
Provincetown Sewer Capacity Survey

Town of Provincetown

April 2018

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Survey Goals

- Understand residents opinions about:
 - Allocating current and future sewer capacity
 - Funding future increased sewer capacity
 - Allocating town-funded sewer capacity
 - Interest from non-connected residents to connect to the sewer system

Methodology

- Online Survey
- Available online from Friday, 2/23/18 – Friday, 4/6/18
- Self-selecting sample
- Residents were notified by social media postings and a Provincetown Banner article
- Compared three data sets for response differences. Significant differences are noted on respective slides.
 - All respondents
 - Year-round vs. Part-time residents
 - Connected vs. Not connected residents

Respondent Profile

Total Completed Respondents: 354

- Residency Status
 - Year-round respondents: 223
 - Connected: 101
 - Not Connected: 96
 - Don't know: 7
 - Mix of connected/not connected: 19
 - Part-year respondents: 131
 - Connected: 64
 - Not Connected: 61
 - Don't know: 3
 - Mix of connected/not connected: 3
- Connection Status
 - Connected: 165
 - Not Connected: 157
 - Don't know: 10
 - Mix of connected/not connected: 22
- Sub-groups
 - Business Owners: 50
 - Multi-property: 62

Executive Summary

Ranking of priority for allocating current and future capacity

- Respondents see an immediate or near-term future need for a diverse range of priorities in allocating capacity
 - More than 50% of respondents ranked 6 of the 10 allocation categories as *Very Important (ASASP)*
 - When adding the “*Important – within 5 years*” responses, 7 categories raise above 80% agreement.

Funding future increased capacity

- 90% of respondents answered *Yes* to funding through grants and new users’ revenue.
- While 60% responded *Yes* to funding increased capacity through an assessment of all abutters, *Connected* respondents answered *Yes* at a higher rate than *Not connected* respondents.
- While nearly 62% of all respondents answered *Yes* to assessing all property owners regardless of connection status, again *Connected* respondents answered *Yes* at a higher rate than respondents *Not connected*.

Executive Summary (continued)

Allocating town-funded capacity

- The majority of respondents answered that serving municipal buildings, environmental categories and sewer capacity should be funded, while the remaining categories ranked under 50%.

Interest from non-connected residents to connect

- 46 of 157 (29%) respondents indicated they wanted to be notified when a sewer connection was available in their area.

Detailed Findings

Priorities for allocating current and future capacity

- Respondents were ask to rate the priority of these categories for allocation of current and future capacity.
- *“Rate the important needs and priorities that the Town’s sewer system should address when allocating any remaining or future increase in capacity.”*
 - *Very Important (As soon as possible)*
 - *Important – within 5 years*
 - *Somewhat important – within 10 years*
 - *Not important – more than 10 years*

Categories

Public Health Related
Connect failed septic systems
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise
Residential
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units
Adding bedrooms to private homes (subject to Town regulations that govern growth and any building improvements)
Extend sewer system to unserved areas
Town & Business Related
Serving municipal buildings
Support local businesses and non- profits in creating jobs and employee housing
Conserving water on busy days. Example: July 4th & Carnival
Other
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all of the sewer system costs.

Priorities for allocating current and future capacity

- More than 50% of respondents ranked 6 of the 10 categories as *Very Important (ASASP)*

Category	Very Important ASAP
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands	75.99%
Connect failed septic systems	75.71%
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise	59.32%
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units	57.91%
Conserving water on busy days. Example: July 4th & Carnival	57.06%
Support local businesses and non- profits in creating jobs and employee housing	53.67%
Serving municipal buildings	45.20%
Extend sewer system to unserved areas	38.42%
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all costs	26.84%
Adding bedrooms to private homes	24.86%

Priorities for allocating current and future capacity

- When adding the “Important – within 5 years” responses, 7 categories raise above 80% agreement.

Category	Very Important ASAP	Important within 5 years	Total
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands	75.99%	14.97%	90.96%
Connect failed septic systems	75.71%	18.64%	94.35%
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise	59.32%	20.90%	80.23%
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units	57.91%	26.84%	84.75%
Conserving water on busy days. Example: July 4th & Carnival	57.06%	27.40%	84.46%
Support local businesses and non- profits in creating jobs and employee housing	53.67%	28.53%	82.20%
Serving municipal buildings	45.20%	38.42%	83.62%

Priorities for allocating current and future capacity

- The remaining 3 categories still have over 50% agreement when combining the *Very Important* and *Important* responses.

Category	Very Important ASAP	Important within 5 years	Total
Extend sewer system to unserved areas	38.42%	35.59%	74.01%
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all costs	26.84%	35.03%	61.86%
Adding bedrooms to private homes	24.86%	27.68%	52.54%

Funding for increased capacity: Grants & new users

- Respondents were asked if increased capacity was partially funded by grants, should revenue from new users cover the remaining cost.
 - Question: *Should the Town Meeting voters be asked in the near future to authorize funding to increase the capacity of the sewer system to be paid for in part by a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture with the remaining cost to be paid for with revenue from new users who would like to connect to the sewer or add flow?*
- Nearly 90% responded Yes

Note: 4 unanswered responses to this question

Funding for increased capacity: Assess all abutters

- Respondents were asked if *all abutters* to newly connected area should be assessed a cost regardless of connection status.
 - Question: *Should all property owners who abut new areas where the sewer system is extended be assessed a cost for having the sewer available to them?*
- While nearly 60% of all respondents answered Yes, there was a difference in responses between Connected v. Not Connected residents.

All respondents	
Yes	59.59%
No	40.41%

Connected	
Yes	76.10%
No	23.90%

Not Connected	
Yes	43.14%
No	56.86%

Notes: 10 unanswered responses to this question; Multi-property with mixed connections not included in connection breakdowns.

Funding for increased capacity: Assess all taxpayers

- Respondents were asked if *all taxpayers* be should assessed regardless of connection status.
 - Question: *If revenue collected from residents or business doesn't cover the cost of providing the increased capacity, should taxpayers who are not on the system fund some of the cost to ensure the Town has reserve capacity to meet future priorities when needed?*
- While nearly 62% of all respondents answered Yes, again there was a difference in responses between Connected v. Not Connected residents.

All respondents	
Yes	61.81%
No	38.19%

Connected	
Yes	73.44%
No	26.56%

Not Connected	
Yes	48.77%
No	51.23%

- Notes: 11 unanswered responses to this question; Multi-property with mixed connections not included in connection breakdowns.

Priorities for allocating *town-funded* capacity

- Respondents were ask to rate the priority of these categories for *town-funded* allocation of current and future capacity.
 - Question: *Rate the important needs and priorities that the Town’s sewer system should address when allocating any future increase in capacity.*
 - **FUND** with taxpayer dollars
 - **DO NOT FUND** with taxpayer dollars

Categories

Public Health Related
Connect failed septic systems
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise
Residential
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units
Adding bedrooms to private homes (subject to Town regulations that govern growth and any building improvements)
Extend sewer system to unserved areas
Town & Business Related
Serving municipal buildings
Support local businesses and non- profits in creating jobs and employee housing
Conserving water on busy days. Example: July 4th & Carnival
Other
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all of the sewer system costs.

Priorities for allocating *town-funded* capacity

- The majority of respondents answered that serving municipal buildings, environmental categories and increased sewer capacity should be funded, while the remaining categories ranked under 50%.

Category	Fund	Do Not Fund
Serving municipal buildings	84.64%	15.36%
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands	83.43%	16.57%
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise	75.75%	24.25%
Connect failed septic systems	62.87%	37.13%
Extend sewer system to unserved areas	59.20%	40.80%
Conserving water on busy days. Example: July 4th & Carnival	59.09%	40.91%
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units	45.81%	54.19%
Support local businesses and non- profits in creating jobs and employee housing	39.04%	60.96%
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all costs	29.48%	70.52%
Adding bedrooms to private homes	14.16%	85.84%

Interest in connecting

- 46 of 157 (29%) respondents indicated they wanted to be notified when a sewer connection was available in their area.
- *Note: This question required respondents to provide their email, which may cause an underreporting of actual demand.*

Appendix

Survey Questions

Survey Questions: Introduction

About this survey

The Provincetown Municipal Sewer System is close to capacity. The Departments of Public Works and Health want to gauge the interest of Provincetown residents in expanding the sewer system, as it has significant bearing on the future of our Town.

How much time will it take?

This short survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete and your participation is essential and appreciated.

Your responses will remain private and confidential

You are not required to provide any personal information that would identify you. Your identity will remain private and confidential. Your answers will not be used for any other purpose but to help the project team understand interest in expanding the survey.

Survey results will be shared

The general survey results will be shared at Annual Town Meeting, which begins on April 2, 2018 and will also be posted on the Town's website at www.provincetown-ma.gov. Again, all results will be anonymous.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in decisions about your town's future!

Survey Questions

Residency Status

1. What is your residency status
 - Year-round resident of Provincetown
 - Part-time resident of Provincetown
 - Live outside of Provincetown

Property Type

2. I am (Check all that apply)
 - Property owner
 - Renter
 - Business Property Owner
 - Business Renter

Sewer System Status

3. What is your current sewer service status?
 - I'm connected to sewer.
 - Sewer connections are available, but I'm not connected.
 - No sewer is available in my area.
 - Don't know.
 - None of the above.

Survey Questions

Sewer System Status: Multi-property

4. What is the current sewer service status of your properties?

- All are connected to sewer.
- Sewer connections are available, but none are connected.
- No sewer connections are available for any of my properties.
- Mix of connected and not connected

Rate Sewer System Priorities

The Capacity of the Sewer System

The Municipal Sewer System has little capacity remaining that can be used for new connections or additional flows. Currently the limited capacity is being used only for connecting properties with failed septic systems or for Town priorities including business improvements that create jobs or housing that support the year-round community.

If we increase the capacity of the system in the future, this will allow businesses and properties that are connected to the sewer to continue to grow, expand, or improve, those properties that abut the sewer but are not already connected will be able to do so, and we may be able to extend the sewer to the unserved areas of the town.

Rate the important needs and priorities that the Town's sewer system should address when allocating any remaining or future increase in capacity.

Question 5 – 8 show ratings questions

Survey Questions

5. Public Health Related

	Very Important As soon as possible	Important Within 5 years	Somewhat Important Within 10 years	Not Important More than 10 years
Connect failed septic systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Residential

	Very Important As soon as possible	Important Within 5 years	Somewhat Important Within 10 years	Not Important More than 10 years
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adding bedrooms to private homes (subject to Town regulations that govern growth and any building improvements)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extend sewer system to unserved areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Survey Questions

7. Town & Business Related

	Very Important As soon as possible	Important Within 5 years	Somewhat Important Within 10 years	Not Important More than 10 years
Serving municipal buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support local businesses and non-profits in creating jobs and employee housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conserving water on busy days Example: July 4th & Carnival	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Other

	Very Important As soon as possible	Important Within 5 years	Somewhat Important Within 10 years	Not Important More than 10 years
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all of the sewer system costs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Survey Questions

Funding Additional Capacity with Federal Grants

9. The Town may have an opportunity in the near future to receive a substantial grant and low interest rate loan from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture that would be used to increase the capacity of the sewer system. To apply for this grant, Town Meeting will need to authorize the borrowing for the loan portion of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture award.

Should the Town Meeting voters be asked in the near future to authorize funding to increase the capacity of the sewer system to be paid for in part by a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture with the remaining cost to be paid for with revenue from new users who would like to connect to the sewer or add flow?

- Yes
- No

Funding Additional Capacity with Town Funding

10. Most Massachusetts towns and cities assess a cost to those property owners who have sewer service available to them regardless of whether they connect. Provincetown currently only assesses a cost to those property owners who commit to connect, and not to others who abut the sewer.

Going forward, should all property owners who abut new areas where the sewer system is extended be assessed a cost for having the sewer available to them?

- Yes
- No

11. If revenue collected from residents or business doesn't cover the cost of providing the increased capacity, should taxpayers who are not on the system fund some of the cost to ensure the Town has reserve capacity to meet future priorities when needed?

- Yes
- No

Survey Questions

Rate the important needs and priorities that the Town’s sewer system should address when allocating any future increase in capacity.

12. Public Health Related

	FUND with taxpayer dollars	DO NOT fund with taxpayer dollars
Connect failed septic systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting beaches, ocean water quality, and wetlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that how we handle our wastewater is adaptable to climate change and sea level rise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Residential

	FUND with taxpayer dollars	DO NOT fund with taxpayer dollars
Housing for year-round residents, including rental units	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adding bedrooms to private homes (subject to Town regulations that govern growth and any building improvements)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extend sewer system to unserved areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Survey Questions

14. Town & Business Related

	FUND with taxpayer dollars	DO NOT fund with taxpayer dollars
Serving municipal buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support local businesses and non-profits in creating jobs and employee housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conserving water on busy days Example: July 4th & Carnival	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Other

	FUND with taxpayer dollars	DO NOT fund with taxpayer dollars
Extend the sewer to the Truro Beach Point area if they cover all of the sewer system costs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments

16. Do you have other comments or suggestions you would like to make?

Questions?



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