

Senior Housing Survey

The Harvard Planning Board and Council on Aging is seeking your input on senior housing in Harvard. Specifically, we are reaching out to residents 50 years of age or older in order to provide Town officials, staff, and board and committee members with a clear understanding of the senior housing needs of individuals seeking retirement or senior friendly residences in Harvard.

This survey on senior housing is intended to gather more information to better prepare our draft Senior Residential Development bylaw for Annual Town Meeting in 2021. As citizens may know, we decided to withdraw the warrant article for the bylaw from Town Meeting in October to continue to refine it.

If you are a senior actively looking for new housing opportunity, this survey should be of interest to you. Thank you very much for your participation and providing your assistance in crafting our town's Senior Residential Development bylaw.

If you are filling out a hard copy of this survey, please either drop off your completed survey in the dropbox at the front of Town Hall marked for delivery to the Planning Board or mail your completed survey to:

Christopher Ryan
Planning Board
Harvard Town Hall
13 Ayer Road
Harvard, MA 01451

If you have any questions about this survey, even while you are taking it, please contact Christopher Ryan at 978-456-4100 x.323 or cryan@harvard.ma.us anytime. Please be sure to provide us with contact information if you're interested in participating in a focus group once the survey has closed.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION: Please tell us about yourself and your current living situation.

1. What is your age?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Under 50
- ☐ 50-55
- ☐ 55-60
- ☐ 61-65
- ☐ 66-70
- ☐ 71-75
- ☐ 76-80
- ☐ 81-85
- ☐ Over 85
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. What is your gender?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other: _____

3. Are you a Harvard resident?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. What part of Harvard do you live in? Please select one geographic area of town that you live in. While there may be more than one choice that seems to apply, pick one that is the best fit in your view.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Harvard Center (generally the historic district Pond Road to Town Hall N/S and Oak Hill/Woodchuck Hill E and Still River just past Elm W)
- ☐ Still River area
- ☐ Shaker Village Area (generally historic district)
- ☐ North Harvard (generally north of Route 2)
- ☐ Devens
- ☐ East - (east of Ayer Road from Mass Ave S to Route 2 N)
- ☐ Southeast - (east of Mass Ave/Bolton Road from Mass Ave N to Bolton Line S)
- ☐ Southwest - (west of Mass Ave/Bolton Road from Still River N to Bolton Line S)
- ☐ West (west of Ayer Road from Still River S to Route 2 N)
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other: _____

5. How long have you lived in Harvard?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ Over 20 years
- ☐ My entire life
- ☐ Not applicable

6. I currently live...

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Alone
- ☐ With a spouse or partner
- ☐ With one or more family members
- ☐ With a friend or roommate
- ☐ With a caretaker
- ☐ In a senior living center (independent living, assisted living, nursing, or continuing care community)

7. What do you enjoy about living in Harvard?

8. What do you dislike about living in Harvard?

9. If you anticipate moving as you age, to another home in Harvard or outside of Harvard, what would be your reasons?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ My current home or yard is larger than what I need or want now (looking to downsize)
- ☐ My current home or yard needs too much maintenance and repair
- ☐ The property taxes on my current home are too high
- ☐ My housing costs are too high
- ☐ My current home does not have the accesibility accomodations that I expect to need as I age and become less mobile
- ☐ I would like access to a higher level of services for seniors than is available now in Harvard
- ☐ I would like access to more cultural, recreational, and social activities than are now available in Harvard
- ☐ I would like access to more personal services and shops than are now available in Harvard.
- ☐ I would like better access to health care than is available in Harvard.
- ☐ I would like access to more transportation options than are available in Harvard
- ☐ I would like access to more volunteer or employment opportunities than are available in Harvard
- ☐ I would like to be closer to my family and/or friends
- ☐ I would like to live in an area with a lower overall cost of living
- ☐ I would like to live in an area with a warmer climate

Other: ☐ _____

10. Do you own or rent your current residence?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Other: _____

11. What type of structure best describes your home, regardless of whether you rent or own.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Single-family home
- ☐ Townhouse or attached home
- ☐ Apartment Complex-style
- ☐ Accessory Apartment (apartment attached to single-family home)
- ☐ Senior housing development
- ☐ Other: _____

The following questions relate to your interest in moving as you age.

12. Do you anticipate moving as you age?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, sooner than 5 years
- ☐ Yes, beyond 5 years
- ☐ No, I do not anticipate moving in the near future
- ☐ Other: _____

13. If you already live in Harvard, would you prefer...?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ To remain in Harvard
- ☐ To leave Harvard
- ☐ It does not matter as long as my needs are met

14. If you plan on moving as you age but would like to stay in Harvard, what area(s) of town would you like to live in? (For this question, presume that whatever type of home you prefer – a smaller standalone house, a condominium, an assisted living community, etc. – exists in whatever part of town you select.)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Stay where I currently am
- ☐ Harvard Center (generally the historic district Pond Road to Town Hall N/S and Oak Hill/Woodchuck Hill E and Still River just past Elm W)
- ☐ Still River area
- ☐ Shaker Village Area (generally historic district)
- ☐ North Harvard (generally north of Route 2)
- ☐ Devens
- ☐ East - (east of Ayer Road from Mass Ave S to Route 2 N)
- ☐ Southeast - (east of Mass Ave/Bolton Road from Mass Ave N to Bolton Line S)
- ☐ Southwest - (west of Mass Ave/Bolton Road from Still River N to Bolton Line S)
- ☐ West (west of Ayer Road from Still River S to Route 2 N)
- ☐ No preference
- ☐ Not applicable

Other: ☐ _____

What housing solutions are you looking for? Please answer the following in regard to the type of housing you are interested in for your next move.

15. Are you interested in considering some type of senior housing in Harvard as you age?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No *Skip to question 27*
- ☐ Maybe

16. What type(s) of housing in Harvard might you be interested in moving to as you age? I would like to be able to move to...

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Accessory Apartment - an apartment attached to a single-family house.
- ☐ Smaller Home / Smaller Lot - I would like to be able to move to a smaller standalone home on a lot smaller than Harvard's 1.5 acre minimum that zoning requires.
- ☐ Independent Senior Living Community w/ Small Homes or Cottages - Such a community generally contains a common area for socializing with other members of the community and access to services that can reduce one's daily responsibilities, such as landscaping, housekeeping, and dining.
- ☐ Independent Senior Living Community w/ Townhomes, Apartments, or Condos - Such a community generally contains a common area for socializing with other members of the community and access to services that can reduce one's daily responsibilities, such as landscaping, housekeeping, and dining.
- ☐ Assisted Living Community - Whether it consists of small cottages, condos, townhouses, or apartments, Assisted Living generally provides assistance with the activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, or taking medications.
- ☐ Co-housing - a shared living community - Semi-communal housing generally consisting of a cluster of private homes and a shared community space (such as for cooking or laundry facilities).
- ☐ All Age Community or Area (No senior oriented housing)
- ☐ Continuing Care Retirement Community (a.k.a. life plan community) - A type of retirement community in the U.S. where a continuum of aging care needs—from independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing care—can all be met within a community that could include cottages, townhouses, condominiums, or apartments.
- ☐ Nursing Home - I would like to be able to move to a nursing home. (Such a community generally consists of small apartments with access to skilled nursing care)

Other: ☐ _____

17. How many bedrooms would you prefer?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Studio unit
- ☐ One bedroom
- ☐ Two bedroom
- ☐ Three or more bedrooms
- ☐ Other: _____

18. What size of unit (amount of space) would you prefer?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Less than 750 square feet
- ☐ 750 to 1000 square feet
- ☐ 1000 to 1500 square feet
- ☐ 1500 to 2000 square feet
- ☐ 2000 to 3000 square feet
- ☐ Over 3000 square feet

19. Would you prefer to rent or own?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Own in condominium
- ☐ Own in fee simple
- ☐ Other: _____

20. How much are you willing to pay for housing on a monthly basis? (total monthly housing costs including mortgage/rent, utilities, insurance, condo fees)

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Prefer not to say or don't know
- ☐ Under \$1000
- ☐ Between \$1000 and \$1500
- ☐ Between \$1500 and \$2000
- ☐ Between \$2000 and \$2500
- ☐ Between \$2500 and \$3500
- ☐ Between \$3500 and \$5000
- ☐ Over \$5000

21. How important is housing affordability to you?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important at all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Critical

22. Would you be interested in additional information about available affordable housing programs?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

23. Please let us know what housing features you are interested in.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Universal design (i.e. "smart" accessibility features such as wider doors, level entry/no steps)
- ☐ Accommodations for persons with mobility constraints (e.g. wheelchair ramp, grab bars)
- ☐ Master on first floor
- ☐ All rooms on first floor
- ☐ All essential living space on first floor
- ☐ Extra bedroom for caregivers or guests
- ☐ None

Other: ☐ _____

24. If you might have interest in moving to a multi-unit residential complex, please select which of the following features that you would want.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Private outdoor space or balcony
- ☐ Common green or open space
- ☐ Extra storage space
- ☐ Common area, meeting room, or office space
- ☐ Exercise area, swimming pool, fitness facilities
- ☐ Washer and dryer in unit
- ☐ Full kitchen
- ☐ Not applicable. I am not interested in moving to this type of community.

25. For persons interested in moving to a senior community with services or other senior-oriented activities, please select which of the following features that you would like to have as part of the community.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Meals assistance
- ☐ Restaurant or coffee shop
- ☐ House cleaning service
- ☐ In home health service
- ☐ On site medical clinic
- ☐ Home maintenance services
- ☐ Transportation services
- ☐ Recreational or cultural activities
- ☐ Not applicable

Other: ☐ _____

26. Regardless of where you anticipate living as you age, note how important the following senior-related benefits are for you.

Mark only one oval per row.

	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Not Very Important	Not important at All
An active and sizeable senior center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community and belonging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs and events targeted to seniors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plentiful volunteer opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good walkability, a local pedestrian environment where you can walk to activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety and security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shopping and services that meet my needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FINAL THOUGHTS: Please give us some additional thoughts about establishing

senior housing in Harvard.

27. Harvard has been designated as an AARP age-friendly community. Please share with us any ideas you have that would make Harvard a more age-friendly community.

28. How should Harvard balance the need for senior housing with the desire to preserve the town's rural New England character? (For example: Achieve balance by where we put it? By what types of buildings we allow? By how many buildings we allow?)

29. Please share any other comments, suggestions, or concerns that you might have as they relate to your current or future housing needs.

30. Would you be interested in participating in a follow-up focus group meeting, either on-line or some other way, to discuss your needs and wants related to senior housing in greater detail? If so, please make sure to share with us your name and telephone number in the text box below. Alternatively, you can contact Debbie Thompson, COA Director at dthompson@harvard.ma.us and let her know you want to participate.

Thank
You!

Thank you very much for your participation in this survey. The information collected by this survey and other data that we collect will help the Planning Board put together a senior housing bylaw that will serve the needs of our aging seniors while also contributing to the historic and attractive built environment in Harvard.

Soon we will have two other surveys that we will release for this project. The first relates to the type of senior housing Harvard should be promoting, where it should be located, and the scale and design of such residential development. The final survey as part of this project is called a Visual Preference Survey or VPS and it is a fun exercise to evaluate photographs of various types of housing and housing developments to gain a better understanding of what residents in town prefer related to architectural design, layout, siting, scale, and other criteria for senior residential housing.

As a reminder, if you are filling out a hard copy of this survey, please either drop off your completed survey in the dropbox at the front of Town Hall marked for delivery to the Planning Board or mail your completed survey to:

Christopher Ryan
Planning Board
Harvard Town Hall
13 Ayer Road
Harvard, MA 01451

If you have any final questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Ryan at cryan@harvard.ma.us or 978-456-4100 x.323.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms