

Print version Belmont: Mapping a Sustainable Future, March 2010

1. Welcome to the second survey for the Belmont Comprehensive Plan

The Belmont Planning Board is conducting this survey as part of the Comprehensive Plan project. This presents the outcomes of the planning process and asks you to respond to and prioritize the recommendations.

Individuals should take the survey only once, although there can be more than one survey returned per household. Residents of all ages, renters, employees, and property owners are encouraged to participate. Responses are anonymous.

Please complete and return all surveys by MARCH 29, 2010.

If you fill out the paper survey, please DROP IT OFF either at the second floor of the Homer Municipal Building (19 Moore Street, Office of Community Development) or at the Library.

2. Tell us about yourself

These questions help us understand who participated in the survey.

Which of the following apply to you? (check all that apply)

- Belmont Resident
- Belmont Resident - Business Owner
- Non-resident - Business Owner
- Non-resident - Property Owner
- Other

What is your age?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 51 to 65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 to 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 66 to 80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 31 to 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 81 and over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 41 to 50 | |

If you are a resident, what voting precinct do you live in?

Precinct 1

Precinct 6

Precinct 2

Precinct 7

Precinct 3

Precinct 8

Precinct 4

N/A

Precinct 5

I don't know my precinct number

3. Proposed Vision for Belmont

The following description and the map on the following page summarize the land use vision that has emerged from the planning process.

-- Neighborhoods, village centers, parks and playgrounds are interconnected through a network of roads, public transit, sidewalks and open space pathways. Safe pedestrian and bicycle routes provide access to commercial centers, schools and other public amenities and regional transit, reducing reliance on the automobile.

-- Open spaces and vistas provide connections to the beauty of the natural world and offer places for community gathering and interaction. Tree-lined streets, yards and small open spaces provide breathing room and beauty in neighborhoods.

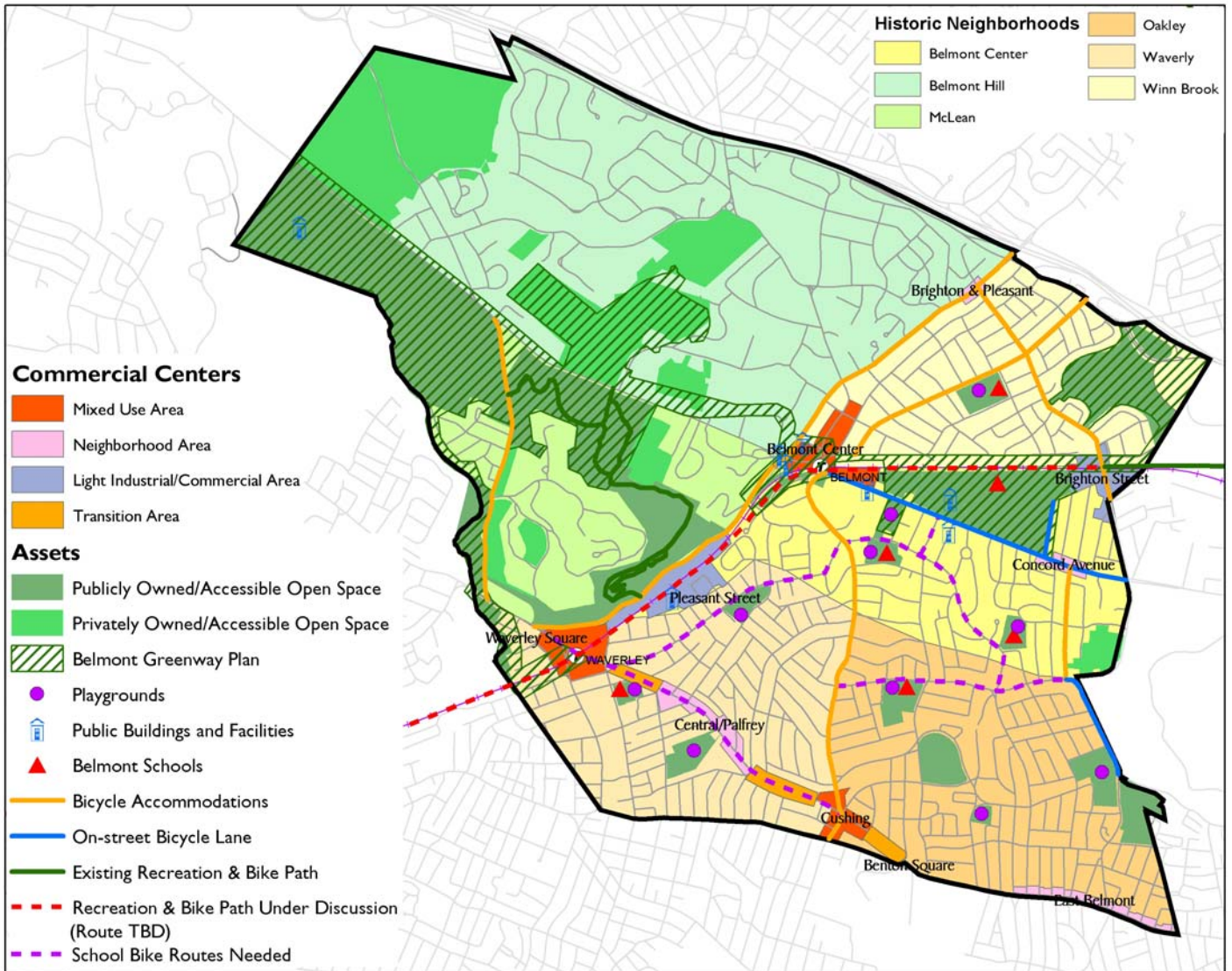
-- Historic properties and aspects of the town are preserved and are complemented by new buildings which sustain the unique character of each neighborhood, while serving the needs of new generations.

-- Appropriate renovations and improvements increase property values, provide improved energy efficiency, and a broader range of housing to meet the needs of twenty-first century households.

-- Commercial centers are revitalized through public improvements and redevelopment of underutilized properties. New developments support vibrant businesses and lively streetscapes, and also offer smaller housing options with easy walking access to goods, services and transit.

Print version Belmont: Mapping a Sustainable Future, March 2010

LAND USE VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Add your comments here about the Vision Statement and Map. These can be positive, negative, or questions.



4. Comment on Nine Key Recommendations and Actions

How will we realize this vision? The 9 primary recommendations are listed below. Some of the recommendations require greater local fiscal support. Please weigh possible costs with your willingness to support specific actions. Later in the survey, you will be asked to prioritize the major topics. Following this summary list, are specific actions related to each major recommendation. We want your feedback on each of these detailed actions -- tell us whether you support them or not!

RECOMMENDATION #1

Enhance connections through open space, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION #2

Improve and promote public transit.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Expand housing choices.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Reinforce Belmont's neighborhoods through natural and historic protection.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Refocus control of future development on design guidelines and review process.

RECOMMENDATION #6

Revitalize commercial centers through public and private investments.

RECOMMENDATION #7

Clarify the land use vision for each commercial district.

RECOMMENDATION #8

Allow economically viable development which complements the Town's historic character.

RECOMMENDATION #9

Link public facilities and financial planning to land use priorities.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

Enhance connections through open space, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure

Concern: Investment and maintenance of transportation infrastructure does not reflect the Town's priority of being a "walkable" community.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5-10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Establish a program for regularly funding maintenance and reconstruction of sidewalks.	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja
Improve pedestrian connections among open spaces, neighborhoods, and commercial centers.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Improve or create railroad crossings, e.g. at Alexander Ave., Belmont Center, White St. and/or Clark St.	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja
Provide bicycle parking and storage at transit stations, recreational fields, trail heads, village centers and other destinations.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle safety in roadway projects.	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja
Adopt "Safe Routes to School" policies and promote walking and biking to school.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Identify opportunities to partner with the private sector to fund bike and pedestrian projects.	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja

RECOMMENDATION #2:

Improve and promote public transit.

Concern: Low ridership at commuter rail stations is partly why the MBTA may eliminate one of the two train stops in Belmont. Bus routes may be reduced as well. The Town needs to demonstrate support for transit infrastructure to maintain this service.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Encourage concentrated housing in Waverley Square, Trapelo Road Corridor and Belmont Center near train stations.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Consider adaptive reuse of public buildings to create housing opportunities within walking distance to Belmont Center.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Provide additional on and off-street commuter parking at locations to be determined.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Advocate for bus connections to Alewife Station and between the town's commercial areas via MBTA or local/private shuttle service.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Improve pedestrian connections and amenities at train stations and bus stops, including pathways, signage, shelters, furniture and information.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Provide incentives, such as dedicated parking revenues for streetscape improvement and maintenance, to residential areas that provide on-street commuter parking.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

RECOMMENDATION #3:
Expand housing choices.

Concern: There is a shortage of housing options in Belmont for seniors, empty nesters, adults without children, young adults and households with average or lower incomes.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Promote residential uses such as condominiums, townhouses, mixed use buildings with ground floor retail, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, especially in areas near public transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow accessory housing units (in-law apartments) in existing homes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Define dimensional, design, and site plan criteria to facilitate renovations and improvements, while protecting the character of historic neighborhoods; including yards, vistas, and historic features.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopt energy efficiency building code standards and incentives for improving housing stock.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION #4:

Reinforce Belmont's neighborhoods through natural and historic resource protection.

Concern: Historic buildings and open spaces are distinctive features that define Belmont's small town character and quality of life, but many of these are threatened by changes.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Adopt criteria for acquiring open land, conservation easements and restrictions for the preservation of privately held open spaces.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop guidelines for neighborhood streetscape improvements, street trees, and plantings on town owned properties.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pass a wetlands bylaw that would increase natural resource protection.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pass a demolition delay bylaw to require a time delay (perhaps 6 months or a year) prior to demolishing historic structures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modify zoning to protect yards and small neighborhood open spaces.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to provide funding for historic preservation, affordable housing and open space projects.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION #5:

Refocus control of future development on design guidelines and review process.

Concern: Current zoning regulations do not ensure compatibility of new development with the historic character and development patterns in the commercial areas and neighborhoods.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5-10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Adopt stronger design criteria specific to each residential and commercial neighborhood.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Allow more flexibility and greater density governed by design and impact analysis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Include technical/professional and community input in design review process.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Provide density incentives for developments that meet design criteria and build public improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION #6:

Revitalize commercial centers through public and private improvements.

Concern: Commercial areas are in need of better traffic flow and enhanced public spaces and sidewalks.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Physical Improvements: Leonard Ave/Concord Street/Common Street intersection.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Physical Improvements in commercial centers along Trapelo Road and Belmont Street to complement the design of the Trapelo Corridor reconstruction project	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Streetscape and pedestrian improvements to the Concord Avenue/Bright Road intersection.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Public/Private Partnerships: Business association(s) to undertake common marketing promotions and maintain features such as trashcans and benches in commercial areas.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Public/Private Partnerships: A Business Improvement District and/or dedicated surplus parking revenues to improve services in commercial areas.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Parking Management plan: (e.g. free up on street parking spaces for patrons, install meters to discourage all day parking, provide free employee parking in remote location, identify dedicated parking for employees and commuters.)	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Lease parking spaces from property owners to create new shared municipal parking that is funded by parking fees.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

RECOMMENDATION #7:

Clarify the land use vision for each commercial district.

Concern: Belmont's commercial zoning districts do not reflect the current development patterns, functions and unique character.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Undertake further planning to determine the vision for future land use and design for each commercial area.	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja
Develop new commercial zoning districts that reflect the desired vision for each commercial area, including a range of uses and distinctive design.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Define use, size, parking requirements and approval process that are sufficiently flexible to make new investments economical.	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja	ja

RECOMMENDATION #8:

Allow economically viable development which complements the Town's historic character.

Concern: The Town is missing opportunities for higher value commercial development because of limits in the zoning regulations in commercial districts. These limits are an obstacle to attracting businesses to provide the goods and services that Belmont residents want.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Modify height and building size requirements in commercial areas subject to a strengthened design review process.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Establish a more predictable approval process for commercial development that focuses on design criteria and impact analysis	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Establish stronger design criteria for all development that is specific to each commercial area.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Reduce on-site parking requirements for new development; (e.g. allow on-street parking areas and shared parking lots to count; establish fee in-lieu process to fund future municipal parking areas.)	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

RECOMMENDATION #9:

Link public facilities and financial planning to land use priorities.

Concern: Decisions about capital facilities and budgeting need to consider comprehensive land use vision and goals for economic development, housing, open space, historic resources and transportation.

	Support Short Term (1-2 years)	Support Medium Term (3-5 years)	Support Long Term (5- 10 years)	Do not support	Need more info	No opinion
Undertake planning for the next phase of public building projects considering land use context and vision for the affected neighborhoods.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create a financial management plan that provides a sustainable level of funding for maintenance of public facilities and infrastructure, and public services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish priorities for funding capital improvements, infrastructure and planning to implement the Comprehensive Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster awareness and understanding of a plan for financial stability among residents and public officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Priorities

Please weigh in on the relative importance of the proposed recommendations.

Print version Belmont: Mapping a Sustainable Future, March 2010

Rank the nine (9) recommendations in order of importance to you. Use each priority ONLY ONCE. For example, there should NOT be two "first priority" answers.

	First priority	Second priority	Third priority	Fourth priority	Fifth priority	Sixth priority	Seventh priority	Eighth priority	Ninth priority
#1: Enhance connections through open space, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#2: Improve and promote public transit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#3: Expand housing choices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#4: Reinforce Belmont's neighborhoods through natural and historic protection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#5: Refocus control of future development on design guidelines and review process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#6: Revitalize commercial centers through public and private investments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#7: Clarify the land use vision for each commercial district.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#8: Allow economically viable development which complements the Town's historic character.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
#9: Link public facilities and financial planning to land use priorities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Print version Belmont: Mapping a Sustainable Future, March 2010

Rank the nine (9) recommendations in terms of how funding should be allocated. You have \$100 to allocate to the set of recommendations. Fill in the amount you would spend on each.

Use 0 for none. Your answer must add up to 100 (don't use \$ sign).

For example you might allocate 40 to #1, 40 to #7, and 20 to #9, and 0 to the remaining recommendations.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| #1: Enhance connections through open space, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure | <input type="text"/> |
| #2: Improve and promote public transit. | <input type="text"/> |
| #3: Expand housing choices. | <input type="text"/> |
| #4: Reinforce Belmont's neighborhoods through natural and historic protection. | <input type="text"/> |
| #5: Refocus control of future development on design guidelines and review process. | <input type="text"/> |
| #6: Revitalize commercial centers through public and private investments. | <input type="text"/> |
| #7: Clarify the land use vision for each commercial district. | <input type="text"/> |
| #8: Allow economically viable development which complements the Town's historic character. | <input type="text"/> |
| #9: Link public facilities and financial planning to land use priorities. | <input type="text"/> |

6. How can we keep you up to date?

Your responses to this survey are confidential and anonymous.

If you want further information about this project please contact Jay Szklut at jszklut@belmont-ma.us

Should you or someone you know need assistance with this survey, need a paper copy sent via mail, or other accommodation, please call 617-993-2666.

On Tuesday March 23, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. there will be a PUBLIC FORUM to discuss the land use vision, the recommendations and the proposed actions.

WHAT: Public Forum

WHEN: March 23, 2010

WHERE: Beech Street Center, 266 Beech Street

Please add any comments or questions you have in the space below.



Your survey is complete! Thank you for taking some of your valuable time to give us your responses. Please let other people know about the survey which is available in paper copy at:

- Town Library
- Office of Community Development, second floor of the Homer Municipal Building (19 Moore Street)

There is a link to the survey at the Town's web site:

<http://www.belmont-ma.us>

Hit the DONE button to finish.