

## 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.*

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- 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

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- 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 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 amenities. 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 shifted 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 by 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.*

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

- *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*



## 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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### 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?*

- 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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### 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?*

- 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?*
- *Resource 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 from 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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- 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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- *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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### 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?*

- *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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### 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?*

- 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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### 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?*

*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 and 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 racism 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](http://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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### 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?*

*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/restoration, 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 habitat, 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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**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?***

- *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 will help make this city attractive to young families. The polar bridge neighborhood is a prime example of deteriorating parks and schools. "*

## 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?**

**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*

## 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?*

- 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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- *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 ideas 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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- *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 how 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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- *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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### 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?*

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](http://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*

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*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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- *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...*



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### 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 outreach, 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 feel 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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- "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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- *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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- *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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*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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*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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- *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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- *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, particularly people with money coming from the City.*
- *See [www.strongtowns.org](http://www.strongtowns.org)*
- *The city government cannot cover up city employee misconduct, all investigations into employee conduct must be 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 Blmgt. 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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*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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*(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.*