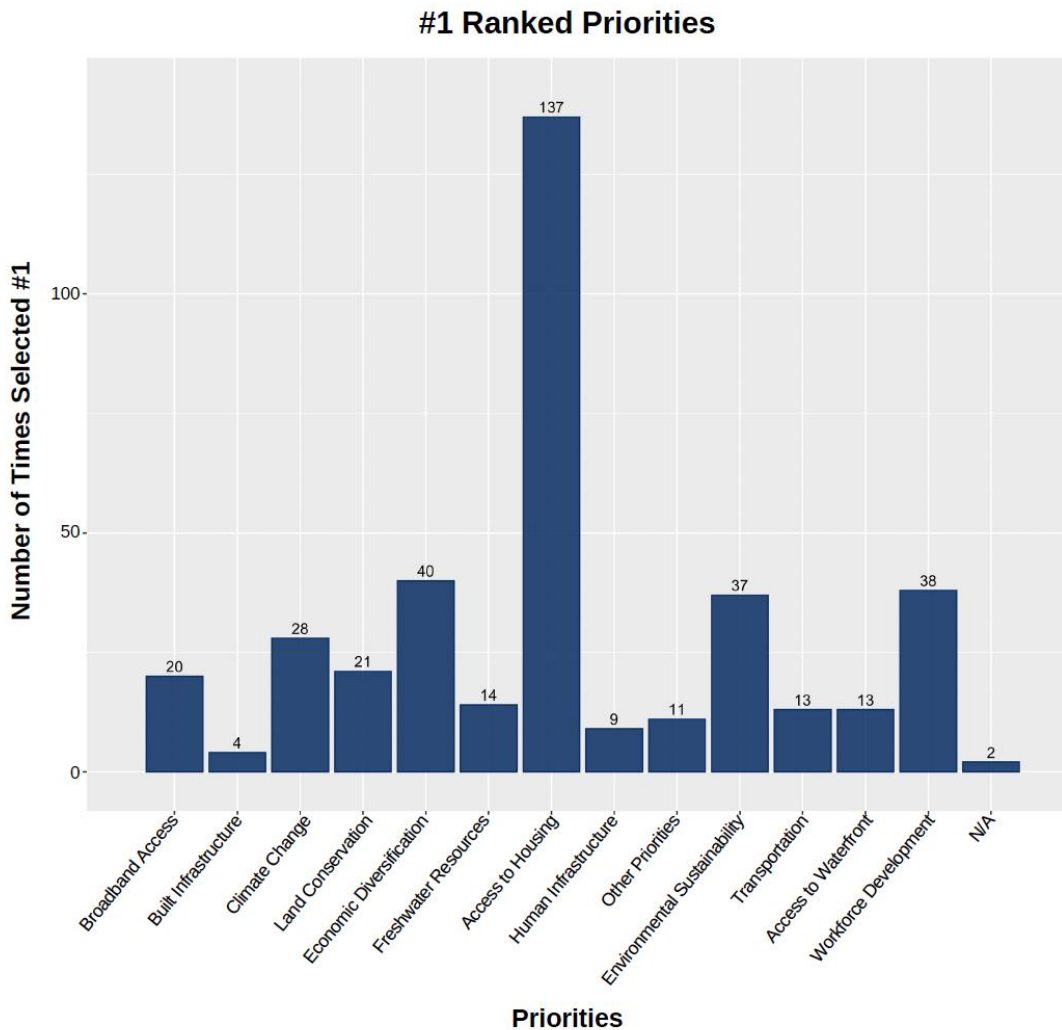


Access to Housing: Summary of Community Input

The following report is a compilation of the data related to housing that was collected during the 2021 Community Vision Process through the Community Vision Survey and Community Conversations.

Community Survey Results

The Community Survey asked respondents to rank, in order of priority, the issues that the Town or community organizations should work to address over the next 1-10 years. As displayed in this graph, Access to Housing was frequently ranked as the top priority. 35% of respondents ranked Access to Housing as their top issue. In addition to being the top #1 ranked priority, Access to Housing was ranked in the top 5 priorities by 78% of respondents. For a more detailed report on the entire results of the Survey, see the Survey and Community Conversations Findings Report.



Community Survey Comments

Survey respondents were given space to write in additional concerns and challenges that they felt the North Haven community should commit to working on. Many respondents chose to elaborate on challenges relating to housing using this space. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged in these comments.

Summary of Themes from Community Survey

- ❖ *There is a shortage of affordable housing.*
- ❖ *There is a shortage of both year-round rental and buying opportunities.*
- ❖ *The housing shortage impacts the ability to provide adequate human infrastructure services, limits economic opportunities, and constrains workforce development.*
- ❖ *The housing shortage impacts the school, reducing the number of families able to live on the island and making it difficult to adequately support teachers and staff.*
- ❖ *We need to understand the impacts of short-term rentals, like Airbnb and VRBO, on year-round housing stock and affordability.*
- ❖ *Access to housing impacts the viability and vibrancy of the whole community.*

Community Conversation Results

In addition to the Community Survey, community members had the opportunity to participate in facilitated small-group community conversations and share their thoughts via email, phone calls, and one-on-one conversations. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged during these discussions.

Summary of Themes from Community Conversations

- ❖ *Housing costs and availability contribute to the housing crisis.*
- ❖ *Lack of year-round housing (rental and buying opportunities) is a major problem.*
- ❖ *Housing instability impacts everything-- job, mental health, children.*
- ❖ *Lack of year-round housing is causing people to leave the island.*
- ❖ *Market prices for houses are not affordable.*
- ❖ *The housing problem is not new, but it seems to be getting worse.*
- ❖ *Land prices impact affordability of housing and housing solutions.*
- ❖ *Housing shortage negatively impacts the school, which loses out on students and teachers/staff.*
- ❖ *There is a lack of year-round and short-term workforce housing.*
- ❖ *What role can the Town play in addressing the lack of year-round housing?*
- ❖ *What is the role of short-term rentals (like Airbnb and VRBO) in the community? What ability does the Town have to regulate these rentals?*
- ❖ *There are opportunities for partnerships and creative solutions when it comes to solving the housing crisis.*