

**Years Residing in South Hadley: 30+ Years
(31 Responses)**

1. *What do you like most about living in South Hadley? (i.e. schools, parks, people, etc.)*

No Response (2)
Schools (6)
Sense of community (in some neighborhoods)
Small quaint, friendly place (6)
Nice community
People (12)
My neighbors (2)
River (2)
Parks (3)
Safe, secure neighborhoods
Rural/Suburban setting (2)
Close to cultural/business areas (4)
Diverse residents
Community pride
MHC (3)
Mt. Holyoke Range (2)
Same arch.
Friendly, hometown atmosphere
Quiet, picturesque N.E. town (11)
Little commercialization
Easy commute to Boston, etc.
Valley w/5 Colleges (2)
Open Space (2)
Beauty & scenery (2)
St. Patrick Community
Quiet serenity (2)
Council on Aging
Circuit breaker tax help

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2. *What is your biggest community concern? (i.e. housing, taxes, economic development, etc.)*

Taxes (19)
Water rates
Sewer/trash fees
Economic Development/need more businesses (5)
High budget for schools
Schools – condition of facilities (2)
Policing
Growing crime rate
Insufficient police coverage 2nd & 3rd shifts
Fire
Development (2)
Development of remaining open space/habitat areas (6)
Increase in condo projects/MF (5)
Housing (4)
Bus. Dev. vs. housing development
More people should walk (work, school, & other)
Over development/building (2)
Improve/enforce local ordinances to better maintain private open space
Better maintain public buildings and roadways
Revitalize Falls (2)
Affordable Housing
Dress, bullying in public schools
Sprawl, esp. miniature castles
Falls/Center dichotomy
Invasive exotic plants
Population density
Lack of controlled growth to keep pace w/utility exp.
Development of land off Alvord St.
2 fire districts/water depts. (2)
Protect homeowners from zoning changes
Expanding Commercialism
Town Management
Preserving remaining farm land
Senior housing/elderly housing doesn't fit a couple (2)
Tax relief for elderly
Care for elderly
Impact of Town Commons design
Cleanliness
Ledges (forward _____ town)
How tax money is spent (don't need golf course, tennis court, or spray park) (3)

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3. *Assuming you had no constraints, what is your greatest wish or vision for South Hadley? (New schools, outdoor pool and other public facilities, historic and natural preservation, etc.)*

No Response
Water park
Better sports programs
New schools (3)
Replace Plains School
Do not build new schools (add on/renovate existing)
Improved/expanded schools
Preserve/upgrade existing parks
New Parks
Revitalization/use of existing parks (3)
Preserve more land (we have enough housing, schools, etc.) (12)
To remain a small place (2)
Community Center for families & activities
New library
Sidewalks/Walking Trails (2)
More museums
Other factual family places
Historic Preservation (9)
Stop over development
Revitalize Falls (2)
Control of invasive exotic plants & restriction of natives
No need for a \$20M preschool
Keep up the buildings we have
More personal contact w/Town Management
Expand & improve Main Library
New building for Council on Aging
Getting younger adults involved
New outdoor pool
Sell the Ledges
Services allowed to maintain quality living for seniors with no concern about increase on health costs, taxes, and other fees wisely spend tax dollars
Dissolve Town Meeting & Selectboard, getting input on big decisions from all taxpayers
Transportation
Affordable assisted living for older middle class
Increase in public facilities

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4. *What are the most politically sensitive local issues and how do they relate to the Comprehensive Plan?*

No response (3)
Golf Course – Town will never make money running a golf course (12)
Town/college relationship need to be strengthened
Form of government (3)
Town meeting vs. mayor
City type Mg't. vs. Town Control
Charter change to mandate Professional Town Management
Need a Town Council w/a Chief Administrator
Eliminate Selectboard & Town meeting
Better gov't. (possibly mayor) (4)
Revision of Zoning laws
Combining Districts
Money vs. what is best to maintain suburban quality
Relocate Post Office (Press Federal government)
“Old boy” network related to building
No follow up on developers
Accepting donations of useless land from developers
Citizen involvement on all aspects (including Zoning & Bylaws)
ANR Plans
No more condo development (2)
No more low-income housing
No more juvenile detention centers
No more gas stations/mini-marts
How best to negotiate development pressures
Condos – not necessarily eyesores, not everyone wants to live in a house
Increasing taxes
Increasing recycling/trash w/out community voting on it
To get more people of all ages involved
Keep to Town conservative
Don't spend money that we don't have
Preserve open spaces
Merge Fire districts/water departments
Taxes

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5. *What are the most important development and zoning issues facing South Hadley?*

No Response (5)

Have to go through too many steps to get anything done

A lot of new development – too much? (2)

McMansions

Too many condos (10)

Housing

We have no more land, its more like Chicopee

Encourage more businesses (hotels, Applebee's, Olive Garden, etc.) Chicopee has more restaurants than S.H. has trees

Concerns development places on sewer, traffic, schools

Coherent planning to improve Town image

Place all overhead wiring underground

Town/gown division

Lack of industrial Development

Conversion of industrial land to residential

Lack of moratorium on res. Development

Too much congestion

No plans for open space & future

Sprawl

Need mixed use development

Maximum House size (2)

Need more industrial area/less industrial Park

Affordable housing

Rubber stamp on Zoning issues

Conservation Commission waivers on wetland issues

Golf Course Management

Preserving residential neighborhoods

Planning Board is too lenient granting zone changes

Loss of open land (3)

Loss of wildlife habitat

Districts should be under one management

Inform citizens of changes to Zoning Bylaw

Enforce Bylaws

Maintaining

Be open minded, but conservative on changing zoning bylaws, etc.

Continue seeing sunset behind mountain and not smokestacks

To cautiously allow development before all the beauty is destroyed

Industry

Business (2)

Too much development

Affordable housing for couples

Over population

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6. *What questions would you like answered by the Comprehensive Plan?*

No Response (10)

Will schools or golf course take precedence

What can S.H. do to increase sense of community town-wide

Water/fire district issues & golf course – splitting community

Same people always at functions – How can we get more people to attend?

Keep us small

How are we going get our schools competitive again?

Change government to Mayor

New form of government – Mayor, Districts

Town Management and Districts under 1 management

Maintain quality of life

Growth, but enucleate type of growth & long-term impact

Green growth, leave open land in all parks

What will the Town be in 10-20 years?

How to curtail new residential onstruction of McMansions?

How to encourage affordable housing

Will ecosystems/buffer areas be protected?

Will small parks be established w/in residential areas?

Can we get some real mixed-use development?

A good idea of how the majority of residents feel on these issues so I can decide on moving out of town or not

A good Comprehensive Plan, addressing controlled growth, industrial development and land preservation

Maintenance of Conservation Commission Areas

Why doesn't the Planning Board pay attention to the neighbors who oppose zone changes?

Why have zoning if it can be changed so easily?

How can we preserve and protect, to the best of our abilities, the wonderful natural environs that we enjoy?

Common sense – not pie in the sky

To determine how development should occur keeping the best interest of residents present & future in mind

Don't we deserve an auto agency

Address – quiet & serenity, Mt. Holyoke Range, Ledges, how taxes are spent, quality education, land preservation, senior citizen needs, form of government, merger of fire districts

Lower taxes

Will anyone stop wasting of our money?

What are we doing to attract commercial and industrial business?