BLOOMINGTON.

tomorrow. together.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE:

A LOOK AT THE DATA

DECEMBER 2021

CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
MINNESOTA

CONTENTS

I. WELCOME LETTER

Greetings and welcome to the Bloomington Core Planning Team!

Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together. That last word is especially important. Working toward an intended future for the community is work that takes many hands. Finding consensus on a vision of Bloomington where everyone can see themselves thriving will be a powerful way to build an even greater sense of community than exists today.

This community's past and present are the building blocks of the future. These building blocks can form solid structures, but there is something that has to hold them together. In this case, it is you and the other members of the Core Planning Team and the unifying mission we are about to create. Through this process, we will set a course for the future and we will create supporters who encourage the work, stakeholders who urge us to move forward and champions who will cheer us to success.

By accepting membership to the Core Planning Team you have accepted a shared responsibility in the development of a plan that creates an intended future for Bloomington. Your presence and contribution to this process of transformation will be forever recognized as a distinct turning point in the history of our community. Author Peter Block best sums up our mission in his book titled Community: The Structure of Belonging:

The essential challenge is to transform the isolation and self-interest within our community into connectedness and caring for the whole. The key is to identify how this transformation occurs. We begin by shifting our attention from the problems of community to the possibility of community. We also need to acknowledge that our wisdom about individual transformation is not enough when it comes to community transformation. So, one purpose here is to bring together our knowledge about the nature of collective transformation. A key insight in this pursuit is to accept the importance of social capital to the life of the community. This begins the effort to create a future distinct from the past.

To help inform our work, we have compiled this data book. In addition to the input of Bloomington residents who participated in numerous community café discussions, you'll learn more about the services we provide as a City, the resources that abound in our community, and the amenities that residents, businesses and visitors have come to appreciate. Please take time to read this material prior to our first meeting.

On behalf of the Bloomington City Council and our entire community, thank you for the contribution of your time and your talent. We look forward to your active and enthusiastic participation.

Sincerely,

Jamie Verbrugge
City Manager

II. CORE PLANNING TEAM ROSTER

Core Planning Team Members

- Jan Almquist
- Jon Anderson
- Nancy Brewster
- Erika Brown
- Tim Busse
- Dana Chou
- Kimberly Clauson
- Steve Gurney
- Faith Jackson
- Brendan Klein
- Dwayne Lowman
- Patrick Martin
- Luis Martinez
- Eric Melbye
- Sarah Merriman
- Nur Mood
- Chao Moua
- Shamil Mirza
- Amos Olivarez
- JC St. Onge-Holm
- Mary Rathsabandith
- Priscilla Roberts
- Kendra Rysan
- Ron Sarat
- Jamie Schumacher
- Mara Stauffacher
- Emma Struss
- Ann Marie Terpstra
- Jamie Verbrugge
- Alison Warren

Facilitators: Teresa Arpin and Stephen Barone, Transformation Systems, Ltd.

III. KEY STRATEGIC PLANNING DATES

Key strategic planning dates

October – November, 2021: Community Cafes
- October 16 – Kennedy High School
- October 26 – St. Michael's Lutheran Church
- October 28 – Virtual café on Zoom
- October 30 – Blooming Meadows
- October 30 – Valley View Playfields
- November 4 – Mall of America
- November 6 – Action for East African People/Action Care Clinic
- Online community input via Let's Talk Bloomington and Polco

December 2 - 4, 2021: Core Planning Team retreat

January 7, 2022: Measurement Team meeting

January 8, 2022: Action Team meeting

January 28, 2022: Measurement Team meeting

January 29, 2022: Action Team meeting

February 19, 2022: Action Team meeting

March 5, 2022: Core Planning Team review of Action Team's work

March - April 2022: City Council considers and adopts the City Manager's recommendations regarding the strategic plan

IV. COMMUNITY CAFÉ SUMMARY REPORT

World Café Summary Report

City of Bloomington

November 2021

The City of Bloomington has embarked upon an initiative to build and share a clear vision of the future. As part of the process, the city held six in-person and one virtual World Cafés in October and November 2021, with approximately 148 community members participating.

The purpose of each World Café was to engage all community stakeholders in conversations, providing them an opportunity to share their thoughts on Bloomington's present and future.

The participants of the World Cafés engaged in dialogue over four questions:

- *As you think about Bloomington, what are your top priorities to help our community thrive as a satisfying place to live, work and play (for example, community amenities, resources, what we should aspire to, etc.)? Be as specific as possible.*

- *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

- *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

It is important to recognize that each person who participated in the world café had the opportunity to give multiple responses to each question. Notes recorded on tabletop and chart paper were also included in the analysis of the responses.

In addition to the world cafés, community members were given an opportunity to provide feedback through an online survey and idea boards. 104 community members participated in these digital engagement tools.

Main themes emerged in the responses and are reported in the summary of findings. Themes are presented in order of magnitude. Rounding is used in the display of percentages, so totals may fall within +/- one (1) percent of 100.

1. As you think about Bloomington, what are your top priorities to help our community thrive as a satisfying place to live, work and play (for example, community amenities, resources, what we should aspire to, etc.)? Be as specific as possible.

❖ *verbatim example of response*

Seven (7) main themes emerged from a total of 586 responses. One (1) percent of responses were not categorized in a theme.

Community recreation and amenities - outdoors and indoors (32%)

❖ *Parks & nature, trails—continue prioritizing*
❖ *We need to take care of and utilize more of all the great outdoor space we have in Bloomington.*
❖ *Inclusive playgrounds*
❖ *Large community recreative space and opportunities—especially for winter months*
❖ *Year round space (community center)*
❖ *Opportunities for safe indoor and outdoor play for families: parks with clean restrooms (running water), shade and places to sit and snack. Opportunities to relax and unwind: nature centers that are indoors and interactive*
❖ *We need community neighborhood pockets as well as places to bring the community together*
❖ *A new, modern, community center or, as an alternative, a rebuilt Creekside Community Center with improvements and added facilities but not the scale of a single grand community center, together with 4, more local "neighborhood"-style "community" centers, one in each quadrant of town*
❖ *Develop a "downtown"/central business area*

Miscellaneous Responses (1%)

Education (5%)

❖ *Strong public schools - city & school district have good partnership improve on school system*
❖ *Strong public schools - city & school district have good partnership, improve on school system*

Support for local business (9%)

❖ *More "local" options i.e. coffee shops, meeting spaces, "diversify" options*
❖ *Business - foster entrepreneurship, more local restaurants*
❖ *Support small businesses and incentivize them to open - we need the City to support businesses rather than putting in place anti-business policies*

Public safety (7%)

❖ *Safety for our residents and children. Police forces should be expanded and given community and government support.*
❖ *(Comfort) - Safety - adequate police presence - better police identity*

Bloomington identity, belonging and sense of community (23%)

❖ *City that is open and welcoming to everybody; all walks of life, all demographics; open to other viewpoints.*
❖ *Bridge gap between east/west, disparities*
❖ *Thinking of Bloomington of one city - urban and suburban - small town - rural variation*
  ❖ *Emphasis on long-term planning - design community*
  ❖ *More opportunities for community and neighborhood interaction*
    ❖ *Community relationships*
    ❖ *Continue to optimize the city for quality of life, equity, and sustainability while being cost-effective*
  ❖ *Bloomington as a destination*

Public infrastructure and services (15%)

❖ *Bike paths and dedicated on-road bike lanes*
❖ *Safe bike lanes, safe sidewalks, landscaping, less storage facilities, clean parks*
❖ *More walkability*
❖ *Metro/mass transit access to downtown for work, arts, etc.*
❖ *Upgrade bus shelters, accessibility*
❖ *Environmental sustainability to provide for the future, the health and welfare of the community. Charging stations for electric vehicles and organics recycling, for example.*

Housing (9%)

❖ *Affordable AND low income housing and that the community understands what that really is*
❖ *Enough affordable housing for different income ranges, especially low to middle income. Also Senior housing*
❖ *Continue to plan for more opportunities for affordable housing that is integrated within other housing*

❖ *verbatim example of response*

Six (6) main themes emerged from a total of 231 responses.
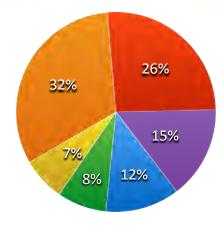
Housing (32%)

❖ *Affordable housing*
❖ *Housing - how is it distributed and determined*
❖ *Housing - access and equity; aging housing stock*
❖ *Challenges: housing - affordability (prices changing) - how do we make it easier for more people to own homes?, out of state investors buying at low prices houses and selling them at high price, renters - how do we support people who rent*
❖ *Build tiny houses*
❖ *Challenge - home improvement loans*
❖ *Challenge - Increasing property taxes*
❖ *Challenges: -housing density; -aging community how do we attract new families?; -embracing cultural/ethnicity (how to get folks to table to share their experience); -how to keep people moving on to next stage of living; -empty nesters- house for family; -senior housing; - affordable houses in Bloomington so you can live where heart is*

Aging population (7%)

❖ *Aging population is a challenge, the resources, the people to support an aging population.*
❖ *An aging population without enough people to replenish business demands*

Climate change (8%)

❖ *Challenge - climate changes*
❖ *The changing climate will impact everything*

Infrastructure and development (26%)

❖ *Challenge - Lack of developable land*
❖ *Challenge - Expensive to develop something new*
❖ *Challenges - planning/zoning. Frustration over some things in certain locations.*
❖ *Challenge - Less and smaller sidewalks on east side; wider on west side*
  ❖ *Challenge - No walk/bike connection east/west*
  ❖ *Technological infrastructure - likely a challenge*
  ❖ *Challenge - access to internet*
    ❖ *Maintaining facilities*
    ❖ *Challenges: economic challenges due to inflation, growth of government etc.*
    ❖ *Challenge - Money to make capital improvements/ changes*
    ❖ *The pandemic has destroyed businesses and put people out of work- we need to rebuild!*

Safety, crime, police (15%)

❖ *Challenge - Public Safety - a lot of theft, police engage in community, stop and take time with community, better serve community, police match demographic, language barriers, input from diverse communities*
❖ *Safety (ensuring that our police budget is justified in the public eye, keeping people safe in their place of business or home),*
❖ *Challenges: crime, mental illness/ homelessness, drug addiction, Covid, future of business and retail, too much welfare, police staffing*

Community divide (12%)

❖ *Challenge - Integration of communities within the city*
❖ *Social hostility and tensions*
❖ *Lack of a sense of community among neighbors.*
❖ *Racial tensions*
❖ *Climate - COVID challenges - changes to how we interact and engage in community/ community health*

❖ *verbatim example of response*

Six (6) main themes emerged from a total of 210 responses.

Community engagement (37%)

❖ *More bridging of communities. Create connections, authentic community connections*
❖ *How we welcome new residence prepare for change, having resources, inclusiveness*
❖ *Opportunity - Help families by engaging the community to assist people who can't do their own home maintenance (e.g., "Help a Neighbor")*
❖ *Opportunity - Centers of community*
❖ *The city could be proactive in encouraging neighborhoods.*
❖ *Encourage volunteerism within our community - see each other as people*
❖ *Opportunity - More intentional getting voices and opinions of community members (beyond white)*
❖ *Inclusion and sense of community*
❖ *Love the Farmers Market, Pride Festival, sense of community, we need more of that.*
❖ *Residents connected to a vision*

Redevelopment and revitalization efforts (26%)

❖ *Opportunities - establish downtown; aesthetics improvement; historical celebrations and downtown; Old Shakopee Road; Cultural celebrations; business development; indoor marketplace; implement diversity plans*
❖ *Opportunity - focus on small areas or parks, improve, maintain then expand*
❖ *Opportunity - Amenities: companies want employees to be attracted to these (gyms, places to eat, shops, car charging, etc.)*
❖ *Opportunity - green space. Use it to draw people*
❖ *Balance beauty/resources with commerce needs*

Inter-generational connections (6%)

❖ *Reach out to both young and old. We do have an aging population that will need support.*
❖ *Mentoring, cultural intergenerational exchanges*

New businesses (11%)

❖ *Opportunity - Become more business-friendly, especially to small businesses*
❖ *Equitable opportunities for small businesses. How to help small landlords.*
❖ *Opportunity - businesses improve sustainability*

Diversity in community (8%)

❖ *Changing racial demographics: how to transition in the healthiest way*
❖ *Bloomington is becoming more diverse and the City to be more diverse in staff and languages, don't have kids translate for parents*
❖ *Opportunity - Diversity - our community will be a richer, diverse place.*

Education (11%)

❖ *Opportunity to double down on education*
❖ *Opportunity - young people to learn the trades. Not everyone is up for 4 years. Lots of kids are good with their hands. Work with the school district.*
❖ *Work more closely with the schools (opportunity) expand on City/school district connection*

❖ *verbatim example of response*

Six (6) main themes emerged from a total of 251 responses.

Community involvement (33%)

❖ *Community groups (already formed youth groups/teams) – activities (clean up roads, parks, etc.) to get invested in the community*
❖ *Micro & macro community neighborhood events*
❖ *More all community events-such as "World Café"*
❖ *More programs to bring people together, ie, concerts, plays, park get togethers, etc.*
❖ *More volunteer opportunities for residents..especially working residents*
❖ *Golden rule - be inclusive of neighbors. Create opportunities to meet neighbors.*
❖ *Untapped resources: Churches, seniors/volunteer; high schools, art center & theatre & city hall; partner with business or other cities*
❖ *Wraparound community support*
❖ *Untapped resources - Appreciation of community and need to be together is important, how do we do that?*
❖ *Greatest untapped resources are the citizens*

Senior community (5%)

❖ *Utilizing older people's knowledge*
❖ *We have a thriving senior community. Full of volunteers for your projects! Lots of expertise!*

Green space (11%)

❖ *We have so much green space, parks, Normandale, Fish and Wild Life. Not everyone realizes what we have.*
❖ *The lakes and creek and river pathways are greatest assets if we could provide more continuous connections and inspire through beautiful landscaping within city - drive through Richfield to see how safety and beauty coexist with landscape medians and roundabouts and wide paved bike paths and sidewalks. Beauty inspires citizens to engage and take care of their community.*

Community diversity (27%)
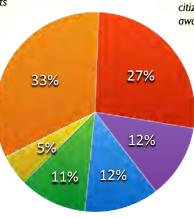
❖ *Untapped Resources- The diversity is rich; Diversity in Religions; Rich history to celebrate; City Council could tap into youth population to celebrate*
❖ *Learn to better understand differences among residents*
❖ *Untapped Resources: Take Advantage of new voices in community; listen to citizens for creative ideas; diverse community to participate; community awareness of "Artistry"; senior residents*
  ❖ *Diversity on city council and all areas of city governance.*
  ❖ *City needs to take a bigger role to bring different cultures together*
  ❖ *Residential diversity - multi-purpose - live, work, play environment*

Development programs (12%)

❖ *Develop up and out - South Loop - a good example*
❖ *Greatest untapped resource: improperly used land and too much restriction on land use*
❖ *Resources: infrastructure; location (bring in jobs, bring in civic minded people); land-zoning (Richfield seems to be doing good things)*
❖ *We have existing, but tired, neighborhood commercial nodes that need revitalization. I know we're already working on that but I still consider it a relatively untapped resource.*

Youth engagement (12%)

❖ *Having youth see and participate in activities in the City will have lasting impressions*
❖ *Engage with youth networks and utilize those networks*
❖ *Youth – engage youth to carry the Bloomington image; middle school students; programs*
❖ *Untapped resources: Our youth*

❖ *verbatim example of response*

Seven (7) main themes emerged from a total of 133 responses.

Community facilities and amenities (35%)

❖ *A community gathering place! More restaurants in the South Central and West side of Town.*
❖ *COMMUNITY CENTER! Or at the very least that land that could host a better community center. The aquatic center and indoor pools (better hours and facilities - think Foss Swim Center). Empty industrial buildings (breweries, coffee shops, indoor play).*
❖ *Gaps: no "main street" area for connection (e.g. inclusive watering hole, possible multiple "main streets"; t-cross at Lyndale and France); - neighborhood destinations*
❖ *More things/places that are walkable.*
❖ *If you want to attract residents from the city willing to pay for more space we need: Sidewalks, more parks/destinations people can walk around and off leash dogs parks.*
❖ *Better east to west destinations, neighborhood shops*
❖ *Better facilities to help attract more families and young people*

Housing (16%)

❖ *Affordable housing - HUGE gap*
❖ *Housing affordable and available and appealing to families with kids*
❖ *How do we deal with homelessness?*
❖ *Community loan programs to help people buy houses*

Local business support (16%)

❖ *Need more cultural businesses/more support for small businesses*
❖ *I think Bloomington needs more independent businesses and restaurants.*
❖ *Incentives for businesses to come in.*
❖ *Business community celebration/support*

35%   16%   16%   6%   7%   7%   13%

A Bloomington identity (13%)

❖ *A sense of unity. Still east vs west*
❖ *We don't have an identity. Challenges when we try to market ourselves.*
❖ *Come together as one. Help foster community and safety.*

Transportation and roads (6%)

❖ *Public transit expansion/bikeable*
❖ *Gaps: East to West transit*

Community policing (7%)

❖ *Gap in community policing*
❖ *Support with neighbors. And more involvement with police.*

Communication (7%)

❖ *Welcome packets: New residents aren't aware of the community's programs and services*
❖ *How to discern info about what is happening in our city*

❖ *verbatim example of response*

Six (6) main themes emerged from a total of 425 responses. One (1) percent of responses were not categorized in a theme.

Engage community (26%)

❖ *Think about how to get all races and ages involved*
❖ *Opportunities for people to bring issues or ideas forward that impact them*
❖ *Reaching out to young residents and meeting them where they are comfortable so we can make decisions with them rather than for them without their input.*
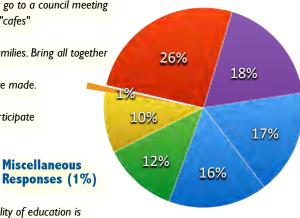❖ *Try to reach residents who would not typically go to a council meeting*
❖ *Continue to develop community engagement "cafes"*
❖ *Engage longtime residents and newcomers*
❖ *Integrate: age diversity - young, seniors, and families. Bring all together*
❖ *Listen to community members, get feedback*
❖ *Seek out all points of view before decisions are made.*
❖ *More youth on boards and commissions*
❖ *Encourage young people to come out and participate*
❖ *Proactively reach out to be with people- these café's are a great start.*

Plan and implement strategically (18%)

❖ *What is our mission and vision? What is our specific credo, not just development for sake of development*
❖ *Sift through conversation - needs vs wants*
❖ *Leverage forward thinking ideas to keep looking into the future development*
❖ *We heard, we listened, and these are the ideas discussed; these are some of the things we can implement – what we can and cannot do right now*
❖ *These meetings and strategic planning involving community are things they can and have done, encourage community to get involved*
❖ *Take a stand and be committed to making change.*
❖ *Provide the time for these things to happen – 3-5 years; it's going to take time*

Strengthen sense of community (17%)

❖ *Create a Bloomington identity*
❖ *Celebrate and educate people on the history and heritage of Bloomington and its residents*
❖ *Recognize diversity of cultures*
❖ *City can define, encourage neighborhood identities = build community*
❖ *Promote and encourage community activities through City Briefing (opportunities to provide resources for community activities; funding for outreach, block parties)*
❖ *Involve church groups*
❖ *Reach out to local organizations to assist with needs in the community; coordinate and then get out of the way - the City can't solve everything*
❖ *Micro-community associations; define these neighborhoods and encourage "neighborhood night outs*

Maintain public services (10%)

❖ *Continue to maintain roads*
❖ *City Gov't should work to ensure that the quality of education is world class and when that is achieved that it is well marketed.*
❖ *Be responsive to crime*
❖ *Do what you can to combat climate change*
❖ *Provide public safety*

Miscellaneous Responses (1%)

Communicate effectively (12%)

❖ *Help make sure community is aware of what is happening*
❖ *Address language barriers*
❖ *Feedback loops: transparent conversations; -open community conversations; -visionary-leadership roles-educators*
❖ *Need to blast out our successes - like awards - get it out there more*
❖ *Be transparent. Explain the processes and the rationale behind the decisions made that affect the community.*
❖ *Feedback loops: transparent conversations; -open community conversations; -visionary-leadership roles-educators*

Revitalize and develop (16%)

❖ *Help keep small businesses in Bloomington*
❖ *Zoning and city planning to help create more opportunities for local small businesses/restaurants/etc. and improve neighborhood identity while maintaining residential benefits.*
❖ *Help our community buildings be healthy and offer a variety of opportunities to all ages.*
❖ *Make sure housing and zoning should support what the community wants and to bring in new residents*
❖ *Proactively encourage redevelopment of commercial & residential properties*
❖ *Internet is infrastructure – city is missing out on that*
❖ *Create walkable areas to create a small town feel*
❖ *More financial opportunities for housing*

Appendix A

Question 1: *As you think about Bloomington, what are your top priorities to help our community thrive as a satisfying place to live, work and play (for example, community amenities, resources, what we should aspire to, etc.)? Be as specific as possible.*

Compilation of all recorded comments:

- Maintain public parkland. Expand and extend paved trails at parks on Lyndale and Old Cedar. Inform residents of these assets and encourage/promote their use.
- Bloomington could take on a leadership role to reach out to more rural areas/small towns to encourage sharing. E.g. Mall of America; other business initiatives
- Although Bloomington had made great strides with becoming more walkable/bikable, there is a need for improvement in the south side
- Good schools. However, concerns about economic disparities between the east and west sides.
- Recreation options for adults, both in and outdoor roller rink
- Cafes with outdoor seating-gathering places!
- Too many banks. Why?
- Beautiful landscaping (like meadows in Richfield), wildflowers and grasses
- More bike commuter friendly - get bike lanes on Google maps; better signage on trails
- Quality of education - and make Bloomington attract families
- Sidewalks and bike paths - less dependent on cars
- More local dining options - adjust permit process and attract
- More community and afterschool activities
- Manage watersheds well - educate residents, e.g. rain gardens
- Reinvest the light industrial sectors of the City
- Green spaces - parks, dog walking areas
- Schools
- Metro/mass transit access to downtown for work, arts, etc.
- Close to airport
- Proximity to essentials/necessities (retail, medical, automotive repair) and walkability (especially for GenX and new young residents)
- Thinking of Bloomington of one city - urban and suburban - small town - rural variation
- Established big city with thriving things (4th largest in Minnesota)
- Well-kept private properties - that all contribute to the safety and satisfaction of all
- Farmers Market in the parks (local vendors)
- Allow spring cleans, community gardens and natural plantings - Beautify American Blvd
- (Comfort) - Safety - adequate police presence - better police identity
- Well-kept properties - following city ease of interaction in communities
- Adequate affordable housing
- More vibrant neighborhoods
- *Bloomington as a destination
- Parks - top
- Community group park up-keep
- Community gardens
- American Boulevard - art murals
- Transportation - planes - trains - buses?
- Live my entire life in Bloomington
- Good restaurants (family owned) vs. chains
- Maintain the basics at a high level - fire, police, roads, parcels, etc.

Appendix A

Question 1: *As you think about Bloomington, what are your top priorities to help our community thrive as a satisfying place to live, work and play (for example, community amenities, resources, what we should aspire to, etc.)? Be as specific as possible.*

- *Support diverse neighborhoods where everybody gets along*
- *Indoor activity centers where someone can walk in winter*
- *People need assistance maintaining older homes*
- *Maintain good schools*
- *Stay focused on citizens - don't allow outside influence by political groups*
- *More opportunities for community and neighborhood interaction*
- *Taxes - reasonable and expanded*
- *Transportation - intercity transportation, east-west transportation is hard, met transit eliminated some rates*
- *Parks and Recreation - enjoy lots of parks and outdoor places*
- *Utilities - water conservation*
- *Jobs - fill jobs*
- *Education - good schools, childcare, teachers in the community, mental health resources, health practices - trauma for students and parents, gun safety, early childhood education*
- *Zoning/Building - reexamine zoning, demographics - how do we adapt to families, planning for how work has closed*
- *Mall of America - future plans, how to mitigate commercial taxes*
- *Swimming pool at the mall?*
- *What happens if the mall goes under?*
- *Climate change - trees dying*
- *Safety - community based practices, police partners with other resources, training and adaptation*
- *Public Health - community health workers, understanding emergency response plans, community partnerships*
- *Business - foster entrepreneurship, more local restaurants*
- *Getting community together - i.e. farmers market*
- *Art Fairs that can complement the art gallery*
- *Reinvesting in our park system, especially in northeast*
- *Bike paths and dedicated on-road bike lanes*
- *Organized bike rides in Bloomington - community, parent/child*
- *Investment in senior community events (like Creekside) - community center for seniors - give back to next generations - multigenerational*
- *Educational support*
- *Housing - mixed land use (like Richfield)*
- *Invest in ways to use less water - yards that are less focused on grass*
- *Technology investment*
- *Electric vehicles and clean energy - infrastructure*
- *Maintain our parks system*
- *Better handle on racism and bigotry in the community (churches, gay pride issues, etc.)*
- *Make technology a priority, don't stagnate, schools have to stay on the forefront of technology. More $ into schools. We cannot get behind.*
- *Free Wi-Fi as a benefit of the City*
- *Access to charging stations for electric vehicles - increasing demand will continue to rise, supercharger (Tesla) on level 2*
- *Keep housing stock from deteriorating, have a program to help homeowner reinvest in properties*
- *Affordable housing - may be new build and not just apartments. Single-family*

Appendix A

Question 1: *As you think about Bloomington, what are your top priorities to help our community thrive as a satisfying place to live, work and play (for example, community amenities, resources, what we should aspire to, etc.)? Be as specific as possible.*

homes are also in demand. We need to address that demand also.

- *Jobs - attracts people in all levels of employment - do not infringe on growth, more jobs, more opportunity for small business to open in Bloomington (re: restaurant rules are too limiting)*
- *Way behind on hospitality in Bloomington (tap rooms, restaurants, distilleries, bars, etc.)*
- *Too few people control the process - too limiting*
- *Have a long-term plan for the City*
- *Don't mandate benefits for city businesses*
- *Get rid of blight in City*
- *Early childhood education - schools are important from the beginning to the end*
- **Jobs - thriving businesses*
- ** Safety - more community based safety options - in partnering with police ---each block is looking out for each other - the police is not the #1 call for issues ---looking out for each other --- all don't need police for mental health crisis, domestic abuse --- having different responders --- having trained people deal with crisis*
- *Safety is important - burglary, people breaking into your car - why is that happening?*
- *911 - is the first stop; then they can send you to another option - but this requires someone on call - who else is trained to be on call?*
- *Jobs - schools are connected to jobs, the business community thriving, helps with tax base*
- *Entertainment - Bloomington is boring…but I like that sometimes; we*

need small restaurants and indoor marketplaces

- *I've lived here 40 years and never thought of leaving - greenery, parks, my friends think Bloomington is only MOA - no downtown, no city center = Rebrand Bloomington --- is City hall the center? Yes, but we need more artists fairs, film festival so people see Bloomington as a cultural destination - promote new artists*
- *More investments in education - mentoring youth with involvement of citizens - I love the City!*
- *Bloomington art fair*
- *Technology - free Wi-Fi in Bloomington*
- *Rampant racism, sexism - this is a threat to Bloomington's growth*
- *Bloomington is more diverse - we need events to celebrate the diversity in City - (I moved here internationally and want to see more events) - had prior, need more*
- *Creekside was closed - we need something for seniors - we need to connect senior with youth*
- *We lost community when Creekside shut down*
- *We need to protect our heritage - tear down business - this makes it real hard for start-ups*
- *Every restaurant is corporate - need more small restaurants - local more options*
- *We need to reserve space for start-ups*
- *The pandemic has revolutionized how we work and should be part of how we plan*
- *Destination city center/central area: walkable area; live, work play; something for everyone; example: SLP West End, Excelsior? Grand;*

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accommodates those starting out and empty nesters; destinations in neighborhoods

- Places to gather: coffee shops, breweries, restaurants (-local places - patios -we gather around food - hometown watering holes -walkable destinations -healthier variety vs. grilled or fried/fast food (fresher)
- Anchor points in neighborhoods - example: abandoned gas station by Don Ho could be a brewery or restaurant w/ patio
- Sports tourism - amateur sports destinations
- Grocery coops
- eliminating food deserts
- commuter biking paths
- Adequate police presence
- Affordable housing i.e. middle class houses for people starting out that have adequate salary, but want more than a 50's original
- Adequate street lights for perceived safety -but maintaining character/quality -don't want obtrusive lighting
- Concern -public safety
- More "local" options i.e. coffee shops, meeting spaces, "diversify" options
- Beatification of transport ways
- Maintaining natural spaces i.e. all trails near the river, 9 mile
- Keep the accessibility of retail - it is easy to navigate to stores etc.
- Bikeways
- More co-op & breweries, wineries
- Prioritize: -wildflower spaces (meridians and ___ spaces; -biking paths (commuter bike ways); -sustainable practices (solar wind

power for residence & cars); -more co-ops

- What can be done w/ warehouse/light industrial area between 94th & 98th and 35W to Penn to better activate and utilize this area?
- Great parks = add activates encourage usage
- Blm reach out to rural, small town city
- Density-multiple dwelling
- retail & medical
- Airport & mass transit
- Safety-national night out- more of this, more guidance
- Balance taxes with community needs
- Keep taxes low (be creative with rates for services)
- Continue to maintain green space
- Clear communication
- Involve community "engagement" in decisions (ex: volunteers @ Normandale lake)
- water quality
- ethical leadership
- accessibility - walking
- rebuilding of city hall - culture/arts
- More for parts of "hubs" -west, east, central
- be unique-don't emulate Mpls, St. Paul
- attract businesses
- more family restaurants, more local, access
- strong public schools - city & school district have good partnership improve on school system
- more resources for ppl struggling, more healthy options
- infrastructure - we want this to continue
- Bloomington has spaces for parks - make it more accessible safely

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- *More safe walking options (ex no safe options by sr. housing)*
- *zoning - make sure it is fair & accessible*
- *Equity- include sr's-wide scope to equity*
- *Greater technology & community Wi-Fi: use as revenue source for community*
- *Community center-or multiple small ones*
- *Specialize different needs for different part of city E/W/C*
- *Reduce focus on South Loop*
- *Drop pursuit world's fair*
- *Better communication between residents and business and government*
- *better/more supportive of business*
- *Parks & nature, trails--continue prioritizing*
- *More diversity of voices with influence*
- *New and fresh businesses --grocery stores, brewery, etc.*
- *Large community procreative space and opportunities--especially for winter months*
- *Improving relationships between community members and city leaders-- through communication and more voice--especially through various projects, make sure all stakeholders are identified and include appropriately*
- *City support of police*
- *A police force that is well-paid and respected, laws are enforced.*
- *Schools should be introducing students to police. There should be a familiarity police serve us but we cooperate.*
- *There should be hospitals and help for mentally ill. No camps or tent cities.*
- *We need inclusion to be broader to include all races, sexes, find a way to engage parents of children (immigrants) to learn ESL*
- *Top schools in state*
- *Take care of local parks -neighbor parks, hire college kids events*
- *public safety*
- *enforce parking during plowing*
- *room rentals-enforcement*
- *walkability-safe-neighborhood watch*
- *warming house*
- *Local restaurants: make it easier to start a business (reduce limitations to inviting in entrepreneurs and local like this)*
- *Preserve character of our neighborhoods i.e. some zones for multitenant and some for single tenant homes-no to multi (large apartment/condo)*
- *Preserve/remodel old homes help low income be in homes to prevent big apartment/condos from being any/everywhere*
- *Create a downtown feel with breweries --locals aren't spending money in community*
- *Invest in community centers i.e. Eden Prairie CC, Edina Lifetime Fitness (pool, gym, childcare)*
- *Socio economic barriers between West and East Bloomington.--engage between/across entire city.*
- *Walkability/public safety: sidewalks (winter issues), pork chops, pedestrians and bikes*
- *Environment: salting (do more/less)*
- *Green space-parks-continue to expand*
- *Environmentally conscious*

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- *Improve city communication to residence (council person put more in city court than residence)*
- *To much focus on south loop vs. other areas of the city*
- *Develop a "downtown"/central business area*
- *Community center with indoor facilities (not just senior center)*
- *Public safety (continue current) levels*
- *Stable schools*
- *Parks - 100% - keeps neighborhoods safe. Parks are sacred.*
- *Central community gathering space. Community center that's connected to Civic Plaza*
- *I see Creekside as a senior center, it's not "Bloomington Community Center"*
- *Remodels of aging facilities like the schools did. Amazing what people can do.*
- *Open spaces*
- *Tremendous potential at Moir Park, beautiful by Creekside*
- *Maintaining City parks. This needs to be better (weeds, overgrowth, garbage, graffiti, paint chipping)*
- *Dated equipment at parks (e.g., sand). Not accessible, not on par with what is modern*
- *Inclusive playgrounds*
- *Park on 12th Avenue - City did a good update*
- *Park areas and playground*
- *Places to walk*
- *Open land*
- *Enough affordable housing for different income ranges, especially low to middle income. Also Senior housing*
- *Path all the way around Bush Lake*
- *Space for homeless*

- *Diversify the business base, less hospitality*
- *No more chemical treatment, plant native grass instead. Harmful to kids and nature*
- *More native plants*
- *Sustainability*
- *Solar incentives (more information about it)*
- *More north/south bike paths*
- *Fun/destination restaurants*
- *Business incentives, taxes*
- *Development loans for older houses*
- *Food trucks*
- *Valley View park is a priority. American Legion raised a lot of money for Valley View park*
- *I would like to have a community center at Valley View but I need more information*
- *More stuff at community events, opportunities to connect with staff*
- *Accessibility to staff*
- *Convention center*
- *Parks are a priority*
- *Bike lane on Nicollet Ave/Portland Ave*
- *Trails*
- *Areas of the city need improvement (e.g., Lyndale Retrofit)*
- *Keep neighborhoods undeveloped*
- *Things need repairs (pools, parking lot)*
- *Park improvement*
- *Increased taxes*
- *Trim the willow weeds around the ponds - they're not being controlled*
- *Trim bushes around intersections to see around them at the end of streets*
- *Deal with sunken manhole covers in streets*
- *Affirm the traditional family - provide services to support families of all kinds*

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- *Sponsor a family-friendly events for all families*
- *Retain middle school sports programs*
- *Allow the community to use the fitness facilities in the school district's activity centers*
- *Support the Bloomington Athletic Association (youth sports organization)*
- *Support activities for the community and families to come together (e.g., Halloween event at Bloomington Ice Garden)*
- *Support a fatherhood initiative to address problems in the community - establish a center, conferences, etc.*
- *Support small businesses and incentivize them to open - we need the City to support businesses rather than putting in place anti-business policies*
- *It's very easy to stay be healthy in Bloomington because of the access to parks; homes are within walking distance to parks*
- *We have a lot of great parks - let's keep them safe*
- *Address littering in parks; the City's maintenance crews can't keep up; recruit volunteers to pick up parks*
- *There are things we can do to improve parks without breaking the banks*
- *I prefer the way the city was back in the 60s and 70s. Much more than it is now. I like when we are our own city. I get real tired of people living here for a few years and wanting to change it. It used to be (in the 60s) more open.*
- *It's hard because when I got here they started to build all the schools. I was a policeman for 36 years. I was always active, coached hockey. Got to know a lot of people. I liked that people were friendly. People don't get to know each other like they did in the old days.*
- *I'd like to see more neighborhood development. Lots of neighborhoods take that on themselves. I live in a neighborhood where no one does that. Some people like to keep to themselves. In the suburbs, I don't understand that attitude. It's one thing if you live in the City and you have creepy people and want to keep to yourself, but it's not that way here.*
- *More events and interaction would be nice. We have one family that does things on the block where you could join if you want, but a lot of people don't. I don't know what the City can do.*
- *Expand national night out*
- *There are neighbors I've lived by for 17 years and still don't know. People are friendlier since COVID though. They say hi from their porch and decided a warm body was better than no body.*
- *For me it is important, I do some volunteering at VEAP, I think it's important that Bloomington recognize how great that need is. I didn't realize how many people in Bloomington are struggling with food here until I started volunteering there.*
- *I also love the City Hall and arts center and I look forward to taking art classes. It makes Bloomington a nice place because we have an art center. The Bloomington City Hall complex is really nice.*
- *More awareness for certain opportunities and resources for people that need it.*
- *We need to be more bike friendly*

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- *For two years, Moir park stairway has been broken. And there was coordination with the wildlife refuge. They were going to pave it. My son uses it all the time. It doesn't need it, and also it floods there, it's wasted money because what ever they use it won't last.*
- *Running park*
- *Not sure I want a more "urban" look*
- *Too many people, high rises, why do you have to be so close to the sidewalk?*
- *We don't want to be MPLS, be reflective of how zoning, architecture, affects that.*
- *Don't want to squeeze in multifamily to make developers money.*
- *What is being lost is not just community, but it's the small town feel. The architecture shouldn't have to be all multifamily.*
- *Environmental sustainability to provide for the future, the health and welfare of the community. Charging stations for electric vehicles and organics recycling, for example.*
- *City that is open and welcoming to everybody; all walks of life, all demographics; open to other viewpoints.*
- *Agree with an open and welcoming community*
- *A housing stock that is affordable for everybody. Currently difficult for young families to enter the town because of high prices. Lack of young families with children; lack of a thriving community. HRA loan program to update the 1950's homes; could there be a fund to help families*

- *get into homeownership rather than just fix up the existing.*
- *Agree that affordable housing is an issue; everyone deserves a home*
- *Top three priorities are housing, sustainability, and an open and welcoming environment*
- *Support VEAP, Cornerstone, Oasis; make their support a high priority*
- *Tiny homes concept – could the City create pods of tiny homes? We have open spaces that may be good locations, perhaps federal or state aid to support cost?*
- *Review current City Code/Regulations and be willing to reevaluate/update to support being a more welcoming City. What is outdated that can be reworked and modernized*
- *Identify neighborhoods to support a better sense of community*
- *For just 30 people participating out of a City of 90,000, we need a better sense of community. Perhaps this could be through neighborhood identities*
- *City should be more proactive in reaching out to people to get input.*
- *Perhaps a volunteer in every neighborhood to lead the participation*
- *Affordability*
- *Dynamic*
- *Great neighbors*
- *Encourage people to know their neighbors; listen and spend time with neighbors*
- *Community relationships*
- *Climate change*
- *Leadership role to other communities*
- *Merge east and west better than what has been done – less divided; more of a community*

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- *Organized collection is good*
- *Police and Fire forces are good*
- *Great amenities*
- *Starting to age – need to show leadership*
- *Better job of welcoming people to Bloomington*
- *Meet your neighbors*
- *Block parties*
- *Community outreach*
- *Help so people do not feel isolated; find a way to reach out them*
- *Events – make them easier to find and understand; vocalize to everyone and make sure everything is accessible*
- *Bloomington Briefing – priceless! – so much information*
- *Quality of our water*
- *Community center – try again (Eagan, Eden Prairie, etc. are great)*
- *Year round space (community center)*
- *Farmers Market*
- *Composting – organics is excellent*
- *Educate residents about organics with it going curbside*
- *Keep golf courses!*
- *Accessibility to events*
- *A big barrier for minorities is the connection to the City staff- feels like rude behavior, needs to be more welcome to families. Especially immigrants. Hard to get information.*
- *Welcome to new home- how does trash collection work, etc. What to do with leaves.*
- *Lots of lack of communication, especially with new residents*
- *Love the neighbors here*
- *COB needs to emerge into a city that welcomes people of different genders, race, ethnicities into City*
- *Need an active community center in addition to Creekside- open to all ages beyond seniors. Get the word out about what is available*
- *Green spaces should be kept that way, not turned into apartments or baseball fields. City center?*
- *Homeless issue. Affordable housing across the city, not just east side. Safe heated areas with showers, laundry, etc.*
- *Want everyone across ages and economic status to feel welcome.*
- *Veterans space, tiny homes, other ideas*
- *Community Center needs to be for all ages*
- *Community education needs to be accessible for everyone*
- *Community Center needs to happen, be open to change, be open to all people to gather*
- *The east side is a good place for people to gather*
- *More local businesses and less chain shops. Create a main street.*
- *City staff should be available to help immigrant communities with translation, etc.*
- *Long term place to live, keep Bloomington current and new. There's a history of being hotels, commuter city. Look to the future to keep it vibrant. People want to be here and live here. Other communities have revitalized themselves, would be great to see residential homes to revitalize. Inspire more jobs and taxes. Keep the inner-ring city to inspire other generations to make it home.*

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- *A place we can come together outside. Like Burnsville 35 and Nicollet – great for kids and families (splash pad).*
- *Parks don't always provide that kind of opportunity.*
- *Bloomington allows quick access across the city and to and through the city. Wouldn't want additional roadways that would divide the city more. At the time, I used to go to other communities. I enjoy Artistry and encourage additional restaurants and other amentias. 9 Mile Brewery is a great addition. Would like Bloomington to provide own attractions.*
- *Agree about 35 W – major trafficking road. BPD is often at hotels asking questions – making arrests. We shouldn't divide it any more than it is.*
- *There is no One Bloomington – still east and west. Other cities don't have that. It will get worse as 494 and 35W expand.*
- *There was talk about building bridge from Savage to Normandale Blvd – hope city still does not support it.*
- *Important that Bloomington schools are and should remain an attraction to young families.*
- *Also, give them an opportunity to update or rebuild homes. There are many regulations that make it challenging. The houses will deteriorate if that doesn't change. Be an example for other communities.*
- *We have a lot of proximity to places people want to go – like the airport.*
- *To what extent should residents be able to rebuild – like single family to multi or mixed.*
- *Affordable housing*

- *Public safety*
- *People that live here*
- *Pedestrian dignity, less car-centric. Places to live without needing a car.*
- *Bicycling and transportations, bike lanes*
- *Safety, perception is the crime rate has gone up throughout the city*
- *City to remain safe*
- *Nature resources*
- *Bike resources, less car-centric*
- *Public spaces where people can hang out*
- *Natural space near Southtown*
- *Maintaining park structures, buildings*
- *Maintain what we have instead of build new*
- *4th largest City - parks, safety, maintain resources as we are growing*
- *Continue to attract businesses, keep property tax low, but don't destroy natural beauty*
- *Communication to residents so we know what's going on*
- *Sometimes things happen that we don't know about*
- *More content for newsletters*
- *Strong schools - draws people into the community*
- *City support schools, even if 2 different entities*
- *Bridge gap between east/west, disparities*
- *Upgrade bus shelters, accessibility*
- *Public functional art bus shelter that looks cool*
- *Gatherings where you shut down streets or parking lots*
- *Not a lot of places like Normandale Bandshell*

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- *Great to be in a suburb with access to nature*
- *Walking trails and places*
- *Love the new pedestrian bridge by France Ave*
- *Not a great way to go east-west on a bike*
- *Bike path that's paved along the river*
- *Boards and Commissions should be interviewing*
- *Opportunities for young people to lead at the City. Not a lot of interest.*
- *Youth feel shut off*
- *Opportunities to get civically involved*
- *Place for young families who can't afford programs, fitness club*
- *Place for east side families*
- *Pickleball - indoor access for all courts*
- *Disappointed in not having a community center (inside pool) lives by VV and would like to have community center*
- *Take Creekside and make it better - love wood shop*
- *Less baseball fields*
- *Love the mural - diverse artists, the celebration*
- *Continue to celebrate all culture*
- *Safety - want safe neighborhoods, not only crime but driving safely in neighborhoods, respect for neighbors/neighborhoods, neighborhood watch - have people join/encourage more people to join*
- *Utilizing Next Door for positive*
- *Seeing our nature space well take care of*
- *Central gathering place/attraction - downtown - something like Southdale Mall*
- *Community Center! (90th/Nicollet/Portland maybe) easy to get to - daycare/accessible pool (1/2 indoor, 1/2 outdoor)*
- *Lyndale/98th could be developed*
- *Creekside - nothing there*
- *Make sure amenities are available and accessible*
- *Would like a nicer pool*
- *Revitalize Lyndal Avenue - could become a welcoming area with more work*
- *No idea where central area is - need something more defining*
- *Fishing dock - that's accessible and easy to get to*
- *Better transit*
- *More walkability*
- *ADA - shops/restaurants need accessible way to get in (like button)*
- *Develop Normandale Lake area - allow for sitting/relaxing/enjoying*
- *Add beach chairs - wheelchairs that can go on the beach*
- *We don't have anything like Centennial Lake*
- *Additional transportation options*
- *Community outings (senior/disabled) like light show tours/field trips*
- *We are primarily relying on cars for transport - bus takes too long*
- *Support for local non-chain restaurants*
- *River is a feature - but more information to the public*
- *Gathering places - examples farmers market, parks - more places to bring people together*
- *Accessibility - have great spots, but need to connect them such as designated bike lane*
- *Equitable across the City - safe sidewalks*

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- *More walkable - e-bikes, bike racks as businesses*
- *Independent restaurants - encourage those that are not franchise*
- *Have a couple good family owned businesses, but not enough to support small businesses*
- *Improve architecture to build sense of community*
- *90th and Penn needs improvements*
- *Emphasis on long-term planning - design community*
- *Bike lanes - need more - education people about biking -doesn't need to be fancy - striping*
- *Bike/walking safety around schools*
- *More grocery out towards South Loop area - look at food desert*
- *Find current vacant buildings*
- *More community gardens - bring together common interests - bring in healthy eating*
- *PR service to people in Bloomington*
- *affordable AND low income housing and that the community understands what that really is*
- *community education for program eligibility; how to find out what you qualify for and help to apply (section 8 housing, voucher program)*
- *city education on what programs are offered to residents*
- *simplify or reduce restrictions; too many hoops to jump for program eligibility*
- *transportation for hospitality workers that aligns with work shifts*
- *education on checklist requirements for Bloomington Section 8*
- *parks close enough to walk to with inside options*

- *biking area or just space for older kids so its not all little kids play structures*
- *safety in apartment buildings; regular police rounds*
- *gathering place for adults for adults, not just for kids, that is free. "Community center" on east side*
- *classes for dancing and places for older youth and young adults. "Community center" on east side*
- *cultural events in the community; not at City hall but in the neighborhoods for the neighbors*
- *Section 8: tenants are asked how can you afford the furniture during inspections. Feels very judgmental.*
- *Need to see someone who they can relate to in the Police Department and the City*
- *Should have a Community Center and make sure to include space for women and girls (separate from men/boys), add prayer room and childcare, have activities/programs for teens/youth to play and stay engaged so they are not bored and causing trouble. Model some programs after Boys and Girls Club.*
- *More activities for youth*
- *Wanted to reach out to West African citizens*
- *City needs to have someone on staff that represents the Somali community*
- *Need to educate police department, about the Somali culture. Not feeling like they are helpful.*
- *Police need an interpreter*
- *In 2019 there was a Police Academy and there was no minorities represented, looks like only the Police Officer's kids were in program*

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- *Need teen program for Bloomington Police Department and have Police come and talk to Somali children*
- *There is a fear of the police, people have been traumatized by police/authority so they act nervous when police are around. Need to inform/educate police the trauma/ptsd community have experienced.*
- *Community don't like to call 911 even if it's domestic violence, but they will call a person that represents them*
- *EMS responds in a way that is representative of their (Somalian's) cultural issues better than Police Department*
- *Parks being inclusive and welcoming--take into account special needs kids, seniors, cultural celebrations like Eid.*
- *Affordable housing is needed--property managers discriminate against Somalians, not wanted in rentals*
- *City should have a first time homeowner workshop to educate people who are looking to purchase first home.*
- *City should have information in English & Somali*
- *Rent control is needed--one person was living in a 3 bedroom apartment for $2800/month. Couldn't afford the rent so moved to Shakopee.*
- *Bad experience with HRA*
- *I don't live in Bloomington. I live in Eden Prairie.*
- *Bloomington is doing great! We have the Mall of America. New housing is going up. We need something better to take the place of Creek Side. Our aging population will become more of a factor. I, personally, would like an indoor pool with lap swim. I do not go to Life Time Fitness because they are all young people. Lyndale Ave is being upgraded. We have great restaurants. We have two great eye clinics. We have Normandale College which has great theater and choir. We have the Bloomington Arts Center, which is wonderful! Ames Theater is just a cross the River. We have the Minnesota River Valley Trail. I wish that could be extended down to Old Cedar Bridge soon. I also wish it could be plowed in the winter for us older walkers. Love the pedestrian and bike path across the River on 35W. I worry about our schools. More money should go into public education.*
- *Safety for our residents and children. Police forces should be expanded and given community and government support.*
- *lower taxes and fees*
- *Resources for kids, natural areas, golf*
- *More community based programs/get to know your neighbor. It should help with neighborhoods that have been having theft issues.*
- *Safety seems to be the biggest problem. More police please.*
- *I'd like to see some of the commercial strip malls get improved. (Portland / 78th as an example)*
- *encourage businesses, both big and small to come to the city- NOT just the MOA. More restaurants; we have visited other suburbs that have a much better selection of places to eat and shop. Second, support our law enforcement!! - we don't want to turn into Mpls.*

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- *housing, adequate public safety (police and fire), community amenities*
- *Continue outdoor space improvement, including accessible trails. Focus on inclusion but figure out how to clamp down on crime.*
- *Bike Friendly, Education top priority, robust youth athletic association*
- *Maintaining affordability of living while attracting new business opportunities while keeping green spaces green.*
- *A viable local service, mass transit (bus) option. I already would rather not own a car and there will come a time in the near future when I should start to think about no longer driving but that is not an option without selling the home that I now own mortgage free (lived here for 30+ years) and moving into an apartment complex that is attached to the stores. Yes there is bus service not too far from my home but it has a very limited schedule and the route is really all about getting commuters to/from downtown Minneapolis. I only go to downtown Minneapolis once or twice a year.*
- *Amenities Bike Trails Parks Theater*
- *With the current unrest just miles north, we should aspire to correctly balance a welcoming feeling within the City while maintaining an atmosphere of safety and security.*
- *Continue to optimize the city for quality of life, equity, and sustainability while being cost-effective. Bloomington is on the low end of cost for property tax, trash, and water.*

- *1. Make homeownership a priority for all income levels versus rental housing. 2. Make expansion of higher density Class A and B business along the I-35W corridor a priority. 3. Work with developers to build multi-use districts with City-owned and managed public parking.*
- *Bloomington is a bit sleepy (not much going on for food/restaurants) on the west side. Continue developing recreational activities like bike trails and bridge them better across major roads like France and Normandale where traffic speeds are high and crossing them is risky.*
- *Continue to plan for more opportunities for affordable housing that is integrated within other housing. Also supporting our police so they feel valued and want to continue to work as police officers in our community.*
- *Spend less money - budget growing a little too fast. Never do again what you did to the neighbors of the property on 86th and Penn. Just inexcusable.*
- *Opportunities for safe indoor and outdoor play for families: parks with clean restrooms (running water), shade and places to sit and snack. Opportunities to relax and unwind: nature centers that are indoors and interactive, breweries (within walking distance of one another). Bloomington should be at the forefront for green energy and plant based nutrition. Let's build healthier citizens and healthier land!*
- *The recovery from the pandemic that has disrupted lives for the last two*

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years must be an important focus for our city. Employment needs to return to previous levels, businesses need to recover, and children need to return to school with an opportunity to make up for lost educational development. As such, the city must work effectively with other partners, such as the county, the school district and the state to facilitate this recovery process. Affordable housing is one of the most important issues that should be prioritized. While many of us who have lived here for some time have equity in our homes, my children cannot afford to live here as their financial situation, despite being employed full time. Rental housing that is affordable is in limited supply as well. Because education is so important, the city must work to support children and families to access the internet. As a retired public school employee, I know that there are many families that do not have sufficient internet access as the school district has had to supply hot spots to many families so their children can use the computers the school district provides. The city should work to develop a solid Wi-Fi network in conjunction with the school district and providers. The internet is just as important as clean water and electricity! Our city needs to look at how it provides critical services to our community. As a retired Bloomington firefighter, I am aware of the struggles to maintain a reliable and well-trained firefighting force. As our community has changed, the economy has evolved, and cultural changes have taken place in Bloomington, the concept of a paid-

on-call department must be revisited. This is especially true given the increased demand for Emergency Medical Services has shifter from the police to the fire department. This will significantly impact the tax levy to pay for more full-time firefighters. The city also needs to reconsider how much revenue it needs to generate from facilities that provide quality of life enhancements to our residents. For example, recreational facilities like the golf courses, pool and ice rink should certainly generate revenue, but we should not be afraid to expend tax dollars to support these facilities in order to keep them first class venues. Just as walking trails and park lands enhance the livability of our city, so do these assets and they deserve to be maintained and improved as needed without having to pay their own way, so to speak. Our senior citizens need to know that there are facilities available to them where they can safely and economically pursue interests appropriate to that population, such as arts & crafts, social activities, and educational opportunities. Creekside Center is a critical part of senior services and should be either updated or replaced if that is not economically feasible. If that means building a community center, where critical city services, such as public health, senior services, youth resources, additional recreational facilities, and the DMV (closing that was one of the stupidest moves the city ever did! See note about services needing to pay their own way above!), then get it done! The city should consider pursuing the old Lincoln High School site for such a

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facility, thereby solving many of these problems in one stroke! All in all, Bloomington is a wonderful place to live, work and play! Let's work proactively to keep it such by coordinating resources, expanding partnerships with the private sector and other levels of government, and working with the community to find equitable solutions to our challenges!

- *A fully staffed police and fire department and a school system that does not teach CRT.*
- *Bridge the gap between rich and poor. Homeless people are increasing. in numbers. Provide more opportunities to mix people together and get to know someone who might not be "just like me." Make it ok to be different. We also need more good restaurants. and places to hang out together. (That are safe.)*
- *Safety, police support, restaurants, support local business*
- *I'd like to see Bloomington take the lead with conservation and climate change. The leadership has allowed building/population right up to the wildlife refuge which has eliminated wildlife. They done the same thing by handing over the parks to Three Rivers District that focuses on humanizing them instead of making them safe havens for animals and natural resources.*
- *New senior center. Loved the outdoor music at the Civic Center last summer, great addition.*
- *Our parks, lakes and natural areas, chemical free for families, newborn to great grandparents, going for the goal of maintaining and adding to the*

natural outdoor spaces that residents can enjoy.

- *walkability, continuing and increasing events that celebrate and promote multiculturalism*
- *Keep Hyland Greens open and let them make changes to improve the clubhouse. Food trucks would be great! Update the building. People who golf there, love it and bring their kids. Allow Three Rivers to do what they do best. They do a wonderful job with the Glen Lake golf range because Minnetonka values their natural spaces and amenities.*
- *Safe bike lanes, safe sidewalks, landscaping, , less storage facilities, clean parks, look at Richfield city planning*
- *More police and enforcement of laws. No more high density housing. Leave the parks alone. Leave Hyland greens a golf course.*
- *Law Enforcement increased , parks upgraded*
- *I think one of the keys to making Bloomington more successful is focusing on how to draw in young families. We need to help our community be welcoming and desirable for kids. One example would be to really revamp some of our playgrounds. Another would be doing what we can to keep our schools funded and reputable.*
- *We need community neighborhood pockets as well as places to bring the community together. The community parks should not be are the neighborhood pockets, especially on the east side of Bloomington.*

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- *Bloomington needs to aspire to LOOKING like a top city. Roads in particular are in tough shape as compared to other area cities that have a top notch feel. More needs to be done to assist the aging housing on east side. Not remove it but help upgrade it. Both of those things need more funding, true. Don't spend what we don't have. But use funds in a way that help both city and citizens, not just city image.*

- *Having Management, Landlords, and Illegals respect us. We are being abused, disrespected, and tenants trying to hurt us wrongfully. Running water and trying to cave in our ceilings, smelling so fowl they sicken us, and lie on us and to us. Management treats us like garbage, lies on and to us, and makes rules for only one person and not the rest of the tenants and more wrong.*

- *safe neighborhoods protected by well-trained and properly staffed police officers ; neighborhoods comprised of single family homes, townhomes and duplexes rather than hulking dense apartment buildings that dominate the landscape; business-friendly climate that stops trying to bury both small and mid-sized companies with severe over-regulation ; logical strategic plan that builds value for homeowners rather than hotel and dense housing developers ; investment in local neighborhoods to revitalize local retail and dining options rather than trying to centralize in a contrived downtown area ; increase smaller-scale community amenities in long-neglected areas rather than focusing*

- *on the overly commercialized South Loop area. Give Bloomington a small-town community feel rather than a wanna-be metropolis.*

- *Frist off I would like to say I have lived in Bloomington for 36 years. We have lived in the same home and raised our 2 children. The school system is the best and I am very grateful for the education my children received. That being said, I would love to see a welcoming community center for all life style and ages. We are missing the boat as other communities are adding or growing their community centers. We will never attract younger families with children without a decent community center. Additionally I believe we need some sort of downtown or community gather area. Bloomington is working on the East Side, but there is so much missing in the South Central and West part of the city. The France Ave and Shakopee area could have had so much of a better feel if there weren't 3 sandwich shops, 3 coffee shops and only 1 restaurant. Why is there no Panera or something like that in Valley West. Willy McCoy's has been a great success. Why not more? We need to bring in young families that will support our schools as I feel we are falling down in that area. We have great schools, now we need the families.*

- *Keeping neighborhoods safe for everyone, including respectful service from the police. Keeping the city infrastructure in good shape.*

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- *More events targeted to special audiences like the summer Gay Pride event.*
- *Affordable housing.... inspire new businesses to the city. keep creekside functioning for Loaves and Fishes and senior activities.*
- *Support businesses in Bloomington. Cannot meet the city budget always based on residential property tax increases. Bring in business revenue.*
- *Biking/walking infrastructure (LOVE all the bike paths in West Bloomington!), plus more good restaurants, small businesses-- I hate that I have to go to Eden Prairie or further anytime I need something. More options that are closer would keep more spending in Bloomington, build community by providing places for neighbors to run into each other more often and connect, and promote transportation options other than cars to help reduce emissions.*
- *I think Bloomington should continue to provide clean parks, robust community services, and resources like this that are published in multiple languages.*
- *Keep green spaces green; don't pave over parks. The best part of Bloomington is its green spaces. Help families update their homes with low cost loans. Keep events such as the Farmers Market and concerts, so that different members of the community have an opportunity to get to know each other. Have some citywide instruction in pickle ball one weekend -- again an opportunity for people from different parts of the community to interact. Encourage the schools to use more volunteers e.g. listening to*
students read, help with math, etc. Some of these activities should be funded my both the city and the schools. We need more residents getting to know their local school. Keep up the good work providing housing for seniors. Make sure funding is helping achieve equity.
- *Parks that allow for natural wildlife. A capable and thriving Fire and Police safety network.*
- *affordability, community amenities, and safety*
- *A viable community center for younger families, not a community center for people to go play bridge and shuffleboard. Bloomington is historically an old community, and there is really nothing to attract younger, affluent families. A better high school sports program. Neither school does well, but together, they would thrive. If they could stop playing the naming politics for the team, they would be very successful. Who cares if it's Jaguars or Eagles. Both were great in the past, but that's the past. Time to move on booster clubs.*
- *Community recreation facilities, continuing education, modernization of business areas. Would love to see a community fitness center*
- *Revitalizing our community! Bloomington is a wonderful place to live....but it still feels "divided" when I talk to people about living here - east vs. west Bloomington. Lyndale and Nicollet need SERIOUS updates. I've heard that the corner of Lyndale and 98th might be rebuilt to include a Lakewinds Coop....that would be such an amazing and MUCH NEEDED start!!*

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That corner is an eyesore and does not represent how wonderful Bloomington is!!

- *Keeping our police department - they serve in a wide variety of ways to make Bloomington not only a safe place to live, but and enjoyable place to live.*

- *More restaurants and bars, more nightlife, being an LGBTQ+ friendly and supportive community, sustainability efforts, more affordable but still nice apartments.*

- *Maintain what we have. Fix, repair and take care of our present facilities including our Senior Citizens Center (creek side). If Creekside needs to be replaced it should be at the same location. Also, do not close or stop using the athletic facilities at Kennedy or Jefferson. Leave our parks alone, especially Valley View. Spend $'s making our existing parks better. We have enough Parks. Do not plan on hosting expo 2027 or whatever it is called, what a waste of $'s and City personnel & resources. Let someone else host, like the State, Governor & legislators handle. If it's a good deal to host the Politicians will jump in and ride to (good, bad or done). We in Bloomington do not need any further recognition as we already have the Mall of America. We don't have the talent, resources or location to host and the taxpayers in Bloomington don't need any creative financing put together to cover. That is something the State, the Governor and the State Legislators should sign on to, not just the taxpayers in Bloomington.*

- *Planting drought resistant native plants throughout the city on public lands to strengthen the soil, decrease watering and provide pollen for the native critters; incentivize residents to plant lower maintenance bee lawns and native pollinators in gardens.*

- *Continuing to grow small business, especially local restaurants and breweries or tap rooms.*

- *good police good city maintenance department (snow plow, street cleaning, etc.) clean city schools; but i do NOT agree with teach CRT parks nice neighborhoods, good restaurants;*

- *Continue with events like National Night Out so that neighbors get to know each other and care about each other.*

- *MORE POLICE PROTECTION; SCHOOLS THAT TEACH WHAT PARENTS WANT TAUGHT; ENFORCE CITY CODES THAT APPLY TO JUNKY HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, AND YARDS; REDUCE SPENDING! (TOO MANY CITY EMPLOYEES); REDUCE TAXES!*

- *Reduce bureaucracy and cost of city government. Respect people's freedoms. Support law enforcement.*

- *The #1 priority: Do not seek to harm or dismantle single family housing and neighborhood zoning. Local government, like state and federal government, should NOT be in the business of pushing social engineering. We appreciate that people have good intentions and want to be compassionate, but there is not one way or one right way to live and government officials do not have the right to push their idea of what that should be on everyone else. Go in this*

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direction and good luck with your tax base.

- *Better walkability. Specifically, a pedestrian lane designated space on the roadway for exclusive use of pedestrians on Lyndale Ave from 106th Street to the boat launch. This and other pedestrian lanes may be on one or both sides of the roadway and will fill gaps between important destinations in the community and make walking year round safer. Encourage more independent restaurants, tap rooms etc. Walking paths that are open and safe from vehicles and predators.*
- *See ewe. Strongtowns.org*
- *Increase the school budget, Increase support and resources for LBGTQIA+ youth, encourage diversity involvement, increase the minimum wage.*
- *Updating the esthetics of the retail and business areas. Providing another east west corridor, beautifying streets with trees, benches, walking and biking paths. and bringing in higher quality retailers for a modern day.*
- *Good Schools and government and to keep up parks and recreation areas. Keeping crime under control.*
- *high quality schools, farmer's market, affordable housing, parks and trails for walking, strong/active/decisive city government,*
- *Bloomington must remain a progressive city. Infrastructure and community buildings need to be updated and kept modern. Affordable housing is also a must.*
- *More parks less corporate.*

- *Need to provide single family home ownership. Get rid of hotels with homeless*
- *Quality education for ALL children NOT just poor or minorities.*
- *zoning for a 'real' downtown area with bars/restaurants. Venue for large events/concerts/festivals. We constantly leave Bloomington to find things to do*
- *Reduce, as much as possible, light pollution and light trespass (and eliminate city-mandated light trespass, such as the parking lot lights at 10351 Devonshire Rd, one of the apartment buildings in the Devonshire complex, that trespass on all floors on the side of the building that faces the lot).*
- *1.) Renewal (and all that that entails) of our 'neighborhood' commercial nodes. 2.) A new, modern, community center or, as an alternative, a rebuilt Creekside Community Center with improvements and added facilities but not the scale of a single grand community center, together with 4, more local "neighborhood"-style "community" centers, one in each quadrant of town, something along the lines of what Mpls. has done with some of their larger park buildings. 3.) An intra-city circulator (mini-bus/van) to improve getting around town for those who are either transportation-challenged or are simply looking for a non-driving alternative. 4.) A redesigned Lyndale Avenue, focusing on food and entertainment. 5.) A redesigned and beautified Old Shakopee Road - from one end to the other. 5.) Less money spent on murals.*

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Find something else to do. What we really could use are a few nice, impressive, beautiful "Welcome to Bloomington" type installations like our neighboring cities have done. Good grief, if Richfield can afford to do it, why cant we?! 6.) Plan ahead for the coming 494 roadwork. Let's not have all of our major city arteries all torn up while people are looking for alternatives to a 494 that is already bad enough now and only going to get worse. 7.) Electronic neighborhood information signs that could be programmed from a central location which could include important and useful information relevant at both the city-wide and neighborhood-specific levels.

- *Winter activities are offered across the community geographically. Indoor recreation activities across the community and not just at two high schools sites.*
- *Citizens should be encouraged to keep up their properties in both structure care and landscaping. Bloomington should enforce the rental property codes such as motor home storage, too many parked cars. Don't allow abandoned businesses to keep old signage such as at 90th & Penn!*
- *Everything stems from World-class Education*
- *Top priorities are healthy, diverse, high quality natural areas (savannas, prairies, woodlands, wetlands), supporting regenerative agriculture (Burnsville is setting a great example for that) and schools*
- *Increasing public school enrollment*

- *We need to take a stand against crime and the lawlessness that is creeping into our suburb. We want to feel safe driving around and parking at Bloomington parks, shops, restaurants and other establishments. It would also be nice if we had a larger senior or adult center. Kids have their activities; it'd be nice for the large senior population to have a nice facility for once. Creekside has been there for a very long time while other new buildings (arts and administration) and other projects seem to take priority. It's hard to pay such high taxes and witness this oversight.*
- *Many more small, independent businesses--would be so great to have many more restaurants that are NOT franchised chains. (Rather than more banks!!!) Celebrations of the various cultures that make up our city. Provide invitation, general support for across-Bloomington relationships... perhaps pair neighborhood watch groups that are not just next to each other for voluntary sharing? City led bike rides to highlight various parks or other city maintained interests... Many more picnic tables for use at farmers market. Regular "food truck fair/fare" community gatherings at moving locations over the year. (Can help us meet each other...fair will move and be close to various areas of our WIDE city!) City department reps clearly marked and on-hand for conversations with public. "Coffee with a Cop" held in that space, too? Maybe even a Bloomington Public Servants Day--sort of Bloomington Homecoming Extravaganza? -- include school*

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system and city/county workers from our town ... Maybe booths /demo of/for various areas: fire truck/police vehicle/ school/libraries/ public health/ city departments... No more water slides when we have nonreaders, unhoused, so many needs for programs for those who are hungry, so much drug/prostitution issues in some of our hotels... More outside gathering spaces with

- *Do NOT do what is happening in Edina, which is putting up high rise apartment buildings on any open spot you can find. Edina looks awful now and the traffic is congested there, now. Do not add to the section 8 housing.*
- *A viable place to have fairly large (300+) gatherings with the ability to have caterers etc.*
- *Community center*
- *We need to take care of and utilize more of all the great outdoor space we have in Bloomington.*
- *Residents are eager to help in making these happen.*
- *We need more amenities that will draw new/younger families and keep families here like trails, mt biking trails; other activities besides the same old ball and stick sports.*
- *Single-track Mountain Bike Trails, bike skills parks/playgrounds, & better cycling infrastructure to schools, stores & workplaces.*
- *Communities that are safer for bicycling and safer for everyone.*
- *Mountain bike popularity has exploded in the last couple of years. Minnetonka/Shakopee/Chanhassen/Lake Elmo are just a few examples of*

other metro cities that have built new single-track trail systems and seen huge positive increases in outdoor recreation. Cycling gets people outside. It is good for their health. It brings people together. Bike commuting lessens ones dependence on fossil fuels and put less pressure on our roadways.

- *Save the outdoor pool/park, more bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, single-track bike trails, reduce 4-lane streets to 3 lanes + bike lanes.*
- *Save the Pool and Park, more bike/ped lanes*
- *Sunrise Park Playground*
- *Update the play equipment at sunrise park.*
- *Turf Dome*
- *A turf field with a dome for the winter months is sorely needed. Many of our youth/adult programs could use the field at a reduced cost instead of traveling to Savage, Eden Prairie, or further to use a similar facility. It is too bad a city of our size does not have a facility that is becoming standard in many neighboring communities. I would think a public/private sector partnership with naming rights could be explored for funding.*
- *Keep our green space, keep the one and only outdoor swimming pool. Have it open for a few weeks longer like other communities do.*
- *Save the pool*
- *Domed turf*
- *I would like to see artificial turf added at Bloomington Stadium. Right know the field is severely under used and could be a tremendous asset to generate money (sports rentals, etc.).*

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Same to domes on the current turf fields at both high schools.

- *Nature Resources Management Plan, staffing and appropriate level of funding.*
- *Independent assessments highlight the poor and declining state of our natural resources and natural areas. Despite the 2007 and 2021 Parks System Master Plan highly prioritizing a natural resources plan and appropriate funding, one has not been developed or even scheduled to occur. As a result, city leaders continue to not allocate necessary funds for one of our city's greatest assets and priority of residents - our natural resources and natural areas. (Attached photo highlights the pervasiveness of buckthorn throughout our parks. What is not seen, is the resulting destruction to wildlife and pollinator habitat, soil health and erosion, and native vegetation (critical for our efforts to prevent and address climate change.)*
- *Park maintenance and updates*
- *So many parks in Bloomington are in poor condition. Buckthorn has taken over most of the forested areas and playgrounds are falling apart. The playground at poplar bridge does not serve the many younger children in the neighborhood and is so worn out it is becoming dangerous. Also it is infested with ground wasps for a good portion of the summer every year and desperately needs an update. Adding low cost, user maintained facilities such as bike parks and single track mountain bike trails is a great way to add amenities for minimal upfront and maintenance costs. Underutilized*

parks such as corridor park and Tierney's woods are ideal locations.

Appendix B

Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

Compilation of all recorded comments:

- Climate - COVID challenges - changes to how we interact and engage in community/community health
- Watershed - save natural spaces
- Bikable city/walkable city
- Address - "power guide" - futuristic energy services
- A "City drainage"
- Maximized growth in Bloomington
- *Aging population - encouraging seniors with younger people
- Community center - use able and diverse, younger/older and all inclusive
- *Mentoring, cultural intergenerational exchanges
- Exchange mentoring skills in caring groups
- *Millennial - incorporation of the two generations
- We would love to see more of the diversity of our neighbors and neighborhoods
- Neighborhood destination, community spaces and fresh foods!
- Redevelopments - appear incomplete and not beautified
- Places where community information shared
- *Internet accessibility - for all community
- *Walkability - connectivity - "hidden bike pathways", e.g. Greenway in Mpls
- *Program specific to local community
- More local
- Bloomington - redefining "Face of the City" - sports complex, making "hidden "gems seen. "promote parks"
- Schools recognize more than sports
- Affordable housing
- Racial diversity - reach out/welcome
- Sister city- rural, small town
- Build tiny houses
- Challenge - changing economy, warehouses in central Bloomington; Opportunities - repurpose this space to more community development space
- Encourage families with children to move here
- Diversity
- Build tiny houses (circled on the paper)
- Affordable houses
- Challenge - affordable housing
- Multi-generational neighborhood - healthy
- Multi-cultural - healthy
- Challenges - safety and crime; housing - access and equity; aging housing stock; senior citizens constrained on fixed incomes - need to be careful with taxes and cost of living; Bloomington is 90% built, is a constraint; what happens with proposals that start and stall, e.g. Gateway, Creekside, community centers - are we following through? Accountability - what has been executed on plans already in place? Another example - parks master plan; parks maintenance; food desert in east part of City
- Opportunity - Diversity - our community will be a richer, diverse place. How you welcome diverse populations affects the outcome; how do we evolve our housing stock intentionally to create good outcomes; examine covenants, zoning and policy- make better use of available land; opportunity to communicate the status of everything that is in motion from a planning perspective; more community gardens, farmers markets - in different sites, especially the east side (food desert); we need to revisit the community center proposal - both

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- *amenities for seniors and young families, but some of the "competitive" community centers, e.g. Chanhassen, are overbuilt and underutilized (in opinion of one person giving input)*
- *Redevelop Southtown*
- *Challenges - Lyndale redevelopment; 494 & 35W redo; revolve and funding; population growth; east/west divide*
- *Opportunities - establish downtown; aesthetics improvement; historical celebrations and downtown; Old Shakopee Road; Cultural celebrations; business development; indoor marketplace; implement diversity plans*
- *Education; employment; aging communities; water; racial equity; MOA; incubator; are competitive with other communities in job growth*
- *COVID 19 issues; tech opportunities; housing; finite H2O system; preparedness; financial situation; non-polluting; clear businesses*
- *Challenges: younger population - how do we connect? Technology - tiktok and other social media outlets; different languages (50+) spoken by residents - how do we support the community, how do we create more resources*
- *Challenges: housing - affordability (prices changing) - how do we make it easier for more people to own homes?, out of state investors buying at low prices houses and selling them at high price, renters - how do we support people who rent*
- *Challenges: Bloomington communication and outreach with residents - people don't get all the updates happening with Bloomington or to get engaged*

- *Challenge: Franchised businesses - less of these, more local*
- *Opportunity: younger population living in Bloomington; do connect with younger population with social media*
- *Opportunity: City to get creative build to get more homes and have people to live here more, e.g. more smaller houses built; less institutionalized apartment/houses; more housing program for residents (HRA - loan to fix house share with residents; find creative ways to engage residents; offer more space for small business - with different culture (not a lot of car shops/dealers, e.g. Lyndale Avenue)*
- *Challenge: Bloomington City focus more on resident needs - don't let outside activists influence resident needs; change "east = poor" vs. "west = rich" narrative*
- *Opportunity: continue with engaging residents and voice their voices; increase taxes where Bloomington residents benefit vs. not MOA*
- *Racial disparities*
- *Improving the lives of disenfranchised communities*
- *Diversity - racism (acceptance of other people)*
- *The challenges of the nation is the challenge of the community*
- *Reform police*
- *Police work as paramedic to learn to save lives for six months before becoming an officer (learn to save lives before given a gun)*
- *Racial diversion in community*
- *Celebration of diversity festival in Bloomington - Silc - community in Bloomington, only one temple in MN - Islamic center only one in the state;*

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refugee from India live here - how do we connect with them?

- *Opportunity - expand your social network; community center that's open to all ages - Creekside seniors complain about youth, but it should be for both; how does the City connect with the community - people are busy- they only tune in when there's a problem; outreach is much better than 5 years ago - but need more outreach; people need to know what resources are available; this is my first time being involved, learned about this through city manager running from election (he peaked interest in government by telling me about participation) door-to-door outreach - I've been involved since the 60's*
- *Challenges - education - stay up to date with technology to stay at par or above on how to teach kids - let kids programming/using data sets; Protect from influence of outside political interests and work for our citizens/not for others; tax base changing - MOA have a plan, retail industry at risk - may now evolve away from that; pandemic and online services have changed who we are need to evolve, to modern family and schedules, programming; alternate education systems - bring back new ways and be creating critical thinkers*
- *Opportunities: help residents of older homes maintain properties to allow Bloomington to be healthy and vibrant and desirable homes; look at different sports and activities that are not all "competitive" but more accessible; specializing education for all skills- home ownership and practical skills, like fixing a toilet - go to a broader*

spectrum; clean energy and water opportunities - electric vehicle infrastructure - how to change our retail build today to be a draw

- *1. Affordability of housing - true affordability for all residents & possible. 2. Increasing density of housing w/o clear communication to the neighborhood included*
- *Challenges: -housing density; -aging community how do we attract new families?; -embracing cultural/ethnicity (how to get folks to table to share their experience); -how to keep people moving on to next stage of living; -empty nesters-house for family; -senior housing; -affordable houses in Bloomington so you can live where heart is*
- *Opportunities: -housing density-mixed living rates; -multigenerational neighborhood; -tiny houses? What are the chances to offer in Bloomington?; -Sustainability-how do we be the best for the environment-does it cost as much as people think; -education to community on environment & how to help; -good resources how to keep it for others; -more options for senior housing (one level housing for seniors to own houses but better for both seniors and new families with medical assistance needed); -attracts young families show older homes can be new again younger generation; -teach basic skills to young folks in home ownership cont'd ed? basic needs?; -loans for helping to update older homes; -green space-need for walking/biking paths to get across Bloomington and enjoy all of the green space-169 to cedar bridge*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *Challenges: -not updated ball fields and areas for sports; -housing affordability and access; -community funding; -climate change (MN River Valley, Storm drainage); -Internet! Fibert optic (expectation that we have fast connection-when it's out it's a real problem); -in-person connections; -aging infrastructure; -not enough emphasis on our schools - these are the people who will support the aging population down the road*
- *Opportunities: -new family boom-community centers!; -Engaged/transparent police/community officers & neighborhood watch people (baseball cards, badges); -sports tournaments connected to hotels along 494*
- *Challenges: -affordable housing; -new face of Bloomington (Racial demographics, engaging non-white people in events like this and also younger, authentic neighborly natural connections)*
- *Opportunities: -schools could put emphasis on celebrating things that aren't sports (arts, community service, debate, drama, student council 4H, Connecting to rural spaces); -Bloomington is a leader and can reach out to communities unlike us: sister cities! (organic, more local); -tiny house communities (affordable housing, split a single lot between 2 tiny houses); demilitarizing police (bring up resources for people struggling and reform how effective policing is done with real and respectful enforcing (accountability and better hiring/onboarding)*
- *Affordable housing: with the foreseeable housing turn over, what are we doing for home update/remodel (better messaging of the existing programs we do have and expanding as appropriate)*
- *Changing racial demographics: how to transition in the healthiest way*
- *How we welcome new residence prepare for change, having resources, inclusiveness*
- *Top in parks and nature as amenity preserve*
- *We're strong financially*
- *The high profile of MOA provides a world stage how can we use that?*
- *Sig Challenges: 1. Unity; 2. up tic in crimes; 3. Heavier traffic and high speeds; 4. Policing issues, not feeling safe; 5. Creekside-define community. Needs to be close and central to small blocks (build programming; 6. Senior classes at Normandale to continue*
- *Sig Opportunities: 1. Build on residents wanting to be heard and working and owning the problems; 2. Roundabouts? Good walkability; 3. Good communication; 4. Police image-attitude toward the police. Do not defund. Get closer to know people, coffee with cop, we know about it. Cops as helpers, not scary. 5. Encourage city to see people who can contribute.*
- *Community center- what's happening?*
- *Lyndale project-is it still in the works?*
- *Resourse river*
- *Challenges: crime, mental illness/homelessness, drug addiction, covid, future of business and retail, too much welfare, police staffing*
- *Opportunities: large families/East Bloomington, maintain parks, walking trails, bike trails, create opportunities for children, affordable daycare,*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *reduce the size of government, improve schools, law and order-- introduce students to police, better senior opportunities*
- *Challenges: revenue-change to work form home, loss in sales at Mall of America and hotels. Bring in more businesses that fit post covid world; crime-how to maintain a viable, safe; lack of community feel; identity problem-suburb with small town feel or urban center (were too big!); ensure support for fire department. Ok if volunteer or funded, as long as its a reliable group to support city infrastructure*
- *Opportunities: create equitable amenities to engage ENTIRE city residents. Help people thrive. Challenging to get out of lower class, invest in them, loan assistance, go to the east side and ask them!; environment-control run off! Be involved in enviro initiatives; more inclusive, more 1 city. Day of tradition, Pride of Bloomington, support specific groups but also ALL people to identify and feel welcome at city events*
- *Challenges: schools (special needs); bring in new people; housing stock (seniors); old people do not like to pay taxes; bring in new business*
- *Opportunities: schools (better schools); bring in new people; housing stock (new couples); old people do not like to pay taxes; bring in new business*
- *Challenges: 3 Bloomington's East, Middle, West (different issues problems); police (overnight), neighborhood watch*
- *Opportunities: Police support; neighborhood watch*

- *City center/town center (34W split East Bloomington vs. West Bloomington); senior condors?/high rises; warehouses; family friendly/mixed ages; diversified businesses; integrate diversity, attract manufacturing, restaurants/hospitality, immigrant relocation to city*
- *Challenges: 1. traffic and speeding traffic; 2. funding/financial; 3. liquor laws need to loosen; 4. don't copy mpls and st. Paul inner city issues; 5. diverse community; 6. infrastructure replacement; 7. gain more green space; 8. unknown population change; 9. "one city"; 10. community conversation; 11. recreation facilities; maintain foundation of great city services*
- *Opportunities: 1. capitalize on proximity to needs; 2. restaurants-family owned-not corporate; 3. keep commercial business we have today; 4. leverage airport tourism; 5. affordable housing-desirable for young family; 6. develop a different housing structure template; 7. develop a new template for retail development (i.e. Southtown); neighborhood development - strategies from the city like national night out*
- *Challenges: East Side-large Latino population; better housing; are there too many people per household; traffic - cut thru; business-see Bloomington as unfriendly and overregulated; more people working from home - how will that effect the community*
- *Opportunities: Latino population big entrepreneurs, how to support; redevelopment of the older sections of town; repurpose industrial space along*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *Penn American Blvd; utilize taxes new legislative fiscal disparity fund can be used for redevelopment in Bloomington; upgrade creekside community center; utilize event center at MOA; return lunch service to Creekside*
- *Challenges: changes with fire department (funding); budget and funding for ambitious plans; affordable housing; traffic congestions (494); question of bus support for buses not being used; helping people in need, especially during winter*
- *Opportunities: increase in diversity; investment in transit; cedar bridge & 35 is finished - park and trails; relationships between police and community, national night out, community events, ride alongs; more family events; create gathering places around something more central (downtown--using city all more for events, coffee, city and history - expand from farmers market events, walking, etc.*
- *Opportunities - Unite Moir Park with the Creek. Moir Park is a huge opportunity*
- *Opportunity - Civic Plaza is beautiful. Other places across the City don't have the same feel*
- *Opportunity - Civic Plaza - great place but isn't used by many. Just specific groups in arts, others at large don't*
- *Opportunity - focus on small areas or parks, improve, maintain then expand*
- *Opportunity - example of great park update: Valley View Park*
- *Neighboring families come and use our parks*

- *More bridging of communities. Create connections, authentic community connections*
- *Challenge - size. We are big. Maintenance is an issue.*
- *City doesn't appreciate low density neighborhoods*
- *We are over building multi-family housing. Less opportunity for people to transition into houses*
- *Housing prices - priced too high for places that need a lot of work*
- *We don't have a good balance of apartments, condos, houses, etc.*
- *Don't disturb natural community gathering spaces*
- *More green space with the new building complexes*
- *Challenge - growing divide*
- *Challenge - climate change*
- *Challenge - education - charters, after school activities, more resources, ESL, media positions limited, technology (Wi-Fi, computers)*
- *Challenge - wage gap*
- *Challenge - no shelters for homeless*
- *Challenge - access to internet*
- *Challenge - Community center (indoor pool, more affordable than gym or YMCA)*
- *Challenge - Water quality (don't change but don't mess up)*
- *Challenge - home improvement loans*
- *Challenge - Transportation east/west*
- *Challenge - Public Safety - a lot of theft, police engage in community, stop and take time with community, better serve community, police match demographic, language barriers, input from diverse communities*
- *Challenge - Fire Stations - are they getting what they need?*
- *Opportunity - Invest in children*

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- *Opportunity - Have businesses share assets*
- *Opportunity - green space. Use it to draw people*
- *Opportunity - 494 to HWY 5 - fix bike lanes*
- *Parks needs to engage residents*
- *Challenge - upset residents*
- *Challenge - Convincing people that pillars of the city will benefit them*
- *Transparency*
- *People don't feel like they are being heard*
- *Challenge - We're building so many condos and apartments that people's opportunities to move into Bloomington will be limited; it will overwhelm the schools in 3-5 years*
- *Challenge - Low graduation rate in Bloomington (less than 80%)*
- *Challenge - The City's exploding budgets are unsustainable; they will price people out of the market*
- *Challenge - Properties are worth so much in Bloomington now*
- *Challenge - Poorly maintained homes and junk in back yards; we're not cleaning up the area - there are so many garbage houses and they cause problems with rodents, etc.*
- *Challenge - Lack of property enforcement; there needs to be a happy medium between an RV in the driveway and poorly maintained homes*
- *Challenge - High number of rentals; residents aren't educated and invested when it comes to maintaining their homes*
- *Challenge - City staff don't show up to enforce home maintenance orders*
- *Challenge - Degradation of a biblical world view*

- *Challenge - Anti-business sentiment is resulting in a loss of workers, taxes, jobs*
- *Opportunity - Home loan program for home maintenance offered by the City*
- *Opportunity - Affirm a biblical world view and affirmation of Scripture regarding morality and ethics*
- *Opportunity - Repeal anti-business ordinances that are costing jobs to correct the wrongs of the past*
- *Opportunity - Become more business-friendly, especially to small businesses*
- *Opportunity - Construct an outdoor ice rink around the perimeter of Valley View park*
- *Opportunity - Lockers to check out skates to get kids out of the house and onto outdoor skating rinks*
- *Opportunity - Glass shelters with heat for parents to stay warm when kids are at the parks (similar to bus shelters)*
- *Opportunity - Help families by engaging the community to assist people who can't do their own home maintenance (e.g., "Help a Neighbor")*
- *Opportunity - beef up the programs at Creekside. Neighborhood opportunities for seniors in the winter*
- *Opportunity - young people to learn the trades. Not everyone is up for 4 years. Lots of kids are good with their hands. Work with the school district.*
- *Opportunity - More public recognition to public safety. You can have the pride flag but don't take the police flag down*
- *K-12 school enrollment down; consolidate or reevaluate school system; opportunity to improve the schools, too*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *How do we talk to each other when we have different opinions? People want to be able to support themselves and their family, children will have opportunity, we all want the same things. How do we focus on the ways we are the same?*
- *Community center, affordable housing, "hot topics" with strong opinions; how do we resolve these issues through good communication and listening?*
- *How can we affect as many people as we can when making decisions?*
- *Some things aren't going to be our pet projects but some will be; what will benefit the majority*
- *Reach out to both young and old. We do have an aging population that will need support.*
- *Community center that brings the whole community in rather than separating the populations*
- *Challenge - Lack of developable land*
- *Challenge - Expensive to develop something new*
- *Challenge - Increasing property taxes*
- *Challenge - Integration of communities within the city*
- *Challenge - Non-English speakers/English as 2nd languages – integration; need to be part of the conversation*
- *Challenge - Artistry – but not much around it for food, etc. after it that is walkable – have to get into a car to do next thing; maybe more of a "destination" that includes food, art, etc. – walkable*
- *Challenge - Less and smaller sidewalks on east side; wider on west side*
- *Challenge - No walk/bike connection east/west*

- *Challenge - Money to make capital improvements/changes*
- *Opportunity - Develop and increase independent businesses (non-chain restaurants, breweries, etc.); currently looks to other cities for this*
- *Opportunity - Lyndale Avenue (city center, development, attractive layout)*
- *Opportunity - Number of schools spread throughout the city – make greater use of them for community activities after hours*
- *Opportunity - Centers of community*
- *Opportunity - Community Center*
- *Opportunity - Translation of services/documents*
- *Opportunity - World Cafes (City/resident conversations) in other languages*
- *Challenge - Increase in traffic, commuters on the freeway. Could effect quality of Bloomington. Increase in crime? We need to stay on top of this possibility. People take short cuts to freeways.*
- *Challenge - As diversity increases, could be more challenges with communication and making sure everyone knows the rules*
- *Challenge - Lack of inclusiveness. There is a group that tries to exclude people.*
- *Challenge - Divide between east and west – merging of Jefferson and Kennedy hockey has shown the challenge this brings. There is a resistance to come together as One Bloomington. (Get rid of PWB nick name). Prestigious West Bloomington.*
- *Climate change – drought, storms*
- *Challenge - Virus, variants, consumes resources*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *Challenge - It takes 3-5 years to make a change happen*
- *Challenge - Aging population, not attractive to younger families*
- *Opportunity - Immigration: increase labor force, population, enrich community*
- *Opportunity - Come up with our identity- what is Bloomington? Drive thru? Suburban? Place to work and live? Natural resources?*
- *Opportunity - Technology- housing, environment, electric cars, communications, high speed internet, light rail/mass transit*
- *Opportunity - Climate: electric car charging*
- *Opportunity - Amenities: companies want employees to be attracted to these (gyms, places to eat, shops, car charging, etc.)*
- *Opportunity - What can people grow in their back yards?*
- *Eviction moratorium ending will mean homelessness will go up.*
- *There's an opportunity to create affordable housing.*
- *There was way too much homelessness even before the moratorium.*
- *We'll be back to ground zero.*
- *Bloomington was an All American city, but only once in 1960. Other cities in the region have won it more often. What is Bloomington not doing that we were back then and other cities are doing?*
- *What is the core of things that make the All American cities? Can we learn from their successes?*
- *Challenge: starts in the neighborhood, if there isn't a good neighborhood, hard to have one good big city. What can we do in the neighborhoods to help so we can be together, know each other and protect us. We could have one big city party so everyone can get together. There are fall festivals for example in churches etc. Opportunity to have all people together.*
- *Being hospitable to all races.*
- *Map of Minneapolis or St. Paul – you can see the neighborhoods by name, Bloomington doesn't have that sense of neighborhood. Engage the public on naming neighborhoods.*
- *The city could be proactive in encouraging neighborhoods.*
- *It's challenging getting to know your neighbors. Have people be open – people are welcoming of new people.*
- *Homelessness, housing, welcoming people – would like to see communities of tiny homes. We could build them in clusters to help create a sense of community.*
- *Bloomington supports updating housing stock, tiny homes could be brilliant.*
- *Aging population is a challenge, the resources, the people to support an aging population.*
- *Need housing for young, successful, career people. They will pay a lot taxes. They like amenities in their housing options. Minneapolis/Richfield have newer apartment buildings.*
- *We are lacking kids – graduating classes are getting smaller.*
- *High-speed internet in homes to attract younger homebuyers and families*
- *Challenges + Opportunities*
- *Technology - mass communication for ALL (paper, email, social, etc.) - landlords and renters*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *Database of renters who want to be 1st time buyers and seniors who might move out. Renters and landlords need to be included.*
- *Small business equitable opportunities - we have a strong tax base.*
- *Divide between east and west (challenge) inequities, pay attention to have equal between both sides*
- *Not a challenge yet, but safety could be, keep ahead of it, opportunity - community come together. More community events in east side. Cultural celebrations - new opportunity.*
- *Opportunity - More intentional getting voices and opinions of community members (beyond white)*
- *City could take lead (City knows the population) on cultural events*
- *Work more closely with the schools (opportunity) expand on City/school district connection*
- *Better connection between City and Faith communities*
- *Challenge - affordable housing (increase cost of homes and cost of living)*
- *Challenge people flip houses - no longer affordable and hurts the community*
- *Challenge - traffic into neighborhoods from 494/35/Cedar people taking shortcuts into the City*
- *Opportunity - businesses improve sustainability*
- *Challenges with aging population - moving out of home. Opportunities for seniors to stay within their communities*
- *Challenge affordable daycare and 24 hours*

- *Challenges - planning/zoning. Frustration over some things in certain locations.*
- *PR of South Loop area*
- *Relying on tax base that relied on tourism (challenge) and work travel*
- *Is the mall area a sustainable place?*
- *Is the mall a good "neighbor"*
- *Mall is the closest thing to a community center*
- *Challenge - no community center*
- *Opportunity - community center - similar to YMCA in Edina, not the Y but the characteristics of that type of facility. Located on the east side.*
- *Valley View Park is under utilized.*
- *Jefferson and Kennedy activity centers could be enhanced. Would need better hours.*
- *Challenge - large city distance between west and east*
- *Affordable housing*
- *New wave of residents wanting a community center and other amenities that long time residents don't.*
- *Have amazing city services and to continue to do so*
- *Being prepare to meet crisis - i.e. water restrictions, flooding*
- *Bloomington is becoming more diverse and the City to be more diverse in staff and languages, don't have kids translate for parents*
- *Building trust with BIPOC community - police and BIPOC*
- *Not be a fractile city - how do we build trust*
- *Demographic changes is opportunity and challenges*
- *Need to start in neighborhood and build connections*
- *Appeal to younger generation - walkability, brewery*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *City updates/info to realtors - they help you sell your city*
- *Spanish immersion school - need to have one*
- *Need to connect with youth - what would make them stay here, where to they spend their money*
- *Environment*
- *No Catholic Church in Bloomington that does mass in Spanish. Many Latinos go to Richfield and other cities.*
- *Nothing on the west side - go to Eden Prairie. Need help for small businesses*
- *Put too much stock in MOA. More on neighborhoods.*
- *Walkability and neighborhood is needed*
- *We need a downtown*
- *Housing - how is it distributed and determined*
- *Housing for those who are struggling*
- *City needs to be more responsive to resident voices*
- *Communication, listening to residents is a challenge*
- *Establish a vision for the City*
- *Are we bringing in more multi-unit housing to attract more and if so - what opportunity do residents have to have a voice?*
- *High rise office businesses here, use space we already have (e.g. vacant strip malls) incentives*
- *Push information out in different ways (social media, news release)*
- *Residents want to know more about what's going on at City.*
- *Lyndale Avenue/98th run down, doesn't feel safe*
- *Beautify the City*
- *Residents connected to a vision*
- *Balance beauty/resources with commerce needs*

- *Keep taxes from spiking - doing a good job. Good bang for our buck.*
- *Keep up the transparency*
- *Inclusion and sense of community*
- *Love the Farmers Market, Pride Festival, sense of community, we need more of that.*
- *More of a small town feel e.g. main street, not so spread out*
- *Love the green space*
- *Community café*
- *Rent increases may push some people out without rent stabilization.*
- *Affordable housing is a challenge and opportunity*
- *Shift to work from home/remote work - challenge and opportunity*
- *Technological infrastructure - likely a challenge*
- *Challenge - climate changes*
- *Housing stock is getting old - is there a plan to help homeowners update (tax break, opportunities for renting easily)*
- *Accessible housing is a challenge*
- *It's like a home owner association's requirements - ability to make changes is limited, what's allowed in the City is strict - seems a little over the top*
- *Infrastructure - condition of sidewalks - like near the post office, there are bumps.*
- *Old Shakopee Rd - hard to get across near Civic Plaza*
- *Opportunity - community is diversifying.*
- *Challenge - out neighbors are facing violence (Mpls St Paul) - who we are what it's like to live here. Sometimes hear that it's not safe. (it's defined) The perception of outsiders is set by Mpls St Paul.*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *Loop road - it's been closed would be nice to save as a park overlooking the river (where the farm is)*
- *Changes to retail to challenge vs. online*
- *Inside community - in order to grow we have to be open to different zoning and models - no more land (challenge) - how do we grow develop prosper?*
- *What are the impacts of needs/wants of different generations?*
- *Permitting for small businesses is expensive so difficult to start small business.*
- *City codes needs to change - support ma and pop shops.*
- *Walkability and small businesses.*
- *So many barriers to prevent diverse small business owners*
- *Parks: closed good kayaking and boating on Labor Day - it was so nice outside!*
- *OPPORTUNITIES*
- *Databases of*
- *Tax credits to encourage people to move into neighborhoods that are being revitalized. Or tax credits if you commit to living here for a certain number of years. (St Paul)*
- *Include renters more/engage them especially on the east side. 40% of residents are renters.*
- *Equitable opportunities for small businesses. How to help small landlords.*
- *Affordable housing for first-time homeowners and older adults transitioning*
- *Opportunity - more low income housing in West Bloomington*
- *Encourage volunteerism within our community - see each other as people*

- *livable wages for those who work and live in the City*
- *affordable childcare*
- *sidewalk plowing, especially bus routes*
- *not currently a direct path (transportation) to the mall from Blooming Meadows*
- *Housing*
- *Education*
- *Housing is number 1--more Somali people would love to move to Bloomington*
- *A lot of people are moving to Shakopee, Savage, Burnsville because it's more affordable; they can't afford to live in Bloomington*
- *All Somalians are not the same, some are different families with different needs (not a one size fit all)*
- *If Police could reach out, connect, build relationships with community and not visit only in times of crisis, it would be better*
- *Need crime alerts, if someone is in danger, need notifications --English & Somali*
- *Many families start out living in North Mpls, and as they earn more money they like to move to Bloomington because it's clean, beautiful, hub center to surrounding cities, close to airport, MOA, mosque (Dar Al Farooq). Bloomington keeps them close to Mpls where they have services and businesses that serves the Somali community. Safety, Safety, Safety (compared to Mpls)*
- *Don't want the Police to go away, just want them to friendlier to community*
- *Bloomington is generally safe, it's a safe city*

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- *No one wants to leave Bloomington, what they want is the need to be heard*
- *Moving away to Shakopee and Savage because it's more affordable and more welcoming*
- *Would be huge if Bloomington is willing to learn more about their culture*
- *Challenges: Aging population. Need more senior community places. Public Education. Opportunities: Great business climate. Love the new 9 Mile Brewery.*
- *Refer to questions one, I fear extreme forces in government will undermine our safety.*
- *increasing crime*
- *Racism, transforming to green energy*
- *We are turning into an inner city-city. We need to make sure we are taking all steps towards keeping crime down!*
- *Not taking care of our police. They have kept Bloomington a great place to live for 64 years. Must be doing it right.*
- *Housing will continue to be limited. Should allow more multifamily zoning in areas that are single family today.*
- *the pandemic has destroyed businesses and put people out of work- we need to rebuild! Also, Keep our law enforcement strong, we want to live in a safe city!!*
- *Crime*
- *staffing, resources (financial, people, etc.)*
- *The talk of the town is about crime and we need to focus on that. People increasingly feel less safe here which is going to be hard to manage long term if we can't get the trend headed the right direction.*

- *Opportunity to double down on education*
- *An aging population without enough people to replenish business demands. Opportunities remain to be seen.*
- *A growing population that is much more dense, diverse and transient that will not be part of the single family home lifestyle that certain very vocal minority groups in the city want to maintain.*
- *Shopping malls likely to decline and the continued Ageing of our population*
- *Challenges: Increased trunk road traffic due to unapproved detours from major construction projects. Opportunities: Chances to revitalize areas that have been neglected for decades.*
- *Warming of the climate, organic recycling introduction, and change to the city-wide large object disposal day.*
- *1. Maintaining high-end residents and businesses. Crime is creeping up, those who can afford to move do. 2. Maintain excellent policing. 3. Make City laws more friendly to all business. 4. Great opportunity to steal business office space from Minneapolis and St. Paul markets. Attract workers from south and SW metro. 5. Great opportunity to attract homeowners who are leaving Minneapolis and St. Paul markets.*
- *Shifting demographics with age and race. The differences across Bloomington from West to East are noticeable. Keeping things equitable while keeping residents 'satisfied' will be a challenge.*
- *It may be difficult for some residents to afford housing, utilities, food, etc.*

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Question 2: *What are the most significant challenges you believe Bloomington will face in the next 3 to 5 years? What are the most significant opportunities?*

- *Make sure our businesses are welcome. Plan carefully to help those in need - be very careful where you put low income housing. Again, 86th/Penn not LIH nor should it be. If you are able to induce some industry to locate here, make it happen.*
- *Safety (ensuring that our police budget is justified in the public eye, keeping people safe in their place of business or home), accessibility (ensuring the city stays walkable, bike-able, bus-able), green solutions (cutting down air pollution, light pollution, increase native flowers for pollinators and decreasing wasted green-scapes that use excess water), traffic (ensuring things like roundabouts and speed bumps keep the city safe.*
- *Recovery from the effects of the pandemic is the most significant issue facing the city. Businesses have suffered, many were lost due to the economic impact, and the trained workforce has been depleted. Our city should have learned an important lesson that we cannot rely so heavily upon the hospitality industry for such a significant amount of our tax revenue. The loss of travel and the excess of hotel space was a huge impact on the city budget. We must look to diversify our business base so that we are not so dependent upon travel and hotel room taxes to pay our bills. It became clear to business that they did not have to meet in person to get work done, so we need to project realistically how quickly travel and the filling of those hotel spaces will occur. We need to look at the training of the workforce, which involves working with the school district and the private*

sector to help our residents get the training and employment they need to fuel our city's revenue needs. We need to look at ways to help women who have left the workforce due to the high expenses of child care. We need to reassess plans for redevelopment in light of the lessons learned from the pandemic. We will likely not need more hotel space, but maybe that space can be converted to affordable housing. Bloomington has done a great job in planning where to put our industrial and manufacturing zones in the city, and retail centers abound, but there are areas where we need to look at that retail function and consider what will replace it (Penn and 90th street for example).
- *Spending Budget which will add additional taxing on the families in Bloomington. It seems the idea I hear being discussed will cause additional taxes.*
- *Our children are our biggest asset. I grew up in Bloomington and I loved it. The most fun I had was going to the park! (usually Brookside or Normandale Lake area) We need to keep our creative juices flowing. Make Bloomington a fun place to live, work and play -- more than just the MOA. Invest in small businesses. Say YES as often as you can. Invite the immigrant in, see what they have to offer. Provide opportunities to make a difference in every day lives.*
- *Safety, community involvement, local business expansion*
- *Challenges: Traffic, budget, school enrollment. Opportunities: create more community feel and offerings for actual community members to utilize a*

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destination that has been driving to be marketed to leisure out of state/country travel.

- *Lack of natural resources and climate change. We don't seem to be making any efforts towards sustainability. The fact that Bloomington wants to build a water park but the MOA says it all.*
- *Wouldn't it be nice if our city could be a charming livable community and not simply a space that drivers speed through to get to their destinations. We need to upgrade our parks, streets, restaurants and stop the speeding down every street. Did Bloomington abandon a speed limit enforcement? Infrastructure is important to creating a neighborhood and we need new people in the engineering department to create more of a livable neighborhood. It's great that we have so much low income housing but there is a tipping point where it lowers everyone's property values. The largest asset for middle income residents is their home and this city is not being a good steward to those people that most need their property values to increase.*
- *High home prices. Crime, we need to capture youth to learn empathy.*
- *Challenges are the a lagging skill base for communication and tolerance/forgiveness along with other common courtesies that can be learned and exemplified. Community building activities which show these in action may be one way to increase their use in the population.*
- *climate change and continued economic difficulties, opportunities to find new ways of forming community bonds across groups*

- *Keeping businesses in Bloomington. We need to attract more non-chain restaurants. I do not know why we don't have more of them but I am sure you in the city government do.*
- *Challenges bridging gap between East and West Bloomington economic housing and making city feel unified and inclusive at same time. Opportunities to make city connected through safe and beautiful streets, parks, shopping/restaurants and housing.*
- *Most significant challenge is growing lawlessness and disrespect for other people. Most significant opportunity is to stop the challenge and make Bloomington safe again.*
- *Long time residents moving out*
- *Not sure about this one although I think long term some of the challenges will be how to make some of the older neighborhoods with tiny houses more realistic for families who need more space.*
- *The challenge will be to maintain the small town vibe everyone loves while offering affordable existing places for business and housing.*
- *Crime, and police staffing, liberal attitudes and positions, a more diversified population, declining schools, spending $$ on the wrong things. Citizens facing higher inflation rates, higher federal taxes .... anything that leaves the people with less money will be bad for the city.*
- *Too many living here free, sickening. and destroying us true, legal American People. We can't find clean, safe, or affordable housing right now. Brand new buildings being built and the majority of the tenants are illegals*

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living here all Free for an illegal vote. Many sicken us with their filth, disrespects us, and we are frightened of them. We need our needs to be met first. Management and Landlords talk to us like we are garbage. Because they have the illegals with more money to rent than we do. So they raise the rents to get more of their illegal free monies. Leaving us without decent, clean, or safe and affordable housing.

- *Must control overspending on vanity infrastructure projects (e.g. water park) ; Stop parroting the policies and practices of Minneapolis - these policies are driving wealth and reliable tax revenue out of Minneapolis and will shortly do the same for Bloomington ; Divorce the city from dependence on the Federal housing Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Rule and allow Bloomington residents to drive the housing strategy rather than the city coffers ; we have an opportunity build equity for BIPOC residents by creating equity through home ownership rather than continue the generational racism of renting.*

- *Schools - We need to get families moving into Bloomington. I know, like me, there are older residents who are not moving, but yet there are homes up for sale now. Families is what will keep us growing and moving forward. As stated above some sort of community center and downtown that is reflective of our community.*

- *School issues following the pandemic. Many kids got behind, many parents are/were angry about masks etc. Need to get together.*

- *Pollution, public transportation and population density.*

- *Bloomington is going to lose residents if the taxes keep increasing. Without new businesses and restaurants, people will seek other communities to live in.*

- *With the changes imposed by COVID, now is not the time to pour money into non-essentials like the parks/recreation. Money needs to go toward police/fire.*

- *1. Like everywhere, we're experiencing a change in how people work (more white collar workers working from home, lower paid workers increasingly not willing to settle for crap pay and crap benefits, lots of Boomers retiring)-- that's a big opportunity to rethink our sense of place and what we build in our neighborhoods. 2. Also like everywhere, we are beginning to wake up to how the structures of our cities an neighborhoods have contributed to both privilege and obstacles-- we can approach this as an opportunity, but if we ignore it will certainly be a challenge. 3. Climate change is real and demonstrably affecting our world today - Bloomington has an opportunity to step up here and be a leader in taking action, or we can ignore it and be unprepared for the challenges it presents.*

- *Rent/housing costs, public health, and creation of small businesses are the challenges I imagine. Opportunities include addressing carbon emissions, inclusion of greater diversity in our city, and leading community engagement opportunities that involve more citizens in public decisions.*

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- *The literacy gap. What methods are being used to teach reading in the Bloomington schools? The research is clear -- phonemic awareness is key. Mississippi improved its reading levels tremendously, but it took REQUIRING teachers to learn and use the phonemic awareness method. The poverty gap. Does the city have an ombudsman who can direct families to free services that they need? Help with affordable housing. Revise zoning rules that keep lots large Subsidize swimming lessons. Recently my neighbor and I paid for swimming lessons for students whose families were from Africa. We should be encouraging the school swim teams and other swim groups to do some sort of Go Fund for Publicize success! See*
- *An inequity will continue to be a significant problem.*
- *One big challenge is and will be rising prices and inflation, and growing concerns with government trust. How government agencies chose to leverage technologies in bridging gaps between responsible government spending/costs and regaining trust through steady transparent progress. Can Bloomington keep costs down, while also improving services.*
- *Crime, lack of affordable housing, deteriorating existing housing.*
- *allocating resources to prevent crime....youth activities, safety nets, etc.*
- *As the owner of two small businesses I would like to see affordable store front options and retail areas that have something for everyone that is within walking distance of each other. More*

- *emphasis on small businesses being able to feed off of each other. More community driven events that involve the small businesses and their participation. (Example my self and my husband own a bike shop, help from the city in planning a fat bike race from our store to the river bottoms that involves other Bloomington businesses). Use of small businesses in Bloomington taking priority when city plans these events. Also a family with young kids I would like to see a indoor play area in Bloomington for cold weather times and to hold community events in. this could also be a revenue source for the city.*
- *The city continues to get older. The median age is 42, Eden Prairie age is 39, Burnsville age is 36, Richfield is 36. There is nothing enticing for younger couple. Houses are priced too high, and there is nothing to attract younger affluent families. Affordable housing is NOT the answer, as that just increases the poverty level, not the median income.*
- *Crime and racial tensions. i think the most significant opportunity in the moment is to bring community together in festivals, etc. Something that would celebrate all our cultures, ethnicities, etc. For instance maybe a City wide street party where our local, cultural foods could be offered. Music, dancing, just to get everyone together and appreciate who we are as individuals within our common community.*
- *Keeping current! And the city seems to rely so much on the Mall of America's success.....I think we need to focus on*

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all the other things that make Bloomington great!! ...the beautiful parks and diversity of the people. Honor our HISTORY but don't get stuck in the past!!!

- *Keeping crime under control - making sure criminals are held accountable no matter how minor their crime*
- *1. Racism from the largest hate groups*
- *Political divide and bigotry and hatred amongst conservative neighbors.*
- *To hold The Mayor, City Manager and Council back from wanting too much growth and spending coming out of the Pandemic. Those obligations are going to have to be paid. Don't know if everyone realizes but someone is going to have to pay for everything that has been provided to everyone since the beginning of the Pandemic.*
- *Aging properties and population. How can the housing standards continue to be maintained . No more homeless shelter hotels*
- *The changing climate will impact everything, and ultimately Minnesota will attract climate refugees from the hardest hit areas (flooding coastal cities, wildfires in the Northwest. Opportunities: to become a model green city.*
- *The most significant challenge Bloomington will face is available homes for all people no matter the income level. Significant opportunity is to be a great place to live and all are valued and treated well.*
- *rising costs rising crime Minneapolis identity / stigma as unsafe city. By proximity, association, Bloomington (twin cities) unfavorable location for new business / industry. unfavorable for world fair, major sport events, etc.*

tourism, MOA, hotels, etc. lost revenue due to (un)safety concerns challenge for programs for middle class. there are enough programs for the poor, there are enough programs for the arts, enough programs for racial equity and inclusion, address the white middle class needs as important, as they are often overlooked

- *I see racisms as a continual challenge throughout the US. We have opportunities to celebrate each culture in various ways around or city. Not just in one central location.*
- *CHANGES: THE CITY NEEDS TO PREPARE FOR INCREASED CRIME, SPILLING OUT FROM MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL! SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES: INCREASE SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES IN THE CITY; ENCOURAGE A BROADER TAX BASE; ATTRACT MORE EDUCATED WORKERS; CONTINUE TO PROMOTE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY.*
- *Challenges: economic challenges due to inflation, growth of government etc. Opportunities: Allowing and encouraging entrepreneurship to thrive*
- *The #1 priority: Do not seek to harm or dismantle single family housing and neighborhood zoning. Local government, like state and federal government, should NOT be in the business of pushing social engineering. We appreciate that people have good intentions and want to be compassionate, but there is not one way or one right way to live and government officials do not have the right to push their idea of what that should be on everyone else. Go in this*

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direction and good luck with your tax base.

- *Paying for the important infrastructure projects.*
- *See www.strongtowns.org*
- *Racism and the police department, the city needs to increase transparency for resolving city employee misconduct and this needs to apply to ALL city employees, we need to increase the affordable housing for low income individuals and families*
- *Challenges: Paying for updates. Paying for reduced or free services to low income residents. Balancing finances for needed improvements to unseen updates VS beautifying the city and making it more pedestrian and bike accessible. Opportunities: The city is ugly and worn out-any improvement will be a benefit. Lack of better dining than fast food and tavern food provides opportunity to bring in higher quality dining. and lastly, the south town shopping center is loaded with space for modernizations in esthetics plus businesses to meet modern needs.*
- *Due to Biden's demand for businesses to vaccination mandates, I think Bloomington will see the downfall for them. This is due to his extreme fining. So I am concerned, especially, for the small businesses we have here in Bloomington.*
- *Maintaining the established schools, police systems and parks to high levels of public service.*
- *dealing with people on the fringes who have loud voices but don't reflect the communities values, having enough teachers/staff in the schools, affordable housing, keeping down crime*

- *More affordability in the city. Single family homes and taxes are becoming unaffordable. How to be affordable and stay up to date is a challenge.*
- *Traffic, congestion, affordable housing, policing. Untapped*
- *Cost of living and bloated city and school budget making property taxes unaffordable*
- *Using technology to benefit all citizens of Bloomington.*
- *Financial challenges. The City tries to do a lot and has focused on services leaving infrastructure to decay. Opportunity to evaluate what we do and if we are doing it efficiently*
- *Dealing with issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, and related movements. While the city is better off in this regard than others in our area, there are still issues that affect the City.*
- *1.) Diversifying our employer mix. 2.) Adapting our city's codes and regulations to better accommodate (and attract) small, neighborhood-style businesses. 3.) Attracting more people so that we can better be able to pay for better (and increasingly expensive) City services. 4.) Making sure that we have the housing (and housing variety), the (City) services, the transportation options, and the employment opportunities for our new Bloomington residents. 5.) Employers for our people - people for our employers 6.) More people, more small businesses (even more "big box" stores) probably means increased crime and we need to make sure that we are prepared for that…prepared in every way. 7.) Much of our aging infrastructure is reaching, or has*

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already reached, the end of it's useful and/or problem-free life and we need to stay ahead of this in every way. 8.) Reconstruction of 494 will provide a variety of significant challenges - for the City (large 'C'), its businesses and employers, and its residents.

- *Rising diverse population and rising property taxes to support the schools.*

- *Bloomington should do its part in mitigating climate change. How about some solar collectors on the acres of vacant land at Park Ave under the power lines.?? How about some plug-ins for electric cars around the city?? How about a program to encourage solar collectors atop many of the large industrial buildings around the city? Incentivize to make it happen!*

- *Declining test scores and as a result worsening view of the school district*

- *Bloomington has many unique natural areas, and even some endangered species, but they are very degraded and soon won't be "restorable" anymore. Developing a natural areas management plan, and really prioritizing natural areas restoration and management will require a big shift. Last summer's surveys showed the people of Bloomington really want natural areas, but the city budget still does not reflect that. And where the budget does supposedly go toward natural areas, its not always directly going toward natural areas management/conservation/restoratio n, but mostly going towards getting people into natural areas. That does not help much if the natural areas are so degraded. Restore the natural areas first, THEN draw people into them! Restoring natural areas before its too*

late should be a high priority. If the City does not take care of the gems in its possession in the MN River Valley and Nine Mile Creek and other natural areas in its possession, who will? Will future generations still be able to see them, or will they be gone and choked out by buckthorn and other invasive species? For example, there are still snow trilliums in Bloomington, which are endangered in MN. Very few cities have these! Will Bloomington preserve species like this and their habitat for future generations to be able to enjoy??? Or will we drive out all the wildlife and unique species like in the Lorax? To a certain extent, the full value/diversity of native plant communities can't be fully restored once its gone, as research of Illinois remnant and restored prairies has shown. HWS Cleveland's words to the city of Minneapolis in the late 1800s still seem applicable to cities today: "Regard it as your sacred duty to preserve this gift which the wealth of the world could not purchase, and transmit it as a heritage of beauty to your successors forever." –H.W.S. Cleveland, 1872 "Look forward for a century, to the time when the city has a population of a million, and think what will be their wants. They will have wealth enough to purchase all that money can buy, but all their wealth cannot purchase a lost opportunity, or restore natural features of grandeur and beauty, which would then possess priceless value, and which you can preserve for them if you will but say the word and save them from the destruction which certainly awaits them if you fail to utter it." — H.W.S. Cleveland,

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Suggestions for a System of Parks and Parkways for the City of Minneapolis, presented June 2, 1883 to the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners.

- *Aging population, reduced school enrollment, reduced income through tourism*
- *We will have issues if we continue to focus so much on highlighting and honoring the diversity. Just let things be. Community festivals for everyone are ways for us all to unite. Race isn't an issue until people keep making it one. We're all welcome and accepted but highlighting one group alienates another. Let's just focus on making what we have in Bloomington available, advertised and fun!*
- *Warming planet effects; switch to earth-friendly practices for energy/transportation/food-sourcing; increasing BIPOC neighbors and hopefully increased BIPOC in leadership and home ownership/white people figuring out how to share power. Clearly recognizing and honoring all of our histories. Truth-telling as a means of healing and connecting... Recognition of the importance so we support families with children birth to school, we'll all benefit!!!*
- *Keep CRT out of our schools. Keep equity out of the hiring. I see signs of wokeness coming in and its not a good thing. All the leadership is now the wrong kind of Democrats. This gesture of a Cafe to get people's ideas, I am afraid is just posturing. In the end, I am concerned its all for show and to go ahead and put woke policies in*

place. I am preparing to move from this community if that happens.

- *As the community ages, more and more young families are moving to the area. We need to accommodate both groups the young and the old.*
- *Aging community*
- *"Bloomington isn't doing enough to address all the implications of climate change.*
- *There ARE many residents that ARE wanting to help. "*
- *We need to deal with and prepare for what is a head of us in a warming climate. More education on the simple things residents can do themselves: water/electric conservation, the 6 R's, composting, salt usage etc..*
- *Maintaining facilities*
- *Taking a walk with our family through Kelly Fields, we often notice what a tremendous asset the parks are to the community. We also notice the spaces are showing regular wear without necessary maintenance or upgrades. An example is the playground at Kelly which is heavily used but needs to either be repaired or replaced. Warming houses could use more maintenance than they currently receive.*
- *Restoring and maintaining our natural resources.*
- *Studies show that healthy and quality natural resources improve 1) the physical, social, and mental health of people, 2) wildlife and pollinator habitant, 3) the balance within our earth's ecosystem (which would help prevent and address climate change), 4) the desirability of our city, and 5) provide sustainable jobs and food.*

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- *Lack of a sense of community among neighbors.*
- *Social hostility and tensions, poorly maintained public spaces, and increasing crime are just a few indicators of the need for a greater sense of community among neighbors. The City needs to commit to working to support and encourage a sense of community among neighbors.*
- *Not retaining young families*
- *"Bloomington has become a destination to start a family and then move away before kids become school age. The schools are consistently decreasing in important metrics, especially regarding underserved populations.*
- *Bloomington can increase retention by investing heavily in schools and in amenities. Improving park facilities and rehabilitating green spaces well help make this city attractive to young families. The polar bridge neighborhood is a prime example of deteriorating parks and schools. "*

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Question 3: *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

Compilation of all recorded comments:

- *Community center*
- *Warehouse space in central Bloomington*
- *Residential diversity - multi-purpose - live, work, play environment*
- *Develop up and out - South Loop - a good example*
- *Cultural diversity*
- *Community beautification programs - volunteerism among community groups*
- *Large population - better leverage population base*
- *Learn to better understand differences among residents*
- *The arts community - performing and static arts, Sheldon Theater in Red Wing is a good example*
- *Affordable housing - HUGE gap*
- *Wraparound community support*
- *Housing affordable and available and appealing to families with kids*
- *House renovation loan programs at low interest rates with fewer income restrictions*
- *Community loan programs to help people buy houses*
- *People can get more home, yard and new property in Prior Lake, Lakeville, Eagan, etc. for less $$$ than you can in Bloomington*
- *Help people reinvest in houses to update*
- *Sports Tourism - hotels on 494, improve sports facilities to attract more activities and $ into community*
- *Better facilities to help attract more families and young people*
- *Affordable houses*
- *School recognizing more than just sports*

- *Gap in community policing*
- *Need opportunities for more density with neighborhoods*
- *More neighborhood gatherings*
- *How do we expand contacts in neighborhoods?*
- *Business community celebration/support*
- *Better east to west destinations, neighborhood shops*
- *More small business into residential areas*
- *Apartment buildings with independent shops on ground floor*
- *Shortage of affordable housing. Perhaps a tiny home village.*
- *Purchase the farm in east Bloomington and use for mixed-use development*
- *More blocking off streets for gathering (for Halloween?)*
- *How do we engage youth in all these conversations?*
- *How do we make Bloomington cool for kids*
- *Home improvement loans from City or feds?*
- *Tiny houses for poor*
- *Law and order, lives near Poplar Bridge, worries about homelessness, 24 bullet holes in bus at Normandale and 84th*
- *How do we deal with homelessness*
- *Deal with mental illness that results in homelessness and crime, more neighborhood dealing with mental illness to get them off the streets and then help their needs*
- *Resources - cultural community; block/night groups; Facebook groups; youth; seniors; local rather than other cities - Bloomington oriented*
- *Gaps - no downtown; better between east and west connection;*

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communication; festivals - city identity, 5th largest City but doesn't feel that way

- *Welcome signs - "downtown" plaza or community center*
- *Untapped resources: managed higher density is a solution; activity centers; taking advantage of knowledge and talents of community; ask retirees to come and tutor; get people more involved - give them opportunities to volunteer*
- *What's missing- better intercity transportation; community center - why can't we do it? even towns as small as 3,000 have one, the one we have Creekside is really old; alternates to community center - mini center in every district - centers of community instead of community center; age generation 18-21 - how are youth engaged? what options do we have for 18-21 year olds; higher density - mandatory; no unscheduled activities - through school; activities for youth 13-21 - outside of school, there aren't a lot of things to do with families - activities are designed for young kids (not those in the middle); go out and talk to kids in the community to find out what they want door-to-door; meet up with people for fun; it's hard to meet people; Creekside activities are during the day*
- *Resources - knowledge, skills and abilities of people; school parks available more; younger population and Bloomington's demographics changing (different ethnicities and languages); east and west culture*
- *Gaps: provide methods and incentives for people to get engaged; diversify solutions to meet the needs of the*

area; embrace change; provide more resources that are culturally responsive, e.g. mental health resources, and diverse staff in schools and city council and all over Bloomington; City Council not working enough with schools, more partnerships with City Council and schools (to engage students); reallocate resources and funding to east Bloomington; change school curriculum to teach and focus on and in black lives matter, health disparities and social determinants of health, etc., and social, emotional; more local business

- *Gaps: -no "main street" area for connection (e.g. inclusive watering hole, possible multiple "main streets"; t-cross at Lyndale and France); -neighborhood destinations; -Address how to live in Bloomington over a long period of time; e.g. transition from a two-year house to a 20 year house; -challenges include costs, permit restrictions and involved process*
- *Resources: -unused area on 106th and Lyndale (add neighborhood businesses to attract people; -Minnesota River (Bloomington does not bill itself as a river community, but it can do so *keep it sustainable); -Possible development of South Loop by MOA to create a planned area like Centennial Lakes; -Promote it for everyone: accessibility, people with e-books; -levers of Bloomington's unique aspects (history, geography, etc.); -opportunity to examine multiple zoning: encourage local investment, ability to wok new home; -untapped resources: multicultural, intergenerational (find ways to facilitate conversations *day*

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- *of conversation: designated day for community meetings)*
- *Program to help families buy homes - not simply renovate existing homes*
- *Keep Bloomington unique*
- *Use citizens -let citizens to participate café is good*
- *conversations - old and young together*
- *Community of churches bring people together. But also divides just because of discrimination. We need a church without religion.*
- *Affordable housing- tiny houses*
- *Non-sports recognition by schools*
- *Community policing*
- *Neighbor communicating, gatherings - expand contracts showcase idea in Briefing*
- *Publicize JFK & Jefferson workout facilities to residents*
- *Commuter bike paths*
- *Public transportation*
- *Utilizing older peoples knowledge*
- *Youth service opportunities*
- *get businesses to invest in community with internships/volunteer opp*
- *Micro & macro community neighborhood events*
- *City council member events*
- *Welcome meals advertising*
- *Hidden gems, parks not developed fully*
- *Public transit expansion/bikeable*
- *Normandale Community College connect in community*
- *We have space to reinvent into modern suburb*
- *Treasure our green spaces. Educate neighbors on access/use to all parks. Bloomington needs to connect our parks in DNR & 3 Rivers*
- *Nice ride program*

- *Position online as a first ring suburb*
- *Housing affordability*
- *Missing: BEC how accessible connecting to existing programs; dedicated effort to control Buckthorn*
- *Resources: River border: part of Bloomington identity!; Seniors (valuable experience, mentorships, connections pen pals); Individuals are willing to be involved - just need informed and managed; underutilized art center*
- *How to discern info about what is happening in our city!!*
- *Can employers talk to their employees about getting active?*
- *Community center-what's happening?*
- *Lyndale project-is it still in the works?*
- *Resource river*
- *Untapped Resources- The diversity is rich; Diversity in Religions; Rich history to celebrate; City Council could tap into youth population to celebrate*
- *Gaps- Celebrating the diversity Festival of Nations; Connecting with the overall community; health/mental resources for our diverse populations; better representation for diverse populations; population is feeling unheard and leadership is not listening; how to engage all people in Bloomington/all ages; Learn from each other kids are better at acceptance*
- *Untapped Resources - City has more to offer than the world; large # of businesses that could impact our younger populations; Citizen & Business relationship is untapped; Provide better environment for our small local businesses; local business fair; people want to engage; gathering spaces are not being tapped into; young families*

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- *Gaps - Celebrate of history better; getting youth to love this city as much as the older population; make us more than the MOA; is there a STEM program; Angie list for Bloomington; How do we support/local businesses better; jobs fair; Bloomington has its own "Nat Night Out" a 2nd evening or weekend*
- *People; transportation; solar power; wind power; trade school; safety; technology*
- *Educated; road-air-rail; river; drones tied to delivery buildings in Bloomington; Bluff; secure neighborhoods; high paying jobs*
- *Untapped resources: Churches, seniors/volunteer; high schools, art center & theatre & city hall; partner with business or other cities*
- *Gaps: not enough retail more localized shopping*
- *Resources: people! Want to get involved and help; Artistry, arts, theater, music; getting community involved more in the school events- plays, sports, etc.; Normandale Bandshell could be utilized more*
- *Gaps: more diverse businesses grocery stores, small businesses, etc.; bowling alley; restaurants (non-chain); revitalize Lyndale; smart space (ex. Centennial Lake) to gather, walk and shop*
- *Untapped resources: volunteer opportunities for seniors, engage more. Stimulate conversations; residents-seniors and newcomers- engage passions, talents of new community members; community business partners; mall of America - gap, lots of crime*

- *Gaps: East to West transit; belief funding is being spent on the wrong priorities (others are happy with priorities i.e. PD, FD, snow plows, and city services)*
- *Resources: infrastructure; location (bring in jobs, bring in civic minded people); land-zoning (Richfield seems to be doing good things)*
- *Gaps: livability; life style crimes; afraid to have difficult conversations; unifying East, Central and West parts of Bloomington*
- *Untapped Resources: Take Advantage of new voices in community; listen to citizens for creative ideas; diverse community to participate; community awareness of "Artistry"; senior residents*
- *What's missing: young residents participation in city planning; how to have facilitate a growing diverse community population; ability to reach diverse population participate; engage senior residents by gatherings vs. all digital*
- *Churches: unused space*
- *People-how to incentivize people to participate*
- *How do we encourage more diverse population to participate?*
- *Greater volunteers*
- *More all community events-such as "World Café"*
- *Celebrate all community members, not just small groups*
- *Untapped talent-reach out and invite business people, clergy, artists*
- *Talent in community - faith leaders*
- *city parks*
- *dog park draws from around*
- *Location - near amenities, i.e. airport*
- *Invitation to leader (out reach)*

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- *City wide opportunity*
- *Resources for young families. Don't see this in the Briefing (young: 0 to 5 yrs old)*
- *When you have a young family, you CAN'T be over-supported*
- *Indoor play structure - MOA is intimidating and doesn't seem local*
- *Community center*
- *Briefing - profile how we can use certain park equipment, profile a park*
- *Improve the parks map with profile of amenities (e.g. Which has a portapotty? Which have toddler-sized equipment?)*
- *Data we have on the parks - make it more interactive, be more specific about amenities. Partner with park users to enhance a map (project). Maybe an intern could help?*
- *Website where park users can leave comments about their experience, share stories, rate it (e.g., All Trails App)*
- *Diversity in City and schools*
- *People in the community who graduated from Bloomington - connect with them, celebrate their stores*
- *Untapped: Open space, facilities, schools, highways, MOA (hotels), Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, green space, scholarship program*
- *Gap: Convention center (not in hotel), buckthorn, green space and weeds, more native plants to take space of invasive plants, more education on natural plants, wages, home prices, social programs (what do we have and what do we need?)*
- *Providing a convention center, gathering space. Lots of hotels.*

- *Untapped - Career and Technical Showcase day - Wayzata High School does this*
- *Untapped - Valley view circular ice rink in the area to bring people in to skate school. Utilize parks in the winter.*
- *Resources - Larger community park, build a Chutes and Ladders on the east side*
- *CART Cleanup Crew (MET Council) Cart patrol. Cart corrals next to transit*
- *Bloomington Ice Garden needs to be remodeled, can we build up and put a community center there to put all resources in one place?*
- *DMV at Mall of America*
- *People should be more part of the decisions that are going on - listen to the neighborhoods affected by decisions; use a resident approach to decision-making*
- *Community groups - to provide input*
- *Support small and medium-sized businesses; workers could have shorter commute times if they could walk to work*
- *Career and technical showcase at Civic Plaza where students can see new opportunities for employment (e.g., Ziegler, Aspen Equipment, etc.) similar to one at Wayzata High School*
- *The trades are dying in schools and kids don't know they exist; they integrate math, sciences, reading*
- *Young people and their development to keep them in Bloomington*
- *Sponsor a business day/open house to highlight out local businesses (e.g., Toro) and connect them to the community; we don't appreciate them and most people don't even know they're here*

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Question 3: *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

- *Repurpose Creekside Community Center; it has a solid structure and we could do so much with it; don't pay a consultant - ask the community for their ideas on a community center*
- *Churches: They care about the community; they can Mentor young people and involve people; every church has an auditorium, audio-visual, gym, etc., that could be used by the community*
- *Youth: Teach them that people find dignity in work; help give them the feeling that they can make a difference; they can help improve the community*
- *Apartment dwellers: Help them find a stake in the community; give them a sense of belonging and bring them into conversations; we need to involve them and advertise programs directly to them*
- *Welcome packets: New residents aren't aware of the community's programs and services*
- *Bloomington Ice Garden: Build up one level to add a second story to house everything under one roof - ice rinks, athletics center, wood shop, senior programs, etc.*
- *Sell Creekside to bring money into the Ice Garden's renovation*
- *Tour of homes: Allows people to get ides for remodeling their homes*
- *Tour of businesses in Bloomington*
- *Not a lot of programs help people with disabilities, spending time with people with disabilities*
- *More opportunities for people with special ed. More inclusion opportunities for people with disabilities*

- *Developing compassion in young people*
- *Senior citizens are untapped resources*
- *Fostering intergenerational relationships. Park district and school district could partner. Kids don't understand value of old people, are afraid. It's a form of social poverty.*
- *Volunteer opportunities like VEAP, connect multigenerational relationships*
- *Teenagers and young people*
- *Opportunities for people with disabilities, job opportunities*
- *A system for youth to make a contribution*
- *Matching young adults with seniors. Seniors are lonely*
- *Broadening young people's horizons. Programs to get out and travel*
- *New immigrants in the Community*
- *Opportunity for solar on rooftops, especially the business districts and City facilities; is there a tax benefit or other incentive; Xcel would have to cooperate*
- *1960 named "All American City" and never since while others in the region have been many more times; what does it take to do that, model off those other Cities*
- *Everything is so developed and built up, but it's hard to know what is untapped*
- *Community Center was an attempt but didn't go through; what else could be reconfigured*
- *Cost of housing is a big struggle for young families to purchase a single-family home in Bloomington*
- *Rental companies purchasing single-family homes, blocks people from becoming homeowners*

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Question 3: *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

- *Townhouse developments that create a more dense population but a homeowner option to build equity*
- *Youth – engage youth to carry the Bloomington image; middle school students; programs*
- *Youth – high school students and Normandale students – tap into those resources*
- *If youth have a good experience, they make their way back*
- *Make it so people want to raise their kids here in Bloomington*
- *The community of Bloomington – engage people in conversations likes this; engage more people and broaden pool of experiences, ideas, etc.*
- *Community building – get the youth involved to have it be a lifelong activity (political, community, etc. for processes); harder to start at an older age maybe*
- *Community groups (already formed youth groups/teams) – activities (clean up roads, parks, etc.) to get invested in the community*
- *Community service hours for high school students as part of their classes*
- *Community service opportunities*
- *Election judge opportunities (students can sign up to assist) for youth*
- *Having youth see and participate in activities in the City will have lasting impressions*
- *Youth commission opportunities are a great start*
- *City Council, commission, and board youth opportunities*
- *Communication and engagement of youth opportunities*
- *Barriers – language, transportation*
- *Engage with youth networks and utilize those networks*

- *Struggling to get by prevents residents from being fully engaged – City should support and understand those struggling – need more*
- *Doing some with youth; can do a lot more*
- *Untapped resources - Faith communities can contribute to city activities, community gatherings, hospitable to all races*
- *Untapped resources - Younger families and residents: are they being heard from? Do they come to these meetings? Input. Need to go to them, they won't come to you*
- *Untapped resources - Virtual reality of Bloomington- can look thru their VR glasses to participate in Bloomington (learn the history, etc.) There's lots of money there.*
- *Untapped resources - Appreciation of community and need to be together is important, how do we do that?*
- *Untapped resources - Unemployed people have ideas*
- *Gaps - Aging population- how do we attract young families to our community and schools?*
- *Gaps - Outdoor restaurants/patios that other communities have- need to go to other cities*
- *Gaps - Where do young families spend their time? Not the parks, most likely the computers in the basements*
- *Gaps - Needs to remain affordable to families*
- *Gaps - Community Center with gaming room, Wi-Fi*
- *People in Bloomington are our greatest untapped resource. Great diversity and talent.*
- *Block captain program – do we have one? We have neighborhood watch,*

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- *but do we have someone that can disseminate information for the neighborhood. Could create a sense of community.*
- *City's web presence and email keep people informed of what's going on. Lots of methods for reaching people. Newsletter, e updates, Let's Talk Bloomington, Farmer's Market. It's going well – don't lose that.*
- *Mall of America – is it an untapped resource. Will brick and mortar recover? There is a lot of real estate, can it be better utilized by the city for services, offices, meeting spaces.*
- *There are untapped resources, looking at Water Park of America again.*
- *We have so much green space, parks, Normandale, Fish and Wild Life. Not everyone realizes what we have.*
- *Businesses on the east side and elsewhere, there are a lot of strip malls and older businesses, it doesn't look very appealing. We could reinvest in small, locally owned businesses to keep mom and pop shops here.*
- *How can we identify where all the little businesses are – to create a walkable shopping experience.*
- *It would be valuable to get the perspective from the small business owners as we consider renovating the business spaces.*
- *Community center is missing.*
- *Yoga studio – more than one.*
- *Grocery stores there are options, but looking at smaller markets so people can walk to shop.*
- *Prepare for electric cars (e.g., charging stations)*
- *Lifelong residents - find out what made them stay here*
- *Maximize Minnesota River - walkways, bike paths, etc.*
- *Seniors - how can we make them more accessible?*
- **Ask high school students these questions - have a community café at a school.*
- *Gaps - what's missing. 1. Quality, affordable food. 2. How can people who speak other languages engage in Community Cafes?*
- *Side note - Briefing - great publication! Maybe include a "your questions" column where we answer common questions.*
- *Art! Too much focused on South Loop. More representative art in other neighborhoods needed. Drain art in St Louis - bring to Bloomington. Have community involve.*
- *The Renters - focus on getting them engaged.*
- *The City needs to build trust with community, so they are willing to be engaged.*
- *Changes will come at grassroots level.*
- *We need to tap into volunteerism to help build community.*
- *For voting - people need to see themselves represented at the polls/judges.*
- *City needs to work with building managers so they can engage with residents*
- *City needs to work with different community and educate people about voting.*
- *Lack of integration -*
- *BIPOC people need to voice their thoughts and City need to listen and act.*
- *Understanding nuances of different culture*

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- *City is divided by major highways and bound by the rivers and green space.*
- *East side is full of rich culture*
- *Need more cultural businesses/more support for small businesses*
- *Food desert on east side/South Loop*
- *Welcoming new arrivals/refugees - provide scholarship, welcome to America*
- *Gaps - community center - that we don't have people worried about Valley View Park have to come together to find a solution. Have things that we just have to expand on. Creekside needs improvement or replacement.*
- *Gaps - involvement - tap into residents. Older community and tutor kids (example) engage with kids*
- *Engage people to be better neighbors*
- *Greatest asset is the people*
- *gap - how to get people involved?*
- *Lack of awareness - next door app*
- *Helping at VEAP builds community (example)*
- *City needs to take a bigger role to bring different cultures together*
- *Yearly cleanup is a good thing- great for recycling people get things they need - next door app free stuff*
- *Gaps - lack awareness for high school students - more volunteering not motivation for high school students to be involved. Pay kids to work at places like VEAP.*
- *Gap - communication - miss things - busy don't read Sun Current. Busy, hard to carve out the time to be involved don't pay close enough attention to community issues, need structured opportunities and volunteer shifts.*

- *Gap - residents are lonely - more opportunities for small group connection.*
- *Residents and our creativity. Our ideas, crazy things we come up with. Put us in a room.*
- *Brewery - we are getting out first one soon.*
- *Development on west side. We have a strip mall but how can we make it better for gathering? Things don't survive there. Turn gas stations into Noodles.*
- *Development off Anderson Lakes pkwy.*
- *Destination spots where people can spend an afternoon.*
- *Incentives for businesses to come in.*
- *Unique places in Bloomington.*
- *We don't have a downtown or neighborhoods.*
- *Central gathering place.*
- *More things/places that are walkable.*
- *Roundabouts, could help beautify our community. Great when they are properly used. Properly placed. Properly installed. Where it makes sense.*
- *Local restaurants (e.g. Luna di Luna) Hazelwood*
- *Evaluate what chains we have, which popular places are we missing? Evaluate who are our customers?*
- *We can't tell private businesses what we to do but we can incentivize (grants/tax break)*
- *Fun pizza place in Bloomington*
- *What can the City do so when businesses shut down, they don't sit empty for years.*
- *Connect east/west*
- *High speed internet in West Bloomington, no option for upgrading*

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(near Dred Scott). Would help people work from home.

- *Transition to electric vehicles.*
- *Fiber internet is the way*
- *Arts community is great - more of that. Art gallery at Civic plaza*
- *More functional art*
- *We don't have an identity. Challenges when we try to market ourselves.*
- *Overcome school division. 2 high schools need to meet and talk with each other better*
- *Foster connection from top down between 2 schools, bring them together. They are competitive, both are great.*
- *Build One Bloomington High schools. Bring community together. Identity*
- *Come together as one. Help foster community and safety.*
- *Diversity of community*
- *Have observed a Somali family that doesn't know anything about the community.*
- *Build community at neighborhood-level. Get off negative Next Door.*
- *Ways to communicate with neighbors (e.g. email list)*
- *Golden rule - be inclusive of neighbors. Create opportunities to meet neighbors.*
- *Who is our representation? They don't come here (City, School and state representatives)*
- *inform the apartments on election choices*
- *come into the neighborhoods and apartment complexes to share information*
- *more gathering spaces to meet people that aren't just consuming (aka mall, bar, restaurant)*

- *gatherings like block parties and more often*
- *gatherings that are outside with main roads blocked off and neighborhood focused with local vendors to table for free*
- *election precinct too far away, need a car to vote; should be closer to this complex. Difficult because we don't have transportation (to Wildlife Refuge)*
- *more parks*
- *there are not any parks east of Hwy 77*
- *focus on convenience for the residents not what is convenient for the City*
- *don't forget about the elderly - take care of our people they are taxed out of their home*
- *elderly residents*
- *BIPOC residents*
- *retired residents who just need transportation to participate or volunteer*
- *Using existing resources/programs that leads to jobs for our youth*
- *REPRESENTATION*
- *Public transit--it's horrible, you can't get anywhere, very limited in Bloomington, more bus lines and hours needed*
- *Minneapolis (ESL program) City could use program with Normandale Community College*
- *Area after school program--mothers want to see who they can relate to*
- *Need to get representation: someone to educate staff who work for the City, brings message, like a liaison for City*
- *City program for mothers, marriage counselors, mental health, yoga classes, meditation, Zumba classes (had a program like this with Public Health)*

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- *A place to park trucks--trend in Somali community is many men are getting jobs as truck drivers because of the good wages. They are off driving trucks for 5-7 days and then they come home to visit families for 2-3 days and can't park in the street so would like to see the City designate/build an area for truck parking lot.*
- *We have a thriving senior community. Full of volunteers for your projects! Lots of expertise! We need to welcome people from all communities. Let's be a city of many cultures!*
- *More programs to bring people together, i.e., concerts, plays, park get togethers, etc.*
- *Support with neighbors. And more involvement with police.*
- *Stop trying to make everyone happy.*
- *the access to the river / marsh areas - improve the trails*
- *again, support law enforcement we want laws obeyed!*
- *More unity in the neighborhoods would be awesome. It's good but it could be great. National Night Out is a great example. Why do we have to wait till August to get together?*
- *More events in and around civic plaza, the space creates a sense of community and belonging*
- *Youth. Youth should be obligated to volunteer not just for school, but other aspects as well.*
- *For over a decade the Council has insisted on new retail development being PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY without developing the transit to get people from various parts of the city to these retail developments. I drove past the Walgreens across from Valley West several times per week before I figured out hot to access the parking lot. The store is pedestrian friendly but as a person who is not in walking distance, access to parking OR MASS TRANSIT options need to be easy to identify and use.*
- *As malls decline we will need indoor space to gather for something, maybe Pickle Ball :)*
- *Media. Making sure that everything that is done is available after the fact. Not just meetings, but other community events. Many people would like to attend, but cannot make the event fit in their schedule, or would require childcare that is not feasible. Having the ability to watch from home, live or in some cases delayed would improve engagement.*
- *Retired people can contribute as tutors and do other volunteer jobs.*
- *Greatest untapped resource: improperly used land and too much restriction on land use Gaps: City Council understanding what citizens need (as in do-good legislation versus feel-good legislation), support for homeowners in East Bloomington, Legislation that allows more business diversity, better planning for attracting development and business.*
- *Public park areas and recreational opportunities need to continue to be enhanced. Regulation of traffic flow (it is too fast and unpatrolled) and making the city more pedestrian friendly would be great.*
- *Not really sure. I had heard about efforts to revitalize the Lyndale corridor but haven't heard anything more. Would like to see that continue as an initiative.*

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Question 3: *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

- *Sensible leadership is missing. You can do better.*
- *COMMUNITY CENTER! Or at the very least that land that could host a better community center. The aquatic center and indoor pools (better hours and facilities - think Foss Swim Center). Empty industrial buildings (breweries, coffee shops, indoor play).*
- *Our community is aging, but in that population may lie an untapped resource. Business cannot find sufficient workers, so maybe we can find ways to mobilize that senior population to fill some of these voids! Our schools are staffed with exceptional teachers and support staff, but they face overcrowded classrooms, lack resources, and need our support! Let's find ways to create partnerships with the schools instead of maintaining the silos! Working together to buy the Lincoln site jointly would be a plus for both entities. Co-locating city and school district resources in one centrally-located facility just makes sense. Public health, Park & Rec, senior services, youth services, adult ed, community ed, special services for disabled citizens, County services, etc. Our changing demographics, with increased numbers of people of Hispanic and Somali background, suggest that we may have another untapped labor force if appropriate training and supports can be provided to them, including English language training.*
- *A city council that listens to the wishes and input from the citizens. Example your continuing plans to change Valley View Playground area.*

- *Bloomington has a very diverse community, but it doesn't seem like people of color have any say in what goes on at the city level. Provide more open communication with all residents about what is happening in the city. Don't just put out agendas for meetings and assume people will read or watch the TV about it. That is boring! Do some marketing!! Make it FUN to be apart of a vibrant community. Our younger families want to feel connected -- provide ways to make connections. Also - conservation and recycling should be a big priority. Be forward-thinking about how we use energy and how we can work together to save the planet. MN temperature has already risen 3 degrees. One more degree and things will be catastrophic. Listen to the scientists. Get creative. I know people can do mighty big things if we work together.*
- *Community involvement*
- *There doesn't seem to be a lot of involvement from local enterprises at the family friendly community events offered by the city or three rivers. I'm speaking about MOA and hotels specifically. Some of the smaller restaurants have (I.e. Northstar Tavern) but disappointed the other larger businesses are not involved more.*
- *What's missing is leadership who wants to pursue sustainable solutions.*
- *Everything Restaurants Charming street scapes A downtown Good schools Safe environments Community center And last but most importantly Parks Our parks are so neglected…*
- *Youth need to find a place to fit in. Learn a skill, get good at something,*

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be accountable. Pride of community, pride of place.

- *greatest untapped resources, our kids and retirees. What's missing is cross generational services for the community, let's involve the folks who have the energy and or the skill, and time to invest in the community.*
- *We need more diversity in city staff and other leadership*
- *We need more community events. I know Covid messed with the usual calendar of events but let's do more.*
- *The lakes and creek and river pathways are greatest assets if we could provide more continuous connections and inspire through beautiful landscaping within city - drive through Richfield to see how safety and beauty coexist with landscape medians and roundabouts and wide paved bike paths and sidewalks. Beauty inspires citizens to engage and take care of their community.*
- *Bloomington is a great location, right off of 6 Major roads. Make it a friendlier place to draws and keep businesses. Gaps are law enforcement. Just not enough police to take care of problems before and after they occur.*
- *A Great City Council, that we used to have when I was a kid growing up here!*
- *We are not trying to 'best the neighbors' or 'keep up with the Joneses', which seems like what the current administration is doing (11/2).*
- *Corporate involvement via community planning and donations ... (unless Biden has already taken their money)*
- *Respect, Safety, and Healthy needs for a start. These criminals is physically,*

mentally, and criminally hurting us. We need to protect, care, and help our true American Legal People of all ages. We are in serious needs and fears. Come witness the truth and facts. Some of us can tell you and show you of the abuse from the illegals, management, and landlords.

- *The city has many great and unique neighborhoods where there is a shared pride stemming from the independence and freedom of home ownership. Amenities and services to these neighborhoods must not be neglected in pursuit of dense housing initiatives. I want my taxes re-invested in areas of the city where other homeowners have invested in their homes or where we need to help those less fortunate achieve the American dream which has always been built on home ownership and an entrepreneurial spirit.*
- *A community gathering place! More restaurants in the South Central and West side of Town. Take a look at area across from Dred Scott --- lots of opportunity there!*
- *Hard question! Perhaps neighborhood festivals, celebrations, park open house activities, police open house, fire dept. open house?*
- *Faculty at Normandale Comm. College, staff at OASIS homeless shelter.*
- *Common Sense is missing. You spend all this money to make changes, you never listen to the residents and then you don't do anything anyway. Example closing the license bureau.*
- *help businesses thrive in this city*
- *It sounds cheesy, but the PEOPLE of Bloomington are the biggest untapped*

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resource. I think there are many residents like me who treat Bloomington as a bedroom community -- they live here and maybe enjoy the parks, but when it comes time to DO anything (work, volunteer, go out to eat, get a drink, do something fun), they have to go to another city/suburb because there's nothing here. A good portion of Bloomington caters to people from elsewhere (Mall of America zone)-- which is great for Bloomington, but it's not all of Bloomington. The biggest gaps that I experience are a lack of places to go in Bloomington -- restaurants, small businesses, breweries/etc. It's tricky, because I appreciate how sleepy my neighborhood is. It's a great place to relax, and I don't want to lose that. But it would be amazing to have one good restaurant within biking distance.

- *I would say the greatest untapped resources are the citizens themselves. Just bringing more perspectives and knowledge into city services is an improvement. I would like to see more outreach to new families in Bloomington and those who speak languages other than English at home.*
- *See above answer. Community members and local organizations & churches are the greatest untapped resources.*
- *BIPOC Community lacks knowledge of resources from the city. Not enough information is passed around to use resources. Not enough staff of color/ bilingual to communicate. The staff of color is what's missing. There's a huge gap for professionals.*

- *Bloomington's charm has always been its clean, safe neighborhoods and parks. (Wildlife) Bloomington has areas with a country feel, yet in city location. Investments in safety, parks and wildlife.*
- *Diversity on city council and all areas of city governance.*
- *more volunteer opportunities for residents. Especially working residents*
- *A walkable shopping area featuring small businesses (much like Hopkins, Hastings, Shakopee, Burnsville, Maple Grove, Anoka) or district that is inclusive of the existing building but not all big box retail. There are so many great small businesses and lots of empty commercial space but no one can afford it. Drive through coffee shops. More non chain restaurants. A community center for kids of all ages. Use of the Civic center for more community events. We have beautiful parks that aren't just Normandale Lake. More events throughout the city. Rebuilding the city's Chamber to make it a staple of building businesses in the community. Make it enticing to be a part of and give businesses and communities a reason to look to businesses locally before shopping at REI, Target, Amazon, Walmart.*
- *A Community Center, a summer festival. Think Richfield streets festival, Lakefront Days, Art fair at 50th & France, etc. Heritage Days was a great start that fell off. From what I understand is there wasn't much support and buy in from local business and the city.*
- *The gap is the land the City of Bloomington bought by the airport. Lots of spent money on a worthless*

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return. Funds such as those would have been better spent providing a community center or after school rec programs for children in lower income neighborhoods. Single parents would benefit from knowing their kid is someplace safe instead of going home to an empty house. Figure ways to positively engage youth repeatedly involved in bad/criminal behavior. Adults want a nice community to live/raise a family, kids want to have fun but sometimes that fun turns into criminal behavior. Perhaps having a few schools open in designated areas on the weekend nights to play basketball or some other type of physical activity.

- I think Bloomington needs more independent businesses and restaurants. WAY too many fast food chains.. Glad to see we are FINALLY getting a tap room/brewery....but why did this take so long?? We don't seem to keep up with other cities in the area. Our parks are so beautiful.....the city already does a great job here!! I think the Farmers Market is wonderful in the summer.....but can we make something like this year round to foster community?? ....Linden Hills does a GREAT job with their farmer's market....from summer through the holidays.
- I have lived here for over 40 years and can't think of any gap
- Many kids have big ideas on inclusivity - include their voices! Also create more groups and representation for the LGBTQ community. Maybe having a committee?
- Employ our youth to work for our parks and other city jobs. We wouldn't

need as many full time employees. Try and hire Residents if possible to fill jobs.
- More restaurants and tap the many seniors into part time work
- Not certain what my answer is for this.
- programs for middle class;
- We are missing a unity among all. I like our City Center and the things it offers. It would be nice to have other areas where cultures can be celebrated and people come together.
- WHAT'S MISSING: ELECTIONS THAT REQUIRE CANDIDATES TO DECLARE THEIR PARTY AFFILIATION. THE STATUS QUO IS A JOKE! THE DESCRIPTIONS YOU ALLOW CANDIDATES TO POST ONLINE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN WOKE GIBBERISH!! ALSO, WHAT'S MISSING IS FAIR ELECTIONS -- RANKED VOTING IS RIDICULOUS. THIS COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRIMARILY A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. CANDIDATES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO DECLARING "REPUBLICAN" OR "DEMOCRAT" -- OR, IF THEY WISH, THEY COULD CATEGORIZE THEMSELVES AS "INDEPENDENT" OR "LIBERTARIAN." AS IT IS, THE ELECTORATE IS UNINFORMED -- KEPT IN THE DARK! ALSO, ELECTION SIGNS SHOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE 12:01 AM ON ELECTION DAY -- OR CANDIDATES SHOULD BE FINED.
- Churches
- The #1 priority: Do not seek to harm or dismantle single family housing and neighborhood zoning. Local government, like state and federal government, should NOT be in the business of pushing social engineering. We appreciate that people have good

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intentions and want to be compassionate, but there is not one way or one right way to live and government officials do not have the right to push their idea of what that should be on everyone else. Go in this direction and good luck with your tax base.

- *If you want t attract residents from the city willing to pay for more space we need: Sidewalks, more parks/destinations people can walk around and off leash dogs parks.*
- *See www.strongtowns.org*
- *There is a lot of business space that needs new renters, new businesses so that people outside Blmgtn come to the city to eat and shop. The old golfing range on Normandale! Do something with this space that provides an area for retail, housing for seniors and beauty with walking paths and trees/water. Think of the Centennial Lakes is located. A senior 4-story with retail on first level plus a healthy restaurant. Take more advantage of the marshlands as a place to visit for residents and surrounding cities. What's missing? Amenities for people to have a reason to come to Blmgtn to shop, eat, bike, recreate.*
- *Getting people living in Bloomington involved in the community to participate in solving problems.*
- *having people of color in leadership and staff that represent our community*
- *More neighborhood restaurants would be nice.*
- *untapped resources: Our youth.*
- *A sense of unity. Still east vs. west*

- *Seniors/retired who have talents that could be put to use in the city.*
- *Greatest untapped resources are the citizens. A volunteer campaign to help maintain parks and play lots. It could be promoted as a way to keep taxes lower.*
- *This I don't know.*
- *1.) We have existing, but tired, neighborhood commercial nodes that need revitalization. I know we're already working on that but I still consider it a relatively untapped resource. 2.) Our street system, complete with major arteries, is a huge resource when it comes to being able to work on a number of things such as revitalizing our commercial centers, creating an intra-city transportation system, improving our transportation flow generally, creating beautified "boulevards" to enhance the image of our city and, undoubtedly, many other things. 3.) We have a significant number of both non-profit organizations and places of worship. I think that creating a network of these and other similar service-oriented agencies could help us address a variety of problems and potential future problems that we haven't even seen yet. 4.) We have a number of larger commercial districts: Penn American, Valley West, Oxboro-Polar (98th & Lyndale), Portland-Amer. Blvd., Old Cedar and Old Shakopee. Penn-American is coming along fairly well but Southtown itself is still pretty tired. I know we already have Portland-Amer. Blvd. and the Old Cedar-OSR districts marked for focused revitalization. But, generally speaking, all of these could be so much more*

Appendix C

Question 3: *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

than they are and perhaps that takes more effort (and incentives) on the part of the City. 4.) We have a large Central Park area (Moir-Central-Harrison Picnic Grounds) that has the makings of something much more than it is. It should be made into something special.

- *NA*
- *Bloomington has 13 miles of river frontage. How about acknowledging and even celebrating/featuring that as a huge amenity ?! "Bloomington on the River" as a slogan. With about 25% of the citizens being in the senior category the Creekside Center is doing a great job with programs....more publicity to encourage even more participation to alleviate isolation and loneliness which is really a Public Health issue. Faith communities are also doing a great job, however, some of the seniors are not affiliated.*
- *Diversity*
- *Bloomington has a greater share of unique natural areas and endangered species than most suburbs, but most residents and city staff don't even know this! Prioritize natural resource management and let people know about these gems! For example, on the parks website, don't just state what manmade amenities are at each park, also list what natural areas and unique plants, animals, ecological communities and processes are found there!*
- *Parks untapped resources . Families love amazing playgrounds and will travel from other suburbs Missing community center... with covid maybe less desirable but still a need when that gets under control.*

- *We have great parks, but the maps details aren't so great. It'd be nice to know where the actual parking areas and entrances are to the many parks. Try finding Tierney Woods! Unless you Google Tierney Woods trailhead (learned by trial and error!) you'd seriously never know how to access the trail or find a place that didn't say no parking this block. What's missing? Maybe more community fun stuff. The outdoor concerts and farmers market are great. How about a community fun run, volunteer day, outdoor arts and crafts festival? Or maybe just a guide to what IS happening in Bloomington. There are many concerts I don't hear about through the city (the ones at the Masonic Home Heritage center for example), tournaments of all sorts, and events happening right in our back yard that we could and would love to be supporting. Bloomington is so desirable compared to driving downtown!!*
- *LOTS of retired people (and more every day) with time to offer. Increased BIPOC with varied experiences and views to share for all of our learning and benefit. River?!! Is there anywhere for highlighting recreation or views of the river? (though I know all recreation/national park area is good...) Brewery/big outdoor patio areas ... City doesn't yet seem to partner a lot with Normandale College for events/using big parking lot there?*
- *I am seeing crime go up. I am seeing the police force slipping since I moved here 10 years ago.*
- *A new multipurpose clubhouse for Dwan. It could also serve as a meeting space and for wedding receptions.*

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Question 3: *What are the greatest untapped resources within our community that could contribute to our success? What are the gaps in our community – in other words, what's missing?*

- *New Clubhouse for Dwan Golf Course that could support the costs of replacing it.*
- *Short and Sweet: PEOPLE are the greatest untapped resources in our community!!*
- *As stated in other idea, there are residents that are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. They just need the opportunity.*
- *All people who live, work, worship, play, and learn, in our city.*
- *Comment response to "Short and Sweet: PEOPLE are the greatest untapped resources in our community!!": Ditto, ditto, ditto…*

Appendix D

Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

Compilation of all recorded comments:

- Access to Minnesota River - I forget that its even there unless I'm crossing on 35W. How can we get greater access to and spaces to experience the river?
- How do we educate non-Bloomington residents on all the activities and assets to experience
- Increase density and develop a downtown core - Bloomington identity
- Create a Bloomington identity
- Incentives for house builders to not build large expensive homes to make more money, but rather smaller affordable homes
- Reaching out to other areas to "advertise" that Bloomington is a small city
- Finding a balance
- *Eminent domain - property on River Bluff by MOA
- Sift through conversation - needs vs. wants
- Transparency - why? Answers cost money.
- Face the fear
- Rule of thirds - change is good
- Embrace and promote worldliness with diversity
- Access to River Bluff, MOA
- Home improvement loans - for outside of house and expand parameters
- Apartment building - businesses on the first floor
- The City could…be specific
- Show leadership in regard to buckthorn in private and parks
- Listen - council should get out and meet their residents
- What is our mission and vision? What is our specific creed, not just development for sake of development
- Train police to represent a friendly person to go to for help
- Set goals related to carbon footprint
- Build on improving our rivers
- Make sure airport noise is maintained low level
- Does Bloomington really work to set up "safe houses" and "block captains" for national night out
- Watch to keep small town feeling. Borrow
- Think about how to get all races and ages involved
- "Briefing" to promote/coordinate neighbor activities
- Build "tiny houses" as affordable housing
- Grants for families to buy homes as they come available
- Is BLM welcoming to other cultures?
- Synthetic turf fields on outdoor baseball/softball and soccer fields
- Synthetic turf on varsity football/soccer field (90th and Russell) Logan Field - put a bubble over field in winter for indoor sports training spaces
- Land banking - acquiring land and updating purpose for land use in the area
- Celebrate and educate people on the history and heritage of Bloomington and its residents
- The City could…more local events - more town halls…(library facilities) and talk to the people
- City needs to be active...have "smaller" businesses where citizens can meet and talk, e.g. Luna di Luna (natural places people can meet)

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Follow thru…start project initiatives and then nothing, e.g. Lyndale project, maybe smaller projects and follow thru*
- *Start loan program for people who would improve their house (cleanup via police districts)*
- *Increased police presence*
- *Environmental issues…*
- *Better promotion of program here. So everyone can use and enjoy.*
- *Fall and spring cleanup*
- *Neighbor center, café/meeting spots*
- *Neighbor board - equal funding*
- *On west side, near 169, gas station, possible renovation - brewery, café, meeting space (see picture)*
- *Promote and encourage community activities through City Briefing (opportunities to provide resources for community activities; funding for out reach, block parties)*
- *Provide funding mechanism accessible to all (members of community- Diversity, equity and inclusion. prioritizing persons who live, work and play in Bloomington*
- *How will our government celebrate increasing diversity? -Is Bloomington inclusive; -Bloomington's incorporate history; -safe spaces for all; - Community education over fear*
- *Senior older stock homes, coordinate resources; -non-profits and resources*
- *BEC - use to promote resources; -green spaces, utilizing great resources we already have*
- *Community Policing model: -city official meeting in community spaces; - accessibility to leaders, officers i.e. coffee with cops, book'em; -Programs that invest in residents i.e. "Bloomington Leadership" initiative*

- *Feedback loops: transparent conversations; -open community conversations; -visionary-leadership roles-educators*
- *Facilitate conversations, including "uncomfortable" conversations*
- *start small*
- *incentivize city council to host gatherings to facilitate conversations: -can be tailored around something like holidays, pets, things that encourage commonality and belonging*
- *outreach to renters; they are part of the community*
- *multicultural conversations*
- *City council members need to meet in other districts to hear those voices*
- *City council members as facilitators*
- *City Council members/staff could invite/encourage/urge participants in focus groups, especially around "uncomfortable" talks*
- *Try to reach residents who would not typically go to a council meeting*
- *micro-community associations; define these neighborhoods and encourage "neighborhood night outs"*
- *Bloomington is large, so having micro-neighborhoods would be useful for helping people feed connected*
- *City: promote conversation of uncomfortable topics; council members meet/town halls*
- *Focus groups: city initiates contacts with citizens to discuss w/ council/staff to discuss issues*
- *Mpls has 81 defined neighborhoods (also St Paul) Bloomington has zero*
- *Communication: -take advantage of all the "new" ways of communicating through COVID; -Educate about what is available -parks, sustainability etc.; - break down the barrier of formal*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *"council meeting"-have leadership come to us-community gatherings*
- *Connection: -connect bikeways/walkways all across the city east-west north and south*
- *Policy: -housing policy and land use policy. Commercialize and residential*
- *Infrastructure: -internet access; -nice ride program connecting with st. Paul/Mpls; -trolley/bus, circulator central transport: -electric station for cars and encourage sustainability; -more community gardens (esp. west side); we need better resources for homeless (shelters youth-adults. 200 homeless youth per night)*
- *Community Centrality: -create "districts" with liaisons to go out funding and resources; "think super local"*
- *Best practices: -look to great ideas in mpls, st paul and other communities. As well as successful small towns-Decorah, Stillwater, Hastings*
- *Shifting the concept of the suburb: -make it cool to live here-walkability, bike ability, restaurants, brew pubs, community centers; -Bloomington is a small town-take advantage of the community loyalty*
- *Break thru gaps between 3 districts, DNR, etc. to communicate all the park assets*
- *Bring together into common story - industrial educational, commercial*
- *Facilitate uncomfortable conversation….*
- *Go beyond Neighborhood night out to create neighborhood gatherings with community leader presence.*
- *Incentivize rather than have gov. control*
- *Facilitate rather than have gov control*

- *vets memorial example*
- *Guide & inform rather than doing*
- *Focus on needs/use private groups for wants and investments*
- *Run city more like business; use six sigma/lean/total quality*
- *Have planning committee people follow/on all 3 teams*
- *Stop dividing community/stop relying on special interest groups*
- *Have these sessions on a regular basis*
- *Be open to new businesses - facilitate financing of private business via an HRA like service*
- *Proactively encourage redevelopment of commercial & residential properties*
- *sell Bloomington to developers & businesses*
- *stay focused on the basics and avoid getting into things like banning conversion therapy and garbage collection. You're scaring people off*
- *support the police*
- *emphasize the great things that are happening in greater Bloomington (the community vs. the city govt.)*
- *sponsor a celebration of the various cultures in Bloomington sort of like Winnipeg's Folklorama where groups put on their own food & culture pavilions.*
- *Continue to develop community engagement "cafes"*
- *Continue to examine/re-examine existing ordinances that may be limiting our development*
- *We want a better balance between business interests vs. community member interests*
- *Nurture new business, diversity of business. Nor more storage facilities.*
- *Aesthetic quality of Bloomington must be more attention*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Better architectural design, greenery & landscape*
- *Speak to our greatness*
- *Develop of City of Bloomington Pride*
- *We are not telling our story as well as we should. We want to bring in new populations/families*
- *Bloomington needs a new ad campaign; businesses & for residents*
- *Trade school opportunities possibly?*
- *Keep addressing access to information or participation in multiple formats*
- *Again- sell Bloomington better= source of pride*
- *If we want a more connected community we have to see the local leaders connecting with community be more of what you want to see*
- *How do take the next step to engaging people, don't just wait for people to come to you - go talk to people*
- *The people you need to hear from - those who need the help - they aren't here- change how you talk to people - meet them where you are; solution - can I come with you to a meeting; the intention is there but lack*
- *Provide infrastructure*
- **public safety*
- *partnership with private*
- *stronger mayoral position*
- *clarify and define success for Bloomington*
- *Set conditions for success*
- *innovative/collaborative*
- *Make sure laws applies to everyone regardless of race, religion, income level, etc.*
- *recognize the entire community not just special interest group (seniors left out)*

- *create opportunities and accommodations, activities for aging populations*
- *Plan strategy for commercial growth beyond south loop/MOA*
- *Leverage forward thinking ideas to keep looking into the future development*
- *Police presence in community and relationship building/smart police-- kindness, opening, inviting*
- *Listen to community members, get feedback*
- *Well-run*
- *Government facilitation for helping integrate diversity in community*
- *trying to meet needs of all ages and demographics*
- *community gardens, pollinator gardens*
- *Facilitating events between community members (seniors/families, etc.)*
- *Programs for leadership development (such as Bloomington Leadership Program)*
- *Stronger local government*
- *Strong schools - go schools*
- *Continue quality services*
- *Move quickly to stop polarizing events if things happen get truthful info out quickly*
- *3 Bloomington's*
- *Renters*
- *Common interests/ what are they*
- *Bring communities together, not sure how*
- *Neighborhood Block parties, have city employees attend*
- *Support police - they're a public servant we need and want to support*
- *create the conditions for success - partners -structures*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Empower groups to be successful. Don't try to do it all themselves, tap into more groups and partners*
- *process for government recall, may already exist (clarify rules)*
- *encourage support residents to volunteer/take initiative/create within community.*
- *Maintain neighborhood feel (more neighborhood building activities i.e. neighborhood night out*
- *Support , not create hoops for resident/neighbor*
- *Bring in local business - stop being a block*
- *engage longtime residents and new comers*
- *integrate: age diversity - young, seniors, and families. Bring all together*
- *Community centers, events, festivals, volunteering*
- *Keep the government small*
- *government should work on relationships with businesses and residents/be user-friendly*
- *restaurants/small business/what's preventing the city from a shorter approval process*
- *Very important: provide safe spaces i.e. MOA free of homeless, mentally ill, drugs, light rail*
- *don't spend money on things that can't be measured - if you can't measure the success of it-it's not valid*
- *permit process is excessive!*
- *To listen to the residents, listen to your constituents, don't just vote in your block*
- *focus on basic services - police, fire, water/sewer, parks*
- *less focus on social issues*
- *Community outreach*

- *More financial opportunities for housing*
- *Partnerships*
- *Infrastructure - green space, trails*
- *Education - Spanish immersion, tech, technical education*
- *Social work with policing*
- *Nature amenities, no more water parks*
- *Adding technical programs to high school (HVAC, machinist, construction)*
- *View school as a destination*
- *Come together to clean or help around*
- *Communications - tell people about amenities*
- *Coordinate something like parade of homes for home ideas like home remodels*
- *What has Richfield done to improve their reputation?*
- *More cultural restaurants*
- *Street landscaping. More finished look across the city.*
- *Language support*
- *East and West side - what are there such differences? West Bloomington feels nicer, not just because of the houses.*
- *Strength: all of the differences in the community*
- *Share one gathering place at Civic Plaza, community center and/or Moir Park*
- *City/School partnership*
- *Don't go to community after a decision has been made or money has been spent. Know the neighborhoods and invite them.*
- *Go to people. Take the time. E.g., walk around with iPads*
- *Opportunities for people to bring issues or ideas forward that impact them*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Government should take ideas to the community and ask for input*
- *Transparency*
- *Work with community members to address issues - as opposed to ordinances*
- *Rent to own, pathway to affordable homes*
- *Don't build apartments*
- *Identify houses, lower income homes or "blighted houses" that community action team can help with. A group of people who can help paint, put up fence, etc.*
- *Continue loan rehab program. Promotion of the program. Put in Briefing/Facebook*
- *Reach out to local organizations to assist with needs in the community; coordinate and then get out of the way - the City can't solve everything*
- *There are a lot of ways the government can't and shouldn't be involved; government is the third institution in the Bible and it has a limited role*
- *There are some things the City should do and not do at all - have an honest discussion about this*
- *Make sure Bloomington remains affordable; property taxes keep increasing*
- *Safe community: There have been a lot of sirens in the last couple of years; we've seen some horrific crimes in Bloomington; beef up law enforcement - we may need to pay more taxes for this, but community safety is everyone's concern*
- *Provide convenient services locally that are critical to citizens and put open to debate for decisions that*

- *impact them (e.g. licenses bureau. Very upset that that service closed).*
- *Responsible to the citizens who live here but not the ones that wander in.*
- *Be responsive to crime*
- *Better signage about roundabouts*
- *Help keep small businesses in Bloomington*
- *Obligations to be centrist in their decisions. There are organizations that are known for being far left or far right and no government can creditably use one or another for their source for making decisions.*
- *Creating a more transparent process using an independent citizen advisory board to appoint commission and board members. City charter needs to change so boards and commissions aren't appointed by the Council.*
- *Ensure a recorded public comment period at City Council meetings remains.*
- *Have more opportunity for the City Council to reflect between community feedback and voting on decisions.*
- *Seek out all points of view before decisions are made.*
- *Have Council communicate with the public why decisions are made when they vote.*
- *Inspire confidence in the citizens. (e.g. Not supporting the police event didn't inspire confidence in a few participants)*
- *Impartiality and supportive of basic services that taxes fund*
- *Listen to the viewpoints of the community*
- *Happy there was a PRIDE event this year; would like to see more community events or neighborhood events to help build community*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Ensure barriers to entry for new small businesses are taken down; encourage development of places for people to gather*
- *Ensure safe neighborhoods for everybody; emphasize safety without targeting (racial groups, for example); pulling over drivers without good reason just looking for something*
- *More effort to hear the needs of the younger population, specifically younger adults who have been residents for 10 years or less.*
- *The aging population is more vocal so perhaps more direct outreach to the younger adult population*
- *Reaching out to young residents and meeting them where they are comfortable so we can make decisions with them rather than for them without their input.*
- *Use its resources – City has a tremendous amount of departments to aid the citizens, but residents may not know about them*
- *Communicate that City is here to help*
- *Communicate programs (help new residents, aging homes, etc.)*
- *Address language barriers*
- *Recognize diversity of cultures*
- *Provide the time for these things to happen – 3-5 years; it's going to take time*
- *Things like this world café – a dedicated listening session and hearing directly from stakeholders; creating that space and gathering the feedback*
- *Continue to create more opportunities for residents to weigh in on things and communicate/promote those opportunities*
- *Let people know!*

- *Keep people abreast of what is going on and what is available to them*
- *Get people involved*
- *Good example of reaching out to community is the bulky item clean up plan; staff took the feedback and came back with a plan reflecting the comments*
- *Opportunities to affect change*
- *We heard, we listened, and these are the ideas discussed; these are some of the things we can implement – what we can and cannot do right now*
- *New residents guide – proactive outreach*
- *Discord chat software option*
- *City staff need to go with the community and the community needs to go with the City*
- *Engage people to participate in City government*
- *Proactively reach out to be with people- these café's are a great start.*
- *Focus groups- recruit "average citizens" and incentivize (vs. these café groups are voluntary, self-selected)*
- *City can define, encourage neighborhood identities = build community*
- *Affordable housing= townhouse and tiny homes development- get funding for this, encourage developers to build here*
- *Work for the whole community- there's a barrier for diverse residents to trust city staff. For example some people wanted to participate in these cafes but speak a different language. Make it available to everyone. They want to participate. Or when they call to ask for help, City staff don't know how to handle it.*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Encourage a more diverse population. Invite immigrants. Create a welcoming environment.*
- *We need young families*
- *City of Bloomington staff are starting to be more open than they used to be to immigrants and diverse residents.*
- *Reach an All-American status as a leader like we were in 1960*
- *The Mayor, City Council have their positions and we make our choices based on the candidate*
- *City does a good job of publicizing meetings*
- *These meetings and strategic planning involving community are things they can and have done, encourage community to get involved*
- *Appreciate that they hold community gatherings to get input, despite there is sometimes negative social media*
- *City uses input to help make decisions*
- *I believe in our city government*
- *Need to start educating people more on how their vote makes a difference, people need to understand how important it is to be provide input*
- *Do things like this to spearhead communication about what people want*
- *Need a group to help organize ideas that people have – like how to encourage youth to be invested in the community*
- *Volunteering opportunities for families like clearing buckthorn, not a good clear way for people to find the opportunities – maybe send to school, churches*
- *Involve church groups*
- *Get the people (residents) who are more engaged to help reach out to those that are not as engaged, door knocking, reach out.*
- *Have a place at the city to connect with others that have ideas – like a committee to coordinate the ideas and efforts so that they are usable ideas*
- *How do we get to all the other people that are waiting for others to reach out.*
- *Try to get the word out about being an election judge.*
- *Make the communication available where people are*
- *Bring city into 21st century to make sure web site and electric vehicles are up to date*
- *Make sure housing and zoning should support what the community wants and to bring in new residents*
- *Internet – should city provide so that it is affordable and fast enough*
- *Need to balance needs*
- *Internet is infrastructure – city is missing out on that*
- *A way to let people know about what the city has to offer would be to have an open house. All departments open and ready to answer questions and tell people how they can help*
- *Translate City materials (e.g., Briefing newsletter)*
- *Reach out to Bloomington's ethnic/racial groups; be a welcoming community*
- *Continue investing in leadership program*
- *Keep engaging people in things like national night out*
- *More "meet and greets" with City officials, informal conversations*
- *A church in Shakopee hosts coffee with cops*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Summer concert series - make the music offerings more diverse and reflective of the community*
- *How can businesses partner with the City more?*
- *Help ensure consistent property values*
- *Solve the issue of homelessness - connect with Catholic Charities who is working on this issue*
- *Be involved in council meetings*
- *Help make sure community is aware of what is happening*
- *Give info ahead of time when something is being discussed*
- *Make sure it's online. It needs to be advertised.*
- *There are a variety of communication methods*
- *Need to blast out our successes - like awards - get it out there more*
- *Make sure people that are moving in know how to find information - "Welcome Committee"*
- *Improved communications - emails can overwhelm. Keep them coming though.*
- *Continue to reach out to residents*
- *What to do about people that don't have computers*
- *Website could be more dynamic. You could use video. Make it more interesting.*
- *Neighborhood is important*
- *Architecture is generic. Could be more appealing*
- *City could do better planning*
- *Create walkable areas to create a small town feel*
- *Southtown bus stop isn't safe*
- *City could start experiencing what residents are experiencing - like riding the bus*

- *Make sure the community is safe - speeding, car break-ins*
- *Zoning and economic development decisions*
- *Communications to publicize our identity*
- *Town hall meetings, more like this café, with City Council*
- *People eager to hear what's going on ahead of time*
- *Representatives are out and about casually (City council representatives)*
- *"Movement weaving" - inspire in a grassroots way, open space for residents to come with ideas*
- *City stay current by getting more young people involved, encouraging young people to live here*
- *People under 35 now have a different vision. City needs to think about what that generation wants. Change is slow.*
- *Sit down with high schoolers and ask what they want! They are so creative and filled with ideas.*
- *Environment is big for young people. Composting is a big step.*
- *Waste reduction, no single use disposables*
- *Appeal to all generations, bring them all together*
- *Compost! Very excited about it*
- *Idea - every Saturday, come to event and hang with Councilmembers*
- *More youth on boards and commissions*
- *Youth on City Council*
- *Student congress - e.g., invite students to come, learn, share ideas*
- *Continue to invest in public participation. This can only get stronger.*
- *This is a critical time coming out of a pandemic.*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Where are the social clubs? (e.g., Rotary). Connect social groups to Bloomington residents.*
- *Idea - Mr. Barricade. Designs public works things that are modern, on trend. Check out his videos and ideas (TikTok)*
- *Help connect, explore and encourage groups where communities come together*
- *More creative social media (TikTok) - example: TpT has a TikTok*
- *Encourage young people to come out and participate*
- *Pedestrian Dignity (TikTok) - videos of you walking from grocery store to bus stop as a project idea. Go out and see how things are working in community.*
- *Build community center(s)*
- *Provide public safety*
- *Continue to maintain roads*
- *Help with rent stabilization*
- *Good financial stewards*
- *Meet people before crisis occurs/ meet and engage with people*
- *City Council members should be out more and connecting with community*
- *Leadership should be more approachable getting to know people for who they are.*
- *Overall everything that was said*
- *to have a representative, involve all stakeholders, children, educations, parents, students*
- *have coffee with police/ seems to be only for white people*
- *coffee with a cop program is not advertised much*
- *police can find Somali but need to go to them, they do not feel invited*
- *having partnership with kids, youth & police needs to occur*

- *City Newsletter 'Briefings' goes to every family but does not look like them*
- *need a job fair - need more Somali women working in the City*
- *need to know more about City Contracting opportunities and they would like to be at the table*
- *need help finding a big building (65,000 sq. feet) that they can purchase to create a "community center"/one stop shop that will serve the community--health services, multi-cultural services, prayers space, etc.*
- *Our city government is doing great! Love the city loans that help us update our homes. Social Services would probably be the best way to reach the people that need the most help. Food and housing first. Jobs and education next. I know some people think that our city shouldn't be in social services, leave it to non-profits, but if people know that the city will help it feels more like we are all in this together, being the best we can be. We have a great Police Department. Thank you. My heart goes out to all in that department for all that they have had to endure.*
- *It's all up to government, you control the money. Please pay attention to our safety and that of our children first. Thank you.*
- *too political*
- *Continue the work you're doing, be proactive on racial inequity, do what you can to combat climate change*
- *More interaction*
- *Dumb question. They shouldn't be in government if they are community focused.*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Don't gravitate towards every new idea. Ex: food waste recycling is going to be an expensive mistake.*
- *The focus on communication that Mayor Busse highlighted in the most recent Bloomington Council Minute is a great example. If people feel connected with city government, they will engage and participate!*
- *Mostly just communicate. Be open and create opportunities to be approached*
- *Be transparent. Explain the processes and the rationale behind the decisions made that affect the community.*
- *Except for the transit issues, I think the current City Council is doing a great job in tending to the services needed by the greater community. I appreciated the inaugural Evening of Pride and hope it continues and expands in the future.*
- *Continue to look for ways to concert bad trends (like empty office buildings) into a positive, maybe office space becomes housing*
- *Lower the bar to entry to make it easy for all, not just the loud.*
- *City government has to optimize the city over the objections of the far-right and people who do not like change.*
- *Get out of the way and let private enterprise/citizens test the market to know what the City needs most.*
- *Clear guidelines/laws, uniform enforcement of the guidelines/laws, and vision setting are all necessary.*
- *Continue with a strong public health system. Continue being transparent. Continue to have listening sessions and soliciting the public's input on public projects and planning.*

- *Let market forces drive growth. Do NOT dictate silly environmental demands. Let us grow organically.*
- *Come up with proposals, ensure that the public approves and spread the word (use social media and don't just spend time on content creation, you have to market yourself!). Use data and research to implement things that work for the public not for the profit margin (i.e. no expensive water park or more hotels, please).*
- *The city must work with all partners- the school district, Hennepin County, business community, faith community, and citizens to cultivate relationships, remove barriers (both regulatory and functional), and leverage resources to move forward. However, it is important to gain consensus on what that vision entails first. Where is the vision coming from? Who is developing that vision? What is the role of the Planning Commission, Port Authority, Council, Mayor, Metropolitan Council? Where do citizens enter into the process? How will the city develop the trust of the citizens in this process? There is a lot of negative thinking out there in the community from the comments in social media.*
- *Again, listen to the input given by the citizens.*
- *Government needs to be transparent as possible. Needs to provide data to show people what works and what doesn't. Government needs to be the unite-er, not the divider. Be diverse as possible. Take a hard look at what is working and what is not. Communicate clearly any changes that need to be made. Ask for input, and*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

then show the people that "you" listened.

- *Be open to new ideas, people's perspective and embracing new people in roles run by good ole groups*
- *I'm totally against the city funded water park. The hotels want it but they do not participate in community events often. It doesn't seem like it's actually for residents and is expensive, wasteful of water and maintenance has got to be crazy expensive.*
- *Take a stand and be committed to making change.*
- *Allow less regulation and bring in a city planner with a vision Reach out to Richfield… get their planner they have done an incredible job*
- *Promote a great city. Not a good city but a Great city. Tell us that Bloomington is fantastic! Over and over again. The more proud we are of living here will result in pride of place, increase participation in taking good care of the city and each other.*
- *Help our community buildings be healthy and offer a variety of opportunities to all ages. In particular get rid of Creekside as was planned originally to have a better more flexible building with out all the mold and mildew that has plagued it for ages.*
- *continuing to support multicultural events through partnerships with local community groups affiliated with various ethnicities and religions*
- *Communicate better. I feel like you ask our opinions about issues and then go against what the people want.*
- *To prioritize safety and beauty in our community and choose to support decisions that add to our community*

rather than detract like the large over lit offensive storage buildings that look out of place and cheapen our community and create a good lace that residents want to help take care of and have pride in

- *More police. Less regulation. Safe open schools.*
- *New City Council leadership*
- *Prioritize making Bloomington a family friendly place where people with kids will want to live rather than moving over the river to shakopee ect*
- *Spend my tax dollars prudently.*
- *Listen to the citizens when opinions are offered and use them, act on them. Do what they want not what will win an award.*
- *Be honest, real, and come experience first hand the abuse, sickness, and fears we are experiencing from Management, landlords. and the illegals living here all free. This has gotten to far out of hand. We need to take care of our needs, protection, and health. For all ages of our legal true American People. It's been told of the evidence, facts, and truth about the abuse in Bloomington.*
- *The mayor and city council continue to divide the community by advancing plans and policies that serve no one but their political ideology. They need to focus attention on long-standing problems rather than looking to score politically-correct brownie points . The city must stop its infatuation with building monuments rather than needed amenities. The city should be a fair and impartial promoter for business of all sizes rather than only big businesses with deep pockets that can afford to stay compliant with the*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

ever expanding crush of regulations. In essence, the city and its leaders need to return to serving the community rather than forcing the community to fall in line with its vision for Bloomington.

- *Continue to open up the discussion with the residence of Bloomington. Look at areas from the eyes of an outsider. Also look to what other cities are doing. There is other 1st ring suburbs that up grading their downtowns and building a community for it's residence.*
- *The city newsletter is great. The annual cleanup is a great neighborhood event. Everyone took advantage of the chance to clear out 'stuff'. It gave us a feeling of doing our part to keep our neighborhood looking neat and cared-for. I don't think the city realizes that part of the cleanup.*
- *Address urban blight by enforcing design standards for commercial developments -- shopping centers, etc.*
- *Unless the city government can listen to the people, I don't think they can help with the vision the constituents want to make Bloomington greater.*
- *Create a city plan that looks like Edina's. Edina figured it out a long time ago. Edina figured out how to beautifully incorporate business/retail/residential e.g. the Centennial Lakes area. Brilliant city planning!*
- *Zoning and city planning to help create more opportunities for local small businesses/restaurants/etc. and improve neighborhood identity while maintaining residential benefits. Make it VERY clear how to start a business in Bloomington, and either provide or*

refer potential small business owners to resources. Minimize and streamline city-imposed fees, taxes, and other charges (as much as possible while maintaining necessary city revenue and fair taxation). Support Bloomington residents (especially POC/minority, women, veterans, and people with disabilities) who want to start a business in Bloomington through policy, programs, and connecting them to resources. Consider zoning and amenity updates that would allow restaurants in Bloomington parks (like Sea Salt and Sand Castle in Minneapolis). Recognize businesses that incorporate environmentally-friendly practices and systems. Understand the impact the Mall of America commercial district has on Bloomington emissions and contributions to climate change, AND understand the impact climate change may have on Bloomington businesses and residents. Prioritize city planning that incentivizes safe walking/biking corridors (while considering what destinations people would be walking/biking TO). Acquire data to help understand what problems we are trying to solve. Focus on improving the experience of residents/businesses/stakeholders. You may not be able to fix the system, but you can make people's experience of the system better.

- *I think the city government can explore intentional ways to interact with the public and field their input. There is a saying that you measure what you value. The city government should reflect on what they measure in terms of city/public success and also consider what is not being measured.*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *See above*
- *Community liaisons that live within the city, that represent all communities. (African American, Latinx, Somali: 3 liaisons). A liaison that can connect with all city-wide departments and community resources to bridge barriers, and help heal and construct a broken and distrusted community within the community of color.*
- *Be the voices of the residents, and limit government intrusions on individual residents. Invest in Parks, wildlife and keep our city clean and safe.*
- *Actively recruit diverse perspectives, just as you are doing.*
- *Help create connections in neighborhoods and the city...not just national night out.*
- *Having a larger voice in support of businesses and the procurement of the beautiful parks and recreation we have (not just MOA). Help make other areas of Bloomington (not just MOA) a destination for those that visit the city. Stricter rules about what can be put on curbsides. There is nothing more upsetting that driving down the street and seeing couches, and junk on curbs with free signs. It looks junky. More curbs and sidewalks to make areas look inviting and clean.*
- *Be involved with more opportunities to increase revenue to the city, in lieu of raising taxes. Be more progressive thinking and realize we need to spend money to make money. Our City council appears to be too old fashion or old school thinking, talking too much about tax levies, policies, affordable housing, etc. I'd like to see discussions about turning over the*

- *community. For the record, I'm mid 50's.*
- *To ensure a green community that is pleasantly appealing to the eye.*
- *I listened to a few zoom meetings from city hearings.....we need to think about the FUTURE!!! Revitalizing is SO important to our property values....why does nobody see this??!!! And so many seen stuck in the past....."don't tear down the bowling alley....there's history there"....."don't fix up Lyndale, I like it the way it is!!." Backwards thinking gets us NOWHERE. Nostalgia is WONDERFUL, but not when it holds us back from being the BEST SUBURB in the Twin Cities!!*
- *A community like was envisioned by our forefathers. Crime treated as crime, respect for authority, ALL lives matter, those who are able to work - work and help for those who legitimately need it.*
- *The city can help bring businesses and more entertainment options to Bloomington! Attracting restaurants, bars, nightclubs, concert venues etc. would make this a more fun and lively place to live!*
- *Listen to the residents and Taxpayers including Commercial business. Don't always try and push Minneapolis, Hennepin County's Politics on Bloomington residents.*
- *As limited as possible*
- *See above.*
- *The City government could be a resource for grants or directing people to work on a common goal or project.*
- *stop expanding role of government;*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

- *Not building a central community center. Have several areas around the city. Enhance the areas we have.*
- *SPEND LESS MONEY! STOP HIRING SO MANY EMPLOYEES AND CREATING UNNEEDED POSITIONS. CITY GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG! PROMOTE INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- BUSINESSES -- IN THE CITY. THAT'S WHAT DRIVES ECONOMIC VITALITY AND GROWTH -- *NOT* GOVERNMENT!*
- *Focusing on core services*
- *The #1 priority: Do not seek to harm or dismantle single family housing and neighborhood zoning. Local government, like state and federal government, should NOT be in the business of pushing social engineering. We appreciate that people have good intentions and want to be compassionate, but there is not one way or one right way to live and government officials do not have the right to push their idea of what that should be on everyone else. Go in this direction and good luck with your tax base.*
- *Tax big business in order to provide amenities for residents, particularity people with money coming from the City.*
- *See www.strongtowns.org*
- *The city government cannot cover up city employee misconduct, all investigations into employee conduct must me transparent and the reporting of such misconduct must be easy for anyone to report, any settlements regarding city employee misconduct should be public and no settlement without a through independent and public investigation*

- *Making it easier and lucrative for retailers to come to Blmgtn. Using models from other green and beautiful cities to implement here. thinking of Portland, OR, where they revitalized the entire city by using things like underground parking, parking ramps that look like office buildings, planting trees, etc. In the long run, paying more up front for investments that save money: solar and so forth.*
- *To stop harassing and fining disabled, low income, people when they can't mow their lawns or do upkeep work on their buildings. For instance, we received a letter from Dan Deevers that we have to paint the back of our shed, which has a fence so close even I can't fit in between our shed and fence. Also, it cannot be seen by the public. Yet he has never said anything about us not having a door on it.*
- *Encouraging participation of all residents in government, schools, and parks. by asking for volunteers in tasks.*
- *getting people's feedback*
- *Stay connected with residents. MOA is great for tourists/visitors, residents of the city don't always want to shop or dine at MOA.*
- *Better planning, more diversity, more racial equality.*
- *Cut taxes*
- *Clear your minds of clutter, be open to ideas, don't be dismissive of people you don't necessarily agree with.*
- *Accountability within the ranks. Too many managers are in their position due to having 'put their time in' and are NOT managing well.*
- *Working to solve the issues I've already identified. Perhaps finding*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

ways to increase the community policing, so residents know their patrol officers and the patrol officers know the residents in their area (or at least do so more than currently). There was one thing I read about Camden, NJ, doing with their experiment that I thought could be explored by Bloomington (might not be feasible, so I'm only asking to explore it): every time a patrol officer gets a new beat, one of their duties is to go door to door to attempt to introduce themselves to each household.

- *Continued (even enhanced) community outreach efforts (on the part of the City) are an absolute must. Better communication from the City across the city is a must. What you (the City) are doing now in that regard is much improved to what you were doing even five years ago - keep it up! (And do even more.)*

- *I think that citizen discussion groups are very useful but only if the elected and appointed officials listen to what they have to say*

- *Some leadership in contributing to controlling climate change!?? It affects all of us and our future. The mayor could speak out about energy conservation. Ditch the idea of a water park...a huge energy hog!! the optics are very negative for a water park!! Maybe it's time to take a look at the Bloomington trademark/symbol. Some say it looks like a bird with a box on its back while others think it looks like a leaping deer. It's always been kind of a mystery!*

- *Finding ways to reduce property tax*

- *City Govt should work to ensure that the quality of education is world class*

and when that is achieved that it is well marketed.

- *Prioritize natural areas management in the budget and staffing decisions! Also somehow supporting regenerative agriculture would be great! Regenerative agriculture has more potential to reverse climate change than anything else we can do (way more than reducing fossil fuel use), and would also greatly benefit human health and reducing chronic disease, and also benefit air and water quality, etc.*

- *Invest in areas that matter to families with young children. Invest in schools, publicize our strengths.*

- *Don't focus on being like Minneapolis or winning any notable awards as a community. Spend money responsibly for the good of all. Just be supportive of the community spirit without the murals and rainbow flags and efforts that are symbolic but not achieving the unity desired. Let's just relax and enjoy each other in neutral settings and community building fun and activities!*

- *Main communication hub for us all to hear same messages/invitations... Regular sharing by Council members back to constituents...as well as listening sessions/posted "office hours" for contacts (or Zoom addresses for conversation!?) ... City can lift voices and views of BIPOC as in terms of number/power, for now they'll still often be unheard. Perhaps get strategic about BIPOC in leadership positions-- in some cases create co-leader positions so that folks can gain access/experience and be part of leading us into more equity.*

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Question 4: *What could be the role of your city government to help create the community we envision?*

(Don't have website say that Bloomington Equity Staff person is responsible for equity in departments, etc.! Perhaps she guides trainings and helps with accountability? We ALL staff and citizen, alike, are responsible for equity in city/even city offices -- public pressure--right?)

- *Follow the constitution. Allow people to be free. Do not allow mandates.*
- *The city should fund the initial costs of the buildings which would then be self-supporting or provide income for the city in the future.*
- *Fund the initial cost of the building a New Clubhouse or Community Center*
- *The local government needs to stand solidly behind the vision of what people want for the city. Then educate, inform, & interact w people.*
- *Government should be the formal extension of the community.*
- *Government should be focused on facilitating an ongoing community conversation that translates into collective action, where everyone is supported in knowing and doing their part. Government should not be about doing things for people, but rather should be focused on doing things with and working with the community. Thus government needs to ensure their work supports, builds, and encourages a sense of community and collective action among neighbors.*

V. HISTORY OF BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington yesterday and today

Native Americans traveled, settled and traded along the Minnesota River in Bloomington for centuries. The river also brought occasional European explorers and traders. In the 1820s, Fort Snelling became the first European settlement at the nearby confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. With the fort nearby, some of the earliest settlers in Bloomington were missionaries who came to convert the resident Native Americans.

In the 1850s, Bloomington began to be settled by Europeans and converted to agricultural uses. On May 11, 1858, on the same day Minnesota became a state, the town of Bloomington was established. Bloomington remained primarily agricultural for a century, raising produce for the growing nearby cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

In the 1950s, Bloomington became the classic American "boom town" and its population soared from 9,900 in 1950 to 50,500 in 1960, the same year voters approved the village of Bloomington's transformation to a city. Bloomington added amenities, businesses, infrastructure and schools to keep up with the growing demand.

School enrollment in Bloomington was 700 in 1945 and peaked at 26,000 in 1971. Today public school enrollment is more than 9,700 and the city is home to three colleges/ universities, two early childhood education centers, ten elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, four private schools and three charter schools.

The Bloomington volunteer fire department, established in 1947 with 25 members at a cost of $24,000, will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2022. Today there are six fire stations and 109 paid-on-call firefighters, many who are second and third generation volunteers.

The Bloomington Police Department was formed with three officers in 1953 at a cost of $2 per taxpayer. That same year, the first traffic signal was installed at the intersection of 98th Street and Lyndale Avenue. Today the police department has 114 sworn officers.

Located along the Minnesota River, almost a third of the City has been preserved for conservation, public and recreation uses. The first City parks, Bush Lake Beach and Moir Park were created in 1954. Today the City of Bloomington parks and recreation system is extensive with 97 parks, natural areas, 45 playgrounds, 2 golf courses, regional parks, cultural resources, and special use facilities including the Bloomington Ice Garden, Center for the Arts and the Family Aquatic Center.

In 1956, the $8.5 million Metropolitan Stadium opened and became best known as the home of the Twins and Vikings. Many games later in 1982, when Minnesota's pro baseball and football teams moved out of Bloomington, redevelopment resulted in Mall of America, one of the most visited destinations in the United States. Hospitality is now Bloomington's number one industry with more than 9,700 hotel rooms in the city.

Today, Bloomington is a dynamic urban center with nearly 90,000 residents and a workforce of 84,000 employees. The city's central location in the metropolitan area, proximity to freeways and to a major international hub airport resulted in a strong and diverse economy with a mix of commerce and industry. Bloomington is an important economic engine for Minnesota and a major tourist destination for the Upper Midwest.

With an excellent location and well trained workforce, many great companies have grown and prospered in Bloomington. Today, Bloomington serves as headquarters for businesses both large and small including Toro, Donaldson, Health Partners and many others.

Bloomington is one of only 40 cities out of more than 19,000 municipal governments in the U.S. that have achieved three triple-A ratings—the highest ratings from three bond ratings agencies for fiscal management. Bloomington is currently the only Minnesota city to hold all three highest ratings. Excellent bond ratings signal to current and potential investors that the City's financial future is strong and ensure that interest costs remain low. They also signal to businesses and individuals that Bloomington is a financially healthy community.
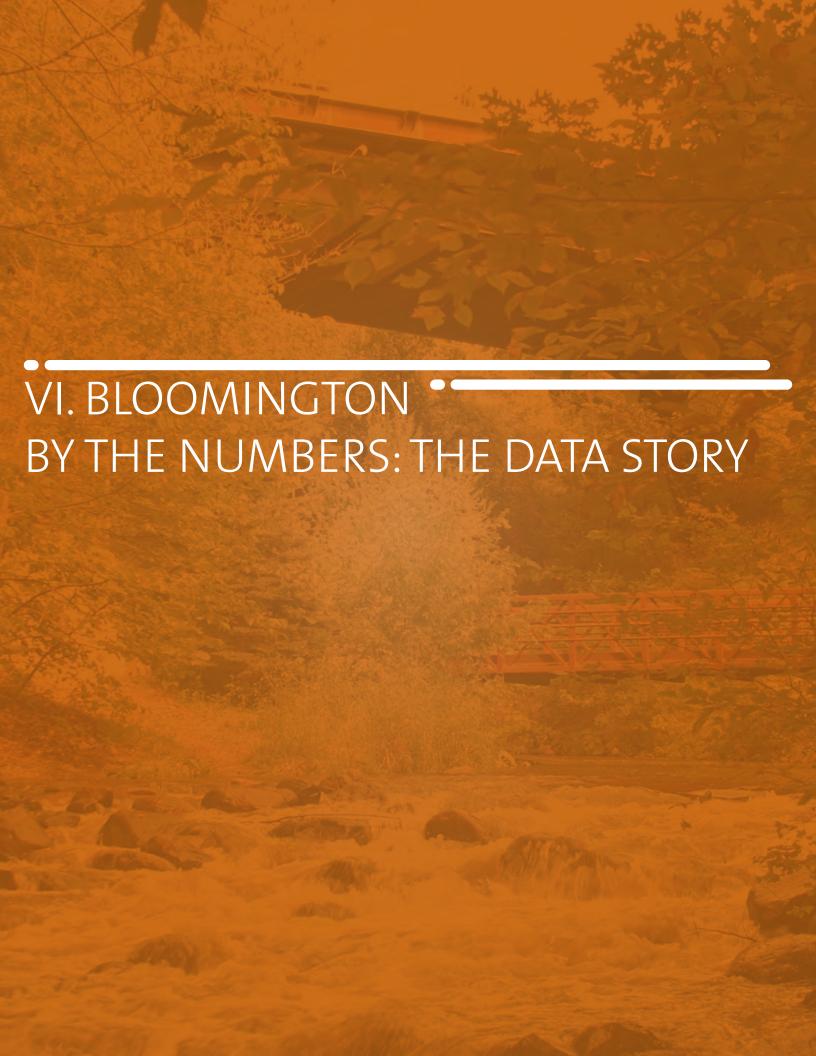
Bloomington provides excellent transit connections. The city hosts the busiest transit station in Minnesota, in addition to Blue Line light rail transit trains, and Red Line, Orange Line and D-Line bus rapid transit stations.

Now Minnesota's fourth largest city, Bloomington is growing rapidly. Desirable new housing options are popping up throughout the city to support Bloomington's growing work force. As Bloomington grows, the City is focused on using creative placemaking to foster vibrant neighborhoods that are interwoven with public art, parks, trails, restaurants, taprooms and opportunities to enjoy the company of others. The focus will be to continue making improvements that will renew and shape the community to ensure that Bloomington remains a high quality place to live, work, do business and visit for years to come.

VI. BLOOMINGTON
BY THE NUMBERS: THE DATA STORY

Bloomington by the Numbers: The Data Story
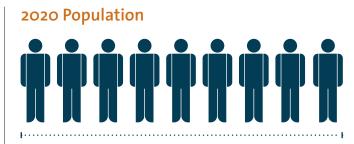
Bloomington's evolution over 50 years

While the overall size of Bloomington's population has remained stable since 1970, there have been notable shifts in the demographics of its residents.

Bloomington's total population in 2020 was relatively similar to its population 50 years ago.

1970 Population

81,971 • Bloomington

2020 Population

89,987 • Bloomington • 9% increase

Two major demographic shifts have shaped Bloomington over the past fifty years – the aging and diversification of the city's population.

The percentage of Bloomington's non-white population is 32 times what it was in 1970.

1970 Population

1%
Non-white
99%
White

2020 Population

32%
Non-white
68%
White

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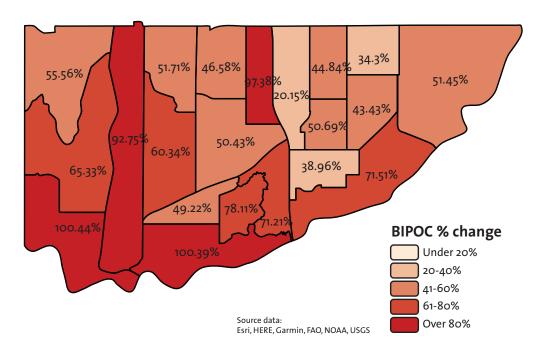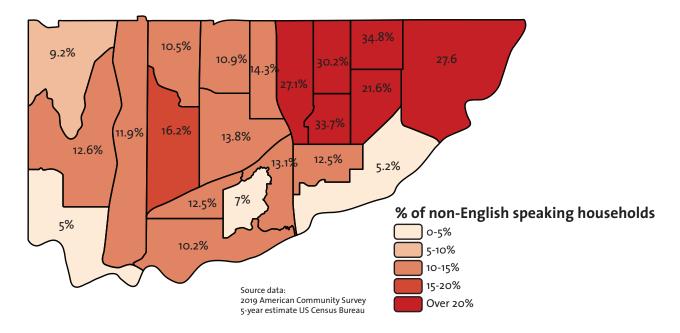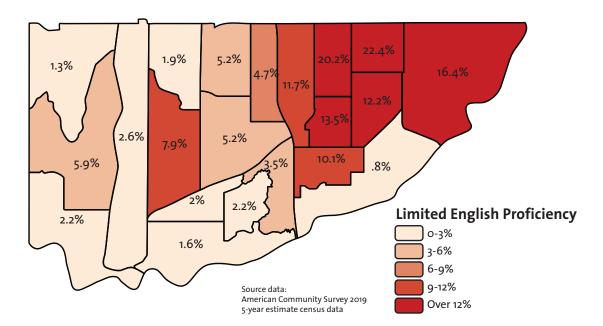
Change in Black Indigenous People of Color Population 2010 to 2020 Total and Percentage

55.56%
51.71% 46.58%
97.38%
20.15%
44.84% 34.3%
51.45%
92.75%
60.34%
50.43%
43.43%
50.69%
65.33%
38.96%
71.51%
49.22% 78.11%
71.21%
100.44%
100.39%

BIPOC % change
Under 20%
20-40%
41-60%
61-80%
Over 80%

Source data:
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

Household Speaks Language Other than English at Home

9.2%
10.5%
10.9% 14.3%
34.8%
30.2%
27.6
11.9%
27.1%
21.6%
12.6%
16.2%
13.8%
33.7%
13.1%
12.5%
5.2%
12.5% 7%
5%
10.2%

% of non-English speaking households
0-5%
5-10%
10-15%
15-20%
Over 20%

Source data:
2019 American Community Survey
5-year estimate US Census Bureau

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Limited English Proficiency

Limited English Proficiency

- 1.3%
- 1.9%
- 5.2%
- 4.7%
- 20.2%
- 22.4%
- 16.4%
- 11.7%
- 2.6%
- 7.9%
- 5.2%
- 12.2%
- 5.9%
- 13.5%
- 3.5%
- 10.1%
- .8%
- 2.2%
- 2%
- 2.2%
- 1.6%

Limited English Proficiency

- 0-3%
- 3-6%
- 6-9%
- 9-12%
- Over 12%

Source data:
American Community Survey 2019
5-year estimate census data

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Bloomington is on average much older than it was in 1970. There are fewer children and a larger population of older adults.

	Bloomington		
	Median age	% Under 18	% Over 65
1970	23	43%	3%
2019	42	20%	18%
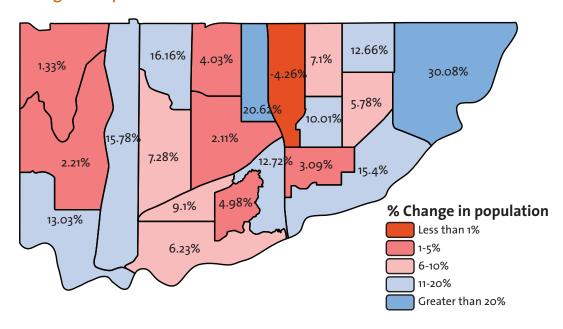
Change in Median Age 2010 to 2019

57.1 to 55.1

36.6 to 40

45.8 to 44.6

46 to 44.6

42.1 to 37.3

38.5 to 37.4

30.6 to 31.6

35.4 to 34.5

43.1 to 38.7

50.7 to 49.9

45.6 to 46.7

33.6 to 34.2

39.2 to 38.9

43.3 to 38.6

42 to 39.5

47.2 to 53.6

42.6 to 43

44 to 43.4

39.3 to 41

45.1 to 48.1

47.4 to 52.2

Change in median age

- Greater than 10% Decrease
- 5-10% Decrease
- 0-5% Decrease
- 0-5% Increase
- 5-10% Increase
- Greater than 10% Increase

Source data:
2019 and 2010 American Community
Survey 5 year Estimates US Census Bureau

Bloomington's population has increased most significantly since 2000 in its development districts (e.g., Normandale Lake, Penn/American and South Loop), driven by new development and young families buying properties in these areas. The population has decreased in only one census tract as a result of a slight loss in housing units and an increase in vacancy rates.

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BLOOMINGTON
MINNESOTA

Change in Population 2010 to 2020

1.33%

16.16%

4.03%

-4.26%

7.1%

12.66%

30.08%

15.78%

20.62%

2.11%

10.01%

5.78%

2.21%

7.28%

12.72%

3.09%

15.4%

13.03%

9.1%

4.98%

6.23%

% Change in population
- Less than 1%
- 1-5%
- 6-10%
- 11-20%
- Greater than 20%

While the overall size of Bloomington's population has remained steady since 1970, the number of housing units increased by 78% between 1970 and 2020.

1970 Housing Units

22,254

2020 Housing Units

39,600

The City's average household size has dropped by 1.4 people since 1970.

1970 Household Size

3.7 people

2020 Household Size

2.31 people

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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON MINNESOTA
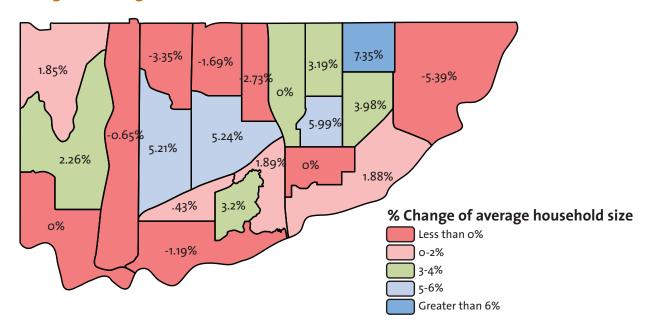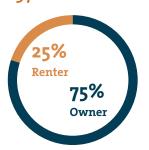
Change in Average Household Size 2010 to 2020

% Change of average household size
- Less than 0%
- 0-2%
- 3-4%
- 5-6%
- Greater than 6%

A majority of Bloomington residents own their own homes, but the percentage of renters has increased.

1970 Owner/Renter

25% Renter
75% Owner

2020 Owner/Renter

33% Renter
67% Owner

While single-family units still dominate Bloomington's landscape, the share of multifamily units has increased.
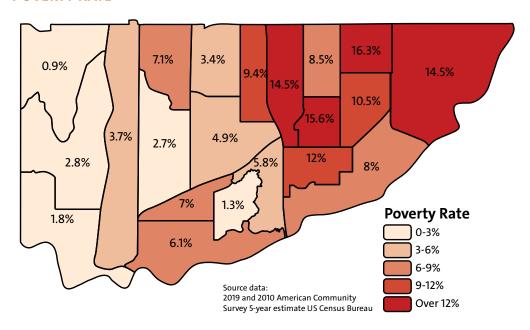
1970 Single and Multifamily Units

21% Multi
79% Single

2020 Single and Multifamily Units
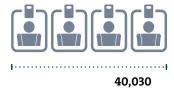
31% Multi
69% Single

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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON MINNESOTA

POVERTY RATE

0.9%
7.1%
3.4%
9.4%
14.5%
8.5%
16.3%
14.5%
3.7%
2.7%
4.9%
10.5%
2.8%
5.8%
15.6%
12%
8%
1.8%
7%
1.3%
6.1%

Poverty Rate

- 0-3%
- 3-6%
- 6-9%
- 9-12%
- Over 12%

Source data:
2019 and 2010 American Community
Survey 5-year estimate US Census Bureau

While single-family units still dominate Bloomington's landscape, the share of multifamily units has increased.
The proportion of the Bloomington population within 185% of the federal poverty definition has ebbed and flowed. In 2009 it was 16.7%. In 2014, it had grown to 20.5%. As of 2020, the portion was 16.2%

The share of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch has steadily increased from 29% in 2006-07 school year, to 40% in the 2015-16 school year, and 40% in the 2020-2021 school year.
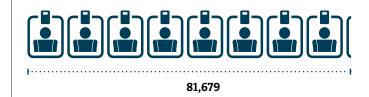
EMPLOYMENT
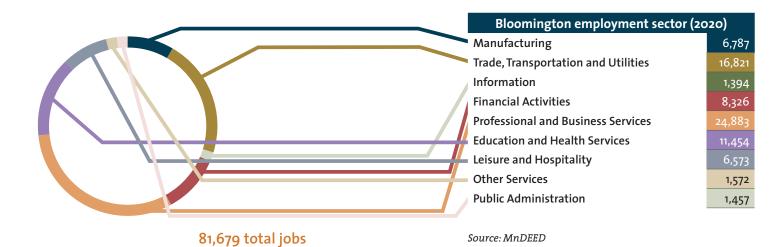
The City's largest employment sectors are professional and business services, and retail trade, transportation and utilities.

1970 EMPLOYMENT

40,030

2020 EMPLOYMENT

81,679

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Bloomington employment sector (2020)	
Manufacturing	6,787
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	16,821
Information	1,394
Financial Activities	8,326
Professional and Business Services	24,883
Education and Health Services	11,454
Leisure and Hospitality	6,573
Other Services	1,572
Public Administration	1,457

81,679 total jobs

Source: MnDEED

Employment in Bloomington is concentrated along the I-494 corridor, in the South Loop District, and at the intersection of I-35W and 94th Street. These concentrations are among the densest in the region, with many locations having 10 to 40 jobs per acre.

Jobs per sq. mile
- 5-705
- 706-2,807
- 2,809-6,311
- 6,312-11,215
- 11,216-17,522

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Housing

The median sale price of a Bloomington home is $299,700 in 2021.

Median Sale Price

CITY OF
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MINNESOTA

| 2021 | $299,700 |
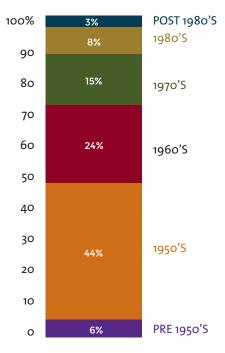
Single Family Residential

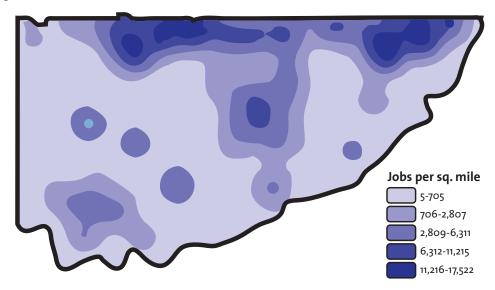| Average and Median Value History				
Assessment Year	Average Value	% Chg	Median Value	% Chg
2021	333,600	6.5%	307,200	7.3%
2020	313,100	0.3%	286,400	0.9%
2019	312,200	9.1%	283,900	10.5%
2018	286,200	4.9%	256,900	4.3%
2017	272,800	7.2%	246,400	9.1%
2016	254,400	2.3%	225,900	2.8%
2015	248,700	6.3%	219,700	6.3%
2014	234,000	9.1%	206,700	9.9%
2013	214,400	-3.1%	188,000	-3.3%
2012	221,200	-6.1%	194,500	-6.2%
2011	235,500	-3.5%	207,300	-2.6%
2010	244,100	-5.5%	212,800	-6.9%
2009	258,300	-5.5%	228,600	-5.8%
2007 (Previous peak)	280,700	0.9	247,900	1.3

The Average and Median Value homes are 18.8% and 23.9% higher than the previous peak of 2007.
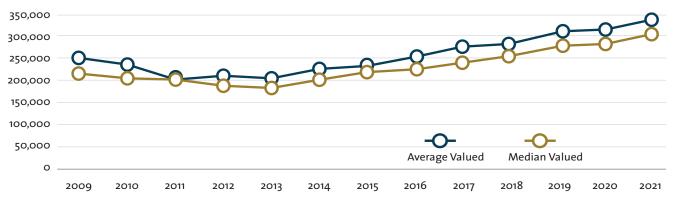
SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING STOCK BREAKDOWN

3%	POST 1980'S
8%	1980'S
15%	1970'S
24%	1960'S
44%	1950'S
6%	PRE 1950'S

This chart shows that 74% of the City's housing stock was built prior to 1970 and 89% prior to 1990.

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13 Year Average and Median Value History
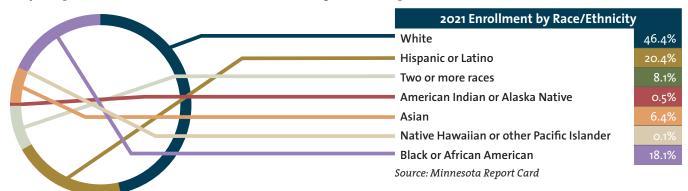
13 Year Single Family Residential Market Value History

Education
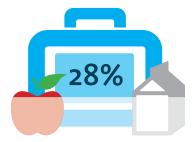
In the 2021-2022 school year, Bloomington Public Schools had an enrollment of 10,668 students from pre-K through grade 12. Fifty-one percent of students were members of Black, Indigenous or People of Color communities.

2021 Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity	
White	46.4%
Hispanic or Latino	20.4%
Two or more races	8.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	6.4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Black or African American	18.1%

Source: Minnesota Report Card

Source: Minnesota Report Card

2021 Enrollment by Other Criteria

28%
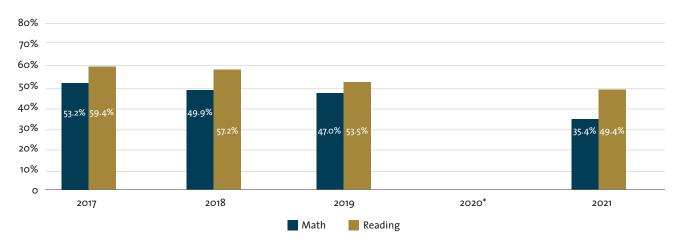
Students on free or reduced price lunch 28.0%

15.1%

Students learning English (average) 15.1%
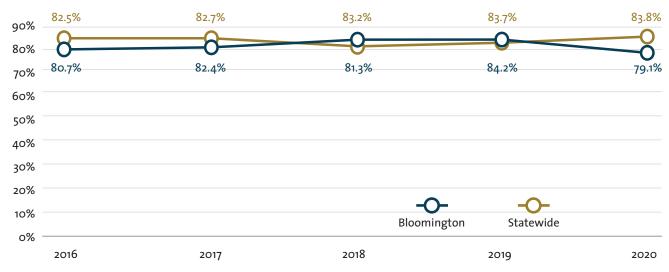
More enrollment information is available in the Bloomington Public Schools enrollment report at the end of this section.

Test Scores

Year	Math	Reading
2017	53.2%	59.4%
2018	49.9%	57.2%
2019	47.0%	53.5%
2020*		
2021	35.4%	49.4%

■ Math ■ Reading

Due to COVID-19, no summarized assessment data is available for 2020.

Graduation Rate

Source: Minnesota Report Card

The statewide goal for Minnesota schools is that at least 90% of students graduate within four years. The Bloomington Public School District's graduation rate was 79% in 2020.

Public Safety

Recent headlines describe an upswing in violent crime, both at the local and national levels. Bloomington experienced a jump in violent crime in the summer of 2020 which coincided with the onset of the pandemic. The following four criminal offenses make up the violent crime index that is tracked locally and nationally: 1) homicide, 2) rape, 3) robbery, and 4) aggravated assault.

Prior to September 1, 2020, the Bloomington Police Department utilized the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting database to report crime statistics. As of September 2020, the FBI required law enforcement agencies throughout the United States to transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System. That conversion makes it difficult to compare numbers from past years since the reporting requirements are so different.

The following table shows monthly totals for Bloomington after the conversion to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System:

	Oct -20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	TOTAL
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	6	9	10	6	8	12	12	12	10	8	6	99
Aggravated Assault	12	11	7	12	10	13	11	10	14	19	14	133
Robbery	12	4	6	11	2	13	2	4	5	6	4	69
TOTAL	30	25	23	29	20	38	25	26	29	33	24	302

Aggravated assault tends to be the most common offense committed in Bloomington each month. Aggravated assault carries the intent to cause bodily harm with the use of a deadly weapon that could include a gun, a motorized vehicle or another object like a bat. As a result, the person must have caused temporary or permanent injury.

In the 133 cases of aggravated assault reported above, the top three types were:
• Domestic related: 37%
• Suspect/victim (no relationship and are unknown to each other): 30%
• Suspect/victim (relationship or are known to each other): 25%

On the following page are the FBI crime reporting statistics for Bloomington from 2016 to 2020. The statistics from 2016 to 2019 are when the Police Department used the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting database to report crime statistics. The data for 2020 is from the transition to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System.

FBI CRIME REPORTING: UCR & NIBRS DATA

UCR: PART I CRIMES

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Homicide	1	1	2	4
Rape	58	47	51	53
Robbery	64	33	44	61
Aggravated Assault	68	66	68	86
Burglary	182	179	161	180
Larceny/Theft	2,519	2,330	2,310	2,647
Vehicle Theft	132	144	134	166
Arson	11	12	5	17
Total Part I	**3,035**	**2,812**	**2,775**	**3,214**

UCR: PART II CRIMES

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Other Assaults	427	432	330	376
Forgery & Counterfeiting	110	168	155	162
Fraud	693	595	523	571
Embezzlement	1	1	1	0
Stolen Property	71	70	75	67
Vandalism	364	323	293	317
Weapons	42	27	36	46
Prostitution	58	42	32	45
Other Sex Offenses	56	61	62	67
Drugs	474	457	453	510
Gambling	0	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family & Children	84	107	39	28
Driving Under the Influence	325	383	335	416
Drunkenness	48	34	22	19
Disorderly Conduct	221	204	158	121
All Other Offenses	1,978	1,242	1,070	903
Total Part II	**4,952**	**4,146**	**3,584**	**3,648**

NIBRS: GROUP A

2020*

Crimes Againts Persons	NIBRS	UCR	Crimes Againts Property	NIBRS	UCR
Homicide (3)	-	5	Robbery	31	39
Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter	2	-	Burglary	85	149
Negligent Manslaughter	2	-	Larceny/Theft (8)	-	1569
Justifiable Homicide	0	-	*Pocket Picking*	76	-
Kidnapping	6	0	*Purse Snatching*	15	-
Sex Offenses (6)	-	-	*Shoplifting*	340	-
Rape	21	40	*Theft From Building*	76	-
Sodomy	5	-	*Theft from Coin Operated Machine*	0	-
Sexual Assault w/ Object	1	-	*Theft from Motor Vehicle*	221	-
Fondling	10	-	*Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts*	63	-
Incest	0	-	*All Other Theft*	140	-
Statutory Rape	0	-	Auto Theft	119	160
Other Sex Offenses	-	17	Arson	2	11
Assault (3)			Bribery	0	-
Aggravated Assault	76	79	Counterfeiting/Forgery	68	92
Other Assault		271	Embezzlement	0	0
Simple Assault	81	-	Extortion	1	-
Intimidation	45	-	Fraud(6)	-	288
Human Trafficking(2)	-	-	*False Pretenses/Swindle*	63	-
Human Trafficking/Commercial Sex Acts	2	-	*Credit Card Fraud*	116	-
Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude	0	-	*Impersonation*	1	-
Crimes Against Society	**NIBRS**	**UCR**	*Wire Fraud*	1	-
Drugs/Narcotics (2)	-	237	*Identity Theft*	72	-
Drug/Narcotic Violation	219	-	*Hacking/Computer Invasion*	2	-
Drug Equipment Violation	37	-	Stolen Property	62	74
Gambling (4)	0	0	Damage to Property	240	244
Prostitution (3)	0	10	**GROUP A CRIMES TOTAL**	**2,338**	**3,315**
Pornography/Obscene Material	5	-			
Weapons	32	30			
Animal Cruelty	0	-			

NIBRS: GROUP B

2020*

Crimes Against Society	NIBRS	UCR
Bad Checks	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	55	92
DUI/DWI	112	124
Drunkenness	0	0
Family Offenses	3	12
Liquor Laws	10	0
Peeping Tom	1	-
Runaway	10	-
Trespassing	121	-
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	3	-
All Other Offenses	412	539
GROUP B TOTOAL	**727**	**767**

*On 9/1/20, the Bloomington Police Department transitioned from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR: Part I & II Crimes) to NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System: Group A & B Crimes). The FBI required the move to NIBRS nationwide by 1/1/21.

Of note: In UCR reporting, the highest-level offense was reported per case number, but in NIBRS reporting, all offenses are reported per case number. Certain statutes were also categorized differently. Therefore the 2020 numbers cannot be accurately compared to previous years.

VII. BLOOMINGTON CITY GOVERNMENT

Administration Department

The Administration Department includes the City Manager's Office, Human Resources Division and the City Clerk's Office. Each division within the department serves both internal and external customers. Nineteen full-time staff work in this department.

City Manager's Office

The City Manager leads and manages the daily operations of the City and its various departments in accordance with the policy directives, strategic priorities and resource allocations of the City Council. This includes community outreach, financial management, and personnel administration, as well as short- and long-range planning for City operations, facilities and amenities.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Division coordinates staff recruitment and hiring, designs and services employee benefit programs and conducts employee relations activities for all City employees. Human Resources also develops and implements classification and compensation systems, as well as employment rules and policies that are consistent with the City's mission, vision and values.

City Clerk's Office

Activities of the City Clerk's Office include elections, business licensing, passports, data governance for all City records and general data requests. Federal, state, and county elections are held in even-numbered years and City and School District elections are held in odd-numbered years.

The City Clerk's Office also maintains records and assists families with purchases for the Bloomington City Cemetery. First established in 1858, the Bloomington Cemetery consists of approximately 10 acres just west of the intersection of Lyndale Ave and 104th Street. The oldest portion of the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both in-ground burial lots and columbarium niches are available, with preferred pricing for Bloomington residents. Staff from the Parks Maintenance section of the Public Works Department maintain the cemetery grounds.

City Attorney's Office

The City Attorney's Office works to enhance public safety and quality of life for Bloomington residents through fair and effective prosecution of crimes and civil administrative offenses. The City Attorney Office staff protect the City's assets by providing timely and effective legal counsel to the City, its elected officials, staff, and boards and commissions. Staff also defend against claims brought or threatened against the City, all in a highly cost-effective, collaborative and focused manner. There are 13 full-time staff in the City Attorney's Office.

Community Development Department

The Community Development Department supports the long-term vitality of the community through planning, creative placemaking, upholding City codes and more. The department has an authorized staff of 78 full-time employees working in the following seven divisions:

Assessor's Office

The City Assessor's Office determines the annual valuation and classification for properties located within Bloomington's geographic boundaries for the purposes of property taxation. All properties must be valued annually and reviewed once every five years. A Board of Review made up of independent real estate experts holds an annual hearing to rule on valuation disputes brought by owners. Assessing staff also manages appeals on commercial/industrial and apartment properties in Minnesota Tax Court. The Assessor's Office advises the Bloomington Port Authority and Bloomington Housing Redevelopment Authority on all development projects requesting Tax Increment Financing. Assessing staff also participate in administering special assessments and park dedication calculations.

Building and Inspections

The Building and Inspection Division reviews construction plans for consistency with all state codes and provides guidance to homeowners during the permitting and inspection process. Building and Inspections staff also administer the time-of-sale inspection program for owner-occupied housing to ensure housing stock within the city continues to be upheld to the programs safety standards.

Creative Placemaking

Creative Placemaking is an evolving process that builds vibrant, distinctive and sustainable communities through public art. It engages artists and stakeholders in building social fabric and local economies while making physical, place-based improvements, such as murals, sculptures, performances and other functional art installations.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health handles inspection and enforcement activities in three program areas. One is the licensing and inspection of food and lodging establishments, public pools, manufactured home parks and wells in Bloomington as well as contracted inspections in Richfield. Staff also protect the community through education, outreach, complaint investigation and enforcement related to public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Environmental Health is also responsible for residential and commercial property complaint and systematic inspections to maintain properties' appearance and value for those living and working in Bloomington and rental property inspection and enforcement to provide safe and well-maintained rental housing.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority's purpose is to build and renew the community by providing housing services, promoting renewal and guiding growth. The focus of the HRA is housing creation and preservation, neighborhood revitalization and homeownership. The HRA achieves its goals through Federal, State and local support. Read about HRA's efforts to create and preserve affordable housing in Bloomington in the Opportunity Housing Ordinance section of the Data Book.

Planning

The Planning Division defines and implements future directions for the City through plan preparation and zoning controls. This division also reviews and prepares recommendations on applications for development, rezoning, use permits and variances, and conducts special studies for the City.

Port Authority

The Port Authority is a component unit of the City. It was created to provide a coordinated, cost-effective approach for redevelopment within defined development districts that may be established throughout the City. This goal is accomplished in many cases through the use of tax increment and/or revenue bonds, issued as needed for redevelopment.

Community Services Department

The Community Services Department provides programs and services that enhance the lives of all who live and work in Bloomington. The department is made up of the Public Health, Community Outreach and Engagement and Communications divisions. In 2020, the Community Services Department led the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including public health services, messaging and outreach to the community. This department has 39 full-time staff.

Communications

This Division of Community Services is a full-service communications shop that uses multiple communications vehicles devoted to educating and informing the community. The division cablecasts and webcasts City Council and other meetings, produces news magazine shows and videos, maintains the City's websites, social media, operates public access television and generates the monthly Briefing. The Communications Division also oversees the City's cable television franchises. The Communications Division fund is supported by cable franchise fees.

The award-winning Bloomington Briefing and Insider newsletters, government and public access cable television facilities, City web sites, social media and other activities of the Communications Division are supported through a Special Revenue fund.

The Communications Division also supervises Support Services, which includes the Information Desk, Print Shop and Mailroom.

Community Outreach and Engagement

The Community Outreach and Engagement Division uses innovative and authentic approaches to facilitate, engage and connect internal and external stakeholders. COED staff serve as advocates and change agents to ensure the community is considered, accounted for and heard in the development and delivery of programs and services. The mission of the division is involving community, influencing greatness.

Public Health

Public Health's mission is to engage the community in promoting, protecting and improving the health of all. The Public Health Division is responsible for the administration and implementation of programs and services to address the areas of public health responsibility as defined in the Local Public Health Act (Chapter 145A of Minnesota Statutes). As a national accredited health department, Public Health fulfills its statutory requirements through four program areas:

- Clinic Services: Women, Infants and Children Clinic (WIC), immunizations and follow-up investigations on infectious disease cases.
- Family Health: Home visits and intensive home visits for eligible families, population-based support for older adults and follow-up on vulnerable adult referrals.
- Population Health and Planning: Health in all policies, emergency preparedness, planning, community health assessments, community health improvement plans and accreditation.
- Administration Services: Accounting, contract administration, data support and office administration.

Finance Department

The Finance Department provides financial services for the City as well as the City's two component units- the Port Authority and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Financial services include accounting, audit, budget, cash management, investing, general billing, utility billing, accounts payable, purchasing, payroll and risk management.

Budget and Administration

Finance provides monthly financial reports to the City Council and Executive Leadership Team and is responsible for submitting required reports to the Office of the State Auditor and Hennepin County throughout the year. Through conservative financial management and long-term planning, the City of Bloomington maintains the highest possible bond ratings possible "Triple AAA" bond ratings from Standard & Poor's, Moody's and the Fitch Rating Agency.

Accounting Division

The Accounting Division manages and records the day-to-day accounting of the City's transactions, including audit, payroll, accounts receivable, centralized purchasing, investments, accounts payable, utility billing, cash receipts and general accounting. The division prepares an analysis of the monthly financial statements for executive leadership and City Council. They prepare the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which has received the annual Government Finance Officers Association award since 1970. The Audit function monitors the City tax on lodging, admissions and liquor sales

Risk and Litigation Management

Risk Management provides risk management support to all operating divisions of the City.

Fire Department

The Bloomington Fire Department operates out of six fire stations and uses the latest in firefighting equipment, including engines, ladders and other specialty units. The Fire Department responded to 3,195 calls for service in 2021. These ranged from water rescues and vehicle extrications to structural fires, medical emergencies and hazardous materials emergencies. The BFD aims to respond to 90% of any incidents within 7 minutes, 30 seconds with at least three firefighters. The BFD achieved this goal for 62% of incidents. To accomplish this, paid-on-call firefighters located within approximately 4 minutes or less responding time of the City's fire stations are actively recruited. All firefighters are required to meet training standards annually. The Fire Department has 11 full-time authorized positions and 112 paid on-call firefighters.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention staff inspects all new construction and renovation of commercial, industrial and multi-family residential structures to ensure fire code compliance. Fire inspectors inspect all properties, except single-family dwellings, to verify continued compliance with the fire code. Fire Prevention collects annual data on storage and use of hazardous material within the city and verifies annual maintenance of all fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems. Fire Inspectors investigate all fires in Bloomington to determine cause and origin and work with the Police Department to investigate arson cases. The division promotes fire prevention education and training and oversees the school fire education programs and Fire Department open house. The Fire Marshal participates in the City's multi-department Development Review Committee.

Emergency Management

Fire, Police and Public Health staff work together to provide a multi-layered emergency management capability for the City. Fire, Police, and Public Health Command Staff have emergency management and incident management training. The Emergency Operations Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan are both plans that have had extensive review by all City Departments and are updated and revised annually. The City's emergency early warning capability is also a multi-department effort with Fire, Police, Public Works and Information Systems all working to implement the Everbridge notification system to alert residents and visitors to hazard information.

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology Department provides computer hardware and software, and coordinates the networking and communications of systems in accordance with the City's Information Technology strategic plan for the City. There are 15 full-time employees in IT.

A cross-functional Information Technology Steering Committee was created in 2017 to ensure that technology governance is coordinated and efficient, leading to decreased costs and advancement of the City's business goals.

Police Department

The Bloomington Police Department provides excellence in policing by protecting, serving and partnering with the community to improve quality of life. BPD employs 161 people, 123 of which are sworn police officers.

Administration

Police Administration provides overall administrative support to the Police Department and comprehensive emergency management support for the City. Resource allocations and decisions within the Police Department are largely guided by its strategic plan focus areas: youth, community outreach and engagement, training, and technology.

Operations

Police Operations provides twenty-four hour, seven-day a week response to requests for officer assistance, including crimes, traffic accidents, medical emergencies and neighborhood problems. Investigative staff and officers provide follow-up investigation to all reported crimes and proactively investigates narcotics, vice, liquor and tobacco violations. Special Operations staff and officers provide support for high-risk operations with highly trained and specially equipped tactical, hostage negotiation and bomb squad units. Five K-9 teams and crime scene technicians are also part of the division.

Patrol

Patrol provides round-the-clock service to the community by responding to crimes, traffic accidents, medical emergencies, fires, public safety hazards, domestic disputes and other community needs. More than 167,200 emergency and nonemergency phone calls are logged into the dispatch center annually. Of these, approximately 51,000 are emergency (911) calls coming into the dispatch center, but not all of these calls result in a request for police services.

Support

Police Support consists of the professional standards unit, the police records unit, dispatch operations, property and evidence control, crime prevention, and animal control functions. These activities support the operational units of the Police Department.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department oversees 97 parks and five recreational facilities for users to enjoy. The department provides recreational opportunities through programs and facilities offering a wide variety of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Parks and Recreation focuses on preserving, managing and programming the City's vast parks system of 3,700 acres. This department has 24 full-time staff.

Recreation Division

The Recreation Division provides a wide-range of activities for all ages, from highly competitive individual and team sports to youth summer programming to community-wide special events to self-directed leisure activities.

Creekside Community Center

Creekside Community Center is home to active adult programming, community programs, and meal programs. Creekside provides a space for the community to gather to connect with their friends and neighbors while participating in a variety of programs.

Dwan Golf Course

Dwan Golf Course is an award-winning 18-hole, regulation-length golf course that is home to a wide variety of weekly leagues and groups. In 2020, Dwan reimagined the tee options to align with the new USGA world handicap system. Dwan offers three tee options for men playing to a par of 68 and two tee options for women playing to a par of 70.

Hyland Greens Golf Course

Many different leagues play regularly at Hyland Greens. The City of Bloomington established a partnership with the Three Rivers Park District for an operating agreement for Hyland Greens in 2021. The Three Rivers Park District brings a wealth of experience in operating golf facilities and offering instructional programs for all skill level of players from beginners to serious golf enthusiasts.

Bloomington Ice Garden

Bloomington Ice Garden has three rinks (one Olympic-sized) with a total seating capacity of 2,500 as well as dry land training facilities. The rinks are used primarily for youth and high school hockey and figure skating. The rinks also offer public skating as well as open hockey. Skating lessons are offered for both youth and adults by professionally trained instructors.

Center for the Arts

The Bloomington Center for the Arts provides high-quality arts and cultural experiences for residents, patrons and participants. With venues such as the Schneider and Black Box Theaters, and painting and clay classrooms, the Center for the Arts is a magnet for people looking for enriching experiences in the arts.

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center

The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center is an eight-lane, fifty-meter lap pool with a zero-depth entry. The zero-depth entry includes three tot slides and water play features. The diving well has a one-meter diving board, a climbing wall and a drop slide. The facility also has two looping water slides and a concessions operation.

Bush Lake Beach

Bush Lake Beach is a key component of the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve that provides exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities. The paid parking lot off of East Bush Lake Road provides access to a designated swimming area, indoor restrooms, fishing docks, a playground, volleyball court, picnic shelter, and access to several walking and hiking trails.

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department is responsible for well-maintained streets and infrastructure in Bloomington as well as maintaining parks and buildings, and providing utility services to residents and businesses. Public Works has 178 full-time employees.

Engineering Division

The Engineering Division provides design and construction inspection for the City's streets, bridges, water supply, sanitary and storm sewer drainage systems, sidewalks, bikeways, trails, water resource projects and traffic signal systems. It manages more than 15,000 signs, 144 traffic signal systems (including those of the county and others not City owned), the construction of approximately 12-13 miles of reconstructed or overlaid streets per year and other local and regional projects.

Maintenance Division

Maintenance administration plans, schedules, and coordinates maintenance programs and activities with other City departments and manages 4,400 street lights (1,175 City owned).

Street Maintenance staff provide street sweeping, snow plowing and street repair services. This includes the Pavement Management Program, with a goal to maximize the life of streets by replacing and repairing pavement at the most beneficial time.

Facilities and Park Maintenance staff repair and maintain City buildings, park structures, fire stations and cemetery property. Park Maintenance staff is also responsible for forestry and removal of diseased trees (such as Emerald Ash Borer infested trees), and clean-ups after major storm events.

Fleet Maintenance staff maintain, repair and replace City vehicles and equipment.

Utilities Division

The City strives to provide an uninterrupted supply of water, which meets or exceeds all federal and state quality standards, at a rate that ensures long-term sustainability of the water system.

Wastewater Utility staff provide sanitary service capacity and sufficient maintenance to minimize blockages and inflow. The City's sanitary sewer infrastructure serves more than 25,000 customers, spans 359 miles of pipes, with 28 lift stations and thousands of maintenance holes. Bloomington's storm sewer infrastructure spans nearly 300 miles of mainline pipes and catch basin leads, with 6 lift stations, 300 ponds, 4,977 maintenance holes and 9,607 catch basins.

Solid Waste Utility staff coordinate citywide garbage, recycling and yard waste programs; the spring Curbside Cleanup.

The City's 2022 budget

In September, the City Council approved a preliminary 2022 property tax levy increase of 2.75%. The preliminary tax levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. This levy funds 68.8% of the City's 2022 General Fund budget. The remainder of the 2022 General Fund budget is supported by lodging and admission taxes, license and permit fees, grants and program revenues. The average 2022 preliminary tax levy increase for 15 similar metro area cities is around 5%. At 2.75%, Bloomington's preliminary levy increase is the lowest among those 15 cities. The City Council will hold a truth in taxation public budget hearing on December 6.

Engaging the community

There have been many opportunities for the public to participate in 2022 budget discussions this year. There were virtual and in-person information sessions in August, as well as a virtual event on Zoom and an in-person event at Civic Plaza in October. There has also been ongoing opportunities for engagement and feedback on the 2022 budget online at blm.mn/letstalk.

Your City property tax dollar

Most property taxes support core services, including police, fire, public works, and parks and recreation, see graph. For every dollar of City taxes paid, 49 cents goes toward police and fire, 19 cents goes toward public works and 14 cents goes toward parks and recreation while 8 cents of each City property tax dollar pays outstanding debt service. Debt is issued to fund street and infrastructure work and construction projects.

What the owner of a median-valued home paid in 2021

POLICE $35.54	COMMUNITY SERVICES $3.50	PUBLIC WORKS $17.72
PARKS AND RECREATION $12.97	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT $5.09	FIRE $8.73
CAPITAL DEBT $7.51	CITY OF BLOOMINGTON MINNESOTA	TOTAL $91.06

Residents receive a variety of City services at an affordable price. The cost of City services in 2021 for the owner of a median-valued, single-family home in Bloomington with an assessor's market value of $307,200 was $91.06 per month. Public safety services such as police and fire account for $44.27 of the $91.06 per month cost. Property taxes also fund services such as environmental health, engineering, park maintenance, public health, arts, and cultural events. The tax cost per month of $91.06 was the amount required for tax support after allocating grants, program fees, lodging and admission taxes and other non-property tax revenue to the appropriate services.

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Impact of COVID-19 on the City's budget

The pandemic created a larger economic downturn for the City in 2020 than 2008's Great Recession. Many industries came to a halt, including the hospitality and entertainment industries. For the City, that meant millions of dollars lost in lodging and admissions taxes, mostly paid by visitors, not residents. Lodging and admission tax revenues usually generate about 13% of the City's general fund revenues. Due to the pandemic, these revenues declined by more than $6 million in 2020, less than half what was collected before COVID-19.

The City is still projecting a 2022 budget with revenues quite a bit below where they were in 2019—pre-pandemic—especially for revenues from lodging and admissions taxes. Those two revenues will likely be about $3 million less than what the City collected in 2019.

Learn more

For detailed information, including presentation slides from information sessions and recaps of City Council budget discussions, visit blm.mn/budget.

VIII. CUSTOMERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Customers, stakeholders, partners and competitors

Customers

The City of Bloomington's primary customers are the residents of Bloomington since they receive a majority of services that the City delivers. Secondary customers are Bloomington businesses and visitors.

Stakeholders

Key stakeholders include residents, employees, businesses and property owners in Bloomington.

Organizational partners

The City partners with many organizations across the community and region, working together to make Bloomington a better place to work, live and play.

The City's key organizational partners include:
- Bloomington Public Schools
- Greater Minneapolis
- Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
- Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Hennepin County
- Greater MSP
- Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit
- Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Department of Health

Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau
The Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau is the city's official marketing organization. Its mission is to promote Bloomington, local hotels, Mall of America, and other Minneapolis, St. Paul, Minnesota attractions and events to potential visitors worldwide.
The City also partners with a variety of organizations that enhance the quality of life in Bloomington.

In addition, the City is a member of groups such as the I-494 Corridor Commission, Highway 169 Corridor Coalition and the Municipal Legislative Commission that work to advance Bloomington's interests.

Parks and recreation partners
- Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA)
- Bloomington Amateur Hockey Association
- Figure Skating Club of Bloomington
- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Three Rivers Park District
- Izaak Walton League (Bush Lake and Minnesota Valley chapters)
- Bloomington Historical Society

Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA)
Since 1954, BAA has focused on making youth athletics available to children in Bloomington. BAA's philosophy has remained the same for over six decades – offer youth organized sports without tryouts, without regard to ability, and at a cost affordable to all. If fees are an issue, BAA offers scholarships to provide equal opportunity for all youth. Nearly 2,500 youth participated in BAA sports in 2020.

Public safety partners

- Bloomington Crime Prevention Association
- Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- South Metro Public Safety Training Facility
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA)

The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association's primary focus is to raise money for community-based crime prevention programs. BCPA is best known for its annual fundraiser, the Book'Em Used Book Sale, one of the largest used book sales in the Midwest. Major funding is provided to National Night Out, Bloomington Police, Bloomington Public Schools' safety education programs and other crime prevention initiatives.

Social service partners

- Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP)
- Oasis for Youth
- Cornerstone Advocacy Services
- Bridging
- Senior Community Services
- Loaves and Fishes
- Good in the 'Hood

Volunteers to Enlist People (VEAP)

Since 1973, VEAP has provided a range of programs to help low-income individuals and families meet their immediate needs and move toward stability. VEAP operates one of the largest food pantries in Minnesota. Its food, basic needs and social services programs serve more than 10,000 individuals each month. VEAP's service area is Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and a small portion of south Minneapolis.

Cultural arts partners

The Bloomington Center for the Arts occupies the north end of Bloomington Civic Plaza. The facility houses eight resident art organizations:

- Angelica Cantanti
- Artistry
- Bloomington Chorale
- Bloomington Symphony Orchestra
- Continental Ballet Company
- Medalist Concert Band
- NOTE-able Singers

Angelica Cantanti

Angelica Cantanti is one of the finest community youth choral programs in the upper Midwest. It provides a comprehensive musical experience for young people ages 7-18. Thousands of youth have participated and performed with Angelica Cantanti's five choirs since its founding in 1980. Singers come from across the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area to weekly rehearsals at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

Bloomington Public Schools partnership

A key education partner is Bloomington Public Schools. The district's mission statement is: "The Bloomington Public School District is an educational leader developing in all our learners the ability to thrive in a rapidly changing world."

The district focuses on developing learning opportunities for children from birth to graduation in a comprehensive framework known as Pathways to Career and College. Bloomington Public Schools' strategic plan focuses on how the district can help students to be career and college ready. Each learner has a personal growth plan to meet Pathway milestones such as pre-school readiness.

Nine of the district's schools are Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and another six have received Minnesota School of Excellence designations. A computer science immersion program is offered at Indian Mounds and Poplar Bridge elementary schools and Olson Middle School in partnership with the University of Minnesota. In addition, New Code Academy is a fully online enrollment option for students in grades K-12 available to any Minnesota family. Courses are standards-aligned and hold students to the same level of rigor and assessment as equivalent face-to-face classes.

Information on school district enrollment and other data is located in the *Bloomington by the Numbers section.*

The City's other key educational partners include:
- Normandale Community College
- Northwestern Health Sciences University
- Penn Lake and Oxboro Libraries

Service clubs and other community partners
- Bloomington Optimists Club
- Bloomington Rotary Club
- Bloomington Lions Club
- Education Foundation of Bloomington
- Bloomington Community Foundation
- Bloomington League of Women Voters
- Earl C. Hill American Legion Post 550
- Everett McClay VFW Post 1296

Normandale Community College

Founded in 1968, Normandale is the largest community college in Minnesota, with an enrollment of approximately 15,000 students. Each year Normandale awards more than 1,200 degrees and certificates in more than 60 programs of study. The University of Minnesota - Twin Cities is the top transfer destination for Normandale graduates. Normandale partners with three universities from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to offer a variety of bachelor's and master's programs that students can earn at Normandale's campus.

Bloomington Optimist Club

Since 1956, the Breakfast Optimist Club of Bloomington has created fun and meaningful activities for youth. The club organizes annual events for children and donates to organizations serving the needs of local children. The club has traditional co-sponsored several annual events with the City of Bloomington, including the Spring Egg Hunt and Citywide Halloween Party.

Competitors

Bloomington competes nationally for business creation, relocation and retention—specifically with the Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Denver, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco and Seattle metropolitan areas. Bloomington is an investor in Greater MSP and partners with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to recruit, retain and develop businesses and entrepreneurs. Greater MSP targets companies in the headquarters and business services, health and life sciences, food and water solutions, advanced manufacturing and technology, and financial services industries.

A key draw to Bloomington, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, is that it possesses one of the nation's most steady and diversified economies. The region has strengths in several key sectors such as health care, manufacturing, agricultural and food products, biomedical and finance, professional and business services, education, health services, and leisure and hospitality.

Bloomington's broad economic base includes a diverse mix of industries including technology, health care, retail and manufacturing. Mall of America is the city's largest employer, with approximately 13,000 jobs. In addition to the Mall of America, Bloomington is home to several large corporations including The Toro Company, Donaldson Company, HealthPartners, and Seagate Technology. Prior to the pandemic, the economy was expanding quickly, propelled by commercial development.

Bloomington also competes in the leisure and business travel market. Voted the Best Value City in the U.S. by Meetings & Conventions Magazine, Bloomington is a desirable travel location due to its convenience to downtown Minneapolis, Saint Paul and the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport. With more than 47 hotels and more than 9,700 rooms, Bloomington has the largest concentration of hotel rooms in Minnesota. The City of Bloomington contracts with the Bloomington Convention & Visitor's Bureau to market to leisure and business travel customers.

When it comes to attracting new residents, Bloomington's competition comes from Minneapolis, Saint Paul and surrounding suburbs. Bloomington offers prospective residents the value proposition of good transportation access, competitive housing prices, excellent schools, a full range of municipal services, an expansive park and open space system, quality arts and cultural programs, low property taxes and a safe and stable community. Research indicates that potential buyers and Realtors underestimate the strength of these community assets, so creating a more realistic understanding of Bloomington's advantages is a marketing opportunity.

IX. CITY COMPARISONS

How Bloomington ranks in comparison to other communities

What makes a community livable? Safe and healthy neighborhoods, plenty of parks and open spaces, quality transportation systems, clean and safe drinking water, diverse and affordable housing options, and good value for property taxes paid are just a few of the items on residents' checklists that contribute to a higher quality of life.

The 2021 National Community Survey provides the results of Bloomington resident responses to questions about overall livability and compares them to resident perspectives gathered in surveys from more than 600 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years.

The below summary shows the comparisons of some of Bloomington's survey results to those from other communities. Bloomington's results are noted as being "higher," "lower" or "similar" to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Bloomington residents is statistically similar to or different than the benchmark.

For a complete listing of benchmark comparisons, see page 36 of the 2021 National Citizen Survey at https://blm.mn/NCS21.

A SNAPSHOT OF 2021 SURVEY RATINGS AND COMMUNITY COMPARISONS		
Quality of Life in Bloomington	**Rating (Excellent or good)**	**Community Comparison**
Bloomington as a place to live	91%	Similar
Your neighborhood as a place to live	88%	Similar
Overall quality of life in Bloomington	90%	Similar
Characteristics of Bloomington		
Economic health	78%	Similar
Quality of the transportation system	71%	Similar
Quality of the utility infrastructure (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)	88%	Higher
Feeling of safety	80%	Similar
Quality of natural environment	89%	Similar
Quality of parks and recreation opportunities	89%	Similar
Health and wellness opportunities	84%	Similar
Opportunities for education, culture and the arts	81%	Similar
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	58%	Similar
Variety of housing options	68%	Higher
Availability of affordable quality housing	48%	Similar
Variety of business and service establishments	76%	Higher
Vibrancy of shopping areas	64%	Similar
Employment opportunities	75%	Higher

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Public places where people want to spend time	74%	Similar
Overall appearance	74%	Similar
Overall image or reputation	75%	Similar
Bloomington's performance		
Making all residents feel welcome	79%	Similar
Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	79%	Higher
City government performance		
Overall confidence in Bloomington government	67%	Similar
The value of services for the taxes paid	66%	Similar
Overall direction that Bloomington is taking	67%	Similar
Quality of City of Bloomington services	80%	Similar
Welcoming resident involvement	64%	Similar
Being open and transparent to the public	66%	Similar
Informing residents about issues facing the community	68%	Similar

Planning for our future: A look at the data

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MINNESOTA

X. 2021 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

THE NCS™

THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY™

Bloomington, MN
The National Community Survey

Report of Results
2021

Report by:

National Research Center

POWERED BY POLCO

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About The NCS™

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) report is about the "livability" of Bloomington. A livable community is a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live. The survey was developed by the experts at Polco's National Research Center.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents' opinions considering ten central facets of a community:

- Economy
- Mobility
- Community Design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Education, Arts, and Culture
- Inclusivity and Engagement

The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 732 Bloomington residents collected from April 20, 2021 to June 8, 2021. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 4% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2021 survey was 21%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Bloomington.

How the results are reported

For the most part, the percentages presented in the following tabs represent the "percent positive." Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good, very safe/somewhat safe, etc.). On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer "don't know." The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab "Complete data." However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in most of the tabs. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Comparisons to benchmarks

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 600 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Community Survey. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. In each tab, Bloomington's results are noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark, or "similar" to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Bloomington residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as "higher" or "lower" than the benchmark means that Bloomington's average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was "much higher" or "much lower," then Bloomington's average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

The survey was administered during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of challenge for many local governments. While we provide comparisons to national benchmarks, it is important to note that much of the benchmark data was collected prior to the pandemic. This may impact how your City's 2021 ratings compare to other communities' ratings from the past five years.

Trends over time

Trend data for Bloomington represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines*. Deviations from stable trends over time represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs, or public information may have affected residents' opinions. Changes between survey years have been noted with an arrow and the percent difference. If the difference is greater than five percentage points between the 2020 and 2021 surveys, the change is statistically significant.

* In 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

Methods

Selecting survey recipients

All households within Bloomington were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Bloomington was purchased from Go-Dog Direct based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve Bloomington households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file. Addresses located outside of Bloomington's boundaries were removed from the list of potential households to survey. Each address identified as being within city boundaries was further identified as being within one of the four districts. From that list, addresses were randomly selected as survey recipients, with multi-family housing units (defined as those with a unit number) sampled at a rate of 5:3 compared to single family housing units.

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the "person whose birthday has most recently passed" to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the introduction of the survey.

Conducting the survey

The 3,600 randomly selected households received mailings beginning on April 20, 2021 and the survey remained open for 7 weeks. For 2,520 households, the first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate in the survey. The next mailing contained a cover letter with instructions, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. For the remaining 1,080 households, the first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate, followed one week later by a reminder postcard. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the survey online. All follow-up mailings asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from completing the survey again.

The survey was available in English and Spanish. All mailings contained paragraphs in both languages instructing participants on how to complete the survey in their preferred language.

About 3% of the 3,600 mailed invitations or surveys were returned because the household address was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 3,505 households that received the invitations to participate, 732 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 21%. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR's response rate #2* for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a "level of confidence" and accompanying "confidence interval" (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents' opinions are relied on to estimate all residents' opinions. The margin of error for the City of Bloomington survey is no greater than plus or minus four percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (732 completed surveys).

In addition to the randomly selected "probability sample" of households, a link to an online open participation survey was publicized by the City of Bloomington. The open participation survey was identical to the probability sample survey with two small updates; it included a map at the beginning asking where the respondent lived and a question about where they heard about the survey. The open participation survey was open to all city residents and became available on May 28, 2021. The survey remained open for 3 weeks. The data presented in the following tabs exclude the open participation survey data, but a tab at the end provides the complete frequency of responses to questions by the open participation respondents.

Analyzing the data

Responses from mailed surveys were entered into an electronic dataset using a "key and verify" method, where all responses are entered twice and compared to each other. Any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed. Responses from surveys completed on Polco were downloaded and merged with the mailed survey responses.

The demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey estimates for adults in Bloomington. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.* The results of the weighting scheme for the probability sample are presented in the following table.

NRC aligns demographic labels with those used by the U.S. Census for reporting purposes, when possible. Some categories (e.g., age, race/Hispanic origin, housing type, and length of residency) are combined into smaller subgroups.

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target*
Age	18-34	5%	25%	27%
	35-54	21%	33%	32%
	55+	74%	42%	41%
Area	District 1	26%	25%	25%
	District 2	29%	23%	23%
	District 3	24%	26%	26%
	District 4	20%	26%	26%
Hispanic origin	Not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%	93%	93%
	Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%	7%	7%
Housing tenure	Own	83%	68%	68%
	Rent	17%	32%	32%
Housing type	Attached	38%	41%	41%
	Detached	62%	59%	59%
Race & Hispanic origin	Not white alone	15%	22%	23%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	85%	78%	77%
Sex	Female	59%	53%	52%
	Male	41%	47%	48%
Sex/age	Female 18-34	3%	13%	13%
	Female 35-54	13%	16%	16%
	Female 55+	43%	24%	23%
	Male 18-34	2%	11%	14%
	Male 35-54	9%	16%	16%
	Male 55+	31%	19%	18%

The survey datasets were analyzed using all or some of a combination of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), R, Python and Tableau. For the most part, the percentages presented in the reports represent the "percent positive." The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good, very safe/somewhat safe, essential/very important, etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating "yes" or participating in an activity at least once a month.

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer "don't know." The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab "Complete data". However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the reports. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Contact
The City of Bloomington funded this research. Please contact Diann Kirby of the City of Bloomington at dkirby@bloomingtonmn.gov if you have any questions about the survey.

Survey Validity
See the Polco Knowledge Base article on survey validity at https://info.polco.us/knowledge/statistical-vali

* See AAPOR's Standard Definitions for more information at
https://www.aapor.org/Publications-Media/AAPOR-Journals/Standard-Definitions.aspx
* Pasek, J. (2010). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from
https://web.stanford.edu/group/iriss/cgi-bin/anesrake/resources/RakingDescription.pdf
* Targets come from the 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey

Highlights

Bloomington residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life.
Roughly 9 in 10 residents gave positive ratings to Bloomington as a place to live, the overall quality of life in the city, and Bloomington as a place to raise children. A similar proportion would recommend living in Bloomington to someone who asked and planned to remain in the city for the next five years. Three-quarters of survey participants positively rated the overall image or reputation of the city and Bloomington as a place to retire. All of these ratings were similar to the national and peer community benchmark comparisons and also similar to ratings given in 2020.

Mobility ratings in the city continue to shine, with shifting trends in alternative transportation.
At least 8 in 10 survey respondents gave excellent or good reviews to the ease of travel by car in the city, street cleaning (which increased since 2020), and snow removal, while at least 7 in 10 were pleased with traffic flow on major streets, ease of walking, traffic enforcement, street lighting, and sidewalk maintenance. Evaluations for traffic flow, street cleaning, and snow removal were higher than those given in other communities across the nation. Only about half of residents gave favorable marks to the ease of travel by public transportation, which was similar to the national benchmarks but a decline from 2020 to 2021. Residents were also less likely in 2021 than in 2020 to have used public transportation instead of driving, but more likely in 2021 to have walked or biked instead of driving. These shifts in alternate transportation ratings could be due, at least in part, to closures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety-related ratings are also strong.
Virtually all residents (96%) reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods during the day and gave favorable reviews to fire services (97%) and ambulance/EMS services (94%). At least 8 in 10 survey respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with police services, animal control (which was higher than the national benchmark), fire prevention and education, and emergency preparedness, and 8 in 10 also gave excellent or good ratings to the overall feeling of safety in the city. Compared to 2020, Bloomington residents in 2021 were less likely to report feeling safe from property crime, but more likely to give positive scores to fire services, fire prevention and education, and emergency preparedness.

Resident sentiment toward diversity and inclusion in the city has improved.
About two-thirds of residents awarded high scores to the sense of community in Bloomington. At least 7 in 10 residents gave positive reviews to the job Bloomington government does at treating all residents fairly and treating all residents with respect, and to the Bloomington community making all residents feel welcome, attracting people from diverse backgrounds (which was above average), valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds, and taking care of vulnerable residents. Further, ratings for the City treating all residents fairly, as well as residents' scores for openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds, attracting people from diverse backgrounds, and opportunities to volunteer, improved from 2020 to 2021.
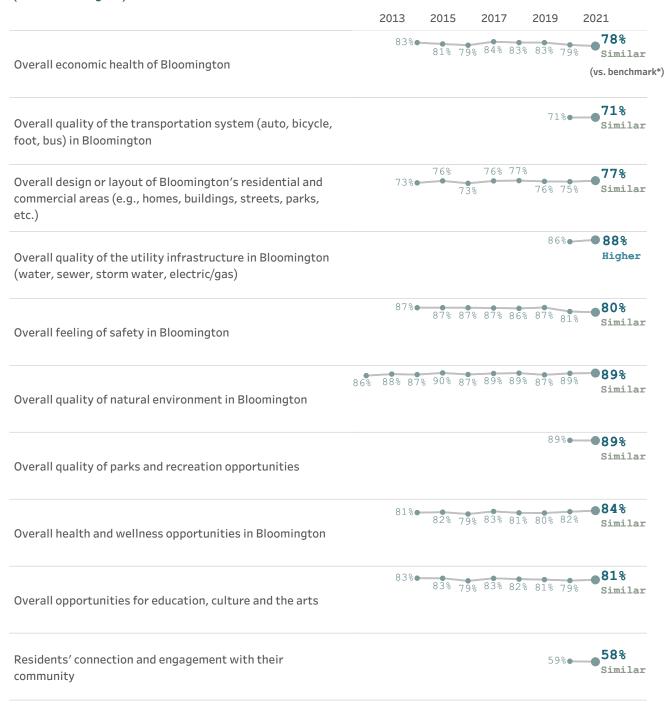
Two questions unique to Bloomington related to various aspects of inclusivity in the city were also included on the 2021 survey. Between 63% and 92% of survey respondents felt that Bloomington was a very or moderately welcoming place for people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, countries of origin, sexual orientations, or gender identities; residents were least likely to rate the city as welcoming to people who identify as transgender, people who are not U.S. citizens, and people whose first language is not English. When asked to assign a level of priority to various courses of action regarding improving equity and inclusivity, respondents were most likely to rate addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in the criminal justice system (59%) and in education (58%) as a high priority.

..

Facets of livability
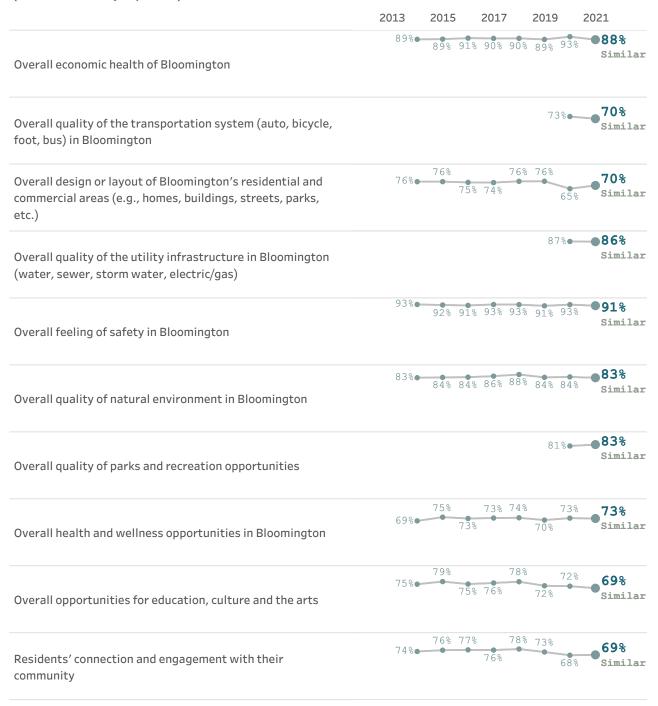
Resident perceptions of quality and importance for each of the facets of community livability provide an overview of community strengths and challenges that are useful for planning, budgeting and performance evaluation.

The charts below show the proportion of residents who rated the community facets positively for quality and the priority (importance) placed on each. Also displayed is whether local ratings were lower, similar, or higher than communities across the country (the national benchmark).

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall economic health of Bloomington
83% · 81% · 79% · 84% · 83% · 83% · 79% → **78%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Bloomington
71% → **71%** Similar

Overall design or layout of Bloomington's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)
73% · 76% · 73% · 76% · 77% · 76% · 75% → **77%** Similar

Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Bloomington (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)
86% → **88%** Higher

Overall feeling of safety in Bloomington
87% · 87% · 87% · 87% · 86% · 87% · 81% → **80%** Similar

Overall quality of natural environment in Bloomington
86% · 88% · 87% · 90% · 87% · 89% · 89% · 87% · 89% → **89%** Similar

Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities
89% → **89%** Similar

Overall health and wellness opportunities in Bloomington
81% · 82% · 79% · 83% · 81% · 80% · 82% → **84%** Similar

Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts
83% · 83% · 79% · 83% · 82% · 81% · 79% → **81%** Similar

Residents' connection and engagement with their community
59% → **58%** Similar

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Bloomington community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.
(% essential or very important)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	*
Overall economic health of Bloomington	89%	89% 91%	90% 90%	89% 93%	**88%**	Similar
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Bloomington				73%	**70%**	Similar
Overall design or layout of Bloomington's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	76%	76% 75%	74%	76% 76% 65%	**70%**	Similar
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Bloomington (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)				87%	**86%**	Similar
Overall feeling of safety in Bloomington	93%	92% 91%	93% 93%	91% 93%	**91%**	Similar
Overall quality of natural environment in Bloomington	83%	84% 84%	86% 88%	84% 84%	**83%**	Similar
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities				81%	**83%**	Similar
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Bloomington	69%	75% 73%	73% 74%	70% 73%	**73%**	Similar
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	75%	79% 75%	76% 78%	72% 72%	**69%**	Similar
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	74%	76% 77%	76%	78% 73% 68%	**69%**	Similar

Note: Prior to 2020, "Overall quality of the transportation system" was "Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit". Due to the changes in question wording, comparisons to past years are not made.

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Balancing performance and importance

Every jurisdiction must balance limited resources while meeting resident needs and striving to optimize community livability. To this end, it is helpful to know what aspects of 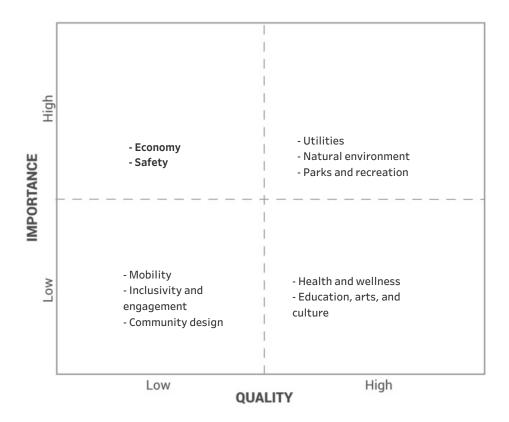the community are most important to residents and which they perceive as being of higher or lower quality. It is especially helpful to know when a facet of livability is considered of high importance but rated as lower quality, as this should be a top priority to address.

To help guide City staff and officials with decisions on future resource allocation, resident ratings of the importance of services were compared to their ratings of the quality of these services. To identify the services perceived by residents to have relatively lower quality at the same time as relatively higher importance, all services were ranked from highest perceived quality to lowest perceived quality and from highest perceived importance to lowest perceived importance. Some services were in the top half of both lists (higher quality and higher importance); some were in the top half of one list but the bottom half of the other (higher quality and lower importance or lower quality and higher importance); and some services were in the bottom half of both lists.
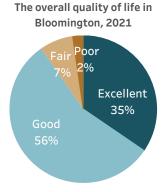
Services receiving quality ratings of excellent or good by 80% or more of respondents were considered of "higher quality" and those with ratings lower than 80% were considered to be of "lower quality." Services were classified as "more important" if they were rated as essential or very important by 78% or more of respondents. Services were rated as "less important" if they received a rating of less than 78%. This classification uses the median ratings for quality and importance to divide the services in half.

The quadrants in the figure below show which community facets were given higher or lower importance ratings (up-down) and which had higher or lower quality ratings (right-left). Services categorized as higher in importance and lower in quality may warrant further investigation to see if changes to their delivery are necessary.
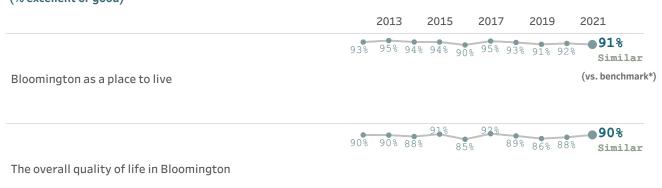
Quality of life

Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all.

The overall quality of life in Bloomington, 2021

Fair 7%
Poor 2%
Excellent 35%
Good 56%

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Bloomington as a place to live
93% 95% 94% 94% 90% 95% 93% 91% 92% **91%**
Similar
(vs. benchmark*)

The overall quality of life in Bloomington
90% 90% 88% 91% 85% 92% 89% 86% 88% **90%**
Similar

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.
(% very or somewhat likely)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Recommend living in Bloomington to someone who asks
94% 94% 93% 95% 89% 95% 94% 91% 92% **90%**
Similar

Remain in Bloomington for the next five years
89% 89% 86% 89% 86% 89% 87% 85% 85% **87%**
Similar

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall image or reputation of Bloomington
85% 85% 83% 83% 76% 81% 81% 80% 79% **75%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Governance

Strong local governments produce results that meet the needs of residents while making the best use of available resources, and are responsive to the present and future needs of the community as a whole.
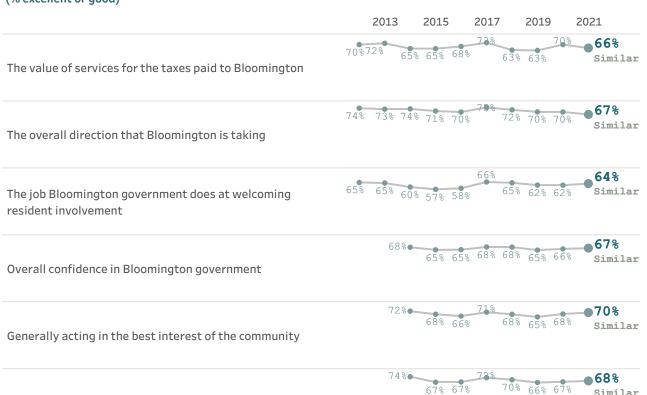
Overall confidence in Bloomington government, 2021

- Poor 11%
- Excellent 17%
- Fair 22%
- Good 50%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

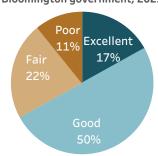Public information services — 75% 76% 78% 75% 75% 78% 79% 75% 77% **80% Similar (vs. benchmark*)**
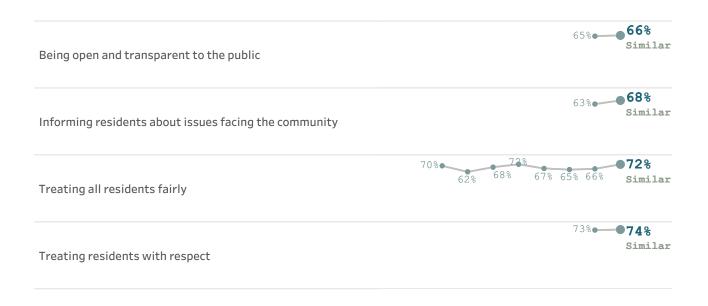
Overall customer service by Bloomington employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.) — 84% 83% 82% 81% 79% 85% 85% 82% 86% **88% Similar**

Please rate the following categories of Bloomington government performance.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

The value of services for the taxes paid to Bloomington — 70% 72% 65% 65% 68% 73% 63% 63% 70% **66% Similar**

The overall direction that Bloomington is taking — 74% 73% 74% 71% 70% 73% 72% 70% 70% **67% Similar**

The job Bloomington government does at welcoming resident involvement — 65% 65% 60% 57% 58% 66% 65% 62% 62% **64% Similar**

Overall confidence in Bloomington government — 68% 65% 65% 68% 68% 65% 66% **67% Similar**

Generally acting in the best interest of the community — 72% 68% 66% 71% 68% 65% 68% **70% Similar**

Being honest — 74% 67% 67% 72% 70% 66% 67% **68% Similar**

Being open and transparent to the public

65% ● **66%**
Similar

Informing residents about issues facing the community

63% ● **68%**
Similar

Treating all residents fairly

70% ● 72% 72%
62% 68% 67% 65% 66%
● **72%**
Similar

Treating residents with respect

73% ● **74%**
Similar

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

The City of Bloomington

88% 87% 85% 86% 84% 86% 87% 82% 81% ● **80%**
Similar

The Federal Government

51% 49% 50% 46%
49% 41% 46% 41% 40%
● **53%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Economy

Local governments work together with private and nonprofit businesses, and with the community at large, to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and promote a thriving local economy.

Overall economic health of Bloomington, 2021

Excellent 17%
Good 61%
Fair 20%
Poor 2%

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

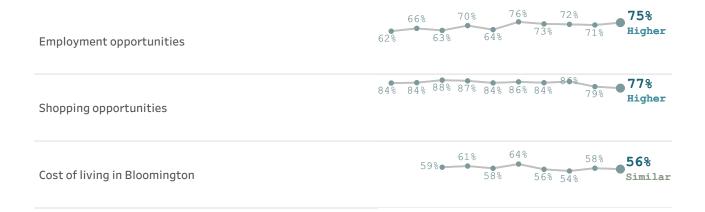Very positive 7%
Somewhat positive 24%
Neutral 50%
Somewhat negative 17%
Very negative 3%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall economic health of Bloomington
83% 81% 79% 84% 83% 79% **78% Similar**
(vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Bloomington as a place to work
83% 84% 85% 82% 82% 87% 87% 83% 83% **82% Higher**

Bloomington as a place to visit
80% 80% 77% 79% 80% 78% 76% **77% Similar**

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall quality of business and service establishments in Bloomington
80% 79% 77% 80% 74% 78% 76% 77% 83% **85% Higher**

Variety of business and service establishments in Bloomington
74% **76% Higher**

Vibrancy of shopping areas
70% 72% 70% 70% 66% 65% 64% **64% Similar**

13

Employment opportunities

62% 66% 63% 70% 64% 76% 73% 72% 71% **75%**
Higher

Shopping opportunities

84% 84% 88% 87% 84% 86% 84% 86% 79% **77%**
Higher

Cost of living in Bloomington

59% 61% 58% 64% 56% 54% 58% **56%**
Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Economic development

69% 70% 72% 73% 68% 7?% 71% 71% 70% **74%**
Similar

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:
(% very or somewhat positive)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

25% 27% 29% 3?% 28% 37% 33% 29% 15% **31%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

14

Mobility

The ease with which residents can move about their communities, whether for commuting, leisure, or recreation, plays a major role in the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in the community.

Overall quality of the transportation system in Bloomington, 2021

- Excellent 18%
- Good 53%
- Fair 22%
- Poor 6%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Bloomington				71%	**71%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Traffic flow on major streets	62% 63%	65% 63%	64% 64%	64% 58%	73% **73% Higher**
Ease of travel by car in Bloomington	76% 77%	76% 74%	77% 75%	77% 73%	84% **84% Similar**
Ease of travel by public transportation in Bloomington	64% 66%	47% 44%	56% 56%	58% 53%	55% **50% Similar**
Ease of travel by bicycle in Bloomington	68% 64%	57% 52%	56% 61%	60% 59%	65% **63% Similar**
Ease of walking in Bloomington	74% 76%	70% 70%	72% 74%	72% 71%	74% **74% Similar**

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.
(% yes)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Used bus, rail, or other public transportation instead of driving
41% 37% 34% 38% 39% 37% 29% **18%** Similar

Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone
41% 43% 47% 46% 48% 46% 40% **41%** Similar

Walked or biked instead of driving
54% 54% 54% 55% 51% 50% 58% **64%** Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Traffic enforcement
77% 78% 74% 74% 73% 78% 76% 73% 73% **73%** Similar

Traffic signal timing
59% 59% 57% 61% 59% 64% 65% 61% 64% **63%** Similar

Street repair
56% 47% 36% 51% 57% 56% 51% 46% 60% **58%** Similar

Street cleaning
76% 73% 70% 76% 75% 79% 73% 73% 80% **86%** Higher

Street lighting
71% 71% 69% 69% 72% 76% 71% 70% 73% **74%** Similar

Snow removal
78% 78% 77% 84% 81% 82% 76% 77% 82% **85%** Higher

Sidewalk maintenance
68% 57% 62% 65% 64% 72% 66% 64% 68% **71%** Similar

Bus or transit services
67% 66% 58% 67% 67% 70% 67% 65% 63% **64%** Similar

Note: Prior to 2020, "Overall quality of the transportation system" was "Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit". Due to the changes in question wording, comparisons to past years are not made.

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Community design

A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and providing access to parks and other green spaces.

Overall design or layout of Bloomington's residential and commercial areas, 2021

- Poor 3%
- Excellent 23%
- Fair 20%
- Good 54%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall design or layout of Bloomington's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)

73% 76% 73% 76% 77% 76% 75% **77%**
Similar
(vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Your neighborhood as a place to live

85% 86% 88% 86% 86% 90% 88% 87% 86% **88%**
Similar

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Well-planned residential growth

66% **63%**
Similar

Well-planned commercial growth

61% **63%**
Similar

Well-designed neighborhoods

72% **72%**
Similar

Public places where people want to spend time

78% 76% 72% 76% 76% 77% 69% **74%**
Similar

17

Variety of housing options

76% 74% 74% 76% 70% 73% 67% 69% 69% **68%** Higher

Availability of affordable quality housing

61% 63% 62% 65% 58% 55% 52% 50% 48% **48%** Similar

Overall quality of new development in Bloomington

75% 75% 67% 63% 66% 69% 64% 65% 63% **64%** Similar

Overall appearance of Bloomington

80% 79% 82% 80% 78% 84% 81% 76% **74%** Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Land use, planning and zoning

67% 65% 69% 66% 63% 71% 66% 64% 66% **65%** Higher

Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)

59% 60% 63% 57% 62% 60% 62% 58% 61% **61%** Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Utilities

Services such as water, gas, electricity, and internet access play a vital role in ensuring the physical and economic health and well-being of the communities they serve.

Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Bloomington, 2021

Poor 1%
Fair 11%
Excellent 37%
Good 52%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
**(% excellent or good)**

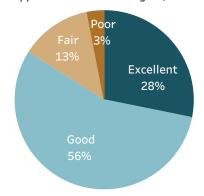|	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Bloomington (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)				86%	**88%** Higher (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Affordable high-speed internet access				58%	**63%** Similar
Garbage collection	89% 88% 85% 81%	86% 80%	80%	77% 80%	**83%** Similar
Drinking water	90% 89% 88% 91%	90% 91%	90%	91% 91%	**93%** Much higher
Sewer services	88% 88% 86% 89%	88% 90%	88%	88% 91%	**93%** Higher
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	80% 79% 78% 82% 80%	81% 80%	75%	87%	**92%** Higher
Utility billing	80% 81% 77%	77%	75% 75%	80%	**80%** Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Safety

Public safety is often the most important task facing local governments. All residents should feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods and in the greater community, and providing robust safety-related services is essential to residents' quality of life.
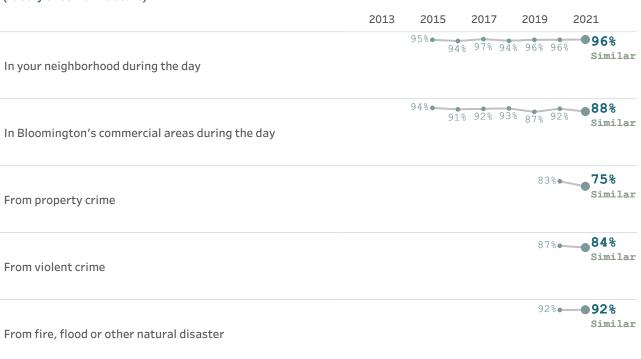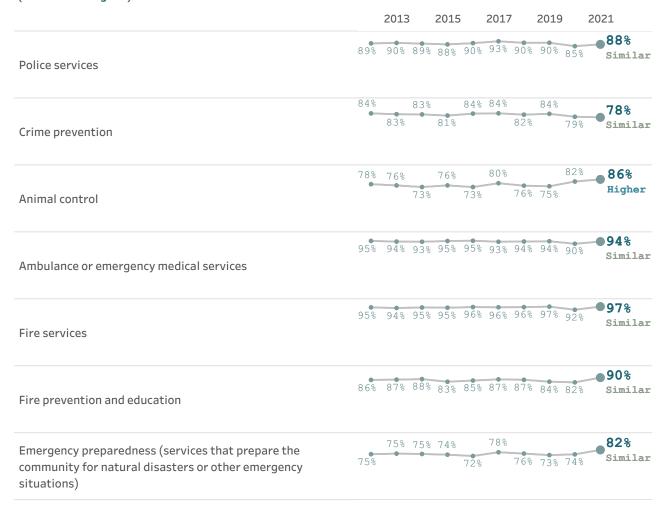
Overall feeling of safety in Bloomington, 2021

- Poor 5%
- Fair 15%
- Excellent 26%
- Good 54%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% very or somewhat safe)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall feeling of safety in Bloomington — 87% 87% 87% 86% 87% 81% **80%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:
(% very or somewhat safe)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

In your neighborhood during the day — 95% 94% 97% 94% 96% 96% **96%** Similar

In Bloomington's commercial areas during the day — 94% 91% 92% 93% 87% 92% **88%** Similar

From property crime — 83% **75%** Similar

From violent crime — 87% **84%** Similar

From fire, flood or other natural disaster — 92% **92%** Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Police services
89% 90% 89% 88% 90% 93% 90% 90% 85% **88%** Similar

Crime prevention
84% 83% 83% 81% 84% 84% 82% 84% 79% **78%** Similar

Animal control
78% 76% 73% 76% 73% 80% 76% 75% 82% **86%** Higher

Ambulance or emergency medical services
95% 94% 93% 95% 95% 93% 94% 94% 90% **94%** Similar

Fire services
95% 94% 95% 95% 96% 96% 96% 97% 92% **97%** Similar

Fire prevention and education
86% 87% 88% 83% 85% 87% 87% 84% 82% **90%** Similar

Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)
75% 75% 75% 74% 72% 78% 76% 73% 74% **82%** Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Natural environment

The natural environment plays a vital role in the health and well-being of residents. The natural spaces in which residents live and experience their communities has a direct and profound effect on quality of life.

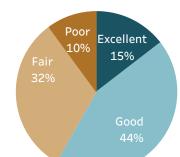**Overall quality of natural environment in Bloomington, 2021**

Poor 3%
Fair 8%
Good 44%
Excellent 45%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Overall quality of natural environment in Bloomington	86% 88% 87% 90%	87% 89%	89% 87%	89%	**89%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Cleanliness of Bloomington	84% 82% 82% 79%	82% 84%	83% 81%	82%	**83%** Similar
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)				84%	**85%** Higher
Air quality	81% 84% 87% 86%	85% 87%	86% 85%	91%	**89%** Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Preservation of natural areas (open space and greenbelts)	78% 78% 75% 79%	76% 80%	76% 77%	83%	**87%** Higher
Bloomington open space	73% 75% 72%	77% 73%	72%	82%	**80%** Higher

22

Recycling

89% 89% 86% 83% 86% 80% 80% 77% 84% **81%**
Similar

Yard waste pick-up

85% 85% 83% 81% 84% 78% 78% 77% 86% **86%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.
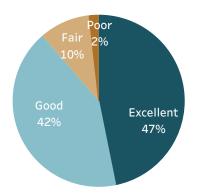
Parks and recreation

"There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment."
- National Recreation and Park Association

Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities, 2021

- Poor 2%
- Fair 10%
- Good 42%
- Excellent 47%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities				89%	**89%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Availability of paths and walking trails	74% 77% 78%	74% 75%	79% 74%	76% 84%	**87%** Higher
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	80% 81%	77% 80%	76% 77%	81%	**85%** Higher
Recreational opportunities	81% 80% 78%	79% 79%	79% 79%	79% 79%	**81%** Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
City parks	91% 90% 87%	89% 87%	89% 88%	91% 89%	**87%** Similar
Recreation programs or classes	85% 86% 83%	78% 77%	79% 82%	79% 78%	**86%** Similar

Recreation centers or facilities

83% 83% 81% 76% 74% 77% 74% 75% 71% **74%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.
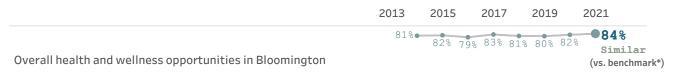
Health and wellness

The characteristics of and amenities available in the communities in which people live has a direct impact on the health and wellness of residents, and thus, on their quality of life overall.

Overall health and wellness opportunities in Bloomington, 2021

- Poor 3%
- Fair 13%
- Excellent 28%
- Good 56%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Overall health and wellness opportunities in Bloomington — 81% 82% 79% 83% 81% 80% 82% **84%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Availability of affordable quality food — 75% 78% 75% 78% 74% 78% 75% 78% 78% **77%** Similar

Availability of affordable quality health care — 72% 74% 76% 78% 78% 76% 75% 75% 74% **75%** Similar

Availability of preventive health services — 77% 80% 78% 78% 78% 79% 77% 77% 75% **77%** Similar

Availability of affordable quality mental health care — 62% 62% 64% 63% 63% 64% 63% **58%** Similar

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Health services — 79% 82% 81% 82% 79% 81% 79% 78% 78% **80%** Similar

Would you say that in general your health is:
(% excellent or very good)

2013　　2015　　2017　　2019　　2021

66%　　　66%　65%　65%　65%　63%　　69%　●**68%**
Similar

Would you say that in general your health is:

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.
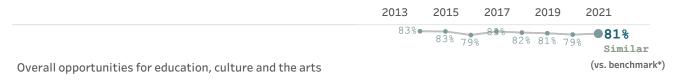
Education, arts, and culture

Participation in the arts, in educational opportunities, and in cultural activities is linked to increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and enhanced enjoyment of the local community.

Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts, 2021

Poor 4%
Fair 15%
Excellent 29%
Good 52%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	83%	83% 79%	83%	82% 81% 79%	**81%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)	

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	67% 72%	75% 70% 68%	74% 74%	74% 68%	**66%** Similar
Community support for the arts				72%	**68%** Similar
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	62% 59%	70% 71% 66%	68% 58%	66% 61%	**61%** Similar
K-12 education	82% 83% 82%	83% 75%	83% 81% 81%	73%	**74%** Similar
Adult educational opportunities	81% 73% 72%		81% 79%	78% 74%	**78%** Higher
Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	76% 71% 70%		75% 79%	74% 63%	**63%** Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Inclusivity and engagement

Inclusivity refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging; residents who feel invited to participate within their communities feel more included, involved, and engaged than those who do not.
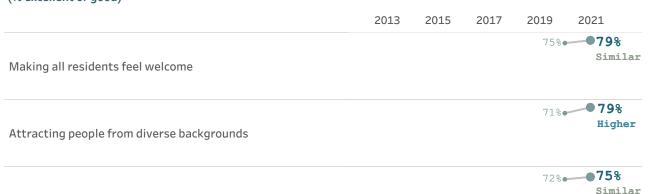
Residents' connection and engagement with their community, 2021

Poor 10%
Excellent 15%
Fair 32%
Good 44%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Residents' connection and engagement with their community				59%	**58%** Similar (vs. benchmark*)

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Bloomington.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Bloomington as a place to raise children	87% 87%	89% 89%	82% 88% 87%	86% 85%	**86%** Similar
Bloomington as a place to retire	76% 74%	69% 73%	69% 73% 72%	67% 74%	**74%** Similar
Sense of community	72% 73%	64% 64%	59% 65% 66%	62% 62%	**65%** Similar

Please rate the job you feel the Bloomington community does at each of the following.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Making all residents feel welcome				75%	**79%** Similar
Attracting people from diverse backgrounds				71%	**79%** Higher
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds				72%	**75%** Similar

29

Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)

69% — ● **72%**
Similar

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Sense of civic/community pride

64% — ● **65%**
Similar

Neighborliness of residents in Bloomington

64% 64% 64% 68% 69% 68% 67% ● **69%**
Similar

Opportunities to participate in social events and activities

73% 72% 67% 62% 63% 69% 71% 67% 63% ● **63%**
Similar

Opportunities to volunteer

80% 78% 78% 74% 74% 79% 75% 73% 69% ● **78%**
Similar

Opportunities to participate in community matters

73% 73% 71% 64% 64% 71% 71% 68% 64% ● **67%**
Similar

Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds

75% 77% 65% 68% 66% 74% 69% 67% 61% ● **68%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

30

Residents' participation levels

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months. (% yes)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Contacted the City of Bloomington (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information

42% → 45% → 47% → 47% → 45% → 47% → **50% Similar** (vs. benchmark*)

Contacted Bloomington elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion

15% → 17% → 17% → 17% → 16% → 14% → **18% Similar**

Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)

15% → 19% → 17% → 17% → 17% → 17% → **15% Similar**

Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting

25% → 27% → 23% → 25% → 24% → 36% → **28% Similar**

Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Bloomington

35% → 36% → 33% → 34% → 31% → 30% → **25% Lower**

Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause or candidate

19% → 20% → 22% → 20% → 19% → 15% → **16% Similar**

Voted in your most recent local election

78% → **88% Similar**

In general, how many times do you: (% a few times a week or more)

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021

Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop or tablet computer

92% → **94% Similar**

Access the internet from your cell phone

87% → **88% Similar**

Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.

76% **72%**
Similar

Use or check email

94% **95%**
Similar

Share your opinions online

30% **28%**
Similar

Shop online

47% **45%**
Lower

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Custom questions

Below are the complete set of responses to each custom question on the survey. By default, "don't know" responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter below.

Include "don't know"
No

How welcoming, if at all, do you think your community is for:	People who are Arabic or Middle Eastern	Very welcoming		33%
		Moderately welcoming		36%
		Slightly welcoming		25%
		Not welcoming		6%
	People who are Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	Very welcoming		38%
		Moderately welcoming		42%
		Slightly welcoming		15%
		Not welcoming		5%
	People who are Black or African American	Very welcoming		39%
		Moderately welcoming		37%
		Slightly welcoming		18%
		Not welcoming		6%
	People who are Hispanic or Latino	Very welcoming		40%
		Moderately welcoming		40%
		Slightly welcoming		17%
		Not welcoming		3%
	People who are American Indian or Alaskan Native	Very welcoming		39%
		Moderately welcoming		39%
		Slightly welcoming		17%
		Not welcoming		5%
	People who are White	Very welcoming		74%
		Moderately welcoming		18%
		Slightly welcoming		5%
		Not welcoming		2%
	People whose first language is not English	Very welcoming		31%
		Moderately welcoming		36%

		Slightly welcoming		26%
		Not welcoming		7%
	People who are not U.S. citizens	Very welcoming		30%
		Moderately welcoming		34%
		Slightly welcoming		21%
		Not welcoming		15%
	People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other non-straight sexual identities	Very welcoming		40%
		Moderately welcoming		36%
		Slightly welcoming		18%
		Not welcoming		5%
	People who identify as transgender	Very welcoming		34%
		Moderately welcoming		29%
		Slightly welcoming		20%
		Not welcoming		16%
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for the City of Bloomington to focus on each of the following?	Creating a diverse, inclusive, and fair community	High priority		48%
		Moderate priority		34%
		Low priority		8%
		Not a priority		10%
	Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in jobs	High priority		46%
		Moderate priority		35%
		Low priority		10%
		Not a priority		9%
	Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in housing	High priority		50%
		Moderate priority		32%
		Low priority		10%
		Not a priority		8%
	Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in health	High priority		48%
		Moderate priority		31%
		Low priority		12%
		Not a priority		9%
	Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in education	High priority		58%
		Moderate priority		25%

		Moderate priority	
		Low priority	7%
		Not a priority	9%
	Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in the criminal justice system	High priority	59%
		Moderate priority	24%
		Low priority	9%
		Not a priority	9%
	Hiring more diverse staff	High priority	35%
		Moderate priority	36%
		Low priority	14%
		Not a priority	15%
	Recruiting diverse people into positions of local government leadership	High priority	42%
		Moderate priority	32%
		Low priority	12%
		Not a priority	14%
We know the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging in many ways. Please rate how much of a problem, if at all, the following are for your household CURRENTLY.	Loss of employment income	Major problem	9%
		Moderate problem	11%
		Minor problem	13%
		Not a problem	66%
	Loss of income from retirement savings	Major problem	6%
		Moderate problem	12%
		Minor problem	13%
		Not a problem	69%
	Loss of housing	Major problem	2%
		Moderate problem	4%
		Minor problem	4%
		Not a problem	90%
	Lack of paid sick leave or time off benefits from employer	Major problem	4%
		Moderate problem	8%
		Minor problem	9%
		Not a problem	78%

XI. 2017-2020
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

In April 2016, the City of Bloomington's leadership team and staff engaged with the City Council on a strategic planning process for the three-year period of 2017- 2020. The strategic plan consisted of a set of six strategic priorities – issues of highest priority for the City Council. The six strategic priorities were:
- Community amenities
- Community image
- Focused renewal
- Environmental sustainability
- High quality service delivery
- Inclusion and equity

Within each strategic priority was a set of desired outcomes, key outcome indicators, and performance targets which described expected results and how the results would be measured. In May - June 2016, City staff and community partners developed strategic initiatives for each priority that defined the actions that would be taken to achieve the targeted outcomes.

The City Council amended the strategic plan in February 2020 to add "engagement and transparency" as a seventh strategic priority. Since communication and engagement are key components of most City projects and initiatives, this priority encouraged staff and Council to think more intentionally about when it was appropriate to use various forms of engagement (ranging from the most basic tactic of informing, all the way to empowerment). This priority also put an emphasis on how the City communicates its plans and expectations with residents and stakeholders.

In early 2021, the City Council decided to continue its strategic plan through the end of 2021. The Council also added the following initiatives under three of its strategic priorities:
- Environmental sustainability: Enhance natural resources
- Focused renewal: Home ownership opportunities; diversity local economy; neighborhood commercial nodes
- High quality service delivery: Staff innovation/boldness

The City Council received progress reports from staff for each of its strategic priorities on a quarterly basis. These quarterly updates were made available to the public on the City's website.

Attached is a chart of the original strategic plan indicating desired outcomes, key outcome indicators, performance targets and strategic initiatives for each priority. Also enclosed is a summary of how the City performed in in meeting the performance targets for each strategic initiative.

City of Bloomington- Strategic Plan Summary 2017-2020

Strategic Priority	Desired Outcome	Key Outcome Indicator	Performance Target	Strategic Initiatives
Community Amenities- Maintain and Expand	Comprehensive funding strategy for capital needs	• Executive summary • project status • Funding analyses	Adopted Q2 2018	a. Expand CIP to include all capital needs. The CIP financial reports should only include the project financial portion of the City, Port and HRA. b. Develop plan based on recommendations of community center taskforce c. Create customized, community engagement strategies for City-owned amenities and park/recreation facilities
	Community center decision	• Community support analysis • Task force feedback	Following task force input, series of City Council decisions on whether to move forward, and if so, site options, funding strategies, etc., starting in January 2017	
	Strong support for city- owned amenities and park/recreation facilities	Feedback/survey	Majority of survey responses indicate strong support for facilities and parks	
Community Image	One Bloomington	• Surveys • Feedback statements • Social media posts	One Bloomington marketing campaign adopted by Q3 2017	a. Create a #OneBloomington branding and marketing campaign b. Develop comprehensive media strategies c. Establish joint marketing strategy with school district d. Develop art and placemaking plan for entire city
	Positive Image of Bloomington	• Stories – all media • Survey/feedback	85% of residents report favorable image	
	Joint marketing with school district	Annual report on joint marketing	3 marketing activities with school district	
Environmental Sustainability	Reduce citywide carbon footprint	Total CHG per capita regional indicator index	Reduce Bloomington's tons per capita every year	a. Establish an environmental sustainability commission b. Maintain and update water reports c. Create a solid waste diversion plan
	Improve surface water quality	List of compliance reports	Meet adopted standard for each water body	
	Reduce volumes delivered to landfills/ incinerators	Tonnage	10% reduction in tonnage	

Focused Renewal	More affordable housing	Annual affordable housing report to City Council	Meet Met Council 2030 affordable housing target	a. Create a developer & stakeholder engagement plan, including strategies to meet targets
	Renew priority neighborhood commercial nodes	Node renewal process reports	Meet adopted schedule	b. Adopt a strategy and funding for neighborhood commercial renewal
	Successful neighborhood renewal innovation	Renewal project reports	Council and neighborhood agree on successful project innovation	c. Establish resident engagement on neighborhood innovation and improvement
High Quality Service Delivery	Financial sustainability of all funds	All Council approved budget should have long-term financial plans (5-15 year projections)	Each of the approved budgets should include working capital goals and actual/projected working capital balances. The actual/projected working capital balances should be at 80% or better of the working capital goal.	a. Establish financial sustainability targets and standards
	Meet customer expectations	• Customer feedback - Surveys • Feedback using community engagement tools (focus groups, etc.)	85% satisfied customers	b. Implement High Performing Organization (HPO) training and incorporate five service areas for targeted customer service improvement
	Improved customer service	Tracking reports—five service areas	Meet targeted improvement levels in five areas as determined by survey results, staff analysis and community/customer feedback	

Inclusion and Equity	More diverse advisory boards	Board rosters	Composition of boards is reflective of the community	a. Create a leadership cohort program for underrepresented populations
	More diverse workforce	Annual reports, rosters	Workforce is reflective of the community	b. Expand marketing and outreach program to underrepresented and underserved populations
	More diverse program participation	Program rosters	Increase in share of program participants who identify as racial or ethnic minorities	c. Adopt pathways and internship programs that target underrepresented populations
				d. Create a hiring and retention strategy for people of color
				e. Train city staff on diversity
				f. Create a racial equity toolkit

Performance target outcomes

Community Amenities

Comprehensive funding strategy for capital needs

Performance Target: Capital Improvement Plan adopted Q2 2018.

Update: The 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is adopted by City Council before December 31 of each year. The performance target was intended to align the timing of the CIP with the adoption of the yearly budget. The 2021-2030 CIP was adopted December 21, 2020.

Community center decision

Performance Target: Following task force input, series of City Council decisions on whether to move forward, and if so, site options, funding strategies, etc., starting in January 2017.

Update: In December 2019, the City Council decided that a proposal for a community center design at Valley View Park was not viable and no formal action was taken. The need for facility and park investments was addressed in the Park System Master Plan, adopted in August 2021. The plan includes a comparison with benchmark communities and national standards for recreation facilities.

Strong support for City-owned amenities and park/recreation facilities

Performance Target: Majority of survey responses indicate strong support for facilities and parks.

Update: Below are the percentages of respondents to the annual National Community Survey of Bloomington residents who rated Bloomington's parks and recreational facilities as excellent or good:

	City Parks	Recreation Centers or Facilities
2016	87%	74%
2017	89%	77%
2018	88%	74%
2019	91%	75%
2020	89%	71%
2021	87%	74%

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Community Image

One Bloomington

Performance Target: One Bloomington marketing campaign adopted by Q3 2017.

Update: Since launching the One Bloomington marketing campaign in 2017, the City has continuously promoted each of the One Bloomington strategic priorities to the community through video, cable television, print, social media and events such as the State of the City.

Positive image of Bloomington

Performance Target: 85% of residents report favorable image.

Update: The percentage of respondents to the annual National Community Survey of Bloomington residents who rated Bloomington's overall image as excellent since 2016 is reported below:

	Overall Image
2016	76%
2017	81%
2018	81%
2019	80%
2020	79%
2021	75%

Joint marketing with school district

Performance Target: Three marketing activities with school district.

Update: Joint marketing efforts have included:

1. Promotion of School-City partnership and joint activities;
2. Targeted promotion of the School District's activities and achievements via print, video and State of the City events;
3. Use of the City's communications channels and resources to highlight and market specific school activities.

Environmental Sustainability

Reduce citywide carbon footprint

Performance Target: Reduce Bloomington's greenhouse gas emissions with an energy-related performance target of 75% reduction by 2035.

Update: The City tracks Bloomington's natural gas and electricity emissions savings on an annual basis.

Improve surface water quality

Performance Target: Meet adopted standard for each water body.

Update: Update: 2020 surface water monitoring results indicated the 2018 Normandale Lake project has reduced frequency and biomass of curly-leaf pondweed. 2020 summer averages for water quality indicators met state shallow lake standards for chlorophyll a concentration and Secchi disc transparency depth, but exceeded standards for total phosphorus concentration. Chloride concentrations were found to be below the chronic MPCA criterion.

Hyland Lake was listed as impaired for nutrients by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2016. The City worked with Three Rivers Park District to support several years of curly-leaf pondweed treatments. In 2019, Three Rivers Park District completed an alum treatment on Hyland Lake in partnership with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. Surface water quality monitoring results for 2020 found Hyland Lake to be meeting state standards for chlorophyll a concentration, secchi disc transparency depth, and total phosphorus concentration. Monitoring efforts will continue.

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Reduce volumes delivered to landfills/incinerators

Performance Target: 10% reduction in tonnage.
Update: In 2019, the diversion rate was 27%. The estimated residential solid waste diversion rate for 2020 was 36%. New in 2020, the diversion rate included the estimated tons of yard waste composted based on direction from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The inclusion of yard waste composting in the overall estimated residential diversion rate for 2020 is the main reason for the reported 9% increase in diversion.

Estimated residential diversion rate = Estimated residential waste diverted (curbside recycling, estimated curbside yard waste, estimated community organics drop-offs, curbside cleanup appliance recycling) divided by residential waste generation (curbside trash collection, curbside cleanup trash, curbside recycling, curbside yard waste collection, community organics drop-offs, and curbside cleanup appliance recycling).

Enhance natural resources (added Q1 2021)

Performance Target: Identify a list of projects for resident participation/partnership; identify grant-funding resources and other interagency/foundation funding opportunities; explore whether there are ways the City could knit "community" together for these projects.
Update: The Sustainability Commission worked with Parks and Recreation and Park Maintenance staff to develop activities in 2021 designed to engage residents and bring people together around natural resources. These included: Earth Day Celebration; garlic mustard pull at Parker's Picnic Grounds; tree planting at Countryside Park, Tarnhill Park and River Ridge playlot; and a buckthorn bust/Zumba event.

The Park System Master Plan is recommending the creation of a natural resources management plan that will develop a priority list of restoration projects and suggest potential funding sources for completing the work. It is anticipated that a focus on natural resources restoration will continue to be a significant part of the Sustainability Commission's work plan in 2022.

Focused Renewal

More affordable housing

Performance Target: Meet Met Council 2030 affordable housing target.
Update: The development pipeline continues to grow with affordable housing units. Development of affordable units is at 72% of the Metropolitan Council's 2030 affordable housing target and is on track to exceed the City's goals.

Renew priority neighborhood commercial nodes

Performance Target: Meet adopted schedule.
Update: Redevelopment strategies for Bloomington's top three neighborhood commercial nodes – Old Cedar Avenue and Old Shakopee Road, 98th Street and Nicollet Avenue, and Portland Avenue and American Boulevard – were identified and prioritization was completed. There has not been as much opportunity for commercial redevelopment.

Successful neighborhood renewal innovation

Performance Target: Council and neighborhood agree on successful project innovation.
Update: The 2019 Neighborhood Focus Area program was administered as well as the Curb Appeal Loan Program. In 2020, 51 home improvement program loans were completed that included a focus on exterior improvements. The loans were offered citywide to income-qualified homeowners at a maximum of $35,000. The Curb Appeal loan program was paused in 2020 due to declining participation, as homeowners opted for the citywide home improvement loan program.

Home ownership opportunities (added Q1 2021)

Performance Target: Research home ownership opportunities in other cities and evaluate their applicability to Bloomington; develop/enhance a marketing program; follow the research of the Federal Reserve Bank on home ownership; study flexible zoning and land use policies regarding R-1 districts.

Update: A City-sponsored down payment assistance program, including marketing strategies, will be recommended by fourth quarter 2021. Federal Reserve Bank home ownership research has been followed and staff were included in ongoing focus groups and conversations. A project to review and revise zoning standards for single family dwellings, two-family dwellings and accessory dwelling units is underway, with completion anticipated in the first half of 2022.

Diversify local economy (added Q1 2021)

Performance Target: Assess staff/organizational capacity for traditional economic development activity; research establishment of an Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Update: The Bloomington Port Authority has the statutory powers of an Economic Development Authority and more. Whether the City, Port Authority and Housing and Redevelopment Authority should reorganize to address Economic Development Authority activities, rebrand or add an EDA will be the subject of a service assessment scheduled for completion in fourth quarter 2021. The service assessment will include an analysis of staffing needs to add EDA functionality.

Neighborhood commercial nodes (added Q1 2021)

Performance Target: Spur redevelopment with economic development/expansion diversification ideas.

Update: Opportunity for commercial redevelopment in additional areas has been identified and currently in varying stages of the redevelopment process. The Lyndale Avenue Retrofit, 90th Street and Penn Avenue, Portland Avenue and American Boulevard, Penn American District, 98th Street Station Plan and the small business survey will help direct future economic development support.

High Quality Service Delivery

Financial sustainability of all funds

Performance Target: Each of the approved budgets should include working capital goals and actual/projected working capital balances. The actual/projected working capital balances should be at 80% or better of the working capital goal.

Update: Of 32 budgeted funds, 24 have working capital balances of more than 90% of their working capital goals.
- The General Fund working capital balance was at 118% of its working capital goal at the end of 2020.
- Four funds are between 60% to 90% of their working capital goals – Cemetery, Park Grants, Water Utility Operating, and Motor Vehicle.
- The Golf Course and Enhanced 911 funds are between 25% to 34% of their working capital goals.
- For the Accrued Benefits Fund, current assets were 82% of accrued long-term liabilities, with a goal of being 100% funded by 2032.

Long-term models for these funds show working capital balances achieving at least 80% of their goals in the next 2 to 7 years.

Meet customer expectations

Performance Target: 85% satisfied customers.

Update:

Customer service	Excellent or good
2016	79%
2017	85%
2018	85%
2019	82%
2020	86%
2021	88%

(Source: National Citizen Survey).

Improved customer service

Performance Target: Meet targeted improvement levels in five areas as determined by survey results, staff analysis and community/customer feedback.

Update: Service assessments that incorporated survey results, staff analyses and community/customer feedback were completed in six areas:

- 2017 – Print Shop
- 2018 – Public Health, Human Services (which was restructured into the Community Outreach and Engagement Division)
- 2020 – Fleet Maintenance, Fire Services, Police Dispatch

Staff innovation/boldness (added Q1 2021)

Performance Target: Utilize rapid prototyping that focuses on refinement while implementing.

Update: Initiatives that utilized a rapid prototyping approach in 2021 have included:

- A new energy disclosure component of the Time of Sale housing evaluation that would provide property buyers with information on the energy performance of the home, bringing visibility and value to home energy improvements.
- The proposed large building benchmarking ordinance would require large commercial, multifamily, and public buildings to be benchmarked annually in order to address the City's community development and climate goals.
- An ordinance amendment that prohibits the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, and sunset the availability of new tobacco retail licenses in the city in order to protect youth and marginalized communities from the harms of commercial tobacco products.
- The Just Deeds project, which is focused on helping owners remove discriminatory covenants from properties.
- An equitable contracting microbusiness, which is applying a racial equity lens to the City's purchasing procedures in order to break down barriers and encourage more small, minority-owned, women-owned and underutilized businesses to engage with the City.
- New components to the City's recruitment process such as a search committee and recruitment plan designed to increase the diversity of the organization's workforce so that it mirror's Bloomington's population and increases diversity in leadership positions.
- A racial equity impact assessment tool that integrates explicit consideration of racial equity in City decisions, including policies, practices, programs and budgets.

Inclusion and Equity

More diverse advisory boards

Performance Target: Composition of boards is reflective of the community.

Update:

Boards and Commissions – August 2021*			Bloomington Residents**	
Asian	4	6%	Asian	6.6%
Black	7	10%	Black	9.8%
Hispanic/Latinx	3	4%	Hispanic/Latinx	9.9%
Native American	0	0%	Native American	0.5%
Other	2	3%	Other	5.2%
White	37	54%	White	68.1%
Unknown	16	23%	Unknown	0%
TOTAL	69	100%		100%

*Does not include Charter Commission members
**2020 US Census

More diverse workforce

Performance Target: Workforce is reflective of the community.

Update:

Full-Time Staff – August 2021			Bloomington Residents*	
Asian	17	3.1%	Asian	6.6%
Black	22	4.1%	Black	9.8%
Hispanic/Latinx	17	3.1%	Hispanic/Latinx	9.9%
Native American	2	0.4%	Native American	0.5%
Other Race	3	0.6%	Other Race	5.2%
White	480	88.7%	White	68.1%
TOTAL	541	100%		100%

**2020 US Census*

More diverse program participation

Performance Target: Increase in share of program participants who identify as racial or ethnic minorities.

Update: Excluding certain select areas, program participation data is generally not collected and disaggregated by race by the City. The Racial Equity Business Plan adopted by the City Council commits to tracking outreach event participation by race. The City has the opportunity to begin tracking event participation by utilizing some version of contact cards at events and/or requesting the information via registration channels.

Engagement and Transparency (added Q1 2020)

Performance Target: Ensure proactive communication around City projects and services and create multiple channels for civic engagement and feedback.

Update: The Community Outreach and Engagement Division was established in 2019 to use innovative and authentic approaches to facilitate, engage and connect with internal and external stakeholders. The division also serves as an advocate and change agent to ensure the community is considered, accounted for and heard in the development and delivery of programs and services.

Initiatives designed to ensure proactive communication around City projects and services have included:
- Let's Talk Bloomington, an online digital engagement tool for community conversations on current and future projects
- "Council Minute," a weekly video series hosted by Mayor Tim Busse featuring highlights from each City Council meeting and other City news.
- A change in the start time of City Council meetings from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. to provide more flexibility and opportunity for resident engagement.
- "Q & A with BPD," a video series where the police chief, police officers and staff answer questions from residents.
- Polco, a web-based survey tool to solicit real-time feedback.
- A series of public outreach events to solicit community input on the Park Master Plan and Lyndale Avenue Retrofit projects.
- A Community Budget Advisory Committee that engaged with the community on the City's budget and services to inform their recommendations on the 2021 budget for the City Council.
- Virtual meetings on a regular basis throughout the pandemic with Bloomington's faith communities, multi-unit housing managers, community leaders, seniors and congregate living facilities to provide information on City services and resources.

XII. KEY PLANS
AND INITIATIVES

Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan

The City started the process of updating its comprehensive plan - Forward 2040 - in 2016 by articulating a vision for Bloomington's future that reflects how Bloomington has, and continues to change. The City's population had remained relatively stable since 1970, but has become much more diverse and thousands of new jobs have been added. By 2040, the Metropolitan Council forecasts that Bloomington will add 6,000 additional residents and 17,000 additional jobs. To implement the vision, the Forward 2040 plan established a set of goals and policies to guide future land uses and investments in City services such as parks, community facilities, transportation, and sewer and water systems over the next 20 years.

Community engagement

Minnesota law requires all cities, counties and townships within the seven-county metropolitan region to update their comprehensive plan every 10 years. Community engagement is a cornerstone of the comprehensive planning process. In the summer of 2016, City employees hosted three town hall meetings to gather ideas and input from community. The meetings focused on topics identified as priorities for Bloomington's future, including: sustainability, diversity and engagement, and City amenities and aging infrastructure.

Identifying aging infrastructure

Much of Bloomington's public infrastructure (roads, parks, sewers, fire stations) and housing were built to accommodate the City's rapid growth in the '60s and '70s. While roads are routinely upgraded through the City's Pavement Management Program and private homes are continually renovated by their owners, other public infrastructure is nearing the end of its serviceable life and will need replacement in coming years. For example, the City's fire stations and some park buildings are more than 40 years old. There are also many sewer pipes and water mains that are more than 50 years old. These public facilities are critical to the quality of life in Bloomington and replacement must be done in a strategic manner.

Resident advisory committee

In September of 2016, the City Council appointed a resident advisory committee to assist staff with Forward 2040. Half of the advisory committee members were representatives from the City's various boards and commissions. The other half were residents. The advisory committee met monthly, beginning in October 2016 and through 2017. City staff worked with the advisory committee to draft policies and strategies, which were subject to public review in a series of town hall meetings that occurred in summer and fall 2017.

Public comment and recommendations

Many opportunities were provided for the public to comment on the recommendations in the draft Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan update in 2018 at various public events, including farmers markets, Summer Fete, Heritage Days and more. In late 2018, informational meetings and public hearings were held with the Bloomington City Council, Planning Commission, and other City advisory commissions. The purpose of these meetings was to get feedback and direction on key aspects of the plan, such as: the vision, identification of priority issues and opportunities, and goals and strategies.

The final plan

A final draft of the Forward 2040 plan was submitted for the Metropolitan Council's review in December 2018. The Metropolitan Council approved the plan in July 2019 and the City Council adopted the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update in August 2019. The adopted Forward 2040 document addresses comments received during the review and community engagement processes. Read the plan at blm.mn/plan/forward-2040-documents.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE: A LOOK AT THE DATA

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Opportunity Housing Ordinance

The City's Opportunity Housing ordinance promotes the development of new affordable housing and the preservation of existing naturally occurring affordable housing while furthering private market development in the city. As a result of the ordinance, developers will now offer at least 9% affordable units in all newly constructed and renovated housing developments of 20 units or more. The City has also increased flexibility in building and design requirements, reduced fees, expedited the approval process and increased financial resources available to housing developers as incentives to produce affordable housing.

Housing is affordable when rent or mortgage costs are equal to 30% or less of a household's income. The HRA's affordable housing goals include promoting the development of new affordable housing and preservation of existing naturally occurring affordable housing while furthering private market development.

2030 Goal: Preserve naturally occurring affordable housing

There are 4,602 naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) rental units in 94 apartment buildings throughout Bloomington. HRA is developing community engagement strategies to improve communications with property owners and tenants to preserve NOAH units. Considering the economic impacts of COVID-19, the preservation of NOAH property is more crucial now than ever. HRA is leveraging sources for development activities that assist in the stabilization of NOAH units, such as acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and new construction.

2030 Goal: Develop 845 new affordable units

HRA is off to a strong start in supporting the need for both affordable and market rate rental housing in the City since the launch of the Opportunity Housing Ordinance and establishment of a $15 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2019.

Park System Master Plan

In August 2021, the City Council adopted the Park System Master Plan, which provides a clear action plan and guidance for improvements to Bloomington's parks, trails, facilities, recreational programs and green spaces.

"We want to ensure that generations to come will benefit from the continued enjoyment of Bloomington's beautiful parks and amenities," Stephanie Tungseth, Chair of the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission said. "The thoughtful and methodical framework of the plan will enable the City of Bloomington to have the flexibility needed to continually meet the needs of its dynamic and ever-changing community and the community's needs."

Ensuring the vibrancy of parks and green spaces for decades to come

The purpose of the Park System Master Plan was to establish a clear, 20-year vision for the Bloomington park system, which includes parks, trails, recreation, and open space. It will serve as a blueprint for planning and completing park improvements, program planning, and budgeting to serve the needs of the community.

The development of the plan took nearly two years. "This plan is what it is today due to the staff's desire and attempts at soliciting our community's engagement, their prioritization to meaningfully integrate the community feedback into the plan, and their extensive data-driven research," PARC Member Laura Perreault said.

A plan developed with extensive community engagement

The extensive community engagement process that occurred between November 2019 and June 2021 included a statistically valid survey, stakeholder interviews, listening sessions, conversations with residents and staff, and online interactive engagement via project bloom! and the City's Let's Talk Bloomington site.

Four "Priority Park Elements" established

Based on the extensive engagement and participation of the public, staff, PARC and City Council in the planning process, four "Priority Park Elements" were established:

- Natural resources
- Park system need—level of service
- Trails and mobility
- Equity

For more information about the plan, visit blm.mn/park-master-plan.

BLOOMINGTON.
tomorrow. together.

01

OUR CITY + OUR PARKS

SECTION CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION + PURPOSE

The City of Bloomington park and recreation system is extensive. 97 parks, natural areas, 45 playgrounds, 2 golf courses, regional parks, cultural resources, and special use facilities including the Bloomington Ice Garden, Center for the Arts, and Family Aquatic Center all create the Park System for Minnesota's 5th largest City. These parks and facilities have been identified by over 80% of city residents as contributing highly to their quality of life. Additionally, the Minnesota River Valley Corridor and Hyland Regional Park are unique features that leave an indelible mark on the City and it's park system. Neighborhood and Community parks are distributed throughout the City so that 87% of residents are within a 10-minute walk from parks or green space. Parks, open spaces, and facilities consist of athletic fields, hockey rinks, aquatics facilities, nature trails and wetlands, amphitheaters, Art Centers, playgrounds, and various sport courts among other amenities. These features are a critical part of everyday resident's lives and make up 36% of Bloomington's land area.

Bloomington is at the crossroads of major transportation infrastructure with roads, the MSP airport, and 4 major highway crossings at the Minnesota River. The Mall of America, Hyland Ski Hill and Hyland Play Area are regional destinations along with the River Bottoms mountain bike trail and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters.

There are park features, experiences, and amenities found in Bloomington that are unique to larger Metropolitan Cities in Minnesota. The foundational structure of Bloomington's Park System is well built and carries the potential for an exceptional park system because of it's built in advantages. However, there are many and varied opportunities for improvement. Bloomington's parks and recreation facilities (Bloomington Ice Garden, Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, Creekside Community Center, Dwan Golf Course and Hyland Greens Golf Course) were originally constructed during the 1960's and '70's and have not been properly updated. Many of these parks were constructed at the same time with the same design formula and elements. This has left a large number of parks outdated and with a lack of variety. Most importantly, the City of Bloomington and it's residents have changed considerably since the original parks were developed. Bloomington has become more diverse and older. An over-riding goal of this Park System Master Plan is to update the parks and make them a more integral part of their surrounding neighborhoods by giving the community a voice in what they want to see their parks become. This Master Plan builds on the framework of the existing system to help Bloomington's Parks realize their full potential and truly ***bloom!***

The Park System Master Plan is a road map for planning and completing park improvements. The purpose for developing the Master Plan is to guide the Department's efforts to meet the community's expectations for parks,

recreation facilities, programs, art activities, services and experiences for the benefit of all people who live in Bloomington. The Park System Master Plan will use a summary of the community input received to create a 20-year vision for Bloomington's parks, trails, facilities and programs. This plan will guide City decisions for individual park improvement project and new programming in the future.

Due to the age of our parks, changing community needs and trends in recreation, there will always be more needs and opportunities than funding. The new Park System Master Plan will help decide which parks to focus on first and what new amenities and park experiences should be included. We will use the Plan and additional community input to determine the types of parks and park amenities needed to serve the population today and in the future.

Key areas of focus for the Park System Master Plan include:

- Evaluation of existing Park System features, amenities and services related to comparable communities and accepted national standards to identify where changes are warranted
- Development of a prioritization strategy to guide decision-making and investments in the Park System
- Identifying and prioritizing Park System needs, desires and interests of the community for the next 20 years based on demographic, economic and social changes and input from a Community Needs Assessment
- Establishing a detailed implementation program for achieving the plan vision including the identification of funding opportunities and high-level cost estimates for high-priority actions
- Identifying best practices to ensure the Park System is managed and maintained in a sustainable and equitable manner
- Involving a robust community and stakeholder engagement

Large group shelter at Bush Lake Park

Bloomington Aquatic Center

THE DOCUMENT + PROCESS

This Plan marks the beginning of a transformation for Bloomington Parks to ensure we are providing access to parks, trails, facilities, and programs that people need as well as where and when people need them most.

The plan promotes city-wide solutions, but also drills down to neighborhood issues and parks. It includes recommendations for improving equity, accessibility, natural resource protection and access, operations and maintenance, use and park experiences that are distinct to Bloomington.

These recommendations, and the needs they are designed to respond to, have been developed through a thorough assessment of the City's existing infrastructure, analysis of the City and parks department organization, existing strategic planning guidance, and extensive stakeholder and community engagement over the course of the last year. This process has revealed the magnitude of effort to improving the park system and understanding and the importance of alignment to need. Parks staff recognize that this is not the destination in the journey, but a means and commitment to continue improvement.

After the Draft Plan is tested with the community to ensure it responds to the themes, concerns, and needs expressed during community engagement efforts, the City of Bloomington will respond to the recommendations and proposed actions and use the plan to undertake the ongoing effort of transforming the park system.

This is an adaptive plan that will be tracked, reported against and updated on an annual basis. Staff is already looking ahead to refreshing the Master Plan as transformational elements are achieved. The next generation of the plan is seen as an opportunity to create something even better, informed by further research and tracking, and reflecting the ever-changing context of Bloomington as it continues to evolve.

PROCESS

The process of creating the master plan lasted over 18-months and included significant community engagement at multiple points throughout the process. The major phases of the Park System Master Plan included Discover, Dream and Develop.

Discover included park tours, research, and most important - extensive public engagement including a statistically valid survey, stakeholder interviews, and larger group town hall style meetings. The Dream phase explored the possibilities and opportunities that exist for the park system in Bloomington including significant reinvestment land redevelopment connections. Develop lays out a framework with actions and policies for realizing the Dream of bloom!

This document is to serve the City planners and officials as a tool for the future decision making within the parks and recreation system. The ability to conduct this initiative was provided through a process of gathering essential input from the public through multiple engagement sessions, stakeholder meetings, as well as through valuable City official insight.
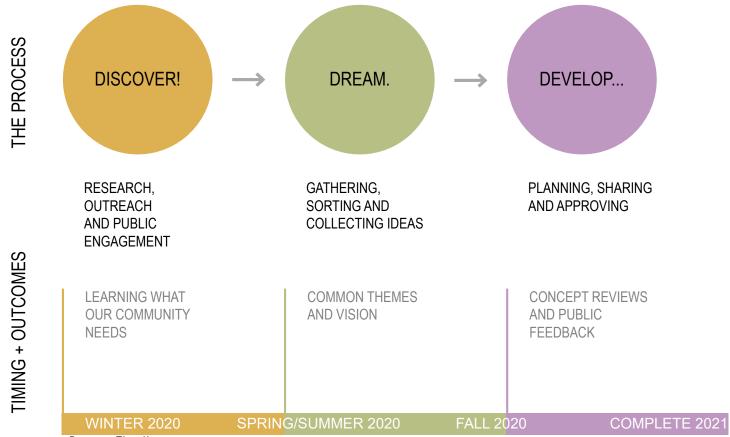
THE PROCESS

DISCOVER! → **DREAM.** → **DEVELOP...**

RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

GATHERING, SORTING AND COLLECTING IDEAS

PLANNING, SHARING AND APPROVING

TIMING + OUTCOMES

LEARNING WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

COMMON THEMES AND VISION

CONCEPT REVIEWS AND PUBLIC FEEDBACK

WINTER 2020 | SPRING/SUMMER 2020 | FALL 2020 | COMPLETE 2021

Figure 1-1: Process Timeline

This document is composed of four parts that together form a bold vision for reinventing a parks system that serves ALL residents, responds to demographic changes and recreational trends, reinvests in this essential city service, creates a framework for equitable community investment and processes, and continues to make the City of Bloomington a destination city with a high quality of life.

01 OUR CITY + OUR PARKS

This section lays the groundwork for the purpose and intent of the master plan, and how the current park system fits into the overall vision of the City of Bloomington.

02 THE PARKS BLOOMINGTON HAS

A detailed breakdown of Bloomington's current park system and history set the stage for understanding the issues and opportunities present. Day to day performance and impacts of COVID-19 are evaluated for learning opportunities.

03 THE PARKS BLOOMINGTON NEEDS

National and regional park trends, community engagement results, and big picture vision is provided in this section. An aspirational picture of a park system that works for all residents is painted.

04 HOW BLOOMINGTON GETS THERE

The last section provides a framework for implementation of the park system vision, mission, and guiding principles. The framework is action oriented and focused on key categories.

PRIORITY PARK ELEMENTS

PARK ELEMENT 01   NATURAL RESOURCES

Protect and restore natural resources to sustain a healthy, diverse and balanced natural park system for all to enjoy and understand.

PARK ELEMENT 02   PARK NEEDS (LEVEL OF SERVICE)

Achieve an appropriate balance of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and experiences in each planning area to support access to parks, trails, sports facilities, and recreation amenities that residents want and need.

PARK ELEMENT 03   TRAILS AND MOBILITY

Implement past planning recommendations and integrate parks as key destinations into the overall transportation system. Provide a variety of interesting and safe trail experiences inside parks to encourage mobility as recreation.

PARK ELEMENT 04   EQUITY AND ACCESS

Build equity and accessibility into the park system to provide exceptional parks and recreation opportunities for ALL residents that meet their needs, and their community's needs.

ADDITIONAL PARK ELEMENTS

PARK ELEMENT 05   SUSTAINABILITY

Use sustainability best practices in projects to mitigate climate change and conserve natural resources.

PARK ELEMENT 06   ARTS AND PLACEMAKING

Work with existing successful arts and placemaking organizations to implement more artistic elements into the park system.

PARK ELEMENT 07   CORE SERVICES - EXPANDING USER BASE

Provide additional Health, Fitness, Environmental Educational, Recreational, Sports and Special Event Experiences.

PARK ELEMENT 08   ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Create an organizational structure that provides the best customer experience and cost management for the future of the Department.

PARK ELEMENT 09   ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET ENHANCEMENT

Promote economic development and establish a budget that matches the expectations of the community.

PARK ELEMENT 10   POLICY UPDATES

Create policies that provide flexibility for the Director to operate efficiently and effectively to achieve the Vision for the Master Plan.

PARK ELEMENT 11   EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Create Key Performance Metrics to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department.

PARK ELEMENT 12   CULTURAL RESOURCES

Understand, respect, and honor the cultural resources throughout the City and beyond that connect it to the past, present, and future.

THE BIG PICTURE

Bloomington's parks have been a critical element of city living throughout the City's history and their importance has only increased. During the process of this Master Plan COVID-19 shut downs and distancing measures only served to reinforce the importance of accessible open space, trails, and outdoor amenities and activities. People throughout the state and metro were drawn to parks in record numbers and Bloomington was no exception. Google Community Mobility Reports tracked changes in mobility patterns for people during COVID-19. While visits to retail, recreation, workplaces, and grocery all plummeted in the last year, park visitation in Hennepin County increased by +118 over historic baseline for May 2021.

Parks, trails, and recreation are essential city services and provide exceptional health, social, community, and environmental benefits. Residents recognize their value and voice their opinion in annual surveys in which 80%+ of respondents identify parks as being an important part of their high quality of life. The master plan process included significant community engagement efforts with the general public, key stakeholders, city leadership, and others to determine the vision for the park system moving forward. A vision statement, mission, and four key guiding principles were established that will guide the park system to *bloom!*

VISION STATEMENT:

The Vision Statement presents the Bloomington Parks and Recreation desire for the future:

Bloomington Parks and Recreation envisions an accessible system of interconnected vibrant parks, diverse recreation facilities, sustainable park resources and engaging recreation programs and experiences that contribute to healthy individuals and families, a thriving economy and a high quality of life in the City of Bloomington.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission statement describes how Bloomington Parks and Recreation will implement the vision:

The mission of Bloomington Parks and Recreation is to build our sense of community and enhance quality of life for all current residents, potential residents, and visitors through the management of high-quality parks and natural areas and by making parks accessible and providing exceptional experiences through innovative recreation programs, art activities, park facilities, and private partnership connections.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: The following guiding principles will shape the Parks Departments actions and approaches in carrying out their vision and mission. These principles will guide staff in closing the gap between strategies and delivery:

01

BE BLOOMINGTON

- Re-establish parks and trails as the critical part of Bloomington's image and neighborhood's identity
- Connect the City with premier parks, safe trails, and highly desired facilities and programs
- Provide exceptional customer experiences and services
- Link the community together through quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs
- Organize and unleash the volunteer and charitable potential of Bloomington residents to improve parks and build community
- Celebrate the uniqueness of Bloomington through engagement, arts activities, and creative placemaking in the parks

BE ESSENTIAL

- Be fiscally responsible stewards of entrusted funds
- Challenge the Staff to learn and grow
- Create capacity to endure and thrive
- Collaborate with other departments and public agencies to maximize resources
- Manage all parks, recreation facilities and program services to measurable outcomes

BE RESILIENT

- Capitalize on Bloomington's unique natural resources with recreation opportunities that empower residents to preserve, restore, educate, and build resilience
- Ensure long-term sustainability of the park and recreation system by building economic, social, and environmental resilience
- Integrate environmental resilience throughout the park system to address the effects of climate change
- Ensure financial resilience through capital planning, partnerships, and operations and maintenance transparency
- Build new partnerships and evolve existing relationships with private, non-profit, and other governmental agencies

BE EQUITABLE

- Prioritize equity throughout the system to support all residents, celebrate diversity, and provide inclusiveness
- Strengthen all neighborhoods through diverse parks and trails that reflect surrounding neighborhoods
- Build relationships and prioritize community engagement
- Eliminate accessibility issues throughout the system including physical, financial, and social barriers

THE ROLE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Department is undergoing a transition from being a division within the City to its own department. This is an important evolution as it gives parks and recreation more control and responsibility for carrying out their mission. Parks are an essential city service and should function, invest, and be accountable as all other city services.

The importance of parks and recreation services have never been more apparent than in 2020 with the pandemic shutting a majority of the state down and limiting socialization, recreation, and other options for residents. People used parks and trails throughout the metro in record numbers, increasing visits between 70-140%. Minneapolis and St. Paul temporarily closed roads to automobiles and opened them to pedestrians to ease crowding and allow for social distancing. Bloomington saw a similar response from the public with full parks and trails throughout the year. COVID implications highlight what many in the City have known for years – parks and recreation are an essential public service and should function accordingly.

Parks are vital to creating and maintaining a city's quality of life, providing health and fitness opportunities, providing environmental resilience, and positively adding to the community's economic welfare. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) found that parks and recreation have three key values that make them essential services to communities:

- Economic value
- Health and environmental benefits
- Social importance

ECONOMIC VALUE

Parks add to a city's economy in a number of ways. Property values of private land in proximity to parks is consistently higher and increases property tax revenues. Parks and recreation programs can generate revenue directly from fees and charges, but also provide significant indirect revenues to local and regional economies from sports tournaments and special events such as arts, music, and holiday festivals. Economic activity from hospitality expenditures, tourism, fuel, recreational equipment sales, and many other private sector businesses is a well-established value to local economies and should be a prime focus of Bloomington. The city's transportation access, regional destinations, and hotel room capacity provide opportunities to capitalize on parkland hosted tournaments and events. A market analysis study should be completed to understand this economic value and potential in Bloomington.

A 2018 report by The George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis found that parks and recreation are an 'engine of substantial economic activity in communities' summarized in the following ways:

- Park and recreation departments are significant employers and their operations and capital spending generate positive impacts in local economies
- Investments create a 'virtuous cycle' where a higher quality of life community attracts workers and employers, which finally produces more jobs and private investment
- Local parks shape a community's image that can build a sense of place
- High quality of life communities and high-quality park amenities can be pivotal in decisions for businesses choosing to where to locate. Especially if they wish to attract specific employees and reside in community's that reflect their values
- Parks and trails can enhance a city's 'curb appeal' for businesses and visitors
- Many business owners and residents are introduced to city's as tourists or visitors – positive experiences can influence recruitment
- Park and recreation leaders have become involved in economic development planning and activities by building alliances and promoting the value of parks and recreation

01

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Health and the environment are consistently shown to be linked together. Access and proximity to healthy environments has positive health benefits for people. Parks provide space and infrastructure to improve physical and mental health, but their mere presence has also been shown to have positive effects to surrounding neighborhoods. Parks can provide other ecosystem services that create healthier environments by preserving habitat, providing green infrastructure, creating access to natural areas, educating citizens, and proactively managing natural areas. Bloomington's parks have health and environmental benefits in the following ways:
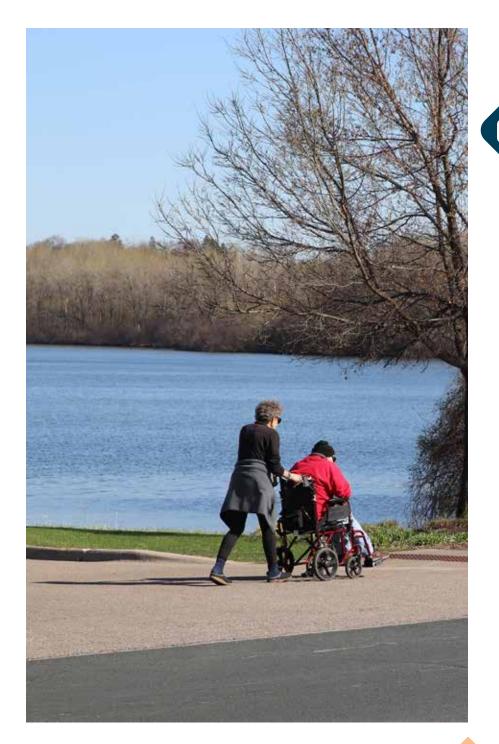
- Numerous studies show significant correlations to reduced stress, lowered blood pressure, and perceived physical health to the length of stay in visits to parks

- Parks and recreation programs can actively engage youth, adults, and seniors in healthy activities

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has found that creating, improving and promoting places to be physically active can improve individual and community health and result in a 25% increase of residents who exercise at least three times per week

- Parks improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve air quality, provide wildlife habitat and provide close to home opportunities to connect with nature

- The Trust for Public Land found that parks are significantly cooler in peak summertime heat, and can lower surrounding neighborhood temperatures up to ¼ mile away

- Preservation and conservation efforts in parks can help protect biological diversity

- A 2019 study in Frontiers Science news states that urban biodiversity reduces chronic disease because humans and microorganisms have a symbiotic relationship that relies on ecosystem fitness and biodiversity for optimal health

- Health and equity go hand-in-hand. Several studies have shown the link between the distribution of parks and urban tree canopy impact health and income. Areas with less parks and urban canopy typically associate with lower incomes, often in communities of color, where chronic disease is higher

01

SOCIAL CONNECTION AND EQUITY

The public nature of parks and recreation has always intended to be available for all people and serve everyone in the community. Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community. They provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life. Parks provide social connection and equity in Bloomington in the following ways:

- Nationally, parks and recreation services are often cited as one of the most important factors in surveys of how livable communities are.

- Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access.

- An ongoing study by the Trust for Public Land shows that over the past decade, voter approval rates for bond measures to acquire parks and conserve open space exceeds 75%. Clearly, the majority of the public views parks as an essential priority for government spending.

- Parks and recreation programs provide places for health and well-being that are accessible by persons of all ages and abilities, especially to those with disabilities.

- In recent Bloomington surveys, parks were highlighted as one of the primary elements that increased the quality of life for residents.

- Research by the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods indicates that community involvement in neighborhood parks is associated with lower levels of crime and vandalism.

- Access to parks and recreation opportunities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and to reduced juvenile delinquency.

- Parks have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community.

01

BLOOMINGTON PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The City of Bloomington has a total of 97 neighborhood, community, natural areas, regional parks, and specialty recreation facilities and over 9,000 acres of parkland which includes Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Preserve and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Park System contains 43 playgrounds, 40 miles of paved off-road trails, 18 picnic areas, two golf courses, an art center, indoor ice arena, outdoor aquatic center, a community/senior center, a swimming and recreational beach and a variety of athletic fields. Many of these facilities were built in the 1960s and 70s and are in need of renovation or updating.

The Park System also supports a comprehensive array of arts, recreation, leisure and cultural programs to a diverse population with a wide range of recreational needs. Recreation program opportunities include: adult athletic leagues, outdoor skating rinks, adaptive recreation and inclusion services, arts-in-the-parks, bandshell concert series, special events (Summer-Fete, Winter-Fete, Halloween party, egg hunt), River Rendezvous, golf, indoor figure skating/hockey, swimming, tennis, pickleball and summer playgrounds.

PARTNERSHIPS

The City has long maintained partnerships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Three Rivers Park District to provide public access to facilities and to operate programs. These partnerships have been critical to providing needed neighborhood or community facilities to the residents of Bloomington.

97 TOTAL PARKS IN BLOOMINGTON
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Natural Areas / Open Space
- Regional Parks
- Special Use Parks

2 Golf Courses

18 Picnic Areas

2 Dog Parks

23 Shelters & Pavilions

20 Outdoor Ice Rinks

43 Playgrounds

44 Miles Unpaved Trails

41 Miles Paved Trails

63 Baseball & Softball Fields

42 Outdoor Basketball Courts

49 Tennis Courts

8 Pickle Ball Courts

Figure 1-2: Bloomington Park System Overview

Figure 1-3: Bloomington Park Overview Map

01

Key
- Natural Areas
- Neighborhood Parks
- Special Park Areas
- Community Parks
- Regional Parks

CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
MINNESOTA

1 Bloominton Center for the Arts	17 Pleasant Playlot	33 Heritage Hills Park	49 Xavier Court Playlot
2 Brookside Park	18 Dupont Playlot	34 Hyland Greens Golf Course	50 Adelman Pond
3 Canterbury Oaks Pond	19 Soens Playlot	35 Hyland Hills Playlot	51 Barthel's Pond
4 Central Park	20 Westwood Park	36 Hyland Hills Tennis Courts	52 Bloomington Ice Garden
5 Columbus Playlot	21 Winchester Pond	37 Off-Leash Dog Area	53 Collegeview Park
6 Creekside Community Center	22 Xerxes Pond	38 Overlook Pond	54 Dupont Playlot
7 Creekside Park	23 Bill Warren Park	39 Quail Ridge Playlot	55 East Bush Lake Park
8 Dwan Golf Course	24 Bloomington Ferry Road	40 Rhodes Playlot	56 Girard Lake Park
9 Harrison Picnic Grounds	25 Boone Pond	41 Ridgeview Playground	57 Haeg Park
10 Kelly Park	26 Brye Park	42 Southglen Playground	58 Lincoln Park
11 Moir Park	27 Cavell Pond	43 Southwood Park	59 Logan Playlot
12 Mound Springs Park	28 Countryside Playground	44 Sunrise Park	60 Marsh Lake Park
13 Nine Mile Creek Park	29 Cranberry Park	45 Timberglade Pond	61 Marsh Lake Playfields
14 Nine Mile Playlot	30 Dred Scott	46 Veness Pond	62 Nord Myr Marsh
15 Old Town Hall	31 France Pond	47 Woodbridge Marsh	63 Norman Ridge Playlot
16 Parker's Picnic Grounds	32 Hampshire Hills Playlot	48 Wyoming Playlot	64 Normandale Lake Park

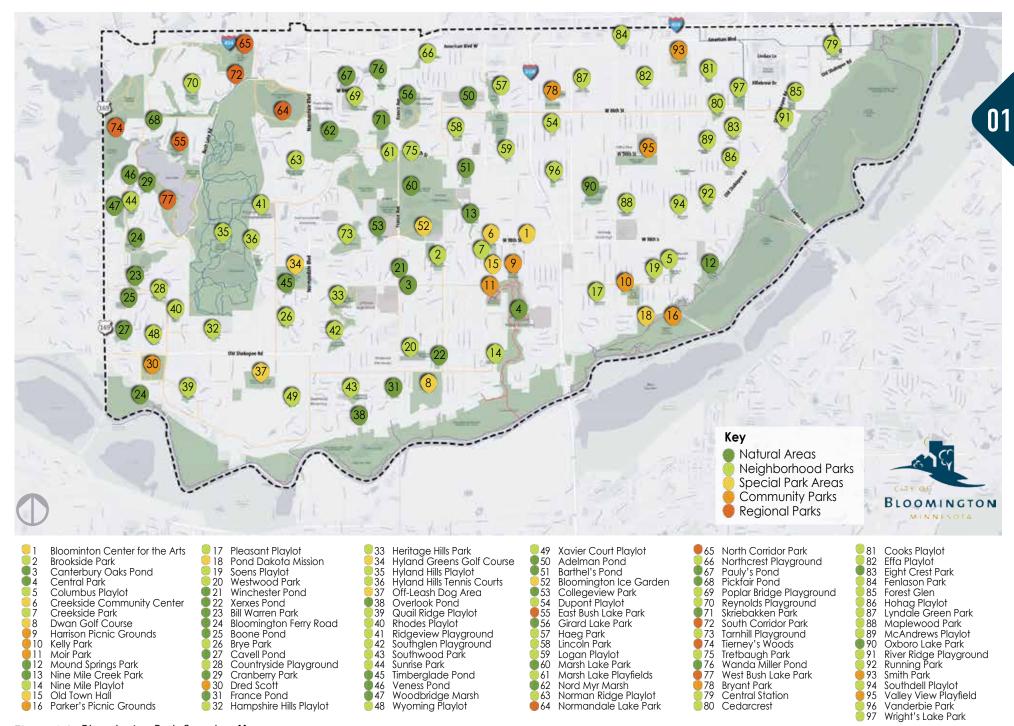|	
65 North Corridor Park	81 Cooks Playlot
66 Northcrest Playground	82 Effa Playlot
67 Pauly's Pond	83 Eight Crest Park
68 Pickfair Pond	84 Fenlason Park
69 Poplar Bridge Playground	85 Forest Glen
70 Reynolds Playground	86 Hohag Playlot
71 Skriebakken Park	87 Lyndale Green Park
72 South Corridor Park	88 Maplewood Park
73 Tarnhill Playground	89 McAndrews Playlot
74 Tierney's Woods	90 Oxboro Lake Park
75 Tretbaugh Park	91 River Ridge Playground
76 Wanda Miller Pond	92 Running Park
77 West Bush Lake Park	93 Smith Park
78 Bryant Park	94 Southdell Playlot
79 Central Station	95 Valley View Playfield
80 Cedarcrest	96 Vanderbie Park
	97 Wright's Lake Park

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

A key component of this Master Plan is a Demographics Analysis which provides a thorough understanding of the current demographic makeup and projected shifts in the local population. Bloomington's parks need to serve the residents and should reflect the neighborhoods that surround them. This analysis helps staff and planners understand what those neighborhoods look like.
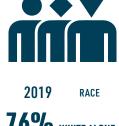
The Demographic Analysis describes the population within Bloomington's service area. This assessment is reflective of Bloomington's total population and its key characteristics such as age segments, race, ethnicity, and income levels. It is important to note that future projections are based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the analysis. This could have a significant bearing on the validity of the projected figures.

2019 TOTAL POPULATION	2019 TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	2019 MEDIAN AGE	2019 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	2019 RACE
88,812	**38,071**	**44.7**	**75,813**	**76%** WHITE ALONE

Figure 1-4: Demographic Analysis. Information Obtained from: U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI

METHODOLOGY

Demographic data used for the analysis was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau and from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the largest research and development organization dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and specializing in population projections and market trends. All data was acquired in August 2019 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2010 Census as well as estimates for 2019 and 2024 as obtained by ESRI. Straight line linear regression was utilized for 2029 and 2034 projections. The City's boundaries shown below were utilized for the demographic analysis (Figure 1-5).

LEGEND

- Park
- School /Institution
- - - City Boundary
- Walking Only Trails
- Regional Trails
- City Trails
- State Trails
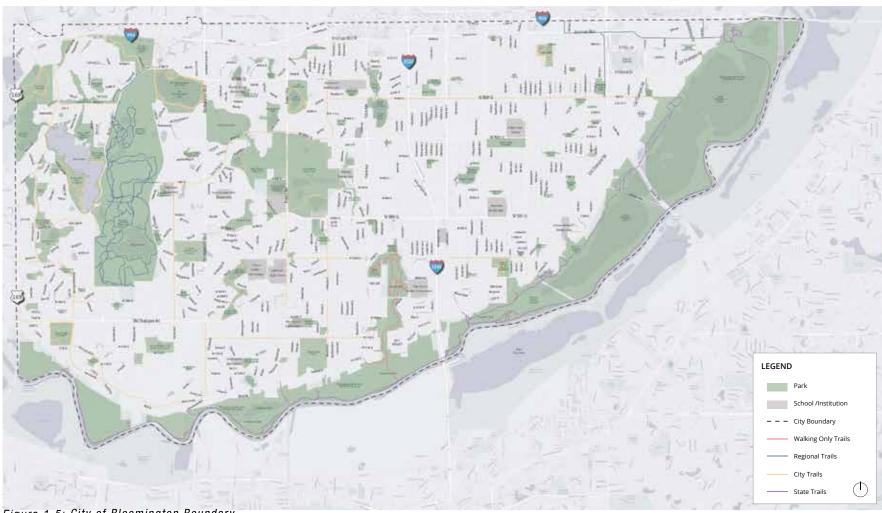
Figure 1-5: City of Bloomington Boundary

POPULATION

The City of Bloomington's population experienced an increase in growth within recent years, increasing 7.11% from 2010 to 2019 (0.79% per year). This is below the national annual growth rate of 0.85% (from 2010-2019). Similar to the population, the total number of households also experienced an increase in recent years (6.03% since 2010) with 0.67% per year.

Currently, the population is estimated at 88,812 individuals living within 38,071 households. Projecting ahead, the total population and total number of households are both expected to increase over the next 15 years. The 2034 predictions expect to have 99,874 residents living within 42,173 households (Figures 1-6 & 1-7).
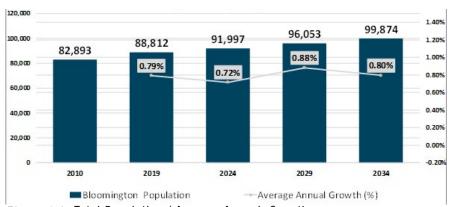
Figure 1-6: Total Population / Average Annual Growth
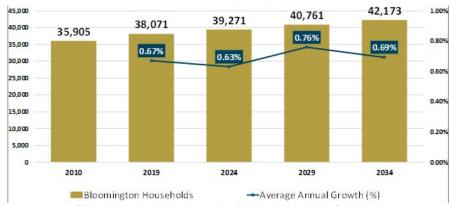
Figure 1-7: Total Number of Households / Average Annual Growth

AGE SEGMENT

Evaluating the City by age segments, currently the service area has a higher population in age segment of 55-74 (27%). A potential to grow to 30% of the population in the next 15 years. The City of Bloomington is already ahead of the aging national trend with the median age of 44.7 (Figure 1-8).

Legend: ■ 0-17 ■ 18-34 ■ 35-54 ■ 55-74 ■ 75+

Age	2010	2019	2024	2029	2034
75+	9%	11%	12%	13%	14%
55-74	23%	27%	26%	29%	30%
35-54	27%	24%	24%	23%	22%
18-34	21%	20%	19%	18%	17%
0-17	20%	18%	18%	18%	17%

Bloomington
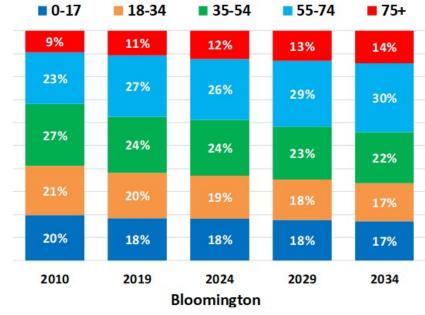
Figure 1-8: Population By Age Segments

RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as below. The Census 2010 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 2000 Census and earlier censuses; therefore, caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the US population over time. The latest (Census 2010) definitions and nomenclature are used within this analysis.

- American Indian – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment

- Asian – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam

- Black – This includes a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa

- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands

- White – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa

- Hispanic or Latino – This is an ethnic distinction, a subset of a race as defined by the Federal Government; this includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

Please Note: The Census Bureau defines Race as a person's self-identification with one or more of the following social groups: White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, or a combination of these. While Ethnicity is defined as whether a person is of Hispanic / Latino origin or not. **For this reason, the Hispanic / Latino ethnicity is viewed separate from race throughout this demographic analysis.**

RACE

Analyzing race, City's current population is primarily White Alone (76%). The 2019 estimate shows that (8.7%) of the population falls into the Black Alone category and Asian (7.5%) represent the next largest population groups. The City is less diverse than the national population, which is approximately (70%) White Alone, (13%) Black Alone, and (7%) Some Other Race. The predictions for 2034 expect the City's population to become (69%) White Alone, (11%) Black Alone, and (10%) Asian (Figure 1-9).
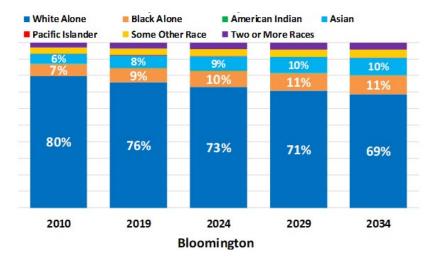

Figure 1-9: Population By Race

ETHNICITY

The City's population was also assessed based on Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, which, by the Census Bureau definition, is viewed independently from race. It is important to note that individuals who are Hispanic/Latino can also identify with any of the racial categories from above. Based on the current estimate for 2019, those of Hispanic/Latino origin represent just 7% of the City's current population, which is much lower than the national average (18% Hispanic/ Latino). The Hispanic/Latino population is expected to slightly grow over the next 15 years, to represent (9%) of the City's total population by 2034 (Figure 1-10).
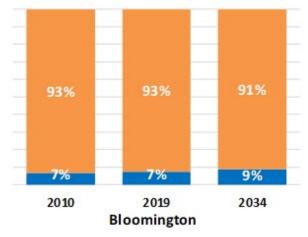
Figure 1-10: Population By Ethnicity

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The City's median household income ($75,813) is higher than the state ($69,559) and national ($60,548) levels. The City's per capita income ($43,800) is higher than both the state ($36,727) and national ($33,028) level. This may indicate a higher rate of disposable income among the population served and should be considered when developing financial sustainability within the City of Bloomington's future plans for community needs.
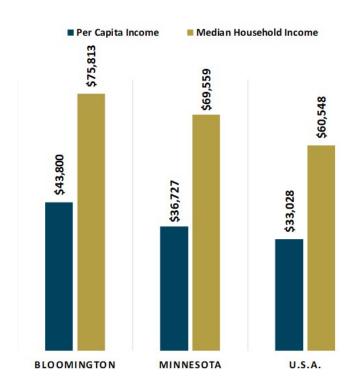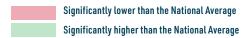

Figure 1-11: Income Characteristics

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

The table below is a summary of the City's demographic figures. These figures are then compared to the state and U.S. populations to enable a local and national comparison of the local demographic. The highlighted cells represent key takeaways from the comparison between the City and the State/National population.

■ Significantly lower than the National Average
■ Significantly higher than the National Average

2019 Demographic Comparison		Bloomington	Minnesota	U.S.A.
Population	Annual Growth Rate (2010-2019)	0.79%	0.86%	0.85%
	Projected Annual Growth Rate (2019-2034)	0.83%	0.93%	0.90%
Households	Annual Growth Rate (2010-2019)	0.67%	0.81%	0.80%
	Average Household Size	2.31	2.49	2.59
Age Segment Distribution	Ages 0-17	18%	22%	22%
	Ages 18-34	20%	23%	23%
	Ages 35-54	24%	25%	25%
	Ages 55-74	27%	23%	23%
	Ages 75+	11%	7%	7%
Race Distribution	White Alone	75.8%	81.5%	69.6%
	Black Alone	8.7%	6.8%	12.9%
	American Indian	0.4%	1.2%	1.0%
	Asian	7.5%	5.2%	5.8%
	Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
	Some other Race	4.0%	2.3%	7.0%
	Two or More Races	3.6%	2.9%	3.5%
Hispanic/Latino Population	Hispanic / Latino Origin (any race)	7.3%	5.6%	18.6%
	All Others	92.7%	94.4%	81.4%
Income Characteristics	Per Capita Income	$43,800	$36,727	$33,028
	Median Household Income	$75,813	$69,559	$60,548

Figure 1-12: Demographic Comparative Summary Table

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

Bloomington's demographic study highlights a city that is aging and slowly becoming more diverse. As a fully built out city, growth is currently limited and park and trail amounts currently serve the overall existing and anticipated population numbers. Redevelopment opportunities could change this balance and the City should consider creation of additional usable park space when redevelopment increases population and/ or density in certain areas of the City. Above average income levels suggest that the population could support an updated pricing strategy. However, deeper analysis of the City's demographics show that diversity and income challenged populations are located in pockets throughout the City. Bloomington should continue to monitor these demographic changes in order to fully understand needs and promote equity throughout the system. Key findings of the demographic analysis:

- The annual growth rate of the City's population (0.79%) is lower than national rate (0.85%) and state's annual rate (0.86%)
- The City's household annual growth rate (0.67%) is lower than national (0.80%) and state (0.81%) averages.
- Age segments 55-74 (27%) is higher than national (23%) and state (23%) age segments.
- The City's racial distribution has White Alone (75.8%), Black Alone (8.7%) and Asian (7.5%).
- The City's percentage of Hispanic/Latino population (7%) is well below the national level (18.6%)
- City's per capita income ($43,800) and median household income ($75,813) is above average compared to the state ($36,727 & $69,559) and U.S. ($33,028 & $60,548) income characteristics.

To support the summary and opportunity reflected in the demographics, The City should examine the regional and national recreational and sports trends defined in section 03 The Parks Bloomington Needs, while also considering their own communities' market potential index. Bloomington's parks have not been updated appropriately over time and recreation trends have changed significantly. This demographics report should be used along with trends and community engagement to ensure the park system is updated in a way that meets the City's current and expected future needs.

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

The Park System Master Plan will complement and work with recent planning and design efforts completed by the City of Bloomington. Park plans are required by the Metropolitan Council. The City's Comprehensive Plan fulfilled this requirement. This Park System Master Plan provides much greater detail than Metropolitan Council requirements. The following documents were referenced and influenced the Park System Master Plan:
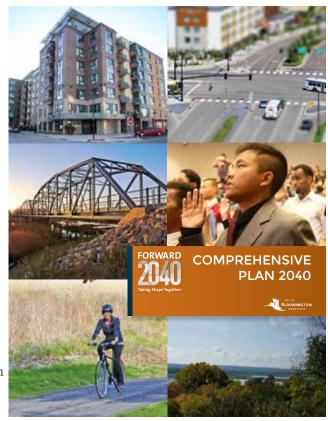
FORWARD 2040: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan provides guidance and information that is used in many ways by City officials, staff, citizens, and others. The Plan forecasts growth in population, households, and employment over the next 20 years. These forecasts are used to identify needed improvements to the City's roads, utilities, and other infrastructure systems to accommodate future growth. The Plan also identifies trends that may impact changes in demand for public services, such as

recreation programs and facilities. The Plan identifies where future development can occur and priority areas for redevelopment. It lays out the long-term vision for the City and provides guidance to ensure that zoning decisions are consistent with that vision.

The Plan provides guidance to set priorities for investments in public infrastructure and other public actions. It also describes the various tools used to fund improvements.

A wealth of information about the City (now and in the future) is compiled that may be helpful to residents, businesses, developers, other governmental agencies, and others. This information is also often used to help the City secure outside funding (e.g., grants) for specific public projects.
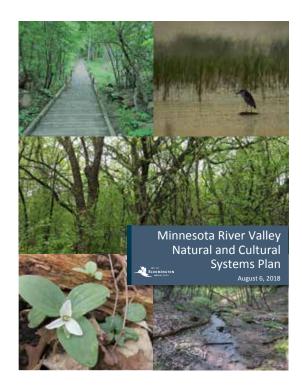
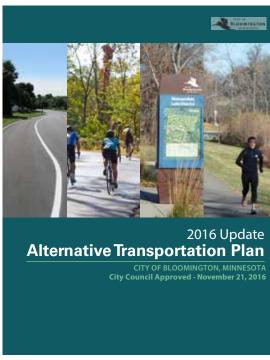## MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY NATURAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEMS PLAN

The purpose of the Natural and Cultural Systems plan is to identify high priority areas for resource enhancement. The plan also provides detailed analysis of natural and cultural resources in the River Valley in order to assess management strategies and where they should be applied. This plan strives to balance wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources management and visitor use within the River Valley. Using existing studies and analysis of natural and cultural resources, the plan assesses management strategies and where they should be applied. Due to funding difficulties, many of the proposed management strategies are not immediately feasible solely through City resources. However, this plan identifies areas in the River Valley that are of highest priority in the event that resources become available. Several elements of this plan directly contribute to the Park System Master Plan and the Natural Resources section. Most notably the following goals can be expanded to apply to the entire city's natural resources:

- Enhance access to recreational opportunities in the River Valley
- Increase awareness and understanding of the River Valley environment
- Improve utilization of land and resources in the River Valley
- Ensure protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The ATP Update includes identification and prioritization of a core bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the City. New elements that focus on enhancement and maintenance of existing trail and sidewalk network, as well as way-finding. Acknowledge work done since original ATP adopted in 2008 and provide direction for future implementation and maintenance efforts. The ATP Update provides a framework for prioritization of implementation of the City's goals to meet the needs of individuals and families living, working and recreating in Bloomington through strategic investments in multi-modal transportation features. Throughout the update process the residents have had opportunities to provide input into the plan through an on-line survey, stakeholder meetings and resident open houses.

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Minnesota River Valley
Natural and Cultural
Systems Plan
August 6, 2018

2016 Update
Alternative Transportation Plan
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
City Council Approved - November 21, 2016

LYNDALE AVENUE SUBURBAN RETROFIT

The Lyndale Ave. Retrofit provides a clear vision and specific steps the City can take to enhance the function, vitality, and appearance of Lyndale Avenue and attract reinvestment to this aging corridor. Rooted in solid economic market analysis, the suburban retrofit strategy will provide clear and realistic implementation guidance, ultimately creating economic, social, and environmental value for Lyndale Avenue and the community.

The goal is to transform Lyndale Avenue into a thriving, walkable, mixed-use corridor that serves as an amenity to attract new, and retain existing, residents and businesses. This change won't happen overnight. While the study will identify actions that can be implemented in the near-term, transformation will take time and will be influenced by evolving market conditions.

Bike routes and potential additional park space were explored in the Lyndale Retrofit project and the Park System Plan. Both plans work to support and complement each other.
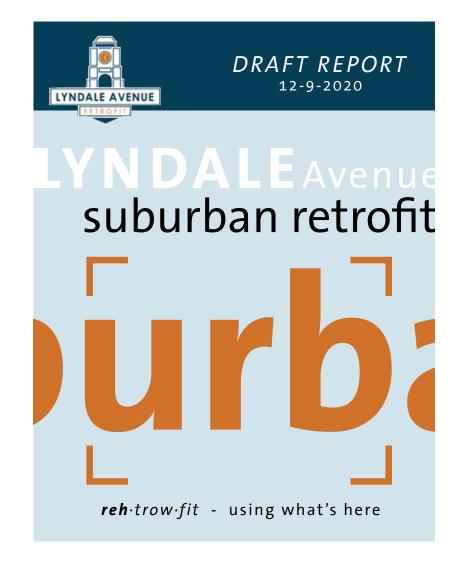
CITY COMMISSIONS

The City of Bloomington has organized a number of Commissions to focus on key initiatives and topics that will improve the City. At times the Parks Department will interact with most of these groups. The following are identified as key partners in advancing elements of this Master Plan.

PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Bloomington Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) advises the City Council on matters related to the capital development, improvement and maintenance of city parks as well as recreation and cultural arts programs. The Bloomington City Code charges PARC with the following duties:

- To review and evaluate park and recreation programs and how these programs can and do fulfill the existing and future needs of the City.

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LYNDALE AVENUE
RETROFIT

DRAFT REPORT
12-9-2020

LYNDALE Avenue
suburban retrofit

urba

reh·trow·fit - using what's here

- To review and evaluate parks, recreation and arts financing methods as they relate to needs.
- To review, study, and evaluate the use, operation, and need for revenue facilities in the City such as the golf courses, swimming pools, and Bloomington Community Ice Garden.
- To study, review, and evaluate existing and future programs and facilities in the area of cultural activities as an important additional source of recreation for the people; and to study how these programs and facilities meet the cultural needs of the community.

PARC is a key advisor for the Park System Master Plan and has provided guidance, direction, and feedback on key elements including:

- Community Engagement
- Overall Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles
- Natural Resources and Sustainability
- Equity

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

The Sustainability Commission advises the Bloomington City Council, Bloomington City staff, and the Bloomington community on policies, practices, procedures and proposals that relate to the sustainable use and management of environmental resources that include air, water, energy, land and ecological resources, and waste. The Commission helps to ensure that such resources will be sustained and continue to provide for a high quality of life for present and future generations. The Commission is appointed by and advisory to the City Council. Its duties and responsibilities include the following:

- Collaborate with the City staff to review, evaluate, develop and advise the City Council on policies and practices regarding sustainability and management of environmental resources.
- Engage with the Bloomington community and serve as a community liaison for issues, ideas and proposals while providing appropriate feedback.
- Serve as a resource for other Bloomington commissions, boards, committees and task forces on any issues related to sustainability.

The Sustainability Commission has provided leadership for the Natural Resources and Sustainability portions of the Park System Master Plan.

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CREATIVE PLACEMAKING COMMISSION

Appointed by the City Council and Artistry Board, the Creative Placemaking Commission advises the City Council on using arts, design, culture and creativity to help accomplish the City's goals for change, growth and transformation of the South Loop District in a way that also builds character and quality of place in Bloomington. In the future, the Council intends to extend creative placemaking to all of Bloomington.

- The Creative Placemaking Commission:
- Establishes strategies and approves work plans for Bloomington's creative placemaking initiatives;
- Promotes and markets placemaking activities in Bloomington to residents, visitors, employers, developers, and the media;
- Adopts decision making criteria and processes for use of resources and project selection;
- Cultivates relationships with project hosts, placemaking partner organizations and artists;
- Reviews placemaking proposals and makes recommendations;
- Submits annual work plans and progress reports to the City Council and Artistry Board of Directors.

Creative Placemaking is an evolving field that works to build vibrant, distinctive, and sustainable communities through the arts. It engages the community, artists, and other stakeholders in building social fabric and local economies while making physical, place-based improvements, leveraging the distinctive character and creative and cultural resources of each place. Parks are a natural fit for Creative Placemaking and the Department should seek to continue developing relationships and looking for opportunities with the Creative Placemaking Commission.

Creative Placemaking. Photo Credit: Bruce Silcox

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on comprehensive planning, district planning, small area planning, zoning, development standards, development applications, subdivision, platting, variances, and transportation. The Planning Commission shall also make final decisions on applications, subject to appeal to the City Council, where expressly allowed under the City Code.

The Planning Commission:

- Holds hearings, review applications and make recommendations, and where applicable, act upon applications as set forth in the City Code;

- Reviews and makes recommendations on variance and appeal applications where such review is required of the Planning Commission by the City Code;

- Reviews and makes recommendations on proposed amendments to zoning, subdivision and transportation provisions of the City Code;

- Reviews and makes recommendations on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and district plans; and

- Reviews and makes recommendations on transportation issues including transportation planning, street extensions and modification, street layout, on street parking, neighborhood traffic plans, transportation grant applications, transit systems, pedestrian ways, and bicycle traffic, and

- Other duties as may be assigned by the City Council or by state law.

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CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: The following city council priorities were used to inform and guide the direction of the park system master plan. Revised priorities are anticipated sometime after completion of the master plan. The plan should be updated to reflect any modifications.

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COMMUNITY AMENITIES

ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

COMMUNITY IMAGE

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

FOCUSED RENEWAL

HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

PARK SYSTEM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Park System Guiding Principles were informed by and complement the City Council's Strategic Priorities. The Park System is a reflection of the City of Bloomington and the strategic and operational values and mission should always speak to each other.

If Council Priorities are adjusted following the publication of this master plan, the Guiding Principles should be evaluated for compatibility.

bloom! BLOOMINGTON PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

SECTION 01 REFERENCES

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