

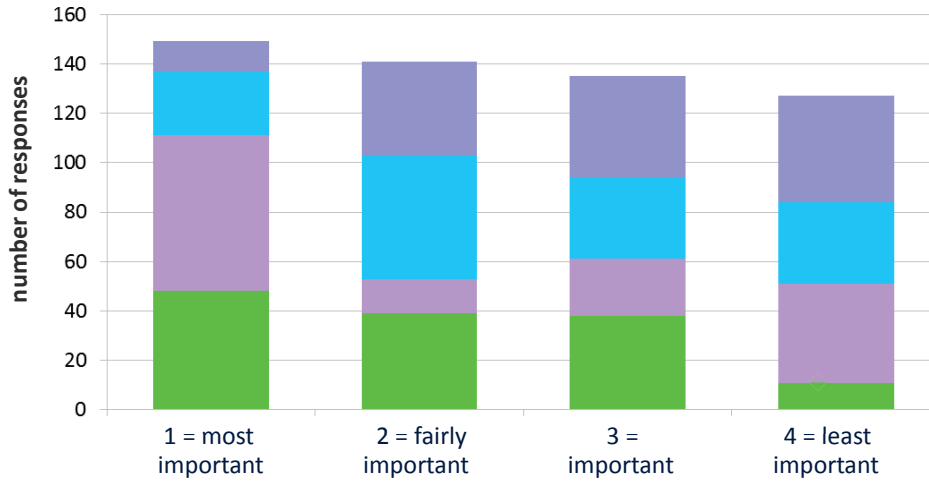
# Newton's Community Preservation Priorities

## 2011-12 Community Survey Results

**Forced Ranking**  
from 1 = most important  
to 4 = least important

**average rank**  
(descending order)

open space	2.1
affordable housing	2.3
recreation land	2.5
historic resources	2.9



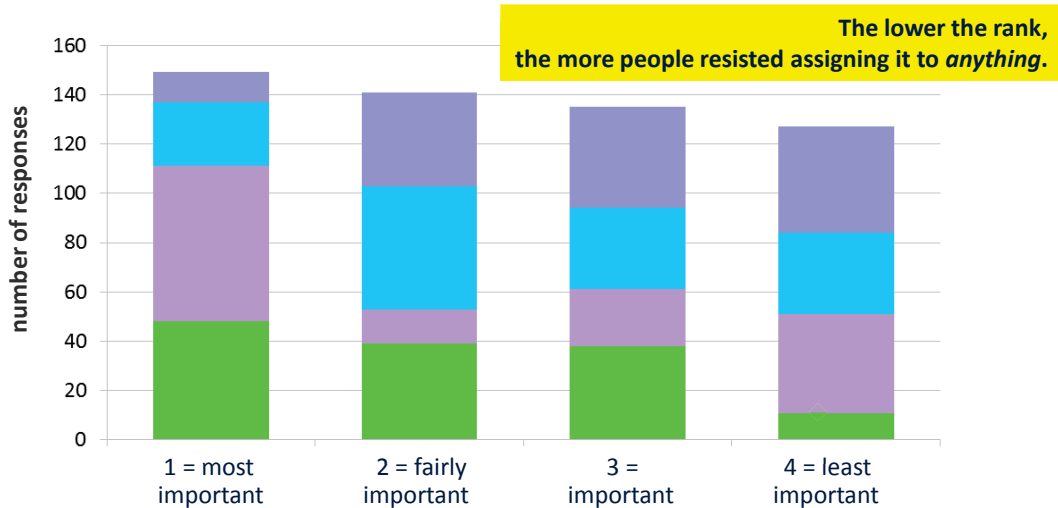
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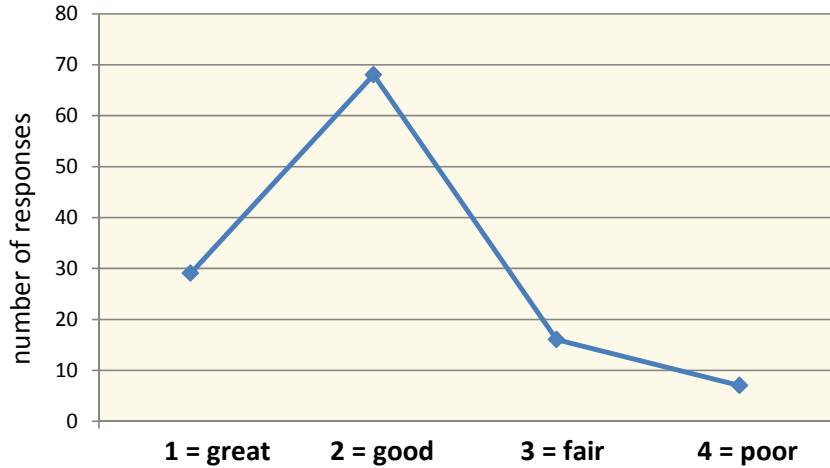


## Total unique respondents: 164

Not every respondent answered every question,  
and 2 people responded twice (with slightly different answers each time).

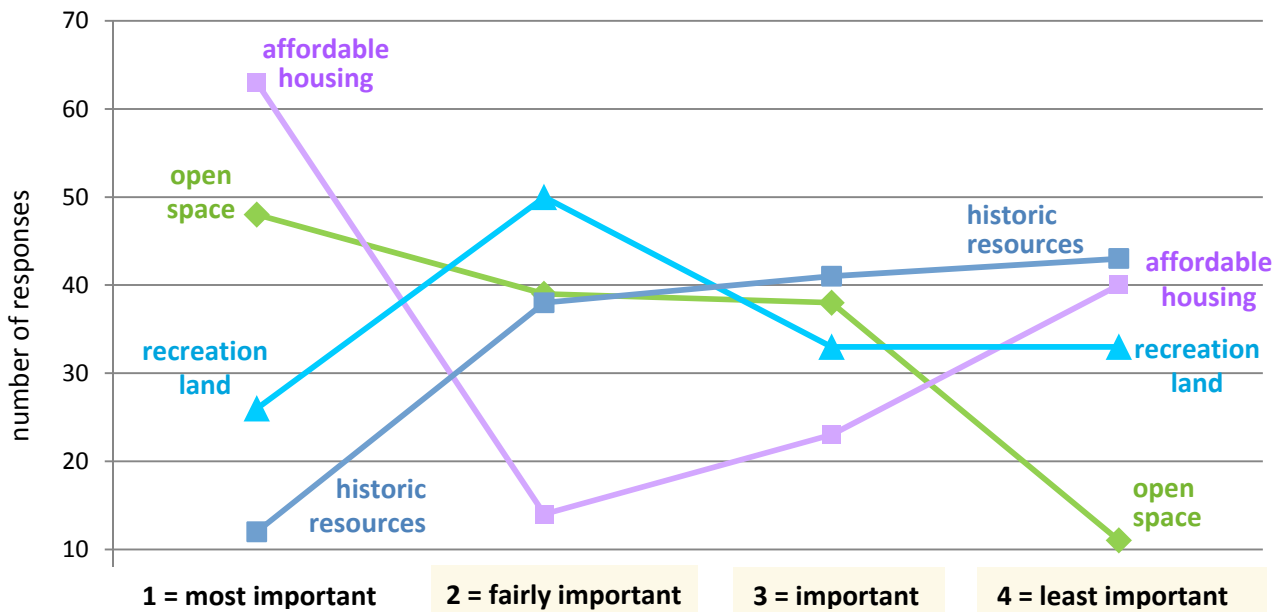
## RATING NEWTON'S PROGRAM

	number	% of respondents who assigned each rating
great	29	(24.2%)
good	68	(56.7%)
fair	16	(13.3%)
poor	7	(5.8%)
<b>average rating:</b>	<b>2.0 (good)</b>	



## RANKING NEWTON'S CPA-ELIGIBLE NEEDS

	average rank (descending order)	number of responses			
		1 = most important	2 = fairly important	3 = important	4 = least important
open space	2.1	48	39	38	11
affordable housing	2.3	63	14	23	40
recreation land	2.5	26	50	33	33
historic resources	2.9	12	38	41	43



## WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE ABOUT NEWTON? WHY DID YOU MOVE HERE?

(open-response question)

### things CPA funds can support directly

#### natural environment

open space, trees, water, sustainability	48
parks & playgrounds	46
paths & trails	3

#### economic diversity

economic diversity/ affordable housing	39
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#### community character

villages/neighborhoods: their mix of land uses, building ages & sizes	33
historic architecture	31
public buildings	6
archives	1
walkability	6
beauty and quiet	11

*This cluster may also belong at right,  
under "CPA can support indirectly at best,"  
because zoning & development policy  
probably influence these characteristics  
far more strongly than CPA funding ever could.*

### things CPA funds can support indirectly (at best)

#### education & culture

good schools	66
good library	8
arts & culture	3

#### location & transportation

convenient to Boston & northern/western suburbs	24
good public transportation	7

#### people & sense of community

active, friendly, liberal people/neighborhood	23
cultural/ethnic diversity	19

#### good government

safety	12
well-run government	5
stable property values	3

**NOTE:** The full answers people gave to this question were eloquent and heartfelt. They are available on request, minus respondents' names & other identifying information, from:

[ainerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:ainerson@newtonma.gov)

## FUTURE CPA PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

(open response question)

### CPA-Eligible

<b>affordable housing</b> in general	20
<b>open space &amp; recreation</b> in general	6
acquire more open space/park land	5
paths & trails	5
Crystal Lake – more improvements	4
plant & preserve trees	2
combine w/ affordable housing	1
Edmands Park	1
<b>historic resources</b>	
historic buildings in general	5
churches or other historic bldgs. owned by religious congregations	2
archives	1
public/City bldgs	1

### Not Directly CPA-Eligible

indoor recreation facilities (gyms, pool, ice rink)	2
open space/stormwater/ environmental management	2
school construction/expansion	2
regular street sidewalks	1
community/arts center	1

### Things NOT to Fund

everything– just revoke the CPA	4
affordable housing	4
City properties (buildings or parks)	3
partnerships with private developers	2

## PAST CPA PROJECTS RESPONDENTS WERE AWARE OF

(by descending number of mentions in each category)

\* most comments were positive, but these projects had at least 1 critical comment

### general or multi-resource

Angino Farm - 32  
 “too many to list” - 10  
 Dolan Pond - 8

### affordable housing

general -18  
 Lexington St – 6 \*  
 33 Commonwealth - 4  
 Veterans House- 3 \*  
 Elliot Street- 1

### historic resources

general - 2  
 Durant-Kenrick Homestead - 12  
 Brigham House - 9  
 City Hall - 8 \*  
 Jackson Homestead - 6  
 Warren House - 6  
 Archives - 5

### historic resources, cont'd

Farlow Park – 5 \*  
 Historic Burying Grounds - 4  
 Heritage Landscapes Report - 2  
 Historic district signs - 2  
 Newton Corner Library - 2  
 YMCA historic windows - 2 \*  
 Civil War Monument - 1  
 Crafts Street Stable - 1  
 Houghton Garden - 1  
 Newton Health Dept Building - 1

### open space & recreation

general - 4  
 Crystal Lake -14  
 Kessler Woods - 11  
 Mason-Rice/Newton Centre Playground - 3  
 Pellegrini Park - 3  
 Stearns Park - 3  
 Bowen Playground - 2  
 Gath Pool - 2  
 Cabot Playground - 1  
 Cheesecake Brook – 1

### open space & recreation, cont'd

Flowed Meadow - 1  
 Forte Park - 1  
 Highlands Playground - 1  
 Kayla’s Garden, Memorial-Spaulding School -1  
 Recreation & Open Space Plan - 1  
 Senior Center Park - 1

### other

“Historic houses “ (*Durant-Kenrick & Jackson Homestead?* may also include projects that were not CPA-funded) - 6  
 projects mentioned but that never requested or withdrew requests for CPA funding - 15 mentions, including:  
 large housing developments - 9  
 Newton South artificial turf fields - 3  
 Lower Falls Bridge - 3

## RESPONDENTS' NEIGHBORHOODS

Newton Corner or Nonantum	27
Newton Centre, Thompsonville or South Newton	23
Auburndale	20
West Newton	19
Waban	17
Newtonville	15
Newton Highlands	14
Upper Falls	8
Lower Falls	7
Chestnut Hill	3

*Specific places listed but folded into larger neighborhoods for the count above:*

*Bowen-Thompsonville, North Newtonville,  
Countryside area, Warren House, West  
Newton (not the hill), Islington Peninsula.*

Identified zip code only	86
Identified neighborhood/village	57

## GROUPS RESPONDENTS BELONG TO or WORK WITH

religious congregation or group	85
environmental organization	47
neighborhood organization	38
education/schools/PTOs	30
arts, history, culture, media	22
social or human services	21
government/public policy/politics	14
specific parks (friends' groups)	11
recreation (mostly sports leagues)	11
housing	6

## HOW RESPONDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE CPA & NEWTON'S PROGRAM

(multiple responses allowed)

### Experiences

	<u>number of mentions</u>
I don't know much about it, really.	40
I've supported someone else's proposal.	41
I helped to pass the CPA in Newton, or in the state legislature.	26
I've submitted a proposal or managed a project.	12
I've opposed someone else's proposal, or the CPA in general.	6

### Media

Print articles or flyers <i>including direct mail flyer or tax bill - 3 specific mentions</i>	93
Program website or emails	58
Public meetings <i>including Aldermanic meetings- 2 specific mentions</i>	49
Outdoor sign (at a project)	10

### Other

Word of mouth / list serve with friends, neighbors, colleagues <i>including Greater Boston Interfaith Organization/ Newton Congregations – 17 specific mentions</i>	35
Library exhibit (about a project)	1