



Recreation Survey Report

March 16, 2021

Prepared by:



INTRO:

The 2021 Gorham Recreation Survey was designed to gather local insight to inform the town's branding and wayfinding projects ahead.

Respondents shared a wealth of feedback and open-ended text responses.

There was a mix of full-time residents, seasonal second home owners, and occasional travelers or visitors represented.

The survey was open to anyone who lives and/or recreates in Gorham.

Responses were collected from February 1 to March 15.

The survey was shared via social media and direct email link sent to local recreation groups, businesses and the Chamber of Commerce.



273

Total responses collected.

What's Inside?

Page 2 - 9 features summaries, graphs, visuals and insight from the survey data.

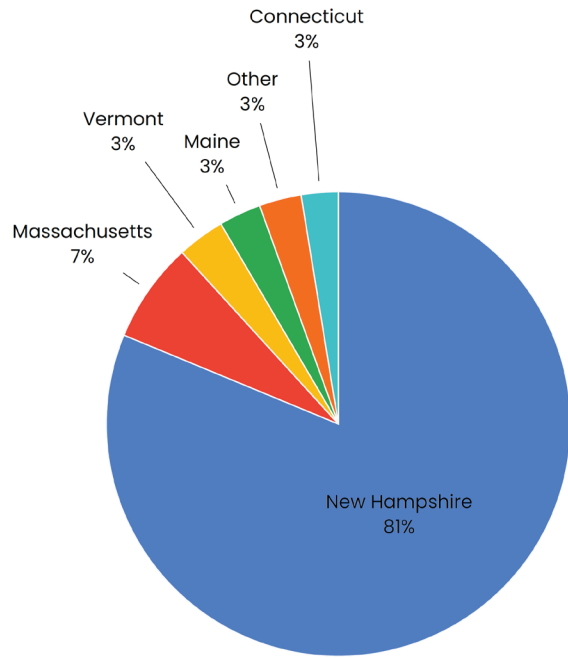
Page 10 - 26 features full open-ended text responses.

1.

I am a resident of...



273 Respondents by State:



New Hampshire
221

Massachusetts
19

Vermont
9

Maine
8

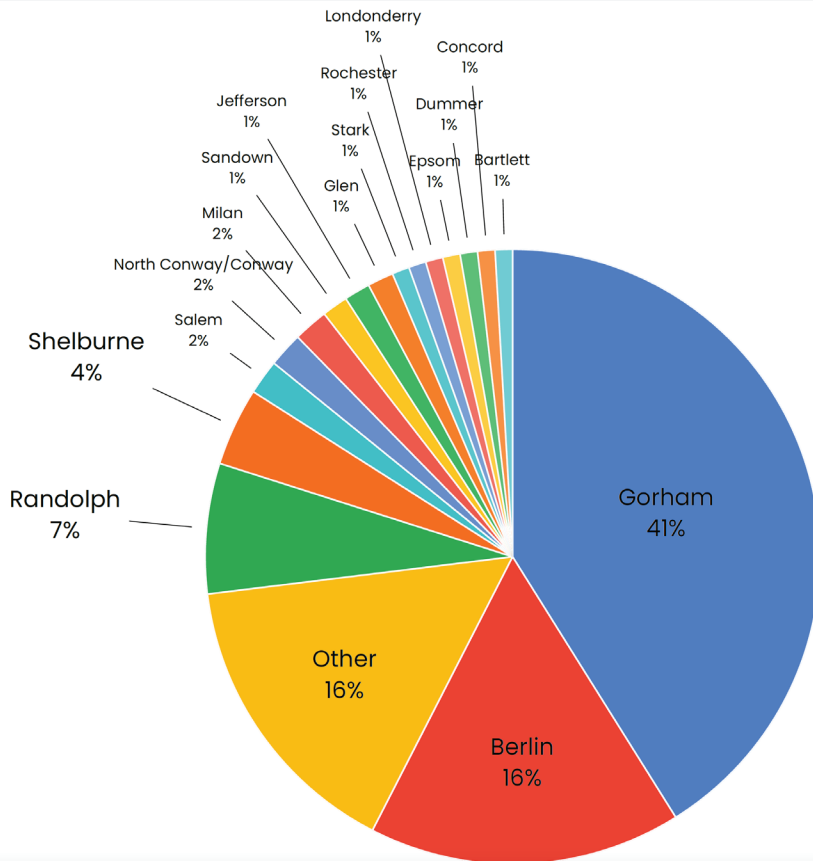
Other
8

Connecticut
7

4% of respondents noted having second homes in Berlin, Gorham or Randolph.

Items with only one unique response were grouped into "other."

Of the 221 Respondents from NH:



Gorham
90

Berlin
36

Randolph
15

Shelburne
9

Other NH
Communities:
71

A few highlights....

“

- A small, quaint town which could serve as a launching pad for a myriad of outdoor activities.
- Beautiful small town in northern NH where there's hiking and water to be found in every direction.
- A rural paradise of adventure.
- A great combination of real outdoor wilderness adventure with many higher-end amenities. Where else can you explore the Great Gulf Wilderness, go above tree line, see moose and then have dinner at a world-class restaurant?
- Beautiful. Quaint. Underrated.
- Adventure town. Could be the east coast version of Moab, UT.
- You could spend an entire life exploring this region and find new experiences all along the way.
- Gorham used to be a lovely hiking town at the foothills of the White Mountains, a quiet, scenic town away from the bustle of cities. It is now overrun with ATVs. I avoid Gorham on weekends and busy holiday weeks. I wish it had remained a people-powered community.
- A very beautiful ATV-friendly town.
- Small town atmosphere. Lots of good restaurants. Very walkable most of the year. Snowmobiles on sidewalks make walking in winter difficult.
- The absolute most beautiful, friendly, fun and exciting place that we frequent often.

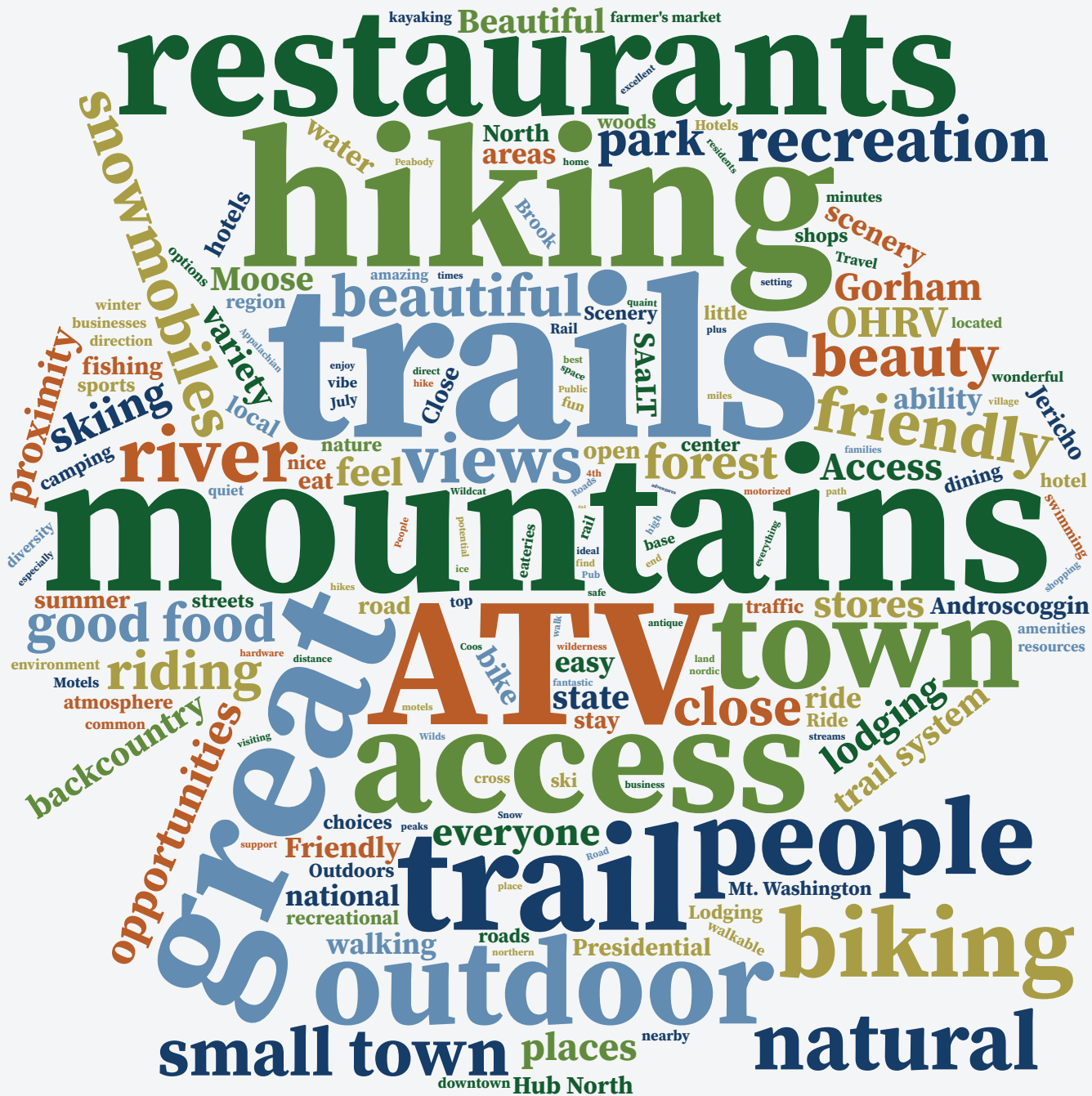
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See more in Text Response Section, p. 11-19.

3.

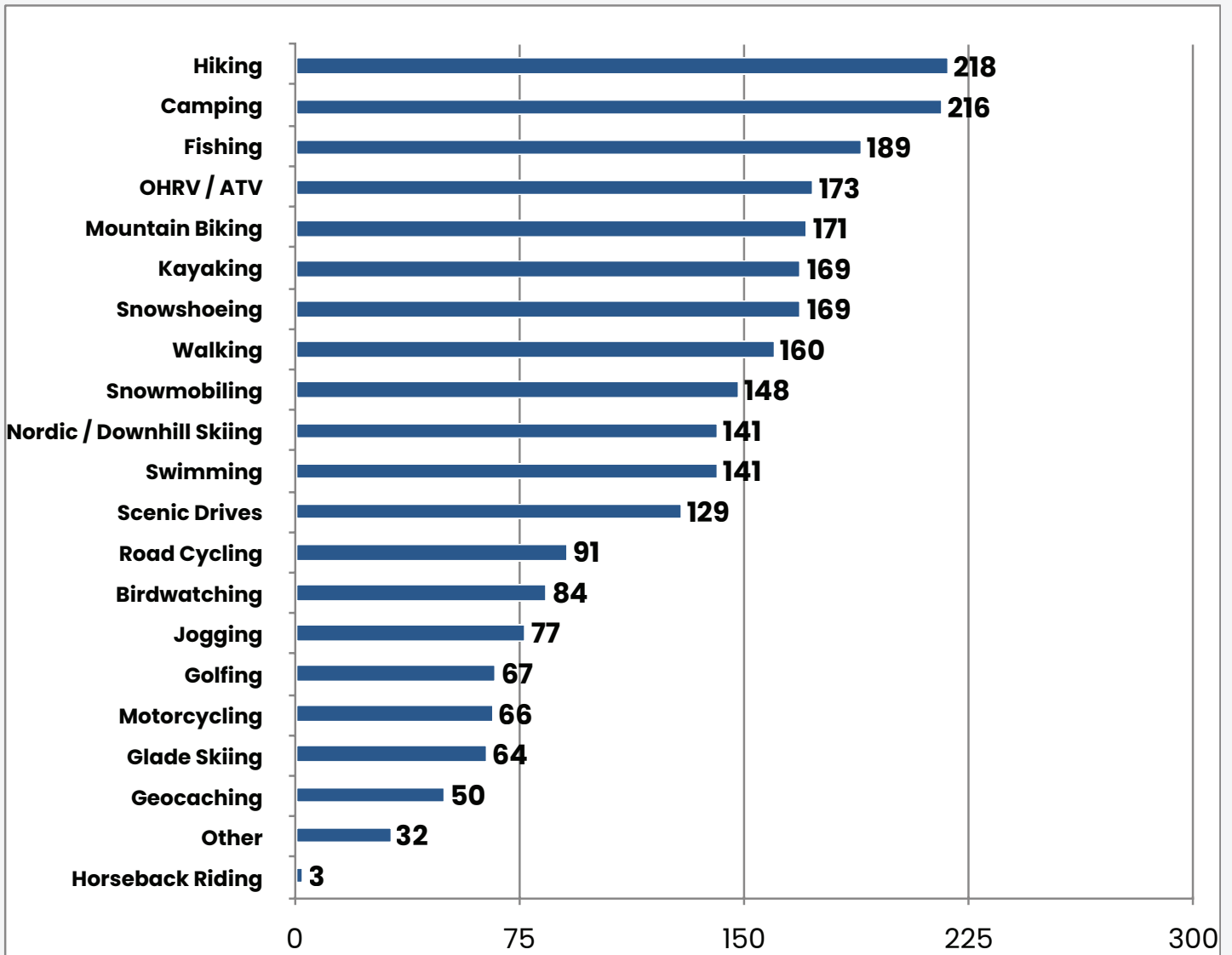
What are Gorham's greatest features or assets?

This is Gorham...



4.

When you hear the words "Outdoor Recreation" what activities come to mind for you?



5.

What is your favorite area, activity, or trail in Gorham?

Popular Mentions:

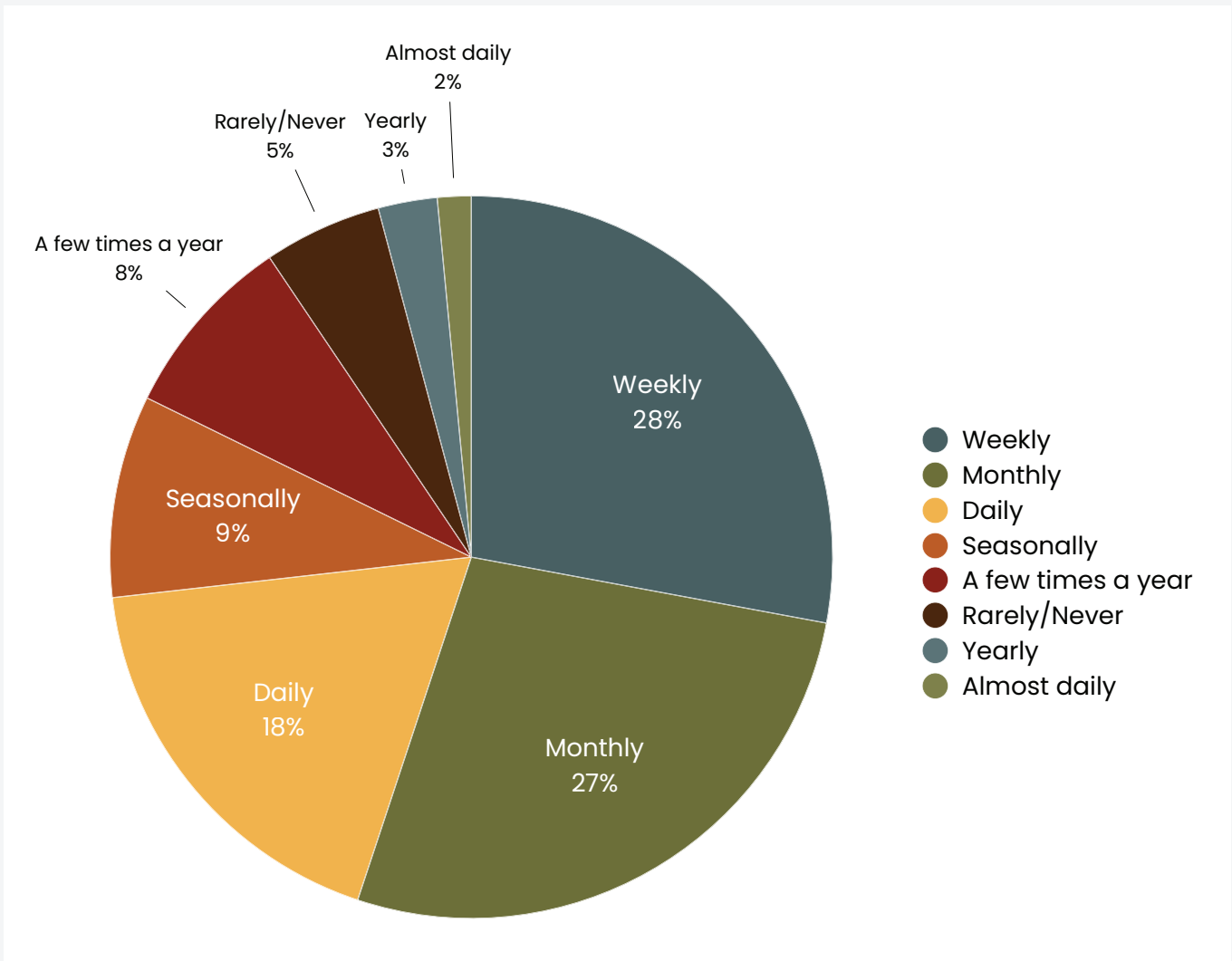
- Exploring Hiking Trails*
- Presidential Rail Trail (Biking, Walking, Riding)
- Coos Cycling Club Trails (running, mountain biking, Hub North)
- ATV / OHRV Trails and Riding (Jericho State Park)
- Androscoggin, Peabody, Rattle Rivers (Swimming, Kayaking)
- Moose Brook Trails / State Park
- Smitty's Trail
- Gorham Rec Trail/Path
- Jericho State Park
- Gorham Town Common (Farmer's Market, 4th of July)
- Swimming Holes (Third Hole, Libby's)
- Ride the Wilds
- Cascade Falls
- Great Glen Trails
- Pine Mountain
- Snowmobiling Trails
- Cross NH Adventure Trail
- Androscoggin Valley Country Club
- Hogan Road
- Walking on Main Street
- Town Forest
- Mt. Washington Auto Road
- Power Island
- Scenic Drives

- Presidential Range Hiking
- Great Gulf Wilderness
- Randolph Mountain Club Trails
- Mt. Moriah / Mt. Surprise
- Pine Mountain
- Appalachian Trail, Centennial Trail
- Dome Rock
- Mt. Hayes / Centennial Trail
- Pinkham Notch Hiking
- Wildcat Mountain
- Falls Way Trail / Appalachia
- Mt. Craig
- Hayes Copp Ski Trails, Mahoosuc
- Bear Springs Trail
- Swinging Bridge
- Glen Ellis Trail
- Stony Brook Trail
- Success Trail (hiking + OHRV)
- Hogan Road access

- Opportunity: shape and amplify Gorham's identity as an accessible, welcoming trail-hub for all: signage, digital/print rec. info. to reinforce inclusion, safety and stewardship...
- Leadmines/Mascot Mine was mentioned a lot, well known by locals, limited signage.
- The Gorham Rec Trail (Multi-Modal) is not well-known/branded as "the rec trail" – "that trail near the airport" "the trail that goes toward town from the Rt. 2 Parking Area" "the trail that goes from Lancaster Road to Main Street by the airport." "The Airport Road", etc.
- "I wish there was a sidewalk from Evans Street to "connect the loop."
- "Access to WMNF Trails, Wildcat, and Great Glen, Pinkham Notch Area trails and AMC Visitor Center."

6.

How often do you participate in outdoor recreation in Gorham?



- Notable response -- “Not often because of lack of places to walk safely during night hours or winter.”
- “Seasonal” notes: — mentions of “ATV and hiking seasons” often, vacation homes, strong preference of the warmer months for sure (even with local responses), more frequent recreation May - October. Opportunity to improve awareness and accessibility of fall / winter / early spring activities.
- Only one mention of COVID.
- 10+ respondents mentioned vacation homes in the area.
- A few UTV business owners responded...
- Removed “as often as possible” (6) because it’s non-specific.
- Changed almost daily (5) to daily.

7.

Anything else you would like to share?

A few highlights....

- I ride mountain bikes and own and drive a SxS. I do not believe we need ATV or SxS access to the streets of Gorham (even though I ride mine right from the storage facility). Before I moved here I had no problem towing to Jericho and riding from there. It is really damaging Gorham's reputation as an all-around recreation town.
- In non-Covid times, folks also could take in an outdoor concert or farmer's market, go to an indoor show at the Medallion Opera House, shop in our unique downtown shops, hop on the Moose tour bus, or visit our historical society and railroad museum.
- A new 'Welcome to Gorham' sign should be posted just before Marion's Way Road, and a bike path from Dolly Copp Campground off of route 16 into the Town of Gorham.
- I would love to see a large public walk through meadow pollination wildlife habitat garden to support wildlife with educational 1) signage listing species of birds, butterflies, pollinators, etc. 2) I would like to see the Gorham water fountain on The Common working again. 3) Community organic vegetable gardens.
- The region needs more cycling-friendly development. Many roads are very dangerous for bicycles, need more gravel and mountain biking routes developed.
- I believe that in order to have mixed recreational uses in our area clear signage that trails are meant for ATV, walking, biking and other forms of recreation are all welcome must be posted.
- Tourists and locals need better access to outdoor activities - like the great Coos Cycling club has done- -- maintained trail systems. Perhaps more in-town walking loops by the river, in and out ports from town to wilderness that are maintained, clean, and easily accessible. Large parking lots, outhouses, and picnic tables.

134

of 273 respondents added comments.

65

Comments mention ATV/Motorized Sports

35

Negative

23

Positive

7

Neutral

See more in Text Response Section, p. 20-26.

Text Response Section

Questions...

In a few words or sentences, how would you describe Gorham to a friend who is interested in visiting?

Anything else you would like to share?



How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?	
Gorham is a quiet, underrated mountain valley town with abundant recreation and opportunities to immerse in nature within a quick walk, bike, or drive!	
A small, quaint town which could serve as a launching pad for a myriad of outdoor activities.	
Cute small town with gorgeous mountain views.	
Gateway to North Woods.	
Great if you like ATVs.	
Gorham is close by and has multiple recreation opportunities. You need to be aware of the problems with OHRVs, so time your visit to either weekdays or early in the morning. There are several lodging establishments away from downtown fortunately.	
Fantastic area for human powered recreation - just don't be put off by the motorized forms of recreation that are becoming popular too.	
Gorham is a little gem of a town that offers a home town feel with great cuisine and a huge variety of outdoor activities.	
If you like the outdoors it's the place to be.	
Beautiful small town in northern NH where there's hiking and water to be found in every direction. Close knit, community atmosphere that will leave you wanting more with every visit.	
A rural paradise of adventure.	
Super location and just the right size, currently destroyed by blind support of motorized recreation.	
Gorham is a great place to stay when hiking in the area! The motels are reasonable. Not much in the way of casual restaurants.	
A great place for your cycling adventures.	
A friendly, quaint, village surrounded by the National Forest and White Mountains, with lots of outdoor recreation.	
Mid-sized mountain town in a fantastic location.	
Great access to hiking, biking (road, MTB, rail trail), skiing (downhill/cross country) walking, but we'll want to stay away from the OHRVs and snowmobiles that are over-running our downtown - they are loud & polluting.	
Beautiful	
A beautiful town at the base of Mt Washington that has everything an outdoor enthusiast seeks in year round entertainment.	
Located at the foot of the northern presidential White Mountains with virtually unlimited hiking, skiing of all types, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, and river sports.	
A great combination of real outdoor wilderness adventure with many higher-end amenities. Where else can you explore the Great Gulf Wilderness, go above tree line, see moose and then have dinner at a world-class restaurant?	
A small community in the White Mountains of NH that is an outdoor playground for many people including hiking, biking, motorcycling, ATV'ing, snowmobiling, fishing and even gliding out of the small airport with great locally owned restaurants and cozy hotels. Overall a fantastic place to spend a vacation!	
A beautiful town with easily accessible natural resources to enjoy.	
There's a lot going on. Very busy but there are some really fun things to do and places to go and the scenery is great.	
Exciting, fun, accommodating, with numerous activities for the family.	
A snobby town that has been destroyed by ATV use. Come north to Berlin before the ATVs destroy it too.	
Small home-town feel in the heart of the White Mountains!	

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Small town with abundance of outdoor opportunities.	
Small beautiful town at the northern base of the Presidentials.	
You will love the mountains!	
We have a vacation house in Gorham. We love it. You are in the heart of the mountains but still have access to groceries and restaurants!	
Beautiful views. Park is a safe place for kids, nice swimming area or river, The Ranger Station is a good place to visit, lots of hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and of course, ATVing and snowmachine riding. Great restaurants, need I say more??	
Great spot for hiking, biking, skiing, bird-watching. Definitely check out the farmer's market.	
Great place to bike.	
When you go to Gorham, you are "north of the notch" so you may find a few less people and you may sense a little different culture than you're used to in the White Mountain gateway towns south of the notch.	
Small town with plenty to do (especially if you like to be outside) but still peaceful.	
Awesome mountain biking and gravel bike trails plus glades to ski in! Good restaurants.	
Beautiful. Quaint. Underrated.	
Hiker-friendly town with lots of lodging.	
Rural, great if you like playing outside, tiny, lots of pizza places.	
Nice small town in North end of the beautiful Mt.Washington Valley.	
Gorham is a small friendly town with a broad variety of activities. Unfortunately it is not a quaint town, but when you poke around there is a surprising amount of things here.	
Cute, friendly town in the middle of an outdoor paradise.	
Picturesque New England small town.	
Cute and friendly small town with lots of things to do.	
Adventure town. Could be the east coast version of Moab, UT.	
Convenient to White Mountain National Forest, nice mountain bike trail system in town.	
A great place to visit only if you are a morning person. Anything later than 2pm, like coffee shops – nothing available. Street rolls up very early.	
Great place for hiking, mountain biking, skiing/snowboarding, xc skiing, fishing and beyond.	
Beautiful little town in the Whites with views and a lot to offer for outdoor recreational activities.	
A friendly small town that I believe unfortunately may succumb to the ATV / snowmachine craze / community. The town lost some of it's charm when the houses on main street fell to fast food places and the area adjacent to the Green to the (then) Steel Elements building. Fortunately, not all as been lost and it still has a couple of good restaurants and has retained some of its charm— it's at a crossroads. I would like to see the town have selectmen / selectwomen with more long-term vision for a better future.	
Small town, very little culture, but conveniences abound. Not at all like Berlin.	
A cute little mountain town just north of Mt. Washington with amazing trails for hiking, walking and biking. Gorham is growing and has some great places to eat!	
A Trail Town that is in a fantastic location for outdoor recreation. Unfortunately it is overrun by ATVs during the spring/summer/fall.	
Beautiful. Wrapped by mountains and surrounded by clean outdoors.	
Great place for all-season outdoor recreation.	

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

The areas surrounding Gorham are fun, full of many activities, all seasons: hiking, camping, biking, music, skiing, skating, hunting, fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking. There are larger lakes nearby for power boating. Gorham has lovely restaurants and shops. It has become a hub of OHRVs which contributes to traffic and noise.

Quaint and scenic area with plenty of outdoor activities to do.

My father grew up in Gorham and I have been visiting all my life. The natural beauty is breathtaking and the town is full of north country charm. Throughout the four seasons, Gorham offers unique opportunities to be outdoors, breathe invigorating mountain air and get moving,

Small town, safe, cold, quiet.

Mountains to hike camping great air to breathe; great if you want to be outdoors.

It is very beautiful and the views are amazing. I would tell them about being able to drive on their ATV on the streets.

A nice little town with a lot to offer kids and adults alike. Lots of great hiking trails, an awesome playground, unique swimming/kayaking options, and yummy local restaurants.

Gorham used to be a lovely hiking town at the foothills of the White Mountains, a quiet, scenic town away from the bustle of cities. It is now overrun with ATVs. I avoid Gorham on weekends and busy holiday weeks. I wish it had remained a people powered community.

A small town with a heart as big as the mountains surrounding it.

Take to the hills. Go walking on Presidential Rail Trail, Go hiking or biking on trails.

It's a great place to visit with lots of things to see and do.

On the peaceful side of the White Mountains.

Small town with a few independently owned and operated gems surrounded by natural beauty.

Quiet, laidback kind of life with nature all-around us.

Great restaurants, hotels and rental opportunity for OHRVs

It's beautiful. I grew up there.

Gorham is a beautiful town that has something to do or see for everyone.

Gorham use to be a lovely, tranquil town but now in the summer, be prepared for a barrage of OHRVs, OHRV traffic, OHRV noise and OHRV fumes. It is terribly sad & unfortunate! It has driven away lots of outdoor visitors.

Beautiful, friendly and picturesque.

Great place to visit in the mountains but best to avoid town on the weekends during ATV season.

Beautiful NH mountain town.

Small, picturesque, friendly.

Beautiful, lots of activities to participate in if you're visiting the area. This includes all seasons!

Gorham is north of the Conway hype and nestled right next to the places you want to get away to.

Gorham is a great place to start any outdoor activity.

A quaint town near Mt. Washington.

Wintertime beautiful! Summertime noisy & hectic.

Nice town centrally located with access to many activities.

A hidden oasis in the White Mountains.

Multitude of outdoor recreational activities.

Beautiful mountains.

Warm friendly cozy town.

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Gateway to lots of fun stuff.	
Small town with great location to White Mountains and Maine. Less hectic than south of the notch.	
Lots of opportunities to play. Lots of ATV traffic in the summer.	
Quaint, friendly and beautiful	
A quaint little spot in small town America. If you're into the outdoors, this is your playground!	
Great location for an overnight while riding the Cross NH Adventure trail.	
Beautiful, never ending outdoor activities.	
Quaint	
Gorham has multiple outdoor recreational opportunities: swimming, hiking, camping, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, canoeing and ATVing.	
Sweet little town with places to stay during any season.	
Small town nestled at the base of the Presidential Range with big outdoor recreation opportunity.	
A recreator's paradise! Nonstop activity. From hiking and biking the trails in any season. There is always plenty to do!	
Close to Mount Washington with some of the best mountain biking and hiking trails in New Hampshire.	
Gorham is a great town to stop in relax and grab a meal in after adventuring out in the White Mountains.	
Beautiful and friendly small town.	
A fun place. Tons to do and see. Something for everything.	
Small town with wonderful access to the WMNF.	
Beautiful, underrated, not as far as you think!	
A quaint little town in the heart of the White Mountains with many amenities. They have a town Common that hosts many events as well as great restaurants to dine at. Close to Wildcat as well as the Mount Washington Auto Road. There are many hiking trails along with ATV trails.	
It's a beautiful little town.	
Nice quiet town, nestled in the mountains.	
A small town with a ton of recreational opportunities.	
Gorham has wonderful recreational opportunities, but try to stay outside of town during summer high season, as the town itself gets overrun by noisy ATVs running right down Main Street!	
Quaint	
Small, friendly, convenient Main Street businesses. Easily accessed by walking.	
Great place, too many ATVs.	
Northern entry to White Mountains.	
A small town with incredible recreational opportunities and much potential.	
Beautiful town with a great snowmobile trail system, hiking, skiing or playing in the rivers in the summer.	
Small town with friendly people, everybody knows everybody, great place to live and bring up your kids.	
Nice quiet town, with plenty of outdoor fun.	
Small town with wonderful restaurants and plenty of nice places to stay, surrounded by beautiful mountains, hiking trails with lots of things for nature lovers to do.	
Nice small North Country town.	
It is the northern gateway to the White Mountains with charming shops, restaurants and hotels/motels.	
Small NH town, close to Mountain fun like skiing, hiking, nature. Not as touristy as Conway/Bartlett area.	
Small, quaint, scenic .	
Come visit us, but remember, Walmart is about all we have.	

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Picturesque with mountain views, friendly atmosphere, good restaurants, good motels, and health club.	
Small quaint New England town with ample outdoor opportunities.	
It is a small New England town with beautiful scenic views, lots of outdoor activities, plenty of things to see and visit.	
Gorham is a beautiful little town nestled in the White Mountains. There are lots of great trails in Gorham and surrounding area for hiking, ATVing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling.	
I used to say it was beautiful and full of wonderful things to do outside... but now I truly feel like ATVs have taken over our streets and ruined what we had. I'm not against ATVs.. just not in town. They belong out in the wilds not in neighborhoods.	
Small, few restaurant choices, great outdoor activities.	
It's a lovely small town with great restaurants and lots of hiking, skiing, kayaking, fishing opportunities.	
A 4 season getaway which offers a little something for everyone.	
Safe and peaceful, that is until we are over run with four wheelers.	
Gorham is a great town to visit in any season! There is plenty to do here! Hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, music in the park, The Medallion Opera House, outdoor farmer's market, music in the park and great dining just to name a few.	
Great outdoor recreation from ATV riding to Snowmobiling, hiking, and great skiing close by.	
Small town in the heart of the White Mountains.	
Wooded, beautiful, clean, fresh air, quiet.	
A small town with great access to trails.	
beautiful area - nice variety of things to do - great restaurants	
Small New England town located near Mt. Washington. Beautiful scenery that is very appealing to people interested in outdoor sports, hiking, ATV trails.	
Gorham is a truly amazing mountain town with more diverse recreational opportunities than almost anywhere else in New England. Within close proximity of town you have amazing tracked and off trail cross country skiing, downhill skiing, mountain biking, hiking, flatwater and white water paddling, hunting, fishing and the list goes on. You could spend an entire life exploring this region and find new experiences all along the way.	
Very nice small town. local people are great and help each other out!	
Great Multi-User Trail Network!	
A nice town surrounded by recreation opportunities!	
Outdoor Recreation abounds in every direction!	
Good food, good lodging, friendly, classy, great variety of outdoor rec super close by.	
ATV friendly	
A very beautiful ATV friendly town.	
A great centralized location in the White Mountains to start your outdoors recreation.	
A fun outside activity area for ATV, snow machines, hiking mountains and beautiful views!	
Gorham is beautiful. It's one of my happy places, it's close to beautiful Berlin. Beautiful sites you can ride your four wheeler around town . Wonderful caring people.	
Great little town with a mix of local and major chain restaurants, stores, and hotels.	
Gorham is a small, quaint town with all of the amenities with lots of access to recreational activities.	
Great little town with hidden gems.	
Great place to ride sx's and ATV.	
A small friendly community that offers great outdoor activities, ATVing, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing.	

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Be careful , lots of traffic.	
INVITING FRIENDLY CONVENIENT AND FUN	
That it's a pretty spectacular place to stay, camaraderie is awesome.	
Delightful! and ATV friendly!	
Small town with access to some of the best hiking, skiing, climbing, biking with good food options. Quieter and more pleasant than North Conway valley.	
It's very busy on weekends. Restaurants fill up fast.	
Peaceful and quiet! Amazing outdoor fun.	
UTV heaven	
Very quiet town with friendly people	
Best place to start adventures in ATVing and Snowmobiling!	
ATV town, tons of fun.	
Beautiful area with a lot of potential.	
Great place lots of activities to do! Centrally located.	
Gorham is a friendly place with so much to do here like just to name a few ATV riding snowmobile hiking natural swimming holes skiing and much more	
Gorham is a side by side riders dreamland.	
It is the Capitol City of the North Country Recreation and Beauty!!!	
Great place if you love the outdoors.	
Scenic, with a quaint small-town New England feeling.	
Gorham is a great little mountain town north of the notch. It embodies the NH north country.	
Gorham is a unique Northern mill town that has a lot of food and amenities. Its a great spot to ATV out of. But be aware, they don't seem as off-road friendly and inviting as Berlin.	
Nice	
Great place to visit for those looking to ride their ATVs, side by sides and snowmobiles. Offers restaurants and lodging and is very close to many attractions.	
The surrounding mountains are beautiful and there is a lot of outdoor fun stuff to do.	
A terrific place to take your side by side for vacation. The hotels are welcoming and clean and there is a variety of different restaurants.	
A nice friendly place full of local restaurants and outdoor activities for recreation and tourism.	
Great riding area and good trails.	
White Mountain destination.	
Beautiful area with friendly people and great ATV trail access.	
It's a nice destination location to use as a hub for the White Mountains, and Northern NH.	
Awesome place to enjoy the outdoors.	
Nice location near many outdoor activities.	
An area with many outside activity from ATV riding, mountain biking , hiking and great swimming and fishing!	
Quiet community focused on outdoor activities.	
Amazing, friendly, great views. Off-road. Being able to drive/UTV/ATV on road to trails.	
A great place for outdoor recreation year-round.	
Recreational friendly, gateway to the Mt Washington Valley and the Great North Woods.	
It's a fun town.....lots to do near by.....year round family fun.	

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Nice restaurants, great trails for both ATV and Snowmobiling.	
Nice community in northern nh with incredible OHRV trails.	
ATV Mecca	
Recreational vacation getaway.	
Friendly, many outdoor activities, good restaurants	
Beautiful, friendly, peaceful	
Amazing, so much to offer, especially for the outdoorsman.	
Great place for outdoor recreation.	
Fun and beautiful!	
Beautiful, scenic, mountainous.	
Off-Road ADVENTURE awaits	
Gorham is a hidden gem, nestled just north of the White Mountains and located at the heart of adventure.	
I nice town leading to Pinkham and Crawford notches and points north.	
A great riding welcomed community.	
So much to do. All you have to do is choose one.	
ATV/UTV friendly town with great people	
Great place to visit to relax and unwind. Nice small town atmosphere and still close to lots of attractions .	
The ability to ride our UTV from hotel to trails and eateries.	
Love it, ATV, hiking, family-friendly.	
Friendly town folk. Small home town businesses with all your needs.	
Good town to lodge in for good food choices and trail access.	
Have hotels or camping that can take 4 wheelers on some roads.	
Good food. Nice places to stay.	
A great place for outdoor adventures.	
ATV-friendly.	
Friendly small town.	
Friendly love all the business owners.	
A very nice town with a lot to offer.	
Nice quiet small town surrounded by a lot of outdoor recreation	
Scenic, Recreational, and Peaceful	
Relaxing	
Very busy	
Awesome ATV trail system	
Fun to stay and ride UTVs	
Friendly, quaint and welcoming to ATV riders	
It use to be a great place to ride our side by side and snowmobiles but now just too many rentals and it gets a little scary with so many people that do not have a clue what they are doing or thinking it is a free for all. Use to be our favorite place to ride now we try to avoid it.	
A picturesque and friendly town.	
Small town with big heart	
Best place in the USA!!!!	

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Gorham is a great community to begin and end your adventures in. Lots to see and do in a town surrounded with all forms of outdoor activities.

That it's a beautiful area with history in the lumber and paper industries. The beauty of the area and mountains are amazing.

God's country

One street with almost everything you need on it

A beautiful small town in the White Mountains! Perfect place to take out the four wheelers or sleds for a few hours and grab a bite to eat at J's!

Nice, great location for ATVing, snowmobiling plenty of restaurants and hotels

Great place if you love to ride.

Nice quiet

A quiet little town that has a great quality of life. One that is not saturated by tourism but has a mix of travelers who appreciate and respect the beauty that surrounds us.

Small town atmosphere. Lots of good restaurants. Very walkable most of the year. Snowmobiles on sidewalks make walking in winter difficult.

Outdoor wonderland! Gateway to the mountains!

Small town with not much going on.

Gorham is nestled at the base of the Presidential Mountain Range and has a seemingly endless array of world-class hiking, biking and skiing adventures, friendly neighbors and unbelievably delicious restaurants. Yup. I've died and gone to heaven.

Great little town with various restaurants, shops, hotels and outside entertainment in the summer months. All within walking distance to downtown Gorham.

A quaint New England Town that has it all!!

Gorham is a quaint little village located at the base of Mt. Washington with plenty of places to stay, an array of dining choices, and offers access to hiking, biking, and four wheeling among other outdoor activities.

A good place to be

Charming New England town with great eateries

Clean and friendly

A humble town tucked into a valley with a beautiful river and great people

We love the ATV/UTV riding there.

Great North Country town; easy access to many outdoor activities..nice restaurants and friendly people.

Small but growing community with lots of easily accessible outdoor recreation nearby.

The area up there is a absolutely great

The absolute most beautiful, friendly, fun and exciting place that we frequent often. Especially in the warm weather months but winter is beautiful also. We love riding the trails and being able to get off the trail and go right to dinner or leave the hotel and hit dunkin or the store in our razor before hitting the trails for the day. No words can really describe the fun, relaxation, amazing people and views that we encounter everyday that we are there.

In the heart of the White Mountains, Gorham is a small town with lots of history. Everybody knows everybody. Small local business are what keep this town alive. Great school system. Enjoy the outdoors during all seasons!

Amazing place to visit

People there are very nice and friendly

How would you describe Gorham to a friend who was interested in visiting?

Full of activities and fun people

Outdoor activities are available in or nearby for all four seasons.

Gorham is an all season destination which offers all types of outdoor activities (indoor too). Its location is one of the most beautiful in Northern New England. People are friendly and guests are welcome.

Great little mountain town, perfect to raise kids and perfect to retire , not much in between

Human powered recreation at your doorstep all seasons of the year.

A place to meet up with friends and a hub from which to head into the mountains.

Great mountain biking and hiking trails

Services and hiking opportunities

Great location but beware of ATV weekend events or ATV weekends in general.

A recreation hub of activity and crossroads for existing and emerging outdoor pursuits with a supportive town and business community. Building on its location, natural assets, and entrepreneurial spirit Gorham is well positioned to serve as a northern NH gateway for the outdoor recreation economy.

Hiking, mountain biking, scenic drives, camping

Small, family oriented mountain town.

Anything Else You would like to share?

I ride mountain bikes and own and drive a SxS. I do not believe we need ATV or SxS access to the streets of Gorham (even though I ride mine right from the storage facility). Before I moved here I had no problem towing to Jericho and riding from there. It is really damaging Gorham's reputation as an all-around recreation town.

The Town REALLY needs to study what's happening with the explosion of ATVs. This new form of recreation is likely to push out the generational human forms that have kept Gorham alive for decades. There MUST be a balance struck in fairness to all of us who are becoming negatively affected by the motorized trends that may not even last. They are not the answer to the local economy's woes.

Please be thoughtful of the benefit/cost of sports being supported. Some activities coexist perfectly. Other activities detract from and destroy the opportunity for others. So many visitors use the community without obvious and disruptive signs that they are often overlooked as important.

OHRVs and snowmobiles make an area less attractive to those who like to enjoy nature quietly. Their trails should be carefully placed where they don't disturb the vast majority of other trail users and outdoorsmen.

The decision to allow ATVs on all town roads has proven to be a mistake. **The Town is not charging for registration, which it should.** You are not allowed to have a rooster in town because of the noise but you are allowed to rev your OHRV down the street even if you don't have a license.

I would like to keep presidential rail trail to non-motorized activities.

I like quieter activities. Motorized recreational activities can ruin non-motorized experiences.

My biggest concern is that decisions are not always being made with consideration for the entire community. Gorham and its surrounding towns survive because we all thrive together. I feel that the ATV culture is being allowed to over run other important parts of town. That is not to say that I am against ATVs being a part of our economy and needing accommodations, but, for instance I do not think it is attractive, or in the best interest of Gorham, to have lots on the side of Main St. turning in to parking areas for trailers. **We should find a way to put these lots behind the buildings so Main St remains pleasant.** The new parking area on the BG road is fabulous, but it is time to phase out the one on Rt 2 and heal the rift in town. A good solution for parking was found, but evidently the lot is scheduled to remain open to trailers. Why not reserve this one for non-motorized residents/visitors - bicyclists, walkers, etc. Allowing ATVs on town roads seems to be working, but **I heard that snowmobiles are going to be allowed to use the sidewalks. This seems illogical given the number of walkers in town, and making it friendly for hotel guest to walk to restaurants. I am certain that with enough brainstorming the needs of the snowmobilers can be met and keep the sidewalks for non-motorized traffic.** I love this area and truly wish we could all see the benefit of brainstorming ways to have it all. It seems to be just an us or them mentality, which is sad.

Nice town, too bad ATVs are such a disruptive presence.

Libby's and SAALT are always good! Locally owned pizza places. We could use another Moriah Sports. Chain stores and chain restaurants provide low wage jobs and send the profits to corporate headquarters or shareholders. Did Burger King, Pizza Hut, KFC benefit the town? Make it a better place?

Let Berlin have the motorsports, keep Gorham quiet and clean.

I am concerned that the huge number of ATVs flooding the streets of the town will ruin the potential Gorham has a an outdoor recreation center other than for motorized vehicles.

There has to be some middle ground on the ATV and now snowmobile issues. We will never be seen as anything else until there is some control over the growth, wear and tear on our land as well as our local residents and not just those that live on the trail corridor.

Let Berlin have the ATV/OHRV traffic.

Presence of OHRV vehicles and trails has been a disaster. they appeal to one group and turn everyone else away.

Anything Else You would like to share?

I like to think we were doing okay before the introduction of snowmobiles and ATVs. It's disheartening to be walking on these ruined sidewalks and sadly, I think many "legitimate" tourists are staying away because of the noise and congestion.

OHRVs in my town have ruined the quiet enjoyment of the outdoors for myself, visitors and townspeople.

We need to balance recreation activities and not let the ATV situation continue out of control. We enjoy ATV'ing but don't use trails near Gorham because they are crowded and often in poor condition because of overuse. Huge number of rental riders clog the streets and make riding unsafe especially on weekends.

Gorham had a walkable downtown, a small town feel, quiet, peaceful, clean until the introduction of OHRVs about 8-10 years ago. It is a shame!

I believe that in order to have mixed recreational uses in our area clear signage that trails are meant for ATV, walking, biking and other forms of recreation are all welcome must be posted. I don't think having motorized and non-motorized traffic on the same trail is good for anyone's experience or makes Gorham attractive. I think having ATVs and dust near your home is challenging and a huge negative impact in a way that having snowmobiles is not and in my experience snowmobile riders tend to be more considerate of other users being used to the expectation. This is speaking as someone who used to work in outdoor education and teach ATV safety to kids in Maine. I really think it's better to keep that type of motorized travel in designated parks away from homes and on roads since they seem to be here to stay.

We need to control the motorized sports. It is fun for some but it needs to be regulated.

Don't think the snow machines riding on the sidewalks is a good idea, for one thing the exhaust stinks and that spoils it for us who are walking for fresh air and exercise.

Motorized recreation is hurting Gorham's appeal to outdoor enthusiasts who come here to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the natural environment.

Being chased out of the area by ATV culture, noise, pollution, crowds.

The new OHRV users make it challenging for traditional outdoor recreation, and I am afraid undermine Gorham's reputation for outdoor recreation and will hurt business overall driving hiking and skiing business to Conway and Lincoln.

It's a bit discouraging to continually fill out these surveys and attend events asking for feedback on what the Town can be... what do citizens want. What the majority does NOT want is to be overrun by ATVs and snowmobiles. The updated Master Plan clearly lays this out. The majority do not want increase in motorized recreation, the majority do not want ATVs in our neighborhoods. However the Selectboard are unwilling to listen and continually bow to the motorized forces with \$\$ in their eyes. Non-motorized recreators spend money too, they just aren't as visible without a giant truck pulling a giant trailer. We need to encourage people of all ages to move to Gorham and create better community instead of continually thinking about the \$ from weekend warriors. I realize more people need to get involved in leadership roles in the town to help make better choices for all; the crux is encouraging people to get involved when they seen no real change happening. We have incredible opportunity to encourage small businesses to come here and to create a network for residents and visitors to recreate from the center of town.

With the influx of ATVs on our streets, it makes it harder to enjoy non-motorized sports and even just walking downtown for ice cream, and shopping at local shops.

The ATVs should be restricted to trails that are not near residences and hiking paths.

Rented ATVs and snow machines are drastically changing the peaceful town I once knew.

Too much ATV access in town. It's disruptive as well as having issues with ATV drivers on the streets who do not obey the laws or are inexperienced. Same with snowmobiles on the sidewalks. They do not belong on sidewalks because it makes it dangerous for pedestrians especially children.

Anything Else You would like to share?

I used to love the quiet of the town during the warm months; however, the noise/traffic of ATVs disrupts that for me.

I can appreciate that all forms of recreation are important to the town's life and economy, but I think it's equally important to take an honest approach in how we promote (and where we locate) the functional centers of each of these activities. I believe that Gorham can be an overall "hub" of recreation, but that there is a function and a certain life to town centers and main streets which can be easily disrupted by the nuts and bolts of recreation which should be dealt with on the outskirts. I would say that the over-presence of mountain bikers in East Burke, VT is just as good of an example of this as the over-presence of rental ATV activity is becoming in Gorham. Therefore, I would love to see Gorham promoted in such a way that highlights the downtown for what it offers, spotlights the recreation for it's own sake and in it's own respective space, and introduces the idea of connectivity (where it exists) as a special (and perhaps tenuous) benefit as opposed to an entitlement.

I know we need to include ATVs and snowmobiles for the economy, however, please don't allow this mode of recreation takeover our quiet town.

Human powered, not gas powered!

OHRV's are a negative experience but once past them the trails are great.

We opened a bad can of worms by depending upon Mad Max for your financial growth plan.

Ray Bergeron Owner White MT ATV Rental 299 Main St Gorham NH 03581

Gorham is great for the power sports enthusiast as well as hiking, biking, hunting or fishing.

Happy riding!

Off roading in Gorham/Berlin is what attracted me to the area. I now own 4 multi-family homes in Berlin and am planning to retire in the area, within the next five years.

I understand there are "pain points" with the increased OHRV traffic - but there are also solutions. As an OHRV enthusiast, I strongly support working WITH those who are unhappy with the dust and noise to find a happy medium. Increased enforcement from Fish and Game/sheriff/PD must also come into play. Reach out to NHOHVA - encourage those businesses who benefit from the increased OHRV traffic to also consider working with NHOHVA to find solutions that make everyone in the community happy.

You can drive you at and ITV on there roads .

The owners of MOMs came to Lancaster and left, went to Groveton, then they turned their backs on the town of Lancaster and cut off Lancaster to access to Groveton by ATV and ride the wilds. One selectman and the owner were in cohouts with each other and shut the primary trail down. Don't let this happen to Gorham when MOMs begins access to a new ATV place. Heed this warning, they will make only their place of business accessible and will not support other small business owners! Just an FYI .

Please keep direct access to all your businesses via ATV and Snowmobile. It's ideal to be able to visit the businesses and ride directly from the trails.

I come to town with my family because of the ability to ride from the streets to the trails.

The plans implemented by the town are great and everyone is doing a great job. Hopefully the state stops increasing registrations and trying to end ATV'ing so this area can continue to grow.

It has close proximity to Jericho State Park and Mt. Forest the home of Jericho ATV Festival and Camp RZR !!!

The ability to access stores and restaurants via a OHRV is very convenient and a big drawing point for people like me who travel to use the OHRV trail systems.

Gorham is a unique and wonderful town. I always look forward to coming up twice a month to enjoy the incredible ATV trail system. Gorham remains my favorite "basecamp" because of all its great restaurants and lodging.

Anything Else You would like to share?

Expand ATV/UTV, and snowmobile resources such as trails and parking with direct access to food and services throughout the entire town and surrounding area.

Like the new ATV access on Rt. 16.

Wish more towns adopted Gorham's liberal ATV laws.

The easy road access to OHRV trails is the reason I bought a second home here last year!

A later time than 30 minutes past sunset for returning. That changes every day and you lose riding time, if someone wants to head to Pittsburg for a day trip, you really have to push it to be back in time. I think a specific set time would be helpful for the riding community.

I also ATV into town. I ride my motorcycle through. I almost always stop when in the area hiking or biking.

It would be nice to see Gorham grow, offer more for us outdoor folks and be able to ride later at night with places open later.

Love the town but wish more was open to OHRV.

Thank you for the fantastic trails and the ATV shared routes in town.

Keep up the good work, extend the evening hours in the summer, more events , and extend the driving on road areas to include more campgrounds, etc.

We sadly sold our ATV because it was getting too congested and dangerous in such a small park. Unless we went out on a weekday after a long day at work.

Gorham tends to emphasize motorized sports, and not cater to non-motorized activities. Even though there are great venues for both types of activities in town.

Wish they could have more control of the OHRV rentals, had more fish and game on trails watching them so we could enjoy riding there again. We really miss it.

Although I am an advocate of economic development, I feel strongly that it must be guided. I have been dismayed by the increase of noise from motorized recreation which I have no interest in but do not want to dismiss because it does provide economic stimulus. Having lived in Shelburne prior, I have questioned my decision to live "in town" but respectfully acknowledge that all things can co-exist with respect and proper planning. That is the central point of my dismay currently... people must be respectful & planning needs to be inclusive of all citizens of all interests.

Without question, I am a quiet sport/human powered recreationalist. That said, I am not opposed to motorized recreation and believe that sensible management (including keeping OHRV and snowmobile trails away from residential neighborhoods and proactive education of all user groups about basic respect for the resource and other users) can allow for the full suite of recreational options to flourish here. The ongoing breakdown in communication between the two sides (human powered and motorized recreation) is so unfortunate to me. At the end of the day, it seems both sides are drawn to being outdoors because of the solace and fun that it offers. There is so much common ground! I'd love to help in mending those rifts and building a future together that we can all feel good about. Thank you for your efforts to listen to community voices and to help our town thrive!

I enjoy motorized sports but there are too many rentals and inexperienced riders. The trails are no longer maintained for the amount of traffic that happens. Also, it is extremely noisy all the time. I am unable to sit in my back yard and enjoy quiet. We are hoping for a single access point so that it might eliminate the noise from at least one direction.

Just noted above - planning and stakeholder input, trust and continued engagement should help drive the balance of outdoor recreation pursuits including human-powered and motorized to achieve community vitality.

Anything Else You would like to share?

Gorham is an amazing hub, especially for motorcycle riding. Bikers could stay overnight in Gorham as their base, go for gorgeous rides in virtually any direction for the day, and return to Gorham for a great meal and beverages in a relaxed atmosphere in one of the local restaurants and pubs. In non-Covid times, folks also could take in an outdoor concert or farmer's market, go to an indoor show at the Medallion Opera House, shop in our unique downtown shops, hop on the Moose tour bus, or visit our historical society and railroad museum.

Love our town lots to do if you're an outdoor person.

The gran bois du nord aka The Great North Woods is at our fingertips.

A new 'Welcome to Gorham' sign should be posted just before Marion's Way Road, and a bike path from Dolly Copp Campground off of Route 16 into the Town of Gorham.

Gorham needs to tap into the Portland/southern Maine population, because the Conway's take most of the Rt 16 and i-93 northbound visitors.

I hope you are coordinating with the town and Chamber of Commerce as well as some of the local businesses!

A perfect place for an outdoor vacation.

The rail trail is a huge asset to the area!

Gorham has just been named an official Appalachian trail community. Gorham is a very important stop for through hikers making the 2k+ mile journey from Georgia to Maine. Coming out of the brutal and infamous Presidentials in the Whites, hikers stay in Gorham to rest, go to post office, resupply, do laundry, and feast before they head out into the Mahoosucs. Many will take their days off here.

To elevate the brand, it needs to be seen more as a North Conway. Women want access to shops and boutiques. Couples want good food, good drinks and live music. It needs to be more of a resort location.

Libby's Bistro and Saalt!!!!

Thank you for welcoming all outdoor sports especially cycling.

I run a hiker shuttle in the area and recommend the town a lot.

Gorham is an amazing town and we should continue developing all outdoor recreation activities.

I know we have Moose Tours but it would be great if maybe we had something like a walking tour or something scenic.

I would love to see a large public walk-through meadow pollination wildlife habitat garden to support wildlife with educational

- 1) signage listing species of birds, butterflies, pollinators, etc.
- 2) I would like to see the Gorham water fountain on the Common working again.
- 3) Community organic vegetable gardens.

The new bike trails are a real plus.

I would love a walking and biking trail.

Gorham would benefit from more family activities.

This is such a beautiful area. Once you visit you will always come back.

I wish we had cross country skiing trails that are more geared towards local, frequent use instead of needing trail passes out of town Milan, Great Glen, Bethel, Jackson, or Bretton Woods. Even a groomed loop on the golf course would be awesome for daily exercise.

Gorham is so underrated.

The region needs more cycling-friendly development. Many roads are very dangerous for bicycles, need more gravel and mountain biking routes developed.

Gorham has some good restaurants.

Anything Else You would like to share?

This is a kind community.

Most people who live in the Androscoggin Valley are friendly and eager to share the lifestyle they enjoy.

One of the most beautiful spots in New Hampshire. The warmth of the people who live here and its many activities make Gorham a go-to place for sure!

Thanks for making this survey!

Thanks for putting this survey out!

Would love to see them **develop more bicycle-friendly roads/gravel** or mountain biking. Gorham and other towns along the Cross NH Adventure Trail have a lot of potential.

There's enough room for everyone to play and everyone should be represented in the marketing.

Gorham is a stopping by spot for through hikers of the AT to restock, pick up mail, and treat themselves to pizza and ice cream.

We just moved here, hadn't heard of the area until we started looking to move to Bartlett/Glen area but this was **less touristy, less traffic, less expensive with just as good or even better access to hiking and skiing.**

I don't want to see the town spend any money on things that won't bring any money to the town. We have about 2,800 residents and can't afford to spend tax money on something that won't bring in more money than what it costs to get them here. I am glad to see people coming to Gorham and spending money for the weekend or the week. But if the taxpayer is going to spend tax dollars to get hikers and bikers to come to Gorham to buy a sandwich or a pack of gum, then leave, no thank you.

The Town employees are great!!!

Tourists and locals need better access to outdoor activities, like the great Coos Cycling club has done; maintained trail systems. Perhaps more in-town walking loops by the river, in and out ports from town to wilderness that are maintained, clean, & easily accessible. Large parking lots, outhouses, and picnic tables.

Thank you.

Very good people that work hard. We employee over 160 employees and we are proud to live and work where we are!

The White Mountain Trail Collective is looking forward to partnering with the USFS as well as other trail clubs in the near future on trail projects.

Four seasons of fun for the whole family!

Restaurants

Thank you for the fun! We look forward to when we can get up there!

Love the up and coming town. It needs a grocery store though; something like Hannaford would be great!

If Berlin had motels you guys would be hurting.

I think Berlin and Gorham New Hampshire are neck and neck. They're both spectacular places. Paula Kinney does a wonderful job, I wish Gorham would hop in on it in produce more things and be more rider friendly.

Great little town with lots of potential.

We drive 8 hours to vacation in your beautiful state each summer- last year we came twice! We love the views, the people and everything about NH.

Keep up the great work!!!

Not naming names but better inspections of motels. Stayed at a place last year and room was absolutely disgusting!!!!!! Let's just say I found a bloody Q-tip of floor.

You need to experience it.

Anything Else You would like to share?

Keep up the wonderful work. It is a very special spot for me, my father family came from Berlin which I didn't know until I started staying there. I still have family there.

Please include trail bikes on the ride the wilds trail system.

Please work on getting more restaurants that are ATV accessible!

Later riding times.

Love your community ♥

We love Gorham and really do think it's a gem with untapped potential. It is sad to see businesses struggle or come and go though. We have a vacation home that we rent out and have a really easy time booking it up.

Originally from Groveton NH.

Great place to live!

Can't wait to live here full time!!!!

They can all stay over there. I like my less crowded and quieter Stratford. Just wish they would open the south and north to connect again.

Good people

I forsee the housing market increasing above average in this area.

If you haven't been to Gorham, NH your life is not complete!!!!

I just wish that there were more campgrounds in the area to ride our side x side from.

I think Gorham is a great town and would move there in a heartbeat if finances allowed it!

I hope Gorham considers balance when they think about growing activities within our town. It's a beautiful place, but off-road growth without balance will (and is) drive people away.

Great little town!

I think a dog park would be great. Skate park would be great for the kids.



Thank you!