

# Canton Vision 2050 Bonding Package Survey

188 responses

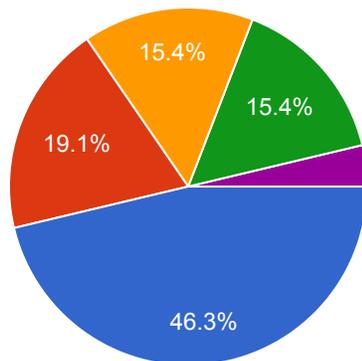
[Publish analytics](#)

## ABOUT YOU (no identifying information)

### Where do you live in Canton?

 Copy

188 responses

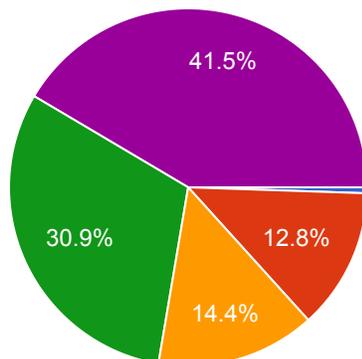


- Collinsville
- Canton Valley
- Canton Center
- North Canton
- Prefer not to say

### How long have you lived in Canton?

 Copy

188 responses



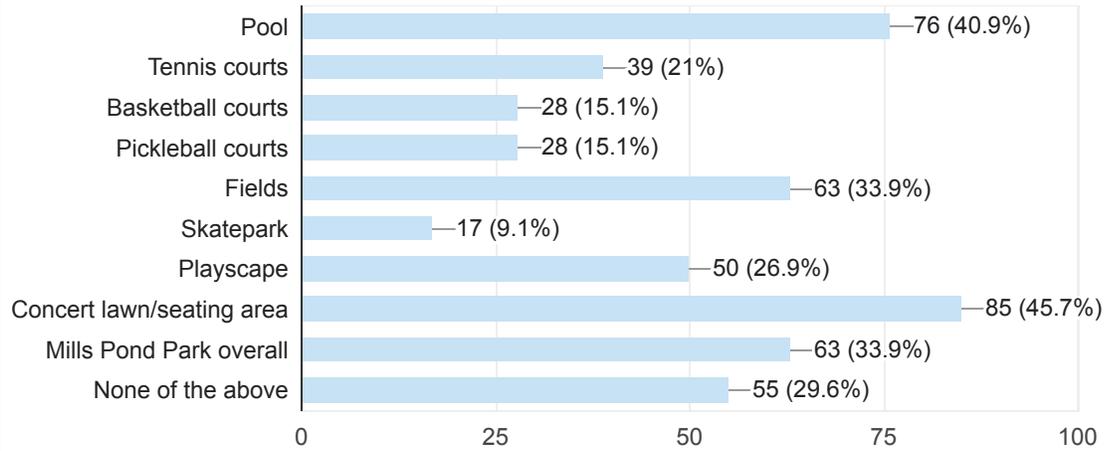
- Less than 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years
- Prefer not to say



### Do you or your family use any of the following town amenities at Mills Pond Park? (Select all that apply)

 Copy

186 responses

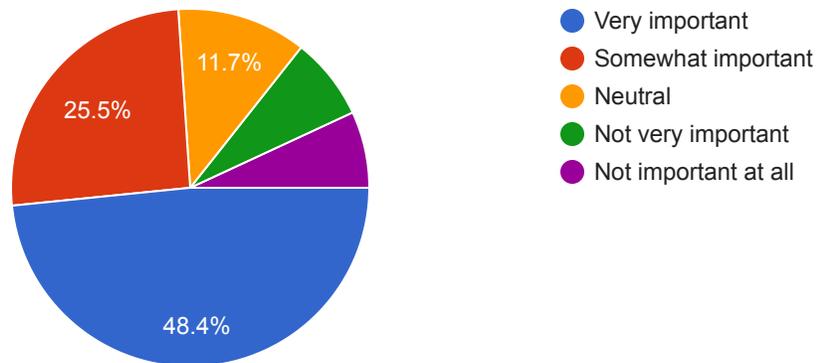


### MILLS POND PARK POOL & RECREATION RENOVATIONS

#### How important is it to you to maintain a public swimming pool in Canton?

 Copy

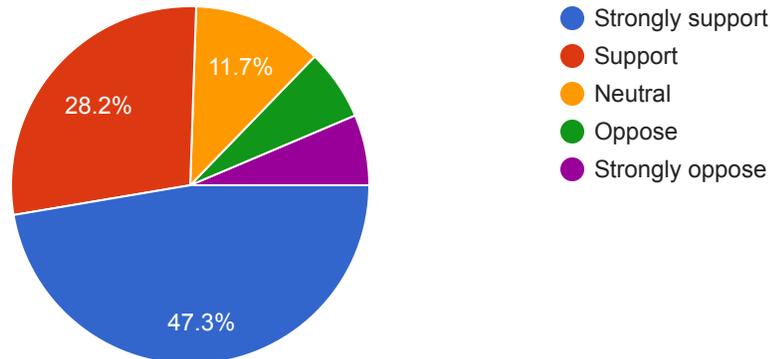
188 responses



### How supportive are you of replacing the Mills Pond Pool, given its structural failures and contractor recommendations?

 Copy

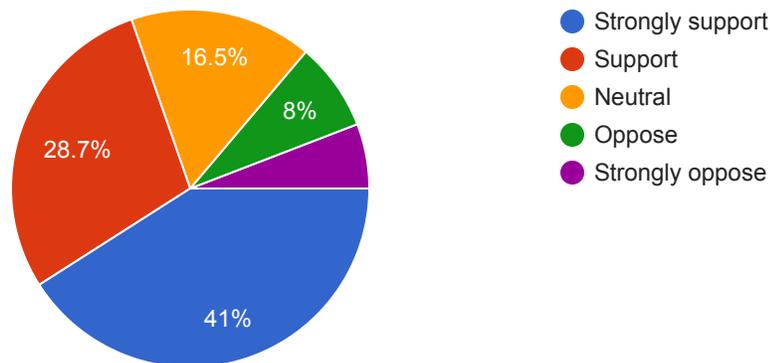
188 responses



### How supportive are you of replacing and reconfiguring the tennis and basketball courts, including new lighting, fencing, and a long-lasting playing surface (50-year warranty)?

 Copy

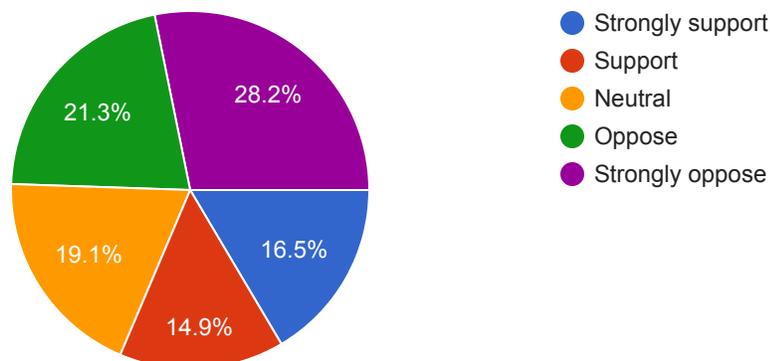
188 responses



### How supportive are you of building a roof structure over the tennis courts to allow for 4-season play?

 Copy

188 responses



## What concerns or questions do you have about the Mills Pond Park proposal?

99 responses

Tax payers have already been handed a hefty tax bill that is currently being phased in. There is no sensitivity to this in the proposal. Where is the creativity and due diligence to find other ways to fund these improvements? Federal, state or private grants, Corporate Sponsorships perhaps by Mitchell, Dick's Sporting Goods, Shop Rite, UCONN Health, Memorial Donations from generous families in town -- they exist, Other Donations for naming rights of park areas from civic organizations like the Rotary and Lions Clubs. There is no indication ANYWHERE that those entrusted to serve the residents responsibly have done any footwork to secure or pursue other avenues of funding.

In May of 2025, Gov. Lamont released \$30 MILL in state grants to 46 small towns in CT to complete infrastructure improvements but Canton is not on the list. Did the Parks and Rec Director or Town Manager or Town Selectman submit a grant proposal for a STEAP grant?

Other towns received healthy funding for parks related improvements:

Cheshire \$1 mill for Mixville Park improvements  
Farmington \$1 mill for Tunxis Mead improvements  
Granby \$579k for Salmon Brook  
New Canaan \$300k for Waveny park improvements  
Newtown \$600k for Splash Pad and storage  
Plainville \$672k for Charles H Norton rec facilities reconstruction  
Shelton \$1 mill for recreational enhancements

Canton is always behind and always operating in a reactive mode. There needs to be a mandate to have each division director submit an annual risk analysis of the state of their oversights. This helps to plan budgets responsibly and with an eye to the future -- helping to mitigate reactive operations that ultimately cost the town more in quick, temporary fixes.

This "VISION 2050" is a misnomer. A Vision plan is not a simple listing of issues and cost of repairs. A Vision plan lays out where we want to be as a town for the next 25 years -- it reflects a thoughtful strategy devised from working with each other and not in silos. This plan sounds very much like Mr. Witkos' pet project. And, let's please give Millennium a break. They are always the contractor hired and that alone, despite them being a state approved vendor, stinks of favoritism.

Is it possible to add structure to get 4-season use for swimming pool?

What other towns have enclosed tennis courts? We could use that money be creating more usable open space for families to enjoy or to remove the fencing around the splash pad so it



can be enjoyed by all. This enclosure is excessive and unnecessary.

I think it's a fantastic idea as a young family who is looking to utilize our local facilities in our community, rather than private or alternative communities! The "beach entry" of pool is perfect for young children!!

None, excellent proposal for our one and only recreation area.

No Bonding for elective projects. Canton can collaborate with surrounding larger towns for expensive recreational facilities that only a minority of Canton residents actually use. Save the Bond for an ESSENTIAL VERY EXPENSIVE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL UPGRADE that is imminent with proposed apartment and housing expansion. No TAX INCREASES; Canton is already way up almost 20% in last 6 years.

I would like to incorporate basketball courts as part of the enclosed roof structure. There is a demand for more basketball court space in this town. With only two full size indoor basketball courts available in the town and team demand for both boys and girls it would be nice to offer more of a "mixed sport use" under the roof structure.

You already tax us heavily-this is a ridiculous use of more tax money

Our taxes are too high. The explosion of apartments in town are not paying their fair share and homeowners are taking on the burden for their lack of tax payments. I am already considering relocation to a lower tax area.

Would the pool be heated? The current opening season is very short and hard to justify the huge replacement cost

No concerns

I appreciate all of the time, energy, and consideration that the Mills Pond project has been given. However, given finite resources I would vote no on the Mills Pond project if it also included tennis court/basketball court renovation to include roof. I think that it would be wise to separate the 2 projects as I would absolutely vote yes to pool renovations. This would also give other residents more autonomy to vote for what they support when it might otherwise be a no.

None. Just do it. Mills Pond is the center of health and wellness and sense of community for our wonderful town

Staffing and maintenance costs unless covered by use fees

Is the sharing of the pickleball/tennis space make the most sense -- maybe it does -- but what will the cons be -- multiple lines/temporary nets... Does it make sense to separate the two spaces?



Is there a way that we could charge out-of-town residence to use the facilities? I know that it's true for the pool, but that would be also good to do for the new tennis and basketball courts.

The scope of this project is too wide and the cost is too great for residents who are still grappling with the increased tax burden from the property revaluation. We're not even fully phased in yet. Instead of asking property owners to shoulder even more of the burden, we should be seeking grant money and more commercial development to help subsidize these costs. And given all that, a roof on tennis courts with our fiscal situation? You've got to be kidding me. How about we follow a need vs. want approach?

Cost

We'd be devastated if we didn't have the pool! It brings the community together. We love running into so many familiar faces and there are always kids there for mine to play with. It's a huge part of our summers.

I believe that new pool construction is hugely necessary as it provides an important resource to the people of Canton in the form of swimming lessons for our children, swim team opportunities, exercise for all, and a meeting place for community building. Although my knees no longer allow me to play tennis, I also think that new courts are important for many of the same reasons - including support for school teams. (Although, I don't believe that a roof over the courts is necessary. I can't think of one community that covers their tennis courts! ) My concern is that many people living in the uplands have their own backyard pools and won't support the pool initiative. They will of course want the pickle ball courts. They will want their roads repaired to protect their expensive cars and to allow them to drive even faster down the narrow country roads.

How do you convince the uplanders to support the pool initiative?

Has the town determined actual usage of the pool to warrant such a costly undertaking? It's open part-time for 2.5 months/year.

Bonding issues/costs?

I don't believe in a 50-year guarantee for an outdoor playing surface in New England weather/seasons.

Other major issues in town (roads, WPCA plaintiff upgrade, police/fire communications and other unplanned improvements/equipment). Just a simple lack of foresight and planning and seemingly a jump-the-gun approach to a \$9.9M bonding project. The total package is absurd and fiscally irresponsible.

Does the pool really need replacement? For years, the town has made the same claim and the repairs have worked. Also, it's a gunite pool so there's no reason not to be able to repair it.

Anybody can take the survey, and submit more than one survey response, so query the results.

Who came up with this grandiose \$9.9M proposal? The taxpayers can't shoulder these "wants",



especially in the face of annual massive tax increases. It's about fiscal responsibility. Please be sensible, rational and prudent.

Will the splash pad be taken down? I do feel that would be a waste of taxpayer dollars since it was just built and I hope it would be preserved or part of the pool. It looked like there was some sort of splash pad structure. I have young children so some sort of splash pad or wading pool is important and one of the reasons I went to Simsbury Farms instead. Also wish the rules about bringing diving rings or sticks would change. Another reason we went to Simsbury Farms instead. The tennis courts are so important not only for the general community but also the high school students. Such a shame they had their matches canceled!

I do wish an upgrade in the playground was included. I understand this is a lot happening but in the grand scheme I'm assuming it would be one of the cheaper structures. I know it was redone a few years ago but there's not much for older children to play. The structure is great for kids up to maybe 4-5 but I believe we'd have a lot more members of our community at the playground if it were larger. Most families go to Buckingham in Avon or Simsbury Farms.

It's too expensive to bond full package when we are in need of waste water treatment plant expansion (irresponsible spending - its like buying a BMW when your house is in foreclosure). A small percentage of residents use the area, and future usage will likely decline as our demographics shift (by 2034 over 50% of the US population will be over 65 years old). The tax calculations are optimistic, likely understated, NOT trustworthy based on prior calculations published by the BOS. Parking - many folks park along East Hill on the grass during concerts (plan doesn't seem to address parking and is set to reduce parking with berm on East Hill). The roof and roads are essential and should be bonded, while Mills Pond renovations, new courts, etc. should be planned and pushed out in the years ahead. The year-over-year increase in the REAL tax rate is 5% or more annually due to budget overruns. I will vote for greater fiscal responsibility and restraint as we continue to face double digit health insurance increases, special-ed expenditures, etc. Let's not forget an elevator at Town Hall - plans and proposals are incomplete when presented to the public, it seems intentional.

If the town can't maintain the existing park, why would we assume that we can maintain a newer grander version. It sounds like the Town can't afford a park.

Please remember people who may have mobility issues and make the best effort so that they can access as much of the park as possible. This may go beyond ADA.

I think that Mills Pond is a valuable town asset but I do not think a roof is necessary. I think if we are doing a major improvement to the courts they should be able to be used some way all winter for town sports like basketball, volleyball etc. that the schools could use. Currently gyms are overbooked and are not a good representation of our town. I don't see a big need for indoor tennis all winter. I also don't think a roof by itself would be the most cost effective or practical way to provide truly year round usage of the facility.

The tennis court roof seems like a bizarre recommendation. Tennis courts are rarely covered, and it seems like an unnecessary expense we can't afford.



that it does not consider alternative facilities available in the school system.

Potential loss of field space for T ball and other sports on the upper field. covered tennis/pickleball courts are a luxury we CANNOT afford

Town is not in a good financial situation and this will make it much worse

no concerns Mills pond is a benefit to the community

Before any ground work starts, the vegetative area between the courts and the pond must have the invasive plants removed to stop the spread during construction. The pond was once scenic and a healthy habitat.

It would help inform survey responses if the different reconstruction endeavors were itemized. In addition, the proposed Mills Pond work is pitched as critical maintenance yet some of what is proposed, such as a roof for the tennis courts and considerable landscaping undertakings, do not appear to be critical maintenance.

Why is all or nothing? Is the pool house being renovated? Why is the park more important than the WPCA?

None

No to roof on outside courts and more of an effort to find a company that can and will repair existing pool.

The scale of this project warrants a robust design phase followed by a public bid for construction. That method allows for potential grant opportunities to offset local taxes.

It is important to have a destination for our citizens, especially our young people to have a place to go for physical activities. And statistically speaking one of the most important things to teach anybody to save a life is to learn to swim.

Needs to be maintained but not at a large expense to tax payers. No need for a cover for courts. Just maintain.

So long as multiple competitive bids are solicited and considered, I think this is a great plan.

Too big a leap from what we have to this proposal. See a need for swimming pool and splash pad area, tennis courts playable by our school teams, recreational pick up basketball court use.

No questions. We need to continue to make Canton a great place to live.



7.7 million seems very steep for stated repairs. The roof does not seem necessary for the tennis courts as 4 season play is not realistic in this climate in the absence of heaters.

The overall cost of this project is too high. Only a year or so ago the BOS was discussing a 1/2 million dollar major repair of the existing pool, not a complete replacement and new concept. Also I don't feel that a roofed tennis court is needed. New courts are certainly needed, but the additional use would not justify the cost of the roof.

:Putting a roof over the tennis courts alone will not provide for 4 season play. It would need to be completely enclosed and heated, then cooled in the summer. The cost for this greatly outweighs the benefits.

Will these upgrades lower insurance costs?

Need vs want- do we understand the difference?

Given the recent history of significant annual tax increases, I do not believe we should be incurring further debt and increasing taxes. The few times I have wanted to use the pool, it has been closed.

Although I don't personally use the facilities at Mills Pond Park, I understand the many advantages of having outdoor recreation facilities; physically, mentally, and emotionally. I also understand that the pool in particular is probably no longer useable or repairable and will need to be replaced. That being said, in today's unstable economy which becomes more so by the day, I CANNOT support this Bonding package in any capacity. Considering there are other towns nearby with community pools that can be utilized, a year's ? delay is not an unreasonable request or hardship to ask of Canton residents. To add ANY extra tax increases on top of what appears will be a Budget increase along with 3 more years to pay down the Phase-in ReVal WILL be an undue hardship on a great many residents including myself that simply cannot afford stretching budgets one penny more.

I dislike the re-grading of the hillside. The kids love to roll down it. Getting rid of that would be a loss. There is plenty of flat ground at the bottom for ADA.

Can we add more accessible play features

Overall cost

Not sure the whole place needs repaving

I don't think enough people frequent our pool or programs to justify this amount of money spent. Sadly surrounded towns like Simsbury already have the structure to support our families as well and I know most people utilize those facilities. It's a great asset to have them nearby. Even having seen the small improvement - being the plan pad- but then not having free access as a resident is disappointing. Every other splash pad locks to us is free. This would be a waste of our tax payer money. Our parks and rec department would need a complete overhaul,



IMO, staffing wise to accommodate improved programming, marketing and community engagement.

The hill that people sit on when watching live music is really great as is. Would hate for it to lose its charm.

I have concerns about the surrounding wetlands and the health of the two ponds and rattlesnake brook. How much green space will be covered with impervious surfaces. Will the wooded neighborhood buffers remain intact?

Expense. Can you scale back the pool construction and changes to allow for unnecessary additions (such as water features or additional shade areas in the future?). Is a zero entry pool necessary and is it cost effective? The 4 season structure by the tennis courts seems extremely expensive. Is this necessary? Canton is a small town. I am concerned about the high cost of these projects with the benefits only enjoyed by a fraction of Canton residents.

With property taxes going up every year and past budgeting malfeasance by the Board of Selectmen resulting in using bonding to fund baseline road maintenance, this is not the time for extravagance.

One of the arguments publicly presented was that a fancy-schmancy rec area would attract new residents - really??? Canton's mill rate is already higher than Avon or Simsbury - people relocating look at local taxes as a major decision maker - surprise!

Find a lower cost solution that won't break your already broken bank, please.

security. if the tennis courts are 4-season courts how will the facility be accessed, staffed and managed?

Concerned about the loss of the facility for the spring season for high school tennis. Strongly favor the removal of pickle ball courts away from the street. Believe the tennis and pickleball courts should be separate. Do not alter the present hillside used for concerts. Invest in the pool.

We do not use the pool or the facilities at Mills Pond, We are retired living on fixed income and we live in a community where we pay full taxes and get very limited services. Our taxes are high enough.

Overall cost of project and tax impact to residents

Why redo the pool if it is never open at a convenient time. A working family like me will never be able to go to the pool at the unles amount of hours its open.

I worry the naysayers in town who try to reject every budget will see this all as a frill rather than an integral way to allow Canton to have the kind of quality of life that will attract residents to the town for the future. We compete with the Simsbury and Granby of the Valley and they have amenities like this



I wish the Millpond had a better play scape for children. I find it quite boring and it doesn't even compete with Avon's. It's very small and better suited for toddlers and not all ages. The exercise portion I found to be useless and no one ever uses it. It's also awkward to use even if you wanted to. I think the police escape area should be expanded. There should be bigger structures for more interactive play, and an option for older children to enjoy the play scape.

I don't think winter play will justify the need for the enclosed court.

Tax increase - NO MORE INCREASES!!

How soon can it be completed?

A desirable town needs a nice town park!

I am concerned about the pool design. I strongly support the addition of a zero entry area, and it's clear that reconstruction is the better investment at this time. However, the proposal seems to include sprinkler features which are redundant given the recent addition of the splash pad to the area. Additionally, I am curious if it's possible to build on the pool's existing footprint as a way to reduce cost? Given how I have seen the pool used, it is apparent to me that decking is less important as well, and pool size leading to more space in the water is a priority. I also advocate for retaining the unique feature of the diving board! For independent swimmers, especially middle grade and adolescent residents, the diving board is a huge draw, and I worry that losing features like that, which appeal to more advanced swimmers, would not increase pool usage, but simply shift it to younger more beginner swimmers.

Should the Town be bonding this project at all? This is a want and not a need or requirement for the Town. Bonding should be used for required infrastructure, and we certainly do not need a roof over tennis/pickleball courts. The plan also does not increase parking which is limited and already a problem. Taxes are already going up more than they should be due to the misconception of the property tax phase in plan. The Town will have future requirements like the sewer treatment plant expansion that more than likely will need to be bonded and things like this should be our Towns priority when bonding. Use bonding responsibly for the needs and requirements not for wants.

I would want to be sure that future proofing of the facilities has been thought into the design--to be sure that future repairs and upgrades could be done thoughtfully and without need for a major overall in the near future.

I haven't used the pool but would like to as a senior if it gets fixed. But I also liked the comment that maybe it would be better to put a pool at the high school. If the tennis courts are used or are pickleball, fine, but the roof is a step too far.

How much would a roof over the tennis courts cost? Not sure that's needed.

More Taxation



The roof structure is good, but the tennis courts should also allow configuration for other sports such as soccer? Multi-use

How bright will the lighting be? Will this cause a lot of light pollution?

There should be more covered seating around the pool area to protect against the sun. The basketball court colors are too bright/glaring and should be subdued.

Establish walking trails along western side

I'm unclear as to how much activity the pool gets in order to weigh the benefit. It would be helpful to understand the cost per participant. Do the same 200 people use it or do hundreds or more use it? Is the pool portion \$5 million of the \$7.7?

Added taxpayer expense

What is the cost of the proposed amphitheater area, and how much could be saved if that is not done?

Also, with a 50-year warranty on the courts, there is no point in talking about the roof structure as extending the life of the courts. The roof structure itself may well need repair or replacement before then!

I really cannot emphasize strongly enough how opposed I am to the roof structure.

Is the current amount of parking going to be adequate? If we create this nice facility more people are apt to use it.

I do not feel that we need to fund a roof structure over the tennis courts. Most winter months allow for use of the courts with minimal snow. This would be a waste of money when other areas of canton need addressing, like more field space for our youth sports programs. It is very sad, in comparison to other towns our size, how little Canton supports our youth sports programs, by not having any town owned field space aside from the two at mills pond. I would rather see these funds go towards the field across from the fire house being redone and revitalizing that, allowing for our baseball or soccer teams to have fields.

Plan for implementation if approved.

cost to seniors and others who do not or cannot use the facilities

I'd rather have an ice rink in winter and tennis court in summer if the structure is roofed

Just resurface everything. No need for roof over tennis courts.

Taxes have already gone up and are becoming unaffordably too high

I don't think we should have a town pool



What is the cost of the new building structure over the tennis courts. It feels like a lack of transparency for not providing that information.

Is playground getting upgraded? Will there be splash pad and will cost be free for members? Costs seems high to redo pool since splash pad was just added. Are facilities getting upgraded for changing rooms?

Stop increasing taxes

When will construction start if the project is approved? What will be started first? Will the tennis team and cross country teams have an alternate location for meets and matches while the work is being completed? Is there a plan to monitor the use of the park during and after construction so unwanted behavior isn't happening? Will there be a fee to use Mills Pond courts or just the pool pass like years before? Will the park still have dawn to dusk hours?

The impact on our taxes.

I would like to see the town present multiple options good/better/best and as was raised at the town meeting not use a design/build approach

Would prefer to see competitive bids for construction rather than just directly to Millennium Builders

Re: pool. I'm curious about the complete overhaul of the pool. I support making it ADA accessible, but would it be more affordable to just re-do the pool how it is now (vs. doing the new L-shape)? It feels a little stylized and like we're maybe putting more \$ into the style of it instead of pulling back and just making sure it's super functional. Would there be as many available lanes? Enough play space in deep water? I love the gradual entry for new swimmers/ADA, but we also need to consider older kids and adults. I'm also curious about whether the existing splash pad would remain—if there's gradual entry into the pool, we might not need that.

Re: tennis courts. Having a roof over the courts might prevent damage, but it also makes it less enjoyable to play during the day. Regardless of the cost (I don't think it's worth it), we should also consider the fact that people who play outdoor tennis want to be able to see the sky!

Re: landscape: how much will it cost to update the hill/concert area at Mills Pond? This feels very low priority to me—kids love that it's a big hill and we successfully host concerts there.

Cost of this endeavor. While it would be nice, fixing the existing would suffice at this point. There are other towns with pools, plenty of outdoor pickle/tennis courts, no need for a cover. Pool season is short, and if not heated, even shorter.

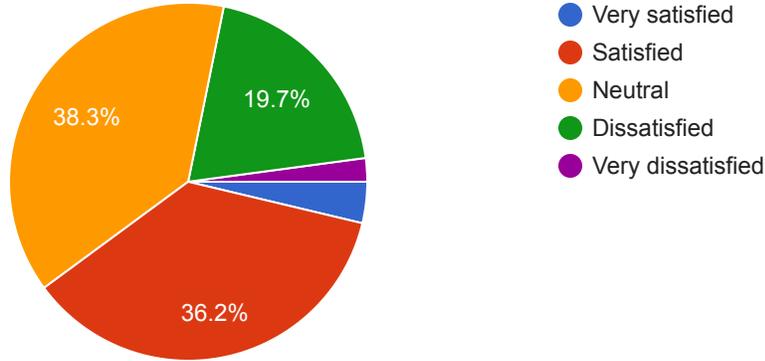
## **ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE**



### How satisfied are you with the current condition of Canton's roads?

 Copy

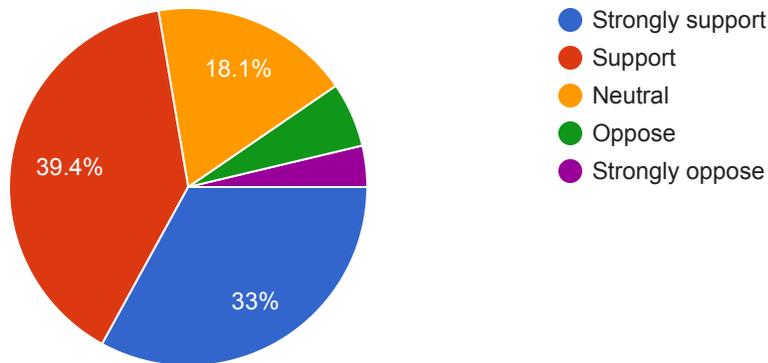
188 responses



### How supportive are you of bonding to complete the major road repairs that have built up over time, allowing the Town to stabilize pavement conditions before returning to regular annual maintenance?

 Copy

188 responses

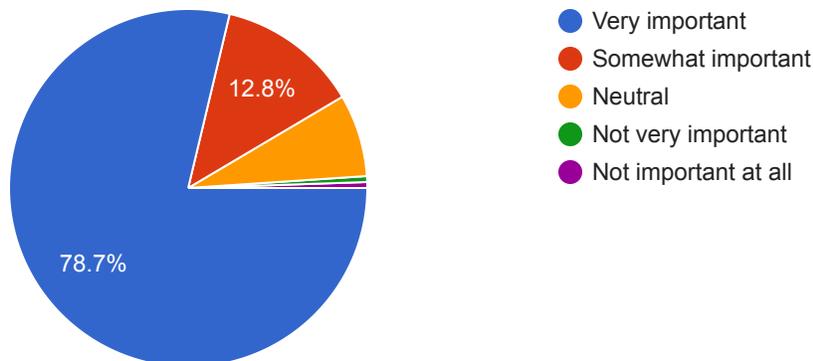


## CANTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT

### How important is it to you that the Town maintain and repair school facilities, such as CIS?

 Copy

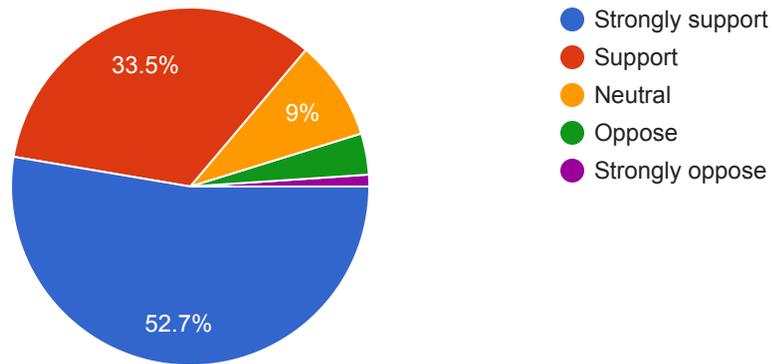
188 responses



### How supportive are you of replacing the CIS roof as presented?

 Copy

188 responses

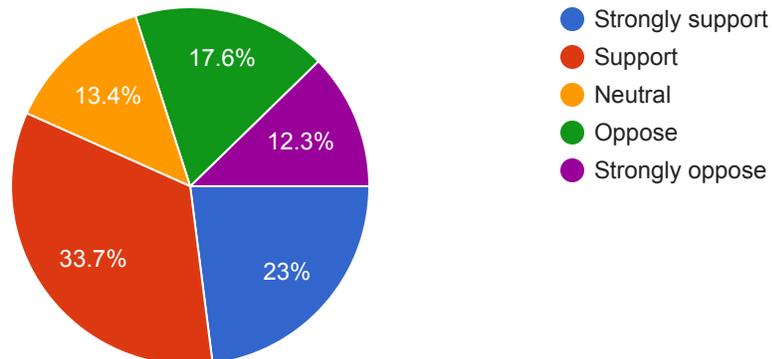


### OVERALL BONDING PACKAGE

The total estimated cost of the Vision 2050 bonding package is approximately \$9.9 million. Knowing this, how supportive are you of the overall package?

 Copy

187 responses

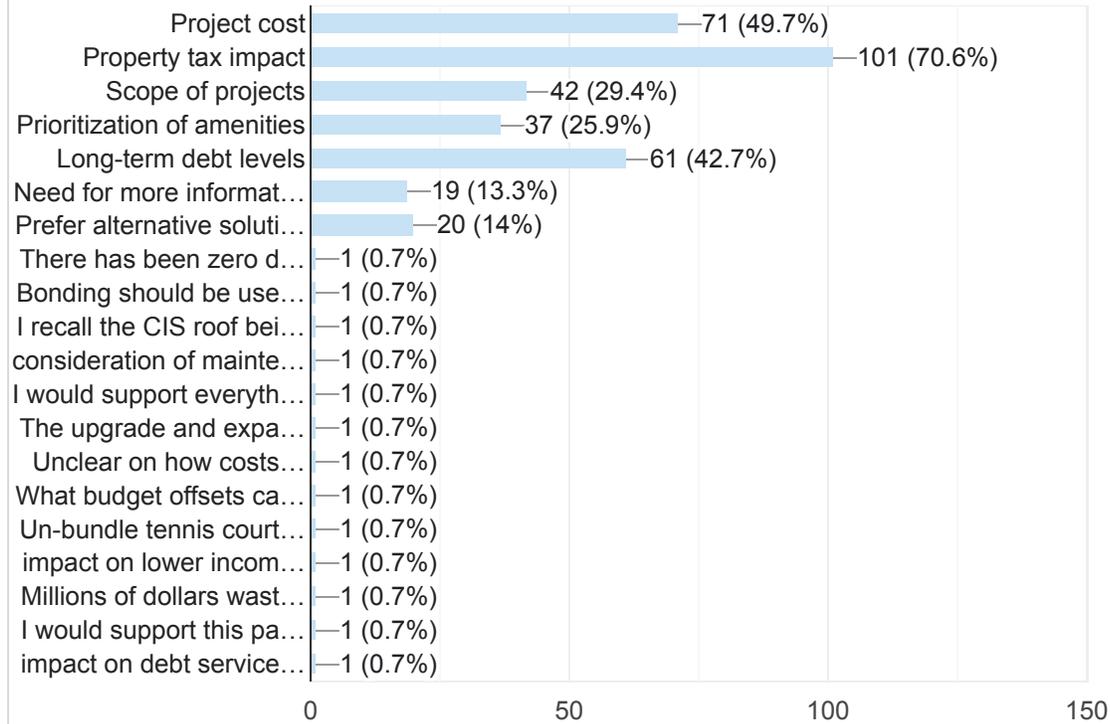


### If you are hesitant or opposed, which concerns matter most to you?

 Copy

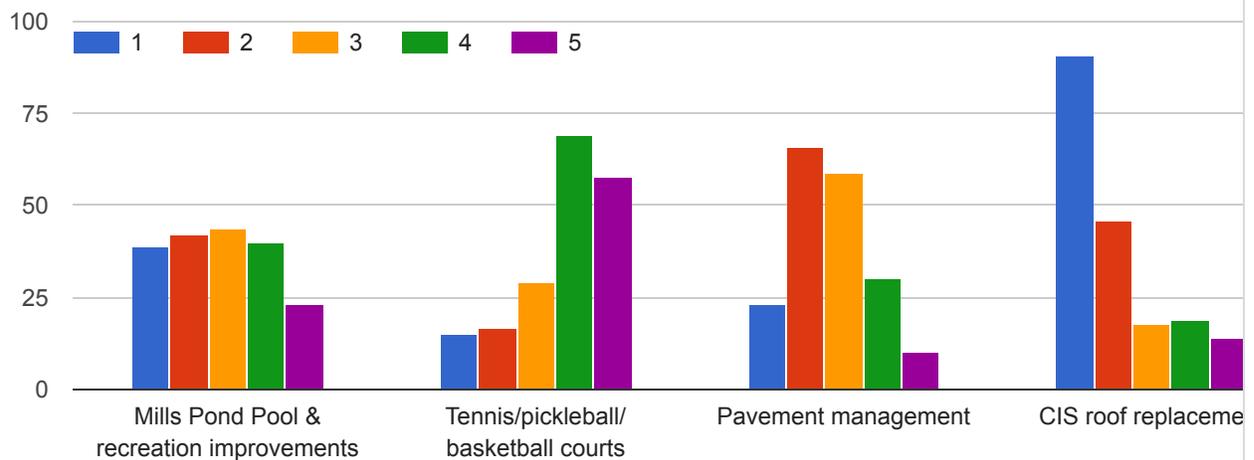
(Select up to 3)

143 responses



### Which areas do you believe should receive the highest priority? (Rank 1 = highest priority)

 Copy



## Is there anything else you would like the Board of Selectmen to consider when evaluating the Vision 2050 bonding package?

76 responses

no

Not everyone who lives in Canton is rich.

This town is full of talent. Seek out grant writers, fundraisers, marketers to lend a hand in securing outside funding for this plan. Otherwise, that is what a Director of Parks and Rec should be responsible for.

Also, where is the sustainability component to Mills Pond? Solar panels on a pickleball roof helps to light those courts or other areas in the park. Who has reviewed the plan for the best case scenario for cutting costs when it comes to powering the park amenities. It just seems this whole plan is being devised behind closed doors and rushed through.

I will oppose the bonding. I am in favor of closing the pool and courts for a year until Town administration figures out a way to better fund it. Many families go without luxuries at home during tough times. It's no different. Perhaps lack of access will encourage a fundraising drive -- winning donations from residents who can afford it.

Finally -- this whole project should be committee driven. Residents of town along with Selectmen, Parks and Rec staff, Town Mgr, a rep from each correlating board. Communications should be transparent and easy to engage. How many residents know of the survey?? If they don't have a computer, Facebook?? This should have been a mailer notice at least to make sure it reached everyone.

It would have been great to include the town on the development of the mills pond updates. If we're willing to spend millions of dollars on these projects, perhaps get town input on how we could use this money.

Indoor basketball facilities

Increased traffic on bike trails and sidewalks necessitates more attention to pedestrian safety. Crosswalk is needed on Maple from Atwater Rd to Mills Lane; automatic lights should be installed on crosswalks without them.

**QUIT RAISING TAXES AND WASTING OUR ALREADY INSANELY HIGH TAX MONEY**

Our taxes are too high. The explosion of apartments in town are not paying their fair share and homeowners are taking on the burden for their lack of tax payments. Zoning is allowing growth levels that are not being supported by the projects they approve and existing homeowners are paying the debt they're creating. Zoning needs to learn to say no... I am considering relocation to a lower tax area, perhaps out of state.



Other school buildings also need improvements/maintenance. There are also numerous recommendations for town ADA compliance that seem to continue to go by the wayside. Additionally, I am concerned about some of the ideas such as a long term investment into a fad sport (pickleball) as well as not considering more parking when we are talking about facility improvement. It also do not think that it is wise to max out what the town can borrow as it leaves no room for other priorities or emergencies.

Slate roof repairs should be thoroughly examined prior to replacement. No information was provided.

Stating that bonding is necessary for pavement repairs implies poor fiscal management. Paving is a normal, predictable, ongoing expense and should be budgeted annually, not bonded to burden future budgets.

Find other ways to generate revenue outside of taxes. A good example is better enforcement at the transfer station to reduce disposal costs.

I think the road maintenance should be added into the town budget rather than bonded. I know that will increase the annual budget, but that's where it really belongs.

Projects make sense. They are not affordable in this household with the current property taxes, especially as we are past the raising children stage and don't use the facilities.

See lengthy response above. The town (BOS/BOF) and school (BOE) must be much more transparent and fiscally responsible. Regrettably, these are not showing under the current bonding scenarios or proposed budgets.

Possibility of improving the playground or reservong space to do so.

There needs to be great transparency and better communication; it's time to put a TAX rate calculator on the new Canton website consistent with what other towns do. It's estimated that our property tax has increased by more than \$1200 in the last 3 years...CAR + House. At this rate you will continue to price seniors out of their homes. Approximately 40% of retired or retiring people live on SS alone.

Perhaps we need to be more educated about the process/financial status. We know the Town has roads, roofs and pools. Is the prevailing assumption that they last forever? It scares me to think that the town didn't plan for known obsolescence. Is it just assumed that if something breaks, we take out a loan? I understand if say the residents decided we needed a senior center or a new school - sure, bonding package. Are we really stretched so thin as a town that we can't maintain the things we already own? To me it sounds like the Town can't afford a pool and, surprisingly, didn't budget for routine maintenance on our roads and buildings. It also makes me wonder what else is broken?

I dont feel that we are investing enough with this package into the roads. The pool has to be done but i feel the courts should be second to the roads and amore useful year round facility



for sports courts should be considered

why are we maintaining that old CIS at a high cost vs modern facilities, we should not be leveraging education dollars for historic preservation.

other bonding projects that are coming.. (i.e. new ladder truck?) 2035? What about town hall? What about CBPS? If the slate roof must go, are we selling the slate to recoup cash? Why not fix the slate roof? If it dates back to 1936 it must have been a good choice back in the day. The museum fixed their slate roof

Delayed maintenance is costly as we currently see. Pushing decisions into the future will conflict with as yet unknown pressing issues.

You should have a design in place for Mills Pond, alternative funding explored, and staggered upgrades over time. Vision 2050 implies you considered Town wide long term needs. You haven't actually done that.

We live north of Roaring Brook Nature Center. I have never heard our location described as in the location choices.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Scrap it and start over.

Please balance existing package with anticipated bonding needs for sewer plant upgrade.

Stop increasing property taxes as recreational items are not a major factor for the majority. Maintain what we have.

Traffic calming, as too many speed, do not fully stop at signs, etc.

My ranking is contrived because of my uncertainty as to the process used to obtain stated costs or not presenting a less grand plan as to Mills Pond Park. And questions of why we waited until ALL were in deep repair need. Lessons to be learned as to how to stair step future preventative maintenance schedules? What is lurking in the wings that may be an "emergency" fix needed and we have not bonding room to address it/them?

I'm surprised...I would have hoped we could ask for more. This is VERY inexpensive!

How many quotes were obtained for stated work? Are there any conflicts of interest between contractors and town officials? If we are to commit to this bonding package, what are we going to cut from the town budget to make this more affordable for our residents who are already struggling with the constantly rising mill rate?



You have to factor the next bonding needed in the next few years into your vision. The BOS and BOF were looking at a 3-4 million dollar package only a year ago, and now we're talking about 9.9 million. I strongly doubt that this will pass at this level.

Please invest in red light/ speed cameras!!

a roof over the courts is a luxury, not a necessity. With the scope of several repairs, pass on this one.

Consideration for acquiring land either by purchase or land trust to create soccer/lacrosse fields

Nope!

We would be paying for this for 25 years. What else is coming down the road? In other words, after we bond for these needs, what's next? Will you hold bonding at 5%? Or is this just the start?

Remember this when you come to the residents with the next annual budget and ask for another +6% higher budget on top of this expense.

The Town has not pursued or has vetoed ways to increase income to offset these costs - a few of which should be obvious. Residents can no longer continue to be burdened paying for projects in a Town that has a "vision".

Lower cost of the Mills Pond Project

Please just consider how tough the economy is for families currently. We don't have any money. Supporting us now means less spending.

I strongly support the Mills Pond Pool + Tennis/pickleball/basketball + CIS roof as all priority investments. I think these upgrades will add value to every property owner living in Canton.

Expense and scope. Give residents options to choose from

Mills pond is where families can enjoy outdoor activities and brings our community together. I highly support revitalizing the tennis/pickleball courts along with the pool. Many families cannot afford private clubs and without access to Mills pond recreation they would be left out. Our town is a cool place to live, let's keep it that way.

The quality of rec facilities is definitely a factor in helping people decide where to take up residence. Replacing the pool and surrounding facilities is a must.

Redo proposal before putting to town vote - a few options would be good - like how about an incremental approach.



Prioritize projects based on safety needs and long term benefit to the town residents. Not sure we need a roof over the courts. The aesthetics of the area needs to be a consideration.

Not enough information on where pavement repairs would be made. we love living in Canton, but we feel that taxes are already high and we get few services. Fire and police are excellent, but with recent re evaluation raising taxes and prices of everything going up, trying to live on a fixed income becomes challenging. CIS is a significant asset that must be maintained.

10 year strategic plan for town infrastructure, so we can have full view of what needs what. Decreasing property taxes and getting grants for projects to reduce overall cost to the tax payers.

Like I said before, I think the place scape in Mel's pond really needs to be expanded. If we're going to invest all of that money into tennis courts and the swimming pool that we only use over the summer. I think the play area that has used the most at Mills Pond should be expanded on. I would be happy to allocate some funds towards the police escape more than a roof over the tennis courts. There are a lot of children in Canton and the police scape has potential of being used almost year-round. The one that we have a small and better cater two kids one to three years old. It is quite boring for any child above that age and it's also very small. My husband has also noticed some loose screws, so it hasn't been maintained very well. I think the exercise equipment should be removed. It is completely useless and no one ever uses it. It was a waste of money. I also think that Mills Pond should have bathrooms available to families. There should be an all season building, equipped with toilets and sinks. I support any and all upgrades made within our town. But I think we should consider what matters the most to people. It is Mills Pond Park and there is not much park.

Please split off the tennis court roof cost or remove it entirely and reduce the package. Thank you for your efforts in envisioning the future of our town!

I would like to see multiple bids and a tin roof option for the CIS roof as well as a maintenance and management of the improvements/upgrades. How long will they last and how much will the improvements cost as far as annual maintenance.

Thank you for your long hours and hard work on these issues! I fully support Mills Pond recreation area being a priority; and I'd like the board to continue to consider unstructured activities that can happen in that area. Please leave space for kids to play and roam, such as access to the wooded area between Mills Pond and the high school, space for free movement during public concerts as you consider regrading that area, and a pool design that appeals to all ages for casual fun swimming. These are aspects of the Canton community that I prize, and I hope we can maintain them.

I do not believe this survey has reached Canton Residents effectively. Somehow, we have to figure out a more effective way to communicate with residents. I am signed up for email notices and feel only selected noticed are sent this avenue. This survey or the Vision 2050 presentation was not sent. I understand it is on the Town website, but Canton Residence do not visit the site on a regular basis as a rule.



See above on how future necessary tax increases (since there won't be more bonding) will affect lower income residents

Concern for overall taxes while maintaining Canton.

The fact that Mills Pond Park does need upgrade, but why all of a sudden a huge infrastructure project at this time?

Does the town budget account for increased maintenance costs associated with all of the proposed improvements? New recreational amenities will require experienced and regular maintenance to achieve their proposed life expectancy. Also, please ensure standing-seam school roofing replacement proposal includes snow guards, especially at ingress/ egress and areas-of-refuge.

Helping Canton Soccer Club (the largest youth sports program) more from the town

Can the tiles from the CIS be sold?

CRCOG Rt44 Study implementation - what was selected for move forward?

i'd like to know more about the cost breakdown to better assess the value of each component of the park costs. The pool in particular. I'm generally for the improvements.

Unfortunately cost of living at this time is very high. Living on a fixed income has made it difficult to sustain increased expenses.

Yes. Remember that we have other aging and decrepit buildings and infrastructure in town which may very well fail and need replacement within the next 6-10 years. Doing a bonding package of the proposed magnitude at the current time might make it extremely difficult for the town to "meet the moment" in such an event. We are NOT and never have been Simsbury or West Hartford, and I think you'd be hard pressed to find many Canton residents who want to be.

For frills like a roof over the courts, the town should ask for state bonding or other funding. But before even doing that, the town should use a wider lens to look at all priorities. Servicing the debt on this project would reduce our ability to pay for other things in the operating budget. More residents will benefit from re-funding the library to its pre-vicious-cut levels than will play tennis and pickleball in the winter.

Concern for increased property taxes.

If projects proceed forward oversight of each that includes community members not currently serving on a Board or affiliated with the Town; Particular attention be paid to the actual life span of each project based on materials, workmanship, etc...; A wide net be cast for vendor selection to insure both a qualified and extensive pool of bidders; Adherence to strict timelines for how long the money is to be allocated and how long each project is to take till completion.



slate roof replacement is extravagant. repair instead as part of ongoing budget expenses.

Proposal is based on 3.75% interest - is this accurate interest rate? Extra 242 for 9.9 million in tax increase on top of 2 more years of phase in and any other yearly budget increases of 4-5% annually is putting homeowners in financial constraints. Bonding is for necessities not wants. Property taxes are only increasing at a higher rate compared to surrounding towns. Avon has a large commercial presence that helps relieve residential property owners from large tax implications. Canton cannot compete with towns like Simsbury and Avon because canton median income is not as high and does not have the commercial retail space as such towns. Canton should be bringing in more businesses to alleviate home owners of increasing tax burdens. Canton will soon need a new elementary school and new intermediate school to sustain growing population and parking! New apartments being built at a rapid rate will bring in more students which will impact school classroom sizes. Many people can not afford a home and will sacrifice space to bring children into a good school system like canton. A family of 4 would potential move into the newly built apartments so kids will have a good education. If canton can bring in more revenue streams through businesses then the town can do more want projects such as mill pond overhaul. Town should do the minimum in renovations for absolute needs and reevaluate other areas of concern.

Maintenance of rails to trails. Trim weeds/overgrowth and remove roots

PLEASE appropriately fund pavement in future years so we don't have to bond again for something the board should fund adequately on an annual basis

I believe it is important that we continue to prioritize projects that serve the broader needs of the community, such as ensuring adequate field space for Canton Soccer Club and other youth and family sports programs in town. While the idea of adding a roof to the pickleball and tennis courts is interesting, I have some concerns about its practicality. Without walls, the courts would still likely accumulate snow, which raises questions about winter maintenance and whether they would see consistent use during colder months. Given the many competing needs within the community, it may be worthwhile to focus our resources on initiatives that benefit a larger segment of residents.

Please fix Sunrise Drive pavement. It is currently unsafe. Also, expand natural gas availability to mitigate runaway oil costs and provide more sustainable heating options.

Pool needs to be replaced, in support of staying within existing footprint

I'm very supportive of the long-term investment. I grew up here and have kids who are growing up here. I just want to be sure we're focusing on the practical side of things and not the style. I'd also like to know the estimated line item costs. e.g., how much will it cost to update the hill/concert area at Mills Pond? This feels very low priority to me—kids love that it's a big hill and we successfully host concerts there.

It's also clear to me that people support some aspects of the Mills Pond updates and not others. I worry that if we present it as is for referendum it will get voted down, but if we make it a line item option (e.g., Pool updates, landscaping, tennis/basketball courts, roof over tennis



courses, etc.) then we might get full support for most of them. I'd strongly suggest line items for the Mills Pond aspects.

If we're spending to improve Mills Pond, maybe there should be small fees to rent courts, etc. to offset cost over time. Simsbury farms is one town over with all those amenities completed.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. - [Contact form owner](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

Does this form look suspicious? [Report](#)

## Google Forms



