

Joint City Council & Planning Commission Meeting 12/10/24

*Periodic Update Community
Survey Results Summary*






Comprehensive Plan & Development Regulations Periodic Update 2026









<https://www.millwoodwa.us/periodic-updates>




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Latest News

- Public Works
- City Council Updates
- 2026 Periodic Update**
- Upcoming Office

Meeting Agendas & Minutes

2026 Periodic Update

[Click here to view the webpage for the 2026 periodic update to the City Comprehensive Plan & Development Regulations.](#)

Hard copies are also available at City Hall or contact City Hall at 509-924-0960 to have one mailed to you.

Please Complete Community Survey

Go to Periodic Update webpage for a link to complete the survey
or follow survey QR code with your mobile phone!



[Click Here to Complete the Community Survey!](https://forms.gle/GZiebm4TC3heDV7A)

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Community survey hard copies are also available at City Hall or contact City Hall at 509-924-0960 to have one mailed to you.

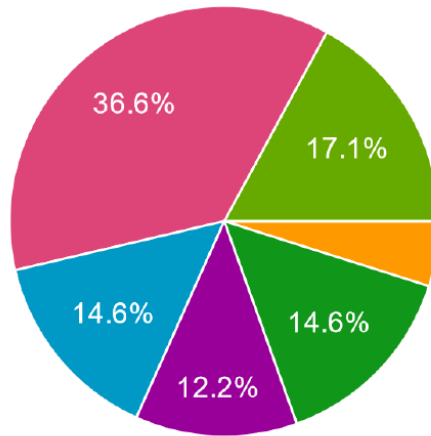
[Click here to view the Periodic Update - Community Survey flyer](#)

Available September 12th - October 23rd

- Advertised at Millwood Daze
- Sent out by email to interested parties (sign up sheet) & community groups
- Posted on community boards
- Periodic Update webpage
- Social media posts & reminders
- Flyer in October water bill
- Included in City newsletter
- Hard copies available at City Hall - mailed out as needed

How old are you?

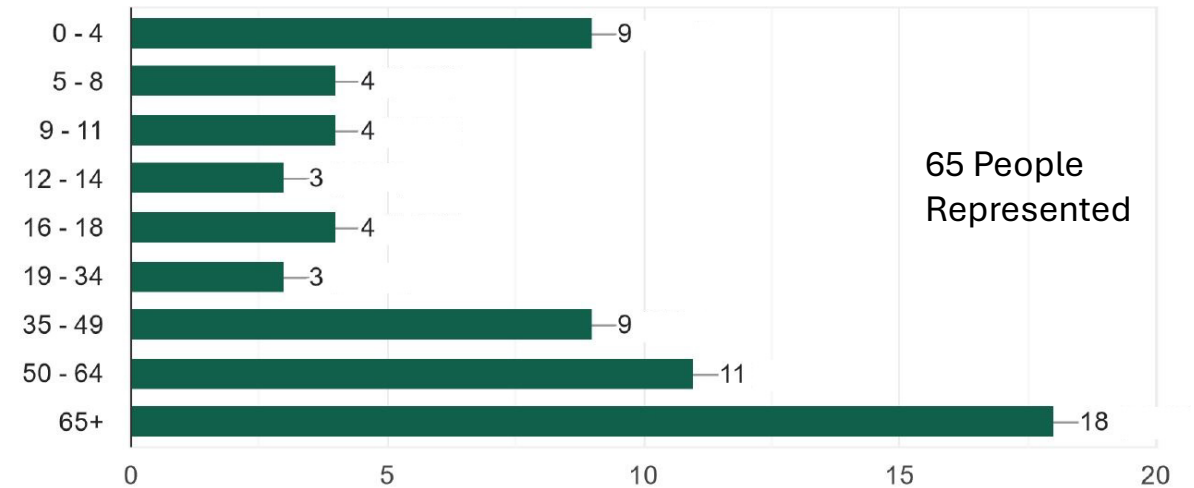
41 responses



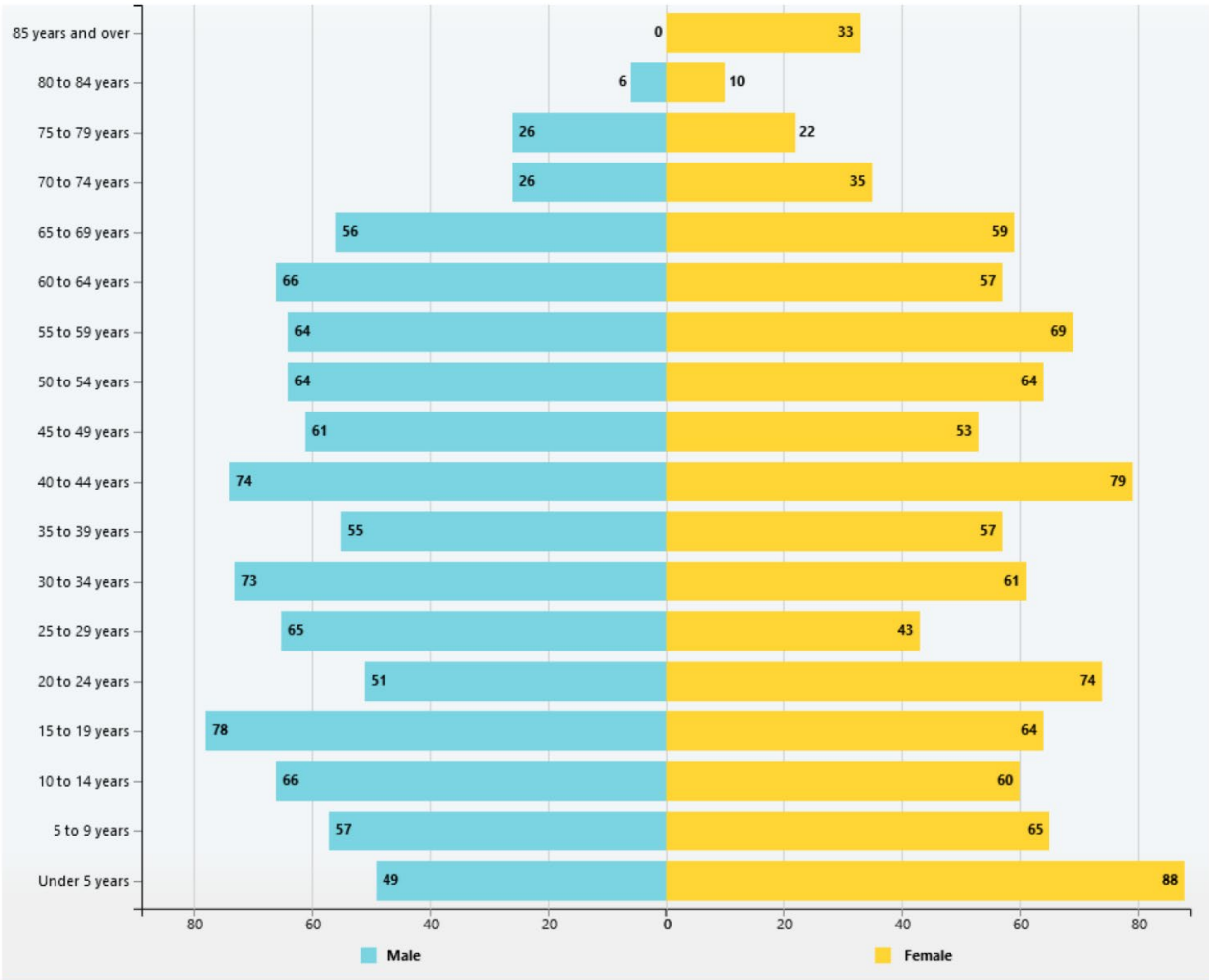
- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 - 74
- 75+

Which of the following age categories make up your household (including yourself)?

41 responses



Community Survey Response to Millwood Demographics Comparison



Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5 Year Estimates

Category	Millwood 1,930	Survey 41 Respondents
Seniors 65+	14.1%	53.7%
55 - 64	13.3%	14.6%
45 - 54	12.5%	12.2%
35 - 44	13.7%	14.6%
25 - 34	12.5%	4.9%
24 & Younger	33.8%	0%

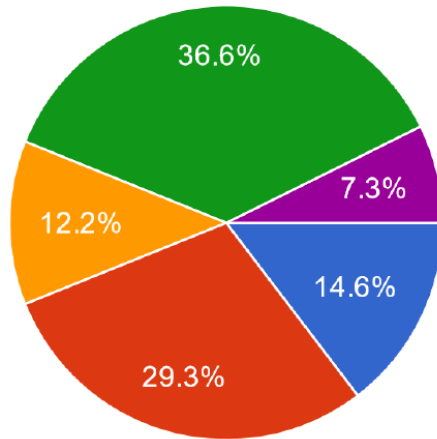
Responses were heavier from Seniors 65+ and lighter from age 34 or younger compared to Millwood demographics; however all age groups were represented in households.

Survey was representative of Millwood.

Imagine Millwood, Stakeholder Interviews, etc. will also be utilized to gather input

How many years have you lived or owned a business in Millwood?

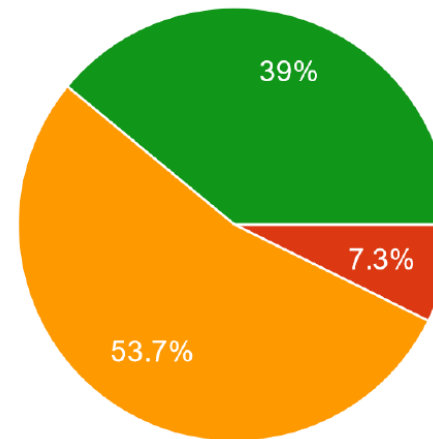
41 responses



- 0 - 5
- 6 - 15
- 16 - 25
- 26 years or more
- N/A, I don't live or own a business in Millwood
- I work in Millwood

What is your current employment status?

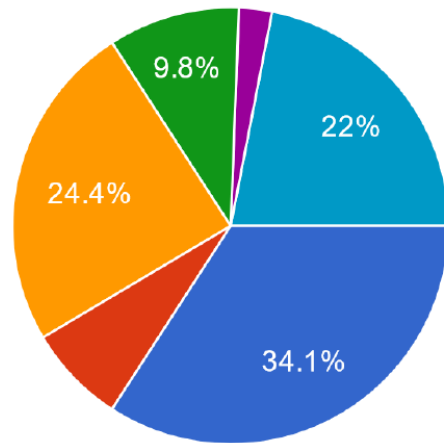
41 responses



- Not Currently Employed
- Employed Part-Time
- Employed Full-Time
- Retired

Where does your work primarily take place?

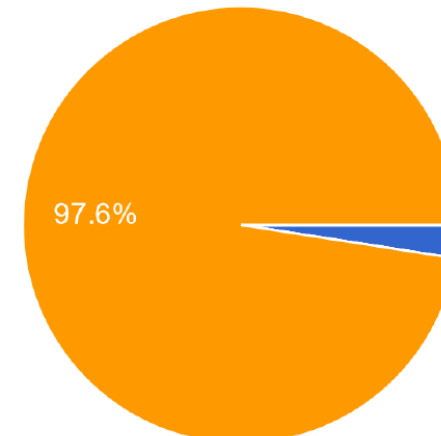
41 responses



- N/A - not currently employed or retired
- Within City of Millwood
- Neighboring Municipalities (Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Spokane, etc.)
- Within Greater Spokane County (15+ miles away from home)
- Outside Spokane County
- From home / remote work, including hybrid

What is your primary mode of transportation?

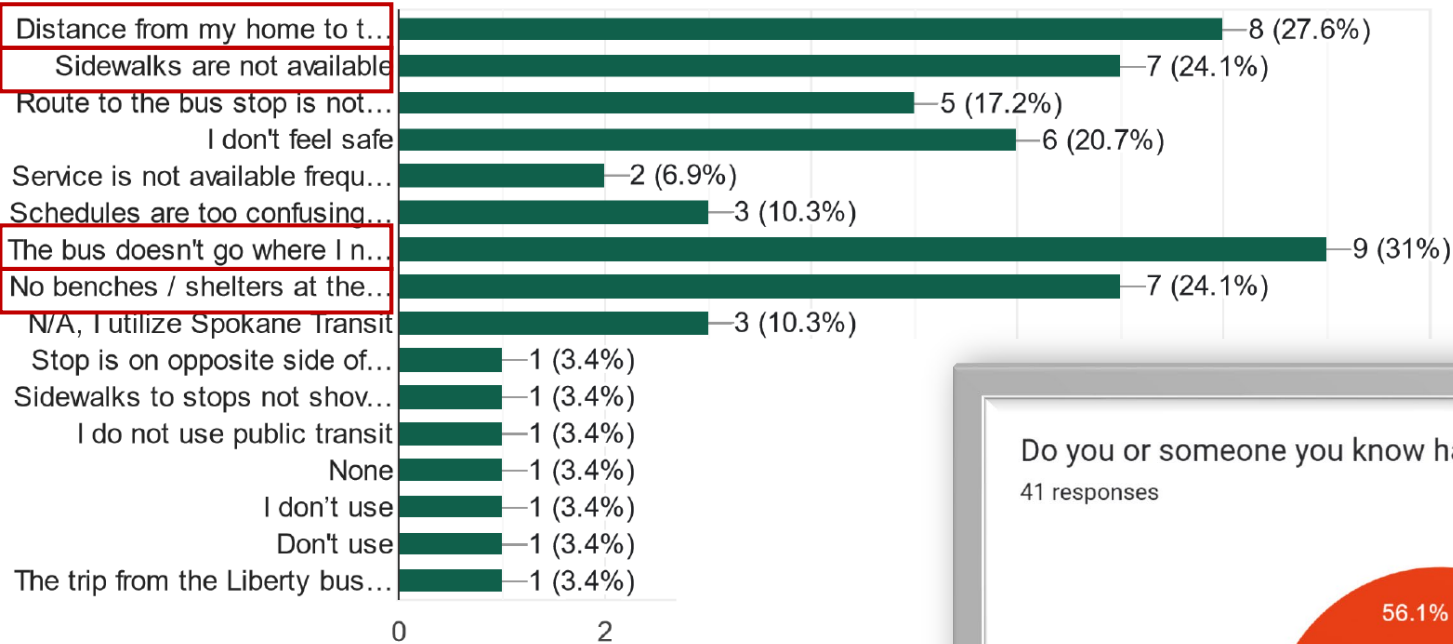
41 responses



- Walking
- Biking
- Personal Vehicle
- Rideshare
- Public Transit

Fixed route public transit is available in Millwood through Spokane Transit. Do any of the following make it difficult to utilize public transit? (Check all that apply)

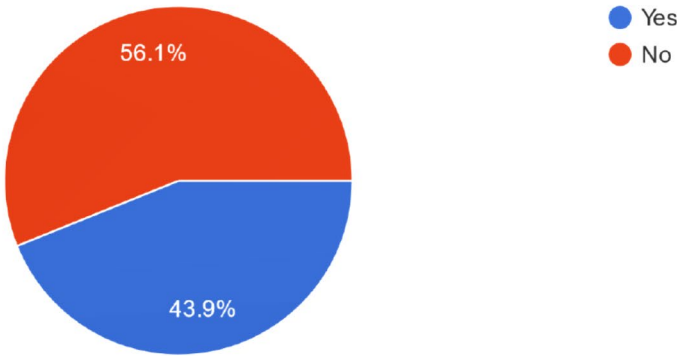
29 responses



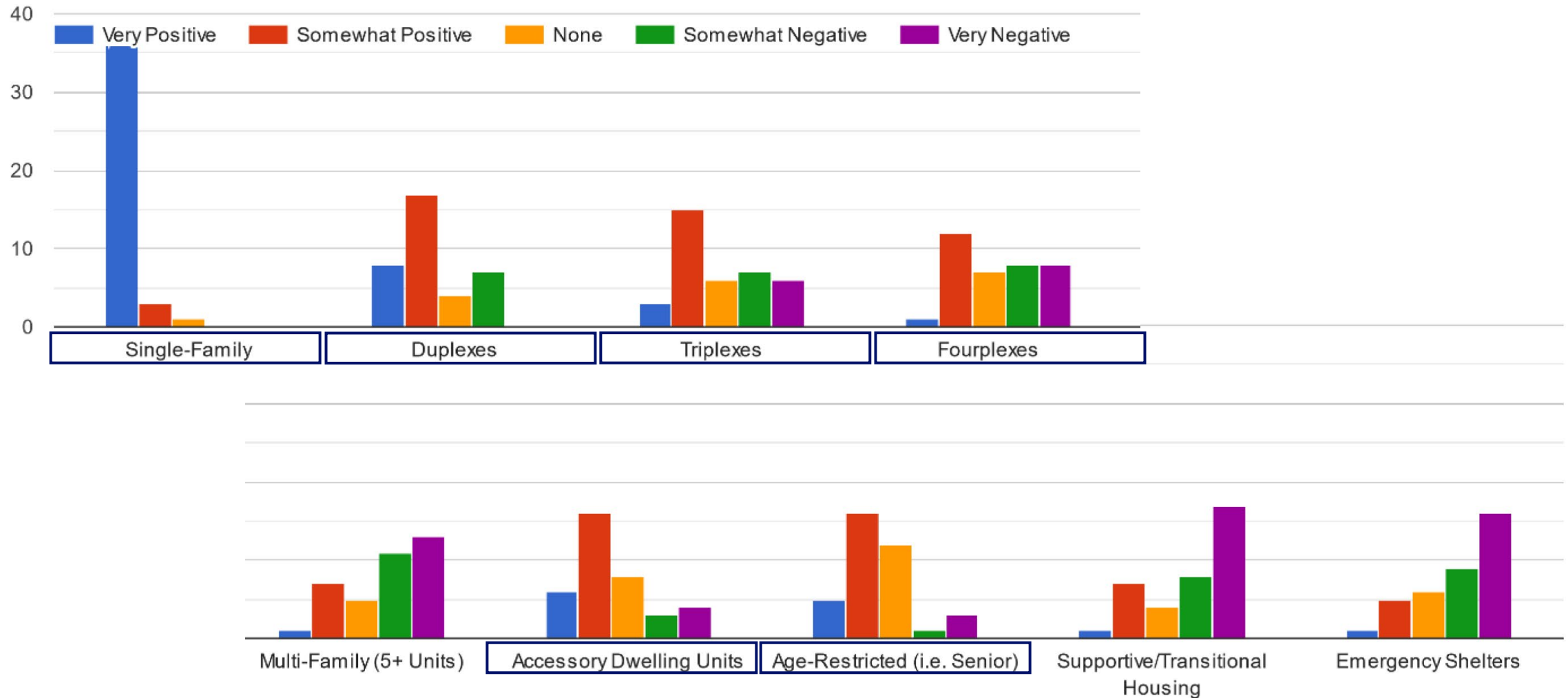
1. Bus doesn't go where I need to go
2. Distance from my home to the nearest bus stop is too far
3. Lacking infrastructure - no sidewalks or no benches / bus shelters at the bus stop

Do you or someone you know have concerns about housing affordability in Millwood?

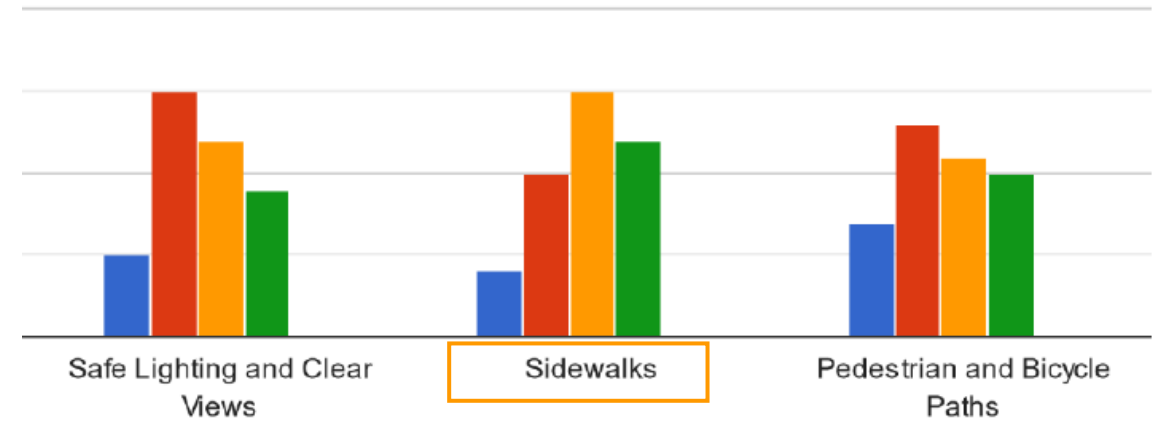
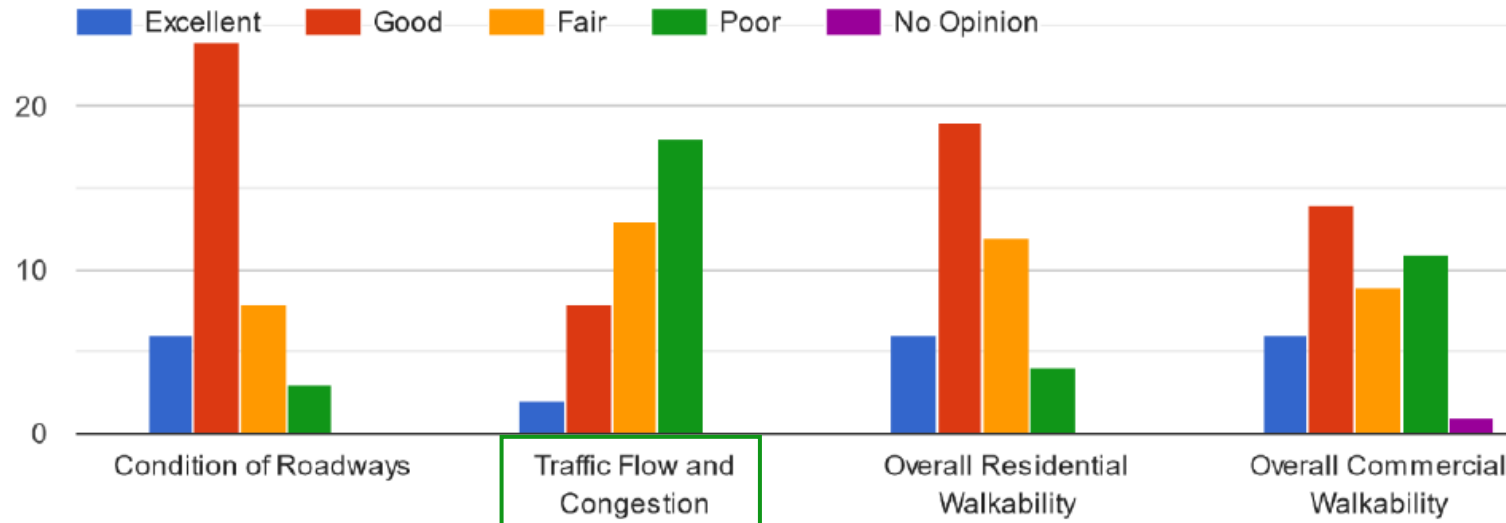
41 responses



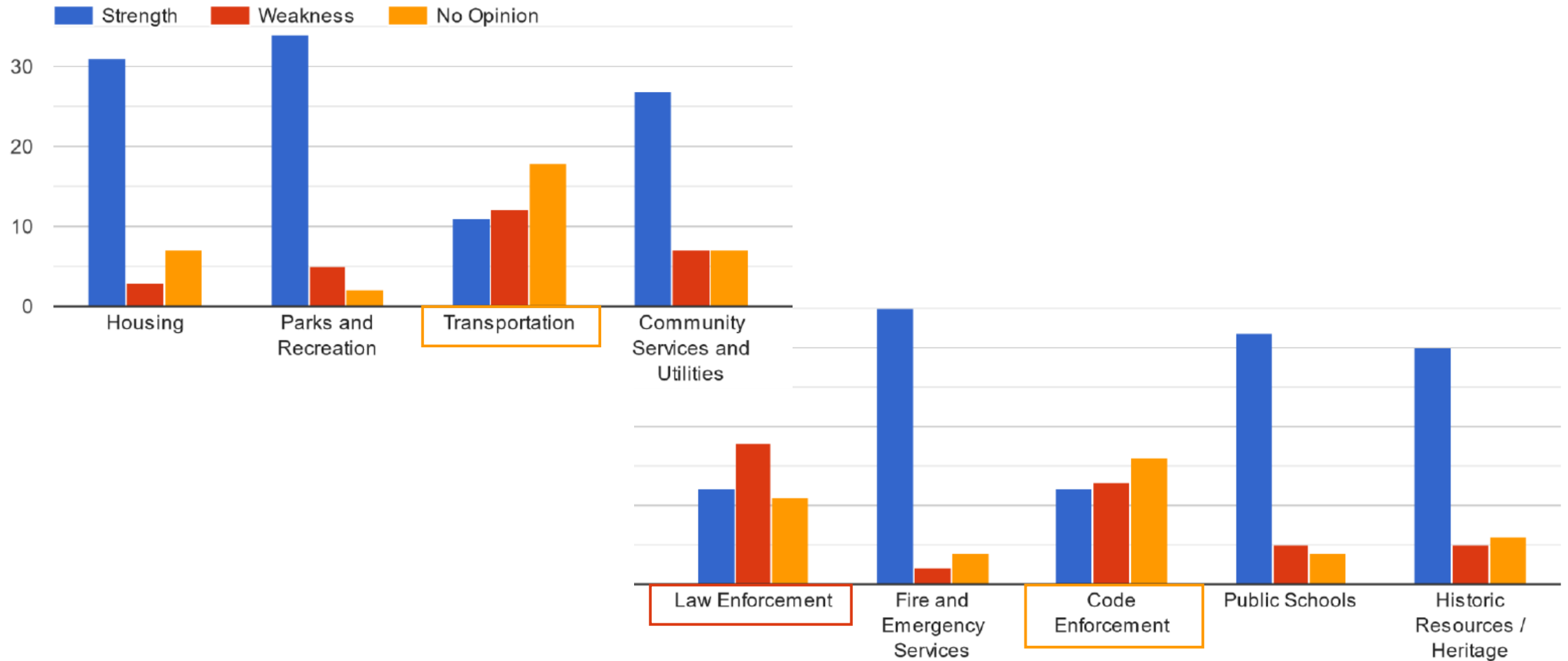
**WA State legislation now requires the City of Millwood to plan for multiple housing types and incomes.
What impact do you believe the following residential development types have on Millwood?**



How would you rate the quality of the following transportation conditions?

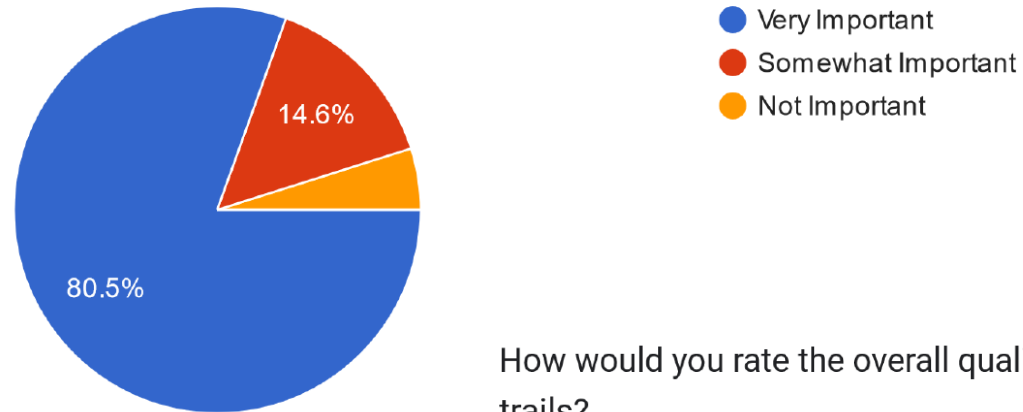


Which of the following are Millwood's strengths and weaknesses?

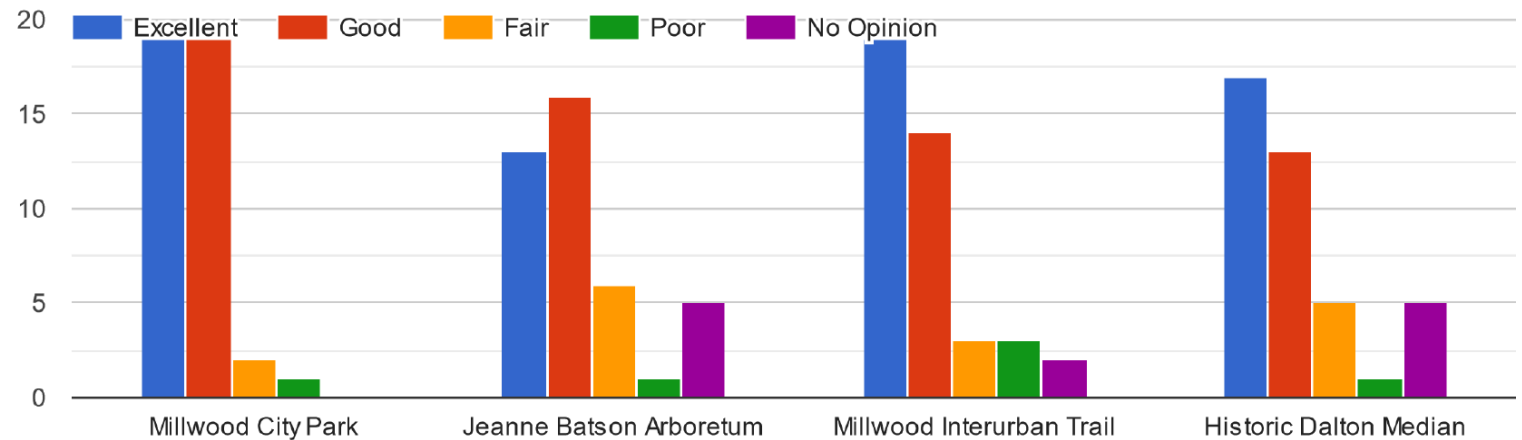


How important is access to parks, recreation, open space, and trails within the City of Millwood?

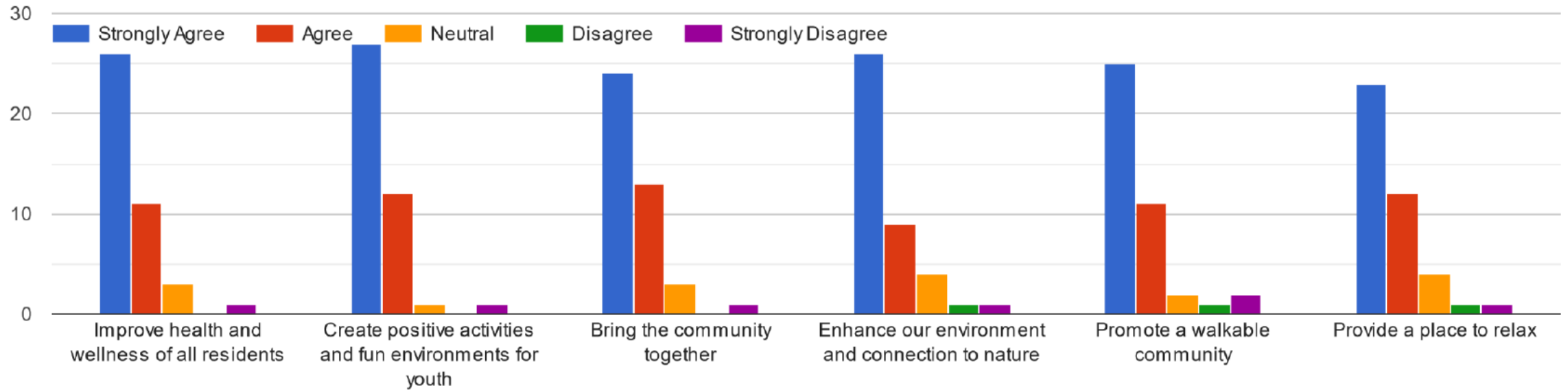
41 responses



How would you rate the overall quality and maintenance of City of Millwood parks, open space, and trails?

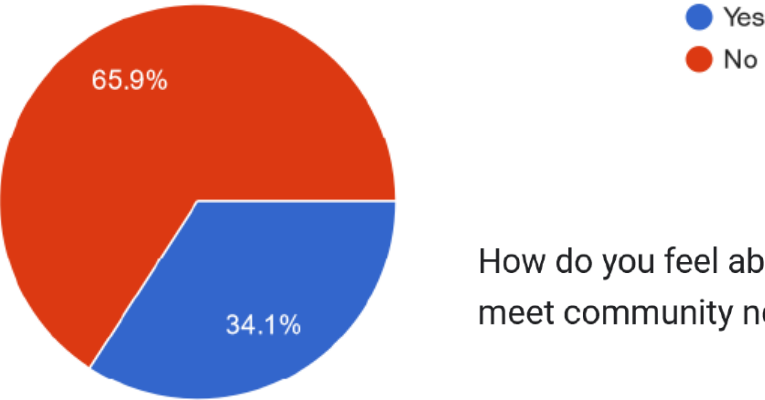


What are the most important things Millwood parks, recreation, open space, and trails can do for our community?

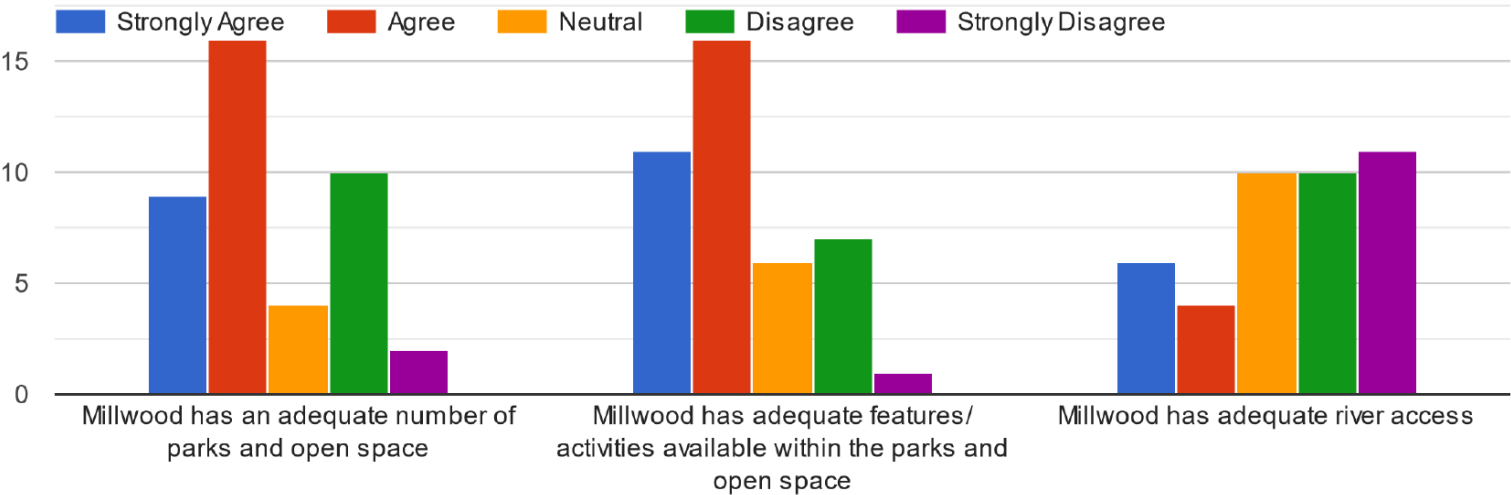


Do you encounter any barriers to individuals with disabilities accessing Millwood's parks, recreation, open space, or trails ?

41 responses



How do you feel about the following statements about how well Millwood's parks and open space meet community needs?



Respondents were asked to expand upon their answers to the community needs question and the following is a summary of the responses by topic and majority opinion:

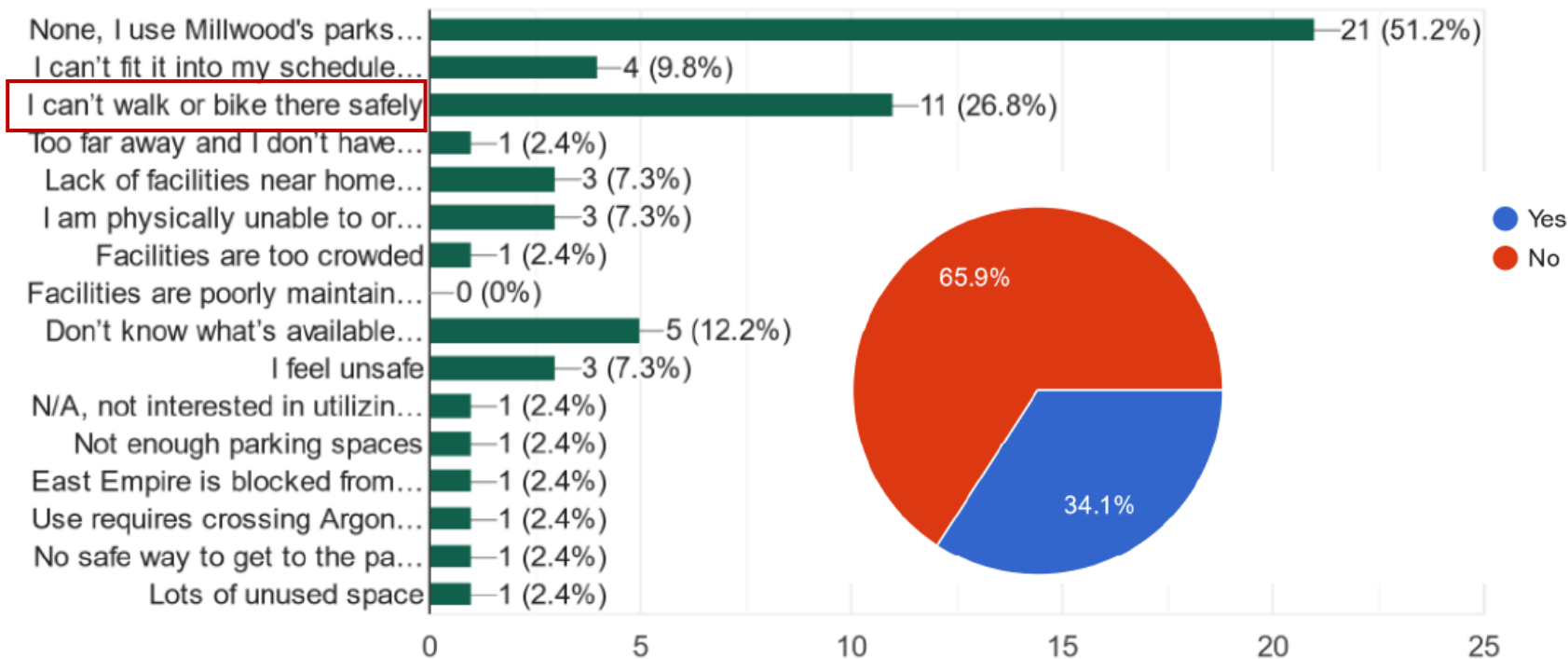
- There is only one park and playing at the school playgrounds isn't a good daytime option unless it is summer. The park is nice but it has limited parking and no handicap accessibility. Parts of the park could be updated and used for more activities / amenities (i.e. pickleball courts, space for food trucks at events, space for performances, adding power outlets, etc.). The current City Park has gotten smaller over the years for construction of the city shop building, the fire station, etc. that have all taken land without adding replacement park land.
- The river is an important Millwood feature yet there is no direct public access and very minimal visual access to the river for anyone that does not own a house on the river, we need clean and safe river access for Millwood residents. We are a City bordered by the Spokane River and the city owns property on the river. Residents should have access to small walk-to neighborhood river parks to launch kayaks, paddle boards, and small canoes, and enjoy the river views.

There were also individual responses about selling the city's lots on the Spokane River / not creating river access, not adding more walkability, having the city work on maintaining / beautifying trail connections between residences, issues with residents / animal control near parks, needing a way to cross Argonne on the Centennial Trail, and the need for sidewalks and streetlights throughout the whole community (especially the east side of Millwood), as well as other element topics such as traffic and transit.

The majority of respondents do not face barriers to visiting parks and open spaces or participating in activities; however some do experience barriers such as not being able to walk or bike there safely and 34.1% do encounter barriers to individuals with disabilities accessing Millwood's parks, recreation, open space, or trails.

What barriers do you face when trying to visit parks and open spaces or participate in activities, or why would you choose not to use Millwood's parks, recreation, open space, or trails?

41 responses



"The Farmers Market is on the grass, making it inaccessible to those in wheel chairs. It's one of the best Farmers Markets in Spokane"

"Hard to get to farmers market with walkers, canes for elderly or disabled"

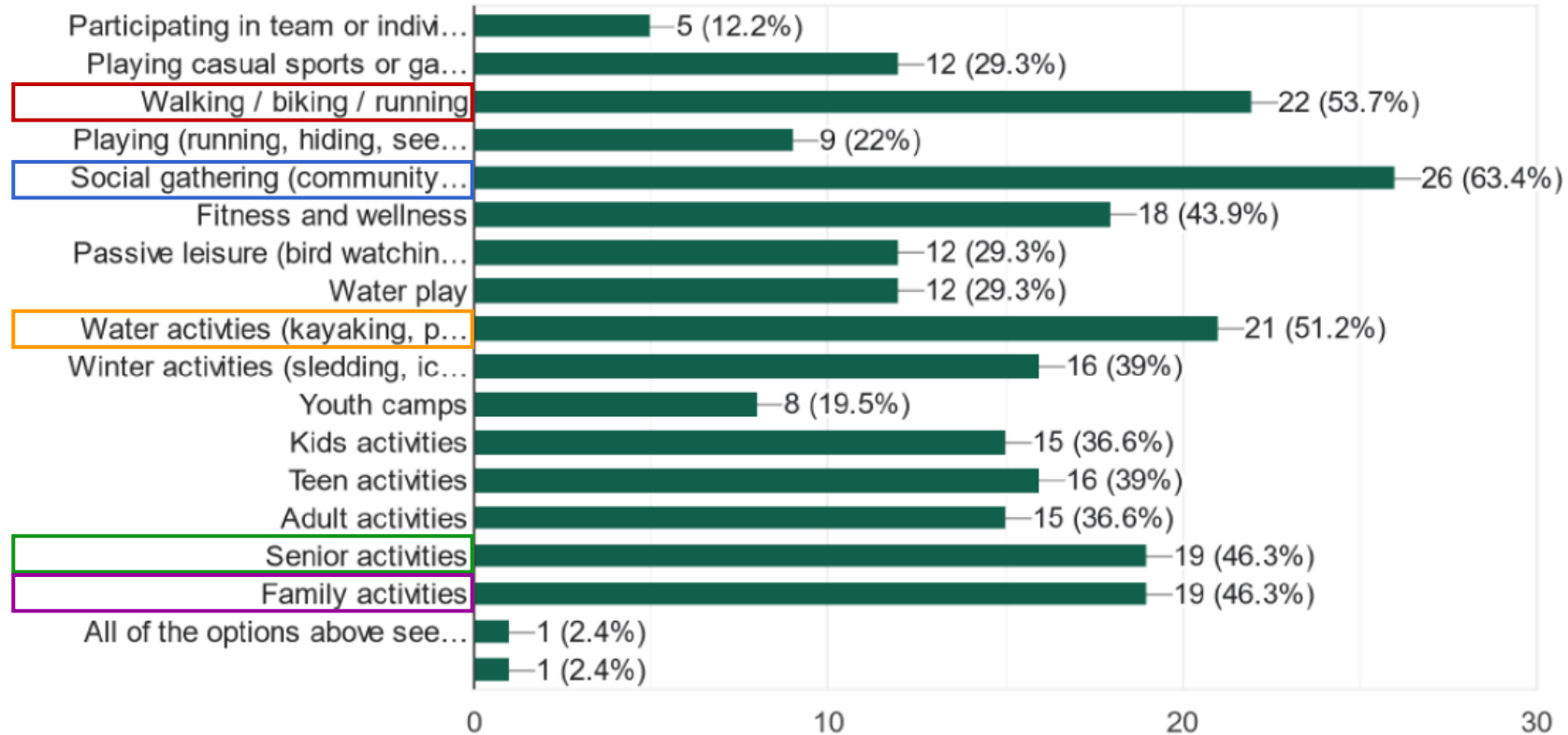
"Not enough hard surfaces"

"While my family does not personally, I could see it being difficult for some to get through the rocks at the Millwood City Park playground"

"Getting from parking on Frederick down into the park is too steep for persons using walkers, canes or wheelchairs"

What activities would you like to see more of in Millwood? Check all that apply.

41 responses

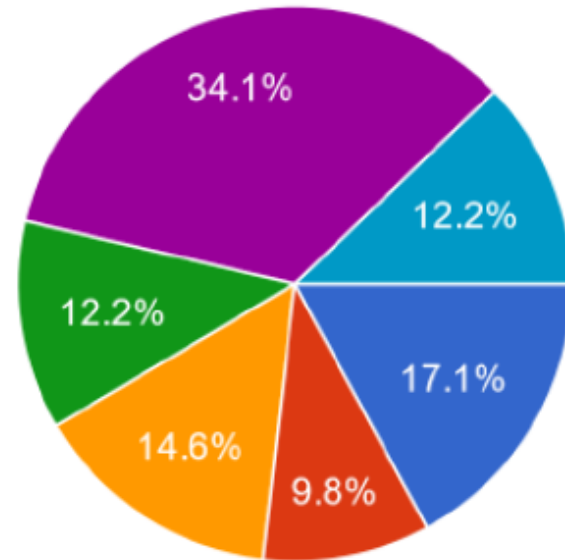


Concerning Millwood activities, the top five activities that respondents would like to see more of in Millwood are social gatherings / community events, walking/biking/running opportunities, water activities (kayaking, paddle boarding, etc.), senior activities, and family activities.

Developing river access is the most important thing the city can do followed by upgrading facilities/amenities at existing sites like Millwood Park. Although walking / biking / running received the second highest response to “what activities would you like to see more of in Millwood,” adding more trails / better trail connectivity tied for fourth place on most important improvement.

What is the most important thing the City could do to improve Millwood's parks, recreation, open space, and trails?

41 responses



● Upgrade facilities/amenities at existing sites (i.e. Millwood City Park)

● Build additional facilities at new locations

● Provide additional activities for all ages and abilities

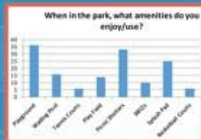
● Add more trails / better trail connectivity

● Develop river access

● No improvement is needed



MILLWOOD PARK REIMAGINED



- FEATURES**
- SPLASH PAD
 - RAILROAD-THEMED PLAYGROUND
 - PLAZA & GATHERING SPACES FOR FARMER'S MARKET
 - BASKETBALL & PICKLEBALL COURTS
 - TRAIL CONNECTIONS
 - PICNIC SHELTER



Based on previous feedback for Millwood Park Reimagined, the following amenities/features have been proposed for Millwood City Park. Please rank each project by priority (1 is highest priority & 10 is lowest priority)

The results derived were as follows:

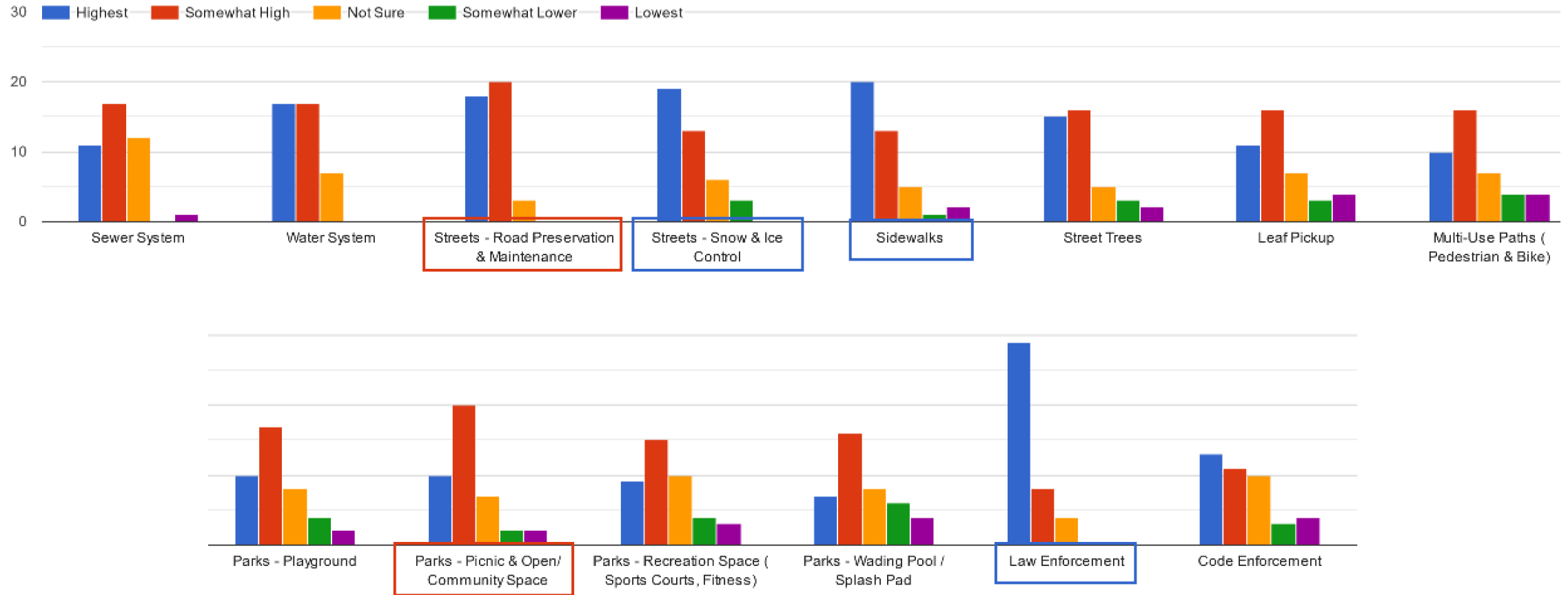
1. New Playground (ADA Compliant)
2. Wading Pool / Splash Pad (ADA Compliant)
 - Tiered Hard Surface Plaza for Gatherings, Events, etc.
 - Additional Parking
 - New Tennis / Pickleball Courts
 - Picnic Shelters
 - Wider Multi-Use Paths (ADA Compliant)
 - Walking Paths (ADA Compliant)
 - New Basketball Court / Sport Court
 - Additional Bathroom

New Playground (ADA Compliant) and Wading Pool / Splash Pad (ADA Compliant) were clearly the highest priorities while the remaining were closely ranked.

Are there any other parks, recreation, open space, or trails projects that you believe should be a priority?

- “Plaza on Dalton next to Argonne for winter festival and other events”
- “Space for food trucks - around town, Events (power for performance), Space to put in at river”
- “River access” “River accessible”
- “Develop local river access for launching paddle boards and kayaks that is designed for walkable (no parking or facilities). Provide place for residents to sit and enjoy views of the river and wildlife”
- “Develop local river access for residents that they can walk to. Small parks for access to the river. We already own the properties - use them”
- “River access - both visual and physical with paddleboard, kayak and canoe launching facilities”
- “S. Riverway by the boating ramp, a small park”
- “Park on East South Riverway”
- “The property on South Riverway should be developed to offer River Access for small river craft as well as picnic area and small sports courts, as space allows”
- “Empty lots that city of Millwood owns”
- “Should decide on what to do with the river property”
- “Building nature space”
- “Would love to see a better splash pad”
- “Walking path around the park, upgraded water facility and pickleball courts”
- “No. Millwood already has a lot to offer”
- “None: Ok as is” “N/A”

How would you prioritize the following potential infrastructure projects / improvements or City services that the City of Millwood might need to plan for in the next 20 years?



Based on your responses to the priorities question above, why did you prioritize your highest and your lowest potential infrastructure projects / improvements or City services how you did?

- “Millwood is very well run. Keeping it peaceful and beautiful should be a priority”
- “Maintain high quality of basic city services and assets”
- “Highest choices based upon public safety. Lowest choices because either these will currently be unsafe to access, space currently lacking, or just plain frivolous”
- “Need safe secure space for people to live” “Health and safety”
- “Water, sewer, sidewalks, etc are necessities to keep the community moving and functioning. While parks, etc are lovely, these are amenities”
- “I think we need to completely replace the old water supply lines and obtain better police protection. Everything else is secondary or tertiary”
- “Highest walking paths”
- “Appears that we have an established water and sewer system so not sure we need to spend a bunch to improve it - just maintain what we have. We should have river access and better access to the Centennial trail system. Our trail doesn't go anywhere - we should have spent the resources to connect the the Centennial trail with a safer connection. Crossing Argonne and the Argonne bridge is a huge barrier to connecting to the trail”
- “Millwood lacks sidewalks in many areas and on many streets connecting to Argonne or other High Traffic areas. This forces people to drive rather than walk for safety issues. Many street trees have been removed over the years and not replaced, others may need replacing. Increasing the number of street trees should be a high priority. As I recall, most of the sewers were built or replaced in the 1990s. The sewer system should not be a major concern for at least another 20 years.”

If you were given \$10 total to spend on the following, how would you spend it? Please double check that your total adds up to \$10.



What do you think is the most critical challenge facing Millwood in the next 20 years?

- Crime rates, safety, keeping the addicts and riff raff out, keeping both the residential and business districts safe and accessible for local traffic and pedestrians, crime in our neighborhood, homeless and theft
- Traffic and trains, traffic congestion (Argonne / at Euclid), taming the traffic on Argonne (both speed and volume) and controlling cut-through traffic on Liberty and Empire, managing growing Argonne traffic, railroad, paper mill congestion
- TRAFFIC! Overpopulation of the area
- Taming Argonne traffic. Keeping Argonne the width it is now. Keeping all our cross walks and beef them up with lights and signs. The Central Business District is a pedestrian active area, need it marked as such with lighting, signage, etc.
- Updating Argonne, water lines and expanding the commercial area to create more for the people that live around the area. Condos or higher end townhomes to be built
- Growth, the growth with no place to build multi-housing the state wants, which will create more citizens and more traffic; put more influx on the water and sewer
- For residents, property taxes are very high in comparison. It makes it difficult to consider this area for living. For the city, I believe it will be growth and finding the level ground between providing affordable housing and not diminishing the feel, aesthetics, home values, etc. with a bunch of apartments
- Lack of housing options, multi units going in and compromising community
- Pressure to cram housing into small spaces and uninformed residents
- Use limited tax base to cover current level of utilities & services. Likewise, improvement and repair of roads, street trees and park/open spaces

What do you think is the most critical challenge facing Millwood in the next 20 years? *(continued)*

- We have an established park that we could make minimal improvements. Playgrounds appeal to small segment of society - young kids. Instead, let's focus on small parks that can be walked to with river access and benches to view the river. The City already owns the property so this is a much better use of resources. Vehicles are using our arterials to avoid Argonne - let's put resources towards speed humps and raised crossed walks to slow traffic and make walking safer for everyone.
- Enhancing the charm of Millwood
- It is critical to keep Millwood's special historic character and healthy livability while conforming to state regulation that requires more dense housing. Millwood has an invaluable National Historic Register listed Historic District. Millwood also is a community of modest sized houses lived in by friendly, caring residents who look after each other. People walk the residential streets a lot, smile and nod and often stop to chat with neighbors. We are a community with many "Blue Zone" type characteristics that should be nurtured, enhanced and built upon but which could be easily disrupted. The health, wellbeing and life quality of current and future residents depend on how carefully we can shape any future growth
- City Council celebrating and welcoming resident input, management, the people working in City Hall Should live in the town of Millwood, reasonable planning, innovation- ability to get information to citizens in the community in a timely manner (use email social media, etc.), stop raising rates and building in bureaucracy
- Lack of residents' ethical sense
- We need new small businesses

Do you have any other comments or ideas you would like to share?

- “We have only lived in this area for two years and have already had three property crime incidents and there have been two deadly shootings nearby”
- “Some roand about”
- “No turn lane on argonne. The project is a waste of money and had been mostly hidden from the citizens. Put it to vote and let the people speak. This isn't the mayors decision.”
- “The answer to the problem of Argonne’s traffic should not be allowing everyone to go faster in much narrower and more congested lanes.”
- “Make the signals on Argonne at Empire and at Liberty - 1 direction per cycle. Then turners wouldn't impede others and cause drivers to cause accidents trying to jump out of their lane.”
- “1) Mitigating the emotional and physical damage done to Millwood by the 2025 Argonne "Congestion Relief" Project will be a special challenge. Physically widening the road by adding another strip of pavement down the center while narrowing crucial areas of pedestrian/bike walkway make it less safe for pedestrians to reach parks and businesses. 10 valuable parking spots will be lost. The city used eminent domain against our oldest business. Given the trains and current and projected traffic patterns, "congestion relief" is unlikely. Sadly it is an expensive step backwards from where Millwood should be going. Also, since the city was not open or communicative with its businesses and citizens on this project, a lot of damage has be done to everyone's attitude. As a result, it may be very difficult to get the kind of community support and participation that re-visioning the next 20 years of comprehensive planning in challenging times deserves. 2) It is important not to completely leave Millwood's historic resources and identity out of the comprehensive plan discussion.”

Do you have any other comments or ideas you would like to share? *(continued)*

- “The Argonne Project should focus on pedestrian safety versus getting traffic to move faster through our town. Seems like the engineers (Adam was helpful but the other guy should be fired) focused on traffic congestion and pedestrian safety was an afterthought. Make our City more walkable with river access for local residents - not a regional park like Boulder Beach.”
- “Argonne as a boulevard sounds charming.”
- “Have safe Millwood river access for paddle boards/kyaks; bring the Millwood Farmers Market back to Dalton Ave. Millwood City Hall and Governance needs to have an appreciation/awareness/respect of the value and importance of our heritage and Historic District. Possibly training and/or education in the value of what we have here.”
- “Millwood needs to protect its Historic Fabric, develop its river property, and place more emphasis on Pedestrian safety and enjoyment. The Automobile and "Through Traffic" needs to be a lower priority. Words used should include lower speeds, less traffic, better street lighting, better crosswalks, better sidewalks, more sidewalks, more pedestrian trails, direct river access, more river visual access, more street trees, better tree canopy, protected Historic Buildings, protected Historic sites., better ADA access, etc.”
- “Vibrant historic district - businesses that can thrive and not have to close, better parking around historic area”
- “Although this survey asked very few questions about it, history is an important part of Millwood's "brand", ambience and quality of life.”
- “Need more progressive mindset to growing commercial ease of business and growth”

Do you have any other comments or ideas you would like to share? *(continued)*

- “Project ID buses idling in front of houses for hours at a time when Millwood Presbyterian Church has a large empty parking lot for Buses to park in.”
- “Stop raising rates - if you want revenue install red light cameras and speed cameras.”
- “When did we ever vote for code enforcement? You add this stuff and we never vote on it You people probably can’t even remember how come we lost our fire station but I could explain that to you, but you probably don’t live in the town of Millwood so you would have no idea what’s really going on...”
- “I lived in Millwood for years before moving to the Valley, and prior to that I lived in Shadle. Millwood stands out like a bright and shiny star in Spokane. Excellent leadership and City managing!”