



ENGAGEMENT RECAP

What we heard across the Community Survey,
In-Person Open House & Virtual Open House

ONLINE SURVEY

457 Respondents

	TOP 10 COMMUNITY VALUES...			
	THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL	IN PRIORITY ORDER BASED ON INDIVIDUAL VALUE CHOICES*	THAT RESPONDENTS WOULD BE WILLING TO FUND WITH LOCAL TAX \$	THAT RESPONDENTS WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO FUND WITH LOCAL TAX \$
ACCESSIBILITY				
AFFORDABLE/WORKFORCE HOUSING		4		
CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES				
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION		5		
INFRASTRUCTURE (E.G., ROADS, WATER, SEWER, ETC.)		6		
PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES				
PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACES / NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		2		
PROTECTION OF WORKING FARMS AND LOCAL AGRICULTURE		10		
PUBLIC SAFETY (E.G., POLICE, FIRE, EMERGENCY SERVICES)		3		
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION				
QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES		1		
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES		9		
RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY		8		
SENIOR SERVICES AND RESOURCES		7		
TOWN FACILITIES (E.G., MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS)				
VIBRANCY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES / COMMERCE				
WALKABILITY AND BIKE-ABILITY				

*The numbers in this column indicate priority order based on the selections of survey respondents.

A PRIORITY

NOT A PRIORITY

WILLING TO FUND

1. Quality public schools and educational opportunities
2. Protection of open spaces / natural environment
3. Public safety (e.g., police, fire, emergency services)
6. Infrastructure (e.g., roads, water, sewer, etc.)
7. Senior services and resources
8. Renewable energy and sustainability
9. Recreational opportunities
10. Protection of working farms and local agriculture
 - * Walkability and bike-ability (not in top 10)

- Town facilities (e.g., municipal buildings such as town hall, community center, and the public library)

NOT WILLING TO FUND

4. Affordable/workforce housing
5. Diversity, equity and inclusion
 - * Vibrancy of local businesses / commerce (not in top 10)

- Accessibility
- Cultural opportunities
- Preservation of historic resources
- Public transportation



What respondents think of future growth:

55.67% think Mansfield should continue to grow and change, but incrementally.

24.69% like Mansfield now; keep it like it is.

19.65% think Mansfield should be open to significant growth and change.

The 3 types of housing Mansfield needs most:

- 1.** Affordable / workforce housing
- 2.** Single-family housing
- 3.** Senior housing

Should promoting additional economic development in Mansfield be a priority/focus?

58.82% Yes

41.18% No

Why should Mansfield promote additional economic development? Rank your #1 reason.

(This question was only asked to those who answered “Yes” to the above question)

33.80% think Mansfield should focus on economic development to expand and diversify tax base.

24.54% think Mansfield should focus on economic development to provide a wider range of local goods and services.

24.07% think Mansfield should focus on economic development to revitalize existing opportunities.

OPEN HOUSE

In-Person & Virtual

In-Person Data:
(22 people)

- Priority 1:** Add more services (increase the # of parks, facilities, recreation programs) **45%**
 - Priority 2:** High level of service (quality of parks, facilities, recreation programs) **43%**
 - Priority 3:** Stabilize taxes and fees **12%**
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Virtual Data:
(28 people)

- Priority 1:** High level of service (quality of parks, facilities, recreation programs) **71.43%**
- Priority 2:** Add more services (increase the # of parks, facilities, recreation programs) **46.43%**
- Priority 3:** Stabilize taxes and fees **64.29%**

What changes or additions would you make to the facilities grading criteria?

Additions:

- Construction costs / ongoing management & maintenance costs
- Access by different modes of transportation
- Access by complete streets
- Historical Significance
- Potential impact on reversing the declining school enrollment
- Availability / potential of grant funding
- Estimated useful life of the facility

Changes:

- Add Climate Vulnerability / Resilience to Energy Efficiency / Environmental Sustainability criterion

Of the criteria, are there any you believe are more important than others and should be weighted differently? Why?

- Energy Efficiency / Environmental Sustainability - *all development, regardless of type, should be sustainable*
- Current Building Performance - *comfort and safety of the employees working in the facility should come first*
- Site Adaptability, Building Adaptability, Highest and Best Use of Land, and Energy Efficiency / Environmental Sustainability - *these all combine for the longevity of facilities investments*
- Current Building Performance
- Current Site Performance
- Deferred Maintenance
- Highest and Best Use of Land
- Access to Public Utilities

Are there any particular facilities projects or investments that you would personally be willing to support with public funds?

- New Senior Center
- Public Transportation to Senior Center
- Updating Mansfield Middle School
- Anything that can be co-developed with complete streets, sidewalks and/or roundabouts
- Updated animal shelter
- Town-wide ADA improvements and multi-modal connections
- Town-wide energy improvements
- Creative adaptive reuse of Vinton and Goodwin sites, perhaps relocating the Health District there to free Town office space for the expansion of Town staff
- Public pool
- A park in the Goodwin area
- Upgraded heating and cooling at MCC
- Preserve the old Mansfield Town Hall and Meeting House
- Keep a community center in the Goodwin area

Main Takeaways:

- **Road safety:** Speeding is an issue; need for bike/ped-friendly streets and traffic calming
- **Public transportation:** Should service more areas and more people, senior transportation is needed
- **Businesses:** High dependence on student population; limited patrons when school is out of session; hard to sustain business given the seasonal nature of the population
- **Need for more open space:** Access to open space in Four Corners area is desired
- **Student rentals cause concerns:** Issues with on-street parking, speeding, parties, litter; enforce restrictions on student rentals
- **Development concerns:** Water quality and quantity concerns with increased development; Cedar Swamp watershed; Four Corners area; conduct needs assessment for UConn housing
- **Increase coordination with UConn:** UConn should be heavily involved in Northwest Mansfield Plan
- **Questions about the fate of Goodwin School:** Ideas to convert to Senior Center or arts/maker space
- **Four Corners area:** Provide beautification

MANSFIELD
TOMORROW