

Hardwick Municipal Plan Update – Community Survey

Introduction (Form Description)

The Town of Hardwick is updating its Municipal Plan to guide decisions about land use, housing, infrastructure, flood resilience, and community priorities over the next eight years.

Your feedback will help shape local goals and inform future funding priorities for projects that support the community.

The survey takes about 8–10 minutes. All responses are anonymous.

Thank you for helping shape Hardwick’s next chapter.

Section 1: About You

1. What is your connection to Hardwick?

(Multiple choice)

- I live in Hardwick year-round
- I live in Hardwick part-time or seasonally
- I work in Hardwick
- I own or operate a business in Hardwick
- I visit regularly
- Other (please specify)

2. How long have you been connected to Hardwick?

(Multiple choice)

- Less than 1 year
- 1–5 years
- 6–10 years
- 11–20 years
- More than 20 years
- Not currently living here

3. How do you usually get around town?

(Checkboxes)

- Drive
- Carpool or rideshare
- Walk
- Bike
- Bus or shuttle
- Other (please specify)

4. How often do you go to downtown Hardwick (Wolcott Street or Main Street/Mill Street area)?

(Multiple choice)

- Daily
- Several times per week
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Rarely

Section 2: Community Character and Priorities

5. What do you value most about Hardwick?

(Checkboxes — select up to 3)

- Sense of community and neighborliness
- Natural beauty and outdoor access
- Vibrant village centers
- Local businesses, artisans, and food economy
- Schools and family life
- Walkability, trails, or bike routes
- Affordability
- Arts, culture, and events
- Historic and small-town character

6. Over the next 10 years, what should Hardwick focus on most?

(Checkboxes — select up to 3)

- Affordable, diverse housing near village centers
- Flood resilience and infrastructure upgrades
- Strengthening downtown
- Supporting small businesses and local jobs
- Farmland and local food systems
- Municipal services and utilities
- Recreation, trails, and parks
- Safe walking, biking, and parking
- Emergency preparedness and community support
- Historic preservation
- Environmental conservation and river protection

7. What is the biggest challenge facing Hardwick right now?

(Paragraph response)

Section 3: Housing

8. What kinds of housing should Hardwick encourage?

(Checkboxes — select all that apply)

- Small homes or cottages
- Duplexes or triplexes
- Apartments
- Senior housing
- Mixed-use buildings (housing above businesses)
- Accessory dwelling units (in-law apartments)
- Rental housing
- Affordable homeownership
- Housing near village centers
- Housing in rural areas
- No more housing

Section 4: Emergency Response

9. What would help you feel more prepared for the next major flood or storm?

(Paragraph response)

Section 5: Downtown and Economy

10. What would make downtown Hardwick more vibrant?

(Checkboxes)

- More local businesses and restaurants
- Housing above or near downtown
- Safer parking and pedestrian areas
- Streetscape improvements (trees, lighting, benches)
- Event or community gathering spaces
- Flood-safe infrastructure
- Stronger trail and recreation connections
- Storefront or small business support

Section 6: Environment, Recreation, and Infrastructure

11. Which of the following would you like Hardwick to focus on?

(Checkboxes — select up to 3)

- Protecting farmland and forestland
- Improving river and stream water quality
- Expanding trails and recreation access
- Creating safer walking and biking routes
- Parks and public spaces
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Waste, recycling, and composting services
- Preserving historic buildings
- Reliable broadband and internet access

Section 7: Food Security and Wellness

12. What food sources do you or your household rely on most?

(Checkboxes – select all that apply)

- Local grocery stores (Tops, Co-op, etc.)
- Out of town grocery stores (Hannaford, Shaws, Price Chopper, etc.)
- Farmers Market
- Local farms or CSAs
- Food pantry
- Community meals
- School meal programs
- Convenience stores
- Restaurants or take-out
- Garden or homegrown food
- Neighbors or local sharing networks

13. What would strengthen food access and security in Hardwick?

(Checkboxes – select up to 3)

- Expanded farmers market or local food hub
- Community gardens or shared greenhouses
- Food shelf and community meal support
- Coordination among farms, stores, and nonprofits
- Transportation or delivery options
- Cooking, gardening, or food preservation workshops
- School or youth food programs
- Emergency food supply planning
- Affordable grocery options

14. What would improve overall wellness in Hardwick?

(Checkboxes – select up to 3)

- Access to affordable health services
- Access to affordable, whole family mental health services
- Local pharmacy
- Local urgent care
- Recreation and fitness opportunities
- Social connection and community spaces
- Volunteer and mutual aid networks
- Senior services or home-delivered meals
- Safe walking and biking routes
- Public restrooms, water fountains, or shade
- Emergency shelters and warming/cooling centers

15. Please share any other thoughts about food access, wellness, or community health in Hardwick:

(Paragraph response)

Section 8: Communication and Engagement

16. How well informed do you feel about Town projects and decisions?

(Linear scale — 1 = Not informed, 5 = Very well informed)

17. Where do you usually get information about Town news and events?

(Checkboxes)

- Front Porch Forum
- Town website or newsletter
- Facebook or social media
- Local newspaper(s)
- Word of mouth
- Town postings or meetings
- Radio or HCTV
- Town Email
- TextMyGov
- Other (please specify)

18. How would you prefer to receive updates or information from the Town?

(Checkboxes)

- TextMyGov
- Town website
- Facebook or social media

- Town Email
- Phone message

Section 9: Ideas and Comments

19. What's one idea that could make Hardwick stronger or more resilient?

(Paragraph response)

20. Additional comments or suggestions:

(Paragraph response)

Closing Message

Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas and experiences. Whether Hardwick has been your home for generations or you've found it more recently, your perspective matters. The responses to this survey will be summarized and shared publicly and will help inform the goals and priorities of Hardwick's next Municipal Plan, which is being updated by the Hardwick Planning Commission (HPC) to guide local decisions around housing, resilience, food security, and community well-being over the coming years.