



JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLANNING JUNE 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following is phase one of the Age Friendly Community Plan for Juneau, Alaska. We joined the Age Friendly Network in late 2023 and are submitting our plan after a 6-month extension. The plan has been prepared as a joint effort of the AARP Community Action Team of Juneau and the Juneau Commission on Aging, as well as engaging community partners. This plan will also be submitted to the City and Borough of Juneau for consideration during their five-year Comprehensive Planning process that began this year. Our goal is to weave senior/elder issues into all phases of our community planning processes as we develop our Age Friendly Plan.

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LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MAYOR

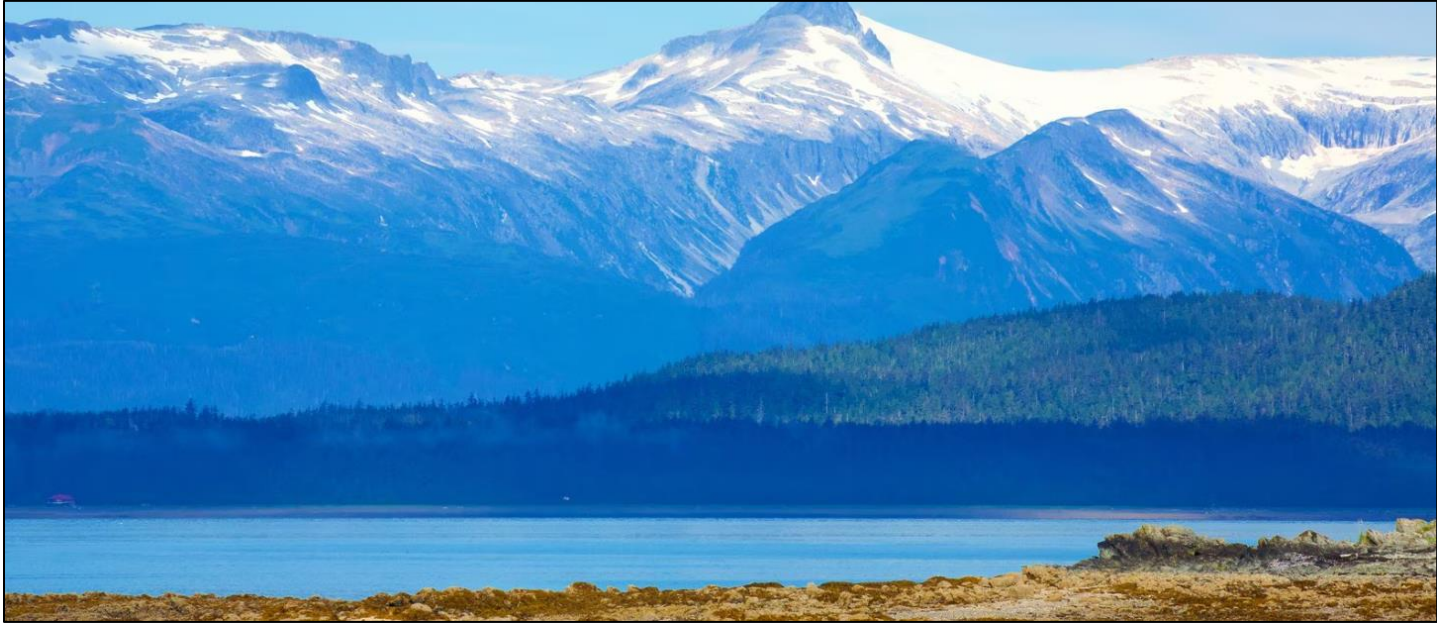
DRAFT

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WELCOME TO JUNEAU

Alaska's capital is a land locked southeast coastal rainforest community located in a unique geographical area surrounded by glaciers, mountains, and tidal waters.

The Tlingit people and their clans were well established and actively trading in Southeast Alaska when European explorers made their first advances into the Gastineau Channel in the 1700s. The A'akw and T'aakú Kwáan maintained thriving villages in the Juneau, Auke Bay, Douglas and Taku River area for over 750 years.



In the late 1800s rumors of gold findings lured prospectors to the Gastineau Channel and in 1880 and 1881 Juneau and Douglas were founded as townships. Soon Douglas was operating one of the world's largest hard rock gold mines. By the mid-1900s, the Juneau was operating three mines and became the capital of the territory. It was also a travel and trading hub in and out of Alaska with regular Canadian Pacific Steamship arrivals and departures. In the 1920s Filipino workers were brought to Juneau to work in the mines, and the canneries and many stayed and married contributing to our community and cultural fabric.



Alaska achieved statehood in 1959 and Juneau became the capitol of the 49th state. Today, the City and Borough of Juneau is the second largest (square miles) municipality in the United States and is a vibrant and diverse multicultural city of about 32,000 people. Our Capitol conducts state business and houses the legislature from January-May.

Alaska has always experienced surging economic periods: fur trade, gold, fisheries, military, oil and gas and now tourism. Over a million summer visitors

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contribute to the tourism industry and experience our rich wilderness and cultural experiences. Regional and local Native Corporations headquartered in Juneau benefit tribal citizens and share native culture and history. Two productive mines operate outside the city. The University of Alaska Juneau offers advanced education with about 3000 students actively attending classes. Additionally, Juneau has an active parks and recreation program and a robust boating community with four harbors and houses the third largest fishing fleet in Southeast Alaska.

Juneau continues to be home to a strong community of Alaska



Native, Filipino, South Pacific Islanders, African American, as well as a magnet for young people seeking adventure and has become the home of a high number of active, healthy seniors: almost 30% of Juneau's residents are over 55. Juneau's seniors tend to be homeowners, active in the community and contributors both financially and as volunteers.





CITY AND BOROUGH OF
JUNEAU
ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY

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JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING – JCOA

Empowering Juneau's Seniors

JCOA's mandate is to advise the CBJ Assembly on actions and policies that improve the quality of life for seniors. Our mission is to provide CBJ with proactive, coordinated, culturally sensitive and holistic strategies to support Juneau seniors' unique needs as we age in this community we love and call home.

SENIOR SERVICES IN ALASKA & JUNEAU
JCOA PRIORITIES
JUNEAU SENIOR SURVEY
AGE-FRIENDLY PLANNING
SENIOR PROFILES
COMMISSIONERS
CALENDAR / CONTACT US
VOLUNTEERS
ACTIVITIES



Get out and play! Visit a friend!



Aging! So cool, everyone is doing it!

The City and Borough of Juneau reinstated the Juneau Assembly appointed Commission on Aging (JCOA) in 2017 to continue the early work of advocating for Seniors within the community and have an established website for disseminating news:

<https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa>

The JCOA also provides monthly updates to the community on the local Public Radio Station during "Juneau Afternoon" Radio show.

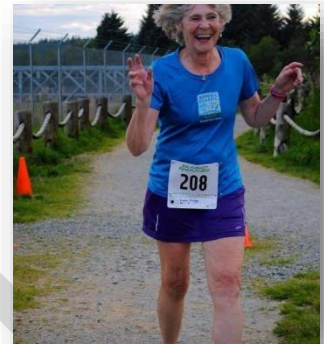
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MISSION, VISION AND VALUES



MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to support a community where all people live with dignity and purpose and are able to fulfill their goals and dreams in an inclusive, equitable, age and ability friendly Juneau. (Seniors on Mt. Juneau, Alaska)

VISION: Juneau is a livable vibrant community that is safe and accessible, and supports age and ability friendly actions by empowering residents, fostering collaboration, and implementing innovative strategies that enhance accessibility, social connection, and quality of life for individuals of all ages and abilities.



VALUE STATEMENTS

1. Inclusion: We value our community's diversity and strive to create a welcoming environment where all residents, regardless of age or ability, can thrive.
2. Equity: We are committed to addressing systemic disparities and ensuring that resources, opportunities, and programs are accessible to all, particularly marginalized and underserved groups.
3. Collaboration: We believe in the power of partnerships and work collectively with residents, organizations, and policymakers to create sustainable solutions.

4. Empowerment: We aim to empower individuals through education, resources, and opportunities, enabling them to lead fulfilling, independent, and connected lives.

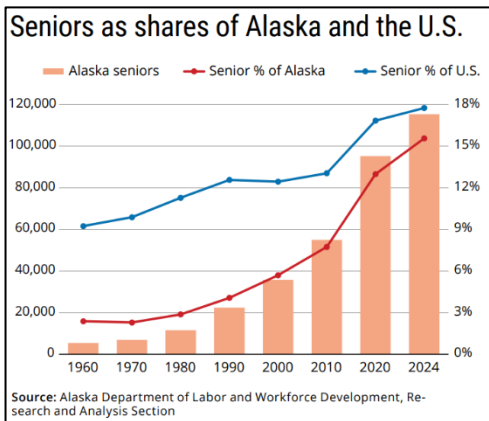
5. Innovation: We embrace creative approaches and adaptive strategies to address the evolving needs of our community.

6. Sustainability: We prioritize long-term impact and resilience, ensuring the success of age & ability-friendly initiatives for generations to come.



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COMMUNITY PROFILE



The number of Alaskans 65 or older has skyrocketed over the last decade and a half, continuing to rise even as youth and working-age populations have declined. Today, seniors play a bigger role in Alaska than they ever have. As Alaska has always been a young state, this shift toward an older population is one of the ways Alaska has begun to look more like the rest of the country. The highest concentration of seniors are in Southeast Alaska, of which Juneau is the largest community. Juneau's Senior population (60+) has steadily grown 39% (3.3% annually) between 2012 and 2021. There are 11,494 seniors 50+ living in Juneau. 3,997 are AARP members.

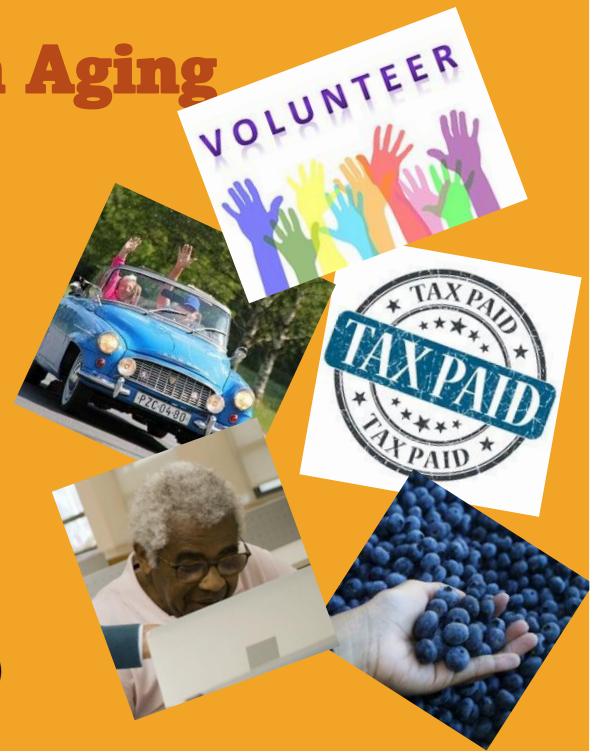
Juneau Commission On Aging

2020 Senior Survey Findings

Seniors are healthier and better off than in previous survey years:

- 28.7% of Juneau residents are 55 and older**
- 84% own their own homes and pay taxes
- 80-90% (depending on age) drive their own cars
- 63% volunteer in the community
- 95% over 65 have Medicare Insurance
- 66% over 65 have State of Alaska Retirement
- 40% have Long Term Care Insurance
- 42-46% (depending on age) take continuing education classes (UAS/CS)
- 72 – 84% (depending on age) recreate weekly (walking, hiking, swimming, biking, gyms, skiing)

** AKDOL has updated this figure to 30% in 2023



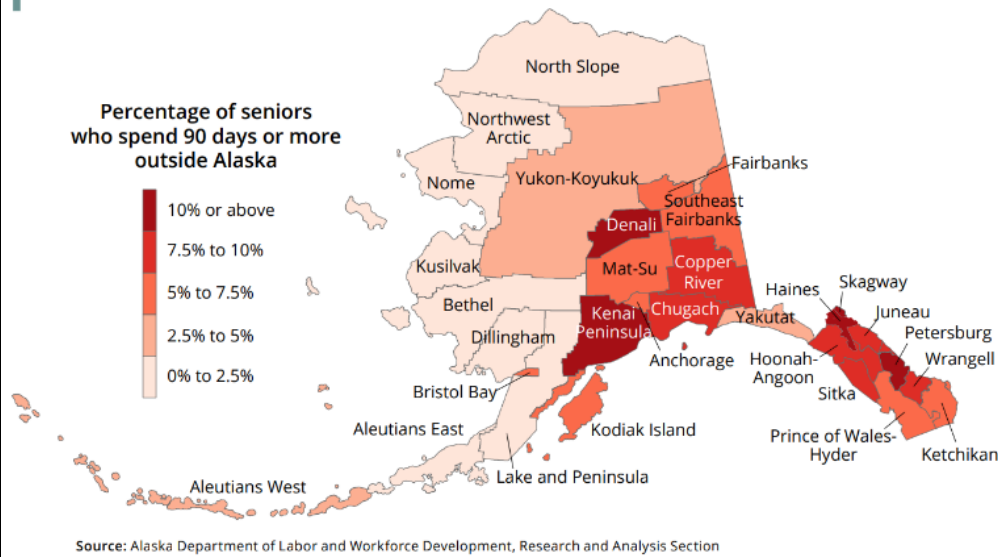
The City and Borough of Juneau facilitates a Senior Survey every decade via the Juneau Commission on Aging. In 2020, the JCOA reached out to a broad swath of the community for the fourth Senior Survey in 40 years and found that seniors are a growing demographic that is doing generally well due to a number of factors.

“It’s a common perception that Alaska retirees move south for warmer weather or the services they can’t get in Alaska. The massive growth in the 65-plus population puts to rest the idea that they all flee after retirement — but given Alaska’s 12-year streak of negative net migration, that raises the question: How much has the larger elder population contributed to the overall outflow? People

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relocate less as they get older and while seniors have always been a low percentage of movers, they have increasingly influenced net migration numbers in recent years.” (AK DOLWD)

Popularity of ‘snowbirding’ by those 65+ varies by Alaska area, 2024



Even though outflow continues to increase, the senior population continues to grow in Alaska, particularly Southeast but senior outflow has “created an undertow to the state’s migration numbers that didn’t exist before, which has baked in a steady net loss”. SE Seniors continue to bring significant value to the community and

are a resource that the Juneau Commission on Aging has focused on ensuring the community recognizes and works to keep Seniors in community. This will be accomplished by ensuring Age Friendly Community values are recognized and promoted.

AARP PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE LIVABILITY SCORES FOR JUNEAU AREA

Characteristics of Juneau Borough, Alaska

Demographics

Total Population:

32,108

Black/African American: 1%

Asian American: 7%

Hispanic/Latino: 7%

White: 64%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 9%

Hawaiian: 1%

Two or More Races: 15%

Some Other Race: 2%

Age 50+: 35%

Age 65+: 15%

% of the population with a disability: 12%

Life Expectancy: 81 years old

Households Without a Vehicle: 9%

Median Household Income: \$98,191

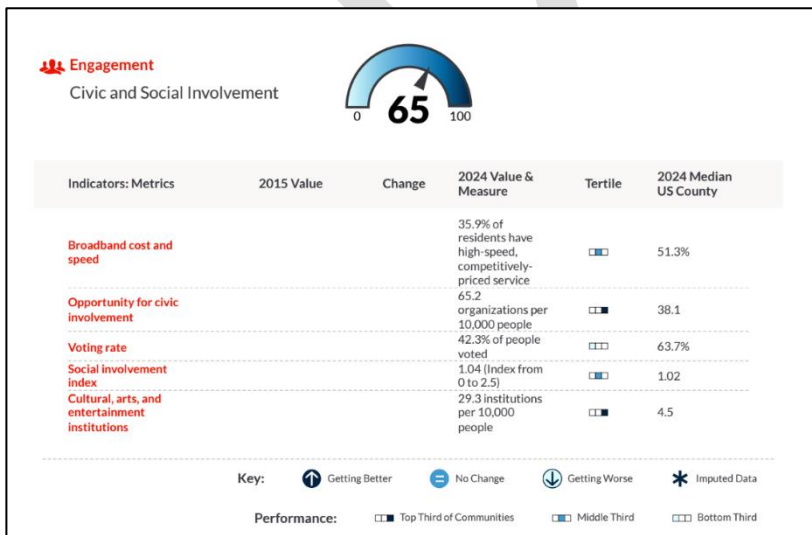
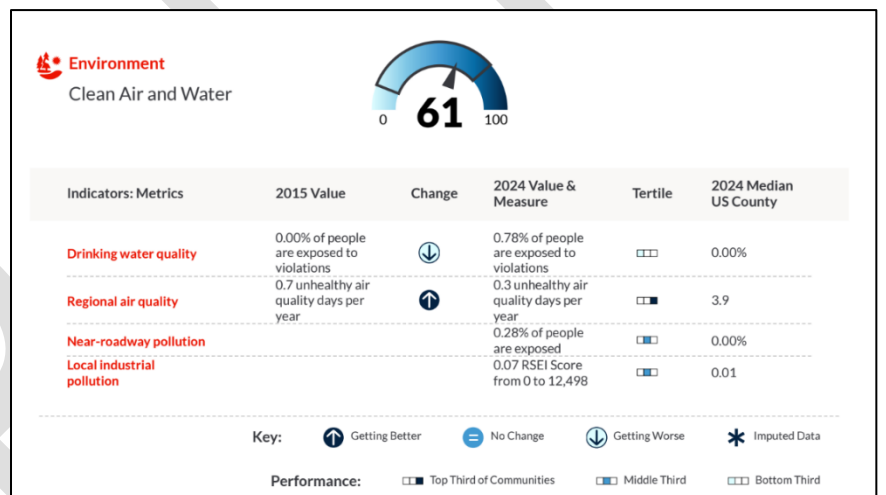
% of the population with income below poverty: 7%

Upward Mobility : 76

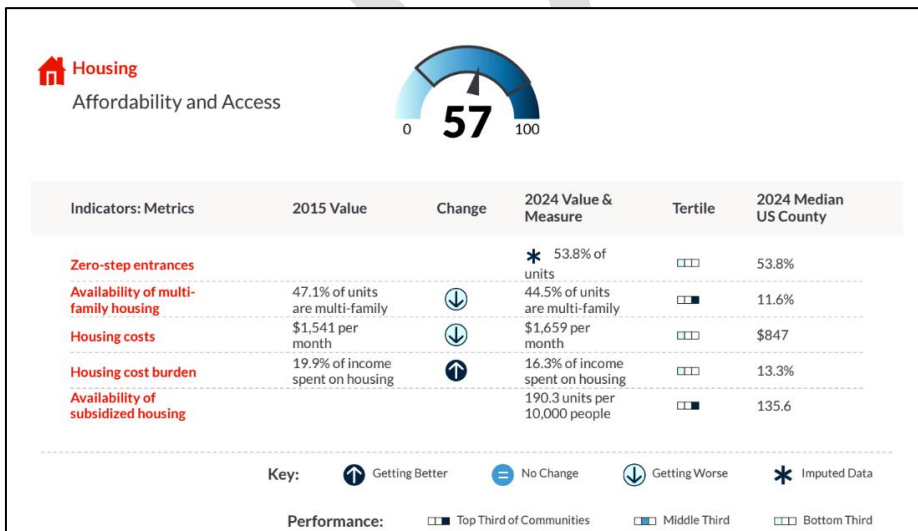
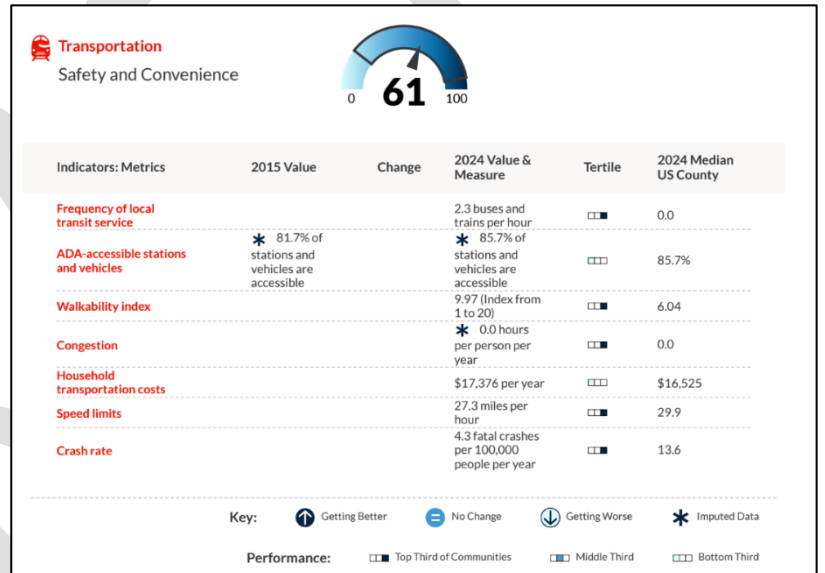
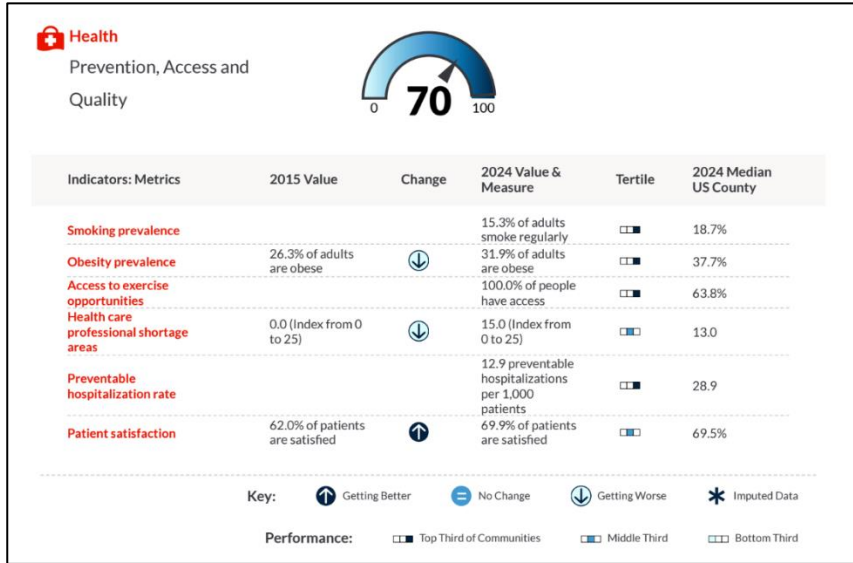
Climate

2023 Temperature	January	July	2023 Avg. Precipitation	January	July
Lowest	21°	43°		19"	4"
Average	26°	50°			
Highest	30°	57°			

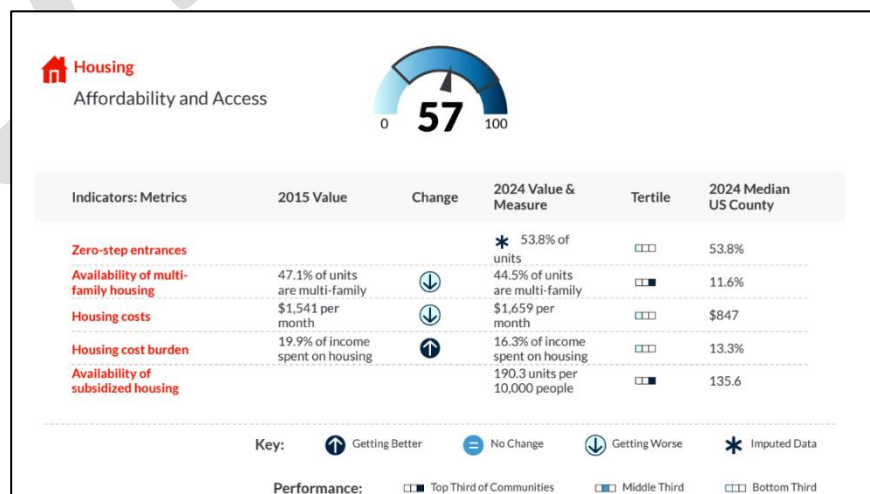
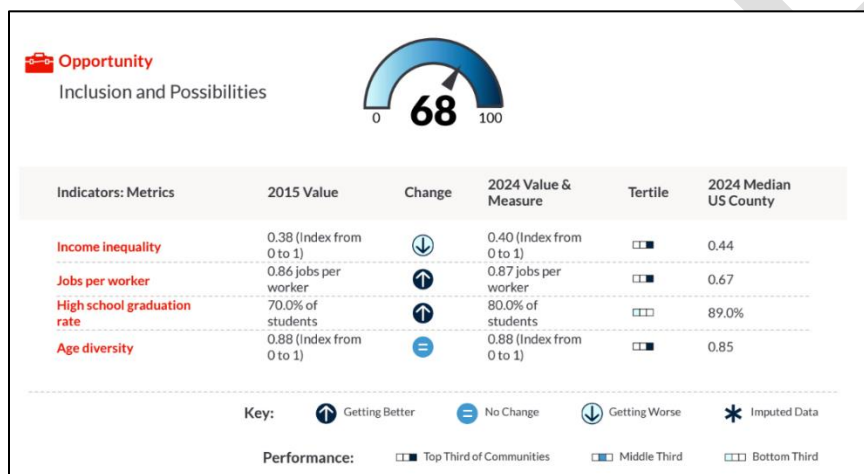
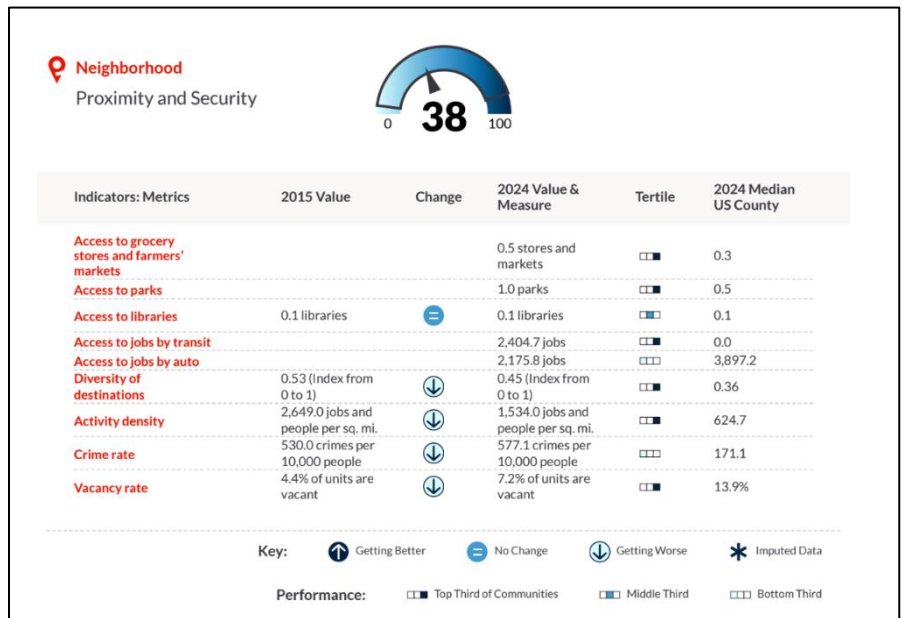
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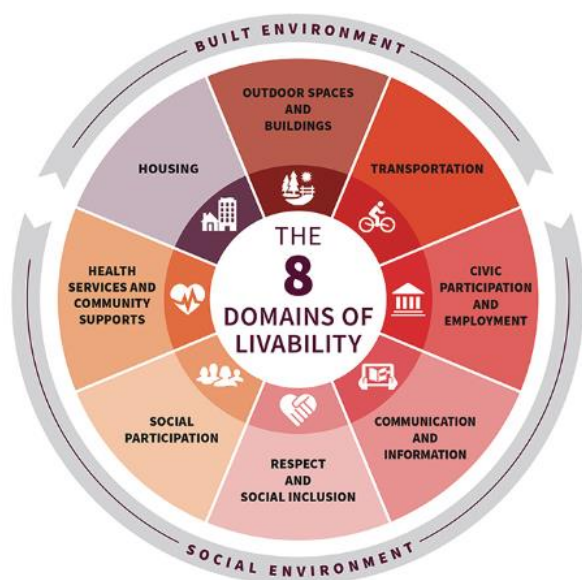


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SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

Survey and Listening Sessions 2023 and 2025

In celebration of National Older Americans Month in **May 2023**, the Juneau AARP Community Action Team (CAT) and the Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) co-sponsored three listening sessions to gather information for Age-Friendly Juneau planning. In early 2023 Juneau became the second Age-Friendly community in Alaska. The co-chairs of Age-Friendly Juneau at the time, Dr. Emily Kane (Chair of the Juneau Commission on Aging) and Linda Kruger (Lead for the AARP Juneau CAT), announced the kick-off of Age-Friendly Juneau and the listening sessions on KTOO Radio's Juneau Afternoon program. The listening sessions were held on consecutive Tuesdays at the three local libraries.



Eight flip charts, representing each of the Age-Friendly domains, were posted around the room. A ninth flip chart welcomed comments that didn't fit any of the eight categories or applied to more than one. Participants wrote comments and suggestions on post-it notes and posted them on the appropriate flip chart pages. Several participants completed a long questionnaire providing detailed suggestions for improving Juneau for seniors.

In addition to JCOA and CAT members (who had lots of ideas!) around twenty-five members of the public participated in the sessions. Several people who could not attend in person submitted comments by email.

After a short introduction about the AARP Age-Friendly Network, the AARP-CAT and Juneau COA, there were lively discussions of what could help Juneau become more Age-Friendly. Comments and suggestions from the listening sessions, completed questionnaires (hard copies and online), and other comments that are received will be compiled into a report and provide the background for a five-year plan for moving Age-Friendly Juneau forward. Suggestions included: a dedicated senior center for presentations, information (with a navigator), social events and games, and senior exercise classes; transportation to senior events and congregate meals and provision of transportation services out past the ferry terminal; an affordable, pedestrian friendly, small-scale co-housing village for seniors; CBJ support for home modifications to help seniors stay in their homes; senior specific exercise classes; more in-person social activities and programs for seniors; an Age-Friendly Day; Hospice and Homecare services; and additional affordable and accessible senior apartments.

To be more inclusive the Age-Friendly Juneau co-chairs reached out to groups in the community who may not have participated in the listening sessions. Several individuals completed an online or paper questionnaire. The most responses that were received related to the Age-Friendly Domains of Social Participation, Communication and Information, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Civic Participation and Employment, and Health Services and Community Supports. Housing and

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Transportation were close behind leading us to include each of these domains in our workplan. We decided it is also important to include Respect and Social Inclusion since these are key foundations of whatever is implemented. We also recommend working with other community groups to address Community Emergency Preparedness.

Additionally, AARP held additional listening sessions in **February of 2025** using a similar model of data gathering. The following represents the input first from the 2023 Listening Sessions, then input updated from the 2025 Listening Sessions.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Concept: Availability of safe and recreational facilities.

2023: Community members expressed a desire for a Community Senior Activity Center with fitness center/gym and meeting spaces for classes and gatherings in a central location; community gardens – Mendenhall Valley Library; group walks and socials; indoor and outdoor walking opportunities (recovery from surgeries, fitness, socializing); complete Brotherhood Bridget Trail look through Vintage Park; publish a directory of places people with limited mobility can connect with nature/accessible trails; more trails for seniors and mobility impaired people, and more benches on trails; improve rain canopies (2nd and Seward, St., by the courthouse on Seward St.), add lights on walking trails near Thunder Mountain Middle School, Vintage Park – Brotherhood Bridge Trail; add indoor senior walking hours at area schools, walking track downstairs around the turf at Dimond Park.

2025: Community members expressed interest in the Park Fieldhouse and use of the Marie Drake Gym, safe and accessible public spaces, especially more covered areas (corner of 2nd and Seward, next to the Court House, etc., more indoor meeting spaces - (community center), more community gardens (near the Valley Library), more indoor and outdoor walking opportunities for all abilities and completion of the Brotherhood Bridge Trail Loop.

Transportation

Concept: Safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation.

2023 Community members expressed a desire for improved cross walk safety - need more flashing cross walk lights (like at the Egan Drive-- Glacier Ave access to Juneau Seawalk); bus stop needed near Global CU and Petro One Station; more weatherproof bus shelters; transportation for events such as the Juneau Symphony, Perseverance Theatre, etc.; improve Capital AKcess (Care-A-Van) and bus service for seniors, including past DeHarts and Lena Loop; easier access to obtain a senior pass; Senior Day with bus service to pools, libraries, grocery stores, Bartlett, etc.; Improve sidewalks and crossings, especially around Riverview Senior Living, Trillium Landing and Vintage Park; help with snow removal on sidewalks and driveways.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: safe and accessible public spaces, especially more covered areas, “Make all buses on Mendenhall Loop go the same way”, many crosswalks need flashing lights (like the Egan to Sea walk crossing) - at 4 Points Hotel, Cordova and Douglas Highway and others, bus stop is needed near the Global Credit Union and Petro Gas Station across from Fred Meyers and transportation to events similar to a Senior Uber/Lyft Service, especially for community events like concerts and plays

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Housing

Concept: Availability of home modification programs for aging in place as well as range of age-friendly housing options.

2023: Community members expressed a desire for: Affordable, first floor senior units are needed; update code to include universal design features; tiny homes, cottages, or apartments for homeless; small scale affordable co-housing, apartments, and cottages for seniors; (Riverview is “too expensive for many” and Fireweed Place and Trillium Landing are “too industrial.”) Lower property taxes, grandfather in lower tax rates, or have a ceiling for seniors; home modifications are needed- SAIL has done home evaluations for senior safety features; home modification stipends are desired.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: Affordable, accessible senior housing.

Social participation

Concept: Access to leisure and cultural activities, including opportunities for older residents to socialize and engage with their peers as well as with younger people.

2023: Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center; Geocaching, movies for grown-ups, share your love and talents campaign, senior activity center with movie nights, music nights, game nights, daytime events for seniors who don’t drive at night, card game clubs, senior lunches, transportation to events, book clubs, partner with senior living facilities for events, art classes, music events; JACC hosted senior events; senior movies at Goldtown Theater; tiny homes or cottages would promote social engagement; AARP driver’s safety and other classes; a dedicated senior activity center and scheduled activities at public libraries; arts and craft classes, AARP events, community gatherings and celebrations, counseling services.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: a Community Senior Activity Center with art classes, exercise, movie nights, card and game nights, music nights and events during the day for seniors who don’t drive at night, free senior lunch programs, book clubs, group walks, multicultural events and celebrations, geocaching for seniors, movies for grownups, share your love and talents campaign, publish (print and online) a directory of places people with mobility challenges can experience nature

Respect & Inclusion

Concept: Programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue.

Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center open to all with regular schedule of activities; flowers for homebound residents, like meals on wheels; safe and accessible public spaces for walking and gathering; multi-cultural events and celebrations like Festival of Holi in March; Social events; Age- Friendly Days; work across community groups; support prison-release programs to support re-entry, voting, healthy life-practices, housing. OFFICE OF AGING

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Communication and Information

Concept: Access to communications technology and other resources so older residents can connect with their community, friends and family.

Community members expressed a desire for: Juneau Seniors Facebook Page; semi-annual senior expo; online senior events calendar, also posted around town; fliers for concerts and other events posted at senior living facilities; share information on seniors' contributions to the community; Age-Friendly Juneau webpage; write articles for Senior Voice and AARP publications. Emergency Directory.

2025 Community members expressed interest in: Facebook posts for seniors, semi-annual expo highlighting senior oriented information, monthly fliers for concerts, plays, other events (online calendar)

Community and Health Services

Concept: Access to home based care services, health clinics and programs that promote wellness and active aging.

Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center; group workshops and information sessions; geriatric care (encourage Bartlett to recruit a gerontologist, rheumatologist, cardiologist, gastroenterologist, and neurologist), Meals-on Wheels and congregate meals at Senior activity centers, encourage CAN and nursing programs at UAS, Friends of Seniors - help with small projects like changing smoke alarm batteries, etc., support Bartlett Home Health and Hospice, develop a directory of Medicare/Medicaid providers, promote wellness talks and activities (libraries, Bartlett, and senior housing).

2025 Community members expressed interest in: group informational sessions and workshops on health-related topics; flowers for the homebound (like Meals on Wheels).

Work and Civic Engagement

Concept: Paid work and volunteer activities for older residents and opportunities to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives.

2023 Community members expressed a desire for: Community Senior Activity Center, financial assistance (car maintenance, banking, bill paying, household chores, senior-helper/Friends of Seniors Program), share information on the Dept. of Labor "Return to Work Programs", directory of volunteer opportunities.

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AGE FRIENDLY PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Linda statement

Linda Kruger,
Juneau Community Action Team Leader
Jane Lindsey
AARP Community Action Team
Deborah Craig,
Chair Juneau Commission on Aging
Barbara Murray,
Juneau Commission on Aging

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PARTNERS

1. City and Borough of Juneau
 - a. Assembly
 - b. City Manager's Office
 - c. Bartlett Regional Hospital
 - d. Parks and Recreation
2. Catholic Community Services - Senior Services Southeast
3. SE Regional Health Consortium
4. University of Alaska Southeast
5. Local Community Organizations (KTOO, Rotary, etc)

DATA SOURCES

Age-Friendly Juneau Data Sources (4/10/25)

2019-2021 Community Needs Assessment Six Month Update, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Juneau Assembly Goals 2025 (Approved 2/3/2025)

Alaska's Community Capacity Review: 2019 Statewide Public Health System Assessment, Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Juneau Surveys and Listening Sessions

2020 Juneau Senior Needs Survey (include link in Age-Friendly Plan)

2023 Listening Sessions: 5/9 Downtown Library; 5/16 Valley Library; 5/23 Douglas Library

Participants and other residents also were encouraged to submit written comments.

2/25/25 Juneau AARP Reception Listening Session

Other References

Making our Roads Safer, US Department of Transportation, October 2012

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AGE AND ABILITY FRIENDLY PRIORITY AREA ACTION ITEMS

The attached matrices provide input on all of the Eight Domains of Livability but we are focused on Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Respect and Social Inclusion as our first priorities.