

North Haven Community Vision Process

Survey & Community Conversations

FINDINGS REPORT

Overview

In late August 2021, the Town of North Haven launched a Community Vision Process with the goal of identifying (through a community-wide survey and conversations) the community's top concerns and challenges (in order to create an action plan to address those challenges) and to generate a vision statement for North Haven. The first phase of this process was to collect responses from the community to key questions:

- *What do you value most about the North Haven community?*
- *What priorities should North Haven work to address over the next 1-10 years?*
- *What is your vision for North Haven in 10-20 years?*

Here are the short answers to the first two questions:

1. The most important **value** reported is **Sense of Community**.
2. The most important **issue** to address is **Access to Housing**.

As to the third question – a Community Vision – themes emerged around:

- The **viability and resilience of the year-round community**
- **Enhancing a sense of community**
- Finding a **balance between preserving the island's heritage and beauty and ensuring access to services and infrastructure**
- Using **creative solutions to address priorities** such as access to affordable housing and economic diversification

The following report is a compilation of the data collected in response to these questions. If you would like to learn more about survey and conversation findings, please read on.

Data Collection Methodology

Information was solicited from the community through two primary methods – a community-wide survey and community conversations. The survey was launched on September 27, 2021 and closed at 11:59pm on November 6, 2021. The survey was available online, and hardcopies of the survey were mailed with a Town-addressed stamped return envelope to all local postal customers. Hardcopies were also mailed upon request and were available at Waterman's, the School, and the Town Office.

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A total of ten in-person small-group community conversations were held in November with a total of 85 people participating. Six of these conversations were held at the town office, the remainder were held at other locations on the island. Care was taken to provide various opportunities to be involved and to meet people at convenient locations in an attempt to remove barriers to participation. Both the survey and conversations were advertised weekly through a Town email listserve, on the Town website, on social media, and on posters placed at prominent locations in the community.

In addition to the survey and small-group conversations, data was collected from one-on-one discussions held in-person, over zoom, and via phone and email.

Summary of Findings

For a more detailed description of the findings, including exact percentages, please read the descriptions following the breakdown of individual questions beginning on page 4 – Survey Findings and page 13 – Conversation Findings.

Community Survey

We received 387 survey responses to our North Haven Community Survey. In general, our respondents reflect the demographics of the community. We received responses from year-round, summer, and multi-season residents. Respondents occupied age ranges from under 12 to over 75 and reflected different gender identities. 15% of respondents have school-aged children living on North Haven. Respondents work in over 17 industries, with many respondents identifying primarily as educators, professionals, and retirees. The duration of respondents' residence on North Haven ranges from a few months to entire lifetimes and everywhere in between.

The top five values selected by respondents based on weighted score are: Sense of Community, Friends and Family, Scenic Beauty, Island Heritage and Culture, and Quality of Life. Sense of Community is the top ranked value based on the weighted score, frequency of appearances in the top 5 values, and total number of first place rankings. Based on the weighted value, Scenic Beauty and Friends and Family are tied for second. Friends and Family received more top rankings than Scenic Beauty, though Scenic Beauty was ranked in the top five more frequently. The fourth and fifth top values are Island Heritage and Culture and Quality of Life, respectively.

The top five issues to address in the next 1-10 years selected by respondents based on weighted score are: Access to Housing, Workforce Development, Economic Diversification, Environmental Sustainability, and Climate Change Impacts. Similar to the values, the top ranked priority, Access to Housing, received the most number one rankings, has the highest weighted score, and has the highest total frequency of ratings.

In response to the question, *“What additional concerns and challenges do individuals think our community should commit to working on and investing in over the next 1-10 years?”*, survey respondents chose to elaborate on concerns they had already identified when ranking their top priorities or add concerns not covered in the provided list. Several big themes emerged including the impact lack of housing has on most other key issues such as maintaining a robust school, workforce development and labor shortages, and opportunities for economic diversification. The viability of the store and mental health resources also emerged as themes under human infrastructure that were not explicitly covered under the previous question. Similarly, concerns over sustainable resource use,

adequate and affordable transportation on and off the island, and access to the waterfront were all mentioned. The importance of community – specifically engagement and collaboration – also emerged as an important theme.

In answers to the question, “*What is your vision for North Haven in 10-20 years?*”, respondents combined values and priorities to share their thoughts on the future. Themes emerged that focused on the viability and resilience of the year-round community, discussing the sense of community, finding a balance between preserving island heritage and beauty and ensuring access to services and infrastructure, and using creative solutions to address priorities such as access to affordable housing and economic diversification.

Community Conversations

Values Themes

Similar to the survey, Sense of Community emerged as a top value among conversation participants. Participants described community engagement, intergenerational friendships, and trust as key aspects of what forms their Sense of Community. Additionally, Quality of Life emerged as a top value with many respondents explaining that it encompasses aspects of community, scenic beauty, friends and family, and opportunities. Two themes unique to Community Conversations include the possibilities presented by island living to be involved in the community, pursue multiple careers, try new things, and sense of place, capturing the unique combination of North Haven’s geography, landscapes, community, and culture.

Challenges and Opportunities Themes

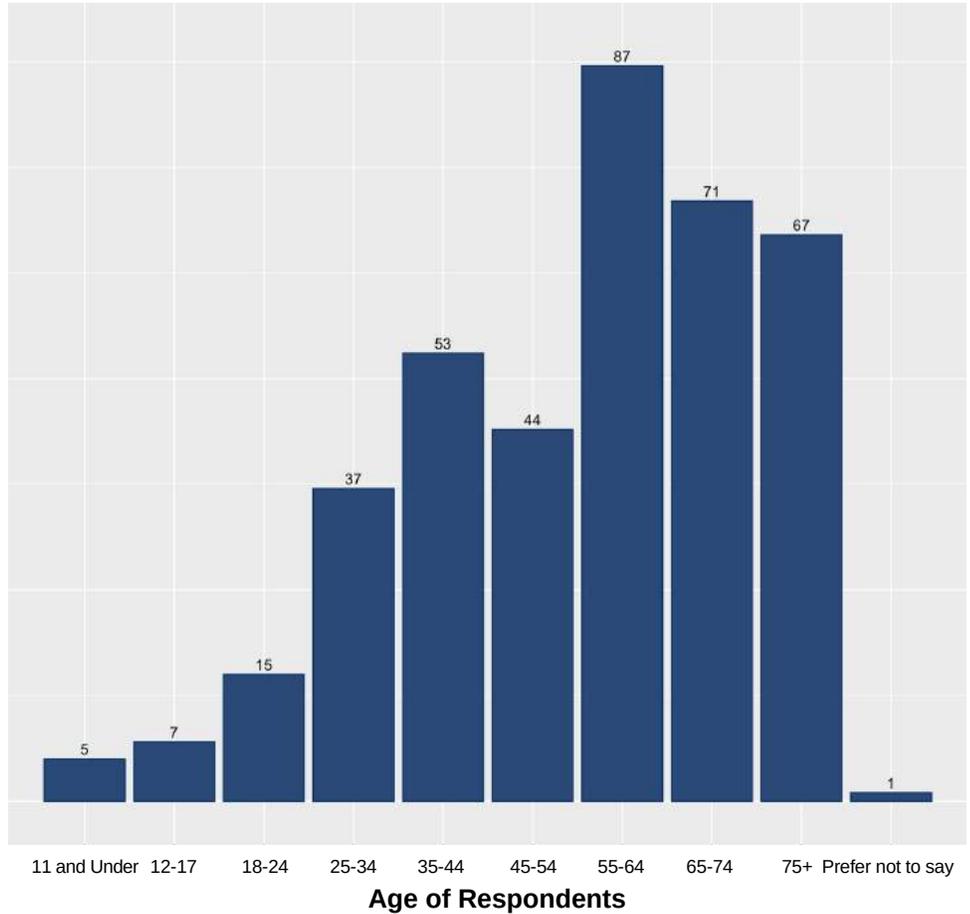
Key themes that emerged during the Community Conversations mirrored those discussed in the survey, providing more insights into how themes are interconnected. Housing emerged as a key issue, both access to affordable homes and year-round rentals and how housing relates to most other challenges. A vibrant school that supports a variety of opportunities, a stable store, trades and workforce development, and opportunities to diversify the economy through areas such as aquaculture and small business support were all themes that were tied to a need for housing. Additionally, better waterfront infrastructure, broadband options, and adequate transportation also emerged as themes related to economic diversification.

Survey Findings

Survey Question 1: What is your age?

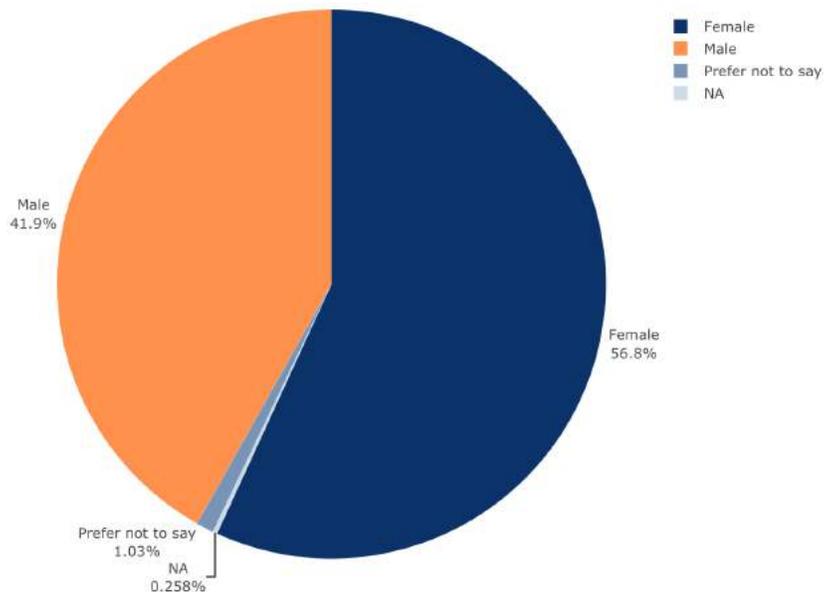
The majority of respondents were above age 55, with 57.4% of respondents (225) falling into the age groups of 55-64 (87 respondents), 65-74 (70 respondents), and 75 and above (65 respondents). 38.2% of respondents (149) were between the ages of 18 and 54, and 3.1% of respondents (12) were under age 18. 0.25% of respondents (1) preferred not to say.

Age Groups of Survey Respondents

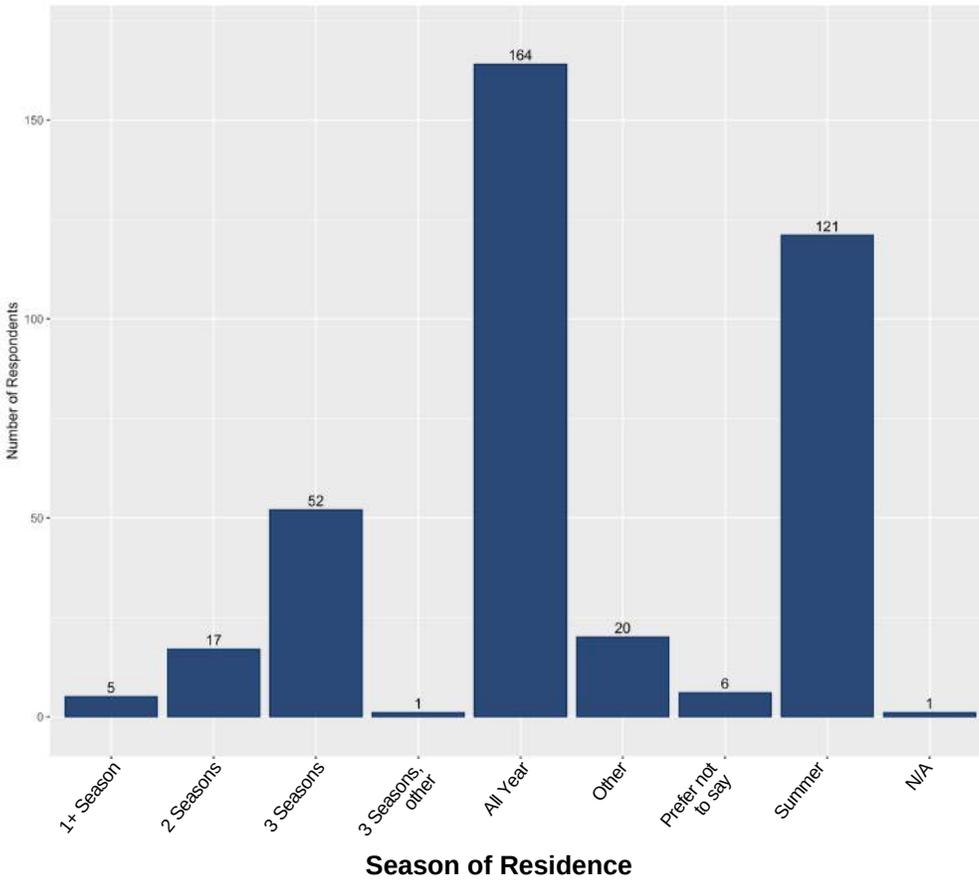


Gender Identity of Survey Respondents

**Survey Question 2:
Gender: How do you identify?**
Female-identifying respondents made up 56.9% of survey respondents and male-identifying respondents made up 41.8%. 1.3% of respondents preferred not to say or chose not to answer.

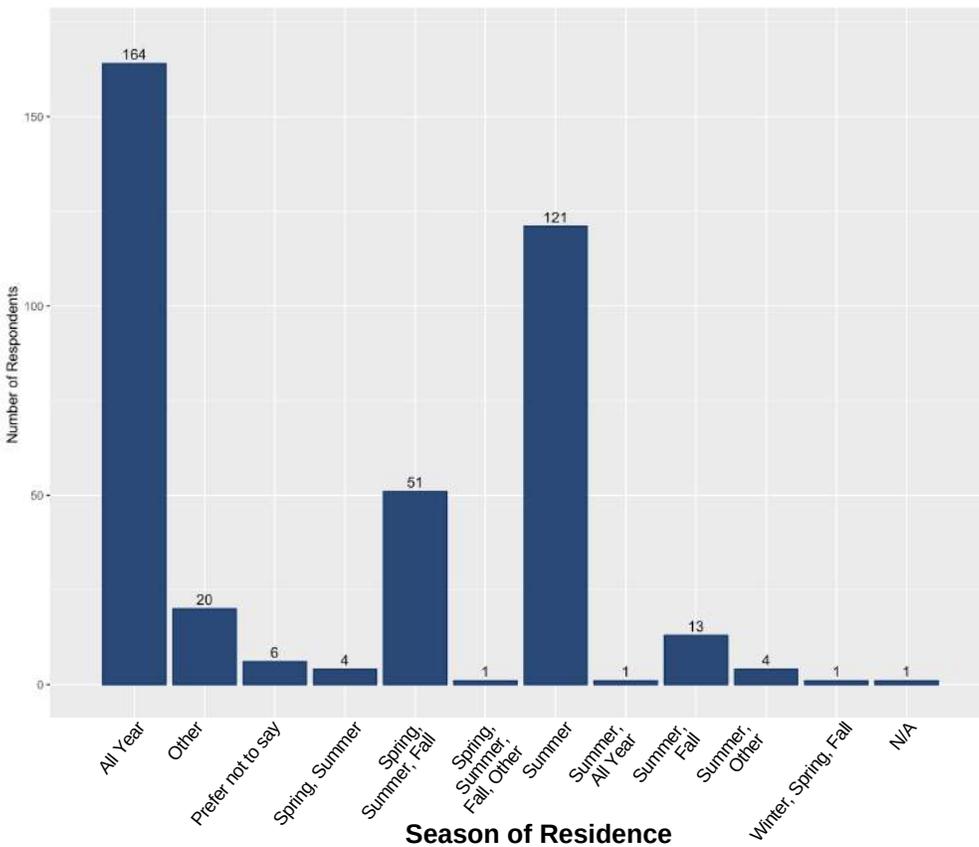


Seasons Spent on North Haven



Survey Question 3:
What time of year do you live on North Haven?
 164 respondents or 42.4% of survey takers indicated that they are year-round residents of North Haven. Out of the remaining responses, 121 respondents, or 31.3%, indicated they come during the summer season and 102 respondents, 26.3%, come for some combination of more than 1 season.

Seasons Spent on North Haven 2

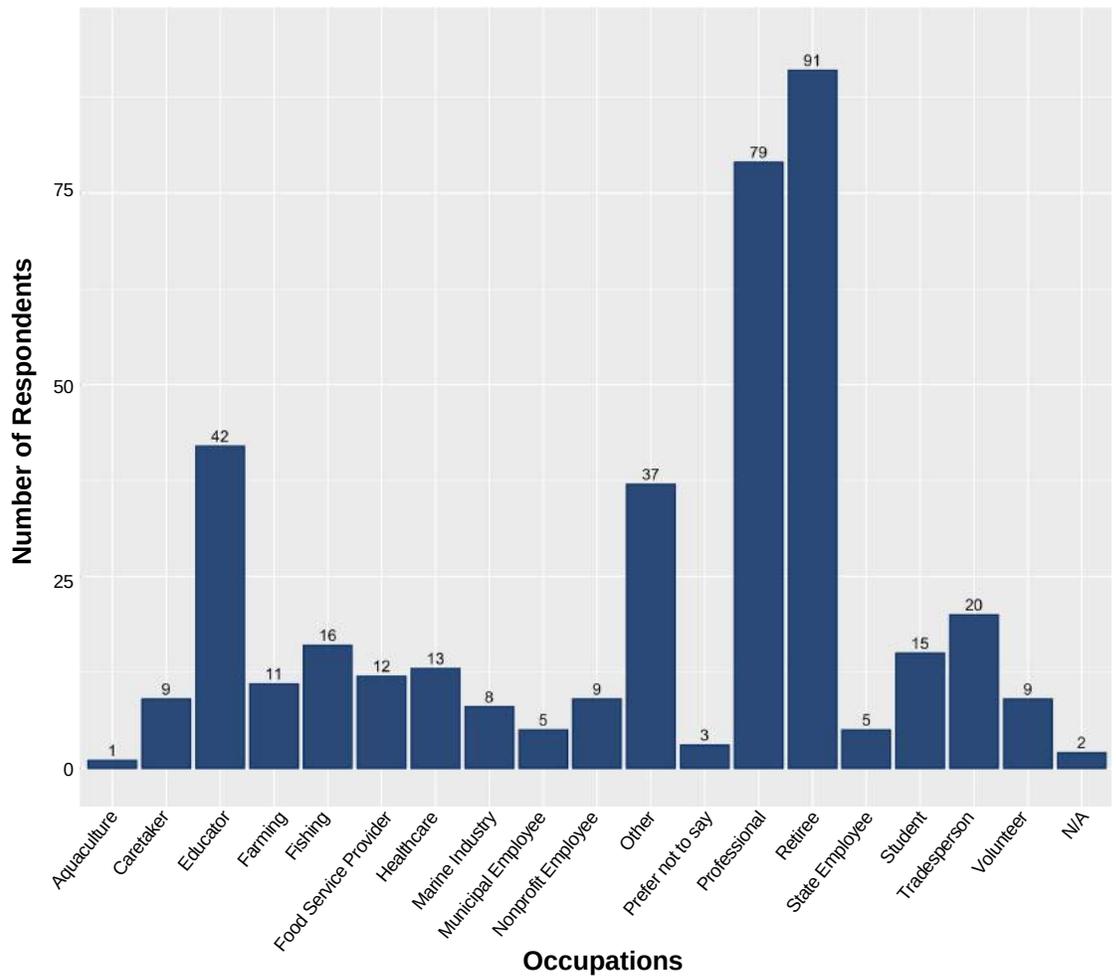


This graph shows the different combinations of seasons that residents spend on North Haven. Outside of year-round (42.4%) and summer-season residents (31.3%), 13.2% of respondents spend spring, summer, and fall on North Haven. The remaining respondents spend different combinations of time on-island.

Primary Occupations of Survey Respondents

**Survey Question 6:
Which option best describes your primary occupation?**

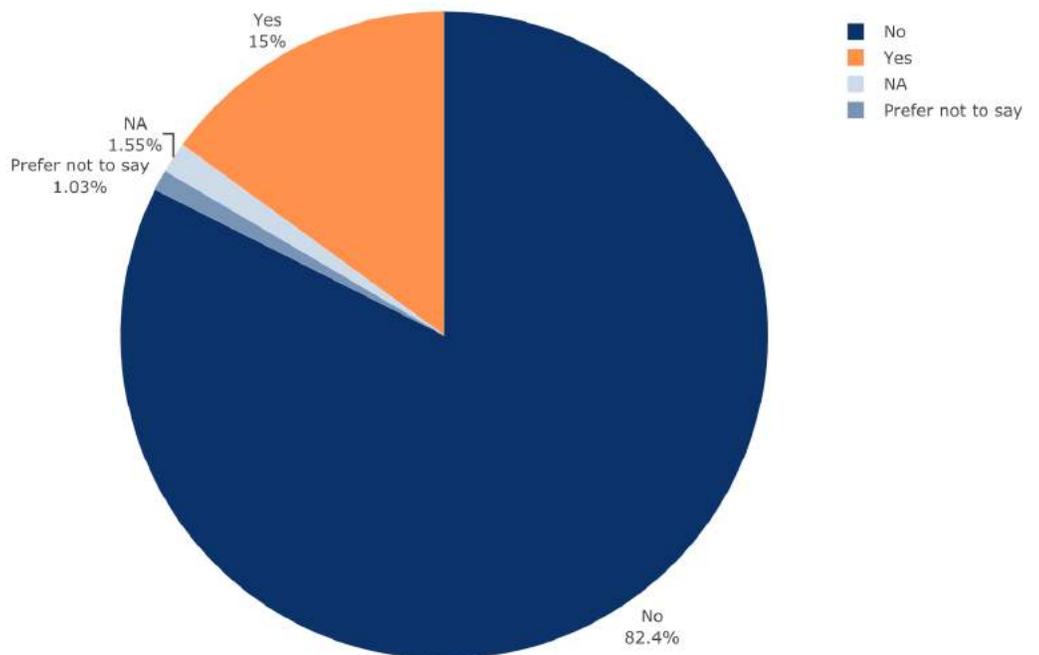
Survey respondents varied in terms of primary occupation. 22.7% of respondents are retirees, 20.4% work as professionals, and 10.9% are educators. The remaining 46% of respondents work across a variety of industries, including farming, fishing, trades, and healthcare.



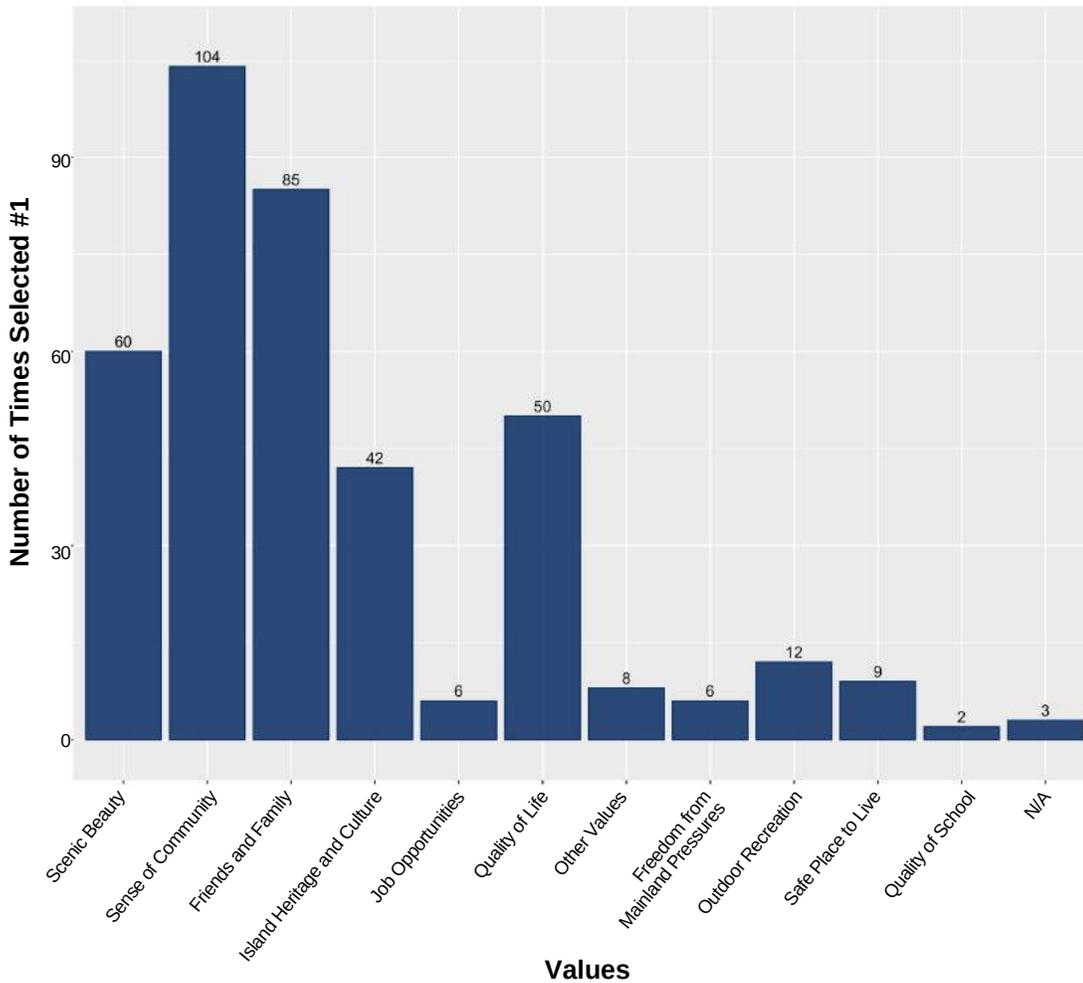
**Survey Question 7:
Do you have school-aged children living on North Haven?**

82.4% of survey respondents do not have school-aged children on North Haven while 15% of respondents do have school-aged children living on North Haven.

Survey Respondents with School-aged Children



#1 Ranked Values



Survey Question 8: What do you value most about the North Haven Community?

This graph shows the number of times values were ranked as respondents' top values, meaning they were ranked as the #1 most valued aspect of the North Haven community. 27% of respondents ranked Sense of Community as their primary value and 22% of respondents ranked Friends and Family as their top value.

Frequency of Ranked Values

Values	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Total	Weighted
2 Sense of Community	104	104	61	40	26	335	1225
1 Scenic Beauty	60	62	70	79	51	322	967
3 Friends and Family	85	63	53	50	31	282	967
4 Island Heritage and Culture	42	38	56	50	56	242	686
6 Quality of Life	50	42	38	38	56	224	664
9 Outdoor Recreation	12	24	37	35	48	156	385
10 Safe Place to Live	9	19	22	28	41	119	284
8 Freedom from Mainland Pressures	6	10	11	25	29	81	182
5 Job Opportunities	6	8	16	9	8	47	136
12 NA	3	6	8	17	25	59	122
11 Quality of Schools	2	7	12	14	13	48	115
7 Other Values	8	4	3	2	3	20	72

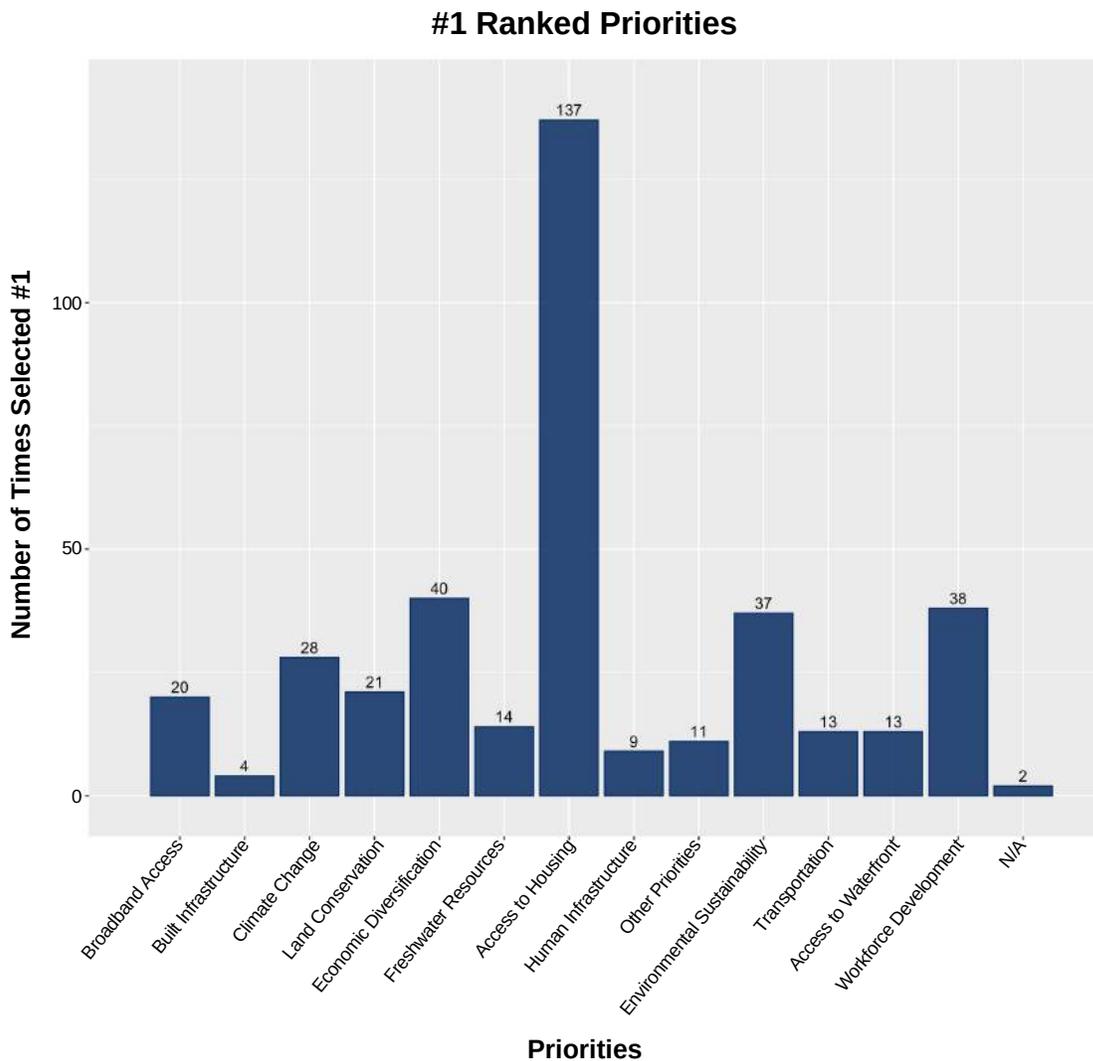
This table shows how many times each value was ranked in each place. For example, Scenic Beauty was ranked in 1st place 60 times, in 2nd place 62 times, and so forth. The Total column displays the total number of times a value was ranked in the top 5 priorities. (continued on next page)

The Weighted column assigns a score to each value, with 5 points for every time it was ranked as a top value, 4 points for each 2nd place ranking, 3 points for 3rd place rankings, and so on. The weighted column allows us to understand where in the rankings a value fell.

Sense of Community was ranked as the top value by 26.8% of respondents and ranked in the top five values by 86.5% of respondents. Though Scenic Beauty and Friends and Family have the same weighted score, Scenic Beauty was ranked in the top 5 values by 83% of respondents whereas Friends and Family was ranked in the top 5 by 73% of respondents. This indicates that, although Scenic Beauty was ranked more times overall, respondents ranked Friends and Family higher in their values than they did Scenic Beauty.

Survey Question 9: In order of priority, which of the following issues do you think North Haven (either the Town or community organizations/groups) should work to address over the next 1-10 years?

This graph shows the number of times issues were ranked as respondents' top priorities, meaning they were ranked as the #1 issue that the Town or community groups should work to address. 35% of respondents ranked Access to Housing as their top issue, with Economic Diversification (10.3%), Workforce Development (9.8%), and Environmental Sustainability (9.6%) all receiving a similar number of top rankings.



The table below shows how many times each issue was ranked in each place. For example, Access to Housing was ranked in 1st place 137 times, in 2nd place 40 times, and so on. The Total column displays the total number of times a value was ranked in the top 5 priorities, so Access to Housing was ranked as a top 5 issue 300 times. The Weighted column assigns a score to each value, with 5 points for every time it was ranked as a top value, 4 points for each 2nd place ranking, 3 points for 3rd place rankings, and so forth. The weighted column allows us to understand where in the rankings a priority fell.

Frequency of Ranked Priorities

	Priorities	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Total	Weighted
7	Access to Housing	137	40	52	41	30	300	1113
13	Workforce Development	38	61	72	48	38	257	784
5	Economic Diversification	40	62	64	43	26	235	752
10	Environmental Sustainability	37	41	36	27	51	192	562
3	Climate Change Impacts	28	29	26	37	32	152	440
8	Human Infrastructure	9	28	31	27	45	140	349
11	Transportation	13	25	29	24	44	135	344
4	Land Conservation	21	18	20	28	22	109	315
12	Access to Waterfront	13	31	8	27	30	109	297
1	Broadband	20	22	18	28	15	103	313
6	Freshwater Resources	14	20	19	24	24	101	279
2	Built Infrastructure	4	5	3	20	11	43	100
14	NA	2	5	7	11	17	42	90
9	Other Priorities	11	0	2	2	2	0	67

As was indicated in the graph on the previous page Access to Housing was ranked as the top issue to address by 35% of respondents. It was ranked as a top five issue by 78% of survey respondents and has the highest weighted score. Workforce Development was ranked in the top 5 issues by 66% of respondents and Economic Diversification was ranked in the top five by 61% of respondents. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts were ranked as top 5 issues by 50% and 39% of respondents respectively.

Optional Survey Question 10: What additional concerns and challenges do individuals think our community should commit to working on and investing in over the next 1-10 years?

Responses to this open-ended question were aggregated by themes and sub-themes:

Economic Diversification

- Aquaculture and marine industry
- Broadband and remote work
- Services (restaurants, hair salon, massage parlor, etc.)

Built Infrastructure

- Maintenance

Housing

- Affordable
- Year-round
- Rental and ownership
- Short-term rental restrictions
- Housing as it relates to everything else (school, economic diversification, trades, etc.)

Community Building

- Collaboration between organizations, communities, islands
- Community engagement
- Maintaining sense of community

Human Infrastructure

- School
- Store
- Mental health
- Healthcare
- Programing (for youth, arts & culture)



Workforce Development

- Trades
- Training opportunities
- General need for sustainable jobs

Transportation

- Ferry
- Airport
- On-island transportation (bikes, traffic, etc.)

Working Waterfront

Environmental Sustainability

- Freshwater resources
- Green infrastructure (energy, bike lanes, community gardens)
- Stewardship of environment
- Land conservation

Climate Change

Engagement

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if and how they'd like to be involved with the vision process. 51.7% of respondents selected at least one of the three engagement options, which included being added to the contact list to receive email updates, offering to volunteer, and asking to be contacted directly to further discuss the process.

Community Conversation Findings

In group or one-on-one conversations, participants were first asked to consider what they valued most about the North Haven community and then to consider the primary challenges facing the community in both the short and longer term future. Participants were asked to share the reasoning behind their answers. Responses to this open-ended question were aggregated by themes and summarized.

What do you value most about our community and why?

Sense of Community

- Encompassing a wide range of values – intergenerational connectedness, geographic isolation resulting in community solidarity and cohesiveness, familiarity, safety, sense of place, trust, looking out for one another, community engagement, caring

Quality of life

- Encompassing many other values – sense of community, sense of place, scenic beauty, familial connection, friendships, pace of life, opportunities

Scenic Beauty

Job Opportunities

- Ability to make a living

Friends and Family

Freedom from Mainland Pressures

- Place to experience freedom and rural living with access to a strong community
- Pace of living

Opportunities/possibilities

- Opportunities to try things and be involved with different projects, ideas, and people

Sense of Place

What challenges and opportunities do you think North Haven should address and why?

Housing

- Housing costs and availability contribute to the housing crisis.
- Lack of year-round housing (rental and buying opportunities) is a major problem.
- Housing instability impacts everything – jobs, mental health, children.
- Lack of year-round housing is causing people to leave the island.
- Market prices for houses are not affordable.
- The housing problem is not new, but it seems to be getting worse.
- Land prices impact affordability of housing and housing solutions.
- The housing shortage negatively impacts the school, which loses students and teachers/staff.
- There is a lack of year-round and short-term workforce housing.
- What role can the Town play in addressing the lack of year round housing?
- What is the role of short-term rentals (like AirBnB and VRBO) in the community? What ability does the Town have to regulate these rentals?
- There are opportunities for partnerships and creative solutions when it comes to solving the housing crisis.

Workforce Development

- There is a labor shortage on North Haven.
- There is a shortage of tradespeople on the island.
- We need to offer support, training, or incentives to ensure a sustainable workforce.

Economic Diversification

- We need to diversify the economy.
- A disruption to the lobster fishery will cause economic problems in the community.
- There needs to be infrastructure to support diverse economic opportunities.
- Improving the working waterfront provides many opportunities for diversifying the economy.
- Aquaculture and other blue industries present an opportunity for diversification.
- Broadband is one way to help diversify the economy.
- Small business and entrepreneurial support is needed.
- Opportunities for diversifying the economy are tied to housing.
- More small businesses would foster a vibrant downtown and gathering spaces for the community.

Human Infrastructure

- There is a lack of mental health awareness and resources in the community.
- The EMS and Fire Departments need adequate support and training opportunities.
- Capacity is an issue because of the size of the population.
- A reliable store is vital for a year round community.
- Community engagement is important and there needs to be awareness of capacity of volunteers.
- Childcare is needed.

Community Viability

- The viability of the year-round community is inherently tied to the sustainability of living on the island.
- Awareness around the limitations of natural resources is essential.
- What is the capacity of our freshwater?
- There are opportunities to make the community more resilient, especially related to food sources.
- Thinking holistically and balancing the need for growth with preserving what makes North Haven unique is important for the viability of the community.

Climate Change

- Sea level rise is a threat we should plan for.
- Climate change planning should be incorporated into all future planning.

Transportation

- There should be more ways to accommodate transportation of freight without impacting passenger travel.
- The ferry service does not provide adequate service to meet the needs of all community members.
- Changing the ferry service (size of boat, number of runs, etc.) will impact the number of people on the island.
- Ferry access impacts businesses.
- Affordability of ferry travel is a concern.
- Air access to the island provides essential services like mail and medical evacuation.
- Passenger air access to the island is controversial.

Infrastructure

- The Town needs to be able to efficiently maintain its properties.

North Haven Community Vision Process

SURVEY

Learn More about the Vision Process
 Go to northhavenmaine.org
 Contact Rick Lattimer 207.867.4433
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 or Mia Colloredo-Mansfeld
mcolloredomansfeld@islandinstitute.org

What's this Survey all about?

With the Select Board's full support, the Town of North Haven is currently facilitating a Community Vision Process to collectively identify what is most important to all of us, our top concerns and challenges as a community, and what we envision for our future. As part of this process we are asking all community members to answer the questions in this survey. Individual survey responses will not be shared, but the collective information gathered will be presented in a final report to the community and overall results will help inform North Haven's vision.

This survey takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and can be filled out using this paper format or online at arcg.is/10r9Ky (or simply scan the QR code.)

Paper surveys can be returned to Town of North Haven, P.O.Box 400, North Haven, ME 04853 or dropped off at the Town Office. If you need another way to submit your survey, need additional surveys, and/or want to share general comments, please contact Mia at mcolloredomansfeld@islandinstitute.org. **We welcome community members of all ages to fill out a survey. Please limit one response per person. –Thank you!**



Scan to take the Survey

Demographic Questions

Answering the following questions helps us understand if survey respondent make-up is reflective of our community.

1) What is your age?

- Under 12 years old
- 12-17 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 25-34 years old
- 35-44 years old
- 45-54 years old
- 55-64 years old
- 65-74 years old
- 75 years or older
- Prefer not to say

2) Gender: How do you identify?

- Female
- Male
- Nonbinary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe
(please specify) _____

3) What time of year do you live on North Haven? (check all that apply)

- Winter
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- All Year
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify) _____

4) If you live on North Haven for all or part of the year, how many years has the island been your year-round or seasonal home?

- _____
- Prefer not to say

5) If you are NOT a North Haven resident, do you plan to become one within the next 1-3 years?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say

6) Which option best describes your primary occupation? (select one)

- Fishing
- Farming
- Aquaculture
- Marine Industry Worker and/or Owner
- Educator
- Tradesperson (Carpenter, Electrician, Plumber, Mechanic, etc.)
- Caretaker
- Professional
- Food or Beverage Service Provider / Restaurant Worker and/or Owner
- Non-profit Employee
- Municipal Employee
- State Employee
- Healthcare Provider and/or Staff Person
- Retiree
- Volunteer
- Student
- Other (please specify) _____

7) Do you have school-aged children living on North Haven?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Vision Questions

Answering these questions will help generate a community vision.

8) What do you value most about the North Haven community? Select up to five answers, ranking them 1-5, 1 being what you value most.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Island Heritage and Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sense of Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Job Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/Family Live Here | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Beauty | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom from Mainland Pressures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Crime Rate/Safe Place to Live | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s) (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life | _____ |

9) In order of priority, which of the following issues do you think North Haven (either the Town or community organizations/groups) should work to address over the next 1-10 years? Select up to five answers, ranking them 1-5, 1 being the top priority.

- Economic Diversification (shifting away from a primary income source toward multiple sources from a variety of sectors)
- Workforce Development (initiatives that help create, sustain, and retain a viable workforce)
- Access to Housing (year-round and short-term)
- Access to Waterfront
- Transportation Options for Freight and/or People
- Land Conservation
- Broadband Access
- Built Infrastructure (roads, bridges, public buildings, etc.)
- Human Infrastructure (healthcare, childcare, education, etc.)
- Sustainability of Freshwater Resources (public and private drinking water resources)
- Climate Change Impacts (storms, sea level rise, flooding, increased precipitation, extreme heat, etc.)
- Environmental Sustainability (ensuring future generations have the natural resources available to live an equal, if not better, way of life as current generations)
- Other(s) (please specify) _____

10) (Optional) What additional concerns and challenges do individuals think our community should commit to working on and investing in over the next 1-10 years?

11) (Optional) What is your vision for North Haven in 10-20 years?

Include your name and contact information to be entered into a drawing to win one of two gift certificates – \$50 to Calderwood Hall or \$50 to the North Haven Grocery. Two winners will be selected at random after the survey closes on Friday, November 5, 2021. Winners will be contacted directly and announced on the Town’s website and Facebook page.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to the email list to receive Community Vision Process updates. | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer to help with this process. Please contact me. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me to discuss the Community Vision Process. | |