

**APPENDIX B:**  
**CITIZEN'S SURVEY**

## **Overview**

### **Reason For Survey**

The Poolesville Planning Commission initiated a survey of the Town's citizens in September 2010. The Survey was intended to take a "snap shot" look at the opinions of residents regarding the future of Poolesville and was envisioned as one of the "many" inputs available to help determine the priorities laid out in the Master Plan. The survey was designed to help "quantify" citizens insights on "likes and dislikes" regarding the Town, its character and amenities.

The Commission utilized the professionally designed 2002 survey questions as a base for this survey. It was intended to be short and not be a 100% accurate representation of all of the Town citizens' views. In order to accomplish that, a more in depth questionnaire, completed by a larger number of individuals, would be necessary.

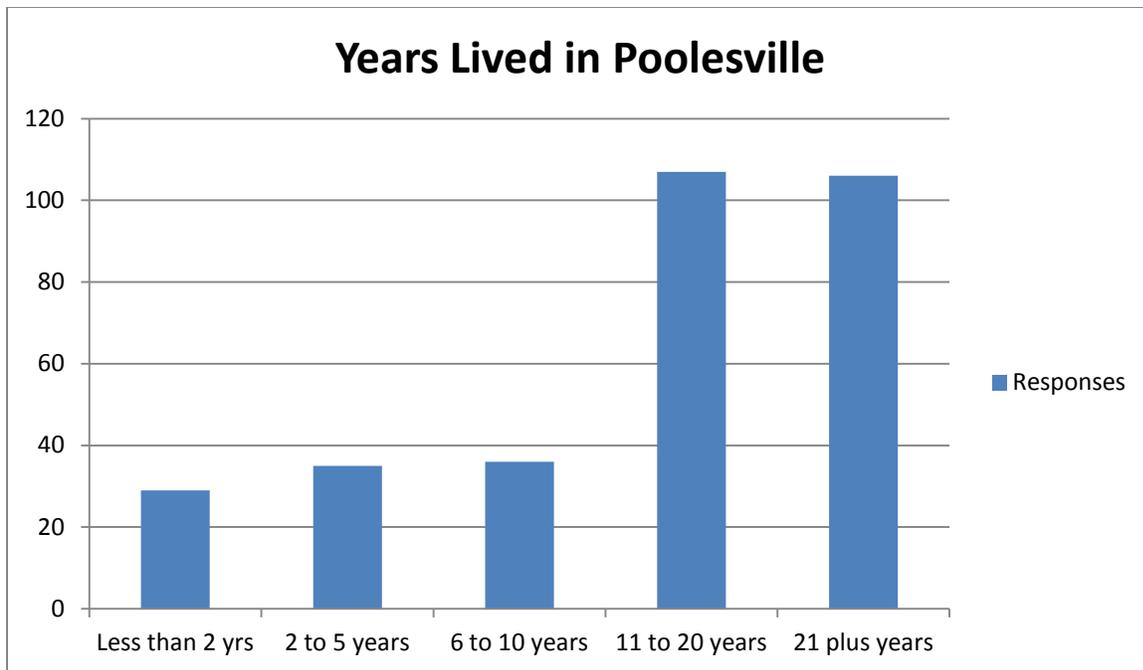
### **Survey Method**

The survey was conducted online and reached out to all households in Poolesville. Over 310 individuals participated in the survey. Their candid thoughts and opinions on a variety of issues and priorities facing the Town are detailed in the following survey results. The survey covered a variety of questions, some of which asked for "rating" or "score", and some of which asked for "top of mind" thoughts, suggestions or comments.

**Q1. Our first question relates to how long you have lived in Poolesville.**

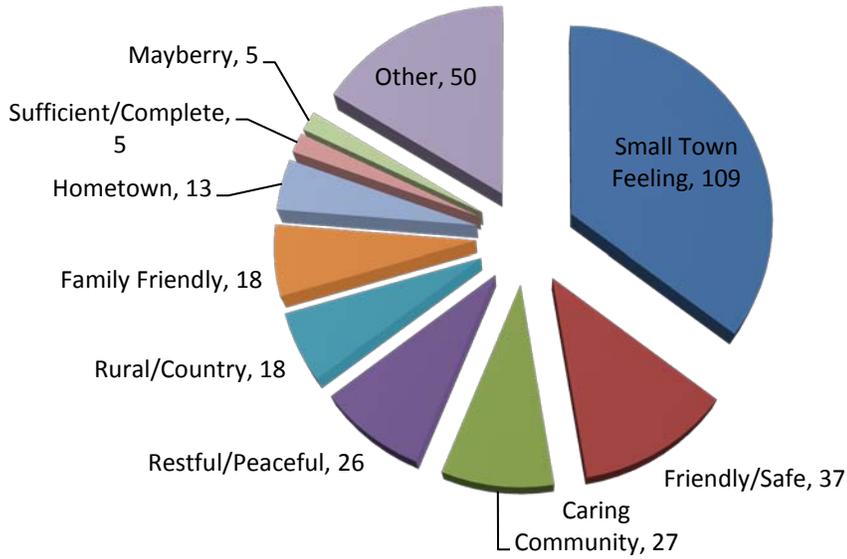
*(313 respondents to this question)*

	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Less than 2 yrs</b>	29	9%
<b>2 to 5 years</b>	35	11%
<b>6 to 10 years</b>	36	12%
<b>11 to 20 years</b>	107	34%
<b>21 plus years</b>	106	34%



**Q2. What "one word or phrase" best describes what makes Poolesville your kind of place to live?**  
*(308 unaided responses)*

The top ten responses are listed below:

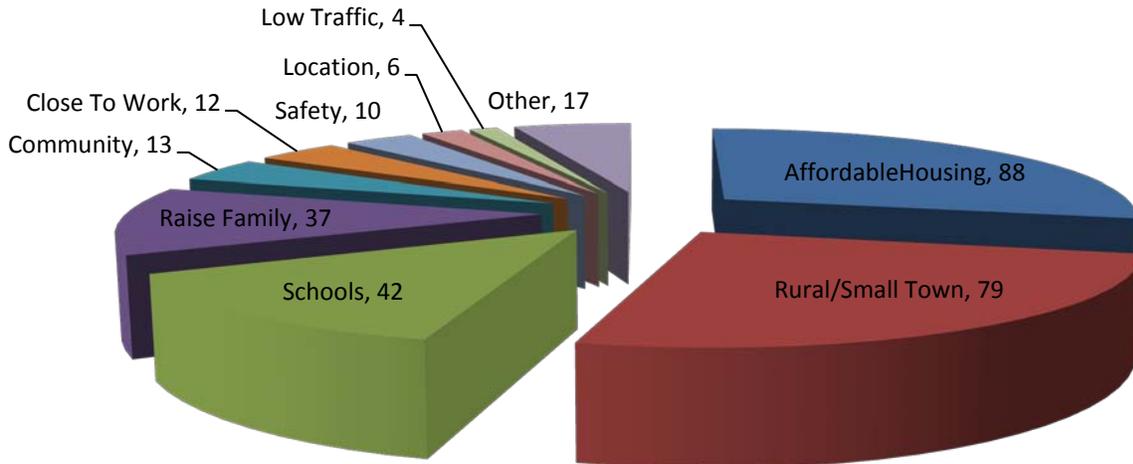


**Q3. If you had to choose "one word or phrase" that best describes what makes Poolesville your kind of place to live, what would it be?** *(309 responses)*

<u>Choices</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent %</u>
Small Town Feeling	128	41%
Rural Atmosphere/Country Feeling	56	18%
Less Hectic	50	16%
Community Oriented	41	13%
Safe	26	9%
Friendly	7	2%
Clean	1	1%

**Q4. Thinking about your original decision to move to Poolesville, what would you say was the most important factor that influenced your decision to come here?**  
*(308 unaided responses)*

The top ten responses are listed below:



**Q5. Thinking about all of the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of the influence they had on your decision to come to Poolesville. Use a range from 5 for "very strong influence" to 1 for "no influence at all".** *(303 Responses)*

Very Strong -----Influence-----Not at All

Open Country/Green Space	53.9%	29.5%	10.3%	3.7%	2.6%
Less Traffic Congestion	38.4%	25.8%	19.9%	10.3%	5.6%
Close To Family Members	11.2%	5.6%	9.3%	6.7%	67.2%
Close To Work	10.5%	7.1%	23.2%	21.3%	37.9%
Parks and Recreation Facilities	7.0%	17.3%	31.0%	22.1%	22.6%
Small Town Atmosphere	65.2%	20.7%	9.3%	1.8%	3.0%
Local Schools/Magnet Program	33.8%	17.8%	12.6%	8.9%	26.9%
Lower Cost of Housing	37.6%	18.1%	20.3%	12.5%	11.5%
Less Crime/Drugs	46.3%	25.2%	15.6%	7.8%	5.1%
Good Place to Raise Family	69.5%	16.0%	5.9%	3.0%	5.6%

**Q6. Please name the one thing that you would like to see changed to improve the quality of life in Poolesville. (285 Total responses)**

**Responses were categorized into 9 separate themes. Within each theme, comments were summarized by the most frequently mentioned.**

**Activities 32 Responses**

Have a community center  
 More youth activities  
 Indoor swim center

**Local Government Issues 26 Responses**

Remove speed cameras  
 Reduce real property tax

**Police Issues 20 Responses**

More police presence  
 Less petty crime (theft, vandalism)

**Town Appearance/Improvements 41 Responses**

Keep it small (like it is)  
 Improve downtown (4-way stop area)  
 Improve property maintenance

**Business Related 77 Responses**

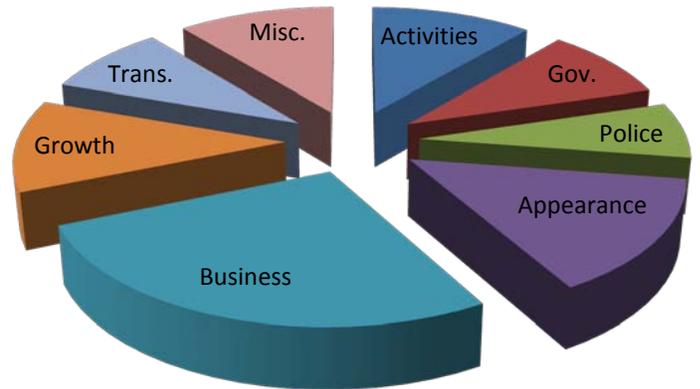
More business/restaurants  
 Improve grocery store  
 Healthier business community/less vacancies  
 More support for small businesses in Town

**Growth Issues 33 Responses**

Reduce/limit new home construction  
 Keep population growth to a minimum  
 More homes/people to support businesses

**Transportation Issues 25 Responses**

Continue bike/walking path around Town  
 Improve Tom Fox Avenue



**Miscellaneous 31 Responses**

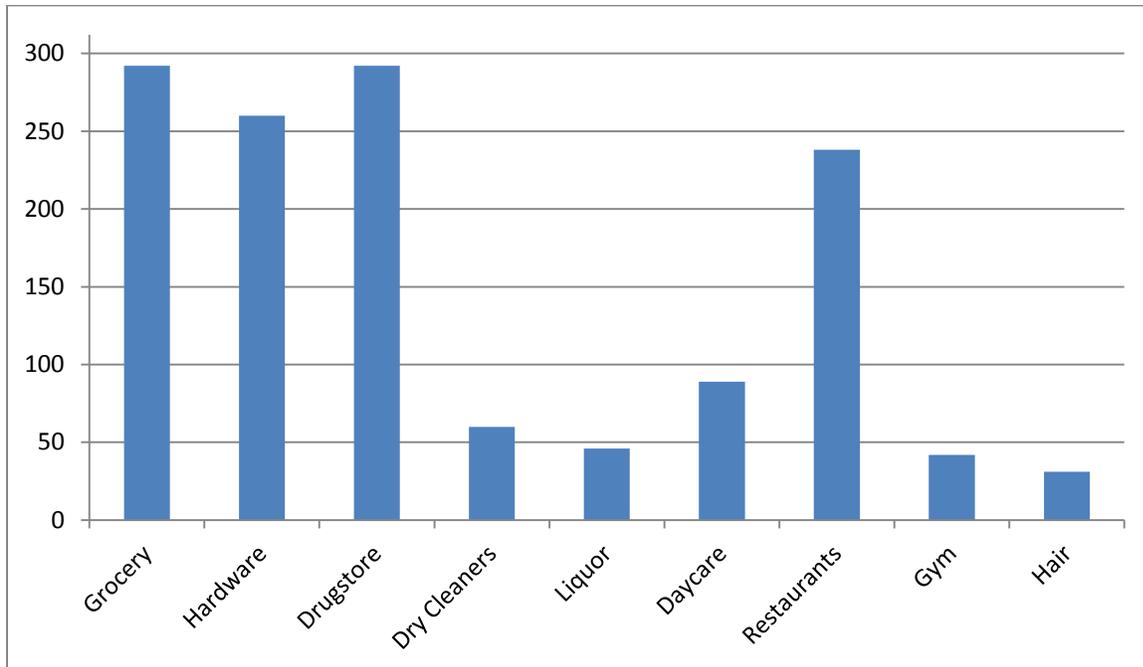
Improve storm water ponds  
 More senior services  
 Re-open beauty spot for yard waste

**Q7. Thinking about all of the factors that impact life in Poolesville, please rate each of these factors as to how important they are to the quality of life in Poolesville.**  
*(304 Responses)*

Most-----Importance-----Least

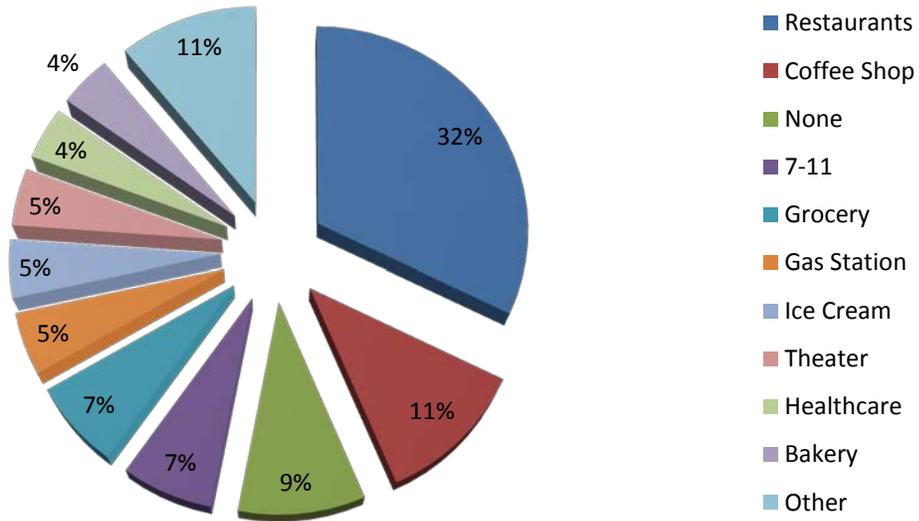
<b>Nearby Medical Facilities</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Basic Shopping Needs</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>Rental Housing</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>55.6%</b>
<b>Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>36.9%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>Local schools that have all the opportunities available at larger County schools</b>	<b>57.9%</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
<b>Downtown Streetscape</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
<b>Lower Crime/Safety</b>	<b>77.0%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Housing for Seniors</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>30.4%</b>
<b>Community Activities</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

**Q8. What type of shopping or business services do you feel the town CANNOT afford to lose?**  
 Please choose up to 5. *(312 Responses)*

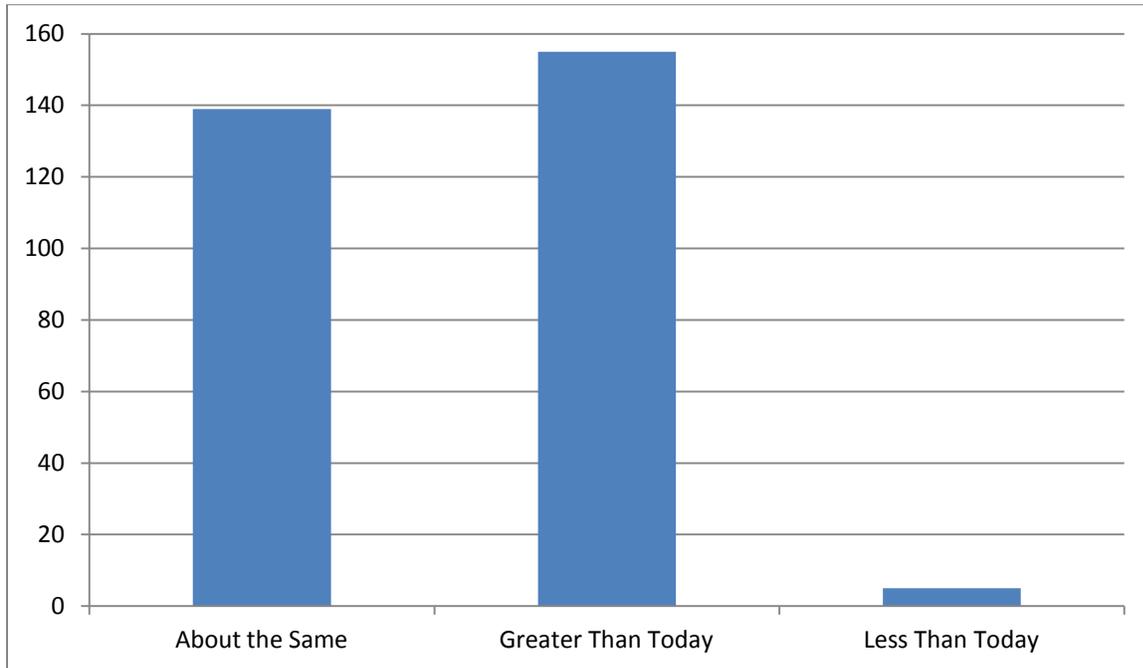


**Q9. What new types of businesses would you like to see in Town?**  
*(264 unaided responses)*

The top ten responses are listed below:

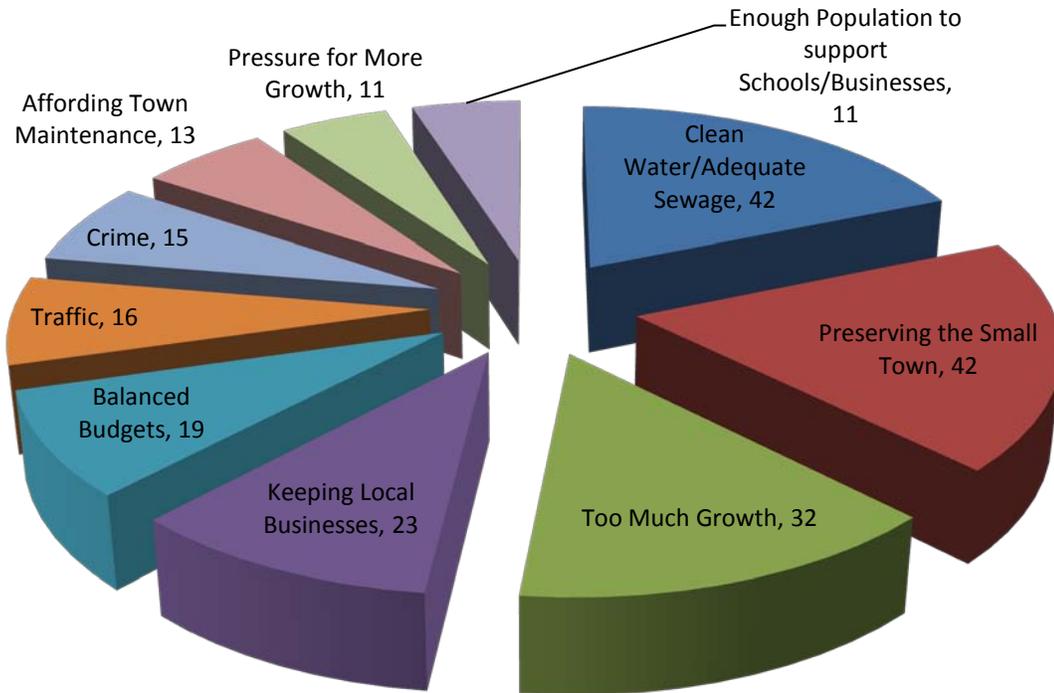


**Q10. Looking ahead five years, do you feel the challenges the Town faces will be:**  
*(299 Responses)*



**Q11. Looking ahead five years, what do you feel will be the one "single most important" challenge facing Poolesville? (287 unaided responses)**

The top ten responses are listed below:



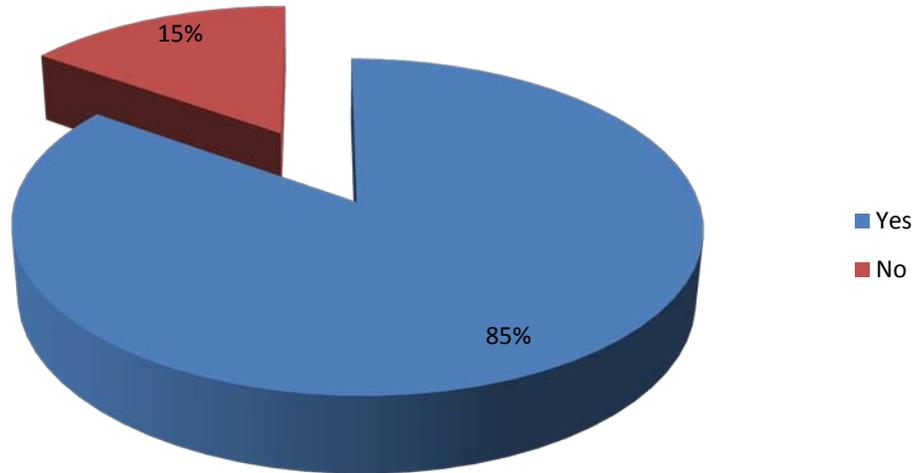
**Q12. What do you feel should be the greatest priorities for the Town? Use a range from 5 for the highest priority ("want very much") to 1 for the lowest ("do not want or need").**

(296 Responses)

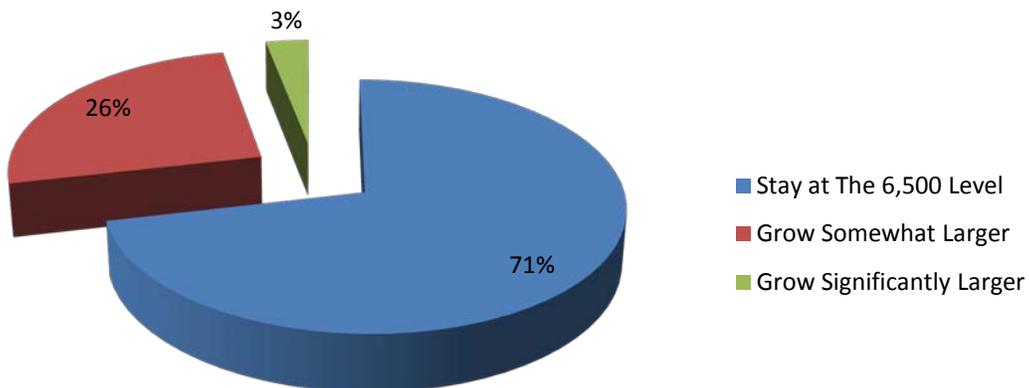
Want Very Much-----Do Not Want

Develop More Programs for Teens	22.1%	28.7%	26.1%	12.5%	10.6%
Build a Community Center	15.9%	15.9%	27.0%	13.7%	27.5%
Ensure Adequate Water and Sewer	79.4%	12.5%	6.3%	1.1%	0.7%
Expand Parks and Recreation Facilities	5.2%	16.4%	30.5%	24.2%	23.7%
Complete the Jogging/Biker Trail	19.3%	21.5%	27.4%	13.3%	18.5%
Work to Attract Businesses for Existing Commercial Spaces	44.4%	25.6%	21.5%	3.7%	4.8%
Increase Police Presence	25.9%	29.3%	30.4%	10.7%	3.7%
Complete Fisher Avenue Streetscape	17.8%	24.8%	30.4%	14.8%	12.2%
Protect and Maintain Schools	70.6%	17.1%	9.3%	1.9%	1.1%
Finish Sidewalks in Residential Areas	21.9%	28.1%	25.6%	14.8%	9.6%
Add Speed Humps	8.9%	8.5%	21.4%	27.7%	33.5%
Protect the Historic Heritage and Small Town Character	58.7%	22.5%	12.9%	4.4%	1.5%

**Q13. Do you, or does any other adult member of the household, work outside of Poolesville on a daily or regular basis? (297 Responses)**



**Q14. Presently, the Town population is just over 5,250 citizens. Over the next 5 years the Town population will increase to 6,500 citizens. We have discussed in this questionnaire the challenges facing the Town and the opportunities, as well as why you live in Poolesville. Considering all these factors, over the next 10 to 15 years, do you believe the Town should: (294 Responses)**



**Q15. Considering the existing park facilities, what additional facilities are needed?**

*(285 Responses)*

