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# Survey Report:

## Millinocket Annual Survey 2017

January 31, 2018

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### **Introduction**

A survey was created by the Town of Millinocket Economic Development Committee to gain insight on several viewpoints toward the town from its residents, seasonal-residents, business owners, and visitors. A survey for the town has not happened in a number of years. Millinocket has reached a turning point where change is likely to occur. Having perspective on different aspects of economic development will give the governing body some tangible evidence in public opinion and how the town should guide its redevelopment.

### **Method**

Several survey workshops were held to gain input on what questions should be asked on the first survey. Question formulation was gathered through two methods. Some questions were submitted in person during a workshop setting and some were submitted digitally through a Facebook post as a poll in the Katahdin Citizens Group page which hosts over 300 members. Questions submitted were gathered and finalized by the economic development committee. A survey draft was created and was presented to the economic development committee. A final survey was created and distributed using two formats. Paper copies of the survey were distributed to three locations in the town: Millinocket Memorial Library, Millinocket Town Office, and Our Katahdin Community and Economic Development Firm. A digital version of the survey was provided on the Town of Millinocket website in form format.\* All of the digital and paper surveys were collated in a database where information could then be analyzed.\*\*

\*Survey submissions were active from November 20, 2017 to a closing date of December 31, 2017.

\*\*An appendix to this document contains the finalized draft of the survey and data used to analyze survey findings with personal information concealed.

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## **Parameters**

The survey consists of four major data groups. A demographics section defining the personal characteristics of age, education, years lived/visited, and residency, a closed response section consisting of scaled responses, an open response section with specific questions, and a general response section acting as an open forum to the Town of Millinocket.

## **Analysis**

Survey findings and analyses are up to the interpretation of the reviewer. This public report can be viewed by several different agencies whether it be personal, business, or governmental. An analysis of data will be presented in each section of information gathered from the survey and will be under initial review of the economic development committee. All information gathered in the summary findings are a direct reflection of the information gathered in the database used for analysis. All data used to compile analyses will be attached as an appendix to the document for transparency. You are able to make your own inferences based on this method of reporting.

## **Waiver of Liability**

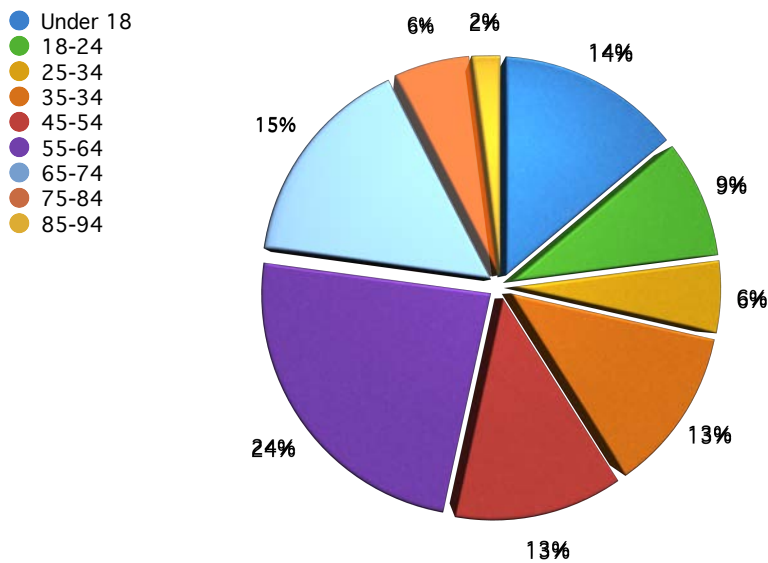
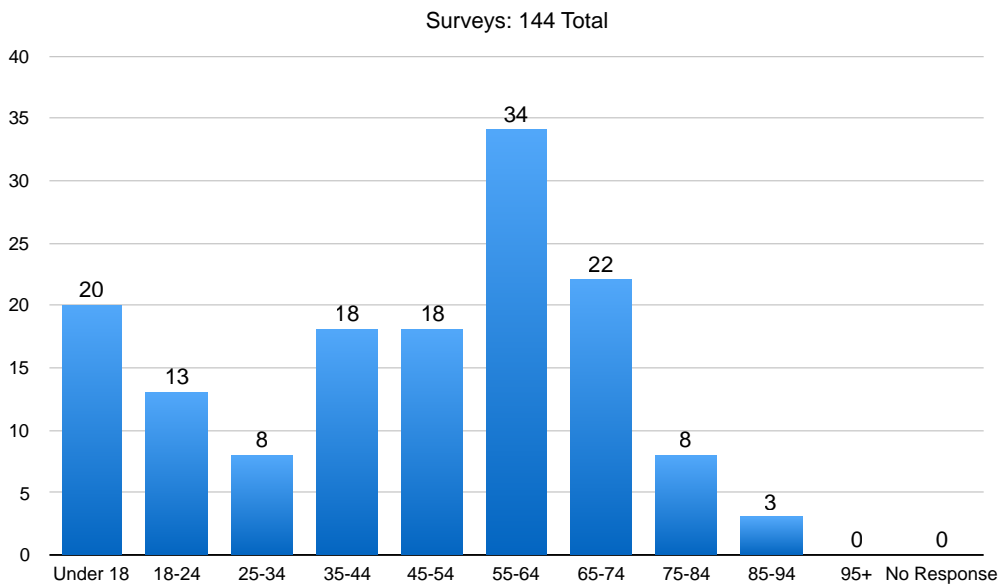
Before a participant could take this survey, they had to read a letter of intent of the survey which consisted as the cover page. This letter includes a summary statement, indication of participation, indication of potential benefits, indication of potential risks, a statement of confidentiality, contact information, and submission directions. All data used to compile this report was contributed voluntarily thus effectively removing any liability from any representative of the town which has been involved in the creation of the survey or report.

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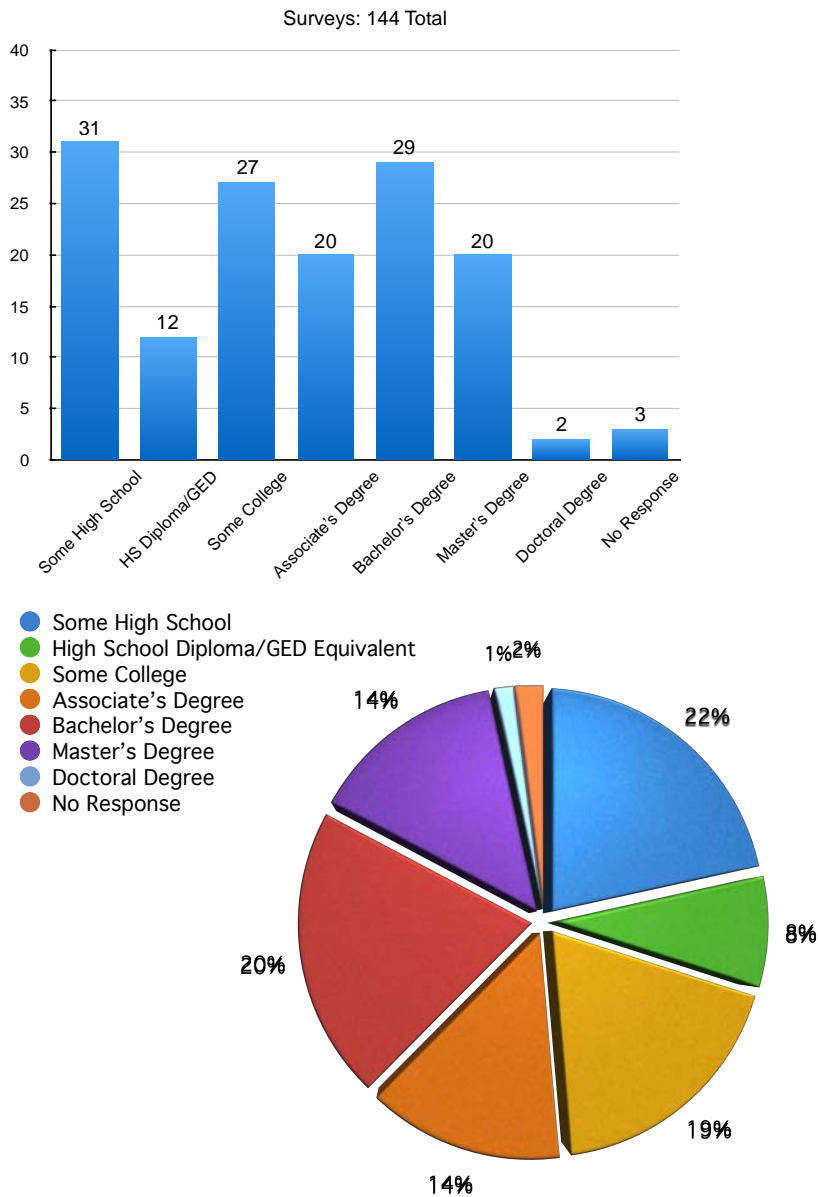
## Demographics - Age



The survey sample is an accurate representation of our current population demographics for not only Millinocket, but the Katahdin region as a whole. The relative age of the population in the region falls between 45-54 and 65-74 categories respectively. There has been a declining youth population over the years which is represented in the 18-24 and 25-34 categories. Information from the Under 18 category were obtained largely from two government classes at the local high school.

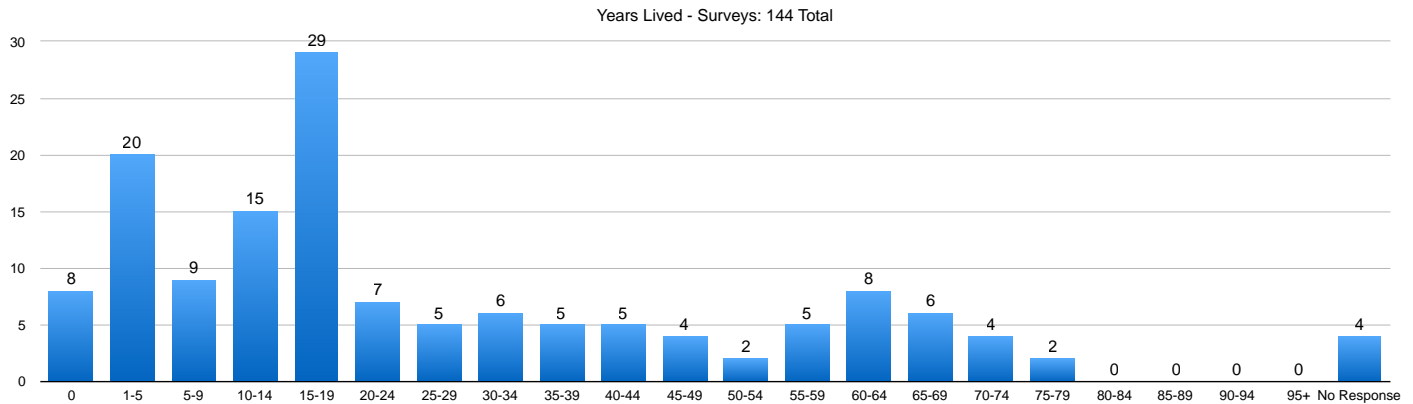
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## Demographics - Education

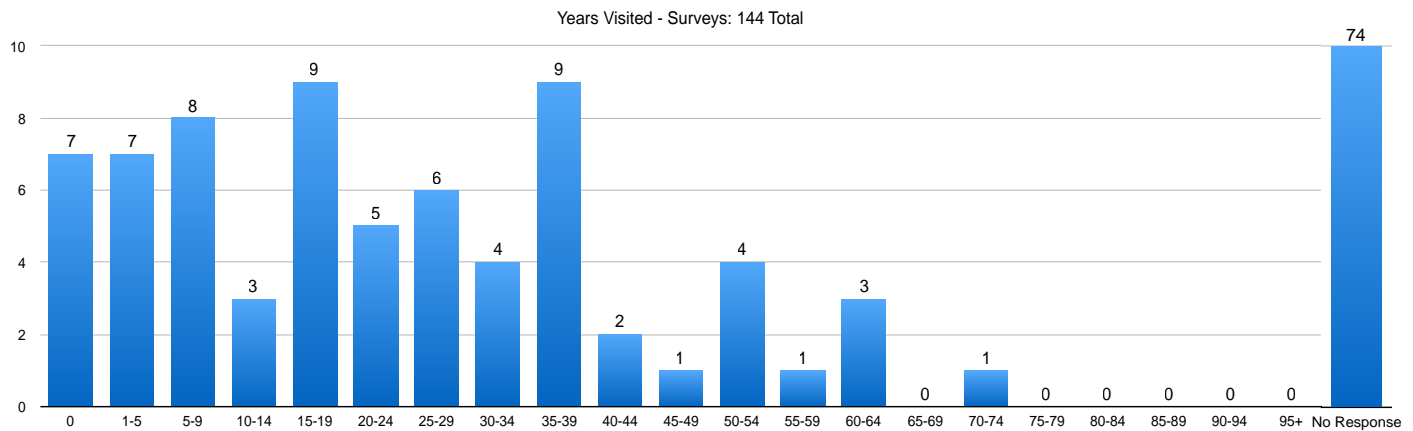


The survey sample represents all levels of education that were identified as categories. As this project started, it was a hope that we would gain insight from those at all education levels. That goal was obtained even with a sample size of 144 participants.

## Demographics - Years Lived/Visited



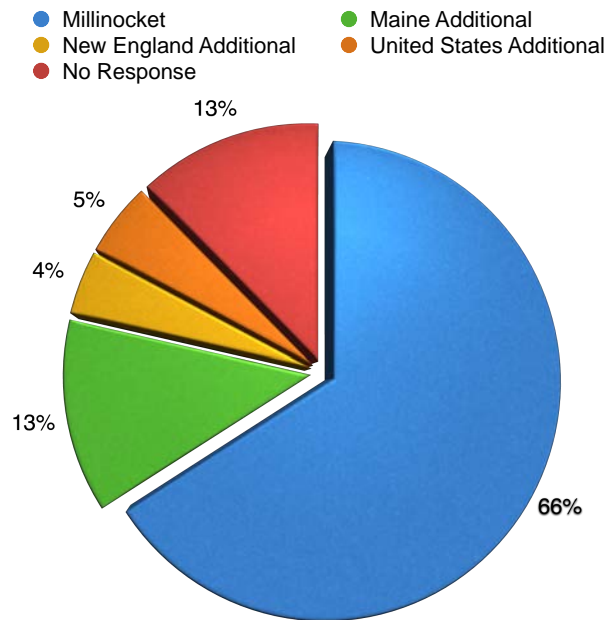
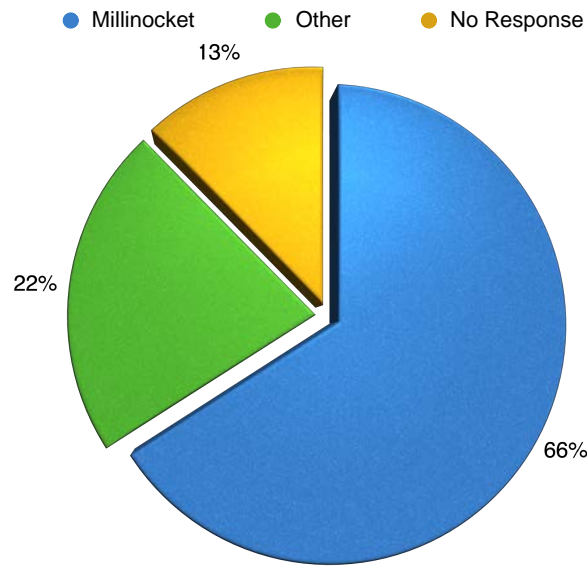
The survey sample represents a realistic spread of individuals; those that have lived here for a majority of their lives as well as individuals that have been here for less than two decades. This identifies the assumption that a majority our survey participants have experienced the decline and leveling off of the economy that carried this community for 100 years. This can provide balanced insight from those who are now learning of the area’s history and bringing new perspective with those who know the history and culture of this town.



The survey sample represents an even spread of individuals that have been visiting the region for a few years and those that have been visiting Millinocket for many years. As a disclaimer, data in categories beyond 40 years can be skewed based on the age characteristics of the participants — those individuals both living here or have lived here and have been visiting for a set number of years. Survey entry error can account for some discrepancy in findings. It can be assumed that nearly half of our survey entrants are visitors or have visited Millinocket at some point in their lives, even if they live here now.

## Demographics - Residency

Millinocket, ME	95
East Millinocket, ME	2
Brunswick, ME	1
Old Orchard Beach, ME	1
Gorham, ME	1
Saco, ME	1
Buxton, ME	1
Yarmouth, ME	1
Bangor, ME	1
Brownville, ME	1
Holden, ME	1
Etna, ME	1
Hampden, ME	1
Milo, ME	1
Whiting, ME	1
Fairfield, ME	1
Norridgewock, ME	1
Pittsfield, ME	1
Newburyport, MA	1
Revere, MA	1
Pembroke, MA	1
New Ipswich, NH	1
Dover, NH	1
Hamden, CT	1
Belvidere, NJ	1
Bridgeton, NJ	1
Jamaica, NY	1
LaGrange, GA	1
Bradenton Beach, FL	1
Trussville, AL	1
Chicago, IL	1
No Response	18
Sum: Non-Millinocket	31
Sum: Maine Additional	18
Sum: New England Additional	6
Sum: United States Additional	7

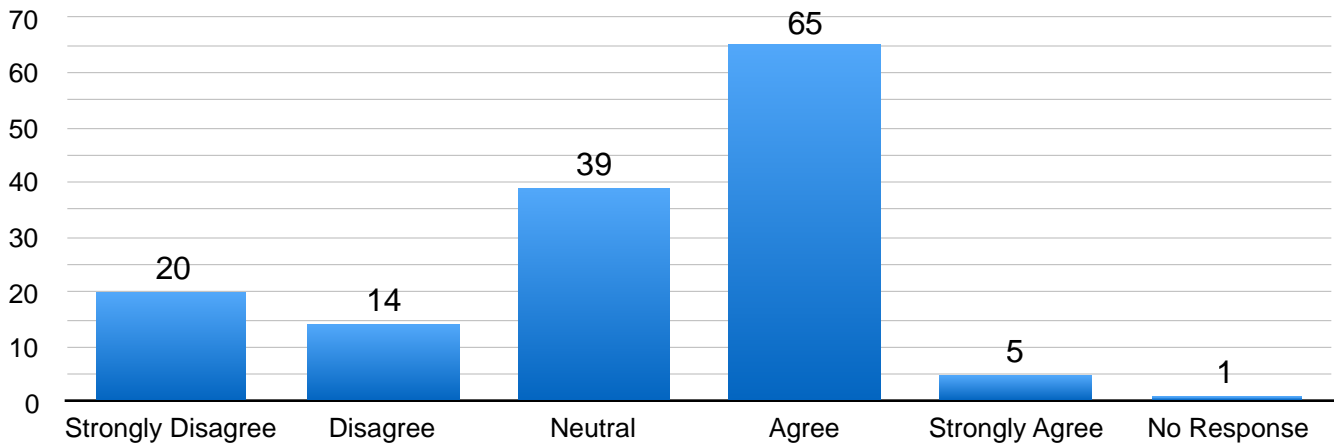


The survey sample represents an even two-thirds of participants currently living in Millinocket. A third of the data represents participants from outside of Millinocket's boundaries or those who decided not to provide that information. Gathering perspective from those that also visit our town was a goal of the project. We were able to meet that goal with submissions by a wide variety of fellow Mainers from various areas of the state, as well as visitors from New England and further locations in the United States as a whole.

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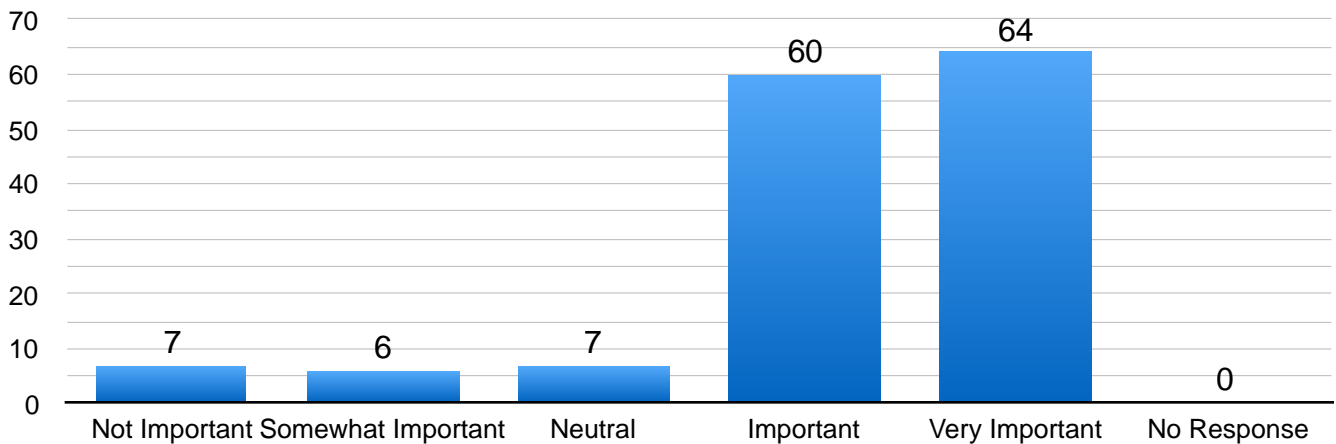
## Closed Response Questions

I feel the town is making progress in economic development.



It can be inferred that nearly half of participants agree to some degree that there is progress in economic development within the Town of Millinocket. It can be inferred that nearly a quarter of participants disagree to some degree that there is progress in economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

How important do you feel recreation is to economic development?



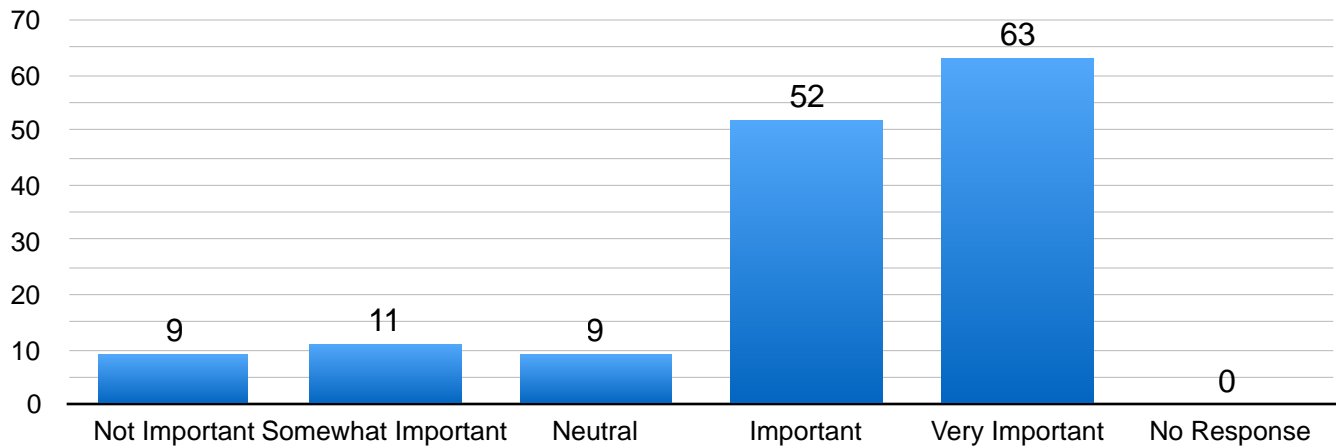
It can be inferred that over three quarters of participants agree to some degree that recreation is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.



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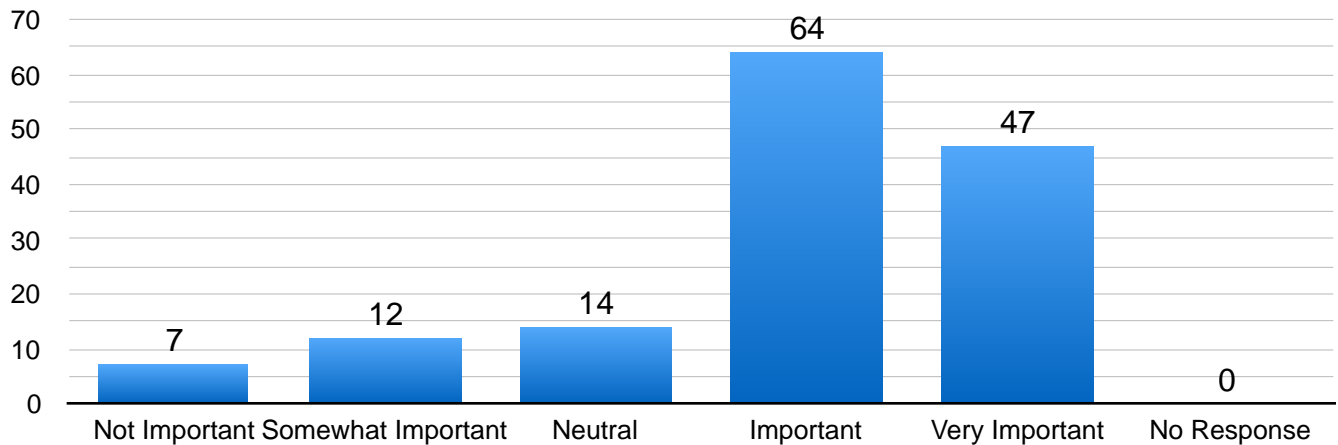
## Closed Response Questions (Continued)

How important do you feel industry is to economic development?



It can be inferred that over three quarters of participants agree to some degree that industry is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

How important do you feel beautification is to our town?

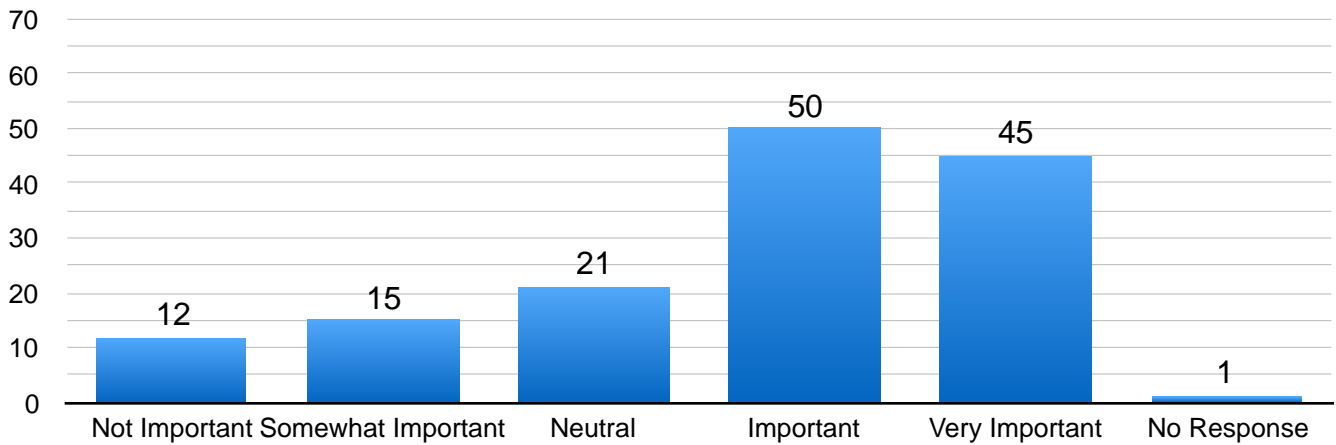


It can be inferred that over three quarters of participants agree to some degree that beautification is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

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## Closed Response Questions (Continued)

How important do you feel are the athletic programs in our community?

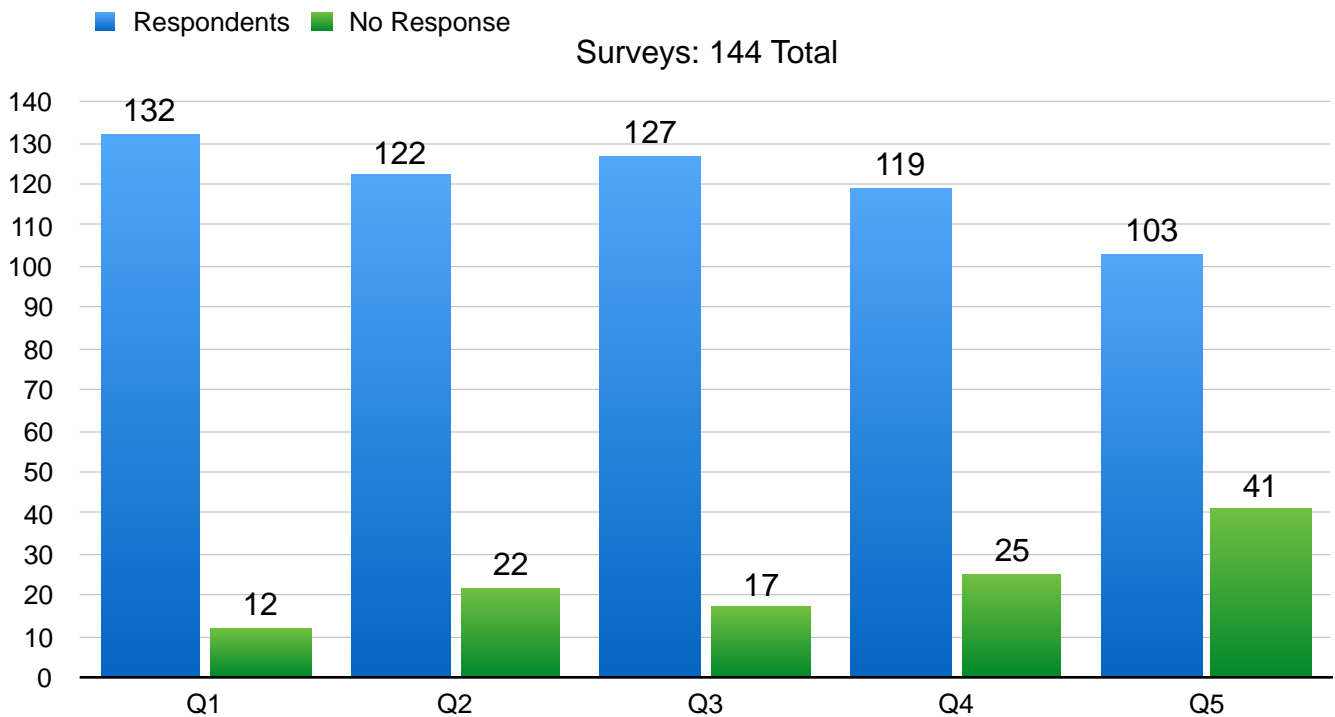


It can be inferred that nearly three-fifths of participants find that to some degree athletic programs in our community are important in the Town of Millinocket. It can be inferred that nearly one-fifth of participants find that to some degree athletic programs in our community are not as important in the Town of Millinocket.

## Open Response Questions

Entries from each question on the survey will be presented with key words from the findings and full text responses. It can be assumed that there is a slight lack of response in this section as participants near the end of the survey. Question formulation and the amount of questions administered could be underlying factors in the rate of response.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?	What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?	When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?	What part of recreation/tourism plays in our plan for economic development?	Suggest three beautification improvements to the Town of Millinocket.



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q1: What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?

### Key words

**Single occurrence (top ten by rank — some tied):** town, small, here, community, area, people, millinocket, beauty, family, live, outdoor, good, love, woods.

**Phrase (two word — top ten):** small town, of the, the area, and the, beauty of, I have, grew up, the mountain, to live, I grew.

**Phrase (three word — top ten):** beauty of the, i grew up, of the area, small town feel, grew up here, the beauty of, the small town, baxter state park, in millinocket I, quality of life.

**Phrase (four word— top ten):** beauty of the area, the beauty of the, I grew up here, and the beauty of, to the north woods, beauty of katahdin, the small town feel, Maine way of life, the Maine way of, people quality of life.

### Responses

- Good people, small close community, and all the seasons.
- The view, the looks of the mountain, and all my friends live here.
- Because Millinocket is my home.
- It's small and has a pretty view.
- More shops than medway or east millinocket, more diverse groups of people.
- The community and how beautiful Millinocket could be.
- Nothing, not my type of area.
- Family, friends, sense of community, outdoors.
- My parents live here.
- The close community.
- Small towns have a stronger community.
- I live with my dad.
- Outdoor recreation and good food.
- Millinocket needs economic opportunity to allow younger generation former residents to return home. Outdoor recreation and the community are the best selling points of Millinocket.
- Nothing really.
- The four season recreational opportunities to hike, ski, swim, paddle, skate, and bike. The view and sense of calm of the mountain from a nearby lake or trail.
- Cheap cost of living, everyone knows everyone else.
- The buzz of the town. This was a town where everyone knew everyone and people were willing to help you if you needed it. But I don't think we have that anymore.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Small town with potential.
- Outdoors/tourism.
- I grew up here and loved spending my free time on the lakes and in the woods. Millinocket has such a gem in their outdoor resources that need to be accessed.
- The calmness and the close availability of outdoor activities. Hiking, rafting, skiing.
- The beautiful scenery, my family, and the lifestyle. Very friendly people and community oriented.
- Baxter State Park is why I'm here. Living here is getting short lived though. There needs to be industry jobs sports unity in order for a community to grow.
- Small town, Friendly people, Nature.
- Small town — beautiful mountain — good people.
- Quality of life and sense of belonging to a place where anyone can call "Hometown USA"
- The variety of outdoor activities and pursuits are the biggest reason for my interest and attraction to Millinocket.
- Access to wilderness, size of town, 4 seasons, culture, people.
- Recreation.
- I love the small town and community. I love all the outdoor activities.
- Safe place lots to do like fishing swimming in lakes places to hike and tent camping
- Small town feel, opportunities for children to participate in activities, near to good places for hunting and fishing, affordable housing.
- I have very little desire to stay here. The educational system is underfunded and totally disrespected by the town council.
- Small town /low cost of living.
- Visit because of the natural resources.
- Family, friends, sense of community, outdoors.
- Scenery.
- The peacefulness is one of the reasons I am seeking to move there.
- Recreation.
- I have a camp outside of Millinocket and I grew up there. I love going back to see the mountain and the beauty of the area. I am happy to see things moving in a positive direction.
- First of all, I was born and raised in Millinocket. I still have family there, many friends and most importantly, I want to see the magic come back and a way for people to earn a living there. I have only recently moved back to Maine from Washington DC and I am suddenly seeing the struggles of my family and friends and we must bring jobs and a tax base for this town to survive.
- Nothing, the soon I can get the albatross of a house sold I will be gone to never return.
- My businesses are located west of town.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- I grew up here, have family here.
- Area, employment.
- The small town feeling to bring up our children.
- The Great North Woods.
- The peace and quiet. I grew up here back when the mills were big. As sad as the economic upheaval was, I like the town better now that it is quieter. I would like some economic development but feel smaller and diverse is the way to go. The primary focus should be on the recreational beauty we have to offer. This is a friendly, lovable place and we should capitalize on that. Nature endures, stores do not.
- Slower pace, small town feel.
- Beauty of the area.
- Baxter Park, our camp, the mountain.
- The "new" attitude of accepting change and getting "behind" it.
- The woods, the lakes, and the logging roads.
- The great people of the town and the beauty of the Katahdin area!
- My camp at Ambajejus.
- Besides Family and Friends - low cost of living — hiking — fishing — hunting — water recreation.
- The beauty of the area. We love the mountain, woods, lake — entire region.
- Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods & Waters NM, NEOC, Natural beauty and recreational opportunities in the region, Friendly, hospitable residents and businesses.
- The outdoor atmosphere and the Baxter State Park facilities to include New England Outdoor Center.
- My mother.
- Outdoor activities.
- I have lived here all my life-except the few months I spent in Bangor. Love knowing the people in my small town, that they are always willing to help those down and out.
- Quietness, Small town feeling. Wonderful people.
- The main factors that drew my wife and I to move to the area were, in order of priority: 1. Cost and Quality of the houses for sale, 2. The fact that Millinocket is a small, close community, and 3. The amazing natural beauty and all-season, outdoor recreational opportunities. Finding numerous residents who are very excited about revitalizing the area is an unexpected bonus.
- Small town, easier to get involved, be “civic-minded” Quiet, clean air, affordable housing.
- The Maine way of life.
- Outdoor recreation.
- Safety, Community, people who care about you and your family, the natural beauty and outdoors activities.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Our family has lived here for over 60 years. The citizens are a tenacious lot which is a trait that I see as greatly needed, never giving up!
- A low key unhurried lifestyle that includes hiking, fishing, kayaking, wildlife watching.
- My hometown.
- Millinocket is my home.
- Proximity to the north woods. And seriously the performing arts dept. is what made us focus on Millinocket rather than other area towns.
- Small town, woods, waters, recreation, friendliness, beautiful scenery.
- Good question.
- Nature and waterways, old fashioned flair
- The people, small town environment.
- Quality of life.
- Katahdin.
- Recreational opportunities such as hiking, swimming, boating and whitewater rafting. Very scenic area that is not as crowded and busy as the coastal areas during tourist season. Like the small town feel of Millinocket.
- Great four seasons area to live and play in.
- Camp on Ambajejus Lake.
- The summer activities which are available. Friendly people and good neighbors.
- The small town feel and its people.
- I live in Bangor now but I grew up in Millinocket. I would love to spend more time there in my RV. As far as I know, there are no RV sites there with full hookups. I we have had water and electric hookups but to stay any longer than a 3 or 4 days, we would need full hookups (with Sewer)! This is a small issue and personal for me, but I think your RV traffic could increase a lot if this was available. We love what the area has to offer for scenery, fishing, hiking, exploring.
- Fishing and hunting.
- Was born and grew up here and returned a year after finishing nursing school.
- Possibility of future changes, beautiful nature, affordable, Katahdin Woods and Water Monument, Baxter State Park, Mount Katahdin.
- Proximity to the great outdoors.
- Good education, good medical hospital, low crime, great recreation area, very positive citizens, give them the true facts on political issues & they will always make the right choices. Our public works, police department, municipal services are good but with consolidation we could be better.
- Good schools, sports, and arts program. Nice library, caring community, good hospital. More jobs especially in solar, agriculture, and assisted living.
- Surrounding natural resources.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Slower lifestyle and family members here.
- It's my home town. Love this community and the caring people here.
- Four season area. Something for everyone. Nice community.
- Library.
- I grew up here.
- The hospital, the library, the physical beauty of the area, and to be honest I have a house that would probably not sell for a great deal, which keeps me here even if I would like to move to a more tax-friendly area.
- I'm trying to sell to get out!
- Small town environment/easy access to the North Woods.
- Nature.
- Safety, beauty.
- Millinocket Lake.
- Ease of working with town administration.
- Library, churches, schools, hospital, airport, industry, jobs.
- Location, people, quality of life.
- the lakes, the recreational opportunity, Mt. Katahdin
- Hospital, library, friendly people, family, easy access to recreational opportunities and the beauty of the area.
- A nice and Quiet Country Setting, If you Keep East Millinocket Ambulance From Using The Horns Each Time They Enter Town.
- It's a very nice place to live here.
- Library.
- I wouldn't have returned if I had known how bad it was!
- Clean air — must eliminate chemicals!
- The community and scenery.
- I love living here because of the view of Katahdin.
- The mountain.
- The atmosphere and the area.
- Cheap houses.
- Most importantly, the sense of community. No matter where I lived previously, even in my small Italian hometown where everyone is your cousin, have experienced the community-feel as I have in Millinocket. I wouldn't trade it for the world. The second most Important attraction is being surrounded by the nature and beauty of the Katahdin region. I feel many people take for granted how lucky they are to live in the area that we do.
- The mountain and recreational activities, performances.
- Small retirement community with the added bonus of schools, hiking, and camping.
- I love it and believe it'll become a great community very soon.



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### Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Not a lot of people.
- My parents live here.
- It's home. Family is here.
- The views and wildlife.
- I don't wanna live here.
- What attracts me to want to live here, aside from the fact I have to live with my parents, it's a beautiful area and it beats the city any day.
- The biggest reason I would want to live in Millinocket is if I owned a camp or if I wanted to go snowmobiling.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q2: What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?

### Key words

**Single occurrence (top ten by rank — some tied):** jobs, industry, businesses, need, people, town, our, business, small, young, area, here.

**Phrase (two word — top ten):** that will, in the, young people, need to, we need, to the, the area, small businesses, to keep, jobs and.

**Phrase (three word — top ten):** to keep our, jobs to keep, to the area, young people to, the area a, businesses that will, be able to, more places to, our young people, keep our young.

**Phrase (four word — top ten):** jobs to keep our, keep our young people, to keep our younger, revitalize the wood industry, greatest economic need is, that will increase the, to the area a , people to live and, new small businesses to.

### Responses

- The Katahdin region needs industry-based development in order to sustain and maintain a workforce. Another word, many small businesses that we can all help to become successful.
- To Attract more Industry to Move to Town
- More jobs.
- Industry, jobs, seasonal businesses.
- Jobs for young people to be able to stay here and support themselves.
- Shopping businesses. Medical marijuana is legal we need to usher this in with grace. It is a billion dollar industry and it would be a shame to waste a golden opportunity like this by standing on the sidelines while other towns dive in head first. A gym, a place to be able to go and walk, work out, exercise in the winter a place for other towns to come.
- More jobs and /or business opportunities that pay a living wage.
- Industry of commercial business that will employ 100+ people.
- Incentives for small local businesses to grow — relax ordinances and codes — expand the town into Neighboring unorganized towns and allow for simple subdivisions of land and allow low grade roads and minimal infrastructure expansion — expanding property ownership will bring people and more ideas.
- Attracting multiple new small businesses to provide employment opportunities so young people don't feel they need to leave town when they turn 18.
- Jobs.
- Jobs.
- A large employer around where satellite businesses may develop.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Jobs for the community. An industry that will continue to thrive.
- A taxes for the town to survive, The mill was the largest and it's gone! I would like to see something like LL Been plant, Pellet plant, large businesses that will increase the tax base and bring jobs, lots of jobs!
- Visitors.
- Any industry welcome. More small business welcomed. With technology connecting the world this could be a booming community.
- Small business growth, more jobs to keep our younger people here & bring the ones that left back.
- Business.
- More community base programs for people in the winter.
- A blend of manufacturing and tourism to attract more more people to live and vacation here.
- Industry would bring more young people thus more money will be here. We need our streets, etc. fixed. Also need a department store eliminating the need to go to Lincoln or Bangor.
- Businesses.
- Several and more local small businesses need to grow their businesses into bigger businesses creating product demand and local jobs. Choose one to three items/products that sell well locally and are ,if possible, available only in Millinocket from the business offering the particular/unique product or products, and start offering and making those items/products available for purchase statewide and Northeast region wide.
- We need jobs, not just minimum wage jobs but jobs you can support a family on.
- I guess more businesses that create or produce things that can be sold anywhere. I also think you have to keep the education system up to date to attract people to move to the area.
- We need another industry to help employ people locally. If Lincoln can do it we can too!
- The educational system should be appropriately funded.
- Industry and business.
- More industry. Get a big company in here.
- Jobs. Millinocket need to give people more job opportunities. Many stores do not hire under 18. I would love to see more mom and pop stores.
- I think that focusing on recreation and tourism is a smart idea — having more businesses that are open year round. I don't think it's a lost cause to think that some kind of industry could also help our town as well.
- Jobs.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Clean up main st. It's an eyesore! Pave the streets and lower the property tax rate. Our fire department is a disgrace, we need more firefighters and trucks! Our police department is also a wreck! We have no on call EMTs or police! But we have a school system that's another disgrace! Sad to say!
- Jobs to keep our young people here.
- Business, a huge need of jobs. Since we lost the mill we don't have that huge job supplier.
- Jobs and art supplies for school.
- Well paying jobs.
- A much larger base of locally earned income that will increase the consumer's ability to spend more here locally.
- Jobs.
- More small businesses.
- Junk yards.
- Wages and benefits.
- Jobs and tax base. Without jobs, we will be unable to attract young families here.
- Promotion of its airport.
- Millinocket's greatest economic need is capital for small businesses. Many current and former residents would be interested in starting businesses in the area if greater access to capital existed. The future for Millinocket isn't a single large employer but many small successful employers with a vested interest in the success of the community. Consider partnering with Our Katahdin on grant applications to start a small business startup capital fund.
- We need to create stable jobs that pay above minimum wage.
- This is a no-brainer...anything that will provide employment to our town and be attractive to our local college graduated and others to be worthwhile to live here. It's obvious there is a green-movement underway, which doesn't bother me, because I don't want our beautiful natural surroundings to be ruined, but we also need something larger than restaurants and tourism to make this town flourish. I wholeheartedly believe that a private college on the old mill sight will be what saves this town and will make use of its full potential. A town with young students, professional college staff, visiting parents and locals would provide the perfect combination of tourism and business, which equals a beautiful thriving downtown and surrounding area.
- You need a biz headhunter to go out and pitch industry elsewhere to relocate to mill. ONLY Pay them on a percentage of what they bring in. Lower the taxes by combining schools, fire/ ambulance with East Millinocket and Medway. Fire should be volunteer manned only. High taxes are killing your residents and stifling biz attraction and growth.
- An open mind.
- Jobs.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- New business I understand the have been approach but decline a possible work force of up 20,000, lower taxes, free schooling, increase tax base.
- Jobs.
- Jobs. Money.
- More clothing stores and a variety of shopping places
- Not sure.
- Infrastructure, there is none.
- Creating a new path for job development in our area. Industry would be nice but I truly believe that our future will be more like a crazy quilt rather than one industrial blanket as in our past. But as long as it does the job of covering us a quilt will do just fine.
- Mill redevelopment, leadership, and consistent engagement.
- Businesses...that bring in jobs, yet don't destroy our beautiful recreational environment.
- Either several medium sized employers or one large employer that can attract younger families to the area.
- Tourism.
- Need internet connectivity, attract creative class, support young people to learn trades promote small business and incubator opportunities to create and grow business. Support existing businesses.
- Establishment of small businesses.
- Year-round viable employment for younger residents. Can be telecommuting or IT based. Does not need to be manufacturing
- An equal, strong, diversified fields of Recreation, Industry, Commercial, Residential and Education opportunities.
- New business.
- Jobs.
- Jobs! Need to attract new businesses.
- Jobs which pay livable wages and keep young people in the area. Will also attract people of all ages to the area.
- Good paying jobs and more places to shop for clothes more places to stay and more places to eat
- Beautification of downtown. Make it look like people want to come down town. Paint the Town tear down old buildings on Main Street.
- Infrastructure improvement at the airport and Millinocket needs something for people to do when they aren't hiking the mountain, boating, biking, snowmobiling. The region needs family entertainment for those who are not the young, or rugged outdoors type that the area primarily attracts.
- Industry.
- Jobs to keep our young people happy.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Jobs.
- Enough money for infrastructure.
- High Speed Internet - will bring higher paid cyber commuters to the area.
- Industry with good wages.
- Childcare. We have 1 licensed provider in Millinocket currently. That's sad. If we want to attract young people to live and work in this area, they need real options for childcare. We also need options for after school care for kids — like a Community Kids program.
- A hardware store now that Levasseur's is closing.
- Small business growth, improved public services (Rec. Center, Library).
- Higher paying jobs, with good benefits.
- Income to pay taxes.
- Art supplies. (School)
- Cheaper tax rate to encourage home sales.
- A mix of different kinds of businesses and industry to augment our recreational businesses.
- To get over the mill closing and try something new.
- More job opportunities and source of money.
- Entertainment. We use to have bowling, mini golf, movies, and more but there is nothing here now to do.
- Money to keep the town alive. This can be in the form of grants to the town or enough people visiting to keep local businesses afloat.
- Yes.
- Getting jobs to everyone in need.
- Diversification of the types of jobs available. Supporting existing and new small businesses to add stable, long-lasting jobs, rather than a big boom and bust industry. Improving the education system and the quality of public school education available in the region.
- A vision for the area.
- Industry.
- Jobs to keep our younger citizens here and to draw others to Millinocket. Doctors, retail shopping, eateries, hardware/lumber. The most Important thing is to get the school consolidated and cut the tax mil rate which is exorbitant for a town this size and the services that are offered.
- jobs!!!
- Experienced leadership to make effective use of both the people who are energized to grow the town and the funding that is being offered by Our Katahdin and others for revitalization. We need someone with the vision and ability to organize efficient use of these two assets. I believe that will draw others into investing in businesses that will create job opportunities.
- Revitalize the wood industry.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- A big box store (walmart, target) or a mall.
- A replacement to the long standing paper industry. As you know, paradigm shifts with technology has created a demise of the paper mills and hence, paper products. This can be solved head on with proactive planning, stepping out of the box mindsets, and looking deep into what the future demands and needs are, globally. This is where the concept " Hydroponic Greenhouse" farming year round comes into play. A great example of this is Backyard Farms facility in Madison, Me. There are plenty of resources to include University of Maine agricultural division, Economic counsels across the state, SBA, a whole wealth of resources to educate, accommodate, and communicate with corporations in CONUS and Countries abroad that do this on grand scales. Greenhouses in upwards of 50 to 100 acre complex are producing and shipping worldwide year round Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers etc. with self sustained facilities. Millinocket, Milo and perfect locations for this type of job creating industry.
- A stronger tax base is needed. Downtown development can fill some empty spots without negatively affecting the flavor of the community. I'd like to see the railroad spur to the mill site used as more than excess railcar storage. What about a parking area and a platform for passengers so the railroad ( CM&Q ) can do some park and ride rail tours, fall foliage runs, dinner train?
- Jobs.
- Industry, jobs in the \$15.00 and hour range.
- To have a retail store and also manufacturing.
- Jobs for its residents.
- Year round businesses that will provide jobs and tax revenue to lighten the tax burden on our town's residents.
- We need more things for kids to do. They get bored and do bad things. If they had more things to do, they would not be getting in trouble.
- Industry - it is set on the edge of the largest contiguous forest in the continental USA...we should be able to have wood product manufacturing there.
- Jobs.
- Employment that will bring young families into the community.
- I feel Millinocket's greatest economic need is more jobs, lots of people travel out of town for work.
- We have no good industry.
- Do not let meth clinics open.
- Jobs and people willing to work
- Anything that brings jobs.
- To do away with the town manager and council. Go back to the selectman town form of government.

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### **Open Response Questions (Continued)**

- Another source of town income.
- Jobs and actually having something to do.



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q3: When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?

### Key words

**Single occurrence (top ten by rank — some tied):** less, like, town, see, people, jobs, stores, business, downtown, businesses, buildings, need, area, our, small.

**Phrase (two word — top ten):** to see, like to, would like, of the, I would, see more, to do, more jobs, the town, and more, we need.

**Phrase (three word — top ten):** like to see, would like to, to see more, to see less, less of the, i'd like to, things to do, more things to, more jobs less, the downtown area.

**Phrase (four word — top ten):** would like to see, I would like to, like to see more, like to see less, i'd like to see, more things to do, on main st. and, marathon and trails end, the marathon and trails, events like the marathon.

### Responses

- Affordable high-speed internet provider(s).
- Less of the drugs used/sold in this town. Move the drudges back to Massachusetts out of Maine.
- More openness and acceptance of people from away, tolerance for differences, inclusiveness. More investment in schools, library.
- More attractions, seasonally based activities, less welfare.
- More gift stores, antique stores, art galleries, more fast food choices, coffee shops, large retailers or outlet stores, skatepark, outdoor cafes, veterinary clinic. Less empty, rundown buildings downtown. Should be a building code standard.
- I wish there was something to do. I love the outdoors but you need more. Pool spa arcades gym indoor soccer indoor tennis ice hockey racquet ball basketball. I could go on forever there are so many things that could be done.
- More small local businesses related to outdoor recreation.
- Commercial business, clothing store, etc.
- Less hand-outs; more business focused on natural resources;
- More focus on the younger generation of the region, keeping people in the area and bribing them back. MUCH less focus on only temporary tourists, remember that though Important, they are also temporary; therefore not purchasing houses, paying taxes, or contributing at the same level as residents/potential residents.
- Jobs and less kids causing trouble.
- Less police pressure — less arrests, use warnings instead!
- More regular community events to promote and notice.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More recreational options. More businesses to focus on our natural resources.
- We need more businesses to increase the tax base. We need roads fixed, sidewalks, Millinocket is looking pretty run down, We need a booming downtown with shops and store where people can spend time other than the few places to eat. In the winter months, we need places for breakfast, right now we have McDonalds and Ruthie's.
- One High School for the two towns.
- More ways to attract business, resident and visitors to the area
- More pro business, less negative from our town manager & local council& school board
- Would like to see better job opportunity.
- Need for sporting camps.
- It is very important. We have many natural resources to choose from.
- I would like to see more ATV trails.
- More small businesses, larger police and fire department. Consolidation of the tri-town area in every way possible.
- More jobs.
- Eliminate the drug and vandalism problem. Town reputation is Important in attracting business and people who want to live and work in Millinocket
- More emphases in the outdoor recreation that the area has to offer.
- More events that bring people back home. The marathon is a great event but maybe something for leaf peeping or the 4th of July. Also, more high quality places to stay when visiting. The town needs a decent hardware store now that Levasseur's closed. I end up going to East or Lincoln to get things for my camp.
- Less of the naysayers speaking out and making the town seem less then desirable.
- I would like to see more positivity about our young people. Millinocket needs to reduce its wasteful spending. Tens of thousands of dollars spent on online ventures is wasted resources!
- Would love to see more young people, but to have that there needs to be more jobs, so that is why business and industry is essential.
- More business downtown. Make every building occupied by different companies besides restaurants.
- I would like to see more beautification. I would like to see empty buildings occupied.
- More positive thinking.
- The dilapidated houses and on main st. and around town!
- More jobs/ tourists.
- More jobs.
- Job opportunities, school consolidation with East Millinocket/Medway.
- More cooperative engagement/less divisive strife.
- Support the library.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More tax dollars to help finance the Library.
- Important.
- Business, quality employment opportunities.
- More promotion, more maintenance of uninhabited homes.
- More hotel rooms
- I would like to see more of a focus on cleaning up the downtown area. There are a number of properties owned by people who honestly are against selling their property for the market rate, leaving eye sores in downtown. This is almost always the image used in newspapers of the town...empty downtown Penobscot Avenue.
- Jobs.
- Less run down houses, more viable, aesthetically pleasing shops, bakeries, restaurants, etc. More large businesses, ESPECIALLY a college or something that draw people, but not ruin the natural surroundings.
- Less union mentality. And more "can do" attitude. The unions killed the mills and left the town with a pile of [—] to clean up.
- Less welfare individuals, more positive attitudes.
- Jobs.
- Jobs/ town council doing nothing but turning a horn on
- More jobs. Less welfare.
- More jobs, money.
- Preservation of nature, valuing Wilderness
- Less drug addicts. More ice cream parlors, points of interest, natural attractions, things for children to do, clothing stores.
- More businesses.
- I'd like to see less of the abandoned buildings on main street that are on the verge of collapse.
- More stores and businesses succeeding.
- Drugs.
- Millinocket has always had a strong musical base with many area musicians. A summer concert series using local talent, a new show once a week that tourist could enjoy while visiting our area.
- Regional collaboration. Less all for one thinking.
- Opening the small businesses downtown.
- More walking/biking/snowmobile trails that are easy to find! I think that there are many great trails, but they are often hidden away without good signage from the Maine roads.
- More seasonal business. Dress up downtown and the save a lot/ tractor supply buildings, looks like they are from 1980.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Need business on Penobscot. Do not have social service agencies on the 4 blocks of "Main Street". Coffee shop, food co-op.
- Getting rid of the blighted buildings.
- LESS dilapidated buildings. More focused tourism — not just “come visit”, but come visit for x days and here is a packaged schedule of activities, or here is a comprehensive menu of activities and contacts. The chamber only does this for members and that is a small subset of businesses and opportunities.
- Benches for folks who need to get out and walk for health reasons.
- A balanced approach to critical thinking and problem solving. More constructive conversations and less negativity and personalities over principles!
- I would like to see less empty and half torn down buildings. Downtown looks like a ghost town.
- More jobs, less politics.
- More beautification and less dilapidated houses/buildings.
- Less chain stores and more encouragement of development of small local businesses with emphasis on the downtown area and mill purchased by Our Katahdin.
- Like to see something done before you come into millinocket land by Lee's pit.
- More small business. Less bars.
- Less pigheadedness on the town council. Listen to the people. There is more than one right answer and several million ways to skin a cat. Embrace your public and they will make your jobs effortless.
- Less of the empty store fronts and dilapidated buildings
- Less empty buildings.
- A symbiotic relationship between store business and consumer.
- More business. Less fires. More thing for youth to do.
- More information about things happening; more informal public meetings. Less Town Council time spent patting everyone on the back, issuing congratulatory certificates, etc.
- More people moving here to fill our schools to pay taxes.
- More thinking outside the box.
- We need more creativity — unique businesses. All of the restaurants in town serve the same kind of basic food — wouldn't it be nice to see something unique like Harvest Moon or Verve (examples from Bangor area)? We need less thrift stores.
- Fire and police protection is lacking.
- Much better education system.
- Tech jobs.
- More tourism, a cross-country ski race to bring winter tourists.
- More stores like Renee's and area promotion. Less complaining
- More "positive, can do" attitude, less naysayers.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More outside the box thinking and less of our xenophobic nature.
- Population is very low but would like to see more jobs.
- More stores like a bakery or small business so there is something here. More stores and more people will spend in town.
- We have enough stores. I think we need more family inspired activities, and more for the teens and kids to do when they are not in school.
- More cleaning up of downtown. Fixing the storefronts makes the town look less deserted. Better / faster internet service to match the rest of the developed world.
- More events. Less small shops.
- More shops and more summer and maybe even winter activities. Often times there's not much to do here.
- I'd like to see more awareness of community events.
- I would like to see more small businesses on Penobscot Ave. that create a social opportunity after 5pm, like a coffee shop, a brewery, a new restaurant. I would like to see less boarded up, decrepit buildings in the downtown area. It would be great to create an ordinance for facades that allows the town to take action to have owners clean up their abandoned buildings.
- Less 'same old guard' and politics. More futures planning.
- More job availability and less empty storefronts.
- More year round jobs, more for the tax paying residents to do, and especially the ages of 50+. I would like to pay less for property taxes, and less for wastewater. The services keep getting cut, but there is no cut in the mil rate or sewer rates.
- Cooperation between the local towns, less small minded council members fewer trips to china by the super. of schools , the effort is a failed one!
- The Pub Crawl during the Trail's End Festival provided a good reason for people to get out to downtown, and enjoy the live music and camaraderie that the town has to offer. Everyone I spoke to had met new people, enjoyed engaging conversation about the area, and expressed a desire to have more nights like that night. I have seen town street festivals that are scheduled once a month, with live music, draw a community together and help revitalize a town I lived in. We should have a downtown gathering once a month that is scheduled. Once people from outside of Millinocket know that it will happen on a given day each month they will start to plan for the night out.
- More weekend seasonal events, like the marathon and trails end.
- More people, less houses for sale.
- More things to do. Less of nothing.
- More of state of the art product bearing businesses. LED lighting for streets. Basically Green Technology minded environment. Less "go with what you know" infrastructure i.e restaurants, bar and grill establishments, retail stores.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Less big name stores, more small operations with variety. More community events like craft fairs, auto shows, concerts? We have this huge parking lot at the old mill site, what about a summer concert series like Bangor Waterfront? Jimmy Buffet was in Baxter not long ago fishing with his son, and our park rangers rescued him when his truck broke down. He loves us. I bet he would come.
- More access to college courses — perhaps add a satellite campus.
- More shopping opportunities. Less arguing among, and between our town leaders and our neighboring town leaders.
- More positive reinforcement. Less negativity.
- More community involvement.
- Need a department store.
- A greater focus on equitably representing the diverse offerings of outdoor recreation and where the focus of the recreation takes place. Example = 3.5 million acres of North Maine Wood, Inc. Compared to 86,000 KWWNM.
- More events, more things to do in our community, other than walk down the street with nothing to do.
- More stores.
- I'd like to see more wood product manufacturing, more younger people with good jobs
- Less closed mindedness and more renovations.
- Opportunities for young people/families. Maintaining a good school system with more opportunities for advance placement courses for the students.Recreation/tourism.
- I would like to see less demolition so many buildings are vacant and torn down. It makes a weird empty feeling. I would like to see more.
- More businesses and tourism.
- More employment opportunity.
- Jobs.
- I'd like to see less ugly abandoned buildings on Main St and more stores for things that we have to go to Bangor to get.
- Less shops and stores not getting business and more things to do.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q4: What part of recreation/ tourism plays in our plan for economic development?

### Key words

**Single occurrence (top ten by rank — some tied):** tourism, need, recreation, part, town, people, should, area, millinocket, our, important, businesses, fishing, here, huge, hiking.

**Phrase (two word — top ten):** we need, should be, to the, be a , of the, the area, is a, we have, the town, it is.

**Phrase (three word — top ten):** should be a, recreation and tourism, we need more, it should be, to the area, we need to, plays a huge, a huge part, it is a, a big part.

**Phrase (four word — top ten):** plays a huge role, tourism plays a huge, to the area to, should be a major, it should be a, of the area and, part it should be.

### Responses

- Realistically, only half, many weather factors play into a recreation/ tourism based industry that cannot be predicted. Also, when the country falls into lean times recreation is the first budget cut made by families. The other half should be a product based economy. Let's use what we already have, for instance, water. We could use water to farm trout and other species of freshwater fish. Mushrooms grow in abundance here, let's grow mushrooms. What about building a waste management plant which collects food and garden waste to compost, mixed dry recycle (blue service) to recycle, and non-recycle (black service) to discard properly. Not many communities want trash transported to their community but it is a growing and profitable industry.
- NONE.
- Wayfinding for visitors, bike shops, maps, consistent messaging, stronger branding, constant collaboration and partnerships among businesses and organizations.
- Millinocket is a gateway to many businesses outside of the town line.
- Visitors need something to do when they aren't recreating, like shopping and eating out, playgrounds and a skate park.
- Honestly the outdoorsman will come regardless. If you want others to come they need entertainment such as the things listed above. The only major issue with opening these new businesses would be the majority of people living here are on a fixed income. We would need to bring in outside help such as having a sports tournament. There are indoor soccer arenas all around mid to southern Maine. Having a tournament will bring the smaller towns to this facility to play against each other bringing the people to help restore our businesses local economy.



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- It seems as though recreation/ tourism represents a significantly untapped economic development opportunity for Millinocket. With the mills gone and unlikely to return (at least not at anything like the economic powerhouses they once were), having Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters in its back yard means that Millinocket could pivot from a manufacturing economy to an economy aimed more at tourism/ eco-tourism/ adventure tourism.
- Very important.
- Town government should promote and allow for economic growth by private sector
- Tourism only temporarily brings people to the region, though needed, it is not the most important.
- A large part!
- Should be a very large part. We need tourism to survive. Snowmobiles, hikers, rafters, etc.
- I think huge, once the Great Northern Woods starts, we need sporting rentals, yes we have some, frankly, I don't know if they are busy, I do not know the need, haven't researched it much.
- Snowmobile and ATV.
- Plays a huge part. When tourist see what the area has to offer and have a great time, they will inform their family and friends and hopefully more will return.
- More small business, tourism is a must for Millinocket, we have plenty of recreation opportunity, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, we need to market all of our four seasons, don't forget boating, golfing.
- Keeping our town clean and safe.
- Very large part.
- A community garden. Better sidewalks. Skating rink where the Bowling Alley was and could be used for other activity too.
- It should be priority #1. Millinocket can be a the hub for tourism.
- The events we have brings in more people which helps the businesses grow. We need more events to draw more people.
- Katahdin.
- Study other towns and cities that make recreation and tourism a big part of their economy and determine how Millinocket can imitate or innovate its own ideas to use recreation/ tourism as a means of creating jobs and acquiring monies to add to the town treasury for Millinocket's budget and town services needs. Recreation/ tourism manufacturing industries might be a possibility.
- A huge part, it should be the primary focus.
- Tourism needs to be embraced more by the community. More festivals to draw people here.
- I think you have to maximize tourism as much as possible and give the thousands of cars that pass through every summer a reason to stop and shop.



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- The snow the trails winter activities--the beautiful hiking trails the welcome of ATVs-
- Bring businesses to town that will contribute to the tax fund and support our schools.
- I do think this is a big factor in the future of the area and the community. Finding some sort of industry associated with recreation and tourism would be great, or else finding a way to bring tech jobs there could help.
- Baxter State Park.
- Tourism is all the town has after the mill shut down. I believe it's biggest role right now.
- The trash. There is a lot of this especially by the water.
- I think a winter recreation plan needs to be focused on as that is the slow time. Really focusing on the snowmobiles, cross country skiers, snowshoers, etc.
- Very important.
- If we're going to depend on recreation we need for our town to clean up and look like a town you'd want to live it! All the abandoned houses are horrible to see as you drive into town!
- Mt. Katahdin/Baxter, Snow sledding, leaves, town marathon.
- Hikers and snowmobilers.
- Huge part.
- Tourism; Very Important: it has earned income delivered to the area to be spent.
- Very important.
- Large part - Most important "over".
- Main Street.
- The Katahdin region has been a sportsman/ woman's destination for over a century and a half, it is an important asset to the region in attraction businesses with good wages and benefits.
- We need the traffic, so we need to advertise.
- Any seasonal outdoor activity.
- Recreation and tourism are important to the success of the area but not a means to address all of the regions challenges. The area needs to focus on bringing tourists with deeper pockets to the area. Has anyone considered seasonal Cape Air service from Boston Logan to Millinocket? Similar to what Bar Harbor has in place. The airport is an asset but our location discourages some visitors due to how much time it takes to get here from where they live.
- Recreation and tourism is all this town has to offer honestly. We need an indoor water park so people will come year round.
- I'm not sure, possibly 50 percent.
- 100% it's all you have.
- Outside 4 season activity.
- Millinocket has no clue how to generate development.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Snowmobilers. Hikers.
- Snowmobilers and hikers.
- Need tourists to have more economic development.
- Feels like the town is 100% reliant on tourism.
- Recreation is needed for our area children and adults. These programs should be created with our demographics kept in mind. I teach a karate program (36 years) and have children and adults participating, but my oldest adults are in the late 40's not many elders here but they could benefit from a more age friendly program.
- It is part of the marketing of the area and could be a greater resource for recreational based developments or industries.
- It should be a major issue.
- I think it is critical to promote Millinocket as a premier outdoor recreation area. This will be seen as a benefit to any employees and employers moving to Millinocket.
- It is a vital linchpin to tourism and bringing young families to life in town.
- Hiking/biking/outdoor activities.
- It's huge. That what gets people here in the first place. Then they just need a reason/way to stay.
- That area is important and often the easiest to achieve. But understanding that "picking low hanging fruit" will invite cultural change in most cases often divisiveness between heritage and forward thinking for the future.
- Quite a bit. We need more attractions.
- ATV, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing.
- Millinocket has it all. It's a hidden gem. Let the secret out! Need to advertise year round, each season. Hiking, fishing, boating, rafting, four wheeling — spring/summer. Leaf peeping, hunting — fall. Snowmobiling, cross country skiing, ice fishing, snow showing winter.
- Major part, but should not exclusively be relied on.
- National Park and Baxter park mill site land available to build on
- The outdoor environment, Baxter State Park, Mt. Katahdin.
- Greater than 85%.
- Walking/hiking trails
- There should be a balance.
- More people, more money.
- We have this beautiful land — we need to take advantage of it.
- Could be a large part if there was a good plan.
- Hunting, Snowmobilers, Fishing, Camping.
- Less than 25%-50%.
- I think that it is a part of our future for sure, but it cannot be the only answer.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- A big part.
- Huge - All recreation brings demand for businesses.
- We need more places for the younger crowds to visit, besides all the bars with currently have. I think the drive-in movie last year was a great idea of what we need more of. What is stopping the town from doing something like this a bit more often?
- With no mills all of our economy depends on tourism.
- Most focus on whole community.
- Currently it's the engine that is encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit. Encouraging new businesses on "main street" and expansion of others.
- It's a huge part. Tourists/ recreation people come for the beauty here which means they spend here.
- Family oriented fun.
- Tourism is good because it brings new money into town and new ideas.
- All I know of is hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor sports.
- A large part. It's what's going to draw the tourists in. There isn't enough money from the townspeople to keep afloat.
- A lot as I said, not much to do to here and when we have stuff to do it can be so great, we need more!
- Tourism and recreation is a fantastic way to draw people to the area. Now we have to remove barriers for small businesses to create the amenities that make people want to stay in town and not just get on the highway. People need a great place to grab dinner, or enjoy a beer on a patio, and have a really nice sleep after playing all day in Baxter, the Debsconeags, or the Monument. Currently, there is little to keep people from heading to 95 south to Bangor for dinner.
- Hospitality, extreme sports, photography, hiking, biking, canoeing, rafting, kayaking, AT.
- Hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, camping.
- It seems that the town is putting all their resources into rec/ tourism based economic development and doing nothing to find other types of long term economic development that is more job based.
- It should be a major part of the plan people come to the area to partake in the wide range of outdoor activities. The town should stress the cultural benefits, like the two art galleries the revitalized library, the Michaud walking trail.
- There is already amazing recreation opportunity that should be maintained. Tourism is important, but needs to be more diverse than just the hiking and rafting group.
- Big part.
- Mt Katahdin.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Spending more time at the NEOC. Assistance in promotion/development/augmentation of State of the Art, food growing Hydroponic greenhouse technology. 1. <http://www.bushelboy.com/> 2. <https://bangordailynews.com/2017/06/09/business/canadian-greenhouse-giant-buys-maine-tomato-grower-backyard-farms/> 3. <http://www.mainebiz.biz/article/20170306/CURRENTEDITION/303019994/%27ripeness-is-all-%27-as-backyard-farms-marks-10th-anniversary>.
- I think this should be the crown jewel. As I said in suggestions above, nature endures. We have some of the best scenic views around. Fall bus tours for the foliage, fishing derby in Baxter, rail bikes on the unused East Millinocket rail line, I have ideas!
- A major role.
- An equal part along with industry and retail.
- All recreation and tourism.
- It plays a big part in a way of attracting visitors. However, there are only a finite amount of natural resource based careers that can sustain a person's budget. Presently it's difficult for many to earn a living wage.
- Recreation/Tourism is what makes this town money to survive, but we need to make it so that more people wanna come here.
- It plays a part, but it will not bring economic strength to the people living there with such low paying wages.
- Substantial focus on camping, fishing, hiking, ATV and snowmobiling, and hunting. Skiing, geocaching, etc.
- Recreation/tourism plays a huge role in development of this area.
- Tourism plays a huge role for our economic development because summer time is always busy from hikers, campers, and others. Just like the winter brings people to snowmobile and ice fish.
- If we go only tourism then we need something that attracts people.
- Right now that is all we have to offer.
- All types. Leaving anything out is missing out on something.
- Important.
- We should actually use our mountain as something and try to improve it and grow it bigger.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q5: Suggest three beautification improvements to the Town of Millinocket.

### Key words

**Single occurrence (top ten by rank — some tied):** street, buildings, downtown, town, down, main, park, penobscot, ave, central, old, clean, area, our, need, hill, flowers.

**Phrase (two word — top ten):** main street, to be, penobscot ave, clean up, on the, of the, need to, central street, to the, buildings on.

**Phrase (three word — top ten):** need to be, on main street, the corner of, needs to be, on penobscot ave, buildings on main, and central street, clean up the, corner of penobscot, tear down the.

**Phrase (four word — top ten):** buildings on main street, the corner of, need to be fixed, strip of land between, the strip of land, the old mill site, at the high school, buildings that are eyesores, businesses on penobscot ave, nice to see some.

### Responses

- Fix the streets And sidewalks.
- 1) Downtown revitalization — incentives for investment downtown. 2) stronger downtown planning strategy. Restaurants and coffee shops instead of elder care facilities. 3) more street art.
- Outer Bates St needs something more.
- When I was young, we had beautiful tree belts along our sidewalks. I would love to see the woods on the corner of central st. and forest avenue cleared out to take advantage of the mountain view as you come in to downtown. The central street bridge could have flower boxes on the guard rails.
- Rebuild bowling 🎳 alley. Community gardening facility. Frisbee golf is a big hit around the country also and would bring many people to play and pay.
- I have seen plans for a pedestrian plaza / park on the corner of Penobscot Ave. and Central St. that looks terrific. Anything that would spruce up the old commercial district along Penobscot Ave. so that it looks less like a ghost town would be great. It could also be nice to have some kind of a park / riverwalk along Millinocket Stream, at least from Stearns High School to Granite Street.
- Penobscot Ave upgrade of old store fronts.
- No comment.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Demolition of run down buildings (Example old coffee shop on main st.), follow-up in town ordinance of “junkyards” / outside hoarding, do not allow residents to freely use town property as storage (Example town lot across from 1 prospect st.) these make the entire town look much messier when code already prohibits the actions, though the town does not stop the individuals.
- Plant trees as Oak or elm along street.
- Develop town with our streets that have a view of the mountain.
- Main Street redevelopment, road upkeep, removing dilapidated properties.
- I would like to see hanging baskets of beautiful flowers everywhere, Flowers are HAPPY, KEPT feeling, the downtown needs to be painted and storefronts that are vacant need to look like something happening rather than a run-down mess! I know baby steps!
- Clean the stream. Still old tires and junk in it from the Pines and coves to the mill site. Get rid of old buildings not used on main street. Eye sore. Maintain the beautification that the many volunteers have done already.
- Refurbish inside & outside of our town office building. More signage to our recreation areas, golf course, school house, downtown area.
- Continue to remove old buildings
- Continue the restoration of downtown
- 1. Improve Peddlers Hill 2. Improve the main street by taking down the buildings that aren't being used and look terrible. Painting, etc., those that are occupied. 3. Either get rid of the junk yards or get them enclosed.
- More to be done downtown: Gazebo.
- 1. Business area buildings that are eyesores need to be corrected so as to be physically appealing on the outside and the inside as well if it to be useful. 2, if the corner of Penobscot Avenue and Central Street is to become a green space erecting a town clock and a large digital temperature display would add some character. 3. keep the park attractive in winter time by plowing the walkways and keeping the benches free from snow and ice so people can cross the park as well as relax on a bench on a comfortably warm winter day or even a freezing day if that is the choice.
- Updating the buildings, incentive for people to want to fix up their properties,
- 1. Flowers along central street. 2. Garbage cans painted fun bright colors. 3. Peddlers hill could use a face lift...paint the rocks, plant some flowers.
- Any buildings on Rt. 11 or the road to the mountain that can be fixed up, or torn down to help make that good first impression. Maybe peddlers hill could be spruced up a bit? Downtown also needs some TLC but it is nice to see some stores recently reopened.
- Make Main Street more inviting--buy that darn Rush buildings and tear them down--maybe a nice spot for a small green area for people with dogs. More flowers planted--And when we were kids we use to go out with the whole class--pick a spot and do a litter clean up.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Purchase the rest of the seats for the Stearns auditorium. Improve the playgrounds. Put more efforts into bringing jobs here and less in superficial beautification efforts.
- Downtown update with new buildings on the vacant lots, benches and picnic tables at the parks, clean up of the old Mill site (sadly).
- Better downtown. That's all.
- Central Ave store fronts (the empty ones). KM motor windows — could the high school kids do an art project each season with the empty window / space? Sidewalks need to be redone — makes it very difficult to get out and walk around our town when they are in disrepair and unsafe.
- All the boarded up buildings on Main Street need to be fixed or torn down! Our streets are so full of potholes and cracked, they need to be fixed. And our school system needs to be revamped and cut!
- 1. Clean up or tear down the few unsightly buildings on main street. 2. Road maintenance. 3. Keep the grass cut on vacant homes (for sale).
- Buy the Rush Family's downtown property and clean up (tear down) that mess it is an eyesore to the downtown area.
- Homes on Central Street need a perk.
- Make people mow their lawns.
- Continued demolition of abandoned buildings. Road and street maintenance.
- 1. Consider passing zoning regulations that require facade improvements in the Penobscot Avenue / Central Street corridor. 2. Replace sidewalks on Penobscot Ave. This was last done in the early 90's I believe. 3. Focus on problem properties and owners in downtown. Cleaning up this area will pay dividends for the town and local businesses.
- Fix the roads. Fix up main street buildings. Need a better welcome to millinocket sign
- Remodel storefronts, repave/revitalize Veteran's park, the parking lot and gazebo area, and improve signage.
- 1. Flatten the rest of mill. 2. Snowmobile trail down Penobscot ave right up central st. 3. Flatten all abandoned buildings.
- Clean up some of the yards around town, have residents take more pride in their property.
- Fix the sidewalks on main street. They're not level.
- All the parks.
- None, we need jobs.
- Repair buildings.
- 1. Revamp Penobscot Avenue to have a more old New England flair 2. Fill empty buildings with new multi-faceted businesses 3. More natural, outdoorsy points of interest
- Shade trees planted on peddlers hill. Tearing down the abandoned buildings on main street. Planting flowers around peddlers hill.



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- New septic infrastructure, every children's park to be beautified. Families won't move to an area if the children's parks are gross. The new-"old" development needs to be renamed. The local park needs to be 100% updated to include handicap access for both children and adults. I love Jerry pond but parents can't send their kids down there alone.
- No empty store fronts; even if not rented the store fronts should have some display or maybe high school art work being displayed. Next, stop using telephone poles to advertise we have public bill boards for this reason. Lastly have real estate agents keep up the yard work on property for sale, if a town looks defeated it is to all that pass through.
- Urban renewal in the older parts of town that will enhance abutting properties with larger lot sizes, especially along the main traveled corridors. Downtown facades, road maintenance-paving.
- Tear down collapsing buildings; decorate empty store fronts with dreams of the future Millinocket and/or our local recreational activities; get our skating rink open and painted with local businesses advertising on the outside walls.
- Better signage/easy to locate maps that show all of the trails around Millinocket (the multi use trail, the bait hole, Jerry Pond, etc.) All on one map of the town available all over town so that residents and visitors can find them. Paint the bridge leading into downtown with a nice fresh and colorful look. Put up map signs around the downtown so that people who are walking can locate shops and the walking trail.
- Update downtown. Update the save a lot, tractor supply, dollar tree building. Do some landscaping on central st. and downtown.
- Abandoned houses clean up, rules about yards being junk yard, continue to indent appropriate businesses on Penobscot Ave.
- Planting trees on peddlers hill. Getting professional landscape design for the bandstand park area. The blacktop surrounding the bandstand is stark. The trees and bushes in the park are without arrangement or meaning. Promote the planting of blooming trees in our tree belts throughout the town.
- Penobscot Ave needs to be a show case, not a series of run down properties. Great progress has been made but then you get to the two gray "shacks".
- Well paved roads and walking areas. Clean-up junk yards and abandoned eye sore properties. Clean-up and maintenance of wooded areas around Millinocket Stream, highlighting it.
- Downtown.
- Road improvements and old building torn down
- Clean up Central Ave and Penobscot - draw passers-by into town.
- Get rid off coffee shop and buildings next to it on main street do something with peddlers hill some kind business



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Paint Main Street. Fix Pot holes. Make Millinocket Great again. Market old houses to out of Staters. Have a realtor that's title is selling Millinocket.
- From the top of the hill on the Craig stretch to Moscone's on Bates Street. Plant trees, shrubs, flowers, repair the asphalt, enforce building codes.
- Because of days the dump is closed, the roadside need to be cleaned.
- Repaving roads.
- Open lots — do something. Take care of play areas. Something for our teens to do.
- Take down the Rush Building! Paint the Ferland Building. Some sort of gateway/arch welcome sculpture on Peddler's Hill.
- Fixing up Penobscot Ave so more people will shop and congregate.
- 1. Remove the tower that is so prominent when you drive down the Central St. Hill. 2. Remove abandoned buildings on Penobscot Ave. 3. Finish cleaning up the bowling alley site.
- We need cheap source of energy — we do have water — is there a way to commandeer that source? We need to address the prior obligations the community agreed to that we cannot afford any more — pension plans — etc.
- Downtown - remove or improve some buildings. Residential - remove uninhabited homes and apartments.
- Trees/planters downtown, improved parks, tear down or fix up buildings that are eyesores.
- Destroying that green apartment building across from the park that looks abandoned would be a good start. Honestly, I believe we have plenty of parks, but it would be nice to see some kind of dog park somewhere in the town.
- A park with a gazebo on the corner of Forest Ave, Central St, with picnic tables. Lights in trees around Veterans Park and Peddlers Hill. Mini mall in K&M building.
- Tear down and replace deteriorated buildings on Main Street.
- The project to put a park at the corner of Penobscot and Congress will both beautify and focus attention on the "main street". Consistency in the "flavor" of "main street" in signage, flower arrangements, etc.
- Pave all the streets again. No one like crappy roads. Re-paint and renovate Main Street, New welcome sign.
- 1. Playgrounds 2. Better light posts.
- Clean up old buildings, have things to do, more public events.
- We need to repaint, pick up trash, and plant new flowers.
- Revitalize all Penobscot Ave storefronts like what NEOC did and with what is happening with the old Epstein's. Clean up the streets, trash removal, plant plants to make things easier to look at.
- Transports to and from the park (bus service). More community building projects.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Mainly fixing up buildings and trying to fill empty buildings.
- Getting volunteers to clean up the towns.
- 1) "Edible sidewalks" Norway Maine has raised beds along their main street, but instead of planting flowers, they planted tomatoes, cucumbers and other edible vegetables that look nice and taste good. It would be great to do something like this in Veteran's Park, and the green space on Highland Ave that a lot of school kids walk through to get to school, and in front of businesses on Penobscot Ave. 2) Tear down the empty, boarded up coffee shop across from DesignLab. 3) Re-activate the revolving loan fund for facade improvements of businesses along Penobscot Ave.
- Use of empty buildings . Sidewalk repair. More seating in veteran's park.
- 1. Tear down the old buildings on Penobscot Avenue that look like dumps. 2. Use the area at the top of Central Street beside Peddler's Hill as a rest area/ picnic area. 3. Plant flowers along the strip of land between Field Street and Central Street and the strip of land between Balsam Drive and Central Street.
- the town should fund the Michaud walking trail several buildings on penobscot ave should be torn down and turned into pocket parks! downtown oasis"
- 1. Repair and paint/ refinish every building that needs it on Penobscot, and Central Ave as far as the Museum area. 2. Move the gazebo to the grass area (or rip up and reseed the area around the gazebo) and start having regular musical or storytelling events there. 3. Repair the skating rink at the high school, and keep it properly surfaced all winter.
- Big box store, Mall, More tourist attractions.
- More downtown.
- 1. LED Lighting for highways and roads. 2. Vintage lamp lighting for downtown such as Milo main st. 3. Tree growth along downtown. Maple tree planting.
- A nice park by the river using the old mill site. Dog park maybe? A nice swimming site on the river now that the water is clean again! Plant some more trees in strategic locations and let nature feed them.
- Downtown spruce-up. Tear down eyesore houses. More flowers!
- Veteran's Park, Main Street, Business facades.
- To update main street buildings, Update veterans park and have a walking tour of our town in the summer.
- Clean up the downtown by eliminating the old buildings with broken windows, etc.
- Improvements to the Benjamin storage business across from the current Our Katahdin Office on Aroostook Ave. White wash or mural the brick wall. Replace the decrepit 2' X 4' stand for the civic organization's signs on the approach into town on central street. Pursue a solution to the removal of the so called 'Mott hanger' at the Airport.
- Decorate the town for the holidays. More events. More things for kids/teenagers to do.

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### Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Fix the track at the high school, fix up the road/homes from Katahdin Avenue to the Sawmill Grill, Place a huge sign, possibly road wide "The Gateway to the North Maine Woods"
- Buildings, gardens, informational areas and signage
- Improving the downtown area. There are many old buildings vacant and some that need to be torn down.
- Flowers, Trees, General Cleaning.
- Keeping the town property in good repair.

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## General Response Forum

**Forum:** Do you have additional feedback for the Town of Millinocket? Feel free to share any thoughts you have. If you have a question that you would like to be considered for the next survey, please share it here.

### Key words

Due to a low level of response on the forum, there is not enough data to accurately accumulate word counts.

### Responses

- Set How Long A Councilperson can Serve on the council.
- The number of homes that are being purchased below value by low income people is disturbing. Our town needs to up our expectation of property value and cut back on the help that is given to low income to set up residence. The town needs to expand on municipal services so needs can be met for locals and the reputation of a safe place can be established.
- A YMCA would also give our younger generations a place to go and exercise and enjoy each other's company. This can come with an indoor pool that can accommodate senior water aerobics class that will benefit them physically and mentally. This pool will also do the same as the indoor soccer facility by bringing other towns to millinocket to compete against our very own steams high. The ymca will also provide a much needed gym.
- Be Very Careful - It may happen overnight and may be the last nail in coffin — and this is the expanded and extended use of Huber Road north of town which completely bypasses Millinocket - somehow get control of that road; expand town lines and DEVELOP That road! - GPS will take all previous Katahdin Hikers to Baxter bypassing Millinocket - I cannot stress this enough — get control of the Huber Road.
- The town should really play on houses and businesses that are for sale, use the new Facebook page to help promote these opportunities and the prices, though the town has no immediate financial gain, it will attract new people.
- Restrict unwanted police pressure.
- I think something for kids, Miniature golf? We have so many options here, maybe go-carts for kids and adults.
- We have a nice airport. Work harder to attract more aviation business here. This could be a huge hub and creating good jobs. If more expansion is need, Do so .Pursue grant money that are available. The old saying, 'build it and they will come'.

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## General Response Forum (Continued)

- Council needs to let the public participate in our meetings, it's terrible to go to one of our town meetings, they make you feel like your opinion means nothing, that if your allowed to speak.
- Millinocket is a good place to live; The town has a lot of new things going on, that's great. We could be a nice retirement village here too. Thank for a good survey.
- Live patriotic music, marching band and individual, for the 4th of July parade. Fewer fire trucks and more floats as well marchers in costume or uniform. A parade, particularly the 4th of July and Christmas, is supposed to be colorful according to the holiday and parade theme celebrated.
- Any improvements to the Katahdin area will benefit Millinocket in the long run. Supporting East Millinocket, Medway, Patten, etc. in their projects is not a bad thing. Also, it is time for the schools to join forces and put old rivalries aside for the betterment of the area.
- When will the council put its people first? Educate our children and protects our citizens. That takes a fully staffed school system, fire and police departments. If Millinocket can't afford these essentials then start making a plan to work with our neighbors to consolidate all services.
- I think Millinocket is still a beautiful place but the shrinking population is a sad development. I would love to see new business and industry, and as a result more children and young people. It would be wonderful to see a busy Main Street and bustling businesses back in town.
- We are paying more in waste water bill, we have to buy a sticker to go to the dump and our taxes keep going up! Nothing is being repaired, replaced or improved! What a disgrace this town has become! The only thing our town is attracting are welfare, indigents and criminals! Drugs are rampant! What a shame! No wonder people have left!
- Migration of small business and entrepreneurial activity away from urban areas resulting from the Information Technology power to put the "office" at your fingertips. Capital investment into a high-speed broadband infrastructure into Millinocket will provide a strong incentive for those seeking to set up shop away from the "gridlock". Thus, probability of more small business to start in this area with variety of product and services to offer which, in turn, increases economic activity, that 'equates' into more spending in the area which, in turn, can draw more interest from other business interests to consider "setting up shop" in the area. Broadband can be that catalyst. Since migration is to continue, let it be known that Millinocket has made the investments to be accommodative because Millinocket wants it to be known that we are open for Business!
- Reduce our town govt. Go to selectman form of govt. Our Katahdin is a positive sign. Stop paying for the town attorney and use the attorney from Maine Municipal. Get rid of marijuana business in Millinocket.

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## General Response Forum (Continued)

- Penobscot Ace - Get rid of Rush Buildings's. Get rid of Old Hanger before it gets blown onto the runway. Enforce ordinance on having junk on property.
- The town should provide a repayable fund for public improvements of commercial and properties on our principal thoroughfares (to be defined by the Planning Board). Develop an Economic Plan and reassess on a regular basis. Development of a short and long term infrastructure plan including funding. 4. Development of public/private Economic Development committee. 5. Establish a regional Northern Penobscot Council of Governments.
- We need to follow other towns successful revitalization efforts to utilize every possible avenue to improve our town. We should court any investor interested in both nature and economic development to come up with the perfect combination to improve our town.
- Embrace snowmobiling. Make mill. The snowmobile capital east of the Miss. Promote the heck out of BSP. If you build it, they will come!
- Good job with what is being done so far, it will come back at a slow pace. Just remember one thing, you are not Mill #1 anymore, your even with your neighbors.
- How to generate new business.
- If tourists gravitate towards the north woods they are looking for more old fashioned motif not so modernized.
- The town would do well to try to improve the towns aging infrastructure.
- Be honest, people should know the community has been depressed but recovering, what they're doing to recover and plans for the short term and long term. Traveling to south for work is a reality but offering co-op opportunities such as commuting and buying in bulk could be a means to offset the expense of living here. Low income people won't care but the struggling middle class would be. This could be a good preparer community.
- Most of Millinocket's history we have been known as the "Magic City" why then have we not hosted a magicians convention, or competition or even invited a world famous magician to come to Millinocket the Magic City and perform a world famous magic act like making a mountain disappear or pulling a moose out of their hat? Another idea I had was after observing our 4th of July parade. Our few police and fire men are utilized on parade duty and barricade duty all the while hoping nothing happens during this time that might threaten our community. Why don't we have a volunteer constable unit solely used for events like this (esp. the Alumni Homecoming). I have been in other small town that do just that with no issues of concern.
- Are you supportive of funding a long term economic development office-staff, projects and operational budgets?
- Encourage hiring more law enforcement to help with immigrating families from other states. Keeping Millinocket as safe as possible!

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## General Response Forum (Continued)

- Thank you for sending out this survey! I am looking forward to my next trip to Millinocket!
- While trying to improve our tree belts what can we do for the perilous sidewalks we have neglected for 50 years?
- Why did you ask about athletics and not the arts?
- We need more benches for people who need to get out and walk for health reasons and can we please have a shed at the shelter items to nice to burn? I've gotten some awesome antiques from the burn pile and scraps of wood to carve and make boxes with and do woodcut prints. And I never know when I can use something for handyman stuff around the house! And yes I have. Waste not/Want not!
- A lot of what has been discussed in conversation and within this survey draws concern to what can or should be done to beautify our physical appearance which of course is very important, but appearance alone cannot substitute a lack of substance that has not been addressed. The "real beauty" of Millinocket is within the People! It is not an image that can be seen through the lens of a camera, or purchased at a novelty storefront, and cannot be produced at some future manufacturing plant. The beauty is in the hearts, minds, and souls of the reliant townsfolk that were raised here and the citizens from away that enhance our area and call Millinocket "home". Sometime the beautification projects are internal, within us! The People!
- Add another cop on at night.
- Millinocket has so much to offer and so much potential!
- My wife and I have considered retiring in the Millinocket area. There is a movement in the state for communities to get an "Age friendly designation" This indicates that communities have good access to healthcare, transportation and housing options for seniors as well as safe pedestrian walking areas. This may encourage other seniors to consider the area. Mark Eves is one legislator who is involved with this, and could provide information. There may be other legislators from your area involved as well.
- Need to attract more people to invest in our town not drive them away more positive things not so much negative use the band stand area more during the summer like concerts in the park Friday nights get more people into town.
- Keep the library Open. That is very Important to retirees.
- Make main street two way traffic and utilize the parking lots.
- I think having Town Council meetings in a courtroom is BAD - everyone should be sitting at the same level, engaging as equals as in School Board meetings = much more comfortable, non-intimidating. And it's HORRIBLE that the majority sit higher than [a councilor]. It's great that this survey's getting done and there's more effort going towards citizen engagement, communication, etc. I'd like to see more forums for open discussion of controversial issues - NOT in the courtroom.



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## General Response Forum (Continued)

- Talk to Town Council about how they post on Facebook. Recently [a councilor] was all over Facebook making comments and posting stuff to the Welcome to Millinocket page. His views and comments were alarming and unethical. I am sure people moving to the area or looking to visit would be appalled and could think twice about visiting if seen. Though I have noticed most of it has been removed, people need to think twice before posting.
- Open the town office on Wednesdays - be more accessible to people who need town government services — strive to be friendly and welcoming if you work in the town office. It's time to scale back where we can and to look at consolidating services in the tri-town area. We do not have the population to support keeping the status quo. We cannot afford for our mil rate to continue rising.
- Take another look and consolidation of services. Have a meeting with leaders for all three towns and have them leave their attitudes and prejudices at the door. It's become "all for one and one for all" or we all go down together.
- Has the town considered using some of the defunct properties as hacker houses? Hacker houses are incubators for programmers and are becoming popular in other small towns across the nation. Usually, the town will provide a house with bedrooms/ desks (furnished) with a high-speed \_fiber\_ connection to the house. The town will rent these properties at a reduced cost with the hope of attracting young people looking to create software, with the intention of starting a business out of there idea within the year in the area. If interested there are plenty of articles about what they consist of, and what they may offer to the town. Here's an article to get you started. <https://grist.org/living/hacker-houses-offer-shared-living-for-the-young-green-and-tech-obsessed/>.
- A mini mall in the K&M Auto Building on Ventral St with Local merchants displaying; a coffee shop & bakery, a local coffee roaster & crafters. A store similar to Pioneer Store, Smyrna with dry goods, homemade breads, sewn goods, good prices on tools, kitchen ware. People could sign up to hose (their home) to Marathon runners, cross-country ski races and in return get a reduction in their taxes. A town-owned propane propelled bus to take hikers to Baxter Park, KI area, Medway Bus Depot, or scenic rides. Similar to Acadia Bus that go up Cadillac Mt.
- Attention to our mill heritage.
- Consider the use of the revolving fund to help businesses connect to broadband hi-speed fiber in the downtown area. Support the library. It is a major asset to the town and to the community.
- It would be great to see some kind of industry come back to the town to create jobs again and make it like it use to be , the streets were full of people and no empty storefronts . Its sad that it looks like a ghost town anymore.



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## General Response Forum (Continued)

- Tourism is ok for economic development, but not the end-all solution to the problems facing the Town of Millinocket. Several businesses receiving the paying end of tourism is fine, but what about the rest of the town? We need jobs, all types of jobs that are here year round, retail, manufacturing, food service, medical, etc. Jobs that can sustain families and enrich the economy of Millinocket. Pretending that we are a "Bar Harbor wannabe" just does cut it in my opinion.
- I am well aware of the loss of the paper industry, economic impact, human factor denial, resistance to change / acceptance. But I feel strongly that Indoor Green housing on a grand scale is food in demand, green technology, an Industry that is, and always be in high demand, and can provide a large job base for present, and future population and well as investor attraction. Look to Canada as a role model. They have facilities that range in areas of 100 acres. Minnesota, another big player in the production of greenhouse based fruits and vegetables. Feel free to contact: [bob.campbell@cmqrrailway.com](mailto:bob.campbell@cmqrrailway.com)
- If looking for more revenue, how about selling houses that are either derelict or abandoned for tax owed or a dollar to encourage private development. Any town storage not being used rent out space, offer to full time RESIDENTS for a reduced fee. Let me move my railroad caboose into town and set it up as a home to show you are flexible. (Ok, that last one was a dream of mine ha)
- Tri-town cooperation is a must if we are going to survive.
- Millinocket needs to remember the past but not repeat it.
- In March of 2016, the Millinocket Town Council conducted a S.W.O.T analysis. There were many good points identified to be used as a starting point to cure many of the towns issues. Some have been taken care of since then. Others could be reconsidered and integrated into the priorities of current efforts.
- I feel like our town's going dull. If we wanna keep kids off drugs and happy, we need to find more things for kids like arcades or dances every other Friday. Anything to add more to our town would also make more people and tourists for our town.
- Town website needs to be more user friendly. The old website was more user friendly than this new one.
- I think that the town of Millinocket needs to have a source of town income instead of living off government grants and gofundme money and find / develop a source of income to revamp this town. This is much easier said than done. Since we lost the mill our towns economy went down the drain.

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## Summary Analysis

This first run of an updated survey from the Town of Millinocket to the public was well received within the community. This survey was established to open lines of communication and gain insight on several viewpoints toward the town from its residents, seasonal-residents, business owners, and visitors. Responses range from many positive comments toward the town's progress in economic development, some negative comments toward the town's progress in economic development, many suggestions for the town in operations and fiscal management, as well as several ideas to implement for redeveloping the area.

Information gathered in this public report can be viewed by several different agencies whether it be personal, business, or governmental — to provide insight towards personal beliefs and how it reflects towards the reviewer, to provide businesses with insight to suggested new businesses and/or desire of those seeking emerging markets in the area, to provide guidance to organizations profit/non-profit from the public perspective that assist in the redevelopment of the town and region. This summary is reflective of the data present in report findings. This is not reflective of one's own interpretation that may be perceived from any findings.

Upon review, the Economic Development Committee will incorporate information from this report into aspects of their work. Any suggestions for the next annual survey such as questions and format or adjustments to reporting are welcome. We thank those who have taken time out of their schedules to provide input to this survey.

# Town of Millinocket Annual Survey

You are invited to participate in an annual survey. This is a research project being conducted by the Town of Millinocket to enhance communication between our government and our community. It should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

## Participation

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You are free to decline to answer any particular question you do not wish to answer for any reason.

## Benefits

This survey is free. Your responses may help us learn more about the views of our citizens and visitors as it relates to maintaining and improving our town.

## Risks

There are no foreseeable risks involved in participating in this study other than the time required to complete the survey.

## Confidentiality

Your survey answers will be compiled by representatives of the Town of Millinocket. When your responses are received by the town, the survey content will be reviewed by the Economic Development Committee. Data from the survey will be compiled in a report that will be available for public review. Your name is entirely optional to provide and is not required as a part of the survey. All names collected will be concealed in the public report. Therefore, your responses will remain anonymous. No one will be able to identify you or your answers.

## Contact

If you have questions about this survey, feel free to contact the Town of Millinocket at:

Millinocket Town Office  
197 Penobscot Ave  
Millinocket, ME 04462  
Phone: (207) 723-7000  
Fax: (207) 723-7002  
Email: [humanresource@millinocket.com](mailto:humanresource@millinocket.com)

## Return

Please return this survey at one of the following locations:

Millinocket Memorial Library - 5 Maine Ave  
Millinocket Town Office - 197 Penobscot Ave  
Our Katahdin - 245 Aroostook Ave

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. Your responses help us in our goal of keeping communication open with our community.

Sincerely,

Town of Millinocket



### Demographics

(circle or write the appropriate response)

Name: (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Age:

- Under 18      18 - 24      25 - 34      35 - 44      45 - 54      55 - 64      65 - 74
- 75 - 84      85 - 94      95 +

Years lived in Millinocket?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been visiting Millinocket?

\_\_\_\_\_

Highest level of education:

- Some High School
- High School Diploma/GED Equivalent
- Some College
- Associates Degree
- Bachelors Degree
- Masters Degree
- Doctoral Degree

**Closed Response Questions**

(circle the appropriate response)

I feel the town is making progress in economic development.

Strongly Disagree    Disagree                      Neutral                      Agree                      Strongly Agree

How important do you feel recreation is to economic development?

Not Important              Somewhat Important              Neutral              Important              Very Important

How important do you feel industry is to economic development?

Not Important              Somewhat Important              Neutral              Important              Very Important

How important do you feel beautification is to our town?

Not Important              Somewhat Important              Neutral              Important              Very Important

How important do you feel are the athletic programs in our community?

Not Important              Somewhat Important              Neutral              Important              Very Important

**Open Response Questions**

(write the appropriate response)

What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?

What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?

When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?

What part of recreation/tourism plays in our plan for economic development?

Suggest three beautification improvements to the Town of Millinocket.



## General Response

This section is dedicated as an open forum to the Town of Millinocket. Feel free to share any thoughts you have. If you have a question that you would like to be considered for the next survey, please share it here.

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MAS - 2017 Database

Zip Code	Age	Years Lived in Millinocket?	How many years have you been visiting Millinocket?	Highest level of education:	I feel the town is making progress in economic development.	How important do you feel recreation is to economic development?
04462	55-64		30	Associate's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	75-84		20	Master's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
04462	35-44		1	1.5 Master's Degree	Strongly Agree	Very Important
04462	45-54		21	Associate's Degree	Neutral	Very Important
04462	45-54		52	Associate's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	35-44		1	38 Associate's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Not Important
04093	55-64			25 Doctoral Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	45-54		49	54 Associate's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	18-24		19	Agree	Agree	Very Important
04064	55-64		15	50 Bachelor's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
06302	55-64			8 Bachelor's Degree	Neutral	Important
04462	25-34		27	0 Bachelor's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
04462	Under 18		17	Some High School	Neutral	Neutral
	85-94		65	Associate's Degree	Neutral	Very Important
	65-74		55	Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
	18-24		4	5 Some High School	Neutral	Important
06045	35-44		18	24 Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04434	45-54		20	34 Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	65-74		28	Some College	Neutral	Very Important
04462	65-74		66	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Agree	Very Important
04462	65-74		71	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Agree	Very Important
04462	18-24		18	18 Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	55-64		55	Associate's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Important
04462	65-74		65	Some High School	Agree	Very Important
04957	55-64		0	15 High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Agree	Very Important
04462	75-84		78	Some College	Agree	Important
	Under 18		7	Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	65-74		40	Some College	Agree	Important
03071	35-44		18	35 Master's Degree	Neutral	Very Important
04462	45-54		20	Associate's Degree	Neutral	Very Important
03820	45-54		18	34 Master's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	55-64		55	Some College	Agree	Very Important
04462	35-44		38	Bachelor's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Important
04401	65-74		18	Bachelor's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
	18-24		18	Some High School	Agree	Important
04462	Under 18		15	15 Some High School	Agree	Important
04462	Under 18		0.5	Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	35-44		1.5	36 Master's Degree	Strongly Agree	Very Important
	85-94		35	50 Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Somewhat Important
04462	65-74		65	Some College	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Important
	75-84		78	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Agree	Very Important
	Under 18		17	17 Some High School	Agree	Important
04462	18-24		18	Some High School	Neutral	Neutral
04462	65-74		66	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Strongly Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		25	Some College	Neutral	Very Important
04462	65-74		70	Master's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	85-94		64	Master's Degree	Agree	Important
	65-74		71	Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	75-84		64	Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	55-64		55	Some College	Agree	Important
35173	65-74		22	43 Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Not Important
04444	25-34		22	12 Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	18-24		1	21 Some College	Disagree	Very Important
04462	Under 18		13	25 Associate's Degree	Disagree	Very Important
04462	45-54		6	24 Some College	Disagree	Very Important
04011	55-64		2	63 Associate's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		55	55 Bachelor's Degree	Disagree	Important
04429	55-64		25	38 Associate's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
	18-24		18	18 Some High School	Neutral	Important
	Under 18		9	9 Some High School	Disagree	Important
06518	65-74		0	37 Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		11	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Agree	Somewhat Important
04462	Under 18		14	Some High School	Agree	Important
04462	25-34		4	26 High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Strongly Disagree	Neutral
04462	18-24		18	Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	45-54		12	0 Associate's Degree	Disagree	Very Important
04462	55-64		62	Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
04430	55-64		0	64 Associate's Degree	Neutral	Somewhat Important
04462	55-64		4	4 Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04096	25-34		5	7 Master's Degree	Strongly Agree	Very Important
04463	25-34		4	0 Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important

How Important do you feel industry is to economic development?	How Important do you feel beautification is to our town?	How Important do you feel are the athletic programs in our community?
Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Neutral
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Somewhat Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Neutral	Neutral	Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Important
Very Important	Very Important	Neutral
Very Important	Neutral	Important
Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Not Important	Neutral	Neutral
Important	Important	Important
Important	Neutral	Neutral
Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Neutral	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Neutral	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Not Important	Important	Neutral
Very Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Not Important	Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Neutral	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Neutral
Very Important	Very Important	Not Important
Important	Important	Very Important
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Neutral	Important	Important
Somewhat Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Important	Important	Important
Important	Important	Not Important
Very Important	Very Important	Important
Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Not Important	Not Important	Neutral
Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Somewhat Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Not Important
Somewhat Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Very Important	Neutral	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Neutral	Neutral	Very Important
Very Important	Not Important	Very Important
Neutral	Important	Neutral
Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Important	Neutral
Important	Important	Neutral
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Somewhat Important	Very Important	Very Important



What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?
A low key unhurried lifestyle that includes hiking, fishing, kayaking, wildlife watching.
A nice and Quiet Country Setting, if you Keep East Millinocket Ambulance From Using The Horns Each Time They Enter Town.
Access to wilderness, size of town, 4 seasons, culture, people.
Area, employment
Baxter Park, our camp, the mountain
Baxter State Park is why I'm here. Living here is getting short lived though. There needs to be industry jobs sports unity in order for a community to grow.
Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods & Waters NM, NEOC, Natural beauty and recreational opportunities in the region, Friendly, hospitable residents and businesses
Beauty of the area
Because Millinocket is my home.
Besides Family and Friends - low cost of living - hiking - fishing - hunting - water recreation -
Camp on Ambajesus Lake
Cheap cost of living, everyone knows everyone else
Cheap houses.
Clean air - must eliminate chemicals!
Ease of working with town administration.
Family, friends, sense of community, outdoors.
Family, friends, sense of community, outdoors.
First of all, I was born and raised in Millinocket. I still have family there, many friends and most importantly, I want to see the magic come back and a way for people to earn a living there. I have only recently moved back to Maine from Washington DC and I am suddenly seeing the struggles of my family and friends and we must bring jobs and a tax base for this town to survive.
Fishing and hunting
Four season area. Something for everyone. Nice community
Good education, good medical hospital, low crime, great recreation area, very positive citizens, give them the true facts on poicial issues & they will always make the right choices. Our public works, police department, municipal services are good but with consolidation we could be better.
Good people, small close community, and all the seasons.
Good Question
Good schools, sports, and arts program. Nice library, caring community, good hospital. More jobs especially in solar, agriculture, and assisted living.
Great 4 seasons area to live and play in
Hospital, library, friendly people, family, easy access to recreational opportunities and the beauty of the area.
I don't wanna live here.
I grew up here
I grew up here and loved spending my free time on the lakes and in the woods. Millinocket has such a gem in their outdoor resources that need to be accessed.
I grew up here, have family here
I have a camp outside of Millinocket and I grew up there. I love going back to see the mountain and the beauty of the area. I am happy to see things moving in a positive direction.
I have lived here all my life-except the few months I spent in Bangor. Love knowing the people in my small town, that they are always willing to help those down and out.
I have very little desire to stay here. The educational system is underfunded and totally disrespected by the town council.
I live in Bangor now but I grew up in Millinocket. I would love to spend more time there in my RV. As far as I know, there are no RV sites there with full hookups. I have had water and electric hookups but to stay any longer than a 3 or 4 days, we would need full hookups (with Sewer!). This is a small issue and personal for me, but I think your RV traffic could increase a lot if this was available. We love what the area has to offer for scenery, fishing, hiking, exploring.
I live with my dad.
I love it and believe it'll become a great community very soon.
I love living here because of the view of Katahdin.
I love the small town and community. I love all the outdoor activities.
I wouldn't have returned if I had known how bad it was!!
I'm trying to sell to get out!
It's a very nice place to live here.
It's home. Family is here.
It's small and has a pretty view.
It's my home town. Love this community and the caring people here.
Katahdin
Library
Library
Library, churches, schools, hospital, airport, industry, jobs.
Location, people, quality of life.
Millinocket is my home.
Millinocket lake
Millinocket needs economic opportunity to allow younger generation former residents to return home. Outdoor recreation and the community are the best selling points of Millinocket.
More shops than midway or east millinocket, more diverse groups of people
Most importantly, the sense of community. No matter where I lived previously, even in my small Italian hometown where everyone is your cousin, have a experienced the community-feel as I have in Millinocket. I wouldn't trade it for the world. The second most important attraction is being surrounded by the nature and beauty of the Katahdin region. I feel many people take for granted how lucky they are to live in the area that we do.
My businesses are located west of town.
My camp at Ambajesus.
my hometown
My Mother
My parents live here.
My parents live here.
Nature
Nature and waterways, old fashioned fair
Not a lot of people
nothing really.
Nothing, not my type of area.
Nothing, the soon I can get the albatross of a house sold I will be gone to never return.
Our family has lived here for over 60 years. The citizens are a tenacious lot which is a trait that I see as greatly needed, never giving up!
Outdoor activities.
Outdoor recreation
Outdoor recreation and good food.
Outdoors/tourism

What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?
The Katahdin region needs industry-based development in order to sustain and maintain a workforce. Another word, many small businesses that we can all help to become successful.
To Attract more Industry to Move to Town
More jobs.
Industry, jobs, seasonal businesses.
Jobs for young people to be able to stay here and support themselves.
Shopping businesses. Medical marijuana is legal we need to usher this in with grace. It is a billion dollar industry and it would be a shame to waste a golden opportunity like this by standing on the sidelines while other towns dive in head first. A gym a place to be able to go and walk work out exercise in the winter a place for other towns to come.
more jobs and/or business opportunities that pay a living wage
Industry of commercial business that will employ 100+ people
Incentives for small local businesses to grow - relax ordinances and codes - expand the town into Neighboring unorganized towns and allow for simple subdivisions of land and allow low grade roads and minimal infrastructure expansion - expanding property ownership will bring people and more ideas
Attracting multiple new small businesses to provide employment opportunities so young people don't feel they need to leave town when they turn 18.
Jobs
Jobs.
?
A large employer around where satellite businesses may develop
Jobs for the community. An industry that will continue to thrive.
A taxes for the town to survive. The mill was the largest and it's gone! I would like to see something like LL Been plant, Pellet plant, large businesses that will increase the tax base and bring jobs, lots of jobs!
Visitors
Any industry welcome. More small business welcomed. With technology connecting the world this could be a booming community.
Small business growth, more jobs to keep our younger people here & bring the ones that left back.
Business
More community base programs for people in the winter.
A blend of manufacturing and tourism to attract more more people to live and vacation here.
Industry would bring more young people thus more money will be here. We need our streets, etc. fixed. Also need a department store eliminating the need to go to Lincoln or Bangor.
Businesses.
Several and more local small businesses need to grow their businesses into bigger businesses creating product demand and local jobs. Choose one to three items/products that sell well locally and are, if possible, available only in Millinocket from the business offering the particular/unique product or products, and start offering and making those items/products available for purchase statewide and Northeast region wide.
We need jobs, not just minimum wage jobs but jobs you can support a family on.
I guess more businesses that create or produce things that can be sold anywhere. I also think you have to keep the education system up to date to attract people to move to the area.
We need another industry to help employ people locally. If Lincoln can do it we can too!
The educational system should be appropriately funded.
Industry and business
More industry. Get a big company in here.
Jobs. Millinocket need to give people more job opportunities. Many stores do not hire under 18. I would love to see more mom and pop stores.
I think that focusing on recreation and tourism is a smart idea - having more businesses that are open year round. I dont think it's a lost cause to think that some kind of industry could also help our town as well.
Jobs
Clean up main st. It's a eyesore! Pave the streets and lower the property tax rate. Our fire department is a disgrace, we need more firefighters and trucks! Our police department is also a wreck! We have no on call Mets or police!!! But we have a school system that's another disgrace!!! Sad to say!
Jobs to keep our young people here.
Business, a huge need of jobs. Since we lost the mill we won't have that huge job supplier.
Jobs and art supplies for school.
Well paying jobs.
A much larger base of locally earned income that will increase the consumer's ability to spend more here locally.
Jobs
More small businesses.
Junk yards.
Wages and benefits
Jobs and tax base. Without jobs, we will be unable to attract young families here.
Promotion of its airport
Millinocket's greatest economic need is capital for small businesses. Many current and former residents would be interested in starting businesses in the area if greater access to capital existed. The future for Millinocket isn't a single large employer but many small successful employers with a vested interest in the success of the community. Consider partnering with Our Katahdin on grant applications to start a small business startup capital fund.
We need to create stable jobs that pay above minimum wage
This is a no-brainer. Anything that will provide employment to our town and be attractive to our local college graduates and others to be worthwhile to live here. It's obvious there is a green-movement underway, which doesn't bother me, because I don't want our beautiful natural surroundings to be ruined, but we also need something larger than restaurants and tourism to make this town flourish. I wholeheartedly believe that a private college on the old mill site will be what saves this town and will make use of its full potential. A town with young students, professional college staff, visiting parents and locals would provide the perfect combination of tourism and business, which equals a beautiful thriving downtown and surrounding area.
You need a biz headhunter to go out and pitch industry elsewhere to relocate to mill. ONLY Pay them on a % of what they bring in. Lower the taxes by combining schools, fire/amb. With east and Medway. Fire should be volunteer manned only. High taxes are killing your residents and stifling biz attraction and growth.
An open mind.
jobs
new business I understand the have been approach but decline a possible work force of up 20,000, lower taxes, free schooling increase tax base
Jobs.
Jobs. Money.
More clothing stores and a variety of shopping places
not sure.
Infrastructure, there is none.
Creating a new path for job development in our area. Industry would be nice but I truly believe that our future will be more like a crazy quilt rather than one industrial blanket as in our past. Btu as long as it does the job of covering us a quilt will do just fine.
Mill redevelopment, leadership and consistent engagement.
Businesses... that bring in jobs, yet don't destroy our beautiful recreational environment.
Either several medium sized employers or one large employer that can attract younger families to the area.
Tourism

When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?
Affordable high-speed internet provider(s).
Less of the Drugs Used/Sold in This Town. Move The Drudges Back To Massachusetts Out Of Maine.
More openness and acceptance of people from away, tolerance for differences, inclusiveness. More investment in schools, Library.
More attractions, seasonally based activities, less welfare.
More gift stores, antique stores, art galleries, more fast food choices, coffee shops, large retailers or outlet stores, skatepark, outdoor cafes, veterinary clinic. Less empty, rundown buildings downtown. Should be a building code standard.
I wish there was something to do. I love the outdoors but you need more. Pool spa arcades gym indoor soccer indoor tennis ice hockey raquet ball basketball. I could go on forever there are so many things that could be done.
more small local businesses related to outdoor recreation
Commercial business , clothing store ect
Less hand-outs; more business focused on natural resources;
More focus on the younger generation of the region, keeping people in the area and bribing them back. MUCH less focus on only temporary tourists, remember that though Important, they are also temporary; therefore not purchasing houses, paying taxes, or contributing at the same level as residents/potential residents.
Jobs and less kids causing trouble
Less police pressure - less arrests, use warnings instead!
More regular community events to promote and notice.
More recreational options. More businesses to focus on our natural resources.
We need more businesses to increase the tax base, We need roads fixed, sidewalks, Millinocket is looking pretty run down, We need a booming downtown with shops and store where people can spend time other than the few places to eat. In the winter months, we need places for breakfast, right now we have MacDonalds and Ruthe's.
One Highschool for the two towns
More ways to attract business, resident and visitors to the area
More pro business, less negative from our town manager & local council& school board
Would like to see better job opportunity.
Need for sporting camps
It is very important. We have many natural resources to choose from.
I would like to see more ATV trails.
More small businesses, larger police and fire department. Consolidation of the tri-town area in every way possible.
More jobs.
eliminate the drug and vandalism problem. Town reputation is Important in attracting business and people who want to live and work in Millinocket
More emphases in the outdoor recreation that the area has to offer.
More events that bring people back home. The marathon is a great event but maybe something for leaf peeping or the 4th of July. Also, more high quality places to stay when visiting. The town needs a decent hardware store now that Lavasseur's closed. I end up going to East or Lincoln to get things for my camp.
Less of the naysayers speaking out and making the town seem less then desirable.
I would like to see more positivity about our young people. Millinocket needs to reduce its wasteful spending. Tens of thousands of dollars spent on online ventures is wasted resource!
Would love to see more young people, but to have that there needs to be more jobs, so that is why business and industry is essential.
More business downtown. Make every building occupied by different companies besides restaurants.
I would like to see more beautification. I would like to see empty buildings occupied.
more positive thinking
The delapidated houses and on main st and around town!
More jobs/hourists.
More jobs.
Job opportunities, school consolidation with East Millinocket/Medway.
More cooperative engagement/less divisive strife.
Support the library
More tax dollars to help finance the Library.
Important.
Business, quality employment opportunities.
More promotion, more maintenance of uninhabited homes.
More hotel rooms
I would like to see more of a focus on cleaning up the downtown area. There are a number of properties owned by people who honestly are against selling their property for the market rate, leaving eye sores in downtown. This is almost always the image used in newspapers of the town...empty downtown Penobscot Avenue.
JOB
Less run down houses, more viable, aesthetically pleasing shops, bakeries, restaurants, etc. More large businesses, ESPECIALLY a college or something that draw people, but not ruin the natural surroundings.
Less Union mentality. And more "can do" attitude. The unions killed the mills and left the town with a pile of ..... to dean up.
Less welfare individuals, more positive attitudes.
jobs
Jobs/ town council doing nothing but turning a horn on
More Jobs. Less welfare.
More Jobs, Money.
Preservation of nature, valuing Wildemess
Less drug addicts. More ice cream parlors, points of interest, natural attractions, things for children to do, clothing stores.
More businesses.
id like to see less of the abandoned buildings on main street that are on the verge of collapse.
More stores and businesses succeeding.
Drugs
Millinocket has always had a strong musical base with many area musicians. A summer concert series using local talent, a new show once a week that tourist could enjoy while visiting our area.
Regional collaboration. Less all for one thinking.
Opening the small businesses downtown
More walking/biking/inmovible trails that are easy to find! I think that there are many great trails, but they are often hidden away without good signage from the Maine roads.
More seasonal business. Dress up downtown and the save a lot/tractor supply buildings, looks like they are from 1980.

**What part of recreation/tourism plays in our plan for economic development?**

Realistically, only half, many weather factors play into a recreation/tourism based industry that cannot be predicted. Also, when the country falls into lean times recreation is the first budget cut made by families. The other half should be a product based economy. Let's use what we already have, for instance, water. We could use water to farm trout and other species of freshwater fish. Mushrooms grow in abundance here, let's grow mushrooms. What about building a waste management plant which collects food and garden waste to compost, mixed dry recycle (blue service) to recycle, and non-recycle (black service) to discard properly. Not many communities want trash transported to their community but it is a growing and profitable industry.

NONE

Wayfinding for visitors, bike shops, maps, consistent messaging, stronger branding, constant collaboration and partnerships among businesses and organizations.

Millinocket is a gateway to many businesses outside of the town line.

Visitors need something to do when they aren't recreating, like shopping and eating out, playgrounds and a skate park.

Honestly the outdoorsman will come regardless. If you want others to come they need entertainment such as the things listed above. The only major issue with opening these new businesses would be the majority of people living here are on a fixed income. We would need to bring in outside help such as having a sports tournament. There are indoor soccer arenas all around mid to southern Maine. Having a tournament will bring the smaller towns to this facility to play against each other bringing the people to help restore our businesses local economy.

It seems as though recreation/tourism represents a significantly untapped economic development opportunity for Millinocket. With the mills gone and unlikely to return (at least not at anything like the economic powerhouses they once were), having Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters in its back yard means that Millinocket could pivot from a manufacturing economy to an economy aimed more at tourism / eco-tourism / adventure tourism.

Very Important

Town government should promote and allow for economic growth by private sector

Tourism only temporarily brings people to the region, though needed, it is not the most Important

?

A large part!

Should be a very large part. We need tourism to survive. Snowmobiles, hikers, rafters, etc. I think huge, once the Great Northern Woods starts, yes we have some, frankly, I don't know if they are busy, I do not know the need, haven't researched it much.

Snowmobile and Atv

Plays a huge part. When tourist see what the area has to offer and have a great time, they will inform their family and friends and hopefully more will return.

More small business, tourism is a must for Millinocket, we have plenty of recreation opportunity, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, we need to market all of our four seasons, don't forget boating, golfing.

Keeping our town clean and safe.

Very large part

A community garden. Better sidewalks. Skating rink where the Bowling Alley was and could be used for other activity too. It should be priority #1. Millinocket can be a the hub for tourism.

The events we have brings in more people which helps the businesses grow. We need more events to draw more people.

Katahdin.

Study other towns and cities that make recreation and tourism a big part of their economy and determine how Millinocket can imitate or innovate its own ideas to use recreation/tourism as a means of creating jobs and acquiring monies to add to the town treasury for Millinocket's budget and town services needs. Recreation/tourism manufacturing industries might be a possibility.

A huge part, it should be the primary focus.

Tourism needs to be embraced more by the community. More festivals to draw people here.

I think you have to maximize tourism as much as possible and give the thousands of cars that pass through every summer a reason to stop and shop.

The snow the trails winter activities--the beautiful hiking trails the welcome of ATV's-

Bring businesses to town that will contribute to the tax fund and support our schools.

I do think this is a big factor in the future of the area and the community. Finding some sort of industry associated with recreation and tourism would be great, or else finding a way to bring tech jobs there could help.

Baxter State Park.

Tourism is all the town has after the mill shut down. I believe it's biggest role right now.

The trash. There is a lot of this especially by the water.

I think a winter recreation plan needs to be focused on as that is the slow time. Really focusing on the snowmobiles, cross country skiers, snowshoers, etc.

Very Important

If we're going to depend on recreation we need for our town to clean up and look like a town you'd want to live in! All the abandoned houses are horrible to see as you drive into town!

Mt. Katahdin/Baxter, Snowsledding, leaves, town marathon.

Hikers and snowmobilers.

Huge part.

Tourism; Very Important: it has earned income delivered to the area to be spent.

Very Important

Large part - **Most important** "over"

Main Street.

The Katahdin region has been a sportsman/woman's destination for over a century and a half, it is an important asset to the region in attraction businesses with good wages and benefits.

We need the traffic, so we need to advertise.

Any seasonal out door activity

Recreation and tourism are important to the success of the area but not a means to address all of the regions challenges. The area needs to focus on bringing tourists with deeper pockets to the area. Has anyone considered seasonal Cape Air service from Boston Logan to Millinocket? Similar to what Bar Harbor has in place. The airport is an asset but our location discourages some visitors due to how much time it takes to get here from where they live.

recreation and tourism is all this town has to offer honestly. We need an indoor water park so people will come year round

I'm not sure, possibly 50 percent.

100% it's all you have.

Outside 4 season activity.

60%

Millinocket has no clue how to generate development

Snowmobilers. Hikers.

Snowmobilers and hikers.

Need tourists to have more economic development.

feels like the town is %100 reliant on tourism.

100%

Recreation is needed for our area children and adults. These programs should be created with our demographics kept in mind. I teach a karate program (36 years) and have children and adults participating, but my oldest adults are in the late 40's not many elders here but they could benefit from a more age friendly program.

It is part of the marketing of the area and could be a greater resource for recreational based developments or industries.

It should be a major issue

I think it is critical to promote Millinocket as a premier outdoor recreation area. This will be seen as a benefit to any employees and employers moving to Millinocket.

80%

<b>Suggest three beautification improvements to the Town of Millinocket.</b>
Fix The Streets And Sidewalks
1) downtown revitalization - incentives for investment downtown. 2) stronger downtown planning strategy. Restaurants and coffee shops instead of elder care facilities. 3) more street art Outer Bates St needs something more.
When I was young, we had beautiful tree belts along our sidewalks. I would love to see the woods on the corner of central st and forest avenue cleared out to take advantage of the mountain view as you come in to downtown. The central street bridge could have flower boxes on the guard rails.
Rebuild bowling alley. Community gardening facility. Frisbee golf is a big hit around the country also and would bring many people to play and pay.
I have seen plans for a pedestrian plaza / park on the corner of Penobscot Ave. and Central St. that looks terrific. Anything that would spruce up the old commercial district along Penobscot Ave. so that it looks less like a ghost town would be great. It could also be nice to have some kind of a park / meadow along Millinocket Stream, at least from Stearns High School to Granite Street.
Penobscot Ave upgrade of old store fronts
No comment
Demolition of run down buildings (Example old coffee shop on main st), follow-up in town ordinance of "junkyards"/outside hoarding, do not allow residents to freely use town property as storage (Example town lot across from 1 prospect st) these make the entire town look much messier when code already prohibits the actions, though the town does not stop the individuals
Plant trees as Oak or elm along street. Develop town with our streets that have a view of the mountain.
Main Street redevelopment, road upkeep, removing dilapidated properties. I would like to see hanging baskets of beautiful flowers everywhere. Flowers are HAPPY, KEPT feeling, the downtown needs to be painted and storefronts that are vacant need to look like something happening rather than a run-down mess! I know baby steps!
Clean the stream. Still old tires and junk in it from the Pines and coves to the mill site. Get rid of old buildings not used on maine street. Eye sore. Maintain the beautification that the many volunteers have done already
Refurbish inside & outside of our town office building. More signage to our recreation areas, golf course, school house, downtown area.
Continue to remove old buildings
Continue the restoration of downtown
1. Improve Peddlers Hill 2. Improve the main street by taking down the buildings that aren't being used and look terrible. Painting, etc. those that are occupied. 3. Either get rid of the junk yards or get them enclosed. More to be done downtown: Gazebos.
1. Business area buildings that are eyesores need to be corrected so as to be physically appealing on the outside and the inside as well if it to be useful. 2. If the corner of Penobscot Avenue and Central Street is to become a green space erecting a town clock and a large digital temperature display would add some character. 3. Keep the park attractive in winter time by plowing the walkways and keeping the benches free from snow and ice so people can cross the park as well as relax on a bench on a comfortably warm winter day or even a freezing day if that is the choice. Updating the buildings, incentive for people to want to fix up their properties. 1. Flowers along central street. 2. Garbage cans painted fun bright colors. 3. Peddlers hill could use a face lift...paint the rocks, plant some flowers. Any buildings on Rt. 11 or the road to the mountain that can be fixed up, or torn down to help make that good first impression. Maybe peddlers hill could be spruced up a bit? Downtown also needs some TLC but it is nice to see some stores recently reopened. Make Main street more inviting--buy that dam Ruth buildings and tear them down-maybe a nice spot for a small green area for people with dogs. More flowers planted-And when we were kids we use to go out with the whole class--pick a spot and do a litter clean up Purchase the rest of the seats for the Stearns auditorium. Improve the playgrounds. Put more efforts into bringing jobs here and less in superficial beautification efforts. Downtown update with new buildings on the vacant lots, benches and picnic tables at the parks, clean up of the old Mill site (sadly)
Better downtown. That's all.
Central Ave store fronts (the empty ones). KM motor windows - could the high school kids do an art project each season with the empty window/space? Sidewalks need to be redone - makes it very difficult to get out and walk around our town when they are in disrepair and unsafe.
All the boarded up buildings on Main Street need to be fixed or torn down! Our street are so full of potholes and cracked, they need to be fixed. And our school system needs to be revamped and cut!
1. Clean up or tear down the few unsightly buildings on main street. 2. Road maintenance. 3. Keep the grass cut on vacant homes (for sale) Buy the Rush Family's downtown property and clean up (tear down) that mess it is an eyesore to the downtown area.
Homes on Central Street need a perk
Make people mow their lawns. Continued demolition of abandoned buildings. Road and street maintenance 1. Consider passing zoning regulations that require facade improvements in the Penobscot Avenue / Central Street corridor. 2. Replace sidewalks on Penobscot Ave. This was last done in the early 90's I believe. 3. Focus on problem properties and owners in downtown. Cleaning up this area will pay dividends for the town and local businesses.
Fix the roads. Fix up main street buildings. Need a better welcome to millinocket sign Remodel storefronts, repave/revitalize Veteran's park, the parking lot and gazebo area, and improve signage.
1. Flatten the rest of mill. 2. Snowmobile trail down Penobscot ave right up central st. 3. Flatten all abandoned buildings.
Clean up some of the yards around town, have residents take more pride in their property. fix the sidewalks on main street. they're not level all the parks
None, we need jobs. Repair buildings 1. Revamp Penobscot avenue to have a more old New England flair 2. Fill empty buildings with new multi-faceted businesses 3. More natural, outdoorsy points of interest
shade trees planted on peddlers hill, tearing down the abandoned buildings on main street, planting flowers around peddlers hill.
New septic infrastructure, every children's park to be beautified. Families won't move to an area if the children's parks are gross. The new "old" development needs to be renamed. The local park needs to be 100% updated to include handicap access for both children and adults. I love Jerry pond but parents can't send their kids down there alone. No empty store fronts; even if not rented the store fronts should have some display or maybe high school art work being displayed. Next, stop using telephone poles to advertise we have public bill boards for this reason. Lastly have real estate agents keep up the yard work on property for sale, if a town looks defeated it is to all that pass through.
Urban renewal in the older parts of town that will enhance abutting properties with larger lot sizes, especially along the main traveled corridors. Downtown facades, road maintenance-paving. Tear down collapsing buildings; decorate empty store fronts with dreams of the future Millinocket and/or our local recreational activities; get our skating rink open and painted with local businesses advertising on the outside walls Better signage/easy to locate maps that show all of the trails around Millinocket (the multiuse trail, the bait hole, Jerry Pond, etc.) All on one map of the town available all over town so that residents and visitors can find them. Paint the bridge leading into downtown with a nice fresh and colorful look. Put up map signs around the downtown so that people who are walking can locate shops and the walking trail. Update down town. Update the save a lot, tractor supply, dollar tree building. Do some landscaping on central st and downtown.

**Do you have additional feedback for the Town of Millinocket? Feel free to share any thoughts you have. If you have a question that you would like to be considered for the next survey, please share it here.**

Set How Long A Councilperson can Serve on the council.

The number of homes that are being purchased below value by low income people is disturbing. Our town needs to up our expectation of property value and cut back on the help that is given to low income to set up residence. The town needs to expand on municipal services so needs can be met for locals and the reputation of a safe place can be established.

A ymca would also give our younger generations a place to go and exercise and enjoy each other's company. This can come with an indoor pool that can accommodate senior water aerobics class that will benefit them physically and mentally. This pool will also do the same as the indoor soccer facility by bringing other towns to millinocket to compete against our very own steams high. The ymca will also provide a much needed gym.

Be Very Careful - It may happen overnight and may be the last nail in coffin - and this is the expanded and extended use of Huber Road north of town which completely bypasses Millinocket - somehow get control of that road; expand town lines and DEVELOP That road!!! - GPS will take all previous Katahdin Hikers to Baxter bypassing Mikl - I cannot stress this enough - Get control of the Huber Road!

The town should really play on houses and businesses that are for sale, use the new FB to help promote these opportunities and the prices, though the town has no immediate financial gain, it will attract new people.

Restrict unwanted police pressure.

I think something for kids, Miniature golf? we have so many options here, maybe go-carts for kids and adults.

We have a nice airport. Work harder to attract more aviation business here. This could be a huge hub and creating good jobs. If more expansion is need, Do so .Persue grant money that are available. The old saying, Build it and they will come.

Council needs to let the public participate in our meetings, it's terrible to go to one of our town meetings, they make you feel like your opinion means nothing, that if your allowed to speak.

Millinocket is a good place to live; The town has a lot of new things going on, that's great. We could be a nice retirement village here too. Thank for a good survey.

Live patriotic music, marching bands and individuals, for the 4th of July parade. Fewer fire trucks and more floats as well marchers in costume or uniform. A parade, particularly the 4th of July and Christmas, is supposed to be colorful according to the holiday and parade theme celebrated.

Any improvements to the Katahdin area will benefit Millinocket in the long run. Supporting East, Medway, Patten, etc. in their projects is not a bad thing. Also, it is time for the schools to join forces and put old rivalries aside for the betterment of the area.

When will the council put its people first? Educate our children and protects our citizens. That takes a fully staffed school system, fire and police departments. If Millinocket can't afford these essentials then start making a plan to work with our neighbors to consolidate all services.

I think Millinocket is still a beautiful place but the shrinking population is a sad development. I would love to see new business and industry, and as a result more children and young people. It would be wonderful to see a busy Main street and bustling businesses back in town.

We are paying more in waste water bill, we have to buy a sticker to go to the dump and our taxes keep going up!!! Nothing is being repaired, replaced or improved! What a disgrace this town has become! The only thing our town is attracting are welfare, indigens and criminals! Drugs are rampant! What a shame! No wonder people have left!

Migration of small business and entrepreneurial activity away from urban areas resulting from the Information Technology power to put the "office" at your fingertips. Capital investment into a high-speed broadband infrastructure into Millinocket will provide a strong incentive for those seeking to set up shop away from the "gridlock". Thus, probability of more small business to start in this area with variety of product and services to offer which, in turn, increases economic activity, that equates into more spending in the area which, in turn, can draw more interest from other business interests to consider "setting up shop" in the area. Broadband can be that catalyst. Since migration is to continue, let it be known that Millinocket has made the investments to be accommodative because Millinocket wants it to be known that we are **open for Business!**

Reduce our town govt. Go to selectman form of govt. Our Katahdin is a positive sign. Stop paying for the town attorney and use the attorney from Maine Municipal. Get rid of marijuana business in Millinocket

Penobscot Ace - Get rid of Rush Buildings'. Get rid of Old Hanger before it gets blown onto the runway. Enforce ordinance on having junk on property.

The town should provide a repayable fund for public improvements of commercial and properties on our principal thoroughfares (to be defined by the Planning Board). Develop an Economic Plan and reassess on a regular basis. Development of a short and long term infrastructure plan including funding. 4. Development of public/private Economic Development committee. 5. Establish a regional Northern Penobscot Council of Governments.

We need to follow other towns successful revitalization efforts to utilize every possible avenue to improve our town. We should court any investor interested in both nature and economic development to come up with the perfect combination to improve our town.

Embrace snowmobiling. Make mill. The snowmobile capital east of the Miss. Promote the heck out of BSP. If you build it. They will come!

Good job with what is being done so far, it will come back at a slow pace. Just remember one thing, you are not Mill #1 anymore, your even with your neighbors.

no

How to generate new business

If tourists gravitate towards the north woods they are looking for more old fashioned motif not so modernized.

the town would do well to try to improve the towns ageing infrastructure.

Be honest, people should know the community has been depressed but recovering, what they're doing to recover and plans for the short term and long term. Traveling to south for work is a reality but offering co-op opportunities such as commuting and buying in bulk could be a means to offset the expense of living here. Low income people won't care but the struggling middle class would be. This could be a good prepser community.

Most of Millinocket's history we have been known as the "Magic City" why then have we not hosted a magicians convention, or competition or even invited a world famous magician to come to Millinocket the Magic City and perform a world famous magic act like making a Mountain disappear or pulling a Moose out of their hat ??? Another idea I had was after observing our 4th of July parade. Our few police and fire men are utilized on parade duty and barricade duty all the while hoping nothing happens during this time that might threaten our community. Why don't we have a volunteer constable unit solely used for events like this (esp. the Alumni Homecoming). I have been in other small towns that do just that with no issues of concern.

Are you supportive of funding a long term economic development office-staff, projects and operational budgets?

Encourage hiring more law enforcement to help with immigrating families from other states. Keeping Millinocket as safe as possible!

Thank you for sending out this survey! I am looking forward to my next trip to Millinocket!

Zip Code	Age:	Years Lived in Millinocket?	How many years have you been visiting Millinocket?	Highest level of education:	I feel the town is making progress in economic development.	How important do you feel recreation is to economic development?	
04462	65-74		10	3.5	Master's Degree	Neutral	Very Important
04462	65-74		40		Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		13	25	Master's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	55-64		10		Some College		Very Important
04462	35-44		42		Some High School	Agree	Important
04462	55-64		10	12	Associate's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	35-44		12	35	Some College	Strongly Disagree	Important
02359	45-54		2	4	Some College	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
04937-3215	55-64		0	5	Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	35-44		41		High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Strongly Disagree	Important
30240	65-74		12	35	Bachelor's Degree	Neutral	Very Important
04462	55-64		45		Associate's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
01950	45-54		5	15	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Neutral	Important
04462	65-74		29		Some College	Neutral	Important
04462	45-54		2.5	46	Associate's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	Under 18		13		Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	35-44		4	7	Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		6		Master's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	35-44		4		Associate's Degree	Neutral	Somewhat Important
04462	65-74		45		Bachelor's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Important
04462	35-44		3		Bachelor's Degree	Disagree	Important
04462	55-64		32		Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	25-34		1.5		Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	35-44		36		Associate's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	55-64		32	30	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Disagree	Very Important
	18-24		14		Some High School	Neutral	Neutral
04462	65-74		35	60	Bachelor's Degree	Disagree	Very Important
04462	45-54		30		Master's Degree	Strongly Disagree	Not Important
04462	Under 18		15	17	Some High School	Agree	Very Important
04430	35-44		3	3	Some College	Neutral	Somewhat Important
04072	55-64		8	40	Bachelor's Degree	Neutral	Important
	Under 18		17		Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	25-34		8.5	21	Some College	Disagree	Important
04038	35-44		20	35	Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
	18-24		18		Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	18-24		15	0	Some High School	Neutral	Important
04462	Under 18		10	10		Agree	Very Important
04462	25-34		2	0	Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	45-54		6	8	Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
07823	45-54		0	27	High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Neutral	Important
04462	65-74		60		Some College	Disagree	Not Important
04462	75-84		4	52	Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		1	1	Master's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		63		Some College	Agree	Very Important
04462	Under 18		14		Some High School	Disagree	Important
04462	Under 18		17		Some High School	Neutral	Important
04414	55-64		0	17	Associate's Degree	Neutral	Important
04462	45-54		18	32	Bachelor's Degree	Neutral	Important
02151	45-54		0	0	Doctoral Degree	Strongly Disagree	Very Important
04462	55-64		37		Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Very Important
	55-64		62		Bachelor's Degree	Agree	Important
04462	45-54		47	0	Some College	Agree	Important
34217	55-64			5	Some College	Agree	Important
04462	35-44		14	21	Associate's Degree	Agree	Very Important
04462	18-24		19		Some High School	Neutral	Important
	Under 18		17			Neutral	Important
04967	45-54		18	29	Bachelor's Degree	Neutral	Neutral
04691	35-44		18	37	Some College	Agree	Very Important
04462	65-74		66		Some College	Agree	Very Important
	Under 18		17		Some High School	Disagree	Neutral
04462	18-24		18		Some High School	Agree	Neutral
23108	35-44		0	2	Some College	Agree	Very Important
04462	55-64		40		Some College	Neutral	Important
04462	55-64		30		High School Diploma/GED Equivalent	Strongly Agree	Not Important
04462	65-74		30	70	Some College	Neutral	Very Important
04462	75-84		50		Some High School	Strongly Disagree	Not Important
04462	75-84		60		Some College	Neutral	Important
04462	75-84		73		Some College	Strongly Disagree	Important
04462	Under 18		17	17	Some High School	Neutral	Very Important
04462	Under 18				Some High School	Strongly Disagree	Not Important
04462	Under 18		17		Some High School	Agree	Important
	Under 18		18		Some High School	Disagree	Important

How Important do you feel industry is to economic development?	How Important do you feel beautification is to our town?	How Important do you feel are the athletic programs in our community?
Not Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Neutral	
Important	Important	Important
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral
Not Important	Very Important	Not Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Neutral	Neutral
Important	Important	Important
Somewhat Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Somewhat Important	Important
Important	Important	Very Important
Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Not Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral
Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral
Very Important	Important	Important
Important	Important	Neutral
Neutral	Important	Neutral
Very Important	Not Important	Not Important
Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Somewhat Important	Important	Not Important
Important	Important	Important
Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral
Important	Important	Important
Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Very Important	Neutral	Important
Important	Important	Important
Important	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Not Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Very Important	Very Important	Neutral
Very Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Neutral
Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Not Important	Important	Neutral
Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Very Important	Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Somewhat Important	Very Important	Important
Important	Neutral	Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Important	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Neutral	Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Somewhat Important	Very Important	Very Important
Very Important	Important	Important
Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Important	Important	Important
Not Important	Not Important	Not Important
Important	Important	Important
Somewhat Important	Important	Somewhat Important
Important	Neutral	Somewhat Important
Not Important	Not Important	Not Important
Very Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Important	Neutral	Very Important



What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?
Possibility of future changes, beautiful nature, affordable, Katahdin Woods and Water Monument, Baxter State Park, Mount Katahdin.
Proximity to the great outdoors.
Proximity to the north woods. And seriously-the performing arts dept is what made us focus on Millinocket rather than other area towns.
Quality of Life
Quality of life and sense of belonging to a place where anyone can call "Hometown U.S.A."
Quiltness Small town feeling Wonderful people.
Recreation
Recreation
Recreational opportunities such as hiking, swimming, boating and whitewater rafting. Very scenic area that is not as crowded and busy as the coastal areas during tourist season. Like the small town feel of Millinocket.
Safe place lots to do like fishing swimming in lakes places to hike and tent camping
Safety, beauty.
Safety, Community, people who care about you and your family, the natural beauty and outdoors activities
Scenery
Slower lifestyle and family members here.
Slower pace, small town feel.
Small retirement community with the added bonus of schools, hiking, and camping.
Small town - beautiful mountain - good people.
Small town - easier to get involved, be "civic-minded" Quiet, clean air, affordable housing.
Small town /low cost of living
Small town environment/easy access to the North Woods.
Small town feel, opportunities for children to participate in activities, near to good places for hunting and fishing, affordable housing.
Small town feel/community events.
Small town with potential.
Small town, Friendly people, Nature
Small town, woods, waters, recreation, friendliness, beautiful scenery.
Small towns have a stronger community.
Surrounding natural resources
The "new" attitude of accepting change and getting "behind" it.
The atmosphere and the area.
The beautiful scenery, my family, and the lifestyle. Very friendly people and community oriented.
The beauty of the area. We love the mountain, woods, lake - entire region.
The biggest reason I would want to live in Millinocket is if I owned a camp or if I wanted to go snomobiling.
The buzz of the town. This was a town where everyone knew everyone and people were willing to help you if you needed it. But I don't think we have that anymore.
The calmness and the close availability of outdoor activities. Hiking, rafting, skiing.
The close community.
The community and how beautiful Millinocket could be.
The community and scenery.
The four season recreational opportunities to hike, ski, swim, paddle, skate, and bike. The view and sense of calm of the mountain from a nearby lake or trail.
The Great North Woods
The great people of the town and the beauty of the Katahdin area !
The hospital, the library, the physical beauty of the area, and to be honest I have a house that would probably not sell for a great deal, which keeps me here even if I would like to move to a more tax-friendly area.
the lakes, the recreational opportunity, mt katahdin
The main factors that drew my wife and I to move to the area were, in order of priority: 1. Cost and Quality of the houses for sale, 2. The fact that Millinocket is a small, close community, and 3. The amazing natural beauty and all-season, outdoor recreational opportunities. Finding numerous residents who are very excited about revitalizing the area is an unexpected bonus.
The Maine way of life.
The mountain and recreational activities, performances.
The mountain.
The outdoor atmosphere and the Baxter State Park facilities to include New England Outdoor Center.
The peace and quiet. I grew up here back when the mills were big. As sad as the economic upheaval was, I like the town better now that it is quieter. I would like some economic development but feel smaller and diverse is the way to go. The primary focus should be on the recreational beauty we have to offer. This is a friendly, lovable place and we should capitalize on that. Nature endures, stores do not.
The peacefulness is one of the reasons I am seeking to move there
The people, small town environment.
The small town feel and it's people.
The small town feeling to bring up our children
The summer activities which are available. Friendly people and good neighbors.
The variety of outdoor activities and pursuits are the biggest reason for my interest and attraction to Millinocket.
The view, the looks of the mountain, and all my friends live here.
The views and wildlife.
The woods, the lakes, and the logging roads
Visit because of the natural resources
Was born and grew up here and returned a year after finishing nursing school.
What attracts me to want to live here, aside from the fact I have to live with my parents, it's a beautiful area and it beats the city any day.

What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?
Need internet connectivity, attract creative class, support young people to learn trades promote small business and incubator opportunities to create and grow business. Support existing businesses.
Establishment of small businesses.
Year round viable employment for younger residents. Can be telecommuting or I T based. Does not need to be manufacturing
An equal, strong, diversified fields of Recreation, Industry, Commercial, Residential and Education opportunities.
New business
Jobs
Jobs! Need to attract new businesses.
Jobs which pay livable wages and keep young people in the area. Will also attract people of all ages to the area.
Good paying jobs and more places to shop for clothes more places to stay and more places to eat
Beautification of down town. Make it look like people want to come down town. Paint the Town tear down old buildings on Main Street.
Infrastructure improvement at the airport and Millinocket needs something for people to do when they aren't hiking the mountain, boating, biking, snowmobiling. The region needs family entertainment for those who are not the young, or rugged outdoors type that the area primarily attracts.
Industry
Jobs to keep our young people happy.
Jobs.
Enough money for infrastructure
High Speed Internet - will bring higher paid cyber commuters to the area.
Industry with good wages.
Childcare. We have 1 licensed provider in Millinocket currently. That's sad. If we want to attract young people to live and work in this area, they need real options for childcare. We also need options for after school care for kids - like a Community Kids program.
A hardware store now that Levasseurs is closing.
Small business growth, improved public services (Rec Center, Library)
Higher paying jobs, with good benefits
Income to pay taxes.
Art supplies.
Cheaper tax rate to encourage home sales
A mix of different kinds of businesses and industry to augment our recreational businesses.
To get over the mill closing and try something new.
More job opportunities and source of money.
Entertainment. We use to have bowling, mini golf, movies, and more but there is nothing here now to do.
Money to keep the town alive. This can be in the form of grants to the town or enough people visiting to keep local businesses afloat.
Yes.
Getting jobs to everyone in need.
Diversification of the types of jobs available. Supporting existing and new small businesses to add stable, long-lasting jobs, rather than a big boom and bust industry. Improving the education system and the quality of public school education available in the region.
A vision for the area
Industry
Jobs to keep our younger citizens here and to draw others to Millinocket. Doctors, retail shopping, eateries, hardware/lumber. The most important thing is to get the school consolidated and out the tax mill rate which is exorbitant for a town this size and the services that are offered.
jobs!!!
Experienced leadership to make effective use of both the people who are energized to grow the town and the funding that is being offered by Our Katahdin and others for revitalization. We need someone with the vision and ability to organize efficient use of these two assets. I believe that will draw others into investing in businesses that will create job opportunities.
Revitalize the wood industry.
A big box store (walmart, target) or a mall.
A replacement to the long standing Paper Industry. As you know, paradigm shifts with technology has created a demise of the paper mills and hence, paper products. This can be solved head on with proactive planning, stepping out of the box mindsets, and looking deep into what the future demands and needs are, globally. This is where the concept "Hydroponic Greenhouse" farming year round comes into play. A great example of this is Backyard Farms facility in Madison, Me. There are plenty of resources to include University of Maine agricultural division, Economic counsels across the state, SBA, a whole wealth of resources to educate, accommodate, and communicate with corporations in CONUS and Countries abroad that do this on grand scales. Greenhouses in upwards of 50 to 100 acre complex are producing and shipping worldwide year round Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers etc. with self sustained facilities. Millinocket, Mio and perfect locations for this type of job creating industry.
A stronger tax base is needed. Downtown development can fill some empty spots without negatively affecting the flavor of the community. I'd like to see the railroad spur to the mill site used as more than excess railcar storage. What about a parking area and a platform for passengers so the railroad ( CMSG ) can do some park and ride rail tours, fall foliage runs, dinner train?
Jobs.
Industry, jobs in the \$15.00 and hour range.
To have a retail store and also manufacturing.
Jobs for its residents.
Year round businesses that will provide jobs and tax revenue to lighten the tax burden on our town's residents.
We need more things for kids to do. They get bored and bad things. If they had more things to do, they would not be getting in trouble.
Industry - it is set on the edge of the largest contiguous forest in the continental USA....we should be able to have wood product manufacturing there
Jobs
Employment that will bring young families into the community.
I feel Millinocket's greatest economic need is more jobs, lots of people travel out of town for work.
We have no good industry.
Do not let meth clinics open.
Jobs and people willing to work
Anything that brings jobs
To do away with the town manager and council. Go back to the selectman town form of government.
Another source of town income.
Jobs and actually having something to do.

When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?
Need business on Penobscot. Do not have social service agencies on the 4 blocks of "Main Street". Coffee shop, food coop.
Getting rid of the blighted buildings!
LESS dilapidated buildings. More focused tourism - not just "come visit", but come visit for x days and here is a packaged schedule of activities, or here is a comprehensive menu of activities and contacts. The chamber only does this for members and that is a small subset of businesses and opportunities.
Benches for folks who need to get out and walk for health reasons.
A balanced approach to critical thinking and problem solving. More constructive conversations and less negativity and personalities over principles!
I would like to see less empty and half torn down buildings. Downtown looks like a ghost town.
More jobs less politics
More beautification and less dilapidated houses/buildings.
Less chain stores and more encouragement of development of small local businesses with emphasis on the downtown area and mill purchased by Our Katahdin.
Like to see something done before you come into millinocket land by Lee's pit no power d
More small business. Less Bars
Less pightheadedness on the town council. Listen to the people. There is more than 1 right answer and several million ways to skin a cat. Embrace your public and they will make your jobs effortless.
Less of the empty store fronts and delapidative buildings
Less empty buildings
A symbiotic relationship between store business and consumer.
More business. Less fires. More thing for youth to do.
More information about things happening; more informal public meetings. Less Town Council time spent patting everyone on the back, issuing congratulatory certificates, etc.
More people moving here to fill our schools to pay taxes.
More thinking outside the box.
We need more creativity - unique businesses. All of the restaurants in town serve the same kind of basic food - wouldn't it be nice to see something unique like Harvest Moon or Verve (examples from Bangor area)? We need less thrift stores.
Fire and police protection is lacking.
Much better education system.
Tech jobs
More tourism, a cross-country ski race to bring winter tourists.
More stores like Renee's and area promo. Less complaining
More "positive, can do" attitude, less naysayers.
More outside the box thinking and less of our xenophobic nature.
Population is very low but would like to see more jobs
More stores like a bakery or small business so there is something here. More stores and more people will spend in town.
We have enough stores. I think we need more family inspired activities, and more for the teens and kids to do when they are not in school.
More cleaning up of downtown. Fixing the storefronts makes the town look less deserted. Better/faster internet service to match the rest of the developed world.
More events. Less small shops.
More shops and more summer and maybe even winter activities. Often times there's not much to do here.
I'd like to see more awareness of community events.
I would like to see more small businesses on Penobscot Ave. that create a social opportunity after 5pm. like a coffee shop, a brewery, a new restaurant. I would like to see less boarded up, decrepit buildings in the downtown area. It would be great to create an ordinance for facades that allows the town to take action to have owners clean up their abandoned buildings.
Less "same old guard" and politics. More futures planning.
More job availability and less empty storefronts .
More year round jobs, more for the tax paying residents to do, and especially the ages of 50+. I would like to pay less for property taxes, and less for wastewater. The services keep getting cut, but there is no cut in the mill rate or sewer rates.
cooperation between the local towns, less small minded council members fewer trips to china by the super. of schools , the effort is a failed one!!
The Pub Crawl during the Trail's End Festival provided a good reason for people to get out to downtown, and enjoy the live music and camaraderie that the town has to offer. Everyone I spoke to had met new people, enjoyed engaging conversation about the area, and expressed a desire to have more nights like that night. I have seen town street festivals that are scheduled once a month, with live music, draw a community together and help revitalize a town I lived in. We should have a downtown gathering once a month that is scheduled. Once people from outside of Millinocket know that it will happen on a given day each month they will start to plan for the night out.
More weekend seasonal events, like the marathon and trails end.
More people, less houses for sale.
More things to do. Less of nothing.
More of State of the Art produce bearing businesses. LED lighting for streets. basically Green Technology minded environment. Less "go with what you know " infrastructure i.e restaurants, bar and grill establishments, retail stores.
Less big name stores, more small operations with variety. More community events like craft fairs, auto shows, concerts? We have this huge parking lot at the old mill site, what about a summer concert series like Bangor Waterfront? Jimmy Buffet was in Baxter not long ago fishing with his son, and our park rangers rescued him when his truck broke down. He loves us. I bet he would come.
More access to college courses - perhaps add a satellite campus
More shopping opportunities. Less arguing among, and between our town leaders and our neighboring town leaders.
More positive reinforcement. Less negativity.
More community involvement
Need a department store.
A greater focus on equitably representing the diverse offerings of outdoor recreation and where the focus of the recreation takes place. Example = 3.5 million acres of North Maine Wood, Inc. Compared to 86,000 KWNNM
More events, more things to do in our community, other than walk down the street with nothing to do.
More stores.
I'd like to see more wood product manufacturing, more younger people with good jobs
Less closed mindedness and more renovations
Opportunities for young people/ families. Maintaining a good school system with more opportunities for advance placement courses for the students. Recreation/tourism
I would like to see less demolition so many building s are vacant and torn down. It makes a wierd empty feeling. I would like to see more.
More businesses and tourism.
More employment opportunity
jobs
I'd like to see less ugly abandoned buildings on Main St and more stores for things that we have to go to Bangor to get.
Less shops and stores not getting business and more things to do.

What part of recreation/tourism plays in our plan for economic development?
It is a vital linchpin to tourism and bringing young families to life in town.
Hiking/biking/outdoor activities
It's huge. That what gets people here in the first place. Then they just need a reason/way to stay
That area is important and often the easiest to achieve. But understanding that "picking low hanging fruit" will invite cultural change in most cases often divisiveness between heritage and forward thinking for the future.
Quite a bit. We need more attractions.
Av snowmobiling hunting fishing
Millinocket has it all. It's a hidden gem. Let the secret out! Need to advertise year round, each season. Hiking, fishing, boating, rafting, four wheeling - spring/summer. Leaf peeping, hunting - fall. Snowmobiling, cross country skiing, ice fishing, snow shoeing- winter.
Major part, but should not exclusively be relied on.
National Park and Baxter park mill site land available to build on
The outdoor environment Baxter State park, Mt Katahdin
Greater than 85%
Walking / hiking trails
There should be a balance.
More people, more money.
We have this beautiful land - we need to take advantage of it.
Could be a large part if there was a good plan.
Hunting, Snowmobilers, Fishing, Camping.
Less than 25%-50%
I think that it is a part of our future for sure, but it cannot be the only answer.
A big part.
Huge - All recreation brings demand for businesses.
We need more places for the younger crowds to visit, besides all the bars with currently have. I think the drive-in movie last year was a great idea of what we need more of. What is stopping the town from doing something like this a bit more often?
With no mills all of our economy depends on tourism.
Most focus on whole community
Currently it's the engine that is encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit. Encouraging new businesses on "main street" and expansion of others.
It's a huge part. Tourists/recreation people come for the beauty here which means they spend here.
Family oriented fun.
Tourism is good because it brings new money into town and new ideas.
All I know of is hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor sports.
A large part. It's whats going to draw the tourists in. There isn't enough money from the townspeople to keep afloat.
A lot as I said, not much to do to here and when we have stuff to do it can be so great, we need more!
Tourism and recreation is a fantastic way to draw people to the area. Now we have to remove barriers for small businesses to create the amenities that make people want to stay in town and not just get on the highway. People need a great place to grab dinner, or enjoy a beer on a patio, and have a really nice sleep after playing all day in Baxter, the Debascones, or the Monument. Currently, there is little to keep people from heading to 95 South to Bangor for dinner.
Hospitality, extreme sports, photography, hiking, biking, canoeing, rafting, kyacking, AT.
Hunting , Fishing , Snowmobiling, Hiking , Camping ,
It seems that the town is putting all their resources into rec/tourism based economic development and doing nothing to find other types of long term economic development that is more job based.
It should be a major part of the plan people come to the area to partake in the wide range of outdoor activities, the town should stress the cultural benefits, like the two art galleries the revitalized library/the michaud walking trail
There is already amazing recreation opportunity that should be maintained. Tourism is important, bt needs to be more diverse than just the hiking and rafting group.
Big part.
Mt Katahdin.
Spending more time at the NEOC. Assistance in promotion/development/augmentation of State of the Art, food growing Hydroponic greenhouse technology. 1. <a href="http://www.bushelboy.com/">http://www.bushelboy.com/</a> 2. <a href="https://bangordailynews.com/2017/06/09/business/canadian-greenhouse-plant-buyer-maine-tomato-grower-backyard-farms/">https://bangordailynews.com/2017/06/09/business/canadian-greenhouse-plant-buyer-maine-tomato-grower-backyard-farms/</a> 3. <a href="http://www.mainebiz.biz/article/2017/03/06/CURRENTEDITION/303019994%27?peness-is-all%27-as-backyard-farms-marks-10th-anniversary">http://www.mainebiz.biz/article/2017/03/06/CURRENTEDITION/303019994%27?peness-is-all%27-as-backyard-farms-marks-10th-anniversary</a>
I think this should be the crown jewel. As I said in suggestions above, nature endures. We have some of the best scenic views around. Fall bus tours for the foliage, fishing derby in Baxter, rail bikes on the unused East Millinocket rail line, I have ideas!
A major role.
An equal part along with industry and retail.
All recreation and tourism.
It plays a big part in a way of attracting visitors. However, there are only a finite amount of natural resource based careers that can sustain a person's budget. Presently it's difficult for many to earn a living wage.
Recreation/Tourism is what makes this town money to survive, but we need to make it so that more people wanna come here.
It plays a part, but it will not bring economic strength to the people living there with such low paying wages
Substantial- focus on camping, fishing, hiking, ATV and snowmobiling, and hunting. Skiing, geocaching, etc
Recreation/tourism plays a huge role in development of this area.
Tourism plays a huge role for our economic development because summer time is always busy from hikers, campers, and others. Just like the winter brings people to snowmobile and ice fish.
If we go only tourism then we need something that attracts people.
Right now that is all we have to offer
all types. Leaving anything out is missing out on something.
Important
We should actually use our mountain as something and try to improve it and grow it bigger.

Suggest three beautification improvements to the Town of Millinocket.
Abandoned houses clean up, rules about yards being junk yard, continue to indent appropriate businesses on Penobscot Ave
Planting trees on peddlers hill. Getting professional landscape design for the bandstand park area. The blacktop surrounding the bandstand is stark. The trees and bushes in the park are without arrangement or meaning. Promote the planting of blooming trees in our tree belts throughout the town.
Penobscot Ave needs to be a show case, not a series of run down properties. Great progress has been made but then you get to the two gray "shacks"
Well paved roads and walking areas. Clean-up junk yards and abandoned eye sore properties. Clean-up and maintenance of wooded areas around Millinocket Stream, highlighting it.
Downtown
Road improvements and old building tom down
Clean up Central Ave and Penobscot - draw passerby's into town.
Improve overall appearance of Main Street. Maintain good sidewalks and biking paths.. Can't think of a third.
Get rid of coffee shop and buildings next to it on main street do something with peddlers hill some kind business
Paint Main Street. Fix Pot holes. Make Millinocket Great again. Market old houses to out of States. Have a realtor that's title is Selling Millinocket.
From the top of the hill on the craig stretch to Moscones on Bates Street. Plant trees, shrubs, flowers, repair the asphalt, enforce building codes.
Because of days the dump is closed, the roadside need to be cleaned.
Repaving roads.
Open lots - do something. Take care of play areas. Something for our teens to do.
Take down the Rush Building! Paint the Ferland Building. Some sort of gateway/arch welcome sculpture on Peddler's Hill.
Fixing up Penobscot Ave so more people will shop and congregate.
We need cheap source of energy - we do have water - is there a way to commandeer that source? We need to address the prior obligations the community agreed to that we can not afford any more - pension plans - etc.
1. Remove the tower that is so prominent when you drive down the Central St. Hill. 2. Remove abandoned buildings on Penobscot Ave. 3. Finish cleaning up the bowling alley site
Downtown - remove or improve some buildings. Residential - remove uninhabited homes and apartments.
Trees/planters downtown, improved parks, tear down or fix up buildings that are eyesores.
Destroying that green apartment building across from the park that looks abandoned would be a good start. Honestly, I believe we have plenty of parks, but it would be nice to see some kind of dog park somewhere in the town.
A park with a gazebo on the corner of Forest Ave, Central St, with picnic tables. Lights in trees around Veterans Park and Peddlers Hill. Mini Mall in K&M Building.
Tear down and replace deteriorated buildings on Main Street.
The project to put a park at the corner of Penobscot and Congress will both beauty and focus attention on the "main street". Consistency in the "flavor" of "main street" in signage, flower arrangements, etc.
Pave all the streets again. No one like crappy roads. Re-paint and renovate Main Street. New welcome sign.
1. Playgrounds 2. Better light posts
Clean up old buildings, have things to do, more public events.
We need to repaint, pick up trash, and plant new flowers
Revitalize all Penobscot Ave storefronts like what NEOC did and with what is happening with the old Epstein's. Clean up the streets- trash removal, plant plants to make things easier to look at.
Transports to and from the park (bus service). More community building projects.
Mainly fixing up buildings and trying to fill empty buildings.
Getting volunteers to clean up the towns.
1) "Edible sidewalks" Newryw Maine has raised beds along their main street, but instead of planting flowers, they planted tomatoes, cucumbers and other edible vegetables that look nice and taste good. It would be great to do something like this in Veteran's Park, and the green space on Highland Ave that a lot of school kids walk through to get to school, and in front of businesses on Penobscot Ave. 2) Tear down the empty, boarded up coffee shop across from DesignLab. 3)Re-activate the revolving loan fund for facade improvements of businesses along Penobscot Ave.
Use of empty buildings - Sidewalk repair. More seating in veteran's park
1. Tear down the old buildings on Penobscot Avenue that look like dumps. 2. Use the area at the top of Central Street beside Peddler's Hill as a rest area/picnic area. 3. Plant flowers along the strip of land between Field Street and Central Street and the strip of land between Balsam Drive and Central Street.
the town should fund the michaud walking trail several buildings on penobscot ave should be tom down and turned into pocket parks!! downtown oasis"
1. Repair and paint/finish every building that needs it on Penobscot, and Central Ave as far as the Museum area. 2. Move the gazebo to the grass area (or rip up and reseed the area around the gazebo) and start having regular musical or storytelling events there. 3. Repair the skating rink at the high school, and keep it properly surfaced all winter.
Big box store, Mall, More tourist attractions.
More downtown.
1. LED Lighting for highways and roads. 2. Vintage lamp lighting for downtown such as Milo main st. 3. Tree growth along downtown. Maple tree planting.
A nice park by the river using the old mill site. Dog park maybe? A nice swimming site on the river now that the water is clean again! Plant some more trees in strategic locations and let nature feed them.
Downtown spruce-up. Tear down eyesore houses. More flowers!
Veteran's Park, Main Street, Business facades.
To update main street buildings, Update veterans park and have a walking tour of our town in the summer.
Clean up the downtown by eliminating the old buildings with broken windows, etc.
Improvements to the Benjamin storage business across from the current Our Katahdin Office on Aroostook Ave. White wash or Mural the brick wall. Replace the decrepit 2' X 4' stand for the civic organization's signs on the approach into town on central street. Pursue a solution to the removal of the so called "Mott hanger" at the Airport.
Decorate the town for the holidays. More events. More things for kids/teenagers to do.
Fix the Track at the high school, fix up the road/homes from Katahdin Avenue to the Sawmill Grill. Place a huge sign, possibly road wide "The Gateway to the North Maine Woods"
Buildings, gardens, informational areas and signage
Improving the downtown area. There are many old buildings vacant and some that need to be tom down.
Flowers, Trees, General Cleaning.
Keeping the town property in good repair.

Do you have additional feedback for the Town of Millinocket? Feel free to share any thoughts you have. If you have a question that you would like to be considered for the next survey, please share it here.

While trying to improve our tree belts what can we do for the perilous sidewalks we have neglected for 50 years?

Why did you ask about athletics and not the arts?

We need more benches for people who need to get out and walk for health reasons and can we please have a shed at the shelter items to nice to burn? I've gotten some awesome antiques from the bum pile and scraps of wood to carve and make boxes with and do woodcut prints. And I never know when I can use something for handyman stuff around the house! And yes I have. Waste not/Want not!  
A lot of what has been discussed in conversation and within this survey draws concern to what can or should be done to beautify our physical appearance which of course is very important, but appearance alone cannot substitute a lack of substance that has not been addressed. The "real beauty" of Millinocket is within the People! It is not an image that can be seen through the lens of a camera, or purchased at a novelty storefront, and cannot be produced at some future manufacturing plant. The beauty is in the hearts, minds, and souls of the resilient townsfolk that were raised here and the citizens from away that enhance our area and call Millinocket "home". Sometime the beautification projects are internal, within us! The People!

Add another cop on at night

Millinocket has so much to offer and so much potential!

My wife and I have considered retiring in the Millinocket area. There is a movement in the state for communities to get an "Age friendly designation" This indicates that communities have good access to healthcare, transportation and housing options for seniors as well as safe pedestrian walking areas. This may encourage other seniors to consider the area. Mark Eves is one legislator who is involved with this, and could provide information. There may be other legislators from your area involved as well.

Need to attract more people to invest in our town not drive them away more positive things not so much negative use the band stand area more during the summer like concerts in the park Friday nights get more people into town

Keep the library Open. That is very important to retirees

Make main street two way traffic and utilize the parking lots.

I think having Town Council meetings in a courtroom is BAD - everyone should be sitting at the same level, engaging as equals as in School Board meetings = much more comfortable, non-intimidating. And it's HORRIBLE that the majority sit higher than [a councilor]. It's great that this survey's getting done and there's more effort going towards citizen engagement, communication, etc. I'd like to see more forums for open discussion of controversial issues - NOT in the courtroom.

Talk to Town Council about how they post on Facebook. Recently [a councilor] was all over facebook making comments and posting stuff to the Welcome to Millinocket page. His views and comments were alarming and unethical. I am sure people moving to the area or looking to visit would be appalled and could think twice about visiting if seen. Though I have noticed most of it has been removed, people need to think twice before posting.

Open the town office on Wednesdays - be more accessible to people who need town government services - strive to be friendly and welcoming if you work in the town office. It's time to scale back where we can and to look at consolidating services in the tri-town area. We do not have the population to support keeping the status quo. We cannot afford for our mill rate to continue rising.

Take another look and consolidation of services. Have a meeting with leaders for all three towns and have them leave their attitudes and prejudices at the door. It's become "all for one and one for all" or we all go down together.

Has the town considered using some of the defunct properties as hacker houses? Hacker houses are incubators for programmers and are becoming popular in other small towns across the nation. Usually, the town will provide a house with bedrooms/decks (furnished) with a high-speed fiber connection to the house. The town will rent these properties at a reduced cost with the hope of attracting young people looking to create software, with the intention of starting a business out of there idea within the year in the area. If interested there are plenty of articles about what they consist of, and what they may offer to the town. Here's an article to get you started. <https://rist.org/living/hacker-houses-offer-shared-living-for-the-young-green-and-tech-obsessed/>

A mini mall in the K&M Auto Building on Ventral St with Local merchants displaying: a coffee shop & bakery, a local coffee roaster & crafters. A store similar to Pioneer Store, Smyrna with dry goods, homemade breads, sewn goods, good prices on tools, kitchen ware. People could sign up to hose (their home) to Marathon runners, cross-country ski races and in return get a reduction in their taxes. A town-owned propane propelled bus to takeikers to Baxter Park, KI area, Medway Bus Depot, or scenic rides. Similar to Acadia Bus that go up Cadillac Mt.

Attention to our mill heritage

Consider the use of the revolving fund to help businesses connect to broadband hi-speed fiber in the downtown area. Support the library. It is a major asset to the town and to the community.

It would be great to see some kind of industry come back to the town to create jobs again and make it like it use to be, the streets were full of people and no empty storefronts. Its sad that it looks like a ghost town anymore ...

Tourism is ok for economic development, but not the end-all solution to the problems facing the Town of Millinocket. Several businesses receiving the paying end of tourism is fine, but what about the rest of the town? We need jobs, all types of jobs that are here year round, retail, manufacturing, food service, medical etc. Jobs that can sustain families and enrich the economy of Millinocket. Pretending that we are a "Bair Harbor wannabe" just does cut it in my opinion.

I am well aware of the loss of the paper industry, economic impact, human factor denial, resistance to change / acceptance. But I feel strongly that Indoor Green housing on a grand scale is food in demand, green technology, an industry that is, and always be in high demand, and can provide a large job base for present, and future population and well as investor attraction. Look to Canada as a role model. They have facilities that range in areas of 100 acres. Minnesota, another big player in the production of greenhouse based fruits and vegetables. Feel free to contact: [bob.campbell@cmgrailway.com](mailto:bob.campbell@cmgrailway.com)

If looking for more revenue, how about selling houses that are either derelict or abandoned for tax owed or a dollar to encourage private development. Any town storage not being used rent out space, offer to full time RESIDENTS for a reduced fee. Let me move my railroad caboose into town and set it up as a home to show you are flexible. ( Ok, that last one was a dream of mine ha )

Tri-town cooperation is a must if we are going to survive.

Millinocket needs to remember the past but not repeat it.

In March of 2016, the Millinocket Town Council conducted a S.W.O.T analysis. There were many good points identified to be used as a starting point to cure many of the towns issues. Some have been taken care of since then. Others could be reconsidered and integrated into the priorities of current efforts.

I feel like our town's going dull. If we wanna keep kids off drugs and and happy, we need to find more things for kids like arcades or dances every other Friday. Anything to add more to our town would also make more people ad tourists for our town.

Town website needs to be more user friendly. The old website was more user friendly than this new one.

I think that the town of Millinocket needs to have a source of town income instead of living off government grants and gofundme money and find/develop a source of income to revamp this town. This is much easier said than done. Since we lost the mill our towns economy went down the drain.