LYH TOGETHER > Public Engagement Summary

Appendix B

April 16, 2024

Contents

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Overview and Key Themes

During the Lynchburg Together Comprehensive Plan update process, the City of Lynchburg and Berkley Group sought a variety of public and stakeholder input. Opportunities for residents included a public survey and four Public Workshops. City and Berkley Group staff also held eight focus groups with stakeholders to gain insight and perspective on various topics relevant to the Comprehensive Plan.

Overall Summary

Public input was consistent across all forms of engagement. Most participants have a positive opinion of the City and enjoy living there, citing high quality of life and relatively low cost of living as the primary reasons. Major themes including economic development, additional housing, crime reduction, and the need to improve public schools were prominent among all forms of engagement. A desire for mixed-use development and increased density was also a common thread, though participants felt this should only occur where appropriate. Most participants believe that while the City's assets and infrastructure may be sufficient for today, work needs to be done to be ready to meet future needs. The need for increased levels of funding for services and capital improvement projects were cited by most groups, as was the need for additional investment in the community.

Survey

A public survey was conducted from October 15, 2023 to March 1, 2024 and received 4,010 responses to survey questions from 257 participants. The survey was conducted both electronically and in paper form and was advertised by the City on its website, on its social media pages, and via distribution of flyers and post cards at events.

Key Findings:

- Respondents feel that Lynchburg has a high quality of life, and is a good value for their money.
- Lynchburg has a good environment for business and entrepreneurship.
- The City has lots of educational and job training opportunities available to residents.
- There are a variety of housing options; however, the cost of housing can be a burden.
- A safe and efficient transportation system is a top priority.
- Crime and public schools are residents' primary concerns.
- Blight is an issue in some areas.
- Respondents desire better access to higher paying jobs.

Public Workshops

Public workshops were conducted on November 15th and 16th, 2023 and December 2nd and 14th, 2023 at various elementary schools throughout the City. The workshops were conducted as charettes, including a short presentation about the process followed by virtual polling and group questions arranged by topics such as Transportation and Economic Development. Participants worked as a group to reach consensus on the questions provided and recorded their answers on maps and on a worksheet. At the end of the session, a facilitated discussion was held, with each group reporting their answers back to the whole.

Key Findings:

- There is a need for additional commercial and industrial development to stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities.
- There is a pressing need for additional housing of all types.
- Multimodal transportation improvements are highly desired.
- Complete the Downtown Revitalization efforts to create a vibrant urban core.
- The City should embrace its Historic Districts as assets that contribute to its character and identity.
- The City should expand its core industry clusters in Health Care and Education to leverage existing economic strengths.

- Housing affordability is a high priority and currently lacking around the City.
- Redevelopment of the James River presents an opportunity for socialization, recreation, and tourism.
- Keep older commercial areas vibrant or help them redevelop through revitalization.
- The City should strive to continue progress through intentional, forward-thnking policies and planning.
- Lynchburg should focus on building communities, not just neighborhoods
- Additional urban trees are needed to reduce heat islands.
- There is a need for various safety and capacity improvements to the vehicular transportation system.
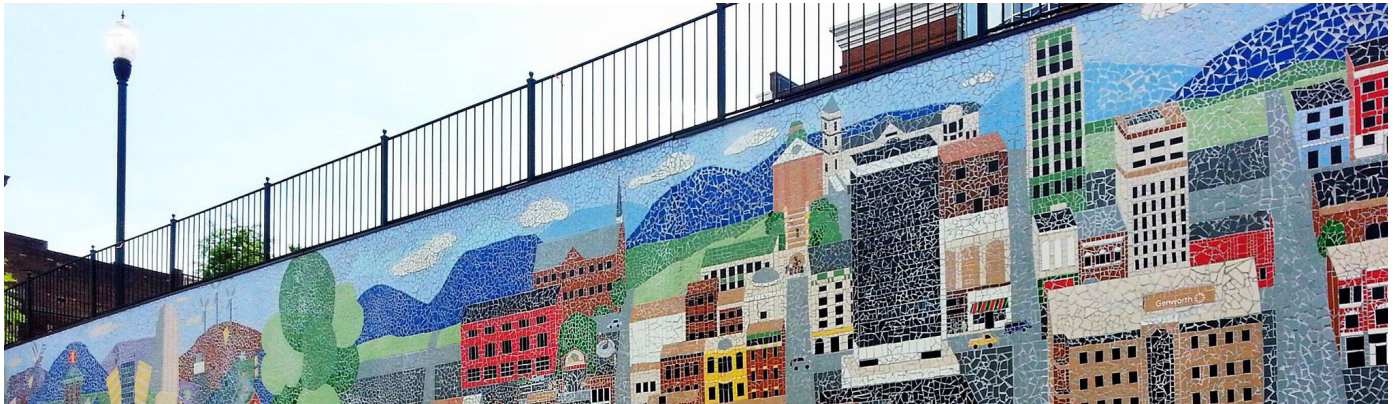
Focus Groups

Focus group sessions were held over four days in March and April 2024, and were conducted virtually with participants engaging in a facilitated discussion. Topics for the Focus Groups included Community Facilities and Services; Environmental Stewardship and Natural Resources; Housing and Neighborhoods; Land Use and Development; Mobility and Transportation; Parks and Recreation; Economic Development; and Education and Workforce Development.

Key Findings:

- Lynchburg has a lack of housing, lack of housing affordability, and lack of "missing middle" housing types.
- Multimodal transportation improvements are needed.
- Crime and social issues continue to be a concern.
- There is a need for mixed use developments and density, but where appropriate.
- There is a lack of appropriate funding levels to address the City's needs. Social Services, in particular, is inefficiently funded.
- There is a lack of coordination among current social services providers.
- Lynchburg is in need of services to serve and house homeless populations.
- Job training programs are a necessity, especially those for trades and skilled laborers.

- To reduce social divisions, integrate all populations and neighborhoods of the City as a whole.
- The transportation system will need improvements to accommodate future growth and associated demand.
- Community facilities, such as water and sewer infrastructure and solid waste, need improvements to accommodate future growth.
- There is a need for consistent City political leadership, especially around development.
- Public investment in infrastructure, complete streets, and public art help create favorable conditions for private sector investment.
- The Education and Health Care sectors can be further leveraged to help the City succeed.
- Increased funding for the public school system is needed to improve both the physical quality of schools and educational programming.

Public Input Survey

A public survey was conducted as part of the public input process for the Lynchburg Together Comprehensive Plan. The survey was open from October 15, 2023 to March 1, 2024, and available to the community both in digital and paper format. The survey was composed of 24 questions. 15 of these were questions on specific topics, one was open ended, and 8 were optional demographic questions for analysis purposes.
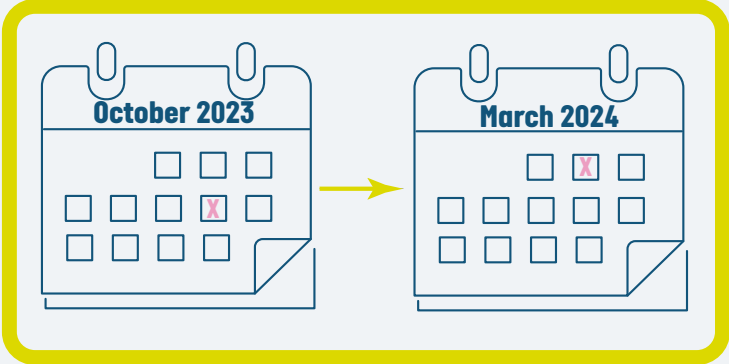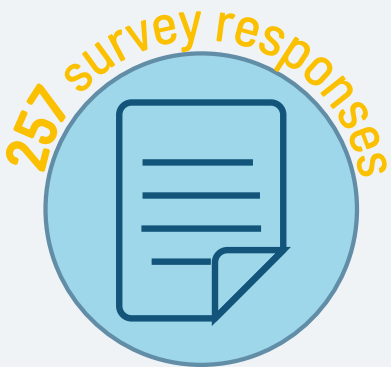
Summary

The survey received 4,010 unique responses to data gathering questions from 257 respondents. The survey population was spread relatively evenly across wards, with the most respondents from Ward 1 (28%) and the least from Ward 3 (17%). 12% of respondents indicated that they did not live within City limits. Most respondents did work and live in the City, and learned about the survey through the City website or through social media. Most respondents identified as white, with 10% identifying as Black or African-American and 15% preferring not to answer. Responses came from a mixed range of age cohorts and a relatively even distribution of time having lived in the City of Lynchburg. The survey received 4,010 unique responses to data gathering questions from 257 respondents. The survey population was spread relatively evenly across wards, with the most respondents from Ward 1 (28%) and the least from Ward 3 (17%). 12% of respondents indicated that they did not live in the City. Most respondents did work and live in the City, and learned about the survey through the City website or through Social Media. Most respondents identified as white, with 10% identifying as African American and 15% preferring not to answer. Responses came from a mixed range of age cohorts and a relatively even distribution of time having lived in the City of Lynchburg.

Survey results were consistent with feedback received through other public input events. Residents feel that the City of Lynchburg is a good place to live and raise a family, and represents a good value proposition for the taxes they pay. They believe the City is a good place to do business, or to start one, and that there are plentiful educational and job training opportunities available to them. Lynchburg provides them with a variety of housing options and has a safe and relatively efficient transportation system.

Respondents also indicated that crime and public schools were their number one concerns. While most find residential and commercial areas to be aesthetically pleasing, they feel there can be issues of blight in certain areas. Many indicated that while they are satisfied with their housing choices, the cost of that housing could be burdensome to them, and that they desire better access to higher paying jobs.

257 survey responses

October 2023 → **March 2024**

MOST VALUED
- Cost of Living
- Natural Environment
- Sense of Community

BIGGEST CONCERNS
- Crime
- Public Education
- Housing Availability

Public Facilities & Services Priorities

1 Public Schools

2 Streets and roads

3 Fire & Rescue Service

LAND USE PRIORITIES

Residential rehab/repair

Single-family residential

Housing for the elderly & disabled

Local & small businesses

Specialty Retailers

General Retail

OPEN

59% say LYH is a GOOD or EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Public Workshops

Public workshops were conducted on November 15th and 16th, 2023 and December 2nd and 14th, 2023 at various elementary schools throughout the City. The workshops were conducted as charettes, with a short presentation about the process followed by virtual polling and group work questions at tables arranged by topic (Transportation, Economic Development, etc.). Participants worked as a group to reach consensus on the questions provided and recorded their answers on maps and on a worksheet. At the end of the session, a facilitated discussion was held with each group reporting their answers back to the whole.
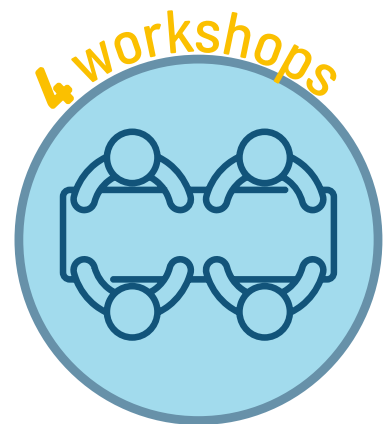
Workshop Summary Map

This map is a diagrammatic representation of input received from each of the public workshop groups.

Lynchburg resident's love the outdoor recreational amenities the city has to offer and hope to see more expansion of city trails and the protection of the city's natural environment.

Additional investment into the ongoing redevelopment of downtown was highly desired among the community. This includes things like more recreation opportunities associated with the river, more commercial activities, additional arts & culture development, and more corridor investment along the downtown entranceways.

Many neighborhoods in these parts of the city were identified as possibilities for additional infill development of single family residential.

Midtown was recognized as a place of cultural importance and the community wants to see more investment into the redevelopment, preservation, and beautification of the Plaza and surrouding areas.

Large swathes of open land, located near the city's main thoroughfares, were identiefied as great opportunities for additional commercial opportunities

Participants identified a need for all types of housing in this area.

Focus Groups

Focus groups were convened as part of the public input process for the Lynchburg Together Comprehensive Plan. There were eight groups in total, taking place on March 12th and 13th, 2024 and April 11th and 12th, 2024. Each group was composed of stakeholders chosen by staff for their knowledge of the subject and for their roles within that area of focus in the community. Group size typically ranged from 5 to 12.

Each group was provided with a set of questions to consider prior to the meeting, during which the facilitator went over the questions and facilitated a discussion among group participants of different issues. Below is an overall summary of participant comments, along with a summary of the discussion for each group and key themes that emerged.

Housing & Neighborhoods
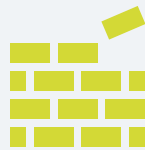
Land Use & Development

Community Facilities & Services

Mobility & Transportation

Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Assets

Education & Workforce Development

Environmental Stewardship & Natural Resources

Economic Development

Summary

Focus Groups identified several major themes, including a lack of housing and housing affordability, enhancing multimodal transportation, crime and social issues, the need for mixed-use developments, and the need to attract and retain young professionals. There are many assets the community has to build on, but participants consistently cited a lack of funding to address the City's varied needs.

Participants in nearly all groups expressed the need for additional housing options and housing supply. Many discussed what is traditionally described as the "missing middle" of housing. This typically includes units that are denser than single-family but which are less dense than large complexes, such as duplexes, triplexes, and small apartment buildings. Several groups also discussed how housing affordability was exacerbating homelessness within the city. They also noted insufficient funding of social services and a lack of coordination among service providers.

Crime was frequently discussed, as were the conditions of City schools. Participants offered several solutions including additional funding for recreational and job training programs, combatting drug abuse, and better integration of different populations of the City into a whole.

Participants mostly felt that the City's transportation system, while adequate for current needs (minus some spot improvements), would not be adequate to meet the needs of future expected growth and could constrain the City's success in the future. A similar theme emerged with community facilities such as water and sewer infrastructure and solid waste. Participants also expressed the desire for additional multi-modal options including more sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and bus service.

Future development, participants felt, should generally be denser where it is appropriate to do so, and more mixed use in nature. Given the limited supply of land available to the City, dense, mixed-use areas could be a good choice for new development. Developers also cited the need for consistent City political leadership around development, and discussed how public investment in infrastructure, complete streets, and even public art created conditions for them to take advantage of and attract new investment to the City.

The use of City infrastructure and housing as economic development tools was also discussed. The lack of housing for frontline workers and those making just above minimum wage was discussed as inhibitive for businesses looking to attract and retain workers. Similarly, limited shovel-ready sites and buildings, along with limited commercial airline service, were also discussed as barriers to attracting new employers to Lynchburg.

The participants of the focus groups uniformly believed that the City of Lynchburg has many strong assets that can be built on, but that it will take funding and political will to do so. Lynchburg has many features that attract people to the City such as Education and Health Care, and these can be leveraged to the City's future success.

Interactive Map Results

The Lynchburg Together interactive map allows community members to "drop a pin" at a location of their choice in City limits, and then write a comment describing their feedback or thoughts regarding an element at that particular location. Three types of pins could be dropped: assets, opportunities, or concerns. Users could drop multiple pins if desired. Most pins dropped related to opportunities for Lynchburg; several assets were also identified. There were no comments under the "concerns" category. Most comments addressed the need for transportation improvements, including but not limited to bike lanes, sidewalks, and roundabouts.
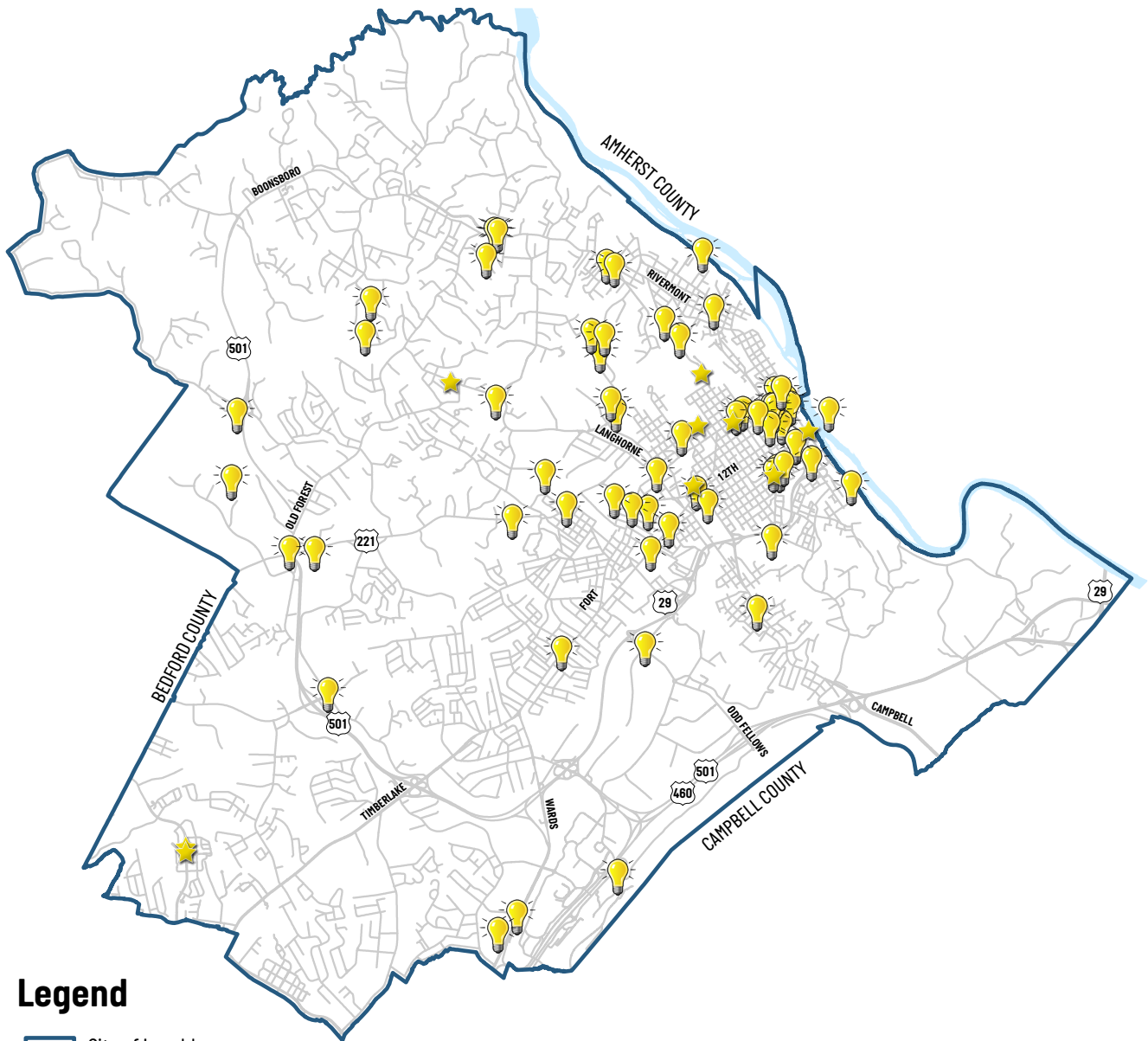
Legend

- City of Lynchburg
- James River
- ⭐ Assets
- 💡 Opportunities
- Streets
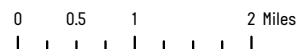
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A. Survey Summary

Community Survey Summary

October 15, 2023 - March 1, 2024

Virtual (Survey Monkey), Paper

Respondents

257 unique respondents

4,010 individual answers

Overview

A public survey was conducted as part of the public input process for the Lynchburg Together Comprehensive Plan. The survey was open from October 15, 2023 to March 1, 2024. The survey was composed of 24 questions. 15 of these were questions on specific topics, one was open ended, and 8 were for analysis purposes.

The survey received 4,010 unique responses to data gathering questions from 257 respondents. The survey population was spread relatively evenly across wards, with the most respondents from Ward 1 (28%) and the least from Ward 3 (17%). 12% of respondents indicated that they did not live in the City. Most respondents did work and live in the City and learned about the survey through the City website or through Social Media. Most respondents identified as white, with 10% identifying as African American and 15% preferring not to answer. Responses came from a mixed range of age cohorts and a relatively even distribution of time having lived in the City of Lynchburg.

Summary

Survey results were consistent with other public input events such as the Public Workshops. Residents feel that the City of Lynchburg is a good place to live and raise a family and represents a good value proposition for the taxes they pay. They believe the City is a good place to do business, or to start one, and that there are plentiful educational and job training opportunities available to them. Lynchburg provides them with a variety of housing options and has a safe and relatively efficient transportation system.

Respondents also indicated that crime and public schools were their number one concerns. While most find residential and commercial areas to be aesthetically pleasing, they feel there can be issues of blight in certain areas. Many indicated that while they are satisfied with their housing choices, the cost of that housing could be burdensome to them, and that they desire better access to higher paying jobs.

Below is a detailed breakdown and analysis of response to each question in the survey. Specific key themes are highlighted, and a brief "takeaway" section provides analysis of the data.

Survey Questions

Question 1 – What do you value most about Lynchburg?

Summary: Approximately 40% of respondents indicated that they valued the City's Cost of Living or Natural Environment the most highly. This was followed closely by Sense of Community. Safety, Public Education, Recreational Opportunities, and Local History and Culture all received responses in the 20 percent range.

Key Themes:

- ► Cost of Living
- ► Natural Environment
- ► Sense of Community

Takeaway: Most residents of the City of Lynchburg find it to be a good value for what they pay. They enjoy the scenic natural setting of the city as well and many residents value the communities they are part of. Other specific aspects of the community are highly valued as well by their devotees.

Question 2 – What concerns you the most about Lynchburg's future?

Summary: Over 80% of respondents identified either Crime or Public Education as their #1 concern about the City's future (Crime: 42%, Public Ed: 40%). Second-tier concerns include Housing Availability, Road Maintenance, Safety, and Traffic, and Job Opportunities.

Key Themes:
- ► Crime
- ► Public Education

Takeaway: Residents are concerned about crime and safety issues within the City and about the state of the Public Education System.

Question 3 – What should Lynchburg prioritize as it plans for the future?

Summary: Most respondents indicated that they felt that the City should prioritize Improving the Economy and Access to Well-Paying Job Opportunities (45%) and Improving Public Education and Workforce Development (40%) in its future plans.

Key Themes:
- ► Improving the Economy and Access to Well-Paying Job Opportunities
- ► Improving Public Education and Workforce Development

Takeaway: Residents want the City to focus on Economic Development activities, such as job creation, workforce development skills training, and improving access to jobs, and on improving the Public Education System.

Question 4 – Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to land use and development?

Summary: Around half of respondents feel that Residential and Commercial Areas are "Safe and Attractive". However, 62% indicated that they felt that blight is a problem within the City. Only 33% agreed with the statement that "New Development in Lynchburg is Well-Designed and High-Quality".

Key Themes:
► Residential and Commercial Areas need to be both safe and aesthetically pleasing.
► Blight is perceived to be a problem.
► Improve the design and quality of new development.

Takeaway: While respondents feel overall that the commercial and residential areas of the City are both safe and attractive, they feel that blighted properties interrupt this in some locations, and would like new development to be better designed and higher quality that it is currently.

Question 5 – Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to housing?

Summary: The vast majority of respondents agreed with the statements "My Housing is Safe and Free of Health Hazards" (77%) and "I live in a Type of Housing that Suits My Needs" (84%). Greater than 60% also agreed with the statements "Lynchburg Offers Sufficient Housing that Meets the Needs of Residents of All Incomes" and "Homelessness is not a problem in Lynchburg".

Key Themes:
► Safe Housing
► There are a variety of housing types available to meet residents' needs.
► Most respondents pay more than 30% of their income for housing.

Takeaway: Respondents feel that their housing in the City of Lynchburg generally meets their needs, is safe and well-constructed, and that there exists a variety of housing types available to suit their needs. However, the cost of housing is an issue, with more than half of respondents indicating they spend more than 30% of their annual income on their housing, the federal threshold for being housing cost-burdened.

Question 6 – Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to education, the economy, and workforce development?

Summary: Large percentages of respondents feel that the City is "Business Friendly" (63%) and that "Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners can Succeed in Lynchburg (60%). They also indicated that "Higher Education is an Achievable Goal for the City's Children" (62%) and that "Children in Lynchburg Have Access to Extracurricular Opportunities for Recreation and Socialization" (61%). However, only 24% agreed with the statement that "Jobs in Lynchburg Pay a Living Wage".

Key Themes:
► Business Friendly and Entrepreneurial Environment
► Lots of Opportunities for Higher Education and Training
► Desire to increase wages

Takeaway: Most respondents think the City has a good environment for businesses and is a good place to start a business. They also point out the opportunities for higher education and training for the City's children and for workers to improve their skills, likely due to the large number of available colleges and universities. Concerns over wages may present an opportunity for workforce development activities to help residents access higher paying jobs and to create a more skilled workforce.

Question 7 – Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to community facilities, services, and infrastructure?

Summary: Large majorities of respondents indicated their needs were adequately met by City services in several categories such as Water and Sewer (80% and 75%) and Recreation (73%). Respondents were somewhat more divided over services such as Trash and Recycling and the Public Library, with a slight majority feeling services are adequate but a significant minority feeling that they are not. The same is also true of access to the Internet and to cellular coverage. Only 20% of respondents agreed that "Public School Facilities are well-maintained".

Key Themes:
- ► City services viewed positively by respondents
- ► Not all services are seen as adequate.
- ► Public School Maintenance is seen as an issue.

Takeaway: Many people feel that the City services that were listed adequately meet their needs, but there are opportunities for improved service, such as with the Public Library, Waste and Recycling services, and with Community Centers. Respondents are particularly concerned with the maintenance of Public School facilities, with only 1 in 5 feeling they are well-maintained.

Question 8 – Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to transportation?

Summary: 69% of respondents agreed with the statement "I can easily access recreation, amenities, and services in the City." Around two-thirds (66%) agreed that "Road in the City are generally well maintained." Only 44% agreed that "sidewalks are provided where needed and are generally well maintained". Just over half (53%) of respondents disagreed that "Lynchburg is safe for walking and biking".

Key Themes:
- ► Vehicular Transportation system rated highly
- ► Safety is a concern for bicycles and pedestrians

Takeaway: Overall, respondents feel that the vehicular transportation system serves their needs and is well-maintained, though there is some room for improvement. They do feel, however, that improvements need to be made to the non-motorized transportation system, specifically to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as ensuring sidewalks are installed where needed and are well-maintained.

Question 9 – Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to overall quality of life?

Summary: More than 70% of respondents agreed with the statements "Lynchburg is a good place to raise a family", "Lynchburg is a good place to retire", "I feel safe in Lynchburg", "I can easily access a grocery store with a variety of healthy and fresh food options", and "Lynchburg provides sufficient protection of historic and cultural resources". In contrast, only 35% agreed that "Lynchburg is a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and respected."

Key Themes:
► Family-friendly
► Respondents feel safe
► Desire for everyone to feel welcome, valued, and respected

Takeaway: Unsurprisingly, given the high number of respondents who rated "Quality of Life" as something they value about Lynchburg in Question 1, respondents largely agreed with positive statements in more than half of the categories in this question. However, these majorities lessened for a sense of community pride and for cultural and social events meeting respondents needs. Coupled with the low agreement that everyone feels "welcomed, valued, and respected", this may indicate that some respondents feel left out of the wider culture within the City.

Question 10 – What types of new residential development would be desirable in Lynchburg?

Summary: Rehab/repair of existing homes, single family homes, and housing for older adults or disabled people were selected as desirable by more than half of respondents with Rehab/repair being selected by 63%. Denser housing options were desired by large minorities of respondents, with Townhomes being the most desired type of higher-density housing at 35%. Accessory Dwelling Units were desired by 19% of respondents. Only 8% of respondents indicated they found no new residential growth to be desirable.

Key Themes:
► Rehabilitation and Repair of Existing Houses
► Variety of housing options desired
► Desire to Grow

Takeaway: A large majority of respondents indicated rehab of existing homes would be desirable, possibly because of the older housing stock in the City. There is strong demand for single-family homes, but there is also demand for other, denser housing options such as townhomes, apartments, and duplexes.

Question 11 – What types of new commercial or industrial development would be desirable in Lynchburg?

Summary: The most desired types of businesses were Local and Small Businesses (73%). Entertainment options were also indicated as desirable by more than half of respondents. Most categories received significant support. Only 4% of respondents felt that no new commercial or industrial growth would be desirable. Small and Large-Scale Industrial development were desired by 45% and 36% of respondents, respectively.

Key Themes:
► Pro-Development
► Desire for local, homegrown businesses
► More Entertainment Options
► Support for all types of Commercial and Industrial Development

Takeaway: Respondents had a very pro-development attitude, but indicated a preference for small, local businesses, and entertainment businesses. Large numbers were supportive of Industrial development.

Question 12 – What transportation improvements are needed in Lynchburg?

Summary: Approximately half of respondents indicated that additional sidewalks, crosswalks, and Pedestrian and Bicycle safety improvements were needed. Other commonly desired improvements include Road Maintenance, Trail Connectivity, Traffic Congestion Mitigation, Intersection Improvements, and Improved or Expanded Bus Service.

Key Themes:
► Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations
► Road Maintenance
► Traffic Congestion Improvements

Takeaway: Respondents focused on the need for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, as well as road maintenance and spot traffic safety and congestion improvements.

Question 13 – What recreation facilities do you want most in Lynchburg?

Summary: 56% of respondents indicated they want trails for biking, walking, or hiking and 43% said they would like existing facilities improved. More than a third of respondents indicated they like outdoor event spaces and small-scale parks.

Key Themes:
► Trails
► Outdoor Event Spaces
► Small-scale Parks

Takeaway: The desire for more trails for biking, walking, and hiking was the clear first choice. Respondents also feel that existing facilities need to be improved. Outdoor event spaces, small-scale parks, educational or historical venues, swimming pools, indoor recreation, and playgrounds were frequently selected as well.

Question 14 – How would you rate the value of City services (e.g., public schools, public safety, parks and recreation) compared to the taxes you pay?

Summary: Half of respondents rated City services a good value, and 9% felt services were exceptional for the taxes they paid. 28% felt it was a fair value.

Key Themes:
► City Services are a good value for the taxes paid by residents.

Takeaway: Most respondents think that Lynchburg provides a good value for what they pay in taxes.

Question 15 – What is <u>one word</u> you hope will describe the City of Lynchburg twenty years from now?

A word cloud created from responses.

Summary:

The word cloud above was generated from the responses to this question. The larger the word, the more frequently it was entered as the "one word" respondents hope will describe the City of Lynchburg twenty years from now.

Key Themes:
► Thriving
► Vibrant
► Safe

B. Public Workshops Summary

Public Workshops Summary of Input

November 15, 16 and December 2, 14
Various locations

Participants
Residents, City Staff, Berkley Group Project Team

Overview

Public workshops were conducted on November 15th and 16th, as well as on December 2nd and 14th, at various locations throughout the City. The workshops were conducted as charettes, with a short presentation about the process followed by virtual polling and group work questions at tables arranged by topic (Transportation, Economic Development, etc.). Participants worked as a group to reach consensus on the questions provided and recorded their answers on maps and on a worksheet. At the end of the session a facilitated discussion was held with each group reporting their answers back to the whole.

Consolidated Results Map – This map is a summary of comments made on the maps from each table at all the workshops.

Lynchburg Tomorrow
Public Workshop
Results Map

Lynchburg resident's love the outdoor recreational amenities the city has to offer and hope to see more expansion of city trails and the protection of the city's natural environment.

Additional investment into the ongoing redevelopment of downtown was highly desired among the community. This includes things like more recreation opportunities associated with the river, more commercial activities, additional arts & culture development, and more corridor investment along the downtown entranceways.

Many neighborhoods in these parts of the city were identified as possibilities for additional infill development of single family residential.

Midtown was recognized as a place of cultural importance and the community wants to see more investment into the redevelopment, preservation, and beautification of the Plaza and surrouding areas.

Large swathes of open land, located near the city's main thoroughfares, were identiefied as great opportunities for additional commercial opportunities

Participants identified a need for all types of housing in this area.

Community Character

Summary:

Participants felt that land in the City should be used for growth. Responses were pro-development overall and supported the redevelopment of older shopping centers. This pro-development sentiment extended not just to commercial areas, but also to residential ones, showing a high desire for additional housing units of all types. The need to keep major commercial areas such as the Downtown core and the shopping areas around the mall healthy was also a priority. These factors indicate a strong desire for growth and the understanding of its role in future economic vibrancy, while also balancing new development by supporting existing commercial areas. Participants also stated that land should be set aside for greenspace and parks, and that there should be an interconnected system of trails and greenways within the City and connecting to regional partners.

Key Themes:

- ► Pro development - Residential in addition to commercial & industrial
- ► Redevelopment of older shopping areas.
- ► Need to keep existing commercial areas like the Mall and Downtown vibrant.
- ► More housing of all types, and improved property maintenance.
- ► Desire for additional greenspace, trails, parks, and greenways.

Additional Comments:

Keep the mall area vibrant.

Industrial development, such as along Odd Fellows Road

Expanded parks and greenspace near Graves Mill

Fewer apartments and more single family homes

Continue to protect historic district

Redevelop Plaza

Expand and Improve Greenspace

Improve/Renovate existing housing stock Comments about education and crime

Redevelop Plaza

Expand and improve greenspace

Improve/Renovate existing housing stock

Safe – Low crime, improved family structures.

Opportunity – Plentiful good paying jobs, better 21st Century education, Lower poverty.

Welcoming – Sense of community, everyone welcome and accepting.

Court, Clay, Madison – Expand Downtown revitalization to reach and convert Clay Streets.

Campbell Ave Industrial Areas – Industrial zone off Campbell, along the RR track

Lower Basin

Intersection near Fresh Market – Open space and would like to see additional retail.

Would like to see more major stores in central locations, like Downtown.

Walkability to shopping and dining.

Other: Youth throughout the city need engagement in areas of being taught in a tutoring style along with mental health services. Tutoring should involve conflict resolution, financial literacy, etc., which should help curb crime and increase home ownership.

Question 2 – Historic Properties: Identify and discuss up to three priority areas or structures that should be included in historic preservation efforts or where future development should be limited. Mark these areas and/or structures on the map. What actions do you believe the City of Lynchburg should take to preserve these areas and/or structures?

Summary:

Participants identified the historic Downtown core for preservation, praising these efforts and saying they should be continued. They also suggested expanding historic preservation activities into surrounding residential and commercial areas. Participants also liked the revitalization programs downtown and suggested they should be completed.

Key Themes:
- ► Expand downtown revitalization into adjacent areas.
- ► Expand downtown historic district or add new ones in older neighborhoods adjacent to downtown.

Additional Comments:

Court, Clay, Madison – Expand Downtown revitalization to reach Court and Clay Streets

Campbel Avenue Industrial Area – Industrial zone off Campbell, along the railroad tracks.

Lower Basin

Question 3 – Urban Design & Character: When you think of the City of Lynchburg, what are the physical elements that define its character?

Summary:

Participants felt that the City is defined by the large educational, business, civic, and cultural institutions found near Liberty University and in the Downtown area overall, but they also felt that neighborhood specific features define areas at a more local, granular level. These include school districts, specific neighborhoods, especially historic ones, and waterways. Some respondents suggested ways to better define the character of their neighborhoods such as installing sidewalks and tying certain neighborhoods together.

Key Themes:
- ► Main Street and Downtown and Liberty University are character defining areas for the City.
- ► Local features such as waterways or specific neighborhood districts define character at a more local level.

Additional Comments:

Lack of sidewalks and gap in the sidewalk network. Sidewalks should be required with new residential development.

Academy of Fine areas is an asset

Main street – Continue to fill with businesses.

Back water creek

Downtown

Liberty

Merge Upper/Lower Rivermont

Economic Development

Question 1 – Economic Priorities: Discuss as a group and respond to the following questions:
1. *What should be the top three economic development priorities for the City?*
2. *How can the arts and culture be engaged to support Economic Development?*
3. *What types of businesses are missing from Lynchburg?*
4. *What makes Lynchburg appealing for visitors?*

Summary:

Participants felt that economic development activities should focus on expanding the existing clusters in Health Care and Education, as well as increasing entrepreneurship and local businesses which contribute to quality of life in neighborhoods and particularly in Downtown. Several mentioned workforce development activities such as vocational education and job training. Participants identified national-brand, higher-end shopping from adjacent localities which they would like to see in the City. Also identified were arts and cultural activities in nearby jurisdictions that participants travel to for entertainment they felt was lacking in Lynchburg. Participants also identified additional housing as key to growth.

Key Themes:

► Continue to build on core industry clusters in Health Care and Education. Recognize the asset that educational institutions are in the City and use to that attract businesses and retain students in the local workforce. Improve public education and technical training. Continue to spread LYH brand.

► Arts help to define Downtown Lynchburg. Continue public art projects around the City, but particularly downtown and along the riverfront.

► Participants liked the mix of businesses found within the City, but would like more higher end retail and local shopping and dining districts. Use Lynchburg's lower cost of living, excellent education, and advanced manufacturing as an incentive to located here.

► Key appeals are: strategic location with proximity to mountains, James River. Downtown. City has some excellent museums and historical attractions.

► Grow housing to support jobs.

Responses:

1. Attracting new business or major subsidiaries of existing businesses. Creating implementing and proactively marketing Lynchburg that highlights all of our talents and gifts (more help for Marjette). Keeping Liberty and other colleges here. Supporting and providing infrastructure. Maintaining clear communication with the key industry leaders in our city so they stay here. Grow jobs and housing to support the jobs. Maintaining and improving public education. Continue Expansion of Centra odd medical facilities. Continue partnership developer or Centra with Liberty University, Lynchburg in addressing medical needs. Continued partnership with DLA for downtown development. Continued improvement of public education. Increased LYH brand recognition. Need housing to support jobs.
2. Integral in every way, we have wonderful arts and culture in Lynchburg. Center media around the types of people who live here and how they can be involved. Retirement/college pages in newspaper. Academy and Partnership with City. Art walk expansion – beautification and public spaces with art. Bluff Walk.
3. We appear to have a balance of education, health, manufacturing, services, finance/investment firms. Whole Foods Store/grocery. Attract the customer who wants clean eating. 24/7 business support. Trader Joes. Data center. Look to NOVA to find what government and IT businesses we can get here. More retail, small boutique, not big box. Small restaurants everywhere. Boutique retail.
4. So many things – fun recreational education etc. Academy of Fine Arts, James River, Blue Ridge Mountains, Amazement Square, Many Historical places of interest. Visitors like the Airbnb options in Lynchburg as opposed to hotels. Downtown Lynchburg has lots to do and is marketed very well. Downtown, regional attractions, history attractions.

   Other: Learn to profit from relationship with Liberty.

Question 2 – Redevelopment: Identify and describe the top three areas of the city you think would be good locations to be redeveloped. As you discuss the areas, mark them clearly on the map. Use the space below to describe what you would change.

Summary:

Participants felt it is important to complete the Downtown redevelopment efforts, and to encourage redevelopment of the waterfront through new businesses and housing. Also discussed were aging shopping centers and the need to keep them vibrant since their health affects the surrounding neighborhoods.

Key Themes:
- ► Complete Downtown redevelopment efforts.
- ► Redevelopment along the James River to attract tourists and families.
- ► Work with surrounding jurisdictions to improve water quality of James River for tourism and redevelopment.
- ► Older shopping centers around the City.

Additional Comments:

James River – Continue improvement of water quality - will attract more business and families.

Midtown/Plaza – New, interesting stores and restaurants. Development investment. Beautification.

Downtown – Continue. Still empty storefronts (5th Street), 12 Street thoroughfare, more access to the river, foliage treatment

Old Shopping Plazas – Linkhorne Kroger, Pitman Plaza redevelopment

Question 3 – The Future Economy: How would you like to see Lynchburg's economy look in 20 years? Use the space below to describe your vision, as well as the challenges, and key actions that will be necessary to make that vision a reality.

Summary:

Participants believe that Lynchburg's future economy should be dynamic and forward thinking, supported by reliable infrastructure, an educated workforce, and a growing population. This economy would feature technologically based businesses and would be better integrated into the State and National economies.

Key Themes:

- ► One that is well supported by strong infrastructure and education and which is forward looking.
- ► Leaders need to be forward thinking and provide vision.

Additional Comments:

Need infrastructure, employment base, and education to support and embrace the digital economy.

Need forward thinking leaders in the community who can provide vision, etc.

Boonsboro walkability is a positive - Transportation hub needed in Boonsboro

Include a vision for automated vehicles Transit oriented Development (TOD)

Bus stops should be restricted on major thoroughfares

Road design should incorporate bus pull-off within the right of way
Rt 221 should be designed to handle sprawl-related traffic
Four way stops are confusing
Parking downtown should be free in decks

Escalator in downtown to deal with slopes - Cable car/ski lift/tram to get up slopes downtown
More flights and connectivity with other cities (CLT and NYC)
Light rail on Rt. 24
More regional transportation planning for Rt. 221

Housing & Neighborhoods

Question 1 – The Ideal Neighborhood: Describe what your group believes to be an ideal future neighborhood in the City of Lynchburg. What does it look like? How does it differ from your existing neighborhoods?

Summary:

Participants expressed a desire for vibrant neighborhoods which can form the base of stable communities. A mix of new housing types is desired across the board, but participants noted that new housing needs to be appropriate to the area if it is in-fill. This may range from single family housing in less dense parts of the City to denser, mixed-use communities near universities and downtown. Participants also noted the need to build new neighborhoods that were entirely planned, mixed use areas so as to grow the City and use available land as wisely as possible.

Key Themes:
► Additional housing of all types is needed, but it needs to be built appropriately.
► There is a desire for mixed use areas and density, in appropriate parts of the City such as near universities, Downtown, and in planned areas.
► It is important to build communities, not just neighborhoods.

Comments:
Would have business, schools, or other uses, (mixed use).
Mixed use. Residential – single and multifamily with commercial applications. More amenities. Proximity of housing to areas with jobs. Proximity less than 10 miles from Liberty University. Yes it would have jobs and other businesses.

Less vacant lots, less wide open spaces – look like an actual residential area.
Looks identifiable, serviced, diverse, connected.
Would like a variety of housing types, have a sense of community and allow neighbors to know each other.
Quadplex – Seniors could live in bottom and younger folks could live on top.

Question 2 – Housing Types: Identify areas that you believe need the following housing types. Mark on the map and describe here:

Summary:

Participants indicated a need for all types of housing, but in ways that are appropriate to the area. Denser parts of the City and entirely new neighborhoods should incorporate mixed use concepts to build communities. Affordability is a major issue due to the lack of housing supply to meet demand.

Key Themes:
► More housing of all types is desired.
► Denser areas should incorporate a mix of uses.
► Various types in different areas – See Comments.
► Find ways to increase affordability.

Comments:
Single Family Houses – SM, Smaller lot requirements, Boonsboro, Crane Hill, Langhorne, 501 Corridor Townhomes and Duplexes – Yes. Quadplexes. Forest Brook and Old Forest Road to Lakeside.

Apartments, Condos, or other Multi-Family – Boonsboro Road. Commercial and Multi-Family. Forest Brooke and Old Forest Road to Lakeside. 5 mile radius of Liberty. James River adjacent such as old mills, warehouses. Should be mixed use.

Other – Affordability is an issue that can be improved through density.

Question 3 – Neighborhood Issues: What do you believe are the top three issues facing neighborhoods in the City of Lynchburg today? Discuss the issues and list any steps you believe the City should take to address them. Circle any areas you discuss on the provided map.

Summary:

Generally, participants felt that Lynchburg's neighborhoods need to offer benefits to living in the City versus lower cost areas outside of it. The real or perceived quality of the City's public schools was identified as a critical determinant of this. Participants also identified a lack of housing units as an issue, along with a need for mixed use areas.

Key Themes:
- More housing is needed.
- Residents need a reason to live in the City: quality of life, education, services, etc. Find ways to improve these.
- Public education, real or perceived, is an issue with the desirability of neighborhoods in the City.
- Need for mixed use places, either purpose build districts or new businesses in existing neighborhoods.
- Use density to increase affordability.

Comments:
Single Family
Smaller lot requirements – single family. Will help with affordability.
Change zoning requirements – R1
Have to compete with counties as it pertains to developments and housing (taxes are higher in the city so there needs to be a reason to draw folks in)
Public schools are not perceived to be as good as in the counties (Campbel and Bedford)
Mix of housing types – allow townhomes and quadplexes in more zones. Why do townhome developments require 2 acres?
Shops not accessible from homes on foot – Allow corner stores to be built in neighborhoods. Build up edges of neighborhoods.
Parking requirements prevent neighborhood businesses from being built – Third places are missing. Reduce setbacks to improve. Some places feel like you're walking across a vast plain.
Other:
Any effort to draw people/development to the River would be great for city/growth in development.
City standards being reduced as it pertains to street/road construction requirements would encourage developers.

Natural Resources

Question 1 – Access to Natural Areas: What are the top three ways that access to natural areas within the City can be improved? Note these issues on the map and where you believe any improvements or accesses should be located.

Summary:

Participants indicated a need to improve access to the James River, noting obstacles such as the railroad, and expressed desire for greater water-based recreational opportunities. Also noted was the desire for walkability through sidewalks and trails, and in particular non-motorized connections between neighborhoods, parks, and recreational areas. Participants also expressed a desire for more neighborhood parks.

> **Key Themes:**
> The James River is the most defining natural area in the City. It has major access obstacles due to the railroad that need to be solved.
> There is potential for additional recreation along the river such as swimming and boating access, and event spaces.
> Additional parks are needed within or closer to neighborhoods.
> Desire for increased greenspace and trees, and a recreational trail/sidewalk network connecting neighborhoods with greenspaces through corridors such as streams.

> **Comments:**
> New access to James River – Complement the Amherst River's Edge Park with a nice down river access areas similar with restrooms. The Foundry Park concept in the downtown plan.
> Green space – Increase neighborhood accessibility to greenspace/corridor/river
> Riverfront – Develop the riverfront (not just downtown area) as an asset. Face the river, not the road.
> Riverside Park – Honor the Riverside Park Pool.
> James River – Provide swimming/boating access
> Parks – More smaller parks. More access points/small parking areas.
> Trees – Identify trees/have tree awards.
> River (Access and protection) – Smart development to control sediment. Get other partners involved. Reduce development on steep slopes. Access might be easier by partner locality like Amherst.
> Mountains – Preserve mountain Viewsheds and green space.
> Parks – Trails, even expanding sidewalks. Connect existing trails.
> Incentivize the use of green infrastructure to protect waterways and tributaries.
> Shouldn't have to drive to walk in a park.
> Canoe landing is not very friendly to use.
> Crew house for Liberty students.

Question 2 – Natural Resources: Where are areas of greenspace or natural resources that need to be protected?

Summary:

Participants singled out the James River and its viewsheds from Downtown for protection. Also suggested was the preservation of existing parks and trails, as well as riparian areas along the James and along creeks and streambanks.

> **Key Themes:**

The James River and tributaries need to be protected.
Existing greenspaces such as parks, trail networks, and riparian areas should be protected.
Work with adjacent localities to protect views across the James River and of nearby mountains.

Comments:

Link the trail system that is in the plans throughout the City. Charlottesville has a City perimeter trail and it would be great for Lynchburg to complete it sooner.
Please consider parks in open spaces wherever possible. Timberlake area needs more parks.
Blackwater Creek
James River
All the Parks
Miller Park
Creeks eroding on private property
Primary river and water viewsheds
Mountain viewsheds – Partner with neighboring localities to preserve resources
Use infill development – reduce development on steep slopes
Protect parks – Resource management in parks
Planting trees along corridors to reduce heat and sedimentation.

Question 3 – Water Resources: How can the City of Lynchburg protect and improve its water resources like the James River, creeks, and streambanks? Mark any locations on the provided map.

Summary:

Participants indicated that she City should identify and correct areas of bank erosion and reduce sedimentation into waterways. Other strategies such as planting additional trees to reduce heat island effects, and incentives to businesses to reduce their amounts of impervious surface were also mentioned.

Key Themes:

Find and correct areas of bank erosion with natural remedies such as streambank stabilization.
Reduce sedimentation.
Reduce impervious surfaces through code incentives and best practices.
Use additional trees to reduce runoff and heat island effects.

Comments:

Blackwater Creek – Reinforce creek walls where steep and eroding that would have a long-term impact.
All city parks – Increase utilization
All parks, natural resources – Let it be natural don't try to control
All awareness – Embed more environment focused field trips in public school curriculum
Waste is food – Need recycling
How to tap natural resources for economic contribution
Creeks – More streambank restoration projects.
Blackwater Creek, Hollins Mill – Smelly
Reduce impervious surfaces
Blackwater Creek – Need to reduce sediment. Continue efforts.
James River – Streambank stabilization along Percival's Island
Plan Trees – Use of green infrastructure to capture stormwater and sediment.
Public recycling opportunities.

Transstportation

Question 1 – Roads and Safety: Using the map, circle with a blue pen road locations that you believe need improvement. Circle with a red pen areas that you believe have safety concerns. If these areas are the same, circle with both colors. Use the space below to note each location and explain the issues you think are important.

Summary:

Participants identified a selection of sites where they felt spot improvements were needed for traffic safety. These are indicated in the comments below. Improving walkability and pedestrian safety throughout the City was a common theme, as was improving the short on-ramps to the expressway.

Key Themes:
Improved walkability and safety for pedestrians is desired throughout the City.
Short on-ramps to highways are a concern to residents.
Spot improvements – See comments.

Comments:
Graves Mill Nationwide McConnile Intersection – A roundabout is necessary
Lakeside/501 – Interchange possible
501/Boonsboro/Old Forest – Signal should be communicating with Lakeside/Old Forest signal. Extra lanes needed
Candlers Mountain Out to Campbell Co. – Road is very narrow considering the grades especially in inclement weather or in emergencies. Increase width of shoulders for vehicle safety
Jug Handle – The jug handle movement is confusing with the 29 interchange. Expressway acceleration lanes too short and weaving on decel are dangerous.
Intersection of 12 and Fort. High traffic area at 7/11 with no crosswalk and speed is very high.
On ramps on Lynchburg Parkway
Identifying right lane or left lane turn only on Boonesboro
Rivermont – Very difficult to cross, traffic in many directions, a roundabout would help
Hollins Mill – Needs sidewalks entire length; especially towards bakery from trail.
Royal Oak/Boonsboro Road – Difficult to make left turns in/out. Can't see over vertical rise of road.
Rivermont Avenue – Needs a plan for walkability. It's very difficult to cross, especially with kids.
Timberlake – Super difficult to cross, no sidewalk.
Nationwide Drive – 4way stop should be a roundabout.

Question 2 – Connectivity and Alternative Transportation: Using the map, draw routes (a line) where you would like to see a connection be made, or a new route created. (Use green for greenways, black for sidewalk, and blue for bike lanes.)

Summary:

Participants discussed the need for the City to look at non-motorized transportation (biking and walking) in an overall way, with attention to how users get from place to place through the transportation network. They also cited the need to fill gaps in the sidewalk network, as well as connectivity between bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails. Participants also discussed the need to better maintain older sections of sidewalk.

Key Themes:
Gaps in the sidewalk network need to be filled in.

Sidewalk maintenance can be an issue in some areas.

Lynchburg needs a holistic look at biking and bike lanes, and how these interact with multi-use trails.

Improvements to bus stops are needed, such as shelters and benches.

Comments:

We have done a pretty good job of building sidewalks but maintaining them, not so much. Undulating joints have caused sever trip hazards. Consider moving future street trees to the back of sidewalks. It helps the tree by not confining the roots between curb and sidewalk. It also improves the sidewalk and curb maintenance.

Thoughtful assessment of areas where folks frequently are utilizing roads for biking – and having bike lanes added would be great.

Walkin cross could be useful at Trents Ferry and Boonsboro Road.

Sidewalks need better design w/street trees between sidewalk and street

Curb radii are too big in new neighborhoods, makes it difficult to cross street and cars go around corners too quickly

Bus system needs to be contracted to provide faster headways. Use alternative transportation methods for the last mile.

Improve bus stops to make hospitable, provide shelters with walls on 3 sides and benches.

Bike lanes on 8 from Park to DT.

Partial bike lanes need to be connected to make a network.

C. Focus Groups Summary

Focus Groups Summary

March 12-13, 2024
Virtual

Focus Groups

Mobility & Transportation

Parks & Recreation and Cultural & Historical Assets

Community Facilities and Services

Housing and Neighborhoods

Land Use & Development

Environmental Stewardship & Natural Resources

Economic Development

Education and Workforce Development

Overview

Focus groups were convened as part of the public input process for the Lynchburg Together Comprehensive Plan. There were eight groups in total, taking place on March 12th and 13th, 2024 and April 11th and 12th, 2024. Each group was composed of stakeholders chosen by staff for their knowledge of the subject and for their roles within that area of focus in the community. Group size typically ranged from 5 to 12.

Each group was provided with a set of questions to consider prior to the meeting, during which the facilitator went over the questions and facilitated a discussion among group participants of different issues. Below is an overall summary of participant comments, along with a summary of the discussion for each group and key themes that emerged.

Summary

Groups identified several major themes including a lack of housing and housing affordability, multimodal transportation, crime and social issues, the need for mixed use developments. There are many assets the community has to build on, but participants consistently cited a lack of funding to address the City's needs.

Participants in nearly all groups expressed the need for additional housing options and housing supply. Many discussed what is traditionally described as the "missing middle" of housing. This typically includes units that are denser than single-family but which are less dense that large complexes, such as duplexes, triplexes, and small apartment buildings. Several groups also discussed how housing affordability was exacerbating homelessness within the city. They also noted insufficient funding of social services and a lack of coordination among the providers.

Crime was frequently discussed, as were the physical conditions and educational quality of City schools. Participants gave solutions such as additional funding for recreational and job training programs, combatting drug abuse, and better integration of different populations of the City into a whole as solutions.

Participants mostly felt that the City's transportation system, while adequate for current needs (minus some spot improvements) would not be adequate to meet the needs of future expected growth and could constrain the City's success in the future. A similar theme emerged with community facilities such as water and sewer infrastructure and solid waste. Participants also expressed the desire for additional multi-modal options including more sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and bus service.

Future development, participants felt, should generally be denser where it is appropriate to do so, and more mixed use. Given the limited supply of land available to the City dense, mixed-use areas could be a good choice for new development. Developers also cited the need for consistent City political leadership around development, and discussed how public investment in infrastructure, complete streets, and even public art created conditions for them to take advantage of and attracted new investment to the City.

The participants of the focus groups uniformly believed that the City of Lynchburg has many assets that can be built on, but that it will take funding and political will to do so. Lynchburg has many features that attract people to the City such as higher education and healthcare, and these can be leveraged to the City's future success.

Focus Groups

Focus Group 1 – Mobility & Transportation

Summary: The existing transportation system meets the City's current needs, but will need improvements to meet future needs. Recent growth is causing strain in some areas and various locations around the City need spot safety and operational improvements. These mainly consist of intersection improvements, minor additions to capacity, and merge lane lengthening. While recently installed sidewalks are helpful, this network needs to be built out. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are needed throughout the City, as well as and expansion of the trail system.

The city needs to better coordinate transportation improvements and land use. These improvements should support more mixed use development that is not car dependent. There is room and capacity for growth in the city, but the transportation infrastructure needs to be in place. Consider ways to reuse and develop surplus parking lots. Connectivity to other regions such as roads, rail, and bus service also needs to be considered and improved. Bus stops need amenities.

Key Themes:

► Relationship between land use and transportation
► Transportation investment to open new areas for development
► Bicycles and Pedestrians
► Planning for more mixed-use development
► Connections to other regions

Focus Group 2 – Parks & Recreation and Cultural & Historical Assets

Summary: The City of Lynchburg has significant historical and cultural assets to complement its recreational ones. The City's colleges and universities bring a lot of cultural events to the area, as do other institutions. There are opportunities to build on these cultural events for tourism and to celebrate Lynchburg's story.

Safety is perceived to be an issue in the City, but recreation can help provide young people with opportunities for positive activities. There are many non-profits in this space which contribute a lot, but they do not always work together. Funding can be a challenge. Programs that directly impact the quality of life for residents should be prioritized for funding. More leadership from the City is needed.

Key Themes:
► Tell Lynchburg's story through events
► Funding
► Culture as tourism
► Cultural institutions need to find ways to work together
► Activities for young people help to reduce crime and keep them safe, build skills
► Lynchburg needs to be more open and work together, reduce silos

Focus Group 3 – Community Facilities and Services

Summary: The City has a diverse array of facilities, but many are in need of renovation and updating. Looking ahead, significant investments will need to be made in order to maintain community facilities and find new, productive uses for spaces that will be closed. Additionally, there are concerns about solid waste management if the Campbell County facility were to close. Financially disadvantaged areas need better transportation infrastructure.

The City's human services are minimally funded but it is not enough to keep up with needs in the community and to address the community's problems. The city has needs for affordable housing, respite care for foster families. There also needs to be better organization among the nonprofits and community groups, and between them and the City. The closing of the homeless shelter left a gap in needed housing services.

Key Themes:
- ► Aging facilities and a lack of funding to make needed repairs
- ► Need for long-term solution to solid waste
- ► Need for better organization and working relationships among the community non-profits and service providers
- ► Need for leadership from the City in addressing social service and health issues
- ► Affordable housing
- ► Lack of funding

Focus Group 4 – Housing and Neighborhoods

Summary: Housing affordability is decreasing in Lynchburg as rents increase and lower-priced units are converted to higher rent ones. Many households in the City are cost burdened. The housing stock is older and has some issue with repair and maintenance in various neighborhoods. Two significant barriers to affordable housing are funding for it and the community's perception of what affordable housing is. Affordability may be able to be addressed through the zoning ordinance by allowing incremental density. There's not much in the ordinance between single-family zoning and dense multi-family.

New housing is needed throughout the City, of all types, and a balance between both rental and ownership solutions is needed. There is a "Missing Middle" in the housing stock. In the long term, more mixed-income and mixed-use neighborhoods need to be created. A lack of water and sewer capacity is a barrier to new development in some areas. New transportation options such as complete streets, sidewalks, trails and bike lanes can make neighborhoods more accessible and attractive, and induce investment from developers.

Key Themes:
- ► Need for additional housing of all types
- ► Housing affordability
- ► Solutions to homelessness
- ► Consider additional density options in the Zoning Ordinance
- ► Mixed income and mixed-use neighborhoods
- ► Need for multi-modal transportation options.

Focus Group 5 – Land Use and Development

Summary: The demand for housing is driving up prices and driving down affordability. A lot of the recent development is driven by the growth in Education within the City, specifically by Liberty. People want to be close to these things and this represents an opportunity for the City and for developers that could be taken advantage of. However, the political instability and inconsistency in decision making is creating an uncertain environment for development.

Flexibility in regulation could help spur more rehabilitation and reuse projects in the City. Public art, parks, and civic works projects could also serve as a catalyst for developers to invest around. The City should consider changing zoning in certain areas to allow more density or consider a more form-based code to create more mixed-use areas. There is a need for more enforcement of property maintenance.

Key Themes:
- ► Need for additional housing supply and types
- ► Housing affordability
- ► Need for stable civic policy
- ► Education and Healthcare driving development; people want to be near these
- ► Public investment as a catalyst for private investment
- ► Property maintenance

Focus Group 6 – Environmental Stewardship and Natural Resources

Summary: Lynchburg's biggest natural assets are the James River, the Resource Conservation Zones, and the City's tree canopy coverage. How can the City balance the need for growth with the preservation and enhancement of these natural resources? Partnerships with volunteer and non-profit organizations could be one solution. Another might be reevaluating some of the City's ordinances so they are not just in compliance with state law, doing the minimum, but are more forward thinking in a way that solves Lynchburg's problems and creates the kind of City people want to live in.

There is a need for additional trails, and for walking and biking accommodations of all types throughout the City. Streambank erosion is a problem in certain areas that needs to be addressed. The City's heat islands need to be cooled through a coordinated tree planting effort. The City needs to further consider disaster resiliency as well.

Key Themes:
- ► Enhancement and protection of the James River and other waterways.
- ► Resource Conservation Zones
- ► Protect and expand tree canopy
- ► Reduce Urban Heat Island effects through tree planting.
- ► Make sure City ordinances are forward thinking
- ► Partnerships with volunteers and non-profits

Focus Group 7 – Economic Development

Summary: The City of Lynchburg has a diverse and strong economy, driven by healthcare, education, and manufacturing, and augmented by a vibrant urban core. The City offers an excellent quality of life and an affordable cost of living and doing business.

The City is seen as is easy for developers to work with. Lynchburg also enjoys the geographical advantage of being the center of the region. Economic Development staff and partner organizations work well together and are trusted by the business community.

However, to continue this success, investments need to be made for the future, particularly in the public school system. The lack of funding for public education is affecting the overall quality of the educational system and is a disincentive for employees considering relocating to the area. The City should be more proactive about solving these challenges. Housing is needed for workers. Lynchburg also needs more activities that interest young people, such as nightlife. There are not enough available shovel-ready sites and buildings to accommodate demand. A lack of commercial airline options is also an issue for the business community, particularly routes to major cities in the northeast.

Key Themes:
► Better fund and improve the public education system
► Provide additional housing for workers, especially frontline workers and those making just above minimum wage
► Lack of air travel options
► Need for additional hotel rooms
► Need for additional ready-to-go building sites
► Infrastructure for future growth

Focus Group 8 – Education and Workforce Development

Summary: There are some excellent higher educational and vocational opportunities in the City of Lynchburg. These opportunities bring people from all over the world here to take advantage of them. Workforce development partners exist in the community to work with a variety of clients to help them access education and the doors it unlocks. In addition to four-year degrees, there are many opportunities to get certificates, associate degrees, and apprenticeships. Many of these can be acquired at low or no cost and jobs are readily available.

Despite the wealth of higher education opportunities in the City, the public schools are lacking. This is mainly due to a lack of fiscal commitment on the part of the City. More money needs to be spent on the public education system. The purpose of education is not just to help students find a job, but to make better citizens. Additionally, the colleges and universities in the City must do more to reach out to local citizens to help them realize the opportunities they have available to them, and to help them feel that they belong there. The partnership between the business community, the public schools, and higher education institutions must be strengthened.

Key Themes:
► Lack of funding for public education
► Upskilling and reskilling opportunities
► Opportunities for four-year, associates, and other educational opportunities are a huge advantage
► Partnerships between business and education
► Creating "job pipelines"

D. Interactive Activities Summary

Interactive Web Activities Summary

Lynchburg Together Website
Berkley Group worked with City staff to develop the Lynchburg Together project website (www.lynchburgtogether.com), which serves as the Comprehensive Plan update's "home base" for updates regarding drafting, worksessions, community engagement opportunities, and relevant background information. The website has been updated regularly and will continue to be updated regularly throughout the drafting process until Plan adoption.

In addition to the in-person community engagement and community survey, the Lynchburg Together website included two virtual engagement opportunities: the interactive map and "I Love Lynchburg". Both opportunities have been routinely advertised to the community and will remain open through the public review period for the community to continue providing feedback. Submittals received for both opportunities through March 1, 2024 have been included in this document for review and consideration.

I Love Lynchburg
"I Love Lynchburg" is an interactive survey that allows community members to creatively describe what they love about the place they call home. The intent of the activity is to be able to gain an understanding of what the community sees as the City's strengths that can be expanded on through long-range planning and the Comprehensive Plan update.

The below table includes comments submitted to "I Love Lynchburg" through March 1, 2024. The "I Love Lynchburg" portal will remain open throughout the planning process.

#	Commenter	What do you love about Lynchburg?
1	Julian A.	our hills, the river, blackwater creek, our (deeply buried) history, our lovely historic infrastructure, access to the blue ridge, affordability, our great potential to break through into a new time of vibrance and prosperity as a small urban center of community
2	Jeff C.	The size and close proximity to the beach and mountains. The climate and four seasons we enjoy.
3	David P.	Christmas lights downtown!
4	Cassandre T.	Lynchburg has so much potential for growth and community resilience.
5	Todd C.	I love that it's not too big of a city, but we're big enough to have lots of things to do. I love Liberty University's impact on our city. Without them, Lynchburg would never have been able to survive and invest in the downtown and other areas. Being a college town has many more benefits than negatives. I love that we are generally a Christian community. Several churches are here to help those in need. We should not depend on government to care for us and help those in need. The government can be a supplement to help but should not be the main support.
6	Mary M.	Black water Creek/Percival Island trail. My church St Thomas More Catholic Church
7	wmba d	its not as bad as dc or ny YET do not throw money at schools and hope set standards and pay market rates for meeting them with qualified teachers only if exceed then give one time bonus do not just keep giving raises cause some other state pays more let hiring set pay scales and adjusb it up/DOWN based on hiring results DC and NYC spend the most on schools and get worst results just spending does not get good resultscompetition works let students pick their school and take their money with them to pay for that school

Interactive Map

The interactive map allows community members to "drop a pin" at a location of their choice in City limits, and then write a comment describing their feedback or thoughts regarding an element at that particular location. Three types of pins could be dropped: assets, opportunities, or concerns. Members could drop multiple pins if desired, as well as leave a photo to support their comments. All comments were anonymous.

Most pins dropped related to opportunities for Lynchburg; several assets were also identified. There were no comments under the "concerns" category. Most comments addressed the need for transportation improvements, including but not limited to bike lanes, sidewalks, and roundabouts.

The below table and map include submittals through March 1, 2024.

#	Approximate Location	Location Comment
**ASSETS**	
1	Enterprise Drive & Tradewynd Drive	Enterprise Drive is a gateway to Campbell and Bedford County. Enhancing the business development there and on the adjacent areas of 221 and Timberlake are vital.
2	Mayor M.W. Teedy Thornhill, Jr. Statue	LOVE THIS!
3	Riverfront Park	Riverfront Park is an amazing event venue
4	Blackwater Creek Bikeway	Love this trail!
5	Cranehill Drive	I like the bike lane!
6	Enterprise Drive & Tradewynd Drive	Agree with the need to further develop this corridor to encourage development on this side of the city as 460 is a main connector.
7	Lynchburg Kemper Street Station	The improvements in Lynchburg's rail connections are fantastic and more people need to know about them.
8	Old City Cemetery	The old cemetery is a beautiful and historic spot that seems rather well-managed.
**OPPORTUNITIES**	
1	Lakeside Drive Trail	Dead end multi-use path. Extend to 501 intersection so cyclists and pedestrians can travel safely along Lakeside Drive.
2	12th Street & Fort Avenue	Absolutely cursed intersection for pedestrians and cyclists. Fort Avenue has cycling lanes on both ends, but this is not a friendly cycling intersection.
3	Tate Springs Road & Atherholt Road	Two lanes that become one should be marked for left hand turn into hospital or right/straight at Atherholt Rd. I've seen many close calls
4	Overbrook Road	Massive runoff and erosion during rain storms threaten the health of the culvert
5	Memorial Avenue & Langhorne Road	The Midtown Connector was a mistake. After the Midtown Plan was ratified, the city did almost nothing that it suggested and did the one thing that it begged them not to do, which was to build this cursed, high-speed road. It's so loud here that there might as well be an interstate highway slicing through.
6	Memorial Avenue & Wadsworth Street	I believe this is the walkable center of Midtown just like 12th and Main is the center of Downtown. With some street facing businesses, buried utilities, and traffic calming, it could grow in vitality.
7	Odd Fellows Road, Murray Place, and Albert Lankford Drive	Mixed use path could be extended across the railroad to connect with Fort/Memorial Ave
8	Campbell Avenue	This road is currently dangerous for bikes. Reduce to one lane each direction and add a middle turn lane and bike lanes to increase safety for bicyclists.

#	Approximate Location	Location Comment
9	Rivermont Avenue	Bike lane along Rivermont is in car door zone, too dangerous.
10	Rivermont Avenue & VES Road	Westbound bike lane ends suddenly.
11	Kemper Station Trail	Can this trail be opened?
12	7th Street & Jefferson Street	Add ramp here to get up on to bike path from street.
13	8th Street & Jefferson Street	Add ramp here to get up on to bike path from street.
14	Wards Road & Atlanta Avenue	Pedestrian Sidewalks on both sides of Wards Rd
15	Langhorne Bridge Extension near Ivy Creek	Connect Trail System to Peaks View Park Trail
16	Lakeside Drive, Monticello Avenue, and Oakley Avenue	Roundabout to increase visibility and safety of intersection
17	Candlers Mountain Road & Liberty Mountain Drive	Extend Multipurpose Path Down Candlers Mountain and Mayflower
18	Perrymont Avenue & Fort Avenue	Road Diet into 3 lanes with Bike lanes and center turn lane
19	Kemper Station Trail near Park Avenue	Extend Trail into Multi-Purpose path down Kemper/Cambell Ave
20	Clemmons Lake Trail/Ivy Creek Park	Connect Trail to Peaks View Park through Ivy Creek
21	Peaks View Park	Extend Trail to Connect to Linkhorne Dr extension
22	Hollins Mill Road	Add Bike lanes to Hollins Mill Rd
23	Rivermont Avenue & VES Road	It is very difficult to cross
24	Rivermont Avenue & VES Road	Getting across Rivermont from here is very difficult. A roundabout at VES/Rivermont would help simplify crossings for pedestrians
25	Rivermont Avenue & Boston Avenue	Plant more trees along commercial area
26	Blackwater Creek Bikeway	add solar powered lights to trail to extend times of use
27	Rivermont Avenue & Charlotte Street	vehicles go too fast around the corner here
28	Hollins Mill Road	Needs sidewalk/trail
29	Clopton Court & Preserve Drive	new residential intersections like this one are way too big, unnecessarily enormous curb radii
30	Creekside Trail	Don't see any good reason why this stretch of trail is marked closed. Mark it open. Basic maintenance would be nice but not necessary to call it open.
31	Blackwater Creek Bikeway	Trails should be open after dark so we can legally and safely get from place to place
32	James River	Water Resources - Pedlar Reservoir & James River
33	8th Street & Church Street	City Hall / LCS
34	8th Street & Church Street	City Hall
35	Graves Mill Road, Nationwide Drive, and McConville Road	The intersection most in need to be a roundabout in the City.
36	Wards Crossing Shopping Center (Wards Road)	Would love to have a roundabout here....May need to be a public/private partnership
37	U.S. Route 501 & Wiggington Road	A new SB on ramp would help to avoid confusing interchange.

#	Approximate Location	Location Comment
38	Grace Street, Washington Street, & Harrison Street	Dangerous blind intersection with lots of speeding vehicles down Grace: consider roundabout?
39	Harrison Street	Very rough and noisy road: please repave
40	Main Street & Pearl Street	Would like to see the City work with the property owner Lamar Advertising on a "Welcome to Downtown" digital sign
41	Old Forest Road & Lakeside Drive	horrible traffic and accidents
42	Community Market (Church Street)	The Community Market needs upgrades and better management. It could be a real attraction but does not look or feel like it. It's an underperforming asset that could be much better. Compare to other markets.
43	Garnet Street & Concord Turnpike	Large open space close to downtown - opportunity for sport fields, etc.
44	Court Street & 9th Street	When the police department moves to the new station, there needs to be a plan for re-utilizing these buildings.
45	The Plaza (Wadsworth Street)	The Plaza is a huge amount of real estate in a very central location. It's mostly dead space these days. This would be a prime location for a very extensive redevelopment - perhaps a large new walkable community (mixed use) with good public transportation connections. Lots of opportunity here.
46	Fishing Creek near Hudson Street	Build a green belt surrounding downtown. Use the Blackwater Creek trail and expand around Fishing Creek. This would be a big new asset to add to Lynchburg, and great for cycling or foot-based recreation.
47	Cabell Street & Stonewall Street	This building burned. Please don't let it fall into ruin.
48	5th Street & Madison Street	What is happening on 5th Street? Alot of money was put into revitalizing this, and recently businesses have been folding. More needs to be done to ensure this isn't a failed project.
49	5th Street & Harrison Street	As far as I can tell, one person owns both sides of this entire block and is doing nothing with that property, and it's dragging the rest down.
50	Amherst County	All of downtown looks out onto these heights. Can Lynchburg buy them to ensure an attractive viewshed?
51	Kemper Street & 12th Street	Since this space is apparently not going to be used for the new police station, do something else with it. Don't let it just sit as an overgrown lot.
52	Clay Street Reservoir (Clay Street)	The Clay St. reservoir is a great piece of history. It's also dead space. I saw something once suggesting the city build a small park within the reservoir stones. That seems like a good idea.
53	14th Street & Grace Street	Sidewalk would be nice for all the students and a pretty heavy pedestrian area, cars speed a lot
54	Washington Street & Madison Street	Sidewalk Repairs
55	Indian Hill Road	Indian Hill could be made safer for walkers and bicyclists with some kind of multiuse path
56	Lakeside Avenue & Whitehall Road	Want to get to this area safely by bike from the north. Parks Rec Master plan to connect trails would do this. Need to allow being on trails after dark for use in transportation.
57	Fort Avenue & Lancaster Street	Consider protected cycle paths along Fort instead of just painted bicycle lanes.

#	Approximate Location	Location Comment
58	Blackwater Creek	Sign says don't go in Creek because of water quality. Fix the water quality. And until fixed, provide a map of which creeks are safe and which are not, and into like do we only need to avoid after rain, or always?
59	Lynchburg General Hospital	Common advice is to drive over an hour in emergency to avoid this emergency room. Can we do anything to improve emergency care in Lynchburg?
60	14th Street & Grace Street	Sidewalk Install/ Repair

Map of comments on following page

INTERACTIVE MAP RESULTS
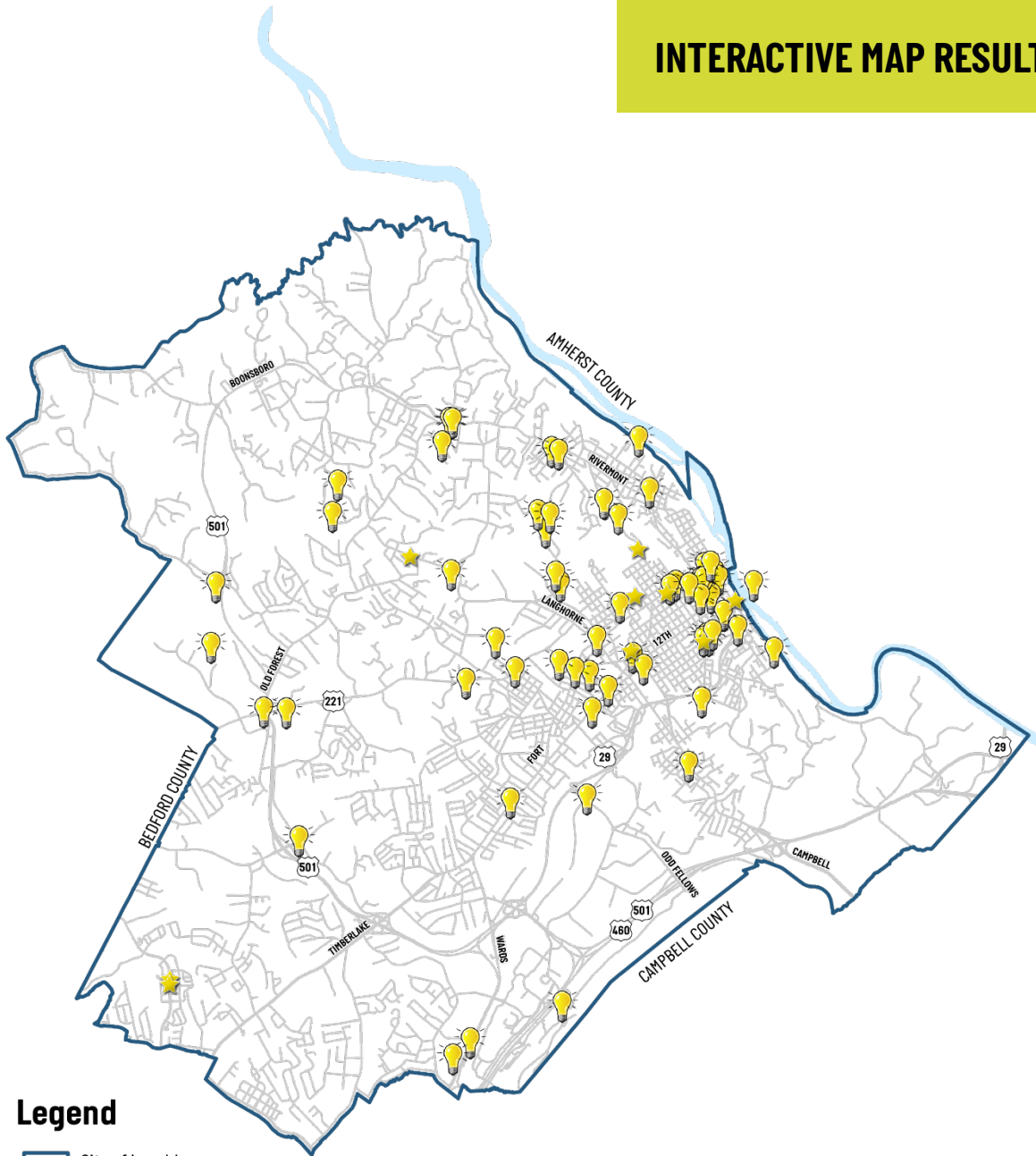
Legend

☐ City of Lynchburg

☐ James River

⭐ Assets

💡 Opportunities

— Streets
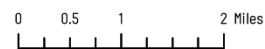
E. Full Survey Results

NOTE: Any personal identifying information such as full names, email addresses, phone numbers, or addresses has been redacted from this report.

Q1 What do you value most about Lynchburg? (Choose up to three):

Answered: 257   Skipped: 0
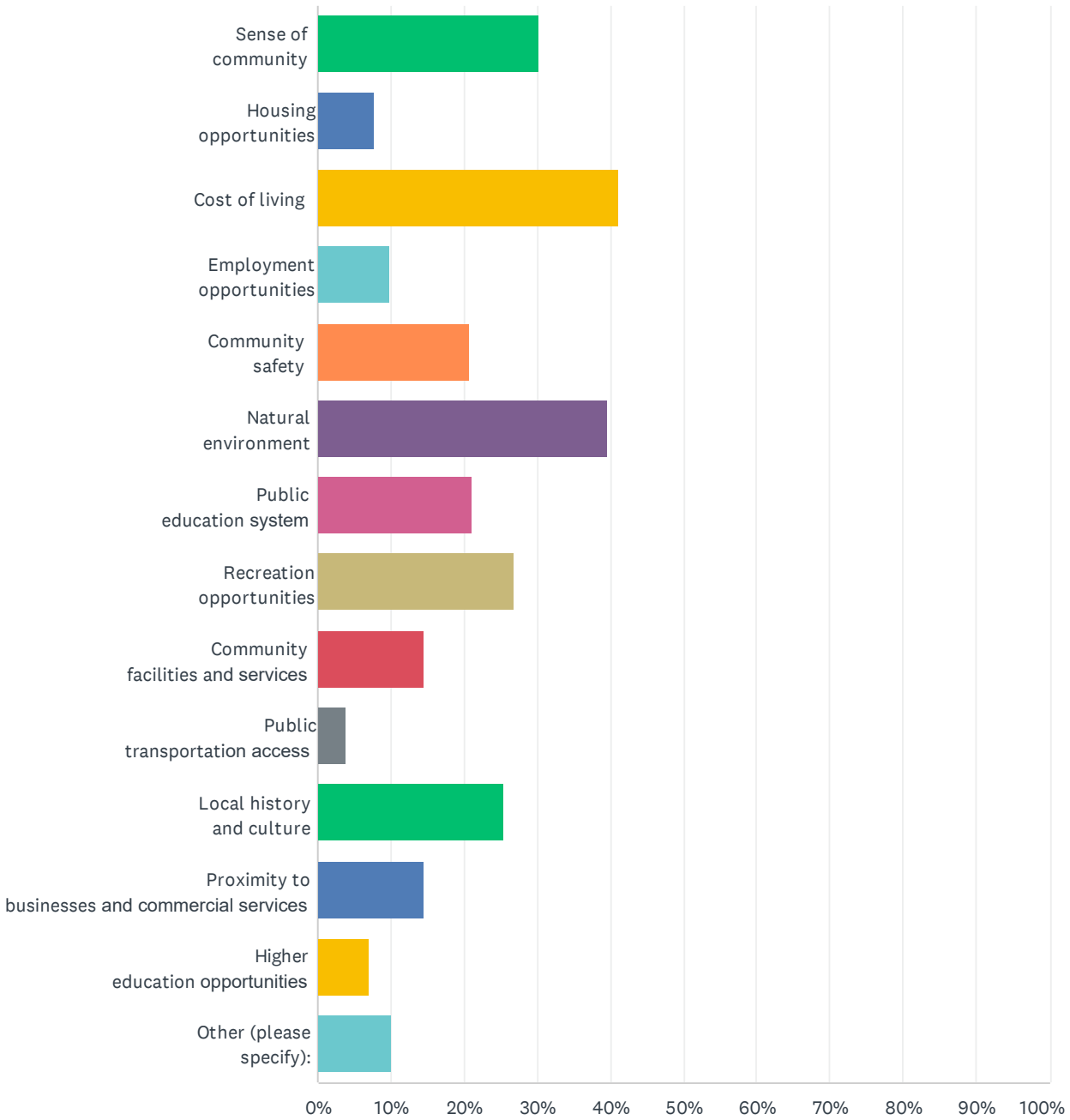
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sense of community	30.35%	78
Housing opportunities	7.78%	20
Cost of living	41.25%	106
Employment opportunities	9.73%	25
Community safety	20.62%	53
Natural environment	39.69%	102
Public education system	21.01%	54
Recreation opportunities	26.85%	69
Community facilities and services	14.40%	37
Public transportation access	3.89%	10
Local history and culture	25.29%	65
Proximity to businesses and commercial services	14.40%	37
Higher education opportunities	7.00%	18
Other:	10.12%	26
Total Respondents: 257		

Q2 What concerns you the most about Lynchburg's future? (Choose up to three):

Answered: 255   Skipped: 2
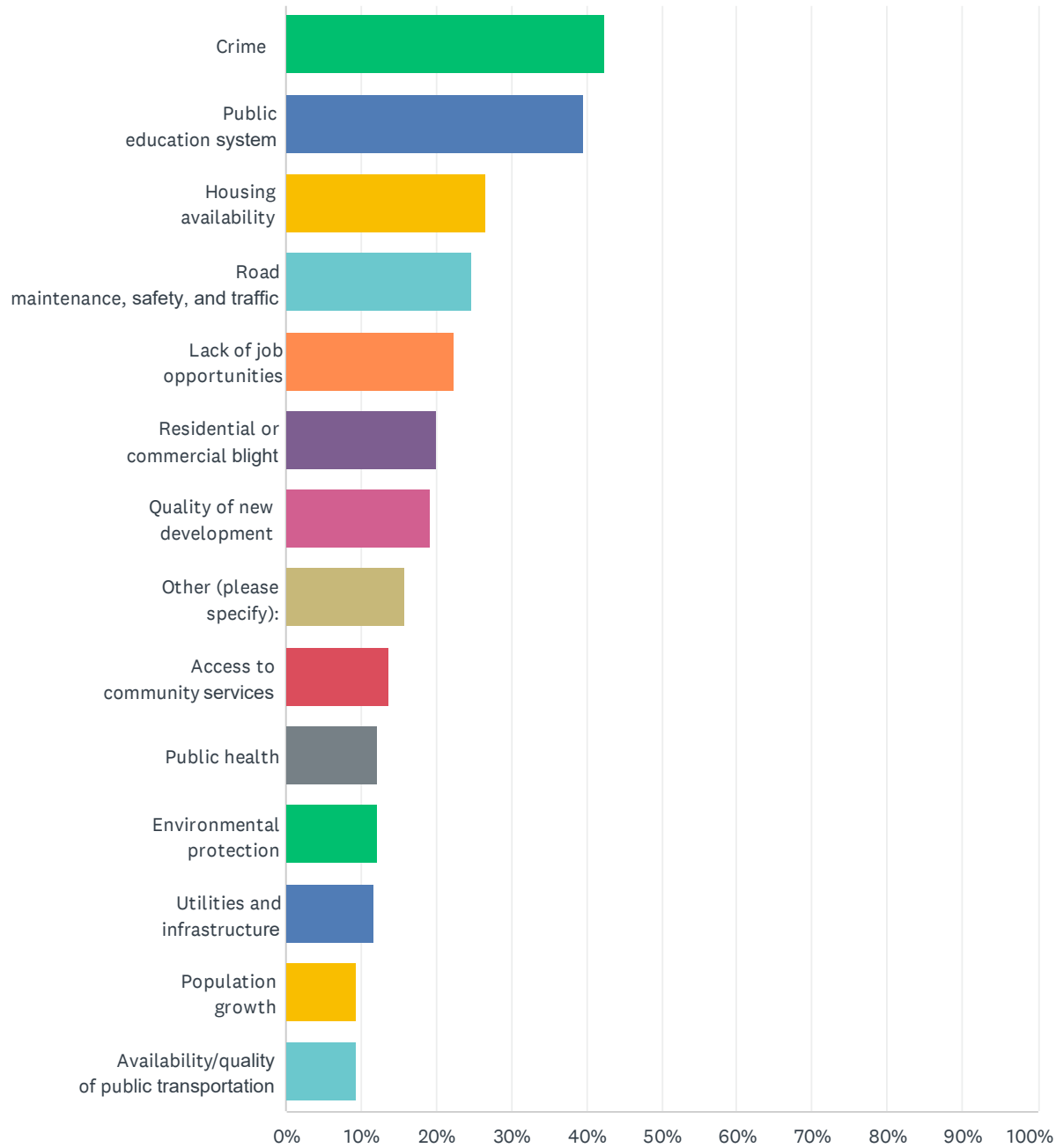
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Crime	42.35%	108
Public education system	39.61%	101
Housing availability	26.67%	68
Road maintenance, safety, and traffic	24.71%	63
Lack of job opportunities	22.35%	57
Residential or commercial blight	20.00%	51
Quality of new development	19.22%	49
Other:	15.69%	40
Access to community services (e.g., social services, libraries, community centers)	13.73%	35
Public health	12.16%	31
Environmental protection	12.16%	31
Utilities and infrastructure (e.g., water, wastewater)	11.76%	30
Population growth	9.41%	24
Availability/quality of public transportation	9.41%	24
Total Respondents: 255		

Q3 What should Lynchburg prioritize as it plans for the future? (Choose up to three):

Answered: 250   Skipped: 7
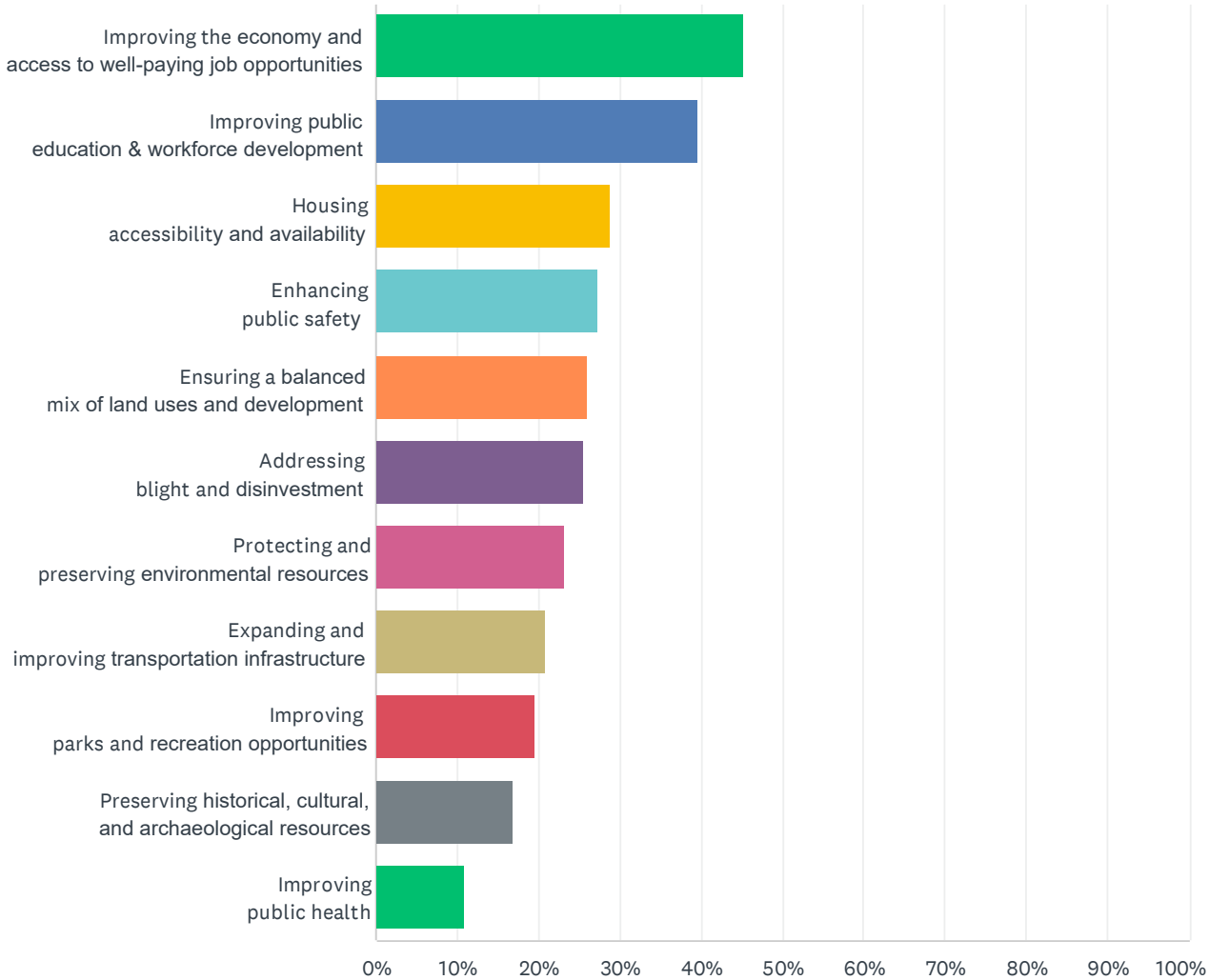
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improving the economy and access to well-paying job opportunities	45.20%	113
Improving public education and workforce development	39.60%	99
Housing accessibility and availability	28.80%	72
Enhancing public safety (i.e., police, fire, rescue, emergency services)	27.20%	68
Ensuring a balanced mix of land uses and development	26.00%	65
Addressing blight and disinvestment	25.60%	64
Protecting and preserving environmental resources	23.20%	58
Expanding and improving transportation infrastructure	20.80%	52
Improving parks and recreation opportunities	19.60%	49
Preserving historical, cultural, and archeological resources	16.80%	42
Improving public health	10.80%	27
Total Respondents: 250		

Q4 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to land use and development? (Check one for each):

Answered: 247   Skipped: 10
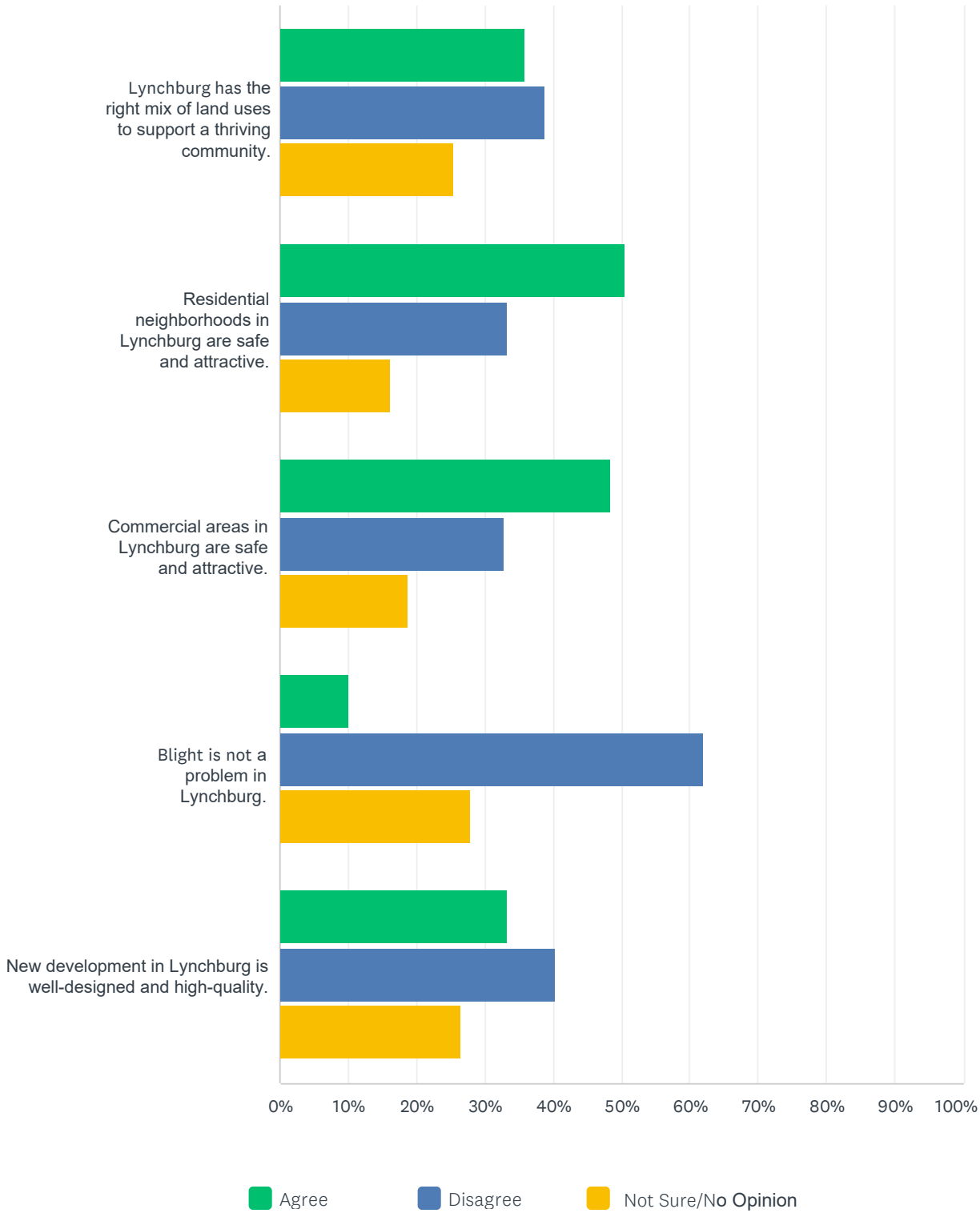
Legend: Agree (green), Disagree (blue), Not Sure/No Opinion (yellow)

Lynchburg Together Community Survey

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
Lynchburg has the right mix of land uses to support a thriving community.	35.92% 88	38.78% 95	25.31% 62	245
Residential neighborhoods in Lynchburg are safe and attractive.	50.61% 125	33.20% 82	16.19% 40	247
Commercial areas in Lynchburg are safe and attractive.	48.37% 119	32.93% 81	18.70% 46	246
Blight is not a problem in Lynchburg.	10.12% 25	61.94% 153	27.94% 69	247
New development in Lynchburg is well-designed and high-quality.	33.33% 82	40.24% 99	26.42% 65	246

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
Lynchburg has the right mix of land uses to support a thriving community.	35.92%	38.78%	25.31%	

Q5 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to housing? (Check one for each):

Answered: 244   Skipped: 13

Lynchburg Together Community Survey

Lynchburg offers sufficient housing that meets the needs of residents of all incomes.

Homelessness is not a problem in Lynchburg.

There is sufficient housing availability in Lynchburg.

I pay more than 30% of my annual household income on my housing costs.

My housing is safe and free of health hazards.

I live in a type of housing that suits my needs.

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Not Sure/No Opinion
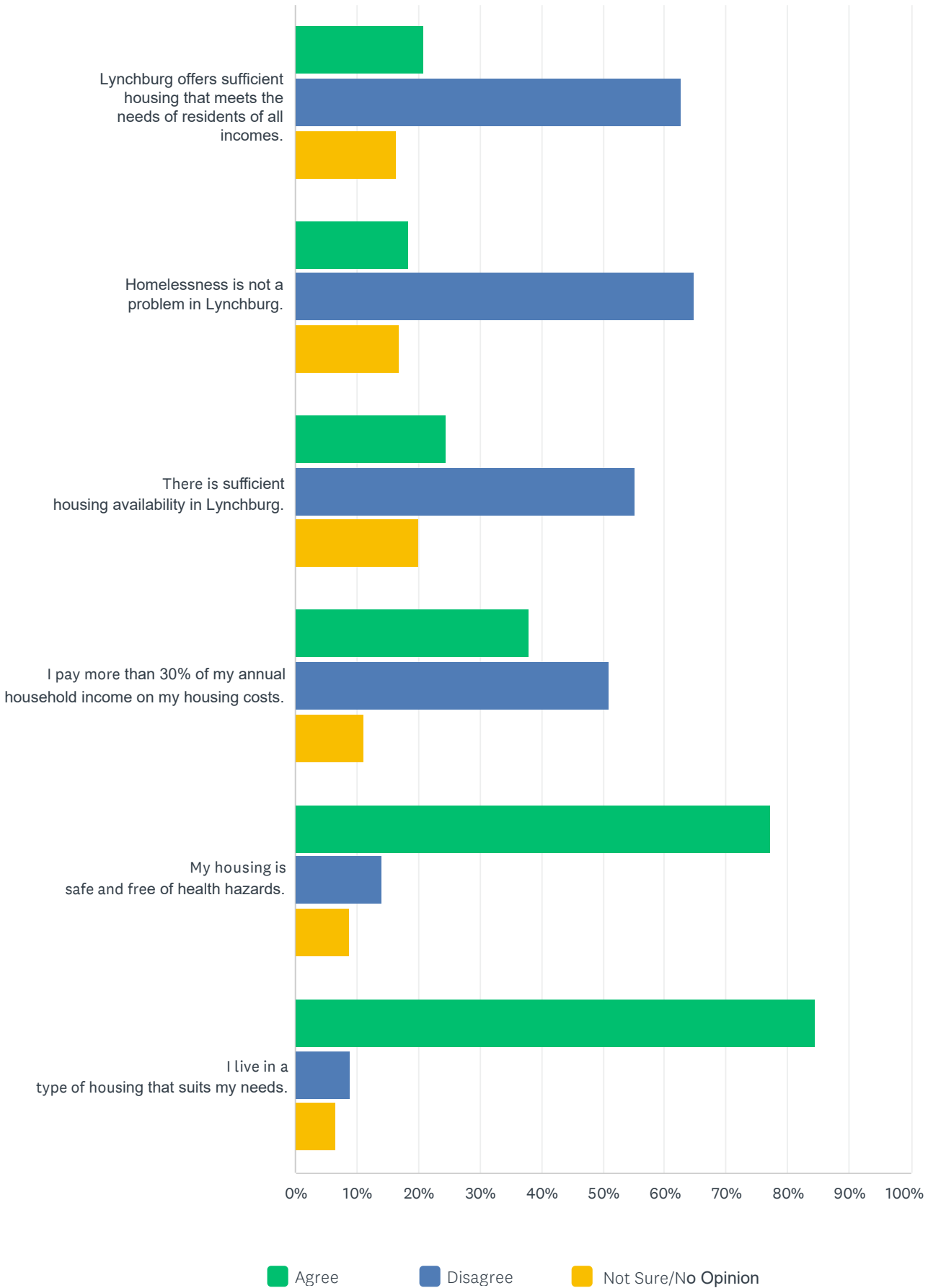
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
Lynchburg offers sufficient housing that meets the needs of residents of all incomes.	20.90% 51	62.70% 153	16.39% 40	244
Homelessness is not a problem in Lynchburg.	18.44% 45	64.75% 158	16.80% 41	244
There is sufficient housing availability in Lynchburg.	24.59% 60	55.33% 135	20.08% 49	244
I pay more than 30% of my annual household income on my housing costs.	37.86% 92	51.03% 124	11.11% 27	243
My housing is safe and free of health hazards.	77.27% 187	14.05% 34	8.68% 21	242
I live in a type of housing that suits my needs.	84.43% 206	9.02% 22	6.56% 16	244

Q6 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to education, the economy, and workforce development? (Check one for each):

Answered: 243   Skipped: 14
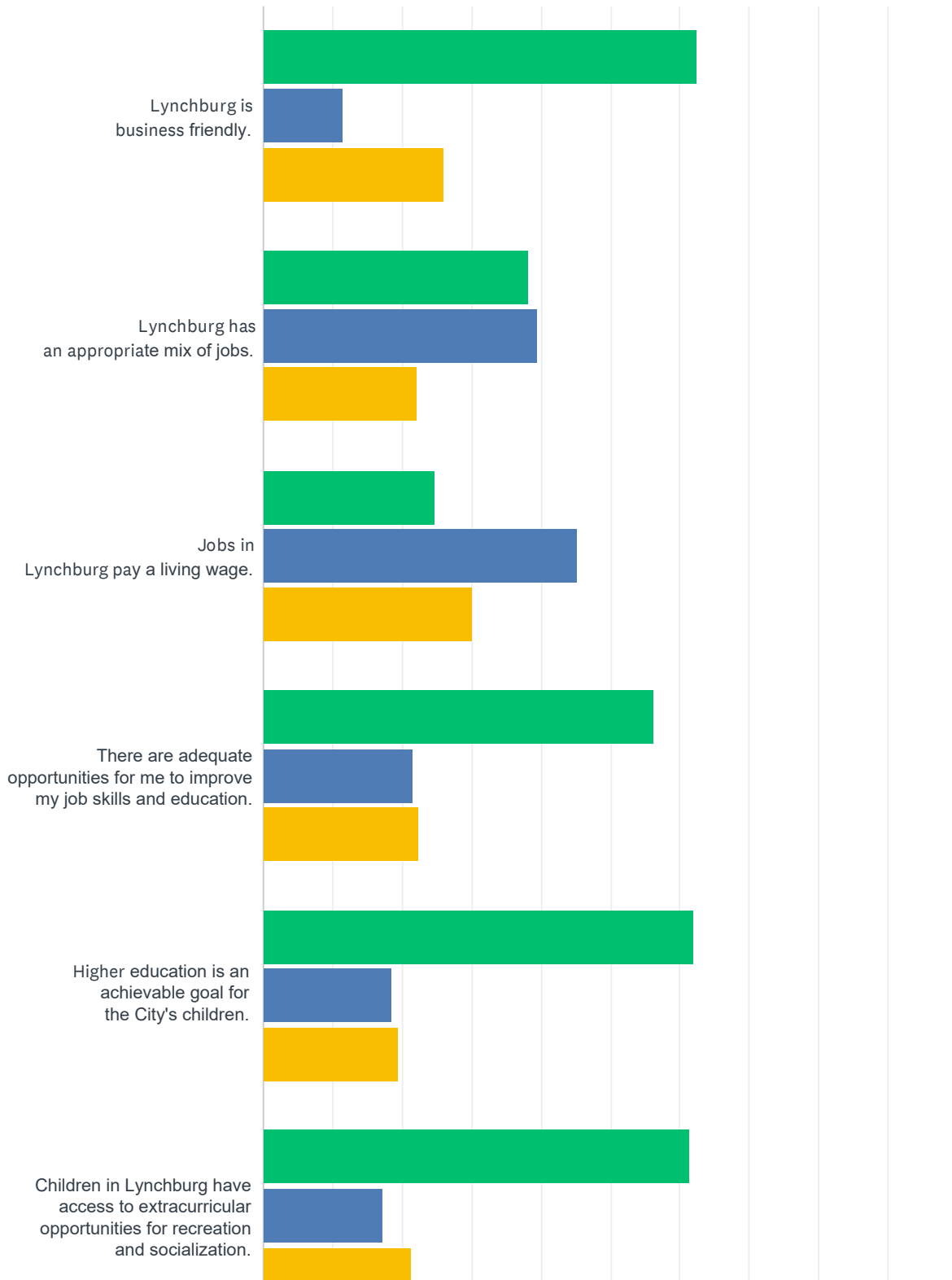
Lynchburg is business friendly.

Lynchburg has an appropriate mix of jobs.

Jobs in Lynchburg pay a living wage.

There are adequate opportunities for me to improve my job skills and education.

Higher education is an achievable goal for the City's children.

Children in Lynchburg have access to extracurricular opportunities for recreation and socialization.

Lynchburg Together Community Survey
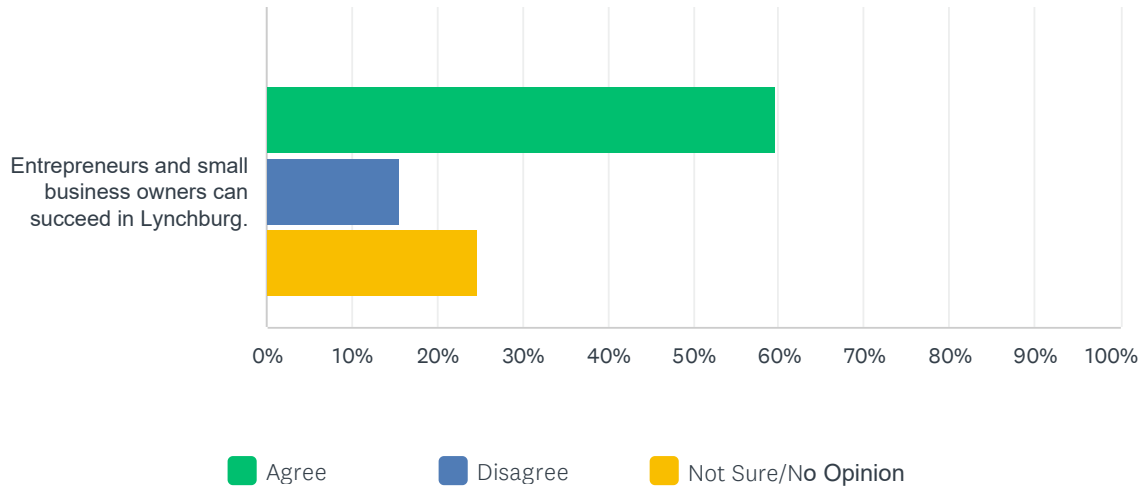
	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
Lynchburg is business friendly.	62.55% 152	11.52% 28	25.93% 63	243
Lynchburg has an appropriate mix of jobs.	38.27% 93	39.51% 96	22.22% 54	243
Jobs in Lynchburg pay a living wage.	24.69% 60	45.27% 110	30.04% 73	243
There are adequate opportunities for me to improve my job skills and education.	56.20% 136	21.49% 52	22.31% 54	242
Higher education is an achievable goal for the City's children.	62.14% 151	18.52% 45	19.34% 47	243
Children in Lynchburg have access to extracurricular opportunities for recreation and socialization.	61.32% 149	17.28% 42	21.40% 52	243
Entrepreneurs and small business owners can succeed in Lynchburg.	59.67% 145	15.64% 38	24.69% 60	243

Q7 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to community facilities, services, and infrastructure? (Check one for each):

Answered: 240   Skipped: 17
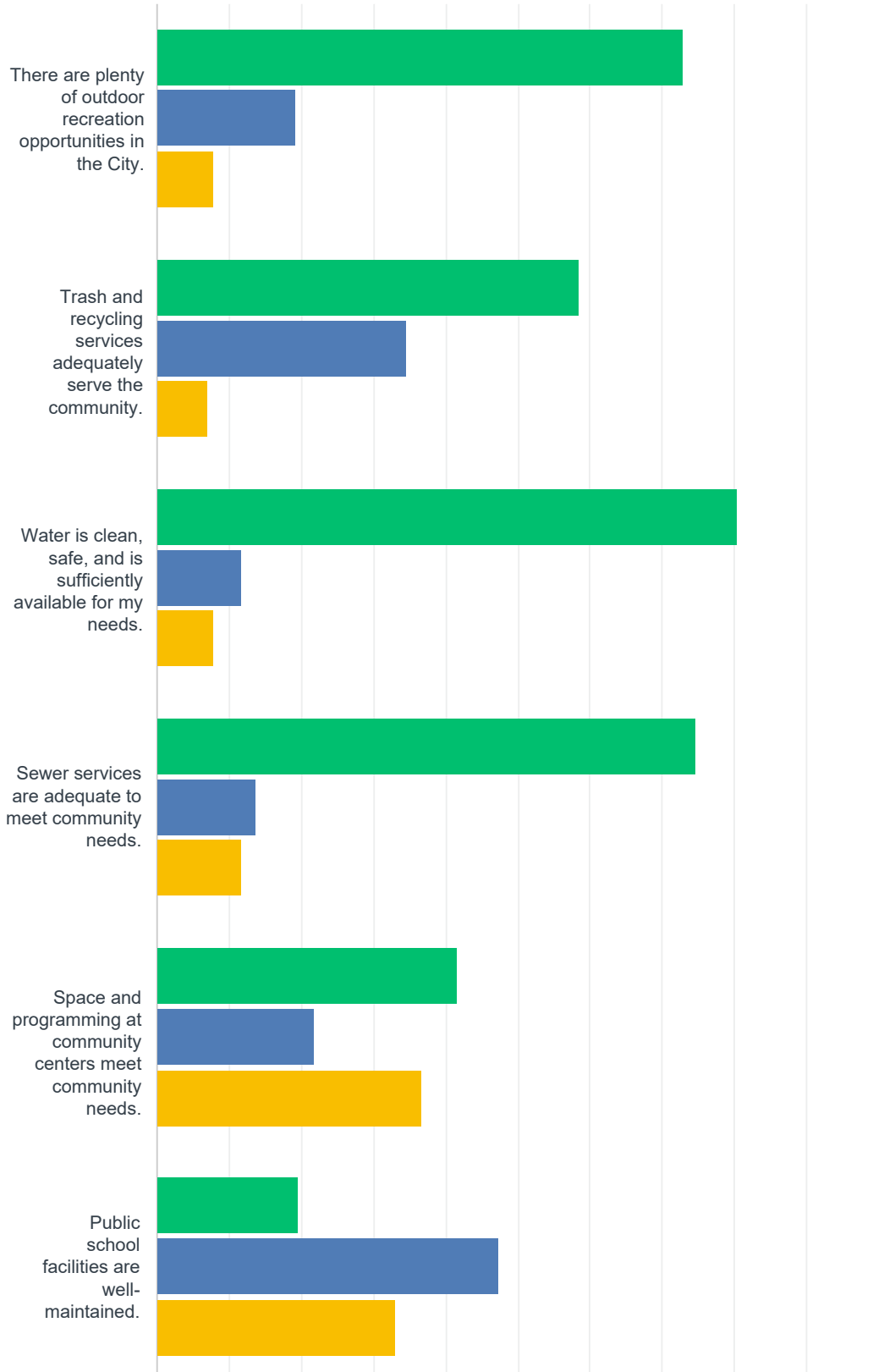
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

Public library facilities and service offerings meet community needs.

The City is prepared to respond to natural disasters such as floods and severe storms.

Internet access and cell phone coverage are adequate in Lynchburg.

The City provides services equitably for all residents.

The City communicates frequently and effectively with all residents.

■ Agree   ■ Disagree   ■ Not Sure/No Opinion
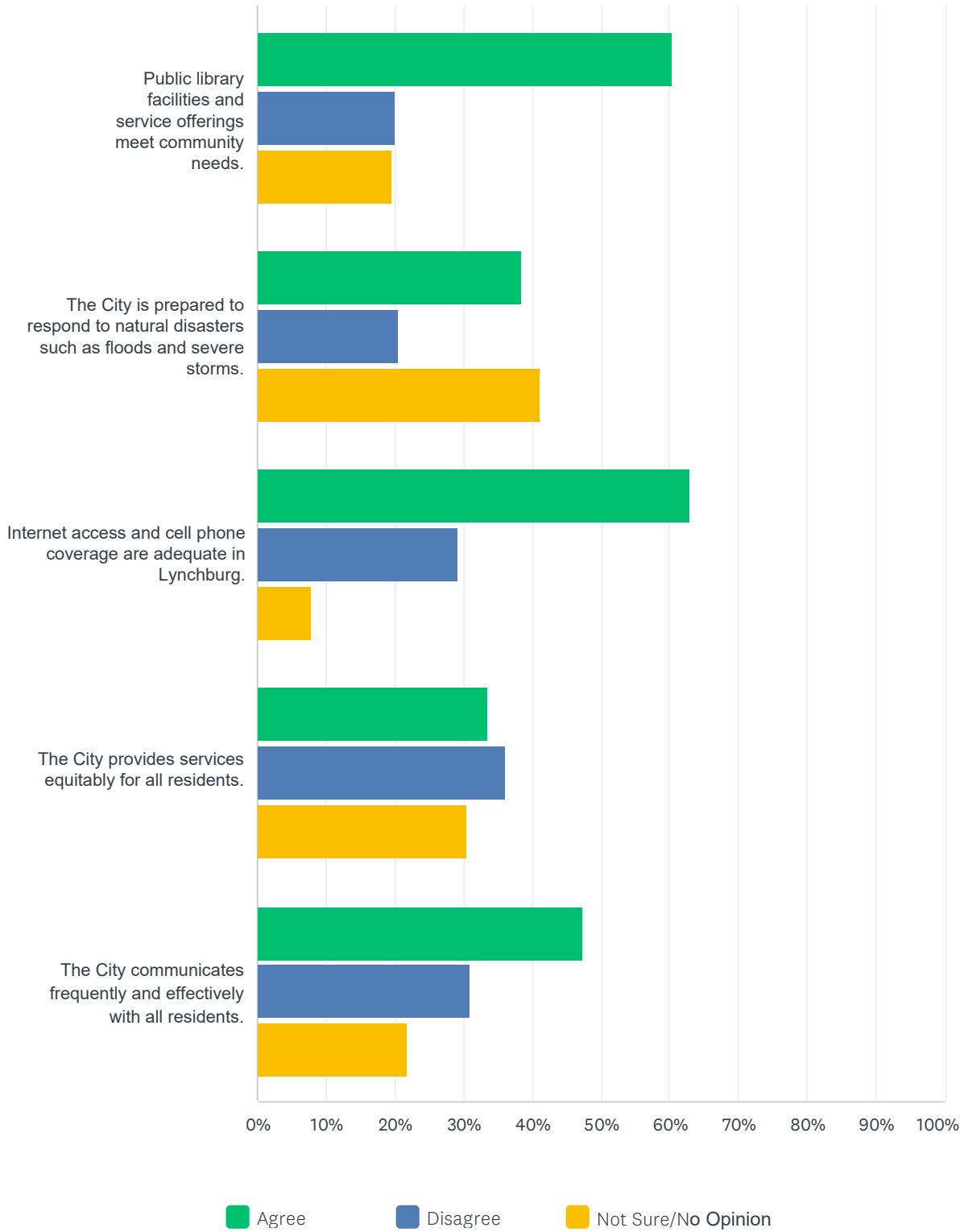
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
There are plenty of outdoor recreation opportunities in the City.	72.92% 175	19.17% 46	7.92% 19	240
Trash and recycling services adequately serve the community.	58.33% 140	34.58% 83	7.08% 17	240
Water is clean, safe, and is sufficiently available for my needs.	80.33% 192	11.72% 28	7.95% 19	239
Sewer services are adequate to meet community needs.	74.58% 179	13.75% 33	11.67% 28	240
Space and programming at community centers meet community needs.	41.67% 100	21.67% 52	36.67% 88	240
Public school facilities are well-maintained.	19.67% 47	47.28% 113	33.05% 79	239
Public library facilities and service offerings meet community needs.	60.42% 145	20.00% 48	19.58% 47	240
The City is prepared to respond to natural disasters such as floods and severe storms.	38.33% 92	20.42% 49	41.25% 99	240
Internet access and cell phone coverage are adequate in Lynchburg.	62.92% 151	29.17% 70	7.92% 19	240
The City provides services equitably for all residents.	33.47% 80	35.98% 86	30.54% 73	239
The City communicates frequently and effectively with all residents.	47.28% 113	30.96% 74	21.76% 52	239

Q8 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to transportation? (Check one for each):

Answered: 239   Skipped: 18

Legend: Agree · Disagree · Not Sure/No Opinion
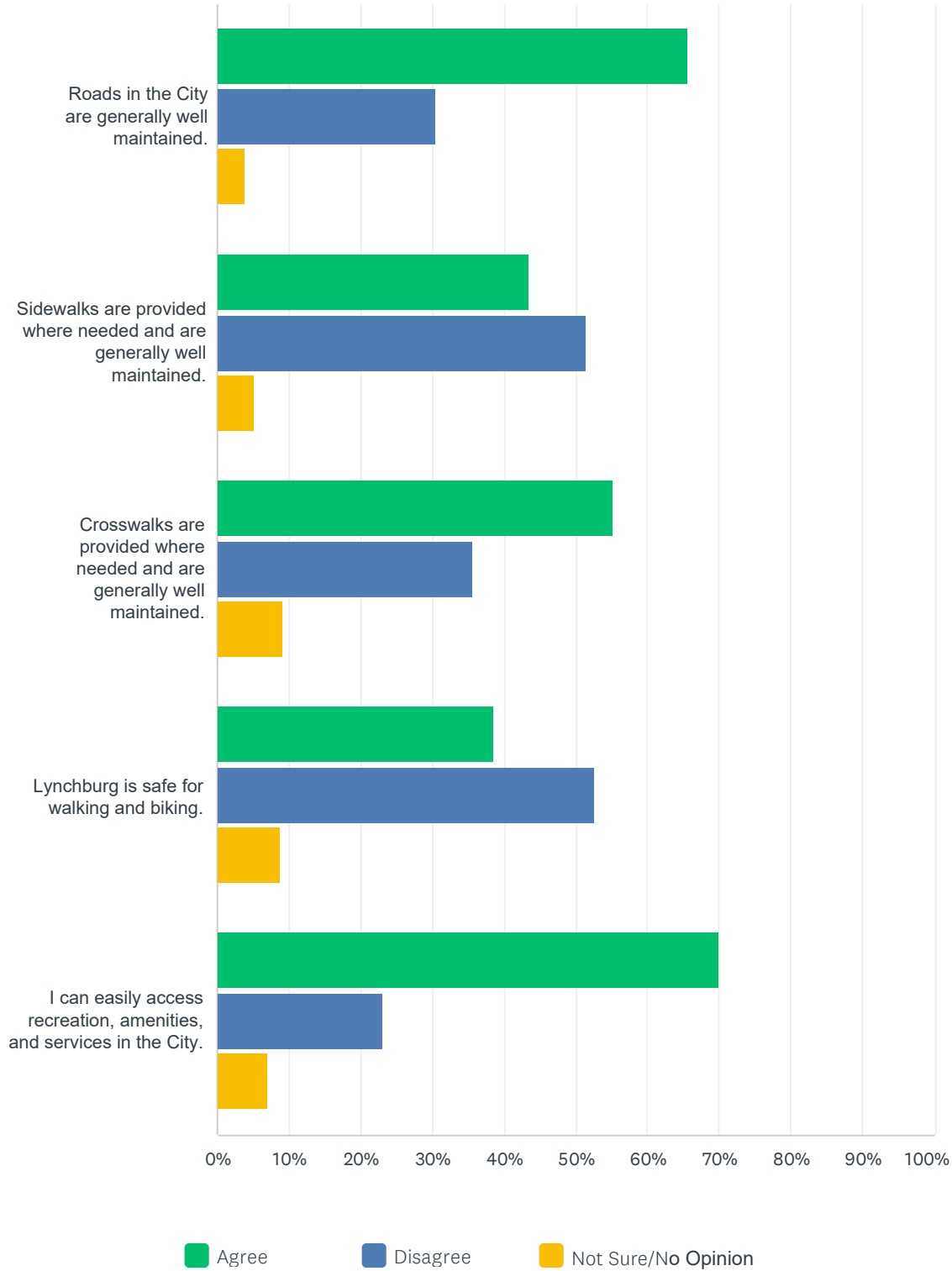
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
Roads in the City are generally well maintained.	65.69% 157	30.54% 73	3.77% 9	239
Sidewalks are provided where needed and are generally well maintained.	43.51% 104	51.46% 123	5.02% 12	239
Crosswalks are provided where needed and are generally well maintained.	55.23% 132	35.56% 85	9.21% 22	239
Lynchburg is safe for walking and biking.	38.49% 92	52.72% 126	8.79% 21	239
I can easily access recreation, amenities, and services in the City.	69.87% 167	23.01% 55	7.11% 17	239

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL

Q9 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to overall quality of life? (Check one for each):
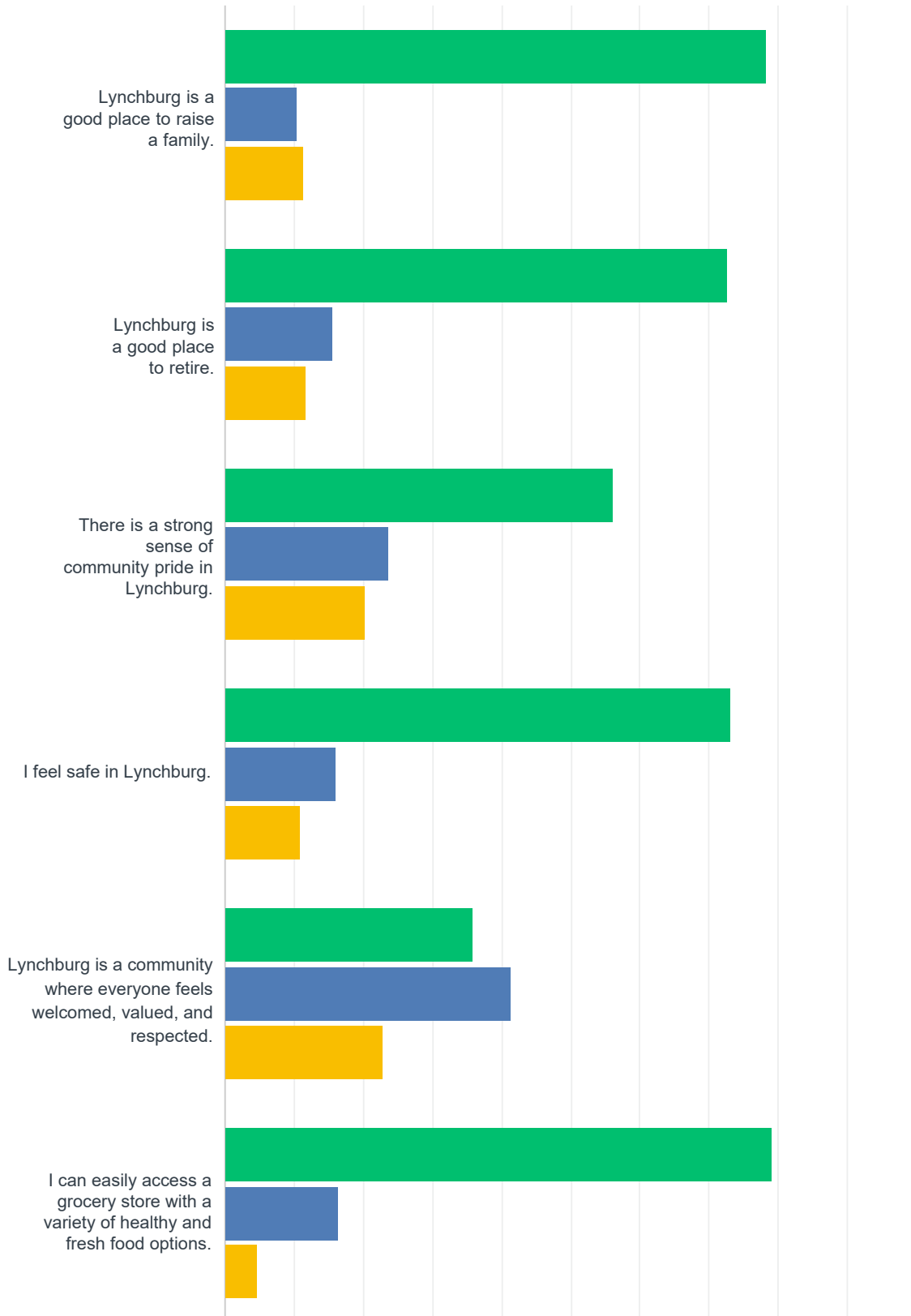
Answered: 239   Skipped: 18

Lynchburg Together Community Survey
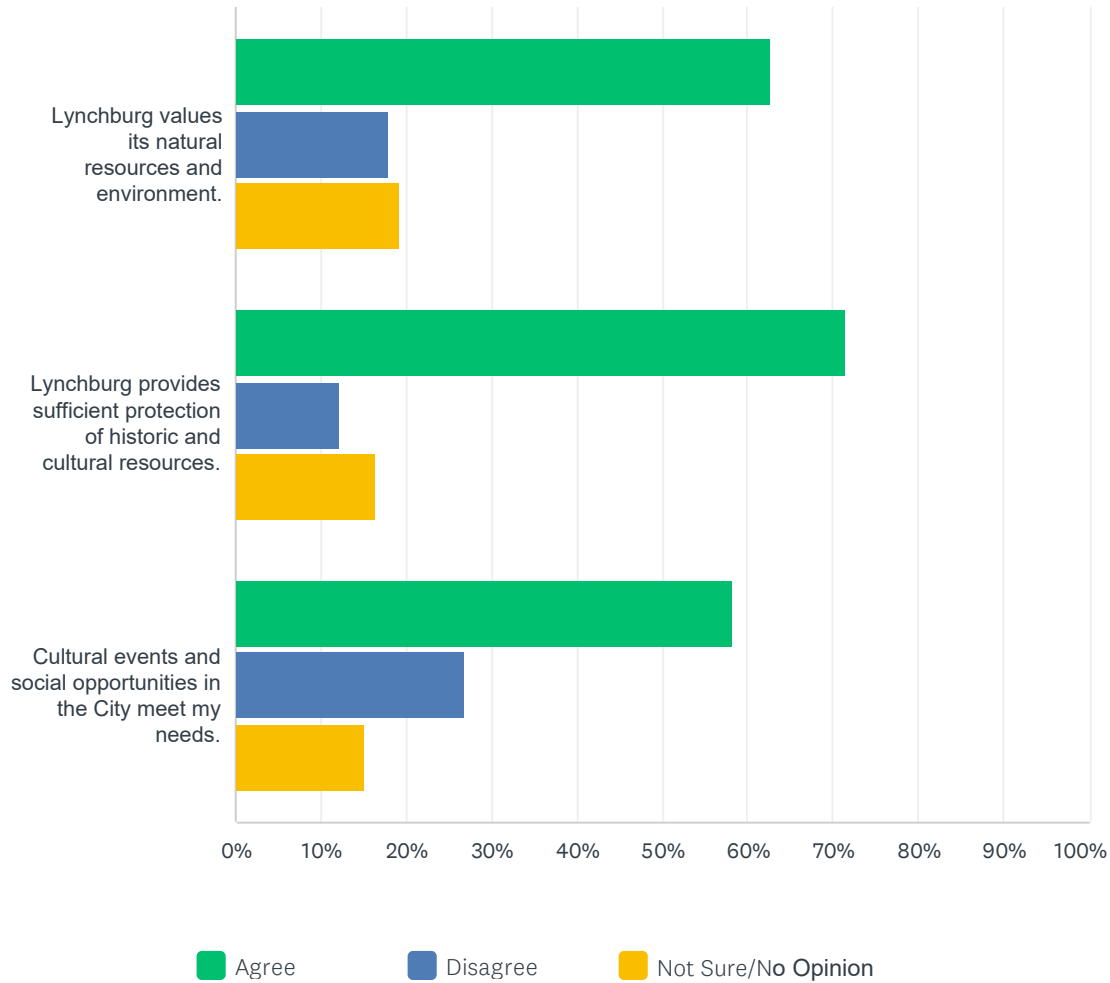
	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE/NO OPINION	TOTAL
Lynchburg is a good place to raise a family.	78.24% 187	10.46% 25	11.30% 27	239
Lynchburg is a good place to retire.	72.80% 174	15.48% 37	11.72% 28	239
There is a strong sense of community pride in Lynchburg.	56.12% 133	23.63% 56	20.25% 48	237
I feel safe in Lynchburg.	73.11% 174	15.97% 38	10.92% 26	238
Lynchburg is a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and respected.	35.86% 85	41.35% 98	22.78% 54	237
I can easily access a grocery store with a variety of healthy and fresh food options.	79.08% 189	16.32% 39	4.60% 11	239
Lynchburg values its natural resources and environment.	62.76% 150	17.99% 43	19.25% 46	239
Lynchburg provides sufficient protection of historic and cultural resources.	71.43% 170	12.18% 29	16.39% 39	238
Cultural events and social opportunities in the City meet my needs.	58.16% 139	26.78% 64	15.06% 36	239

Q10 What types of new residential development would be desirable in Lynchburg? (Choose as many as apply):

Answered: 238   Skipped: 19
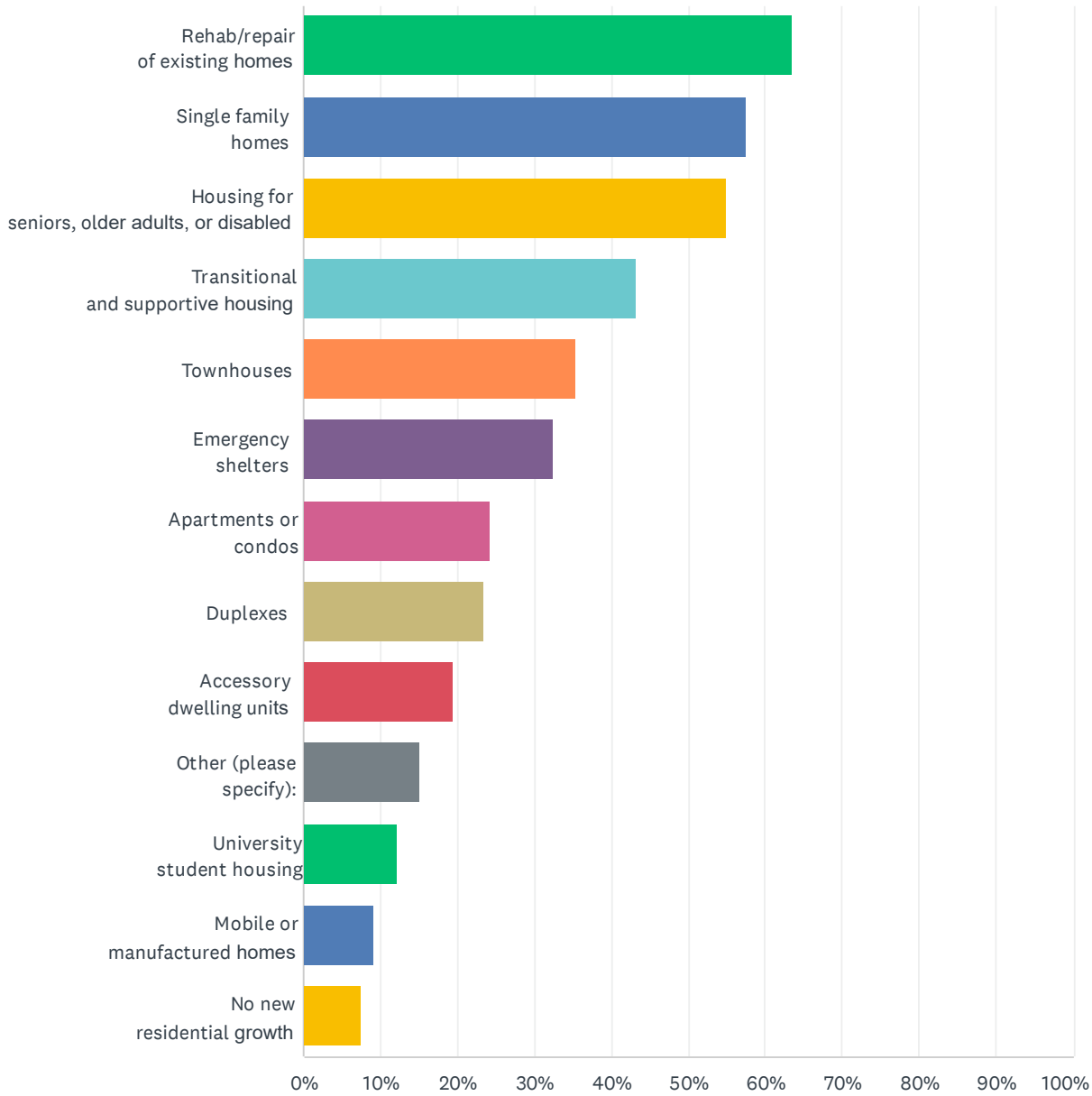
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rehab/repair of existing homes	63.45%	151
Single family homes	57.56%	137
Housing for seniors, older adults, or disabled	55.04%	131
Transitional and supportive housing (e.g., veterans' housing, recovery housing, women's housing)	43.28%	103
Townhouses	35.29%	84
Emergency shelters	32.35%	77
Apartments or condos	24.37%	58
Duplexes	23.53%	56
Accessory dwelling units (e.g., basement or garage apartments)	19.33%	46
Other:	15.13%	36
University student housing	12.18%	29
Mobile or manufactured homes	9.24%	22
No new residential growth	7.56%	18
Total Respondents: 238		

Q11 What types of new commercial or industrial development would be desirable in Lynchburg? (Choose as many as apply):
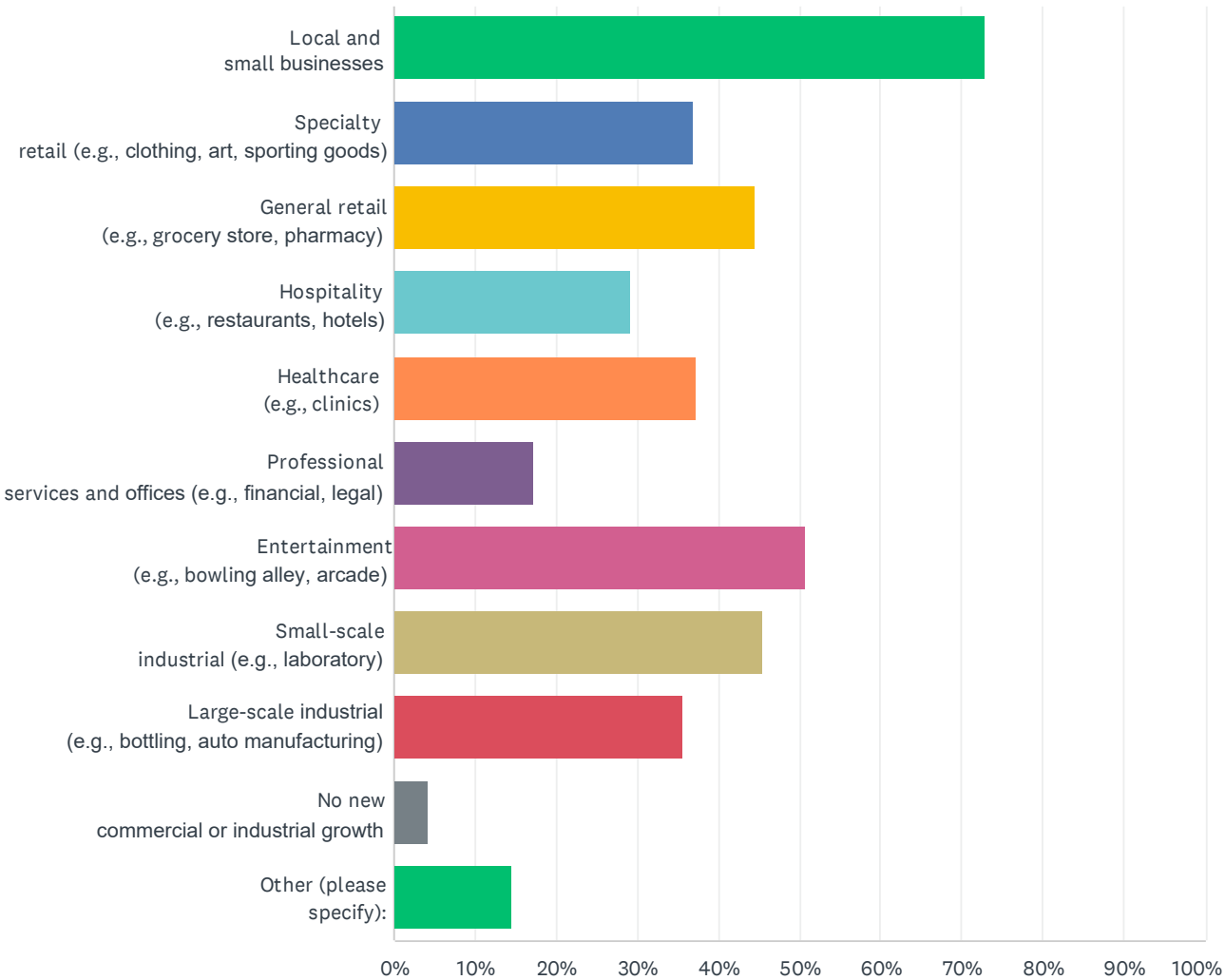
Answered: 236   Skipped: 21

Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local and small businesses	72.88%	172
Specialty retail (e.g., clothing, art, sporting goods)	36.86%	87
General retail (e.g., grocery store, pharmacy)	44.49%	105
Hospitality (e.g., restaurants, hotels)	29.24%	69
Healthcare (e.g., clinics)	37.29%	88
Professional services and offices (e.g., financial, legal)	17.37%	41
Entertainment (e.g., bowling alley, arcade)	50.85%	120
Small-scale industrial (e.g., laboratory)	45.34%	107
Large-scale industrial (e.g., bottling, auto manufacturing)	35.59%	84
No new commercial or industrial growth	4.24%	10
Other:	14.41%	34
Total Respondents: 236		

Q12 What transportation improvements are needed in Lynchburg? (Choose as many as apply):

Answered: 236   Skipped: 21
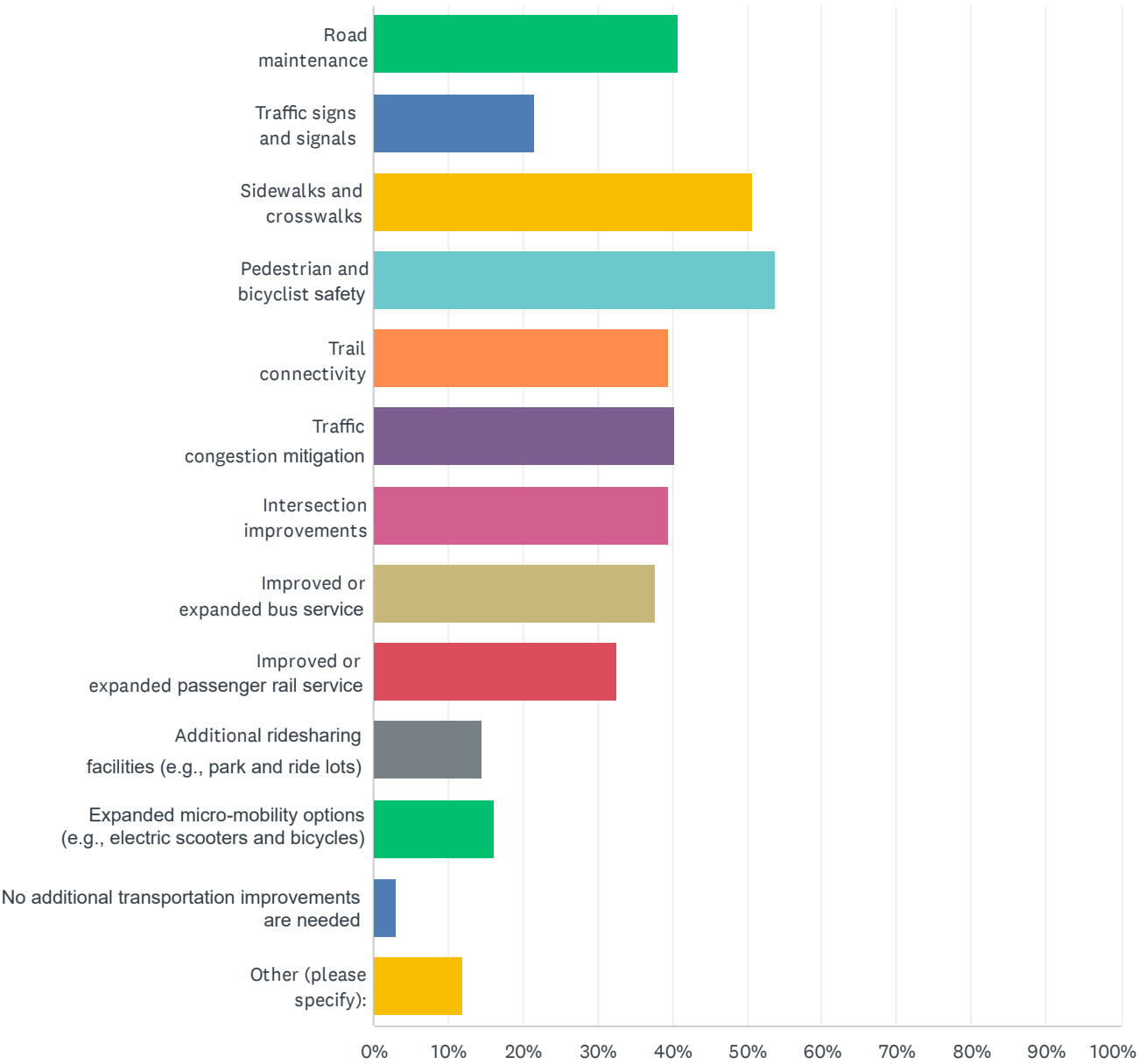
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Road maintenance	40.68%	96
Traffic signs and signals	21.61%	51
Sidewalks and crosswalks	50.85%	120
Pedestrian and bicyclist safety	53.81%	127
Trail connectivity	39.41%	93
Traffic congestion mitigation	40.25%	95
Intersection improvements	39.41%	93
Improved or expanded bus service	37.71%	89
Improved or expanded passenger rail service	32.63%	77
Additional ridesharing facilities (e.g., park and ride lots)	14.41%	34
Expanded micro-mobility options (e.g., electric scooters and bicycles)	16.10%	38
No additional transportation improvements are needed	2.97%	7
Other:	11.86%	28
Total Respondents: 236		

Q13 What recreation facilities do you want most in Lynchburg? (Choose up to five):

Answered: 235   Skipped: 22

Lynchburg Together Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trails for biking, walking, or hiking	56.17%	132
Athletic fields	10.64%	25
Hard surface courts (i.e., tennis, basketball, pickleball)=	16.60%	39
Indoor recreation (i.e., gym, community center)	22.98%	54
Hard surface track	6.38%	15
Small-scale parks	33.19%	78
Educational or historical venues	28.51%	67
Swimming pools	25.96%	61
Playgrounds	23.40%	55
Picnic shelters	15.74%	37
Outdoor event spaces	35.32%	83
Large outdoor recreation (i.e., disc golf, driving ranges)=	16.60%	39
Improve existing facilities	42.98%	101
Other:	12.77%	30
Total Respondents: 235		

Q14 How would you rate the value of City services (e.g., public schools, public safety, parks and recreation) compared to the taxes you pay?

Answered: 235   Skipped: 22
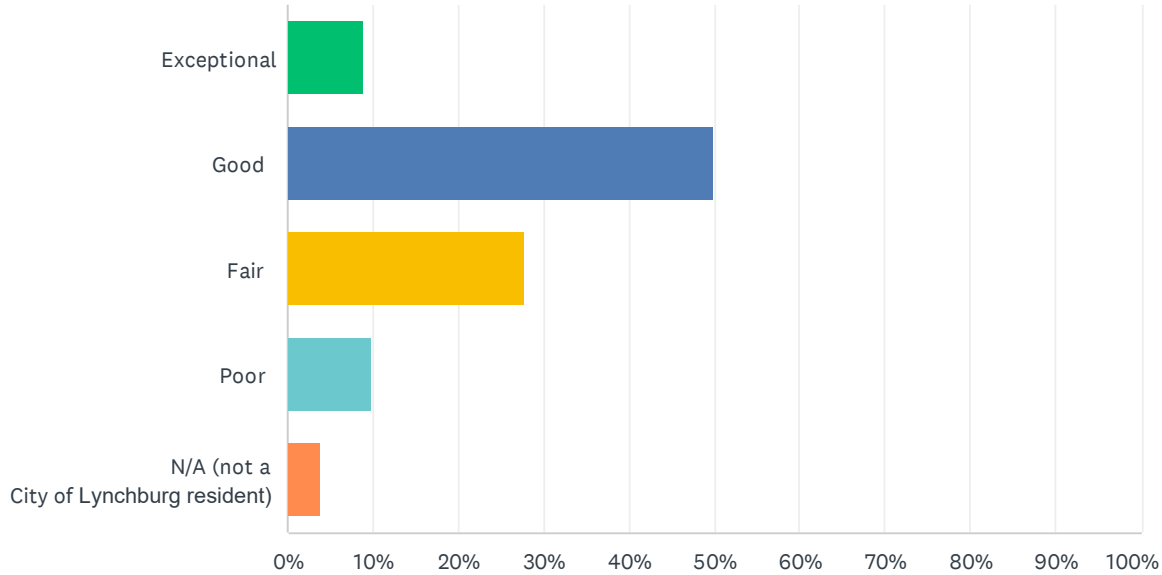
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Exceptional	8.94%	21
Good	49.79%	117
Fair	27.66%	65
Poor	9.79%	23
N/A (not a City of Lynchburg resident)	3.83%	9
TOTAL		235

Q15 What should Lynchburg's priorities be for improving public facilities and services? (Rank these in order of priority from 1-11, with 1 being your top priority and 11 being your lowest priority):

Answered: 231   Skipped: 26
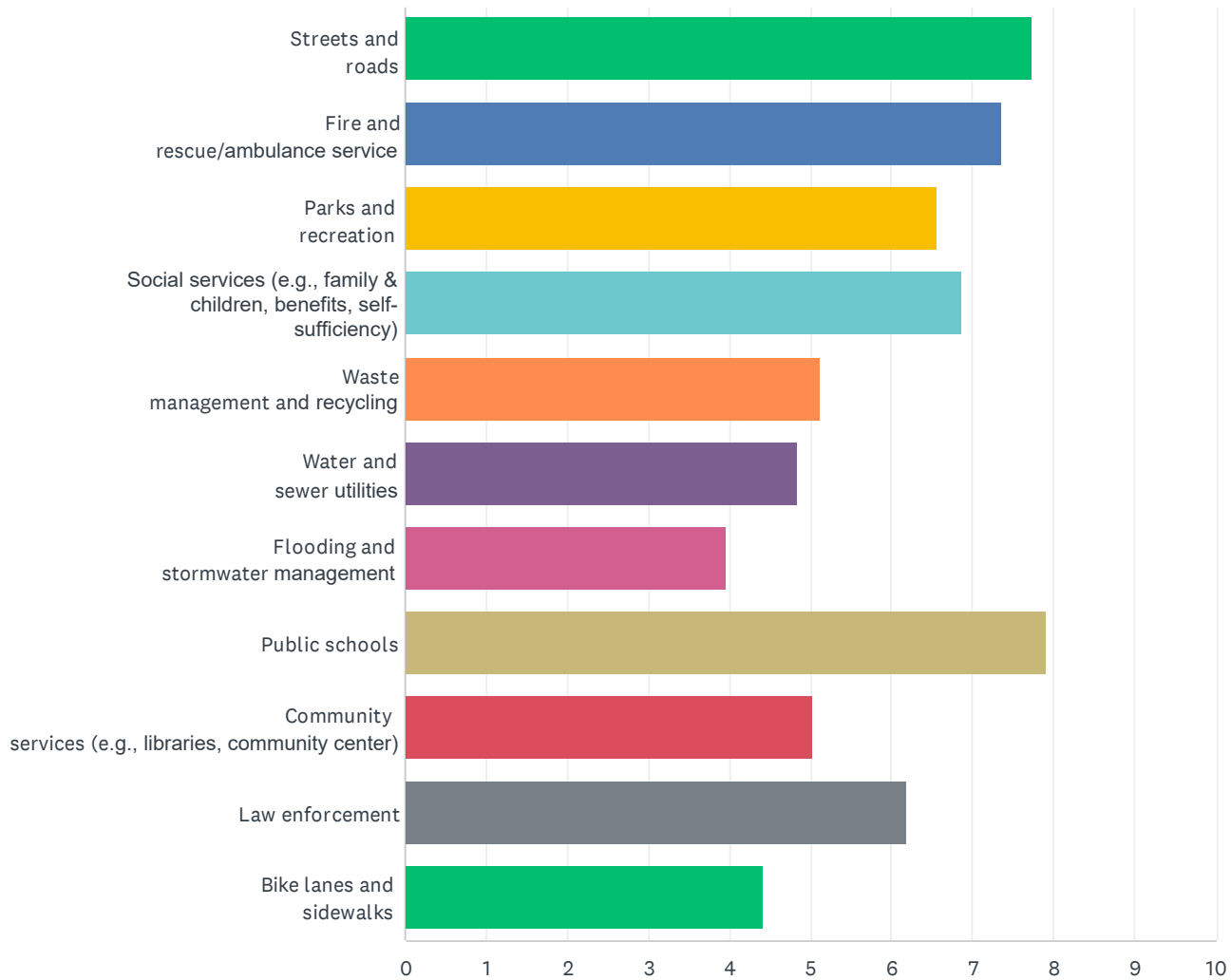
Lynchburg Together Community Survey

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Streets and roads	16.88% 39	15.15% 35	12.55% 29	13.85% 32	9.96% 23	12.55% 29	6.06% 14	5.19% 12	3.46% 8	2.60% 6	1.73
Fire and rescue/ambulance service	6.93% 16	20.35% 47	15.58% 36	9.52% 22	11.26% 26	12.12% 28	8.66% 20	5.19% 12	5.19% 12	3.90% 9	1.30
Parks and recreation	3.03% 7	8.23% 19	14.29% 33	14.29% 33	15.15% 35	12.12% 28	11.26% 26	8.23% 19	5.63% 13	5.19% 12	2.60
Social services (e.g., family & children, benefits, self-sufficiency)	7.79% 18	10.39% 24	14.29% 33	16.88% 39	10.39% 24	9.96% 23	9.52% 22	6.49% 15	4.33% 10	5.19% 12	4.76
Waste management and recycling	0.87% 2	2.60% 6	4.33% 10	5.19% 12	14.29% 33	12.99% 30	19.91% 46	13.85% 32	14.29% 33	8.23% 19	3.46
Water and sewer utilities	0.43% 1	2.16% 5	6.49% 15	6.49% 15	6.06% 14	14.72% 34	12.55% 29	19.91% 46	15.15% 35	12.99% 30	3.03
Flooding and stormwater management	2.16% 5	0.87% 2	0.87% 2	6.49% 15	6.06% 14	2.60% 6	16.45% 38	12.12% 28	22.08% 51	18.61% 43	11.69
Public schools	33.33% 77	9.96% 23	11.26% 26	7.36% 17	6.93% 16	4.76% 11	2.60% 6	10.82% 25	6.93% 16	4.33% 10	1.73
Community services (e.g., libraries, community center)	3.46% 8	6.06% 14	8.23% 19	6.93% 16	10.82% 25	8.23% 19	6.06% 14	6.49% 15	14.29% 33	20.78% 48	8.66
Law enforcement	17.32% 40	16.45% 38	6.06% 14	6.93% 16	3.03% 7	5.63% 13	3.90% 9	4.76% 11	4.76% 11	14.29% 33	16.88
Bike lanes and sidewalks	7.79% 18	7.79% 18	6.06% 14	6.06% 14	6.06% 14	4.33% 10	3.03% 7	6.93% 16	3.90% 9	3.90% 9	44.16 1

Q16 What is one word you hope will describe the City of Lynchburg twenty years from now?

Answered: 231   Skipped: 26

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Better	3/1/2024 3:11 PM
2	Safe	2/27/2024 2:16 PM
3	Better	2/27/2024 1:09 PM
4	Paper Survey - Question Not Answered	2/27/2024 1:04 PM
5	Paper Survey - Question Not Answered	2/27/2024 1:00 PM
6	equality	2/27/2024 12:57 PM
7	progressive	2/27/2024 12:53 PM
8	progressive	2/27/2024 12:48 PM
9	community	2/27/2024 12:42 PM
10	Paper Survey - Question Not Answered	2/27/2024 12:38 PM
11	Locally controlled, beautiful, thriving	2/27/2024 12:31 PM
12	Progressive	2/27/2024 12:26 PM
13	Paper Survey - Question Not Answered	2/27/2024 12:22 PM
14	safe	2/27/2024 12:17 PM
15	much better twenty years	2/27/2024 12:12 PM
16	Paper Survey - Question Not Answered	2/27/2024 12:07 PM
17	Paper Survey - Question Not Answered	2/27/2024 12:02 PM
18	Blessed (Safe Prosperous) Clean	2/27/2024 11:55 AM
19	Beautiful	2/27/2024 11:50 AM
20	Improvement for the city	2/27/2024 11:42 AM
21	Vibrant	2/26/2024 2:22 PM
22	Progressive	2/24/2024 5:03 AM
23	Affordable	2/23/2024 11:41 PM
24	Livable	2/23/2024 1:13 PM
25	United	2/23/2024 10:20 AM
26	Welcoming	2/23/2024 10:09 AM
27	democratic	2/23/2024 10:08 AM
28	Connected	2/23/2024 9:36 AM
29	Friendly	2/22/2024 8:54 PM
30	Green	2/22/2024 8:32 PM
31	Thriving	2/18/2024 7:39 PM

32	safe	2/15/2024 4:17 PM
33	Trees	2/15/2024 1:34 PM
34	Progressive	2/14/2024 9:37 PM
35	Vibrant	2/14/2024 4:47 PM
36	Welcoming	2/14/2024 1:32 PM
37	Home	2/14/2024 12:32 PM
38	educated.	2/14/2024 12:08 PM
39	Thriving	2/14/2024 10:28 AM
40	home	2/14/2024 6:24 AM
41	Kind	2/13/2024 10:09 PM
42	Wonderful	2/13/2024 4:58 PM
43	thriving	2/13/2024 2:02 PM
44	Safe	2/13/2024 1:10 PM
45	Welcoming	2/13/2024 11:44 AM
46	walkable	2/13/2024 11:23 AM
47	Business-Minded	2/13/2024 10:41 AM
48	Fun	2/13/2024 10:22 AM
49	Thriving	2/13/2024 9:37 AM
50	Gentrified	2/13/2024 9:25 AM
51	Peaceful	2/13/2024 8:50 AM
52	Home	2/9/2024 4:48 PM
53	Thriving	2/7/2024 8:59 AM
54	united	2/6/2024 11:03 PM
55	community	2/6/2024 12:40 PM
56	Safe	2/6/2024 10:21 AM
57	Accepting	2/6/2024 8:01 AM
58	Engaging	2/6/2024 7:34 AM
59	Connected	2/5/2024 3:59 PM
60	Welcoming	2/5/2024 3:59 PM
61	virtuous	2/5/2024 1:23 PM
62	Thriving	2/4/2024 10:59 AM
63	Local	2/3/2024 7:58 PM
64	Small	2/3/2024 5:37 PM
65	Progressive	2/2/2024 11:12 PM
66	The safest place to live and grow your family , enriched in diversity	2/2/2024 1:37 PM
67	Progressive	2/2/2024 7:05 AM
68	Thriving	2/1/2024 6:08 PM
69	Sustainable	1/30/2024 10:29 AM

70	Cares	1/29/2024 3:21 PM
71	Clean	1/28/2024 8:46 AM
72	Beautiful	1/28/2024 6:40 AM
73	Vibrant	1/27/2024 7:32 PM
74	compassionate	1/27/2024 10:54 AM
75	republican	1/26/2024 10:10 PM
76	Vibrant	1/26/2024 6:58 PM
77	People-friendly	1/26/2024 9:15 AM
78	Diverse	1/26/2024 7:02 AM
79	Thriving	1/26/2024 5:20 AM
80	walkable	1/25/2024 10:45 PM
81	Accessible	1/25/2024 9:35 PM
82	inclusive	1/25/2024 8:38 PM
83	Progressive	1/25/2024 8:25 PM
84	(3) safe, tidy and friendly	1/25/2024 6:46 PM
85	Vibrant	1/25/2024 5:45 PM
86	Thriving	1/25/2024 5:10 PM
87	Welcoming	1/25/2024 4:56 PM
88	Vibrant	1/25/2024 4:19 PM
89	Livable	1/25/2024 3:59 PM
90	resilient	1/25/2024 2:49 PM
91	equitable	1/25/2024 2:46 PM
92	Developed. (Fully with no blight downtown, less cars and more modes of transport.)	1/25/2024 2:37 PM
93	Desirable	1/25/2024 2:20 PM
94	LOVE	1/25/2024 2:19 PM
95	Vibrant	1/25/2024 2:14 PM
96	Prolific	1/25/2024 2:07 PM
97	Christian	1/25/2024 2:07 PM
98	Safe	1/25/2024 1:53 PM
99	Improved	1/25/2024 1:52 PM
100	strong	1/25/2024 1:51 PM
101	Vibrant	1/25/2024 1:50 PM
102	liveable	1/25/2024 1:47 PM
103	Safe	1/25/2024 1:42 PM
104	Booming	1/20/2024 10:56 PM
105	Diversity	1/19/2024 5:01 PM
106	vibrant	1/19/2024 2:53 PM
107	elevated	1/19/2024 11:40 AM

108	Thriving	1/19/2024 9:06 AM
109	Inclusive	1/18/2024 1:45 PM
110	Energetic	1/18/2024 9:45 AM
111	Thriving	1/18/2024 9:09 AM
112	Progressive	1/18/2024 9:09 AM
113	Growth	1/12/2024 3:28 PM
114	vapid	1/5/2024 11:17 AM
115	Beacon	1/3/2024 10:20 PM
116	Thriving	1/3/2024 2:51 PM
117	Bestest	1/3/2024 1:20 PM
118	Progressive	1/3/2024 12:17 PM
119	Growing	1/3/2024 11:18 AM
120	Sustainable	12/30/2023 6:08 PM
121	Welcoming	12/28/2023 11:35 AM
122	Thriving	12/23/2023 7:05 AM
123	Inclusive	12/22/2023 7:41 AM
124	Educated	12/19/2023 10:38 AM
125	Green	12/16/2023 11:44 AM
126	Consistent	12/14/2023 10:05 AM
127	Enlightened	12/13/2023 2:34 PM
128	Exciting	12/13/2023 2:15 PM
129	Inclusive	12/13/2023 11:57 AM
130	Cohesive	12/12/2023 10:49 PM
131	affordable	12/12/2023 12:40 PM
132	walkable	12/11/2023 10:38 AM
133	Natural	12/10/2023 3:11 PM
134	Inclusive	12/7/2023 11:04 PM
135	Diverse	12/6/2023 8:16 PM
136	Peaceful	12/6/2023 2:17 PM
137	Thriving	12/6/2023 1:53 PM
138	Safe	12/5/2023 8:50 PM
139	Friendly	12/5/2023 2:25 PM
140	Clean	12/5/2023 2:19 PM
141	Beautiful	12/5/2023 12:01 PM
142	Affordable	12/5/2023 11:20 AM
143	Equitable!	12/5/2023 11:13 AM
144	prosperous	12/5/2023 11:00 AM
145	bikeable	12/4/2023 3:57 PM

146	Flourishing	12/4/2023 10:59 AM
147	Equality	12/4/2023 7:35 AM
148	Unity	12/4/2023 5:32 AM
149	Cozy	12/3/2023 11:37 PM
150	Thriving	12/3/2023 11:05 PM
151	educated	12/3/2023 9:35 PM
152	Caring	12/3/2023 6:37 PM
153	Peaceful	12/3/2023 6:31 PM
154	A city free from tax and spend, and unsustainable projects.	12/3/2023 6:02 PM
155	Healthy.	12/3/2023 5:20 PM
156	Christian-based	12/3/2023 3:09 PM
157	Lively	12/3/2023 2:27 PM
158	Safe	12/3/2023 2:26 PM
159	Pleasant	12/3/2023 10:59 AM
160	Equitable	12/3/2023 10:56 AM
161	Equal	12/3/2023 10:16 AM
162	progressive	12/3/2023 9:49 AM
163	Progressive	12/2/2023 3:10 PM
164	Thriving	12/2/2023 2:35 PM
165	Peaceful	12/2/2023 1:49 PM
166	Promising	12/2/2023 12:58 PM
167	Prosperous	12/2/2023 11:15 AM
168	Sidewalkie	12/1/2023 11:46 PM
169	Inclusive	12/1/2023 9:04 PM
170	Vibrant	12/1/2023 8:56 PM
171	Thriving	12/1/2023 5:01 PM
172	unified	12/1/2023 2:47 PM
173	Progressive	12/1/2023 2:42 PM
174	quiet	12/1/2023 10:06 AM
175	Visionary!	11/30/2023 3:30 PM
176	vibrant	11/30/2023 3:09 PM
177	Unified	11/30/2023 1:25 PM
178	LOVE	11/30/2023 11:01 AM
179	Progressive	11/29/2023 7:20 PM
180	Thriving	11/29/2023 5:41 PM
181	SUSTAINABLE -- not in debt, free, safe,	11/29/2023 1:33 PM
182	Open-minded	11/29/2023 1:14 PM
183	Caring	11/29/2023 12:39 PM

184	Better	11/29/2023 11:48 AM
185	Beautiful	11/29/2023 11:17 AM
186	innovative	11/29/2023 9:23 AM
187	Safe	11/29/2023 12:42 AM
188	Thriving	11/28/2023 10:04 PM
189	Equitable	11/28/2023 9:53 PM
190	Relaxing	11/28/2023 8:34 PM
191	Friendly	11/28/2023 7:21 PM
192	Best city for retirement	11/28/2023 6:55 PM
193	prosperous	11/28/2023 6:51 PM
194	Equitable	11/28/2023 6:41 PM
195	Thriving	11/28/2023 6:10 PM
196	Growth	11/28/2023 5:32 PM
197	Improving	11/28/2023 5:30 PM
198	family	11/28/2023 5:08 PM
199	Special	11/28/2023 5:04 PM
200	Progressive	11/28/2023 5:02 PM
201	Liveable	11/28/2023 5:00 PM
202	Thriving	11/28/2023 4:53 PM
203	Growing	11/28/2023 4:32 PM
204	walkable	11/26/2023 9:26 AM
205	Tolerant	11/22/2023 8:20 AM
206	walkable	11/20/2023 7:58 PM
207	walkable	11/19/2023 9:41 PM
208	Progressive	11/17/2023 5:55 PM
209	Vibrant	11/16/2023 8:59 PM
210	Thriving	11/16/2023 6:26 PM
211	Unity	11/16/2023 3:40 PM
212	progressive	11/16/2023 3:12 PM
213	booming	11/16/2023 2:53 PM
214	Stable	11/16/2023 1:45 PM
215	INCLUSIVE	11/16/2023 12:38 PM
216	Inclusive	11/16/2023 12:03 PM
217	Vibrant	11/16/2023 11:03 AM
218	progressive	11/16/2023 10:31 AM
219	Thriving	11/15/2023 4:11 PM
220	Sustainable	11/15/2023 2:09 PM
221	Destination	11/15/2023 9:48 AM

| 222	thriving	11/15/2023 8:12 AM
223	Vibrant	11/14/2023 6:52 PM
224	Jamesburg	11/10/2023 3:43 PM
225	Caring Community for All	11/7/2023 11:33 AM
226	Peaceful	11/6/2023 10:44 PM
227	Livable	11/6/2023 5:36 PM
228	welcoming	11/6/2023 5:03 PM
229	Unrecognizable	11/6/2023 4:21 PM
230	Home	10/30/2023 2:35 PM
231	walkable	10/25/2023 2:18 PM

Q18 In which City ward is your primary residence located?

Answered: 202   Skipped: 55
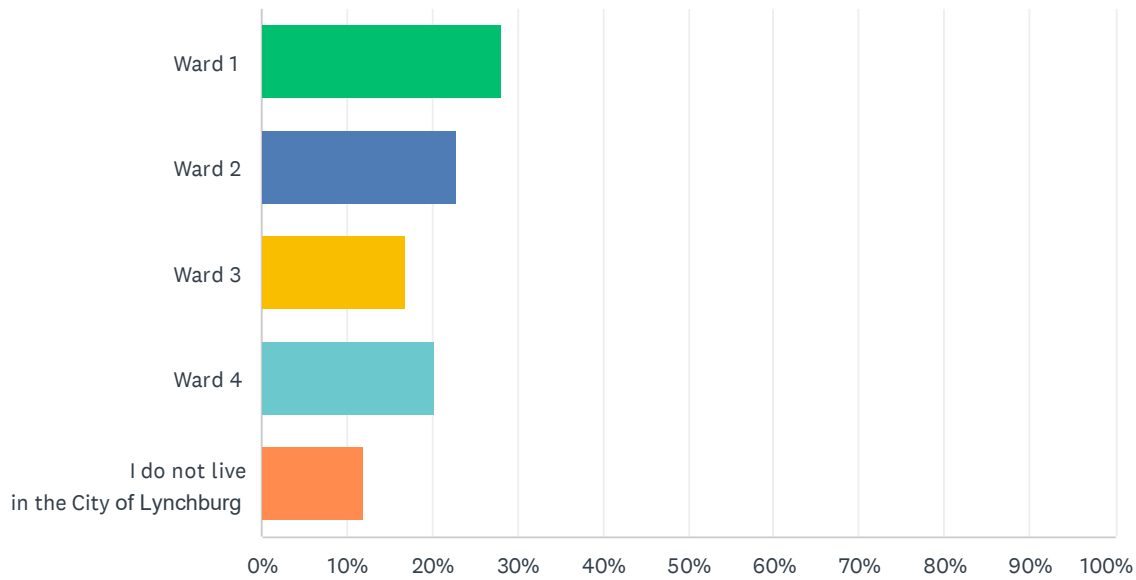
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ward 1	28.22%	57
Ward 2	22.77%	46
Ward 3	16.83%	34
Ward 4	20.30%	41
I do not live in the City of Lynchburg	11.88%	24
TOTAL		202

# Q19 Which best describes your current location of employment?

Answered: 217   Skipped: 40
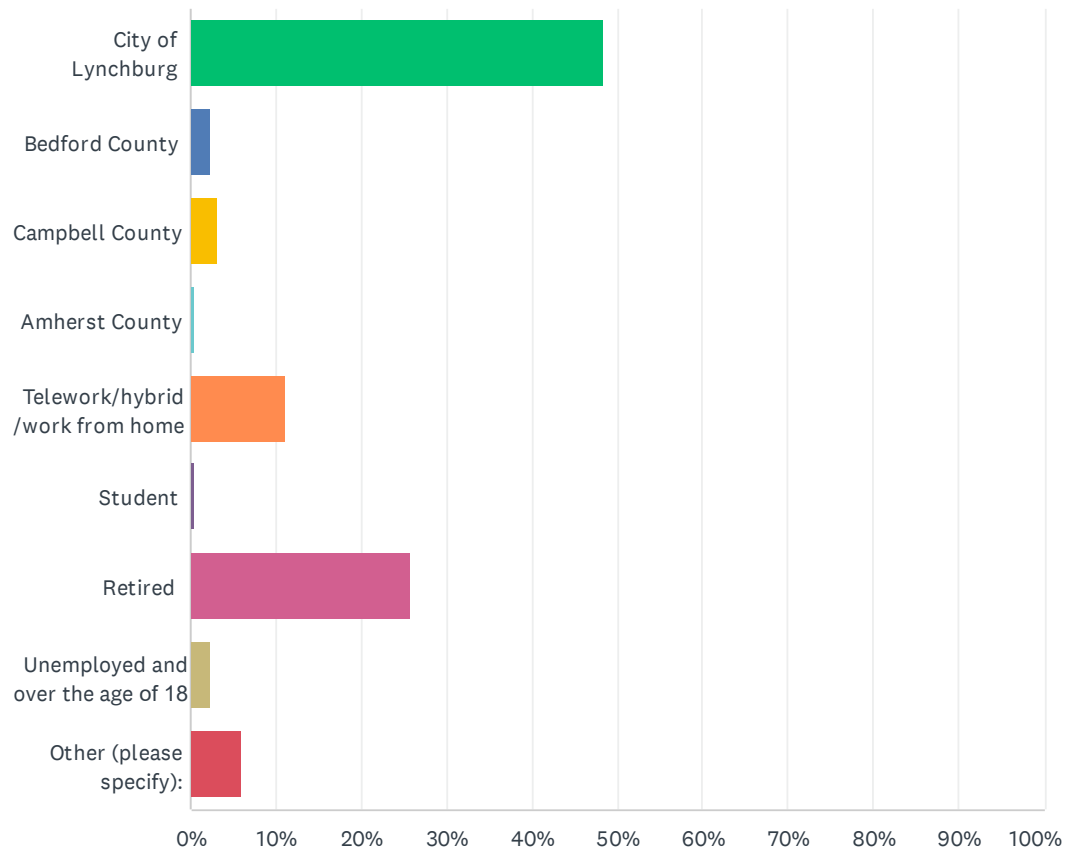
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Lynchburg	48.39%	105
Bedford County	2.30%	5
Campbell County	3.23%	7
Amherst County	0.46%	1
Telework/hybrid/work from home	11.06%	24
Student	0.46%	1
Retired	25.81%	56
Unemployed and over the age of 18	2.30%	5
Other (please specify):	5.99%	13
TOTAL		217

Q20 Which best describes your status in regard to Lynchburg? (Check all that apply):
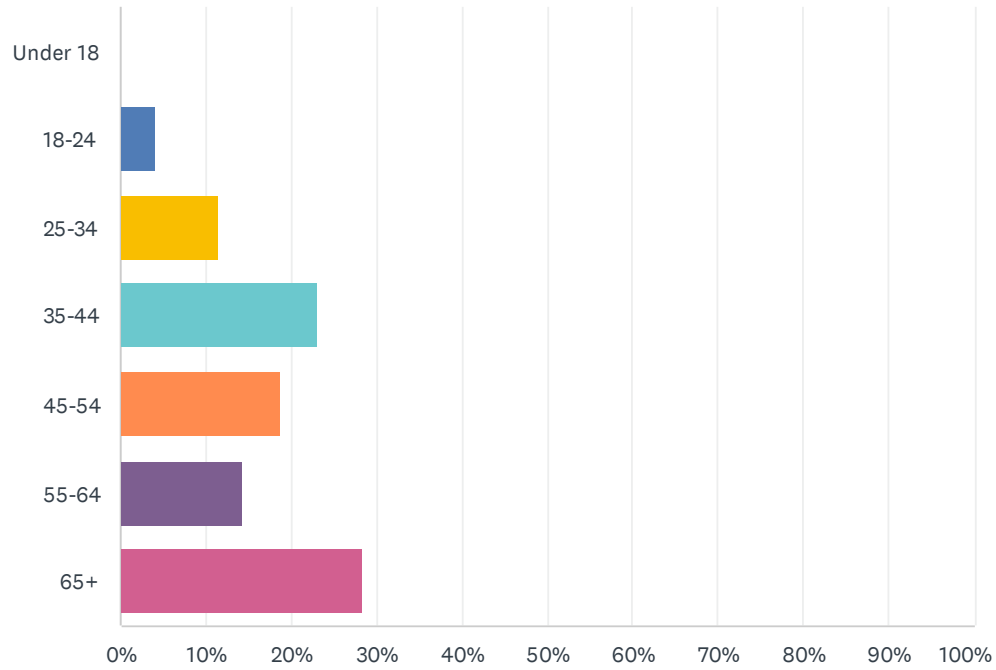
Answered: 217   Skipped: 40
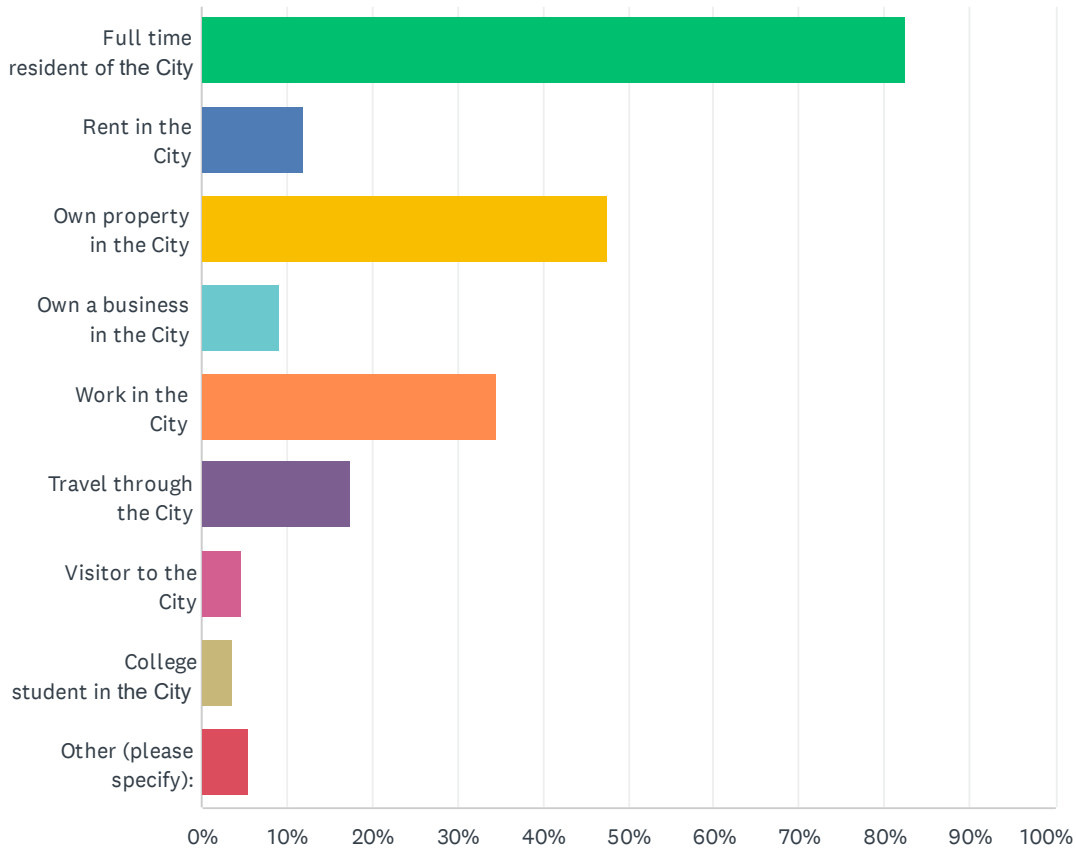
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full time resident of the City	82.49%	179
Rent in the City	11.98%	26
Own property in the City	47.47%	103
Own a business in the City	9.22%	20
Work in the City	34.56%	75
Travel through the City	17.51%	38
Visitor to the City	4.61%	10
College student in the City	3.69%	8
Other (please specify):	5.53%	12
Total Respondents: 217		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE

Q21 What is your age?

Answered: 218   Skipped: 39

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	4.13%	9
25-34	11.47%	25
35-44	22.94%	50
45-54	18.81%	41
55-64	14.22%	31
65+	28.44%	62
TOTAL		218

Q22 Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Answered: 216   Skipped: 41
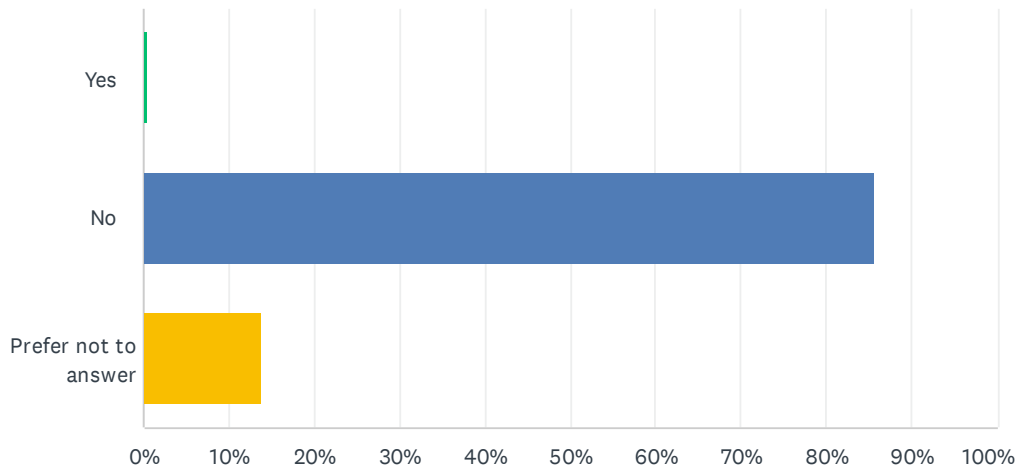
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	0.46%	1
No	85.65%	185
Prefer not to answer	13.89%	30
TOTAL		216

Q23 Which best describes you?

Answered: 218   Skipped: 39
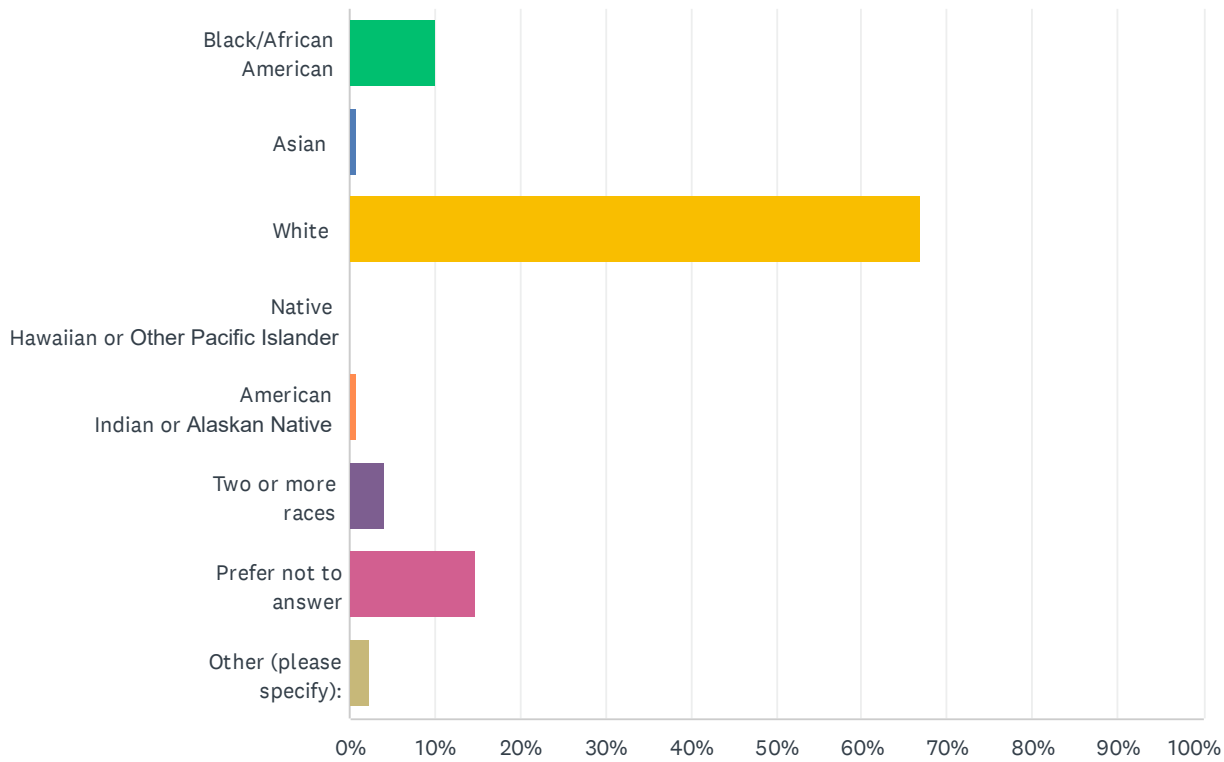
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Black/African American	10.09%	22
Asian	0.92%	2
White	66.97%	146
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.92%	2
Two or more races	4.13%	9
Prefer not to answer	14.68%	32
Other (please specify):	2.29%	5
TOTAL		218

# Q24 If you are a resident of the City of Lynchburg, how long have you lived here?

Answered: 218   Skipped: 39
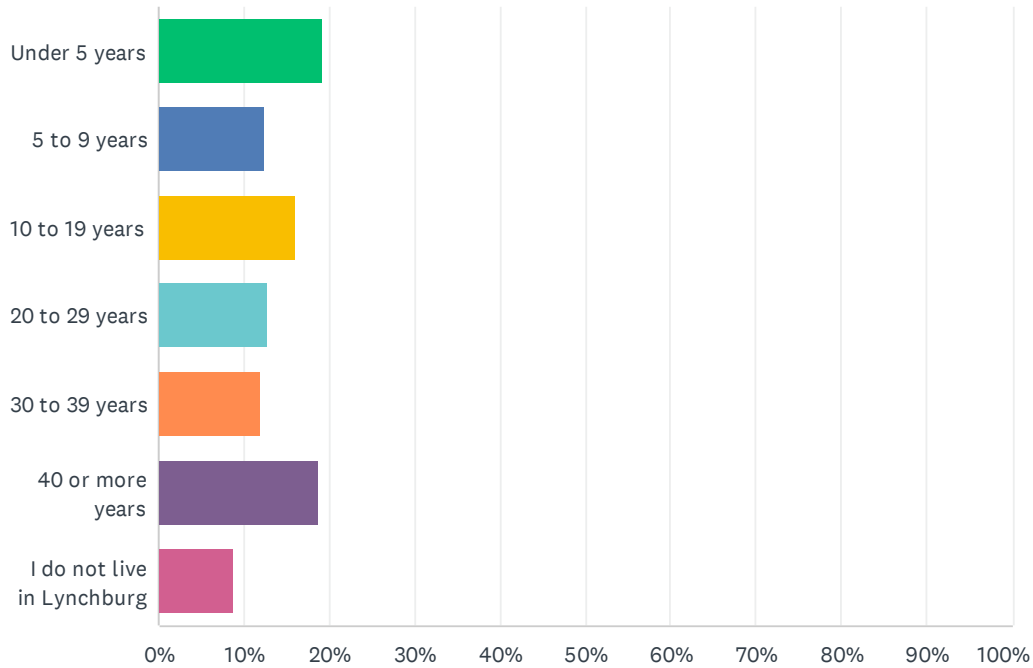
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 5 years	19.27%	42
5 to 9 years	12.39%	27
10 to 19 years	16.06%	35
20 to 29 years	12.84%	28
30 to 39 years	11.93%	26
40 or more years	18.81%	41
I do not live in Lynchburg	8.72%	19
TOTAL		218

Q25 How do you usually access information about the City, meetings, events, and programs? (Check all that apply):

Answered: 215   Skipped: 42
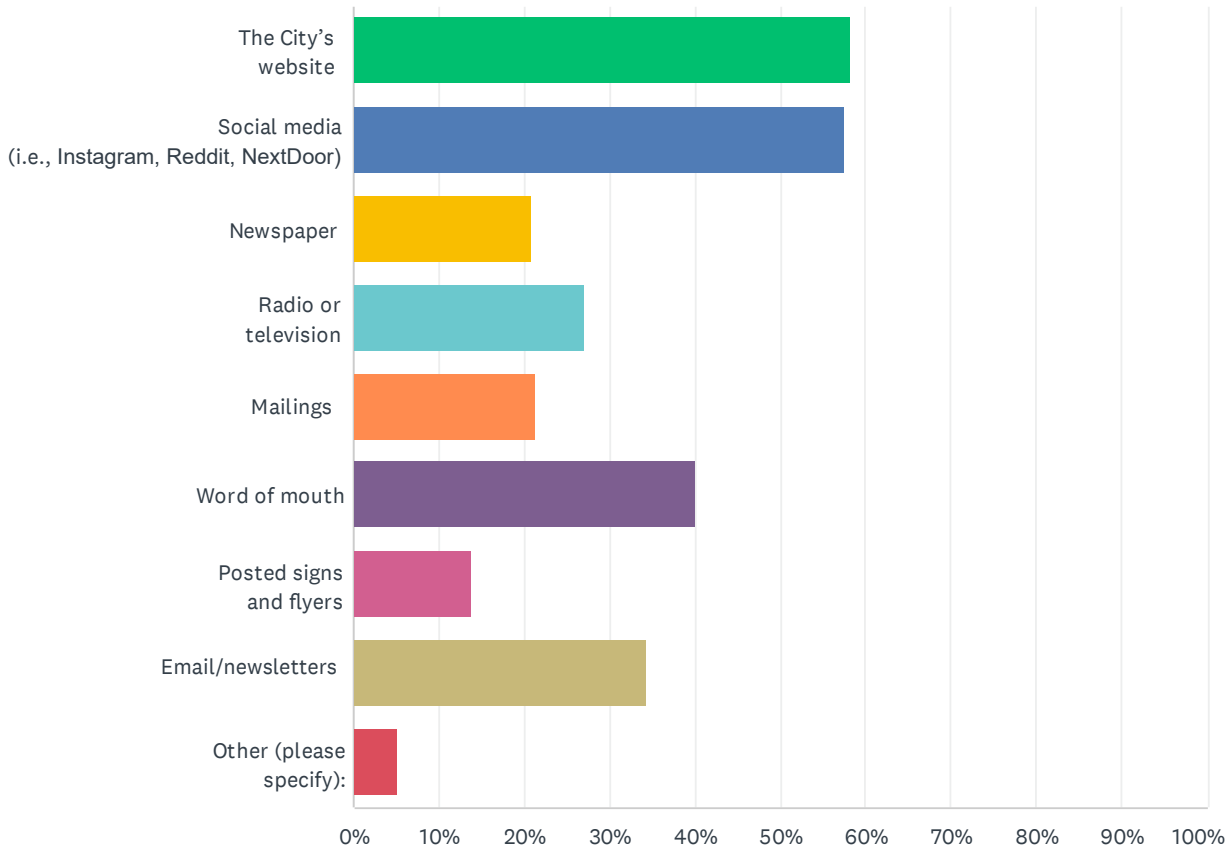
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The City's website	58.14%	125
Social media (i.e., Instagram, Reddit, NextDoor)	57.67%	124
Newspaper	20.93%	45
Radio or television	26.98%	58
Mailings	21.40%	46
Word of mouth	40.00%	86
Posted signs and flyers	13.95%	30
Email/newsletters	34.42%	74
Other (please specify):	5.12%	11
Total Respondents: 215		