

Ghent Survey Results

Surveys delivered
1,843

Surveys returned
544

Return rate
30%

1. Where in the Town of Ghent do you live?						Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5		
Number of Responses	49	80	12	44	10	500	92%
Percent of Completed Answers	9.8%	16.0%	2.4%	8.8%	2.0%		
	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10		
Number of Responses	50	98	38	100	16		
Percent of Completed Answers	10.0%	19.6%	7.6%	20.0%	3.2%		

1. Summary: Survey participants came from all areas of town. However, the Route 66 corridor and County Route 22/21 areas were where most participants live (40%). Many participants (16%) also live in the Chatham village area. The least number of participants live East of the Taconics and along County Route 9 North. About 3% own land but do not live in Ghent.

2. How many years have you lived or owned land in the Town of Ghent?							Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
	5 or less	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30		
Number of Responses	84	77	66	52	41	38	530	97%
Percent of Completed Answers	15.8%	14.5%	12.5%	9.8%	7.7%	7.2%		
	31 to 35	36 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	51 to 55	56 to 60		
Number of Responses	31	38	21	23	13	13		
Percent of Completed Answers	5.8%	7.2%	4.0%	4.3%	2.5%	2.5%		
	61 to 65	66 to 70	71 to 75	76 to 80	81 to 85	More than 85		
Number of Responses	12	6	7	1	1	2		
Percent of Completed Answers	2.3%	1.1%	1.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%		

2. Summary: About 16% of survey participants are relative newcomers to Town (16% 5 or less years). 27% have lived in Ghent 6 to 15 years. About 25% have lived here 16 to 30 years. 32% have lived in Town more than 30 years.

3. Are you a part-time or full-time resident?	Part-time	Full-time	I am not a resident, but own land	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	80	416	40	537	99%
Percent of Completed Answers	14.9%	77.5%	7.4%		

3. Summary: The majority of participants are full-time residents. About 15% are part-time residents.

4. How old are you? (Average age is 57.7)	25 or under	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	41 to 45	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	2	1	1	35	44	525	97%
Percent of Completed Answers	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	6.7%	8.4%		
	46 to 50	51 to 55	56 to 60	61 to 65	66 to 70		
Number of Responses	58	90	77	64	62		
Percent of Completed Answers	11.0%	17.1%	14.7%	12.2%	11.8%		
	71 to 75	76 to 80	81 to 85	More than 85			
Number of Responses	29	22	12	12			
Percent of Completed Answers	5.5%	4.2%	2.3%	2.3%			

4. Summary: There were not many young people who filled out the survey (less than 1% were less than 35 years old). 26% were between 36 and 50 years old. 44% were between 50 and 65 years old. 26% were older than 65 years.

5. If you work, is it a home based job, a job outside the home but in Ghent, or elsewhere?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Home-based	72	13.5%	534	98%
b. Not home, but within Ghent	39	7.3%		
c. Outside Town, but within Columbia County	131	24.5%		

d. In the Capital District	62	11.6%
e. At another location	101	18.9%
f. Agriculture-based in town	11	2.1%
g. I do not work	146	27.3%

5. Summary: The highest percentage of participants do not work (27% - reflecting the older age of participants). For those that do work, most (25%) worked outside of Ghent but in Columbia County. 12% work in the Capital District and 14% are home based. 7% work in Ghent outside the home.

6. How many children of high school age or younger are there in your household?	Zero	One	Two	Three	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	354	52	46	9	472	87%
Percent of Completed Answers	75.0%	11.0%	9.7%	1.9%		
	Four	Five	Six	Seven (or more)		
Number of Responses	7	0	1	0		
Percent of Completed Answers	1.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0%		

6. Summary: A large majority of participants do not have children living at home (75%). For those that did, 11% had one child at home, 10% had two, and 3% had three or more children living at home.

7. Looking to the future, and comparing it to the present, how much attention should the Town of Ghent give to each of the following?	More attention	Neither more nor less attention	Less attention	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Encourage a supply of houses affordable to first-time home buyers and workers.	248	161	68	59	536	99%
Percent of Completed Answers	46.3%	30.0%	12.7%	11.0%		

b. Encourage a supply of housing affordable to renters.	136	174	159	61	530	97%
Percent of Completed Answers	25.7%	32.8%	30.0%	11.5%		
c. Encourage a supply of housing affordable to senior citizens.	308	147	41	39	535	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	57.6%	27.5%	7.7%	7.3%		

7. Summary: Related to housing needs, the majority (58%) wanted to see the Town give more attention to encouraging affordable housing for seniors. About half (46%) wanted more attention given to encouraging more affordable homes for first time buyers and workers. Fewer people wanted more attention given to supplying rental housing (26%) while 30% said less attention and 33% said neither more nor less attention should be given to providing affordable rental housing.

8. Indicate which affordable housing type listed below should be encouraged in the Town of Ghent?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Apartment Buildings	63	12.4%	509	94%
b. Condominiums/Town Houses	164	32.2%		
c. Duplex Residences (2-family)	124	24.4%		
d. Group Homes	28	5.5%		
e. In-Law Accessory Apartments on your parcel or in your home	192	37.7%		
f. Mobile Home Parks	24	4.7%		
g. Individual Mobile Homes on separate lots	53	10.4%		
h. Modular homes	130	25.5%		
i. Senior Housing such as assisted living centers	259	50.9%		

j. Subsidized Housing	45	8.8%
k. Other	66	13.0%

8. Summary: Senior housing was the affordable housing type desired to be encouraged in Ghent by the most people (51%). 38% wanted to encourage in-law accessory apartments and 32% wanted condominiums/townhouses. Modular homes and duplex homes were desired to be encouraged by about 25% of the participants. Mobile homes, mobile home parks, and subsidized housing were not favored.

9. How affordable do you feel the homes in Ghent are?	Very affordable	Somewhat affordable	Not affordable	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	35	283	148	71	537	99%
Percent of Completed Answers	6.5%	52.7%	27.6%	13.2%		

9. Summary: Just over half of the participants feel that housing in Ghent is somewhat affordable (53%). 28% said it is not affordable and 7% said it is very affordable.

10. What are the most important actions the Town of Ghent should take related to housing?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Encourage the reuse of vacant, abandoned, or tax-delinquent properties for affordable home sites	333	62.9%	529	97%
b. Change zoning districts within existing or new hamlets to make more land available for higher density residential growth	70	13.2%		
c. Ensure that zoning policies support a diversity of housing types	192	36.3%		
d. Offer incentives to developers to create affordable homes	100	18.9%		

e. Establish zoning code that requires developers of major residential projects (5 lots or more) to have a percentage of their units/lots dedicated as moderately-priced	145	27.4%
f. Create a housing trust fund	24	4.5%
g. Generate other funds such as through grants or housing tax credit programs	74	14.0%
h. Other:	63	11.9%
j. Don't know	47	8.9%

10. Summary: When asked what the most important actions Ghent should take related to housing, participants selected encouraging the reuse of vacant, abandoned or tax delinquent properties for affordable home sites (63%) followed by ensuring zoning allows for a diversity of housing types (36%) and then establishing zoning that requires developers of large residential projects to dedicate a percentage of their units as moderately-priced units (27%). Other options given were favored by less than 20%. Creating a housing trust fund was not favored.

11. Would you be in favor of spending funds to meet the housing needs you identified in #10, above?	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, but using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	164	118	183	42	507	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	32.3%	23.3%	36.1%	8.3%		

11. Summary: 36% of participants said they would favor using a mix of public and private funds to meet housing needs identified in the previous question while 32% said they would not favor spending funds. 23% said only if private money was used.

12. Looking to the future, and comparing it to the present, how much attention should the Town of Ghent give to each of the following?	More attention	Neither more nor less attention	Less attention	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)

a. Encouraging development in or near existing hamlets or in new hamlets	183	165	105	69	519	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	35.3%	31.8%	20.2%	13.3%		
b. Promoting development that maintains the Town's rural character?	381	112	20	18	532	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	71.6%	21.1%	3.8%	3.4%		

12. Summary: Slightly more people (35%) said that they want more attention given to encouraging development in or near existing or new hamlets. This compares to 32% saying they want neither more nor less attention to that. 20% said less attention should be given to directing growth to hamlets. 72% said that more attention should be given to promoting development that maintains the Town's rural character. 4% said give this less attention and 21% said give this neither more nor less attention.

13. What are the important actions that the Town of Ghent should take related to land use?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Have building design standards for commercial uses	92	17.1%	538	99%
b. Have strong site plan standards for commercial uses that relate to layout, landscaping, signage, lighting, parking lots	194	36.1%		
c. Have smaller residential lot sizes	82	15.2%		
d. Have larger residential lot sizes	99	18.4%		
e. Continue using average density instead of emphasizing lot sizes	130	24.2%		
f. No actions needed, let the market decide	37	6.9%		
g. Provide incentives to land owners	48	8.9%		

to provide desired Town amenities		
h. Mandate that development include desired Town amenities	67	12.5%
i. Protect scenic views	241	44.8%
j. Protect ridgelines	136	25.3%
k. Have residential siting and layout standards that serve to protect rural character	253	47.0%
l. Other:	24	4.5%
n. Don't know	22	4.1%

13. Summary: 47% said that Ghent should have residential siting and layout standards that serve to protect rural character. 45% said the Town should protect scenic views. 36% said that the Town should have strong site plan standards for commercial uses. 24% said the Town should continue using average density. 25% said that the Town should protect ridgelines. Less than 18% supported the other actions listed. There was not much support for simply letting the market decide (7%), or providing incentives (9%) to gain important amenities.

14. Are existing town zoning and subdivision laws adequate to address growth and development in the town	Yes	No	Somewhat	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	85	102	102	246	535	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	15.9%	19.1%	19.1%	46.0%		

14. Summary: Most participants did not know if the existing zoning and subdivision laws are adequate to address growth and development (46%). 16% said they are adequate and 19% said they are not adequate.

15. Would you be in favor of spending funds to meet the actions you chose in #14 above?	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, but using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	157	64	138	69	428	79%
Percent of Completed Answers	36.7%	15.0%	32.2%	16.1%		

Answers

15. Summary: 37% said they would not favor spending funds to accomplish the various actions listed above, but 32% said yes if there was a mix of public and private funds. 16% said public money is OK and 15% said only if private monies were used. NOTE: THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THIS QUESTION AS IT REFERRED TO #14 INSTEAD OF #13 SO THE RESULTS ARE QUESTIONABLE.

16. Would you favor requiring a licensed engineer to inspect, at landowner expense, and approve every building site prior to issuance of a building permit for new construction	Yes	No	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	193	250	82	528	97%
Percent of Completed Answers	36.6%	47.3%	15.5%		

16. Summary: 47% were not in favor of requiring a licensed engineer to inspect buildings prior to issuance of a new building permit. 37% were in favor and 16% did not know.

17. How satisfied are you with the following types of Town functions and services?	Satisfied	Not satisfied	No opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 544)
a. Accessibility of town records	245	31	219	496	91%
Percent of Completed Answers	49.4%	6.3%	44.2%		
b. Ambulance/Rescue Squad	339	20	145	505	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	67.1%	4.0%	28.7%		
c. Tax Assessor	205	108	180	494	91%
Percent of Completed Answers	41.5%	21.9%	36.4%		
d. Code enforcement/Inspection	206	75	205	486	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	42.4%	15.4%	42.2%		

e. Fire protection	385	13	102	500	92%
Percent of Completed Answers	77.0%	2.6%	20.4%		
f. Hours of operation (town hall)	343	55	107	506	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	67.8%	10.9%	21.1%		
g. Library services	173	56	243	472	87%
Percent of Completed Answers	36.7%	11.9%	51.5%		
h. Overall road maintenance	368	98	42	508	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	72.4%	19.3%	8.3%		
i. Responsiveness of town to residents concerns	188	92	206	486	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	38.7%	18.9%	42.4%		
j. Speed limits and enforcement	272	152	82	507	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	53.6%	30.0%	16.2%		
k. Town board	239	43	204	486	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	49.2%	8.8%	42.0%		
l. Town hall facility	343	19	136	498	92%
Percent of Completed Answers	68.9%	3.8%	27.3%		
m. Town planning board	191	59	235	485	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	39.4%	12.2%	48.5%		
n. Town zoning board of appeals	143	55	286	484	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	29.5%	11.4%	59.1%		
o. Youth programs	155	69	261	485	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	32.0%	14.2%	53.8%		
p. Other:	27	3	150	180	33%
Percent of Completed Answers	15.0%	1.7%	83.3%		

17. Summary: Overall, there were more people satisfied with the various town functions and services. There was a lot of satisfaction with fire protection, ambulance and rescue squads, hours of town hall operation, overall road maintenance, town hall facility, and speed limit enforcement. All these had well over half of participants indicating satisfaction. Many people had no opinion about accessibility of town records, code enforcement, library services, responsiveness to residents concerns, town board, town planning, ZBA, and youth programs. Each of these items had more than half of participants with no opinion. The service that had the most people not satisfied were speed limit enforcement (30% not satisfied), tax assessor (22%), road maintenance (20%), responsiveness to resident concerns (19%), and library services (12%).

18. What are the most important actions that the Town of Ghent should take related to infrastructure and community services?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Decreasing traffic congestion on major routes through town	29	5.4%	539	99%
b. Placing slower speed limits on town roads	103	19.1%		
d. Providing water and sewer service in hamlets	57	10.6%		
f. Maintaining roads	239	44.3%		
g. Providing services for senior citizens	65	12.1%		
i. Providing mechanisms for the town government to communicate with citizens	70	13.0%		
k. Providing for safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian travel	168	31.2%		
l. Improving public transportation options	80	14.8%		
m. Lowering taxes	314	58.3%		

n. Improving trash and recycling programs	85	15.8%
o. Providing high speed internet/cell service	140	26.0%
p. Providing childcare services	12	2.2%
r. Regulating wind power facilities	41	7.6%
s. Other:	39	7.2%
u. Don't know	16	3.0%

18. Summary: The three most important actions Ghent can take related to infrastructure and community services were to lower taxes, maintain roads, and provide for safe and convenient bike and pedestrian travel.

19. Would you be in favor of spending funds to meet the actions you chose in #18, above?	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, but using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	76	45	248	144	513	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	14.8%	8.8%	48.3%	28.1%		

19. Summary: Almost half (48%) said they would favor using a mix of public and private funds to provide actions listed in #18 and 28% said they would favor using all public money if no other funds were available. 15% said they would not favor spending any funds and 9% said only if it were using private funds.

20. Looking to the future, and comparing it to the present, how much attention should the Town of Ghent give to protecting agriculture in the Town?	More attention	Neither more nor less attention	Less attention	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	370	114	12	28	524	96%
Percent of Completed Answers	70.6%	21.8%	2.3%	5.3%		

20. Summary: 71% of participants said that the town should give more attention to protecting agriculture in Ghent. 22% said neither more nor less attention is needed and 2% said less attention.

21. What is the most important role the Town of Ghent can play in promoting agriculture within Town?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Provide better technical assistance to farmers	42	8.0%	527	97%
b. Marketing of Ghent agricultural products	132	25.0%		
c. Steer new housing development away from farm areas and more towards hamlets or new hamlets	216	41.0%		
d. Limit non-farm development in productive farm areas	170	32.3%		
e. Provide incentives to farmers to stay in farming	243	46.1%		
f. Provide incentives for farmland to be preserved	201	38.1%		
g. Actively participate in agricultural economic development programs	84	15.9%		
h. Actively participate in setting up co-ops, processing facilities or distribution networks	70	13.3%		
i. Buy farmland or development rights from willing sellers	50	9.5%		
j. Amend zoning to ensure that it is farm-friendly	160	30.4%		
k. Other	20	3.8%		
m. Don't know	42	8.0%		

21. Summary: The three most favored agricultural protection tools were provide incentives to farmers to stay in farming (46%),

steer new housing development away from farms and towards hamlets (41%) and provide incentives to preserve farmland (38%). Other tools that were favored by many people were to limit non-farm development in productive farm areas (32%), and to amend zoning to ensure it is farm-friendly (30%). Buying farmland or development rights from willing sellers was the least favored tool (10% in favor).

22. Would you be in favor of spending funds to maintain agriculture in Ghent?	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, but using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	90	79	238	98	507	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	17.8%	15.6%	46.9%	19.3%		

22. Summary: 47% favored spending a mix of private and public funds to protect farmland while 19% said they favored spending all public money to accomplish that. 18% said they did not favor spending money to protect farmlands and 16% said only if it were private money.

23. Which of the following open space or natural resource areas do you support being protected by additional regulations or standards that would control development occurring within them?	Yes	No	Percent Yes	Percent No	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Floodplains	345	81	81.0%	19.0%	426	78%
b. Groundwater/aquifers	398	41	90.7%	9.3%	439	81%
c. Streams, wetlands, ponds	427	44	90.7%	9.3%	471	87%
d. Forested areas	367	76	82.8%	17.2%	443	81%
e. Agricultural areas	406	48	89.4%	10.6%	454	83%
f. Ridge tops	302	109	73.5%	26.5%	411	76%
g. Steep slopes	246	141	63.6%	36.4%	387	71%
h. Other:	33	30	52.4%	47.6%	63	12%
k. Don't know	26				26	5%

23. Summary: Overall, the majority of participants favored having additional regulations or standards to control development

from occurring on these important environmental areas. Groundwater aquifers, streams, wetlands, and ponds had over 90% of all participants supporting additional standards to protect these areas. Between 80% and 89% were in favor of using regulations to protect floodplains, forested areas, and agricultural areas. 74% said they favored regulations for protecting ridgetops and 64% said they favored regulations for steep slopes.

24. Please select the most important environmental and natural resource issues in the Town of Ghent	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Loss of open space	213	41.0%	519	95%
b. Flooding	29	5.6%		
c. Groundwater quality/water pollution	148	28.5%		
d. Soil erosion	22	4.2%		
e. Wildlif habitat loss	177	34.1%		
f. Development on ridge tops	79	15.2%		
g. Mining	71	13.7%		
h. Septic system failures	43	8.3%		
i. Surface water quality/water pollution	64	12.3%		
j. Loss of scenic landscapes	160	30.8%		
k. Loss of agriculture	271	52.2%		
l. Other	10	1.9%		
n. Don't know	43	8.3%		

24. Summary: The three most important environmental and natural resource issues in Ghent were loss of agriculture (52%), loss of open space (41%), and loss of wildlife habitats (34%). Loss of scenic landscapes and groundwater pollution were other issues felt to be important by about 30% of participants. Flooding, soil erosion, and septic system failures were not considered to be important issues by more than 5% of participants (about 30 people).

25. Which of the resource areas listed above in question 23 is your highest priority?	A - Floodplains	B - Groundwater/aquifers	C - Streams, wetlands, ponds	D - Forested areas	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 544)
Number of Responses	59	94	87	53	447	82%
Percent of Completed Answers	13.2%	21.0%	19.5%	11.9%		
E - Agricultural areas	F - Ridge tops	G - Steep slopes	H - Other			
Number of Responses	109	28	9	5		
Percent of Completed Answers	24.4%	6.3%	2.0%	1.1%		

25. Summary: When asked which resource area in question 23 was the highest priority, loss of agricultural areas was ranked the highest by the most people, followed by groundwater/aquifers, and then streams, wetlands and ponds.

26. What is the most important role the Town of Ghent could play in promoting protection and effective management of the resources listed in #24	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Steer development away from those resources towards less sensitive areas	350	67.3%	520	96%
b. Provide education about these resources to the public	176	33.8%		
c. Provide incentives to landowners or businesses to adopt best management practices or voluntarily protect these resources	279	53.7%		
d. Buy lands or development rights to protect resources using public money (includes grants)	151	29.0%		
e. No role – let the market decide	39	7.5%		

f. Other:	13	2.5%
h. Don't know	37	7.1%

26. Summary: When asked what role Ghent should play in promoting protection of these resources, 67% said to steer development away from sensitive areas, 54% said to provide incentives for adoption of best management practices or voluntary protection of resources, and 34% said provide education about these resources. About 29% said they felt Ghent should buy lands or development rights to protect resources. Letting the market decide was not a favored role (8%).

27. Would you be in favor of spending funds to protect resources from question #24 in Ghent?	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, but using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	85	62	250	103	500	92%
Percent of Completed Answers	17.0%	12.4%	50.0%	20.6%		

27. Summary: 50% of participants said they favored using a mix of private and public monies to protect important resources and 21% said they favored using all public money. 17% said no funding should be spent, and 12% said only if private monies were used.

28. Is the source of your drinking water from a private well or public water supply?	Private Well	Public Water Supply	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	428	98	5	533	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	80.3%	18.4%	0.9%		

28. (a) Do you have any issues with that water supply	Yes	No	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Number of Responses	96	427	523	96%
Percent of Completed Answers	18.4%	81.6%		

28. Summary: 80% of participants have private wells supply their drinking water. 18% were on public water. 96 people, or 18% said they have issues with that water supply. 82% said they had no issues. NOTE: THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE ANALYZED TO SEE IF THOSE WITH ISSUES ARE WITH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE WELLS.

29. Should the Town encourage commercial uses in the Town of Ghent?			Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 544)
	Yes	No		
Number of Responses	271	206	478	88%
Percent of Completed Answers	56.7%	43.1%		

29. Summary: 57% said that the Town should encourage commercial uses and 43% said Ghent should not.

30. SEE WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR THIS QUESTION.

31. Where would you prefer to see commercial development in Ghent located?	In or near hamlets	In or near the commercial industrial park	Only in currently existing commercial zones	Other location	Don't know	No further commercial development desired	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
Percent of Completed Answers	17.2%	36.8%	28.1%	4.1%	4.8%	8.9%		

31. Summary: The most favored location for commercial development was in or near the commercial industrial park (37%), in current commercial zones (28%) or in or near hamlets (17%). 9% said they wanted no further commercial development.

32. What are the most important roles that the Town of Ghent should play related to economic development?	Number of Responses	Percent of Completed Answers	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
b. Developing favorable land use regulations for business development	135	26.3%		
c. Assisting established businesses and industries to stay in Ghent	238	46.3%		

d. Making sure that new commercial development is consistent with the aesthetics, scale and character of Ghent	324	63.0%
e. Offering incentives to businesses and industries	86	16.7%
f. Providing technical assistance for businesses	44	8.6%
g. Investing public money in economic development programs	22	4.3%
h. Other:	31	6.0%
j. Don't know	29	10.1%

32. Summary: The most important role that the Town should play related to economic development is to ensure that new commercial uses are consistent with the aesthetics, scale and character of Ghent (63%). Other important roles are to assist established businesses stay in Ghent (46%) and assist with new business opportunities (34%). Developing favorable land use regulations for business development was favored by 26% of participants. Offering incentives was favored by about 17%. Providing technical assistance, or investing public money in economic development programs were not favored.

34. Looking to the future and comparing it to the present, how much attention should the Town give to promoting the following cultural uses in Ghent?					Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
	More attention	Neither more nor less attention	Less attention	Don't know		
Number of Responses	248	201	29	36	514	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	48.2%	39.1%	5.6%	7.0%		

34. Summary: More people (48%) felt that the Town should give more attention to promoting cultural uses and 39% said that neither more nor less attention should be given. 6% said less attention should be given.

35. (a, b, and c) Of the list of cultural uses above, which are most important to you?	Theater/film	Art	Antique shows	Libraries		Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 1,632)
Number of Responses	133	79	55	162		991	61%
Percent of Completed Answers	13.4%	8.0%	5.5%	16.3%			
	Music Concerts	Fairs and Festivals	Museums	Community Day	Other		
Number of Responses	163	149	72	144	34		
Percent of Completed Answers	16.4%	15.0%	7.3%	14.5%	3.4%		

35. Summary: Cultural uses most important were: music concerts (16%), library (16%), fairs and festivals (15%), community day (15%), and theater/film (13%). Art, antique shows, and museums were the least favored cultural events.

36. SEE WRITTEN RESPONSES FOR ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION.

37. How much attention should the Town give to the following recreational land uses in Ghent?	More attention	Neither more nor less attention	Less attention	Don't know	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
a. Senior citizen activities	239	153	15	66	474	87%
Percent of Completed Answers	50.4%	32.3%	3.2%	13.9%		
b. Activities for teens	294	118	16	52	481	88%
Percent of Completed Answers	61.1%	24.5%	3.3%	10.8%		
c. Athletic fields	195	215	27	36	474	87%
Percent of Completed Answers	41.1%	45.4%	5.7%	7.6%		
d. ATV and off-road vehicles/snowmobiles	72	101	271	36	481	88%
Percent of Completed Answers	15.0%	21.0%	56.3%	7.5%		
e. Cross country skiing	193	192	48	30	464	85%
Percent of Completed Answers	41.6%	41.4%	10.3%	6.5%		

Answers						
f. Fishing access	242	162	22	45	472	87%
Percent of Completed Answers	51.3%	34.3%	4.7%	9.5%		
g. Horse trails	158	197	52	54	462	85%
Percent of Completed Answers	34.2%	42.6%	11.3%	11.7%		
h. Hunting	127	189	112	38	467	86%
Percent of Completed Answers	27.2%	40.5%	24.0%	8.1%		
i. Ice skating	192	184	38	49	464	85%
Percent of Completed Answers	41.4%	39.7%	8.2%	10.6%		
j. Public picnic areas	222	173	35	35	466	86%
Percent of Completed Answers	47.6%	37.1%	7.5%	7.5%		
k. Skateboarding	73	152	177	51	454	83%
Percent of Completed Answers	16.1%	33.5%	39.0%	11.2%		
l. Swimming pools (public)	197	112	118	41	469	86%
Percent of Completed Answers	42.0%	23.9%	25.2%	8.7%		
m. Hiking, biking, walking, running path, rail trail	330	99	47	13	490	90%
Percent of Completed Answers	67.3%	20.2%	9.6%	2.7%		
n. Other	8	16	1	26	51	9%
Percent of Completed Answers	15.7%	31.4%	2.0%	51.0%		

37. Summary: More participants felt the Town should give less attention to ATV and off-road vehicles/snowmobiles, and skateboarding. Horse trails and hunting were activities participants felt should receive neither more nor less attention (42% and 41% respectively). Athletic fields, cross country skiing, and ice skating had about equal numbers of participants indicate they felt it needed more attention compared to those who felt they should have neither more nor less attention (about 40% each). Senior citizen activities, activities for teens, fishing access, public picnic areas, swimming pools, and hiking/biking trails were favored by more participants as activities that needed more attention. Of those, the most people said they felt more attention should be given to hiking/biking/walking/running path/rail trail activities, followed closely by the need for activities for teens.

38. Would you favor a recreation fee assessed on new subdivisions to fund recreational opportunities in the Town?			Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
	Yes	No		
Number of Responses	325	180	508	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	64.0%	35.4%		

38. Summary: 64% favored assessing a recreation fee on new subdivisions while 35% did not.

39. Would you be in favor of spending other public funding to accomplish the recreational uses you feel need more attention from #37 (above)?					Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, but using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available		
Number of Responses	96	62	262	91	511	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	18.8%	12.1%	51.3%	17.8%		

39. Summary: 51% said they would favor using a mix of public and private monies to provide recreational activities listed in #37 and 18% said they favored using all public money for those activities. 19% said no money should be spent and 12% said only if private monies were used.

40. We recognize that there is some controversy over the potential for a new rail trail being located in certain areas of Town. Are you in favor of developing new rail trails?			Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 544)
	Yes	No		
Number of Responses	300	134	434	80%
Percent of Completed Answers	69.1%	30.9%		

40. Summary: 69% favored development of new rail trails and 31% were not in favor.