

Town of Nelson New Hampshire

Master Plan Survey / 2025

Surveys 204

Your Residence Status

Resident Home Owner	154
Renter	21
Non-resident landowner	29
Summer Renter	

Comment: Anyone other than resident home owner should have no say,

1. How long have you lived or summered in Nelson?

0-10	44
11-20	20
21 +	140

2. What attracted you to Nelson? (check all that apply)

Family	75
Worked Nearby	37
Tax Rate	36
Natural Beauty	24
Small Town Atmosphere	21

Comments: I was born here,

3. What circumstances might prompt you to leave?

Comment-3 Over development(14), Taxes(66), Age (24), Inability to drive, To expensive to maintain home, difficult to get others to respect the rights of land owner, Death(7), Free staters, Healthcare, If the town gets more crowded (8), town becomes to city like, Money, Growth change in town chacter(15) My taxes increase 20%. Cold weather, Lack of diversity, no pub or store, sustainabilty, aging(19), fire danger Ability of self care(38), cost of maintaing second home (3), Pollution of Granite lake from road run-off Building of apartments, condo's Keep Nelson resident orientated, unable to afford housing decline in Numansit warter quality. Loss of quaintness, hurricane, one sided government shifting far left (5) building restrictions,(3), getting tired of snow

4. How do you rate each of the following Nelson community services?

Highway Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-133	G-36	F-7
Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-81	G-66	F-18
Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-81	G-57	F-13
Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-99	G-56	F-12
Nelson Elementary School	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-84	G-52	F-4
Keene Middle and High Schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-54	G-64	F-23
Town Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-57	G-81	F-11
Recreational Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-38	G-65	F-34
Town Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	E-58	G-91	F-31
Other (specify)							

Comments: Love Joe keep it small, Police not needed(17), Nick does an excellent job, School budget needs to be looked at. Don't need full time police. Great school. Fire great group of volunteers. Town beach (5) Can not evaluate, What is there recreation, Don't feel welcome in town office nor respected, should have differeent fire chief, no need for ft police and where is he, Selectboard should be looking out for all not just well to do. Recreation Ha Ha, Police unnecessary,

5. Rate the quality of the unpaved roads in Nelson: ☐Excellent ☐Good ☐Fair ☐Poor

Comments: Nelson roads better than Harrisville,

E-105

G-70

F-5

6. Should there be limits on road width? (State requirements maintained.)

Yes

Y-115

No

N-66

Comments: Roads to wide (2), Narrowness limits or break limits?, don't know, widen toleman pond road
We have lost several feet yard due to plowing, Town should respect property lines, no wider (2),
No state mandates on scenic roads, odd question, should be normal width

7. Should additional paved roads be a future consideration?

Yes

Y-75

No

N-100

Comment : added expense, don't know, depends on cost, mud season is abitch, not if causes higher taxes
Dirt roads are our culture, just cause you move into town should you change it. Apple Hill road,

8. Rate importance of developing the following community resources in Nelson:

Swimming beach	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-75	M-46	L-73
Picnic/recreation area	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-35	M-62	L-74
Public trails	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-75	M-57	L-67
Soccer field	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-28	M-68	L-75
Tennis court	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-11	M-57	L-109
Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-27	M-75	L-78
Community Gathering Space	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	H-45	M-73	L-69

Comments: Pickle Bal (6), Access to lakes, Use school property, Need public beach (2), resident's only (2)
is school accesible to public? Handicapped trails, Too many more taxes

9. Should Nelson consider sharing with a nearby town a recycling/waste transfer statiion?

Yes

Y-135

No

N-70

Comments, only if it is less money, maybe if cost effective(3), not if it causes higher taxes,

9a. Should Nelson consider development of a recycling/waste transfer station?

Yes

Y-5

No

N-121

Comments: If sharing is not possible (4), Maybe if cost effective(4),

10. Please indicate the importance of preserving Nelson's open space

Very Important

V-137

Important

I-30

Somewhat important

S-20

Not important

N-3

Comments: not to the exculsion of affordable housing

11. Do you support the town purchasing land for conservation purposes?

Yes

Y-144

No

N-60

Comments: Within reason, not if it is buildable, maybe, as long as it is accessable to town people
our land is under easement, we have enough, balance with housing, only if gifted, stop spending,
only with trust funds

12. Should the Town expand/continue alternative energy initiatives?

Yes	Y-108
No	N-89

Comments: Practically, & efficiency, waste of money(3), as long as its optional

13. Do you currently take advantage of cultural events in Nelson?

Yes	Y-122
No	N-69

Comments: But I need to, more events outside church basement, Nelson is not welcoming to new people
Use Town hall more like a community center, need coffee shop, need activities for young people
Gardening workshops, Arts/ theater(2), Educational (5), Music (6), Told not welcome, activities for all residents

14. What other cultural activities or events would you like to see in Nelson?

(please specify)

Comments: Music, Family games on the common weekly, more music not just folk, musicals, movies (2), unsure, Need a store to gather, more diverse offering, cultural events that consider the world Nelson not a welcoming town, community chorus, theater, more of same, Art shows, meet your neighbors, plant sales, more talk on state local government, skating rink, flea market, contemporary music	47
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15. Should Nelson try to restrict growth?

Yes	Y-95
No	N-69

Comments: Careful growth(2), buy more land and protect it, Restrict multiple family dwelling
not too restrictive, needs to be a balance of growth and owners freedoms. More housing, allow cluster
homes, and become snobber really? Don't like the word restrict should be planned (3), orderly
let the market determine, restrict is a harsh word should be welcoming, educational

16. If yes, what do you think would be most effective?

Limit the number of building permits issued per year?	Y-67	N-36
Increase minimum lot size requirements	Y-59	N-30
Other - Please specify.		

Comments: No building in wet lands, ordinances & zoning, limit subdivisions, farmers markets,
encourage small business, create/buy more public land, within reason, Green space allotment
by regulations. Don't sell land to out of staters. Size requirement to large. Need building inspector before
trying to impose limits of restriction, cluster housing development, no condos no apartments
need to make sure permits are obtained and rules followed, greenery, carefully sited denser development
increase road frontage, not to lower lot size, expand conservation, maintain small town

17. Nelson Zoning Ordinance allows for business development in certain parts of town. What types of businesses should be encouraged and permitted in the years ahead?

Small home-based businesses (employ 1-3 persons)	Y-164	N-17
Small retail shops	Y-122	N-35
Convenience stores	Y-73	N-74
Restaurants or Café's	Y-120	N-60
Motels, Inns, Bed-and-Breakfasts	Y-87	N-75
Commercial businesses (employ more than 3 persons)	Y-59	N-92
Private institutions (e.g. schools, nursing homes)	Y-81	N-86
None		

Comment: Day care, General Store (2), locally operated only, b&b (19), small scale, Farm stand, auto repair
Local ownership, CSA and agriculture, Keep Nelson small town not commercial, We are not a city

18. Would you favor hiring a part time code enforcement officer to enforce building code regulations?

Yes

Y-47

No

N-130

Comments For sure, Taxes to high due to police, depends on growth, if it is a problem with violations probably good idea, please living here don't be dumb, needs communication skills, job of selectboard unnecessary expense, shared between towns, depends on how many permits are being issued

19. Do you feel that residential growth (homes and population) is an important issue in Nelson?

Yes

Y-98

No

N-83

Comments: not sure what question means (2), needs to be affordable, quantness, need more info more young people. Some limited growth desirable. Especially young families, poor question, limited, isn't a problem everywhere in NH, it's only for the rich not for all, consistant with town charter

20. Do you think the town should encourage assisted living options for elderly residents?

Yes

Y-105

No

N-66

Comment: Meaning what (2), too broad, unsure, individual decsion, hire town nurse, clarify (3) elder coop need further discussion

21. Do you think that the town should explore ways to provide a wider range of housing options? (affordability)

Yes

Y-80

No

N-82

over reaching government, no section 8 low income housing?

22. Should the Master Plan include a statement that says Nelson welcomes a diverse / demographic mix?

Yes

Y-113

No

N-84

Comment: Unnecassary, absolutly, already implied, not appropriate in master plan, hypocritical that statement itself is non-inclusive, relevance, define diverse

23. What are your major concerns about the Monadnock Region? (Please check all that apply)

Increased traffic

95

Loss of agriculture

103

Increased boat traffic

52

Crime

64

Quality of education

87

Polution of lakes/streams

19

Employment opportunities

78

Other (Please specify)

38

Comments: Lack of housing, Invasives (2), tax rates (6), loss of land not posted, over emphasis for low income housing, too much government taxes crazy, unnecessary expenditures no need for f/t cop, lack of affordable housing, skyrocketing taxes, affordable housing(7), expansion of county owed entities, lack of public transp habitat fragmentation, invasive plants/animals, climate change, mental health, poverty, homelessness healthcare, affordable housing, warming, fossil fuel, super wealthy having summer homes, federal cuts in budgets, art needs to be supported, housing(3), quality of life, loss of business tax base, jet skis invasive species japanese knotweed, Not a welfare town, Milfoil, Growth, loss of wildlife, Government overreach

24. Should the town continue the efforts to provide dry hydrants on bodies of water in Nelson?

Yes

Y-160

No

N-26

Comments: FD should take an active role, What are they, need more info (4), where fessible(2), unsure if needed, until better alternatives are available.

25. Do the current hours for town offices meet your needs?

Yes

Y-142

No

N-34

Comments:Shift the late night to 12-7 or 1-7, need effeciency/automation/online capabilities. Don't add Staff(2), more online self service, evening hours more than once a week, Hard to access the Selectboard We just go when open, for the most part

26. Do the current hours for the library services meet your needs?

Yes

Y-154

No

N-10

Don't use(4), Hours should be better aliengned with town office hours , more hours, weekday programs exclude working people, evening hours, Tuesday/Thursday 9-5, We just go when open, mostly

General comments: Questions to vague, Need more info, Thank you for taking the time to put this survey together It shows your concern for the town. However, I am very concerned that these things will increase which is already too high, as well as the character of the town. Many of the things listed on the survey I would think would be detrimental to the town keeping its small town feel and at least some of the cost for funding them would have to be raised through additional taxes. A town this size can't afford the same vriety of services that a bigger place like Keene or other small cities can and we shouldn't try. Lake waterfront regulation/enforcement needed. To be commicated and enforced. Waterfront waterfront right of way doesn't mean dock allowed. Shoreline regulations for dock permits. 50 foot land ownership minimum for dock install. As a non-resident it would not be fair to evaluate. This town doesn't need full I feel that Nelson is a town for retired people. The hours of business, the daytime events the topic of education, ect people with jobs can't attend. I love this town but we certainly are not doing much to attract younger people or business owners. We need a place to gather/a store some of us aren't contra dances. I love this town but worry with its beauty lakes and small time feel that it will become a playground for the rich. Drop the bare road snow policy as that salt contaminates our lakes, Town charter could be amended to allow a bread bakery and retail space, make web site better, my biggest concern about Nelson is that it may turn into an elitist unlave of privileged retirees who take proprty donate it to the Haris Center and take it off the tax roles. Nelson will die without young families keeping it vibrant, We need to rembr that Nelson is a small town not a large town or city. That is what we loved about it. Unfortunatly many out of staters rich people have moved in and want to change it. We used to be a town of diverse people, that worked together. Now if you don't have money you are looked down upon. I would like to see us take a few steps back. Let's presurve what we used to have not a playground for the rich. Ass someone who grew up in this town and brought there family back to this town I love it for the neighborhood ralationships, the looking out for each other but the longer I live here and watch the creep of agenda's take hold I fear for the town. I do not belive needs full time police, code enforcement or a green policy. How does this agenda help the community and who foots the bill? It is my opinion that if private citizen want the projects listed the town should encouage them but not fund them. Town is becoming to liberal, Don't move here wanting enhanced services, Keep Nelson rural,

P-1
P-5

P-1
P-9

P-14
P-3

