



2023 Bennington Community Survey

We thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and providing your feedback to the Town. Your responses to this survey are anonymous. They will remain confidential and, if released, will only be available as aggregate data (never on an individual basis).

Once complete, please drop off or mail this survey to:

Bennington Town Office
205 South Street
P.O. Box 469
Bennington, VT 05201

Bennington Senior Center
124 Pleasant Street #3
Bennington, VT 05201

Bennington Community Center (Rec. Center)
655 Gage Street
Bennington, VT 05201

THANK YOU!



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Demographic Information

Your responses to this survey are anonymous. They will remain confidential and, if released, will only be available as aggregate data (never on an individual basis).

1. What is your age?

- 18 years or younger
- 19-29
- 30-49
- 50-64
- 65 years or older

2. What is your racial background?

- African American/Black
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Multi-Racial
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Middle Eastern
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- White
- I prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

3. What is your relationship to Bennington?

- I work and live here.
- I work here.
- I live here.
- None of the above.

4. Do you:

- Rent your home?
- Own your home?

5. How well does the following Town Vision reflect your vision of the town?

TOWN VISION: "Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life."

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree



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Review of Municipal Services

6. Please rate each of the following services offered by the Town

	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good
Programs and activities for youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs and activities for seniors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintenance of public spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalk maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street repair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street cleaning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snow removal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinking water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wastewater services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building code enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animal control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public parking in downtown Bennington	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambulance and emergency services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Parks and Recreation

7. How many times have you visited the following facilities, parks, or public spaces in the past 6 months? If need be, please feel free to provide a rough estimate.

	0	1-2	3-5	6+	I am not familiar with this facility/park.
Bennington Community Center (Rec Center)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stark Street Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splashpad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Willow Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Park at Willow Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beech Street Ball Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rotary Park (Peoples Park) by Bennington Station	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenberg Headwaters Park (Morgan St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenberg Conservation Reserve (Route 7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Y-Woods (Middle Pownal Rd. / Park Lawn Cemetery)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Park at 336 / Pocket Park on Main Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downtown Riverwalk (Walloomsac Pathway)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bennington Rail Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. What improvements would you like to see in the town's recreational offerings or public spaces?



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Neighborhood

9. Please rate each of the following aspects of your neighborhood.

	Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neutral	Safe	Very Safe
How safe do you feel in your immediate neighborhood?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How safe do you feel in the Town of Bennington as a whole?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Law Enforcement

10. Please rate the performance of the Bennington Police Department:

	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good
Effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Approachable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experienced	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helpful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community-focused	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Please indicate if any of the following apply to you:

	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
You or someone close to you was a victim of a crime in Bennington	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You used the online "Crime Tip Line" through the Bennington Police Department's website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You called the anonymous crime tip line (802-445-3937)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. In 2022, The Bennington Select Board established a Town Board to be known as the Community Policing Advisory Review Board (CPARB), to provide meaningful involvement in safety, equity, and community policing efforts.

What would you like to see CPARB focus on? Choose all that apply.

- Work to build trust between the community and the Bennington Police Department
- Work to ensure all voices in the community are heard
- Promote learning on community safety and equity issues for Town staff
- Your suggestion for an area of focus

13. What can the community do to help the Bennington Police Department do their job more effectively?



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Downtown Bennington & Economic Development

14. What features would improve the vibrancy of downtown Bennington? Please check all that apply.

- More outdoor recreational/gathering space for the community
- More events programming
- More retail businesses (if so, please indicate what kind in the "other" section)
- More restaurants (if so, please indicate what kind in the "other" section)
- More service businesses (if so, please indicate what kind in the "other" section)
- More housing
- Other (please specify)

15. What municipal investment would have the greatest impact on the community? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re-development of vacant and/or blighted properties | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water and sewer infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Generation of energy from renewable sources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highways and bridges | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional bike and pedestrian paths and right-of-ways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitating a downtown hardware store | <input type="checkbox"/> A skate Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitating new or restored housing | <input type="checkbox"/> An indoor Gymnasium |

Other (please specify)



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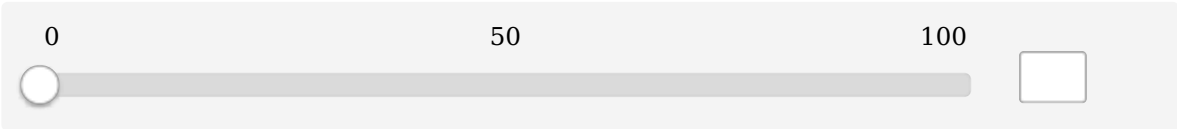
Quality of Life

16. What investment in non-municipal assets do you feel are most needed in Bennington?

Please check your top 3 or 4 choices.

- Quality of housing that is affordable
- Availability of childcare services
- Access to healthy and affordable food
- Availability of health care services
- Quality of public K-6 education
- Quality of public 7-12 education
- Other (please specify)

17. Please rate your overall quality of life in Bennington, with 100 being the highest score.



18. Please rate the performance of the Bennington Select Board

	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good
Responsiveness to public input	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing leadership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing ample opportunity to discuss issues in a public setting before making a decision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Welcoming input from the public	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is easy to contact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Takes public input into account when making decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

19. What is the best way for the Town of Bennington to share information with you?

- Newspaper notice
- Public Access TV
- Town Website
- Social Media
- Front Porch Forum
- Email
- Direct Mail
- Other (please specify)

20. Please rate the following aspects of the Town of Bennington Staff.

	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good
Courteous and respectful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge of area of expertise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Willingness to help	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing clear and concise information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Thinking broadly, how do you feel about the future of the Town in general over the next couple of years?

- Optimistic - things are getting better
- Indifferent - things will stay pretty much the same
- Pessimistic - things are getting worse



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THANK YOU!

We are grateful to you for sharing your time and feedback with us.