

Q5

Public Bathrooms: The Town maintains portalettes at Ilsley Library, Mill St and Midd Rec Park lots year round in addition to access to it's Town Offices ones when open. There are seasonal and event portalettes on the Town Green and Marbleworks lawns. It is considering a donation from Middlebury Rotary for the installation of a stand-alone plumbed bathroom ("The Portland Loo") but needs to know the extent of support from residents for its ongoing maintenance cost estimated at \$12,000 per year (\$1.26/year per \$100,000 of property valuation). Its location is yet to be decided. Please comment.

- In full support of such an idea
- Yes yes and make it pleasing to the eye. See public bathroom contest in New Zealand.
- Good idea
- I think the portalettes are enough
- Opposed to public restrooms in the downtown. They will not be clean and safe places.
- It would be nice to have a bathroom somewhere at the north end of Main Street. I work at National Bank of Middlebury on Main Street, and we have people come in all the time just looking for restrooms.
- If the proposed bathroom is to be heated, will it attract overnight stays for some?
- Great idea. Let's go for it. On the town green or near the bus stop that is below Twilight Hall, In New Zealand we found public facilities that include showers.
- I'm inclined to say no, if it means an increase on taxes. It sounds as if the town already has public facilities that people can access.
- Good idea
- Very good idea. Strong support
- Great idea!
- I support this initiative
- I think this is a great idea and I would happily support it with my taxes. Anything that makes us even more welcoming is welcome :)
- Having the port-o-lets around town is handy and I know the rec park one is kept very clean (was a bummer the 12/23 storm tipped it over). If an additional one or two port-o-lets was less expensive, to me, that would be the way to go (pun intended).
- This is a fine idea. I would support it. People need a place to go sometimes and stores or the library aren't the best option.
- Would absolutely support this idea...
- This is new information for me but without giving it a lot of thought my initial reaction is this: it could be a nice addition for visitors of the downtown area but that perhaps depends where it would be located so I am undecided.
- What are we paying the \$12,000 for?
- I would rather see a Visitor/Welcome Center like the one established in Woodstock Vermont to provide public bathrooms. A Portland Loo is better than nothing.
- I see the need for more public bathrooms. The price does not seem too steep. Location will be key, and well as pristine upkeep.
- I definitely support the plumbed bathroom proposal. I also support year-round portalettes at the Marbleworks and Town Green year rounds. All these bathroom are needed by everyone, especially older citizens.
- In favor
- That would be an excellent idea!
- I'd be interested in learning more.
- This is a good idea, as long as it can be kept clean and well-maintained.
- I think it's a good idea. I am a renter in town so don't pay property taxes, in case you're thinking of additional ways to finance public bathrooms.
- I think this is an excellent idea. I would happily contribute.

- Middlebury needs public restrooms very much. However, they should be built for the use of more than one person so that they are not used inappropriately or illegally. Ilsley has had problems with the misuse of its bathrooms, each of which accommodates only one person. The bathroom in the new municipal building is a good model.
- Support
- I support this
- Will this be open 24 hours? Are the Portales open 24 hours?
- It's an important service for both town people and visitors. It acknowledges personal needs and gives a warm and caring impression to those that use or visit the town.
- In Favor
- I support proper plumbed bathrooms!! Happy to pay the tax.
- Yes! If we are ever going to get "downtown" back into use a "loo" is essential!
- I am sympathetic to a plumbed bathroom but think the annual maintenance costs are grossly underestimated and, like any infrastructure, should begin to have its replacement planned from the moment it's realized.
- I think the restrooms we already have are adequate.
- Sounds like a good idea.
- think we should have public plumbed bathrooms so I support this. Questions: 1. Would it have heat? 2. With the amount of homelessness, might it become a sleeping location, especially in the winter, and then not be available as a bathroom?
- Nice idea -- I'll support it if it can be used safely. How to avoid overnight camping? folks spending hours inside?
- The rate seems a bit steep for what it is and I worry that it would be destroyed by idiots. I don't support this, especially if there are portalettes already. I know it's for the homeless, but pretty soon, I'll be homeless if I have to keep supporting everything on the wish list. I saw last night that they now want to give away diapers....where does it end???
- Yes
- Great idea, I definitely would support that.
- Support this!
- As a Senior pedestrian who daily hikes downtown from my home a mile away, I welcome an alternative to bathroom facilities when the other options aren't available.
- I highly recommend the example of the Hundertwasser public toilets in New Zealand. It is a work of art and an actual tourist attraction for the town. Check it out in Wikipedia and other internet links.
- Definitely should do this.
- Because Town Offices and other public restrooms are often closed when people need them, and portalettes are kind of gross, I think this is a good idea - as long as we can keep it relatively clean. If not, some really good signage as to where the public restrooms are would be helpful. The Gotta Go pamphlet is great.
- Great value for locals and visitors. Yes, let's support.
- great idea as long as it's maintained
- Public restrooms are vital! A plumbed 24/hour bathroom downtown by the town offices seems like a good start.
- Good idea, but make it accessible for the disabled, which portalette's are usually not.
- I think this is a much needed resource. When shopping downtown, I'm often unable to find a restroom for my children to use. It degrades from the experience and often cuts it short.
- This will be a constant source of expense and problems for the Town. Who is going to be stocking toilet paper and keeping toilets working and it will be constantly dirty.
- Long overdue. Strongly in favor.
- Good idea but many of us would pay per use contactless or cash and so tax cost might be less.
- I support it
- I think it's a great idea and fully support funding it.
- Too much maintenance and potential vandalism target. I am in favor of public bathrooms though. Are any available in the town offices? The library's I believe have issues.
- I am happy to support this public toilet.
- How much is the cost of a year-round port-a-let by comparison?
- I'm in favor
- A great idea, but location is key, since it would need to be adjacent to sewer and water and also central and visible to visitors to the town.

- I am hesitant about large, single-stall public restrooms (as opposed to an open-doorway multi-stall restroom.) While I can appreciate the appeal and ease of use over a portalette, I wonder if there is a more traditional option?
- This is a good idea.
- seems expensive but probably necessary
- Yes, I support a stand-alone plumbed bathroom, provided there are adequate funds to clean and maintain it.
- I would willingly be taxed to support this.
- A small price to pay for an important facility
- Good investment
- I would be in favor of this.
- Would this mean Middlebury wouldn't need the port-o-potty's and we could save the cost of renting those? If not, it doesn't seem that we would need more bathrooms. Do the rented ones get much use?
- Public restrooms are a great idea, however, they come with added costs and responsibilities. A set maintenance and cleaning plan is important. Vandalism is also an issue. Maybe having someone paint community minded murals on these "portables" will help blend these in and help prevent vandalism. Maybe even advertising options businesses can purchase to help cover the costs.
- Good idea!
- Not needed. It'll just get trashed.
- Love it. Very civilized.
- I'm all for maintained public bathrooms and increasing access to them. I would be interested to know what the infrastructural and ecological advantages/disadvantages were to a standalone bathroom as opposed to something that was attached to a building but independently accessed.
- Not interested in this project
- Yes. I'm always in favor of public toilets. An important service both to the homeless and to most of us who experience the need to go at sometimes inconvenient times.
- Location would be a factor
- 100% support the idea providing they are maintained on a constant basis.
- I do not support this concept. It will lead to vandalism and a hangout area.
- Needed!
- sounds like a great idea
- It all depends on where and how it is executed. Tough one. Good luck.
- I fully support it.
- It's a great idea but the cost seems absolutely insane.
- Great idea to help meet an essential need. Not sure that the design fits in well with our newly designed Triangle Park, though. Could it go down by the labyrinth in Lazarus Park?
- Ideally this would replace a portapotty. I think that should be part of the goal. If it does replace one there should be some savings to the town. Is the \$1.26 net of those savings?
- No
- Amazing idea!! Family friendly! And helpful for people without homes/regular housing. Keep our town clean!
- I think this is an excellent resource that our town will benefit from. I would support this initiative.
- I would support it as long as it will be kept clean and safe
- Good idea. I'd support it.
- I'd support this
- I'm all for it if it's somewhere downtown. I'd not include the Marbleworks in "downtown."
- Happy to pay higher taxes for public bathrooms
- Great idea! Please move forward with this!
- I would support
- I support the installation but question the amount to be assessed on property taxes. It seems high given the value of property in Middlebury.
- I would support this idea.
- I think there should be public mtgs before making any decisions. Personally, how would they be monitored? We have a homeless and mental health problem in middlebury? Will we be seeing needles etc in these facilities - in which case people will not allow their children to use them. How will these be monitored?
- I didn't know that the 3 portalettes were available for use by the public. I thought they were restricted. Can't imagine an out-of-towner using one of them. I think a clearly marked and clearly visible restroom would be used by visitors and residents alike.
- While I totally understand the reasoning, I am not thrilled about have 1 more thing added to my taxes. Middlebury taxes are too much. How about fund raisers instead?
- I support that idea and believe that cost seems reasonable.
- I am in support but worry about cleanliness, who will be responsible for cleaning, and how often.

- In favor of the stand-alone bathroom
- I will support this but am concerned about maintenance day to day. It needs to be clean.
- It's a good idea. They seem to work well in Portland, because are they supported by a larger population (tax base). The extra cost may be a reach for some in our town.
- Sounds like a good idea as long as it continually kept clean
- Yes! This is a great idea. Please do this. Somewhere near the town hall / library would be a good spot.
- The public facilities already supplied are sufficient for my use.
- Portable portalettes are fine as situated. No need for a Portland Loo that may invite vandalism.
- Worried about where it should be placed in town. Big costs to operate it each year. Could the design be modified so it fits in more into the downtown middlebury landscape? How does it fit into the master plan?
- I support this and am happy to add this nominal fee.
- Sounds like a good idea. The portalettes fill a need but are unsightly.
- Yes, we need that
- This is an excessive expense. I don't support it
- The more bathrooms in town the better! The library bathrooms get very busy. I have a six year old and we frequently need to use a bathroom in town! I'd be happy to contribute some of my property taxes to this cause.
- I think it's a good idea and I would support the funding by property tax at the proposed rate.
- I could be on board for something like that
- All for it if it can be maintained, which might be difficult.
- Great idea! Install it, will help with tourism.
- I am in favor of a public bathroom and support the cost for maintenance.
- Location is key as is the monitoring for unsavory activities. Why has this been determined to be necessary?
- as seniors we try to stay in mid we don't need any more taxes
- I think this is a great idea!
- Public toilets should be available no matter the costs.
- I've used both locations and am grateful, but it appears the the houseless population would benefit from thr Portland Loo. It would cost me about \$3/year
- Needs to be something people won't linger in. I've seen some small ones in Europe that are automatically sprayed with water after each use.
- i'd support it especially if current existence is not sufficient
- We do need public bathrooms!
- Good idea- definitely needed
- Love it!
- This is essential to a welcoming town. Rotary has never said they would do this on their own, merely help with the project.
- Yes, good idea where public gathers and a reasonable location
- Good idea
- Buds barbershop Yes I support.
- Maintenance cost is way too low. No good open space for site. Should be incorporated into existing building
- I am in support of this initiative.
- I support the "right to pee" and hence support having a tasteful public toilet at an accessible location.
- I support a public bathroom, but his has become an issue for other towns. Seems like something the Downtown Improvement District could pay for since it helps those properties.
- Not sure where this should be, but do support having one!
- This doesn't seem really needed and will end up being used mainly by druggies
- I am in favor.
- I wholly support this.
- \$3+ a year for a public restroom sounds fine to me -- as long as it stays clean. If it was attractive and well-advertised it could make a nice way to attract visitors to our town.
- Support
- Sounds great!
- I was in the Gardens in Queenstown, New Zealand about 15 years ago and they had a self sanitizing portable toilet that would sanitize (Chemical Spray) the whole inside of the enclosure after each use.
- Supported

- I support the installation of more permanent restroom facility in town and a the associated maintenance town cost. However, careful consideration should be given to location and possible safety issues.
- It would be great to have a plumbed & accessible public restroom downtown for weekend activity when the Town Hall (and sometimes Library) are closed.
- Yes please! Especially with kiddos, more accessible bathrooms needed.
- Not necessary.
- Any permanent toilet must be a composting one.
- Who will clean this bathroom and who will maintain it? How often will it be cleaned? Who and how often will it be checked for drug overdoses? How will it be kept free of people sleeping in it?
- Sounds interesting.
- Yes, I support. Maintained public restroom is valuable for residents and visitors. For many people, a portaletto is not a great solution (although I appreciate those too.)
- Yes, we need a plumbed bathroom available to the public.
- I am in full support of this idea.
- I support a plumbed bathroom as long as it is safe.
- I am in support of this. Could the location be near Mary Hogan?
- I think what we have now is adequate.
- Currently a renter looking to buy. would be willing pay this estimated cost—particularly if it is well maintained
- I don't think I am in favor at this time.
- I would like to see a blue public bathrooms directional sign added to the parking post on the curb in front of the ally between Ilsley and Town Office directing people to our public bathrooms in those buildings as we have with the blue sign directing people to EV chargers. I am VERY happy to see the portlettes at Ilsley and Mill St functioning year round now even through winter while we work toward a Portland Loo stand-alone bathroom. I would love to locate this on the Town Green or near the Post Office, wherever water hook up and street lighting exists. Burlington reports that the maintenance cost isn't nearly as high as what we are stating from the Portland Loo website. Burlington says the Portland Loo at downtown city park near Church St has been very successful, easy to maintain and is, in fact, looking to order a second one. They said they only need to turn the water off when it is well below freezing temps (under 20 degrees). They are also looking into installing "Wasted" Portable Toiletttes along the bike path. This VT product is green in that it sorts waste for composting. More at <https://wasted.earth/>. Laura Asermily
- I support this
- I support one on the town green next to Triangle Park
- I'd support this.
- good idea. lets see how much they get used
- I agree with the idea
- How does t his compare to cost of port-a-pottie? This in addition to those? What is their usage rate? If plumbed, \$12,000 seems like a lot.
- Winterizing?
- Great idea! Don't have a location in mind.
- Already have a number of rest rooms available - Marble Works, Library, Town Offices, as well as in numerous businesses. So, no, I don't support this idea.
- NO
- Would prefer something more permanent, perhaps at the train station, but yes, I would support this initiative and expenditure.
- great idea
- The town needs to figure out the homeless population challenges before putting in a plumbed bathroom in downtown. The bathrooms at the library are an issue.
- Needed

- Go for it! Tourists have kids too!
- Open to the idea.
- Middlebury needs to have a public restroom to provide a welcome, safe, and sanitary facility for residents and guests alike.
- Great idea
- Yes, everyone should have easy access to bathrooms.
- Great idea!
- I'd be concerned about pipes freezing.
- Seems unnecessary at \$12k/year. Groups holding events can supply bathrooms at a small cost.
- It's good to have plenty of public bathrooms.
- I support this.
- This is a wonderful idea!
- Yes, good for residence and visitors
- At Amtrak Station or bus stop across from Triangle Park would be great locations.
- There must be a plan for maintenance and discouraging inappropriate/illegal use of the space.
- Great idea as long as it is well maintained.
- It needs to be done.
- Have enough already.
- As a parent to small children I support this!
- Keep them going.
- Good idea.