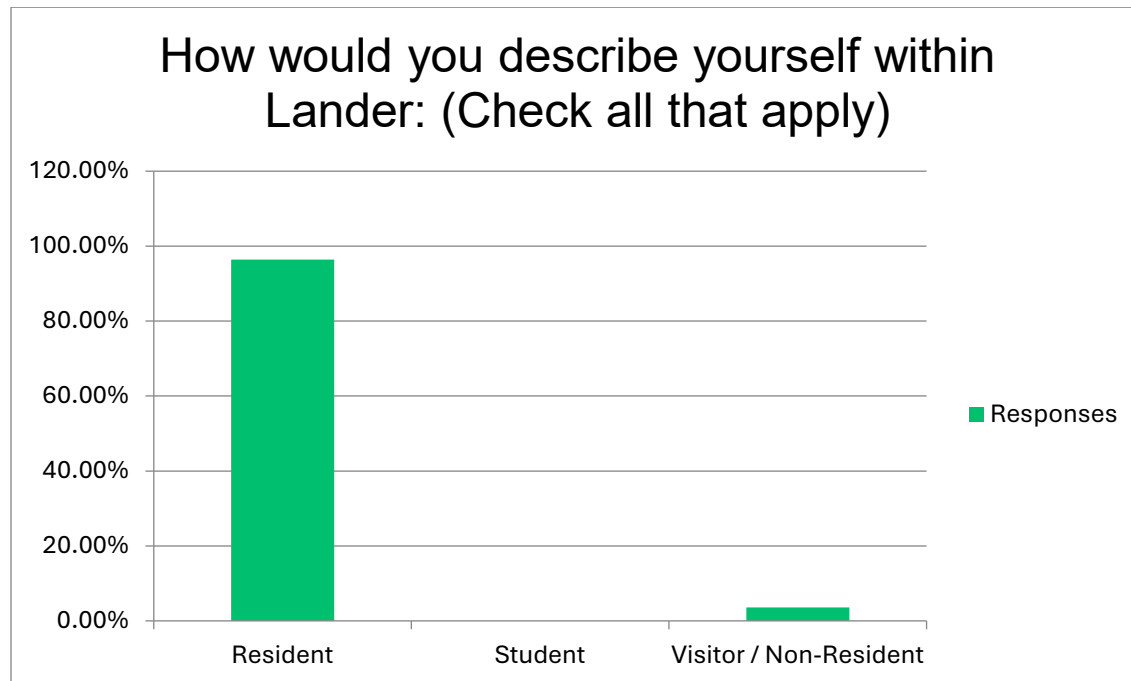


Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide summarized comments of the Lander Master Plan Survey results. Results may include comments from the community for the Parks & Recreation plan theme. The information below does not summarize findings from the Parks & Recreation Plan survey.

Question 1 – Describe Yourself

When respondents were asked to describe themselves within Lander, 96.38% of respondents said they were residents. The two remaining options were students or visitors, no respondents said they were students while the remaining 3.62% said they were visitors or non-residents.



Question 2 – What Respondents Love Most About Lander

Access to Outdoors

Lander's **proximity to outdoor recreation**—mountains, trails, and public lands—was a consistent highlight. Residents value the ability to engage in activities like hiking, fishing, and climbing year-round.

Key Quotes:

- “The community and access to outdoor recreation on public land.”
- “Living in the foothills of one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the U.S.”
- “Access to public land and family activities—camping, hiking, and fishing are in our backyard.”

Small-Town Feel

Respondents love Lander's **peaceful, small-town charm**, which includes low crime, little traffic, and a slower pace of life. There is also appreciation for maintaining traditions and local businesses.

Key Quotes:

- “Small-town charm with good local restaurants, shops, and little traffic.”
- “I love the peaceful, calm atmosphere and lack of overdevelopment.”
- “Safe, wholesome town with great access to the outdoors.”

Summary:

Residents deeply value Lander's **small-town character, tight-knit community, and outdoor opportunities**. These attributes are central to its identity and must be preserved as part of future planning efforts. Many expressed a desire to balance growth while maintaining Lander's charm and connection to nature.

Question 3 – Housing

The survey responses show that the **top priorities** for housing in Lander over the next 10 years are promoting **housing attainability for all income levels** (56.86% rated as 4 or 5), improving the **quality and safety of existing housing** (51.52%), supporting **workforce housing for key professionals** (50.55%), and developing **senior and retirement housing opportunities** (52.19%). Moderately supported strategies include encouraging a **variety of housing types** (44.11%) and creating **low-income housing options** (41.53%). Supporting **additional residential units in the downtown area** received the lowest importance, with only 31.7% rating it a 4 or 5.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Workforce housing, housing attainability, improving existing housing, and senior housing opportunities align closely with the existing goals.
2. **Lower Priorities:** Supporting downtown residential units should be de-emphasized based on community feedback.
3. **Adjustments:** Highlight rehabilitation efforts for aging housing stock and refine objectives to better address senior housing and workforce needs.

Question 4 – Transportation

The survey responses reveal that the **highest transportation priorities** for Lander are **improving safety at major intersections** (61.58% rated as 4 or 5) and **increasing pedestrian access and safety** (60.49%). Enhancing **bicycle-friendly connections and infrastructure** received moderate support (45.11%), while **expanding parking availability** in high-demand areas like downtown had the lowest importance, with only 28.14% rating it as a 4 or 5.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Improving safety at intersections and enhancing pedestrian access align strongly with existing goals and objectives.
2. **Moderate Priorities:** Bicycle-friendly infrastructure should remain part of the plan but with less emphasis compared to pedestrian and intersection safety.

3. **Low Priority:** Expanding parking availability should be de-prioritized based on minimal community support.

Question 5 – Economy

The survey results reveal that the **highest priorities** for economic development in Lander are **supporting existing local businesses** (61.2% rated as 4 or 5), **creating more jobs** (60.5%), and **attracting young professionals and families** (56.1%). Workforce training and education also received notable support (49.04%). **Promoting tourism** (44.54%) and **diversifying local industries** (44.41%) ranked moderately, while **sustainable development** received the lowest level of importance, with only 40.6% rating it as a 4 or 5.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Supporting existing businesses, creating jobs, and attracting young professionals align strongly with the goals of strengthening the local economy and addressing workforce challenges.
2. **Moderate Priorities:** Workforce training, tourism promotion, and diversifying industries align with existing goals but require targeted strategies.
3. **Lower Priority:** Sustainable development received the least support; consider scaling this focus back or tying it to job creation efforts.

Question 6 – Parks & Recreation

The survey results show that the **top priorities** for parks and recreation in Lander are **expanding or adding new youth programs** (61.99% rated as 4 or 5) and **upgrading or improving existing parks and recreation amenities** (61.64%). Adding **new amenities to existing parks for all ages and abilities** (49.31%) was also a notable priority. Expanding **adult and family programs** (46.3%) and **senior/retiree programs** (40.55%) received moderate support. Meanwhile, **improving neighborhood proximity and access to parks** ranked lower, with only 42.11% rating it as a 4 or 5. These results highlight the community's preference for enhancing recreational programs and improving existing park infrastructure over expanding access.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Expanding youth programs, improving park amenities, and adding new amenities for all ages align strongly with community feedback.
2. **Moderate Priorities:** Expanding adult and senior programs aligns with survey responses, though less critical than youth-oriented efforts.
3. **Lower Priorities:** Goals related to park connectivity and access should be de-prioritized or reframed to focus on maintenance and program development.

Question 7 – Short answer

This question asked residents to provide an option short answer for the following statement: imagine lander 10 years from now, what additional thoughts do you have regarding housing, transportation, economic development, or parks and recreation.

Housing

The responses highlight the critical need for **affordable and diverse housing** to support young families, essential workers, and retirees. Many respondents expressed concerns about the rising cost of living and housing availability, particularly for lower-income earners.

Key Quotes:

- “We need affordable housing for teachers and service workers... housing prices in the \$75,000-\$150,000 range.”
- “Lander needs more affordable housing options, especially for young families in low to moderate income.”
- “The middle class will be as priced out as the lower class unless housing is protected. We lose potential nurse and teacher applicants because they can’t afford to live here.”

Transportation

There is significant interest in improving **roads, pedestrian safety, and bicycle infrastructure**. Many emphasized the importance of safer pathways and connectivity for walkers, cyclists, and strollers, alongside addressing road maintenance issues.

Key Quotes:

- “Not having a bike path that connects through town is one of Lander’s biggest downfalls.”
- “I’d like to see sidewalks on all streets, bike lanes on major routes, and safer pedestrian pathways.”
- “Fix the roads and do it right... add bike lanes with separation from autos.”

Economic Development

Respondents value supporting **local businesses** and fostering a diverse economy while maintaining Lander’s small-town charm. There is also strong interest in attracting young families and professionals to sustain growth. Concerns were raised about certain institutions limiting downtown opportunities.

Key Quotes:

- “Support local businesses, promote community events, and preserve our natural spaces.”
- “We should revitalize downtown... fewer empty storefronts and more opportunities for small businesses.”
- “Attracting young professionals and families is key. We need affordable housing and new businesses.”

Parks & Recreation

The community supports enhancing existing parks, expanding youth programs, and adding connected pathways to improve access and usability. A recreation center was a recurring suggestion for year-round family activities.

Key Quotes:

- “A multi-function recreation center for our youth, including an ice rink and evening activities for teens.”
- “More pathway integration to connect parks, river corridors, and Main Street.”
- “Parks and pathways are essential for making Lander a vibrant and attractive community.”

Summary:

Across all themes, residents emphasized **maintaining Lander’s identity** while addressing key issues: affordable housing, road and pathway improvements, support for local businesses, and enhanced recreational opportunities. Infrastructure maintenance emerged as a foundational priority before pursuing new developments.