

Agenda
Comprehensive Planning Committee
Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers Second Floor Auburn Hall

- 1. ICE BREAKER QUESTION**
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Committee Members, City Staff, and Consultants
- 3. MINUTES:** Minutes from June 17, 2025
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:** Update on Second Version
- 6. COMMUNITY SURVEY:** Summary and Full Responses
- 7. JULY 9 FOCUS GROUP:** Summary of Focus Group
- 8. JULY 19 PUBLIC INPUT MEETING - LAKE GROVE PARK:** Update & Summary
- 9. COMP. PLAN SCHEDULE:** Update Process to Date
- 10. VISION STATEMENT EXAMPLES:** Purpose & Preparation for August Workshop
- 11. EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE CHANGE OR RESILIENCE IN COMP. PLANS**
 - [Town of Falmouth, ME](#), (sustainability chapter)
 - [City of Ellsworth, ME](#), (Key themes of environmental protection & resilience)
 - [Town of Hillsboro, NC](#) (Key themes of sustainability)
 - [Town of Hanover, NH](#) (Key themes of sustainability)
- 12. NEXT MEETING DATE:** AUGUST 26, 2025
- 13. ADJOURNMENT**

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes

Tuesday June 17, 2025

1. ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

If you could instantly master any skill, what would it be?

The first mayor of Auburn was Edward Little. Where is he buried?

ROLL CALL: Committee Members, City Staff, and Consultants

Denis Bergeron, Riley Bergeron, Heidi Bertels, Kelly Butler, John Cleveland, Becky Conrad, Jane Costlow, Matt Duvall, Jeff Harmon, Paul Jacques, Rex Rhodes, and Rick Whiting.

Absent: Tim Cowan, Virginia Keel, Adam Lee, Bruce Rioux, and Dana Staples.

Staff Members Present: Lauren Caffé, David Hediger, and Natalie Thomsen.

Consultant Members Present: Kerri Ouellette, Kevin Price, and Ali Tobey of BerryDunn.

2. MINUTES: Review and Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2025

Motion to Approve: Matt Duval **Second:** Becky Conrad **Vote:** 12-0 **Motion Carries**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

4. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY: Data Summary; Discussion by BerryDunn

Ali Tobey reviewed the student survey results stating that they received responses from 285 middle school students and 143 high school students. She also reviewed the vision survey stating they received 484 responses.

The committee suggested finding out what students want to do in the future and what the goals are of the community. They also discussed the need for broader community engagement.

5. JULY OUTREACH: Focus Group Meeting and Visioning Sessions

Focus group meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, July 9th, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the E.L. High School cafeteria. These meetings are designed to gather targeted feedback from various community organizations and members, with specific questions tailored to each category to identify issues and future goals.

Other engagement events scheduled:

Natural Environment Visioning Saturday, July 19th 10 am–12 pm Long Grove Park
People & City Services Visioning Wednesday, July 23 6-8 pm Edward Little HS Cafeteria

Built Environment Visioning Wednesday, July 30th 6-8 p.m. Senior Community Center
Banquet Room

The importance of engaging diverse communities was strongly emphasized. Suggestions included providing education, childcare, interpretation, food, and transportation to encourage participation, especially from immigrant communities. The need for trusted community members to welcome participants was discussed and it was suggested that participants be welcomed at the door upon arrival to make them feel important and comfortable.

Visioning sessions will be conducted in an open house style to gather ideas and challenges from the community.

6. OTHER OUTREACH: Meetings-in-a-Box, Tabling Events, Social Pinpoint Poll
Questions; Committee Ideas

Lauren Caffee said she has been meeting with city staff and community leaders to discuss ways to reach out to new immigrant populations, the unhoused, and youth services. Plans include a listening session for the unhoused on August 6th and an ideas wall at the drop-in center for the entire month of July.

Engagement with youth services is planned through meetings with leaders of organizations serving youth in Auburn. This might involve a 'meeting in a box' approach, where questions are provided to organizations to ask the youth they serve, potentially alongside shorter surveys.

There was discussion regarding various methods to collect feedback, such as shorter surveys, ideas walls, listening sessions, and tabling at farmers markets. The possibility of offering multiple-choice or other question formats was also considered. Suggestions for broader reach included placing surveys in high-traffic community venues like laundromats, Roy's Foodland, or Rolly's Diner.

7. SUBCOMMITTEES: Progress of Meetings to Date

Paul Jacques gave a report on the Built Environment sub-committee. They met June 9 and discussed economy, housing, and transportation.

Dennis Bergeron noted the comprehensive planning process has statutory limitations to our own community but acknowledged the relationship between Auburn and Lewiston and the importance of addressing inter-community dynamics for it to be successful.

Riley Bergeron gave a report on the People and City Services sub-committee.

John Cleveland gave a report on the Natural Environments sub-committee. They met June 16 and discussed agriculture and forestry and water and natural resources.

8. NEXT STEPS: Summer/Early Fall Timeline from BerryDunn, Vision Statements

- Focus & Visioning group meetings
- The August meeting will be a workshop style meeting to discuss the results of work and develop a draft vision statement.

9. AUBURN SOCIAL PINPOINT DATA

Ali Tobey reviewed social pinpoint data indicating 603 individual unique people have visited the site 900 times, 51 people contributed to email sign-ups and the idea wall, 39 people signed up for email, 1000 total engagements and input, 38 posts to the idea wall, and 487 survey responses.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 22, 2025

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 7:36 to adjourn: Dennis Bergeron **Second:** Rick Whiting **Vote:**
12-0 **Motion Carries**

Auburn Committee Comments

Comment	Response
Population and Demographics	
The committee requested that BerryDunn clarify how we are determining population projections: how is the ACS trend data being used/ applied? How might approval of new housing be affecting trends? Before and until 2032 is likely to be more accurate, and post-2032, likely less accurate.	Added information on the methodology for how these numbers were determined and limitations of data
Should 2042 be included in the population projection table? Committee decided not, given concerns around the tax burden on stable population if there is no change.	Left 2042 data in based on state requirements; however, added language around limitations on data past 2032.
The committee expressed a desire for a trendline of changes of demographics in Auburn.	Added data on diversity trends in Auburn
The committee requested that figure 1.10 be broken up by enrollment declines in chart by school levels.	Broken out by middle/high school and elementary school
Committee was curious about the cause of shifts in enrollment. Add in <i>Why</i> shifts are happening along with description of those shifts.	Waiting on input from schools
Committee expressed desire for educational attainment data, including breakdown of careers and specializations, skillsets obtained, talent pool and gap in what people are skilled in, and what Auburn can't meet. Reach out to the department of labor and workforce recruiting. After doing this, the section might go into economy section. Committee interested in exploring economic sector gaps, which could result in a recommendation stemming from this Comprehensive Plan.	Information provided by CMCC on program graduation data to the economy section. This data gives some insight into which degree programs or certification programs students are graduating in.
City Facilities and Public Services	
Committee requested the departments of the City to be added.	Added a list of City departments
Committee requested data surrounding the age of school facilities.	Added a list of City-owned buildings, including year built
Committee requested data surrounding the age of City owned	Added a list of City-owned

Comment	Response
facilities.	buildings, including year built
Mayor Harmon requested more information on any Lewiston collaborations, as well as Preble Street's 2024 initiative, as well as Housing First policy definitions.	Added information on Preble Street RRH Program, definition for housing first
Committee expressed data collection concerns since the local unhoused population shifts from Lewiston to (and from) Auburn constantly. The committee wanted information on how movement is being accounted for, as well as the level of collaboration with Lewiston.	Added additional detail on the point-in-time count.
Committee requested youth substance use data to be added to the Public Health section.	Added additional section under public health
Committee requested that the document mention the new PAL center.	Added reference to new PAL Center
Committee requested the addition of cost of infrastructure data, noting that it can add helpful context to future growth areas. This could include replacement, new installations, or any other currently available data.	Added information from the CIP related to replacement for water and sewer.
Committee requested the age of the sewer systems to be added. Add age of system, noting concerns that the City may not be keeping up with aging infrastructure in its budgeting efforts.	Added language related to age of systems.
Committee requested age, point of time data for the drinking water infrastructure to be added.	Added language related to age of systems.
Committee noted that approved solar projects can occur in three lines, not two. Committee wondered about an inventory of lines which have capacity, and which don't (within the agricultural and industrial zones). Mentioned Natalie as a potential data source.	Added language from the code around solar and map of where solar can occur.
Fiscal Capacity and CIP	
Committee requested data surrounding the last revaluations of Auburn, and any current process in place for future revaluations, along with estimated completion date.	Added information on the current revaluation project.
Economy	
The committee noted that the Norway Savings Bank Arena has large impacts to the economy, along with other important, sports-tourism related investments.	Added language

Comment	Response
Committee requested an inclusion of narrative around the City's relationship with Lewiston. This includes decentralizing Lewiston's individual importance on the introductory page but adding a discussion of Lewiston in the Economy section.	Updated language
Change the language around the earliest inhabitants of Auburn. Nomadic paleo hunters were the first known inhabitants of this land.	Updated language
Committee mentioned that the Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council was created not through a merger, but through a partnership of the two entities.	Added language
One business listed as working out of the Auburn Mall is now working hybrid out of their Portland offices – employment remains the same, but not physical space is being occupied.	Updated table
Committee requested data on remote workers	Remote worker data was added to the Regional Economy section.
Committee requested that we refer to Auburn as Southern Maine, not Central Maine.	Updated language
Committee had questions around the ceiling on the amount of Tax Increment Financing the City can utilize, which included a discussion on how these roll off.	Working with Finance and Glenn Holmes to access this data
The committee expressed a need for more detail associated with timeline, monetary amount, etc. for the TIF policies. Encouraged BerryDunn to gather input from Glen Holmes on what the ceiling is, where the City is in relation to that ceiling, etc.	Working with Finance and Glenn Holmes to access this data
The committee noted that a historical list of TIFs had a language issue.	Updated language
Information on the 33 rd TIF was mentioned, with information to be requested from Jonathan	
The committee requested more detail about origins of workforce shortage and specific opportunities. They wondered if the shortages here are different than anywhere else (shortages are common elsewhere). How is Auburn different? Where should we focus? Discussed shortage of employers in Auburn.	Added challenges related to housing, transportation, childcare, and wages outlined by Jay Brenchick.
CMCC retention rates were discussed, with the potential lack of	Added some data provided

Comment	Response
data noted as a concern. Item was marked “parking lot”	by CMCC related to graduation in the economy section.
Committee wondered if it is possible to get the Workforce needs of employers vs workforce characteristics of the residents listed.	Added some data provided by CMCC related to workforce. Additional data may come from focus group conversations.
Requested information on method for data collection for the Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and the mining industry sectors.	These industry sectors were included in the 2023 MSA data, but not in the 2018 data set. BerryDunn was able to find the 2018 number for agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting through State-level data. This number has been updated. MSA employment totals for 2018 in the mining sector were not available in the state data, but there are historic employment totals for that sector statewide. Five-year change was estimated for the mining sector job growth rate in the MSA based on a ratio using statewide employment totals in that sector. This is updated in the table. This update puts job growth in the mining sector closer to Construction and Real Estate, while at the same time the mining sector is smaller in terms of employment, so absolute gains in jobs will reflect a larger growth rate.

Housing

Comment	Response
As the housing study is pending, the committee noted the importance of knowing what types of housing we need (rather than just a # units) of the total units we need.	Added data and insights from the housing study.
A new housing report was mentioned, which showed a demand vs current stock. mismatch	Added data and insights from the housing study.
Committee mentioned that, of the empty units, those that are ready to be lived in (~95) is a small number. Curiosity around what the prospects are for getting more of those ~590 units online, as well as the barriers to doing this.	Added language around this
Committee noted a need for housing to satisfy current population today, given historical lack thereof. Next priority would be housing and a strategy for bringing people in. This should speak to seniors who are moving and/or downsizing.	Added data and insights from the housing study.
Committee question: What are the barriers to creating more low- and moderate-income housing?	Added information related to cost of construction
Transportation	
Committee mentioned items around the history of the transportation system in Auburn, including the things they laid down, like the trolley system, etc.	Language updated
Committee noted that there should be a breakdown of the urban compact, explaining the breakdown of ownership of roadways between the DOT and City and Maine Turnpike.	Language around urban compact added and updated
Correction of location – Auburn is 25 miles from Portland.	Language updated
A committee member asked if existing transit services are designed to service the workforce.	Added information referencing commuter timing and patterns.
A committee member requested data on how many employed people in Auburn do not own cars	Data added
A committee member requested the addition of information on the cost of tolls for those commuting to Portland via I-95.	Commuting data updated
Committee asked for clarification on Auburn PW and APW.	Language updated
The committee requested access to transit maps and schedules	Language updated, schedules included in text and references, schedules

Comment	Response
	and maps included in source information
The committee asked for the MS4 acronym to be spelled out.	Language updated
The committee asked for a sentence describing how the City acquired Superior Carriers to be included.	Language updated
The committee asked BerryDunn to add a section for ongoing traffic studies, including Minor Ave. Study, Washington St. Study, and DOT studies.	Added data and explanation
The committee asked for level of service data (which they believe has improved since 2014 even as volumes have gotten up). Additionally, they asked for data on the capacity for streets (see Maine DOT map viewer).	Capacity and usage data added
The committee clarified that the Travel Propensity Study is a subset of Passenger Rail Study.	Language updated
The committee requested that BerryDunn add an additional analysis on regional transit and bus system within the Lewiston-Auburn area.	Bus data added
The committee requested additional information on the 2014/2015 sidewalk condition assessment, with Lauren to follow up.	Language updated
The committee recommended that BerryDunn consider subsections for rail and aviation. Within rail, they suggested that freight services and capabilities be one category, with passenger rail evaluations as a second. The committee asked that Jonathan add notes to this section.	Working with the City to complete this information
The committee noted that the nearest commercial aviation scheduled service is 25 miles away. Jonathan was asked to give additional notes on the subject.	Working with the City to complete this information
The committee asked BerryDunn to mention areas around the airport that have restricted uses or building heights due to FAA regulations, either within the Transportation section or in the Land Use section.	Language updated
The committee requested that BerryDunn update the Transportation section to reflect recent discussions around passenger rail.	Language updated
The committee requested that “intermodal” be clearly defined.	Language updated; term

Comment	Response
	added to glossary (to be included with Comprehensive Plan)
Historic and Archaeological Resources	
The committee noted that half of Maine's known paleolithic sites are within the airport's fence. This data is being explored in the master plan.	Reference to the number of sites within the Airport property under prehistoric archaeological sites.
Natural and Water Resources	
Committee noted that it would be helpful to restructure the section by starting with largest category (watershed), and then moving on to rivers and streams, followed by lakes. This would provide improved structure for the document's flow.	Updated section structure
Committee members requested the inclusion of the Town of Buckfield in the history section.	Included Buckfield
Within the Landforms and Watersheds 303(d) list, committee members noted that the Androscoggin river was included in the statute. They requested that the Bobbin Brook be included. They noted that currently, there is nothing pointing to Androscoggin River or any amplification of current situation of other streams and major rivers.	Updated to include more detail around 303(d) and Androscoggin River
The committee noted that dams were embedded into the section and requested that they be a stand-alone section instead.	Added a stand-alone section for dams
The committee had several notes on classifications and recommended that BerryDunn refer to several resources. They requested references to the Androscoggin River, along with specific information on legal classifications and a list of dams on each water body.	Added more water quality information and
The committee requested the inclusion of dam-related data.	Individual section on dams added
The committee noted a need to better explain classification schemes, with a new inclusion of a table for additional descriptions.	Added table with descriptions from Maine Revised Statues
The committee advocated for a discussion of climate change and resilience to be added.	Updated section on resilience and added in current initiatives

Comment	Response
The addition of NOAA data surrounding a culvert and dam map was requested.	Used data from the Maine Coastal Program to detail stream crossings and culvert information
Information on culverts and a statewide initiative to update culverts to allow better fish passage was requested.	Reference state-wide initiatives for culvert updates
Committee members mentioned that the Maine Department of Fish and Wildlife does not manage or monitor. Incorrect. Personnel at water treatment plant + contribution from bates college	Updated language
Committee members noted that the most popular trail is spring road along the shore - spring road is not accessed from community center.	Updated language
Committee members requested the addition of an ordinance limiting development in the watershed and septic system regulations, along with forestry and agriculture language. Additionally, they requested information on more ordinances relevant to prohibitions in the Lake Auburn Watershed.	Language added
Committee members asked questions around including a table from AWSD. They were especially curious about if water quality is being maintained or getting better or worse. They also requested the addition of data from more years.	Working to get AWSD data
A committee member noted that there was a minimal amount of monitoring from LEA that was included. Mike noted that weekly data from AWSD would be more accurate.	Working to get AWSD data
Committee noted that monitoring on bodies of water is done by other bodies, with AWSD doing modification and replacement data.	Language updated
The committee requested the addition of regulations from agriculture and farming data in the overlay zone that references manure, etc. that would lead to phosphorous inputs and setbacks data.	Language added
The committee requested that the location of the SNRB section be moved to challenges and opportunities.	Updated location of section
The committee requested that retail and culvert assessments and	Included in stream crossing

Comment	Response
upgrades be included.	section
The committee requested that data from floods be included in more detail, including floods on floodplains, cost of flooding from storms of 23-24, and how often the city requested relief for any type of event. They requested more emphasis on flooding and previous serious events.	Working with City to access this information
The committee requested that the Maine natural areas program be referenced as a source.	Added reference
The committee mentioned the risk of the federal funding landscape changing in the future for natural resources.	Emphasized in challenges
Agriculture and Forestry	
The committee requested that land in acres under conservation be aligned with MWW, with any opportunities to add to this land being noted.	Added MWW strategy related to ag/forestry/conservation
The committee requested that the inventory of farming and forest activity occurring in Auburn be added, noting that Shaw is creating a website with data on field and farms and usage.	List of farms in Auburn added
The committee requested a reference number of acres removed from the agriculture zone historically.	Working with City to determine where this data may be
The committee noted that the number and importance of local farms is unique to Auburn. They requested that BerryDunn elevate to this level of distinction.	Added language
The committee noted that the history surrounding agriculture in Auburn has been a bit more contentious than the stated description, and asked BerryDunn to describe the complexity of the challenge.	Added language in the introduction and AGRP section
The committee requested the addition of the Maine Won't Wait recommendations about agriculture and local food action plan in more detail.	Added language around Strategy E
The committee requested the open space table to be moved to the recreation and open space chapter.	Moved table to open space section of recreation chapter
The committee requested that a reference to State and federal programs to support farmers be included.	Added narrative for additional DACF and USDA funds/programs

Comment	Response
The committee asked BerryDunn to adjust the number of acres in the section, as they believed that less than 18,000 exist at present.	Updated the number based on data from the City's GIS database. This references 20,262 acres.
The committee noted that three new farms were counted after the 2023 zoning change.	3 in 2025 – narrative added in introduction
The committee requested the inclusion of an updated local food action plan.	Added additional information on the local food action plan
The committee requested the fact that a grant is enabling culturally appropriate food to be brought into schools be included, along with the fact that it is benefitting new businesses and New Mainers as farmers.	Added language and information on grant program
The committee noted that a group is no longer St. Mary's, and is now called Gather to Grow.	Updated language
The committee requested the A-addition of venues where residents can get local food.	Added additional information on Hannaford and Blackie's
The committee requested the addition of more detail from the local food action plan.	Added additional information from the local food action plan
The committee noted that David has data on the timber harvest and requested that it be included.	Table 3.4 provides timber harvest data provided by the Maine Bureau of Forestry for inclusion in the plan.
The committee noted that ash trees are an ongoing issue and highlighted the EAB as a potential challenge.	EAB presence is outlined in Challenges and Opportunities section.
The committee noted an ordinance surrounding street tree removal and funding for replacements.	Added language to street tree maintenance section
The committee noted that a resource is jointly managed with Lewiston, with a 20-year lease. They requested information on the nursery to be added.	Added reference in street tree maintenance section
The committee requested the addition of a section on Public	Added information on

Comment	Response
Wood Lots and the Forest Management Plan.	public woodlots and the forest management plan to public woodlots section
The committee noted an irrelevant passage and requested its removal.	Removed
The committee requested that BerryDunn add Maine shoreland zoning and Maine BMPs for forestry information.	Added information on BMPs for water quality and shoreland zoning.
The committee requested BerryDunn update the use of the word 'vacant land' and 'character.'	Language updated
Existing Land Use	
The committee requested the addition of residential neighborhoods when referencing current land uses in Auburn.	Language added
The committee requested that BerryDunn weave in acknowledgements of Lewiston when referencing Auburn's history.	Added language around Lewiston's industrial growth
The committee requested additional data on any changes in agriculture zone acreage historically.	Working with City to determine where this data may be
The committee requested language on mills and factories to be updated.	Language updated
The committee noted that a train went to Danville, and that the cities of Lewiston and Auburn built a spur that went to mills in Lewiston.	Added language
The committee noted the importance of Irish and French immigrants to the area and local rail development.	Language added
The committee noted that Auburn was technically incorporated as a town in 1842, before being incorporated as a city in 1869.	Language updated
The committee noted that the 2010 plan should be referred to as a comprehensive plan, while the 2021 updates should be referred to as updates.	Language updated
The committee discussed which growth numbers to use in the document.	Confirmed growth figures with Mayor Harmon, which are consistent on the State Economist's Office.

Comment	Response
The committee noted that Turner is not a major arterial road and requested that BerryDunn adjust the wording.	Updated language
The committee requested the reference of maps and cardinal directions. Additionally, they requested definitions of growth and limited growth.	Added definitions of each growth category and a map outlining these areas.
The committee asked BerryDunn to add the zoning map and growth area maps with road names included.	Added a separate map for growth areas. Zoning map is included in the zoning section.
The committee requested that the agricultural data in this section be compared to other sections to make sure that the numbers align.	Updated AG numbers based on GIS data confirmation
The committee requested a data point be corrected but were unsure. BerryDunn to follow up with the City GIS resource.	Confirmed with City GIS Resource that this is correct
The committee requested an illustration of an urban core.	Clarified urban core references
The committee requested a clarification of the organizational structure of PSD.	Language updated
The committee noted that a board reviews zoning requests.	Language updated
The committee noted that a board does not hear appeals from the planning board, and that they go directly to the Superior Board	Language updated
The committee requested that overlay districts be added into a separate map.	Added maps
The committee requested that the document reference digital platforms for maps where they are available.	Specified source in sources section
The committee discussed transects and their relevance in City code and was unsure of where they appear in City documents.	Updated language in the section to include code definition and reference
The committee requested that acronyms be spelled out, and that any relevant terms be compiled in a glossary.	Updated language
The committee requested updates to the FBC section.	Updated language in the section to include code definition and reference

Comment	Response
The committee requested the addition of Euclidean zoning to the glossary.	Added
The committee discussed inconsistencies surrounding road names, park names, and other local versus official names.	Updated Language
The committee noted that there are no moving containers at the intermodal facility and suggested that Jonathan provide updated information.	Language updated
The committee requested the addition of language surrounding outdoor recreation, forestry, and natural resources.	Language updated
The committee noted that the conservation overlay zone should be referenced.	The current ordinance does not include a conservation overlay zone. The Conservation/Open Space District includes four parcels in and around the form-based code transects. Language added
The committee requested that BerryDunn add shoreland zoning as a separate overlay category.	Updated formatting
The committee noted that shoreline zoning should be defined and clarified in the document.	Updated language
The committee requested that the transition from Auburn to State level requirements be updated.	Updated language
The committee requested clarifications on modular homes versus mobile homes versus mobile home park overlays.	Added language from MHO District in Zoning Ordinance
The committee requested a language change on what qualifies as a 10-year period.	Updated language
The committee requested language on the challenges of hooking up to water and sewer, with a graph of parcels already connected versus those that are not yet connected. They requested additional data from Mike Broadbent.	Added some language around this as well as the state statute for sewage connection
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	
The committee requested that BerryDunn define and add a map of where all parks within the City are located.	Map of municipal-owned parks facilities are listed in

Comment	Response
	Figure 5.1
The committee requested a definition of conservation open space zones.	Referenced in form-based code section. Did not include here because this district is limited in scope.
The committee requested additional information around school open space and public land access. The committee agreed to not include privately held land unless it is contracted for public use.	Added language around schools providing access to recreation and park amenities. Additional conservation lands and open space tax parcels were added to the Conservation/Open Space section.
The committee discussed a possible trails inventory created by Jonathan.	Working with City to access information
The committee requested that the Lake Auburn Community Center be referenced as City owned.	Added Lake Auburn Community Center to list of City-owned recreation properties
The committee requested a reference to the Martindale Golf Course.	Added reference to Martindale Golf Course
The committee requested a reference to the Taylor Pond Yacht Club	Added reference to Taylor Pond Yacht Club
The committee noted that there were several woodlots in other documents that do not appear in this document.	Added woodlots map to forestry section
The committee requested the addition of cemeteries information.	Cemetery narrative, list, and map added
The committee requested the addition of the Auburn Nordic Skiing Association.	Added reference to Auburn Nordic Skiing Association
The committee discussed the potential addition of information on other trails at Pettingill Park, along with the Casco Bay Trail System.	Added reference to trail networks and CBT system
The committee requested the addition of conservation goals of MWW compared to those of the City.	Added conservation goal and % of acreage in conservation in Auburn



Auburn Community Member Survey Summary

Who Took the Survey?



478 Full time residents

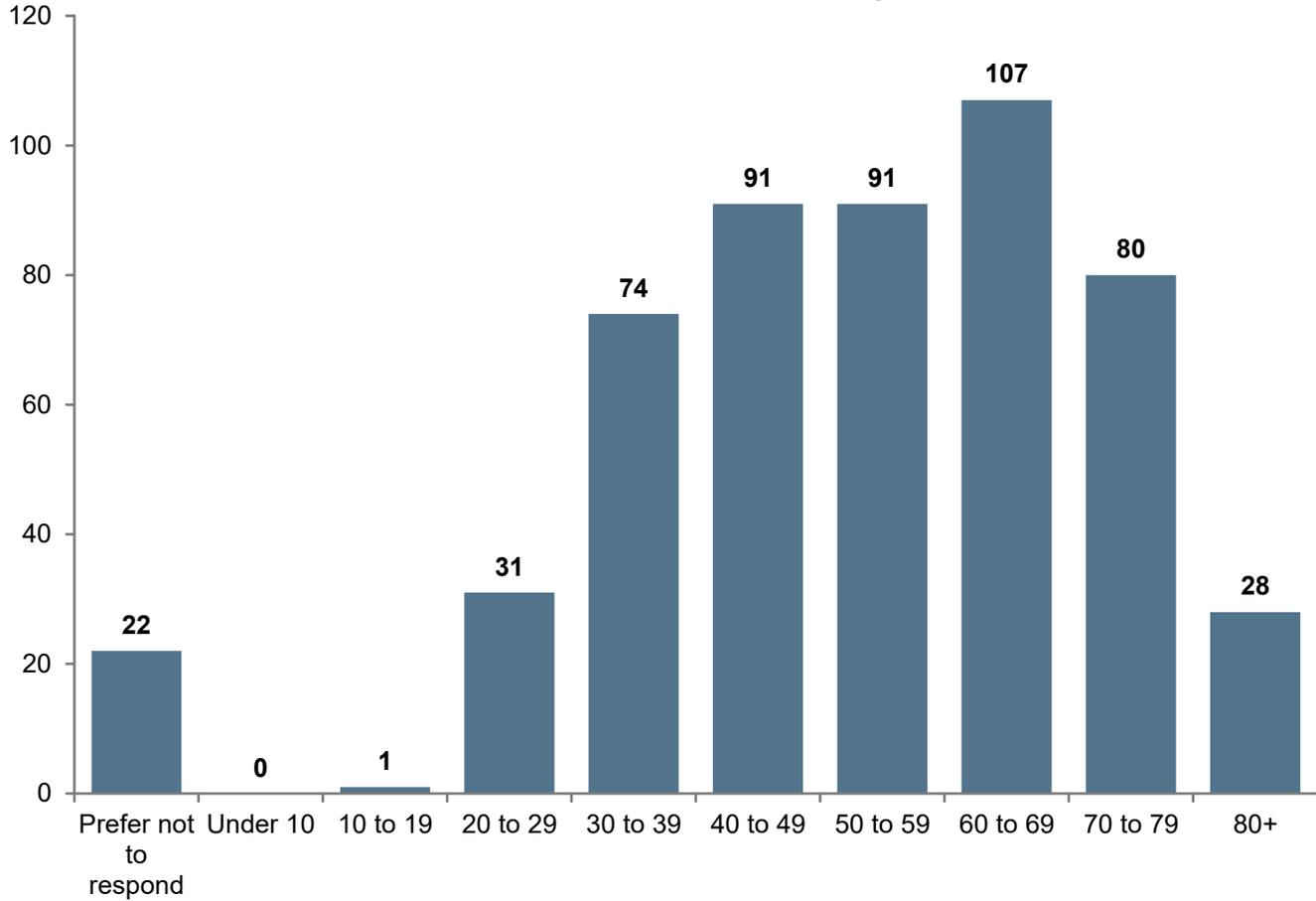


63 Work, visit, or attend school in Auburn



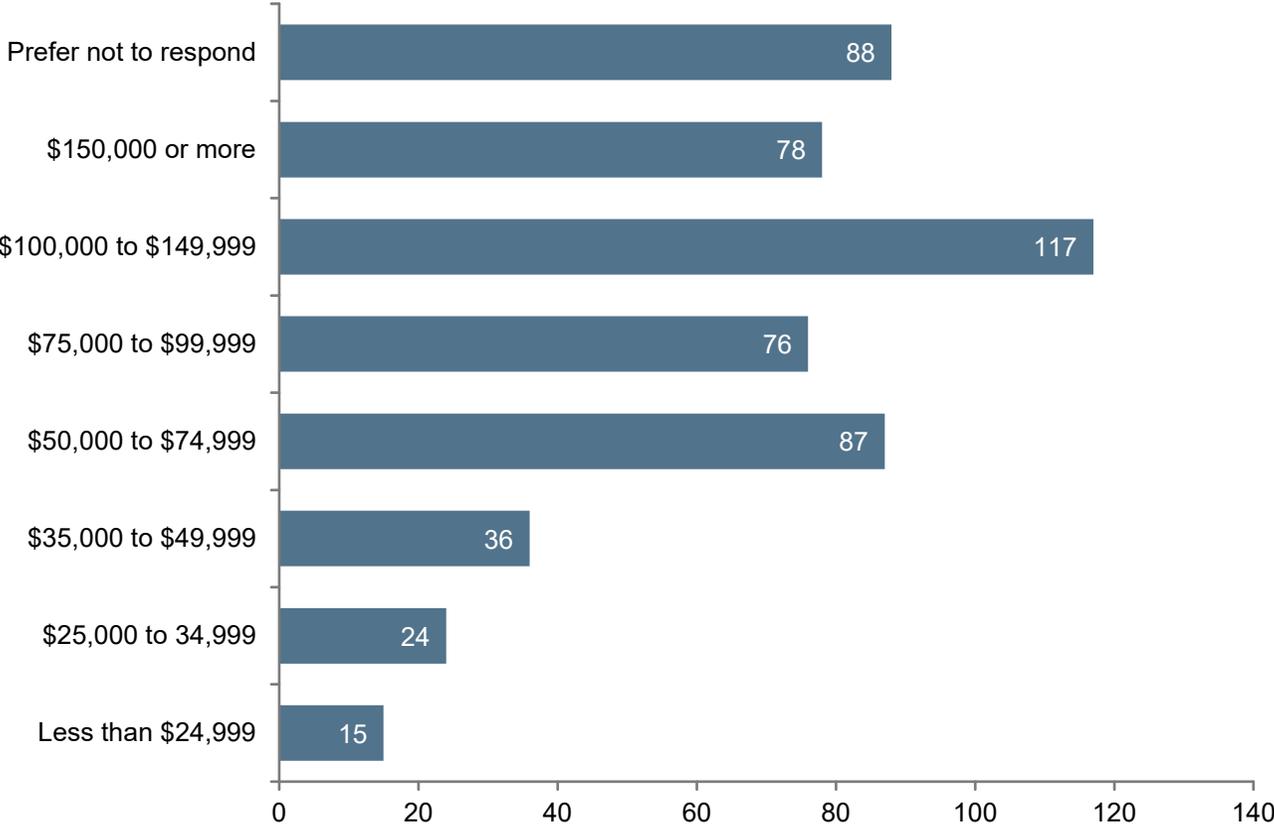
541 Total responses

Respondent Age

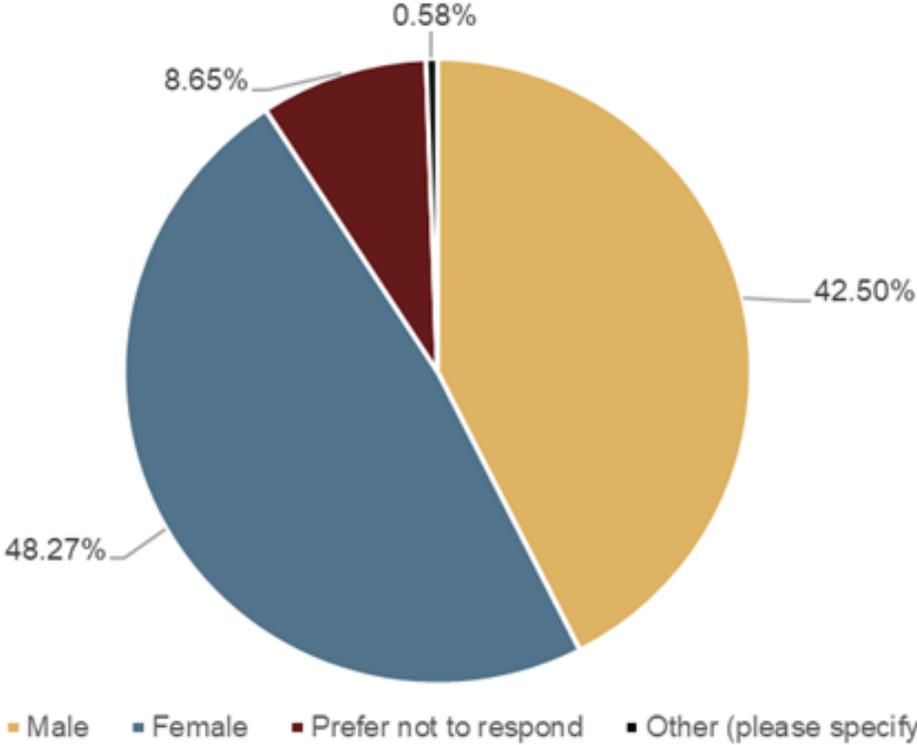


Who took this survey?

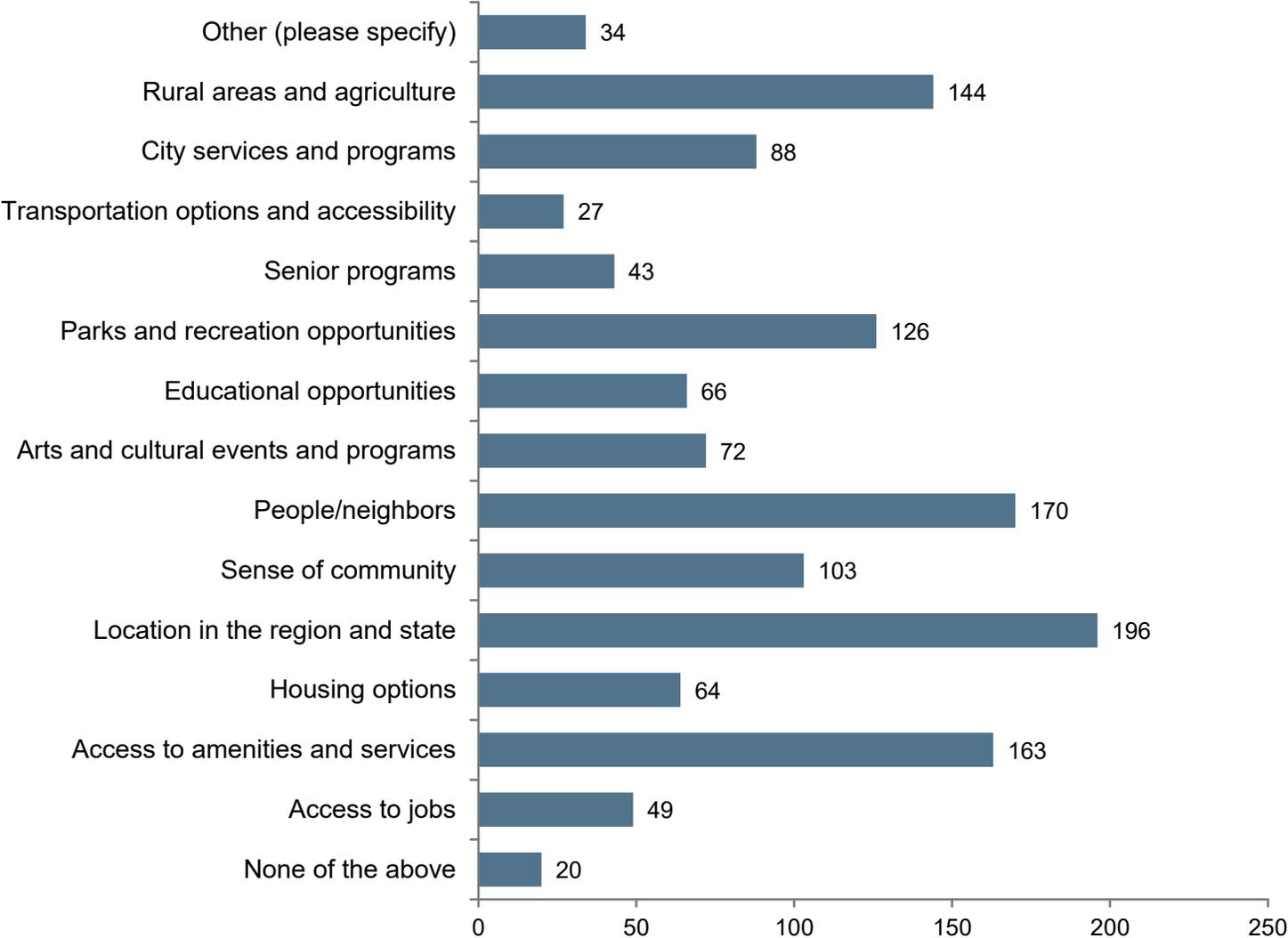
Respondent Household Income



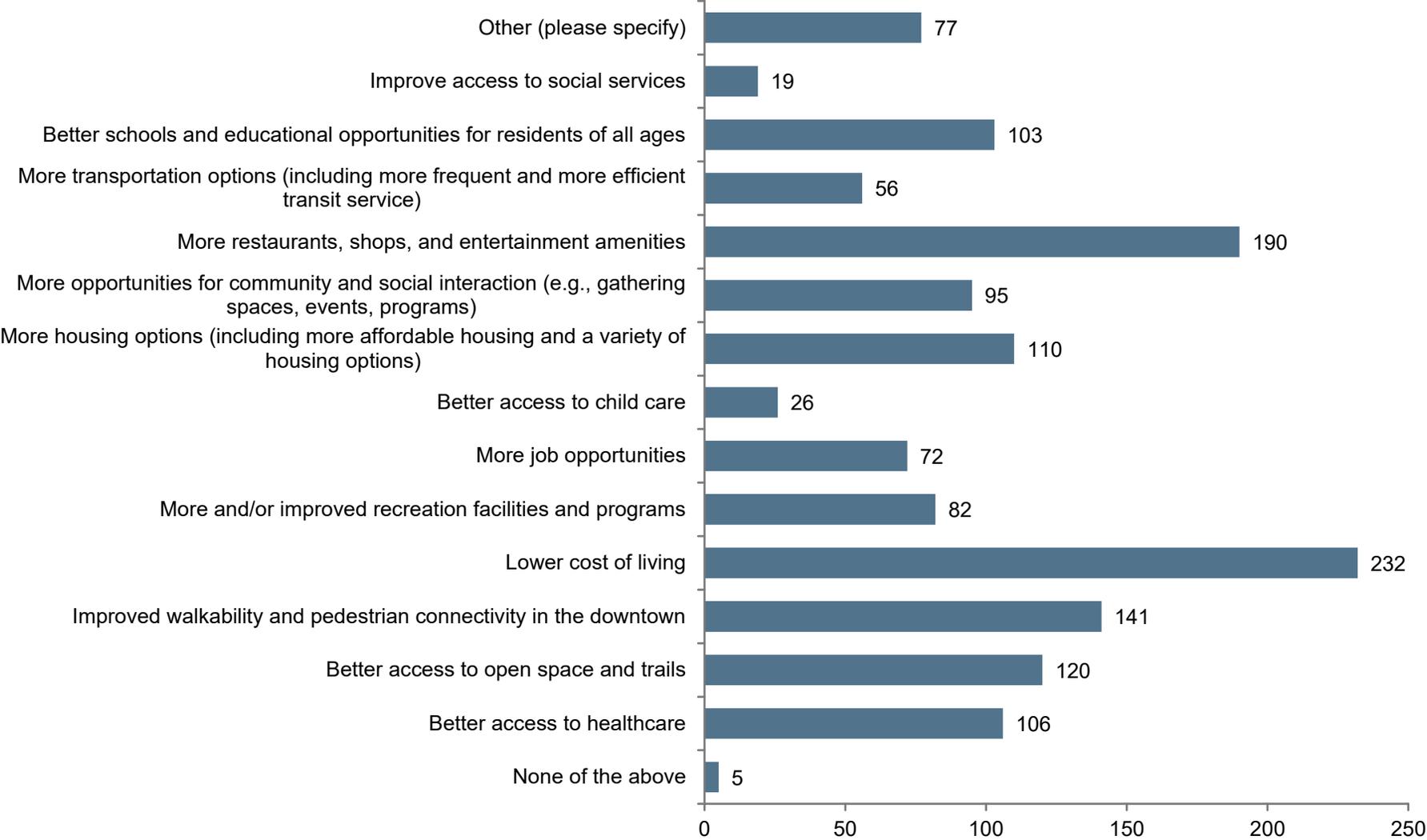
Respondent Gender



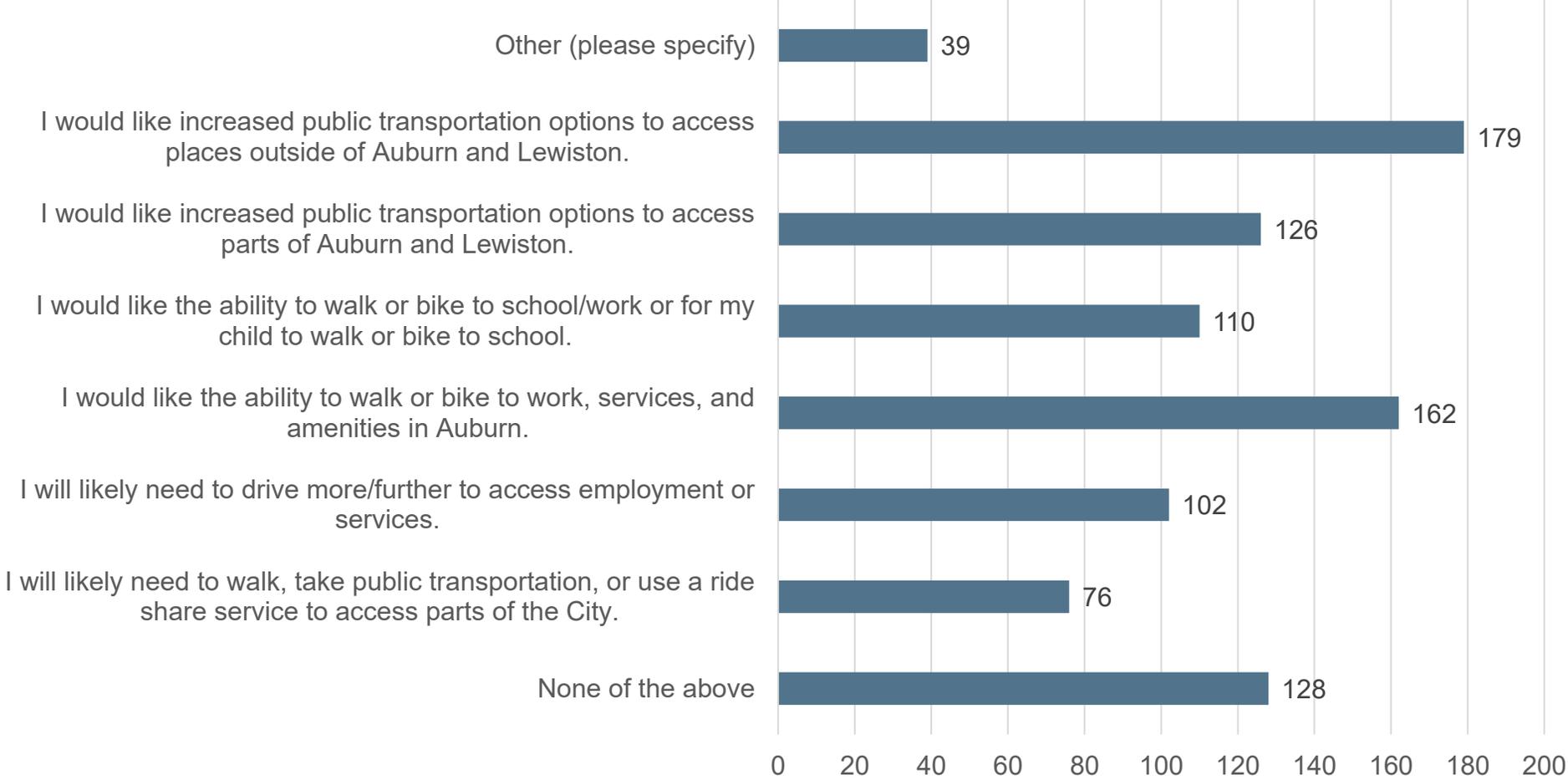
What do you value most about Auburn?



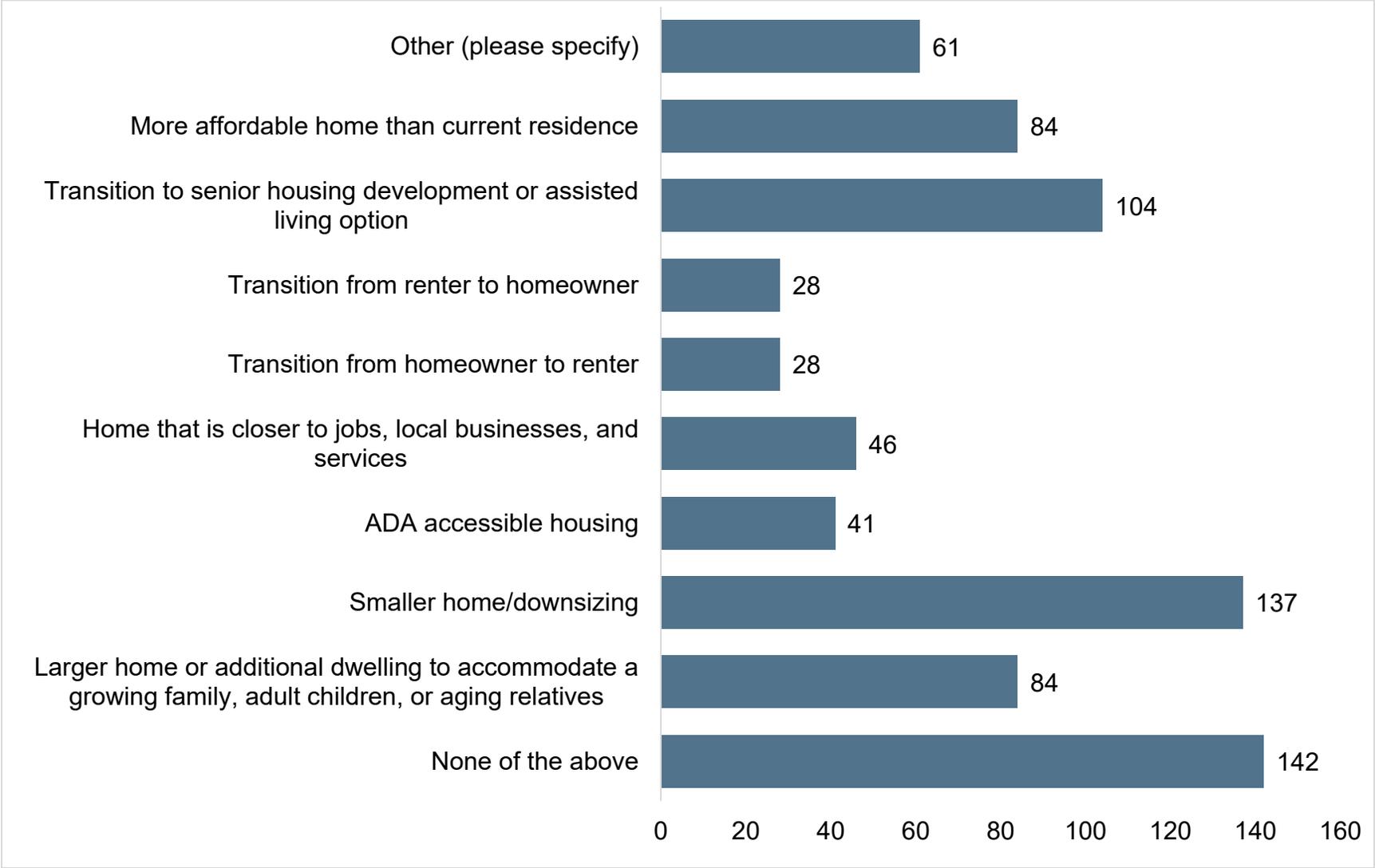
What changes would have the greatest positive impact on your family's quality of life?



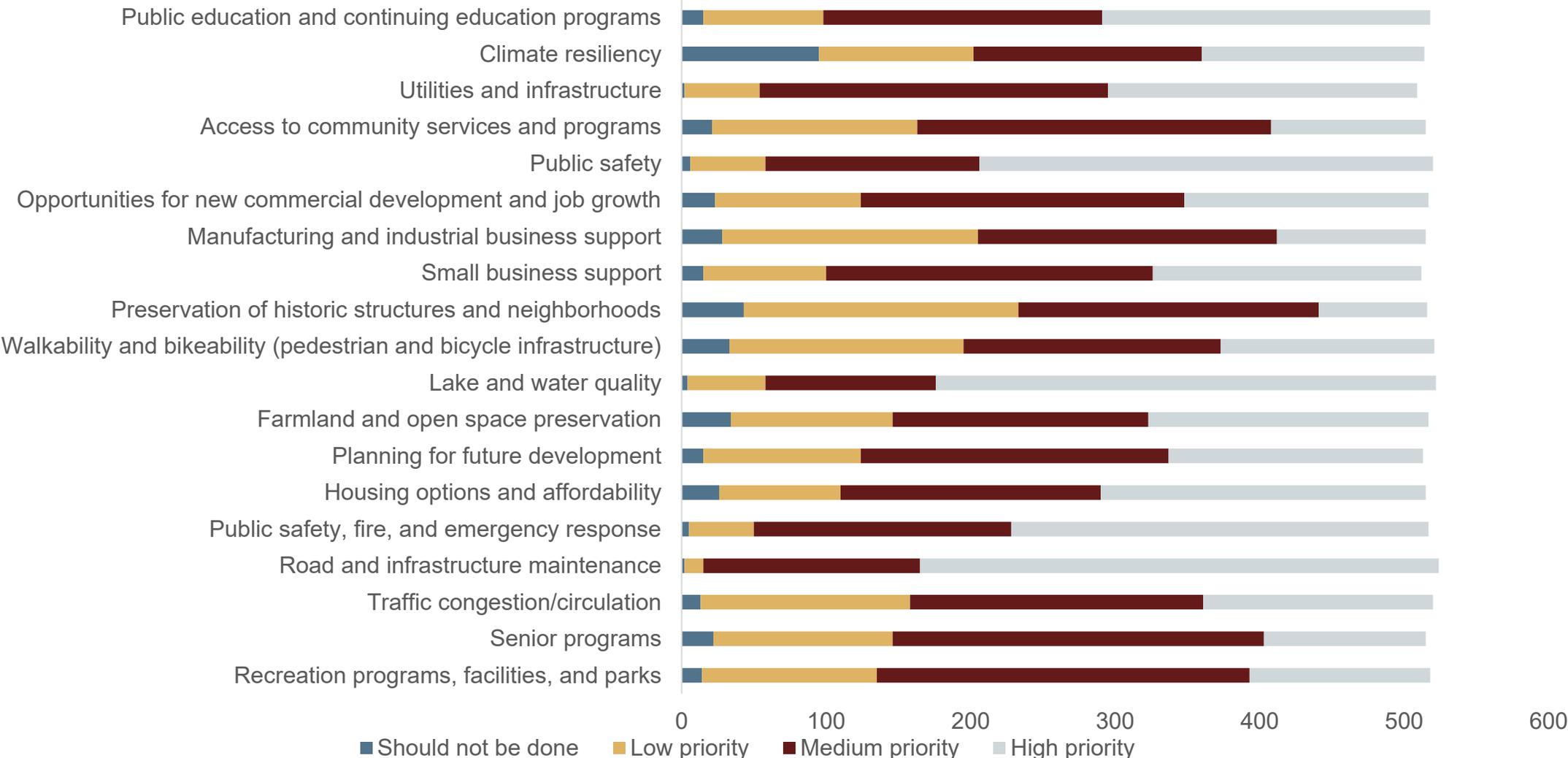
How do you see your (and your family's) transportation needs changing within the next 10 years?



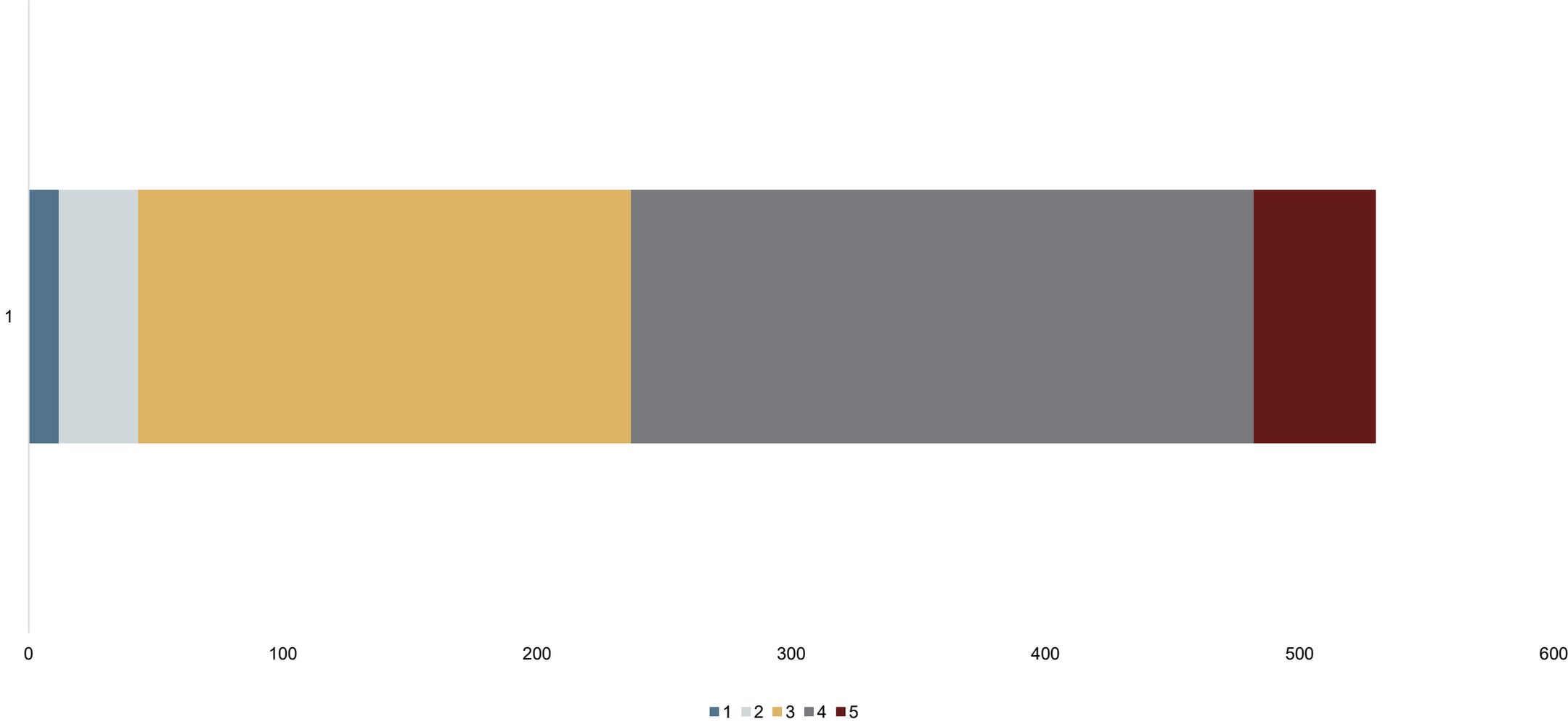
How do you see your housing needs changing in the next 10 years?



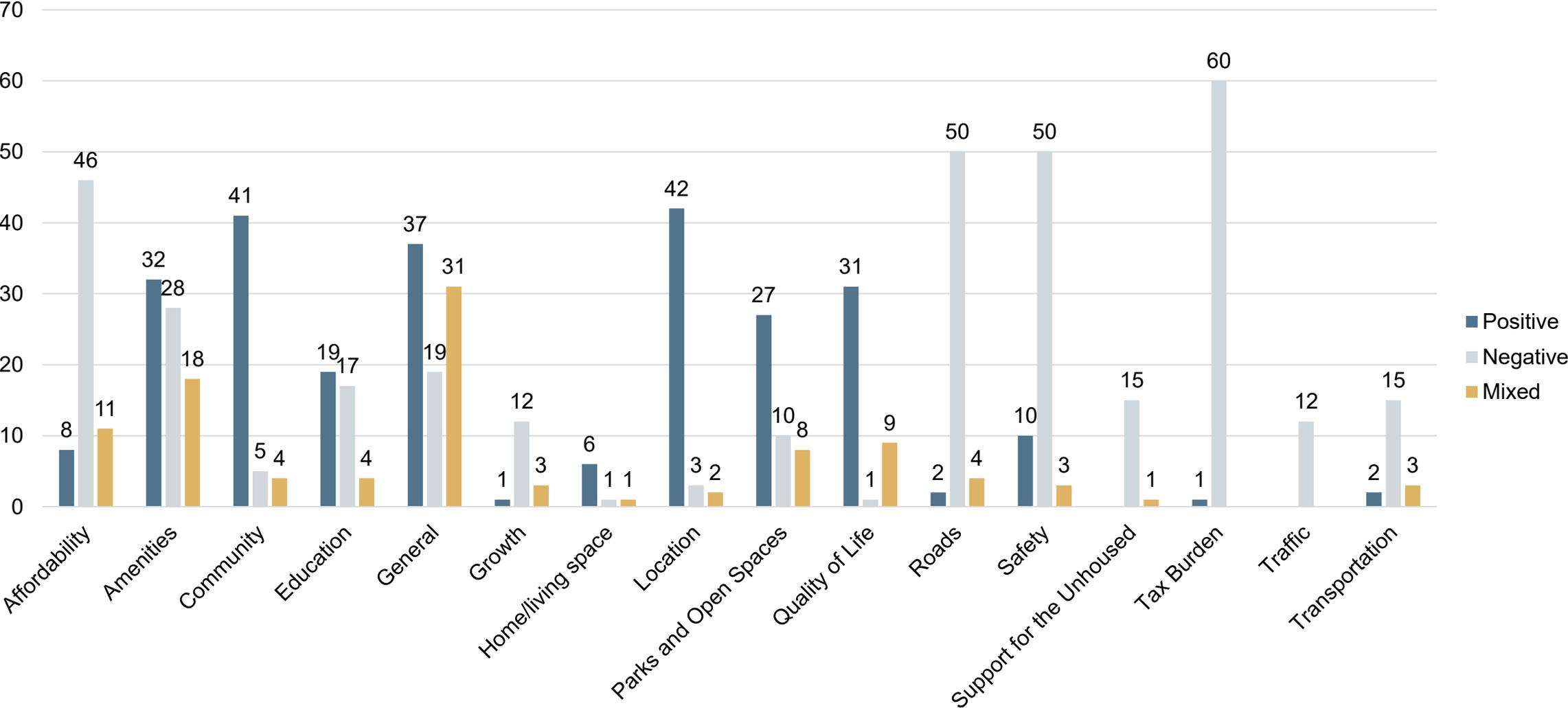
How should the city prioritize spending funds, including property taxes, in the following areas?



How would you rate your quality of life in Auburn?



Why did you select this rating?



Common themes in positive ratings

Themes from responses



Quality of life



Physical features



Community

Most common responses

- 1) Location (42)
- 2) Sense of community (41)
- 3) General experience (37)
- 4) Amenities present (32)
- 5) Quality of life (31)
- 6) Availability of parks, nature, and recreation (27)
- 7) Quality and availability of education (19)
- 8) Safety (10)

Common themes in negative ratings

Themes from responses



Cost of living



Services available

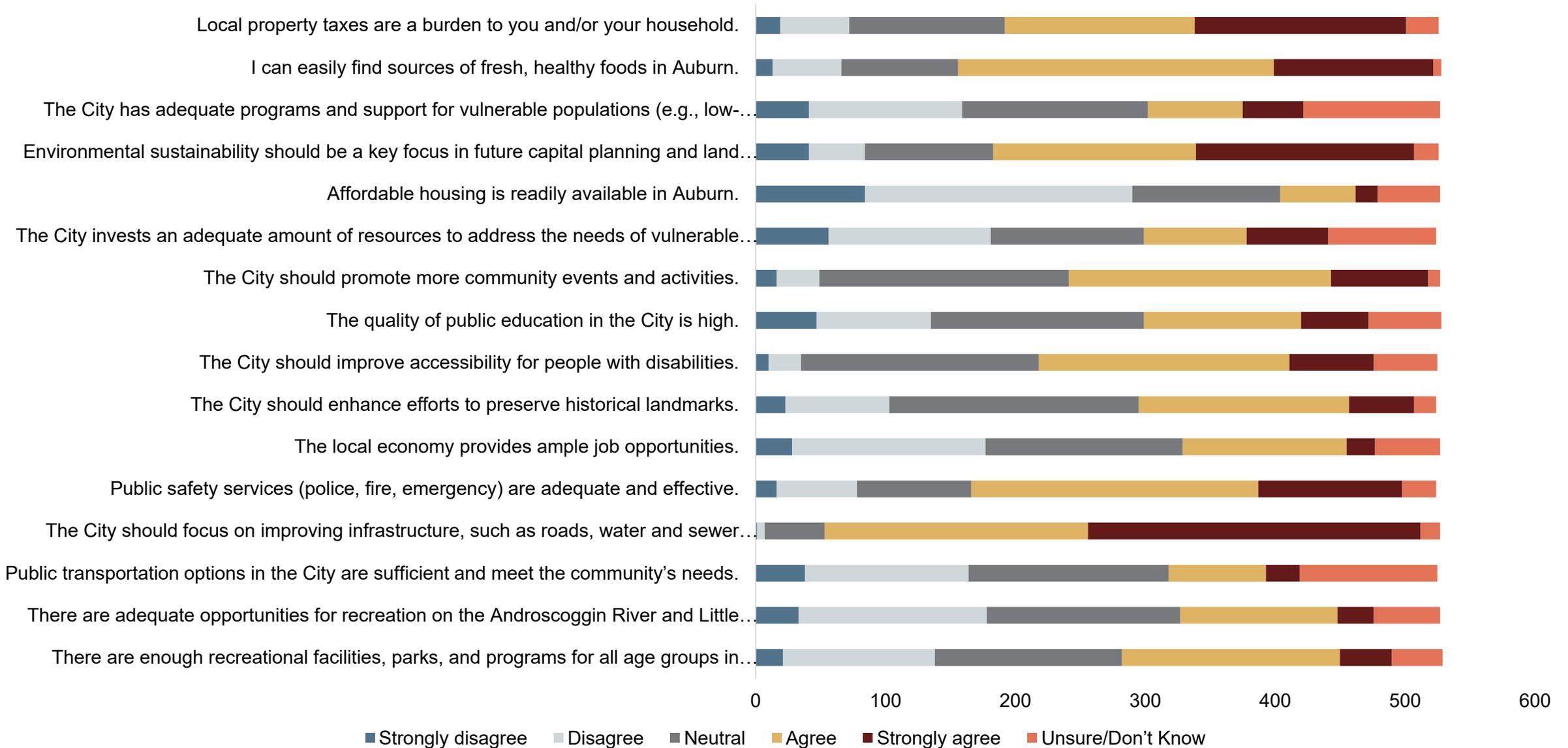


Infrastructure

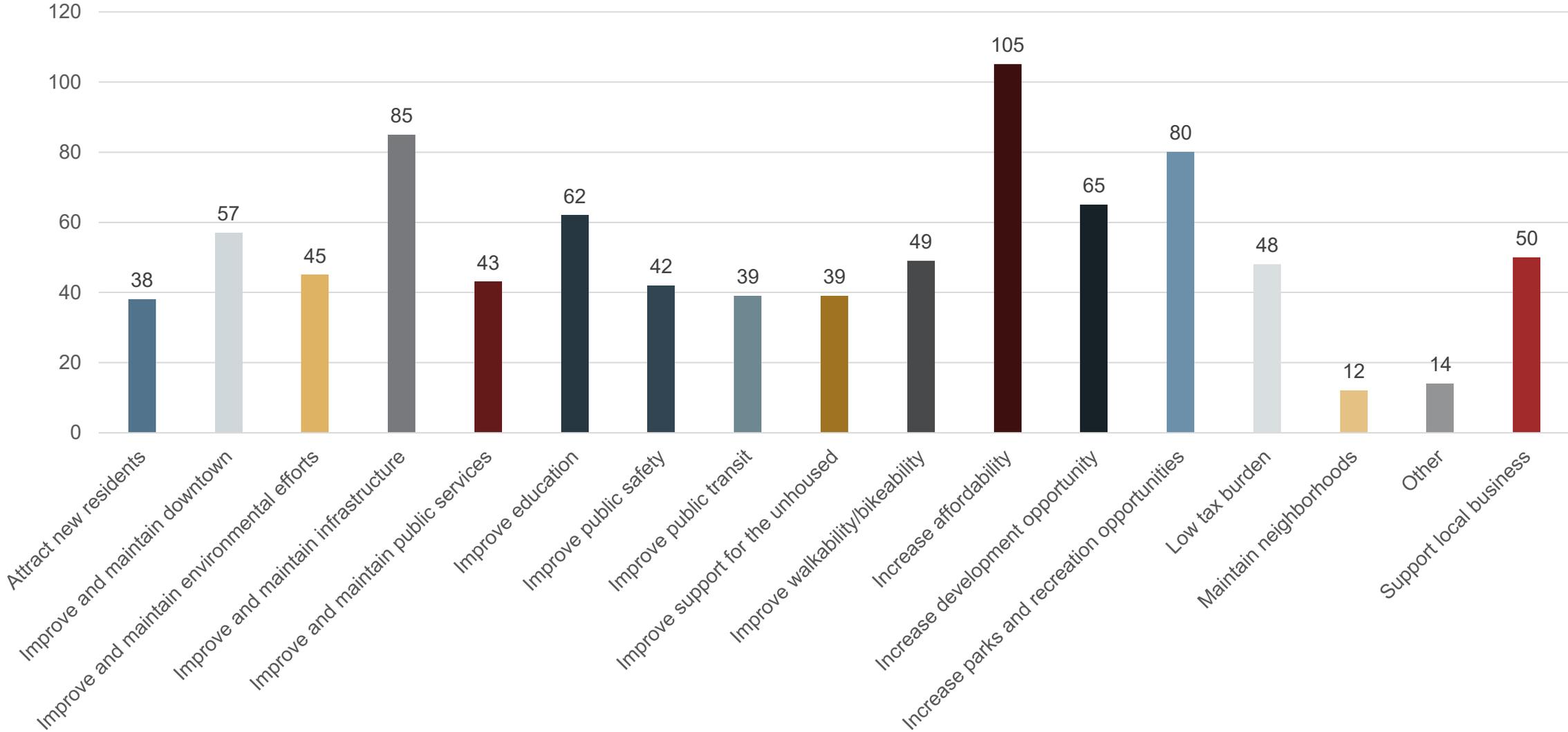
Most common responses

1. Tax burden (60)
2. Quality of roads (50)
3. Safety concerns (50)
4. Affordability (46)
5. Amenities available (28)
6. General experience (19)
7. Quality and availability of education (17)
8. Availability of support for the unhoused (15)

Rate your level of agreement with the following statements



In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?



Common themes in hopes for the future

Themes from responses

Make Auburn affordable and accessible for all

Protect Auburn's natural resources

Make Auburn a destination city

Most common responses

- 1) Increasing affordability (107)
- 2) Improving and maintaining infrastructure (85)
- 3) Increasing parks and recreations opportunities (80)
- 4) Increasing development and growth opportunities (65)
- 5) Improving quality and accessibility of education (62)
- 6) Improving and maintaining Downtown Auburn (57)
- 7) Supporting local businesses (50)
- 8) Improving walkability and bikeability (49)
- 9) Lowering the tax burden (48)
- 10) Improving and maintaining environmental efforts (45)

City of Auburn, ME Comprehensive Plan

Community Visioning Survey Results

Draft



Submitted By:

Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC
2211 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102
207.541.2200

Kevin Price, Principal

Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC
kprice@berrydunn.com

Alison Tobey, Project Manager

Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC
alison.tobey@berrydunn.com

Submitted On:

July 15, 2025

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Table of Contents.....	i
1.0 Survey Questions.....	1
2.0 Survey Responses.....	2

1.0 Survey Questions

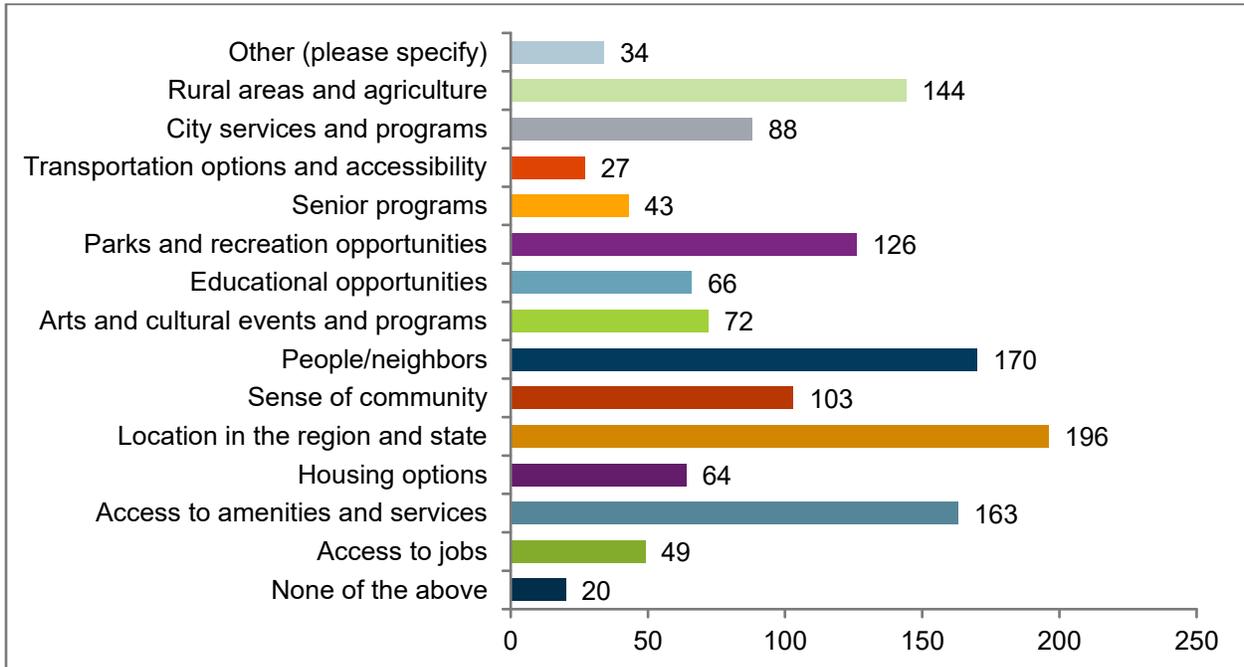
Below are the questions that were included in the survey.

1. What do you value most about Auburn?
2. What changes would have the greatest positive impact on your family's quality of life?
3. How do you see your (and your family's) transportation needs changing in the next 10 years?
4. How do you see your household's housing needs changing in the next 10 years?
5. How should the City prioritize spending funds, including property taxes, in the following areas?
6. Overall, how would you rate your quality of life in Auburn?
7. Why did you select this rating?
8. Rate your level of agreement with the following statements.
9. In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
10. Do you....
11. Do you....
12. What is your age?
13. Which race or ethnicity group best describes you?
14. What is your gender?
15. What is your household's annual income?
16. How many people live in your household?

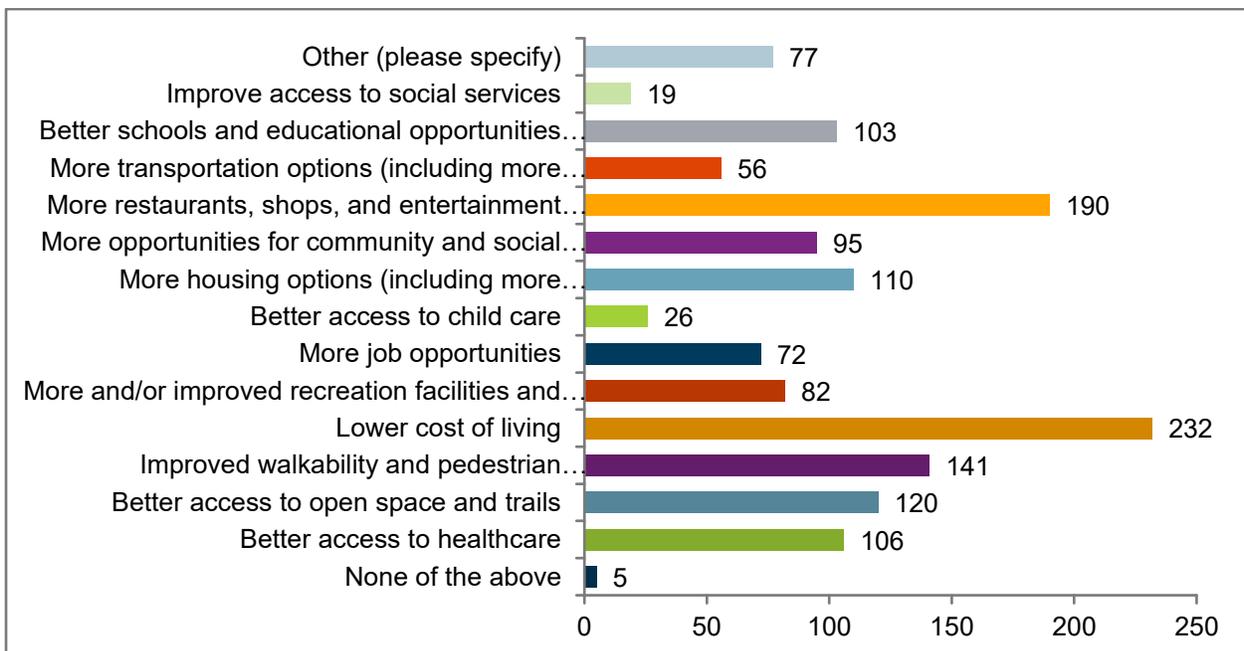
2.0 Survey Responses

Below are the survey responses. In total, there were 541 participants that responded to the survey.

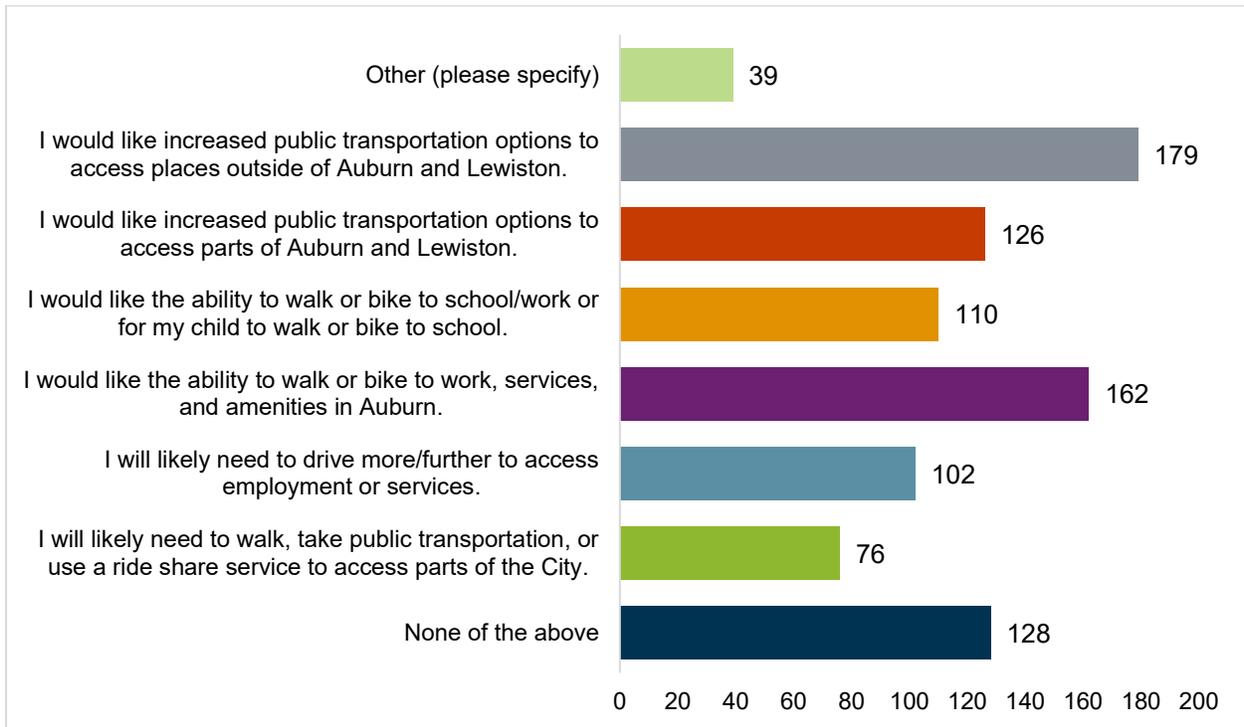
1. What do you value most about Auburn?



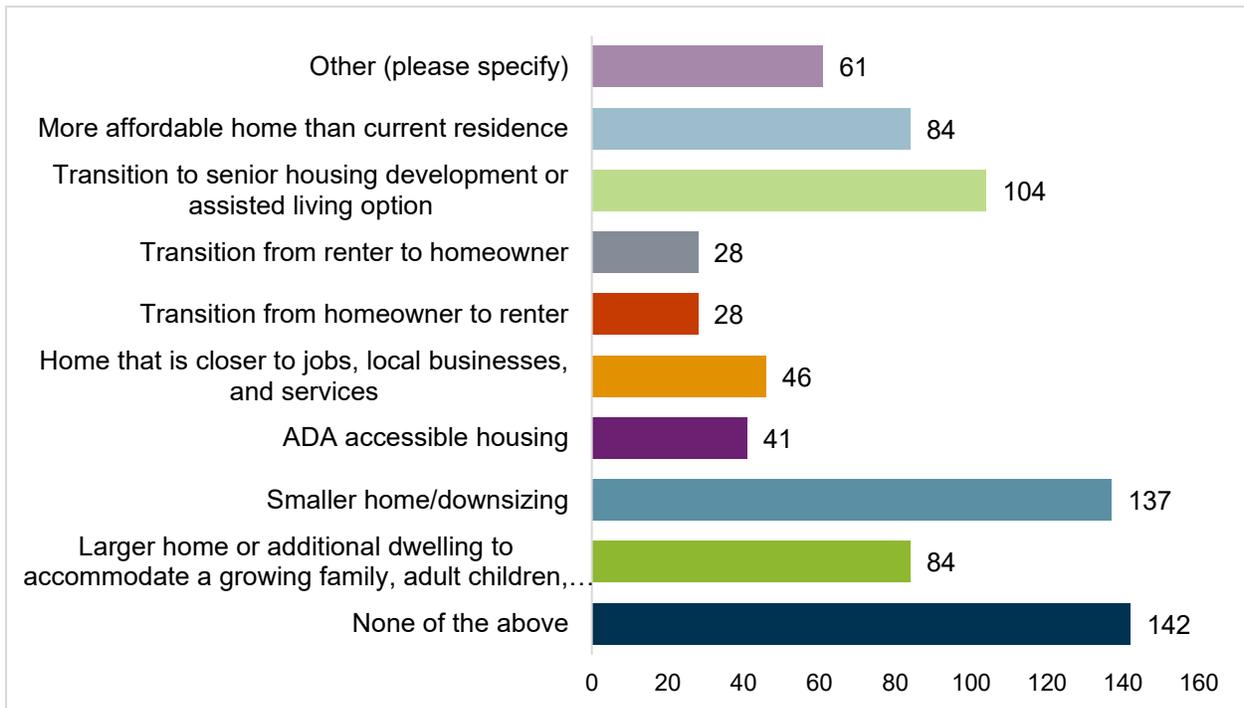
2. What changes would have the greatest positive impact on your family's quality of life?



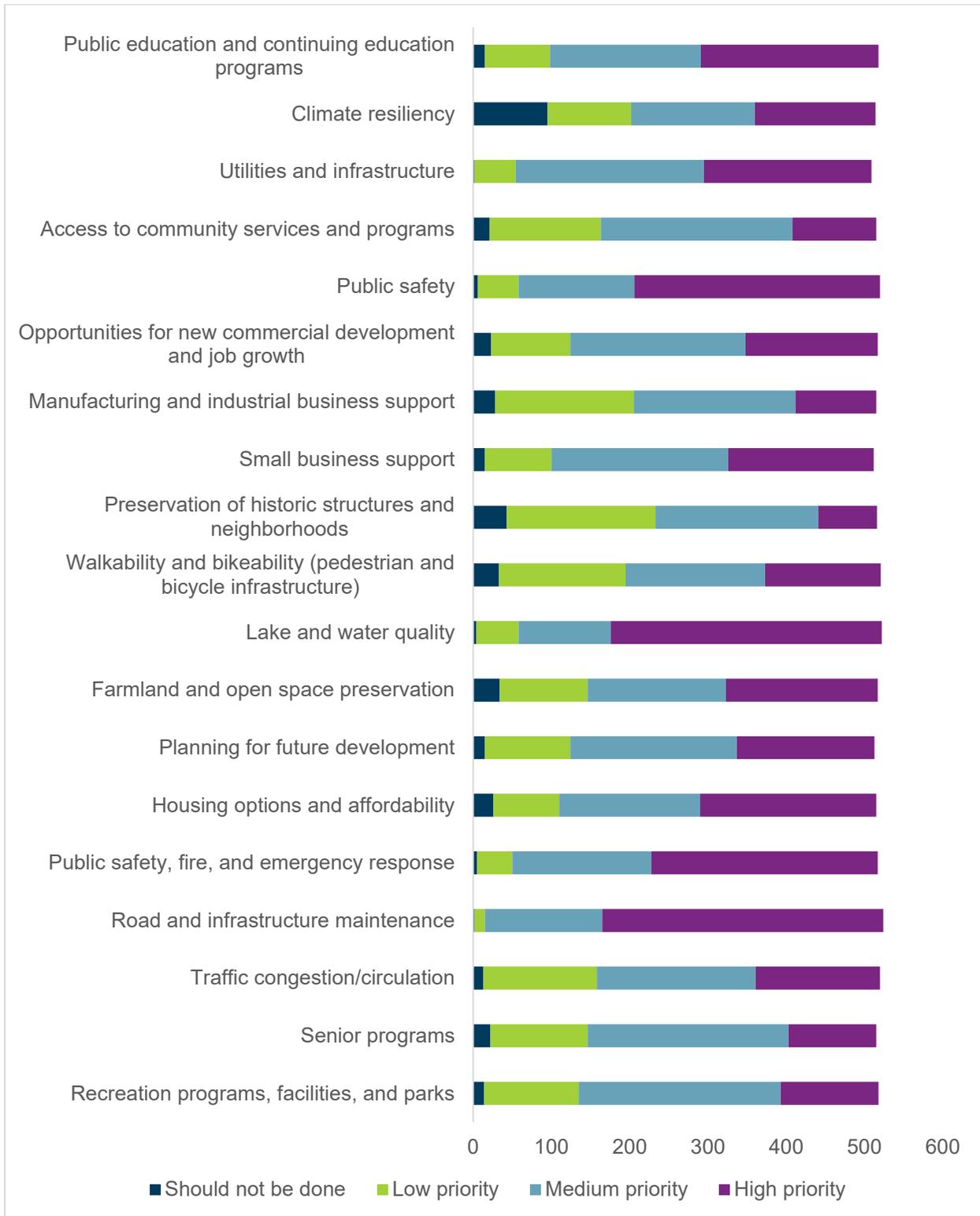
3. How do you see your (and your family's) transportation needs changing in the next 10 years?



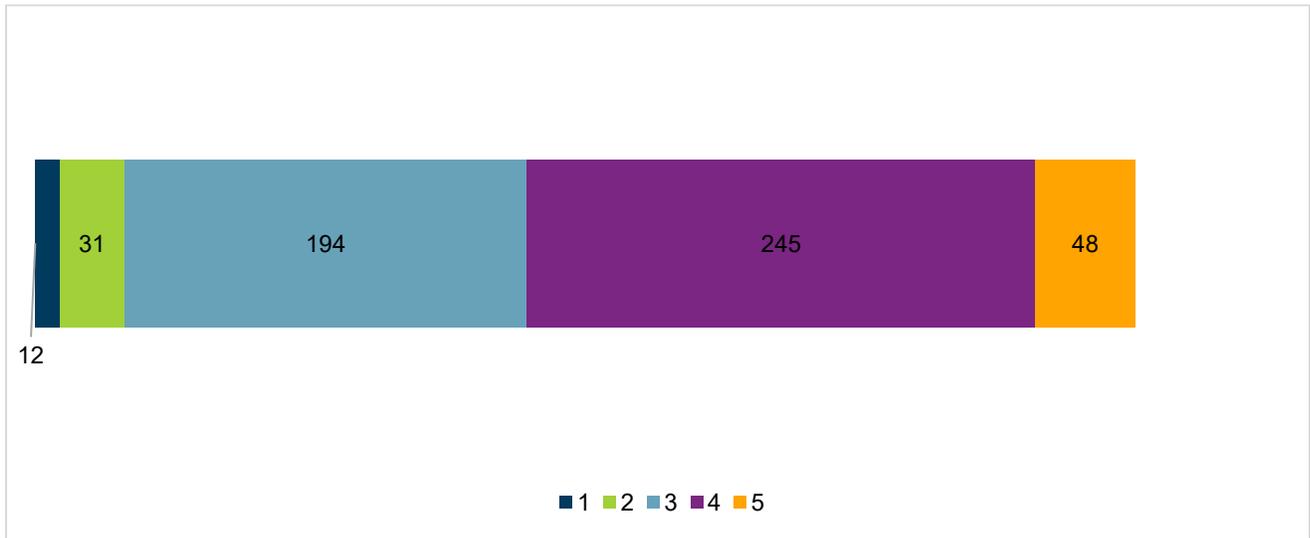
4. How do you see your household's housing needs changing in the next 10 years?



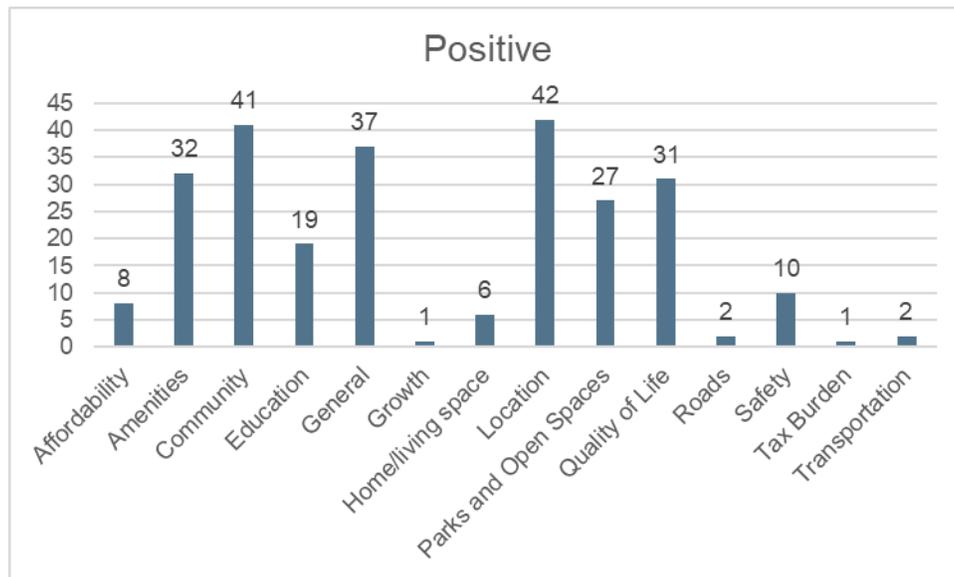
5. How should the City prioritize spending funds, including property taxes, in the following areas?

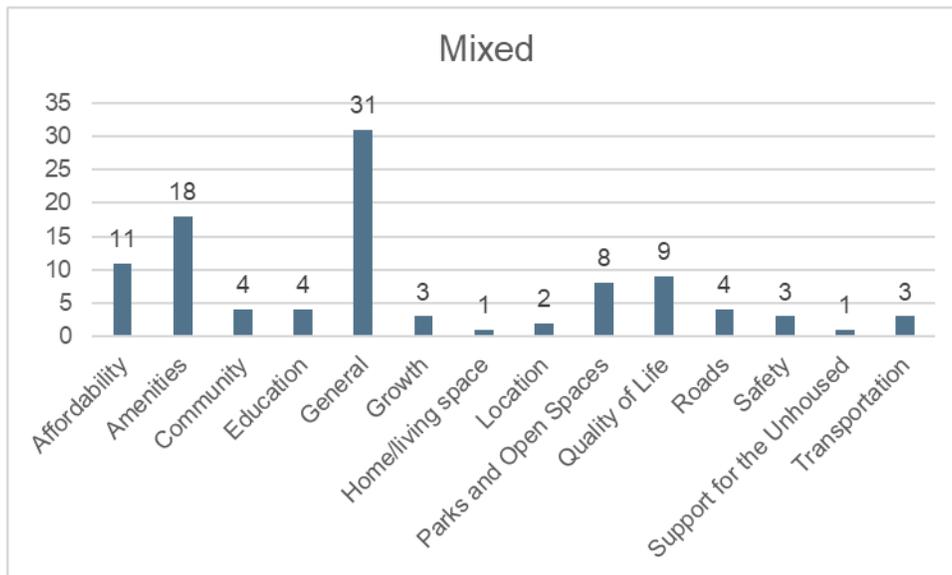
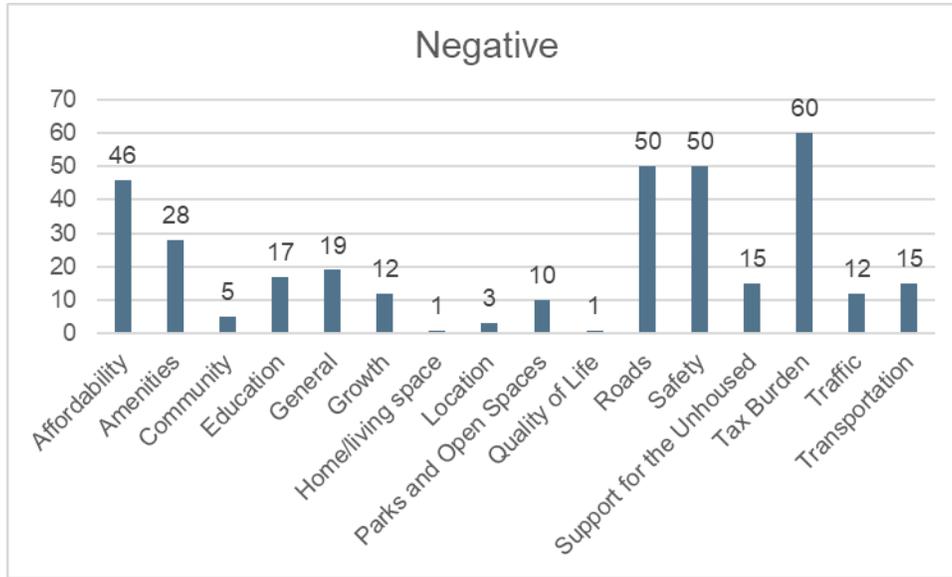


6. Overall, how would you rate your quality of life in Auburn?

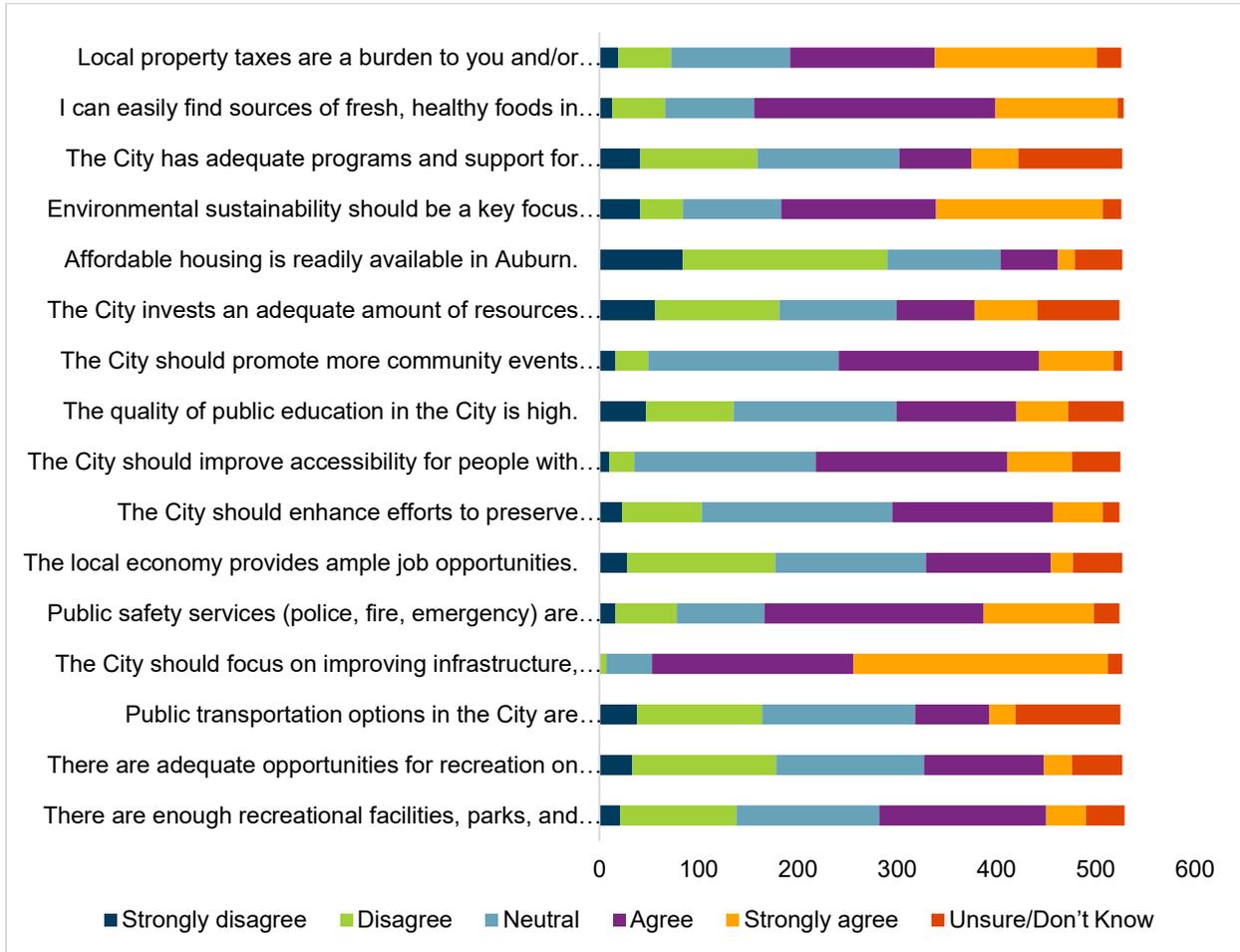


7. Why did you select this rating?

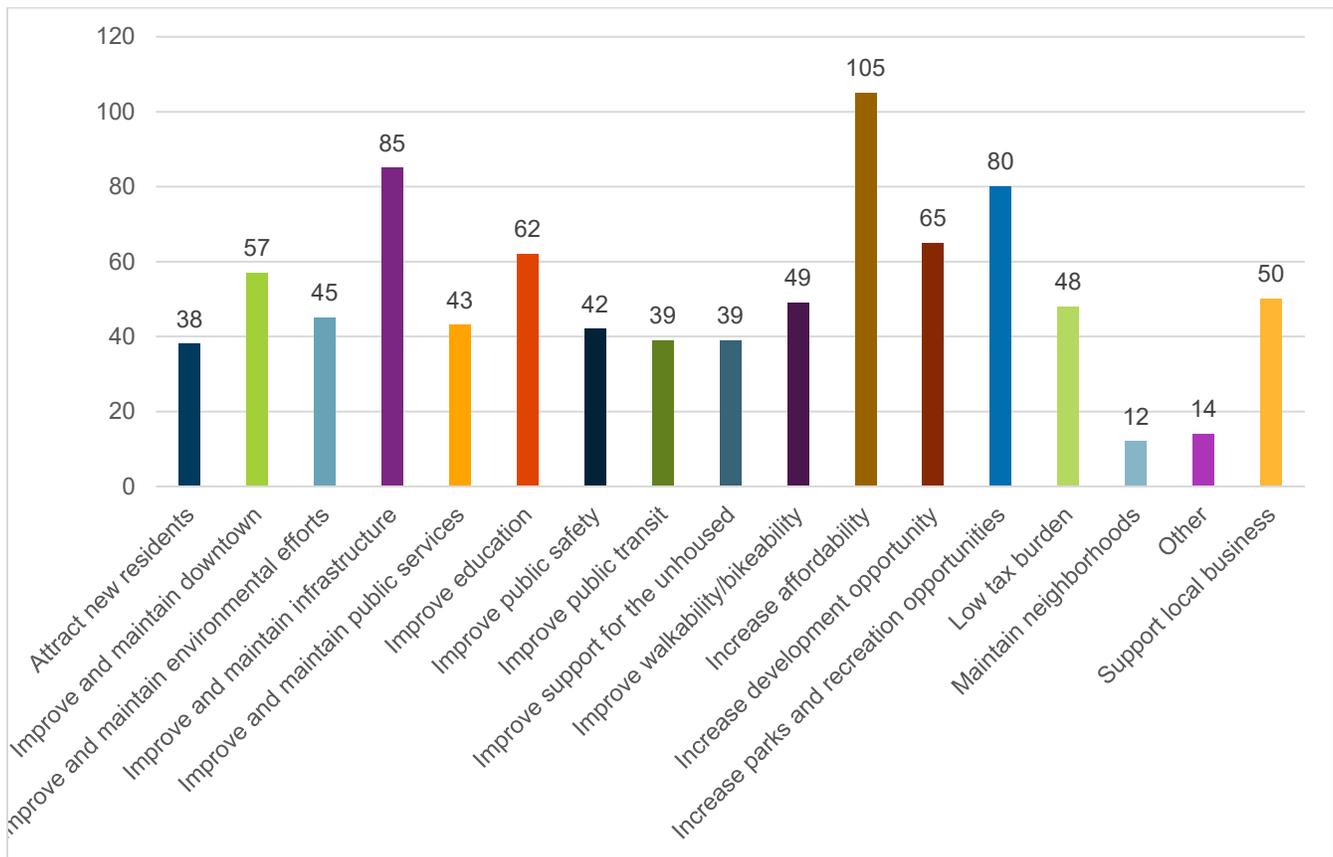




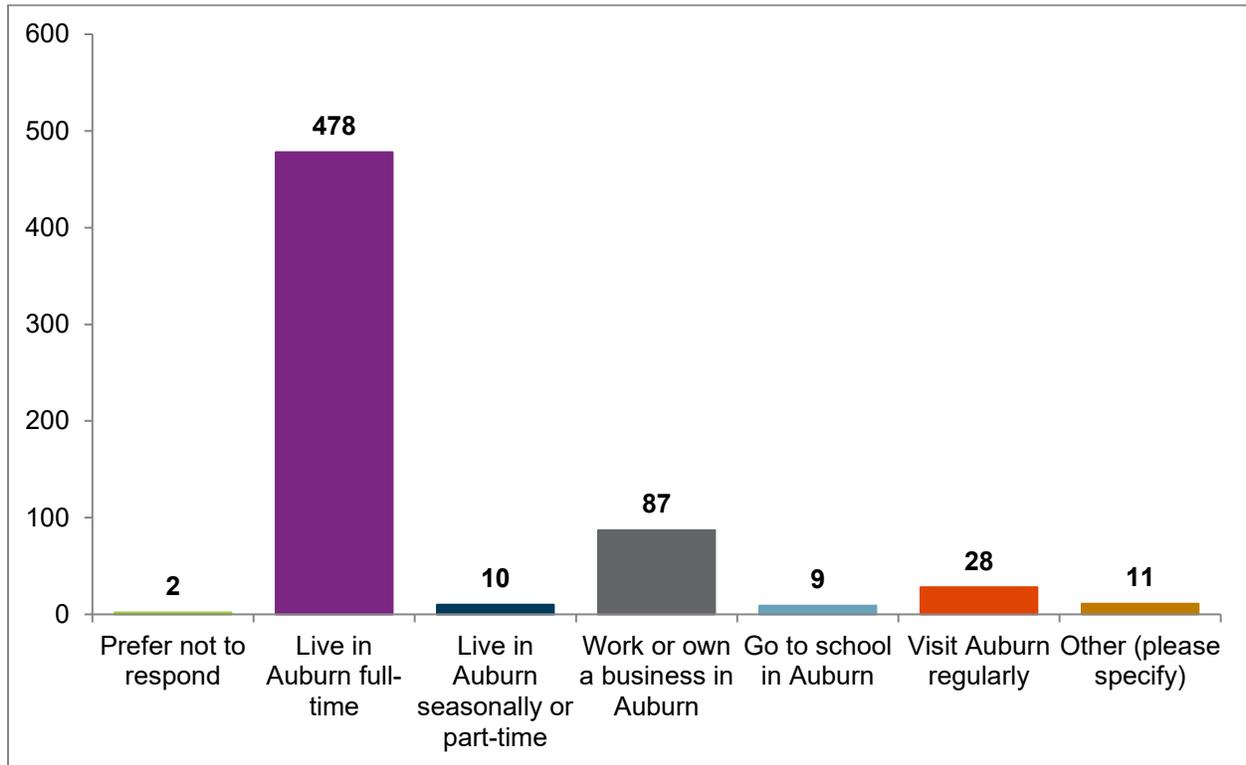
8. Rate your level of agreement with the following statements.



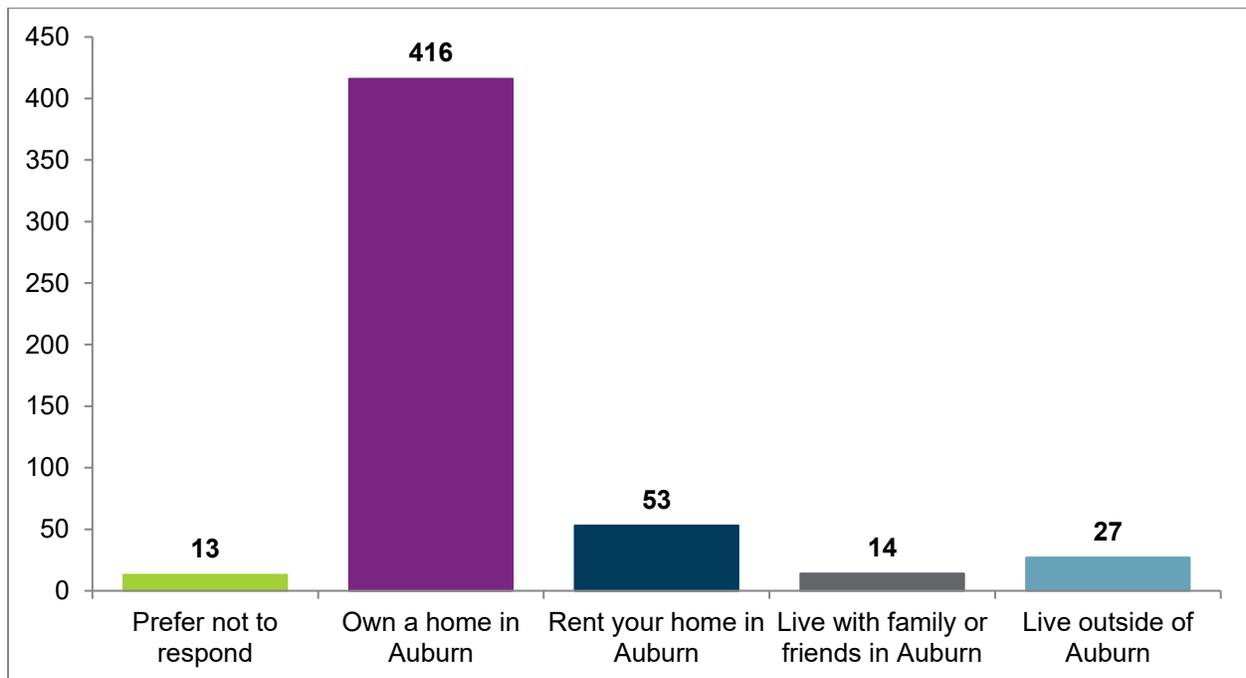
9. In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?



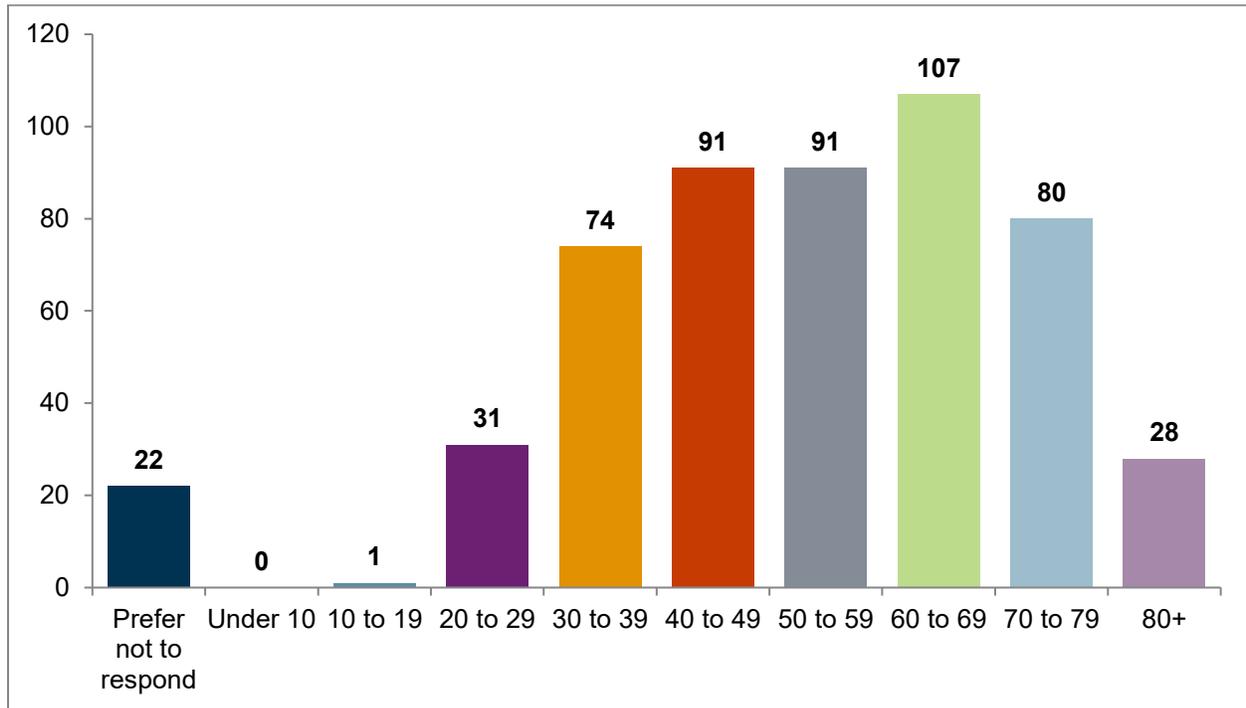
10. Do you....



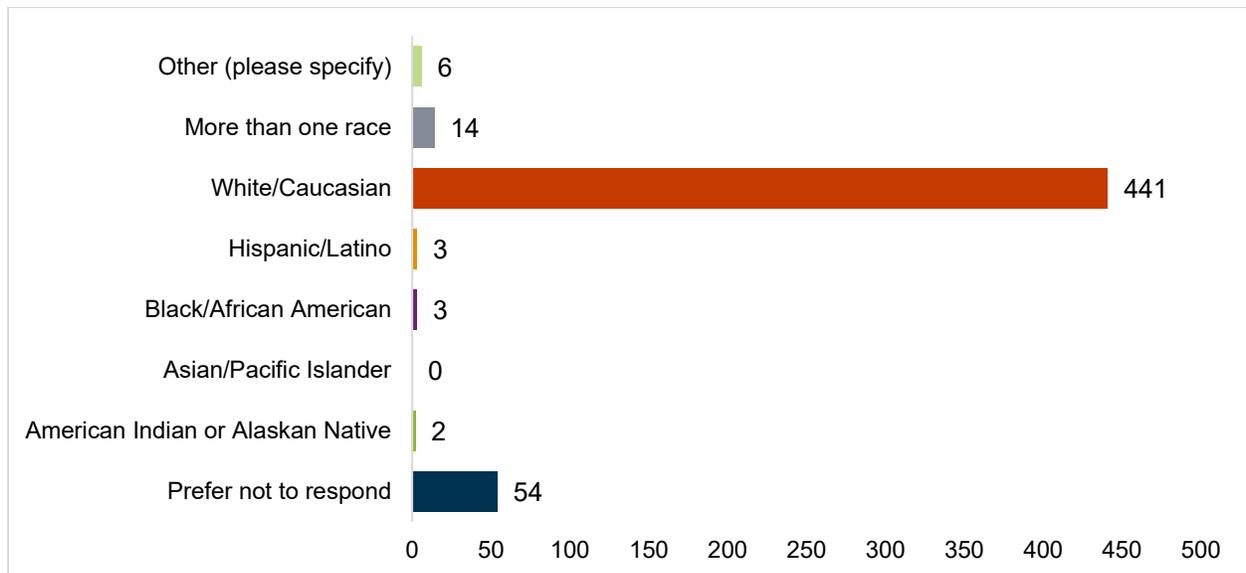
11. Do you....



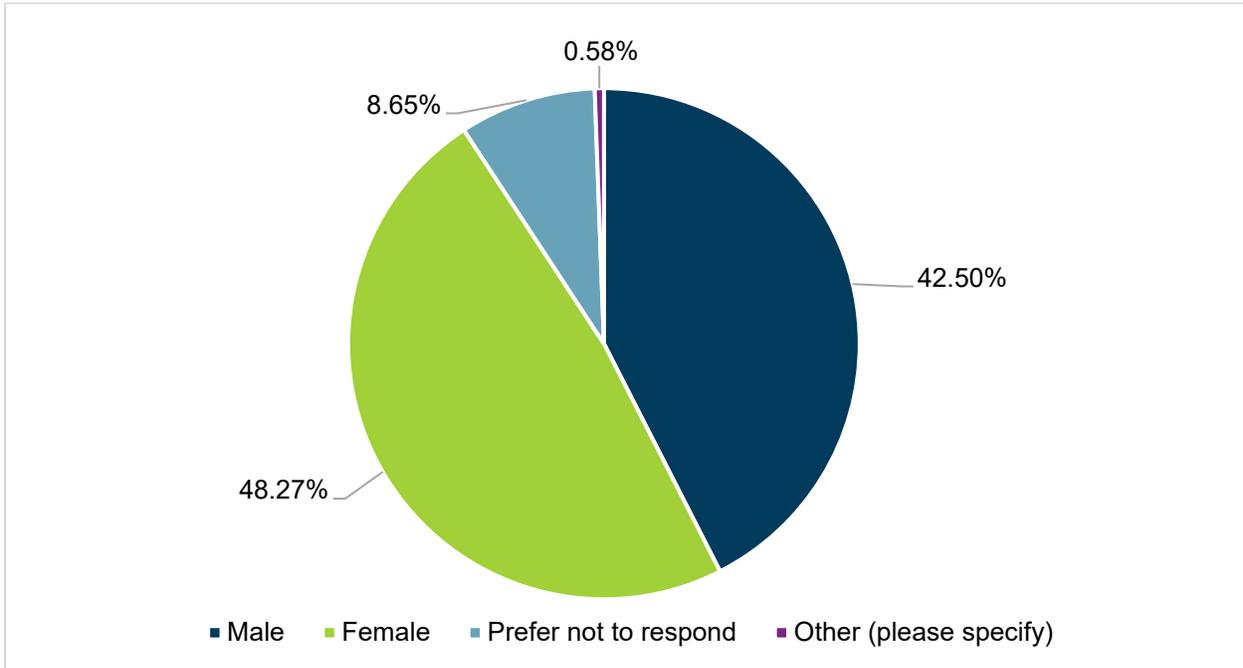
12. What is your age?



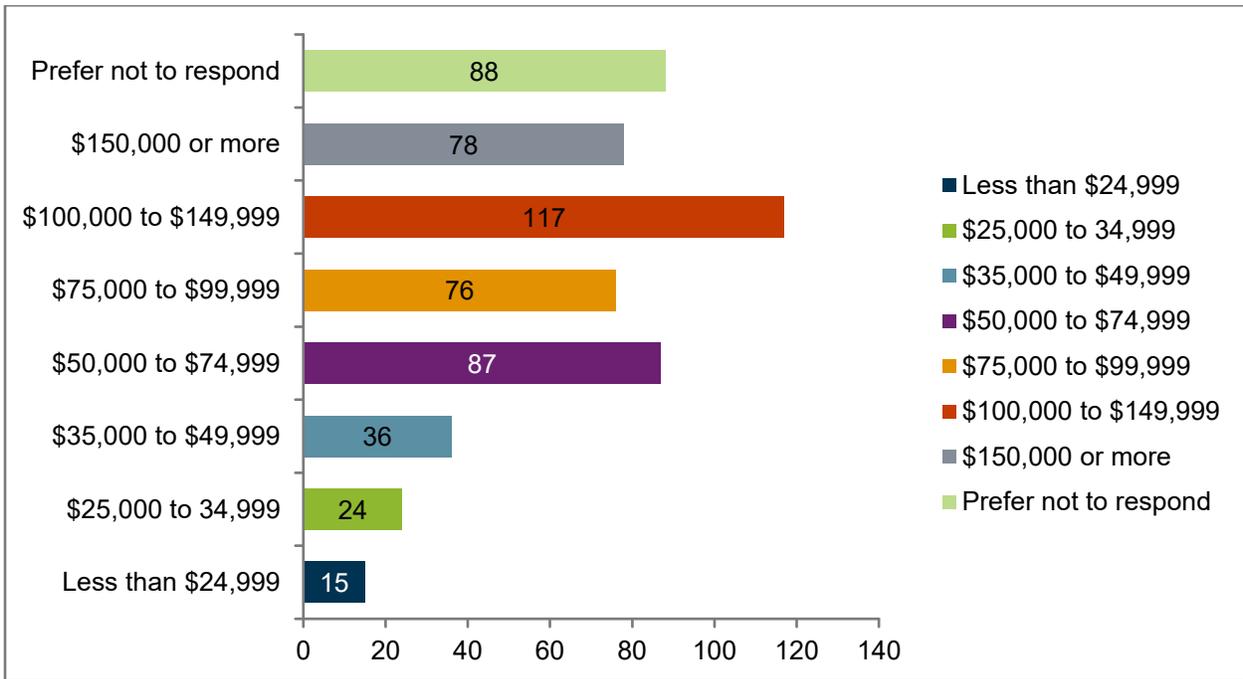
13. Which race or ethnicity group best describes you?



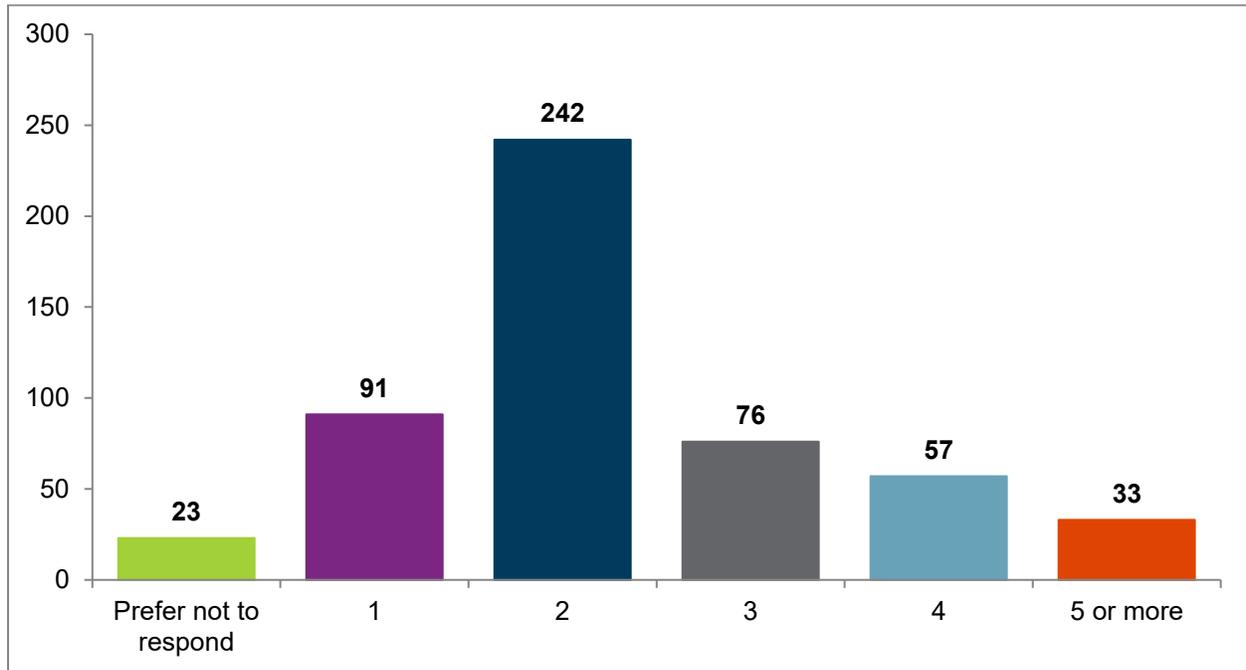
14. What is your gender?



15. What is your household's annual income?



16. How many people live in your household?



Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
1	there are benefits to the location, close to portland, close to augusta, lots of businesses in town. the traffic and roads are horrible, the school system is a C right now. just throwing money at a problem does NOT make it better, most of the time it makes it worse. We need to rethink about we manage funds, how we manage the school
2	Great location, good neighborhood and has all ammenties one May need
3	Auburn, Maine is becoming too costly for the retired population to maintain a sustainable living environment. More emphasis should be centered on programs for the elderly and to opt out of tax increases for those who have paid their taxes over the many years. They should be able to enjoy the rewards of their hard work.
4	I really like my home, neighborhood and community. My taxes are atrocious and it is unfair that because we own a home, we are heavily taxed to invest in these priorities
5	Auburn is ideally located for travel to Augusta, Portland, the coast and the mountains. It has all the amenities one needs to live comfortably - aside from the property taxes rising with no warning, twice.
6	Was good but now it's getting to populated need to slow down on getting to big to fast
7	A lot of things to be finished around the city. Development is on the rise but organization needs work to make life easier in the city.
8	Overall happy with my QOL in Auburn
9	This place is great, but that is only comparing us to fairly low quality options throughout the surrounding areas of Maine. I would like to see us do better to be a leading community to set an example for a better quality of life that can be possible in Maine.
10	it's pretty good, but it could be better
11	Auburn School System's low rating impacts home values and the recruitment of qualified healthcare providers.
12	I have a good quality of life in Auburn.
13	I am close to medical facilities. I have police/fire/public works available. Shopping, restaurants, library and gov services are nearby. I live near a more rural section of Auburn and appreciate relative quiet and dark(ish) skies. Unfortunately, I have about 50 minute commute (each way) to work (but I'm happy to be heading away from Portland and its busy-ness almost every time).
14	No limit on taxes and public funds being diverted to non-productive assets
15	Auburn is center midpoint in Maine
16	its a good time here
17	Love my neighborhood, access to health care, police and firefighters make me feel safe
18	There is always room for improvement.
19	I have lived in Auburn happily for 77 hears (73 yrs in our home which we had built) Auburn's location is great. The school system is managed well. Auburn has been a safe city.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
20	Grew up here- lived away for 70 years. It is still home. Transportation is my big concern as I gave up driving.
21	Current progressive leadership is growing. There should be limits on what the government can take from its citizens.
22	Just like small city living- Auburn had doing well.
23	I have a comfortable life style, live right on the shore of Taylor Pond. I have access to good health care, and can get to most of my errands and appointments in 10-15 minutes. I also recognize that I have privileges that many others do not have.
24	current quality overall is satisfactory
25	I've lived here my whole life and now as a home owner I would just like to see lower property taxes. I also would like to see our roads taken care of better.
26	Poor to no transportation to access services
27	Auburn is an ok place to live and shop
28	There is a limited sense of community spirit though recently there have been efforts to change with community lobster dinner, etc. I would like to see the Senior Center or other available facilities used to offer art classes and workshops. The Androscoggin River is a wonderful resource for community activities, and should be used like Providence, Rhode Island's River Fire Festival.
29	I don't see any change in my future !
30	There are beautiful parts of Auburn unfortunately the bad parts or unsafe parts of Lewiston are causing those types of people to come to the parks and areas of Auburn and the police are not doing anything to keep our kids safe the park near the police association. League has been a place of many fights, stabbings drug exchange, kids stealing and robbing. The police have been called numerous of times and now our children can't go to that park due to how dangerous it is. I'm very disappointed in the city not policing the parks better.
31	Because I like the area
32	COSTS to continue to stay in Auburn are nearly prohibitive. Auburn has been trying to ATTRACT people to move here, while simultaneously forcing EXISTING RESIDENTS out, particularly seniors that can't afford the increasing taxes. And the housing options being built are NOT anywhere near "affordable".
33	It has everything we need.
34	Auburn is a safe city that has a lot to offer
35	Due to poor roads, poorly placed lights, and focus on programs that don't benefit the entire community
36	I love Auburn although the developments and traffic congestion are getting to be difficult- especially with so many road closures and detours. Fix what is broken before making new and tearing up what was just completed a few years ago.
37	This is my community. I appreciate what we do have- the people are real, there are there opportunities that outsiders don't often recognize. We just need to believe in Lewiston Auburn and not sell ourselves short all the time

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
38	My family, which is just 2 people, is fortunate enough to be able to afford all of our basic needs but cannot afford vacations nor can we buy larger purchases (ex: car) without having to either save or get a loan. We're middle class.
39	Great place to raise a family.
40	Way too many criminals here in Auburn, Lewiston area. Drug dealer from out of State, letting to many foreigners here
41	Auburn is an affordable place to live, which is why we moved here. However, it is purely just a place where we live and not a place where we are part of a community. Almost everything we do —work, entertainment, dining, etc. is done outside of Auburn. We commute to Brunswick, Portland, or Freeport for almost everything that isn't basic necessities like grocery shopping, or hardware. We do regularly enjoy the public trail at Lake Auburn and Mount Apetit.
42	We prepared for financial needs by investing early.
43	The only needs Auburn does not meet are material needs--better restaurant choices, women's retail, coffee shops, a bookstore, a garden center, a true "downtown" (park once and walk to many choices) and I need to leave the City to get what I desire. But my needs are not the City's priority. However, I would love for Auburn to become a place that attracts business development that would keep my money local and create a sense of community gathering daily.
44	I have lived in Auburn since 1992
45	It's a "city" that feels like a suburb, actually. We value the ability to walk places and, if you live near downtown, that's quite feasible. Downtown Auburn could use more restaurant, bar, coffee shop options. Why walk to Lewiston for all that?
46	I like that it does not feel like a busy metropolis.
47	Auburn is a classy city and needs to continue to enhance itself.
48	Property Taxes are too high for the SFR owners, electric rates are way too high, water quality is low, public education is lacking structure and good curriculum, crime is a problem.
49	It's pretty good but there could be more local things to do/places to eat, things could be cheaper and schools could be far better.
50	I think that Auburn is becoming more citified and I think that this will continue and the city will price people of their homes
51	I like the easy access to services and amenities. I would like to see more investment in deteriorated housing to prevent further urban blight.
52	I think it's ok
53	I like my life here, but I wish the downtown hadn't been hollowed out that there were things to do downtown & better walking connections across court & center Street for example.
54	Slow down all the speeders (Try some small speed bumps), cut overgrown foliage on the sidewalks, improve in city roads.
55	Good services. Most the needed amenities. Taxes a little high.
56	it's reasonable quiet and no one bothers me
57	location of home

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
58	I love the neighborhoods that exist throughout the City. I enjoy being able to go for walks along the Lake, and places like Mount Appetite. I enjoy being located in a somewhat rural setting, while also having close access to stores and restaurants. I think that the people in office and City staff care about Auburn and its future. I wish the downtown area had more businesses, and I hope the City can help small businesses thrive in our downtown by maintaining a clean and pleasant setting for business development.
59	I just want to live in a safe and friendly neighborhood where people respect one another and have some pride in how they maintain their house. I don't know what authority the city has to tell people what they can or can't do but simply mowing the lawn occasionally would be a welcomed change.
60	Things are good but I wish I could find a job in Auburn or Lewiston so I don't have to drive to Portland. The jobs in LA pay too low for me to afford to live in LA, which is how I got myself in a position where I work in Portland and commute from LA.
61	Because, objectively, it rocks here.
62	
63	
64	
65	Where else can you jump off the dam into the Androscoggin like you're in a gritty indie coming-of-age film? Or hop onto a slow-moving train car like you're a rebel with a vague sense of direction and zero regard for train schedules? There's nothing like a summer night in Auburn when you're maybe (definitely not) dumpster diving behind the old mall or Laney Wellingshams just to see what treasures fate (and the Department of Sanitation) have in store. We've got more hiking trails, river walks, and mom-and-pop restaurants than you can shake a whoopie pie at.
66	
67	
68	
69	But here's the thing: we're missing a pool.
70	
71	Like, a real, community-accessible, do-laps-before-breakfast kind of pool. Our high school swim team doesn't have a home facility in the city. Not one of our public parks has a seasonal pool for kids to splash in or seniors to water-walk through. It's a weird gap for a city that otherwise has so much going for it.
72	
73	
74	
75	So Auburn gets a 4/5—not because it isn't awesome—but because a place this vibrant, this full of weird joy and backroad adventure, deserves a pool to match.
76	
77	
78	

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
79	Build us a pool and I'll slap on that fifth star faster than you can say, "Hey, is that train moving?"
80	Good park and open space options with access to the river
81	Auburn is the perfect mix of being able to get all of my needs met - local stores, restaurants, churches/civic groups, recreation programs and venues - and turn the corner and have lots of open space, quiet and solitude, nature. Do not overdevelop this area!!! Keep it like this!!
82	Auburn is a good place to live but there are quite a few issues that need to be addressed. Center Street as a whole is starting to look very outdated and looks worn out. Job opportunities for accountants/finance driven professions are lacking because companies aren't opening headquarters here due to costs.
83	Driving around your city's oldest neighborhoods is depressing, with run down buildings, unkept lawns, cars blocking sidewalks, and growing vandalism.
84	Too many transients ruining the city and little repercussions
85	The quality of living in Auburn has been overall. Schools need to be redirected and the state needs to be more supportive of small business.
86	Mostly satisfied with what the city gives me for my life but would like to see some things improved.
87	Rent and bills are too expensive with the pay I'm getting. If something were to happen to my significant other, it would take a full pay check and part of the other just to cover rent. I only get two checks a month.
88	You can not drive around town without the stench of POT on every corner, how many pot and grow shops do we really need? You can't drive on the roads as they are a mess and full of holes. You can't drive to the grocery store or stop at traffic lights without being accosted for money. Not safe to walk the streets downtown, esp. at night with all the druggies and hoodlums/gangs that have moved into the areas. Everything locked up at Walmart people are stealing so regularly.
89	I love my home and neighborhood and feel that Auburn is pretty walkable, but maybe could use improvement on roads and bikeability/accessibility. The community gardens program is great but we could always use more plants and trees. Small businesses seem to struggle to get started and could use more support. I don't have much experience with public services but homelessness and drug addiction are problems I see that still need attention. Having community and recreational activities could help prevent younger folks from going down that road.
90	Housing costs are through the roof, and this city is more concerned with Washington Ave, getting rid of the low income housing and businesses in that area is a horrible idea.
91	There isn't a skatepark
92	Life is fine here, wish that the Auburn skatepark could get some more love. It's been a staple for the Maine skateboarding community and a little renovation there would go a long way.
93	I like the open space, green space and agriculture access while also having access to restaurants, community programs and services. My family is here, I have a nice home that abuts conservation land, and a safe neighborhood. I

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
	have opportunities to volunteer for organizations that I believe in. There is good air quality.
94	Auburn is struggling to find an identity beyond the needs of our current population of seniors. If Auburn does not quickly adapt it will find itself with a rapidly declining population.
95	Where I live is beautiful. I wish there was more recreation
96	We need more restaurants and stores and a downtown vibe.
97	I am comfortable here and have a quick commute to work. Apartment is reasonably affordable and have a nice park to walk through in my neighborhood
98	Because services and cultural activities, as education opportunities are great. However, there communal spaces are still missing, and without a proper and well connected walkable areas, the town suffers the same isolation issues that most of the country.
99	I love living here.
100	Constantly changing medical providers/services available. Need to go to Portland area for services.
101	
102	Needing more attention to parks, walkways that are clean & landscaped. For example, when walking on the River walk over by the Hilton Garden's there was unsightly pile of old mattresses next to the walkway.
103	
104	Need an tourist attraction to the L-A area, not sure what could be developed around the river (that would be safe) as far as larger boat rides, etc.
105	The roads are horrible throughout the city.
106	I have a home with distant neighbors and a job that pays well in Auburn.
107	I love Auburn but it is difficult to get anywhere safely unless by car. I would like to see more sidewalks and bike lanes (even if it is just painting a bike lane in the existing car land to remind vehicles that they do have to share the road.)
108	There is always room for improvement.
109	I think it is a very nice place to live, but it seems to be getting shabbier every year. Road conditions are usually awful, pedestrian safety is marginal, bike safety is next to zero? Conditions of so many houses are deteriorating, I assume because people can barely afford the upkeep . The houses in my neighborhood used to be lovely (and the roads), but now both look very low-rent, messy, barely liveable. I can't imagine what the interiors look like.
110	I'm a home owner in rural Auburn with a steady income and all my needs are met. I can easily access amenities in nearby cities and towns. I have a high quality of life but know that this is not the case for many folks in Auburn.
111	Vehicle traffic loaded with untrained drivers with extreme lack of courtesy!
112	good but not great
113	I love auburn and giving back to the community but too much money is spent on social services and not where it needs to go
114	Because the questions above are all the same. The city first needs to take care of what it has.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
115	
116	Fix roads
117	
118	Tear down unsightly buildings
119	
120	Beautiful the landscape around Auburn
121	
122	Need more restaurants
123	
124	Put a cap on the number of cannabis stored
125	
126	Don't allow open carry in Auburn
127	
128	Bring a grocery store to Minot Avenue (less travel for many, saves roads)
129	
130	Help the children who are homeless by mentoring in hopes to break the cycle they are in.
131	
132	
133	
134	Life should not be trying to because rich but taking good care of your chosen community.
135	We live in the rural part of auburn and like the proximity of open space and agricultural activities.
136	It seems like we need to invest more in public activities to bring people together. Roads are pretty bad. Sidewalks are bad in neighbor hoods. Better playgrounds needed. Need more improved public space for gatherings.
137	New school, I feel safe, road accessibility, urban and rural, nice traditions
138	Auburn is a "very big" city " area wise. which requires a lot of the property tax money to be used to maintain/improve infrastructure (roads). It is very important not to become a city that is focused on social programs and attracts people that want freebies, handouts, subsidies. Doing this will cause a deterioration of the infrastructure because there will not be enough funds to allocate appropriately. (Towns that focus on freebies = Lewiston, Skowhegan, Sanford. And what happens then- is that hard working taxpayers move to Falmouth, Yarmouth, Scarborough. Auburn is at a tipping point. We are either going to go the way of the less attractive towns or stay attractive for hard working families. We are blessed with beautiful lakes, rivers, hospitals, ski areas, recreation areas, and schools/colleges. Let us be sure to foster these local benefits by creating beautiful infrastructure and smooth roads that make citizens happy to live here.
139	I am happy overall with our life in Auburn, however there are several specific things that I would like to see done or improved.
140	Sense of safety and community

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
141	I'm an avid cyclist and Auburn has a long way to go to ensure safe cycling. Speed and intersection cameras would be a great benefit to improve cycling and pedestrian safety and make our community more family friendly.
142	I have great neighbors, there's grocery delivery available and most of my appointments are easy to get to, although I need to use Uber to access some because handicap parking is not available.
143	More security needed. Make our cities safe again please.
144	There is plenty of commercial property that is ripe for development on both Center Street and Minot Avenue. It would be nice to see another grocery chain open a store that can compete with Shaws, Hannaford, and Walmart. A store that would draw people from surrounding towns. And not half a store like the joke that was Best Buy. If it's developed right it would attract restaurants and other shops to that area. Think Trader Joes or Market Basket.
145	Not enough housing options.
146	I would like to see more recreational space and beautification of areas
147	relatively uncrowded, but still easy access to what I need. Easy access to turnpike when travelling to more congested areas. Please don't let Auburn become a bedroom community for Portland metro area.
148	Services that are requested come slow or not at all.
149	We need a more classy clean Environment. Better and cleaner restaurants. Better roads safer walking paths and bike paths Preferably by the Auburn airport.
150	Good neighbors & schools
151	I have lived here all my life. I love the landscape of our city/state. But the main reason I stay is because I have elderly relatives here and I help take care of them. My spouse and I do not have children in the school system, and our taxes get raised almost every year because spending is out of control. When a family budget is stretched and there are more things we WANT compared to what we NEED and CAN AFFORD, we have to make hard choices. This city has a very difficult time in doing this. They give the schools everything they WANT, whereas, I could point out several areas that the schools could downsize (too much administration for one) and they need to start living within the means of the citizens of Auburn.
152	Lots of addiction to driving and constant motion. In essence, everyone is living in their own 'fog' of existence.
153	I like Auburn but I don't like the particular neighborhood I live in.
154	Property taxes should not be a mortgage payment along with other taxes.
155	overall living here is a good experience
156	I'm lucky to have a job that allows me to own a home and live comfortably. I've lived in Auburn for most of my life and have enjoyed it, but there's always room for improvement.
157	It's a sound community, not far from anywhere, and the city seems to care about the citizens.
158	Really like the convenience of living in Auburn. Taxes are out of control.
159	I live out in southern Auburn by the Durham line and I LOVE how rural it is, and I want it to stay that way as much as possible.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
160	Overall I am happy. But there is a lot of speeding traffic on my road (West Auburn Road) which can be dangerous. I appreciated the PD doing some speed traps last week, though.
161	Access to recreational areas in Auburn and within driving distance to the ocean and mountains.
162	I have the resources to appreciate the beauty of outer Auburn, in combination to access to grocery/"Big Box" stores. Access to NSB also great--and wish we could do more to highlight/ maximize the 2-sheet ice rink (a rarity in the state). However, the lack of access to live music, the decline of the mall & downtown area, and increasingly rude traffic issues are negatives.
163	City is responsive in its effort to become a vibrant and active city.
164	I'm a retired senior. I enjoy the area I live in but don't have a good idea about what goes on in the city. Also would like good social, educational programs for seniors - or need to understand more about what is offered. I also wonder about how residents interact with police. I don't feel like the police have a positive or negative presence in the city. Love the Library. I have only lived here for nine years and moved to Auburn as a senior. Seniors need different opportunities to connect with services, programs.
165	It's alright, but the city could have more supportive job opportunities and small businesses and walkability.
166	Great place to live but relatively expensive in terms of taxes
167	Our taxes are too high
168	We are on the downsizing side of all of this.
169	I feel like there's zero police Protecting us from bad drivers. I do not feel safe, driving to work and back, which is only nine minutes from my house. I almost get run over daily by speeders and red light runners. Not one time do I enter the town and not see a major violation of traffic law. all I would take is one police officer to sit still for one minute to observe the absolute chaos.
170	There is lots of green space in Auburn. The air quality seems good. It is a pleasant place to live.
171	I have plenty of land, safe and comfortable housing, good infrastructure (water, sewer, trash collection, etc.), great library, shopping nearby, etc.
172	We need jobs that will allow people to live and work in our area.
173	Too much control and bad politics
174	Would be a 5 but for high tax burden and politicians who twist facts/outright lie to advance personal agendas
175	Good library, beautiful high school, quiet neighborhoods
176	Auburn can be a vastly different place from one side of town to the other. It has very wealthy people and very poor people who need a lot of support that the city is not providing, such as housing and substance abuse counseling. I grew up in Cumberland county, and it's not quite as good as the quality of living I experienced there but we are still very blessed to live where we do. Every town or city has its issues.
177	Increase in crime and unhoused residents. Property taxes are getting out of hand with less services to show for them.
178	It is a dead town on weekends

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
179	Always room for improvement & inclusion.
180	I have recently moved from Lewiston to Auburn. Granted, in Lewiston I was in a high density neighborhood, and where I live now is quite rural, but despite the extra 6 miles commute to work (each way), I am much happier. Cleaner, quieter, more space, and I simply feel much safer where I am.
181	Over all we are happy where we live. We have a quiet neighborhood and are close to basic needs. However, we do get tired of electricity being off for days. (We are on a low priority, small grid.) the city should put up signs at all major intersections that discourage pan handlers. They have this in Topsom/Brunswick area.
182	
183	Roads need to be fixed, too many major pot-holes.
184	I own 3 acres, but because of my zoning, I'm highly restricted on what I can have on my property for farm animals. I understand restrictions based on land size due to the needs of the animals and respect for neighbors, but zoning laws mean that even if I have the land, I cannot use it to its fullest. Our population is growing, our cost of living is constantly increasing, but our wages are not keeping up with it. That means a lot of people cannot afford a car. They should be able to walk or bike everywhere, but most of our city does not have the infrastructure for that. The huge parking lots are wastelands and could be converted to shaded spaces for more community gathering within the industrial and commercial zones that more and more people are living in. We should not have a single homeless person. Why are there so many storage units for people who have so much stuff that they rent more space to house it, but we can't give everyone a safe place to sleep at night, enough calories to thrive, and work opportunities to keep them going? A great city who can be proud of themselves would not have a single person sleeping and dying on the street.
185	Rising crime rates, anti-economic growth strains of thinking, and unaffordable property tax rates
186	Auburn could improve overall image and show more pride in its city life.
187	I was born and raised in Auburn and have seen the many changes over the years, mostly positive like the Androscoggin River. I enjoy the sense of community and neighborhood. I have friends here and volunteer opportunities that keep me busy.
188	There is everything I need here.
189	Auburn is a beautiful spot, New Auburn a great neighborhood to live, good neighbors. Thankful for more businesses and new mayor! Feel somewhat safe but still concerned about increases violence, gun use.
190	I'm a senior citizen and am satisfied that my needs are being met.
191	Nothing is ever perfect.
192	Taxes
193	Great neighbors, good roads, near shops and lake.
194	I am content with my life here. I would welcome small niche businesses such as we had in the past: knitting shop, deli, bakery, art gallery/craft shop as opposed to the national chains. I understand this is probably never going to happen because of all the obstacles a small business has to overcome.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
195	Open space
196	Taxes brings this down to 4
197	Because we are lucky enough to live in a very nice area, and we are still able to drive ourselves to where we want to go. As we continue to age I question the availability of public transportation.
198	Well run city with all services, easy access to recreation opportunities and Portland and Augusta! Thanks to all city staff
199	Could be better could be worst
200	I would give it a 4.5 if available.
201	
202	The roads in town are horrible.
203	I selected the 4 rating because when it is all boiled down, living in Auburn is one of the nicer areas within the state. It's centrally located to the Portland area with easy access to the Jetport and Transportation system, while also being close enough to the NH boarder to not feel like a stretch to go on a road trip out of state. While housing is becoming unsustainable for our area, it is still cheaper than moving to Portland or further south. There is ample activities and things to do in the local area and I often find myself overwhelmed with just about everything going on from city hosted events, small business events, and even events occurring in Lewiston or neighboring towns. There's no lack of community building endeavors, and it's very easy to get involved and get to know neighbors.
204	I have been a resident in Auburn, is perfect location very central to access many recreational activities and is great city to grow up
205	Location, has mostly what I need, snow removal, trash pickup, needs healthier restaurants, unhoused population, drugged up people on the streets.
206	As a working couple in our early 20s, Auburn has offered us a comfortable home, with access to parks (sometimes littered and vandalized) and a walkable area with local businesses we can support. However, being college graduates, it is difficult to find people our age with common interests. Young adults do not want to live here because there is no place in the community for us — from limited coffee shops or trendy bar hops or community events — Auburn is not marketed as a place for young, educated people to move to and build lives in. Why pay for the expensive rent in Auburn when there are no local amenities that appeal to younger people, especially in comparison to places like Portland? If there was a better young adult life, I am sure more educated Bates and CMCC people would stay local. Sometimes it feels like we're the only young couple around, whether it's at Gritty's or Hannaford, there's no one else under the age 30. It can be isolating. Also, Bonney Park is a playground for KIDS. Everyday on my morning walk I see it littered with beer cans and homeless people passed out, some that probably shouldn't be in a children's playground legally. I am a teacher with students who avoid that park because it is unsafe. Our homeless community needs a better place to congregate as it is no fair to the local kids with no backyard space to not be able to attend one of the only playgrounds in the New Auburn area.
207	High cost of living versus wages.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
208	City continues to fall behind other parts of state in economic development and bringing in new industry involved in modern and growing technologies. Crime is increasing. Neighborhoods are dominated by homes of old stock which is decaying and or dilapidated. Entrance to city along Washington is a disgrace of many blighted properties and environmental hazards.
209	For the most part, I feel safe where I live which is near the Martindale area. The resurfacing of Hotel road is a game changer. Once Main Street and Merrow road areas are also complete, that'll be even better. Better roads mean folks can walk, bike, and do other types of things without fear of getting hurt.
210	Too many homeless people
211	I love the area of Auburn that I live in. It's in a residential somewhat rural area. But traveling throughout Auburn can be rough between high traffic and the extremely rough roads full of pot holes and can be dangerous when dodging them.
212	Location to my work (Brunswick, Livermore Falls, Augusta, Sanford). Public services (emergency response & public education)
213	Too many illegal people and not enough law enforcement for these people. Hit and runs are a everyday occurrence. Speeders up Minot Ave has my car standing still. How about enforcing the laws before someone is killed. They don't understand road rules or common sense.
214	I feel I am being taxed out of the city.
215	Auburn meets all of my needs.
216	Roads are terrible. Roadwork/gully rrepair last year on my street failed to fix or even look at my gully that needs repair. Just shotty work. I feel like the city doesn't care-gets the lowest bid for a contract and washes their hands of it.
217	I am retired and so far surviving. Taxes are a huge burden on elderly.
218	I like it here and I think the rural area is beautiful but nice to be close enough to town.
219	The cost of living keeps going up for residents while tax breaks are pushed for large corporations and the wealthy. Auburn keeps discriminating against medical choices, and is trying to develop farmland and shrink the AG zone.
220	My quality of life isn't the best, but it's still pretty good
221	Increased crime and poor school performance. Lack of transportation and local jobs.
222	Jobs are lacking in auburn and needs to change. Housing cost are going up causing residence to move north. Education should be high standards.
223	I enjoy living in Auburn because it is centrally located, I can afford it despite the higher cost of living, and there are a variety of activities available if I want to get out of the house. I would like to see Auburn really work on making housing more affordable, fix the roads that have seemed to get worse and worse over the last few years, increase access to social services to combat the rising homelessness in the area, and improve the quality of education and expand educational opportunities.
224	We live on the rural side of town. Wish shopping was a little closer.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
225	For the increases in property tax hasn't really seen an increase in services. Living near a unbusy road I really would like to see a hybrid quite zone with the railway at Danville Junction. We need to work on reducing the large amount of homeless people that wander around the town. Free water testing for well users
226	It's not the worst but not the best.
227	Housing is tough as well as finding good schools for young kids
228	Not enough opportunities for cultural enrichment such as live entertainment. Waterville has an opera house with live well known bands that tour nation wide. Sidney has Snow Pond Entertainment facility. Lewiston used to do shows at the hockey arena (I saw Bob Dylan there years ago). Lewiston did a few outdoor concerts about ten years ago - Granger Smith. ELHS has a state of the art theater that seats 1200. Well known musicians, performers could fill that theater and create revenue.
229	Could be a lot better, but could also be a lot worse.
230	Would like more community things like social group for parents, coffee shops to meet at, play cafes, play spaces
231	Born in Lewiston and raised in Auburn. Moved to CT from 15yo to 45yo. Auburn is home and I love it here. Has its issues, but so does every other small town and city.
232	Because I live at the once beautiful and SAFE Barker Mill that is no longer safe now that the Drop In Center is directly next door to the small Barker building I live in. We've had to call the police department too many times to count because of it! WORST DECISION THE CITY EVER MADE!!! Also moving in homeless people doesn't help!!!! THEY NEED TO FOLLOW THE RULES AND NOT BE DEALING DRUGS AND ENGAGING IN PROSTITUTION!!!! I unfortunately had to move here 12 years ago due to sickness from my house I owned on Riverside Drive.
233	very poor road conditions
234	Auburn is crumbling. Go away for 20 years then return and see worse conditions.
235	I feel connected to the community.
236	I don't do much within the City, but I still feel it's a good place to live
237	It's ok here, to much taxes for what we have
238	The city has untapped potential. It could be a hub of Maine given location, but progress and development have been stymied. Needs more business, education and leisure opportunities to attract people to want to live here. Currently looks rundown, especially the entrance to the city from the Washington Avenue corridor.
239	I BELIEVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN AUBURN IS DECLINING RAPIDLY
240	I have lived here most of my life (37 yrs). I have watched as local businesses leave and large retailers are sparsely stocked with product. I've seen the crime rate skyrocket and I've seen the roads deteriorate.
241	Auburn can improve
242	My quality of life is fine, but we need to make sure everyone can say that. Education must be a focus.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
243	My house is affordable. I'm within 40 minutes of work.
244	
245	
246	
247	I have access to parks, community events, etc.
248	Although I see flaws with road repair/construction, I do see development going on slowly. I'd hope to see better future planning with roads. Power is also a big issue. Probably like to see a partition up for nuclear power.
249	Crappy roads, lack of law enforcement and high taxes.
250	It's good, I like living here but I wish we had more things to do for fun. I think more outdoor services would make day to day services better. I feel like I have to go to Freeport or Portland if I wanna have a fun time.
251	Compared to other folks, I am fortunate that I can afford my mortgage with the help of my partner but I wouldn't be able to do it alone. We can drive our car to get groceries at the larger grocery stores but also close enough to support local farmers.
252	It's a great place to live and is in a great location in the state
253	I like Auburn, I do not want to become a northern suburb of Portland. I'd like to see more joint opportunities with Lewiston, while maintaining our individuality.
254	I do not trust my neighborhood in the slightest. Very dirty and many random and strange people interacting with my property daily.
255	Roads and infrastructure are in need of serious attention. Medical services in the twin cities are on a decline. Small business startups come to Auburn only to close within a year or two. Washington Street, from I95 to the downtown, is so visually uninviting.
256	location within maine is excellent
257	We are neutral to the city effecting our quality of life. For the most part, we use no services offered by the city. Our biggest disappointment was when our road was recently paved, they did not extend the sidewalks. We would like to see the Auburn have better walkability
258	There are still things that it should be doing like more small business friendly less corporate and manufacturing jobs. I would love to have either direction walking distance to small shops and grocers instead of having to drive to get anything
259	I am very fortunate and have a nice life in Auburn.
260	Taxes are high due to waste. Too many leaders paid in education vs educators and too many specialists required now. Everyone seems to have a special need vs holding students and parents responsible. Because they don't way to do the work they have an excuse. BTW most every successful person has failed and we don't let them
261	We enjoy our neighbors. Kids received a good quality education. We have good access to groceries & farm stands.
262	I Like living here despite challenges and trade-offs that are necessary
263	The roads are HORRIBLE!!
264	

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
265	There is sketchy drug activity going on down my street in multiple directions - in an area that has been lovely and quiet and safe. Police aware but that ongoing issue of catching someone doing something ...
266	
267	There is way more homelessness and folks who are not safe - concerning.
268	
269	Schools are not great
270	
271	Way too many marijuana stores
272	Still has lots of green space. Safe. Nice neighborhoods. Generally responsive city government.
273	Has gone down in the 60 years I have lived here. Protect our water while it is still good, don't wait till we need to build a treatment plant. Stop encouraging people to move here. Too many apartments built for people who are here only because Portland is too expensive. Renovate existing buildings. STOP taking undeveloped land to build. STOP displacing animals.
274	High taxes and high cost of living
275	I'm not feeling that connected here
276	I think overall quality of life is very good in Auburn. We are centrally located and it is relatively safe.
277	Roads are terrible, people speed like crazy and no one ever gets stopped.
278	Sometimes it feels like auburn is going backwards instead of forward.
279	Roads are in terrible shape.
280	I love my community. Sure, we have a lot of growing pains ahead of us, but I know with a measured cohesive plan we can experience a Renaissance of sorts that includes all of us.
281	There are parts of Auburn that are great - what remains of the historic downtown is beautiful and walkable. There is a good mix of densities nearer to downtown. Recent improvements to pedestrian access in New Auburn have been a huge improvement!! But lack of regional connectivity outside of driving and car-focused development along Minot Ave and Center St make most of Auburn feel just like any other place in the US. There is so much potential here!!
282	Auburn is safe, close to family, work and shopping. With rents and mortgages high, it's too hard for young people to set off on their own.
283	Auburn has a lot to offer, but there is also room for improvement
284	High Taxes, Poor roads, Not much to do for entertainment, Too many pot shops.
285	Mostly the traffic issues, no accountability for speeding, running red lights. We walk almost everyday, the sidewalks are a mess with overgrown foliage, poison ivy etc. Difficult to see using crosswalks, because of overgrown foliage, never mind a lot of the cross walk lights don't work, assuming vandalism? So much litter and trash.
286	Most of my needs are met here but for any "bonuses" I travel elsewhere- arts, trails, dining, events, etc. A revitalized downtown and less focus on strip malls

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
	and chains plus a rail trail or better bike and walking paths would do wonders. Right now Auburn is a cheaper place to reside but not really "live."
287	Our infrastructure is in poor shape.
288	
289	Too few police officers for the traffic and size of our city.
290	
291	Alot of tax money is spent on things not related to core government services. Build a robust community by focusing on the core services of local government and lower property taxes with the savings.
292	current development and housing developments are not affordable but just for profit and not aimed at helping citizen of auburn , destroying natural habitats when city has substandard housing and abandoned property that should be used to create housing . vity should only develop others areas after those improvements have been made.
293	Would have given a five, but housing and taxes are high costs, and walkability could be higher. Positives are sense of community, access to nature, and increasing housing stock.
294	You let in more people from out of state and the crime went up. And only one hospital for this area. Auburn should have their own hospital.
295	Auburn is doing a lot of great things. A like walking around the city for daily exercise so I take note at what's going on in the neighborhoods.
296	I love this community. The schools are good. I like that Lost Valley is right here and XC skiing options are close. We need more affordable housing and more rec programs. Like a tennis program for all ages.
297	For myself, I like living here in Auburn altho my residential road has now become a thoroughfare for tractor trailer trucks (noisy and bypassing Route 4) and their weight rattles my house while many cars speed (over the 35 mph speed limit which should be lowered because no matter what this is a neighborhood with people walking and riding bikes (with extreme caution). There is quick access to amenities and the current administration is working on alleviating homelessness which is a daily presence in the community.
298	I am a social worker in the area and while it's nice to see the city of Auburn investing in local things we still need access to better transportation, homeless services, and affordable housing. I've been an Auburn resident since 2016 and feel I'm being priced out of the housing market.
299	Negatives: blighted areas and derelict buildings, particularly in gateway areas; declining quality of public schools, maintenance of streets.
300	
301	Positives: sense of community, size, natural environment, housing costs.
302	Great place to live. Central to everything.
303	good neighbors
304	I've lost my ophthomoligist and haven't received medical care for sleep apnea because the medical system seems so broken since COVID struck.
305	We need better healthcare options and for cheaper so it's accessible to ALL.
306	I am very happy with my home's location at the corner of Gamage and Shepley, except for the amount and volume of noise from loud trucks and

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
	motorcycles. I wish people would be more considerate of their neighbors and the neighborhoods they travel through. Also, some properties are not well maintained, and I think many of them are rentals.
307	Auburn is safe an clean
308	Because i have a job elsewhere, live on a dead end tree lined street, and for the most part within a short distance to our needs and wants.
309	Overall Auburn is a great city. We just need to focus more on growth in the tax base. WE would all like a perfect little town, but our spending reflects a large city. Small town tax base with a large city budget. very much like Falmouth. Is that where we want to be?
310	I think our family's quality of life is quite good because of many reasons - access to healthcare, education, shopping, nature, and friends and family within the area. I chose to return to Auburn after earning my degree because I wanted my children to have a similar upbringing as to what my spouse and I had; we have been able to achieve this.
311	Leave Auburn as it is..does not have to be another Lewiston, Portland or Bangor
312	It is pretty great, but I'm finding that many of the great things to do available here years ago are now only available in Portland or Brunswick
313	Property taxes are too high
314	
315	City needs beautification
316	
317	Every year the city gets uglier
318	
319	Roads are terrible
320	I feel like there is tons of potential for Auburn to be amazing for the community and visitors from afar, but we fail at optimizing the natural resources of the area.
321	Need transportation and affordable housing.
322	Traffic and speeding on Turner street.
323	Drive around there should be a neighborhood rating program based on cleanliness, safety, updates
324	I like the area but I've experienced much more crime since moving here.
325	Wish we had more small businesses and restaurants.
326	The lack of honesty and sincerity with employees. Poor quality within the police department. They ignore and lie to you. City planning and permits, continually change the agenda and cost people more money. Over paid employees and too many employee benefits. Taxes are too high and there are no real services. We need a real city manager. Community (Economic) development needs to be down sized. I could go on. There is not one thing the city is currently doing right. Start doing yearly evaluation of your employees. Any agency that states that: "we have stepped over backwards to help them", it's a lie and they are corrupt.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
327	Terrible road condition, failing school system, drugs, high crime especially among teens young adults and immigrant young males. Neighborhood no longer feels safe.
328	Auburn is a lovely town with a fair bit of work still to do. Though it's fairly walkable, public transit definitely needs to be improved to be made more accessible. Housing is expensive, the roads desperately need maintenance, and small businesses often don't stay open long here. We have some nice parks and outdoor spaces, though, like the river walk, and I have enjoyed the increase in community events the last few years.
329	I think Auburn is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. We have a beautiful home in a mixed neighborhood of nice homes and some that need work. Neighbors are friendly and make the neighborhood a community.
330	Living and working in Auburn is just okay. Local government does not seem to listen to our needs or value things that do not generate revenue, even if they generate happiness and value.
331	Central Maine lots to offer
332	I choose to live in Auburn but wish the City had more to offer my family in terms of better public education, arts and cultural events/programs/opportunities, local (as opposed to chain) restaurants and retail stores, downtown walkability, and outdoor recreational opportunities.
333	Traffic congestion, road work, and overall lack of law enforcement ability has caused Auburn to be in the lead for traffic accidents and fatalities. The roads in Auburn are dangerous and remain that way as they are unmonitored with little effort to address the erratic drivers that should not be driving on our roads.
334	Auburn provides access to housing I can afford, a job I enjoy, friends and family, and opportunities for leisure. The loss of concord coach to Portland was significant. The LAP is not comparable.
335	Drastic changes to zoning are ruining established neighborhoods. We need to protect Lake Auburn at all costs.
336	Auburn needs more Bus Transportation to different locations in the City, especially Minot Avenue.
337	Auburn is a good place to live and work in. It's not perfect. Roads are bad in certain areas. Need more shopping and food choices in the area. Everything/everyone seem to bypass here. Portland and skip Auburn and then to Augusta.
338	I am disappointed in the quality of Auburn's school system, which is far too mediocre and limited. I hate its car-heavy city center and the commercial mess out by the mall (though I understand why it exists). I'm also disgusted with city law enforcement which does nothing to enforce traffic, parking and quality of life laws. I would also like to see efforts to combat blight and light pollution.
339	Auburn has access to many recreational opportunities, both free to use and fee for service. There is an abundance of open space. Connectivity between residential areas and the open space would greatly enhance the opportunities. Providing more opportunities for good paying work will help retain young people, but they need an affordable place to live.
340	It's less safer than it was
341	Lack of a complete extent of public transportation

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
342	
343	Lack of a comprehensive approach to waste - out of sight, out of mind seems to be the approach we're using. We need to make sustainability our goal and use compostable material as an asset.
344	
345	Awareness of lack of affordable housing.
346	I have lived here much of my life and although nothing has ever been perfect I have been happy here and proud of my community.
347	taxes are too high and quality of schools isn't high enough
348	Environment
349	
350	School system
351	
352	Neighbors
353	
354	Opportunity to volunteer to improve community
355	High taxes, little for it. Low education standards. City workers not held accountable for damage to tax payer properties. City administration not accessible and indifferent to the tax payers. City administration wasting tax payer dollars with bad decision.
356	There is more violence and homelessness than in the past and I feel a lot has to do with people not having affordable housing and opioid addiction.
357	I feel safe here. I have access to everything I need.
358	Neither good or bad. The roads are horrible though and the continuity in educational programs makes education look like a floppy drive on your list of priorities.
359	I work in Auburn, but do not live in Auburn because of the higher cost of living. Auburn is centrally located to so many things and is a hub for the smaller communities in Androscoggin county.
360	I feel that Auburn desperately needs more good residential development. The only thing being built now are the cookie cutter square box apartment buildings. We need nice developments that people would like to move into and live in.
361	I think Auburn is a great place to live! But there is more to work on, having a stronger downtown area, better housing options and continuing to invest in our public services!
362	City does a good job, theres always room for improvement.
363	Wish it was less car-dependent and there were more good quality restaurants and outdoor spaces. Also property taxes are insanely high and I don't see them being used to improve anything.
364	Auburn is trying to make more of life difficult. Higher taxes. Asking us to open OUR doors to allow strangers to come survey it. Trying to keep everyone driving at 5 mph. Screwing with Washington st. How about you guys do what Auburn wants instead of the "think tank" regime that's currently smoking dope

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
	and coming up with ludicrous ways to increase taxes. We're not Portland and most Maine HATES Portland.
365	Taxes are crazy high making homeownership challenging. Don't feel that all the money collected via taxes really provides much. Police are somewhat non-existent...crime, drug use and panhandling are out of control.
366	Currently, our neighborhood and housing are not concerns of ours but our property taxes have only continued to rise and we are experiencing first hand the lack of services and support in our education system. We are considering moving our children to private schools for smaller classes and support but that should be available to us in our public school system with the amount we pay in taxes.
367	Auburn has quality residential neighborhoods, good education system, friendly community, a variety of cultural activities, availability of commercial and medical services and recreational opportunities.
368	I've lived in Auburn since 1980 and have raised my family here. It has been a wonderful community to call home.
369	Because we're good; outside of needing More live entertainment and night life, needing a lower cost of living or higher wages, plus needing no property taxes for seniors that own their homes or are disabled, things are ok.
370	Auburn does not have a true downtown
371	There's too much new development. We need to utilize buildings and brown spaces, not tear down trees and fill up empty fields. Noise pollution at Hotel Road-Stevens Mill Road is obnoxious!
372	The roads are terrible. There are tons of unhoused people. The downtown needs more shops, restaurants and a LOCAL coffee shop.
373	Recent thefts and shootings in my neighborhood, neighborhood safety has decreased since moving here 4 years ago.
374	My neighborhood
375	Road conditions need vast improvement in almost every area.
376	
377	Public education can always be improved.
378	
379	Public safety and engaging the public in ways to combat on going crime and increase social awareness
380	Auburn is a city where I fee like I fit in. I have resided herfe 12 years, and have no plans of ever leaving. Our public services (Fire, EMS, Police) are excellent. I feel like our city has an optimistic outlook for our future.
381	I like many aspects of the community but very concerned about its future. A range of new housing options must get built!
382	This is a strong, vibrant community that is also diverse and welcoming. I love where we are headed. I'm proud to see the city finally activating our downtown with big events, etc. I'd love to see more of that - let's make Auburn a destination!
383	There is too many much emphasis on housing, bringing in new residents, yet no thought on the traffic problems that come with it and the continuous road deterioration.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
384	Auburn has a rural feel and some trails on which to hike and walk. The library is terrific. So happy to seeing diversity in the population increase. A beautiful, new high school. Shopping is sufficient. Beautiful drive around Lake Auburn. Taber's is great! Hospitals are close and sufficient. Good broadband.
385	High taxes
386	I have been trying to get the city to replace damage that a city fallen tree did to a tax payer's property for over 4 years and the city hasn't done anything.
387	Auburn has great quality of life in general
388	For the reasons I stated above.
389	<p>Moved to Auburn in 2009 for work as NAS Brunswick was closing. Very small home, less than 1/4 acre but beautiful surrounding area. However, I have never had a day when there was zero noise pollution. I gave up trying to raise vegetables because of road grime, general residue from the burn facility on Manely Road ruining them. My home is constantly covered in road and burn grime. Have gone through countless years of construction and blasting from Stable Ridge Apts which has altered my foundation (and they are still constantly digging or grinding something). Now my doors and windows won't shut properly. My spouse refuses to pursue it. The noise pollution has tripled, maybe even more because of a wall of buildings on both sides of the street up the small hill heading into town, at an ignored 25mph speed limit, vehicles hit the gas to come up the hill, and motorcycles and sports cars deliberately make their mufflers noise off going down the hill, sometimes all the way to the light at Minot Ave. Besides apt dwellers having to literally floor their vehicles just to get out literally with blind sight both ways. I no longer have plants in the front yard, because I cannot be out there without being harassed by passersby, especially if they are stopped for the light at Park Ave. Then there is the mountain of debris they throw out of the vehicles, that we must pick up daily. Hearing gunshots echoing - I have not felt safe here for years. We have never been to a downtown function because we don't trust it. The truth is I would love to get out of this town but can't move to where I used to live because we are now priced out as retirees. It's pretty bad when even those who have had family ties back to the origin of Auburn would like to leave as well, no matter their age.</p>
390	On the good side, Auburn has a great balance of affordability to the level of amenities available and the ease of driving to other places. On the bad side, it's a difficult place to get around in locally because of weird traffic patterns and bad geography. There's also a strange cultural apathy and lack of ambition that I don't see in a lot of places I've visited.
391	Taxes are way too high for services rendered.
392	Because I am fairly happy with this town. I have a good doctor. We have a new high school. I can and do drive daily. Our home is adequate. A nice mix in Auburn of slightly urban access with a mostly rural/agricultural feel. It is easy to access the outdoor activities in Maine.
393	I have lived in this community over 40 years. I am retired and have secure income and housing.
394	I have the means to pay taxes and live comfortably.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
395	I've lived here for 11 years & there doesn't seem to be much of a community atmosphere or a viable downtown to walk, dine & shop.
396	We love living in Auburn! We live in a friendly neighborhood which is centrally located to the ME Turnpike (North and South.) We are happy with the medical care in both communities. Shopping is also close buy. We lived elsewhere when our kids with growing up: from what we hear from friends the schools in Auburn are very good. We have used public safety several times which worked very well.
397	Auburn is a great centrally located city that has great opportunities for shopping and recreation. However, It's taxes are too high and some relief must be provided to it's residents if the city plans to maintain and grow it's population.
398	Low accessibility, lack of affordable housing, lack of accessible housing, too much money spent on job creation when there aren't people to fill those jobs and nowhere for those workers to live, lack of efforts to address homelessness, unsafe neighborhoods, lack of public transportation (downtown bus disappeared). On the plus side, great library, lots of parks, Community Little Theater, arts community, and activities for all ages.
399	I've lived in new Auburn for 71 years and my life and my family's life has been enhanced by living here. However, I have also seen our community deteriorate due to an abusive pastor. Unfortunately the community that I knew has never regained that community that knew and cared for each other to the level it had been. There is far too much hate and racism and fear.
400	Good lifestyle but no restaurants or entertainment
401	Low crime, feeling safe in my home and access to shopping
402	Taxes too high, lack of public transportation, no overall vision for development, lack of shady parks
403	Auburn is a pretty nice town. Improve the roads, keep the city's small town feel and I'll be pretty happy.
404	Have lived here several years. Enjoy Auburn but cost of living is high.
405	I have everything I need and much that I enjoy here in Auburn.
406	It's good in the outskirts. Center St has every kind of business, but traffic and road conditions are horrible. Not a fan of development by Lake Auburn
407	Elementary school is good, but not looking forward to the downgrade at middle and high school.
408	I'm on Taywood Road..the pond is healthy. Near to food gas healthcare town & I95... ++but would prefer walk ability ie wider shoulder on roads or sidewalks
409	I love where I live, I have many friends and family here.
410	I get absolutely nothing for my tax dollars. I have no kids in school. You don't pick up my trash at my house. You do not maintain my road. You can't fix a pothole if your life depended on it. And you have raised my property tax 3 times in the past 3 years and took away the property tax freeze for seniors.
411	Not a big city but it's a growing city good for investing.
412	I work hard for my money I live on Taylor Pond, but unfortunately, we get zero public services where we live.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
413	Its mid, auburn is expensive and it cost a lot to own land. Taxes are high, the roads are terrible.
414	I love the rural nature of the area but I wish there was closer access to excellent restaurants and cultural activities.
415	Auburn is great. Except for the road quality and infrastructure. The programs and quality of life here is really good. What is not good is the mentality and the behavior of the citizens. It's disgusting.
416	Auburn is safe and clean and surrounded by natural beauty.
417	
418	However many of the events and things I need to do, I have to leave the city. (shopping in Portland, farmers market in Lewiston, work in Augusta). I find myself spending more time outside of Auburn and just having Auburn be my residence and unfortunately thats the case for many folks my age.
419	Increase of drugs and crime, way too many tenements being built, roads are awful, taxes are high, very little options for teens to recreate in a healthy way. Need to attract professionals to the area. Need a bike lane around lake auburn.
420	The crime rate in specifically youth continue to grow. They are out of contro.
421	Schools are good and our kids are the future of Auburn. Kids bring families and families build a community
422	My needs are met, but some areas could be improved, such as access to affordable housing.
423	Our roads aren't that good..Our schools don't seem to be putting out a very strong product..Our property taxes are sky high and headed higher..It' getting to the point of needing Portland area wages to afford living here..Driving out long time residents and driving seniors to the poor house.
424	The small town feel of family neighborhoods, wide open spaces, sidewalks to go for a walk, a brand new high school with sports fields available for student athletes located on-site, rural, small neighborhood, or downtown living options, easy access to coast, lakes, mountains, Boston. Smaller housing communities for active Senior living would top it off.
425	I have lived in Auburn for over thirty years and I am dismayed by all the market rate, multiunit development in recent years. There is way too much emphasis on drawing people priced out of Portland and not enough emphasis on homeowners who are invested in our city.
426	Auburn has long been a good community to live in. There is deferred maintenance that needs to be attended to
427	All things considered.
428	I like the proximity to all things Maine. Our neighbors are mostly friendly and trustworthy. The trend in Auburn is shifting to unfriendly, needy families who take too much social services. That is unsustainable where more people are taking. STOP trying to provide affordable housing, because that will only quicken the downfall of Auburn. Look at what it has done to Lewiston. Provide incentives for businesses to open here with reduced taxes on commercial properties and create an infrastructure to support them, not low-income, needy people. New business will draw working people to our city and these people will be productive and pay taxes, not take from the government.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
429	Quality of life is great for many, but we need to lift the area median income level for the high percentage of low-income people who are struggling. Increasing the rate of high school graduation coupled with our free community college will help this over time if the graduates can find housing to stay here.
430	Auburn has a beautiful rural landscape and serves as residential hub to to many services
431	I believe we are missing an opportunity to grow business and housing, so we can attract more health care providers & better jobs to keep our younger generation living and working here. I do think we are moving in the right direction, we just need to do it faster while the opportunity exists.
432	My neighborhood is good. Accessibility to necessary shopping, health care, is generally good. I would like to access some of the walking areas available but do not feel safe alone.
433	There are nice amenities but taxes are high and schools aren't great.
434	I think it's a great place to live, but infrastructure and roads seem to be slipping. Also, in general, I think there are so many more rude people out there. I would like to see the city foster a more benevolent attitude.
435	I moved here one year ago this month
436	It's ok. No differentiation.
437	We need more opportunity and growth. I want Auburn to be a place I am proud to raise my son.
438	I don't feel safe walking alone in Auburn's public streets or parks due to the high number of people abusing drugs in those spaces. I've been followed, harassed, catcalled and grabbed at multiple times in the last year that I have lived here. I feel like there should be way more effort put into keeping the spaces the town already has safe and clean, rather than finding new ones. Frankly, this whole survey feels highly insensitive to the issues Auburn is currently facing.
439	Outlaw panhandling and remove homes encampment. Like the community functions downtown.
440	Overall good however roads are terrible and limited restaurants etc for a city of this size.
441	This past year has seen an explosion of violent crimes, drug houses, missing/murdered individuals. We have a mental health crisis, but no one is going to vote for or agree to pay for those services. Criminals are immediately released from jail to disappear or cause more havoc. People setting houses on fire, hostage situations, weekly shoot outs/knife fights, drug busts, it's out of control and our police can only do so much. I moved here from a large city out of state in 2020 (not MA), and this year has been the first time I've felt scared to walk the neighborhood or let my kids play outside.
442	Would like more Restaurants to open. Events. Lowerer taxes.
443	The roads are horrible. Seniors are exempt from everything, making my bills higher. The planning board's spend fest does nothing to help existing residents.we're not nor never will be Boston or Portland.
444	Increased crime and higher taxes are hurting all.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
445	There is too much emphasis on housing and not enough support for small business. We have plenty of places to live but know place to work. With the emphasis on small business, it would allow for more jobs and a wealthier community. Supporting small business or locally owned businesses would provide a more sense of community.
446	Due to the recreational programs available to seniors and friendliness of the residents of Auburn, Auburn is a city that is easy to call home. I have lived here for less than 2 years but feel very comfortable here.
447	My taxes keep going up and I live in the rural part unfair
448	Decent restaurants and schools
449	I would like to see better restaurants, bikeable streets, cleaner neighborhoods; the city can require homeowners and landlords to clean up their property. It would make a big difference.
450	Not enough funds going to police department. Don't feel safe going out to Walmart area or New Auburn area due to recent drug busts and shootings.
451	I am generally happy with Auburn, but still believe there is room for improvement.
452	Most of my gripes are State-wide, but Auburn needs to do more to develop its recycling program. No cans or glass?? Pickup every other week?? This is not good enough. And what about plastic bags and single-use plastics? It goes beyond cost concerns - you can't nickel and dime a global crisis, this is about a hierarchy of needs. Educate. Spend/sacrifice what it takes to make an impact. If there aren't better programs available, develop some. Be a leader.
453	Overall we enjoy living in Auburn and would like to continue doing so if we can find the right rental.
454	The area is naturally wonderful with lakes, trails, skiing, etc. But the city services are lacking. The city wants to spend tons of money on helping the city staff enjoy their lives better with near complete disregard for how the high costs of city staff dreams are killing the dreams of residents.
455	I love my new home and land in the New Auburn community. It was extremely hard to afford & secure a home, and I see my peers and coworkers struggle with rents ballooning way beyond even my high (to my estimation) mortgage. I want people, including our community's children, to be able to afford to live here and to have options for housing into the future.
456	Cost of living and prices.
457	I think Auburn is a safe and great place to live. However, I would like to see more options for shopping and restaurants that are locally owned for more of a variety and I would like to see more things to do for the younger generation to have activities such as music and events all of the activity seem to be geared toward the older generation with alcohol involved and not really family, friendly or diverse, and I would like to see more of a diverse community where we're involving other cultures ethnicities and Communities as well as opportunities for more home ownership which gives more pride in the properties that people reside, which then of course reduces crime and makes the community safer and better for overall taxes. I'd also like to see businesses commercial properties pay their fair share taxes.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
458	Quality is decreasing due to a shortage of professionals - doctors, dentists, teachers, and increasing traffic and population density even in rural areas
459	I don't personally run into many issues but it's not a place I would come visit if I didn't have to be here.
460	Because a lot of senior programs have been canceled...
461	Could be better or not!
462	It has become too expensive to live here. The city is spending money on non-core functions of municipal government.
463	Property taxes are too high and unsustainable for people on fixed income in addition the incredibly high price to purchase a home. You will see in a few years a lot of foreclosures.
464	because property taxes are burdensome
465	School are horrible
466	The town is not very attractive; seems like businesses are allowed to develop in random locations mixed with residential creating an ugly, patchwork look. Auburn does not have the charm that many other Maine towns have. Lots of big box!shopping but very few unique small businesses; hardly any arts and cultural events. Some nice parks but sadly often see drug activity and shady looking loiterers in them.
467	Lack of choices for restaurants and shopping. Aesthetics in the city are less than ideal, especially the entrance from Washington and downtown.
468	Traffic congestion and roads are bad. Homeless and pan handlers are not being addressed. Taxes are very high.
469	I'm happy here. Auburn offers proximity to the things that are important to me. I think Auburn could offer its citizens more in terms of ways to be engaged and I'd love to see us take a greener approach with more bikes paths/walkability. I like our diversity and I think housing affordability would help that continue.
470	Love my neighborhood. Downtown areas are sketchy AF however. Bad areas, transients, drug trafficking all give city bad reputation.
471	Some areas where I walk have no sidewalks or are too close to traffic
472	small community; caring people/sense of community; affordability; access to Portland and other places in Maine; less congestion; good schools; new high school
473	It has everything I need
474	I have lived here my entire life, the amount of growth i've seen between Auburn + Lewiston, this place is becoming a mini-Portland (In a very good way)
475	Past mayor's and city councils efforts
476	Always room for improvement
477	There are less walkable areas than my old town. There are few options outside of chain restaurants (would love a local coffee shop). I don't feel as safe as in my old town. I also haven't felt the same sense of community- with the exception of the protests.
478	I dont work in the area, if I did, I fear I would not have the same income I have now.
479	Almost gave it a 5, because I love it here, but there's always room for improvement.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
480	I can't make a living as an artist here. There close no investment in arts & culture which drive most small economies and tourism.
481	There is always room for improvements!
482	To many signs of disparity, beggars on street corners, needles in public parks, large property tax increases yearly.
483	While Auburn offers a lot for quality of life, I feel as though it is limiting it's potential. I think that it would be better for Auburn to consider moving past the quiet small city to a small exciting city along with Lewiston. We have so much potential in this part of the state and I would love to see ideas and funding going towards increasing our city's potential, so we can attract more people and businesses to our great city.
484	Love my home, friends, access to stores and healthcare.
485	We recently moved to the area, so 100% acknowledge we could still be in a honeymoon state, but we've enjoyed our time in the community so far. We love the neighborhood we are in, are raising a young family, and will be having them go through the local education system in the coming years.
486	The City of Auburn is a wonderful place to live. The endless tax increases is the only reason I did not score a 5.
487	Have to travel to other communities to meet all my needs.
488	It's dirty, hardly ever see police patrol, if driving they do not even do the speed limit.
489	Very poor opportunities for a special need child
490	I enjoy living in rural Auburn but close enough to appreciate services and programs offered by the city.
491	We have a good life here but see crime and expenses increasing. Those two items make us concerned for our future.
492	I've lived in Auburn for ten years and enjoy how peaceful it can be to live here. I feel we need to be more business friendly in terms of welcoming larger stores to come here (Market Basket, Trader Joe's, etc) and should encourage investment in our city. The roads are extremely dilapidated and need to be a major focus moving forward. The fact residents need to take the beating on their vehicles is shocking to me. The Auburn PD needs to be moved to a better facility that is more noticeable and accessible to residents. The property taxes are way too high compared to the services provided, compared to surrounding towns. The upcoming reevaluation is going to drive people out of Auburn.
493	Could be improved
494	Roads are in very poor condition, with very few safe crossing areas, speeding or unsafe traffic, there are derelict buildings that could support business or residential housing being left to deteriorate and remain empty eyesores, the parks are unkempt and trash and needles are found (it isn't a safe space for my child to play).
495	Multi-modal transportation options could be improved, as could housing options, but services and schools and residents are generally wonderful.
496	I don't think the City is kept as clean overall. Taking away the Spring Cleaning Service has added to the demise. The conditions of the roads are terrible, crumbling and falling apart.

Response No.	Question 7: Why did you select this rating?
497	BECAUSE YOU ASKED.
498	Take a look around!
499	Taxes are too high for the lack of supports in the community
500	Taxes are way too high!!
501	Lack of recreational opportunities and high end housing options.
502	Love Auburn, not happy about the recreation department cutting staff, senior programming, and possibly raising the costs of youth programs. Also, would like more sidewalks in New Auburn.
503	I love the access to rural areas I have, the sense of community I enjoy, the support I receive from City staff for my community engagement efforts, and the quality education my kids receive from the schools (I'm particularly excited about what the new EL building will mean for them). Recreational opportunities outside of outdoor activities are relatively limited -- I'd love to see a more vibrant and walkable downtown, and more quality restaurants. Some of the favorite places I've had in this area -- e.g. Side by Each and Holy Donut -- have closed, and I wish there were ways to attract more entertainment so that my kids will want to stay here when they grow up. That said, the sports/recreation opportunities in the area are a huge plus, with Ingersoll, Norway Savings, and miles and miles of trails (which we should advertise and promote more!).
504	While we love our life in Auburn, there are many parks we can't enjoy with our child because they are full of drug addicts. There is also a growing unhoused population and the plan to put them in housing of Goff St, near multiple schools without a vote is terrible for that neighborhood.
505	Life in Auburn is good, but for the taxes, I'd like better roads and higher performing schools. To do that, we need more business, but we can't neglect the immediate needs of our population to get there. I wish we had more parks and recs programs for seniors and young kids - that would significantly improve our life. Otherwise, we have what we need. It's not perfect, but it's pretty darn good.
506	Years ago it would have been higher, concerned with pan handling on road media's, increase crime / drug use, our city roads are horrible, community looks poor
507	Auburn needs growth in order to lower cost of living and invest in quality of life projects.
508	nothing to do nowhere to go.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
1	Auburn needs to see a vision where we become more of a professional community housing families rather than trying to become Portland or Lewiston and house those who can not afford it. Once we step up and have a better base we can do more to help those who are vulnerable but it is very hard to do with a heavy tax burden on the residents. The town needs to step up and stand up to the state with regards to the commercial properties in the city. We should not have to pay hundreds of thousands

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	just so that commerical businesses pay their 'fair share of taxes' the tax burden has shifted from business to personal in the past few years and they should not be paying less in taxes whereas a family of 4 or 5 pay more.
2	Better downtown, more shops and activities More walkability
3	Better roads, safer bridges and streets. Stop taking away services like trash, spring clean up's and other programs that benefit the cleanliness our community. Give local Police and Fire dept adequate resources and mark Dead End roads with bigger signage.
4	Better walkability and bikeability. Improved public transit to Portland, Augusta, etc (there was a feasibility study on a commuter train a few years ago, whatever happened with that?). New public housing, preferably income based.
5	Less of a divide between middle class and impoverished. More balanced financial responsibilities , people motivated to work and contribute. Also fix the intersections at the end of East Hardscrabble and Beech hill roads. Turning onto Washington from either of these roads left or right is like playing Russian Rullet
6	The growth is going to happen, and with that, proper infrastructure should be in place to allow for that growth. I see LA being a massive opportunity city for alot of southern Maine residents because of its location, so a lot of the city needs to be build up for that
7	Pet-friendly city with recognition that pets are part of the family and need to be included in programs and efforts to improve the lives of families here.
8	I would like to see city council members more involved in the community and the resources available. I would like to see stronger support for the library. I would like to see collaboration across all the different non-profits and social services in one centralized place and the city to back that (such as the Library as a community center). I think it seems these excellent resources and people doing the work are not embraced and the city could help bring them together better by supporting them more closely.
9	I would like to see road repair as a priority. It is embarrassing that the main roads and streets are in such poor condition. The city should move away from filling potholes over and over again and invest in the purchase or rental of a pavement milling machine to do it right. Zoning is a major concern. At a time when the city is supposedly encouraging growth, there are too many restrictions placed on individual property owners. For instance, the changing of the RR zone on parts of outer Broad St to T-4.2B is entirely inappropriate . That zone designation is for an intown neighborhood of established houses on an inner city street, not for houses on rural property. A maximum 25 foot setback from a 45 MPH roadway where people routinely drive 60 MPH or more is wrong and dangerous, not to mention all the restrictions and requirements placed on people who want to build a residence on property they already own. Should be re-examined.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
10	more jobs for young people that pay enough so they will stay
11	More businesses. We used to have a lot more in town.
12	Need to attract growing families with higher incomes and expectations.
13	Auburn needs to grow and fully tap into its resources. We can't just focus on downtown because we need neighborhoods to be built moving out away from downtown.
14	I would like to see a strong ring of conservation around Lake Auburn. I do not want to have to pay for a treatment facility that we can avoid having by maintaining or even improving water quality levels. I would like to see an appreciation for the open fields and trail systems Auburn has by also maintaining or improving those. I think there should be a focus on affordable, multi-unit housing in the more central/already urbanized parts of town along with parking garages for those tenants. I understand (begrudgingly) that the suburban and rural areas will need some development as population expands, but I hope that folks will appreciate the value in their recreational openness for all citizens (not just the ones who can afford it). I used to depend on "The Bus" to get places. I still think it is an important service, but I don't know that the cities need full-sized buses for that. I would like to see better access to the river both above and below the dam. Short of Durham boat launch, I am unsure of where I could get off the river below the rapids (which I would play in were I not concerned about access and, given proximity to sewage facility, health).
15	An economically sustainable community where private rights supersede public largess.
16	I would love to see more of a sense of community, walking and biking access, and pride in our city!
17	Being a pedestrian needs to be a priority. Better sidewalks are needed throughout Auburn and walking and biking need to be encouraged. With the increase in housing and traffic we need better infrastructure such as traffic lights and or roundabouts. Roads need to be safer with better speed controls. The Auburn Mall area, HomeDepot area, new apartment area need to be pedestrian friendly. Do something with the Mall for the community.
18	To see Amtrak come into Auburn Lewiston
19	more greenspaces, better access to the androscoggin river, better bike paths and bike lanes better support for homeless community

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	better food options - more farmers markets, local grocery stores, good restaurants with fresh organic food
20	Less homelessness
21	Cap property taxes
22	Better transportation & more Dr's in area
23	I think Auburn is doing a good job overall with a huge exception of highway maintenance!
24	Making it actually affordable for everyone to live and not struggle.
25	Better care of infrastructure
26	Don't know
27	Auburn needs to provide excellent schools with a high graduation rate and high levels of achievement! Washburn School has tiny combined gym/auditorium/cafeteria, where students perform amongst cafeteria equipment like garbage pails, folding tables, gym mats, etc., with no place to hold plays, concerts, or other events and no place for audience seating! How can you build a strong education foundation to send to the new high school if students are culturally deprived children in elementary school? Washburn School and possibly others, are totally unacceptable!!!
28	make riding on Center St a lot easier!
29	In 10 years, I want to see a city where our children can feel truly safe—riding their bikes to the park without fear of theft, walking their neighborhoods without being exposed to prostitution or witnessing people sleeping on the streets. I envision a community that prioritizes dignity, safety, and opportunity for all. That means investing in more homeless shelters, expanding access to affordable housing, and creating real job opportunities that empower individuals and strengthen families. I want to live in a city that leads with compassion, where no one is left behind—and I'm ready to be part of the change to make that vision a reality.
30	Keep it as it is
31	Increased acreage placed in conservation/land trusts/etc. Especially along the Royal River. Tax RELIEF for seniors, disabled and LONGEST TERM RESIDENTS.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	NO TAX BREAKS OR FUNDING INCENTIVES for the multi-million dollar developers. Give the common resident the tax breaks - INVEST IN US, NOT THEM. Focus on support & funding for Auburn sections of the Casco Bay Rail Trail.
32	Less strip malls on Center Street. More walkable access throughout the down. More large businesses, specifically near the highway. More integration with Auburn's only college, CMCC.
33	I would like to see more social and exercise activities in Auburn
34	Work on the downtown area and fix up this for a walkable living area. Make it affordable! Keep our green spaces open, incentivize them to stay green and open, since developers are out there trying to make it all into 'market rate' housing - many of those who live in these are not living and working here, they are just sleeping here. Stop with the 'recreation' until you fix the roads and the current housing issues.
35	Top notch schools, good job opportunities with care taken to preserve our natural resources. More opportunities for small businesses
36	I would love for the Amtrak Downeaster to connect Auburn/Lewiston to Portland and beyond. I think it could bring more people to the area as well as help bring tourists during the summer months.
37	Before we add new programs, we need to eliminate or reduce the size of existing programs. We cant afford everything. There should be uncomfortable tradeoffs made. The more offerings we give to the unemployed, the more unemployed we will have.
38	In ten years, I would hope the city of Auburn is a more desirable place to live and destination to visit because there is more arts, culture and entertainment. I hope there is a thriving downtown with store fronts and restaurants that are all in walking distance. It doesn't feel like this town has a center, or heart, like a lot of other communities have in downtown areas. It would be nice to have a central place to go for shopping, dining, entertaining, etc. Auburn currently just feels like a town to drive through.
39	Provide help to make more proven when needed..available but not just handed over to them. Make them accountable & show how to improve their lives & help moving forward. Empower them to become the teacher so it be self-perpetuating
40	We remain in Auburn based on the knowledge that small Maine towns can thrive and Auburn can be one of them as it was many years ago, with a vibrant downtown (both day to day destinations and festivals) as well as a strong community spirit (people

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	saying, I really like living here). I am tired of hearing people disparage Auburn and talk about leaving. So my vision is a sense of satisfaction that is intangible but felt when it exists. Kids talking about making a life here, people demonstrating pride in being here by keeping our neighborhoods clean and attractive, public services being responsive to walkable sidewalks, traffic calming and sufficient crosswalks; well-attended plantings; public art; and concentrated small business development that creates destinations where you can park and walk to several things. I also envision an Auburn that is well over lamenting what used to be and why things have changed with a new focus on where we are going, not where we have been. A clearly developed future state and the collective will (political and citizen) to stay the course and get there. Not change every time the Council changes.
41	Downtown Auburn (Main St.) needs more restaurant, bar, coffee options. I also support the idea of redeveloping the Route corridor leading from Turnpike, which is a blight right now. Neighborhoods on the river side make sense. So do some high-rise housing blocks with retail/restaurants on the first floor — like you see in Falmouth at Bucknam Road.
42	I think the city should focus on quality of life issues such as protection of and access to the environment, quality educational opportunities, neighborhood communities, youth programs, senior programs, walkability/trails, and affordable housing.
43	Continue to improve the schools. Sponsor excellence in all domains.
44	The city would be inviting for all; potential new residents and existing residences. The city should be a safe environment for all, ownership housing should be more affordable, less crime and homelessness.
45	More affordable and more local things to do. Businesses that last. Better public education.
46	I would like to see less drug addiction in the area. I think that the churches downtown attract the homeless people by giving out free food and allowing them to camp on their lawns.
47	I would like to see the City facilitate investment in construction of condominiums with many fewer apartments. There are extremely limited opportunities for first-time homebuyers to get in to the housing market. Approval of buildings filled with 1 and 2-bedroom units are not conducive to helping young families become home-buyers. A high percentage of home ownership in a community promotes community stability and an opportunity for lower-income families to enter the middle class.
48	Keep water clean. Reduce congestion by improved public transportation, sidewalks, and bike lanes where appropriate. Find ways to use vacant properties in the city.
49	We need to renew the city by offering affordable housing & good schools for young families. We need to create vital neighborhoods with restaurants & shops, playgrounds & parks & things to do.
50	Maintain the very expensive high school

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
51	Better maintained roads and more small businesses in the area. Maybe some city run services that generate income.
52	in 10 years I'll probably be dead
53	Take responsibility for the appearance of the main entryway into the city, i.e. Washington Street to Court St. I am embarassed every time I go into town on that route. If I had a guest passenger, I would take them into Lewiston first to enjoy the plantings, the painted utility boxes on street corners, the little parks with benches, the "Lewiston Strong" signs.
54	Would love to see the Great Falls be great again. Would love to see a cleaner River with further public investment in recreational options along and on the River. We need to do more to attract people to our community by doing more projects like the redevelopment of Little Andy Park. Investing in ways to enhance existing outdoor recreation, hiking and conservation land are ways to bring in younger families and small businesses. Developing and working with partners for a bike path along rail corridors would be good. Slowing traffic down in our neighborhoods and controlling noise pollution from motor vehicles are things the City should do. Noise pollution is very unhealth and we have noise ordinance that are never enforced. Hopefully that is something we can work on as a City to help make it a nicer place to live.
55	I'd like for the commute from LA to Portland to be easier. A commuter train would be perfect to bypass all the traffic and construction on the highway. It costs me over \$5 a day in tolls to drive to Portland, plus gas. I'd happily pay twice that to not be the one driving.
56	<p>In 10 years, I want Auburn to be the kind of place where people stay not just because it's affordable or familiar—but because it's fun, weird, welcoming, and absolutely full of life.</p> <p>Picture this: it's a July evening. The community pool is packed with families, swim teams, and retired folks doing synchronized water aerobics. Maybe it was built through a partnership with St. Dom's and CMCC, maybe it was crowd-funded by a thousand bake sales and cannonball competitions—doesn't matter. What matters is: we finally have a place to swim in the summer.</p> <p>Kids aren't stuck inside—they're biking to the skate park, paddleboarding on Taylor Pond, or plotting their next (legal-ish) fireworks display in a designated "controlled spark zone" at Pettengill. Seniors are gardening in city-run urban plots or walking shaded trails that connect downtown to the river. There's music at Festival Plaza more than once a year, the Farmer's Market has a permanent covered structure, and abandoned mall parking lots have become mixed-use playgrounds for pickleball, roller rinks, food trucks, and pop-up art.</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	<p>We've leaned into our slightly offbeat personality—officially declaring things like:</p> <p>River tubing a commuter option (BYO tube).</p> <p>Bowfishing at Taylor Pond allowed but only in costume.</p> <p>“Mayor of the Dam” contests every summer based on who has the best backflip or cannonball into the Andro.</p> <p>But beyond the fun: we've expanded housing options without losing our identity. There are duplexes, townhouses, and accessory dwelling units throughout the city. We've made it easier for first-time buyers, seniors downsizing, and families growing to all find a home here. We've preserved open space but said yes to growth that fits our character. Our transportation options are more connected, more walkable, more bikeable.</p> <p>We're still Auburn. Just turned up to 11.</p> <p>To get there, we need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Build a public pool (really, truly, finally).<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen partnerships with schools and regional institutions like CMCC.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace creativity in zoning and land use.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invest in parks, recreation, and community events.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Say yes to weird ideas—because sometimes those are the ones that make a place feel like home.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	Ten years from now, I want Auburn to be a city where people say: "Wait, you live in Auburn? I've heard that place is kind of amazing."
57	Facade updates, Center St revamp, more information about services/programs
58	Keep Auburn like it is - a wonderful mix of manufacturing/industrial business properly zoned away from residential neighborhoods, build housing developments with HOUSES, not apartments to rent -- and make them walkable to other amenities like shops, parks, etc. Leave open space!!!
59	<p>I believe Auburn could become a hub for the state but at the same time keep its current feel. I think the city needs to focus on commercial growth in the industrial parks that are already within the city. The city should also make a push on allowing people to grow and create their own food. Currently there are a lot of restrictions to what can be done within the city, per example the restriction on how many chickens can be kept within city limits. Why restrict access to eggs and fresh meat? I understand the hesitance towards roosters as they can be noisy but chickens tend to be quite and pretty easy to care for.</p> <p>The city also should focus on improving the roads within the city. To grow commercial businesses and improve Auburn as a whole roads are very important. With better roads I believe this will help entice new businesses which in theory should help carry some of the tax burden for the residents of the city. Overall, I think Auburn is a good city and could explode into a new era if a few issues are addressed and improved upon.</p>
60	The city should focus on code enforcement and safety.
61	<p>Walton School should close. We need to combine schools so we can provide have more diversity</p> <p>The town needs to encourage people to get back to work. It's to easy to be and stay on unemployment!!</p>
62	I would like housing and Healthcare to be more affordable. I would like the homeless population be reduced or better yet non existent. I would like to have the option of working 32 hours a week without worrying I won't make enough to survive.
63	Public works do something to fix roads. Clean up the trash around, make the neighborhoods appearance better. Stop allowing the people to beg for money, all they use it for it drug habits. Less pot grow/shops, help with the stink! Let people whom

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	own AG land build a home on it so they can enjoy life as they get older, lots of AG land has been in family for generations and people would like to downsize later in life.
64	I would love to see the skatepark be rejuvenated and become a gathering place for skaters of all ages. I would like to see more greenery on our streets and fewer people living on the streets. I would like to see new small businesses thriving and I'd like to see those businesses able to provide a good wage to the folks living here so people like me don't have to commute to other cities to make the pay required to cover the increasing cost of energy, food, etc. I would also like more opportunities to engage with my community. Personally I love gardening and would love to see a garden club here that could help with building and maintaining public gardens and parks. Thank you for your care for our lovely little city!
65	Improve/ build new skatepark
66	I would love to see more low income housing and recreation options such as an improved skatepark. This town is lacking community.
67	A beautiful skate park that provides connection between kids and adults on both the local and professional sectors. The value of a skatepark in Auburn would pay itself back tenfold over the years with the increase in traffic into the city.
68	My vision is Auburn with a better skatepark than it's current one.
69	I envision a community where young, educated families want to raise their kids. A community that remains safe, provides affordable housing and provides an atmosphere of connectedness. I envision a community that has safe, clean air and water as well as adequate green space for people to recreate. The schools thrive and the aging feel a part of the community. People can live and work and play in our town and succeed financially.
70	In ten years I'd like to see the median age decline. I would like Auburn to stop focusing so much on building services for its senior population and focus more on building services for teenagers. It is apparent that we are losing our youth as soon as they have the ability to leave the city. I think this is partly due to the lack of things for our youth to do, as well as the relative prices for housing.
71	More activities for all age groups. Recreation
72	Would love to see an improved/rebuilt skatepark in town. The old one is dangerous and small, not very functional to skate even for experienced riders
73	I would love to see the grow of a model US city. Create and improve sustainable practices, addressing climate change and needs. Keep improving social activities and education opportunities that help to integrate the ever growing migrant population. And the promotion of sustainable and public transportation as a life style.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
74	I would like to see a public skatepark built in the city of Auburn. One that would rival the skatepark in Lewiston, which to this day remains the best skatepark in the state of Maine.
75	If possible, bringing in investors/businesses that could invest in empty buildings to create more jobs that pay a living wage. Auburn is also the "bedroom" of Portland with more people moving here due to higher costs in that area. Having Amtrack transportation would allow even more access.
76	It feels like there is no reason to come up this way. We leave to do most things and visit with people. I'd like to see a reason for people to be here
77	A focus on improving living conditions for the homeless. Roads are bad and must be improved. A second level of contact if you are not satisfied with decisions made by public works . They do not even get back to you after presenting your issue to them.
78	Funds go toward more resources for the lower income residents
79	Better roads, kinder people, slower traffic, a prettier town that takes pride in all of the different elements. Something to be proud about. Not let it to go into further decline.
80	More options for entertainment and shopping as well as improving the attractiveness of the city for younger families to move and live in.
81	This survey does not adequately address the issue of homelessness in Auburn. We need more services for this population and should prioritize a housing first model.
82	Less encroaching on Agricultral lands! Need to encourage not discourage as the need for healthy foods and life styles aare diminishing! The City also has a spending problem!
83	stay updated with current technology, don't over burden citizens with taxes, more businesses, more population, don't just hand out money for free and if the city does give handouts to "needy" people than everyone else should also get something also
84	Lower property taxes, more access to transportation in auburn and around maine, roads repaired.
85	See above
86	We're going in a good direction now, with concern for enhancing the livability of the city and its environment.
87	Everyone needs a job first off to build a community. That should be #1. Even people with disabilites can work in some cases. One everyone has a job. They should be able to afford housing. Once they can afford housing that can afford to pay property taxes to invest in the city. People dont need public transportation. People made it to work without cars in the past. It can be done. People need to walk and bike more to increase their health and way of life.
88	More business opportunities, more housing, continued funding for public schools

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
89	I envision Auburn leveraging all its beauty and focusing on infrastructure in order to attract new hard working educated professionals. I would like to an effort of preserving historical buildings and providing landlords with low interest loans in order to improve their declining properties (example: properties in and around Goff St, Second St, High St. Dennison).
90	Demolition of the abandoned buildings either side of Minot Avenue(horrible first impression as you come into town), walking boardwalk built around Lake Auburn (like Brunswick has), a vibrant town center
91	I would like to see the city invest in itself and it's residents rather than invest in opportunities for businesses to develop the city
92	Safer streets, fewer homeless and panhandlers, excellent hospitals with staff who are invested in the community. Excellent public schools and better communication of community events and resources.
93	More affordable senior housing. Better public transportation for those outside the business district. More senior activities.
94	Focus on community bring back peace stop drugs & violence in this community
95	Property tax assistance for seniors to allow them to live in their homes.
96	Easily accessible recreational space. Improved infrastructure with better roads. Maintaining our quality of water supply. Good affordable housing
97	see answers above
98	Access to city officials and resolution to problems ask to be resolved.
99	A healthy environment. The city needs to promote physical exercise and healthy eating establishments. Safe paths for walking runningAnd biking. Sort of like the Back Bay walking and running path in Portland. A safe place to Exercise. Preferably by the airport area.
100	More senior housing with transportation available.
101	First, a budget needs to be set that will take into consideration the necessities: Police, Fire, Medical. Then look at what needs to be done to keep up roads. Look for more businesses to move here (would require that taxes be much lower). Lastly, the school dept. again, needs to start living within OUR MEANS, not their excessive WANTS.
102	Look at what Lewiston has done, with 'painting' and 'artistic expression' throughout the city. Do the same.
103	The city seems to listen to concerns and I believe they care about all the above questions. Hopeful.
104	Clean up the city. Stop DEI involvement and get back to simply doing the right thing. Growth does not have to be huge

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	<p>The Washington street project should be scrapped. There is no need to do this study or project. Before going</p> <p>into this project look to see how current projects have been utilized. Stop doing things to drive up my taxes while</p> <p>The things we are paying for are neglected. Get back to basics.</p>
105	I would like the agricultural zone to stay as rural and undeveloped as possible.
106	<p>I would like a commuter rail to come through to take us to Augusta, Boothbay/Bangor, Portland, etc. Maybe even connecting to the Boston line.</p> <p>Also I just wanted to give kudos to APW, I reported a dead and decaying smelly deer in a ditch on the side of the road near my house and APW showed up in under 30 minutes to haul it away. I was amazed!</p>
107	More affordable housing for seniors. More services for getting the unhoused off the streets. Roads taken care of and safer for cars.
108	First and foremost is planning for the safety of Lake Auburn as our reservoir. Given climate issues, it is highly likely that we will need to install a filtration system within 20 years, and we should start budgeting for that now. I would also like to see more inter-cultural exchanges, so that there is less friction/tension between "old" and "new" Mainers. I would also like to see Auburn as a leader in providing creative housing opportunities (boarding houses? tiny homes?) to reduce homelessness and food insecurity. Finally, greater partnership with Lewiston, especially in educational and cultural offerings.
109	Converting the industrial downtown to an attractive space for folks to gather, work, and live. I would love to see all the old factories either renovated into offices, shops, housing, or removed to eliminate eyesores. It also be great to have a well maintained and contiguous park on both sides of the river from the falls to the foot bridge. Currently, it feels like a patchwork with several sections being sketchy and not attractive to walk with family or friends.
110	Improved traffic flow. More programs for elderly. More proactive dissemination of information from Council, and City City Manager, Police, and dept. Managers. I want to know what is going on. Maybe a meaningful City newsletter available to all .
111	We're new here and we would like to see the city sustain its unique blend of agricultural responsibility and affordability. We would also like to see more small businesses made a priority.
112	More support for small businesses. There are too many roadblocks for people trying to open businesses in Auburn.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
113	Stop cutting down all the green area. Our schools are ranked in the top half. City events continue to grow and are enjoyable
114	More trees, Abandoned buildings being rehab into housing Or operating businesses.
115	Well paying jobs, protected environment, strong public schools, a diverse flourishing community.
116	<p>Please, please improve the look of our entryways - like Washington Street corridor, Hotel Road and others</p> <p>Take DOWN abandoned, run-down, disgusting properties and structures.</p> <p>Take care of our old buildings (mills and others) - use them for housing and retail.</p> <p>Build a swimming pool (indoor) and other amenities. Public skating rinks in winter.</p> <p>Please do something with Lake Auburn! It is our greatest asset. Even if you don't want housing on the lake, find a way to make it a destination with amenities to enjoy it!!</p> <p>Enforcement of speed limits!</p>
117	A Water filtration plant would help. Would be great if agriculture zones paid as much in taxes as others. Allowing more housing in areas would be great. We are growing. We need to plan on more people living here.
118	Build a water filtration plant to stop the ridiculous build stops and use some of the land around the lake for a childrens camp and open the lake for recreation like it should be.
119	Have Auburn recognize that its agricultural prime has long since expired, so that responsible development of South Auburn can occur and lower real estate taxes for the rest of city residents. This will attract new businesses and avail the city of additional housing options.
120	Auburn to remain a rural city. Emphasis should be put on developing resources in Auburn rather than trying to increase population.
121	More support for the most vulnerable. Housing. Less addiction and homelessness. The way to do that is to provide people with housing and get them on their feet. I'd love to

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	see the community flourish as well with more public events, like the fests and parades that occur throughout the year.
122	Dredge the River from here to Lisbon to have access for All along The River to get to Auburn light up the bridge over the river and the falls turn the gathering space by The falls into a venue for music. Take all that military crap out of there and move it across the street into the other Park. Have a contest every Christmas for the best light display and then encourage the citizens to leave their white lights on all winter to dispell the blues. Workout and agreement at the local box store to allow the citizens to buy white Christmas LED lights powered by solar at a discount encourage the population of both cities to work together to have a celebration every quarter like we did when I was a kid. Fall, winter spring and summer festivals will bring people to the city and if the river has been dredged and open then they'll come that way too and celebrate at the basin when we have activities for the citizens at these events we should be known as the festival cities on the androscoggin river That's how we'll regain our position within the state as fun place to visit and live
123	Improvement to the education system, the roads, & growth within the community.
124	I may contradict some of the answers I provided earlier in this survey, but Auburn (and Lewiston) should prioritize attracting new businesses to L/A. To do that, better infrastructure is also needed (roads, more smoothly moving traffic corridors, etc). Also, something has to be done about the homeless situation. Stop the conservative/liberal back-and-forth and GET SOMETHING DONE!!! These are human beings we are talking about. You, and I, are minutes away from a situation tahat would cause us to be homeless ourselves. Lastly, have more festivals and such downtown, or even away from downtown. It brings in not only local people, but also people from outside the L/A area, and shows them that the negative image L/A has is not warranted.
125	For all Police, Fire, EMS and all hospitals to be fully staffed. To see the empty factory buildings being used to house homeless/low income people. For all our local schools to be fully staffed and to offer the highest form of education that we can have. I would also like to see weekly recycling instead of bi-weekly. Lower property taxes, many senior citizens do not have the means for increases. Fixed Incomes !! One time fee for trailer license plates.
126	My ultimate vision of Auburn is a more walkable city with natural beauty everywhere. By beauty, I mean there are spots all over the city designated to wildlife using diverse, native plantings. There are lots of places to sit and come together as a community. There isn't a single unhoused person panhandling because they have a program in place that houses them and incorporates them back into society in a meaningful way. I see more community gardens and more farmer's markets. I want to see less

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	restrictions on individuals being able to sustain themselves through homesteading practices. I see people making enough money to afford a city that has a lower cost of living.
127	Auburn's roadmap for reinvigorating itself is by first becoming an attractive bedroom community for (relatively) higher-income earners who live here and commute south for jobs. More discretionary spending will bring more shopping, dining and other investments to Auburn, which in turn will bring more local jobs, business openings, economic development, etc. Portland and its surrounding towns are incredibly mismanaged and unaffordable - do not fall into the same trap, thinking its Auburn's responsibility to fight climate change, push social justice with its public safety policies, etc. You can feel however you want about those personally - but look 30 miles south to see how a city policy focus on that has gone over the past decade plus. Take advantage of their missteps, get people with good jobs down there to live up here, and investment will come here.
128	Better restaurants, small shops culture
129	My vision is to have a community where the unhoused have a roof over their head, have the ability to hold down a job and contribute to the community. I also want to make sure we protect Lake Auburn and avoid the type of development that endanger Lake Auburn. We must continue to be a welcoming city for Asylum seekers who are looking for a safe place for their families.
130	Open space, less "no trespassing signs
131	A city with more job opportunities. More options for shopping especially clothing. Something positive done or growth with Auburn Mall (please!!!!) Remain inclusive, increased support to minorities. Better educated citizens and more housing, especially for elderly and for the younger folks who will continue to leave without.
132	I would help keep what farms we have. And fix roads
133	Affordable housing created without damage to the lake or watershed.
134	I would like to see the old police station, the former Jimmy's Diner, the ugly Cameron Tire building and the giant brick building, all on Minot Avenue near the intersection with Court Street either be improved or razed. I would like to see the former Prospect Golf Course become a municipal golf course and have a program at the high school in golf course management, landscaping, gardening, restaurant managment, and culinary arts support that endeavor. I would like to see more affordable housing.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
135	Clean, accessible, safe
136	<p>Increased retail options for shopping and more upscale restaurants instead of mainly fast food restaurants</p> <p>A radical improvement in the city's environmental foot print, especially a city which actually encourages all possible recycling, composting, etc.</p>
137	<p>Prioritize housing in neighborhoods where walking and biking are made more safe. Maintain rural and recreation areas, including protecting the Lake Auburn watershed.</p>
138	<p>Cleaner city, brighter city. Please fix the roads, and hire people to clean up the city. People being prideful about living in Auburn. More support for the people with addictions and mental health issues. We love seeing people sober.</p>
139	<p>Keeping Lake Auburn clean.</p> <p>Making travel around the city more efficient.</p> <p>Taking care of all of the empty houses all over the city: rehab, tear down and replace, sell.</p>
140	<p>I enjoyed seeing climate change as an area of concern for the city on this survey. People seem to separate the impact that the climate is having on our city for just calling it poor infrastructure, but when infrastructure was built for the city of the past, it becomes quite obvious as things start to change. Viewing the, not terrible but visually stressful, damage that occurred during the flooding a couple years ago, and even what we experience now at a lower level from rain fall, really pushed home how much damage climate change can cause when our city is built on a river. Destroyed walkways, what will likely end up being washed out apartments and businesses, flooding bridges, all of this water will cause severe damage if we don't move forward with renovations and new engineering projects to handle increased water levels in the next 10 years. People can complain now about potholes, but in 10 years they won't even have a road to drive on. Projects that take this on will need to be thoroughly explained in a public way. Whether the public will "believe" in its necessity is different.</p> <p>Eventually in the next 10 years, I'd like to see lines painted by the train tracks indicating where people should be stopping with their vehicles whether a train is coming or not. Folks are always stopping not quite on, but close enough, to the tracks when lights on red--in particular on Court St.--and it's incredibly scary to imagine what could happen if a train did decide to come by at that moment. Congestion can be hard; a dead citizen is harder.</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	<p>I would also like to see more public trash bins around town. I like to go on walks around my community by the high school and I pick up horrific amounts of litter. It's about one 13-gallon bag of trash per half a mile. My general area is getting better and I can't control what the wind blows in, but the amount of public litter in the city is appalling. I notice it a lot at the intersection of Court and Minot and around the Staples area since I drive that area frequently. Public trash cans may help ease this strain.</p> <p>As a last comment, which I'm sure the city is sick of hearing about at this point and I do apologize and beg you to stay with me, there needs to be a come to Jesus discussion with developers on what exactly affordable housing means. At this point, the only affordable housing that may exist is through mom-and-pop landlords and even then this is creating a rent trap for folks. I pay below market for my current residence, while still being above a comfortable limit for a single-family income that makes good money and there is no reason why even someone who does well for themselves is facing one bad day from becoming homeless. When the Mount Auburn apartments were being advertised, I looked into the pricing. \$1,800-2,300 is not affordable. Stable Ridge at \$1,700-1,900 is not affordable. Kittyhawk at \$1,900-2,400 is not affordable. The old Jewish temple at \$2,000-2,400 is not affordable.</p> <p>The median individual income in Auburn is \$36,762, household \$66,552, based on US Data reports from 2023 census collection. If we consider that the financial advice for all folks is no more than a 1/3 of your gross income for annual housing cost, we're looking at \$1,010 for single individuals or \$1,830 for a household which is assumed to hold two working adults, and likely has children involved increasing costs. When those units listed above are for 1-or-2 bedrooms, some of them do have a few more, we're telling individuals who should be spending no more than \$1,010 that they now have to commit more than 50% of their gross annual income just to housing alone, not including other bills of utilities, groceries, car, insurance, the works.</p> <p>There are absolutely people in the community who can afford these prices and likely gladly will take up residency, but the likelihood that they are moving out of lower cost apartments to free up space for others is slim. Taking rent increases into consideration, I have watched my landlord increase a unit comparable to mine by \$200 every time a tenant leaves and a new one moves in. If I could afford to leave here and move into a new building, the next tenant will still suffer with increased housing prices creating no wiggle or breathing room. Citizens are becoming rent-trapped by not being able to afford a new place to live, while also being tied down knowing if it doesn't work</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	out they can't return because prices will have increased. If I ever decide to move out of Auburn, the city I was born and raised in, I can never financially afford to come back here.
141	I want see an Amtrak train station in Auburn/Lewiston Transportation center. Such as Freeport,Brunswick etc and a regional state train transportation system to to support all major locations in Maine.
142	Better roads, no unhoused, all public areas are safe, new up and coming businesses, lower taxes, bulk goods pickup, non LED street lighting, healthy restaurants, farmers making a great living, swift emergency response, medical establishments thriving -not cutting services, access to affordable healthcare, clean streets, clean, limited ingredient, clean, safe drinking water.
143	We would like to see more active social scene for young adults, cleaned up public parks that the community can feel safe in, an affordable housing market for young families, more shelters for homeless or unhoused, and expanded transportation options between Portland and Auburn or a connection to the Amtrak Train.
144	I would like a larger infrastructure, higher wages for the jobs in this city. More nightlife for the younger crowd. Healthier food options.
145	more walkability and more park space for residents
146	Blow up all the housing between Winter Street and Whitney, then start over with a new mixed use neighborhood. Take the old mill at Minot and Court by eminent domain, knock it down, and sell the bricks to Lewiston for all their social welfare programs.
147	Let's try and focus a bit on the Washington Street corridor. I'm pleased to see the Transportation Committee addressing this matter. Secondly, let's focus on retaining our trusted civil employees. The more experienced the better. I'd like to see our City Manager stay for 10+ years whomever it is. Harmony in our city can go a long way.
148	I'd like to see more homeless people in houses and safe and off the streets
149	I would like to see agriculture areas of Auburn and other rural areas protected from further development and to make housing and taxes more affordable. Also find ways to make better road improvements.
150	Improved of walking/cycling infrastructure. Improved public transportation infrastructure.
151	Redirect some roads ,so they are safer and easier to obey.
152	Lower taxes, less development, preservation of public lands and trails, public safety
153	Hopefully will have more affordable housing options.
154	Lower taxes Better trash removal services

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	Roads fixed and maintained Public gathering and events
155	I would love to have more public spaces for hiking and swimming.
156	A well functioning city where everybody's rights are supported. A city where the residents can afford to live and the corporations and wealthy pay their fare share. A place I can be proud to raise my child with a quality public education system.
157	I would like to see less criminal activity, less drug activity especially. Keep the taxes low and our community safe.
158	Increase in non NGO jobs.
159	The city should be a mainstream of great job opportunity, education. Our roads and infrastructure should be one of our main focus so as to attract new jobs. Having amtrac would enhance our colleges and bring better jobs to a economic growth.
160	In 10 years, I would like to be a homeowner in a house that is affordable. I want people to be able to thrive in Auburn and not have to venture elsewhere or out of state to cease great opportunities, and to also be able to have access to both entertainment and community resources/services.
161	Reduce homeless people, Increase liheap, bigger concert acts for revenue, reduced property taxes, taxes should not go up if the amount of businesses and residents are going up yoy.
162	To home the homeless and have more affordable living
163	I'd like to see more events to bring the community closer together.
164	I would like to see the new high school used for more public opportunities.
165	Much more AFFORDABLE living in homes and apartment buildings, highly improved infrastructure, and organized population control.
166	Please fix these roads!!! My car is always getting tire issues
167	More housing, more jobs, more manufacturing companies, and more transportation. We're going to get bigger, Auburn is huge and there is a lot for us to spread out to, but it needs to be accessible. Only downtown (Turner & Center Streets and surrounding area) and New Auburn are right now. Trains to Bangor, Augusta, and Portland would be awesome.
168	Would LOVE to have the New Auburn intersections put back to some normalcy!!! It's been nothing but a pain with the huge speed bumps, MISPLACED ISLANDS, long lights, Mill st coming from Barker not having its own green light anymore, the blaring of horns constantly especially during busy hours.....the list goes on.....it should have all been left alone!!

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
169	people to be self supportive
170	Personally I see Auburn as a failing community not attracting employers, far too many apartments, tax rate is uncontrolled, quality of Auburns apearance is embarrassing.
171	More bike lanes, sidewalks, public art, green spaces to enjoy, parks for children, dogs, elderly.
172	To be an innovator for business and small industry.
173	Leave the water supply alone
174	<p>I believe Auburn is prime for sensible development and expansion. Its location is central to the Portland and Augusta areas, and easily commutable to both. The focus should be to seek business investment and expansion, update the housing stock, spend more on education and increase recreational and cultural activities. By doing these things the city can attract residents by offering quality of life opportunities in employment, housing, education and recreational, leisure activities.</p> <p>I think a major step would be the Washington Ave corridor project. This area of the city needs a major overhaul. There are dangerous traffic patterns and unsightly buildings that do not make a good impression of the city.</p>
175	I THINK THE VISION FOR AUBURN IS NOT GOOD WITH TOO MANY APT BUILDINGS BEING BUILT WHEN WE SHOULD BE BUILDING MORE SINGLE HOMES.
176	<p>In general, the US population will be shifting north as climate change renders the southern part of the country more and more unlivable. Gentrification here seems inevitable, as newcomers to the state will see L/A as a viable alternative to pricey Portland. More focus will be placed on attracting high technology business to this area and the higher paying jobs they bring, at the expense of the current blue collar workforce. This will be good from a tax revenue standpoint, but the city and state will have to figure out how to migrate the present manufacturing base elsewhere. Of course, no one will want to come here unless you clean up the city's image and infrastructure. Start by fixing the absolutely shitty roads - they are a disgrace! (I know you are trying, but a lot more work needs to be done.) Purge the visible homeless presence, especially the beggars on the street corners. Tear down abandoned industrial and otherwise unsightly buildings (e.g., Auburn Novelty Shop). Improve traffic flow around the downtown area and into town from I-95. (That convoluted traffic circle around Roy's All-steak Burgers is another disgrace.) And obviously you'll need to work with Lewiston on its own image upgrade. I think you also need to start planting the seeds for a decent university to be established here, one that can produce qualified graduates for high-tech business. L/A and the surrounding communities offer a lot of potential, but you will need to start catering less to the NIMBYs and more to the "from away" population wave that is coming. IMHO!</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
177	A homeless shelter, resources for the mental health/substance abuse struggles in the community, businesses actually succeeding in the mall not being rent gouged-a functioning mall with good stores would do the community and economy good, a greenhouse business I.e. Longfellow's would be wonderful, more opening and spots for summer rec, more affordable options for summer childcare and before/after school care for working parents.
178	Affordable housing. Not market rate housing. More social services for the unhoused. More police and fire and EMS. And less moral bankruptcy.
179	LA will grow in size and people in the coming years. We need to be prepared with infrastructure and opportunities that support the ENTIRE population.
180	Roads stop taking up all the tax payers money. Power supplied by a well maintained nuclear plant. A better education on said nuclear plant and opportunities for our students. Housing that may include appropriate apartment locations but affordable single family Homes, houses that can be affordable from gen z to alpha
181	Better bang for our tax payers bucks.
182	I think in the next ten years auburn will grow a lot more into a city taking on some similarities to cities like Westbrook, Portland, and Freeport. I think the town will continue to grow and hopefully with proper planning so will its services, more restaurants will open and more businesses. I think to achieve this though more active opportunities need to be invested in. I say this because as a young person I feel like I really have no place to socialize with my friends outside of each others houses or restaurants. While we've done great work with expanding housing and I commend those in charge for that. For everyone in town i think it is essential to give them more opportunities for fun and excitement around town. We see a lot of people moving to auburn yes, but they're mainly moving here cause it's a cheeped alternative to Portland and allows easy access, and while I think that connection it's important and should be furthered we also need to think about how to encourage people to stay here in auburn. And so I think expanding communal spaces (like parks, trails, bars, etc.) would be great as it'd keep the people of auburn active and engaged with one another growing our community and culture. With the introduction of a new park we could see people sitting outside in the summer together and having picnics with their friends, or with increased public transit opportunities we could see more citizens biking together or taking the bus to get across town. These little things would help our younger citizens feel more connected and increase profits for businesses in town as it'd circulate our citizens who may not have as easy access to the rest of town. I think all of these ideas could be achieved in the next ten or even five years but it all depends on how much our town is willing to invest in it. We're seeing similar things happen in Lewiston and southern Maine and I think we could mirror those changes. We're in a time of increased progress and development in Maine so we need to capitalize now.
183	Better sidewalks and roads. More housing in the pre-existing built environment. Let's make use of these old mill buildings!

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
184	Higher quality of education. More active downtown. More intercity cooperation with Lewiston.
185	Create more opportunities for the people who already live here. Develop more community events that draw people from outside the community. Encourage more community members to become involved in the public education of our youth.
186	Fix the roads
187	I hope to see Auburn and Lewiston beat out the allegations of being the worse cities in the state to live.
188	I would like to see a more welcoming, both visually and economically, city. One where we've figured out why small businesses in the past 10 years couldn't make a go of it and be successful. One where people who moved away and would like to return can find good paying jobs, send their children to great schools, have access to quality medical services, and affordable housing.
189	More side walks on straights not in the downtown area. Sidewalks that currently exist need to be plowed in the winter. More open spaces/parks/trails
190	Greater access to recreational bike/ped trails within the city and to Portland and points North and East
191	More smaller communities within the town. North and South are way different than central area. Would be nice to see more rural agriculture and farms in the areas that are able to do so maybe give them tax breaks or something to provide incentive. Even if it's just chickens or more wildflower growth anything is better than all these tiny lawns with 1/8 inch cut grass with nothing on em. No animals, no plants, it's an eyesore we need more nature back.
192	I think there will be growth in the population due to the high cost of living in towns surrounding Portland. I would like to hope that we are open to keeping Auburn housing affordable.
193	<p>Stop supporting those who don't work with affordable housing if they are capable. Look at the dilapidated and unoccupied homes and businesses in the city and either demolish or offer incentives to revitalize. Plenty of space to do that and create a larger tax stream vs building on green space. Let's us what's there first</p> <p>Our educational system is a mess. Teachers are not the problem. It's administration and parenting. It's time to hold them responsible and discipline when necessary. No more slaps on the wrist or try to use scapegoats</p> <p>Coaches need to be reviewed by players and parents. We have some that have borderline harassment especially on the women's side. We hired one that was fired for that. Not very good vetting</p>
194	To continue to offer a good education for our children in community based schools. To continue to offer educational & arts opportunities to the community. To provide good roads & other infrastructure for residents.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
195	The city in 10 years will be a vibrant, desirable place to live and work having achieved growth that is balanced and sustainable. It accomplished this by writing a consensus Comprehensive Plan with measurable outcomes and had the will to implement it.
196	Better roads and improved safety
197	Preserve neighborhoods. More focus on using the River - great resource! Prioritize the city as a great place to live. Resist efforts to industrialize that sacrifice quality of life.
198	Reduce the number of place to buy Marijuana. It's ridiculous that we have so many in the twin cities. Use more existing buildings for AFFORDABLE apartment renovation instead of building new.... (like the Auburn Mall, the Quoddy building/the old police station area, empty store fronts, junky buildings or tired plazas.) The local people who need apartments can't afford the rents that are supposedly "affordable". If you have to build, do it near the turnpike exit so people who work out-of-town have easy access. Get back to the smaller town feeling. If you want to feel like you're in Portland, go to Portland.
199	Tree-lined city streets. You're working on it .
200	Better roads, better police patrol. Work on getting drugs off the streets and the people that are taking them to get the help they need.
201	Better focus on education, lower housing options, a sense of community for all minorities.
202	In ten years, I'm not sure I see myself still in Auburn, but I am fairly certain my children will be coming back here after college. In order to grow we need to be an inviting area for growing families. We should want families to come and the best way to get them here is to continue growing our education system. We have some of the very best educators and administrators in the state who should feel supported by the City of Auburn. When City contracts are bloated and easily negotiated, but the school unions and school committee have to fight over every penny the imbalance is felt city wide.
203	Auburn has so many opportunities to redevelop thoughtfully and I love the direction the city is taking with recent projects!! Improved pedestrian access in New Auburn and new housing along Main Street near downtown are both big wins. There is incredible opportunity in Great Falls plaza and the Auburn Mall to build out denser, mixed-use neighborhoods with affordable housing and green space. Would love to see more opportunities for small businesses to establish a physical presence in more neighborhoods without having to contend with parking minimums that only large chain retailers and big box can afford. Center Street and Minot ave both share similar opportunities for infill. A passenger train connection to Portland and Brunswick would be incredible and could be done with existing track!
204	Fight homelessness, and encampments on public and private property with increased access to mental health and addiction services, shelter(s), enforcement and reduced cost of rent/mortgages. Keep young people and attract new comers with well planned increase in the supply of housing. Don't develop all the wild and rural areas, but allow

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	increased density in the already developed downtown, allowing taller buildings, duplexes, six-plexes, accessory dwelling units, smaller lot sizes etc. Stores and factories all want LA to have a larger working age population to supply customers and employees. Families don't want young people to move far away, or have to keep living in their parents' homes.
205	The city of Auburn should be an easier place to afford to live no matter how young or old you are. Property tax should be based on citizen's affordability not on wish lists. To achieve this we could do budgets like we do at home, only spend what is affordable, and not spending like we have no limits
206	Bring in more business, Lower the tax burden on residents, Stop giving tax breaks to developers.
207	When I tell people I live in Auburn, I'd like a positive reaction instead of a neutral "oh, ok" or a story about how bad the roads are. Better maintained infrastructure, more recreation, more independent businesses would make a difference.
208	Better roads, clean up Washington Ave coming into Auburn, gives a negative impression of the City.
209	A community that is safe and affordable with solid infrastructure.
210	Auburn will fix up and develop/redevelop existing parts of auburn that needs repair and replacing. we should not be spreading out and destroying natural habitats, preserve the green and fix whats already built. We have a very expensive built high school but extremely poor and deteriorating housing as well as neighborhoods around it. wouldnt it be nice to have safe neighborhoods, safe housing, and use of all that the high school potential it has . instead of becoming like the coliese in middle of poverty, no other attractions around. Biddeford and Saco is a great example to follow.
211	More affordable housing, lower property taxes, lots of access to nature, including more public access to the Androscoggin River and falls.
212	A better hospital.
213	A couple of things: Besides Edward Little, the schools needs major capitol improvements. 6th grade is moving to the middle school in 3 years and the building needs a new roof and HVAC system. Police department needs more officers. Can't get a resource officer at the middle school and can't get an officer to direct traffic outside the school in the morning due to be short staffed for the last several years. More % of the local property taxes should go towards the school budget.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	Losing the direct bus service to Boston really hurt. A number of friends and myself used that service a lot. Now I need to be driven to the bus station in Portland. We need to advocate for rail expansion from Portland while the movement is gaining traction. That would be a game changer for city and region.
214	More rec programs for all ages. BETter bike paths on all roads. Better senior housing. Better affordable housing in general. Better access to health care (hospitals keep shutting down and cutting back). Affordable taxes.
215	<p>1.A city council whose members are available to listen to their constituents either in email missives or community ward meetings so that they have a pulse on what their community is concerned about.</p> <p>Changes: require council members to keep their ward informed, hold annual ward meetings for public discourse and reply to any email sent to them.</p> <p>2. A robust recycling program</p> <p>Continue to seek out programs/initiaves that keep Auburn environmentally friendly- and urge the public to be involved</p> <p>3. A community who provides housing options for all people within regardless of income.</p> <p>Changes: Continue to seek funding/provide initiatives and programs to house and reduce the homeless population that we see everyday .</p> <p>4. A community where seniors can " age in place"</p> <p>Changes: Increase senior programming, food services and especially tax relief for those on fixed incomes so they can continue to live here.</p> <p>5.A community where people have opportunities to recreate outside- biking, walking paths, town beaches, etc.</p> <p>Changes: providing an extra lane on major roads (Hotel Road) so that people can walk without fear of vehicles. Create " green spaces" for walking and biking trails by Lake Auburn and buying Crescent Beach for a public beach for the community. Patrol the major thoroughfares that pass through residential areas and set load limits of big trucks on these roads.</p> <p>6. Where there is a conscious balance between development and keeping the character of neighborhoods as they are.</p> <p>Change: Consider more low-impact housing outside the inner city limits to keep the rural character and beauty which leads people to move out of the bigger cities.</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
216	I would love to see a community I'm proud of. This meaning affordable options for housing for all individuals, more small business opportunities, more inclusivity across all aspects. Better city wide and rural transportation options and a community who uplifts our most vulnerable.
217	<p>A few things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to make our schools competitive with the best districts in Maine instead of just a little better than Lewiston. 2. The police need to focus more on enforcement of parking rules, speeding, traffic violations generally and pay less attention to serving as security for large commercial stores. 3. I would like to see all of our parks cleaned up and improved. A large public swimming pool is fast becoming a necessity, too, but only if it is walkable for downtown residents. 4. Speaking of walking... let's figure out how to reduce all the pavement and concrete in the city center so that it is not only safe but pleasant to walk in our town. 5. We need to find a way to put less sand on our streets in the winter as well. They look like dirt roads half the year. Maybe it would just take more sweeping, but it's bad the way it is. 6. I think we need new laws to force property owners to fix up decrepit buildings or sell them. There are way too many pieces of property decaying year after year in plain sight.
218	<p>Address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. declining quality of public education. 2. terrible maintenance of streets and other public infrastructure. 3. blighted areas and derelict buildings, particularly gateway areas.
219	More affordable housing and not just for the immigrants.
220	<p>strongly improved education</p> <p>Intense environmental work, including reaching out to all citizens to teach what each must do to reduce carbon emissions, wwith a goal for each of us to hit zero emissions; making recycling more important and notifying any who throw recyclables athrow</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	away recyclables that they must improve strongly or pay a fine, and ultimately fining offenders.
221	better medical care back the way it was in 2019.Solution for homeless population.Better security personnel in particular for the safety of senior citizens
222	I'd like to see less "Big box" stores and more support for local shops. Also better outdoor spaces, especially for the youth so they have something to do besides sit on their phones are cause trouble out and about.
223	<p>I would like Auburn to be more of a destination for vacationers traveling through Maine. The Mill Museum was an unexpected surprise when my wife and I recently had a tour of it. The many mill buildings are an eyesore, and I would like to see them used for housing and commercial development.</p> <p>The condition of many roads is terrible and leads to more than average wear and tear to automobiles. Another side effect of poor roads is that drivers will sometimes try to avoid the potholes and crumbling pavement, causing the potential for increased accidents.</p> <p>Drivers' attention to and conforming to the laws of the road is poor. I would like to see a system of monitoring traffic infractions and, best case scenario, issuing fines for these infractions.</p> <p>The city is not very clean in my opinion. The town does a good job of clearing the streets of snow and removing dirt during non-winter months. I believe more trash containers located at key intersections (e.g., Gamage and Hampshire) would go a long way towards a cleaner city.</p>
224	<p>Bike lanes. Or roads made safer for bikes. A bike path around lake auburn would be a nice start.</p> <p>The section of road from the end of lake street to Young corner is bad shape and fixing it and making it safe for biking would be a nice start. Promoting outdoor bike paths, hiking trails or walking trails. To promote a health life to bring in more young people to live here. We have so much open land. About fifteen years ago ther was a plan to have a trail from the middle school through the woods that would go out to Dingley field to Lost Valley and over Perkins Ridge.</p>
225	I would love to see a bike path that starts at Hotel Rd and goes around Lake Auburn. Seems to me that there must be some sort of grant out there somewhere?

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	At the very least, I would like to see a sidewalk on Hotel Road (near the condos) or even a dirt extension- walking there is a dangerous thing!
226	<p>Increased funding for schools. I recall my daughter recently being placed in a math class at AMS below her level because of a math teacher vacancy. Increase teacher salaries to meet full staffing needs and attract better talent.</p> <p>Decrease gun violence.</p> <p>Housing crisis and rising cost of living seem like issues of a greater scale that one city can't possibly resolve.</p>
227	Be business and development friendly. We don't need to promote our great city, just make it more inviting. They will come. Make it more affordable for ALL.
228	I would like to see more focus on bringing people together in small groups and fostering sense of community for all ages and backgrounds. I appreciate that places like the library, churches, and the rec department have been offering options for gathering for many years. But we need more low cost options in other locations. I think the Court St/Minot Ave intersection is vastly under-utilized and could be part of a larger plan to make our city friendlier, prettier and better connected. Cafes, markets, outdoor parks, etc that are inviting would be amazing. We have plenty of chain stores and restaurants. Let's work on making our town unique AND focus on the areas where there are more vulnerable populations. It would be amazing to see the old police station be turned into a shelter for the unhoused.
229	Do not become another Lewiston.
230	I would love to see a vibrant city where people and businesses want to be, not merely a bedroom community for Portland and Brunswick. We need to support our young people and give them opportunities to stay in this community
231	<p>Beautification plant trees</p> <p>Preservation of historic neighborhoods</p> <p>Stop building multiplexes</p> <p>The city is ugly and becoming more so</p> <p>How about buying and rehabbing the Victorian building in the center of the city</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
232	I see Auburn having a solid tourism income by improving the public water system to allow for use of Lake Auburn as a recreational swimming lake and opening campgrounds with lake access for swimming. Also creating safe swimming zones on the upper Androscoggin river.
233	A transportation system that runs 24/7 to allow access to Employment, Healthcare, Recreation activities all year round. More affordable housing and affordable child care. Safety and Affordability for everyone.
234	A town that is pleasant to want to come to.
235	A better Main Street that draws people in from outside towns. Also support/rebates for updating homes.
236	I would like to see the corruption out of city hall. City hall acting like a municipality with its citizens their priority not being a property developer. Fixing our roads and side walks. Having a police department that is keeping our city safe verses ignoring the issues. Get ride of the severe discrimination against 80% of the population. Get ride of the approach that, if your not in our little group we can exploit you for all the money you have and take your property because we don't believe in democracy. Auburn is a Nazi community. Dig deep
237	Stronger law enforcement, fire,and public works,department. Lower or no property taxes for citizens over 65 .A smaller immigrant population with less demand on tax payer support.
238	A better welcome doormat for entering Auburn from Washington Ave. It looks old and abandoned. Revitalize old mills for housing and give city a facelift. Also, establish train rail routes between Auburn and Portland. Thank you!
239	I hope to see an Auburn that works harder to promote and ensure the longevity of small businesses. I also want to see public outdoor spaces (such as parks and the river walk) continue to improve so more people are encouraged to visit them. And in ten years, I hope the public transportation in Auburn is significantly improved to make accessing different areas easier and more accessible for the many people who rely on it.
240	I would like to see water and sewer added so housing is expanded to the old golf course (Prospect Hill) on South Main St. I would also like to have a new turnpike entrance on Riverside Drive. I would like to see a new senior housing complex with individual homes in a gated area.
241	The City of Auburn needs to support Community Little Theatre - Maine's longest continuously operating community theatre. They are a gem in Auburn and are forgotten and financial municipal support if they are to remain in Auburn or in existence.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
242	Having options to build another structure (home)on our property. We have 2.5 acres. We are very close to homes (zones) that are able to on Park Avenue.
243	In 10 years, I would like to see people flocking to Auburn because of its reputation for having outstanding public schools. The more professional families who value education that move to Auburn will buy homes and therefore expand the property tax base so that the City can invest more in economic development, recreational programs, facilities, and outdoor parks, trails, etc., encourage more arts and culture. Essentially, I believe that if we invest in education, more families will move to Auburn and Auburn's economy will improve dramatically.
244	I would like to see a renewed commitment to truly affordable housing not just the word "affordable". Maybe consider utilizing the Auburn Mall space for something actually involving the community. Even if the city buys it and makes it a green space with some kind of recreational or community events (farmer's market, city events, antique auto shows, something....other than dead pavement), anything would be better than the empty, embarrassing eyesore it has become. It's really a missed opportunity for Auburn's growth. Maybe restructuring that space would have a positive impact on the deadly traffic situation on Center Street...at least the upper end. I avoid Center Street at all costs...no Target shopping, no fast food visits for me. Unfortunately, my family and I actively avoid all businesses on Center Street due to the traffick.
245	In 10 years Auburn will be a place that everyone wants to live with high quality schools, a robust job market, affordable housing, and many opportunities for leisure.
246	Better Housing for Lower Income people. Better Advertising of Programs, Events and Public Transportation. More Restaurants in the Downtown and New Auburn Area.
247	Invest in the mall area, Center Street or Main Street. You can't have 3 business areas.
248	1. I would like to see far better schools. 2. Downtown should be pedestrian-friendly, with more trees, shops and vibrancy. 3. The police should put more emphasis on quality of life and less on arresting shoplifters at Walmart. 4. The city should switch to one-person automated trash pickup with weekly recycling, all of it attached to a serious education program. 5. We should get a filtration system built for Lake Auburn water before the warming climate forces us to do it in a more costly rush someday. 6. We should be talking seriously with Lewiston to find more ways to combine services to save money.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	<p>7. We should be working closely with Androscoggin County to ensure the historic courthouse is updated and remains at the center of our community. It is a gem that is in serious danger of becoming an abandoned hulk.</p> <p>8. I would love to see the rail trail extended so that people could safely, easily ride a bicycle from downtown Auburn to downtown Portland. If we could do it while preserving the rail as well, so much the better.</p>
249	<p>Auburn is centrally located in the region for access to recreation and employment. Additionally, opening up land for continued commercial development of housing and business opportunities can attract and retain more people to ease the tax burden. Traffic circulation impedes ped/bike options because of safety concerns for many. Continue support for solving these problems please.</p>
250	<p>We would like to see housing that meets the code and affordable</p>
251	<p>Auburn as a sustainable, diverse, inclusive community dedicated to the Green Dot Bystander Intervention awareness that most violence is small stuff, experienced by people not directly involved. it is in moving those bystanders to support community norm of being kind that we would find the roots of our vision.</p> <p>Our vision of sustainable, inclusive, diverse, community would be supported by good civics classes taught by the best of our teachers, perhaps cross disciplinary in nature. Not book bound, but more current events as seen through that lens. The environment must always be included in decisions, as must those unseen and often unheard.</p> <p>We can and must do better in these areas.</p>
252	<p>More support of the arts and culture to make it a more attractive place to come to. Both cities have to collaborate more. It is ridiculous to think that if someone comes to Lewiston that they will not be interested in crossing the river and finding out what's there, and visa versa. I do not think the city has an understanding of what it's assets are and how to promote them to the public. L/A still has a perception problem within Maine and you need to work together with Lewiston to promote the assets of our communities together.</p>
253	<p>A community that has a plan to grow sustainably in economic terms, while also sustaining our environment. Strong commitment to education. Welcomes people from "away" while supporting lifelong residents. Promotes a range of opportunities for community involvement and entertainment.</p> <p>Provides a safe and supportive community for neighbors with a range of situations. Supports small business, industry and farms that provide jobs, locally produced food and tax revenue. Engages residents to provide input for planning and decision making.</p>
254	<p>I would like to see the city help low income and homeless population find affordable housing and improve the quality of roads beyond the remove the top layer to make it</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	"smooth" approach that seems to be the norm for road repair and correct the problem the right way. To achieve this efforts should not be focused on certain things that can wait like splurging on fireworks display or the balloon festival. We should be taking care of our citizens and residents before refugees or asylum seekers as they dwindle funds that should be appropriated to people who have lived in maine their whole lives.
255	Better planning on staff usage in schools. For example co teaching at the middle school saves on a sub when someone is out. Staff performance evaluations we aren't getting the best staff due to pay and eventually the good ones will age out at the same time. Process to effectively identify road concerns and show residents where they are on a priority list as some may not be passable if a bus and a passenger car where on the same road - presents safety issues. Also seems to be a large influx of group homes in residential areas.
256	Development that would encourage a balanced and vibrant population.
257	<p>I would like to see:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More walkability, more local public transportation & more transport to other cities. 2. Investment in social services to support the most vulnerable 3. Investment in multiple housing types to cater for all needs, with a need to regulate landlords and focus on making homeownership more accessible. <p>I feel that Auburn offers good grants for homeowners, i.e. tax breaks, to put in heat pumps, etc. and this is something that has helped me as a new homeowner and should continue to be invested in at all levels.</p>
258	<p>Work to eliminate the homelessness. That doesn't mean we need to house them. We shouldn't be incentivizing it either. Put regulations in place and then stay committed to them.</p> <p>The city should put in ordinances that hold home owners to some level of property maintenance. Home owners shouldn't be allowed to allow their property to fall apart and be an eye sore to their neighbors. This includes landlords.</p>
259	More opportunities, walkable streets, better traffic management
260	I hope the abandoned buildings will be replaced with thriving businesses and parks. I hope public transit will get better and that all urban neighborhoods will have sidewalks to keep pedestrians safe. I don't hope property taxes go down, but I do hope I see that money being used to improve infrastructure and provide more services to the public.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
261	Clean up what's there. Get rid of the beggars. Stop finding ways to increase our taxes. Stop finding ways to make traffic the nightmare you've managed to create. Take care of the place. There's trash everywhere. Junkies everywhere. Focus on that.
262	Trains and more bus services to Portland/Boston. Better/healthier food options. Roads that are better taken care of and more safety features like stop light at Washington and Danville Corner Road. Better trained and more effective law enforcement.
263	I would like to see Auburn as a safe and desirable place to live. We can achieve this through more support to our public safety departments and more investments in our public school system. Auburn needs to prioritize building a safer community and supporting our public school system so that we are a high achieving school system which leads to families wanting to move and contribute to this community.
264	1. Increase affordable housing option for lower and middle -income residents, 2 an education system where a students can achieve to their highest potential and are prepared for a productive life, and there is a strong and diverse local economy.
265	A more vibrant night life and more opportunities for businesses to increase jobs!
266	Auburn needs a mixed use, pedestrian downtown not more elderly housing in the only area that could become our downtown.
267	Use what we already have for developed land, keep farms farming, not turn them into more housing. Keep wooded lands the way they are.
268	I would like more areas of the city made available for residential development which is affordable. This includes removing the agricultural zoning in rural parts of the city.
269	Small, sustainable farms, local businesses, better roads
270	Highly rated public schools, more recreation opportunities (bike paths, trails), a more walking friendly city (pedestrian overpasses, more crossing lights, sidewalks set away from the road). All the ugly empty warehouse buildings on Minot Ave turned into housing and businesses.
271	The roads need to be improved both in a sense of repair and as a more efficient for traffic flow. More engagement from public safety to the public to bring a sense of calm and also education on crime and opportunities for the work force. Improved education for all ages, and provide enegement opportunities for local careers as well as future endeavors.
272	My vision is that we as a city increase our avalable connections with the rest of the region and world in the area of more transportation options. I would also like to see

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	more availbilty to home ownership for our citizens. Finally, I would like to see the character and culture of our city maintained as more and more poeple call Auburn home.
273	More housing opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels, while preserving some but not all AGRP designated land, and aggressively ensuring the quality of Lake Auburn.
274	I would love to see an Auburn that has a reputation for great things - ample housing, a lake that we can USE and LIVE ON and enjoy (it could be our greatest asset!), incredible events, nice hotels & restaurants...a city that is a new "destination," a place people want to visit and feel safe. We already have everything we need to get this done - we just need to get out of our own way and be fearless about it. I hope this Comp Plan process brings a clear, solid, exciting vision for our city. And I hope we can fearlessly follow it!
275	Pump the breaks on population growth. This city and it's infrastructure are not ready for it.
276	No potholes in rural areas, a bike trail from Auburn to Lisbon. Renovate and beautify Main Street and New Auburn.
277	I would like to see the city council actually do something that will benefit the taxpayers in Auburn instead of contributing their resources and effort to business districts.
278	concentrate development in the core of the city, invest in public transportation options within the city (and between lewiston-auburn), invest in our schools and children.
279	Get rid of corrupt politicians
280	Hopefully we won't be living here, which is sad, because I love my little home and have taken great care of it.
281	I'd like to see Washington St, Minot Avenue, and the north end of Center Street made safer for mixed modes of traffic. All three roads have people traveling at highway speeds at points that have high volumes of traffic entering or leaving the roads, plus are borderline uncrossable on foot or by bike for long stretches. Riverside Drive has big beautiful paved shoulders that just end at the turnpike underpass, only to resume in Durham. Extending them to meet is low-hanging fruit. A connector from 136 in Auburn near Penley Corner to the Alfred Plourde Parkway in Lewiston or near Ferry Road in Lewiston would help connect the communities. I don't really want to see those farms and forests turned into housing, but it's going to happen either way - it would be good to plan ahead for how those neighborhoods will get access to goods and services without adding to congestion.
282	More development in rural parts of city. Auburn is not a farming community and preservation of land and prohibiting development near lake Auburn is a needless, wrongheaded approach. I live in West Auburn and 50+ trucks a day go past my house

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	carrying construction materials to Minot. Why, when there is so much undeveloped land in Auburn?
283	I would keep the water clean. Not every state has such clean water. We can never take it for granted. Roads, water and sewer lines are high priority. We have good fire/police/EMS which needs continued funding. Never partner with ICE. Now that we have a new high school, focus on teacher salary. Good teachers are the best part of any school. Affordable housing must be available. Warming and sleeping shelters have to be supported. The character of a town is measured by the number of people sleeping on the street. There has to be some minimal low barrier shelter. Always enjoy river trails, wilderness parks but the talk of a trail to Portland does not interest me at all. This will just become a vagabond path for the homeless. It would likely be of interest to cycling enthusiasts but not if they needed to shop, visit a doctor, get to the airport, nor is it a viable transit for a job commuter beyond a couple novelty rides. Safety on this trail would be an issue for both travelers and homeowners along the trail. Fix the train track instead. I've always wondered why there are not more restaurants on the river. River-view restaurants are big money makers in other towns. Auburn has only two.
284	Adequate housing for residents and high quality jobs. I feel as if most of the higher end apartment complexes being built are just allowing people to commute to Portland. (This may or may not be true) High quality schools and affordable, high quality child care programming is essential. I just read that 600 students graduated from CMCC. How many will be able to want to live in Auburn?
285	It would be great if there could be more affordable housing to attract a younger population - families with young children for example.
286	I would like to see a lively downtown, better roads & a recreational area similar to the Alford community center in Waterville that can be used by young & old.
287	<p>We grew up elsewhere and moved here to make it an easy commute to our jobs. My husband worked in Augusta and I worked in South Portland. We like the public work services that we have. We are also pleased with city hall</p> <p>employees as to their handling of our government, and responsiveness when we call them. All in all, we don't have any</p> <p>suggestions as to how to improve things however we are interested in Auburn's future and like to be updated with proposed changes.</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	Calendar Announcements – Lewiston Dems, Auburn Dems, MMP-Dems, Protests responsiveness when we call them.
288	<p>mixed income neighborhoods, accessible public transportation through city. local grown plants and veg.</p> <p>residents know and interact with their neighbors</p>
289	Through housing first initiatives, the unhoused population would be reduced to just those who choose that lifestyle, affordable and accessible housing will be built and managed by Auburn Housing to fill current and future needs so that when money is invested in business development, there are places for workers to live. Housing will be primarily in mixed unit communities (apartment units for families, accessible units on the ground floor to improve access for ambulatory disabled people, single-family and duplex units, with playground, community space, walking trails, etc.). Once housing is built, focus on space for small businesses. The Auburn Mall has been a dead end for decades. Other spaces are too expensive for small businesses. Several have gone out of business or moved out of L/A because they can't find a space that fills their needs at an affordable price. Stop bringing in big box stores that are bad for the local economy and encourage building units for small businesses and encourage collaboration between small businesses.
290	<p>The first change would be that an average income family and individuals would be able to afford to buy a home. The next three come from the former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD's book, Together. 1) (pp71-76) To nurture a culture of kindness(Make Kindness Contagious). 2) to have a workshop for use by the public, called a Men's Shed in some places, pp76-87). Of course, it should not be limited to men. 3) this slips my mind at the moment.</p> <p>=</p>
291	Improved transportation access with better traffic flow. More housing for the elderly in the medium income bracket.
292	Better public transportation, more beautiful shady parks, develop riverfront for public access, have a creative thoughtful vision for all aspects of development unlike current piecemeal approach
293	I'd like to see fewer changes. I general feel city government is responsible for maintaining utilities and infractstructure financially. I accept that the city spends on public transportation and schools. Our town should certainly keep our rural areal rural and limit development of our country areas.
294	A halt to "market rate" apartments, which are unaffordable to many Auburnites, and an increase of apartments that are affordable to lower income workers.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
295	The empty buildings used to house the homeless. Minot and Court St Mill turned into a hydroponic vegetable growing facility. Area around Lake Auburn remains undeveloped. Roads are well maintained.
296	If we invest in our schools, we invest in our future.
297	I'm interested in pedestrian/bike friendly roads and well educated students who make effort to interact positively with community
298	Low to minimal growth in population. Small local restaurants and shops. Recycling program that is improved and followed.
299	Less government. Better roads. Less taxes.
300	Opening lake auburn to be useable lake which could lead to increasing taxes to support new business's moving in etc.
301	A public boat launch on taylor pond and opening lake auburn to recreation .
302	I would like to see more outdoor recreational opportunities. A rail-to-trail line along the Androscoggin River from Lewiston to the coast would attract more people to the area and be a tremendous asset. I fear that physicians and other professionals are choosing not to live in the area because of limited cultural opportunities and outdoor recreation.
303	If you don't fix the infrastructure, there won't be a city of Auburn. Without quality roads, why would businesses come here? Why are we having to inspect a vehicle when the roads aren't quality enough for the vehicles to drive down?
304	I would like a city that is active transportation friendly. Dedicated bike lanes and bus route that take people to places tthey need to go is a start. We need more community events that engage with vulnerable population (non-native english speakers, new mainers population of the city and low income household in particular). A city that is sustainably thinking and intentional about resilient projects for the city. A City that has green space and open areas for recreation and relaxation. A city that has abundant multi-family units that create a sense of more neighborhood feeling and less isolated individual areas. I grew up in Auburn Housing's Valerie Circle housing and I want to see more housing like this for workforce and young families.
305	Strong education, reduced crime, laws banning panhandling, more single family homes, apartments are owner occupied, rec programs for teens/ high school, lower real estate state tax, fix the roads, partner with the ymca for recreational and healthy options. Get a new building- look at the alfond model in other parts of the state. Small business is the heart and soul of Maine. Maximize and support what we already have- the arena- why only one day of public skate? ridiculous! mall should be full of stores, not an empty call center. YMCA pool is awful- build a new one! Look at what Bangor did with water slides!!! Lost valley and the TPYC yacht club are gems.
306	I would like to see less handouts to asylum seekers and more giving to our vets and disabled.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
307	Use more data to drive community planning. Make sure data aligned with the demographics. This data here is biased toward people who have technology. What about people who are low income and don't have access to tech. Their voice is not being heard.
308	Better economic opportunities. Some fiscal responsibility.
309	More housing communities for active Senior 55+ living. A facelift/curb appeal for old rundown neighborhoods and/or buildings. A "Hometown Makeover", if you will.
310	More homeowner/involved citizens; less multiunit development. More local food. Preservation of Auburn's historical open spaces. No development on Lake Auburn. More small shops--you cannot buy clothes or books outside of chain stores.
311	Repair and maintain existing infrastructure and wisely grow to meet our needs
312	A city with a walkable downtown, plenty of options for shopping and dining with a riverfront that will draw people, business and growth. A better welcome to the city than Washington Ave (I like the plan to change that). A city that does not tolerate speeding, loud cars, trucks or motorcycles in residential areas.
313	<p>The trend in Auburn is shifting to unfriendly, needy families who take too much social services!! That is unsustainable where more people are taking.</p> <p>STOP trying to provide affordable housing, because that will only quicken the downfall of Auburn. In ten years, Auburn will look like Lewiston. Provide incentives for businesses to open here with reduced taxes on commercial properties and create an infrastructure to support them, not low-income, needy people. New business will draw working people to our city and these people will be productive and pay taxes, not take from the government. If this is not done, Auburn will become run-down and unsustainable with more people needing government support and the productive people will move away to places where the population is productive. Along with productive people come well-mannered and considerate people. STOP providing things to attract people who take social services. This is the WRONG direction!</p>
314	Focus on green! More trees, more parks, less waste, less pollution
315	<p>Auburn will have a better supply of a broader range of housing options available throughout the downtown</p> <p>and in areas with the ability to support such growth. Washington Street will be separated into high speed &</p> <p>neighborhood roads and a perimeter recreational trail around Lake Auburn will be constructed. A better</p> <p>network of off-road trails/paths will allow safer pedestrian/bicycle movement in and out of the downtown.</p>

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
316	Auburn should focus a creating a community that attracts families because it has high quality education and healthy environment with access to affordable housing while preserving a rural landscape.
317	I would like to see this city grow in population with affordable, low income, & high-income housing. Thriving opportunities for small business growth. Sufficient services. I believe the success of Auburn is directly tied into how many young people we will stay here and make Auburn their home and how we can attract others to live in Auburn as well. We need to keep taxes affordable without cutting services. I don't think we can cut our way to success. We need to urgently embrace growth, while we have that opportunity.
318	Work on the issue of climate resiliency. Preservation of open lands and environmental integrity. Programs to discourage developers from building on open land and to encourage developers to engage in projects where building already exists and either must be restored or replaced.
319	I'd like to see small businesses succeed in town and revitalize the downtown area to bring in more restaurants and entertainment options. More walkable streets with less traffic would be nice.
320	Better roads, slower traffic, nicer people. More culture, increasing quality of schools/education. Less litter! (Better cleanup)
321	Lower taxes
322	If I continue not feeling safe when I walk out my door, I'd be doing myself a disservice by still being here. I have very low expectations for what a city is capable of accomplishing in a decade. This city shouldn't be focusing on having fun events when there is human feces in the park and needles in the grass. It feels as though this city is trying to pretend it's a safe and happy place to be while people are getting robbed at gun point. It's a farce, I can't imagine anyone in their right mind staying here if nothing changes.
323	Better road maintenance
324	Stop focusing on relics of the past when people in the present are STRUGGLING. I understand many issues are a result of our newly Facist regime, but we can focus on our corner of the world to attempt to make life a little more tolerable and less dangerous.
325	Center Street is great and we make a big deal on a new restaurant or storage unit opens. But those are not jobs that are going to allow people to buy a house. We need to attract jobs that allow people to raise a family and stay here. An expensive bike path is not something we need in a town of 25,000 people. Fancy apartments and convenience stores and developing a new area when we can't even maintain what we have is ridiculous. People live in Auburn because they want to live in a small town. We

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	voted out the mayor who went crazy with development. That was crystal clear. Let's make what we have great.
326	More emphasis on capitalism to boost the economy. More emphasis on increasing proficient readers and writers and students who can do advanced math.
327	Better sense of community. Support small/ locally owned businesses. Get away from box stores.
328	Lower taxes and bring the train to Auburn
329	More small businesses open
330	Clean walkable diverse vibrant city surrounded by productive farms, healthy forest and clean water
331	Higher paid educators to attract the best of the best to move and live here. Don't build a homeless shelter, that will just invite more to our city then we'll have to build another. This is what nonprofits are for, not government. Larger police force to accommodate the growing drug issues creeping up from CT and MA. Become more business friendly to help encourage more small business to come here.
332	Oh boy. In my dreams? Optimal, well-funded, cross-categorical efforts to address root causes of: multigenerational poverty; drug use/abuse/dependency and its related criminal activity; domestic violence; incarceration. Additional programs & funding to build bridges between cultures in a way that shares, honors, and celebrates. Free grocery deliveries to parents who lack childcare and/or transportation. Low barrier grants to encourage upward mobility among poor communities and New Americans. Increased bus and train service and safe bike lanes. Better selection of local and organic produce, healthy meal options, ethical meat and dairy, and environmentally sustainable products in grocery stores. Reasonable cost of living. Ample housing with incentives for re-use of existing structures. The City is fully committed to Art Walk season, including assistance with, and incentives for, participation. Highway signs at the turnpike exit and various other key locations that say "Arts District" and "Historic District." Funding/programs to make the canal a safe, beautiful attraction with at least one annual event. Ample funding for increased projects/programs celebrating local history and culture. Auburn takes advantage of its location and becomes a leader and mentor for environmental sustainability.
333	Less crime. Safe housing stock. Walkable street where sidewalks don't "disappear". Strong public education. A variety of employment options.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
334	I would like the city to stop worrying about trying to bring people in. If we design and build places that WE love, others will naturally want to come. Stop giving developers the world and concentrate on keeping things affordable for everyone.
335	I would like the city of Auburn to be a safe, healthy, and prosperous place to live. I want there to be early intervention with youth to guide them away from the trappings of poverty (gang violence, drugs, antisocial behavior) and legitimate avenues out of it (good jobs that pay the bills). I want there to be robust supports to connect unhoused people with emergency housing and emergency interventions to keep folks housed - this stability helps the individual, neighborhood, and the community at large far into the future.
336	Affordable housing options, lower taxes, fill the space at Auburn Mall to attract people and generate income.
337	I would like to see the City of Auburn the pillar for Central Maine as far as welcoming, new businesses and functions we have no real place in the Lewiston Auburn area for events to be held to draw in people to stay at the hotels and shop at our businesses and eat at our restaurants so it would be great if we had some convention center area that people can hold events that allow for visitors to come, and it would be great if Auburn was that place along with diverse Shopping and restaurants that is welcoming for tourist to want to come and be as well as local community members to take pride in their their town and also providing business opportunities and support to small businesses or people who don't have traditional funding to pay for upfront cost to start a business that isn't low income because we're forgetting about the middle class that doesn't qualify for anything on the high end because they don't have the assets or resources and they make too much money to be considered lower income and so they don't qualify for any of those support that's where you build a better community by really investing in the middle class so they can help support the lower income, focusing on the younger generation and how do we keep them here educate them and give them what makes them want to stay here and be successful and build in the community here
338	Improve public schools to a level that will encourage professionals to raise families here. Protect the rural residential areas from increasing population density and commercial truck traffic. Further restrict development in areas not served by public water and sewer.
339	The river should absolutely be developed and highlighted. Restaurants and businesses along a wide open and highly visible (safe!) bike/walking path.
340	More senior programs and help for seniors!
341	I would like to see auburn as a place safe affordable place to live and watch my children and grandchildren grow. I would like to see more elderly housing for the residence who have to sell their houses either due to down sizing or because they no

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	longer can afford to live in them. I would like to see common sense brought back to our schools and city.
342	rearrange spending so property taxes/fees at best, remain flat, preferably be gradually reduced.
343	The education system is possible one of the worst in the New England area, like to see auburn grow into a more welcoming never throwing any one student/child out of a public education. We become invested in the future of our children's education system
344	Would like to see decent roads! This city has by far the worst road conditions of anywhere I've ever seen. Horrible!!! Tire damagingly bad. Driving around Auburn is very very unpleasant because the condition of most roads are so dilapidated. Also the city contains way too many dilapidated homes and structures.
345	A more vibrant, welcoming, bustling New England downtown. Beautification of common areas and in neighborhoods. A sense of city pride that is desirable to others. Train service to Boston, etc.!! Adopt a similar "Tiny Town" healthy common in Ireland to enhance enthusiasm, pride, and attractiveness to the city. Please do something with the entrances into town. It is tired and, frankly, ugly.
346	I would love to see more bike-ability and walkability. Right now it seems Auburn is laid out on three main roads without much to connect them and they are not pedestrian/cyclist friendly. I would love to see Auburn attract more businesses and grow its downtown (particularly small businesses). More housing is needed to continue to support our growing population and the diverse housing needs, but it should be interspersed with businesses so we don't end up with silos of commerce and residences. I'd love to see more from parks and rec for people of all ages, not just seniors.
347	Preserved green spaces, clean lakes and streams, more high quality shops and restaurants (i.e. something better than auto parts places and fast food restaurants), and a cleaned up crime / drug / vagrancy scene in downtown areas. Oh, and elected officials who value the common good of our community and environment over individual or corporate interests.
348	Affordable housing for those who want to own homes, not hyper focus on political issues that are used to deter from major issues
349	I want green space to be larger, free from trash and needles and unhoused people sleeping there. I want the senior citizens not to be taxed out of their community
350	More affordable housing for middle class people. Continue to value education and provide financial support for Auburn schools and the Library.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	<p>Support opportunities for kids to grow and thrive.</p> <p>Increase the tax base to allow Auburn taxes to stay affordable.</p>
351	<p>Public transport: Commuter Rail or Downeaster extension to/from Portland, beyond that more information about the current LAP bus service, or maybe we can contact Greyhound/Flixbus over opening a station to replace where Concord used to have a route / stop in this area.</p> <p>Pedestrian / Bike safety: A complete network of bike lanes, in green, I've been to Boston many times and just seeing how easy it was to be able to bike without the risks we have here, since bikes in Boston and other places are apart of car traffic, and it's very obvious so. Off of that ped/cyclist education is VERY MUCH needed, and the police need to do their part in checking peds/cyclists when they do wrong / break the law.</p> <p>Not sure exactly where this would fall, but general improved/increased partnership with Lewiston. I know the One-L/A vote did not go through, however for the longevity of this area, I feel like Lewiston and Auburn together, one city or two with a strong partnership, could overtake Portland being a major metropolitan area.</p>
352	Remove the ridiculous Agricultural zone and allow land owners to actually have rights
353	I'd love it to have more locally owned tea and shops. More grocery options - like an Aldi or Trader Joe's. Do something with the mall. And also prioritize dealing with the blight - shuttered businesses like the abandoned mill building on Route 4/100. I'd love for Auburn to be a hub of outdoor recreation, people who were educated and appreciated art and science.
354	More affordable housing for our younger population. We are an old town and attracting a younger population could setup Auburn for growth.
355	More cafes/restaurants in the downtown area (Denny's would be moved to Center Street if I had my druthers). More art programs, art shows, art fairs. I don't care for Festival Plaza -- to small for most events, unless Main St is shut down. How about that big parking lot near the courthouse; could be used for bigger events when not in use. Also, once the courthouse is moved to Lewiston, please be sure to keep that gorgeous building (museum, art exhibits, some offices -- could be a crown jewel of Auburn). Thanks!!!
356	I love the Washington st. Plan. Would like to see more local smal businesses, support for the arts including studio space for artists. an investment in Maine MILL.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
357	Priority should be our infrastructure and our roads . Affordable housing is not a one bedroom for \$1200 a month rent. Let teachers teach and stop all the testing. More support for the unhoused and mentally ill citizens.
358	Fill empty buildings or tear them down.
359	I would like to see Auburn having some strong technology sector businesses in some of our beautiful historic buildings. I want to see more modern infrastructure and better green space and recreation. Housing will likely increase, but I do not want to see the cost of housing to be out of reach for upcoming generations who might want to call Auburn and Lewiston their home. I understand that the airport has been around for a long time, but I would like to see better use of that land, there is room for so much throughout the acreage that the airport owns. Please consider shutting the airport down and maximize the land use for housing, greenspace, concerts (a reasonable distance from homes) college dorms and/or college.
360	I am a strong supporter of the proposal to increase pedestrian and bicycle paths to encourage a healthy and active community. I would also like to see improved and more sustainable road maintenance appropriate for the type of traffic. I live on Hotel road and it is riddled with new potholes every year and there are few paved shoulders for safe walking or cycling.
361	More affordable housing, including affordable housing for seniors. More transitional housing options for seniors to step down into when home upkeep becomes burdensome or cost of living to maintain current housing + taxes becomes too high for seniors. Less cannabis retail stores. Less community events that promote alcohol consumption. More community events focused on growing healthy families. More support for school aged children to access mental health counselors in and out of schools and increased access to healthcare providers. Attract more independent primary care practices to increase access to primary healthcare. Continue farm to school efforts to provide healthy meals to school children.
362	The biggest thing I would love to see in Auburn -- especially the downtown area -- is more small business open up that are geared towards experience [bar, restaurant, coffee shop, shopping]. Right now it feels a lot of the spaces are dedicated to office spaces that don't add to the energy of the space. Would 100% love to see more access to a trail network as well. I know there is a slight one in the area, but would love to have the opportunity to take the kids out on a bike path for the day out into the countryside
363	Auburn needs to listen to its citizens. If budgets continue to increase and raise taxes, people will not be able to live in this great city.
364	More recreational facilities. Basketball courts, swimming pools. It would be nice not to travel to Saco or Waterville for you sporting events. There should be more available to the YMCA and Rec Department.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
365	Inviting city, clean, out door eating built up downtown, outdoor markets. Jobs , parks to play in for all ages.
366	Hold people that don't want to work accountable so we're not stuck paying for them.
367	A city growing at a pace that offers more affordable rents for young families while showing consideration for established home owners/tax payers. I'd like to see more thought given to the need for improved roads/infrastructure--the current focus on large housing developments increases cars on our roads and children in our schools without added taxes to pay for these services.
368	I'm visually impaired/legally blind and walk with a guide dog and it sucks trying to walk in Auburn both on the crappy sidewalk without falling and then with the unsafe road trying not to get hit by a car walking. And when it's all you can do in life to get around....it sucks not being able to go any place easily or safely.
369	I would like to see better roads, more options for shopping, a re-envisioned mall, incredibly well maintained roads, lower taxes, better police and fire facilities, more community events, and more affordable housing.
370	Walkability, safe and effective infrastructure, quality public education or charter school options.
371	There needs to be a huge focus on transportation safety and access for all modes, with sustainable services to other cities. In addition, the City should make redevelopment of the largely empty parking areas downtown into mixed-use projects to bring back the kind of activity that once existed before the era of Urban "Renewal".
372	The overall cleanliness of the city!
373	LOWER TAXES.
374	Fix your roads. Clean up along the river walk make it safer. Homeless and drug users.
375	Being a lot cheaper to afford to live.
376	High end, including luxury housing with supporting infrastructure surrounding the lake as well as promotion of lake related recreational and economic activities.
377	Less commercial development. I don't want Auburn to be a big city.
378	I would love to see a walkable downtown, with lots of housing options concentrated in the center of the City, with a hub and spoke model of transportation that makes it easy to get to the downtown from major thoroughfares like Center Street, Turner Street, Gamage, and Minot Ave. I'd love to see more restaurants and entertainment opportunities in the downtown. To the questions above, I think solutions to homelessness are best promoted from the state and federal level -- trying to address homelessness at the municipal level is always going to be a costly and uphill battle, especially if waged without collaboration from surrounding municipalities.

Response No.	Question 9: In 10 years, what is your vision for the City of Auburn? What changes would you like to see made to achieve this vision?
	<p>I would love to see Auburn take advantage of its uniquely preserved rural areas and farmlands to develop more opportunities for farming and rural recreation. I would love to have a farm but it's honestly too darn expensive for me to start one, even as someone with a decent income, because of the capital involved. I would love to see the City have a property somewhere that offers opportunities for community farm 'allotments' in the British model.</p> <p>A couple final points about education:</p> <p>Another thing I would love to see change are the half-day Wednesdays in the schools. I'm the son of a teacher and absolutely support the teachers' need for prep time, but it's unsustainable for so many families that don't have good childcare options. I feel like our kids suffer from this, with many going unsupervised and vegging out in front of video games until a working parent gets home. The PAL Center will help, but it's going to take a lot more resources than they've ever had before for staffing. On the flip side, we really need to have recess for kids in the Middle School, and the school day for middle school should start later. Extensive research supports both of those changes.</p>
379	I would like to see every corner of Auburn not full of the unhoused when you stop at a red light. I'd like adequate job programs and outreach programs to be offered to those people to get them out of that situation. I'd like our property taxes to stop going up every year.
380	I would love to see more community programs and growth of a sustainable business environment that would support that community.
381	Cleaner. More kept up, safer community. What it used to be.
382	We need to increase our population to match our size and existing municipal service capability to 30,000 residents heavily favoring those that will rent or buy without subsidies.
383	safety low taxes a night life

Community Focus Groups

The City of Auburn and the Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) held a focus group event on July 11, 2025, to discuss priorities for the next Comprehensive Plan with community leaders. The meeting was held in person at Edward Little High School and consisted of discussions in table groups divided by discussion topic, as outlined below. There were more than 70 participants in attendance, including community service providers, industry leaders, City elected officials and staff, small business owners, and other community members. Participants were also offered the opportunity to provide feedback on general questions about challenges and priorities for Auburn in conversations with City staff and CPC members. The following is a summary of key themes heard from participants in each group and other feedback collected.

1 Hospitality and Retail

The hospitality and retail group included a variety of small businesses in Auburn across a variety of sectors, including restaurants, trades, outdoor recreation, retail operations, and more. **Thirteen participants attended this meeting.**

Strengths

- The local restaurant community in Auburn has a keen sense of community, and a real interest in helping each other when challenges arise.
- Many businesses have a consistent, repeat customer base. People support local businesses repeatedly when they choose to visit them.
- The Auburn/Lewiston area is the second largest metro area in Maine providing a large, local customer base.

Challenges

- Many local businesses feel as if Auburn is a commuter area, with residents leaving the City for everything but their housing. They worry that Auburn is not a destination, and that there are not enough local events and amenities to attract tourism.
- Businesses are concerned with the availability and suitability of the workforce. Many restaurants and trades have had trouble retaining qualified employees.
- With many Auburn residents earning lower wages than nearby communities, leisure activities and services have become unaffordable to most people in the area. When residents' rent, taxes, and transportation costs are too high, they won't spend money on food, entertainment, and luxury services.

- Businesses raised public safety concerns and noted that employees have felt unsafe in some areas of downtown Auburn. They emphasized the need for drug treatment options and an increased public safety presence.

Goals

- Businesses expressed a desire for Auburn to be a destination city. They suggested festivals, events, and amenities to draw in visitors, with special interest in the idea of a music venue. They expressed a desire for events like the Balloon Festival, where businesses would benefit from increased traffic.
- Increase availability of all types of housing—from low-income, affordable units to luxury developments. Support the development of a range of options to aid in Auburn’s growth as a diverse and sustainable community.
- Local leaders emphasized a need for climate resiliency efforts, as changing weather patterns have already begun to impact sales for a variety of local businesses.

2 Essential and Social Services

This group included service providers from a variety of organizations, from New Mainers support networks to local senior service providers. Fifteen community members participated in the discussion.

Strengths

- The Auburn/Lewiston area has a large community of local organizations that serve a variety of populations.
- Individuals in Auburn have a strong desire to improve their community, opening the door to increased support and funding from the City.

Challenges

- There is a growing unhoused population in Auburn, with a variety of contributing factors. The largest areas of service needed include addiction services, mental health resources, employment opportunities, and low-income housing opportunities.
- Auburn has several organizations that provide similar services, risking duplicating efforts. There is a need to work together on initiatives to best serve the community. The group discussed asset mapping in Auburn to help identify duplicate or missing services.

Goals

- Participants supported a new position for city-level navigator, who would be responsible for helping residents locate and obtain support that they qualify for.

- The development of diverse housing options is needed—including low-income, multigenerational, mixed-use, high-end, rental, and other housing options.
- Participants supported the community’s continuing investment in current issues, with special attention paid to shaping youth development and sustainable economic growth to support necessary services.

3 Education and Youth Services

This group was comprised of representatives from local schools, community colleges, educational nonprofits, and more. Seven participants contributed to this group.

Strengths

- The existing collaboration between educational and youth services is a strength, with a variety of organizations represented.
- Existing support services, like the Purple Bus from Central Maine Community College, were identified as strong drivers of success in the community.

Challenges

- Many teens lack structured opportunities and transportation access, leading to worse career outcomes.
- Post-secondary education and child care are increasingly unaffordable to many Auburn residents.
- Recreational activities for young people are limited in the area.

Goals

- Create a collaborative effort with community organizations to create more recreational activities for young people in the community, with potential for a teen center, collaborative efforts with Parks and Recreation, and the addition of new transportation options, all gaining support from the group.
- Explore creating a shelter for unhoused youth in the community, potentially to be shared with Lewiston.
- Identify and develop opportunities for education for adults in Auburn, both trade-related and academic.

4 Environment and Sustainability

Several groups in Auburn representing environmental efforts were present, along with City staff and interested individuals. The group had nine members, with written comments submitted from community members who were unable to attend the discussion.

Strengths

- The existing natural resources present in Auburn were discussed as strengths, with Lake Auburn and its associated watershed highlighted.
- Auburn's existing network of parks and trails provides a strong environment for outdoor recreation.
- A strong community of local organizations works in Auburn to help the community work toward long-term protection and engagement with the natural environment.

Challenges

- There is an increasing threat of climate change and associated damage to local natural resources, along with threats from invasive and displaced species.
- As Auburn grows, urban noise generation and pollution will grow with it, harming surrounding natural areas. Urban sprawl will increasingly threaten agricultural areas.
- Increased extreme weather events will disproportionately affect lower-income and vulnerable communities in Auburn.

Goals

- The group strongly supported enhancing the local tree canopy, adaptive reuse of wastewater, flood assessments, water quality management, and other climate resilience measures.
- Increased efforts to educate the Auburn community on climate change, extreme weather preparedness, invasive species management, and outdoor recreation resources were also supported.
- The group supported an inventory of parks and natural resources, and other open spaces, with a dedicated City staff to coordinate the resources (e.g., Urban Forester, Sustainability Coordinator).

5 Agriculture and Food Systems

In this focus group, local farmers, nonprofit representatives, and City staff discussed issues relating to local agriculture efforts, food access, and climate. Nine community members were present.

Strengths

- There is a strong community of local farmers, environmental groups, and community organizations that are actively working to better serve Auburn’s communities.
- Auburn has a significant percentage of its land that is zoned for agricultural purposes, creating opportunities for local businesses.
- Small-scale farming tax breaks and grants exist and are extremely important to local farmers.

Challenges

- Climate change is a concern, as it may significantly affect food production and farm infrastructure in the coming years.
- The overall profitability of local farming is a challenge, with small-scale agriculture unable to charge fair prices without risking becoming unaffordable to local communities.
- Auburn residents may not have access to local foods where they shop, especially those who have less disposable income.

Goals

- Community members support allowing a diverse set of uses for farmland to allow farmers to continue to produce while bringing in additional revenue through commercial ventures (agrotourism, small-scale nonagricultural business on farmland).
- Building infrastructure that is climate-resilient and diverse to combat known climate risks.
- Investigate re-zoning agriculture zones to allow for different uses on some land, including small businesses and limited development.

6 Real Estate, Housing, and Development

A group of developers, construction company executives, local service providers, and City staff participated in this group. Fourteen group members were present.

Strengths

- The group was able to find common ground for a variety of possible development initiatives and collaborated to identify needs and potential solutions.
- The City’s sewer and water infrastructure is well-maintained and supports current uses.
- New Mainers can fill employment gaps within the City, with the City employing roughly 150 New Mainers on various projects with staffing shortages.

Challenges

- Housing is a paramount concern, with a significant need for housing at every level (low-income to luxury).
- Staffing construction and infrastructure projects is also a concern, with many potential employees unable to afford to live in Auburn.
- City staff involved in the discussion expressed a concern that the best areas for development have been utilized, leaving areas with low utility-connectivity and natural resources as the only realistic development sites.

Goals

- Increase development, as it would be beneficial to the City's economy. Explore mixed-use developments and infill developments as potential ways to maximize available resources. Consider new ways to incentivize land development using tax incentive programs.
- Group members expressed a desire for more high-income housing to attract residents with disposable income, who would boost Auburn's economy.
- The group also supported developing industrial areas, particularly around the airport, to provide high-quality employment opportunities for locals.

7 Transportation and Mobility

The transportation and mobility focus group was made up of local transit advocates, community organizations, and City staff.

Strengths

- Auburn's central location within Maine is an asset, with potential transit to Lewiston, Portland, and other communities as a likely and welcome proposal.
- Existing access to natural areas and trails for transportation and recreation is strong.
- Ongoing traffic calming initiatives are steering the City in the right direction on public safety and walkability.

Challenges

- The group was concerned about safety, especially surrounding bikeability. Several incomplete bike lanes were mentioned, along with absent sidewalks.
- The lack of public transit options is a barrier to employment, education, and livability in Auburn.
- Planned traffic calming measures have been slow to implement, with many projects stalled on State-owned routes.

- The areas surrounding downtown Auburn are visually unwelcoming, especially along Washington Street.

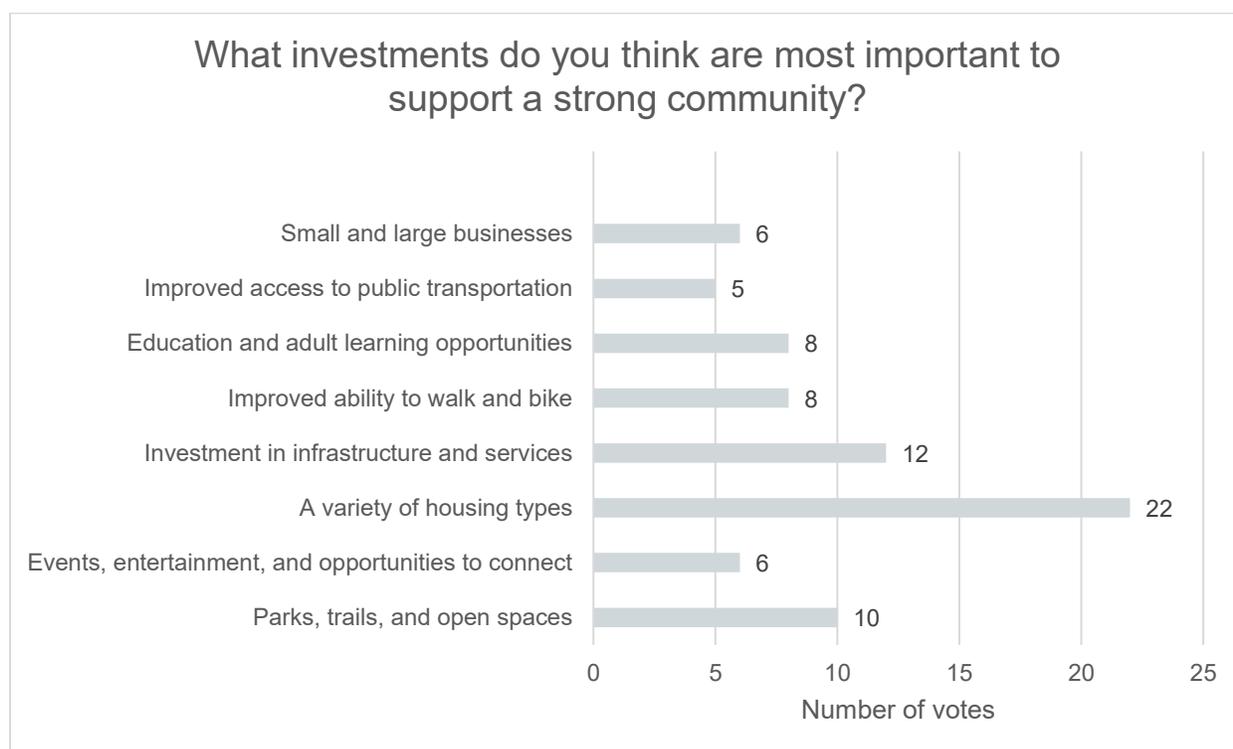
Goals

- Increase local and regional bus services, especially to the Portland metropolitan area.
- Implement climate protection measures, including increasing the electric vehicle infrastructure in the area.
- Focus on walkability and bikeability in land use planning, along with ensuring roads are well-maintained and visually appealing.

Future Investment Priorities Dot Voting Activity

Separately from their table-group discussions, attendees were given the opportunity to express preferences for future investments through an interactive voting activity. Several areas for potential investment were provided, with residents placing dot stickers beneath the topics they most agreed to funding.

Housing was the most popular area for investment (22), with infrastructure and services next (12), followed by parks, trails, and open spaces (10), improved ability to walk and bike (8), education and adult learning opportunities (8), events, entertainment, and opportunities to connect (6), small and large businesses (6), and improved access to public transportation (5).



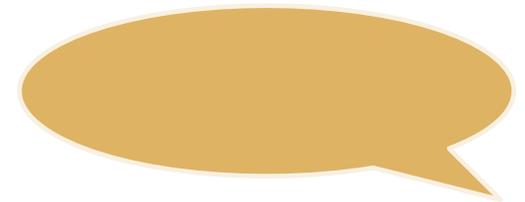
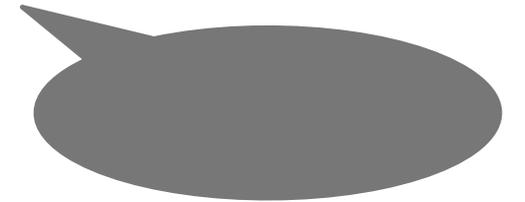
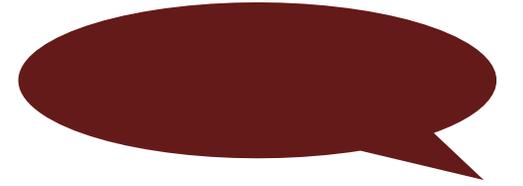


City of Auburn
Comprehensive Plan Update
Example Vision Statements

What is a Vision Statement?

A Vision Statement...

- Focuses on shared community values
- Illustrates a sense of identity
- Is aspirational and motivates the community to a desired outcome
- Depicts the desired future conditions and qualities of a community, including physical, environmental, and social attributes
- Sets the overall direction for goals, policies, and actions of the plan
- Tells a story and paints a picture of an ideal future



What is a Vision Statement?

A vision statement should...

- Project a period of 10 to 20 years into the future
- Use positive, present tense language
- Have qualities that speak to the community's uniqueness
- Express inclusiveness of the community's population
- Be clear and concise
- Be general enough to capture the community's strategic direction rather than a specific achievement that can be met and then discarded

What is a Vision Statement?

Plano, TX

VISION STATEMENT

"Plano is a global leader, excelling in exceptional education, abounding with world class businesses and vibrant neighborhoods."

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following set of Guiding Principles to the Comprehensive Plan establish overarching themes that apply to all policies and actions and express values for **Plano Today**, **Plano 2050**, and **Plano Together**. These principles are not intended to stand alone but to be used in concert with one another and carry across the Plan as a whole. Each principle must be judged through a lens that incorporates all of the other principles to be fully and accurately understood.

 Guiding Principle #1 PLANO TODAY	 Guiding Principle #2 PLANO 2050	 Guiding Principle #3 PLANO TOGETHER
<p>1.1 The Plan enhances the quality of life in the near term, continually striving to meet the needs and priorities of current residents, businesses, and institutions of Plano.</p> <p>1.2 The Plan promotes the safety, viability, and vibrancy of Plano's existing neighborhoods, managing growth and shaping change that complements the city's suburban character and rich history.</p> <p>1.3 The Plan promotes the educational, recreational, and cultural centers of the community, providing an environment for world-class facilities, businesses, entertainment, and institutions that support a vital economy.</p> <p>1.4 The Plan respects the suburban character of Plano and seeks to preserve and enhance the built environment.</p> <p>1.5 The Plan acknowledges that Plano is mostly developed and does not anticipate</p>	<p>2.1 The Plan enhances the quality of life in the long term, preparing for future generations of residents, businesses, and institutions of Plano who may not yet have a voice but are impacted by the decisions of today.</p> <p>2.2 The Plan successfully manages Plano's transition to a mature city, seeking innovative approaches and best practices to accommodate emerging trends, technologies, and opportunities that improve the quality of life and allow the city to remain attractive and vibrant into the future.</p> <p>2.3 The Plan builds on Plano's strong history of thoughtful planning, guiding future developments and redevelopment where it is</p>	<p>3.1 The Plan serves people of all backgrounds, striving to meet the needs of an inclusive and vibrant community that calls Plano "home."</p> <p>3.2 The Plan promotes a community that is safe, engaged, and rich in educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities that are highly desirable to residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>3.3 The Plan embraces Plano's position as a leader in the region, demonstrating the city's standard of excellence and supporting our neighbors through linkages including health, economy, culture, transportation, and sense of community.</p> <p>3.4 The Plan manages growth and redevelopment in a gradual manner, ensuring changes are beneficial to</p>

Ellsworth, ME

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Connected community
Sustainable growth
Economic vitality

 Cultivate a community rich in the arts and promote the cultural history of Downeast Maine	 Protect and preserve the natural environment and rural lifestyle and encourage sustainable, resilient growth.	 Prioritize affordable and attainable housing to meet the needs of a diverse population.
 Support a vibrant and safe downtown that renews the connection to the waterfront and enhances the City as a regional destination.	 Address infrastructure and facility needs by proactively developing safe, reliable, and sustainable solutions.	 Support educational assets and increase access to learning opportunities for community members at all stages of life.
 Support health and wellness and foster community connections through all phases of life.	 Create and maintain a balance between a resilient year-round economy and robust tourism economy.	 Expand active and vehicular transportation options and develop local traffic management solutions.

What is a Vision Statement?

Bangor, ME

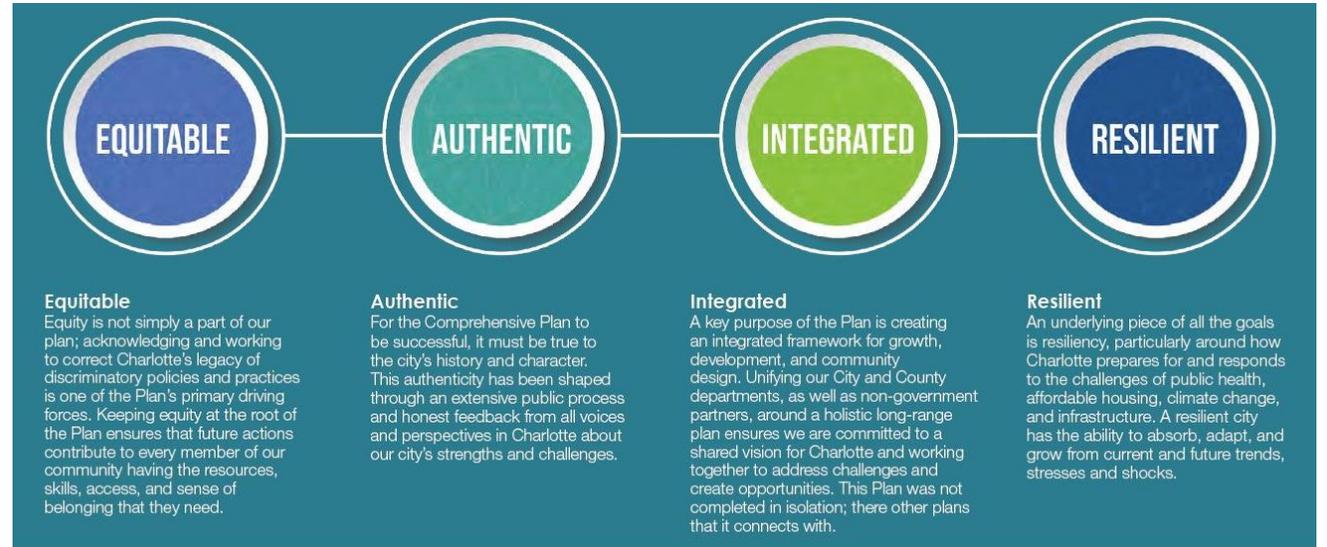
VISION STATEMENT

Bangor is a compact and vibrant city that balances the economic and cultural amenities of a large city with the friendliness of a small town. Bangor will continue to grow its population and workforce while strengthening social connectedness through its neighborhoods, downtown, institutions, and other assets. Bangor will enhance its position as a destination for arts and entertainment, a hub for transportation and industry, a center for education, healthcare, and innovation, and a gateway to Northern and Eastern Maine.

Bangor will be open to new methods for addressing the needs of residents and progressive in its approach to guiding growth and development while preserving what makes Bangor unique. Bangor will continue to be adaptive to modern technologies and new markets to enhance the commercial and industrial fabric of our city and support the needs of working families. The City will incorporate sustainable, climate-friendly policies into its approach to enhancing the City's growth, development, and services. The City will continue a collaborative approach that engages residents and stakeholders in decision-making to ensure that Bangor is an equitable place for all.

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Bangor_2022.pdf

Charlotte, NC

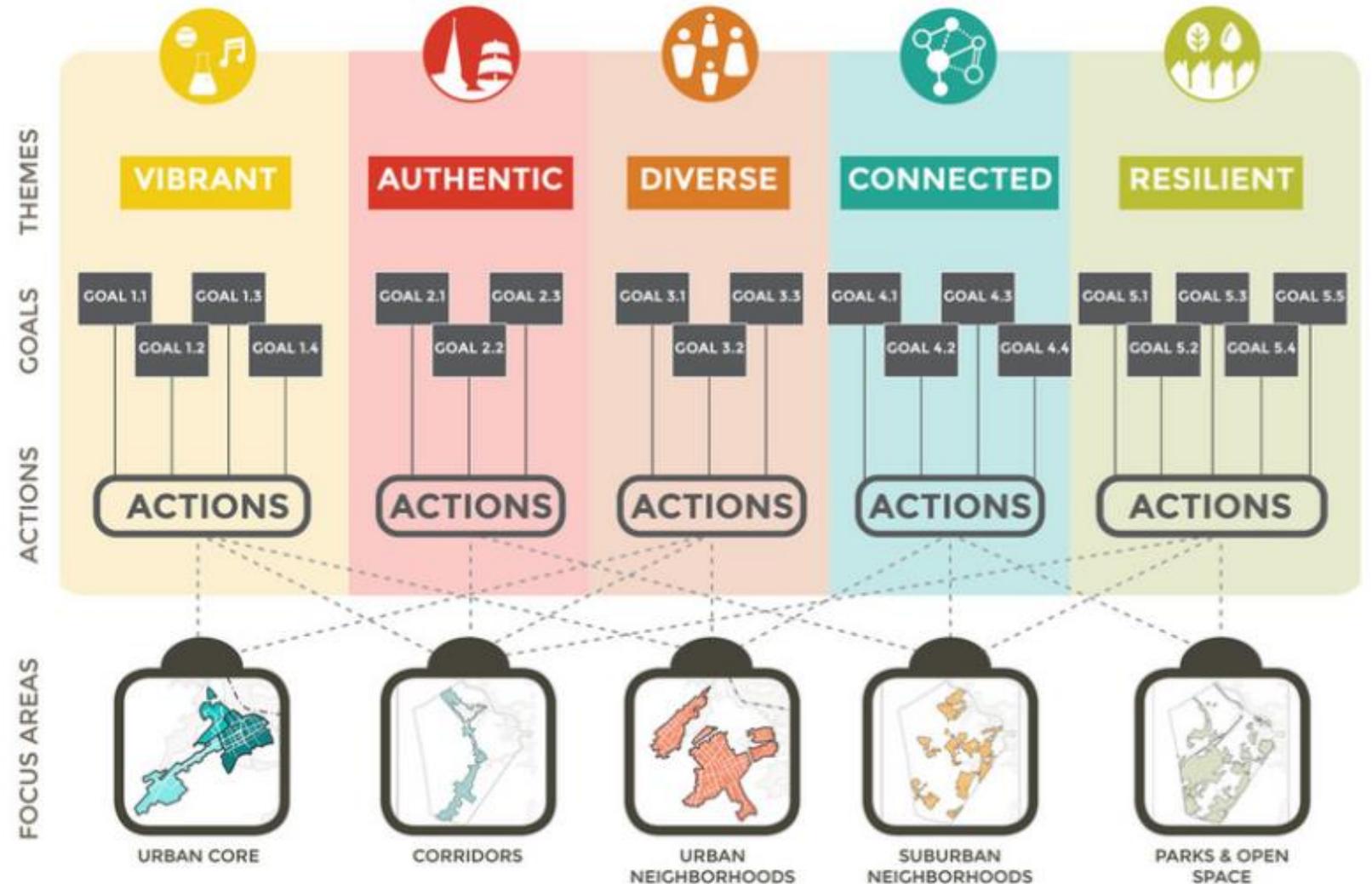


<https://charlottefut.wpenginepowered.com/01-community-based-vision-0/12-community-values-vision-and-goals-1/>

What is a Vision Statement?

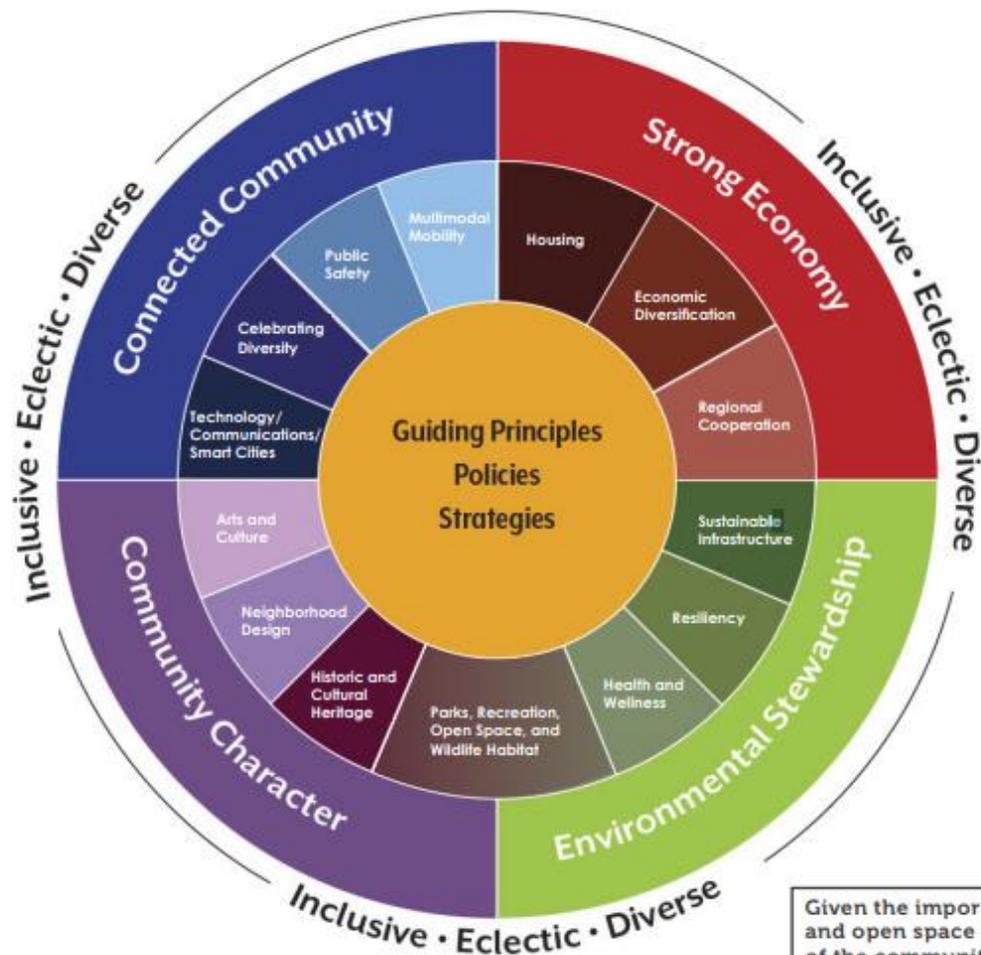
Portsmouth, NH

Portsmouth developed a vision for each theme. The graphic (right) shows how each part of the plan builds on these themes and works together.



What is a Vision Statement?

Lafayette, CO



Lafayette's panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains inspires our vision of the future. We are a creative, eclectic, inclusive, and diverse community that celebrates our shared heritage. We envision a resilient and sustainable community with welcoming public spaces, unique neighborhoods, a diversified and strong economy, environmental leadership, and meaningful connections within our community.

Lafayette developed a narrative vision statement. The graphic (left) shows how each part of the plan builds on this vision with key themes and guiding principles that set the structure of the plan.

Given the importance of parks, recreation, and open space to shaping the character of the community and to protecting and enhancing the environment, Element 4 (Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Wildlife Habitat) spans BOTH the Community Character and Environmental Stewardship frameworks.