

The following is a synthesis of major sentiments and ideas in open-ended comments across 8 different open-ended questions.

The open-ended questions were not distributed evenly across subjects, so the ideas listed should not be considered what subjects are most popular in Montague, but rather some of the common ideas people have for a variety of subjects.

HOUSING

- Affordable housing generally
- Housing that is affordable for young people and young families
- Less low income housing
- Market rate/competitive housing
- Housing that is affordable to people who already live here

CULTURE & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- More arts and cultural programming
- Support/maintain arts and culture
- Preserve historic elements
- Community events

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Restaurants/cafes
- Fill/revitalize downtown Turners Falls
- Department store/place to buy everyday things like clothes and groceries/retail
- Repurpose or tear down unused buildings (e.g. mill buildings)
- Commercial development generally
- Offer incentives to new businesses
- Grow the tax base
- Support the arts economy
- Too much focus on arts economy

Common Ideas in Open-Ended Questions

Survey Results

INTERNET
Town-wide high speed internet

YOUTH
More programming (recreational and otherwise) for youth and teens

TAXES
Lower tax rates

ACCESSIBILITY
Accessibility of libraries

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Adequate fire and public safety personnel
- Waste water treatment improvements
- Tool lending library
- Bulk item pick up
- Take-it-or-leave-it
- Free curbside recycling
- Compost pick-up
- Better community-wide communication (emergency and non emergency)

PARKS
Dog park

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

- New elementary school buildings, especially Hillcrest
- New main branch library
- Better senior center

SWIMMING & RIVER ACCESS

- Community pool or swimming area
- Safe and attractive public river access for swimming or otherwise

ROADS

Traffic speeds throughout town
Traffic issues in Montague Center
Concern about safety of one lane bridges/bridges that are still open given the issues with the ones that are closed

ENERGY

Net zero/energy efficiency that doesn't impact housing affordability
Expansion of solar

EMERGENCY PLANNING & HAZARD MITIGATION

Work on food security
Prepare for/reduce flooding

BIKE & PED

Better sidewalks to schools
More accommodation for bikes on roadways
Bike and pedestrian connectivity to Greenfield

TRANSIT

Generally, more public transportation
Transportation services more directly accessible to seniors
Transportation between villages
Transportation from downtown Turners Falls to schools for elementary students

SUSTAINABILITY

More community gardens/garden infrastructure

OPEN SPACE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Protect open space/natural environments
Protect Four Corners