

Dear Dalton Residents-

As you are aware, property taxes and fees for services have increased significantly in our town every year for several years now. This is due in part to the increases in health insurance and education, as well as major cuts in state aid. Our schools are aging, and in need of repairs. Students are leaving our schools to go to other towns for their education. Our infrastructure system is in need of repairs.

Residential development is increasing in Dalton. Residential development places a proportionately higher financial demand for town services, such as schools, roads, water and emergency services. In contrast, undeveloped land, such as forest, farm fields and wetlands, place little strain on town services. We have little growth in commercial development.

The good news is that Dalton is a town with extensive forested areas, mountainous topography, agricultural lands and wetlands which lends itself to vibrant aesthetic and natural beauty. We also have terrific historic architecture, and cultural and family-oriented attractions.

The Town of Dalton, in partnership with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, has received a grant from the State to fund the development of an Open Space and Recreation Plan. An Open Space and Recreation Committee was recently formed to create long-term goals to better utilize our current open space areas and recreational sites. The Committee will also look into ways in which privately-owned, undeveloped land may be added to the existing open spaces and possibly used for recreation by our residents.

In 2000 a survey was sent out to Dalton residents. The results from that survey proved valuable in the development of a Master Plan for Dalton's future. The enclosed survey is a follow-up to that survey. Building upon the initial results, we are asking for your thoughts on what to do with our existing open space areas, how well these spaces are now being used, and how we might best protect vulnerable open space for future generations. So please, **complete and return the survey in the enclosed envelope by April 28, 2006**. You may also drop it off at town hall by April 28th. Feel free to write additional ideas and comments at the end of the survey. The results of the survey will be tabulated and made available at a future public forum

We thank you for your participation in the initial survey. We thank you again for offering your ideas in this follow-up survey.

Thank You,
The Dalton Open Space and Recreation Committee

Dalton Resident Survey

We are interested in learning what you think about current conditions in Dalton. We are also interested in learning what you envision for Dalton – would what you like the town to be like in 20 years? Please keep these in mind as you answer the questions below.

*Note: approximately 3,000 surveys were distributed with the Annual Town Report;
171 surveys were returned (6% return rate).*

Living in Dalton

What do you see as advantages or disadvantages of living in Dalton?

	<u>Adv.</u>	<u>Disadv.</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Cost of living	43	76	38
Rural nature	151	2	6
Jobs	15	78	64
School system	118	18	25
Town services	109	23	27
Recreation	116	24	19
Family ties	82	9	63
Local tax rate	24	108	24
Public lands	96	13	42

Please indicate the number of persons in each age group in your household:

28 Under 5 years
75 6-17
74 18-29
108 30-49
128 50-64
89 65-85
3 86+

Which statement best describes your feeling about new development in Dalton?

24 opposed to any new development
60 like things the way they are, but would not oppose some additional residential development
83 like the way things are, but would not oppose some additional commercial development
56 need new development for tax revenue

If new housing development is to occur in Dalton, where should it take place?

84 near areas where development already exists
29 in new, undeveloped areas away from existing development
24 near the Town Hall/town center area
30 on the outskirts of town
46 along Routes 8 and 9
53 along existing town roads
23 along new roads

Regarding new development, Dalton officials/boards should strive to (please rank 1-6, with 1 being highest priority):

Results follow the questionnaire
 minimize impacts to the environment
 minimize impacts to existing neighborhoods
 encourage reinvestment in existing areas
 balance all community needs and potential impacts
 limit new growth

Which area do you live closest to?

52 Pine Grove Park area
43 Greenridge Park area
16 Chamberlain Park area
15 Burgner's Farm area
46 Wahconah Country Club area

The town is in need of new cemetery space. Would you support the town purchasing land for additional cemetery space?

128 Yes
27 No

Recreation

Which of the following activities do members of your household participate in? Please also indicate five activities that you think most need improvement in Dalton.

Activity	We participate in these activities (check all that apply)	Top 5 activities that need improvement (1 being highest priority)
Skateboarding	7	<i>Results follow the questionnaire</i>
Walking/running	147	
Bicycling	83	
Hunting/shooting sports	18	
Fishing	41	
Boating	30	
Swimming	68	
Horseback riding	8	
Hiking	69	
Mountain biking	20	
Wildlife viewing	77	
Camping	27	
Snowshoing	40	
X-country skiing	50	
Downhill skiing	25	
Sledding	42	
Ice skating	28	
Snowmobiling	6	
ATV/motorbiking	4	
Tennis	20	
Golf	61	
Picnicking/BBQ	85	
Dancing/aerobics	26	
Social clubs	27	
Movies/concerts/plays	88	
Playgrounds	48	
Volleyball	11	
Basketball	28	
Baseball	29	
Soccer	23	
Bowling	32	
Others (please list)	18	

Are existing recreational opportunities in Dalton adequate for these age groups?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Young children	108	14	33
Teenagers	46	68	40
Adults	71	43	34
Seniors	60	39	56
Disabled	19	33	90

If no, please state why:

Results follow the questionnaire

Should the Town designate more areas as open space for recreational use or conservation of natural resources?

Yes - 120 No - 11 Unsure - 28

Should the Town investigate possible reuse of the town landfill for recreational purposes (such as a walking track, ball fields, dog park, skateboarding, etc.)?

Yes - 119 No - 17 Unsure - 26

If yes, please list your favored use:

Results follow the questionnaire

Should the Town promote outdoor recreation to increase tourism?

Yes - 98 No - 31 Unsure - 37

Conservation

Should the Town play an active role in preserving open space and historic places?

Yes - 144 No - 8 Unsure - 12

Should the Town develop a multi-use forest management plan for the Town-owned forest (i.e. timber harvest, trails, wildlife habitat)?

Yes - 128 No - 8 Unsure - 30

Would you be in favor of limiting development on hillsides or above a certain elevation?

Yes - 117 No - 23 Unsure - 22

Do you support monetary incentives for landowners to help them maintain their undeveloped land as open space?

Yes - 80 No - 42 Unsure - 41

Are you aware of any of the following options designed to protect and enhance agriculture, forestry, and recreation?

Yes	No	Conservation Option
45	101	Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program
32	111	Mass General Laws Chapter 61 (forest classification)
28	108	Mass General Laws Chapter 61A (agricultural class)
22	111	Mass General Laws Chapter 61B (recreation class)
49	96	Conservation Deed Restrictions
52	92	Local Land Trust
41	93	Scenic Mountain Act / Hillside zoning
23	89	Community Preservation Act

Would you attend an educational forum to learn more about the options listed above?

Yes - 110 No - 37

Would you support the establishment of a dedicated municipal fund for the purchase of land for public use?

Yes - 82 No - 23 Unsure - 51

Where in Dalton do you feel should be the focus of conservation efforts to protect natural, scenic or historic resources? Please be as specific as possible.

Results follow the questionnaire

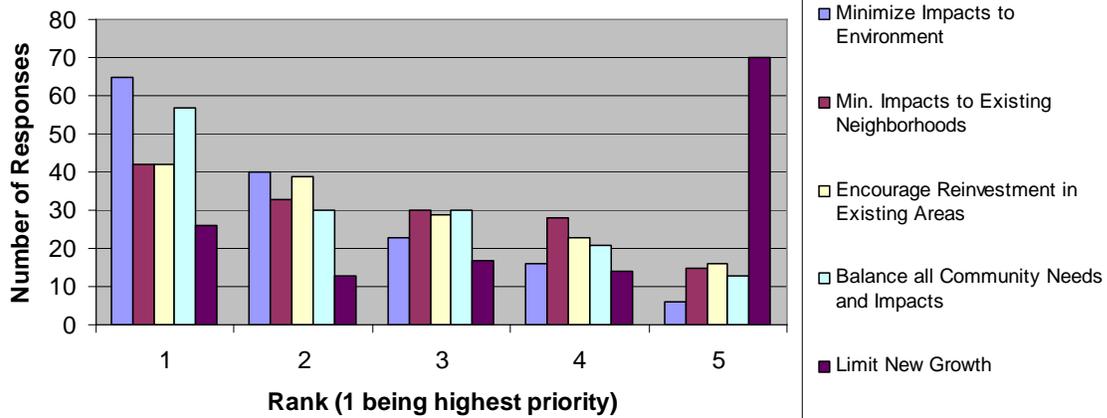
Further Comments:

Results follow the questionnaire

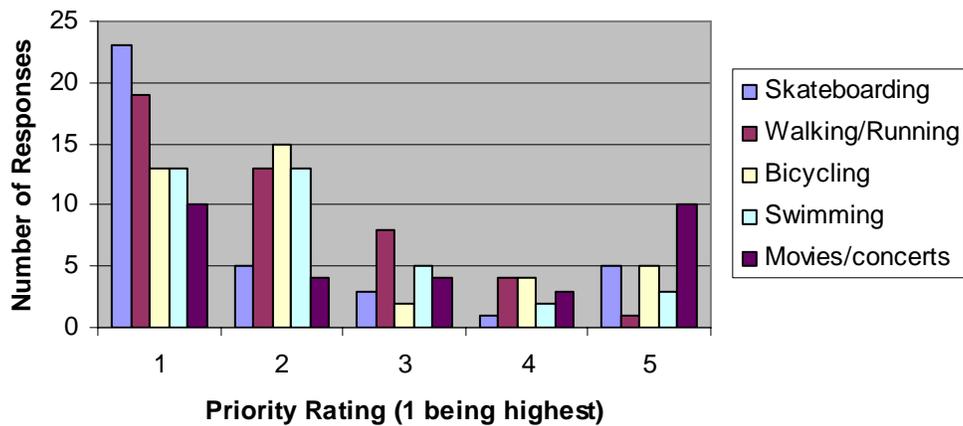
Thank you for taking the time to respond to our survey!

We appreciate your effort to help Dalton plan for its future and to ensure that it is a town in which we and our children are proud to live.

Regarding New Development, Dalton Boards should strive to:



Top 5 Activities that Need Improvement



Other Recreation Activity Comments

- Volunteerism
- Softball, dog activities (agility, etc.)
- softball
- snowboarding
- Sidewalks in disrepair, traffic
- Senior Activities (1), Dog Park (4)
- Rollerblading
- gardening
- gardening
- fitness center

Other Recreation Activity Comments
dog walking
CRA fitness center
Church social activities and committees
billiards
Berry picking, Lacrosse (3), gardening, shopping (5)
art exhibits
A town recreation commission
a bicycle trail
5 - a community trail for hiking, biking, x-country skiing, snowhoeing, etc.

Existing Recreation Adequacy Comments
Would like more cultural activities for families.
What is available for non-sport related activities?
While they exist, I am not sure its "adequate".
Where can teenagers go? Need for a Senior Center
We need to take care of our seniors. We have enough rec. for young children and teens!
We need more programs for teens.
We need a spacious recreational center with outdoor pool, playground, sports field, walking trails, gardens, skating area and skateboarding, ice rink.
We badly need recreational things to do in the winter.
Too much free time for those not involved in extracurricular activities.
Too many out-of-towners playing in sports, not enough for Dalton kids.
There aren't regular cultural or entertainment events held in Dalton.
There's no place for teens to go. I don't know of any rec. opportunities for disabled.
There is NOTHING for teens or young adults
There is nothing for teenagers to do. A skateboarding park would be great!
There is no areas for any activities.
Teenagers are walking the streets unsupervised, that's trouble. I agree with the skateboard or extreme sport park.
The seniors need a place to go to socialize.
The "Pits" is no place for teenagers. Its divided into sections - paint ball gun shooters, pellet gun shooters, smokers & drug users, then the other kids trying to ride bikes, etc. Also, dirt bike riders who spray the dirt on the other teenagers.
There needs to be a place for teenagers to "hang" out. Pick-up sports games and adult ed. Type classes would be great.
Teens don't seem to have enough recreational options.
Teenagers, attending mall and private parties
Teenagers need somewhere to use their skateboards. If not a separate park, perhaps a few half-pipes in Pine Grove Park.
Teenagers need more social opportunities. Adults as well.
Teenagers need a place of their own to gather.
Teenagers & school children shouldn't have to pay to play sports.
Spend most of our time near workplace. Come home to rest and relax.
Sidewalks need improvement in some areas. Also, cars parked on sidewalks impede walking and damage the

Existing Recreation Adequacy Comments

pavement.
Seniors need more space for their activities
Senior hours, etc., at CRA are always put after all other age groups are considered - we get "leftovers".
See activities needing improvement. Need trails, picnic areas, more activities for adults.
Rates at Comm. House quite high. (Swimming)
Park w/useful equipment & its always too crowded; nothing else to do here.
Other than swimming and exercise what do the seniors have? The disabled?
Cost too much
Nothing for teens out of high school
Not much except CRA for teens
Not much available for teens or adults
Not enough diversified modern activities for the age group
Not enough "free" activities offered - ALL CRA should be paid with taxes
Not all teenagers are team oriented and aren't interested in team sports.
Nobody young can do anything without someone pissing and moaning
no swimming, no skateboarding, too much cost for CRA
No skateboard park - teens. No disabled access to existing park equipment - children.
No senior center
No safe place to run/walk or bike. No book stores or antique shops or country crafts.
No concert gathering such as Live on the Lake
need skateboard park
need skateboard facility in a central location., users to supervise and maintain. "NIMBY" attitude of some is unfortunate. The young are our future. Growth in the 21st century is a priority.
Need more to keep them off the street
Need more social attractions (dances, skateboard facilities, meeting areas, congregating places)
Need adult and seniors activities
Need additional sidewalks in certain areas
most are non-existent
Many teenagers are in need of safe area to skateboard where they and everyone else are safe, where parents can have somewhere to check on them, etc.
I think teenagers need more SAFE places to go, esp. on weekends. I am aware that the DYC & CRA are available, but teenagers need a place that offers entertainment - ie movie theater, small sports complex, etc, in Dalton.
Improve Senior Center enabling adults and seniors to participate in social functions.
If you are not into organized football - baseball, etc, there's not much to do for teenagers. When you are old and wrinkly and disabled where do you do, we need a decent modern senior center.
If not involved in high school sports, not much offered beyond that. Not much for adult sports is offered.
I have not lived in Dalton long enough to respond with reason.
Have to go out of Dalton for almost all our usual activities.
Have no areas for skateboarding
From our experience, the kids need a skateboarding venue.
For teens - what is available for them? Not much better for adults.
Excellent job to support youth activities, but limited for older groups.
Everything needs to be improved or updated.
DYC/CRA programs only run up to high school level

Existing Recreation Adequacy Comments
DYC is inadequate and in need of repair/updating. It is not "teen" friendly.
DTC facilities ok; highly used, equipment stressed.
Dalton is a small town.
CRA and Youth Center activities should not require paying a fee for teenagers or seniors.
Costs are too high for seniors to belong. Have a cost for single activities. Members. Should have a cost for single activities.
Community House was for the community and children's use. It has turned into a "private club".
Can't afford CRA fees
Boys Youth center too small, to parking
Because I don't know!
Activities, besides sports, are too far apart - there are not enough things for teenagers to do!
1) Need more toddler playground equipment, and playgroup activities, and swimming, 2)swimming

Landfill Reuse Comments
Who would pay for this. Enough taxes!
We have a walking track don't we? Dalton is a small town - amenities should not need to be duplicated
walking; skateboarding; bicycle path
walking/running track
walking, running
walking, rollerblading, wildlife viewing
walking, dog park
walking, biking
walking, biking
Walking, ball fields
walking trails and dog park
Walking trails
walking trail/track
walking tract or dog park
walking track; might make a good place for skateboarding but only if well supervised.
Walking track. Also, bike lanes along roadways would be ideal.
walking track, skateboarding, dog park
walking track, obstacle course
walking track, more ballparks, skateboard - it is a central location.
walking track, dog park, skateboarding
walking track, dog park
walking track, dog park
Walking track, bicycling
walking track or ball field
walking track and ball fields
walking track
walking track
walking track

Landfill Reuse Comments

walking track
walking track
walking track
walking track
walking and bicycling
walking and ball field
walking
Turn former landfill into multi-purpose park - skateboard/walking track, general park track, ball fields, skateboard park`
Town does not own landfill area!
too many health issues from landfills
skateboarding, walking, dog park
skateboarding, walking dogs
skateboarding then dog park
Skateboarding for everyone might work. Pinegrove needs new wood chips - possibly improvement on equipment. My children get slivers. Bathrooms need to be open. I think the trails off Gulf Rd. are great.
skateboarding and walking tract
skateboarding
skateboarding
skateboarding
skateboarding
skateboard, archery
skateboard park for the kids
skateboard or dog park
skateboard
skateboard
Reuse landfill - central location - park - walking, picnics, skateboarding, nature trail
Purposes not yet provided for or unwanted in other parts of town, skateboarding for one.
Public gold course
picnic areas, walking track
not worth the expense
Multi-use would be good with recreation fields, track, skateboarding, etc.
maybe an all purpose area, skateboarding and general all purpose park - where all members of a family can enjoy together
Make a skateboarding park with a walking/running track around it.
Look at Springside Park/Pitts - develop the landfill to encompass all of the above if possible.
Kids need a place to skateboard
If it can be done with 100% safety only! Dog Park
If for no other reason - to get Petricca and anyone else that has trucks out of Dalton.
I think we have enough ball fields but why not all the rest. How about a skeet-shooting area since the firing range is

Landfill Reuse Comments

in that vicinity.
I oppose spending any money on skateboarding park that only few would use. My taxes or any funding should not be used for such extravagance.
General park use, no dog park
Don't have a favorite, but it makes sense to investigate it.
Dog walk area and park. No place recently to exercise my dog. We're responsible dog owners - we always pick up.
dog park; need a skateboarding park, but that location is not visible enough
dog park/walking trail
dog park, walking track
dog park, ATV/motorbike park, walking track
dog park or walking track
dog park - would like to keep dogs out of kids playgrounds
dog park
Cross country skiing - note - We should build a new community center with swimming pool and ice skating rink surrounded by cross country skiing trails. Ideal place is landfill and quarry area.
contamination
concerts, picnicking
combine for all
camping and ATVing
bike path, farmers market, skateboarding
Bicycling walking & running, skateboarding etc.
Ball fields
Ball fields
ball fields, walking track, dog park
ball fields
ball fields
ball fields
ball fields
ball field
As long as its properly "filled" and safe - any re-use is great
Any recreational activities as listed above or in top 5 activities needing improvement
Any of the above if no environmental problems
any of the above
any
All of the above.
All of above : would get a good mix of ages, get teens and preteens involved in designing and maintaining a skateboard area. Have teens on committees.
All items that create lots of public use.
all above
A skateboard park for the kids, a nice local walking track/trail would be nice
absolutely
A year ago a woman wrote an article that was in the Berk. Eagle in regards to what she thought could be done to the land behind High St. and the landfill. It was a great idea. If only we could get Petricca to donate all of their land to Dalton. What a great place for a large rec. area including a man-made addition to the pond for swimming purposes.

Landfill Reuse Comments

The town should have areas designated for ATV use. Many people do not have a place to legally ride their ATVs and the state of MA is planning to close Pittsfield State Forest and other parks to ATV use.

a park

A little bit of all. I here a lot of the skateboarding.

A designated soccer field facility.

"Recreational" too often means more obnoxious activities like motorized or skateboards, etc. A place for obnoxious activities that disturb the peace elsewhere, ie, skateboard, ATV, motorbike, snowmobile -

Focus Conservation Efforts Comments

Within the township there exist many tracts that are currently undeveloped but possess historical, natural and scenic qualities. Recent proposals for Tully Mt. Area come to mind, proposals which would destroy all these qualities in addition to creating disastrous consequences.

We should be protecting all of our natural, scenic and historic resources.

Washington Mt. Rd., Gulf Rd., Main Street including Depot St.

Wahconah Falls area

Wahconah Falls? Really anywhere Dalton's historic resources specifically where there are open fields, forests, wetlands...I'm not sure where

Wahconah Falls; downtown - everything else, let the chips fall where they may.

Wahconah Falls, the Boulders

Wahconah Falls, Gulf Rd. trails

Wahconah Falls, Depot St. Building, Center Block, Appalachian Trail, Center Pond, farmland and forest

Wahconah Falls, Center Pond

Wahconah Falls needs on-going "picking up".

Wahconah Falls area should be improved.

Wahconah Falls

use of land that is already in conservation

Upper North St., Rt. 9

unsure

Unfortunately Gulf Road has been ruined because once people had to start paying to get rid of every shred of garbage - dumping started - and will only get worse.

undeveloped land on Rt. 9; Wahconah Falls; all existing farmlands; old library/town office building

Tully Mountain and Boulders

Town Hall and Library. Old Dalton High School. Wahconah Falls

Town center, Hoose house, Center Pond dam area

Throughout the entire town - it presently looks ravished and overbuilt

The Rt. 8 and Rt. 9 corridors from Nessacus to the Hinsdale town line and from Orchard Rd to the Windsor line.

The one area that comes to mind is the Wahconah Falls Park. Area should be maintained.

The Old Nessacus decays before our eyes. All the surveys, meetings, assessments and it still sits decaying. The kids are smashing the windows, and the pigeons are destroying it from the inside. Are you waiting for someone to finally finish it off with a match so you don't have to follow through with what the townspeople requested. Its disgraceful!

The landfill behind Raymond Drive because of the various wildlife that habitates there.

Stay away from wildlife habitat

South Street to Hubbard Ave. North St. to Windsor line.

scenic mountains

Focus Conservation Efforts Comments
Rte. 9 - North St. to Windsor
Ridges of each Dalton mountain should remain untouched. Save all historic houses/building. Preserve historic tales & folklore of our unique town
Probably the house involved in the runaway slaves stopping over in their escapes, for freedom.
Preserve what is left as it is - mountainsides (look at the "gouge" created by Pine Crest), agricultural lands, and nature. Development benefits the developer and landowner in the short-term, effects the rest of us for the long-term.
Present laws and conservation land adequate for town.
Outskirts of town along Rts. 8 & 9; Gulf Road area; North Mountain and Day Mountain areas; Old Windsor Road area; Cleveland Road area.
Out beyond High St.
Orchard Rd. and East
Once the excavating is done behind High St., the town should take the land from Petricca by eminent domain and build a large recreational area that could include a larger pond, tent sites, playground, walking/biking trails, etc. I walk back there all of the time and see other people walking their dogs, kids riding their bikes or swimming in the pond etc. Also this area could be used for a wildlife habitat. We could add fish to the pond, build duck houses, put up Kestrel bird houses etc and have an area with signs that explain the environmental things that people encounter. A beach could also be made at the pond site. We could grow blueberry and raspberry bushes for families to walk to in the summer. We could have a paved walkway around the pond, a small skateboard area, etc. This large piece of land behind High St. would be a huge tourist attraction. We could even have summer concerts on special occasions such as you'd see on Onota Lake. We should save the money now for this future domain laws, kick Petricca right the hell out of Dalton. Crane would probably donate their section of this land.
On the outskirts of town, like Route 8 and 9
on the outskirts
On all mountains and hillsides, especially those in proximity with Burgner's property.
Old Windsor Road, Main St., Rt. 9
Old landfill; all open land on main routes and streets
Not enough info
North Mts, Gulf Rd.
North Mountain area, near Flintstone Farm, Gulf Road area
none needed
No three wheelers, snowmobiles (firm) in the land at Cranes pond going to and from the "Boulders" to "gulf Road".
Near Holiday Farm, Cleveland Rd Area, around Wahconah High School, and around Burgner Farm, Grange Hall Rd.
natural and scenic, not historical
Mountainsides. The area by Holiday Farm. Crane property around the Boulders and Appalachian Trail
Mountainsides, riverbank areas, farms and preserve existing open and forested areas.
Mountainside east of Burgners (stop humongous new development).
Mina St. - maintain strict zoning, but it would be nice to have more shops and restaurants.
Maintain Wahconah Falls year round
Main street from the town line through to Wahconah Regional. Also out Route 9 to Windsor
main corridor of Dalton
Lets utilize what we have.
In Hinsdale
I am a new resident to Dalton - don't feel I'm that familiar with my surroundings enough to make a solid comment at this time, but in time.
Hillsides, mountaintops, downtown historic sites

Focus Conservation Efforts Comments
hillsides, Appalachian Trail, water/ponds
hillsides
Hillside east of Division Rd., East of South St., East of Greenridge Park.
Gulf Road/Appalachian Trail, town hall and library, CRA, higher elevation along South St. and Dalton Division Rd.
Gulf Road region
Gulf Road area, Appalachian Trail
Gulf Road and Washington Mt.
Gulf Road and Crane mansions
Grange Hall Road area above Barton Hill Acres and above Sleepy Hollow
Forest area should be protected - encourage use & encourage Scouts and other organizations to maintain them.
Forest area in Greenridge Park
Existing buildings should be refurbished - our center block, community house, library, post office, etc, union block, cemeteries. Rebuild the Crane Inn! That could house many specialty shops!
Evict Petricca's gravel operation and return the land to a natural setting.
Everywhere! Don't change any of the natural areas or scenic areas that exist.
Everywhere - efforts should be throughout the entire town - not just one section.
Duncan Brook, Wahconah Falls
Day Mountain. Re-use landfill. Weston Pond. Housatonic walking/hiking trail.
Day Mountain, North Mountain, Center Pond
Clean up Center Pond and other rivers
central town area
Center Pond area; Appalachian Trail area; Day Mountain
center of town, route 9
Boulders, Wahconah Falls
Between Kirchner Rd. and Grange Hall Rd., Gulf Rd., around Wahconah/Nessacus, all existing forest land
Around AT area, "Boulders" area and Wahconah Falls
Areas above a certain elevation and mountainsides.
Area surrounding Silver Maple Farms, for purely selfish reasons.
Area around the Appalachian Trail.
Appalachian Trail. Plant more trees and flower beds on Main St. and clean streets and sidewalks frequently. The flowers that are planted and taken care of each year add a lot to the beauty of the town.
Appalachian Trail and bordering lands
Appalachian Trail
Any of the mountains, streams and areas of existing trails or potential trails, forests.
Any development land on ridges and higher elevations, Gulf Rd., town land that could be opened to the public to use. A lot of thought should go into the kind in use. Burgner's Farm areas that has been mentioned (green growth?).
Among the Crane land, MassWildlife land and the Appalachian Trail easement (National Forest) we have a lot of protected open space. Leave the rest in private hands.
Along the river; hilltops
Along the Housatonic River
All of East part of town - Old Windsor Road, Adams and Johnson Rds.
All mountain ridges
All historic resources
? Have only lived in Dalton for about one year.

Further Comments

You need a wider tax-base - repeat a wider tax base - Rt 9 - Housatonic St. - land fill - "industrial development. We can't afford a new library - I use the old one - works find - go to Pittsfield. Old middle school - should be sold. So long as there's Selectman who thinks losing a football coach is a tragedy - we're done for it!

Would like a forum to tell us what areas are in danger of development

Work with Crane to develop the Crane Museum as a real tourist attraction.

With taxes near the highest of any city or town in Berkshire County, it amazes me how Dalton schools are always looking for more \$ from parents. Wahconah RHS replacement should be a priority also. I can't see where the cost is being managed so that Dalton has anything special to offer its residents that other cities and towns don't do for less tax \$.

We were promised by developers, our tax collector and others that Silver Maple would help put a cap on, or even reduce, our taxes - in fact, it has done the opposite and a beautiful point of pride for Dalton has been lost to an eyesore of expensive, cookie-cutter homes. P.S. Whatever were the positive effects of the 2000 survey? It would be good to have an outline of the benefits to the town.

We really enjoy the concerts at the CRA and would like to see more of them. It seems to bring the community together! Thanks!

We need residential development, but not 400-700K housing. We need affordable housing so we don't turn out like Great Barrington, where real people can't afford to live in their own home town. We don't need to build on mountain ridges.

We love living in Dalton. The refurbishing of existing buildings on Main Street is wonderful and appreciated.

We desperately need a sidewalk for walkers on Orchard Rd. Dalton would benefit from a "Look Park" type of facility. New housing is great, but new affordable housing in aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods would be ideal!

Wasted too much money on old Junior High. Ear down, build new. Tax payers can't support any more tax increase. That's why young people are moving out of town. "Say no to school district on any increase in money; they are killing the towns." Go private.

Very good survey! Thank you for your time and efforts.

Too many tax bills

Things I'd encourage - in-town cross-country trail with nice lodge; skating rink (other than just on the lawn at CRA); more summer concerts and performances.

There should be more community housing for low income residents who'd like their children to grow up in good community.

The Town of Dalton should lobby the Mass. Legislature to revert to the former (and more equitable) type of land and home assessment. Square footage does not change. If additions are added to home or land, then reassess the property accordingly. Currently assessors can attach any additional percentage to the assessment for well kept property and homes. Birds (sic?) could well be a factor in this determination.

Thanks for asking

Thank you for your efforts!

Stop removing large street trees. Replace street trees with sugar maples.

Seniors make up a large number of population in this town, yet their needs go unmet. Get that senior center up and running, please.

Sell the Old Nessacus! No skateboard park; no new senior center; put in the bowling alley at CRA; no new library needed; it's the computer age; plus then the town hall will have to spend money on the vacant library space.

Require residents to maintain yards to best of their ability. We have wonderful safe town. Its family oriented. We need to preserve, maintain and progress!

Re-establish outside swimming/fishing area.

One of the main reasons we moved to Dalton is the quantity and quality of the existing open land, both near our new home and throughout the township!

Further Comments

One last thing, I think Dalton should have an annual festival such as the tulip festival, rose festival, pumpkin fest. Etc. For example, if we planted tulips all over Dalton, tourists may be inclined to come to our town to see such a beautiful site. Of course it would take years to complete, but I bet a lot of people would plant tulips in their yards for such an occasion.

Old high school should be torn down. New town hall senior center put there.

No new taxes. Stop pushing the skate board park.

No building of second homes in mountains.

New development never has lowered a tax rate - ex Silver Maple Farm. It is necessary to fund our schools. An excellent school system only enhances the towns appeal -- Also, Harwich MA has a beautiful senior center/council on aging offices etc. -- It should be checked out for our town. The old Nessacus could be refurbished.

New development is costing local seniors, middle income residents extremely high fees and taxes.

Need for affordable condos for Dalton seniors. When downsizing, they now have to move out of town due to lack of available housing and are not eligible for low cost.

More lessons free for children to learn swim. Use old high school, youth center or police station or Post Office. Seniors do not gather to socialize.

More homes on Dalton Division Rd. and Kirchner Rd. needed.

Lower taxes

Limit new development in open areas. Concentrate both residential & commercial development in areas which currently have development or need improvement.

Keep up the good work.

Just be smart, get more help & expertise to make these critical decisions. Get networking with other communities - regionally and even nationally - that have done it right. Get interns in the field from Umass or similar. Perhaps town could even be a project for a land planning master's thesis? AND need better cell service!

Johnson Road is a popular place to walk and run. One reason is its scenic; also hills are challenging but rocks aren't great on the feet but it does slow down the traffic.

It is getting too expensive to live in this small town of Dalton. Something needs to change for us the tax payers, for example our taxes 2,600.; water 360.; excise 200.; sewer 600.; pool fee 15.; fire district 80.; total 3,879. Yeeowza hellooo this stinks.

Initiate curbside garbage pickup. Under present system we are paying a surcharge tax anyway! We should have foot patrols of town police, especially at town parks. Keep skateboarding and scooters off town streets.

If no long-term plans have been established for maintenance and preservation these should definitely be established and implemented.

If limiting development of hillsides - mountain tops or outright refusal for development of these properties - the townspeople and the town needs to dig deep into their pockets to purchase such lands.

I think the town should limit growth of residential space so that the tax levy can smooth out. If we keep pushing taxes up - we will drive our elderly and young people out of town.

I think it is time to put a stop to the rising taxes. The school is the "white elephant" of Dalton. Teachers salaries for working 180 days a year is far above those who only get 2-3 weeks vacation.

I think additional residential development is OK and helps with tax base, but must be done with minimal negative impact to resent properties. Erosion is a big concern. New houses do not necessarily burden on schools.

I moved to Dalton knowing that it is a safe and quiet community with plenty of open space to explore during my summertime walks. Although my prior residence in Lanesboro provided the rail trail, I felt that is all they provided. A boring atmosphere for an outgoing outdoors person. There are many more opportunities in Dalton.

I hope that the travesty at the Burgner Farm site can be avoided in any future housing developments! This project is an eyesore. Can't the developers be forced to clean up the site?

I have lived off and on in Dalton since 1993. It is a quiet town with little crime and pollution.

I have lived in this development only one year come June. I bought here in part because of the proximity to woods, view and wild life.

Further Comments

I FAVOR THE PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS FROM ENCROACHMENT BY NATURAL EXPANDING WETLANDS.

I appreciate this survey and believe it can be a valuable tool in helping to protect and promote our local area and resources! Thanks!

I am opposed to installing a skateboard park in close proximity to neighborhoods or where young children also frequent. EX - There's enough ??? - you need seasonal park directors.

I am not aware of conservation efforts, historic, etc, but would certainly encourage any way resources could advance further enhance life in Dalton.

Great survey, though it was a false statement to say our schools are in disrepair (only WRHS is), and children are NOT leaving our school district to be educated elsewhere because of school buildings.

Great questions!

Don't waste money on useless things - skateboarding

Developers should be responsible for all costs for sewers, sidewalks, water tanks, roads etc. that are needed. Taxes now are hard for some people to pay and town money should be used for current services. Certainly the old school should be used for seniors and library, which both are sorely needed.

Develop in town, not in woods.

Dalton is a fabulous community rife with outdoor opportunities for anyone that wants to take advantage of rural living. Growth is good and needed if we want our kids to have opportunities too.

Dalton consists of a area just in the center of town. People on the outskirts seem to be totally ignored. I guess our tax money gets a different color once it hits the town hall. Also buildings being put in swamp holes.

Born and raised here - have done a lot of traveling but always looked forward to returning to my beautiful Dalton.

As you can tell, we are not in tune with the recent developments occurring in Dalton. It looks as though houses are being crammed everywhere - large houses, small lots. Wildlife areas and trails are being taken in favor of housing. The town is looking pretty sad lately. Yet taxes are increasing and for what?

As to development on hillsides, wind farms and cell towers would be ok.

Although we are happy with the town's recreation services, I think some effort should go into renovations to the DYC & CRA. They need upgrades! Also, would like to see efforts focused on the Council on Aging/Senior Center project.

A skateboard park should be way down the list of things needed in town. If the schools are in such bad shape shouldn't the monies set aside for this skateboard park be made available to the school system? While recreation is important, education is more important.

A river walk along the Housatonic would be ideal from behind Pomeroy Manor to the Allendale area. A bikepath/walkway would increase physical activity and decrease automobile use, thus saving dollars on fuel and improving exercise and limiting emissions.