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# Survey Report:

## Millinocket Annual Survey 2018

January 22, 2019

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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. This is the second version of this survey. A similar version of this survey was conducted last year and a report is available. Having perspective on different aspects of economic development gives the governing body some tangible evidence in public opinion and how the town should guide its redevelopment.

### **Method**

This version of the survey contains some questions from the prior year to gather baseline data, as well as some new material. Questions suggested for this version 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 23, 2018 to a closing date of December 31, 2018.

\*\*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.

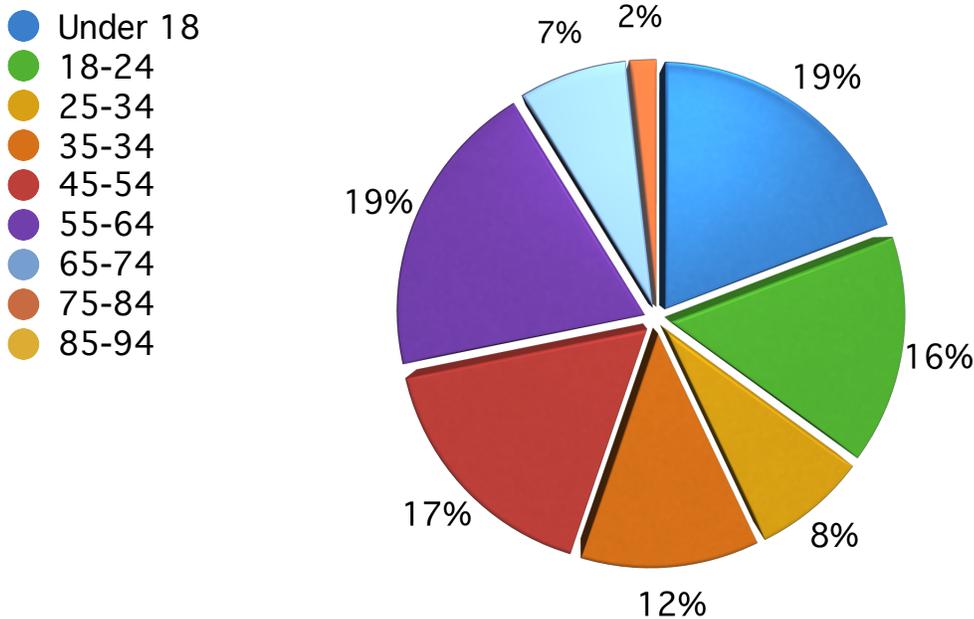
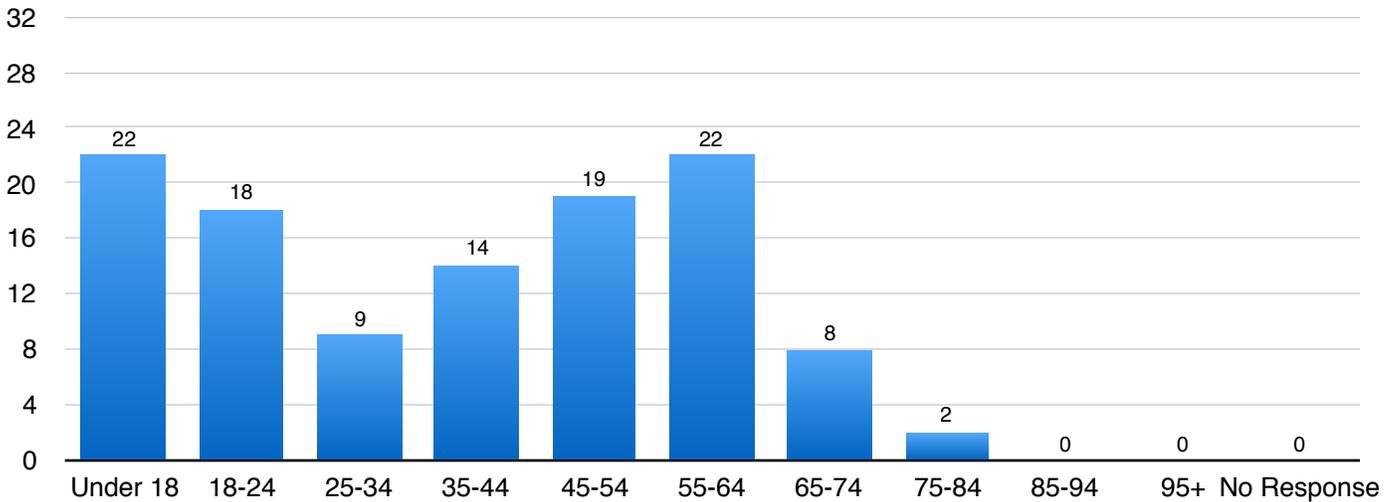
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## Demographics - Age

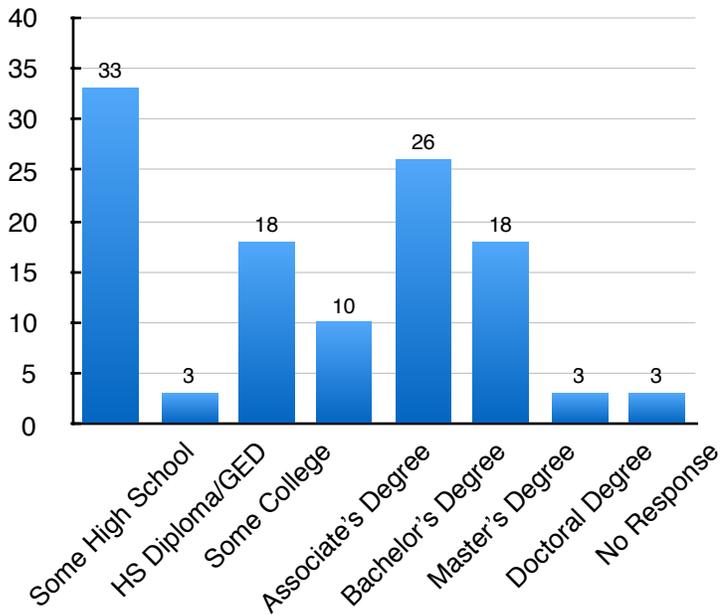
Surveys: 114 Total



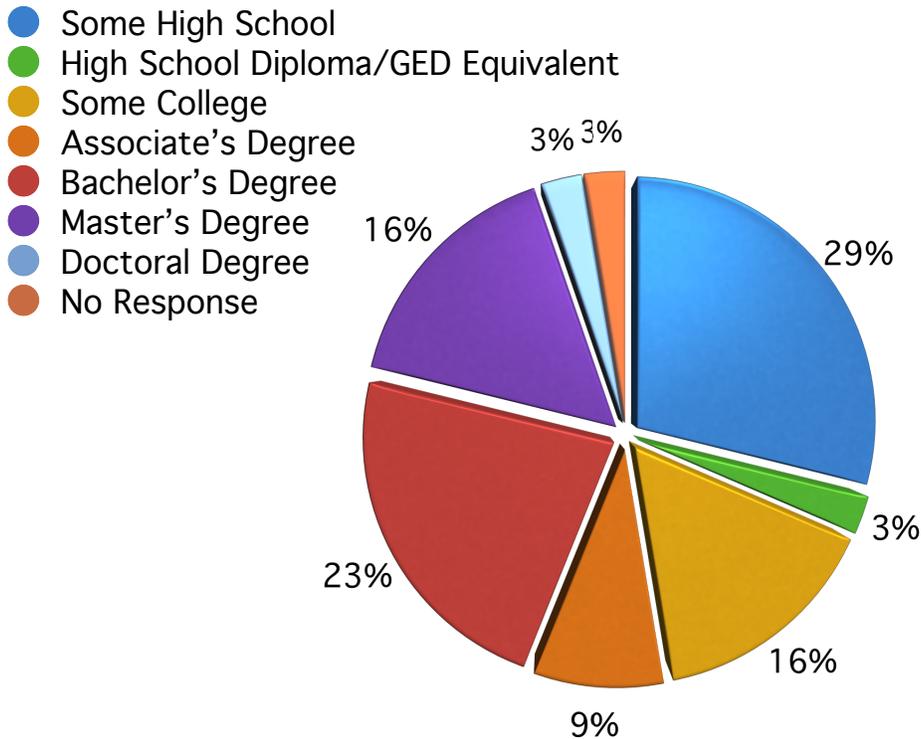
The survey sample is an accurate representation of our current population demographics for not only Millinocket, but the Katahdin region as a whole. The relative age of the population in the region falls between 45-54 and 65-74 categories respectively. There has been a declining youth population over 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.

## Demographics - Education

Surveys: 114 Total

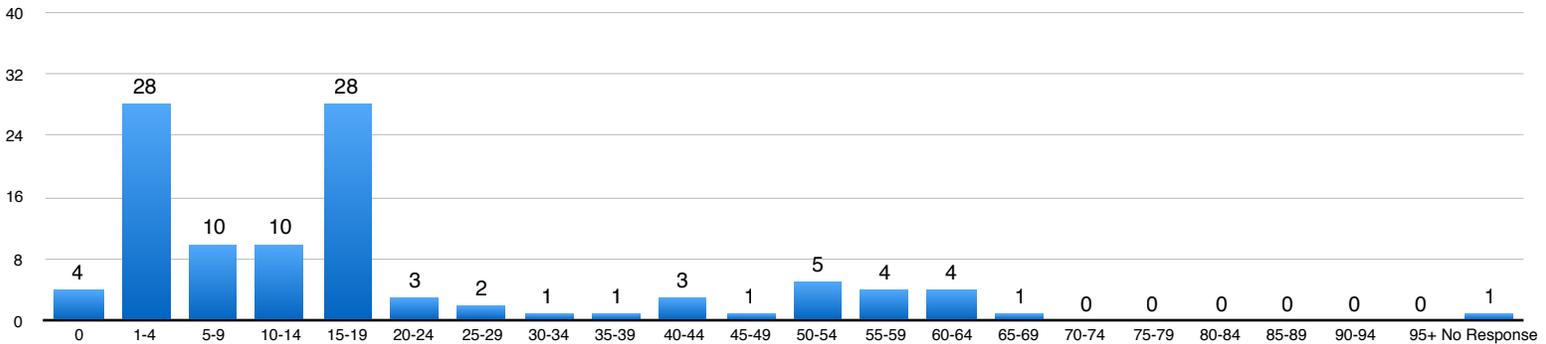


The survey sample represents all levels of education that were identified as categories. It continues to be a goal that we gain insight from those at all education levels. This goal was obtained even with a sample size of 114 participants.



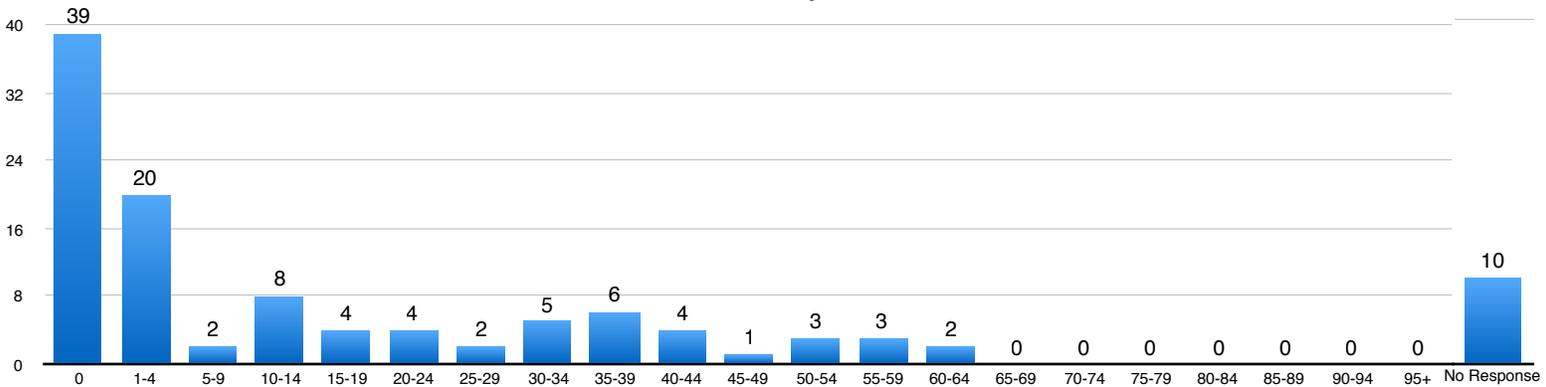
## Demographics - Years Lived/Visited

Years Lived - Surveys: 114 Total



This version of the survey includes more individuals that are new to the area and have been here for up to two decades. Less individuals that have lived here for a majority of their lives. It is important to get balanced insight from those who are now learning of the area’s history while bringing new perspective with those who know the history and culture of this town.

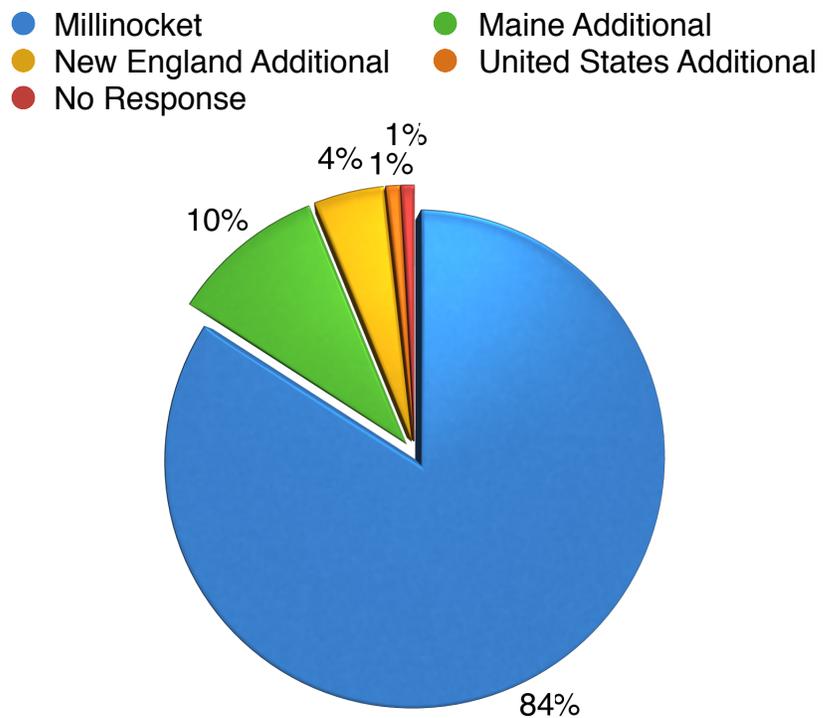
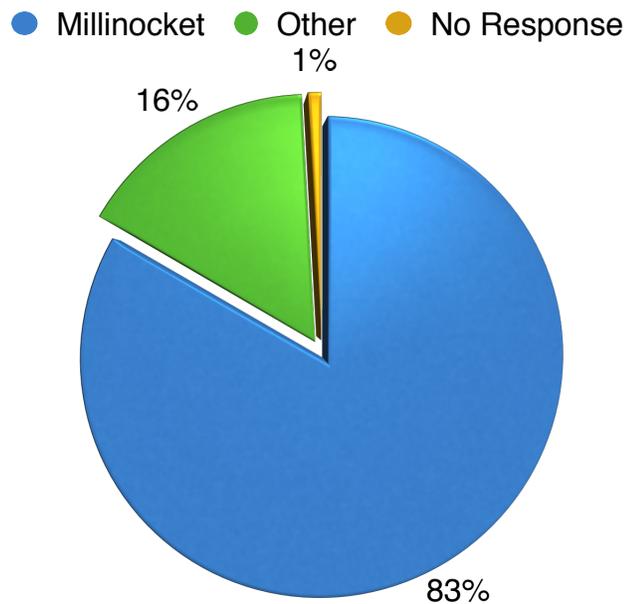
Years Visited - Surveys: 114 Total



This version identifies potential new visitors to the town compared to the last survey. The survey sample also 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	96
Medway, ME	2
East Millinocket, ME	1
Brownville, ME	1
Bangor, ME	1
Brewer, ME	1
Hallowell, ME	1
Bucksport, ME	1
Kennebunk, ME	1
Portland, ME	1
New Gloucester, ME	1
Andover, MA	1
Quincy, MA	1
Pembroke, MA	1
Bourne, MA	1
Dover, NH	1
Surprise, AZ	1
No Response	1
<b>Sum: Non-Millinocket</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Sum: Maine Additional</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sum: New England</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sum: United States</b>	<b>1</b>

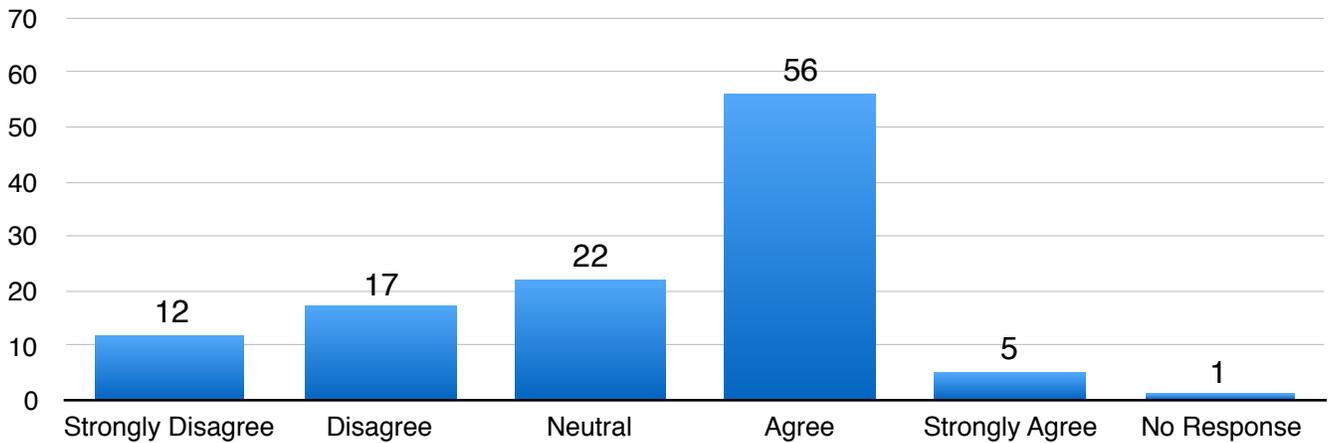


The survey sample represents about three-fifths of participants currently living in Millinocket. About two-fifths of the data represents participants from outside of Millinocket's boundaries or those who decided not to provide that information. Gathering perspective from those that also visit our town continues to be a goal of the project. We were able to meet that goal with submissions by a variety of fellow Mainers from various areas of the state, as well as visitors from New England and another location within the boundaries of the United States. It is noted there was a decline in input from distances greater than Maine.

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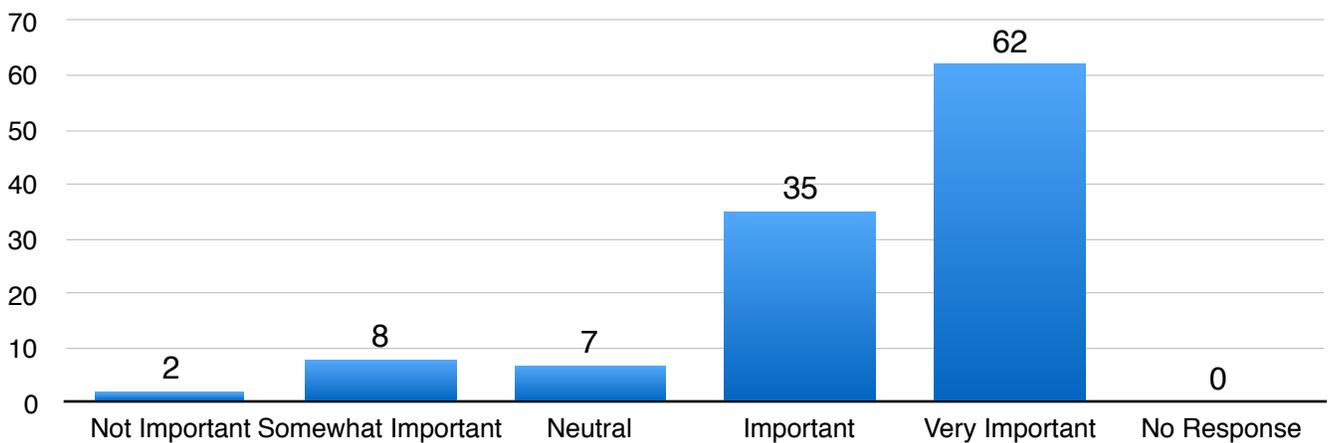
## Closed Response Questions

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 one-fourth 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?

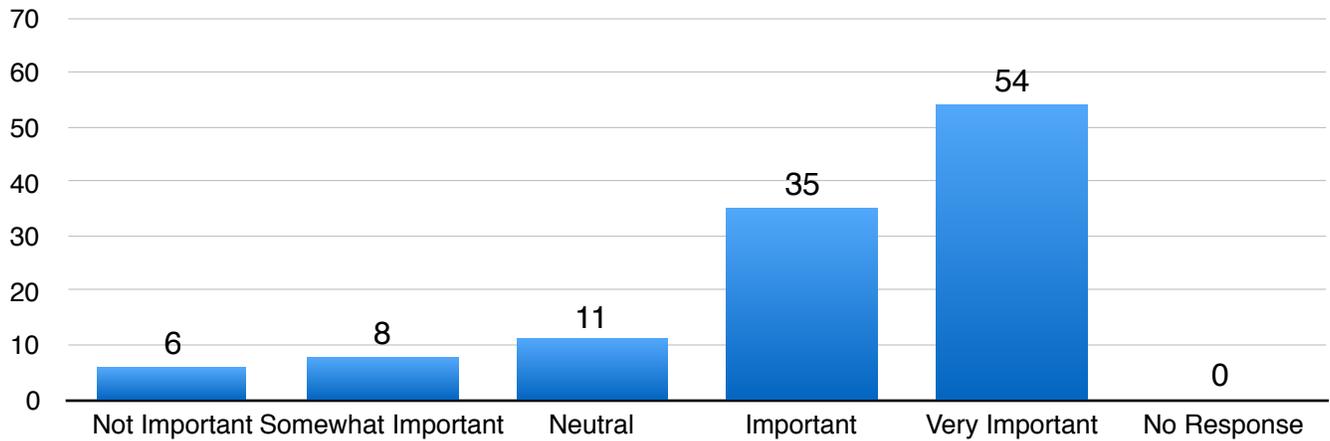


It can be inferred that over three-fourths of participants agree to some degree that recreation is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

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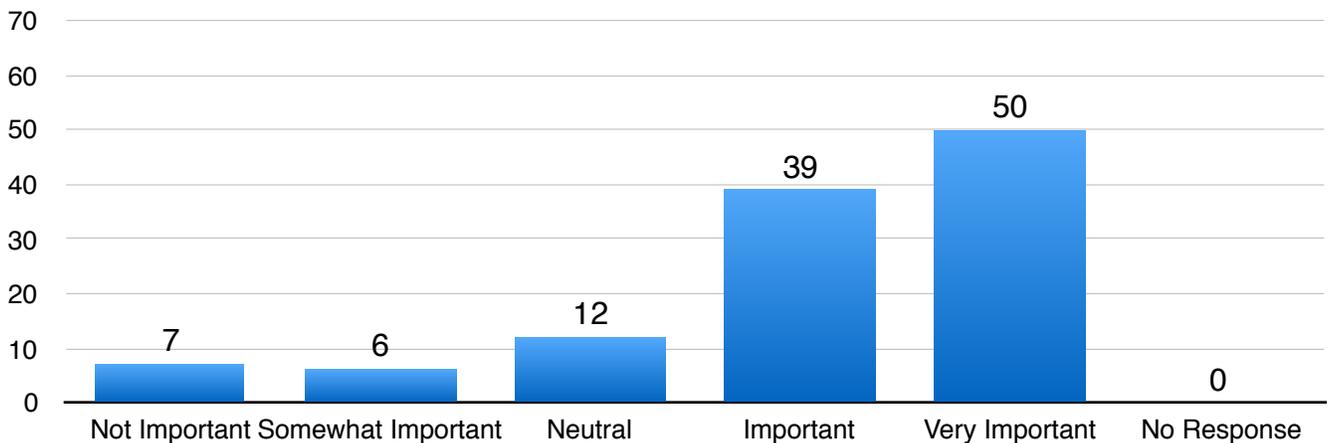
## Closed Response Questions (Continued)

How important do you feel industry is to economic development?



It can be inferred that over three-fourths 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?

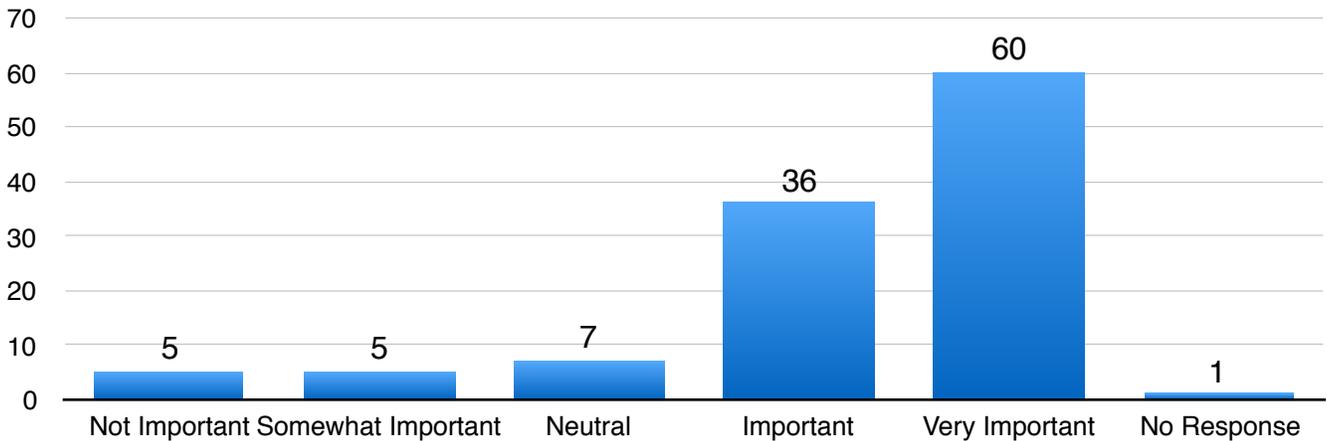


It can be inferred that over three-fourths of participants agree to some degree that beautification is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

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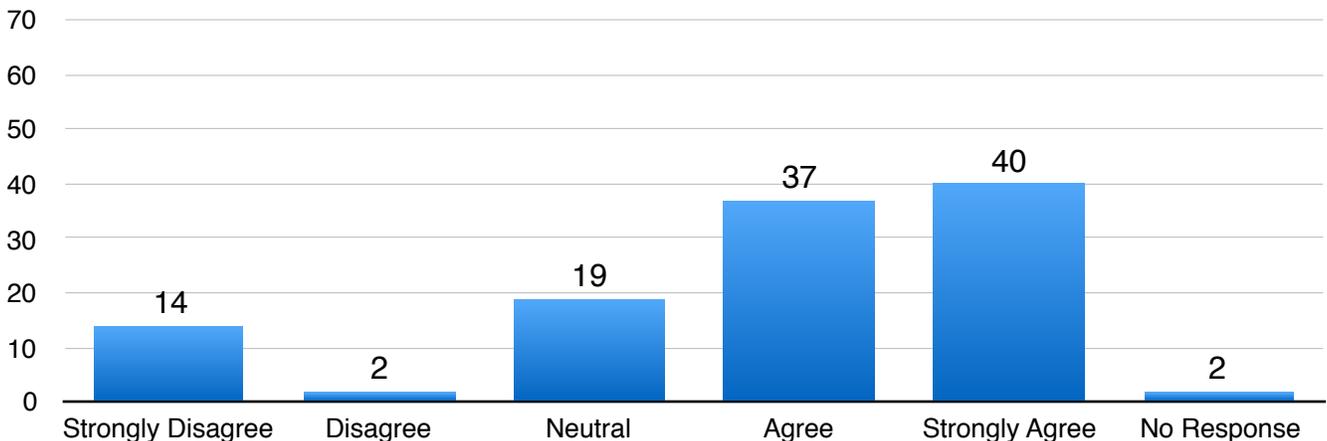
## Closed Response Questions (Continued)

How important do you feel are activities such as the sports, arts, and other community programs in our town?



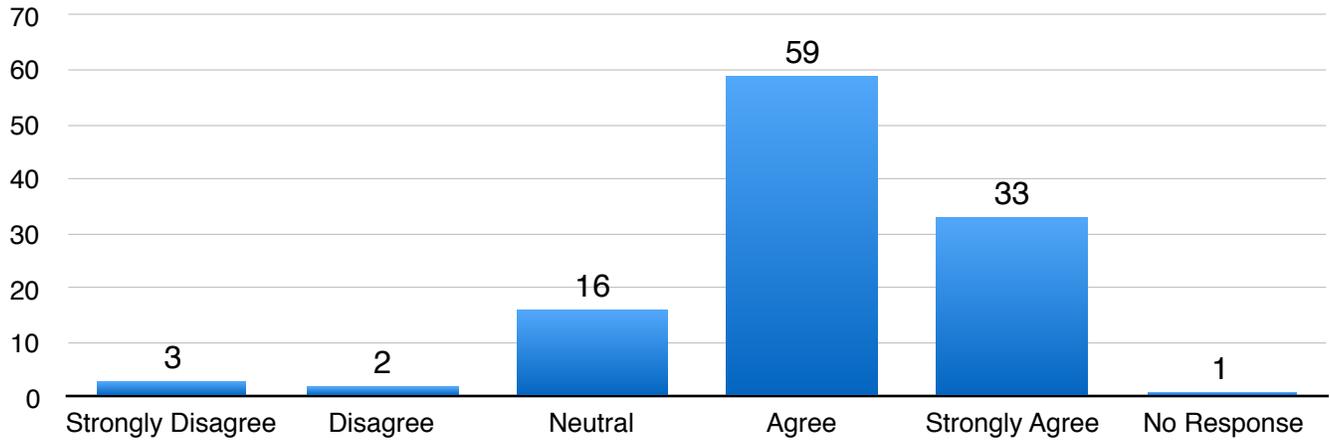
It can be inferred that over three-fourths of participants agree to some degree that the sports, arts, and other community programs are important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket. It can be inferred that nearly one-fourth of participants disagree to some degree that the sports, arts, and other community programs are important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

I would support a southern entrance through Millinocket to the Katahdin Woods and Waters Recreation Area.



It can be inferred that over two-thirds of participants agree to some degree that a southern entrance through Millinocket to the Katahdin Woods and Waters Recreation Area is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

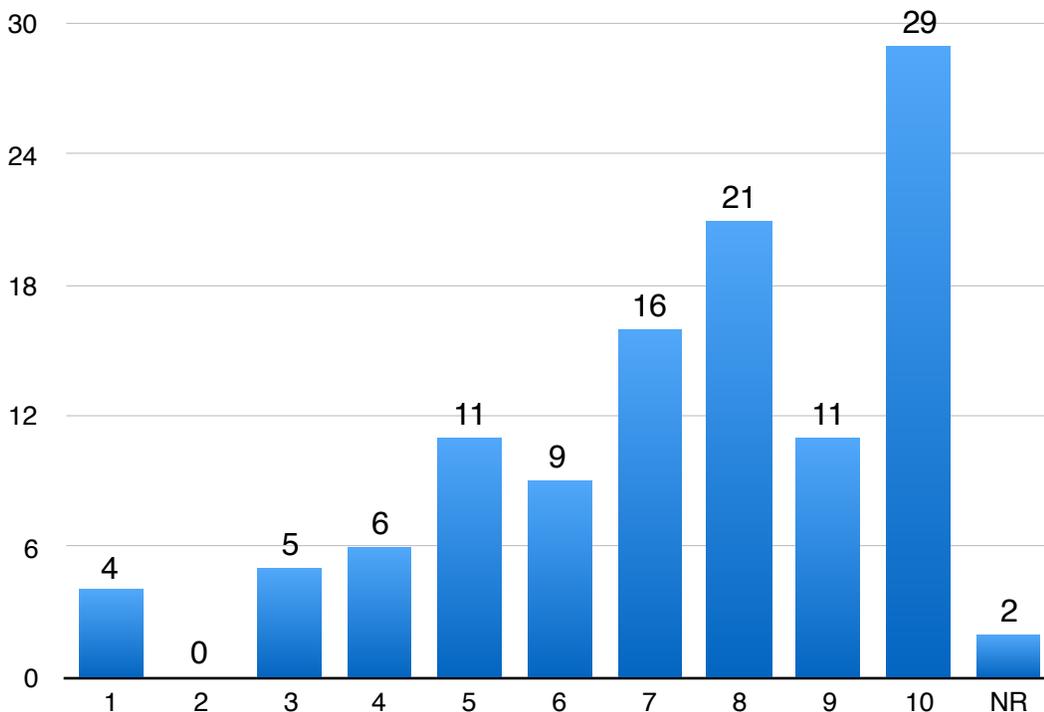
I would support taking steps towards becoming an age friendly community.



It can be inferred that over two-thirds of participants agree to some degree that taking steps to becoming an age friendly community is important to economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

**Net Promoter Score: 7.3**

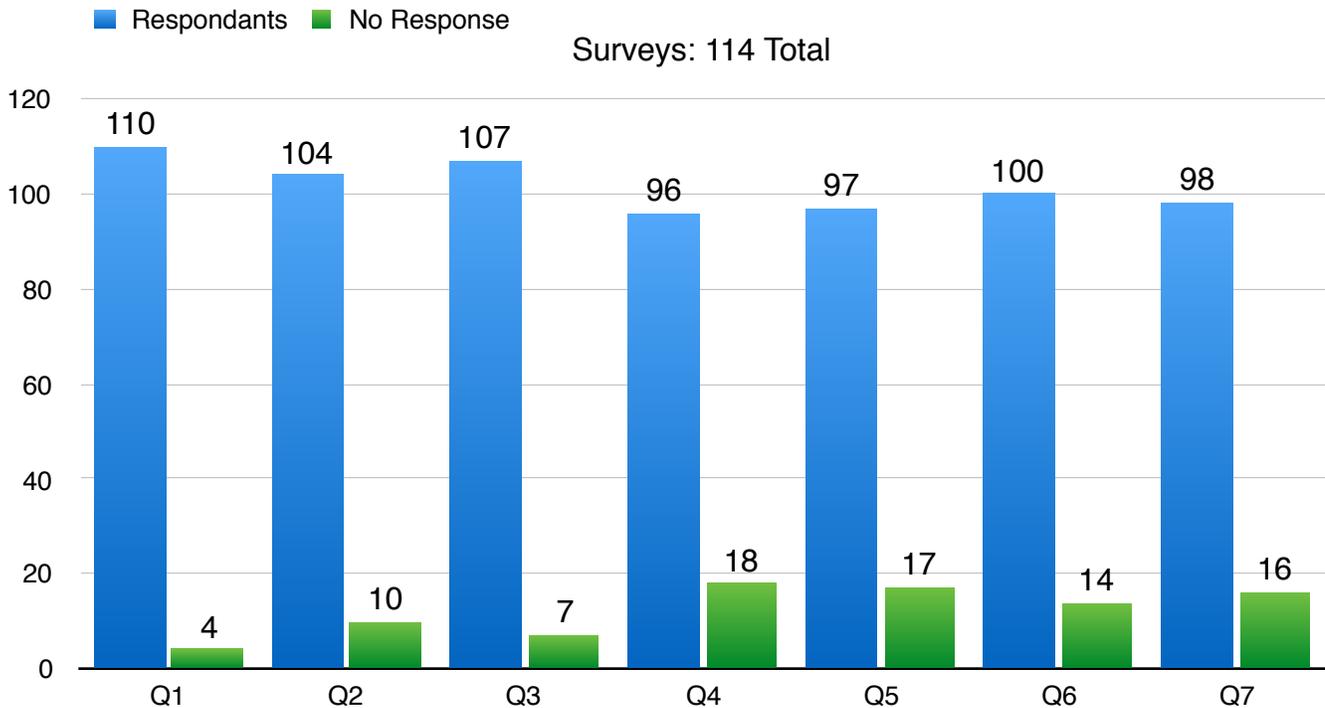
How likely are you to recommend Millinocket as a great place to live, work, or play?



## 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	Q6	Q7
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.	Would you be willing to volunteer in the community? If so, where would you be willing to do it?	Would you like to see an effort in revitalizing the downtown corridor? If so, what would you suggest as an improvement?



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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

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

### Responses

- People - the community, access to all activities enabled by freshwater and the magic of a wild forest.
- Great community!
- The access to outdoor activities
- Family, friends and a near by recreation area
- Natural beauty and clean resources, outdoor activity all year round, good places to eat, thing as to do at night, improving! Love the energy of the trails end festival and the milli marathon!!!
- The price of housing first attracted us. Hubby and I are both on Social Security. We tithe and sacrificially give to our church and have a wonderful life financially. We recreate a lot in our beautiful town and surrounding area and plan to stay here until one of us dies. The other might not be able to afford to live alone and then we might have to leave. Time will tell...
- Great people, proximity to and access to the out doors and outdoor recreation, with nice amenities, like restaurants, hotels, etc
- I grew up in Millinocket and have moved back to home on South Twin Lake. We love the outdoor activities and access to parks. It is a beautiful area and we hope more friend move back after retirement.
- Beauty of the region and the number and variety of outdoor experiences
- Low crime. Natural beauty. Friendly people.
- It is home. Friendliness. Small town.
- None
- Parks and Rec
- Small town; remote; quiet; beautiful landscape; access to outdoor recreation and outdoor hobbies; great opportunity to be involved in the community and apply unique skills and talents to jobs in the future with people and industry having left this area; the new, innovative broadband initiative.
- access to outdoor recreational activities; small town; community atmosphere; friendly residents
- I love it here. Not a lot of traffic, safe, quiet, friendly, close to nature, family is here, spectacular beauty....freedom is just a short car ride from my office. So much potential here.
- natural surroundings

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- I am primarily here for family reasons. I lived here as a child, graduated from Stearns, and left for education, etc. My 92-year-old mother is here in Katahdin Health Care, my brother, his wife, my nephew, his wife and child, and good friends are here. That's why I came back after 45 years. I appreciate the beauty of this town, however, and it's surrounding area. Seeing the mountain every morning on my way to work lifts my spirits. It is distressing to see the economic change but, I feel like the town is moving in the right direction. I am enthusiastic about the chance for advancement and look around at other areas of the state to see what they are doing that we might do hear. I would love to see more emphasis put on arts and culture, community development, and youth opportunities. There is a kids club in the Wayne/Winthrop area which I feel would be a good fit for something similar here. I think our kids are being left too much to their own devices. We need to provide more opportunities for leadership growth and personality development for them. I would certainly be willing to put time toward such a cause if someone else would take the lead. We have a very strong group of home crafters here and I would love to see some people step up to organize a co-op to provide a structure for further development of these home industries. Other communities provide this and it is an enhancement to the tourist industry. It seems there is some advancement on Main St but I would like to see more support and more structure. Again, I am willing to put volunteer hours into this but would like someone else to lead the charge. As for community development, I recently heard of a microbrewery that provides a community center as part of there business. They provide space for cards, games, etc. to the community. Not sure what else they do. But, it would be nice to have such a place for adult recreation that isn't totally centered around consuming alcohol for it's own sake. I know we have many clubs; Elks, VFW, Am Legion, but those places are for a defined set of people. There doesn't seem to be a place for all to gather with just recreation in mind.
- Safe Town and close to the outdoor Recreation
- Recreational opportunities, friendly people, relative easier cost of living.
- Millinocket is a great community, I love the little neighborhoods, and the feeling of family. They are working hard to get beyond the mills.
- The surroundings, the slower pace of life, the ease of living here.
- The people, scenery, stress free.
- I like the small town atmosphere where people are friendly and look out for each other. I feel safe here. The beauty of the mountain, area lakes and open spaces are another reason I like living here. I like the local talent, and current energy that exists in revitalizing our town so that I can stay here to live out my life.
- Outdoors, Baxter, recreation (lakes, snowmobiling), friendly people
- Close community; outdoor recreation; family
- Friendly community

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Snowmobiling, ice fishing, fishing
- Place
- The community here is amazing. Oh sure, the gossip flies around but when it comes down to it, if someone has a need, people here care and are willing to help
- Small town...very safe
- Top 4 seasons recreation.
- Natural beauty.
- Safe place to live and bring up children.
- Snowmobiling hunting fishing and wilderness
- quality of life
- Everything outside the epitome of a national monument.
- Safe place to raise children.
- Free access to fishing / hunting friendly land
- Grew up in Millinocket, love the area, forest, and people.
- Quiet, natural beauty, caring community, less rural than other towns in the area, large city (Bangor) close enough, hospital in town, active Catholic church, and local police department.
- Baxter State Park
- Family
- 1. The people
- 2. Baxter Park
- 3. Food and drink in town.
- 4. A hub when visiting KW&W,
- Family here, true four seasons
- I have lived here early in the 2000s for several years, and this time 2 years but permanently. Great area for recreation and community values. Children friendly community, family oriented, and friendly to newcomers.
- Home prices, quality of life, friendliness of people, natural beauty.
- My husband's place-based job brought us to Millinocket.
- I was initially attracted to visit due to the marathon.
- I do enjoy the outdoors, and would enjoy the opportunity to visit Baxter state park, hike Mt. Katahdin, and the new national monument.
- Nature, small population, family
- MY HOMETOWN
- Right now, the natural beauty of the area and the variety of outdoor activities year round.
- Natural beauty. Proximity to Baxter and Woods and Waters. The marathon.
- It's home. Safe community, beautiful area, good schools if you stay involved.
- Nature

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- I visit Millinocket as an entrance to the Baxter State Park area in the summer and to run the Millinocket marathon and half marathon in December.
- Affordable housing, small schools and outdoor recreation.
- The town, the people have been extremely welcoming. Also looking for a better quality of life. Less work and more time for outside activities and time to be active in the community
- Baxter State Park
- I grew up in Millinocket until I went to college. My parents remained in Millinocket and I eventually sold my childhood home in 2000. My father worked in the mill and he built a camp on Cedar Lake and I have visited camp every year of my life. The beauty of the Katahdin area is something you don't appreciate until you move away. I have been lucky to have a connection that allows me to visit whenever I can!
- Cost of living, recreation, family
- Away from the big cities and affordable housing cost
- The people, the Mountain, the whole area.
- A great job on the edge of the woods.
- I don't this town hates it's citizens and the town office is run by a bunch of criminals.
- Housing costs, businesses in the area
- Small town, great people, wonderful community, lots to do
- Sense of community
- We need more people who want to work with jobs that can employ them. We need productive members of society . The kids need all opportunities in school with education and extra curricular activities.
- School
- The beauty and people of the area.
- Outdoor recreation. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, atv, snowmobiles, lakes, etc..
- The natural beauty of the Katahdin region.
- National park and Appalachian Trail
- Access to lakes, snowmobile / ATV trails, fishing, boating, hiking and white water rafting...
- My parents live here and it's a nice small town.
- Safety, close-knit community, location, extra curriculans.
- It is a quiet small town that is pretty peaceful. We have gorgeous woods and natural scenery. Not much else.
- The lakes and the land around us.
- Decent for retirement.
- I absolutely love the sights.
- Only Baxter State Park and the National Woods Monument.
- The people, the scenery, things to do in the summer.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- The small community, and also the lakes, wildlife.
- The freedom, the woods and all the good hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- The mountain and lakes.
- Mountain.
- Hunting, white water kayaking/rafting, other outdoor activities.
- The sites and outdoor activities attract people to our town.
- Quiet.
- To be able to be in the middle of the woods with only five minutes of driving.
- Family and Community.
- Nothing. I wish my parents had never moved here.
- The beauty of Millinocket, and the “small town feel”.
- Beautiful environment.
- The fact that the town is small and most people know each other.
- Mountain, Community, Family, Park.
- The Maine Wilderness and sports/performing arts.
- Location and family.
- Nature
- Nothing. It’s cold and my parents force me to live in this God for saken place.
- Snowsledding and being outside.
- Visit...summer sites at Baxter Park.
- The mountain and surrounding lakes.
- Family, mountain, friends, camp, snowmobiling, boating, the lakes.
- Golden Road
- People, snow, Golden Road. Money from recreation. Better sled trails for everyone.
- Outdoor recreation.
- The price of homes.
- Low crime, friendly community.
- How much it’s changing and reflecting/recalibrating its vision of progress. Feels like a flexible time to be here.
- Life-Long Home. Small-Town Quality.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

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

### Responses

- Businesses and industries sustainably utilizing the woods.
- Jobs
- Restaurants, shops, and small businesses on penobscot.
- Industry
- Young people need to be attracted to come make innovated services available and open businesses. We need industry as well, on the smaller scale perhaps to offer skilled and unskilled jobs.
- Jobs for teens and young adults!
- Organization and a collective effort at economic development
- It needs industries with good jobs and pay that will provide a good standard of living for local people as well as attracting people to move here. With a higher standard of living then more stores will open providing more jobs. The town needs to grow with young families along with people coming back for retirement.
- Lower energy costs
- Great the tax lien off the mill site.
- Develop more organized recreation such as the marathon. Embrace outdoor activities/ events that attract people to come "play" in the woods. This does not require a big outlay of cash or infrastructure. It encourages the development of a tourism economy. It introduces young people to the area. They can get a taste of what a great place it is to raise a family (safe, low crime).
- Industry.
- More jobs.
- A super sized sports supply store
- Town policy (zoning, tax, housing, etc.) that enables and encourages resident ownership in the commercial downtown community and promotes residential economic mobility.
- employment for young families
- We need to attract businesses to town. Re-development of the mill site is a top priority so we can get some good paying jobs in town. A handful of jobs could make a big impact. Finding a way to get rid of/ pay off the \$1.4 million tax lien on the mill site would be a great start.
- job opportunities, career ladders, and support for people to be trained in trades job (electrician, plumber, carpenter,etc)

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More jobs that pay a decent wage and allow the employee to take pride in a skill. The loss of the mill seems to have dealt more than an economic blow to this town. The whole town seems depressed, like they have lost their identity and pride of place.
- Sustainable employment
- Better recreational opportunities, shopping, services
- Getting the IRS lien forgiven or taken care of somehow, so that the mill site can be utilized.
- Beautify Penobscot Ave. and fill the shops again.
- Bring more businesses for residents to work local
- Millinocket needs a diversified economy that is active year round. We need a solid tax base to keep our essential municipal services in place (and adequately funded) including the schools, recreation and hospital.
- More forest- related jobs
- A council that is in lock step with what all other volunteer groups are doing
- Economic diversification and supporting small businesses as well as the chamber of commerce.
- jobs
- Welcoming community, quality education environment, lower mil rate
- I think Millinocket should have more food options when dining out
- Industry
- Branding & promotion.
- Jobs and business
- Mill site development
- Industry. period. You cant bring people to a community that lacks industry, and also lacks recreational activities for teens and adults alike.
- More options for consumers, like more restaurant choices and more variety in businesses.
- Industry
- Industry
- Businesses of some kind...tourist, manufacturing, leisure, more shops.
- Less "grass and parks" more businesses offering job opportunities
- The town needs to stop buying buildings to level for grass.
- Jobs for young people.
- Need industry so we have better wages and year round employment
- We need to bring back some type of industry and/or year round attraction which will keep people here and bring our real estate values back.
- Broadband and better cell service.
- Fiber to the premise broadband network.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Hard to say not being from town and what the day to day needs are. But looking at the very long run, ensuring that young people in the region get the kind of educational resources and opportunities they need to be successful.
- Good jobs for young people. Not a mill, but some place interesting to work. Brewery, winery?
- A TOWN COUNCIL THAT KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
- Need to work on attracting all types of new businesses...entertainment, tech, small relevant industry...run by people who are really invested in the area.
- Ecotourism.
- Businesses that provide year round, livable wage jobs, high speed broadband should help and businesses that provide activities for young people and tourists. Retail and entertainment as well as the mixed industry.
- Small business
- Business or industry that can provide secure jobs for local residents, or those wishing to make the Millinocket region their home.
- Faster internet service, an indoor ice skating area.
- Lower electric bills for the locals and businesses. The transfer fees are outrageous. Especially since we produce electricity here. Locals could give more if necessary utilities were lower
- Industry
- Sustainability
- I have seen the ups and downs of Millinocket and I am glad to see things going in the right direction. The non-profit groups and volunteers have given hope and fresh ideas that are starting to really make a difference. I think high speed internet is a huge need and will attract companies and people that are able to work online and also enjoy the beauty of the area. Having places for people to live who want to move to Millinocket is also a need that seems to be being addressed. My family home is one of the newly renovated homes that was featured on the local news. It is so nice to the place looking so good. Seeing run down homes or empty lots where houses used to be is not a welcoming first impression for people to see.
- We need more millennials!
- manufacturing
- Work hard to get the 1.5 million tax lean paid off so that we can use the 5.3 million grant. The town and the Our Katahdin group need to get their heads together to deal with how to pay the IRS!
- Downtown planning, and wayfinding.
- Everyone in that town office needs to go.
- To get more involved with motorized recreation to attract tourism to the area.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More jobs
- More restaurants and a larger workforce
- JOBS
- Quality clothing, rec center for kids. Proceeds from Our Katahdin to purchase new uniforms, equipment, fields, dug outs. Allotted money to help repair and update historical buildings on Main St. I could go on and on...
- Jobs
- Tourism
- Jobs
- JOBS
- Full functioning Chamber and visitor center to coordinate messaging and economic development.
- Good paying jobs
- Business
- Business
- Some type of industry to employ citizens.
- Need more work.
- Money.
- Millinocket needs to adapt. We can't keep focusing on the past with the mill but instead focus on where we're going now.
- A mill or some type of industry.
- A big company to come in and make a mark like the mill did.
- Anything that will give people jobs.
- A mall. A mill.
- A mall.
- The west branch brings in a lot of money.
- We need a business that will bring in the people and interest the people in town. And we need more big events like the marathon that will bring people in.
- Jobs.
- Some form of manufacturing. Wood? Granite? Hydro/Wind power?
- The greatest economic need is an industry appealing to the younger generation.
- They need tourists, there is plenty of history in this town.
- I feel Millinocket could use more things to do for both kids and adults. We have stuff that are outdoorsy, but nothing to do on a rainy day. I also feel maybe one or two chain businesses or restaurants. People living here don't always like having to travel to Bangor to go to the movies or to shop.
- Something to replace the mill in order to run the town.
- Marathon.

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

- I feel as if Millinocket needs everything.
- An industry to support growth.
- Jobs
- Another big business like the Northern - or more tourism.
- Money, Great Northern Paper Mill.
- Snowmobiling, hiking are huge to development.
- Industry that uses wood. The Golden Road comes into the mill yard. Trucks need to be licensed. No weight limit.
- Attraction to outside visitors.
- Industrial jobs at good pay with benefits, more stores.
- Diversity! Entrepreneurship.
- Some type of manufacturing.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

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

### Responses

- More young creative, entrepreneurial people, arts and crafts events and more trees in town lining the streets.
- More resources for families
- More nice restaurants, shops including bakery, coffee shop with cappuccinos & lattes.
- Less abandoned buildings
- More small business with room for growth.
- young people wandering around w/ nothing to do.
- More areas for people to meet and congregate, both indoors and outdoors... these could be green spaces, cafes, restaurants.
- Also, trails, sidewalks, etc, that make the area walkable, run-able, bike-able
- Job opportunities. A revitalized downtown area with updated construction to dilapidated buildings.
- Downtown shopping with unique shops that attract visitors
- Less urban blight—although this has greatly improved over the past two years.
- More walking/bike paths.
- More opportunities for young people to stay and make a decent living.
- More jobs
- More businesses on Penobscot...Less fun down buildings in Penobscot
- More local policy that supports/spurs entrepreneurial activity and competition.
- less marijuana businesses; more industry; more locally owned small business; more direct ties to Baxter Park-signage or resemblances of Park ideas for town street signs, etc.
- Less negativity and bickering "us vs. them". More welcoming of new residents. More collaboration and support of the existing institutions we have. Broadband. More collaboration between the regional school systems. Investments in the future. Bold and creative thinking that could set Millinocket apart. We have an extraordinary town - let's focus on our assets and the opportunity here. Let's welcome and challenge entrepreneurs to locate here. Let's take advantage of festivals and events to market our town as a great place to do business and to live. Every visitor is a potential entrepreneur, a potential resident, a potential repeat visitor who can bring others along too. Let's start thinking about how we can leverage the tens of thousands of people who flow through our town each year. We have tremendous potential here.
- less empty storefronts and totally run down buildings
- more places where community members and visitors can gather, do things, recreate
- more support for small businesses and entrepreneurs to start up and succeed.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Less crime! It seems like the majority of our young people age 18 and up have nothing to do but get in trouble. That's why I feel we need a strong kids support to train them early that there is more to life than drugs and alcohol. I grew up here and left at about 18. Had I stayed here, I would have ended up in the same boat.
- Focus on Education and less drug use
- Less empty store fronts
- I think a focus on jobs besides tourism jobs would be ideal.
- Talk up the hospital,
- More support for moving forward; less negative critiquing from those who don't get involved. More small businesses, less dependence on big employers.
- More arts and community fun events, more training for customer service and attitude.
- More shopping opportunity
- 1) I would like to see more communication from the municipality (including the town manager) to the members of the community outside of meetings held in the municipal building. We all need to know what is going on here ( good, bad or otherwise), how to connect to resources and how to actively participate in our community to make it the best place for all to live. We need to find more creative and innovative ways to reach all sectors of the community - from those that are older and rely on Beeline TV ( KAT) to those that are heavy users of technology, to those that have few resources and may not have a computer, or smart phone. Everybody belongs here and I'd like to see more done to make everyone feel welcome, valued and connected.
- 2) I would like to see more housing opportunities for those that either can't afford the costs to maintain a home on a limited budget (minimum wage earners) , or for those that are aging out of maintaining a home but are still able to live independently ( both low and middle income).
- More willing to embrace change and move beyond the past
- More signs, more business that support tourism like restaurants and downtown shops. Less abandoned/uncared for buildings
- Maine Street beautification and renovation of buildings.
- Stop advertising that the town is filled with poor people. You guys make it sound like everyone who lives here are bums waiting for the food pantry. It's embarrassing.
- Less blight. More welcoming downtown.
- Actual drs in the area. With our weather and snowstorms, its hard to get to appts in Bangor when seeing a specialist. Sometimes we have to drive several times a week to Bangor for womens health, for braces....Millinocket doesnt even have a birthing center in their hospital. That would terrify me if I were pregnant
- Better internet...that will bring in jobs...I believe that's key to our towns future

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More cooperation, more promotion. Less in fighting and pessimism. We also need to shed the identity of a poor, beaten former mill town that needs hand outs.
- Business
- baby carriages
- More higher paying jobs, less drug dealers and addicts. See previous question.
- More things to do, like open up some of the closed shops downtown. Maybe an arcade for the kids. Maybe a better gym for people to workout during the harsh Winter months.
- Less buildings being razed for mini parks
- Less derelict buildings, vacant lots on Main drag. More tourist attractions.....after all we are the gateway to Baxter State Park.
- The town council wasting money on creating parks and walking trails. Put the money to use to bring job creating businesses to the area.
- More small business.
- Need better jobs to attract and keep young people here to raise families.
- Currently the town is at a standstill when it comes to industry. We need to make the town more visible to outside industries by advertising in national and/or big city newspapers. Also television commercials that portray our way of life here, and shows the vacant spaces which we could make available for purchase or lease to those wishing to relocate or start up new business.
- It would be nice if there were a local taxi sort of service.
- A nearby Vet would be good.
- More: monthly activities downtown along Penobscot Avenue, and murals and street art
- Less: money spent on ambulances and paving.
- More:
  - - healthy eating options (simple quick eats, bakery / cafe, etc.)
  - - hot food breakfast restaurants
  - - variety of lodging accommodations for tourists / visitors - could take the form of improved facilities for existing motels, and maybe even more quality lodging listings on sites like airbnb, diverse camping options, etc.
  - - performing arts venues and entertainment options
  - - higher education institutions (colleges, universities) in the area.
- Less run down buildings, less empty store fronts, the woods cleared out by Central St bridge for a better view of the stream and the mountain, maybe some picnic tables, skatepark, outdoor mini golf, drive in movies, music in the park more often
- INDUSTRY.
- Less abandoned buildings and unkept yards. More options regarding arts, entertainment, food, unique shopping
- More events to bring in people and tourist dollars.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Less blight - more working together - we all benefit from municipal, school and businesses community working together
- More events that involve the nature/environment
- I think the local residents have a better sense of what is needed for year-round use.
- Brewery,
- More focus on all that Millinocket has to offer. Fishing, kayaking, hunting. Less vacant homes. Incentives for people to buy and restore existing vacant homes. Tearing down of homes that are too far gone to help keep illegal activity from taking place in them
- More large industry, less small developments. Town is in need of a major overhaul.
- Personally, I would like to see better cell service and internet service. I usually go to Millinocket to escape both of these but I would like to be able to access them when I want to and not have search them out. Keep the library alive and support it as a life line for the community. It was sad to see the library struggle to stay open over the last few years.
- More seasonal job opportunities, better funding for the schools. Less of the “mill will come back” mentality.
- More small businesses...less pot plants!
- More enforcement of the open drug problem. This town has a serious drug problem. If it is not taken care of with we will become known a place to get illegal drugs rather than a place to bring your family!
- More openness to new ideas, less entitlement.
- Less lying from people in the town office. The official town office website LIES to residences about how to register to vote. You have been turned in to the ACLU and the state of Maine AG about this. The town manager can't speak to a taxpayer without lying...you people really suck.
- I would like to see more effort put into small businesses and recreation in town; activities for children and families.
- More jobs, safe things for kids/teens to do to keep them out of trouble!
- More businesses in the downtown that would be attractive to tourists
- It's hard it is such a sad town now. Drugs everywhere you turn
- Less welfare/low income/unemployed people coming to town.
- We need more things to do as a family. example, bowling and skating.
- More shops, stores, landscaping, activities for kids. Take down more ugly and abandoned buildings.
- Bickering amongst the folks
- LIBERAL ACTIVITIES
- More restaurants
- Beautification of the downtown
- Something for kids/teenagers to do.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More cooperation between older and younger generations. Less activities geared toward older generations.
- Less drug addicts. Less poor people, more things to do.
- More younger people, less negativity. (“No jobs”)
- More things to do.
- More jobs, less abandoned buildings.
- More openness to the outside world/ more openness to families that haven’t always lived here. Less people being stuck in old fashion ways.
- More people, more places. I’d like to see less buildings torn down.
- More young people and less complaining.
- More woods, less town.
- More fun activities for kids.
- Less empty buildings.
- Make the stoplight by McDonalds flash all the time.
- As a teen in the town, I would like to see something that is good for the kids in town.
- Jobs/ stuff to do.
- More people that are willing to work and less people to that are too lazy to do anything and live off the state.
- I would like to see more businesses.
- No mill it’s dead and gone we need to look towards bringing in people from out of the state that means people need to learn how to be polite and kind.
- I think “Green Spaces” is a load of crap. I think we need less of it. We are Millinocket (which has enough nature and woods!) We don’t need areas of nature in the middle of town, especially in the business area or whatever it’s called. You want us to be “Maine’s biggest small town” take those green spaces and put a business there.
- See more supermarket.
- I would like more people to come here.
- More people and job opportunities.
- More people coming and staying.
- More people who are with modern times, not close minded.
- Less of me in this town.
- Dumpy properties we need to clean this place up.
- Small form of public transportation.
- More business and things to do.
- More activities to attract, more businesses that will be successful.
- Less bad people, more normal people.
- Sled trails.
- Less rundown or neglected properties.

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

- Less people getting involved with drugs. All types less people leaving the area.
- More gathering places for people (spaces for women), like coffee shops / community centers. Safe loving, inclusive community spaces.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

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

### Responses

- Major part. From cross country skiing to mountain biking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, etc., they all require equipment and gear. Food and drink and lodging.
- A big part
- Tourism is a key element for economic development where there are options for things to do at night as well as recreational activities.
- A strong part - Millinocket needs to attract people who will stay and spend money in town
- Should be high priority
- I hope it is a fairly large part. We are a 4 season recreating town! Let's promote that!
- Recreation and tourism are an important factor, as they draw in new potential residents and visitors to the area!
- With all the outdoor actives in our back yard we need to use them to attract tourist which will bring in money.
- A huge part because that's what attracts people to visit and will keep them here to stay.
- It is the lynchpin. Millinocket is in a wilderness paradise. It is a rare jewel in the U.S. It is a reason we bought a house here (and low crime). It has a frontier feel that outdoor enthusiasts are looking for.
- At one time Aspen was in the middle of no-where. Now it is a skiers dream. Moab is in the middle of no-where and is a mountain bikers dream. Tourism is easier money than industrial money.
- Important
- More jobs
- Bike routes
- This is huge. People visiting for outdoor recreation are seeking a lifestyle that is more healthy and more happy. We should want them to visit here, spend money here, and want to live here. This beautiful place is rejuvenating in and of itself. The opportunity to make use of that quality as a springboard for our own economic rejuvenation and a staple for our future economic health is unmistakable.
- Major part
- See above.
- major pillar for moving forward -- a must focus on this
- Huge! It's already here, we need to take ultimate advantage of it! That is already being done but there is room for more! We just need the enthusiasm and the financial opportunities.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- We have always had recreation/tourism even when the mill was here. Now with the mill gone we need to focus on our strengths.
- A very important part. This area can be a 4 season resort area if economical development is allowed to happen that provides access to everyone, not just the mountain climbers, backpackers, and outdoor extremists. They don't spend the money that snowmobilers, fishermen, hunters, 4 wheelers, and leaf peepers usually do.
- Baxter, the lakes, and the monument. What about some trails for extreme mountain biking? Horseback riding trails.
- Encourage families with children to come back home.
- It's huge...from bringing visitors here to spend money, to offering opportunities for them to move here and open a business, or at least get a job.
- Its huge
- Recreation/tourism is one piece of the economic development pie. It's no secret that we have natural assets that we need to capitalize on. We are fortunate to have Baxter State Park, area surrounding waterways, trail systems and the National Monument to name a few of our area draws.
- Important piece, but not the entire picture. Need long-term forest-based industry
- This should be the main driver of economic development - beautification and tourism will ultimately lead to other areas of growth
- all of it provides an untapped opportunity
- Don't know.
- A huge one. Making this area a strong destination will enable many other types of growth.
- I think tourism right now is Millinocket's honey pot. People come here year round for all of the seasons just to visit, see the mountain, climb the mountain, snowmobile, snow shoeing, all the events like the marathon who bring people in
- More people visit ...more people see how great our town really is
- Huge. More visitors lead to more business, more potential residents and more entrepreneurs.
- Atv snowmobiling hunting fishing hiking
- 4 season recreation
- Secondary
- Not sure
- There are plenty of hotels, restaurants, and bars in town. How about a bowling alley, movie theater or entertainment for children.
- That would be nice to know.
- Its a supplement but will never replace industry jobs and make a prosperous community

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Current recreation is stable, there could be more involvement with the town by adding a tour bus system which people could take to observe wildlife and/or local recreation in its environment.
- It would seem to be a major part.
- Nice if we could get some sort of industry here.
- Connecting trails (both motorized and non-motorized) to downtown and the business corridor. It would be a boost for the restaurants, lodging and retail shops to have people be able to get on trails right in town and then connect to the larger networks of snowmobile, bike and hiking trails.
- It's hard to rank the different components of possible economic development, but recreation/ tourism would seem to be a high priority opportunity because it is an existing and enduring strength of Millinocket (natural beauty, proximity to state park, national monument, outdoor adventures, etc.). It seems that any area of strength that could be established, that the community finds agreeable, is a candidate not just tourism.
- Giant part!
- ALL OF IT.
- Very important. Millinocket needs to become a destination area...like Marathon weekend.
- Big part.
- It's a large part but with that comes a need for service based businesses to provide needs of tourists and visitors
- I think tourism will continue to play a vital role in continued economic development, but I think another business would be beneficial to economic development that is stable and not seasonal.
- Millinocket can be a destination recreation area!
- Huge part
- Baxter State Park
- I think ecotourism is a great draw for the area and this will attract younger people to the area. I personally don't do a whole lot of hiking but I do enjoy going to the Baxter Park surrounding area. It is very beautiful and being able to drive to scenic areas allows us older non-hikers to also enjoy the beauty of the area. I think NEOC has done a great job with how they have reinvented the old camp ground. My family has stayed there several times and I visit the restaurant whenever we are in town. I think it is an important part of the long term success of the Katahdin region.
- Rafting.
- 25% or so, most recreational/ tourist locations have a limited season. Our spring/summer hikers are merely passing through boosting retail a few ticks. The winter sledders can only fill hotels but for a month or two.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- It is the most important part. Businesses may come and go but the tourist business isn't going anywhere unless we have a major forest fire.-
- This makes no sense. I think you may be asking what should be the focus? I think a mix to outdoor rec is good approach.
- crooks and criminals run the town office
- I think it plays a huge part. Makes people want to visit the area more
- Big, huge
- A key factor
- It's great but it's not a big money maker
- Katahdin
- A big one. We are a tourist town almost all year.
- Huge.
- 75%
- 1/4
- Every part.
- Millinocket should be a central hub for snowmobilers.
- It attracts people here so they will spend money. (ex. the marathon)
- Rafting, snowmobiling, hiking. Hold more summer concerts @ the bandstand.
- Give money to those who are bringing money, work, people to the town.
- Brings in money.
- We are a tourism town now. With a state park, a national monument, and a winter marathon, attracting people is what we need to keep doing.
- It's going to play a very large part because it is most of it as of now.
- Mostly hikers and rafting.
- Rafting companies bring in quite a bit of people. Even on a bad year.
- Our development plays mostly off the people coming into town for vacation to enjoy our outdoor setting. The hiking, snowsledding, rafting are the main reasons people come here.
- Tourism is a big portion of Millinocket's economy because it is one of the few solid income for the town.
- Right now it's Rec/Tourism that is the only way of having some sort of business in this town. Business would be much better for economic development.
- The part of recreation that plays for economic development is hiking.
- Snowmobilers, hikers, runners, vacationers, nature enthusiasts.
- It brings more people into a store in town who will spend money.
- It plays a great part. Majority of our income is tourists, also the marathon.
- Baxter Park.
- Better sled trails.
- The fact that we have a national monument in the range of town.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Better sled trails.
- It's all we have now.
- If people visit and find that the town is beautiful to them they may be inclined to buy property.
- Some part but it's not the answer for development.
- Need to capitalize on monument and work together with neighboring towns. Look at visioning workshop ideas about coordinated signage to start.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

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

### Responses

- Plant more trees along the streets. Invest in memorial sculptural monuments like other small towns, tear down dilapidated buildings on main street or charge an additional substantial fee for the detriment it causes the community.
- ?
- Renovations of properties on penobscot to make aesthetically pleasing, plantings or potted plants along penobscot, benches should be painted green not white.
- Fill downtown store fronts, clean up the bowling alley lot, Create more summer activities on weekends in the summer
- Park / green space as hub center of town where building torn down, looks so much better already! Cafes will sprout and places to eat, arts and other festivities can grow there as well.
- Clean river near Michaud Trail, clean up house at corner of Central St, and the road to the high school. That plastic from previous years at windows is horrible looking! More bulbs planted everywhere. Let the community sponsor in \$10 increments...
- Unsure.
- We need tax relief from the IRS so business can use the old mill site.
- Then we need to attract the business
- 1.Remove brush and trees on the hills by the field hockey fields and promote for sliding and skiing.
- 2. Trim trees in strategic places that will reveal better scenic views of the mountain (along Central Street and in various places around town.
- 3. Main Street renewal projects
- Clean up Penobscot Ave. High-end appearance ( fresh paint, north woods decor) makes people want to spend more money. It is a huge psychological component. You can put a \$300 coat in a Kmart store and no one will touch it. Put it in a store that has the decor of an Orvis store (inside and outside) and people will pay \$300 for that coat. Property owners in the business district need to be encouraged to clean up their property.
- Waterfront clean-up at Crandell Park- new boat ramp, benches, lighting.
- Clean trash/ tires out of the river.
- Continue to give Main Street a face lift.
- Improve roads and parking areas around town.
- Pots or barrels of flowers around town — downtown, shopping areas, schools — maybe fill with other seasonal items when needed.
- More jobs

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- More jobs
- More jobs
- Tear down the Rush buildings on Penobscot
- Attractive downtown lighting
- Businesses open in evenings
- Town policy that discourages (or financially benefits from) non-resident-owned property on Penobscot Ave. (i.e. not being taken care of and deteriorating or remaining vacant due to exorbitant rent price).
- unknown
- 1. Way finding signage
- 2. Get rid of Rush building
- 3. Get the Heritage Square set up ASAP, even if it isn't 100%, there should be something there so it doesn't look like an abandoned lot.
- New facades - paint - upgrading of the Penobscot businesses, tear down the buildings on Penobscot that are in total disrepair, start creating way finding signs with branding
- The town movers and shakers seem to have this under control or are moving in that direction. It's a shame that both on Central St and Main St, we have a number of failed businesses and vacant buildings. That's where we need to put our emphasis. The C of C building, thank goodness, looks okay but should be landscaped better.
- not sure
- Upgrade or tear down the dilapidated stores on Penobscot Ave
- Complete the suggested park on the corner of Central Street and Penobscot Ave
- Provide bike/walking paths from Millinocket to Baxter Park
- Main street! Continue to work on the facades of the buildings.
- A community vegetable garden.
- Clean up and add flowers, etc. to Penobscot Ave.
- Cut down trees and create more access to views of Katahdin and the region.
- Help home-owners on Katahdin Ave. to upgrade their home fronts.
- Get rid of old buildings that are eyesores or renovate.
- Cleanup Hillcrest playground.
- Aside from the downtown, all of Central Street as a corridor into town needs to be considered in a comprehensive beautification project. Clearly marked/paved sidewalks for pedestrian travel on both sides of the street, clearly marked bike paths, to another safe crossing by the retail stores by Irving or the Family Dollar would help "beautify" the town by making it more desirable and functional as a pedestrian friendly community.
- Peddler's Hill needs attention as another point of interest on a main town corridor. Consider paving the lot, perhaps putting out picnic tables, signage to indicate seasonal vendor use, and a small fencing/privacy screen of some sort for the porta potty area.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Central street will determine whether visitors passing through decide to stop and spend time in the town. Penobscot St has come a long way, still needs some love
- Code enforcement changes to downtown to require maintenance
- Cohesive signage
- Grand welcome sign
- Maine Street
- Northern Shopping Plaza
- Further upgrades to the Bandstand Park
- Bring the snowmobile museum snowmobiles downtown in that new park on the corner.
- Green belt front of mall. Remove Rush building, incentive for continued investment on Penobscot Ave
- More flowers and landscaping around business. Maybe one of those fountains that are on the ground and shoot up spickets of water for kids to run through in the downtown area. Those are HUGE in the cities, the children love them and so do the parents because its free to take your child to the park. I also think an indoor skating rink would be great! Lets get our millinocket kids the chance at hockey! And then on downtimes, people can come in and skate. You could charge like 5 dollars a person for an hr of free skate or something. Lots of events we could with an indoor skating rink. Maybe even the drama department could preform one year on ice. Lets get an indoor hockey rink up in this place!
- Re do the whole rec complex behind Stearns high school. Make down town appealing to the eye... spruce up the entrance coming into town
- Hire firm to suggest renovations and cohesive visual standards for look and feel of downtown. Remove old former coffee shop (Rush buildings), finish out heritage park into a nimble, flexible, four seasons space.
- Get rid of eye sore buildings
- Get rid of fallen down buildings
- Better signs
- Buildings on central street look like the ghetto of larger cities. All the vacant lots on main Street should be something other than parks. People don't visit Millinocket to see the sights of Millinocket, people visit for Baxter park, and the golden road.
- Restore downtown shops
- 1 consolidate
- 2 the
- 3 schools
- Tear down empty, rotting buildings. Paint buildings that are empty but look fairly ok. More flowers at parks.
- We don't need to spend more money on beautification projects. How about funding the fire department so another house doesn't burn flat!

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- An arts/performance/movie theater.
- 3 in 1!
- See above.
- remove or rebuild old buildings , old Stearns high needs painting
- It would be nice if we could bring downtown back to life with some face lifts and/or tear down old dilapidated buildings in the surrounding area that are uninhabitable or deemed not financially sound to restore.
- Start making advancements in restoring our secondary street systems so that they are safe to drive on, some neighborhoods have incredibly poor road conditions.
- Give our schools a face lift to make them more pleasing to the public eye.
- Beautification doesn't seem to be a good use of money overall.
- A few more restaurants would be nice.
- Sponsor pop-up shops in little wooden sheds for the Holiday season on the old Newberry's Lot.
- Support Northern Forest Center's Housing Initiative.
- Get LED street lights.
- I haven't spent enough time in town to share very specific recommendations.
- The bridge clearing/ picnic area, the little shack downtown should be gone..., Green Park at the corner of downtown should be made, but parking lot should remain
- QUIT TEARING DOWN BUILDINGS.
- 1) Tear down ALL uninhabitable buildings on Maine Street
- 2) Create green space in empty lots downtown...space can be used for various events (food trucks, beer garden, farmers market)
- 3) Add curbside planters along Main Street (flowers in summer, evergreens in winter)...have people volunteer to keep up a planter.
- Trails along the river. Greenery in the town square.
- town needs new sidewalks; playground beautification and follow thru with the plans for downtown
- I have only spent time in town when it is not summer, so I am a poor judge of what would be most beneficial.
- Love the downtown corner lot building gone and look forward to what will happen in that spot.
- Plant trees near tractor supply plaza
- Improve school sport fields
- Clean our waters! Millinocket stream is so full of trash, glass and metal. Plant a community garden. Help people to paint and clean up their homes and yards. Bringing pride back to the town and giving a since of pride and community

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Continue to renovate older buildings in town whenever possible. Continue to spruce up the parks and recreational areas in town. Continue to invest in the downtown area and give visitors reasons to stop and get out of their cars and not just drive through. I look forward to visiting the stores downtown when I visit. Signs and banners can also help spruce things up.
- Main Street to Sawmill.
- Residences
- And the top of Central Street
- Raze the old donut shop and the little grey building next to it. The town needs a modern Safety building combining Police/Fire/EMT where the old mini golf was.
- The west end of Wassau St. (coming from Medway Rd. looks like a land that time forgot...make it a one way coming from MickeyDee's.
- Level sidewalks
- Zoning requirements that specify high standards for building improvement. Severe fines for those who refuse.
- taxpayers are sick of paying top dollar to the tools who "work" at the town office
- Cleaning up properties, welcoming signs.
- Park downtown, beautification of current parks, artistic opportunities for local artists to showcase their art
- It would be great if some residences on the major route through town and to the school would take some pride in their homes and work on improving their appearances. Take plastic off windows in the summer does not cost anything. Taking care of trash and the yard also cost nothing. Pride in your home and community go far.
- Fill in all the empty tear down lots with something.
- Get rid of the houses that should be condemned
- Not sure what else
- Beautifully decorated Main Street with hanging plants, American Flags.
- Decorate for the holidays. A new coat of paint on some of the buildings downtown. keeping up with the parks.
- Take down abandoned buildings, update buildings on main st./entire tractor supply shopping plaza, landscaping.
- Plant trees and develop green strips along the central street corridor from the town limits and out through the lake road. Plants trees along Katahdin ave.
- NOTHING
- -Register for historic district down town.
- -Require main street property owners to fix buildings.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Clean up the bowling alley site for starters, tear down abandoned, dilapidated buildings. Create a town bylaw that a homeowner cannot have unregistered vehicles and/or junk all over the property.
- Pave the roads.
- Attract more small business to downtown "Milli". Get a summer group between kids & adults to plant stuff, paint buildings? etc. Sledding & Skiing places.
- Maintain the mouth of the Golden Road for business that actually helps the town. Build a nice area where Mini Golf used to be. NOT A PARK. Clean up the parking lot that's halfway on top of the big hill.
- Adding more stuff to the plaza in main town. Clean up Millinocket Stream of trash and more so that it's safe to swim in. Fix the playground in Little Italy.
- More holiday decorations around town.
- Mini golf lot - put a basketball court on it. More keep up on most used streets.
- Someplace to work, less parking lots, and closed buildings.
- Holiday Decorations.
- Graffiti.
- A parking lot where Mini Golf was. Tear down buildings that are falling apart.
- Mill repair. Library improvement. School improvement.
- First of all, there are several places downtown that needs to be torn down and either rebuilt or repurposed. The destruction of all abandoned buildings, and the mill turned into a museum to showcase town history.
- Making the buildings in Millinocket less ugly and rundown looking more "Beautiful".
- Removal of unused decrepit housing.
- Take down dumpy buildings.
- Snowmobiling, hiking.
- Skate park in empty lot behind town office. Repainted lines on roads that need them. Tear down buildings that aren't to code.
- Anything that can be renovated on Main Street.
- None, let it be.
- Tear down eye sore. Empty buildings on Penobscot Ave.
- 1. Downtown 2. Town Common 3. Commerce Area on Central Street where vendors set up with food trucks.
- Painting/Repairing homes. Getting rid of some of the old vacant buildings.
- A few trees on Penobscot Ave (maybe in planter bases). More public art murals (ideally done in ways that people have stake in).
- 1. Continue re-paving streets that need it. 2. Continue to remove eye-sore empty buildings if they are not feasible to be occupied or updated.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q6: Would you be willing to volunteer in the community? If so, where would you be willing to do it?

### Responses

- Already volunteering in numerous ways but willing to participate in a hands on event.
- Not at this time
- Yes - whatever is needed
- Sure! I can match my strengths to need and availability. Feel free to reach out to me 😊
- Yes, anything I can.
- Yes. Where depends on the timing and duration of the opportunity relative to my other commitments.
- I work from home and travel a lot so I don't have a lot of spare time right now. However, I would be will to volunteer on a limited basis and in a few years when retirement is possible I would like to do more volunteering.
- Yes. Anytime for the 3 ideas listed above
- Help with cleaning Millinocket stream- we need a couple of organized "clean-up" days this summer.
- Can't right now but eventually.
- No
- Anywhere
- Yes! I currently volunteer with the library and participate in some of the economic revitalization focus groups and gatherings. In the future, I may be interested in getting more involved with municipal planning.
- yes, and I already do in the school system and church
- Yes. Where ever I'm needed.
- I do volunteer regularly - every week
- I think I have answered that question above. If there is a need for volunteer time, someone just needs to ask me. I have physical limitations but I still have a brain and a heart.
- I volunteer when I can
- Yes, already involved in several projects.
- with the seniors at Sterns or elsewhere in the community.
- Yes, and I do.
- Yes. Anywhere

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Yes, I am willing and I have always volunteered in some capacity as a member of the community. I will continue to do so and be open to new opportunities.
- No
- Yes. Building maintenance and cleanup. Really whatever is most needed
- already do so
- yes, truck pulls
- Yes, develop new comprehensive plan
- I would LOVE to volunteer in my community. I would honestly do anything to serve however if there was an option to be serving or volunteering in the background, that is more comfortable to me. Or maybe projects I can do alone. People make me nervous! LOL But I do work very hard and I am reliable.
- No time ...but I would help do projects on our rec area behind stearns
- Already do a lot.
- No time
- Yes.
- No, I work for a living, which includes 15 hours of travel per week to make enough money to support a family.
- No opinion
- Yes
- ?
- Due to disability unable to do much. Got something I can do sitting down?
- I already volunteer.
- Baxter / Trails End fest / Marathon
- Help Our Katahdin
- I have many years of heavy equipment operation and would be happy to help in that way if needed.
- I would like to see a list of what is needed.
- No time at the moment.
- Yes. I would be interested in opportunities to share my career experience in technology (computer science / software). I would also be interested in volunteer opportunities such as helping to stock a food pantry or serve meals.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Unfortunately, I am not often physically present in the community - typically once/year for the marathon event - although I'm looking for opportunities to visit more such as on a vacation. So the most immediate opportunities would be centered around my visit during December, to extend the trip by a day or two and offer help where I can. I can see something like a "mentor fair" for high school students being a successful event on the Friday afternoon of marathon weekend, combining local industry representatives and some visiting runners representing their professions - all to give information and advice to the students who attend. I have some more ambitious ideas for how I might help in my particular field, but they require me to have more time off from work to pursue them.
- I am busy working two jobs and volunteer in a school related group. I personally don't have time right now.
- NO
- If I lived closer
- Don't live there.
- I already volunteer a huge amount of time with the schools and with Our Katahdin and various projects
- I live an hour away and would not be able to volunteer, but will try to continue to support the region as a "tourist".
- I have in the past.
- YES!!! Wherever needed. I have many skills and abilities. As I feel so many others here in town do
- Youth sport recreation programs.
- I have supported My Katahdin from away because I do not get to Millinocket very often. I will continue to donate to support the non-profits and the library!
- I already volunteer at the library
- Yup...at the park. Drop the Xbox controller and learn how to throw a baseball!
- Health permitting I would. right now i am limited but i am working to get better.
- Already doing so.
- Ya right – the town office "workers" can do it -- less time calling the police on people who try and pay taxes and more time picking up trash.
- I would not be able to commit to volunteering this time
- Maybe
- Absolutely. I'm game for anything.
- Possible
- No. There plenty of people on state aid in town that should do the work and be more useful.
- I would be willing to help paint and decorate
- Landscaping. Anywhere.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Yes. Planting trees
- YES ANYWHERE
- Yes
- Yes, cleanup trash.
- Yes
- Yes, I don't really have a preference, just a busy schedule.
- At a good cause if I'm not busy.
- Yes. Anything. Anytime.
- Yes, anywhere. I already volunteer a lot in the community.
- Nope.
- Yeah, I don't know.
- Yes I am willing to volunteer...anything.
- Maybe if it involves the outdoors.
- Yes, I don't know.
- I would be willing to volunteer. I guess I'd be willing to do anywhere.
- Yes I volunteer all the time. Usually for Stearns sports events and Performing Arts events.
- I would volunteer in the community for fundraising and beautification ideas.
- I will be leaving soon, but my parents are naming their coffee's after areas up here.
- Yes, anywhere.
- Getting our sports programs back to how they use to be.
- Pet day cares, firefighter/EMS departments.
- I don't volunteer for myself so no.
- Tear down dumps, clean up properties.
- Possibly for events like kids day at Jerry Pond.
- Yes, arts, sports, marathon.
- Yes, dance studio, performing arts.
- I volunteered 91 hours Nov 55 hours in Oct.
- I cannot - I have back problems.
- Yes - anything to help.
- Yes! Library. Our Katahdin, Stearns, KAT, Thrive Penobscot. But they will need to work together.
- No.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

Q7: Would you like to see an effort in revitalizing the downtown corridor? If so what would you suggest as an improvement?

### Responses

- Building facade improvement, strategically placed peninsulas with a tree and bench, even a fountain would create a place for repose.
- Yes. Subsidize small businesses to open to provide retail shops, nice restaurants and brewery with decent food options. Cater to tourists.
- The stores need to be filled. Create tax incentives for people to move downtown
- park area mentioned above and some store fronts falling apart...
- open more closed businesses. Support Jane Frost and her idea for a community meal site
- Yes, but unsure of approach. Maybe incentives to develop downtown?
- Yes, where do I start? This is a big project and will be very expensive. It will take attracting new business. The government needs to help out with making it attractive for new business with tax relief.
- Yes. Removing eye-sore buildings and developing a 0% financing on New buildings and facade improvement projects on existing buildings.
- See above answers.
- Yes. See above.
- Yes, more jobs
- Yes
- Yes! This is critical! Town policy - see above.
- empty building. low rent for new businesses
- Rename the downtown stretch of Penobscot Ave "Main Street." Do an inauguration of the street...make a community celebration and a big media event out of it.
- see above
- Continued revival of businesses. There are some that are already on the right track. Unfortunately, they are on the wrong end of the Penobscot Ave business district. We need to bring the renovations up the street to the intersection, otherwise, no one will turn left at the light! I think an information booth with park and landscaping would be perfect for the now vacant eastern corners of the intersection. Also, a farmer's market in either or both of these areas should be encouraged. Peddler's Hill is an old tradition but we desperately need something at the intersection to entice visitors to turn left.
- fix existing buildings instead of tearing them down and fill the empty store fronts and rebuild where other buildings have been torn down.
- As above

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Reviving the outside of the buildings, new lighting, trees, flowers adopt a light pole and be responsible for a flag or a plant....
- Hire an events coordinator to set up more festivals, contests, events, etc. to bring people downtown, and to organize volunteer efforts to help clean up and beautify the downtown.
- Again. Remove old bldg. like one across from Tanous and Snow.
- Yes, the downtown corridor needs attention.
- 1) The corner lot where mini- golf used to be needs to be more than a park and open space. Consider making it a mini- mall with some vendor/ small local business opportunities. Having that space completely open to the busy downtown traffic ( at the intersection) seems visually undesirable and perhaps a concern from a safety stand point as well. I can't imagine wanting to sit on a park bench with an idling vehicle close by ( at the light) , or to have kids wandering in the park that close to traffic... (fencing in that space doesn't seem visually appealing to me) . Small units of some sort to create a barrier to the busy traffic area, with an open middle area with benches / and a walkway is one idea.
- 2) We need all buildings to be handicap accessible.
- 3) There is still at least one building that is a real eyesore downtown that needs to be torn down.
- 4) We need public restrooms available in the downtown area.
- Yes, see above
- See above
- Maine Street renovations and a new building with shops and a visitors on the corner where the Mini Golf was taken down
- more businesses
- Yes see above
- More foliage and flower pots. Maybe some sidewalk repairs. Maybe some local artists would donate their time or maybe even some of their art. Live music from the gazebo for local artists on Friday and Saturday evenings no later then 9pm
- See above
- 100%. Remove old buildings, make a skating rink, standardize signage, make outdoor skating rink at former bowling alley
- 2 way traffic
- Yes, see previous questions.
- Yes! Yes! Yes! A better variety of shops
- 2 way vehicular access on Penobscot Avenue.
- Year down the crumbling abandoned buildings
- As above.....some of the buildings are an eyesore
- Stop tearing down buildings and allow businesses to buy those buildings.
- Small hotels downtown.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- The only place to stay is the seasonal AT Lodge!
- Down town is now central street
- see beautification project question.
- Encouragement for restaurants, interesting stores and perhaps simple entertainment to give the visitors things to do, especially in the evening.
- Yes. Two way traffic on Penobscot Avenue, and bump outs into the sidewalk and few parking spaces for outside eating at AT Cafe, Angelos and Scootic in the summer.
- Hard to say not being from the area. I have provided some other ideas in other responses (e.g., bakery / cafe, hot breakfast restaurants, etc.)
- What are we doing with the Epstein's building? It would be a good spot for an antique or craft mall.
- MORE FLAGS AND BANNERS
- See above
- Ease for pedestrians.
- A strong Main Street shows people you have a vibrant community. Business owners have to care about their facades and the message it sends to those passing by - that include the municipal building
- A few buildings appear to need a little bit of a facelift with maybe new facades.
- Bathrooms
- Outdoor eating
- Trees
- Music
- Cleaning up the store fronts. Painting landscaping
- Business(es) that are sustainable and matter toward the economic development of the town, not small "Nick-nack" (niche) shops.
- Yes, keep the area looking good and support businesses that try to make it work. Give those visitors that may just be passing through a reason to stop. I saw they just tore down the corner building that had the mini-golf in it. Too many empty spaces is not a draw but I understand it is better then an abandoned building that is falling apart. That makes four or five empty lots on the street.
- Yes. If the dog waste bags (that are available on the Michaud trail) extended to downtown.
- Or just make it a finable offense to leave dog waste
- Continue Penobscot Ave. as a 2 way, correct the diagonal parking into parallel parking. The left side of the road is basically vacant for 3 blocks and needs businesses.
- Yes, get the town certified as a business friendly town. Other towns have been designated by the state as business friendly.+
- Yes. First, consult professionals to draw plan. Second, make Penobscot ave two way. Third, find retail

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Investor for corner where KTP tore down building.
- Fire the town manager because your town is about to be sued over voter suppression
- More businesses and cleaning up the properties
- More art on the exteriors
- Yes and anything would be an improvement
- We need places people will go in stores, shops
- No. Revitalizing the old Epsteins building is a joke. The renovations cost is ridiculous. Surrounding business are now infested with the pigeons because of the building has been housing them for years.
- There are so many empty store fronts downtown. Why can't we use them for decorations through out the year. Show the town pride. Put up old school uniforms, trophies, photos of the mill. There are so many memories but most people forget about them because we never see or talk about them.
- Take down abandoned buildings, update the store fronts so they don't look so crappy. Landscaping.
- Trees and green spaces
- LEVEL THE SIDEWALKS
- Yes
- See above.
- Yes, start with the bowling alley site.
- Yes, paint them, invite small business owners to view the spaces.
- Yes obviously, the biggest improvement there could be is having businesses fill up the empty buildings. The problem with that is they very well might not be successful.
- Yes. Make it more eye popping.
- Move shops.
- Yes. 100%. Stop tearing down buildings. Make the current ones beautiful and bright. Maybe some updates, decorations, so something with bowling alley lot.
- Paint, new windows, just maki it nice again.
- New business.
- Yes, updating building instead of tearing them down.
- Put in different outdoor oriented stores. I.e gun stores, kayaking, fishing, etc.
- I would like to see a new storefront downtown. Maybe businesses coming in or redo all the run down buildings.
- I don't know much that we could do. Tear down the unusable buildings and try to get some sort of manufacturing service where the mill is so we can introduce more downtown businesses for the area.
- I would see an effort in a park.

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## Open Response Questions (Continued)

- Yes, tear down some of the buildings and replace them with store outlets, clothing stores, winter wear maybe? Good eateries and sports store outlets, or bakery?
- Yes.
- Better buildings, more lights during Christmas season. More things kids would like.
- Don't improve it if you don't have anything to fill the empty slots.
- Bring back Millers.
- No not really.
- Yes!...repave road, recreation in downtown.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Areas with walking visitors to sit and enjoy lunch outdoors.
- Trying to fill vacant stores on main street, or tearing them down. 1. Coffee shop 2. Antique Store 3. Rush's building.
- Yes! One idea would be somehow pursuing people who own buildings but are just sitting on them (like the old bank, the old coffee shop, etc.) to do something with them. I also think a farmers market or other indoor spaces where entrepreneurs can try out an idea without having to invest in a building would be helpful.
- Continue removing eye-sore vacant buildings; fill in the empty lots, and make grassy parks of them.

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## General Response Forum

**Forum:** 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.

### Responses

- Would like to see a more active town manager, one who participates in more than the minimum requirement to perform the job.
- None
- Help our katahdin with the IRS tax lien
- I think the town needs to support the 12 step community in their efforts to help the alcoholics and drug addicts who are trying to get clean.
- None at this time.
- I think a first time home buyers incentive program that provided low / no interest Gap loans for people under the age of 30 would be a great addition to our efforts to attract younger people.
- Millinocket is a great place to be. It is easy to see it when you come from somewhere else. Millinocket has huge potential for economic growth. Embrace tourism.
- Nothing
- I want to see more jobs in this town
- Addressed above
- I am so proud to live here and be a part of this community.
- unknown
- Thanks for doing this survey.
- please ask more direct questions on issues that matter --- ask questions about interaction with the town council and matters that will be coming before the council in the coming year.
- I have pretty much said everything I have to say except for one thing. When I moved here, as a 4th grader attending Katahdin Ave school, I never felt like a real resident of Millinocket. My father didn't work in the mill, he had a professional job. We left every weekend to go to our camp on Silver Lake in Lee, not one of the local lakes. I spent my summers there, as well. So, I never felt like I belonged here. I was always an outsider... and it wasn't a pleasant way to grow up. My favorite saying was, "If you weren't born here, you aren't from here." I think there is still some fear of "outsiders" in this town.

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## General Response Forum (continued)

- (cont.) think that attitude needs to be remedied as much as possible. I know older people find it hard to change but I would really like to see some kind of "welcome to our community" effort for newcomers. I think it would help residents to realize they can trust new people, as well as, welcome the newcomers into the community. Maybe a long established family could adopt a new family, something more than just a visit bringing cookies.
- I think this is my second effort to complete this survey. I think I did it some months ago, as well. It would be interesting to see the differences between the two sets of answers. I hope some of this is helpful.
- While industry can be a part of Millinocket's future, it will never be the sole provider of the economic life of this community as it was in the past. Diversification of economic opportunities is a safeguard against relying on only one or two sources of revenue. Service rather than industry is the economic future of this area in my opinion. It should be embraced and encouraged to flourish. Cottage industries supporting the service sector will more than likely follow.
- Continue with the sense of community and family.
- Involve more families and students and children in your planning...it's their future.
- I don't have anything
- I've shared my thoughts in the previous sections. Nothing additional to add here. Thank you.
- Millinocket is unique and special. It's worth fighting to save
- See above
- Maybe increase the educational opportunities/offerings at KATEC/KRHEC to provide low cost housing to students, such as renovating an apartment building or building a very small dorm facility, this could encourage young people to stay in the region or come back here for education. Or even create a student coop to run a campground or tourism/restaurant business.
- more advertising for the winter sports
- You've made a good start. Continue to invest in our future. Consider positive suggestions in CZB report!
- I really feel like Millinocket needs real doctors and better medical care. More medical professionals in our area and more events to draw in the tourists, although we do have lots already! So wonderful! We moved here 4 years ago and we feel so honored and blessed to be apart of this community. People travel here from near and far just to see it all and we get to just wake up in it everyday!

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## General Response Forum (continued)

- We need to be a leader in internet service, I believe companies would come here and set up their businesses if we had a super fast internet available...a business like LL bean probably would if we had a better internet,just think of the idea of them setting up a store here right before people head into Baxter park...I think that would be a draw for a few outdoor based companies
- Open up views of the mountain
- Design great Welcome to Millinocket signs
- Create a web portal that details top spots to visit in the region
- create a comprehensive (4 seasons) trail sign system
- Build access to Monument from Millinocket (Staceyville rd)
- Require all complainers to volunteer to make things better.
- Love it here.
- Have state build new road from west side of Lincoln I95 exit straight to Millinocket, funnel all North woods traffic directly and reduce travel/ distance time.
- When I married and moved to town in 2002, I had never been here before. I was shocked at the lack of tourist geared businesses. 16 years later, there still aren't any. We need to capitalize on this
- Change the form of government. The council has too much control to make decisions that continually hurt this town.
- Don't forget the past. Tradition and nostalgia are strong selling points.
- Town needs to focus all their energy in helping Our Katahdin be successful its our only hope
- We need to find a way to make it more attractive to outside real estate buyers, such as lower taxes for residential. Our housing costs are high here considering the average household income. I realize we have to subsidize the loss of industry but by putting the burden on local residents more heavily, it makes it an unattractive option to people wishing to relocate.
- Helping the local Veterans organizations is also a good start. They are struggling to keep open, lets figure out a way to move these organizations to viable locations or make their current locations less costly. This area would be great to target retiring and or disable Veterans for living. i personally chose it for that reason. This is a friendly and giving community. Lets make that more public by putting it out on tv and/or big newspapers.
- I consider broadband and better cell service to be necessary to encourage business to come here.
- I know much is being done to try to revitalize the area. Best wishes.
- Thanks for providing this opportunity to comment.
- I wasn't sure what was meant by an age friendly community (friendly to senior citizens? friendly to youth? young professionals?)

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## General Response Forum (continued)

- Idea, for more performing arts, entertainment options:
- - a mid-size venue that could accommodate performance arts (this is tricky, not sure of economic viability - but imagine a "concert calendar" - touring musicians/bands adding Millinocket to their tours - especially those that might be already visiting Bangor or any close-enough Canada venues). Ideas (again unsure viability): 1- a club big enough for a large number of paying customers to stand / watch a band; or 2- an auditorium style venue to accommodate performances by different types of musicians, theatre productions, movie screenings, etc. I do not know to what extent the high school has facilities to support any such commercial events.
- Idea: a co-working space for local entrepreneurs and freelance / contractor digital employees.
- (and -- imagine extending an open invitation for any visitors to town to share the space -- for example those that might need to do a little work, remotely attend business conference calls, etc. while traveling).
- Thinking about economic success a bit, I am reminded of the saying "a rising tide lifts all boats". A vibrant national and state economy, and in particular vibrant economy of its geographical neighbors is important to Millinocket (Bangor, Mt. Desert Island, nearby Canadian cities, Portland, ...). How can Millinocket "piggy back" on any successes that may occur nearby? Can innovative tourism experiences be designed to entice visitors to those areas to include Millinocket in their travel plans? Can the town be near the top of the list to participate in any future state of Maine, or US federal government development initiatives? Are there interesting new businesses or industries popping up in neighboring areas that might need regional partners of some kind?
- I really believe the town is making progress and people love living here.
- Millinocket seems to be going in the right direction. I'd suggest a great PR firm who would take on town as a pro bono client and get exposure for all the town has to offer (people are looking for this). Attracting active, involved residents and year round tourists can happen.
- We must invest in our town. We can't constantly be worried about the mill rate. Do things to increase the value of property and bring in new business and the mill rate will even out as it should. Do not cut essential services and school programming to satisfy some number that means nothing.
- Thank you to all of the local Millinocket residents for the support of the runners to participated in the Millinocket half and full marathons. We could run it without you.
- Please work with midway and east millinocket to become one united front! It is great to see that Katahdin Schools in Patten area are working with midway and east, time for the Katahdin Region to be united as one only then will the whole area be the ultimate destination!
- Can't think of one

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## General Response Forum (continued)

- How can we pitch (convince) a large corporation to have them establish a business front location/ factory in our town to provide actual sustainable jobs to the region?
- I am glad to see that the hope for "another Great Northern" to swoop in and save the day is finally starting to fade. I feel this delayed any chances of the town recovering for many years. I used to get the local paper (before it shut down) and it would infuriate me to see the bickering on the town council and the resistance to support anything that didn't only benefit Millinocket. If the Katahdin area does well, then Millinocket will also benefit. The fact that the schools still have not joined together in the region is ridiculous and is another example of this short sightedness. I believe, unless petty small town superiority attitudes don't change then the town will always be hobbled and never reach its true potential.
- I love this town.
- We must take immediate action concerning the cost per pupil within our school system. We continue to avoid the white elephant in the room while watching our property taxes rise. Some recent town hiring practices are questionable at best. Drug addiction is rampant, we need more police. Saving the library is a feel good story as we type on a computer at home. Bring the library to the students because unless they are dragged they're not going. We all have access to a library at our finger tips. The Library is SEARS, and my lap top is AMAZON...my 2 cents.
- Get a big brown sign like Lincoln has out on I-95 showing all the activities available here!
- A downtown plan with facade requirements with teeth is needed. It would show great learning and faith to invite CZB to do it.
- I suggest you go to the state of Maine voter registration requirements and change the OFFICIAL millinocket website to the truthful information -- it is against federal law to lie and suppress voter registration. There are several recordings of your town clerk telling people they are required to have drivers license to register to vote. Any fines should come STRAIGHT from the town workers who lie to the public NOT the taxpayers. Period. As a taxpayer I WILL sue for any tax money Millinocket is fined for it's federal crimes.
- The town needs to attract more tourism to the area
- No thank you
- Invest in the kids allow the schools to do college classes that help the kids out and hopefully in come back to build businesses
- Activities for kids, new uniforms, equipment etc for sports and the performing arts. Decorate the down town beautifully. Cease work on Epstein building and take care of the pigeons that are ruining the fronts of other business's with their toxic droppings.
- It seems like the town has lost its small town feel. No one help any one anymore we all want our town to be the best and portray it as a family friendly town but it is so far from the town I use to visit my grandparents in.

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## General Response Forum (continued)

- Consolidate schools question. The older people in the community need to get their minds out of the gutter and look toward the future, not the past.
- Stop talking and start doing. It's been far too long since the mills have been gone. Surveys are nice and provide insight but actions speak louder than words.
- WHY RELY ON TAX DOLLARS TO FUND A FAILED IDEA?
- Thanks
- I've seen many improvements in the short time that I have been here, but there is still much to do. I'm confident that the town is moving in the right direction. Keep up the good work. Millinocket is making a comeback!
- I want this town to survive, and although it is looking better, it is not looking great. We need some type of industry to support this town, but I don't know what we could do.
- I think the town needs to invest in the first mile or two of the Golden Road. There is multiple businesses on that road. One of them brings in brand new trucks to get service bodies, dump truck bodies, trailers, etc. It is just sad to watch people go to that shop and for over a mile, destroy a brand new truck.
- I really just wish that this town would go back to how it was back in the day.
- Give tax breaks and help build a business to get people working. Stop diverting funds to things like the marathon which only gives us a bump in our income. We need something steady and relatively constant.
- Modernize McDonalds. Remove stop signs on Morgan and Kelly Lane. (At least four)
- This town is filled with people clinging to the fact that their locals. Any people from the outside are seen as the enemy. My family has been here for ten years and we're still seen as the "outsiders" and if they're not careful those people will be the ones shamming them. This needs to start in the schools, the teachers need to enforce the rules and the students need to learn respect! Something they are sorely lacking.
- I believe that the Marathon is the best thing for this town. I truly believe that someone should coordinate the weekend and have some sort of set schedule and make the whole weekend of it. Have more activities! Have more tournaments or competitions for things other than running. Do a whole big thing of it.
- Make the marathon a whole week thing or maybe even half a week. Have tons of activities such as maybe taking a bus up to see the mountain at Abol. Start doing kids activities during the marathon and try to make kids want to come here.
- Our school needs to be more spirited with the bands and student sections. Friendly competition isn't a bad thing. Have tourists come to different restaurants and not just the scootic.
- Your plow truck drivers could clear the roads better.
- Get some new cutting edges for your town plow truck.
- Tear down the dumpy buildings.

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## General Response Forum (continued)

- Shared Thoughts: Publicize/ Advertise in New England: Come to area: Purchase low cost housing. Job Telecommuting and enjoy recreation. Change (State) rules on abandon houses so pipes can be drained in the fall to prevent freeze up and the house becoming worthless. For the next survey, 2 lists. 1. List of what brings people to the area. (day, weekend, vacation, to move/live here) 2. List of types of recreation that brings people to the area: (in order of importance) (Example: Snowsledding, hiking, kayaking)
- Would it be possible to try and get a clothing store. Men, Women, Children, a shoe store. Maybe a new gas station.
- I think the town should fully fund the library as it once did. The library is about so much more than books. It's currently functioning as one of the few community spaces we have - a space where you don't have to pay to exist, where anyone/everyone is welcome. It is critical "social infrastructure" (social glue, essentially) to bring this community together and capitalize on the amazing people we already have here. Also just want to put in a good word for Thrive Penobscot! They are doing some really creative work to help people here. Please support them however you can.

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## Summary Analysis

This is the second version of an annual survey research project conducted by the Town of Millinocket. 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.