

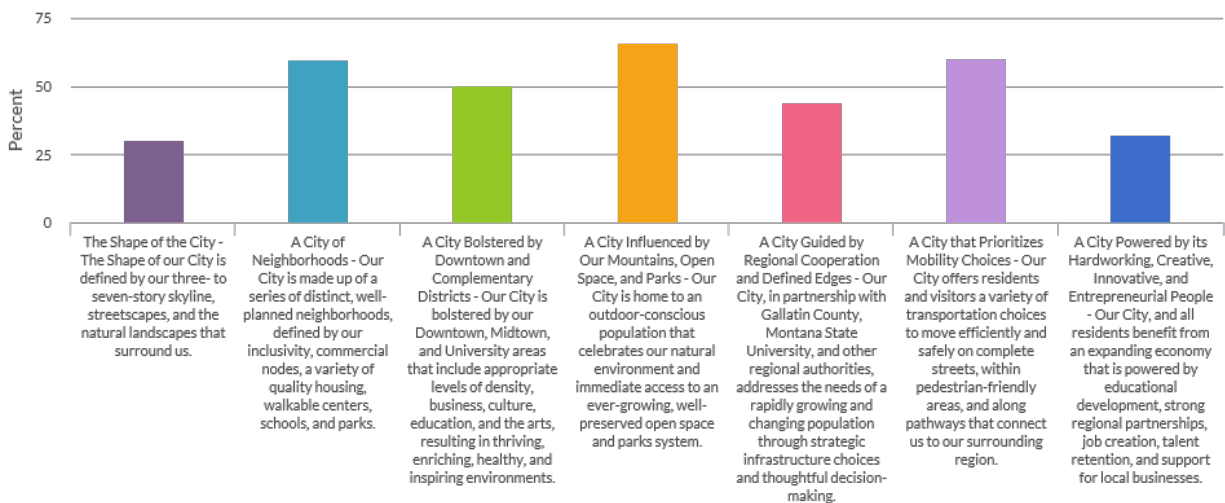
# BOZEMAN<sup>MT</sup> COMMUNITY PLAN OPPORTUNITIES SURVEY SUMMARY

01 FEBRUARY 2019

## Overview

The Opportunities Survey was opened to the public on December 12, 2018 and closed on January 25, 2019. A total of 230 people took part in the survey, designed to identify and confirm opportunities related to the seven vision statements. As shown in the chart below, the three most selected visions were:

1. A City Influenced by our Mountains, Open Space, and Parks;
2. A City that Prioritizes Mobility Choices; and
3. A City of Neighborhoods.



## The Shape of the City

Participants indicated that commercial nodes are needed in the northwest neighborhoods, North 7<sup>th</sup>, and south of Kagy and generally felt that the seven story height was appropriate and used the Baxter Hotel as an example. However, some responses indicated a desire to see shorter buildings in the future in areas where mountain views could be diminished.

Downtown, North 7<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Cannery District were all said to be areas where more intense development should take place. Additionally, responses showed that there was a preference for more intense development in those areas if open space in town was maintained and continually expanded through new developments.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- *Increasing density in appropriate areas*
- *Incentivizing infill as a way to increase density*
- *Preserving open space*
- *Promoting affordable housing along transit corridors*
- *Reducing parking minimums*
- *Focusing on alternative transportation options*

## A City of Neighborhoods

Definitions of neighborhoods included: proximity to parks; walkability; cohesiveness amongst neighbors; diversity of ages, specific boundaries, and historic or cookie-cutter nature. While 60% of respondents stated that their neighborhood included walkable centers, commercial nodes, inclusivity, housing variety, schools, and parks, the remaining 40% of people indicated that walkability and commercial nodes were missing from their communities.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- *Encouraging small grocery store development*
- *Maintaining housing character in new developments*
- *Increasing connectivity to parks and neighborhoods*
- *Encouraging affordable housing development*
- *Developing community gardens*
- *Improving pedestrian and bike access*
- *Enhancing traffic calming measures*
- *Promoting accessory dwelling units*

## A City Bolstered by Downtown and Complementary Districts

Participants were asked about building height preferences in each of the three named districts (Downtown, Midtown, and University) and responses were quite varied. In Downtown, height preferences ranged from a maximum of three stories to a maximum of thirty stories with five to seven being the most common answer. In Midtown, height maximums ranged from three stories to thirty with the most common again between five and seven stories. Responses for height preferences in the University district had the same results as Midtown and Downtown. In remaining areas of the City, the preferred height limit was much lower, typically up to three stories with several comments stating that five story developments are appropriate.

More mixed-use areas are desired within Bozeman along with strategic preservation of trees, open space, and wetlands.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- *Encouraging mixed-use development*
- *Expanding public transportation*
- *Reducing car-dependency*
- *Promoting commercial activity near the university*
- *Locating affordable housing developments in Midtown*
- *Defining additional districts on the west and northeast parts of Bozeman*

### A City Influenced by Our Mountains, Open Space, and Parks

Over 94% of respondents indicated they live within a ten-minute walk of a park or open space. Of those 94%, 67% said that they walk to local parks or open space multiple times a week.

Connecting existing trail systems, along with expanding the trail systems in the west side of Bozeman were frequently mentioned as important components of this vision.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- *Researching sustainable funding options for Bozeman's green spaces*
- *Increasing density in the city core*
- *Improving pedestrian safety*
- *Continuing partnerships with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, and others*
- *Creating more stringent development requirements that emphasize trail connectivity*

### A City Guided by Regional Cooperation and Defined Edges

Responses showed a strong desire to protect wetlands, floodplain, wildlife habitat, and key corridors for north/south wildlife migration. Additionally, limiting sprawl, promoting sustainable practices, and preserving agricultural land were mentioned. Participants also stated that greater coordination between the City and regional authorities is needed in relation to transportation, water, sewer, growth management, and more.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- *Increasing public engagement efforts*
- *Expanding education and training sessions for elected officials*
- *Restoring and naturalizing regional waterways*
- *Coordinating planning efforts and documents*

### A City that Prioritizes Mobility Choices

46% of participants said that they have used public transit in the past year. For those that have not used public transit, reasons comprised of: long commute times using public transit; inconvenient scheduling; and lack of bus stops.

For those that are that said they are employed, 46% drive a car, 30% ride a bike, 17% walk, and 6% work from home, and only 1% use public transit.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- *Funding winter maintenance of trails and paths*
- *Enhancing traffic calming measures*
- *Developing protected bike-paths along main roads*
- *Establishing more east-west connections*
- *Promoting safe pedestrian access to all public schools*
- *Increase funding for alternative transit options (bus, bicycle, walking)*
- *Researching the feasibility of an affordable airport shuttle*
- *Creating connectivity requirements for new development*

### **A City Powered by its Hardworking, Creative, Innovative, and Entrepreneurial People**

Low wages and rising housing costs are seen as the largest deterrents for those starting a business in Bozeman, due to the difficulty for prospective employees to live in town. The high quality of life in Bozeman, its excellent location, and Montana State University are seen as some of the most attractive reasons why a business would locate here.

When asked about additional opportunities to fulfill this vision, responses included:

- Increasing minimum wage within the City
- Reducing regulatory restrictions on small businesses
- Improving city engagement with local businesses
- Bolstering Gallatin College