

Survey of Acton Residents

Taken March, April and May, 2008

2nd Draft: February 14, 2009

1. Introduction

As part of the Acton Comprehensive Plan Outreach efforts, a survey of attitudes, values and opinions about the future of Acton, was conducted in March, April and May, 2008. All town residents were sent a mail-out/mail-back postage-paid survey form in April. In March the survey form was posted on a website, encouraging Acton residents to fill it out electronically. 335 returns were obtained electronically. Of the 9,438 survey forms mailed out 1,144 were mailed back (or in case of a few, brought back to Town Hall). The combined total of 1,479 returns (website and mail-back) represents a 15.7% return rate. Publicity was done via newspapers, notices and meeting announcements to help increase the return rate. The original deadline for mailing back returns was extended from April 11th into May to encourage more returns.

The survey was developed through a process of determining topics for questioning from public and committee meetings, then preparing a draft for review by a subcommittee of the entire outreach project. Eight redrafts of the survey were prepared through review by the subcommittee resulting in a final two-page survey for sending out. This form was printed on two sides of a large sheet of heavy paper that could be folded, taped shut, and mailed out and mailed back with postage paid in both directions. The survey was addressed to Resident, Acton, MA 01720 (and 01718 for Nagog Woods) and sorted by 21 mail routes for delivery at a bulk-rate by the U. S. Postal Service. It is an anonymous survey with no way to identify who sent back returns.

The survey is comprised of seven multi-part questions, which contain a mixture of multiple-choice responses and open-ended comment type responses. Sixty-four separate items of information are asked for in the survey. Three of the questions are socio-economic status items that allow comparison with U. S. Census data to check the relative representativeness (compared to the town as a whole) of the survey returns. These three items are age, annual income and ethnicity. There was no attempt to identify which part of town survey respondents live in, as there was in the Open Space and Recreation Survey done in January and February, 2008. There was a conscious attempt not to duplicate questions asked in that survey, and not to duplicate questions asked in an earlier survey done to help make decisions about a Senior Center, and finally, not to duplicate information in the Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report for Acton.

1,479 returns are associated with an error rate of +/- 2.6%. This means the percent result reported for each item may vary by as much as +/- 2.6% if 1,476 answers were given. Because in most cases not all respondents answered all questions, fewer than 1,476 responses were received for many questions. It is therefore advisable to think in terms of a +/- 3% error rate, which is quite acceptable for a survey of this type. Very many of the answers given varied from each other by more than 6% (+/-3% error for two items being compared), indicating that the survey gives a significant and accurate accounting of how two items are valued. It is important to point out that the survey results do not meet the test of randomness, which is a requirement for

an absolute accounting when inferring that results of a survey represent the results that would be obtained if all the residents of Acton had responded. It is likely that a self-selection process occurred which resulted in most returns being sent in by those most interested in Acton and its government. This is similar to the conditions that surround our local, state and national elections where only a limited number of voters turn out to vote.

Randomness is defined as each member of a group being surveyed (residents of the Town of Acton) having an equal chance to be selected to provide a return. This test was met in the Phone Survey described in another report. In that survey some of the same topics as those in the Resident Mail-Out Survey were covered, giving a chance to better determine public opinion.

Tables below show how well the age, income and ethnicity characteristics of Residential Mail-Out Survey respondents match those characteristics of the entire population of Acton (as measured in the 2000 U. S. Census which is now almost 9 years old).

Survey % Distribution by Age Groups Compared with the Town as a Whole

Age Group	18-30	31-45	46-65	66-80	81+	Did Not Answer	Total
Survey %	2.4	29.5	45.2	12.8	3.0	7.2	100.1
Town %	12.4	38.5	37.1	9.1	2.9	----	100.0

Survey % Distribution of Annual Household Income Compared with the Town as a Whole

Income Group	\$10-40K	\$41-70K	\$71-100K	\$101-131K	\$131K +	Did Not Answer	Total
Survey %	5.9	10.7	14.1	18.9	38.3	12.0	99.9
Town %	15.5	23.7	14.4	21.7	24.7	----	100.0

Survey % Distribution of Ethnic Heritage Compared with the Town as a Whole

Ethnic Heritage Group	Survey %	Town %
African	0.1	0.7
East Asian	6.6	6.4
European	55.6	84.9
Latino	0.8	2.7
Middle Eastern	0.9	0.8
Native-American	1.6	0.3
South Asian	4.0	2.2
Mixed Heritage	2.4	1.5
Other Heritage	9.3	0.6
Preferred Not To Answer	7.2	----
Did Not Answer	<u>11.7</u>	----
Total	100.2	100.1

Source for Town Data: 2000 U. S. Census of Population

In some cases the survey percentages within the data groups agree well with town percentages. In other cases there are fairly large differences, such as the over representation of high income respondents, and the under representation of respondents of European ethnic heritage. Some of these differences can be attributed to the different time periods of the data. The survey was taken in 2008 and the town data is from the 2000 Federal Census. Since 2000 Acton town officials have noticed that more people from South and East Asia have moved into town. Also, income has increased since 2000. Overall the survey seems to represent the ethnic heritage of the population of Acton fairly well.

The survey questions are contained on the following pages, and the results of the survey are given on pages following that. The physical format of the survey was altered to meet the needs of both the mail-out and website applications, but the questions and the language are as shown on the following pages.

2. ACTON RESIDENT SURVEY

Comprehensive Community Plan, Outreach

The Town would like to hear from you about how you would like Acton to further evolve over the next 5 to 10 years. **We want to know the features, services and characteristics of the Town you value and would like to preserve and enhance.** This survey is designed to help town officials better understand how our townspeople feel about Acton's future. Please send it back to the Planning Office in the Town Hall at 472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720 by April 11th. Thank you. **Individuals will not be identified in this survey.** This survey is intended to supplement, not duplicate, information already received in the Open Space and Recreation Survey and in the Historic Landscape Reconnaissance Report. This survey is available on the Internet Web at <http://www.ActonOutreach.com>, or copies can be made of this form and sent in with the original in case more than one person in a household wants to complete the survey.

1. Check the **three** most important assets you feel Acton has (qualities you like). Add any you think are missing.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> diversity of activities, including open and wooded land, homes and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> economic and ethnic diversity of population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> history, historic architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> friendly, welcoming small town feel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> small town appeal with large town features | <input type="checkbox"/> schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rural character, agricultural land | <input type="checkbox"/> commuter rail transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sense of community | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> easy access to highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

2. Check the **three** most important challenges you feel face Acton (qualities you do not like). Add any you think are missing:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of continuous pedestrian/bike paths | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of range of retail shopping opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of opportunities for casual social interactions | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of range of restaurants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of range of employment opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> isolation | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of parking in commercial areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of walkable shopping districts | <input type="checkbox"/> erosion of town character |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high cost of living in Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

3. Which of the following would you like to see more of in Acton? Please circle one for each item. If you would like to comment on any one of these, please do so at the end of the survey in the last two questions.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Open space, e.g., trails, meadows, woods, recreation areas | Yes | No | No Opinion |
| Detached single family homes | Yes | No | No Opinion |
| Attached single family homes, e.g., duplexes, town houses | Yes | No | No Opinion |
| Historic homes protected and preserved | Yes | No | No Opinion |
| Apartments | Yes | No | No Opinion |
| Affordable housing | Yes | No | No Opinion |
| Shops and services, e.g., food stores, doctors, pharmacies, hardware stores, apparel stores, automotive services? | A Little More Variety | A Lot More Variety | Stay the Same |

Restaurants e.g., fast food, family, gourmet, ethnic, function?	A Little More Variety	A Lot More Variety	Stay the Same
Employers, e.g., industrial, retail, services?	A Little More Variety	A Lot More Variety	Stay the Same
Mix of historic and new homes and buildings?	A Little More Variety	A Lot More Variety	Stay the Same
Cultural activities in Acton, e.g., community theater, art exhibits, Discovery Museum, concerts, media (Channel 8), music venues?	A Little More Variety	A Lot More Variety	Stay the Same
Diversity of population in Acton, e.g., socio-economic, ethnic, age groups?	A Little More Variety	A Lot More Variety	Stay the Same

4. What makes Acton Unique? (Open-ended question)

5. Do you feel there are enough town or other public services in Acton to meet the needs of residents of all ages? (Please circle one) Yes No No Opinion

If not, which public services needs are unmet: Please list. _____

Which age category needs are unmet? Young Children Teens Young Adults Middle Age People Active Seniors Older Seniors

6. **Environment**

The Town government would like to know if you think protecting the environment should be a priority and what types of activities you would be willing to support.

Do you think Acton should actively reduce greenhouse gases¹? Yes No No Opinion

Are you willing to support Acton taking action in reducing greenhouse gases providing it doesn't cost too much? Yes No No Opinion

If yes, what type of actions do you think the town should take? Check as many as you favor.

- ___ adopt a proclamation supporting greenhouse gas reduction
- ___ publicize the issue to promote greater public awareness of the problem and solutions
- ___ invest in making public buildings more energy efficient
- ___ provide more safe-bicycle and walking trails/lanes and sidewalks
- ___ implement a "non-idling policy" for municipal and school vehicles
- ___ offer incentives to encourage homeowners and businesses to take appropriate actions

¹ Gases that increase the temperature of the earth's surface. They include water vapor, tropospheric ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

increase recycling efforts
 promote less dependence on cars (for example, promote new bus and van options)
 Other: _____

7. **Questions of Fact** Please circle one

Do you do most of your outside-the home shopping (excluding mail-order and e-mail shopping) in Acton? Less than 25% About 50% More than 50% Almost all

Do you work? Full-time Part-time Not employed

If yes, where do you work? * In Acton Outside of Acton

Would you like to work in Acton? Yes No No Opinion

How well do you know at least three of your neighbors? Very Well Well Just Acquaintances Not At All

Were you involved in a volunteer activity over the last 12 months? Yes No

If yes what type of volunteer activities? Town Schools Church

Other: _____

What limits or restricts your involvement? Check all that apply.

lack of time language
 not sure exactly what to do lack of transportation
 not sure how to find information Other: _____

What kinds of things can the Town do to increase involvement of its residents?

How long have you lived in Town? 1 – 5 Years 6 – 10 Years 11 - 15 Years 16+ Years

How long do you plan to remain in Acton? 1 – 5 Years 6 – 10 Years 11+ Years Don't Know

What is your age category? * 18– 30 Years 31–45 Years 46–65 Years 66–80 Years 81+ Years

What is your annual household income category? * (In Thousands) \$10-\$40 \$41–\$70 \$71-\$100 \$101-\$130 \$131+

What is your ethnic heritage? * African East Asian European Latino Middle Eastern
Native-American South Asian Mixed Other: _____ Prefer not to answer

What would you like to see **more** of in Acton?

What would you like to see **less** of in Acton?

*These questions are asked so we may judge how well the survey responses match socio-economic data provided by the U. S. Census 8 years ago. **Remember, no individuals will be identified in this survey.**

Results of the combined website and mail-out survey returns are shown on the following pages. First the summarized results for each multiple-choice question is shown with the absolute number of responses and percentages each choice represents of all responses. Then the results of the open-ended questions are shown with a tally of number of times key words were mentioned. Then a complete listing of all the verbal open-ended responses is included.

3. Combined Mail-Out and Website Residential Survey Results for Multiple Choice Questions

Three Most Important Assets	No.	%
diversity of activities, including open and wooded land, homes and businesses	467	31.6
history, historic architecture	293	19.8
small town appeal with large town features	336	22.7
rural character, agricultural land	218	14.7
sense of community	300	20.3
easy access to highways	391	26.4
economic and ethnic diversity of population	206	13.9
friendly, welcoming small town feel	193	13.0
schools	1005	68.0
commuter rail transportation	390	26.4
conservation land	408	27.6
other	84	5.7
Note: Percentages calculated from the total number of respondents (1,479), not the total number of responses given (4,291). Respondents could choose more than 1 answer.		

Three Most Important Challenges	No.	%
lack of continuous pedestrian/bike paths	642	43.4
lack of opportunities for casual social interactions	176	11.9
traffic	684	46.2
isolation	52	3.5
lack of walkable shopping districts	362	24.5
high cost of living in Acton	854	57.7
lack of range of retail shopping opportunities	163	11.0
lack of range of restaurants	377	25.5
lack of range of employment opportunities	104	7.0
lack of parking in commercial areas	51	3.4
erosion of town character	371	25.1
other	381	25.8

Note: Percentages calculated from the total number of respondents (1,479), not the total number of responses given (4,217). Respondents could choose more than 1 answer.

Which would you like to see more of in Acton?	Yes	%	No	%	No Opinion	%	Did Not Answer	%	Totals
Open space (For Example, trails, meadows, woods, recreation areas)	1101	74.4	114	7.7	117	7.9	147	9.9	1479
Detached single family homes	346	23.4	724	49.0	282	19.1	127	8.6	1479
Attached single family homes (For example, duplexes, town houses)	198	13.4	892	60.3	251	17.0	138	9.3	1479
Historic homes protected and preserved	1025	69.3	128	8.7	233	15.8	93	6.3	1479
Apartments	106	7.2	1056	71.4	233	15.8	84	5.7	1479
Affordable housing	554	37.5	551	37.3	254	17.2	120	8.1	1479

What additionally would you like to see more of in Acton?	A little more variety	%	A lot more variety	%	Stay the same	%	Did Not Answer	%	Totals
Shops and services (For example, food stores, doctors, pharmacies, hardware stores, apparel stores, automotive services)	396	26.8	207	14.0	751	50.8	125	8.5	1479
Restaurants (For example, fast food, family, gourmet, ethnic, function)	516	34.9	363	24.5	490	33.1	110	7.4	1479
Employers (For example, industrial, retail, services)	440	29.7	202	13.7	699	47.3	138	9.3	1479
Mix of historic and new homes and buildings?	207	14.0	81	5.5	1019	68.9	172	11.6	1479
Cultural activities in Acton (For example, community theater, art exhibits, Discovery Museum, concerts, media/Channel 8, music venues)	583	39.4	235	15.9	543	36.7	118	8.0	1479
Diversity of population in Acton (For example, socio-economic, ethnic, age groups)	328	22.2	158	10.7	842	56.9	151	10.2	1479

How well do you know at least three of your neighbors?	Very Well	Well	Just Acquaintances	Not at All	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	429	407	449	82	112	1479
%	29.0	27.5	30.4	5.5	7.6	100.0

Do you feel there are enough Town or other public services in Acton to meet the needs of residents of all ages?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	672	428	230	149	1479
%	45.4	28.9	15.6	10.1	100.0

Which age category needs are unmet?	Young Children	Teens	Young Adults	Middle Age People	Active Seniors	Older Seniors	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	84	186	130	153	181	161	584	1479
%	5.7	12.6	8.8	10.3	12.2	10.9	39.5	100.0

Should Acton actively reduce greenhouse gases?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	1035	171	186	87	1479
%	70.0	11.6	12.6	5.9	100.1

Are you willing to support Acton taking action in reducing greenhouse gases providing it doesn't cost too much?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	1106	166	121	86	1479
%	74.8	11.2	8.2	5.8	100.0

If yes, what type of actions should the Town take?	No.	%
adopt a proclamation supporting greenhouse gas reduction	455	30.8
publicize the issue to promote greater public awareness of the problem and solutions	625	42.3
invest in making public buildings more energy efficient	722	48.8
provide more safe-bicycle and walking trails/lanes and sidewalks	773	52.3
implement a "non-idling policy" for municipal and school vehicles	647	43.7
offer incentives to encourage homeowners to take appropriate actions	685	46.3
offer incentives to encourage businesses to take appropriate actions	288	19.5
increase recycling efforts	740	50.0
promote less dependence on cars (for example, promote new bus and van options)	598	40.4
Other	173	11.7

Note: Percentages calculated from the total number of respondents (1,479), not the total number of responses given (5,706). Respondents could choose more than 1 answer.

Do you do most of your outside-the-home shopping in Acton?	Under 25%	About 50%	Over 50%	Almost All	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	325	446	363	215	130	1479
%	22.0	30.2	24.5	14.5	8.8	100.0

Do you Work?	Full-Time	Part-Time	Not Employed	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	800	268	322	89	1479
%	54.1	18.1	21.8	6.0	100.0

If yes, where do you work?	In Acton	Outside Acton	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	254	701	524	1479
%	17.2	47.4	35.4	100.0

Would you like to work in Acton?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	578	184	351	366	1479
%	39.1	12.4	23.7	24.7	99.9

Were you involved in a volunteer activity over the last 12 months?	Yes	No	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	864	487	128	1479
%	58.4	32.9	8.7	100.0

If yes, what type of volunteer activities?	Town	School	Church	Other	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	227	356	179	211	506	1479
%	15.3	24.1	12.1	14.3	34.2	100.0

How long have you lived in Acton?	1 - 5 Years	6 - 10 Years	11 - 15 Years	16 Years or More	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	295	275	206	604	99	1479
%	19.9	18.6	13.9	40.8	6.7	99.9

How long do you plan to remain in Acton?	1 - 5 Years	6 - 10 Years	11 Plus Years	Don't Know	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	160	213	413	518	175	1479
%	10.8	14.4	27.9	35.0	11.8	99.9

What is your age category?	18 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 65	66 - 80	81 Plus	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	35	436	668	190	44	106	1479
%	2.4	29.5	45.2	12.8	3.0	7.2	100.1

What is your annual household income category?	\$10 - 40 thousand	\$41 - 70 thousand	\$71 - 100 thousand	\$101-131 thousand	\$131,000 Plus	Did Not Answer	Total
Number	87	158	209	280	567	178	1301
%	5.9	10.7	14.1	18.9	38.3	12.0	99.9

What is your ethnic heritage?	Number	%
African	2	0.1
East Asian	97	6.6
European	822	55.6
Latino	12	0.8
Middle Eastern	13	0.9
Native-American	23	1.6
South Asian	59	4.0
Mixed	35	2.4
Other	137	9.3
Prefer Not to Answer	106	7.2
Did Not Answer	<u>173</u>	<u>11.7</u>
Total	1479	100.2

4. Frequency of Mentions in Open-Ended Questions

602 Answered
877 Did Not Answer

311 Answered
1168 Did Not Answer

315 Answered
1164 Did Not Answer

What makes Acton Unique?	Mentions	What public service needs are unmet?	Mentions	What can Town do to increase volunteer involvement?	Mentions
1. Schools	203	1. Transportation	98	1. Publicize	29
2. Small Town	51	2. Trash/Garbage	56	2. Website	18
3. Rural	43	3. Senior/Elderly	45	3. Information/Communicate	15
4. Location	35	4. Sidewalks	20	3. Taxes	15
5. Population	34	5. Parking	18	5. List	14
5. History	34	5. Sewer	18	6. Promote	11
7. Access	33	7. Teen	10	7. Events	10
8. Taxes	23	8. Bike	9	8. Reach-Out/Outreach	8
9. Services	20	9. Social Services	8	9. Town Meeting	7
10. People	17	10. Social Worker	7	10. Transportation	6
10. Quality	17			10. Incentives	6
12. Diverse	15			10. Committee	6
13. Safe	12			10. Schedule/Timing	6
13. NARA	12			14. Cable TV	5
15. Proximity	9			15. Access	4
16. Sports	6			15. Gathering	4
17. Police/Fire	5			15. Fun	4
17. Quality	5			18. Recruit	3
17. Charm	5				
17. Atmosphere	5				

644 Answered
835 Did Not Answer

596 Answered
883 Did Not Answer

What would you like to see MORE of in Acton?	Mentions	What would you like to see LESS of in Acton?	Mentions
1. Sidewalks	131	1. Traffic	153
2. Restaurants	68	2. Taxes	120
3. Open Space	43	3. Development	100
4. Parking	39	4. Building	48
5. Bike Paths	33	5. Housing	29
6. Public Transportation	32	6. Construction	24
7. Trails	29	7. Apartments	18
8. Shopping	23	7. Malls	18

9. Preservation	21	7. Spending	18
9. Conservation Land	21	10. 40B Projects	17
10. Population/People	18	11. Mansions	15
11. Fiscal Restraint	16	12. Population/People	14
12. Businesses	14	13. Residential	10
12. Recreation	14	14. Retail	9
14. Affordable Housing	13	14. Over-Rides	9
15. Movie Theater	12	14. Fast Foods	9
16. Diversity	9	17. Shopping	8
17. Recycling	8	17. Growth	8
18. Trees/Woods	7	17. Wasteful	8
18. Parks	7	20. Condos	7
		20. Businesses	7

5. Combined Mail-Out and Website Residential Survey Unsummarized Results for Open-Ended Questions (A complete listing of written responses)

291 Answered 1188 Did Not Answer

What are Acton's Top Three Other Assets?	What additionally are Acton's Top Three Other Assets?
town center	
stores-retail shopping	
safety	
safe place to live	
nice housing communities	
bus service	
well managed	
enough open land	
public libraries	
shopping	
services, supermarkets	
roads kept better than surrounding towns	
shopping options	
Small town appeal	
Community programs for families	
children and adult recreation activities	
Council on aging programs	
Rail Trail	
Sidewalks	
Not too close but not too far from Boston	
Medical care	
Well managed	
Great library	

Small town feel	Sense of physical safety
Quiet suburban neighborhoods	
Small town appeal	
Proximity to Boston	
bike lockers at RR station	minuteman library network
wooded land	
our children nearby	
athletic fields	
family owned businesses	
Volunteerism for charitable and civic matters	
wooded, undeveloped land	
beautiful countryside	
the people	
Bloomingtons	open park in S. Acton
good library	
great facilities	
more affordable housing	
churches	
senior center	
Open farm land	
Safe community	
Starbucks	
Clean air	
Separation of business/homes	
Conservation land	
Theatres, open door, HS, JHS	
Schools	
Nearness to hospital/other medical facilities	
Library network	
Library (excellent)	
Walk to W Acton Village	
Commuter rail station	
Diversity of neighborhood pricing	
many neighborhoods are walking distance to shops, cafes, library etc	
Close to our jobs (495)	Daycare centers quality (not home daycare)
Safety	
Location	
library	Trader Joe's
athletic options for kids	
Good Library	

291 Answered

1188 Did Not Answer

What are Acton's Top Three Other Challenges?	What additionally are Acton's Top Three Other Challenges?
no garbage pickup	
uncontrolled development	
lack of economic diversity	
more frequent/regular train to/from Boston, shopping, school	
high population	
cost of municipal services/police/schools	
high taxes	
class size in schools is too high	
teachers should get involved more, give more homework	too many new homes and projects
growing school population	development of open land
lack of financial restaurants	snobbery (vs. Maynard etc)
McMansioning ugly housing	
Concord rotary backup	
Public Transportation	
No parking at train stop after 7:15, so can't use the train	
distance to higher quality hospital	school choice (divided neighborhoods)
Polarity of opposing political factions	
too much stress placed on jr. high and high school students because homework	
over development	
high/growing taxes	
continuous land development	
lack of commuter rail parking	
ongoing disrepair/erosion	
sidewalks	
chapter 40B pressure	lax traffic law enforcement
help with solar, environmental issues	
lack of economic diversity	
lack of all-town sewer system	
high taxes	
taxes	
limited access to commuter lot	
limited parking at commuter rail	
lack of parking at commuter rail	
municipal budget	
lack of african-americans	

lack of charm	
unfettered development	
lack of diversity	
road conditions	
taxes	
lack of traffic lights	high taxes
High fees of Nara Park	
commuter rail parking	
Taxes	
Controlled, well-planned development	
Protecting Ground Water	
Lack of parking for commuter rail	
High taxes	
High Taxes	
Small farms	
Taxes	
Taxes	
Commuter rail parking	
loss of conservation areas	overbuilding
too crowded	
taxes	taxes
transportation for teens and elders	
lack of sidewalks	
housing development	
relying only on property tax	
need for major changes	
stop building on 2A	
tough commute to Boston	
bus facility to other towns	
too many condos	
too many strip malls	
overbuilding	
town-wide communications	
Keeping taxes down	
Lack of parking space in the train station	
Lack of shuttle	Commuter rail parking
Too much building of homes/apartments	
overdevelopment	
high taxes	
more conservation land	
too much building	
erosion of neighborhoods due to school choice	lack of superstores (costco, home depot etc)

lack of youth gathering places	
master plan restriction to business expansion, growth	
not controlling property tax increases	
school alcohol and drug abuse not addressed by school officials	
no town center	
lack of sidewalks	
too many condos!	
poor planning board that is lenient in allowing indiscriminate construction for homes and businesses	
Toxic waste/recycling	
Need more sidewalks	
Police Visibility	Town wide by-law 25 MPH throughout the community
Too much new development	
Ability of small business owners to make a living in Acton	
Lack of public transportation	
Route 2 Rotary	
Lack of affordable housing	
No water pressure	
Too many amenities that have to be paid for	
High taxes	
High Taxes	Control of 40B projects
Lack of control/strategy on residential development	
Level of public transportation	
Lack of effective master plan	
In town buses	
Elderly cannot afford to stay in town	
Too much spending	
Building of extra large houses	
Lack of parking at commuter rail station	
Overbuilding	Lack of conservation land
Lack of town bus-in town transport	
Property taxes	Bike racks in shopping areas
Taxing residents out	
No sewers	
Parking at rail station	Sewage/septic, water supply and water quality
Lack of clear, long-term planning that is well publicized	
Taxes	
Taxes	
Taxes	

Competition in schools	
Too many housing developments	Continual waste of tax payers money
Mansions	
Need a development plan	
Lack of parking in train station	
Lack of public transportation	
Taxes	
High tax on property	Not enough lights on streets
Population gets bigger	
Increased building of all kinds	
Too much home development	
limiting growth/strain on schools	
high taxes	
lack of town sewer	small business tax base
high property taxes	
lack of town commercial center	
too many rich people	
no residential development plans/limits	
lack of sidewalks	
high tax rate	
lack of downtown	
controlling growth	
lack of parking at T	
lack of lights to make left turns	
high residential property taxes	
sidewalks	
too much growth	
too much building	
high taxes	excessive town spending
lack of athletic fields	
lack of parking at RR station	
class size in schools	
water quality	
lack of sewers	
huge houses that look alike	
anti business town government	
crowded schools	
expand access to town sewer system	
40B development,	
quality of water	
ever increasing property taxes	
improving unattractive commercial areas	
public bus route	

lack of resident parking at the commuter rail lot	
over concentration on schools- no regard for taxes for long time residents committed to stay in town	
parking at the train station	
public transportation in town and to other towns	
high taxes	
finances (town)	unanimity on boards and committees
it has become too large- no sense of community	
the arrogant attitude of many of the people in town	
no basketball (indoor)	places for kids. Schools not always available
too much developing (it's horrible)	
continued new developments	
pressure of 40B law	
overdevelopment	
Roche Bros. parking lot	
lack of wheelchair accessibility	
lack of downtown shopping area	
taxes	
lack of parking at commuter rail	lack of bus service
development of open spaces	
more open conservation land	
perpetual residential building	
lack of street lights	
lack of town center	
lack of open space	
poor planning	
water quality	
lack of town sewage	
no sewers	
train station parking	
high tech use in gov't.	
low rate recycling	pesticide spraying
overdevelopment	lack of businesses
too much new houses	too much expansion
small homes for first time buyers	
larger houses	
lack of parking at commuter rail	
real estate taxes too high	
too much growth	lack of diversity
too many apartments	
horrible playgrounds	
minimal business tax base	

overdevelopment	
lack of parking at commuter rail	
overdevelopment	
too many condos	
cutting down trees	
attracting businesses	
poor maintenance of roads	
Lack of parking at train station	Lack of sidewalks
Lack of town center	
No center for the arts	
Too much new development	
High property taxes	
Lack of parking in commuter rail	Too many apartments station and condos
Overrides	Town leadership
Constant development	
Lack of affordable housing	
High real estate taxes	
High real estate taxes	
Lack of town sewage system	
Commuter rail parking	
High property tax	
Lack of parking in commuter rail station	
Friendly small town feel-spread no center	
Limiting road and utility cost	Unlimited growth of "public safety"
overbuilding of low end housing	
Lack of town services for people w/o children - free classes via adult ed., free NARA access	
No quaint town center	
High RE Taxes	
Taxes overrides	
Poor schools	
Haphazard planning/development	
Lack of parking - commuter rail	Taxes
Decrease taxes	
High taxes	
Reliance on property taxes for school/town revenue	
Lack of town character	
Town is too big for town meeting	
Lack of dog leash law	Many dangerous intersections throughout town
Development	
HOB	No center, can't go east

Lack of parking - trains	
Public transportation	
over building	
Over development (esp. 40B)	
40Bs, development, build-out	
Too many wedged-in condo developments on too little land	
Graffiti on signage near Maynard, signage tampering	
Incredible citizen	in town activities
Ever increasing property tax	
Need underground wiring	Need planned village centers, connected with community by sidewalks; centers should have shopping, restaurants, entertainment
Recycling (lack of bin/options)	
Unable to walk around town such as High St. to commuter rail	
Skyrocketing employee benefits, healthcare, retirement/pension for town employees - associated increase to our taxes	
Lots of run-down trashy properties	
Over development/40Bs	
Town has no curb appeal	Lots of dead trees, trashy front yards, ugly commercial areas; Ugly mix of business and residential
Too much new development	
Restricting building	
Lack of appreciation of preservation	The pansy to develop
High tax rate	Small commercial tax base
Lack of public transportation	
Lack of parking at train station	
Schools - large class sizes	
Water erosion/pollution	
Over crowding - too much new construction of multi-family/apartment/attached housing	
Lack of RR lot parking	
Noise pollution e.g.. Unshielded commercial AC units	
lack of social workers	
environment	
too many condos	
tax rate	non-conservative town managers
high taxes	
fix southern entry at Rts. 111/27	
too much growth	

cost of education	
overly competitive	
overdevelopment	
not enough sidewalks	
property taxes too high	property taxes too high
too many houses	
lack of town sewers	
tax	
mcmansions	
ugly bldg at Main and Rt. 111	
low cost movies	
high cost of schools	
high taxes	extravagant school spending
overbuilding	
too much red tape	
Bad zoning laws - too crowded	
Speeding cars, especially near the High School (Haywood Road) Rushing H. S. drivers leave school in school hours.	
Lack of a shuttle bus service	

What Makes Acton Unique?
good schools, safe
community involvement/support of the schools and students
evolving, changing
schools
good school, culture diversity, good education background of adults, visionary town/school leaders, open minded excellent Chinese school with excellent town/support parents
well located town to access Boston by commuter train/school choice/4th of July fireworks/NARA park
ethically diverse, high quality small town with great schools
schools, rural space, historic homes
well maintained roads, public buildings and other facilities (commuter rail, transfer station etc), participation of parents in school system, excellent library
diversity of population even though it's a suburban town
elementary school choice, Asian ethnic
schools, location, excellent town planning
education system and diversity of population
quality schools and educated population while properties are not too large and expensive
it used to be unique but the over development over growth in the schools and lack of a master plan has destroyed it
focus on education (it is one of Acton's industries)
schools
diversity and great schools. Great value in Acton's ethnic and economic diversity
good community location, good schools, good mix of retail outlets, good community with low crime rate
its excellent overall facilities and services while still retaining a friendly, comfortable historical charm
history and charm, close to Boston and New Hampshire and Central Massachusetts, conservation land and trails, 275 years old in 2010 (a big party?)
rural feeling
location
colonial and semi-rural feel + look
safe environment, good schools, diverse population
great schools, country living
the good balance of small-town community and larger town conveniences
center has a nice small rural town feel but there is access to shopping and other amenities. Lots of community activities and participation. School reputation is very good.
it has no town center really - cannot force Acton to be like Concord or Lexington - it sprawls. Period.
well educated but not snobby; on the border between city & country- easy access to both
good schools, easy access to highways, small town with large town features
nothing, the town lacks a soul
Quaint, historical

diversity, affordability
nice small town
relatively stable population
focus on schools, and raising talented kids
diverse population
historical, great schools, open spaces, retail businesses, and diversity
high tax rate
quite neighborhoods, farmlands, orchards
not much, too developed
overzealous police
good schools
good school
great schools, choice of elementary school
schools, quality of residents
history, long term residents, theater opportunities
feeling of community
quality of schools
small town access to Boston
nothing
diversity
cost of living/taxes, conservation land
rural appeal
history
small town feel but just 40 minutes from Boston
nothing
great schools and services, while still caring for people
the sense of a village, but affordable
terrible taxes, no services
school system, NARA, good shops, open land, access to Boston
schools, good medical and food services
small town atmosphere
schools, Asian population, high taxes
good roads, choice of elementary school
small town
nice mix of economic levels
small town
conservation lands
close to Boston
cannot be defined
schools
excellent schools
schools
schools

great schools
community
small town
excellent community
diversity
small town
upscale living
historic preservation
excellent schools
good schools
isolation
Schools
Diversity of restaurants and retail
Small town appeal with large town features
Schools
Good balance of neighborhoods and open land
Schools
Schools
Housing more affordable than Concord/Lexington etc, nice amount of shopping, schools
Schools, high taxes
School choice at elementary level, diverse conservation lands, historic architecture
Rural feel but access to major highways
Commuter rail, villages, history, schools
Location, schools
Overrun by developers
School choice at elementary level, diverse conservation lands, historic architecture
Rural-yet easy access to Boston, cultural events
Safe small town with many cultures
Schools, cultural diversity
Quiet
Good balance of history, shopping/dining opportunities
Schools, library, conservation land
Choice for elementary schools
Schools
Small town community
Great school system, convenient shopping, stores, restaurants
Lack of amenities
it's not unique
town meetings
great location, easy access
diversity
services
great mix for kids and adults

not unique anymore
bucolic setting close to Boston
location
villages, trees
community-based town
diversity
better sub shops
diversity
filling empty commercial spaces
location
friendly people
excellent schools
community support for schools
the people
great schools
always first on any alphabetical news listing
success of schools
used to be it's rural character
family oriented
school system
Great schools
Great schools, friendly neighborhoods, close to Boston
The people, Great location
Schools
Small town with rural feel, close to Boston
Great schools, ethnic diversity, great cultural events
Great schools
Highly educated and informed population
Good balance of city and country living, Nara park, variety of activities
Has lots of qualities that Concord and Lexington with more reasonable cost of living
Great schools, close to Boston with small town feeling
Balanced schools, town services
It's history, pleasant surroundings, Nara Park
Very welcoming, big town
School system, distance to Boston, Nara park
Historic setting
Does not have a well developed "center" in town
Sense of history and community
History and character
Largest class sizes in state yet some of best performance
Great schools
Great schools, conservation land, commuter rail station
good schools with reasonable real estate prices

location excellent. Town services are good
good schools, location to highways and close to Boston, town government
Acton is not unique- and each year the destruction of our historic homes and development of our lands for low income people is ruined the town
good schools
people, good schools, friendly atmosphere, good location
the schools with low cost/student makes Acton unique. Also, Acton's high taxes with fewer services than other towns makes it unique (not a good thing)
great schools and family opportunities
combination of good schools, affordability and good commuter location
safe, small/tight community, high quality schools, diversity/booming town
I don't think Acton is unique
I like how Acton used to feel- I grew up in Acton in the 1960s, 1970s- now too much development, too many fast food places, too much traffic, too many "McMansions"
relatively low cost/pupil, but high quality public education. Not a "walkable" community (no real town center, few sidewalks)
see answers to above questions
good schools, multi-cultural, clean, safe, beautiful, recreation areas, train, HGRM, school choice
size, not too crowded
it isn't. It just is as it has developed. No leadership. Its blow.
the taxes-quite unbelievable- and the per student spending is still less than other towns. (and the condition of the elementary schools is horrific) where does our money go??
open space and schools with good reputation
excellent schools at reasonable price. Good stores and excellent variety
quality of schools, well run family businesses, Nara Park and Arboretum
commitment to quality schools and participatory government and diversity of citizens
rural feel with close proximity to major urban area and outstanding schools
great schools in an area with rural feel. Connection to city via commuter rail
I really think the indiscriminate development permitted over the past 20 years has detracted from the unique rural feeling it once had
its lack of services and high tax rate
Good schools, community service
Schools, open space, historic home, sense of community
Good schools, high quality cultural offerings
Schools, open space, historic home, sense of community
Schools
Open space
Affordable for first time home buyers
Diversity of population
Schools
Schools
Open space, great schools, great library

Schools, historical connection
Schools
History
Schools
Schools, diversity of population
Affluent town with liberal feel
Rural atmosphere within comfortable distance to larger and smaller towns/cities
Beautiful conservation land, diverse population
Abundance of conservation land and history
Schools
Unique town centers
Schools, active and engaged citizens
Clean and has friendly atmosphere
Friendly town
Schools, great roads
Safe place to live
School system
Well-educated population
Small town appeal with modern conveniences
Schools
Welcoming feeling, great schools
Involvement and passion of Acton community, friendly environment
High quality of schools/living
Much like surrounding communities
Quiet town that's easily accessible to city activity
Beautiful town with fairly easy access to Boston area
High taxes
Great school system
Great school system
Open space, diversity of town centers, non commercial village center
Pay higher taxes than neighboring towns
History, easy access to Boston, schools
Small town feel only 25 miles from Boston, great schools and sports
Quiet, charming, wide roadways
Very high taxes but little town services
Largest town in Massachusetts without town sewerage
Its balance
Many positive attributes
Schools, location, access to highways
Good schools, history, commuter rail
Excellent schools, open space, great library, history
Open space
Great schools

Schools
Hustling town
Easy access to highways with small town feeling
Emphasis on education on all levels
Good schools, location and size
Diversity with small town feel
Good schools, open land
Unity
Schools, taxes, history, culture
Great schools, friendly community, small town
Traditional New England small town
Semi-rural elements, conservation land, great schools
Close to Boston but with rural areas
Good library, senior center, and activities
Schools, community programs/sports
Excellence in education with remarkable diversity
Mix of housing, business, recreational, conservation open space, location
Parent involvement in education and athletics
Great schools, sense of community, location within state
Location and great school system
School, diversity
Easy access to highways, rural feel, close to Boston
Residents, town pride, small-town feeling with access to Boston, excellent schools
Schools, library
Quiet, safe
Excellent schools
Good schools, access to highways
Extremely friendly and giving community
Location, schools, taxes
high taxes with no services
great schools with lower per pupil costs than most towns
employment opportunity, schools, shopping, proximity to Emerson hospital and Boston, good services
mix of urban development and historical architecture
rural character with lots of historic buildings, and great schools and services
school system, bright/fun/diverse population
value of education, sense of community, parade in Acton, open space, caring for all age groups
good town to raise kids, good location, educated population, progressive politics
diverse/growing population
small town, great schools
location, schools, socio-economic makeup
easy access to Boston, good amenities, country feel
good school system, proximity to Boston

small town feel, but lots of diversity
school choice, small town feel, community sense
55+ single level homes in community
it's not
division of the town into distinct areas
laid back, but fun town
great schools, history, relative affordability
schools, conservation land
NARA park
school system
kind, generous and friendly people
good school system, reasonable cost
schools and history
schools, history, NARA
good schools, relatively affordable
school system
country setting with conservation walks, biking, wooded areas, great schools, population diversity
good school system
schools/diversity/mix of residential and commercial
strong sense of community, with conveniences of a city
good services, accessible to all major quality of life necessities
it isn't
rural/historic character, too much residential growth
good schools, affordable housing, good location
socio-economic diversity, farms, schools, historic architecture, history, commuter rail, access to highways, community spirit
our children in vicinity
mix of suburban, and rural in a historic venue with a good mix of urban amenities
good schools, family friendly, co-housing exists
involvement/motivation of citizens, educational level of population
schools, rural setting
small town community feeling
rural character/agricultural, yet close to Boston/major highways
mix of houses, businesses, woods, and farms
great schools that bring sense of pride to community
strong family orientation, commitment to schools, youth sports
used to be rural, turning into city
history, good schools
good schools, community spirit, conservation land
nice family oriented community
rural feeling, safe area, near Boston, community feeling, good schools
historic character, schools, NARA

good access to Boston, good area to raise a family
senior housing
location, educated population, family oriented
great schools at low cost, annual collaboration among committees, incredible amount of woodlands with public access
convenient location
convenience with a rural feel
schools and small town appeal with large town features
the variety of shops in such a secluded area
historic significance. Conservation lands within walking distance of almost every neighborhood
I love Acton for all the reasons listed in question 1. The people are great and I love being able to walk to a "farm". The schools are a huge bonus, because I have school age kids and I find it "artsy". I (half kiddingly) call it the Cambridge of the West!
exceptional schools, colonial history
the amount on conservation land and the HIGH TAXES
country setting, undeveloped land
high tax rate for small condos
No longer unique with all the developments, apartments, and commuters cutting through town with NO enforcement of traffic- numbers of rude, impatient new residents here for schools only- raising taxes for some then leaving town after last child graduates high school.
A high level of community involvement in town, school, and other activities.
sense of community and schools
Acton is unique because of its rich history and for its open space.
Highly educated population earning above average incomes that prefer to shop for a bargain. Schools have always come first-this is good. Wellesley schools in real trouble due to no overrides, etc
old-fashioned village
I don't know, but I like it.
good schools; opportunities to be involved in town government, schools, organizations, etc.
Schools, neighborhoods, commuter rail station, historic buildings renovated/preserved -- valued history, visible history
Country-suburban feel and friendliness
Good access to needed services with short distances to travel
Large Asian population
type of government and schools
small town appeal, friendly
The schools are terrific. The recreation/conservation areas wonderful.
good school system
excellent schools, ethnically diverse, proximity to Boston
rural reeling and retain convenience
Acton has lost its small town feel
the residents
character, residents

great schools
rural landscape
diversity
good schools
diversity
school system
cares about residents
community
schools
diversity
the people
location
good schools
history
diversity
rural area
history
easy access
elected officials
self-contained town
schools
schools
proximity to Boston
rural area
vibrant town center
hardworking volunteers
Nara park
not happy with lack of access to services
location
diversity
close to highways
high SAT scores
nothing
small town
community
easy access
nothing
diversity
schools
small town
schools
small town
high taxes

town character
great schools
diversity
small town
conservation lands
diversity
location
motivated student population
great people
educated citizens
history of school quality
high taxes
rural area
rural area
small town
schools
schools
small town
rural area
nothing
easy access
ethnic diversity
community
schools
open welcoming character
new library
schools
small town
diversity
ethnic diversity
not much
Safety
School system
People care and get involved
Schools, sense of community, family atmosphere
Friendly town with increasing population diversity
Mixture of country appeal and commercial
School system
Good unit of homes/businesses. Schools, recreation and services
School system, wide variety of sports
Close to Boston, accessible to roadways, great schools/sports
Scenery, easy access to Boston
Diversity, excellent school system

Ample supply of condos
Nara Park
Great sports for kids and great schools
Good schools
High taxes and small town politics
High taxes
Rural character, but near shopping in other towns (malls), educational opportunities
Good community efforts with town and schools
Nice roads, schools
High education, high social standards, high house prices
Parental involvement in schools
School system, community interaction, safe, small town feel
Conservation lands and trails
Involved caring people
Diversity, useful retail development
Schools
Country style environment, beautiful trees, excellent schools
Mix of rural feel with suburban conveniences
Schools, high property tax
High tax rate
Large number of community groups, community involvement, excellent schools
Outstanding school system
Schools
Independent stores/coffee shops
Community activities, great neighborhoods/neighbors
Rural character with easy access to major highways
Small town with many conveniences, shops and services, diversity of population
Well educated, diverse population
Good schools, American history, location
Relatively affordable given quality of schools
Feels home-like and rural
Schools, educated population, ethnic diversity
Lovely wooded areas
Good choice of stores, close to highways
History-oriented town, Dr Orescott's Ride, Patriot's Day Activities, Pre-revolution stone walls & names, chiming of town bell
Old charm with modern amenities
Schools, theatre
Schools, community involvement, relatively rural, friendly, people, great nature trails
Great schools, ethnic diversity, good commuter location
Great location with restaurants and shops to meet one's needs
No downtown area - not necessarily a bad thing
Reputation of school system

Good place for professional families to bring up children
Great schools, high taxes
Small enough for residents to have meaningful participation in the institutions - can still know everyone in town
Closeness of shopping and comfortable neighborhoods
High taxes with very little in return for those without kids in schools; Don't frequent NARA (=for families), the library or over-sized police station
A great value- strong schools plus affordable wooded/natural areas, but threatened historic architecture/landscape
Historic, excellent schools, arts, community feeling
It's history
Diversity
Lots of trees, small town feel; school system
Diverse professional population, good schools, close families
Best school system
Very good public school system with relatively low per-pupil expenditure; Largest town in state without town sewerage
Reasonably uncrowded town with diverse population and excellent town services
I think that the BOS and others in positions of authority are interested in what general town residents have to say
Small town within a big town
Small community
A small town feel yet easy proximity to Boston; Good open spaces and conservation land
Schools are good, elementary school choice
Sense of community, welcoming small town feeling, educated population
The "can-do", "We'll find a way to make things work" attitude of residents and town/school employees
Outstanding schools, open spaces, commuter rail
Its historical character, its many trees and open areas for recreation, conservation, its inhabitants
Being in a nice town, but not far from the city
We are pretty diverse, good balance of cultures, religions and economic demographics. Good location for Boston commuting or weekend travel to the north. Good dog friendly parks.
Great schools, ? And suburban mix, family focused
Friendly, welcoming people
Sense of/place in history, school choice, diversity
Acton is well located, quiet area but close to Boston, airport and family living in Worcester
Community spirit, willingness to be involved in positive development of town, rootedness in historical past, concern for children and elders
Acton has excellent schools with beautiful wooded areas and friendly community
Schools, taxes/home value, people, nice facilities, you can have a great school system and a home for less than you can in Concord, Lex, Sudbury
Great schools, commuter rail, conservation land, some rural character, some diversity (condos and apartments available), lack of snobbery - especially in the schools

Good schools and lots of recreation facilities
Town feeling
Small town with good schools, lots of open/wooded land
School system
Commitment to education
Was nice in 80s, now it is overspend and overbuild
I'm not sure it is "unique" which means "one of a kind" - it would be pushing hard to characterize Acton that way
Trees, rock walls, access to Boston
The wonderful schools, small town feel with proximity to Boston
It isn't unique
It's a pleasant suburban town that offers a superior school system and many benefits for residents of all ages, in a somewhat rural and historical environment.
School system, multi culture, farm stand
Proximity to Boston, superior schools (especially the high school), historic "underdog" (i.e. Concord gets all the credit for being historic)
Citizens working together to get things done
It has a good community, good churches, good resources, good activities and helpful publications for all of this; good library, good businesses; Acton has an especially good morale
Public spirited citizens who contribute their time to town activities
When I moved here 40 years ago it was unique because of its natural character and easy access to Boston
Population - transient vs. old school - nice mix; Great schools
What makes you think Acton is unique?
educated but practical population, open town meeting, excellent school system, rural flavor
Access to both 495 & 128 via Route 2; Easy to go into Boston or Worcester or NH
The location is extremely convenient; Excellent school system
I don't think Acton is unique. It's like many other towns.
Its history, Isaac Davis, Abner Hosmer
High performing schools - challenging academics, high college placements, successful athletes that engage students; Minimal downtime, ensuring everyone's productivity and safety
Nice place to live but too many residents are unaware of our history and don't care to attend town meeting - they are here for schools and will not stay
Historic and a well educated population with a town loyalty mindset
Schools - most people move to or stay in Acton because of the quality of the schools. It does not have the cleanliness or charm of other area small towns.
A diverse population (ethnic) that is highly educated; Family oriented - kids first
Population highly educated and hi-tech oriented; Town is close to 495 & 128 for these jobs; Easy/short drive to Cambridge/Boston; Lots of daycare centers; Schools great and not overcrowded
High cost of living vs. services
Historic/rural character
Nothing

Small town feel near a large urban area - feel based on continued building and increases this brings to school population and traffic - we are quickly losing; Has changed too much in 20 years we're lived in Acton
Over the past 15-20 years Acton has let much of its uniqueness get away. It used to be a rural gem combined with its proximity to Boston. It has become too much like the urbanized areas in-between
Quality of services - schools, police, fire, public ?, library - as high as Concord/Sudbury without the cost and attitude of exclusivity of those towns
People - the citizens
Close to major routes, safe town, excellent schools
Many international residents
Good library service/school; Nice housing environment
Location in proximity to highways; Population is diverse; Arboretum; Mix of housing; Active citizens; School quality and activities; Conservation land
Acton Jazz Café, Indian Village is a welcoming, friendly neighborhood
location, geography
very rural, yet close to Boston
very good school system
extraordinary history
diversity
rural settings close to major routes
history
great schools
old buildings
good schools
open space but close to urban metro center
historic buildings
small town
architecture
Rt. 2A
high property taxes
affordable town
public education
historic heritage
good schools
historic
school system
nothing
small town
schools
not unique
small town
family oriented

high taxes
family oriented
location
good schools
location
quality of services
ethnic diversity
small town
Its farming background
Small lot zoning results in too many single family homes too close together.
Level of civic mindedness

311 Answered

1168 Did Not Answer

Which Public Service Needs Are Unmet?
trash pickup/more town sewer
public transportation
swimming pool, improved soccer fields
public transportation around town
public transportation in town and to neighboring towns
traffic control at dangerous intersections, parking at commuter rail lot, snow removed at intersections where snow piles obstruct view
public transportation, teacher/student ratio
public transportation! Internet access (residential), bike paths
perceived lack of activities/facilities for teens and young adults
not clear if senior citizens are able to access town amenities enough
need improvement in van services
garbage pickup, leaf pickup
transportation for those who do not drive
food pantry where a person can select only items they need, affordable recreation opportunities and activities for physically disabled adults
garbage pickup
transportation
more sidewalks
pathways/sidewalks
Special education in elementary schools, teaching assistants
bus service, more public transportation for any age group
trash pickup
senior's transport, services allowing them to live at home
traffic jams, unsafe roads for children
transportation for elderly, disabled and temporarily disabled
trash collection
curbside trash pickup

curbside recycling, environmental initiative
help for elderly and poor
garbage collection, town sewer
trash pickup, open land for hunting, leaves pickup
more bus service
public transportation
transportation for elderly
less government
social worker
story time for young children
public transportation
transportation
more services for middle ages and infants
commuter rail parking
public transportation
Swimming for dogs
Cinema, town swimming pool, rec./indoor center
Public transportation
Public transportation
Access to services limited for older/elderly, lack of sidewalks
In-town transportation, sidewalks, bike trails
trash pick up
Trash pick up, more street lighting, public transportation
More parking for train transportation
Transportation within town/area
Garbage
Garbage pick up, sidewalks, town pool, street lights
Public transportation
public transportation
teen services
trash pickup
transportation
public transportation
more parking at train station
senior services
transportation
activities for young adults
lack of afterschool care
in-town transportation
garbage collection
housing assistance
teen activities
local transportation

bus service
safe public hangouts for teens
sidewalks
Transportation
Movie theater should be open
Reasonably priced trash curbside pickup
Public sewer service
Trash pick up
Public transportation, activities for teens
Transportation within town, commuter rail parking
Sidewalks, recycling
Transportation
Garbage pickup
Extended daycare or class
Public transportation, social services
Movie theater should be open
Affordable housing, safe transportation, more social opportunities for middle aged
sewers (West Acton)
pet store
garbage pickup
arts, a real commercial center, fix up South Acton w/ sidewalks, it has the train
universal trash pick-up
needs more sidewalks and faster completion of rail trails
I don't know enough
traffic lights in some areas, pedestrian paths
anyone with children beyond school age
not enough playing fields and gym space. Curb-side trash pickup. Too few after school programs for K-6
not enough extended day programs on Thursdays
children friendly activities
no public transportation
public transportation (e.g. commuter shuttle)
town sewers, scheduled bus
bus service to commuter rail
Open space, gardens
Sewers
No town pool, not enough outdoor recreation space
Senior art center with fitness facility
Trash pick up, sidewalks
Services for elderly
Visiting nurses/physical therapists
Transportation
Buses, cabs

Larger senior center for Baby Boomers
Public transportation
Public transportation
Trash pick-up, more street lights, more sidewalks
Trash pick up
Outreach person for community resources for all ages
Buses, garbage removal from homes
Public transportation to commuter rail
Garbage pick up, transportation for seniors, senior center
Public transportation, bicycle friendly trails
Public trash pick up
Public transit
Water, sewers
Garbage pick up, sewers
Compassion towards elderly
Walk-in clinics
Senior center
Trash pick up
Social worker
Sidewalks, bike paths
Town dump open on Sundays
Senior activities and recreation in daytime
Transportation of seniors/people who don't drive
Garbage pickup
Exercise classes for seniors
Public transportation
Public transit, late bus for schools, social worker
sewer, services for elders
night life after 8 p.m.
garbage pick up
trash pickup
trash pickup
public transportation
recycling pickup
public transportation, trash pickup, sewer
public transportation
transportation
commuter rail parking lot
transportation
public transportation
transportation, affordable for elderly/disabled
waste collection, street lights, brown water
public transportation, pub

senior services, emphasis on history of Acton, recreation fields, tax relief for seniors
public transportation for young/old
more senior discounts
bus transportation, bike/walking paths
more athletic fields
public transportation
recycling
public transportation
public transportation, elderly activities
transportation for seniors, services for seniors
town sewer access
more parking for cars at train station and have a train twice a day to Boston
senior services
public transportation, on a regular, scheduled and posted route
public transportation, employment services, employment opportunity
travel services for elderly
larger senior center/traffic enforcement. Need indoor walking area available. Nov-March i.e., schools!
Transportation for those who cannot drive. Residential and social activities for cognitively impaired.
Garbage pick up. Senior services
services for the elderly
Transportation around town or to malls elsewhere; structures at playgrounds; inadequate space at senior center for exercise classes
help for elderly and sick
public transportation
larger senior center, traffic enforcement, new building for food pantry, use of schools for seniors sports and recreation during winter months
recreation for young people
none
transportation
trash pickup
trash pickup
public transportation
sewer
public transportation
community center
tax relief for all seniors
larger building for seniors
bus service
adult day care
support for seniors
traffic control

trash collection
public transportation
community service coordinator
community education
public transportation
public transportation
bus service
social worker
public transportation
focus on schools
fire and police services
educational needs for public safety
none
public transportation
recreation
recreation
public transportation
nursing for older seniors
public transportation
trash pickup
larger building for seniors
elders not being served
services for older seniors
social services
social services
senior services
Trash pickup
Trash pickup
Elders
Transportation, senior services
Public transportation, train parking
Train parking is insufficient, lack of sidewalks, plowing is poor
Public transportation, parking at commuter lot
Transportation to airports
Public bus, limit parking for train station
Town sewer
Parking space for commuters, recreation resource
Transportation, social services
Parking for commuter rail
Public transportation, bike access on roads, walking areas
Sidewalks, recreation center
Municipal Sewer
Garbage pickup

Better access other than driving
Transportation
Town sewage system
Activities for teens
Cost effective trash pickup
Garbage disposal, sewers
Transportation
Sidewalks
Enforce traffic laws
Public transportation
Shuttle bus to train station
Family friendly cultural activities
Transfer Station hours, No young children events @ local library
Services for teens
Transportation, Adequate parking at rail station
Garbage collection
Should have more free or reduced adult recreation or education options
Adults without young children or teens at home
Fire/emergencies in North Acton area, sorely needed additional police; sidewalks
Commuter rail parking
No public transportation, no trash pick up by town
Public sewerage, general social services, elderly tax assistance
Not certain of services for older seniors
Public transportation
Public transportation, stable taxes
Public transportation, sidewalks, bike paths
Teens, elderly
Public transportation is needed - without car you are stuck
Access to information for newcomers, ? Transportation, more walkway, info on employment, bike paths
Town social worker to help with access
Public transportation
We need to help older seniors stay in town
Walkways, bike paths, especially to NARA Park; Enough parking for train
Transportation
Police patrols, street maintenance, residential sidewalks
It would be helpful to have a social worker for community referrals
Transportation for affordable housing, which should be kept near to the PO and Market
Town trash collection, town underground wiring, town sidewalks, planning of village centers, town sewerage
Social services for low income; Services for seniors who don't qualify for low income and can't afford to buy own
Assistance with accessing social services, public transportation

Public transportation
Garbage pick up
More child care options for young children/infants/pre-schoolers/elementary school as evident by overnight line waiting for limited spots in community after school program; Community bus - loop down 27, access Rte 2A/111; Seniors commuters to rail service
Transport for seniors - too much for high school students
All playgrounds are in poor condition, especially the one behind library
High schools ridiculously overcrowded, esp. AE classes - unfair - all levels should have same teacher/student ratio
Town sewage, trash collection
Not enough activities for pre-teens and teens
Retired people activity/meeting/ health care
Bus for JR and SR high; Transportation around town
Lack of RR lot spaces for Acton residents - residents should be able to use their sticker in all spaces (@meters)
need social services and transportation
trash pick-up
trash removal, public water, public sewers
before and after school care limited
transportation, no sidewalks on 2A or 27
commuter rail parking
activities for children
leash law
services for older seniors
help for older residents with large tax bills
need social worker
bike trails
trash pickup
more adult sports leagues
sidewalks
not up to the town
excellent libraries
trash pickup
affordable swimming area
public transportation
public library
public transportation
More cultural activities are needed for adults
Parking at Library

104 Answered 1375 Did Not Answer

Other Greenhouse Gas Reduction Actions for Town?
reserved parking at MBTA lot for hybrids

fewer houses and businesses
safe sidewalks
trash pickup
limit the scale of farm services, ticket idling private vehicles
composting changes for home gardens
don't spend tax money on surveys
encourage school bus use
track greenhouse gas use
give canvas shopping bags
limit development
use windpower
stop killing trees
Make access to recycling at dump FREE
Offer "green energy"
non-idling policy for patrons of stores
Natural gas service on streets
Electric/hybrid municipal vehicles
Improve traffic flow
Require apt./condo complexes to recycle curbside
Install wind/solar power generator
Increase parking for commuter rail
Morrison Farm
limit building
localize production, food, etc.
less snow plowing
other public trains besides commuter rail
removable energy for municipal buildings
Make safer to walk around town
work with state to make commuter rail better-more practical schedule
emphasize carbon footprint awareness, drivers of school buses are irresponsible sometimes-they drive too fast and take risks by pulling out in front of drivers
promote use of cars less, more walking, cycling, ZIP cars (electric, pay per use)
limit plastic bags, limit waste in cafeterias by serving on reusable plates, build a large greenhouse and run gardening activities there throughout the year
encourage more students to use school buses
promote tree planting
Support local farming/gardening
More commuter parking
Organic farm at Morrison Farm
Mandatory recycling
Ban plastic bags
Tax all SUV owners
Add more commuter parking

Limit size of new or expanded houses
More commuter rail parking
Make students take bus to school
Outlaw burning brush
encourage solar/other energy sources
promote "green energy" businesses
enlarge parking lot at train station
parking spaces at commuter rail
ban plastic shopping bags in stores
promote more recycling
improve parking at RR station
stop building houses
less stops for school bus children could walk to major stops
utilize schools for after school recreation for all ages
create space at dump to leave reusable items
charge for parking at schools (high school) to discourage pick up/drop off idling too
build wind farm, more solar use
anything to save our environment
sidewalks
more train parking
new bus service
curbside recycling
add recycling
build sidewalks
encourage children walking to school
more education incentives
High Schoolers should ride buses
Institute laws mandating some of these practices
Support train station with more parking spots
Become a "transition town" (www.transitionculture.org)
No spraying with toxic chemicals on grass etc.
Solar panels in public buildings
Hybrid buses and vans
Recycle more than paper in schools
Reduce population
Curbside recycling - paper/glass/cardboard/aluminum/plastic
Mandate school recycling of trash in school cafeterias
Sidewalks
More action, less talk & proclamations
Fine SUV owners!
Shuttles on major routes, such as 110, 27, 2A
Town shuttle route to reduce traffic and pollution
More on-site energy generation, such as for homes and offices, public facilities

Hydrogen refueling station
Thanks!
Not in favor of removing trees and farmland to support bike trails
Don't spend \$ to study this - let state government do it
Solar panels on town/school buildings; Athletic teams need to recycle plastic water bottles; High school does not recycle cans or plastic bottles
Wind power
Turn the heat down in schools, town hall, library - are too hot
Build parking garage at train station
Ban leaf blowers
invest in renewable energy sources
town sewerage
public transportation to commuter rail
solar panels on buildings
build windmills
require "green" procedures in new housing and businesses
no burn permits for residents
invite "greener" businesses to Acton
Leave it at the state and federal level. Local enforcement means more money and higher taxes.
Explore possibilities of wind and solar energy possibilities. Sidewalks attack the environment.

67 Answered

1412 Did Not Answer

Other Types of Volunteer Activities?
garden club
community supper
girl scouts
trail building
community theater
English tutoring
youth sports
grounds committee
condo board
youth sports
neighborhood
service club
blood donor
HGRM
heartwalks
HGRM
hospital
HGRM
COA

VA Hospital
non-profit
environmental
senior services
HGRM
sports league
home owners association
hospital
2 schools
Garden club, Salvation Army, West Acton Library
Minute Man, Arc for Human Services
Emerson Hospital
Water District Committee
Food pantry
Danny's Place Newcomers Club
Youth activities
Hospital, hospice
Library
Medical
Tutoring outside of Acton
Community theatre
Hospital
HGRM
Museum, Scouts
Relay for Life (Cancer org)
Habitat for Humanity
Non-profit
Museum & AWD
Exercise
Concord
Ethnic Cultural Society
Landscaping
Homes for our troops build
Girl Scouts
non-profit charity
United Way, neighborhood pool
work, United Way
Children's Hospital
APHNS
non-profit
recycling ministry
Commonwealth Ballet
helping with post-Katrina recovery

open table
youth baseball
charity
Lion's Club
Mass. Association for the Blind

111 Answered 1368 Did Not Answer

Other Limits or Restrictions on Volunteer Activities
age
lack of energy and commitment
ability and lack of desire
need more money to pay for kids' activities and to save for their college tuition
energy
travel out of town frequently for work
childcare
town doesn't motivate people to help
walkways
"cliquey" schools
concern commitment will be hard to keep long-term
personal energy level
not interested
need to do extra work to afford to stay in Acton
old age
physical problems
Energy
Health reasons
Family medical demands
Unsure about time commitment
Work is far away
don't care
work outside community
not enough interesting volunteer work
people are very involved
mix of time and talent
Not a lot of people same age (20's)
spend time with our kids
not able-age, eyes
attitude of some volunteers I would need to work with
disability
Job
Lack of energy
Age
Heath reasons

Caring for young children
Just moved into town
Age
Health
Interest
Health issues
Family obligations
Heath issues
work
disability
age
lack of field space
age
lack of interest
age
older age
I'm already pretty involved but I'm not more involved by choice-I like to be home sometimes!
difficulty finding sitters
town government committees are too confrontational
health problems
too "clicky"
market involvement activities
not limited
no interest
health issues
don't hear about needs other than school
age
age
not sure
working too hard
need a push
age
I am a senior
school
health
childcare
Age
Health
Heath
Age
Heath
Health
Lack of childcare

Motivation
Lack of interest
Age: husband/wife; 87/83 years
Retired
No practical limits
As a former adjunct professor/teacher I feel I've done my civic "volunteer work" with little compensation.
I am a family daycare provider, so it would inconvenience too many families.
I am as much involved as I want to be
Activities I prefer
Energy
Acton has many opportunities with adult ed, Nara Park, Patriots Day, monthly historic home openings. Issue for me it time.
Disabilities
Been there, done that
Not sure
I'm old
No interest at present
Age (84)
Only 24 hours in a day
Depression, still in recovery
Time will be available in next few years
Clinical depression
Primary caregiver of a special needs child and work
Conflict of interest
other siblings
unwelcoming attitude
lack of interest
red tape
already doing a good job
don't know
my children's or family's needs
Too busy working to afford living in Acton
Wife in nursing home
Busy enjoying retirement. Was active when younger.

315 Answered

1164 Did Not Answer

What Kinds of Things Can the Town Do To Increase Involvement Of Its Residents?
small units of opportunities
never thought about it
sponsor events like "Earth Day" etc.
web site to coordinate/publicize, more general info in town web site (not just meeting/budget stuff)
good & easy access to activities that most of the family members can participate

provide comprehensive information on volunteer activities available and how to get started... to every household
stop building and take care of the residents that have been here and are here now
ask for help
publicize volunteer opportunities, form steering/planning committees
keep up a vigorous program of informing residents of opportunities and needs through the media and internet
write articles in Beacon or newsletter featuring people who volunteer, volunteer section on website
more comprehensive, up-to-date website, more community bulletin boards
add volunteer opportunities to current publications i.e. community ed. and Acton rec. class lists so people are more aware of opportunities. Tax credits for volunteering
build a database of people and skills/interests, and make available to selective organizations
walkable town center
stop wasting resources, get people of the town more involved in financial decisions
encourage volunteering on town committees
focus on committee work/task groups by creating definite start and end dates
stay out of personal business
publicize more
convince people to be more involved in long term commitment
publicize more
stop the present process of town meetings
offer tax incentives, prize given at end of year, continued outreach efforts
publicize government body schedules and events.
reduce insularity of municipal boards, advertise town committee/volunteer opportunities, improve website
people are too busy
adopt better board management practices
too much involvement
execute a "growing leadership"
publicize volunteer info
good selectmen
add more opportunities
strip mall needs friendly atmosphere
publicize volunteer info
no need
publicize volunteer info
publicize volunteer info
publicize volunteer info
publicize volunteer info
activities at NARA
hold events earlier in the day
publicize initiatives
organize charity events
increase visibility of volunteering options

flexible work groups
newsletter
more shops
Be more specific about how to volunteer
Provide more thorough analysis and logical justification for ideas
Volunteer fairs
Newspaper with "real" news
New website
Develop one-page descriptions of each volunteer opportunity
Make more citizens aware of opportunities
Adopt a representative
Improve organization, communication
Publicize volunteer opportunities
More info on cable network
Do more for teens, have bus service
better publicity of volunteer opportunities
activities for all ages
children's activities
more activities in small time-slots
ask them to volunteer
not up to the town
better outreach
newsletter
this survey and town meetings
volunteering
Brochure available in public places
Identify tasks and communicate to community
Publicize and promote
More publicity
Communication
Inform residents
More publicity (email or website)
Lower taxes
Town fair
Newsletter to advertise community needs and volunteering opportunities
Promote volunteering through schools
Educate and publicize
Advertise volunteer need more openly
less taxes, less cost of living so don't have to work 50-60 hours a week to get by
lower taxes so we can have more at home moms to volunteer- the cost of living is so high here, it requires two incomes and therefore no time to volunteer in the community
Let them know what's out there. Make it fun and tie it to an organization one is involved in. for example- project graduation is voluntary, it's fun and tied to the schools.

offer real opportunities in various ways.
more actively promote/make info available. Identify clearly time commitments and offer opportunities with smaller commitment levels to get people started
institute a public service requirement for all residents (certain number of hours or fee for opting out), more direct ballot initiatives
not sure
sponsor volunteer weekends. Announce opportunities on website/ at local coffee shops. Have mother/daughter and son/father events. Target neighborhood concerns.
return to a conservative viewpoint
let people know what is needed
mailers requesting help
lower taxes so I don't have to work 80 hours a week to afford to live here
Encourage and acknowledge volunteers
Activities at night and weekends
Send info on town wide efforts online or to schools
Schedule for community
Town meetings on Saturdays (noon)
Publicize what is needed
Volunteer opportunities, listed online, advertise
Provide transportation
Information at town hall
More welcoming to new people
Be more accessible-ability to converse with committee chairs to learn of needs
Decrease taxes
Website to publicize volunteer needs on front page
Reduce real estate taxes
Reduce taxes
Tax breaks with public service
Advertise
Hold and support more community activities
More all-community events (like Acton Day)
Sponsor a volunteer fair
Create gathering place that promotes volunteer needs
Be kinder
Event with food
Include volunteer opportunities on town website
More information/encouragement on TV
People recruiting people, list activities
Reach out to new residents
Provide more information about what is needed and how to be involved
Ask for involvement
Publicize needs
Encourage more restaurants/bars to area activities not only on weekends

Set priorities around two or three key motives
Volunteer fair
Cook-out gathering
Expand council on aging
offer multi-lingual publications inviting people to participate
communicate
wide distribution of a town sponsored directory of volunteer opportunities
improve the website, use the town channel more effectively, flyers
people are already involved
provide means of transportation
set out goals to achieve, and have a plan of action
promote, make volunteer work mandatory for unemployed, a day for people to sign up for volunteering
stop yelling at town boards at ATMTG
publicize needs
new way to elect politicians
other ways, besides town meetings, for sending out information about volunteering
make a town website
widen range of offerings, provide transportation
publicize volunteer activities, make the sign up process less confusing
publicize volunteer opportunities, include all details
fun town activities, NARA park more accessible to everyone
publicize opportunities
be more open, reach out to Asian and Latino populations
reschedule meetings to a more accessible time, show how resident's ideas are incorporated into final actions of town
lower the taxes for seniors
provide/list volunteer opportunities on town website
free newsletter/magazine
promote more volunteer programs
it's already doing the right things
provide information
develop school street athletic fields for youth
resource center, website, info clearing house
publicize opportunities
publicize, reach out to adolescents
reach out to young people to help seniors
learn from other towns
communication, give bigger voice to volunteering members
publish a list of places needing help- I.e., vet hospital, public schools, etc.
e-mail suggestions to residents

I think there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer. For a good amount of people, time is the issue. Another issue for people in my age group is "volunteer burnout". We volunteered when our children were in school and now it is time for a break. We're too busy working to put those children through college.
This is a good idea-this survey
Start an Acton Town Newsletter program that promotes activities for middle age people with busy lives.
listen to them at town meetings
lower property taxes for elderly
Encourage a less elitist attitude. Welcome and encourage long-time residents to contribute their sense of history and opinions re all issues- particularly living within a budget and saving money! Remember long term residents have build and maintained this town.
Work towards making it possible for people to participate/ be heard via online forums so that people working long hours can contribute, e.g. investigate ways volunteer boards can function via online forums without violating open meeting laws.
Actively reach out- I do not mean just using "The Beacon" and other print media.
publish where the need is
Adopt a strategy of finding a capable and passionate leader for each identified need area. Do not change leaders frequently. Use the leader to attract others even if it takes years. After all it is a long range matter.
Provide activities that bring active seniors (over 50) together- dance music at NARA concerts targeted at over 50 (not just families); lower property taxes to keep us here!
publish a listing
increase public awareness
Have evening meetings so that working people can get involved.
Give info about volunteer opportunities. Provide opportunities for people who work full time.
Do not consider long term residents obsolete or out of touch- they have paid and repaid for all new schools, library, public safety, and have committed to town.
promoting involvement
better advertising of volunteer needs
don't raise taxes
more town days
send out announcements
reduce cost of living
offer \$500-\$1000 deduction in property taxes
listing volunteer opportunities on website
add more opportunities
publicize volunteer info
restore historical buildings
greater transparency of town expenditures
build a clubhouse
transportation to committee meetings
make things more affordable for older people

a place for teens
plan gatherings around volunteerism
create neighborhood watch groups
use everybody that volunteers
publicity of volunteer opportunities
create activities
update website
effective volunteering
make residents more aware of issues
more awareness for prevention of common diseases
direct appeals for help
publicize volunteer info
publicize volunteer info
be specific
hire seniors
aggressively solicit volunteers
support the church
mail out issues ahead of time
email opportunities
make McCarthy Towne school into a community center
active recruiting
make information more available
increase visibility of volunteering options
publicity of volunteer opportunities
tasks for elders
providing information
listing volunteer opportunities on website
variety of volunteer projects
tax incentives for volunteers
active outreach
groups for all ethnicities
childcare
Tax incentive options for seniors
Publicize volunteer needs more and how to apply
Program for volunteers
Make list of volunteer jobs available
Look for skills rather than filling positions
Activities held on weekends or after work hours
Have a community building much like Emerson Umbrella in Concord
Reduce taxes
Publicize activities more
Offer more opportunities through school (for students)
Send mailing/email once every two months

Post notices at shops and supermarkets
Make it easier and more obvious what kinds of volunteers are needed
Publicize
Increase awareness of community activities and how to get involved
Promote opportunities for working parents
Post at local coffee shops/community center
Better publicity
Boards and Commissions run by cliques who work agendas behind scenes, volunteers on boards feel powerless to change status quo
More awareness and info to residents
Use channel 8/9 on cable to promote volunteer opportunities
Hold volunteer information fair with all volunteer agencies - publicize it throughout town with emphasis on becoming part of the town through volunteering
Senior center activities should be expanded
Ask Beacon to do a quarterly article
Offer incentives - perhaps tax reductions
Town does well at encouraging involvement - it's easy to be involved
Post agendas/meeting times for town board meetings - ask. Better communication/clarity of process
Create a page on Acton website where community organizations can list volunteer opportunities and residents can list available skills/resources. Add a web page listing all community events - school/theatre/concerts/reading programs/classes - 1 stop shopping. Make it easier to find this.
Reach out to residents
Focus on schools and youth sports is admirable, but "play" is too organized; More bike paths and open areas for "being kids" would be nice; In some ways, Actonians are too involved!
Good question - not sure. Maybe have a "fair" with booths for people to learn and sign up about organizations
Changes of the old guard
Have more meetings such as Vision meeting on March 29
Cost of living reduction (to reduce # of our working hours)
Print twice yearly volunteer pamphlets indicating upcoming volunteer opportunities
Fit activity to my schedule
Establish some type of information center (for newcomers especially) on opportunities for enrollment, contracts, employment etc
I don't like East Acton, North Acton, So Acton, West Acton - I moved to ACTON
Have more organized activities
A simple thing like public transportation would automatically increase involvement of residents in all aspects
If the town listened to the residents, like with the Main St sidewalks almost nobody wants, the BOS just thought the citizens were ignorant. We aren't, we just want to invest the money where it will do the more good
Publicize what town government and local businesses have available for seniors on a part-time basis, possibly at home - I'm a retired architect, author/editor with lots to offer
Make volunteer opportunities that are available known to the public

Follow through on plans for the Bruce Freeman Trail - it's a great way to promote a friendly, healthy community. Bike trails were one of the greatest assets in the mid-west region/town where we used to live.
Help neighborhoods, condominiums and apartments resolve the problem of any gang activity (signs, signage tampering, graffiti, harassment, etc), that can disturb the peace; Enforce law to curtail internet-inspired disturbance
Use a time capsule the go back 100 years
More publicity
Active village planning groups, fundraising groups with village planning groups
Active volunteers and officials can take on proactive recruiting efforts - divide and conquer!
I think getting more people to attend town meetings is crucial. The people who attend are almost all special interest groups.
Advertise
Activities outside of school, not works; Neighborhood gatherings
Better transparency - clarification of our relationship with Concord (why do they derive all the benefits of our sewer and our residents do not. Why should we take on their traffic from the Alexan development.)
Chinese speaking (several dialects) social workers for families; Pass out history of Acton pamphlets to new voters and residents and translate info into other languages (esp. at transfer station)
Publications on the subject (well written), mailings and on TV stations
Get rid of that disgusting Mineke building across from K-Mart; Force the Acton Bowling Alley to re-build a nicer building; Adopt town by-laws to condemn homes and business buildings that are blithe.
Stop offering services - people will step up and fill the void
Promote walking in neighborhoods by finishing sidewalks; Have 2 Acton resident clean up days to encourage people to pick up their own front yards (April/Fall); Town could send DPW trucks/chipper to collect/dispose of big items
Re-organize approach of town meeting - it is sloppy and hap hazardous; this leads to lower and lower participation by residents
Volunteer Fire Dept; Community policing in conjunction with county sheriff; Meet state's minimum requirement for hours in classroom for students; Eliminate half-day Thursday in schools
Not sure about the needs of town schools
Publicize opportunities; Community emails
Help publicize local volunteer opportunities
Provide transportation around town; Better promotion of activities
Publish comprehensive list of volunteer opportunities
town website with in-town job listings
encourage citizens to be more open, less political
volunteering at schools
accommodate two income families
adult sport leagues, organized nature walks
more info on town website
specific hours for leash law
more cultural activities

interesting meeting places
more publicity regarding opportunities
location of N. Acton Fire Station
smaller projects
town-wide registry for volunteer work
proposed financial budgets should be available in their entirety
be more open to change
have less "clicky" people
email newsletter
leave them alone
reduce taxes
communicate areas that need improvement
Lower property taxes so people don't have to work all the time, resulting in more spare time to volunteer.
2-worker families limit time for volunteer activities. Some people don't care about the Town government. Award the people do volunteer work. Seek more volunteers for the Town, recreation and school activities.
Why is this the Town's business?

62 Answered

1417 Did Not Answer

Other Ethnic Heritages
10-Caucasian
10-American
10 European-South Asian
10-white american
10 European-Latino
10-WASP
10 English
10 Anglo-Saxon
10 White
10 White American
10 White American
10 White Caucasian
10 White American
10 Asian American
10 White
10 Caucasian
10-caucasian
10-Jewish
10-american
10-american
10-american

10-american
10-white
10 Caucasian
10 Caucasian
10 White
10 White American
10 American
10 Russian
10 Canadian
10 Caucasian
10 White
10 White
10 American
10 German- American
10 White American
10 American
10 Canadian
10 American
10 Caucasian
10 White
10 White
10 Caucasian
10 American
10 White
10 Caucasian
10 Canadian
10 European Multi-lingual
10 Yankee American
10 American
10 White American
10 Caucasian
10 USA
10 Caucasian
10 Caucasian
10 American
10 American
10 Caucasian
10 Space Alien
10 American
10 American
10 American

What Would You Like To See MORE Of In Acton?
trash pickup, town sewer in more areas
sidewalks, town wide sewers
list of updated street map and businesses in Acton sent to each resident
fiscal responsibility
less property taxes
should be bikeable, walkable central shopping district that could be a gathering place for all citizens, use the old town building as senior citizen center so that young and old can be integrated
preserve the history and rural community
restaurants, retail shops-small stores-not big box stores (walmart), florists
safe way to cross Great Rd on foot or bike at the intersection with Concord Road and Brook St., smaller elementary class size, intramural sports at the Jr. + H.S. level, public transportation
keep things more or less the same
upscale restaurants, mid-price restaurants, bike paths, internet access, better road maintenance & removal of sand in spring, public transportation from train station, lower property taxes
churches, shopping stores, walking/biking routes, recreation areas, afterschool programs
preservation of woods and open space
sidewalks, pedestrians, outdoor activities, attractions that encourage families (ice cream place like Kimball's, outdoor podium near Bagels Plus)
more sidewalks
improved van service- has had bad experiences with it
open space
lower property taxes, more services (leaf/garbage pickup), better restaurant choices, lower speed limit near Trader Joe's plaza, more businesses to shoulder the tax burden, better fiscal management to keep tax increases to a minimum
farms or recreation park
move more quickly on completing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, create a town bus service with longer hours using environmentally friendly vehicles that are easier for physically disabled people to get on and off of, recreation opportunities for physically disabled adults, if a new building is being built or exteriorly renovated make it look colonial or in a pleasingly visual historic style
I'm a market researcher and one way to involve people is have professionals do surveys. This one is terrible. The question choices are biased and multiple concepts in each answer make it hard to respond. I'd like to see more public transit.
smaller class size in elementary and JHS + HS, maintenance on the main schools' campus
a change in town government
lower taxes
sidewalks (in residential neighborhoods), walkable neighborhoods (retail), diverse restaurants, handicap accessible playgrounds, shade structures at playgrounds, more info on the town website about candidates, more info about what's on and when on the local access cable channel
Nothing. No more development, that's what makes it what it is... :) a desirable place to live.
walking paths in woods, bike trails
traffic lights- Hayward and Rt. 27, Concord Rd and RT 2A

more of a community, people need to stay longer after their children graduate from the public schools.
sidewalks, village areas like west Acton, tax relief for senior citizens
better cost control
courtesy by drivers
protect schools, need business development
Walkways, sidewalks
ranting political factions
congressmen hired to lower living costs, and build less developments
exercise places, meeting areas
personal freedom, conservative values
personalized services, green areas, caring about citizens
open space, multi-purpose community buildings
land, trees, parks
people need to stay in Acton after their children graduate high school, street lights, something new done with the old buildings
cheaper housing
environmental awareness
restaurants, sidewalks, curb side recycling, community events, athletic club, town sewer
limit the years a selectman can stay in office
cluster housing
affordable housing for seniors, environmental awareness, more accurate tax evaluation
environmental awareness, conservation trails
conservation land, protect the history, repeal Ch. 40 B
transparency in development process, conservation land, public transportation
market basket
slower pace of life, more feeling of community
affordable housing, easy crossing of route 2 at Hosmer St.
new leadership, cost cutting
traffic, fast food restaurants
restaurants, casual meeting place, open conservation land for hunting
medical services for poor
restoration of old buildings, more parking, protection of historical properties
sidewalks
publicity for events, less wasteful money spending
better town maintenance
working families getting involved
attention to sewers
lower taxes
restaurants
pretty roads
administration
affordable housing
community-based action

options to raise revenue other than taxes
movie theater
sidewalks
sidewalks
public transportation
variety of retail shopping
sidewalks
sidewalks
sidewalks
some commercial growth
traffic lights
plowing
just right
reduced taxes
open space parking
sidewalks
reduce spending
coffee shops
freeze taxes for seniors
industry to share tax burden
shopping
Businesses
Sidewalks
Parking at commuter rail, restaurants
Larger share of taxes paid by businesses
Sidewalks, crosswalks
Sidewalks, neighborhood pools
Town center
Smaller homes, public transportation, bike trails
Sewers
Language training for youth
Sidewalks, public transportation, bike trails, affordable housing
Downtown-walkable area, cultural activities
Interest in beautifying town
Bike paths, walking paths, conservation land, unique local restaurants
Cultural activities, variety of restaurants
Sidewalks
Bike trails, walking trails
Entertainment, sidewalks
Restaurants
Less expensive grocery stores
Cinema, good boutiques, gourmet restaurants, bike paths, street festivals
sidewalks

sidewalks
open spaces
water conservation
smaller houses
tax reduction
sidewalks
sidewalks
more retail stores
intergenerational activities
sidewalks
town fiscal responsibility
access to train for all
fiscal planning
more conservation
maintaining community
two acre lot for development
open spaces
sidewalks
preservation of open spaces
fiscal conservation
wildlife
attract more individuals to town
better traffic control
conservation land
ethnic restaurants
non fast food restaurants
fix Rt. 2 to 128
tougher permits for new construction
pedestrian friendly choices
community development
parking for public transit
citizen recognition
shopping center
streamlined approach to building
better town water
Sidewalks
Big box stores
Wine bar, bistros, restored historic houses
Sidewalks, bike paths, conservation land, new restaurants
Big box stores
Job opportunities and companies
Sidewalks, tennis courts, bike trails, businesses to pay more taxes
Businesses, higher tax rate for businesses, lower tax rate for residential

Parking space in train station
Public transportation, restaurants, activities for teens, bike/walking trails, stop lights at busy intersections.
Sidewalks, bike paths, restaurants
Attention to transportation issues
Concerts at Nara park, movie theater
Sidewalks, young adult community, recycling programs, commuter rail parking
Attention to playing fields
Stop lights, social worker services in schools
Public transportation
Restaurants, retail, movie theater
Traffic lights
Sidewalks
Open space, lower speed limits/enforced speed limits, bike trails
Trees, sidewalks
Economy in government
Traffic lights/control, chain restaurants
Places to go after school for teens, restaurants past 9:00PM
sewers, walkable spaces (retail, conservation)
bike-roller blade paths, open wooden areas, garbage bins to recycle paper, glass, etc
sidewalks, conservation land, access to conservation land
open, protected conservation land, preservation (of what's left) of our historic buildings
thoughtful design when constructing public areas-Kelly Corners. South Action School St. + Rt., are they ever going to do anything with exchange hall it's a disgrace and embarrassment, sidewalks
conservation land
more sidewalks, speed of traffic makes me anxious about using existing sidewalks-police should be more visible. More attention should be paid to the Roche Bros./CVS parking lot-it's a trap, I think its dangerous
good restaurants/take out, sidewalks
sidewalks and rail trails
I wish I were more involved in the community. How should I begin?
more land conserved, more people walking/biking, more sidewalks, more crosswalks, more ethnic, arts related events, promote a day a year of no cars
supervised after school programs, teacher-directed curriculum, genuine friendliness
sidewalks
class on Thursday afternoons! Half days every week in Acton greatly limits the amount of teaching and makes it difficult for working parents to find daycare. Extended day does not have enough spots on Thursday afternoons to fit the need. An affordable outdoor swimming pool
more students using school buses
playing fields, better restaurants (too many pizza parlors), gathering places for teens and post teens
ease of restrictions in commercial districts
restaurants, drive thru coffee spots, a nicer curb appeal to ugly businesses, another grocery store that has ample parking, a Target store, more landscaping/public + businesses, movie theater
sidewalks and bikepaths. Conservation land. Smart growth development planning. Climate change action and awareness

complete sidewalks on High Street. Demand all eligible units connect to sewer
more money on town services and less for schools
children's activities, better communication of town governments process, better traffic control at numerous dangerous intersections, excellent teachers
something done to Exchange Hall. Improve Kelly's Corner
traffic lights at the Trader Joe's shopping center, Hayward Road and Main Street, and Newtown Road and Main Street. Public golf course. Bistro style restaurants. Sidewalks
sidewalks, clustering retail stores, open space and woodland preservation
ethnic diversity in restaurants, community center with indoor pool/activities for all ages, bike, rail/trail, walking paths
sidewalks
activities in common areas
more thoughtful planning of development and commercial zoning limits. It's starting to feel like route 9. Public transportation, bike paths
bike paths, restaurants, movie theater, family and community events, arts and theater
Restaurant variety, clothing stores
Planning with regard to housing, development and open space
Socially responsible landscaping and buildings
Bike paths
Sidewalks
Walkable shopping areas
Farm land, police presence
Sidewalks, trash pick up, restaurants, small shops
Chain restaurants, traffic lights, books in the library
Preservation of agricultural land
Open space, town center, designated walkable shopping area
Sidewalks, public transportation
Affordable single-family housing
Town septic, rail trail
Traffic lights
Better shopping,
Transportation, activities for middle aged, side walks
Sidewalks, public transportation, crosswalks
Reasonable priced stores
Preservation of town character, town parks
Cultural activities
Soccer fields
Town transportation
Sidewalks, outdoor ice cream stands
Sidewalks
Planning on residential development
Public transportation, sidewalks
Cheap grocery stores

Sidewalks, street lights, trash collection
Woods and green areas
Bike paths, rail trail
Recycling, environmental options
Control on spending
Good restaurants, historic preservation
Restaurants and shops
Small to moderate sized homes
Sidewalks, buses/vans to commuter stations
Town fiscal responsibility
Traffic lights
In town bus
Fields, playgrounds, open space areas
Public transportation, sidewalks
Movie theater, diner
Traffic lights
Open spaces, commuter rail parking, bike paths
Cheap grocery stores
Commuter parking, recycling
Business tax base
Traffic lights
Commuter rail parking, control over signage outside historic district
Sidewalks, crosswalks
Restaurants
Retail shopping
Enforcement on speed laws
Bike paths, cross walks
Sidewalks
Sidewalks, trails, transportation
Bike paths
Conservation land, walking/biking trails, community farm, sidewalks, ethnic restaurants
Bike trail, sidewalks
Drive-thru services, inside play for children
Small stores, parking at train station
Recreation areas, conservation land
Sidewalks, bike paths
Big box stores
Restaurants/bars, clothing retailers
Restaurants, activities at NARA, traffic lights
Ethnic/cultural diversity, preservation of town history/architecture
Traffic planning/safer roads, public transportation
Outdoor activities, variety of supermarkets and restaurants
Teachers

Sidewalks
Better street signs, light on streets
more walkable areas, parks
gourmet restaurants, cultural events, sewers, multi-cultural influence, sidewalks
all day kindergarten, emphasis on basic skills
higher quality French restaurant
activities for 15-21 year olds, cross-ethnic opportunities to meet/mix, ethnic street fair (like October Fest)
movie theater
community involvement, open space, walking trails to shopping, library etc.
bike path, pedestrian-friendly shopping areas, public parks
conservation land
Sidewalks
police
restaurants, employers, common sense government, shopping
public transportation, restaurants, cluster developments
beautification, renewable resources used
volunteer opportunities/the opportunities being promoted, walking/bike trails, recycling services
literate surveys with less of a political agenda, whole foods store, services for elderly
public transportation, sewer
English speaking people
bike paths, restaurants
open debate of issues facing the town, new style of town meetings
sewers, better schools, accessible commuter rail station, connected library
public pool, small class sizes, fire station in N. Acton
public transportation, parking at train station
attractive areas of commercial development in town centers
parking facilities for commuter rail station
means of transportation, surveys like this!
walking/bike paths, earlier identification of special education needs
access to Big Nagog pond for restricted recreation
restaurants, teen activities, retail, movie house
fiscal responsibility
sidewalks, affordable housing
nicer people, more trains to Boston, beautification
ethnic diversity, cool shops, ethnic restaurants, indoor playground for kids
support for police department, preservation of beauty, transportation for elders
emphasis on Acton's history, recreation space, outreach meetings scheduled on weekday
affordable housing
nice restaurants, upscale retail, larger parking lot at train station, whole foods, sidewalks, bookstores, movie theater
parking at commuter rail, wheelchair accessibility in parks/arboretum, municipal electric utility
sunshine
sidewalks, town spirit

sidewalks, open spaces, commuter rail parking
recycling program, conservation land, bike paths, public transportation
support from town for small businesses
bike trails, sidewalks
restaurants, golf driving range
athletic fields, development of run down areas, fire station
beautification of town
Christmas decorations, social activities
more trashcans at NARA, plowing the walkways at NARA
adult activities/resources, restaurants, bike trails, music venues
Starbucks, better restaurants, parking spaces for commuter rail, whole foods market
public transportation, open space, maintaining farm lands, sidewalks, sewer, parking at RR station, affordable housing, diversity of population
open space, support for small businesses, activities for teens, conservation land
bike trail
rail trail completed
office buildings, restaurants, bike/walking paths, golf course, consolidated town services
ice rink, police
cross walks
a movie theater, fixed property rate for seniors
smiling faces, flowers
improve the appearance of commercial areas on Great Rd. and Kelly's Corner. Commercial buildings should be aesthetically pleasing and well landscaped. We need to preserve open space
open space, prettier shopping centers, farm land
open space (walking, hiking trails), bike paths, historic homes + historic commission preservation
bike paths, pedestrian walks, public transportation
tax breaks for senior citizens so they can stay in Acton
less taxes for senior residents
additional parking at the commuter rail for residents-perhaps a covered garage, multi level
Editorial:town property and auto excess taxes are exorbitant and out of control. The present system of a full government with all its costs for each town is no longer viable. The present individual town government concept should be replaced. Six to eight towns should be merged, so the administrative people for government, fire, police, schools, water, library can be shared. There could still be branch offices for fire, police, water, library, and schools. This would eliminate many costly administrative positions. Personnel costs are the highest part of town budgets. This would help very much.
sidewalks, commuter rail parking or access through some other type of transportation, walkable village districts including neighborhood or village tavern/restaurants that can be accessed without driving, affordable housing for grown children
Ensuring that open and natural spaces remain in Acton and are maintained. Acquire open and natural spaces as they become available. An old time general store would be a great addition. I'd like to see the big, yellow building in South Acton cleaned up, renovated and used more efficiently.
conservation land, preservation of historic areas
More opportunity for employment for the middle aged

Historic homes should be protected and preserved by the people that own them. Not the town. If you want to protect the house then you should buy it
More emphasis in budget on police and fire needs. Traffic enforcement. Provide protected walking areas for minimal/no charge for runners, walkers, etc. Tax breaks for seniors who have build infrastructures in town.
Wheelchair/walker accessible places to walk. Pick-up basketball/softball games. Recreation for the developmentally disabled (Special Olympics, Miracle Baseball, pool time). Central place to reserve a community meeting space. Good restaurants. Restaurant that can accomodate more than 20 people groups.
Services (garbage pick up and senior services)
Is it possible to have town meeting and/or town elections on a weekend and during the day (town meeting)?
I would like to see more bike paths and sidewalks. I think that this would reduce the traffic congestion that we all experience in Acton and also reduce the greenhouse gases. I would love to bike to RocheBrothers or to the library but there is no easy way to do that.
Line of sight at intersections improved by clearing tree and bush growth. Playground equipment like Arlington has for children. Develop spaces adequate for adult recreation. Sidewalks.
An ability to stay with and adjust such surveys and plans (long range)
Attention to the fact that senior citizens leave who can, like us, afford to stay here because there are not enough active seniors here to make it interesting, taxes are very high relative to comparable towns, and there is relatively little for us to do here.
Sidewalks. Kelly's Corner improvements especially landscaping and attractive plantings. Drug/weapon/explosive-sniffing dogs
I'd like to see our tax bill to go down. The tax rate of Acton is the highest compared to neighboring towns. I'd also like to see tennis courts in north Acton.
More help for the elderly and infirmed. Affordable super market.
My kids love basketball but there aren't any places that they can play indoor basketball. School is not always available. Outdoor is okay
unified urban planning to increase aesthetics of town- it is losing its charm quickly
More cultural opportunities (concerts, crafts, shows, art exhibits, more poetry readings, authors etc) would be great! Maybe more town gatherings so that all ages can socialize.
Continued support of schools. Better traffic management. Better use of empty business/retail stores
Sidewalks. Safe running trails (similar to minuteman trail). Bike lanes.
Attitude of younger residents to gray hairs changed. Put money towards a central senior center/food pantry/recreation center for us versus all focus going towards youth and schools!
single family developments
sidewalks
strict zoning
fiscal responsibility
sidewalk repairs for wheelchairs
quality ethnic restaurants
larger downtown area
commuter rail parking
restaurants
conservation land

fiscal management
shopping
run town hall more efficiently
open spaces
shopping
restaurants
privacy
affordable single family housing
maintained playgrounds
colonial architecture
traffic lights
direct bus from S. Acton to Symphony Hall
sidewalks
sidewalks
activities for all ages
concentrate on diversity of age
fix historic buildings
ways to meet people
sidewalks
sidewalks
police catching speeders
sidewalks
environmentally friendly actions
community center with social services
sidewalks
sidewalks
distribute results of surveys
sidewalks
mid-priced restaurant
fiscal responsibility
children activities
cleaner roads
protected open space
industrial development
expand senior center
industry
bike paths
sidewalks
lower priced restaurants
smaller homes
open spaces
affordable housing
fiscal responsibility

sidewalks
A YMCA
open spaces
pedestrian village
fix the boardwalk
walkable shopping
shopping
diversity
parks
planning
opportunities for older immigrants
programs for people without children
open spaces
audio chirping for traffic lights
cross country ski area
clean water
restaurants
sidewalks
action to eliminate traffic
traffic lights
sidewalks
bike path
sidewalks
redevelop Kelly's Corner
a Whole Foods store
town sewer
senior discounts
restaurants
healthier business clientele
sidewalks
restaurants
restaurants
walking trails
open areas
cleaner roads
green space in town center
Conservation land, walking trails
Sidewalks
Open/Preserved land
Parking at train station, commitment to green issues, bike path
Sidewalks, more parking at train station, restaurants
Sewer services to all, mosquito control, enforce leash law on public areas, working emergency call boxes at all fields/public areas

Open space
Transportation, affordable concerts/theater
Social outdoor gatherings
Movie theater, arts center, hardware store
Free after school programs
Sidewalks, bike paths, restaurants, trash cans
Bike trails, open space
Restaurants and pubs, public sports facilities, traffic lights
Language training for youth
Shopping, restaurants, businesses
Town sewer
Locations or activities for teens and young adults
Open space, parking service
Community arts, composting, public transportation, dances, bike trails
Sewer, Cultural events, open space, bike/walking trails, small businesses
Softball fields, recreation center
Concern for senior citizens
Sidewalks
Greater support of schools by older citizens
Job opportunities
Traffic control
Town clean up
Traffic safety
City ways, sidewalks
Malls, clubs/venues, apartments, florists
Bike trails, sidewalks, boutiques
Sidewalks, public transportation
Common areas
Parking at commuter rail station
Movie theater
Open space, commuter rail parking
Sidewalks
Open space, commuter rail parking
Parking spaces in Commuter rail station
Vibrant town center
Sidewalks
Sidewalks
Sidewalks, commuter rail parking, concerts
Maintenance
Bike trails
Restaurants, Bakery
Encouragement of small coffee house types of businesses
Sidewalks

Condo building
Emphasis on open space and preservation of historical structures, more arrests for speeding, slow down pace of life, appreciation of architectural and natural beauty
Culture, walking to places (sidewalks), West Acton Center like old towns (cafes, restaurants), bus/public transportation, recreational opportunities, family ? Options, preservation of historic sites, develop South Acton while preserving histories.
Better sewer system
Town centers developed into walk able, fun area; Nowhere enjoyable to walk in South Acton - have to drive everywhere; Rte 27 not bike friendly
Affordable program for young children, drive thru coffee shop
Preservation of open space; Acton should not become another Natick or Framingham; Bike/walking trails; Improvements to Rte 2 in Acton and to Boston
Fabric shop
Inter-cultural/inter-faith activities; Programs that bring awareness to global issues; Promotion of wellness programs at reasonable price
Open space; Cluster housing; Study/more public knowledge of homeless/poor in Acton
More than similar in ethnic origin, age, religion and /or educational level, economic homogeneousness promotes community cohesiveness
More property tax relief for seniors
Complete the Rail Trail and wooden walking bridge over Rte 2 (like Arthur Fiedler one on Storrow Dr - design would work at little cost)
Open space is good - no priority since we have a good amount
Open space, historic buildings maintained, unique restaurants (not chains), sidewalks, sewers
Restaurants, businesses, traffic solutions at busy intersections
Biking/walking paths
More retail stores; Big Box chain store along Rte 2; Sidewalks
Schools - a rounded curriculum for all levels
A center of town where all ages can gather for coffee/tea, watch world go by, shop or dine - West Acton has this possibility
Sewers, support to police and fire services, including EMTs
Limit on how many terms selectmen can do - need regular change; Town people should have say in what places should be dedicated to new police/fire stations since we pay for them
More recreation facilities for adults (bike paths, easy hiking trails); more space and programming at senior center and open eligibility to age 50+; More support to people who can help all community, not just schools; More effort to retain older population (whose kids have graduated school) since they are less expensive to support with services
Town election rather than town meeting; Listening to residents talk just for the sake of talking/being seen gets boring.
Bicycle parking, emphasis on quality education for all students, community-owned high speed internet, regulation of cable TV & Internet providers, DSL everywhere, commuter rail parking, commuter rail trains (mid day/weekends), way to get to commuter rail station, stores selling new/used computer equipment, electronics parts stores
More conservation land/open space; more funding for historic home owners to renovate; keep focus on

schools
Commuter parking at train station for residents; Sidewalks, especially on Main St & Mass Ave; Community activity consolidated web page; ethnic/economic diversity; Affordable housing; Additional fire/emergency services in N Acton area; Curbside recycling; Shared community transportation - alternatives to short hop driving; A good Mexican restaurant
More sidewalks, 1 mega store (WalMart etc.)
New town manager must not be beholden to Dore Hunter - must be independent; Don Johnson was unable to make decisions without Hunter. Show this to town manager and Hunter; voters will watch to see if Hunter will let manger make his own decisions. Hunter not doing town favor by re-running for election.
My kids would love to see a Taco Bell
More conservation land; public transportation; bike paths
Restaurant
Sidewalks, especially Main St from Post Office Square to Rte 27
Better train access - more parking, safe bike access, a West Acton stop; Bike paths linking parts of town, recreation areas and adjoining towns; Rte 27 corridor is becoming very congested - perhaps no solution; More single family homes on small lots, more small town feel as in West Concord
Restaurants like "Not Your Average Joes" (similar to that); More concerts at Nara Park
Sidewalks; Commuter rail parking; Public transportation
Not able any more to rely on town meetings - majority not able to make it due to child care/length of meeting; Town becoming dirtier, town takes "not my property" approach; Trash pickup could be done by first-time offenders; Town should be much prettier for the taxes residents pay, especially in bleak winter; Roads not well maintained/ no way to cross Great Road; Leave saving world from greenhouse gasses to Federal Government and concentrate on delivering excellence on basics (roads, bridges, lack of crime, schools); Almost got hit by car due to lack of safe crossings on streets
More development in West Acton center - needs a good restaurant, not just pizza
Sidewalks to village centers
Public transportation; Sidewalks; Inexpensive activities for teens/pre-teens
Commuter rail stops, e.g.. West Acton with parking behind Idylmld (?) Farms; Sidewalks; Sewers; Bike paths
Expansion of senior center; public transportation
Maintain green areas; Keep open areas open
Outdoor concerts earlier in evening (5-6pm) @ NARA; Arts/cultural opportunities; Cleaner/better tasting tap water; Better/more family friendly, make-to-order restaurants; Cheaper NARA Beach rates; More shade @ NARA; Better signage
More sidewalks; More bike paths
Oversight in both residential and commercial design to reflect Acton's historic and small town character; Bike paths; Emphasis on historic preservation - i.e. Exchange Hall (will it ever be repaired?); Maintain school choice
Town needs to balance the needs of citizens. While public transportation is nice property taxes must be controlled - have tripled and cause financial difficulties for families since 2000. Sister was unable to save for retirement and had to leave town
More in-town transportation (buses, vans); Better sidewalks/bike paths; Better information services for newcomers; More accessible parking; Better maintenance of streets; More places to meet others socially and informationally, More amenities/opportunities for active seniors; More integration of multi-use spaces

Sidewalks - I see kids dropped off by school bus on Willow and Central and it scares me; Have builders who are putting in more housing build sidewalks; Planning board members and engineer unit proposed building sites to see potential impact before they approve the project - protect Acton
Revitalization of South Acton; Open Space; Walking paths/sidewalks; Cross walks; Bike paths
Parking at the trains (for everyone); Clothes lines (global warming); Drive up window (there is no evidence that drive ups equal more roadside trash) because I'm mildly disabled and often have small/sleeping children I have to drive to Maynard
Better park maintenance - the park on Martin St needs trash pickup and the park near the library needs updating
I am happy with Acton as it is now
Sidewalks, bike trails, protect undeveloped land
Fiscal responsibility
Interaction between racial groups - can I enroll in Chinese school; Sidewalks
Look to bring more dollars into the town
Stop signs/lights at critical intersections i.e. Hayward & Rte 27; Better enforcements against "slide through" stops at stop sign intersections (Arlington@Mass Ave, Martin @Central, Prospect@ Central, Willow @ Summer; Fence and shrubbery cutback requirements at intersections - poor visibility (bad: Ethan Allan & 111 SW corner)
Acton is sorely missing the "downtown" area with walk able shopping/eating areas. The Kelly's Corner area needs some senior reworking. It could be transformed into a town center. Would definitely like to see more sidewalks and bike paths.
I would like to see more zoning planned to accommodate growth in a realistic way to avoid stresses on the schools, police/fire, other town services. I'd like the town more involved in the repeal of 40B and adoption of a more appropriate way to accommodate affordable housing.
Sidewalks; Bike paths
Pedestrian/bike paths
Another swimming pool for access and use by all ages and the schools; Traffic lights on Rte 27 - very dangerous road; Bruce Freeman Bike Trail; Turn Quail Ridge Country Club into a public golf course if it ends up going out of business
Better traffic control
Resources to help solve problems with repeated violations of condominium rules (I am disturbed daily by a resident in my building); Social worker who can interface to police or recommend legal solutions; Curtail unauthorized handmade signage with inappropriate communications; Regulate intersections, especially those with faster traffic, hills, obstructions; Less speeding/honking; No graffiti on signage so that motorists respect speed limits/signs
Traffic control signals; Enforcement of posted speed limits
Transportation system for affordable housing residents; Public services meet present needs; Redo of the circle at the Concord Reformatory; Better oversight of 40B construction
Controlled traffic, stop lights on Great Rd (Brooks Rd) in front of shopping & in Hayward @Main; Movie theatre; Enforcement of stop signs/driving rules
Some fiscal restraint

Keep all things local with community management; Community supported agriculture; Sidewalks/village centers/underground wires; Sound traffic planning; Support of improved commuter rail to Region (can't ride train many places without going into Boston first - need circumferential connection); Biowaste fuel and soil supplement station.
Sidewalks
More emphasis on controlling taxes that threaten many of us facing retirement
Sidewalks on busy streets; Parking for commuter rail; Public transportation around town and to/from neighboring towns; Options for students "at risk" - easily reachable (i.e. walk able or public transportation available) teen "hangouts" (movies, hang-outs like Danny's, more accessibility to NARA); Ease of reach of afternoon programs that students aren't dependant on parents driving them
More US citizens
Low and middle-income housing; Expanded sewerage; Public transportation options
Shopping choices; Public transportation; Ethnic/Economic diversity; More recreational opportunities for special needs children/young adults
Business
Improved fiscal responsibility; Tax increases have been significant year over year - above inflation - and services are not increasing accordingly. Services are not distributed evenly, for example no sewer or water service in N Acton - yet we contributed to installation
Continue the great historical activities (i.e.. The library ones) and more ways for seniors to be part of the town fabric, even when they have less money than the younger (and often rude) families. Don't toss out the Elvis generation!
More town by-laws to enforce maintenance of properties; Get rid of that eyesore building at corner of 111 & Main (Mineke) and force the Acton Bowling Alley to re-build - there are so many houses in this town allowed to fall in disrepair;
Preservation of open space
More curb appeal; More sidewalks; Quality build smaller homes with trees; Sidewalks from neighborhoods to schools/churches/parks/library for safe walking/bike riding - not 2A/27/111 - finish sidewalks you started (Summer from Willow to Central; Willow betw. Kingman & Summer; Prospect St)
Open spaces/conservation land
Services (trash, sewage); More of a town center
A planning board that puts taxpayers first and developers second
Focus on rural feel
Sidewalks; Bike trails
Further implementation of the "Acton Plan"; Fiscal restraint - no more Prop 2 1/2 overrides; Lower tax rate - encourage business and home ownership; Limit public services or replace with voluntary force (Fire Dept, County Sheriff etc); Kids in school more - meet state requirements; Full day Thursdays; Sidewalks, esp. to NARA Park, YMCA, Home Depot on landfill site etc
Open space
Public transportation; Cheaper recycling fees
Land & open space preservation; Architecture in scale with land size; Sidewalks - Nagog Hill Road!
Safer roadways for walking
Need to attract more business (light industrial or office), perhaps on Rte 2 corridor to help offset the heavy taxes homeowners pay; A senior center more centrally located.

Please improve appearance of commercial zone around Kelly's Corner - especially the old Meineke building.
More rail lot spaces (@ the main lot) for residents with stickers - it is unfair that sticker holders have to pay to use meters when the lot is full or cannot use the lot at all because it is utterly full
Lower taxes
more conservative spending
drive-thru restaurants
bike path to neighboring towns
fenced dog park, garden club
commuter parking, affordable childcare
public transportation for all ages
town sewerage, restaurants
open area to run with dogs
good restaurants
racquetball court
sidewalks
walkable town center
bike trails
more sewers
open space
community events
asking for suggestions to reduce spending
sidewalks
in town department stores
fiscal restraint
retail shopping
people getting involved
sidewalks
sidewalks
have signs for tax bills face the road
age diversity
property tax abatements
preserve wooded areas
participation
sidewalks
cheaper family fun activities
sidewalks
reduce town spending
bike and walking paths
small businesses
bike paths
larger chain stores
sidewalks

control building rate

Better protection against mosquitoes, better zoning to protect over-building, more preservation of wooded areas, a community fine arts cinema, more community farming areas, Acton Cinema, more cultural activities and fairs, more art exhibits, more classical music events, more recycle opportunities, more cafes open in the evenings.

Financial responsibility by the Town. Follow budgets, don't add employees or programs if the money isn't in the budget. Acton's plan seems to be "Do whatever we want and just raise taxes."

More colonial buildings, more historical markers, repair the old granite markers, need more nice people in town. We have more apartments because Concord turned them down. We need more driver education for high school students, alerting them to accidents resulting from speeding.

Mature trees, courteous behavior, farms

A movie theater that shows foreign films (or work with Fine Arts in Maynard to promote same)

What Would You Like To See LESS Of In Acton?
taxes
any more development
less traffic
taxes
traffic
no more building of homes
housing development, traffic
construction, traffic, noise, abandoned buildings in Kelly Corner
non-ethics activities or organizations (e.g. Homosexual), spirit stores (like wine), Halloween school parade
less building and lower the tax
new housing development
growth in town and growth in the schools, Acton feels like Framingham did 20 years ago and look at it now
building
multi-unit developments that stress the services the town can provide, traffic congestion on Rt. 27 and Rt. 119/2A
shopping center, no more Dunkin Donuts, no more restaurants
development, traffic
less potholes and roads that are rough
a few people making decisions. development
competitiveness-athletic and other, discretionary spending
large SUVs driven by 98 lb housewives on the cell phone, conspicuous consumption
taxes, favoritism, businesses paying a higher tax rate than residences
higher taxes
traffic backups at major intersections (especially 27 + 111), one day of extended hours at transer station, houses built on tiny lots one on top of the other
taxes- people's children graduate high school and they move out ASAP because of high cost of living
development
taxes, traffic, sidewalks, less money spent on outside consulting forms- they do not live in town- we do, the visual nightmare that is the intersection of 111 + 27- our town goofed badly
strip malls
less taxes, stop wasting money
traffic
less single family detached housing
strip malls
condos/apartments
growth, open space being taken over
these surveys, intervention in personal lives, taxes, government employees, political correctness, selectmen elected for live

building expenses, aggressive policemen
residential development
apartments
shopping centers
taxes
spending, high costs
new housing and retail development, overtaking historical and environmental necessities
Irresponsible development, apartment complexes, town employees
traffic
mansions
destroying historical monuments
less building
big retail, motorists not respecting laws, any none USA thinking
residential development
building/expansion/growth, Acton too big
concord rotary, 40B
taxes
taxes
real estate taxes
automobile dealers, traffic
apartment buildings, senseless retail
increases in taxes, dog owners not obeying signs
taxes
traffic
ugly developments
less government
new housing
taxes
apartments
private water and sewer
traffic
traffic
condo construction
untreated water
residential development
wasteful spending
traffic
empty rundown property
mega subdivisions
building
questionnaires about Acton's future
K-mart
40B projects

traffic
taxes
pollution
new building projects
rental housing
Home development
Strict dog leash rules
Taxes
Taxes
Spending tax dollars on surveys
Traffic
Strip malls
Decision making via town meetings
Mansions
Apartments
Hydrant flushing
Traffic, retail operations
Home development
Home development
"Big box" stores
taxes
Home development
Taxes, home development, traffic
Traffic
Traffic, 40B's, taxes
Spending (like the CPA)
Taxes
Tax, Home development
high taxes
sub shops
traffic
fast food restaurants
apartment buildings
excess mansions, lower taxes
taxes
less building
traffic
less building of homes
costly new items like bus service
strip malls
taxes
fees for basic services like garbage removal
traffic

taxes
traffic
traffic
new construction
traffic
large developments
big houses
town meeting style government
ticks
too many police activities
development
strip malls
taxes
random development
no more condos
construction of large homes
mcmansions
traffic
Building of residential homes
Pizza shops
Development, traffic
Home development
Home development
Traffic
Traffic
Apartment/Housing development
Taxes, school budget
Traffic
Traffic
Home development
Taxes
Taxes
Traffic
Apartments, cutting down trees, traffic
Home development
Restrictions on commercial businesses
waste of paper-unwanted senseless mailings
taxes
traffic, taxes

no more "40B" condo/apartment/track housing. Builders are using it as a tool to build more on less land. Build an entire project in north Acton to bring us up to the 40B% like Lincoln did and be done with it!, less bilding = less traffic, lower taxes. 3 full time 24/7 fire stations and want another one in Acton? no way.
less development, less new homes, no attached multi unit structures, no more sidewalks or stop lights, all new homes on no less than 2 acre lots, no more strip malls
single family home construction
development/cluster housing
I would like to see the building on prime land halted. I would like to see commercial space cleaned up, made to look pleasing. At the corner of 111+27 the Verizon building, the Meineke building, the Oil Co., Sunoco-all could be cleaned up- the Meineke building must be breaking building codes. The siding is falling off and there's debris everywhere! Fix it up or sell- until they clean it up!
big, ugly apartment buildings/rental units, ugly K-Mart
traffic and congestion
less drivers! Less people talking on cell phones while driving- they are not paying attention- many accidents with these people, less development
an overly ambitious, ultra-competitive, high pressure culture, high student-teacher ratios in K-6 classrooms, homework, school marketing for school choice
traffic houses built right on top of each other, houses with chipping/peeling paint and/or unkempt yards
less drivers talking on cell phones and cutting other drivers off
less Dunkin Donuts, more stores with character. Dogs running free at Great Hill. Run down historic buildings- Acton needs to help Exchange Hall come back to life
parents driving their children to school
taxes!
taxes and revamping of historic district commission to either make historic areas like Williamsburg or eliminate petty restrictions and time to make decisions
apartments-2A has plenty, Kmart-its always been dingy and dirty, gas stations on every corner
less increase of property taxes
traffic, fast food places
taxes for school services I think are subpar- school addresses only needs of positive well motivated students and ignores on campus drug and alcohol use
less money for school services and more for town projects
traffic congestion, less restrictive water ban
apartments
fast food restaurants, unsightly commercial buildings such as the Meinke Building
residential development, traffic, litter, strip malls, night lights
taxes
condos
new homes (mcmansions)
traffic, taxes, clearing and cutting of trees
Hair salons, McDonald's
Development

Traffic
Home development
Reduce speed, autobus
Traffic
Home development
Taxes, traffic
Shopping malls
Chain stores
Townhouses/apartments
Traffic, pot holes
High priced housing
Home development, taxes
Home developments,
Mansions
Traffic
Taxes
Traffic
Spending by town
Real estate taxes, over rides for seniors
McDonald's
Home development
Home development
Home development
Taxes
Spending in schools, especially Special Education
Spending
Home development, traffic, real estate taxes
Rotary traffic
Taxes
Taxes
Affordable housing
Home development
Spending on schools, traffic
Home development
Traffic
Spending on schools, traffic
Town houses/apartments
School buses, mansions
Traffic
Big-box retail
New construction
School transportation
Taxes

Condo's
Mansions, commercial building
Home development, police/firemen
Home development
Residential and business development
Fast food chains
Home development
Home development
Home development
Fast food chains, strip malls
Fast food chains, traffic
Traffic
Taxes, cobblestone crosswalks
Taxes
Emphasis on lesbian/gay issues
Inappropriate development of land
Cobble stone driveways/brick crosswalks
Home development, traffic
New construction
Diversity activities
Rentals/condominiums
Traffic
Surveys
Businesses leaving, traffic
Population
Home development
Taxes, overrides, traffic
Home development, crowded schools
commercial establishments, traffic
taxes, traffic, wasting of money
deer- destructive to property
residential buildings, smaller class sizes
traffic
residential development
traffic, taxes
taxes
traffic
building, old rundown buildings
traffic, ugly buildings
traffic
anger at town meeting, Dunkin Donuts, early morning noise, rude people
taxes, traffic, strip malls
spending, taxes

traffic, rich people, taxes, rude teenagers
40B developments, traffic
40B development
property taxes, new buildings, commercial activities
traffic
taxes
traffic
taxes, ugly utilities, ugly buildings
construction, multi-family complexes
new housing, taxes, traffic
40B project
car dealerships, hardware stores, traffic, fast food, gas stations
residential property taxes, traffic, excess services that raise taxes
minerals that stain clothes/appliances
taxes, reduction of open space, traffic, large scale construction
traffic, new construction
traffic, empty shopping plazas
taxes
traffic
tax rate
taxes, traffic
summer concerts
new construction
construction, cars, high prices, taxes, snobbishness
inconsiderate dog owners
playing fields, children's activities, paper mailings, unneeded police car investments
apartments, car dealers, taxes
development, traffic, strip malls, emphasis on schools over community
mcmansions, chain stores, lawn chemicals
road side signs, taxes
single family homes
large developments
kids doing drugs, new developments
construction
no overrides!
apartment buildings, no more building of any kind, better sidewalks, bike trails
no more apartments! Building moratorium! No more strip malls!
less housing construction
condos, apartments, fast food, traffic, "mcmansion" neighborhoods
rising taxes

I don't believe the town should be supporting the Acton Chinese Language School. They should be encouraged to build their own facility. Its unfair to local churches for the town to sponsor them. My family is no longer able to use the gym on Sunday because of the ACLS. This is not fair to us. The ACLS is not an inclusive school/community. They are analogous to a church or synagogue.
traffic
cars/traffic. Development of more homes in general. McMansions, tear downs of smaller homes to develop larger homes. Development using wetlands property to find frontage for homes too many yards away to even recognize frontage goes to that house.
I don't want to see more strip malls. I like the "corridor of green" as you enter Acton on Rt. 2. If more shopping, eating places, etc. are wanted I prefer more of a village approach-being able to walk to things.
development
Taxes! They are unfair to the middle class low income people. Somebody that owns a condo should not have to pay \$3,000 a year that is outrageous.
401B
No more parking lots of expansion of existing ones for commuter rail. Traffic. Development in questionable areas which are prone to flooding. Fewer apartments. Less taxes for school unless rebate for seniors or long term residents provided. Less use of school vans for personal errands-better monitoring of mileages by case with exact mileage of routes.
Talk of "town character". I never know what people mean by this. It seems like a nostalgic wish for things to be like they used to be- whatever that memory is. Sometimes it sounds exclusionary- like "we want things the way it was before all these newcomers moved in." I'd rather be a welcoming community.
taxes, traffic
What drew me to Acton 17 years ago was the open space, clean appearance, and proximity to Boston, plus the fact that it lacked the standard conveniences: strip malls, coffee shops, etc. Acton lacks the feel and character that it did 17 years ago. Today it is like any other town with the exception of Lincoln. Lincoln is a gem. In short, less commercialism... less is more!
Tree growth on electric/utility lines-either town to trim/remove or have home owner pay to do it. Less expenditures on traffic studies that do not translate into significant change due to power plays.
less taxes, schools are fine
Filing surveys and plans away after short term use
Less active promotion/welcoming of "friendly" 40B projects. We must accept some, but we don't need a committee that works with developers to encourage them. Acton's density is far too low for public transportation. Let's not talk about it or spend money on it.
Speeders especially teens, traffic deaths
Aggressive arrogant attitudes in public places as well as public roads. Many of the drivers in Acton lack knowledge of the rules of the road and lack common courtesy.
building of apartments and multi unit complexes
No more construction. The new construction makes me sick.
less of new construction- less new homes and developments
less big retailers and more family business type retailers

Uncontrolled commuter traffic through towns. Parking lots. Dunkin Donuts etc. on every corner. Abandoned houses or businesses left to decay to detriment neighborhoods and value of real estate. Storage of junk/vehicles outside of homes.
natural settings
40B projects
high-cluster homes
taxes
overrides
houses
taxes
potholes
traffic
large developments
traffic
taxes
taxes
sprawl
taxes
sub shops
sanding and salting
traffic
property taxes
traffic
wasteful spending
property taxes
road signs
traffic
property taxes
portrayal of "small pie" mentality
new housing
traffic
taxes
speeders
neon signs
traffic
mcmansions
apartments
private development
taxes
tearing down of small houses
overrides
property tax
shopping areas

cars
multiunits
sports on Sunday morning
taxes
duplex apartments
traffic
unnecessary class courses
taxes
student dropouts
development
traffic
traffic
traffic
40B development
tearing down of small houses
gov't
Kmart
rental housing
less pressure on students
40B housing
mosquitoes
building
40B housing
home development
government growth
taxes
speeders
urban development
traffic
development
traffic
new homes
traffic
large retail buildings
low end housing
overrides
construction
traffic
traffic
hair and nail salons
traffic
larger homes

traffic
new development
Tax, Home development
Taxes
Taxes
Development
Supersized single family homes
Bureaucracy, special education-getting their funds first, taxes
Taxes
Large apartment and condo complexes
Congested shopping areas
Emphasis on sports
Taxes
Traffic, potholes
Condo/apartment development
Traffic
New subdivision or apartment neighborhoods
Police
Taxes
Property taxes
Apartment and condos for rent, increasing population
Property taxes, house conservation
Restaurants/stores, property taxes
Cars
Single family large houses
Growth
Overrides
High Taxes
Taxes, overrides
Developers, traffic
Supersized single family homes
Condos, town houses
Traffic, development
Traffic
Building, traffic
Property taxes
Traffic
Property taxes
Traffic, litter
Town meetings
Development, traffic
Housing development
McMansions

Transient people
Building
Commercial buildings
Cars, traffic
Taxes
Traffic
Leashes in dog park
Traffic
Oversized facilities
Less shops and restaurants, places of employment, industry; lower taxes, stick to budgets, stop overrides for things schools think they need; less ?, development, traffic; no sidewalks between P.O. and 2A - all those trees!
Traffic, development of strip mall type
Prevent red-shirting in local schools, allow children to start school at correct age so that older children in lower grades don't raise test scores; Why pay extra for carpet/refrigerator etc disposal on top of dump pass; Change dump hours to include Sundays
No more development - commercial or residential
Cafes, buildings, making improvements that are not necessary in these hard times, i.e. brick walks
Focus on sport activities
New housing (McMansions), traffic; Town meeting - ? many who can't attend
Developments - especially large 40B complexes, million dollar homes, grandiose public buildings
Foolishness like cross walks at the Town Hall; Fire Dept driving Ford Expeditions when sedan or Explorer would suffice
Strip malls, Midas (the old building on Kelly's Corner), Kmart
Building of homes and condos
Taxes, tax overrides votes, apartment building growth
Developments of housing and shopping areas
Road construction
Schools - less emphasis on college entrance
No more building of homes - have enough residents
2 1/2 over-rides; Acton off track - many pressured changes - asking itself "Are schools expensive enough?" "Are there too many transient mansion owners?" "Should we emulate Concord, Carlisle or Lincoln?"
Less tax money spent on schools and soccer fields at expense of town municipal services (library, highway, sewer); Less mentality "Kids have graduated - sell house and move to less expensive town" only for more families with school age kids move in for a few years
Town meetings= a disservice to most residents who can't/won't attend to due work/childcare. Time to be democratic and give everyone a vote in voting booth. Town meeting became anachronistic when Acton grew past 500 residents.
Gentrification, competitive HS sports, Competitive/elite education system, Mercedes Benz, Police details at construction sites, traffic
Traffic; rampant, ugly development/sidewalks without thinking through the price in terms of loss of historic character (through tree removal, loss of stone walls, land-taking)

Lower property taxes - at least slower rate of increases; Traffic, especially for short hops; Chinese restaurants.
Traffic lights
Big retailers
Less development
Apartment complex
Library and public safety buildings are too large and may have unused space that could be used for other purposes
Less hyper-organized activities; More "empty lots" and fewer groomed ball fields; Fewer McMansions - see the frightening article in The Atlantic about future McMansion slums
Traffic; Large single family developments
Town needs to make smart decisions as we face economic downturn; hope cobblestone crosswalk at Town Hall proves itself (rather than paint); Hope little red house can be used for meeting space or scout use; Hope the consultants for this project are worthwhile and not a waste of money
Population should stay as is; if town continues to grow, it will be forced to expand or build new schools - Can Acton afford to do this?; Class sizes are maxed already; Town doesn't need new housing unless it is for 55+; Less development on Great Road
Traffic speed on Rte 2A is too high; Rte 27 traffic is a problem in Acton center, especially during afternoon rush hours
Competition for non-profit funds
Cars
Less new construction; Less traffic
Less taxes; Less Traffic congestion
Less construction of homes/housing developments - the town is very densely populated with some traffic issues; Putting 55+ homes @ the golf course is a bad idea and disrespectful to the residents in the adjoining neighborhoods
Reddish tap water (stains clothes, unattractive, unhealthy?)
Fewer dogs running around unleashed - they and their owners really make walking in/enjoying areas such as the Arboretum and many conservation lands unpleasant; Many fewer SUVs
Less cramming, esp. big houses into small lots; Better management of time at Town Meeting - i.e. save ceremonies for end, budget presentations with time limits etc
Less "overpriced" housing; No more "McMansions"; More thought given to development strategies that focus on enhancing the livability and sustainability of the qualities we love about Acton
Traffic - a real issue; Building on wetlands; Stop compromising because of HOB
Traffic; Suburban sprawl; ? Along roadway; McMansion development; Loss of rural character that remains in a few parts of town; Conservation land turned into dog parks i.e.. Great Hill - disgusting! - this is where kids play soccer and people observe nature
Rules (about everything)
Taxes are very high compared to other town. I believe that towns like Winchester have the same average tax bill but their property value is \$200k more than Acton. Another study showed that our high taxes affected the home value increases as compared to other towns.
Woods cut down to build houses
Wasteful spending

The super rich; Business that are for the elite - spas, golf courses etc; 4th of July fireworks that can only be accessed on a bus; Wasn't NARA supposed to be free?
Stop spending like yuppies out of control
Young bicyclists without helmets; Young bicyclists ignoring bicycle rules and laws (out of ignorance); Pedestrians (over 50% ignoring walking laws by not facing traffic) - especially pushing baby carriages where there are no sidewalks; Drivers ignoring "Hidden driveway" signs; Speeding in residential areas
Development seems to be getting out of control. I would like to see less dense housing developments being put in every available piece of land.
Traffic (and that means no more cul-de-sacs and neighborhoods that don't connect to anything else); In case of accidents on Main St traffic backs up due to lack of side streets - impossible to evacuate; No more wedged condo developments on too little land - eyesores!
Big single family homes
Traffic
40B development - the law is being abused
Affordable housing - since Acton has not transportation system, affordable housing is really not available - someone needs a car- affordable housing shouldn't be placed out in the boondocks; Traffic - an alternative: reduce the speed limit in Acton to 30mph - all of Acton
Traffic
Chapter 40B housing
Definitely do not want big box retailers (e.g.. Walmart) or large malls; definitely do not want unplanned development
Traffic; Students feeling stressed out because the school atmosphere does not reflect real life - good students feel like underachievers if they take less than Honors or AE courses, for example
Less spending of town funds on things like Exchange Hall. It's horrible that the North Acton Fire Station is going nowhere because it's been over-planned. Go back to the original plan which fit in the space available.
Less Illegals
There is a very strong elitist attitude in town. I realize this is something a community plan can do nothing about; Traffic jams; Property taxes
Insularity; Fear of change
Traffic
Traffic; Better traffic control; More parking at commuter rail station to ease congestion on Rte 2; Non-resident students coming to AB without paying tuition to offset taxes residents contribute
Enough talk of class sizes - the children/teens do fine here no matter what the size; it is possible to teach with the large class system as used elsewhere (I have taught classes of 31); Less construction on small lots - ugly! Come down hard on developers who build on wet lands
Do not allow residents to store junk in yards; talk legal action against property owners of 68 ? Road who put up a wall of concrete blocks and "no trespassing" signs - these things keep Acton trashy and are why many don't stay here long term; Don't allow residents to claim senior citizens tax reductions when they have children or grandchildren in Acton school system

40B must stop - unfairly taxes rest of the population; Too much development, too dense, stresses what services we have, stresses roads/traffic; Give up state money - privatize our town; Stop spending tax \$ - we can make do with a lot less and still have a great place to live; Rec Dept is overkill, but Conserv. Dept is a must.
Less dead trees; Less trashy areas; Less cheaply build, ugly boxy McMansions; Developers at Squirrel Hill never put in trees or paved road until residents forced him - what is wrong with Roland and our planning board? Replace Roland;
Taxes that are obscene
Taxes!
No more development, especially in historic district
Less development - try to preserve a "rural" feel - already gone but stop the building!
Building!
New building permits, which in current economic climate erode all home owners values; Our supply is too great at this time for low demand and we should not make it worse.
Apartments - replace with ownership; Over build public facilities, i.e.. "Public Safety Building", Police Force, Fire Dept etc; Firework displays
Traffic
Development!; Traffic!; Bad, oversized architecture
Less traffic; Less building of homes and apartments and preservation of open space; Less crowded classrooms (smaller class sizes)
Less talk about maintaining the rural character of 50 years ago! Change can be good.
High taxes; ?; 40B legislation needs major changes?
less taxes
less taxes
traffic, property taxes
less taxes
less car congestion
septic tank pollution
strip malls
fast food
cars, construction
condo developments
less plastic bags
no more construction
less housing developments
taxes, overstaffed police
40-B density
taxes
traffic
property taxes
development
traffic
spending

destruction of Indian Village
sanding and plowing
non-open enrollment schools
taxes
taxes
apartments
methodical suppression on individuality
traffic
strip malls
million dollar expenditures
traffic
cars
traffic
crowded housing
new housing
Less building; more preservation of wooded areas; Less Rock + Roll music events, less deer populations.
Taxes, motorcycle cops, general waste of money by the local government (e.g., hiring a zoning enforcement officer because the building inspectors aren't competent enough to enforce zoning like the building inspector is responsible for in all other towns.
High School students rushing (speeding) The seniors and upper juniors with cars rush to the Dunkin Donuts for 42 minutes during their breaks.
Traffic, development, unnecessary emphasis on police and fire buildings, macadam, leash laws, yuppies, political correctness, spending on any "nice" idea that comes along, without appropriate consideration.

Appendix: Statistical Reliability

If all 1,476 people that returned the residential survey answered a given question the error rate for it would be +/- 2.6%. However, very few questions were answered by all the people responding. Typically for any given question, between 1,000 and 1,400 people would provide answers. The error rate associated with this level of response varies around 3%. In fact 2.6% rounds off to 3%. So it is useful to think in terms of an overall error rate of +/-3% for all the questions. A +/- 3% error range is within acceptable statistical limits and is commonly used. Many types of marketing and public opinion surveys take samples of about 1,000 to 1,500 observations, yielding error rates of +/-3%. It means that if survey results for a given question vary by more than +/-3% the results are conclusive. For example, we observe in the survey that 25.6% favor building more detached single family homes, and 53.6% do not favor building more detached single family homes, our error rate tells us the results are conclusive. The table below shows error rates (rounded to the nearest full percent) for different size surveys.

Survey Sample Size	Margin of Error Percent*
2,000	2
1,500	3
1,000	3
900	3
800	3
700	4
600	4
500	4
400	5
300	6
200	7
100	10
50	14

*Assumes a 95% level of confidence

Source: Pamela Hunter, "Margin of Error and Confidence Levels Made Simple," iSigmaSix, 2008, Website:
<http://www.isixsigma.com/library/content/c040607a.asp#author>