

2. A VISION FOR BOLTON

2.1 Vision Statement

This Vision Statement was developed by the MPC and was reviewed by the townspeople who attended the March 2005 public meeting. The community's vision for Bolton 20 years from now is to:

- Maintain Bolton's increasingly unique small-town character, including its volunteer community spirit, working farms, open spaces and historic places.
- Provide strong schools and municipal services while planning and managing the growth of our population.
- Provide diversity in housing to satisfy a range of incomes, age groups and life stages.
- Moderate the growth of taxes.
- Provide meeting places and opportunities to foster and support the strong sense of community that is part of Bolton's appeal.

2.2 Goals

Based upon the above Vision Statement, the town will use this Master Plan as a guide for future growth and shall strive to:

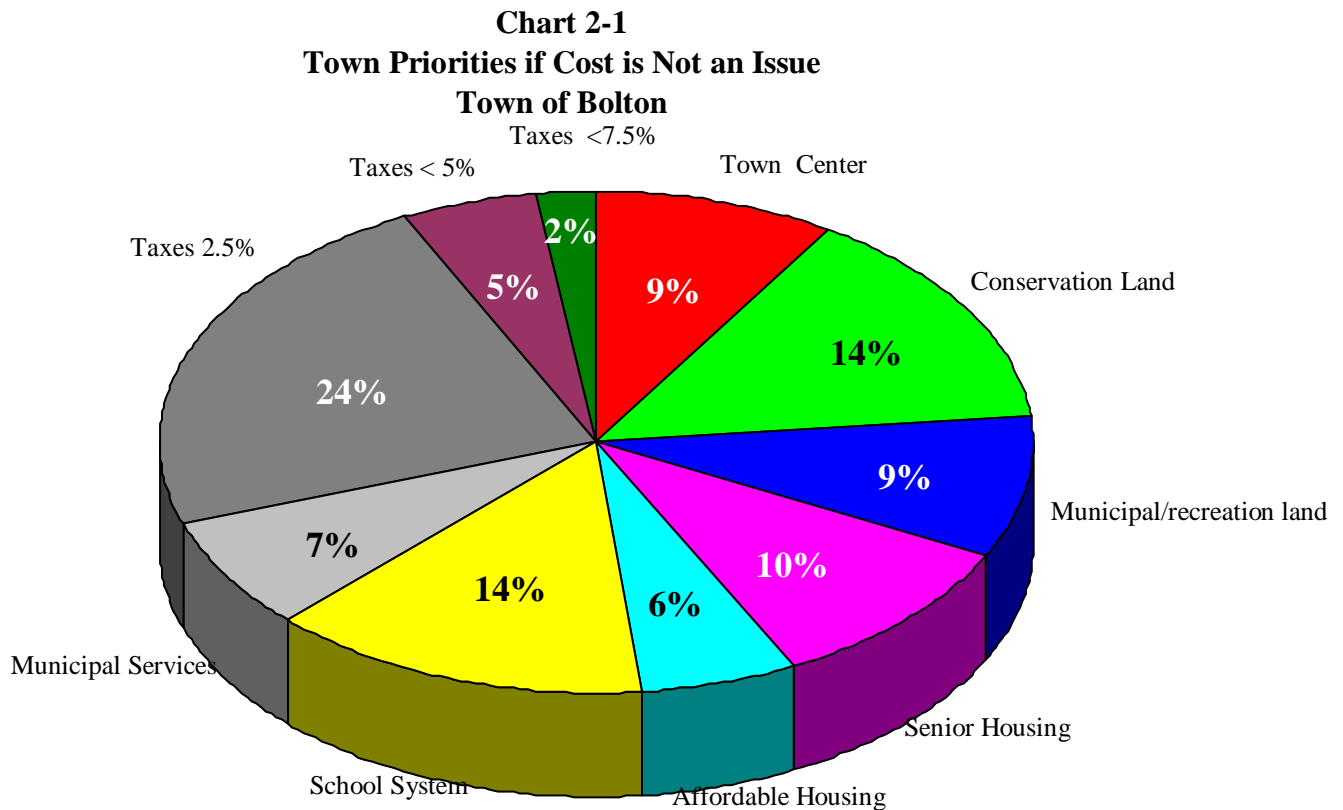
- Moderate population growth by implementing housing and land use strategies outlined in Chapters 5 & 6.
- Continue to protect open space by purchasing valuable undeveloped parcels at a reasonable cost, and by improving the Farmland and Open Space Planned Residential Development (FOSPRD) bylaw.
- Reduce the growth rate of taxes in the next two decades.
- Provide high quality public facilities including schools, a library, town offices and police station that meet the town's needs.
- Create Local Historic Districts to emphasize and preserve the historical value of Bolton's town center and other significant areas.
- Encourage economic development in the existing Business zones. Business development should focus on activities that support, and are desired by, the community, such as small-scale commercial enterprises, agricultural-tourism (wineries, orchards, and farm stands, etc.), outdoor recreation and the development of small, independently-owned shops and businesses rather than franchises.

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- Maintain our status as certified under the State's Planned Production guidelines so that we may maintain local control over comprehensive permit projects in our community.
- Provide a wider range of housing types for all residents.
- Enhance the town center and foster community spirit by providing a place to gather and hold civic events. Manage traffic flow using crosswalks, sidewalks and traffic-calming devices to provide safe opportunities for walking and bicycling, especially within the Town Center.

2.3 Survey Data

The Town of Bolton conducted a survey of its residents between December 2001 and February 2002. This survey received a very high response rate and can be considered an accurate gauge of the opinions of the town's residents. Not only does it show what issues the residents generally agree on, but it also points to the differences of opinion that suggest where tradeoffs will need to be made. In particular, the results from the survey suggest that residents want the Town to balance the need to reduce property tax growth while preserving open space and expanding the schools, as shown in **Chart 2-1**.



Source: Bolton Town Survey, 2002

With regard to open space, many respondents felt that the town should actively pursue preservation through purchase and development restrictions (see **Table 6-3**).

2.4 Community

Bolton has a very active and vocal community that is interested in the issues addressed in this Master Plan. As noted above, the town survey of 2002 received a 42% response rate, which indicates the high level of concern that residents place on quality of life and the decisions that the Town makes. This plan was created with thoughtful consideration by the Master Plan Committee as they sought to gain a comprehensive understanding of the townspeople's opinions. To that end, the committee invited members from various town boards and organizations to discuss their main concerns at their weekly meetings. Town Boards and Committees had an opportunity to review and comment on the plan before publication. They also submitted commentary in local newspapers and held two public forums to give residents the opportunity to listen to ideas about the town's future and provide feedback. The MPC hopes the end result is a plan that represents the full input of the community at large.



Bolton Little League Parade