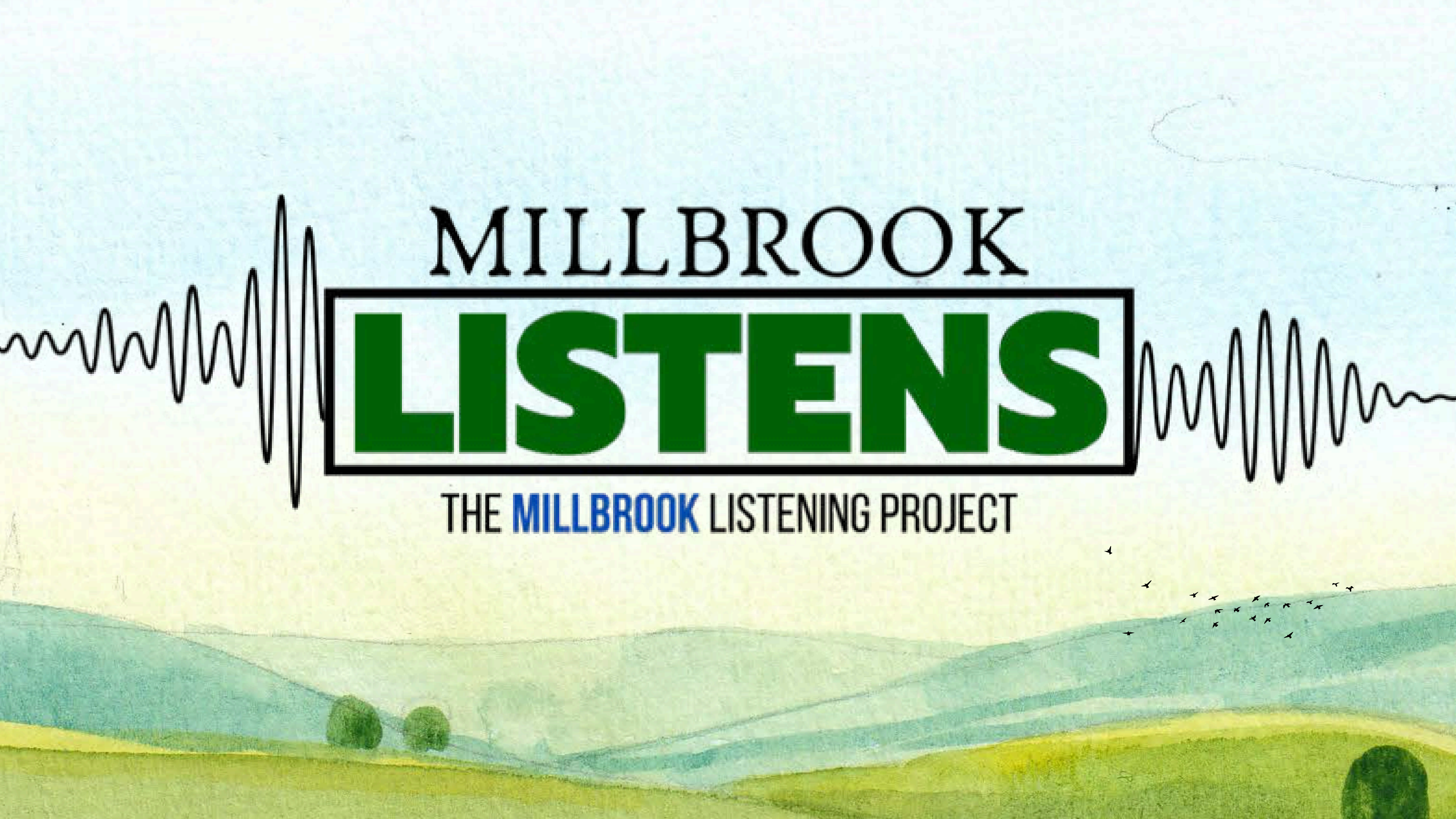




MILLBROOK

LISTENS

THE **MILLBROOK** LISTENING PROJECT

Context



What is The Funding Futures Program?



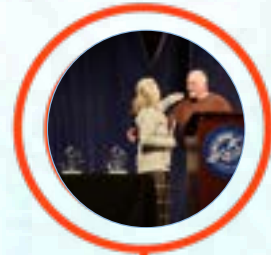
The Funding Futures is a pilot grant program through **Partners for Climate Action** that provides technical assistance and funding for selected applicants to facilitate **community-focused listening campaigns** in their towns. Millbrook/Washington was 1 of 6 communities awarded.

The process will result in each community coming to a **consensus** on priorities and identifying funding mechanisms to safeguard natural resources and foster **healthy and resilient** communities and ecosystems.



Meet Your Funding Futures Fellow: Christopher Wilson





Human-Centricity



Approach



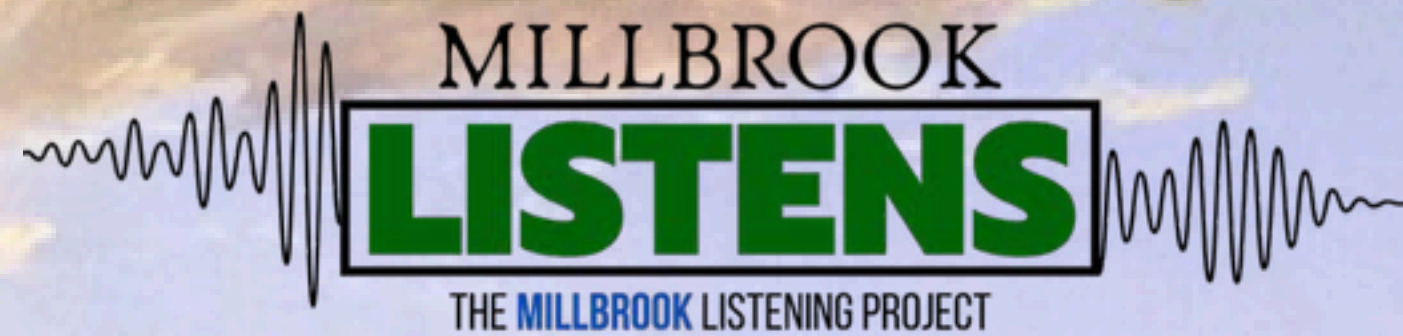
Committee Formation



Members of the planning committee included representatives of the Town of Washington, Village of Millbrook, Millbrook Library, the Millbrook Business Association, Innisfree Garden, Grace Church, Cary Institute, Millbrook School District, Millbrook Arts Group, the Millbrook Farmers Market, and other dedicated residents and neighbors of the Village and Town.

At its height, the Millbrook Listens Planning Committee had 15 persons in attendance with a core group of 8 members regularly attending 80% or more of the meetings.





The Millbrook Listening Project is a year-long listening campaign designed to gather input and identify what residents of the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook care about most when thinking about the future of our community. The purpose of determining these priorities is to build community engagement and focus around these projects while attracting and establishing sustainable funding streams to make these ideas a reality.

Founding Statement: We are here to celebrate the people, traditions, and heritage that continue to influence us to stay in our homes and welcome new neighbors to our community every day. We come together to think critically about what matters to our town and to prioritize projects that will ensure the next generation inherits the same health and beauty we now enjoy.



MILLBROOK LISTENS

THE MILLBROOK LISTENING PROJECT

The *Millbrook Listening Project* is a year-long community listening campaign being implemented by the Village of Millbrook & Town of Washington. It is designed to gather input from residents and identify the projects that matter most by prioritizing ideas that will make our town healthier and more resilient.

Q: What are the outcomes of the Millbrook Listening Project?

Through listening events, word of mouth, and online engagement, we seek to engage the greatest number of residents in the Town of Millbrook/Village of Millbrook to both submit ideas and vote on their top three community priorities that will ensure a more healthy and resilient environment and ensure every voice is heard.

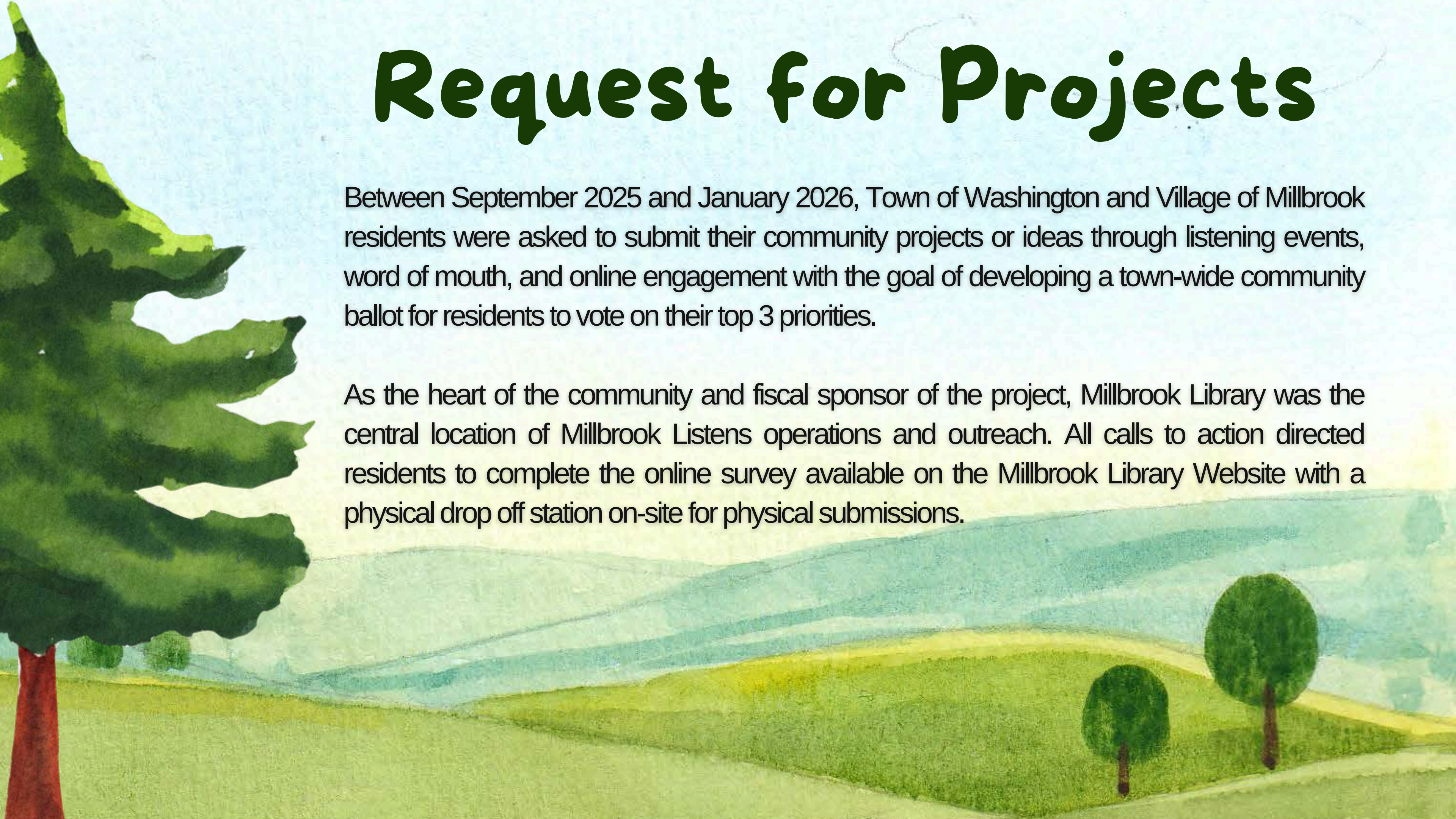
Q: How can I submit my project idea and vote?

Until January 2026, submit your ideas online through the Millbrook Library website. In Spring 2026, all residents of the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington can vote for their top-three priorities on a town-wide ballot.

Q: How can I get involved?

- **Share** your project idea until January 2026 (scan the QR code).
- **Vote** in Spring 2026.
- **Spread** the word to friends and neighbors.

Contact: MillbrookListens@gmail.com
Lead Fellow: Christopher Wilson



Request for Projects

Between September 2025 and January 2026, Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook residents were asked to submit their community projects or ideas through listening events, word of mouth, and online engagement with the goal of developing a town-wide community ballot for residents to vote on their top 3 priorities.

As the heart of the community and fiscal sponsor of the project, Millbrook Library was the central location of Millbrook Listens operations and outreach. All calls to action directed residents to complete the online survey available on the Millbrook Library Website with a physical drop off station on-site for physical submissions.

Events and Outreach

- Millbrook Community Day
- Farmers Market
- Millbrook Library Station
- Committee Newsletters
- Newspaper Coverage
- Churches
- Local Non-Profits
- Board Presentations
- Halloween in Millbrook
- Leadership Luncheon
- 1 on 1 Meetings
- Town and Village
- Spirit of Millbrook



Community Day

Millbrook Listens made its debut on Millbrook's Community Day 2025 after months of planning with two stations set up on Franklin Avenue for visitors to suggest ideas and projects. It was a strong start with close to ~80 responses that day and other residents engaging the idea boards. The board station continued to be held through the end of the 2025 Millbrook Farmers Market season with volunteers engaging patrons.



Leadership Luncheon

On November 22nd, 2025, the Millbrook Listens Planning Committee held a luncheon briefing for residents of the community who were identified as needing to "be-in-the-know" about the project. The purpose of the luncheon was to discuss the project more intimately, create a space to share ideas and ask questions, and in general give invitees more confidence in speaking to others about Millbrook Listens. 22 individuals were identified and invited with 14 in attendance.





Spirit of Millbrook

A W A R D S



Survey Results

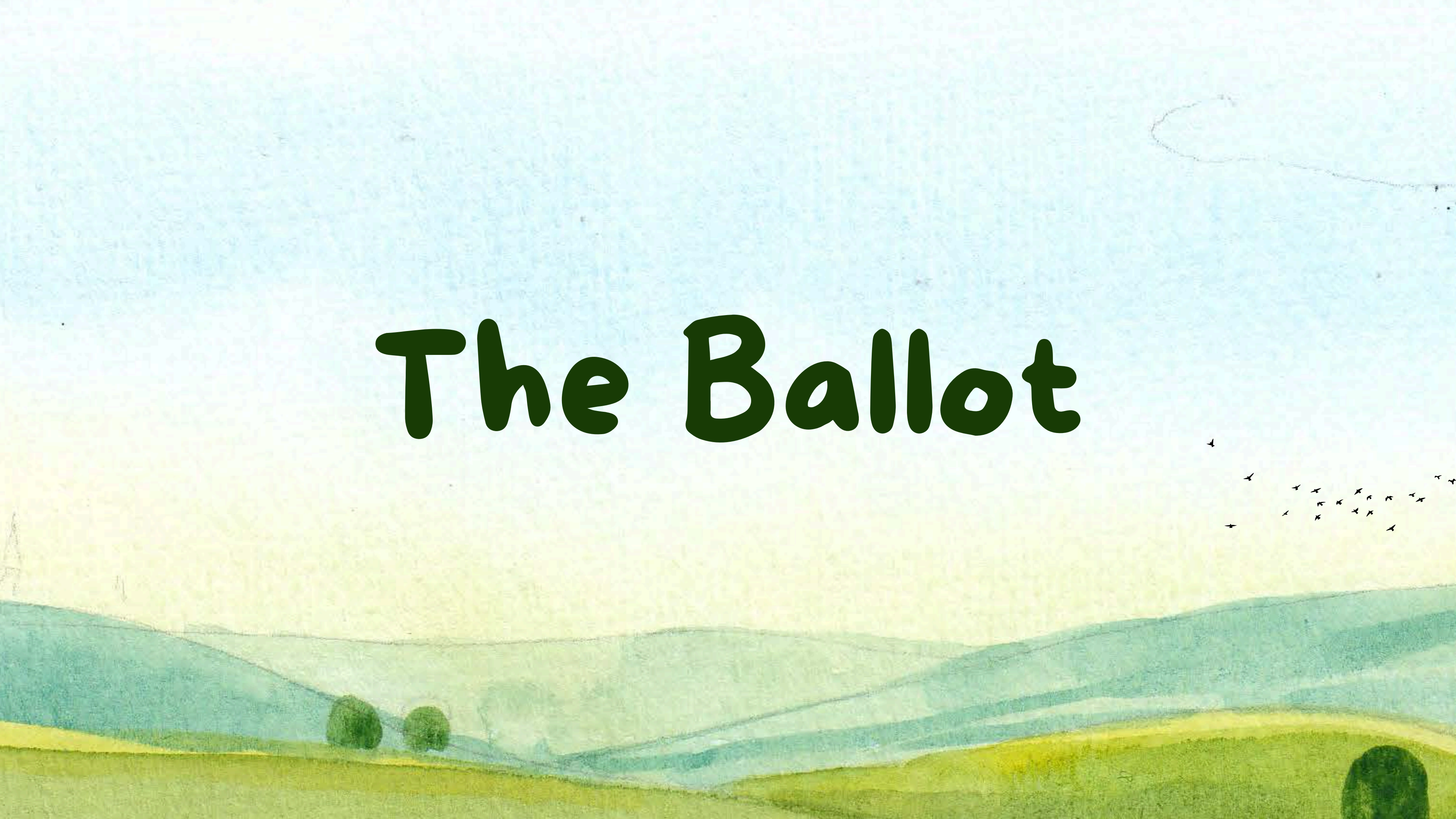
Between September 2025 and January 2026, Millbrook Listens received ~200 ideas and projects through the survey. After reviewing all submissions, the planning committee removed and/or combined duplicates, revealing 79 distinct ideas submitted by residents of the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook.

These submissions fell into 5 categories:

- 1. Outdoor Recreation & Parks**
- 2. Business & Local Economy**
- 3. Town Infrastructure & Traffic**
- 4. Environment and Conservation**
- 5. Community Programming & Events**



The Ballot

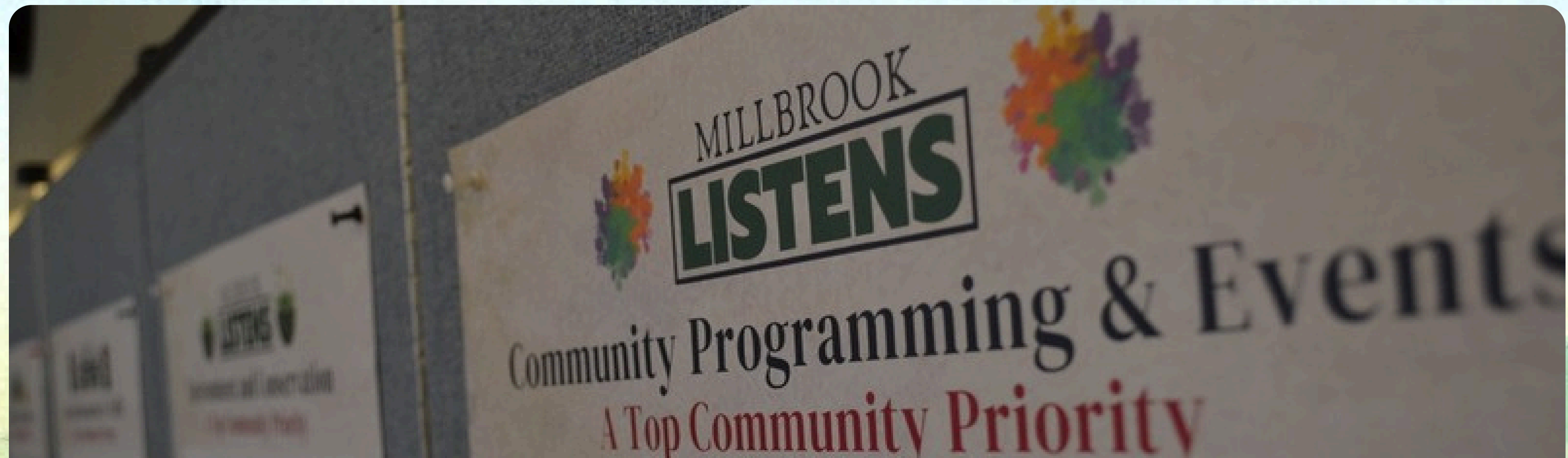


The planning committee determined **three screening criteria** to omit projects from being included on the community ballot.

The three screening criteria included:

- **Projects/ideas that require private business or ownership**
- **Projects/ideas that are already happening or operating within the community**
- **Project/ideas that were unclear or could not be completed at the Town or Village level**

After removing duplicate submissions, ideas beyond municipal scope, and projects that already exist in our community, **14 distinct ideas and 10 new groups** to be formed in the near future were identified and included in the Millbrook Listens Community Ballot.



MILLBROOK LISTENS

THE MILLBROOK LISTENING PROJECT

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ECRWSS

LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER

TOWN OF WASHINGTON & VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK COMMUNITY BALLOT ENCLOSED

LOOK INSIDE

VOTE BY MAY 15TH, 2026!

Look inside to see ideas suggested by your neighbors.
To learn more, visit our website at millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-listens

VOTING OPTIONS

PLACE A FIRST-CLASS STAMP ON THE ENCLOSED BALLOT AND MAIL IT
VOTE ONLINE @ MILLBROOKLIBRARY.ORG/MILLBROOK-LISTENS
DROP THE BALLOT AT THE MILLBROOK LIBRARY

RETURN ADDRESS:

Millbrook Listens
PO Box 286
Millbrook, NY 12545

FOLD HERE

Millbrook Listens is an initiative designed to gather input and identify what the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook residents care about most when thinking about the future of our community. Through listening events, word of mouth, and online engagement, residents have sent hundreds of ideas since September 2025. After removing duplicate submissions, those beyond municipal scope, and projects that already exist in our community, 14 distinct ideas and 10 new committees to be formed were identified. We welcome you to vote and participate in what matters most to you!

LEARN MORE AND VOTE ONLINE!



Residents aged 13 and older in the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook are eligible to cast a vote. For additional household members, paper ballots will be available at the Millbrook Library or accessible online using the QR Code above.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US VIA MILLBROOKLISTENS@GMAIL.COM

MILLBROOK COMMUNITY BALLOT Vote for Your **Top 3 Priorities**

All information will remain confidential and used only to verify vote integrity.



ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE



ECONOMIC
BENEFIT



SOCIAL
EQUITY



COMMUNITY
BUILDING

IDEAS TO VOTE ON

SELECT YOUR **TOP 3** BY USING THE CORRESPONDING NUMBERS BELOW

1. BUS STOP SHELTER

Construct an all weather shelter/covering at bus stop

2. WALKING & BIKE TRAILS

Connect local attractions and green spaces within the Town through trail systems

3. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Start a local community garden and compost program

4. PUBLIC ART SPACE

Design outdoor gallery for rotating community art installations

5. SPORTS & ATHLETIC CENTER

Construct a year-round sports & athletic facility with indoor pool

6. RECREATION PROGRAMS

Increase funding to recreation departments for new programming

7. DOG PARK

Build an environmentally-friendly dog park

8. COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Start a local paper for town and village news and information

9. IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

Create undocumented immigrant program for paths to citizenship and resources

10. GAZEBO PRESERVATION

Restore Millbrook's historic gazebo

11. MAIN ST. IMPROVEMENTS

Direct resources to improve streetscape, accessibility, and traffic on Franklin Ave

12. SENIOR CHECK-IN PROGRAM

Start community check-in and support program for homebound seniors

13. LOCAL FOOD RECOVERY

Rescue farm surplus to fight food insecurity

14. COMMUNITY SOLAR

Conduct solar assessment & facilitate renewable energy incentives for homeowners

FUTURE GROUPS TO JOIN

☒ CHECK THE BOXES BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE (OPTIONAL)

☐ FRANKLIN AVE / MAIN ST INITIATIVE

Supporting the vision of a safe, accessible, and vibrant main street community on Franklin Avenue

☐ COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND

Supporting the creation and approval of a Community Preservation Fund for the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook

☐ HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY & SOLUTIONS

Sustaining and growing a healthy and adequate housing stock for the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook

☐ WATERSHED & WATER PROTECTION

Ensuring the protection and revitalization of local clean waters and the ecosystems that depend on them

☐ FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM

Recovering excess food from local farms to fight food insecurity

☐ COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE

Hosting safe and open discussions for residents to have their voices heard and explore emerging ideas that will benefit the community

☐ FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON PARK

Supporting an improved and accessible Town Park

☐ INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE

Removing harmful vines and other invasive species causing significant environmental, economic, or human health harm

☐ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP

Equipping our neighbors with the skills, resources, and confidence to build community resiliency for state/local emergencies

☐ HOMEOWNER RESILIENCY

Training homeowners on best practices and educating on available programs and resources for upgrades and repairs

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER #1

Full Name (required) ☐ 13-17 ☐ 18+ Age

Street Address (required)

1st Priority # 2nd Priority # 3rd Priority

Email Address/Phone Number

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER #2

Full Name (required) ☐ 13-17 ☐ 18+ Age

☐ Check if the address is the same as Household Member #1

1st Priority # 2nd Priority # 3rd Priority

Email Address/Phone Number

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER #3

Full Name (required) ☐ 13-17 ☐ 18+ Age

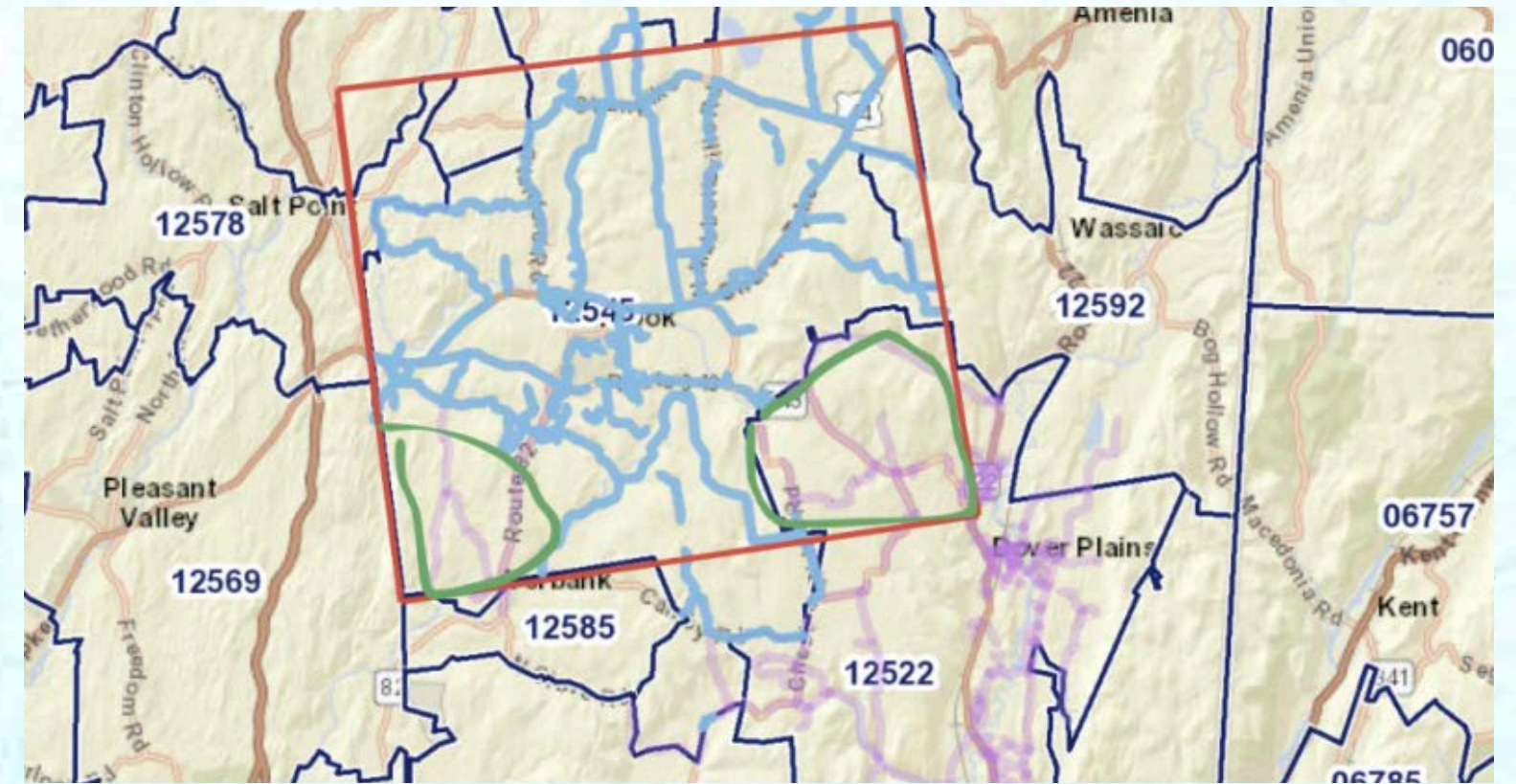
☐ Check if the address is the same as Household Member #1

1st Priority # 2nd Priority # 3rd Priority

Email Address/Phone Number

Ballot Distribution

Online voting opened on **April 1, 2026** and **closed on May 17, 2026 at 11:59pm**. Online responses were collected on Google Form which was sent as a link via. email, posted on the Millbrook Library website, and included in all promotional materials.

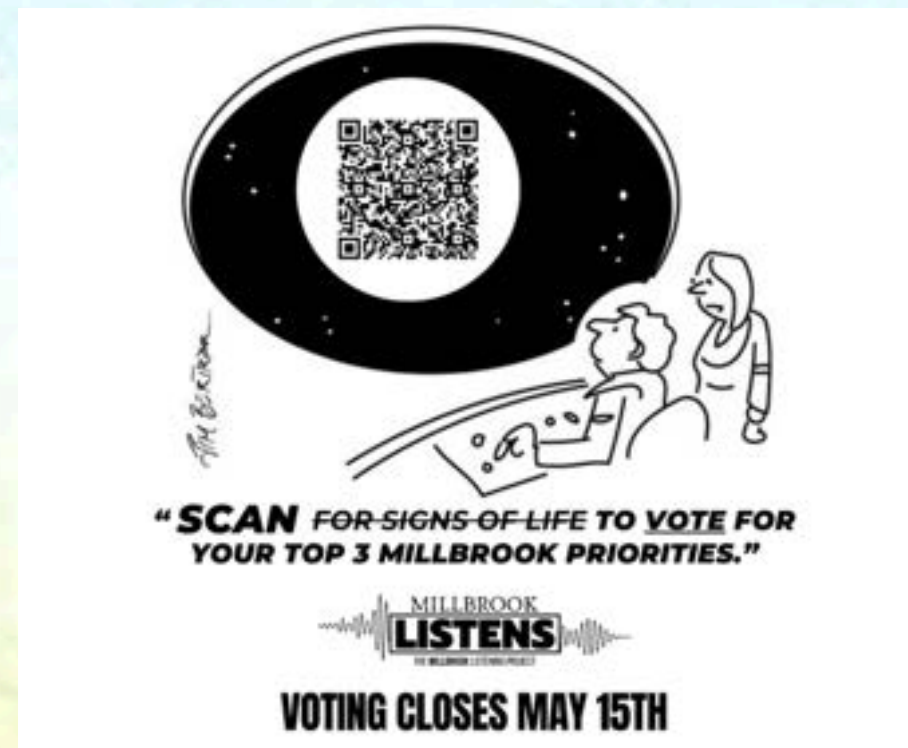


Paper ballots were mailed to every residence in zip codes **12545, 12522, 12585** on April 9, 2026 (**n=3,418 ballots**) using USPS EDDM Services. This mailout covered **5 postal routes and 2 post offices**, with delivery including P.O. Boxes at the Millbrook Post Office. Paper ballots could be mailed back to the Millbrook Library with a first-class stamp or dropped off in the ballot box. **Ballots postmarked by May 17, 2026 were included in the sample.**



Paper ballots were supported by outreach through:

- Social Media Campaigns
- Quarter to Half Size Newspaper ads through Northern Dutchess News
- Flyer Distribution
- Reminders sent to the Millbrook Listens email list
- Committee / partners networks (e-newsletters)
- Public announcements at scheduled community events during that voting period (i.e. Millbrook Art Group concerts, Grace Church's Whale of A Sale, Millbrook Community Yard Sale, Millbrook Library Volunteer Day)

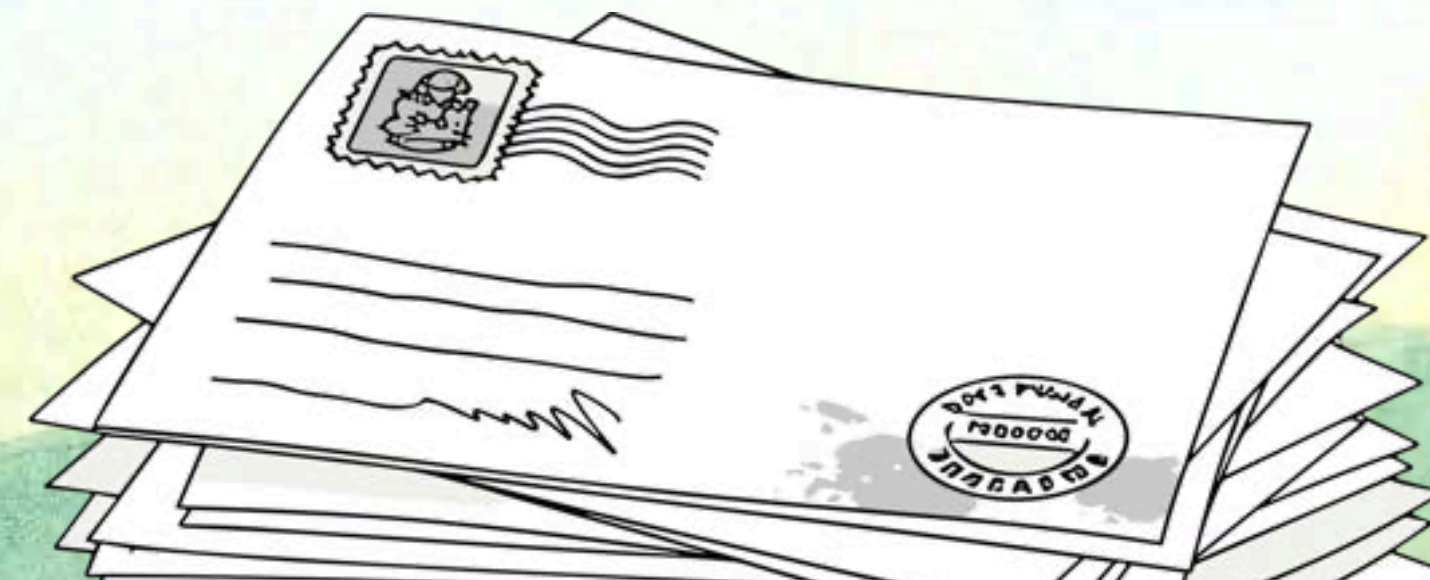


The Data Analysis Team was composed of three members: **2 volunteers from the Millbrook Listens Planning Committee** and **1 objective reviewer from the Ecological Citizens Project** to confirm the results. Paper ballot data was entered periodically by one of the volunteers into the online form then **exported as an Excel spreadsheet on May 18, 2026**. All data was saved on a password-protected computer and the paper ballots were stored in a locked office.



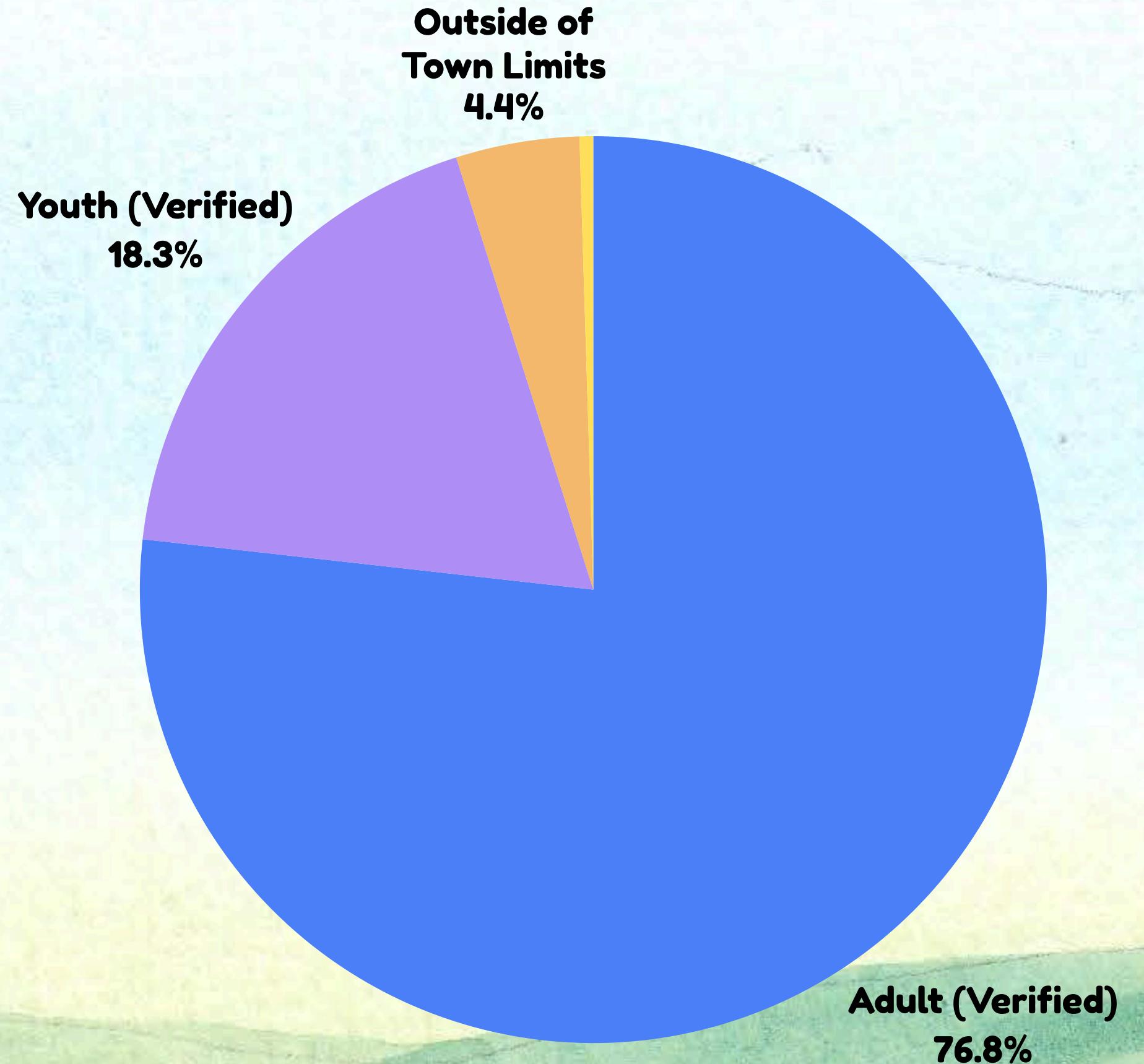
Methodology and Analysis

Each analyst conducted their own individual review of the raw data. **The analysts checked the data for duplicate submissions and entries** (if duplicated, the analyst selected the most recent entry) and **verified all street addresses** were within the Village of Millbrook of Town of Washington. Trends and final tallies were then presented to the analysis team following this clean-up.

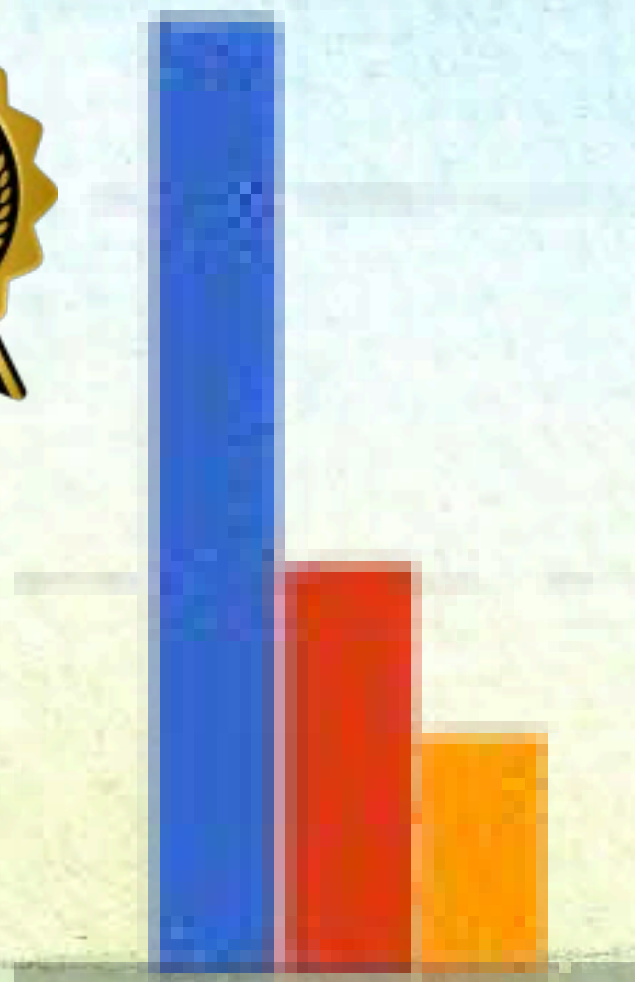
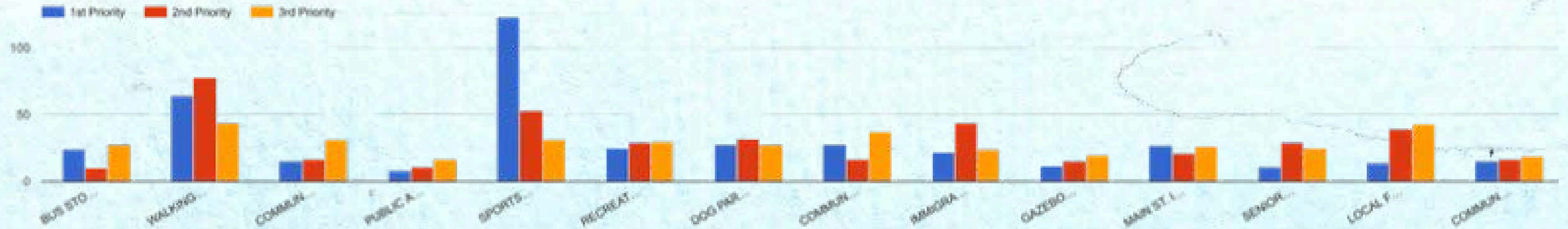


By the Numbers

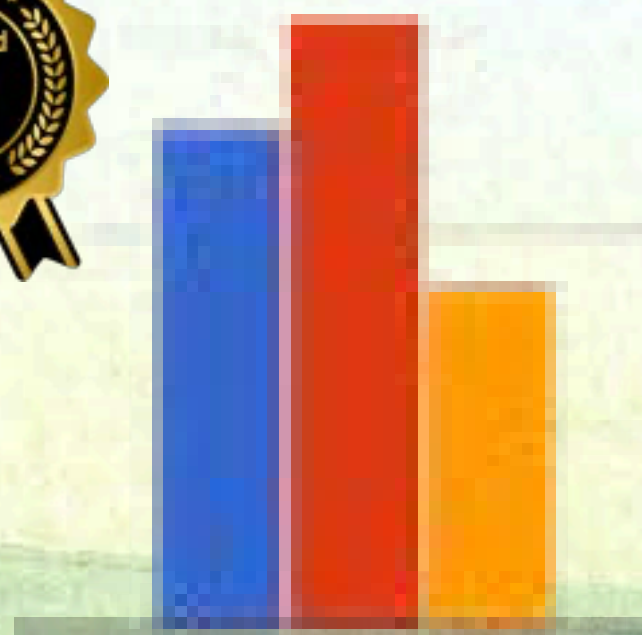
- The Millbrook Listen ballot received 425 submissions with 16 duplicate submissions.
- 409 unduplicated respondents were verified:
 - Adult (+18, living in TOW/Millbrook): 314
 - Youth (13-17): 75 Millbrook School District Students
 - *29 students do not reside in the Town or Village limits
 - Submissions not residing in TOW: 18
 - Cannot verify (full address not provided): 2
- Online ballots: 269, physical ballots: 140



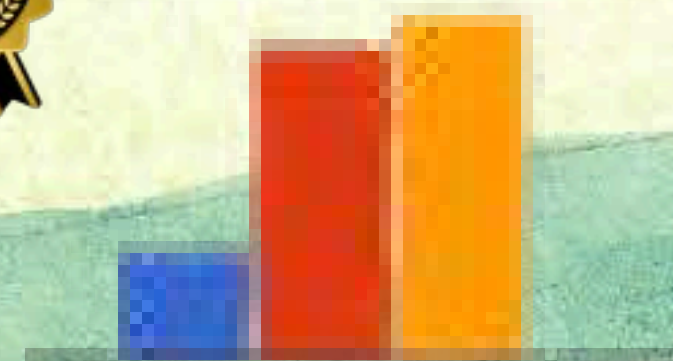
Vote for Your Top 3 Priorities from the list below:



Sports and Athletic Center (n=189)



Walking and Bike Trails (n=175)



Food Recovery Program (n=89)

Table 1. Proposals in the 2026 Millbrook Listens, Total Votes (n= 389)		
Rank Order	Proposed Idea	Total Votes (%)
1	Sports and Athletic Center	189 (49%)
2	Walking and Bike Trails	175 (45%)
3	Local Food Recovery	89 (23%)
4	Immigrant Support	83 (21%)
5	Recreation Programs	80 (21%)
6	Community Newspaper	79 (20%)
7	Dog Park	79 (20%)
8	Main Street Improvements	71 (18%)
9	Senior Check-In Program	62 (16%)
10	Bus Stop Shelter	59 (15%)
11	Community Garden	58 (15%)
12	Community Solar	51 (13%)
13	Gazebo Preservation	43 (11%)
14	Public Art Space	31 (8%)

***Worthy to note that the Top 3 Priorities of the 20 individuals not included in the survey aligned with residential vote with Sports and Athletic Center (1), Walking Biking Trails (2), and Food Local Food Recovery (3).**

Table 2. Proposals in the 2026 Millbrook Listens, vote among “youth voters” (13-17 year olds; n= 75) and “adult voters” (18 years and older; n= 314).

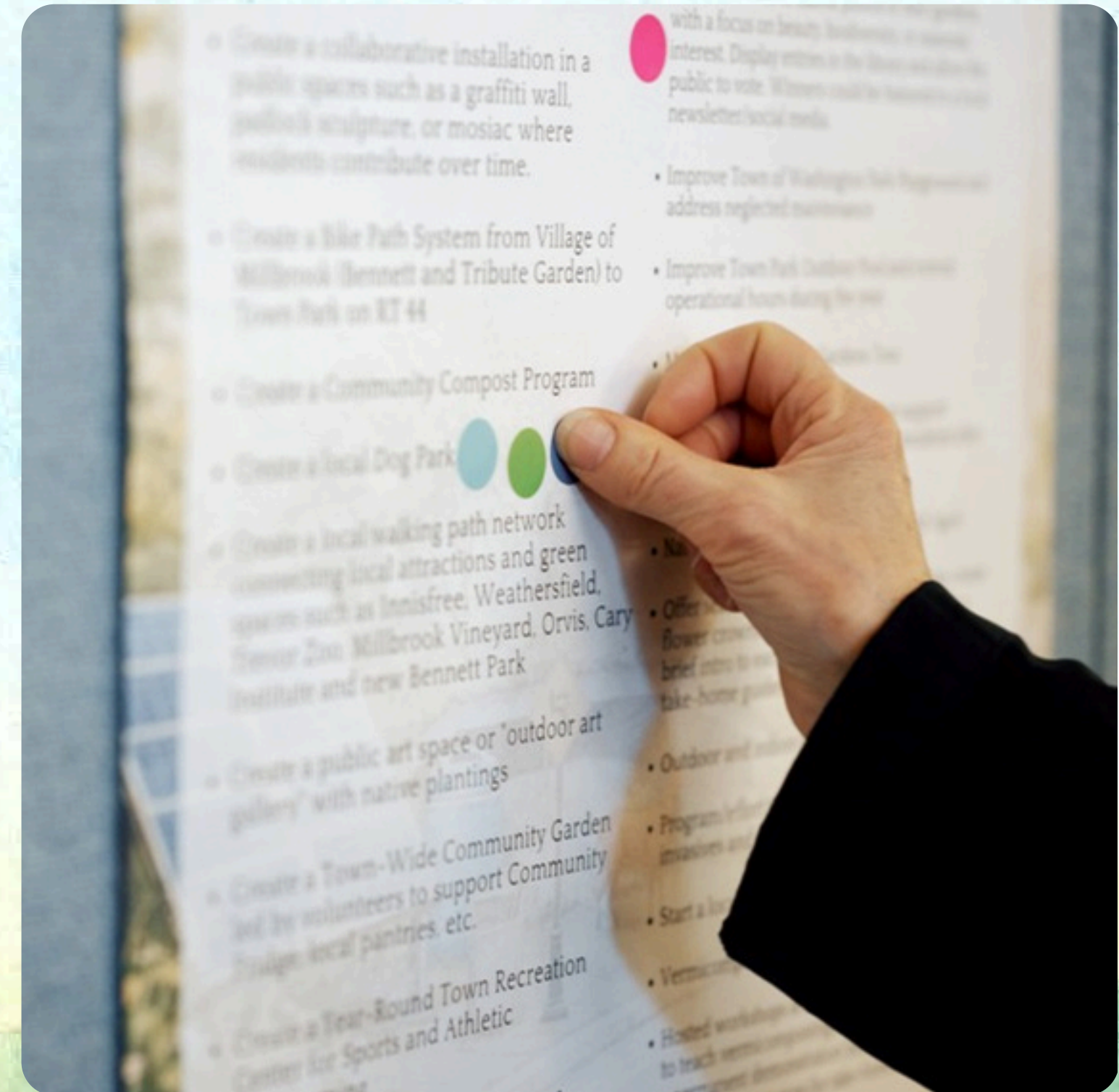
Rank Order	Idea	Youth Ranking	Idea	Adult Ranking
1	Sports and Athletic Center	58 (77%)	Walking and Bike Trails	151 (48%)
2	Immigrant Support	25 (33%)	Sports and Athletic Center	131 (42%)
3	Dog Park	25 (33%)	Community Newspaper	76 (24%)
4	Walking and Bike Trails	24 (32%)	Local Food Recovery	70 (22%)
5	Local Food Recovery	19 (25%)	Recreation Programs	67 (21%)
6	Recreation Programs	13 (17%)	Main Street Improvements	62 (20%)
7	Bus Stop Shelter	12 (16%)	Immigrant Support	58 (18%)
8	Community Garden	10 (13%)	Senior Check-In Program	57 (18%)
9	Public Art Space	10 (13%)	Dog Park	54 (17%)
10	Main Street Improvements	9 (12%)	Community Garden	48 (15%)
11	Senior Check-In Program	5 (7%)	Community Solar	47 (15%)
12	Gazebo Preservation	5 (7%)	Bus Stop Shelter	47 (15%)
13	Community Solar	4 (5%)	Gazebo Preservation	38 (12%)
14	Community Newspaper	3 (4%)	Public Art Space	21 (7%)

Historic Engagement in Washington

Dutchess County's 2025 General Election was held on November 4, 2025.

The highest turnout for voters in the 2025 General Election was for the County Legislator District 25 under Washington ED 1, ED 2, ED 3 with a total of 1531 voters represented. By comparison, the 389 verified votes in the Town of Washington/Village of Millbrook received through Millbrook Listens represents (25.4%) of highest turnout in the 2025 General Election.

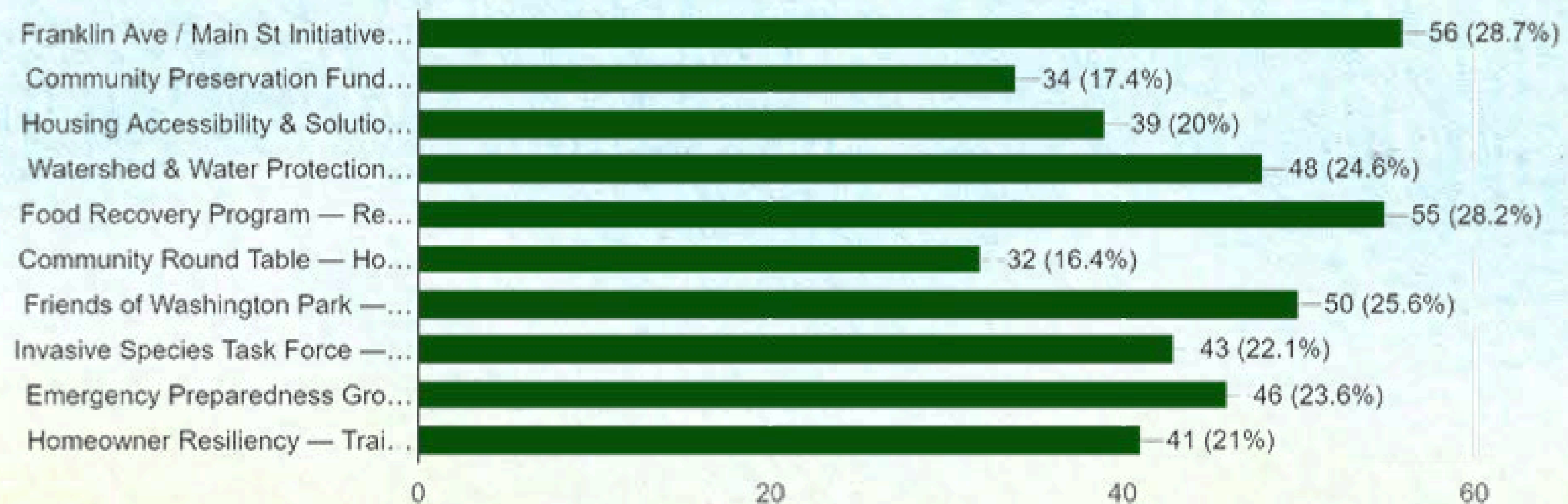
In the Spring of 2022, the Town of Washington, NY conducted a town-wide survey related to hospitality uses. The Town received a total of 690 surveys through this planning process. By comparison, the 389 verified votes received through Millbrook Listens represent (56.3%) of the total engagement. This is the latest Comprehensive Plan review survey publicly posted to the Town of Washington website.



Future Group Volunteers

Select any Community Groups you would like to join or learn more about (optional)

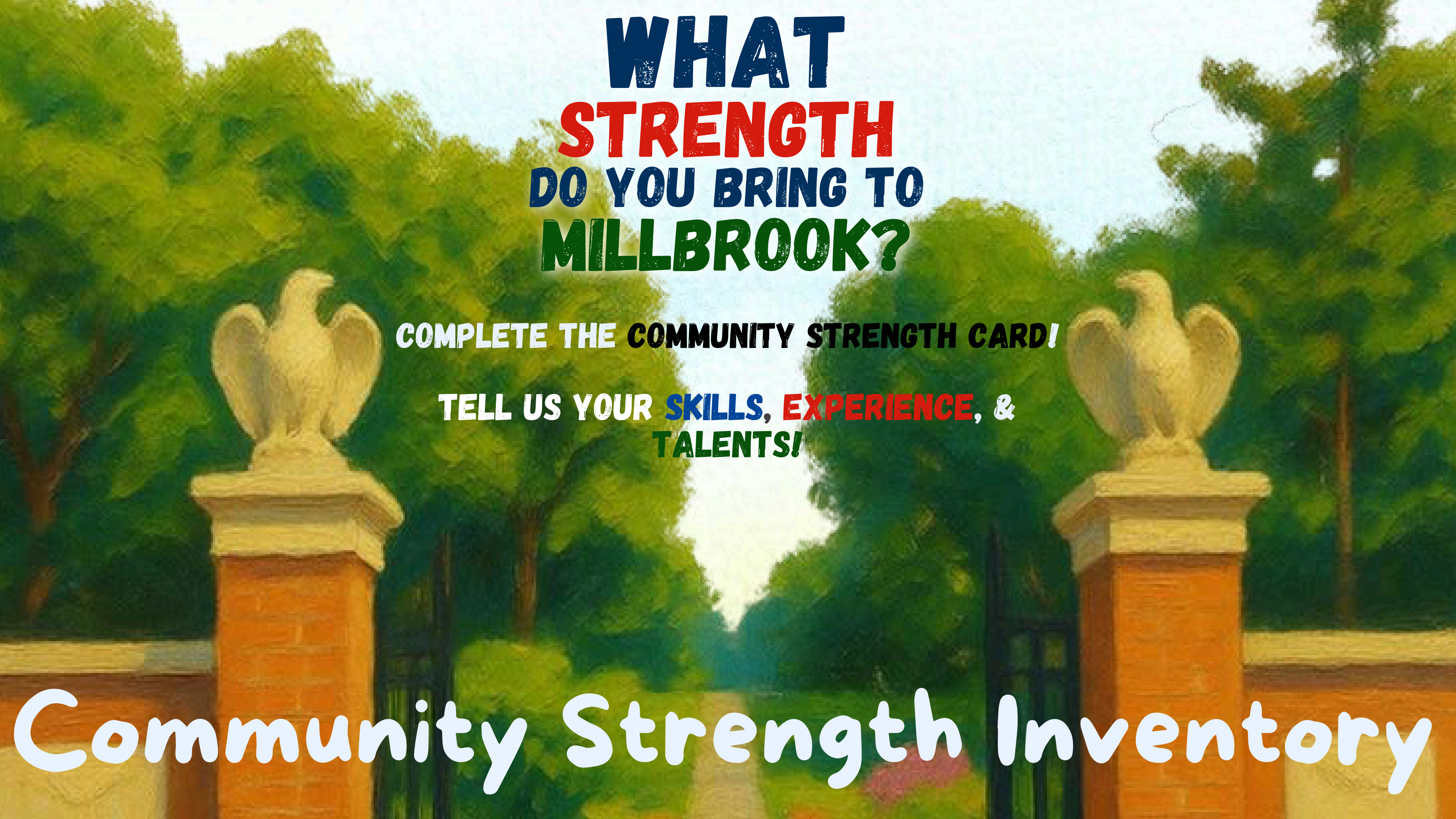
195 responses



- # who provided phone number or email addresses to stay connected: 373 (91%)
- # of people who signed up for a future (unduplicated): 189
- # of volunteer who signed up for two or less groups (focused engagement, most likely to show-up): 127 (67%)

Next Steps





WHAT STRENGTH DO YOU BRING TO MILLBROOK?

COMPLETE THE **COMMUNITY STRENGTH CARD!**

TELL US YOUR **SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, &
TALENTS!**

Community Strength Inventory

COMMUNITY STRENGTH CARD

Volunteer Interest Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred Contact Method: ☐ Phone ☐ Text ☐ Email

What strengths, experience, or skills would you like to offer the community?

Areas of Interest / Skills:

- ☐ Administration ☐ Communications ☐ Events
☐ Marketing ☐ Fundraising ☐ Finance
☐ Teaching ☐ Graphic Design ☐ Public Speaking
☐ Project Management ☐ Outreach ☐ Data Analysis
☐ Other Skills / Interests: _____

What inspires you most to volunteer?

- ☐ Making a Difference
☐ Community Connection
☐ Personal Growth & Well Being
☐ Developing New Skills
☐ Passion/Hobby

SIDE A

COMMUNITY STRENGTH CARD

Volunteer Interest Form

How connected do you feel to the community?

- ☐ Not Connected
☐ Somewhat Connected
☐ Very Connected

How many hours could you volunteer monthly?

- ☐ 1–5 Hours
☐ 6–15 Hours
☐ 16–25 Hours
☐ 25+ Hours

Interested in Leadership Opportunities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are a member of any local boards, municipal committees, or organizations, please list them here:

SIDE B

Funding Futures: Phase 2 Capacity-Building Grant

Application One

- Collaborative Application with Town of Washington Recreation Department, Friends of TOW Park, and Community Round Table
- Focus on building the capacity of the Friends of TOW Park, and evaluate the merits of attaining 501(c)(3) status
- Progress the work of the recent feasibility study while determining next steps for Sports and Athletic Center, Rec. Programming, Dog Park, and Walking/Bike Trails ideas

Application Two

- Collaborative Application with Millbrook Library
- Form a leadership cohort that will be tasked with guiding the 10 “future groups” through a year of emergence and formation:
 - Mission and Goal Setting
 - Organizational Profiling
 - Team Building
 - Volunteer Coordination
 - Training and Succession Planning
 - Resource Development and Communication Roadmapping

An illustration of two people from behind, holding hands and looking at a list of future groups. The person on the left has dark curly hair and wears a yellow patterned shirt. The person on the right has short dark hair and wears a green jacket and blue pants, pointing upwards with their right hand. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green hills and a blue sky.

FUTURE GROUPS TO BE FORMED

1

Main Street Initiative

2

Community Round Table

3

Community Preservation Fund

4

Friends of TOW Park

5

Housing Solutions

6

Invasive Species Taskforce

7

Watershed Protection

8

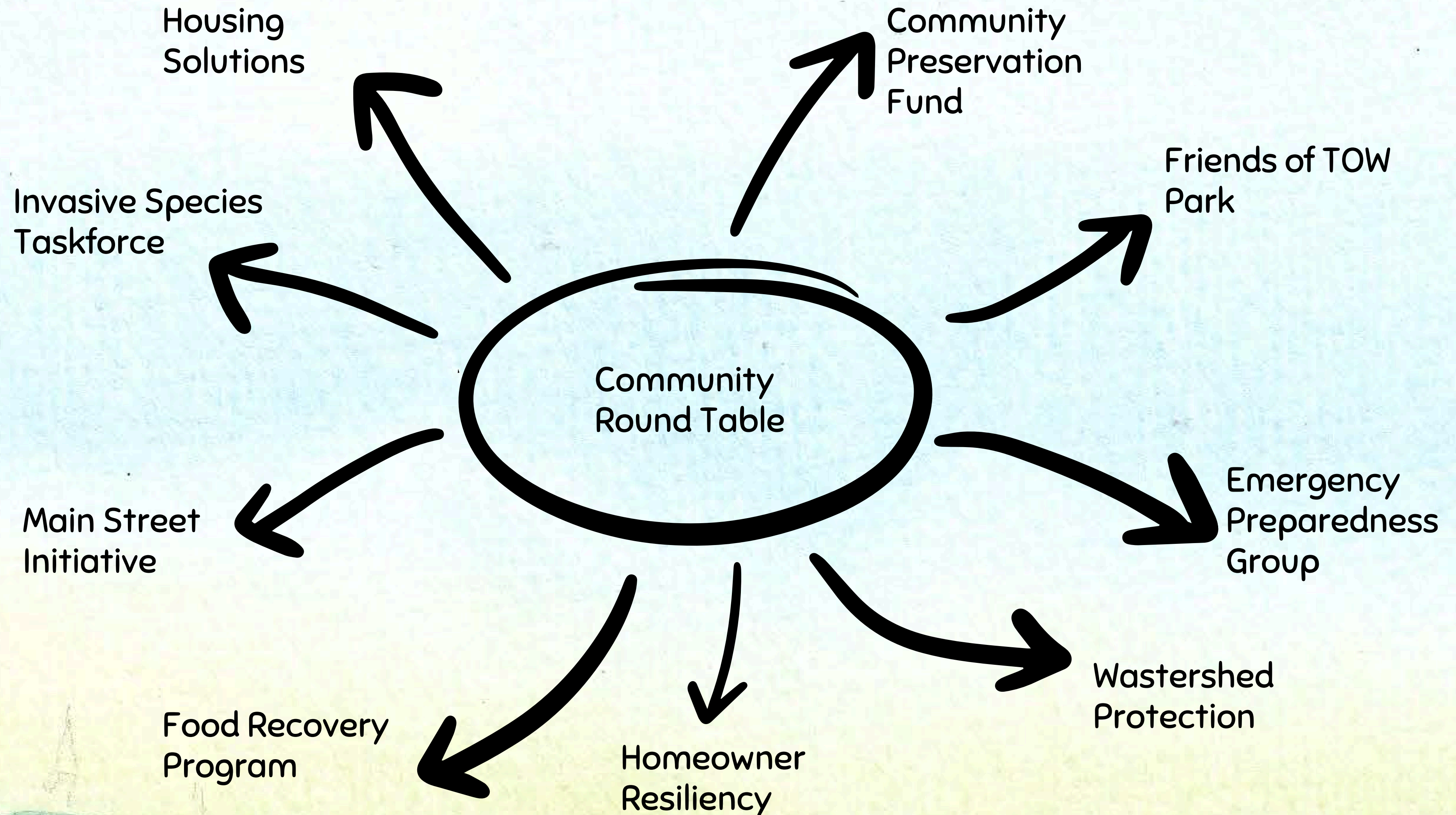
Emergency Preparedness Group

9

Food Recovery Program

10

Homeowner Resiliency



ECO
LOGICAL
CITIZEN'S
PROJECT

— Community —
Heart & Soul

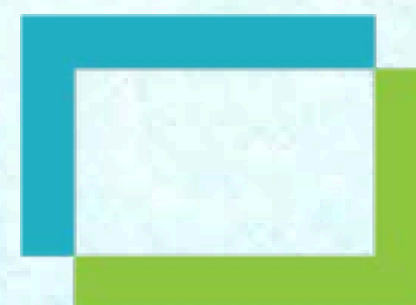


Municipal
Solar
Partners

**Hudson Valley
Alliance for
Housing and
Conservation**



THE ASCIENZO
FAMILY FOUNDATION



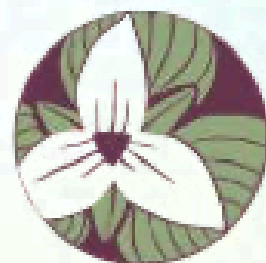
**SCENIC
HUDSON
.ORG**



urbanconservancy



**PRESENCING
INSTITUTE**



**TRILLIUM
COMMUNITY
LAND TRUST**

DUTCHESS COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
COUNCIL

Better ways from here to there

**Hudson River
Watershed Alliance**



THE NEW PINE PLAINS
HERALD

Also serving Ancram, Gallatin, Milan & Stanford

SAVING OUR TREES

HASTINGS VINE SQUAD

Patronicity

Other Funding Mechanisms

- Community Preservation Funds
- Fundraising
 - Crowdfunding
 - Donor Directed/Advised Funds
 - Foundation and Institutional Giving
 - Civic Fund
- Grant Research
 - Federal, State, and County
 - Private Foundations
 - Greenway
 - Corporation
- Non-profit and fiscal sponsorship



Q & A

