

**1996  
CITIZEN QUESTIONNAIRE  
ON GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Town of Nags Head,  
North Carolina**

**Final Report**

**Planning Assistance By:  
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# 1996 CITIZEN QUESTIONNAIRE ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

## Town of Nags Head, North Carolina

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# **1996 Citizen Questionnaire on Growth and Development TOWN OF NAGS HEAD, NORTH CAROLINA**

Every five years, the Town of Nags Head updates its Land Use Plan in accordance with the requirements of the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act. A critical part of the update process is the gathering of public input regarding growth issues facing the community. Among the various methods employed by the Town to gather public input (workshops, public meetings, formal hearings, etc.), the citizen questionnaire can be helpful in reaching those members of the community who might otherwise not participate in the planning process. This is the purpose of the 1996 Citizen Questionnaire on Growth and Development.

Responses to the questionnaire provide an important source of information to Town decision-makers in the formulation of policies regarding future growth and development. In addition, responses can help identify growth issues which appear to have an especially high level of significance to the citizenry. Because the questionnaire occurs early in the land use plan update process, such issues can receive special attention and further investigation during the preparation of the Land Use Plan Update.

The Citizen Questionnaire is only one source of information Town decision-makers have available to them in formulating growth policies. As with any effort to gauge public opinions or attitudes, readers of this report or the questionnaire responses, should avoid using the results legalistically or accepting them as absolute. Readers must weigh the results in combination with other information, as well as with their own knowledge of Nags Head.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The Town chose to have an Advisory Committee involved in the preparation of the questionnaire. While no such effort can claim total impartiality, it is nonetheless the objective Nags Head was striving for by soliciting input and accepting assistance from a group of individuals representing a wide spectrum of interests and backgrounds.

Several meetings and work sessions were held during the course of the questionnaire's preparation in an effort to gain local insight on key issues in need of investigation and to minimize, to the extent possible, bias in the wording of the questions. Meeting summaries follow.

## *April 10, 1996 - Advisory Committee Scoping Session*

The initial meeting for the preparation of the questionnaire was a "scoping" meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to identify important issues and concerns to be addressed in the Citizen Questionnaire. Following a review of the 1990 citizen survey effort, the Advisory Committee identified 46 growth issues and concerns.

## *May 1, 1996 - Advisory Committee Work Session*

Prior to the meeting, Advisory Committee members were provided summaries of April 10th meeting and a paraphrased listing of the issues and concerns. Members were asked to reflect on the listing and add to it as appropriate. They were also asked to note the five most important issues and concerns. The Committee's ranking of issues and concerns was tabulated and the results discussed. It was agreed that those Advisory Committee members not in attendance would be asked to "vote" and that their input would be tabulated as well.

In addition, staff addressed actions that have been undertaken or are planned by the Town with respect to some of the issues and concerns raised. Staff also identified and reviewed basic groupings of questions anticipated in the survey. The basic groupings of questions were: carryover issues and concerns from previous survey efforts; adult entertainment; service levels; and, issues and concerns voiced by the Advisory Committee.

## *May 15, 1996 - Advisory Committee Work Session*

The purpose of this meeting was to review the results of the previous meetings, and to pretest and review a preliminary draft of the questionnaire.

## *June 5, 1996 - Board of Commissioners Meeting*

This meeting was held to provide the Board of Commissioners the opportunity to review the draft of the questionnaire report, taking into consideration the comments received from the Advisory Committee, as well as the Commissioners' own perspectives on how best to address various issues.

*November 6, 1996 - Presentation of Survey Results*

Meetings were held to present the tabulated results and analysis of the questionnaire to the Advisory Committee and the Town Board of Commissioners.

# METHODOLOGY

## *Identifying the Sample*

Recipients of the questionnaire were identified using the tax rolls for the Town of Nags Head as compiled and maintained by Dare County.

## *Mailings*

Four thousand, forty-four (4,044) surveys were mailed on August 5, 1996, with a return deadline of August 26, 1996. Approximately 206 surveys were distributed after the date either by mail or in person. All were self-addressed for return and were postage paid. On August 30, 1996, 2,978 reminder post cards were mailed with an extended response deadline of September 12, 1996.

## *Response Rate*

By the extended deadline of September 12, some 1,449 surveys had been returned to the Town. This represents a response rate of approximately 34.1%.

## *Survey Tabulation and Processing*

Responses to each of the returned surveys were entered into a computer and electronically tabulated.

## *Random Sampling Error/Confidence Level/Limitations*

Because this was not a random sample questionnaire, but rather a census-type, it is not possible to scientifically report a random sampling error margin. Further, it is not a complete census questionnaire because responses were dependent upon voluntary participation. However, if this were a random sample survey, it could be reported as having a  $\pm 3\%$  margin of error at the 95% confidence level, given the number of responses received. This means that if this questionnaire were administered on 100 separate occasions under identical conditions, 95 out of 100 times the results would fall within  $\pm 3\%$  of the results reported here. It could also be said that the results would fall within  $\pm 3\%$  of the views of the full population.

To help determine whether the results reported do in fact represent the views of the Town's residents and property owners, it is instructive to evaluate the characteristics of the respondents. This information is presented in the response to questions 114 - 118. Often, U.S. Census information can be employed to help determine whether the sample is representative of the community's citizenry. In the case of this questionnaire, however, this technique is rendered inappropriate for two reasons. First, census information is out of date given the rapid pace of change in Nags Head over the past decade. Second, a large proportion of the "stakeholders" in

Nags Head are not permanent residents, but rather second home owners and part time residents. These people are not accounted for in U.S. Census statistics for Nags Head.

Another way to determine whether the questionnaire sample is representative of the community's citizenry is to compare the location of the respondents' property or address with the relative distribution of land parcels in the Town. A special 1990 count of land parcels, performed by the Town staff, is compared with the questionnaire results (Question No. 116) as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Special Count*</u>	<u>Questionnaire Respondents*</u>
1. On the causeway	2.3%	2.0%
2. South of Whalebone Junction, between the ocean and Old Oregon Inlet Road (NC 1243)	16.4%	17.1%
3. South of Whalebone Junction, between Old Oregon Inlet Road (NC 1243) and Virginia Dare Trail ("Beach Road"/NC 12)	10.9%	8.4%
4. Between the ocean and Virginia Dare Trail ("Beach Road"/NC12)	9.6%	18.1%
5. Between Virginia Dare Trail ("Beach Road") and Croatan Highway (158 Bypass)	24.0%	17.6%
6. Between Roanoke Sound and Croatan Highway (158 Bypass)	36.9%	36.8%

- \* % of all parcels of land in Nags Head
- ★ Respondents completing Question 116

The comparison reveals that the distribution of respondents and parcels of land in the Town are quite similar in most instances. Notable exceptions were the proportionally high response rate (18.1%) by respondents from the area between the ocean and Virginia Dare Trail (9.6% of land parcels) and the proportionally low response rate (17.6%) by respondents from the area between Virginia Dare Trail and Croatan Highway (24.0% of land parcels).

## KEY TRENDS AND ATTITUDES

This section of the report outlines several key trends and attitudes prevalent in the responses to the questionnaire. The key trends and attitudes discussed were identified based on an analysis of the statistical results of the questionnaire which are available in the Planning and Development Office. In addition, responses to questions 119 and 120 and the comments section at the end of the questionnaire offer insights into the prevailing attitude of respondents regarding the future growth and development of the Town. Whereas the statistical results of the questionnaire allow for a quantitative analysis, the comments section allows for a qualitative perspective on the attitudes of respondents. The perspectives of community leaders and citizens offered at the Advisory Committee work sessions were also considered.

One frequent response offered in the comments section of the questionnaire is "Don't let Nags Head become another Virginia Beach, Ocean City, Myrtle Beach, Jersey Shore, or the like." Generally, respondents oppose or fear intense development or becoming too commercial.

The trends and attitudes identified in the section are deemed to be the prevailing viewpoints. Other viewpoints and positions were offered by respondents.

1. *Respondents place a high priority on preserving the natural environment.*
2. *Respondents place a high priority on keeping a family beach atmosphere and do not want Nags Head to become too commercialized.*
3. *Respondents want additional regulations for personal water craft and prefer passive, natural, quiet recreation activities and opportunities over active, mechanical, noisy recreation activities and opportunities.*
4. *Respondents do not want adult entertainment establishments in Nags Head.*
5. *Respondents are concerned about traffic and transportation.*
6. *Respondents are generally pleased with Town government and services.*

# SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

The following is a summary of responses received for the 1996 Citizen Questionnaire on Growth and Development for the Town of Nags Head. Results are presented according to three categories:

- ALL:** Includes All Survey Respondents
- Resident (RES):** Includes Year-Round Residents, Renters, and Property Owners
- Non-Resident (N-R):** Includes Non-Resident Property Owners, Part-Time Residents, and Others not otherwise classified.

**Note:** While the results that follow represent an overview of questionnaire responses, the reader is cautioned to consult with the actual survey frequencies for questions where rankings are involved since the strength of the rankings may vary considerably from questions to question. The percentages that follow reflect complete responses to the respective questions.

## ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS

Respondents were asked (Questions 1-6) to rank the following in terms of importance with "1" being the most important and "6" being least important: preservation or acquisition of open space along the ocean beaches; preservation or acquisition of open space along the soundside shore and dunes; preservation or acquisition of forested and vegetated area; preservation or acquisition of open space elsewhere in Nags Head; preservation or acquisition of wetlands; and, preservation or acquisition of Nags Head Woods.

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. Open space ocean	● Open space ocean	● Open space ocean
2. Open space soundside	● Open space soundside	● Open space soundside
3. Forested/vegetated area	● Nags Heads Woods	● Forested/vegetated area
4. Wetlands	● Forested/vegetated area	● Wetlands
5. Nags Head Woods	● Wetlands	● Nags Head Woods
6. Elsewhere in Nags Head	● Elsewhere in Nags Head	● Elsewhere in Nags Head

**OCEAN BEACH ACCESS**

Regarding ocean beach access areas, respondents were asked (Questions 7-10) to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following:

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
7. we need more large ocean beach accesses with parking and more amenities (showers, bathrooms, lifeguard stands)	ALL	13.8%	17.7%	33.7%	29.0%	5.8%
	RES	21.3%	19.8%	34.0%	19.2%	5.6%
	N-R	11.4%	17.0%	33.6%	32.1%	5.9%
8. we need more small ocean beach accesses with parking that have fewer amenities	ALL	16.0%	38.9%	25.3%	12.4%	7.4%
	RES	18.5%	38.9%	25.5%	10.0%	7.0%
	N-R	15.2%	38.9%	25.2%	13.2%	7.5%
9. we need walkways across the dunes with no parking	ALL	13.4%	30.5%	27.2%	19.0%	9.9%
	RES	12.7%	29.4%	31.2%	15.8%	10.9%
	N-R	13.6%	30.8%	25.9%	20.0%	9.6%
10. we currently have the right mix of ocean beach access	ALL	22.6%	32.9%	22.1%	4.7%	17.8%
	RES	20.7%	32.8%	24.6%	5.5%	16.4%
	N-R	23.2%	32.9%	21.3%	4.5%	18.2%

**SOUNDSIDE ACCESS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Respondents were asked (Questions 11-16) to rank the following statements regarding soundside access areas: nature park with trails; public windsurfing area; motorized boat access; non-motorized boat access; swimming and wading area; and, fishing/crabbing opportunities.

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. Swimming and wading area	● Swimming and wading area	● Swimming and wading area
2. Nature park with trails	● Nature park with trails	● Nature park with trails
3. Fishing/crabbing opportunities	● Fishing/crabbing opportunities	● Fishing/crabbing opportunities
4. Non-motorized boat access	● Non-motorized boat access	● Non-motorized boat access
5. Motorized boat access	● Motorized boat access	● Motorized boat access
6. Public windsurfing area	● Public windsurfing area	● Public windsurfing area

## ABOUT TOWN GROWTH, GENERALLY

Respondents were asked (Question 17) about the growth rate of the Town over the last 5 years.

1. Much Too Slow 2. A Little Too Slow 3. Just About Right 4. A Little Too Fast 5. Much Too Fast

ALL	0.6%	2.2%	26.7%	40.2%	30.3%
RES	0.3%	2.7%	32.0%	39.8%	25.2%
NR	0.8%	2.0%	25.0%	40.4%	31.9%

Respondents were asked (Questions 18-24) to indicate how important they feel each of the following factors is to the preservation of Nags Head as "family beach."

		Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Not Sure
18. low building heights and densities . . . . .	ALL	75.0%	19.3%	3.3%	1.3%	1.2%
	RES	72.6%	19.1%	4.4%	2.1%	1.8%
	N-R	75.7%	19.4%	2.9%	1.0%	1.0%
19. open space . . . . .	ALL	66.8%	30.5%	1.4%	0.4%	0.9%
	RES	66.3%	29.3%	2.1%	0.9%	1.5%
	N-R	66.9%	30.9%	1.2%	0.3%	0.7%
20. single family housing . . . . .	ALL	57.3%	33.3%	6.5%	1.2%	1.7%
	RES	53.3%	32.4%	10.4%	0.9%	3.0%
	N-R	58.5%	33.6%	5.3%	1.3%	1.3%
21. old historic structures . . . . .	ALL	46.9%	36.3%	12.4%	1.9%	2.5%
	RES	47.6%	35.3%	11.5%	2.4%	3.2%
	N-R	46.6%	36.6%	12.7%	1.8%	2.3%
22. amusements . . . . .	ALL	5.5%	31.5%	32.1%	27.6%	3.4%
	RES	4.1%	30.8%	29.6%	28.7%	6.8%
	N-R	5.9%	31.7%	32.9%	27.2%	2.3%
23. commercial development . . . . .	ALL	2.6%	23.7%	33.5%	34.4%	5.8%
	RES	3.2%	26.4%	28.4%	32.8%	9.1%
	N-R	2.4%	22.9%	35.1%	34.9%	4.7%
24. other . . . . .	ALL	40.0%	8.6%	4.9%	8.3%	38.3%
	RES	44.2%	7.0%	4.7%	8.1%	36.0%
	N-R	38.6%	9.1%	4.9%	8.3%	39.0%

## ABOUT COMMERCIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION

Regarding commercial (rental) outdoor recreation, respondents were asked (Questions 25-35) to share opinions as to whether they feel there are "more than enough, enough, or not enough" of the following facilities or opportunities in Nags Head.

		More Than Enough	Enough	Not Enough	Not Sure
<b>Land-based motorized recreation:</b>					
25. go-carts/tracks . . . . .	ALL	58.1%	36.2%	2.5%	3.2%
	RES	70.3%	25.1%	2.3%	2.3%
	N-R	54.2%	39.8%	2.5%	3.4%
26. bumper boats . . . . .	ALL	49.7%	38.6%	5.0%	6.7%
	RES	59.2%	32.8%	3.5%	4.4%
	N-R	46.7%	40.4%	5.5%	7.4%
<b>Land-based non-motorized recreation:</b>					
27. mini-golf . . . . .	ALL	41.3%	49.5%	6.4%	2.9%
	RES	51.3%	39.6%	5.9%	3.2%
	N-R	38.1%	52.6%	6.5%	2.8%
28. sport-climbing wall . . . . .	ALL	30.5%	43.9%	9.2%	16.3%
	RES	36.7%	42.9%	8.6%	11.8%
	N-R	28.6%	44.2%	9.5%	17.8%
29. hang gliding . . . . .	ALL	28.1%	61.1%	6.4%	4.4%
	RES	35.4%	52.3%	7.3%	5.0%
	N-R	25.8%	63.9%	6.1%	4.2%
<b>Water-based motorized recreation:</b>					
30. jet skies . . . . .	ALL	54.8%	38.7%	2.8%	3.7%
	RES	65.2%	29.2%	2.6%	2.9%
	N-R	51.5%	41.7%	2.8%	4.0%
31. power boats . . . . .	ALL	44.5%	45.1%	5.5%	4.9%
	RES	52.2%	37.9%	5.0%	5.0%
	N-R	42.0%	47.3%	5.7%	4.9%
32. parasail . . . . .	ALL	36.4%	50.6%	5.1%	7.9%
	RES	46.2%	42.4%	5.3%	6.1%
	N-R	33.3%	53.2%	5.0%	8.5%

		More Than Enough	Enough	Not Enough	Not Sure
<b>Water-based non-motorized recreation:</b>					
33. canoes and kayaks . . . . .	ALL	11.0%	45.5%	32.6%	10.8%
	RES	16.3%	43.4%	31.5%	8.7%
	N-R	9.4%	46.2%	32.9%	11.5%
34. windsurfing . . . . .	ALL	14.0%	56.4%	21.2%	8.3%
	RES	19.2%	51.7%	22.4%	6.7%
	N-R	12.3%	57.9%	20.8%	8.9%
35. sail boats . . . . .	ALL	11.4%	47.7%	31.9%	9.1%
	RES	15.4%	43.3%	33.4%	7.8%
	N-R	10.1%	49.1%	31.3%	9.5%

**ABOUT PERSONAL WATER CRAFT**

The Town asked (Questions 36-39) for opinions regarding personal water craft.

36. Do you support the additional regulation of privately owned personal water craft use in the ocean?

	Yes	No
ALL	64.7%	35.3%
RES	64.7%	35.3%
N-R	64.7%	35.3%

37. Do you support the additional regulation of privately owned personal water craft use in the sound?

	Yes	No
ALL	69.6%	30.4%
RES	69.3%	30.7%
N-R	69.8%	30.2%

38. Do you support the additional regulation (beyond current distance from shore and noise regulations) of commercially owned (rented) personal water craft use in the sound?

	Yes	No
ALL	65.3%	34.7%
RES	67.5%	32.5%
N-R	64.6%	35.4%

39. Do you feel the regulation of personal water craft use should be coordinated between Nags Head and Dare County?

	Yes	No
ALL	78.6%	21.4%
RES	69.5%	30.5%
N-R	81.5%	18.5%

## ABOUT ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

The Town asked (Questions 40-44) for opinions regarding adult entertainment.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Adult Entertainment . . .						
40. would adversely affect property values in residential districts of the Town . . . . .	ALL	74.6%	16.3%	5.3%	0.8%	3.0%
	RES	74.3%	15.3%	5.8%	0.6%	4.0%
	N-R	74.8%	16.7%	5.1%	0.8%	2.6%
41. would adversely affect other nearby commercial establishments and businesses . . . . .	ALL	64.9%	22.6%	7.7%	0.8%	4.0%
	RES	65.9%	19.2%	9.9%	0.9%	4.1%
	N-R	64.5%	23.7%	7.0%	0.8%	3.9%
42. would enhance the vacation/resort attraction of Nags Head for vacationing families . . . . .	ALL	4.1%	3.4%	17.3%	72.6%	2.6%
	RES	5.2%	4.4%	16.6%	70.8%	2.9%
	N-R	3.7%	3.1%	17.5%	73.1%	2.5%
43. would negatively influence my decision to buy a vacation cottage or home in Nags Head if I were in the market to purchase one . . . .	ALL	59.9%	19.6%	9.8%	4.9%	5.7%
	RES	59.3%	18.6%	9.3%	6.7%	6.1%
	N-R	60.1%	20.0%	10.0%	4.4%	5.6%
44. would negatively influence my decision to vacation in Nags Head . . . . .	ALL	54.1%	21.8%	12.6%	5.8%	5.6%
	RES	54.5%	19.6%	10.0%	7.3%	8.5%
	N-R	54.0%	22.5%	13.5%	5.3%	4.7%

**ABOUT WATER QUANTITY**

Respondents were asked (Question 45) their opinion concerning whether the potential effect of well drilling and well water use in the area around Fresh Pond and Nags Head Woods is an issue and should be studied by the Town.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
ALL	48.7%	36.2%	2.8%	1.1%	11.3%
RES	50.0%	36.6%	4.4%	1.7%	7.3%
N-R	48.2%	36.1%	2.3%	0.8%	12.6%

**ABOUT OFF-SHORE FOSSIL FUEL EXPLORATION**

Respondents were asked (Questions 46 and 47) whether they favor or oppose . . .

		Favor	Oppose
46. off-shore fossil fuel exploration and/or extraction . . . . .	ALL	16.8%	83.2%
	RES	14.7%	85.3%
	N-R	17.5%	82.5%
47. the location of land based support activities in Nags Head for off-shore fossil fuel exploration and/or extraction activities . . . .	ALL	13.7%	86.3%
	RES	11.8%	88.2%
	N-R	14.3%	85.7%

**ABOUT BEACH EROSION**

Respondents were asked (Questions 48-53) to rank the following beach erosion abatement measure from "1" to "6" with "1" being the most desirable erosion abatement measure and "6" being the least desirable: retreat; beach bulldozing; relocation assistance; beach renourishment; public acquisition of property; and artificial reefs (off-shore and submerged).

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. Artificial reefs	● Artificial reefs	● Artificial reefs
2. Beach bulldozing	● Retreat	● Beach bulldozing
3. Beach renourishment	● Beach bulldozing	● Beach renourishment
4. Retreat	● Beach renourishment	● Retreat
5. Public acquisition of property	● Relocation assistance	● Public acquisition of property
6. Relocation assistance	● Public acquisition of property	● Relocation assistance

Respondents were asked (Questions 54-60) if they would be willing to pay higher taxes or fees for ...

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
54. retreat . . . . .	ALL	9.4%	31.5%	25.8%	25.5%	7.7%
	RES	13.6%	25.5%	25.2%	28.5%	7.3%
	N-R	8.1%	33.4%	26.0%	24.6%	7.9%
55. beach bulldozing . . . . .	ALL	13.3%	44.3%	17.7%	18.4%	6.2%
	RES	14.2%	33.1%	18.5%	27.5%	6.6%
	N-R	13.0%	47.8%	17.5%	15.6%	6.1%
56. relocation assistance . . . . .	ALL	3.8%	17.2%	29.9%	41.7%	7.4%
	RES	3.0%	13.7%	28.1%	46.8%	8.4%
	N-R	4.0%	18.2%	30.5%	40.1%	7.1%
57. beach renourishment . . . . .	ALL	19.1%	36.2%	17.3%	21.8%	5.6%
	RES	17.8%	33.0%	16.5%	27.4%	5.3%
	N-R	19.4%	37.1%	17.6%	20.1%	5.8%
58. public acquisition of property . . . . .	ALL	4.7%	20.5%	26.3%	40.5%	8.1%
	RES	4.9%	24.5%	23.2%	38.2%	9.2%
	N-R	4.6%	19.2%	27.3%	41.2%	7.7%
59. artificial reefs (off-shore and submerged) . . . . .	ALL	26.5%	40.2%	10.6%	14.9%	7.8%
	RES	27.1%	39.4%	9.7%	15.8%	8.1%
	N-R	26.3%	40.4%	10.9%	14.6%	7.7%
60. none of the above . . . . .	ALL	23.4%	8.7%	18.3%	24.3%	25.3%
	RES	24.4%	10.1%	19.3%	26.1%	20.2%
	N-R	23.0%	8.1%	17.9%	23.6%	27.4%

Respondents were asked (Questions 61-66) how they feel the Town's share of the erosion abatement programs should be funded from among the following options: Tourist Bureau; Dare County; other/or combinations; ad valorem taxes (local Town of Nags Head taxes); special surcharge for oceanfront property owners; and, commit no local funds for these types of programs.

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. Tourist Bureau	• Tourist Bureau	• Tourist Bureau
2. Dare County	• Special surcharge for ocean front property owners	• Dare County
3. Special surcharge for ocean-front property owners	• Dare County	• Special surcharge for oceanfront property owners
4. Other/or combinations	• Other/or combinations	• Other/or combinations
5. Ad valorem taxes	• Ad valorem taxes	• Ad valorem taxes
6. Commit no local funds	• Commit no local funds	• Commit no local funds

### ABOUT RECYCLING

Respondents were asked (Questions 67-70) their attitudes toward recycling.

67. Recycle at the Town's collection centers.	Do not recycle at the Town's collection centers.
ALL 52.6%	47.4%
RES 69.8%	30.2%
N-R 47.1%	52.9%
68. Recycle in another jurisdiction.	Do not recycle in another jurisdiction.
ALL 51.7%	48.3%
RES 25.6%	74.4%
N-R 59.9%	40.1%
69. Would support a mandatory recycling program.	Would not support a mandatory recycling program.
ALL 62.9%	37.1%
RES 66.1%	33.9%
N-R 61.9%	38.1%
70. Would support a curbside recycling program.	Would not support a curbside recycling program.
ALL 78.6%	21.4%
RES 78.7%	21.3%
N-R 78.6%	21.4%

Respondents were asked (Question 71) for their opinions regarding Town involvement in household toxic chemical disposal.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
71. The Town should promote a day to collect household toxic and dispose of chemicals. . . . .	ALL	43.6%	42.0%	5.6%	2.0%	6.9%
	RES	50.7%	36.3%	5.0%	2.4%	5.6%
	N-R	41.3%	43.8%	5.8%	1.9%	7.3%

**ABOUT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION**

Respondents were asked (Questions 72-77) their opinion of whether the Town should...

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
72. to the extent possible, limit the number of new driveways and streets entering S. Croatan Highway (US 158) . . . . .	ALL	47.0%	38.0%	6.6%	1.5%	6.9%
	RES	51.6%	30.9%	8.3%	2.4%	6.8%
	N-R	45.5%	40.2%	6.1%	1.2%	6.9%
73. condemn/acquire private land for public roads to tie NC 12 to US 158 . . . . .	ALL	7.4%	21.7%	32.5%	18.9%	19.5%
	RES	8.1%	16.2%	33.9%	25.2%	16.5%
	N-R	7.1%	23.5%	32.1%	16.8%	20.5%
74. support the development of a bikeway and multi-use pedestrian way along NC 12 .	ALL	42.3%	39.1%	7.8%	4.3%	6.5%
	RES	47.4%	35.3%	6.5%	5.9%	5.0%
	N-R	40.7%	40.3%	8.3%	3.8%	6.9%
75. support connecting bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways that are developed in Nags Head to bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways of adjoining jurisdictions . . . . .	ALL	39.1%	43.6%	7.3%	3.8%	6.2%
	RES	47.4%	37.2%	4.8%	5.1%	5.4%
	N-R	36.4%	45.7%	8.0%	3.4%	6.5%

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
76. support a local bus/trolley or other transit system . . . . .	ALL	16.6%	32.6%	23.4%	12.5%	14.8%
	RES	24.0%	32.0%	19.9%	13.2%	10.9%
	N-R	14.2%	32.9%	24.5%	12.3%	16.1%
77. other . . . . .	ALL	27.4%	5.5%	0.9%	6.4%	59.8%
	RES	33.3%	6.7%	1.7%	6.7%	51.7%
	N-R	25.2%	5.0%	0.6%	6.3%	62.9%

**ABOUT SERVICE DELIVERY**

Respondents were asked (Questions 78-103) about their level of satisfaction with the delivery of services. A varying percentage of individuals did not offer an opinion (Not Sure) due primarily to the fact that they had not interacted with, or used particular services. Only those respondents expressing an opinion are reflected in the following percentages.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
78. Fire services (protection, prevention, education) are. . . . .	ALL	51.2%	47.9%	0.6%	0.3%
	RES	66.6%	31.8%	1.3%	0.3%
	N-R	44.8%	54.7%	0.3%	0.3%
79. Emergency response by fire department personnel is . . . . .	ALL	55.1%	44.7%	0.1%	0.1%
	RES	71.5%	28.1%	0.4%	0.0%
	N-R	47.9%	52.0%	0.0%	0.2%
80. Lifeguard services at public beaches are . . . . .	ALL	33.0%	57.4%	7.8%	1.8%
	RES	44.2%	49.7%	5.1%	1.1%
	N-R	28.4%	60.6%	9.0%	2.1%
81. Professionalism of staff is . . . . .	ALL	40.8%	57.3%	1.4%	0.5%
	RES	49.0%	48.0%	2.4%	0.7%
	N-R	37.6%	61.1%	1.0%	0.4%
82. Courtesy of staff is . . . . .	ALL	52.3%	46.4%	1.1%	0.2%
	RES	57.4%	42.1%	0.6%	0.0%
	N-R	50.2%	48.2%	1.3%	0.2%

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
83. Police services (traffic law enforcement, narcotic and drug law enforcement, animal control, crime prevention and education) are . . . . .	ALL	34.4%	62.1%	2.6%	0.9%
	RES	44.2%	50.0%	5.2%	0.7%
	N-R	30.6%	66.9%	1.6%	0.9%
84. Plans for evacuation of the island in the event of a major storm during peak tourist season are . . . . .	ALL	31.3%	62.4%	4.5%	1.8%
	RES	35.3%	56.8%	5.1%	2.9%
	N-R	29.8%	64.4%	4.3%	1.5%
85. Emergency response by police is . . . . .	ALL	40.5%	57.6%	1.1%	0.8%
	RES	52.3%	46.0%	1.4%	0.4%
	N-R	35.7%	62.4%	1.0%	0.9%
86. Professionalism of staff is . . .	ALL	39.5%	57.3%	2.2%	1.1%
	RES	46.5%	49.5%	2.7%	1.4%
	N-R	36.6%	60.4%	2.1%	1.0%
87. Courtesy of staff is . . . . .	ALL	42.0%	55.1%	2.3%	0.6%
	RES	49.1%	47.6%	2.7%	0.7%
	N-R	39.1%	58.2%	2.2%	0.5%

**TOWN ADMINISTRATION**

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
88. Opportunities for citizens to participate in Town affairs are	ALL	22.9%	67.7%	7.1%	2.3%
	RES	29.7%	59.9%	7.3%	3.2%
	N-R	20.1%	70.9%	7.1%	2.0%
89. Effort to inform citizens about Town issues and services are . . . . .	ALL	27.0%	63.5%	7.6%	2.0%
	RES	26.2%	60.3%	10.5%	3.1%
	N-R	27.3%	64.6%	6.6%	1.6%

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
90. Professionalism of staff is . . .	ALL	31.4%	66.2%	1.8%	0.7%
	RES	35.4%	61.4%	2.6%	0.7%
	N-R	29.8%	68.1%	1.5%	0.7%
91. Courtesy of staff is . . . . .	ALL	37.2%	60.5%	1.4%	1.0%
	RES	41.3%	56.5%	1.6%	0.7%
	N-R	35.5%	62.2%	1.3%	1.1%

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
92. Application procedures and review processes for building permits are . . . . .	ALL	18.1%	71.0%	7.5%	3.5%
	RES	22.0%	65.0%	9.5%	3.6%
	N-R	16.2%	73.9%	6.6%	3.4%
93. Enforcement of Town ordinances are . . . . .	ALL	14.3%	68.6%	12.8%	4.3%
	RES	19.1%	61.5%	13.4%	6.1%
	N-R	12.2%	72.0%	12.5%	3.4%
94. Timeliness of site plan review is . . . . .	ALL	15.9%	75.4%	6.7%	2.0%
	RES	21.9%	67.2%	8.3%	2.6%
	N-R	12.9%	79.7%	5.9%	1.6%
95. Professionalism of staff is . . .	ALL	27.9%	67.5%	2.8%	1.8%
	RES	34.8%	58.8%	3.5%	3.0%
	N-R	24.8%	71.6%	2.5%	1.3%
96. Courtesy of staff is . . . . .	ALL	32.9%	63.9%	2.0%	1.2%
	RES	39.0%	56.7%	1.7%	2.6%
	N-R	30.1%	67.2%	2.2%	0.6%

**PUBLIC WORKS**

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
97. Town waste collection system is . . . . .	ALL	36.8%	58.3%	3.6%	1.4%
	RES	43.6%	51.7%	3.9%	0.9%
	N-R	34.5%	60.6%	3.4%	1.6%
98. Facilities at Nags Head Town Park are . . . . .	ALL	23.4%	74.5%	2.0%	0.2%
	RES	33.2%	64.7%	2.2%	0.0%
	N-R	18.8%	79.2%	1.9%	0.2%
99. Maintenance of Town facilities (bikeway, neighborhood streets, and roads, parks and public spaces, buildings and grounds) is . . . . .	ALL	20.4%	75.1%	4.0%	0.6%
	RES	27.7%	66.7%	4.1%	1.6%
	N-R	17.9%	78.0%	3.9%	0.3%
100. Drinking water quality is . . .	ALL	12.6%	64.6%	18.4%	4.5%
	RES	14.9%	64.7%	16.1%	4.4%
	N-R	11.8%	64.6%	19.2%	4.5%
101. Professionalism of staff is .	ALL	30.5%	68.2%	0.8%	0.6%
	RES	36.9%	62.1%	0.7%	0.4%
	N-R	27.8%	70.6%	0.9%	0.8%
102. Courtesy of staff is . . . . .	ALL	33.8%	65.3%	0.5%	0.5%
	RES	38.7%	61.0%	0.0%	0.4%
	N-R	31.8%	67.0%	0.7%	0.4%

**GENERAL**

		Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor
103. Town services overall are. . .	ALL	22.8%	76.3%	0.8%	0.2%
	RES	31.0%	68.0%	1.0%	0.0%
	N-R	20.0%	79.1%	0.7%	0.3%

## PAYING FOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Respondents were asked (Questions 104-113) about priorities for public spending and willingness to pay.

I would be willing to pay higher taxes or fees for...

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
104. preservation or acquisition of open spaces . . . . .	ALL	18.0%	48.3%	17.8%	7.3%	8.6%
	RES	21.5%	45.4%	16.4%	7.2%	9.6%
	N-R	16.8%	49.2%	18.3%	7.4%	8.3%
105. expansion of Town recreation facilities . . . . .	ALL	4.8%	34.5%	36.2%	12.1%	12.4%
	RES	8.7%	44.3%	26.0%	9.6%	11.4%
	N-R	3.6%	31.3%	39.5%	12.9%	12.7%
106. ocean beach access areas . .	ALL	7.5%	39.5%	33.1%	12.0%	7.8%
	RES	10.4%	39.8%	30.6%	10.4%	8.9%
	N-R	6.6%	39.5%	33.9%	12.5%	7.5%
107. soundside access areas . . . .	ALL	6.7%	40.6%	30.8%	11.3%	10.6%
	RES	10.5%	42.9%	25.2%	10.8%	10.5%
	N-R	5.5%	39.9%	32.6%	11.4%	10.6%
108. a centralized sewage treatment system . . . . .	ALL	15.4%	31.5%	22.8%	14.0%	16.3%
	RES	14.7%	26.3%	21.3%	19.8%	18.0%
	N-R	15.7%	33.1%	23.3%	12.1%	15.8%
109. curbside pickup of recyclables . . . . .	ALL	15.4%	45.4%	23.5%	9.0%	6.8%
	RES	23.9%	40.1%	17.4%	11.8%	6.8%
	N-R	12.6%	47.1%	25.5%	8.0%	6.8%
110. recycling centers . . . . .	ALL	11.0%	48.7%	23.0%	8.2%	9.0%
	RES	12.3%	49.8%	19.2%	8.4%	10.2%
	N-R	10.6%	48.4%	24.3%	8.1%	8.7%

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
111. bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways . . . . .	ALL	24.3%	49.4%	14.5%	5.8%	6.0%
	RES	34.1%	40.0%	13.8%	5.6%	6.5%
	N-R	21.1%	52.5%	14.7%	5.8%	5.9%
112. placing existing overhead utilities underground . . . . .	ALL	20.4%	32.9%	24.2%	10.9%	11.6%
	RES	26.6%	29.6%	19.8%	10.4%	13.6%
	N-R	18.4%	34.0%	25.6%	11.1%	10.9%
113. transportation (neighborhood street improvements) . . . . .	ALL	8.1%	43.7%	26.4%	7.6%	14.3%
	RES	10.9%	43.8%	24.0%	8.3%	13.0%
	N-R	7.1%	43.7%	27.1%	7.3%	14.7%

**ABOUT YOU AND NAGS HEAD**

Respondents were asked (Question 114) to describe their occupation.

	ALL	RES	N-R
1. Professional/technical	36.5%	26.8%	39.6%
2. Manager/Proprietor	13.7%	12.1%	14.3%
3. Clerical/Sales/Services	2.9%	6.2%	1.8%
4. Craftsperson	1.4%	1.8%	1.2%
5. Laborer	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%
6. Government	4.9%	5.0%	4.9%
7. Homemaker	2.4%	1.5%	2.6%
8. Student	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
9. Retired	29.1%	30.3%	28.8%
10. Unemployed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
11. Fishing	0.3%	0.9%	0.1%
12. Tourism	1.0%	3.2%	0.3%
13. Real Estate	2.4%	4.1%	1.8%
14. Construction trade	2.7%	5.6%	1.8%
15. Other	2.1%	1.8%	2.3%

Respondents were asked (Question 115) which type of property they own in Nags Head, if any.

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. Developed (built upon)	81.2%	82.4%	80.8%
2. Undeveloped (unbuilt upon)	6.9%	2.6%	8.2%
3. Both developed and undeveloped	11.5%	14.5%	10.6%
4. Time Share	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
5. None	0.3%	0.6%	0.2%

Respondents were asked (Question 116) where their residence is located, or where do they stay or live in Nags Head.

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. On the causeway	2.0%	3.2%	1.6%
2. South of Whalebone Junction, between the ocean and Old Oregon Inlet Road (NC 1243)	17.1%	5.8%	20.9%
3. South of Whalebone Junction, between Old Oregon Inlet Road (NC 1243) and NC 12	8.4%	5.8%	9.2%
4. Between the ocean and Virginia Dare Trail ("Beach Road"/NC 12)	18.1%	9.1%	21.1%
5. Between Virginia Dare Trail ("Beach Road") and Croatan Highway (158 Bypass)	17.6%	14.3%	18.8%
6. Between Roanoke Sound and Croatan Highway (158 Bypass)	36.8%	61.7%	28.4%

Respondents were asked (Question 117) which of the following best describes their residential status in Nags Head.

1. Year-round resident renter	29
2. Year-round resident property owner	319
3. Non-resident property owner	733
4. Part-time resident	290
5. Other (includes no response)	78

Respondents were asked (Question 118) which age group they belong to.

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>
1. Under 18	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
2. 18-34	3.5%	8.3%	2.0%
3. 35-49	30.3%	34.2%	29.0%
4. 50-64	41.2%	31.6%	44.4%
5. Over 64	24.8%	25.6%	24.5%

Respondents were asked (Question 119) what they like best about Nags Head. Responses to this question were grouped into eleven general categories. Responses to Question 119 can be examined in the Planning and Development Office.

	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Ocean, beach, sound	73	238	311
2. Quiet, family atmosphere	49	228	277
3. Quality of life	71	167	238
4. Natural beauty	42	87	129
5. Not too commercialized	21	58	79
6. Low rise, low density building development	13	61	74
7. Town government, services	35	30	65
8. Recreation facilities opportunities	21	41	62
9. Fishing	18	40	58
10. Low crime rate	11	11	22
11. Nags Head Woods	5	6	11
	<b>359</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>1326</b>

Respondents were asked (Question 120) what they like least about Nags Head. Responses to this question were grouped into twenty-five general categories. Responses to Question 120 can be examined in the Planning and Development Office.

	<u>RES</u>	<u>N-R</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Traffic	58	222	280
2. Too commercialized	43	142	185
3. Too much growth	35	113	148
4. Town government, services, facilities	44	53	97
5. Too crowded	8	74	82
6. Not enough bike paths, walking trails, recreation facilities	13	28	41
7. Beach erosion	3	34	37
8. Trash pick-up, containers	8	17	25
9. Dogs on beach, animal control	8	14	22
10. Taxes/fees too high, cost of living	6	14	20
11. Not enough open space	6	14	20
12. Go-cart tracks, amusements	10	7	17
13. Noise	5	10	15
14. Nags Head Village	4	10	14
15. Storms, evacuations	1	12	13
16. Community appearance overhead utilities	0	12	12
17. Jet skis	7	5	12
18. No hospital	7	3	10
19. Drinking water quality	1	8	9
20. Lack of public parking public access	5	2	7
21. Tourists	0	6	6
22. Mosquitos, bugs	0	6	6
23. Lack of central sewer	4	0	4
24. Crime	0	2	2
25. Airport facilities inadequate	0	1	1
	276	809	1085

Respondents were asked to make any other comments or suggestions. The comments and suggestions offered by respondents -- edited for grammar and to protect confidentiality -- can be examined in the Planning and Development Office. In general, comments followed the same general themes as expressed in responses to questions 119 and 120.

# SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE FINDINGS

The following paragraphs summarize findings from each section of the 1996 Citizen Questionnaire on Growth and Development and some of the comments made by respondents.

## About the Environment

### *Open Space and Natural Areas*

Respondents were asked to rank order a series of statements designed to assess their attitudes about the relative importance of various elements of the open space system.

Of the various open space elements identified, preservation or acquisition of open space along the ocean beach is considered most important. Over 85% of all respondents identified open space along ocean beaches as either the first or second most important item. Non-residents felt most strongly about this item, with over 78% identifying beach open space as most important compared to 64% of year-round residents.

While there was generally less consensus among the other open space elements identified, it can be stated that preservation or acquisition of open space along the Soundside shore and dunes was identified as the second most important open space element. Further, forested and vegetated areas as the third most important open space elements among non-residents while residents preferred preservation or acquisition of Nags Head Woods.

Of those choosing to respond to **Question 119**, 311 respondents noted that the ocean, beach, and sound were the things that they liked best about Nags Head. In addition, 129 respondents listed natural beauty as what they liked best about Nags Head.

### *Ocean Beach Access*

While there was not an overwhelming consensus on the best means of addressing ocean, beach, access, the responses indicate that about 55% of all respondents agree or strongly agree that more small beach access areas are needed. More large ocean beach access areas are generally not wanted. A slight majority of respondents (56%) agreed that the Town currently has the right mix of ocean beach accesses. Respondents were about evenly split regarding the need for walkways across the dunes.

### *Soundside Access and Recreation Opportunities*

When choosing among six alternatives, nearly 62% of all respondents chose swimming and wading areas as either the first or second most important soundside recreation opportunity. A nature park with trails and fishing/crabbing opportunities ranked second and third with nearly 56% and 48%, respectively. Non-motorized boat access ranked fourth with nearly 15%. Motorized boat access and a public windsurfing area were least favored.

## ABOUT THE TOWN GROWTH, GENERALLY

### *Growth Rate*

To gauge perceptions of the rate of growth in Nags Head over the previous five years, respondents were asked to choose one of the following:

- much too slow;
- a little too slow;
- just about right;
- a little too fast; or
- much too fast.

Over 70% of all respondents felt that the Town has grown either a little too fast or much too fast over the past 5 years. Sixty-five (65%) of the year-round residents and 71% of the non-residents responding feel the Town has grown too fast in recent years. Only about 3% of year-round residents and 2.8% of non-residents feel the community has grown too slowly.

Of those choosing to respond to **Question 119**, 74 respondents said that they liked Nags Head because of its low rise, low density building development. Of those responding to **Question 120**, 148 respondents said that too much growth was what they liked least about Nags Head. Also, 82 respondents said that Nags Head was too crowded.

### *Family Beach Factors*

Respondents were asked their opinions regarding the relative importance of various community factors which may have some relationship to the preservation of Nags Head as a family beach.

Among seven items, low building heights and densities, open space, and single family housing emerged as the three most important items. In each case, over 90% of all respondents felt that these three items were either important or very important to the preservation of Nags Head as a family beach. The next most important factor was the preservation of old historic structures (83.2%). Least important among the factors identified were commercial development (67%) and amusements (59%). Differences in the response rates of year-round residents and non-residents were, for the most part, very slight.

Of those choosing to respond to **Question 119**, 277 respondents said that the quiet, family atmosphere was what they liked best. Similarly, 238 said that the Nags Head quality of life was what they liked best. Throughout the responses to **Question 119**, and particularly in the comments section, respondents offering an opinion echoed the theme to keep Nags Head residential and open.

## ABOUT COMMERCIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION

Respondents were overwhelming in their opinions that there are more than enough or enough commercial (rental) outdoor recreation facilities or opportunities in Nags Head. Most notably, over 94% of all respondents said there were more than enough or enough go carts/tracks while over 93% responded that there are more than enough or enough jet skis.

Seventeen respondents said that go-cart tracks and amusements were what they liked least about Nags Head, while 12 respondents said that jet skis were what they liked least about Nags Head.

### **ABOUT PERSONAL WATER CRAFT**

Respondents indicated their support of additional regulation of privately owned personal water craft use in the ocean by a 65% to 35% margin. A similar response rate (69.6% to 30.4%) indicates respondents' support for additional regulation of privately owned personal water craft in the sound.

Respondents indicated their support for additional regulations of commercially owned (rented) personal water craft in the sound by a margin of 63% to 35%.

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents think regulation of personal water craft use should be coordinated between Nags Head and Dare County.

### **ABOUT ADULT ENTERTAINMENT**

The Town asked respondents for their opinions regarding adult entertainment. Of those responding (over 90%), strongly agreed or agreed that adult entertainment would adversely affect property values in residential districts of Nags Head. Similarly, 88% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that adult entertainment would adversely affect other nearby commercial establishments and businesses in the Town. Respondents indicated that in their opinion (89%) adult entertainment would not enhance the vacation/resort attraction for Nags Head for vacationing families. Also, 80% strongly agreed or agreed that the presence of adult entertainment establishments in Nags Head would negatively influence their decision to buy a vacation cottage or home in Town if they were in the market to purchase one. Similarly, 76% of those responding strongly agreed or agreed that the presence of an adult establishment in the Town of Nags Head would negatively influence their decision to vacation in the Town. The response rates -- percentage agreeing or disagreeing -- among residents and non-residents were remarkably similar.

A common theme expressed in the comments section of the questionnaire dealt with the opposition to the location of adult entertainment establishments in Nags Head and the incompatibility of adult entertainment with the family beach concept. In addition, 277 of those offering a response to Question 119 said that the quiet, family atmosphere was what they liked best about Nags Head.

### **ABOUT WATER QUANTITY**

Nearly 85% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the potential affect of well drilling or well water use in the area around Fresh Pond and Nags Head Woods is an issue and should be studied by the Town.

### **ABOUT OFF-SHORE FOSSIL FUEL EXPLORATION**

Over 83% of those responding indicated opposition to off-shore fossil fuel exploration and/or extraction while over 86% of respondents indicated that they opposed the location of land based support activities in Nags Head for such activities.

## ABOUT BEACH EROSION

This question was designed to determine whether residents and property owners generally support the Town's current policy of retreating and moving back from the ocean as the beach erodes, or whether some other policy might be preferred. The findings reveal over 61% of all respondents ranked artificial reefs as their first or second choice as the best course of action.

The second ranked erosion abatement measure for all respondents was beach bulldozing at 45%. As a group, however, year round residents preferred retreat. Beach renourishment and retreat ranked third and fourth, respectively among all respondents and non-resident responders. Beach bulldozing and beach renourishment ranked third and fourth respectively among year round residents. Public acquisition of property ranked fifth in the all responder group and non-resident group responder, while relocation assistance was sixth. In the resident responder group, relocation assistance ranked fifth, while public acquisition of property was sixth.

In questions 54 - 60, the Town asked respondents if they would be willing to pay higher taxes or fees for the specified beach erosion abatement measures. Not surprisingly, more respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they would be willing to pay higher taxes or fees for artificial reefs (67%) with beach bulldozing second (58%), beach renourishment third (55%) and retreat fourth (40%). Relocation assistance and public acquisition of property did not garner much support from respondents.

With respect to how the Town's share of erosion abatement programs should be funded, the overwhelming response was through the Dare County Tourist Bureau. Among all respondents and non-resident respondents, Dare County ranked second, while the year-round residents grouping opted for a special surcharge for oceanfront property owners as the second most preferred funding source. All respondents taken together and non-resident respondents voted for a special surcharge for oceanfront property owners as their third funding choice. Residents voted for Dare County as the third funding choice for erosion abatement measures. Other measures or combinations of measures, ad valorem taxes, and commit no local funds, were the three least ranked options respectively.

Thirty-seven respondents said that beach erosion was what they liked least about Nags Head in response to Question 120.

## ABOUT RECYCLING

A series of statements were designed to determine the attitudes of respondents regarding various courses of action that the Town should take or continue concerning recycling. Nearly 53% of all respondents indicated that they recycle at the Town's collection centers, while 47% say they do not recycle at the centers. Of all respondents, 52% said that they recycle in another jurisdiction, while 48% said that they do not recycle in another jurisdiction. Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents indicated support for a mandatory recycling program, while 37% said that they would not support such a program. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of those responding indicated support for curb-side recycling, while 21% did not support this type program.

Nearly 86% of all respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the Town should promote a day to collect and dispose of household toxic chemicals.

## ABOUT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

A series of statements were designed to identify the viewpoints of respondents regarding various actions that could be taken to improve local transportation and traffic management in Nags Head. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that to the extent possible, the Town should limit the number of new streets and driveways entering South Croatan Highway (U.S. Route 158).

A majority (51%) of those responding disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Town should condemn or acquire private land for public roads to tie NC 12 to U.S. Route 158.

Responses indicate widespread support for the development of a bikeway or a multi-use pedestrian way along NC 12. Over 81% of respondents indicated that they strongly agree or agree with this concept.

Similarly, there is significant support (82%) for connecting bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways that are developed in Nags Head to bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways to adjoining jurisdictions. Over 81% of all respondents support the development of a bikeway and multi-use pedestrian way along NC12.

There is some support from the respondents for a local bus/trolley or other transit system to be instituted in the Town, especially among residents (56%).

The overwhelming response to Question 120 was that traffic was what they liked least about Nags Head.

## ABOUT SERVICE DELIVERY

Respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with the delivery of services by various Town departments. It is interesting to note that most Town departments were ranked excellent or good by those responding, whether they were residents or non-residents. Similarly, in general, the Town services overall were ranked excellent or good by over 90% of the respondents.

In response to Question 119, 65 respondents said that Town government and services were what they liked best about Nags Head.

## PAYING FOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Respondents were asked their priorities for public spending and their willingness to pay for programs, services, and facilities. Nearly 74% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they would pay for bikeways and multi-use pedestrian trails. Over 66% of respondents indicated that they strongly agree or agree that they would be willing to pay higher taxes for the preservation or acquisition of open spaces. Over 60% of respondents said that they would be willing to pay for curb-side pick-up of recyclables.

Among these and other alternative improvements that the Town could undertake, respondents would be willing to pay higher taxes for such facilities in the following order of priority:

- Bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways . . . . . 74%
- Preservation or acquisition of open spaces . . . . . 66%
- Curb-side pick-up of recyclables . . . . . 61%
- Recycling centers . . . . . 60%

- Placing existing overhead utilities underground .....53%
- Transportation (neighborhood street improvements) .....52%
- Ocean beach access areas .....47%
- Sound-side access areas .....47%
- A centralized sewage treatment system .....47%
- Expansion of Town recreation facilities .....39%

**ABOUT YOU AND NAGS HEAD**

***Primary Occupation***

The top three occupations of residents and non-residents were:

<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non-Residents</u>
(1) Retired (30%)	Professional/Technical (40%)
(2) Professional/Technical (27%)	Retired (29%)
(3) Manager/Proprietor (12%)	Manager/Proprietor (14%)

***Type of Property Owned***

The results indicate that nearly 8% of all non-resident respondents own only undeveloped property, compared to 2.6% of the year-round residents who responded. Over 14% of the year-round residents own both developed and undeveloped property, however. The vast majority of both year-round residents and non-residents (82% and 81%, respectively) own only developed property.

***Property Location***

A detailed breakdown of property ownership information yields the following comparison of resident and non-resident ownership patterns:

	<u>Property Location</u>	
	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non-Residents</u>
● On the causeway	3.2%	1.6%
● South of Whalebone Junction between the ocean and Old Oregon Inlet Road (NC 1243)	5.8%	20.9%
● South of Whalebone Junction between Old Oregon Inlet Road and Virginia Dare Trail (NC 12)	5.8%	9.2%
● Between ocean and Virginia Dare Trail (NC 12)	9.1%	21.1%
● Between Virginia Dare Trail and Croatan Highway (US 158)	14.3%	18.8%
● Between Roanoke Sound and Croatan Highway (US 158)	61.7%	28.4%

From these figures, it can be seen that the property of nearly two out of every three year-round residents is located on the Sound Side of the Bypass. Non-residents, on the other hand, tend to own property in a variety of areas in the Town.

*Residential Status*

The figures show that about a fourth of those choosing to return the questionnaire were year-round resident respondents while the three-fourths of the respondents were either non-resident owners or part-time residents.

*Age Group*

A slightly larger percentage of non-residents (69%) than residents (57%) fell into the two "over 50" age cohorts. Overall, however, the age distribution was quite similar and well dispersed among the various age groups. The 18-34 age cohort was least well represented among non-residents.

# COMPARISON OF 1990 AND 1996 QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

The following is a comparison of responses to similar questions in the 1990 Citizen Survey and the 1996 Citizen Questionnaire on Growth and Development. The purpose of this exercise is to highlight continuing opinion trends or to note changes therein. In general, the response rate to similar questions was very close, with the exception of the question concerning beach erosion. In 1990, 46% felt that the Town should continue the policy of retreating and moving back. In 1996, 61% ranked artificial reefs as the most desirable or second most desirable erosion abatement measure, while only 37% felt that retreat was most desirable.

## ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

### *OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS*

- 1990: 75% felt that the preservation or acquisition of open space along the ocean beaches was most important or second most important among the various open space options considered. (Q.1)
- 1996: 85% of all respondents identified open space along ocean beaches as either the first or second most important item. (Q.1)

### *SOUNDSIDE ACCESS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES*

- 1990: 54% felt that the preservation or acquisition of open space along the soundside shore and dunes was most important or second most important among the various open space options considered. (Q.2)
- 1996: 61% felt that the preservation or acquisition of open space along the soundside shore and dunes was most important or second most important among the various open space options considered.(Q.2)

### *PAYING FOR OPEN SPACE*

- 1990: 68% would be willing to pay higher taxes for preservation or acquisition of open space. 32% would not be willing. (Q.62)
- 1996: 66% would be willing to pay higher taxes for preservation or acquisition of open space. 25% would not be willing, while 9% were unsure. (Q.104)

### ***BEACH EROSION***

- 1990: 46% felt that the Town should continue the policy of retreating and moving back. 15% weren't sure about what to do. (Q.7)
- 1996: 61% ranked artificial reefs as the most desirable or second most desirable erosion abatement measure while 37% felt that retreat was the most desirable. (Q.53)

### ***OCEAN BEACH ACCESS***

- 1990: 65% felt that the Town's current mix of beach access areas was right. (Q.11)
- 1996: 56% felt that the Town's current mix of beach access areas was right and about 55% of all respondents agree or strongly agree that more small beach accesses are needed.(Q.8 and Q.10)

### ***FAMILY BEACH FACTORS***

- 1990: 86% felt that it was important or very important to limit commercial development, generally, to preserve Nags Head as "family beach." (Q. 25)
- 1996: Low building heights, open space, and single family housing emerged as the three most important ( $\geq 90\%$  each) factors necessary to preserve Nags Head as a "family beach." (Q.18 - Q.24)

### ***ABOUT TOWN GROWTH, GENERALLY***

- 1990: 73% felt that the Town had grown too fast in the previous five years. (Q.18)
- 1996: Over 70% felt that the Town has grown either a little too fast or much too fast over the past 5 years. (Q.17)

### ***ABOUT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION***

- 1990: 90% agreed or strongly agreed that the number of new driveways and streets entering South Croatan Highway should be limited. (Q.53)
- 1996: 85% agreed or strongly agreed that the number of new driveways and streets entering South Croatan Highway should be limited. (Q.72)

**PAYING FOR BIKEWAYS**

- 1990: 64% would be willing to pay higher taxes or fees for bikeways and walkways. (Q.71)
- 1996: 74% would be willing to pay higher taxes or fees for bikeways and multi-use pedestrian walkways. (Q.111)

**RESIDENTIAL STATUS**

- 1990: 24% were year round residents, 73% were non-resident property owners and 3% were part-time residents. (Q.73)
- 1996: 24% were year-round residents, 54% were non-resident property owners, and 21% were part-time residents. (Q.117)

**OCCUPATION**

- 1990: The top three occupational groups were: professional/technical (41%), retired (26%), and manager/proprietor (19%). (Q. 75)
- 1996: The top three occupational groups for all respondents were: professional/technical (36%), retired (29%), and manager/proprietor (14%). (Q.114)

**HOUSING LOCATION**

The local housing distribution of respondents in 1990 as compared to 1996 is as follows:

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1996</u>
On the causeway	2%	2%
South of Whalebone Junction, between Ocean and Old Oregon Inlet Road	20%	17%
South of Whalebone Junction, between Old Oregon Inlet Road and US 12	8%	8%
Between Ocean and Virginia Dare Trail	16%	18%
Between Virginia Dare Trail and the Bypass	20%	18%
Between Roanoke Sound and the Bypass	35%	37%

**AGE**

The age distribution of survey respondents, in order of magnitude, was as follows: (Q.79)

1990:	50-64 (38%)	35-49 (33%)	over 64 (22%)	18-34 (6%)
1996:	50-64 (41%)	35-49 (30%)	over 64 (25%)	18-34 (4%)

## QUESTIONNAIRE FINDINGS AND LAND USE PLANNING

This report recommends that the Town give special attention to the following issues during the forthcoming update to the CAMA land use plan. The issues that follow stem from the level of support or interest reflected by responses in the questionnaire and the written comments offered by respondents. The questions and statements which follow the issues listed below, are meant to stimulate thought with respect to the issues and how they relate to land use planning and the governance of Nags Head. These issues "surfaced" because of response rates and comments occurring in the questionnaire.

- Open space/natural areas - What are the options available to protect or acquire important natural areas, especially open space along the oceanfront? Over 85% of all respondents identified open space along ocean beaches as either the first or second most important item. Also, 129 respondents said that Nags Head's natural beauty was what they liked best.
- Beach access - Fifty-five percent (55%) of all respondents agree or strongly agree that more small beach accesses are needed. Where can more small beach access areas be provided?
- Beach erosion - Sixty-one percent (61%) of all respondents ranked artificial reefs as their first or second choice as the best course of action. The current Town policy of retreating and moving back should be examined in the light of this response rate. What policy should be pursued?
- Development density - Should the Town revise or continue current development density standards? Over 70% of all respondents felt that the Town has either grown a little too fast or much too fast over the past 5 years. Also, of those responding to **Question 120**, a total of 230 indicated that too much growth and too much crowding were what they liked least about Nags Head. Of those choosing to respond to **Question 119**, 74 said that low rise and low density building development were what they liked best about Nags Head.
- Community appearance, generally - One hundred twenty-nine (129) respondents said that the natural beauty of Nags Head was what they liked best about the Town. Similarly, 12 respondents said that community appearance factors and overhead utilities were what they liked least about the Town. From this input it appears that the Town should look at strategies to improve or maintain community appearance generally. Are new standards or guidelines for the placement of overhead utilities underground needed?
- Recycling - Would a voluntary curbside recycling program work in Nags Head? What would it cost? Sixty-three percent (63%) of all respondents indicated support for a mandatory recycling program while 79% of those responding indicated support for curbside recycling.

- **Bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways** - Where are additional facilities needed, and where can they be constructed? Seventy-four percent (74%) of all respondents said they would be willing to pay higher taxes for bikeways and multi-use pedestrian ways. Given the level of support evident for this type of facility, and the fact that neighboring jurisdictions are constructing similar facilities, Nags Head should examine cooperative efforts and should examine where additional facilities are needed and where they most likely can be constructed.
- **Recreation** - Generally, respondents prefer passive recreation opportunities. In particular, 62% of all respondents chose swimming and wading areas as either the first or second most soundside recreation opportunity. A nature park with trails and fishing and crabbing opportunities ranked second and third. The Town should examine ways to create more passive recreation areas and opportunities.
- **Commercial outdoor recreation and personal water craft** - Enough is enough in the view of most questionnaire responders. What additional regulations are needed?
- **Adult entertainment** - What strategies or steps can Nags Head take to restrict these land uses and keep its "family beach" image intact? Responses to the questionnaire and additional comments offered by respondents indicate strong opinions against adult entertainment locating in Nags Head. In short, most respondents see this type of development as a contradiction to the family beach atmosphere that makes Nags Head so appealing.
- **Water quantity** - Nearly 85% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the potential effect of well drilling or well water use in area around the Fresh Pond and Nags Head Woods is an issue and should be studied by the Town. What additional regulations are needed or available to the Town to protect water supplies?
- **Off-shore fossil fuel exploration** - Over 83% of those responding indicated opposition to off-shore fossil fuel exploration and/or extraction while over 86% of respondents indicated that they oppose location of land base support activities in Nags Head for such activities. Policies or strategies to protect the national environment should address this issue in the land use plan.