

Highlights of the Jackson Community Survey -- 2014

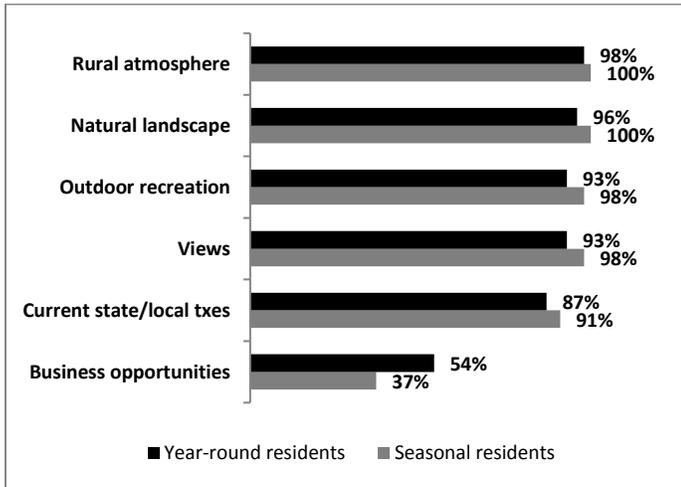
Introduction

Questionnaires were mailed in September 2014. In all, 502 questionnaires were returned of which 215 came from year-round residents and 287 came from seasonal residents and non-resident landowners. Copies of the full report are available at the town library.

Importance of Town Features

Those living in or owning property in Jackson value the rural atmosphere, natural landscape, outdoor recreation and views. Most think taxes are "very" or "somewhat" important. Fewer think business opportunities are as important.

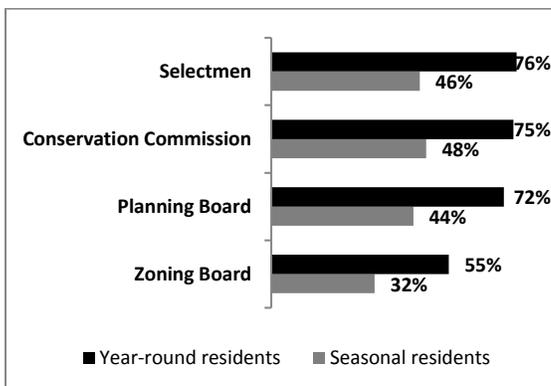
Those who say the feature is "very" or "somewhat important."



Ratings of Town Boards

A majority of year-round residents rate town boards as "excellent" or "adequate." Seasonal residents are more likely to have no opinion on this question.

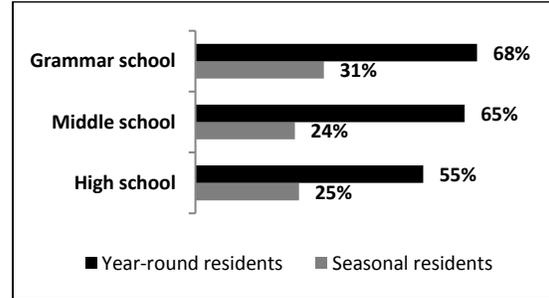
Those who rate the item "excellent" or "adequate."



Ratings of Schools

Most year-round residents feel the schools are "excellent" or "adequate" with close to half (49%) saying the Grammar School is "excellent." The rest tend to have no opinion as do majorities of the seasonal residents.

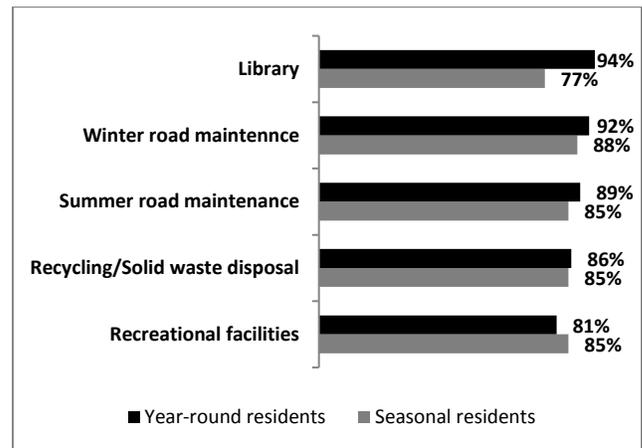
Those who rate the item "excellent" or "adequate."



Ratings of Town Services

About 80% to 90% rate all of the town services "excellent" or "adequate." On the "excellent" side the Library and winter road maintenance get the top ratings from both year-round and seasonal residents.

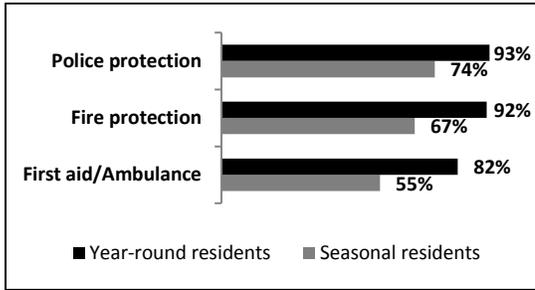
Those who rate the item "excellent" or "adequate."



Ratings of Emergency Services

Among year-round residents strong majorities say that emergency services (police, fire and ambulance) are “excellent” or “adequate.” Seasonal residents tend to agree although there is a higher no opinion response on the ambulance service.

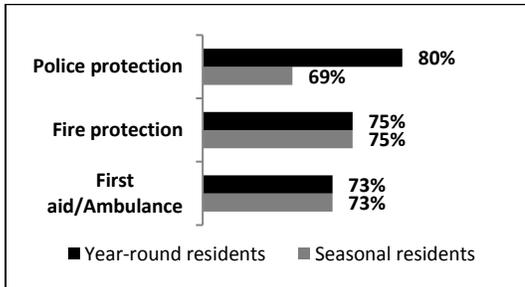
Those who rate the item “excellent” or “adequate.”



Attention and Funding Needed for Emergency Services

Among year-round residents, three-fourths to eight in ten say that funding for fire, police and ambulance services is “adequate now.” Most seasonal residents also feel this way.

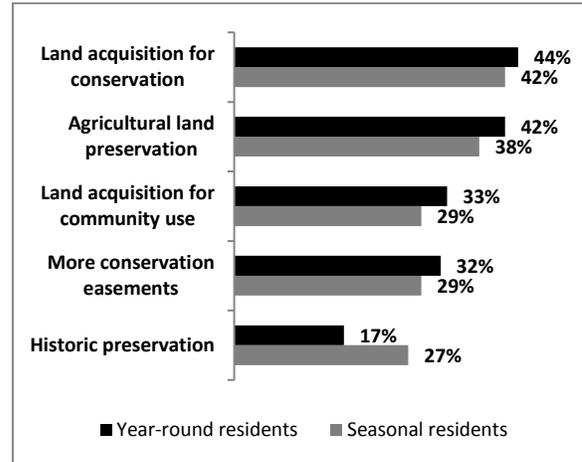
Those who say attention and funding are adequate now for...



Attention and Funding Needed for Conservation

About four in ten among both year-round and seasonal residents express an interest in more funding for land acquisition and agricultural land preservation. At the same time, about equal proportions say that enough money is being spent on these activities.

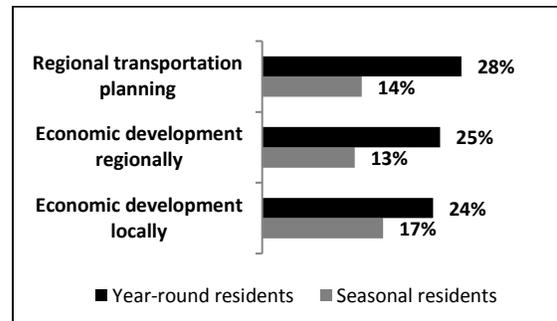
Those who say more attention and funding should focus on...



Attention and Funding Needed for Development

Only about one-fourth of year-round residents feel more attention and funding should go to development either regionally or locally. Interest in these topics is somewhat lower among seasonal residents.

Those who say more attention and funding should focus on...

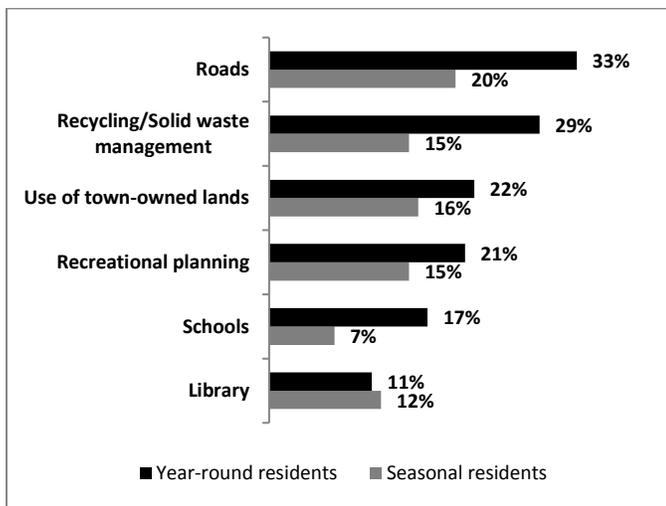


Attention and Funding for Town Services

About three year-round residents in ten feel more attention and funding needs to go to roads and recycling/solid waste management. Although not shown, about six in ten year-round residents feel attention and funding on roads, recycling/solid waste management, town-owned lands, recreation and schools is “adequate now.” About three-fourths say attention and funding for the library is adequate.

Seasonal residents are somewhat more likely to have no opinion on these items especially the library and the use of town-owned lands. On other items most say attention and funding is “adequate now.”

Those who say more attention and funding should focus on...

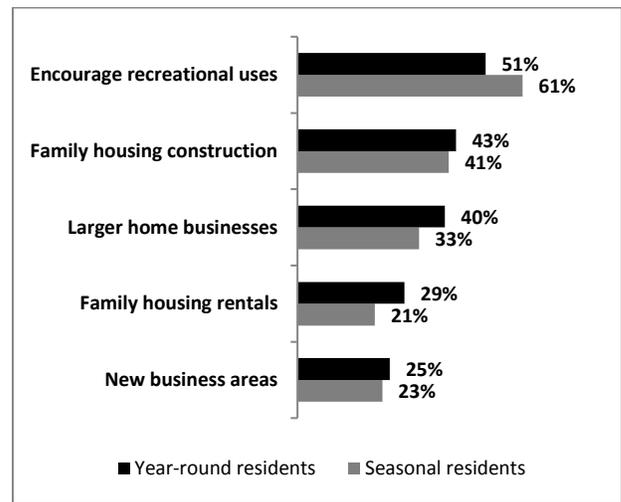


Zoning Changes

A majority are in favor of zoning that would encourage recreational uses. About four in ten say zoning to encourage family housing construction is desirable, but just about as many say it is undesirable. The same is true with allowing larger home businesses which has some support but also draws about the same amount of criticism.

Although not shown, about six in ten of year-round and seasonal residents say new business areas and family housing rentals are “undesirable.” Only about two to three in ten say these things are “desirable.”

Those who say that the proposed zoning change is “desirable.”



Results from 2014 compared to 2001

The Planning Board conducted a similar survey in 2001 including some of the same questions. A comparison between the two surveys on the same questions is summarized below. Bear in mind that while the questions are virtually identical, there are differences in the questionnaires used. **The ratings below are all for year-round resident.,**

- Excellent ratings of the Conservation Commission are up slightly in 2014 (26%) than in 2001 (14%) although excellent ratings of the Selectmen dropped in this period from 31% to 15%.
- Excellent ratings of the Grammar School are up somewhat in 2014 to 49% from 34% in 2001.
- Top ratings of Police protection stand at 57% now compared to 41% in 2001.
- On the other hand, excellent ratings of winter road maintenance dropped from 71% in 2001 to 58% today.
- Excellent ratings of the library, given a new building, rose from 25% in 2001 to 73% today.
- Interest in conservation has declined somewhat since 2001. In that year 53% said more attention and funding should be placed on acquisition of land for conservation and 51% said the same for land for community use. These proportions drop to 44% and 33% in 2014. Also interest in historic preservation drops from 31% in 2001 to 17% in 2014.
- The proportion of year-round residents saying that more attention and funding needs to go to roads stands at 33% in 2014 compared to 16% in 2001.