

# Wilton Riverwalk Residents Survey Results

*August 24, 2018*

# Wilton Riverwalk public input process

- In June, 2018 two public workshops were held to gather feedback on desired Riverwalk features. The final report is here: [Riverwalk Workshops Report](#).
- The top features gathered from the workshops were then included in an online survey to gauge more residents' input.
- The survey was open from 8/6-8/17 and promoted via email to the Eco-Dev interest list and via postings on several town-related Facebook pages.
- **142 residents completed the survey**, 60% came from the e-mail list and 40% from Facebook.
- 58 respondents also chose to provide additional feedback.

# Wilton Riverwalk survey – Q1

***Please rate the importance to you of the following potential features of an expanded Riverwalk***

High (Must have), Medium (Nice to have), Low (Can wait for later), Not needed

Clear view of river with steps down or a viewing platform

Disabled-friendly access to the Riverwalk with smooth walking surfaces, places to sit, handrails

Improved access to Memorial Park

Viewing area by the Artists Mill buildings

Signs to direct people into Main Street businesses with views of river out the back

Pruning of overgrowth of vegetation all along the river which obstructs views

Footbridge connecting Wilton House of Pizza to the rest of the Riverwalk

Childrens' area, something for kids to do

Bike trail and walking trails

Fishing docks/platforms on either or both sides of the river

A place to sit by the river and have something to eat or drink

Information kiosks/displays about the river ecology and history

Murals on sides of buildings

Public art or sculpture throughout

Outdoor performing arts space

# Wilton Riverwalk survey – Q1

Results ranked by total weighted average (1-4, with 1=highest)

<b>Riverwalk Feature</b>	<b>Weighted Average</b>
Pruning of overgrowth of vegetation all along the river which obstructs views	1.57
Bike trail and walking trails *	1.7
Disabled-friendly access to the Riverwalk with smooth walking surfaces, places to sit, handrails	1.76
A place to sit by the river and have something to eat or drink	1.78
Clear view of river with steps down or a viewing platform	1.81
Signs to direct people into Main Street businesses with views of river out the back	1.93
Childrens' area, something for kids to do	1.98
Viewing area by the Artists Mill buildings	2.17
Footbridge connecting Wilton House of Pizza to the rest of the Riverwalk	2.23
Improved access to Memorial Park	2.26
Information kiosks/displays about the river ecology and history	2.27
Outdoor performing arts space	2.37
Fishing docks/platforms on either or both sides of the river	2.39
Public art or sculpture throughout	2.59
Murals on sides of buildings	2.93

\* *In hindsight, should have separated these two*

# Wilton Riverwalk survey – Q1

Results ranked by percent choosing “Must have”

<b>Riverwalk Feature</b>	<b>Must have</b>
Pruning of overgrowth of vegetation all along the river which obstructs views	64%
Disabled-friendly access to the Riverwalk with smooth walking surfaces, places to sit, handrails	53%
Bike trail and walking trails	47%
A place to sit by the river and have something to eat or drink	47%
Clear view of river with steps down or a viewing platform	44%
Signs to direct people into Main Street businesses with views of river out the back	42%
Childrens' area, something for kids to do	37%
Footbridge connecting Wilton House of Pizza to the rest of the Riverwalk	26%
Information kiosks/displays about the river ecology and history	21%
Viewing area by the Artists Mill buildings	21%
Outdoor performing arts space	20%
Improved access to Memorial Park	18%
Fishing docks/platforms on either or both sides of the river	18%
Public art or sculpture throughout	8%
Murals on sides of buildings	6%

# Wilton Riverwalk survey – Q1

## Results ranked by percent choosing “Not Needed”

<b>Riverwalk Feature</b>	<b>Not Needed</b>
Murals on sides of buildings	30%
Fishing docks/platforms on either or both sides of the river	16%
Public art or sculpture throughout	16%
Footbridge connecting Wilton House of Pizza to the rest of the Riverwalk	14%
Viewing area by the Artists Mill buildings	13%
Outdoor performing arts space	13%
Improved access to Memorial Park	11%
Information kiosks/displays about the river ecology and history	11%
Childrens' area, something for kids to do	11%
Signs to direct people into Main Street businesses with views of river out the back	10%
Clear view of river with steps down or a viewing platform	9%
Disabled-friendly access to the Riverwalk with smooth walking surfaces, places to sit, handrails	9%
Pruning of overgrowth of vegetation all along the river which obstructs views	9%
A place to sit by the river and have something to eat or drink	7%
Bike trail and walking trails	4%

Q2: Please let us know what else you would like to see on the Riverwalk not included above  
*58 responses*

Some common requests:

- Trash receptacles/dog waste bags (6)
- Lighting (4)
- Covered area to get out of sun, rain or for concerts (4)
- Drinking fountain/public rest room (3)
- ***Please see next slides for other great ideas!***

## Verbatim comments (1 of 4)

Places to gather in large groups

information about where to go boating in the area

Lighting

litter bins; benches

Keep up the great work!

Safety features ie throw rings in case of emergency

Bike path, kid play area, band stand are all fantastic ideas to encourage visitors! What about lighting?

Nice groomed paths for walking.

Trash cans so it doesn't disgusting

A kiosk for maps at both ends.

Shade and drinking water, public restrooms

Restaurant down by Artists Mill Studios where there is parking

Additional food options: coffee, sandwiches, pastries etc

continued extension into a longer path for running and biking. A brick walkway built from money raised from selling personalized bricks.

Less murals. Art is subjective. Let's enjoy nature's beauty! It would be amazing if we could do weekly summer concerts like Milford's Emerson Park! Folks might get dinner in town and then enjoy the music!

Clean up the invasives in the shrubs around the flag pole.



## Verbatim comments (2 of 4)

A nice pub! A beer garden. A restaurant. Something that would also support our movie theater.

a covered pavilion somewhere along the walk would be awesome!

Covered space to sit or stand if it's raining out

A concert gazebo

Signs directing people to the Riverwalk.

A pergola in the Main St. Park that would serve as a small performing arts/special event focus.

No preference

water fountain and porta potty or access to bathroom

waste barrels. doggy doo-doo bag stations.

Random seating sprinkled on the Riverwalk

Garbage containers & no littering signs.

Less of a 'park' and more of a cleaned up area to walk or sit at. Nothing fancy or garish like murals

Outdoor cafe seating

need to entertain kids or have an area for theatre arts to perform. Fishing, walking, relaxing, sharing a meal with a friend, enjoying the sound of the river. Would be nice to connect WHOP as it will make Main Street longer, more chance for commercial buildings on the north side of the river to pop up. Would be great to have built in picnic tables at one of the

It would be great if some businesses could have entrance access to their businesses from the Riverwalk side as well as Main Street.

## Verbatim comments (3 of 4)

Clean trails and nice views!

Outdoor (or indoor for that matter) dining options

Clean smooth path with places to put trash so the river stays clean.

Improvements to the war memorials, our veterans deserve much better...

This is enough to start with, I think.

Good luck!

Food truck and refreshments.

Adopt a section signs. Get local business to buy in

Restrooms and fresh drinking water access

Plants

lighting

Lighting

I believe you cover everything!

walk my kids as well as my daycare kids along the river walk. they love looking in the river and seeing the police cars in the parking lot. anything bridge or platform made should be stroller or wheelchair accessible

dog bag kiosks/trash for people walking their dogs.

Just nice landscaping with hardscapes and appropriate lighting

Beach or swimming access

Nothing else - good job!

## Negative comments (6% of respondents)

### *Important to understand opposing views!*

Bring businesses back to Main Street. Spend money that allows the small town to flourish. So far Main St has been destroyed by trying to add art to it, we've lost all the parking previously available to businesses thus they have failed!

Nothing you are going into someone else's space. Leave them alone

PLEASE do not continue to spend \$, even if provided by grants, for this project. We, as a tax payers' household would rather see \$ being allotted for children's programs & young families. Who actually is downtown? We lost a great community venue, when the farmer's market moved. We'd like to promote the movie theatre more & the park. The River Walk seems to be an idea that IS NOT realistic, because of private properties. We also support more 1 family residential homes on Main Street.

in general, I am not in favor of this project. As an abutting property owner, I don't want strangers in my back yard

If not already, this entity needs to be a non profit so fund raising can happen and not increase property taxes. I think the town of Wilton has to sort out problems with town hall, select persons before spending money on this stuff.

Not really convinced of the need for this project. Need to work on getting more businesses and foot traffic on Main Street. Don't think this Riverwalk is going to do that. Do any of the out-of-towneers who are visiting Garwin Falls (parking illegally and blocking the road) come downtown afterwards? Doubt it.

It's fine as it is. Money can be spent cleaning up the very bad audit.

Assurance that the town won't have to spend any more money on it.

Make it so it doesn't cut through land not owned by the town. It isn't fair to private property owners to have trail go through their land.