

THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

# RYE 2035

PLANNING TODAY FOR  
TOMORROW'S FUTURE

DRAFT

Adopted by the  
Rye Planning Board  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2025

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**Note:** The Rye Beach Village Precinct within Rye has its own land use and zoning policies. While an important part of Rye, the Precinct operates quasi-independently and has its own Master Plan that guides future land use and growth. Some municipal services are shared between the town and the Precinct such as Fire and Police. However, Rye 2035 largely focuses on the areas of town outside the Precinct.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Rye 2035 Master Plan

Rye 2035 was created through the efforts of many Rye residents, stakeholders, and others over several years. Our community helped shape the direction of the Master Plan and we are grateful for their input and participation. We are especially grateful for the efforts of the following:

- ▶ The Master Planning Steering Committee (MPSC): Ann Fox, Kathryn Garcia, Howie Lazerowich, Patricia Losik, Joe Leverone, Gregg Mikolaities, Peter Moynahan (Chair), Rob Patten, Joe Persechino, Danna Truslow, Rob Wright (Former Chair)
- ▶ Kimberly Reed, CFM, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Kara Campbell, AICP, Land Use Assistant
- ▶ Liz Kelly, Steve Whitman, and Crystal Kidd of Resilience Planning and Design; Christine Bunyon and Julia Maine of FB Environmental; Jenn Rowden and Madeleine Dilonno of Rockingham Planning Commission
- ▶ Matt Scruton, Rye Town Administrator and Town Department Heads
- ▶ Participants in all Rye 2035 Community Outreach activities and MPSC meeting attendees who provided the community input from which this plan was created.
- ▶ The Rye Planning Board (2024 Members), Patricia Losik, JM Lord, William Epperson, William MacLeod, Kevin Brandon, Steven Borne, Peter Moynahan, Don Cavallaro, Robert Eberhart, John Shaw

# Introduction

**RYE 2035** is the result of a community-wide planning initiative that took more than two years to complete. The intent of this effort was to understand the town as it exists today, to learn more about residents' desires, and to work together to plan for Rye's future. The resulting Master Plan provides a way for Rye to guide physical and community change over time, and serves as Rye's long-range visionary planning document for the next decade. Rye 2035 will be used to guide decision-making related to how the community will steward its natural resources and built environment now, and in the future.

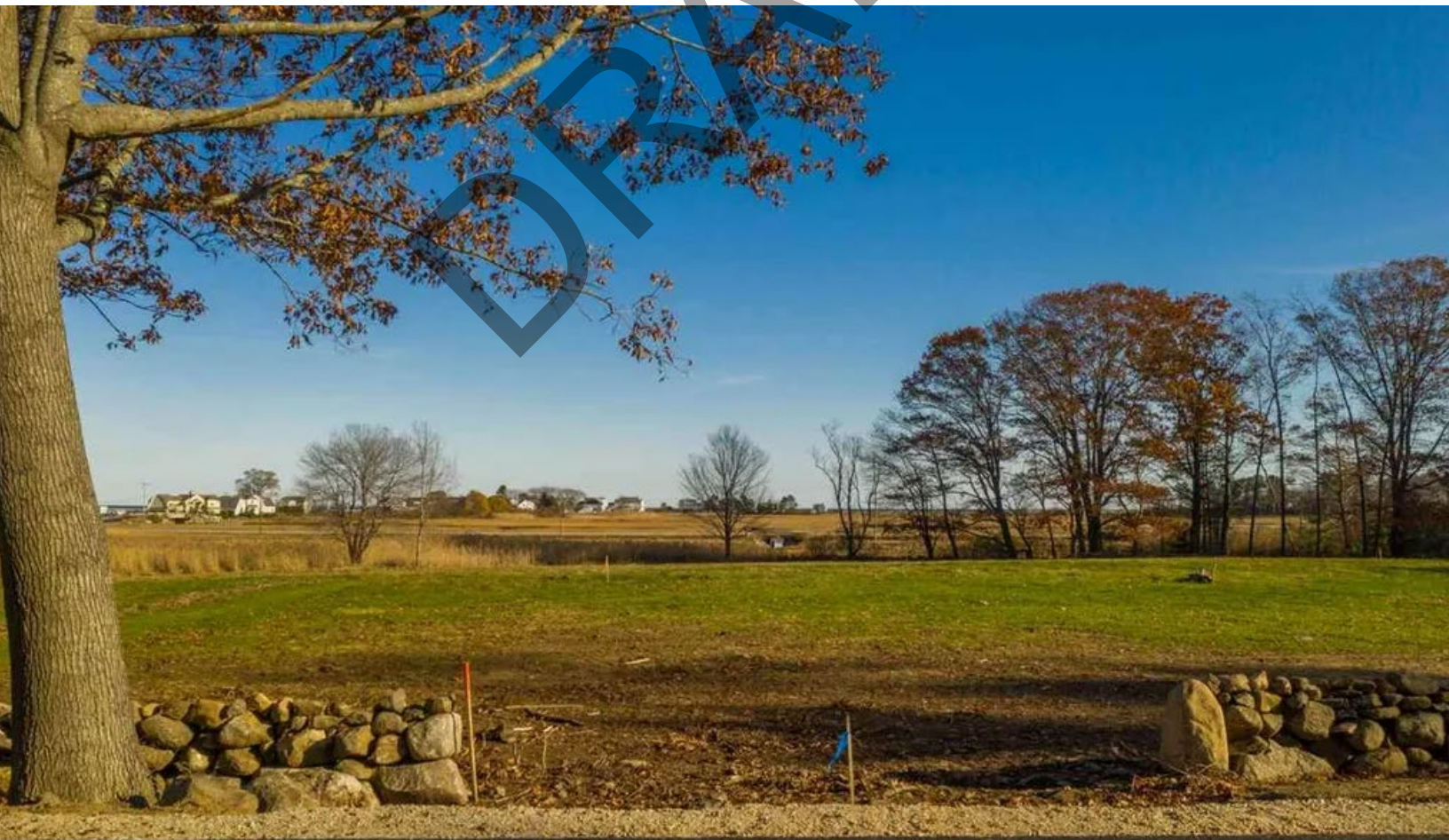


Rye 2035 will serve as a “road map” for fostering a desirable, inclusive, and resilient place to live, work, and visit. Rye’s vision for the future was informed by robust public outreach and community engagement over several years. The vision is written as a broad, aspirational statement to help readers envision what Rye will be like in 2035. The vision and the actions identified in the implementation section provide the road map for creating a future our community wants to experience. Implementing Rye 2035 through the collaborative efforts of residents, property owners, municipal volunteers, and other partners will bring the Plan to life over the coming decade.

Over time, Rye 2035 will have a positive impact on residents, the local economy and local businesses, community character and vibrancy, the quality of the transportation system, the diversity of housing opportunities, the quality and longevity of public facilities and services, and Rye’s overall resilience.

## **Rye’s vision for the next 10+ years is to:**

**Strive towards becoming a resilient and sustainable community while fostering community connections, supporting diverse housing choices, strengthening our local economy, providing equitable services, protecting the environment and natural resources, and maintaining a semi-rural character.**





## WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

New Hampshire law requires municipalities to adopt a master plan in order to regulate land use and development through the adoption of local ordinances. NH statute RSA 674 charges municipal Planning Boards with updating their Master Plan “from time to time” with updates recommended every 5-10 years.

The previous Rye Master Plan was updated in sections, and some chapters have not been updated since 2013. Others have been updated more recently. Rye 2035 is the first comprehensive re-write of the Master Plan in many years.

A Master Plan serves many functions including the following:

- ▶ A policy document necessary to support municipal decision making, investments, zoning ordinances, land use regulations and resource protection.

- ▶ A forward looking and aspirational vision of the land use pattern and how the town can improve its operations, management, services and respond to the needs of the community efficiently and effectively.
- ▶ A living document that can respond to changing conditions, emerging challenges, and address community and environmental priorities.
- ▶ A tool to advance support from federal, state, and regional agencies for grants and funding opportunities for capital improvements, resource protection, and protection against coastal hazards.
- ▶ A guide to serve as the basis for capital improvement planning, and a legally defensible foundation for community actions, new or amended policies, and regulatory changes.

Since Rye 2035 is a long-range planning document, tracking and communicating the status of its implementation to the public at regular intervals is important. Making such a commitment will enable Rye 2035 to inform land use regulations and other policy decisions, infrastructure investments, and other initiatives in Rye more effectively. Rye 2035 also sets the stage for more detailed capital planning, area planning, strategic conservation, and policy planning that will be focused on during implementation.

## OUR PLANNING PROCESS

Rye 2035 was developed during a multi-year planning process. The major phases of this work included:

- ▶ **VISIONING** - In 2021, the Planning Board (PB) appointed a Long Range Planning Sub-Committee (LRPC) to explore the idea of a comprehensive Master Plan Update through the lens of a “visioning” framework.

During 2021, extensive municipal and community outreach was conducted through several surveys, a public workshop, and via email, all the while being diligent to protect public health and safety during COVID. The town's Planning webpage and newsletters, Rye Civic League news, Planning Board and LRPC minutes, and Rye Magazine consistently informed Rye residents. From this process, a draft vision framework was developed. By January 2022, the LRPC voted unanimously on a strategy to undertake a comprehensive update of the town's Master Plan focused on a draft Vision Statement, and organizationally aligned with a themed based approach.

► **MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE** - In 2022, a Master Plan Steering Committee was formed to guide and inform this master planning process in Rye. The Committee included representatives from the Planning Board and other town boards and committees. The Committee's work was supported by town planning staff and consultants, and together they formed a project team.

► **EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS** - Informed by this earlier work, in 2023 the project team completed an analysis of the community's many land uses, natural and cultural resources, housing, and infrastructure, to better understand the current conditions in Rye. A variety of topics, existing data, observable trends, and specific issues were identified and explored during the analysis. These findings provided a foundation for the creation of Rye 2035 to ensure a data-driven plan. The appendices include the full "Existing Conditions Analysis"

report, which provides a deeper understanding of Rye today and the emerging trends and issues likely to impact the future.

► **OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT** - In 2023 and 2024, the Master Plan Steering Committee coordinated a variety of outreach activities to raise awareness about this planning process and to collect feedback and direction from the public. The goal was to provide as many opportunities as possible for the public to participate in the ways that they were most comfortable with. Participation opportunities were held at different times of year and times of day to attract different demographics. The public feedback provided remains the backbone of Rye 2035. The Outreach and Engagement Report is included in the Appendix and summarizes all community input collected during the planning process. It provides a compilation of all public comments submitted for each outreach activity.

► **RYE 2035 PREPARATION** - The final phase of this project included refining the vision based on all that had been learned, developing a future land use strategy, and drafting implementation actions. The Master Plan was then written, formatted, and presented to the public in early 2025 for additional feedback and refining prior to adoption by the Planning Board.

## CORRESPONDING INITIATIVES

### RYE HOUSING ANALYSIS

As the Town began work on the Rye 2035 Master Plan, a planning initiative focused on Rye's housing needs was also launched. This work was funded by a New Hampshire Housing Opportunity Planning Grant and was completed with assistance from the Rockingham Planning Commission. The scope of this initiative focused on gaining a deeper understanding of the various demands placed on the housing market, and how those demands are impacting the supply and affordability of homes in Rye. The data and findings from the [Housing Needs Analysis](#) informed the creation of Rye 2035.

### RYE BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS

In 2023, the Town partnered with FB Environmental to complete a [baseline buildout analysis](#) for the town. The analysis assessed the development potential, and likely development patterns, that will emerge in Rye given the current land use regulations. This resulted in conversations about whether the outcomes aligned with Rye's vision and desired future land use pattern. Two additional build-out scenarios were then completed in 2024 to visualize how changes in Rye's land use regulations could impact the development and land use pattern over time. These scenarios were used to inform the Future Land Use Strategy. and actions identified in Rye 2035.

## ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Over a period of two years, the Town of Rye reached out to the community in a variety of ways to collect feedback virtually, in person, and at public events. This built on the outreach the Long-Range Planning Committee conducted during the visioning phase of Rye 2035.

### Getting the Word Out

A project website (Rye Future), fliers, an email sign-up, periodic e-newsletters, and an online feedback form were all used to keep the public informed throughout the planning process. The Rye Future website featured all three of the municipal initiatives taking place in 2023 and 2024 (Housing Analysis, Build-Out Analysis, and Master Plan) and received a total of 2,285 visits. Regular announcements on the status of the project were provided to all municipal staff, boards, and committees.

The Town of Rye Facebook pages, the Rye Police page, the Rye NH Community Forum Page, the Rye Public Library page, and personal Facebook pages were used to promote the project. Rye 2035 t-shirts were made as well as Rye 2035 pens (which were donated) were distributed at local businesses, town facilities, post office, and other locations. A large poster display was set up at the Deliberative Session, and posters were placed at the Town Hall, Library, Town Annex, Public Works Department, Transfer Station, and the Rye Elementary School.

At each monthly Planning Board meeting, the Master Plan Steering Committee chairs provided an

update of the Rye 2035 planning process to the board and public.

### Tabling

Committee Members and Town staff helped to get the word out about this community planning effort by tabling at community events, such as the July 4th Celebration, the Rye 400 Celebration, and at the deliberative session. This provided an opportunity to connect with individuals in the community, discuss the project, and collect contact information for future communications.

### Emails and Newsletters

A project email subscriber list was created, and the public Town of Rye email subscriber list was used, to get information out to interested residents and property owners. Articles were regularly submitted to the Stroll Newsletter, Rye Civic League News, and the Town Newsletter.

### Community Forum Event and Online Tool

An in-person, evening community forum event was hosted at the Rye Junior High School in February of 2024. An online version of the community forum event was also made available for a month during February/March of 2024. 320 responses were collected through these mechanisms. The purpose of these in-person and online alternatives was to share the findings of the Existing Conditions Analysis and to solicit feedback from the public.





# How Rye's Planning Efforts Fit Together



## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

# Rye Today

Rye is one of the few coastal communities in New Hampshire. Its unique seaside and semi-rural character is beloved by the residents of our community. Compared to surrounding towns, Rye has a relatively low density of development, reinforcing its quaint and small-town feel. It has many wonderful natural spaces along the coast and inland, beautiful beaches, historic structures, community organizations, and people that contribute to what makes Rye, Rye.

While these characteristics make our town a desirable place to visit or call home, we are faced with significant constraints and challenges that will require creative and

collaborative solutions in the years ahead.

**Over the next decade, Rye will need to act on the following issues:**

## **LIMITED HOUSING DIVERSITY AND SUPPLY**

The lack of available and affordable homes is limiting who can live in Rye, impacting our community. This then impacts the composition of the community, the health of the local economy, municipal services, and the quality of life for many residents. An inclusive community has housing options for a variety of people of varying incomes at each stage of their lives. This should include young individuals and families, and also those in need of additional

care or smaller housing units as they age.

## **BECOMING AN AGING COMMUNITY**

The realities of becoming an aging community includes an increasing need for services, new housing options, and transportation solutions.

## **THE SEASONALITY OF RYE**

The seasonality of Rye impacts full-time residents, municipal operations, and the demand for services. Rye's residential and economic seasonality contribute to some of the existing housing challenges and are coupled with the threat of climate change and the related impacts of natural hazards.





## **NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

During the 2023/24 winter alone, two significant coastal storms damaged properties and infrastructure in Rye. It has become increasingly apparent to many residents that planning for sea level rise, salt marsh migration, and investments in our community's infrastructure will be necessary to increase the community's resilience.

## **TRANSPORTATION LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES**

Like many other communities in the region, Rye also has a very automobile-dominated transportation system, but that is changing. With the completion of the Seacoast Greenway, and increased interest in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, residents are envisioning an improved transportation

network that addresses today's deficiencies and better aligns with the community's goals for the future.

## **BALANCING NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

Rye has significant constraints to development. These include inland and coastal wetlands, groundwater rise, conserved properties, a need to protect surface and groundwater resources, a lack of water and sewer infrastructure in many areas, and other features that make development less feasible. Many of these limitations are simultaneously valuable characteristics that give the community its distinct charm and appeal.

This reality, and the need to balance the significant and often conflicting needs of resource protection and future development, have resulted

in a Master Plan that aims to allow for development while minimizing sprawl, and finding an appropriate balance that also contributes to the community's resilience. Looking forward, it is important to remember that Rye does not have the land or financial resources to allow inefficient patterns of development.

Meanwhile, Rye is a wonderful coastal destination and a desirable place to live, work, and play for so many residents and visitors. To build on this strength and address these key issues, the community will need to work together through a transparent and collaborative implementation process. This is the only way to move forward and ensure that future development, investment, and stewardship reinforce the community's identity by making Rye 2035 a reality.

# The Burden of High-Amenity Communities

Rye is fortunate to have a coastline that provides numerous beaches, state parks, and other recreational opportunities. This natural landscape and the amenities it provides attract visitors and future residents, and the influx of visitors and new residents brings economic opportunities. However, for many communities like Rye, this pattern often results in some serious drawbacks including increased pressure on existing infrastructure, growing inequality, and dramatic increases in housing costs that force long-time residents out. Fiscal health, public discourse, and community well-being all can suffer because of these challenges.

In May 2023, an important report titled “Amenity Trap” was released by Headwaters Economics, and it speaks to Rye’s experience as a destination community. To address these challenges the report suggests the following:

**HOUSING:** For Rye, the most promising solutions are those that bring together the local economy and housing strategies. Many communities are pursuing both regulations and incentives that can increase the supply of residential housing for those at all income levels by promoting modular



construction techniques, limiting short term rental properties, and addressing local opposition to density.

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES:** Identifying financing mechanisms for Rye that share costs with visitors can also ease the burden on residents. Creative solutions may include tourism taxes, municipal budgeting, financing with bonds, and public-private partnerships.

**FISCAL POLICY:** Reinvesting tourism-related revenues into programs that offset the negative impacts of tourism and promote economic diversification may also improve Rye’s long-term fiscal health.

**NATURAL DISASTERS:** Rye should continue to work

to diversify its economy and revenue streams to enable disaster risk-reduction investments. Emphasizing resilience in housing and infrastructure policies will ensure that residents, homes, and businesses can resist and recover from disasters. This can include encouraging durable housing that can survive disasters, innovations that can protect neighborhoods from flooding, and planning that can improve the effectiveness of first responders.

**About the [Amenity Traps Report:](#)** Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions.

# Rye 2035 Framework

The **Rye 2035 vision** is supported by **five themes**, which were selected during the visioning phase of the planning process. These themes were determined from public input collected through the visioning workshop and survey. Each of the themes anchor the document, serving as focus areas for community-wide action. Each themed chapter also features a series of key planning concepts and examples that are intended to be educational, and will help inform the implementation of RYE 2035.



— EACH CHAPTER EXPLORES:

- INVENTORY AND TRENDS
- KEY ISSUES
- COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
- EMERGING PLANNING CONCEPTS
- CASE STUDIES
- FUTURE PRIORITIES

# Future Land Use

**Rye's Future Land Use Strategy focuses on preserving the town's semi-rural character by minimizing development sprawl and the fragmentation of the remaining undeveloped and unprotected natural areas. To accomplish this, the Future Land Use Strategy recommends that a large portion of the future development activity be clustered on Route 1, a smaller amount be permitted in the Town Center, and that new regulatory strategies be conceived for the distribution of future structures in the remaining residential and coastal areas.**

## OVERVIEW

Rye's Future Land Use Strategy is intended to be an illustrative companion to the Vision statement, providing a visual overview of how land use change, new development, infrastructure investment, and resource protection will be guided over the next 10 years and beyond. The strategy includes a future land use map that identifies distinct areas throughout town. Through this planning process, future land use characteristics were determined for each area and answers several questions.

- ▶ How will development be guided in each area?
- ▶ What needs to be planned for in the different parts of town?
- ▶ Are there desired changes?
- ▶ Are there qualities that should remain the same?

The Future Land Use Strategy was shaped by significant public input, careful analysis of the existing conditions in the

community, lessons learned from the 2024 Buildout Analysis Report completed by FB Environmental, and the need to accommodate future development and redevelopment activity.

Rye's Future Land Use Strategy aims to balance the resource protection needs of the community with housing, economic, recreation, transportation, coastal resilience, and other needs identified by residents and captured in Rye 2035. It is important to note that Rye's Future Land Use Strategy may take more than a decade to fully implement. To make this strategy a reality, expansion of municipal infrastructure and services must be thoughtfully located, well-constructed and maintained, and collaboratively funded.

Overall, Rye's Future Land Use Strategy:

- ▶ Identifies the function and feel for the different areas in Rye, and their future priorities for planning, zoning, and investment.

- ▶ Creates an environmentally sensitive, fiscally responsible, and efficient land use pattern that the town can support with infrastructure and services.
- ▶ Balances future development opportunities with conservation and coastal resilience needs.
- ▶ Protects water quality and quantity from the negative impacts of development and climate change.
- ▶ Reduces traffic congestion and encourages additional safe modes of travel.
- ▶ Provides a range of housing alternatives for existing and future residents.
- ▶ Contributes to the social fabric and character of the community by providing recreation opportunities, community spaces, trails, and access to nature.

### **Rye's Vision for the next 10+ years is to:**

**Strive towards becoming a resilient and sustainable community while fostering community connections, supporting diverse housing choices, strengthening our local economy, providing equitable services, protecting the environment and natural resources, and maintaining a semi-rural character.**

# FUTURE LAND USE MAP

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes for master plan and build-out analysis development



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, RP&D, FBE

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)

Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental, July 2024

Town of Rye

Town Boundary

Rye Village Beach District

Road

Waterbody/Coastal Waters

Tributary

Wetland

Conserved Land

Districts

Neighborhoods

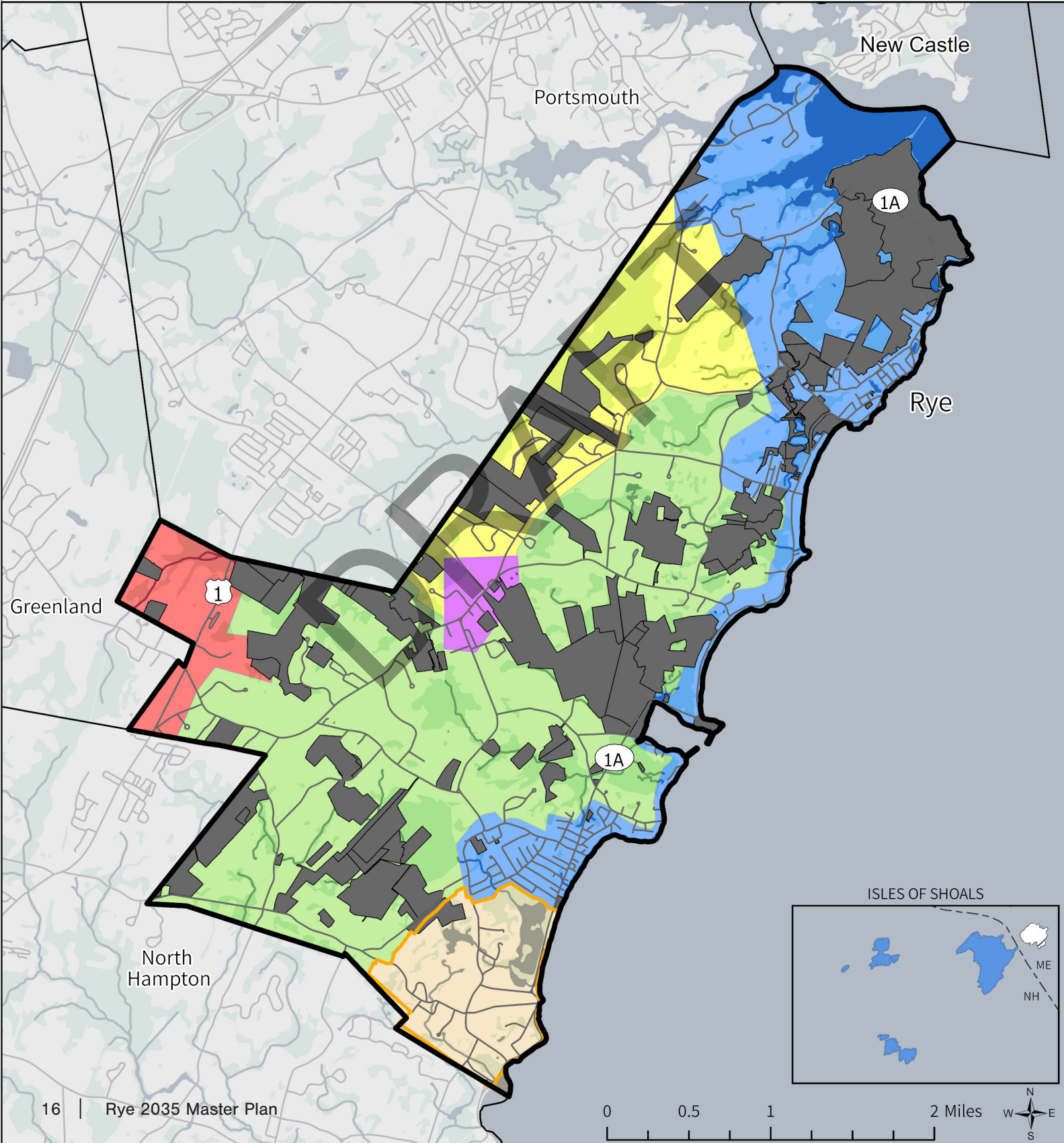
Route 1

Scenic Coastal

Semi-Rural

Town Center

Village Precinct





# Future Land Use Areas

## TOWN CENTER

The Town Center is a quintessential place in Rye, with significant history and character. There is a strong desire to keep municipal facilities as a core land use in the Town Center. Over time, this will require proactively planning and forecasting the space needs of the departments located here so they can continue to be accommodated in this area of town. The community has also expressed a desire to retain the historic character of this area while accommodating a mix of residential and municipal uses, and providing some targeted opportunities for small-scale business development and redevelopment activity. These land use related goals will require some zoning changes including an increase in allowable density.

It is envisioned that private water and septic systems will continue to be the infrastructure that serves this area. While it is possible that town water and sewer could be considered in this area at some point in the future, that is likely to be many years away. In the near-term, pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity infrastructure improvements should continue to be prioritized within this area along with new streetscape amenities, like lamp post lighting, that reinforces the distinct character of the Town Center.

## ROUTE 1

Rye has a relatively small amount of land area available for future development. This is due to the pattern of existing development and other natural constraints, such as the presence of wetlands, steep slopes, and others. There is also a need to take development pressure off coastal areas, and the desire to protect natural resource and aquifer protection areas throughout town. This leaves few places for future residential and commercial development. The Route 1 area has been identified as a location that could accommodate a significant portion of the remaining development activity in Rye. To accomplish this, the community needs to present a clear vision and new land use regulations that will allow for new development at a higher density and in a mixed-use pattern rather than a sprawl development pattern. This enables Rye to meet its overall vision for the town.

Infrastructure investments that service the Route 1 area with water and sewer infrastructure provide the greatest potential for a space efficient land use pattern that retains the connectivity of the existing open space network. Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements should also be a priority to move people safely within the Route 1 area, and from this area to the Seacoast Greenway, Town Center, and beaches. Coordinated natural resource protection should also be a priority consideration, especially the protection and stewardship of Berry's Brook-Rye Harbor drainage area as defined by the US Geological Survey, which supports Rye's aquifer, 11 sub-watershed areas, and direct surface drainage into Little Harbor and Piscataqua River Mouth. Bailey Brook, one of the sub-watershed res, is a primary water supply area.



TOWN CENTER



ROUTE 1



## SCENIC COASTAL AREAS

The character of the many unique coastal areas along Rye’s coastline are defined by their distinct densities, mix of uses, and notable destinations such as Rye Harbor, Jenness State Beach, Wallis Beach, and Odiorne State Park. The priorities for this area all relate to increasing coastal resilience, adaptation, and mitigation efforts. This includes investments in Route 1A infrastructure. This is the portion of the community that is being impacted the most by coastal storm damage and sea level rise. It is also the location of Rye’s many salt marshes that protect inland areas, and these are forecast to migrate inland further over time. To accomplish the stated priorities for Rye’s scenic coastal areas, the community should focus on protecting and stewarding open space resources, retaining coastal access and recreation opportunities, addressing parking related issues, creating multi-modal transportation solutions, and supporting the economic vitality of this area.



## SEMI-RURAL

This is the largest future land use area in Rye and it includes a mix of lower-density residential lots, and some large conserved properties with high conservation and recreation value. The Semi-Rural area is envisioned to remain the most rural area of Rye. This area is extremely important for surface water, habitat, wellhead protection, and aquifer protection. There are also concerns related to groundwater rise in Rye and this area covers the largest area of estimated impact. As a result, larger lot sizes and conservation subdivisions that preserve open spaces are considered more appropriate in this area to help protect these resources.

Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are also envisioned as a lower impact housing strategy for this portion of Rye. One of the challenges is that Washington and Central Road run through the Semi-Rural area, and there is a strong desire to retain the character and view from these roadways as much as possible. For this reason, gentle density solutions have been suggested as a strategy to allow or incentivize the development of additional housing units that blend in well. These approaches provide ways to retain the character, scale, and function of this area while helping meet the community’s goal of providing a range of housing opportunities.



## NEIGHBORHOODS

The existing neighborhoods along this linear corridor are defined by a higher density of residential development that is accessed by Wallis Road, Sagamore Road, and the many intersecting local streets. The community has expressed an interest in retaining the residential feel and function of this future land use area as Rye grows. Allowing for some additional residential units within or behind existing structures is envisioned where the land can accommodate this development or redevelopment activity. To accomplish this, the zoning will need to be reviewed and updated accordingly. Improving the transportation options along the roadways in this area, and strengthening the non-vehicular corridor connections to the schools and nearby conservation and recreation lands are also priorities.

# Rye's Build-Out Analysis

To inform Rye 2035, a build-out analysis was completed. The timing and scope of this study were unique and are worth noting because they helped refine the future land use strategy and the Rye 2035 implementation actions.

A build-out analysis is a planning tool that identifies areas in a community with development potential. It projects future development based on a set of conditions (e.g., zoning regulations, environmental constraints, etc.) and assumptions (e.g., building footprint dimensions). The results of a build-out analysis can be used for planning purposes to help guide future development activities in the community, anticipate future demands on infrastructure, and identify specific areas for conservation.

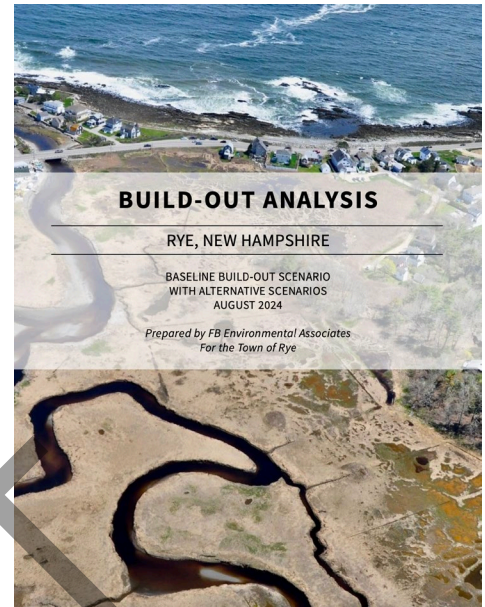
For Rye, a baseline build-out analysis was completed early in the Rye 2035 planning process. It identified that 11% - 14% (959-1,172 acres) of Rye's land area is buildable under current zoning regulations. Under current zoning regulations, it also projected that an additional 410 - 501 buildings could be constructed in the future, and the Single Residence zoning district was identified as the location for many of these new units. Many of the areas identified as accommodating future growth could be considered "backlands." These parcels are not currently accessible to development by existing roads and could only

be developed if a right-of-way or other access road is constructed. However, some of these developable areas also coincide with properties that are important for natural resource protection and salt marsh migration, and may not be places that can accommodate future growth.

Two alternative build-out scenarios were also completed once the Vision and Future Land Use Strategy had taken shape as drafts. This was an effort to better understand how regulation changes that are in line with the Future Land Use Strategy might guide future development activity. Both scenarios included increasing the setbacks from natural resources to provide better resource protection while continuing to accommodate growth at a higher density in targeted areas.

- ▶ The first scenario included moderate development density increases in the Town Center and along Route 1, and assumed that some or all of this development would eventually be served by public water and sewer infrastructure.
- ▶ The second scenario included greater development density in the Town Center and along Route 1, and assumed this development would be served by water and sewer.

Both scenarios indicated that a slightly smaller area of Rye



would be developable with an estimate of 10% - 12%, but that additional units could still be accommodated in all districts.

Ultimately, this build-out analysis for the Town of Rye indicated that due to extensive environmental development constraints (particularly wetlands), conserved land, and existing buildings, the Town of Rye has moderately low buildable area for future development compared to other New Hampshire communities. This further emphasized the need to carefully consider zoning and infrastructure changes that would encourage mixed use development activity in the Town Center, and to a greater degree in a development node on Route 1. It also emphasizes the need to carefully reconsider the zoning in the remaining semi-rural zones for the Rye 2035 Vision to be achievable.

# Land and Development

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Rye, showing a mix of residential housing, green spaces, and a beach area. The ocean is visible in the background with waves breaking on the shore. The town features various styles of houses, some with porches, and a parking lot filled with cars. A large, semi-transparent watermark is overlaid on the center of the image.

**“ Rye needs housing for all income levels.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

## INTRODUCTION

The Land and Development Chapter examines how future land use planning can address housing challenges, promote desired commercial activity compatible with Rye's character, and support a people-centered transportation network. These topics are intertwined, and impact the lives of residents and the health of the local economy. Rye's Future Land Use Strategy seeks to balance protecting the town's unique character while meeting the evolving development needs of the community. For Rye's Vision to be attainable, this must occur while also addressing the critical issues Rye faces related to housing, transportation, and the local economy.

The town's development pattern is a complex network of roadways, homes, and businesses. These land uses are also interwoven with Rye's rich landscape of natural and cultural resources—farms, forests, wetlands, historic sites, state parks, and beaches. Together, they give the town its distinct charm and appeal. As Rye grows, it aims to preserve this character while addressing emerging demands and issues.

The key challenges that need to be addressed to achieve this desired reality are:

- ▶ A lack of housing diversity, affordability, and availability,
- ▶ The reality of an aging population,
- ▶ Existing and emerging transportation limitations,



- ▶ Climate change and coastal resilience, and
- ▶ Protection of natural resources as development continues.

To address these challenges, the town will need to make thoughtful regulatory and infrastructure changes that promote equity, diversity, and economic vitality. Together, these changes will ensure that Rye's future land and development decisions will continue to reflect community values, fostering a resilient and thriving environment for all.

### DIRECTING OUR EFFORTS

Looking ahead, Rye's goals for future planning efforts include:

- ▶ Reviewing zoning ordinances and land development regulations, and their enforcement, to minimize negative costs and impacts to the town, its resources, and to property owners.
- ▶ Adopting zoning ordinances and land development regulations that protect the town's semi-rural character.

**“ [There is a] tremendous demand for development, loss of open land, and unaffordable housing that has priced most young families out of Rye.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

### INVENTORY AND TRENDS

Rye began as a rural farming and fishing community, but over time has transitioned to primarily residential land uses. Approximately 70% of Rye's land area is accommodating residential uses today. Rye's residential areas, along with other land

uses, such as municipal and commercial uses, are connected by 64 miles of roadways—municipal, state, and privately owned—primarily designed for motor vehicles. However, residents are expressing a desire for more diverse transportation options beyond just cars.

Twenty-five percent of the town is permanently conserved land. This includes upland areas, forestlands, and some of the documented wetlands. Rye's wetlands cover 32% of the town and offer important ecological benefits and storm protection along the coast. Protecting the remaining wetlands will both influence and limit future development. However, without coordinated efforts to limit future development in environmentally sensitive areas, Rye risks being less resilient to future natural hazard events.

Rye's recent Build-Out Analysis Report highlighted that, due to extensive environmental constraints, conserved land, and existing development, Rye has a moderately low amount of buildable land available for future growth. While this may feel like a constraint, it might benefit the town as it will require more creative approaches to development that are sensitive to the character of the community.

Rye is also experiencing housing challenges that are like those of many coastal New Hampshire communities including:

- ▶ A general lack of available housing
- ▶ Limited affordable housing for young families
- ▶ An aging population that has needs for housing alternatives

beyond the single-family home

- ▶ Limited water and sewer infrastructure for future housing development, and
- ▶ Increased demand for secondary homes and short-term rentals.

In August 2024, the median listing home price in Rye was \$1.2 million dollars. This is a \$200k increase over the August 2023 median listing price. This trend of rising housing costs will reduce the diversity of resident ages and incomes over time. If nothing changes, Rye will not be an accessible place to live for many people.

Lack of housing affordability and diversity has resulted in the pricing out of young families, a lack of economic diversity, loss of businesses,





and a declining population of school aged children. Accommodating a diversity of housing types in the future will help Rye maintain a multi-generational community. This will provide options for prospective residents, and ensure current Rye residents can stay in Rye as their housing needs change over time.

While the pace of development in Rye has slowed in recent years, the town is proactively planning to ensure that future growth happens in the most appropriate locations – away from the coast, on the Route 1 corridor, in the town center, and strategically in the semi-rural areas. Rye is also interested in connecting land uses, including housing, to commercial, recreational, and municipal destinations. Over time, Rye, and other partners like NH Department of Transportation will prioritize integrating the necessary infrastructure along

key routes to support pedestrian, bicycle, and transit travel. **Looking ahead, the town must balance development opportunities with the need to responsibly manage its natural resources, and consider the impacts of climate change.**

## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Members of the public that participated in the creation of Rye 2035 shared a variety of thoughts and ideas on housing, transportation, and our economy.

**There are concerns about accommodating future development and retaining Rye’s character.**

Many participants expressed concern related to the effects of increasing development including the loss of habitat, increasing traffic, increasing demand on infrastructure, and loss of community character

and semi-rural charm.

**Housing costs and availability are impacting residents.**

Residents also expressed concern with rising housing costs and the lack of available and affordable housing in Rye. To address the housing needs in the community, participants suggested that more types of housing be permitted. To accomplish this, investments in infrastructure would be needed, specifically water and sewer in some areas. However, expanding public infrastructure would also increase the economic diversity of the community and benefit the town and local businesses. It would also allow for some denser new development areas that could be used to shift development pressure away from the semi-rural areas and natural resources.

**There is a desire for a more people-oriented transportation system.**

Traffic and infrastructure related challenges were also identified by participants. These included increased road traffic, speeding, inadequate infrastructure, safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists, and parking issues. To address these concerns, many felt the town will need to improve road signage, invest in infrastructure for bicycles and pedestrians, and address current parking limitations.

**The demographics and dynamics of the community are changing.**

Rye’s population is aging and this is resulting in the loss of younger families. Some

indicated that this is creating a growing divide between older residents and younger generations, and a lack of inclusivity in decision-making processes. Some participants suggested that Rye should encourage younger families to move in by ensuring there is affordable housing available, and creating an inviting and inclusive community.

**Residents are concerned about the future of Rye’s natural resources.**

Impacts from development on Rye’s natural resources (wetlands, open spaces, beaches, etc.) were identified as a concern. Some participants also mentioned local flooding events that have increased due to

climate change, and the general degradation of water quality. To address these needs, residents suggested that local ordinances be strengthened, additional land be conserved, current conserved land be maintained, agricultural uses be encouraged, infrastructure improvements be planned for, and that environmental awareness and action be promoted.

**FUTURE PRIORITIES**

**ECONOMY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

To align with the Master Plan Vision and Future Land Use Strategy, Rye will need to review and amend its land use regulations to manage and





support the type of growth it wishes to see. This will allow the town to create zoning that informs and guides future development activity while maintaining the town's character and enhancing its local economy.

A central component of these regulatory changes relates to the Route 1 corridor. This is an area of the community that is away from the coast, can accommodate future development, is well positioned for a mix of residential and commercial uses, and will require coordinated infrastructure investments over time.

To be most effective, this effort should begin with the organization of a public planning and design workshop series. Often referred to as a design charrette, such a public visioning process will help residents weigh in on

the concept of mixed-use development with housing and commercial activities included. Residents can then help determine the allowable density and the required design elements of developments in this area of Rye.

This public process will also create an opportunity to identify the environmental protection and architectural design goals for developments here. Then, land use regulations and infrastructure investments can be planned for and communicated to the development community.

One of the regulatory approaches that should be further investigated is a form-based or character-based code. This type of zoning ordinance is visual and clearly communicates the requirements for the placement, massing, and

## CASE STUDY: YORK, MAINE

This case study is an example of how a community design workshop can transform an area of a community, while retaining its town character. In the summer of 2023, the Town of York, Maine conducted a design charrette, created a plan, and then wrote new zoning language for an approximately 300-acre area. This project was initially identified in the Town's 2013 Comprehensive Plan as a recommendation to create a mixed-use district situated between Route 1 and Main Street. The goals for this area included innovation, preservation of natural resources, sustainability, and recreational opportunities.

The design workshop provided a way for residents to voice concerns, share their visions, and learn about character-based code (also known as Form Based Zoning). It is anticipated that a final draft will be delivered in the Spring of 2024, followed by several required public hearings, and ultimately, a Town vote.



Above: A rendering produced from the York, Maine design charrette.

## FORM-BASED CODE

**Form-Based Codes** are one of the more effective land use tools for shaping pedestrian-scaled, mixed use, and active village and town centers. The regulations and standards in form-based codes are presented in both words, clearly drawn diagrams, and other visuals. As a result, they are typically more concise and user friendly, communicating concepts like density clearly to the user. This could be an effective tool for guiding land use in the Route 1 corridor area.

Form-Based Codes (also known as character-based zoning) stress the importance of mixed-use areas and focus on the placement, mass, and relationship of the buildings with each other and the shared public way. Because form-based codes are prescriptive (they state what the town wants), rather than proscriptive (what the town does not want), form-based codes can often achieve a more predictable physical result.

design of structures within proposed developments. Such an approach is ideal for locations where pedestrian activity is a priority, greater density is possible, and a mix of uses is desired. Other regulatory tools that should be considered for new development activity include TIF Districts and impact fees. Route 1 should be evaluated for a Tax Increment Finance District. Tax Increment Financing (TIF). A TIF is often used to fund infrastructure investments and would lessen the financial burden on the municipality. Impact fees should also be considered if they would help fund critical capital improvements.

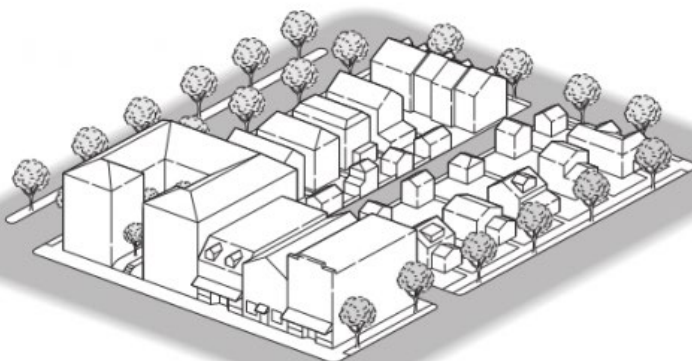
Another area of the community that was identified for additional mixed-use development at a gentler, village-scale of density is the Town Center. The density of development in this area will likely be driven by the need to rely on individual and shared wells and septic systems. This area is already the location of most municipal departments, and over time these uses and gathering spaces should continue to be accommodated

as their needs change and grow. There is also interest in allowing the addition of some small businesses, such as cafes, and updating the zoning to foster this type of development activity.

The Town Center and busier coastal commercial areas would also benefit from streetscape improvements including expanding pedestrian walkways and lighting, incorporating wayfinding signage, and maintaining landscaped areas. Ensuring that Rye's land use regulations support and reinforce the creation of a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented streetscape will help turn this vision into a reality. A form-based code may be appropriate for the Town Center area as well.

## HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Diversifying housing options for Rye's residents is essential. This need was documented in the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment and can be accomplished while preserving Rye's distinct character. In 2024, a Land Use Regulation Audit was completed to identify regulatory changes that are needed to support housing



## COMPONENTS OF A FORM-BASED CODE

- Regulating Plan
- Building Form Setbacks
- Public Space/Street Standards
- Architectural Standards
- Landscape Standards
- Parking Standards

## TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) DISTRICTS

Higher density areas that can support a mix of uses and a walkable development pattern require infrastructure and services. However, the cost of constructing this infrastructure may be more than the community alone can support up front.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts are a flexible finance tool used by municipalities to overcome this barrier. TIFs accomplish this by leveraging the value and property taxes generated by new development projects within a defined geographic area. This type of program is locally adopted and managed. The municipality defines the district area, determines the amount of new taxes to be captured, sets the term (up to 30 years), and identifies the allowable projects that can be funded.

Once this tool has been adopted all new projects in the designated district will provide a percent of the new property taxes they generate to fund the projects needed. This is a tool that is used in many municipalities to fund infrastructure improvements that support the local economy and reinforce the chosen development pattern.

diversity and supply in Rye. Now, the public needs to be engaged in this process so that the identified regulatory changes can be revised and brought forward to future town meetings for consideration.

Potential changes that have been identified include promoting the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), reviewing the conservation land development ordinance to reduce barriers, and possibly enacting an inclusionary housing provision. These and other changes are being considered in Rye because they present realistic housing opportunities. They reflect an approach often referred to as “gentle density,” and can fit into the community without threatening the semi-rural character that residents cherish.

It is also important for Rye’s existing and future homes to be protected from natural hazards as much as possible. For this reason, it is envisioned the community should maintain and possibly expand regulations that reduce the risk of flooding and coastal storms to protect existing homes and neighborhoods, and to discourage new housing in hazard-prone areas. This is even more complex in Rye where significant salt marsh migration is expected. This was considered in the Future Land Use Strategy, and is one of the reasons why backlot development will not be feasible in all areas of the community.

## MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

Investing in transportation improvements that prioritize safety and enhance infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists will create a people-centered transportation network. This is often referred to as a multi-modal transportation system and can best be ensured by adopting a Complete Streets Policy. Complete Streets is a street design and planning approach used to create streets that accommodate all users of the road (including vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and others) to the greatest extent possible.

This approach advocates for walkable and bikeable communities that connect neighborhoods, schools, and other local destinations through a well-connected roadway network. Such a policy will ensure new roadways accommodate all transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicycles, and public transportation.

**“ Rye needs more sidewalks or trails that provide safe routes for all ages to connect with each other.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

## GENTLE DENSITY

Gentle density is a planning concept that is appropriate in communities such as Rye with large semi-rural areas and smaller village scale developments. It advocates for allowing a variety of house-scale buildings that can be configured in many ways. This concept has gained traction in many communities working to address their own pressing housing issues because it promotes the development of residential structures that are compatible in scale and form with the existing detached single-family homes.

While larger multi-family structures and higher densities may be possible in key areas of Rye, many of Rye's more semi-rural neighborhoods could also play a role in accommodating some additional housing units and still maintain the town's semi-rural character. This would require amending the land use regulations to allow "gentle" increases in density. Often this is implemented by permitting the construction of accessory units, two-, three-, and four-family homes, conservation subdivisions, and backlot development in appropriate areas. One of the reasons this technique would be effective in Rye is the cost of land.

According to the Brookings Institute "where land is expensive, building more homes per parcel increases affordability." These developments can often be unnoticeable to the passerby, examples include a backyard duplex or heritage home with multiple units. By integrating new homes thoughtfully into Rye, gentle density provides housing options while preserving the unique charm and aesthetic of the neighborhood.

This type of infrastructure is easy to envision in the Town Center, in a new development on Route 1, and in some of Rye's existing neighborhoods. However, the recent completion of the New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway also presents an exciting opportunity for Rye. This new non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor should be thoughtfully connected to these existing developed areas, other key destinations in Rye, and out to the coast. This

will require identifying and then constructing sidewalks and multi-use paths where they are lacking to improve connectivity throughout the town. Another important aspect of such a holistic transportation system is public transit of some type. At a minimum, this should include the continuation or expansion of Rye's Senior Serve services to help older residents and those with disabilities to get to appointments and out for shopping.





## CASE STUDY: ELDER SERVICES, ATKINSON NH

The Town of Atkinson's innovative and locally funded Elder Services program provides rides to Atkinson residents age 60 and older (or under, if permanently disabled). The Elder Services Department provides complimentary transportation by appointment, lends a variety of donated medical equipment as needed, and acts as a link to information regarding helpful community resources.

The Elder Services Department also offers Wellness Checks, reliable contractors information, referral to Veterans Administration services, and works to collaborate with the Atkinson Recreation, Fire, and Police Departments. There is no direct cost to the participating resident and rides are scheduled ahead of time. Given the semi-rural nature of the community and the lack of available public transit options, this is a significant innovation that helps residents remain in the community when they can no longer drive. This program could serve as inspiration for expanding and improving upon Rye's Senior SERVE bus service.

# Climate Change Resilience

A photograph of a rocky coastline with a paved path. Several people are walking along the path. The foreground is covered in brown seaweed. A large, semi-transparent 'DRAFT' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the center of the image. The background shows the ocean and a distant shoreline under a clear sky.

**“We have to learn to ADAPT.”**

*— Rye resident comment on the 2024 Community Survey*

## INTRODUCTION

The impacts of climate change are becoming more pronounced and are projected to increase in both frequency and severity. Low lying coastal communities, like Rye, are particularly vulnerable to these changes, which include sea level rise, storm surges, groundwater rise leading to saltwater intrusion, and coastal erosion. Because of the many potential climate impacts to the community, this was identified as a critical theme for Rye 2035 to address in planning for Rye's future. The 2019 New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary estimates a rise in sea level between 0.5 to 1.3 feet by 2050, highlighting the urgency for communities to adapt and prepare for these changes.

The challenges Rye is facing also relate to increasing occurrences of saltwater intrusion in drinking water wells, damage to critical natural resources like beaches, and damage to essential systems such as roads, drinking water infrastructure, and wastewater disposal systems. Additionally, the Town must consider how to best support private property owners, especially along the coast, in making their properties more resilient to these ongoing risks.

To address these issues, the Town of Rye has been proactive in increasing its climate resilience. Over the past decade, Rye has partnered with local organizations and participated in various projects aimed at strengthening its defenses against flood conditions, storm surges, and sea level rise.



**Resilience is at the forefront of Rye 2035 to withstand the effects of our changing climate. Resilience is the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of climate change while minimizing damage to the environment, economy, and society. It's a concept that describes how well people and ecosystems can bounce back from climate hazards and other challenges.**

Notable efforts include the 2015 Tides to Storms project, the development of the 2016-2017 Coastal Hazards and Climate Adaptation Master Plan Chapter, and the 2022 update of its Hazard Mitigation Plan. As Rye continues to move forward, collaboration with regional and local partners will be key to ensuring residents' safety and the town's long-term resilience to climate hazards.

### **DIRECTING OUR EFFORTS**

Looking ahead, Rye's goals for future planning include:

- ▶ Enact long-range planning actions that preserve coastal integrity, strengthen community resilience and adaptation opportunities, and minimize impacts to the built and natural environments.
- ▶ Address existing climate related impacts to infrastructure and property from coastal storms and sea-level rise flooding, water quality, and other impacts.

## INVENTORY AND TRENDS

Climate resilience has become a significant focus for Rye as it is one of the state's most vulnerable coastal communities. Rye's coastline spans nearly eight miles, making up approximately 52% of New Hampshire's total shoreline. With approximately 296 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies insured for over \$87 million, the town has taken proactive steps since joining the program in 1986. These efforts include updating zoning to protect wetlands and shoreland buffers, conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment, and adopting a climate resilience chapter in the previous Master Plan. As Rye looks to the future and plans for additional residential and commercial development, the community must continue to account for coastal hazards, natural resource protection, and the need to minimize the effects of rising sea levels on both private structures and public infrastructure.

The town's natural features—beaches, marshes, and sand dunes—are vital to its character, yet they face increasing threats from climate change. Flooding is a common hazard in Rye, with specific areas, such as Wallis Road, Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A, and Jenness Road, experiencing recurring or high-potential flood risks. Projections indicate that by 2050, 1,039 acres (or 12% of Rye's land area) and approximately 300 structures could be affected by a one-foot rise in sea level. By 2100, sea level rise is expected

**The impacts of climate change are increasing and are projected to continue to increase in frequency and severity. This includes:**

- **Sea level rise**
- **Drought**
- **Risk of groundwater rise causing saltwater intrusion**
- **Marsh migration**
- **Storm surge and flood inundation, and**
- **Coastal erosion**

to reach between 1.0 and 2.9 feet, threatening an even greater portion of the town's infrastructure and homes.

According to the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan, several locations were identified as areas of chronic reoccurring flooding or having high potential for future flooding. These areas include:

- Wallis Road between Appledore and Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A;
- Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A at Church Street;
- The Breakers;
- Jenness Road;
- East Atlantic Avenue;
- Kenphill Avenue;
- Harbor Road at Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A;
- Locke Road at Harbor Road;
- Long John Road;
- Sagamore Road.

Road closures at these locations can occur during periods of heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt, and are temporary in nature with road

surfaces covered with water. Coastal storm surges have also caused damage to the shale piles along Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A, causing the rock to be pushed back into the roadway.

Rye has already taken significant steps to bolster its climate resilience. These efforts include studying the impacts of future high-water levels, updating floodplain and land development regulations, and restoring tidal flow to 275 acres of salt marsh. Key concerns moving forward include the risk of saltwater intrusion into drinking water supplies and disruptions to septic systems, and the increase in frequency and severity of storm events. **Looking ahead, the town must continue to prioritize the protection of coastal resources like saltmarshes, infrastructure, and emergency operations as sea levels rise and climate hazards become more severe.**



# Existing Conditions: Natural Hazards

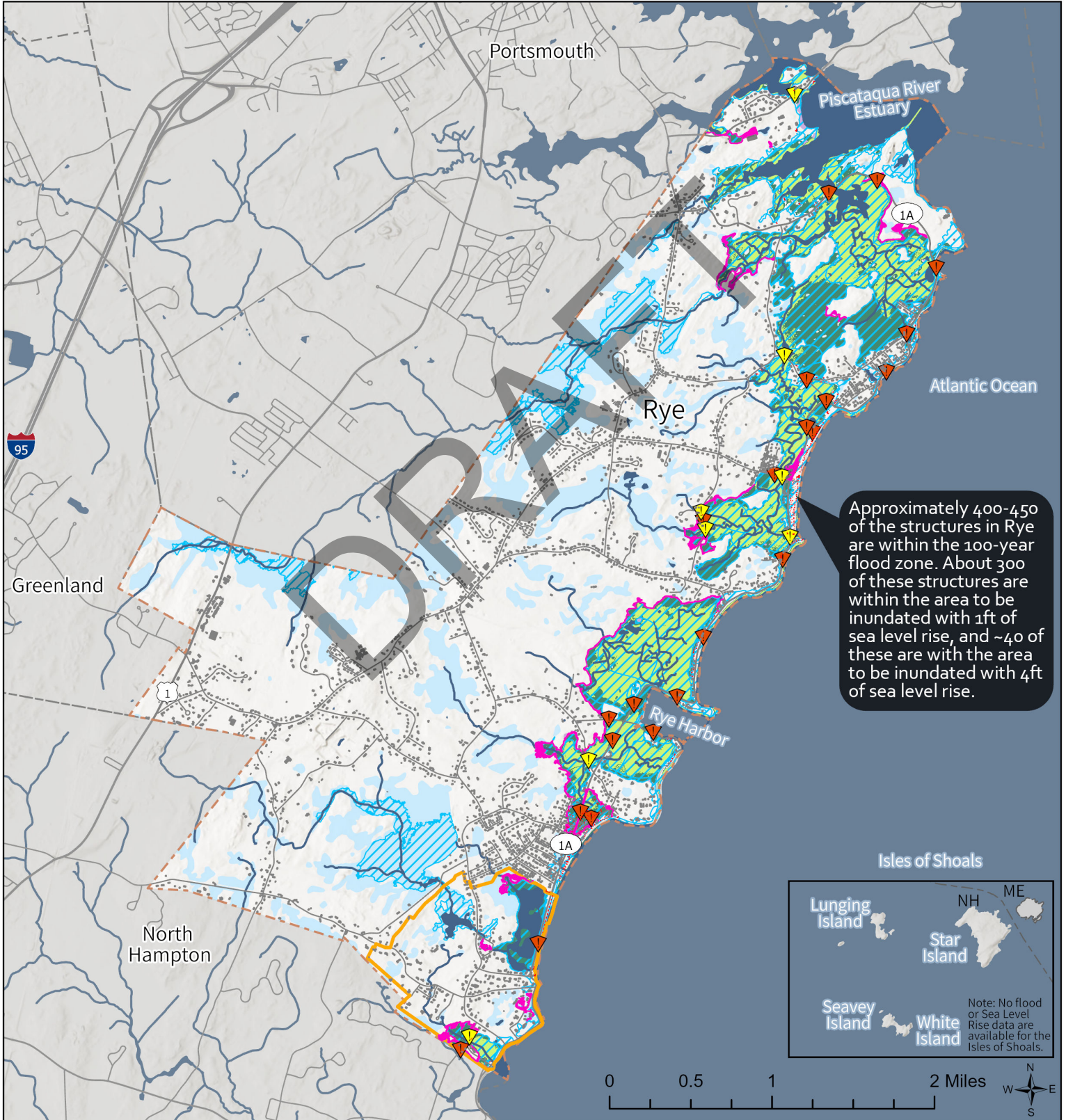
## Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT,  
Maine GeoLibrary, CAI, FEMA  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

-  Town Boundary
-  Town of Rye
-  Rye Beach Village District
-  Road
-  River/Stream
-  Coastal Waters/Waterbody
-  Estuarine Wetland
-  Palustrine Wetland
-  Building Footprint
-  Building Affected by a Sea Level Rise of 1-foot OR a 100-year Flood
-  Roadway at Risk
-  Tidal Crossing at Risk
-  Area Inundated Under 1 foot of Sea Level Rise
-  Area Inundated Under 4 feet of Sea Level Rise
-  FEMA 1% (100-year) Flood Hazard Area
-  FEMA 0.2% (500-year) Flood Hazard Area





## RECENT STORMS AND FLOODING IN RYE

Recent storm surge events in Rye occurred in December 2022 and August 2023, and two events occurred in January 2024. These storm surge events, along with increasingly frequent high precipitation events, have led to increased flooding incidents in town and impacted many roadways including beach access roads such as E Street, Cable Road, Atlantic Ave, and Jenness Ave.

The Town experienced significant damage from these flooding events which resulted in failed drainage infrastructure, damage to the sea wall, and rock, sand, and seaweed debris in roadways. Failed drainage infrastructure including culverts and collapsed pipes within coastal neighborhoods, such as the Jenness Beach neighborhoods, created flooding that left some neighborhoods stranded for days. In April 2024, it was announced that the state of New Hampshire is getting a \$20 million federal grant to help reconstruct seawalls damaged by storms and flooding. New Hampshire also received a disaster aid declaration to cover costs from the two storm surge events that occurred in January 2024.

## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

### **There were diverse opinions about how Rye should address climate change and hazardous events.**

Members of the public that participated in the Rye 2035 planning process shared a range of perspectives and ideas related to the need to plan for greater climate resilience. Some participants expressed significant concern about the potential consequences of climate change, particularly in coastal areas. Issues like rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation were seen as major threats that require attention and action. However, opinions were mixed regarding the role the Town should play in addressing these challenges. While many advocated for municipal involvement, a smaller number of participants (approximately 15) opposed the town's involvement in mitigating climate change-related impacts altogether.

### **Many community members advocated for a thorough strategy for addressing climate change threats.**

Most community members that gave input highlighted the importance of a comprehensive

**“ Be proactive; make short- and long-term plans.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

approach to tackling the challenges posed by coastal resilience and extreme weather events. They emphasized the need for collaboration, preparedness, and environmental stewardship. Key concerns included coastal flooding, sea level rise, damage to infrastructure, and erosion of beaches. A majority of participants (71%) expressed particular worry about increased heavy precipitation events, while others voiced general concerns about the growing frequency and severity of storms, which threaten shoreline properties, roads, and infrastructure.

### **Climate mitigation and adaptation can happen through many different mechanisms.**

Several suggestions were made to mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as constructing more resilient infrastructure, raising roads near marshes, reinforcing seawalls, and developing comprehensive adaptation strategies. Protecting natural habitats, wetlands, and marshes to manage flooding, maintain water quality, and preserve biodiversity was another priority. Concerns over water quality contamination from flooding, saltwater intrusion, and the degradation of habitats were also prevalent, along with the need for sustainable management practices.

However, participants were divided on whether the Town should assist private property owners in managing sea level rise hazards, with 43% in favor, 35% opposed, and 22% unsure. Many stressed that property owners should

**“ Discourage building in vulnerable areas.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

be primarily responsible for protecting their properties, and that stricter building codes and zoning regulations could ensure that owners bear the costs of mitigating hazards on their own.

Some participants suggested that the town could instead assist private property owners by providing education and guidance on how to mitigate the risks associated with climate hazards. Related recommendations included providing resources, workshops, and seminars to educate property owners about available options, and promoting best practices to protect properties from sea level rise, storm surges, drought, flooding, and groundwater rise. Other suggestions included exploring options for partnerships with neighboring communities, leveraging collective resources, and advocating for external funding sources to support hazard mitigation efforts.

**“ Work with the state to protect the shoreline.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*



*Wagon Hill Farm Living Shoreline Project, Durham NH*

## LIVING SHORELINES

As identified by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), living shorelines offer a natural solution for coastal protection, utilizing materials like plants and sand to reduce erosion while maintaining marine habitats. Living shorelines provide a sustainable alternative to traditional “hard” coastal protection methods. These systems help absorb wave energy and support marine life, creating resilient coastal areas.

In 2019, the State of New Hampshire conducted a Living Shoreline Site Suitability Assessment recommending locations along the coast, including Rye, for implementing strategies to protect against sea-level rise and storm impacts. Recommendations for Rye included prioritizing areas that are susceptible to erosion and habitat loss, such as marsh edges and sandy shoreline, as well as implementing living shorelines along coastal wetlands to enhance flood resilience and habitat connectivity.

As an example, the Town of Durham was awarded funds to create a living shoreline to stabilize 1,835 linear feet of tidal shoreline, restore 4,060 square feet of salt marsh habitat, and 2,810 square feet of tidal buffer at their local Wagon Hill Farm. The project is meant to stabilize severe erosion while protecting and increasing the adaptive capacity of critical conservation and community spaces.

## FUTURE PRIORITIES

### BUILDING CODE AND REGULATORY CHANGES

To minimize development in areas that are likely to be impacted by sea level rise and storm surges, regulatory amendments and other best practices need to be implemented in our community. This is an issue that Rye needs to address for the benefit of existing and future structures. A review of Rye's land use regulations based on the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance would inform the drafting of zoning changes that prevent new construction in vulnerable coastal areas. There is also an opportunity to do the same for building codes to account for flooding and increased storm intensity. Other potential changes include increased building setbacks in shoreland zones, protection of riparian buffers and wetlands, reducing impervious surfaces, and the preservation of natural floodplains should also be prioritized as initiatives that are important to the community's resilience.

### INFRASTRUCTURE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND RESILIENCY UPGRADES

Another priority in the near term is the completion of a vulnerability assessment of all of Rye's coastal infrastructure, such as roadways, culverts, and hard structures. This assessment process will also create an opportunity to engage relevant partners and landowners in planning for greater climate resilience in Rye.

Based on the assessment results, infrastructure improvements and coastal protection measures should then be implemented to minimize the impacts of flooding and erosion. These improvements may include the ongoing maintenance of existing infrastructure, bank protection, berm construction, elevating sites, constructing floodwalls, or upgrading drainage systems.

Where possible, living shorelines should be identified as a preferred approach to reduce negative impacts on habitats, mitigate wave energy, extend the lifespan

of protection measures, and provide other environmental benefits.

A detailed study is also needed in the Jenness Beach and Sawyer Beach/Rye Beach neighborhoods to evaluate flooding projections and impacts. The outcome of this effort should be the creation of a resilience plan specific to this area. Such a plan may include infrastructure repairs, and the ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the town and state.

The adequacy of emergency services in flood-prone areas like Jenness Beach and Sawyer Beach/Rye Beach should also be addressed, and ways to improve them should be identified. This will inform efforts to plan for and fund improvements in these areas over the years ahead. Additionally, the adoption of a stormwater utility and fee could provide sustainable funding for stormwater-related coastal and groundwater resilience projects.





## PLANNING FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SALT MARSHES

The New Hampshire Salt Marsh Plan was developed by The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, in collaboration with NH Fish & Game to provide a comprehensive plan for improving resiliency of the state's salt marshes through land protection, marsh management (restoration/adaptation), research, and policy.

The Plan combines high-resolution land cover data from NOAA with local data sets to generate 224 marsh units across coastal New Hampshire. Data associated with more than 20 metrics is used to rank the current condition, vulnerability to sea level rise, and adaptation potential of each marsh unit. Each ranking is associated with one of eight categories of resilience, each with its own set of recommendations for management. Marsh Units are areas of broadly similar land use/land cover and hydrology, and are used to provide a framework to systematically assess and compare marshes in the state. The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is currently working on developing "Marsh Profiles" for each of the 224 marsh units identified in the state. The first "Marsh Profile" completed is for Odiorne Point in Rye. These profiles provide information on the type of habitat, current condition, vulnerability to sea level rise, adaptation potential, and a resiliency score.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Rye's 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan helped inform Rye 2035 and will guide the development of evacuation plans for at-risk areas. Improving emergency management and coordination is crucial to ensure continuity of services for essential facilities, people, businesses, and employment centers. This should include maintaining access to critical infrastructure like schools and emergency services. This work is never finished, and the reality of a changing climate will require that emergency routes be evaluated, maintained, and improved.

Examples include the need to raise elevations of surfaces and expand road shoulders, particularly along Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A in case of inundation from weather events. The town should also consider allocating emergency funds for disaster cleanup and repair, enhancing communication systems during storm events with text alerts, and coordinating emergency management planning with neighboring towns and state agencies.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Resilient communities have strong personal relationships, are committed to clear and frequent communication, and foster a culture of caring. Every resident can play a role in making Rye more climate resilient.

For this to be successful, the town will need to prioritize public outreach efforts that engage and inform community members about flood hazards, vulnerabilities, and opportunities to increase resiliency. Each of these outreach opportunities should also include a mechanism for gathering input and ideas from residents. Educational efforts are also important and should cover essential information, including what actions to take during a flood or other types of emergency events.

Additionally, property owners should be provided with information about efforts they can take on directly. This could include the constructing of living shorelines, and implementation of landscaping best practices. Property owners should also be educated on steps to reduce the impact of hazards on their properties, and be encouraged to incorporate the best available climate science and vulnerability assessments into their decision-making and preparedness plans.

## SALT MARSH PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

A combination of regulatory and non-regulatory efforts will be needed to ensure Rye's salt marshes and open spaces remain functional natural areas that contribute to the coastal and climate resilience of the community. In some cases, more information is needed to inform these efforts and participating in regional and statewide efforts may be the best way to stay informed. This is especially relevant to the issues of groundwater rise and saltwater intrusion. This may also be relevant to the issue of fresh water resources, and a study of Rye's drinking water resources should also be completed to identify potential threats and possible solutions.

Strategically protecting lands with tidal and freshwater wetlands that provide benefits in flood protection and species migration should also be a priority. This should include prioritizing land conservation and marsh restoration efforts in areas of projected marsh migration. Owners of such land will mitigate development and climate related impacts by partnering in preservation efforts.

Rye should also use the New Hampshire Salt Marsh Plan as a guide for marsh restoration and conservation of adjacent lands. Improving marsh conditions to reduce vulnerability and facilitate migration will improve coastal resilience by protecting against wave action and sea level rise.





## CASE STUDY: HAMPTON, NH CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

Climate resilience will continue to be addressed both locally and regionally in New Hampshire. Rye and the other coastal communities in New Hampshire are part of numerous regional efforts to address climate resilience such as the New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup, which focus on regional coordination of resilience initiatives. New Hampshire communities can learn many best practices from each other as each municipality plans to address coastal issues and prepare for the future in their own way. The Town of Hampton has implemented several climate resilience strategies that are helping the town meet its resilience goals.

These strategies include strengthening floodplain ordinances, minimizing impervious surfaces to improve stormwater management, updating wetland regulations, and adopting higher standards for building elevation and land use in flood-prone areas. The town emphasizes collaboration with local organizations and public engagement to support ongoing projects and policies aimed at increasing coastal resilience and reducing future risks. Rye could use Hampton's approach as a model for updating local policies and encouraging collaboration to enhance its coastal resilience initiatives.



# Municipal Operations and Organization



“More transparency,  
more inclusivity.”

– Rye community member during master plan outreach

# INTRODUCTION

Rye’s volunteer leaders, professional staff, and residents work together each year to ensure a range of municipal services are planned for, financially supported, and delivered daily to residents and visitors. Taxpayers and visitors to Rye directly benefit from the municipal facilities and public infrastructure, and the community services they provide. Many of Rye’s public facilities, and the departments they house, are located within or near Rye’s Town Center, including the library, town hall, and schools. This civic-oriented town center plays a large role in the quaint, New England character of Rye and creates opportunities for it to remain the tight-knit, walkable core of town that serves as space for gathering as a community.

To function effectively as a community and municipality, building relationships and trust between citizens, staff, volunteers, and elected officials is critical. To do so will require a concerted effort by local board members, local opinion leaders, and the civic organizations working outside of municipal government. The lack of trust and coordinated collaboration between local government and other local groups is a significant concern, and one of the biggest challenges for the community to overcome. It is further complicated by the significant climate impacts the community is facing. Addressing the impacts of sea level rise, groundwater rise, extreme weather, infrastructure impacts, and other realities is difficult enough when the community is



**“ Open and honest decision making and willingness to listen and implement what the public wants should be the policy.”**

*- Rye community member during master plan outreach*

getting along but will be extremely challenging if the citizens remain divided.

Strong collaboration, clear communication, and proactive planning are ingredients for tackling big projects and addressing complex issues as a community. Otherwise, there is doubt, frustration, and halted progress. Improving the flow of municipal operations, town organization, and cross-community collaboration will ensure Rye is well-positioned to make important and wise decisions about anticipated capital improvements, long-term facility

planning, and near-term actions to focus on over the next ten years.

## DIRECTING OUR EFFORTS

Looking ahead, Rye’s goals for future planning include:

- ▶ Inform citizenry of government functions.
- ▶ Proactively plan for municipal facility and community service investment.
- ▶ Foster an inclusive and community-oriented local government.

## INVENTORY AND TRENDS

Rye has shown good stewardship of its municipal facilities, making significant investments in buildings over the years. However, time and regular use tax the condition of these facilities. The needs of the departments and staff that operate out of these facilities also change and

evolve with time. These realities along with increasing demand and the new service needs of a changing and aging population will require that the town remains dedicated to planning ahead. The existing community facilities in Rye include:

### **Public Safety Building**

The public safety building houses police, fire, and emergency operations, providing critical community services such as fire protection, fire prevention, inspections, permitting, policing, parking enforcement, and emergency management.

### **Rye Public Library**

The library is a vital and heavily utilized community space and resource in town providing books and other materials for lending, community programs, meeting space, and other services. It also played a significant role in creating a town green in Rye in collaboration with town committees and citizens.

### **Town Hall**

The town hall houses many of Rye's town administration and land use services. It is a historic

structure and has a meeting room to serve local boards and committees.

### **Town Hall Annex**

The town hall annex, which is a former bank building, houses the remaining town administrative offices. This space was renovated due to the town hall not being able to accommodate all the space needs required for the town offices. The space supports high frequency transactions such as town clerk and tax collection with ample parking and a drive up window, among other administrative functions.

### **Rye Elementary and Junior High Schools**

Rye Elementary School and Rye Junior High School serve Rye residents K-8. They operate independently, as a School District, and in partnership with the Town of Rye.

### **Public Works Department Facility**

The facility includes space for the Highway Department, including offices and garage bays, and the Transfer Station. The Highway Department maintains all town-owned roadways in Rye, and the transfer station provides waste disposal and recycling services

for residents. The Transfer Station facilities consist of one recycling bailer, a storage area for recycling, and an area for a swap shop that is run by volunteers where donations are brought in and given away as a way of reusing. The Town does not provide curbside pickup therefore residents seek private trash roadside service or deliver their trash to the Town's Transfer Station.

### **Rye Recreation Area**

The recreation area includes a little league field, a multi-purpose field, a playground, a picnic area, a basketball/pickleball court, a garage/multi-functional building, and several small out-buildings. The Recreation Department provides important recreation programming for adults and youth in Rye and operate out of this facility.

### **Central Cemetery**

Rye has one cemetery, Central Cemetery, adjacent to the town hall. It is approximately 17 acres and provides walking paths and green space.





**Rye Sewer Department Infrastructure**

The Sewer Department operates out of the Rye Beach Village District building and oversees the town’s sewer system, which includes gravity sewer lines, and force main lines, three pump stations. It services 555 parcels in town, with most of Rye being serviced by private septic systems. Sewage is piped to the Hampton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Water Infrastructure**

There are three water providers in Rye – Rye Water District, Aquarion Water Company, and the City of Portsmouth. Aquarion Water Company supplies water to the Jenness Beach and Rye Beach Precincts and the City of Portsmouth supplies water to the northern part of town along Pioneer Road, Sagamore Road, Elwyn Road, and Wentworth Road. The Rye Water District purchases some of its water from the City of Portsmouth, with other water being sourced from three wells located off Garland Road. The Rye Water District provides water to approximately 1800 service connections from resources in the Bailey Brook sub-watershed within the Berry’s Brook-Rye Harbor drainage area. Infrastructure includes wells, pump houses, storage tanks, hydrants, distribution main line,

and other water lines. In March 2024, the Rye Water District voted to raise \$15,950,000 for the design, development, and construction of a water treatment facility that will qualify for federal and/or state funds. The goal is to be ready for a June 2027 construction start date.

**Stormwater Infrastructure**

Rye’s stormwater collection system includes culverts, swales, catch basins, and associated piping. This infrastructure is designed to slow, capture, and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the town’s waterways.

There are several documented municipal building needs that will require planning and investment in the future. These include:

- Modernization, upgrades, renovations, or replacement of all existing municipal buildings.
- Renovation, restoration, and improvement of the Town Hall building including additional features that support community use and the restoration of its historic character.
- Improvements to the Public Works Department equipment and facilities.
- Improvements to Rye’s Transfer Station including improved traffic flow, expanded recycling options, and better handling and disposal of hazardous waste.
- Expansion of the library,

including enhancements to its facilities and increasing community programming.

- Upgrading the Recreation Department buildings and recreation facilities based on findings from the Recreation Master Plan.
- Proper maintenance of the athletic fields.
- Integration of the energy audits completed for all of Rye’s municipal buildings to guide future energy efficiency retrofits.
- Continued investment in school facilities to keep Rye an attractive place to live for families.

**For Rye’s municipal facilities and operations to continue to provide a high quality of service, these departments, and their identified facility improvements, need to be adequately planned for and financed.** The Town has a Capital Improvement Program Committee authorized to prepare capital improvement plans annually. A commitment to annual budgeting will allow the town to anticipate additional costs and plan for large expenditures accordingly so that they do not need to all be funded in the same year. A complete inventory of Rye’s existing facilities and infrastructure can be found in the Existing Conditions Report included in the Appendix to this Plan.

# Existing Conditions: Public Facilities

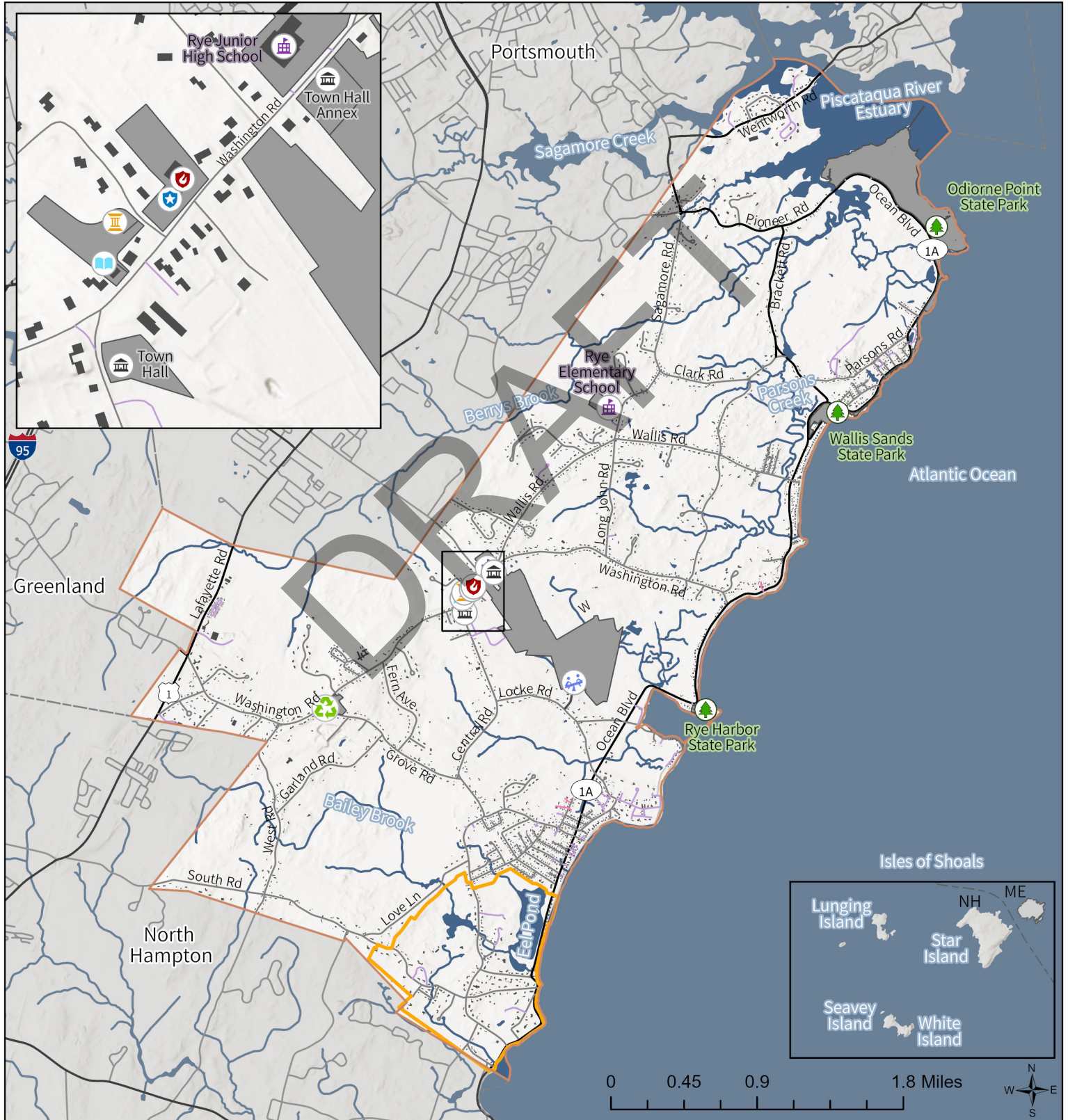
Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT,  
Maine GeoLibrary, CAI  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- |                            |                    |                       |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Town Boundary              | Building Footprint | Town Hall Building    |
| Town of Rye                | State Road         | Library               |
| Rye Beach Village District | Local Road         | School                |
| Coastal Waters/Waterbody   | Private Road       | Historical Society    |
| River/Stream               | Unmaintained Road  | State Park            |
|                            | Fire Station       | Recreation Department |
|                            | Police Department  | Transfer Station      |



## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

### **In general, community members are satisfied with Rye's town facilities.**

When asked about Rye's municipal facilities and operations during the 2024 public outreach conducted for Rye 2035, residents expressed overall satisfaction with how well they serve the community. They also expressed a desire for creating community gathering spaces within and adjacent to Rye's municipal facilities. Capital investments with larger price tags would also benefit from a longer lead time for community education and engagement to ensure public-informed decision making.

### **There is a desire to make Rye's town buildings more sustainable.**

There is interest in making the structures that house the municipal departments more energy efficient, and reducing their annual operating costs. This helps address concerns that have been shared about the cost of services and the impact of service costs on taxpayers in town, as well as a desire for better maintenance

and management of facilities in the future. Together, these goals present an opportunity to make Rye's municipal properties more sustainably designed and constructed while still reinforcing Rye's historic community character.

### **There are mixed views on the perceived effectiveness of Rye's local government.**

When asked about Rye's municipal organization and decision making (i.e. local government), community members were less satisfied. This dissatisfaction was stated in many ways, including comments directed at Rye's municipal boards and staff, and comments directed at the organizations that have been formed outside of municipal government. Also, 32% (of 238 responses) of participants that submitted feedback at the community forum or through the online tool thought the Town would benefit from a Town Manager, indicating there is some interest in exploring alternative forms of governance.

Some respondents provided context related to the difficulty of finding volunteers to serve in local government and the subsequent rise of external civic groups in

**“ I agree with [adding] solar panels on schools, the landfill, and other municipal buildings to reduce costs to the town”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

Rye. Other respondents noted that transparency of municipal processes, perceived inclusion of governmental processes, trust, process inefficiencies, and social dynamics all played a role in the difficulty of finding volunteers to serve in municipal government. Unfortunately, the resulting divide impacts how effectively Rye can operate.

## FUTURE PRIORITIES

### **MUNICIPAL PROCESSES AND DECISION MAKING**

The residents of Rye need to find a way to come together, build trust, and create a more collaborative decision-making environment.



This is a broader issue that is larger than this Master Plan can address, and goes well beyond land use related issues. However, several of the implementation actions that have been identified will help Rye move the needle in this direction. These include prioritizing clear municipal communications, enhancing transparency of municipal processes, and encouraging broader representation of residents serving within local government. This will help ensure diverse perspectives are represented, and that barriers to participation are reduced or eliminated.

Another related action that has gained public interest is the exploration of alternative governance structures such as expanding the Select Board, or reevaluating the current roles and functions within the town administration. This may include investigating the potential creation of a town manager position. Public outreach conducted for Rye 2035 indicate participants were split on whether Rye would benefit from a Town Manager position, however, this does indicate a need for further exploration. While governmental changes may play a role in clarifying and responsibilities, increasing capacity, and enhancing transparency of roles, it may not have a large impact on addressing the existing divide and distrust in Rye.

Rye should continue to work on improving its approach to communicating about municipal matters, issues, and projects to residents and other community

members. This should likely include examining the use and effectiveness of the town website, newsletter, media channels, and other forms of communication. A coordinated approach to communication will generate greater public awareness of governmental affairs and should create an environment that attracts and retains volunteers and staff, resulting in effective local governance.

Another need to be addressed related to municipal operations is the clarification and streamlining of the local regulatory process. It should be easy for applicants, many of which are property owners and developers who regularly work in the region, to find and navigate local regulatory documents, permit forms, and the approval process. Identifying gaps where these processes could be improved, and then making these improvements, has the potential to enhance user experience and build trust among the public that the town is well organized and ready to serve them. Clarifying processes also makes it easier for staff and board members to interact with the public and do their jobs effectively.

### **MUNICIPAL FACILITIES ASSESSMENT**

Planning for municipal capital improvements and investments in Rye would be more effective and predictable if the town commissioned a town-wide municipal facilities assessment. Such an assessment would provide baseline information on all of the existing municipal facilities in Rye. It would also

present an opportunity to integrate the findings of energy audits for each structure, and would provide an action plan that could be used to inform the Capital Improvement Plan. An assessment of this type could be maintained and updated with the use of asset management software. This would allow each department to track building improvements, maintenance needs, and equipment replacement dates.

### **PLANNING AND TRACKING**

There is a strong interest in managing Rye's public infrastructure, including roads, buildings, and other critical facilities in a way that keeps pace with current and future capacity demands. This also presents an opportunity to ensure that this infrastructure is resilient to the changing climate. For this to be truly successful, an effort like this must be tackled collaboratively with the appropriate partners. Improving the management of public infrastructure is a perfect opportunity to apply the practice of asset management, and integrate it with the capital improvement planning process in Rye. Proactive planning and decision making, and a commitment to annual and capital budgeting, provides an opportunity to anticipate and properly plan for funding and provides timely communication on the details of projects to residents to answer their questions and address their concerns.



## ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLANNING

Long-range monitoring and maintenance of town assets (buildings and infrastructure) will ensure consistent and timely investment is made towards priority projects, and will guide investment decisions into the future. The publicly-owned buildings and infrastructure in Rye are the legacy of multi-generational investments, and are actively stewarded by town staff. Increasingly, municipalities are recognizing the value of tracking and monitoring these investments to better plan for future upgrades and replacements. To accomplish this, many municipalities are now turning their attention toward asset management programs as a process for making informed decisions to achieve the goal of delivering services, managing risks, and getting greater value for the money invested.

Asset management helps town departments confidently inventory, track, evaluate, and communicate trade-offs between service, cost, and risk. This provides the community with a way of prioritizing projects and resources, and can be used to inform the capital improvement planning process. In doing so, it helps the community decide what infrastructure needs to be replaced or renewed, and how many years they can get out of the investment. It also helps the community figure out how much they should be saving for future infrastructure investments, and can demonstrate accountability to residents and businesses in the community.

Asset information, condition rankings, and maintenance history can be assigned to each of the individual buildings and infrastructure components being monitored. Each distinct asset can also be linked to service requests, work orders, repair costs, and other information. These items can also be queried to identify prior repair histories, recurring or pending maintenance needs, or pending inspection needs.



# Environment, Natural Resources, And Sustainability

**“ The greatest threat to the natural resources and ecology of the Town of Rye is habitat loss, alteration resulting from development, and from climate change altering the landscape.”**

*– 2021 Natural Resource Inventory*

# INTRODUCTION

## A RESILIENT NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Rye's natural resources encompass eight miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline, along with numerous wetlands, surface waters, groundwater, and upland forests. These resources provide essential benefits to the local ecology and our community, including hazard mitigation, recreation, and tourism opportunities. These benefits are often referred to as ecosystem services and are essential to the quality of life in Rye. From the smallest park or residential yard, to town-owned conservation lands, to privately owned forested areas, the soil and vegetation have the potential to offer a variety of ecosystem services and nature-based solutions. These can be described as:

**Ecosystem services** - the many benefits that nature provides for humans and other species, and

**Nature-based solutions** - the efforts residents take to protect forest lands, plant meadows, and restore wetlands as fundamental strategies for addressing the climate crisis.

Rye's network of natural resources also acts as a vital defense against climate change, serving as a crucial component in climate mitigation efforts. Protecting and stewarding the full range of natural areas in Rye with recognition of these concepts will require strategic action by the community.



## A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

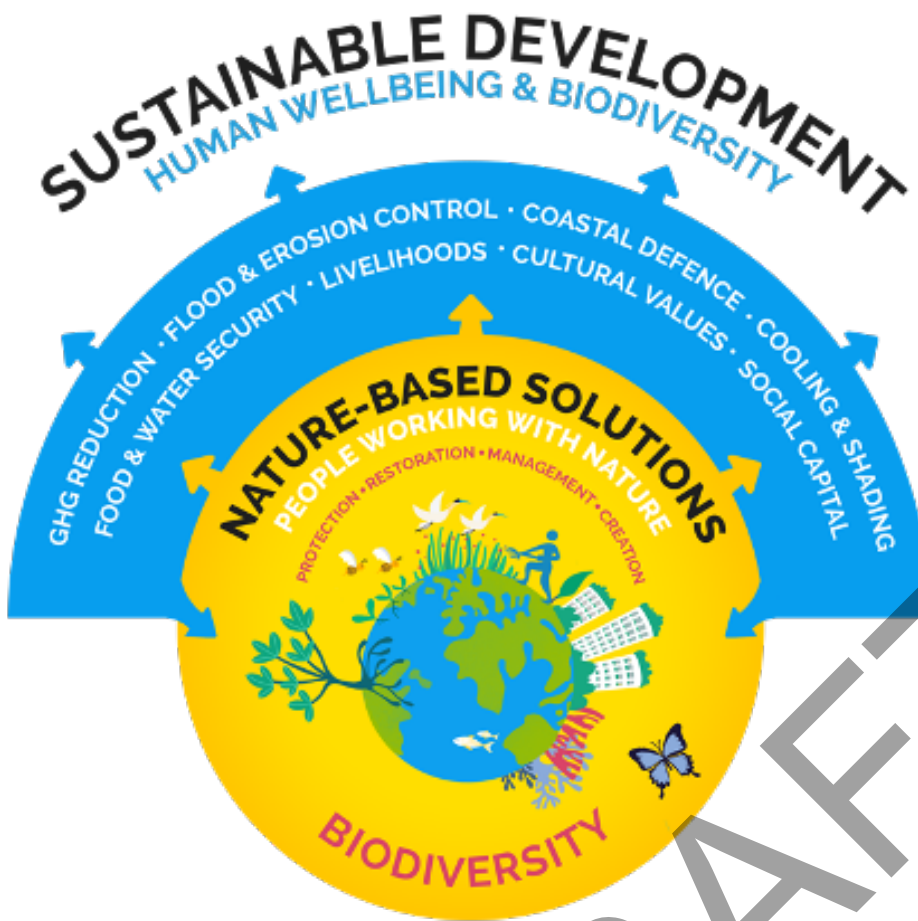
Rye's sustainability initiatives extend beyond natural resource protection and management. Sustainability influences all sectors of life including how we use energy, how our buildings are designed, how we manage our waste, and how people are able to move between destinations. In 2023, Rye took a big step forward in their commitment to renewable energy by becoming a Community Power Community. Now, most public and private buildings are powered through the Community Power program and are using at least 24% renewable energy.

To continue enhancing our community's sustainability, further efforts will be needed in the coming decade to expand renewable energy usage, and to promote non-motorized and electric vehicle transportation

alternatives. To accomplish this, there will need to be easy access to New Hampshire-based research and educational resources, and residents should be welcomed in to learn and guide these forward-looking initiatives.

**“Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**

*- As defined by the United Nations*



## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

**Ecosystem services** refer to the many benefits that nature provides for humans and other species – both direct or indirect– and small or large. Services include clean air and water, carbon storage, flood control, food production, pollination, recreation, climate change mitigation, and many others. Rye’s natural resources and open spaces provide these services to residents and other community members. Future generations and wildlife deserve the benefits of our natural areas and it is our responsible to ensure that stewardship of our natural assets is a priority.

**Nature-based solutions** include efforts to protect forest lands, plant meadows, and restore wetlands as fundamental strategies for addressing the climate crisis. Nature-based solutions are critical, reducing carbon emissions by removing said carbon from the atmosphere and locking it away in the vegetation and soil of these systems. They increase the resilience of our ecosystems and lower climate change risks for residents. Nature-based solutions provide an opportunity for everyone to get involved in the solutions needed, and ensure that future generations will benefit from improved human, economic, and ecosystem health.

### DIRECTING OUR EFFORTS

Looking ahead, Rye’s goals for future planning include:

- ▶ Advancing policies, initiatives, and investments that protect environmental assets, and maintain natural resource services.
- ▶ Supporting actions that facilitate sustainability across municipal governance and facilities management, creating policies that support sustainability, facilitating community engagement, and coordinating sustainability action.

### INVENTORY AND TRENDS

The natural lands, diverse resources, and conservation areas in our town have shaped the character of the community and play a critical role in climate adaptation and mitigation. Rye’s natural resources have been extensively inventoried in Rye’s 2021 Natural Resource Inventory. Two natural resource categories have been identified as being particularly important to Rye’s character. First, the beaches and tidal marshes are year-round attractions for both residents and visitors, offering tourism opportunities and serving as tidal buffers.

# Existing Conditions: Natural Resources - Wildlife Habitat

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

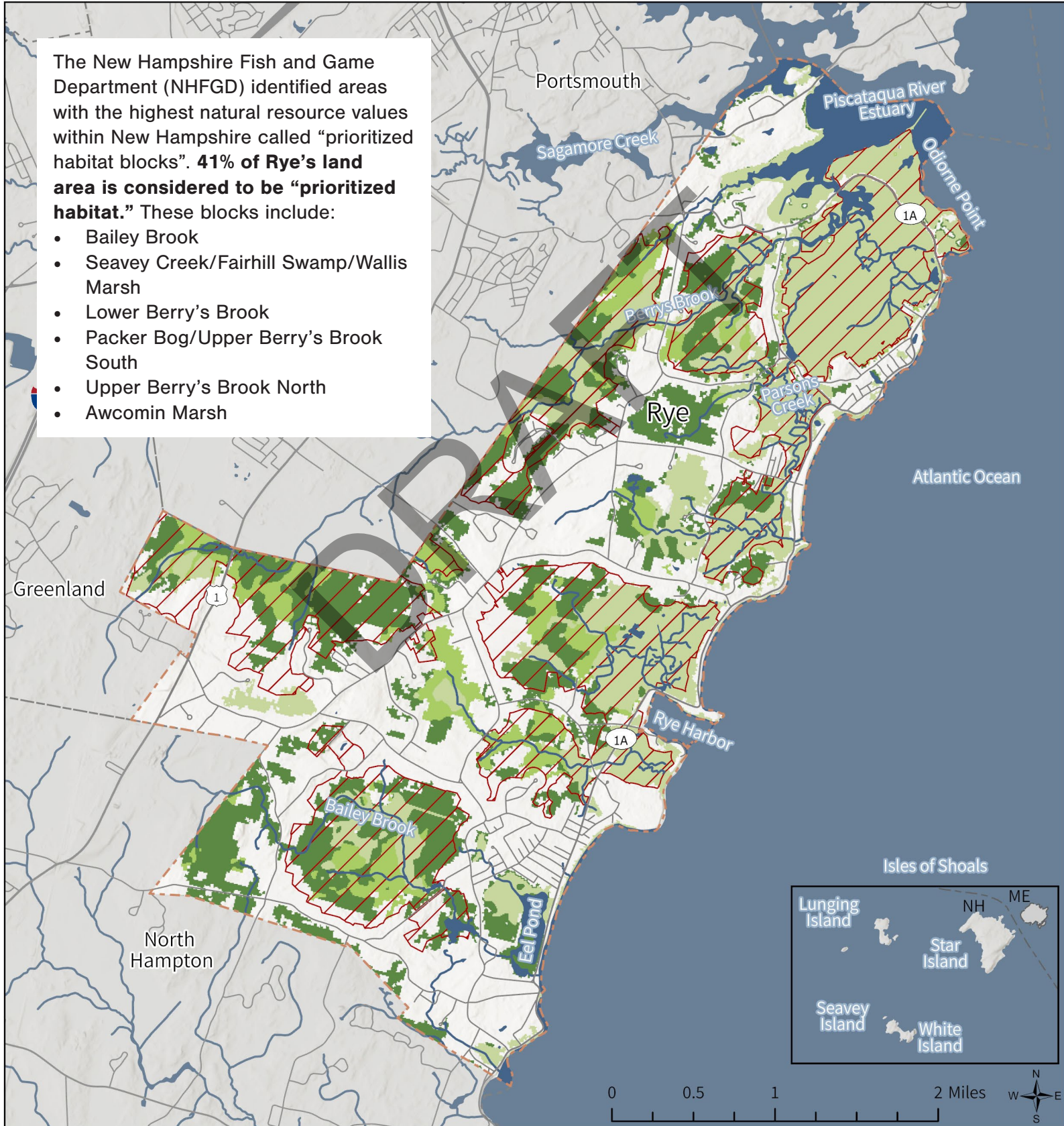
Map created for planning purposes  
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Data Sources: NH GRANIT, Maine GeoLibrary,  
NHD, NWI, NHDES, NHFGD, CTC  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New  
Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Road
- Coastal Waters/  
Waterbody
- River/Stream

- Highest Ranked Habitat  
in New Hampshire
- Highest Ranked Habitat  
in Biological Region
- Supporting Landscapes
- Prioritized Habitat Blocks



The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) identified areas with the highest natural resource values within New Hampshire called “prioritized habitat blocks”. **41% of Rye’s land area is considered to be “prioritized habitat.”** These blocks include:

- Bailey Brook
- Seavey Creek/Fairhill Swamp/Wallis Marsh
- Lower Berry’s Brook
- Packer Bog/Upper Berry’s Brook South
- Upper Berry’s Brook North
- Awcomin Marsh

Second, the uplands contribute to Rye's semi-rural character and include valued conservation lands.

The Town of Rye contains 2,632 acres of forests, making up 31% of its total land area. Rye's forested lands provide valuable habitats, support natural communities, offer scenic landscapes, and serve as recreational areas. Habitat for wildlife include Appalachian Oak-Pine forests, temperate swamps, salt marshes, and wet meadow/shrub wetlands which cover 4,896 in Rye or 57% of the Town's area. One example of a rare natural community found in Rye is the Atlantic White Cedar swamp, which were previously inventoried in Rye's Bailey Brook sub-watershed.

Over 2,164 acres of natural land are conserved in Rye, totaling 25% of the town. Much of the land is town-owned, including salt marshes, such as the Awcomin Salt Marsh, Fairhill Marsh, and Parson's Creek Marsh; and forested areas, like the Rye Town Forest, that allow the community to engage with the natural environment. There

are also protected lands in town that are state-owned, such as Odiorne Point State Park and Jenness State Beach.

Wetlands and waterways are prominent features in Rye, providing pollutant filtration, nutrient uptake, floodwater storage, and scenic value as tidal marshlands along the coast. Wetlands cover about 30% of Rye, extending beyond the coastal areas, with over 42 miles of waterways, including Berrys Brook, Seavey Creek, Witch Creek, Parsons Creek, and Bailey Brook, throughout town. It is important to also note that only 24% of Rye's wellhead protection areas are currently conserved.

Protected natural land in Rye also helps manage stormwater and storm surges during flooding, as it acts like a sponge, absorbing excess water more effectively than developed areas. It is important to know that 29% of Rye is classified as the Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire, and 25% of the town lies within the 100- or 500-year floodplain. However, habitat fragmentation for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is increasing

## COASTAL CONSERVATION FOCUS AREAS

The [New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan](#) was developed in 2021 by The Nature Conservancy. Spanning 52 communities across New Hampshire and Maine, the coastal watershed is the geographic area that drains into the Atlantic Ocean from the Piscataqua River, the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, and the coastline in between. Rye is one of these communities.

The Plan identifies priority coastal conservation focus areas for each municipality within the coastal watershed of New Hampshire. The Plan also aligns efforts to protect high priority lands in the coastal watershed. These include:

- Drinking water source protection and groundwater recharge
- Wildlife habitat and corridor protection
- Flood reduction and salt marsh habitat protection
- Local farm productivity

Many of the prioritized lands identified in Rye are adjacent to existing conservation land and are located throughout the community. This Plan should be used to inform and guide land protection efforts in Rye over the next 10+ years.



## COMMUNITY POWER

In 2021, the Rye Energy Committee proposed an electric aggregation plan to the Select Board, which recommended the implementation of Rye Community Power (RCP). Rye residents voted to adopt the plan in March 2022, and it took effect in April 2023. The plan involved joining the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH), a member-owned, non-profit community power agency that procures and administers electricity supply.

The Community Power alternative was created because the New Hampshire Legislature found that allowing municipalities and counties the local control to aggregate retail electric customers for the purpose of accessing competitive markets for supplies of electricity and related energy services was beneficial for many reasons.

The resulting benefits include lowering costs, creating cost effective and innovative energy solutions, and careful consideration of local conditions and opportunities. In the end, Community Power creates more choices for customers, the collective buying power to drive down cost, and the local control to allow New Hampshire communities to chart their own energy futures.



# RYE COMMUNITY POWER Town of Rye NH

due to development, leading to habitat loss or disconnection. This works against Rye's Vision and Future Land Use Strategy which calls for greater connectivity across the community for the movement of people and wildlife. Retaining habitat connectivity will also ensure that water and other elements of the natural resource network can flow and migrate as needed without negatively impacting the built environment.

Over the past decade, Rye has also demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability through its renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resilience related initiatives. Accomplishments include:

- ▶ Completing energy audits for all town buildings.
- ▶ Converting all town buildings to LED lighting.
- ▶ Evaluating municipal buildings for solar energy system installations.
- ▶ Installed solar panels on Rye Junior High and Rye Elementary School.
- ▶ Becoming a Community Power town in 2023 and participating in the New Hampshire Community Power Coalition.

In 2021, an analysis conducted by the Energy Committee assessed the annual carbon dioxide emissions of Rye's buildings based on heating type, cost, and overall energy usage. At that time, 1,806 buildings in Rye were heated with oil, 651 with propane, and 177 with electricity. The assessment serves as an important baseline to measure against as public and private buildings switch to lower carbon emitting infrastructure for heating, cooling, and power.

Rye's active Energy Committee has also identified potential renewable energy projects, the need for expanded electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and has identified the need to research microgrid infrastructure to enhance the town's sustainability and resilience.

## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

**There is more work to be done.**

About half of all residents (51%) that participated in the Rye 2035 master planning process do not think Rye does enough to safeguard its natural resources. Another 18% of respondents were unsure. Participants collectively

expressed a desire to balance future development activity with environmental protection, and to promote sustainable practices while engaging residents in preserving Rye’s natural resources for future generations.

**Our unique resources need our attention.**

The top natural resources that respondents identified as needing further protection and stewardship in Rye are as follows:

- Drinking water resources – our groundwater,
- Surface water resources - such as Parson’s Creek and watershed,
- Rye’s beaches – including Jenness and others,
- Wetlands and marshes – both fresh and salt water,
- Forests and fields – regardless of their existing ownership.

**A multi-faceted approach to natural resource protection is needed.**

The top three natural resource protection strategies identified by participants included land conservation, regulations and enforcement, and public education and engagement. Together, these strategies provide a means of communicating the importance of Rye’s natural resources, and a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to aid in their protection and stewardship.

**The greatest potential for renewable energy in Rye is solar.**

When it comes to sustainability, there are a range of perspectives among residents on the potential to increase renewable energy production in Rye. Solar energy was the most favored alternative, while wind energy faces some considerable opposition. Many residents expressing opposition to wind energy were concerned with its visual impact, potential harm to wildlife, and perceived inefficiency.

**What role should town government play?**

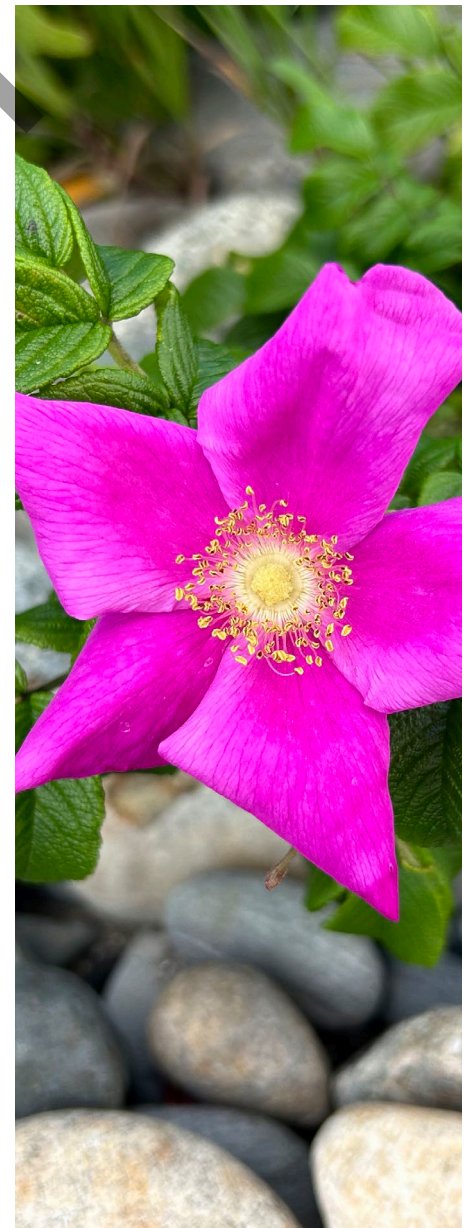
There are also mixed views on the role that town government should play in supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy production. Most respondents (80%) are in support of Rye producing more renewable energy on municipal property and buildings. However, only 52% of respondents expressed support for renewable energy production on private property. Responses indicate a large percent of the participants do not recognize the threat of climate change, and many myths related to sea level rise and sustainability will need to be addressed in the years ahead.

**Sustainability efforts should be tackled from many angles.**

Mechanisms for promoting greater sustainability that were highlighted favorably include financial incentives, simplification of regulatory processes, educational support, and collaboration with state and federal programs. Overall, there was also a strong emphasis on respecting individual property rights and minimizing taxpayer burden while implementing any renewable energy initiatives.

**“ Education on available options and resources is great, but Rye should not be financially assisting individual residents.”**

*– Rye 2035 Community Forum/Online Tool Participant*





## FUTURE PRIORITIES

### STRATEGIC CONSERVATION

Future conservation efforts in Rye should be informed by the best available local and regional data. An ongoing commitment to revisiting and updating necessary sections of the 2021 Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) regularly will ensure Rye is being guided by the most up-to-day information about its natural resources. As stated as a recommendation in the NRI, the creation of a strategic conservation plan for Rye would also prioritize the protection of undeveloped lands in town to enhance Rye's coastal resilience, safeguard water resources, and establish greater connectivity for people and wildlife. A conservation plan will also help Rye utilize its resources and capacity efficiently as it balances this work with other town initiatives.

**“Future conservation acquisitions should be strategic and analyzed for maximizing connectivity with current conserved parcels.”**

*– Rye 2035 Community Forum/Online Tool Participant*

With the support of residents, future conservation efforts have the potential to protect aquifers, priority habitats, wellhead protection zones, coastal properties, and marshes. The success of Rye's efforts will be heavily dependent on the town's collaboration with local land conservation organizations to secure available open spaces, and a diverse funding strategy. Land protection efforts should also be paired with strong stewardship

efforts on conservation lands including the planting of native species and the adoption of sustainable land management practices that support wildlife and ensure a full range of ecosystem services.

### WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY PROTECTION

Wetland protection and restoration, stormwater mitigation, groundwater protection, and other water resource needs are critical to the future of Rye. This is an issue of both quality and quantity. To accomplish this, Rye is committed to continuing efforts to engage landowners and foster stormwater best management practices as required under the town's MS4 permit. Regular monitoring and investigatory sampling of Rye's water bodies will also be necessary to inform these efforts.

Water resource protection is also a focus of Rye's future



land conservation efforts and should include the protection of headwater streams. Particularly Berry's Brook where the impacts of pollution on the brook's water quality restrict fishing currently; and Bailey Brook sub-watershed, which is home to important groundwater resources including a gravel well, two bedrock sites, and other potential wells currently under investigation.

As development activity continues in Rye, the town should consider requiring or incentivizing green infrastructure, low impact design, nature-based solutions, and stormwater infiltration best practices through Rye's land use regulations. A coordinated effort should also be made to inventory all properties along shorelines to determine which landowners have old septic systems that need to be upgraded. If no regulatory mechanism is in place, educational materials can be provided to these property owners to inform them of possible funding sources for septic system replacement.

## LAND STEWARDSHIP

Over the coming decade, the town and its conservation partners should maintain existing stewardship plans (and create stewardship plans for open spaces without one) for each of the major public open spaces in Rye. Stewardship plans provide an opportunity to enhance



## WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN RYE

Rye's water resources are diverse and abundant and clean water that is plentiful is a key part of Rye's vision for the future. Threats to Rye's water resources include poorly planned development, polluted stormwater runoff, climate change, contamination, and others. A summary of the most pressing threats is included below:

**Waterbody Contamination:** Some of Rye's water bodies have been classified as having water quality impairments, or presence of pollutants, specifically for aquatic life and for fish/shellfish consumption. Impairments, and their durations, are increasing. Berry's Brook, Eel Pond, and Lower Sagamore Creek are impaired for aquatic life. Berry's Brook, Parson's Creek, Lower Sagamore creek, Rye Harbor, and Witch Creek are impaired for fish and shellfish consumption. The Town of Rye has also been monitoring fecal sources in Parson's Creek since 2008 to investigate, trace, and work towards remediation of bacterial pollution.

**Drinking Water Contamination:** Saltwater intrusion is a top concern for the Town's drinking water, as well as pollution from development and septic systems. Drinking water contamination has also occurred at three of four water distribution sites in the Rye Water District in 2023. Contamination from insufficient or malfunctioning septic systems is likely to become an increasing problem as climate change progresses and sea levels rise. Current work aims to understand how septic systems may be impacted by saltwater intrusion. Additionally, 76% of the wellhead protection areas are not held under permanent land conservation. Natural land cover protects the underlying groundwater resources.

**Freshwater Marsh Degradation:** Marsh degradation from saltwater inundation threatens the health and stability of marshes, and marsh erosion and flooding from more severe storms are increasing.

**“ I think Rye is doing a great job with conservation and habitat, but I also think there is more we can do.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

resources, improve public access for all, and incorporate alternative management approaches that enhance nature-based solutions. The Conservation Commission has suggested that there be an emphasis on addressing invasive species, and a commitment to keep waterfront areas and adjacent lands clean, free from trash, debris, and dog waste to maintain environmental quality and public enjoyment.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

If residents would like to emphasize natural resource protection and a sustainable future, there must be a commitment to public outreach and education. This will garner public support, communicate the importance of Rye’s natural resources and the big issues Rye is facing, and build momentum for this objective that requires the whole community to be achieved. These efforts must be ongoing and creative if they are going to effectively raise awareness about Rye’s natural resources,

best management practices, and environmental assets. Specific efforts may include educating town staff and the community on ways to reduce fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use. Such a campaign should include a broad set of topics that appeal to a variety of residents and inspire action. Outreach may also include ongoing efforts to inform the community of Rye’s Community Power Program, energy efficiency upgrades to consider, and other sustainability issues.

### **COMMUNITY POWER**

To enhance energy resilience and sustainability, Rye 2035 recommends increasing participation in the Community Power Program through ongoing public education and outreach efforts. This should also be used as an opportunity to get existing participants to increase the percent

of renewable energy they are purchasing.

The town should also explore the development of microgrids that could provide a distributed energy opportunity. Such an approach would allow municipal facilities and other essential services to be connected to the utility grid, and then to be disconnected and placed in “island” mode during an emergency.

Expanding access to three-phase power is also identified as a priority to improve infrastructure reliability and future opportunities for renewable energy production in Rye. Together, these initiatives aim to bolster the town’s energy security and adaptability while reducing its carbon emissions.



*Above: Solar panels on the roof of the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH*

## RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A commitment to strategies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in Rye is essential if residents want to reach the stated vision of a resilient and sustainable community. This will include developing additional community solar projects on town-owned land or buildings, reducing regulatory barriers, and the development of larger solar installations that expand access to renewable energy locally.

The adoption of building codes that align with the International Energy Conservation Code has also been recommended to achieve Rye's energy reduction targets. A comprehensive local campaign that supports and incentivizes residents, landowners, and businesses to implement energy efficiency measures, upgrade heating systems, install renewable energy systems, and invest in battery storage, will also help to round out the town's effort to meet its sustainability goals.

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

With a recognition that the transportation sector in New Hampshire is producing 45% of the emissions in the state, Rye is committing to accessible and sustainable transportation options. This will build on the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure initiatives mentioned elsewhere in Rye 2035 and reduce Rye's carbon footprint. It should include efforts to transition Rye's



municipal fleet to electric vehicles, with a focus on the feasibility and benefits of such a shift.

The increase in privately owned electric vehicles also calls for strategically investing in electric vehicle charging stations. This is an opportunity to accommodate the needs of travelers and to support Rye's local economy. The primary benefit of chargers near retail and hospitality locations is attracting customers. It has been documented that this can lead to increased time spent at these locations, and charging infrastructure can generate additional income for the landowner.

## SUSTAINABILITY AS A FRAMEWORK

Sustainability touches all aspects of community life. To truly work toward a sustainable future for Rye, sustainability must be embedded in how the town functions, examines projects, uses its resources, and manages waste. Energy and transportation are the largest energy consumers in the state of New Hampshire, and focusing our initial efforts in these sectors over the next 10+ years will have a great impact on our community.

# Community



“ Affordable housing.  
Affordable child care.  
Recreation facilities for  
all.”

*— Rye resident comment on  
the 2021 Community Survey*

## INTRODUCTION

Rye is a vibrant community that thrives on the connection between its natural beauty, rich heritage, and residents' commitment to maintaining a high quality of life. However, the population is aging and the cost of housing is making it more difficult for younger residents and families to compete for housing in Rye.

A vital and livable community is shaped by several key factors that enhance the daily lives of all residents and foster a strong sense of belonging. Access to quality housing, efficient transportation systems, and essential services such as healthcare, education, and public safety all contribute to a community's overall vitality. Recreation opportunities, such as parks, outdoor spaces, and cultural activities all play a crucial role in promoting physical and mental well-being. They do so while supporting active lifestyles, preserving local heritage, gathering residents together, and reinforcing Rye's community identity. Ultimately, all of this strengthens social connections between residents and pride in the community.

Building a strong, inclusive community in Rye will require thoughtful and ongoing planning that considers the needs of all populations. As the town continues to grow and evolve, equity and inclusion should be at the forefront of decision-making processes. Ensuring that all populations—regardless of age, income, or background—have equal access to resources,



housing, and services fosters a sense of belonging for everyone. When communities plan with a focus on inclusion, they create environments where residents not only meet their basic needs but also thrive, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience for future generations.

Resilience is not just about bouncing back from adversity; it is also about adapting and growing stronger. Communities that prioritize fostering social connections through inclusive events, shared spaces, and collaborative decision-making tend to be more adaptable in the face of change. By fostering a culture of connection and cooperation, Rye will be better equipped to navigate uncertainty, making the town not only more resilient in the short term but also more sustainable and thriving in the long term.

## DIRECTING OUR EFFORTS

Looking ahead, Rye's goals for future planning include:

- ▶ Provide services and access to tools and amenities that create and foster connectivity, engagement, communication, and trust across all age groups.
- ▶ Launch town wide and neighborhood initiatives to bring people together for conversation, discussion of issues and ideas, and sharing of challenges and needs.
- ▶ Ensure equitable access to basic human needs including housing, transportation, recreation, and more.

## INVENTORY AND TRENDS

Rye is home to 5,605 residents as of 2023, reflecting a small increase in population since 2010, when the town had 5,543 individuals. While the growth over this time period is modest, it underscores Rye's desirability as a place to live. Household sizes are also decreasing in Rye, so even a stable population will require additional housing units over time.

Understanding the composition of Rye's population today and the likelihood of changes ahead is essential to planning for future services and infrastructure. There is an estimated need for an additional 476 housing units by 2040, as reported in the 2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment. This further illustrates the importance of accommodating population growth in a sustainable way, and presents an opportunity to plan for the types of units that

are needed most to support current and future residents.

One of the most defining characteristics of Rye's population is its aging demographic. According to the 2020 U.S. Census data, 39% of Rye's residents are over 65 years old, and the town's average age has risen to 55.6 years, compared to 49.1 in 2010. This trend is indicative of an increasing older adult population, which can place unique demands on healthcare, housing, and community services. In contrast, only 17% of the population is under 18 years old, highlighting the need for infrastructure and services that cater to both the aging population and younger families, who are critical to the community's long-term vitality.

Housing is a key aspect of Rye's population dynamics. The town's housing is predominantly owner-occupied, with only 14% of units

**“ It is too expensive for young people or families. There is not enough variety of types of housing in town.”**

*– Rye community member during master plan outreach*

classified as rental properties. The number of rental units has declined by about a third since 2010, while demand for short-term rentals has grown, with 80 short-term rental units identified in 2021. Rye also has a significant number of seasonal housing units, accounting for 21% of the town's housing stock. This seasonal nature of the housing market combined with the regional draw of visitors also influences municipal service demands, and creates unique



challenges for managing Rye’s infrastructure and community services year-round.

Rye’s economic profile indicates it is a generally affluent community, with a median household income of \$137,969 as of 2022 and a per capita income of \$98,421. However, 4.1% of the population still lives below the poverty level, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that future planning efforts consider the needs of all residents, regardless of income level.

**As Rye plans for its future, addressing the decreasing number of rental units, the increasing demand for smaller units and rental units, and providing more affordable housing options will be crucial for maintaining an equitable and diverse community.**

## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

**Although some see Rye as an age-friendly community, there is room for improvement.**

A notable 54% of community members who participated in the Rye 2035 planning process believe Rye is already an age-friendly town. The remaining participants either disagreed or were unsure.

To make Rye more inclusive for all ages, participants consistently called for the creation of a community center and more gathering spaces to foster multi-generational interaction and socialization. Affordable housing for seniors, young

adults, and middle-income residents was also identified as a priority, along with a safer and more accessible transportation network. This would include better walking and biking routes, improved beach access, and expanded transportation options for seniors and disabled individuals, all aimed at enhancing the town’s sense of community and accessibility.

### **Not all community members needs are being met in Rye.**

In the development of Rye 2035, public participation revealed that 50% of respondents felt the needs of all community members are not being fully met. Many emphasized the need for more affordable housing, particularly for lower-income families, seniors on fixed incomes, and younger members of the workforce.

Suggested strategies included requiring a percentage of affordable units in new developments, encouraging the use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and providing tax credits for low-income elderly homeowners. Additionally, respondents highlighted the importance of improving transportation services, such as handicap-accessible vans, shuttle services to neighboring areas, and public transit options.

## RYE 400

To celebrate the 400-year anniversary of Rye’s first European settlement in 1623, as an initiative by the Rye Historical Society, a 501(c) (3), tax-exempt organization, the Rye400 Committee was formed. The Rye400 Committee was formed to provide robust historic educational events to Rye residents to raise awareness of the unique history and heritage of Rye. Some of these events included community celebrations such as Rye Day held in July 2023, while other events included tours of homes and significant landmarks or structures, historic lectures, artist observation, auctions, and many others to promote the sense of community and historic awareness of Rye’s heritage. Permanent Rye400 signs are displayed throughout town.



**There are growing concerns about preserving the semi-rural atmosphere amidst the need for new housing development.**

To address this many residents favor smaller dispersed units that would fit the town's character and scale. If larger residential structures are needed, participants generally agreed that parcels along Route 1 would be more suitable for higher-density housing, particularly for workforce or affordable housing. However, some residents expressed skepticism about allowing any further development, citing concerns over the adequacy of local infrastructure to support additional growth. This perspective will need to be addressed along with the reality of New Hampshire's Workforce Housing Law during implementation.

**Involvement in local governmental affairs is impacted by many factors.**

Another pressing issue in Rye is the increasing difficulty of recruiting volunteers for municipal boards and committees. Despite this challenge, civic groups have emerged outside of municipal government to monitor and inform community actions. This trend raises questions about the relationship between these groups and Rye's local government, and whether there are opportunities to involve them more directly in municipal decision-making. Concerns about a lack of transparency, trust, and effective communication within local government have fueled this shift, with unclear decision-making processes and perceived favoritism further eroding residents' confidence in their leaders. The rise of outside civic groups and the prevalence of

social media discussions have led to an increased division in Rye, with instances of incivility and ideological conflict driving a wedge between residents and deterring engagement in the community's governance.

**FUTURE PRIORITIES**

**A MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY**

To ensure that Rye is a multi-generational community in the future, the town should explore opportunities to expand its recreational infrastructure to meet broad public needs. This expansion may include adding new parks, trails, playgrounds, racquet/basketball courts, playing fields, and a bicycle pump track. Additionally, investigating the feasibility of a dedicated indoor recreation center could address year-

**HISTORIC RYE CENTER**



**Parsons Family Home**  
The Parsons family built this home circa 1787 and by the 1900s three generations of doctors had served the Town from this house. In 1979, the adjoining field and forest totaling 50 acres became protected conservation land thanks to the generous effort of Parsons Park Corporation.

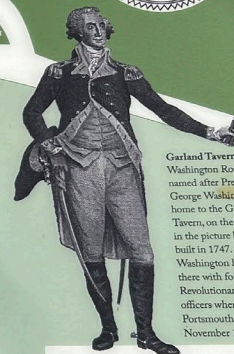
**Rye Congregational Church**  
Rye Congregational Church is the fourth church to sit on this sacred ground. Rye's first church was built in 1726. The second church served Rye from 1756 to 1837 followed by the third church, also known as the Congregational Church, pictured right circa 1900, which burned on March 19, 1959. The current church opened in 1961.



**View Toward Rye Center circa 1891**  
Looking up Central Road towards Rye Center, the central steeple would appear on the right in 1893. In the mid-1800's this would be a view of these churches. In 1873 the town bought the Methodist Episcopal church on Central Road and converted it to a Town Hall.



**CENTRAL ROAD**  
War Monument



**Garland Tavern**  
Washington Road, named after President George Washington, was home to the Garland Tavern, on the right in the picture below, built in 1747. President Washington had drinks there with former Revolutionary War officers when he visited Portsmouth on or about November 1, 1789.



**WASHINGTON ROAD**

**WALLIS ROAD**

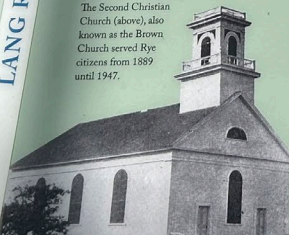


**Wedgewood School**  
On the current field that is adjacent to Rye Junior High built in 1934 sat the Center or Wedgewood School. It burned to the ground on February 14, 1932. A neighbor reported ashes from burning school books flying down on her house to the delight of the students.

**LANG ROAD**



**The First and Second Christian Church**  
The Public Safety Building is located where two former churches sat. The First Christian Church existed from 1839 to 1888. The Second Christian Church (above), also known as the Brown Church served Rye citizens from 1889 until 1947.



**OLD PARISH ROAD**



**Rye Public Library**  
The Rye Public Library was built in 1911 with a bequest from Mary Tuck Rand. The first addition was added circa 1968 and the second in 1998.



**Town of Rye Museum**  
Originally built by Mildred Wilson as an antique shop on an adjacent lot, this building has housed the Town of Rye Museum, managed by the Rye Historical Society, since 2002.



round recreational needs for all ages. There is also potential to add new trails on existing or conserved lands, enhancing trail connectivity throughout the community. Evaluating elder services in Rye and the surrounding region is also an essential step to ensure they adequately serve the town's aging population.

Efforts to highlight Rye's history and culture through public art and interpretive signage at key locations can draw the community together, reinforce its identity, and foster a deeper sense of community. Providing educational resources to the public on the relationship between Rye's history, heritage, recreation, conservation, and community pride can also further strengthen community identity and engagement. The housing, transportation, and infrastructure related actions needed to ensure Rye is a multi-generational community have been addressed in other themes, and are identified in the Implementation Section of Rye 2035.

## **PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE**

Heritage refers to the collective history visible in the community, ranging from Rye's development pattern, to farms, to scenic resources and vistas, to historic buildings. Rye's

heritage is important in maintaining the town's natural beauty and preserving what makes Rye special. Continued preservation and maintenance of Rye's historic resources should be a priority as future land use is guided in town.

## **PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Building personal connections between residents creates greater social capital. This is an ongoing need that is vital to fostering a strong sense of community in Rye. Supporting existing annual community events and identifying opportunities for new ones can pull people together and strengthen these connections. The town can utilize existing spaces, such as parks, school gyms, and the library to continue offering community-building and recreation programs.

Additionally, creating new public outdoor gathering spaces, as opportunities arise, will allow for flexible programming, events, and informal gatherings that further strengthen the town's social fabric. This is a critical need in Rye to improve communications and trust among residents, and contributes to the quality of life for all residents regardless of age.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD HERITAGE DISTRICTS**

Rye's residents have expressed a strong preference for maintaining semi-rural character. The presence of historic homes, barns, outbuildings, fields, forests, farm land, stonewalls, and gardens add to the charm and unique character of Rye. Maintaining these structures and land resources is seen as essential to preserving the Town's identity, and concern exists about their protection. Rye's preservation efforts are guided by its Historic District Commission, Heritage Commission, and are evident in the Rye Historic District in the town center. The community may also wish to explore a neighborhood heritage district or heritage area district.

A heritage district can be a handful of buildings, a larger neighborhood, or buildings linked by a common natural feature such as rural setting. The heritage district is subject to zoning, under a more flexible, less restrictive framework than a historic district. Goals may include protecting rural character, encouraging compatible alterations and additions, encouraging both traditional design and contemporary design that enhances the heritage district, and others. The Town of Stratham has a heritage district like this.

To create this district, the neighborhood with support from the historic and/or heritage commission presents the planning board/staff with a district proposal which outlines the need, purpose, and how it is connected to the objectives in the Master Plan. A preliminary plan to establish standards under which the district is administered, and draft ordinance are prepared by neighborhood representatives and reviewed by the planning board for the warrant article at town meeting. Once the ordinance is passed, the Planning Board creates a Neighborhood Advisory Committee and neighborhood representatives sit on the advisory review board.

## **RYE'S RECREATION ROAD MASTER SITE PLAN**

The 55 Recreation Road facility hosts the Town's recreation offerings and is the location of heavily used athletic fields and recreation assets. With significant use, demand for more recreation space, and the need for overall facility improvement, the Rye Recreation Commission initiated the update of its facility master plan.

The 2023 Rye Recreation Road Master Plan analyzes Rye's existing Recreation Area, presents a conceptual plan, and provides next step options to work towards implementation. After meetings with Town staff and Committees, and conducting a public online survey, the conceptual design plan is based on the list of desires determined by the Rye Recreation Commission. These include a new Rye Recreation Department office and meeting space, new recreation facilities, the addition of vehicle parking, expansion of trails, new public restroom facilities and others.

Municipalities use varied methods to raise funds for public projects such as the improvement of recreation facilities. In Rye the plan is to incorporate the needed investments into the capital improvement plan over a six-year period.

### **RECREATION**

The Town of Rye will focus on the implementation of the Recreation Master Plan, identifying and prioritizing recreational facilities that need improvements to address safety, access, and maintenance concerns. To support this effort, the town will need to estimate the related costs and develop a six-year schedule that can be integrated into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Expanding the capacity and funding for park and recreation field maintenance will also be crucial to meeting public demand. Additionally, enhancing existing facilities by adding amenities like a picnic pavilion, trash cans, bike racks, dog waste bags, free-standing accessible restrooms, and water fountains will improve the user experience and ensure these facilities appeal to a broad range of residents. The town should also collaborate with the state to make improvements to Wallis Sands Beach, focusing on universally accessible restroom facilities, trash receptacles, and improved year-round access.

Further efforts should be directed toward enhancements at Goss Farm and Parson's Field to ensure they become better-utilized community gathering spaces. The town should also explore opportunities to expand recreation infrastructure by adding new parks, trails, playgrounds, athletic courts and fields, and possibly a bicycle pump track over time. The desire for a dedicated indoor recreation center could also provide new year-round options

and is worthy of additional investigation. Additionally, the town should seek opportunities to add new trails on existing or conserved lands and improve trail connectivity throughout the community.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

Being an equitable and inclusive community requires attention to accessibility related issues. In Rye this should include improving the universal accessibility of all public facilities, as well as the transportation network, parks, and public spaces to ensure inclusivity for all residents. To encourage the use of the town's parks, open spaces, and recreation resources, Rye can promote these assets to residents by creating a public mapping layer of open spaces, trails, parks, and playgrounds on the town's website.

Additionally, the town should maintain maps of all parks and recreation resources, distribute them at key locations, such as the town office and library, promote maps online, improve signage and trail markings, and partner with local organizations to identify further strategies for outreach. Future collaborations between the Recreation Department and Rye Senior SERVE could lead to day trips and outings for older adults, while maintaining strong partnerships with entities like the Rye School District, Public Library, and other community organizations.

# Implementation





## IMPLEMENTING RYE 2035

To achieve the Vision and Future Land Use Strategy outlined in Rye 2035, our community will need to come together to support and take action collaboratively. Whether you are a voter, a business owner, a parent, serve on a board or committee, or participate in a partnering local or regional organization, there is a role for you in this effort. A set of implementation actions were created, with input from the Master Plan Steering Committee, to provide a clear roadmap for implementing Rye 2035. These actions, as of the 2024 adoption date of this Plan, are outlined on the following pages and are subject to change, review, and revisions as time progresses. Actions are organized by each of the Rye 2035 themes. There is also a set of general actions that are more administrative and relate to general implementation. Each action includes categories like:

- ▶ Responsible Parties
- ▶ Timeframe of Action
- ▶ Status of Action

To coordinate and oversee the varied actions, it is recommended that the Town establish a Master Plan Implementation Committee. This group should meet, at a minimum, 4 times throughout the calendar year. During the first year, it is suggested that this committee meet monthly to build momentum. This committee, which may be composed of Board/Committee Chairs, residents, department heads, or their designees, will prioritize and coordinate the completion of implementation actions outlined in Rye 2035 to ensure implementation action items are being worked on by the appropriate parties. A Committee like this would serve a supportive role and work with the various parties charged with implementing actions outlined in the Plan. A Master Plan Implementation Committee also monitors and reports on the progress toward the vision and future land use strategy in the Master Plan.

Responsibilities of this Committee could include.

- ▶ Tracking the implementation of the Town's Master Plan through 2035.

- ▶ Developing the administrative procedures and responsibilities of the committee.
- ▶ Working with staff and the Planning Board to prioritize action items to work on annually.
- ▶ Assisting with implementation by liaising with responsible parties to ensure commitments to implementing the plan are being met alongside their annual strategic and work plan activities.
- ▶ Identifying both successful strategies and barriers to progress and communicating them to the public.
- ▶ Providing regular progress updates to the Planning Board and Select Board, and annual updates to the public.
- ▶ Maintaining an updated live Action Plan spreadsheet to track implementation progress in a way that provides a high level of public transparency.
- ▶ Learning about related initiatives being coordinated by neighboring communities, state agencies, and federal partners and investigate collaboration opportunities.

## WHAT ARE THE “BIG ACTIONS” LOOKING AHEAD?

*The six highest priority actions Rye will work on over the next 10+ years include:*

- ▶ **Amend Rye’s land use regulations over time** so that they achieve the Master Plan Vision and Future Land Use Strategy, and build off the 2024 Land Use Regulation Audit.
- ▶ **Increase Rye’s resilience to climate change and coastal hazards** through flood protection, infrastructure planning, enhanced emergency services, regulatory amendments, open space protection, and other efforts.
- ▶ **Coordinate a strategic land conservation initiative** that protects Rye’s natural resources (especially important wildlife habitat, water resources, and coastal areas), promotes connectivity, and provides outdoor recreation opportunities where appropriate.
- ▶ **Invest in people-centered transportation improvements** in Rye including enhanced pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, safety upgrades, and improved connections, including to the NH Seacoast Greenway and other important destinations.
- ▶ **Diversify the housing types available to Rye residents** to better provide for a range of housing needs, and ensure a vibrant and multi-generational community through regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives.
- ▶ **Assess Rye’s municipal governmental structure and make improvements** to enhance coordination between departments, monitor staffing needs, increase citizen participation, improve town services, and increase volunteerism in town.



## ACTION MATRIX

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
<b>1. GENERAL ACTIONS</b>				
1.1	Coordinate an annual end-of-year joint meeting of all boards, committees, and local officials in Rye that are active partners in the implementation of the Master Plan to evaluate progress from the past year and plan for the upcoming year. This would include the Planning Board, Select Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board, Town Departments, and other select groups.			
1.2	Regularly report on the progress of the 2035 Master Plan to the public through media channels, the town's email lists, a newsletter, and through the town's website.			
1.3	Provide a progress report on the Master Plan annually at Town Meeting and in the Town Report.			
1.4	Ensure the Town's Planning Department serves the role of "tracker" to document progress and the completion of specific action items in a master implementation table that includes detailed information including responsible party, potential partners, and level of priority. This will ensure consistency and accountability over the coming years.			
1.5	Annually review the goals identified in the Master Plan related to housing and other issues and amend them when necessary due to changes in conditions, information, or legal requirements. This should be done in manner that is coordinated with the Rye Beach Village District's efforts, when possible, given the unique planning and zoning relationship between the Town and Village District and compliance with RSA 674: 59.			
1.6	Consult with neighboring communities early in the implementation process about Rye's Master Plan and learn about their long-range planning efforts to determine opportunities and impacts.			
<b>2. LAND AND DEVELOPMENT</b>				
<b>Economy and Future Development</b>				
2.1	Create a Planning and Design Workshop Series for the Route 1 Corridor to create a vision for this area of town that is compatible with the Future Land Use Strategy. This will inform the drafting of land use regulations and infrastructure investments that will support the desired vision for this area of town. The resulting zoning should promote mixed use development, including housing and commercial activity, as outlined in Rye's Future Land Use Strategy.			
2.2	Work with the public to identify potential parcels in the Town Center suitable for small businesses, like a coffee shop, and ensure these areas are zoned to support and foster this type of development. Update land use regulations in this area to accommodate desired uses.			
2.3	Consider establishing a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) to fund future investments along the Route 1 corridor.			
2.4	Consider establishing an impact fee ordinance per NHRSA §674:16.V to help meet the needs occasioned by certain development activities.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
2.5	Support existing businesses and the economy as well as promote and encourage new businesses and economic opportunities along the coast and beach areas, as part of the scenic coastal future land use strategy.			
2.6	Continue to improve the streetscape environment in the Town Center and the commercial areas of Rye's coastline by:			
2.7	Creating new and maintaining existing landscaped areas			
2.8	Maintaining and expanding pedestrian-scale walkways and lighting as needed,			
2.9	Incorporating wayfinding signage as needed, and			
2.10	Ensuring land use regulations support the creation of a pedestrian-oriented and vibrant streetscape.			
<b>Water and Sewer</b>				
2.11	Conduct studies of the existing water and sewer infrastructure capacity and service areas and the potential for new areas to be serviced. The findings from these efforts should be used to inform the location and density of future development within Rye.			
<b>Housing Solutions</b>				
2.12	Review the findings of the 2024 Rye Land Use Regulation Audit and pursue possible land use regulation modifications that increase housing opportunities. Engage the public in this process and consider the pros and cons, level of effort required, identify support (or lack thereof) for such changes, and anticipate the level of impact of these regulation changes would have on housing.			
2.13	Identify development regulation amendments that will help Rye meet its housing needs as identified in the 2023 Rye Housing Needs Assessment while maintaining the characteristics of the community expressed in the Master Plan. These could include:			
2.14	Promote accessory dwelling unit construction to homeowners as a viable option for earning supplementary income and contributing to Rye's housing solutions. This could include creating design guidance and educational materials on ADU construction, allowing detached ADUs by right, and reviewing the town's ADU regulations on a regular basis to identify ways to make improvements to the ordinance.			
2.15	Review the conservation land development ordinance and identify ways to reduce barriers and encourage this type of subdivision in town.			
2.16	Consider allowing duplexes by-right strategically in certain areas of town, following the Future Land Use Strategy.			
2.17	Investigate zoning changes to allow for higher density housing along the Route 1 corridor.			
2.18	Consider the establishment of an inclusionary zoning provision to promote the development of affordable housing units which could include, but is not limited to, density bonuses, growth control exemptions, and a streamlined application process.			
2.19	Assess the potential for a short-term rental ordinance and tracking mechanism to better regulate short term rentals in the community.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
2.20	Conduct additional public outreach on housing related land use regulation changes, particularly those regulation modifications that could be made to help Rye address the housing needs of residents and help the town to follow state housing laws.			
<b>Multi-Modal Transportation Solutions</b>				
2.21	Develop and adopt a town-wide Complete Streets Policy to ensure all new roadways are designed to accommodate all modes of transportation. This will ensure bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation improvements, along with vehicular traffic improvements, are considered during roadway maintenance and planning projects to the greatest extent possible.			
2.22	Review the 2009 Safe Routes to School Plan and determine how it can inform future pedestrian infrastructure improvements in the town center, especially when looking at connectivity between the town center, junior high, and the elementary school.			
2.23	Expand pedestrian infrastructure, including sidewalks and multi-use paths, where appropriate and enhance pedestrian connectivity throughout town. Priority areas should be roads that connect active areas of town, like the coast or the town center; specific destinations, like the schools or recreation facilities; and neighborhoods where people live. At a minimum, this should include portions of Washington Road, Route 1A, Sagamore Road, and Wallis Road. Explore grant opportunities through NH Department of Transportation to help fund these projects.			
2.24	Expand bicycle infrastructure, including bicycle lanes and off-road paths, where appropriate and enhance connectivity throughout town. Priority areas should be roads that connect active areas of town, like the coast or the town center, and specific destinations, like the schools or recreation facilities; and neighborhoods where people live. Utilize NHDOT's recommended bike routes map to identify opportunities for bike infrastructure expansion.			
2.25	Investigate ways to connect potential bicycle traffic from the NH Seacoast Greenway by creating bike-friendly roadways that connect to key locations in Rye including the coastline.			
2.26	Coordinate with pertinent DOT projects, including Rye's RPC TAC representative. For ex, nascent planning is in the news for bicycle and pedestrian lanes on Rt. 1 Portsmouth from Ocean Road north to Wilson Road (Ocean is an east west road which is proximate to Rye's Lang Road). An overall plan may benefit the experience of multi-unit residential, commercial and mxd-use along Rt. 1.			
2.27	Improve beach accessibility. This includes identifying areas where pedestrian safety can be improved, including adding sidewalks, bike lanes, traffic calming, crossing devices, and improving parking regulations to alleviate congestion.			
2.28	Evaluate roads for sufficient emergency access and make improvements to those that are insufficient.			
2.29	Investigate the feasibility of expanding Rye's Senior Serve public transportation service.			



#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
<b>3. CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE</b>				
<i>The action items listed below are meant to be complementary and add to those thoroughly provided in previous reports such as the Rye Natural Resource Inventory, Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan, Rye Vulnerability Assessment, and others.</i>				
<b>Building Code, Zoning, and Regulatory Changes</b>				
2.30	Continue to allocate additional annual funding for regular road pavement projects. Repaving roads also provides an opportunity to create additional pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Investigate paving remaining unpaved roads, as appropriate.			
3.1	Continue to minimize development in areas likely to be inundated by sea level rise and storm surges through regulatory amendments and best practices. Consider the following:			
3.2	Review land use regulations and identify potential amendments based on the 2019 and future iterations of the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance.			
3.3	Implement zoning changes to prevent new construction in vulnerable areas of the coast.			
3.4	Adapt building codes to ensure new developments are designed to account for flooding, sea level rise, and increased storm intensity.			
3.5	Increase building setbacks in shoreland zones.			
3.6	Encourage the protection of riparian buffers and maintain floodplains in their natural state through updated zoning.			
3.7	Review Rye's wetland conservation ordinance to ensure it meets or exceeds best practices set out by the NH Department of Environmental Services for buffers, setbacks, etc.			
3.8	Prioritize water-dependent uses in flood risk areas. Examples include marinas, fishing and aquaculture operations, and recreational water uses.			
3.9	Evaluate existing vegetative buffer requirements and setbacks from tidal wetlands, freshwater wetlands, and surface waters and identify improvements to strengthen these to better address the impacts of climate change.			
3.10	Consider establishing a Coastal Hazard Overlay District with boundaries encompassing projected future flood hazard zones presented in the New Hampshire Coastal Viewer platform. The Coastal Hazard Overlay District should have higher regulatory standards to protect against flood impacts from sea-level rise and coastal storm surge. The Town of Durham recently adopted a Coastal Hazard Overlay District which applies higher standards for building freeboard height and other provisions to lessen vulnerability of new buildings and facilities to flooding due to sea level rise.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
<b>Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Upgrades</b>				
3.11	Consider establishing a marsh migration overlay zone to prohibit new development in areas of predicted marsh migration under specific scenarios and timeframes. Maintain ecosystem services (e.g. flood storage, storm surge attenuation) and allow for inland migration of tidal marsh systems and conversion of fresh freshwater systems to tidal systems to accommodate projected changes in sea-levels. Utilize the 2024 NH Salt Marsh Plan as a resource.			
3.12	Update property assessment practices to account for the impacts of sea level rise on future property values.			
3.13	Identify and conduct a vulnerability assessment of coastal infrastructure (such as roadways, culverts, hard structures, etc.). Engage other partners and landowners in these efforts as needed.			
3.14	Based on the assessment results, implement infrastructure improvements and coastal protection measures to minimize the impacts from flooding and erosion. This includes maintenance of existing infrastructure, and new measures that may include bank protection, berm construction, elevating the site on fill, constructing floodwalls, and upgrading drainage systems. Living shorelines should be utilized as much as possible to minimize the negative impacts of protection measures on local habitats, reduce “reflectance” of wave energy on adjacent sites, increase the lifespan and decrease management requirements for the protection measure, and provide environmental benefits.			
3.15	Conduct a comprehensive coastal overlay district study of flooding projections and impacts on the coastal neighborhoods in Rye and identify a plan of action for increasing resilience in this area of town. Aside from rebuilding seawalls, this may include drain repair, replacing collapsed pipes, and ongoing maintenance efforts by the town and state. As part of this study, assess the level and adequacy of emergency services, which are of great risk to flooding, and identify ways to improve and budget these services.			
3.16	Determine sources of funding for infrastructure projects and implementation efforts. The American Flood Coalition developed a document on Federal Funding Opportunities for Flood Resilience – A Guide for Small Cities.			
3.17	Consider establishing a stormwater utility and fee to fund stormwater related coastal and groundwater resilience projects.			
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>				
3.18	Continue to support and implement the action plan identified in Rye’s 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This should include: Updating this document regularly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring written evacuation plans and procedures are prepared for Rye’s at-risk areas.</li> <li>Ensuring evacuation routes are well-publicized and understood by the public and that they are marked with signage.</li> <li>Communicating evacuation routes to the public on the Town’s website.</li> <li>Coordinating evacuation plans with other towns in the coastal region, as well as with the State.</li> </ul>			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
3.19	Improve emergency management, coordination, and delivery mechanisms to ensure continuity of services to essential facilities, people, businesses, and employment centers.			
3.20	Consider allocating emergency funds for natural disaster cleanup and repair.			
3.21	Enhance communication systems for residents during storm events, including text alerts, etc.			
3.22	Maintain emergency access to critical facilities and essential services including schools, emergency response buildings, and municipal infrastructure. Maintain emergency routes with expanded road shoulders should Route 1A become inundated from a weather event or natural hazard.			
3.23	Coordinate with neighboring towns and state agencies to coordinate emergency management services and planning.			
<b>Public Outreach and Education</b>				
3.24	Prioritize public outreach efforts to engage and inform community members of flood hazards, vulnerabilities, and opportunities to increase resiliency. This also provides an opportunity to solicit input from residents. Education should include what to do when a flood occurs or is forecasted, and other important information.			
3.25	Provide information to property owners about constructing living shorelines and the importance of retaining the functions of natural shorelines. This should include ways to implement landscaping best practices.			
3.26	Educate property owners on steps they can take to reduce the impact of hazards on their properties. Encourage private property owners to incorporate the best available climate science and vulnerability assessments in their decision making and preparedness plans.			
<b>Salt Marsh and Coastal Open Space Protection and Restoration</b>				
3.27	Participate in regional or state-wide groundwater rise and saltwater intrusion studies.			
3.28	Conduct a study of Rye's drinking water resources to better understand potential threats, impacts, and solutions.			
3.29	Assess lands where the protection of tidal and freshwater wetlands would provide tangible benefits to protect against flooding, or where conservation of open space will reduce flooding and promote the inland migration of species and habitats such as tidal marshes. Then, prioritize properties that can be permanently preserved as a mitigation strategy to reduce impacts from development in high-risk coastal areas and from rising sea levels. This should include prioritizing land conservation initiatives and marsh restoration in areas of projected marsh migration. This effort should be built into the Strategic Conservation Plan action referenced under the Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability section.			
3.30	Assure uninhibited saltmarsh tidal flow by regularly inspecting and cleaning out culverts and bridges of debris. Consider replacing culverts that are undersized, perched, or misaligned.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
3.31	Utilize the New Hampshire Salt Marsh Plan to guide town action and priorities for marsh restoration, conservation of adjacent lands to tidal and freshwater wetlands, improving marsh condition, reducing vulnerability, or facilitating migration.			
<b>Coordinated Beach Stewardship and Access</b>				
3.32	Work with partners to make beach improvements that enhance resiliency and address erosion, cleanliness, and runoff from parking areas and other impervious surfaces.			
3.33	Continue to improve the accessibility of Rye's beaches and coastal areas for residents and visitors.			
<b>4. MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATION</b>				
<b>Municipal Processes</b>				
4.1	Review the town's permitting and administrative procedures as they pertain to the land use code. Identify ways to streamline the processes, make applications easy to find and navigate, digitize forms, and ensure the materials and process are easy to follow by applicants.			
4.2	Evaluate ways to improve the enforcement of Rye's land use regulations. This includes improving the tracking systems used (including conditions of approval, variances, special exceptions, etc.), analyzing staff roles, and identifying where capacity needs to be increased or shifted.			
4.3	Explore alternative governance structures such as expanding the Select Board or reevaluating the current roles and functions within the town administration. This may include investigating the potential to create a town manager position which may require requests for more information, cost-benefit analysis, and clarity on specific duties and responsibilities of such a position.			
4.4	Prioritize transparency, and broader representation within local government to ensure diverse perspectives are represented and that barriers to participation are reduced.			
4.5	Develop strategies and an overarching approach to enhance municipal communication to residents and other community members regarding town projects, initiatives, permitting regulations, and events. This should include examining the use and effectiveness of the town website, newsletter, media channels, and other forms of communication.			
<b>Municipal Facilities Assessment</b>				
4.6	Commission a town-wide municipal facilities assessment. This should include an action plan, a timeline to guide budgeting and clear details that will inform the updating or replacement of Rye's municipal facilities. This should include:			
4.7	Modernization, upgrades, renovations, or replacement of existing municipal buildings.			
4.8	Renovation, restoration, and improvement of the Town Hall building including additional features that support community use and the restoration of its historic character.			
4.9	Improvements to Rye's Transfer Station including improved traffic flow, expanded recycling options, and better handling and disposal of hazardous waste.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
4.10	Expansion of the library, including enhancements to its facilities and increasing community programming.			
4.11	Upgrading the Recreation Department buildings and recreation facilities based on findings from the Recreation Master Plan.			
4.12	Proper maintenance of the athletic fields.			
4.13	Integration of the energy audits completed for all of Rye's municipal buildings to guide future energy efficiency retrofits.			
<b>Planning and Tracking</b>				
4.14	Develop an asset management program for tracking the maintenance of all town-owned facilities and infrastructure, and to inform Rye's Capital Improvement Planning.			
4.15	Improve the capital improvement planning process by forecasting capital improvement needs further into the future beyond the current standard of six years. This will ensure there is enough time to properly plan for funding and communicate projects clearly to residents.			
4.16	Manage public infrastructure to keep pace with current and future capacity demands and resilience in conjunction with the state agencies.			
<b>5. ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>				
<b>Community Power</b>				
5.1	Increase participation in Rye's Community Power Program through public education and outreach.			
5.2	Consider developing microgrids to minimize disruptions to service and decentralize electricity.			
5.3	Continue to expand access to three phase power in Rye.			
5.4	Investigate community fuel programs for oil and gas usage.			
<b>Renewable Energy Development and Energy Efficiency</b>				
5.5	Consider developing community solar projects on town-owned land.			
5.6	Reduce regulatory restrictions for larger solar projects.			
5.7	Upgrade building codes to meet the energy reduction requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code.			
5.8	Support and incentivize the efforts of residents, landowners, and businesses to complete energy efficiency measures, upgrade heating systems, install renewable energy systems, and invest in battery storage systems.			
<b>Sustainable Transportation</b>				
5.9	Research and investigate the feasibility of transitioning Rye's municipal fleet to electric vehicles.			
5.10	Strategically invest in electric vehicle charging stations on select town-owned sites.			
5.11	Promote electric vehicle charging stations on private land and remove any related regulatory barriers that may exist.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
<b>Strategic Land Conservation</b>				
5.12	Continue to support and implement the recommendations from the 2021 Natural Resource Inventory. This should include documenting key natural resource features and updating the natural resource inventory on a regular basis, such as every 5 years. Ensure the NRI informs future regulatory updates.			
5.13	Create a Strategic Conservation Plan for Rye that identifies and prioritizes the remaining undeveloped lands for acquisition/conservation, preserves the character of the rural areas of town, increases Rye’s coastal resilience, protects water quality and quantity, and creates wildlife corridors and ecological connections. Identify key parcels of concern and critical importance, as part of this planning process. Prioritize the conservation and regulatory protection of lands over or near public water supply aquifers, priority habitat blocks, wellhead protection areas, coastline, and marshes for viewing and recreation and public use where appropriate. Review species and habitat information per NH Department of Forest and Conservation and NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to inform environmental, mitigation, and conservation planning.			
5.14	Continue to pursue conservation opportunities through partnerships with local land protection organizations and local landowners to acquire and conserve important open space in Rye. This is especially important for land near the drinking water aquifers, priority habitat areas, the coastline, and in the semi-rural areas of town. Balance other community needs, such as housing, with the prioritizing of these future conservation efforts.			
5.15	Devise a funding strategy for future conservation that includes more than taxpayer money. This could include grants, use fees, and other sources that increase available funding for land conservation. As part of this, investigate the feasibility of developing a conservation fund to help supply funding for future land acquisition and conservation projects.			
<b>Surface and Subsurface Water Quality and Quantity Protection</b>				
5.16	Prioritize wetland restoration in areas identified in the Natural Resource Inventory for stormwater mitigation.			
5.17	Continue to engage landowners and foster stormwater best management practices through MS4 permit requirements.			
5.18	Continue investing in long term water quality monitoring and investigatory sampling of Rye’s water bodies.			
5.19	Protect headwater streams, particularly Berry’s Brook where the impacts of pollution on the brook’s water quality restrict fishing currently; and Bailey Brook, which is home to important groundwater resources including one gravel well, two bedrock wells, and other potential wells currently under investigation.			
5.20	Conduct a vernal pool survey for the town to inform future wetland protection efforts.			
5.21	Require or incentivize green infrastructure, low impact design, nature-based solutions, and stormwater infiltration best practices in future development projects through Rye’s land use regulations.			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
5.22	Develop an inventory of properties along shorelines that have old septic systems that need to be upgraded. Provide educational materials to those homeowners to inform them of potential funding options for system replacement. This could include encouraging septic system testing.			
<b>Stewardship of Open Space Resources</b>				
5.23	Maintain existing and implement stewardship plans for major public open space parcels to address any needed resource enhancement and improvements to public access. Create stewardship plans for those open space areas without one. Devise a funding strategy for stewardship costs.			
5.24	Combat the spread of invasive species, as identified by the Conservation Commission website.			
5.25	Plant native trees and plants to support pollinators and other wildlife and improve current land management practices on municipally owned lands to reflect best sustainable management practices and nature-based solutions. Encourage public and private landowner to do the same.			
<b>Public Education and Outreach</b>				
5.26	Conduct public education to increase awareness and understanding of Rye’s natural resources, best management practices, and other environmental assets. This could include:			
5.27	Educating town staff and the broader community on reducing or eliminating fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use on town property and residential lawns; and alternative pest management mechanisms that do not harm water quality.			
5.28	Educating the broader community on Rye’s Community Power Program, energy efficiency upgrade programs for homeowners, and sustainability issues.			
5.29	Educating the broader community on the importance of recycling and composting and how they can engage in these practices in town.			
<b>6. COMMUNITY</b>				
<b>Community Events and Programming</b>				
6.1	Support existing annual community events in town and identify opportunities for new community events.			
6.2	Utilize existing community spaces as Rye continues to provide community building and recreation programming, including the school gyms and library.			
6.3	Create new public outdoor gathering spaces, as opportunities arise, that provide opportunities for flexible programming, events, and informal gathering in Rye.			
<b>Recreation Improvements</b>				
6.4	Implement the Town’s newly developed Recreation Road Master Site Plan Update.			
6.5	Identify and prioritize existing recreational facilities in need of improvement to better address safety, access, and general maintenance issues. Estimate the related costs and develop a six-year schedule that can be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).			

#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
6.6	Explore ways to expand capacity and funding for parks and recreation field maintenance and improvements to best meet the needs of the public.			
6.7	Add amenities to existing recreation facilities (parks, trailheads, and athletic fields) as appropriate including benches, trash cans, bike racks, dog waste bags, restrooms, and water fountains.			
6.8	Work with the state to make improvements to Wallis Sands Beach including the addition of accessible restroom facilities, trash receptacles, and better year-round access.			
6.9	Make improvements to Goss Farm including more defined parking and trails.			
6.10	Make improvements to Parson's Field to ensure it is better utilized as a community gathering space.			
<b>Expand Recreation Infrastructure Town-Wide</b>				
6.11	Explore opportunities to expand recreation infrastructure in town to meet public needs, including accessibility. This may include parks, trails, playgrounds, additional outdoor athletic courts and fields, a bicycle pump track, etc.			
6.12	Investigate the feasibility and need for a dedicated indoor recreation center for the Town of Rye.			
6.13	Investigate opportunities to add new trails on existing or new conserved lands and increase trail connectivity throughout the community. Enhance accessibility to trail systems where possible.			
<b>Recreation Promotion and Outreach</b>				
6.14	Publicize Rye's parks, open spaces, and recreation resources to residents and other community members and encourage their use by:			
6.15	Creating a public GIS layer of open spaces, trails, parks and playgrounds in Rye.			
6.16	Maintaining maps for all parks, forests, and recreation resources and distribute at the town office, library, and elsewhere.			
6.17	Improving signage and trail markings, as necessary,			
6.18	Partnering with local organizations to identify other strategies for publicizing these resources to the public.			
<b>Partnerships and Collaboration</b>				
6.19	Encourage collaboration between the Recreation Department and Rye Senior SERVE to coordinate a broad range of day trips and outings for older adults.			
6.20	Maintain strong partnerships with organizations and entities like the Rye School District, Public Library, Rye Garden Club, Rye Historical Society, and others.			
6.21	Evaluate and improve, where needed, the ADA accessibility of Rye's public facilities, transportation network, parks, and public spaces.			



#	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Status
<b>Heritage and Culture</b>				
6.22	Seek ways to highlight Rye’s history and culture through public art and interpretive signage at key locations across Rye’s built environments and natural landscapes.			
<b>Accessibility</b>				
6.23	Provide educational resources to the public on the relationship between Rye’s history and heritage, recreation, conservation, community pride, and more.			
6.24	Consider implementing and promoting the state barn preservation incentive program to protect historic barns in town.			
<b>An Aging Population</b>				
6.25	Evaluate elder services in Rye and the surrounding region and determine if services are adequate for the town’s aging population.			

DRAFT



Town of Rye

# Existing Conditions Analysis

for the 2024 Master Plan Update



January 29, 2024

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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Existing Conditions Report is to provide a baseline understanding of Rye as a community in 2023. Analyzing the existing conditions of Rye today represents the first phase of the Master Plan writing process. This report will be used to guide and inform the planning team, and to engage the Master Plan Steering Committee and the public in conversations about planning for the future. It will be the main source of information used to inform community discussions and the basis for materials created to engage the public.

*The intent is for this information to educate community members so that they can help the Town of Rye identify a clear vision to work toward, and the many actions that must be taken as a community during the next decade to achieve that vision.*

Each section of this Existing Conditions Report begins with a short profile that explains the significance of the topic and key findings that should be pursued further to inform this planning process. Following each profile is a longer inventory that includes more data, details, and analysis related to the topic. In each of these sections, information is presented that explains how Rye is changing, and what emerging issues, challenges, and opportunities the town may wish to address in the Master Plan.

*These inventories are intended to provide a more detailed explanation of the background sources used, data collected, additional context related to the issues identified, and, in some cases, questions and potential actions that should be explored later on in the planning process.*



# POPULATION AND HOUSING

Rye, NH's seaside location and proximity to more urban amenities, while itself remaining largely semi-rural, has retained residents and attracted newcomers for decades. These circumstances have caused the population of the town to grow steadily from 4,083 residents in 1970 to 5,543 residents in 2020. This trend is consistent with the growth experienced in the region, which saw population growth of 11.7% between 2000 and 2020. Projected growth within the region from 2020 to 2040 is anticipated to be 11.5%.

Rye is experiencing housing challenges that are like those of many coastal New Hampshire communities: lack of available housing, lack of affordable housing for young families and an aging population, cost and availability of infrastructure, and increased demand for secondary homes and short-term rentals. ***Rye will need to consider how to meet housing needs while maintaining the character and beauty of the coastal community.***



## FACTS AND FIGURES



**5,543** individuals live in Rye, based on the 2020 US Census data. Rye has seen an increase in 245 people since 2010. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the population is over 65 years old and 17% of the population is under 18 years old.



**55.6** years old is the average age in Rye, based on the 2020 US Census data. In 2010, the average age of residents was 49.1 years old.



**4.1%** of Rye's population live below the poverty level, based on the 2020 US Census data. The overall poverty rate in Rye is consistent with regional trends.



**2.44** individuals live in Rye per household, based on the 2020 US Census data. The average household size in Rye has decreased over the past 10 years.



**2,906** housing units exist in Rye based on the 2020 US Census data. A total of 170 more units have been added since 2010. Rye is projected to need 476 more housing units by 2040 as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission 2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment.



**\$108,000** is the median household income, based on the 2020 US Census data.

# KEY FINDINGS

- Between 2010 and 2020, Rye's **housing stock** increased by about six percent (6%) by gaining 170 new housing units (single-family homes, condos, apartments, and multi-family) for a total of 2,906 units in 2020. During the same period, Rye's population increase by about four percent (4%) with a current total of 5,543 individuals. A notable shift in Rye is the **aging of the population** to an average age of 55.6 years old in 2020 and 39% of the population being over 65 years old (Rye has the second oldest population in the region). In 2010, the average age was 49.1 years old. In contrast, the population under 18 in Rye is 16.5 percent. This overall trend is particularly visible in the declining school enrollment and decrease in overall household size. This shift can cause a change in the types of services provided by the Town.
- There are limited affordable housing units in Rye, and a shortage of long-term rental units to accommodate Rye's shifting population. Rye is projected to need 151 more affordable housing units – owned and rented – by 2040 as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission 2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Factors that make Rye's housing future more complicated are the unique, environmentally sensitive areas found within the town, the extensive areas of the town that are vulnerable to the impacts of coastal hazards and climate change, and the high land values.
- In the past few years, Rye has had several multifamily housing development proposals come before the Planning Board. The Planning Board has wrestled with the proposals as Rye's regulations, and supporting documents including the 2013 Master Plan, have not given strong guidance on housing. The development of the 2023 Rye Housing Needs Assessment Report, and the public outreach conducted as part of that effort, was intended to help Rye identify **local actions** - including zoning regulation modifications. These actions are supported by the latest data and public input, community goals and vision and should be incorporated into the Master Plan.
- Rye's housing is **largely owner-occupied**, with only about 14 percent of overall housing considered rental units. The number of rental units in Rye has also declined from 2010 to 2020 by about a third, meaning that the number of available rental units at any price range are limited. While the number of long-term rentals has declined overall, Rye has also seen an increased demand for **short-term rentals** (considered rentals for less than 30 days), with around 80 whole home, short-term rental units identified in 2021.
- Given Rye's desirable coastal location, the number of **seasonal housing units** (home occupied for only part of the year, but suitable for year-round habitation) has increased by 254 units since 2010 for a total of 616 units (2020). The result is that approximately 21% of Rye's housing is only occupied for part of the year which can shift demands on municipal services.
- Rye's housing stock, like most of New Hampshire is generally older, with 45 percent of the homes in Rye being over 50 years old. These **older homes and structures** are considered by many to be one of the desirable characteristics of Rye and can represent an opportunity for continued use or adaptive reuse as housing. However, older homes can also make it more difficult for occupants to remain in their homes as the owners age, and, without improvements, may be more susceptible to the impacts of climate change and coastal hazards.
- Rye has some of the **highest land values** in New Hampshire. Within the region, the median home sales price in 2022 was \$527,000 for a single-family home. In Rye between August 2022 and August 2023, the average single-family home sale price was \$1,224,532. The estimated maximum purchase price in June 2023 for a home in the Rye region based on median household income as calculated by NH Housing Finance Authority is \$407,000.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – HOUSING AND POPULATION

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye’s **housing and population** including trends, data, and other information.

## **RYE HOUSING VISION**

Rye’s previous housing vision and [Master Plan chapter](#), adopted in 2013, reflected the residents’ desire to maintain Rye’s semi-rural characteristics, that the population and housing demand were shifting, and the Town’s need to address the 2009 Workforce Housing Law.

This sentiment is generally reflected in the [Visioning](#) work - aimed at starting the conversation of the future vision of Rye - conducted by the Town in 2021 as a first step in the current efforts to update the Master Plan, expected Summer 2024. Additional information on the efforts to update the Master Plan can be found at: <https://publicinput.com/RyeFuture>.

## **RYE BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT**

Within the boundaries of the Town of Rye, is the Rye Beach Village District (Village). The Village was formed by an act of the NH Legislature in 1937 and encompasses the southeastern portion of Rye. The Village legally exists as an independent political entity that has autonomous zoning authority. The Town of Rye continues to have responsibility for emergency service, education and health services, infrastructure oversight, and maintenance of local roadways within the Village.

A key difference between the Town and Village are that they maintain separate master plans and zoning ordinances as they have separate authority to enact zoning regulations and land use decisions. This also means that the Town and Village have separate responsibilities under the NH Workforce Housing statute (NH RSA 674:58-61). Specifically, under RSA 674:59, I “*every municipality [or village district] that exercises the power to adopt land use ordinances and regulations, such ordinances and regulations shall provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for the development of workforce housing, including rental multi-family housing.*”

The data presented in this section includes the Rye Beach Village District.

The most recent data for much of this section is 2020. Its important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the community of Rye and trends between 2021-2023.

## KEY DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING DATA

### Overall Population:

**5,543 individuals.**

This population is based on the 2020 US Census data; Rye has seen an increase in 245 people since 2010. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the population is over 65 years old and 17% of the population is under 18 years old.

### Average Age:

**55.6 Years Old.**

The average age in Rye is based on 2020 US Census data; Rye has seen an increase in the average age over the latest 10 years with the 2010 average age being 49.1 years. Rye also is one of the oldest communities in New Hampshire and the second oldest in the region.

### Average Household Size:

**2.44 individuals per household.**

The average household size in Rye has decreased over the past 10 years. As of 2020, the majority of households (67.9 %) in Rye were made up of only one or two individuals. Overall, average household size has decreased across the region and state, particularly in communities with older populations.

### Individuals in Poverty:

**4.1% of the population.**

Rye has a low percentage of individuals living in poverty as of 2020; this is a decrease since the 2010 poverty rate of 5.1% of the population. The overall poverty rate in Rye is consistent with regional trends.

### Disabled Population:

**10.9% of the population.**

The amount of Rye's population that is considered disabled has remained relatively steady with the 2020 disabled population being slight lower than the 2010 disabled population of 11.3%.

### Total Housing Units:

Houses, Condos, Apartments,  
Seasonal Homes, etc.

**2,906 Housing Units**

Rye's total number of housing units based on the 2020 US Census data; a total of 170 more units have been added since 2010. Rye is projected to need 476 more housing units by 2040 based on population growth and housing demand as reported in the



Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).

**Median Rye Household Income: \$108,000 per year**

This is the median household income in Rye as reported in the 2020 US Census.

**Average Rye Home Sale Price: \$1,185,566**

(July 2022 – July 2023)

The average sales price for the same period for a condominium was \$685,115, while average sale price for a single-family home was \$1,224,532 according to [Zillow Home Value Index](#) for Rye.

**Estimated Affordable Maximum Purchase Price in Rye (2023): \$407,000**

This is the estimated maximum purchase price in June 2023 for a home in the Rye region based on median household income as calculated by [NH Housing Finance Authority](#).

**Rental Units:**

Average 2023 rent for a 2-bedroom unit in Rockingham County is \$1,944 per month according to NH Housing Finance Authority [2023 NH Residential Rental Survey Report](#) a monthly rent of \$1,552 per month for a 2-bedroom unit is considered affordable. Only 3% of rental units qualify as affordable.

**Affordability Projections:**

Rye is projected to need 151 more affordable housing units – owned and rented - by 2040 as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).

**Short-term Rentals:**

Around 83 homes in Rye are used as short-term rentals (rental for less than 30 days), with 80 of those rentals being for the entire home. The average rate per day for these rentals is \$439 as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).

**Seasonal Homes:**

616 of the homes, condos and apartments are considered “seasonal” and only occupied for part of the year as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#). According to the U.S. Census, seasonal housing units are those intended for occupancy only during certain seasons of the year and are found primarily in resort areas.

**Age of Homes:** About 45% of Rye’s housing units are more than 50 years old Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).

**Flood Risk:** 2,160 acres in Rye are located with a 100-year floodplain – with more susceptibility to flooding from coastal storms and high tides as reported in 2022 Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan. As of 2022, Rye had 296 National Flood Insurance Program policies that insure \$87,711,100 in property.

### **SHORT TERM RENTALS**

According to the New Hampshire Municipal Association, statutes and local ordinances in other states typically define a short-term rental as the rental of a residential unit, for a fee, for occupancy for less than 30 days, or less than one month, or similar language. There is no firm definition of “short-term rental” in New Hampshire land use law, but there are two tangential statutes that define the term.

- RSA 48-A, the housing standards statute, defines “short-term rental” or “vacation rental” as “any individually or collectively owned single-family house or dwelling unit or any unit or group of units in a condominium, cooperative, or timeshare, or owner-occupied residential home, that is offered for a fee and for less than 30 consecutive days.” See RSA 48-A:1, V.
- RSA 78-A, the meals and rooms tax statute, defines “short-term rental” as “the rental of one or more rooms in a residential unit for occupancy for tourist or transient use for less than 185 consecutive days.” See RSA 78-A:3, XX.

### **RPC REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

New Hampshire RSA 36:47(II) requires that “[f]or the purpose of assisting municipalities in complying with RSA 674:2, III(I), each regional planning commission shall compile a regional housing needs assessment, which shall include an assessment of the regional need for housing for persons and families of all levels of income.” Rye is one of 27 municipalities within Rockingham County that make the Rockingham Planning Commission’s region. The purpose of the Rockingham Planning Commission’s (RPC) Regional Housing Needs Assessment and Fair Housing Equity Assessment (RHNA) is to provide current, regional, and local data on housing needs. This assessment is a highly anticipated review of the current housing trends and needs and will identify future housing needs and opportunities. One goal of the assessment is to provide a foundation of housing trends for communities to begin addressing housing barriers and opportunities. The 2023 assessment was completed in collaboration with the nine NH Regional Planning Commissions through a statewide effort, initiated by the Council on Housing Stability 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that was initiated by Governor Sununu.

Factors impacting the housing market are exacerbated by the region being the most expensive housing market in New Hampshire. An aging population and a decline in the number of children per household also play major factors. Housing supply directly impacts economic growth and the region's ability to attract and retain workers and young families that contribute to the economy and enhance the vibrancy of our communities. The makeup of households in the region is shifting with an overall decline in household size. School enrollment is declining across the region. Both small and large employers are facing challenges attracting and retaining workers. This assessment estimates the housing needs of the RPC Region, while taking into consideration the factors impacting housing.

The primary goal of this RHNA is to provide data on housing and demographics, by income level, so that each municipality in the region can begin to understand their current and future needs. This RHNA may assist municipalities in determining compliance with the Workforce Housing Statute (RSA 674:58-61).

### **NH WORKFORCE HOUSING LAW & "FAIR SHARE" HOUSING NEEDS**

In 2008, the New Hampshire Legislature passed a law that requires every community to provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities" for the development of workforce housing. New Hampshire's workforce housing statute ([NH RSA 674: 58-61](#)) defines "workforce housing" and what is considered "affordable."

New Hampshire is not a "home rule" state, which means all municipal power derives from a Legislative grant. [RSA 672:1, III-e](#) states that housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income households "shall not be prohibited or discouraged by use of municipal planning and zoning powers or by unreasonable interpretation of such powers." The NH Supreme Court ruled in [Britton v. Town of Chester](#), 134 N.H. 434 (1991), that municipalities are obliged to provide such households with a reasonable and realistic opportunity to obtain affordable housing, and that a municipality's zoning cannot be used to prevent "outsiders of any disadvantaged social or economic group" from moving there.

The RHNA uses projected population growth and projected employment growth to estimate the regional housing needed to fill the demand from 2020 through 2040. As required by the Workforce Housing Statute (RSA 674:58-61) municipalities must provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities" for the development of workforce housing, including rental and multifamily housing. While the state statute provides some guidance on how municipalities can meet the demand for workforce housing, the statute provides that municipalities must, further, provide enough qualifying units to fulfill their "fair share" of their region's need. The law does not provide a prescriptive methodology for calculating "fair share."

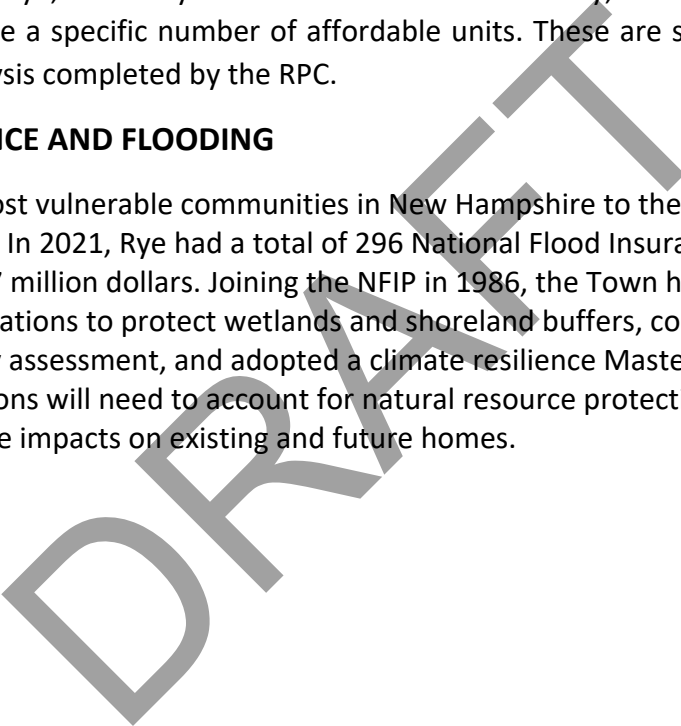
The RHNA estimates additional housing (both workforce and market rate) to support a balanced market, representing Rye's regional fair share of housing by 2040, to be as follows.

<b>Projections By Year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>
Total Units Needed (cumulative)	175	321	420	476
“Affordable” Units Suggested	56	102	133	147
Market Rate Units Needed	119	219	287	329
Rental Units V. Owned Units	29% Rental Units Needed & 71% Owned Units Needed			

\*Note that these numbers do not account for housing units that may have been approved for construction within Rye, but not yet built as of 2020. Additionally, the town is not required by state statute to have a specific number of affordable units. These are suggested based on the housing needs analysis completed by the RPC.

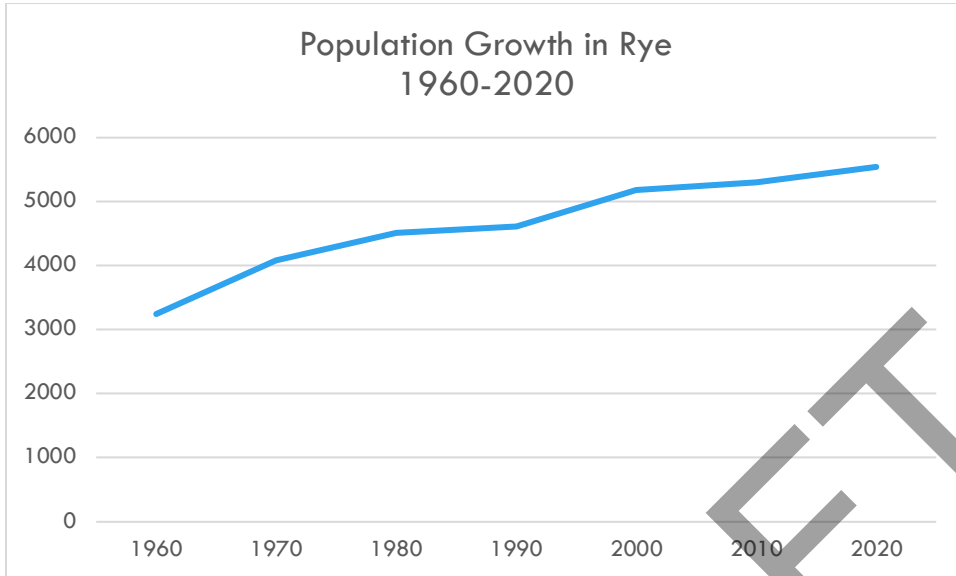
**COASTAL RESILIENCE AND FLOODING**

Rye is one of the most vulnerable communities in New Hampshire to the impacts of flooding and climate change. In 2021, Rye had a total of 296 National Flood Insurance Program policies, insured for over \$87 million dollars. Joining the NFIP in 1986, the Town has amended its zoning ordinance and regulations to protect wetlands and shoreland buffers, completed a climate change vulnerability assessment, and adopted a climate resilience Master Plan chapter. Future housing considerations will need to account for natural resource protection, coastal hazards, and how to minimize impacts on existing and future homes.

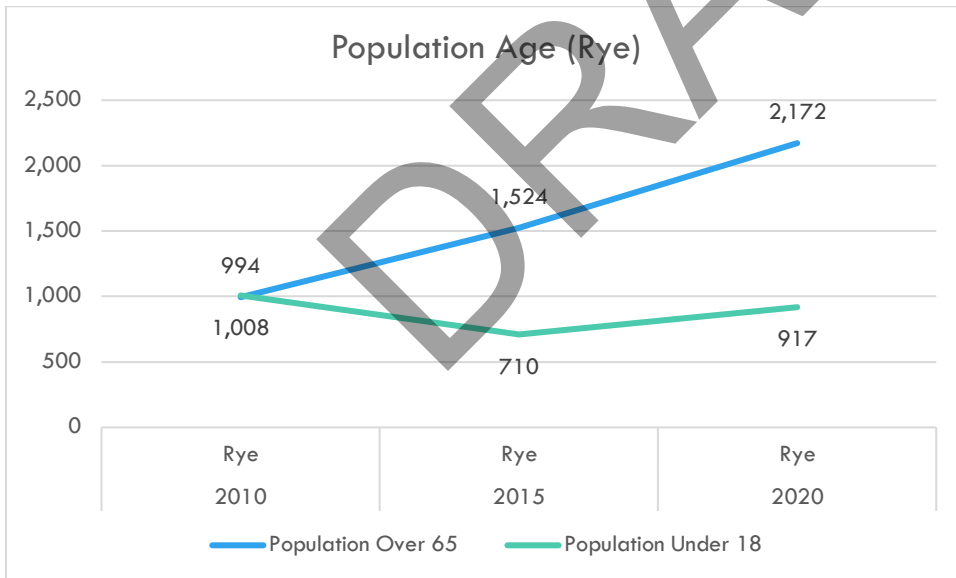


## DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING DATA: RYE, RPC REGION, & NEW HAMPSHIRE

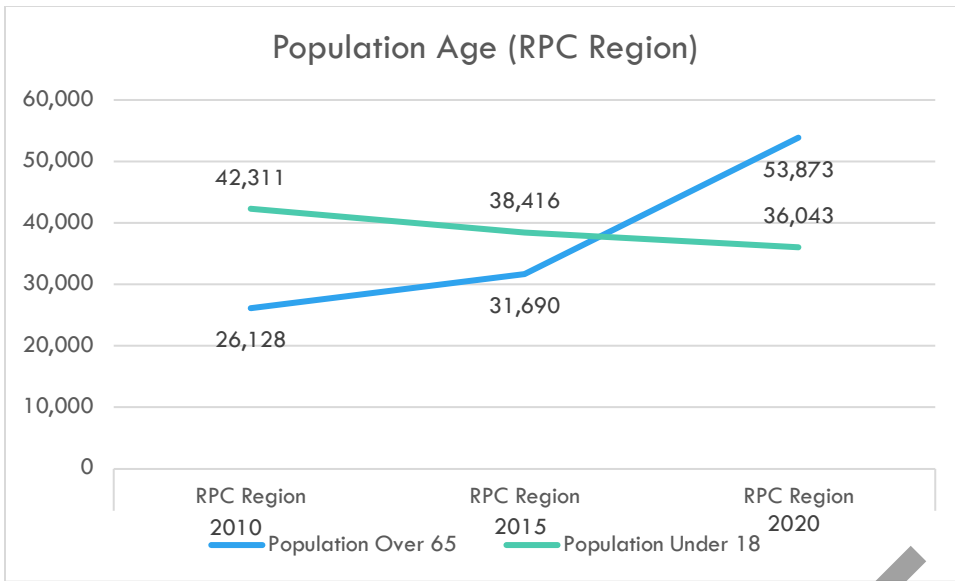
The following information is a snapshot of select demographic and housing data for the state, region, and town of Rye.



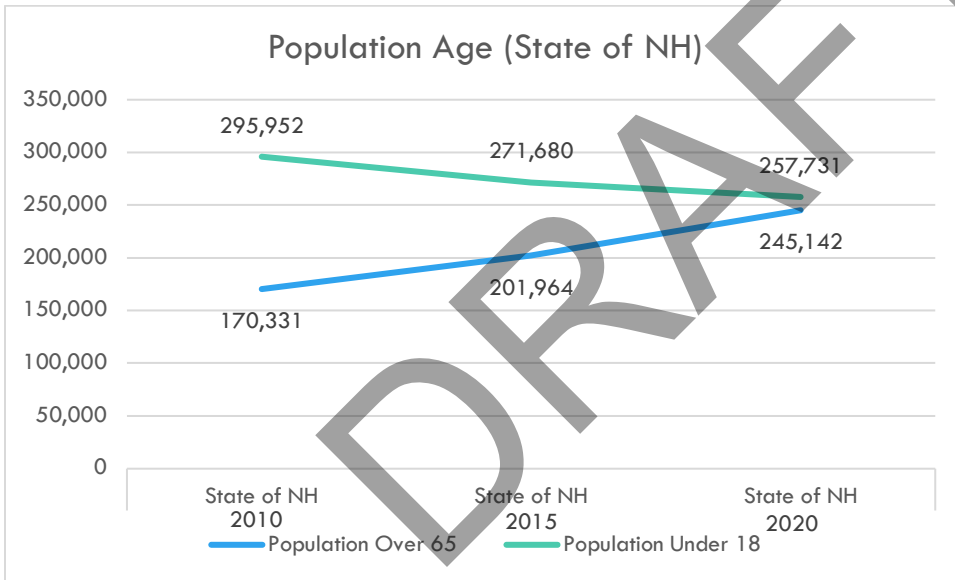
In Rye, the population has been steadily increasing since 1960.



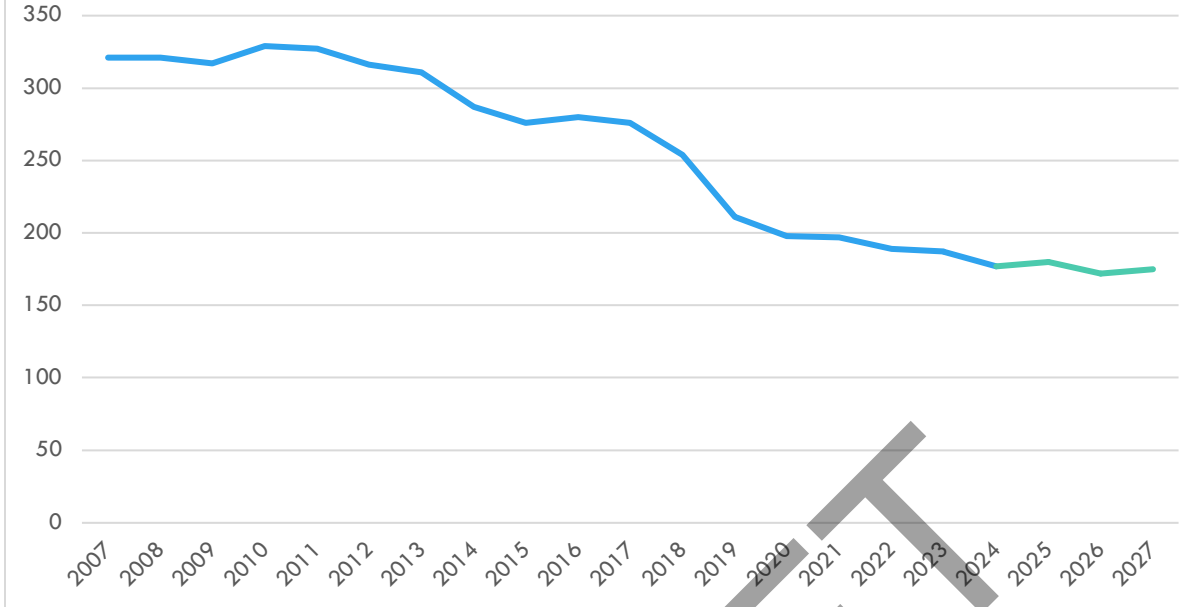
In Rye, the population over the age of 65 years old has increased between 2010 and 2020. The school-age population, though declined between 2010 and 2015, stabilized and began to increase in 2020.



In the region and the state, school-age children have been declining and adults over 65 years old are increasing.

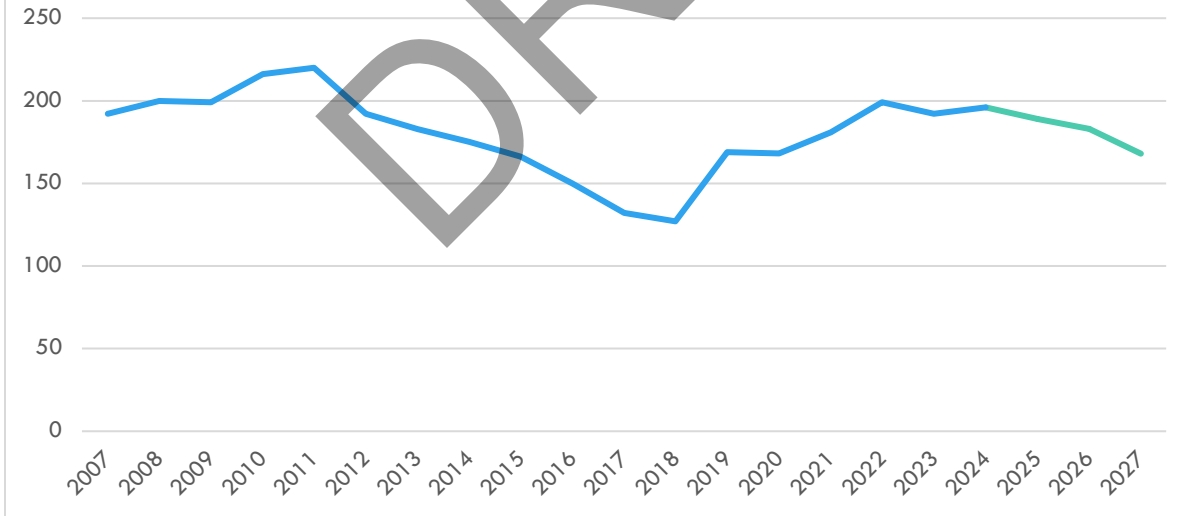


Rye Elementary School  
School Enrollment Trends and Projections

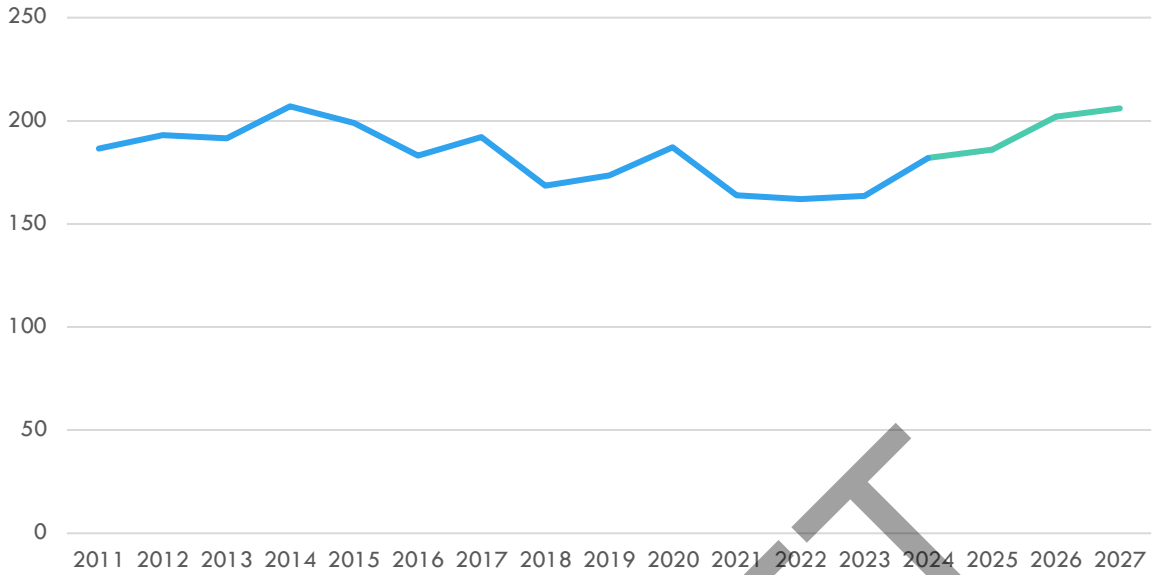


School enrollment numbers have been declining at Rye Elementary School (RES), especially, and at Rye Junior High School (RJHS), to a lesser degree. Projections show a stabilizing of school population at RES and continued decline at RJHS.

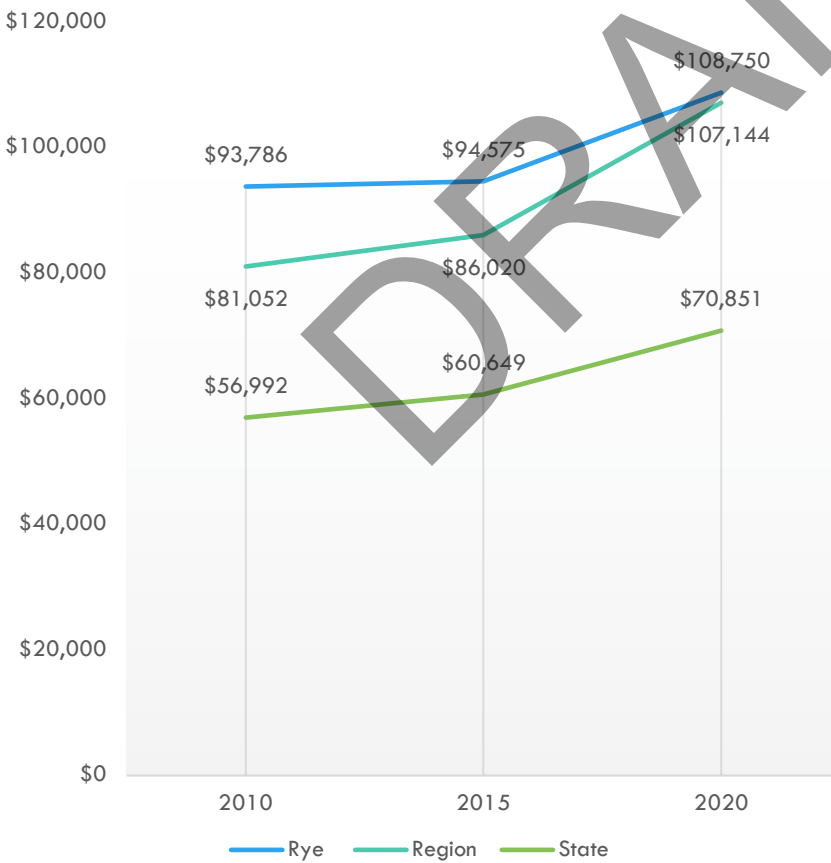
Rye Junior High School  
School Enrollment Trends and Projections



### Portsmouth High School School Enrollment Trends and Projections - Rye Students

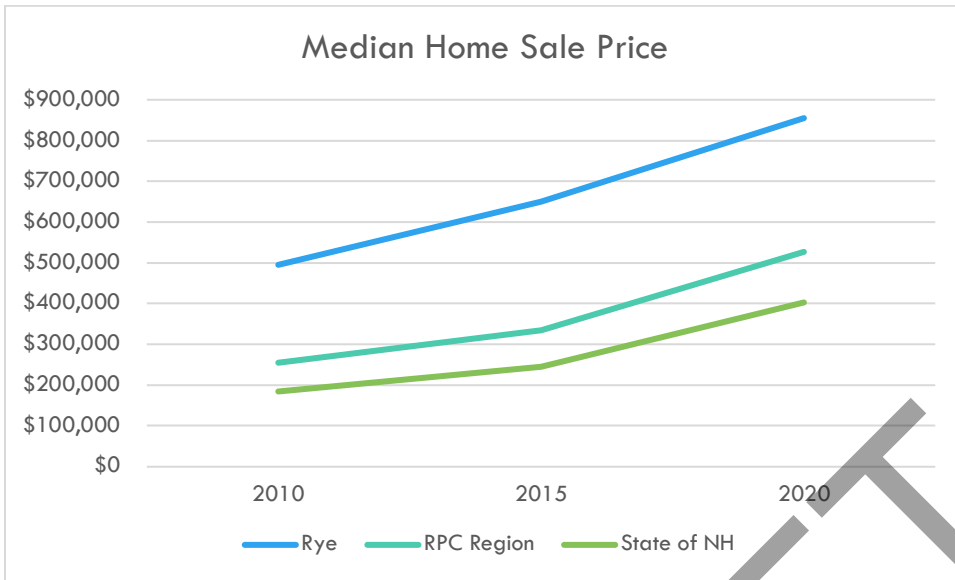


### Median Household Income

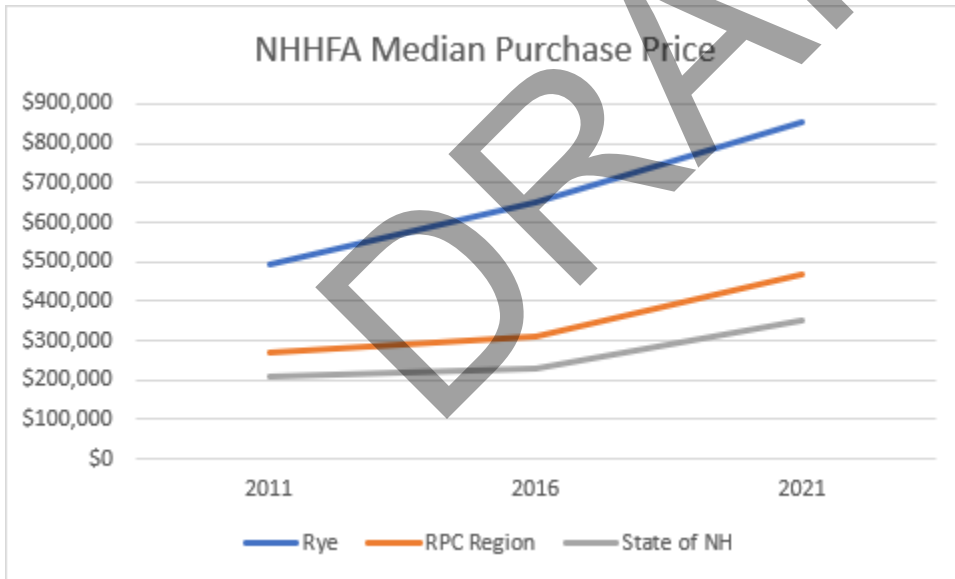




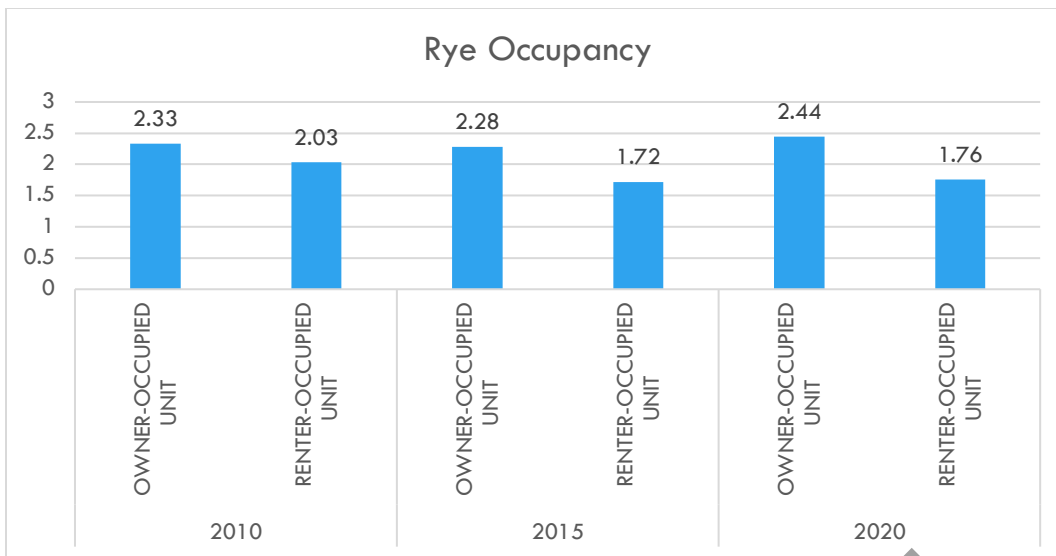
Rye's median household income has consistently been higher than the state and region's since 2010. This income has been increasing. However, the gap has been closing between the local and regional median household income since 2020.



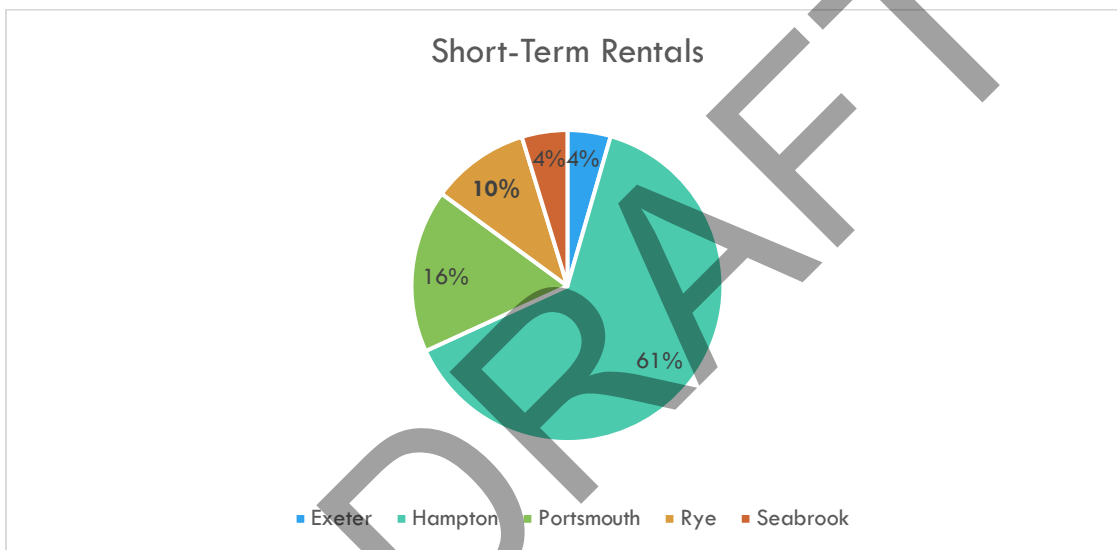
The median home sale prices in Rye have been higher than that of the region's and state's since 2010. Median home sale prices have been steadily increasing in Rye.



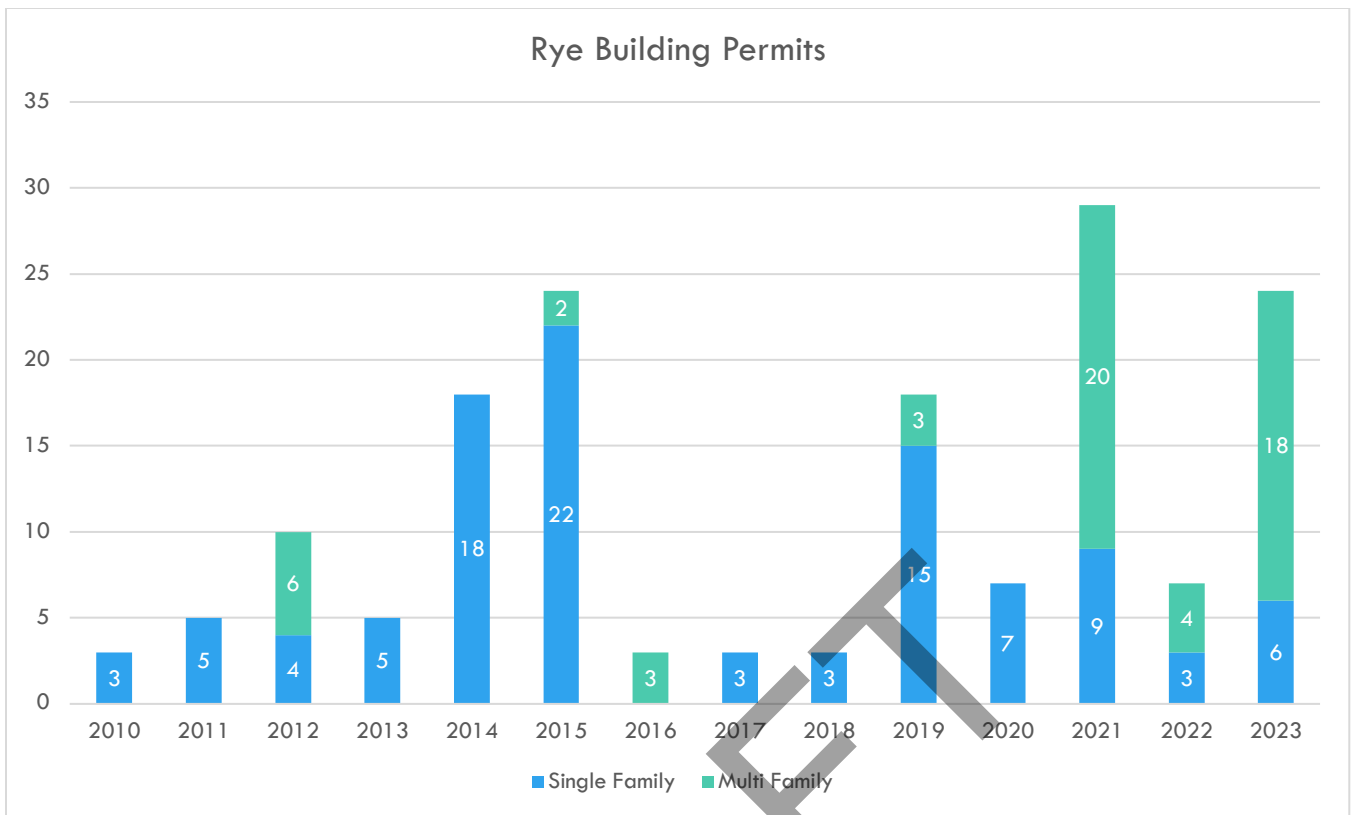
New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority reports median purchase price data of homes in New Hampshire. Like the above data, prices have been increasing in Rye, the region, and state and median purchase prices are higher in Rye when compared to the region and state in general.



Household sizes increased in owner and renter-occupied housing units between 2015 and 2020.



While Hampton makes up the largest amount of short-term rentals in the RPC region, Rye has the third largest share of short-term rentals (10% of the short-term rental stock in the region).



*\*Building permit data from 2010-2020 is from the U.S. Census. Building permit data from 2021-2023 is from the Town of Rye’s Building Department.*

The town’s building permits, shown above, have largely been comprised of single-family housing units since 2010, with some multi-family developments permitted. Construction appeared to slow in 2020, most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2021, multi-family housing development has increased substantially.

# EXISTING LAND USE

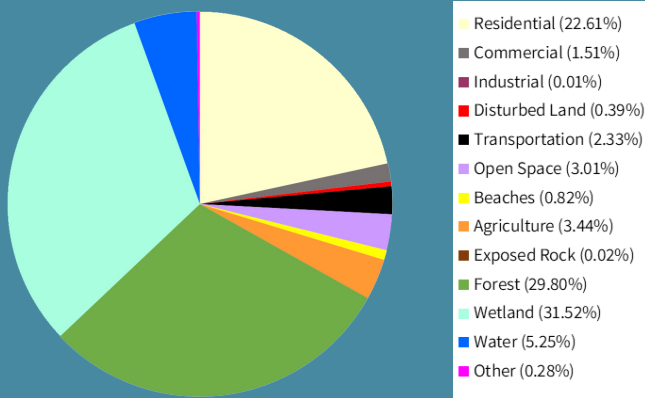
The Town of Rye covers a total of 13 square miles along the coast of New Hampshire. Historically a rural farming and fishing community, the town of Rye has since transitioned into mostly residential uses within its developed areas. The most prevalent land cover in Rye is wetlands (approximately 32%), while the most prevalent land use in Rye is residential at 71% of Rye’s area. The Town’s recent build-out analysis indicated that due to extensive environmental development constraints, conserved land, and existing buildings, the Town of Rye has moderately low buildable area for future development.

***Looking ahead, Rye must balance future development and growth and the realities of development constraints, with responsible stewardship of its natural resources, and account for climate change.***



## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Mapped Land Cover Within Rye (2015)



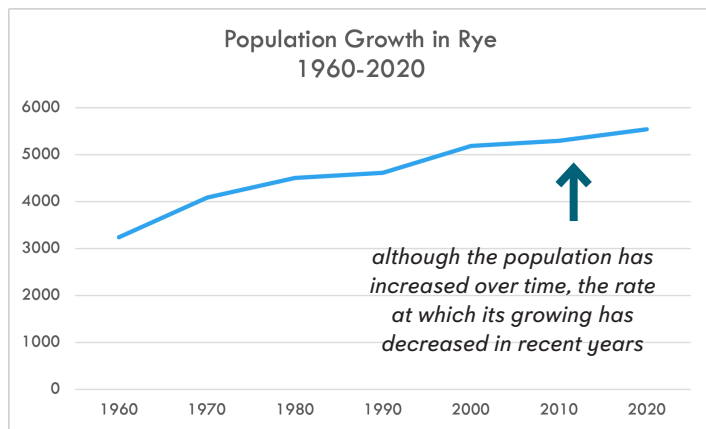
Overarching trends related to land use change include:

- The rate of land converted from undeveloped to developed has plateaued.
- The population of Rye is increasing at a slower rate than historically.
- There has been a 68% decrease in agricultural land within Rye from 1962 to 2015.

Note: Land cover refers to the characteristic of the land surface. Land Use refers to the way in which the land is utilized, whether it be for residential housing, commercial infrastructure, agriculture, or forests, and is determined by zoning and assessing.

# KEY FINDINGS

- Historically a rural farming and fishing community, Rye has since transitioned into a community dominated by **residential development** and natural resources (water, wetlands, forests, etc.). About 22% of Rye is classified as residential land cover (2015).
- Development has taken the place of agricultural areas** in addition to some forested and wetland areas. The rate of land converted from undeveloped to developed has plateaued. There has been a 68% decrease in agricultural land within Rye from 1962 to 2015.
- The most prevalent land cover in Rye is **open wetlands** (approximately 30-32%) and forested land (approximately 30%). Wetlands within Rye serve a vital role in nutrient and sediment removal/retention, floodwater and storm surge storage, recreation, and habitats for wildlife including migratory birds.
- Rye has a **moderately high percentage of conserved lands** at 25%, as compared to neighboring Towns which range from 14% (Portsmouth) to 23% (North Hampton).
- By parcel use and the Town's assessor data, Rye is **primarily residential (71%) and municipal (12%)**.
- State-owned parcels** within Rye include Odiorne Point State Park, Jenness State Beach, Wallis Sands Beach, and Rye Harbor State Park (4%).
- About 71% of Rye is zoned as **residential**.
- The **population growth rate of Rye has decreased** over the past 10-20 years, as compared to the past 50 years. From 1970-2020, the 50-year compound annual growth rate was 0.61%, from 2000-2020, the 20-year compound annual growth rate was 0.34%. →
- The population growth rate of Rye was **lower** than the state's growth rate over the past 50 years (0.61% as compared to 1.26% at a statewide level) but has been in line with the state's growth rate over the past 10 years (0.45% for both Rye and the state).
- A **build-out analysis** completed to understand potential future development in Rye based on current municipal land-use regulations and vacant land areas analysis identified that approximately **13%** (1,116 acres of approximately 8,407 acres) of the Town is **buildable** under current zoning regulations.
- Many of the lots identified in the build-out analysis that can accommodate future growth could be considered "**backlands**", or parcels not currently accessible to development by existing roads.
- The build-out indicated that due to extensive environmental development constraints (particularly wetlands), conserved land, and existing buildings, the Town of Rye has **moderately low buildable area for future development** compared to other New Hampshire communities. At current population growth rates, and under existing regulations, the Town of Rye could reach full build-out in approximately 50 years.



# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – EXISTING LAND USE

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye’s **existing land use pattern** including trends, data, and other information.

## EXISTING LAND COVER

In 2015, the Rockingham Planning Commission created an updated land use data layer for the Southeastern New Hampshire Region using 1 foot resolution aerial imagery showing that the most prevalent land use cover in Rye is open wetlands and forested land. From which, 30% of Rye is forested and 32% are classified as wetlands (Figure 1). Wetlands within Rye serve a vital role in nutrient and sediment removal/retention, floodwater and storm surge storage, recreation, and habitats for wildlife including migratory birds. Residential land follows closely behind at 22% of Rye’s area.

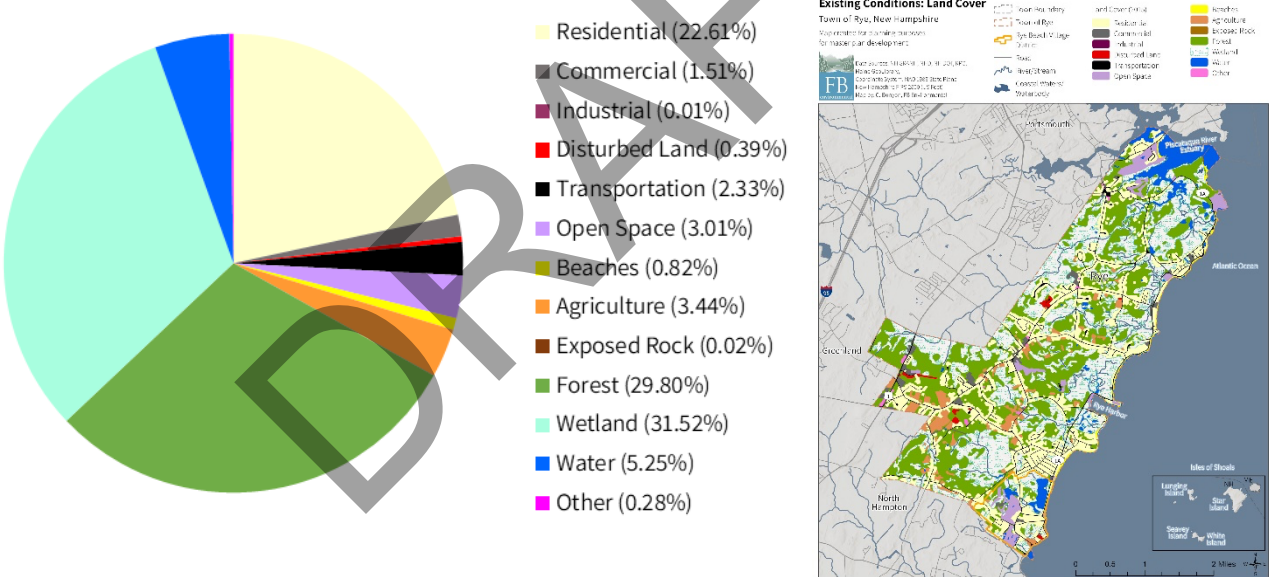


Figure 1. Mapped Land Cover within Rye. Data collected from the 2015 Rockingham Planning Commission 2015 Land Use data layer for Southeastern New Hampshire. See Appendix 1 for a breakdown of the land cover classes within each category presented within the figure and the Existing Conditions Land Cover Map for a visual representation of the land cover distribution throughout Rye. A full-page land cover map is included at the end of this section.

*Note: “Exposed Rock” is one of the land cover types designated in the 2015 land use layer data. It’s important to note that Rye has significant amounts of exposed ledge and bedrock, more than what shows as the amount of exposed rock in the land use cover pie chart and map above. Discrepancies between land cover types are common, especially when they vary and overlap across a landscape, resulting in decisions needing to be made regarding land cover*

classification. For example, exposed rock exists throughout much of Rye’s forestland, which is categorized as its own land cover type. **Ultimately, land can be classified as two types of land cover at once, where one of these land cover types must be selected for designation purposes.**

**THE EXTENT OF DEVELOPMENT**

Historically and up to around 1962, Rye was considered a heavily agricultural area but has since transitioned into a community dominated by residential development amongst natural classifications (water, wetlands, forests, etc.). Development has taken the place of agricultural areas in addition to some forested and wetland areas (Table 1). However, the once increasing trend of development has since plateaued since 1998 (Table 2, Figure 2). This adjustment to the trajectory of development will help Rye maintain its natural areas for multiple services including but not limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, nutrient and pollutant retention, groundwater recharge, and floodwater storage. Additionally, the population of Rye has followed a similar trend. As shown in Table 3 and Figure 2, the population growth rate of Rye has begun to slow. From 1970 to 2020 Rye’s population grew with a 50-year compound annual growth rate of 0.61%, while from 2000 to 2020, Rye’s population grew with a 20-year compound annual growth rate of 0.34%, and 0.45% from 2010-2020 (10-year compound annual growth rate) (Table 3).

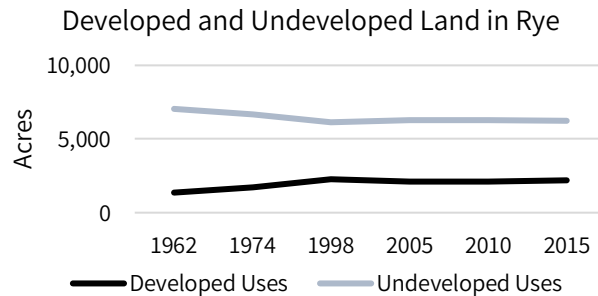
Table 1. Land cover trends in Rye from 1962 to 2015. Land uses not shown in the table include auxiliary transportation, mixed urban, other/idle, playing fields/recreation, railroad, transportation, utilities, and water. Statistics for these land uses are provided in the 2018 Rye Master Plan, Chapter 4.

	Acres in 1962	Acres in 2015	% change
Open Wetlands and Forests	5,473	4,958	9.4% decrease
Active Agricultural and Farmsteads	681	289	58% decrease
Residential	1,135	1,832	61% increase
Industrial/Commercial	88	121	38% increase

Table 2. Extent of developed land within the Town of Rye. Data from 1962 through 2015 is from the 2018 Rye Master Plan.

	1962	1998	2015
Developed Uses	16%	26%	25%
Undeveloped Uses	82%	72%	73%

Figure 2. Extent of developed land within the Town of Rye. Data from 1962 through 2015 is from the 2018 Rye Master Plan.



Above: Development has taken the place of agricultural areas in addition to some forested and wetlands areas (Table 1). However, the once increasing trend of development has since plateaued since 1998 (Table 2, Figure 2). This data indicates that new development has slowed since the 1990s and some previous developed areas have been restored to open space.

Table 3. Rye, Rockingham County, and New Hampshire Population Statistics. Collected from the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) and U.S. Census.

Town	Population						Compound Annual Growth Rate		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	50 Year (1970-2020)	20 Year (2000-2020)	10 Year (2010-2020)
Rye	4,083	4,508	4,612	5,182	5,298	5,543	0.61%	0.34%	0.45%
Rockingham County	138,950	190,345	245,845	277,359	295,223	314,176	1.65%	0.63%	0.62%
New Hampshire	737,681	920,610	1,109,252	1,235,786	1,316,470	1,377,529	1.26%	0.54%	0.45%

### CONSERVED LANDS

Compared to neighboring towns, Rye has the highest percentage of conserved lands at 25%.

Town	Town Area (acres)	Acres of Conserved Land	% of Town
Rye	8,580	2,164	25%
North Hampton	8,923	2,016	23%
Greenland	8,524	1,488	17%
Portsmouth	10,763	1,492	14%

### EXISTING LAND USE BY PARCEL

Land use (by parcel and assessors database) within Rye is primarily residential (71%) and municipal (12%) (Figure 3). The residential category includes apartments, condominiums, manufactured homes, single family, and two-family residential parcels. Within the municipal category are town owned parcels including the town forests. The third most prevalent land use



in Rye is “other” which consists of accessory land, oceanfront parcels not considered residential, and undeveloped land (6%). State owned parcels within Rye include Odiorne Point State Park, Wallis Sands Beach, Jenness State Beach, and Rye Harbor State Park (4%).

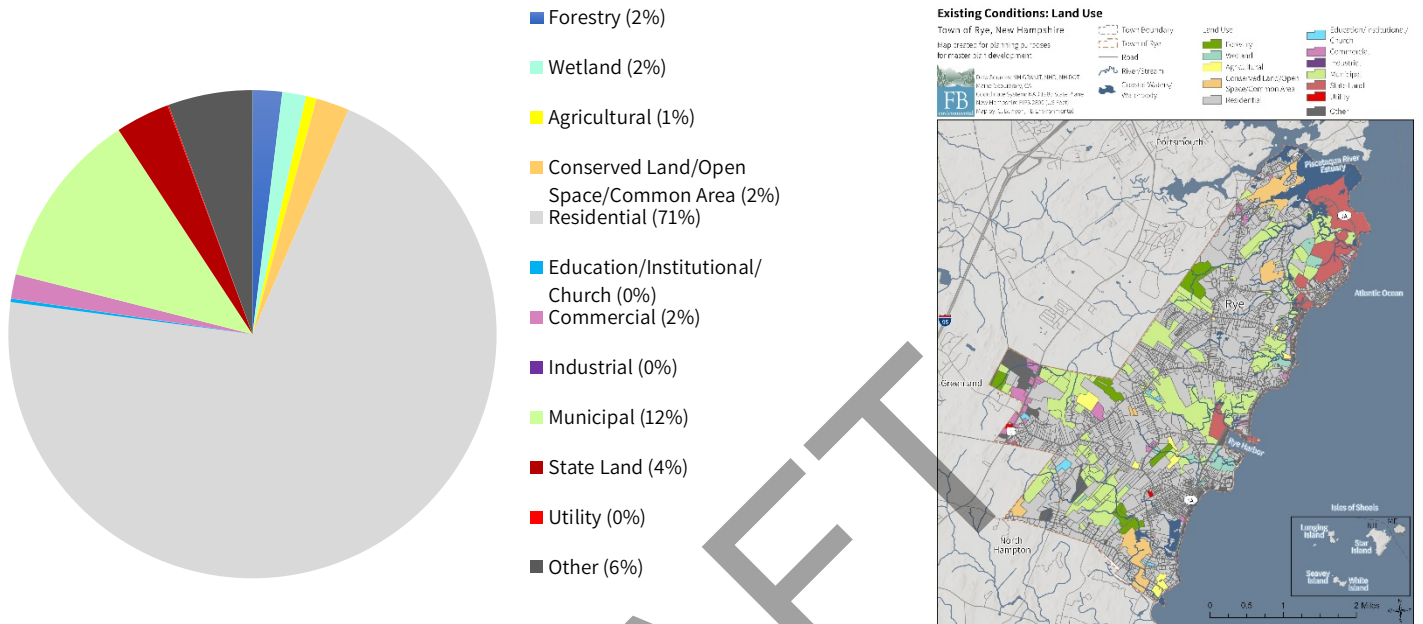


Figure 3. Land Use within Rye. Data collected from Rye’s Parcel Map (CAI) and the assessor’s database. See Appendix 2 for a breakdown of the land use classes within each category presented within the figure and the Existing Conditions Land Use Map for a visual representation of the land cover distribution throughout Rye. A full-page land use map is included at the end of this section.

### RYE BUILDOUT RESULTS

As part of the development of the Rye Master Plan Update, a build-out analysis was completed by FB Environmental (FBE) to understand potential future development in Rye based on current municipal land-use regulations and vacant land areas. The Rye community enjoys beach access and expansive coastal natural resources. Encompassing approximately 13 square miles in coastal New Hampshire, Rye had a population of approximately 5,543 people at the 2020 U.S. Census.

A build-out analysis is a planning tool that identifies areas with development potential and projects future development based on a set of conditions (e.g., zoning regulations, environmental constraints) and assumptions (e.g., building footprint dimensions). The results of the build-out analysis can be used for planning purposes to help guide future development activities in the community, anticipate future demands on infrastructure, as well as identify specific areas for conservation. The build-out analysis provides a full build-out scenario based on the Rye’s current zoning standards (which are subject to amendment) and should be viewed as estimates only. “Full build-out” is a theoretical condition which represents the period when

all available land suitable for residential, commercial, and industrial uses has been developed to the maximum conditions permitted by local ordinances.

At current population growth rates, and under existing regulations, the Town of Rye could reach full build-out in approximately 50 years. The build-out analysis identified that approximately 13% (1,116 acres of approximately 8,407 acres) of the Town is buildable under current zoning regulations. The Single Residence District has the most acreage of buildable area at 877 acres. FBE identified 2,772 existing principal buildings in the Town of Rye, and the build-out analysis projected that an additional 415-506 new buildings could be constructed in the future, resulting in a total of 3,136 – 3,228 buildings in the Town of Rye at full build-out. Many of the lots identified in the build-out analysis that can accommodate future growth could be considered “backlands”, or parcels not currently accessible to development by existing roads. It is important to note that the build-out analysis assumes that all land ownership could change – as in, a private landowner that has access to those undeveloped lands could sell their land to allow a right of way to the backlots. However, the likelihood of change of ownership is not something the build-out analysis can account for.

In summary, this build-out analysis for the Town of Rye indicated that due to extensive environmental development constraints (particularly wetlands), conserved land, and existing buildings, the Town of Rye has moderately low buildable area for future development compared to other New Hampshire communities. However, there is potential for a moderate increase in projected new buildings (17% increase compared to existing buildings), with the highest density areas in central and inland Rye. Furthermore, based on historical population growth rates in Rye, the Town could face full build-out in the mid to late 21st century.

### **EMERGING OR POTENTIAL ACTIONS**

As identified in the 2021 Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Rye, “Rye faces a challenge of how best to balance prudent economic growth, land ownership, and responsible stewardship of its natural resources while accounting for climate change. A healthy functioning environment is often placed in opposition to economic growth and human quality of life. Clean air, clean water, and ecosystem services provided by natural systems are essential to maintaining a high quality of human life.” (FBE, 2021). To support both the economic stability of the town as well as the ecological wellbeing, actions to support natural resources should be balanced with other economic priorities.

#### **Land Cover**

- Minimize the increase of impervious surfaces by creating new ordinances and building construction design requirements which reduce imperviousness of new development.
- Protect and re-establish wetlands through invasive species management, restoring natural structure).

#### **Land Use**

- Foster a community that is comfortable for those who live here, and desirable to those who are looking for a town with a sense of its heritage, plentiful open spaces and coastal recreation areas.
- Support balanced land use choices in consideration of public convenience, safety, security, conservation and environmental protection.
- Increase the amount of conserved land within the town of Rye via purchase or conservation easement.
- Consider further refining the Conservation Land Developments ordinance (zoning section 403) to incorporate a design-based approach
- Incorporate affordable housing principles

### **Zoning**

- Enhance resident education and communication of local land ordinances, best management practices, and actions.
- Preserve open spaces and protect natural resources such as the lands overlying public water supply aquifers, Wellhead Protection Areas, fragile habitats, coastline, marshes, fields and forests for viewing and recreation and public use, where appropriate.
- Increase building setbacks in shoreland zones.
- Encourage riparian buffers and maintain flood plains through new/updated zoning ordinances.
- Amend the existing wetland regulations to better protect wetlands and the organisms they support.
- Consider novel types of development, including Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) and conservation subdivisions while considering low-impact development practices.
- Explore options to incorporate zoning to allow for mixed-use development, options for form-based code design standards and flexible parking standards. More information on form-based codes can be found: <https://formbasedcodes.org/definition/>.

### **SOURCES**

FB Environmental. (2021). Rye New Hampshire Natural Resources Inventory.

[https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/rye\\_nri\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/rye_nri_report_2021.pdf)

Town of Rye. (2018). Rye Master Plan Natural Resources Chapter 7.

[https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ch\\_7.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ch_7.pdf)

Town of Rye. (2018). Rye Master Plan Land Use Chapter 4.

[https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ch\\_4.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ch_4.pdf)

### **APPENDIX 1**

Land Cover categories simplified from the Rockingham Planning Commission Land Cover classifications.

Category	Rockingham Planning Commission Classification
Agriculture	Agricultural Land Other Agricultural Land
Beaches	Beaches and River Banks
Commercial	Commercial retail Commercial wholesale Educational Electric, gas and other utilities Government Group and transient quarters Indoor cultural/public assembly Institutional Lodging Other commercial complexes Water and wastewater utilities
Disturbed Land	Disturbed Land
Exposed Rock	Bare/Exposed Rock
Forest	Brush or Transitional Between Open and Forested Forest Land
Industrial	Industrial
Open Space	Cemeteries Outdoor recreation
Other	Communication Services Vacant Land
Residential	Mobile home parks Multi-family, low rise apartments and townhouses, but not duplexes (1 - 3 stories) Other residential Single family/duplex
Transportation	Auxiliary transportation Parking structure/lot Rail transportation Road right-of-way
Water	Water
Wetland	Wetlands

## Appendix 2

Land Use categories simplified from the zoning and parcel classifications.

Category	Zoning and Parcel Classification
<b>Agricultural</b>	FARM LAND
	THREE FAM
<b>Commercial</b>	AUTO REPR
	AUTO S S&S
	BANK BLDG
	COMM WHSE
	DEVEL LAND
	GAS ST SRV
	MOTELS MDL-01
	MOTELS MDL-94
	NON PROFIT MDL-94
	NON PROFIT MDL-96
	NURSING HM
	OFFICE BLD
	OFFICE BLD MDL-94
	POST OFF
	PROF BLDG
	PROF BLDG MDL-94
	REST/CLUBS MDL-06
REST/CLUBS MDL-94	
REST/CLUBS MDL-96	
STORE/SHOP MDL-94	
STORE/SHOP MDL-96	
<b>Conserved Land/Open Space/Common Area</b>	FOREST CONS ESMT
	GOLF CRSE MDL-00
	GOLF CRSE MDL-94
	WET CONS ESMT
	WHITE PINE STEWARDSHIP
<b>Education/Institutional/Church</b>	CHURCH ETC MDL-00
	CHURCH ETC MDL-94
	CHURCH ETC MDL-96
	COMM BLDG MDL-01
	COMM BLDG MDL-94
	COMM BLDG MDL-96
	PRI SCHOOL
	RELIGIOUS MDL-00
RELIGIOUS MDL-94	
<b>Forestry</b>	FOREST LAND
	HARDWOOD
	HARDWOOD STEWARDSHIP
	WHITE PINE

Category	Zoning and Parcel Classification
<b>Industrial</b>	IND LD UD
<b>Municipal</b>	MUNICIPAL MDL-00 MUNICIPAL MDL-00 MUNICIPAL MDL-01 MUNICIPAL MDL-94 MUNICIPAL MDL-96 TOWN-PROP
<b>Other</b>	AC LND IMP MDL-00 AC LND IMP MDL-01 OCEANFRONT MDL-01 UNDEV LAND MDL-00
<b>Residential</b>	2 FAM OCEAN FT APT 4-7 UNIT APT 8+UP APT OVER 8 CONDO MDL-05 CONDO MAIN MANUFACTURED MBLE HM PK MDL-01 MH NO LAND MDL-02 MULTI HSES MDL-01 MULTI HSES OCEAN OFF CONDO MDL-06 RES ACLNDV MDL-00 RES ACLNPO RES ACLNUD RTL CONDO MDL-06 SFR WATER MDL-01 SING/ACCES SINGLE FAM MDL-01 SINGLE FAMILY TWO FAMILY
<b>State Land</b>	NH STATE MDL-00 NH STATE MDL-01 NH STATE MDL-96
<b>Utility</b>	PUB UTIL TEL REL TW MDL-00 TEL X STA
<b>Wetland</b>	WETLAND

DRAFT

# Existing Conditions: Land Cover

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development



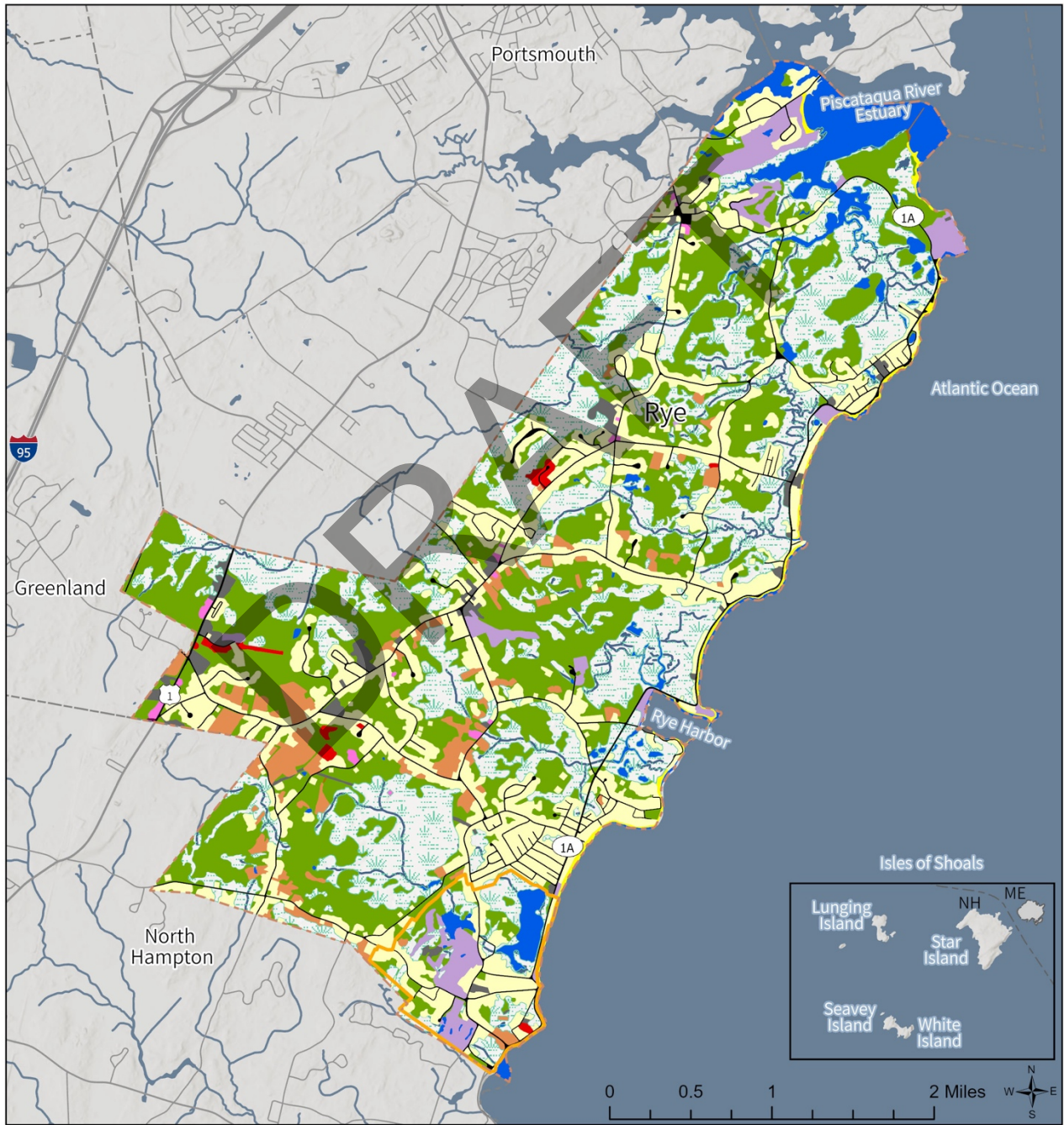
Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT, RPC,  
Maine GeoLibrary,  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Rye Beach Village District
- Road
- River/Stream
- Coastal Waters/Waterbody

## Land Cover (2015)

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Disturbed Land
- Transportation
- Open Space

- Beaches
- Agriculture
- Exposed Rock
- Forest
- Wetland
- Water
- Other





# Existing Conditions: Land Use

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development

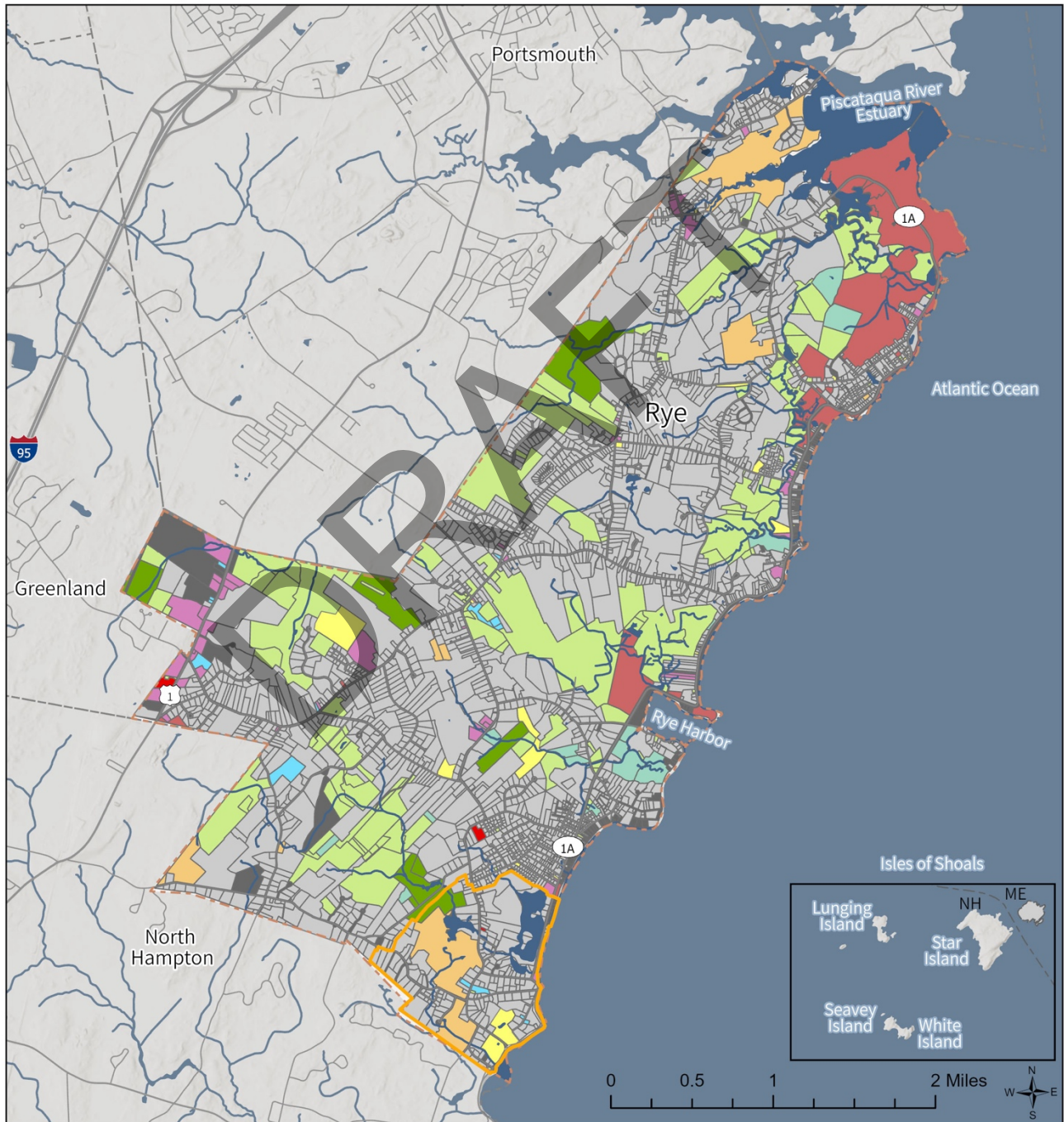


Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT,  
Maine GeoLibrary, CAI, 2023 Town of Rye  
Assessors' Database  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Rye Beach Village District
- Road
- River/Stream
- Coastal Waters/Waterbody

- Land Use
- Forestry
  - Wetland
  - Agricultural
  - Conserved Land/
  - Open Space/
  - Common Area
  - Residential

- Education/
- Institutional/Church
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Municipal
- State Land
- Utility
- Other



# TRANSPORTATION


Rye's transportation network consists of roadways, culverts, bridges, sidewalks, trails, pedestrian crossings, vehicles, and safety signage. Due to Rye's seacoast location, many visitors utilize Rye's roadway system and this results in heavy seasonal traffic patterns.


The town's local roadways utilized by its residents weave throughout the community, its residential neighborhoods, and along its coastline. The town center and other areas with mixed civic, residential, and commercial uses have higher amounts of pedestrian infrastructure, including crosswalks, sidewalks, and expansion of shoulders.


**Key issues Rye must consider in future planning related to transportation infrastructure include climate change impacts on roadways, pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic congestion, speed control, stormwater management, and public transportation opportunities.**



## FACTS AND FIGURES

 **64** miles of roadway extend throughout Rye, including municipal, state, and privately owned roads.

 **7** bridges are located in Rye, most of which are state-owned besides Rye Harbor Bridge. All are in good condition.

 **19** miles of paved roadway have been identified by New Hampshire Department of Transportation as being good candidates for bicycle infrastructure.



**408** accidents occurred in Rye from 2018-2022. There are three roadways in Rye that accounted for about 52% of all accidents, these include Lafayette Road (NH 1), Ocean Boulevard (NH 1A), and Washington Road.



A complete streets project for Rye Town Center has been identified for future implementation in Rockingham Planning Commission's 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan.



**~800** catch basins exist in Rye, according to the town's 2022 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report.

# KEY FINDINGS

- Rye's dominate traffic patterns reveal a strong south/north orientation, which are defined by primary roadways, such as Washington Road to Wallis Road to Sagamore Road. This is in part due to **seasonal congestion**, major **commuting routes** NH 1 and NH 1A, and residents **utilizing services** in Portsmouth and North Hampton.
- There are **64 miles** of municipal, state, and private roadways in Rye. Forty-five miles of these are maintained by the Rye Public Works Department.
- Rye has **seven bridges** in town. Only one is town-owned, Rye Harbor Bridge. According to NHDOT's 2022 Bridge Conditions data, none of the bridges located in Rye are identified as being structurally deficient. The Rye Harbor Bridge is in need of repair despite not being listed as structurally deficient by the state.
- The Town of Rye participates in a Stormwater Management Program and maintains and manages a **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)**. A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) includes the stormwater collection, conveyance, and outfall structures within a city or town. In 2022, 148 catch basins were inspected and cleaned by the Public Works Department and less than ten cubic yards of material was removed. According to the 2022 (MS4) Report, there are approximately 800 known catch basins in Rye, which are an important component of the town's stormwater system.
- A portion of **New Hampshire's Coastal Scenic Byway** is located in Rye along NH 1A. The New Hampshire Coastal Byway follows NH Routes 1A & 1B twenty-two miles from Seabrook to Portsmouth.
- The **New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway (NHSG)** is a proposed seventeen-mile, non-motorized trail that will connect the eight coastal communities of Seabrook, Hampton Falls, Hampton, North Hampton, Rye, Greenland, New Castle and Portsmouth. This proposed NHSG will connect through Rye by the existing rail corridor located near NH 1A and Breakfast Hill Road. Additionally, the state identified 19 miles of paved road in Rye as being well-suited for bicycle infrastructure. These present opportunities to expand the bicycle infrastructure network.
- Most of Rye's traffic is **commuter and passer-by traffic** traveling to and from Portsmouth in the northern part of town, along NH 1 traveling west and traveling south along NH 1A.
- **Traffic count data** from 2018-2022 revealed that NH 1A and Elwyn Road at the Portsmouth town line have experienced an increase in traffic volumes.
- From 2018-2022, there were a total of **408 accidents** in Rye. There are three roadways in Rye that accounted for about 52% of all accidents, these include Lafayette Road (NH 1), Ocean Boulevard (NH 1A), and Washington Road. These roadways were also where the most intersection related accidents occurred.
- Rye is one of the 7 communities in the Rockingham Planning Commission region to have initiated a **Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program**.
- **Complete Streets standards** were adopted into the Town's sSbdivision design standards to address save access elements and management.
- A Rye **Town Center Complete Streets project** has been identified in the Rockingham Planning Commission's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. Rye has actively demonstrated that the town is looking for ways to expand pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to key areas in town including connecting neighborhoods to the town center, and beaches.
- Other characteristics of Rye's transportation system that have the potential to negatively impact public safety (primarily emergency access routes) is the high degree of **peak hour traffic congestion** on NH 1A during the summer months.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – TRANSPORTATION

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye’s **transportation network and infrastructure** including trends, data, and other information.

## ROADWAYS

Rye’s roadway network includes a total of 64 miles of municipal, state, and private roads listed in Table 1. Roadways make up approximately 2% of the town’s total land area. The length of state routes in Rye total approximately 12 miles. The State-maintained routes include NH 1A (Ocean Boulevard), NH 1B (Wentworth Road), and NH 1 (Lafayette Road). The State-maintained secondary roads include Brackett Road, from Pioneer Road to NH 1A, Marsh Road, and a small portion of Breakfast Hill Road. Most of Rye’s roads are municipally maintained (approximately 45 miles), which give the town control over their design and maintenance. Table 2 shows the definition of each roadway classification from New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT).

Road Class	Maintenance	Length (mi)	% of Town
0	Private	7.09	0.16
II	State	12.42	0.54
V	Local	44.21	1.28
VI	Not Maintained	0.2	0.003
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63.92</b>	<b>1.82%</b>

Road Class	Description
Class I	<b>Trunk Line Highways</b> consist of all existing or proposed highways on the primary state highway system, excepting all portions of such highways within the compact section of cities and towns. The state assumes full control and pays costs of construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of its sections; the portions in compact areas are controlled by the cities and towns under Class IV Highways.
Class II	<b>State Aid Highways</b> consist of all existing or proposed highways on the secondary state highway system, excepting portions of such highways within the compact section of cities and towns, which are classified as Class IV Highways
Class III	<b>Recreational Roads</b> consist of all such roads leading to, and within, state reservations designated by the Legislature. The state highway department assumes full control of reconstruction and maintenance of such roads.
Class IV	<b>Town and City Streets</b> consist of all highways within the compact sections of cities and towns. Extensions of Class I and Class II highways through these areas are included in this classification.
Class V	<b>Rural Highways</b> consist of all other traveled highways which the city or town has the duty to maintain regularly.

Class VI	<b>Unmaintained Highways</b> consist of all other existing public ways, including highways discontinued as open highways and made subject to gates and bars and highways not maintained and repaired in suitable condition for travel for five consecutive years or more.
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Almost all of Rye’s roadways are paved, with only about five miles of unpaved roads in town. Overall, Rye has approximately 59 miles of paved roads throughout town. The remaining unpaved roads in town include Davis Road, Pulpit Rock Road, Neptune Drive, Cole Noyes Avenue, Shoals View Drive, Porpoise Drive, Rye Lane, VinMar Court, W. Atlantic Avenue, Jenness Avenue (West), Sunrise Path, and Old Beach Way.

As described in the 2023-2028 Rye Capital Improvement Plan, “in 2015 the town contracted with Street Scan to conduct a pavement condition study of all the town-maintained roads. Each road was rated for several deterioration conditions and received a nationally recognized Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of between 1 and 100. The average value for all the town roads was 76, which is a C rating. In 2020, the Selectboard budgeted to have this study conducted again and the study reflected a decrease in PCI of 69. This reflects that inadequate prior funding levels resulted in an 7% deterioration in the overall road pavement condition over the prior five years (2015-2020). This highlights the need for additional road paving funding. Paving costs increase each year and increased funding is required to improve the PCI index to a sustainable level”. Currently, the town’s road paving strategies consist of crack sealing and shim and overlay. Since 2020, the Town of Rye gradually added more funding annually for road pavement projects. Repaving projects also present an opportunity for other bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

## BRIDGES AND CULVERTS

There are a total of seven bridges in Rye. Out of these seven bridges, one is town-owned (Harbor Road Bridge). A list of Rye’s bridges, their location, and NHDOT identification can be found in Table 3. According to NHDOT’s 2022 Bridge Conditions Data, none of the bridges located in Rye are as structurally deficient. However, the Rye Harbor Bridge is currently in need of repair despite not being redlisted by the state.

NHDOT Bridge ID	Location	Over (Waterway)	Ownership
252/156	NH 1A	Seavey Creek	NHDOT
235/153	Brackett Road	Berry Brook	NHDOT
194/092	NH 1A	Parsons Creek	NHDOT
145/080	NH 1A	Rye Harbor	NHDOT
135/075	Rye Harbor Road	Brook	Municipality
123/073	North of Old Rye Harbor Road	-	-
086/047	NH 1A (Rye Beach)	Eel Pond Outlet	Privately-Owned

It is also important to maintain culverts as critical water and wildlife crossings, and to maintain any catch basins that connect to these culverts. Routine maintenance and replacement of culverts is important to help communities mitigate flooding by ensuring the culvert size is large enough to allow for a surge of water to flow through/beneath during heavy rainstorms. Culverts

also act as critical stream crossings for wildlife habitat by providing adequate connectivity for wildlife movement.

A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) includes the stormwater collection, conveyance, and outfall structures within a city or town. The Town of Rye participates in a Stormwater Management Program and maintains and manages a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). According to the 2022 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report, there are a total of approximately 800 known catch basins in Rye. Along with approximately sixty other municipalities in the state, the Town of Rye's MS4 permit is regulated under the EPA Clean Water Act (CWA). The Public Works Department works to comply with the requirements of the MS4 permit issued on May 1, 2018, by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For more information about the Town of Rye's MS4 System and Permit, visit the Community Facilities and Services Profile of this Existing Conditions Report.

## **SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

There are a total of 3.6 miles of sidewalk located in Rye and the Rye Beach Precinct. Most of these sidewalks are in the Rye Beach Precinct. However, there is a small section of sidewalk along the west side of Washington Road in the town center from the Library to the Public Safety Building, as well as a small section of sidewalk along the east side of Cable Road. Constructing more pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in town has been an explicit goal of Rye's over the years. In 2009, the Town of Rye received a grant from NHDOT for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Travel Plan. The purpose of implementing SRTS is to encourage a greater percentage of students to bike and walk to school safely. The roadways identified for SRTS improvements include Washington Road, Lang Road, Wallis Road, and Central Road. Currently, no additional progress has been made implementing the Safe Routes to School program. However, Rockingham Planning Commission did conduct a shoulder study in 2017 as a follow-up to the Safe Routes to School Designation work.

To work towards Rye's goal of expanding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, the Selectboard formed and appointed the Town Center Committee in 2019. The purpose of this committee is to propose a comprehensive vision for the town center to better accommodate multiple modes of transportation, to increase connectivity throughout town, and to create a community outdoor space. The Town Center Committee term is scheduled to terminate in March 2024.

As identified in the 2022 Town Annual Report, the Town of Rye received a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to redesign approximately 1,900 feet of Washington Road. This will include a sidewalk extension, shoulder expansions, bike lanes, and new crosswalks. This project will include installing a sidewalk that is set back on the west side of Washington Road, connecting Rye Junior High School to the Rye Public Library. It will also include the addition of bicycle lanes along Washington Road through the Town Center and the reduction of travel lanes to 10 feet. Additionally, the entire project area will also include new historically appropriate lighting to better illuminate the Town Center and create a more pedestrian friendly environment. This project is anticipated to be completed in 2029.

The Town of Rye is charged with facilitating the planning and implementing of the TAP Grant and charge with *“identifying and vetting contractors/consultants for project implementation; assisting the Rye Selectboard in acquiring information required by NH State entities for project implementation; analyze project specifications in relation to shifting landscape of structures and uses within the projects geographic area to ensure harmonization; and to recommend potential improvements/changes over the life of the project.”* The Rye Town Center Committee, the Town Administrator, and the Public Works Director are leading efforts for this project in collaboration with Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) and NHDOT.

## **TRAILS**

There are approximately 13.6 miles of trails in Rye. This includes trails within the Rye Town Forest, Odiorne State Park, Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest, Seavey Acres, and Marden Woods. This total does not include Airfield Woods or Cedar Run Woods due to limited data on trail length at these sites and does not include other trails developed on private properties.

Rye’s public trails are primarily on conservation lands and used for recreation. Rye also has a small section of rail corridor that crosses through Rye off NH 1 near Breakfast Hill Road. This will become a segment of the New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway (NHSG), which is a future regional rail trail that will extend from the Massachusetts boarder to Maine.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOAST GREENWAY (NHSG)**

The NHSG is a proposed seventeen-mile, non-motorized trail that will connect the eight coastal communities of Seabrook, Hampton Falls, Hampton, North Hampton, Rye, Greenland, New Castle, and Portsmouth. The NHSG is part of the larger East Coast Greenway, which is a developing trail system that spans nearly 3,000 miles and extends between Canada and Key West, linking 25 cities on the eastern seaboard. The NHSG will benefit Rye by serving as an off-road route to provide an opportunity to utilize a different mode of transportation that connects the Seacoast communities.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE SCENIC COASTAL BYWAY**

The Scenic Coastal Byway is the state’s scenic drive along New Hampshire’s seacoast that is 18.5 miles in length. It passes through six New Hampshire communities including Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, and Seabrook. The Byway connects ten units of the State Park system as well as numerous local and private parks and recreational attractions. Along this byway, historic structures can be viewed as the Byway overlooks the sandy beaches and rocky shores of the Gulf of Maine and Hampton Seabrook Marsh. Eight scenic areas have been identified along Ocean Boulevard (NH 1A) by the New Hampshire Coastal Program: Little Harbor, Berry’s Brook Estuary, Fairhill-White Cedar Swamp, Odiorne Point State Park, Eel Pond/Cedar Swamp Run, Burkes Pond, Browns Mill Pond, Rye Ledge, and the Isles of Shoals. The Scenic Coastal Byway also carries U.S. Bicycle Route 1 and the East Coast Greenway

through New Hampshire. The portion of NH 1A in Rye is part of a designated Scenic Byway. NH 1A is a designated Scenic Byway controlled by the State and its shoulders have been upgraded to better and more safely serve the significant bicycle traffic that frequents the Seacoast area.

## **RECOMMENDED BIKE ROUTES**

The NH Department of Transportation maintains an interactive bicycle route map found here: <https://nh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=49c702c328d84a29af3b4a27eb271b37>

Included on this map are NHDOT recommended bicycle routes. The state identifies 19 miles of paved road in Rye as being well-suited for bicycle infrastructure. Currently, Rye has a Highway Pavement Width policy (2005) that calls for paved roadways to be widened to up to 26 feet when Class IV roadways are reclaimed or reconstructed to provide adequate space for bicyclists and pedestrians. Some of the roads recommended by NHDOT as bicycle routes include Ocean Boulevard, Cable Road, Central Road, Groove Road, Washington Road, West Road, Breakfast Hill Road, Wallis Road, Sagamore Road, Wentworth Road and New Castle Road. The state recommended bike routes can be seen on the Transportation Map found at the end of this profile.

## **TRANSIT AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

Many segments of Rye's population would benefit from greater access to public transit options. According to Rockingham Planning Commission's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, *"Accessibility in the region is excellent for individuals with a motor vehicle. In contrast accessibility is very limited in much of the region for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities or other residents who lack a private motor vehicle or who are otherwise unable to drive to get to work, perform errands, or travel for other reasons"*. Rye is one of the communities located in the service area of one or more transit providers, but few trips are occurring. The lack of awareness of the services in the region has been a consistent challenge.

NHDOT provides three park and ride lots near Rye (in Portsmouth and North Hampton). The Park and Ride in North Hampton is located on Timber Swamp Road and the two Park and Rides in Portsmouth are located on NH 33. The Portsmouth Transportation Center is located on NH 33 at I-95, Exit 3 and is the state's largest park and ride facility for commuters with a 1,210-vehicle parking capacity and available bicycle racks. The Portsmouth Transportation Center also provides transportation access to C&J Trailways and COAST bus systems. The convenience of these services allows users to link bus travel with Logan Airport, the metropolitan Boston public transportation system, and the Downeaster Train, serving Exeter, Durham, and Dover. This park and ride is also well situated for Rye residents who commute via I-95.

Other transportation services in Rockingham County (as identified in the Rockingham Planning Commission's 2023 Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan for the



Southern NH Region) are listed below. These transportation services are offered in Rye, adjacent communities, or are available throughout the whole region:

- **COAST Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation** – is a regional non-profit transportation provider that is scheduled to operate on eight main state routes Monday through Saturday. These include Routes include NH 1, 6, 12, 13, 14, 43, and 100, and buses run hourly.
- **C&J Bus lines** – is a private carrier that provides coach bus services between Dover, Portsmouth, Seabrook, Boston Logan Airport and Boston South Station where connections can be made via Amtrack and various other intercity bus companies to points south and west.
- **Granite State Independent Living (GSIL)** – is a statewide independent living center that received a state contract from Department of Education to transport low-income disabled clients who rely on mobility devices like wheelchairs and scooters. Trips are limited to shopping, social activities, or errand type trips for those eligible statewide.
- **Veterans Administration – Veterans Transportation Service (VTS)** - Provides non-emergency medical transportation to qualifying Veterans. Trips are scheduled through a rider’s primary care providers and must meet several administrative and medical criteria.
- **Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens (TASC)** – is a volunteer driver program based in Hampton and serving the ten Rockingham Planning Commission communities of Brentwood, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, North Hampton, Rye, Seabrook and Stratham. Service is available to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities within these communities and to destinations outside the region as far away as Boston. Rides are available for medical and social service appointments, grocery shopping, and other basic needs. Eligible residents include older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- **Rye Senior SERVE (Serving Elder Residents through Volunteer Efforts)** – is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that operates its own minibus to provide transportation services to older residents of Rye. Services include trips to healthcare appointments, weekly trips to the Portsmouth Area to grocery stores, pharmacies, and the bank, social events at the library, and personal home wellness visits. This service is available Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. For more information visit the Senior Services page on the Town’s Website: <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/senior-services>

## CIRCULATION AND DESIGN

An analysis of Rye’s vehicle trips, commuting patterns, traffic counts, accidents, traffic calming, access management needs, and identified bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure needs will inform Rye’s long-term transportation planning and design objectives. Most of Rye’s dominate traffic patterns reveal a strong south/north orientation which is heavily reliant on primary roadways such as Washington Road to Wallis Road to Sagamore Road.

## Commuter Data

Most of Rye's traffic is passer-by traffic and commuters traveling to and from Portsmouth in the northern part of town, along NH 1 traveling west, and traveling south along NH 1A. Rye residents typically utilize these routes and travel to Portsmouth for shopping, work, and entertainment. These roadways in Rye also experience seasonal traffic of tourists for trips to the beaches along Ocean Boulevard. As identified in the 2018 Rye Transportation Chapter update in the previous Master Plan, *"Lang Road is already carrying increasing traffic volumes as it becomes more of a primary access point between Rye and Portsmouth. Mill Road/West Road may also show increased volumes if it is used as an alternative to traveling on NH Route 1. And truck traffic on local roads creates impacts as they service businesses in Rye and surrounding communities."*

Another characteristic of Rye's transportation system that has the potential to negatively impact public safety (primarily emergency access routes) is the high degree of peak hour traffic congestion on NH 1A during the summer months. At these peak periods, it becomes difficult for fire and police vehicles to travel this route when responding to emergencies.

To address the increasing carrying capacity of traffic volumes on Lang Road, an intersection improvement project was completed after six years of work in 2022 at the Lang Road and NH 1 intersection. The purpose of this work is to protect vehicles entering NH 1 from Rye along Lang Road thereby making accessing NH 1 safer particularly for south bound NH 1 traffic. Outbound traffic from Rye now offers protected left turns onto NH 1 from Elwyn Road, Washington Road, and now Lang Road. For more information on specific commuting data in Rye, please visit the Population and Housing Profile in this Existing Conditions Report.

## Traffic Counts

Rye's most recent traffic count data for the roadways with the highest traffic volumes in town is included in Table 4. This table depicts the most recent traffic data for these roadways (2022) in comparison to the traffic count data from previous years. This data was collected by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. In reviewing the traffic data from 2013 to 2022, it appears that, in most cases, there has been a slight decline of traffic on the roads listed. The reason for some of these declines in traffic volume are not yet clear. However, some roads, such as NH 1A (Sagamore Ave) at the Portsmouth town line (south and north bound) and Elwyn Road at the Portsmouth town line have experienced an increase in traffic volumes. The COVID-19 Pandemic that began in 2020 resulted in many commuters shifting to working remotely from home, which may have contributed to the declining numbers seen in the table below. Its unclear as to when or if these traffic patterns will shift back to pre-COVID numbers.

**TABLE 4: NHDOT Traffic Counts in Rye**

Location	Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) (2013)	AADT (2018)	AADT (2019)	AADT (2020)	AADT (2021)	AADT (2022)
NH 1A (OCEAN BLVD) AT NORTH HAMPTON TL	3,700	3,904	3,932	3,319	3,681	2,938
WASHINGTON RD EAST OF US 1	N/A	3,649	3,693	3,095	3,432	3,497
NH 1A (PIONEER RD) WEST OF BRACKETT RD	4,000	4,190	3,658	3,087	3,423	3,614
NH 1A (SAGAMORE AVE) AT PORTSMOUTH TL (SB-NB)	7,000	4,803	4,670	3,941	4,371	6,215
NH 1B (WENTWORTH RD) AT PORTSMOUTH TL	4,900	6,000	4,937	4,167	4,621	4,658
SAGAMORE RD SOUTH OF BERRY BROOK LANE	4,700	4,572	3,840	3,241	3,594	4,131
ELWYN RD AT PORTSMOUTH TL	7,400	10,733	8,408	7,096	7,869	8,552

Traffic Studies

In 2022, a Traffic Pedestrian Safety Study was conducted by Hoyle Tanner Engineering to study traffic and pedestrian safety improvements at NH 1A (Ocean Boulevard) and Perkins Road. The purpose of this study was to address resident concerns regarding vehicular and pedestrian accommodation, parking, and driveway accessibility. The study primarily focuses on providing a safe and accessible pedestrian route along Perkins Road to the crosswalk on Ocean Boulevard. It also investigates vehicular access control improvements. Three alternative designs were identified in the study, these included the following:

- Alternative A – One major reconfiguration concept that would provide physical separation of pedestrian and vehicular areas and would show reconfiguration of the plaza parking area.
- Alternative B - A minor reconfiguration concept that would guide pedestrians to preferred routes and crossings but would not provide physical separation or reconfigure the plaza parking area.
- Alternative C - (a hybrid to first 2 proposed alternatives) provides a grade separated sidewalk adjacent to NH 1A (where it is most needed), provides a delineated but traversable painted pedestrian walkway adjacent to Perkins Road to limit impacts to parking and lot circulation, and provides defined access points for vehicular traffic entering the plaza.

Both Alternative A & B proposed a new crosswalk at the end of Perkins Road as well as pavement and travel way radius revisions in the northwest corner. However, based on the feedback received from the Rye Selectboard and the general public, it appears Alternative C is the preferred and most viable option for design and implementation to this area.

In 2015, a Parking Study of Ocean Boulevard (NH 1A) was completed to address high volumes of vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic in this corridor from beach visitors. This area of Rye’s transportation system presents many challenges including limited roadway width of the corridor, no sidewalks, or bike paths, multiple residential and commercial driveways, and significant seasonal tourists to Rye’s coast which create parking demands that exceeds the existing supply of available parking in this area. However, this study determined that there is an adequate supply of “resident only” parking in the Ocean Boulevard Corridor despite the limited parking availability. The study recommended the following:

- There appear to be signage and striping inconsistencies that have evolved over the years in response to parking demands. Also, several signs have been added to the corridor that were neither installed nor approved by the Town of Rye.
- The town should conduct a comprehensive assessment of all signage and striping along the corridor to ensure signage and striping are in accordance with the latest standards and approved by the town and NHDOT.
- The study provided observations for the town’s consideration related to adjusting parking along the corridor to provide proper sight distances by eliminating parking adjacent near roadway intersections with residential and commercial driveways. In the congested areas along the Jenness State Beach and Wallis Sands Beach (also known as Pirate’s Cove) area, the study suggests that designated parking spaces could eliminate the confusion on where parking is allowed in proximity to the roadway and driveway intersections. Other options include removal of parking along the more congested sections of Ocean Boulevard.

Accident Data

Between 2018 and 2022, there were a total of 408 accidents reported on Rye’s roadways. Of those accidents, 38 resulted in injuries, 2 of which involved pedestrians, and 7 involved bicyclists. As shown in Table 5, it appears that in recent years there has been a decrease in the total number of accidents annually.

<b>Year</b>	<b># of Accidents</b>
2018	104
2019	83
2020	75
2021	79
2022	67

There are three roadways in town that accounted for about 52% of all accidents these include Lafayette Road (NH 1), Ocean Boulevard (NH 1A), and Washington Road. Ocean Boulevard was the roadway with the most accidents at 112 or 27%. Lafayette Road had a total of 56 accidents and accounted for 14% of all accidents in Rye and Washington Road had a total of 44 accidents or 11%. Of the 408 accidents reported, 25 of them were accidents that occurred at intersections. The roadways with the most intersection related accidents include Ocean Boulevard, Washington Road, and Lafayette Road.

## TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES AND PENDING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Rye Department of Public Works, Selectboard, and Planning Board are collectively responsible for overseeing the management of the town's transportation system, its maintenance, and future infrastructure investments.

A review of the New Hampshire 2023-2032 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan identified the following future projects:

- Project #43002 - Route NH 1A - replacement of 4 ft x 5.5 ft stone walled, concrete deck culvert just north of Locke Rd.
- Project #43735 Washington Road – construct sidewalk, shoulder expansion, bike lanes and cross walks on Washington Rd for 1,900 linear feet.

Rockingham Planning Commission's (RPC) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program reported the following future projects in Rye:

- Project # 16127 New Castle – Rye NH 1B Bridge replacement, Single Leaf Bascule Bridge, NH 1B over Little Harbor (Red List) Br No 066/071
- Project # 41713 – New Castle – Rye NH 1A & 1B Bike shldrs Svy Creek-OSP/ NH1B-NH1A/Sdwlks Wild Rose-Beach Hill/Shldrs Wild Rose-USCG (~4.2m)
- Project # 42321 North Hampton – Rye NH 1A – Reconstruct NHDOT stone revetment seawalls/Berms

Other longer term transportation projects that are not yet programmed in the state but have been identified as needs in RPC's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (2021 Update) include:

- Rye Town Center Complete Streets
  - Project #6397004 location: Washington Rd scope: extend sidewalk, add shoulder bike lane, and install crosswalks along 1,900' of Washington Rd in Rye first year of construction estimated: 2027
- US 1 Shoulders Breakfast Hill to Portsmouth City Line
  - Project #6397001 location: US 1 scope: US 1 Shoulders Breakfast Hill Road to Portsmouth city line first year of construction: 2041
- US 1 Shoulders from N. Hampton T/L to Breakfast Hill Rd
  - Project #6397003 location: US 1 scope: Improve Shoulders on US 1 from North Hampton Town line to Breakfast Hill Road. Realign Dow Road to 90 degree approach first year of construction 2042
- US 1 Washington Rd. Intersection capacity improvements
  - Project # 6397002 scope: Widen to five lanes and improve the Washington Road/Breakfast Hill Road intersection with US 1. Reduce vertical rise to the south to improve sight distance. First year of construction: 2042

## EMERGING OR POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Prioritize the expansion of bicycle infrastructure where appropriate and enhance connectivity throughout town. Connect to the anticipated New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway (NHSG) and utilize NH DOT's Recommended Bike Routes Map to identify opportunities.
- Develop a Complete Streets Policy, an action the town has already demonstrated interest in pursuing.
- Evaluate roads for sufficient emergency access and make improvements to those that are insufficient. Connect older cul-de-sac roads that lack connections to one another to improve emergency vehicle access should the primary road be obstructed and improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.
- Continue to invest in additional annual funding for road pavement projects. Repaving projects also present an opportunity for other bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- Continue to foster stormwater best management practices through MS4 permit requirements.
- Review the 2009 Rye Safe Routes to School Plan and determine how it can inform future pedestrian infrastructure improvements in the town center, particularly when looking at improving connectivity from the Junior High to the town center and to Rye Elementary School. Other improvements were identified in the SRTS Travel Plan for Washington Road, Lang Road, Wallis Road, and Central Road. Consider re-establishing the Safe Routes to School Committee through the Selectboard.
- Encourage residents to utilize existing transit options by providing educational and marketing resources to increase awareness of these services.
- Consider securing additional funding and expanding the Rye Senior SERVE transportation services.
- Review stormwater management requirements in the town's site plan and subdivision regulations and ensure they meet contemporary best practices (such as promoting infiltration and the incorporation of green infrastructure system designs).
- Consider conducting further studies to identify ways to reduce traffic congestion on high volume roadways specifically at the Rye/Portsmouth town lines.
- Pave the remaining unpaved roadways in Rye, as appropriate. These include Davis Road, Pulpit Rock Road, Neptune Drive, Cole Noyes Avenue, Shoals View Drive, Porpoise Drive, Rye Lane, VinMar Court, W. Atlantic Avenue, Jenness Avenue (West), Sunrise Path, and Old Beach Way.

# Existing Conditions: Transportation

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes for master plan development



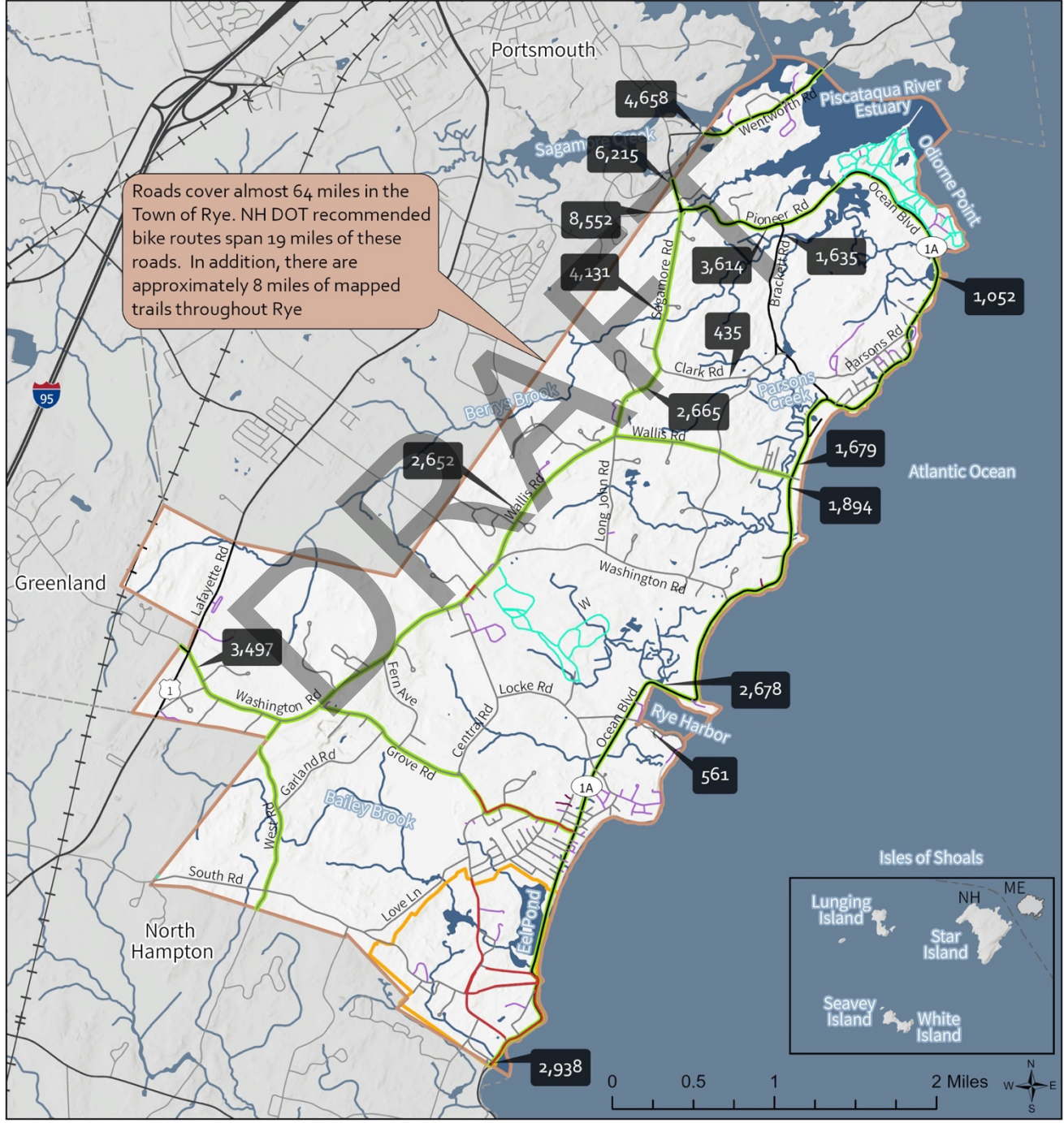
Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT, Maine GeoLibrary  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Rye Beach Village District
- Building Footprint
- Coastal Waters/Waterbody
- River/Stream
- State Road
- Local Road
- Private Road
- Unmaintained Road
- NH DOT Recommended Bike Route
- Existing Sidewalk \*
- Trail
- Rail Road

Numbers indicate the average annual daily traffic count for 2022.

\* Additional sidewalks may exist in other areas.

Roads cover almost 64 miles in the Town of Rye. NH DOT recommended bike routes span 19 miles of these roads. In addition, there are approximately 8 miles of mapped trails throughout Rye



## DATA SOURCES

- 2022 Town Annual Report
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/2022\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/2022_annual_report.pdf)
- 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/approved\\_final\\_2023-2028\\_cip.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/approved_final_2023-2028_cip.pdf)
- 2022 Salt Reduction Plan
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/salt\\_reduction\\_plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/salt_reduction_plan_0.pdf)
- 2023-2032 NHDOT Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan
  - <https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/ten-year-plan>
- 2023-2026 Rockingham Planning Commission Transportation Improvement Program
  - <https://www.therpc.org/transportation/tip/2023-2026-tip>
- 2045 Rockingham Planning Commission Long Range Transportation (2021 Update)
  - [https://www.therpc.org/application/files/6316/2930/0156/LRTP\\_Adopted2021.pdf](https://www.therpc.org/application/files/6316/2930/0156/LRTP_Adopted2021.pdf)
- 2022 NHDOT Traffic Count Data
- 2022 NHDOT Bridge Condition Data
- 2023 Rockingham Planning Commission Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan for the Southern NH Region
  - [https://www.therpc.org/application/files/2816/8744/5216/ACT\\_Coordinated\\_Plan\\_2023\\_Final.pdf](https://www.therpc.org/application/files/2816/8744/5216/ACT_Coordinated_Plan_2023_Final.pdf)
- 2009 Rye Safe Routes to School
- New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway (NHSG)
  - <https://www.greenway.org/states/new-hampshire>
- 2022 MS4 Report
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/year\\_5\\_report\\_executed\\_copy.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/year_5_report_executed_copy.pdf)
- 2015 Rye Vulnerability Assessment Report



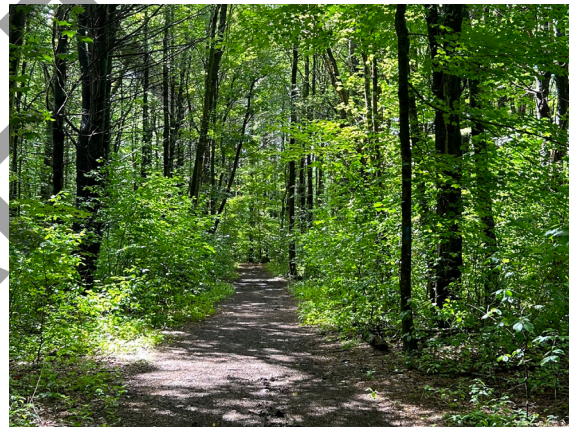
- [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/final\\_report.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/final_report.pdf)
- Traffic Study: 2022 NH 1A (Ocean Boulevard) at Perkins Road Traffic Pedestrian Safety
- Parking Study: 2015 Ocean Boulevard Parking Study Assessment
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/traffic\\_assessment\\_0.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/traffic_assessment_0.pdf)
- 2018-2022 Vehicle Accident Data – Rye Police Department
- 2018 Rye Master Plan Transportation Chapter
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ch\\_6.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ch_6.pdf)
- Interview with Rye Public Works Director

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# NATURAL RESOURCES

Rye's natural resources, including eight miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline, numerous wetlands and surface waters, groundwater, forests, and other natural resources, provide invaluable benefits to the local ecology and community through hazard mitigation, recreation, and tourism. Conservation land includes salt marshes, forested areas, and provides opportunities for the community to engage with the natural environment. Conservation land also contributes to stormwater and storm surge control during times of flooding because their natural biomechanics act as a sponge for excess water compared to developed areas.

**Two natural resource categories have been identified as being key to the Town's character: first, the beaches and tidal marshes of Rye** serve as a year-round resource for both locals and visitors, drawing tourism opportunities and serving as tidal buffers along with the extensive marshlands along Rye's coast; **and second, the uplands of Rye** support the Town's semi-rural character and are characterized in part by conservation lands that Rye values highly, such as the Rye Town Forest.



## FACTS AND FIGURES



**52%** of New Hampshire's coastline is within Rye, including over 3 miles of beaches.



**29%** of the town is classified as Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire.



**25%** of the town exists within the 100 or 500-year floodplain.



**262** species of seabirds and migratory birds have been observed on the Isles of Shoals and 305 on Rye's mainland.



**30%** of Rye is classified as wetlands.



**41%** of the town was identified as being within a Prioritized Habitat Block.



**24%** of the wellhead protection areas within Rye are conserved.



**10** of the 17 bird species listed by the State of New Hampshire as either threatened or endangered have been seen in Rye.

# KEY FINDINGS

- **Wetlands and waterways** are key natural resource features in the Town of Rye, providing pollutant filtration, nutrient uptake, floodwater storage, and scenic value as tidal marshlands along the coast. Wetlands cover approximately 30% of Rye and over 42 miles of waterways within the Town.
  - **Drinking water** in Rye comes from a stratified drift aquifer, protected by wellhead protection areas covering 38% of the Town's area.
  - **Saltwater intrusion** is a top concern for the Town's drinking water, as well as **pollution** from development and septic systems. 76% of the wellhead protection areas are not held under permanent land conservation.
  - **Marsh degradation** from saltwater inundation threatens the health and stability of marshes, and marsh erosion and flooding from more severe storms are increasing. Flooding of coastal roads is becoming more common.
  - **Water quality impairment status**, including impairments for aquatic life and impairments for fish/shellfish consumption, and duration of impairments are increasing as compared to the frequency that waterbodies are "delisted" (i.e., an impairment is removed). Berry's Brook, Eel Pond, and Lower Sagamore Creek are impaired for aquatic life. Berry's Brook, Parson's Creek, an unnamed Brook to Marsh Pond, an unnamed brook to Bass Beach, Lower Sagamore creek, Rye Harbor, and Witch Creek are impaired for fish and shellfish consumption.
  - **Swimming advisories at beaches** are increasing due to elevated levels of fecal-sourced bacteria. The NHDES Public Beach Inspector Program monitors the water quality for bacteria throughout the summer season.
- When concentrations of bacteria exceed state thresholds, a sign is posted at the beach to advise recreators of environmental conditions.
- Rye has had issues with **contamination of its drinking water resources**. In November 2023, routine water testing conducted by the state Department of Environmental Services found three out of four water distribution sites within the Rye Water District contained E.coli and fecal coliform. Stewardship of Rye's drinking water resources is important to maintain good water quality in town.
  - 41% of the town was identified as being within a **Prioritized Habitat Block**, including Fairhill Swamp, Bailey Brook, and Awcomin Marsh. Prioritized habitat block designation indicate high natural resource value, prime wildlife habitat, and ecologically intact areas.
  - The Town of Rye also contains **2,632 acres of forests** (31% of the town's area). These forested areas provide habitats and natural communities, scenic landscapes, and outlets for recreation.
  - Over **2,164 acres of land are held in conservation** in the Town of Rye (25%), much of which is Town owned land that includes salt marshes, forested areas, and provides opportunities for the community to engage with the natural environment.
  - **Habitat fragmentation for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems** is increasing as development increases and this results in habitat loss and/or disconnection between habitat areas.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – NATURAL RESOURCES

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye's **natural resources** including trends, data, and other information.

## **WATERBODIES AND WETLANDS**

There are about 42 miles of waterways within the Town of Rye. These streams, including Berrys Brook, Seavey Creek, Witch Creek, Parsons Creek, and Bailey Brook, carry freshwater towards coast where it mixes with the Atlantic Ocean in tidally influenced areas. Rye contains 114 acres of ponds, including Eel Pond, Burke Pond, Brown's Pond, and Locke Pond, and Marsh Road Pond (also known locally as East Rye Pond), about 1,654 acres of freshwater wetlands and an additional 909 acres of saltwater or brackish water wetlands. In total, approximately 30% of the Town of Rye are wetlands, located throughout the Town but mostly clustered adjacent to Rye's waterways with the largest tidal wetlands located behind Rye Harbor (Awcomin Swamp), the Parson's Creek drainage, and the Seavey Creek drainage. Many of the large freshwater wetlands are located along Berrys Brook. These wetlands are imperative for Rye's coastal resiliency as they separate the beaches from the upland areas, serve as storage for floodwaters, and mitigate pollutant transport to and from developed areas.

Wetlands serve as integral factor in the transport of pollutants from developed areas to streams, waterbodies, and to the ocean. Through nutrient uptake, retention, and stabilization of sediments, wetlands help decrease the amount of nutrients, such as nitrogen, organic compounds, such as *E. coli*, enterococci, and polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), and inorganic compounds, such as chloride. Routine monitoring of the water quality of Rye's surface waters is conducted each summer to determine concentrations of bacteria during both dry and wet weather, and to assess where bacteria loads are highest. Even though Rye contains 2,563 acres of wetlands, many waterbodies in the town contain impairments designated by the State of New Hampshire (Table 1). Table 1. Water quality impairments in Rye, NH.

Drinking water with Rye comes from a stratified drift aquifer beneath the town. This aquifer supplies four public water supply wells (two bedrock wells and two gravel wells) which are surrounded by wellhead protection areas. The wellhead protection areas for the three drinking water wells within Rye cover 38% of the Town's area. Currently, 76% of the wellhead protection areas are not held under permanent land conservation. Saltwater intrusion in the Town of Rye's drinking water is a top concern. Contamination of drinking water sources is also a concern for the Town of Rye. In November 2023, routine water testing conducted by the state Department of Environmental Services found three out of four water distribution sites within the Rye Water District contained *E.coli* and fecal coliform. PFAs contamination has also been a concern for

many Rye residents. PFAs, commonly referred to as “forever chemicals” have adverse health effects when ingested in drinking water.

Table 1. Water quality impairments in Rye, NH. Updated with the 2022 NH 303d List of Impaired waters.

Impairment	Waterbody	Reason
Impaired for Aquatic Life	Berry’s Brook	Dissolved oxygen saturation and pH
	Eel Pond	Dissolved oxygen saturation and chloride
	Lower Sagamore Creek	Chlorophyll-a, dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, and estuarine bioassessments
Impaired for Fish/Shellfish Consumption	Berry’s Brook* <sup>1</sup>	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and/or Dioxin ( <sup>1</sup> and mercury).
	Parsons Creek <sup>1</sup>	
	Unnamed brook to Marsh Pond	
	Unnamed brook to Bass Beach <sup>1</sup>	
	Lower Sagamore Creek <sup>1</sup>	
	Rye Harbor <sup>1</sup>	
	Witch Creek <sup>1</sup>	
Atlantic Ocean to and surrounding the Isles of Shoals		

\* The water quality of Berry’s Brook was tested in November of 2016 for perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs). The sampling showed Berry’s Brook exceeded the EPA threshold of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) with concentrations of 194 ppt (Block, 2016).

## CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Over 2,164 acres of land are held under conservation in the Town of Rye (25%). Conservation land includes salt marshes, forested areas, and provides opportunities for the community to engage with the natural environment. Mostly owned by the town, these areas include nine locations where community members can enjoy forested trails, wetlands, scenic vistas, and more. The community of Rye highly values their conservation lands, as noted by the Rye Master Plan Committee. The conservation of salt marshes and wetlands in particular help contribute to stormwater and storm surge control during times of floods because their natural biomechanics act as a sponge for excess water compared to developed areas.

The Town of Rye also contains 2,632 acres of forests (31% of the town’s area). These forested areas provide natural communities with habitats, scenic landscapes, and outlets for recreation. Habitat for wildlife include Appalachian Oak-Pine forests, temperate swamps, salt marshes, and wet meadow/shrub wetlands which cover 4,896 in Rye or 57% of the Town’s area. One example of a rare natural community found in Rye is the Atlantic White Cedar swamp, which were previously inventoried in Rye being in Bailey Brook, adjacent to Brown’s Pond, and adjacent to Burke’s Pond. The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau has been conducting an update inventory of Atlantic White Cedar stands in Rye, at Fairhill Marsh and the Jim Raynes Forest. The updated NHB report is expected in 2024. Of the 17 bird species listed by the State of New Hampshire as either threatened or endangered, 10 have been seen in Rye. Additionally,

262 species of seabirds and migratory birds have been observed on the Isles of Shoals and 305 on Rye’s mainland. The ability for these species to thrive depends on their access to resources. These include native plants, undisturbed areas, and toxin-free environments. Invasive species have been found within the Town of Rye, particularly within Odiorne Point State Park. In 2010, an Invasive Plant Inventory and Management Plan was completed by the Seacoast Science Center, FB Environmental, and NH state partners to help combat invasive plant species within the park (FB Environmental, 2010).

Being a coastal community, community members have access to a plethora of marine life and harvesting. Shellfish found within waters within or just offshore of Rye include the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*), Atlantic rock crab (*Cancer irroratus*), Jonah crab (*Cancer borealis*), dog whelks (*Nucella lapillus*), quahog/cherrystone (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), eastern oysters (*Crassostera virginica*), softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*), little neck clams (*Protothaca staminea*), Atlantic surf clams (*Spisula solidissima*), razor clams (*Siliqua patula*), and Atlantic sea scallops (*Placopecten magellanicus*).

Though these species are present, fishermen and harvesters must always be up to date on areas restricted to harvesting due to impairments and elevated concentrations of parameters. The outlet of the Piscataqua River is marked as a prohibited/safety shellfishing zone, as well as Witch Creek and Berry’s Brook estuaries. The waters within the Isle of Shoals archipelago contain the same designation. Restricted areas for shell fishing include zones around public beaches. Rye Harbor is classified as prohibited/unclassified for shellfish harvesting.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) identified areas with highest natural resource values within New Hampshire. Rye contains six of these “Prioritized Habitat Blocks,” which span 41% of the town (3,484 acres) (Table 2). These Prioritized Habitat Blocks were found to have the highest natural resource values according to state criteria, including prime wildlife habitats and ecological intact areas. The designation serves to help community focus conservation efforts to areas with high ecological significance, connectivity, and thriving resources.

Table 2. Prioritized Habitat Blocks within Rye.

Prioritized Habitat Block	Acres
Bailey Brook	577
Seavey Creek/ Fairhill Swamp/ Wallis Marsh	873
Lower Berry’s Brook	253
Packer Bog/Upper Berry’s Brook South	594
Upper Berry’s Brook North	365
Awcomin Marsh	822
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,484 (41%)</b>

## TRENDS

- Habitat fragmentation for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is increasing as development increases and results in habitat loss and/or disconnection between habitat areas.
- Water quality impairment status and duration of impairments are increasing as compared to the frequency that waterbodies are “delisted” (i.e., an impairment is removed).
- Swimming advisories at beaches are increasing due to elevated levels of fecal-sourced bacteria. The NHDES Public Beach Inspector Program monitors the water quality for bacteria throughout the summer season. When concentrations of bacteria exceed state thresholds, a sign is posted at the beach to advise recreators of environmental conditions.
- Marsh erosion and flooding from more severe storms are increasing.
- Flooding of coastal roads is becoming more common.
- Freshwater marsh degradation from saltwater inundation threatens the health and stability of marshes.

## EMERGING OR POTENTIAL ACTIONS

As identified in the Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Rye, “the greatest threat to the natural resources and ecology of the Town of Rye is habitat loss and alteration resulting from development and from climate change altering the landscape” (FBE, 2021). To support both the economic stability of the town as well as the ecological wellbeing, actions to support natural resources should be balanced with other economic priorities.

### Conservation

- Prioritize conserving areas identified within the Prioritized Habitat Blocks, and within the wellhead protection areas, while creating wildlife corridors between conserved areas.
- Initiate and support land protection efforts with town, commercial, and privately owned property.

### Water Resources

- Protect the Town’s freshwater, marine, and groundwater environments.
- Protect headwater streams, particularly those of Berrys Brook where impacts of pollution on the brook’s water quality restrict fishing. The protection of headwater streams carries many benefits. These can include protecting the water quality of waterbodies (larger streams, ponds, and estuaries) downstream, protection of aquatic habitats, the reduction of nutrient loading, a decrease of sediment delivery to river mouths, and the control and storage of floodwaters.

- Protect Bailey Brook, which is home to significant groundwater resources including two gravel wells, two bedrock wells, and other potential wells currently under investigations.
- Contamination from insufficient or malfunctioning septic systems is likely to become an increasing problem as climate change progresses and sea levels rise. Most of the infrastructure in Rye contains private septic systems. Actions taken to keep septic systems up to date, appropriately sized, and properly maintained is crucial for the future state of water quality in the Town. Where possible, tie properties with septic systems into sewer infrastructure.
- The Town of Rye has been monitoring fecal sources in Parson's Creek since 2008 to investigate, trace, and work towards remediation of bacterial pollution. Current work aims to understand how septic systems may be impacted by saltwater intrusion. The Town should continue these efforts while encouraging residents to practice proper septic system use, maintenance, and upgrades.
- Keep waterfront and adjacent lands free of trash, debris, and dog waste.
- Continue to monitor water quality within the Town, and monitor marsh migration.
- Rye should continue to incorporate guidance from NDES to enhance water quality protective measures in its land use code.

#### Wetlands

- Conduct a vernal pool survey for the Town to aid with further wetland protection efforts.
- Although the State of New Hampshire has not designated any of Rye's wetlands as Prime Wetlands thus not mandating additional protections, the Wetland Conservation District (§ 190-3.1 of the Rye Code) provide rules and regulations for agencies to enact for the protection of their wetlands beyond the state regulations, including expanding buffers as recommended by the 2021 Natural Resource Inventory. Because wetlands are an extremely important natural resource feature in the Town of Rye, the Town should continue to monitor wetland protections in the Town and adjust if wetlands are being threatened.
- Assure uninhibited saltmarsh tidal flow. Regularly inspect and clean out culverts and bridges of debris. Consider reinstalling culverts that are undersized, perched, or misaligned.
- Compile restoration project data to submit to the NH Coastal Program for recordkeeping.

#### Wildlife Habitat

- Combat the spread of invasive species, particularly purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). As stated in the Town of Rye Natural Resource Inventory, "these two plants are known to spread rapidly, forming monocultures that outcompete native wetland species in a relatively short time."



## Development

- As stated in the Natural Resource Inventory, “development should be mindful of these sensitive ecosystems [the prioritized habitat blocks] and strive to have as little negative impact as possible.” Habitat protection, education, and targeted land management efforts will help Rye’s ecosystem thrive.
- Encourage or incentivize low impact designs, green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and stormwater infiltration Best Management Practices.

## Education

- The continual education of local officials and community of the Town’s natural resources and their environmental, economic, and cultural benefits
- Community education and involvement – Best management practices (BMPs), improve the protection of riparian areas.
- Encourage reduced fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use on town property and residential lawns.
- Continue to document key natural resource features and update the natural resource inventory on a regular basis, such as every 10 years.

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# Existing Conditions: Natural Resources - Aquatic Resources

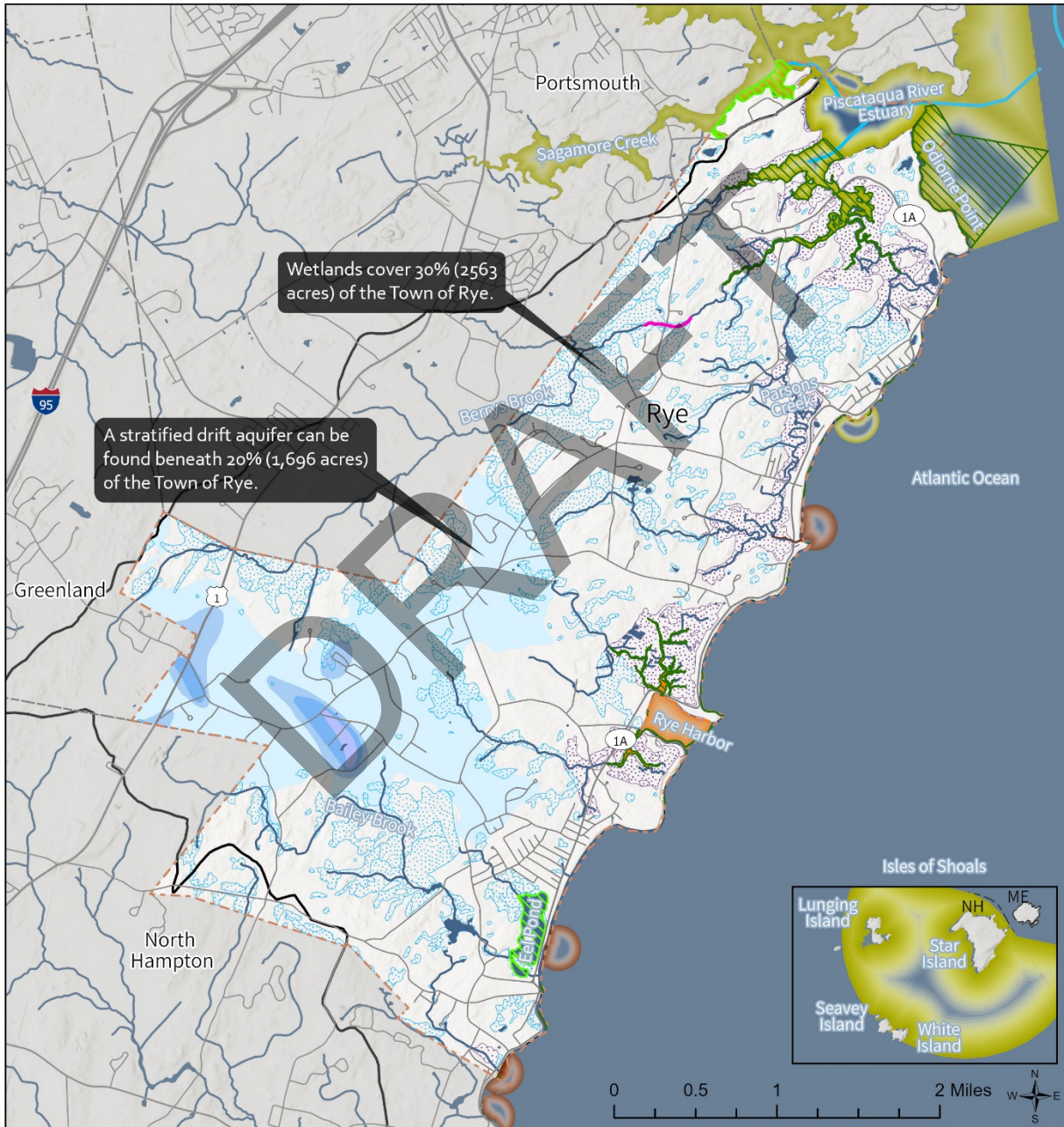
Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes for master plan development



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, Maine GeoLibrary, NHD, NWI, NHDES, NHFGD, CTC  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Road
- Coastal Waters/Waterbody
- River/Stream
- Berrys Brook-Rye Harbor Watershed
- Estuarine Wetland
- Palustrine Wetland
- Water Quality Impairments
- Aquatic Life Integrity
- Fish Consumption
- Identified Aquatic Species
- American Eel, Banded Sunfish, Redfin Pickerel
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Shellfishing Classifications: Prohibited/Safety Zone
- Restricted
- Prohibited/Unclassified
- Aquifer Transmissivity (ft<sup>2</sup>/day): 1000, 2000, 1000, 99999



# Existing Conditions: Natural Resources - Wildlife Habitat

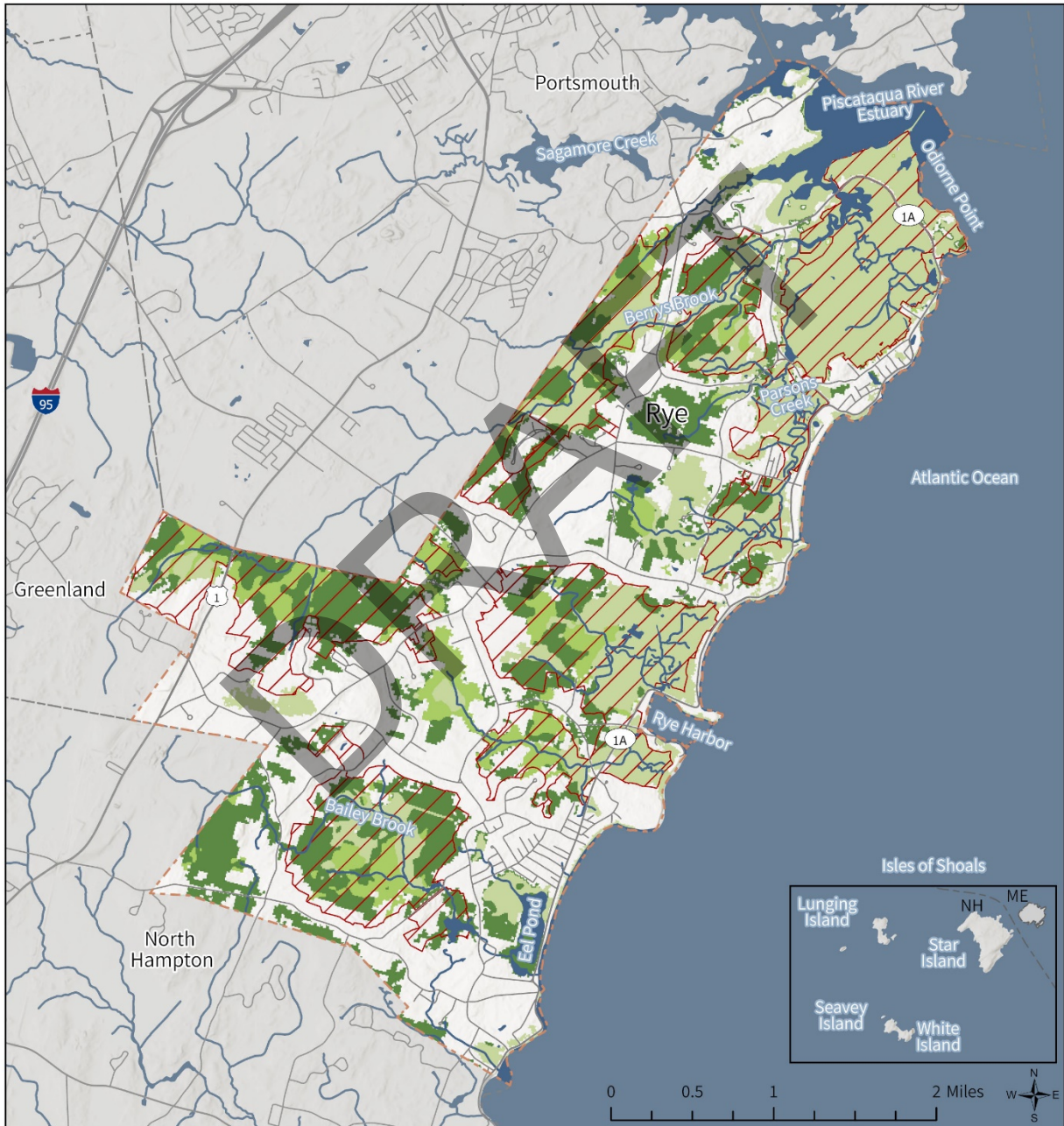
Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, Maine GeoLibrary,  
NHD, NWI, NHDES, NHFGD, CTC  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New  
Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Road
- Coastal Waters/  
Waterbody
- River/Stream
- Highest Ranked Habitat  
in New Hampshire
- Highest Ranked Habitat  
in Biological Region
- Supporting Landscapes
- Prioritized Habitat Blocks



## NATURAL RESOURCES DATA

Resource Type	Value	% Total Area in Town
Town of Rye	8,580 acres	–
Watersheds		
Berry's Brook – Rye Harbor (10,613 acres total)	7,880 acres in Rye	92%
Water and Wetland Resources		
Lakes and Ponds	114 acres	1.3%
Mapped Streams	43 miles	–
Wetlands	2,563 acres	30%
Stratified Drift Aquifers	1,696 acres	20%
Largest Wildlife Habitats		
Appalachian Oak-Pine Forests	2,632 acres	31%
Temperate Swamp	856 acres	10%
Salt Marsh	791 acres	9%
Wet Meadow/Shrub Wetland	617 acres	7%
Conservation		
Conservation Land	1,930 acres	22%
Wellhead Protection Area	3,260 acres	38%
Prioritized Habitat Blocks	3,484 acres	41%

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# COASTAL RESILIENCE

Coastal resiliency is at the forefront of Rye's plan to withstand the effects of our changing climate. **Coastal resiliency refers to the ability of a community to withstand and recover from hazardous events such as flooding.** Through partnerships with local organizations, the Town of Rye has participated in numerous projects to increase the town's resiliency over the past decade.

These actions include strengthening the town's ability to withstand flood conditions, storm surges, and sea level rise. Sea level rise (SLR) is the steady increase in sea levels over time, including mean high water, due to climate change, while storm surges are a result of wave run up from storm events. There have been recent studies that have identified coastal risks in Rye.

***The Town of Rye has participated in analysis and planning for climate change. Citizens will need to consider additional action to take to minimize the risk from rising water, flooding, and climate change.***



## FACTS AND FIGURES



The NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary predicts between 0.5-1.3 ft. of sea level rise by **2050**.



**1,039** acres (12%) of Rye is projected to be affected by a 1 ft. rise in sea level.



**~300** buildings in Rye are projected to be affected by either a 1ft rise in sea level or a 100-year storm.



**~8** miles of shoreline are located in Rye which is ~52% of New Hampshire's coastline.



**275** of acres of tidal saltmarsh have been restored in Rye.



**10** roadways are highly vulnerable to flooding again.

# KEY FINDINGS

- **The impacts of climate change are increasing** and projected to continue to increase in frequency and severity. This includes sea level rise, risk of groundwater rise causing saltwater intrusion, storm surge and flood inundation, and coastal erosion.
- Rye is one of the most vulnerable communities to the impacts of flooding and climate change in New Hampshire. In 2021, Rye had a total of 296 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies, insured for over \$87 million dollars. Joining the NFIP in 1986, the Town has amended its zoning ordinance and regulations to protect wetlands and shoreland buffers, completed a climate change vulnerability assessment, and adopted a climate resilience Master Plan chapter. Future housing considerations will need to account for natural resource protection, coastal hazards and how to minimize impacts on existing and future homes.
- Rye contains **~8 miles of shoreline** which is approximately 52% of New Hampshire's coastline. Rye's coastline features – beaches, marshes, and sand dunes, are a key part of the Town's character and also face severe impacts from climate change.
- **Flooding is a common hazard** for the Town of Rye, with areas of chronic reoccurring flooding or high potential for future flooding including Wallis Road between Appledore and Ocean Boulevard; Ocean Boulevard at Church Street; The Breakers; Jenness Road; Atlantic Avenue; Kenphill Avenue; Harbor Road at Ocean Boulevard; Locke Road at Harbor Road; Long John Road; and Sagamore Road.
- As a low-lying coastal community, **1,039 acres** (12%) of Rye is projected to be affected by a 1 ft. rise in sea level. The NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary predicts between 0.5 and 1.3 feet of sea level rise by 2050, and 1.0 to 2.9 ft. of sea level rise by 2100.
- Approximately **300 structures** in Rye are projected to be affected by a 1-ft. rise in sea level.
- Approximately **414 parcels** (or 18.12%) of Rye's parcels would be impacted by 1.7 ft. of sea level rise.
- Approximately **400-500 structures** in Rye are within the 100-year flood zone or 500-year floodplain.
- **Impacts of saltwater intrusion** on Rye's drinking water, as well as potential disruptions to properly working septic systems are key concerns for the Town of Rye. The 2019 NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary report identified that Rye (as well as other northern coastal NH communities) are at the greatest risk of groundwater rise in NH. Private, public, or commercial well systems that are closer to the coast or are drilled deep into bedrock are the most vulnerable to saltwater intrusion.
- Under a 3.9-ft. sea level rise scenario by 2100, there is potential for **509 acres of marsh to form from marsh migration**. An important forested area within Rye projected to support marsh migration, if conserved against future development, includes the forested land to the west of Odiorne Point.
- Rye has taken numerous steps to increase their **coastal resilience**, including studying impacts of future high-water levels (ongoing), updating the Town's Land Development Regulations, Floodplain Development and Building Ordinance (2021), updating the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan (2022), completing a Natural Resource Inventory (2021), participating in the Tides to Storms 2015 regional vulnerability assessment, and restoring tidal flow to 275 acres of saltmarsh.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – COASTAL RESILIENCE

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye’s **coastal and natural hazards** including trends, data, and other information.

As with many other low-lying coastal communities, the Town of Rye is at risk from the effects of natural hazards such flooding from various sources including sea level rise, storm surges, and severe weather, in addition to climate change, rapid snowmelt, erosion, hazardous fluvial events and other threats.

The Rye Master Plan Committee noted some of the key challenges the Town faces to adapting to the impacts of climate change include saltwater intrusion in drinking water wells, damage to natural resources such as beaches, and damage to systems, such as roads, drinking water infrastructure and wastewater disposal systems. In particular, the Town faces a challenge in how to help, encourage, and require private properties to be resilient against the impacts of flooding, rising seas, and impacted resources.

## **UNDERSTANDING & MAKING SENSE OF CHANGING SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS**

The rates of expected sea level rise, storm surge, and associated flooding is a continually improving science as better models, data, and projections become available. Historical rates of sea level rise in New Hampshire are not expected to stay consistent moving forward: the *NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary Part 1: Science* documented that from 1926 to 2001, sea levels rose approximately 1.76 mm per year, and projected that coastal New Hampshire relative sea level rise will increase by 0.5-1.3 feet between 2000 and 2050. Simply put, data indicates that historical rates of sea level rise cannot be used to inform future planning. Instead, sea level rise projections should be used to inform planning, with the appropriate scenario being chosen based on level of risk.

Currently, it recommended the NH Towns should refer to the sea level rise predictions identified in the NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary Report. This report and guidance were developed by a Science and Technical Advisory Panel and includes “and includes updated projections of relative sea-level rise, coastal storms, groundwater rise, precipitation and freshwater flooding”. Notably, as identified in the report and by a cursory review, the projections provided in this report are in line with several other local projection models that can be used to understand sea level rise projections for the New Hampshire coast and Rye. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report provides sea level rise projections for a range of scenarios between 2050 and 2100 (Sweet et al, 2022). The 2017 Rye Master Plan Coastal Hazards and Climate Adaptation chapter uses data from the U.S. National Climate Assessment (2014) to provide a range of sea level rise scenarios. These three datasets are

summarized for intermediate-low, intermediate-high, and high scenarios in Table 1. The variation in scenario is due to a variety of factors, such as whether greenhouse gases stabilize and how temperature patterns change.

It is important to note that recent scientific papers have indicated the projected sea level rise for the twenty-first century are too conservative – i.e., sea levels may rise more quickly than many models project (Grinstead and Christensen, 2021; Siegert et. al, 2020). The NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary report provides some guidance on examples of how to plan for sea level rise given the range of scenarios. As the report outlines, approaches will vary based on risk level. For example, (edited/condensed) “for a regulatory project to update a local floodplain ordinance with a hypothetical incremental action point of 30 years (2050) and tolerance for flood risk” that ranges “from Medium to Very Low, decision makers may regulate for [sea level rise] estimates ranging from 1.6 to 2.3 feet.” Or, to simplify regulatory decisions using a more protective [sea level rise scenario], decision makers might select the upper end of the” risk “range (2.3 feet). Alternatively, decision makers might require permit applicants to determine and justify their own tolerance for flood risk” by using “relevant guidance and select [sea level rise scenarios] accordingly (e.g., 1.6 feet for a residential building, 2 feet for a school, and 2.3 feet for a hospital).”

## **SEA LEVEL RISE IN RYE**

Created by the Science and Technical Advisory Panel convened by NHDES, the New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary (2019/2020) is a two-part document published in which outlines the science behind coastal flood risks, including projections of sea level rise, coastal storms, groundwater rise, precipitation, and freshwater flooding, and provides guidance for a step-by-step approach to applying the information from part one to mitigation projects. The New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary Part 1: Science documented that from 1926 to 2001, sea levels rose approximately 1.76 mm per year, and projected that coastal New Hampshire relative sea level rise will increase by 0.5 – 1.3 feet between 2000 and 2050, and 1.0 to 2.9 feet by 2100. The [New Hampshire Coastal Viewer](#) allows viewers the ability to interactively navigate the seacoast while viewing different sea level rise scenarios.

The 2017 Rye Master Plan Coastal Hazards and Climate Adaptation chapter used data from the U.S. National Climate Assessment (2014) to provide a range of sea level rise scenarios. In 2022, NOAA released a Sea Level Rise Technical Report and localized sea level rise predictions from a station on Seavey Island, NH (Sweet et al, 2022). Projections from the sea level rise models are summarized in Table 1 and mapped in Map 1.

Table 1: Three sea level rise projection models applicable to Rye, including the U.S. National Climate Assessment (from 2014, referenced in the Rye Master Plan Coastal Hazards and Climate Adaptation chapter, the NOAA 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report localized scenarios, and the NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary (2019/2020).



Source	Time Period	Intermediate Low	Intermediate High	Highest
U.S. National Climate Assessment (2014)	Year 2050	0.6 ft.	1.3 ft.	2.0 ft.
	Year 2100	1.6 ft.	3.9 ft.	6.6 ft.
NOAA localized Sea Level Rise projections (2022)	Year 2050	0.98 ft	1.28 ft.	1.38 ft
	Year 2100	1.94 ft	4.56 ft	5.94 ft
NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary (2020)	Year 2050	0.5-1.3 ft.*		2.6 ft
	Year 2100	1.0-2.9 ft*		1.5-3.8 ft

*Note: Scenarios are typically outlined in a range of risk, from low to high. Commonly used are the intermediate-low, intermediate-high, and high scenarios, as displayed here and referenced in the U.S. National Climate Assessment projections and the NOAA 2022 localized SLR projections. The NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary uses “RCP” (or Representative Concentration Pathways) at two levels set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change based on future greenhouse gas emissions. The RCP 4.5 assumes greenhouse gas emissions stabilize this century (displayed as the intermediate scenarios), the RCP 8.5 scenario assumes greenhouse gases continue increasing (displayed as the high scenarios).*

**STORM SURGE AND FLOODING IN RYE**

According to the National Weather Service, a rainfall event producing between 6.29 and 12.3 inches of rain within a 24-hour period would be classified as a 100-year storm event (National Weather Service, n.d.).

According to the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan, Flooding is a common hazard for the Town of Rye. Several locations were identified as areas of chronic reoccurring flooding or high potential for future flooding. These areas include Wallis Road between Appledore and Ocean Boulevard; Ocean Boulevard at Church Street; The Breakers; Jenness Road; Atlantic Avenue; Kenphill Avenue; Harbor Road at Ocean Boulevard; Locke Road at Harbor Road; Long John Road; Sagamore Road. Road closures at these locations can occur during periods of heavy rainfall, and rapid snowmelt and are temporary in nature, with road surfaces covered with water. Coastal storm surges have caused damage to shale piles along Ocean Boulevard, causing the rock to be pushed back into the roadway.

**IMPACTS OF SLR AND STORM SURGE ON RYE**

Development within Rye is at high risk of being affected by natural hazards. As outlined in the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan, studies by the NH Coastal Program in 2018 identified that numerous parcels may be impacted by sea level rise. Depending on the sea level rise scenario, the number of parcels affected ranges from 414 (18.12% of all parcels) to 1,048 (45.45% of all

parcels) (Table 2). The FEMA flood data layers depicted on the Rye Master Plan maps portray the projected area flooded with a 1-ft. rise in sea level. A 1-ft. rise in sea level or a 100-year flood is expected to affect approximately 300 buildings (11% of all buildings). Note that a 1-ft. rise in sea level is likely to occur prior to 2050.

Table 2. Estimates of Hazard Damage from Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge. Source: NH Coastal Program, 2018. Taken from the Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Scenario	Number of Parcels Affected	Percentage of All Parcels in Rye	Value of Parcels 2018
1.7' Sea Level Rise	414	18.12%	\$341,751,000
4.0' Sea Level Rise	620	28.50%	\$537,524,800
6.3' Sea Level Rise	780	35.41%	\$667,904,700
1.7' Sea Level Rise plus Storm Surge	770	35.64%	\$672,270,200
4.0' Sea Level Rise plus Storm Surge	934	41.62%	\$784,898,700
6.3' Sea Level Rise plus Storm Surge	1,048	45.45%	\$857,138,800

### IMPACTS TO GROUNDWATER

Impacts of saltwater intrusion Rye’s drinking water, as well as potential disruptions to properly working septic systems, is a key concern for the Town of Rye. Private, public, or commercial well systems that are closer to the coast or are drilled deep into bedrock are the most vulnerable to saltwater intrusion. Groundwater rise can also impact water system infrastructure or damage septic systems, which can fail if flooded. Failing systems risk contamination water sources with pathogens.

The 2019 NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary report identified that sea level rise induced groundwater rise is projected to extend up to 2.5 to 3 miles inland from the coast of New Hampshire (three – four times further inland that sea level rise inundation). The report also identified that Rye (as well as other northern coastal NH communities Newington, Portsmouth, and Greenland) are at the greatest risk of groundwater rise. Additional modeling and studies is underway for coastal

### Salt Migration Project

As part of the national America the Beautiful Challenge, New Hampshire will receive \$2 million to support three high-priority salt marsh projects, which is part of a larger federal goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. One of these projects is located in Rye. Each project will preserve and restore high marsh plant communities, a critical habitat for the saltmarsh sparrow, a vulnerable species and the only bird that breeds solely in the salt marshes of the Northeast.

South of Odiorne Point State Park in Rye is a 220-acre salt marsh area, which includes the 62-acre Fairhill Marsh, formerly a saltmarsh sparrow “hotspot.” The marsh has experienced accelerating vegetation loss since 2006. The Rockingham County Conservation District received grant funding to explore adaptive management practices at Fairhill Marsh that will culminate in restoration design plans. The newly awarded funds will help advance the project and ensure the plans are applied. It’s currently underway.

New Hampshire to identify coastal risk of saltwater intrusion.

### TIDAL MARSH MIGRATION

The 2015 Tides to Storms report identified that under a 3.9-ft. sea level rise scenario by 2100, there is potential for 509 acres of marsh to form. The report identified the forested land to the west of Odiorne Point as an important area to conserve as it could support marsh migration.

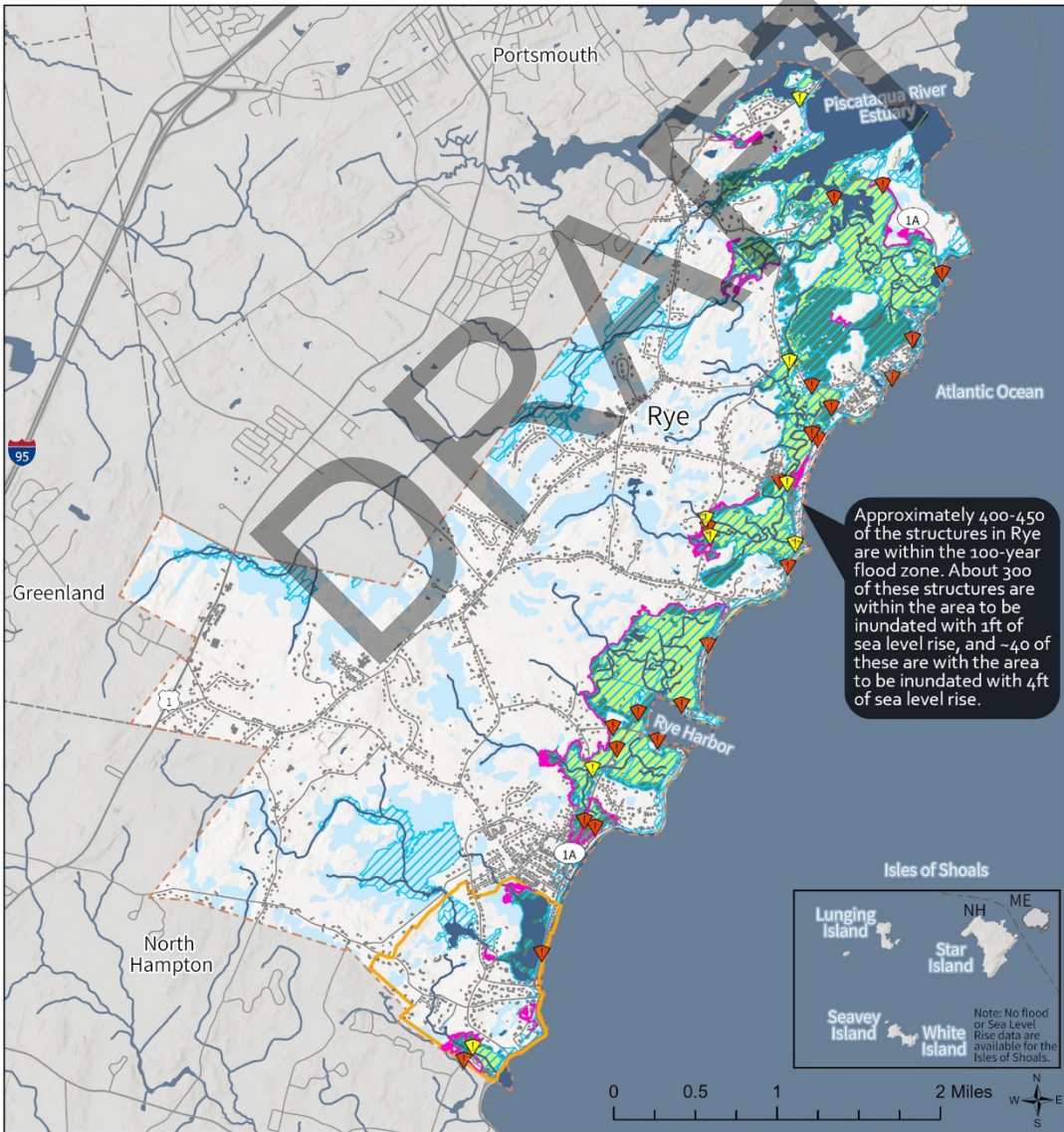
#### Existing Conditions: Natural Hazards

Town of Rye, New Hampshire  
Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development

Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT,  
Maine GeoLibrary, CAI, FEMA  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental



- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Rye Beach Village District
- Road
- River/Stream
- Coastal Waters/Waterbody
- Estuarine Wetland
- Palustrine Wetland
- Building Footprint
- Building Affected by a Sea Level Rise of 1-foot OR a 100-year Flood
- Roadway at Risk
- Tidal Crossing at Risk
- Area Inundated Under 1 foot of Sea Level Rise
- Area Inundated Under 4 feet of Sea Level Rise
- FEMA 1% (100-year) Flood Hazard Area
- FEMA 0.2% (500-year) Flood Hazard Area



## **ACTIONS THE TOWN OF RYE HAS TAKEN**

### Restoring Parsons Creek – In Progress

As part of a funded project through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Clean Water State Revolving Fund/ARPA-funded project, the Town of Rye has been investigating the extent and effects of future high-water levels in Rye. The study includes a look at the effects of sea level rise, storm surge, groundwater rise, and king tides throughout the town through various scenarios and sources of data.

### The National Flood Insurance Program - Ongoing

Administered by FEMA, the Town of Rye has incorporated regulations which limit and/or prevent the development of wetlands and floodplains through an updated Floodplain Development and Building Ordinance (1988, updated in 2021).

### Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022

Developed by the Rockingham Planning Commission, the Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies natural hazards while providing existing and potential mitigation strategies. Natural hazards include flooding, flooding from coastal storms, flooding from sea level rise, hurricanes, tornadoes, severe winter storms, wildfires, earthquakes, extreme temperatures, drought, infectious disease, and climate change. Included in Chapter VI of the plan is a table of existing hazard mitigation actions the town has enacted. These include updated municipal planning regulations, transportation infrastructure standards, building codes, emergency planning, and public services (water, emergency facilities, public works). Following the actions taken by the Town, the plan also includes potential mitigation actions. These 26 actions include increasing emergency preparedness, revisiting building and land use regulations, inventorying/maintaining existing infrastructure.

### Town of Rye Natural Resource Inventory 2021

The Town of Rye completed a Natural Resource Inventory in 2021. This thorough document includes a chapter on floodplains, floodwater storage, and risk mitigation throughout the town. Additionally, maps depicting sea level rise are included with data from the New Hampshire Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (NH GRANIT). The NH GRANIT is a cooperative that has created and maintains a statewide geographic database.

### Tides to Storms. Preparing For New Hampshire’s Future Coast – Assessing Risk and Vulnerability of Coastal Communities to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge 2015

The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) serves in an advisory role to local governments in Rockingham County to ensure and promote coordinated planning, growth, efficient land use, environmental protection, and transportation access. The RPC created the document “From Tides to Storms: Preparing for New Hampshire’s Future Coast” to assess the vulnerability of the towns of Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton Falls, and Seabrook to coastal

flooding due to expected increase in rates of SLR and storm surge. The RPC also created a draft Coastal Risks and Climate Adaptation Master Plan chapter in 2016 in which they assess topics including but not limited to coastal hazards and other climate related impacts specific to Rye, NH.

### Saltmarsh Restoration

As of the 2017 Natural Resources Chapter of the Rye Master Plan, saltmarsh restoration is underway through culvert replacements and fill removal to restore a more natural tidal flow to over 275 acres of saltmarsh. Efforts to control phragmites, an invasive wetland species, are being maintained by the Rockingham County Conservation District. The NH Coastal Program maintains a database of saltmarsh restoration projects. Those within Rye include the following as shown in the 2017 Natural Resources Chapter:

- Parson’s Creek Marsh: off Wallis Road - 53 acres restored from 1998-1999
- Fairhill Marsh: west of Wallis Sands State Beach - Phase I 1997, Phase II 2004
- Awcomin Salt Marsh: 40 acres restored from 1992-2008
- Massacre Marsh: off Brackett Road – 2003
- Rye Harbor – 56 acres in 1998 and 2001
- Harbor Road – 4.6 acres from 1997-1999
- Locke Road – 24 acres from 1995-1997
- Odiorne Point – 0.5 acres in 2005
- Parsons Creek watershed and water quality restoration project - ongoing

### **TRENDS**

- Impacts of climate change are increasing and projected to continue to increase in frequency and severity. This includes sea level rise, risk of groundwater rise causing saltwater intrusion, storm surge and flood inundation, and coastal erosion. Sea levels are rising.
- According to the *New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary – Part I: Science*, “The magnitude of daily extreme precipitation events has increased by 15-38% in NH’s coastal watershed since the 1950s” (Wake, et al., 2019). An increase in heavy storms, which produce 2 to 4 inches of precipitation (often within a few hours), are becoming more frequent. Furthermore, Climate change alters how a watershed receives its precipitation – the increase of precipitation falling in the form of short, severe events exacerbates flooding. More frequent and severe flooding erodes infrastructure and degrades water quality in ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and coastal areas.
- The Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee has identified climate change is highly likely to impact the Town “given the increase in hazard events since the last Plan Update.”

## **EMERGING OR POTENTIAL ACTIONS**

Incorporating projections of sea level rise, storm surge, and groundwater rise into town plans, development, and future projects will help increase the resiliency of the town to these natural hazards. The action items listed below will be revisited later in this master planning project. These actions are meant to be complementary and add to those thoroughly provided in previous reports such as the Rye Natural Resource Inventory, Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, and Rye Vulnerability assessment.

### Infrastructure and Development

- Continue to minimize development in areas likely to be inundated by sea level rise and storm surges.
- Adapt building codes to ensure new developments are designed to account for flooding, sea level rise, and increased storm intensity.
- Participate in groundwater rise and saltwater intrusion state studies and conduct initial town-specific risk assessments in Rye to take inventory of Rye's water assets. For example, work with the Rye Water district to determine if emergency water interconnections with neighboring towns is an option to send water from one public water supply to another during an emergency.
- Determine sources of funding for management projects and implementation efforts. The American Flood Coalition developed a document for [Federal Funding Opportunities for Flood Resilience: A Guide for Small Cities](#).
- Maintain emergency routes with expanded road shoulders should Route 1A become inundated from natural hazards.
- Assess the vulnerability of engineered structures designed to protect people from natural hazards.
- Consider "rewilding" areas previously severely impacted by natural hazards as the likelihood of repeated damage and/or loss increases with sea level rise.
- Improve both Rye's Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and Recovery Capabilities.

### Wetlands

- Prioritize wetland restoration in areas of stormwater mitigation areas identified in the Natural Resource Inventory.
- Focus marsh restoration efforts on areas suitable for and likely to include marsh migration.
- Continue to build buffers along waterways and wetlands while expanding conserved land surrounding and within wetlands.
- Conduct a vernal pool survey for the Town to aid with further wetland protection efforts.

- Assure uninhibited saltmarsh tidal flow. Regularly inspect and clean out culverts and bridges of debris. Consider reinstalling culverts that are undersized, perched, or misaligned.

## COASTAL HAZARD DATA

For additional information and statistics on land use, land cover, and zoning districts affected by rising sea levels, please see the 2015 Rye Vulnerability Assessment.

Table 3. Flood Hazard Zone areas and number of buildings within each zone. \*The number of buildings was identified through the Microsoft Buildings Footprint data layer provided by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

Resource Type	Value	% Total Area in Town	# of Buildings
Town of Rye	8,580 acres	–	3,278*
Flood Hazard Zone			
Zone A	349 acres	4%	2
Zone AE	1,430 acres	17%	163
Zone AO	88 acres	1%	152
Zone VE	291 acres	3%	156
Zone X	6,237 acres	73%	2,805

Table 4. Statistics on the number and types of infrastructure affected by 1.7 feet of sea level rise, and 1.7 feet of sea level rise + a storm surge. Data from the Rye Vulnerability Assessment of 2015.

Infrastructure and Municipal Facilities Affected by ...	1.7 Feet of Sea Level Rise	1.7 Feet of Sea Level Rise + Storm Surge
Culverts	17	49
Dams	0	1
NH Historic Register	1	2
Public Water Supply, Pump Houses, Wells	0	1
Bridges	5	5
Harbor/Marina/Launch	1	4
Signs, Lights, Signals, Beacons	0	3
Sewage Pump Station	-	Flooded
Jenness Beach State Park	-	Flooded
Local Road	0.2 miles	4.4 miles
State Road	0.1 miles	5.5 miles
Evacuation Routes	0.1 miles	6.1 miles

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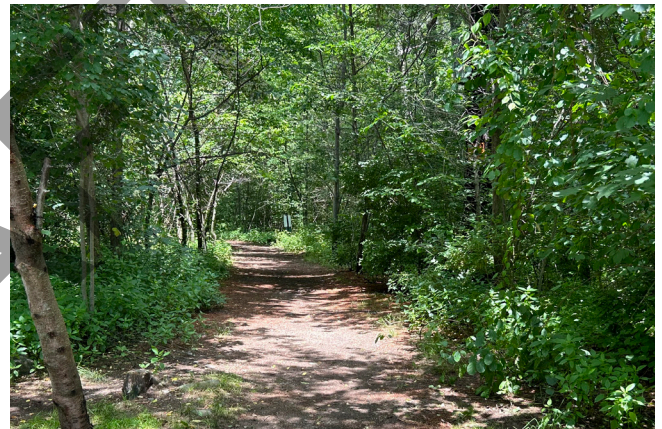
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# RECREATION

Rye's scenic coastal location provides ample recreation opportunities throughout town with its eight miles of coastline, beaches, conserved lands, and accessible open spaces. In addition to the natural lands in Rye, the town's recreation facilities and available activities contribute to residents' quality of life by providing many community and recreation resources for all ages, while promoting public health. The town's recreation complex, which includes athletic fields, the Rye Town Forest, and other Conservation Commission properties, the town and state-owned beaches, the schools, and other resources make Rye an attractive destination for residents and visitors alike.

***Looking ahead, there are opportunities for Rye to implement the new Recreation Complex Master Plan to improve these important recreation facilities in town, to strengthen collaboration with recreation partners to continue offering diverse programming and high quality facilities, and to build greater connectivity between town trails, parks, and***



## FACTS AND FIGURES



**20** recreation programs are offered that serve residents of all ages at several locations in town.



**2** state beaches and 2 state parks are located in Rye. These include Odiorne, Wallis Sands, Jenness, and Rye Harbor State Park.



**5** town beaches provide recreational opportunities for town residents. These beaches include Wallis (Pirate's Cove, Foss, Cable, Sawyers, and Bass Beach).



**13.6** miles of trails in Rye offer residents hiking, bicycling, dog walking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing opportunities. Please note that this total miles of trail does not include the Airfield Woods, Cedar Run Woods, or trails developed on private properties.



**3.2** miles of the trail network extend through Rye's Town Forest, a popular area for recreating close to the town center.



**5.1** miles of the trail network is located in Odiorne State Park.

# KEY FINDINGS

- Rye's Recreation Department offers over **20 programs** for all ages at several locations in town. These recreation sites include built structures, natural areas such as the town and state beaches, parks, and designated open spaces, such as the recreation complex. These resources are important to Rye residents and contribute to their quality of life.
- Rye has access to several nearby **public and private recreational areas** including the Rye Schools, the Abeniqui Country Club, the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club, the Rye Congregational Church, State Parks and Beaches, Rye Conservation Lands, Seacoast Strength & Conditioning, Summer Sessions Surf Shop, several yoga studios, two beach clubs, Airfield Place, and the New England Pickleball Club. These areas are owned and maintained by different partners, but all contribute to the suite of recreational resources Rye offers. The Recreation Department makes an effort to collaborate with these partners to ensure diverse recreation offerings are provided to the community.
- Many of the facilities utilized by the Recreation Department for programming are **managed or overseen by other town board or entities** such as the School Board, the Selectboard, the Beach Committee, and the State of NH. The Recreation Department has encountered issues related to accessibility of certain facilities due to differences in authority at these locations.
- In 2023, the Rye Recreation Department and Recreation Committee updated their 2011 Recreation Department **Master Plan** to plan for the redevelopment of the Recreation Area "campus", to strategically plan facility updates, and to provide a new layout.
- There are **two State Beaches and two State Parks** in Rye that are overseen by NH State Parks. These include: Odiorne, Wallis Sands, Jenness, and Rye Harbor State Park. As one of eight coastal communities in New Hampshire, these assets make Rye a popular destination. The state beaches and park are heavily used in Rye by both residents and visitors and contribute to diverse recreation options in town.
- The **Rye Harbor State Park** is home to Rye's active Recreational/Commercial Fishing Harbor. The New Hampshire fishing industry is an important part of our state's food system, commercial activity, and heritage. Saltwater fishing is also an important recreational activity for many residents and visitors.
- The town has **five Town Beaches** that are managed by the Beach Committee. These include Wallis (Pirate's Cove), Foss, Cable, Sawyers, and Bass Beach. The Beach Committee documented that parking remains a major issue for the general public in their 2015 Parking Study (however, parking capacity for residents is not an issue).
- There are approximately **13.6 miles of trails** in Rye that offer different recreational opportunities which include, but are not limited to walking, bicycling, dog walking, cross-country skiing, and wildlife viewing on eight unique trail systems. Rye's established trails are on protected town land and land owned by the state. This includes Odiorne State Park, Rye Recreational Area, the Town Forest, Seavey Woods, and others.
- Data suggest **high usage of Rye's roads and trails for recreation** throughout the year including Ocean Boulevard, Washington Road, and Sagamore Road.
- NHDOT has identified 19 miles of paved roads in Rye as being-well suited for **bicycle infrastructure**. These include Ocean Boulevard/Route 1A (which is state maintained), Cable Road, Central Road, Groove Road, Washington Road, West Road, Breakfast Hill Road, Wallis Road, Sagamore Road, Wentworth Road, and New Castle Road.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – RECREATION

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye’s **recreation resources, facilities, and infrastructure** including trends, data, and other information.

## RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Rye has a Recreation Department and a Recreation Commission that collaboratively maintain town recreational facilities, offer recreation programs, and coordinate community events for all ages. Residents can participate in water-based recreation activities at the town’s beaches and coastline, which has multi-jurisdictional ownership (state and town owned). The town’s trail system and its conservation lands are maintained by the Conservation Commission and are important resources to town residents. A full list of recreation sites and facilities offered in Rye is found in Table 1 and includes some privately-owned recreation sites. A list of recreation programs provided by the Recreation Department and other local organizations is included in Table 2.

In 2023, the Recreation Department developed an update to the 2011 Recreation Master Plan for the Department focusing on the town’s recreation complex – the Recreation Area. As part of the planning process, a public recreation survey was administered in the fall of 2022 to collect feedback on usage patterns and level of adequacy of existing recreation facilities and programs in town. These survey findings directly informed the development of the 2023 Recreation Area Master Plan. There was a total of 165 respondents who identified the following:

- Respondents would like to see upgrades to the Recreation Area including new restroom facilities, the addition of a pickleball court, a tennis court, and walking paths.
- Respondents identified sports and activities that they would like to see programming for within a new recreation center building at the Rye Recreation Area. These include: new public restrooms, an indoor multi-use court, and an athletic center (gym).

Table 1: Recreational Locations in Rye			
Site Name	Recreational Facilities	Location	Overseen by
<b>Rye Recreation Department List of Facilities:</b>			
Recreation Area	Flash Jenness Memorial Little League Field, Ralph Morang Athletic Field, Ralph Morang Baseball Diamond, Recreation Playground, Recreation Area Basketball Court	55 Recreation Way	Recreation Commission
Bass Beach	Beach	184-198 Ocean Blvd	Beach Committee

Sawyer Beach	Beach	2326 Ocean Blvd	Beach Committee
Cable Road Extension Beach	Beach	Cable Road	Beach Committee
Foss Beach	Beach	Ocean Blvd just past Washington Road	
Wallis Road Extension Beach (Pirate's Cove)	Beach	Wallis Road	Beach Committee
Parson's Field	Multi-purpose field	1050 Ocean Blvd	Selectboard
Outer Marker Park	Picnic Area	105 Locke Road	Recreation Commission
<b>Schools:</b>			
Rye Elementary School	Gymnasium, K-3 Upper Playground, 4-5 Lower Playground, Lower Baseball Field	461 Sagamore Road	School Board
Rye Junior High School	Gymnasium, Athletic Field	501 Washington Road	School Board
Lang Corner Athletic Field and Baseball Diamonds	Soccer field, baseball, parking lot, portable restroom	511 Sagamore Road	School Board
<b>State-Owned:</b>			
Jeness State Beach	Beach, parking lot provided: 67 cars	2280 Ocean Blvd	State NH
Wallis Sands State Beach	Beach, parking lot provided: 500 cars	1050 Ocean Blvd	State NH
Rye Harbor State Park	Saltwater fishing, picnicking	1730 Ocean Blvd	State NH
Odiorne State Park	Seacoast Science Center, walking trails, picnic areas, historical structures, viewing points of Fort Stark in New Castle as well as the Isles of Shoals and multiple lighthouses	570 Ocean Blvd	State NH
<b>Privately Owned:</b>			
Abenaqui Country Club	18-hole golf course	731 Central Road	-
Wentworth by the Sea Country Club	18-hole golf course	60 Wentworth Road	-

Rye Congregational Church	Utilized for Rye Recreation Department Programs	580 Washington Road	-
Airfield Place	Indoor pickleball courts, climbing wall	6 Airfield Dr	-
Summer Session Surf Shop	Provides surf lessons at Jenness and Sawyers Beaches	2281 Ocean Blvd	-
Surf Club	N/A	1200 Ocean Blvd	
Seacoast Strength & Conditioning	Personal training center	52 Lafayette Rd	-
The Beach Club	Private beach club	2450 Ocean Blvd	-

Table 2: List of Programs in Rye	
Rye Recreation Department List of Programs	
Program	Location
Coed Pick-Up Basketball (Adult)	Rye Junior High School Gym
Strength and Balance Classes (Adult)	The Wave (Rye Congregational Church)
Day Trips (Adult)	Various locations in New England
Lunch Programs (Adult) and Senior Lunch Programs	The Wave (Rye Congregational Church)
Senior Day Trips	Various locations
Summer Basketball Camp (Youth)	Rye Elementary School
Summer Lego Reactions Camp (Youth)	Rye Recreation Building
Cooking Classes (Age 3-4 and K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Rye Recreation Building
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Event	Parsons Field
Easter Egg Dig Event	Wallis Sands State Park
The Wave Lunch Programs and Day Trips	The Wave (Rye Congregational Church)
Chair Yoga (Adult)	The Wave (Rye Congregational Church)
Yoga and Meditation (Adult)	The Wave (Rye Congregational Church)
After School Program (Youth)	Rye Elementary School
Summer Baseball Camp (Youth)	Rye Recreation Area – Flash Jenness Field
Summertime HoRYEzons Day Camp (Youth)	Either Rye Recreation Building or Rye Elementary School
Fall Soccer (Youth)	Rye Recreation Area – Ralph Morong Field
Ski/Snowboard Lessons (Youth)	King Pines Ski Area
Strawberry Fest Event	Rye Library Commons

## TRAIL NETWORK

There are approximately 13.6 miles of trails in Rye. This includes trails within the Rye Town Forest, Odiorne State Park, Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest, Seavey Acres, and Marden

Woods. This total does not include Airfield Woods or Cedar Run Woods due to limited data on trail length at these sites and does not include other trails developed on private properties.

The list of conserved lands in Rye that provide recreation uses and their permitted uses are shown in Table 3.

The Rye Conservation Commission is responsible for the maintenance of the trails on conservation land. Rye’s Conservation Commission is an active board committed to preserving open space in Rye for all to enjoy. They encourage residents to get outdoors and enjoy the natural beauty of Rye.

<b>Table 3: Recreation on Rye Conservation Commission Properties</b>				
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Approx. Miles of Trail</b>	<b>Total Acreage of Land</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Permitted Use</b>
Town Forest	3	222	Parsons field, Rye Recreation	hiking, dog walking, birdwatching, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, snowplow entrance
Seavey Acres	1.5	59	179 Pioneer Road	Hunting, dogs allowed, biking on trails, wildlife viewing
Airfield Woods (Whitehorse Farm Trail - abuts the Whitehorse Conservation Area)	Unknown	110	Off Airfield Drive or Whitehorse Drive cul de sac	Hunting, dogs allowed, biking on trails, snowplow entrance on Whitehorse Drive.
Marden Woods	0.60	24	309 Washington Road	Hunting, dogs allowed, biking on trails, cross-country skiing, and snowplow entrance
Rand Forest	1	73	Off Sea Glass Lane or Liberty Common cul de sac	Dogs allowed, biking on trails, hiking, wildlife viewing, snowplow entrance.
Cedar Run Woods	Unknown	28	Cedar Run Road	Hunting, dogs allowed, biking on trails, wildlife viewing, snowplow entrance
Brown Lane Farm (abuts the Southeast Land)	Unknown	82	abuts the Southeast Land Trust’s Parcel	Hiking, wildlife viewing

Jim Raynes Forest	Unknown	N/A	N/A	
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## RECREATION COMMISSION

Rye has a Recreation Commission that was established in 1964 and consists of seven volunteer members. The Recreation Commission is responsible for land and facilities reserved for recreational use and providing leisure time services to the residents of Rye. The Commission develops and enforces policies and procedures and collaborates with the Recreation Department Director. The mission of the Rye Recreation Commission is focused on the following: *“Recreation provides a critical foundation for the quality of life that makes Rye unique. Recreation is essential to the health and well-being of the individual residents and the community of Rye. Recreation activities and services have far-reaching personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits. The role of Rye Recreation is to ensure that a broad range of recreation opportunities is available and accessible for all residents and that these are consistent with the needs and interest of the community and the space and resources available”.*

## BEACH COMMITTEE

Rye has a Beach Committee that consists of seven volunteer members that meet a few times a year to discuss various beach-related issues and exchange ideas based on their observations and conversations with residents and other beach goers. Many of these meetings are attended by the Rye Police Chief, Fire Chief, and a Selectboard representative. The Beach Committee is responsible for the five Town Beaches in Rye. The Beach Committee documented that parking remains a major issue in this area. Table 4 provides a list of public beach access locations throughout town. For more information including a map of these beach access points, please visit the Beach Committee’s webpage on the Town’s Website.

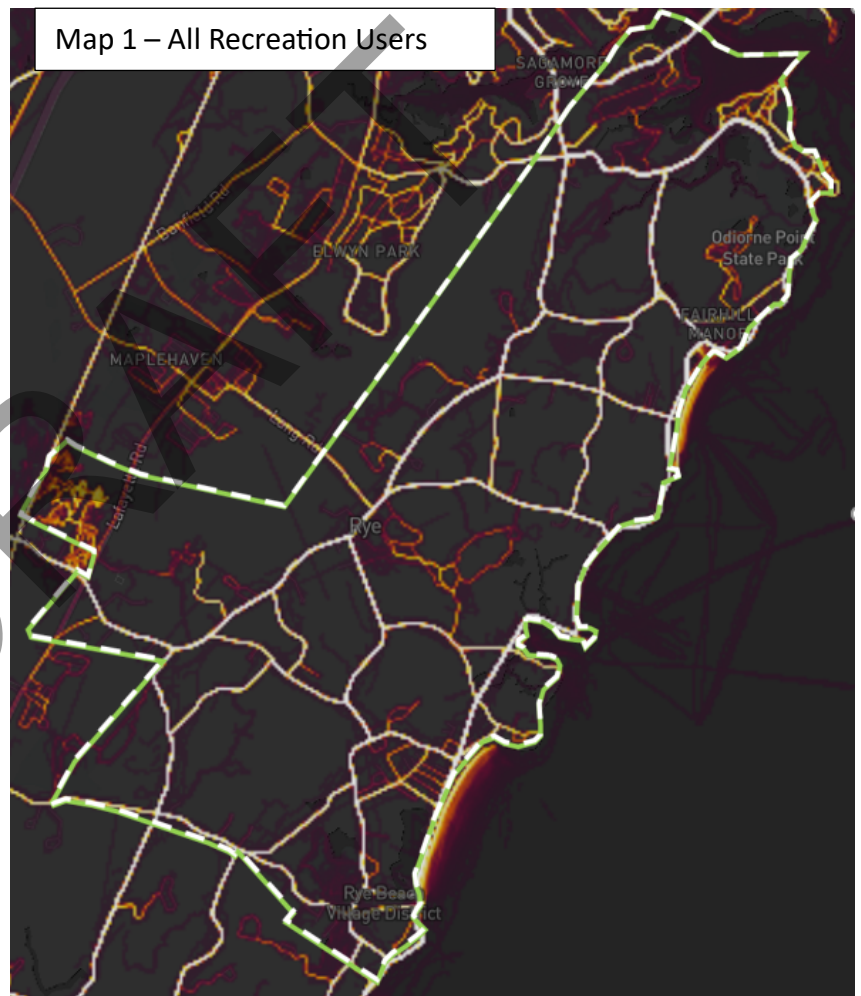


Table 4: Public Beach Access in Rye	
Access	Location
Bass Beach	Across Central Road
Sawyers Beach	Across from South Street/Across from Eel Pond
Jeness State Beach	Across from Perkins Road/Across from Dunes Motel
Jeness Beach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. E Street Pedestrian only Across from Gray Court</li> <li>2. F Street Pedestrian only access Across from Common Roots Café/Corner of Powers</li> <li>3. G Street, Private ROW pedestrian only</li> <li>4. Cable Road Ext</li> <li>5. Old Beach Way on Old Beach Road</li> <li>6. Sunrise Path on Old Beach Road</li> <li>7. Old Town Way is a footpath upheld by Superior Court No. E-275-81 along shared driveway of 34 Old Beach Road</li> </ol>
Bone Beach	Access from Straw's Point
Foss Beach	Access from Rye Harbor State Park or along Access from Ocean Blvd between Ray's Seafood to corner of Washington Road
Rye North Beach	Access from across Highland Park Ave
Wallis Beach (also known as Pirates Cove Beach)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access Concord Point across from Petey's restaurant.</li> <li>2. Access from Wallis Road Ext</li> </ol>
Wallis Sands State Beach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access 1050 Ocean Blvd across from Marsh Road</li> <li>2. Pedestrian footpath from Ocean Blvd across from Fairhill Ave</li> </ol>
Odiorne State Park has beaches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access Odiorne State Park</li> <li>2. Access footpath from Ocean Blvd.</li> <li>3. Access boat launch area</li> </ol>
Saunders Point	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Access after Wentworth by the Sea Country Club before going over bridge to New Castle.</li> </ol>

## RECREATIONAL USES

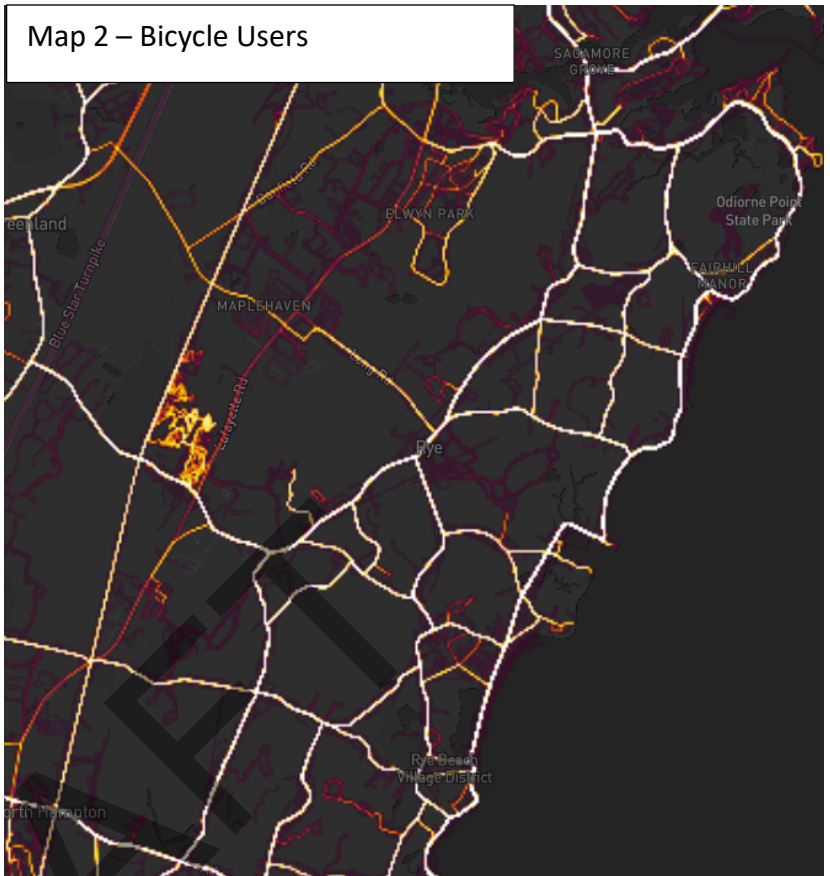
Strava heat maps are a helpful resource to assess the popularity of recreation activities and usage areas. These maps indicate areas in Rye where users are frequently participating in a variety of recreation activities. This includes both existing recreation assets and other places that may not be owned or managed by the town. Strava describes itself as a “social network for athletes” where the program tracks and analyzes the activities of its users by connecting to the individual’s device such as a phone, watch, GPS, etc. Strava then uses this information to create a usage map (also known as a heat map) to depict where their users recreate. It should be noted however, that not all Rye recreation participants utilize Strava, and this data is not intended to represent all recreational users in Rye. It does help indicate trends for further investigation. To learn more about Strava Heat Maps, visit <https://www.strava.com/heatmap>

A town wide heat map (Map 1) shows all forms of recreation activity in Rye that Strava collects by voluntary users. This includes bicycling, walking, running, aquatic activity, and winter activity. This map indicates that many of Strava users are utilizing Rye’s roads and existing trails with high usage along Ocean Boulevard and beaches. In addition to these, Strava users are also utilizing Rye’s conservation lands, State Parks and Beaches, the Recreation Area, and town beaches. Specifically, Jenness State Beach and Wallis Sands State Beach have high Strava usership. The area behind NH Route 1 near Breakfast Hill Road also appears to have significant recreation usage. This location of trails abuts the Breakfast Hill Golf Club in Greenland, NH and is identified by some community members as the Breakfast Hill Mountain Bike Trails. Also in this area is an existing railroad bed that is proposed to be part of the New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway (NHSG), which is a proposed seventeen-mile, non-motorized trail that will connect New Hampshire’s eight coastal communities.



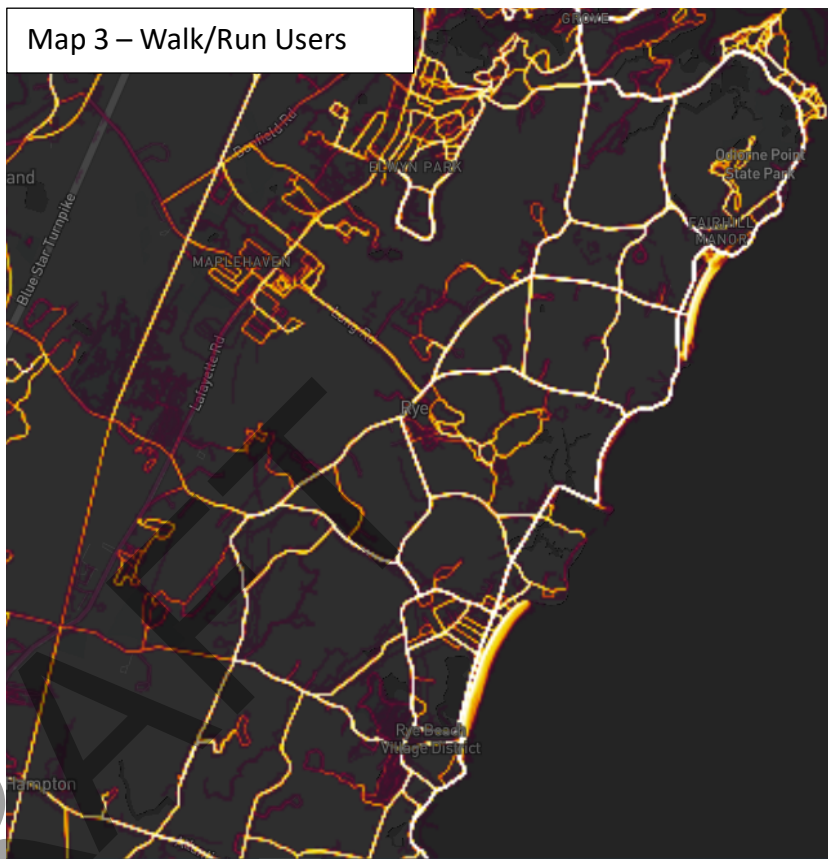
### Bicycle Recreation Usage

Most of the roadways that were identified by NHDOT as recommended bike routes well-suited for bicycle infrastructure (including Ocean Boulevard, Cable Road, Central Road, Grove Road, Washington Road, West Road, Breakfast Hill Road, Wallis Road, Sagamore Road, Wentworth Road, and New Castle Road) already appear to be utilized by Strava users as popular bicycling routes. For more information related to NHDOT State Recommended Bike Routes, please view the Transportation section of this report. Other locations that are heavily utilized for bicycling by Strava Users include Odiorne State Park and in the Rye Beach Precinct. Map 2 illustrates popular routes identified by cyclists who use Strava. This may help the town in identifying what areas are the highest priority to implement bicycle lanes on existing roads or where developing separate routes may be necessary.



### Walk/Run Recreation Usage

Map 3 shows high walk/run usage on Jenness State Beach, Wallis Sands State Beach, in the Town Forest, and in some residential neighborhoods. Strava users are also utilizing the trail behind the elementary school, as well as many neighborhood roads for walking and running including Liberty Common, Tehias Road, and the Whitehouse Farm Subdivision. Strava walk/run users also appear to be utilizing Rye's roads to connect to surrounding towns such as Lang Road to Portsmouth, Breakfast Hill Road to Greenland, and South Road at the Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest in North Hampton. This may indicate that trail connectivity and additional pedestrian infrastructure connecting Rye neighborhoods to the town center and to surrounding communities would be beneficial to Rye residents.



#### Aquatic Recreation Usage

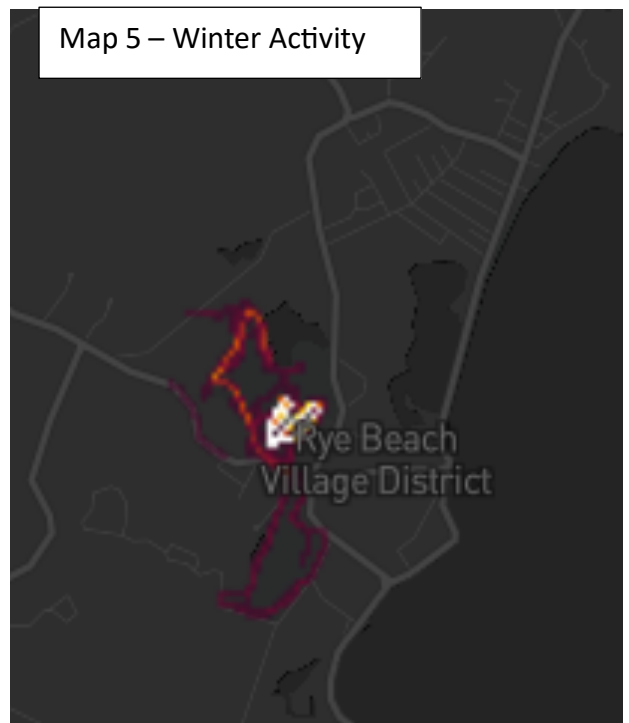
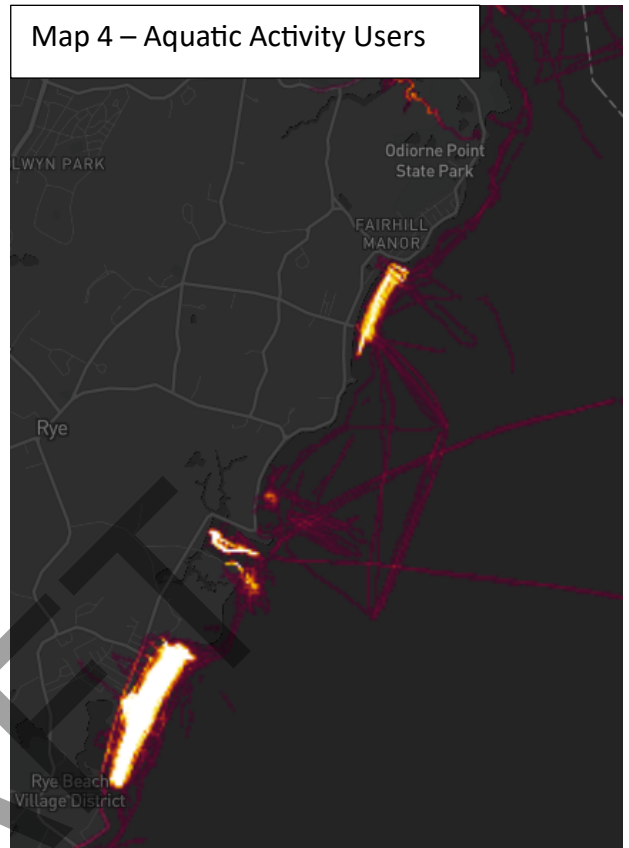
Aquatic recreation activity in these areas include swimming, surfing, stand up paddling, kayaking, boating, and others. As shown on Map 4, data shows significant aquatic recreation activity from Strava users at Jenness State Beach, Rye Harbor State Park, Wallis Sands State Beach, Odiorne State Park, and out to Isles of Shoals. There appears to be some aquatic recreation usage near Foss Beach and Pirate’s Cove as well. This indicates Rye’s coastline is heavily utilized for recreation.

### Winter Activity

Map 5 shows that there is significant winter activity at and around the Abeniqui Country Club which includes cross-country skiing and dog walking. This winter activity also occurs at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club as well. This indicates that Rye’s recreational resources are utilized year-round by some users.

## **EMERGING OR POTENTIAL ACTIONS**

- The Recreation Department could consider collaborating with the Rye Senior SERVE non-profit to coordinate day trips and outings for older adults.
- The Conservation Commission could continue to foster efforts to expand Rye’s trail network on town acquired land, and to increase trail connectivity throughout the community.
- Rye should take advantage of the NH Seacoast Greenway (NHSG) once completed. Promotion and educational outreach of this and other trails in town should be advertised.
- There is high demand for pedestrian and bicycle usage on state roads in Rye as well as some town owned roads. The town should consider collaborating with NHDOT to explore potential bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements on these roads.



- A Complete Streets Policy and the creation of multi-modal transportation guidelines are another way Rye could build multi-modal transportation planning into its decision-making processes.
- The Recreation Commission could host a summit of all recreation partners to coordinate communication to the public, wayfinding, programming opportunities, and other recreation related issues.

## SOURCES

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- 2023 Rye Recreation Department Master Plan
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- 2021 Rye Natural Resource Inventory
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- Rye Recreation Department
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/recreation>
- NH GRANIT Database
- Strava Global Heatmap

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# COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Rye's community facilities and services include municipal buildings, such as the town hall, public library, and public works department - municipal sites, such as its cemeteries, recreational fields - infrastructure, and community services, such as recreation programs, transfer station services, and others. ***It is important for Rye to plan ahead for municipal service and public infrastructure needs to maintain high quality and efficient buildings and services.***

***Over time, the town will need to respond to an increased demand for services and plan for anticipated future needs.*** New services and facilities may be needed to accommodate a growing elderly population or to meet other emerging needs. These changes will impact the ways in which services are provided, the buildings which house them, as well as their capital needs, and therefore, the town budget.



## FACTS AND FIGURES



**5,478** children and young adults participated in 277 programs offered by the Rye Public Library in 2022.



**3** water providers service the town including Rye Water District, Aquarian Water Works, the City of Portsmouth. The remainder of the community has individual private wells.



**7,374** calls for service were received by Rye's Police Department in 2022, which is a decrease from previous years.



In **2023**, Rye Community Power was implemented and most of the town's municipal facilities utilize community power.



**555** parcels are serviced and overseen by the Rye Sewer Department and Sewer Commission.



**45** of miles of town-owned road are maintained by Rye's Highway Department.



# KEY FINDINGS

- There are several documented **municipal building needs** identified by the Town of Rye that will require planning and investment in the future including the need for a new public works campus facility and recreation department facility, as well as library, town hall, and school upgrades and improvements.
- The Library is a **vital and heavily utilized community space** and resource in Rye. According to the 2022 Rye Annual Report, all library services, programs, and usage increased an average of 51% from 2021 to 2022. Circulation of library materials increased 23% from 2021; Library visits increased 37%; and Program event attendance increased 48%.
- The **Town of Rye** and the **Rye Beach Precinct** share the following services: Fire, Police, Public Works Department, and Transfer Station.
- Several **reports** have been developed to guide specific improvements to Rye's community facilities and services. This includes the Recreation Master Plan, the Sewer Commission's Pump Station Assessment Report, the 2022 Engineering Study for the construction of a new well to replace the Cedar Run Well, and the Town of Rye Stormwater Management Plan. Rye's **Capital Improvement Plan** is the primary document that guides municipal investments of community facilities.
- **Future staffing needs** are anticipated by several town departments in Rye including the Police Department, the Public Works Department, the Recreation Department, and the Fire Department.
- Rye's network of groundwater resources is utilized for **drinking water** through several types of systems which are maintained by a variety of entities. The Town is serviced by three water providers: Rye Water District, Aquarian Water Works, and The City of Portsmouth and by individual private wells. Rye Water District provides water and fire protection to over 1,600 customers covering approximately two-thirds of the Town. Aquarian Water Works supplies water to the Jenness Beach and Rye Beach Precincts, and the City of Portsmouth supplies water to the northern part of town along Pioneer Road, Sagamore Road, Elwyn Road, and Wentworth Road. Documented future water system needs include repair and replacement of specific water tanks and pump stations, a water treatment plant, and identification of new groundwater resources.
- There are also several entities responsible for **sewage disposal** in Rye. The Rye Sewer Department and Sewer Commission oversees the town's public sewer system which consists of 6.9 miles of gravity sewer, 3.5 miles of force main, three pump stations, and services approximately 555 parcels as of August 2023. Rye's wastewater is treated by the Town of Hampton's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Rye is responsible for contributing funds to Hampton for this service. All other Rye resident properties are serviced by private septic systems. Key future projects for the town's sewer system including the replacement of aging infrastructure, installation of two new pumps, and the completion of an infrastructure vulnerability assessment. In 2022, a Sewer Commission Pump Stations Assessment Report was developed and identified the existing conditions of each pump station and made recommendations for improvements.
- Rye is an **MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) community**, meaning it must adhere to a stormwater management program to comply with federal requirements. To reduce non-point source pollution and ensure reduction in polluted stormwater runoff, the town should continue following best management practices and organizing a variety of education, outreach, system improvements, and other activities.
- Over the last decade, Rye has demonstrated its commitment to **renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resilience**. Rye has become a Community Power community and the town's active Energy Committee has identified several future projects moving forward including the construction of a solar array at the old landfill, expanding EV charging infrastructure, and the exploration of a microgrid.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

## INTRODUCTION

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye's **community facilities and services** including trends, data, and other information. It was developed and informed by a variety of town documents and resources, as well as interviews with department heads and other municipal contacts.

The community facilities and services covered in this section include:

- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Rye Public Library
- Town Hall/Town Hall Annex
- Schools
- Public Works Department (Highway Department and Transfer Station)
- Recreation Department
- Senior Services
- Cemetery
- Utilities
- Communications



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Both the Fire Department and the Police Department are housed in the Rye Public Safety Building at 555 Washington Road, which was constructed in 2004. On the Fire Department side, there is a five-bed bunk room, an apparatus, and a bay office area for the Chief, Deputy, and Shift Supervisors (also known as Lieutenants). There is also a shared training room for the Fire Department and Police Department, an EMS room, a maintenance room, and coordinator space. The Department also houses and operates assets of the Seacoast Fire Officers Mutual Aid District and responds to regional mutual aid requests as needed. The Department manages a vehicle fleet that consists of a Ladder truck, two structural pumpers, two ambulances, a high water/brush fire truck, a pick-up truck, and a Seadoo Jetski available in Rye Harbor. The Fire Department manages their own twenty-year internal Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which helps to inform the six-year town-wide CIP. As part of this, an ambulance is purchased every eight years.

## Staffing

The Rye Fire Department is staffed by ten full-time employees, five per diem personnel, and eight active on-call personnel. There are also approximately ten to thirteen lifeguards staffed for the Lifeguard Program seasonally at three town beaches: Sawyer, Cable, and Wallis (Pirate’s Cove). The full-time staff consists of one Chief, four Lieutenants, and five Firefighters. The Rye Fire Chief also serves as the Forest Fire Warden and informs the public on fire prevention, inspections, trainings, and permitting. The Department maintains 24/7 service to the Town of Rye and the Rye Beach Precinct. The shifts consist of four groups of three that work an average of 42 hours per week. For each shift, there are three full-time Firefighters, and there is only one shift that has three Firefighters and a per diem personnel. In July 2023, the Fire Department phased in staff funding to keep three shifts full-time personnel. Starting on Oct 1, 2023, the Selectboard authorized the Fire Department to hire a Deputy Chief.

Table 1: Fire Department Responses to Calls for Service Source: Rye Annual Town Reports						
Call Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires/Explosions	35	21	30	24	44	37
Structure Fires	17	11	22	10	27	19
Vehicle Fires	2	1	1	2	2	2
Brush Fires	5	5	4	5	2	4
Other Fires	11	3	3	7	11	10
Overpressure/Ruptures	1	0	2	1	1	0
Emergency Medical/Rescue	530	468	549	487	637	637
Hazardous Conditions	50	51	53	39	34	41
Service Calls	150	146	135	90	29	70
Good Intent Call/Public Service	15	18	22	40	37	73
Fire and CO Alarms/Other Alarms	121	118	135	94	128	131
Weather Related	3	2	4	3	2	7
Special/Miscellaneous	0	1	0	0	25	40
<b>Total Emergency Responses</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>1,036</b>
Mutual Aid Given	61	65	90	73	79	127
Mutual Aid Received	54	39	84	53	42	69
# of EMS Patient Transport	357	315	341	338	444	452
Water Rescues <i>(note: improved water rescue services and tracking service calls is a relatively new development, which is why there is no information for 2017-2019)</i>	-	-	-	7	11	15
Total Forestry Permits	368	368	530	528	422	460

## Calls for Service and Response Times

As indicated in the 2022 Rye Fire Rescue Staffing Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, “the Rye Fire Department is an all-hazards response agency providing Fire/Rescue protection and Advanced Life Support EMS services to town residents and guests. This includes but is not limited to Medical Emergency Calls, Structure Fires, Alarm investigations, Motor Vehicle Collisions, search and rescue in both land and water, mitigation of hazardous conditions, and Service calls.

*The Rye Fire Department also performs fire inspection/prevention services, Child passenger seat installation/inspections, and CPR courses".* The Department follows the fire and emergency response time standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Calls for service over the last six years are shown in the Table 1 on the previous page and are broken out by fire and medical calls. In general, the total number of emergency responses has increased over the last six years. As the Fire Chief noted in the 2022 Annual Town Report, there has been a 10% increase in call volume from 2021 to 2022.

### Dispatching Services

Rye makes use of the statewide E-911 system for police, ambulance, and fire emergency reporting. The Fire Department and Police Department are dispatched by the Rockingham County Dispatch Center in Brentwood N.H.

### Rye Fire Rescue Service Gaps

To evaluate Rye's Fire-EMS system, the Rye Fire Rescue Staffing Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan was developed in 2020 to provide short-term fire and EMS direction, build a shared community and public vision, set short- and long-term goals and objectives, and sets a course to optimize use of all appropriate resources. The Assessment and Strategic Plan identified five key findings with associated service gaps. After an interview with the Rye Fire Chief, below is an updated list of the service gaps that are still relevant in 2023:

- Rye Fire Rescue cannot maintain quick initial response to overlapping calls when out on an emergency response. This was partially resolved but future rising call volumes could further impact this.
- Off Duty and call force recall is not predictable.
- Customer service suffers when there are no staff at the Fire Station. This is partially resolved with the addition of the Deputy Fire Chief Position.
- Talented call force members are being trained by Rye Fire Rescue only to leave active service in Rye. This is partially resolved with the addition of part-time per-diem shift coverage that provides an opportunity for call force members to stay on as per-diem.
- Talented call force members do not have adequate organizational support. This is partially resolved with the addition of the Deputy Fire Chief Position that will provide more bandwidth to increase organizational support for the call force.
- There are often no members left in town to respond to a second ambulance call. This is partially resolved with the third position on each shift however there is a liability to maintain an appropriate number of per-diem Firefighters.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

- *Staffing* – According to the Fire Chief, the current number of personnel should be sufficient to meet the demand of the community for the next three years. However,

depending on the availability of per diem personnel (due to difficulty recruiting) there may be a need for an additional three per diem on for shifts. Additionally, depending on run volume and future community demand, the Department may have a need to add more full-time personnel.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Police Department is located in the Public Safety building. The Rye Police Department (RPD) services the Town of Rye and the Rye Beach Precinct. The Department maintains a vehicle fleet of five marked cruisers, one unmarked vehicle for administrative purposes, and one Animal Control vehicle. Typically, RPD maintains a Detail Account to fund for the purchase of new police cruisers. However, in 2022, there was not enough funding in this account and the new vehicle request was put into the CIP. When the RPD receives a new vehicle, the old vehicle gets cycled and passed down to other Town Departments such as Rye Tax Assessor, Recreation Department, and the Public Works Department. Currently, to accommodate the need for a new town vehicle, the Departments have been collaborating and sharing the Animal Control vehicle when needed.

Staffing

The Rye Police Department has eleven full-time personnel which includes one Chief, one Deputy Chief, one Sargent, one Lieutenant (that also duels as the part-time Training Coordinator Accreditation Manager), six Officers, and one Administrative Assistant. The part-time personnel consist of four Officers, a private Prosecutor, one Parking Enforcement Attendant, and one Animal Control Officer. Currently, the Animal Control Officer is part-time, but the Police Department anticipates this position will be full-time soon and will take on some administrative duties. In the months of June through September, there are additional seasonal beach parking enforcement attendants as parking increases substantially.

Police Activity and Calls for Service

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the Rye Police Department’s annual police activity related to arrests, crimes, and incidents over the last five years. In

<b>Table 2: Police Department Statistics</b>					
<b>Source: Rye Annual Town Reports</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Motor Vehicle Stops	1,181	1,397	1,442	2,064	1,412
911 Hang up calls	66	58	30	49	42
Juvenile Issues	43	31	30	22	19
Arrests	307	144	174	103	79
Accident Investigations	146	111	102	84	96
Medical Aid Calls	307	349	188	218	253
Burglary	1	5	2	1	1
Alarms	259	236	175	178	184
Animal Control	686	490	444	769	592
Domestics	27	28	31	20	11
Thefts	50	63	51	31	30
<b>Total Calls for service</b>	<b>10,118</b>	<b>9,076</b>	<b>8,487</b>	<b>8,316</b>	<b>7,374</b>

2022, the Police Department had 7,374 calls for service. Since 2018, it appears the Rye Police Department has seen a decrease in the number of calls for service.

Recent/Future Projects and Needs

- *Recent Projects* – The RPD recently implemented a body cam program to show transparency to the public, and the Department is currently working on a Driver Compliance Plan to reduce speeding through town.
- *Staffing Needs* – The Police Chief anticipates that future demand on services will necessitate the current part-time Lieutenant position to increase to full-time and the need for more officers around the Beach during the summertime.

**RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Rye’s Public Library is located at 581 Washington Road adjacent to the Rye Historical Society/Town Museum. The current Rye Library building was constructed in 1911 and was last expanded in 1998. The library building is approximately 12,000 square feet and consists of a lobby entrance, two public bathrooms and one staff bathroom, a youth collection area, and a small youth adult section. There is a small computer lab, a meeting room with a capacity of 170 people and another meeting room that has a capacity of 12 people. The building is two floors with an elevator and administrative office spaces. Some of the facility space is utilized for utility and storage, but about 10,000 square feet is used for public function.



Library Programs

The Rye Public Library provides a wide variety of educational, social, informational, and recreational programs for all ages. This includes youth summer reading, daily programming, crafts, entertainment inside and outside on the common space, scavenger hunts, performers, educational lectures, summer music series for all ages, a movie evening program, a robust inter-library loan exchange, and others. The Friends of the Rye Public Library support program funding and program development September through May. The Library

**Table 3: 2022 Library Statistics**  
**Source: Rye Public Library**

Category	Rye (2022)	NH State Avg
Annual Visits	39,143	10,726
Circulation of Materials	41,745	24,404
# Presentations to Groups	572	132
# of Participants in Presentations	8,272	2,375
# of Children’s and Young Adult Programs	277	79
Total Attendance of Children’s and Young Adult Programs	5,478	1,305
Public Internet Users	4,931	671

Trustees, Friends of the Library, and the Library Common Advisory Committee assist the library in their program offerings and repair collections. The Friends of the Rye Public Library provide discounted museum passes to Rye community members and offer other funding to support programming at the library.

In 2022, 5,478 children and young adults participated in 277 programs. The participants in these programs, events, and daily library use indicate that the library is an important town service. Table 3 from the 2022 yearly update to the Library Strategic Plan compares Rye Public Library's visits, users, and participation to the state average. As shown in this table, Rye's library statistics well exceed the state's averages.

### Collections and Services

The Rye Public Library provides a diverse circulating collection for all ages in the community. This collection includes books, magazines, newsletter/newspaper subscriptions, audio books, digital media download such as Hoopla (a digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone, and TV), DVDs and Blu-rays. For more information on the types of collections available at the Rye Public Library, visit the library's website: <https://ryepubliclibrary.org>

Other library services include collaboration with Senior SERVE Program's pick-up services, senior trivia club, home delivery of materials and 24/7 book drop off. According to the 2022 Rye Annual Report, all library services, programs, and usage increased an average of 51% from 2021 to 2022. Circulation of library materials increased 23% from 2021; Library visits increased 37%; and Program event attendance increased 48%.

### Staffing

The Rye Library has an Adult Services Director, an Adult Services Assistant Director/Collection & Inter-Library Loan Manager, two Adult Services Assistant Librarians, one Education and Outreach Librarian, three Adult Flex Librarians, a Director of Youth Services, a Youth Services Assistant Librarian, a Youth Storytime Librarian, a Youth/Teen Services Assistant Librarian, and a Library Page.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

- Recently, the Rye Public Library's exterior space has been the focus with hopes to maximize the existing green space in front of the library for programming and create a town green atmosphere. The Rye Public Library has been working with the Town Center Committee to redesign this space such as adding plantings, redesigning the common space, adding a covered platform/covered structure with electricity and an amphitheater type design.
- Looking over the next ten years, the Library Director anticipates the need for additional facility space including storage space, staff support for background activities, staff office

space and breakroom, and more public use space. Additionally, a secondary programming room was identified as a potential need and maintenance to heating and ventilation systems.

## **TOWN HALL/TOWN ANNEX**

The Rye Town Hall building is located at 10 Central Road and is a two-story historic structure that includes the following offices: the Building Department, Planning & Zoning, Land Use, Selectmen's Secretary and the Town Administrator, Treasurer, and DPW Director's Office. The building was originally constructed in 1839 as a Methodist Church and was purchased by the Town and converted into the Rye Town Hall in 1873. On the ground floor of the present structure, the space has been divided into nineteen spaces consisting of offices, an entry, a lobby, a meeting room, restrooms, kitchenette, corridors, storage, meeting space, and a boiler room. The Town Hall building is also where local boards and committees conduct their meetings.

Due to the historic nature of the Town Hall building, deterioration has occurred over time. Many aspects of the building still need repair to bring the building up to code and to accommodate the demand of more facility space for town offices. Over the course of many years of research, studies, and possibilities for additional Town Hall space, the Selectboard and voters approved the former TD Bank located on 500 Washington Road to be converted into a Town Hall Annex to host some of the town offices at this location. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Assessing Department, Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director, and the Supervisors of the Checklist are in the Town Hall Annex. Renovations are still needed to the Central Road Town Hall due to the age of the building. More information is needed to better understand specific space needs of each department that residents in the Town Hall and Town Hall Annex. For more information on the Town Hall Building, please see the 2018 Town Hall Historic Strategic Plan.

## **SCHOOLS**

Rye students are part of SAU 50 which includes the communities of Rye, Greenland, New Castle, and Newington. There is one elementary school (Rye Elementary School) and one Middle School (Rye Junior High School) located in Rye. The Portsmouth High School serves the communities in the SAU 50 district and Portsmouth.

### Rye Elementary School

The Rye Elementary School (RES) is located at 461 Sagamore Road and was constructed in 1956 with additions added in 1965 and 1996. The elementary school has the capacity for approximately 425 students and serves kindergarten through fourth grade. Currently, the Rye Elementary School has about sixteen classrooms. However, two are in the basement and are utilized for recreation programming and as a teacher conference room. There are three boy and three girl bathrooms and a gymnasium that is converted into a cafeteria for lunch and a full kitchen. There is a playground for kindergarten through second graders that is about twenty-



eight years old and was not in compliance with Primax Insurance so, some pieces of equipment were removed from the playground. There is also another playground for grades third and fourth and the SAU 50 Director of Facilities anticipates the need for updates in the next five to ten years to this playground. There is a baseball field that doubles as a soccer field located behind the elementary school. There is also an outdoor basketball court. RES also maintains a soccer field located adjacent to the school with frontage on Sagamore Road known as Lang Corner Field. The schools are responsible for the maintenance of these fields and a landscaping company is hired to maintain them. Additionally, RES recently started utilizing a trail in the woods behind the school (on school property) for educational purposes.

### Rye Junior High School

The Rye Junior High School (RJH) is located at 501 Washington Road and was constructed in 1933 with additions added in 1949, 1965, and 1996. Rye Junior High School has a student capacity for approximately 270 students and serves grades five through eight.

The RJH building consists of two stories and a basement. On the first floor, there is a girl/boy bathroom, a men/women's staff bathroom, a nurse's office, the principal's office, a library, a gymnasium,



a cafeteria, and kitchen, and five classrooms mostly utilized for fifth grade. On the second floor, there are eleven classrooms, one staff bathroom, and one boy and one girl restroom facility. The basement in Rye Junior High is partially finished and there are four large rooms utilized as a STEM room, a music room, an art room, and a life skills room; the rest of the basement is utilized for storage purposes. There are also boy and girl locker rooms however, they are not utilized due to student arriving to school already dressed ready for gym class. Outdoors, there is a sports field that is utilized for recess, and a variety of other sports throughout the year. RJH also has an outdoor classroom located behind the RJH in Wedge Woods.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

- *Rye Elementary School Needs* – Renovation of the Main Wing bathroom; this is the original bathroom from 1956 and is not ADA compliant. The playground for grades kindergarten through second grade is twenty-eight years old and is in need for updating. To prevent using funds from the school budget for this renovation, the RES has been fundraising throughout town. It is anticipated that within the next two-three years the parking lot will need to be repaved and sealed as well as the outdoor basketball court. The trees located along the trail behind the RES should be evaluated for safety to ensure there no dangers related to falling dead trees.

- *Rye Junior High School Needs* – Replacement of the steam heating system (as it is the original system from 1933). Renovation of the subfloor and tiling in the first-floor hallway will be needed within the next three years.
- *Needs for Both Schools* – A full time custodian and a part-time custodian are needed and the replacement of all exterior doors on both schools for safety and efficiency. Both schools require the replacement of HVAC units. SAU 50 has a plan to replace 2 HVAC units a year back and forth between the Elementary School and the Junior High School until all HVAC units are replaced.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Town of Rye has a Public Works Department which includes both the Highway Department and the Transfer Station. The Public Works Director oversees both of these and is responsible for the maintenance of the town’s roads, stormwater system, beaches, public spaces, buildings, and the Transfer Station.

### Highway Department

Rye’s Highway Department and Transfer Station are housed at the Public Works Facility Campus, which is located at 309 Grove Road. The Public Works Director’s Office is located on the second floor of the Town Hall Building located at 10 Central Road. At the Public Works Facility Campus, all Highway Department equipment and vehicles are stored in a Public Works facility building where there is also a vehicle maintenance bay for the mechanic with work storage space, three garage bays, two office spaces and houses three other workstations with a break room and bathroom facilities. The Highway Department owns a vehicle fleet and equipment as shown in Table 4.

### Staffing

The Highway Department staff consists of eight full-time employees (The Public Works Director, one Working Forman, one Mechanic, four Driver/Operators, and one Buildings/Grounds Personnel). Additionally, the Highway Department has one seasonal/part-time Laborer. The Transfer Station staff consists of three Transfer Attendants – two part-time, one full-time, and one seasonal.

### Roads

The Rye Highway Department maintains about 45 miles of town-owned road in Rye. The Department also maintains and updates a pavement management plan. The Highway

<b>Table 4: Highway Department Vehicle Fleet</b>	
<b>Source: Rye PWD</b>	
Vehicle Type	#
Woodchuck Chipper	1
J/D Backhoe	2
Volvo Wheel Loader	2
John Deere Mower/Tractor	1
John Deere Skid Steer	1
Barber Surf Rake	1
International 7400 Six Wheel Dump	1
International 7400SFa4 Six Wheel Dump	3
Ford F450 One Ton Dump	1
Ford F450 One Ton Rack	1
Ford F350 Utility Truck	1

Department also completes the town's drainage system work such as installing new catch basins and culverts; replacing and cleaning of catch basins and culverts, headwalls, shoulder gravel, tree work, ditch work, guardrail replacement; and improving grades to ensure compliance with the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Program (MS4). This data is collected by the Public Works Director who also completes the MS4 documentation to submit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As part of the town's MS4 program, the Rye Highway Department also maintains a Salt Reduction Plan. The purpose of the Salt Reduction Plan is to "reduce salt usage within the MS4 boundary by implementing various best management practices (BMPs) aimed at reducing the amount of chloride applied to the roadway, thus reducing the amount of chloride discharging to the impaired waterbody within the Town of Rye's MS4 boundary".

### Transfer Station

The Transfer Station is located at 309 Grove Road and is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7:30 am to 3:45 pm. The Transfer Station facilities consist of one recycling bailer, a storage area for recycling that the town collects to bail and store (once full the town ships the recycling to Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) in exchange for a check), and an area for a swap shop that is run by volunteers where donations are brought in and given away as a way of reusing. There are two pole barns for equipment storage and a salt storage facility. There are also concrete walled bins for crushed glass, wood chips, and compost available to residents. The Transfer Station is for Rye residents only and requires a permit for use. In 2021, Rye residents generated 508 tons of recycling materials, and in 2022, Rye residents generated 510 tons of recycling material. Over the last five years, Rye residents generated an average of 1,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) per year. The Town does not provide curbside pickup therefore residents seek private trash roadside service or deliver their trash to the Town's Transfer Station. According to the Rye Public Works Director, generally more than 50% of Rye residents utilize the Transfer Station and closer to 25% of Rye residents hire private contractors for curbside pickup.

The Town of Rye is a part of the Southeast Regional Refuse Disposal District 53B along with other communities of Brentwood, Fremont, Kensington, North Hampton, and Sandown. The group collaborates with these communities to ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste by meeting quarterly and organizing the yearly Household Hazardous Waste Day typically held in the end of September.

### Recycling Education Committee

Recently, the Rye Selectboard established the Recycling Education Committee as a subcommittee of the Rye Energy Committee. The purpose of the committee is to "educate Town residents on recycling and maximizing the effectiveness of the Town's source separated recycling drop-off facility at the Transfer Station". For more information about the Recycling Education Committee, please visit the town website.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

- *Staffing Needs* – Looking into the next ten years, the Public Works Director anticipates the need for more administrative positions such as an Assistant Public Works Director, a Public Works Office Manager/Administrative Assistant, and a General Foreman.
- *Equipment/Facility Needs* – The Public Works Director anticipates a need for a new PWD Campus Facility due to both buildings (one that houses the Highway Department and another that houses the Transfer Station) being insufficient and structurally unsound. Future equipment needs include fuel tanks for reporting and tracking and a wash bay for vehicles to minimize runoff.

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Recreation Department and Recreation Commission manage the Rye Recreation Area which is located at 55 Recreation Way. The Rye Recreation Area includes the Flash Jenness Memorial Little League Field, the Ralph Morang Multi-Purpose Field, spectator stands, a playground with benches, a wooded picnic area, basketball/pickle ball court, a garage/multi-functional building (1,690 square feet) and three small buildings. The three small buildings consist of a Recreation House (1,152 square feet) with rated occupancy of 45 persons with two restrooms; a 728 square foot staff office modular building; and a 290 square foot unheated equipment storage shed that is utilized as a snack shack on a limited basis. The main paved parking lot and trailhead gravel lot provides a total of 90 spaces. Pedestrian infrastructure is limited at the Recreation Area and most of the site does not meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements.

### Staffing

The Rye Recreation Department has a full-time Recreation Director and a full-time Program Assistant, and is in the process of hiring a full-time Deputy Director to assist with programming and administrative purposes. The Department also has a Program Assistant that works thirty hours per week for the afterschool program and the summer camp program. There are approximately five seasonal staff.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

Needed improvements to the Recreation Area include:

- Improvements to one of the Recreation Department baseball fields, moving the office space, revamping the parking lot, and installing new restrooms at the recreation facility;
- The addition of a basketball court, pavilion, pump track, tennis and pickleball courts and indoor practice space. This is identified in the 2023 Recreation Master Plan and improvements are anticipated to be implemented in phases;
- A bus for transportation for recreation programming for seniors and children.

- A full-time Parks Maintenance personnel is needed as well as increasing the thirty-hour per week Program Assistant to work full time in the Department.

As identified in the 2023 Rye Recreation Road Master Plan, after meetings with Town staff and Committees, and conducting a public survey, the following list of desires for the Recreation Area were identified:

- Recreation Department office and meeting space
- Covered space for inclement weather and for shade
- Pickle ball/ tennis courts possibly with/without basketball
- Pump track
- Picnic pavilion
- Revenue generation and use for inclement weather (camp)
- Free standing restroom building option
- Facility wide universal accessibility
- Picnic / eating / socializing area supportive of concessions
- Expand recreation offerings
- Add trails and greater connectivity on site and community nodes
- Additional 50 parking spaces (goal 140 total)

For more information on Rye's recreation facilities, programs, and resident usage, please visit the Recreation Profile of this Existing Conditions Report.

## **SENIOR SERVICES**

Rye Senior SERVE was developed in 2004 and is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that consists of volunteer residents that work to assist Rye's Seniors. The organization maintains and provides transportation services for Rye seniors to medical appointments and for errands including grocery shopping, pharmacy runs, the bank, and leisure shopping. Some seniors also take advantage of the option of breakfast at Hebert's Restaurant. In addition, the Senior SERVE van takes riders on planned outings and monthly luncheons. The Senior SERVE van is parked at the Town Hall, and they are in need of a new vehicle.

## CENTRAL CEMETERY

The Town of Rye has one cemetery, Central Cemetery, that is located on Central Road adjacent to the Town Hall. The Central Cemetery property is approximately seventeen acres. Central Cemetery was established in 1892 and has been managed and operated by the Rye Cemetery Trustees which



consist of three elected trustees. Structures that are utilized at Central Cemetery and that are operated by the Cemetery Trustees, consist of one four-bay garage in good condition, one single garage bay in need of future foundation repair, and one viewing shed that is no longer in use. Central Cemetery operates at no expense to the Rye taxpayers and is self-funding by burial fees, lot sales, and interest earned on the reserve fund. This Reserve Fund is available for building and equipment repair and equipment replacement when needed. The Central Cemetery is a perpetual care cemetery that operates by setting aside a portion of the plot sale in an investment fund that generates interest income to perpetually pay for the maintenance of the plot and cemetery. The Central Cemetery contributes to Rye's historic character and can be utilized for walking with its dirt roads and walking paths that are in the center of town, and provides green space.

The Cemetery Trustees maintain the following vehicle and equipment fleet:

- Tractor #1 = Largest Tractor "Backhoe" – Case Model 4800 – Model year 1981.
- Tractor #2 = Replaced in 2017 with a Wright Zero-turn mower.
- Tractor #3 = Replaced in 2020 with a new SCAG Zero-turn mower.
- Dump Truck – Model Year 2001 – 30,000 miles.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

- The Cemetery Trustees are studying the infrastructure at the cemetery to access the roadway repairs and ongoing tree maintenance.
- The Trustees have a plan to replace one road utilizing funds from the Cemetery Trust Funds.
- The Cemetery Trustees will be studying the maintenance of the infrastructure over the next several years.

## UTILITIES

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Rye Sewer Department is located on the second floor of the Rye Beach Village District building at 830 Central Road in Rye Beach. The Rye sewer system was constructed in the late 1980's, early 1990's and consists of 6.9 miles of gravity sewer, 3.5 miles of force main, three pump stations, and services approximately 555 parcels as of August 2023. Most other Rye properties are serviced by private septic systems.

Rye's wastewater is sent to the Town of Hampton's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Therefore, the Sewer Department is responsible for paying the Town of Hampton for the transport and treatment of its wastewater and contributes to their WWTP capital expenditures as part of an Inter-Municipal Agreement. The Town of Hampton has agreed to process Rye sewage until November 16, 2024, and the renewal process has been recently initiated. The town typically maintains a five-year contractual agreement with Hampton.

#### Distribution

As shown in the Rye Public Services Map found at the end of this section, Rye's sewer distribution area is approximately from the Church Road area to Old Beach Road. However, it should be noted that the entirety of this area is not serviced by Rye Sewer as there are some parcels that are served by private septic systems. The Sewer Department also services Adams Mobile Home Park, which is connected by a private line to the City of Portsmouth Sewer System. The City of Portsmouth Sewer System also extends and provides public sewer service from the Rye/Portsmouth boundary on Sagamore Road ending at Pioneer Road (Foyes Corner). The Rye Sewer Department distribution infrastructure consists of approximately eleven miles of sewer pipeline and about 170 sewer manholes. Table 5 identifies the Rye Sewer Department's pump station infrastructure and locations.

#### Rye Sewer Commission and Staff

The Rye Sewer Commission consists of three volunteer and elected members who are responsible for the administration, billing, operation, and maintenance of sewer in Rye. The Rye Sewer Department also has a full-time Sewer Director. All other workers are contracted and the Town of Hampton provides weekly maintenance checks on the pump stations with assistance from the Rye Sewer Director. A part of the inter-municipal agreement, the Town of Hampton bills Rye Sewer for their operation and maintenance services.

<b>Pump Station</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Year Constructed</b>
Jenness Beach	118 Old Beach Road	1987
Church Road	19 Church Street	1990
Abenaqui	759 Central Road	1987

## Recent/Future Projects and Needs

In 2022, a Sewer Commission Pump Stations Assessment Report was developed and identified the existing conditions of each pump station and made recommendations for improvements. The Sewer Commission has been actively evaluating the sewer infrastructure, which is now over thirty years old, as well as pursuing State, Federal, and local funding. The following projects are future needs as identified in the draft 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Plan and recommended in the Sewer Commission Pump Stations Assessment Report.

- Installation of a new generator at the Church Road Pump Station due to aging infrastructure and failures that were previously experienced.
- Installation of two new Gorman Rupp Pumps at the Jenness Beach Pump Station
- An Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment

## **WATER AND STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

There are three water providers in the Town of Rye: Rye Water District, Aquarian Water Works, and the City of Portsmouth. As shown on the Public Services Map located at the end of this Community Facilities and Services Profile, Aquarian Water Works supplies water to the Jenness Beach and Rye Beach Precincts and the City of Portsmouth supplies water to the northern part of town along Pioneer Road, Sagamore Road, Elwyn Road, and Wentworth Road. The Rye Water District purchases water from the City of Portsmouth that are connected to the Rye Water District water line.

### Rye Water District

The Rye Water District (RWD) is a private non-profit organization. The staff consist of one full-time Business Manager, two full-time Field Operators, a Superintendent, and three elected Rye Water District Commissioners. The RWD office is located at 60 Sagamore Road and provides water and fire protection to over 1,600 customers covering about two thirds of the town. The RWD operates and oversees three wells, three pump houses, three storage tanks, a booster station, just under 300 hydrants, and maintains approximately 37 miles of water lines. Table 6 identifies RWD's infrastructure in comparison to Aquarian Water Works and the City of Portsmouth water service distribution throughout town. The RWD assets are mostly comprised of long-lived assets such as water storage structures, distribution mains, pumping stations and equipment, and land and buildings. The remainder of assets are four vehicles which consist of pick-up trucks that are normally replaced on a six-year cycle, as well as small equipment items. The budgeting process

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Value (approx.)</b>
Number of RWD Hydrants	266
Miles of RWD Water Line	36.8 miles
Number of Aquarian Hydrants	66
Miles of Aquarian Water Line	12 miles
Miles of City of Portsmouth Water Line	5.6 miles



consists of revenues received from a water usage fee/tax for those located in the Rye Water District area.

### RWD Recent/Future Project and Needs

- *Future Projects* – The following projects were identified by the Rye Water District Manager and listed in the 2023-2028 Rye Capital Improvement Plan:
  - Breakfast Hill Water Tank Maintenance
  - Parson Road Improvements
  - Sagamore Road Pump Station Rehab
  - Washington Road Tank #1 Maintained
  - Central Treatment Plant
- *Recent Projects* – In 2022, Rye Water District hired Wright-Pierce Engineering Firm to evaluate and identify potential locations in Rye to construct a new well to replace the Cedar Run Well located on Garland Road. The Cedar Run Well has degraded water quality for both iron and manganese at elevated levels, as well as elevated levels of topical organic compounds (TOC). The well is currently offline due to this, however if the well is online, it produces water that is consumable but is esthetically less of a quality of water than what is acceptable by the residents in the district. Due to the Cedar Run Well having been offline since 2018, the RWD system has difficulty meeting the demands at certain times of day particularly during the summer months. The Engineering Firm identified the Brown Lane Farm property (managed by the Rye Conservation Commission) as a potential site for development of a new well. The Brown Farm Property is located off of West Road and three primary drilling targets were identified at the site. This parcel is approximately 51 acres. This location is still under review and the RWD is collaborating with the Town of Rye Selectboard and the Rye Conservation Commission to discuss the ongoing water source investigation being done by Rye Water District in conjunction with their engineering firm Wright-Pierce.

### Stormwater Management

As the Town of Rye was developed and streets were constructed, the town's stormwater collection system has progressed over time. Rye's collection system follows many roads in town and its components range from open culverts/swales to catch basins and associated piping. Throughout town, there are approximately 715 stormwater drains, 44 stormwater drainage crossings, and about 14 miles of stormwater drainpipe.

As road improvements have been made over the years, the Town has evaluated and addressed drainage improvements. The Town of Rye participates in a Stormwater Management Program and maintains and manages a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) includes the stormwater collection, conveyance, and outfall structures within a city or town. These structures include (but are not limited to) catch basins, drain manholes, culverts, stormwater basins, and swales. Along with approximately sixty other municipalities in the state, the Town of Rye's MS4 permit is regulated under the EPA Clean

Water Act (CWA). The Public Works Department works to comply with the requirements of the MS4 permit issued on May 1, 2018 by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) describes and details the activities and measures that will be implemented to meet the terms and conditions of the 2017 NH Small MS4 General Permit. The SWMP document should be updated and/or modified during the permit term as activities are modified, changed, or updated to meet permit conditions. For more information on stormwater and roadway infrastructure, please visit the Transportation Profile of this Existing Conditions Report.

## **ENERGY**

### Rye Community Power

In 2021, the Energy Committee proposed an electric aggregation plan to the Select Board, which recommended the implementation of Rye Community Power (RCP). Rye residents voted to adopt the plan in March 2022, and it took effect in April 2023. The plan involved joining the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH), a member-owned, non-profit community power agency that procures and administers electricity supply. CPCNH offers lower electric rates and more renewable energy options than Eversource. RCP participation is voluntary but when it launched all Rye Eversource customers were switched to RCP unless they opted out. Eversource still delivers the power, maintains the infrastructure, and sends the bills.

RCP has four electric supply rates. The default Granite Basic rate meets the state law's minimum renewable energy percentage (23.4% in 2023, 24.4% in 2024, and 25.2% in 2025 and beyond), Granite Plus has 33%, Clean 50 has 50%, and Clean 100 has 100% renewable energy. The Rye Community Power default rate is Granite Basic. Of the 2,627 current accounts, 99% chose Granite Basic and 1% chose one of the other rates.

In the first seven months of RCP service, customers used approximately 7 MWh of electricity or about 1,000,000 kWh per month. They also saved over \$200,000 from what they would have paid for Eversource's default energy supply, all at no cost to consumers or the Town, by switching to RCP from Eversource. All Rye municipal buildings currently use RCP for electric supply and will do so unless there is a better rate option for energy supply. Customers may opt-up from Granite Basic to one of the three more renewable energy products. They may also opt-out of the program at any time, with no fee or penalty, and return to Eversource default supply or choose another competitive supplier.

### Solar

In October 2022, solar panels were installed on Rye Junior High School roof. These panels not only save the school money on electricity, but they reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Solar panels will be installed on the elementary school roof in 2024.

There are currently 120 residences in Rye that have installed solar panels. Some of these homes also installed batteries which means the home has back-up power in case of an outage. The battery will also supply carbon free power to the home during the night hours or when the panels are not generating as much as the house is consuming.

The Energy Committee is exploring the option of developing a large solar array on land in town. This would have the advantage of supplying low-cost electricity to residents at a fixed-rate for the long term in addition to reducing GHG emissions.

### Housing

A 2019 NH Department of Environmental Services study of greenhouse gas emissions found that the residential sector accounted for a 19% share of the state's emissions.

Of the 2,906 buildings in Rye, 90% burn fuel oil or propane for heat. The average fossil-fuel burning home heating system produces 18,000 lbs. of GHG emissions.

The Rye building code follows the state building code which requires builders to meet the strict energy reduction requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code. The IECC is revised every three years, becoming stricter with each revision. It is anticipated that by 2030 the code will require all new homes constructed to be heated and cooled with electric heat pumps. This will not only make them more energy efficient and cleaner, but also less expensive to operate.

The Town Hall is heated and cooled with a geothermal heat pump and the Annex is heated and cooled with an air source heat pump, both of which use electricity to operate.

### Transportation

A 2019 NH DES analysis of GHG emissions in NH found that transportation accounted for the largest share of the state's GHG emissions at 47%.

in 2022 there were 8,619 vehicles registered in Rye of which a small percentage were electric.

### Energy Committee

The Rye Energy Committee, established in 2007 by the Select Board, has a mission to assess the Town's energy use, recommend energy conservation alternatives for the Town and its residents, and help disseminate this information. The 2012 Master Plan stated that energy use and natural resource protection affect many aspects of life in Rye, such as municipal costs, quality of life, and the local economy. Therefore, policy decisions should consider energy that aims for efficiency, conservation, security, and resiliency. The NH Climate Action Plan is currently being updated and when it is complete the Town should consider aligning its climate impact reduction goals and activities with those it recommends. Rye residents will benefit from the Town

becoming more energy secure and sustainable. Town policies on energy generation, supply, building standards, and transportation are vital for Rye's long-term sustainability and resilience.

### Recent/Future Projects and Needs

#### Recent Projects:

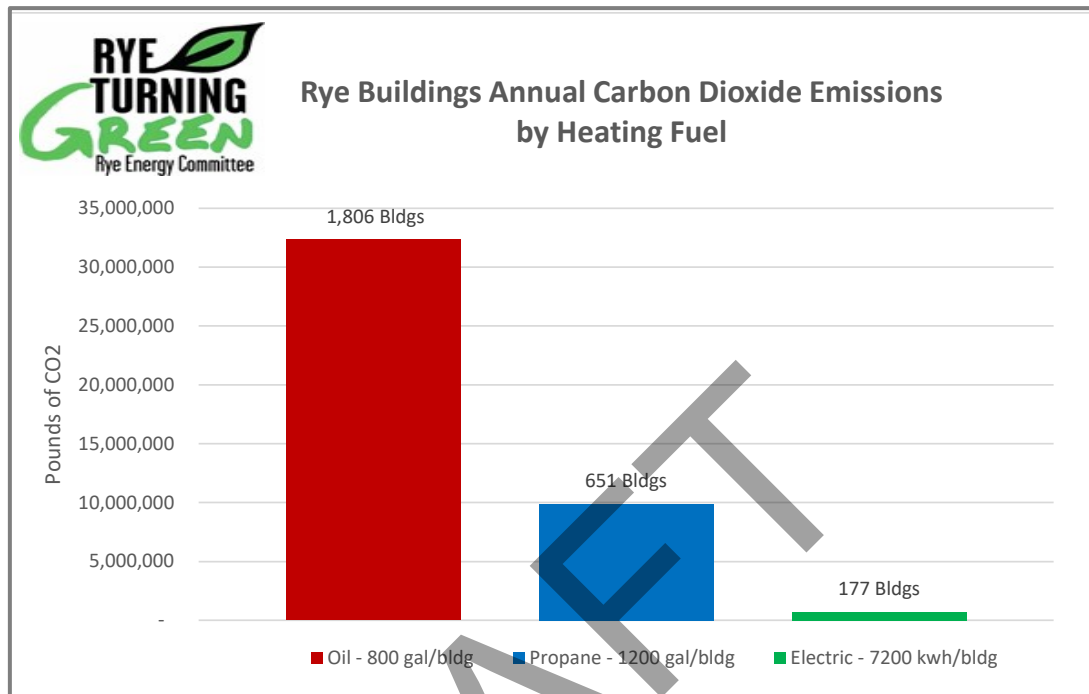
- Energy audits have been completed for all town buildings.
- All town buildings have been converted to LED lighting.
- Most town facilities are on Rye Community Power, but not all buildings. The Schools and the Public Safety Building are still in contract with Direct Energy.
- Municipal buildings were reviewed, initiated by the Energy Committee, to identify the structures and sites most suitable for accommodating solar energy systems. In October of 2022, solar panels were installed on Rye Junior High School by warrant article that was approved by Rye voters in March 2022. This was implemented to save on energy cost. In March 2023, another warrant article was brought to voters for the installation of solar panels on the Rye Elementary School after roof repairs are made.

#### Future/Anticipated Projects:

- The Energy Committee has been exploring the option of constructing a solar array on the old Landfill located at the corner of Lafayette and Breakfast Hill Road. This location was identified for ideal solar production. The old Landfill property is currently owned by a private party and in March 2024, the town anticipates bringing a warrant article forward to voters for the town to purchase this land.
- The Energy Committee would like to advise the town that more energy infrastructure should be installed such as EV chargers installed at the Rye Schools to support new transportation infrastructure.
- Rye's building codes can significantly influence energy efficiency in its municipal, residential, and commercial buildings. Building to code is the minimal level of energy efficiency required by the law. However, to achieve greater energy efficiency, a community's building code can be more stringent than the state requirement. The Energy Committee would like to advise the Town in the future to follow the most recent building code at the current time or encourage implementation of a more stringent building code for Rye to follow.
- The Committee would like to research the possibility of connecting to a microgrid for the public safety reasons. The US Department of Energy defines a microgrid as "a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid. A microgrid can connect and disconnect from the grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island mode".

In 2021, an analysis was conducted under the Energy Committee to capture the annual carbon dioxide emissions of Rye buildings based on heating type as well as heating cost, energy usage, and others. The graph below displays the annual carbon dioxide emissions of Rye buildings most

of which are heated by oil. For more information of this and other energy related initiatives and projects, please visit the Rye Energy Committee page on the Town Website: <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/energy-committee>



## COMMUNICATIONS

Comcast/Xfinity holds a non-exclusive franchise agreement with the Town of Rye for cable television services, telephone services, and high-speed internet service. Comcast/Xfinity is the primary internet provider for the Town of Rye. However, Consolidated Communications/Fidium is also an option for many, but not all, to provide telephone and fiber optic services.

### Telecommunication Infrastructure

In 2019, the Rye Telecommunication Infrastructure Committee was formed and tasked to develop a plan to investigate and identify types of telecommunications infrastructure, and to eliminate basic text and voice cellular dead spots throughout the Town of Rye. The Selectboard created the Committee and appointed five members for initial term ending in 2020 at the conclusion of the project. Isotrope Wireless was hired by the Town to perform a Wireless and Telecommunications Service Gap Analysis. A summary of the major findings include:

- The service gaps identified in Rye are located in the area between Grove Road, and Pioneer Road where there is a dearth of wireless coverage. Though some people are able to get service with certain providers, the signal levels are still poor.
- The analysis identified town owned parcels that could be suitable for a new cell tower by utilizing large properties that are heavily wooded to minimize tower visibility to neighbors, and to strategically locate the sites to achieve the most useful coverage with

the least number of towers. However, some town-owned locations are restricted due to conservation restrictions.

#### Wireless Telecommunications Facilities District

The Wireless Telecommunications Facilities District was first implemented in the Town of Rye in 1999 and was recently amended in 2019. The purpose of this overlay district is to establish general guidelines for the siting of towers and antennas, and to enhance and fulfill goals as listed in this ordinance. For more information, please visit the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities District in the Rye Zoning Ordinance.

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# Existing Conditions: Public Services

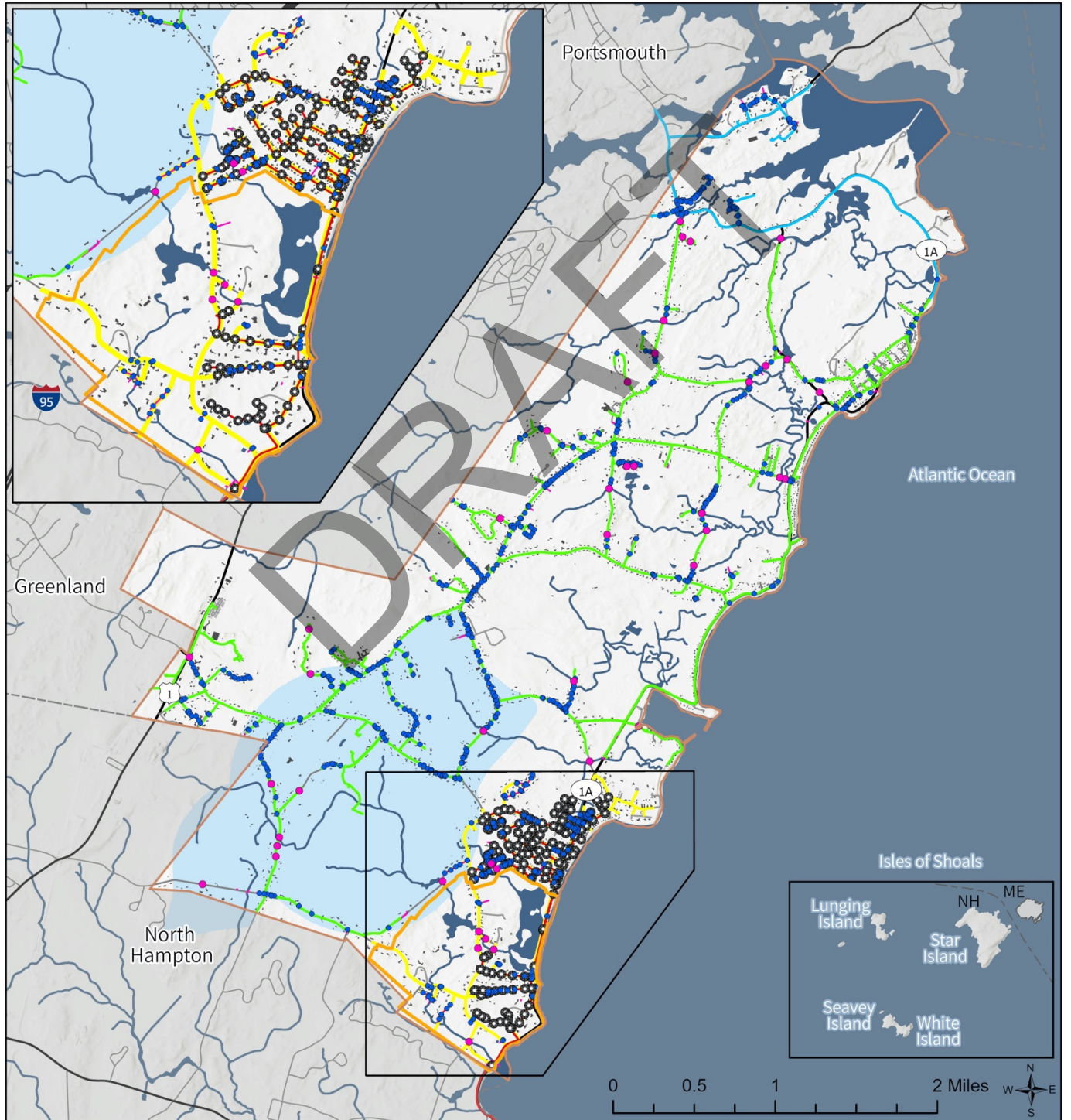
Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Map created for planning purposes  
for master plan development



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, NH DOT,  
Maine GeoLibrary, CAI  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town Boundary
- Town of Rye
- Rye Beach Village District
- Road
- Coastal Waters/Waterbody
- River/Stream
- Rye Water District Wellhead Protection Area
- City of Portsmouth Water Pipe
- Rye Water District Water Pipe
- Aquarian Water Pipe
- Stormwater Drain Pipe
- Sewer Pipe
- Stormwater Drain Structure
- Stormwater Drainage Crossing
- Sewer Manhole



# Existing Conditions: Public Facilities

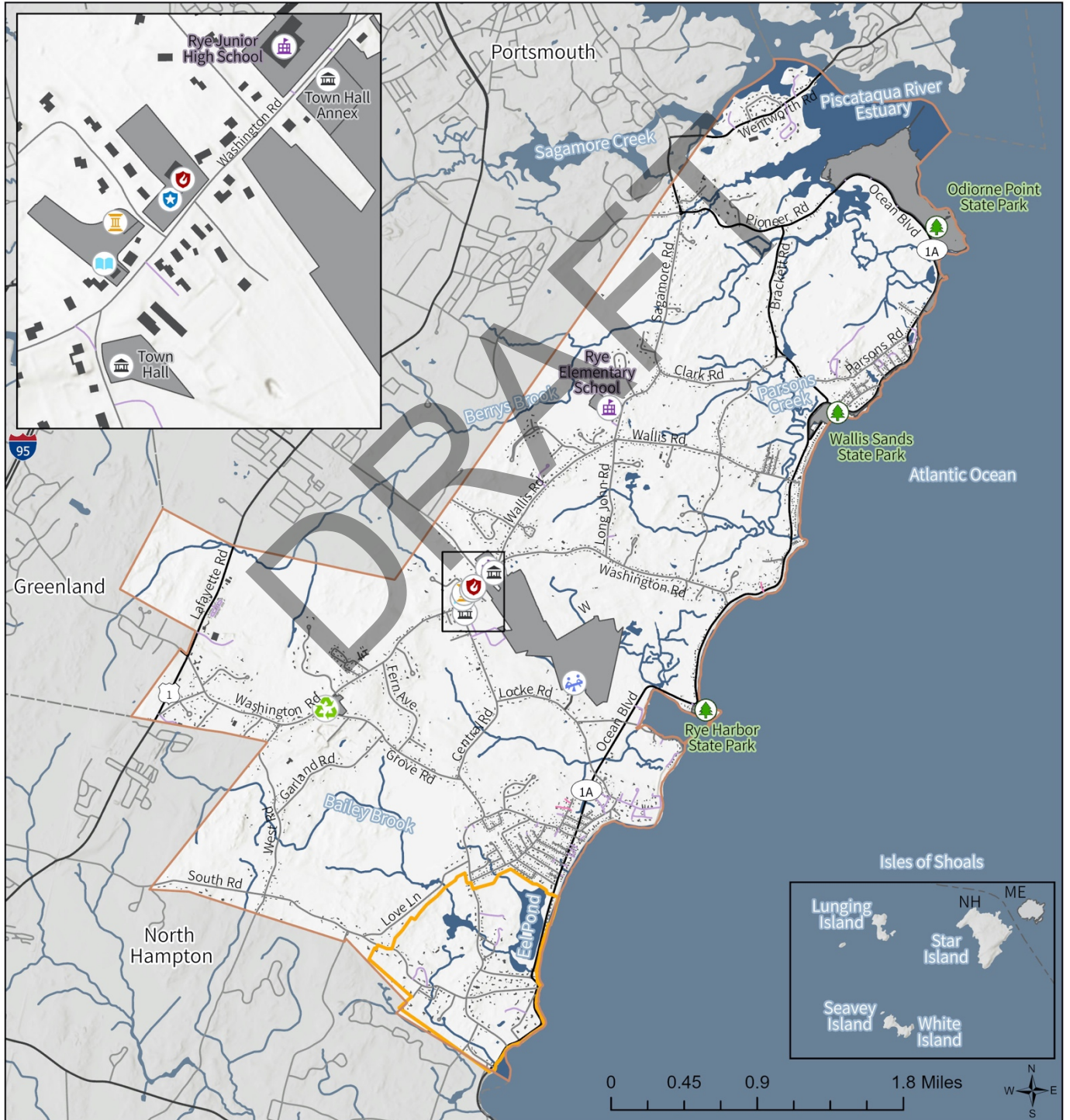
Town of Rye, New Hampshire

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- |                            |                    |                       |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Town Boundary              | Building Footprint | Town Hall Building    |
| Town of Rye                | State Road         | Library               |
| Rye Beach Village District | Local Road         | School                |
| Coastal Waters/Waterbody   | Private Road       | Historical Society    |
| River/Stream               | Unmaintained Road  | State Park            |
|                            | Fire Station       | Recreation Department |
|                            | Police Department  | Transfer Station      |





## SOURCES

- 2022 Annual Town Report
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/2022\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/2022_annual_report.pdf)
- Town of Rye Website
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us>
- Town of Rye Public Library Website
  - <https://ryepubliclibrary.org>
- Town of Rye Police Department Website
  - <http://www.ryepolice.us>
- 2020 Telecommunications Infrastructure Review Report
- Rye Zoning Ordinance: Wireless Telecommunications Facilities District
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/building-department/news/rye-zoning-ordinance>
- 2021 Rye Community Profile
  - <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/cp/profiles-htm/rye.htm>
- 2022 Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/emergency-management/pages/2022-draft-all-hazard-mitigation-plan>
- 2016 Recreation Facility and Space Needs Assessment
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/christopher\\_p\\_williams\\_architects\\_presentation.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/christopher_p_williams_architects_presentation.pdf)
- 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/approved\\_final\\_2023-2028\\_cip.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/approved_final_2023-2028_cip.pdf)
- Draft 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/capital-improvements-program-committee/pages/2024-2029-cip-document>
- Interviews with Department Heads

- 2013 Master Plan
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/planning-department/pages/master-plan>
- 2022 MS4 Annual Report Year 4
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ms4\\_annual\\_report\\_year\\_4.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/ms4_annual_report_year_4.pdf)
- 2022 Salt Reduction Plan
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/salt\\_reduction\\_plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/salt_reduction_plan_0.pdf)
- 2020 Rye Fire Rescue Staffing Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan
- 2022 Sewer Commission Pump Stations Assessment Report

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# HISTORY AND CULTURE

Rye's rich history and cultural resources contribute to the town's unique heritage and sense of place. These historical and cultural resources include both physical resources (landscape features, buildings, and physical sites) as well as non-physical resources (organizations, programs, clubs, its history, and community traditions).

Our historic farming and fishing activity, indigenous and colonial history, tourism heritage, and distinct historic sites, like the town center, Rye Harbor, Goss Farm, Isle of Shoals, and others are distinct features of Rye. Numerous entities working to preserve Rye's history include the Historic District Commission, the Historical Society, the Heritage Commission, the Library, and others.

***Looking ahead, Rye should preserve its historic resources, small-town culture, and semi-rural character by implementing regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms to guide development appropriately and promote preservation.***



## FACTS AND FIGURES



**4** historic properties in Rye are listed on the State of New Hampshire Register of Historic Places. These include: Odiorne Farm, Rye Town Hall, Goss Farm Barn, and the Rye Public Library.



**7** historic properties in Rye are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include: The Beach Club, Isles of Shoals, Locke Elijah House, Parsons Homestead, Pulpit Rock Base End Station (N. 142), Rye Town Hall, and St. Andrew's by the Sea Church.



**310** historic structures built before 1950 are listed by the Town.



**1** historic overlay district regulates changes to historic buildings within this district.



**2023** marks the 400-year anniversary of Rye's first European settlement.

# KEY FINDINGS

- Rye's **history** is documented in collections and resources maintained by the Rye Public Library, Rye Historical Society, and the Heritage Commission.
- There are **four properties** in Rye listed on the State of NH Register of Historic Places. These include: Odiorne Farm, Rye Town Hall, Goss Farm Barn, and the Rye Public Library. There are seven properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include: The Beach Club, Isles of Shoals, Locke, Elijah House, Parsons Homestead, Pulpit Rock Base End Station (N. 142), Rye Town Hall, and St. Andrew's by the Sea Church.
- Rye's Historical Society and Heritage Commission are heavily involved in efforts to **educate** the public about Rye's history.
- The Year 2023 marks the **400 Year Anniversary** of Rye's first year of European settlement in 1623.
- Rye is fortunate to have several active **cultural organizations** and popular **community events** such as the Rye Civic League, Lions Club, Rye Driftwood Garden Club, the Rye Advocates, and others that bring residents together and build a greater sense of community.
- Rye is part of the **New Hampshire Scenic Coastal Byway** and features many historic structures, features, and landscapes along Ocean Boulevard.
- Rye has approximately **310 historic structures** that were built pre 1950. These are listed with the town and identified by historic plaques throughout town.
- There are **seven historical sites** in Rye delineated by historic markers. These include: Bracket Road Burial Site, Family Farms that Shaped Rye's History at 81 West Road, Goss Farm, Awcomin Marsh, Rye Harbor, Isles of Shoals, Historic Hotels at Ocean Boulevard, Historic Rye Center, Pulpit Rock Tower, and Trefethen Corner.
- Rye has a **Historic District Overlay** that is regulated and enforced by the Historic District Commission to safeguard the town's heritage and architectural values for future generations. The Historic District designated area includes the Rye Center Historic District (defined as that area from the west end of Grange Park to the intersection of Central and Washington Roads within 500 feet on either side of the center line of Washington Road), Isles of Shoals islands, the 1874 Cable House, and the 1691 Brackett Massacre Site.
- The Abenaki, Penacook, and Pentucket Native Americans were the major **indigenous nations** that lived in the area now known as Rye, and still have a cultural connection to this land.
- Since the 1800's, **Rye Harbor** has been a bustling port. Today, Rye Harbor is an important natural resource utilized by commercial and recreational fishermen and has become a tourist attraction. Isle of Shoals and Odiorne Point both have unique histories and pre-colonial and colonial significance.
- The **Goss Farm**, which is a historic farm in Rye, was purchased with Rye Open Space funds and a grant from the US Dept. of Agriculture in 2010, and is managed by the Conservation Commission. Today, there is a community garden and the farm is used to promote local agriculture, engage Rye schools with educational opportunities, and protect water quality by way of buffered areas adjacent to wetlands and marshes.

# RYE NH, EXISTING CONDITIONS PROFILE – HISTORY AND CULTURE

The following section provides additional detail on the Town of Rye's **historical and cultural resources** including trends, data, and other information.

## **RYE'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### Indigenous People, European Exploration, and Colonization

Prior to colonial settlement, Rye's lands were inhabited by indigenous Native Americans for over 12,000 years. The Abenaki, Penacook, and Pentucket were the major indigenous nations that lived in the area now known as Rye. These nations have both a historic and contemporary connection to this land. The first European settlers arrived in the 1600s. In 1605, Samuel de Champlain landed at Odiorne Point and, over the course of the early 1600s, European fishermen established permanent settlements. Champlin documented that upon his arrival there were nearly 200 members of the Penacook Tribe living at present day Rye Harbor. According to Howard S. Russell's *Indian New England Before the Mayflower (1980)*, less than 20 years after Champlain landed, disease decimated most of the Penacook people. The Native Americans and Europeans engaged in many battles to claim the rights to the lands now known as Rye.

By 1620, the Piscataqua seacoast region became the most viable and well-supplied English colony in North America. By the 1630's, the communities of Strawberry Banke (today known as the City of Portsmouth), Dover, Hampton, and Exeter were established. Rye became incorporated as an independent town with official and clear town boundaries by 1785. By the early 1800's, Rye's economy was thriving as a farming and fishing community as Rye citizens participated in active land and sea trading and interaction with other seacoast communities and beyond including Boston. Soon, Rye's population grew to over 1,000 residents and as the War of 1812 ended, on April 3, 1814, General Thomas Goss lead the Town of Rye to defeat the British in the Battle of Rye Harbor.

### Rye's Economy

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, small, family farms continued to evolve. Over the years, Portsmouth and Rye developed a close relationship that involved trading of food, shared beaches, and later, providing jobs, entertainment, and goods from inland and overseas. Some of Rye's first established businesses include The Garland Tavern (1756-1800), the 1805 Goss (later Rand) Store at 2 Lang Road and the 1810 Goss (later Parsons) Store at 1 Central Road. The Garland Tavern still stands today beside the War Monument, the 1805 Goss Store, and 1810 Goss Store remain as present-day private homes.

By the 1840's, with the influence of the implementation of railroad transportation, Rye's three beaches began to attract tourists and the town soon became known as a summer destination. To rival Newport, RI, eight hotels and twenty-five boarding houses were constructed making Rye a popular summer resort town. The first summer resort was the Atlantic House (1846-1862), the grandest was the second Farragut Hotel (1883-1975) and the Drake House Hotel (1873 – 1968) on Ocean Boulevard at South Road. During the time of the Civil War (1861-1865), about 86 men served in the Civil War where at least two were killed in action including Harrison Foye in 1863. Due to the Civil War, there was an increase in the number of fishermen in Rye because fishermen became exempt from military service.

### First Town-Wide Developments in Rye

In 1863, Town reports indicated that there were continuing challenges related to building costs and maintaining and clearing roads after severe storms. The Cable House Cable Station was established on Old Beach Road as an office for the first undersea transatlantic telegraph cable that ran from Ireland through Newfoundland to Rye in 1874. The Cable House Cable Station remains today and is utilized as a private residence. During the late 1800's, Rye had established four neighborhood schools: West (1870's a wooden structure), South (1881, a brick structure), Wedgewood in the Center of Town (1893 a brick structure) and East (1896 a brick structure).

By 1899, Rye's population reached 1,100 and the trolley was expanded to Rye which provided an opportunity for Rye's residents to travel to a larger region. The completion of the basic road network, including Ocean Boulevard in 1904, stimulated growth and promoted the first housing development in the new Jenness Beach village district. By 1905, the Rye Beach Village district and Abeniqui Golf Course were established.

During the time of the roaring 20's in Rye, the Farragut, the Drake House, the Ocean Wave, and the Wentworth hotels were still going strong. Due to the influence of the advances in modes of transportation, and military buildup of World War I during the 1930's, Rye experienced a surge of post-war development. At this time, Rye consolidated its schools and opened the Rye Junior High School in 1934 and the Rye Elementary School in 1954. During World War II, the military took over Odiorne Point, demolished most of the summer homes there and established Fort Dearborn to protect Portsmouth Harbor and the Navy Yard. Pulpit Rock Observation Tower, being preserved today, was part of the defense.

### Mid Century through 1960's to Present Day Rye

During the mid-century, the size of town government increased because of population growth. Town boards were established to provide a sense of citizen engagement in the community, and a desire to preserve the town from environmental degradation and unsustainable growth development.

During the 1970's, despite the national recession and midst the Vietnam War, the Town of Rye was thriving. During this time of rising environmental activism, the citizens and the town helped

to defeat the Onassis Oil Refinery proposal, worked together to form the Parsons Park Corporation which preserved fifty acres at the center of Rye, and Rye's recycling center was established. In fact, Rye was one of the first communities to implement their own recycling center during this time. In the 1980s, the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park, and a new Public Safety Building (Police and Fire) was constructed, and the Town Museum opened. By 2015 the Town of Rye established a Heritage Commission and Goss Farm had become a community agricultural project with the addition of community garden plots. 2023 marks the year of Rye's 400-year anniversary of Rye's first European settlement in 1623.

## **SIGNIFICANT RYE HISTORICAL FIGURES, SITES, AND STRUCTURES**

Rye's rich history is shaped by its former residents, distinct places, and events that contributed to the town's unique heritage and sense of place. This history is reflected in the town's historic structures, landmarks, and features. This section identifies a few important historic sites and structures in town that help to distinguish Rye's character today.

### Rye Harbor

The area now established as Rye Harbor was once just a small tidal inlet open to the sea and acted as a natural outlet for the great Awcomin salt marshes. Before any digging or dredging was done, low tide revealed mostly mud flats where beached vessels could be worked on. This continued until 1792 when the Selectmen voted to have this area dug out. With advances in technology and the need for expansion, Rye Harbor was dredged with machinery. Since the 1800's Rye Harbor has been a bustling port. Today, Rye Harbor is an important natural resource utilized by commercial and recreational fishermen and has become a tourist attraction. Rye Harbor has been improved by commercial fishing and recreational boats, docking, moorings, and water access. In fact, there is great demand for mooring permits and according to NH Division of Ports and Harbors, in 2023 Rye had 146 active moorings, 108 are in harbor and 38 are near shore. As of September 2023, there are approximately 143 individuals on the waiting list for moorings in Rye Harbor or near shore.

### Isles of Shoals

Isles of Shoals is a group of islands approximately six miles off the coast of Rye and Kittery, Maine. The rich history of Isles of Shoals revealed evidence of Native Americans hunting on the islands dating back 6,000 years ago. Archaeological excavations out on the Isles of Shoals further proved this as Native American activity was uncovered dating back to approximately 800 and 1200 A.D. when the islands were first used as fishing camps. In the 1600's, Captain John Smith established a colony of fishermen on the Isles of Shoals where Europeans harvested cod and shipped the fish back to Europe. The islands are now occupied with a seasonal hotel and the Shoals Marine Laboratory (Maine).

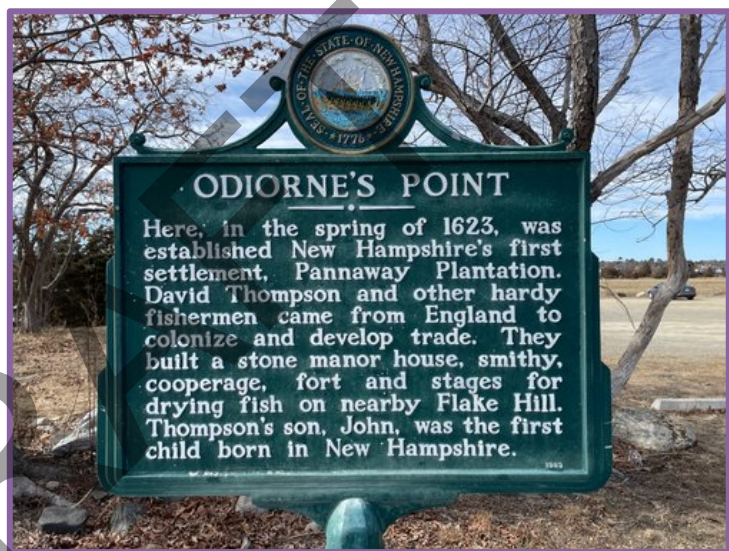
The four islands in Rye's jurisdiction are Star Island, White Island, Seavey Island, and Lunging Island. As part of Rye's Historic District, Seavey Island and White Island have been subject to

restoration projects through the New Hampshire Audubon and the NH Fish and Game Department. The Rye Conservation Commission continues to promote the protection and preservation of the cultural, social, and architectural history of Seavey and White Islands. Star Island features many unique features including historic architecture, grounds, gardens, oceanic vistas, and access to explore the island. In the 1600's, Star Island was the busiest fishing port on the East Coast, and in the 1800's the Oceanic Hotel was constructed to seasonally house up to 300 guests. During the time of the 1800's, artists, writers, and intellectuals flocked to the Oceanic Hotel, and it remains as one of the last of the original Grand Hotels in Rye. For the last 100 years, Star Island has offered an all-inclusive summer camp experience for families and hosted a wide variety of themed conferences and personal retreats.

### Odiorne Point

As previously mentioned, Odiorne Point was used by Native Americans for centuries as well as by early fishermen prior to permanent European settlement in 1623.

Odiorne Point was originally called Rendezvous Point until the Odiorne family settled there in the late 1600s and was later changed to Odiorne Point. The family created a small farming community at the north end of town, hemmed in by the sea, the river, and the salt marsh and by the 1800's, wealthy families had discovered the point and more



substantial homes were built. During WWII, most of the homes were demolished to make way for military fortification to protect the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. After the War, the area was abandoned until the State of NH, UNH, private entities, and the "Friends of Odiorne Point" fought to submit proposals of its reuse. The modest Sugden House marine outreach program of the 1970s finally became the Seacoast Science Center in 1992. Today, the Seacoast Science Center offers guided walks of the parks on the trails leading to remnants of World War II military structures, original cellar holes, and stone walls.

### Rye Memorial Library

The Rye Public Library building was constructed in 1911 and provides a resource of historical information. Books about Rye and its history, documentation of individual families, and Annual Reports of the Town of Rye are part of the library's historical resource collection.



## Rye Town Hall

The Rye Town Hall located at 10 Central Road was originally a Methodist Church that was constructed in 1839 and sold to the town in 1873. By 1874 the Town Hall was open for town business. The Town Hall had served as the Town Meeting location through nearly three quarters of the 20th century; but gradually as population increased, town affairs became more complicated and technology brought rapid changes, so the existing meeting space was increasingly taken over by offices. The Selectboard throughout this period were mindful of the historic significance of the building and because of this the historic Hall with its proscenium arch, tin ceiling, wainscoting and the twin winding staircases (although nearly hidden) all remain intact.

## Goss Farm

Goss Farm is located at the corner of Harbor Road and Ocean Boulevard. This land now known as Goss Farm was purchased by Nathan Goss from the Locke Family. His son, General Thomas Goss, built the house and barn in the early 1790s. Most of the Goss descendants decided to sell the barn and twelve acres of land to the town of Rye, which was purchased with Rye Open Space funds and a grant from the US Dept. of Agriculture in 2010 and is managed by the Conservation Commission. Today, there is a community garden with student plantings, as well. The Goss Farm is used to promote local agriculture, engage Rye schools with educational opportunities, and protect water quality by way of buffered areas adjacent to wetlands and marshes.

## **FARMS IN RYE**

Farming was once a significant practice in Rye in the early days and throughout the history of the community. Over time, most of the community farmland became residential development or forestland. However, there are still several farms that remain today and contribute to the agricultural activity in the community. Table 1 lists Rye's active farm operations in the community which have a commodity and/or service they provide. In addition to the farms listed in Table 1, there are several small hobby farms located on residential properties throughout town. There are no industrial sized farms such as dairy or cattle farms, or concentrated animal feeding operations in Rye.

Table 1: Active Farms in Rye		
Farm Name	Location	Product
Philbrick Farm Enterprises	305 Central Road	Cows, vegetables, maple syrup
Rye Meadow Farm	254 Wallis Road	22-stall boarding facility for horses
Cobble Hill Farm	961 Washington Road	Boarding facility for horses
Goss Farm	Corner of Harbor Road and Ocean Boulevard	Community garden, historical and agricultural education
Fox Meadow Farm	257 Central Road	After school camp and summer camp youth horse programs (uses Rye Town Forest and Wallis Sands Beach for trail rides)
Independence Farm and Driftwood Equestrian	1090 Washington Road	Hunter jumper boarding and training facilities for horses
Centennial Farm	981 Washington Road	Boarding for horses
Anderson Property	117 Washington Road (formerly Caswell's Seacoast Farm)	Currently fallow, future agricultural uses are planned

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

There are a total of seven properties in Rye that are recognized and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include:

- The Beach Club (2450 Ocean Blvd – recreation/entertainment/social history)
- Isles of Shoals
- Locke-Elijah House (5 Grove Rd)
- Parsons homestead (520 Washington Rd)
- Pulpit Rock Base End Station (N. 142) (9 Davis Rd)
- Rye Town Hall (10 Central Rd)
- St. Andrew's by the Sea (Church Rd., 0.2 mi. SE of jct. with South Rd. and Rte. 1A)

### STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

There are a total of four properties in Rye that are recognized and listed on the State of New Hampshire Register of Historic Places. These include:

- Odiorne Farm (505 Ocean Blvd)
- Rye Town Hall (10 Central Road)
- Goss Farm Barn (251 Harbor Road)
- Rye Public Library (581 Washington Rd)

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, AND TRADITIONS

Throughout the years, Rye’s historic and cultural organizations have evolved and expanded, and some have remained over time. Table 2 shows a list of the organizations and groups in Rye related to Rye’s history (more recreation type programs and organizations can be found within the Recreation Profile of this Existing Conditions Report). Rye has significant community and citizen involvement and engagement in town. In fact, it was identified that there are several resident groups that have formed separately from government related boards/committees that pertain to the same topics. The need for greater collaboration amongst community groups and boards has been identified as an emerging need.

Table 2: Historic and Cultural Organizations and Groups	
Non-profit and Resident/Volunteer Groups	
Rye Senior SERVE (non-profit)	Rye Driftwood Garden Club (volunteer/resident group)
Rye Historical Society (non-profit)	The Rye Lions (non-profit)
Rye Civic League (non-profit)	Rye Advocates (resident/volunteer group)
Bring Back the Trades (non-profit)	Rye Education Foundation (non-profit)
Seacoast Science Center (non-profit)	Rye400 Committee (volunteer/resident group)
Cemetery Trustees (volunteer/resident group)	Historic Signs Subcommittee (volunteer/resident group)
Town Government Groups	
Historic District Commission	Heritage Commission
Demolition Review Committee	Rye Town Center Committee

### Rye Historical Society

In 1976, the Rye Historical Society (RHS) was formed. The mission of the RHS is to “engage and educate a diverse population in Rye, New Hampshire’s rich history through our programs, collections, and outreach, to encourage them to make a personal connection with their community” and to “preserve and share Rye history by understanding the past, informing the present, and influencing the future”. The RHS is located at 10 Olde Parish Road and is home to the Town’s Museum. The Town Museum has an extensive collection of photographs, documents, unpublished writings, maps, ephemera, artifacts, news articles, and media related to the history of Rye. The Town Museum is opened May through October on Saturdays from 10am to 12 pm and by appointment. The RHS provides a variety of resources and historical programs to Rye residents.

## Rye 400

To celebrate the 400-year anniversary of Rye's first European settlement in 1623, the Rye400 Committee was formed, and its related activities are an initiative of the Rye (NH) Historical Society, a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization. There are ten members of this committee. The Rye400 Committee provides robust historic educational events to Rye residents to raise awareness of the unique history and heritage of Rye. Some of these events include community



celebrations such as Rye Day held in July 2023, while other events include tours of homes and significant landmarks or structures, historic lectures, artist observation, auctions, and many others to promote the sense of community and historic awareness of Rye's heritage. Permanent Rye400 signs are displayed throughout town. For more information on Rye400 and other ways to get involved visit the Rye400 website: <https://www.ryenh400.org>

## Rye Historic District Commission

The Rye Historic District Commission (HDC) was formed in 1966 after Rye residents voted to establish the Commission. The HDC is a land use board with members appointed by the Selectboard. The Historic District Commission (HDC) of Rye is charged with safeguarding the town's heritage as represented by the historical and architectural values for future generations. The HDC's mission is to:

- Promote the preservation and maintenance of locally designated properties;
- Ensure new construction and alterations are in harmony with neighboring historic properties; and
- Review new use of land or buildings within locally designated Historic Districts.

## Historic District Overlay

The Rye Historic District currently includes the Rye Center Historic District (defined as that area from the west end of Grange Park to the intersection of Central and Washington Roads within 500 feet on either side of the center line of Washington Road), Isles of Shoals islands in New Hampshire, which are Star, Seavey, White, and Lungers, the 1874 Cable House (20 Old Beach Rd), and the 1691 Brackett Massacre Site (605 Brackett Rd). The Purpose of the Historic District Overlay is to:

- Preserve for generations to come the unique collections of historically, architecturally and culturally significant buildings and structures which characterize the Town of Rye, New Hampshire,
- Encourage their maintenance and restoration, and to ensure that new buildings and structures and alterations to existing buildings and structures and uses of buildings and structures within the district are in visual harmony with their neighbors in order that a district is preserved which will reflect the cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history of the Town of Rye, New Hampshire,
- Conserve and maintain property values in such district, foster civic beauty, strengthen the local economy, and
- Generally provide an opportunity to benefit the education, pleasure and welfare of all the citizens of the municipality.

For more information on the Historic District Overlay, please visit the Rye Zoning Ordinance.

#### Demolition Review Committee

The Demolition Review Committee consists of three members appointed by the Selectboard and three alternate members. It is required that the three appointed members of the Demolition Review Committee are representatives from the Historic District Commission, Rye Historical Society, and Planning Board. The purpose of the Demolition Review Committee is “to encourage the preservation of buildings and places of historic, architectural and community value”. The following criteria is utilized in determining if a building is "potentially significant" or "significant" and the Demolition Review Committee shall consider whether:

1. The building is of such interest or quality that it would meet national, state or local criteria for designation as a historic, cultural or architectural landmark.
2. The building is of such unusual or uncommon design, texture or materials that it could not be reproduced or could be reproduced only with great difficulty and expense.
3. The building is of such historic, architectural or community value that its removal would be to the detriment of the public interest.
4. Retention of the building would help preserve and protect a historic place or area of historic interest.

#### Heritage Commission

In March 2011, Rye residents voted to approve the establishment of a Heritage Commission. The board consists of seven members including a Selectboard representative. The scope of the Heritage Commission is town-wide whereas the Historic District Commission is specific to the designated Historic District area. The tasks of the Heritage Commission include:

- Acquisition, conservation, and proper use of the cultural resources of the town;

- Authority to hold meetings and hearings, publicize activities, survey and inventory all cultural resources, conduct research and publish findings;
- Assist the Planning Board regarding development and review sections of the master plan which address cultural and historic resource;
- Assist local agencies and other local boards on request regarding these matters; and
- Receive and expend money from a variety of sources including gifts and grants.

### Historic Graveyards

In 2012 a State of New Hampshire Law clarified the status of graveyards (as opposed to large public cemeteries) which every town has. Table 3 provides an inventory of the historic graveyards in Rye and their associated locations, as provided by the Heritage Commission.

<b>Table 3: Graveyards in Rye</b>	
<b>Burial Ground Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Beebe	Star Island
2. Berry	Opposite 130 Central Rd
3. Brackett "massacre burial"	Opposite 605 Brackett Rd
4. Brown	West Rd and off West Rd
5. Caswell	Star Island
6. Caswell	Off Washington Rd, rear of 117 Washington Rd
7. Dalton	Garland Rd
8. Dow	139 Parsons Rd
9. Dow	Opposite 1159 Washington Rd
10. Foss	Washington Rd
11. Foye	181 Brackett Rd
12. Garland	Off Washington Rd
13. Jenness	Cable Rd
14. Lang	Washington Rd
15. Locke	Off Harbor Rd
16. Locke/Downing	190 Locke Rd
17. Locke	Off Brackett Rd
18. Locke	Old Beach
19. Marden	Off Wallis Rd
20. Marden	Off West Rd
21. Nason Single Marker	Washington Rd
22. Odiorne	Off Bracket Rd
23. Odiorne	Odiorne Park; rear of 505 Ocean Blvd
24. Old Burial Ground, Tuck Monument	Star Island
25. Philbrick	Off Cable Rd
26. Philbrick	Church Rd
27. Remick	Brackett Rd

28. Salter/Rand	651 Wallis Rd
29. Seavey	Off Brackett Rd
30. Seavey	Off Pioneer Rd
31. Seavey	Off Sagamore Rd
32. Sleeper	West and Off West
33. South Rd Cemetery	434 South Rd
34. Trefethen, a single marker	Washington Rd
35. Tucker	Off Elwyn
36. Tucker	Off Washington Rd
37. Varrell	Sagamore Rd
38. Wallis	500 Brackett Rd
39. Webster	Off Lang Rd
40. Wedgewood	19 Lang Rd
41. Unknown	234 West
42. Unknown	1152 Wash Rd
*Various unmarked fieldstones exists off Central, Grove, Sagamore, Wallis, Washington, Park Ridge and Odiorne	

### House Plaque Program

The original House Plaque Program started in the early 1970s by the “Every Other Tuesday Club” and was taken over by the Rye Historical Society (RHS) when it was founded in 1976. Louise Tallman did research on the oldest homes in Rye using genealogical information and five Rye maps from the 1800s. That research continues today through the Rye Advocates for historic preservation. These are available through the Town of Rye’s Historian. In 2021, the RHS turned the program over to the Heritage Commission. Homeowners are encouraged to submit an application for a historic plaque if they own a historical significant home, when an application is submitted, it has to be reviewed by the Heritage Commission.

### Historic Markers

In April 2022, the Rye Heritage Commission formed the Rye Historic Signs Subcommittee to identify historic sites and locations to highlight as it promotes its 400-year history. The goal of the Subcommittee was to identify subjects that would not only cover both the natural and developed community, but also current and former environments and/or events. The Subcommittee narrowed down seven sites to place a historical marker. By June 2023, these historical markers were placed at the following locations:

1. Bracket Road Burial Site at Bracket road, opposite 605 Brackett Road
2. Family Farms that Shaped Rye’s History at 81 West Road
3. Goss Farm, Awcomin Marsh, Rye Harbor, Isles of Shoals at the Goss Farm parking area
4. Historic Hotels at Ocean Boulevard, opposite the former Drake House Hotel, between Sea and South Roads

5. Historic Rye Center at the Rye Public Library Common
6. Pulpit Rock Tower at the end of Neptune Road
7. Trefethen Corner at the Madden Group building

For more information on the historic markers in Rye, please visit the Rye400 website:

<https://www.ryenh400.org/historic-map>

### Inventory of Historic Structures

There are approximately 310 structures in Rye that were constructed pre 1950 and these are listed and identified with historic plaques throughout town. This includes several historic barns. Over time, some of these have been demolished due to the lack of preservation restrictions placed on these historic structures. Through the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, a Preservation Easement can be obtained to preserve historic barns. A Preservation Easement is a legal agreement that protects significant features of a historic property, and a property owner gives the right to the second party to protect and preserve the historic character of their property. The Town of Rye may want to consider tasking the Heritage Commission to develop an inventory of the historic barns in the community. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nhpreservation.org/blog/preservation-easements-a-resource-to-preserve-your-historic-property>

### Rye Churches

#### *Rye Congregational Church*

The Rye Congregational Church is located at 580 Washington Road and lies within the Historic District. This church was the fourth church that was constructed at this site as this location was originally known as Rye's Meeting House Hill. The "Church of Christ in Rye" was the second meeting house that was constructed in 1755 and in 1836 the Congregational Society formed to construct the third meeting house. In 1891 there were extensive changes that were made including the construction of seven exterior stairs and the installation of pews. The Rye Christian Church merged with the Congregational Church in 1945 to form the Bethany Congregational Church. In 1957, a Parish House connected to the church was built but unfortunately by 1959 a fire destroyed the third church. The Congregation Church that is present today was rebuilt in 1960 and the first Easter Services were held in 1961. In 2000, the Rye Congregational Church organization purchased the buildings from Bethany Church and today it is a Rye historical and cultural landmark and also acts as a community space for Recreation Department Programming.

#### *St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea*

St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea is located on Church Street in the Rye Beach Precinct. In 1876, land for a new Episcopal church was given to the Bishop of New Hampshire by Frank and Lizzie Philbrick. The first service in the chapel was held on August 4, 1876, before the chapel was completed in



1877 with the bell tower. St. Andrew's is an example of a rural stone chapel embellished by wood trim, of the late Gothic Revival style.

### *Gosport Chapel*

The Gosport Chapel is located on Star Island. Gosport was incorporated on December 24, 1715 and annexed to Rye on March 14, 1876. Today, the Gosport Chapel is part of the non-profit Star Island Corporation retreat complex, founded on the spiritual ideals of Unitarian-Universalism and the United Church of Christ. Gosport Chapel is a modest stone structure built in 1800 and sits on the highest point of the island at the heart of the complex.

### *St. Theresa's Catholic Church*

This church is located at 820 Central Road in the Rye Beach Precinct and was built in 1947. It is part of the Manchester Catholic diocese.

## **EMERGING OR POTENTIAL ACTIONS**

- Consider tasking the Heritage Commission to develop an inventory of the historic barns located in Rye and promote NH Preservation Alliance's Barn Assessment Grants to historic property owners.
- To further retain the character of the community to preserve Rye's heritage, assess whether there is support for expanding the Historic District designated area further along Washington Road and Central Road.
- Review the existing Zoning Ordinance, in terms of historic buildings and landscapes, and look for discrepancies, barriers, etc. to encourage preservation, responsible development and redevelopment, and identify any gaps.
  - Recommend a review of the threshold for triggering compliance with new building code as it often results in tearing down historic structures that could be improved. One possible solution is to use the value of the entire property as the threshold instead of just the buildings value.
  - Encourage or require land use board members to attend trainings.
  - It was identified that there are several resident groups that have formed separately from government related boards/committees that pertain to the same topics. The need for collaboration amongst community groups and boards was identified as an emerging need of the municipality.

## **SOURCES**

- Rye Historical Society Website
  - <https://www.ryenhistoricalsociety.org>
- Interview with Historical Society
- New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR)

- <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/>
- National Register of Historic Places
  - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>
- Rye 2011 Master Plan
  - <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/planning-department/pages/master-plan>
- Rye Local Organization Websites
- Rye400 Website
  - <https://www.ryenh400.org>
- 2021 Natural Resource Inventory
  - [https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/rye\\_nri\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3751/f/uploads/rye_nri_report_2021.pdf)
- Town Historian
- New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food
  - <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov>
- NH Preservation Alliance
  - <https://www.nhpreservation.org>

DRAFT

# Rye 2035 Outreach and Engagement Report

April 15, 2024



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# Introduction

The Master Plan develops a distinct path and vision for Rye's future and requires an inclusive public engagement process to ensure a diversity of voices are heard. Public outreach is important to the master planning process because community feedback directly will shape the new Master Plan, Rye 2035, and how growth, development, and resource protection is guided over the next ten years. The following outreach techniques were used throughout the project to engage the public:

- One in-person, evening community forum event at the Rye Junior High School in February of 2024.
- An online version of the community forum event available in February/March of 2024.
- Advertising of public participation opportunities through:
  - Rye Future project website (a website for three related planning initiatives in Rye including the Master Plan update, the Build-Out Analysis, and the Housing Assessment).
  - Master Plan webpage on the Town of Rye website.
  - Tabling at community events, such as Rye 400.
  - Community outreach at Sawyer's Beach in April 2024 in collaboration with the Rye Beach Committee.
  - Email letter and announcement to all municipal staff, boards, and committees including the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Energy Committee, Heritage Commission, Beach Committee, and Capital Improvement Plan Committee.
  - Rye Facebook pages and social media including the two Town of Rye Facebook pages, the Rye Police page, Rye NH Community Forum Page, Rye Public Library page, and personal Facebook pages of the Master Plan Steering Committee members.
  - Rye 2035 pens distributed at local businesses, town facilities, post office, others.
  - Distribution of flyers at town facilities, the library, and shared with school principals.

- Distribution of flyers to local groups, organizations, and businesses including Common Roots Café, Seaport Fish and organizations including schools, churches, and Town Boards/Committees in town.
- A large poster display at the Deliberative Session and distribution of posters at the Town Hall, Library, Town Annex, Public Works Department, Transfer Station, and the Rye Elementary School during local election voting.
- Project email subscriber list and public Town of Rye email subscriber list.
- News articles in the Stroll Newsletter and the Town Newsletter.

## Key Findings from Public Outreach

This section provides an overview of key findings collected during public outreach activities completed for this project. Key findings were generated by identifying notable and reoccurring themes and topics reported by community members during public outreach. Community members identified the following as priorities for planning for Rye’s future. Please note that these findings are not listed by order of importance.

Key findings from the responses collected included the following:

- Respondents expressed a collective desire to **balance development with environmental protection**, promote **sustainable practices**, and **engage the community** in preserving Rye’s **natural resources** for future generations.
- There is an overall desire for **community spaces, affordable housing options, improved transportation, enhanced senior activities and services**, and **infrastructure improvements** such as sidewalks and bike paths to promote a more age-friendly environment in Rye.
- However, respondents reflected a range of opinions regarding **housing development** in Rye, encompassing concerns about **community character, affordability, environmental impact, and infrastructure capacity**.
- Respondents provided context related to the **difficulty of finding volunteers** and the **rise of external civic groups** in Rye. Respondents noted that transparency of processes, perceived inclusion of governmental processes, trust, process inefficiencies, and social dynamics all played a role in the difficulty of finding volunteers to serve in municipal government.

- Respondents collectively agree that **Rye's unique character** as a semi-rural, small coastal town should be supported by preserving nature, history, community, and its low-density development.
- Respondents expressed a desire for more **balanced and environmentally conscious development**, simplified regulations, improved oversight, and the promotion of community well-being and economic vitality.
- There are a **range of perspectives on renewable energy production in Rye**, with **solar energy** being the **most favored option**, while **wind energy** faces considerable **opposition**. Additionally, there is a strong emphasis on **respecting individual property rights** and **minimizing taxpayer burden** while implementing renewable energy initiatives.
- There are mixed views about how best the town should support **energy efficiency** and **renewable energy production**. Mechanisms that were highlighted include **financial incentives, simplification of processes, educational support, and collaboration with state and federal programs**.
- Some respondents expressed **significant concern** regarding the **potential consequences of climate change**, particularly in coastal areas. **Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation** are seen as major issues that **require attention and action**. However, there are mixed opinions on what kind of role the Town should play in addressing these issues.
- Other respondents identified the need for a **comprehensive approach** to addressing the challenges of **coastal resilience and extreme weather events** while emphasizing the importance of **collaboration, preparedness, and environmental stewardship**.

## Summary of Results

### Community Forum and Online Tool

#### Community Forum Event

On February 15, 2024, the Town of Rye held a community forum event in the evening to inform community members of current information and data on Rye, and to learn what community member's perspectives, thoughts, and feedback are on the future of Rye over the next ten to twenty years. Approximately 60 people attended this event. A brief presentation on the background of the project was

given and participants were then encouraged to visit stations by topic to provide their feedback. These topics were taken from the draft Vision for the Rye Master Plan and included:

- Community
- Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability
- Land and Development
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
- Municipal Operations and Organization

### Alternative Online Tool

To further engage community members who were not able to attend the in-person community forum events, an alternative online tool was presented to the wider community to increase participation. **320** responses were collected at the forum event and through the online tool combined.

The following section provides a summary of results by question from both the in-person forums and the alternative online tool. They are broken out by topic and the responses are summarized for each question the public was asked to consider. The findings were analyzed using a mix of qualitative and quantitative analysis tools. It should be noted that these findings per question were summarized based on raw feedback that was received and are not ordered by level of importance. A complete Survey Monkey report of raw comments and feedback provided by the public is included in the Appendix.



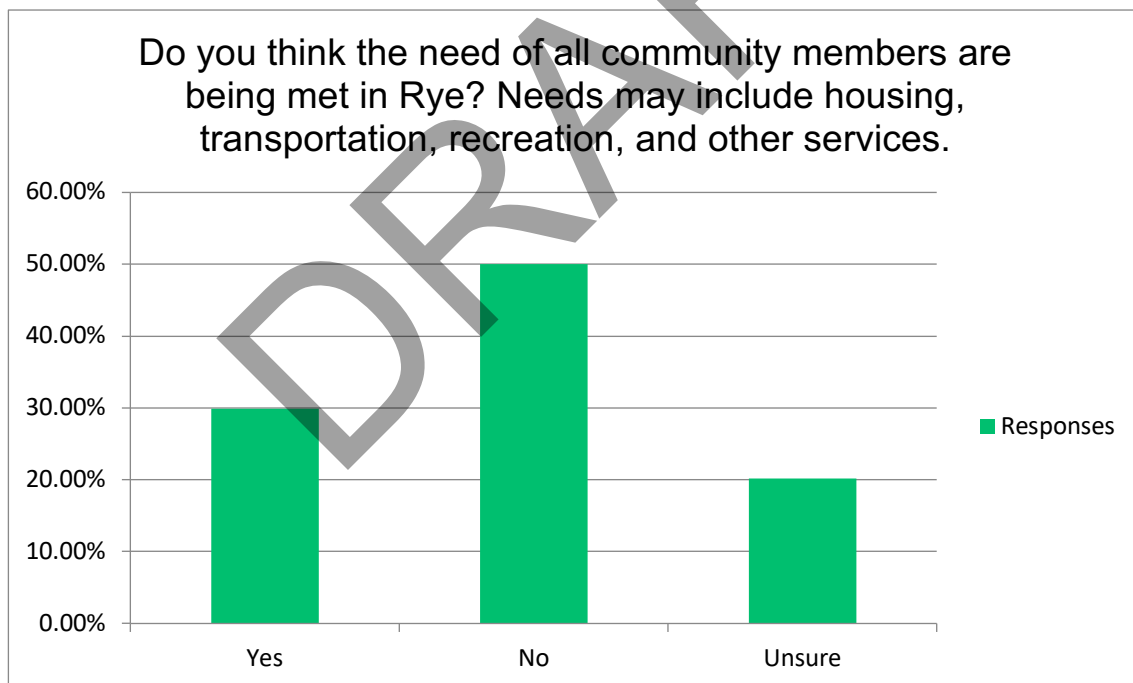
## Community

**Do you think the need of all community members are being met in Rye? Needs may include housing, transportation, recreation, and other services.**

Answered: 278

Skipped: 42

- 50% of respondents do not think the needs of all community members are being met.
- However, about 30% of respondents do think community members needs are being met in Rye, and
- 20% of respondents are unsure.



**If not, how could the needs of community members be better supported?**

Answered: 156

Skipped: 164

Respondents believe the needs of Rye community members could be better supported by:

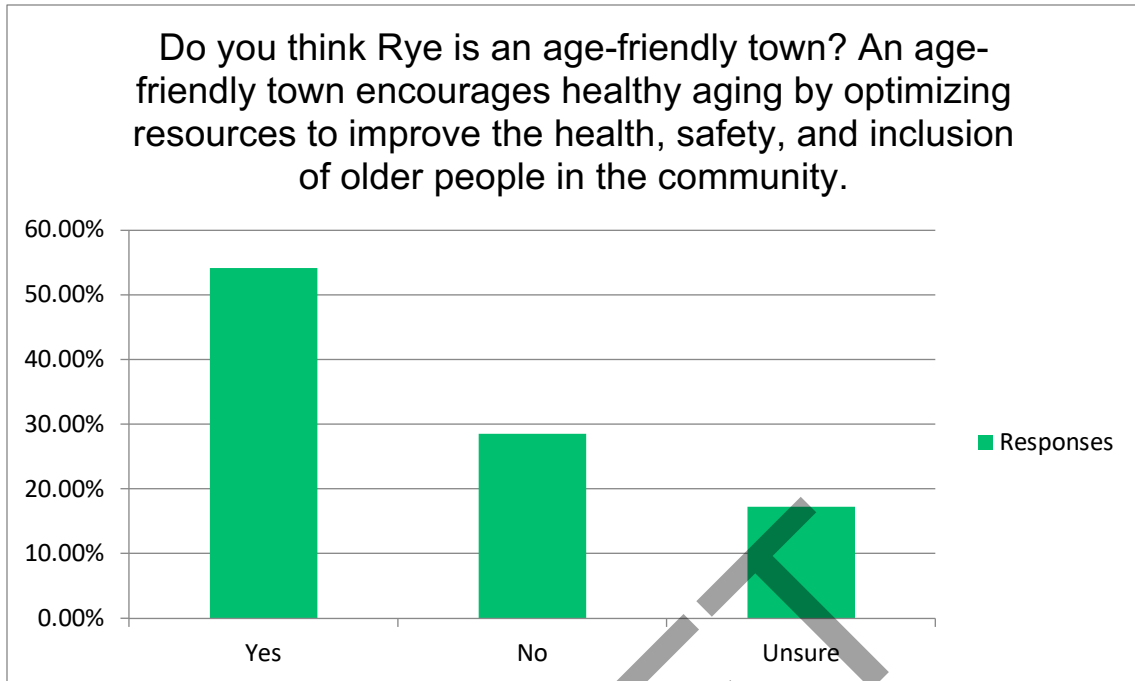
- Providing more affordable housing options in town particularly for low-income families, seniors on fixed incomes, and younger workforce members. Suggestions for expanding affordable housing options included:
  - Requiring affordable housing percentages in new developments
  - Encouraging accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
  - Providing tax credits for low-income elderly homeowners
- Improving transportation services, including handicap-accessible vans, shuttle services to neighboring areas, and public transportation options. Respondents expressed concerns about pedestrian and bicycle safety, and many advocated for sidewalks, bike lanes, and traffic speed control measures to improve safety.
- Expanding recreational facilities and spaces, such as tennis courts, pickleball courts, gyms, community gathering areas, and an indoor recreation center that are accessible to residents of all ages. Some respondents indicated a desire for a town center with cafes, shops, and recreational amenities.

**Do you think Rye is an age-friendly town? An age-friendly town encourages healthy aging by optimizing resources to improve the health, safety, and inclusion of older people in the community.**

Answered: 273

Skipped: 47

- 54% of respondents think Rye is an age-friendly town,
- 29% of respondents do not think the town is age-friendly, and
- 17% of respondents were unsure.



### If not, what could be improved to make Rye more age-friendly?

Answered: 116

Skipped: 204

Respondents identified the following ways to make Rye a more age-friendly town:

- A Community Center and more community gathering space was consistently mentioned to encourage multi-generational collaboration, socialization, and a sense of community.
- Affordable housing options to meet the needs of seniors, young adults, and middle income.
- A safer, connected, and more accessible transportation network to include safe routes for walking and bike riding, better beach access points, and more transportation options for seniors or disabled people.

**What are your thoughts or ideas on how to create additional housing units in Rye? Which areas in Rye are the most appropriate for new housing and what types of units should they be?**

Answered: 216

Skipped: 104

Respondents identified the following thoughts, ideas, and areas in Rye related to future housing development:

- There are concerns about maintaining the rural character and small-town atmosphere of Rye and how it could be negatively affected by new housing development.
- Overall, there is preference for smaller, affordable housing options such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), duplexes, or cluster communities.
- Respondents emphasized that if new development were to occur, parcels along Route 1 or Lafayette Road are more appropriate for higher density housing, particularly for workforce or affordable housing.
- Some respondents expressed skepticism or opposition to further development due to concerns about infrastructure availability, water supply capacity and quality, environmental impact, and overcrowding.
- Some respondents expressed preference for mixed-use developments, senior housing, or condominiums, particularly in areas with existing infrastructure like sewer and water.

**Rye is fortunate to have a significant number of volunteers on municipal boards and committees, but recruiting volunteers is increasingly difficult. And yet, it appears that groups have formed outside of municipal government as well to monitor and direct the actions of the community. Why is this, and are there ways to get these groups directly involved in municipal government? Please explain below.**

Answered: 186

Skipped: 134

The following themes emerged from respondents:

- Respondents expressed concerns about the lack of transparency, trust, and communication in local government and volunteer boards. Issues such as

unclear decision-making processes, inadequate explanations for actions, and perceived favoritism contribute to a lack of trust among residents. Respondents express a lack of trust in government officials and perceive them as having personal political agendas. There are concerns about backroom deals and a perceived lack of accountability in decision-making.

- Respondents expressed the perception that certain boards and committees have become closed or exclusive, with like-minded individuals dominating decision-making processes. It was noted that exclusivity leads to discouragement of others from volunteering and leads to a lack of diversity in governance.
- Respondents expressed frustration with the bureaucratic processes involved in volunteering for municipal committees and boards.
- It was noted by some respondents that the emergence of outside groups and the proliferation of social media discussions further divide the community. Respondents mention instances of hostility, incivility, and ideological conflicts, which further deter potential volunteers from getting involved.

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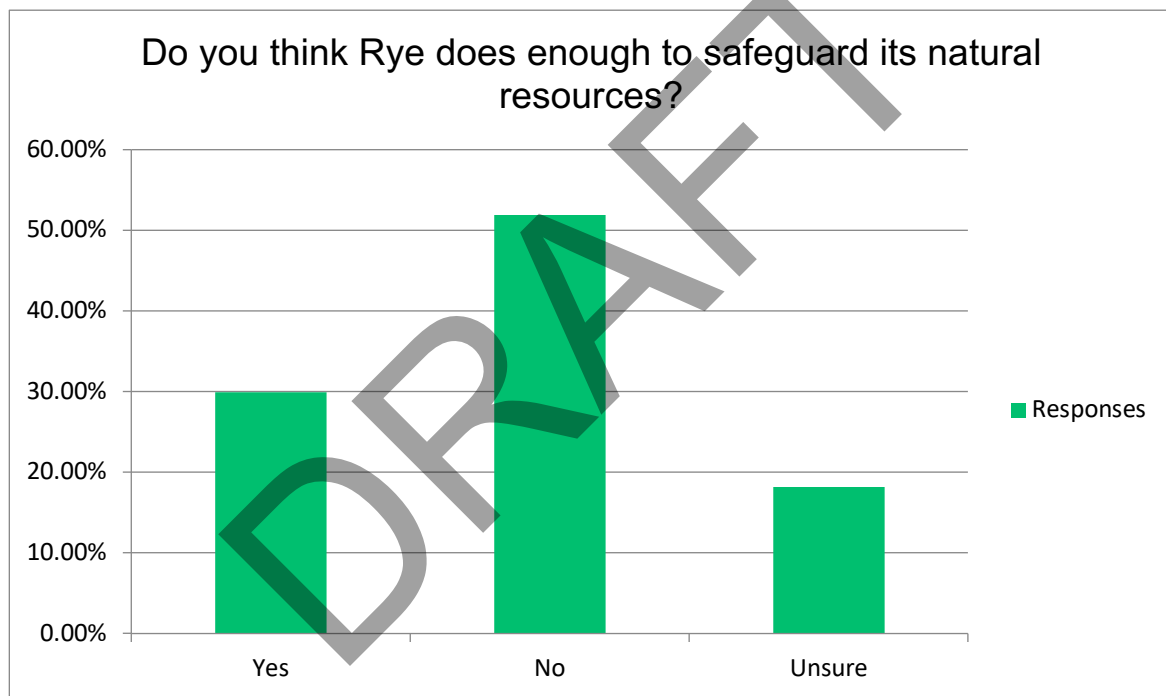
# Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability

**Do you think Rye does enough to safeguard its natural resources?**

Answered: 314

Skipped: 6

- About half of all respondents (51%) do not think Rye does enough to safeguard its natural resources.
- 30% of respondents think the town does, and
- 18% of respondents were unsure.



**What natural resources need further protection in Rye? These may include drinking water resources, beaches, forests, fields, etc.**

Answered: 276

Skipped: 44

The top natural resources that respondents identified as needing further protection in Rye are as follows:

- Drinking water resources were identified by many respondents with repeated mentions of water quality concerns including contamination and pollution from septic systems, the need for better management practices, and calls for stricter enforcement.
- Surface water resources, such as Parson's Creek and watershed.
- Rye's beaches were also consistently emphasized with respondents expressing concerns related to overcrowding, cleanliness, erosion, and pollution from various sources, such as dog waste and runoff.
- Wetlands and marshes were also identified as needing further protection due to their ecological significance and role in flood protection, water quality, and habitat preservation.
- Forests and fields were mentioned in relation to the need for additional land conservation, maintaining open space, preserving habitat, and preventing further development that could degrade forest and field ecosystems and increase flooding.

**How could Rye better protect, steward, or manage the remaining natural resource areas? Mechanisms may include strategic land conservation, strengthening land use regulations, public education, trail management, etc.**

Answered: 250

Skipped: 70

The top three natural resource protection mechanisms identified by respondents include:

- Land Conservation and Management
  - Many respondents expressed the importance of preserving natural resources in Rye, strategic land conservation, and maintaining existing conservation lands.
  - However, approximately 35 out of the 250 respondents that answered this question expressed that they believe Rye has enough conservation land already, and that efforts should be focused more on maintaining and managing what is existing.
- Regulations and Enforcement

- Overall, there is strong support for stricter land use regulations, particularly pertaining to ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands and shorelines, and stronger enforcement of regulations, especially related to septic systems and building codes.
- Respondents emphasized the importance of preventing overdevelopment, addressing invasive species, and ensuring proper trail maintenance.
- Public Education and Engagement
  - Respondents indicated the importance of public education in fostering environmental stewardship and compliance with the town’s regulations. It was also suggested that educational initiatives targeting residents, students, and visitors be implemented to raise awareness about conservation, water quality, and responsible land use practices.

**Where would you like to see Rye produce more renewable energy?**

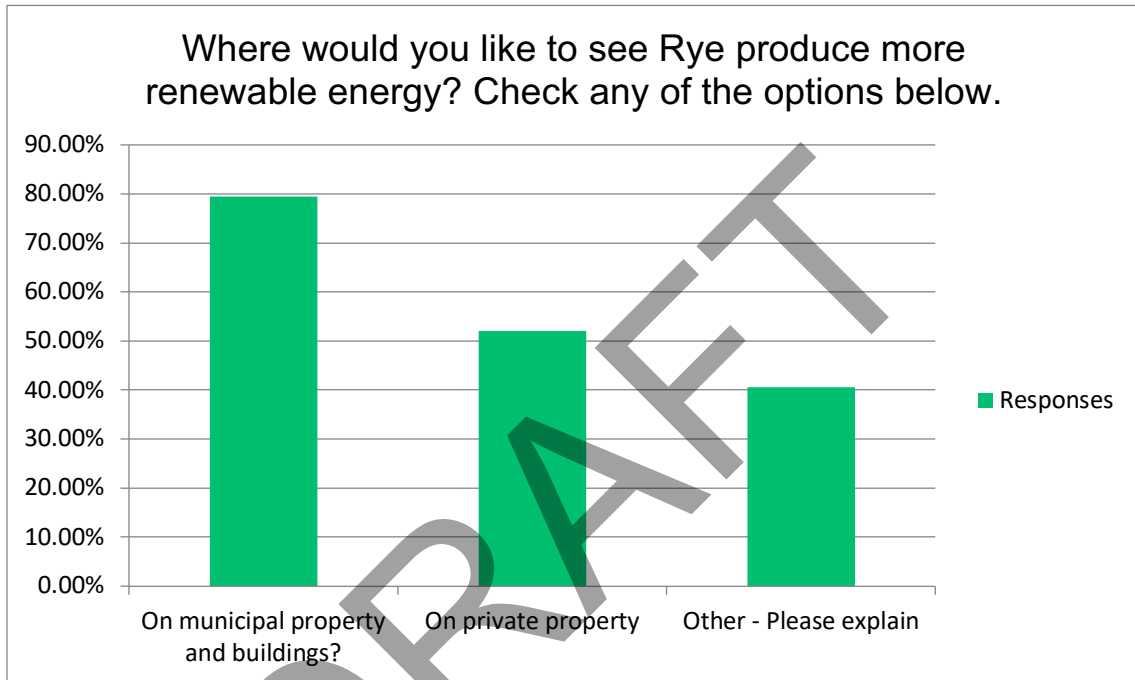
Answered: 288

Skipped: 32

- Most respondents (80%) are in support of Rye producing more renewable energy on municipal property and buildings.
- About 52% of respondents would support renewable energy on private property.
- Approximately 41% of respondents selected “other”. The top themes that emerged include:
  - Many respondents indicated a preference for solar energy and suggested installing solar panels on rooftops, municipal buildings, schools, and other suitable locations. Some respondents also expressed a desire to explore solar initiatives and community solar farms.
  - Many respondents expressed significant opposition to wind energy, with many expressing concerns about its visual impact, potential harm to wildlife, and perceived inefficiency.
  - 20 respondents emphasized that the decision to adopt renewable energy should be left to individual property owners rather than mandated by the town.



- Some respondents noted offering tax incentives or property tax breaks could encourage private investment in renewable energy.
- While some respondents expressed a sentiment against using taxpayer funds for renewable energy projects unless they demonstrate a clear economic benefit or pay for themselves within a reasonable timeframe.



**Should the Town support homeowners and businesses in their efforts related to energy efficiency and renewable energy production? How might the Town do this?**

Answered: 251

Skipped: 69

- There are mixed views on whether the town should provide support, with approximately 95 respondents advocating for tax breaks and facilitation, while about 50 respondents opposed any involvement by the town. Some respondent’s expressed specific concerns about taxpayer dollars being used to support renewable energy initiatives, while others believe it is the town's responsibility to aid in the transition to renewable energy sources.

- The top themes that emerged include:
  - Financial incentives and tax breaks for homeowners and businesses who invest in renewable energy technologies like solar panels such as offering property tax breaks, tax reductions, or rebates to offset the costs of installation. Some indicated the importance of competitive loans being provided through partnerships with local financial institutions.
  - There is continued support for making the permitting process easier and more streamlined for homeowners and businesses looking to implement renewable energy solutions. Recommendations include providing no-fee permits, simplifying zoning regulations, and reducing obstacles to obtaining variances for renewable energy installations.
  - Respondents emphasize the need for educational resources and information on energy conservation practices for homeowners and businesses. Suggestions included sharing information widely on available incentives, promoting energy efficiency measures, and facilitating community power sign-ups for lower energy rates.
  - Several respondents suggest that the town should work in partnership with state and federal programs to support homeowners and businesses in their efforts related to energy efficiency and renewable energy production.

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## Land and Development

**From your perspective, how has the community of Rye changed over the last ten years? What concerns or additional opportunities do you see related to these changes?**

Answered: 202

Skipped: 118

Respondents identified the following issues, concerns, and opportunities related to how Rye has changed over the last ten years:

- Increased Development and Overbuilding:
  - Concerns: Loss of rural charm, destruction of habitat, increased traffic congestion, wear and tear on infrastructure, loss of community character, larger homes not in keeping with the town's feel.
  - Opportunities: Implementing better oversight on new buildings and development, promoting agriculture to maintain rural aspects, incentivizing small farm owners, enforcing stricter wetland protection ordinances.
- Rising Costs and Lack of Affordability:
  - Concerns: Increased housing costs, pricing out young families, lack of economic diversity, loss of businesses, declining population of school-aged children.
  - Opportunities: Introducing more affordable housing options like accessory dwelling units (ADUs), promoting economic diversity, investing in infrastructure.
- Changing Demographics and Community Dynamics:
  - Concerns: Aging population, loss of younger families, divide between older residents and younger generations, lack of inclusivity in decision-making processes.
  - Opportunities: Encouraging younger families to move in through better school facilities and affordable housing, fostering inclusivity in community engagement.

- Environmental Concerns:
  - Concerns: Impact of development on natural resources like wetlands and beaches, flooding issues exacerbated by climate change, water quality degradation.
  - Opportunities: Strengthening wetland protection ordinances, investing in infrastructure to mitigate flooding, promoting environmental awareness, conservation efforts.
- Traffic and Infrastructure Challenges:
  - Concerns: Increased road traffic, speeding, inadequate infrastructure, safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists, parking issues.
  - Opportunities: Improving road safety measures, investing in better signage and infrastructure, addressing parking limitations, considering consolidation of school facilities to optimize resources.

**In your opinion, what defines Rye’s semi-rural, small-town character? This may include certain areas of town, buildings, open space properties, destinations, and other attributes related to the community’s character, identity, and land use pattern.**

Answered: 206

Skipped: 114

Respondents believe the following attributes define’s Rye’s unique character:

- Respondents highlighted the importance of open spaces, including fields, woods, marshes, beaches, and conservation areas. This emphasis on preserving natural landscapes contributes significantly to Rye's semi-rural character.
- The presence of historic homes, barns, town hall, and other buildings adds to the charm and character of Rye. Maintaining these structures is seen as crucial for preserving the town's identity.
- Respondents expressed a desire to limit commercial activity and maintain a small-town atmosphere with locally-owned businesses. Some respondents indicated preference for small-scale commercial properties over larger developments, particularly along Route 1.
- Rye’s sense of community, where people know each other and look out for one another, was highlighted as a defining aspect of of the town’s character.

Events, gatherings, and community spaces, like Parsons Field, were mentioned as important for fostering this sense of connection.

- The preference for low-density housing, larger lots, and single-family homes contributes to the semi-rural feel of Rye. Preserving spacious neighborhoods and limiting high-density developments were common themes among respondents.

**What aspects of this character need to be retained as development and redevelopment continues? Examples may include the town center, conservation land, beaches, etc.**

Answered: 197

Skipped: 123

Respondents identified the following aspects of Rye's character that needs to be retained as future development occurs:

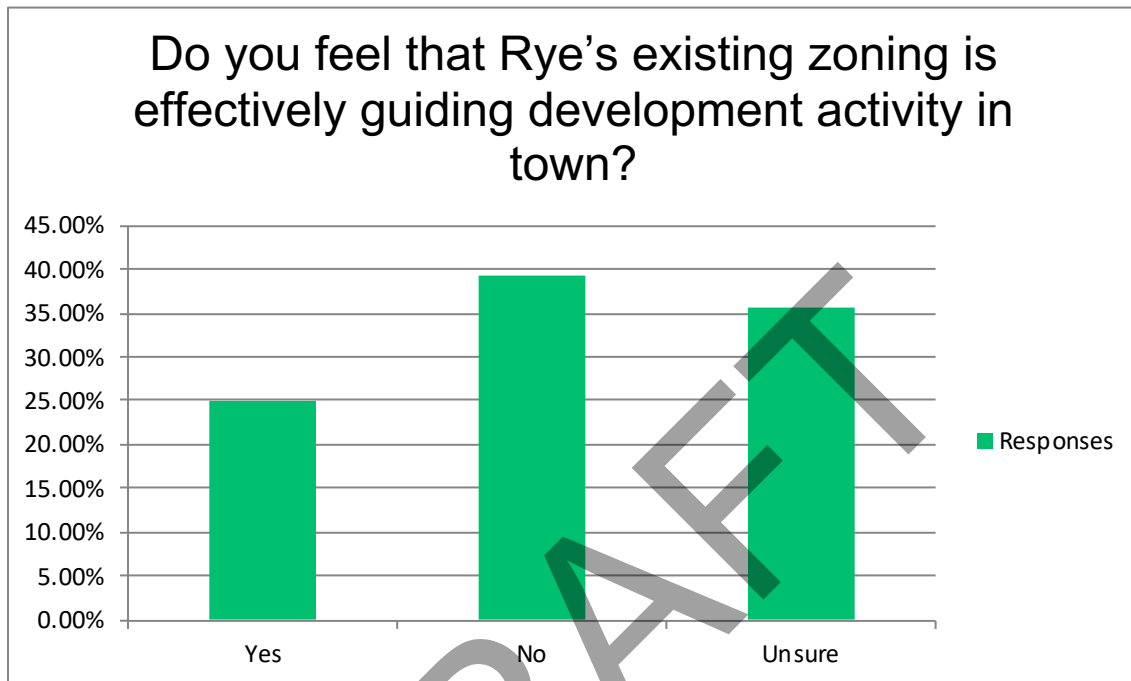
- Conservation of natural resources and open spaces, including forests, fields, wetlands, and beaches.
- Preservation of the historic town center and its character, with an emphasis on maintaining its semi-rural vibe. There appears to be some conflict whether the town center should be changed or not. However, there seems to be consensus that safer pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure is needed especially in this area of Rye.
- Limiting overdevelopment, particularly in the town center, and preserving the town's small-town charm.
- Enhancing community spaces and amenities, such as sidewalks, gathering spots, and local businesses.
- Enforcing zoning regulations and land use policies to control development and maintain the town's semi-rural character.

**Do you feel that Rye's existing zoning is effectively guiding development activity in town?**

Answered: 244

Skipped: 76

- Respondents appear to be rather split if Rye’s existing zoning is effectively guiding development in town as almost 40% think it is not,
- 36% are unsure, and
- A quarter of respondents (25%) think that Rye’s zoning is.



**If not, do you have any improvements you would suggest?**

Answered: 127

Skipped: 193

For those respondents that do not think Rye’s existing zoning regulations effectively guide development activity in town, the following improvements were suggested:

- Streamline regulations and their process. Respondents suggested that the town should reduce complex regulations and committee oversight, simplify zoning rules to prevent exploitation by those with resources, and improve the permit process to make it more efficient and accessible to the average public.

- Enhancement of environmental protections to strengthen zoning to limit construction, especially in sensitive areas like wetlands, enforce wetland regulations more strictly, and protect aquifers and natural resources from overdevelopment.
- Encouraging affordable housing options and preventing overdevelopment of luxury properties was suggested as well as allowing for more diverse housing options, including smaller single-family homes and detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs), limiting the size of houses on small lots, and preventing excessive rebuilding.
- Improvement of Zoning Board oversight was a common theme among many respondents suggesting that there is a need for the reduction of the granting of variances (especially for projects encroaching on setbacks or impacting wetlands), ensuring that the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) adheres strictly to zoning ordinances, and limiting the influence of special interests to ensure fair decision-making.
- A few respondents also suggested that the town promote local economic development and community services in Rye including encouraging small businesses and services in town centers, development of mixed-use zoning to attract smaller businesses and apartments, and enhancement of community amenities such as gathering places, sidewalks, and bike paths is desired.

**If you could change anything about Rye’s transportation network (e.g. roads, sidewalks, bike infrastructure, connectivity, traffic congestion, safety, etc.), what would you change and why?**

Answered: 224

Skipped: 96

The following themes emerged for desired transportation network improvements from respondents:

- Respondents expressed a need for more pedestrian infrastructure, particularly in high-traffic areas, such as around schools and town centers, to improve pedestrian safety. Concerns were raised about the lack of sidewalks in town and the danger it poses to walkers, joggers, and children. There were also numerous responses that called for enhanced bike

infrastructure, including dedicated bike lanes, bike paths, and safer routes for cyclists. Some responses mentioned the need for wider shoulders on roads to accommodate cyclists, while others suggested designated bike lanes to separate bikes from vehicular traffic.

- Many respondents highlighted the need to address speeding issues and enforce speed limits more rigorously. Suggestions included lowering speed limits, installing speed monitors and warning devices, and increasing police enforcement to deter speeding.
- Many individuals expressed concerns about the poor condition of roads in Rye, including potholes and deteriorating surfaces. There were calls for better road maintenance and more frequent paving to ensure safer driving conditions.
- Improved beach accessibility was also mentioned by respondents including improving transportation and safety in beach areas, adding sidewalks and bike lanes in appropriate places, improving parking regulations to alleviate congestion, and enhancing accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

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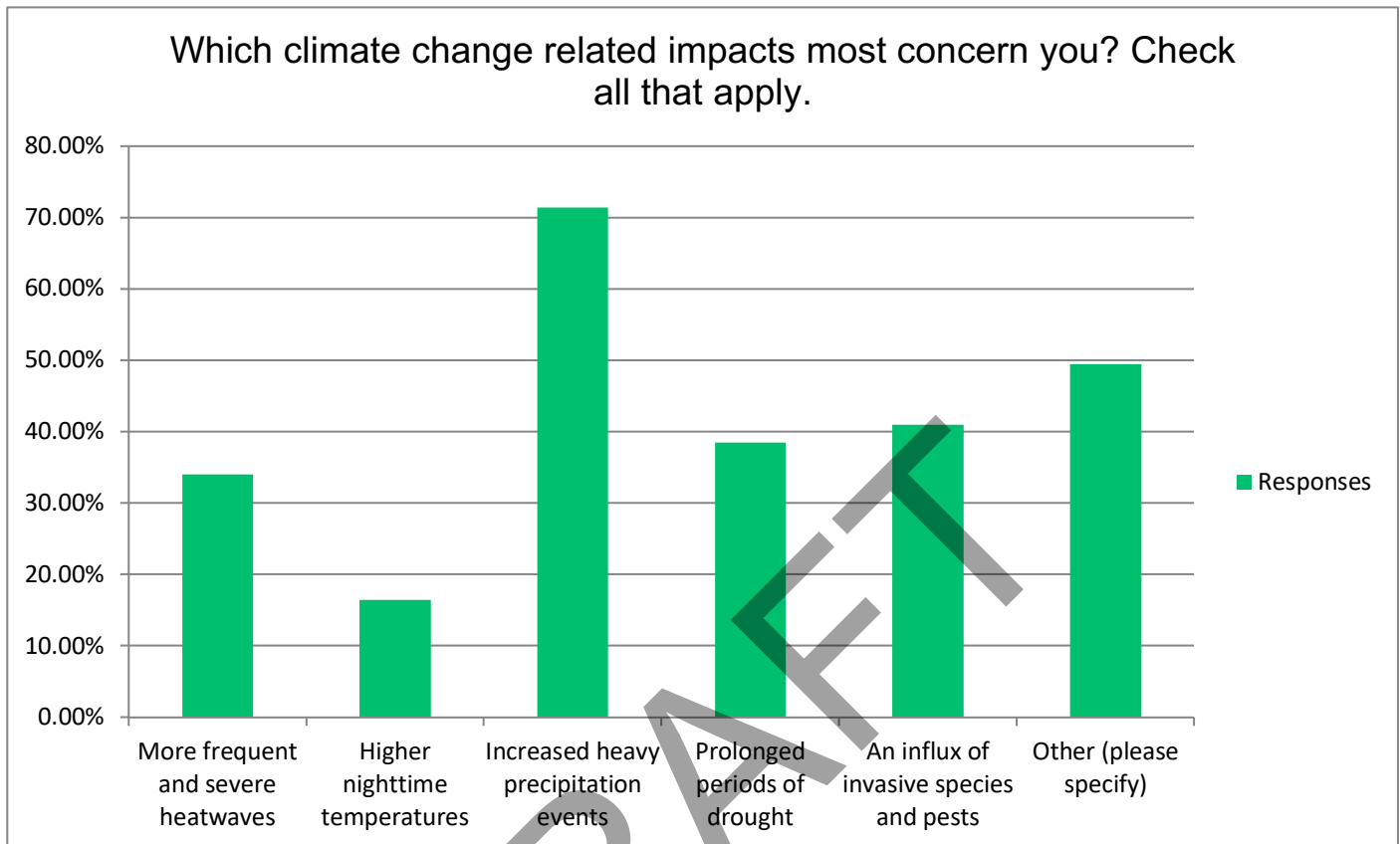
## Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Which climate change related impacts most concern you? Check all that apply.

Answered: 273

Skipped: 47

- Increased heavy precipitation events seems to be the most concerning climate change related impact among respondents at 71%.
- Other concerns related to climate change impacts that were identified by respondents include:
  - Coastal flooding and sea level rise and its effects such as damage to infrastructure, erosion of beaches, and increased flooding during high tides.
  - The increase in frequency and severity of storms, including heavy precipitation events, windstorms, and storm surges. Concerns about storm damage to shoreline properties, roads, and infrastructure were prevalent among respondents.
  - Water quality, including contamination from flooding, runoff, and rising groundwater levels. Some respondents expressed concern about the decline in biodiversity, such as the loss of habitat for certain species and the decline in populations of oysters and other marine life.
- Approximately 15 respondents noted that they are opposed to the town getting involved in mitigating these climate change related impacts.



**Rye is seeking new ways to prepare for and effectively respond to extreme weather events, flooding, and coastal storm emergencies. What actions or initiatives should Rye build into the town budget to accomplish what is needed?**

Answered: 221

Skipped: 99

Respondents identified the following ways Rye can effectively prepare and respond to climate change impacts:

- Protection of the coast and infrastructure investment including:
  - Reinforcing and rebuilding seawalls.
  - Improving drainage systems along the coastline.
  - Constructing more durable barriers against storm surges.
  - Investing in sustainable infrastructure to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events. NH Route 1A was specifically identified.
- Emergency management and preparedness including:
  - Allocating funds for emergency response teams and equipment.

- Establishing emergency funds for disaster cleanup and repair.
- Developing evacuation plans and designating emergency shelters.
- Enhancing communication systems for residents during storm events.
- Coordinating with neighboring towns and state agencies for shared resources and response plans.
- Environmental conservation and resilience including:
  - Additional protection and restoration of natural barriers like salt marshes and wetlands.
  - Implementing zoning changes to prevent new construction in vulnerable areas.
  - Supporting initiatives for native landscaping and invasive species management.
  - Investment in long-term plans for coastal resilience and adaptation to sea-level rise.
  - Partnerships with universities and environmental experts for research and monitoring programs.

**In your opinion, what are the highest priority buildings, roads, or sites that should be protected from climate impact, flooding, and natural hazards?**

Answered: 217

Skipped: 103

According to respondents, the highest priority structures and infrastructure that should be prioritized from climate change impacts include:

- Public safety and town administration buildings including the Town Hall, Library, and Public Safety Building (Rye Police and Fire) with emphasis on the need to safeguard essential services such as schools, emergency response buildings, and municipal infrastructure like water sources, sewer systems, and roads. Respondents expressed concerns about maintaining access to critical facilities, ensuring safe evacuation routes, and protecting water resources from contamination due to flooding.
- Coastal areas and roadways including Rye's beaches, Ocean Boulevard, Harbor Road, and Route 1A. Respondents suggested implementing mitigation measures, constructing more resilient infrastructure, raising roads near marshes, reinforcing seawalls, developing comprehensive

adaptation strategies to address flooding, and prioritizing the protection of coastal roads, bridges, and access points to beaches and waterways. Respondents also expressed concerns about erosion, sea level rise, and the impact of climate change on coastal communities and infrastructure.

- Respondents emphasized the importance of protecting natural habitats, wetlands, marshes, and watershed areas to mitigate flooding, maintain water quality, and preserve biodiversity. Respondents expressed concerns about saltwater intrusion, habitat degradation, and the need for sustainable management practices to conserve ecosystems. Recommendations included:
  - Restricting development in flood-prone areas.
  - Prioritizing wetland protection.
  - Enhancing the resilience of natural systems against climate impacts.

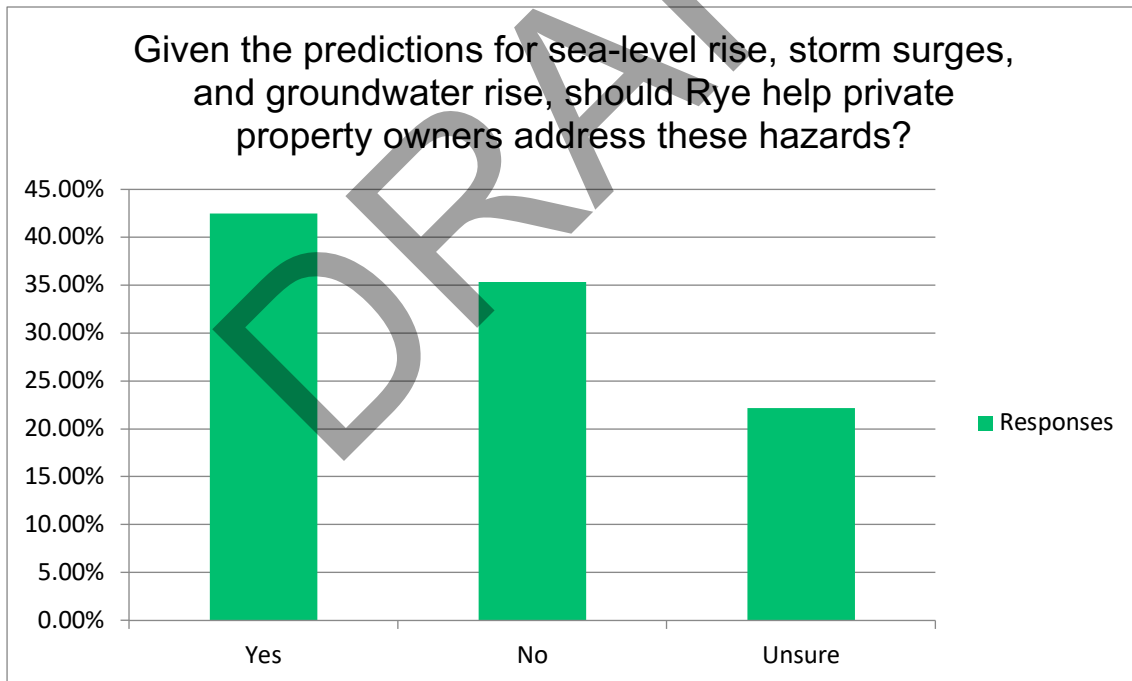
**Given the predictions for sea-level rise, storm surges, and groundwater rise, should Rye help private property owners address these hazards?**

Answered: 280

Skipped: 40

- Respondents appear to be split on whether the town should assist private property owners in addressing sea level rise hazards. About 43% of respondents think Rye should help, 35% do not, and 22% are unsure.
- Of the respondents that answered yes, the following themes were identified:
  - Many respondents emphasize that property owners should bear primary responsibility for protecting their own properties from hazards associated with climate change, such as sea-level rise and storm surges. Some indicated that they reject the idea of using taxpayer money to financially assist private property owners, arguing that property ownership in flood-prone areas entails inherent risks that individuals should manage themselves.
  - Many respondents identified the need for stricter building codes, zoning regulations, and enforcement to ensure that property owners take appropriate precautions and bear the costs of mitigating hazards on their own.

- Some respondents suggested that the town could assist private property owners by providing education, information dissemination, and guidance on mitigating risks associated with climate hazards. Recommendations included providing resources, workshops, and seminars to educate property owners about available options, and promoting best practices and measures to protect property from sea-level rise, storm surges, and groundwater rise.
- Some respondents expressed the desire for limited or indirect assistance from the town such as facilitating access to state and federal grants, providing guidance on obtaining permits for seawall repairs, or negotiating with vendors for preferred pricing on services related to hazard mitigation.
- Other suggestions provided by respondents included exploring options for partnerships with neighboring communities, leveraging collective resources, and advocating for external funding sources to support hazard mitigation efforts.



## What other issues and opportunities are you aware of related to natural hazards and coastal impacts?

Answered: 106

Skipped: 204

The top issues and opportunities respondents identified related to natural hazards and coastal impacts include the following:

- Enforcing strict building regulations and zoning ordinances to prevent construction in vulnerable coastal areas prone to flooding and erosion. Some respondents called for limiting variances and special exceptions granted to property owners and developers, especially in relation to wetland buffer zones and flood-prone areas. Some respondents suggested mandating the elevation of structures in at-risk areas and requiring property owners to contribute to the costs of updating water and septic systems.
- Improving the resilience of infrastructure, including roads, sewer lines, and seawalls, to withstand the impacts of natural hazards such as flooding and storm surges. Some respondents identified the need to upgrade and maintain existing infrastructure, including the installation of larger culverts, the reinforcement of sea walls, and the rerouting of water and power lines. Others mentioned included the need for proactive measures to address erosion, beach replenishment, and the protection of critical infrastructure assets, like cell towers.
- Proactive planning for climate change and future predictions including sea-level rise, storm surges, and the degradation of natural habitats, on coastal communities like Rye. Respondents highlighted the need for proactive measures to address the predicted impacts of climate change on water quality, freshwater resources, and public health. Some respondents noted the need for increased awareness, education, and action to prepare for and mitigate the long-term effects of climate change on the environment and community infrastructure.
- Respondents also stressed the importance of community preparedness, adaptation, and collaboration in addressing the challenges posed by natural hazards and coastal impacts.

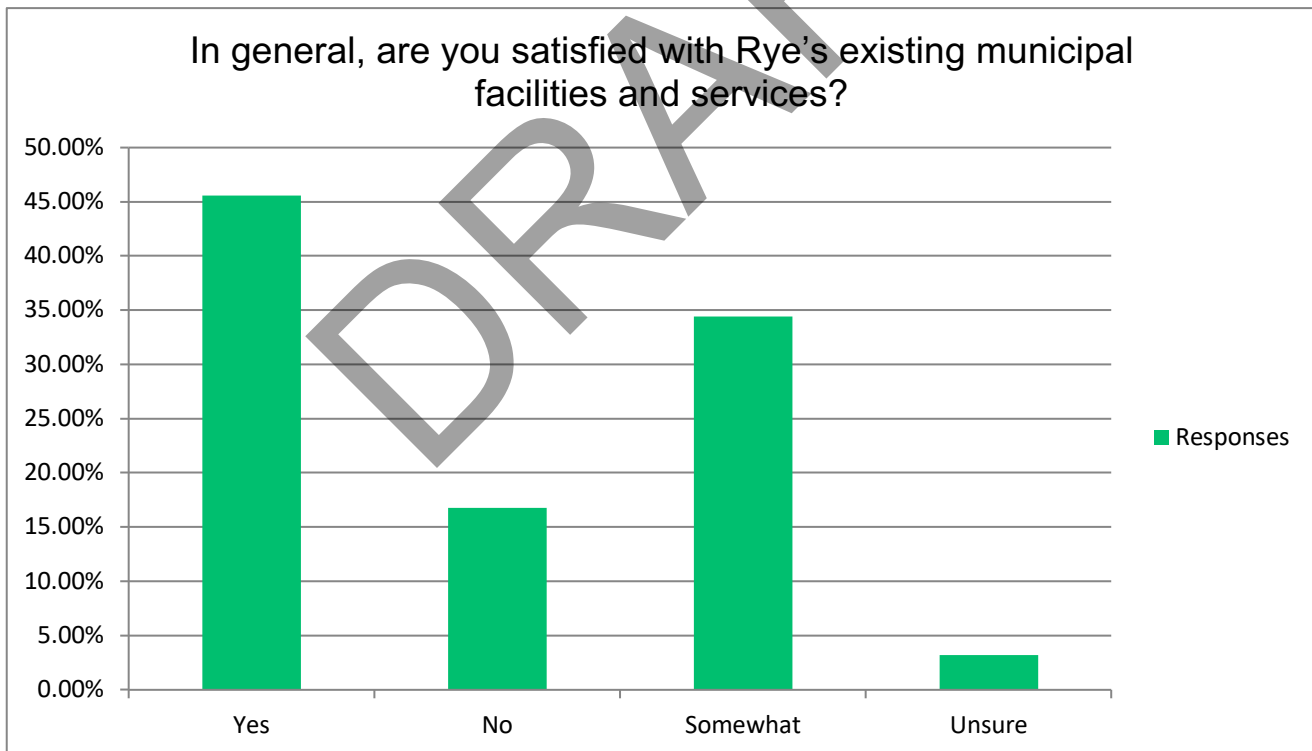
# Municipal Operations and Organization

**In general, are you satisfied with Rye’s existing municipal facilities and services? Facilities including town-owned buildings and sites such as the library, town offices, athletic fields, etc. Services include those services provided by the town, including waste management, public safety, sewer, parks and recreation programming, etc.**

Answered: 250

Skipped: 70

- Most respondents are satisfied with Rye’s existing municipal facilities and services at about 46%.
- However, 34% are somewhat satisfied, and
- About 17% are not.



**Are there specific municipal facilities or services that you think need improvement in the coming years? If so, what kinds of improvements?**

Answered: 164

Skipped: 156

The following municipal facilities or service improvements respondents mentioned included:

- The renovation, restoration, and improvement of the original Town Hall building, including adding features for community use and restoring historic character.
- Improved recreation facilities, including the construction of a community center or a dedicated recreation building. Some mentioned upgrading recreational fields and adding indoor spaces for various activities.
- Water quality protection, water treatment, and sewer upgrades
- Improvements to Rye's waste management facilities, such as the recycling center, and suggest measures like better traffic flow, expanded recycling options, and better handling of hazardous waste.
- Expansion of the Library including enhancing its facilities and increasing community programming.

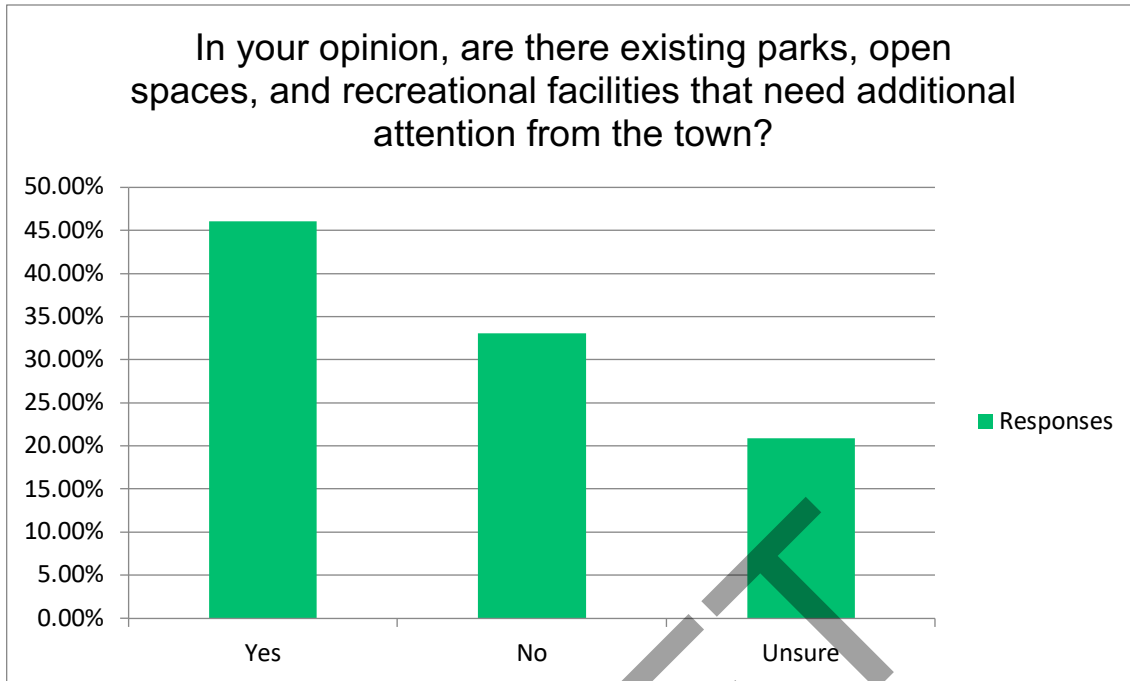
**In your opinion, are there existing parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities that need additional attention from the town?**

Answered: 239

Skipped: 81

- 46% of respondents believe there are existing parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities that need additional attention from the town.
- Whereas a third (33%) do not, and
- About 21% are unsure.





**If yes, what needs to be addressed, and what improvements would you suggest?**

Answered: 119

Skipped: 201

Respondents identified the following needs and improvements for Rye’s existing parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities:

- Maintenance and improvement of existing facilities rather than adding more property. Suggested improvements include upgrading the Recreation Department buildings to permanent buildings, upgrading the library common, more funding and investment for the Rye Recreation Department, and proper maintenance of the little league and softball fields.
- Better guidance and enforcement of beach and dog-friendly policies.
- Infrastructure and access improvements to the following facilities:
  - Expand Goss Farm to include recreational activity, parking, and trails
  - Improvements to Parson’s Field and to the roadway entrance to be better utilized as a community gathering space.
  - Improvement to Rye’s trail network, including parking areas and trail heads, and consideration of walking bridges in wetlands/wet areas.

More trail maintenance and public education and promotion of Rye's trails were identified as a need.

- Pirate's Cove beach improvements including accessible restroom facilities, trash receptacles, and year-round access.
- Some respondents expressed a desire for the addition of recreational facilities and amenities such as:
  - A public indoor recreation facility and outdoor courts.
  - New basketball court, indoor or outdoor pickleball courts.
  - More recreation facilities for children such as a pump track and splash pad.
  - A softball field, tennis courts, bike paths, public restrooms.
  - More recreation activity in the winter.

**Currently, Rye's town government is managed by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator. Many town governments benefit from the added oversight and structural organization of a Town Manager. Do you feel the town of Rye would benefit from such a position? What advantages or disadvantages do you see?"**

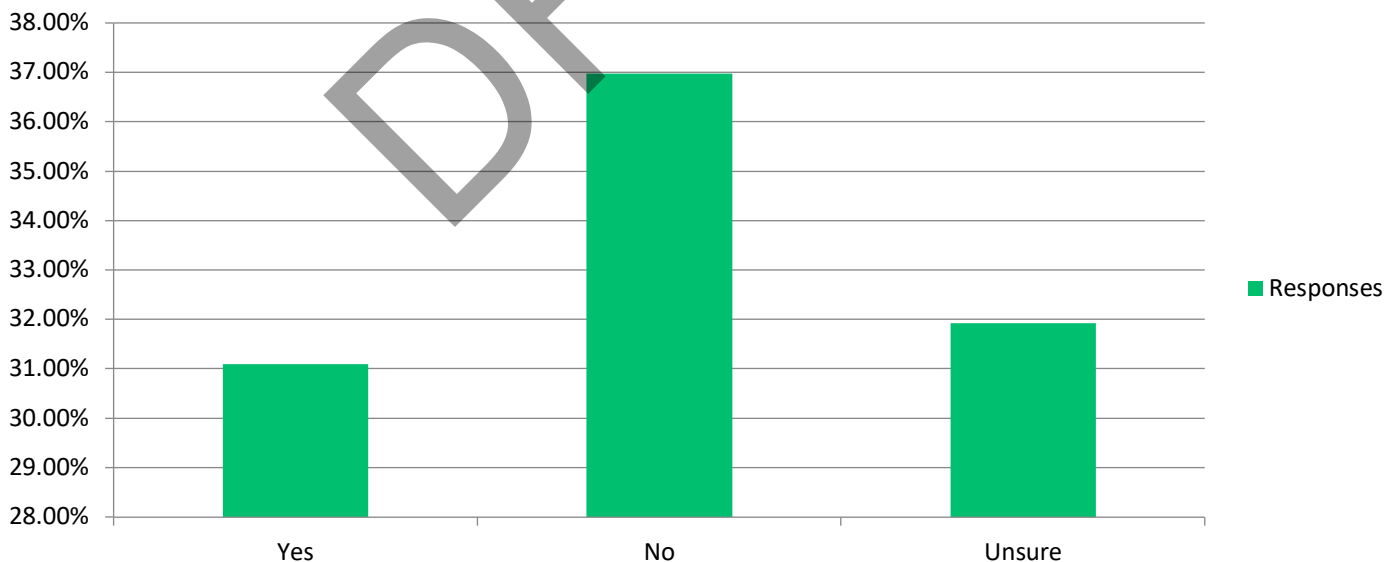
Answered: 283

Skipped: 82

- Respondents appear to be split on if Rye would benefit from a Town Manager position as about 37% do not think the town would,
- 32% are unsure, and
- 31% would support a Town Manager position in Rye.
- Respondents identified the following disadvantages of having a Town Manager Position in Rye:
  - Loss of direct voter control over town affairs.
  - Uncertainty about the necessity and cost-effectiveness of hiring a Town Manager, including concerns about the associated salary and additional staffing.
  - Lack of clarity about the differences between a Town Manager and a Town Administrator and how the role would integrate into the existing government structure.
- Respondents identified the following advantages of having a Town Manager position in Rye:

- Improved long-term planning and oversight for the town's development.
- Enhanced coordination among department supervisors for more effective governance.
- More accountability and professionalism in managing town affairs.
- Overall, many respondents indicated the need for further evaluation and examination of a Town Manager position with requests for more information, cost-benefit analysis, and clarity on the specific duties and responsibilities of a Town Manager. Respondents suggested exploring alternative governance structures, such as expanding the Select Board or reevaluating the current roles and functions within the town administration. Some indicated the importance of hiring a qualified and experienced individual for the town manager position, if deemed necessary, to ensure effective management and leadership.

Currently, Rye's town government is managed by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator. Many town governments benefit from the added oversight and structural organization of a Town Manager. Do you feel the town of Rye would benefit from such a p



**What other issues and opportunities are you aware of related to Rye’s municipal buildings, properties, and services?**

Answered: 121

Skipped: 199

Respondents identified the following issues and opportunities related to Rye’s municipal facilities, services, and properties:

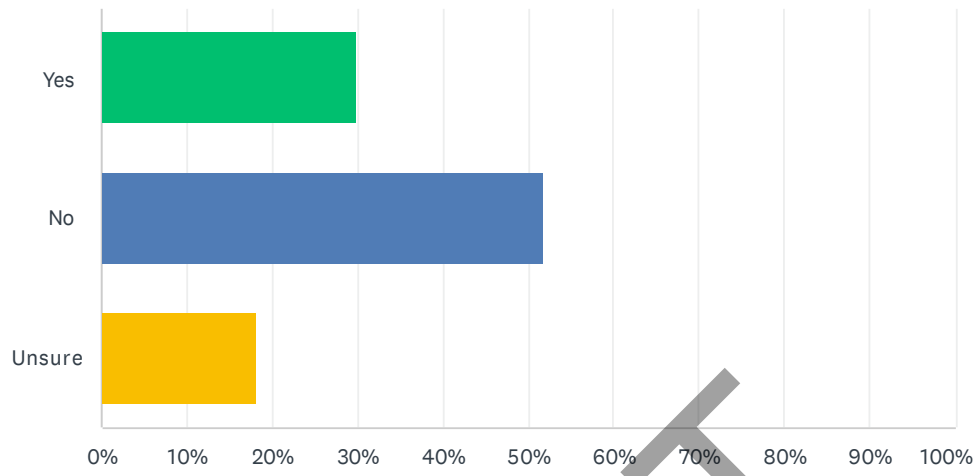
- Modernization and renovation of existing municipal buildings, particularly the Town Hall and Public Safety building, including HVAC upgrades, better meeting space, and improved elevator access. Some respondents identified needed improvements to recreational facilities, including the installation of a recreation center.
- Concerns and suggestions related to sustainability and environmental issues such as drinking water quality protection, energy efficiency, and solar panel installations. Some respondents mentioned the opportunity for regional cooperation and the sharing of resources for sustainability.
- More recreational opportunities, activities, and programming for various age groups, particularly children and young adults as well as the need for better utilization of existing community spaces to provide these services, such as the school gymnasiums and libraries.

Appendix A: Survey Monkey Report – Community Forum/Online Tool

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# Q1 Do you think Rye does enough to safeguard its natural resources?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.94%	94
No	51.91%	163
Unsure	18.15%	57
TOTAL		314

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## Q2 What natural resources need further protection in Rye? These may include drinking water resources, beaches, forests, fields, etc.

Answered: 276 Skipped: 44

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Drinking water, beaches, wetlands	3/15/2024 5:08 PM
2	Drinking water	3/15/2024 12:52 PM
3	Drinking water and wetlands protection	3/15/2024 12:51 PM
4	Need to follow through on drinking water studies and plans. Beach walls to restoration -- seems underway.	3/15/2024 10:58 AM
5	None	3/15/2024 9:59 AM
6	Water	3/15/2024 9:53 AM
7	drinking water, beaches, forests, open spaces	3/15/2024 8:44 AM
8	wetlands, drinking water	3/15/2024 7:44 AM
9	Drinking water, beaches	3/14/2024 9:15 PM
10	Drinking Water, open space, and beach erosion	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
11	Drinking water and beaches need more protection. And the amount of open space needs to be a priority.	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
12	Drinking water, watersheds, beaches, forests, fields	3/14/2024 7:21 PM
13	RWD drinking water sources Parsons Creek Watershed	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
14	Drinking water Beaches Protect the community with a proper storm built with large, huge rocks that stop the water instead of breaking on the first wave! Septic Systems that are not checked	3/14/2024 5:22 PM
15	Rye Water Should Be Sold to Aquarian.	3/14/2024 5:20 PM
16	beaches, forests, drinking water	3/14/2024 4:33 PM
17	Solve the Parson's Creek problem	3/14/2024 4:01 PM
18	All of the ones listed	3/14/2024 2:56 PM
19	Drinking water, beaches, fields	3/14/2024 2:14 PM
20	The town is a wonderful place but I have no idea if it is well managed. I fear that it is not planning for the future Rye has ordinances but it doesn't enforce them. all the conditions of environment need to be protected. see if the extension at UNH and Philly Enter will assist the town	3/14/2024 2:11 PM
21	Town beaches need more oversight regarding dog waste and the cleanliness associated with dogs using the beach as a bathroom in the morning and then young children playing in the same sand just hours later.	3/14/2024 1:41 PM
22	Drinking water and open space/trees.	3/14/2024 1:40 PM
23	Drinking water . Treatment plant is necessary. Wetland protection. Less development. Especially condominiums..need more open space for our mental health and for wildlife	3/14/2024 12:49 PM
24	Drinking water, wetlands, beaches, forests	3/13/2024 6:24 PM
25	drinking water	3/13/2024 5:39 PM
26	drinking water and beaches specifically Parson's Creek	3/13/2024 5:35 PM

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27	drinking water and beaches, specifically Parson's Creek	3/13/2024 5:31 PM
28	Water	3/13/2024 3:34 PM
29	<p>Drinking water - people need to clean up their property - Blight maybe educate about lawn chemicals lawn irrigation and chemicals needs to stop and use different types of grass - plantings. especially if droughts keep occurring - develop rules for these companies that apply chemicals NO Rye does not safeguard natural resources - Water, Beaches, unsure about forests, fields On a national world level WATER safety for drinking has always been an issues as corporations, people - have NOT been aware and respectful of the safety of the earth. Rye was surprised with e-coli showing up in the water and thinking it was caused by some unseen bug, or animal feces, or flying object! Free water was dispensed to every citizen at the police station. it was s surprise at the record of citizens not being computerized as names had to be entered with an iPad in order to get safe, clean bottled water. Community meetings were conducted by men in 3 piece suits with maps! multiple meeting at that level. citizen were not included in an open discussion. Boil your water and it is still dont today with the resolution of a large amount of Chlorine added to the water as resolution and supposedly safety. I believe citizens added filters to their home water systems. Rye had scattered meeting bringing up the topic of a "Water processing plan". People brought up various topics of interest such as using salt on roads, chemicals on lawns, sprinkler systems with timers and not turning off when raining. The topics provided NO method of resolution or a "hot line" to call the water commission in confidentiality. All of Rye's COMMISSIONS do not, NOT enforce regulations codes. There are set standards but no commission works together for the good of the land. with all these town boards, commissions, departments, building inspection, code enforcement, flood management, etc. forming into teams and with that use of problem defining resolutions. communication is imperative but it is a big question mark as to whom to talk to, who is in charge, who will listen and possibly refer or give some educated understanding. there is no follow up. I am talking from the Town Administration. Friendly helpful people... those who are receptive. Seek professional help from the government, or the state board of management as protecting water supply is NOT a new problem. GE contaminated my home town in Massachusetts and many got cancer including my family and the town became a ghost town!</p>	3/13/2024 2:04 PM
30	Drinking water. PFAS very concerning. That 3 week boil order must not be repeated. Beaches - contamination from streams after rain is gross.	3/13/2024 11:24 AM
31	Need to protect the land and natural resources from deteriorating further.	3/13/2024 10:40 AM
32	Beaches & forests	3/13/2024 10:38 AM
33	All of the above drinking water resources, beaches, forests, fields, plus wetlands (fresh and salt water) need additional protection	3/13/2024 10:29 AM
34	Drinking water	3/13/2024 6:45 AM
35	Drinking water, beaches, fields, marshes.	3/13/2024 6:24 AM
36	Drinking water and beaches	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
37	Forests, fields, existing undeveloped land.	3/12/2024 8:17 PM
38	Drinking water and clean beach waters.	3/12/2024 8:14 PM
39	Forests, drinking water, open land	3/12/2024 6:49 PM
40	Creating less, not more, impermeable surfaces. This might help with flooding and drinking water. Another Resource, albeit not natural, is the HISTORY of Rye. The Historic homes and locations should have some protection as well.	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
41	wetlands	3/12/2024 1:48 PM
42	drinking water	3/12/2024 12:39 PM
43	I think Rye is doing a great job with conservation and habitat but I also think there is more we can do. I'm an amateur conservationist, learning more as a Rye citizen but I think our drinking water is at risk as well as our beaches.	3/12/2024 12:08 PM
44	Drinking water, without a doubt. Keep a strong hand on individuals who have refused to adhere to the policy regarding cleaning and/or updating of septic tanks and systems.	3/12/2024 9:59 AM
45	Beaches. Coastline. Drinking water.	3/12/2024 7:09 AM



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46	Beaches, Drinking Water	3/11/2024 10:38 PM
47	Wetlands, tidal lands	3/11/2024 9:09 PM
48	Drinking water, beaches, harbor	3/11/2024 8:14 PM
49	Rye needs to limit spraying for insects, limit herbicides, ban windmills in the ocean	3/11/2024 8:11 PM
50	drinking water, ocean front/beaches	3/11/2024 7:12 PM
51	Drinking water and coastline	3/11/2024 4:59 PM
52	Drinking water and rising tide impacts	3/11/2024 4:18 PM
53	Limit large users of water. Increase protection of marshes and wetlands	3/11/2024 4:16 PM
54	the beaches....the walk ways for the public need to be easy to find and access The berms need to be sturdy for ocean splash over.	3/11/2024 3:58 PM
55	Drinking water, ocean, beaches,	3/11/2024 2:16 PM
56	Beaches	3/11/2024 2:09 PM
57	aquifers for drinking water	3/11/2024 1:15 PM
58	Zoning ordinances should protect open space. Rising water levels will impact septic. Need to make rulings to protect natural resources.	3/11/2024 12:12 PM
59	drinking water, beaches and open space	3/11/2024 11:02 AM
60	Drinking water, beaches, forests, historical landmarks (e.g. the parsonage), preserve town character	3/11/2024 10:00 AM
61	Drinking water, water quality at beaches	3/10/2024 10:59 PM
62	Solve the Parsons Creek watershed issue. This will solve the RWD water quality problem. Seek state and federal grants for town-wide sewer system.	3/10/2024 5:03 PM
63	septic problems in Stinky Creek area need to be enforced - no more warnings.	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
64	Shoreline protection	3/10/2024 4:40 PM
65	We need to better protect our beaches from erosion and our roadways from disrepair of harsh winter weather.	3/10/2024 4:37 PM
66	beaches forests	3/10/2024 4:35 PM
67	marshes!	3/10/2024 4:25 PM
68	Drinking Water Beaches Coastal Roads & Barriers	3/10/2024 4:12 PM
69	drinking water resources	3/10/2024 4:09 PM
70	Water, any of it which falls on, flows through or into ground water, and is then pumped out and into the Rye water district ends up as what we drink, bath in swim in, fish in, etc. We need to make sure it remains clean, plentiful, relatively inexpensive. Start by supporting and bolstering the Rye Water District, then address Parson's Creek and figure out a way for the town to have say in what's going at with regard to Berry's Brook. It will take leadership, planning...and money. We don't do well in those ways much of the time (see the Town Hall mess or anything people would like to see happen in the Town Center). Time to make sure we do it right with water.	3/10/2024 4:07 PM
71	drinking water, although I do not have it (well) should be improved	3/10/2024 3:57 PM
72	drinking water absolutely needs to be dealt with, as well as the water quality at the beaches (swimming advisories) also recruitment of arborists to ensure we have protection of the forests against damaging pests. I'm concerned about the increased number of wildlife in residential areas, seemingly related to the recent clearing of habitat near the traffic circle.	3/10/2024 3:47 PM
73	water, beaches	3/10/2024 3:37 PM
74	drinking water. sadly with leaky landfill and too many failed and unpumped septics, our water is polluted. unswimable a lot and undrinkable. may be time for Water Treatment Plant but what's	3/10/2024 3:22 PM

the cost annually on our water bill?

75	Drinking water supply is top priority. The beaches will continue to be an environmental problem with global warming. What is the intermediate term plan to mitigate destruction of public ways and private property without major spikes in spending?	3/10/2024 3:08 PM
76	The 8 miles of coastline which would involve working with the State. Our salt marshes need to be in 100% working order as 1 acre of healthy salt marsh can suck up 1.5 million gallons of storm water. The wetland buffers need to be enforced!	3/10/2024 11:28 AM
77	simple investment in renewables would be the best thing in my opinion. More solar for example	3/10/2024 11:26 AM
78	All of the above. Parsons Creek issue of too many leech fields and not enough land. Where are we a long Rt. 1 and other areas, how close are we to the tipping point. RCC hosted a great presentation on how we need to strategically plan for buffer growth areas to protect property. I don't see this front and center at ZBA and Planning Board (needs to be codified).	3/10/2024 9:09 AM
79	Beaches. There are too many people visiting in the summer.	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
80	Drinking water, forests, beaches	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
81	drinking water, beaches, forests, fields	3/9/2024 9:51 PM
82	Shoreline, marshes, drinking water Flooding	3/9/2024 8:31 PM
83	Drinking Water.	3/9/2024 4:49 PM
84	Slow down town development and enforce the parson creek septic ordinance	3/9/2024 3:53 PM
85	Anything that could be contaminated by insufficient or failed septic leaching fields	3/9/2024 1:36 PM
86	Drinking water, creeks/marshes, beaches	3/9/2024 1:25 PM
87	drinking water!!! beaches, forests and fields	3/9/2024 12:56 PM
88	water resources and beaches	3/9/2024 11:30 AM
89	All of it. Honestly, with all the building around our home on Perkins Road in what was previously "too wet to build on" land, we have more flooding and wild life challenges in our yard.	3/9/2024 11:17 AM
90	All of the above, with all of the development going on in town we have to careful not to over stress the resources that we have.	3/9/2024 9:44 AM
91	Water, marshes, beaches, forest	3/8/2024 12:35 PM
92	Forests, waterbodies, marshes and drinking water resources.	3/8/2024 10:13 AM
93	definitely drinking water, our beaches, use of energy	3/8/2024 9:58 AM
94	beaches	3/8/2024 9:56 AM
95	Drinking water	3/8/2024 9:35 AM
96	Drinking water resources, forests and wetlands	3/8/2024 9:23 AM
97	Keep our forests and fields protected from corporations trying to built more houses or buildings. Keep Rye rural. Protect our beaches from too many tourists visiting all at one time by limiting parking in summer.	3/8/2024 8:23 AM
98	Drinking water Streams Beaches	3/8/2024 6:15 AM
99	Drinking water	3/7/2024 11:39 PM
100	drinking water, natural habitat for birds and other critical wildlife, beach protection, marsh/barrier beach protection, lawn treatment chemicals and salting of road runoff	3/7/2024 11:34 PM
101	All of the above	3/7/2024 10:56 PM
102	all of the above	3/7/2024 10:37 PM
103	Beaches and runoff from outdated septic systems on small older lots. Not sure how to approach this issue, but it needs to be addressed	3/7/2024 10:20 PM

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104	drinking water resources and forests	3/7/2024 9:58 PM
105	None.	3/7/2024 9:50 PM
106	beaches	3/7/2024 9:16 PM
107	Drinking water resources, marshes	3/7/2024 8:28 PM
108	We need to hold accountable the owners of septic (Petey's) systems which are affecting our health and safety. We need to fix and protect our drinking water. The chlorine levels are out of control, the extra filtration needed to make it tolerable is unacceptable. The Coakley contamination is unacceptable.	3/7/2024 8:19 PM
109	Beaches	3/7/2024 5:55 PM
110	Beaches! Run off. Clean water and PFAs. And protection of wetlands	3/7/2024 12:42 PM
111	Drinking water	3/7/2024 12:00 PM
112	All of the above	3/7/2024 8:45 AM
113	Open land, drinking water	3/7/2024 8:41 AM
114	Route 1A needs to be built up, from south road to causeway road. Sidewalk is at pavement level and needs to be raised for safety. The short sea wall needs to be raised a foot higher and the boulders on the sea-side of the wall need reinforcing. The Town should work much closer with the state of NH to address these issues.	3/7/2024 8:36 AM
115	Drinking Water, coastal area flood protection	3/7/2024 8:04 AM
116	Drinking water, beaches, wetlands	3/7/2024 8:03 AM
117	Drinking water, forests, fields green spaces	3/6/2024 10:53 PM
118	drinking water resources, beaches	3/6/2024 6:48 PM
119	Waterways and beaches.	3/6/2024 2:46 PM
120	Parks, trails, sidewalks and pedestrian safety are more important than environmental concerns.	3/6/2024 2:07 PM
121	Marshes, wetlands in the aquifer.	3/6/2024 1:26 PM
122	marsh habitat beach erosion (not much we can do about this) aquatic life (?) birds and marsh/forest creatures - part of our resources, no? marsh (pollution issue)	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
123	drinking water, beaches and ocean water	3/6/2024 12:30 PM
124	Forests need more management, both for invasives control and wildlife habitat. The Town Forest is a good example. It is rife with invasives and is all mature or becoming mature forest with little understory and now clearings for secondary growth and the wildlife it attracts. While the Conservation Commission claims to be doing something about the invasives problem, progress seems to be very slow. I also question the approach of contracting this work out. It's expensive and with questionable results. I think a much better approach would be for the RCC to take a more proactive approach. First, it could sponsor educational programs on invasives control and forest management for private landowners in town. I'm sure the UNH Extension and especially its Coverts Cooperator Program would be happy to assist in this. Second, it should solicit citizen involvement in the control of invasives. This would lower the cost of control/management and the secondary effect of building relationships within the citizenry. Rye is not the easiest town in which to build relationships, most everyone is pretty private. Beyond that, the RCC should seriously reevaluate its mission. The recent brouhaha about a parking lot on the Junkins parcel would lead you to believe the RCC views its mission as justifying acquisitions by providing recreational opportunities on its land. That's not necessarily compatible with true conservation.	3/6/2024 12:30 PM
125	beaches clean seaweed regularly during summer to keep beaches attractive	3/6/2024 12:09 PM
126	Marshes and tidal estuaries	3/6/2024 11:31 AM
127	Drinking water and beach weathering are definitely important in a region like the Seacoast.	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
128	water, beaches, marshes	3/6/2024 11:19 AM

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129	Town Rents or buys, builds real estate and does not take care of the property. ie normal income people sell property to buy another. Rye rents from Church and does not clean, remove waste, clock repair, or fix, install air conditioning, fans. provide clean water. In other words I call the town 'slum lords'.(1)....(2) My observation of beach towns have sand rakes and comb and remove some washed up trash and some sea weeds...old plastic bottles. I do think people 'take home a lot of their trash.	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
130	salt marshes drinking water beaches	3/6/2024 11:10 AM
131	Drinking water, open land, wetlands, wildlife	3/6/2024 10:46 AM
132	Drinking water resources	3/6/2024 10:09 AM
133	Beaches	3/6/2024 9:11 AM
134	The beaches,	3/6/2024 8:51 AM
135	Forests and fields	3/6/2024 5:56 AM
136	None	3/6/2024 4:37 AM
137	Beachs	3/5/2024 8:37 PM
138	Drinking water	3/5/2024 6:56 PM
139	The wetlands and coastal areas! Beaches, forests and fields- don't change the dynamics of our community just because.	3/5/2024 6:48 PM
140	drinking water needs further protection and all of the above	3/5/2024 4:57 PM
141	Septic systems allow for contaminated water and rye water district desperately needs a new water system.	3/5/2024 4:54 PM
142	there must be a way to determine the source of contamination in Rye water. if there is fecal contamination from animals, that can be controlled. if from septic system there should be a way to force people to repair them.	3/5/2024 4:49 PM
143	beaches - maintain, protection erosion drinking water - invest in clean up and protection of fresh water sources	3/5/2024 4:40 PM
144	good, always more needs	3/5/2024 4:38 PM
145	stop granting variances that compromise wetlands stop intrusion into wetlands, esp salt marshes. Protect backlands; offer incentives to big back land owners address issues at transfer station being adjacent to aquifer	3/5/2024 4:30 PM
146	Rye talks about conservation however is willing to bend the rules in terms of wetland protection and property development too often. Rye is Rye because of our natural resources we need to protect and value them. One very easy and very necessary change we should make is to improve our water flow outgoing and increasing to the marshes to improve marsh health.	3/5/2024 4:27 PM
147	Drinking water, land conservation which would include forests and fields	3/5/2024 4:24 PM
148	yes drinking water - too many new homes built in the watersheds Town Forest - a great asset Beaches - for all, keep parking available and water clean -	3/5/2024 4:11 PM
149	Drinking water, coakley and grove road dump clean up, protect our marshes and wetlands	3/4/2024 5:53 PM
150	Upper and Lower Berry's Brook watershed. NO FURTHER ACCESS!	3/4/2024 3:48 PM
151	Wetlands, ponds, beaches, forests	3/4/2024 1:44 PM
152	Water supply, beaches and forests.	3/4/2024 11:27 AM
153	All of them	3/3/2024 11:12 PM
154	Water	3/3/2024 9:35 PM
155	All of them	3/3/2024 8:52 PM
156	Water treatment plant is needed to clean drinking water. Marshes and ocean need protection from old septics, animals, and too much building.	3/3/2024 7:11 PM

Rye 2035

157	Wetlands from over development and variances granted too freely Woodlands, wildlife habitats, forest and fields. No more development of these precious resources! It is out of control	3/3/2024 6:57 PM
158	drinking water and beaches plus coastal walking route	3/3/2024 5:58 PM
159	Drinking Water !	3/3/2024 5:37 PM
160	Need better septic/sewage management, stop construction near wetland and water front.	3/3/2024 5:20 PM
161	Drinking water and health of our beaches	3/3/2024 4:59 PM
162	Wetlands, Open Space	3/3/2024 4:48 PM
163	Animals, birds, fish a lot of construction has led to movement of the above in Rye	3/3/2024 10:18 AM
164	All of the above	3/3/2024 10:15 AM
165	Water quality	3/3/2024 8:16 AM
166	Marshes...no more fertilizers pesticides lawn treatments within the watersheds of all bodies of water. (This may mean the whole town) Lawns - promote alternative landscaping...no lawns more native plantings and tall grasses which absorb rain and reduce run off. Also promotes bugs which feed all animals. Esp caterpillars. No more clear cutting with new building.. sorry wildlife corridors to maintain habitats. Create a citizen volunteer group to promote and enforce rules at beaches in forests.. in town. Leave no trace, pick up trash,	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
167	drinking water	3/2/2024 2:57 PM
168	Find the cause of the bacteria in our drinking water and fix the cause of that. Along with the state help update and increase the sea walls along the shore. (Hasn't been done since the mid 60s.	3/2/2024 12:15 PM
169	Fresh water, forests and fields	3/2/2024 9:20 AM
170	It seems that every summer we have pollution at Wallis Sands. There appears to be an ongoing battle with people who do not tend to their septic systems. We need greater enforcement by applying high penalties accordingly to these polluters.	3/2/2024 9:16 AM
171	Water, forests	3/2/2024 7:50 AM
172	Drinking water #1	3/1/2024 5:31 PM
173	Drinking water, salt marsh protection, beach protection	3/1/2024 1:38 PM
174	Drinking water	3/1/2024 12:35 PM
175	None that I can think of. I think you do a great job.	2/29/2024 5:16 PM
176	Drinking water	2/29/2024 3:07 PM
177	Beaches	2/29/2024 2:11 PM
178	None, we are doing enough now.	2/29/2024 2:06 PM
179	drinking water for sure since that was the last urgent nightmare this town has gone through	2/29/2024 12:48 PM
180	water	2/29/2024 12:44 PM
181	drinking water	2/29/2024 8:47 AM
182	water	2/28/2024 10:34 AM
183	Development pressure may threaten wild life habitats. Recent coastal flooding makes clear the need to strengthen breakwaters and improve storm drainage	2/26/2024 10:12 AM
184	Maintaining current resources and cost land. Drinking water. Wetlands from coastal flooding.	2/26/2024 9:39 AM
185	fields/water	2/25/2024 9:55 PM
186	The resources we protect and preserve will augment our ability to withstand the climate crisis. We are fortunate to have an abundance and diversity of resources.	2/25/2024 9:30 PM
187	Water protection for drinking water	2/25/2024 7:20 AM

## Rye 2035

188	Drinking water! Shocking that a town like Rye could have the water situation it does. The Town needs a new water system immediately. There are ways to fund new system. Need to make it happen.	2/23/2024 3:30 PM
189	drinking water, beaches, marshes, open land	2/23/2024 11:23 AM
190	Drinking water is a big problem, as is clean water at the beaches. Litter along the roads and all over the marshes, and encroachment on wetlands.	2/23/2024 7:21 AM
191	Improving the ground water situation would be good. The beaches seem to be over run by high tides yet I see big new homes and home improvements on very low lying areas around the marshland. It seems like our building codes could use a revisit.	2/23/2024 6:16 AM
192	I would like to see continuous testing of ground water and be held to a much higher standard than required by the EPA.	2/22/2024 7:29 PM
193	Drinking water, wetlands	2/22/2024 7:23 PM
194	Drinking water is not a historical resource. It's a human right. Rye's water situation is deplorable and contrary to a municipalities basic obligation to provide clean, drinkable water. High mineral content causes erosion of expensive systems and causes financial hardship for many.	2/22/2024 5:23 PM
195	Drinking water	2/22/2024 4:23 PM
196	drinking water. Nature will take the beach eventually. we need to adapt our thinking on that. forests and fields come and go, as shown by many of the 'vintage' photos of the town.	2/22/2024 3:25 PM
197	Drinking water, beaches	2/22/2024 2:49 PM
198	Drinking water for sure	2/22/2024 12:12 PM
199	Land, forests, fields.	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
200	Water is an ongoing issue. Both drinking water and our water quality surrounding our beaches.	2/22/2024 8:57 AM
201	Sometimes it seems in protecting our natural resources we are harming them. Ex over-engineering by RCC. I can't speak for the water, as I don't have enough information. I hear a lot that leads me to believe there are problems.	2/22/2024 8:16 AM
202	Beaches, wetlands, undeveloped land	2/21/2024 8:51 PM
203	drinking water	2/21/2024 7:02 PM
204	Wetlands, Atlantic White Cedars, Aquarion Well 5A on Central Road which has no Sanitary Protective Radius, Bailey Brook Watershed, Berry Brook Watershed, Salt Marshes, Parsons Creek Watershed.	2/21/2024 4:58 PM
205	Drinking Water	2/21/2024 9:30 AM
206	Beaches	2/20/2024 1:46 PM
207	Water resources, and Our coastline	2/20/2024 11:20 AM
208	all of the above	2/20/2024 9:11 AM
209	Drinking water has had some issues lately so maybe that? Would love to see the beaches and forests and fields preserved	2/19/2024 8:32 PM
210	drinking water and wetlands	2/19/2024 4:26 PM
211	drinking water, beaches	2/19/2024 3:18 PM
212	Drinking water, non conforming septic	2/19/2024 3:04 PM
213	all of the above	2/19/2024 2:06 PM
214	drinking water	2/19/2024 11:41 AM
215	Drinking water!!	2/19/2024 11:02 AM
216	Drinking water	2/19/2024 11:01 AM

Rye 2035

217	Drinking water	2/19/2024 9:52 AM
218	Wetlands- variances are granted for building too close to marshes, etc.	2/19/2024 9:10 AM
219	Rye has an excessive amount of walking trails which allow dogs and disturb the natural breeding, feeding and wintering patterns necessary to sustain healthy wildlife habitats	2/19/2024 8:47 AM
220	All the beaches. We do not have enough trash cans mostly because we claim we cannot afford to pay people to stay on top of removal etc. Same argument for trash pick-up in town at homes. The town should buy any open space like many seacoast towns do to preserve them.	2/19/2024 8:25 AM
221	Drinking water, beach bacteria closings, wetland protection	2/18/2024 8:59 PM
222	Happy with current protection levels.	2/18/2024 6:42 PM
223	Beaches	2/18/2024 11:10 AM
224	Drinking water is problematic. No one wants to smell chlorine when they turn on the faucet.	2/17/2024 9:59 PM
225	water, drinking water	2/17/2024 8:45 PM
226	Shale piles on Sawyer Beach	2/17/2024 8:32 PM
227	Want to see all natural resources protected.	2/17/2024 7:02 PM
228	Beaches and forests, dog waste is a significant problem.	2/17/2024 6:37 PM
229	Creating a cohesive and connected conservation plan that allows access from North Hampton to Portsmouth, sidewalks and bikeable routes to school.	2/17/2024 5:42 PM
230	drinking water, beaches, forests	2/17/2024 4:50 PM
231	We have so many summer days with high contamination days on our beaches. I've been told in the past it is partly due to septic systems by the ocean. If do, CLEAN IT UP!!	2/17/2024 4:13 PM
232	marshes, beaches, forests, drinking water	2/17/2024 3:03 PM
233	Watersheds, wetlands	2/17/2024 2:54 PM
234	Drinking water	2/17/2024 11:24 AM
235	Drinking water	2/17/2024 11:04 AM
236	Drinking water and beaches	2/17/2024 10:49 AM
237	Marshes - maintain good drainage and flow in and out of marsh areas	2/17/2024 8:11 AM
238	Drinking water, beaches, wetlands in that order.	2/17/2024 7:54 AM
239	Drinking water	2/17/2024 7:39 AM
240	Drinking water. We have to finally address the failing septic systems that have been polluting Parsons Creek for decades.	2/16/2024 7:40 PM
241	Drinking Water	2/16/2024 6:03 PM
242	all natural resources	2/16/2024 5:48 PM
243	Yes to all above - drinking water resources, beaches, forests, fields ...	2/16/2024 5:30 PM
244	Drinking water	2/16/2024 3:14 PM
245	drinking water	2/16/2024 2:31 PM
246	Drinking water	2/16/2024 2:20 PM
247	Beaches, open space, limit beach parking	2/16/2024 1:49 PM
248	Drinking water	2/16/2024 1:06 PM
249	Beaches and all water sources	2/16/2024 1:05 PM
250	Land conservation should not include developing our most sensitive land in anyway for recreational use that would put more pressure on the land or wildlife. Our most sensitive land should be protected not trampled on and over used.	2/16/2024 12:26 PM

Rye 2035

251	beaches, marshes, woods and drinking water	2/16/2024 11:45 AM
252	All of them	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
253	Beach access is always threatened.	2/16/2024 11:06 AM
254	Drinking water should be a high priority.	2/16/2024 11:05 AM
255	beaches and public access to areas for hiking and dog walking	2/16/2024 11:01 AM
256	Marshes. They play an important role in flood management, stormwater treatment, etc. Need to minimize encroachments.	2/16/2024 10:52 AM
257	The intrusion into the marshes from construction.	2/16/2024 10:51 AM
258	All of them. Especially drinking water, habitat, and wildlife.	2/16/2024 10:14 AM
259	Drinking water needs attention	2/16/2024 8:42 AM
260	Drinking water- Garland Road possibly infected by multiple junk cars abandoned 50 years ago within short distance from the well. Pictures available.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
261	Both our water (which used to be great; now it reeks of chlorine) and contaminated water leaching into the ground and brooks from failing septic systems are problems which need attention.	2/16/2024 8:07 AM
262	Drinking water, trails, beaches.	2/16/2024 7:44 AM
263	Drinking water, beaches, fields, forests	2/16/2024 7:40 AM
264	Beaches protected from dog waste. Safe, widened walking paths down busy roads that lead to the beach	2/16/2024 6:56 AM
265	Beaches woods fields	2/15/2024 11:26 PM
266	Transparent non chemicalized Drinking water, pristine beaches (have community cleanup), sand instead of salt for snow/icy roads,	2/15/2024 11:15 PM
267	Drinking water, forests, marshes, and beaches. All septic tanks in Rye should be inspected for responsibility.	2/15/2024 11:06 PM
268	Water is gross and smells and tastes like chlorine. I've been all over the country and never once had tap water taste or smell like bleach. They are hiding something from the town.	2/15/2024 10:49 PM
269	Water	2/15/2024 10:27 PM
270	More areas to hunt	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
271	Conservation Commission does an awesome job protecting and preserving land - but we need to address the drinking water issues.	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
272	Drinking water	2/15/2024 10:15 PM
273	Drinking water, drinking water, drinking water	2/15/2024 10:13 PM
274	All of these, drinking water resources, beaches, forests, fields, and public spaces	2/15/2024 10:07 PM
275	Beaches	2/15/2024 9:54 PM
276	Drinking water	2/15/2024 8:59 PM



### Q3 How could Rye better protect, steward, or manage the remaining natural resource areas? Mechanisms may include strategic land conservation, strengthening land use regulations, public education, trail management, etc.

Answered: 250 Skipped: 70

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We should look after the land and resources that we have, rather than trying to acquire more.	3/15/2024 9:20 PM
2	Strengthen land use regulations	3/15/2024 5:08 PM
3	We are becoming overburden with conservation areas. Need to step back and take care of what we have now. Should sell the Goss barn. It is an expensive white elephant	3/15/2024 12:52 PM
4	Further Strength land use regulations. Just because someone has money to hire an attorney and fight does not make it ok to build their on/in wetlands. Need to conserve more land	3/15/2024 12:51 PM
5	We have enough land in conservation. We simply cannot buy up the entire town. Efforts should be focused on keeping current conservation land maintained and free from disruptions.	3/15/2024 12:48 PM
6	The rules seem to be have tightened. Enforcement for cases other new building permits seems liek t needs some strengthening. More education is always for the better.	3/15/2024 10:58 AM
7	It does too much as it is	3/15/2024 9:59 AM
8	Keep water clean	3/15/2024 9:53 AM
9	conservation restrictions and land conservation, strengthening land use regulations	3/15/2024 8:44 AM
10	land acquisition by town, stronger wetland ordinances	3/15/2024 7:44 AM
11	Str	3/14/2024 9:15 PM
12	Regulations and education	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
13	I would be in favor of all of the examples listed above: land conservation, strengthening regulations, educating the public, trail management, citizen beach clean-up days.	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
14	Land conservation, stronger land use regs, public education, trail mgmt, larger buffer zones, stricter septic req	3/14/2024 7:21 PM
15	Future conservation acquisitions should be strategic and analyzed for maximizing connectivity with current conserved parcels	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
16	Enforce the laws	3/14/2024 5:22 PM
17	Limit private home rock wall encroachment on public beaches	3/14/2024 4:33 PM
18	More Support for the Conservation Committee	3/14/2024 4:01 PM
19	public education	3/14/2024 3:15 PM
20	Strict building codes. Land conservation and use regulations. Better management of drinking water	3/14/2024 2:56 PM
21	Money for fields, more trails and trail management, enforcement of septic protocols near beaches and marsh	3/14/2024 2:14 PM
22	enforce strict, sane rules. Get some expert willing to plan than execute.	3/14/2024 2:11 PM
23	Don't let non-residents use our town beaches for their dogs playground.	3/14/2024 1:41 PM
24	Less conservation land	3/14/2024 1:40 PM

## Rye 2035

25	All of the above plus tighter zoning to protect open space and discourage multi unit development .	3/14/2024 12:49 PM
26	All of the above and stop granting variances that allow building in designated wet lands. Slow down new construction that is putting a strain on our resources	3/13/2024 6:24 PM
27	Strategic land conservation and strengthening land use regulations...	3/13/2024 5:35 PM
28	All of the above, specifically strategic land conservation	3/13/2024 5:31 PM
29	Prevent storm runoff, enforce the existing land use regulations	3/13/2024 3:34 PM
30	stop these Commissions to help so far then drop a bomb - and leave you in the dust. do problem solving - follow thru - sign	3/13/2024 2:04 PM
31	Be an active driver of the water treatment plant, don't just let Rye Water bop along. Take legal action against homeowners not complying with septic rules.	3/13/2024 11:24 AM
32	Find out from experts what needs to be done and the do it.	3/13/2024 10:40 AM
33	Increase building lot size and stop future building	3/13/2024 10:38 AM
34	Sewer in the Parsons Creek Watershed and for other watersheds south of there. Ending single family large lot multi home developments by moving to clustered developments with small sized houses (and for sure lots) and with required open space minimums with public access trails connecting through town, Conservation land acquisitions should be combined with carefully designed smaller sized housing units in clusters or cottage style well designed and tasteful, not by the usual developers. Workforce housing + conservation.	3/13/2024 10:29 AM
35	Trail management	3/13/2024 6:45 AM
36	Land conservation, land use regulations.	3/13/2024 6:24 AM
37	Strengthening septic system enforcement in	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
38	Land conservation, regulations, scale back on approving zoning variances	3/12/2024 8:17 PM
39	Litigation for failed septic systems and funding a water treatment plant.	3/12/2024 8:14 PM
40	Strengthen land use regulation. Limitation of building new developments	3/12/2024 6:49 PM
41	1) Enforcing the zoning laws and land use regulations already in place. 2) Have more than 24% ( as close to 100% as possible) of Rye's wellhead protection areas in conservation areas. 3) Education is a terrific idea, but it is usually the ones who need the education that don't participate.	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
42	strengthening land use regulations and issuing fewer exceptions to the rules	3/12/2024 1:48 PM
43	Public education and land conservation	3/12/2024 12:08 PM
44	Remain or become more conscientious with regard to land use regulations. That doesn't mean the Conservation Commission must rule with an iron hand, nor does it mean politics must come into play.	3/12/2024 9:59 AM
45	Coastal resiliency plan. Investment in water treatment.	3/12/2024 7:09 AM
46	Southern end of Pirate's Cove has to be posted for E.coli contamination. Septic systems that are not in compliance are allowed to continue to be in use.	3/11/2024 10:38 PM
47	Increase land conservation	3/11/2024 9:09 PM
48	strategic land conservation, strengthening land use regulations, public education, eco friendly town buildings, renewable energy	3/11/2024 8:14 PM
49	Rye needs to limit spraying for insects, limit herbicides, ban windmills in the ocean	3/11/2024 8:11 PM
50	Make new construction and/or subdividing more prohibitive to limit the pace that our town is developed.	3/11/2024 8:03 PM
51	limit development	3/11/2024 7:12 PM
52	Public education	3/11/2024 4:59 PM

## Rye 2035

53	Strengthening land use regulations, public education, and identifying areas that may be too costly to maintain.	3/11/2024 4:18 PM
54	The town should have consequences for ignoring regulations	3/11/2024 4:16 PM
55	Large home buildings too close to marshes seem push the water out but the water still needs its place..	3/11/2024 3:58 PM
56	Public education - Tours of the trails / trail education	3/11/2024 2:16 PM
57	further research into the cause of E. Coli contamination of Rye water, the response to which including chlorination has made our tap water unpleasant and requiring expensive filtration before drinking	3/11/2024 1:15 PM
58	All the points in italicized section above are true. Trails are not well marked or notes on town's web site.	3/11/2024 12:12 PM
59	strategic land conservation	3/11/2024 11:02 AM
60	Stop sweetheart deals of town resources (e.g. parsonage, trolley barn).	3/11/2024 10:00 AM
61	Sewers and water treatment plant. Septics at the beach won't cut it in the future with rising sea levels.	3/10/2024 10:59 PM
62	Why? We already have the highest percentage of conserved land (though I'd like to see data for Hampton, which has--I would guess--more wetlands area & sensitive habitats).	3/10/2024 5:03 PM
63	land use regs about septic tanks	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
64	recruit town residents who use these resources to help manage them, for example, ask citizens to help repair trails and build bridges in Rye Town Forest.	3/10/2024 4:35 PM
65	strategic land conservation, strengthening land use regulations, public education!	3/10/2024 4:25 PM
66	Limit development until we have adequate additional sources/supplies of drinking water. Add drinking water treatment facilities Raise and reinforce ocean wave barriers along Route 1A	3/10/2024 4:12 PM
67	more education about living and building homes the ocean near and marshes	3/10/2024 4:09 PM
68	The town should become better educated about the responsibility/authority of the RCC - that they are technically an arm of the Select Board and charged with using voter approved funds to steward the town's conservation efforts and needs.	3/10/2024 4:07 PM
69	the town forest is a mess. as an abutter, I feel it could be better managed	3/10/2024 3:57 PM
70	public education, starting at the school-aged live, encouraging children to study and present their findings.	3/10/2024 3:47 PM
71	All of the above need to be employed. Land use regulations need to be strengthened and enforced.	3/10/2024 3:08 PM
72	Yes to all strategic land conservation and more importantly placing easements on the conservation land to further protect it from future growth. Strengthening land use regulations every year. Education is always key, hopefully these storms (this year three in a row) will help.	3/10/2024 11:28 AM
73	enforcement of the current regulations would be the best thing. have a full process that prevents folks from removing trees or collecting water without permission	3/10/2024 11:26 AM
74	Rye was extremely late to reacting to Climate Change and could have been investing more town dollars to get Infront of this. ZBA approves too many Wetlands buffer variances. How much has impervious surface increased because of these expansions. Need a Parson's Creek Watershed district that does makes it harder for more septic system loads and development that removes buffer land. FB Engineering says the issue is saturated leech fields, not failing septic systems. Assuming RWD build treatment plant. Rt.1 Box Buildings have to be limited to Rt. 1 area. Greater discussion about the RCC strategy and implementation of conservation land for wildlife corridors.	3/10/2024 9:09 AM
75	Dont let big corporations built more in Rye. Keep Rye as rural as possible.	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
76	land conservation, trail management	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
77	Strategic land conservation, land use regulation, development regulation, public education, trail	3/9/2024 9:51 PM

Rye 2035

	management	
78	Improve roads/barriers along shoreline Buidkings right next to marshes can change water drainage Public education - advanced classes, reintroduce dedicated history into curriculum at middle school. Great elementary school.	3/9/2024 8:31 PM
79	Strengthening land use.	3/9/2024 4:49 PM
80	Land conservation, enforce town ordinances regarding septic tanks particularly affecting water shed areas	3/9/2024 3:53 PM
81	Enforce septic pumping, or replacement of failed systems.	3/9/2024 1:36 PM
82	Land use regs esp on ecologically sensitive parcels. No interest upgrade loans, fines, or where necessary, more serious action, against those property owners who pollute our wetlands via failing septics.	3/9/2024 1:25 PM
83	trail management (too much dog waste on town trails),strengthening land use regulations	3/9/2024 12:56 PM
84	strategic land conservation and enhanced infrastructure	3/9/2024 11:30 AM
85	Stricter land use regulations, strict limits on growth, building. Because there is a greater need "globally" for housing it doesn't mean we need to provide it and sacrifice our open spaces and rural character.	3/9/2024 11:24 AM
86	All of it....and enforce things...it seems we allow many variances to be approved.	3/9/2024 11:17 AM
87	Land use regulation.	3/9/2024 9:44 AM
88	All of those yes.	3/8/2024 12:35 PM
89	Strategic land conservation, public education and strengthening land use regulations.	3/8/2024 10:13 AM
90	decrease building, evaluate use of energy in the town buildings, forget about investing in more building at the town library and use Parsons' field, maintain the roads which currently are dotted with pot holes, keep the speeds on roads in town monitored,	3/8/2024 9:58 AM
91	public education	3/8/2024 9:56 AM
92	No more building No affordable housing	3/8/2024 9:35 AM
93	Strengthening land use regulations, strategic land conservation, public education, manage development to minimize impact on natural resources	3/8/2024 9:23 AM
94	Lets invest in the proper management of our forest and animal habitats by educating the public via signs and bringing experts in the field for talks to the residents at the library.	3/8/2024 8:23 AM
95	More conservation Hold people accountable for septics Stop building in marshes	3/8/2024 6:15 AM
96	educate residents on how to reduce chemicals for lawn treatment and creating natural habitats for birds and other native animals; size limits on new construction and strenghten land use	3/7/2024 11:34 PM
97	Land conservation	3/7/2024 10:56 PM
98	enforce carry in/carry out of trash and dog waste, prevent any development around natural resource areas that may have an adverse impact whether immediate or delayed on the natural resource	3/7/2024 10:37 PM
99	Strategic conservation is great, but it should not preclude limited development for the greater community good, for example, cellphone towers	3/7/2024 10:20 PM
100	land use and zoning regulations targeted at conserving the rural character of Rye	3/7/2024 9:58 PM
101	None.	3/7/2024 9:50 PM
102	crowd control,	3/7/2024 9:16 PM
103	Land conservation	3/7/2024 8:28 PM
104	PUBLIC EDUCATION. We will fix what's wrong when we understand it. Protecting the natural resources, trash and bathroom services at the beaches, while counterintuitive, will assist in keeping it clean.	3/7/2024 8:19 PM

## Rye 2035

105	Strengthen land use regs	3/7/2024 5:55 PM
106	Do not build anything on wetlands. No variances for direct wetland use.	3/7/2024 12:42 PM
107	More help to monitor resources and staff to enforce resource management decisions	3/7/2024 12:00 PM
108	Trail management and strategic land conservation	3/7/2024 8:45 AM
109	Work better with the State of NH on Route 1A improvements. It takes consistency in advocating for the state to take care of the small amount of coastline we have. This is being largely ignored despite the 10-year plan which has many gaps in what they plan on doing some day. What is in the 10-year plan needs to be revised and improved to meet our current needs.	3/7/2024 8:36 AM
110	Better conservation land management	3/7/2024 8:04 AM
111	More strategic land conservation, stronger land use regulations and more public education. Protect our community from over development, especially in highly sensitive areas and wetlands.	3/7/2024 8:03 AM
112	Public education, trail management, protection of green spaces/tree removal/repurposing of land	3/6/2024 10:53 PM
113	Have the town be diligent in enforcing that every homeowner and business follow septic pump-out regulations. Inspect suspected septic failures. I'd like to see the town conserve more open spaces and forests.	3/6/2024 6:48 PM
114	Better pursuit of management of coliform contamination of our waterways.	3/6/2024 2:46 PM
115	Parks, trails and other outdoor activity sites should be better maintained and more accessible, as they are a big selling point for new residents. The parking lot at Parson's field, for example, is creepy and riddled with potholes. There should be some parking directly off the street. Trails used for cross-country running should be better maintained, as I've seen people slipping on leaves and tripping on roots. All of these quality of life aspects are more important than land or habitat conservation.	3/6/2024 2:07 PM
116	Purchasing land for conservation	3/6/2024 1:26 PM
117	ie, Parson's Creek - we have a likely fecal-pollution issue here. We could study this problem and get UNH (possibly) to help us develop solutions to the causes.	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
118	sewers and a water treatment plant (for drinking water)	3/6/2024 12:30 PM
119	See above.	3/6/2024 12:30 PM
120	need better enforcement for water quality violations due to inappropriate handling of septic waste. High bacteria counts at places like Pirates Cove every summer are UNACCEPTABLE and seem simple enough to mitigate through local enforcement	3/6/2024 11:31 AM
121	Strategic land conservation is always a great option. Preventing unnecessary development with conservation and strong land use regulations will do a lot to keep Rye "rural". Additionally public education around the importance of maintaining ecosystems and natural solutions to climate problems.	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
122	less real estate built and variances given	3/6/2024 11:19 AM
123	3). trail signage, some walkways with maybe benches in memory of past citizens. some hand rails. Donation of maybe sitting deck. Observation site info. Depending.	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
124	public education strategic land conservation strident zoning laws in/near wetlands	3/6/2024 11:10 AM
125	Strategic land conservation, replace old culverts with new properly sized culverts, work on recycling at dump and in town procurement to assure maximum recycling and minimize solid waste.	3/6/2024 10:46 AM
126	Agree with solar panels on Schools, landfill and other municipal buildings to reduce costs to the town and divert water from the landfill. Town forests should be managed to promote healthy tree growth.	3/6/2024 10:09 AM
127	Ryan is doing just fine, in some cases conservation has gone a little overboard.	3/6/2024 9:11 AM
128	Doing just fine, Conservation may be getting a little expensive.	3/6/2024 8:51 AM

## Rye 2035

129	Strengthen land use regs	3/6/2024 5:56 AM
130	Have at least one area in town forest/trail system/beach for public use free of unleashed dogs. For seniors and others to walk without the risk of stepping in waste or being approached or knocked down by a dog. Town forest has become a dog park.	3/6/2024 4:37 AM
131	Land conservation	3/5/2024 8:37 PM
132	Independent agency	3/5/2024 6:56 PM
133	Actual land conservation, no re-zoning, no multi families, we enjoy our wide open spaces.	3/5/2024 6:48 PM
134	we have given the conservation commission money to buy strategic land. that seems enough	3/5/2024 5:04 PM
135	all of the above	3/5/2024 4:57 PM
136	Town sewer and new water system	3/5/2024 4:54 PM
137	a trail book might inspire more se of areas other than Rye roads. presumably this should leas to appreciation and protection	3/5/2024 4:49 PM
138	better public education!! increase consequences/regulation of appropriate/safe land use	3/5/2024 4:40 PM
139	all above	3/5/2024 4:38 PM
140	strategic land conservation, strengthening and use regulations (especially!), public education, trail management	3/5/2024 4:30 PM
141	we need to stand strong against any development that impacts the marshes. we need to purchase and protect - conservation areas so that the next generation enjoy open fields and beautiful forests should conserve the current farm fields and prevent any development on them.	3/5/2024 4:27 PM
142	New laws restricting building development and land use. We live on a great length of Seacoast and our town is 50% wetlands and marshes. You cannot keep building and filling in land when surrounded by water	3/5/2024 4:24 PM
143	Trail maintenance of town forest testing of water at the beaches more often clean up what's causing the problem with water quality at the beaches... we need answers!	3/5/2024 4:11 PM
144	Mindi messier scientist or many activist in area	3/4/2024 5:53 PM
145	Better strategic management of existing conserved lands. Not all lands need trails, some lands need human prohibition during breeding season, etc. Goss Farm should be used a working community farm, not only for use by the friends of the RCC	3/4/2024 3:48 PM
146	Strategic land conservation, careful attention paid to variances or not variances.	3/4/2024 1:44 PM
147	Increased public education to ensure a knowledgeable citizenry free from wealthy individuals being able to bully their way around conservation regulations.	3/4/2024 11:27 AM
148	Minimize new building Prioritize protection of current green spaces/undeveloped land	3/3/2024 11:12 PM
149	Water management for both drinking and beaches	3/3/2024 9:35 PM
150	Conservation protect from climate change	3/3/2024 8:52 PM
151	Stop giving variances to building projects. Keep animals off beaches.	3/3/2024 7:11 PM
152	Stop granting variances and development! Keep open spaces open!	3/3/2024 6:57 PM
153	Set a budget for maintenance of the coastal walkway	3/3/2024 5:58 PM
154	Enforcement of current laws and regulations.	3/3/2024 5:37 PM
155	Stricter septic regulation and enforcement, reduce approved variances, reduce new building permits	3/3/2024 5:20 PM
156	Acquiring open space	3/3/2024 4:48 PM
157	I think it's a two pronged approach, better public education and protection measures that are enforced.	3/3/2024 10:18 AM

Rye 2035

158	Public education is key. It's hard work but little buy little you see progress with the understanding of what we all need to do to preserve resources.	3/3/2024 10:15 AM
159	Conservation easements.	3/3/2024 8:16 AM
160	Building codes.. all new building on ocean front must be built all stilts. No grass lawns on beach front only native planting and esp having up to marshes- only marsh grasses to mitigate range action and promote shellfish habitat. Build trails on major tattoos to promote non motorized use along central, sagamore and eallis and Washington do neighbors can walk to each other's houses. To schools to beach etc. No more rocks on beaches.. no more walls. These have temporary Benefits but eventually are undermined but ocean. Poor house on stilts, plant dune grass,	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
161	stop the over building	3/2/2024 2:57 PM
162	Managing town lands and forest is good, but we need stricter regulations and punishment for people destroying the land for their own purposes. (Hiking and biking trails.)	3/2/2024 12:15 PM
163	Regulations	3/2/2024 9:20 AM
164	Start with what we have and make people adhere to existing regs.	3/2/2024 9:16 AM
165	Strengthening land use regulations and enforce them.	3/2/2024 7:50 AM
166	Having people in place that have the knowledge to save our water and land.	3/1/2024 5:31 PM
167	All of the above	3/1/2024 1:38 PM
168	water treatment plant	3/1/2024 12:35 PM
169	None that I can think of. I think you do a great job.	2/29/2024 5:16 PM
170	Not sure	2/29/2024 3:07 PM
171	Strengthening land use regulations	2/29/2024 2:11 PM
172	Develop a long term plan for how we will deal with rising sea levels affordably and equitably.	2/29/2024 2:06 PM
173	strengthening land use regulations	2/28/2024 10:34 AM
174	strengthen land use regulations particularly with respect to new building proposals	2/26/2024 10:12 AM
175	Better protect existing natural resources from flooding. Flooding will continue to increase and to recognize new flood plans and projecting a future will better protect our current resources.	2/26/2024 9:39 AM
176	land owners be good steward	2/25/2024 9:55 PM
177	It's encouraging to see so much of the land conserved. Strategic conservation of ecologically significant land should remain a priority.	2/25/2024 9:30 PM
178	Please do not impose any more restrictions on land use. There are more than enough as is. Need less not more. Can't have boards and commissions that contradict one another. The RCC is a huge problem and embarrassment.	2/23/2024 3:30 PM
179	continued land conservation, reduce land development	2/23/2024 11:23 AM
180	Enforce stronger septic criteria; don't allow large developments that destroy the drinking water quality; enforce litter laws.	2/23/2024 7:21 AM
181	Rye seems to do no care taking of existing protected areas. I think of the Japanese knotweed invading all the marshes. And no incentive for homeowners to do the same on private lands. It seems the whole strategy is the status quo, as in stop development. It would be nice to see some community activity towards improvement of the lands we have protected.	2/23/2024 6:16 AM
182	More conservation of open space. Quicker beach clean up after storms. Tons of lobster traps and ropes on the beach. We need more recreation space than just the beach. Rye recreation area is a joke. The playground is outdated. We have very limited offerings compared to what I grew up with living in CT.	2/22/2024 7:29 PM
183	Better sewage regulation; tight zoning / planning variances.	2/22/2024 7:23 PM
184	The town does plenty, it overreaches.	2/22/2024 5:23 PM

## Rye 2035

185	stop allowing clear cutting when building homes. there is a healthier way to develop a lot.	2/22/2024 3:25 PM
186	Re-evaluate the building policies/codes. The amount of development has gotten out of control, with open land being consumed and historic homes demolished. Also, existing enforcement seems inconsistent, some see rigorous oversight and others get things approved very easily.	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
187	Public education is key. Regulations only go so far and people find ways around them. Showing people the effect of bad practices and what it does to our water is important.	2/22/2024 8:57 AM
188	Public education would go a long way. Teach best practices for how to steward land.	2/22/2024 8:16 AM
189	Trail management, beach access management	2/21/2024 8:51 PM
190	Better regulations and better enforcement. Professional Town Planner. Less waivers and variances granted. Less impervious coverage.	2/21/2024 4:58 PM
191	None	2/21/2024 9:30 AM
192	Keeping dogs off of town beaches	2/20/2024 1:46 PM
193	1 immediate start would be to enforce the inspection and related maintenance required to bring all Septic Systems into compliance otherwise, impose penalties to make it happen.	2/20/2024 9:11 AM
194	Land conservation, public education and management/maintenance	2/19/2024 8:32 PM
195	We need to spend the money to get our wells clean and drinkable. We need to protect the wetlands with better laws and enforcement of those laws so that as the water rises, it has some place to go.	2/19/2024 4:26 PM
196	Mandatory septic evaluations Some are allowed to not be tested esp around Stinky Creek	2/19/2024 3:04 PM
197	Strengthening land use regulations along with public education.	2/19/2024 2:06 PM
198	Trail management and focusing on cleaning areas of concern	2/19/2024 11:02 AM
199	Public education Increase septic tank fines Improve beach parking	2/19/2024 11:01 AM
200	Don't put parking lots on conservation land. Don't spend our money wastefully.	2/19/2024 9:52 AM
201	Be strict about how close a building or deck can be to wetlands.	2/19/2024 9:10 AM
202	Refining policy and limiting creation of walking trails which allow dogs and bikes.	2/19/2024 8:47 AM
203	Land conservation - town must buy the land and control it.	2/19/2024 8:25 AM
204	Public education around wetlands. Significantly increase fines around things like littering, not picking up dog waste etc - use cameras in areas with issues.	2/18/2024 6:42 PM
205	All of the above	2/18/2024 11:10 AM
206	Rye needs to preserve its character. We do not need more development in Rye. It's not that kind of town nor should it be. Part of its desirability is its small town charm. Leave it alone.	2/17/2024 9:59 PM
207	not allow subdivisions that penetrate deep into our well water area, we should allow cluster zoning but create setbacks that keep homes further away	2/17/2024 8:45 PM
208	Protect & maintain our beaches	2/17/2024 8:32 PM
209	Limited investment, strict policies.	2/17/2024 7:02 PM
210	Larger penalties for dog waste.	2/17/2024 6:37 PM
211	Significantly more sidewalks, trails and paths to move throughout town.	2/17/2024 5:42 PM
212	conservation, regulation, education	2/17/2024 4:50 PM
213	Yes, all of the above. Don't bow to the pressures of developers or home owners	2/17/2024 3:03 PM
214	Tracking violations and enforcing the rules that protect resources.	2/17/2024 2:54 PM
215	Public education	2/17/2024 11:24 AM
216	Public education	2/17/2024 10:49 AM



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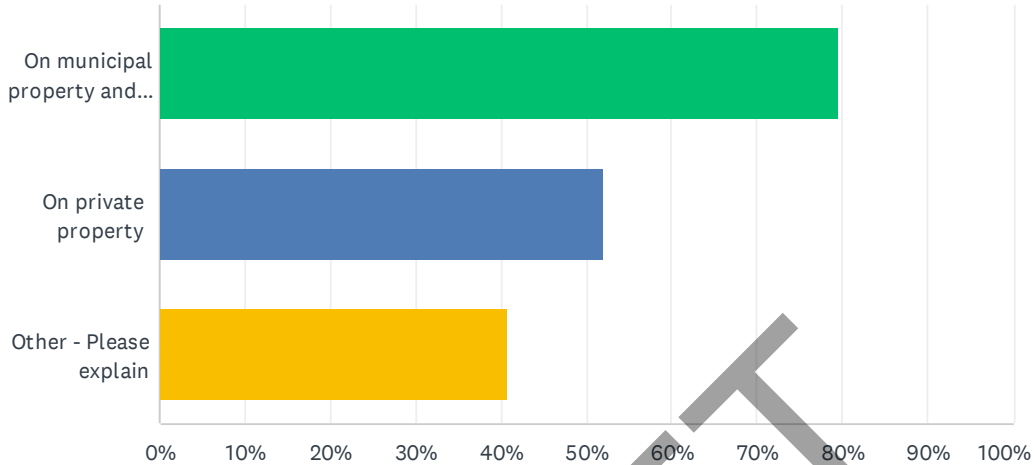
217	Both land conservation and land use regulations.	2/17/2024 7:54 AM
218	Land conservation and trail management	2/17/2024 7:39 AM
219	Fix leaking septic systems	2/16/2024 7:40 PM
220	Rye does well with conserving land. The main problem is water coming from off site locations, such as Coakley landfill.	2/16/2024 6:03 PM
221	all listed above, plus enforcement of transgressions and development encroachment	2/16/2024 5:48 PM
222	Yes to all above - strategic land conservation, strengthening land use regulations, public education, trail management, ....	2/16/2024 5:30 PM
223	transparency and accountability	2/16/2024 2:31 PM
224	Rye Conservation Commission should be elected positions similar to select board, library trustees, etc. The current operations of this commission, with current members choosing successor members appears open to abuse.	2/16/2024 2:20 PM
225	Charging for profit businesses to use town land/beach & meters on Rt. 1a. Use that money to buy more conservation land / put in a water treatment plant / towards anything that will help maintain our natural resources.	2/16/2024 1:05 PM
226	We are doing a good job--just keep on what we are doing. We also need to allow for work force housing and not tighten up our zoning	2/16/2024 12:39 PM
227	Leave some conserved land alone. Don't encourage recreational use of every parcel. Leave some natural resources to nature.	2/16/2024 12:26 PM
228	septic pump enforcement, trash cans, beach cleanups, only rye dogs on town beach and forests.	2/16/2024 11:45 AM
229	Organize annual or semi annual town-wide trash pickup. Earth Day activity?	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
230	Strengthen Land use regs	2/16/2024 11:08 AM
231	Long term planning for building stronger structures , sea walls, water flow, drainage.	2/16/2024 11:05 AM
232	trail management and enforcing current laws before imposing new ones	2/16/2024 11:01 AM
233	Provide trail maps to conservation land and town forest. Let people walk the land and they will develop a better appreciation of need to manage and conserve land.	2/16/2024 10:52 AM
234	Education of the importance of the resources and why restrictions are in plan as well as trail management, and better enforcement of the encroachments.	2/16/2024 10:51 AM
235	All of the above	2/16/2024 10:14 AM
236	Keeping public land, and roads, available and usable for everyone. Stop restricting areas in rye to hunting. It's valuable to manage the deer population as it is very abundant in Rye.	2/16/2024 8:42 AM
237	Citizen partnership. Meet with neighbors and discuss the plan before buying property with plans for a parking lot.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
238	Determine which septic systems are failing and demand that the owners fix the problem.	2/16/2024 8:07 AM
239	Remove beaver dams. Water levels have risen far too much in the last 5 years causing damage to homes via flooding. Town needs to control beaver levels. Understand they are loved but who pays for damage with increasing water levels in wetlands. Can't even walk in certain areas.	2/16/2024 7:44 AM
240	Public education and no dog beaches	2/16/2024 7:40 AM
241	Limit dog use of beaches to the less wow friendly non sandy beaches	2/16/2024 6:56 AM
242	Public education. More conservation land	2/15/2024 11:26 PM
243	Transparency of Rye well and drinking water (healthy and no chemicals), community service beach cleanup, aesthetic stone foundation parking areas that withstand storms too. Make our beaches loved! No salt on roads, sand only. Signs to respect wildlife.	2/15/2024 11:15 PM
244	Choose conservation over condos	2/15/2024 11:06 PM

245	Public transparency.	2/15/2024 10:49 PM
246	More hunting land	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
247	Protect our watershed. Year round trash pick up at beach to encourage proper waste disposal.	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
248	trail mgmt and land conservation	2/15/2024 10:07 PM
249	Public education	2/15/2024 9:54 PM
250	Public education	2/15/2024 8:59 PM

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## Q4 Where would you like to see Rye produce more renewable energy? Check any of the options below.

Answered: 288 Skipped: 32



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
On municipal property and buildings?	79.51% 229
On private property	52.08% 150
Other - Please explain	40.63% 117
Total Respondents: 288	

#	OTHER - PLEASE EXPLAIN	DATE
1	Not on public buildings. I don't think taxpayers need to be burdened with that cost.	3/15/2024 12:48 PM
2	No renewable energy	3/15/2024 9:59 AM
3	Wind and tidal turbines	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
4	Breakfast hill landfill, garland dump, public safety bldg	3/14/2024 7:21 PM
5	Develop a solar ordinance	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
6	Everywhere feasible	3/14/2024 5:22 PM
7	A favorable Solar Ordinance for private property. None by Town unless it pays for itself within five years of purchase.	3/14/2024 5:20 PM
8	I dont know where there are municipal buildings up to landowner unless town took it by eminent domain thermal. the middle school in Durham is "green" thermal and solar unbelievable	3/14/2024 2:11 PM
9	No. This should not be a priority for the town. Renewable energy infrastructure (solar, geothermal, etc.) is too costly to install and maintain, and is not a long term solution once energy rebates disappear. Renewable energy infrastructure beyond what is required by the state energy code will cost taxpayers more in the long-run on installation, maintenance and replacement.	3/14/2024 1:41 PM
10	More solar on municipal property and buildings and encouraging more on private property with financial incentives	3/14/2024 12:49 PM

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11	Wherever it is feasible to do so.	3/13/2024 6:24 PM
12	? Wind turbine marsh ocean solar field	3/13/2024 2:04 PM
13	Ocean and thermal. New Middle School in Durham. NH, is green.	3/13/2024 10:40 AM
14	not important	3/13/2024 10:38 AM
15	Yes - anywhere and everywhere.	3/12/2024 8:14 PM
16	Solar	3/12/2024 12:08 PM
17	Lead the way with town endeavors. Most individuals make an honest effort. This is a town of mixed income levels. That must be kept in mind.	3/12/2024 9:59 AM
18	Off shore wind	3/11/2024 4:59 PM
19	Any place where it fits in well w/o being an eyesore including historic buildings.	3/11/2024 4:18 PM
20	Offshore wind	3/11/2024 4:16 PM
21	anywhere there is a consensus among abutting property owners that solar or wind farm would be acceptable longterm	3/11/2024 1:15 PM
22	On any space that would allow it. Consult SELT, etc.	3/11/2024 12:12 PM
23	wherever possible	3/11/2024 11:02 AM
24	I don't support renewable energy, beyond what people want to do on their own private property. Keep windmills out of Rye!! I would consider supporting tidal energy if I saw a reasonable, efficient proposal.	3/10/2024 5:03 PM
25	public safety building on private property if it benefits the town anywhere it could be used to protect and serve the community.	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
26	more solar and wind	3/10/2024 4:35 PM
27	both if not a cost to taxpayers	3/10/2024 4:25 PM
28	but not in town center unless not visible form the street Coakley Landfill Property	3/10/2024 4:18 PM
29	school - solar panels homes - solar panels	3/10/2024 4:09 PM
30	all new construction of complexes and duplexes should have solar panels required	3/10/2024 3:47 PM
31	soar everywhere can we do wind?	3/10/2024 3:37 PM
32	solar panels on building that are deemed beneficial. allow it, even if historic district	3/10/2024 3:22 PM
33	What is Rye doing about wind power? Contact Clean Energy. New circuit rider program.	3/10/2024 11:28 AM
34	What ever can be done should be done. However, this should be done in conjunction with programs that reduce energy consumption. Dark power, all those home lights that are on all night. Master Plan should set goals for energy reduction. More focus on geothermal where possible.	3/10/2024 9:09 AM
35	Nowhere. Renewable energy is not cheap yet.	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
36	NOT wind turbines	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
37	Both public & private need participate.	3/9/2024 9:51 PM
38	None	3/9/2024 11:56 AM
39	Not a priority.	3/9/2024 11:24 AM
40	This is not a priority for me. I dislike the idea of anything that harms wildlife/sealife and think many of the investments made in alternative energy are actually not cost effective when you really look into them. I am in favor of our trash going to waste-to-energy plants.	3/9/2024 11:17 AM
41	I don't believe that the town should be responsible for generation of electricity other that for town/school building use.	3/9/2024 9:44 AM
42	Depends on the renewable energy taking into consideration not to destroy our other resources	3/8/2024 8:23 AM

and the habitat of many animals who live among us.

43	Educate people on how to reduce their consumption of energy and limit size of new construction. Renewable energy makes us feel good but is not a long term solution. Reducing energy consumption is a long term solution!	3/7/2024 11:34 PM
44	combination and with appropriate expert consultation thinking about any possible long term consequences (ie wind) that may have an adverse affect	3/7/2024 10:37 PM
45	Yes everywhere possible, but the economics should help support it. Renewable power has a higher value than traditional power. Public Safety Building, Future water treatment plants. Private property, commercial buildings with new roofs, etc	3/7/2024 10:20 PM
46	I don't want to see Rye produce renewable energy at the expenses required to produce renewable energy.	3/7/2024 9:58 PM
47	None, there is no need for it.	3/7/2024 9:50 PM
48	solar on both schools	3/7/2024 9:16 PM
49	Away from schools but on public land	3/7/2024 8:28 PM
50	Where available, public-commercial-municipal.	3/7/2024 8:04 AM
51	Wherever it will be most effective	3/7/2024 8:03 AM
52	anywhere it makes sense.	3/6/2024 6:48 PM
53	Rooftop solar is a good idea for residents. Solar farms are an eyesore.	3/6/2024 2:07 PM
54	roof top and ground mount. at the dump? could we try wind? or wave-generated?	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
55	I'm not sure I see it as a town's mission/responsibility to "produce" renewable energy, or any energy. Perhaps it should make it easy (if it isn't already) to invest in roof-top solar.	3/6/2024 12:30 PM
56	any building where solar is possible	3/6/2024 12:17 PM
57	solar panels on buildings id deemed appropriate/beneficial cost analysis	3/6/2024 12:09 PM
58	Any building that needs a roof repair and is south facing for solar can do PPAs to mitigate capital costs evaluate community solar option - Re-Volv Energy or Revision Energy	3/6/2024 11:31 AM
59	Offshore wind is another great option. Additionally tidal might be something to consider.	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
60	solar	3/6/2024 11:19 AM
61	Some neighbors use too many chemicals on lawns. Do not recycle clippings. Have sprinkler systems going when raining. Going off n on like a golf course morning, noon n night. Dogs not trained and when I complained the police said, 'to have a friendly talk with your neighbor! Rye has alot of "BLIGHT". with yard trash piling up...Blight is an issue that several State's patrol and give out warnings and fines as it is a source of water contamination. The Town enforcer does NOT enforce and or he has no help to form a team to give out notices, fines. If you go on line you can read about "Blight"!! The people who 'blight " are hoaders! Eventually they cost the Town \$\$\$\$. Go down Grove Road and you will see a house with all sorts of trash, trailers, auto's, bikes, tires. The same as Bracket Road that has a section that is an annex to the Town dump! Their 'grand-father' clause has run out! 30 La Mer has a dumped monster swing set in the 20 ft. side yard that was dumped there from the 100 ft. Marsh Penalty. Talk about violations, fines with codes that are allowing 'blight'. This offense has long run out.	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
62	Would love to see more solar panels wherever possible	3/6/2024 11:10 AM
63	Seriously consider community solar farm	3/6/2024 10:46 AM
64	Would like to see a ballast mounted photovoltaic system on the old Rye landfill. It could serve double duty as a means to deflect rainwater from the top of the landfill to minimize infiltration into the aquifer below. Co-generating furnaces that can produce both heat and electricity should be explored for town buildings.	3/6/2024 10:09 AM
65	solar initiatives	3/6/2024 9:54 AM
66	Where it meets zoning requirements.	3/6/2024 9:11 AM

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67	Energy production is nit the Towns responsibility.	3/6/2024 4:37 AM
68	solar only	3/5/2024 4:57 PM
69	solar panels wherever possible	3/5/2024 4:49 PM
70	solar on all municipal buildings electric vehicle charge	3/5/2024 4:38 PM
71	put solar panels where appropriate as RJH did	3/5/2024 4:30 PM
72	solar panels we should work with a company for one hassle disposal that will move ur waste to a waste to energy plant. CURB TO GRID	3/5/2024 4:27 PM
73	Town Hall, safety building, library at the rec area - solar arrays! how about windmill at Odiorne State Park	3/5/2024 4:11 PM
74	I remain unconvinced that renewable energy pays for itself when all externalities are accounted for. As far as public buildings are concerned, unobtrusive solar panels could be considered if they have a payback.	3/4/2024 3:48 PM
75	For example solar panels are great but no one ever discusses the impact to the environment.	3/3/2024 10:18 AM
76	Use wind generated turbine fans on all roofs to release heat in attics and create energy. Both municipal and private. Walls in all new buildings thicker for better insulation, enforce better insulation on all new buildings, times light switches	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
77	On town property have a combination of solar farms, wind mills, or geothermal units that would power, heat, and cool town public buildings. Reduce the cost of electric use on public buildings.	3/2/2024 12:15 PM
78	I am not sure how Rye can even produce renewable energy ?	3/2/2024 9:16 AM
79	Don't need it.	3/1/2024 5:31 PM
80	Support oil independence for the country..campaign heavily against windmills which pollute oceans devalue property	3/1/2024 1:38 PM
81	I think renewable energy should be an individual choice. I don't want Rye mandating anything. Right now we are absorbing tax benefits for those who choose renewables. I think that is wrong. Government should stay out of what should be a personal choice.	2/29/2024 5:05 PM
82	Use as much solar as possible on our municipal buildings. The savings would encourage homeowners to uconsider solar as well.	2/29/2024 2:11 PM
83	Don't need to prioritize generation of renewable energy as a town	2/29/2024 2:06 PM
84	Property tax break/credits on businesses and homeowners who implement renewable energy.	2/26/2024 9:39 AM
85	rye can't afford to produce renewal energy	2/25/2024 9:55 PM
86	Off shore	2/23/2024 6:16 AM
87	Only if done wisely and well thought out	2/22/2024 12:12 PM
88	While renewable energy is great, private owners should do it. Tax payers should not be forced to pay for either installing or upkeep and maintenance.	2/22/2024 8:57 AM
89	It should def be explored. I don't know enough to know whether it would be a definite value.	2/22/2024 8:16 AM
90	Conservation land easements should allow community solar farms to be built on open conservation land	2/22/2024 7:15 AM
91	Private only-tax payers should not be involved	2/20/2024 1:46 PM
92	its a much bigger problem than locally - we need to be down stream from Hydro and wind created power to get off fossil fuel energy	2/20/2024 9:11 AM
93	Residents and businesses should be encouraged to install solar panels wherever possible. For those unable to do so, the town should encourage the construction of community solar farms. These could be built on public or private land to provide renewable power to municipal facilities, businesses and residents. Both of these would help the town meet the goals of NH Climate Plan and make the town more sustainable and resilient.	2/19/2024 4:33 PM

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94	Should be up to landowners to have on their property, not decided on by committees Currently the water issue should be a priority	2/19/2024 3:04 PM
95	None	2/19/2024 9:52 AM
96	The climate and geology of Rye does not seem to be conducive to producing energy. Rye should seek to purchase renewable energy where the cost is within 10% of other energy.	2/18/2024 6:42 PM
97	Solar ok but no windmills please	2/18/2024 11:10 AM
98	lessen the regulations, allow homes to have more allowances for wind and other forms of renewable energy	2/17/2024 8:45 PM
99	This is not a priority.	2/17/2024 7:02 PM
100	Not on taxpayer expense. It is dependent on subsidies and we should not mandate it in any way.	2/17/2024 6:37 PM
101	Community power solar field.	2/17/2024 5:42 PM
102	no idea	2/17/2024 3:03 PM
103	The pollution caused by solar panels when disposed of negates benefits.	2/16/2024 7:40 PM
104	Rye has a lot of land in conservation. It would be nice if Rye could use some for solar fields.	2/16/2024 6:03 PM
105	I don't think the town should be installing solar at this time.	2/16/2024 2:20 PM
106	Solar where possible. NO wind turbines on land or offshore	2/16/2024 1:49 PM
107	On Commercial property.	2/16/2024 1:05 PM
108	The radiation, emfs that are put out by solar and all this 5G technology are dangerous and need deep investigation. Geothermal would be more preferred. Wind farms can be very harmful to migrating birds. But if you insist, put on government buildings.	2/16/2024 11:05 AM
109	Work with the state to add to renewable options to state parks and beaches. collaboration may help expedite this	2/16/2024 11:01 AM
110	I think the more the better, private owners should be able to as well at top down approach if the municipal leads by example and puts solar and other renewable energy resources on municipal buildings it will show the residents that it is acceptable.	2/16/2024 10:51 AM
111	NOT private property. Rye has already taken my family land for water and cell towers. Outrageous.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
112	Maybe provide incentives to new gaf solar roofing via tax credits.	2/16/2024 7:44 AM
113	Leave choices to citizens and consideration beauty of the town so regulations in place	2/16/2024 7:40 AM
114	Speeding reminder signs!	2/15/2024 11:15 PM
115	None	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
116	Depends on the renewable energy.	2/15/2024 10:15 PM
117	And private property offered by citizens for the benefit of all	2/15/2024 10:07 PM

## Q5 Should the Town support homeowners and businesses in their efforts related to energy efficiency and renewable energy production? How might the Town do this?

Answered: 251 Skipped: 69

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not if the renewable energy production method violates existing land use regulations (setbacks, height restrictions, etc.).	3/15/2024 5:08 PM
2	By relaxing some restrictions	3/15/2024 12:52 PM
3	no	3/15/2024 10:09 AM
4	By not falling for scams.	3/15/2024 9:59 AM
5	Yes. Grants. Experts speak at a forum.	3/15/2024 9:53 AM
6	yes, but unsure how	3/15/2024 8:44 AM
7	yes.	3/15/2024 7:44 AM
8	Tax incentives	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
9	Yes. Library presentations to educate. Possible one-time property tax credit.	3/14/2024 7:52 PM
10	Yes	3/14/2024 7:21 PM
11	Continued evaluation, recommendations, and community outreach by Energy Committee Update energy audits of all municipal buildings at least once every ten years	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
12	allow rooftop solar in historic district as long as it is not directly facing the street.	3/14/2024 6:01 PM
13	Work with energy companies and provide rebates	3/14/2024 5:22 PM
14	What does this question mean? "Support" - credit for RE Taxes? How? - A favorable Solar Ordinance for Private Property.	3/14/2024 5:20 PM
15	Provide tax incentives for installing energy efficient items in homes and businesses.	3/14/2024 4:33 PM
16	Not unless it is a town-wide initiative & not individual tax breaks for those who can afford to implement energy savings on their property.	3/14/2024 4:01 PM
17	Certain tax abatements on energy additions to property. wholesale/bulk purchases of equipment	3/14/2024 3:43 PM
18	incentives deducted from property taxes	3/14/2024 3:15 PM
19	Yes. Provide credits or incentives. Remove restrictions on solar on front of buildings.	3/14/2024 2:14 PM
20	yes, by incentivizing people who take on the issue of sustainability whole heartedly. community or all for one is not a good idea. if people responded to the 400 year celebration, they would support innovation energy profit if enforcement and lead of smart knowledgeable people.	3/14/2024 2:11 PM
21	No, the town should not waste town resources to educate the public on a subject that utilities, states, and the federal government has an abundance of free information on already.	3/14/2024 1:41 PM
22	Not financially	3/14/2024 1:40 PM
23	Good question 😊 encourage federal and other grants , more than presently exist .	3/14/2024 12:49 PM
24	Yes...not sure how.	3/13/2024 6:24 PM
25	no , town should not be concerned with these types of activities	3/13/2024 5:39 PM
26	Tax credits	3/13/2024 5:35 PM



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27	Tax credits	3/13/2024 5:31 PM
28	Why not - US is so far behind!? reduce hybrid car benefit rebates to submit - electric mini splits -	3/13/2024 2:04 PM
29	I would guess there are zoning ordinances that make installing solar panels on roofs or standalone difficult, but not sure.	3/13/2024 11:24 AM
30	Praise businesses who implement measures. Town leaders should make energy conservation an important part of governance.	3/13/2024 10:40 AM
31	no, no town handouts	3/13/2024 10:38 AM
32	Yes. Through loans to homeowners who could not otherwise afford and through regulations on all new construction and major renovations. Boulder does this. If you come in for a fairly major say 1000 foot addition to a home you are required to put solar panels. Rye's approach as to what is required might be different.	3/13/2024 10:29 AM
33	Tax credits for solar	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
34	No, this is not a town responsibility to get involved with. Don't get in the way, but not a town issue to lend support	3/12/2024 8:17 PM
35	Tex credit/rebate.	3/12/2024 8:14 PM
36	Yes. Support in relation to building codes or zoning regulations	3/12/2024 6:49 PM
37	If the State supports (financially) homeowners and businesses in efforts related to energy efficiency, I think that is sufficient. What they have done so far is good.	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
38	provide incentives; provide charging stations for EVs	3/12/2024 1:48 PM
39	No	3/12/2024 12:08 PM
40	How remains an open question for me, but I feel strongly about Town assistance without turning it around to become a tax supported matter.	3/12/2024 9:59 AM
41	Yes. Land use regulations.	3/12/2024 7:09 AM
42	Solar energy could be put back into the grid.	3/11/2024 10:38 PM
43	Tax credit	3/11/2024 9:09 PM
44	Yes	3/11/2024 8:14 PM
45	Loosen current restrictions on modern energy efficient, clean burning wood furnaces.	3/11/2024 8:11 PM
46	Education on resources and options would be great, but Rye should not be subsidizing or financially incentivizing businesses	3/11/2024 8:03 PM
47	tax incentives	3/11/2024 7:12 PM
48	Tax incentives (credits or deductions)	3/11/2024 4:59 PM
49	Yes, allow regulations that adopt best use practices Town wide.	3/11/2024 4:18 PM
50	Yes, tax breaks.	3/11/2024 4:16 PM
51	Support by making it easy to install with very clear process for approval (if it's needed at all)	3/11/2024 2:16 PM
52	tax incentives for conversion of properties to high energy efficiency and for replacement of appliances with Energy Star rated appliances	3/11/2024 1:15 PM
53	If the town had a sustainability policy and noted who conforms, it might help those enterprises.	3/11/2024 12:12 PM
54	not sure	3/11/2024 11:02 AM
55	Tax incentives	3/11/2024 10:00 AM
56	Sure. Make the permit process easier.	3/10/2024 10:59 PM
57	No. Leave it to the state or feds to incentivize this. I don't support subsidizing out of town resources.	3/10/2024 5:03 PM

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58	state of NH should do this not Town of Rye.	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
59	Yes. Do not tax it.	3/10/2024 4:40 PM
60	tax breaks for solar energy tax breaks for electric vehicle registration	3/10/2024 4:35 PM
61	energy efficiency absolutely renewable energy not so much	3/10/2024 4:25 PM
62	no - it should be left to the private enterprise	3/10/2024 4:18 PM
63	The town should encourage private renewable energy projects, and should ensure that land-use ordinances are supportive. The Town should not provide any financial support for private projects.	3/10/2024 4:12 PM
64	yes community power?	3/10/2024 4:09 PM
65	Yes...see above	3/10/2024 4:07 PM
66	no	3/10/2024 3:57 PM
67	yes. have a consultant, tax breaks, discounts.	3/10/2024 3:47 PM
68	yes tax credits?	3/10/2024 3:37 PM
69	renewables need to be affordable to the average resident. Otherwise, progress will be too slow.	3/10/2024 3:08 PM
70	We have a problem in this State with terrible tax credits. Maine, Mass and VT outshine us by miles. I am unclear what Rye can do but if the town can support homeowners and businesses they should.	3/10/2024 11:28 AM
71	Clean energy NH has a circuit rider that can help with the process of getting grants. The energy commission has met with her. That is a large part of CENH and what they do to help in this area.	3/10/2024 11:26 AM
72	yes	3/10/2024 9:50 AM
73	Of course. Why would you do this. However, you can start with "carrot" activities and avoid tax reduction approaches.	3/10/2024 9:09 AM
74	No. People can do it themselves if they want. The town should not be responsible for private entities.	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
75	tax incentives	3/10/2024 8:35 AM
76	Yes - financial incentives work for most, although some in Rye have more financial means that others so may not work for all. Awards for businesses - something like a "Rye Clean Energy" award?	3/9/2024 9:51 PM
77	Yes Maybe tax breaks or cost savings for installation	3/9/2024 8:31 PM
78	Possible tax credits	3/9/2024 3:53 PM
79	Provide information on options	3/9/2024 1:36 PM
80	Yes. Make it easy to get permits related to energy efficient projects. Offer homeowners educational sessions/ideas for increasing their energy efficiency.	3/9/2024 1:25 PM
81	No	3/9/2024 11:56 AM
82	Absolutely	3/9/2024 11:30 AM
83	No. Taxpayer funds should not go towards these efforts. If a private homeowner wants to install more efficient heating systems, their choice, their cost.	3/9/2024 11:24 AM
84	No.	3/9/2024 11:17 AM
85	I don't believe that additional support is necessary, it would probably be in the form of tax credits and the families that can afford to install renewable energy (solar) are the least in need of additional support.	3/9/2024 9:44 AM
86	Yes, but no idea	3/8/2024 12:35 PM
87	I'd rather the Town focus its time and resources on addressing the critical environmental	3/8/2024 10:13 AM

issues that have been identified.

88	Maybe consider a minimal deduction of town tax for energy efficiency and renewable energy production	3/8/2024 9:58 AM
89	yes, but not sure how	3/8/2024 9:56 AM
90	Yes, offer tax breaks	3/8/2024 9:23 AM
91	Not at the local level. Let the federal government do that. Free markets should dictate prices so the majority can afford it. Businesses would charge the town an eye and a leg (expensive) if it gets involved.	3/8/2024 8:23 AM
92	Yes	3/8/2024 7:41 AM
93	no	3/7/2024 11:34 PM
94	Yes, give a insentive such as a break in tax bill	3/7/2024 10:56 PM
95	what is the definition of "support" here? The town should not financially give assistance.	3/7/2024 10:37 PM
96	First level of support is not to restrict in historic district. Not an issue for public buildings, but why not private residences as well	3/7/2024 10:20 PM
97	No, the town should not incentivize or oppose how homeowners and businesses decide to engage renewable energy productions.	3/7/2024 9:58 PM
98	Absolutely not.	3/7/2024 9:50 PM
99	no	3/7/2024 9:16 PM
100	YES. Renewable energy does not tarnish the "look" of out town. A building is already a building, adding a solar panel does not change that.	3/7/2024 8:19 PM
101	Offer to buy excess energy. Invest in storage of renewable energy.	3/7/2024 12:42 PM
102	Provide info on rebate programs and tax advantages to installing energy efficient mechanisms	3/7/2024 12:00 PM
103	Tax credits	3/7/2024 8:41 AM
104	No, the town should not subsidize this.	3/7/2024 8:36 AM
105	Make information easily available to homeowners and businesses on energy products and or projects.	3/7/2024 8:04 AM
106	Yes	3/7/2024 8:03 AM
107	No.	3/6/2024 10:53 PM
108	yes. work with solar companies and research best ways to use solar as a town and as homeowners and business so that we are less dependent on oil-based energy sources.	3/6/2024 6:48 PM
109	Support of renewable energy delopament and energy conseration.	3/6/2024 2:46 PM
110	The town should support homeowners by making permitting easy, but the town should not provide financial support to homeowners that want to add solar.	3/6/2024 2:07 PM
111	Yes, the town should support their efforts.	3/6/2024 1:30 PM
112	Not sure. Tax credits?	3/6/2024 1:26 PM
113	having a energy advocate position established through a grant (IRA many? or utility) where the advocate helps people find resources like solar energy or clean technology at heat pumps and works to capture additional grants.	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
114	If by support you mean spend tax-payer money on these efforts, NO! That's something for state, federal and utility programs to do. If you mean, "get out of the way of reasonable homeowner/business efforts in this domain" sure. Ensure that town zoning/codes facilitate renewables that don't destroy the environment or natural vistas.	3/6/2024 12:30 PM
115	yes. education about the benefits at the very least.	3/6/2024 12:17 PM
116	Create more local awareness about the inflation reduction act's climate credits for individual	3/6/2024 11:31 AM

Rye 2035

business and landowners

117	Yes, the town should do everything it can to help increase energy efficiency and provide renewable energy. I think Rye is unique in its capability to be a leader in the region on this front. Voucher programs for installation or equipment to help offset costs for homeowners and businesses, tax breaks for renewable retrofitting of existing infrastructure. Acting on behalf of the community to arrange and ensure the best power buy back system with power companies to ensure members of the community can remain attached to the grid, thus reducing retrofitting costs.	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
118	yes - programs sponsored for reductions.	3/6/2024 11:19 AM
119	I am not sure of the definition of commercial vs residential??? Bracket Road with a nice neighborhood house and then the building of this huge commercial garage and then scattered commercial equipment. Trucks, boating storage! Back-how's.	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
120	Yes - education, access to information	3/6/2024 11:10 AM
121	Give one time property tax credit in some amount for renewable energy installations	3/6/2024 10:46 AM
122	Yes, by helping them navigate the process for receiving any available rebates. Although there are tax benefits available, they are delayed. A fund should be established to help people pay up front, that can be reimbursed when people receive their tax credit. Work with solar companies to provide a standard modular design that can be produced and installed at a lower cost than a custom design. The same goes for wind turbines.	3/6/2024 10:09 AM
123	yes, grants to help transition to solar	3/6/2024 9:54 AM
124	The town should follow zone requirements, allowing the marketplace to decide, with a little help or discouragement from the town	3/6/2024 9:11 AM
125	No, the town should stay out of it. Zoning Laws should be followed.	3/6/2024 8:51 AM
126	No	3/6/2024 5:56 AM
127	No already supported by private industry (electric supplier and federal/state initiatives). Not the Towns responsibility.	3/6/2024 4:37 AM
128	Yes with a light hand	3/5/2024 6:56 PM
129	No	3/5/2024 6:48 PM
130	worries that renewable energy might cause more problems in long run	3/5/2024 5:04 PM
131	no	3/5/2024 4:57 PM
132	Yes by not creating zoning that interferes with those efforts	3/5/2024 4:54 PM
133	I doubt any tax abatements would be possible if it raised the general tax rate.	3/5/2024 4:49 PM
134	informational - assist with state program application/timing etc.	3/5/2024 4:38 PM
135	yes	3/5/2024 4:30 PM
136	Solar panels	3/5/2024 4:27 PM
137	Partner with local financial institutions for competitive loans. Educate people on the benefits. Incentives. Help from the state.	3/5/2024 4:24 PM
138	yes this is going to be a major problem in the near future. we should be supporting home owners and businesses that are adding solar and wind for an energy source. there should be no added fees (town fees!) or costs to homeowners or businesses when they want to add renewable energy products to their home.	3/5/2024 4:11 PM
139	Yes	3/4/2024 5:53 PM
140	No	3/4/2024 5:02 PM
141	No	3/4/2024 3:48 PM
142	Yes. Consult experts.	3/4/2024 1:44 PM
143	Modest tax relief incentives.	3/4/2024 11:27 AM

144	Yes Monetary incentives and hassle-free permits	3/3/2024 11:12 PM
145	Tax breaks	3/3/2024 8:52 PM
146	Tax incentives	3/3/2024 7:11 PM
147	Tax breaks and community programs to make changes more affordable	3/3/2024 6:57 PM
148	Tax credits for specific renewable energy upgrades	3/3/2024 5:58 PM
149	Offer energy audits, tax incentives for more energy efficient appliances and construction materials	3/3/2024 5:20 PM
150	Yes	3/3/2024 4:59 PM
151	Yes, not sure how	3/3/2024 4:48 PM
152	Tax incentives might be an option. Or a negotiating consortium that provides the best quotes and opportunities to the town.	3/3/2024 10:18 AM
153	yes. Not sure how. Are there other communities using best practices with this initiative.	3/3/2024 10:15 AM
154	No.	3/3/2024 8:16 AM
155	See above... there is also education/ information needed as many people are clueless. That can included in the new regs as to why. For ex how much a leaking faucet costs us over a24 hours period. Forwa SORRY..IM DOING THIS ON MY CELL AND IT'S HARD TO CHECK MY WORK...I CAN'T SCROLL BACK TO CHECK FOR SPELLING ERRORS.. SORRY (Have we looked at what other places are doing in this regard? Esp on the west coast for ideas?)	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
156	Give tax credits	3/2/2024 2:57 PM
157	Tax breaks for anyone using solar, wind, or geothermal.	3/2/2024 12:15 PM
158	Yes	3/2/2024 9:20 AM
159	Seems to me, we should be more focused on protecting our water and clean up the septic systems mess with older systems need to be required to be updated	3/2/2024 9:16 AM
160	The solar panels on the schools was a small but important start	3/2/2024 7:50 AM
161	No	3/1/2024 5:31 PM
162	No..	3/1/2024 1:38 PM
163	With proof of energy improvement, residents and businesses could take the total of that cost off their property taxes. Or a portion (for ex. 33%) could be taken off property taxes the first year, then the second year and finally the third year. Another way, especially for folks who cant afford the initial cost, perhaps they could apply for money, after approval, money is given. That money is added to the tax bill temporarily.(in case the work is not done). Then when proof that the work is done is provided, the initial cost is removed from the tax bill.	3/1/2024 12:35 PM
164	Yes	2/29/2024 5:16 PM
165	No. See above.	2/29/2024 5:05 PM
166	Yes, not sure what that would look like but renewable energy is the way to go.	2/29/2024 3:07 PM
167	No.	2/29/2024 2:06 PM
168	More education for homeowners and businesses.	2/29/2024 8:47 AM
169	I don't know what the tow could do. I think this is something that should be left to homeowners	2/28/2024 10:34 AM
170	renewable energy options are expensive and at this time are difficult for most people to afford without state, federal and local incentives	2/26/2024 10:12 AM
171	Absolutely, there's currently no incentive for people to make a switch, other than personal consciousness/morals, the town should aid this transition for new builds by offering a tax credit or write off for rye property taxes. same for existing home owners and business if they make a switch.	2/26/2024 9:39 AM
172	town can give advice but not control	2/25/2024 9:55 PM

Rye 2035

173	I don't have any good ideas.	2/25/2024 9:30 PM
174	Yes	2/25/2024 7:20 AM
175	Yes	2/23/2024 3:30 PM
176	yes, the options available are not within reach from a cost perspective	2/23/2024 11:23 AM
177	Yes	2/23/2024 7:21 AM
178	Sure! Easy permitting would be good for stuff like solar. Maybe a tax credit?	2/23/2024 6:16 AM
179	Yes	2/22/2024 5:23 PM
180	Yes	2/22/2024 4:23 PM
181	allow microturbines and encourage solar energy installation	2/22/2024 3:25 PM
182	Yes, any zoning that makes renewables more attractive to businesses and homeowners	2/22/2024 2:49 PM
183	Possible small tax credit	2/22/2024 12:12 PM
184	yes, support state efforts to adopt energy conservation and promote in the town	2/22/2024 9:37 AM
185	Should allow it, but not financially.	2/22/2024 8:57 AM
186	If a homeowner desires energy efficiency then the homeowner should have that option, as long as it doesn't interfere with a neighbor's right to enjoy their own property.	2/22/2024 8:16 AM
187	Yes. Reserve funds from community power rates should be used to help pay for solar, heat pumps and batteries installations on residential, commercial and municipal properties.	2/22/2024 7:15 AM
188	Offer tax incentives	2/21/2024 8:51 PM
189	Tax breaks for residents who have solar panels	2/21/2024 7:02 PM
190	YES	2/21/2024 4:58 PM
191	Nebulous question	2/21/2024 9:30 AM
192	No. The town should not manipulate taxpayers in any way. They also should not give unfair tax advantages to residents/businesses who choose to use solar/wind	2/20/2024 1:46 PM
193	Yes as long as it stays within current zoning laws OR lets look at all options and create help from the town for residents to be able to implement according to new laws	2/20/2024 9:11 AM
194	Yes, it would have to be case by case but the town should encourage efforts to reduce burden on the grid	2/19/2024 8:32 PM
195	Yes. The town should encourage homeowners and businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by building better than code minimums and installing more efficient HVAC equipment. It could encourage replacing HVAC systems with electric heat pumps perhaps by offering tax reductions for those that do so. One way to encourage this would be to require home builders and HVAC contractors to provide a certified report verifying their work passes ALL energy code requirements in order to qualify for an occupancy permit. Buildings that test better than code minimums might earn a lower rate.	2/19/2024 4:33 PM
196	Yes but I am not sure how. Perhaps supporting through ordinances.	2/19/2024 4:26 PM
197	yes	2/19/2024 3:18 PM
198	Make less restrictive to obtain permits and keep tax incentives	2/19/2024 3:04 PM
199	Yes by education	2/19/2024 2:06 PM
200	yes. tax credits.	2/19/2024 11:41 AM
201	Funding assistance? Create a group purchase?	2/19/2024 11:02 AM
202	Yes. Tax benefits for efficient modern technology.	2/19/2024 11:01 AM
203	We don't need to discount people who decide to save money with renewable energy or efficiency. We don't need to mandate regulations and rules.	2/19/2024 9:52 AM

Rye 2035

204	Absolutely yes! Give a tax break to people who get solar. Simple. Invest in our town and its people and its energy!	2/19/2024 8:25 AM
205	No - the town should not be involved in this. The town does not currently have the expertise to support this and should not build the expertise - there are many other resources available	2/18/2024 6:42 PM
206	Provide owners with available incentives	2/18/2024 11:10 AM
207	No. A private business or homeowner should be responsible for their own choices.	2/17/2024 9:59 PM
208	only with regulations that promote rather than create obstacles	2/17/2024 8:45 PM
209	Town already gives homeowners tax reduction for solar panels	2/17/2024 8:32 PM
210	No.	2/17/2024 7:02 PM
211	Share information on energy conservation for homeowners and businesses.	2/17/2024 6:37 PM
212	Yes	2/17/2024 5:42 PM
213	Yes, with tax breaks or incentives	2/17/2024 4:50 PM
214	Yes, tax credit?	2/17/2024 4:13 PM
215	yes. no idea	2/17/2024 3:03 PM
216	Yes.	2/17/2024 11:24 AM
217	Yes. Make it easier to get variances for renewable sources	2/17/2024 11:04 AM
218	Property tax incentives	2/17/2024 10:49 AM
219	Possibly with incentives but not directly financial.	2/17/2024 7:54 AM
220	Property tax breaks	2/17/2024 7:39 AM
221	No- it's homeowners choice.	2/16/2024 7:40 PM
222	Yes. Make the permitting process easy. No fee permits.	2/16/2024 6:03 PM
223	I think individual homeowners should pursue this. Facilitation by town would be great, but should not be town expense.	2/16/2024 5:48 PM
224	Yes. I don't understand the money well enough to suggest how this can be achieved.	2/16/2024 5:30 PM
225	No	2/16/2024 3:14 PM
226	no	2/16/2024 2:31 PM
227	Town should not get involved at this time, unless there are zoning issues involved.	2/16/2024 2:20 PM
228	Tax credits	2/16/2024 1:49 PM
229	Give a tax break to homes installing solar panels.	2/16/2024 1:05 PM
230	No	2/16/2024 12:26 PM
231	allow solar panel in all districts, reduced setbacks for solar panels	2/16/2024 11:45 AM
232	Tax reduction	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
233	Community Power sign ups. Lower rates available generally.	2/16/2024 11:06 AM
234	No	2/16/2024 11:05 AM
235	Absolutely. Tax breaks or other incentives such as making the zoning for things such as solar panels a non issue	2/16/2024 11:01 AM
236	Property tax rebates to cover some of the costs.	2/16/2024 11:00 AM
237	No-government should not be involved.	2/16/2024 10:52 AM
238	Tax incentives to those who install solar panels and change zoning and land regulations for allowance of these on private properties.	2/16/2024 10:51 AM

Rye 2035

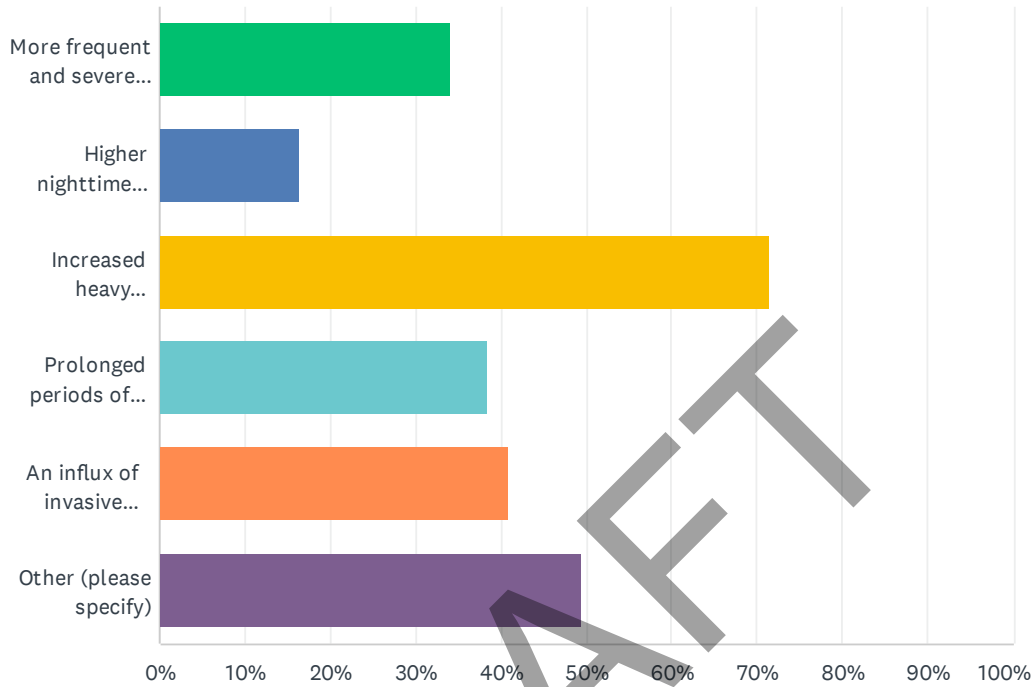
239	Yes	2/16/2024 10:14 AM
240	I don't think the town should support homeowners and business owners with renewable energy as if it's something they would like to do they should do on their own	2/16/2024 8:42 AM
241	Without taxpayer dollars.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
242	It should be voluntary. I'm unsure how the town could aid or encourage such efforts other than possibly providing some tax benefits.	2/16/2024 8:07 AM
243	Yes my comment above to provide credits for implementing gaf solar roofing or panels. Allow trees to be removed for solar.	2/16/2024 7:44 AM
244	I am not is support of financial subsidies or support by the town to private homeowners or businesses, however they would be a good resource of known private and federal support options	2/16/2024 6:56 AM
245	Pledge the superior government for grants or reimbursements.	2/15/2024 11:15 PM
246	Reasonable tax reductions. Absolutely they should. A Seacoast community is responsible for the ocean it abuts. Use that ridiculous tax on renewable energy.	2/15/2024 11:06 PM
247	Tax discounts	2/15/2024 10:49 PM
248	Nah	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
249	yes, they can do this by providing tax incentives to home owners and ensuring the licensing process is easy	2/15/2024 10:07 PM
250	Yes - due diligence and compliance to zoning	2/15/2024 9:54 PM
251	No	2/15/2024 8:59 PM

DRAFT



## Q6 Which climate change related impacts most concern you? Check all that apply.

Answered: 273 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
More frequent and severe heatwaves	34.07% 93
Higher nighttime temperatures	16.48% 45
Increased heavy precipitation events	71.43% 195
Prolonged periods of drought	38.46% 105
An influx of invasive species and pests	41.03% 112
Other (please specify)	49.45% 135
Total Respondents: 273	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Stop trying to control nature	3/15/2024 1:04 PM
2	Who says any of this is related to man made influences? This survey is exceedingly biased	3/15/2024 10:03 AM
3	We need to prepare for all of these. Experts could help us prioritize.	3/15/2024 9:57 AM
4	more severe storms at all seasons	3/15/2024 8:46 AM
5	Flooding	3/14/2024 8:02 PM
6	Coastal flooding	3/14/2024 7:30 PM
7	Rye must encourage alternatives to extensive/intensive irrigation systems through education	3/14/2024 7:14 PM

of alternative landscaping protocols and upcharges for high volume use.

8	Rising sea levels	3/14/2024 6:32 PM
9	Storms	3/14/2024 5:27 PM
10	Too many homeowners receiving variances re: wetland buffer.	3/14/2024 4:09 PM
11	increased flooding from high tides	3/14/2024 3:25 PM
12	Beach flooding	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
13	Rising ocean that increase underground wave flowing inland.	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
14	Impact on our drinking water and impact upon our wildlife	3/14/2024 1:10 PM
15	All of them.	3/13/2024 6:41 PM
16	Keep currently updated as to being aware of a crisis educate as to how to survive any climate change. communicate to state, surrounding communities NH is not the only state to go through climate change.	3/13/2024 2:11 PM
17	More frequent and severe storms that damage the shoreline	3/13/2024 11:34 AM
18	Rising ocean	3/13/2024 10:49 AM
19	Coastal flooding	3/13/2024 6:47 AM
20	High tides/flooding	3/13/2024 6:26 AM
21	Higher tides	3/12/2024 8:37 PM
22	Heavy precipitation resulting in higher tides, beach erosion and damage have been particularly evident this winter season. The heavy tourist population we enjoy in a monetary sense must be protected by frequent beach maintenance in every sense, i.e. beach access, road surfacing, proper number of waste receptacles located at the beaches.	3/12/2024 10:23 AM
23	More frequent severe weather/high tides eroding our coastlines and roads.	3/11/2024 9:22 PM
24	Climate change has occurred since the beginning of time. Stop any weather manipulation currently being practiced.	3/11/2024 8:24 PM
25	infestation effecting trees	3/11/2024 7:18 PM
26	Coastal flooding due to sea rise	3/11/2024 5:11 PM
27	Dying hemlocks, ash and beech trees that could soon be a forest fire hazard, similar to California.	3/11/2024 4:23 PM
28	Increased ocean levels	3/11/2024 4:20 PM
29	increase frequency of severe coastal storms leading to extensive flooding with breakdown of sea walls and obstruction of both major and residential roadways	3/11/2024 1:30 PM
30	Rising water tides and water levels.	3/11/2024 12:18 PM
31	Coastal flooding	3/11/2024 10:05 AM
32	I am a PhD earth scientist and have to ask, what do you proposed to DO about any of these "concerns"? We have to learn to ADAPT, not go tilting at windmills.	3/10/2024 5:17 PM
33	lower areas that flood i.e. transfer station exit	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
34	Coastal flooding	3/10/2024 4:41 PM
35	sea rise	3/10/2024 4:36 PM
36	sea level rise	3/10/2024 4:27 PM
37	flooding during high tide	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
38	Coastal flooding. Increasingly severe and damaging ocean and wind storms.	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
39	Much larger, more damaging coastal storms that together with sea level rise are going to	3/10/2024 4:17 PM

## Rye 2035

change the landscape in Rye sooner and perhaps more dramatically than we anticipate. Harbor Road, the marshes behind the beaches, several of our low-lying beaches in front of them. They aren't going to stay the same (i.e., buildable, habitable) much longer.

40	higher tides	3/10/2024 4:11 PM
41	flooding and erosion	3/10/2024 3:39 PM
42	All of the above are major issues and clearly getting worse by the year.	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
43	Left out sea level rise. This can push up the water table up to 2 miles inland. This then sucks all the e-coli from the leech fields before there is enough land to filter. The saturation also puts more property at risk.	3/10/2024 9:21 AM
44	Decline of bees & bats. This is one ecosystem and all are related.	3/9/2024 9:58 PM
45	High seas damage, drainage	3/9/2024 8:34 PM
46	Beach erosion	3/9/2024 3:58 PM
47	None	3/9/2024 11:58 AM
48	None that the town can assist with. Taxpayer dollars and town efforts will not make a difference here.	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
49	We have less snow which better to replace groundwater than the rain deluges.	3/9/2024 11:33 AM
50	Increasing high tides resulting in road/property damage.	3/9/2024 9:53 AM
51	Sea lever and litter	3/8/2024 12:38 PM
52	Flooding and coastal erosion	3/8/2024 10:36 AM
53	sea level rise	3/8/2024 10:03 AM
54	high tides and floods	3/8/2024 9:59 AM
55	Compromised water supply and water quality	3/8/2024 9:36 AM
56	rising water level, local flooding along seacoast and elsewhere	3/7/2024 10:26 PM
57	the inability for people to accept and adapt to the inevitable changes	3/7/2024 10:04 PM
58	It doesn't.	3/7/2024 9:54 PM
59	No more snow.	3/7/2024 8:22 PM
60	The 100 year storms coming twice in a week. Very concerning.	3/7/2024 12:45 PM
61	Storms and impact on 1A. This is being largely ignored by the town and state of NH.	3/7/2024 8:40 AM
62	flooding	3/6/2024 6:51 PM
63	The climate is always changing and there's nothing mankind can do about it. Please don't waste tax dollars trying to signal on this cause.	3/6/2024 2:12 PM
64	Large fluctuations in temperature.	3/6/2024 1:31 PM
65	anything that affects the quality of our water	3/6/2024 12:53 PM
66	rising sea levels/storms	3/6/2024 12:33 PM
67	storm surge, high tide flooding	3/6/2024 12:19 PM
68	Sea level rise, seasonal creep and it's effect on growing seasons.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
69	sea rise	3/6/2024 11:34 AM
70	more flooding	3/6/2024 11:21 AM
71	Sea level rise - Rye needs to work with federal agencies to design and build sea walls and improve culverts where needed to address inevitable future storm damage. Rt 1A should probably be repaved more frequently to raise low spots that are the closest to the current sea level.	3/6/2024 10:26 AM

Rye 2035

72	None.	3/6/2024 5:57 AM
73	High tides (ground water creep) and flooding.	3/6/2024 5:05 AM
74	N/A	3/5/2024 6:50 PM
75	rising sea levels	3/5/2024 5:05 PM
76	all of the above	3/5/2024 4:59 PM
77	Ocean rise	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
78	Water levels, inconsistent temperatures, lack of snow etc	3/5/2024 4:51 PM
79	Ocean life is dying. Our oysters population has declined by 90 percent in the last decade. Not enough land for animals. Everyone is upset about bobcats etc but they have a lack of forest.	3/4/2024 6:00 PM
80	We need to really think about rising oceans and climate change.	3/4/2024 1:45 PM
81	Infrastructure the retaining walls are dirt they are not effective	3/3/2024 8:59 PM
82	Building in flooding zones and wetlands	3/3/2024 7:00 PM
83	Sea level rise impact on native wetlands	3/3/2024 4:52 PM
84	waves crashing through the beach walls	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
85	Rising sea level.	3/2/2024 2:13 PM
86	Climate change is a "natural" phase that happens. We need to insure we have good drinking water!!!	3/1/2024 5:37 PM
87	None	3/1/2024 1:41 PM
88	Coastal Flooding	2/29/2024 5:17 PM
89	I'm not sure we have enough data to make choices for the whole town.	2/29/2024 5:10 PM
90	Rising sea levels and the coast to manage the issue for Rye	2/29/2024 2:10 PM
91	Flooding, loss of biodiversity	2/26/2024 7:09 AM
92	Ocean rise	2/23/2024 3:32 PM
93	Ticks. And the spraying that reduces them. What is worse? I generally am not sure what we should be doing.	2/22/2024 7:32 PM
94	Ocean rise and storm impacts should be Rye's primary concern. It should seek to build reventments on Sawyers and Philbrick's beach beaches where there is not an already existing reventment/wall in place by private citizens. Reventments would mitigate damage such as the type that occurred this winter. Water mitigation to Eel pond is important in helping reduce damage as well.	2/22/2024 5:33 PM
95	sea rise and beach erosion. Humans will not be able to 'fight back' against the ocean. any efforts we make to push back (i.e. building/restoring seawalls and beaches with fossil fuel burning vehicles) will only worsen the effects of global warming. We need to accept a future were we don't build houses at the ocean's edge.	2/22/2024 3:31 PM
96	tidal events at the coastline	2/22/2024 2:51 PM
97	Severe weather events and erosion	2/22/2024 9:11 AM
98	I have yet to see any data showing a dramatic change in any of these events. That said, we live at the ocean and so logically sea rise would be a concern, whether it's related to climate change, or just being weather events.	2/22/2024 8:27 AM
99	Rising sea levels	2/21/2024 8:54 PM
100	Flooding	2/21/2024 7:04 PM
101	Sea Level Rise, Storm Surges.	2/21/2024 5:10 PM
102	None	2/21/2024 9:34 AM

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103	Our planet is in a constant state of change & evolution. It will adapt	2/20/2024 1:57 PM
104	More coastal storms, which are creating damage to our current coastline	2/20/2024 11:21 AM
105	Decrease in snow yearly	2/19/2024 3:11 PM
106	Flooding	2/19/2024 12:07 PM
107	Lack of snow	2/19/2024 11:03 AM
108	None	2/19/2024 9:53 AM
109	Flooding when it does actually rain is a major problem.	2/19/2024 8:29 AM
110	Lack of freezing / cold in the winter and impact on migratory animals.	2/18/2024 6:49 PM
111	Severe rain and wind events	2/18/2024 11:14 AM
112	flooding and sea level rise	2/17/2024 7:13 PM
113	Prioritizing global climate over local - and manageable- issues.	2/17/2024 6:40 PM
114	Extreme flooding and septic flows into drinking water and ocean. Need for sewer for Northern Rye. Need for waste water treatment facility. Better management of flooding in creeks. Plan for revenue when houses are lost to climate change.	2/17/2024 5:45 PM
115	Beachfront storm surges	2/17/2024 10:51 AM
116	Rising waters and storm surges	2/16/2024 6:08 PM
117	seems to be an issue with out of date septic systems and large amounts of rain causing bacteria in the water - we need to get those items addressed immediately	2/16/2024 2:33 PM
118	Coastal storms and flooding	2/16/2024 2:28 PM
119	Not really noticing any locally	2/16/2024 1:51 PM
120	Sea Level RISE!!! Pollution in our drinking water.	2/16/2024 1:10 PM
121	Climate Change is more than sea level rise, it is ground water rising, drought's more storms, melting ice caps, shorter winters, rising ocean temperatures, migration of animals to fit their climate which means changes in fishing industry, tourism and preparing for the future.	2/16/2024 12:28 PM
122	storm surge	2/16/2024 11:50 AM
123	Sea rise has been a problem for a decade or more. More adaptation i.e. sea walls to protect the shoreline.	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
124	None	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
125	Ocean storms washing away and changing the beach. The beaches need to be maintained after big storms.	2/16/2024 8:47 AM
126	The earth.	2/16/2024 8:15 AM
127	Milder winters.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
128	Flooding in wetlands due to increased beavers	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
129	Beach erosion	2/15/2024 11:28 PM
130	Tropical storm type wind storms. More severe summer thunderstorms.	2/15/2024 11:19 PM
131	Rising sea level and impact of storm frequency and intensity.	2/15/2024 10:23 PM
132	Biden	2/15/2024 10:20 PM
133	Flooding and high tides	2/15/2024 10:17 PM
134	Flooding	2/15/2024 9:57 PM
135	None	2/15/2024 9:00 PM

## Q7 Rye is seeking new ways to prepare for and effectively respond to extreme weather events, flooding, and coastal storm emergencies. What actions or initiatives should Rye build into the town budget to accomplish what is needed?

Answered: 221 Skipped: 99

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No budget items. Discourage building in vulnerable areas.	3/15/2024 9:23 PM
2	Budget for additional drainage systems	3/15/2024 5:15 PM
3	Nothing. Let those who choose to live close to the ocean live on/in the ocean	3/15/2024 1:04 PM
4	Money needed to shore up our beaches to help limit erosion as best as possible	3/15/2024 12:53 PM
5	Stormwater management is important, but working with the state to keep the seawalls built up is really the cheapest way to prepare. It's when those walls get taken down by waves we have the biggest damage.	3/15/2024 12:52 PM
6	Continued expansive work on health of wetlands as a buffer zone, and continued improvements of culverts and roads to withstand occasional flooding.	3/15/2024 11:03 AM
7	Stop blowing my tax dollars on things you can't control	3/15/2024 10:03 AM
8	We need to get State to address rt 1A issues.	3/15/2024 9:57 AM
9	Add'l funds for beach repair	3/15/2024 8:46 AM
10	zoning changes in oceanside parts of town.	3/15/2024 7:47 AM
11	Up to date air conditioning in all public buildings. Repair and construction of seawalls and walkways.	3/14/2024 8:03 PM
12	Loose rock berms need to be replaced with sea walls.	3/14/2024 8:02 PM
13	More funding in emergency mgmt crf and contingency crf	3/14/2024 7:30 PM
14	Each budgetary authority should annually evaluate and update plan(s) to effectively respond to the above (extreme weather events, flooding, coastal storm emergencies) Are the CIP requests in line with such plans? Consider updating our coastal resilience planning - see Hampton's 2021 Coastal Resilience Report.	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
15	Evaluate best practices from Boston's "Coastal Resilience Solutions for East Boston and Charlestown (Phase II)" plan that could be incorporated in Rye.	3/14/2024 6:32 PM
16	We have an emergency management department. Perhaps train and allow some other non employee volunteers to assist.	3/14/2024 6:03 PM
17	Get federal dollars and emergency money 13 January should be a tax rebate event with all the damage that was done	3/14/2024 5:27 PM
18	The Town should tax the properties associated with the danger to pay for the damage and emergencies. The burden should not be on the general population of the Town.	3/14/2024 5:23 PM
19	Sufficient equipment & staff to respond to coastal storm emergencies & related flooding. Limit building of homes & size of homes that border the beaches.	3/14/2024 4:09 PM
20	town evacuation plans for flooded roads	3/14/2024 3:25 PM
21	better have a reserve fund for fixing roads and responding to citizens request for assistance. start putting limit on areas that will add, not reduce, the problem.	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
22	Have an annual contingency budget ready for use for extreme/emergency storms and have the	3/14/2024 1:55 PM

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budget overseen by a select committee (maybe budget and highway dept. reps) and have a select board member be in charge of contacting state reps for additional funding to offset town expenses related to these storms. If a process and funds are in place for these events, the response will be more thorough and impactful.

23	New zoning to prevent new or expanded construction especially on low lying land mass . Property owners should provide their own insurance for effects of weather on their properties	3/14/2024 1:10 PM
24	Investigate what measures other coastal communities have had success with and consider those for Rye.	3/13/2024 6:41 PM
25	we are doing enough, anything in this area would require increase taxes	3/13/2024 5:43 PM
26	have a place, plan as to where people can go to seek relief. a plan, place of "shelter" merge joint resources - with Hampton and Portsmouth etc.	3/13/2024 2:11 PM
27	Evaluate where we are vulnerable and instead of being reactive (cleaning up seawall rocks on the road after every storm, repairing bridges), develop a plan to be more resistant given what we're going to face.	3/13/2024 11:34 AM
28	Need to look at budget, but seems like there would be greater need for public services.	3/13/2024 10:49 AM
29	none	3/13/2024 10:40 AM
30	High water vehicles and rescue boats. Next fire pumper a high wheel forestry or high water truck. Army surplus? Retroactive mandates for raising propane tanks, replacing septics in low lying areas (if not going to sewers), careful thinning and maintaining of forests, requirements that those who have "current use" back lands maintain them better to get the tax breaks.	3/13/2024 10:37 AM
31	Spend less time/money restoring waterfront areas as this is a futile endeavor.	3/13/2024 6:26 AM
32	Raise the level of certain roads so people aren't trapped	3/12/2024 8:37 PM
33	First you need to determine what is needed before you throw money at it. There are already infrastructure where there should not be along the coast.	3/12/2024 8:23 PM
34	Increased DOT budget.	3/12/2024 8:15 PM
35	Uncertain	3/12/2024 6:51 PM
36	1) Be mindful of the impermeable footprint being created with new buildings, etc. as a PREVENTATIVE measure. 2) a couple of the warrant articles, on the town ballot, seem to address extreme events, those could be added to the budget.	3/12/2024 5:05 PM
37	be proactive; make short- and long-term plans for beach erosion and other consequences of extreme weather	3/12/2024 1:53 PM
38	Continue to maintain the walls and breakwaters along Route 1A. Simply because land is open does not necessarily mean it should be developed. If it continues to be developed, precautionary design features must be a significant part of the building specifications.	3/12/2024 10:23 AM
39	Coastal resiliency plan and funding.	3/12/2024 7:11 AM
40	Study better sea wall protection	3/11/2024 10:40 PM
41	Stay up to date with new research, plan for barriers, make requirements for new buildings be above tide marks/on pillars.	3/11/2024 9:22 PM
42	We need a rescue vehicle to be able to traverse through high water to be able to access residents in areas prone to flooding such as Harbor Rd	3/11/2024 8:15 PM
43	numerous options (not necessarily involving money) would be research/resource development implemented by other towns	3/11/2024 7:18 PM
44	Budget to construct seawall and mitigation plans to deal with Sea level rise	3/11/2024 5:11 PM
45	They should establish a fund that is added to each year to manage disasters and not wait for them to occur.	3/11/2024 4:23 PM
46	Keeping free from over building in wet lands	3/11/2024 4:00 PM
47	How to protect the sea walls and roads.	3/11/2024 2:18 PM

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48	The sidewalls of Rye Harbor need professional evaluation then reconstruction to a height and width according to recommendations of the experts and in keeping with our Rye Dept. of Public Works observations during response/repair from recent January and March storms. We must prevent or minimize recurrent closure of the more vulnerable sections of Ocean Boulevard so that all property owners and emergency responders have uninterrupted access to all affected residential and commercial properties	3/11/2024 1:30 PM
49	Maybe enter cooperative arrangements with surrounding (inland) communities to share resources.	3/11/2024 12:18 PM
50	Create an storm emergency fund	3/11/2024 11:07 AM
51	Review drainage options for tidal marsh area, consider alternative approaches to mitigate storm surge (e.g. levees), strengthen and repair harbor road bridge	3/11/2024 10:05 AM
52	Bigger storm water drains and culverts. Don't grant every rich person with a lawyer zoning variances to built McMansions on 0.15 acres parcels that sit in sand.	3/10/2024 11:03 PM
53	I won't propose anything...but caution that any proposal needs to be closely and expertly scrutinized for cost-effectiveness. I see the potential for wasting lots of money on futile efforts.	3/10/2024 5:17 PM
54	Identify breach risks and reinforce.	3/10/2024 4:41 PM
55	protecting an expanding marshes and tidal wetlands will help mitigate storm surge. stop issuing permits for new construction on the coast update flood maps	3/10/2024 4:27 PM
56	clean and maintain culverts and natural drainage of marshes and wetlands	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
57	Capital planning for raising & reinforcing sea walls along Rt 1A. Cleaning and enlarging, where needed, existing storm drainage. Evaluate and capital planning for additional storm drainage where needed.	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
58	more personeel in DPW	3/10/2024 4:11 PM
59	whatever climate change experts rec.	3/10/2024 3:59 PM
60	unsure	3/10/2024 3:39 PM
61	public education - what can residents do to protect themselves and also provide aid to others	3/10/2024 3:25 PM
62	More effective barriers to storm surges.	3/10/2024 3:13 PM
63	upgrade the riprap along 1A, raise the roads that close seemingly monthly this winter.	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
64	Work with the state to protect the shoreline. Demand change from letting the seawalls collapse and then just putting them back as it is not sustainable. Increase our culverts as a lot of them are below grade. Change zoning that all new homes along the coast need to be on piers. Plan for coastal homes to lose value therefore taxes collected from these properties will decrease. Insurance companies are already dropping specific properties. Educate the residents that climate impact used to be spoken about for 2100, then 2075, then 2050 then 2030 when it is now. Again healthy salt marshes and the ability for the salt marshes to migrate further inland.	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
65	What is our "Seacoast" coordinated plan. Are we sharing equipment with other towns. By not investing sooner Rye could have slowly built up funds, but the Planning Board dragged its feet for years, not inserting "Climate Change" into master planning until recent years. What lessons can be learned from January storms and all the vehicle damage? Do we need regulations that prevent storm created emergencies, like the floating propane tanks, etc.. If you are in the flood areas, what additional "safety" requirements should there be.	3/10/2024 9:21 AM
66	Keep the budget as it is. The town does a great already.	3/10/2024 8:38 AM
67	Not sure this is only a budget issue. Building regulations are also needed.	3/9/2024 9:58 PM
68	Partner with universities or leaders in industry to build ideas on how to protect coastline and reduce flooding impacts	3/9/2024 8:34 PM
69	Perhaps build stronger flood walls.	3/9/2024 4:55 PM
70	Budget for sustainable infrastructure	3/9/2024 3:58 PM
71	Increased emergency reserves	3/9/2024 1:41 PM



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72	More emergency funds set aside for disasters. Rye did an amazing job during the January storms. Kudos to all town officials (Rye DPW, Fire and police etc) for their great work in this very tough and worsening environment.	3/9/2024 1:34 PM
73	Build up Cable Road as it hits Jenness beach so high tide waters do not run down Cable road onto Ocean road.	3/9/2024 11:58 AM
74	A proactive approach to infrastructure that minimizes continual rebuilding and restoring areas.	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
75	Clean out those drains please. Build a true concrete/rock retaining wall along Rt1A vs a rock/sand pile. Clean out ponds/marshes so they can do their jobs of absorbing extra water. Do things that we don't have to keep repairing/fixing....	3/9/2024 11:33 AM
76	storm surge protection for roads along the coast	3/9/2024 11:31 AM
77	Not sure if this is a town issue as much as it is the State, I just don't know, but the walls along the coast need to be increased in height/depth to stem flooding.	3/9/2024 9:53 AM
78	Marsh education	3/8/2024 12:38 PM
79	Invest in protection and restoration of natural resources that can mitigate the effects of extreme weather events. Be prepared to help rescue/shelter displaced residents.	3/8/2024 10:36 AM
80	maintain sea walls, limit building along the ocean,	3/8/2024 10:03 AM
81	at this time it seems the focus would be on emergency support services and funding to react to storms.	3/8/2024 9:59 AM
82	Not sure	3/8/2024 9:36 AM
83	Put in place emergency actions to take using in land resources from other towns so Rye keep people and their properties safe when an event occurs.	3/8/2024 8:38 AM
84	Route 1A flooding mitigation Continuing education on natural and native landscaping to reduce invasive species	3/7/2024 11:40 PM
85	Building a better barrier	3/7/2024 11:01 PM
86	aggressive in applying for Federal/State grants, FEMA, no longer "bandaids", strategic investment in infrastructure necessary for the changing climate, prevent future and all development of housing along Route 1A, consult with environmentalists on improving the waterways, marshes, watersheds to aid in the movement of water	3/7/2024 10:57 PM
87	encourage higher street levels where possible. Alternative drainage options. Build sewers in key areas with pumpking stations.	3/7/2024 10:26 PM
88	Mitigate seawalls (berms) by strengthening them (eg. big rocks instead of small rocks, like sawyer beach). Ensure draining systems are kept up and are able to handle the higher amounts of flooding.	3/7/2024 10:04 PM
89	Better signage for road closures. People in this town blatantly ignore emergency personnel about hazards and road closures.	3/7/2024 9:54 PM
90	We need to fortify 1A, we are going to continue to have washouts. We need to find a more effective and sustainable breakwater.	3/7/2024 8:22 PM
91	Road drainage, Sea wall repair/improvement	3/7/2024 6:07 PM
92	none	3/7/2024 2:17 PM
93	I am not sure here beyond massive plantings for rising ocean levels along all the marshes.	3/7/2024 12:45 PM
94	Planning, mock emergencies.	3/7/2024 12:03 PM
95	If the State will not assist in 1A improvements the town should step in.	3/7/2024 8:40 AM
96	Initiate active planning with State etc. for improved coastal storm wall.	3/7/2024 8:11 AM
97	Look at what other coastal towns in other states are doing that is effective, from building codes to protecting existing properties.	3/6/2024 6:51 PM
98	Reinforcement of coastal protection barriers.	3/6/2024 2:50 PM

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99	Protecting the road along the coastline with more permanent seawalls is important. The town of Hampton, for example, has built concrete seawalls that redirect waves back out to sea.	3/6/2024 2:12 PM
100	Funds to purchase vulnerable properties.	3/6/2024 1:28 PM
101	flooding seems like a big one. I dont know best practices for mitigating the affects. would recommend identifying areas at higher risk and applying best practice approaches for mitigation	3/6/2024 12:53 PM
102	If you take a really long-term view, I don't think you can or that it is worth fighting "Mother Nature." Rye and some of its homeowners may have to accept that you really can't (technically or economically) save all low-lying or exposed property from sealevel rise, flooding and storms. As you look around the country and hear tales of flood damage, you wonder why FEMA and the federal flood insurance program pay out money to rebuild homes/businesses in places where they will have to do it all over again in the foreseeable future. At a minimum, Rye should probably change its codes to require all new/rebuilt structures in flood-prone areas to be build on stilts and with other storm-resistant features.	3/6/2024 12:40 PM
103	are current new coastal building requirements enough?	3/6/2024 12:33 PM
104	construction of more durable seawalls tide gates? increase sizes of drainage infrastructure with state conserve flood prone areas	3/6/2024 12:19 PM
105	stop building on the coast	3/6/2024 12:10 PM
106	Emergency funds to assist with these events. Whether they are for emergency repairs or food assistance for impacted residents. Making sure the money is there when it's needed seems paramount to success.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
107	could Rye work with UNH to learn more about monitoring and research programs available for predicting sea rise? our ability to plan and prepare for the net breaching of the berm (at Foss Beach) depends on having the best available data and technics at our disposal.	3/6/2024 11:34 AM
108	restore salt marshes decrease building in wetlands education on invasive species and how to handle changes to zoning laws on properties within Flood Zone.	3/6/2024 11:21 AM
109	Annual emergency fund allocation in every annual budget to build a reserve. Try to get a state of NH coastal emergency fund enacted.	3/6/2024 11:06 AM
110	Rye should apply for federal and state aid more often and not rely on Rye taxpayers to address federal and state issues. Rye should sue fossil fuel companies as part of a class action suit to help pay for damage and upgrades.	3/6/2024 10:26 AM
111	Emphasis on renewable energy that will contribute minimally to recking the climate	3/6/2024 9:56 AM
112	Work with the state of New Hampshire, budget enough money to repair Town damage.	3/6/2024 9:14 AM
113	Work with the State, budget enough money to clean up the mess.	3/6/2024 8:59 AM
114	None	3/6/2024 5:57 AM
115	Develop a plan that would evaluate past responses and identify needed resources.	3/6/2024 5:05 AM
116	Idk	3/5/2024 6:50 PM
117	Addressing building a wall know that will stop a future waves from destroying the rock mounds we currently have	3/5/2024 5:26 PM
118	more native plantings throughout protection of marshlands communication system in place for residents during storm events.	3/5/2024 5:05 PM
119	coordinated solar advantage - including historic district	3/5/2024 4:59 PM
120	More robust and effective controls to mitigate the effects of ocean rise	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
121	? With the ever changing climate, no one can predict the damage from coastal storms.	3/5/2024 4:51 PM
122	we have always had extreme weather events. some storm small clean up might be handy	3/5/2024 4:50 PM
123	Make sure septics are pumped so does not affect the health of animals and people.	3/4/2024 6:00 PM
124	Seawalls need to be redesigned and implemented. Continuous replacement of Sand and small	3/4/2024 5:08 PM

	stones is not working	
125	Petition the State of New Hampshire to build better seawalls (not increased height/depth shale piles)	3/4/2024 3:50 PM
126	As much as possible where possible.	3/4/2024 1:45 PM
127	Enforcement of existing codes relative to wetland and or insurance premiums reflecting increased relative risk to builds proximal to ocean front & wetlands.	3/4/2024 11:31 AM
128	Coastal protection and clean up Could use Jersey barriers at beach entrances when storms are predicted to keep sand/debris from flooding streets	3/3/2024 11:19 PM
129	Better alert systems, better cell reception	3/3/2024 9:37 PM
130	Sea wall that's designed properly	3/3/2024 8:59 PM
131	Responders should have a vehicle that can go through water to evacuate people, get to fires, or treat medical emergencies.	3/3/2024 7:25 PM
132	Interested to hear what other folks have come up with	3/3/2024 7:00 PM
133	Construct new drainage and maintain the old .	3/3/2024 5:42 PM
134	Emergency reserve funds	3/3/2024 5:27 PM
135	The needs to build a reserve so that those that get impacted by such events and quickly repair or replace what is needed.	3/3/2024 10:22 AM
136	Save life not property	3/3/2024 8:23 AM
137	We need more water drainage culverts built. The ground water in the Fairhill Estates area is increasing.	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
138	Rye does a pretty good job now for dealing with emergencies. One thing they should have is an emergency vehicle that could go through deep water and over any terrain that could be used as a fire engine and ambulance.	3/2/2024 2:13 PM
139	Create stricter polices for all water front properties. Lets look at Petey's - is their septic system in the marsh ? How in the world can there be any home or business on this location without raw sewage going into the water ways ?	3/2/2024 9:23 AM
140	Regulate building	3/2/2024 9:22 AM
141	The coastline is going to change and homeowners knowingly took that risk. Beaches will change too. Accept change. Protect life not stuff	3/2/2024 7:57 AM
142	Where do we go procedures, (such as Jr. High) and have storage of food and water always on site.	3/1/2024 5:37 PM
143	Must build in resources for beach and shore protection measures.. seawall as needed etc	3/1/2024 1:41 PM
144	Concrete sea wall, drainage along side roads to divert water from homes, man made holding marsh(s), manpower to repair damage, equipment to repair damage, building code changes to new buildings in flood areas to minimize damage	3/1/2024 12:51 PM
145	Unknown	2/29/2024 5:17 PM
146	Begin a capital reserve fund that will provide funds for future catastrophe	2/29/2024 5:10 PM
147	Long term plan that has the residents experiencing the issues directly incurring most of the cost to deal with it. Should not be a major tax burden for all Rye residents.	2/29/2024 2:10 PM
148	Priorities from Rye Emergency Management should be publicized and let the voters decide.	2/29/2024 8:53 AM
149	emergency action funds to police and fire	2/28/2024 10:39 AM
150	strengthen breakwaters, address storm water drainage oin frequently affected areas as noted in the poster	2/26/2024 10:21 AM
151	Increase funds for contingencies, invest in preventative/resiliency measures, look to opportunities to share the burden with out of town users of our resources.	2/26/2024 7:09 AM

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152	can't throw money to beat mother nature	2/25/2024 10:01 PM
153	Need to address ocean rise by building walls and revetments on all beaches	2/23/2024 3:32 PM
154	There was recently a fire during an extreme high tide event where a fire truck couldn't get through. That situation should be problem-solved.	2/23/2024 7:23 AM
155	If we loose power my basement will be 5' under water. More management of power lines (trimming trees)	2/22/2024 7:32 PM
156	More proactive accommodation efforts.	2/22/2024 7:25 PM
157	Revetments	2/22/2024 5:33 PM
158	Sea wall construction/repaira	2/22/2024 4:25 PM
159	none. leave it up to insurance companies to stop insuring at risk properties. eventually the properties will go and we won't be concerned with coastal storm issues.	2/22/2024 3:31 PM
160	I think we have good warning devices, such as utility companies, Facebook, ( including un-official), local media alerts along with weather alerts just to name a few. Don't need to spend, spend.	2/22/2024 12:29 PM
161	public education program for residents on the safeguard measures	2/22/2024 9:43 AM
162	Sea wall improvements and plans	2/22/2024 9:11 AM
163	This seems like a question that would be answered by someone who understands costs associated with road maintenance, back up plans, etc.	2/22/2024 8:27 AM
164	Contingency funds for weather emergencies. Study coastal towns who have successfully implemented similar programs.	2/21/2024 8:54 PM
165	A full study of using the sea level rise model to be proactive in terms of infrastructure, planning, zoning. What may need to be abandoned. Restoration of natural barriers. Restoration of salt marsh flow.	2/21/2024 5:10 PM
166	We do not have a serious deficiency in the way or timeliness of our town's response.	2/21/2024 9:34 AM
167	Clearing the roads after a weather event is what is most often needed. We should continue to do that. Nothing else should be budgeted, as the town has no control over weather events. If an evacuation emergency alert system doesn't already exist, we should implement a phone emergency system	2/20/2024 1:57 PM
168	Let's first get our current housekeeping in order ie: How many residents are ignoring their responsibility to maintain their septic systems ? Why are there no penaliteis, fines etc enforced against those who dont comply ?	2/20/2024 9:16 AM
169	Not sure	2/19/2024 8:42 PM
170	The Junior High School needs to be fitted out to be a emergency shelter. This should include battery storage back-up for the solar system which would not only allow the building to continue operation during a power outage but would reduce or eliminate the electricity demand charges the school pays.	2/19/2024 4:41 PM
171	Reinforcing the berms	2/19/2024 3:11 PM
172	Direct communications with other coastal communities through-out the country who have had more historical extreme weather events and have learned ways to prepare and respond to such events.	2/19/2024 2:14 PM
173	A plan for impact of coastal flooding/damage. There are properties that will eventually be dismissed by the ocean. Invest in bridges/marsh waterflow to allow water to get to ocean. Increase cost/availability beach parking to offset costs of coastline maintenance projects.	2/19/2024 12:07 PM
174	1A needs help to survive storms.	2/19/2024 11:03 AM
175	I think they do a great job.	2/19/2024 9:53 AM
176	We must have emergency funds that we put money into each year. These funds collect interest until they are needed. We cannot just sit around and wait for infrastructure to fail (like the harbor bridge) without having at least \$1 million in an emergency town fund. The only way	2/19/2024 8:29 AM

## Rye 2035

to get us there is to have a repeating yearly budget line to inject money into these funds. Most towns and schools do this, Rye needs to get on board or face massive unforeseen tax implications and costs in the future.

177	Emergency clean up & repair	2/18/2024 9:01 PM
178	It seems the frequency and ferocity of these weather events will continue to increase. The town should develop a mechanism to determine "surrender". For example, at what point will we no longer re-build a road, even if property property access is cut off.	2/18/2024 6:49 PM
179	Coastal storm emergencies	2/18/2024 11:14 AM
180	Budget for clean up and maintaining a natural barrier. Don't allow more building near the ocean. One. Nature is going to do its thing. The planet and environment ebb and flow and have throughout the history of the world. Humans need to stop thinking they can control nature.	2/17/2024 10:03 PM
181	?	2/17/2024 8:47 PM
182	Build or reinforce seawalls on Sawyers Beach & Rye Harbor	2/17/2024 8:36 PM
183	Let community know exactly what channel to get live updates from. Send one postcard out with correct online location. A Facebook channel is fine. Rye PD have done good job communicating but we need Town run group.	2/17/2024 7:13 PM
184	Making sure we have a means to alert residents in the event of road closures, power losses or water service interruptions.	2/17/2024 6:40 PM
185	Stop building septic fields and homes in the flood zone.	2/17/2024 5:45 PM
186	public education	2/17/2024 4:52 PM
187	Provide resources needed to enforce wetlands rules and to track and enforce conditions imposed by ZBA in exchange for granting any variance.	2/17/2024 3:01 PM
188	Increase capital reserves	2/17/2024 10:51 AM
189	Rebuild seawalls on Town property adjacent to the ocean or harbor (Sawyers Beach, etc) The NH DOT 10 year plan includes upwards of almost \$82 Million to build a seawall from North Hampton to Odiorne Point however this may not begin until 2026---this will replace the shale piles along Ocean Blvd The states plan will not include the shale piles on Sawyers Beach across from Ell Pond.	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
190	emphasis on drainage and culverts to manage high water	2/17/2024 8:13 AM
191	Our water supply is at risk. Reducing lawn irrigation is critically needed.	2/17/2024 8:01 AM
192	Stronger social media presence	2/17/2024 7:41 AM
193	Funds to maintain and repair the sea wall on RT 1A, if not the State.	2/16/2024 7:49 PM
194	Start saving no for large scale resiliency projects.	2/16/2024 6:08 PM
195	stop building encroachment in wetlands!! the topography of this town is wet. by natural design.	2/16/2024 5:50 PM
196	I don't know.	2/16/2024 5:32 PM
197	Better walls at the beach on Route 1A	2/16/2024 3:16 PM
198	better coastal walls, better drainage along coast	2/16/2024 2:33 PM
199	Clean up efforts at town beaches (moving sand, rocks, debris).	2/16/2024 2:28 PM
200	Better seawall	2/16/2024 1:51 PM
201	Water treatment plant, stricter guidelines around water sources	2/16/2024 1:10 PM
202	Cooling Centers, Emergency Shelters and infrastructure money to not only repair but strengthen the shale piles and build seawalls to protect the roads and homes along the Coast.	2/16/2024 12:28 PM
203	better stormwater management of roads, raise pump stations and other infrastructure. Work with state of NH to better build berms, 1A drainage.	2/16/2024 11:50 AM
204	Mass email notifications. Can collect email with tax or car registration. Use for emergencies	2/16/2024 11:14 AM

Rye 2035

	only	
205	Most of the shoreline property is privately owned. Rt-1a is a state road. Rye doesn't need to allocate substantial funds in this area. We have an emergency fund in place.	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
206	Reinforcement of sea walls and drainage	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
207	unsure, but using funds to hire engineers to help with this.	2/16/2024 11:03 AM
208	Need to work with state on long term investment in protecting Rt 1A (Ocean Blvd); constantly rebuilding gravel berms is not the answer.	2/16/2024 10:55 AM
209	Building up the walls on Ocean Boulevard not just pushing back with their.	2/16/2024 8:47 AM
210	Federal and state partners	2/16/2024 8:15 AM
211	Something needs to be done to improve the large berm protecting the Eel Pond across from Sawyers Beach. It gets destroyed at least a couple of times every year.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
212	Remove beavers. Build more culverts for water diversion. Open up state culverts at beaches after storm to allow wetlands to flow reducing flooding. Further control utility in ensuring tree control. I have contacted Eversource several times to prune and they came out to look and never returned. Preparation is key. Overall town response for water quality was good providing water etc. preparation for major storms.	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
213	Beach maintenance and repair	2/16/2024 7:46 AM
214	Protecting and improving water and sewer for houses close to marshes and the water ... sewer instead of septic	2/16/2024 7:02 AM
215	?? More money to combat beach erosion	2/15/2024 11:28 PM
216	Warnings to abandon 1A homes or be notified EMS will not respond if they stay.	2/15/2024 11:19 PM
217	Draw up new contingency plans and make them available to the public	2/15/2024 10:51 PM
218	More drainage investing	2/15/2024 10:20 PM
219	unsure	2/15/2024 10:09 PM
220	Flooding remediation for the roads	2/15/2024 9:57 PM
221	None	2/15/2024 9:00 PM

DRAFT

## Q8 In your opinion, what are the highest priority buildings, roads, or sites that should be protected from climate impact, flooding, and natural hazards?

Answered: 217 Skipped: 103

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Town Hall, Library and Fire Station	3/15/2024 9:23 PM
2	Public safety and town administration buildings should be prioritized for protection.	3/15/2024 5:15 PM
3	People need to think before not during or after a problem	3/15/2024 1:04 PM
4	Beach/immediate coastal area	3/15/2024 12:53 PM
5	AS above: wetland buffer zones for flooding and resiliency of coastline infrastructure.	3/15/2024 11:03 AM
6	You can't protect any of it	3/15/2024 10:03 AM
7	Public ocean front. Private places should pay their own costs.	3/15/2024 9:57 AM
8	Rte 1 needs to be better constructed to withstand high water events.	3/15/2024 7:47 AM
9	Public walkways and roads along the shoreline. Schools, library, fire/police station and town hall	3/14/2024 8:03 PM
10	Public buildings.	3/14/2024 8:02 PM
11	Not rt1A and beach areas, they cannot be saved long term. Protect town infrastructure further inland	3/14/2024 7:30 PM
12	All Rye beaches	3/14/2024 6:32 PM
13	Ocean Blvd. and the access roads to it.	3/14/2024 6:03 PM
14	Put in mitigation measures to prevent flooding Look at the Netherlands 	3/14/2024 5:27 PM
15	Beaches & marshes	3/14/2024 4:09 PM
16	Roads	3/14/2024 3:44 PM
17	coastal homes....they should be on stilts	3/14/2024 3:25 PM
18	Route 1A is endangered. Not sure if it is a state highway or Town Road. Bridge at Rye Harbor. need to maintain public ocean to get in and out of town.	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
19	Restoring town beaches with native sand to the correct elevations every spring.	3/14/2024 1:55 PM
20	Take care of the roads.	3/14/2024 1:41 PM
21	Wetland protection as water rises . Less development where future wetland expansion is likely.	3/14/2024 1:10 PM
22	The entire town should be considered a high priority and be protected.	3/13/2024 6:41 PM
23	Roads	3/13/2024 5:43 PM
24	Roads...start with the potholes !	3/13/2024 3:35 PM
25	safe exits - routes	3/13/2024 2:11 PM
26	Beaches - Wallis/Pirate's, Cable/Jenness/Sawyer's	3/13/2024 11:34 AM
27	Need to keep roads open that allow entrance and exit from Rye to get to hospitals and food sources.	3/13/2024 10:49 AM
28	not applicable	3/13/2024 10:40 AM

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29	A state road but clearly 1A. Work with Executive Council and state federal delegation to move \$ for adaptation along the coast to higher priority. Forget about Hampton Beach \$50 million redo for tourism move those dollars to entire coast.	3/13/2024 10:37 AM
30	Schools	3/13/2024 6:26 AM
31	Coastal roads	3/12/2024 8:37 PM
32	None, it's called evolution.	3/12/2024 8:23 PM
33	Roads, sites and then buildings.	3/12/2024 8:15 PM
34	Near creeks/ watershed areas that may see an increase in flooding	3/12/2024 6:51 PM
35	Route 1 is one of the main arteries of Rye, and should be protected.	3/12/2024 5:05 PM
36	route 1A and public access to beaches and waterways	3/12/2024 1:53 PM
37	Existing buildings and roads with water exposure are at the top of the list. Protect the wet lands; restrict building. Look around...	3/12/2024 10:23 AM
38	All the main public roads and access to coastal neighborhoods.	3/12/2024 7:11 AM
39	Roads and sea walls along the ocean need greater protection.	3/11/2024 10:40 PM
40	All of the above	3/11/2024 9:22 PM
41	1A keeps being washed out by storms, we need a more permanent wall in trouble areas like Hampton has. Harbor Rd is a concern. My parents live along 1A also, getting to them when Washington, Wallis, Harbor Rd, Marsh Rd are blocked off was scary in the last storm.	3/11/2024 8:15 PM
42	some cemetery roads almost impassable due to road degradation (roots, etc)	3/11/2024 7:18 PM
43	Rye beach, sea water contamination of the town water supply due to coastal flooding	3/11/2024 5:11 PM
44	Those away from the coast and lowland areas that naturally flood.	3/11/2024 4:23 PM
45	Ocean Blvd	3/11/2024 4:00 PM
46	Much of Ocean Boulevard; Harbor Road from Ocean Blvd. to the Atlantic Ocean	3/11/2024 1:30 PM
47	The ones most endangered.	3/11/2024 12:18 PM
48	historic, cultural buildings and priority roads	3/11/2024 11:07 AM
49	Rye Harbor: it bolsters the town economy and is likely to be the first to feel impacts from flooding.	3/11/2024 10:05 AM
50	Rte 1A. Again, I worry about any conception of "protect".	3/10/2024 5:17 PM
51	Ocean Blvd	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
52	Rye Harbor	3/10/2024 4:41 PM
53	the homeowners along the ocean need education as to what's coming	3/10/2024 4:36 PM
54	private homes and road access to them	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
55	There's only so much protection that will last. Much of what exists along the coast in Rye CANNOT be protected long-term from climate change. Time to move and think differently. Just like Mac Jones isn't the answer at QB for the Patriots, protection of these areas isn't, not in the long run.	3/10/2024 4:17 PM
56	all buildings in town Odiome PT State Park and Rye Harbor State Park	3/10/2024 4:11 PM
57	RT 1A Eel Pond Beach erosion	3/10/2024 3:59 PM
58	RT 1A	3/10/2024 3:47 PM
59	healthy marshes will help mitigate flooding from coastal flooding	3/10/2024 3:39 PM
60	the schools also need to be set up a shelters if needed, with generators, etc. roadways leading to them analysis of traffic patterns.	3/10/2024 3:25 PM



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61	Don't know.	3/10/2024 3:13 PM
62	Roads-	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
63	Roads	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
64	We have water mains along Ocean Blvd. The Sewer line also runs down to Hampton. Rt. 1 will be continually submerged, so what can be done to mitigate damage and ways of having the road cleared again?	3/10/2024 9:21 AM
65	ocean beaches and roads along the beaches	3/10/2024 8:41 AM
66	People and road should be the priority	3/10/2024 8:38 AM
67	Schools, Library, Safety Building	3/9/2024 9:58 PM
68	1A, and intersections/roads along 1A	3/9/2024 8:34 PM
69	The wells that produce drinking water, the town offices, and the fire and police stations.	3/9/2024 4:55 PM
70	Beach roadways , town municipalities	3/9/2024 3:58 PM
71	Town owned, priority would be schools, emergency management, town offices.	3/9/2024 1:41 PM
72	Rte 1A - Ocean Blvd, schools, library, town hall and annex	3/9/2024 1:34 PM
73	1. Drinking water sources 2. Ocean water cleanliness 3. Need a plan if Rt1A sections become impassable in the future 4. Rye Harbor 5. Town buildings (schools, transfer station, emergency buildings....)	3/9/2024 11:33 AM
74	ocean blvd	3/9/2024 11:31 AM
75	I would say the marshes, with the breaching of the sea walls more salt water is going to increase the salinity levels of the marshes.	3/9/2024 9:53 AM
76	Better protection of natural habitat so that natural systems work to mitigate climate events.	3/8/2024 12:38 PM
77	1A	3/8/2024 10:36 AM
78	maintaining the sea walls along Route 1 A	3/8/2024 10:03 AM
79	beaches	3/8/2024 9:59 AM
80	Coastal roads, historic sites and structures, wetlands	3/8/2024 9:36 AM
81	People and their properties and roads for emergency routes should be the priorities.	3/8/2024 8:38 AM
82	In my opinion the town of Rye should be most concerned about protecting our roads and beaches.	3/7/2024 11:40 PM
83	Beach road	3/7/2024 11:01 PM
84	Highest priority is to examine how to improve or enhance our watersheds to improve the flow of water--possibly the entire Route 1A road may need to reexamined and reconfigured in order to allow water to move. Read--Water always Wins by Erica Geis at the RPL (examples in other parts of the world like England how this was accomplished)	3/7/2024 10:57 PM
85	Require most critical areas to be build with no occupied first level. Provides safety and potentially lower insurance rates	3/7/2024 10:26 PM
86	Public roads, beaches, and low lying areas. Private buildings need to be taken care of by their owners.	3/7/2024 10:04 PM
87	Ocean Blvd needs a stronger infrastructure.	3/7/2024 9:54 PM
88	rt 1A	3/7/2024 9:18 PM
89	Roads	3/7/2024 8:30 PM
90	The beach area. That will be the first affected, the first destroyed.	3/7/2024 8:22 PM
91	Roads	3/7/2024 12:45 PM
92	Roads and seawall and upland habitats	3/7/2024 12:03 PM

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93	Sites and roads	3/7/2024 8:48 AM
94	Route 1A.	3/7/2024 8:40 AM
95	Important infrastructure that provides necessary services	3/7/2024 8:11 AM
96	1A roads and bridges, beaches, odiorne	3/6/2024 6:51 PM
97	Route 1A an its marshes.	3/6/2024 2:50 PM
98	Ocean Blvd. and related streets, Department of Public Works offices, Recreation Office, Town Hall, and Annex	3/6/2024 2:41 PM
99	Route 1A	3/6/2024 2:12 PM
100	schools, town hall, safety buildings, beaches.	3/6/2024 12:53 PM
101	8 miles coastal buildings on the boulevard good to prioritize	3/6/2024 12:33 PM
102	RT 1A	3/6/2024 12:19 PM
103	Municipal infrastructure such as the Library, town offices, and schools. Webster at Rye and other senior living facilities. Coastal businesses.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
104	Hospitals, schools, other public buildings, historic buildings	3/6/2024 11:34 AM
105	too many septic systems too close to flood zone - be impacting on drinking water and beach water quality	3/6/2024 11:21 AM
106	Shoreline roads, bridges, seawalls	3/6/2024 11:11 AM
107	All roads from the ocean to high ground, road culverts, route 1A, Rye dump, Town of Rye Records and computer systems	3/6/2024 11:06 AM
108	The water system will likely need to be upgraded as salt water infiltration will ultimately encroach on our coastal aquifers and wells. As wells get salted out, they will place more demands on the remainder of the system. The town has an aquifer map illustrates potentially affected areas.	3/6/2024 10:26 AM
109	Roads, water and sewer, electricity and communication	3/6/2024 9:14 AM
110	Roads, water, sewer and electricity.	3/6/2024 8:59 AM
111	None	3/6/2024 5:57 AM
112	Water, sewer, power and communication infrastructures.	3/6/2024 5:05 AM
113	All things are created equal, but we can't control the weather.	3/5/2024 6:50 PM
114	sites that should be protected from climate impact, flooding, and natural hazards	3/5/2024 5:26 PM
115	most vulnerable areas incline roads known to flood. My home!	3/5/2024 5:05 PM
116	Emergency response buildings, schools and ocean roads	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
117	Anywhere that has the highest risk to permanently harming our environment. I guess municipal buildings and roads with best evacuation.	3/5/2024 4:51 PM
118	Water protection	3/4/2024 6:00 PM
119	Waterfront and walkways along waterfront	3/4/2024 5:08 PM
120	Route 1A, IB, South, Sea Roads, area around Perkins, etc.	3/4/2024 3:50 PM
121	Route 1A, marshes, ponds	3/3/2024 11:19 PM
122	Rte 1A drainage	3/3/2024 9:37 PM
123	Beaches houses impacted roadways	3/3/2024 8:59 PM
124	Buildings that house people.	3/3/2024 7:25 PM
125	Roads	3/3/2024 5:42 PM

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126	I'm not sure I believe we are in control of that - perhaps we might be better off figuring out how best to protect people and think about how what buildings and roads are critical to saving/preserving lives.	3/3/2024 5:27 PM
127	Private homes	3/3/2024 5:01 PM
128	Rte 1A	3/3/2024 4:52 PM
129	Anything along the ocean.	3/3/2024 10:24 AM
130	Sites that should be protected from climate impact.	3/3/2024 10:22 AM
131	Roads. But some may have to be abandoned.	3/3/2024 8:23 AM
132	Shoals View Dr. Parsons Rd.	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
133	Fire station and Jr. High School for evaluation purposes. Build up Ocean Blvd. to protect from flooding low lying areas. A dike system similar to the Netherlands, but in a small scale.	3/2/2024 2:13 PM
134	1 A and any where the Ocean fills in to ponds, marshes etc heading west.	3/2/2024 9:23 AM
135	Climate impact	3/2/2024 9:22 AM
136	Schools, water sources. Let go of or Move roads and buildings	3/2/2024 7:57 AM
137	Saving the people from high water impact, such as having "boats" available to save the people.	3/1/2024 5:37 PM
138	1A..	3/1/2024 1:41 PM
139	Ocean Blvd.,Grove Rd.,Sagamore Rd, lower Wallis Rd	3/1/2024 12:51 PM
140	Unknown	2/29/2024 5:17 PM
141	I think the town needs a substantial sewer system to provide safe handling of human effluent .	2/29/2024 5:10 PM
142	Rye Harbor	2/29/2024 2:10 PM
143	Roads, bridges, and homes/businesses	2/29/2024 8:53 AM
144	ocean blvd	2/28/2024 10:39 AM
145	1A, wetlands,	2/27/2024 7:09 AM
146	route 1A owners of properties in the flood plain should bear more of the financial responsibility for insurance	2/26/2024 10:21 AM
147	Access roads, marshes.	2/26/2024 7:09 AM
148	let climate change take its course	2/25/2024 10:01 PM
149	Ocean roads	2/25/2024 7:20 AM
150	Ocean blvd	2/23/2024 3:32 PM
151	Fire and Rescue (though not in flood area) is always priority. Ocean Blvd, Rye Harbor and the beaches where average high tide abuts or crosses into private property. That water causes damage to ocean blvd which is the focus of the town and main attraction in the high season which equates to revenue for business.	2/22/2024 5:33 PM
152	Waterfront roads and homes	2/22/2024 4:25 PM
153	none.	2/22/2024 3:31 PM
154	I think we are well protected. We don't need to keep trying to spend needlessly	2/22/2024 12:29 PM
155	any town buildings and roads that flood in town as a result of proximity to marshes etc.	2/22/2024 9:43 AM
156	Coastal areas and historic sites	2/22/2024 9:11 AM
157	Every building is valuable to someone. So I don't know how/why we would pick/choose?	2/22/2024 8:27 AM
158	Planning and zoning should stop granting variances to builders near coast and wetland.	2/22/2024 7:17 AM
159	Historical properties, institutions (schools, town buildings)	2/21/2024 8:54 PM

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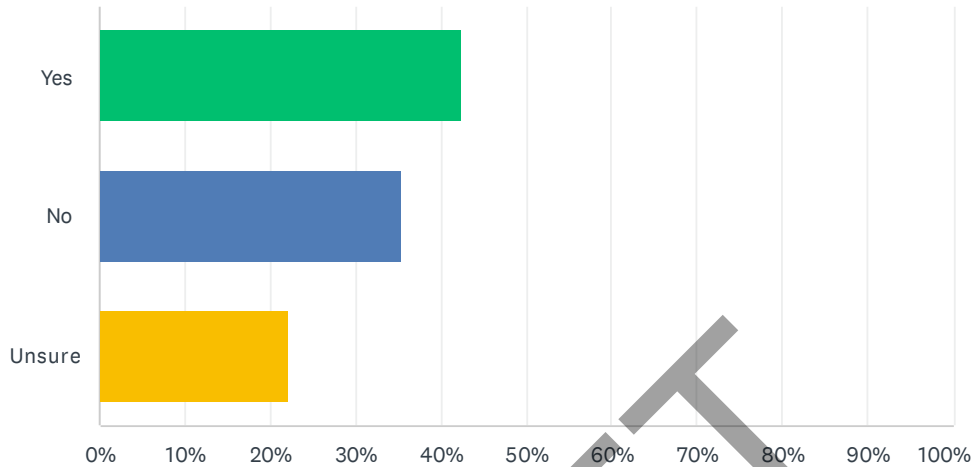
160	The 2 sewer pump stations. Aquarion antiquated water mains -- Ocean Boulevard and inland.	2/21/2024 5:10 PM
161	I don't see any greater need to protect.	2/21/2024 9:34 AM
162	There are no schools near our coastal waterways. Therefore it appears there are mostly private homes most at risk during flooding. Perhaps we should consider if beachfront homes should be allowed to be rebuilt if a weather event were to completely destroy them.	2/20/2024 1:57 PM
163	Water resources are #1. Fear of septic systems over flowing near the seacoast would be #2. Power grid locations that could be exposed to natural hazards #3.	2/20/2024 9:16 AM
164	My house. Schools. Water facilities.	2/19/2024 8:42 PM
165	Repairing roads, and reinforcing berms along the highway Not replacing the pavement but a hard pack stone at the pulloffs	2/19/2024 3:11 PM
166	Roads and storm preparedness to address flooding and coastal damage.	2/19/2024 2:14 PM
167	This is a strngely worded question. You can't stop climate impact.	2/19/2024 12:07 PM
168	On the beach front	2/19/2024 11:03 AM
169	Roads need attention. Not due to climate but we need to improve our roads	2/19/2024 9:53 AM
170	Beaches roads/parking/walls etc followed by town schools, town hall, library and town land.	2/19/2024 8:29 AM
171	Public safety building (Police & Fire). Either the elementary school or junior high as an emergency center.	2/18/2024 6:49 PM
172	Wallis road needs work. It's been over 2 years since north side has been done	2/18/2024 11:14 AM
173	See above	2/17/2024 10:03 PM
174	I do not believe that the town has much to do, other than allow a bigger height limit on the houses near the beach, so they can lift the homes up to accommodate higher tides	2/17/2024 8:47 PM
175	Ocean Blvd but that is a state rd Harbor Rd Bridge	2/17/2024 8:36 PM
176	I just don't know. I trust the town to figure this out.	2/17/2024 7:13 PM
177	Town roads infrastructure should be evaluated to see which lanes if any have significant risks.	2/17/2024 6:40 PM
178	ocean boulevard	2/17/2024 4:52 PM
179	Coastal routes	2/17/2024 4:14 PM
180	Sites and roads	2/17/2024 11:26 AM
181	1A	2/17/2024 11:05 AM
182	Not sure	2/17/2024 10:51 AM
183	Ocean Blvd, Harbor Rd access to the jetties,	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
184	road to maintain access for all citizens	2/17/2024 8:13 AM
185	Route 1a. The road itself, but the homes in that area will obviously suffer.	2/17/2024 8:01 AM
186	Coastal route 1a spanning from odiorne to town line into Hampton	2/17/2024 7:41 AM
187	Buildings	2/17/2024 5:15 AM
188	Harbor, sea wall on Rt 1A	2/16/2024 7:49 PM
189	Ocean Blvd, though a State Route is the highest priority.	2/16/2024 6:08 PM
190	?	2/16/2024 5:50 PM
191	I don't know.	2/16/2024 5:32 PM
192	Roads	2/16/2024 3:16 PM
193	1A	2/16/2024 2:33 PM

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194	Historical buildings in town (town hall, historical commission building), Bass Beach area (Rte 1A is state controlled?)	2/16/2024 2:28 PM
195	Roads	2/16/2024 1:51 PM
196	Septic systems! We need a town wide review and those that have failed systems should be fined until they remedy the problem.	2/16/2024 1:10 PM
197	All town buildings that are at risk.	2/16/2024 12:31 PM
198	Protection of the Marshes the first priority and then the shale piles and seawalls.	2/16/2024 12:28 PM
199	Route 1A, town roads near beaches.	2/16/2024 11:50 AM
200	The beaches	2/16/2024 11:14 AM
201	Your personal dwelling	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
202	Direct Coastal areas and those areas that are the first to flood.	2/16/2024 11:03 AM
203	Ocean Blvd (Rt 1 A)	2/16/2024 10:55 AM
204	Pump houses for the sewer system. Roads along 1a	2/16/2024 8:47 AM
205	Safety complex	2/16/2024 8:15 AM
206	See previous comment.	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
207	Several roads near marshes need to be raised with increased drains that run underneath to allow water flow. Current drain pipe are less than 16in diameters and are always blocked by debris. Schools and all govt buildings should be protected as all homes in town.	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
208	Road maintenance and bikes, runners and walkers. A lot of the roads are unsafe	2/16/2024 7:46 AM
209	Roads and bridges and rebuilding sea walls	2/16/2024 7:02 AM
210	Beaches, 1A , ocean blvd, pathways along the beach	2/15/2024 11:28 PM
211	We have non in this town,	2/15/2024 11:19 PM
212	Ocean Blvd; beach access points	2/15/2024 10:23 PM
213	Roads	2/15/2024 10:20 PM
214	1. Buildings 2. roads	2/15/2024 10:17 PM
215	roads	2/15/2024 10:09 PM
216	Roads	2/15/2024 9:57 PM
217	None	2/15/2024 9:00 PM

# Q9 Given the predictions for sea-level rise, storm surges, and groundwater rise, should Rye help private property owners address these hazards?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 40



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	42.50%	119
No	35.36%	99
Unsure	22.14%	62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>280</b>

#	IF YES, WHEN AND HOW MIGHT RYE HELP PROPERTY OWNERS?	DATE
1	It should be the homeowners responsibility to invest in protection for their property. If town property protections benefit the homeowner, this is OK, but not the goal.	3/15/2024 5:15 PM
2	Let people think for themselves. Government should not and cannot fix stupid.	3/15/2024 1:04 PM
3	Property owners need to be primarily responsible for their decision to own/live near the ocean and/or parts of town that flood. If they want to build in a flood area and not take proper precautions that is not the towns issue.	3/15/2024 12:52 PM
4	Yes through wetland and infrastructure resiliency. Not so much helping with reslience or repair of private homes themselves -- that can be left to homeowners.	3/15/2024 11:03 AM
5	No, Al gore said we would be under water by now. It's all BS	3/15/2024 10:03 AM
6	Information. Public speakers.	3/15/2024 9:57 AM
7	new building regulations	3/15/2024 7:47 AM
8	Perhaps the town can facilitate property owners by providing informational sessions and ways for them to form coops together.	3/14/2024 8:03 PM
9	See #7 - good planning tools and education Ordinances which reflect regulations and best practices in support of hazard mitigation	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
10	Contracts with service providers that provide preferred pricing to Rye residents.	3/14/2024 6:32 PM
11	Assist in permitting, when needed, for seawall repairs and similar repairs/prevention.	3/14/2024 6:03 PM

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12	Build a storm wall People can pay to park to help off set costs	3/14/2024 5:27 PM
13	Private Property is the responsibility of the property owner. No Town assistance should be provided.	3/14/2024 5:23 PM
14	support system to help with cleanup	3/14/2024 3:25 PM
15	town could make decisions on allowing new building and have competent people and equipment needs for engineers. Senior folks or disabilities and ambulance service.	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
16	Only through education on protecting their own properties	3/14/2024 1:10 PM
17	Why not? as it affects all those around Rye. Rye is already known as an "unfriendly community" Rise house - on pilings *another enforcement. Town of Rye become friends with Mayor of Newburyport, Administration of Portsmouth, Hampton, North Hampton. 'go/get' to their meetings send out more or weekly newsletters to Rye - work with your community neighbors.	3/13/2024 2:11 PM
18	We should not be encouraging or supporting development in flood zones with public resources. We should update the code to put the onus on private developers to do everything possible for the future, from requiring structural elevation and flood proof sloping to having bombproof seawalls, etc. If people want an oceanfront house, there should be no corners cut.	3/13/2024 11:34 AM
19	Provide names of companies that can provide help.	3/13/2024 10:49 AM
20	Yes as above with best practices retroactive ordinances and regulations to better protect properties and lives.	3/13/2024 10:37 AM
21	For a fee.	3/12/2024 8:15 PM
22	Be aware when requiring New Construction to be at a higher level, that their neighbor is at a lower level and that you have now helped to endanger the neighbors property. I hope we are a community that looks after our neighbors, and not just individuals looking out for themselves.	3/12/2024 5:05 PM
23	Some help to those who have lived in these properties over 40 years, but those who buy up these properties should be aware of what the future holds and be responsible for their buildings and properties.	3/12/2024 1:53 PM
24	Rye will help property owners by helping itself. Protect what open space remains in close proximity to the ocean. It's not all about selling land. It's more about protecting fools from themselves with proper restrictions on where open space needs to remain open!!	3/12/2024 10:23 AM
25	Incorporate private properties into coastal resiliency master plan for infrastructure.	3/12/2024 7:11 AM
26	Provide resources and education	3/11/2024 9:22 PM
27	Education on available options and resources is great, Rye should not be financially assisting individual residents	3/11/2024 8:15 PM
28	Help applying for state and federal grants to relocate or rebuild depending on probability of reoccurring disaster.	3/11/2024 5:11 PM
29	Being mindful of over building	3/11/2024 4:00 PM
30	I think through education, but I'm not sure how financially, unless it's for the general protection of the Seacoast.	3/11/2024 2:18 PM
31	preparedness clean-up	3/11/2024 2:10 PM
32	Proactive elevation of Harbor Road from Ocean Boulevard to its end point at 100 Harbor Road along with the planned replacement of the Harbor Road Bridge	3/11/2024 1:30 PM
33	Alert them to what is expected and resources available.	3/11/2024 12:18 PM
34	unsure	3/11/2024 10:05 AM
35	Information and education only.	3/10/2024 5:17 PM
36	sea wall along Ocean Blvd	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
37	Reinforce breach areas.	3/10/2024 4:41 PM

## Rye 2035

38	I don't think this can be done equitably. its "buyer beware"	3/10/2024 4:36 PM
39	need to find a way to support managed retreat in the towns most affected areas. building higher seawalls would be a misuse of funds given sea level rise predictions in the next 50 years.	3/10/2024 4:27 PM
40	protect structures such as roads and culverts so property owners can reach their homes. add drainage systems for marshes maintain sea walls	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
41	Not financially but with information that allows them to make choices about their investments starting now. Take Harbor Road and the bridge we're going to rebuild for close to \$1 million dollars. Science can surely predict how long it might be able to provide access to those properties, when a bridge and road there will no longer possible. The same should be doable for homes along Jenness Beach and along the seawall from there to the Rye Beach Club. The Beach Club is eventually not going to be there unless it's relocated.	3/10/2024 4:17 PM
42	reform zoning to allow taller structured that will need to be elevated	3/10/2024 4:11 PM
43	education zoning changes to prevent preventative policies - IDK what these are but ex. its we know XYZ is harmful, prevent or deter XYZ	3/10/2024 3:59 PM
44	whatever we do we cannot build in the marshes, healthy marshes will mitigate sea level rise!	3/10/2024 3:39 PM
45	education financial assistance where appropriate.	3/10/2024 3:25 PM
46	plan and prepare for the eventual impact.	3/10/2024 3:13 PM
47	Education and assist with access to options, resources. Clean Energy NH can help with this too I believe.	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
48	These homeowners should be taxed higher if they will be potentially using a disproportion amount of town services.	3/10/2024 9:21 AM
49	Negotiate favorable rates with preferred service providers for related preventative and restorative services.	3/10/2024 8:41 AM
50	Providing guidance/education on issues. Perhaps a "group buying/discounting" opportunity for solar panels (so we are not beholden to the electrical grid, or similar) and any other systems that all residents would benefit.	3/9/2024 9:58 PM
51	Plans to build better drainage working with homeowners	3/9/2024 8:34 PM
52	With information, but no monetary support paid by other tax payers	3/9/2024 1:41 PM
53	Start with education. Hold informative workshops with local experts in field who can educate and offer suggestions on what we can all do to protect ourselves and our property.	3/9/2024 1:34 PM
54	See #7 above	3/9/2024 11:58 AM
55	Taxpayer dollars should not go towards these efforts more often owning higher value property.	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
56	Collective agreement with a septic company that offers discounts for Rye residents to update/improve their septic systems. Not paid by taxpayers but the town could create an agreement with vendors to offer better rates/options/terms for a period of time to encourage state-of-the art systems installed in our town by a certain date.	3/9/2024 11:33 AM
57	Educate property owners on steps they can take to mitigate impacts (e.g., landscaping, trees and shrubs, property design)	3/8/2024 10:36 AM
58	By educating property owners as to their responsibilities and options well in advance of any minor or major event	3/8/2024 9:36 AM
59	Consult the property owner on better wsys for managing water drainage	3/7/2024 11:01 PM
60	after seeking expert advice from environmentalists, pass the knowledge along so that informed decisions can be made to benefit all	3/7/2024 10:57 PM
61	I suspect it would be incredibly expensive to help property owners rebuild their homes	3/7/2024 10:26 PM
62	Absolutely No.	3/7/2024 10:04 PM
63	People buying on Ocean Blvd should know the risks of buying on the ocean. That's what flood	3/7/2024 9:54 PM



	insurance is for.	
64	There must be national programs or groups who have started to work on dealing with this. We should partner or learn from them	3/7/2024 8:22 PM
65	Stricter building codes that increase runoff in adjacent properties ( e.g. filling in properties.	3/7/2024 6:07 PM
66	More educations so that we collectively understand what is happening. And likely from a different source than the RCC as they have a charged presence in town. A group that is more neutral like a state level environmental group.	3/7/2024 12:45 PM
67	Information	3/7/2024 12:03 PM
68	Providing education and prevention materials such as sand bags for flooding	3/7/2024 8:48 AM
69	As said previously, 1A needs to be taken more seriously and if the state will not act quickly in ALL the area's it should then the Town should look to step in and assist.	3/7/2024 8:40 AM
70	Previously stated #7	3/7/2024 8:11 AM
71	have a group of people conduct research and then provide actionable items for people to follow with evidence and reasons as to why these actions are impactful.	3/6/2024 6:51 PM
72	Resources for engineering analysis regarding their properties and resources to afford them.	3/6/2024 2:50 PM
73	It might make sense to follow the lead of states like Florida and require elevated buildings in certain areas of the town.	3/6/2024 2:12 PM
74	again, not sure about options/best practices but if there are ways to educate property owners or provide subsidies for interventions, or other approaches that might be a good idea.	3/6/2024 12:53 PM
75	see if tax payers will support a fund for such support	3/6/2024 12:33 PM
76	elevate homes encourage conservation easements	3/6/2024 12:19 PM
77	An opt in system for people to receive advice or even funds or equipment for assisting in readying property for these events. Additionally, shoring up existing infrastructure (such as drainage and seawalls) to help mitigate risks.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
78	with planning and prudent, cost effective improvements where possible	3/6/2024 11:34 AM
79	building condos, restore marshes	3/6/2024 11:11 AM
80	With revised ordinances taking into account the expected changes	3/6/2024 11:06 AM
81	Only in as far as understanding the risks of their property ownership, but not financially to help them improve their properties. That would be unfair to those who considered the risks before they purchased their properties. "I didn't know" is not justification for taxpayers helping to bail out the owner of a multimillion dollar property.	3/6/2024 10:26 AM
82	Homeowners should follow zoning, and construction requirements.	3/6/2024 9:14 AM
83	A homeowner should follow the building, ordinances and zoning ordinances. If you build a flood zone, you probably will get flooded.	3/6/2024 8:59 AM
84	Education	3/6/2024 5:05 AM
85	Tax credits since their property is first line of defense before public roads	3/5/2024 5:26 PM
86	informational events, grant opportunities	3/5/2024 4:59 PM
87	Not monetarily	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
88	Educate on ways to best protect homes. Agree on a sustainable management plan. Send a helicopter to Harbor Road! Comic relief...	3/5/2024 4:51 PM
89	Maybe use of town assets and labor at cost	3/4/2024 5:08 PM
90	Education, seminars, community involvement.	3/4/2024 1:45 PM
91	There are many "free market" believers in town. Several of whom live proximal to the ocean / flood zones. I do not feel granting town relief is appropriate.	3/4/2024 11:31 AM

## Rye 2035

92	Perform groundwater studies to determine impact of construction to abutting neighbors. Provide assistance with basement fortification.	3/3/2024 11:19 PM
93	Mandate and track sewer pumping	3/3/2024 9:37 PM
94	Help with making sure the sea wall is designed properly give incentives to not fertilize lawns education is key property businesses country clubs should not over use water supply	3/3/2024 8:59 PM
95	Give tax incentives to make modifications to homes to protect from hazards. Zoning may need to be modified to make these changes. The town should be applying for any funding that could assist homeowners.	3/3/2024 7:25 PM
96	Create effective drainage systems to take storm water away from buildings.	3/3/2024 5:42 PM
97	Encourage them to move to higher ground, stop new construction in area where sea-level rise and surges are projected, improve storm water management	3/3/2024 5:27 PM
98	provide DPW services to address properties with poor drainage caused by severe precipitation events	3/3/2024 4:52 PM
99	Look to see what others have done successfully if there are any towns who have developed a plan.	3/3/2024 10:24 AM
100	Owners should adapt. Town can't fight nature indefinitely.	3/3/2024 8:23 AM
101	Through education on what areas are affected and how to mitigate the hazards, install sump pumps, etc.	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
102	Upgrade the drainage systems in low lying areas owned by the town and invest with the state and federal government to build up the coastal barriers.	3/2/2024 2:13 PM
103	Education on what we should and should not do.	3/1/2024 5:37 PM
104	Sea walls, or other protective measures	3/1/2024 1:41 PM
105	Should not help them, it is their issue when they bought the property	2/29/2024 2:10 PM
106	The Town of Rye should only work on the public spaces owned by the Town/State to keep property owners protected.	2/29/2024 8:53 AM
107	tax breaks? consulting?	2/28/2024 10:39 AM
108	Information, education, emergency planning.	2/26/2024 7:09 AM
109	Not at the cost of tax payer. If federal funding is available need to assist in obtaining funds.	2/23/2024 3:32 PM
110	By out coastal landowners.	2/22/2024 7:25 PM
111	See above.	2/22/2024 5:33 PM
112	Education, help with infrastructure/systems that can minimize impact	2/22/2024 4:25 PM
113	Yes but only to a point, it should be a public benefit as well	2/22/2024 2:51 PM
114	They choose to live where they are so let them take care of their own risks. There is also such a thing called insurance. Live on the water plan on living in the waters one.	2/22/2024 12:29 PM
115	education on the subjects of construction of homes, evacuation routes and state plans to address infrastructure	2/22/2024 9:43 AM
116	First stop new development in these low lying areas unless adequate measure have been taken in planning. We are seeing new construction in places of known issue, where sites are backfilled to accommodate building in sites that should not be.	2/22/2024 9:11 AM
117	This is ultimately up to owners.	2/22/2024 8:58 AM
118	Aren't FEMA and other private insurers already doing this? I believe that the town's responsibilities start at the street - ie access to utilities and public roads. So if a storm impacts these services then the town should have a contingency plan. building rules should be relaxed to accommodate those who wish to protect there properties however it seems this is a challenge because of the national building code.	2/22/2024 8:27 AM
119	Negotiate rates with vendors and provide tax incentives for proactively addressing	2/21/2024 8:54 PM

Rye 2035

120	Not financially but the town could provide guidance to these homeowners on how/when to prepare	2/21/2024 7:04 PM
121	With regulations so buildings are designed to stand storm surge. Updating and strengthening regulations. Not granting expansion/increase in impervious cover for homes subject to flooding, including "fake" pervious pavers.	2/21/2024 5:10 PM
122	Change zoning laws to make it easier to fill low areas and to build sea walls.	2/21/2024 9:34 AM
123	Rye is not responsible for individual risk assumption ie. I chose not to consider homes within a mile of the ocean. If others choose to assume this risk, I should not be held financially accountable	2/20/2024 1:57 PM
124	If flood zones change, effecting new areas, so help could be given.	2/19/2024 8:42 PM
125	Provide guidance on ways to protect the property and to be more resilient, .e.g., install solar panels and a battery storage.	2/19/2024 4:41 PM
126	Yes to those who are less able to pay and have lived here many years fixed income. No to those who continue to build in these areas without thinking ahead after seeing the damage and who can well afford it. They should be putting in plans the outline of improvements they are making to their homes with this issue in mind ie higher up	2/19/2024 3:11 PM
127	Some locations can't be saved. The ocean will eventually prevail. Rye should minimize continued development/deforestation.	2/19/2024 12:07 PM
128	The town can help with expertise but the private property owners are responsible for the cost of maintaining and protecting their property.	2/18/2024 6:49 PM
129	codes that allow for higher heights and walls.	2/17/2024 8:47 PM
130	Find outside funding for property owners to enhance seawalls	2/17/2024 8:36 PM
131	I am not sure if town should or should not be responsible.	2/17/2024 7:13 PM
132	Share information so homeowners can make their own decisions.	2/17/2024 6:40 PM
133	Flood water management.	2/17/2024 5:45 PM
134	Advice and protect 1A damage somehow	2/17/2024 3:04 PM
135	Allow storm walls	2/17/2024 11:05 AM
136	Work to obtain Federal and State grants for their use in protecting their homes	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
137	The town may not be able to help the homeowners.	2/17/2024 8:01 AM
138	Creating higher berms, more large boulders, improved storm drainage .	2/17/2024 5:15 AM
139	Its very difficult by Rye should make sure they do what is possible to maintain that people are eligible for FEMA flood insurance.	2/16/2024 6:08 PM
140	Stilts	2/16/2024 5:32 PM
141	Help with Flooding issues	2/16/2024 3:16 PM
142	New building permits should allow increased elevations if it does not increase water issues for neighbors. Allowing property owners to better control water on their property, and recognizing that State environmental employees may have more knowledge than volunteer conservation commission members.	2/16/2024 2:28 PM
143	I think it's up to the property owner to do their due diligence.	2/16/2024 1:10 PM
144	We would not be a town without residents. How to make it fair that is another question/concern. Yes, help by education, demonstrations means to support, guidance and grants/funds to assist in the development of and protection of their properties.	2/16/2024 12:28 PM
145	education re issues and government funding available. Do not support Rye tax \$ to assist homeowners.	2/16/2024 11:50 AM
146	Assess their properties and recommend remediation	2/16/2024 11:14 AM

Rye 2035

147	By determining how to reinforce berms and drainage to rye beaches and roads this may help them. But there are risks with waterfront property that are part of the purchase.	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
148	Need State representatives to implore the state to help with this. Also, perhaps again a tax break for proven efforts made to alleviate the issue	2/16/2024 11:03 AM
149	By maintaining the seawall on Ocean Boulevard.	2/16/2024 8:47 AM
150	Education only. No taxpayer dollars.	2/16/2024 8:15 AM
151	Beaver dams remove them would first step. Water level has risen dramatically. Pipes put in at beaver dams for water flow. Increase drainage. Septic will become a problem so maybe start looking at sewer.	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
152	Advice for preventing damage	2/16/2024 7:46 AM
153	Infrastructure supports and ongoing improvements to water and sewer to prevent contamination	2/16/2024 7:02 AM
154	Property tax credits for improvements that help mitigate flood risk	2/15/2024 11:28 PM
155	While I don't see using Rye tax dollars to build infrastructure for private citizens to protect private property, perhaps the town can assist with coordination and resources to assist property owners take action.	2/15/2024 10:23 PM
156	Education. Grants.	2/15/2024 10:17 PM
157	Offer advice	2/15/2024 9:57 PM

DRAFT

## Q10 What other issues and opportunities are you aware of related to natural hazards and coastal impacts?

Answered: 106 Skipped: 214

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	People should not be building in vulnerable areas. If they do so, they do so at their own risk and expense.	3/15/2024 9:23 PM
2	IMPACT! Problem is we have people moving here from other areas where they has everything but left because they didn't want to pay for it.	3/15/2024 1:04 PM
3	That you can blow money on? Look, address the Phragmites. That is destroying our Marshes. Remediate that if my money is burning a hole in your pocket.	3/15/2024 10:03 AM
4	Marsh water rise.	3/15/2024 9:57 AM
5	Perhaps look into federal grant funding to get advice from professionals.	3/14/2024 8:03 PM
6	Stop letting people build in wetland buffer zones near marshes- they will just flood	3/14/2024 7:30 PM
7	Need a good storm wall Hampton beach concrete wall and have paid parking	3/14/2024 5:27 PM
8	Forcing owners to raise structures. Forcing owners in at risk areas to contribute to costs to update water and septic/sewer.	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
9	I have not studied this subject.	3/14/2024 2:15 PM
10	Residential (or commercial) properties with septic systems leaching into the waterways. This should be a major concern that should warrant heavy town and state involvement. It is a major hazard to human health at our beaches.	3/14/2024 1:55 PM
11	Wind damage, water damage, power disruption, structural damage to buildings, beach erosion, water contamination...	3/13/2024 6:41 PM
12	by NOT enforcing land codes - also educating people - various state have tougher enforcements - it seems like Rye goes around stating the rules and regulations but dont work together as a team to enforce.	3/13/2024 2:11 PM
13	Do the present Zoning ordinances address what is expected? Granting variances and special exceptions doesn't seem smart.	3/13/2024 10:49 AM
14	increased summer beach population causes more pollution	3/13/2024 10:40 AM
15	Open historic flows of water in and out of marshes with larger culverts. Plan that certain areas may not be able to be protected in the future, retreat from some areas. Harbor to Washington Road for example.	3/13/2024 10:37 AM
16	allowing exceptions to property owners that clearly endanger fresh water systems as well as estuaries (such as overbuilding on plots, like Webster attempted to do over the past 10 years)	3/12/2024 1:53 PM
17	Recent storms and exceptionally high tides have provided insight to what potentially lies ahead. The power of the ocean has been more apparent then ever. It's not going away!	3/12/2024 10:23 AM
18	Clean water: Coakley Landfill & Barry Brook watershed	3/11/2024 9:22 PM
19	Coastal flooding and sea level rise with the increasing frequency of large impact storms is my biggest concern	3/11/2024 8:15 PM
20	Drinking water (aquifer contamination by salt)	3/11/2024 5:11 PM
21	As noted above, the slash on the forest floors due to dying hemlock, ash and beech trees.	3/11/2024 4:23 PM
22	Unacceptable increased stress on emergency first responders during periods of inaccessibility to Rye residential and commercial properties	3/11/2024 1:30 PM

Rye 2035

23	I would have to spend time thinking about it.	3/11/2024 12:18 PM
24	There should be no more building in coastal areas	3/11/2024 11:07 AM
25	Beaches could be replenished with sand dredged from offshore. This would likely be a state project. Again, cost-benefit would be a critical consideration.	3/10/2024 5:17 PM
26	none	3/10/2024 4:20 PM
27	when people build in flood zones we should make sure homes/buildings are build in a way that will survive flows and not give them the opportunity to put their property are risk.	3/10/2024 3:39 PM
28	recently saw on Boston Chronicle an invention by Harvard design grad Alex Berkowitz of "Coastal Protection Solutions" its a "wave breaker" to reduce height and velocity of ocean waters.	3/10/2024 3:25 PM
29	Ground water is rising in Rye. Ticks are not dying. Planting hardiness zone is increasing as we are not as cold as 50 years ago.	3/10/2024 11:29 AM
30	Get the state to plant things in the shale piles and on seawalls to hold them together	3/10/2024 9:21 AM
31	The town should not be spending more money based on prediction that never come to reality. Just look at statistics about that.	3/10/2024 8:38 AM
32	Mother Nature will always win so don't necessarily have the answer of what we can do to mitigate affects, but what can we do to be prepared or what can we do to prevent the least damage.	3/9/2024 9:58 PM
33	Impairments to water due to flooding	3/9/2024 8:34 PM
34	None	3/9/2024 11:58 AM
35	The town's efforts should look at trends in weather, where damage takes place, costs to remedy versus the cost of prevention. We also need to do a better job of limiting building footprints and building around wetlands as there continues to be more flooding in our community than ever.	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
36	existing sewer lines terminating in the ocean	3/9/2024 11:31 AM
37	Degradation of water quality from flooding.	3/8/2024 10:36 AM
38	none beyond reacting to storms. Rye has done a lot to address flood zone and building in it	3/8/2024 9:59 AM
39	Not sure	3/8/2024 9:36 AM
40	federal/state grants available to coastal towns; the concern is that the design of our current roads/infrastructure did not take into account nor will be able to protect us from future coastal flood impacts	3/7/2024 10:57 PM
41	water and power lines may need to be rerouted. Cell towers need to be provided to provide emergency communications. Potentially the town may have to pay for cell towers to be installed if cellphone companies are unwilling to make the financial commitment due to low population density of Rye	3/7/2024 10:26 PM
42	Embrace change, prepare for it, and adapt to it.	3/7/2024 10:04 PM
43	None.	3/7/2024 9:54 PM
44	none	3/7/2024 2:17 PM
45	Over building	3/7/2024 12:03 PM
46	Traffic control	3/7/2024 8:11 AM
47	None.	3/6/2024 2:12 PM
48	Rye is 2/3 water fresh and salt marshes sea rise and storms hugest threat	3/6/2024 12:33 PM
49	work with state and other neighboring communities - Hampton, North Hampton, Portsmouth. Grants	3/6/2024 12:19 PM
50	N/A	3/6/2024 11:41 AM

Rye 2035

51	Parson's Creek pollution issue	3/6/2024 11:34 AM
52	restore the marshes!	3/6/2024 11:11 AM
53	How does Rye keep enough forest and open space to allow wildlife to be sustained and at the same time assure the availability of fresh water and other basic human needs.	3/6/2024 11:06 AM
54	If properties are damaged and/or destroyed, Rye's building code should reflect the future designs needed to protect from increasingly severe weather events. The structures need to be rebuilt to better standards.	3/6/2024 10:26 AM
55	None	3/6/2024 5:57 AM
56	None	3/5/2024 6:50 PM
57	Rte 1A needs to be protected	3/5/2024 5:26 PM
58	electric vehicle fleet sola on all municipal buildings	3/5/2024 4:59 PM
59	I am hoping that people will realize that this is a serious global issue. I have read about adaptive coastal protection as we cannot predict future climate change accurately. They are fortifying the sea wall which I guess offers temporary protect?	3/5/2024 4:51 PM
60	Protect natural habitats. Ore conservation land and fine all out of staters a larger fine for illegal parking	3/4/2024 6:00 PM
61	The loss of vegetation in the marsh due to flooding. Roots are rotting and the trees and vegetations are dying. Also, invasive species in wetlands should be eradicated. Building permits must provide drainage plans so runoff doesn't go in wetlands or the permits should be rejected.	3/3/2024 7:25 PM
62	I see how roads that are not repaired lead to unnatural flooding and causing harm to the environment closest to our roads.	3/3/2024 10:22 AM
63	More frequent repair costs for roads.	3/3/2024 8:23 AM
64	Flooding in the wetlands	3/2/2024 3:09 PM
65	Concerned about septic systems breaking down / combined with sewer lines located in only a very small % of our Town- we are heading for a drinking water disaster.	3/2/2024 9:23 AM
66	Water contamination.	3/2/2024 7:57 AM
67	Having boats available and life jackets along with a "safe place" to go (again the Jr. High) which has beds, food, water stored for emergencies.	3/1/2024 5:37 PM
68	As above	3/1/2024 1:41 PM
69	If there still is raw sewage or farm wastes going into fresh or ocean water, it needs to stop. Set up natural filtering ponds with plants and fish that can help clean the water.	3/1/2024 12:51 PM
70	None	2/29/2024 5:17 PM
71	Don't like the gravel berms for sea level rise and storms. Need a better solution.	2/29/2024 2:10 PM
72	breaches of ther breakwaters along Route 1A Flooding of the marshes on west side of Route 1A	2/26/2024 10:21 AM
73	Would be great to partner with other ocean adjacent towns.	2/26/2024 7:09 AM
74	let things alone the good lord will take care of us	2/25/2024 10:01 PM
75	Explore options of building Jetties and other risk mitigation strategies. Suggest working with consultants from global universities (India) on coastal resilience plans and strategies.	2/22/2024 5:33 PM
76	None! Sometimes a storm is a good thing. It helps to clean out unwanted debris.	2/22/2024 12:29 PM
77	No improvement has been made to reinforce or build up sea walls or other areas along the coast in my lifetime. Even after storms it's just put back the way it was and then washes out again in the next storm. We need to find creative solutions to solve this issue that's not going away.	2/22/2024 9:11 AM
78	Not enough current data about the status of salt marshes in "Existing Conditions" draft.	2/21/2024 5:10 PM

## Rye 2035

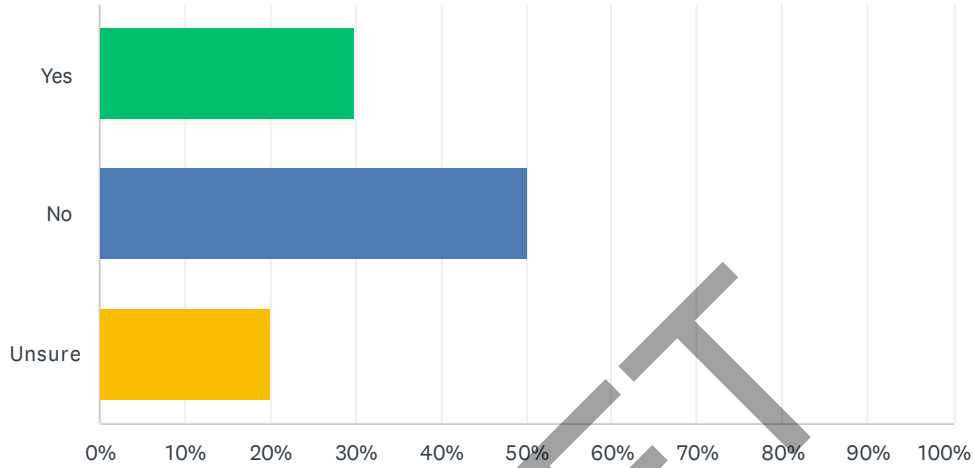
Degradation of salt marshes means less resilience. Lack of natural barriers. Lack of enforcement.

79	None more than ever in the past.	2/21/2024 9:34 AM
80	Solar arrays super heat the air directly above them. This causes scorching and severe health impacts to birds flying too close	2/20/2024 1:57 PM
81	Erosion but not sure how affected rye is	2/19/2024 8:42 PM
82	The public safety building is the largest municipal electric user after the schools. Solar panels, batteries and efficient heat pumps should be installed there.	2/19/2024 4:41 PM
83	N/A	2/19/2024 12:07 PM
84	None	2/19/2024 9:53 AM
85	More seawalls are needed.	2/19/2024 8:29 AM
86	None	2/18/2024 6:49 PM
87	Primarily safety and access in and out of roads during flooding.	2/17/2024 7:13 PM
88	None.	2/17/2024 6:40 PM
89	Ground water rise and impact on private wells.	2/17/2024 5:45 PM
90	salt marsh health so they can help with flooding. More conservation land buys	2/17/2024 3:04 PM
91	Failing to keep development out of wetland buffers is a missed opportunity.	2/17/2024 3:01 PM
92	Trying to supply water for irrigation is a mistake.	2/17/2024 8:01 AM
93	Rye needs to mandate antiquated and failing septic systems are replaced.	2/16/2024 6:08 PM
94	Erosion	2/16/2024 5:32 PM
95	Drainage issues	2/16/2024 3:16 PM
96	bacteria in water cause by septic systems not to standard	2/16/2024 2:33 PM
97	N/A	2/16/2024 12:31 PM
98	Climate Change is here and we need to all work together to become resilient as a Town.	2/16/2024 12:28 PM
99	Shale piles are not a good solution to the sea rise issue. The state and federal assets should be used first	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
100	None	2/16/2024 8:12 AM
101	Water levels are a big one.	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
102	Septic system near the ocean. Fines and enforcement for noncompliance	2/16/2024 7:46 AM
103	Ongoing maintenance of new and existing sea walls	2/16/2024 7:02 AM
104	Rye Harbor needs boat, yacht addressing so as not to expect hull losses and cleanup.	2/15/2024 11:19 PM
105	Flooding and passage on Rt 1A	2/15/2024 9:57 PM
106	None	2/15/2024 9:00 PM



Q11 Do you think the need of all community members are being met in Rye? Needs may include housing, transportation, recreation, and other services.

Answered: 278 Skipped: 42



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.86%	83
No	50.00%	139
Unsure	20.14%	56
TOTAL		278

DRAFT

## Q12 If not, how could the needs of community members be better supported?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 164

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Like conservation, recreation has gotten out of control	3/15/2024 1:17 PM
2	Need more affordable housing. Transportation and Rec is fine.	3/15/2024 12:55 PM
3	Tax rate is growing too fast for a diverse population including seniors on fixed income or younger workforce families.	3/15/2024 11:07 AM
4	Support restaurants along the coast, yes, next to your precious March. I still need a place to eat and Atlantic grill blows	3/15/2024 10:11 AM
5	Altho we rely on volunteers to run the senior bus.	3/15/2024 10:05 AM
6	Perhaps be sure low income elderly homeowners can avail themselves of property tax credits and re-evaluate the credits Rye does give to make sure they are reasonable.	3/14/2024 8:15 PM
7	Support recreation facilities, library common upgrades, req greater than 20% affordable housing in multi family developments	3/14/2024 7:38 PM
8	All community initiatives should be evaluated	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
9	Better senior services and recreation services. Why there is not a handicapped (wheelchair) van available is ridiculous.	3/14/2024 6:05 PM
10	The question is far to vague and open ended for a concise response. Some ideas: 1. Ordinance for new neighborhoods could require X% of affordable housing regardless the nature/type of project. 2. Ordinance which encourages meaningful amounts of affordable housing.	3/14/2024 5:31 PM
11	Why can't people build ADU's to keep elderly parents divining with family	3/14/2024 5:30 PM
12	Run a shuttle to Coast Bus Service	3/14/2024 4:14 PM
13	A recreation center, town center bandstand / park . tennis courts	3/14/2024 3:48 PM
14	More recreational opportunities including a gym outside of the control of schools.	3/14/2024 2:17 PM
15	Rye should strive to stay a small coastal town.	3/14/2024 2:06 PM
16	Coffee ,small cafe in the center of town . Better biking space on side of roads .	3/14/2024 1:38 PM
17	Better communication from the town.	3/13/2024 6:44 PM
18	Road maintenance to include potholes, drain cleaning, shoulder repairs etc.	3/13/2024 3:38 PM
19	no public transportation - I am not taking the Senior Serve. see enclosed Senior Facts Packet	3/13/2024 2:20 PM
20	Need to approve more housing of all types.	3/13/2024 11:47 AM
21	It is hard because people with money can work the system to get what they want	3/13/2024 10:57 AM
22	Rye has very poor recreation facilities with no indoor spaces, no outdoor courts for tennis and basketball, high speed limits in many neighborhoods compared to national standards and a focus on vehicles over pedestrians and cyclists.	3/13/2024 10:47 AM
23	n/a	3/13/2024 10:41 AM
24	Those who are being taxed out of town are not having their needs of remaining in a viable financially sound town met. By providing for everyone else there are many who are overlooked.	3/12/2024 8:36 PM
25	Increase library staff and thus library events to meet the needs of all community members.	3/12/2024 8:19 PM

Rye 2035

26	More affordable housing More transportation assistance? For those who may live alone and not have family nearby	3/12/2024 6:57 PM
27	It would be great to have a central meeting place ( town hall) to have exercise classes, plays, social events, etc. The town is aging and many of the activities are for the seniors or the schools, there is a lack of activities for in-between, except at the library. It would be great to have someplace where all generations could gather socially, in larger numbers than the library can accommodate.	3/12/2024 5:25 PM
28	I worry about Rye's older population and how they will maintain their homes with the rising tax rate. That has become especially evident this year. Rye is becoming a community of the well to do, not even the young family group who cannot afford to buy property here. It would be such a pleasure to hit the "slow down" key on property development.	3/12/2024 4:25 PM
29	Affordable housing is certainly an issue, but I don't have an answer, since land is so scarce now, and clearly unaffordable to anyone but the very wealthy.	3/12/2024 1:57 PM
30	Affordable housing. Affordable child care. Recreation facilities for all.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
31	House prices have soared since Covid, this is market values, but it is pricing a large group of people out of Rye, both those living here are new arrivals. It's hard to navigate the town website, find links to meetings and minutes. More concise transparency would be helpful for people to be involved.	3/11/2024 9:42 PM
32	Community transportation and zoning for bike and pedestrian traffic	3/11/2024 6:15 PM
33	A community center or expansion of library to include a community room that has windows. It needs to be easily accessible, useful for all ages, space for movement, talks, meeting, exercise...	3/11/2024 2:21 PM
34	Do not know what is available.	3/11/2024 12:21 PM
35	Rye needs more sidewalks or trails that provide safe routes for all ages to connect with each other. This would also help by reducing the number of cars on the road. Creating healthy lifestyles and less pollution.	3/11/2024 11:18 AM
36	More affordable housing	3/11/2024 10:11 AM
37	Give young families a reason to move here. No young families want to move here because they could spend less money on a home 8 miles inland and feel more welcome and have better resources offered to them.	3/10/2024 11:06 PM
38	need more programs for active seniors - don't need senior serve yet but want to get together with seniors my age (70 yrs) and want to take part in programs/activities.	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
39	We are an extremely "low information" town when it comes to voters' knowledge and understanding of how their town government works, how the budget is put together, how often decisions we make to NOT do something one year in order to postpone spending or to be able to feel good about "low taxes" actually makes things worse down the road. It's a major shortcoming of town government that we fail to provide people with that information when it matters most. Why don't people know what RCC does and how it does it? Why does information people receive about the budget from the Rye Civic League surpass anything in quality and quantity than what's produced by the Select Board or the Budget Committee?	3/10/2024 4:42 PM
40	affordable housing.	3/10/2024 4:40 PM
41	how about cell phone service like they have in 3rd world countries	3/10/2024 4:21 PM
42	Handicap accessibility to town beaches	3/10/2024 4:12 PM
43	need more market rate and little/low income housing	3/10/2024 4:01 PM
44	more housing choices better affordability great trails, senior serve, beaches	3/10/2024 3:48 PM
45	recreation that supports all ages pickle ball courts for	3/10/2024 3:41 PM
46	recreation for people who don't belong to country clubs - rec center for tennis, pickle ball, basketball... target community space - library? - for gathering.	3/10/2024 3:29 PM
47	This is a Senior Citizen heavy town and young families' voices are drowned out by the Senior Citizens' collective desire to keep taxes low. The town needs to invest in order to prosper,	3/10/2024 9:58 AM

Rye 2035

rather than being penny wise and pound foolish.

48	Transportation: Commitment to high quality of roads, safe for biking, walking and running. Services tie to your demographics and some of the data points are misleading. Huge number of Rye families are retired, so income is low, but there is Massive NetWorth. Who is moving in to Rye? Wealthy older people from outside of Rye? Will this stop? What are the impacts to schools, shift in Rye Recreation, use of the library and other services	3/10/2024 9:35 AM
49	Provide a means for residents to contribute money to the elderly that need financial support, for instance, the ability to add funds to their tax bill payment for use by the elderly towards payment of their tax bill.	3/10/2024 9:11 AM
50	Rye is a wealthy community so I'm not sure housing or transportation is a Rye issue. I would say housing and transportation are a Seacoast issue. I do think a town like Rye should have more/better Recreation facilities. There is no indoor Recreation Center and limited outdoor recreation.	3/9/2024 10:07 PM
51	Safe shoulders in roads for walkers,runners and bikers - reconsider parking on both sides of streams in summer (save one for pedestrians/bikes) safety issue. Equal opportunity and resources for both girls and boys sports through recreational fields	3/9/2024 8:38 PM
52	We could provide more programs at the library.	3/9/2024 5:14 PM
53	Meeting everyone's needs is an unrealistic goal for any local, state, or Federal government. We need to vote on where the residents want to prioritize spending.	3/9/2024 1:52 PM
54	More physical fitness opportunities and engagement programs for seniors. More workforce housing. Better visiting/gathering space for residents. A vibrant town center. A coffee shop/sandwich shop (in addition to fantastic La Mulita). Creating a town that people can safely and successfully age well in. Make Rye a Blue Zone community!	3/9/2024 1:47 PM
55	More affordable housing	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
56	diversified housing options are not availabl	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
57	Children safety, cross walks, safer biking	3/8/2024 12:43 PM
58	have sharing meetings during the day on various days, continue to keep online and recorded meetings for those unable to attend, focus budget items on need not want or would like. It is true we are aging community and are limited in what we can support. Maybe have fund raising groups to provide other not needed items	3/8/2024 10:18 AM
59	affordable housing is a goal but it is very hard to achieve in Rye as the question is how to fund it and that has been a roadblock for years. Plus land is so expensive and that too is a roadblock.	3/8/2024 10:02 AM
60	Improve roadways to provide sidewalks and space for children to safely bike to and from school	3/8/2024 9:51 AM
61	keep the rural character, we do not need more housing if we are to be "rural". Since Rye is an aging community, may need to partner with Portsmouth to support senior services. Rye Senior Serve needs to be supported.	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
62	Better transportation for the elderly	3/7/2024 11:04 PM
63	Rye moving toward lower cost housing along Lafayette Rd. Transportation may need more support	3/7/2024 10:29 PM
64	Need to define what the "need" refers to. Rye needs to continue ensure safe drinking water, safe road conditions, adequate fire and police response times, and most importantly the protection of its rural cultural setting.	3/7/2024 10:12 PM
65	Unrealistic expectations, you can't make everyone happy.	3/7/2024 9:57 PM
66	elderly housing, elder tax break	3/7/2024 9:23 PM
67	More recreation facilities (tennis courts) and community events (like 4th of July)	3/7/2024 8:31 PM
68	Housing, we could have more affordability. We could create systems that could allow more people access to the beach. We could create a sidewalk system that allows safer passage around town	3/7/2024 8:27 PM

Rye 2035

69	Elderly	3/7/2024 12:05 PM
70	Cleaner and more efficient, up to date transfer station and Public Works facility.	3/7/2024 8:19 AM
71	Better support for young families to network. Better library resources and funding for more frq events events.	3/6/2024 10:58 PM
72	consider ADUs that are regulated so that they are built with well and in the character of the town of Rye. Consider and offer options (land use regulations/zoning) to residents to change existing large homes into multiple units while maintaining the beautiful exteriors of the homes.	3/6/2024 6:57 PM
73	Better public transportation.	3/6/2024 2:55 PM
74	There is no affordable housing in Rye (of the seacoast for that matter) and it would be nice if the Senior Serve bus would be handicap accessible.	3/6/2024 2:46 PM
75	Sidewalks along major roads help to get people out, build community and keep kids safe.	3/6/2024 2:18 PM
76	We should support the creation of the outdoor space the public library. This would be a great use of the space. We should also support a library expansion.	3/6/2024 1:33 PM
77	My answer might be yes at some level but I really don't feel in-the-know about all of Rye's programs in the above categories. I will say that I have always been shocked, as for instance, that with a maturing populace, Rye's recreational offerings do not include tennis courts and, given recent trends, pickle ball. These resources are in fact, age independent. However, the money seems to keep flowing towards youth programs and team sports, and the youth population in the town is declining.	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
78	need more workforce housing	3/6/2024 12:35 PM
79	need housing that is more affordable. aging population, schools running more vacant. string schools keep property values strong. once our schools are empty, then close, then Rye loses out charm? When will we be forced to go down to one school building? is that ideal schooling 5 yr olds with 14 yard olds? No.	3/6/2024 12:22 PM
80	lower speed limits additional access to non motorized transportation on safe roads for elderly veterans more tax breaks	3/6/2024 12:13 PM
81	Housing cost is a large concern for me. I work in Rye and will NEVER be able to afford a home in this town at it's current market rates.	3/6/2024 12:01 PM
82	not enough affordable rental units encourage more affordable appts or reasonable rentals	3/6/2024 11:22 AM
83	It is impossible to meet the needs of each and every community member.	3/6/2024 11:21 AM
84	need more diverse housing - saying "yes" to cottage communities (intentional density in limited areas), ADUs, multi-family units/projects. would love transportation to downtown Portsmouth. would love a more comprehensive recreation complex - indoor basketball, tennis courts. do our seniors have what they need to age in place? services? not sure.	3/6/2024 11:15 AM
85	Senior center	3/6/2024 5:27 AM
86	Housing	3/5/2024 8:39 PM
87	a small retail zone ,coffee , general store etc. where people in the community can go to build a sense belonging instead of a bedroom community	3/5/2024 5:39 PM
88	However I do think our town is remiss in a community awareness of people in need that do not have the wherewithal, ability or self confidence to reach out for help. I also think our police force is very out of touch with the residents. I introduce myself to every police person I meet, over and over again.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
89	Elderly citizens have no services. Youth have limited ability to hike and walk safely.	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
90	more housing diversity. less restriction on home owners to renovate and put additions on their homes.	3/5/2024 4:53 PM
91	Fixed income people who have lived in town all their lives should be able to afford to keep their homes. Need retirement low income rentals.	3/4/2024 6:08 PM
92	More predictable taxation. Better utilizataion of school buildings.	3/4/2024 3:52 PM

## Rye 2035

93	Help young people afford housing here	3/3/2024 9:01 PM
94	Transportation for disabled citizens is essential. Wheelchair vans need to be available to get people out. Public transportation is also needed for people who can't drive.	3/3/2024 7:41 PM
95	Maintain roads and drainage.	3/3/2024 5:45 PM
96	Side walks, bike lanes, speed mitigation, better recreation facilities (including indoor recreation), trail improvements, more resident beach parking	3/3/2024 5:38 PM
97	establish workforce/below market housing requirements as part of any future multi unit developments	3/3/2024 4:56 PM
98	Rye needs housing for all income levels. We would support cluster workforce affordable housing. Makes for a healthier community	3/3/2024 10:43 AM
99	All town roads should be paved and drainage should be maintained for all roads.	3/2/2024 2:32 PM
100	Need more transport services as our population ages	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
101	Real low income housing (not \$600k condos) Recreation opportunities at the Library Common.	3/2/2024 8:05 AM
102	We do need housing for people that have lived in Rye for "ages" that grew the town. It is time we took care of them.	3/1/2024 5:45 PM
103	There should be more affordable housing that is not an eye sore, is truly affordable, with some Section 8 housing. Our seniors and veterans have limited incomes that do not change with inflation. There should be discounts on taxes, registrations, for seniors, disabled and veterans.	3/1/2024 1:01 PM
104	More Housing	2/29/2024 5:19 PM
105	whatever needs attention to the most make sure those dont get shuffled to the back burner	2/29/2024 12:48 PM
106	Senior transportation for everyone, not just a certain few. Seniors who have mobility issues have no transportation in Rye.	2/29/2024 8:58 AM
107	traffic speed control through Rye Center better recreation facilities...Newcastle has a better enclosed recreation facility better designated and marked bicycle paths	2/26/2024 10:34 AM
108	It seems we may be in a situation where housing affordability in the region could impact business and public services.	2/26/2024 7:20 AM
109	More community space to come together. Roads are not safe for walking and biking.	2/25/2024 7:23 AM
110	Seniors are neglected. Kids do not have safe passage on roads. Junior high is sub standard.	2/23/2024 3:35 PM
111	Our experience of the school system was lacking - they did not have teachers for all standard subjects and critical services were underfunded. There is very little for teenagers in town. Walking/biking on most roads can be quite hazardous. For a very long time we did not have cellular service in our neighborhood which is a safety concern.	2/23/2024 7:31 AM
112	More focus on seniors & lower income residents.	2/22/2024 7:29 PM
113	Seniors have limited transportation. Library needs to continue to grow as a space for older residence to congregate. Residence on Rye Water do not receive basic clean, drinkable water! Rye Beach has sidewalks and safe passage and roads on most of Rye are dangerous for walkers, runners and most importantly, children. Middle school age children are not receiving a proper education. Social studies is a must!!! A dedicated social studies teacher is imperative and it's embarrassing that a town such as Rye does not have one.	2/22/2024 5:45 PM
114	sidewalks, town center with recreation and retail opportunities	2/22/2024 3:38 PM
115	Housing and zoning. Larger lots should be able to build multiple houses	2/22/2024 3:02 PM
116	By stop foolish spending on people's wish list. Many people move here because of our beautiful town, yet they want to change everything and then they move because of high taxes. So many unhappy people—always want more. When is enough enough.	2/22/2024 12:44 PM
117	More focus on things they draw young families to town and improvements to the ref and playgrounds are desperately needed.	2/22/2024 9:16 AM
118	I don't know who needs what so it's hard to answer.	2/22/2024 8:38 AM

## Rye 2035

119	Rye should consider adopting the recommendations of the Blue Zone Project	2/22/2024 7:24 AM
120	Accessibility in all public spaces.	2/21/2024 8:56 PM
121	The Rye 400 group did an amazing job in creating community events. More funding for recreation. A more vibrant Town center -- something that is hopefully happening with the help of the Library Board of Trustees.	2/21/2024 6:21 PM
122	We need to be able to bring new families in, to raise their families to support our schools - The State has gone sideways, issuing vouchers for families to go to private schools and need those funds from our tax dollars specifically for public schools to return to their directed use.	2/20/2024 9:25 AM
123	I think when all these projects are put forth especially given the last tax increase the fixed income people are being left behind. For example the library project would only raise a person's tax 39\$ That's fine for someone with money building all these huge homes but not to someone who is on a fixed income. 39\$ goes to medicines, food and bills	2/19/2024 3:23 PM
124	Recreation building, new recreation employees (someone to replace Vicki)	2/19/2024 3:20 PM
125	Rye Recreation building(s), track, etc. Bike paths.	2/19/2024 12:09 PM
126	Affordable housing, bus routes into Portsmouth/stores	2/19/2024 11:05 AM
127	I think we need to do a better job supporting families and seniors and students who have food insecurity. Our town could step up more to have resources to those who financially struggle.	2/19/2024 9:57 AM
128	The Senior Serve program is excellent, allowing people to remain in their homes, and gives the drivers the chance to help people.	2/19/2024 9:14 AM
129	We need to expand the library with both outdoor space and expanded building space. It has been decades since we reinvested in the library. The people of Rye want this badly. We need a combination recreation center, meeting center, sports court etc exactly like what New Castle built and Greenland Central School has....think "multi purpose room". This is something everyone I talk to wants badly.	2/19/2024 8:34 AM
130	They are... only because our community has become too exclusive.	2/18/2024 7:39 PM
131	Current programs focused on senior community and less on youth.	2/18/2024 2:29 PM
132	detached adu's and allowing for homes with in current setbacks to be built, more duplex allowances	2/17/2024 8:49 PM
133	Well, hopefully our schools remain strong despite waning numbers.	2/17/2024 7:18 PM
134	Needs are very basic, there may be wants that don't rise to that level that some may consider needs.	2/17/2024 6:42 PM
135	More and better options for parents, expanded recreation options and camps for kids.	2/17/2024 5:46 PM
136	better infrastructure for walking and biking around town	2/17/2024 4:53 PM
137	Tennis/pickleball courts	2/17/2024 4:16 PM
138	Public gathering space is needed and is nonexistent other than library. Library should be invested in for this purpose.	2/17/2024 3:12 PM
139	Supporting girls and women's sports and recreation a new softball field would be one.	2/17/2024 11:28 AM
140	Affordable housing is lacking. More investment is needed into the town center (sidewalks, gathering spaces by library, etc.).	2/17/2024 10:56 AM
141	Low cost housing on Rte 1	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
142	-the biggest need is safe foot and bike travel. My biggest wish is a sidewalk system throughout the main roads and leading towards the beach to run, push strollers, let kids ride bikes and scooters safely -Portsmouth has many more programs for children (stem classes, toddler sports) and I would love to do these things in Rye	2/17/2024 7:18 AM
143	Certain demographics are underserved by their various aspects. More adult and senior opportunities would be nice.	2/16/2024 6:15 PM
144	1. massive amounts of development, majority of which is not workforce friendly. 2. lower speed	2/16/2024 5:56 PM

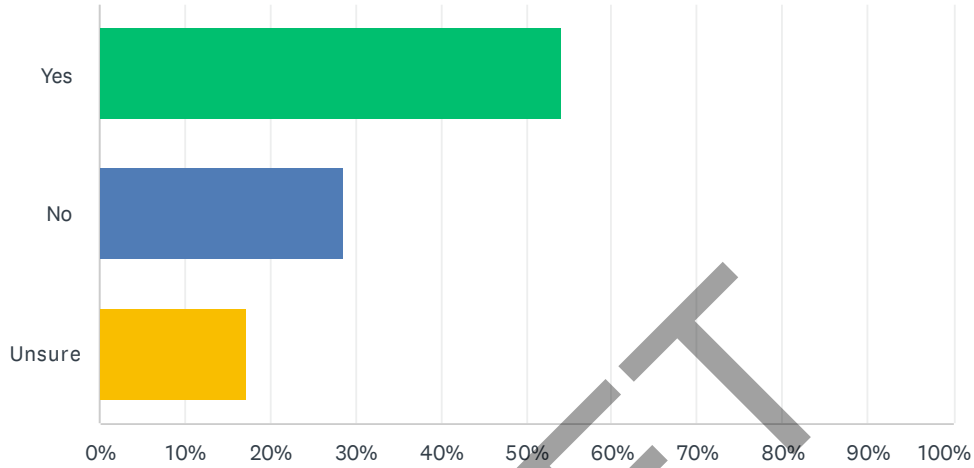
	limits, enforce distracted driving laws	
145	I think we could better utilize our Recreation Department, RJH and RES facilities. Collaboration between these stakeholders is key.	2/16/2024 5:37 PM
146	More recreation opportunities, especially for adults- athletics and social gatherings with QUALITY instructors. More smaller sized housing for older people close to town center.	2/16/2024 3:39 PM
147	We will never please everyone - but we could do better with our water. We need a treatment plant. We could also do better fining those with failed septic systems.	2/16/2024 1:14 PM
148	Everything feels very geared to either the very old or the very young. We are quite amused by how many meetings and events are held M-F during normal 9-5 work hours. We aren't all retired!	2/16/2024 11:24 AM
149	Provide more sound virtual town meeting options. Would love tennis courts in rye but that is on Xmas list. Otherwise I feel community is ok.	2/16/2024 7:57 AM
150	Safer roadways more senior vans	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
151	Would love to see handicap aseesable options at the beach. Ie..beach wheelchairs available, more town recreation options or more awareness of those available	2/15/2024 11:32 PM
152	We have many people with entitlement attitudes brewing in modern America, Rye is no different. Proactive peace and respect and etiquette are warranted. We have no ordinances that address this loud obnoxious behavior. Our streets have no sidewalks. Make signs that everybody knows and to respect traffic and property owners.	2/15/2024 11:23 PM
153	Really poor maintenance and lack of recreation fields/buildings.	2/15/2024 10:59 PM
154	Create more multi-generational spaces where all townspeople can gather. Saw some of this with Rye 400 but we should continue and improve on these efforts.	2/15/2024 10:33 PM
155	We're soft now	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
156	Alternitive modes of transportation. Bike lanes or more education on bike and pedestrians on roads.	2/15/2024 10:19 PM

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Q13 Do you think Rye is an age-friendly town? An age-friendly town encourages healthy aging by optimizing resources to improve the health, safety, and inclusion of older people in the community.

Answered: 273 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.21%	148
No	28.57%	78
Unsure	17.22%	47
TOTAL		273

DRAFT

## Q14 If not, what could be improved to make Rye more age-friendly?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 204

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Leave people alone and they will do well. I find the newcomers hire domestic help and spend more time socializing. Instead of paying for exercise they should work around their property	3/15/2024 1:17 PM
2	More senior activities	3/15/2024 12:57 PM
3	Services seem good and getting attention. We have to be more sensitive to tax rates and housing costs.	3/15/2024 11:07 AM
4	Make loud motorcycles illegal to enter town. Oh sorry, were you looking for yet another money spending suggestion?	3/15/2024 10:11 AM
5	I love opportunities to have older people meet younger people. Perhaps schools could organize. How wonderful to watch playground at RES.	3/15/2024 10:05 AM
6	We could improve it even further by having a community center.	3/14/2024 8:15 PM
7	We need a community center!	3/14/2024 8:12 PM
8	Expand housing options to meet needs of seniors/young adults/middle income; the housing related bills such as HB1291 and HB1399 and others may provide options if passed. Evaluate recreation opportunities for connectivity. Can residents access walking (roads/trails/beaches), cycling (roads/off road), etc. safely and easily from their home(s)?	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
9	Keep taxes low. Be transparent in use of reserve funds for new initiatives that otherwise wouldn't be approved by voters if they understood that taxes would increase once reserve reached floor levels. Provide residents ability to subsidize elderly for their taxes.	3/14/2024 6:42 PM
10	We have many seniors. Younger people cannot afford the town. Teens really have no programming.	3/14/2024 6:05 PM
11	Our town is an aging town due to the lack of affordable housing. Without affordable housing, families with school aged children cannot afford to purchase homes in Rye. More and more of the town is become seasonal ownership. Improve/Encourage the development of affordable housing.	3/14/2024 5:31 PM
12	Side walks Bike paths Education	3/14/2024 5:30 PM
13	Better beach access points, ADA accessible porta toilet at Cable & Pirates. More bike racks at beaches for kids & adults	3/14/2024 4:14 PM
14	coffee shop, center bandstand, park with benches	3/14/2024 3:48 PM
15	But there are no local food stores or coffee shops that I am aware of. I think its a condition of that to accept.	3/14/2024 2:24 PM
16	Sidewalks	3/14/2024 2:17 PM
17	The town has every amenity a town this size should have, if not more (beaches are a luxury that other surrounding towns do not have).	3/14/2024 2:06 PM
18	Blinking lights at crosswalks . And more crosswalks especially at the new cafe and elsewhere	3/14/2024 1:38 PM
19	better housing for lower income families	3/13/2024 5:45 PM
20	Rye is split. Rye Beach (vanity plates) and Rye (middle class) No community center the Library is NOT a community center - I called Rockingham Nutrition used at all Rockingham County nutrition program 603-893-2137 / 603-929-1108 a non-profit organization - provides lunch for \$3.00 available at Hampton, and Exeter NH. Rye seniors are using the Church through Rye Rec which the town rents - provided a large screen TV which no one uses. as a matter of fact no one uses the thing called "the wave" - The Wave has lunches for \$15.00!?	3/13/2024 2:20 PM

## Rye 2035

21	I would have to study the issue.	3/13/2024 10:57 AM
22	Over emphasis on our aging population and its "needs", I am 66. Underemphasis other than schools and questionable if we are getting true value for money there due to inefficiencies on the younger families other than the beaches of course.	3/13/2024 10:47 AM
23	Reduce property tax for people over 75	3/13/2024 10:41 AM
24	I believe that the older citizens of Rye are being forced out by the younger generation who are asking for more resources (think spending money). They have income which is not fixed like the older residents have. They come here because the taxes are low and then try to make the town like where they came from which ends up raising the taxes. Duh.	3/12/2024 8:36 PM
25	Again, provide multi-generational events at a common space, ie the library commons.	3/12/2024 8:19 PM
26	It would be wonderful to believe elderly housing available in Rye would be available for a percentage of low income residents. Certainly Webster does not fit that description. The most significant issue comes down to affordable housing for the elderly.Mixed use	3/12/2024 4:25 PM
27	Rye needs more physical and social activities for seniors.	3/11/2024 10:42 PM
28	Prices are on the rise. However, the library, Rec and Rye Serves seems geared to older community members. Rye also provides many opportunities for children- great schools, rec programs (though communication and tech needs to be improved, PTA, etc	3/11/2024 9:42 PM
29	Rye does a great job, however if taxes continue to increase at the rate they have recently, many older residents may find it difficult to keep up	3/11/2024 7:23 PM
30	Welcome families as much as possible	3/11/2024 4:04 PM
31	Lower the speed limit so people of all ages can walk and bike safely. Tennis courts with prickly ball lines. Great activity for all ages.	3/11/2024 2:21 PM
32	Safe routes for walking and bike riding.	3/11/2024 11:18 AM
33	Rye is already a great place for retirees. We don't need to make it more old age-friendly.	3/10/2024 11:06 PM
34	need bus to accommodate wheelchairs so caregivers can go along with elderly in wheelchairs. thinking Rye Rec concentrates on youth programs as does Rye Library. prior to covid Rye library had many more programs and weekly movies - now just monthly movies more senior activities planned for "the wave" run by Rye Rec in Rye Congregational church. attend monthly lunches and programs but others I know do not due to \$15 lunch fee (\$3 donation is at Portsmouth Senior Center)	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
35	The town lacks places and events that bring the community together frequently and easily enough that people of all ages are included and involved. If you want to see a great example of that, come see Rye Little League on a Saturday morning - kids, parents, siblings, grandparents, league volunteers with kids involved but also many whose kids are no longer part of the program. Develop a space in the center of town like the library common, encourage the library, rec department, schools and historical society to work together to offer regular programming for all ages during optimum afternoon and evening hours and see what happens.	3/10/2024 4:42 PM
36	its obviously "age friendly" or retired people would not be moving here.	3/10/2024 4:30 PM
37	the integration of more senior living/active living communities, where seniors can age in place. this will provide the dual benefit of relieving pressure on the town's single family housing stock to accommodate more young families and broaden the tax base.	3/10/2024 4:01 PM
38	I think Rye is good for seniors but not good for younger generations.	3/10/2024 3:48 PM
39	need to be more walks friendly could use a close local market place for folks to congregate a small coffee shop	3/10/2024 3:41 PM
40	isolation is a huge public health concern - more rec space, community space for connection sidewalks to encourage walking.	3/10/2024 3:29 PM
41	Town resources for young families are woefully lacking; the schools, playgrounds, common areas, and sidewalks are in great need for improvement.	3/10/2024 9:58 AM
42	School spending goes way up, for a smaller number of kids in K-8. Does Rye need to pay \$3M a year more for K-8 than Greenland for the same number of kids?	3/10/2024 9:35 AM

Rye 2035

43	Provide more housing for 55 and over.	3/9/2024 5:14 PM
44	See above. Rye Senior Serve is great but given that there's not much to safely walk to in Rye, successfully and joyfully aging in place would be tricky.	3/9/2024 1:47 PM
45	moderate tax increases	3/9/2024 1:08 PM
46	Family activities	3/8/2024 12:43 PM
47	We have lived here nearly 50 years and have a community of beach walking friends, so think we are friendly. Most new people who walk the beach live that way even if they are much younger.	3/8/2024 10:18 AM
48	reduce/enforce speed limits--Long John, Pioneer Road, Washington Road	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
49	increase in property tax driving out residents, town is not rural anymore.	3/7/2024 9:23 PM
50	Not many community events in general	3/7/2024 8:31 PM
51	Sidewalks, make the roads safer for walking and recreating.	3/7/2024 8:27 PM
52	Networking and walkability. We are a car friendly town. Highest predictor of health in age is mobility and engagement. We should work to support walkable areas of our town. More sidewalks and bike lanes on all repaved roads moving forward.	3/6/2024 10:58 PM
53	I think a lot of older people would like options to continue living in town but in smaller homes. We could offer beautiful ways to do this. But beauty is key-- residents want to maintain the beauty of rye.	3/6/2024 6:57 PM
54	More sidewalks and accessible parks and trails.	3/6/2024 2:18 PM
55	More streets with sidewalks, especially Wallis Road.	3/6/2024 1:32 PM
56	See above for one	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
57	Senior Center in town?	3/6/2024 12:22 PM
58	more sidewalks and bike lanes to encourage people to get out of their cars	3/6/2024 12:13 PM
59	I think so?	3/6/2024 11:36 AM
60	a supporting housing project with multiple units specifically for older citizens, with services provided?	3/6/2024 11:15 AM
61	We have a number of 55+ developments that shut out younger people without providing similar housing for working age individuals. Provide a "tiny house" allowance to the zoning regulations.	3/6/2024 10:39 AM
62	Provide funding or aging council (mechanisms) to address services for seniors.	3/6/2024 5:27 AM
63	Didn't know this question was next... I worry about the amount of older people that are living in their homes in poor health, in unsanitary and unsafe situations.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
64	Services for older citizens	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
65	not safe for children, eg library town lawn exposed to Washington Rd. a need for more family friendly events.	3/5/2024 4:53 PM
66	there should be sidewalks, not just in the town center.	3/5/2024 4:42 PM
67	Cheaper rentals and condos for elderly	3/4/2024 6:08 PM
68	Elder involvement is increasingly a universal issue. As important is finding ways to make the town appealing to younger demographic to ensure vibrancy into the future. Rye is becoming a high end retirement community.	3/4/2024 11:41 AM
69	Attract young people by affordable housing	3/3/2024 9:01 PM
70	More transportation and activities for seniors or disable people.	3/3/2024 7:41 PM
71	Pick up trash for those over 75.	3/3/2024 5:45 PM
72	We need younger families ! Its complicated, because if you increase building lot size, no young family will be able to afford to move into town. If you can find land for 200 K per acre for	3/2/2024 9:30 AM

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sub divisions - we may have a chance to bring in younger families as our schools are the foundation of this Town.

73	Over 55 rec opportunities during/around RLL games, etc. The most lively activities in town do not include older citizens. It's like two different towns.	3/2/2024 8:05 AM
74	Again, we need dwellings for our people that want to stay in Rye.	3/1/2024 5:45 PM
75	Senior resources	3/1/2024 1:43 PM
76	It is too expensive for young people or families. There isn't enough variety of types of housing in town.	2/29/2024 5:19 PM
77	Transportation and housing for seniors.	2/29/2024 8:58 AM
78	Increasing property values in Rye with associated increases in property Tax makes it very difficult for fixed income seniors to afford to stay in their homes	2/26/2024 10:34 AM
79	Better connectivity, cell service.	2/26/2024 7:20 AM
80	people want to change things change always cost big money and not always good	2/25/2024 10:08 PM
81	Hard for senior citizens. They can't get anywhere and have no where to come together. For an aging town, it's sad we don't provide anything.	2/25/2024 7:23 AM
82	Transportation, better roads for walking, addressing high rates of speed and distracted drivers, commercial vehicles are a big offender. Create common area where people can gather. The library is doing a good job for young and old.	2/23/2024 3:35 PM
83	More activities for the rapidly graying population. Get seniors involved in school support (mentorship, teaching).	2/22/2024 7:29 PM
84	Older residence have little to no transportation options. The streets are not safe for them to walk. There is no senior center. Most seniors are confined to home. At least keep augmenting the library to make that an attraction. The library has successfully become an attraction for kids. The same should be done for seniors.	2/22/2024 5:45 PM
85	Rye Senior Serve does an amazing job!	2/22/2024 4:26 PM
86	sidewalks, town center with recreation and retail opportunities, rec center with activities	2/22/2024 3:38 PM
87	Stop trying to change everything to the likes of a few	2/22/2024 12:44 PM
88	It's age friendly for older folks and less so for children and young families.	2/22/2024 9:16 AM
89	Again, I do not know what is needed/lacking. However, I have always thought that large homes could be shared amongst multiple single persons, with sharing the expense of caretakers, as a way to age at home.	2/22/2024 8:38 AM
90	More sidewalks, bike paths, public transportation.	2/22/2024 7:24 AM
91	Low income/workforce housing	2/21/2024 8:56 PM
92	Age restricted -- 55+ should be eliminated from RZO/LDR. Innovative types of small housings should be allowed in defined residential areas -- not sure where though!	2/21/2024 6:21 PM
93	I think having closer access to Groceries and Medical services ( maybe along route 1 in Rye would be a good start ) but that would entail having a sewer line to bring in these entities.	2/20/2024 9:25 AM
94	If anything it's too age friendly and too cost prohibitive for younger people to move here	2/19/2024 8:50 PM
95	There need to be more modest size homes for young families and seniors wanting to downsize.	2/19/2024 4:46 PM
96	Asking retirees to pay for improvements to Rye Rec and other school related projects as well as Library project again on a fixed income is wrong. Have fundraisers to provide the funds for these. Instead of a Gazebo, wheelchair ramp and some trees for people to sit and enjoy a book or watch kids playing there. Wheelchairs for the beaches.	2/19/2024 3:23 PM
97	We should have volunteers who help support our seniors. Wirh friendly visits. Groceries. Help getting to /from doctor appointments. Senior helper team. Our old community did this and it was awesome for me to take my kids to visit seniors who were stuck in their homes. We	2/19/2024 9:57 AM

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grocery shopped. Visitors. Ran errands and help take them to doctor visits. Volunteers who did this could get property tax relief if needed but it wasn't what we were looking for. We just wanted to use it to teach our kids.

98	Library expansion, rec center, senior transportation increased, trash removal for 55plus etc.	2/19/2024 8:34 AM
99	Funny - I almost answered no because I would rate the town is unfriendly to younger people.	2/18/2024 7:39 PM
100	Focus on attracting younger families	2/18/2024 2:29 PM
101	detached adu.	2/17/2024 8:49 PM
102	Library is fabulous. Keep on with programming. If 39% of town is above 65 we should make sure that affordable senior services are available.	2/17/2024 7:18 PM
103	Be unbiased as to age, gender, race or any other characteristics of individuals.	2/17/2024 6:42 PM
104	More preschool daycare options.	2/17/2024 5:46 PM
105	Would love to see a senior center.. OR... free daily transportation to and from Portsmouth senior center!	2/17/2024 4:16 PM
106	More resources, activities, and play areas for children. Rye is getting younger and I would love for more ways to allow small children to psalm and play safely around town	2/17/2024 7:18 AM
107	More senior programs through the Rec and library can help, but they both do a good job.	2/16/2024 6:15 PM
108	I don't know.	2/16/2024 5:37 PM
109	more activities for seniors, more housing closer to town center	2/16/2024 3:39 PM
110	No, we are very elderly driven, thoughts, ideas and the way things are done. There have been changes for the younger families but the middle 20s to 40's fall through the cracks. Programs to target that age range. Meetings that are more conducive to that age range by time flexibility and how meetings are held, run and those on boards, committees and commissions open to that age range to allow for work, kids and not just retired.	2/16/2024 12:38 PM
111	We need safer ways to walk around town. Sidewalks!!	2/16/2024 11:24 AM
112	Tax breaks	2/16/2024 8:36 AM
113	Provide greater property tax relief for seniors.	2/16/2024 8:14 AM
114	Creation of a town center with small shops, coffee, small grocery (similar to joes meat shop in Hampton)	2/16/2024 7:10 AM
115	It's an older population. Would live to do more to encourage younger families in rye..affordable housing, bike paths, places to work, resteraunts and bars	2/15/2024 11:32 PM
116	All I hear about is older residents complaining about pretty much everything and seems younger families and younger residents get no say in this town.	2/15/2024 10:59 PM

# Q15 What are your thoughts or ideas on how to create additional housing units in Rye? Which areas in Rye are the most appropriate for new housing and what types of units should they be?

Answered: 216 Skipped: 104

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Encourage Accessory Dwelling Unit	3/15/2024 9:25 PM
2	High density housing proposals should be evaluated against their impact on availability of drinking water and capacity for septic management.	3/15/2024 5:21 PM
3	Mostly on Route 1 and other areas that are out off sight from main roads. We don't want to change to overall "visual feel" of the town.	3/15/2024 12:55 PM
4	RRoute 1 developments are good and should be kept from getting any more boxy than the ones to date. We should make it more possible for some clustered housing in backlands of the town -- not boxy -- more like cottage style housing.	3/15/2024 11:07 AM
5	You ask this but slam lots with 2 houses? Let owners of lots with 2 houses expand. How many are there in rye? 6? Stop being total assholes when a home owner wants to build and needs a variance, how about that? Lawsuit MUCH?	3/15/2024 10:11 AM
6	How are the trailer parks doing? Would replacement housing serve their interests?	3/15/2024 10:05 AM
7	west side of Rye near Rte 1. Apartments.	3/15/2024 7:50 AM
8	I believe we are reaching saturation. Maybe Route 1 has more room.	3/14/2024 8:15 PM
9	No more houses! -Please!	3/14/2024 8:12 PM
10	See 12 above, expand White Birch, near RT 1, engage with Adam's Park to expand	3/14/2024 7:38 PM
11	MF dwelling district along Rt. 1	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
12	Build upscale apartment complexes, condominiums and small entry level homes for young adults and families. Build these in areas with lower land values.	3/14/2024 6:42 PM
13	Any property on Rt. 1 should be earmarked only for affordable housing.	3/14/2024 5:31 PM
14	I think the Rye airfield is a successful development	3/14/2024 5:30 PM
15	Area by Lang Road Extension	3/14/2024 4:14 PM
16	we need sewer on route 1 and use land there	3/14/2024 3:29 PM
17	certainly need more housing but land here is expensive in Rye. I would have to study this situation	3/14/2024 2:24 PM
18	Allow for detached adu's, cluster zoning, and form based zoning.	3/14/2024 2:17 PM
19	There is not a need for more housing in Rye. Any significant amount of new housing would require cutting down old growth trees or building on historical serene fields that are nearly non-existent in surrounding towns. Just because there may be land to build on does not mean a house should be put on it. If new development is allowed and existing zoning laws are relaxed, the cost of real estate would reach higher levels than we are already seeing in the real estate market. The town is attractive to live in because of the way it is right now. There is no coming back from over-development.	3/14/2024 2:06 PM
20	Focus housing on rt 1	3/14/2024 1:45 PM
21	Additional units Only adjacent to route one and then limited housing because of limited water supply . They should be low income housing units only .We have enough for the wealthy	3/14/2024 1:38 PM
22	More affordable housing. Not sure how or where.	3/13/2024 6:44 PM

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23	only if they are for lower income and can't go up	3/13/2024 5:45 PM
24	There is a lot that goes into housing units as I have been listening to NPR Boston - given state regulations and "call-ins" - houses too close - available water-sewer system (? Rye have a were system!) I think this area should think about - again being more friendly go into are housing investments - ie. malls are going - Kittery is doing housing units from stores. Rye should see about Newington Mall -	3/13/2024 2:20 PM
25	Sea Glass - allow homeowners of all ages there. I don't know where we have large chunks of developable land, but if we could add a few more neighborhoods with houses and lot sizes that are similar to Sea Glass and Alehson/Tehias, or even a little smaller, that would be a nice complement to the townhomes on Rt 1 and the giant houses everywhere else.	3/13/2024 11:47 AM
26	I would have to study the issue.	3/13/2024 10:57 AM
27	Clearly ending any multi lot developments with large lots and moving to clustered smaller housing units with required open space that also serves to protect semi rural character. Town conservation dollars could be used to partially fund the non built up areas of new developments.	3/13/2024 10:47 AM
28	there is no room in Rye	3/13/2024 10:41 AM
29	No need for housing unites. There is this push to turn the area into urban WITHOUT proper and adequate infrastructure. We need sidewalks, public places, traffic lights, more police. Where are we going to get the money from??!!	3/13/2024 6:28 AM
30	We seem to be out of land except for some small properties on Route 1	3/12/2024 8:38 PM
31	I think that the attrition of our older residents will create housing opportunities for others over the next 10 years. I have not seen that factored into the formula yet for future needs.	3/12/2024 8:36 PM
32	I wish it weren't so but no. We are chock-a-block full of housing.	3/12/2024 8:19 PM
33	I believe that our natural resources are being eliminated or greatly reduced already and would be further negatively impacted by attempting to add more housing	3/12/2024 6:57 PM
34	I thought there were going to be a small housing area where the Town Hall Annex is now. I am not in favor of increasing impermeable surfaces, so I think additional housing should be were there is already something that is not being used, something like the old fire station ( if it hadn't been sold). "A penny saved is a penny earned", use what you have.	3/12/2024 5:25 PM
35	Mixed use development located inland and away from the ocean. The idea of a village within the town has a certain appeal. Wasn't that supposed to be what a section of Webster was intended to be? You know better than I where available space is in town and it would be up to the town's elected officials to make an offer that would appeal to developers. Tax benefits for the developer in their efforts to assist a certain income level perhaps?	3/12/2024 4:25 PM
36	I am not aware of available space for any more housing, affordable or not, but it seems that when new housing appears, it is the huge mansions that are being built.	3/12/2024 1:57 PM
37	New housing should be focused in the town center to help build a vibrant town feel and community.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
38	Does Rye need additional housing units?	3/11/2024 10:42 PM
39	Minimize development. Restrict the size of single family houses/ per acre of land- to prevent "mcmansions" on less then 2 acres of land.	3/11/2024 9:42 PM
40	Lighten the restrictions on in-law apartments for current single family homes	3/11/2024 8:36 PM
41	New construction should be very limited, especially multifamily condo development. Rye is not responsible for housing the greater Seacoast community, we have a small town with roads and intersections that are already unsafe with the amount and speed of traffic currently.	3/11/2024 8:22 PM
42	every town should be responsible for providing some low/moderate income housing to meet the increased demand....up to the town to find appropriate areas for development	3/11/2024 7:23 PM
43	Find additional drinking water sources and implementing water/sewage treatment plant or explore tying into Portsmouth system	3/11/2024 6:15 PM



## Rye 2035

44	Housing creation is dependent on demand, land prices and willing buyers, so affordable housing is probably an oxymoron in Rye. Maintaining the rural character is essential to the image of Rye regardless of where development occurs.	3/11/2024 4:30 PM
45	Small homes but land is scarce so I am not sure where.	3/11/2024 4:04 PM
46	The entire NH Seacoast needs to prioritize zoning that permits affordable housing for the many folks of modest income who provide all the services on which we depend; i.e., store, food market, restaurant, etc. staff	3/11/2024 1:41 PM
47	Do not know. Would need to study.	3/11/2024 12:21 PM
48	Any area that is available/zoned for residential development is appropriate. The housing style and density needs to be carefully and creatively selected to meet housing needs.	3/11/2024 11:18 AM
49	Not sure more housing is good. It already feels like there are too many people.	3/11/2024 10:11 AM
50	Get rid of the 1 acres lot requirement for a SFH.	3/10/2024 11:06 PM
51	Beyond the conservation and wetlands limits, my instinct is to let the market dictate the types. Government directed housing plans have never proven to be a good solution.	3/10/2024 5:28 PM
52	only single family like Seaglass Lane tax credit for attached dwelling to existing house no box-like condos wanted - not the "look" I want for Rye	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
53	Not needed.	3/10/2024 4:42 PM
54	It depends on what type of additional housing you are looking to create. Large single-family homes on 2 acre lots are affordable to only a certain demographic, people of the ages and incomes already represented here. There's also only so much buildable land in Rye, a town that is mostly ledge, boulders and water/wetland. A well-planned, cost-efficient effort to develop housing along the town's short stretch of Route 1 by Washington Road could work to diversify housing and its occupants...if they are first connected to water and sewer available just up the road in Portsmouth. Rye doesn't have enough water for them and adding dozens of septic systems there would be disaster for the water coming into our wells from that area. Could a developer build over there AND still make his money if he paid for the cost to make those hook ups? That should be part of the plan no matter what.	3/10/2024 4:42 PM
55	don't know.	3/10/2024 4:40 PM
56	natural life cycles will create housing units as the population demographics will change. multi unit condo/town home developments create eye sores	3/10/2024 4:36 PM
57	I strongly disagree that Rye "needs" additional housing units, there are literally thousands of units being added to every town around us. all within 10 minute drive of Rye. all of these towns are experiencing higher traffic, more congestion and higher taxes than Rye. Please do not follow their lead! it does not improve the quality of life.	3/10/2024 4:30 PM
58	sustainable, self sufficient senior living communities should be prioritized - cluster/cottage communities need more detached ADUs - improve the permitting process	3/10/2024 4:01 PM
59	accessory dwelling units mixed throughout town new construction on RT 1 with Portsmouth water and sewer	3/10/2024 3:48 PM
60	unclear if new housing units are required perhaps when in flood zone - no living space below a second floor.	3/10/2024 3:41 PM
61	more housing that is multifamily, condos, or apts. houses that aren't taking up 3 lots! (mega mansions on Sagamore Rd). more building along RT 1 - bring up the whole rd	3/10/2024 3:29 PM
62	away from the marshes and coast	3/10/2024 11:50 AM
63	I believe we have enough housing right here in town.	3/10/2024 11:35 AM
64	ADU and DADU make the most sense for creating more additional housing. Keep the huge box developments to Rt. 1. Anything like Sea Glass Lane has to be pushed back from the Road. If Rye wants younger families, need developments like Acorn Acres, smaller homes/community.	3/10/2024 9:35 AM
65	New housing to support bringing young adults and families to Rye to include condominiums and small homes in areas where property values are lower to keep home cost down.	3/10/2024 9:11 AM

## Rye 2035

66	We should not create more housing units in Rye. Keep Rye as rural as possible.	3/10/2024 8:42 AM
67	Utilize the Rye Route 1 Corridor to build affordable Workforce housing.	3/9/2024 10:07 PM
68	Along Route 1 possibly, abandoned house on Grove looks to have considerable land.	3/9/2024 8:38 PM
69	Not sure of where to add more housing, but I would like to see some very attractive custom tiny homes.	3/9/2024 5:14 PM
70	Against any new development - prefer slowing down growth	3/9/2024 3:59 PM
71	Need to identify areas to allow higher density condos, apartments etc. All available land should be inventoried and classified for development	3/9/2024 1:52 PM
72	I would like to see Rye's rural character maintained while adding some higher density areas (Lafayette Rd, Foyes Corner). New development should be connected to Portsmouth Sewer and water if that's an option. If we don't have the proper resources in place to grow, we need to avoid new, larger development until we do.	3/9/2024 1:47 PM
73	Good question - not sure where.	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
74	I guess we could employ the allowance for very large homes to be condo-ized. We certainly have many estates and mansions that could be converted into multiple housing units that would still be beautiful and not require more buildings. I also think we need to stop AirBnB/short term vacation rentals. In the past 3 years, three homes near us are now in the vacation rental market...locking up homes that could be used for permanent residents. New Castle and Portsmouth have this restriction already.	3/9/2024 11:47 AM
75	We do not need more building. If you want more "housing" outlaw short term rentals. Our neighborhood is now full of these rentals, all in the past few years, hurting our sense of community and pricing out people who wish to be full time residents and neighbors.	3/9/2024 11:46 AM
76	more affordable and diverse housing options should be made available. Consider allowing compact cluster communities in appropriate locations (access to municipal utilities) in exchange for preserving open space.	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
77	I think that we need to be careful to maintain our small town atmosphere. With cost of housing as of late there seems to be a lot more activity along route one.	3/9/2024 9:57 AM
78	Route 1 for more unit builds.	3/8/2024 12:43 PM
79	Please consisted limiting more building of large houses currently only available to those with high incomes, please try to keep the small town feeling, forget sidewalks, for safety widen shoulders on the roads for walkers and bikers.	3/8/2024 10:18 AM
80	there are not many areas, as we have seen route 1 area has been the focus and condos and apartments are the way to go. but land is running out.	3/8/2024 10:02 AM
81	Rye housing is expensive. But building multi-unit structures without considering affordability or the impact on Rye's water resources, environment, wildlife is just not sensible.	3/8/2024 9:51 AM
82	We should not create more housing units. We should keep Rye as rural as we can. We have sufficient houses and buildings for such a small town. Some of the sites can get very busy. We can not afford more people moving to Rye. Schools are not equipped to sustain younger generations. Rye should stay rural. We should use other towns to provide public school's resources to save money and keep our taxes low.	3/8/2024 9:44 AM
83	No affordable housing	3/8/2024 9:42 AM
84	I'm not a fan of housing units for Rye. I know that sounds like a total snob but I just cannot envision housing units in Rye. At the same time, I don't want to see any more mansions being built in Rye. I think we need to protect our current open land. If there is land in Rye on Lafayette Road (Route 1) for houses or housing units, then that seems like a good location and would provide tax revenue and increase student population and diversity.	3/7/2024 11:46 PM
85	We emphasize that Rye DOES NOT NEED any more housing. It is not necessary. Rye will no longer be Rye. We do not have enough public water sources and Rye will lose its rural character if there is more housing.	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
86	No more housing. Conserve land. Keep the eco system	3/7/2024 11:04 PM

## Rye 2035

87	Lafayette Rd. Additional water supply and sewage? must be available. Cellphone service as well	3/7/2024 10:29 PM
88	We don't need additional housing in Rye. Leave Rye as is. Do not endanger its rural cultural setting. Why does "Rye" want to create additional housing? why would we want more density in population? if we wanted more housing we would move to a major city.	3/7/2024 10:12 PM
89	The amount of housing units in town are fine. More people require more town personnel. Such as Police officers and Fire fighters.	3/7/2024 9:57 PM
90	moritorium of 5 years for new multi housing,	3/7/2024 9:23 PM
91	I agree the route one area could be more utilized for more affordable housing. There are many buildings in various levels of disrepair that could be turned into townhomes	3/7/2024 8:27 PM
92	No housing units are needed in Rye. Portsmouth is a better choice and has more options	3/7/2024 8:50 AM
93	Reduce large scale single unit builds, ban irrigation, allow a more proactive mindset for utilities to improve available services for future growth.	3/7/2024 8:19 AM
94	I like the idea of building homes that look historic but are actually comprised of several condos. Regulations and zoning are extremely important to maintain the integrity and character of our town.	3/6/2024 6:57 PM
95	More work-force and low-income housing.	3/6/2024 2:55 PM
96	Rye is a unique community and should not try to be all things to all people. The building of larger homes should be supported to bring in higher income families.	3/6/2024 2:18 PM
97	Encourage smaller homes in clusters to maintain open land.	3/6/2024 1:32 PM
98	senior housing closer to RT 1	3/6/2024 12:54 PM
99	Because lower income populations often experience transportation issues, I think it is best to focus low/moderate income housing along the Route 1 corridor, where there are more services.	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
100	adopt density incentives if workforce housing which are apart f the target RT1 had Sagamore Ave from rotary to Portsmouth Line	3/6/2024 12:35 PM
101	1. Detached Accessory Dwelling Units. if average age is 55, most of their kids are mid to late 20s. other cities, namely Denver has embraced the detached ADU as a way to create cheaper housing. Allow our kids to live in the town they grew up in, who doesn't want to live here? 2. Cluster/cottage = smaller square footage - lower prices	3/6/2024 12:22 PM
102	I believe the current planned developments meet future needs. When Rye has the infrastructure to support additional units after absorbing these then add more development on open land on RT 1 is appropriate in the form of single family housing developments. ADUS and the two family homes as it fits into Rye's community	3/6/2024 12:13 PM
103	I saw the potential for smaller house sizes in the infographic at the top. As someone who is concerned about minimizing my carbon footprint and the recognition that more square footage doesn't equate to better living conditions, something like a "small house" village would seem more appealing to me than a trailer park or a series of condos. Duplexes and prefab neighborhoods are a decent second choice, but I would be much more interested in a 600 sq. ft. home than a 4th floor condo, or a duplex that shares walls with my neighbor.	3/6/2024 12:01 PM
104	easier ways to create ADUs to house family members. my only concern is that when the older person occupying the ADU dies, then what? we dont need more units being used to rentals or potential Air BnB's ADU's should be occupied by owner (the main house)	3/6/2024 11:36 AM
105	We need good looking modest apt building for more affordable housing. owning a house I not the answer. affordable rentals that will not decrease greatly is	3/6/2024 11:22 AM
106	I think it is not wise to think Rye can convert itself into a town with a lot of low income housing or apartments. Let other towns and cities lead in that effort.	3/6/2024 11:21 AM
107	we need projects with multiple units - not just on Rt 1, not just luxury appts, lower minimum acreage requirement for new development. intentional density in selected areas - e.g. town center - cottage community would be great. we need to allow ADUs. I would love a cafe in our town center but we won't have anyone willing to work there if we're not creating workforce housing.	3/6/2024 11:15 AM

Rye 2035

108	Require that properties be owner occupied and not allow Air BnB or VRBO type rentals. This only increased utility demands for those types of properties and potentially shuts out families trying to live here. Provide a "tiny house" allowance to the zoning regulations.	3/6/2024 10:39 AM
109	The town should not get involved. The town should not encourage or discourage building. The marketplace will decide zoning and building laws should be followed.	3/6/2024 9:20 AM
110	Let the marketplace decide. Follow zoning laws, the Town, neither help or discourage building, except when required by law.	3/6/2024 9:07 AM
111	None	3/6/2024 5:59 AM
112	All of Rye is appropriate as long as zoning requirements are met don't discriminate - tiny housing community?	3/6/2024 5:27 AM
113	Single family only, as is, it's why we moved here.	3/5/2024 6:53 PM
114	multi family development neighborhoods	3/5/2024 5:39 PM
115	I honestly believe we need to stop building and protect the land we still have.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
116	not sure we want additional housing units	3/5/2024 5:07 PM
117	No room for building more. Allow two families and ability to rent.	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
118	not sure, but please dont allow any more clearing of land!	3/5/2024 4:59 PM
119	reduce minimum lot size requirement. put in sewers so more diversity can be supported.	3/5/2024 4:53 PM
120	no more housing units would be fine with me.	3/5/2024 4:42 PM
121	Small energy efficient communities	3/4/2024 6:08 PM
122	Conservation Land Development to include higher density, smaller homes. Detached ADU's	3/4/2024 3:52 PM
123	Absent enforced regulation to ensure "workforce" housing remains just that, affordable housing for those of average income, developments will simply move rapidly from "workforce" to unaffordable.	3/4/2024 11:41 AM
124	Less condos. Keep land for animals to live. Their homes are being taken away	3/4/2024 11:03 AM
125	New building should not occur. Renovation of current buildings is the best choice.	3/3/2024 11:23 PM
126	Maybe stop the mansuons going up and build affordable housing	3/3/2024 9:01 PM
127	Stop the development. It is out of control. Too many variances have already caused environmental issues. What do we have a Zoning Board when they seem to willingly grant so many variances. Seems like an ineffective group at best	3/3/2024 7:15 PM
128	That is a question for the planning board, but I don't see how this is possible without more relaxed ordinances around new MDU construction. Also, no additional housing should be considered without a water/sewer plan to address the entire town's present and anticipated needs.	3/3/2024 5:38 PM
129	see question 12 comments	3/3/2024 4:56 PM
130	Land is so limited so we would support anywhere available.	3/3/2024 10:43 AM
131	Let's work on our infrastructure before we keep adding people. You don't build a house unless you have a strong foundation. Why add more people until you solve the current issues.	3/3/2024 10:26 AM
132	Condominiums near Lafayette Rd.	3/3/2024 8:29 AM
133	There should be no further housing units created in Rye.	3/2/2024 3:12 PM
134	Low cost housing should be easier to obtain for families that meet the criteria, with restrictions about profits when selling the properties. Keeping those areas for low cost housing. Allowing Adams Trailer Park to be able to reconfigure the lots with less restrictions and increase the amount of manufactured homes if able to. The area on Rte.1 by the old airport is suitable along with the area around Foyes Corner. At Foyes Corner have work force apartments or condos with a combination of living and business per unit. Again with restrictions at selling time about profit making.	3/2/2024 2:32 PM

Rye 2035

135	We may have to give up town owned conservation lands otherwise, i do not see any way forward to bring in affordable housing.	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
136	Allow multi family rentals near municipal center.	3/2/2024 9:28 AM
137	no housing complexes , will ruin the character of the town.	3/2/2024 8:58 AM
138	Duplexes. Away from shoreline impacts. Walkable to a new town center.	3/2/2024 8:05 AM
139	Don't know	3/1/2024 5:45 PM
140	Should NOTstart with condos and apartment buildings in single family neighborhoods.	3/1/2024 1:43 PM
141	No more mansions! Build smaller houses on smaller lots.	3/1/2024 1:01 PM
142	Before housing, take care of sewer/ septic issue. That where public money should be invested.	2/29/2024 5:13 PM
143	More affordable housing in this town	2/29/2024 12:48 PM
144	no idea	2/28/2024 10:42 AM
145	Additional housing units should be developed on building parcels that are in compliance with zoning ordinances. Strict compliance with these ordinances is essential.	2/26/2024 10:34 AM
146	Ideally more units on existing sites where the environmental impact is lessened.	2/26/2024 7:20 AM
147	rye has enough housing stop buildingto ma	2/25/2024 10:08 PM
148	Not enough land	2/25/2024 7:23 AM
149	Allowing two families is important. Not much land for development other than rt 1.	2/23/2024 3:35 PM
150	Before additional housing units are contemplated the water quality crisis needs to be solved. We should not allow any more significant development until the issue is identified and fixed.	2/23/2024 7:31 AM
151	Multi-unit housing along Route 1.	2/22/2024 7:29 PM
152	Unfortunately, space is limited. Rt. 1 is the only option.	2/22/2024 5:45 PM
153	Through zoning changes, accessory use amendments	2/22/2024 4:26 PM
154	allow detached ADUs	2/22/2024 3:38 PM
155	Some towns have eliminated single family zoning in favor of multi-family. This is trend nationwide. Single-family zoning both increases the cost of housing units and decreases the supply.	2/22/2024 3:02 PM
156	We are a small town with boundaries so stop trying to make it more crowded than what it is already	2/22/2024 12:44 PM
157	allow ADUs that are detached from homes.	2/22/2024 9:47 AM
158	No more housing! Find ways to make the existing housing opportunities more affordable. There is almost no open land left in the town.	2/22/2024 9:16 AM
159	anywhere that's NIMBY haha. Also, a lot of land is unavailable due to stricter and stricter wetlands buffers. So, who will decide which takes precedence - conservation or housing.	2/22/2024 8:38 AM
160	More housing like White Birches, but less isolated, closer to town center	2/22/2024 7:24 AM
161	It is important to protect the land so I am not in favor of building homes in the back land -- as is being proposed in the Built Out Analysis. I feel plenty of housing units have been created off Route 1 in the recent years.	2/21/2024 6:21 PM
162	Let the market dictate what, where, and when housing is built.	2/21/2024 9:35 AM
163	We don't needmore housing units in Rye	2/20/2024 9:17 PM
164	Since the majority of rye is on septic, density doesn't make sense, except for those areas serviced by sewer. It will therefore be Rt 1 that will best accommodate more housing units	2/20/2024 2:00 PM
165	I believe the town of Ryan needs to work on their infrastructure before creating more housing. Water supply, road maintenance emergency response. Our areas that need to be improved or	2/20/2024 11:24 AM

Rye 2035

potentially expanded upon before inviting more residents to our bustling town.

166	We do not appear to have any locations without something along route 1 or talking conservation land but in any case - no more septic systems. We may need to look at zoning to build on smaller lot sizes as an acre of land is estimated to cost 600,000 K currently - thats not affordable for a couple wanting to raise a family and support our wonderful school system.	2/20/2024 9:25 AM
167	Smaller units. Keep the big apartment complexes on rt 1 and in Portsmouth.	2/19/2024 8:50 PM
168	The housing should be built either in the town center or near Lafayette Rd so they can be walking distance to schools, library or shopping. They should be 800-1600 sf, all electric, heat pump heated and cooled.	2/19/2024 4:46 PM
169	Apartments would be great at realistic prices based on salary. Market rate is just what it says over 2000/mo No one working here starting out at a local job can afford Market Rate. Waitress at Petey's, lobster deck hand etc. Sad people brought up here can't live here.	2/19/2024 3:23 PM
170	Allowing existing homes to transition a % of space to a single one bedroom apartment.	2/19/2024 2:37 PM
171	ADU units on existing properties for multi generation living.	2/19/2024 12:09 PM
172	I am a proponent of more housing. Build more townhouses for families with young children. Our schools need more kids.	2/19/2024 9:57 AM
173	Just be aware how these housing units impact the schools, beaches, roads and library. We are already stretching ourselves thin....yes we need more housing but we also must invest and reinvest in our town and schools.	2/19/2024 8:34 AM
174	Route 1 corridor	2/18/2024 9:04 PM
175	Need to be sure there is a shuttle to transportation or work opportunities – then they can be anywhere. A bigger issue is the town is becoming too expensive to buy a home that you plan to work on because of our zoning. Many of our current lots are “non-conforming” because they are less than 2 acres. So any kind of construction requires going to the zoning board... and ours has the toughest reputation in the seacoast – such that many will only go there with a lawyer. So, anyone purchasing in Rye adds in the ZBA cost to their thinking.	2/18/2024 7:39 PM
176	Rye does not need additional housing units. Stop trying to build up the town. Part of what makes Rye valuable and desirable outside of the ocean views are its small town charm. More development takes away from that. We don't need more and the school system already gets enough tax dollars. We don't need to encourage anymore. Need in that department either.	2/17/2024 10:05 PM
177	all of route 1 should be allowed to have apartment and town home zoning. sewer should be connected to portsmouth.	2/17/2024 8:49 PM
178	Rte 1 condos Further expand the old skate board park area	2/17/2024 8:38 PM
179	Not sure.	2/17/2024 7:18 PM
180	More condominium units- for ownership or rent- near Route 1.	2/17/2024 6:42 PM
181	Housing should wait until water and sewer issues are fixed.	2/17/2024 5:46 PM
182	Not aware of any such area(s). We need to rectify problems with water supply before building any more dwellings.	2/17/2024 3:12 PM
183	I don't really want any new housing. But if it has to be built - on rt 1	2/17/2024 3:06 PM
184	Senior apartments	2/17/2024 11:07 AM
185	Multifamily homes are very abundant in Portsmouth, but not in Rye. Using single family lots that can be converted to multi family or split family homes would help increase the supply.	2/17/2024 10:56 AM
186	Condo units on Rte 1 (we also need sewer on US 1)	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
187	Lower cost apartment buildings to make it more affordable for young people.	2/17/2024 7:44 AM
188	Building some duplex or triplex units with proper landscaping along some undeveloped roads would certainly be welcome.	2/17/2024 5:22 AM
189	Rye needs opportunities for more densely populated housing. There should be a central district (hamlet) area that allows multifamily housing and commercial.	2/16/2024 6:15 PM

Rye 2035

190	Why is it assumed that we need additional housing in Rye?! STOP BUILDING NEW HOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS!!!	2/16/2024 5:56 PM
191	I'm all set with more housing in Rye.	2/16/2024 5:37 PM
192	For older resident- should have bedrooms on first floor or elevator, close to library would be ideal. Also need more housing for work force families.	2/16/2024 3:39 PM
193	No additional housing units are needed.	2/16/2024 3:18 PM
194	Three condo developments in the last few years are appropriate. I believe we have on older elderly housing development near the old airfield. We don't seem to have any small duplex developments or 55+? With the aging population, a 55+ community might encourage current residents to downsize.	2/16/2024 2:34 PM
195	Condos should be restricted to route 1 area only. Rye has enough single family homes and enough of rye's open space has been built on	2/16/2024 1:53 PM
196	Rt. 1 only. Pocket neighborhoods.	2/16/2024 1:14 PM
197	Along Lafayette Road, mixed housing not just commercial or condos. The Town needs more mixed housing. Offices first floor, apartments second floor.	2/16/2024 12:38 PM
198	Without land, who knows? The large condos being built in town are way out of price range for people on fixed incomes.	2/16/2024 11:24 AM
199	RT-1 corridor	2/16/2024 11:16 AM
200	Don't see the need IN RYE	2/16/2024 11:10 AM
201	No need for more housing.	2/16/2024 11:10 AM
202	There are some buildings that are not being utilized in full, perhaps adding apartment structures that are not cost prohibitive to rent.	2/16/2024 11:06 AM
203	Areas where there is municipal sewer. Rt 1 seems the best location.	2/16/2024 10:59 AM
204	I would hate to see more wildlife habitat developed	2/16/2024 10:19 AM
205	Making it easier to build in Rye, the permitting process is a nightmare even for small projects. Allowing ADU in homes. Looking into adding a sewer system and getting off of septic so rye can support having more units and homes safely without contaminating the water.	2/16/2024 8:53 AM
206	No more condos please.	2/16/2024 8:14 AM
207	Always add ADUs.	2/16/2024 7:57 AM
208	Developments like Sea Glass Lane	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
209	None needed	2/16/2024 7:10 AM
210	We don't need new housing units.	2/16/2024 5:21 AM
211	No more units. Our roads and infrastructure are already getting too crowded.	2/15/2024 11:23 PM
212	Need to create more affordable housing wherever land is available. It is impossible for the average NH resident to afford a house.	2/15/2024 10:59 PM
213	None	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
214	Supply and demand will dictate this	2/15/2024 10:11 PM
215	Not sure	2/15/2024 9:59 PM
216	No need for additional housing	2/15/2024 9:02 PM

Q16 Rye is fortunate to have a significant number of volunteers on municipal boards and committees, but recruiting volunteers is increasingly difficult. And yet, it appears that groups have formed outside of municipal government as well to monitor and direct the actions of the community. Why is this, and are there ways to get these groups directly involved in municipal government? Please explain below.

Answered: 186 Skipped: 134

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There seem to be plenty of volunteers for necessary committees and activities. We need term limits on committees.	3/15/2024 9:25 PM
2	I volunteer on a board. There is responsibility associated with official board participation. I believe those who participate in groups outside of municipal government want to have a voice, but do not want any responsibility. This is disappointing.	3/15/2024 5:21 PM
3	We have too many committees. One should be limited to serve on no more than two committees at the same time.	3/15/2024 1:17 PM
4	For starters we have too many commissions and committees in town. We need the backbone (budget, planning, zoning, select board, etc but we overlap other committees. Heritage and Historic do almost the same thing. Town center and TAP are overlapping. Demo is really not needed. We need to cut some of the overlap out and simplify the town.	3/15/2024 12:55 PM
5	Oh, we're coming. You saw the election results. We are coming.	3/15/2024 10:11 AM
6	If we paid attention to town staff activities, we would perhaps accept and respect staff more. E.g. I had no idea the reporting town DOT was required to make until I attended a select persons meeting.	3/15/2024 10:05 AM
7	These groups are grievance oriented and often hinder volunteer boards and commissions as well as town government.	3/15/2024 7:50 AM
8	No idea!	3/14/2024 8:12 PM
9	Volunteers on committees get abused, people work outside official channels to get more work done and not put up with abuse	3/14/2024 7:38 PM
10	Informal discussion(s) amongst groups with similar goals/objectives - FIND COMMON GROUND - identify opportunities for collaboration, and	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
11	Rye residents don't trust the current government officials who are making decisions to support their personal political views and are appointing people who support these views. Change appointed positions to elected positions. Invite these outside groups to provide their input to decisions.	3/14/2024 6:42 PM
12	The outside individuals are afraid of actually doing work. They would rather cast stones from afar and often don't live here year round.	3/14/2024 6:05 PM
13	Many people don't trust even our small town government. Many people believe there are backroom and side deals in play. Sadly, there are a few town employees that have been caught out with untruths or omissions of truth which breeds this attitude. As to getting them involved, invite them to sit on boards/committees - isn't it better have them in the tent than out? Make them feel wanted versus rejected regardless how they may have handled themselves as an outsider.	3/14/2024 5:31 PM
14	?	3/14/2024 5:30 PM
15	usual anti-gov people likely - enjoy freedom to complain from the outside	3/14/2024 3:48 PM



## Rye 2035

16	they are not getting there way and don't feel heard. not sure how to solve this	3/14/2024 3:29 PM
17	Rye is not unique. People dont want to work because it takes time and do not receive much thanks. taken leadership that emphasizes participation. in Durham the town manager send of email weekly on what happened attain meeting it is full of details. I dont see that in Rye so know no idea of what is happening, except occasionally.	3/14/2024 2:24 PM
18	Limit political influence of conservation commission	3/14/2024 2:17 PM
19	Open and honest decision making and willingness to listen and implement what the public wants should be the policy. The select board and other various boards and committees are there to implement what the people of the town want most. There is no room for personal agendas. Keeping taxes low is the next priority, and when the taxes slowly start to creep back up to pre-assessment levels it leaves people wondering when it will ever stop.	3/14/2024 2:06 PM
20	People seem to like to complain about everything but do nothing to fix it. I'd personally like to see a limit on the number of committees 1 person can be on. I know it's difficult since getting volunteers is hard but people shouldn't be on 4 boards/committees	3/14/2024 1:45 PM
21	Ultra conservatives are discouraging moderates from volunteering. Unfortunate but true	3/14/2024 1:38 PM
22	More transparency, more inclusivity.	3/13/2024 6:44 PM
23	I am already calling about reasonable food and meals for services and come up blank about "Rye" the unfriendly community - Road blocks - I dont even like going to the Town Hall and the Library. -	3/13/2024 2:20 PM
24	I'm not sure what groups are being referred to here	3/13/2024 11:47 AM
25	It is dangerous for people to take on volunteer public responsibilities. Also, no one wants to rock the boat when they know people would like to keep the place wealthy and white.	3/13/2024 10:57 AM
26	The town's "information" as delivered by the town web site and social media (other than Police) is disjointed, incomplete, often hard to find and can be ineffective. The Civic League provides an invaluable service in bringing the information together in one place and should be encouraged as a resource. The Rye Facebook groups in the last year or so have served as a vehicle for a lot of good information but also much mis information by zoning violators and those with agendas that seek to eliminate all regulations regarding land use to do as they please with their properties.	3/13/2024 10:47 AM
27	Probably because people don't feel government is accessible or listening to them	3/12/2024 8:38 PM
28	This is a cultural phenomenon. Older residents were raised with a feeling of connection and commitment to participate. Younger residents are more in the "I'm entitled" camp and expect different outcomes. Once you change the upbringing you will get more participants.	3/12/2024 8:36 PM
29	A vicious election cycle. Why would I subject myself to public ridicule for my public service?!	3/12/2024 8:19 PM
30	It might help to have additional alternates on various boards to help people get more involved in the boards/groups already in existence	3/12/2024 6:57 PM
31	1)The boards seem to have the same people on them. They seem to be a clique. I am an avid volunteer, but am leery to engage for fear of being demeaned in public by those in position already. 2) Depending on the group, is there a group they could join? Why are they separate - where their goals not being addressed?	3/12/2024 5:25 PM
32	The involvement of town politics becomes rapidly apparent to any individual with hopes of volunteering time. Politics destroy desire. It continues to become increasingly difficult to accomplish the simplest task in this town. Frustration smothers desire.	3/12/2024 4:25 PM
33	Not sure. Would like to hear more about this.	3/12/2024 1:57 PM
34	This seems to be a national problem due to lack of trust in government. The current volunteers should do what they can to help bring in other volunteers and reach out to the non-governmental groups.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
35	Make information more transparent and available. Most people do not have the time to watch 2-3 hour meetings. Modernize agendas and minutes so a citizen understands what's going on in a glance. Google docs are live! Overlap board meetings so common issues are discussed together.	3/11/2024 9:42 PM

Rye 2035

36	unclear of this issue?	3/11/2024 7:23 PM
37	Since the demise of local media newspapers social media has allowed "agenda specific" groups to form. Rye could develop it's own social media presence.	3/11/2024 6:15 PM
38	It is easy to criticize on social media and not actually do and problem solving. I think there has been an upswing in those wanting to get involved.	3/11/2024 4:40 PM
39	Rye has a lot of bright strong people in Town and lack of openness and willingness by some in government, has created the need for groups to form and monitor what the Town is doing and how they are doing business.	3/11/2024 4:30 PM
40	The appears to be some lack of confidence that the officially appointed/elected volunteers on municipal boards and committees have voices that are not only heard but heeded by the Select Board and others who control the pursestrings and determine which, if any recommendations are put into practice. Perhaps we need to have more frequent but RELIGIOUSLY COLLEGIAL, MODERATED town meetings to air the concerns and suggestions of all Rye residents, whether commercial or residential.	3/11/2024 1:41 PM
41	I do not know the answer, but Rye's experience is not unique. It is dangerous today to publicly take a position.	3/11/2024 12:21 PM
42	It may be time to move to a Town Manager form of government that involves more direct supervision of department heads and employees. This will set a strong/safe structure for municipal governmental transparency and volunteer involvement.	3/11/2024 11:18 AM
43	Municipal government doesn't feel engaged in a productive way. Does not feel like everyone is represented. Actions taken by the municipal government such as the parsonage, carriage house, etc. feel like municipal government is there to give benefits to cronies and those in power. Issues like with the water contamination bring about questions of competency in the stewardship of the municipal government.	3/11/2024 10:11 AM
44	Meeting times are not convenient for people who have to actually work.	3/10/2024 11:06 PM
45	I have no insights.	3/10/2024 5:28 PM
46	correct channels should be open and accessible and responsive so groups are encouraged to worth within the system	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
47	Rogue players	3/10/2024 4:42 PM
48	As I said before, many in Rye are "low information" when it comes to knowing exactly what town boards and commissions do and are responsible for. And we do a poor job of helping them understand how they work, what they add to the mix, and who is best qualified/positioned to serve. Let's have a community volunteer/service event where we educated and recruit people to the jobs...or at the very least understand what's being done and how.	3/10/2024 4:42 PM
49	don't know.	3/10/2024 4:40 PM
50	good question.... I'd like to hear your thoughts.	3/10/2024 4:30 PM
51	formalize these groups?	3/10/2024 3:48 PM
52	unclear without examples of said groups what is being asked. perhaps describing volunteer positions could be developed including the number of hours of volunteers expected.	3/10/2024 3:41 PM
53	gov. roles are IMPOSSIBLE for people who work and/or have young children. onside group offer flexibility. mtgs time could vary, be streamed, be capped at x # of house (vs. a Select Board mtg that could go long) evenings at 6pm are prohibitive unpaid riles are exclusionary	3/10/2024 3:29 PM
54	There seems to be less trust in general and only though sharing of information can the trust be restored. Make sure they are invited and well informed but also don't use money to buy and renovate a space for more town clerks than are even needed for 1.3m that few approved of.	3/10/2024 11:35 AM
55	Because the town has been resource contrained and leans heavily on volunteers who might not have the proper experience and incentive that a full time employee would have.	3/10/2024 9:58 AM
56	Town should more actively support and promote the Rye Civic League. Encourage more engagement and let RCL take more of the leadership for getting people involved. RCL is unique Nationally and the town should be shinning a brighter light on this unique and high value asset. RCL has never been promoted in the Select Board's newsletter. Biggest issues is the "Town	3/10/2024 9:35 AM

Municipal Culture" that does not clearly communicate and is more focused on checking off the communication box then doing it well. The website is a great example of poor communication. The way Budgets and Spending work and the community pulled in can be redesigned. Only 30% of residents vote? How much "Civic responsibility" is delivered at RJH? Younger families do not vote or get engaged.

57	Small outside groups form because the people view the existing municipal boards and committees as political, bringing in only those who share their political views. Change "appointed" positions to elected positions.	3/10/2024 9:11 AM
58	This is healthy. It serves the community to keep government entities at bay. It is supposed to be like that in a free society where its people think critically. Embrace it.	3/10/2024 8:42 AM
59	Maybe there are too many committes? Maybe there are too many rules & regulations? Keep things simple/straightforward.	3/9/2024 10:07 PM
60	Unsure but possibly due to not feeling like they can get their points heard fairly or adequate time allocated. Proactively reach out to groups and invite to meetings focused on collaboration	3/9/2024 8:38 PM
61	I think that any town board can come across as steadfast and stodgy, and seems to be run by members that have been in some positions for a long time. I find it intimidating and there is a sense of not being welcoming and ways of doing things are not flexible - "we do it this way, because this how it has always been done" way of thinking. I appreciate all that members do, but this is why I shy away.	3/9/2024 5:14 PM
62	I don't know.	3/9/2024 1:47 PM
63	More inclusivity, transparency, online outreach. Shorter terms on boards, more women on the boards	3/9/2024 1:08 PM
64	Maybe running for election keeps people away from some positions (not a fun process) vs just volunteering. Maybe the outside groups feel free-er to express themselves in our politically charged climate so the outside groups have more appeal on a personal level. I appreciate all our municipal boards/committees are doing...have you asked these other groups why they formed? Invited them to meetings? I'm sure you have - but the members probably can answer this question best.	3/9/2024 11:47 AM
65	Outlaw short term rentals so you have more homes occupied by people engaged in the community and caring about what goes on here.	3/9/2024 11:46 AM
66	Don't know, but does not sound helpful	3/9/2024 11:35 AM
67	Not sure what groups are being referred to here.	3/9/2024 9:57 AM
68	We can't expect town unity with so much national division. I don't personally get involved because of the attitudes of residents and the lack of accountability.	3/8/2024 12:43 PM
69	I am unaware of these groups and can't help on that. As for volunteering--I did lots when our children were growing up both in the schools and sports. Just listening to the Candidates' Night make me not want to volunteer. Boring meeting that accomplish little are not for me. I am in the healthcare field and have worked for more than 50 years. I would be happy to volunteer for something that would help/support people in need, share my talents and abilities, etc.	3/8/2024 10:18 AM
70	First, identify the groups so all residents are aware of them (I had no idea there are independent groups??!).	3/8/2024 9:51 AM
71	Maybe Rye residents want to volunteer in a daily basis. No commitment but they want to help.	3/8/2024 9:44 AM
72	I cannot comment on this other than invite these groups to a public forum.	3/7/2024 11:46 PM
73	Have a more amicable, flexible and welcoming atmosphere to be part of the solution, more "alternate" or job sharing positions. Lets take advantage of the incredible knowledge hub of residents--offer "town municipal education ABCs" through a RPL lecture library series so it is not so intimidating. (Get seat cushions made for the antique town hall benches or go to a used, discounted business furniture store to upgrade so that more residents will attend in person and be comfortable for a 3 hour meeting)	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
74	Not surr	3/7/2024 11:04 PM
75	Need to encourage those with concerns to meet with the Select Board or other community	3/7/2024 10:29 PM

	forums	
76	I like groups outside of municipal government to form and challenge the government ideals. Need to keep tension and leash on overzealous spenders.	3/7/2024 10:12 PM
77	If they want the town to change, then become part of the government, these "committees" should not have as strong as a hold on this town as they do. They should not be pandered to.	3/7/2024 9:57 PM
78	The older townsfolk who self identify as "involved" and "long term rye residents" are notoriously standoffish. The meetings are mind-numbingly monotonous. "Younger" folks have NO tolerance for dealing with that and can't stand sitting through the meetings. Make it tolerable. Make these meetings less stuffy, less formal, and more tolerable.	3/7/2024 8:27 PM
79	Municipal boards have become non-partisan - Polarized political groups in municipality like Rye discourages participation and only encourages criticism	3/7/2024 6:16 PM
80	Special interest groups pop up to support personal issues. These same groups complain and point fingers but offer no solutions.	3/7/2024 12:05 PM
81	It's easier to throw the dart without responsibility. Take away social media falsified statements.	3/7/2024 8:19 AM
82	We could ask those people to join boards that need membership. And, if they choose not to, ask if they know others who might be willing.	3/6/2024 6:57 PM
83	It is because the activities of town government are not visible to the citizenry. Those volunteering for the activities of town service MUST BE RESPONSIBLE for recruiting their successors.	3/6/2024 2:55 PM
84	The influence of outside groups should be tempered and the costs of their suggestions on the town or property owners should always be deeply considered. These groups should not be allowed to place costs or burdens on property owners or the town.	3/6/2024 2:18 PM
85	I think they like being outside the mainstream. So, I don't think one can get them involved except marginally.	3/6/2024 1:32 PM
86	increase publicity for open positions daytime meetings for committees and boards that would benefit from more senior members.	3/6/2024 12:54 PM
87	Maybe focus on project-oriented volunteer opportunities with limited scope that don't demand a big commitment of time. See my suggestion above for volunteer projects that the RCC might promote.	3/6/2024 12:50 PM
88	we need more younger members in all committees. virtually board/commission has vacancies	3/6/2024 12:35 PM
89	I have no knowledge of water dog groups	3/6/2024 12:13 PM
90	I think the problem is largely one of differing ideals. Those who are "branching out" from municipal government think they can do better independently instead of working with local municipalities to achieve their goals. I think this stems from a mix of not hearing what they want to hear (lower taxes, less "oversight") and misinformation from their chosen news sources and friend groups. The best way to reach them in my opinion might be additional public education around the benefit of the town's municipal boards and committees, coupled with gentle fact checking in regards to misinformed opinions. Additionally, more recognition of who is on these committees might do well to engage outside groups, and could do much to help improve the image of the town's boards in the eyes of the community. The "anonymity" of many of these municipal volunteers lends to a feeling of exclusion. A simple solution to this might be portraits and "bios" of the committee and board members on the town's website. I think people forget that those working in local government are also people of this town. It would go very far to remind them of that.	3/6/2024 12:01 PM
91	I am not sure what this means - what groups? some people may have "formed groups" because they have different opinions and what is wrong with that?	3/6/2024 11:36 AM
92	It is pretty simple governance to understand that municipal elected government must lead and direct the actions of the community unless you believe in total chaos.	3/6/2024 11:21 AM
93	not sure what you mean. Rye Civic League is great - important to have this body outside of government. if you mean faction factions, I am not sure what to do about that. find personal connection to "invite them in"?	3/6/2024 11:15 AM

## Rye 2035

94	The demographics of Rye contribute to the difficulty finding volunteers. As people age, they are less likely to want to put themselves under the microscope. From personal experience, it is not pleasant to be yelled at or threatened with legal action for doing a volunteer job.	3/6/2024 10:39 AM
95	The Boards in committees seem to have become closed groups, increasingly inviting like-minded thinkers to participate.	3/6/2024 9:20 AM
96	It is my belief, that some of the boards and committees have become closed groups. They are not inclusive or diversified.	3/6/2024 9:07 AM
97	Why? When groups are queried, inadequate answers, resulting in lack of trust.	3/6/2024 5:59 AM
98	Recruitment takes effort, by having the same individuals serving on multiple boards others are less likely to step up and it becomes a less diverse governance and can lead to special interests and distrust.	3/6/2024 5:27 AM
99	I think when committees want to put parking lots on conservation land, the locals don't want that. So they will speak up and fight. Land conservation should be just that.	3/5/2024 6:53 PM
100	Was not aware of these outside groups	3/5/2024 5:39 PM
101	Wish I knew	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
102	it is sometimes hard to join a committee in Rye because they (some) self appoint to select board who agree with their appointees. groups form when they feel strongly about an issue. maybe select board could reach out directly to these groups ?	3/5/2024 5:07 PM
103	Lack of transparency and trust, mostly brought on by the RCC. Citizens were not involved in approving funds for RCC legal fees admins they proved to be excessive and wasteful. Should not have two members of the same household involved in approving funds for the others committee/commison/board. Town boards need to work together and not have one board "settle" and the other continue to spend on the same issue.	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
104	not sure, would require more info	3/5/2024 4:59 PM
105	I'm on a municipal volunteer group. its too bureaucratic to get anything really done. its frustrating and I get why more people dont volunteer.	3/5/2024 4:53 PM
106	I am not aware of any other groups than the civic league, which is constantly trying to inform and involve people.	3/5/2024 4:42 PM
107	It seems a divide between old and new Rye. What people want. It has low taxes but people squabble over a gazebo which would bring Joy and connection. We have town suing, people suing town. Dog issues, beach clean up issues. Everyone seems to have a beef. Need a positive upbeat forum that all name calling etc is removed	3/4/2024 6:08 PM
108	It's political, and in my view, bad for the Town. The energy put into the RCL, for example, would be put to better use by the members joining existing Town sanctioned boards, committees or commissions.	3/4/2024 3:52 PM
109	Grievance culture is alive and well in Rye. I have no idea how to get aging self centered men to think beyond their small provincial boundaries.	3/4/2024 11:41 AM
110	The government needs to be more transparent in what is going on. The boards should be trusted to implement the policies and ordinances that the people have voted in and when they don't, people can't trust them. suspicious	3/3/2024 7:41 PM
111	These groups, ie The Civic League, are important for the well being for the town and to alert residents to problematic situations within the municipal boards and committees	3/3/2024 7:15 PM
112	I don't know what this question is asking, but I think the town relies too heavily on volunteers and should be seeking to professionalize town management and operations as much as possible with oversight provided by elected boards. As far as people who want to exert influence without being willing to volunteer themselves, I could care less what they think.	3/3/2024 5:38 PM
113	Sadly, this is a result of the growing distrust in government perpetuated by right wing misinformation campaigns	3/3/2024 4:56 PM
114	Not sure except that some people are fatiguing of committee work	3/3/2024 10:43 AM
115	You have a high percentage of summer residents who don't really find a need to get involved.	3/3/2024 10:26 AM

## Rye 2035

You have many new residents that aren't sure how to get involved. The current members volunteering need to reach out to their friends and recruit them.

116	In the 24 years I have lived here, I feel any concerns I've had have fell on deaf's ears. There is an 'in' crowd in Rye and if you are not in it, you're out.	3/2/2024 3:12 PM
117	Any groups that are not sanctioned by the town to be committees or boards, should not be able to have a say to what the town can do without bringing it before the town to have a vote by registered voters of the town of Rye.	3/2/2024 2:32 PM
118	I believe these people feel as though they act as watch dogs - seems to me, they would be better served to both volunteer and run for an office	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
119	It is a mess and some are getting aggressive like their national leaders. Many will leave this toxic environment. Especially those with families.	3/2/2024 8:05 AM
120	Difficult to make impact	3/1/2024 1:43 PM
121	Unknown. I think you have great boards. They are extremely professional, knowledgable and spend a lot of time learning about topics that are discussed at the meetings. I am not sure why outside groups are forming instead of relying on the elected boards.	2/29/2024 5:19 PM
122	Vague question. I what ways do they direct the actions of the community?	2/28/2024 10:42 AM
123	Not clear that I understand the problem. People and groups may have strong opinions which should be heard. There should be a forum to listen to their concerns	2/26/2024 10:34 AM
124	Bring those people together to talk through events and developments in the community - I get the sense a small group of people don't feel heard.	2/26/2024 7:20 AM
125	to many volunteers are self serving which causes problems	2/25/2024 10:08 PM
126	Distrust of boards	2/25/2024 7:23 AM
127	Boards contradicting one another, family members on boards approving funds for boards/commissions with other family members. Leaves a bad taste in your mouth and makes folks not trust people.	2/23/2024 3:35 PM
128	This is a super weird question - you might want to explain it better.	2/23/2024 7:31 AM
129	Because the selectmen / RCC are viewed as not communicating and participative.	2/22/2024 7:29 PM
130	Start with a nepotism policy to relieve one household unit from retaining too much power. Many actions by municipal boards/commissions seem to extend beyond their control causing frustration and division among citizens. Many are afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation should they need to appear before such boards/commissions. The RCC first comes to mind. We should review authorities and powers granted. The RCC is the biggest divisive issue in town. The RCC has only the authority given to it under the statute. While it may have standing to contest permits at the DES level, the town never expanded its power to do so under a warrant article. Further no spouse should be authorizing money to be spent by a commission headed by another spouse. The issue is so egregious it has caused a severe divide in town.	2/22/2024 5:45 PM
131	too many groups and boards. simplify government and make it transparent. the 'I've lived here forever and I know better' mentality is a problem.	2/22/2024 3:38 PM
132	It's easier for people to arm chair quarterbacks. Thank you to all the town volunteers that make this a great place to live.	2/22/2024 3:02 PM
133	Too much government. Too many committees overlapping with policies and ideas to strengthen their hold on power	2/22/2024 12:44 PM
134	Those in the government have different interests in mind compared to other pockets of the population and are not always considering the entire community.	2/22/2024 9:16 AM
135	Getting younger people is key but I also recommend keeping it to people who have lived in town for a while.	2/22/2024 8:59 AM
136	Because commissions are appointed and not elected. Because elections are popularity contests and not based on a basic level of understanding of the position.	2/22/2024 8:38 AM
137	Lack of engagement in meetings, lack of communication and clear directives, lack of financial	2/21/2024 8:56 PM

incentive for volunteerism. Offer stipend

138	Meeting minutes are being subjectively edited (especially planning), legacy of favors, unfairness, the "swap" is an example of poor decision making, poor planning, leading to poor outcome. Planning Department has been inadequately staffed (RPC circuit rider is making a difference) and residents are not always treated fairly. Thank goodness for our new Town Administrator and Town Attorney. Not all volunteers have value or are impartial. Some have agendas (political, prioritizing property rights over the environment and preservation). Lack of transparency. Communications sent from residents are not even acknowledged by the Planning Department.	2/21/2024 6:21 PM
139	I think the Rye Conservation Commission should be disbanded for their mishandling of the Rye Taxpayer funds with their ridiculous lawsuit.	2/20/2024 9:17 PM
140	They appear to be in their minds the know all tell all watchdogs. Always good to see checks and balances but they should drop the arrogance as we all know - no one has all the answers and if they want to help the town, run for a spot on a committee or board they think they can help bring change.	2/20/2024 9:25 AM
141	Ensure municipal government employees are welcoming and east to work with	2/19/2024 8:50 PM
142	Not enough transparency in current boards All meetings notes should be public especially when anyone's tax dollars are being spent	2/19/2024 3:23 PM
143	Lots of people share opinions but few are willing to give their time to followthrough.	2/19/2024 2:37 PM
144	Volunteer committees with no decision making authority or budget oversight prevent work from getting done.	2/19/2024 12:09 PM
145	Communication. People want to get involved but they don't know how	2/19/2024 9:57 AM
146	People are frustrated with those in elected positions only caring about keeping the tax rate the same. We have several town infrastructure issues we need to address. Nothing major has been accomplished in 20+ years. Our backs are against the wall and people feel their leaders are only retirees fighting for the status quo....this has lead to outside groups meeting and forming. Our leaders need to involve more people, modernize the meetings with dial-in and online forums to make it easier for everyones voices to be heard.	2/19/2024 8:34 AM
147	Boards should be made up of qualified, professional, unbiased people.	2/18/2024 9:04 PM
148	Alternate groups form when leaders dont provide clear answers. So in our specific case, a lack of understanding of the finances by the community and high level answers from our leaders to specific questions cause distrust. Taxes went up 15% and no one has simply said that is because we are spending more on XXXX. Instead there has been lots of discussion about the tax rate relative to other towns... irrelevant. Explain what people are getting for the \$1.15 you want today that cost \$1.00 they paid yesterday.	2/18/2024 7:39 PM
149	The people who run the government in this town have their own agendas. Usually it's from one side of the political spectrum. And it's getting worse. Reasonable people don't want to volunteer because they don't want to deal with bureaucratic nonsense, and clicks who are all on the same political team.	2/17/2024 10:05 PM
150	I am not clear what you are talking about here, but I look forward to asking more about this. Sad to know this is happening.	2/17/2024 7:18 PM
151	Too many people are pushing for more and more rules and are animated by politics rather than basic needs for the town.	2/17/2024 6:42 PM
152	If the goal of these outside groups was to help, there are plenty of ways to volunteer. Constructive feedback helps; "gotcha" approach, rather than pitching in, does not.	2/17/2024 3:12 PM
153	The people who complain on social media really irk me. Several individuals have gathered a social media following by complaining about work that volunteers perform. They need to put up or shut up. Let them join the boards or attend the meetings, not complain on social media. I don't know how to encourage this. I think it is just a sign of the times.	2/17/2024 3:06 PM
154	Planning board and zoning board meetings can be very vicious	2/17/2024 11:07 AM
155	Several of the "outsiders" have run for office. (Steve Bourne, etc) however with several of the Commissions/Committees having members on for decades we may need a term limit that	2/17/2024 10:43 AM

## Rye 2035

	allows new members to successfully be elected. (Conservaton Commission, etc	
156	More citizen volunteer boards such as maintaining trails in the town forest.	2/17/2024 8:14 AM
157	Because not all boards are effective. The same people end up on the boards, not sure volunteers have any voice.	2/17/2024 7:44 AM
158	I think there is a perception that Rye leadership doesn't want to hear from the younger residents. The younger residents like the idea of development and change (allowing more businesses like restaurants and hotels, increasing recreation for kids, etc). Our perception is that the traditional Rye resident doesn't want any change that would benefit the younger residents	2/17/2024 7:18 AM
159	There is always a fight here in Rye with elected committees that seem to encourage other groups to direct the path of the community. Always butting heads and it discourages volunteerism	2/17/2024 5:22 AM
160	It's because there isn't transparency in municipal government and other groups are needed to analyze and explain to townspeople. For example the outsized school budget.	2/16/2024 7:52 PM
161	rye is an affluent community with engaged members in the community, whether engaged to serve or engaged to monitor.	2/16/2024 6:15 PM
162	Trumpism. Why do we want mobs of anti-everything people involved in municipal government? Instead, expand the BOS to more members so the workload is manageable and people who have jobs and families and other commitments can participate. Then, prioritize recruiting and paying for qualified, professional employees for important town management roles.	2/16/2024 5:56 PM
163	Social media has been rough. I don't want to sacrifice my time and volunteer only to be ridiculed, shamed on social media.	2/16/2024 5:37 PM
164	People will always complain about those in charge- easier to complain that work to assist. More people would volunteer if they better understood the various positions and the time commitment. Child care would be great for meetings. Also, perhaps some way to publicly thank volunteers. More comfortable meeting space would help as well.	2/16/2024 3:39 PM
165	there is no transparency into the formed boards, and some of them act in a shady manner (like the TDBank exchange) and shouldn't be trusted	2/16/2024 2:40 PM
166	The current volunteer boards seem to be controlled by very vocal, entrenched groups and don't seem very welcoming.	2/16/2024 2:34 PM
167	The rye municipal groups and boards are generally governed by self-interest people	2/16/2024 1:53 PM
168	I'm baffled by this. I am constantly asking people to get involved, if they have complaints / issues. Standing from the sidelines does nothing.	2/16/2024 1:14 PM
169	There are a few that feel it is their way or nothing and they create fiefdoms and hurt Elected Boards, Committees and Commissions by being obstructionists. I do not think there is a way to get them involved they do not want to be. They either want all the glory for fixing a problem they think exists that demands priority, or they are fearful of government. The Problem is the Selectmen allow them and in sometimes encourage them. For example the Civic League is not a Town entity yet the are given freedoms and allowed access to put things in print that are not true and speak at Selectmen meetings on their views and no one stands up to them. They are bullies and push their agendas. They also print inaccurate statements in their newsletters and the Selectmen do not stand up and say "hey that is incorrect." These fractions target employees, certain residents and have divided our Town even more. Until we get leadership from the Top Down nothing will be done about these groups.	2/16/2024 12:38 PM
170	One of the reasons for this is that local news organizations no longer have beat reporters covering local government news. I'm not convinced we should try to bring watch dog groups into municipal government. Perhaps they are serving a purpose.	2/16/2024 12:36 PM
171	Facebook groups have made people more aware of town govt info and maybe even some things that may not seem quite above board and transparent. But people are not quick to solve problems rather than complain. Time is always the problem for serving. Night time meetings every week or month after full days of work. So it ends up being mostly retirees.	2/16/2024 11:24 AM
172	Volunteers are not appreciated by some and frequently attacked on social media. This leads to apathy and an unwillingness to serve.	2/16/2024 11:16 AM



Rye 2035

173	The meetings seem to be hostile and there is no middle ground. You have progressive points of view that are aiming to keep up with changing times and then the traditional older point of view that doesn't want anything to change,	2/16/2024 11:06 AM
174	The boards have to work closer, communicate better and go back to sharing resources. There are silos with the library and schools. Those buildings used to be shared by multiple organizations/town departments.	2/16/2024 10:59 AM
175	Hmm good question. Love that you are thinking about this- good approach	2/16/2024 10:19 AM
176	Everyone likes to complain and no one likes to actually do anything about it.	2/16/2024 8:53 AM
177	Ex Really good question. Citizen oversight is the result the lack of appropriate committee actions, committee listening skills, transparency and communication. Especially those decisions that cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Why don't the "outside" groups volunteer for committee positions? I can only speak for myself. I am third generation Rye resident. I have lived only on the corner of Grove and Dump Roads. (Look up Dump Road on older maps. New ones leave the road unnamed. Why?) I have served the town as a police officer, police cadet program supervisor , rec commission (see historical records of committee members who built the rec field), highway safety council, transfer station improvement committee, coach of football, Jr. High baseball, little league, lifeguard supervision and more. Honored as citizen of the year, and honored by having the Rye Little League championship named after me. In my mid seventies, I've done my share.	2/16/2024 8:36 AM
178	Increase awareness and participation by allowing more virtual events. Often times it doesn't work. Maybe create direct social media groups from town itself like Facebook or Instagram great way to get news out.	2/16/2024 7:57 AM
179	Beware of committees seeking power by selecting their own members with personal agendas	2/16/2024 7:53 AM
180	I support outside groups. Freedom to meet and speak is a beautiful thing.	2/16/2024 7:10 AM
181	Because the town doesn't take advise from volunteers. It's always the same people making decisions regardless. Why would someone continue to volunteer if only a few have their way.	2/15/2024 10:59 PM
182	The level of incivility has increased dramatically. When we see the way that volunteers in some of these roles are "attacked" on social media and at meetings, why would anyone want to be part of the frenzy?	2/15/2024 10:33 PM
183	Holding people accountable isn't a problem.	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
184	Voices are heard.	2/15/2024 10:19 PM
185	Not sure	2/15/2024 9:59 PM
186	No answer	2/15/2024 9:02 PM

## Q17 From your perspective, how has the community of Rye changed over the last ten years? What concerns or additional opportunities do you see related to these changes?

Answered: 202 Skipped: 118

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Should be able to develop back land.	3/15/2024 9:27 PM
2	I see an influx of wealthy individuals who seek to develop properties beyond the scope of what has been traditionally seen in Rye. Land use regulations are challenged by attorneys and legal action.	3/15/2024 5:33 PM
3	Influx of people coming here because of how we maintained the town. Once here they want to change it then end up leaving.	3/15/2024 1:33 PM
4	Rye feels like more of an elitist town than ever before. If you do not have the funds to buy a million dollar plus home you cannot live here. I wonder if the people moving here now truly understand the true community spirit of our small town.	3/15/2024 1:07 PM
5	A LOT of new people moving in. That is great but we need them to adapt to Rye not Rye adapt to them. :perhaps putting a 1 year waiting period on people who move to town and want to get on a board or commission.	3/15/2024 12:57 PM
6	Route 1 developments are for the best. Coastal area is getting so extremely expensive, but that seems inevitable. WE should work to maintain more diverse single family and possibly cotttage style housing int he rest of town to support a diverse demography --- avoid becoming too exclusive.	3/15/2024 11:18 AM
7	Much more building, including huge residences which reflect the surge of money into the area. More housing leads to more traffic and traffic planning and improvements need to keep up.	3/15/2024 10:13 AM
8	Too much town oversight of private property. Too many employees and committees in Rye. There are only 6k residents.	3/15/2024 10:12 AM
9	tremendous demand for development and loss of open land, unaffordable housing has priced most young families out of Rye	3/15/2024 8:50 AM
10	Too many variances granted by ZBA. Threat of lawsuits puts boards in difficult position.	3/15/2024 7:53 AM
11	We have built too many developments. Our beaches have gotten over-crowded. But the use of the old bank as the Town Hall is a positive change. And the extra parking lot at the Rec has made things safer.	3/14/2024 8:30 PM
12	We are more polarized and less civil.	3/14/2024 8:25 PM
13	Too much development- planning and zoning give everything away- enforce our ordinances	3/14/2024 7:45 PM
14	Importantly, conservation lands and wetland protection have been expanded - both have provided important protections for Rye.	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
15	We have too many people who have moved here and are trying to implement policies from where they came from. Many times, that is why they left those areas.	3/14/2024 6:09 PM
16	We are becoming a retirement and seasonal community. The number of our school aged population has been steadily declining. Our school system is far too large for the current and trending school requirements.	3/14/2024 5:38 PM
17	Too many trophy houses, due to many variances.	3/14/2024 4:27 PM
18	New residents are not participating in town events or government unless they have children	3/14/2024 3:32 PM
19	I have been in area for 4 years + for much longer on a part time basis. I do not how community is changed, except it getting more expensive.	3/14/2024 2:32 PM

Rye 2035

20	The amount of non-resident traffic on Rt. 1A has increased to the point where children crossing the street between seasonal businesses and the beach is not safe. Speeding near the Rye & Portsmouth town borders is out of control in the summer. The increase in "developers" proposing multi-family buildings has increased. The opportunity with new construction is making sure the town preserves the rural aspect of town. The beaches will always seem busy in the summer with the more compacted housing and seasonal rentals, but if development gets out of hand it will seem like that all year long (like Portsmouth).	3/14/2024 2:28 PM
21	Need more housing	3/14/2024 2:20 PM
22	More ultra conservative residents and board members worry moderates such as myself that we will begin to band library materials and make poor budget choices when it comes to making Rye a better place to live .	3/14/2024 2:04 PM
23	Too many new people who have not adapted to the "old rye" ways. We need to keep Rye simple and affordable. Limiting the size of our local government is one way to do that. We have essential functions like police, fire, highway, and the fundamental boards like select, planning, budget, but many of the other things are just extra fluff and hoops for people to jump through.	3/14/2024 1:48 PM
24	Rye is becoming overbuilt and losing its small town character. Too much development, too much congestion, wear and tear on roads, beaches and public spaces.	3/13/2024 7:50 PM
25	no way to stop it but town is becoming too expense for family of 4 making lower 6 figure income. taxes are going up too much , rich families can afford and want more services , struggle across the US	3/13/2024 5:52 PM
26	housing costs have gone up - more houses are being torn down - rather than restoring people in Rye seem to be entitled and do NOT follow rules - have more wealthy people who abuse the rules - The Conservation Commission goes around stating rules and regulations (start a fire) then leave the whole issue unattended or unfinished. no team work - from start to finish - and no follow up! town blind eye. work as a team be friendly, helpful *RESIDENTIAL property is NOT commercial, industrial land* Residential vs commercial! -	3/13/2024 2:31 PM
27	I've seen too many giant houses on huge amounts of land go up that could easily have been 2-4 smaller houses around a cul-de-sac.	3/13/2024 11:57 AM
28	I do not know.	3/13/2024 11:07 AM
29	New multi home developments (South Road, StarFish, Rand Lumber) have catered to high end housing (even Rand although intended otherwise by zoning) and maximizing profit for developers and have been replete with violations of agreed to conditions due to poor town oversight of conditions. As in answers above Rye should have no more large lot developments with multiple homes and require all developments be clustered or smaller size homes. Single family homes on single lots have tended to be larger, more expensive, and often challenging with multiple variances in large part as land is so expensive	3/13/2024 11:06 AM
30	too much building and demolishing smaller homes	3/13/2024 10:43 AM
31	It has become more desirable. I see out of town cars flying through our neighborhoods. Litter thrown about etc..	3/13/2024 6:51 AM
32	Speeding problem. We need to reduce speed. We need a safer town in terms of road traffic.	3/13/2024 6:30 AM
33	Too many big houses on small lots	3/12/2024 8:53 PM
34	Too much new construction on land which should not be developed. This leads to more traffic, increases in heavy equipment on the roads which destroy them. People moving here for a second or third home which means they have different priorities than those who are here full time in a primary home. More short term rental property which changes the make up of the neighborhood.	3/12/2024 8:52 PM
35	There is an influx of people, usually tourists visiting for a day or week, that don't seem to care about the community as a whole - leaving trash, speeding, etc. Tourism is probably good for the town, but it would be great if every rental place had a brochure about Rye; natural resources, history, & things to do within town (bike riding, yoga classes at library, geocaching/treasure hunt). That way they may want to stay within town instead of driving through to their air B&B and out again on a daily basis.	3/12/2024 8:35 PM

## Rye 2035

36	Many more people. Decreased ocean water and drinking water quality.	3/12/2024 8:22 PM
37	Too many larger developments. Not enough affordability to help bring younger families into town and/or help those who have spent their lives here the ability to stay.	3/12/2024 7:04 PM
38	Enormous changes, not unlike other small towns in this area, closely related to higher income levels.	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
39	Yes, it has definitely seen an increase in traffic, and everything related to increased population. My concern is that the rural feeling of Rye is disappearing.	3/12/2024 2:02 PM
40	The roads and facilities have deteriorated.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
41	Rye has seen modest homes torn down and mega-houses built on the lots. Rye has become much more of a town of the wealthy.	3/11/2024 10:50 PM
42	Positives: The schools! Opportunities for families and children are wonderful! Negatives: Development, loss of natural habit, water quality Opportunities: Pay comparable wage for life guards to Hampton/ Water County to keep beach-goes safe.	3/11/2024 10:01 PM
43	Rye now has more "oversight" and less live and let live mentality. Not Good.	3/11/2024 8:42 PM
44	Too much development and new construction. Lots of out of state license plates in driveways year round it seems. The local culture is decreasing rapidly	3/11/2024 8:32 PM
45	it seems like spending without oversight and transparency within committees has become more problematic (litigation!!)	3/11/2024 7:27 PM
46	Sense of community seems to have diminished perhaps due to influxes related to condos and new developments that move the town away from it's rural roots.	3/11/2024 6:35 PM
47	People come to Rye and want to build mini-mansions and they hire lawyers to help them skirt the zoning laws. I think we grant too many variances.	3/11/2024 4:49 PM
48	It's become a much wealthier Town and the expanded impacts on existing homes and property, has started to make it feel more urban than rural. Variances for expansions and pushing limits on the land are out of control. Variances used to require hardship, but it seems the only hardship now is "I bought it, it's not how I want to live and I have to expand it to fit my needs',	3/11/2024 4:46 PM
49	yes, Many condo's are built, which is fine but land is hard to find.	3/11/2024 4:09 PM
50	This is not unique to Rye, but the cost of buying a home has increased and many young families cannot afford to move to Rye. It's a concern because not as many children attend the schools and the overall population feels like it is older, and more people than ever before are not living here all year.	3/11/2024 2:25 PM
51	Rye remains a conservative, generally wealthy, cautious and fiscally-responsible community where a reasonable tax millage is particularly cherished. However, some of the things we may need most in the near term are going to cost money and everyone will have to be willing to pay their fair share through property taxation based on fair and equitable periodic re-evaluation by professionals	3/11/2024 1:55 PM
52	There are a lot of single family homes being over built that are not in keeping with the goal of providing housing for more diverse populations, including young families and seniors.	3/11/2024 11:27 AM
53	Become more crowded, increased environmental risk, erosion of town character	3/11/2024 10:16 AM
54	Young families priced out and more retirees moving here to enjoy the low taxes. And the population of people who have been here for decades have some sort of weird obsession with nostalgia making them allergic to any community progress and change.	3/10/2024 11:17 PM
55	Greater development means greater scrutiny on the part of the planning board. And we need to solve the groundwater (leach field) issues. Otherwise, the additional tax base is good for Rye.	3/10/2024 5:55 PM
56	changes: more cars on the road condos on Lafayette and Washington Rd more seasonal visitors, motorcycles, significant more airplane noise high end construction going on - good to see changing from rural type to too many condos!	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
57	Demographically changed. High cost of entry.	3/10/2024 4:45 PM
58	too much traffic now Washington Road Rt1 >1000 cars/hr peak then 600~ concerns and no	3/10/2024 4:31 PM

## Rye 2035

	mechanisms to check increase opportunities and gas station potential	
59	more out-of-state retirees moving here, driving up the cost of housing and skewing demographics	3/10/2024 4:22 PM
60	more new construction and lots of smaller homes that define the fabric of neighborhoods	3/10/2024 4:15 PM
61	it has aged and become very unaffordable. not many restaurants, markets, gas stations, etc. it has maintained its beautiful rural charter, beaches.	3/10/2024 4:03 PM
62	Aging population/lack of younger families a rising housing cost scares me/concerns me	3/10/2024 3:52 PM
63	climate change flooding	3/10/2024 3:42 PM
64	we saw declining (and now plateaued) school enrollment. meanwhile, home prices continue to rise. we used to have a gas station in town but it closed in part because we couldn't find staff/workers. I worry that young families and workers cant afford to live here. eventually, this could result in decline of out schools and community.	3/10/2024 3:35 PM
65	Population of town residents that have become wealthier and there is a growing population that feels they are entitled to do whatever they want with their property. Social media has certain residents spreading false information about town issues.	3/10/2024 12:05 PM
66	Road traffic goes up and up. Political Polarization. No good ways for "community members to interact". The Transfer Station should be moved and built to promote community interaction. Too many ZBA wetland variances. School population decline.	3/10/2024 9:53 AM
67	We should promote more agriculture in rye. More farming less building. Keep Rye as rural as possible.	3/10/2024 9:04 AM
68	Rye has become an older & more expensive real. estate community. Young families cannot afford to move to Rye.	3/9/2024 10:15 PM
69	- positives: neighbors helping neighbors, community cheering on kids sports teams, community rallying behind families facing challengers - negatives: work to protect against rising seas, cutting educational opportunities through the budget ( social studies, advanced classes), parking bit address for beaches causing bottlenecks on route 1	3/9/2024 8:43 PM
70	There has been more development, especially on Rte 1, and there is more traffic everywhere. The transfer station has been upgraded, which is nice. A lot of the aging population has moved out, and more affluent people from other states have moved in. I find this sad.	3/9/2024 5:43 PM
71	Too much development	3/9/2024 4:02 PM
72	I personally don't love the much larger, more expensive homes being developed around town but people have the right to build what they want on their land (in accordance with planning/building dept regs). I don't like seeing development near sensitive environmental areas like marshes.	3/9/2024 2:02 PM
73	Every community in the country has changed over the last 10 years in similar ways. Mostly due to increasing population, we need to focus on maffordable housing	3/9/2024 1:58 PM
74	Building homes on land that was formerly deemed "too wet". Seems like that change came with an employee change at the Building Dept which should not happen. Very large homes building (what seems to be) right to the edge of property lines....so there is little land/space between dwellings...less trees/lawn/fields.	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
75	Homes are being torn down and being built with bigger footprints and newer homes being built with the result of more flooding and less respect for wetlands and the environment. Many more rentals and transient people, causing a loss of community.	3/9/2024 11:59 AM
76	not sure, new to town	3/9/2024 11:38 AM
77	The beaches are getting more crowded than ever before, as a result more litter along side of the roads as crowds leave the beaches. The parking lot behind the dunes can at time make it difficult for locals to get past.	3/9/2024 10:13 AM
78	Loot of over sized summer homes. Too much building and destruction of habitat.	3/8/2024 12:48 PM
79	There has been increase in traffic and more speeding on local roads. The number of bike riders has increased and the number of fundraising events road runs. Parking at the beach with a	3/8/2024 10:34 AM

## Rye 2035

sticker has been limited. This year, needless to say, has brought lots of issues along the coast.

80	Through traffic has really increased with disregard for pedestrians or bicyclists and speed limits, including side streets and cul-de-sacs. Providing better signage on all areas would be helpful	3/8/2024 10:08 AM
81	the change has been remarkably slow given the popularity of Rye, so I think Rye has done very well.	3/8/2024 10:05 AM
82	Too much growth in a small Seacoast town Turning into a Portsmouth	3/8/2024 9:44 AM
83	speeding through the town is widespread specifically on Pioneer, Washington, Long John, Route 1A/Washington of out-of-towners cutting through, potholes/roads in disrepair, trash on the roads (cigarette buds, liquor bottles, dog waste), condos/townhomes built along route 1 should have never been allowed to be built less than 1 mile from toxic Coakley Landfill, development of megamansions at the watershed/marsh that should not have been allowed ie Harbor Road and Route 1A	3/7/2024 11:33 PM
84	More people coming to the coast and not respecting the beaches. Psrking atrocious and out of towners are littering/dumping trash , throwing it out the car winfows and landing on front yards and on dide of roads. Also peeing in bushes.or on private property instead of using bathrooms providef.	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
85	Very few building lots except for close to Lafayette Rd. Strong investment in existing homes	3/7/2024 10:42 PM
86	Concern of the development and break up of large land in order to provide additional housing. People outside of Rye want to come to Rye because of its rural character and being on the seacoast. Providing more housing will kill the very same reason why people want to come to Rye.	3/7/2024 10:19 PM
87	The entitlement.	3/7/2024 10:13 PM
88	RCC isn't looking out for the best interest of land conservation	3/7/2024 8:32 PM
89	It hasn't. It really hasn't. The schools could use a hand, they are old (Jr High!!) and unappealing.Everythign is catered to the elderly. There is NOTHING for anyone under 45y/r old	3/7/2024 8:32 PM
90	Concern in regard to building coverages	3/7/2024 6:33 PM
91	I see the shoreline changing, especially Foss Beach.	3/7/2024 12:48 PM
92	Giant homes built...middle class leaving	3/7/2024 12:11 PM
93	unknown	3/6/2024 2:51 PM
94	The Rye community has grown and become more active and family oriented over the last 10 years as the economy in the area has improved. Rye should continue to promote our town as the nicest place to live on the Seacoast.	3/6/2024 2:25 PM
95	More density.	3/6/2024 1:39 PM
96	concern: increased road traffic and seasonal crowding	3/6/2024 12:55 PM
97	too much new housing too many old homes being destroyed. too much traffic in the center of town and on RT 1	3/6/2024 12:39 PM
98	lots of properties being bought and rented. not sure if there is much to be done about it but it doesn't foster a great sense of community	3/6/2024 12:26 PM
99	I've only lived in the area for 5 years and worked in Rye for 3. I haven't seen much except a further divide between "left" and "right" that is more indicative of the country's problems then Rye's. Additionally as I previously stated, housing costs in this region are mind boggling and disheartening.	3/6/2024 12:04 PM
100	Encroachment on marches. Development of Rt 1 - my concern is that we do not have a vision of what our part of Rt 1 should be so its haphazard.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
101	It is growing too fast because it is a very desirable place to live.	3/6/2024 11:39 AM
102	too much building too many variances houses too close to our resources	3/6/2024 11:25 AM

## Rye 2035

103	new bigger houses	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
104	We have increased the number of buildings without increasing the access to town water and sewer services. Even when municipal sewer was available, it was not used, which put a shared septic system over an aquifer linked to the town water supply (e.i., Rt 1 condos).	3/6/2024 10:53 AM
105	Seems to be losing its rural charm. Making it bigger doesn't always make it better.	3/6/2024 9:34 AM
106	Too much growth loss of open spaces,	3/6/2024 6:03 AM
107	More divided if that is possible. Special interest and less big picture. Wants not needs.	3/6/2024 5:39 AM
108	Yes less diversity	3/5/2024 8:40 PM
109	Too much traffic and too many of our charming structures being demolished for monster houses, that don't fit the feel of the community.	3/5/2024 7:00 PM
110	Major traffic on our roads in summer months. Not following posted speed limits	3/5/2024 5:46 PM
111	Too many people moving in and buildings being constructed. I think Covid played a big role. Traffic, a loss of community spirit and awareness.	3/5/2024 5:15 PM
112	No economic diversity. No businesses in town anymore and town not a "small business friendly" town. Bumping into people in local restaurants and stores created community. The middle school is an embarrassment for a town like ours. No social studies teachers! The kids coming out of RJH are known for being ill prepared for high school.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
113	all of the trees are getting cut down! houses going up are MASSIVE! need more family housing, multifamily - it doesn't need to look like apartments	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
114	zoning allows too much development on questionable land. too many variance granted to owners relating to lot size and proximity to wetlands.	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
115	traffic has increased, as has the speed of travel, this was compounded by the pandemic. impatience and frustration have made driving more erratic constant building brings heavy equipment into town and increased noise	3/5/2024 4:45 PM
116	Less arguing a d suing, more awareness of the dangers of climate change and how we are destroying our own seacoast.how about a cap on square footage of homes.	3/4/2024 6:16 PM
117	Crazy tax increases	3/4/2024 5:16 PM
118	Aged, reduced # children per household, gotten more wealthy, added people from neighboring States and lost long-time residents/natives of Rye. The people from There move Here, and now they want to make Here look like There.	3/4/2024 3:55 PM
119	Too many houses being built and condos	3/4/2024 11:08 AM
120	Concerned that there is little oversight on new building	3/3/2024 11:27 PM
121	Very wealthy out of state owners building here	3/3/2024 9:02 PM
122	Rye has become more suburban and less of a small seacoast town. The large homes are not in character with a small town.	3/3/2024 7:57 PM
123	Big money buys what they want	3/3/2024 7:19 PM
124	Excessive spending	3/3/2024 5:49 PM
125	Again, we need a water and sewage management plan. It has also been nice to see an acknowledgement that we need to continue to invest as a community after years of under-investment in so many areas.	3/3/2024 5:45 PM
126	Demolition and replacement of historic homes with large and tasteless new residences	3/3/2024 5:04 PM
127	Real estate prices, lack of families and school age children	3/3/2024 10:47 AM
128	N/A only been here for 2 years.	3/3/2024 10:30 AM
129	Big houses built on smaller lots. Not desirable.	3/3/2024 8:32 AM
130	There has been too much development. We are losing our small rural town ambience.	3/2/2024 3:17 PM

## Rye 2035

131	Conversation has been able to purchase land in Rye to preserve, which is good, but there should be a cap of purchasing conservation land. Conservation land should not more than 50% of the land in town. Each time land is purchased by the Conversation Commission, that land is taken off the tax books putting more of a burden of the current tax payers.	3/2/2024 3:01 PM
132	Covid brought it a huge amount of wealthy and older groups from NY. NJ and California - none will bring young families into our community which plays into my concern as to how to increase the student population in our great schools ?	3/2/2024 9:37 AM
133	Na	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
134	Polluted water, political divisiveness, greedy over-development, Keep your public servants safe.	3/2/2024 8:15 AM
135	More crowded.. especially at the beach where parking is allowed all over 1A.. and shouldn't be	3/1/2024 1:48 PM
136	More wear on roads. More speeding cars. Not enough parking for residents	3/1/2024 1:05 PM
137	Unknown.	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
138	Aging population, cost of housing makes it very difficult for young families to enter the community. Real estate development pressure will make it increasingly difficult to preserve open space	2/26/2024 10:52 AM
139	We've seen the first wave of climate migration - it started with people who have work flexibility in COVID.	2/26/2024 7:32 AM
140	way to much land taken off tax role/to much building	2/25/2024 10:21 PM
141	Good job managing most spend. Spend way too much on town litigation. Need to invest in basic infrastructure such as water system, septic and road safety	2/25/2024 7:25 AM
142	Yes. Only wealthy and McMansions. Rye Beach has sidewalks but no where else. Need to allow two families, rentals , etc to have economic diversity.	2/23/2024 3:39 PM
143	Too chaotic-no master plan.	2/22/2024 7:30 PM
144	There used to be more economic diversity. Now, only wealthy. Commerce and commercial businesses barely exist. We used to have corner stores, gas stations, florists, restaurants, etc. Those places brought people together and made a town. Now Rye feels like an area where people reside with no connection or community.	2/22/2024 5:51 PM
145	There seems to be a growing (priority) divide between the older residents and younger (family oriented) generations. I think that the younger families in Rye bring a lot of financial resources and energy that could positively influence the direction of our community.	2/22/2024 4:30 PM
146	we need to encourage young families to come to rye with great schools and great recreation facilities. The cost of entry is too high for most young families.	2/22/2024 3:44 PM
147	Lack of housing has increased the prices where it's prohibitive for families. Rye Beach consistently ranks the 2nd most expensive zip code in New England.	2/22/2024 3:05 PM
148	People moving here from larger areas demanding/expecting more services which we do not need. People are happier when they live within their means	2/22/2024 1:13 PM
149	It's lost it's community feel, and many of the families who used to call rye home have been pushed out by rising costs and over development. I've spent my entire life in this town and it's changed dramatically in the way it looks and feels. Some good, but mostly bad. It's lost much of its rich heritage and coastal fishing working town community feel.	2/22/2024 9:26 AM
150	Too much regulation. Keep it to the planning board and ZBA. Demo Review, Conservation, and at time HDC go too far. The aesthetic nature of those three groups should not be forced on owners.	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
151	I see that 170 units have been added since 2010 - how many have been lost/torn down/rebuilt, ie what is the net gain? This would help put the growth into context. Also, does median household income include those who have no income? I know for example the average income in Rye Beach is very low because of their ages being higher, and therefore they claim less income/living off retirement. It's not the whole story, and without the whole story it's hard to say how much has changed. Yes, we've seen housing units but they are fulfilling a need. The land will control how much can be built - most is not buildable according to your pie chart.	2/22/2024 8:56 AM



## Rye 2035

152	Natural resources have been impacted by development and expansion of existing homes. The development off South Road - Signature Drive & Autumn Lane - could have been prevented in order to better protect wetlands and Bailey Brook watershed (Atlantic White Cedars). Rye's wetland ordinance should have been strengthened ten years ago, which would have resulted in less development. Not having a Prime Wetlands Ordinance has been detrimental to Rye's natural resources. Lack of a professional planner.	2/21/2024 6:54 PM
153	continued loss of agricultural lands, development pressures on wetlands. Opportunities might include incentivizing small farm owners, increase buying potential and land maintenance for conservation and protection of natural resources.	2/21/2024 6:22 PM
154	Has not changed that much	2/20/2024 9:21 PM
155	The school age population of Rye has decreased significantly. My concern is we are carrying 2 school buildings that will need expensive maintenance and neither will ever be full again. I think we need to have one K-8 school like North Hampton does. Over the long run it makes more sense to consolidate & share resources (teachers, administrators)	2/20/2024 2:11 PM
156	Non Sure	2/20/2024 9:34 AM
157	The chief of police is making it harder for younger business owners to enter the rye market.	2/19/2024 8:55 PM
158	No one keeps the old houses Tear them down build new huge homes. In my neighborhood have watched this over and over. The rich are taking over the spending issues in Rye leaving the people who have lived here many years without much say. Spending on frivolous things. We need ambulances, fire trucks, better roads not gazebos and parking lots	2/19/2024 3:33 PM
159	Lots of like minded residents running committees and commissions. Rye needs voices from every age group and political affiliation.	2/19/2024 2:53 PM
160	Plans don't get implemented in a timely way. It is time to make improvements and make the services in our town match the home values. Recreation project, bike paths, address use of town buildings and sell those that aren't being utilized. Climate change is impacting the beaches. We have increase in tourism in the summer months. Population is aging and it is challenging for younger families to afford houses in Rye.	2/19/2024 12:17 PM
161	Yes it's gotten too expensive for young families.	2/19/2024 9:58 AM
162	Not much has changed. Been here for 16 years. We have many concerns over aging or non-existent infrastructure from town buildings, to schools to libraries to beaches to rec centers currently operating out of run down trailers. Need a town CIP badly that outlines investment over next 5 years.	2/19/2024 8:38 AM
163	Rye has lost it's semi rural agrarian feel & been replaced with housing developments that threaten our natural habitat & put a huge burden on our underdeveloped infrastructure.	2/18/2024 9:18 PM
164	The question is actually part of Rye's problem. You're not interested in views of people that haven't been here for less than 10 years. I've been in the Seacoast for 20+ years but only in Rye for 8 years. We could accompany our plans to expand housing with an educational initiative around inclusiveness and our democracy. If you've been here one day or one hundred years you have the same voice and one vote each.	2/18/2024 8:30 PM
165	it has become a gated community. opportunities include adding ADU's that are not so small. 2 bedroom homes on the same lot, with owner occupied lots are something that could alleviate a lot of family stress.	2/17/2024 8:53 PM
166	More high end houses Fewer school children	2/17/2024 8:41 PM
167	Flooding is issue that will increase. Water quality was big issue in recent history. I hope Rye continues to not be over-developed.	2/17/2024 7:22 PM
168	Less land for development due to conservation efforts, existing building and restrictions on development.	2/17/2024 6:45 PM
169	Oceans can't be used because septic and ground water issues not fixed.	2/17/2024 5:47 PM
170	a lot more building and renovation	2/17/2024 4:55 PM
171	More divisiveness, reflecting national trends.	2/17/2024 3:17 PM

Rye 2035

172	Not enough housing for younger families to afford and help sustain the schools	2/17/2024 11:10 AM
173	We have 90 new condo's with 18 of those as workforce housing units----many old homes continue to be demolished and new larger homes built (given the draw to be close to the ocean for new buyers). Obviously there are a large amount of homes that border the ocean and marshes that may require additional protection from the effect of higher tides	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
174	Too much traffic along Ocean Boulevard. Parking on both sides of the road near Jenness Beach creates dangerous situations for bikes and pedestrians (frequently walking with young children). Everyone has to walk in the travel lane as the shoulders are both taken up by cars. THIS IS UNSAFE	2/17/2024 8:17 AM
175	Lots of new development, but it appears to be in keeping with rye. Big expensive houses.	2/17/2024 7:52 AM
176	Too many visitors because of our free parking at beach, causing traffic, and trash. Businesses taking advantage of beaches for profit.	2/16/2024 8:00 PM
177	Development! Cultural change. We we discovered during Covid.	2/16/2024 5:39 PM
178	Less families and more "outside money". More snow-birds. Concerns: many newcomers do not seem to view Rye as their home, just a great place to live and do not get involved in town affairs/activities, reducing the Town's sense of community. Also, there seems to be more folks who have big demands for what they want, and legal teams to support them, resulting in over development, particularly near shorelands and wetlands. We need to find a way to get these folks caring more about our community and all its natural and other resources.	2/16/2024 3:52 PM
179	The rural character has changed. Too much money being spent.	2/16/2024 3:20 PM
180	so much building - slow it down!	2/16/2024 2:44 PM
181	Too much new building	2/16/2024 1:56 PM
182	I see locals getting pushed out b/c housing is so high.	2/16/2024 1:21 PM
183	It used to be a very sweet community. It has become angry and closed minded. People do not help each other out anymore. All for themselves. The mighty dollar more important than a neighbor or a good cause.	2/16/2024 12:47 PM
184	A lot of build up. Condos and McMansions	2/16/2024 11:32 AM
185	More development on more challenged land. Less funds coming back for the state. Unfunded mandates.	2/16/2024 11:20 AM
186	Spending money on non-essential things/services. School spending is to high.	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
187	A lot of developing.	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
188	there are more businesses that seem to be coming to the area which is good for the economy	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
189	Too many tear downs of buildings on 5,000 sf lots to McMansions	2/16/2024 11:02 AM
190	More families have moved in from outside Seacoast area.	2/16/2024 10:25 AM
191	People move to Rye because they see everything they want in a community and once here they want to change it to mirror what they left. Rye natives can't afford to live in their community any longer and are being forced out.	2/16/2024 9:25 AM
192	it seems that the town and people in the town are trying to restrict access to the area of rye, including beaches via parking. Specifically taking away parking near Jenness beach. Everyone should have the right to access the beach and be able to park in a reasonable location.	2/16/2024 9:07 AM
193	Increased traffic.	2/16/2024 8:19 AM
194	It has grown for sure. Water levels have been a significant increase since we moved in 10 years ago. Noticeably stronger storms and wind. New homes should be built for higher water and stronger storms.	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
195	Building on unbuildable lots like Long John ruining quality of life for neighborhoods	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
196	Loss of rural areas	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
197	Many more people of self interest. Many more cars. More traffic. More self absorbed people.	2/15/2024 11:32 PM

Rye 2035

198	Get rid of the recycling center. No reason to have this in our town considering this is on higher ground near our drinking water. When it rains there is runoff. We could easily have trash pickup.	2/15/2024 11:04 PM
199	Greater affluence/increased tax base = more resources to support town initiatives Risk of over development impacting small town feel	2/15/2024 10:41 PM
200	It's gotten soft. Bidens America	2/15/2024 10:22 PM
201	New to Rye	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
202	Not here 10 yrs ago. No answer	2/15/2024 9:05 PM

DRAFT

**Q18 In your opinion, what defines Rye's semi-rural, small-town character? This may include certain areas of town, buildings, open space properties, destinations, and other attributes related to the community's character, identity, and land use pattern.**

Answered: 206 Skipped: 114

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Low density and privately owned open space.	3/15/2024 9:27 PM
2	I appreciate the library, the beach, and the openness of the town administrative offices. You always recognize someone when visiting these locations.	3/15/2024 5:33 PM
3	Rye is just fine so stop trying to change it. There is nothing wrong with the center of town. Wasting tax dollars to award some foolish idea is shameful	3/15/2024 1:33 PM
4	The limit of commercial property here and what commercial property that is here is small and local. Bigger commercial businesses should be limited to Rt 1	3/15/2024 1:07 PM
5	The classic NE center of town, the diversity of almost only single family housing throughout most of town, the absence of big box apartments/condos, commercial and business restrictions from all but specific spots, and at least moderate woods and other open areas. Of course beach front in summer is fun, but not so rural!	3/15/2024 11:18 AM
6	Open spaces. The look of traditional houses. But I don't think we can legislate "character". We must adapt.	3/15/2024 10:13 AM
7	Open space, farms, historic homes and buildings	3/15/2024 8:50 AM
8	conservation land, Goss farm. Town Forest. Library Common, Parsons field. Historic homes. Town Hall	3/15/2024 7:53 AM
9	The center of Rye is still quaint and "old New England-like." Parsons Field and the woods are treasures. The Recreation woods are wonderful. Odiorne Park, Rye Harbor and the beaches are great assets.	3/14/2024 8:30 PM
10	Open spaces and the abundance of trees.	3/14/2024 8:25 PM
11	Open space and conservation land	3/14/2024 7:45 PM
12	Forests, fields, historic buildings, connected farmhouses, barns, formal and informal gardens, outbuildings, stonewalls, limited sidewalks	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
13	Significant amount of undeveloped forests and conservation land; limited and small home developments; local small business versus national business chains.	3/14/2024 6:52 PM
14	Keeping things the way they are. We don't need to change the downtown to be like other towns. Our town is what it is. Those that don't like it should move.	3/14/2024 6:09 PM
15	The lack of any meaningful business in town save for the activity at the beach and on Rt. 1.	3/14/2024 5:38 PM
16	?	3/14/2024 5:34 PM
17	The small town character exists only in name, due to reckless drivers and builders who take down house & build bigger ones in their place. Our roads are crowded with construction trucks and there is year-round noise pollution. What percentage of construction waste goes into our stream, brooks & ponds & eventually flows to the ocean?	3/14/2024 4:27 PM
18	beautiful to drive around and through	3/14/2024 3:49 PM
19	Open land, rural infrastructure, historic buildings and homes.	3/14/2024 3:32 PM
20	it is a beautiful natural, quiet area with ocean access. I dont think we have maximized the	3/14/2024 2:32 PM

## Rye 2035

beauty of the place but perhaps that is a decision not to attract more people.

21	Housing spaced out and on larger lots of land is paramount as there are still lots of undeveloped land in parts of town. As a historic colonial town, I feel at times the Colonial, Georgian, or historic Cape style homes fall into the background of the newer larger versions built in more recent years. Similar to how the 1950's and 60's modern homes look dated now because of the trendy building materials used then, there are certain styles of homes on trend now (black windows on a white "farm" house) that will also dated in just a matter of years. Unfortunately historic towns can't dictate on every aspect of every new house or renovation, but classic styles and traditional building materials will always keep the character of the town in check.	3/14/2024 2:28 PM
22	Rye resident only beach parking areas, rye rec and trails	3/14/2024 2:20 PM
23	We must encourage zoning changes that preserve open space . New and fewer if any multi unit construction and only along route 1 and limited there to low income units .	3/14/2024 2:04 PM
24	No sidewalks. We don't need them and they turn us into something we are not. Also, leave the town center alone!	3/14/2024 1:48 PM
25	Open spaces, Parsons Field and Woods, The Library and old town center.	3/13/2024 7:50 PM
26	private residential real estate - should be kept in defined home residential not commercial with a huge industrial garage - sheds have boat yards - boats zillions of lobster traps boats parked in yard -	3/13/2024 2:31 PM
27	It's an overall feeling of low density: plenty of conservation and unbuildable land, few commercial areas and none that are really built up, and the highest density housing is near route 1.	3/13/2024 11:57 AM
28	The open space with views of woods, fields, ocean, and stonewalls is precious.	3/13/2024 11:07 AM
29	Town Center, historic homes, fields and forests along roads (need to be persevered at all costs even if to do so back areas get clustered developments), of course the coast and marshes	3/13/2024 11:06 AM
30	center of town, leave it alone with no improvements except sidewalk	3/13/2024 10:43 AM
31	I love the beaches and the rye rec trails, small town, historic feel in the town buildings	3/13/2024 6:51 AM
32	Open spaces, mostly large lots I, conservation land	3/12/2024 8:53 PM
33	It's the people, but that is changing. The people decide what we look like as a town and how we behave or grow.	3/12/2024 8:52 PM
34	1)"small-town character" is quintessentially the center of town. But talking with residents in other areas of Rye, they feel too far separated from that and not part of the "community" 2) "semi-rural" is the open spaces and wooded areas. Not just the town forest, but the spaces as one drives down past on the road, the horse barns and fields, the wetlands, the old farm houses.	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
35	Lack of streetlights, sidewalks etc. it lends a small town appeal	3/12/2024 7:04 PM
36	This town is hardly semi-rural. As for a small town character...questionable.	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
37	Small neighborhoods, community based activities, elimination of big businesses	3/12/2024 2:02 PM
38	Mix of single family homes, farms, and open space.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
39	Farms, open spaces, beaches, and the marsh	3/11/2024 10:50 PM
40	Library/ Center of Town, Beaches, Town Forest/Parsons. Events such as Wedgwood, Tree Lighting, 4th of July, sporting events New England architecture and charm	3/11/2024 10:01 PM
41	open space, community events,	3/11/2024 8:42 PM
42	Locals who know one another and look out for one another, and who do what is right and for the common good, instead of just what is right for their own wallets.	3/11/2024 8:32 PM
43	preserving as many of the open spaces that remain as possible (library, etc)	3/11/2024 7:27 PM
44	Open spaces, historical sites and architecture, the harbor and miles of coastline.	3/11/2024 6:35 PM

## Rye 2035

45	I think traditional houses and open space are the two major ones	3/11/2024 4:49 PM
46	From Washington Road southward including the center of Town	3/11/2024 4:46 PM
47	Local beaches and being able to bike to them is important, and rye town woods are a treasure.	3/11/2024 4:09 PM
48	Historic buildings and sites; well-maintained residences for the most part; lots of open space and access to the seaside; plenty of loyalty among its residents to one another and to community resources, restaurants, etc.	3/11/2024 1:55 PM
49	Open space, large lots, remnants of farm land, preservation of historic and cultural gems.	3/11/2024 11:27 AM
50	Historical buildings, open spaces, etc. fostered a small town feel. That character has been declining over the past ten years.	3/11/2024 10:16 AM
51	Semi-rural is a term Rye should have left in the 20th century. It's just a flex for people who can afford or inherited multiple acres of land. Saying you want Rye to remain semi-rural comes off as so elitist.	3/10/2024 11:17 PM
52	Presence of farm land. The fact that the shore doesn't look like Hampton Beach. Growing summer daytime beach crowds are a concern.	3/10/2024 5:55 PM
53	friendly people, old barns, chickens in the yard, eggs for sale road side, ocean side cottages, small local restaurants.	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
54	Larger lots, architectural covenants.	3/10/2024 4:45 PM
55	lack of commercial store frontage, open space, historic buildings	3/10/2024 4:37 PM
56	stonewalls, old trees, some old structures in decline	3/10/2024 4:31 PM
57	little commercial development	3/10/2024 4:22 PM
58	historic (317 built before 1905) homes open spaces	3/10/2024 4:15 PM
59	farms, barns, low density housing, landscapes	3/10/2024 4:03 PM
60	New England feel - stonewalls, farming, large lots, historic homes, but lot size needs to be adjusted for detached ADU housing so grown children can afford to live here.	3/10/2024 3:52 PM
61	open space diversity of housing alternatives	3/10/2024 3:42 PM
62	I see this as out quaint town hall, cemetery, library, as well as our wetlands and beaches. but I think that "semi-rural" is some times used as code for "we don't want development", and I'd like to see us engage in thoughtful planning to increase the amount and diversity of housing options in Rye. (and not just along Rt 1). Eg. cottage communities, multi-family housing, ADUs, etc.	3/10/2024 3:35 PM
63	Semi-rural for me means that we should protect existing open fields and large tracks of wooded areas as well as the coast not becoming Hampton Beach. However all coastal homes need to go up with the ocean rising.	3/10/2024 12:05 PM
64	Lack of congestion, being impacted by the "Big" developments. Tear downs and larger houses making it feel even more of an exclusive community. Homes that are too big for the property exacerbate that feel.	3/10/2024 9:53 AM
65	The historic sites and museums of Rye. The town should educate new comers of the importance of keeping Rye protected from interest groups who don't care about our town.	3/10/2024 9:04 AM
66	1 acre zoning, open/undeveloped spaces	3/9/2024 10:15 PM
67	The ocean, marshes, harbor and community	3/9/2024 8:43 PM
68	The town center is a big defining point for me. Also, the open fields. I like having very few commercial properties, as well, but do enjoy the ones that we do have.	3/9/2024 5:43 PM
69	Charming small coastal town	3/9/2024 4:02 PM
70	Friendly, service oriented town employees is the most important thing. They set the tone. Larger lot sizes in most of the town. Town Center with library, town hall, school, place of worship included. Open spaces. Ability to safely walk and bike around town (keep speeding under control — PD does great job overall on this). Resident beach parking.	3/9/2024 2:02 PM

## Rye 2035

71	Open space, low building heights, keeping commercial development on route 1	3/9/2024 1:58 PM
72	open space, multi family buildings that fit the character of the area	3/9/2024 1:26 PM
73	Older looking buildings in the down town area which is not congested. Open beaches with access for all.	3/9/2024 12:05 PM
74	I think it is just that the size of new homes seem to create a sense of crowding. But I like how much land is protected and definitely want to conserve every bit of wetland/marsh.	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
75	Land use and regulations where the recent loosening has caused the town to lose this character with overbuilding and allowing massive rebuilding of homes.	3/9/2024 11:59 AM
76	the coast line, the open space, the landscape, the waterways	3/9/2024 11:38 AM
77	Growing up here there were very few apartments/condominiums, I think we need to limit future projects.	3/9/2024 10:13 AM
78	Wooded areas, marsh land, beaches, lack of strip malls, few condos, not over built like Hampton....yet.	3/8/2024 12:48 PM
79	First and foremost the people and our more simple ways of life. Those of us who have lived here over 45 years know each other both through the schools and churches. It used to be simpler but life in general has changed and so we all have made lots of adjustments. It is wonderful having the beaches, Parsons' field, town walking trails, etc. I see no need for some big library investment and think forward to paying for it and then having to maintain it.	3/8/2024 10:34 AM
80	We're fortunate to have public beaches, conservation areas available for public use and recreational areas.	3/8/2024 10:08 AM
81	open space in many places and few large buildings or condos, the exception is route 1 which is acceptable.	3/8/2024 10:05 AM
82	open land, farms, horses, preserved conservation land and protected watersheds, reduced traffic speed, historic homes and town offices	3/7/2024 11:33 PM
83	Keep open spaces and forests. No more multi condos!!!	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
84	Open spaces, no street lights or sidewalks, Older stock of homes maintains character	3/7/2024 10:42 PM
85	Housing on large land lots (over 2 acres), farms, conservation land not touchable by town changes, no new developments, everyone knows each other.	3/7/2024 10:19 PM
86	The preservation of Ryes history and what it was built on. Keep the history of Rye.	3/7/2024 10:13 PM
87	the fact it's all houses, little to no businesses. We have a vibrant seafront which is our "thing" but otherwise we are a sleepy "old" town. OLD meaning most of the involved members are of retirement age and act accordingly	3/7/2024 8:32 PM
88	Open spaces fields	3/7/2024 6:33 PM
89	The ocean and not too many commercial properties.	3/7/2024 12:48 PM
90	Open lands	3/7/2024 12:11 PM
91	historic homes and barns, open spaces, fields, gardens, the beautiful beaches, Odiorne science center, Rye Woods, the recreational fields, and lots of space between homes.	3/6/2024 7:03 PM
92	Our well-documented desire to remain a single-family zoned village type of town.	3/6/2024 3:01 PM
93	The Rye Recreation area, the Town Library, Congregational Church, Parsons Field and Town Forest all help to define the semi rural small town character as each are places for all to gather during most months of the year.	3/6/2024 2:51 PM
94	The various old town buildings, winding roads and random businesses.	3/6/2024 2:25 PM
95	Open space.	3/6/2024 1:39 PM
96	open spaces	3/6/2024 12:55 PM
97	large building lots! single family homes! no congestion!	3/6/2024 12:39 PM
98	town center, library but lets not go overboard - you cant conserve everything and not allow one	3/6/2024 12:26 PM

## Rye 2035

growth, need houses etc. I was against the purchase of the property neat Brokett people can fish etc. we have plenty go conservation property already. you've got to allow new people in to build, being new families, etc.

99	town hall museum town forest RCC lands and path more spaced out housing	3/6/2024 12:15 PM
100	All of the community land. Open space between homes and buildings really help it feel like your much further away from things than you are.	3/6/2024 12:04 PM
101	open fields. the town forest. the center of town. the marshes - barns. the number of people in town in the off season. kinds riding their bikes to school people walking dogs. no stop lights. limited light pollution. town deliberative session.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
102	What would Rye be without the ocean and the beaches?	3/6/2024 11:39 AM
103	conservation land, trails historical markers Jenness Beach "quaintness" common roots	3/6/2024 11:25 AM
104	it has open space. love the librarians because you get to know them personally.	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
105	The layout of the roads and the diversity of buildings along them.	3/6/2024 10:53 AM
106	Good police, fire, DPW, small town government. Nice town buildings and recreation areas.	3/6/2024 9:34 AM
107	Too many gigantic, out of character buildings.	3/6/2024 6:03 AM
108	Lack of businesses	3/6/2024 5:39 AM
109	The historic district is so wonderful, the open space/farm land, the horse farms, the wetlands, the forests, the beautiful coast line.	3/5/2024 7:00 PM
110	no national chain stores or restaurants	3/5/2024 5:46 PM
111	That it was semi-rural and had small town character. I think it is losing its definition.	3/5/2024 5:15 PM
112	Town center, local business, ability to gather centrally.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
113	church, library, Parsons Field, trees on each street, fields and marshes	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
114	the 25% public/conservation land is good. we need more so keep a balance between the natural and human world. that balance helps define "semi-rural"	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
115	open space defines the semi rural feel.	3/5/2024 4:45 PM
116	The beach and Ordiornes. Not much great outdoor space utilized. More sidewalks a d pathways for kids and adults to travel and bike.	3/4/2024 6:16 PM
117	Barns, hayfields, woodlots, open space. Large lot sizes.	3/4/2024 3:55 PM
118	Too many outer Townes moving in like Maas who want what they had in Mass.besches	3/4/2024 11:08 AM
119	Open, green space, simple and quiet city center, non commercial	3/3/2024 11:27 PM
120	No chains, open spaces, small shops	3/3/2024 9:40 PM
121	Open space	3/3/2024 9:02 PM
122	The older homes, town hall. Parsons field, Congregation Church, the cemetery and the schools keeps the identity of the town.	3/3/2024 7:57 PM
123	It has long lost that character	3/3/2024 7:19 PM
124	I think this is silly - are we keeping "small-town character" by approving huge houses on the beach and in the wetlands? What does "semi-rural" mean? These are just words people use to justify certain policies.	3/3/2024 5:45 PM
125	Open space, preservation of historic homes and structures such as our Town Hall	3/3/2024 5:04 PM
126	Planing and keeping Trees and no sidewalks allows for most of the town to remain looking rural. However, the lack of sidewalks around the town center forces a lot of residents to drive instead of walking.	3/3/2024 10:47 AM
127	Not sure after 2 years here other than Rye Beach the character doesn't carry beyond that point.	3/3/2024 10:30 AM



Rye 2035

128	Lot size.	3/3/2024 8:32 AM
129	Semi-rural is the existing farms, fields, woods, and marshes. The center of town, from the jr. high school to the monument at Washington and Central Roads has the small-town characteristics. What's missing in the center of town is a small general store and a gazebo.	3/2/2024 3:01 PM
130	Beaches, Parks and Recreation - nice to have a small town feel with the Library at its center	3/2/2024 9:37 AM
131	Generous lot size regulations	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
132	the town has character that most in NH do not, small quaint, not over crowded and not over built with homes.	3/2/2024 9:03 AM
133	The old farms, those that have not been developed. Stone walls, woodlands, The proposed Common.	3/2/2024 8:15 AM
134	Open spaces, nice neighborhoods , sea coast community feel	3/1/2024 1:48 PM
135	Unknown.	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
136	certain areas of town, buildings, open space properties, seacoast	2/28/2024 11:56 AM
137	Relatively low building density, town and state beaches and parks, Parson's field, town forest, public library	2/26/2024 10:52 AM
138	Our beaches, woods, trails, the neighborhoods, places where people convene and connect.	2/26/2024 7:32 AM
139	tree lined roads unique towncenter rye is rye	2/25/2024 10:21 PM
140	Town center small local business	2/25/2024 7:25 AM
141	Town hall, library, recreation fields, small businesses.	2/23/2024 3:39 PM
142	The library, town hall, small businesses such as the old Philbrick's (common roots), summer sessions, the harbor, meandering traffic as opposed to high speed, reckless drivers.	2/22/2024 5:51 PM
143	Low population, beautiful outdoor spaces, good neighborhoods. Town Center and the Library.	2/22/2024 4:30 PM
144	nothing really. if we had a 'quaint' town center in addition to our beaches and quiet streets, we'd really have a semi-rural small-town feel.	2/22/2024 3:44 PM
145	To own property and be able to enjoy it without having to go through hell with regulations when trying to maintain their property	2/22/2024 1:13 PM
146	It's identity and people, it's great to add to the community and bring new in. But What used to be a quant coastal community has become mansions and vacation homes much of the charm is eroding away.	2/22/2024 9:26 AM
147	Well spaced housing! I enjoy places such as Central and Washington Roads where houses are sufficiently spaced out. Occasional open fields are a huge plus. Keep developments closer to Rt 1.	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
148	The semi-rural character has not been lost IMO. I would consider the open spaces to be the defining attribute to semi-rural, as well as the lack of commercial activity.	2/22/2024 8:56 AM
149	There has been a gradual loss of Rye's semi-rural/ small-town character. LDR/RZO has not been designed to protect those features. Despite the Vision from the Master Plan to protect Rye's semi-rural character, there has been a lack of implementation/efforts in that regard. Land use pattern has been detrimental to Rye's semi-rural character: tear downs, cookie cutter developments, density. Rye does not look semi-rural as a whole, only portions of it, such as parts of Washington Road. Perhaps Rye is certainly on its way to no longer being "semi-rural."	2/21/2024 6:54 PM
150	center of town, Parson's Field, Odiorne Point, town forest, conservation lands, beaches, schools	2/21/2024 6:22 PM
151	The beach. Antique architecture.	2/21/2024 9:36 AM
152	Beautiful homes and gardens , no sidewalks,	2/20/2024 9:21 PM
153	Farmland, low density housing	2/20/2024 2:11 PM
154	The Town center gives the appeal of a small town character. The beach road is a huge asset to	2/20/2024 9:34 AM

## Rye 2035

the community and the visiting public. Route 1 should be addressed as many parts look down right shameful and it's probably the #1 road where travelers get their 1st impression of the town of Rye.

155	The beaches and forests	2/19/2024 8:55 PM
156	The older homes with some character, dive shop, marsh areas, Town Hall, church and the surrounding homes.	2/19/2024 3:33 PM
157	Lots of woodlands, marshes, fields, farms and original stone walls. Preserving our classic New England architecture.	2/19/2024 2:53 PM
158	Roadways, open spaces, mature trees, Parsons field, trails, beaches.	2/19/2024 12:17 PM
159	The people care about each other.	2/19/2024 9:58 AM
160	Open fields, woodlands, old homes, quiet, well-kept properties, historic center of town. I don't want all that to change!	2/19/2024 9:17 AM
161	The beach, the schools and the library.	2/19/2024 8:38 AM
162	The strain put on small business due to being pre-existing & non conforming has made it difficult to update & promote small business that can help support the community.	2/18/2024 9:18 PM
163	Beautiful beaches. Several rural farms with animals and seasonal fruit ... small town rep around the schools but would be great if that could expand	2/18/2024 8:30 PM
164	Single-family homes with decent size parcels, conservation land, small town field, not a bunch of track houses and condos.	2/17/2024 10:08 PM
165	small town and rural yes. The increased demand for housing has added to the creation of many subdivisions that are changing the character from rural to suburban. allowing more housing opportunities on lots would be a great start.	2/17/2024 8:53 PM
166	Open space	2/17/2024 8:41 PM
167	Limited buildings. Protected land, forest, fields, etc. Parson's Field. Town Hall Building, access to beach. All part of Rye. I like that it is rural and has limited development.	2/17/2024 7:22 PM
168	Unique seaside town with open spaces and old housing stock.	2/17/2024 6:45 PM
169	Keep semi rural.	2/17/2024 5:47 PM
170	No franchise stores or restaurants, which is a good thing	2/17/2024 4:55 PM
171	Open spaces,	2/17/2024 4:18 PM
172	Town forest, conserved tracts	2/17/2024 3:17 PM
173	A rustic feel to the center of town and the historic district. Not a log of condos and apartments. Private houses along 1A instead of hotels and condos.	2/17/2024 3:09 PM
174	Our schools, Rye Recreation, The library, Parsons field,	2/17/2024 11:32 AM
175	We're a beach town and the beaches are huge attractions for outta towners	2/17/2024 11:10 AM
176	Open space and access to beach	2/17/2024 11:00 AM
177	Semi rural means no high rise buildings, substantive open space, maintaining barns/horse farms/gardens---lucky we have nature helping us here as 66% (2/3rds) of Rye is comprised of wetlands and is not buildable We are also blessed to have Odiome Point and the Rye Harbor State parks which offer the public views and access to the ocean--these are obviously not buildable and add to the open are that we have. These geographic areas further restrict population growth and help maintain the small town character that we have. The geography of Rye restricts much further population growth and I could never see Rye's population ever exceed 7,000	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
178	Limit parking to one side of ocean boulevard	2/17/2024 8:17 AM
179	Limited town center, no streetlights.	2/17/2024 7:52 AM
180	Little light pollution, rural character, open space, Goss Farm, our beaches, our town center,	2/16/2024 8:00 PM

## Rye 2035

	Parson's field, town trails, Central Cemetery.	
181	No more development.	2/16/2024 5:39 PM
182	compact town center, historic buildings, town forest, stone walls, meandering streets.	2/16/2024 3:52 PM
183	Open spaces	2/16/2024 3:20 PM
184	we need more of a community with regular summer events and getting people involved in the community	2/16/2024 2:44 PM
185	Open space, limited commercial use and restricted beach parking.	2/16/2024 1:56 PM
186	Lot size, restricted commercial use / areas, our awesome conservation land (let's buy more!), small Blue Ribbon school system	2/16/2024 1:21 PM
187	The small town character is almost completely lost. WE have lost the little mom and pop stores, the ocean front stores that sold ice cream, suntan lotion and bathing suits, we lost the coffee shops. We have turned into a bedroom community for Portsmouth, Boston, Manchester and other. If you run out of milk you have to drive to Portsmouth. Its small town character is gone. There is no town center. The people on Ocean Blvd don't want restaurants, businesses or anything now that they have moved here. Even the access to the beach has been taken away by recent purchases of homes along the seacoast blocking beach access.	2/16/2024 12:47 PM
188	The historic nature of the town. And keeping it that way.	2/16/2024 11:32 AM
189	Open fields. Historic homes and buildings. Small businesses.	2/16/2024 11:20 AM
190	Fiscal conservatism. Focus on essential services.	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
191	Keep things as they are and focus on what the community really wants and needs and develop a long range plan around our existing resources.	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
192	The off season walking on the beach with pets and the libraries offerings	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
193	Parsons field, town hall, open fields	2/16/2024 11:02 AM
194	Town center, undeveloped land with wildlife, history, great schools, and beaches. Also that everyone knows each other and watches out for each other, especially in the family/parent/school community.	2/16/2024 10:25 AM
195	The character of Rye has changed dramatically over the past 10-15 years. Where once there were open fields and wildlife, there are enormous houses. The small town charm is gone. we once knew our neighbors, now we don't.	2/16/2024 9:25 AM
196	Rye has great access to conservation land and rivers for hiking fishing and hunting. This is amazing to having such a populated location. Not to mention access to the beach.	2/16/2024 9:07 AM
197	Lack of commercial and business land use is the biggest factor.	2/16/2024 8:19 AM
198	Love Rye and feel at home here. I love how we have farms and trees so close to water. Our beaches are beautiful. I don't like the loud motorcycles in summer wish they could control decibel levels through town. Our town center is cute. Sidewalk would be nice to walk through it. Our library is stellar.	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
199	The people shape the character of the town. Regulations are required to maintain beauty and character so developers don't overstep boundaries	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
200	Love the character of rye, farms , town center all keep that small town feel.	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
201	This is not a town. It is a community. There is no downtown or shopping commerce area.	2/15/2024 11:32 PM
202	Population size.	2/15/2024 11:04 PM
203	Town Center; access to conserved lands/open space; historic buildings; access to ocean/beaches	2/15/2024 10:41 PM
204	Marshes and farmer philbrick	2/15/2024 10:22 PM
205	Open space. Conservation space. Historic buildings.	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
206	Open space, not crowded. Lots of conservation land. Not too many houses and apartments	2/15/2024 9:05 PM

## Q19 What aspects of this character need to be retained as development and redevelopment continues? Examples may include the village center, conservation land, beaches, etc.

Answered: 197 Skipped: 123

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Private conservation easements.	3/15/2024 9:27 PM
2	The above mentioned assets need to be retained.	3/15/2024 5:33 PM
3	Just leave it alone. Change is not always better. The center of town is suppose to be historic so, again, leave it alone.	3/15/2024 1:33 PM
4	I don't think we should over build on older properties. We do not need to add multi level housing building to every square inch of space available. Those are fine on Rt 1 but not anywhere else in town	3/15/2024 1:07 PM
5	Leave the Town Center ALONE!	3/15/2024 12:57 PM
6	See above: Beah access, classic town center, mostly single family residence.	3/15/2024 11:18 AM
7	Conservation land, relying on private, not town, resources. Village center would be nice but again, I'm not sure this should be imposed.	3/15/2024 10:13 AM
8	Village center, conservatin land, beaches	3/15/2024 8:50 AM
9	village center needs improvement and design	3/15/2024 7:53 AM
10	We should not change the town center except to use the library land as a community gathering spot. We should have development in our town forests. Beach road parking should not be free. We should install parking meters and use the revenue to help maintain the beaches.	3/14/2024 8:30 PM
11	Limit parking to the beaches in the summer. The beaches are too crowded.	3/14/2024 8:25 PM
12	Open fields, farms, conservation land and town center,	3/14/2024 7:45 PM
13	All mentioned in #18	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
14	Undeveloped forests and conservation land; public beaches; limited and small home developments; local small business versus national business chains.	3/14/2024 6:52 PM
15	Keep the center of town the way it is. Coffee shops and retail have previously failed and left, why introduce them again. We are a historic sleeper town, leave it alone.	3/14/2024 6:09 PM
16	It is good to keep large scale business out of the main town area thus keeping the rural vibe. In my view, the Town has done an excellent job of ensuring that development is done within the ordinances/regulations and not just rubber stamping requests for development from the developers. Continuing this level of diligence is critical to the character of the Town.	3/14/2024 5:38 PM
17	?	3/14/2024 5:34 PM
18	Appropriate development of the common by the library for community use & 25 mph thru the center.	3/14/2024 4:27 PM
19	as much as what we have now	3/14/2024 3:32 PM
20	I dont like "retained" it implies that some part of it are going to disrepair an I dont this they should	3/14/2024 2:32 PM
21	Better walkability in the center of town, maybe from the cemetery to the junior high in order to keep all the towns offices, library, and school accessible. Sidewalks and street lamps in the historic district. Physically build them out into the driving lanes to slow traffic down in the center of town. The beaches need to be retained and kept clean. Even as a dog owner and	3/14/2024 2:28 PM

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parent to a young child who uses the beaches frequently with and without our dog, I would be fine with not allowing dogs on the town beaches. From a sanitary perspective, having dogs urinating in the sand where children play is not acceptable. There are other issues there as well, but that resonates with a lot of families in town. The beach elevation needs to be maintained after storms, and never allow sand to be brought in from out of town like the state has in the past. The beach elevation being maintained will extend the use of beaches for many more generations.

22	More commercial in town center, more flexibility in housing in town center, greater emphasis on rec area	3/14/2024 2:20 PM
23	No expansion in the downtown except for a possible small cafe , open space retention . No increased beach activity except for higher parking fines . Higher charges for private beach activities	3/14/2024 2:04 PM
24	More conservation. Improvements to the Library Common. More beach parking for residents. Continue to make improvements to the village center.	3/13/2024 7:50 PM
25	Village Center needs a nice public building to add to Town Hall (? What that needs) - (Town has "mash" mess of real estate) except for fire and police station - town center needs a 'meeting room' large enough to house community people.	3/13/2024 2:31 PM
26	I think what keeps the overall feel of low density is not that we shouldn't allow something to get built up, whether it's town homes or smaller houses on smaller lots, or even a multi-story commercial building, it's that this stuff isn't wall-to-wall on both sides of the road everywhere you go. We should take a "portfolio approach" where we can allow some of this development, but it's in the context of what's around it. Not sure how that works with actually writing non-subjective zoning ordinances though!	3/13/2024 11:57 AM
27	The Center of Town needs attention. It is not spotlighted like it should be. The cemetery is beautiful. Need some historical markers.	3/13/2024 11:07 AM
28	Town Center, historic homes, fields and forests along roads (need to be persevered at all costs even if to do so back areas get clustered developments), of course the coast and marshes	3/13/2024 11:06 AM
29	center of town	3/13/2024 10:43 AM
30	Conservation land and beach's	3/13/2024 6:51 AM
31	Land conservation. How can we expect to retain "Rye character" with all this push for more housing??!!	3/13/2024 6:30 AM
32	All of it	3/12/2024 8:53 PM
33	Stop trying to be everything to everybody. We are a small town and don't have or need the same amenities as a larger city.	3/12/2024 8:52 PM
34	1) History needs to be retained, it is one of the important visual characteristics of the town 2) Natural Resources; fields, forest, wetlands, beaches, need to be retained as they are also important to the visual and physical character of Rye. 3) it would be nice to have a local store that the basics can be purchased (Rye General Store/ Petey's Red Roof Market), in more than one part of town.	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
35	What village center? Beach conservation and the town forest need to be carefully maintained and cared for	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
36	creating a village center that is welcoming to all ages, land conservation instead of development, public access to beaches	3/12/2024 2:02 PM
37	Focus on the village center.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
38	Farms, open spaces, beaches, and the marsh	3/11/2024 10:50 PM
39	Town center, conservation land, local/resident beaches, Rye Harbor. Eco Friendly building with New England charm.	3/11/2024 10:01 PM
40	More conservation land to limit buildable land is fine, but we need to encourage participation and recognition of locals, and be wary of non-locals in positions of power.	3/11/2024 8:32 PM
41	Create a true town center and protect our coastline - harbor	3/11/2024 6:35 PM

## Rye 2035

42	Sticking to the zoning, preserving open space and protecting sensitive ecological areas	3/11/2024 4:49 PM
43	Maybe some sort of exemptions on older homes to stay in place a a general 'Character Overlay District' should be developed to protect those aspects.	3/11/2024 4:46 PM
44	The library is a wonderful place and they do so much for our children of ALL ages. The town should build on that sense of community.	3/11/2024 2:25 PM
45	Within reason, to avoid over building, especially conversion of historically single home, private properties to condominium complexes or other types of dense housing; maintenance of conservation spaces and seaside access	3/11/2024 1:55 PM
46	All of the above and in previous answer.	3/11/2024 11:27 AM
47	Village center, beaches, marshes, open/green spaces, less congestion and development.	3/11/2024 10:16 AM
48	I have no insights, but would question how this committee will exercise "preservation"?	3/10/2024 5:55 PM
49	save: town forest, parsons field (needs better stage for summer entertainment) beach access (correct some of the drops from roads to sand)	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
50	We have good beaches, conservation lands are well spread around town but could often use better walking trails, and the town center is currently a desert for anything but speeding cars to go through. Develop spaces in the town center where people want to go to hang out, cycle or walk to, take part in a program or event...and slow down the cars.	3/10/2024 4:52 PM
51	Village center and enhancement. Conservation land, and beaches.	3/10/2024 4:45 PM
52	same as above	3/10/2024 4:37 PM
53	none necessarily	3/10/2024 4:31 PM
54	create a cohesive town center, maintain town forest access and beach access	3/10/2024 4:22 PM
55	village center beaches open space ZBA needs to follow the state statue and not grant 95% of petitions it deems	3/10/2024 4:15 PM
56	farms, conservation land make the town center more lively and connector - coffee shop, market	3/10/2024 4:03 PM
57	Village Center - follow through with the traffic Charette - define downtown sewer from Jr High to Town Hall, redesign road intersection Wallis/Washington and Central/Washington split. Need general store where Tate & Foss building is	3/10/2024 3:52 PM
58	conservation land beaches and beach access	3/10/2024 3:42 PM
59	see above - town center, conservation land, beaches, But I'd love to see more in town center - cafe, sidewalks, gathering spaces.	3/10/2024 3:35 PM
60	The library is doing an excellent job with the village center. Sidewalks will also improve the center.	3/10/2024 12:05 PM
61	Space between dwellings. Don't let ADU and DADU make it feel like housing is being "stuffed in". Plan NH got sidelined by the Select Board - so what is the "vision or possibility" for a village center? Strategic Conservation. N. Hampton learned that developments cost the community more than conservation land. Take the Benchmark and Webster at Rye Expansions - these may force us to 3 ambulances and more staff. Medicare ambulance runs cost us more.	3/10/2024 9:53 AM
62	We should retained all aspect of the town being rural. Protect the town from over developing. Keep it as rural as possible.	3/10/2024 9:04 AM
63	retained - 1 acre zoning, undeveloped spaces Continue to put land in conservation	3/9/2024 10:15 PM
64	Town center focused on community , high quality schools to attract families, thoughtful planning and action to protect natural resources	3/9/2024 8:43 PM
65	The village center and conservation land. Also, no large developments being allowed.	3/9/2024 5:43 PM
66	Conservation land and beaches	3/9/2024 4:02 PM
67	All of it.	3/9/2024 2:02 PM

## Rye 2035

68	Conserving more land, building out trail networks	3/9/2024 1:58 PM
69	conservation land	3/9/2024 1:26 PM
70	The village center and open access with parking must be maintained.	3/9/2024 12:05 PM
71	Everything you just mentioned in the examples (beaches, conservation land, village center (needs a gathering spot like we were going to get with that "coffee shop") I love our forest and think we should not allow coyote trapping or other impacts on wildlife...let them all live along with the deer, bunnies, foxes, eagles...etc. It is the nature elements that make this semi-rural. Nobody wants to farm it seems but could we offer a plan with UNH to use some land for farm animal grazing?	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
72	It all needs to be retained as it is all part of what makes the area special.	3/9/2024 11:59 AM
73	as many of them as possible with the incorporation of smart housing options	3/9/2024 11:38 AM
74	Limit parking along town beaches. Some of the cars with beach stickers leave their vehicles in one spot all day, previously this was not an issue, but with development and no additional parking this can create problems on weekends.	3/9/2024 10:13 AM
75	All of those	3/8/2024 12:48 PM
76	The beaches, the schools with freedom of the students to learn and grow in this "safe" environment.	3/8/2024 10:34 AM
77	As Rye continues to promote development, the town has a responsibility to preserve wildlife corridors and habitats	3/8/2024 10:08 AM
78	open spaces and beaches	3/8/2024 10:05 AM
79	Keep Rye a small Seacoast town	3/8/2024 9:44 AM
80	all of it--say no to development and create pathways/options for homeowners to consider conservation and donation of their land, work with the US department of Agriculture, SELT, RCC-education	3/7/2024 11:33 PM
81	Please no more big developments	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
82	All the above, with gentle development. Conservation needs to be managed, allowing community needs such as water, sewer, and telecommunications as limited development options	3/7/2024 10:42 PM
83	Housing on large land lots (over 2 acres), farms, conservation land not touchable by town changes, no new developments, everyone knows each other.	3/7/2024 10:19 PM
84	Center of town.	3/7/2024 10:13 PM
85	Just keeping the town as primarily single family homes	3/7/2024 8:32 PM
86	Increase conservation land esp fields and forests. If possible more effective development along Route 1	3/7/2024 6:33 PM
87	Beaches to always have top priority.	3/7/2024 12:48 PM
88	Allow small businesses to have tax breaks	3/7/2024 12:11 PM
89	definitely conservation land and beaches, historic homes and historic barns (or managing new builds to complement these homes and styles).	3/6/2024 7:03 PM
90	All in all, development appears to be going in accord to the desires of the citizenry.	3/6/2024 3:01 PM
91	Old buildings used for town government should be retained, but most other buildings, such as those at the Elwyn traffic circle, should be redeveloped into modern commercial spaces like the Atlantic Grill.	3/6/2024 2:25 PM
92	Village Center with some services would be nice. Well thought out tracts of connected conservation land.	3/6/2024 1:39 PM
93	it is very important to protect Rye's natural resources! limit development, maintain land conservation and control traffic by enforcing speed limits.	3/6/2024 12:55 PM

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94	all of it! dont change a thing! there is a reason people want to live here.	3/6/2024 12:39 PM
95	town center, library	3/6/2024 12:26 PM
96	conservation land a village center less dense housing	3/6/2024 12:15 PM
97	Conservation land is key. Improving a vibrant village center might do well to increase appeal.	3/6/2024 12:04 PM
98	preserve open fields, the town forests, center of town, marshes, limit development. Bike lanes and sidewalks so that people can continue to walk and ride bikes. Provide tax incentives for preservation of existing homes and barns.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
99	Beaches, conservation land, Rye center are all important and urban sprawl is not a good growth plan for Rye.	3/6/2024 11:39 AM
100	town center as historic center conservation land maintained and cared for	3/6/2024 11:25 AM
101	open lots that are fields or buildable should be conserved so they are not sold for housing wetlands aren to the only thing we need to protect.	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
102	It I difficult to dictate home size and style, but bulldozing historical homes in general, does not help the character of the town. I am not sure how this issue can be addressed.	3/6/2024 10:53 AM
103	Do we really need \$1 million library budget? Has conservation gone a little too far? Do we need porta potties at the beaches when there are three state parks available for public use? Do we need trash cans, overflowing at the beaches when carry in and carried out works? Do we always have to be looking for a problem to fix?	3/6/2024 9:34 AM
104	Conservation land	3/6/2024 6:03 AM
105	Village center	3/5/2024 8:40 PM
106	The look and feel of homes, the beaches need to be protected, the village center and conservation land and forests.	3/5/2024 7:00 PM
107	Having a village center and enforcing parking restrictions in the summer	3/5/2024 5:46 PM
108	Stop development	3/5/2024 5:15 PM
109	Town center needs to be built up. The library common is a great asset and should be made to look beautiful and function for all ages to use.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
110	conservation land, town center, beaches!!, Parsons & Rye woods, narrow roads	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
111	more publicity on easements so people know they can make food money by telling development tightts on their land.	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
112	open space should be conserved as much as possible.	3/5/2024 4:45 PM
113	Conservation land! Not much hope for village center with no side walks, traffic from Lang Road and school a d summer speeding.	3/4/2024 6:16 PM
114	All the above	3/4/2024 3:55 PM
115	Beaches. No dogs should ever be allowed	3/4/2024 11:08 AM
116	Development needs to be minimized	3/3/2024 11:27 PM
117	Beaches	3/3/2024 9:40 PM
118	Development must be controlled. Condominiums and apt buildings should be limited. Large buildings on the seacoast needs to be limited.	3/3/2024 7:57 PM
119	Stop or put a moratorium on over development.	3/3/2024 7:19 PM
120	Open land maintained	3/3/2024 5:49 PM
121	I think the conservation efforts are great and maintaining natural resource is paramount. Do we have a town center?	3/3/2024 5:45 PM
122	Preserving open space is critical	3/3/2024 5:04 PM
123	All of the above.	3/3/2024 10:47 AM



Rye 2035

124	All of the above need to be addressed.	3/3/2024 10:30 AM
125	Lot coverage rules enforced.	3/3/2024 8:32 AM
126	The historical district should stay where it is. If someone wants to have their property put on the historical list, they should be able to add it, but not forced into the historical district. The beaches should be kept clean and the land around the beaches should be a mix of residential (on the beach side) and commercial across the blvd. from the beaches. Not all conservation land should be used by the public. Only where it is safe for the environment to walk.	3/2/2024 3:01 PM
127	I think we need to find a section of conservation land to bring in younger family developments	3/2/2024 9:37 AM
128	Lot size regulation to maintain open space	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
129	there is no village center where residents can congregate which it would be nice to have one, outside of that keeping the beaches and conservation lands intact, no housing complexes that ruin the feel of a small town	3/2/2024 9:03 AM
130	Create a village center. There is none. Allow the shoreline to protect itself.	3/2/2024 8:15 AM
131	Village center, conservation land and beaches, harbor maintained	3/1/2024 1:48 PM
132	Unknown.	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
133	village center, conservation land, beaches	2/28/2024 11:56 AM
134	All of the above. Noise mitigation for summer motorcycle traffic should be improved	2/26/2024 10:52 AM
135	Beach, conservation land, forests, marshes.	2/26/2024 7:32 AM
136	village find just the way it is/to much conservation land-cost to maintain and no tax revenue	2/25/2024 10:21 PM
137	All	2/25/2024 7:25 AM
138	Small businesses, create more of a town center, make it easier for businesses to come to town. We can't even get a gallon of milk at a store in our own town.	2/23/2024 3:39 PM
139	I don't feel that we have a small town character - there is no town center or sense of community. We are a sub-run of Portsmouth.	2/23/2024 7:42 AM
140	Village center, more commercial operations, beaches, etc.	2/22/2024 5:51 PM
141	Village Center, but Village Center should be improved.	2/22/2024 4:30 PM
142	village center!!!!	2/22/2024 3:44 PM
143	Rye Center is in historic district, therefore, don't modernize it. There are very few pedestrians so don't need sidewalks. You narrow the road then you create other hazards, such as plowing snow, etc. We already have 25% of the Town in Conservation. Again, enough is enough. Becoming a very expensive Commission	2/22/2024 1:13 PM
144	Conserve land and historic homes and sites, should be more effort put into preserving homes rather than so much demolition.	2/22/2024 9:26 AM
145	Pockets of "semi-rural character" are what appear to be left. The Built-Out analysis is certainly not providing the right scenario for Rye in terms of protecting its "semi-rural character." I felt Rye did not want "to pave paradise" yet "backland development" is what is being proposed (no access via existing roads).	2/21/2024 6:54 PM
146	all of the above	2/21/2024 6:22 PM
147	Of course the towns' conservation land & beaches need to stay in tact. business ventures should not be allowed on town beaches. There truly is not much land left to develop. Rye is a mature town & we don't have the luxury to create a town center (& for what purpose?)	2/20/2024 2:11 PM
148	Village Center could become more interactive. Some small portion of Route 1 land could be carved out for the right housing project ? Would hate to see a small portion of conservation land used for development but maybe only option.	2/20/2024 9:34 AM
149	Beaches, forests, land.	2/19/2024 8:55 PM
150	Yes to all your examples	2/19/2024 4:48 PM

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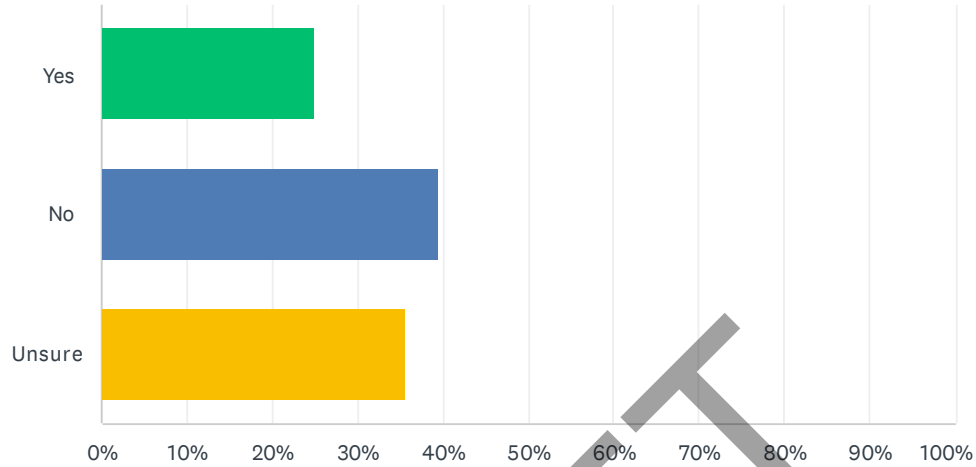
151	Village Center is fine as is We need to stop further non needed development Affordable housing is needed	2/19/2024 3:33 PM
152	As much as we as a town can enforce.	2/19/2024 2:53 PM
153	Village center, beaches, private homes/reasonable size yards. Mix of residential and commercial space should be evaluated. There are opportunities for growth while preserving the character.	2/19/2024 12:17 PM
154	Beaches	2/19/2024 9:58 AM
155	The 3 mentioned in the question-	2/19/2024 9:17 AM
156	We must invest in our town center from the cemetary to Rye Junior High school as a phase 1. Phase 2 should be from Rye Junior High to Rye Elementary School and expand to the beaches in phase 3. Walking lanes, biking lanes, safety and reinvestment.	2/19/2024 8:38 AM
157	The beaches should be free of business being run on them. There is no village center other than the library & no land left to create a village center there.	2/18/2024 9:18 PM
158	In order to keep the character (a) don't build walls to combat climate change – sorry but property owners are responsible for their property (b) to be a village center, we need a commercial shop (c) keep Rye harbor a fishing harbor	2/18/2024 8:30 PM
159	All of the above	2/18/2024 11:17 AM
160	All of the small town charm of Rye needs to be retained. Leave it alone and stop trying to develop. There's no need.	2/17/2024 10:08 PM
161	Parsons Field, town forest, Rye Harbor, Goss Farm	2/17/2024 8:41 PM
162	Limited buildings. Protected land, forest, fields, etc. Parson's Field. Town Hall Building, access to beach. All part of Rye. I like that it is rural and has limited development.	2/17/2024 7:22 PM
163	Clean beaches, clean forests, clean roadsides.	2/17/2024 6:45 PM
164	Conservation.	2/17/2024 5:47 PM
165	More common areas and sidewalks	2/17/2024 4:55 PM
166	Open spaces, trails, beaches	2/17/2024 4:18 PM
167	Open land	2/17/2024 3:17 PM
168	Village center, beaches, wetlands, conservation land, not a lot of condos and apartments and hotels.	2/17/2024 3:09 PM
169	Beaches, expansion with the library and rye recreation	2/17/2024 11:32 AM
170	Restrict access to the beaches	2/17/2024 11:10 AM
171	Obviously beaches, Village Center, Conservation land, and wetlands/marshes must be retained and protected	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
172	Beaches	2/17/2024 8:17 AM
173	Beaches, no more conservation land	2/17/2024 5:29 AM
174	All. We do not need development or redevelopment. Look at the disaster of Portsmouth.	2/16/2024 8:00 PM
175	Village center, conservation land, beaches, clean drinking and swimming water	2/16/2024 5:39 PM
176	All of the above.	2/16/2024 3:52 PM
177	Beaches need to be maintained	2/16/2024 3:20 PM
178	All of the above. Keep commercial development on route one	2/16/2024 1:56 PM
179	Conservation land & I think we can improve our beaches by charging for parking and charging for commercial use.	2/16/2024 1:21 PM
180	What little businesses we have left we should unite to save. Allow for small businesses and shops. Protect the beach access that is left from being someone's driveway.	2/16/2024 12:47 PM

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181	See answer above. Condo complexes are making things uglier and worse re: beach stickers, water usage, etc.	2/16/2024 11:32 AM
182	all of the above	2/16/2024 11:20 AM
183	Open land. Large building lots.	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
184	Keeping the beach accessible to all who live in town. Perhaps more permitted parking?? but unsure if this is a bad idea	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
185	Allow cluster development where larger tracts of land can be preserved and construct on smaller footprint	2/16/2024 11:02 AM
186	All of it	2/16/2024 10:25 AM
187	Stop spending money on things people think they want and focus on needs. Parsons Field as it is has always been more than enough for the residents of Rye.	2/16/2024 9:25 AM
188	I think the town has done a good job acquiring conservation land, but I don't think they've done a great job by restricting activities, such as hunting on conservation land. Conservation land should be accessible to everyone for all safe activities.	2/16/2024 9:07 AM
189	Always a fan of conservation but it's limited in power. If town really wants to conserve provide more money so they can buy out lots to be built instead they don't have enough money and often outbid. Water levels too high though so more control of watersheds.	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
190	Beaches should be a focus for the town. Fields and safe roads	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
191	Village center but would be great to have a walkable area w small shops and cafes. Keep conservation land. Preserve beach access	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
192	Beaches need to be aesthetically improved, nice stone walls, beach cleanup. Our roadways too. They need aesthetic sand covered gravel on edges rather than freehand extra asphalt. Keep the riff raff off the heavily traveled roads too.	2/15/2024 11:32 PM
193	Beaches	2/15/2024 11:04 PM
194	Improve the Town Center to make it a more vibrant and welcoming	2/15/2024 10:41 PM
195	Hunting	2/15/2024 10:22 PM
196	Village center. Increase small businesses that support community.	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
197	Conservation land No need for additional housing	2/15/2024 9:05 PM

## Q20 Do you feel that Rye's existing zoning is effectively guiding development activity in town?

Answered: 244 Skipped: 76



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.00%	61
No	39.34%	96
Unsure	35.66%	87
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>244</b>

## Q21 If not, do you have any improvements you would suggest?

Answered: 127 Skipped: 193

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Reduce complex regulations and committee oversight.	3/15/2024 9:27 PM
2	It seems zoning rules can be overcome with deep enough pockets and attorney representation.	3/15/2024 5:33 PM
3	Too complicated	3/15/2024 1:33 PM
4	Really take a look at all the zoning elements so we don't get stuck having to approve a larger entity than this town can manage. Continue to work through the language to protect Rye's current character	3/15/2024 1:07 PM
5	I suspect the zoning is effective, but am not well informed.	3/15/2024 10:13 AM
6	Building dept and zoning are out of control in Rye. Lots of contractors now refuse to work in Rye due to the extreme overreach of this department.	3/15/2024 10:12 AM
7	Let landowners build a house or in law apt or expand without an act of congress	3/15/2024 10:12 AM
8	No change to ADUs.	3/15/2024 7:53 AM
9	I don't like the developments that make exceptions to existing zoning. We should require a certain amount of open space for any development.	3/14/2024 8:30 PM
10	Our zoning isn't bad- it's just not enforced- zba must grant 99% of variances	3/14/2024 7:45 PM
11	Actual skilled building inspectors who don't make residents jump through hoops to cover for the inefficiencies of the individuals who cannot properly function in their jobs.	3/14/2024 6:09 PM
12	Allow ADU Put in sewer for all Rye residents Every time it rains the feckless Content on the ocean is an issue and the water is not safe for swimming or use	3/14/2024 5:34 PM
13	Too many variances that impact the wetlands	3/14/2024 4:27 PM
14	too many exceptions granted. People with people know is harmful to the environment. Educate decision makers on what the future holds for their area of the country and how they should use the power derived from the citizens to make the decisions in the public interest.	3/14/2024 2:32 PM
15	It is, however a lot of new money is moving into town and willing to spend even more to get what they want and skirt the rules that everyone else has to follow. This type of change in town is not great.	3/14/2024 2:28 PM
16	Move to form based zoning and allow for detached adu's	3/14/2024 2:20 PM
17	Tighter zoning to limit future construction especially new construction .	3/14/2024 2:04 PM
18	Stop granting variances that allow building in sensitive areas.	3/13/2024 7:50 PM
19	too many million dollar homes going up	3/13/2024 5:52 PM
20	I had a hard time with the town being an advocate to following the zoning rules next door maintaining dog rules - the neighborhood and town assessor became split	3/13/2024 2:31 PM
21	We need to allow smaller single-family homes on smaller lots.	3/13/2024 11:57 AM
22	Leaders do not understand ( at least as I do) what is meant by the "public interest."	3/13/2024 11:07 AM
23	Eliminate large single lot developments. Berm and shield with adequate size trees what is seen from roads in developments. Recently saw this in action near Aspen CO and it is highly effective. Also cuts noise and issues for homes , Require 3D modeling for all sensitive view area developments. Tighten the definition of "impervious". Permeable pavers are used as a way to expand and are not effectively pervious, discount what is claimed by at least 50% for such driveways. Architectural and street side landscaping basic requirements. For example	3/13/2024 11:06 AM

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native plant swales street side to capture run off. Require storm water management plan for all new homes and not just the usual "phony" calculations.

24	reduce the amount of building and stop building on wet lands	3/13/2024 10:43 AM
25	Too much push for more housing.	3/13/2024 6:30 AM
26	Too many large houses on small pieces of land are being allowed	3/12/2024 8:53 PM
27	The zoning board seems to approve most request for variances. If a property needs more than a few variances then maybe it should not be approved. The zoning ordinances are there to protect and if variances are given that negates the ordinance.	3/12/2024 8:52 PM
28	1) looking at zoning within the the BIG picture of the community, not just the individual lot. 2) wetlands are wetlands - not to be built over or within their buffer zone.	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
29	Too lenient.	3/12/2024 8:22 PM
30	It seems that a lot seems to get approved regardless of variances, etc. is this accurate? or realistic?	3/12/2024 7:04 PM
31	Stop unnecessary development along Route 1 and 1A.	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
32	stop the exceptions	3/12/2024 2:02 PM
33	Allow for more flexible zoning.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
34	Construction should be kept further from the marshland and wetland areas.	3/11/2024 10:50 PM
35	Reduce the size of houses on small lots or increase lot size to fit larger homes. No clear-cutting for development. Consider infrastructure- water, public safety, schools when developing.	3/11/2024 10:01 PM
36	Limit/prevent condo development.	3/11/2024 8:32 PM
37	Incentives to attract public gathering places such as a Pub and or Coffee House to town center.	3/11/2024 6:35 PM
38	The possibility for cluster housing, multiple units in some of the larger historic buildings and in general being more creative with development opportunities.	3/11/2024 11:27 AM
39	Acreage requirement for size of house. For example, 2+ acres required for a single family dwelling	3/11/2024 10:16 AM
40	Allow more dense housing. Get rid of ridiculous zoning restrictions preventing people from expanding their existing homes.	3/10/2024 11:17 PM
41	None.	3/10/2024 5:55 PM
42	I know the 2 acre lot size helps control density but it also leverages developers looking to put up big houses and with massive square footage and huge amenities that can only be afforded by certain people.	3/10/2024 4:52 PM
43	limiting town home structure or identical type developments	3/10/2024 4:37 PM
44	ZBA training	3/10/2024 4:31 PM
45	allow more development n smaller parcels of land requiring a min of 1 acre is too cost prohibitive to any new housing <\$2m	3/10/2024 4:22 PM
46	yes - change setbacks, etc, to reduce them to ZBA yes - get ZBA to follow the state right not grant almost all petitions it deems because current favorable redesign rely serve to encourage all variance applications	3/10/2024 4:15 PM
47	good with wetland regulations need high densities smaller lot sizes detached ADUs	3/10/2024 4:03 PM
48	prohibiting development! Need ADU housing allowed (detached)	3/10/2024 3:52 PM
49	it seems as though we are resistant to diverse housing but this is essential to the long term health and vibrancy of our community. I dont know how much our existing zoning plays into this (minimum acreage, ADU restrictions, ETC?)	3/10/2024 3:35 PM
50	Zoning needs to be strengthened so that the ZBA can stand firm and not worry about being	3/10/2024 12:05 PM

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sued. From the land use person in Eliot Maine she states they rarely give out variances. Science from the NRI and Master Plan need to be implemented and consistently updated as the climate impacts increase in frequency. The FEMA maps are now considered old.

51	Too much is too much. An infinite amount of money should not be allowed to be spent to make a property "acceptable" for development. Volume/intensity of waivers/variances should prevent development, as it indicates too much is being forced. Monitoring cost for RCC and other conditions need be tied back to each property as an incremental revenue stream. Parsons' Creek Watershed and other areas with too many leech fields have to be managed. Build Out analysis does not include what the land/water can support. Where can we not handle more use in an area?	3/10/2024 9:53 AM
52	Limit the number of variances or exception in development. Example - Sea Glass Lane is not what was originally intended.	3/9/2024 10:15 PM
53	Slow down town development	3/9/2024 4:02 PM
54	Let's make Foyes Corner area an accessible place for services for residents. Sandwich shop. Small market etc. Probably already zoned that way but anything we can do to promote more services in rye would be great. Not large scale though.	3/9/2024 2:02 PM
55	bike infrastructure (how about a bike path through the woods from town center to the beach?)	3/9/2024 1:26 PM
56	I am not an expert on this but I think we should tighten up building/land ratios (more land/less building); septic/leech field requirements as this seems to cause pollution.	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
57	Stop approving more construction of additional housing units. Get rid of short term rentals to open up housing for new residents. Limit approvals of rebuilding with bigger footprints.	3/9/2024 11:59 AM
58	allow flexible residential design zoning (open space/ cluster developments) in certain areas (1/4 & 1/2 acre zones)	3/9/2024 11:38 AM
59	Cap buildup and watch for conflict of interests with members.	3/8/2024 12:48 PM
60	wetlands need to be protected but in a fair way. Seems that some people are able to building permits and others have more difficulty.	3/8/2024 10:34 AM
61	Since development is inevitable, we have to take to steps now to make sure we have potable water available for all residents. If the water supply is compromised, no one is happy	3/8/2024 10:08 AM
62	There should not be any development along Route 1 since it is less than a mile from the Coakley Landfill. The toxic chemicals--PFAS, 1/4 dioxane are NOT contained and continue to reak havoc on the Berry Brook Watershed (Bailey Brook Subwatershed) into Rye--interact with NHDES to enforce regulations to prevent development--public health perspective; Ryes natural resources need to be protected at all costs.	3/7/2024 11:33 PM
63	Lans use, housing sizes, stricter ZBA	3/7/2024 6:33 PM
64	It seems if you are loud enough or have a lawyer long enough you can achieve what you would like for development in Rye.	3/7/2024 12:48 PM
65	Hard to prevent special influences from affecting the zoning decisions. Some people follow the rules....others seem exempt for unknown to me reasons.	3/7/2024 12:11 PM
66	I'd like to see new buildings be reviewed for architectural design to ensure we continue the historic feel and character of our town. One "barn" was built in a beautiful area that mars the beauty of Rye because it looks like an enormous commercial garage.	3/6/2024 7:03 PM
67	Facilities like the Atlantic Grill are a major win for the town and should be encouraged.	3/6/2024 2:25 PM
68	But there are many exceptions to the rules which is frustrating for those who drew up the ordinances.	3/6/2024 1:39 PM
69	stricter enforcement of wetland regulations. building/zoning rules for single family housing only.	3/6/2024 12:39 PM
70	improve allowances (to be more stringent) in wetlands and flood zones	3/6/2024 12:15 PM
71	we need to of everything we can to keep development to a level that can be supported by our infrastructure. We need to enhance out mixed use on Rt 1 we ned to insist on sidewalks and new development.	3/6/2024 11:41 AM

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72	Further protect our aquifers by realistic restrictions on development. Resist use intensification due to adding multiunit developments where no municipal sewer is available. We need to start considering water demands in anticipation of future drought years.	3/6/2024 10:53 AM
73	Fewer approved variances for projects encroaching on set backs, impacts to wetlands, etc.	3/6/2024 6:03 AM
74	Again, rewrite the zoning laws	3/5/2024 5:15 PM
75	allocate more land for sustainable agriculture to enhance the community's self-reliance in the event of global supply shocks.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
76	Permit process is so cumbersome and limited resources make it a lengthy and drawn out process.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
77	study other towns that have voted in more effective zoning that will still building on marginal land and cut down on granting variances	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
78	limiting rebuilding to existing footprint. requiring updated septic systems with nitrogen limiting devises.	3/5/2024 4:45 PM
79	More help for elderly, free transportation. Housing and events	3/4/2024 6:16 PM
80	Zoning should not allow small cottages to be torn down and replaced with 40 ft height condominiums. Zoning needs to be more restrictive.	3/3/2024 7:57 PM
81	See 20.	3/3/2024 7:19 PM
82	Strict enforcement	3/3/2024 5:49 PM
83	strict adherence of Rye's zoning ordinance by the ZBA and Planning Board in their review of building applications	3/3/2024 5:04 PM
84	stop developing wide underdeveloped land.	3/2/2024 3:17 PM
85	The planning board has always sided with the developers. The remaining land in town is getting less desirable for developments. That being said, single families should be able to purchase land to build, with less regimented rules and restrictions than for developers.	3/2/2024 3:01 PM
86	#1. You can not get anyone in a timely manner to even address adding an addition, provide an over all view of what has to be done to even add a driveway ! The building approval process is broken.	3/2/2024 9:37 AM
87	Stop kowtowing to opportunistic developers and the polluters who buy their homes and poison their lawns.	3/2/2024 8:15 AM
88	Cannot give variances every time some developer wants to build. Zoning laws exist for a reason.	3/1/2024 1:48 PM
89	No	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
90	In general, the thresh hold for obtaining zoning variances is lower than it should be. Zoning ordinances should be more vigorously applied	2/26/2024 10:52 AM
91	Only suggestion is two families and not to become further restrictive.	2/23/2024 3:39 PM
92	Restrict variances granted.	2/22/2024 7:30 PM
93	The ability to have two family houses and short term rentals is imperative to creating revenue and commerce. It brings life to the community and two families are the only option for affordable housing.	2/22/2024 5:51 PM
94	Too many non elected officials have control over development.	2/22/2024 4:30 PM
95	All of the area between RJH and the town hall should be rezoned to commercial; paving the way for small stores and restaurants. we would need to provide parking and sidewalks. The rest will happen naturally.	2/22/2024 3:44 PM
96	Friendly zoning. The ADU option is an ok one but there should be more availability of multi-family housing or to build a 2nd smaller home on the property if there is enough lot size	2/22/2024 3:05 PM
97	Re-evaluate existing zoning and also be sure there is consistent enforcement. Some appear to get things done with ease while others with similar projects take forever and have to jump	2/22/2024 9:26 AM



through hoops.

98	We see conflict every day. For example, save a Historic home, but make no provisions for the historic nature of the construction. Therefore home gets demolished.	2/22/2024 8:56 AM
99	The issue is that the Zoning Board of Adjustment is granting too many variances in like manner to the Planning Board granting too many waivers. The "existing zoning" is out of hand.	2/21/2024 6:54 PM
100	greater ability for town to push back against out-of-town developers who are buying family farms and developing -- without threat of getting sued.	2/21/2024 6:22 PM
101	The RCC should not influence the ZBA to condition applications.	2/21/2024 9:36 AM
102	enforce our zoning laws currently on books	2/20/2024 9:21 PM
103	smaller building lots would help! Obtaining Infrastructure funding from the feds would help to add a water treatment plant and maybe develop housing along route 1 ( need to add a sewer line )	2/20/2024 9:34 AM
104	We can't do anything about knocking down and rebuilding The fiasco on Long John Road should not be allowed. Jack hammering as long as those people listened to it is unacceptable Someone didn't do their homework and the residents are the one who suffer not the builders nor the future homeowners. No one protects their rights There should be a stipulation on amount of time and hours noise such as that is permitted	2/19/2024 3:33 PM
105	There are places where businesses are mingled in with private homes.	2/19/2024 12:17 PM
106	Current zoning is lenient in some areas & bordering on absurd in others. Even when criteria has been met, boards feel the need to add more things that must be done to allow redevelopment of existing homes & buildings	2/18/2024 9:18 PM
107	Our regulations are difficult for people to navigate. So we need to figure a "clean slate" approach... ours are crazy. Lean towards ease of renovation and encouraging a town center.	2/18/2024 8:30 PM
108	The town of Rye needs to stay out of private property owners business.	2/17/2024 10:08 PM
109	Tiny homes and ADU's that are detached, would not affect the rural character... 1 driveway to one lot is the difference. these housing units would be no different than a small garage or barn on a lot.	2/17/2024 8:53 PM
110	Focus on septic systems and housing density.	2/17/2024 6:45 PM
111	Things need sidewalks, bike paths.	2/17/2024 5:47 PM
112	ZBA needs to learn how to deny variances without appealable errors. Any conditions imposed on variances should be monitored and enforced.	2/17/2024 3:17 PM
113	The town center is woefully lacking. The libraries proposed development plan would help significantly. But also a gathering place (ie coffee shop), would greatly improve the town center and community experience.	2/17/2024 11:00 AM
114	Limit parking to one side of Ocean Boulevard so bikes and pedestrians don't have to walk in the road	2/17/2024 8:17 AM
115	Encouraging small business, build a gas station, convenience store	2/17/2024 5:29 AM
116	I wish I did.	2/16/2024 5:39 PM
117	Need to find opportunities for more multifamily homes. Need to reduce reliance on previous pavers to achieve coverage requirements as they are not being maintained. Also some services such as coffee shop, small restaurants, stores should be encouraged on main thoroughfares (Sagamore, Wallis, Washington, Central) and/or near beaches, perhaps by being creative with parking requirements.	2/16/2024 3:52 PM
118	I like how the town is moving towards more protections of our water sources.	2/16/2024 1:21 PM
119	Rye needs mix development zoning. Right now it is either all or nothing and the developers are going all in for housing since that is the need right now. The problem is the housing is expensive and not everyone can afford it. Mixed zoning would bring in smaller businesses and allow for apartments.	2/16/2024 12:47 PM
120	I would propose less density on a property. There have been several large homes built that	2/16/2024 12:39 PM

don't fit the character of the town or neighborhoods.

121	If housing is to be approved, how about some small-house communities - year round cottages for downsizers rather than condos. Spread things out a bit. Keep within historic appearance (capes).	2/16/2024 11:32 AM
122	Need to be more critical in order to protect Rye's character	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
123	Zone GRES limited space to build and ad on the existing houses. Even adding a shed can be a problem. This is due in part because lot coverage allowance for this zone is very limited even for a residential area.	2/16/2024 9:07 AM
124	Need to allow some development...high end resteraunts for example	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
125	Variance committee is overwhelmed with engineers, lawyers, builders. Make it clear that residents can submit ideas without expensive full design and engineering to gain traction of approval in steps. This is getting ridiculous and too time consuming per party!	2/15/2024 11:32 PM
126	Only multi million dollars homes are being built.	2/15/2024 11:04 PM
127	It seems like despite hoops of ZBA, pretty much everything gets approved	2/15/2024 10:41 PM

DRAFT

## Q22 If you could change anything about Rye's transportation network (e.g. roads, sidewalks, bike infrastructure, connectivity, traffic congestion, safety, etc.), what would you change and why?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 96

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Wider roads and slower speeds.	3/15/2024 9:27 PM
2	I would add shoulders to roads to support walkers, bicycles, etc.	3/15/2024 5:33 PM
3	Nothing. We have managed up to now and will into the future	3/15/2024 1:33 PM
4	Please install a continuous sidewalk from Rye Junior High to the library. Lang road is a dangerous intersection. our students should be safe walking from school to the library. I believe this has been in the works for a while. I would like to see the town get it done.	3/15/2024 1:07 PM
5	wider roads and no sidewalks. Make it easier for bikes to be on the side off the road. Also, Leave the speed limit alone.	3/15/2024 12:57 PM
6	Big time: Make Jenness Beach area more bike friendly. The beach route is wonderful biking except for a couple miles where you take your life on your hands. There should not be parking on both sides in the busy area. Need a bike lane ideally.	3/15/2024 11:18 AM
7	Walkers and bikers need safety. Speed bumps to slow down traffic. The signs that compare your speed to the limit are ver good.	3/15/2024 10:13 AM
8	Outlaw entrance of loud motorcycles	3/15/2024 10:12 AM
9	Additional sidewalks and bikepaths	3/15/2024 8:50 AM
10	The speed zones should be re-evaluated and enforced, especially in the summer time.	3/14/2024 8:30 PM
11	Limit parking along Route 1A in the summer by possibly installing 1hour meters.	3/14/2024 8:25 PM
12	Get the TAP grant done and review urban/ rural residence zones for proper speed limits	3/14/2024 7:45 PM
13	Provide useable shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists wherever possible.	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
14	Create more bike trails in the woods; maintain 30 or 35 mph on local streets based on NH state law with no speed bumps.	3/14/2024 6:52 PM
15	Pave more frequently with thicker applications that don't just break up from the plows.	3/14/2024 6:09 PM
16	Why do we have to be in competition for the road It will take a tragedy,death to change the focus	3/14/2024 5:34 PM
17	Reduce the speed limits. More speed warning devices. Make roads safer for walkers & bikers.	3/14/2024 4:27 PM
18	better roads. I think we're below B	3/14/2024 3:49 PM
19	Bike lanes should be better marked but to make them safe would likely require that roads be wider. dont know enough about the transportation network but believe large sector are vulnerable	3/14/2024 2:32 PM
20	Sidewalks at the center of town would be nice to connect a lot of the town properties. Cars speeding, mostly seen at the Portsmouth and Rye town borders beyond the roundabout is out of control. Cars coming off of Ocean Blvd. and Pioneer and heading back into Portsmouth is almost like a racetrack, and can easily be seen from La Mulita any day of the week.	3/14/2024 2:28 PM
21	Add sidewalks	3/14/2024 2:20 PM
22	Better side of road bike paths . Fill in our current battered roads and keep our roads in good shape .possible lowering of speed limits and more enforcement.	3/14/2024 2:04 PM

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23	No sidewalks! Wider roads are fine for walking and biking. I find narrowing the roads makes it more dangerous.	3/14/2024 1:48 PM
24	Safer bike paths. More sidewalks. Reduced speed limits.	3/13/2024 7:50 PM
25	more cell towers! its unsafe for town to have dead spots	3/13/2024 5:52 PM
26	Maintenance is shoddy or nonexistent.	3/13/2024 3:39 PM
27	so far nothing change about ALL the above due to the police slamming the community citizens - therefore I would hire a Town Planner as we need bike space, sidewalks - perhaps a small round about at the end of Lang Rd. Trucks and motorcycles need to STOP speeding through town - of all places plus bolting down Washington Rd to Ocean Blvd. I traveled a lot for businesses - about transportation/connectivity with Portsmouth - Hampton - Ocean Blvd - there are nice electric buses - that millions of people use all over the country -	3/13/2024 2:31 PM
28	We should add a sidewalk with a bike lane between the two schools. It's for our kids' safety.	3/13/2024 11:57 AM
29	I am not a bike rider but I worry as a driver that they do not have enough room on the roadway. I don't know how to remedy.	3/13/2024 11:07 AM
30	Reduce speed limits on all "neighborhood" streets to 20-25mph. Continue narrowing of lanes to 10' as roads are repaved. See if a separated and paved bike lane is possible on Central. Consider speed tables on congested beach access roads. More beach access crosswalks (state issue). Reduce 1A travel lane widths and speeds in congested areas (Jenness and Wallis) and restrict parking stall widths to allow for more pedestrian and cyclist passage. Plan for connecting Rail Trail to center of Rye to the coast with a bike pedestrian trail potentially through some of the conservation lands	3/13/2024 11:06 AM
31	nothing	3/13/2024 10:43 AM
32	More sidewalks!! More shoulders So many people like to run and bike in rye and there is little room so share the road Concerns for safety!	3/13/2024 6:51 AM
33	Everything. There are nos sidewalks or traffic lights in town.	3/13/2024 6:30 AM
34	Sidewalks from the high school to the library	3/12/2024 8:53 PM
35	Improve the condition of the roads, many are deteriorating. The town takes the cheap way out to repair which leads to a future mess. Do it right the first time so it will last.	3/12/2024 8:52 PM
36	1) I don't ride a bike in Rye, I'm fearful of the cars. I know many people do, so a bit better bike lanes ( without widening the road?) especially on 1a past Odiorne Point. Or bike trails in the forested/natural areas. 2) Traffic safety between Wallis sands state park and Petey's is especially bad in the summer. With doors opening, children and families walking across the street to the beach and cyclist riding (sometimes 2 or more abreast) while cars are driving in 2 directions. My suggestion would be to not allow cyclists to bike there during certain hours in the summer.	3/12/2024 8:35 PM
37	Easy and safe walk/bike travel from RJH to the library.	3/12/2024 8:22 PM
38	Timely maintenance of roads. They are in disgraceful condition. Put some of the DPW employees to work doing road repair!	3/12/2024 4:38 PM
39	create bike and walking lanes on as many roads as possible. Rye is not a bike friendly town.	3/12/2024 2:02 PM
40	Add more sidewalks, bike trails, etc. Pedestrian connectivity is so important and Rye is lacking in this area.	3/12/2024 7:19 AM
41	Parking along both sides of Rte 1A near Jenness Ave is dangerous. One side should be for parking while the other side can then be used for walking & biking.	3/11/2024 10:50 PM
42	Lower speed limit/ add speed monitor on Washington from rte 1- center of town to Sagamore-specifically before and after school.	3/11/2024 10:01 PM
43	Nothing.	3/11/2024 8:42 PM
44	Widen narrow roads where possible. Improve/raise roads that connect 1A to the center of town/inland so there are safer and more routes to evacuate when flooding occurs	3/11/2024 8:32 PM
45	Try to make it more bike and pedestrian friendly (more sidewalks)	3/11/2024 6:35 PM

## Rye 2035

46	I'm pretty satisfied with it. Perhaps make it easier to walk around the center of town ie: JH, Library, town hall	3/11/2024 4:49 PM
47	I would like to see an increase in taxes to repair and maintain the road system which has fallen into disrepair, that residents could be proud of. We appear to be the unwanted stepchild compared to other adjoining Towns.	3/11/2024 4:46 PM
48	Traffic on Ocean Blvd in the summer is very busy as people park and walk to Cable beach. It is hard driving or biking in that area. Maybe have parking on one side only ( East side) to free up space and make t not so dangerous. Lower speed limit in that area too.	3/11/2024 4:09 PM
49	Lower the speed limit. Build sidewalks. Get rid of wonky intersections that have forks in the road.	3/11/2024 2:25 PM
50	Nothing, except continued enforcement of our already-reasonable speed limits. Not in favor of reduing speed limit to 30 mph universally	3/11/2024 1:55 PM
51	Add more trail connections, walk ways and sidewalks that connect to recreational amenities and existing trails.	3/11/2024 11:27 AM
52	Concerned about congestion as density increases. Also, please to fix the harbor road bridge. Seriously. People are getting into accidents on it because there's so much crap in the way. It's been 2 years - why is it not fixed?	3/11/2024 10:16 AM
53	Sidewalks and bike infrastructure. Rye sucks for biking. Our kids can't even safely bike to school or safely walk from the junior high to the library. No wonder most parents sit in long lines to pick up and drop off their kids.	3/10/2024 11:17 PM
54	Town seems to take no interest in maintaining the sidewalk on Cable Rd. - do we want to add more?? Roads need a lot of maintenance. Be careful with scarce transportation resources.	3/10/2024 5:55 PM
55	30 mph on all roads in Rye would help with speeding concerns sidewalks only in town center area from school to library or wave for teens	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
56	The TAP grant project to rework how cars, pedestrians, cyclists, and other use move through the town center needs to be done well and involve a lot of communication with residents. It's our one chance to "get something right" in Rye, something that reclaims and reinvents one of our best spaces for use in a way that makes life the way want to live it today work. The trolleys had their time, then the cars, now it's time to give it over for more varied uses and enjoyment.	3/10/2024 4:52 PM
57	Designated bike lanes	3/10/2024 4:45 PM
58	changes that would not affect the visual appeal of the town	3/10/2024 4:37 PM
59	enforce laws	3/10/2024 4:31 PM
60	better biking access and trails to schools and recreation areas (beaches, town forest)	3/10/2024 4:22 PM
61	more sidewalks, walkability, connectivity	3/10/2024 4:03 PM
62	allow beach parking on both sides of RT 1A by Pirates Cove Beach	3/10/2024 3:52 PM
63	add more trails and sidewalks	3/10/2024 3:42 PM
64	I's love to see sidewalks, at least in the center of town but ideally more comprehensively around town. Ive also heard that there used to be a trolley that would run from Rye to Portsmouth. As the parent of a 12 yr old, I think having something like that again would be wonderful. (to get to Connie bean gym, to downtown Portsmouth)	3/10/2024 3:35 PM
65	Actual bike lanes on Washington and Pioneer road. Enforcement of single file bike riding on 1A. It is getting even more dangerous with E-bikes.	3/10/2024 12:05 PM
66	There was once a sidewalk along 1A for, too bad it is long gone and I know this would be a state issue.	3/10/2024 11:39 AM
67	More sidewalks and bike infrastructure in the most heavily trafficed areas.	3/10/2024 9:59 AM
68	Master Plan must include a minimum road Quality commitment for the main Bike paths in Rye. Situations like Sagamore Rd. a few years ago is unacceptable for safety.	3/10/2024 9:53 AM
69	We should change nothing. We need to protect our beaches and tourists sites from excessive	3/10/2024 9:04 AM

amounts of people visiting the beaches during summer. We should make use of ocean road for paid parking.

70	Keep roads in good condition, then bikers/walkers & drivers can make the most of the infrastructure.	3/9/2024 10:15 PM
71	No parking on one side of route 1 to be used for pedestrians and bikers. Better shoulders for bikers and pedestrians These are major safety issues	3/9/2024 8:43 PM
72	I would like to see sidewalks along Washington and Sagamore Roads, and especially around our schools. I do like the new intersection between Lang Rd and Lafayette Rd - much safer! Also, I certainly hope that portions of Wallis Road will be REPAVED this year, and the whole width of the road and not just parts here and there. The potholes are ridiculous. I think that since this is a main roadway, that it should be paved more often. It has needed it for sometime now!	3/9/2024 5:43 PM
73	No changes	3/9/2024 4:02 PM
74	I would like to see sidewalks on Sagamore Rd between Foyes Corner and Portsmouth. Better bike lanes/wider shoulders for safely walking. Better cell coverage!	3/9/2024 2:02 PM
75	Better roads, less potholes	3/9/2024 1:58 PM
76	fix pot holes	3/9/2024 1:26 PM
77	Our roads are in terrible condition (where did all that federal money go?) We actually had the town truck on our road one day filling one pothole....left all the others unfilled - very odd. Work with Odiorne to allow bikers to use that pathway along RT1A -it is very, very unsafe for bikers to be on that portion of the road - hard for drivers to even see them on the corners...truly needs to be addressed.	3/9/2024 12:01 PM
78	Roads in our area are in serious disrepair and need to be addressed.	3/9/2024 11:59 AM
79	create a dedicated bike lane along Ocean Blvd	3/9/2024 11:38 AM
80	Being a seacoast community we have a lot of bicyclists and runners/walkers along our town roads. There seems to be a lot of attention given to cyclists riding single file (which they should). However there are a lot of walkers/runners on the right side of the road in the direction of traffic along with cyclists for that limited space. More attention should be given both in the schools and within the town that pedestrians should be on the left side of the road. It is only a matter of time before there is a collision where someone will get hurt.	3/9/2024 10:13 AM
81	I'd have cross walks at Wallis (yeah, I know state road, very dangerous though) and more sidewalks in places other than town center or just parks. It gets very dangerous in summer for residents to get around on bike or foot in warm months.	3/8/2024 12:48 PM
82	I would suggest widening the shoulders on the roads for walking and bike safety--for that reason.	3/8/2024 10:34 AM
83	Better signage for all roads, sidewalks in school zones and the town center would make sense	3/8/2024 10:08 AM
84	a few more sidewalks in town center	3/8/2024 10:05 AM
85	Increase monitoring of speeding on back cut through roads	3/8/2024 9:44 AM
86	Speed limits are not being enforced. (perhaps set too high) particularly on Pioneer Road, Long John, Washington, Route 1A. Pioneer Road is very dangerous to walk/bike on.	3/7/2024 11:33 PM
87	Side walks would be nice but expensive.	3/7/2024 11:15 PM
88	Works for now but may require some improvement for summer season, similar to what New Castle does. Can we change any rules seasonally? Would that be enforceable?	3/7/2024 10:42 PM
89	invest more in bike lanes, safe walking anywhere in town, and expansive forest/conservation land trail system	3/7/2024 10:19 PM
90	Need. New. Roads. The pot holes are out of control. The amount of foot traffic and bicycles has significantly increased, causing more motor vehicle complaints.	3/7/2024 10:13 PM
91	Bike infrastructure, sidewalks along 1A	3/7/2024 8:32 PM
92	ADD SIDEWALKS or widen roads. Kids need to bike, people need to walk and cars need to	3/7/2024 8:32 PM

navigate. It's a disaster if a car and a person walking OR a biker need to share the road.  
MAKE THIS BETTER.

93	Bike lanes, reduce speed limit on Ocean Blvd at least in summer months	3/7/2024 6:33 PM
94	none	3/7/2024 2:20 PM
95	More sidewalks to the library from the schools.	3/7/2024 12:48 PM
96	Buses to and from surrounding towns.	3/7/2024 12:11 PM
97	I'd like to see sidewalks build up and down Washington Road and the larger roads of Rye.	3/6/2024 7:03 PM
98	Complete the redevelopment of the down-town. Explore more public transportation.	3/6/2024 3:01 PM
99	Unknown	3/6/2024 2:51 PM
100	More sidewalks and trails.	3/6/2024 2:25 PM
101	Add a sidewalk from the library to the beach on Wallis Road. Widen Pioneer Road from Foye's Corner to Brackett Road for bikers.	3/6/2024 1:39 PM
102	There should be a complete sidewalk from the junior high to the library and town hall. It's dangerous in the winter for students to walk from school without a complete sidewalk.	3/6/2024 1:35 PM
103	lower speed limits! 30 mph everywhere! (or slower) Its dumb and confusing to drivers to have the speeds changing as they drive down the same road!	3/6/2024 12:39 PM
104	I thin its pretty good already! I cycle a lot and find the toads to be cycling friendly. I am 100% in favor of sidewalk in the town center and I would also add a sidewalk on Lang Road because a lot of people walk in it to get into town and it is dangerous	3/6/2024 12:26 PM
105	sidewalks wot a 35 mile speed limit walking on roads is dangerous bike lanes to enjoy our great town	3/6/2024 12:15 PM
106	More sidewalks, especially towards the center of town where the municipal building and RJH are. More bike lanes and bike trails.	3/6/2024 12:04 PM
107	more sidewalks! lower speed limits and ticketed enforcement by Rye's Police Force. Bike Lanes! bike racks on the beach - T intersection on Washington and central wide shoulder on all roads	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
108	For safety reasons and to reduce congestion I would increase the number of no parking areas on route 1A north of Jenness Beach north of Locke Road to Rye Harbor	3/6/2024 11:39 AM
109	Sidewalks repaired and maintained (Cable Road, Central, Washington) 30 mph speedlimit - too many speeders	3/6/2024 11:25 AM
110	it is fine	3/6/2024 11:17 AM
111	A greater availability of side walks and bike lanes would be helpful. Sidewalks are traffic calming from what I understand.	3/6/2024 10:53 AM
112	Simply put fix the roads use the money that conservation in the town spends on legal fees.	3/6/2024 9:34 AM
113	Nothing, it's fine	3/6/2024 6:03 AM
114	Provide funding to pave roads sooner if needed.	3/6/2024 5:39 AM
115	No bike riders on Pioneer or Ocean. These roads are too curvy and crowded. I'm sure there are others too. We won't beat the congestion with all of the visitors we get, but we can control over building and multi unit structures. Bringing over crowding.	3/5/2024 7:00 PM
116	Building a safe bike line on rte. 1A and through the center of Rye	3/5/2024 5:46 PM
117	Stop building more homes and businesses	3/5/2024 5:15 PM
118	establish a better system of trails and greenways throughout town to encourage sage bicycle and foot traffic. would help reduce transportation emission and be cheaper than expanding roadways.	3/5/2024 5:08 PM
119	Sidewalks!!! Safe roads!!! Speeding is a huge problem. Citizens work to avoid accidents with speeding cars making it appear that there is not a speeding issue in town. Running and biking	3/5/2024 5:08 PM

## Rye 2035

is always a near miss with a car. The number of DWI arrests seems far too low. Members leave Abeniqui loaded regularly and never get stopped.

120	SIDEWALKS to get to schools how do we not have these!	3/5/2024 5:01 PM
121	lower speed limit to 30mph and five more tickets. roads are unsafe for bikers walkers and runners	3/5/2024 4:56 PM
122	traffic stops! Rye police tolerate 10mph over speed limits and do not ticket residents 30 mph throughout town.	3/5/2024 4:45 PM
123	Sidewalks	3/4/2024 6:16 PM
124	Waterfront sidewalks Sidewalk snow clearing	3/4/2024 5:16 PM
125	Nothing	3/4/2024 3:55 PM
126	No sidewalks keep the speed down	3/4/2024 11:08 AM
127	Sidewalk and safety at beaches	3/3/2024 11:27 PM
128	More bike safe shoulders to road ways. Sagamore rd on way to RES is terrible for bikers on the sides.	3/3/2024 9:40 PM
129	More sidewalks	3/3/2024 9:02 PM
130	Speed on 1A needs to be lowered for safety, especially in the summer. Bikes should have bike routes in less congested area especially in the summer.	3/3/2024 7:57 PM
131	Not exactly infrastructure but lower speed limits! Lang Rd is a perfect example, why raise the limit from 20 in Portsmouth to,35 in Rye right at a straight away people are going easily 50: on this stretch on any given day.	3/3/2024 7:19 PM
132	Enforce speed limits and lower some.	3/3/2024 5:49 PM
133	Add sidewalks, add bike lanes and temporary speed tables in the summer and	3/3/2024 5:45 PM
134	Reduce Town wide speed limit to 30mph	3/3/2024 5:04 PM
135	Sidewalks in the Rye Beach precinct are wonderful and residents use them. Some folks park a car and then walk the neighborhoods. Wonder if there could be a designated parking area for residents who do not live in the precinct to use.	3/3/2024 10:47 AM
136	I would do two things at once, 1. maintain the roads better 2. Have bike designated roads which will help on reducing traffic. Roads were developed for cars not necessarily bikers. In truth some bikers are so bad they should only be on a bike path. They are a danger.	3/3/2024 10:30 AM
137	Speed enforcement is great. Keep it up. Cell tower would help!	3/3/2024 8:32 AM
138	solve the road water problems	3/2/2024 3:17 PM
139	The town roads should be upgraded to handle bicycle traffic safely. If a road can't be upgraded then bicycles should be restricted from using it. I know Pioneer Rd. is a state road, but no bicycle traffic should be allowed on that road. It's just not wide enough.	3/2/2024 3:01 PM
140	Closer networking with the Rye Beach Precinct as every side walk in Rye should be shoveled and or plowed during the winter- This isn't 1950 any more !	3/2/2024 9:37 AM
141	Sidewalks!	3/2/2024 9:30 AM
142	parts of Ocean Blvd, Jenness Beach area in particular, parking on the street causes congestion and makes it difficult to safely walk along the street to get to the beach	3/2/2024 9:03 AM
143	Rye used to be a good town to ride a bike in, now it's too dangerous. Can't even walk safely to school or from school to the library.	3/2/2024 8:15 AM
144	No bicyclist groups in Rye, our roads are not wide enough	3/1/2024 5:48 PM
145	Sidewalks would be nice Traffic on 1A due to parking on the road is terrible	3/1/2024 1:48 PM
146	Put Lang Rd back the way it was. We can't see to the right if a car is right there. Put a fork there so folks could bear right. With the crosswalk sign there now, it's too closed in.	3/1/2024 1:05 PM



Rye 2035

147	Unknown.	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
148	We don't take care of what we have. Require that all intersections be 90degrees for driving safety.	2/29/2024 5:15 PM
149	increase and improve sidewalks. Widen main roads to allow designated, safe bicycle paths. Repair badly damaged roads such as South Road and North Road which are very dangerous for bicycle riders	2/26/2024 10:52 AM
150	I worry about bikers and walkers in the summer months when it's so busy.	2/26/2024 7:32 AM
151	maintain roadways/level sides of roads for walkers-joggers-bicycles no side walks country setting	2/25/2024 10:21 PM
152	Roads are awful and unsafe for pedestrians. Speed way too fast. Not enough tickets issued. Ruins the town	2/25/2024 7:25 AM
153	Sidewalks!! You take your life in your hand going for a walk. High speed of cars.	2/23/2024 3:39 PM
154	Bike lanes, sidewalks, lighting during dusk/dawn at least on some key roadways. Pioneer needs to be widened, straightened, or have a safe bike path cut alongside somehow or detour bikes.	2/23/2024 7:42 AM
155	Pave the roads.	2/22/2024 7:30 PM
156	Sidewalks!! Eliminate high speed, reckless driving. It takes away from people's ability to partake in the beauty of the town. Running, walking and biking is almost impossible.	2/22/2024 5:51 PM
157	More sidewalks. It's dangerous for children. More sidewalks. More sidewalks. More sidewalks. More sidewalks	2/22/2024 4:30 PM
158	sidewalks sidewalks sidewalks with bike paths	2/22/2024 3:44 PM
159	a few more sidewalks in the high traffic areas for the kids would make sense	2/22/2024 3:05 PM
160	Change nothing! Leave our Town as "The Town of Rye, N.H". Every change one makes gets very costly and not necessarily for the better	2/22/2024 1:13 PM
161	More sidewalks and better maintenance if existing. This is a beach community and in the summer many people walk the roads and it can become dangerous.	2/22/2024 9:26 AM
162	Do NOT Change anything! Rye has avoided serious accidents and we DON'T need all these "changes".	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
163	More sidewalks or even shoulders. Route 1A is dangerous, but in off-season has the best shoulders.	2/22/2024 8:56 AM
164	More sidewalks, bike paths, public transportation - Coast bus. Enforce noise laws on motorcycles - install monitors that record noise violations and license plate number to issue tickets.	2/22/2024 7:30 AM
165	Reduce speeding and create ways to decrease car traffic. Improve safe walkability.	2/21/2024 6:54 PM
166	slower travel speeds for cars, increased shoulders/bike lanes for biking and running and walking with strollers. Remove right turn lane on Lang Road to Washington intersection.	2/21/2024 6:22 PM
167	Nothing it is fine as is.	2/20/2024 9:21 PM
168	Bike racks at the town beaches might be useful	2/20/2024 2:11 PM
169	I think the town definitely needs to look at the road. Infrastructure budgets. Creating more money for paving and road maintenance. As our Roads have Deteriorated over recent years due to development construction in new neighborhoods and Inflation, it cost a lot more money to pay the road than it used to.	2/20/2024 11:26 AM
170	Not sure - tough question as we do not have enough sidewalks, roads appear too narrow to add bike lanes and Rye Beach which has side walks dont maintain them in the winter which makes zero sense.	2/20/2024 9:34 AM
171	Sidewalk on sagamore rd.	2/19/2024 8:55 PM
172	More bike lanes. Could the Coastal bus service have stops in town?	2/19/2024 4:48 PM

## Rye 2035

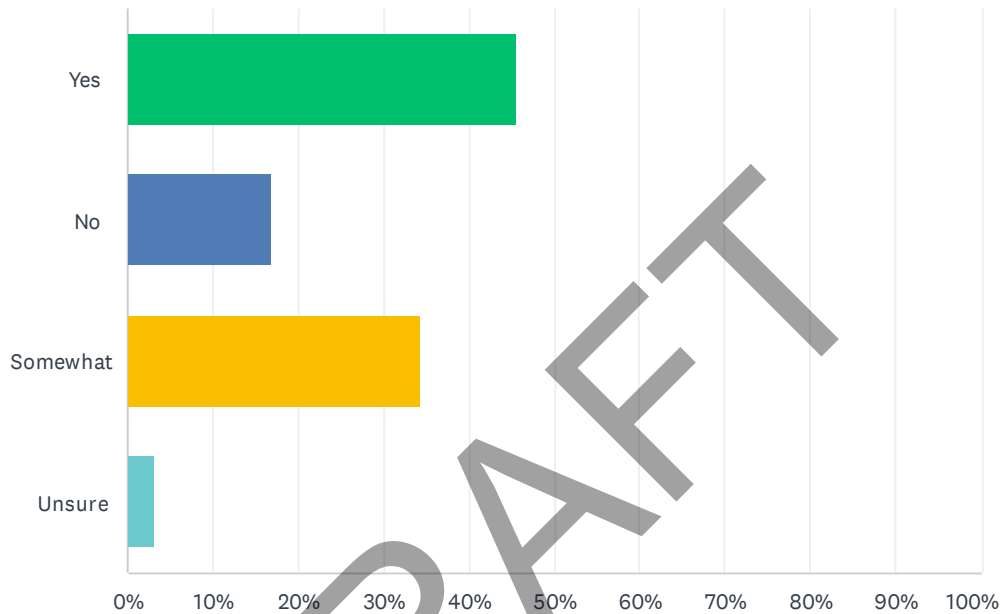
173	Congestion is a Summer issue it is what it is. Maybe giving tickets not warning might curtail speed issue As I recall the locals are just as guilty as tourists	2/19/2024 3:33 PM
174	sidewalks need to be added on the main roads, especially to the schools, crosswalks and slow down signs need to be added at both schools at both entrances	2/19/2024 3:21 PM
175	Road surfaces being maintained as a priority. In a perfect world Rye would have sidewalks on each high traveled roadway.	2/19/2024 2:53 PM
176	Bike paths around town (like Nantucket)! Connect schools and recreation. Address cell phone coverage (safety issue). Better plan for crowded summer beach days/parking.	2/19/2024 12:17 PM
177	Better bike lanes	2/19/2024 9:58 AM
178	sidewalks are desperately needed.	2/19/2024 8:38 AM
179	In a prefect situation roads would be wider with sidewalks & bike lanes. Not possible in the majority of the town. Travel during the summer with cars & bikes sharing the road is frustrating to drivers & dangerous for bikers	2/18/2024 9:18 PM
180	Pave the roads every 40 years whether they need it or not	2/18/2024 8:30 PM
181	More bike lanes	2/18/2024 2:30 PM
182	The main roads going in and out of Rye are a mess. Not sure why only one side of the roads gets attention.Better to pave both sides of the road simultaneously	2/18/2024 11:17 AM
183	The main roads and Rye should all have sidewalks. Putting a half sidewalk in the center of town literally makes no sense. Washington Central, Wallis and possibly Sagamore should all have sidewalks.	2/17/2024 10:08 PM
184	larger shoulders, paved, to allow for walking and biking. more traffic control on many of the larger roads, South, Washington, Sagamore and the like	2/17/2024 8:53 PM
185	Nothing, too expensive for the miles of roadway and number of residents.	2/17/2024 6:45 PM
186	Sidewalks on Elwyn, sagamore.	2/17/2024 5:47 PM
187	sidewalks - we need them	2/17/2024 4:55 PM
188	Add sidewalks and biking lanes	2/17/2024 3:17 PM
189	bike lanes. Also enforce the noise restrictions for motorcycles along 1A. Bicycles riding along 1A is extremely dangerous. The motorcycle noise from the souped up engines is abysmal. Rediculous.	2/17/2024 3:09 PM
190	Parsons field road fixing the pot holes.	2/17/2024 11:32 AM
191	Expand the sidewalk network exponentially.	2/17/2024 11:00 AM
192	Although not in Rye (but used by Rye residents to leave town) the reconfiguration that was made of Lang Rd and US 1 provided safe access for those going south on US 1. Again not in Rye but we need a reconfiguration of North Rd to US 1 in North Hampton so that access from Rye Beach can be made safe going onto US1 ---this is being considered in the NH DOT 10yr plan but needs Rye support In addition the NH DOT 10 year plan has funds for the addition of bike lanes along Wentworth Rd and from the Sagamore bridge to Odiome point	2/17/2024 10:43 AM
193	Sidewalks on Ocean Boulevard and bike lanes	2/17/2024 8:17 AM
194	Would love to see sidewalks put in on certain roads. Rye is beautiful, but heading to the beach down Wallis or washington would be so much safer with sidewalks. Reduce the speed limit on washington rd. Also put a few blinking crosswalks for Wallis sands beach (at end of Wallis rd) and one near state beach. Police the bikers more if possible, some groups are obnoxious and ride into the narrow road.	2/17/2024 7:52 AM
195	Sidewalks! Walking down Sagamore safely feels impossible and that is a common route to the beach. A sidewalk system is our number one need in my opinion	2/17/2024 7:19 AM
196	No more expensive sidewalks	2/17/2024 5:29 AM
197	I would leave town center as is, I would make all neighborhood streets around beaches No Parking, I would enforce our parking rules more vigorously with ticketing, raise ticket amounts.	2/16/2024 8:00 PM

Rye 2035

198	Town center and Lang Road - make it safer for our kids to traverse.	2/16/2024 5:39 PM
199	pave the last unpaved roads- no one should have to live on a pot-holed street in 2024, especially given the taxes paid, need sidewalks or walk/bike lanes in town center and along main roads.	2/16/2024 3:52 PM
200	Better paved roads	2/16/2024 3:20 PM
201	More side walks near beach. Less parking on residential road.	2/16/2024 1:56 PM
202	would love more sidewalks - increased walking/riding space on roads, one way parking on Rt. 1a, use the other side for walking/biking only	2/16/2024 1:21 PM
203	Speed. All roads in Rye should be 30mph. It is inconsistent. Close Dow Lane. There is no reason why access off Lafayette Road is needed, cars speed through Dow Lane.	2/16/2024 12:47 PM
204	I would change the traffic congestion, but I'm not sure that's possible.	2/16/2024 12:39 PM
205	SIDEWALKS throughout town - Grove, Central, Locke, Ocean. Make it safe to walk to the beach. Walk to town. Walk the dog.	2/16/2024 11:32 AM
206	Rye roads are ancient from colonel days and by nature narrow. Improvements have been made over the years to improve safety. Road conditions are at the whim of the weather and expense..	2/16/2024 11:20 AM
207	Maintain paved roads.	2/16/2024 11:13 AM
208	Bike racks at the beaches.	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
209	Better bike trails. Would it be possible to create a boardwalk style trail over the salt marshes that's environmentally friendly?	2/16/2024 11:10 AM
210	Bike and running lanes	2/16/2024 11:09 AM
211	improve pavement conditions, including shoulders (gravel or paved) so pedestrians and bikers are not in travel lanes	2/16/2024 11:02 AM
212	More walker and biker friendly. Safer slower drivers.	2/16/2024 10:25 AM
213	I know MA, CT and NY natives, now Rye residents will call for sidewalks, street lights and curbs - just like the towns they came from.	2/16/2024 9:25 AM
214	keep parking and beaches as accessible as possible.	2/16/2024 9:07 AM
215	I think a sidewalk from the junior high up to the library would greatly enhance safety, particularly when school is let out.	2/16/2024 8:19 AM
216	More sidewalks and bike lanes is critical. They often ride in groups and you can't get around them I know they widened roads near ocean but in central part of town would be nice.	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
217	Add bike walking paths on road sides and maintain roads like Wallis Road	2/16/2024 8:03 AM
218	Bike paths!!! Roads are dangerous. More sidewalks and paths to walk especially on 1a and near beaches	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
219	We have no sidewalks. Make that clear. More postings of speeding and give camera tickets. build the roads aesthetically like southwestern connecticut. Beach road should be aesthetically beautiful. Starbucks next to library. Etiquette required.	2/15/2024 11:32 PM
220	Wish we had more sidewalks. Very dangerous for kids riding their bikes.	2/15/2024 11:04 PM
221	More sidewalks in Town Center; slow down traffic; make more bike friendly	2/15/2024 10:41 PM
222	People going slow	2/15/2024 10:22 PM
223	Safer bike routes. Bike path like in Stowe Vermont. Connecting existing bike trails.	2/15/2024 10:21 PM
224	Nothing	2/15/2024 9:05 PM

Q23 In general, are you satisfied with Rye’s existing municipal facilities and services? Facilities including town-owned buildings and sites such as the library, town offices, athletic fields, etc. Services include those services provided by the town, including waste management, public safety, sewer, parks and recreation programming, etc.

Answered: 250 Skipped: 70



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.60%	114
No	16.80%	42
Somewhat	34.40%	86
Unsure	3.20%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>250</b>

## Q24 Are there specific municipal facilities or services that you think need improvement in the coming years? If so, what kinds of improvements?

Answered: 164 Skipped: 156

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I'd love to see more beautification to the exterior of the recycling center. The flowers look great but could we do a bit more further up the road in both directions? The original town hall could also use some more work	3/15/2024 1:49 PM
2	Stop expanding and hiring more employees	3/15/2024 1:38 PM
3	Too many buildings! We only need one town hall. Stop growing the town government.	3/15/2024 12:58 PM
4	Cell service.	3/15/2024 10:17 AM
5	Town Hall needs upgrade but keeping historic character.	3/15/2024 7:54 AM
6	A COMMUNITY CENTER! The Rec Commission could operate out of it and the town could dump the trailers that are eye sores.	3/14/2024 8:36 PM
7	The recreation department shouldn't be working out of trailers. A community center could go well there. The library should be able to go ahead with making the library green more user friendly for community gatherings.	3/14/2024 8:34 PM
8	Upgrade rec facilities, dpw buildings and move the fuel island off our aquifer	3/14/2024 7:51 PM
9	Needed improvements have been identified - it is critical to properly plan for such improvements as to scope and cost(s).	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
10	Building permit process and requirements should be better defined.	3/14/2024 7:01 PM
11	We need an actual recreation center.	3/14/2024 6:10 PM
12	Water treatment is vital. We can not risk unsafe drinking water.	3/14/2024 5:50 PM
13	Sewer	3/14/2024 5:35 PM
14	Barrels, as appropriate, at beaches for trash, recycle & dog waste	3/14/2024 4:31 PM
15	Recreation fields and new building are required	3/14/2024 3:51 PM
16	Personnel have been polite and helpful especially Library, Police & Fire, Building Dept. Town is not keeping up the trees. first they are very difficult to find on the website. I tried to find the green trail that was prepped to start at an area behind the cemetery (I apologize I dont have my trail file handy), there are no begin that I could see. The trail was not maintained or marked at all.	3/14/2024 2:40 PM
17	The historic town hall should be renovated and incorporate something for the community. The 2nd floor used to be used for community purposes for kids after school, etc.	3/14/2024 2:34 PM
18	Rec building and sidewalks, sell old town hall to be redeveloped as mixed use.	3/14/2024 2:21 PM
19	We don't need 2 town halls and separate rec buildings! The size of this town does not warrant them.	3/14/2024 1:49 PM
20	Town Hall, Rye Rec Center	3/13/2024 7:52 PM
21	Recycling center and dump easily becomes congested.	3/13/2024 3:43 PM
22	Library (town owned? - town facility -) I question "town facility" and mostly how the town "take care" of their properties an the church (Rye Congregational) with clean up, trash removal. Most people feel and then re-buy. Not Rye! Rye Trades!? What happened was a bull dover in the middle of Rye destroying a number of structure, resulting in the "library conflict" and no morphing into a re structuring of land now being label "town center" and costing some	3/13/2024 2:51 PM

%160,000 at the same time as "town annex" was TRADED - another Town Administration Real Estate. mis-accountability!? Library: before COVID hosted a number of activities that one community usually found at a "community center" "senior center" "youth center", and used for various community meetings and socializing. these educational meetings seems to come from the group "FRIENDS" senior knitting, art, yoga, movies (popcorn) plus many other senior activities and some youth - disappeared! local coffers and various activities "went to unfriendly" the quiet library milieu or social surrounding became too noisy. various activities disappeared - now the senior group and youth group are clumped together at the Rye Congregational church, Rye Rec field. The Rye Rec is also a separated segment for youth. The Rye Rec is a modular temporary structure with an "out-house" that has existed for some 20 years - as I had my grandson enrolled there for summer activities. more and more seniors have existed to Portsmouth Senior Center - also participate in the Rockingham Senior Programs available to seniors - using the State of NH federal funds available to all seniors. Senior's have available a number of funded activities - see enclosed in packet concerning the "Rye Senior Community", Rye Senior Center, Rye Rec Building. The Library is NOT the Town Hall The Library is NOT a Senior Center The Library is NOT a Youth Center Odiorne State Park Public Recreation Area and remains of World War II Fort Dearborn science center. Odiorne Point State Park

23	The working conditions of town employees in the TEMPORARY TRAILERS at Rye Rec and our inability to agree to fix our beautiful town hall is shameful. We're spending almost a million to fix a bridge and we weren't willing to spend about that much on the Town Hall. I would never work in either of those buildings and I can't believe we expect town employees to do it.	3/13/2024 12:04 PM
24	Planning and Zoning. Recreation does a great job but we lack an indoor public facility and outdoor courts. The Transfer Station works well but along with the DPW truck facilities is a hazard to water supplies given its location and lack of treatment of runoff	3/13/2024 11:10 AM
25	none	3/13/2024 10:44 AM
26	Library, playgrounds. We need more public spacez	3/13/2024 6:31 AM
27	Athletic fields are lacking	3/12/2024 8:54 PM
28	I would like to see the town hall put to better use.	3/12/2024 8:49 PM
29	Hold property owners responsible for failed septic systems.	3/12/2024 8:23 PM
30	Water and wastewater. Roads and culverts.	3/12/2024 7:21 AM
31	Most of the services are terrific, but Rye is the only town without public tennis courts and pickleball courts. These activities would benefit all ages.	3/11/2024 10:52 PM
32	Reliable future proof water source and treatment facilities Designated bike lanes Five person selectman board	3/11/2024 6:53 PM
33	For such a small Town, the municipal offices seem very disjointed, a hodgepodge of locations and not thought threw well, perhaps a reflection of a dysfunctional leadership, and another reason influence groups have developed with the Town.	3/11/2024 4:52 PM
34	Energy efficiency	3/11/2024 4:50 PM
35	The recycle center accepting more plastics for recycling would be great.	3/11/2024 4:11 PM
36	Building department needs to create a better management system to handle code enforcement. Public water needs to be managed for sustainable, healthy drinking water.	3/11/2024 11:36 AM
37	Stop selling town-owned buildings to line the pockets of a privileged few.	3/11/2024 10:17 AM
38	The dump hours suck if you actually have a job and a weekend commitment that falls on a Saturday. Best of luck trying to throw out your trash the next weekend! And sewers in Parsons Creek would be nice so our kids are swimming in poop water all summer at Pirates Cove.	3/10/2024 11:20 PM
39	Well, the town hall saga didn't end well, but that is something still requiring solution.	3/10/2024 6:05 PM
40	The Rye Public Library has been, for good reason, discussing expansion for several years now. The pandemic disrupted that by way the massive increase in construction costs that followed. Trying to build anything in the way of municipal facilities will be a huge challenge going forward. It would be a good idea for the town to look at ALL its facilities and engage in a strategic planning effort to look at when and how we should be anticipating their renovation	3/10/2024 5:04 PM

## Rye 2035

and/or expansion...and present that to the public so no one is surprised when a warrant article appears to do something significant to one of those assets.

41	Rye Rec Dept needs new building with inside bathrooms! Rye needs a large meeting room - downstairs library is too small for large group	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
42	The rec fields	3/10/2024 4:47 PM
43	Rye Rec Library Common both under developed/utilized assets not used/planned/enhanced. library common/gathering placers the town in the town center	3/10/2024 4:39 PM
44	Rye Transfer Station is a gem! we can make it even better by insisting our waste that cannot otherwise be recycle or composted go to a water to energy plant.	3/10/2024 4:33 PM
45	RPL Rye Rec. (that I know of)	3/10/2024 4:24 PM
46	athletic fields: add another softball field Rye Recreation building and bathroom update fields at Rye Recreation flood easily with rains outdoor structures would be nice to protect spectators from the elements at the fields sewer lines throughout Rye? need to be able to recycle all plastics. we're heavily restricted here.	3/10/2024 4:17 PM
47	add pickle ball courts at Rye Rec dont expand the library. Large building = larger maintenance and utility cost entire country should rethink the future of large libraries. Town provided weekly music in summer, North Hampton Band stand music on Thurs Night. Rye can start with 2 concerts a month in June, July, and August. At Parsons Field or library. Residents bring a picnic, kids run around kicking a ball = develops community.	3/10/2024 4:07 PM
48	need to update the drinking water treatment facility to address water quality and PFAs issues.	3/10/2024 3:43 PM
49	town offices are a little outdated - town hall updates	3/10/2024 3:36 PM
50	Rye doesn't take care of its buildings. Non-qualified people make decisions about building and renovating buildings. The new town annex is a great example. The safety building is another example.	3/10/2024 12:09 PM
51	1) Use the huge space above the apparatus bay. We paid \$40K. Move the current second floor rooms above the apparatus bay and reconfigure building for public access. Open up the conference room in the basement. 2) Build a new K-8 School at the Transfer Station, move the Transfer Station to the RES property. Figure out what to do with RES building and space - Maybe that becomes "Recreation Center" 3) Utilize Town Hall second floor for "Community" once those people are moved to Safety Building.	3/10/2024 10:04 AM
52	The beaches walls should not be of small rocks. We should improve that and repair and make the walls more resilient during storms.	3/10/2024 9:15 AM
53	Library - Great, out best community center. Town Offices - A mess. Keep the building and renovate to keep the historic charm. Athletic Fields - good. Recreation Programming - good Recreation Building - does not exist. There should be something better for a town like Rye.	3/9/2024 10:21 PM
54	Transparent water quality reports	3/9/2024 8:45 PM
55	I would like to see a larger initiative taken toward recycling of some items and also major improvements in the Swap Shop building. It is a great source and the structure needs a lot of work. I realize that the DPW staff don't like to bother with it, but it seems to be working well now. I would like to see more library programs and more local presenters.	3/9/2024 5:59 PM
56	The library needs a major renovation with a nicer more welcoming main entrance off the parking lot and a nice light filled meeting room off the back. Town needs to ensure that waste/septic is being disposed of properly near wetlands. Is it time for a sewer system in more parts of town — not just Rye Beach?? Need better parks and recs program for adults. Why do we have to go to Hampton or Portsmouth to play pickleball on town property?	3/9/2024 2:08 PM
57	Town hall needs work, expanded fields and trails for recreation	3/9/2024 1:59 PM
58	Improved water quality and taste (it used to be great). Town waste pick up and recycling.	3/9/2024 1:33 PM
59	No	3/9/2024 12:06 PM
60	I don't know about our recycling program - staff can be tough and our rules are incomprehensible.	3/9/2024 12:06 PM

## Rye 2035

61	Not sure if this would be considered a service, but some of the roads in town are in desperate need of being repaved, especially South road between Central and the town line.	3/9/2024 10:17 AM
62	drinking water safety	3/8/2024 10:38 AM
63	I agree that the municipal buildings identified in the poster need upgrading, we definitely need better cell phone coverage.	3/8/2024 10:15 AM
64	a dream would be if Rye could have its own hazardous waste collection, with time sign up, and even if a fee that would be fine with me.	3/8/2024 10:07 AM
65	Too much to list--need a strategy that is energy and environmental forward, rid of salt, limit wasteful spending, sharing of resources ie town plowers, trucks, a pathway to support conservation efforts at all costs, better management/oversight of Rye's unlined landfills--Grove and Breakfast Hill, followup with Coakley Landfill Group and HB 494; comraderie for Rye's municipal volunteers	3/7/2024 11:51 PM
66	Infor rec facity with pickleball/basketball/ rooms for classes duch as yoga, strength training etc.	3/7/2024 11:18 PM
67	Swap shop hours could be extended to encourage more use. potential to recycle more plastics?	3/7/2024 10:45 PM
68	Safety building needs updates.	3/7/2024 10:14 PM
69	Town Hall	3/7/2024 6:42 PM
70	Paving is a major area of improvement. South Road from Rt 1 to central is terrible.	3/7/2024 8:42 AM
71	Recreation buildings: the building by baseball/softball fields was supposed to be temporary; we'd be better served in building a pretty building that reflects our town. The town hall is beautiful but probably should be rebuilt. Library is great.	3/6/2024 7:06 PM
72	Ongoing preservation and restoration of the Town Hall building.	3/6/2024 3:04 PM
73	The Rye Recreation area needs an upgrade to make it flow better for the sports and passive recreation participants. Those improvements are in the works with a new Master Plan.	3/6/2024 2:55 PM
74	No.	3/6/2024 2:28 PM
75	The library consistently smells like oil/exhaust and it is off-putting to people. It raises a lot of concerns. The heating system is definitely not environment-friendly. We should look at a new HVAC system that supports our desire to stop harming the environment.	3/6/2024 1:43 PM
76	Not really	3/6/2024 1:40 PM
77	Town Hall Neds interior restored (both levels) and made much more functional and voters need to find this!	3/6/2024 12:57 PM
78	please help to maintain the Rye transfer station and all of the recycling that occurs there. it is presently an excellent facility and its very busy.	3/6/2024 12:47 PM
79	restore town hall and create permanent office space for 2nd floor temp space.	3/6/2024 12:28 PM
80	public meeting space needs to be improved and have more comfortable seating	3/6/2024 12:16 PM
81	Maintenance, painting are vinyl siding would help the town hall. The dump will need attention for sure	3/6/2024 11:44 AM
82	town center improvements would enhance community gather opportunities and refine opportunities for library, RHS, AM, RTC, etc. to cooperate on activities	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
83	The Rye rec facilities need to be rebuilt/torn down	3/6/2024 11:18 AM
84	Curbside trash pickup should considered; it could even be fee or subsidy driven considering the town's older population. Any costs might be offset by less need of the transfer station.	3/6/2024 11:05 AM
85	The town has spent more time in money, preparing to build a structure rather than actually building the structure. Better advice may be given from an outside third-party.	3/6/2024 9:51 AM
86	None	3/6/2024 6:03 AM



Rye 2035

87	Senior services	3/6/2024 5:56 AM
88	Not that I can think of	3/5/2024 7:02 PM
89	Water system and town sewerage	3/5/2024 5:09 PM
90	waste management: should think of greater opportunity in recycling on reuse (trash to energy) athletic fields/other rec facilities not developed to encourage general public use.	3/5/2024 5:03 PM
91	Rye Water	3/5/2024 4:57 PM
92	we need sewers for Parsons Creek water district. more recreation for children (pump track, places to play)	3/5/2024 4:47 PM
93	recreation complex needs improvement/expansion	3/5/2024 4:39 PM
94	Water	3/4/2024 6:22 PM
95	Water treatment for RWD	3/4/2024 3:56 PM
96	Maybe a dog park like in Portsmouth. . Keep them off the beaches	3/4/2024 11:11 AM
97	Playgrounds, athletic fields	3/3/2024 9:42 PM
98	Water quality and ,onitoring.cracking down on all those who do not have proper sewer systems ar cleaning schedules a l g Stinky Creek. That has been going on for soooo long and the town does nothing!	3/3/2024 7:24 PM
99	Dump needs a better traffic pattern. It has not changed in years despite increased population.	3/3/2024 5:52 PM
100	Recreation needs to be updated	3/3/2024 5:46 PM
101	Provide financial resources to complete Town Hall restoration	3/3/2024 5:07 PM
102	Paving of roads was suspended during COVID. It needs to be a priority. They are dangerous for walking and biking.	3/3/2024 10:48 AM
103	The current town hall should be closed and used as the town museum with meetings, concerts and community plays held upstairs. The annex town hall should be expanded on to accommodate all the town offices and be the official town hall. It has better access for all ages. The fire station's area above the trucks should be finished off and made secured from truck exhaust. That way the space could be used for multiple functions. Not just wasted space.	3/2/2024 3:12 PM
104	Rec fields	3/2/2024 9:31 AM
105	Waste management, water treatment, create a town center	3/2/2024 8:20 AM
106	Build an indoor outdoor pool.	3/1/2024 1:07 PM
107	Unknown.	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
108	See comments on sewer system. We continue to ignore the pollution in the Parson Creek watershed. High water means compromised waste water systems	2/29/2024 5:19 PM
109	Town Hall - needs an elevator.	2/29/2024 9:02 AM
110	consideration for town trash collection. Facilites at the Rye Recreation could be improved with an enclosed space for pickle ball, possibly tennis court, better bathrooms facilities	2/26/2024 11:52 AM
111	Really excited about plans for the library pavilion and expanding Rye Recreation's facilities. Is there more we could be doing with Parsons Field?	2/26/2024 7:39 AM
112	Water system. Sewer needed	2/25/2024 7:26 AM
113	Need upgraded water system and town sewer. The ecoli problem last year will only get worse.	2/23/2024 3:40 PM
114	Water quality is in crisis	2/23/2024 7:45 AM
115	Town wide sewers to improve water quality. Road repaving.	2/22/2024 7:31 PM
116	Would have preferred to build a new town hall where the existing one is with the same historic look. The annex looks cheap. The library common should be developed as a useable space.	2/22/2024 5:57 PM

## Rye 2035

Any additions to the library are welcome. They do a great job with programs for youth and are becoming an attraction. We absolutely should have town sewer. Too hard to police old septic systems and they are a hazard. The recycling center needs an uplift - looks awful and has become so loud.

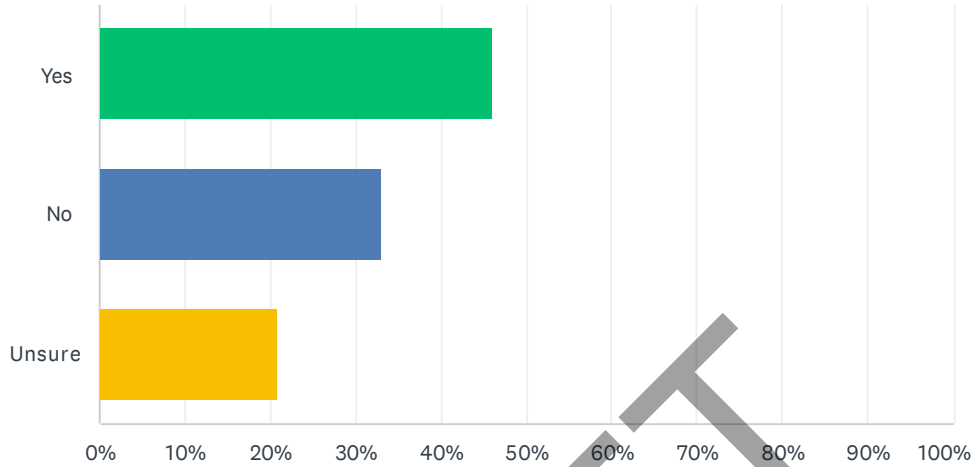
117	Rec Complex need to be improved. Jr High needs a new basketball court.	2/22/2024 4:31 PM
118	the town hall mess is an embarrassment. get out of the bank and adjust the existing building as needed. library is great. rye rec is useless. facilities at rye rec are terrible. the rye rec part of our town 'business' needs a complete overhaul.	2/22/2024 3:49 PM
119	None other than sell the white elephant (Goss Barn) which has become a very expensive outhouse for the birds	2/22/2024 1:23 PM
120	In a town that has grown approximately 15% over the last 30 years why have we added a separate town hall annex? Why do we need another library expansion. I support the rec but with student enrollment back to 1990 levels why are we expanding fields?	2/22/2024 9:08 AM
121	The Public Safety Builfing HVAC equipment needs to be replaced with heat pumps and solar panels installed on its roof.	2/22/2024 7:34 AM
122	The Transfer Station is a costly operation. Implementing Pay As You Throw would help reduce waste and cost along with generating revenues. The site sits on top of the Aquifer. The Town Hall Annex has been a "fiasco" and not a building to be proud of "architecturally." Proposal(s) for expansion just demonstrate that it was poorly planned and has been poorly accounted for in terms of total dollar amount. The Library is doing a GREAT JOB in terms of planning. Sewer department is very good and in terms of planning for the futures to protect structures (pump out stations). The brush dump is coming to an end despite good efforts from DPW. Transfer station: better regulations are needed, more fees are required, and control of invasive species.	2/21/2024 7:17 PM
123	Rye has a deplorable history of maintaining its buildings. It took YEARS to replace the salt shed, despite leaching into groundwater. It was a poor decision to purchase the bank and funnel money into a poorly designed build-out ... and then cite lack of funds for the nominal exterior upgrades such as landscaping, signage, removal of bank lighting on drive through. What is happening with the old town hall??	2/21/2024 6:35 PM
124	no Happy they ar efinally using the TD bank building for town offices	2/20/2024 9:24 PM
125	Public Works is the oldest facility in our town. It definitely is in need of some help.	2/20/2024 11:28 AM
126	Would be nice for all of Rye to have side walks	2/20/2024 9:39 AM
127	Sewer system would be great but too expensive The water issue needs to be addressed Rye Rec needs no improvements currently	2/19/2024 3:34 PM
128	athletic facilities, recreation programming and staff	2/19/2024 3:21 PM
129	Our original Town Hall needs to be restored to its original splendor.	2/19/2024 2:59 PM
130	Library and town offices are good. Recreation due for upgrade. School buildings need update. Need space for youth/elder programming and town meetings.	2/19/2024 12:22 PM
131	Town ball and schools need work.	2/19/2024 9:59 AM
132	Schools, library and rec center badly need investment and reinvestment. It's been decades and donors/residents are upset the town is not helping with tax dollars to improve upon these great institutions.	2/19/2024 8:44 AM
133	The town has not been able to get a lot done as it has divided and not able to agree to disagree & move forward with making the town a better place for all of its residents. It is laughable that drinking water, polluted beaches, no town sewer & a decrepit building is where the majority of our town employees work are some of our issues.	2/18/2024 9:26 PM
134	Proud of the Transfer station. We recycle what can really be recycled and our composting with Fox and our own town is amazing.	2/18/2024 8:37 PM
135	Snow plowing	2/18/2024 7:19 PM
136	The water department desperately needs improvement.	2/17/2024 10:09 PM
137	Rye water	2/17/2024 8:42 PM

Rye 2035

138	Protect our quality of water. I am worried about drinking it and it tastes like chlorine now. We do not need many services. We do not need additions.	2/17/2024 7:25 PM
139	Transfer Station should be streamlined.	2/17/2024 6:47 PM
140	This town deserves a more modern and larger library.	2/17/2024 4:56 PM
141	water cleanliness. Hate that chlorine smell!!!	2/17/2024 3:10 PM
142	Yes. Rye recreation follow through on master plan. The library adding the gazebo and follow through with the master plan.	2/17/2024 11:37 AM
143	Recycling center and Public Works area A plan for the long term use of the Town Hall is needed along with a plan for the building and a budget to pay for it.	2/17/2024 10:48 AM
144	Traffic at the transfer station is bad. A solution would be to have the center lane as pass through only, not parking. Traffic would not back up outside facility.	2/17/2024 8:10 AM
145	Stop blaming the water problems on dogs, it's people with septic systems that have been in place forever that are the reason.	2/17/2024 7:57 AM
146	Incredible disappointing that there are barely any service that can be accessed through drive through at town offices, which is what was promised.	2/16/2024 8:04 PM
147	The library is due for an expansion.	2/16/2024 5:40 PM
148	Need a better/larger/more comfortable meeting space in town hall, water treatment is an issue, sewer throughout will need to come at some point.	2/16/2024 3:59 PM
149	Can't wait for the completion of the town green in front of the library! The rec center needs improvement. An indoor gym / basketball court, a softball field.	2/16/2024 2:05 PM
150	They never should have split the Town Hall Staff into two buildings. In 2011 a perfect plan in place to expand the Town Hall to accommodate all staff and the Selectmen let the public shut it down due to opinions. One building for Staff to work efficiently together.	2/16/2024 12:54 PM
151	No	2/16/2024 11:34 AM
152	Town hall restoration	2/16/2024 11:21 AM
153	There are ample municipal facilities, they need to be utilized more efficiently. School population is way down, areas of both buildings could be used by other town groups.	2/16/2024 11:04 AM
154	Town Hall, Rec Bldg	2/16/2024 10:28 AM
155	Not remodeling the town hall. We need office space. I suggest buying back the former town highway building, tear down and make the current town hall a museum.	2/16/2024 9:25 AM
156	Something needs to be done with the old police station. It's such an eyesore. (Although I believe it is now privately owned?)	2/16/2024 8:22 AM
157	Town hall is not a welcoming meeting space. We needed a new town hall	2/16/2024 8:07 AM
158	I think dpw funds to help mitigate water and enhance road levels near marshes. If not for private citizen activity many wetland area roads would be flooded several times a year.	2/16/2024 8:06 AM
159	More recreational programs for adults	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
160	lacking transparency, lacking contacts, lacking commitment for police to meet written required standard of conduct, poor oversight of rye drinking water	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
161	Athletic fields. Need an athletic building and better field maintenance.	2/15/2024 11:08 PM
162	Better use of open space in Town Center; renovations to Old Town Hall (rather than further additions to the Annex); at some point sewer/water treatment	2/15/2024 10:46 PM
163	Rec center building improvement. Rec department also seem behind in the tech world.	2/15/2024 10:23 PM
164	Water quality! The town dump needs to be updated to at least the 19th century	2/15/2024 9:06 PM

### Q25 In your opinion, are there existing parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities that need additional attention from the town?

Answered: 239 Skipped: 81



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.03%	110
No	33.05%	79
Unsure	20.92%	50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>239</b>

DRAFT

## Q26 If yes, what needs to be addressed, and what improvements would you suggest?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 201

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Need to better maintain what we have, rather than adding more property.	3/15/2024 9:28 PM
2	The recreational facility needs improvement.	3/15/2024 1:49 PM
3	None	3/15/2024 1:38 PM
4	Goss farm could be made more useful. Parking, trails?	3/15/2024 10:17 AM
5	tennis courts. more protected land.	3/15/2024 7:54 AM
6	Seasonal clearing of dead wood from conservation land and trails.	3/14/2024 8:36 PM
7	The Recreation woods could use some clearing of dead wood.	3/14/2024 8:34 PM
8	Upgrade library common, put a rec facility on outer marker site, put access/parking on junkens conservation area, Ada lav facilities at a couple beaches	3/14/2024 7:51 PM
9	See Recreation Department needs - playing fields and racquet courts are worthwhile community enhancements.	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
10	We have outdated buildings at the rec and recycling center.	3/14/2024 6:10 PM
11	I (and many others I have spoken to) feel like more could be done to make the beach experience more people/dog friendly. While there are always going to 'bad actors' (those that don't pick up after their dogs or that let them be unruly) the vast majority of those on the beach are being very responsible and yet there is such an outcry (by some) for more restrictions. A simple solution might be to assign someone to the beach during busy times to monitor the activity...ticketing those who are not following the rules. My feeling is a steep fine (\$100+?) may help educate those that do not follow the rules, while leaving the rest not to take the blame, but rather enjoy their time playing appropriately. (If you were to ticket 5+ people a week, not only would the word get out quickly, but it would more than pay for the person hired to enforce the rules.) Just a thought....We love dogs, and although we don't have one, thoroughly enjoy watching how much they love being there.	3/14/2024 5:47 PM
12	They need to be cleaned up	3/14/2024 5:35 PM
13	as stated above	3/14/2024 3:51 PM
14	better recreation offerings in the winter.	3/14/2024 3:33 PM
15	Rye has beautiful spot but they are not and it doesn't see as if anyone cares or anyone takes care of them. I have timed some small cemeteries but there are no enforcement on who they belong to to their history center of town doesn't even have a welcome sign. Hampton Beach does a lot better	3/14/2024 2:40 PM
16	When I grew up here in the 90's, the rec fields were less developed (advanced) and we had more kids in town using the spaces. I think with less children in town now and the advanced state of the facilities and parks is fine for a while.	3/14/2024 2:34 PM
17	Gym, outdoor courts and new bathrooms at rye rec	3/14/2024 2:21 PM
18	More trail maintenance.	3/13/2024 7:52 PM
19	This is a State Park - 570 Ocean Boulevard Rye, NH (03870 2104) 603-436-8043 child 5 and under = 0 6-11 = \$2 carry-in, carry-out program Open spaces = beaches lifeguards walking tails I do not know who is responsible for this "Town Center" idea in Question 4 Municipal Operations. The town of Rye needs to seek the advise of a city/town planner and a town manager as you have suggested. structural organization. I had a wooden gazebo, cupola that	3/13/2024 2:51 PM

## Rye 2035

did not survive Rye's seacoast as it turned to ROT. fell apart - A roof top such as the "cupola-gazebo" needs to be made of premium #1 grade pressure treated lumber - not paint. granted it looks nice but it is too old and fragile to leaks. other building material should be a vinyl cupola - put on a cedar, or a metal roof or galvanized steel. some roof and topping that withhold the Rye weather elements. I voted NO - to shrubs, trees, or any Town Center that is not useable! hire an architect -

20	A public bathroom at Rye Rec. It's absurd that we host hundreds of people there every weekend in the spring, summer, and fall without one.	3/13/2024 12:04 PM
21	Trails. I had a bad experience trying to find the Green trail.	3/13/2024 11:18 AM
22	Rye needs a public indoor recreation facility and outdoor courts. More pedestrian and bike friendly no cars trails or paths, Transfer Station and DPW location is not sustainable and a hazard to water supplies given its location.	3/13/2024 11:10 AM
23	none	3/13/2024 10:44 AM
24	Bring the athletic fields in line with surrounding towns.	3/12/2024 8:54 PM
25	I know that Rye Rec has it's own master plan because it is in need of attention.	3/12/2024 8:49 PM
26	Softball field.	3/12/2024 8:23 PM
27	This is an on-going process in any town. These are not stagnant areas that can be left unattended.	3/12/2024 4:43 PM
28	We need real recreation facilities. Rye is severely lacking compared to neighboring towns.	3/12/2024 7:21 AM
29	Tennis courts and pickle ball courts	3/11/2024 10:52 PM
30	as stated earlier, would like to see the library common area left open and utilize Parson's Field for town activities more	3/11/2024 7:29 PM
31	I would enlist community help groups with younger family's or within the school to volunteer more with outside activities.	3/11/2024 4:52 PM
32	Parsons field should be used more.....ice skating area, concerts, movies....	3/11/2024 4:11 PM
33	We need an indoor town center Tennis courts Softball field	3/11/2024 2:27 PM
34	trails, sidewalks, connectivity to town amenities	3/11/2024 11:36 AM
35	The dirt road to Parsons field needs to be gravel, not dirt.	3/10/2024 11:20 PM
36	Rye Rec could be so much more than it is now. The effort to do a master plan and to seek to develop both programmable spaces and better work spaces for the department is a worthy one. There are limits to the space available at Rye Rec - conservation lands, wet areas, residents concerned about noise, traffic, parking. It will be another test of Rye's ability to plan, lead, fund something more than fire trucks and police cruisers.	3/10/2024 5:04 PM
37	Rye Rec needs permanent buildings	3/10/2024 4:54 PM
38	Fields need better maintenance and facilities.	3/10/2024 4:47 PM
39	see above	3/10/2024 4:39 PM
40	protect the marshes protect the town forest protect the open fields protect the beaches	3/10/2024 4:33 PM
41	Rye Rec Building! - indoor courts, bathrooms, offices Fields - tennis courts, pickle ball courts	3/10/2024 4:24 PM
42	Parson Field - large wasted area. Hardly used. 3 dog walkers a July 4th a Rye Lions Car show, which is awesome! Beaches - allow more parking or RT 1A for public beach access.	3/10/2024 4:07 PM
43	GET ON THE SAME PAGE. Recreation, Library, Schools and Town need to be working "jointly" on needs, planning and delivery. Think about restructuring how this all works?	3/10/2024 10:04 AM
44	A Rye Community Center.	3/9/2024 10:21 PM
45	Equal fields for all of ryes athletes	3/9/2024 8:45 PM
46	I would like to see a dog park be installed, and have key fobs for purchase, so only Rye residents could gain entry. I don't want the rules regarding dogs on the beach to be changed,	3/9/2024 5:59 PM

## Rye 2035

however. This would give dogs a place to run freely and it encourages people, especially older adults to congregate and socialize.

47	See above	3/9/2024 2:08 PM
48	Trail network, more recreation fields	3/9/2024 1:59 PM
49	the dog waste in the town trails prevents its use for various activities. Dogs need to be on a leash and waste pick up needs to be enforced.	3/9/2024 1:33 PM
50	The conserved land should be better advertised and made easier for locals to use and hike.	3/9/2024 12:06 PM
51	I guess it is just mud season but the road to the town forest/parsons field is a hot mess. ;)	3/9/2024 12:06 PM
52	We need an indoor facility for sports at rye rec	3/8/2024 6:19 AM
53	enforcement of leash law, dog waste at beaches and adherence to the rules, addressing bacteria Parson Creek, addressing Berry Brook contamination by f/u with Coakley Landfill Group/NHDES and HB494	3/7/2024 11:51 PM
54	See snsrrr in quesyon 24	3/7/2024 11:18 PM
55	The berms on some of the beaches need to be made stronger and more user friendly. The beaches need better sand maintenance. There should not be garbage cans on the beach parking lots. It should be carry in / carry out mandatory with heavy fines for polluting or leaving garbage around.	3/7/2024 10:22 PM
56	Why can't the Parson's field have a better stage/ grandstand??? That is an IDEAL meeting/gathering space rather than the tiny library space. It's asinine that we can't fix that up and utilize it.	3/7/2024 8:36 PM
57	Play ground improvment - better use of rec facility. Bike racks at town beaches	3/7/2024 6:42 PM
58	Personnel to clean up town owned lands	3/7/2024 12:12 PM
59	See answer above....the improvements are in phase 1 right now for the facilities.	3/6/2024 2:55 PM
60	Parks and trails need to be more accessible and better maintained. Brush and trees in certain areas should be cleared, and lighting installed to make the parks safe to use during the shorter days. Trails need to be maintained to have a passing width, and be cleared of leaves and roots.	3/6/2024 2:28 PM
61	none	3/6/2024 12:47 PM
62	residential beaches could be more handicap accessible. easier access to Foss Beach	3/6/2024 12:16 PM
63	Library Common - more opportunity with library common	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
64	The sports fields need improvements. the softball teams have 1 field to use while the baseball team has several more. the Rye Little League and softball org have to pit in lots of their own funds for improvements.	3/6/2024 11:18 AM
65	Some type of forest management should considered to remove debris and improve the health of the forested areas.	3/6/2024 11:05 AM
66	Keep it small, simple and functional. Yes, a ballfield Pickleball and tennis would be nice additions. The trailer and Rec building,bathrooms should be replaced, keeping it in the same location.	3/6/2024 9:51 AM
67	Have one are in town where seniors can walk free of unleashed dogs.	3/6/2024 5:56 AM
68	Hefty fines for littering and local, organized clean ups. The storms this winter regurgitated trash from the ocean that made me heart sick.	3/5/2024 5:18 PM
69	Library common should be addressed	3/5/2024 5:09 PM
70	new basketball court indoor or outdoor pickle ball courts	3/5/2024 5:03 PM
71	more rec facilities for children, pump track, splash pad, etc.	3/5/2024 4:47 PM
72	overhaul of rec complex. better facilities for staff indoor basketball option (or just weekend staffing at RJH?), tennis courts (probably pickle ball too?)	3/5/2024 4:39 PM

## Rye 2035

73	The Parsons Field restriction on permanent structure should be examined to see if benches could be used along the edges for moms to sit on when watching kids	3/5/2024 4:35 PM
74	Library green is an embarrassment and could easily be beautified. A couple beautiful benches and flowering shrubs	3/4/2024 6:22 PM
75	Dog park	3/4/2024 11:11 AM
76	Rye rec playground broken pieces,	3/3/2024 9:42 PM
77	The parks need to allow dogs and stop paying an animal control officer to sit in a car waste of money	3/3/2024 9:04 PM
78	That diapatated stage in Parsons Field should be removed. It has become a permanent structure which goes against what Esther Parsons wanted when she donated the land.	3/3/2024 7:24 PM
79	Trailing improvement, parking lot improvements and trail heads, walking bridges in wetlands/wet areas.	3/3/2024 5:46 PM
80	Construct tennis courts for Town use	3/3/2024 5:07 PM
81	The town should properly maintain the little league & softball fields, create sidewalks and connected bike paths,	3/2/2024 8:20 AM
82	Parks beaches could use attention	3/1/2024 1:49 PM
83	Unknown.	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
84	New stage at Parsons Field	2/29/2024 9:02 AM
85	see above also better trail maintainance in the town forest	2/26/2024 11:52 AM
86	The library common would add a lot to the town.	2/22/2024 5:57 PM
87	Rec Center improvement	2/22/2024 4:31 PM
88	bike paths, tennis courts, basketball, pickleball, turf fields, softball fields. public bathrooms.	2/22/2024 3:49 PM
89	We have a recreation department that has grown too big for this small Town. Stop wasteful spending	2/22/2024 1:23 PM
90	The rec needs to be updated and have investment put into it, focus on the next generation of rye citizens so they want to stay and raise a family here.	2/22/2024 9:27 AM
91	Goss Farm - the barn seems to never be used for anything. why?	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
92	Rye recreation facilities need more funding, open spaces need more funding/protection against invasive species. Better education and more community organized projects. Beach cleanups are a good example of community action that could be extended to trail maintenance.	2/21/2024 7:17 PM
93	The open spaces and rec facilities seem OK; lack of maintenance doesn't show as strongly with fields.	2/21/2024 6:35 PM
94	Make Goss Farm more accessible to residents, Have more events there Keep the BIRDS out use if for humans	2/20/2024 9:24 PM
95	I would ask the rec department folks as we need to be certain in attracting more young families to our town as our back bone to the future	2/20/2024 9:39 AM
96	recreation building and fields	2/19/2024 3:21 PM
97	Our property located on Recreation Road needs to be carefully developed to allow enjoyment for all ages.	2/19/2024 2:59 PM
98	The recreation buildings were expected to be temporary. We need a community recreation building at Rec Road with enough parking to accommodate the usage.	2/19/2024 12:22 PM
99	Girls softball field needs more work	2/19/2024 9:59 AM
100	We have zero good town playgrounds. The new playground going into Rye Elementary had to be through mostly donations. Those people are now upset as the town didnt help. Why do we not have a playground near the beach? Benches for reading near the beach? Why do we not have a rec center/multipurpose room? Our schools need a lot of work as well. The town hall is	2/19/2024 8:44 AM



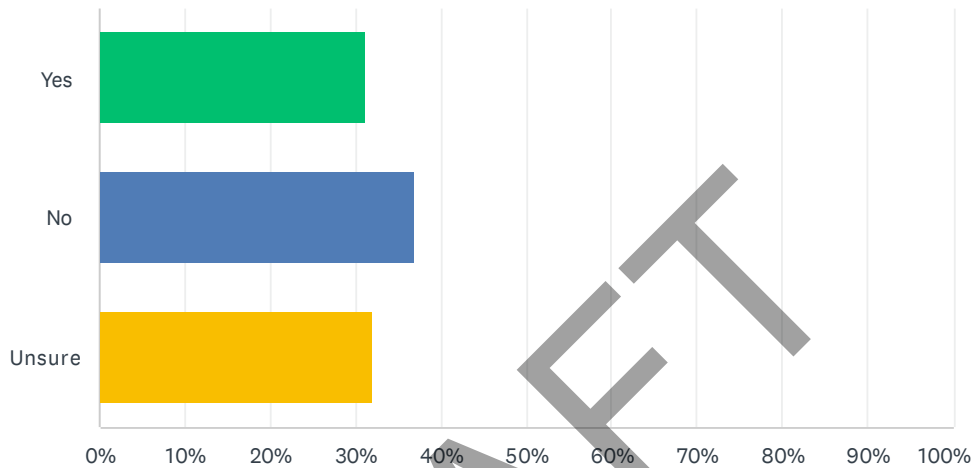
## Rye 2035

literally falling part. Time for a quality CIP to address all these. Can't do any of this if leaders aren't willing to invest.

101	Volunteers will take care of it or its not important to the town.	2/18/2024 8:37 PM
102	Main park ( where fireworks are displayed) could use work. Maybe addition of staging area to be used for various town events and gathering	2/18/2024 11:18 AM
103	I like that I need to bring my own trash to the recycling center.	2/17/2024 7:25 PM
104	More kids rec options	2/17/2024 5:48 PM
105	Library common needs to be completed so as to reflect the caliber of Rye's residents. Town Hall needs renovation.	2/17/2024 3:21 PM
106	Parsons field maintains the road throughout the year.	2/17/2024 11:37 AM
107	The yard care at the safety building could be much better; it looks neglected each summer. Weeds, need for fertilizer and lawn care, pruning of shrubs.	2/16/2024 8:04 PM
108	The library common.	2/16/2024 5:40 PM
109	Be great if we had pickleball and/or tennis courts for public use- would help bring active adults together. Maybe a simple ice rink in winter. Pirate's Cove beach needs better, cleaner and accessible restroom facilities, trash too, perhaps year round.	2/16/2024 3:59 PM
110	parsons field needs to be more inviting with additional trees and such for events	2/16/2024 2:44 PM
111	See above.	2/16/2024 2:05 PM
112	As a growing town, the needs grow. The Recreation Commission is trying with a master plan to accommodate for those and all effort should be given to support them.	2/16/2024 12:54 PM
113	Dog vs non dog owners has become very hostile. In particular beach areas, most dogs are great and there are responsible dog owners however, I think it would help if there was enforcement of current rules/laws without restricting access to them. There are many from out of town who come to use these areas, which is wonderful, however, some more monitoring of this would maybe help cool tempers.	2/16/2024 11:12 AM
114	Provide maps of conservation land with trails so public can use.	2/16/2024 11:04 AM
115	I would someday love to see a rec bldg that provides opportunity to all ages from kids to elderly. Basketball court, indoor walking track, gym, etc.	2/16/2024 10:28 AM
116	If the rec department maintained the 'softball/tee-ball' field there would not be thousands of dollars requested in the 2024 budget.	2/16/2024 9:25 AM
117	Beaches are Rye's loveliest parts. Keep the roads, parking areas and beaches aesthetically and architecturally enhanced.	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
118	Athletic field maintenance	2/15/2024 11:08 PM
119	Create park in Town Center next to Library. Improve rec facilities.	2/15/2024 10:46 PM

Q27 Currently, Rye’s town government is managed by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator. Many town governments benefit from the added oversight and structural organization of a Town Manager. Do you feel the town of Rye would benefit from such a position? What advantages or disadvantages do you see?”

Answered: 238 Skipped: 82



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.09%	74
No	36.97%	88
Unsure	31.93%	76
TOTAL		238

## Q28 What other issues and opportunities are you aware of related to Rye's municipal buildings, properties, and services?

Answered: 121 Skipped: 199

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I think a town manager could help put together a long term plan for rye	3/15/2024 1:49 PM
2	With a Town Manager we lose voter control	3/15/2024 1:38 PM
3	We do not need a town manager.	3/15/2024 12:58 PM
4	I recently heard an argument to expand the Select Board to 5 members that seems to have merit.	3/15/2024 11:20 AM
5	Town staff may appear unhelpful or lacking skills or knowledge. We need quality staff and better understanding by townsofolk of the requirements and difficulties of the positions.	3/15/2024 10:17 AM
6	None that I can think of.	3/14/2024 8:36 PM
7	Energy efficiency, transition to less salt on roads	3/14/2024 7:51 PM
8	Regional sharing wherever possible.	3/14/2024 7:14 PM
9	Whether or not to add a Town Manager depends upon how the position is integrated into the current government organization. The Rye residents should determine the role and power of this position as compared to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. If this position is created, it should be an elected position, not an appointed position.	3/14/2024 7:01 PM
10	Regarding question 27. It is unclear to this person how the town can effectively operate in its current structure. It is very unclear who the department managers actually report to (Selectpersons or Administrator) which may have caused personnel challenges in the past? What the Town needs is a CEO (Manager) to ensure there is accountability by the Department Managers including metrics/KPIs.	3/14/2024 5:50 PM
11	Drinking water	3/14/2024 5:35 PM
12	If a town manager is hired, we need someone with experience & education in management & finance. Has to be well paid.	3/14/2024 4:31 PM
13	dont know because I would need to study the issue.	3/14/2024 2:40 PM
14	Now that the town hall annex is open, it will allow for an easier renovation of the town hall. It should be historically accurate on the outside and practical for a town building on the inside.	3/14/2024 2:34 PM
15	Build new town hall. Sell old town hall to developer	3/14/2024 2:21 PM
16	Keep it small and simple. We don't need extra positions.	3/14/2024 1:49 PM
17	???	3/13/2024 7:52 PM
18	Zoning laws are not enforced. The Planning Board does not enforce their decisions .	3/13/2024 3:43 PM
19	We should make better use of the 2 school gymnasiums. Doors should be set up so the public can access these gyms without accessing other parts of the school. We go to the Connie Bean almost every weekend to play basketball while our town gyms sit completely dark.	3/13/2024 12:04 PM
20	Not exactly related but Rye should consider a more efficient and cost efficient single elementary and middle school facility	3/13/2024 11:10 AM
21	none	3/13/2024 10:44 AM
22	More opportunities/activities for children through rye recreation. There are a ton of older adult activities but not as many that cater to children. North Hampton has a phenomenal recreation program for kids. They offer a lot!	3/13/2024 6:55 AM

## Rye 2035

23	27) If the Town Manager was not influenced by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, I think it would be good to have another perspective. 28) I don't understand why we vote on warrant articles to pay for items that could be part of a budget: DPW vehicles, Fire vehicles, PD vehicles, & Building maintenance, as examples.	3/12/2024 8:49 PM
24	The transfer station needs to be reevaluated and modernized.	3/12/2024 7:21 AM
25	Solar panels on the schools are a plus	3/11/2024 10:05 PM
26	Stronger connection to Rye's Islands Star, White, Seavey and Lunging. Ferry service, community involvement ex. Senior Center, youth programs...	3/11/2024 6:53 PM
27	none	3/11/2024 1:56 PM
28	Benefits to having a Town Manager are more oversight and accountability and most importantly, having all department supervisors working together as a team rather than in silos.	3/11/2024 11:36 AM
29	We need a water treatment plant so we're not drinking water contaminated with PFAS.	3/10/2024 11:20 PM
30	None.	3/10/2024 6:05 PM
31	This isn't a great question. What exactly is the difference between the two? What does a town manager cost vs a town administrator? What duties does one take off the SB's plate? Does the TM directly supervise the departments and their budgets, so the SB can focus on the big picture there while also having more time to address other issues?	3/10/2024 5:04 PM
32	dont know enough about the issue but... Rye is definitely in need of structural and organizational resources/combinations/planning	3/10/2024 4:39 PM
33	I am concerned that the plans of the Recreation Area are being made without consideration for the wetlands in that area. the Recreation Staff and committee can improve the Recreation facilities without negatively impacting the marsh and surrounding properties.	3/10/2024 4:33 PM
34	it it elected? if so, no. it if is a hired position, maybe?	3/10/2024 4:24 PM
35	not sure - I'd require more information. one disadvantage would be the salary, I'd imagine.	3/10/2024 4:17 PM
36	and BOS are volunteer/limited time \$\$ but as we keep increasing expenses increasing # of town employees, overhead goes up. Over the past 10 years, how many town employees have been added to payroll? footprint growing big	3/10/2024 4:07 PM
37	possibly - worth considering town manager but want to see a cost/benefit analysis to justify the hire.	3/10/2024 3:43 PM
38	not sure but definitely consider town manager better connection between resident and staff	3/10/2024 3:36 PM
39	Q27: Do your really think any residents are in a position to address this question? Terrible survey design. Master Plan has to capture what Services Rye wants, quality and what costs are acceptable. The complete Municipal Structure needs to be reworked. One example - Combine DWP, Cemetery, RWD and Sewer - why are they separate? Saying a Town Manager is needed is throwing a not well though out band-aid. Rye has to stop with these reactions and finally get smart about service requirements, delivery, technology and structure.	3/10/2024 10:04 AM
40	No	3/10/2024 9:15 AM
41	All would depend on who serves in these roles. Are they serving the community or their own self interests.	3/9/2024 10:21 PM
42	As mentioned previously, construction upgrades to the Swap Shop, and a dog park.	3/9/2024 5:59 PM
43	Enforcement of buildings with no or substandard septic systems that are occupied even on a part time basis. (ie 740 Washington Rd.)	3/9/2024 1:33 PM
44	I think we should commit to using Rye based services to study, repair, create, and build as much as possible. We sure paid a lot of money out to non-Rye businesses for that town hall debacle. We have plenty of landscapers, gardeners, architects, painters in our town (or town adjacent).....to get our municipal work done.	3/9/2024 12:06 PM
45	I guess this depends on who and job description	3/8/2024 12:49 PM
46	Who manages Parsons' field? It seems to be under used when learning of this big project at the library.	3/8/2024 10:38 AM

Rye 2035

47	none	3/8/2024 10:07 AM
48	The operation of the town is more complex than ever before. To ensure the stability, sustainability and success of the town in the future we need a resilient, experienced leadership team that can make informed decisions to carry out the mission.	3/7/2024 11:51 PM
49	Unsure	3/7/2024 11:18 PM
50	What town hall improvements are planned? Old building with modern standards could be costly	3/7/2024 10:45 PM
51	None.	3/7/2024 10:14 PM
52	The town hall ordeal needs to be fixed. The old town hall is ridiculous. It's falling apart and unusable yet we MUST keep it because it's historic??? We have to keep dilapidated buildings because of history? Take a darn picture and build something useable. jeeze.	3/7/2024 8:36 PM
53	I think a town manager would help the different offices within the town collaborate and function more efficiently.	3/6/2024 7:06 PM
54	Further development of the Town Anne and restoration of the meeting room in the upstairs of the Town Hall.	3/6/2024 3:04 PM
55	Regarding question 27 above, I would be concerned about the cost of adding a "Town Manager" position.	3/6/2024 2:28 PM
56	There are a lot of opportunities to host adult programs at the library, but often programs are for children or the elderly. Those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s are neglected. The library could potentially be a place to bring these age groups together. Other public libraries - Dover and Portsmouth for example - have programs for these age groups. More adult outreach could be done, specifically targeting those aged 20-40 years old, and more relevant events and services could be provided.	3/6/2024 1:43 PM
57	yes, if he/she is given the authority to make decisions and is rising to lead, not just follow.	3/6/2024 12:57 PM
58	No, adding a town manager would be too expensive. town is doing well without a town manager	3/6/2024 12:47 PM
59	town manager needs to be explored talk to NH Mun. Association we need that full time profession - office	3/6/2024 12:28 PM
60	unclear... not sure what the town manager would do	3/6/2024 11:41 AM
61	What differentiated this position from Town Administrator? Coordinated building assessment and action planning would be useful	3/6/2024 11:27 AM
62	I think its crazy that the school playground has to be paid for by fundraising efforts. this should be paid for with tax dollars.	3/6/2024 11:18 AM
63	Maximize solar installations to offset electricity costs or even sell any excess power to offset other town costs.	3/6/2024 11:05 AM
64	There's talk of expanding the library. This talk of expanding the annex. I'm sure the town will spend twice the amount of the actual cost in getting both projects done. The question is how much do we really need it?	3/6/2024 9:51 AM
65	With the decrease in the school population and the need to spread out to protect the space. Perhaps an outside evaluation should be conducted on how the space could be utilized by the community in a more cost effective manner.	3/6/2024 5:56 AM
66	We have great services from office staff, to emergency responders and police. I feel blessed to live here.	3/5/2024 7:02 PM
67	unsure	3/5/2024 5:47 PM
68	No it works fine now. I am concerned we have 2 town halls. do not want to spend money on 2 buildings.	3/5/2024 5:09 PM
69	unclear on what a town manager would do - without that explanation hard to say	3/5/2024 5:03 PM
70	no, the select board should be able to accomplish their tasks without having to employ a town manager \$	3/5/2024 4:57 PM

Rye 2035

71	yes if the town manager is a paid position. the Board of Selectman is too much work for a volunteer, only a small % of Rye residents can actually run. we need to fix the water issues before fixing any building issues	3/5/2024 4:47 PM
72	The Select Board should be enlarges to 5 members. three members is anachronistic. a town manager might reduce the ability of the select board to drag their feet and taken o action on issues of concern to the town.	3/5/2024 4:35 PM
73	Do something constructive with the old town building Bruce Valley bought and then I believe sold. Wasted space	3/4/2024 6:22 PM
74	Goss Farm is a joke	3/4/2024 3:56 PM
75	What is the top of the fire station used for. It was a gross example of over build. Hope it is used for something	3/3/2024 7:24 PM
76	Need to complete Town Hall restoratiuon	3/3/2024 5:07 PM
77	We need five town selectman. The three can't handle all that's coming their way and they can't meet in subcommittee pairs.	3/2/2024 8:20 AM
78	Need better cell coverage for emergencies, especially in the beach area.	3/1/2024 1:07 PM
79	None	2/29/2024 5:21 PM
80	What is the difference between a Town Administrator and a Town Manager? Size of the town?	2/29/2024 9:02 AM
81	always concerned that the three small contiguous towns of Rye, N. Hampton and New Castle may not need separate police and fire departments	2/26/2024 11:52 AM
82	We could look to expand the Select Board to five members to give more support to the town.	2/26/2024 7:39 AM
83	keep up with maintenance and do it right	2/25/2024 10:24 PM
84	The RCC issue is disgraceful. Way too much money spent on litigation. Water system and sewer should be the priority.	2/23/2024 3:40 PM
85	Nepotism policies are needed. Review of powers as well. Town sewer is needed.	2/22/2024 5:57 PM
86	Jr High needs a new basketball court	2/22/2024 4:31 PM
87	we have too many town employees which make the old town hall too small. clean up the fat government so that the buildings we have fit the demand.	2/22/2024 3:49 PM
88	Municipal offices, number of employees, etc.,has gotten out of control. Bring back our small Town image	2/22/2024 1:23 PM
89	Keep Rye Small! Stop expanding buildings an departments. Our town has not grown in population that much.	2/22/2024 9:08 AM
90	Town Manager is not necessarily the answer. As long as there is a capable person(s) working at the top and beneath, the town services should be able to run efficiently. Anyone in private business manages their operations to the bottom line, and not only DOES not spend money it doesn't have, but CANNOT. As a small business owner I see the inefficiencies and find it frustrating, but for whatever reason we let it continue.	2/22/2024 9:03 AM
91	When the time comes their HVAC equipment needs to be upgraded to heat pumps and town vehicles should be replaced with EV'	2/22/2024 7:34 AM
92	We currently have an excellent Town Administrator, which has not always been the case. An excellent Town Manager would be a positive development for Rye. In my opinion, the "swap" would not happened and the ensuing "fiasco" with good management. Prior Selectmen have used their positions to favor residents at the expense of others or to benefit themselves. (I am answering question 27). Lack of architectural design in the Town center -- Town Hall annex, including lack of functionality. Lack of services. Lack of enforcement.	2/21/2024 7:17 PM
93	No space to address #27 so putting here: Just like with buildings, Rye has a history of under-investing in town management positions. We should have a minimum of 5 Selectboard members. If we hire a town manager there needs to be sufficient salary set aside, and clear qualifications/experience requirements to make sure a capable person is hired. But yes - when volunteer retirees run your town ... you really need qualified people as safety net and final say.	2/21/2024 6:35 PM

Rye 2035

94	When municipal building HVAC equipment needs to be replaced, they should install electric heat pumps.	2/21/2024 10:20 AM
95	be more frugal with tax payer dollars	2/20/2024 9:24 PM
96	Our schools need to be consolidated	2/20/2024 2:13 PM
97	I feel as though the board of selectman should be a panel of five rather than a panel of three.	2/20/2024 11:28 AM
98	I feel strongly we should not divide tax collection and the town clerk position ! I also feel no 2 family members should be allowed to serve on any board to avoid any conflict of interest.	2/20/2024 9:39 AM
99	Rye has a mixed population, some that support spending for improvements and others that resist spending and want things to "stay the same". Need to find a balance. Create a long term plan. Phase the work/investments.	2/19/2024 12:22 PM
100	Rye Junior High has a (cant believe this) 1933 steam heating system that has super high yearly maintenance. This system should of been replaced in the 80's. It's time to get RJH a new heating system that is energy efficient. Regardless of what eventually happens to that building, this must be done to cut yearly costs and fuel use. We also need to get an actual rec center. The trailers are moldy and unacceptable for a town like Rye. Library outdoor expansion is a must!	2/19/2024 8:44 AM
101	I feel the town would benefit from a different form of governance other than volunteer elected officials. Also, the town needs to employ more people to take the strain of the already burdened workforce.	2/18/2024 9:26 PM
102	Should sell anything not being used.	2/18/2024 8:37 PM
103	Like addition of annex	2/18/2024 11:18 AM
104	Rehab Town Hall	2/17/2024 8:42 PM
105	I like the historical society and what they did for the 400th. Alex is great.	2/17/2024 7:25 PM
106	Rye has a very low growth and aging population. We don't need more overhead in hiring as most people still soon be retired.	2/17/2024 6:47 PM
107	Need a monthly newsletter, stop mailing a letter.	2/17/2024 5:48 PM
108	Library common is an opportunity to create a beautiful welcoming space.	2/17/2024 3:21 PM
109	Better office and bathrooms for the Rye Recreation facilities. Not having to walk outside from their offices during the winter to use bathrooms.	2/17/2024 11:37 AM
110	A Town Manager will cost the Town another \$100,000--\$300,000 annually with his/her salary and the resultant additions to staffing that they will want to bring in	2/17/2024 10:48 AM
111	None, Rye does a great job managing the town and keeping taxes low	2/17/2024 8:18 AM
112	We have lived in rye for 27 years, but recently bought a new smaller house in rye that was gutted. Rye has a horrible reputation of being unreasonable with renovations - people trying to do the right thing, and project getting stalled over ridiculous issues that have nothing to do with health or safety. Some town employees have let the power of their position go to their head.	2/17/2024 7:57 AM
113	Town hall needs a meeting room that modern, large and comfortable. Elevator access needed in TH. It's unfortunate that the Rye Safety Building needs so much work for a newer building.	2/16/2024 3:59 PM
114	We should pay our town employees more, we should have more people working for the town and perhaps have stipends for those volunteering?	2/16/2024 2:05 PM
115	Most of the Staff are Rye residents and although they are residents are not given any recognition and treated poorly, even the Selectmen do not treat all staff well. Selectmen should run the Town and the Town needs a manager who can manage the staff. We have NO leadership in Rye. Residents who have the stronger voice rule. Sad, no leadership in Rye, especially not from within the municipality.	2/16/2024 12:54 PM
116	N/A	2/16/2024 12:40 PM
117	The recycling center is an eyesore. I chaired a cleanup committee and made recommendations to the selectboard. The Grove Road side had a burnt red rough sawed 4' high fence. The selectboard did not follow our committees recommendation and instead	2/16/2024 9:25 AM

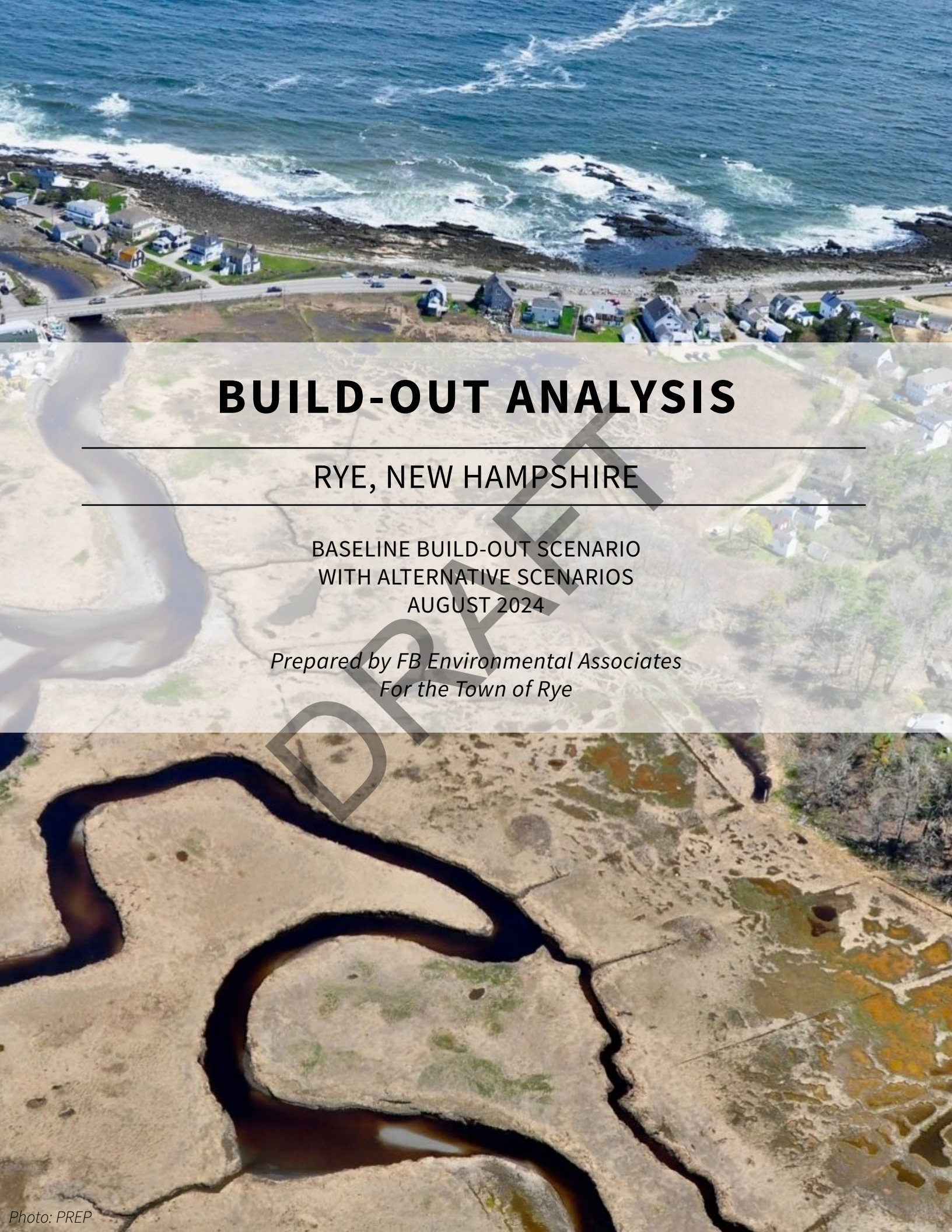
Rye 2035

installed a 6' green rough sawed fence on the Grove Road side. We submitted a low cost, volunteer driven solution.

118	I love all of our services and teams. Lucky to have them. Our schools are great, water dept working on issues of an outdated water infrastructure, police and fire awesome, town clerks everyone is great. Can't wait to see community power results. Maybe increase that word. Otherwise it's a fantastic place to live. Thank you.	2/16/2024 8:06 AM
119	We need more proactive and transparent Rye management for the residents to feel their taxes are being spent or saved wisely. I would honor a position.	2/15/2024 11:36 PM
120	While no one likes taxes, we should invest in our spaces to create opportunities to build community.	2/15/2024 10:46 PM
121	None	2/15/2024 9:06 PM

DRAFT





# BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS

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RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BASELINE BUILD-OUT SCENARIO  
WITH ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS  
AUGUST 2024

*Prepared by FB Environmental Associates  
For the Town of Rye*

# BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS

# RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

*Prepared as part of the Rye Master Plan 2023-2024 update.*

## **BASELINE BUILD-OUT SCENARIO WITH ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS**

**AUGUST 2024**

DRAFT



**Prepared by:**

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*Photo: Seacoast Science Center*

*Cover photo: Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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***The build-out analysis for the Town of Rye indicates that the Town has moderate buildable area for future development, and much of the Town is constrained due to existing development, large wetland complexes and conserved lands. At current population growth rates and existing regulations, the Town of Rye could reach full build-out in approximately 50 years.***

As part of the development of the Rye Master Plan Update, a build-out analysis was completed by FB Environmental (FBE) to understand potential future development in Rye based on current municipal land-use regulations and vacant land areas. The Rye community enjoys stellar beach access and expansive coastal natural resources and the Town is a desirable place to live. Encompassing approximately 13 square miles in coastal New Hampshire, Rye had a population of approximately 5,543 people at the 2020 U.S. Census.

A build-out analysis is a planning tool that identifies areas with development potential and projects future development based on a set of conditions (e.g., zoning regulations, environmental constraints) and assumptions (e.g., building footprint dimensions). The results of the build-out analysis can be used for planning purposes to help guide future development activities in the community, anticipate future demands on infrastructure, as well as identify specific areas for conservation. Note that the analyses presented herein provide a full build-out scenario based on Rye's current zoning standards (the baseline analysis) which are subject to amendment, in addition to two future alternative scenarios, and should be viewed as estimates only. "Full build-out" is a theoretical condition which represents the period when all available land suitable for residential, commercial, and industrial uses has been developed to the maximum conditions permitted by local ordinances. FBE presented the baseline build-out analysis results as ranges to indicate potential variability in future development.

The Town of Rye has approximately 2,985 individual parcels. The baseline build-out analysis identified that 11% - 14% (959-1,172 acres of approximately 8,407 acres) of the Town is buildable under current zoning regulations. The Single Residence District has the most acreage of buildable area at 750 - 917 acres. FBE identified 2,772 existing principal buildings in the Town of Rye, and the baseline build-out analysis projected that an additional 410 - 501 buildings could be constructed in the future, resulting in a total of 3,132 - 3,223 buildings in the Town of Rye at full build-out. The potential for a moderate increase in the baseline analysis' projected new buildings (15% - 18% increase compared to existing buildings), is strongest in central and inland Rye (Figure 1). In central inland Rye, many of the areas identified in the build-out analysis that can accommodate future growth could be considered "backlands", or parcels not currently accessible to development by existing roads. These areas may only be developed if a right-of-way or other access road is developed. If the population of Rye continues to grow at rates identified in the 10-, 20-, and 50- year period and current zoning and development constraints remain the same, full build-out would hypothetically occur in the mid to late 21st century.

Alternative build-out scenarios provide opportunities to understand how hypothetical changes to the Town of Rye's zoning ordinances or development exclusion in certain portions of the town may affect projected buildings and buildable area. The two alternative scenarios used by FBE in this project are multi-faceted and combine alternative zoning regulations with additional setbacks from natural resources to provide better resource protection while continuing to allow growth in targeted areas. Both alternative scenarios include enhanced resource protection. The first alternative scenario also includes moderate development increases in the town center and along Route 1, while the second alternative scenario includes slightly greater development increases in these two areas than in the first alternative scenario. The first alternative scenario showed that 10% - 12% (849 - 1,035 acres) of the Town of Rye would be buildable under the hypothetical changes and projects an additional 1,127 - 1,377 buildings, resulting in a total of 3,849 - 4,099 buildings. The second alternative scenario showed that 10% - 12% (853 - 1,042 acres) would be buildable and projects an additional 1,292 - 1,580 buildings, to equal a total of 4,014 - 4,302 buildings.

Ultimately, this build-out analysis for the Town of Rye indicated that due to extensive environmental development constraints (particularly wetlands), conserved land, and existing buildings, the Town of Rye has moderately low buildable area for future development compared to other New Hampshire communities.



Photo: NH Municipal Association

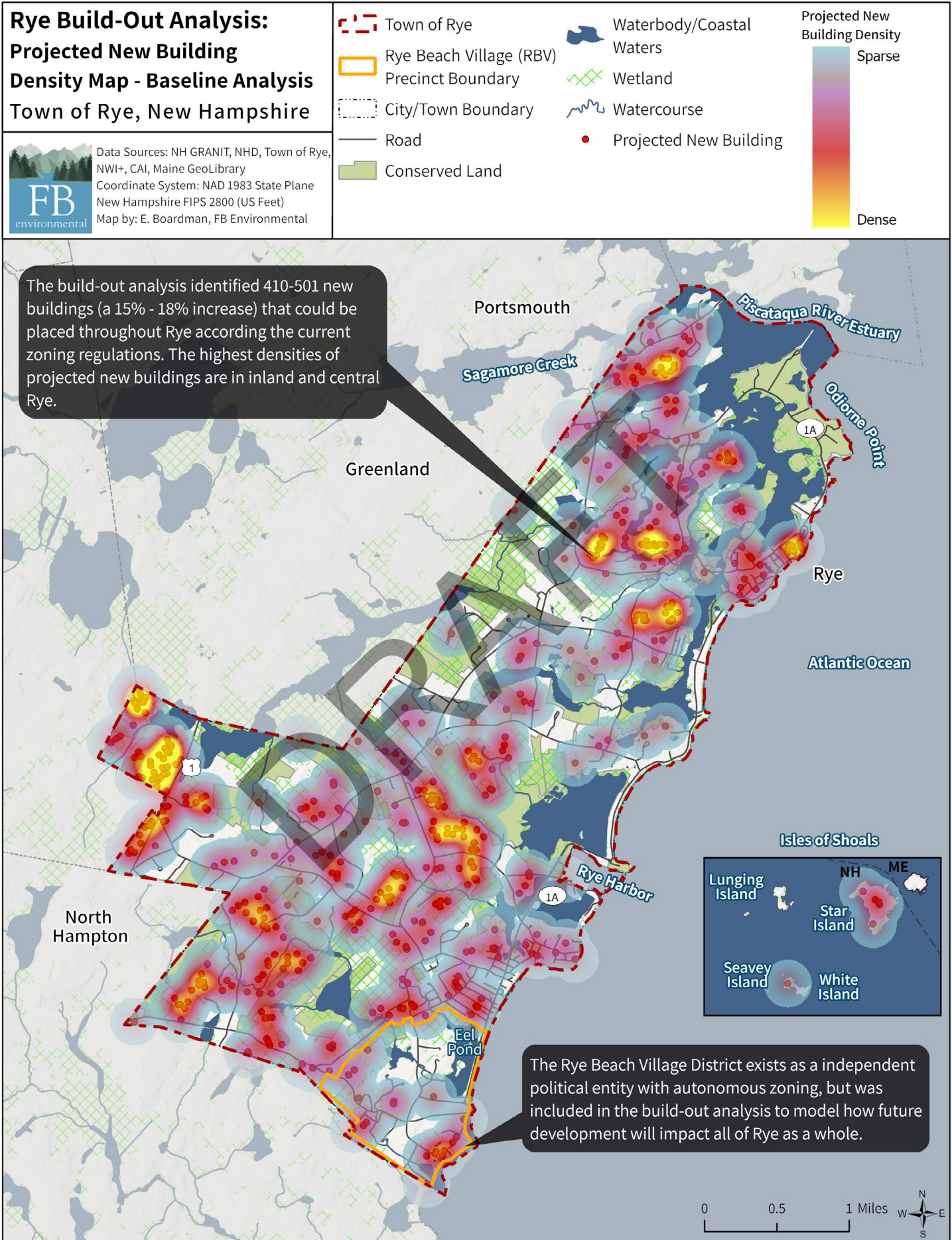


FIGURE 1. Building density map of projected new buildings in Rye based on the baseline build-out analysis results.

# INTRODUCTION

The Town of Rye, located in coastal New Hampshire, encompasses approximately 13 square miles and covers 52% of the state's coastline. The Rye build-out analysis describes potential future development in Rye based on current municipal land-use regulations and identified natural resource constraints. Model results provide the community with a powerful educational tool that can guide the Master Plan update and future planning efforts.

A build-out analysis is a computer model of community growth and development that can be used to investigate how much land is available for development, how a community might change in appearance and function over time, and what the potential impacts from future development might be. Performing a build-out analysis shows a locality what land is available for development, how much development can occur, and at what densities. The results of the analysis provide estimates of the numbers of potential lots and new building units the study area may see developed at some point in the future. "Full build-out" refers to the hypothetical time and circumstances in the future whereby no more building construction may occur, or the point at which lots have been subdivided to the minimum size allowed and there is no more "developable" land.

The build-out analysis presents projected new building placement and density only, and does not assign building use. The analysis does not take into account the current public and social services or resource capacity needed to serve the population. Instead, based on projected future development, the analysis can be used plan for future service needs.

*A build-out analysis is a powerful tool to understand future development.*

**How  
Much?**

- Under current zoning, how much land is available for development?

**Where &  
When?**

- How might Rye's appearance change over time?

**Effects?**

- What are the potential impacts from future development?



Photo: Marinas.com



Photo: NH State Parks

# METHODS

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## COMMUNITY VIZ SOFTWARE

FBE conducted the build-out analysis using ESRI ArcMap v.10.8 and ArcPro geographic information system (GIS) software and CommunityViz v.5.2 extension. CommunityViz is a GIS-based, decision-support tool designed to help planners and resource managers visualize, analyze, and communicate about important land use decisions. FBE utilized the software's 'Build-out Wizard' to calculate the development capacity of the study area (numerically and spatially), as well as the 'Time Scope Analysis' tool to project and visualize how future development might occur over time.

The baseline build-out analysis and alternative scenario build-out analyses were performed according to the following general steps:

1. Collect data on existing conditions in the study area: existing buildings, zoning, and growth rates.
2. Collect and/or create relevant GIS data (e.g., development constraints layers such as wetlands and conserved lands).
3. Analyze build-out potential using CommunityViz's Build-Out Wizard tool.
4. Determine potential dates at which full build-out is reached using CommunityViz's TimeScope Analysis tool.

## DISCLAIMER AND DATA LIMITATIONS

Much of the data used in this analysis were serviced from publicly available datasets obtained from New Hampshire's Geographic Information System online data library (NH GRANIT). Many of these data layers were created from remotely-sensed data (e.g., aerial photography, digital orthophotos, and satellite images) and large, landscape-level mapping projects (e.g., soil units). Due to their inherent levels of accuracy, the data layers were originally intended to be viewed at certain scales (generally 1:24,000 or 1:25,000). Data provided by the Town of Rye was used to increase resolution where possible.

NH GRANIT maintains a continuing program to identify and correct errors in these data but makes no claims as to the validity or reliability or to any implied uses of these datasets. As a result, the data presented herein should be used for planning purposes only. If greater data precision is required, this report should be supplemented with field surveys or other on-the-ground methods of data collection. There may also be minor data discrepancies between datasets used in this analysis due to the variety of source materials and mapping standards used by the original creators of the datasets. The reader is encouraged to refer to the original referenced sources if specific data inconsistencies need to be resolved.

### *RYE BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT*

Within the boundaries of the Town of Rye, is the Rye Beach Village (RBV) District. The Village was formed by an act of the NH Legislature and encompasses the southeastern portion of Rye. The Village legally exists as an independent political entity that has autonomous zoning authority. The Town of Rye continues to have responsibility for emergency services, education and health services, infrastructure oversight, and maintenance of local roadways within the Village. While the Town and Village are distinct political entities, many of the goals of both jurisdictions historically align with similar intents to protect natural resources, preserve community character, and ensure proper investment in community services and capital expenses. A key difference between the Town and Village are that they maintain separate master plans and zoning ordinances as they have separate authority to enact zoning regulations and land use decisions. The Rockingham Planning Commission provided FBE with RBV zoning files and information. The RBV district is included in the build-out analysis as future development will impact all of Rye, though it is acknowledged that the RBV has separate legal authority.

## EXISTING BUILDINGS

FBE used 2022 ESRI World Imagery and 2023 Google Earth Aerial Imagery to create a GIS layer of existing buildings within the study area. Examination of aerial imagery resulted in the creation of a shapefile with 2,722 points representing principal structures such as homes and office buildings (secondary structures such as garages and sheds were not included; Figure 2). In areas where it was difficult to discern the presence of a dwelling (typically due to shadows or the presence of trees), FBE referred to parcel data from the Town of Rye and the Building Footprint Data sourced from Microsoft Office. This provided increased accuracy in the development of the existing buildings layer.

## POPULATION GROWTH RATES

According to the US Census Bureau, the Town of Rye has experienced steady but slow population growth in the last 50 years (Tables 1-2), increasing from 4,083 people in 1970 to 5,543 people in 2020. Rye has experienced a slightly slower growth rate than the State of New Hampshire over the last 50 years, though at a similar pace with the state over the past 10 years.

**TABLE 1.** US Census Bureau population for Rye from 1970-2020. Data from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Town	Population					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Town of Rye	4,083	4,508	4,612	5,182	5,298	5,543
Rockingham County (for reference)	138,951	190,345	245,845	277,359	295,223	314,176
New Hampshire (for reference)	737,681	920,610	1,109,252	1,235,786	1,316,470	1,377,529

**TABLE 2.** Compound annual growth rates for Rye over 10-year, 20-year, and 50-year spans.

Town	Compound Annual Growth Rate		
	50 Year (1970-2020)	20 Year (2000-2020)	10 Year (2010-2020)
Town of Rye	0.61%	0.34%	0.45%
Rockingham County (for reference)	1.65%	0.63%	0.62%
New Hampshire (for reference)	1.26%	0.54%	0.45%

## BASELINE ZONING

The process of modeling zoning requirements by the Town of Rye to create spatial datasets of development restrictions is critical to a build-out analysis (Table 3). There are ten relevant zones within the study area. FBE obtained a digital layer of zoning and parcels from CAI Technologies via the Town of Rye, and zoning requirements from the town's zoning code. Rye Beach Village District files were obtained from the Rockingham Planning Commission and RBV zoning code was accessed via the Town of Rye website.

**TABLE 3.** Zoning standards used in the baseline build-out for the Town of Rye.

Zone	Front Setback (ft)	Side/Rear Setback (ft)	Minimum Lot Size (sq. ft)	Minimum Lot Size (acres)
<b>Rye</b>				
Single Residence District (SR)	40	20/30	66,000	1.55
General Residence District (GR)	30	20/30	44,000	1.01
Business District (B)	30	20/30	44,000	1.01
Commercial District (C)	30 / 60*	20/24	44,000	1.01
Public Recreation District (PREC)	<i>Recreational purposes only.</i>			
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	<i>Recreational purposes only.</i>			
Conservation District (CON)	<i>Residential, commercial, and industrial uses prohibited.</i>			
<b>Rye Beach Village (RBV) District</b>				
RBV Low Density Residential District	40	25	60,000	1.38
RBV Medium Density Residential District	40	25	43,560	1
RBV Recreational District	50	30	217,800	5
*Along Lafayette Road, the front setback is 60 feet.				
When the side and rear setback differ, the smaller of the two is used in the model.				



## BASELINE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

To determine where development may occur, a build-out analysis first subtracts land unavailable for development due to physical constraints, including environmental restrictions (e.g., wetlands), zoning restrictions (e.g., Wetland Conservation District, overlay districts, street Right-of-Ways, etc.), and practical design considerations (e.g., lot layout inefficiencies). Existing buildings also reduce the capacity for new development (displayed on the map in Figure 2). FBE created the existing buildings layer and obtained town zoning information and/or setback requirements from the town zoning ordinances and the Rockingham Planning Commission. All other data were acquired from CAI Technologies, NH GRANIT, the National Hydrography Dataset, and the National Wetland Inventory to model the development constraints. A list of development constraints used in the baseline build-out analysis is described below, and summarized in Table 4.

- Conserved land areas, sourced from the Town of Rye via CAI Technologies, were cross checked against the NH state database and a list of recently updated conserved parcels from the Town of Rye.
- Existing building locations constrain where future development may be placed. Only primary buildings are identified (i.e., main houses, condo buildings, etc., but not garages, sheds, hotel/motel units, etc.).
- Per the Wetland Conservation District, there is a 100-foot setback from the edges of all tidal marshes, bays, estuaries, rivers, river tributaries and creeks, natural perennial streams, vernal pools, ponds one acre in size or larger (specifically Eel Pond, Burke's Pond, Brown's Pond, and East Rye Pond), wetlands within the Berrys Brook watershed, wetlands in Bailey's Brook, Seavey Creek, Witches Creek, and Parsons Creek; a 75-foot setback from wetlands that are not non-bordering, isolated wetlands; and a 25-foot setback from non-bordering, isolated wetlands. FBE used the National Wetland Inventory Plus dataset to determine wetland type and size, and buffer it appropriately.
- Soils that are poorly drained or very poorly drained (typically referred to as hydric soils) were obtained from the Rye Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and the United States Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey dataset. These soils hinder development due to waterlogging, causing structural instability and flood risks.
- Slopes that are steeper than 20% are considered a development constraint, however there are no steep slopes within the Town of Rye large enough to be detected from topographic datasets.
- Roads are considered a development constraint and are buffered by 30 feet to adequately model this constraint.
- Rye zoning overlays were reviewed for relevant development constraints, including the Coastal Area Overlay District, Historic District, Rye Beach Precinct, Multi-Family Dwelling Overlay District, Rye Landfill Groundwater Management Zone, and Aquifer and Wellhead Protection District. Though constraints exist - such as building heights and/or additional permit requirements, no additional development constraints were included in the model from these zoning overlay districts.
- The Public Recreation District, Public Recreation and Conservation District, and Conservation District do not allow residential, commercial, or industrial development. Additionally, the Central Cemetery is a development constraint.

**TABLE 4.** Summary of development constraints for baseline build-out analysis for the Town of Rye.

Development Constraint Description	Constraint
Conserved Land	No development
Road	No development
Hydric Soils	No development
Water Resources	100-foot setback from the edges of all tidal marshes, bays, estuaries, rivers, river tributaries and creeks, natural perennial streams, vernal pools, ponds one acre in size or larger, and specifically Eel Pond, Burke's Pond, Brown's Pond, and East Rye Pond.
	100-foot setback from wetlands within the Berrys Brook watershed.
	100-foot setback from wetlands in Bailey's Brook, Seavey Creek, Witches Creek, and Parsons Creek.
	75-foot setback from other wetlands not non-bordering, isolated wetlands.
	25-foot setback from isolated, non-bordering wetlands.
Public Recreation, Public Recreation and Conservation, and Conservation Districts.	No development

Building setbacks were estimated based on the average front and rear setbacks specified by the zoning ordinance (Table 3). Setbacks are measured from building center points in CommunityViz. To account for this, building footprints need to be estimated to avoid building overlap. FBE estimated the dimensions of the minimum building footprint to be 35 feet x 35 feet. This number was added to the average front/rear setback for each zone to estimate the “Minimum Separation Distance” used in CommunityViz. Minimum lot sizes were based on the requirements for each zone (Table 3). Future lots were made the smallest size allowable for the zoning district, and unit types (e.g., residential house, commercial building) were not specified.

Building density is difficult to predict with precision in a build-out analysis because the exact siting of construction and development occurs in a somewhat unpredictable fashion. A wide range of factors (in addition to those mentioned above) can decrease the permitted density: stormwater drainage facilities, right-of-ways, road frontage, conservation restrictions, etc.. A standard approach to account for these density losses is to use an “efficiency factor,” a simple multiplier that adjusts the “lot efficiency,” the amount of land on a parcel that is available for construction after addressing all constraints. Simply stated, an efficiency factor is used to account for information that can only be obtained upon on-the-ground inspection of parcels. Efficiency factors are entered as a percentage, where 100% means complete efficiency (no density lost) and 0% means no buildings are estimated for a zone. Based on professional experience, FBE used an efficiency factor of 66% for all zones to account for these unknown factors that will affect the exact siting of construction. FBE presented build-out analysis results as ranges to indicate potential variability in future development.

## PROJECTED NEW BUILDINGS

A build-out analysis is comprised of a numeric and spatial build-out. A numeric build-out is completed first in order to obtain a number of total projected new buildings based on minimum lot size and total area of buildable land. A spatial build-out is then run to place building points on the map, converting numeric building counts into points representing individual structures. A spatial build-out considers the size of projected new buildings, geometry of lots, and setbacks to various spatial features incorporated into the build-out (e.g., lot lines, roads, natural features). For example, an oddly shaped lot may have enough total area for two buildings, but due to setback rules or minimum separation distances, it may only fit one unit. Along with development constraints and lot size, a spatial build-out also considers the minimum allowable separation distance between buildings or parcel shapes. The build-out does not consider the conversion of small camps to larger residential buildings or redevelopment projects. During the placement of projected new buildings onto buildable area, the user has control over whether the spatial build-out building points are distributed in a random or grid pattern, and if the points should follow existing roads. The grid pattern is best suited for new urban-type development, and the random layout is best for suburban-type development. For the Town of Rye, the random layout was deemed most appropriate.

## TIMESCOPE ANALYSIS

The TimeScope Analysis is a computer model of community growth that simulates change over time in a study area. In our analysis, each projected new building within the town was assigned a hypothetical future build date based on a population growth rate for Rye. For the baseline analysis, FBE used compound annual growth rates representing 10-, 20-, and 50-year periods, from 2010-2020 (0.45%), 2000-2020 (0.34%), and 1970-2020 (0.61%), respectively, to run three iterations of the TimeScope Analysis. The projection also provides a date of full build-out based on each historical population growth rate, to provide a range of estimated dates.

This tool provides an analysis of how the number of buildings within the Town might grow based on projected population rates, but it does not take into account future zoning amendments or design considerations as the population grows, which may increase or decrease population changes (e.g., changes in residential zoning or land conservation). It is also important to note that the growth rates used in the TimeScope Analysis are based on town-wide census statistics. Using census data to project population increase and/or decrease for development planning has the inherent limitation of projecting future growth based on past conditions. As such, the TimeScope Analysis might over- or under-estimate the time required for the study area to reach a hypothetical full build-out. Numerous social and economic factors influence population change and development rates, including policies adopted by federal, state, and local governments. The relationships among the various factors are complex and therefore difficult to model.

# Rye Build-Out Analysis: Development Constraints

Town of Rye, New Hampshire



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, WSS, Google Earth, Maine GeoLibrary  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: M. Kelly-Boyd, FB Environmental

- Town of Rye
- Town Boundary
- Rye Village Beach District
- Road
- Road - 30 ft Buffer
- Existing Primary Building
- Berrys Brook Watershed Boundary
- Tributary
- Waterbody/Coastal Waters
- Wetland
- Tributary - 100 ft Setback
- Waterbody - 100 ft Setback
- Tidal Marsh and Estuary - 100 ft Setback
- Wetland (within Berrys Brook Watershed) - 100 ft Setback
- Wetlands of Bailey's Brook, Seavey Creek, Witches Creek, Parsons Creek - 100 ft Setback
- Wetland (non-bordering, isolated) - 25 ft Setback
- Wetlands (other) - 75 ft Setback
- Hydric Soil
- Conserved Land

Many of the development constraints in Rye overlap, such as wetlands, hydric soils, and conserved lands.

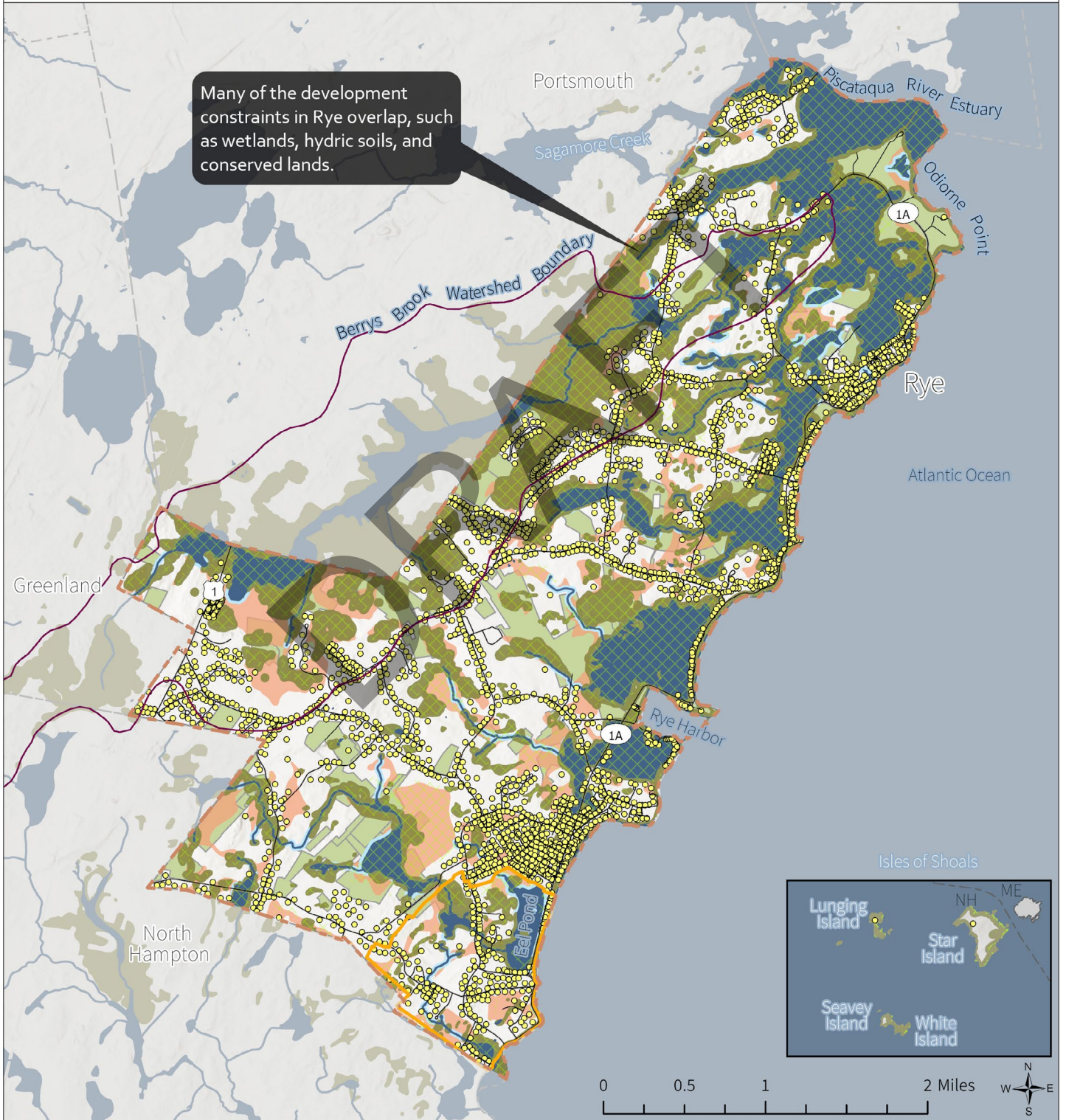


FIGURE 2. Development constraints (including existing buildings) in Rye.

# BASELINE ANALYSIS RESULTS

## PARCELS

There are approximately 2,958 individual parcels in the Town of Rye. Of note, within the assessor's database, some parcels are listed more than once (due to multiple ownership, such as under a condo association), but only distinct parcels were included in the analysis.

## CURRENT BUILDABLE AREA

Based on the current input parameters, the baseline build-out analysis showed that approximately 11% - 14% (959 - 1,172 acres) of the Town is buildable under current zoning regulations (Table 5, Figure 3). The zone in the Town of Rye with the most acreage of buildable area is the Single Residence District zone with 750-917 acres of buildable area. The zones with the highest percentage of buildable area in the Town of Rye is the Commercial District with 34% - 42% buildable area, and within the Rye Beach Village District, the Recreational District has the highest percent buildable area remaining at 46% - 56%.

**TABLE 5.** Amount of buildable land in the Town of Rye.

Zone	Total Area (Acres)	Buildable Area (Acres)	Percent Buildable Area
<b>Rye</b>			
Single Residence District (SR)	5,929	750 - 917	13% - 15%
General Residence District (GR)	457	45 - 55	10% - 12%
Business District (B)	48	2 - 3	5% - 6%
Commercial District (C)	276	94 - 115	34% - 42%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	78	-	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	368	-	0%
Conservation District (CON)	701	-	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>			
RBV Low Density Residential District	282	17 - 21	6% - 7%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	184	11 - 13	6% - 7%
RBV Recreational District	84	38 - 47	46% - 56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>959 - 1,172</b>	<b>11% - 14%</b>

### UNDERSTANDING "BACKLANDS" IN RYE

In central inland Rye, many of the areas identified in the build-out analysis that can accommodate future growth could be considered “backlands”, or parcels not currently accessible to development by existing roads. These areas may only be developed if a right of way or other access road is developed. It is important to note that the build-out analysis assumes that all land ownership could change – as in, a private landowner that has access to those undeveloped lands could sell their land to allow a right of way to the back lots. The likelihood of change of ownership is not something the build-out analysis can account for. Overall, this characteristic of Rye's buildable area indicates that there is more variability in when full build-out may be reached.

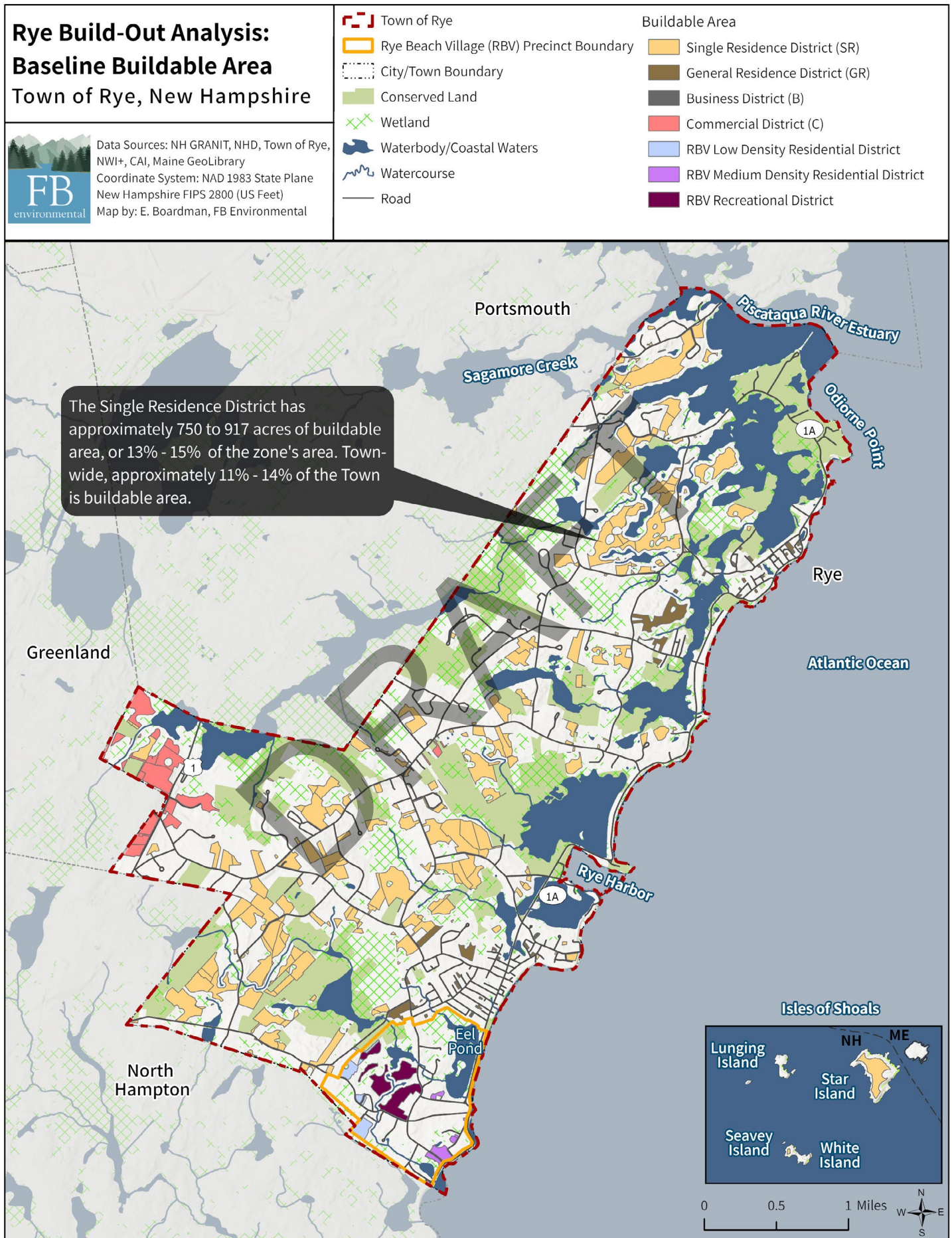


FIGURE 3. Buildable area in the Town of Rye under the baseline build-out analysis.

## PROJECTED NEW BUILDINGS

The existing buildings layer contains 2,722 principal buildings. Based on the current input parameters, the baseline build-out analysis projected that an additional 410 - 501 projected new buildings could be constructed in the future, resulting in a total of 3,132 - 3,223 buildings (Table 6, Figure 5). The Single Residence District zone has the largest number of projected new buildings at 281 - 343 buildings.

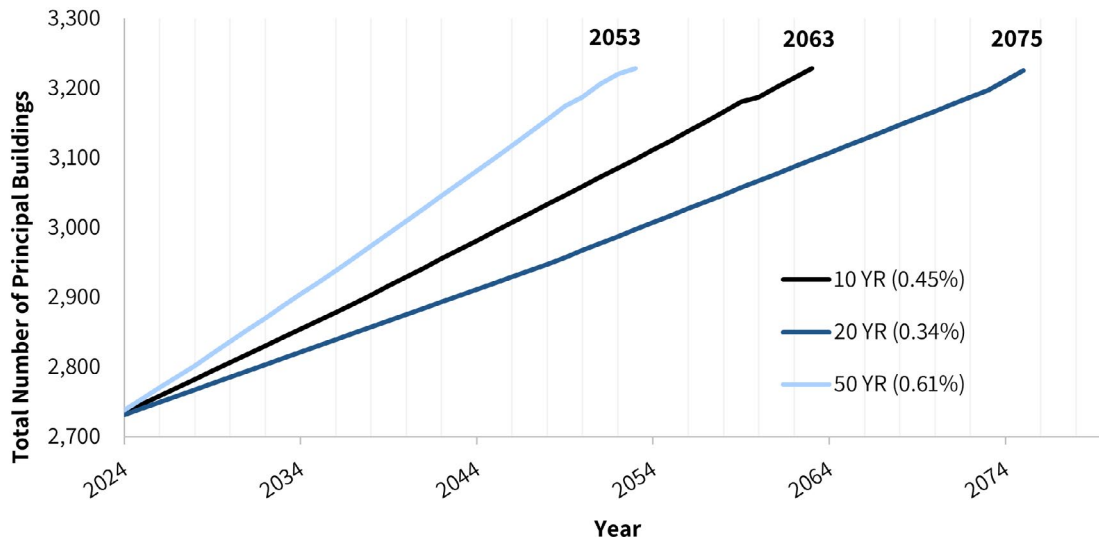
**TABLE 6.** Projected increase in buildings by zone in Rye under the baseline build-out analysis.

Zone	No. Existing Buildings	No. Projected New buildings	Total No. Buildings	Percent Increase
<b>Rye</b>				
Single Residence District (SR)	1,466	281 - 343	1,747 - 1,809	19% - 23%
General Residence District (GR)	836	52 - 64	888 - 900	6% - 8%
Business District (B)	74	4	78	5%
Commercial District (C)	144	56 - 68	200 - 212	39% - 47%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	13	0	13	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	1	0	1	0%
Conservation District (CON)	4	0	4	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>				
RBV Low Density Residential District	63	6 - 8	69 - 71	10% - 12%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	117	9 - 11	126 - 128	8% - 9%
RBV Recreational District	4	2	6	45% - 55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>410 - 501</b>	<b>3,132 - 3,223</b>	<b>15% - 18%</b>

## TIMESCOPE ANALYSIS

Three iterations of the TimeScope Analysis were run using compound annual growth rates (CAGR) for 10-, 20-, and 50-year periods, from 2010-2020 (0.45%), 2000-2020 (0.34%), and 1970-2020 (0.61%), respectively (Table 2). Full build-out under the baseline condition is projected to occur in 2056-2063 at the 10-year CAGR, 2067-2075 at the 20-year CAGR, and 2047-2053 for the 50-year CAGR (Figure 4).

This analysis shows that if the Town of Rye population continues to grow at recent rates identified in the 10-, 20-, and 50-year period, and current zoning and other development constraints remain the same, full build-out would hypothetically occur in the mid to late 21st century.



**FIGURE 4.** Full build-out projects for the Town of Rye (using the population growth rates in Table 2).

### Rye Buildout Analysis: Projected Buildings - Baseline Town of Rye, New Hampshire



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWH, CAI, Maine GeoLibrary  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane  
New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
Map by: E. Boardman, FB Environmental

- Town of Rye
- Rye Beach Village (RBV) Precinct Boundary
- City/Town Boundary
- Parcel Boundary
- Conserved Land
- Waterbody/Coastal Waters
- Wetland
- Watercourse
- Road
- Projected New Building
- Existing Building

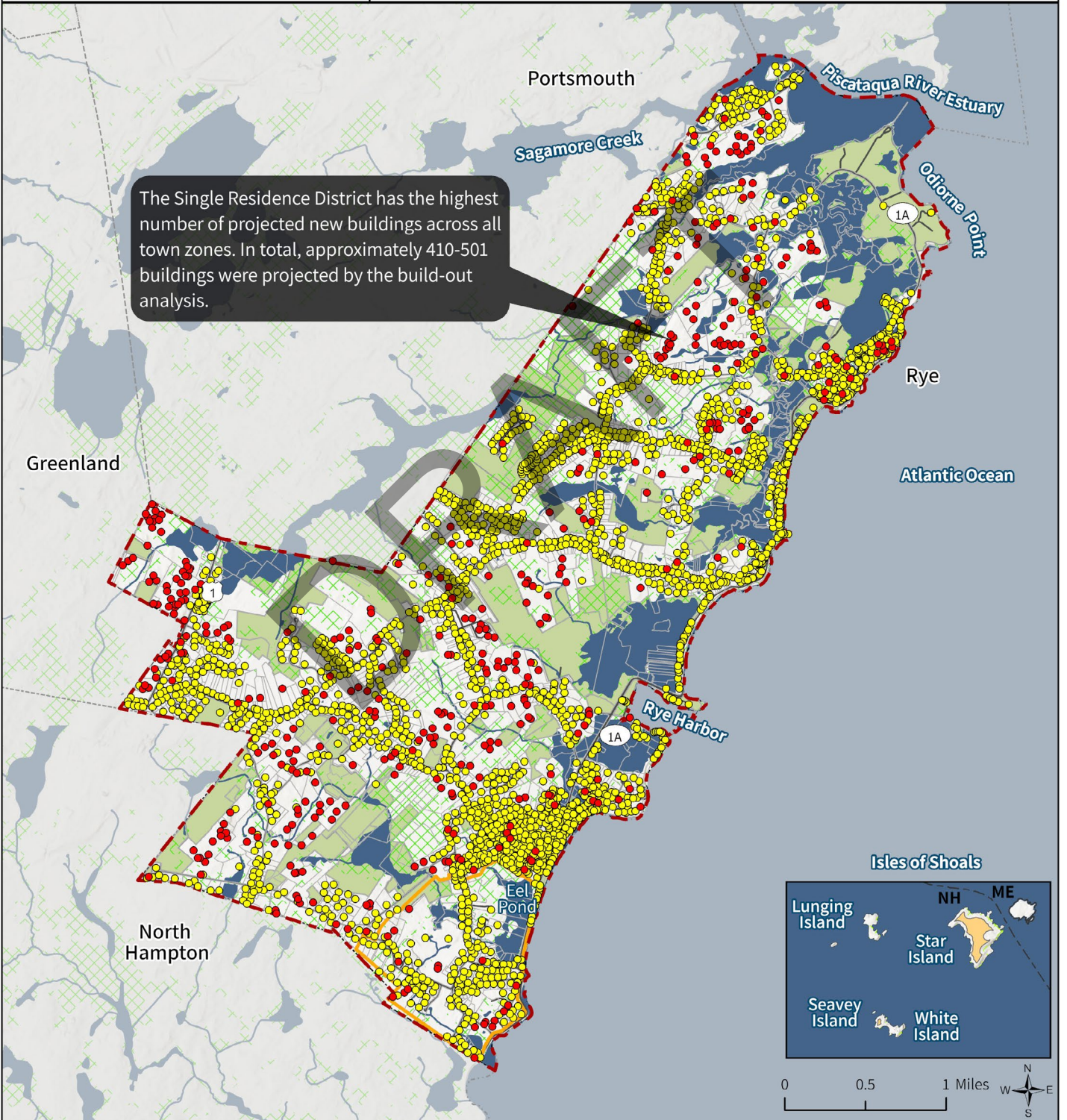


FIGURE 5. Projected new buildings in the Town of Rye under the baseline build-out analysis.

# ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS RESULTS

## OBJECTIVE

An alternative build-out scenario provides an opportunity to understand how hypothetical changes to the Town of Rye's zoning ordinances or development exclusion in certain portions of the town may affect projected buildings and buildable area. The additional scenarios analyzed below are multi-faceted and use alternative zoning regulations and additional natural resource protections.

Due to the fact that the alternative scenarios are multi-faceted and changes in buildable area and projected buildings from the baseline scenario are due to multiple confounding factors, the results of the alternative scenarios should be viewed holistically. For example, viewing the change in buildable areas as a whole - buildable area in the first alternative scenario is 10% - 12% as compared to 11% - 14% in the baseline analysis - shows the effect of the development constraints more than viewing density changes for the selected areas of town (the Town Center and Route 1 districts). Whereas the number of projected buildings is more strongly represented by the density changes rather than the modified development constraints.

Through collaboration with the Town of Rye and Resilience Planning and Design, the two alternative scenarios portray the same modified development constraints but differ in the building densities of certain town districts - the Town Center and Route 1 (Figure 6). This two-fold approach provides added natural resource protection in the face of climate change while also directing development at varying densities to specific areas of town best suited to receive additional development. Summary tables of the two alternative scenarios compared to the baseline analysis can be found toward the end of the document (Tables 12 and 13).

## ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

The two alternative scenarios include the development constraints of the baseline analysis such as conserved land, roads, hydric soils, and certain zoning districts (Public Recreation, Public Recreation and Conservation, and Conservation Districts). Existing setbacks from water and wetland features are also included but are doubled (Table 7). The alternative scenarios include two new development constraints: areas inundated under both 1 and 4 feet of sea level rise, and FEMA flood hazard areas from a 1% chance of flooding (100-year storms) and 0.2% chance of flooding (500-year storms). It is important to note that the Isles of Shoals are included as a development constraint due to a lack of spatial data on the islands. Sea level rise and FEMA data do not extend to the Isles of Shoals but likely have an affect on the islands. Therefore, the Isles of Shoals were treated as non-buildable areas in the alternative scenarios (Table 7).

As a result of the additional development constraints throughout Rye and the modified building densities in the Town Center and Route 1 districts, the factors that cause changes in the buildable area and projected buildings are difficult to isolate, and the reader is encouraged to view the alternative scenarios holistically.

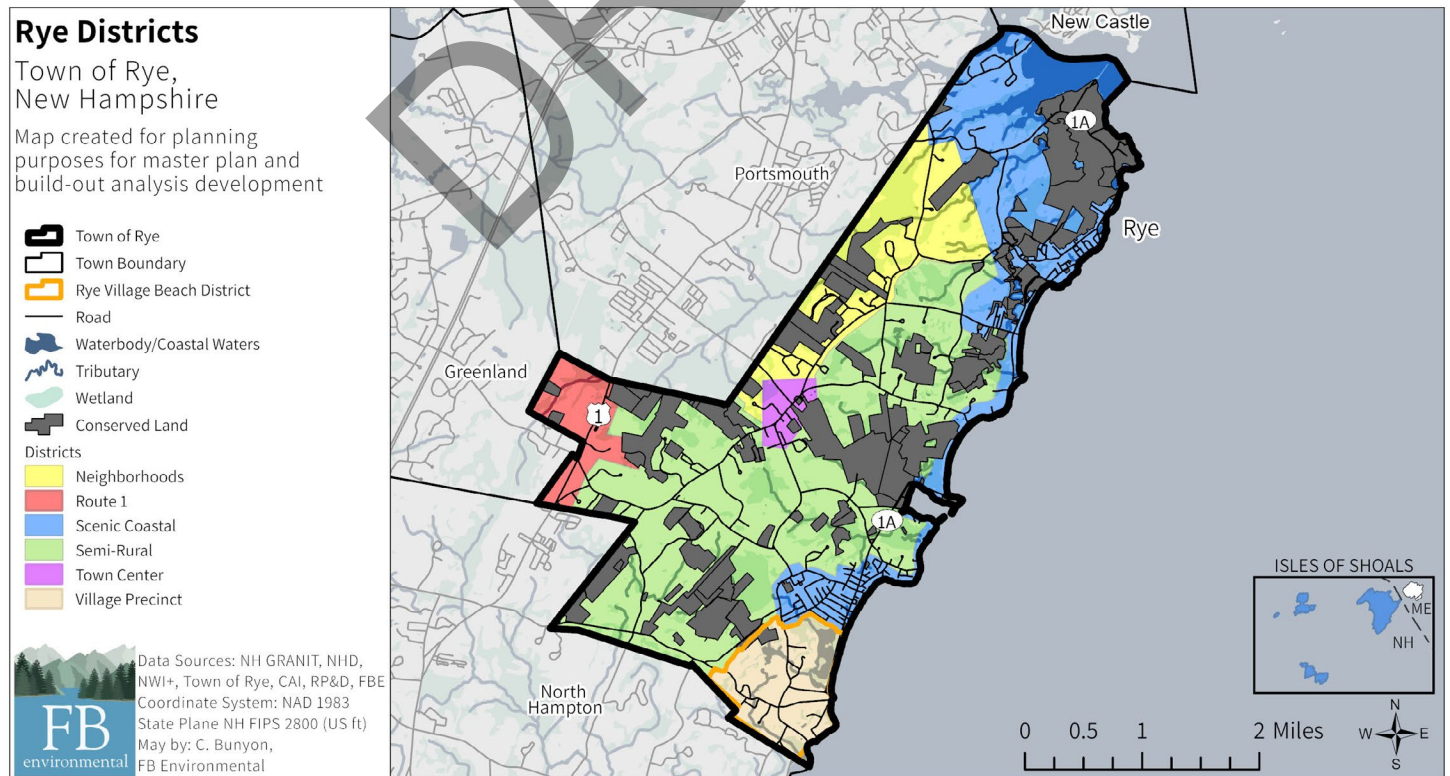


Photo: Storm surge over Route 1A in March of 2018. Credit: Jerry Monkman



**TABLE 7.** Alternative scenario development constraints and zoning changes compared to the baseline analysis.

Development Constraint Description	Baseline Analysis Conditions	Alternative Scenario #1	Alternative Scenario #2
Conserved Land	No development	No development	No development
Road	No development	No development	No development
Hydric Soils	No development	No development	No development
Public Recreation, Public Recreation and Conservation, and Conservation Districts, Cemeteries	No development	No development	No development
Tidal marshes, bays, estuaries, rivers, river tributaries and creeks, natural perennial streams, vernal pools, ponds one acre in size or larger, and specifically Eel Pond, Burke's Pond, Brown's Pond, and East Rye Pond	100-foot setback	200-foot setback	200-foot setback
Wetlands within the Berrys Brook watershed	100-foot setback	200-foot setback	200-foot setback
Wetlands in Bailey's Brook, Seavey Creek, Witches Creek, and Parsons Creek	100-foot setback	200-foot setback	200-foot setback
Other wetlands not non-bordering, isolated wetlands	75-foot setback	150-foot setback	150-foot setback
Isolated, non-bordering wetlands	25-foot setback	50-foot setback	50-foot setback
Areas inundated under both 1 and 4 feet of sea level rise	-	No development	No development
FEMA flood hazard areas for 1% and 0.2% events (100-year and 500-year storms)	-	No development	No development
Isles of Shoals	-	No development	No development
Route 1 District	Existing lot sizes by zone (Table 3)	10 units/acre for all zones in this district	30 units/acre for all zones in this district
Town Center District	Existing lot sizes by zone (Table 3)	4 units/acre for all zones in this district	6 units/acre for all zones in this district



**FIGURE 6.** Rye District boundaries used for the alternative scenarios. These districts are based on future land use visioning from the Master Plan update.

# Rye Build-Out Analysis: Alternative Scenario Development Constraints

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, WSS, Google Earth, Maine GeoLibrary, FEMA  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- Town of Rye
- Town Boundary
- Rye Village Beach District
- Road
- Road - 30 ft Buffer
- Existing Primary Building
- Berrys Brook Watershed Boundary
- Tributary
- Waterbody/Coastal Waters
- Wetland
- Tributary - 200 ft Setback
- Waterbody - 200 ft Setback
- Tidal Marsh and Estuary - 200 ft Setback
- Wetland Within Berrys Brook Watershed - 200 ft Setback
- Wetlands of Berry's Brook, Seavey Creek, Witches Creek, Parsons Creek - 200 ft Setback
- Wetland (non-bordering, isolated) - 50 ft Setback
- Wetlands (other) - 150 ft Setback
- FEMA 1% and 0.2% Flood Hazard Areas (100-year and 500-year)
- Area Inundated Under 1-4 ft of Sea Level Rise
- Isles of Shoals
- Hydric Soil
- Conserved Land

The alternative scenarios include additional development constraints such as increased setbacks from waters and wetlands in addition to adding FEMA Flood Hazard Areas and Areas expected to be inundated under 1-4 ft of sea level rise.

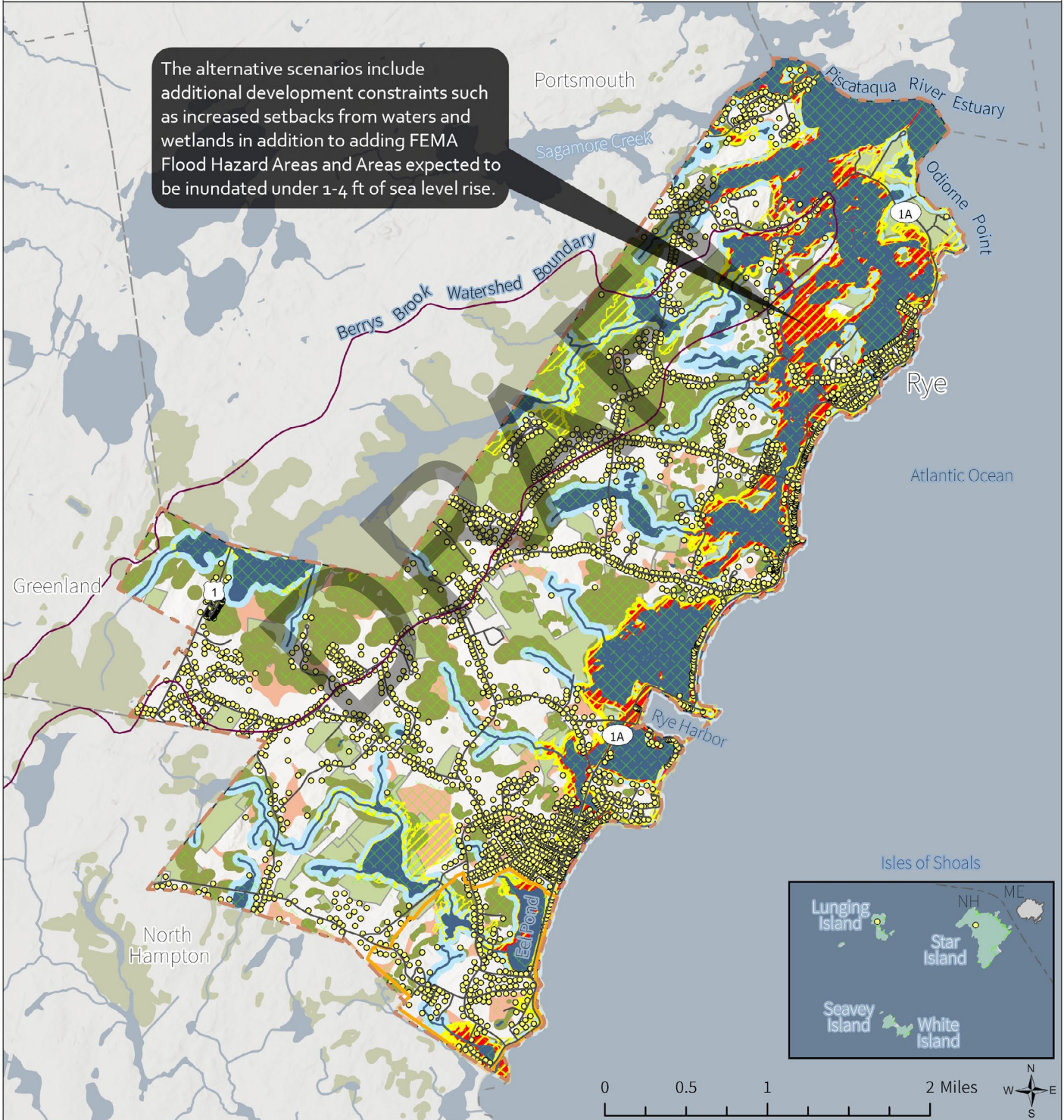


FIGURE 7. Development constraints for both alternative scenarios.

## ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #1 BUILDABLE AREA

The combined effects of increased development constraints (such as the increased setbacks from wetlands, marshes, estuaries, and rivers) and higher densities (i.e., more units per acre in the Town Center and Route 1 Districts) result in an overall reduction of the total area available for development. However, higher densities allow for smaller lot sizes, making some parcels that were previously too small for subdivision now suitable for development. This explains why the buildable area in the Rye Beach Village District has decreased compared to the baseline analysis (where densities remained the same, but development constraints increased). Conversely, in the Commercial District, despite increased development constraints, the higher density allows previously fully built-out parcels to be considered buildable, increasing the total buildable area in the alternative scenario.

Compared to the baseline build-out analysis, the first alternative scenario has increased development constraints, and a moderate increase in building density within the Town Center and Route 1 Districts. This scenario showed that 10% - 12% (846 - 1,035 acres) of the town would be buildable (Table 8, Figure 8) compared to the 11% - 14% (959 - 1,172 acres) in the baseline build-out analysis.

In alignment with the baseline's buildable area, this scenario also has the most acreage of land available for development in the Single Residence District (640 - 782) acres. The Commercial District continues to have the greatest percentage of buildable area in a zone, and has increased from the baseline scenario (42% - 51%). Allowing for greater densities in the Town Center District and most significantly within the Route 1 District allowed for more land to be developed in Scenario #1 for the Commercial District compared to the baseline build-out analysis.

**TABLE 8.** The amount of buildable land within the first alternative scenario within the Town of Rye, NH, based on the first alternative scenario.
















Zone	Total Area (Acres)	Scenario #1 Buildable Area (Acres)	Scenario #1 Percent Buildable Area
<b>Rye</b>			
Single Residence District (SR)	5,929	640 - 782	11% - 13%
General Residence District (GR)	457	32 - 40	7% - 9%
Business District (B)	48	2	3% - 4%
Commercial District (C)	276	115 - 141	42% - 51%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	78	0	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	368	0	0%
Conservation District (CON)	701	0	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>			
RBV Low Density Residential District	282	17 - 21	6% - 7%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	184	8 - 9	4% - 5%
RBV Recreational District	84	32 - 40	39% - 47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>846 - 1,035</b>	<b>10% - 12%</b>

Note: See Table 12 for a summary of buildable areas per alternative scenario compared to the baseline analysis.

# Rye Build-Out Analysis: Alternative Scenario #1 Buildable Area Map

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, Maine GeoLibrary  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Town of Rye                |  Single REsidence District (SR)          |
|  Rye Village Beach District |  General Residence District (GR)         |
|  Town Boundary              |  Business District (B)                   |
|  Conserved Land             |  Commercial District (C)                 |
|  Wetland                    |  RBV Low Density Residential District    |
|  Waterbody/Coastal Waters   |  RBV Medium Density Residential District |
|  Tributary                  |  RBV Recreational District               |
|  Road                       |   |

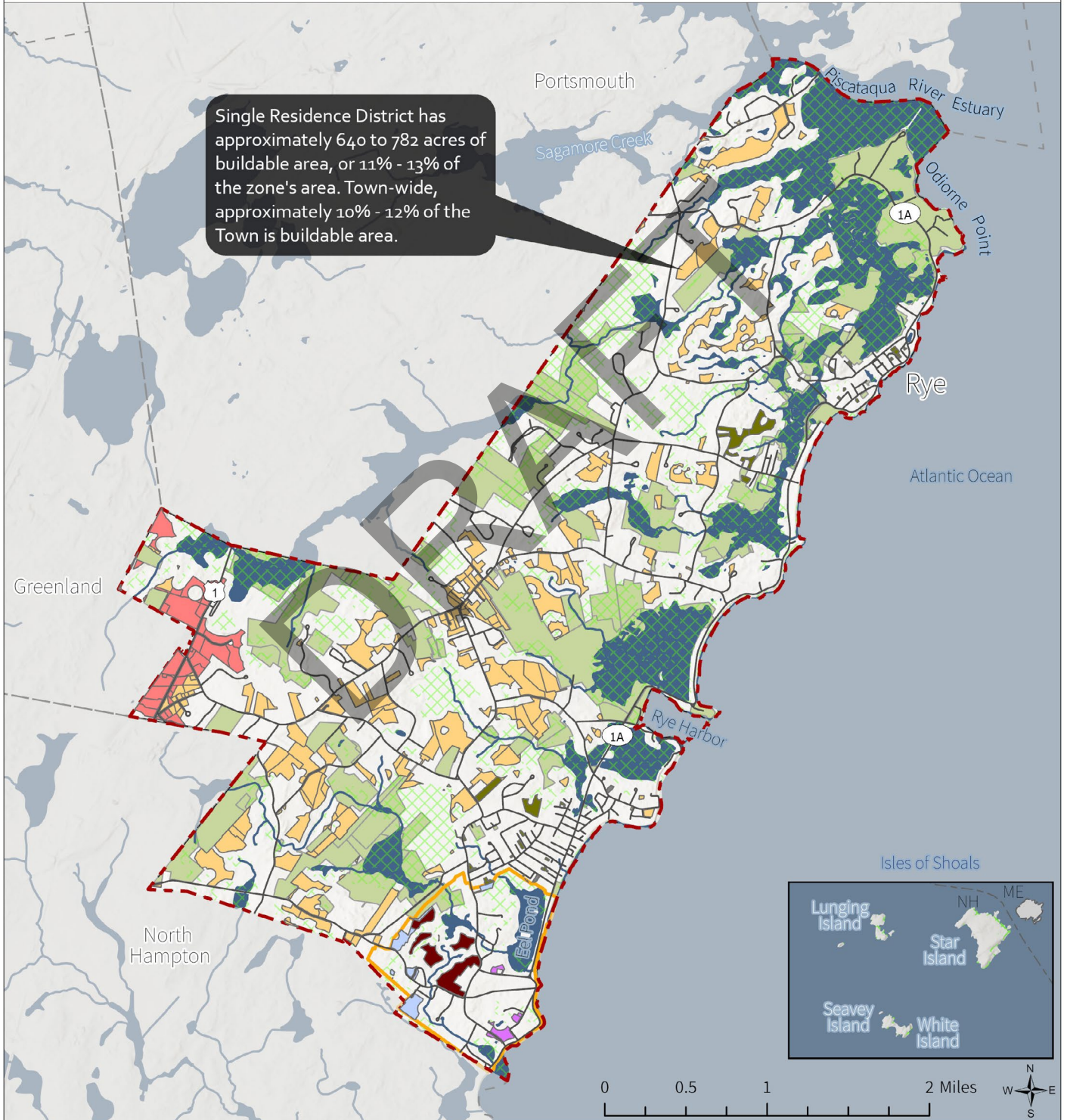


FIGURE 8. Buildable area in the Town of Rye under the first alternative scenario build-out analysis.

## ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #1 PROJECTED BUILDINGS

Based on the first alternative scenario input parameters, an additional 1,128 - 1,378 buildings were projected to be constructed in the future, resulting in a total of 3,849 - 4,099 buildings (Table 9, Figure 10). This can be compared to the additional 410 - 501 buildings projected in the baseline analysis. Rye's Commercial and Single Residence Districts would have the largest numbers of projected buildings at 707 - 865 and 363 - 443 respectively, with the Commercial District having the largest percent increase at 491% - 600% (Table 9). This large increase is due to the alteration of density within the Route 1 and Town Center Districts from minimum lot sizes (Table 3) to 10 units/acre in the Route 1 District and 4 units/acre in the Town Center District (Table 7). Other zones, such as those within the Rye Beach Village District and the Business District were not affected by the density alteration and therefore show only a reduction in projected buildings from the baseline scenario due to the increase of development constraints.

It is important to note that a build-out analysis only considers primary dwellings as buildings, not accessory dwelling units. Creating accessory dwelling units as rental properties or in-law dwellings, may be a method of increasing the number of housing units to meet development needs. If 20% of all existing and projected primary buildings in the Town of Rye built accessory dwelling units under the first alternative scenario, there could be a total of 4,619 - 4,919 buildings.

TABLE 9. Projected increase in buildings by zone in Rye under the first alternative scenario build-out analysis.

Zone	No. Existing Buildings	Scenario #1 No. Projected New buildings	Scenario #1 Total No. Buildings	Percent Increase
<b>Rye</b>				
Single Residence District (SR)	1,466	363 - 443	1,829 - 1,909	25% - 30%
General Residence District (GR)	836	41 - 50	877 - 886	5% - 6%
Business District (B)	74	3	77	4%
Commercial District (C)	144	707 - 865	851 - 1,009	491% - 600%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	13	0	13	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	1	0	1	0%
Conservation District (CON)	4	0	4	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>				
RBV Low Density Residential District	63	6 - 8	69 - 71	10% - 12%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	117	6 - 8	123 - 125	5% - 7%
RBV Recreational District	4	1	5	23% - 28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>1,127 - 1,377</b>	<b>3,849 - 4,099</b>	<b>41% - 51%</b>

Note: See Table 13 for a summary of projected buildings per alternative scenario compared to the baseline analysis.

## ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #1 TIMESCOPE ANALYSIS

Three iterations of the TimeScope Analysis were run using compound annual growth rates (CAGR) for 10-, 20-, and 50-year periods, from 2010-2020 (0.45%), 2000-2020 (0.34%), and 1970-2020 (0.61%), respectively (Table 2). Full build-out under the first alternative scenario is projected to occur in 2102-2116 at the 10-year CAGR, 2127-2145 at the 20-year CAGR, and 2081-2092 for the 50-year CAGR (Figure 9).

This analysis shows that if the Town of Rye population continues to grow at recent rates identified in the 10-, 20-, and 50-year period, and current zoning and other development constraints remain the same, full build-out would hypothetically occur in the late 21st century to early 22nd century.

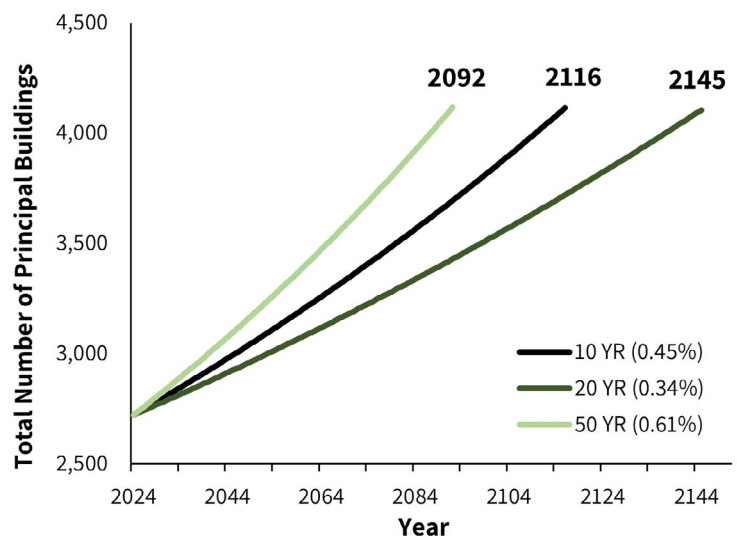


FIGURE 9. Full build-out projects for the Town of Rye for the first alternative scenario (using the population growth rates in Table 2).

# Rye Build-Out Analysis: Alternative Scenario #1 Projected Buildings Map

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, Maine GeoLibrary  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

-  Town of Rye
-  Rye Village Beach District
-  Town Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Road
-  Conserved Land
-  Waterbody/Coastal Waters
-  Tributary
-  Wetland
-  Projected New Building
-  Existing Building

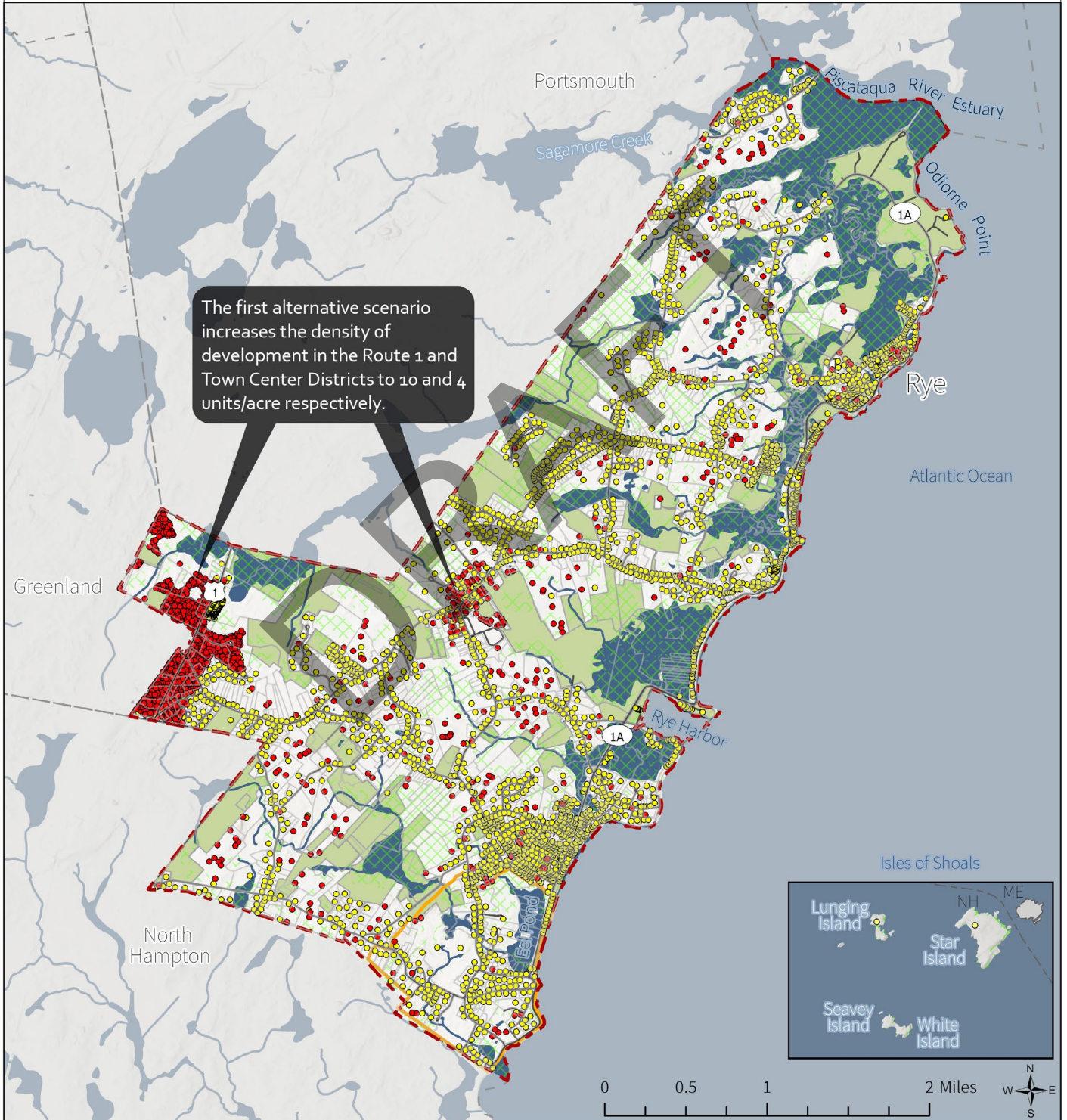


FIGURE 10. Projected new buildings in the Town of Rye under the first alternative scenario build-out analysis.

## ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #2 BUILDABLE AREA

The second alternative scenario includes the same additional development constraints as the first alternative scenario (such as the increased setbacks from wetlands, marshes, estuaries, and rivers), but allows for a higher density of development within the Town Center and Route 1 Districts than compared to the first alternative scenario. In accordance with the first alternative scenario, the second alternative scenario also shows a combined effect of increased development constraints and higher densities (i.e., more units per acre). This scenario showed that 10% - 12% (853 - 1,042 acres) of the town would be buildable (Table 10). This can be compared to the 10% - 12% (846 - 1,035 acres) of buildable area in the first alternative scenario, and the 11% - 14% (959 - 1,172 acres) in the baseline build-out analysis.

The most acreage of land available for development is once again in the Single Residence District with 644 - 787 acres or 11% - 13% of the total zone's area (Table 10, Figure 11). The greatest percentages of land available within a zone is 43% - 52% for the Commercial District, followed closely by 39% - 47% in the Rye Beach Village District Recreational District. The differences between the first and second alternative scenarios are slight, but the increase in density for the second alternative scenario incorporates a few additional parcels in the Single Residence and Commercial Districts within the Town Center and Route 1 Districts to be further developed that were previously at their maximum capacity for development (whether it be for the baseline build-out analysis or the first alternative scenario (Figure 11).

**TABLE 10.** The amount of buildable land within the second alternative scenario within the Town of Rye, NH.
















Zone	Total Area (Acres)	Scenario #2 Buildable Area (Acres)	Scenario #2 Percent Buildable Area
<b>Rye</b>			
Single Residence District (SR)	5,929	644 - 787	11% - 13%
General Residence District (GR)	457	32 - 40	7% - 9%
Business District (B)	48	2	3% - 4%
Commercial District (C)	276	118 - 144	43% - 52%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	78	0	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	368	0	0%
Conservation District (CON)	701	0	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>			
RBV Low Density Residential District	282	17 - 21	6% - 7%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	184	8 - 9	4% - 5%
RBV Recreational District	84	32 - 40	39% - 47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>853 - 1,042</b>	<b>10% - 12%</b>

Note: See Table 12 for a summary of buildable areas per alternative scenario compared to the baseline analysis.

# Rye Build-Out Analysis: Alternative Scenario #2 Buildable Area Map

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, Maine GeoLibrary  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Town of Rye                | <b>Buildable Area</b>   |
|  Rye Village Beach District |  Single REsidence District (SR)          |
|  Town Boundary              |  General Residence District (GR)         |
|  Conserved Land             |  Business District (B)                   |
|  Wetland                    |  Commercial District (C)                 |
|  Waterbody/Coastal Waters   |  RBV Low Density Residential District    |
|  Tributary                  |  RBV Medium Density Residential District |
|  Road                       |  RBV Recreational District               |

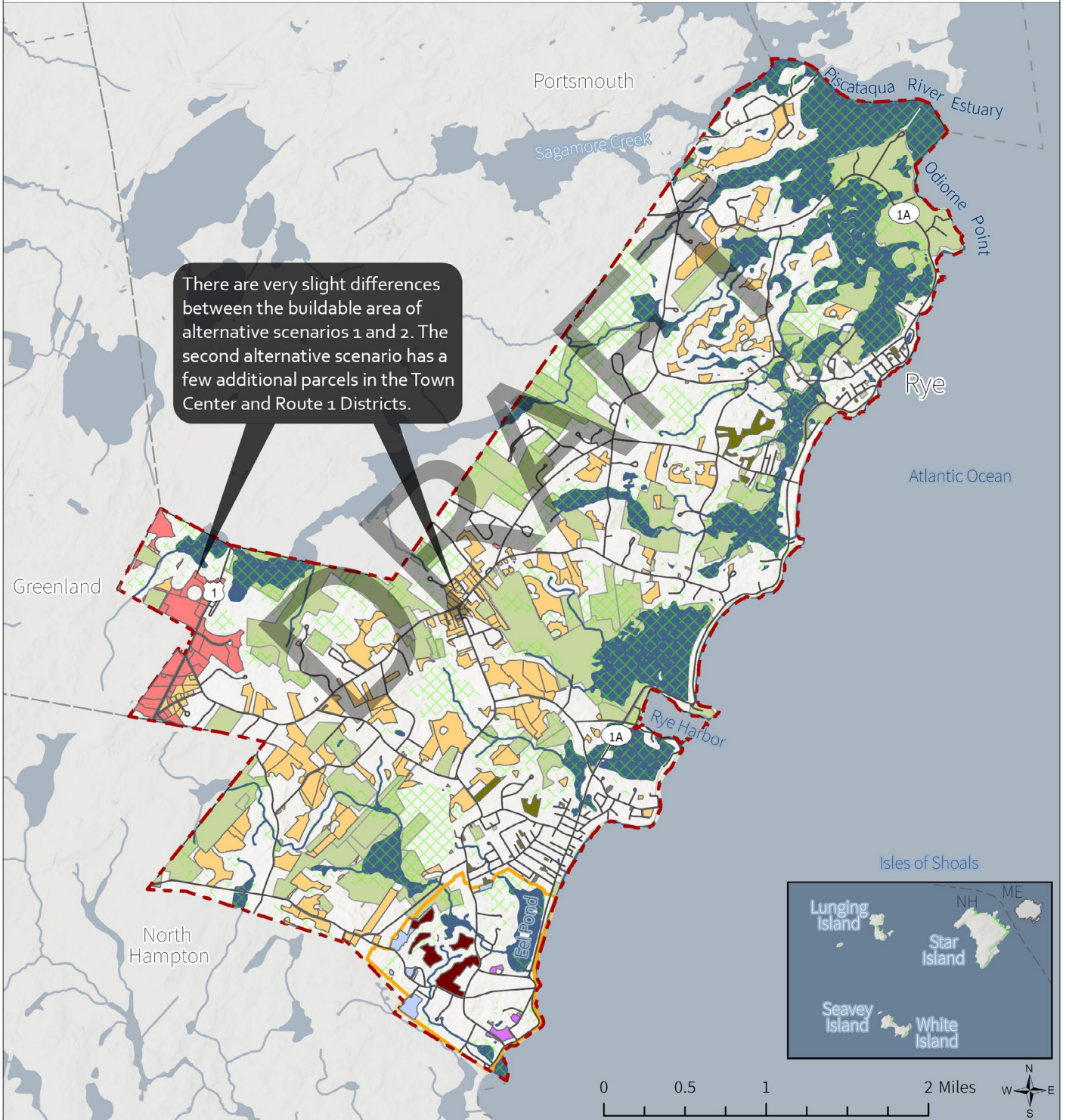


FIGURE 11. Buildable area in the Town of Rye under the second alternative scenario build-out analysis.



## ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #2 PROJECTED BUILDINGS

The second alternative scenario shows an additional 1,192 - 1,580 buildings may be constructed, resulting in a total of 4,014 - 4,302 buildings (Table 11, Figure 13). This can be compared to the additional 1,128 - 1,378 buildings and 410 - 501 buildings projected in the first alternative scenario and baseline analysis respectively. Rye's Commercial and Single Residence Districts still have the largest numbers of projected buildings at 801 - 979 and 435- 531 respectively, with the Commercial District having the largest percent increase of 556% - 680%. This large increase in existing to projected buildings is due to the increase in density within the Route 1 and Town Center Districts from minimum lot of roughly 1 to 1.5 units/acre (depending on the zone), to 30 units/acre within the Route 1 District and 6 units/acre within the Town Center District (Table 7). Other zones, such as those in the Rye Beach Village and the Business Districts were not affected by the density alteration and therefore show only a reduction in projected buildings from the baseline scenario due to the additional development constraints.

Build-out analyses only consider primary dwellings as buildings, not accessory dwelling units. Creating accessory dwelling units may increase the number of housing units needed to meet demands. If 20% of all existing and projected primary buildings in the Town of Rye's Semi-Rural District (Figure 6) built accessory dwelling units under the second alternative scenario, there could be a total of 4,232 - 4,520 buildings.

**TABLE 11.** Projected increase in buildings by zone in Rye under the second alternative scenario build-out analysis.

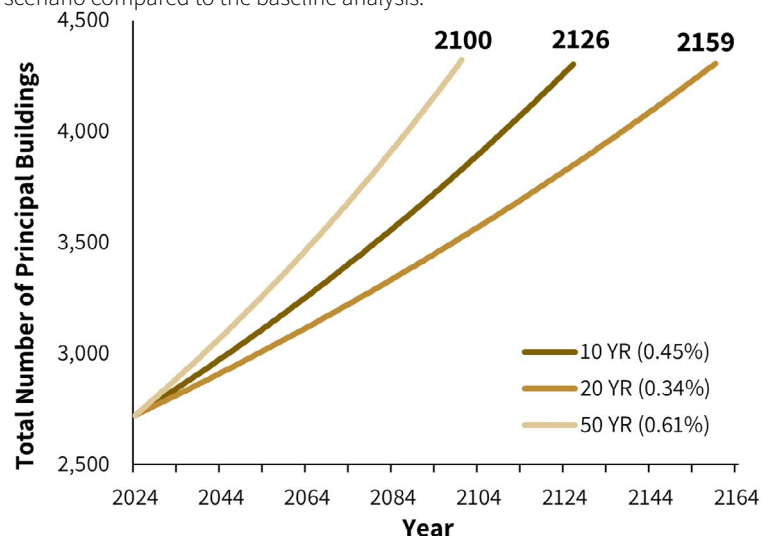
Zone	No. Existing Buildings	Scenario #2 No. Projected New buildings	Scenario #2 Total No. Buildings	Percent Increase
<b>Rye</b>				
Single Residence District (SR)	1,466	435 - 531	1,901 - 1,997	30% - 36%
General Residence District (GR)	836	41 - 50	877 - 886	5% - 6%
Business District (B)	74	3	77	4%
Commercial District (C)	144	801 - 979	945 - 1,123	556% - 680%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	13	0	13	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	1	0	1	0%
Conservation District (CON)	4	0	4	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>				
RBV Low Density Residential District	63	6 - 8	69 - 71	11% - 14%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	117	6 - 8	123 - 125	5% - 7%
RBV Recreational District	4	1	5	23% - 28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>1,292 - 1,580</b>	<b>4,014 - 4,302</b>	<b>47% - 58%</b>

Note: See Table 13 for a summary of projected buildings per alternative scenario compared to the baseline analysis.

## ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #2 TIMESCOPE ANALYSIS

Three iterations of the TimeScope Analysis were run using compound annual growth rates (CAGR) for 10-, 20-, and 50-year periods, from 2010-2020 (0.45%), 2000-2020 (0.34%), and 1970-2020 (0.61%), respectively (Table 2). Full build-out under the first alternative scenario is projected to occur in 2111-2126 at the 10-year CAGR, 2139-2159 at the 20-year CAGR, and 2088-2100 for the 50-year CAGR (Figure 12).

This analysis shows that if the Town of Rye population continues to grow at recent rates identified in the 10-, 20-, and 50-year period, and current zoning and other development constraints remain the same, full build-out would hypothetically occur in the early 22nd century.



**FIGURE 12.** Full build-out projects for the Town of Rye for the second alternative scenario (using the population growth rates in Table 2).

# Rye Build-Out Analysis: Alternative Scenario #2 Projected Buildings Map

Town of Rye, New Hampshire

Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHD, Town of Rye, NWI+, CAI, Maine GeoLibrary  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Hampshire FIPS 2800 (US Feet)  
 Map by: C. Bunyon, FB Environmental

-  Town of Rye
-  Rye Village Beach District
-  Town Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Road
-  Conserved Land
-  Waterbody/Coastal Waters
-  Tributary
-  Wetland
-  Projected New Building
-  Existing Building

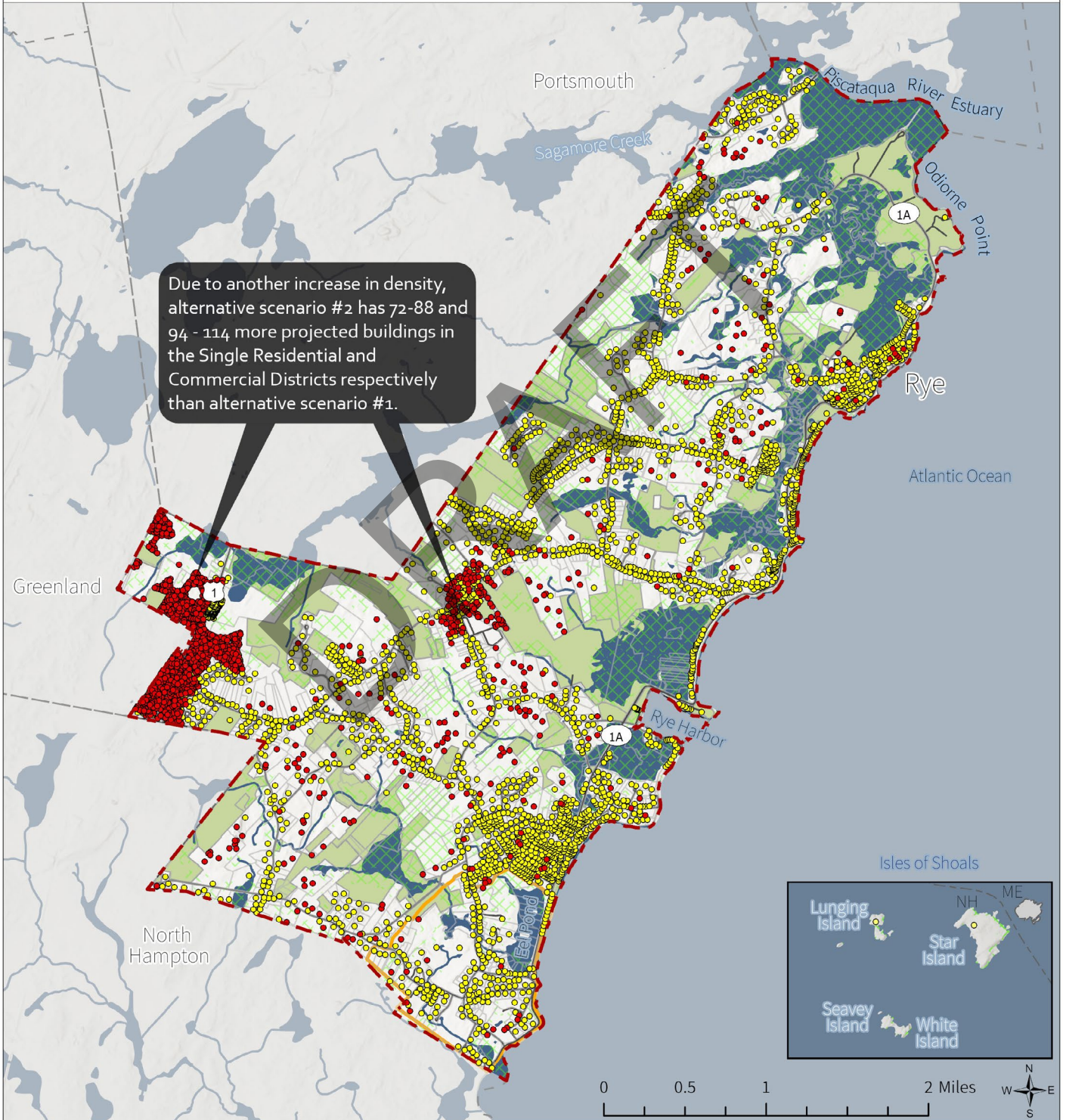


FIGURE 13. Projected new buildings in the Town of Rye under the second alternative scenario build-out analysis.

# SUMMARY TABLES

TABLE 12. Summary table of buildable areas from the baseline analysis (Table 5), alternative scenario #1 (Table 8), and alternative scenario #2 (Table 10). Please refer to Table 7 to see the alterations made to the inputs of the alternative scenarios from the baseline analysis regarding development constraints (setbacks from wetlands, bays, estuaries, and rivers) and development density in the Town Center and Route 1 Districts.

Zone	Total Area (Acres)	BASELINE ANALYSIS			ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #1		ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #2	
		Buildable Area (Acres)	Percent Buildable Area	Buildable Area (Acres)	Percent Buildable Area	Buildable Area (Acres)	Percent Buildable Area	
<b>Rye</b>								
Single Residence District (SR)	5929	750 - 917	13% - 15%	640 - 782	11% - 13%	644 - 787	11% - 13%	
General Residence District (GR)	457	45 - 55	10% - 12%	32 - 40	7% - 9%	32 - 40	7% - 9%	
Business District (B)	48	2 - 3	5% - 6%	2	3% - 4%	2	3% - 4%	
Commercial District (C)	276	94 - 115	34% - 42%	115 - 141	42% - 51%	118 - 144	43% - 52%	
Public Recreation District (PREC)	78	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	368	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	
Conservation District (CON)	701	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>								
RBV Low Density Residential District	282	17 - 21	6% - 7%	17 - 21	6% - 7%	17 - 21	6% - 7%	
RBV Medium Density Residential District	184	11 - 13	6% - 7%	8 - 9	4% - 5%	8 - 9	4% - 5%	
RBV Recreational District	84	38 - 47	46% - 56%	32 - 40	39% - 47%	32 - 40	39% - 47%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>959 - 1,172</b>	<b>11% - 14%</b>	<b>846 - 1,035</b>	<b>10% - 12%</b>	<b>853 - 1,042</b>	<b>10% - 12%</b>	

**TABLE 13.** Summary table of projected buildings from the baseline analysis (Table 6), alternative scenario #1 (Table 9), and alternative scenario #2 (Table 11). Please refer to Table 7 to see the alterations made to the inputs of the alternative scenarios from the baseline analysis regarding development constraints (setbacks from wetlands, bays, estuaries, and rivers) and development density in the Town Center and Route 1 Districts.

Zone	BASELINE ANALYSIS				ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #1			ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO #2		
	No. Existing Buildings	No. Projected Buildings	Total No. Buildings	Percent Increase	No. Projected Buildings	Total No. Buildings	Percent Increase	No. Projected Buildings	Total No. Buildings	Percent Increase
<b>Rye</b>										
Single Residence District (SR)	1,466	281 - 343	1,747 - 1,809	19% - 23%	363 - 443	1,829 - 1,909	25% - 30%	435 - 531	1,901 - 1,997	30% - 36%
General Residence District (GR)	836	52 - 64	888 - 900	6% - 8%	41 - 50	877 - 886	5% - 6%	41 - 50	877 - 886	5% - 6%
Business District (B)	74	4	77 - 78	5%	3	77	4%	3	77	4%
Commercial District (C)	144	56 - 68	200 - 212	39% - 47%	707 - 865	851 - 1,009	491% - 600%	801 - 979	945 - 1,123	556% - 680%
Public Recreation District (PREC)	13	0	13	0%	0	13	0%	0	13	0%
Public Recreation and Conservation District (PRAC)	1	0	1	0%	0	1	0%	0	1	0%
Conservation District (CON)	4	0	4	0%	0	4	0%	0	4	0%
<b>Rye Beach Village District</b>										
RBV Low Density Residential District	63	6 - 8	69 - 71	10% - 12%	6 - 8	69 - 71	11% - 14%	6 - 8	69 - 71	11% - 14%
RBV Medium Density Residential District	117	9 - 11	126 - 128	8% - 9%	6 - 8	123 - 125	5% - 7%	6 - 8	123 - 125	5% - 7%
RBV Recreational District	4	2	6	50%	1	5	23% - 28%	1	5	23% - 28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>410 - 501</b>	<b>3,132 - 3,223</b>	<b>15% - 18%</b>	<b>1,127 - 1,377</b>	<b>3,849 - 4,099</b>	<b>41% - 51%</b>	<b>1,292 - 1,580</b>	<b>4,014 - 4,302</b>	<b>47% - 58%</b>

# CONCLUSION

The build-out analyses completed for the Town of Rye can be a helpful planning tool to envision future growth in the Town during the master planning process. While the build-out analysis with alternative scenarios serve as a useful planning tool, the reader is cautioned that the spatial and numerical information provided herein are estimates and should be treated accordingly. Furthermore, the build-out lays the groundwork for understanding future development in the Town but does not incorporate how community services will need to be increased to meet community needs.

The Town of Rye has extensive development constrictions, particularly large wetland complexes, conserved lands, and existing development. The tidal marshes of Rye behind the Town's beaches provide unique character to the town and add to its desirability, while also naturally restricting buildable area. In addition, the Town of Rye has numerous large tracts of conserved land that protect its natural resources while restricting development. Between these two constraints, future buildable area in Rye is lower than many other New Hampshire communities. In addition, many of the areas identified in the build-out analysis that can accommodate future growth could be considered “backlands”, or parcels not currently accessible to development by existing roads. These areas may only be developed if a right of way or other access road is developed. Though the likelihood of change of ownership is not something the build-out analysis can account for, this characteristic of Rye's buildable area indicates that there is more variability to when full build-out may be reached.

Ultimately, the Town of Rye has moderate buildable area at approximately 11% - 14%. While FB Environmental typically sees 25%-50% buildable area in build-out models for more rural New Hampshire communities, the buildable area in the Town of Rye is in line with expectations given the current level of development in the Town. With 2,722 existing buildings and an additional 410 - 501 projected new buildings under the baseline analysis, the Town of Rye may choose to alter building densities or encourage accessory dwelling units in certain areas as an approach to direct further growth into regions that can accommodate such growth to meet the future development pressures.

## RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

FBE recommends the following next steps for the Town to consider during the Master Planning process:

- » Consider projected development hotspots (Figure 1) and areas with buildable area (Figures 3, 8, and 11) in the context of current issues facing the Town. Questions to consider exploring could include:
  - Which areas of Rye could be a good fit for meeting affordable housing needs?
  - Which areas of the Town projected to experience future growth are at increased risk from effects of climate change due to sea level rise, storm surges, inundation during flooding, or being cut off from emergency services?
- » Reflect on the alternative scenarios with the added development constraints and specific density alterations to help guide the Master Planning Process and future zoning regulations.
- » Consider enacting additional natural resource protections of resources such as future tidal marsh migration areas due to sea level rise, and areas prone to flooding. For additional information about potential environmental development constraints or natural resource protection recommendations, refer to the [2021 Rye New Hampshire Natural Resources Inventory](#).
- » Use the projected development estimations to understand how Town services such as sewer, public water, emergency services, and school systems may be impacted. For example, can the sewer district support any expansions to its service area to accommodate growth while protecting natural resources and water quality? Consider adjusting density development in areas where water and sewer service is possible.



Photo: FBE



Photo: Aimee Seavey/New England.com

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# **2023 Housing Needs Assessment Report Rye, NH**

October 2023

Developed by Rockingham Planning Commission on behalf of the Rye Planning Board.

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# 2023 Rye Housing Needs Assessment Report

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## Overview

Rye is currently experiencing housing challenges that are like those of many coastal New Hampshire communities: general lack of available housing, lack of affordable housing for young families and an aging population, cost and availability of infrastructure, and increased demand for secondary homes and short-term rentals. Factors that make Rye’s housing future more complicated are the unique, environmentally sensitive areas found within the town, the extensive areas of the town that are vulnerable to the impacts of coastal hazards and climate change, and the high land value.

Critical to ensuring Rye remains a vibrant community is having a diverse housing supply that meets the needs of all residents now and in the future. There are limited affordable housing units in Rye, and a shortage of long-term rental units to accommodate Rye’s shifting population. Increasing housing diversity in the future should be considered as a priority to accommodate current and future residents.

Over the course of the past three years, the Rye Planning Board has worked on Master Plan update to better ensure that the vision and goals of the Master Plan align with best available data and science, the desires of residents, and the legal obligation of the town. The intention of the Master Plan update, along with its companion effort Buildout Analysis, is to better ensure that the Rye land use regulations are helping to meet the community vision and goals.

In the past few years, Rye has had several multifamily housing development proposals come before the Planning Board. The Planning Board has wrestled with the proposals as Rye’s regulations, and supporting documents including the Master Plan, have not given strong guidance on housing. The development of this report and the public outreach conducted as part of the effort, is intended to help Rye identify local actions - including zoning regulation modifications - that are supported by the latest data and public input, community goals and vision in their Master Plan update efforts and Buildout Analysis results.



## Report Background

In February 2023, the Rye Planning Board was awarded a \$17,750 grant from InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant Program's Housing Opportunity Program Needs Assessment Grant (HOP Grant) to prepare a Needs Analysis and Plan to fund the public engagement, analysis, and documentation of answering the question "what should the future of housing be in Rye?" Rockingham Planning Commission was selected to assist the Rye Planning Board with this effort. The primary tasks in the project included:

Develop a housing needs assessment that evaluates the housing status, demographics, and housing-related issues within Rye.

Conducting a survey to provide information on housing and seek feedback from residents, businesses, and officials on housing preference to help guide potential actions.

Hosting public input event to present the background information, discuss housing preferences in Rye gained from the survey and other sources, and allow for facilitated discussion related to housing that may fit Rye's needs and desires.

This report serves as the housing need assessment, with the full set of housing and demographic data available Appendix A. The summary reports for both the survey and the public input event are available in Appendix B.

**This report is intended to serve as a primary reference, in addition to other ongoing planning efforts in Rye - including updates the Master Plan and Buildout Analysis- for housing data in Rye, as the Planning Board continues to solicit community input and allow for a deeper dive into the realities of how Rye may begin to address the housing preferences to meet community needs.**

## Housing Background

Between 2010 and 2020, Rye's housing stock increased by about six percent (6%) by gaining 170 new housing units (single-family homes, condos, apartments, and multi-family) for a total of 2,906 units in 2020. During the same period, Rye's population increase by about four percent (4%) with a current total of 5,543 individuals. A notable shift in Rye is the aging of the population to an average age of 55.6 years old in 2020 and 39% of the population being over 65 years old. (Rye has the second oldest population in the region, only surpassed by New Castle). In contrast, the population under 18 in Rye is 16.5 percent. This overall trend is particularly visible in the declining school enrollment and decrease in overall household size. This shift can cause a change in the types of services provided by the Town.

Rye's housing is largely owner-occupied, with only about 14 percent of overall housing considered rental units. The number of rental units in Rye has also declined from 2010 to 2020 by about a third, meaning that the number of available units at any price range are limited. While the number of long-term rentals has overall declined, Rye has also seen an increased demand for short-term rentals (considered rentals for less than 30 days), with around 80 whole home, short-term rental units.

Given Rye's desirable coastal location, the number of seasonal housing (home occupied for only part of the year, but suitable for year-round habitation) units has increased by 254 units since 2010 for a total of 616 units (2020). The result is around 21% of Rye's housing is only occupied for part of the year which can shift demands on municipal services with both cost and timing.

Rye's housing stock, like most of New Hampshire is generally older, with 45 percent of the homes in Rye being over 50 years old. These older homes and structures are considered by many to be one of the desirable characteristics of Rye and can represent an opportunity for continued use or adaptive reuse as housing. However, older homes can also make it more difficult for occupants to remain in their homes as the owners age, and may be more susceptible to the impacts of climate change and coastal hazards.

Rye is one of the most vulnerable communities in New Hampshire to the impacts of flooding and climate change. In 2021, Rye had a total of 296 National Flood Insurance Program policies, insured for over \$87 million dollars. joining the NFIP in 1986, the Town has amended its zoning ordinance and regulations to protect wetlands and shoreland buffers, completed a climate change vulnerability assessment, and adopted a climate resilience Master Plan chapter. Future housing considerations will need to account for natural resource protection, coastal hazards and how to minimize impacts on existing and future homes.

Rye has always been a desirable location to live and has amongst the highest land values in the New Hampshire. Within the region, the median home sales price in 2022 was \$527,000 for a single-family home. In Rye between August 2022 and August 2023, the average single-family home sale price was \$1,224,532. The the estimated maximum purchase price in June 2023 for a home in the Rye region based on median household income as calculated by [NH Housing Finance Authority](#) is \$407,000.

A summary of common housing terms is available in Appendix C.

### **Rye Housing Vision**

Rye's current housing vision and [Master Plan chapter](#), adopted in 2013, includes acknowledgement that most residents desire in maintaining Rye's semi-rural characteristics, that the population and housing demand are shifting, and the Town's need to address the 2009 Workforce Housing Law (additional detail on page 7 of this report).

This sentiment is generally reflected in the [Visioning](#) work - aimed at starting the conversation of the future vision of Rye - conducted by the Town in 2021 as a first step in the current efforts to update the Master Plan, expected Summer 2024. Additional information on the efforts to update the Master Plan can be found at: <https://publicinput.com/RyeFuture>.

### **Rye Beach Village District**

Within the boundaries of the Town of Rye, is the Rye Beach Village District (Village). The Village was formed by an act of the NH Legislature in 1937 and encompasses the southeastern portion of Rye. The Village legally exists an independent political entity that has autonomous zoning

authority. The Town of Rye continues to have responsibility for emergency service, education and health services, infrastructure oversight, and maintenance of local roadways within the Village. While the Town and Village are distinct political entities, many of the goals of both jurisdictions express similar intents to protect natural resources, preservation of community character, and ensure proper investment in community services and capital expenses.

A key difference between the Town and Village are that they maintain separate master plans and zoning ordinances as they have separate authority to enact zoning regulations and land use decisions. This also means that the Town and Village have separate responsibilities under the NH Workforce Housing statute (NH RSA 674:58-61). Specifically, under RSA 674:59, I *"every municipality [or village district] that exercises the power to adopt land use ordinances and regulations, such ordinances and regulations shall provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for the development of workforce housing, including rental multi-family housing."*

The strong connection between the Town and the Village when considering community priorities was noted as part of this effort, and as such all public engagement conducted included the Village. (Overall, limited feedback from Village District residents or officials was received and is noted in the outreach summary reports found in Appendix B.) The data presented in this report includes the Village, except where noted, largely because the small geographical extent, small sample size and large of margin of error in available data.

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## Key Housing Data, Reports and Laws

Note that the complete table of housing data is available in Appendix B.

**Population:**

**5,543 individuals.**

This population is based on the 2020 US Census data; Rye has seen an increase in 245 people since 2010. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the population is over 65 years old and 17% of the population is under 18 years old.

**Total Housing Units:**

Houses, Condos, Apartments, Seasonal Homes, etc.

**2,906 Housing Units**

Rye total number of housing units based on the 2020 US Census data; a total of 170 more units have been added since 2010. Rye is projected to need 476 more housing units by 2040 based on population growth and housing demand as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).

**Median Rye Household Income:**

**\$108,000 per year**

This is the median household income in Rye as reported in the 2020 US Census.

**Average Rye Home Sale Price:**

(July 2022 – July 2023)

**\$1,185,566**

The average sales price for the same period for a condominium was \$685,115, while average sale price for a single-family home was \$1,224,534 according to [Zillow Home Value Index](#) for Rye.

**Estimated Affordable Maximum Purchase Price in Rye (2023):**

**\$407,000**

This is the estimated maximum purchase price in June 2023 for a home in the Rye region based on median household income as calculated by [NH Housing Finance Authority](#).

**Rental Units:**

Average 2023 rent for a 2-bedroom unit in Rockingham County is \$1,944 per month according to NH Housing Finance Authority [2023 NH Residential Rental Survey Report](#) a monthly rent of \$1,552 per month for a 2-bedroom unit is considered affordable. Only 3% of rental units qualify as affordable.

- Affordability Projections:** Rye is projected to need 151 more affordable housing units – owned and rented - by 2040 as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).
- Short-term Rentals:** Around 83 whole home, short-term rentals (rentals for less than 30 days) are available in Rye, with 469 of those being for an entire home. The average daily rate is \$273 per day as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).
- Seasonal Homes:** 616 of the homes, condos and apartments are considered “seasonal” and only occupied for part of the year as reported in the Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).
- Age of Homes:** About 45% of Rye’s housing units are more than 50 years old Rockingham Planning Commission [2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#).
- Flood Risk:** 2,160 acres in Rye are located with a 100-year floodplain – with more susceptible to flooding from coastal storms and high tides as reported in [2022 Rye Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). As of 2022, Rye had 296 National Flood Insurance Program policies that insure \$87,711,100 in property.

### **RPC Regional Housing Needs Assessment**

New Hampshire RSA 36:47(II) requires that “[f]or the purpose of assisting municipalities in complying with RSA 674:2, III(I), each regional planning commission shall compile a regional housing needs assessment, which shall include an assessment of the regional need for housing for persons and families of all levels of income.” Rye is one of 27 municipalities within Rockingham County that make the Rockingham Planning Commission’s region. The purpose of the Rockingham Planning Commission’s (RPC) Regional Housing Needs Assessment and Fair Housing Equity Assessment is to provide current, regional, and local data on housing needs. This assessment is a highly anticipated review of the current housing trends and needs and will identify future housing needs and opportunities. One goal of the assessment is to provide a foundation of housing trends for communities to begin addressing housing barriers and opportunities. The 2023 assessment was completed in collaboration with the nine NH Regional Planning Commissions through a statewide effort, initiated by the Council on Housing Stability 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that was initiated by Governor Sununu.

Factors impacting the housing market are exacerbated by the region being the most expensive housing market in New Hampshire. An aging population and a decline in the number of children per household also play major factors. Housing supply directly impacts economic growth and the region's ability to attract and retain workers and young families that contribute to the economy and enhance the vibrancy of our communities. The makeup of households in the region is shifting with an overall decline in household size. School enrollment is declining across the region. Both small and large employers are facing challenges attracting and retaining workers. This assessment estimates the housing needs of the RPC Region, while taking into consideration the factors impacting housing.

The primary goal of this RHNA is to provide data on housing and demographics, by income level, so that each municipality in the region can begin to understand their current and future needs. This RHNA may assist municipalities in determining compliance with the Workforce Housing Statute (RSA 674:58-61).

### **NH Workforce Housing Law & "Fair Share" Housing Needs**

In 2008, the New Hampshire Legislature passed a law that requires every community to provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities" for the development of workforce housing. New Hampshire's workforce housing statute ([NH RSA 674: 58-61](#)). The statute defines "workforce housing" and what is considered "affordable."

New Hampshire is not a "home rule" state, which means all municipal power derives from a Legislative grant. [RSA 672:1, III-e](#) states that housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income households "shall not be prohibited or discouraged by use of municipal planning and zoning powers or by unreasonable interpretation of such powers." The NH Supreme Court ruled in [Britton v. Town of Chester](#), 134 N.H. 434 (1991), that municipalities are obliged to provide such households with a reasonable and realistic opportunity to obtain affordable housing, and that a municipality's zoning cannot be used prevent "outsiders of any disadvantaged social or economic group" from moving there.

The RHNA uses projected population growth and projected employment growth to estimate the regional housing needed to fill the demand from 2020 through 2040. As required by the Workforce Housing Statute (RSA 674:58-61) municipalities must provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities" for the development of workforce housing, including rental and multifamily housing. While the state statute provides some guidance on how municipalities can meet the demand for workforce housing, the statute provides that municipalities must, further, provide enough qualifying units to fulfill their "fair share" of their region's need. The law does not provide a prescriptive methodology for calculating "fair share."

The RHNA estimates for the amount of additional housing (both workforce qualifying and market rate housing) Rye needs by 2040 to meet a balanced market of housing and meet its regional "fair share" of housing.

<b>Projections By Year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>
Total Units Needed (cumulative)	175	321	420	476
"Affordable" Units Needed	56	102	133	147
Market Rate Units Needed	119	219	287	329
Rental Units V. Owned Units	29% Rental Units Needed & 71% Owned Units Needed			

\*Note that these numbers do not account for housing units that may have been approved for construction but not yet built as of 2020.

### Summary of Public Engagement

The following outlines some of the major findings from the public survey that occurred in Spring 2023 and the public input session that occurred in September 2023. A more detailed summary of the output of those engagement sessions is available in Appendix B. The public engagement results are intended to assist the Rye Planning Board in making future land use decisions about housing, however, some feedback will also be used to assist other municipal officials and staff on future decisions.

The following themes emerged from outreach effort and the spectrum of feedback received echoed the complexity of deciding what Rye’s housing future should be.

- Strong community desire to maintain Rye’s characteristics.
- Protecting natural resources in amongst the highest priorities in Rye.
- Most residents feel secure in their current housing situation for the foreseeable future.
- Most do not understand Rye’s housing goals, obligations, and constraints.

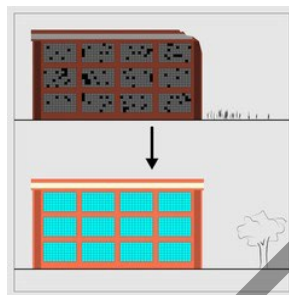
## Housing Considerations

The following housing strategies are derived from the New Hampshire Housing Toolbox with expanded local context from the Rockingham Planning Commission. The strategies that have been selected are intended to support the expressed community goals, however no single strategy will be able to fulfill all community needs and should be used in combination with other strategies. Additional information on any of these housing strategies can be found at: [www.nhhousingtoolbox.org](http://www.nhhousingtoolbox.org).



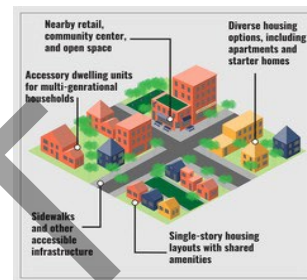
### Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)

Secondary homes or apartments on an existing single-family lot. ADUs can be attached or detached.



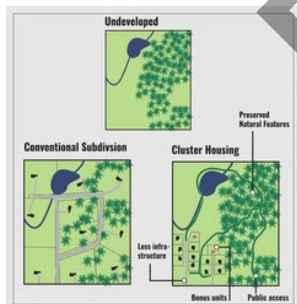
### Adaptive Reuse

The practice of reusing old buildings for new purposes.



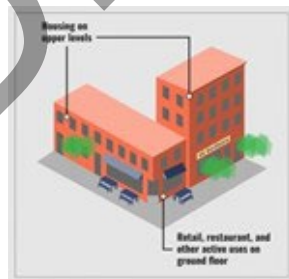
### Age-Friendly Neighborhoods

Places that address the needs of younger and older adults.



### Cluster Housing

A style of development in which homes are grouped together on a site and given large shared open spaces.



### Mixed Use Development

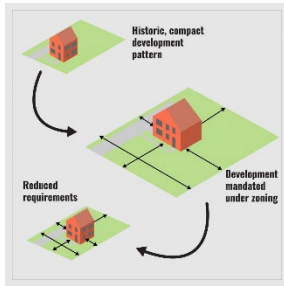
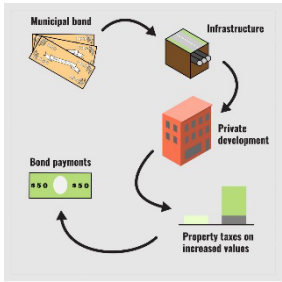
A type of real estate development that combines multiple uses



### Inclusionary Zoning

Encourages the creation of deed-restricted affordable housing within market-rate developments.





### Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

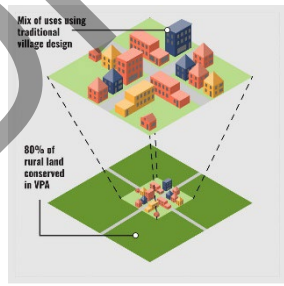
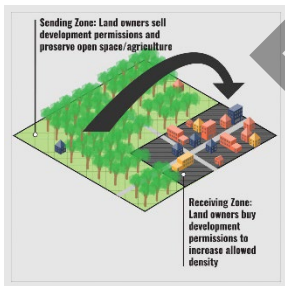
An economic development tool meant to make private developments feasible at low upfront costs to the community

### Reduced Zoning and Subdivision Requirements

A process of matching local land use rules with the existing built character of a place, with community needs, with contemporary real estate economics, and with a community's vision for its future.

### Short-Term Rental Regulations

Online markets for overnight and short-term homestays (such as AirBNB and VRBO) have grown exponentially over the past decade.



### Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

A zoning tool used to distribute development in an area to the places best suited for development, while letting all property owners recoup the value of development.

### Village Plan Alternative (VPA)

A zoning tool designed to encourage the development of new villages in rural areas.

## Appendix A - Housing Data: Rye, RPC Region & New Hampshire

The following information is a summary of key statistics and information from state, regional and local planning documents and studies that address housing and housing related issues. Information regarding housing needs will continue to change over time, Rye will need to consider updates to housing and demographic data, land use, infrastructure, and housing laws when making decisions that impact existing and future residential development.

Data Category	Metric	Rye	RPC Region	State of NH
Demographic	Total Population (2020)	5,543	198,870	1,377,529
	change since 2010	245	10,349	61,059
	Average Age (2020)	55.60	47.00	44.86
	change since 2015	1.10	1.40	1.17
	change since 2010	6.50	3.80	3.23
	Population Over 65 (2020)	2,172	53,873	245,142
	change since 2015	648	22,183	43,178
	change since 2010	1,178	27,745	74,811
	Population Under 18 (2020)	917	36,043	257,731
	change since 2015	207	-2,373	-13,949
	change since 2010	-91	-6,268	-38,221
	# Minors per Household	0	0	256,876
	change since 2015	0	0	-13,789
	change since 2010	0	0	-38,253
	School Enrollment (2021)	541	22,753	163,688
	change since 2016	-65	-2,142	-10,976
	Average Household Size - Renter (2020)	1.76	2.09	2.26
	change since 2015	0.04	-0.08	-0.03
	change since 2010	-0.27	0.01	0.02
	Average Household Size - Owner (2020)	2.44	2.60	2.50
change since 2015	0.16	0.00	0.00	
change since 2010	0.11	-0.10	-0.06	

Town of Rye, NH  
2023 Housing Needs Assessment Report

<b>Data Category</b>	<b>Metric</b>	<b>Rye</b>	<b>RPC Region</b>	<b>State of NH</b>
<b>Demographic</b>	Household # Family (2020)	1,574	53,287	351,445
	change since 2015	65	456	4,031
	change since 2010	14	2,120	5,324
	Household # Non-Family (2020)	730	27,410	187,671
	change since 2015	-176	2,725	14,834
	change since 2010	-49	2,647	19,988
	Persons with Disabilities	592	21,295	170,907
	change since 2015	-6	1,126	12,419
<b>Housing</b>	# Housing Units	2,906	89,644	638,795
	change since 2010	54	5,048	24,041
	# Renter Occupied Units	302	18,577	155,277
	change since 2015	-79	-58	4,201
	change since 2010	-108	1,259	14,710
	# Owner Occupied Units	2,002	62,120	383,839
	change since 2015	-32	3,239	14,664
	change since 2010	73	3,508	10,602
	# Seasonal Housing Units	616	4,487	70,149
	change since 2015	185	-237	4,046
	change since 2010	254	904	8,393
	# Short-Term Rental Units	83	845	-
	# Occupied Housing	2,344	82,268	556,375
	change since 2010	92	6,416	37,402
	# Vacant Housing	-	7,376	82,438
	change since 2016	-	-1,250	-13,343
	Median Age of Housing Units			
	Built in the 2010s or later	81	3,716	27,073
Built in the 2000s	117	8,535	74,152	
Built in the 1990s	276	8,309	68,064	
Built in the 1980s	581	12,616	125,093	
Built in the 1970s	157	8,564	95,348	

Town of Rye, NH  
2023 Housing Needs Assessment Report

Data Category	Metric	Rye	RPC Region	State of NH
<b>Housing</b>	Built in the 1960s	275	6,335	55,398
	Built in the 1950s	250	5,028	43,748
	Built in the 1940s	30	1,866	23,465
	Built in the 1930s or earlier	235	7,151	126,270
	Fair Share Total Unit Need by 2030	321.00	9,834.00	59,919.00
	# units needed at or below 60% AMI (Rental occupied)	29.00	899.00	5,906.00
	# units needed at or below 100% AMI (Owner occupied)	73.00	2,790.00	16,073.00
	Fair Share Total Unit Need by 2040	476.00	14,563.00	88,363.00
	# units needed at or below 60% AMI (Rental occupied)	44.00	1,365.00	8,997.00
	# units needed at or below 100% AMI (Owner occupied)	107.00	4,081.00	23,221.00
<b>Income</b>	# Individuals Living Below Poverty Level	224	9,518	97,418
	change since 2015	-33	-746	-16,422
	# Families with children below poverty level	17	1,806	11,298
	change since 2015	7	-427	-3,664
	change since 2010	3	206	-2,101
	Median Household Income	\$108,750	\$107,144	\$70,851
	change since 2015	\$14,175	\$21,124	\$10,202
	change since 2010	\$14,964	\$26,092	\$13,859
	Median Home Sale Price	-	\$527,000	\$403,000
	change since 2015	-	\$192,000	\$158,073
	change since 2010	-	\$272,000	\$218,500
	Gross Rent by #Bedrooms - ALL (2022)	-	\$1,595	\$1,790
	change since 2017	-	\$238	\$348
	change since 2012	-	\$481	\$529
	FMR 3-bed (2023)	\$2,034	\$2,168	\$2,290
	income burden > 30% (2020)	60.9%	42.4%	41.2%
	income burden > 30% (2015)	39.9%	41.5%	42.9%
income burden > 30% (2010)	24.9%	44.6%	45.5%	

Town of Rye, NH  
2023 Housing Needs Assessment Report

<b>Data Category</b>	<b>Metric</b>	<b>Rye</b>	<b>RPC Region</b>	<b>State of NH</b>
<b>Income</b>	NHHFA Median Purchase Price (2021)	\$855,000	\$466,000	\$350,000
	change since 2016	\$205,000	\$155,800	\$120,000
	change since 2011	\$360,000	\$196,067	\$143,000
	NHHFA Number of Sales (2021)	52	2993	20014
	change since 2016	-51	-599	-2850
	change since 2011	-16	1416	10171
	HUD Estimated Maximum Affordable Purchase Price - 80% (2023)	\$325,500	\$326,166.67	\$309,142.86
	change since 2021	-\$13,000	-\$36,500.00	-\$30,714.28
	change since 2019	\$73,500	\$50,166.67	\$41,642.86
	HUD Estimated Maximum Affordable Purchase Price - 100% (2023)	\$407,000	\$407,833.34	\$386,500
	change since 2021	-\$16,000	-\$45,500.00	-\$38,214.29
	change since 2019	\$94,500	\$59,666.67	\$55,714.29
	HUD Estimated Maximum Affordable Monthly Rent - 60% (2023)	\$1,840	\$1,820	\$1,747.14
	change since 2021	\$400	\$323.33	\$311.43
	change since 2019	\$570	\$426.66	\$395.71
	Ownership HUD Median Area Income for Family of 4 - 80% (2023)	\$108,800	\$107,706.67	\$103,474.29
	change since 2021	\$23,520	\$18,960.00	\$18,365.72
	change since 2019	\$33,360	\$25,120.00	\$23,428.58
	Ownership HUD Median Area Income for Family of 4 - 100% (2023)	\$136,000	\$134,633.34	\$129,342.86
	change since 2021	\$29,400	\$23,700.00	\$22,957.15
change since 2019	\$41,700	\$31,400.00	\$29,285.72	
Renter HUD Median Area Income Adjusted Family of 3 - 60% (2023)	\$1,840	\$72,700	\$69,845.71	
change since 2021	\$400	\$12,796.66	\$12,398.57	
change since 2019	\$570	\$16,956.66	\$15,815.71	
<b>Land Use</b>	# Housing Units Per Acre (2020)	0.45	0.46	0.15
	change since 2010	-	0.02	0.01

Town of Rye, NH  
2023 Housing Needs Assessment Report

Data Category	Metric	Rye	RPC Region	State of NH
Land Use	Municipal Property Tax Rate	8.17	16.94	17.68
	change since 2010	-2	-2	0
	# Building Permits	7	748	4,266
	change since 2015	-17	131	839
	change since 2010	4	398	1,980
Infrastructure	% of Town serviced by public water system	31.80%	78.90%	
	% of Town serviced by onsite wastewater disposal (septic systems).	32.60%	65.10%	89.40%
	% of Town serviced by natural gas	-	11.70%	9.7%
	% of Town with broadband availability	97.90%	94.40%	90.16%
Transportation	Mean Commute Time: Travel Time To Work (2020)	22.4	30.2	29.2
	change since 2015	-3.9	0.6	0.3
	change since 2010	-7.5	1.5	1.8

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**Appendix B- Housing Needs Assessment Public Engagement Summaries**

DRAFT



# RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

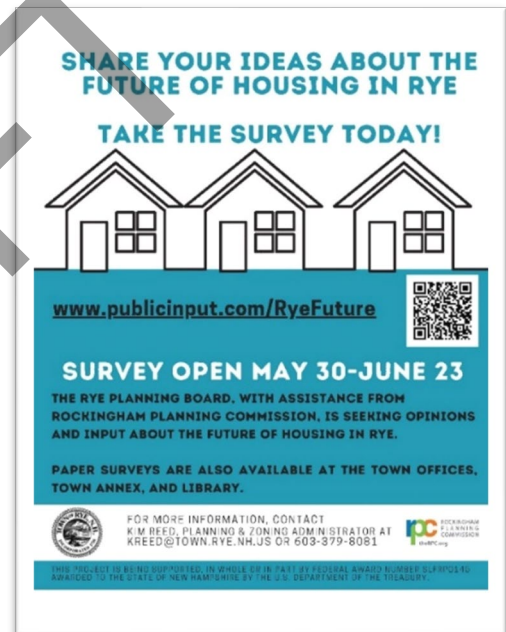
August 2023

## Overview

Communities throughout New Hampshire are wrestling with housing challenges. For Rye, the big question is how to integrate housing options into the existing fabric of the community. The first step is to engage the town in a conversation about housing to identify the priorities and strategies that best accommodate the community's needs.

In February 2023, the Rye Planning Board was awarded a \$17,750 grant from InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant Program's Housing Opportunity Program Needs Assessment Grant (HOP Grant) to prepare a Needs Analysis and Plan to fund the public engagement, analysis, and documentation of answering the question "what should the future of housing be in Rye?" Rockingham Planning Commission was selected to assist the Rye Planning Board with this effort.

The first task in Rye Housing Needs Analysis and Plan was to conduct a survey to seek feedback from residents, businesses, and officials on housing to help guide potential actions and future engagement. Between May 30, 2023 and July 6, 2023, 316 individuals took the Rye Housing Survey and provided nearly 5,000 responses or comments to the survey questions. The survey was a predominantly online survey, with paper surveys available at the Rye Town Hall, Town Hall Annex and Public Library. (Only five paper survey responses were received.) Outreach about the survey included having links posted on the Town website, information was included in the Rye newsletter mailed to every household in town, notices were posted on the unofficial and official social media sites, announcements were made at multiple municipal board meetings, flyers were handed out at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration, and flyers posted around Rye.



Full survey results are available on the [town website](https://www.townofrye.com) and at: [publicinput.com/RyeFuture](https://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture)

The survey results will serve as one of many sources used to determine future decisions related to housing in Rye, including tasks being funded through Rye's grant award.

## Next Steps

During the coming months, the Rye Planning Board, with the Long-Range Planning Committee, will continue working with Rockingham Planning Commission to continue the discussion of housing in Rye.

Next steps include:

- **Develop a housing needs assessment** that evaluates the housing status, demographics, and housing-related issues within Rye. This assessment will include guidance about tools and potential changes to local regulations, their impact on housing opportunities, and their relation to Rye residents' priorities and community goals. The assessment will be presented to the Planning Board later this summer.





**RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT**  
August 2023

- **Hold a public input event** to present the background information, discuss housing preferences in Rye gained from the survey and other sources, and allow for facilitated discussion related to housing that may fit Rye’s needs and desires.
- **Continue to the conversation** by integrating housing preferences and information into the Rye Master Plan update and Buildout Analysis approved for funding at Town Meeting in March 2023. The Planning Board is also seeking an additional grant from the InvestNH Program to conduct a land use regulatory audit to identify opportunities and barriers to housing that exist within Rye’s current regulations. All these efforts will include extensive public engagement and outreach. Prior to enacting any changes, Rye will be required to follow state law regarding adoption of any regulation or guiding document.



**SHARE YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN RYE**

**ATTEND THE RYE HOUSING PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**  
**6:30 - 8:00 PM AT RYE JR. HIGH SCHOOL**

**MORE INFO AVAILABLE AT:**  
[WWW.PUBLICINPUT.COM/RYEFUTURE](http://WWW.PUBLICINPUT.COM/RYEFUTURE)



THE RYE PLANNING BOARD, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION, IS SEEKING OPINIONS AND INPUT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN RYE.

For more information about this project, please visit the town website ([www.town.rye.nh.us/planning-board](http://www.town.rye.nh.us/planning-board)) or contact Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at [KReed@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us) or 603-379-8081.

*This project is being supported, in whole or in part by federal award number SLFRP0145 awarded to the State of New Hampshire by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*

## Summary of Findings

This survey was intended primarily for residents, however, individuals who own property or a business in Rye were also invited to provide their thoughts. Of the 317 responses received, only 11 individuals taking the survey do not live in Rye and only 10 participants owned a business in Rye. Over half of survey participants (53%) have lived in Rye for more than 10 years, over half of participants were over the age of 55 (57%), and 45% work full time while 36% are retired. About a third of participants indicated their annual household income was over \$200,000, 16% indicated having an annual household income under \$100,000, and a third of participants preferred not to give their annual income. (Note that Rye Beach Village District residents were also invited to take part in the survey, however, only a small number (four total) of those identifying the general location of their home, property or business indicated a location within the Village District.)

The following outlines some of the major survey findings. The survey results are intended to assist the Rye Planning Board in making future land use decisions about housing, however, some feedback will also be used to assist other municipal officials and staff on future decisions.

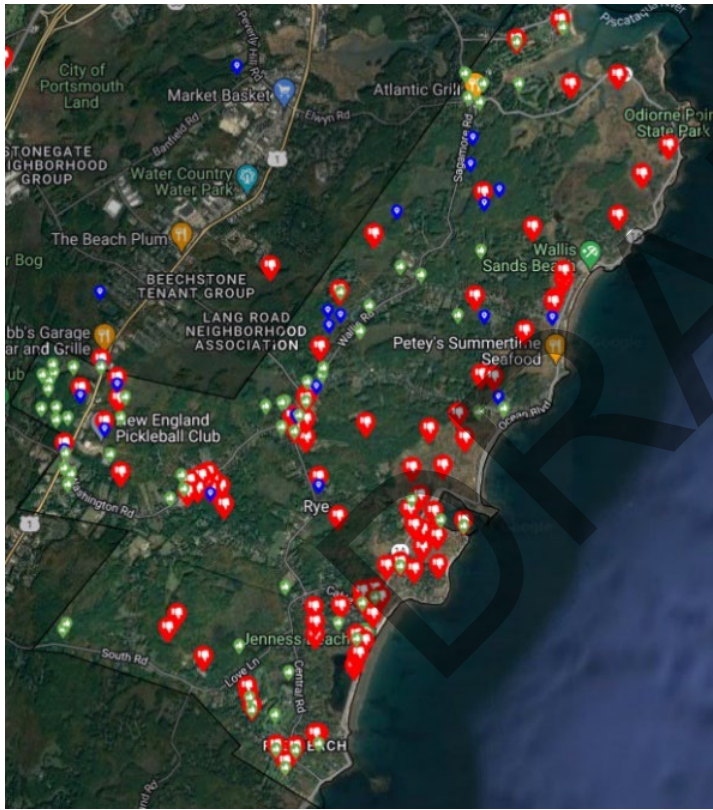
Several major themes emerged from survey responses as outlined below. Additionally, the spectrum of comments received echoed the complexity of deciding what Rye’s housing future should be. Representative comments were selected to help represent Rye’s residents’ desires in their own words. The full listing of comments is available in the full survey results linked on the previous page.



**RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT**  
August 2023

**STRONG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN RYE’S CHARACTERISTICS**

Maintaining Rye’s characteristics was a strong desire of most residents. Preserving these characteristics, including historical homes and structures, open spaces and natural resources, and general feel of a smaller community were important to those that had a range of opinions about Rye’s housing future. Most indicated that they did not want to see new housing (red) along the coast and that more housing (green) or denser housing (blue) was potentially acceptable along Route 1 and areas of Wallis and Sagamore Roads.



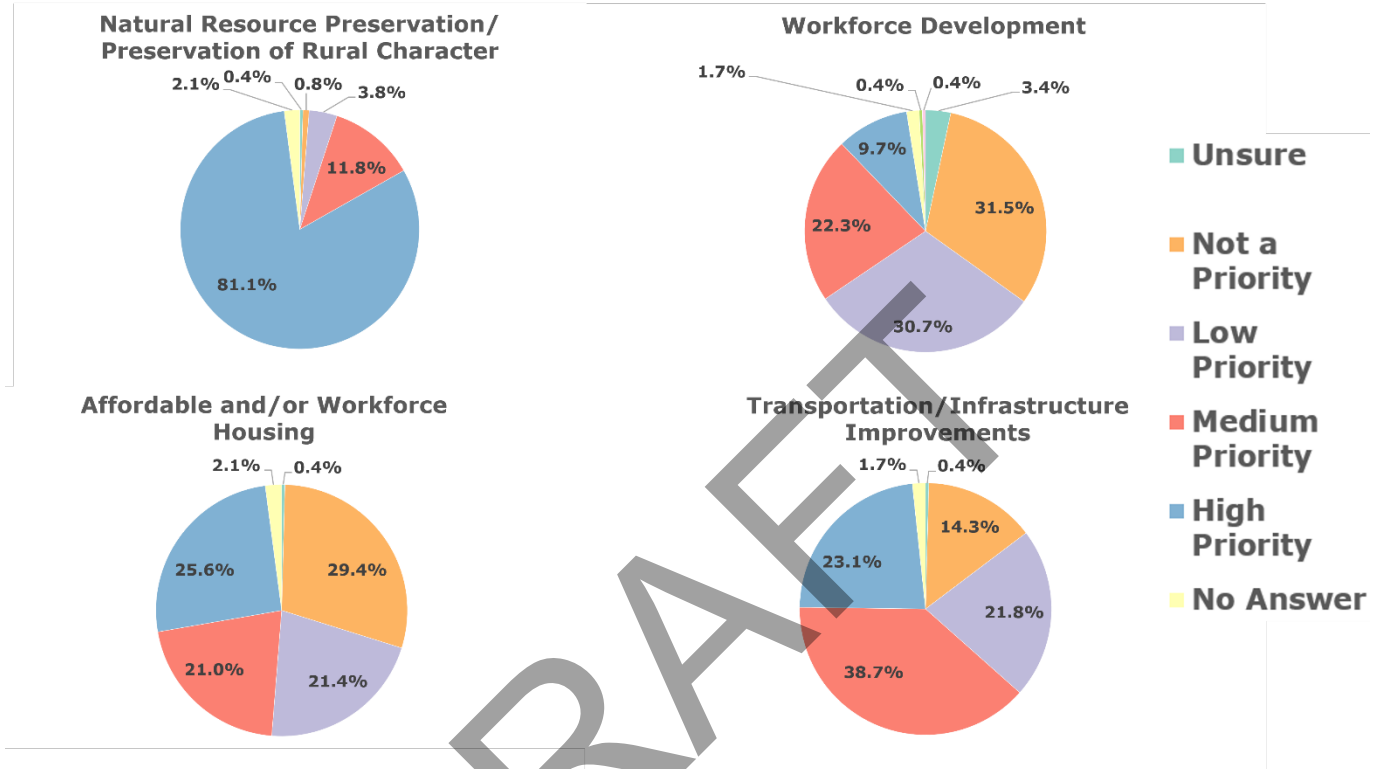
**PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES IS A PRIORITY**

Many are concerned about protecting Rye’s natural resources and environmental services. In particular, the impacts of potentially more housing on water availability, flooding concerns, open space availability, and infrastructure capacity were noted as major concerns. Of priorities, protecting natural resources and rural character was selected as the highest priority with 95% stating it was a medium or high priority.



**RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT**  
August 2023

**Please identify the priority of the following issues in terms of highest priority for Rye to address:**



**MOST RESIDENTS FEEL SECURE IN THEIR HOUSING IN RYE**

Most existing residents noted that their current housing in Rye will likely meet their housing needs in the foreseeable future. However, some expressed concern about the housing needs of others in the community or the ability for younger people to find housing options.

“Yes we bought this home as our forever home and plan to stay there while improving our property for the foreseeable future.”



## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

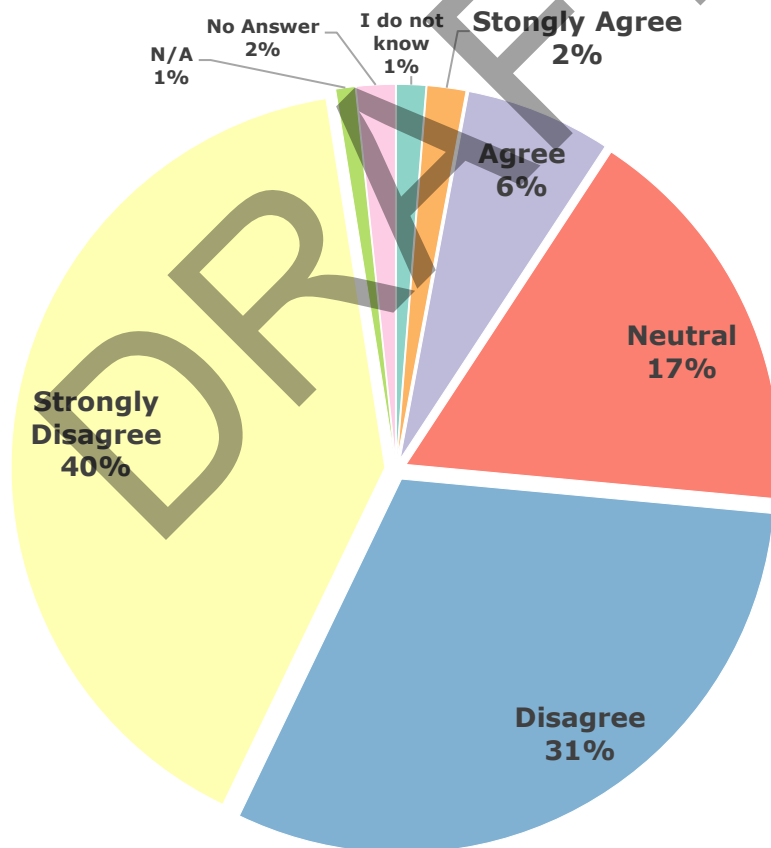
August 2023

### LACK OF UNDERSTANDING RYE'S HOUSING GOALS

When asked about Rye's housing goals, many indicated that they were not sure what the goals even were. The majority (73%) did not feel that Rye provided affordable housing choices, and when asked what the cost of an affordable home in Rye would be most did not know. (The US Housing and Urban Development {HUD} estimated maximum affordability purchase price in Rye in 2023 is \$407,000.)

"Not sure what Rye's housing goals are. Housing costs are high in Rye because of its location. This makes it hard for young families to move here. We have been here a long time (Rye native) so were able to start here."

Rye provides affordable home purchase choices





## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

August 2023

### What People Had to Say About Housing

There is a range of opinions about what Rye's housing future should be. The following are a sampling of comments from the survey that represent the range of perspectives – all comments received are in the full survey results report available on the [town website](#) and at: [publicinput.com/RyeFuture](https://publicinput.com/RyeFuture).

#### NO MORE HOUSING

"Too much new construction going on. Overbuilding the community. Adding housing types which adversely affect the type of community Rye is, turning it into an undesirable town. We can't be all things to all people, nor should we have to be."

"From our previous detailed responses, I believe you will see that our perspective that recent housing developments have been approved at the great expense of neighbors, the community in general, land and wetlands management, water quality, environmental destruction, all for the benefit of parties with vested economic interests, some of whom should have been made to recuse themselves. I would not give your approach to Rye development a high grade."

"I want Rye to keep its small town character, rural feel and conservation of our natural resources. Lately too much building, especially work for housing and other development are changing the landscape and taxing resources."



"I am extremely concerned about the over development of Rye. I don't want condo's and apartment houses being built in Rye. There are plenty of small to large homes. Over development of Rye will take away its charm and quiet nature. Over development will place demands on all of our public services and infrastructure and create more traffic. Keep Rye as it is, quaint and personable."



## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

August 2023

### SOME HOUSING

"The rural nature of Rye is getting lost, and any new housing is very expensive, almost eliminating young families from buying homes, which in turn, changes the nature of the Town."

"I see new houses and displaced wildlife. People don't talk much about the damage animals do to properties. Nor the damage filling in Wetlands does to the coast line. The cookie cutter developments take away the charm of the New England Coastal tradition and devalue their neighbors. It would be nice to see a little more taste or less uniformity in developments."

"I am concerned with all the new construction going on. That a house is purchased, then torn down for a larger home to be built. Additionally, I do not like our natural rural landscape taken over by new housing developments. I know we need some new development for sustainability of town services with taxes and new children for our schools, yet I feel in over the past 20 years it has gotten way out of control. I would also like to see some 'workforce housing'. I have found Rye to be an elitist town, yet for full democracy we need all types of diversity."

"There is not enough workforce housing, though integrating it seems difficult. Higher density would lower taxes, but require more services and may hurt property values and change the semi-rural vibe."

"The rural nature of Rye is getting lost, and any new housing is very expensive, almost eliminating young families from buying homes, which in turn, changes the nature of the Town."



"Family friendly homes that are somewhat adorable. It feels like only retired or empty nesters from MA, CT, NY or somewhere else can afford homes here. I'm not against people from out of town I just wish there were more families."



## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

August 2023

"I wouldn't want the town to grow too rapidly. By that I mean, the infrastructure (roads, schools, water, emergency services, etc) have to be in place to ensure quality services are available to all. I would also like Rye to keep its New England charm; that doesn't mean we should not grow, just have criteria for new structures (single or multi family) which will maintain that small town feel."

"Everything being knocked down and rebuilt in large non historic homes. There is no ability for anyone who works ie as a nurse, social worker someone who has grown up here to able to live in Rye anymore."

### MORE HOUSING IS NEEDED

"There presently is a lack of affordable housing for vital town employees who provide essential services to town residents (i.e. police fire, EMS, Etc). These services are often time sensitive and pertain to life & safety hence the benefit to the community to have these people in town. Without affordable housing in the future or significant pay increases so that staff can pay the increase housing costs the need for additional full time staff will continue as the community grows."

"I am not a home owner in NH. It is something I have ever envisioned as possible because of the cost. So, my housing experience has always been as a renter. Being a renter in NH is a nightmare. And if you explain this to non-renters they will say "just move." Quality and affordable apartment rentals continues to be the biggest crisis in NH. There's no workforce rental proposals in Rye that I am aware of - hopefully Rye's workforce housing plan will include one and two bedroom apartments."

"Lack of affordability. This lack of affordability limits the diversity of the town. It is also an older population. Young professionals and young families have difficulty finding reasonably affordable housing in the town. There also appears to be many single family homes. Although there have been some recent multifamily developments, such as Washington Road and Thompson Landing, I think more townhomes and condos should be explored as other options. There is also limited room for development due to wetlands, drinking water and sewer limitations."



# RYE HOUSING PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION SUMMARY REPORT

October 2023

## Overview

Rye continued its conversation about how to integrate housing options into the existing fabric of the community with a public information session held on September 27, 2023. The intent of the session was to present the background information, discuss housing preferences in Rye gained from the survey and other sources, and allow for facilitated discussion related to housing that may fit Rye's needs and desires. The presentation slides given during the session are attached for reference.

Outreach about the session included having links posted on the Town website, information was included in the Rye newsletter mailed to every household in town, notices were posted on the unofficial and official social media sites, announcements were made at multiple municipal board meetings, flyers were posted around Rye and a invitation was sent to those who had requested additional information about the project during the survey outreach

A total of 25 individuals were in attendance, including Rye Planning Board members and staff, and Rockingham Planning Commission staff. Of those in attendance, there was a combination of residents and Rye officials, with two individuals attending that are Rye Beach Village District residents. The agenda and supporting materials are attached to this report.

At the session, attendees were encouraged to provide additional feedback on housing in Rye with two key activities: 1) placing their thoughts on housing onto a spectrum, and 2) identify types of housing they thought may be a good potential fit for parts of Rye. The following is a summary of that feedback.

### Diverse spectrum of opinions about the future of housing in Rye:

No more housing.

- Build, but not big box design
- No growth in environmentally sensitive areas.
- No accessory dwelling units or detached accessory dwelling units in flood hazard zones.
- Rural development is very desirable.
- Put developments off the road.
- Higher density would not lower taxes and require more services.
- Is Rye the place where this {affordable rentals} should be?

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE  
FUTURE OF HOUSING IN RYE**

**ATTEND THE  
RYE HOUSING PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2023  
6:30 - 8:00 PM AT RYE JR. HIGH SCHOOL**



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THE RYE PLANNING BOARD, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION, IS SEEKING OPINIONS AND INPUT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN RYE.





Some housing.

- Some housing clusters or stock that younger families can afford.
- Slow growth respectful of the environment and the town's ability to absorb additional residents.
- Slow growth in right places – low density.
- Encourage accessory dwelling units – Best to have an interested individual property owner looking after things. Helps to build a bridge between generations.
- 

More housing is needed.

- Cluster housing that will accommodate young families – possibly using a small portion of conservation land.
- Could the concept of co-housing allow Rye to create denser living areas with protections for open space?
- This {the affordable rental market} would be helped by ADUs.

**Types of housing that may be a good fit in parts of Rye:**

Participants identified small cottage style homes in a cluster style as potentially good fits for parts of the western portions of Rye.



Participants also identified that townhouse style homes may also be a good fit for the Route 1 corridor. Note that this response may be attributable to the recent development in that area that fits this style of home.





# RYE HOUSING PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

September 27, 2023

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Rye Jr. High School  
501 Washington Road, Rye NH

## Agenda






- **Welcome**
  - Project Purpose
  - Coordination with Master Plan Update & Buildout Analysis
- **Overview of Housing in Rye**
  - Background Information
  - Survey Results (summary report available)
  - Going Forward
- **Public Discussion**
  - Activity: Tell me your housing story – turn to your neighbor:
    - Why is Rye the place you call home?
    - Have you ever lived in a different kind of housing than you do now?
    - What housing needs in the community – if any- are not being met?
  - Activity: Housing Map
    - Look at the handout with different housing types – indicate which type of housing you think could fit best in different parts of Rye by placing a dot with that number on the map.
  - Activity: Add Your Thoughts On Housing.
    - Write your thought about the future of housing in Rye and add them where you think they fit is on the comment spectrum.
- **Wrap Up & Next Steps**
  - Summary report, including responses to questions raised, from this input session to be developed and released by early October.
  - Rye Housing Needs Assessment scheduled to be presented to Rye Planning Board on 10/17.
  - All documents to be posted on town website and at [www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture](http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture)
  - Rye Planning Board will continue to work on the Master Plan and Buildout Analysis in the coming months.



### Have More Thoughts On Housing In Rye?

If you have further thoughts on the future of housing in Rye after this evening's event or if you were not able to join us on September 27, we are continuing the conversation online through October 15. The video recording on tonight's session will also be available online at: [https://townhallstreams.com/towns/rye\\_nh](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/rye_nh)

You can submit additional thoughts several ways:

	<p>Visit <a href="http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture">www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture</a> or scan the QR code and leave a comment about you</p> 
	<p>Call 855-925-2801 and enter Project Code 2018. Leave a voicemail message with your thoughts.</p>
	<p>Send an email to Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at <a href="mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us">KReed@town.rye.nh.us</a></p>
	<p>Attend a Rye Planning Board, Long Range Planning Committee or Master Plan Committee meeting. The meeting dates and agendas are posted on the Rye Town website at: <a href="http://www.town.rye.nh.us">www.town.rye.nh.us</a></p>

For more information about this project, please contact Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at [KReed@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us) or 603-379-8081.



**1**

**2**



**3**

**4**



RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT  
August 2023

5



6



7



8



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Next steps include:

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*This project is being supported, in whole or in part by federal award number SLFRP0145 awarded to the State of New Hampshire by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*

## Summary of Findings

This survey was intended primarily for residents, however, individuals who own property or a business in Rye were also invited to provide their thoughts. Of the 317 responses received, only 11 individuals taking the survey do not live in Rye and only 10 participants owned a business in Rye. Over half of survey participants (53%) have lived in Rye for more than 10 years, over half of participants were over the age of 55 (57%), and 45% work full time while 36% are retired. About a third of participants indicated their annual household income was over \$200,000, 16% indicated having an annual household income under \$100,000, and a third of participants preferred not to give their annual income. (Note that Rye Beach Village District residents were also invited to take part in the survey, however, only a small number (four total) of those identifying the general location of their home, property or business indicated a location within the Village District.)

## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

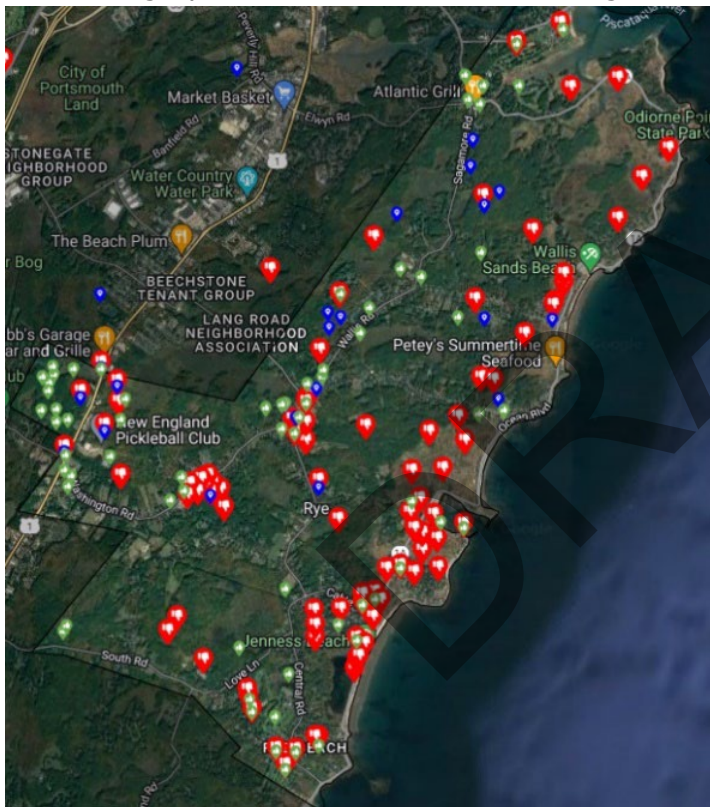
August 2023

The following outlines some of the major survey findings. The survey results are intended to assist the Rye Planning Board in making future land use decisions about housing, however, some feedback will also be used to assist other municipal officials and staff on future decisions.

Several major themes emerged from survey responses as outlined below. Additionally, the spectrum of comments received echoed the complexity of deciding what Rye’s housing future should be. Representative comments were selected to help represent Rye’s residents’ desires in their own words. The full listing of comments is available in the full survey results linked on the previous page.

### STRONG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN RYE’S CHARACTERISTICS

Maintaining Rye’s characteristics was a strong desire of

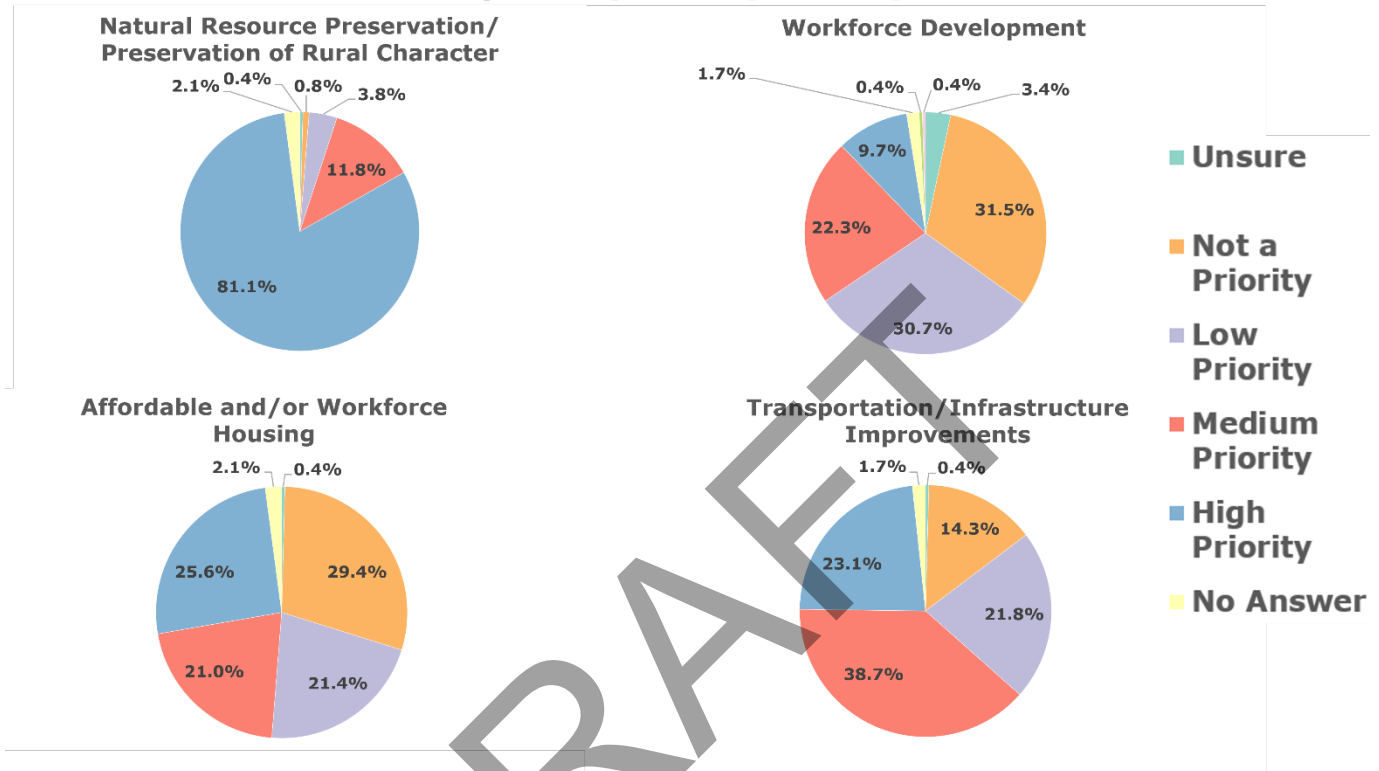


most residents. Preserving these characteristics, including historical homes and structures, open spaces and natural resources, and general feel of a smaller community were important to those that had a range of opinions about Rye’s housing future. Most indicated that they did not want to see new housing (red) along the coast and that more housing (green) or denser housing (blue) was potentially acceptable along Route 1 and areas of Wallis and Sagamore Roads.



**RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT**  
August 2023

**Please identify the priority of the following issues in terms of highest priority for Rye to address:**



DRAFT

**PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES IS A PRIORITY**

Many are concerned about protecting Rye’s natural resources and environmental services. In particular, the impacts of potentially more housing on water availability, flooding concerns, open space availability, and infrastructure capacity were noted as major concerns. Of priorities, protecting natural resources and rural character was selected as the highest priority with 95% stating it was a medium or high priority.

**MOST RESIDENTS FEEL SECURE IN THEIR HOUSING IN RYE**





## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

August 2023

Most existing residents noted that their current housing in Rye will likely meet their housing needs in the foreseeable future. However, some expressed concern about the housing needs of others in the community or the ability for younger people to find housing options.

"Yes we bought this home as our forever home and plan to stay there while improving our property for the foreseeable future."

### LACK OF UNDERSTANDING RYE'S HOUSING GOALS

When asked about Rye's housing goals, many indicated that they were not sure what the goals even were. The majority (73%) did not feel that Rye provided affordable housing choices, and when asked what the cost of an affordable home in Rye would be most did not know. (The US Housing and Urban Development {HUD} estimated maximum affordability purchase price in Rye in 2023 is \$407,000.)

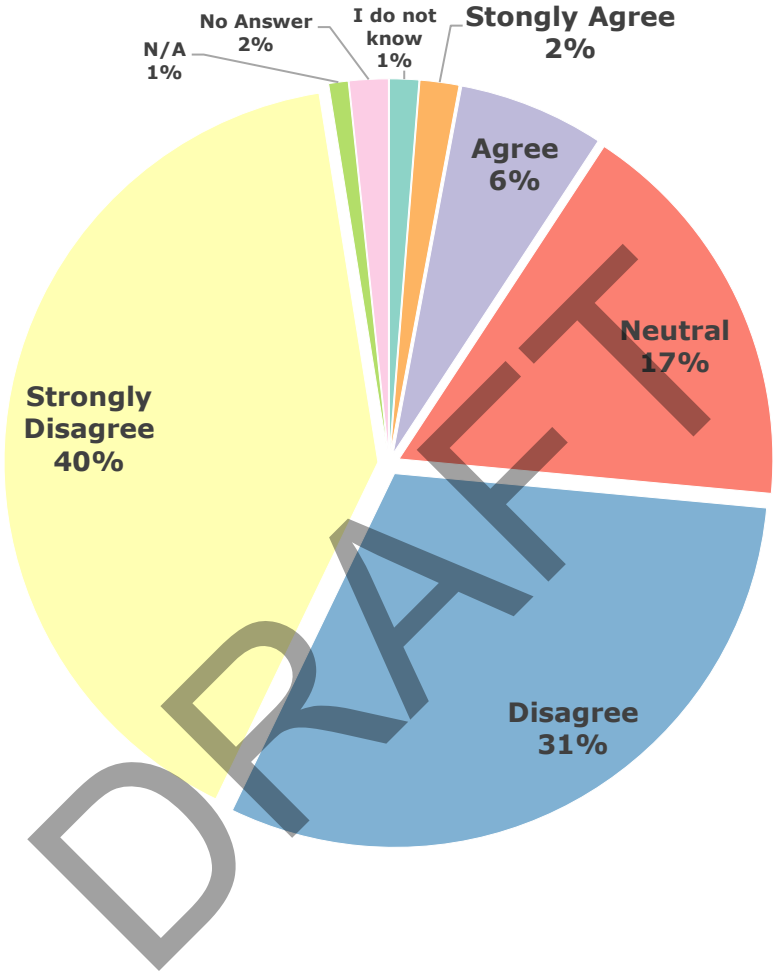
"Not sure what Rye's housing goals are. Housing costs are high in Rye because of its location. This makes it hard for young families to move here. We have been here a long time (Rye native) so were able to start here. "



**RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT**

August 2023

**Rye provides affordable home purchase choices**



## What People Had to Say About Housing

There is a range of opinions about what Rye’s housing future should be. The following are a sampling of comments from the survey that represent the range of perspectives – all comments received are in the full survey results report available on the [town website](#) and at: [publicinput.com/RyeFuture](https://publicinput.com/RyeFuture).

### NO MORE HOUSING

“Too much new construction going on. Overbuilding the community. Adding housing types which adversely affect the type of community Rye is, turning it into an undesirable town. We can't be all things to all people, nor should we have to be.”

“From our previous detailed responses, I believe you will see that our perspective that recent housing developments have been approved at the great expense of neighbors, the community in general, land and wetlands management, water quality, environmental destruction, all for the benefit of parties with vested economic interests, some of whom should have been made to recuse themselves. I would not give your approach to Rye development a high grade.”

“I want Rye to keep its small town character, rural feel and conservation of our natural resources. Lately too much building, especially work for housing and other development are changing the landscape and taxing resources.”



“I am extremely concerned about the over development of Rye. I don't want condo's and apartment houses being built in Rye. There are plenty of small to large homes. Over development of Rye will take away its charm and quiet nature. Over development will place demands on all of our public services and infrastructure and create more traffic. Keep Rye as it is, quaint and personable.”



## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

August 2023

### SOME HOUSING

"The rural nature of Rye is getting lost, and any new housing is very expensive, almost eliminating young families from buying homes, which in turn, changes the nature of the Town."

"I see new houses and displaced wildlife. People don't talk much about the damage animals do to properties. Nor the damage filling in Wetlands does to the coast line. The cookie cutter developments take away the charm of the New England Coastal tradition and devalue their neighbors. It would be nice to see a little more taste or less uniformity in developments."

"I am concerned with all the new construction going on. That a house is purchased, then torn down for a larger home to be built. Additionally, I do not like our natural rural landscape taken over by new housing developments. I know we need some new development for sustainability of town services with taxes and new children for our schools, yet I feel in over the past 20 years it has gotten way out of control. I would also like to see some 'workforce housing'. I have found Rye to be an elitist town, yet for full democracy we need all types of diversity."

"There is not enough workforce housing, though integrating it seems difficult. Higher density would lower taxes, but require more services and may hurt property values and change the semi-rural vibe."

"The rural nature of Rye is getting lost, and any new housing is very expensive, almost eliminating young families from buying homes, which in turn, changes the nature of the Town."



"Family friendly homes that are somewhat adorable. It feels like only retired or empty nesters from MA, CT, NY or somewhere else can afford homes here. I'm not against people from out of town I just wish there were more families."



## RYE HOUSING SURVEY - SUMMARY REPORT

August 2023

"I wouldn't want the town to grow too rapidly. By that I mean, the infrastructure (roads, schools, water, emergency services, etc) have to be in place to ensure quality services are available to all. I would also like Rye to keep its New England charm; that doesn't mean we should not grow, just have criteria for new structures (single or multi family) which will maintain that small town feel."

"Everything being knocked down and rebuilt in large non historic homes. There is no ability for anyone who works ie as a nurse, social worker someone who has grown up here to able to live in Rye anymore."

### MORE HOUSING IS NEEDED

"There presently is a lack of affordable housing for vital town employees who provide essential services to town residents (i.e. police fire, EMS, Etc). These services are often time sensitive and pertain to life & safety hence the benefit to the community to have these people in town. Without affordable housing in the future or significant pay increases so that staff can pay the increase housing costs the need for additional full time staff will continue as the community grows."

"I am not a home owner in NH. It is something I have ever envisioned as possible because of the cost. So, my housing experience has always been as a renter. Being a renter in NH is a nightmare. And if you explain this to non-renters they will say "just move." Quality and affordable apartment rentals continues to be the biggest crisis in NH. There's no workforce rental proposals in Rye that I am aware of - hopefully Rye's workforce housing plan will include one and two bedroom apartments."

"Lack of affordability. This lack of affordability limits the diversity of the town. It is also an older population. Young professionals and young families have difficulty finding reasonably affordable housing in the town. There also appears to be many single family homes. Although there have been some recent multifamily developments, such as Washington Road and Thompson Landing, I think more townhomes and condos should be explored as other options. There is also limited room for development due to wetlands, drinking water and sewer limitations."



# RYE HOUSING PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

September 27, 2023

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Rye Jr. High School  
501 Washington Road, Rye NH

## Agenda






- **Welcome**
  - Project Purpose
  - Coordination with Master Plan Update & Buildout Analysis
- **Overview of Housing in Rye**
  - Background Information
  - Survey Results (summary report available)
  - Going Forward
- **Public Discussion**
  - Activity: Tell me your housing story – turn to your neighbor:
    - Why is Rye the place you call home?
    - Have you ever lived in a different kind of housing than you do now?
    - What housing needs in the community – if any- are not being met?
  - Activity: Housing Map
    - Look at the handout with different housing types – indicate which type of housing you think could fit best in different parts of Rye by placing a dot with that number on the map.
  - Activity: Add Your Thoughts On Housing.
    - Write your thought about the future of housing in Rye and add them where you think they fit is on the comment spectrum.
- **Wrap Up & Next Steps**
  - Summary report, including responses to questions raised, from this input session to be developed and released by early October.
  - Rye Housing Needs Assessment scheduled to be presented to Rye Planning Board on 10/17.
  - All documents to be posted on town website and at [www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture](http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture)
  - Rye Planning Board will continue to work on the Master Plan and Buildout Analysis in the coming months.



### Have More Thoughts On Housing In Rye?

If you have further thoughts on the future of housing in Rye after this evening's event or if you were not able to join us on September 27, we are continuing the conversation online through October 15. The video recording on tonight's session will also be available online at: [https://townhallstreams.com/towns/rye\\_nh](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/rye_nh)

You can submit additional thoughts several ways:

	<p>Visit <a href="http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture">www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture</a> or scan the QR code and leave a comment about you</p> 
	<p>Call 855-925-2801 and enter Project Code 2018. Leave a voicemail message with your thoughts.</p>
	<p>Send an email to Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at <a href="mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us">KReed@town.rye.nh.us</a></p>
	<p>Attend a Rye Planning Board, Long Range Planning Committee or Master Plan Committee meeting. The meeting dates and agendas are posted on the Rye Town website at: <a href="http://www.town.rye.nh.us">www.town.rye.nh.us</a></p>

For more information about this project, please contact Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at [KReed@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us) or 603-379-8081.



**1**



**2**



**3**



**4**







**5**

**6**



**7**

**8**



**SHARE YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE  
FUTURE OF HOUSING IN RYE**

**RYE HOUSING PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2023  
6:30 - 8:00 PM AT RYE JR. HIGH SC**



# Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Overview of Housing in Rye:** Background information, survey review, going forward
- **Public Discussion:** Activities to aimed to get further feedback on Rye's housing preference.
- **Wrap Up & Next Steps**

# Project Background

- 2021 – Rye held Community Visioning Session
- February 2023 - \$17,750 grant from InvestNH awarded to Rye
- March 2023 – Rye voters fund Master Plan Update & Buildout Analysis
- March 2023 – RPC Regional Housing Needs Assessment Released
- April 2023 – Rye selects RPC to facilitate Housing Needs Assessment and outreach.
- May 2023 – Rye selects Resilience Planning & Design and FB Environmental to work as a team, along with RP,C on the Master Plan update and Buildout Analysis.



## InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grants

This program is administered by:



# Project Purpose

## Develop Housing Needs Assessment

- Evaluates the housing status, demographics, and housing-related issues within Rye
- Provides guidance about tools and potential changes to regulations that fit with Rye's priorities and goals.

## Public Outreach & Engagement

- Conduct survey to seek public feedback on housing preferences.
- Hold input session to present housing information, seek additional feedback on Rye's housing needs and desires.



### InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grants

This program is administered by:

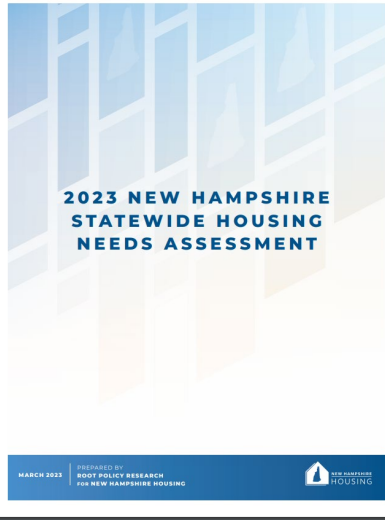


# Why Is Rye Doing This Project?

- **Discussing housing as a follow-up to 2021 Community Visioning**
- **Timely work with efforts to update Master Plan and Buildout Analysis.**
- **Leveraging grant opportunities to further Rye planning efforts.**
- **To gain better understanding of Rye's compliance with NH's Workforce Housing Law (RSA 674:58-61)**

## Quick items to know-

- **NH's Workforce Housing Law does not require municipalities to build workforce housing, it requires them to provide opportunity to build such housing.**
- **Rye Beach Village District has separate legal responsibility to comply with the Workforce Housing Law.**
- **Affordable housing & workforce housing do not explicitly mean low income housing.**



**2023**  
Regional Housing  
Needs Assessment

# What is Impacting Housing in NH, the Region and Rye

Population increase.

Aging population

Housing production has slowed.

Cost of housing is increasing.

Income has lagged as housing prices continue to increase.

Current housing stock does not meet the needs of our communities.

Environmental Constraints



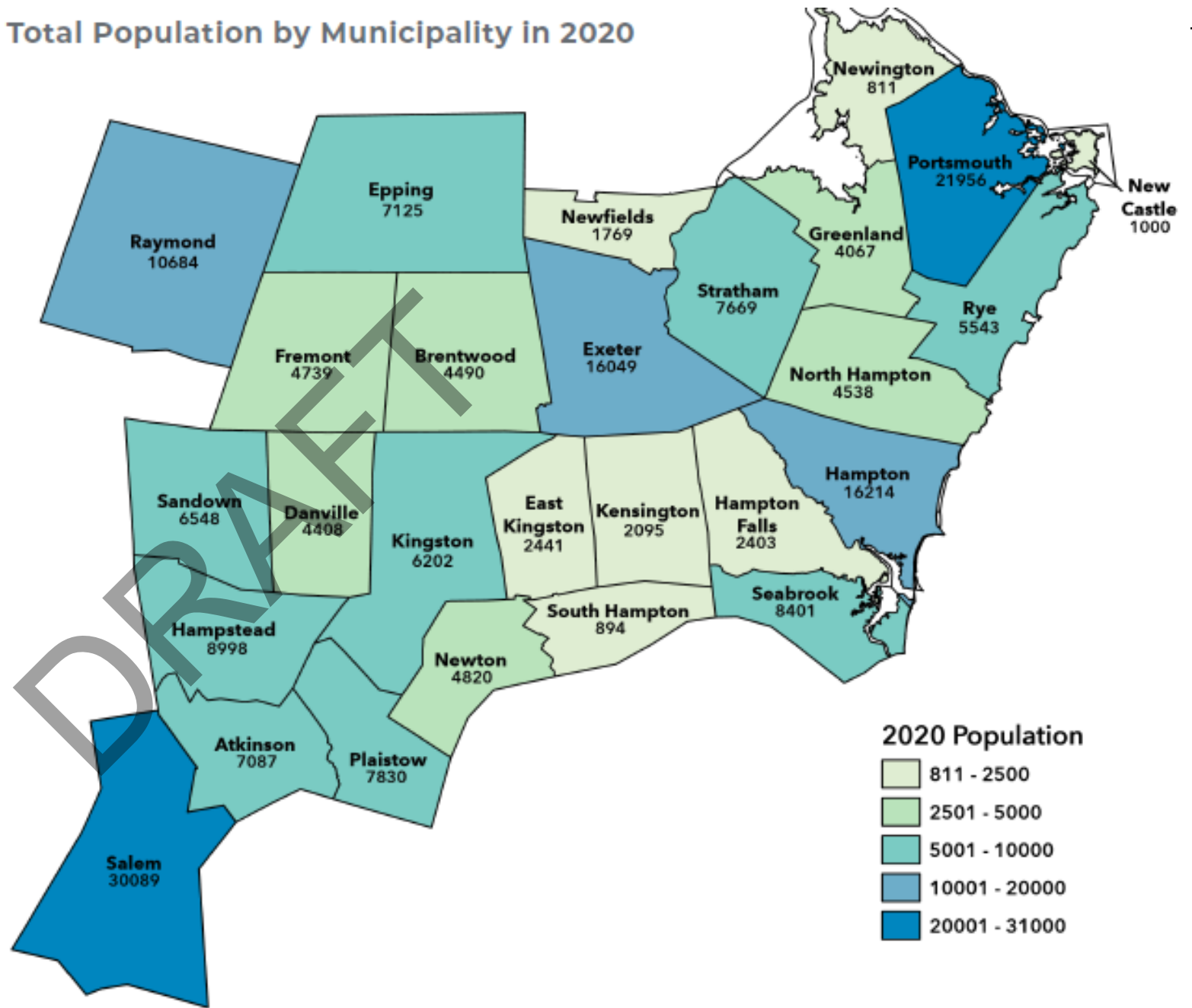
The Town of Rye is currently undertaking several planning efforts related to the future of Rye. These efforts include an update to the Master Plan, conducting a Housing Needs Assessment and a Buildout Analysis. All three efforts will include extensive public engagement and outreach prior. This page is currently under construction and will be updated in the coming weeks so please check back!



# Population increase.

2000: 177,962  
 2010: 188,521  
 2020: 198,870  
 2040: 221,897

Total Population by Municipality in 2020



Rockingham Planning Commission Regional Population

YEAR: 2000  
**177,962**  
 Population

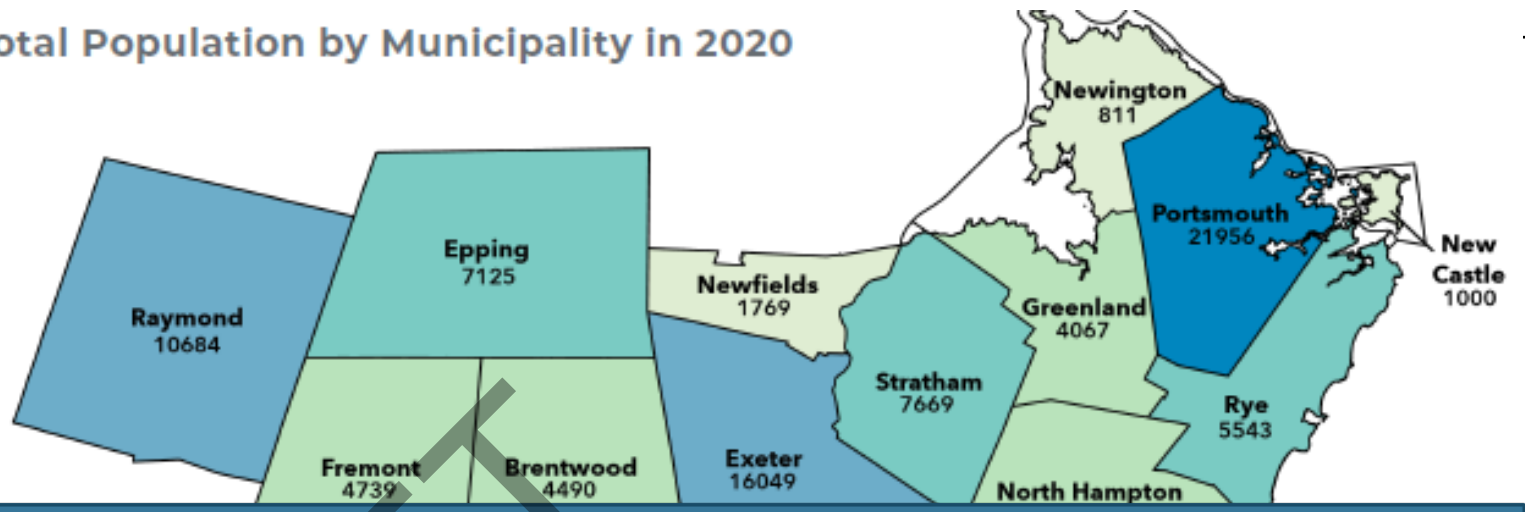
YEAR: 2020  
**198,870**  
 Population

**+11.7%**  
 CHANGE  
 over 20 years

Source: Decennial Census, 2010, 2020

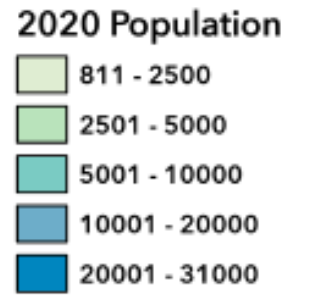
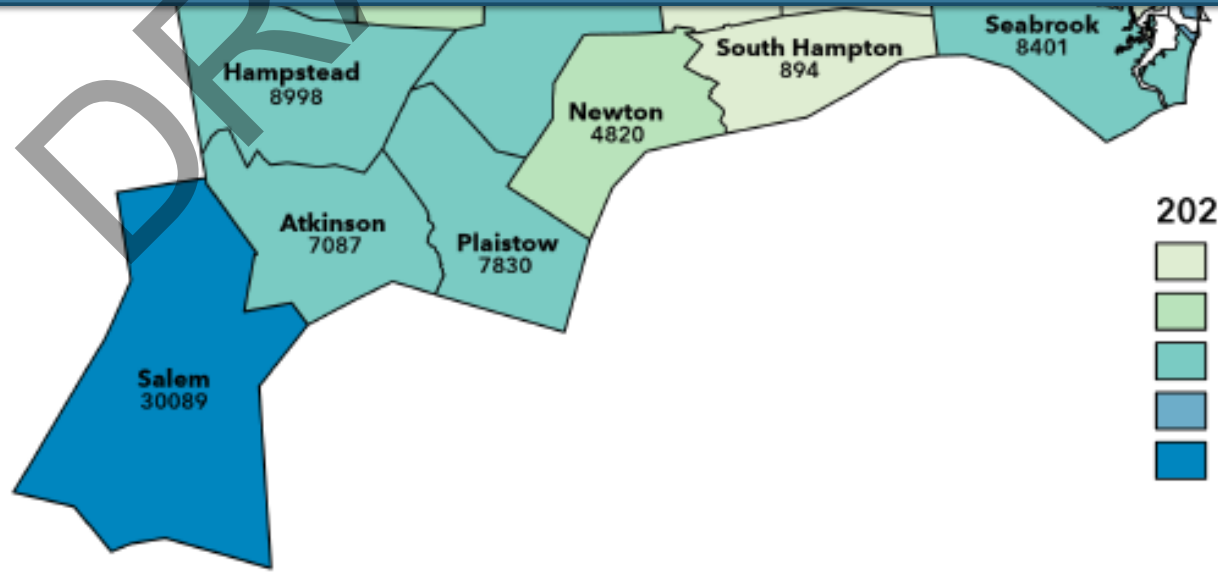
Source: Decennial Census, 2020

Total Population by Municipality in 2020



Rye's 2020 Population : 5,543 individuals,  
 an increase of 245 people since 2010.

2000:  
 2010: 188,521  
 2020: 198,870  
 2040: 221,897



Rockingham Planning Commission Regional Population

YEAR: 2000	YEAR: 2020	CHANGE
177,962 Population	198,870 Population	+11.7% CHANGE over 20 years

Source: Decennial Census, 2010, 2020

Source: Decennial Census, 2020

# Aging population.

Average Regional Age:  
 2010: 43  
 2020: 47

## Youngest Population:

- Portsmouth
- Raymond
- Sandown
- Danville
- Brentwood

## Oldest Population:

- Rye
- New Castle

## HOUSEHOLDS SNAPSHOT

### Average Age by Municipality

Town	2010 Average Age	2015 Average Age	2020 Average Age
Atkinson	47.5	47.5	51.9
Brentwood	40.4	42.8	42.1
Danville	40	41.5	42.8
East Kingston	45	44.1	52.8
Epping	39.3	41.7	46.9
Exeter	46.6	43.9	47.6
Fremont	38.5	43.9	44
Greenland	42.3	45.4	46.5
Hampstead	43.4	46.4	44
Hampton	46.3	49.7	50.3
Hampton Falls	41.8	44.9	46.4
Kensington	43.7	47.2	46.6
Kingston	40.4	46	47.5
New Castle	55.1	57.2	56.8
Newfields	39.1	41.8	47.2
Newington	50	53.7	51.5
Newton	40.1	38.8	44.7
North Hampton	42.5	49	50.2
Plaistow	43.2	42.5	44.2
Portsmouth	38.5	41.2	41.5
Raymond	40.4	39	40.5
Rye	49.1	54.5	55.6
Salem	42.3	43.5	45.1
Sandown	36.8	40.8	40.2
Seabrook	46.7	49	49.7
South Hampton	45.8	49.5	44.8
Stratham	42.1	44.5	48.2
<b>RPC Region</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>47.0</b>

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2006-2010, 2011-2015, 2016-2020

# Aging population.

Rye's 2020 Average Age: 55.6 Years  
 2010 Average Age: 49.1 Years

Average Regional Age:  
 2010: 43  
 2020: 47

## Youngest Population:

- Portsmouth
- Raymond
- Sandown
- Danville

## Oldest Population:

- Rye
- New Castle

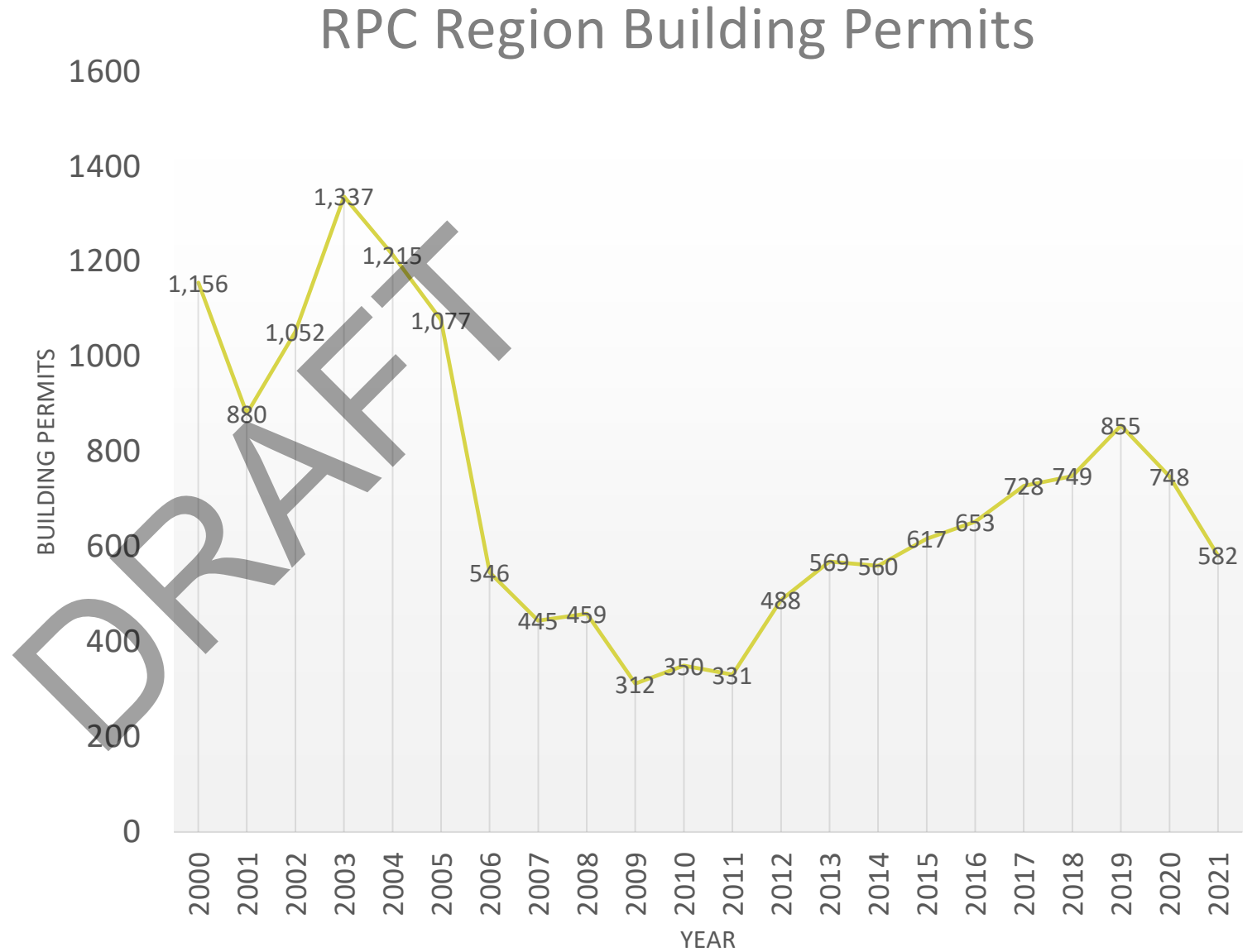
## HOUSEHOLDS SNAPSHOT

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		43.9	44
		45.4	46.5
		46.4	44
		49.7	50.3
		44.9	46.4
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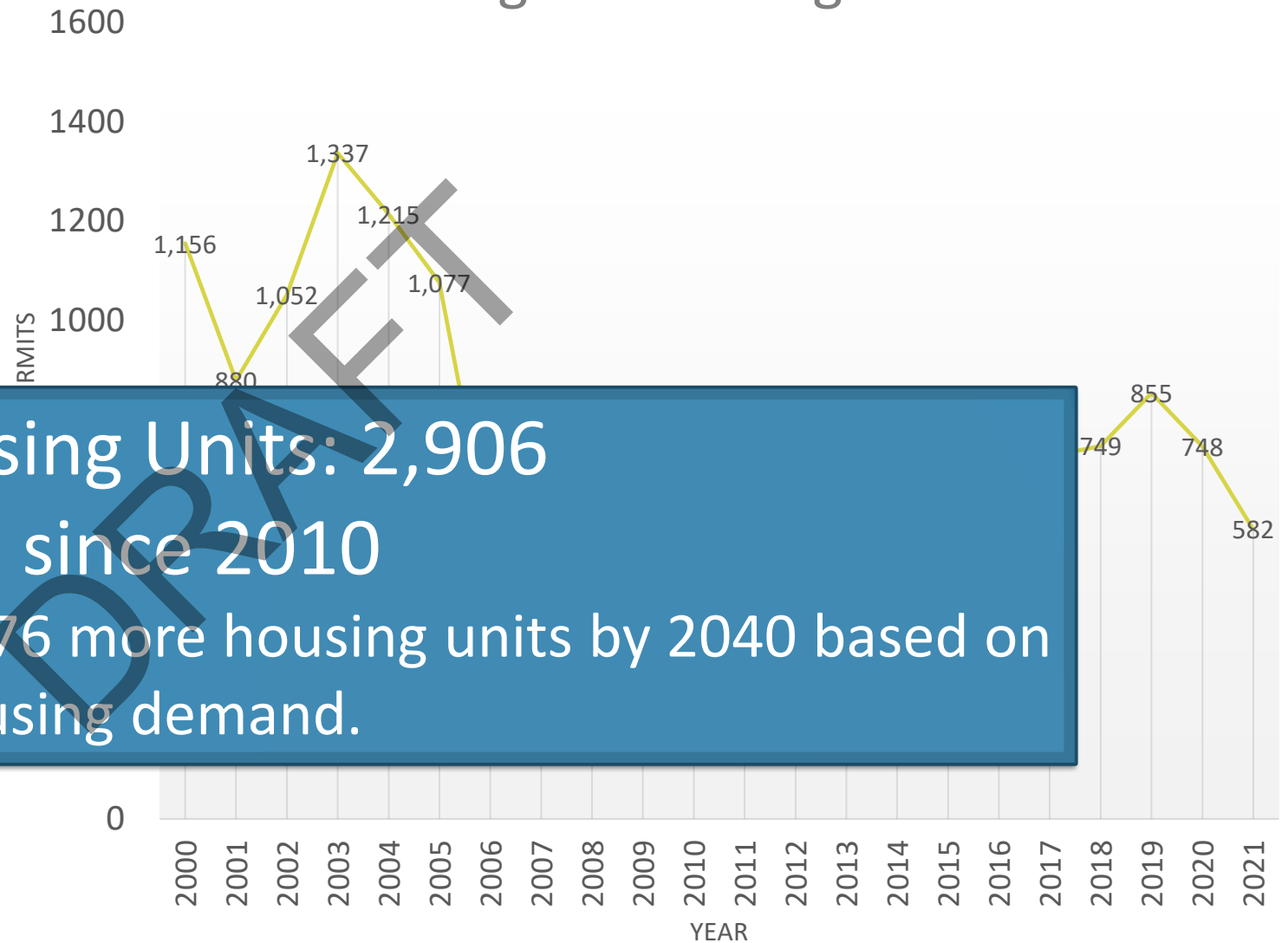
Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2006-2010, 2011-2015, 2016-2020

Housing  
production  
has slowed.



Housing production has slowed.

## RPC Region Building Permits



Rye's 2020 Total Housing Units: 2,906

Increase of 170 Units since 2010

Rye is projected to need 476 more housing units by 2040 based on population growth and housing demand.

Cost of housing has increased.

**RPC Region  
Median Gross Rent**

**+47%**

2010: \$1,086

2022: \$1,595

**RPC Region  
Median Home Price**

**+99%**

2010: \$265,000

2022: \$527,000

**Rockingham County  
Average 2- bedroom Rent**

2023: \$1,944

**Rye Average Home Sale  
Price**

**\$1,185,566**

(August 2022 – August 2023)

**Condo: \$685,115**

**Single-Family: \$1,224,534**

Cost of housing has increased.

RPC Region  
Median Gross Rent

+47%

RPC Region  
Median Home Price

+99%

2023 Affordable home purchase price in Rye: \$407,000

2023 Affordable rent (2-bedroom): \$1,552 per month

Affordable housing means you are not spending more than 30% of your income on housing.

Home Sale

6

(3)

115

224,534

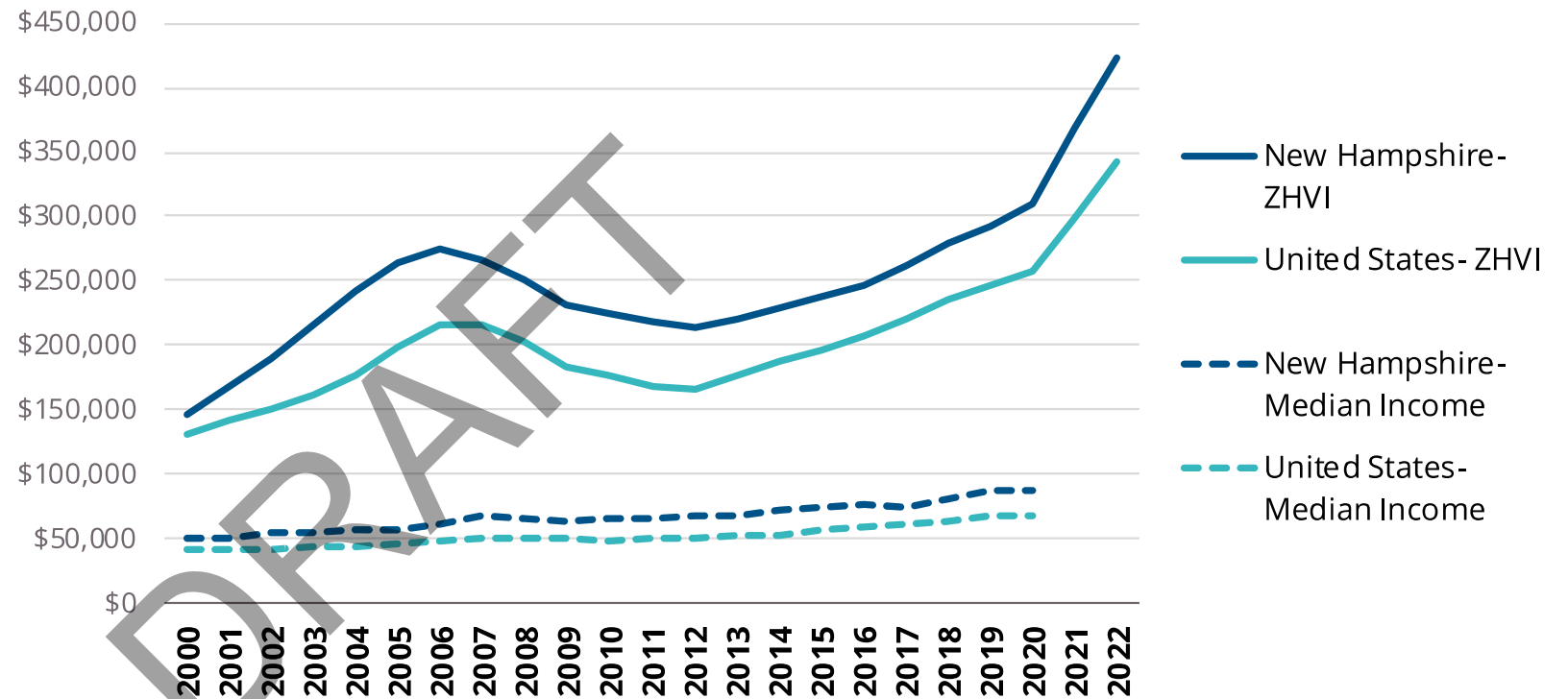


# Rye's Housing Needs Projections

• Projections	2040
Total Units Needed (cumulative)	476
"Affordable" Units Needed	151
Market Rate Units Needed	326
Rental Units V. Owned Units	29% Rental Units Needed & 71% Owned Unites Needed

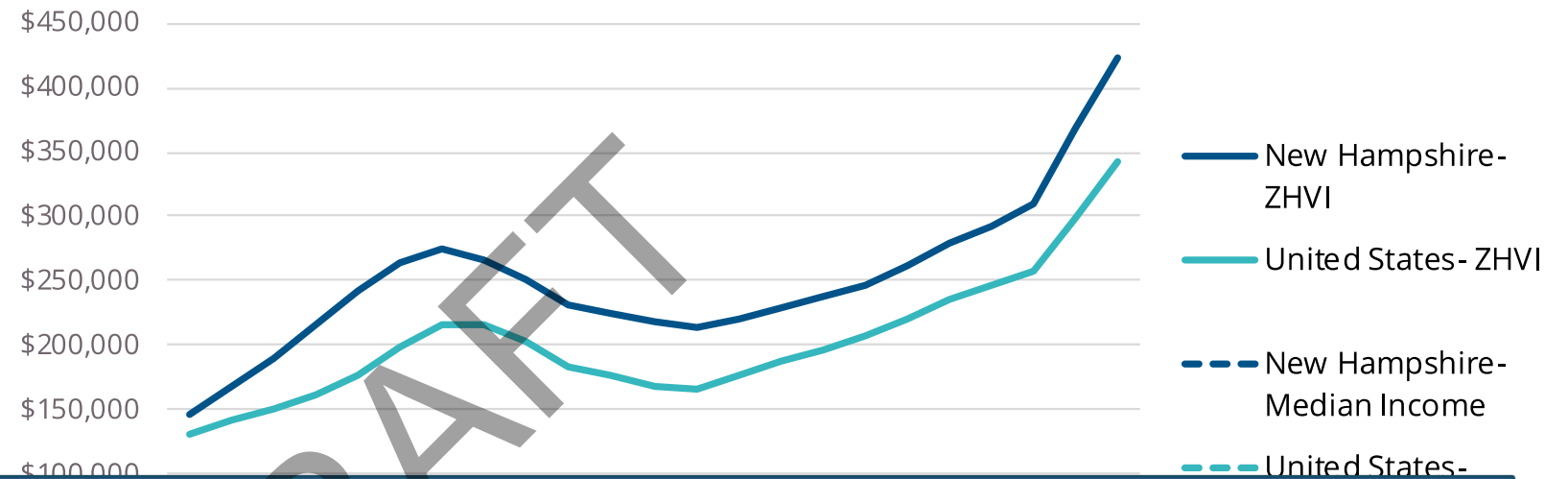
Income has lagged as housing prices continue to increase.

### Statewide Zillow Home Value Index and Median Income, 2000 – 2022



Income has lagged as housing prices continue to increase.

Statewide Zillow Home Value Index and Median Income, 2000 – 2022

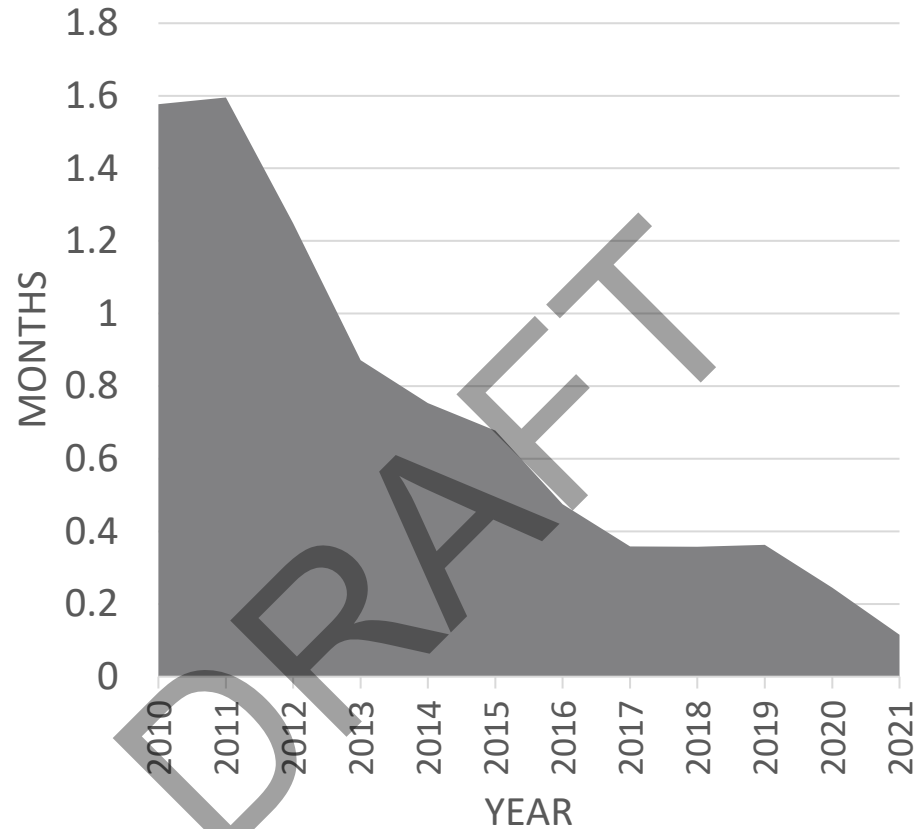


Rye's 2020 Annual Median Household Income: \$108,450

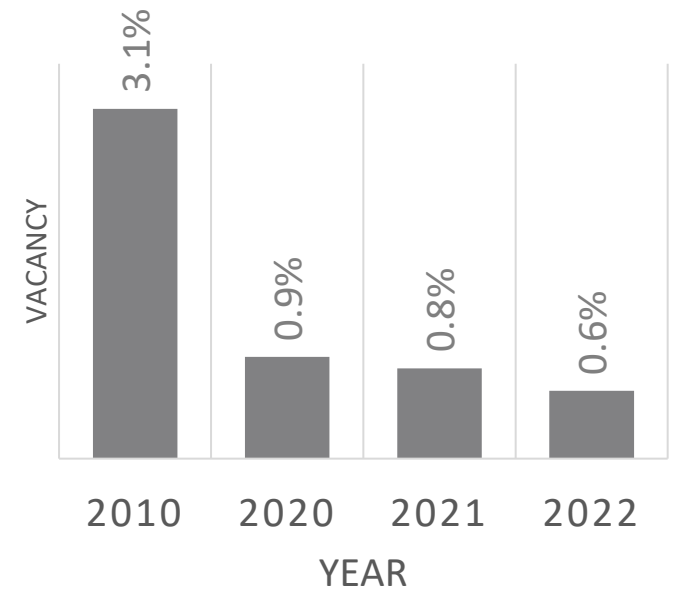
Regional 2020 medium household income: \$107,114

Current housing stock does not meet community needs.

### REGIONAL MONTHS TO ABSORB



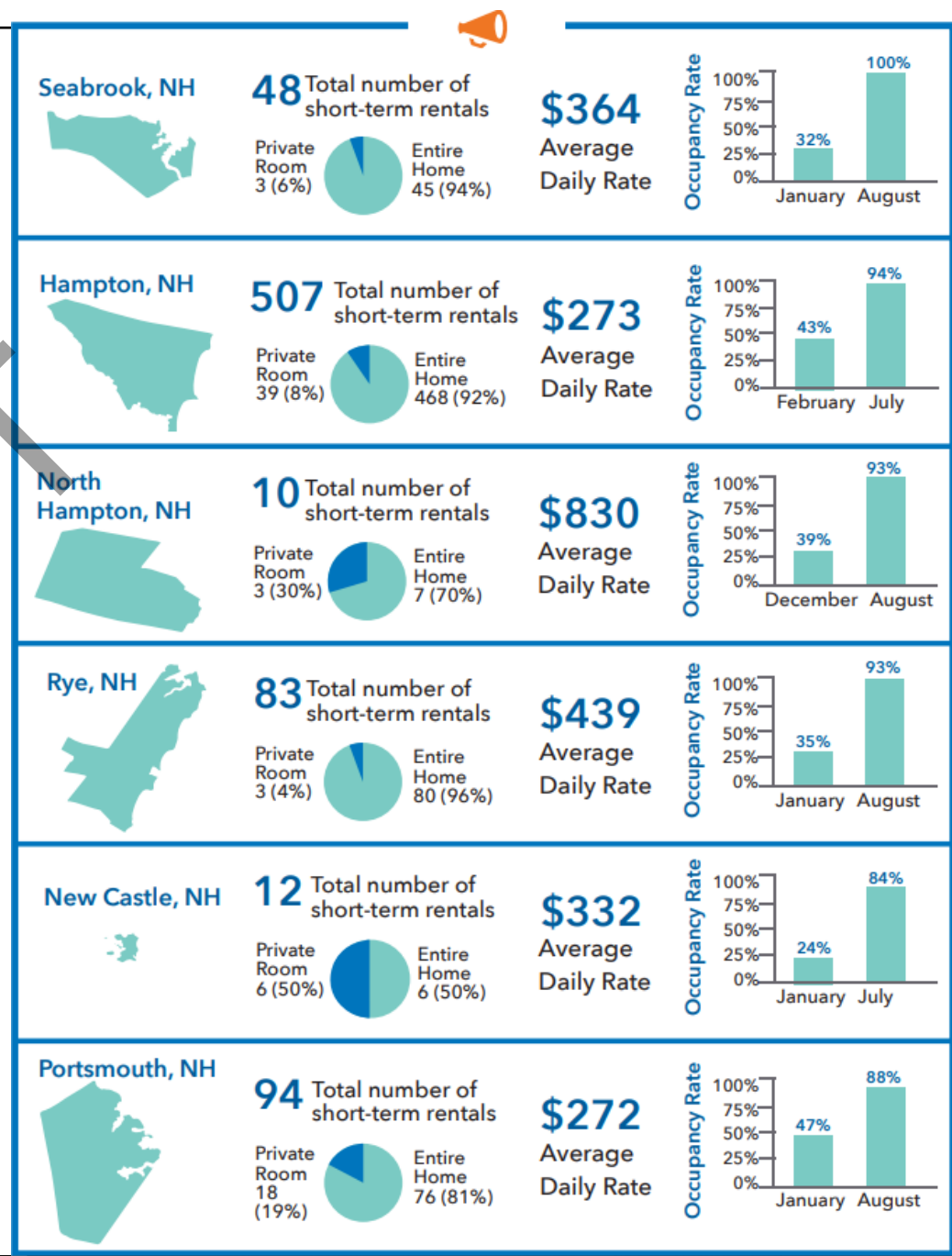
### REGIONAL RENTER OCCUPIED VACANCY RATE



Current housing stock does not meet community needs.

Rye has 616 seasonal homes and 83 short-term rentals.

DRAFT



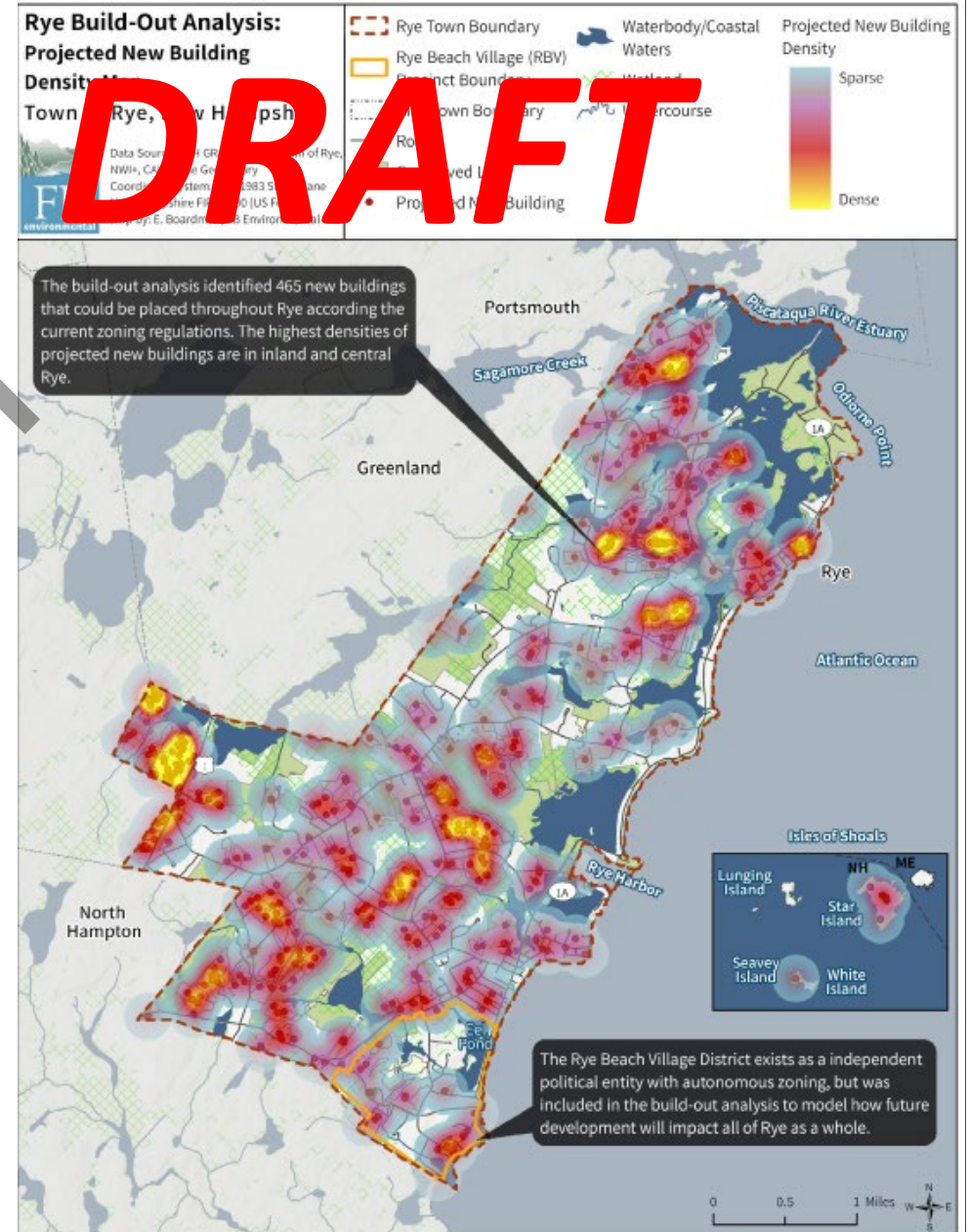
# Environmental Constraints



# Environmental Constraints

In Rye, flooding impacts housing –existing and future.

Currently, 450 structure (300 primary structures – mainly homes) within Rye’s flood zones.



# What Has Rye Said About Housing So Far?

Housing Survey release May 30 – July 6; 316 survey takers with ~ 5,000 responses.

Summary and full results posted on town website and [www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture](http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture).

Lots of thoughtful comments!

Main findings:

- Strong desire to maintain Rye's character.
- Priority to protect natural resources
- Most feel secure in their current housing
- Lack of understanding of Rye's housing goals.



August 2023

## Overview

Communities throughout New Hampshire are wrestling with housing challenges. For Rye, the big question is how to integrate housing options into the existing fabric of the community. The first step is to engage the town in a conversation about housing to identify the priorities and strategies that best accommodate the community's needs.

In February 2023, the Rye Planning Board was awarded a \$17,750 grant from InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant Program's Housing Opportunity Program Needs Assessment Grant (HOP Grant) to prepare a Needs Analysis and Plan to fund the public engagement, analysis, and documentation of answering the question "what should the future of housing be in Rye?" Rockingham Planning Commission was selected to assist the Rye Planning Board with this effort.

The first task in Rye Housing Needs Analysis and Plan was to conduct a survey to seek feedback from residents, businesses, and officials on housing to help guide potential actions and future engagement. Between May 30, 2023 and July 6, 2023, 316 individuals took the Rye Housing Survey and provided nearly 5,000 responses or comments to the survey questions. The survey was a predominantly online survey, with paper surveys available at the Rye Town Hall, Town Hall Annex and Public Library. (Only five paper survey responses were received.) Outreach about the survey included having links posted on the Town website, information was included in the Rye newsletter mailed to every household in town, notices were posted on the unofficial and official social media sites, announcements were made at multiple municipal board meetings, flyers were handed out at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration, and flyers posted around Rye.

Full survey results are available on the [town website](http://townwebsite) and at: [publicinput.com/RyeFuture](http://publicinput.com/RyeFuture)

The survey results will serve as one of many sources used to determine future decisions related to housing in Rye, including tasks being funded through Rye's grant award.

## Next Steps

During the coming months, the Rye Planning Board, with the Long-Range Planning Committee, will continue working with Rockingham Planning Commission to continue the discussion of housing in Rye.

Next steps include:

- **Develop a housing needs assessment** that evaluates the housing status, demographics, and housing-related issues within Rye. This assessment will include guidance about tools and potential changes to local regulations, their impact on housing opportunities, and their relation to Rye residents' priorities and community goals. The assessment will be presented to the Planning Board later this summer.





# What should Rye do next?

- Keep talking! And integrate community goals into the master plan update and implementation section.
- Review existing regulations to evaluate possible zoning regulation modifications to increase housing opportunities.
- Include the pros and cons of potential changes.
- Assess the level of effort to make the change.
- Identifying support (or lack thereof) for such changes.
- Understand the anticipated level of impact on housing of the regulation change.

# Activity 1 - Tell me your housing story

Tell me your housing story

- Why is Rye the place you call home?
- Have you ever lived in a different kind of housing than you do now?
- What housing needs in the community – if any- are not being met?

# Activity 2 – Housing Map

What type of housing best fits Rye and where?

1



2



5



6



3



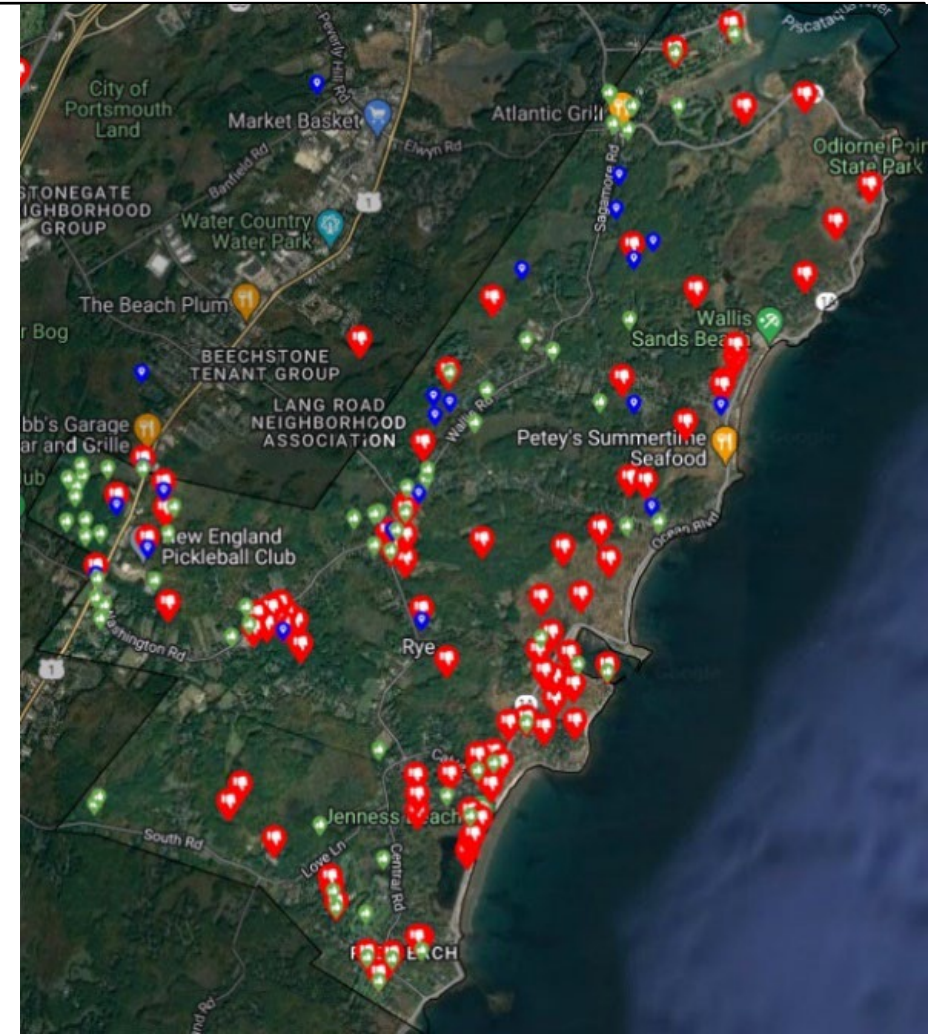
4



7



8



# Activity 2 – Housing Map

What type of housing best fits Rye and where?

1



2



5



6



3



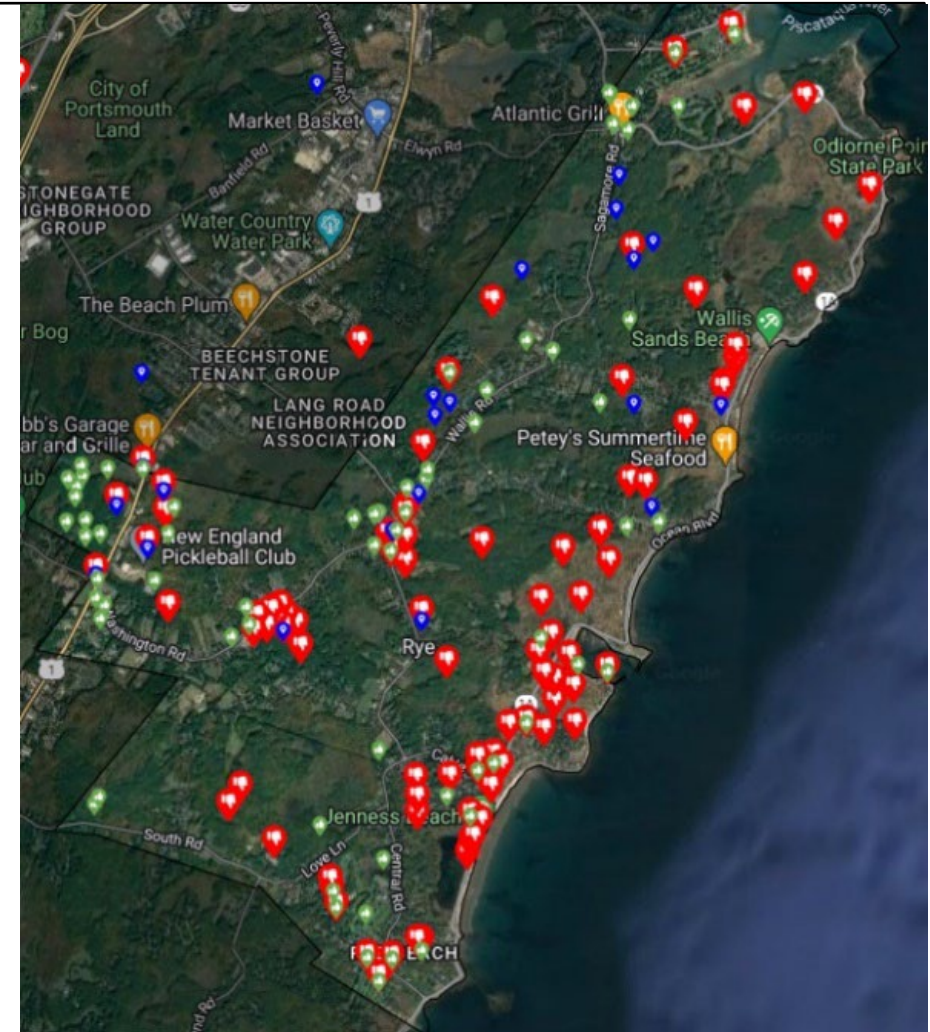
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7



8



# Activity 3 – Add Your Thoughts on Housing

NO HOUSING -----SOME HOUSING -----MORE HOUSING IS NEEDED






"Too much new construction going on. Overbuilding the community. Adding housing types which adversely affect the type of community Rye is, turning it into an undesirable town. We can't be all things to all people, nor should we have to be."

"Family friendly homes that are somewhat adorable. It feels like only retired or empty nesters from MA, CT, NY or somewhere else can afford homes here. I'm not against people from out of town I just wish there were more families."

"I am not a home owner in NH. It is not something I have ever envisioned as possible because of the cost. So, my housing experience has always been as a renter. Being a renter in NH is a nightmare. And if you explain this to non-renters they will say "just move." Quality and affordable apartment rentals continues to be the biggest crisis in NH. There's no workforce rental proposals in Rye that I am aware of - hopefully Rye's workforce housing plan will include one and two bedroom apartments."






# Wrap Up!

- Summary report from tonight – available in early October
- Rye Housing Needs Assessment presented 10/17
- All documents posted on town website and [www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture](http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture)
- Continued work on Master Plan update and Buildout Analysis.

	Visit <a href="http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture">www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture</a> or scan the QR code and leave a comment about you 
	Call 855-925-2801 and enter Project Code 2018. Leave a voicemail message with your thoughts.
	Send an email to Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at <a href="mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us">KReed@town.rye.nh.us</a>
	Attend a Rye Planning Board, Long Range Planning Committee or Master Plan Committee meeting. The meeting dates and agendas are posted on the Rye Town website at: <a href="http://www.town.rye.nh.us">www.town.rye.nh.us</a>



# Wrap Up!

	<p>Visit <a href="http://www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture">www.publicinput.com/RyeFuture</a> or scan the QR <a href="#">code</a> and leave a comment about you</p> 
	<p>Call 855-925-2801 and enter Project Code 2018. Leave a voicemail message with your thoughts.</p>
	<p>Send an email to Kim Reed, Rye Planning and Zoning Administrator at <a href="mailto:KReed@town.rye.nh.us">KReed@town.rye.nh.us</a></p>
	<p>Attend a Rye Planning Board, Long Range Planning Committee or Master Plan Committee meeting. The meeting dates and agendas are posted on the Rye Town website at: <a href="http://www.town.rye.nh.us">www.town.rye.nh.us</a></p>

# Thank you!

- JENN ROWDEN | RPC LAND USE PROGRAM MANAGER
- [JROWDEN@THERPC.ORG](mailto:JROWDEN@THERPC.ORG) | 603-658-0521

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## **Appendix C - Frequently Used Housing Terms and Definitions (NH Housing)**

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## FREQUENTLY USED HOUSING TERMS & DEFINITIONS

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)** – a residential living unit that can be within or attached to a single-family dwelling, or a detached unit that provides independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel of land as the principal dwelling unit it accompanies. See [New Hampshire Accessory Dwelling Units statute \(RSA 674:71-73\)](#)

**Affordable Housing** – housing, rental or owner-occupied, that costs no more than 30% of one's gross income. Rental cost is defined as rent + utilities. Ownership cost is monthly principal, interest, taxes and insurance.

**Area Median Income (AMI)** – the median income of all households in a given county or metropolitan region. If you were to line up each household in the area from the poorest to the wealthiest, the household in the middle would have the median household income. Housing programs and the state's workforce housing law use AMI to determine housing eligibility.

**Housing Choice Vouchers** (also known as **Section 8**) – a federal government program that assists very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. It is a form of subsidized affordable housing in which families who qualify may be provided with government funding to pay a portion of their rent in standard, market-rate housing. Program eligibility and assistance is based upon income and household size.

**Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)** – a federal program that subsidizes the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income tenants. Developers receive a tax credit allocation from an agency such as NHHFA, and then sells the tax credits to a private equity company in exchange for funding to build the property. LIHTC properties must have some or all of its units leased to tenants at rents that are lower than market rent.

**Market Rate Housing** – housing that is available on the private market, not subsidized or limited to any specific income level.

**Mixed-Income Housing Development** – development that includes housing for various income levels, including housing that is targeted towards low- to moderate-income individuals and families.

**Mixed-Use** – any building that contains at least two different types of uses in it, such as ground floor commercial space for stores, restaurants or other businesses, and apartments on the upper floors.

**Multi-Family Housing** – a building or structure designed to house different families in separate housing units; usually rental property.

**Single-Family Housing** – any detached dwelling unit meant for only one family to reside in. A single-family home has no shared property but is built on its own parcel of land.

**Subsidized Housing** – housing where all or a portion of the occupants' monthly housing cost is paid for directly by the government, such as by Housing Choice Vouchers. The renters pay the portion of the rent that is determined to be affordable to them based on their income.

**Workforce Housing** – a variety of housing types that are affordable (no more than 30% of gross income spent on housing cost) suitable for households of working people with different needs and income levels. Due to their income, this population is generally not eligible for any federal assistance programs.

[NH Workforce Housing Law](#) (RSA 674:58-:61) defines workforce housing as housing that is affordable to a renter earning up to 60% of the Area Median Income for a family of three paying no more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities, or a homeowner earning up to 100% of the Area Median Income for a family of four paying no more than 30% of their income on principal, interest, taxes and insurance.