Town of Cranberry Isles

Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

2026

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Your responses will help guide the Cranberry Isles Comprehensive Plan. This survey is anonymous. Only Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) staff will see raw data. All data used in the updated plan will be de-identified. Please only complete one survey per person.

SECTION 1: Vision for Cranberry Isles

1. **What are 2 or 3 things you value most about Cranberry Isles?**

   - _____
   - _____
   - _____

2. **What are 2 or 3 issues that concern you most about Cranberry Isles over the next 20 years?**

   - _____
   - _____
   - _____

3. **Where would you like to see Cranberry Isles in 5-10 years? What should the Selectboard be prioritizing?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. **During the last 3 years, I think Cranberry Isles' population has:**
   - ☐ Increased a lot
   - ☐ Increased somewhat
   - ☐ Stayed about the same
   - ☐ Decreased
   - ☐ Unsure

5. **During the next 10 years, I would like Cranberry Isles' population to:**
   - ☐ Stay the same
   - ☐ Slowly increase
   - ☐ Increase rapidly
   - ☐ Decrease
   - ☐ Unsure

6. **Which of the following do you expect to do over the next 5 years? (Check all that apply)**
   - ☐ Move to Cranberry Isles year-round
   - ☐ Make Cranberry Isles my primary residence (6+ months)
   - ☐ Buy or build a home on Cranberry Isles
   - ☐ Move away from Cranberry Isles
   - ☐ Sell a home on Cranberry Isles
   - ☐ Sell vacant land on Cranberry Isles
   - ☐ Subdivide my land for sale
   - ☐ Provide land for a family member to build a home
   - ☐ Start a business at my residence
   - ☐ Start a business outside my residence
   - ☐ List a property as a short-term rental (e.g., Airbnb/VRBO)
   - ☐ List a room or portion of a property as a short-term rental
   - ☐ Make changes to my home to save energy or switch to renewable energy sources
   - ☐ Retire or reduce to part-time work

7. **Cranberry Isles is made up of multiple island communities governed by a single town. What do you see as the greatest challenges and opportunities that come with this shared structure?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION 2: Community Services and Facilities

8. Please provide your opinion of the quality of these services and facilities:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	DON'T KNOW
Town Office customer service					
Code enforcement					
Road maintenance (town roads)					
Snow removal and sanding					
Public transportation					
Ferry services					
Barge services					
Town dock and hoist					
Dock shelter and waiting area					
Package sheds					
On-island parking					
Mainland parking					
Manset Transportation Facility					
Fire protection					
Emergency services (EMTs)					
Elementary school education					
Elementary school facility					
Cemeteries					
Solid waste services					
Recycling programs					
Public bathrooms					
Public access to saltwater					
Recreational facilities					
Recreational programs					

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	ADEQUATE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	DON'T KNOW
Youth programs					
Senior citizen services					
CIRT housing					
GCI General Store and Co-Op Store					
Cell phone service					
Internet access (broadband)					

If you would like to comment on these or other services, please do so here:

_____

_____

_____

9. **Do you feel your local government is:**
   - ☐ Providing all necessary services
   - ☐ Providing more services than necessary
   - ☐ Providing unnecessary services and not sufficiently providing necessary services

10. **What model of governance do you feel would work best for the town?** *For more information on forms of municipal government, please visit:* www.memun.org/Training/Citizen-Education/Forms-of-Government
    - ☐ Selectboard with Town Manager
    - ☐ Selectboard with Administrative Assistant (Current Model)
    - ☐ Selectboard Only
    - ☐ Unsure / Need More Information
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

11. **Do you feel you get good value for your tax dollars? Please explain.**

_____

_____

12. What can the Town government do to improve service to, and communication with, residents?

_____

_____

SECTION 3: Investment Priorities

13. I would like the Town to invest more in the following:

	YES — EVEN IF IT MEANS RAISING PROPERTY TAXES	YES — ONLY IF GRANTS/SUBSIDIES/DONATIONS REDUCE COST	NO
Education, primary (pre-K-8)			
Education, secondary (9-12)			
Youth services			
Senior citizen services			
Recruiting new year-round residents			
Town road improvements			
Pedestrian infrastructure			
Public transportation (rideshare, etc.)			
Town ferry service			
Barge services			
Town dock and thoroughfare			
Manset Transportation Facility			
Mooring management (on-island)			
Package sheds			
Parking on-island			
Mainland parking			
Solid waste disposal			

	YES — EVEN IF IT MEANS RAISING PROPERTY TAXES	YES — ONLY IF GRANTS/SUBSIDIES/DONATIONS REDUCE COST	NO
Bulky waste disposal			
Recycling programs			
Litter control			
Exploring alternative energy development			
Controlling invasive plants and animals			
Affordable housing			
Workforce housing			
Local jobs and business opportunities			
Municipal recreation opportunities			
Law enforcement			
Animal control			
Executive management of the town government			

Is there anything else you think the Town should invest in, or would you like to comment?

_____

_____

_____

14. Please check your top three investment priorities for the Town:

____ Education
____ Housing
____ Employment opportunities
____ Waterfront infrastructure
____ Road maintenance
____ Emergency services (fire and emergency medical services)

____ Boating and ferry services
____ Environmental protection
____ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 4: Land Use

15. Please check where you feel it is most appropriate for the following land uses to occur in the future:

	ANYWHERE	IN DESIGNATED AREAS	NOWHERE	UNDECIDED
Forestry				
Agriculture				
Aquaculture				
Commercial fishing				
Commercial operations				
Gravel pits and quarries				
Community solar arrays				
Commercial solar farms				
Commercial wind farms				
Retail stores				
Restaurants				
Inns and hotels				
Short-term rental properties (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.)				
Campgrounds				
Single family housing				
Senior housing				
Workforce housing				
Affordable housing				
Multi-unit housing				
Mobile homes				

	ANYWHERE	IN DESIGNATED AREAS	NOWHERE	UNDECIDED
Mobile home parks				

Are there any other land uses that you think should be more actively managed?

_____

_____

_____

16. How involved should the Town be in planning for and protecting the following? *Examples of Town involvement include adopting land use ordinances, supporting conservation partnerships, managing public access, and planning for intertidal harvesting.*

	MORE INVOLVED	ABOUT THE SAME	LESS INVOLVED	UNSURE
Agricultural land				
Aquifers and drinking water				
Coastal land				
Forested land				
Historical and archaeological resources				
Lakes and ponds				
Recreational open space (inland)				
Recreational waterfront access				
Intertidal areas and clam access				
Scenic views				
Streams and rivers				
Wetlands				
Wildlife habitats				
Working waterfronts				

Is there anything else you think the Town should or should not be involved in protecting?

_____

_____

_____

SECTION 5: Housing

17. Does your household provide housing on Cranberry Isles for seasonal or temporary workers (including renting rooms)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. Please check the top three types of housing development you feel should be prioritized:

____ Affordable housing

____ Workforce housing

____ Senior housing

____ Multi-unit housing

____ Single-family homes

____ Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)

____ Mobile homes

19. What do you think the biggest barriers to developing housing on the islands are?

_____

_____

_____

20. To what extent do you think Cranberry Isles should regulate short-term rentals (e.g., Airbnb, VRBO)?

☐ No regulation

☐ Light regulation

☐ Moderate regulation

☐ Strict regulation

☐ Unsure

21. If you support some level of regulation, what types should the Town consider? (Check all that apply)

☐ Minimum stay requirements

☐ Cap on the total number of short-term rentals in Town

☐ Requirement to live on the property or an adjacent property

☐ Fee and registration requirements

☐ Requirement that renters receive information about island resources, emergency services, and community protocols

☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 6: Environmental & Climate

22. During the past 3 years, to what extent have you observed the following on Cranberry Isles?

	FREQUENTLY	SOMEWHAT	MINIMALLY	NOT AT ALL	UNSURE
Changes in habitat for marine species					
Changes in habitat for non-marine species					
Diminished fishing or harvesting catches					
Decline in previously thriving plant or animal species					
An increase in invasive plant or animal species					
Increased coastal erosion					
Increased coastal flooding					
Inland flooding					
Increased property damage from natural storm events					
More frequent utility outages during storm events					
Shoreline change					
Sea-level rise requiring docks or structures to be raised					

	FREQUENTLY	SOMEWHAT	MINIMALLY	NOT AT ALL	UNSURE
Changes in boat or vessel services					
Saltwater intrusion into drinking water					
Increased noise pollution					
Increased light pollution					

Please describe any environmental changes you have observed that are not listed above:

_____

_____

_____

23. There are State and Federal grants available for the following initiatives. How would you rate your support for each?

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	DON'T SUPPORT
Develop a capital investment plan that identifies vulnerable municipal assets and prioritizes resilience improvements				
Map sea level rise projections for use in future facilities planning				
Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities				
Adopt a policy that prioritizes green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff				
Improve and protect drinking water infrastructure to sustain function during extreme weather events				
Conduct a baseline study of energy usage for all municipal and school buildings				
Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency improvements to municipal and school buildings, including heat pumps				

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	DON'T SUPPORT
Purchase or lease electric vehicles (EVs) for municipal use				
Explore alternative energy development (solar, wind, or microgrid)				
Set targets for increasing green space and tree planting to increase shade and carbon sequestration				

SECTION 7: Basic Necessities

All properties on Cranberry Isles rely on private wells and septic systems. These questions help the Town understand the scope of water quality and infrastructure challenges.

24. Have you experienced either of the following at your Cranberry Isles property?

	YES	NO
My well has gone dry in the last 5 years		
I have experienced saltwater intrusion into my well in the last 5 years		

25. Would you support the Town offering financial assistance to help residents with septic system pumping and maintenance costs? *For reference, the Town of Mount Desert offers rebates for pumping in areas without access to a treatment plant.*

- ☐ Yes, I would support this
- ☐ No, I would not support this
- ☐ Unsure / I'd like to learn more

26. Do you support the following municipal actions to assist homeowners with financial needs for home upgrades and repairs?

	YES	NO
Provide educational and outreach materials about energy audit and upgrade programs		
Help residents connect with Downeast Community Partners and other resources		

SECTION 8: Internet Access and Technology

27. What barriers, if any, prevent your household from using the internet? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ No barriers - our household uses the internet
- ☐ We do not know how to use computers, tablets, or other internet devices
- ☐ Our household does not have a computer, tablet, or internet device
- ☐ We are not interested in using the internet
- ☐ No internet service is available at our location
- ☐ The cost of internet service is too high

28. What types of educational opportunities to improve your computer and internet skills would be of interest (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Connecting with family and friends
- ☐ Access to healthcare or government services
- ☐ Business and marketing
- ☐ Working from home or remote employment
- ☐ Professional development
- ☐ Education and learning
- ☐ Community and civic engagement
- ☐ I'm not interested in education opportunities to improve my computer or internet skills

SECTION 9: Food Access

29. Approximately what percentage of your household's groceries do you purchase on island (from GCI General Store or Islesford Store)?

- ☐ 0-10%
- ☐ 11-25%
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ More than 75%

SECTION 10: Recreation

30. What recreational activities do members of your household engage in on-island? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Running
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Kayaking or canoeing
- ☐ Tennis or pickleball
- ☐ Bicycling
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Picnicking or cooking outdoors
- ☐ Hunting

- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ ATVing
- ☐ Snowmobiling
- ☐ Soccer
- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Golf
- ☐ Cross-country skiing
- ☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

SECTION 11: Hunting

These questions address community perceptions of hunting practices on the islands.

31. How would you describe your perception of hunting practices on Cranberry Isles? (Select one)

- ☐ Most hunters follow the law and show respect for the community
- ☐ Some hunters do not follow the law or show adequate respect
- ☐ Hunting practices are a significant concern for the community
- ☐ I don't have enough information to say

32. Do you think there should be more limitations on hunting on the islands?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

33. Please share any additional thoughts on hunting:

_____

_____

_____

SECTION 12: Community Organizations and Spaces

34. In the last year, how often have you utilized the following community spaces?

	NEVER	INFREQUENTLY	REGULARLY	NOT APPLICABLE
Ladies Aid (GCI)				
Cranberry House (GCI)				
GCI Church (Non-religious activities)				
Islesford Neighborhood House (Islesford)				

Please share any additional thoughts on community spaces or organizations:

_____

_____

SECTION 13: Moorings and Harbor Management

35. Do you believe the management of moorings is a concern for the community?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

36. Do you believe the Town should have more oversight of mooring placement and management?

- ☐ Yes, even if it would require the movement of some current moorings
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

37. Please share any additional thoughts on mooring management or harbor planning:

_____

_____

SECTION 14: Commuting and Transportation

38. If there were an on-island ride-sharing or transportation service (similar to Lyft or a taxi service), would you use it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe, depending on cost and availability

39. If you live on Cranberry Isles, where do you work? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ On mainland
- ☐ Work from home
- ☐ Work on home island
- ☐ Work on neighboring island

40. If you live or work on Cranberry Isles, how do you get to work? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Work from home
- ☐ Walk or bike
- ☐ Drive
- ☐ Boat

41. How frequently do you use the following means to travel between islands and the mainland?

	NEVER	OCCASIONAL USE	ONLY SEASONALLY	DAILY
Beal and Bunker, Inc				
Cranberry Cove				
Commuter Boat				
Water Taxis				
Employer-Provided Transportation				
Personal Boat				

SECTION 14: Public Safety

42. Do you feel there is a need for increased law enforcement on the islands?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

43. What areas of public safety concern you most? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Speeding
- ☐ Drunk or underage drivers
- ☐ Access to emergency medical services
- ☐ Hunting safety near roads and homes
- ☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

44. How would you describe the Town's approach to public safety and risk?

- ☐ The current approach to risk and safety is appropriate
- ☐ The Town should take a more active role in managing safety risks
- ☐ The Town is overly restrictive
- ☐ Unsure

SECTION 15: Demographics

45. Which island do you primarily identify with as your "home island"?

- ☐ Great Cranberry Island (GCI)
- ☐ Islesford (Little Cranberry Island)
- ☐ Sutton
- ☐ Baker
- ☐ Bear

46. What type of Cranberry Isles resident are you?

- ☐ Year-round resident (6-12 months per year)
- ☐ Seasonal resident (less than 6 months per year)
- ☐ Not a resident (property owner, visitor, or business operator)

47. How would you best describe your current living situation when on island?

- ☐ I own the home where I live
- ☐ I rent the home where I live
- ☐ I live with others (friends, family, etc.)
- ☐ Other_____

48. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 19-29
- ☐ 30-44
- ☐ 45-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+

49. What is your annual household income?

- ☐ Less than $25,000
- ☐ $25,000 to $49,999
- ☐ $50,000 to $74,999
- ☐ $75,000 to $99,999
- ☐ $100,000 to $149,999
- ☐ $150,000 to $199,999
- ☐ $200,000 or more

50. How much land do you own on Cranberry Isles?

- ☐ 0 acres (I do not own land here)
- ☐ Less than 1 acre
- ☐ 1-5 acres
- ☐ 5-25 acres

☐ More than 25 acres

51. What is your household size? _____

52. What is your employment status? (Select one)

☐ Employed full time
☐ Employed part time
☐ Self-employed
☐ Semi-Retired
☐ Retired
☐ Other, Please Specify: _____

53. What is your primary occupation?

_____

54. What is your educational attainment?

☐ Less than high school diploma
☐ High school diploma or equivalent
☐ Some college, no degree
☐ Associate degree
☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Graduate or professional degree

55. How many years have you been visiting or living on Cranberry Isles SEASONALLY?

_____

56. How many years have you been visiting or living on Cranberry Isles YEAR-ROUND?

_____

SECTION 16: Additional Comments

57. What else would you like to share with the comprehensive planning committee or the selectboard?

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