

# APPENDIX B:

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## OVERVIEW

Throughout the 12-month comprehensive planning process, an estimated 880 people shared their input between ten different engagement efforts. Community insight was foundational to the development of Warrick County's comprehensive plan not only to help steer the plan toward strategies that meet local needs, but also because each person has a unique perspective on their town's, city's or neighborhood's needs. Included in Appendix B is a review of how the public and stakeholders were engaged and what they shared about the future of the county.

## Public Engagement Strategies



### STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING 1: VISIONING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

MEETING 2: DRAFT VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

MEETING 3: FUTURE LAND USE MAP

MEETING 4: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



### PUBLIC SURVEY



### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



### PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MEETING 1: VISIONING WORKSHOP AT FRIEDMAN PARK

MEETING 2: DRAFT PLAN CONCEPTS AT FRIEDMAN PARK

MEETING 3: DRAFT PLAN CONCEPTS AT COUNTY FAIR



### STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

MEETING 1: VISIONING SESSION

MEETING 2: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



### INTERACTIVE DISPLAY



### MEETINGS IN A BOX



# STEERING COMMITTEE

## ABOUT THE STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee of 16 local stakeholders met four times throughout the planning process to help guide the plan and engage the broader community. This committee included a mix of county staff and elected officials, representatives from local governments, local real estate and development professionals, and representatives from community organizations. By having this group of well-informed people who have diverse interests and knowledge about the county, the final comprehensive plan is better able to respond to the wide range of issues that the community wants to see addressed in the next 20 years. Included in the next two pages are brief summaries of each meeting and a full listing of the steering committee members.

### Steering Committee Members

Sara Adams, Town of Tennyson  
Molly Barnhill, Area Plan Commission Staff  
Katelyn Cron, Area Plan Commission Staff  
Bryan Flowers, Warrick County Public Schools  
Greg Folz, Woodward Realty  
Doris Horn, Area Plan Commission  
Mike Moesner, Farm Bureau  
Jim Morely, Morley Corp.  
Amanda Mosiman, Purdue Extension  
Terry Phillippe, County Commissioner  
Steve Roelle, Economic Development  
Dan Saylor, County Commissioner  
Joe Schitter, Parks Department  
Sherrie Sherman, Chamber of Commerce  
Stacey Tevault, Town of Lynnville  
Jeff Valiant, Town of Elberfeld

## MEETING 1: VISIONING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

For the first meeting, steering committee members were introduced to the planning process and their role as steering committee members. Attendees were also brought up to speed on the current plan progress, which included the major findings from the Existing Conditions Report.

To begin the visioning process, attendees were asked to participate in a group activity to identify Warrick County's existing assets and future challenges or opportunities. By doing this, the steering committee was able to hear from each other about the big ideas and potential challenges that should be addressed in the comprehensive plan.

A few key ideas from this session include:

- The county's population is growing and new housing is being constructed, so managing that growth responsibly is important to the community.
- Warrick County has rich recreational and natural resources that should be emphasized in the coming years.
- The area near the I-69 and I-64 interchange should be utilized for industrial development.
- Explore solutions to reclaim mine lands.

## MEETING 2: DRAFT VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Following the release of the public survey, the steering committee met to discuss the promotion of the survey, the steps for progressing other community engagement efforts, and the draft of the vision statement, goals, and strategies.

Committee members were each given a worksheet with the draft plan components so they could revise the draft and provide additional ideas. This activity was completed during the meeting and discussion was held on what should change in the draft.

The committee also discussed the next community engagement events and outreach, especially the topics that should be discussed in upcoming stakeholder focus groups. Ultimately, six different focus groups were decided upon: Land Use and Housing, Transportation, Utilities, Business Owners, Quality of Life, and Economic Development.

## MEETING 3: FUTURE LAND USE MAP

During the third steering committee meeting, attendees participated in a group activity to begin developing the future land use map, which will help inform land use and development decisions.

Steering committee members were presented with a draft of the future land use map and the group made revisions to the map. During this meeting, the most heavily discussed topics included:

- Where agricultural lands should be preserved and where future residential development should be located.
- How development on former mine lands should be managed.
- The most strategic locations for future industrial development.



## MEETING 4: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

The final steering committee meeting included a review of the full draft plan, with specific attention given to the future land use map and the action steps that support the plan strategies.

During this discussion, the idea of a general growth area on the future land use map was developed, which would allow public officials to have more situational discretion to approve the types of development in specific areas where many different land uses could be suitable.

Additional changes were made to the Land Use and Housing section of the plan so that it better reflects the top priorities of the county.





# PUBLIC SURVEY

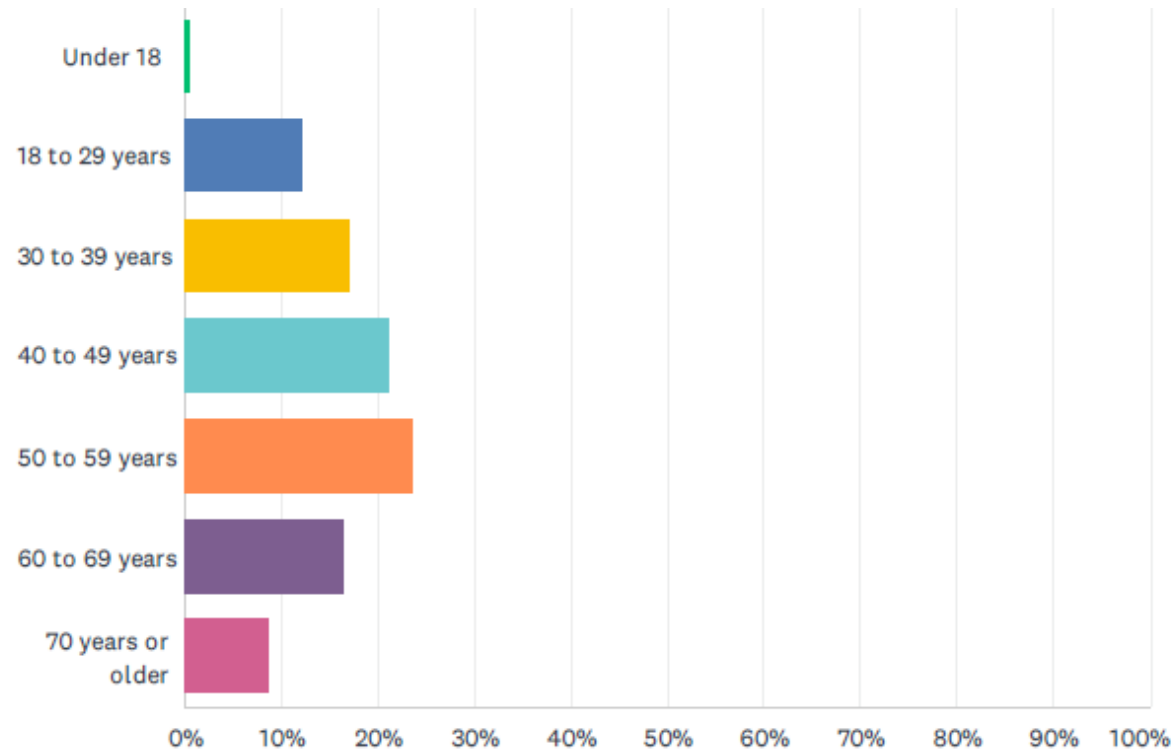
## ABOUT THE SURVEY

In order to reach a wide range of community members, a public survey was released both online and via mail. The online survey was completed by 440 people and the mailed survey, which was sent to a sample of 200 addresses, was completed by 11 people. When considering the county's overall population, the total number of responses (451) is a statistically valid representation of the population. While Section 3 of the plan document includes a high-level summary of the most relevant survey questions, this section includes a complete inventory of each question asked with a summary of the responses received. Where open-ended questions are asked, quotes from a sample of respondents are used.

## Q1: Where do you live?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Boonville	29.79%	140
Bullocktown	0.43%	2
Chandler	7.23%	34
Dayville	0.21%	1
Eby	0.43%	2
Elberfeld	5.96%	28
Folsomville	0.64%	3
Greenbrier	0.21%	1
Heilman	0.00%	0
Lynnville	6.60%	31
Newburgh	27.45%	129
Paradise	4.26%	20
Pelzer	0.21%	1
Rolling Acres	0.21%	1
Selvin	0.85%	4
Tennyson	1.91%	9
Victoria	0.43%	2
Wheatonville	0.43%	2
Yankeetown	1.49%	7
I live in Warrick County, but do not live in any of the above communities.	8.94%	42
I live in Indiana, but not in Warrick County.	1.91%	9
I do not live in Indiana.	0.43%	2
TOTAL		470

## Q2: What is your age?





## PUBLIC SURVEY

### Q3: If you live in Warrick County, what do you like about living here?

I like living in rural Northern Warrick County with with lots of access to outdoor activities, plenty of green space, new paved trail from town to school, and easy access to Evansville.

The Warrick co trails and the castle school district

I like that I can be in the country and still not a far drive from town. I like all the parks that WChas. I also like that Mainstream Internet is offered to the rural community, and utilities in my area are affordable.

Friendly, small town with all the amenities of being in a large city. The new trail system offers a safe outlet to runners/walkers with several starting options. The school systems are second to none without having to search for private schools.

Riverfront, trails, history, Friedman Park, safe neighborhoods, decent amount of amenities.

I love that there is a lot available here. Parks, lakes, rivers, convenience and still rural feel!

I am fortunate that I live close to work, schools, shopping , etc.

Small-town living. Farming community. Community involvement and support.

### Q4: If you live in Warrick County, what do you not like about living here?

Not a lot of retail options, not many public golf courses, lack of mixed use space.

Lynnville needs a grocery with fresh fruits and vegetables year round. Better high speed internet through a competitive market.

no sidewalks!

Sadly run down or abandoned properties are unkempt or unsafe. Are there ordinances on the books to address this?

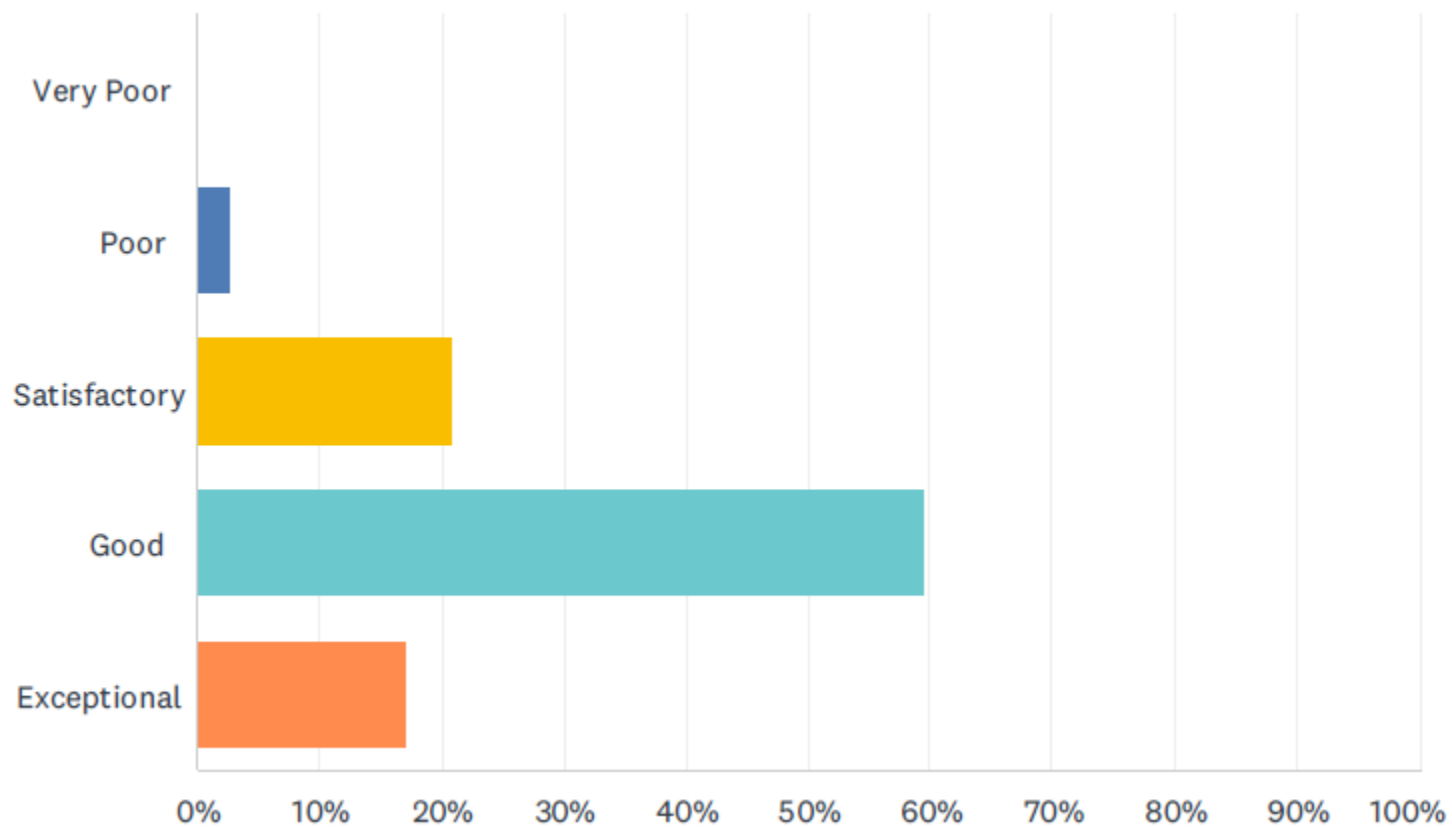
I see tons of suburb growth that is making Warrick county overcrowded and will eventually shove people out of the area. People move to this area for the trees and wildlife, however in the last 5 years these areas are being replaced with housing. This causes a ripple effect in our schools and utilities, our roads and neighborhoods.

I'm on a septic system, would rather have sewer. Would also like more dining options close to home. Small grocery store would be nice.

Need LESS fast food and convenience stores and MORE actual restaurants and shops!

Wish there was more town events, wish a bike path could connect thru blue grass to N. Green River.

### Q5: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Warrick County?





## PUBLIC SURVEY

### Q6: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest opportunities for Warrick County's future?

Small grocery in Lynnville Fast food at corner of 61 and Interstate 64. Small boutique type store on main st, a consignment store like sassy sunflower

Provide technical and skills training option for high school age students as alternative to college. Findings uses for huge areas of coal mine reclaimed ground. Supporting existing employers with the same opportunities as we do new ones.

Further developing it's riverfront, adding more industrial capacity that aligns with the coming I-69 bridge, leveraging the Gateway medical cluster with the downtown EVV cluster.

Better playgrounds in all communities, better road conditions.

Commercial growth in the SR66 corridor and northern extents of the county. Interconnection of walking/multi-use trails with Vanderburgh County.

We need to continue to develop the parks and trails to help connect the county's communities with these trails. Some of the roads are also in bad shape and could be improved by being resurfaced. I'd rather see county \$\$ go toward repaving vs. widening for no benefit.

Friedman Park and what it has to offer as far as bringing in groups or people to the Amphitheater.

### Q7: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges for Warrick County's future?

Housing for 55 and older and jobs. Sewer infrastructure to eliminate open ditch draining.

Jobs with the ability to work for the same company and raise a family for life.

The growth of Newburgh and the surrounding area. Traffic flow. Sewer systems.

Nothing for Young people to stay here to do and make a living is tough.

Too much housing growth will affect over population in our schools and resources. The senior housing has also become an issue with higher living costs and the fixed income resources not being enough.

Bad road conditions, poor parking options on the square, lack of good affordable apartments for rent.

Needing a place for high school kids to hangout that is cost effective for them, bowling alley, skate park, etc.

The subdivision roads and sidewalks are failing. Significant investment is needed to preserve our property values.

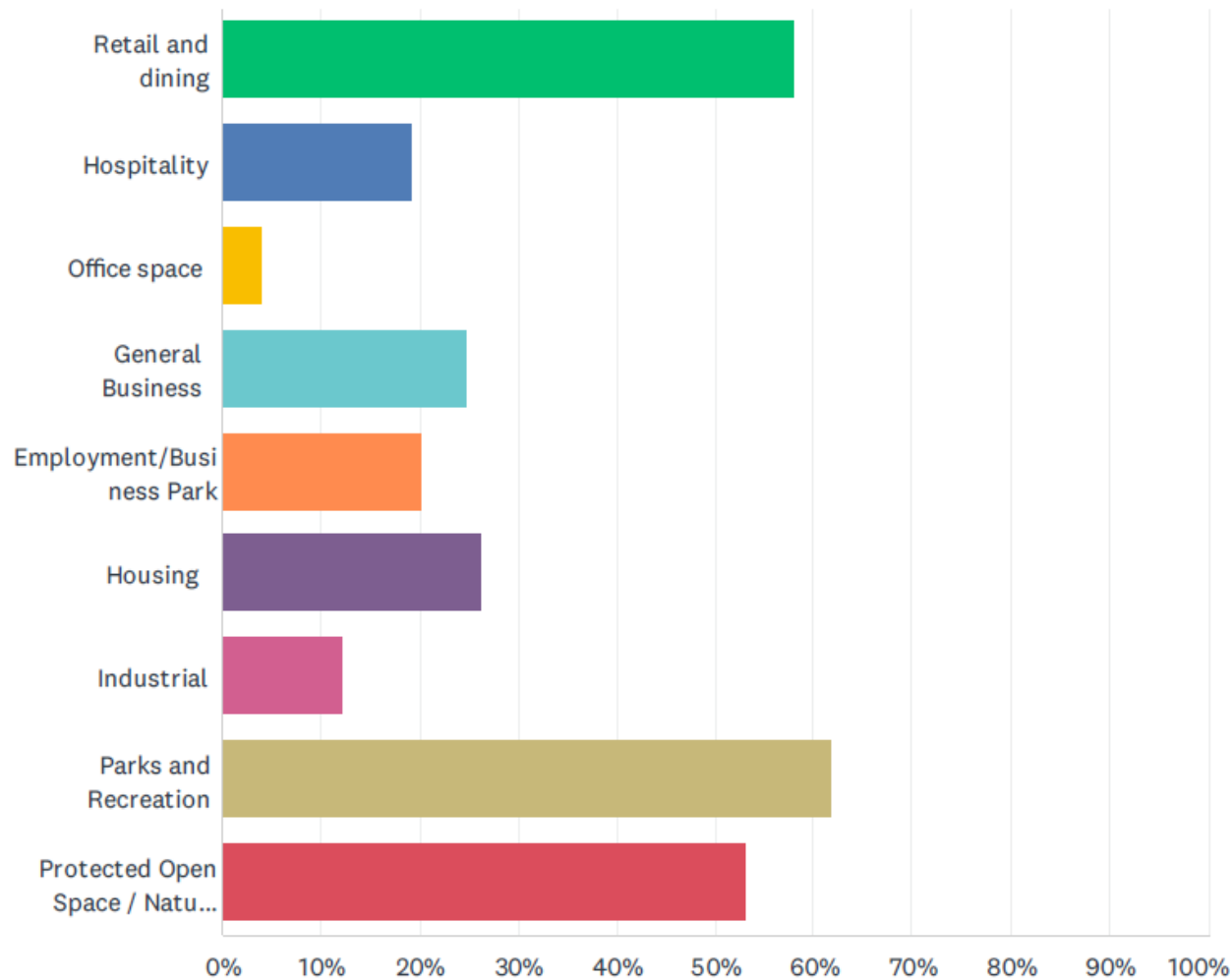
**Q8: Of the issues listed below, please select up to five things that you think are most important to enhancing the quality of life in Warrick County?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More parks and recreation programming	44.21%	206
More job opportunities	32.83%	153
Affordable housing options	31.97%	149
Beautification and visual appearance of the community	33.91%	158
Improved roadway conditions and connectivity	49.79%	232
Access to sidewalks and trails	34.98%	163
Reliable public infrastructure (streets and utilities)	37.12%	173
Better or more community spaces (libraries, community centers, etc.)	18.24%	85
Better or more public services (snow removal, trash pick-up, etc.)	16.95%	79
Public safety	24.25%	113
More entertainment options	34.98%	163
More retail and dining options	33.48%	156
Strong school system	47.21%	220
Better access to healthcare	7.30%	34
More higher education opportunities	10.52%	49
Programming and activities	15.88%	74
Total Respondents: 466		

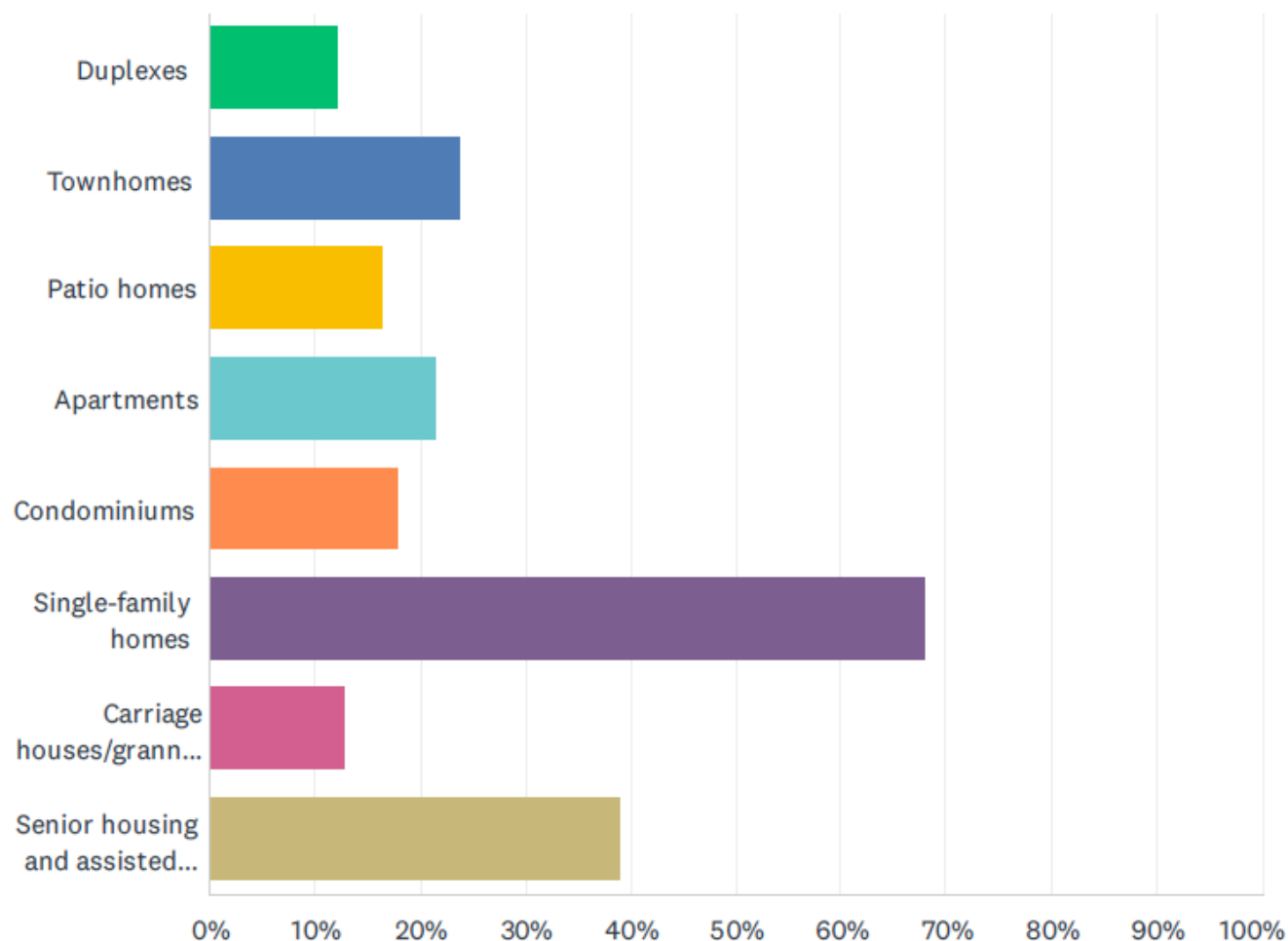


## PUBLIC SURVEY

**Q9: What types of development would you like to see more of in Warrick County? Check all that apply.**



**Q10: What types of housing options would you like to see more of in Warrick County?**  
Check all that apply.





## PUBLIC SURVEY

### Q11: What kinds of health and wellness options would you like to see more of in Warrick County?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Recreational opportunities	70.48%	308
Mobile health screenings and clinics	21.51%	94
Access to healthy food	55.15%	241
Health workshops and trainings	24.49%	107
Total Respondents: 437		

## Q12: What types of transportation (pedestrian and/or vehicular) improvements are needed? Please be specific.

Continue to have a connected trail system where residents have the ability to walk, hike or bike between towns and restaurants. I would also like to have the ability to use golf carts or other small motorized vehicles. This will help with parking and encourage outdoor activities.

Better pedestrian crossings at high traffic intersections.

public transportation access to connect to employers, higher education, and health care providers for those without good transportation options.

Trail connectivity and possible roundabouts.

Trail on Oak Grove leading to the schools (Castle High, Castle Middle Schools and Elementary). Trail down Oak Grove east of Anderson. We see people walking and biking on the road because there is no sidewalk, trail or even a shoulder.

There needs to be a better public transportation system. Since finding workers is difficult we will need to find ways of transporting people with minimum help from people.

Sidewalks near schools where children walk, i.e. Sharon Rd. between S.R. 66 and Sharon Elementary.

## Q13: What types of utility (including water, wastewater/stormwater, gas/electric, broadband) improvements are needed? Please be specific.

Affordable internet. Especially in rural areas.

Focus on the quality of access to high speed internet. Improvements are needed to wastewater management. Better drainage from roadways and managing ditches to eliminate flooding roadways. Continued improvement of water delivery systems to insure safe drinking water.

Sanitary Sewer Master planning with sewer extensions and lift stations for future development

I think we have great options for these with the exception of electricity. We only have one option and it is not fair.

More options that would lead to more affordable costs. Gas/ Electric, water, sewer, broadband. Costs are getting out of hand.

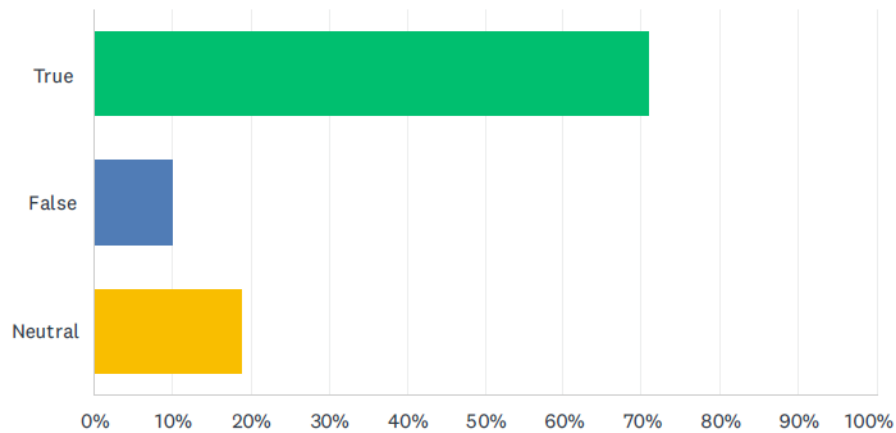
Fiber internet! The best my home can currently get is DSL. And an option for gas/electric other than Center Point would be a win!

People who live in more rural parts of the county don't have access to internet or have a very bad connection to the internet.

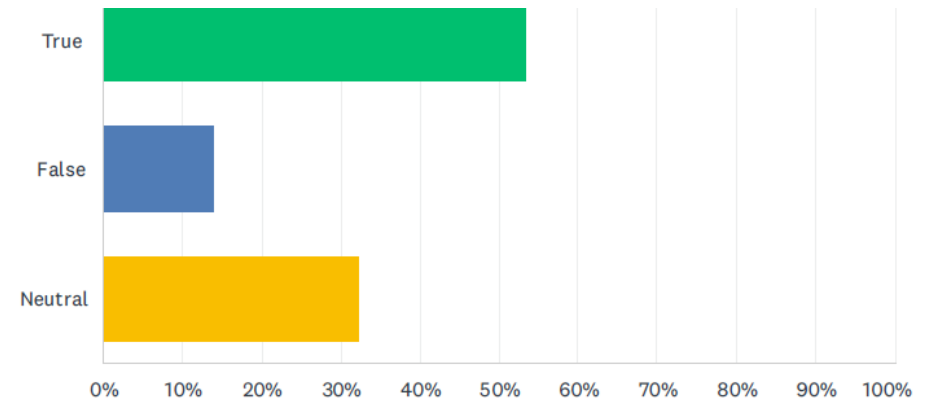


# PUBLIC SURVEY

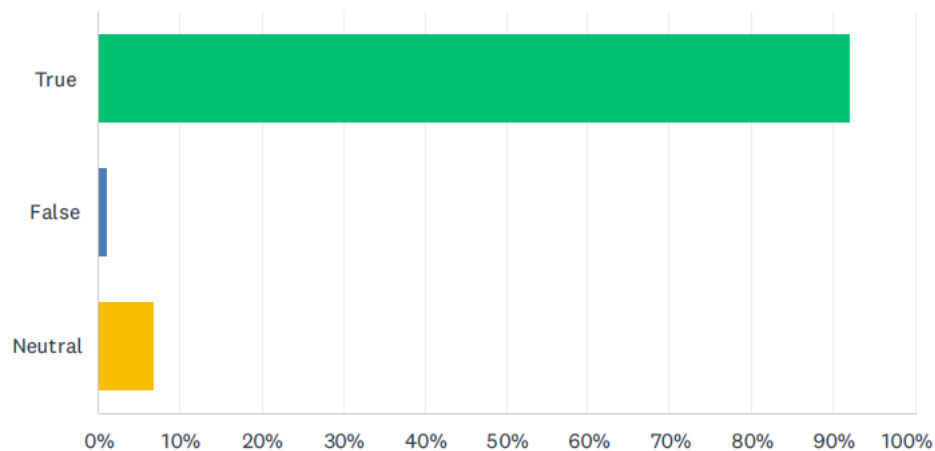
**Q14: Warrick County should embrace growth.**



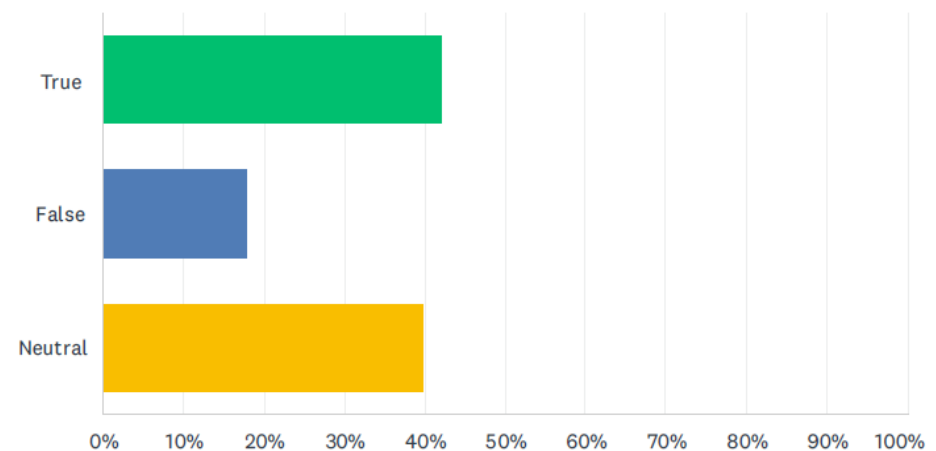
**Q16: Warrick County should have more affordable housing options.**



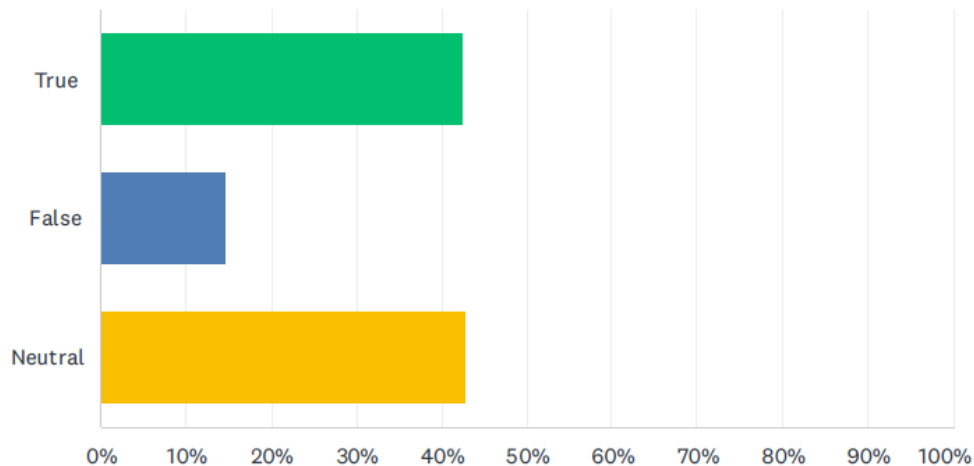
**Q15: Warrick County should be proactive in managing the type and location of future development.**



**Q17: Warrick County should have a stronger public transit (bus) system.**



### Q18: Warrick County should have more community facilities, such as libraries or community centers.



### Q19: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I love this area. I grew up here, moved away, and came back to raise my own family.

We should embrace growth, but do it in a way to minimize suburban sprawl. Neighborhoods should be more pedestrian friendly with sidewalks and green space.

We should promote local, small business to maintain our charm. We should not wish to be like every other place.

Please more entertainment for kids and shopping other than east side Evansville.

The small town lifestyle is part of why many people love Warrick county. I'm afraid too much growth could lead to us being Evansville 2.0.

I often have a love/hate feeling for Warrick County. Please remember there are many who live in the Northern part of the county. And please, please never allow corporate farming to get a foothold in his county.

Scales Lake park is a true Gem. I would really like to see a bigger investment in the Mountainbike trail system and changing station.

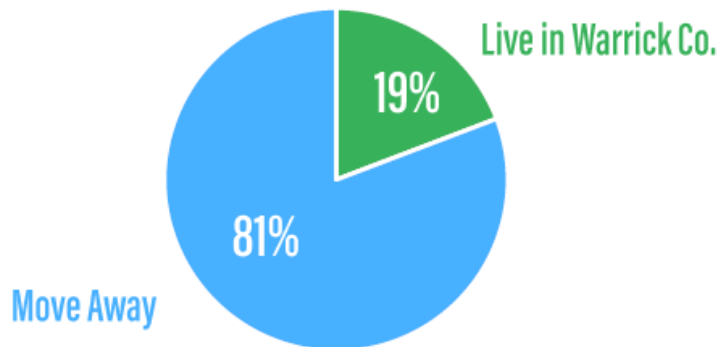


# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

## ABOUT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

High school and middle school students at Warrick County Public Schools were invited to share their thoughts on their favorite places in the county, what they want to see more of, and what their plans are for when they graduate high school. By directly asking young people about their experiences, the comprehensive plan can better address the issues that are important to the people who will lead this community in the years to come. In total, 286 students completed this activity.

When you grow up, do you want to live in Warrick County, or do you want to move away?



If you could use any **three words to describe** what you want living in **Warrick County to be like in the future**, which three would you choose?





*"I would like to build an **accessible park with a community pool** to bring together the community in the summer time. Something that would bridge the gap between the disabled community and the rest of the community."*

*"a place people can go to **relax, play sports, swim,** etc. We can also attach a better library to it."*

*"Another **place to get healthy things**. People can have the opportunity to get new foods at low prices."*

*"A **large garden** in which volunteer community members can come together to create a flourishing garden that has herbs, food, and flowers. If the concept takes off, then more can be constructed throughout the community. This gives people who can't afford to eat healthy organic foods the chance to as well as encourages those that can to start doing so."*

*"...Also we need **a new high school**. Castle High is so old and out of date. We need a new performing arts center or wing for show choir and theater."*



# PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## ABOUT PUBLIC MEETINGS

In order to “meet people where they are,” the planning team organized and promoted a series of meetings that were hosted in combination with other community events. These meetings were intended to not only reach people who knew about the comprehensive plan, but to also connect with people who might not participate otherwise. By hosting these sessions at different stages in the planning process and at different types of events, people from different parts of the community were able to share their input.



## MEETING 1: FRIEDMAN PARK OPEN HOUSE

The first public event was hosted in April of 2023 as part of an open house for the Friedman Park Event Center. At the meeting, people were encouraged to stop by the workshop to share their big ideas for Warrick County's future. Because this was the first in-person event, the aim of the meeting was to focus on getting open-ended feedback from community members to aid in the development of the plan's vision statement, goals, and strategies. At this event, community members could share their ideas by writing on sticky notes and help draft the future land use map with a mapping activity. Roughly 40 people attended this event.



## MEETING 2: FOOD TRUCK THURSDAYS

The second public event was hosted as part of the Food Truck Thursdays event at Friedman Park. While the public came out to enjoy local food and live music, they were also invited to share their input on the comprehensive plan. At this session, draft versions of the future land use map, transportation projects, vision statement, goals, and strategies were provided for people to respond to. In total, about 30 people participated.



## MEETING 3: WARRICK COUNTY FAIR

A final public event was held in late July 2023 as part of Warrick County 4-H Fair. Fairgoers were encouraged to stop by the comprehensive plan booth and were asked to respond to a few specific questions about the plan, along with additional materials about the future land use plan, goals, and strategies. During this event, the roughly 20 people who visited the booth shared their input on how reclaimed mine lands should be used in the future and the types of housing they would like to see in Warrick County.





# FOCUS GROUPS

## ABOUT THE FOCUS GROUPS

Throughout the planning process, two different phases of focus groups were hosted in order to hear directly from individuals who were involved with and knowledgeable about six different topics relevant to the plan: land use and housing, transportation, utilities, business owners, economic development, and quality of life. In addition to other community engagement efforts, the focus groups offered more insight into specific issues the County wants to address and provided an opportunity to have more detailed discussions about how to solve those issues.

### MEETING 1: VISIONING SESSIONS

At the first series of focus groups, 35 people attended six different focus group sessions to share their initial thoughts and ideas about the opportunities and challenges that Warrick County is facing. Below are some of the most significant challenges or ideas that were discussed:

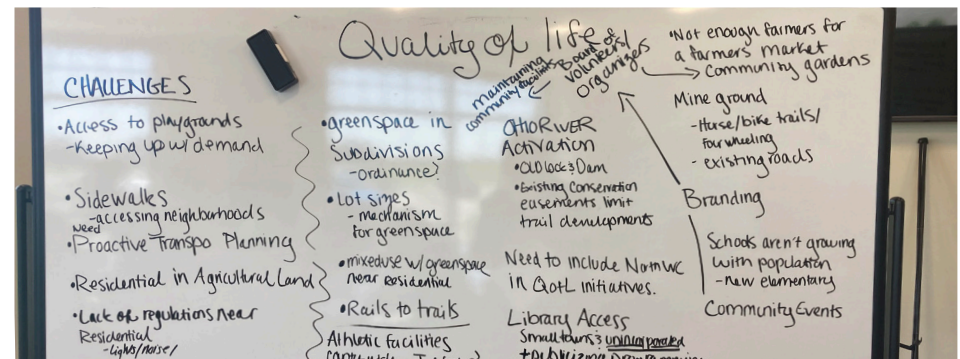
- Sidewalks are needed in neighborhoods and to connect residents with businesses and public amenities.
- More coordination is needed between the county's different utility services in order to plan and sustain growth.
- Mechanisms for green space and farmland conservation should be explored as new residential development continues.



### MEETING 2: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

Following the development of the draft plan, a second round of focus groups was hosted in order to reconvene previous attendees for a review of the draft plan components. 32 people attended these sessions and contributed to the following major discussions:

- Expanding the areas for residential growth on the future land use map.
- Establishing more opportunities for county and regional collaboration between different departments and agencies.





## INTERACTIVE DISPLAY

In order to reach more community members towards the end of the planning process, an interactive display was developed that included the future land use map and the plan's goals and strategies. Community members were encouraged to visit the County Building to review the display and provide their feedback. By engaging with the board, people could suggest revisions to the future land use map, rate the importance of each strategy, and learn more about the comprehensive plan.



## MEETING IN A BOX

In addition to the interactive display, a take-home version of a public meeting was developed so that different boards and commissions could follow the activity instructions and provide feedback during one of their regular meeting times. The PDF of the meeting materials was also provided on the plan website in order to be available to the broader community.

