

Your Voice Matters in Northport

How the Survey Was Conducted

Northport Outdoor Sidewalk Dining Feedback Survey · Final methodology summary

Results as of August 9, 2026

Purpose

The survey was conducted to collect resident and non-resident/visitor opinions on outdoor sidewalk dining in the Incorporated Village of Northport, including pedestrian access, table-size rules, and possible alternatives such as a clear-path standard and painted demarcation lines.

Mailing

A single wave of Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) postcards was used. There was no second reminder mailing.

- 4,598 pieces were paid for through the EDDM mailing.
- 4,900 pieces were delivered to the post office.
- The mailing was dropped on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.
- Delivery to mailboxes began on Friday morning, July 31, 2026.
- Routes were selected to reach households in the Incorporated Village of Northport.

The postcard directed recipients to an online SurveyMonkey questionnaire by QR code and URL.

Survey Period

The survey remained open for 10 days after mail began arriving.

- First mailbox delivery: July 31, 2026
- Survey closed: Sunday, August 9, 2026, end of day

No reminder mailing was sent.

Additional Distribution

One unaffiliated Facebook post shared the survey link during the collection period. That post was not made by the survey organizers and is the only known online share. It occurred on August 2, 2026.

Question 1 asked whether the respondent lived in the Incorporated Village of Northport, which allowed later filtering of the results.

Response Totals

During the 10-day collection period, the survey received 958 responses.

Not every respondent answered every question. For that reason, the number of answers on individual questions is lower than the total number of survey responses. Each published chart and table uses the actual number of people who answered that specific question.

Results were then filtered into two data sets based on Question 1:

Data set	Who is included	Responses	Open-ended comments
Village residents (Set 1)	Answered “Yes” to living in the Incorporated Village of Northport	724	450
Non-residents / declined to identify (Set 2)	Answered “No” or “Prefer not to say”	234	90

Set 2 breakdown: “No” = 191 · “Prefer not to say” = 43

Set 1 and Set 2 together account for 958 total responses.

Response Rate

Using the two available mailing counts:

- Based on pieces paid through EDDM (4,598): $958 \div 4,598 = 20.8\%$
- Based on pieces given to the post office (4,900): $958 \div 4,900 = 19.6\%$

This figure should be read with two caveats:

- It is a yield rate, not a pure mail-only response rate. The total includes any responses that arrived through the unaffiliated Facebook share.
- Not every mailed piece reached a person who was eligible or willing to answer, and some households contain more than one adult.

Even with those caveats, participation was unusually high for this type of outreach.

How This Compares with Typical Rates

Industry and research benchmarks vary by method:

Type of mailing	Typical response / yield
Commercial EDDM saturation mail	About 1% to 2.5%
Targeted prospect direct mail	About 1% to 4%
Average commercial direct mail (all types)	About 2.7% to 4.4%
Academic / civic EDDM surveys	Often about 5% to 10%
Mailed invitation to an online civic survey	Commonly about 4% to 12%, higher with follow-up mailings

A single-drop EDDM postcard with no reminder mailing would normally be expected to land in the low single digits if treated as commercial mail, or in the mid-single digits to low double digits if treated as a civic survey.

A roughly 20% yield in 10 days, from one mailing and no reminder, is well above typical EDDM commercial performance and also above most one-contact civic mail-to-web surveys. That indicates unusually strong local interest in the topic. It does not mean the sample is a perfect census of the Village. People with stronger opinions are more likely to respond, and the Facebook share can add some non-mail respondents.

Data Handling

- Results were collected through SurveyMonkey.
- Two separate data sets were created: Set 1 (Incorporated Village residents only) and Set 2 (respondents who answered “No” or “Prefer not to say”).
- Not all respondents completed every question. Percentages for each question are based only on those who answered that question.
- Open-ended comments were summarized thematically rather than published in full because of volume (450 comments in Set 1 and 90 comments in Set 2).
- Quantitative percentages and the open-ended summaries are intended to be released as separate, non-advocacy documents.
- SurveyMonkey records timestamps and response completeness; those records can be used to document when responses arrived and how many questions were completed.

Limits of the Method

This was a voluntary, self-selected survey. It is useful evidence of public opinion among people who chose to respond. It is not a random-sample poll and should not be described as statistically representative of every household in the Village. The high response volume does, however, show that the issue drew unusually broad participation for a local mailing of this size and duration.

Visual Record of the Mailing

The images below are both sides of the EDDM postcard as it was printed and delivered. They are included here as a visual aid so readers can see exactly what households received.

Your Voice Matters in Northport

Help shape fair rules for safe sidewalks and vibrant outdoor dining.



TAKE OUR 2 MINUTE ANONYMOUS SURVEY

Figure 1. Postcard front — photo side with survey invitation and QR code.

Your Voice Matters in Northport

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Northport Residents: Share your thoughts on proposed rules for outdoor sidewalk dining. Help us balance pedestrian safety and support for local restaurants. Take our 2-minute anonymous survey and sign the petition.

Scan QR Code to Take the Survey Now!



**Paid for by Skippers Restaurant
& Concerned Northport Residents**

**LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER**

Figure 2. Postcard back — mail face with postage indicia, survey invitation, and QR code.

The screenshot below is the unaffiliated Facebook post that shared the survey link. The poster's name was removed. It is included only to document that a third-party share occurred during the collection window.

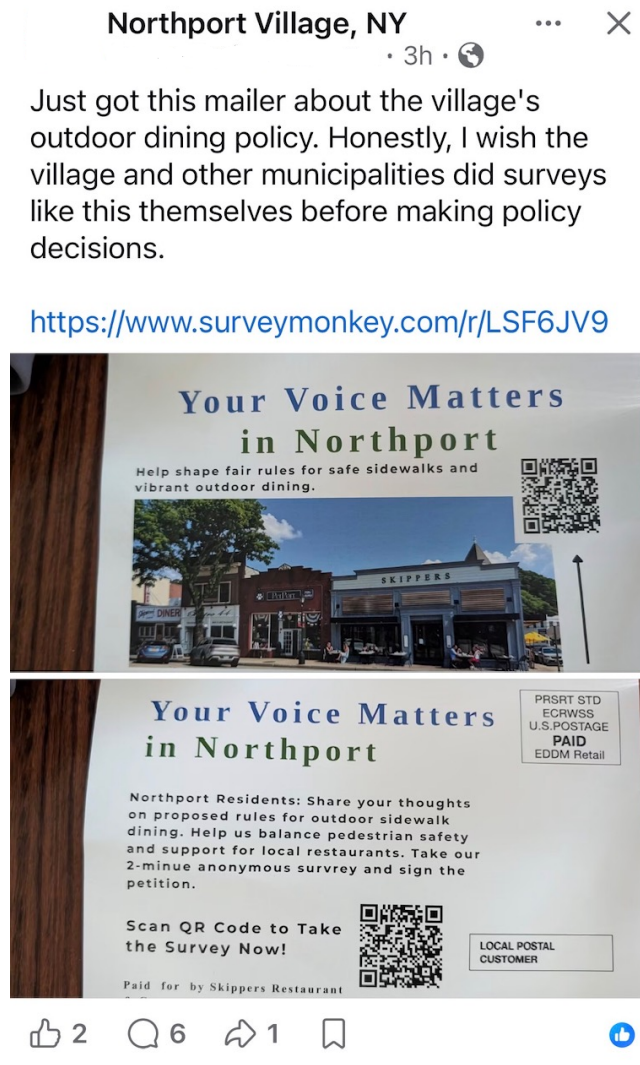


Figure 3. Unaffiliated Facebook post dated August 2, 2026, sharing the SurveyMonkey link. Poster identity blanked.

Your Voice Matters in Northport

724
VILLAGE RESIDENTS
100% live in the Village

Thank you, Northport Village residents.

724 neighbors completed this anonymous survey. You asked for fair rules that keep sidewalks safe and accessible while supporting local restaurants. Here are the results.

60%

prefer a clear-pathway rule
over a strict two-top table limit (Q5)

60%

say table size should not matter
if a 36-inch pedestrian path is kept (Q6)

84%

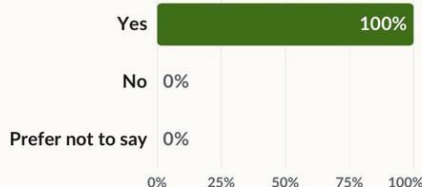
visit downtown weekly or daily
the people who use Main Street spoke (Q2)

THE RESULTS — ALL NINE QUESTIONS

Q1

724 responses

Do you live in the Incorporated
Village of Northport?



Q2

724 responses

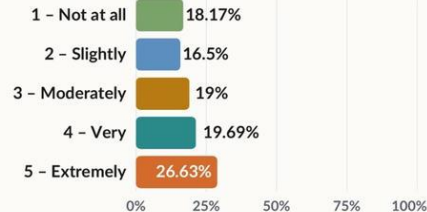
How often do you visit downtown /
Main Street?



Q3

721 responses

How important is outdoor sidewalk
dining to Village character?



Q4

723 responses

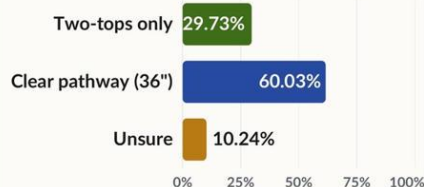
Are you aware the Village limited
outdoor tables to two-tops only?



Q5

713 responses

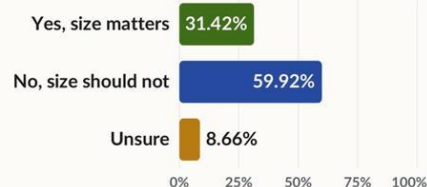
Which approach better balances
pedestrian safety and restaurants?



Q6

716 responses

If a 36" path is kept, should table size
(2-top vs. 4-top) matter?



Q7

717 responses

Would a visible line marking the
dining area help manage space?



Q8

717 responses

Do you prefer outdoor dining with
pairs or small groups (3-4)?



Q9

724 responses

How disruptive do you find outdoor
sidewalk dining in Northport?



See the full analysis

Scan the code for a deeper look at every question, what the numbers mean side-by-side, and how residents described a fair balance between a clear pedestrian path and outdoor dining for local businesses.

Help shape fair rules for safe sidewalks and vibrant outdoor dining.

Survey of Incorporated Village Residents • Results as of August 9, 2026



SCAN FOR
FULL RESULTS

NORTHPORT RESIDENT FEEDBACK : OUTDOOR SIDEWALK DINING

SurveyMonkey results · Source file: Residents No Q10 Table

Full Question-by-Question Results

Data Set 1 : Village Residents - Answered "Yes" to Q1

Anonymous survey of residents of the Incorporated Village of Northport. Results as of August 9, 2026. Percentages are of those who answered each question. Response counts vary slightly because a few people skipped an item.

Q1 Do you live in the Incorporated Village of Northport?

724 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	100.00%	724
No	0%	0
Prefer Not To Say	0%	0
Total		724

Q2 How often do you visit the downtown/Main Street area of Northport?

724 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Daily	26.38%	191
Several Times A Week	57.87%	419
A Few Times A Month	14.09%	102
Rarely	1.66%	12
Never	0%	0
Total		724

Q3 How important is outdoor sidewalk dining to the character, charm, and vibrancy of Northport Village?

721 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
1 - Not Important At All	18.17%	131
2 - Slightly Important	16.50%	119
3 - Moderately Important	19.00%	137

4 - Very Important	19.69%	142
5 - Extremely Important	26.63%	192
Total		721

Q4 Are you aware that the Village recently limited outdoor sidewalk dining tables to “two-top” tables only?

723 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	50.07%	362
No	49.93%	361
Total		723

Q5 Which approach do you believe better balances pedestrian safety and accessibility with support for local restaurants?

713 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Strict limit on table size (e.g., two-tops only)	29.73%	212
Rules based on maintaining a minimum clear pedestrian pathway width (e.g., 36 inches of free space) regardless of table size	60.03%	428
Unsure / Need more information	10.24%	73
Total		713

Q6 If a minimum clear pedestrian pathway (e.g., 36 inches) can be maintained, should the specific size of the table (2-top vs. 4-top) matter?

716 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	31.42%	225
No	59.92%	429
Unsure	8.66%	62
Total		716

Q7 Would a clearly visible line on the sidewalk (marking the edge of the permitted dining area) help pedestrians, diners, and restaurant staff better manage space?

717 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	45.75%	328
No	37.94%	272
Unsure	16.32%	117
Total		717

Q8 Do you prefer outdoor dining with small groups (3-4 people) or mostly pairs?

717 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Mostly Pairs (2)	36.40%	261
Small Groups (3-4)	28.73%	206
No Preference	34.87%	250
Total		717

Q9 How disruptive do you find outdoor sidewalk dining in Northport?

724 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Not At All	37.02%	268
Slightly	20.72%	150
Moderately	16.44%	119
Highly	25.83%	187
Total		724

Q10 Any additional comments or suggestions for the Village on how to keep sidewalks safe and accessible while supporting outdoor dining for local businesses?

Answered: 450 Skipped: 274

Open Ended Comments Summarized Thematically Will Be Published September 11, 2026

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PUBLISHED RESULTS

The SurveyMonkey export provided with this file lists the comment counts only. The 450 written comments were not included in Residents No Q10 Table.

NORTHPORT RESIDENT FEEDBACK · OUTDOOR SIDEWALK DINING

Question 10 · Thematic summary of written comments · Village residents only (Set 1)

Your Voice Matters in Northport

Theme Analysis of 450 Written Comments

Official Village-resident results · Published September 11, 2026 ·

Comments received through August 9, 2026

What this document is

Question 10 asked Village residents for additional comments or suggestions on how to keep sidewalks safe and accessible while supporting outdoor dining for local businesses. This paper summarizes those answers thematically. It is not a transcript of every comment. Comments are published in summary because of volume.

- **Set 1 only: respondents who answered “Yes” to living in the Incorporated Village of Northport.**
- **Answered Q10: 450 Skipped Q10: 274 Village-resident survey total: 724.**
- Percentages in the numbered questions (Q1–Q9) are published separately. This paper covers the written comments only.
- A comment can touch more than one theme. Theme counts below are qualitative, not a second poll.
- Quotes are lightly cleaned for dates and page headers. Wording is otherwise the respondent’s.
- This is a voluntary, self-selected survey. The comments show what people who chose to write wanted the Village to hear. They are not a census of every household.

How to read the comments

Most writers did not treat this as a yes-or-no vote on outdoor dining. The typical comment wanted both things at once: keep the tables that make Main Street feel like Northport, and keep a walkable path for wheelchairs, strollers, seniors, and two-way foot traffic. That is the same balance the numbered questions showed — 60% favored a clear-pathway rule over a strict two-top limit (Q5), and 60% said table size should not matter if a 36-inch path is kept (Q6).

A smaller but consistent group said the sidewalks are already too tight, named specific corners, or asked that sidewalk dining be sharply limited or ended. Those views are recorded below. They are part of the record.

Theme 1 — Outdoor dining is part of the Village

Most frequently expressed positive theme

Writers described sidewalk dining as charm, character, summer atmosphere, and a reason people walk downtown. Many said restaurants cannot seat everyone inside and that outdoor tables are now expected.

- A defining feature of Main Street and the harbor views

- Important to Village character and a lively downtown
- Helpful to locally owned restaurants and to visitors
- Something residents want kept, if it is managed

“Love the outdoor dining ambiance.”

“The sidewalk dining is the epitome of Northport Village. It has been around for over a decade and has drawn tourism from all over New York.”

“This town is special. Outdoor eating is one of the charms in the summertime. Outdoor eating is a must.”

Overall: Strong support for keeping outdoor dining, usually with a condition that the walkway stay clear.

Theme 2 — Accessibility is the first concern

Most frequently mentioned concern

This is the loudest thread in the 450 comments. People wrote about wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, blind pedestrians, two-way walking, dogs tied at tables, waitstaff in the path, and being pushed into the street. Many who want dining to stay still put access first.

- Wheelchairs, walkers, and ADA clearance
- Strollers and people walking side by side
- Seniors and residents who walk daily
- Having to step into the street to get past tables
- Extra chairs, dogs, high chairs, and staff blocking the remaining gap

“We should not have to walk in the street.”

“Now that my husband uses a walker and sometimes a wheelchair, it is difficult to pass, even with apparently a clearance of 36 inches because don’t forget you also have the lamp posts.”

“Concerns come about when strollers or people who need assistance with walking (wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, etc.) are forced to maneuver into the street in order to avoid the tables.”

Overall: Accessibility is treated as compatible with outdoor dining only when a real, usable path is kept and enforced. A number of writers said 36 inches is not enough once meters, poles, dogs, and an extra chair are in the way. Others said 36 inches is enough if it is actually kept clear.

Theme 3 — Measure the sidewalk, not just the table

This is the policy recommendation that shows up again and again, and it matches Q5 and Q6.

- Sidewalk width is not the same in front of every building
- A two-top rule on a wide sidewalk and a two-top rule on a narrow corner are not the same thing
- Allow a larger table only where the remaining path stays clear

- Use a minimum pedestrian width as the rule that applies to everyone

“Making a blanket rule about the size of the table is not the solution. Space varies up and down Main Street. The regulation should be based on the amount of space required for pedestrians to walk by safely.”

“Defined and enforced boundaries are all you need. 2, 4, 10 tops are irrelevant.”

“Allow 4 person tables with acceptable clearance for pedestrians.”

Overall: Many residents asked for a performance standard — keep the path — rather than a one-size table cap on every storefront.

Theme 4 — Enforce the rule you already have

A large group said the problem is not the absence of a law. It is chairs sliding out, extra seats, dogs in the path, and uneven follow-through from one restaurant to the next.

- Regular checks, not a rule that lives only on paper
- Fines when the path is blocked
- The same standard for every restaurant
- Painted or marked edges, if they can be done without becoming an eyesore
- Some opposition to painted lines as clutter or as a source of arguments

“I think 36 inches, properly enforced, balances competing rights of walkers, diners and owners.”

“There is nothing wrong with the preexisting law. 36 inches is more than enough space. The law just needs to be enforced.”

“I think outdoor dining is wonderful, as long as there is enough room to walk by. If there was a line on the walkway, it would have to be inconspicuous and not an eyesore.”

Overall: Enforcement and equal treatment were recommended more often than writing a brand-new kind of restriction.

Theme 5 — The sidewalk itself is part of the problem

Writers repeatedly said tables are not the only objects in the way.

- Narrow sidewalks that were not built for dining
- Parking meters, light poles, trees, planters, and uneven pavement
- Busy corners and two-way traffic at Main and Woodbine, Main and Bayview, and similar pinch points
- Waitstaff, dogs, and strollers using the last remaining gap

“Four tops are fine so long as you can maintain that 3 foot gap. Where you run into a problem is the parking meters reduce that significantly.”

“It should be a minimum of 48 inches from table to any obstruction — trash cans, parking meters, light poles or planters.”

Overall: A share of residents want capital and design work — wider walks, fewer obstructions — not only a change in table rules.

Theme 6 — Parking, crowds, and downtown capacity

Outdoor dining was often discussed as one piece of a larger downtown crush: day-trippers, theater nights, deliveries, tight parking, and seasonal volume.

- Limited parking and large vehicles along Main Street
- Seasonal crowding and visitors
- Delivery trucks and peak-hour congestion
- Dogs and strollers adding to an already tight path

Overall: Many comments treated congestion as a planning problem, not only a restaurant problem.

Theme 7 — Fairness to local restaurants and to everyone on the sidewalk

Writers who support dining worried that a blunt two-top rule would cut seats, tips, and summer income. Writers who struggle to walk worried that public sidewalk is being used as private floor space. Both arguments appear in volume.

- Restaurants need summer seats; indoor rooms are small
- Jobs and the downtown tax base
- Rules should be the same from one door to the next
- Some comments named specific corners and asked that the tightest blocks be treated differently than wider frontage

“Smaller tables can really hurt the local business that need that extra summer traffic.”

“Please continue supporting our restaurants.”

Overall: Economic vitality and public access were both treated as legitimate Village interests.

Theme 8 — Other ideas residents put on the table

The comments are full of concrete alternatives, not only yes and no.

- Rooftop dining, often described as a way to take pressure off the sidewalk
- Alley or courtyard seating off the main walk
- Wider sidewalks; sacrificing a parking space for a tree island or a wider path
- Seasonal or time-of-day pedestrian stretches of Main Street
- Permits that cap the number of tables by storefront depth and corner conditions
- A wider minimum than 36 inches (48 or 60) on the busiest blocks
- Cameras or regular walks to back up the fine schedule

“Rooftop, rooftop, rooftop.”

“If they approved a rooftop they could remove the sidewalk tables, no?”

“A portion of Main Street should be designated as a pedestrian mall during busier foot-traffic times.”

Overall: Residents were looking for a workable mix, not a slogan.

Minority viewpoints

These views are less common than the “keep dining, keep the path” comments. They are real, they are specific, and they belong in the official record.

Stricter limits or no sidewalk dining

A smaller group asked for two-tops only everywhere, for tables off the narrowest corners, or for sidewalk dining to end.

“Eliminate sidewalk tables.”

“There should be no sidewalk dining in the Village.”

“I prefer strictly limiting or eliminating outdoor dining.”

“I won’t go as far as to say there should be no sidewalk dining, but there should be a strict limit. My daughter is non-ambulatory.”

Their reasons were consistent: blocked sidewalks, people in the street, noise and crowding, and the feeling that a private business is occupying public walkway. Some also disliked painted lines. These comments should not be rounded off the page just because they are fewer.

What the 450 comments add to the numbered results

- Q5 and Q6 already showed a majority for a clear-path rule over a blanket two-top rule. The written comments explain why: sidewalks are not all the same width.
- Q9 showed a split on how disruptive dining feels. The comments show that “disruptive” usually means a blocked path, a corner, a dog, or an extra chair — not dining as an idea.
- Q7 was mixed on a painted line. The comments are mixed too: some want a visible edge; others call it an eyesore or a source of fights.
- The comments add what a checkbox cannot: named corners, wheelchairs and strollers, rooftops and alleys, parking meters, and a request that the Village enforce whatever rule it adopts.

Official takeaway

Across 450 Village-resident comments, the center of gravity is not “tables versus people.” It is “keep the dining that people associate with Northport, and keep a sidewalk that a wheelchair, a stroller, and two adults can actually use.”

The most useful instruction from this set of comments is practical: set a clear, measurable path; enforce it the same way at every door; allow a larger table only where that path still exists; and treat the tightest corners and the leftover street furniture as part of the same problem.

The minority that wants fewer tables, or none, is smaller. It is also the group describing daily harm — a child in a wheelchair, a parent with a stroller in the travel lane, a spouse with a walker stopped by a lamp post. A serious reading of Q10 holds both of those facts at once.

Source: Residents Q10 Table (SurveyMonkey) · Set 1, Incorporated Village residents · Answered 450 / Skipped 274

Your Voice Matters in Northport

234

NON-RESIDENTS

No 191 • Prefer not 43

Non-resident and unidentified responses.

234 people who do not live in the Incorporated Village — or who preferred not to say — completed this anonymous survey. Shown separately from the Village-resident results.

75%

prefer a clear-pathway rule

over a strict two-top table limit (Q5)

71%

say table size should not matter

if a 36-inch pedestrian path is kept (Q6)

64%

visit downtown weekly or daily

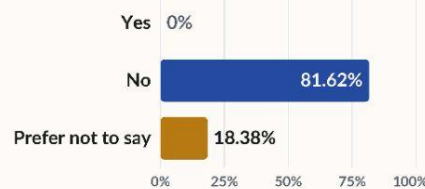
Daily 12% + several times a week 52% (Q2)

THE RESULTS — ALL NINE QUESTIONS

Q1

234 responses

Do you live in the Incorporated Village of Northport?



Q2

234 responses

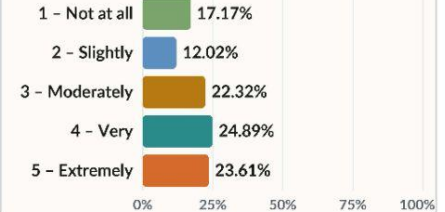
How often do you visit downtown / Main Street?



Q3

233 responses

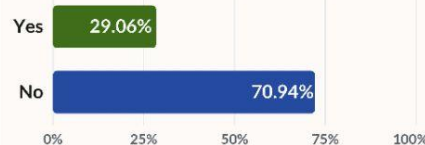
How important is outdoor sidewalk dining to Village character?



Q4

234 responses

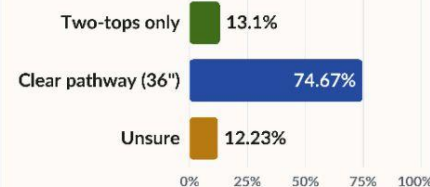
Are you aware the Village limited outdoor tables to two-tops only?



Q5

229 responses

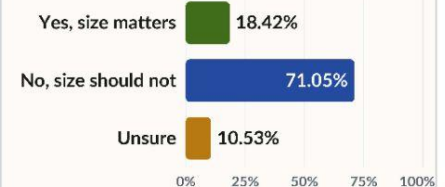
Which approach better balances pedestrian safety and restaurants?



Q6

228 responses

If a 36" path is kept, should table size (2-top vs. 4-top) matter?



Q7

231 responses

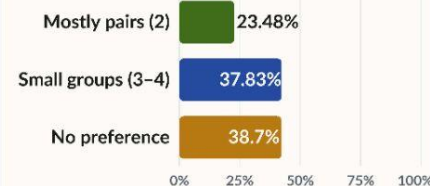
Would a visible line marking the dining area help manage space?



Q8

230 responses

Do you prefer outdoor dining with pairs or small groups (3-4)?



Q9

233 responses

How disruptive do you find outdoor sidewalk dining in Northport?



See the full analysis

Scan the code for a deeper look at every question, what the numbers mean side-by-side, and how residents described a fair balance between a clear pedestrian path and outdoor dining for local businesses.

Help shape fair rules for safe sidewalks and vibrant outdoor dining.

Non-residents and prefer-not-to-say • Results as of August 9, 2026



SCAN FOR
FULL RESULTS

Full Question-by-Question Results

Data Set 2 : Non Residents/Declined to Identify - Answered “No” or “Prefer Not To Say” to Q1

Anonymous survey answers from people who selected “No” or “Prefer not to say” on Question 1. This set is published separately from the 724 Village-resident results. Results as of August 9, 2026. Percentages are of those who answered each question. Response counts vary slightly because a few people skipped an item.

234 responses in this set · **No = 191** · **Prefer not to say = 43**

Q1 *Do you live in the Incorporated Village of Northport?*

234 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	0%	0
No	81.62%	191
Prefer Not To Say	18.38%	43
Total		234

Q2 *How often do you visit the downtown/Main Street area of Northport?*

234 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Daily	11.54%	27
Several Times A Week	52.14%	122
A Few Times A Month	34.62%	81
Rarely	1.71%	4
Never	0%	0
Total		234

Q3 *How important is outdoor sidewalk dining to the character, charm, and vibrancy of Northport Village?*

233 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
1 - Not Important At All	17.17%	40
2 - Slightly Important	12.02%	28

3 - Moderately Important	22.32%	52
4 - Very Important	24.89%	58
5 - Extremely Important	23.61%	55
Total		233

Q4 Are you aware that the Village recently limited outdoor sidewalk dining tables to “two-top” tables only?

234 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	29.06%	68
No	70.94%	166
Total		234

Q5 Which approach do you believe better balances pedestrian safety and accessibility with support for local restaurants?

229 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Strict limit on table size (e.g., two-tops only)	13.10%	30
Rules based on maintaining a minimum clear pedestrian pathway width (e.g., 36 inches of free space) regardless of table size	74.67%	171
Unsure / Need more information	12.23%	28
Total		229

Q6 If a minimum clear pedestrian pathway (e.g., 36 inches) can be maintained, should the specific size of the table (2-top vs. 4-top) matter?

228 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	18.42%	42
No	71.05%	162
Unsure	10.53%	24
Total		228

Q7 Would a clearly visible line on the sidewalk (marking the edge of the permitted dining area) help pedestrians, diners, and restaurant staff better manage space?

231 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	51.52%	119

No	30.30%	70
Unsure	18.18%	42
Total		231

Q8 Do you prefer outdoor dining with small groups (3-4 people) or mostly pairs?

230 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Mostly Pairs (2)	23.48%	54
Small Groups (3-4)	37.83%	87
No Preference	38.70%	89
Total		230

Q9 How disruptive do you find outdoor sidewalk dining in Northport?

233 responses

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Not At All	45.92%	107
Slightly	25.32%	59
Moderately	14.16%	33
Highly	14.59%	34
Total		233

Q10 Any additional comments or suggestions for the Village on how to keep sidewalks safe and accessible while supporting outdoor dining for local businesses?

Answered: 90 **Skipped: 144**

The SurveyMonkey export provided with this file lists the comment counts only. The 90 written comments were not included in Non Resident No Q10 Table.

NORTHPORT RESIDENT FEEDBACK • OUTDOOR SIDEWALK DINING

Question 10 • Thematic summary of written comments • Non-residents / declined to identify (Set 2)

Your Voice Matters in Northport

Theme Analysis of 90 Written Comments

Official Set 2 results • Published September 11, 2026 • Comments received through August 9, 2026

What this document is

Question 10 asked for additional comments or suggestions on how to keep sidewalks safe and accessible while supporting outdoor dining for local businesses. This paper summarizes the written answers from Set 2 only. It is not a transcript of every comment. Comments are published in summary because of volume.

- **Set 2 only: respondents who answered “No” or “Prefer not to say” on Question 1 (do you live in the Incorporated Village of Northport).**
- **Set 2 total: 234 No: 191 Prefer not to say: 43.**
- **Answered Q10: 90 Skipped Q10: 144.**
- A comment can touch more than one theme. Theme counts below are qualitative, not a second poll.
- Quotes are lightly cleaned for dates and page headers. Wording is otherwise the respondent’s.
- This is a voluntary, self-selected survey. Set 2 includes visitors and people who declined to say where they live. It is useful context. It is not a resident census.

How to read Set 2

These 90 comments sound a lot like the Village-resident comments, with one extra accent: several writers say they come to Northport because of outdoor dining, or that they will go to Huntington instead if the tables come up. The center is still a request for both a walkable path and a living Main Street. A smaller group wants two-tops only, tables off Main Street, or no sidewalk dining at all.

Theme 1 — Outdoor dining is why people come

Most frequently expressed positive theme

Writers in this set described sidewalk dining as charm, the reason they visit in warm months, and part of what makes Northport feel like a destination rather than a street of antique stores.

- A reason to come downtown in the warmer months
- Part of the Village’s appeal and “old town” feel
- Helpful to restaurants, shops, and visitors
- Something they do not want taken away

“I love the outdoor dining. It’s why I go to Northport in the warmer months. I would be so disappointed if they did away with it.”

“Outdoor dining adds to the charm of Northport. Restaurants just need to make sure there is enough space for pedestrians to walk.”

“Outdoor dining for the short summer season is a huge plus for Northport, which has very few outdoor options. Further limiting this is unnecessarily restrictive and pushes us to Huntington.”

Overall: Strong support for keeping outdoor dining. Several comments treat it as a visitor draw, not only a resident amenity.

Theme 2 — Accessibility and passing on the sidewalk

Most frequently mentioned concern

Even in the visitor / declined-to-identify set, the path comes up constantly: strollers, wheelchairs, walkers, dogs, high curbs, two-way walking, and stepping into the street. Some writers who want dining to stay still put that path first.

- Strollers, wheelchairs, canes, and people walking side by side
- Seniors and high curbs
- Dogs at tables and dog walkers on the same strip
- Having to step into the street to get past a corner

"I think a clear pathway needs to be in place for strollers and people with disabilities or in a wheelchair."

"The clearance should be greater than 36 inches. Safe passage for pedestrians is paramount."

"You have to jump off the sidewalk and go onto the road in order to get around. Not too easy for seniors."

Overall: Accessibility is treated as the condition that makes dining acceptable. A number of writers said 36 inches is not enough once meters, dogs, and an oncoming person are in the gap.

Theme 3 — Measure the sidewalk, not just the table

Same policy argument as in Set 1, in fewer words.

- Width is not the same in front of every door
- A larger table is fine only where the path still exists
- Some want two-tops on the tightest blocks and more flexibility where the walk is wider
- Seasonal or event-day reductions (farmers market, weekends) came up

"Be practical about it. Make it safe for pedestrians, but also allow the outdoor dining with consideration for the restaurants."

"Depending on the sidewalk width, tables should be no more than for two or four people."

"Find a way to keep both pedestrians and diners happy. They are both important for our village."

Overall: The practical recommendation is a path standard that can vary with the block, not a single table size for every storefront.

Theme 4 — Enforce the rule, or do not paint the street

Set 2 split on painted lines the same way the numbered questions did. Some want a visible edge. Others call it ugly and ask the Village to enforce without painting.

- A line that behaves like a bike-path edge
- Parking enforcement or regular checks instead of paint

- Keep the path clear of extra chairs and garbage
- Opposition to lines that would “take away from the charm”

“The line would help but I don’t like the unnatural look.”

“Maybe the parking enforcement employee can monitor instead of putting lines down.”

“Keep the sidewalks clean of food. Each restaurant is responsible for keeping the sidewalk dining area clear of garbage.”

Overall: Enforcement and courtesy were asked for more often than a new kind of law.

Theme 5 — Sidewalks, meters, and corners that were not built for tables

Writers in this set also said the walk itself is part of the pinch: narrow pavement, pitch toward the road, meters, trees, lampposts, and specific corners.

- Narrow walks, especially on waterside and busy corners
- Measure 36 inches from meters and poles, not only from the curb
- Updated sidewalks and a clearer pedestrian route, including for people who bike into town
- Crowds at the ice cream shop as a separate bottleneck

“Need a better pathway and updated sidewalks for pedestrians and those who bike ride into town.”

“A 36 inch barrier may not be enough given that the parking meters also interfere with walking.”

“The 36 inches should be measured from any meters, trees, lampposts, etc. and not the curb.”

Overall: Design and leftover street furniture were treated as part of the same problem as table size.

Theme 6 — Parking, tourism, and downtown volume

Set 2 talks about parking more bluntly than some resident comments. Valet, alternative lots, and “do not copy Port Jeff meters” all appear.

- Need more parking, or another way to get cars off the tight blocks
- Weekend and holiday volume
- Dogs and visitors sharing the same strip
- Fear that paid, numbered spaces would change the character of Main Street

“The village should work on creating alternative parking solutions or valet services for the downtown area to reduce road congestion.”

“We really need more parking in Northport Village.”

“If anything make more parking.”

Overall: Congestion is described as a downtown-capacity issue, not only a restaurant issue.

Theme 7 — Keep the restaurants in business

A clear visitor-and-customer voice: do not cut the seats that bring people in. A few comments go further and call the two-top rule over-management.

- Outdoor seats help restaurants, which help shops
- Two-tops are a disadvantage for small families
- Summer season is short; further limits push people to other downtowns
- A request for common sense instead of more restriction

"The restaurants are the heart of the town. Take them away, and you can say goodbye to retail commerce in the town."

"It's important to allow outdoor dining as it helps the restaurants, which in turn helps the village."

"They should increase outdoor dining not decrease it."

Overall: Economic vitality is treated as a public interest in this set, often in the voice of a customer rather than an owner.

Theme 8 — Other ideas this set put on the table

The alternatives look like Set 1, with more talk of water and rooftops.

- Rooftop dining, often described as a way to clear two sidewalks at a busy corner
- Alley, side-street, courtyard, or private-rear seating
- Waterside dining across from the harbor
- Table counts based on each business's capacity
- Fewer tables on event days
- A wider berth on corners

"I'd love rooftop dining."

"Should be kept to side streets or alley ways vs. the primary location on Main Street."

"If you won't allow it on the sidewalk then make it available on the rooftops."

Overall: Writers were looking for another place to put the seats, not only a yes or no on the existing tables.

Minority viewpoints

These views are less common than "keep dining, keep the path." They are specific, and they belong in the Set 2 record.

Stricter limits or no sidewalk dining

A smaller group asked that diners go inside, that tables leave Main Street, that only two-tops be allowed, or that sidewalk dining end. A few added parking-code and accessibility-code arguments. One comment asked that alcohol not be served outside.

"My suggestion is to ban all outdoor seating."

“No sidewalk tables at all.”

“Only 2 toppers should be permitted. I wish there was no sidewalk dining in the village.”

Their reasons were the same ones in Set 1: blocked sidewalks, people in the street, corners that cannot take a four-top, and the feeling that public walk is being used as private floor. Those comments are fewer. They are not absent.

What the 90 comments add

- Set 2 is not a second Village vote. It is the written view of people who said they do not live in the Incorporated Village, or who declined to say.
- The themes still line up with Set 1: keep the dining, keep a real path, enforce whatever rule you adopt, fix the leftover street furniture.
- The extra note in this set is visitor demand. Several writers say they come for the tables, or that they will spend the summer somewhere else if the seats come up.
- Painted lines, rooftops, alleys, parking, and two-top-only corners appear here too.
- The ban / no-tables minority is present and should be read next to the resident minority, not folded into a single “everyone wants dining” sentence.

Official takeaway

Across 90 Set 2 comments, the center of gravity is the same as in the resident file: keep outdoor dining, and keep a sidewalk that a stroller, a wheelchair, and two people can use. The visitor voice is louder here. The request to measure the walk instead of capping every table at two is the same request.

Read Set 2 as context for how people who use downtown — including people who do not live inside the Village line — describe the same street. Do not substitute it for the 450 Village-resident comments, and do not drop the minority that wants the tables off the sidewalk.

Source: Non Resident Q10 Table (SurveyMonkey) · Set 2, answered “No” or “Prefer not to say” on Q1 · Answered 90 / Skipped 144 · Set total 234

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