



Dear Becket Residents and Landowners:

As you are all aware, property taxes have increased significantly in Becket in recent years and this has also been true for almost every community in Massachusetts. This is due to several factors, the primary ones being the exploding costs for health insurance and education, along with significant cutbacks in federal tax monies and the amount of state aid going to communities. Tax increases over time can also be linked to the loss of undeveloped land and an increase in residential development. Residential development places a proportionately higher financial demand for town services such as schools, roads, and emergency services. In contrast, undeveloped land, such as forest, farm fields and wetlands, place little strain on town services and more than pay their way in local tax revenue.

The Town of Becket has received grant funds to update our Open Space and Recreation Plan. During the development of this plan we hope to learn the needs of you and your family regarding open space protection and recreation in Becket. At the same time, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, in coordination with the Farmington River Watershed Association, has received a grant to develop a Farmington River Watershed Action Plan, in which they are conducting a survey within the five towns within the watershed. To coordinate both of these important efforts, Becket has merged the two surveys into one. The results of the survey will be reflected in both planning projects.

We are asking for your thoughts and ideas on ways to protect open space and the rural character of our town. So, please take a few moments to complete the enclosed survey. Answer the questions as candidly as possible. Please feel free to write additional comments on the back of this survey. The results of the survey will be tabulated and made available at a town forum, scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2006.

We thank you for your ideas and participation in this survey. *Please return the survey in the postage-paid envelope or you may fill it out on the Becket website (www.TownofBecket.org) by May 5, 2006.* You may also return it by bringing it to the Becket Town Hall.

Thank You,

The Becket Open Space and Recreation Committee
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Farmington River Watershed Association

Open Space and Recreation Survey

We are interested in learning what you think about current conditions in Becket. We are also interested in learning what you envision for Becket – what would you like the town to be like in 10 years? Please keep these in mind as you answer the questions below.

Your household

Please indicate the area of Becket which best describes where you live:

- 34 North Becket
- 18 Becket Center
- 63 Sherwood Forest
- 15 Sherwood Greens
- 25 Becket Woods
- 27 Indian Lakes
- 27 Center Pond
- 27 Yokum Pond
- 19 East Becket (Bancroft)
- 41 West Becket (Shaw, Greenwater)
- 31 Other

Are you a year-round or seasonal resident of Becket?

- 154 Year-round resident
- 169 Seasonal resident

How many members of your household fall into the following age brackets:

- 37 Under 5 years
- 119 5-17
- 92 18-29
- 203 30-49
- 299 50-65
- 161 65+

Recreation

Which of the following recreational activities in the column to the right do members of your household participate in? Please also indicate the five facility improvements needed in Becket.

Activity	We participate in these activities (check all that apply)	Five needed improvements (1 being highest priority)
Walking/running	282	<i>See Attached Graph</i>
Bicycling	133	
Hunting/shooting sports	43	
Fishing	132	
Boating	129	
Canoing/kayaking	178	
Personal watercraft, waterskiing	28	
Swimming	241	
Horseback riding	41	
Hiking	195	
Wildlife viewing	188	
Camping	46	
X-country skiing or snowshoing	138	
Sledding	62	
Snowmobiling	30	
Ice skating	68	
ATV/motorbiking	24	
Tennis	68	
Golf	69	
Dancing/aerobics/yoga	90	
Social clubs	20	
Movies/concerts/plays	208	
Playgrounds	53	
Other (specify)	61	

Recreation continued

Are existing recreational opportunities in Becket adequate for these age groups (please check Yes or No):

	Yes	No
Young children	94	62
Teenagers	44	100
Adults	129	53
Seniors	93	75
Disabled	30	68

If no, please state why: _____
 120 comments received – see Attached Table

Conservation

Check the top five resources which you think Becket should make efforts to protect.

Area	Check 5 resources	Any specific area in town?
Lakes and ponds	269	See Attached Table
Streams	154	
Drinking water	191	
Wetlands	102	
Floodplains	30	
Wildlife habitat	179	
Scenic views	92	
Mountain ridges	42	
Farmland	57	
Forested areas	154	
Trails	110	
Historic sites	97	
Other (specify)	21	

Would you consider giving the town, by town meeting vote greater authority to:

Action	Yes	No
Regulate lot sizes according to land capabilities	92	81
Create separate zoning districts to target new business for these areas	168	99
Preserve the historic character of the villages	252	39
Protect open space and rural character outside the villages	256	37
Regulate signs and billboards	254	36
Limit building in higher mountain elevations	184	81
Limit building on steep slopes	213	59
Protect historic stone walls	228	40
Encourage clustered housing with protected open space areas	130	123
Regulate wind turbines	157	90
Set aside funds for open space protection	234	45

Are you aware of any of the following programs or options to protect open space?

Program or option	Yes	No
Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program	68	207
Mass. General Laws Chapter 61 (forest tax classification)	80	201
Mass. General Laws Chapter 61A (agricultural tax classification)	70	205
Mass. General Laws Chapter 61B (recreation tax classification)	49	222
Conservation Deed Restriction	82	194
Local Land Trust	170	115
Berkshire Scenic Mountains Act	65	207
Community Preservation Act	54	210

Would you attend an informational meeting to learn more about these options?

Yes	206	No	66
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Farmington River Watershed 5-Year Action Plan Survey

We are interested in your thoughts about the Farmington River Watershed and its future. What is your vision for the future of the watershed? Please keep this in mind as you answer the questions.

Your Community

Which watershed do you live in?

- 11 Housatonic 83 Farmington
- 69 Westfield 155 Not sure

Which of the following best describes where in town you live?

- 158 Lake community
- 13 By the river
- 19 Village center/neighborhood
- 128 Rural

What characteristics about Becket do you enjoy the most? Rank 1-5 (1 being highest).

See Attached Graph

- Natural beauty of landscape
- Open land and views
- Lakes and ponds
- River and streams
- Forests and mountains
- Wildlife
- Family history in the town
- Rural atmosphere
- Small town local businesses
- Close proximity to work
- State parks
- Cultural attractions
- Other (specify)

Recreation

Which of the following activities would you participate in if offered to you?

- 91 Water quality monitoring
- 34 Aquatic insect surveys
- 51 Watershed surveys
- 37 Stream teams
- 38 Vernal pool monitoring
- 96 Organized hikes
- 86 River clean-up
- 98 Workshops on special topics
- 5 Other (specify)
- 62 None of the above

Future Growth and Development

How should population be encouraged to change over the next five years?

- 8 Increase greatly
- 164 Increase modestly
- 109 Stay the same
- 22 Decrease slightly
- 10 Decrease greatly

Which of the following types of development would you support?

- 108 Year-round residential housing
- 125 Vacation/retirement homes
- 89 Senior housing
- 56 Commercial services
- 66 Tourism based businesses
- 116 Very little development
- 26 No development at all
- 7 None of the above

Which of the following is most important to you? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the highest.

- Minimizing the impacts of development on the environment
- Minimizing the impacts of development on existing neighborhoods
- Minimizing the impacts of development on rural character
- Minimizing restrictions to growth and development
- All of the above
- None of the above
- Other (Provide comment)

See Attached Graph

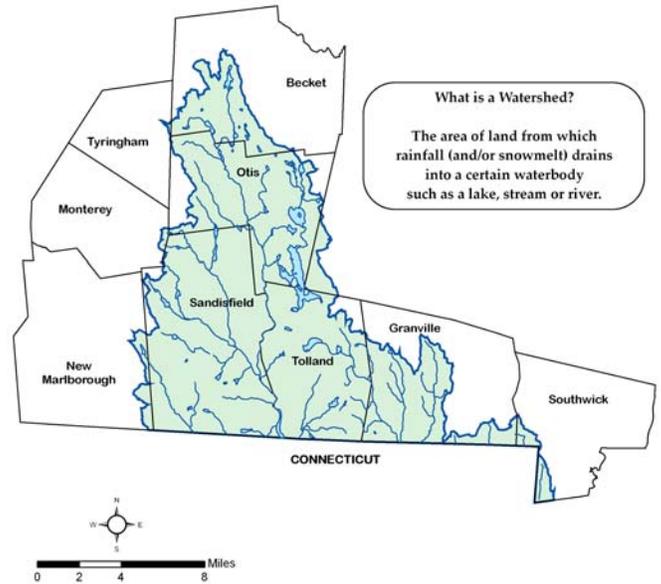
Farmington Watershed in the Future

Which of the following goals is most important to you? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the highest.

See Attached Graph

- _____ To preserve biodiversity and wildlife habitat
- _____ To protect open space and recreational value of the watershed
- _____ To promote public outreach and educational activities in the watershed
- _____ To safeguard and improve water quality in the watershed
- _____ To foster growth that reduces sprawl, maintains rural character and protects critical open space, habitats, and water resources

The Farmington River Watershed in Massachusetts



Farmington Facts: *Did you know?*

- The West Branch Farmington River is unique in Massachusetts as the only major river that does not receive a single municipal or industrial surface wastewater discharge.
- Downstream in Connecticut, The East Branch of the river serves as a drinking water supply.
- The diverse habitats of the Farmington River watershed are home to many animals including rare species such as the Northern spring salamander, spotted turtle, wood turtle, American bittern, peregrine falcon, eastern box turtle and the swollen wedge mussel.
- The population of towns within the Farmington River watershed is increasing.
- Road salt, soil erosion, and petroleum waste related to boating, septic systems, and automobiles are likely the greatest sources of pollution in the watershed.

Comments (feel free to attach additional pages for comments regarding open space, recreation, or the Farmington River Watershed). _____

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our survey! We appreciate your effort to help Becket plan for its future and to ensure that it is a town in which we are proud to live.

Other Recreation Activity Memo
You first need the facilities.
You first need the facilities
Workshop facility indoors in winter for art, craft, sculpture studio. Space available to rent.
weeds in lake
Weed removal from the ponds & lakes.
We wish the public access to Yokum Pond could be improved. Could the northern entrance to the pond at Yokum Pond Road (near Leonhardt Road) be paved? Could a proper boat ramp be added? It would be nice to make this area a small park with a dock
We actually are pleased with everything in Becket. We would like to see more advances at the Quarry.
Water aerobics
This town needs a golf course that is relatively inexpensive and easily accessible.
The kayaking/swimming facilities are adequate but the signage is very poor. Playgrounds, hiking and biking facilities could all use improvement.
Teen recreation
solitude
Soccer - nets in the town center park
skateboarding
Transportation Rank 1
rollerblading, gardening
Roads are terrible for bicycling
Photography.
Personal watercraft, waterskiing - need to be eliminated * Snowmobiling - eliminate
Other: roller-blading, skateboarding 1. need safer shoulders on roads 2. get jet skis out of Center Pond
none of the above
No issues other than movie theater
no improvements needed
My granddaughter needs activities.
More places to go dancing for social and exercise.
Library Book Club, Red Hat Society
I'm not as educated as I should be about this. Therefore, I will not include a rating - sorry!
Historic sites
High water has destroyed the Rt 20 side of the pond.
High speed internet, gas station/car wash, restaurant, Bank/ATM machine
Help us get to someone that can get the dam repaired and get the Pond back to what it was - please!
Greater access to lakes for swimming. It seems that all the lakes are private other than the Town Beach down Mecum.
good library
Girl Scouts
General Store & Becket Art Center
Gardening
Gardening
fitness center
Field archery

Other Recreation Activity Memo

Everything for the younger people is just fine. I don't use any of these as I just stay at home and all I need to do is go to the General Store & Post Office - for now.

downhill skiing

downhill skiing

Downhill skiing

down hill skiing, ice fishing

Don't waste our money - we are in the woods & neighboring communities have plenty that we can use.

Dog run. A rail trail like Lanesborough would be good!

Could the school sponsor recreational volleyball for adults?

control motor boats & camp water skiing

Better walking trails in state forest and public land - marked

Better Tennis courts, Public bathrooms, lake access, More

Becket has wonderful opportunities for all these activities. Hopefully, we can preserve them and add additional preserved land.

Becket Arts Center

Becket Arts Center

ATV/motorbiking - Better law enforcement of illegal use.

Arts - Becket Art Center

art museums

Art (Becket Arts)

All of the recreations...are the reasons I moved to Becket, and every single one of them is prohibited in Sherwood Forest...I am sorry I moved to Becket!

All of the above items are available (except yoga/aerobics) in town without any necessary improvements

5 Better school principal!

4. clean water * 5. better access * 2. redo golf course

2. Wider and harder shoulders, build bike path * 3 Restrict noise levels/time for use in residential neighborhoods. * 4. Better basketball court * 5 Upgrade Center Pond - sand - regrade beach - increased daily clean-up of outdoor latrine - prohibit motor boats docking adjacent to beach.

1-4 High speed internet * 5 cable TV (optional, but easier if done with high speed internet)

1. turnpike exit, 2. grocery store, 3. gas station

1. traffic speed control, 2. milfoil cleanup, 3. public tennis courts

1. rental boats * 2. more guided viewing

1. accessible land, 2. lake access, 3. public trails & Tourist need adequate hotel and/or RV camping facilities

(Walking/running) roads, (snowmobiling) trails cleared, wider

#1 more frequent cleanups * #2 movie theater * 3 garbage pick up, dump additional locations

#1 Roads are not safe to much ATV traffic on main roads and speeding

"deck-sitting" - enjoying our house & view & socializing with friends & neighbors.



Recreation Not Adequate Memo
Young children need a better playground, teenagers need more diversions
Young children could probably use more extensive/updated play equipment. I don't think the town offers anything that would attract a teenager.
You don't like Seniors
you can never please the teenagers nothing is ever enough
wouldn't know - don't use any of them
While not available in Becket, they are mostly available nearby.
What is, where is, when is?
We would like to take out a boat or have a knowledgeable person guide a nature walk.
We must travel substantially for tennis, golf, art courses and cultural activities.
We don't know what is available for any of these age groups at present.
We don't have any.
We can't ever pay for our schools. If you expect this in a town this small & boy you're crazy. Live somewhere else.
We almost always leave Becket to do recreational activities.
Walking/biking path would help out here.
Very little for year-round entertainment.
very limited
User-friendly outdoor facilities - like the bike/walking path in Pittsfield through the forest (unique to us) and available
Use requires difficult access in many cases
Upgrade & expand playground/beach, basketball court. Another lake for non-motorized boats.
unsure
uninformed
Town beach is poorly maintained (sand, parking, garbage, security). No hiking/bicycling paths/trails.
There needs to be a meeting place for teenagers.
They virtually don't exist. In the case of the playground next to the town hall it only services a small portion of the town's population given the large area of the town.

Recreation Not Adequate Memo

There's nothing for kids to do.
There is very little for kids to do. We need family activities.
There is nothing to do on weekends.
There is not enough age-appropriate equipment in the town playground for toddlers.
There is little to do in Becket for these groups.
There is little for seniors in Becket.
There doesn't appear to be much except in the summertime.
There are no recreational opportunities.
There are no playgrounds for young children or activities for teens.
There are no activities for teens, but adults should realize Becket is a rural area. Seniors & the disabled are at a disadvantage due to the terrain.
The dam at Greenwater Pond has been in repair for 2 years and is not completed yet. The Pond was drained down and our joy f the use of it has been drastically reduced.
Tennis courts in poor shape
Teenagers are walking the streets to no place.
Some type of recreational center would be helpful
Seems like all Teen activities are centered around/Pittsfield
see first page priority list
see "other" on "Recreation"
Recreational activities in Becket are not geared to teens. No team sports for tens.
Poor water quality due to weed overgrowth. Too much land flooded because of beaver dams.
Playground on Rte 8 is much too limited. More equipment needed.
playground not fenced in
Parking close to activity
Nothing to do in town
Nothing for the teenagers to do. Same as adults. Nowhere for them to hang out. No wonder they all drink & do drugs.
Nothing for adults other than the arts.
nothing available
Nothing around here to do
not used
Not much teenage activities that they would want to go to.
Not much of anything is done in Becket for anyone that is fun.
Not much for teenagers to do in Becket. Sports we have to travel to Dalton. This is not good for any children to have to do.
Not many playgrounds in Becket area and surrounds. Not aware of safe, pretty walking areas for seniors.
Not in town enough to provide a fair answer
Not fully aware what opportunities exist.
Not familiar with need or resources now available
Not enough play areas, no activity center. No access.
Not enough for all age groups.
Not enough facilities for young children
Not enough arts programs in Becket. Becket Day Camp does not include arts staff in their program.
Not enough activities for children or teens! No place to call there own.
not enough

Recreation Not Adequate Memo
none available
none
No teen programs, especially 14-17 olds.
No team sport activities for children & teens. Nice baseball field but small basketball court
No structure or physical outlets
No social venues - no music & dancing establishment available on a regular basis - The Rigg doesn't count!
No safe night activities for teens - minimal services for active adults.
No programs or facilities
No places for teens to hang out. No real activities for them with school not close by.
No place to walk safely - only along side of roadways.
No place for teenagers to go.
No movies, teen center -- not sure what teens can do for social/recreation.
no idea
no idea
No gathering place - inadequate facilities
Need public transportation (bus service). Activities for teens.
need more walking trails
Need more social interaction
need more public awareness
Need more organized fitness programs
Need for exercise, yoga classes geared for seniors
Most things that interest teens are out of town.
Most likely -- lack of funds
More safe places for teens to hang out
Limited availability of public tennis courts.
Lack of variety and cohesiveness - many little things, few larger, organized activities.
Lack of playgrounds
Kids have to travel to Dalton for sports & recreation (dances).
Jacobs ladder playhouse, the Becket land reserve (AKA the old rock quarry, Indian Lake Estates, and the newly built town hall are the only appealing things Becket has going for it that I know of to date.
I'm in the middle because there's not much happening for any of them. Other than the playground & lakes to swim. Teens especially need something to keep them occupied & out of trouble.
If anyone says no, it is only because they are lazy.
I don't really know, but whatever is built should be low key and in consistent with the existing character of the town.
I don't know. I just moved up to Becket and it's peaceful - my kind of town!
I do not see any thing in town for teens to do.
I am not sure what is available. How about summer senior pitch league?
Few, if any, recreational areas with playground equipment, level and maintained walkways and hiking trails, supervised swimming facilities.
Few facilities for teen socializing
Except for Becket Arts Center, what is there?
Everything that should be allowed in the woods is banned. You might as well live in Springfield!
Due to high traffic areas/out of town people who are rude and destructive to recreation areas, it is not enjoyable to anyone. The Town Beach is a good example.

Recreation Not Adequate Memo

Don't know enough

Don't know about young children. I don't see anything for teenagers. I hope I missed it.

Cross country skiing & snowshoeing trails not easily available. List is primarily summer activities, not much available other seasons.

Can't answer because we don't use them.

Cannot comment. I have very little knowledge of these opportunities.

Besides basketball & the fire station, not much to do.

Beaches should have better access to disabled.

As seasonal residents, we are satisfied. Year-round people may have other needs - such as adult day care, etc., that some of our neighbors need.

All that seems available to our community right now is the playground

All recreation areas should have accessible places for flat access.

activities in community seem to focus on adults and young children mostly

Activities are all included in school - or not available

Access not appropriate

A youth center is needed for teens. Not certain all recreation accessible for disabled.

Specific Areas for Conservation Memo

Yokum Pond public access at Yokum Pond Road (near Leonhardt Road)

This is hard to answer. All of the above at one time or another will be important.

This is Becket. There are vast amounts of private lands that provide the above resources. And they have a strong reason to protect them.

There all very important.

the whole town of Becket!

Sherwood Forest

Protect everything! Just improve the gravel roads.

Of course, all of the above!

Litter, roadside and other * Private Property dumpsters, junk, old cars etc.

industrial building sites

Hard to decide - all seem important, but we do favor the option to develop some wind power over protecting scenic views. With this exception we favor conservation measures.

everywhere

controlled growth

Camp properties to protect that from being sold to developers ever.

Becket & October Mountains

All! While realizing the right of people to join the community.

All seem very important

All parts of town

All of these!

All of the above are worthy of protection.

all areas

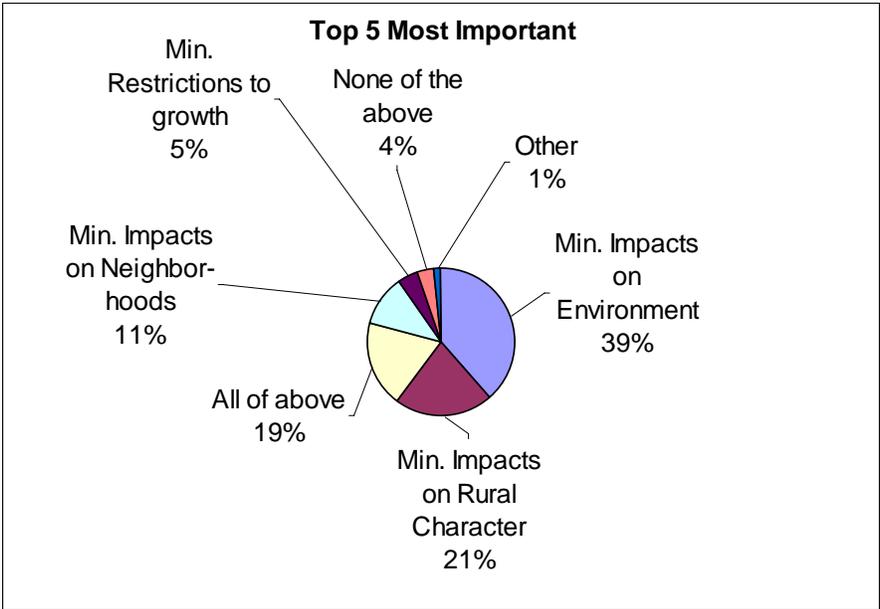
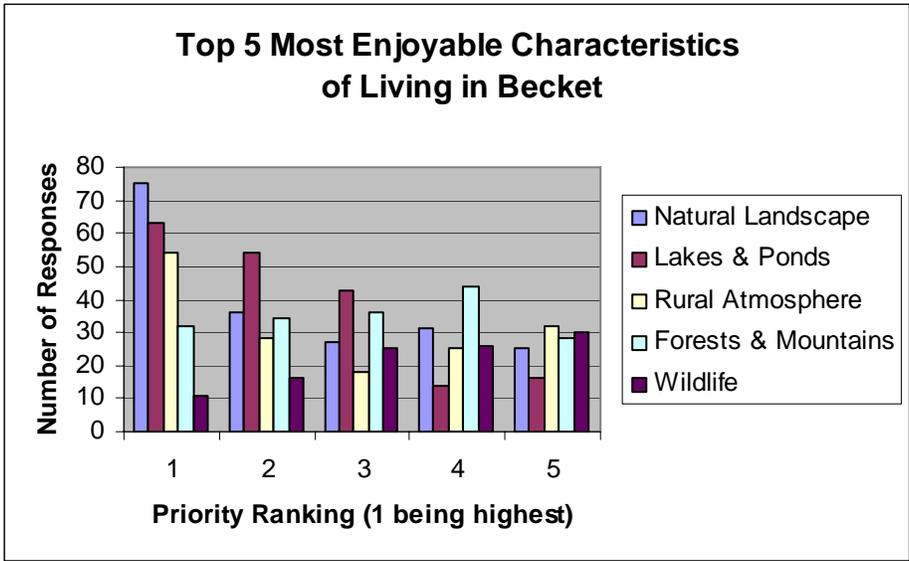
all areas

All areas

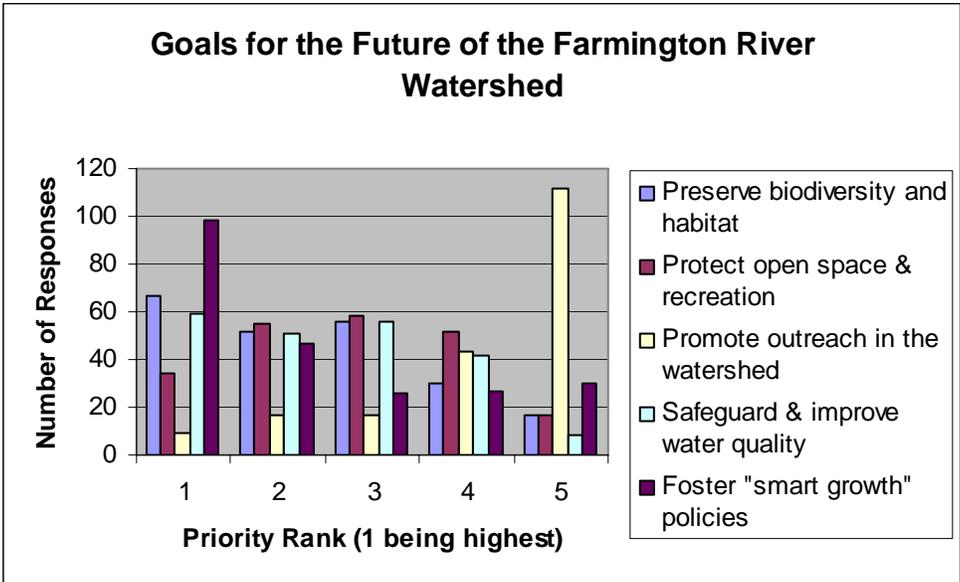
All

all

Becket Characteristics Memo
Quiet!
quiet
peace and quiet and 5, historic charm
Miss the Becket General Store
Fresh air - low pollution!!
Everything, just as it is now!
clean air, water
Characteristics - The people
Becket Arts Center
Becket Art Center



Growth and Development Impacts Memo
We think development should be kept to an absolute minimum.
We need to do more to protect the environment and natural wildlife! We are driving the wild life away with the ongoing development.
We need a local gas station!
We have to grow but not at the cost of that which makes Becket unique. This can be done by evaluating other communities like ours & making informed decisions.
We feel that you can entice business to our rural community without sacrificing the essence of Becket.
The impact of summer traffic & development in our area (Center Pond and Becket Center) is already too much!
Thank you for paying attention to our wonderful environment.
Stable growth can be a positive for the town. More economic viability is needed in order for fulltime residents to be able to stay without duress due to lack of employment opportunities and highway access.
Stop building in Becket! Leave Becket alone!
preserving history
Obviously a healthy environment is the area's most valuable resource and must not be sacrificed.
Minimizing development of watershed areas.
Minimize police presence in PRIVATE communities. We pay for the right not to be fined for the use of ATVs in PRIVATE communities.
Leave it all alone for now. But the people of the future will do what they do regardless. Time marches on!
Keep Becket as rural and private and undeveloped as it currently is! Becket must never be Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, etc...
Improve tax base with caution
I'd like to see intelligent development that will not substantively impact the environment.
I would like to see State Forest dollars to help those who bear the burden of watershed impact.
High peed internet!
Growth with a plan - reasonable zoning that protects the environment.
Don't want to minimize restrictions
Do you mean maximizing restrictions??
Do not minimize the restrictions!!!
Becket needs new business in town and our people need to know that by not using local businesses it hurts the town and townspeople!
All equally important
Affordable & Senior housing are a critical need for Becket. Sadly, affluent people can most easily afford to buy anything and everything.
4th - As worded, this means less restrictions to allow greater, easier development, which we oppose
4. minimizing impact of development on wildlife (encroaching on their habitat); 5. Minimizing noise and pollution
1. Don't let the town of Becket lose control to small groups of special property owners (as in Sherwood Forest) 2. Lower the water level of the lake to its former state.
#5 - no way
#3 minimize the amount of vacation home development. #4 Development of small rural businesses.



Final Comments
We would like to see development & growth in the area to promote economic well being within the confines of a healthy environment.
We would like to see a law enacted that would ban boats from being launched lake to lake - this is the Major cause of weed infestation.
We wish to keep Becket as undeveloped as possible. Protecting the natural environment, waters, mts, & protect wildlife and protected plants etc.
We pay taxes, have no vote! I have been in Becket for 35 years and have seen much growth -- some good some not -- The potential of this survey info. Is enormous. Please, move cautiously. "Money is the root of all evil"! B. Deflumeri
We need to be more careful on the use of road salt in all areas of streams rivers. The salt is just destroying our streams, well, rivers.
We moved from a suburban NYC community and watched how unchecked development quickly diminishes the environment and quality of life. After only two years in Becket, we have seen the quality of life begin to change rapidly. Careful planning is the key to preserving at least a semblance of our rural character and the life we all seek here. Thank you for your survey!
We love Becket and hope to live there permanently someday soon. Please consider improving the public access to Yokum Pond.
We live on the Farmington River in Canton and are members of the FRWA. We are lifelong residents of Canton. We would hate to see the kind of development that is ruining Canton take hold of Becket.
We feel it's important to monitor new housing starts and to keep the water clean for all. We need to preserve our Becket assets - like the Quarry, and the lakes and ponds. We need to monitor the growth of our town.
We definitely support wind turbines and would also be interested in learning more about what recreational activities are currently in Becket.
We are unable to participate in many of the listed outdoor activities, however, we do enjoy the peace and beauty, clean air and good water of Becket.
Was my husband's only activity till the chief took his permit now he has none. So he's home abound. Thanks Chief
Try to keep this area as pristine as possible for wildlife & future generations.
The survey is hard to answer. The questions are oriented as if the answers are "yes" and "no", but in fact questions regarding development are much more complicated. In general it's not whether something is done,

Final Comments

but how. Becket would benefit from commercial enterprises which we would certainly favor if they were nicely executed. Well defined zoning is a good idea. Becket could make more of its historic sites. A published map and better plaques would be helpful on that front.

This year, because no municipality takes responsibility for the ponds/watershed on Tyringham Rd. - thousands & thousands of dollars went to "repair" the damage, but not to PREVENT the damage from re-occurring. Instead, I have a neighbor who is licensed to kill beavers at his choosing who thinks he is "doing good". A pond is not a place for motor boats & jet skis- all of the pollution is going into CT's drinking water and killing our wildlife described above. We may not have pollution by industry but we have plenty from the population.

The Farmington River Watershed has a stream that comes across route 20 and goes into Greenwater Pond and because of the drawdown of Greenwater Pond, the rare species such as salamanders, turtles, frogs and especially smelt are being slowly lost to the environment and our pond.

Thank you for your mailings from the Farmington Watershed, and thank you for asking the resident's opinions and concerns! Pat Speranzo, 442 County Rd., Becket

Thank you for your efforts!

stricter hunting regulations

Stop building in Becket! Leave the land alone! Don't turn Becket into a city! Leave Becket alone! Stop the crazy building of houses everywhere! Stop ruining beautiful Becket! Stop the madness! Before it's too late! Oops - too late!!

Road Salt NEEDS to be reduced on Quarry Rd. I have seen STRAIGHT salt (not mixed w/ sand or dir) deposited HEAVILY on that road this past winter!!!

Restrict use of snowmobiles & ATVs to protect our sensitive environment and wildlife habitat.

Regarding town authority - I cannot vote.

Regarding the Recreation question and improvements needed: #1 Ban ATV/motorbiking, #2 social clubs for teens, #3 Restrict snowmobiling, #4 Protect swimming from power boat pollution, Becket is a beautiful place. Please keep it that way. Thank you. The only thing we would add is that the peace and beauty of public trails are too frequently shattered by ORVs.

Reduce the use of road salt. Introduce a right to farm bylaw in Becket.

received survey 5/17, mailed 5/18

re: vacation retirement homes - regulated to be up to year-round schedules.

Re: Town meeting vote on page 2: I understand - or believe - that towns in Massachusetts already have the authority to regulate, protect, limit, etc. their communities by town meeting vote. If this is not true then I favor giving that authority to the towns via town meeting vote.

re Farmington facts: Signage to this effect at access or view points along the river would be worthwhile - and probably easily funded.

Protect the taxpayers who cannot afford to have their taxes increased just because someone with a lot of money can afford to purchase second homes in your neighborhood and send your evaluation sky high for no reason what so ever. That is what we need protect. * There is not much a person or town can do to oppose the development of single family or second homes there is just too much money involved for anyone to fight. Besides we have too many existing laws which are not used properly as it is right now. * The dam at the school needs to be cleaned out the flood this winter filled it to the top with rocks. The firemen need somewhere to have a water source in case of fire. Something needs to be done soon.

Overall I believe the rural character of the town should be preserved. We should focus on growing environmental concerns, and educate future generations on these matters. Limit urban sprawl, commercial space should be limited by square footage and kept to Rt 8 & 20. Every resident should be issued a copy of "A History of Becket".

It would be nice to have bus service to Pittsfield or Lee. I'm very happy that the problem of preserving the wonderful and unique quality of the area is being seriously thought about.

In question 3 of the Watershed section, there was not an answer for "distance from work". It's not that I like being close to work, it's that I like (rest of answer missing). As for wind turbines, I think they should not only

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be encouraged, but that the town should actively pursue it. Oh, and I think Becket desperately needs high speed internet.
I would love to become involved in protecting our beautiful natural resources. Cecile Roosa [#41 address]
I would like to see a "smart growth program" similar to the "Nantucket Land Bank Conservation Act." Maintain affordable housing for the year-round citizens of Becket and provide the greatest EMS services available to the area.
I think they should go after some of the properties in Sherwood Forest, some properties need desperate improvement, bringing down other property values.
I live by a swamp - beavers took it over it seems to be getting closer to Bowman's Lane. The trails need improving. The road is always full of potholes. My water has iron in it.
I have contacted the Becket tax office by letter last year concerning the DRASTIC DRAW-DOWN of Greenwater Pond. This is the third year the pond has been in this condition. My family and all of the cottage owners on the Pond are very upset by this -- as weeds IN and around the pond are more profuse every year -- and now are becoming dangerous for swimmers. They are VERY thick in some places -- Can NOTHING be done?
I feel there are people in community programs that want what they want. They do not care about the town of Becket they just want to make a name for them self. At the expense of others and their property.
I favor catch and release fishing. Clean up abandoned homes (remove) in Sherwood Forest, Becket. Prevent logging industry from operating in this area. Eliminate or regulate all terrain vehicles (ATV). Philip Carter
I don't think our lakes can sustain motor boat use. It also presents risks to swimmers.
I don't know enough about the watershed to offer an opinion.
I believe that the town of Becket should stay out of the business of private land owners.
I am in full support of all efforts to protect, maintain and cultivate a safe and clean environment. One that encourages the preservation of our land and its habitants. We must protect the limited space our wildlife has in order for them to thrive!
I am in favor of your goals.
I am especially concerned about the use of salt on the roads in the winter. It is affecting the wildlife. I think it should be greatly reduced or banned. There are alternatives that work well & don't harm the environment.
How to encourage co-existence with snowmobiles & cross country skiing - sometimes the snowmobiles come racing over a hill & we skiers have to jump off the trail.
Have your/our town meeting in July/August when seasonal residents are available. We care. Thanks for hearing our voice via the survey.
Good survey. It's nice to know somebody cares what I think. I love Becket because it is "unspoiled" (I hope!) by "large city" problems and pollution. The rural small town feeling is beautiful. We HAVE to protect the environment! Anything that stops pollution and preserves the environment is good in my book. I will help any way I can. Love, Fran Cussen [name & address attached]
FYI - We received this survey on May 10, so meeting the deadline was impossible.
Everything now is all & good! But of course nothing stays the same. Progress causes more financial expenses! If future residents arrive let them pay for it all - don't tax me any more! I came to Becket to finish out my life as cheaply as possible. I can't pay too much anymore. Thanks, Jim Sabados, Becket.
Education, for both adults and children is needed so they can understand the why. And to know how individuals can help to preserve. Young children need a hands on approach. Addressing young children will yield interested adults.
Don't know enough about watersheds to make intelligent decisions.
Does the sand placed on roads in winter have to contain such a high amount of salt?
Do not permit any changes to the Farmington in the West Branch area that could have a negative impact on all of the desirable features described above.
Current garbage collection system is bad for the environment. The cost to individuals is so high that it encourages dumping in forests and on roadways. A free dump day might encourage those who leave their

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discards in their yards to get rid of it. Also, regulations against trashy yards should be enforced by fines, as diligently collected as taxes.
Conservation easements should be established & enforced for all buildings on lake & stream shores.
Conservation - I feel all areas of town should be looked at and all resources should be protected.
Bigger is not necessarily better. In reference to government and schools, bigger is almost always worse.
Because we live (seasonally) in a private lake community, many of our recreational activities (swimming, boating/canoeing, walking, wildlife viewing) take place within the community, and we rely less on other public & private facilities.
As Sherwood Forest is in the highest elevation of the watershed, what funds are available to comply with regulations? This can help defray improvement expense to those who need to upgrade with wells, septic and roads. It seems unfair to lay the expense
As relative newcomers in a small lake community (Shaw Pond) we have been struck by the main topic of concern: maintaining our small beach/swimming area & keep it from being taken over by weeds. Between the restrictions on treating the weeds & the cost which exceeds our resources, any guidance or help from the town would be most welcome.
As an amateur naturalist I spend a good deal of time in the forests of Becket in all seasons. I would be happy to participate in wildlife surveys, etc. I marked snowmobiling/ATV as high priority areas in need of improvement because these recreational activities are having from a moderate to severe impact on the environment. I would be happy to chronicle these effects in a formal way (attached sheet:) I also marked as priorities HUNTING because I strongly oppose House Bills H1275, H1325 and MA H4517, which allow Sunday and post-holiday hunting. Becket should look into a local ordinance prohibiting Sunday hunting should any of these bills pass. BICYCLING All road improvements in the town of Becket should pay careful attention to the Mass. Official roadway design manual with particular reference to accommodating recreational and transportational cyclists. I would strongly urge town engineers to seek the advice of Massbike West to make Becket a bike-friendly destination. Hopefully, your survey will show that most Becket residents, both year round and seasonal, prefer maintaining the natural environment and place less emphasis on structured, formal or developed recreational activities. As purely, natural undeveloped areas become more unique they increase in value. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. Ken Cheeseman, 1123 County Rd., Becket, MA and 457 Washington St. #1, Newton, MA - ken@kencheeseman.com [survey #18]
As a relative newcomer to Becket - people don't know of what is available here!
All of the state roads follow rivers. They should be monitored to control the amount of road salt they waste. I also don't believe that people who live on dirt roads should be fined for sensible snowmobile and ATV use on them, especially in PRIVATE communities.
All of the above goals are important. Thank you for the work you're doing.
Alan Lawler, 337 Silver Leaf Drive, Sherwood Greens, Becket, MA
ACTIVITY - Snowmobiling - restrict * ATV/ MOTORBIKING - restrict * motorcycle noise - fine offenders ; truck noise & speed - fine offenders
Activities: (walking) groomed paths, (bicycling) lower speed limits in certain areas, (swimming) clean up weeds, etc., (horseback) groomed trails, (x/c) cut trails, (ice skating) plowed areas, (dancing...) rec. center classes, (movies...) the Pillow is enough in Becket. * WAY TOO MUCH SALT is being used on our roads thereby damaging the eco system & our vehicles. Let's go back to a mix of salt & sand (but sifted sand - not pebble & rock laden sand) which breaks our windshields.
ACTION: (signs & billboards) - but all signs should be better enforced. * The population greatly increases in the summertime. Is brings in many types of people. The biggest problem is out of town people who leave trash behind and destroy lakes (Center), and make a loud spectacle (swearing and rude gestures) in front of children and residents trying to enjoy themselves.
Abandoned cars, trucks, household appliances must be regulated and removed. A tax on Unregistered vehicles could be imposed, modest at start and doubling each year.
1. Need to plow Pill Road 2. Net post on tennis court by school is tipping out of the asphalt - needs immediate repair! 3. Waterfall below Brooker Hill Road, shoulder of road is collapsing. 4. Regulate wind

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turbines, but not prohibit. 5. We need the General Store to reopen - find us a buyer! COMMENTS: This area has been used as an illegal dump for more than 50 years. Until we bought 12 acres in Becket nobody seemed to care about this hazardous eyesore (Pleasant Street along the river and railroad tracks into Middlefield). I collected much of this debris over a period of several months (and two seasons) and L.P. Adams and Hinsdale Sawmill did their part to remove truck bodies and other heavy items with logging trucks tractors and cranes. (Signed) M. Richard, 86 Leland Rd.

#1 Quarry area (Action): Not clear - is it greater government control or control by town vote to change established perimeters. If it is municipal boards, then my answers.