove Boat Ramp	+11	(Y-32	N-21	DK-90+2)
Sippican School Basketball Courts	+7	(Y-25	N-18	DK-93+3)
Beach at Oakdale Avenue	+5	(Y-14	N-9	DK-106)
Washburn Park Athletic Fields	+2	(Y-34	N-32	DK-78)
Beach at Island Wharf	+1	(Y-29	N-28	DK-73)
Sippican School Athletic Fields	+1	(Y-31	N-30	DK-78)
Holmes Woods	0	(Y-15	N-15	DK-95+1)
Baseball Field behind Sippican School	-1	(Y-7	N-8	DK-11+142)
Sail Board Launch Area at Silvershell Beach	-4	(Y-24	N-28	DK-78+1)
Baseball Field behind Town Hall	-6	(Y-26	N-32	DK-82)
Point Road Basketball Courts	-11	(Y-14	N-25	DK-101)
Basketball Court at Silvershell	-17	(Y-22	N-39	DK-70)
Point Road Playground	-18	(Y-17	N-35	DK-87+1)
Band Shell	-21	(Y-30	N-51	DK-54)
Sippican School Playground	-30	(Y-20	N-50	DK-66+2)

Response Notes: Village Sidewalks was a new choice for 2017 and obviously struck a note. The 2011 #1 response (Washburn Park Athletic Fields) and 2011 #2 response (Point Road Playground) have been redone, while the 2011 #3 choice (Town Hall Tennis Courts) has been eliminated.

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: To compare the results with past surveys and to differentiate between the first choice and the third choice, the answers were weighted by choice. The actual breakdown by choice is given by the following formula:

$$5 * n\#1 \text{ choice} + 3 * n\#2 \text{ choice} + n\#3 \text{ choice.}$$

The facilities were listed by their respective rank.]

Village Sidewalks (Ranked #1)	196	(170+18+8)
Planting Island Causeway Beach (Ranked #2)	91	(45+39+7)
Tennis Courts behind Sippican School (Ranked #3)	67	(55+6+6)
Wings Cove Boat Ramp (Ranked #4)	66	(50+15+1)
Band Shell (Ranked #5)	52	(25+21+6)
Washburn Park Skating Pond	51	(20+27+4)
Washburn Park Athletic Fields	43	(30+9+4)
Beach at Island Wharf	38	(25+6+7)
Beach at River Road	34	(15+15+4)
Sippican School Athletic Fields	31	(15+15+1)
Tennis Courts at Point Road Playground	26	(15+9+2)
Sippican School Playground	26	(10+15+1)
Basketball Court at Silvershell	25	(20+3+2)
Beach at Oakdale Avenue	18	(15+3+0)
Holmes Woods	15	(5+9+1)
Sippican School Basketball Courts	14	(0+12+2)
Sail Board Launch Area at Silvershell Beach	10	(5+3+2)
Sail Board Launch Area on Planting Island Causeway	9	(0+3+6)
Baseball Field behind Town Hall	9	(0+9+0)
Point Road Playground	8	(0+6+2)
Baseball Field behind Sippican School	8	(0+6+2)
Point Road Basketball Courts	2	(0+0+2)

Response Notes: Question 7 asks residents to prioritize the responses they gave in Question 6. “Village sidewalks” was the clear highest priority for expansion or repair of existing facilities. The Beach at Planting Island Causeway had a #2 showing in 2011 and a #3 showing in 2004.

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 services and facilities. “Don’t know” and “no opinion” were combined, but a blank was not listed (can be determined as n=168).]

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
Town to Town Bicycle Paths	102	42	6	5	5
Nature & Hiking Trails	75	70	3	2	6
Sidewalk system in Town	85	47	10	2	13
Senior Center	65	57	12	2	21
Dog Park	35	55	23	14	29
Multi-purpose fields	17	54	45	3	45

To compare the results with past surveys we “scored” the response by awarding points by the following formula:

$$(5*n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (4*n \text{ agree}) + (3*n \text{ no opinion}) + (2*n \text{ disagree} + (n \text{ strongly disagree}))/((n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (n \text{ agree}) + (n \text{ no opinion}) + (n \text{ disagree}) + (n \text{ strongly disagree})).$$

The higher the number, the greater the favorability.

	2017	2011	2004	1994
Town to Town Bicycle Paths	4.4+	4.3	3.8	4.3
Nature & Hiking Trails	4.4-	4.1	4.0	4.1
Sidewalk system in Town	4.3	4.0	3.7	n/a
Senior Center	4.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dog Park	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Multi-purpose fields	3.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

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 League of Women Voters 1986 Marion Survey, the 1989 Open Space Survey, and all subsequent surveys. The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2011 survey, shown in blue, the 2004 survey results, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. Where there was no corresponding question, not applicable (n/a) is inserted.]

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

[Tabulation Notes: To compare the results with past surveys and to differentiate between the first choice and the third choice, the answers were weighted by choice. The actual breakdown by choice is given by the following formula:

$$5*n\#1 \text{ choice} + 3*n\#2 \text{ choice} + n\#3 \text{ choice.}$$

The facilities were listed by their respective rank.]

Town to Town Bicycle Paths (Ranked #1)	407	(295+90+22)
Sidewalk system in Town (Ranked #2)	309	(175+114+20)
Senior Center (Ranked #3)	235	(145+69+21)
Nature & Hiking Trails	189	(95+63+31)
Dog Park	103	(30+57+16)
Multi-use fields	42	(15+18+9)

Response Notes: The top two priorities, Town to Town Bicycle Paths, and Sidewalk system in Town were also the highest priority in the 2011, and 2004 surveys. This year we asked about three new facilities, a Senior Center, Dog Park, and Multi-use Paths.

Question 11. For which of the facilities listed in Question 8 would you pay a user fee?

[Tabulation Notes: To compare the results with past surveys and to differentiate between the first choice and the third choice, the answers were weighted by choice. The actual breakdown by choice is given by the following formula:

$$5*n\#1 \text{ choice} + 3*n\#2 \text{ choice} + n\#3 \text{ choice.}$$

The facilities were listed by their respective rank.]

Senior Center (Ranked #1)	231	(210+15+6)
Dog Park (Ranked #2)	121	(95+24+2)
Town to Town Bicycle Path (Ranked #3)	62	(40+15+7)
Nature & Hiking Trails	61	(40+18+3)
Sidewalk system in Town	47	(20+24+3)
Multi-use fields	40	(20+15+5)

Response Notes: The top three choices for user fees in past years, Year-round Swimming Pool, Teen Center, and Roller Skating Rink, were dropped from this survey as they lacked broad support. (Although they had strong support among their dedicated supporters – demonstrated by

their being the top three user fee supported propositions for expanded facilities in 2009, 2004 and 1994). They were replaced by questions about a Senior Center (the Survey was written prior to the new Senior Center being built), Dog Park, and Multi-use Fields. Note that the number of responses to this question was low. For the #1 choice, n=88; for the #2 choice, n=37; and for the #3 choice, n=26

Question 12. Which of the facilities in Question 8 would you be most willing to support through your local taxes?

[Tabulation Notes: To compare the results with past surveys and to differentiate between the first choice and the third choice, the answers were weighted by choice. The actual breakdown by choice is given by the following formula:

$$5*n\#1 \text{ choice} + 3*n\#2 \text{ choice} + n*\#3 \text{ choice.}$$

The facilities were listed by their respective rank.]

Town to Town Bicycle Paths (Ranked #1)	306	(240+54+12)
Senior Center (Ranked #2)	238	(180+42+16)
Sidewalk system in Town (Ranked #3)	216	(105+99+12)
Nature & Hiking Trails	149	(75+57+17)
Dog Park	67	(25+33+9)
Multi-use fields	11	(10+6+5)

Response Notes: Bike paths and sidewalks have had the most consistent support in the past three surveys. Note that the number of responses to this question was low. For the #1 choice, n=131; for the #2 choice, n=98; and for the #3 choice, n=71.

Question 13. How satisfied are you with the places available in town for recreation?

[Tabulation Notes: Answer for unsure represents: (n*“don’t know” + n*not sure). Use n=168 to determine n blank cells.]

very satisfied	21	
satisfied	119	
dissatisfied	7	
very dissatisfied	0	
unsure	10	(2+8)

Response Notes: This is a new question for the survey. There are no previous surveys to use for comparison purposes.

Question 14. What about open space/recreation in Marion is important to you? (Check all that apply)

harbor water quality	122
water/beach access	117
quiet seashore	111
preservation of wooded areas	110
recreation facilities	53
recreation programs	44

Response Notes: This is a new question for the survey. There are no previous surveys to use for comparison purposes.

Question 15. A big problem facing the future of Marion's marine resources and harbor management is:

[Tabulation Notes: The “no opinion” value is based on the following formula: (n”don’t know” + n*no opinion”). Overall n values for each selection are given from 168 surveys].

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion	
Pollution from runoff	58	63	8	2	30 (0+30)	n=161
Pollution from septic	52	47	17	3	35	n=154
Pollution from lawn care products	43	61	16	2	33 (2+31)	n=155
Pollution from boats	47	47	20	4	31 (1+30)	n=149
Pollution from the town sewage plant	39	35	20	3	55 (4+51)	n=152
Pollution from geese	9	40	39	9	53 (0+53)	n=150
Lack of access	23	35	40	4	46 (0+46)	n=148
Overfishing of shellfish beds	18	35	34	3	56 (1+55)	n=146
Too many moorings	16	20	49	8	52 (4+48)	n=149
Too many mooring areas	14	16	52	13	50 (1+49)	n=144
Damage from moorings	6	13	49	11	68 (0+68)	n=147
Too many docks	6	16	64	13	48 (0+48)	n=147

To compare the results with past surveys we “scored” the response by awarding points by the following formula:

$$(5*n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (4*n \text{ agree}) + (3*n \text{ no opinion}) + (2*n \text{ disagree} + (n \text{ strongly disagree}) / (n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (n \text{ agree}) + (n \text{ no opinion}) + (n \text{ disagree}) + (n \text{ strongly disagree}).$$

We have also provided the results from the 2011 survey; shown in blue, the 2004 survey; which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. The higher the number, the greater the favorability.

	2017	2011	2004	1994
Pollution from runoff	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.9
Pollution from septic	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8
Pollution from lawn care products	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.3
Pollution from boats	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.0
Pollution from the town sewage plant	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5
Pollution from geese	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.3
Lack of access	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.0
Overfishing of shellfish beds	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.4
Too many moorings	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.6
Too many mooring areas	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.1
Damage from moorings	2.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Too many docks	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6

Response Notes: The 2017 results biggest closely track the 2011 and 2004 results.

Question 16. 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: To compare the results with past surveys and to differentiate between the first choice and the third choice, the answers were weighted by choice. The actual breakdown by choice is given by the following formula:

$$5*n\#1 \text{ choice} + 3*n\#2 \text{ choice} + n*\#3 \text{ choice}.$$

The facilities were listed by their respective rank.]

Pollution from runoff (Ranked #1)	249	(135+93+21)
Pollution from boats (Ranked #2)	197	(155+33+9)
Pollution from septic (Ranked #3)	191	(95+81+15)
Pollution from lawn care products (Ranked #4)	128	(75+30+23)

Pollution from the town sewage plant (Ranked #5)	119	(70+42+7)
Overfishing of shellfish beds	46	(30+12+4)
Lack of access	41	(25+9+7)
Too many moorings	31	(20+6+5)
Pollution from geese	27	(15+6+6)
Too many mooring areas	18	(5+12+1)
Too many docks	6	(0+3+3)
Damage from moorings	3	(0+3+0)

Response Notes: This ranking is unchanged from the 2011 survey results. Note that the number of responses to this question was low. For the #1 choice, n=126; for the #2 choice, n=115; and for the #3 choice, n=104.

Question 17. How would you improve any of the above?

[Tabulation Notes: See the essay question responses.]

Question 18. Wetlands and floodplains are an important natural resource that protect against storm damage and protect water quality. These areas are regulated by the Conservation Commission under the Wetlands Protection Act and Planning Board through the Zoning Bylaws. Please indicate to what extent you agree with each of the statements below: (Check one selection for each issue)

[Tabulation Notes: “Don’t know” is combined with “no opinion”]

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
Expand protection for, wetlands over and above state requirements	39	37	47	12	23
Restrict house density for future building in the floodplain zone.	59	65	14	5	16
Prohibit future building in the velocity zone.	46	47	21	5	38
Prohibit future building in the floodplain zone.	43	57	31	6	21
Prohibit future building below a set elevation to account for sea level rise.	40	63	25	7	25

To compare the results with past surveys we “scored” the response by awarding points by the following formula:

$$(5 * n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (4 * n \text{ agree}) + (3 * n \text{ no opinion}) + (2 * n \text{ disagree} + (n \text{ strongly disagree}) / (n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (n \text{ agree}) + (n \text{ no opinion}) + (n \text{ disagree}) + (n \text{ strongly disagree}).$$

We have also provided the results from the 2011 survey; shown in blue, the 2004 survey; which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. The higher the number, the greater the favorability.

Expanded protection for wetlands

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017	2011	2004			1994	
3.3	3.6	3.8			3.7	

Response Notes: 48% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while 37% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 14% had no opinion and 6% did not respond. Support for this is down from 53 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

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

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017	2011	2004			1994	
4.0	4.0	4.1			4.2	

Response Notes: 78% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 12% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 10% had no opinion and 5% did not respond. Support for this is up from 69 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Prohibition of future building in the velocity zone.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017	2011	2004			1994	
3.7	3.6	4.0			4.0	

Response Notes: 59% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 17% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” Nearly a quarter, 23%, had no opinion and 7% did not respond. Support for this is up slightly from 54 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Prohibition of future building in the floodplain zone.

	5	4	3	2	1	
Strongly Agree						Strongly Disagree
2017		2011	2004		1994	
3.6		3.6	3.9		3.9	

Response Notes: 63% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 23% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 13% had no opinion and 6% did not respond. Support for this is up slightly from 57 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Question 19. Open space areas can be created by Zoning. 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. Please indicate to what extent you agree with each of the statements below: (Check one selection for each issue

[Tabulation Notes: “No opinion” was combined with “don’t know.”]

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
Allow future residential-development in some areas of Marion on smaller lots if in exchange, developers preserve large amounts of open land.	43	65	21	13	19
Require open space in all future developments	56	61	25	1	18
Require cluster development	12	23	53	19	39
Provide incentives to promote cluster zoning	24	45	30	14	38
Provide incentives to promote endangered species protection when a cluster development is proposed.	47	62	20	3	23

To compare the results with past surveys we “scored” the response by awarding points by the following formula:

$$(5*n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (4*n \text{ agree}) + (3*n \text{ no opinion}) + (2*n \text{ disagree} + (n \text{ strongly disagree}) / (n \text{ Strongly agree} + (n \text{ agree}) + (n \text{ no opinion}) + (n \text{ disagree}) +$$

(n strongly disagree).

We have also provided the results from the 2011 survey; shown in blue, the 2004 survey; which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. The higher the number, the greater the favorability.

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
2017		2011	2004		1994	
3.6		3.3	3.5		3.6	

Response Notes: 67% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 21% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 11%, had no opinion and 4% did not respond. Support for this is up dramatically from 50 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Require open space in all future development.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017		2011	2004		1994	
3.9		4.0	4.3		4.3	

Response Notes: 73% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 16% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 11% had no opinion and 4% did not respond. Support for this is up slightly from 70 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Require cluster development.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017		2011	2004		1994	
2.7		n/a	n/a		n/a	

Response Notes: Only 24% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while 49% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 23% had no opinion and 13% did not respond. This question was not asked in previous surveys.

Provide incentives to promote cluster zoning development.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017		2011	2004		1994	
3.2		3.1	3.3		3.4	

Response Notes: Only 45% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while 29% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 23% had no opinion and 10% did not respond. Support for this is up slightly from 37 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Provide incentives to promote endangered species protection when cluster development is proposed.

	Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
	2017		2011	2004		1994	
	3.8		3.5	3.7		n/a	

Response Notes: 70% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 15% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 13% had no opinion and 8% did not respond. Support for this is up dramatically from 50 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Note: We included an introduction in the survey for Question 20: **“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 20. 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. Select the amount below that best represents your answer.

40%	16
45%	6
50%	25
55%	4
60%	19
65%	24
70%	24
75%	5
80%	27
Don’t Know	2
Refused	6

[Tabulation Notes: The average of all scores is given in bold. We have also provided the results from the 2011 survey in blue, the 2004 survey, which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green.]

2017	2011	2004	1994
62%	60%	65%	24%

Response Notes: Of the 168 returned surveys, 152 responded to this question. Of the 168 surveys 80% of those wanted more open space, while 10% did not. 10% did not 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 may explain the dramatically different results of the 1994 survey results from the 2004 and 2011 surveys.

Question 21. What actions would you support to preserve open space in town? (Check all that apply)

Public purchase of private land	77
Limit development	99
Donation of conservation restrictions by private landowners	96
Property tax reduction programs for farm, forest, and recreation land	101
Zoning for open space conservation	97

Response Notes: This question was not asked in previous surveys.

Question 22. 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. Of the total collected, how much do you think should be designated for the purchase of open space? (By law, the amount cannot be greater than 80% of the total collected)

[Tabulation Notes: The raw score for each choice is given, with the responses of “don’t know” added to “no opinion.”]

80% of the total	25	
75% of the total	15	
50% of the total	44	
25 % of the total	20	
None of it	9	
No opinion	24	(3+21)
It depends	28	

Response Notes: 165 of the 168 returned surveys responded in some way to this question. 17% said “it depends” and 15% expressed no opinion. Only 5% felt Open Space should get no Community Preservation Funds (compare with the 10% who don’t want any more open space as expressed in Question 20). 15% felt that maximum 80% of Community Preservation Funds

should go towards open space purchases. 25% of the respondents felt that at least 75% should go towards open space purchases, 51% agree that number should be at least 50%, and 63% agree that at least 25% of Community Preservation Funds should be used on open space purchases.

Question 23: Respondents were asked to state their level of agreement with the following statement: Marion should set aside funds to identify and preserve environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, woodlands, marine habitats and natural open spaces.

[Tabulation notes: “Don’t know” was combined with “no opinion.”]

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
65	65	12	1	14

To compare the results with past surveys we “scored” the response by awarding points by the following formula:

$$(5 * n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (4 * n \text{ agree}) + (3 * n \text{ no opinion}) + (2 * n \text{ disagree} + (n \text{ strongly disagree}) / (n \text{ Strongly agree}) + (n \text{ agree}) + (n \text{ no opinion}) + (n \text{ disagree}) + (n \text{ strongly disagree}).$$

We have also provided the results from the 2011 survey; shown in blue, the 2004 survey; which is given in red, and the results of the 1994 survey, which is given in green. The higher the number, the greater the favorability.

Strongly Agree	5	4	3	2	1	Strongly Disagree
2017		2011	2004		1994	
4.2		3.8	4.1		4.1	

Response Notes: 83% of the responses indicated “Strongly Agree” or “Agree,” while only 8% indicated “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree.” 8%, had no opinion and 7% did not respond. Support for this is up dramatically from 63 % “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” in 2011.

Question 24. In the spaces below, please list the three most important issues facing Marion. Please be as specific as possible.

[Tabulation Notes: See the essay question responses.]

Characteristics of Respondent

Question 25. Your age:

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

18 - 34	8
35 - 49	27
50 - 64	50
65 - 74	32
75 - 84	14
85+	6
Did not answer:	31

end of survey

2017 Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey Results Essay Sections & Written Comments

The 2017 Open Space and Recreation Survey results are from the tabulation of 168 surveys returned to the Open Space Acquisition Commission in the Fall of 2017 and Spring of 2018. Many of the 168 returned surveys had added comments in spaces provided throughout the survey pages. We have provided a list of those comments below.

Essay answers provided. We have attempted to limit edits to spelling and placing full wording when abbreviations were used. In an effort to condense the size of the document, some comments were combined when they were made by more than one resident; as the document was otherwise too repetitive. When the comments were combined a notation on the number of similar comments is made in the text.

The comments by Marion residents provided here are best viewed in the context of the complete 2017 Marion Open Space and Recreation Survey Results. The tabulated survey results can be viewed on the Town of Marion website, www.marionma.gov, or by requesting a paper copy from the Commission at 2 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738.

Page 1 comments:

Sidewalks (5 comments)

- Need more sidewalks, e.g. Point Road & Converse
- Bike riding marked lanes on streets
- Need path for runners and bikers along Point Road
- Need Bike Path along Route 6 to connect Point Road to Front Street.
- Walking trails (in safe place); More sidewalks

Town Hall (3 Comments)

- Make Condos out of Town Hall and use savings on other essentials, improve roads.
- Stop spending \$ on studies to renovate non essentials like Town Hall
- Maybe excess room in Sippican School can be used for Town Hall.

Dogs (2 Comments)

- Need fenced dog park
- We need a beach which will allow residents with dogs on a leash

Washburn Park (2 Comments)

- Benches on walking paths like Washburn Park would be great

- The little bridges over wet spots in Washburn Park could use improvement, if that has not yet been done. They were deteriorating at one point. Benches in Washburn would be used. Just a few. A place to rest (inexpensive)

Parking (2 Comments)

- Need more parking for vehicles with trailers at boat ramps; Need lots of bike paths; Need to improve access to ocean for those who live in town but not on water.
- More parking at/near Planting Island
-

Other Page 1 comments:

- We are getting older so we really don't use most/any of the facilities listed
- There is an opportunity to improve Marion Golf Course, raise rates and make revenue for town. The existing could be cleaned up, the course could be expanded using lands trust land across Allen's Point Road. Walking path could be added to perimeter. Have green space that could generate revenue for the town. (Ed note: Marion Golf Course is a private facility open to the public.)
- Boat wait lists are way way too long, 10-20 years!
- Playgrounds in my area have just been redone
- We need to get a handle on our sewer and water conditions.
- I feel that I am not qualified to make a judgment on the need for many of these recreational facilities because I do not golf, Play tennis, etc.
- Thank you for your time and energy
- Beaches are supported by summer resident taxes & should be better maintained, i.e. sand brought in and seaweed raked
- Harbor needs to be planned as well as land.
- Add birdhouses in open spaces
- Rather than worrying about these extra-curricular activities, the town needs to focus their energy on the school system & the changes going on there. I would love new sidewalks & better roads but I would also love my children to have a great education here in town & a support system in place to address the changes in our town.
- While all are important, I am aware that there are several at golf courses and bird sanctuaries.
- Family not residing in Marion
- Everything seems to be okay!

Question 1. Residents were asked to indicate the activities they or their family members enjoy?

- #1c. baseball – in part, d. soccer- in part, e. basketball – in part. When I respond “in part,” it's referring to experiences I shared with my children when they were young.
- #1ah. other: paddleboarding

- #1ah. other: Benches on walking paths
- #1ah. other: beachcombing
- #1ah. other: pickleball

Question 3: Residents were asked which recreational facilities we need more of. Which less?

- #3d. soccer fields: think about maintenance! Don't we play in Fairhaven and Rochester?
- #3g. swimming beaches: Where to get more land? And beach limited
- #3k (boat ramps) (satisfactory) - except parking
- #3l. better management system, too many people have moorings they don't use.
- #3m. ice rink: More time from Tabor.
- #3o. bike paths: Point Road
- #3w. What are viewing areas?
- swimming

Questions 4 & 5: Residents were asked to list the facilities in greatest and least need of improvement or expansion?

- New year round resident – not sure? Don't know area well.
- Dog park (Response to #4)

Question 6: Residents were asked which existing recreational facilities need upgrading.

- Baseball field behind Sippican Schools – move this! It's dangerous
- Where is Silvershell beach on this list
- Very workable; don't fight ocean tides
- q. Planting Island Causeway Beach – bathroom
- v. Village sidewalks - Spring St, both sides need a sidewalk for kids walking to school
- v. Village sidewalks – Route 6 sidewalks weedy
- Washburn Park needs basketball courts & a crosswalk across Front St.

Question 7: Residents were asked which facilities were in greatest need of repair or expansion.

- Sidewalks on County Road, a lot of other side streets
- All beaches need work.

Question 8: Residents were asked which recreational facilities should be located in Marion.

- None, I would not pay.
- #b (Off-leash dog park) Isn't that Washburn?

Question 11: Residents were asked for which facilities listed in Question 8 they would pay a user fee.

- I'd pay a fee if my child was using a field
- Should be provided
- None, you don't in other towns!!

Question 12: Residents were asked for which facilities listed in Question 8 they would be most willing to support through taxes?

- Should be provided
- All within reason!!
- None of the above

Question 14: Residents were asked what about open space/recreation in Marion was important to them.

- Water beach access - residents only
- Preservation of wooded areas (have enough, need to improve what we have)
- Preservation of wooded areas for beauty and animal habitat and birds

Question 15: A big problem facing the future of Marion's marine resources and harbor management is:

- These are matters for the experts (scientists)!
- Not a boat owner. Not knowledgeable enough to answer, would be guessing.
- sound pollution from gunfire

Question 17: Residents were asked how they would address the following issues: Pollution from boats, Pollution from runoff, Pollution from septic systems, Pollution from the town sewage plant, Overfishing of shellfish beds, Too many moorings, Too many mooring areas, Pollution from lawn care products, Too many docks, Lack of access, Pollution from waterfowl, and Damage from moorings.

Don't Know (5 Comments)

- I do not have that knowledge
- Don't know enough about sources of pollution or severity of pollution to answer.
- I don't know about environmental science to give a useful recommendation. Maybe look into something someone with this expertise to help solve this.
- Not sure
- Not sure, but could work on solution

Study Needed (2 Comments)

- Feasibility study
- I'd do a full harbor study to determine its best use rather than piecemeal project approvals.

General Comments:

- Not enough space for a truly comprehensive answer
- Stop spending money on studies to renovate Town Hall. Let a local developer turn Town hall into condominiums and build new Town Hall. Use savings to improve above resources.
- Appoint someone to check from time to time on these problems – have a volunteer panel to address them.
- Hire Conservation Agent to enforce Wetlands Protection Act and focus on remediating pollution sources
- I am against an “off leash dog park.” Not everyone cleans up dog waste. People do not control the “bad dogs” and there are fights.
- Contact Chad McGuire at UMASSD PPC
- Work with state and towns upstream and EPA to enforce Title 5 septic regulations along rivers leading to ocean
- Impose fines, monitor, allow businesses to locate here if they pay a portion of income to support conservation
- Would not

a. Pollution from boats (7 Comments)

- More and easier access to pump out stations
- Notices forbidding harbor toilet flushing from boats.
- Fines
- Education – Pump out service for residents' and visitors' boats should be easily accessible, and readily available.
- Educate boat owners on pollution prevention
- Boat check
- Plastic bag ban on the harbor, I find a lot of plastic bags in the water.
- Stricter fuel regulation

b. Pollution from runoff (4 Comments)

- More vegetation grown to prevent runoff
- Pollution from asphalt
- Storm water management
- Natural filter system at Tabor fields

c. Pollution from septic systems (17 Comments)

- More town sewage (6)
- Require all septic systems on the water to be tested & replaced if found to be polluting our waters (4)
- Review Septic Systems near water & sources (rivers)
- Fund replacement of old septic systems that are not up to code within a certain distance of the harbor or runoff areas
- Mandate all septic systems in town be Title 5 approved within a 3 year period. Those along the shoreline would need more advanced systems such as Bristol, RI enacted.
- Limit types of chemicals & type of septic systems that result in higher toxin levels in runoff into the harbor/bay
- Work with the Buzzards Bay Coalition to improve septic
- Better and more frequent inspection of septic systems
- Move from septic systems to town sewer

d. Pollution from town sewage plant (8 Comments)

- Upgrade sewer system (4)
- Line the lagoons (2)
- Tie in to Wareham's sewer
- Natural filter system at sewage plant

e. Overfishing of shellfish beds (2 Comments)

- limit commercial shellfishing and monitor rigorously
- need master plan to plan for any potential commercial oyster farms

f. Too many moorings (4 Comments)

- Stop issuing more moorings
- Restrict boat access
- Limit the number of moorings
- The amount of moorings we have over taxes our harbor master. It's a bit ridiculous.

g. Too many mooring areas (2 Comments)

- Marion harbor is crowded with boats
- Limit motor boat areas

h. Pollution from lawn care products (17 Comments)

- allow most minimal use of lawn care products (2)
- Inform constituents about what they put on the lawns/down drains can be toxic to our environment (2)
- More restriction on pollutants (2)
- Restrict use of lawn care products in wetland zones to organic varieties (2)

- Don't use lawn care products
- Forbid lawn care products that are poisonous/toxic to environment
- Better grassroots education with Conservation Commission /open space about "Green lawns" perhaps adding bylaw as such within coastal bank etc.
- Serious monitoring of water quality near expanses of lawns
- Educating others on the benefits of not fertilizing in the spring
- Incentivise natural lawns
- Public education through newspaper articles of the danger of nitrogen loading
- Ban lawn care chemicals on waterfront property
- Place restrictions on waterfront & close to water neighborhoods in terms of lawn care products

i. Too many docks

(No comments)

j. Lack of access (3 Comments)

- Add moorings for people that want them
- More access roads & parking near water for kayakers – beach walkers (inc with dogs) with clean-up stations for poop (biodegradable bags & covered trash cans)
- Increase mooring fees – given the waiting list why not?

k. Pollution from waterfowl (2 Comments)

- Control geese
- Harvest geese

l. Damage from moorings

(No comments)

Question 18: Residents were asked to state their level of agreement or disagreement with statements related to environmental impacts that can be addressed by Conservation Commission Bylaws or Zoning Bylaws.

- Don't know enough about this topic to answer.
- (Next to "*Restrict house density for future building in the floodplain zone.*") It depends if flood plain mapping is accurate.

Question 19: Residents were asked to state their level of agreement or disagreement with statements related to strategies to create open space using Zoning Bylaws.

- I need more info on these issues to make an intelligent/informed choice.

- With Mecke development on Point Road – was cluster but developer gave unuseable unreachable land to satisfy cluster housing.
- Need to know more to answer.
- (Next to “*Require open space in all future developments.*”)
- depends on the size of the development
- “accessible uplands” added by commenter
- The town needs to be more business and development friendly to generate income & keep taxes low. Each business should adopt conservation practices by contract.

Question 20: Residents were asked what percent of Marion should be permanently protected from development.

- I think it depends on what kind of development you mean.

Question 21: Residents were asked what actions they would support to preserve open space in town.

- (Donation of Conservation Restrictions by private landowners) -don’t understand this
- none, we have plenty
- (Zoning for open space conservation) checked - but don’t fully understand what this means.

Question 22: Residents were asked what percent of CPA funds should be designated for the purchase of open space.

- Sounds good as it is.
- Conservation Commission does this.
- Depends on the needs of the other concerns.
- Depends on land available to acquire.
- By public vote only! Each proposal should be put to a vote.

Question 24: Residents were list the three most important issues facing Marion

Planning: (66 Comments)

- Development (3)
- Over development and inappropriate size of structure (volume) of structure- not just footprint! (3)
- Control growth (2)
- Unused buildings on Route 6 ie: the old Christies (2)
- Over development (2)
- The town makes it too difficult to establish any kind of commercial business in town.

- Too few people think long term and about the overall well being of the Town. Individuals are focused on their own agendas, not for what is good for all, whether it is open space, affordable housing, commercial development or other issues. We are good at planning and lousy at holding planners accountable. Master Plans mean nothing unless there is a way of measuring progress.
- New housing obstructing views (ie house on corner of Zora and Front)
- No land for people who want to build – need development
- More land for commercial use- CVS etc
- Promote non-chain business
- There should be a minimum size lot necessary to build
- Fight Sprawl
- Maintain Downtown
- Rt. 6 and Front Area needs sprucing
- Allow development on Route 6
- Preservation of Waterfront
- Designate High density development zone
- Historic Districts and design/sign controls
- Too many houses being built
- Limit business to Route 6 area – improve present appearance
- Limiting future development
- Responsible development with local business support – not box stores like CVS
- Planning for global warming/flooding/hurricanes etc.
- Over development of wetlands and other sensitive areas
- Lack of Historical building Commission
- Commercial business expansion on Route 6
- Homes in low lying areas
- Controlled building
- Limit new commercial development
- No need for fast food outlets
- Minimum architectural requirements
- Keeping condominiums in appropriate locations
- Reasonable control of residential growth
- Reasonable control of commercial growth
- Need to develop the Industrial Park - BUSINESS
- No Building in V Zone at all
- Historic District regulations so that houses cannot be torn down but so that renovations can preserve the historic character of Marion
- Use regulations with common sense application
- Growth (esp. from 40B developers & entities like CVS)
- Preservation of historic character/buildings

- Commercial Enterprises destroying small town feel.
- Sensible, sustainable industrial (business) growth
- Over development of housing
- We need investment in the Village for business
- We need incentives for businesses in the Village
- Restricting condominiums in Village
- Limited construction
- Lack of Business development – no tax base
- Don't lose the old time feel
- Balancing preservation of quaint seaside town with being open to new business/new housing options
- Encourage sustainable development that does not overly burden schools
- Restrictions on housing (eg. Cluster, apartments, lot setbacks for additions, etc.)
- Too many people – not now – but future?
- The right commercial development for the town
- Restrictions on Additional Building (garages, porches, sheds)
- Large Houses being built in cottage neighborhoods on small lots
- Business development - we do not have enough
- non business friendly community.

Transportation (54 Comments)

- Sidewalks (8)
- Keep roads in good repair (5)
- The bike path (4)
- Streets are in poor condition (3)
- Repair of sidewalks and roads in town (2)
- Safety on Street (biking and walking) (2)
- Need for bike paths along Route 6, Converse Road, & Point Road (2)
- Safety – need sidewalks- roads in horrible shape – not safe (2)
- Affordable mass transit (2)
- Sidewalks and Bike paths (2)
- Bike Paths/Trails (2)
- Cut down all trees 5' from all roadways
- Sidewalks so people can safety walk on roadways
- Cut down trees!!! Ridiculous how the trees get preference over people's safety.
- Speed control on streets such as Front Street
- Speed limits should be enforced
- Route 6 is too narrow with too high of a speed limit. It should be one lane with bike paths and sidewalks and a shoulder.
- Support & programs for elders – need transportation

- Lack of Bus transportation to area towns – Wareham and New Bedford (GATRA should connect)
- Roads are in terrible shape along with all the infrastructure. Let's get it done we've been lacking for 40 years that I know of
- The walking on Delano Road is dangerous; we need a bike path to walk on!
- Open Space/Bike Path
- Fix sidewalks in village, add sidewalks along Point Road, Delano Road
- More Bike trails
- Traffic on side roads/cutting through to get to Wareham
- Increase safety traveling east/west on Route 6. Acquire permission to reduce traffic from 4 lanes to 3, providing 1 lane for travel east and west bound with a grassy median – allowing for turning at dedicated intervals within the middle turning lane.
- Traffic thru the Village (Top of the hill to Main Street, Route 6) must be tempered.
- Need street lights
- Non-paving of private road
- Snow management/plowing/removal
- development of bike path

Environment (29 Comments)

- Water pollution to harbor (6)
- Pollution (4)
- Clean water (3)
- Water quality of harbor and the bay (3)
- The lack of regulations regarding septic systems, especially those on the water (2)
- Insuring water quality- including harbor (2)
- Plastic bags in the water
- Entitled students using single plastic bags
- Septic system issues
- Massive pollution from nip bottles
- Water quality in Harbor and in our homes
- Preservation of harbor as Marion's prized asset
- Tree maintenance
- Environmental conservation
- Pollution from runoff

Open Space (27 Comments)

- Preserve and promote open space (4)
- Protecting natural open spaces (4)
- Protecting wetlands (2)

- Biking trails – excellent work at Grassi Bog/Rt. 6!Need to protect and keep undeveloped land undeveloped
- Protecting woodlands
- Wetlands
- Marine habitat
- Open space
- Saving Land from being developed
- Preservation of open land
- Preserving open space
- Limiting access to the shore
- More beaches
- Preserve recreational areas
- Hunting restrictions
- Fishing restrictions
- A detailed plan for achieving goals for preservation and recreation
- Keep the same % open space
- Harbor is best resource to protect
- Shrinkage of public access – fishing and Hunting

Water & Sewer (27 Comments)

- The sewer system (4)
- Need to extend sewer and improve the treatment center (3)
- Upgrade to town sewer/wastewater system (3)
- Water supply (2)
- Sewage needs
- Help fund septic improvements until sewer is available
- Stop dumping sewage in Aucoot Cove
- Sewage Treatment plant leaking
- Sewer connection of Point Road, Planting Island properties to town sewer system
- Bring sewer down roads that only have septic.
- Wellhead protection and town drinking water supply system
- Sewage and water treatment
- Sewage Plant compliance – get it accepted as is.
- Wastewater management
- Sewer and water infiltration
- Water wells only 2 operational
- Increase service area
- Expansion of sewer system
- Water & sewer issues

Taxes & Financial (25 Comments)

- Water & Sewer charges (8)
- Taxes (3)
- Taxable property
- More business in town
- Town infrastructure meeting the continuous upgrades of residential properties and the effect it has on the overall town – sewer other town services.
- Lack of tax income, ie Tabor Academy, lack of business
- Higher taxes with the focused spending (village vs. everyone else)
- Overbuilding and taxing ability of support resources, especially sewage and schools
- Preservation of infrastructure
- Funding for school to increase staffing needs for increase in school population
- Age of elementary school
- We need more industrially zoned land for development. There is no available land, it is developed or controlled by OSC or SLT - we need to increase the tax base to pay for services, etc. The MOSAC should selectively sell developable land so that we can attract clean businesses.
- Funding for preservation and recreation
- Marion's inability to deal with its mounting debt
- Unfunded pension liabilities
- Lack of retail areas (business tax benefits)

Affordable Housing (12 comments)

- Cost of housing (3)
- Lack of affordable housing (4)
- Housing which is affordable/accessible for seniors downsizing who wish to stay in town
- Housing which is affordable to our adult children so they can afford to return to Marion to live.
- Affordable housing creation
- Creative affordable housing - ADU's , not 40B's to help seniors stay at home
- Year-round rental options

Schools (12 Comments)

- Schools (2)
- Schools (2)
- Low income housing and the increase in school numbers & behavioral/learning issues in the school system & no money to support the changing demographics of the school system in Marion
- School system especially the Regional School

- School system has to get control over the school choice – Have to interview the kids before coming in. Lots of kids get kicked out of the previous school and then come to ORR!!
- School budget cuts
- Increased numbers in the school system
- Impact of affordable housing on elementary/higher education
- Lack of diversity in town at school system
- Impact of affordable housing on local schools

Recreation (10 Comments)

- Quiet clean beaches
- Maintain Silvershell beach with sand, jetty maintenance, etc.
- Maintenance of existing rec areas and town ramps
- Not enough marine related programs for our youth, our harbor & shores are pretty damn special
- Silvershell Beach needs to get back like it was years ago, too much riffraff coming in. Stop charging for cars or limit the amount of cars that pay. No one likes to go to Silvershell Beach anymore.
- Recreation opportunities for all generations
- More intown recreation for youth so we don't need to travel out of town for programs.
- Biking area – skateboard areas- require helmets
- Lack of bike/walking paths and ocean access
- large senior citizen population, but few recreational opportunities (walkways or bikepaths)

Town Hall (8 Comments)

- Town Hall (4)
- The “agonizing” decision of what to do with Town hall!
- Town house needs to be replaced
- Town hall needs an update!
- aging infrastructure & public buildings need upgrades & improvements

40B (7 Comments)

- If keep expanding the 40B will have more troubled kids come into school system
- Affordable Housing Act overburdening town – schools, water, etc.
- Affordable housing other than apartment complexes
- Limit 40B & affordable housing
- 40B projects where developers destroy acres of woods but provide limited amounts of affordable housing in return.
- Limit low income housing
- Over population from the 40B

Marine Resources (7 Comments)

- Lack of dock at boat ramp
- Crowding & overuse of marine facilities, boatyards, too many moorings
- Access to waterfront
- Nonpermanent residents having/using moorings
- Boat trailer parking at the boat ramp
- More boat docking available
- Moorings

Dog Park (6 Comments)

- There isn't a dog park (3)
- Lack of beach access for dog owners
- No to the "off leash dog park."
- I love dogs. I do not think an off leash dog park would be a good idea in this town.

Government (3 Comments)

- More small business encouragement (hint: Eileen Marum has to go!)
- Too limited climate for small business
- Town Government pays attention on village and not on rest of town

Aquaculture (2 Comments)

- Discontinue oyster farming
- Limit oyster farming – brings no revenue to town – shoreline affected (-)

Demographics (2 Comments)

- The aging population and finding new stewards for the town
- More volunteers

Library (2 Comments)

- Library
- Library!!! (Compare our library to those in Mattapoisett, Wareham, Carver, etc. and you will be embarrassed.)

Tabor (2 Comments)

- Tabor Academy is allowed to continue to buy property that becomes tax exempt, but staff members send their kids to school without paying. NO town official approaches Tabor to discuss how they could be better town/corporate citizens.
- Come up with PILOT arrangement with Tabor

Other Issues Listed:

- Noise pollution from boulder fragging on Front Street home development
- Things to do for teenagers
- more restaurants
- All issues are important
- Crime prevention will become a concern with increased traffic
- Amenities/facilities for families
- LED Street lights
- Inheritance of our town to our children
- Please know, we support all findings of the Open Space Commission. We appreciate all that you do! We support whatever agenda you think is the correct route for our little town!
- Preservation of look and feel that so many people appreciate.
- Conservation of “look and feel” of Marion
- Insurance Marion is a good place to raise my future children
- The combination of large senior citizen population but few recreational opportunities, aging infrastructure and public buildings, and non-business friendly community]* will propel aging citizens to head south and instead of having a diverse community young families will move in and draw on public services. Offer options & attractions for all segments of the population to retain seniors, engage their volunteerism for projects & retain a community that does not become a Wellesley, Weston or Westwood. Improve the library! Great staff, small collection!
 - *3 factors listed are also included in comments above, in their respective categories.

[1]