



OUR PLAN
FROM **VISION** TO **ACTION**

CITY OF MILWAUKIE | COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Comprehensive Plan Update Block 2 Community Engagement Summary Report

Prepared for



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

Prepared by



enviroissues

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Methods and reach	1
Key findings and take-aways	4
Who we heard from	7
Topic-specific feedback.....	11
Parks and recreation	11
Willamette Greenway	17
Natural hazards.....	21
Energy and climate change	26
Conclusion and next steps	28

DRAFT

Overview

The City of Milwaukie is updating its Comprehensive Plan in 2018 and 2019. In October 2018, the City conducted community outreach related to four topic areas, called “Block 2 topics” within the planning process. Block 2 topic areas included:

- Parks and recreation
- Willamette Greenway
- Energy and climate change
- Natural hazards

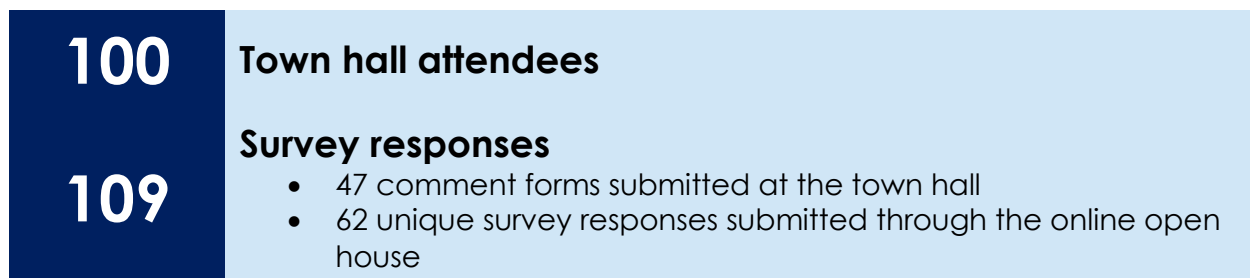
Staff consulted the community through an Online Open House made available October 10 – 28 and a community town hall that took place on Monday, October 15 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Waldorf School gymnasium.

This report summarizes the community feedback received during these outreach efforts. The results of the outreach will be used to inform the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) and Milwaukie planning staff as they develop Comprehensive Plan policies for these topic areas.

Methods and reach

The objectives of the Block 2 outreach included informing the community about the Block 2 topics and related opportunities and considerations, as well as garnering feedback on key questions to inform policy development. Community members had the opportunity to learn about the Block 2 topics and provide feedback through round-table discussions at the October 15 town hall and through an outreach survey, provided via a comment form at the town hall and via the online open house. Figure 1 summarizes the number of community members reached through these outreach efforts.

Figure 1: Reach of Block 2 outreach opportunities



Unique online open house users

- 178 visitors to the English site
- 36 visitors to the Spanish site

Community town hall

Roughly 100 community members participated in the town hall on the evening of October 15. The event began with introductory presentations followed by three rotations of small-group discussions. Simultaneous translation was offered for Spanish-speaking community members, and one small-group discussion was conducted in Spanish.



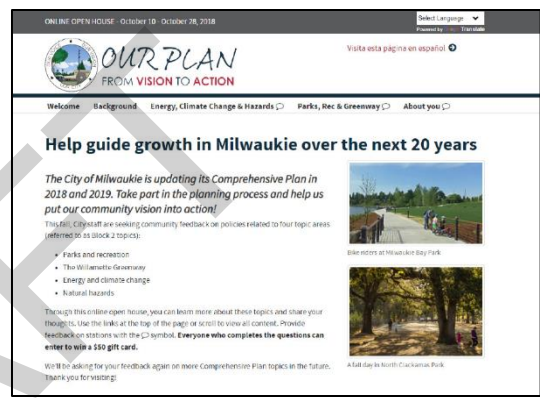
Figure 2: Town hall discussion questions

Parks, recreation and Willamette Greenway discussion questions	Energy, climate change and natural hazards discussion questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation needs: What are your recreation needs, and what specific amenities could help you address those needs? Parks and recreation priorities: Thinking ahead for the next 20 years, what should the City prioritize as it plans improvements to Milwaukie’s park and recreation areas across the entire city? Future of our waterfront: Thinking ahead for the next 20 years, what should the City consider as it plans for the future of the Willamette Greenway (beyond Milwaukie Bay Park)? Greenway views: Are there specific views of/from the Willamette River that should be protected or enhanced? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development in High Risk Areas: Milwaukie includes areas that are potentially susceptible to flooding, landslides, earthquake damage, and wild fires. Beyond existing standards and regulation, to what extent should the City be regulating development in these areas? Accommodating growth: Should the City disallow development in areas of high risk hazards while incentivizing increased development in other risk-free areas? Or should the City focus on requiring more resilient development within high risk areas? Supporting climate action: Thinking ahead to the future of our city, what changes would help make it easier for you to reduce your carbon emissions, fossil fuel energy use and environmental impact? Protecting vulnerable Milwaukians: What else should Milwaukie be thinking about to address the greater needs of vulnerable populations in natural hazard and climate change planning?

Due to the overlap and connection between the Block 2 topics, the four topic areas were combined into two groups: half the tables discussed questions related to parks, recreation and the Willamette Greenway, and the other half discussed questions related to energy, climate change and natural hazards. Participants had the chance to move to different tables and share ideas on all topics at the town hall. Each group discussed four policy questions (Figure 2). Discussions were led by CPAC members, and staff recorded feedback on flip charts for each group. Verbatim notes from the town hall discussions are included in Appendix A.

Online open house

Between October 10 and October 29, community members had the opportunity to visit an “online open house”—an interactive website with information about the Block 2 topics and an online survey, which matched the comment form provided at the town hall. The online open house was available in English and Spanish, and the English site could also be instantly translated using Google Translate into dozens of additional languages. The site included two interactive maps, links to the topical background papers, and information about opportunities, considerations and relevant language from Milwaukie’s Community Vision.



In total, 214 individual people visited the online open house while it was open—178 people visited the English site and 36 people visited the Spanish site. Overall, these users visited the site 264 times, which means some users came back more than once to the page. Approximately 60 percent of sessions occurred on a desktop computer, while 33 percent occurred on a mobile device and 7 percent on a tablet. The online open house was promoted via the Comprehensive Plan email list, the City of Milwaukie’s social media accounts, through local schools, the City of Milwaukie website, and via postcards provided in English and Spanish.

Block 2 survey

In addition to the small group discussions at the town hall, community members were able to provide individual feedback via the Block 2 survey. This was made available via printed comment forms at the town hall and via the online open house. In total, the city received 47 comment forms at the town hall and 62 users of the online open house completed at least one survey question. As the online survey and

town hall comment form were identical, the survey figures in this report reflect data from both the town hall comment forms and online survey submissions from the online open house. The survey questionnaire is included in Appendix B.

Key findings and take-aways

Parks and recreation

- **Most people engaged through this process recreate at spaces in Milwaukie**
 - Only 8 percent said they do not recreate in the city.
 - Most survey respondents (74 percent) recreate at city parks, and around a third (38 percent) consider school areas recreation centers after school hours.
 - Around a quarter (27 percent) of survey respondents said they recreate outside of designated parks and recreation spaces (including neighborhood streets, the downtown area, the waterfront).
- **Improving the connectivity and accessibility of recreation spaces is a significant priority for participants.**
 - Town hall attendees and survey respondents mentioned the importance of increasing connections between and to park spaces, specifically for bike users and pedestrians.
 - Survey respondents prioritized walking trails as the amenity most missing at Milwaukie's parks, and 60 percent said improving connections should be a top priority over the next 20 years.
 - In addition to modal accessibility, participants expressed a desire for recreation spaces to be inclusive and responsive in order to be more accessible, such as expanding hours or including child care options.
 - Some comments expressed a desire for large park spaces that can accommodate big community events, while others advocated for pocket parks that spread park access around.
- **Participants would like to see more complete parks that are responsive to the diverse needs of community members of all ages and abilities.**
 - Respondents advocated for amenities such as play equipment for many ages, off-leash dog areas, recreation spaces for multiple age groups, and facilities for walking, sitting and playing.
 - Several participants suggested more waterfront recreation amenities, such as facilities for kayaking, canoeing and swimming.
- **Protecting natural areas while enhancing park amenities and access is important for many participants.**

- Parks that integrate and protect natural areas were prioritized over heavily programmed spaces, such as sports fields.
- Survey respondents ranked enhancing and restoring natural areas as the second highest priority overall over the next 20 years, with 45 percent saying it was one of their top two priorities.
- Many stressed the importance of preserving tree canopy, protecting and encouraging native species, and addressing climate change.
- **Many survey respondents expressed significant support for exploring additional ways to fund parks and recreation.**
 - Approximately half of all survey responses (50 percent) said they would strongly support paying money through a levy or tax to support park development, and an additional 29 percent would somewhat support this.

Willamette Greenway

- **Participants most value the Willamette Greenway for its protection of habitat and natural area and the access it provides to recreation opportunities along the waterfront.**
 - Survey respondents ranked natural area conservation, trails along the river, and access to non-powered water recreation as the top things they value about the Willamette Greenway.
 - Echoing this, town hall discussion participants highlighted the Willamette Greenway as a key area where they like to recreate, and said they value the waterfront for the boating, walking and other recreation opportunities.
- **Some participants feel strongly about specific views of and from the Willamette Greenway, but many are unsure if there are views they feel should be protected.**
 - Survey respondents ranked views of the river as the fifth most important benefit of the Willamette Greenway.
 - Close to half (49 percent) of survey respondents said they were unsure or didn't know if there were views they'd like to see protected.
 - Approximately 38 percent said they do feel views should be protected, namely those from Elk Rock Island, Klein Point, downtown, Highway 99E, and Kellogg Creek Park.
- **Thinking ahead 20 years, participants would like to see the Willamette Greenway activated and increase access to the waterfront, while maintaining and enhancing natural areas.**
 - Increasing access for pedestrians, cyclists and all users was a key theme in comments from the town hall and the survey.

- Many commenters envision a more activated, useful waterfront that offers amenities for recreation. Some commenters feel development should be limited due to flood risk, while others said there may be economic potential in developing businesses to serve waterfront users.

Natural hazards

- **Survey respondents expressed support for introducing bioswales, permeable pavement and protecting tree canopy on private property as a way to address stormwater risks.**
 - Just over half of all survey respondents selected bioswales (58 percent) and permeable pavement (55 percent) as types of green infrastructure they would be interested in seeing.
 - Approximately 88 percent of respondents either somewhat or strongly agree that the City should develop policies that call for protecting and increasing tree canopy on private property.
- **Participants were largely supportive of disallowing development in areas of high hazard risk while incentivizing increased development in other, risk-free areas.**
 - Around 59 percent of survey respondents said they strongly agree with this, while 25 percent somewhat agree. This echoes the comments provided during town hall discussions.
 - Support for this approach was based on the risk of developing in hazardous areas, the potential financial costs of those risks and the impacts developing in these zones could have vulnerable populations.
 - Those who disagreed with disallowing development in these areas suggested a case-by-case review may be more appropriate and preferred stricter codes.
- **To prepare for natural hazards, participants advocated for more education, access to resources and financial support.**
 - Survey respondents, who were provided with a set of options, ranked community and neighborhood events focused on emergency preparedness and online and printed maps showing areas of greatest risk as the top two types of support they would like to see.
 - Town hall participants also indicated there is a need for more awareness raising, education and outreach to inform the community about potential risks and what they should do to prepare.
 - Several town hall discussion groups also recommended more financial incentives and subsidies to encourage resilience planning and preparation, such as funding to support seismic upgrades.
 - Both survey respondents and town hall discussion participants identified the CERT team as a group to support and expand to address hazard preparation.

Energy and climate change

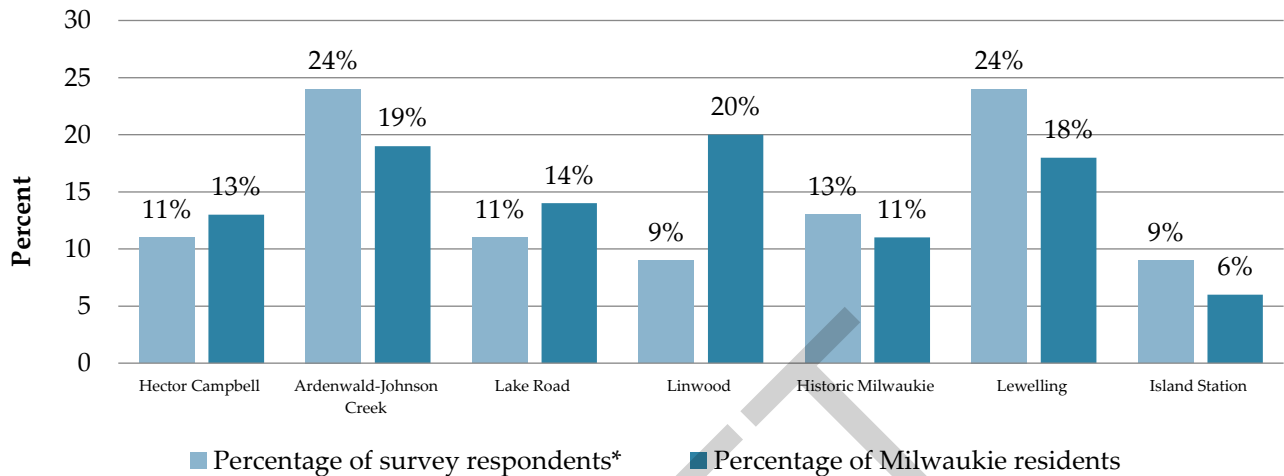
- **Similarly to hazards preparation, participants identified financial support and awareness raising as the top two areas that would help them take action to reduce their carbon emissions, fossil fuel energy use and environmental impact.**
 - Survey respondents identified discounts and incentives on resources to reduce waste and increase energy efficiency as the top type of support they would like the City to provide.
 - Both survey respondents and town hall discussion participants identified community resources—like fix-it fairs, tool libraries, trainings and community energy projects—as things they would like to see to spark collective action and reduce individual burden.
- **Town hall participants advocated for investments in multi-modal transportation infrastructure and land use policies that encourage walkable communities to combat greenhouse gas emissions.**
 - Many discussion groups mentioned neighborhood hubs, local grocery options and safe, accessible walking and biking paths as features that would help them reduce their fossil fuel energy use.
 - Several tied this to equity, noting connectivity, multi-modal access and key amenities are often lacking in underserved parts of the community.
- **To support vulnerable community members, participants advocated for tailored resources, focused outreach, financial support and the identification of designated shelters in the case of an emergency.**
 - Via the survey and the town hall, participants expressed the need for resources that are available in many languages, applicable to multiple income levels and easy to understand.
 - Several advocated for targeted outreach that goes beyond traditional in-person and online methods and brings vulnerable populations into these discussions.
 - Many participants advocated for identifying spaces around the community that are easily identified as disaster shelters in the case of extreme weather, poor air quality, or natural hazards like floods and earthquakes.

Who we heard from

Town Hall attendees and people who participated in the online open house were asked to identify which neighborhood they live in. The results are displayed in Figure 3, which compares the distribution of respondents to the actual proportion of residents by neighborhood. Participants from Ardenwald and Lewelling were slightly overrepresented in this sample, while the Linwood neighborhood was relatively underrepresented.

Neighborhood distribution

Figure 3: Block 2 engagement participants by neighborhood compared to neighborhood populations (*N* = 55 within Milwaukee limits who provided neighborhood data)

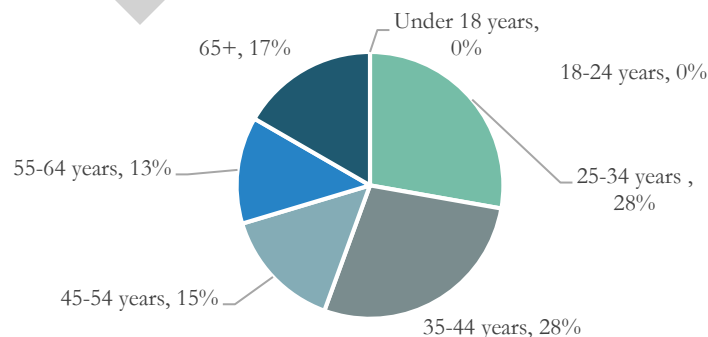


*Percentages of respondents who live in Milwaukee. Five participants (8% of all respondents) live

Age

The average reported age of those who submitted a comment form at the Town Hall or participated in the online survey was 47. Figure 4 shows the distribution of age groups among the respondent sample. Compared to Milwaukee as a whole, respondents under 24 years of age are greatly underrepresented in this sample, while those over 45 are overrepresented.

Figure 4: Block 2 engagement participants by age (*N*=54)

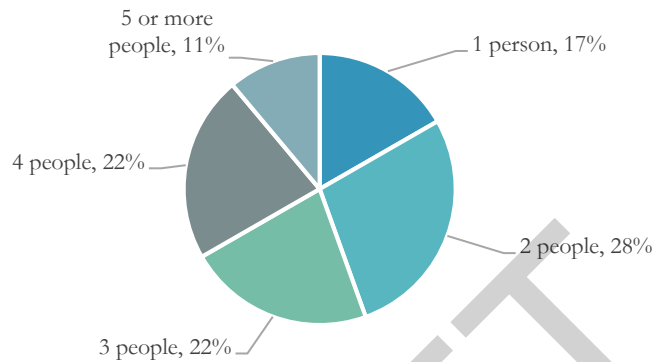


Response rates for the other demographic questions were very low and may not be representative of the participant sample.

Household size

Most respondents who answered the demographic questions live in households with three or more people (Figure 5).

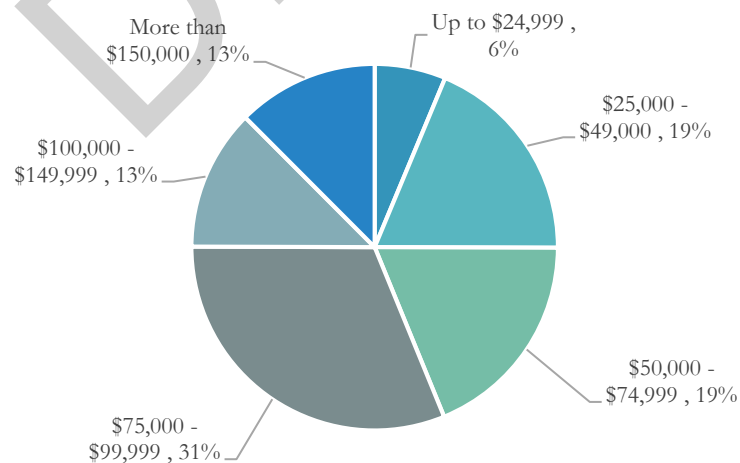
Figure 5: Block 2 engagement participants by household size (N=18)



Income

Figure 6 shows the distribution of annual household income of participants who answered demographic questions. Most participants earn more than \$75,000. Low income respondents were very underrepresented (25 percent report a household income under \$50,000 compared to 45 percent of all Milwaukee residents according to the US Census Bureau).

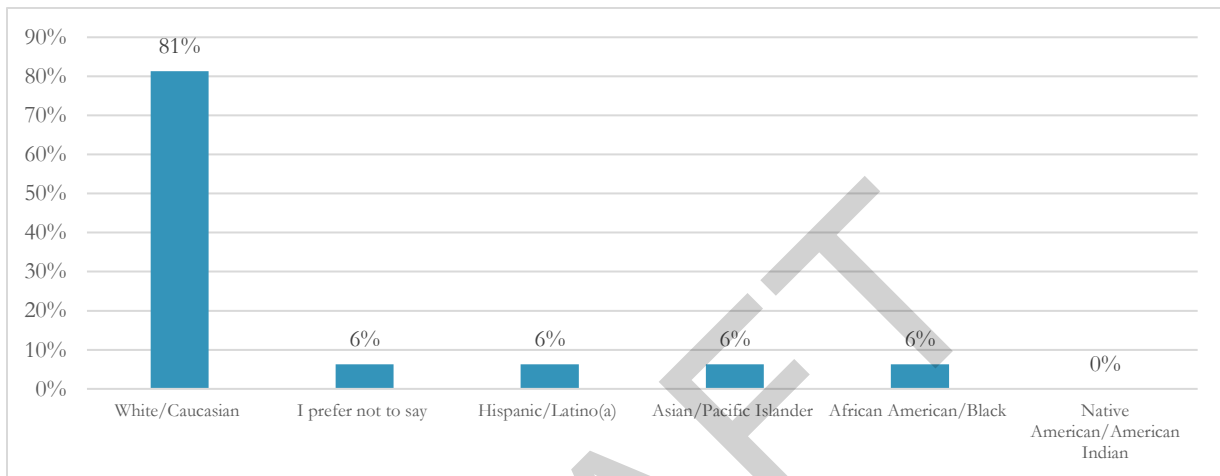
Figure 6: Block 2 engagement participants by annual household income (N=16)



Race and ethnicity

Figure 7 shows the distribution of participants based on how they identify racially and ethnically. Most respondents (81 percent) identify as white. Compared to data from the North Clackamas School District, people who identify as Latinx are underrepresented in this sample size.¹

Figure 7: Block 2 engagement participants by race/ethnicity (N=16)



¹ According to American Community Survey (2012-2016) data, 8 percent of Milwaukie residents are Hispanic/Latino(a). North Clackamas School District data for students in the Milwaukie feeder school system indicate 30 percent of students are Hispanic/Latino(a) and 3 percent are African American/Black.

Topic-specific feedback

The following sections summarize the main themes from community feedback by topic from the group discussions at the town hall responses to the Block 2 survey (including feedback provided on the hard-copy comment forms at the town hall and via the online open house).

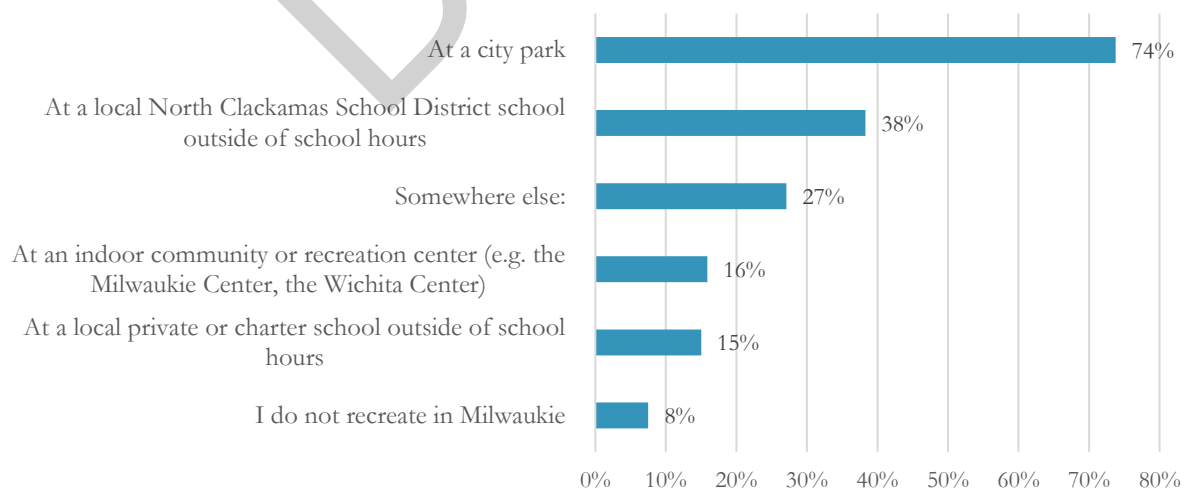
Parks and recreation

Recreation destinations

Survey respondents were asked where they and their families recreate in Milwaukie (Figure 8). Most respondents said they recreate at a city park, while a little over a third recreate at a local public school after school hours. Around a quarter indicated they recreate somewhere else, including:

- Neighborhood streets and culs-de-sac
- Apartment complexes
- Waterfront
- Library
- Downtown Milwaukie
- Portland parks
- Trails (e.g. Springwater Corridor, Trolley Trail)
- Milwaukie Farmer's Market
- Aquatic parks

Figure 8: Where do you or your family recreate in the City of Milwaukie? (N=109)



Recreation needs and park amenities

At the town hall, participants discussed their recreation needs and small groups. They were also asked to provide feedback on what kinds of amenities would help meet those needs. Figure 9 summarizes the responses provided.

Figure 9: Town hall discussion feedback - recreation needs and amenities

Top recreation needs:	Top recreation amenities to address needs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike and pedestrian access • Amenity improvements, complete parks • Active, creative spaces • Areas for dogs • Places for quiet, reflective opportunities • Natural area protection • Water activities • Recreation centers in central locations, park programming • Parks that are safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails, pathways, nature trails, pedestrian paths under/over 99E • Benches with backs, bike racks, awnings, park shelters, lighting, large tables, clean bathrooms, historical signage/markers • Skateparks, splash pads/water activities, community gardens, basketball court, volley ball court, playgrounds • Dog parks • Natural areas and nature trails • Non-motorized paddle vehicles (i.e. Kayaking, canoeing, etc.) and parking, activities like Portland’s “Big Float” event • Park rangers, well-lit parks

The Block 2 survey also asked participants to rank the top three amenities they would like to see increased at Milwaukie parks. Answers were assigned a weighted score based on how high participants rated them—the top ranked answer received a score of 3, and the third ranked answer received a score of 1. Figure 10 summarizes the results of the ranking question.

Figure 10: Survey feedback - What types of amenities do you feel are missing at Milwaukie’s parks?
(N=79)

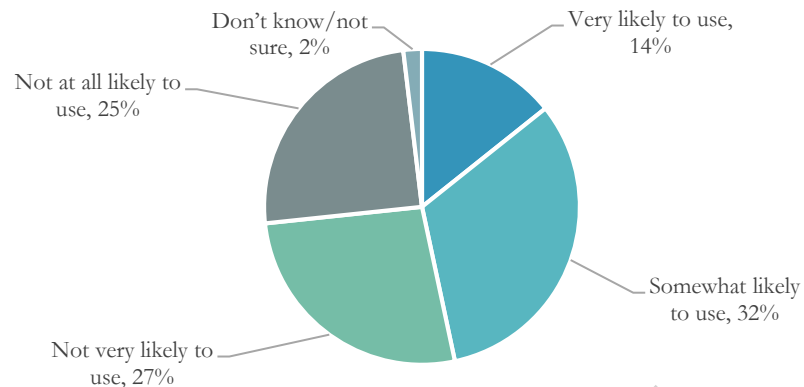
Amenity	Weighted score
Walking trails	95
Natural areas	92
Off-leash dog areas	42
Other	41
Covered, open air areas	28
Recreation space for teenagers	28
Play equipment for children between 6 and 13	28
Sitting areas	28
Play equipment for young children (6 years and younger)	26
Picnic and BBQ areas	22
Multi-use courts and fields	15
Sport courts and fields	8

Survey respondents who prioritized “other” amenities advocated for the following things:

- Increased bike infrastructure, including bike lanes and bike parking
- Large, open spaces that can accommodate community-wide events
- Improved pedestrian and bike access to parks
- Play and recreation equipment for all abilities
- Bathrooms
- Skate parks
- Community gardens
- Trees
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Climbing walls

Survey respondents were also asked specifically about their likelihood to use community gardens (Figure 11). Responses to this question were mixed. Slightly over half said they would not be likely (27 percent) or not at all likely (25 percent) to use these gardens. Around a third (32 percent) of participants said they would be somewhat likely to utilize these spaces, and approximately 14 percent would be very likely to use them.

Figure 11: Survey feedback - Would you or your family be likely to use a community garden or edible landscape project to grow food if additional gardens were developed in the city? (N=105)



Future park priorities and planning

At the town hall, participants discussed what they think the city should consider as it plans improvements to Milwaukie's parks and recreation areas over the next 20 years. The following key themes emerged from this discussion:

- Many groups discussed the importance of improving access to and connectivity between parks and natural areas.
 - Groups mentioned the need for bike and pedestrian trails and path improvements, safety considerations, and the opportunity to develop “pocket parks” to fill gaps between park areas.
- Many groups said they would like to see existing parks improved by enhancing or adding new amenities.
 - Many groups discussed specific infrastructure improvement needs, such as benches, water fountains, signage, parking, bike racks, bathrooms, dog areas, landscaping, fencing, lighting, tables, and awnings to protect from rain.
 - Some groups specifically discussed the need for more features that appeal to various age groups, such as skateparks, community gardens, and natural play areas.
- Many groups discussed finishing parks that are under development as a priority, including Kronberg Park and Milwaukie Bay Park.
- Several groups discussed the need for greater protection of native trees, wetlands (e.g. Minthorn Springs) and existing natural areas (e.g. Elk Rock Island)
- Several groups recommended additional studies to better understand park utilization and recreation needs

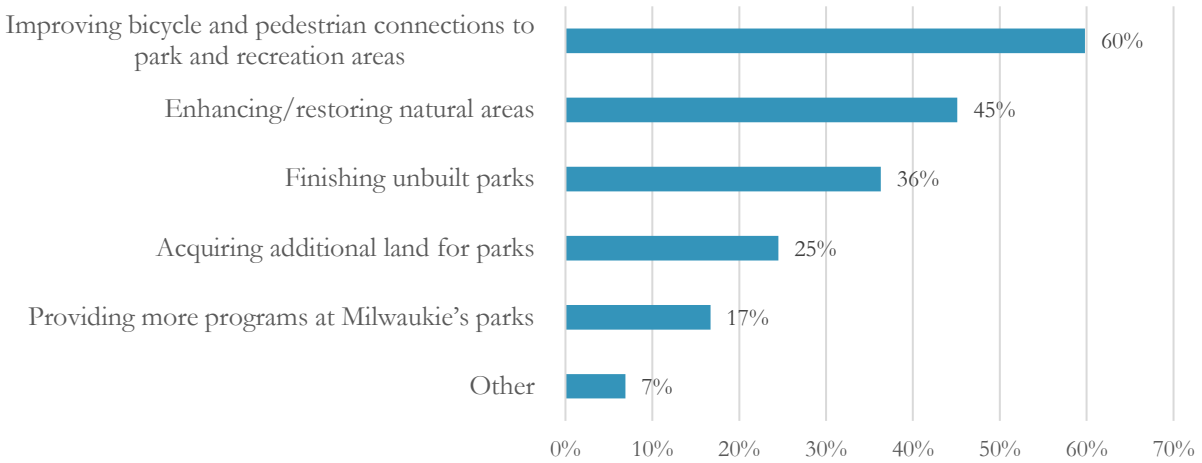
- Some groups said it would be helpful to have an inventory that tracks park amenities, features, equipment.
- A few groups said new land should be acquired for parks, but only when its financially prudent and the funding is available.
 - Groups discussed the need to consider potential displacement and equity impacts when developing or acquiring new park land.
 - Some groups suggested developers should be required to contribute financially to park development.
- A few groups said more indoor community centers are needed and discussed program improvements that could be made at the Milwaukie Center.
 - Specific programming ideas contributed included pottery and art opportunities, nutrition classes, sports and activities for adults (i.e. swimming, yoga, Zumba, etc.).
 - Some groups also discussed improvements that could make these centers more accessible, such as childcare support, extended hours and lower-cost programming.

On the Block 2 survey, respondents were asked to identify their top two priorities for park planning over the next 20 years (Figure 12). More than half of all respondents (60 percent) prioritized improving bike and pedestrian connections to parks and recreation areas. Just under half (45 percent) prioritized enhancing and restoring natural areas. The lowest ranked priority—selected by 17 percent of participants—was providing more programs at Milwaukie’s parks.

Approximately 7 percent identified “other” priorities, including:

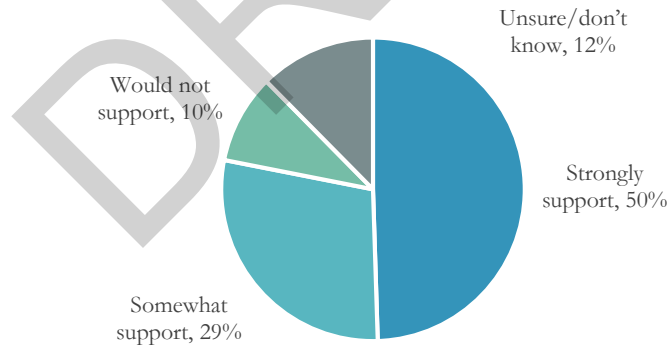
- Increasing parking
- Adding bathroom facilities
- Making park improvements that do not displace lower income residents
- Adding a recreation center
- Acquiring a sizable parcel for a centrally located, large park
- Improving existing parks

Figure 12: Survey feedback - Thinking ahead for the next 20 years, what should the City prioritize as it plans improvements to Milwaukie’s park and recreation areas? (N=102)



Survey respondents were asked whether they would support paying money through a levy or tax to support park development, given the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) has faced significant funding challenges (Figure 13). Approximately half (50 percent) of all respondents said they would strongly support this, and 29 percent would be somewhat supportive. One in ten respondents said they would not support a levy or tax, and 12 percent were unsure.

Figure 13: Survey feedback - Would you support paying money through a levy or tax to support park development? (N=105)



Willamette Greenway

Willamette Greenway values

Participants were asked via the comment form and online survey to rank the top three attributes they value most about the Willamette Greenway. Answers were assigned a weighted score based on how high participants rated them—the top ranked answer received a score of 3, and the third ranked answer received a score of 1. Figure 14 summarizes the results of the ranking question.

Figure 14: Survey feedback - What do you value about the Willamette Greenway? (N=88)

Values	Weighted score
Protection of habitat and natural areas	128
Trails along the river	108
Access to non-powered water recreation (e.g. kayaking or canoeing, paddle boarding, swimming, fishing)	105
Access to recreation spaces on the shore (e.g. Milwaukie Bay Park)	78
Views of the river	72
Historical value	19
Access to the river for power boating or other motorized water activities	7
Other	5

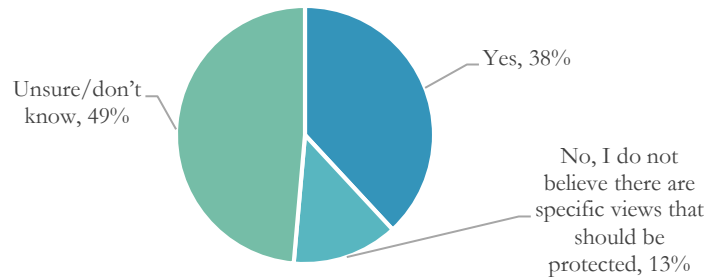
The five participants who provided other responses said they value the following:

- Bike lanes and parking
- Access to spaces to recreate with dogs and family
- The potential for this area to be an economic draw for the community
- The importance of balancing park space with development

Willamette Greenway views

Survey respondents were then asked if there are specific viewpoints of Milwaukie's waterfront that should be protected (Figure 15). Close to half (49 percent) said they were unsure or didn't know, while around 38 percent said there were views they feel should be protected.

Figure 15: Survey feedback - Are there specific viewpoints of Milwaukie's waterfront that should be protected? (N=88)



Survey respondents and town hall participants were asked to identify any views they would like to see protected. The results were largely consistent between the two groups (Figure 16):

Figure 16: Willamette Greenway views that should be protected

Views to protect	Where mentioned
Elk Rock Island	Survey and town hall
Kellogg Creek	Survey and town hall
Downtown	Survey and town hall
Klein Point	Survey and town hall
Views from the hills to waterfront	Town hall only
Spring park	Survey only
Area near water treatment plant	Survey only
In general, from walking areas and paths	Survey only
Views of the city from the water	Survey only

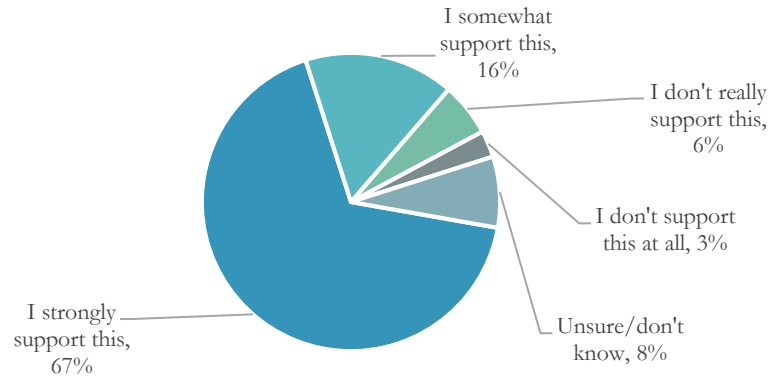
Planning for the future of the Willamette Greenway

Both discussion participants at the town hall and survey respondents were asked what the City should consider as it plans for the future of the Willamette Greenway over the next 20 years.

- Many participants discussed the importance of connectivity between the city and the waterfront, particularly bike and pedestrian access.
 - Specific ideas for improving connectivity included enhancing waterfront pathways and trails, connecting the northern and southern parts of the Willamette Greenway, creating a trail from Kellogg Park to Elk Rock Island, and improving access to the Greenway along Johnson Creek Boulevard and 99E.

- Several discussed opportunities to extend and connect to existing pedestrian and bike infrastructure, such as the Springwater Corridor.
- Many talked about ways to activate the waterfront and make it a more desirable place to recreate.
 - Several said they would like to see more recreation amenities available in the Willamette Greenway. Specific suggestions from survey respondents and town hall participants included swimming areas, kayak and canoe access, parks, and trails.
 - Some talked about the economic potential of the waterfront and suggested small businesses should be introduced in some areas.
 - Some survey respondents commented about the economic potential of the waterfront and suggested small businesses should be introduced in some areas. By contrast, some town hall participants suggested development be limited along the waterfront due to flooding risk.
 - Some participants suggested more programming could occur along the waterfront to build community, such as events like the “Big Float” in Portland.
 - Some discussed the need for sitting areas to enjoy the view.
 - A few discussed the wastewater treatment plant as an obstacle to making the waterfront a desirable place to recreate.
 - A few advocated for adding parking space along the waterfront
 - A few felt investments should be made elsewhere and expressed concerns the enhanced waterfront would benefit people from out of town more than Milwaukians.
- Several said protecting natural areas along the waterfront should be a priority.
 - This theme emerged more from survey respondents than from town hall discussion groups, though several town hall discussion groups advocated for programming that would enhance natural spaces, such as clean-up events or tree planting.
- Several participants said the removal of the Kellogg Creek dam is a priority.
 - Survey respondents were specifically asked if they support removing the Kellogg Creek dam and developing trails along the creek to access to the riverfront (Figure 17). A significant majority support this, with two thirds (67 percent) saying they strongly support the dam removal and 16 percent saying they somewhat support it. Approximately 9 percent were either somewhat or strongly opposed, and 8 percent said they were unsure.

Figure 17: Survey feedback – Do you support removing the Kellogg Creek dam and developing trails along the creek to access the riverfront? (N=104)



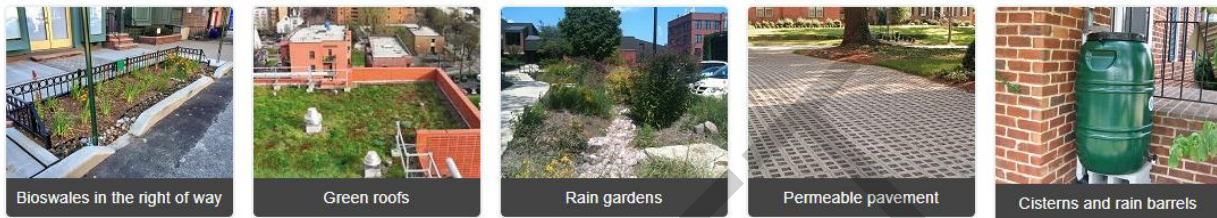
- Several comments addressed long term management of the Willamette Greenway.
 - Some said the Willamette Greenway should be expanded.
 - Some said the city should consider maintenance and management costs and needs over time.
 - A few said the city should consider flood risk and increased population and its impact on the waterfront.
 - A few said the funding used to enhance the Greenway should come from sustainable sources.
- Some talked about reducing impermeable pavement and increasing canopy coverage. Some linked this to climate change and the ability for trees to sequester carbon.

Natural hazards

Addressing stormwater risks through green infrastructure and trees

Participants were asked what types of “green infrastructure” they would like to see around the city to help absorb stormwater and reduce flood and landslide risk. They were shown images of five common green infrastructure examples and asked to identify the top two they would like to see more of in Milwaukee. Figure 18 shows the images displayed as part of the survey and comment form.

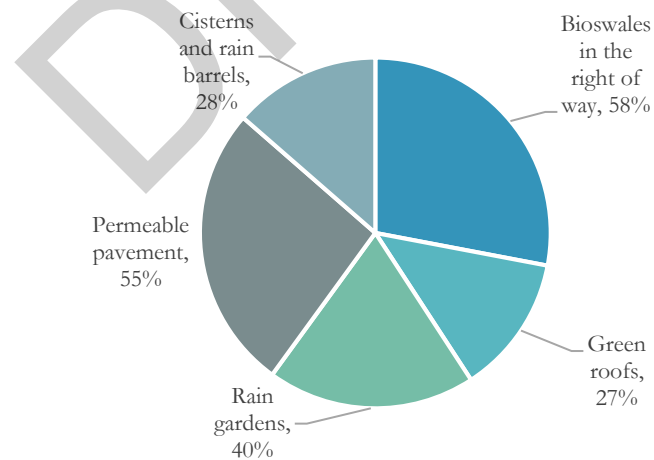
Figure 18: Green infrastructure examples



Participants prioritized bioswales (58 percent) and permeable pavement (55 percent) as the top two types of green infrastructure they would like to see (Figure 19). Cisterns and rain barrels (28 percent) and green roofs (27 percent) were the least prioritized options.

Figure 19: Survey feedback - What types of “green infrastructure” would you like to see around the city?

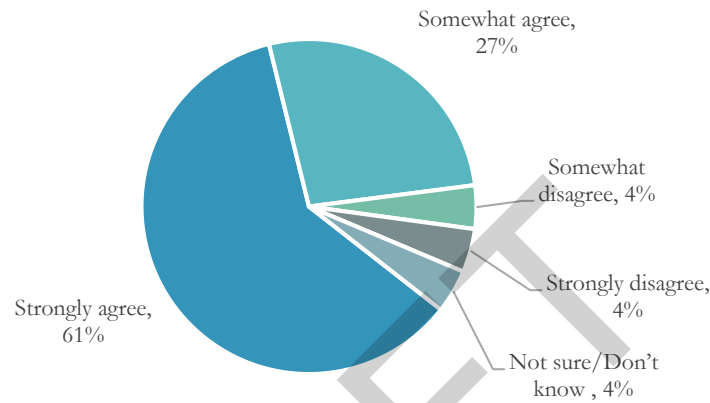
(N=60)



Participants were also asked if the City should develop policies that call for protecting and increasing tree canopy on private property, given trees help reduce stormwater run-off and reduce the heat island effect

(Figure 20). Around 60 percent said they strongly agreed with this, while 27 percent somewhat agree. Approximately 8 percent either somewhat or strongly disagreed.

Figure 20: Survey feedback - Should the City develop policies that call for protecting and increasing tree canopy on private property? (N=71)

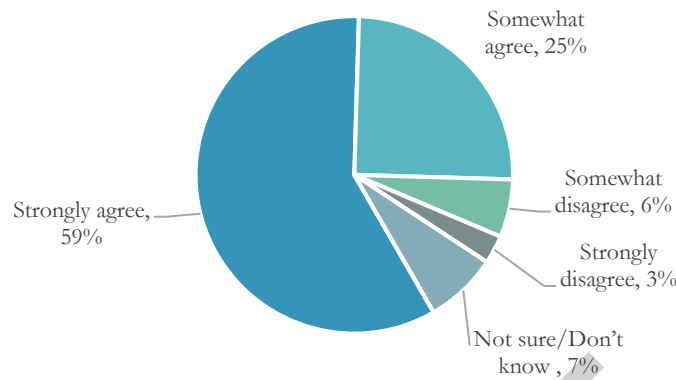


Development in high-risk zones

At the town hall and via the online open house, participants were informed that the Comprehensive Plan regulates development in zones susceptible to flooding, landslide or earthquake damage. Participants were asked whether the City should disallow development in high-risk zones while incentivizing increased density in other, risk-free areas.

Looking at survey responses, a majority (59 percent) strongly agreed with the approach of limiting development in high-risk areas while incentivizing density in lower risk areas (Figure 21). A quarter (25 percent) somewhat agreed. Approximately 9 percent either somewhat or strongly disagreed, while 7 percent were unsure.

Figure 21: Survey feedback – Should the City disallow development in areas of high hazard risk while incentivizing increased density in other, risk-free areas? (N=68)



Survey respondents were asked to explain why they do or do not think this is a good idea. Figure 22 summarizes these comments.

Figure 22: Survey feedback – Rationale for support or opposition to limiting development in high-risk areas and incentivizing development in lower-risk areas

Why should the City pursue this policy direction?	Why shouldn't the City pursue this policy direction?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is too risky to develop in high-risk areas. • Building in high-risk zones poses risks to human health and the environment. • Often buyers are not aware of the risks when they purchase property, but then they assume the risk. • The cost of repairing damage to structures and infrastructure in high-risk zones is too great. Taxpayers assume to great of a burden. • More vulnerable populations may tend to live in higher-risk areas; this is a more equitable policy. • Citizens could hold the City liable for damages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiny homes or other moveable structures may be a good candidate for flood zones. • Receding river levels may make flooding less of an issue. • Preference for a case-by-case review, with certain triggers that set in motion appropriate courses of action. • Preference for strict regulation and code rather than disallowing development. • Concerns about loss of trees and natural spaces due to increased density. • This should depend on the likelihood and frequency of the hazard. • All of the Portland metro area is at some risk.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for planting trees in high hazard zones rather than development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative development and construction of suitable structures should be allowed in risky zones. • General opposition to incentivizing development.
---	--

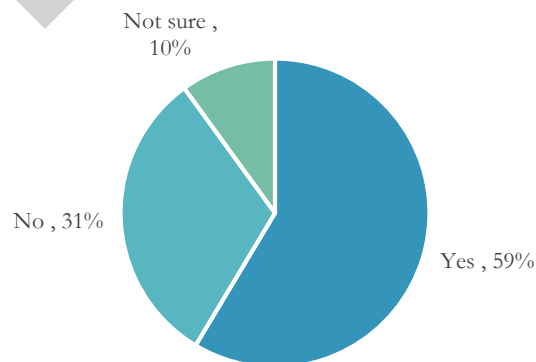
At the town hall, most discussion groups advocated for highly regulating development in high-risk areas, noting development should be avoided, heavily restricted or prohibited whenever possible. Specific recommendations that emerged from the town hall related to this topic included:

- Specific support for incentivizing development outside of floodway areas.
- Suggestions to increase base flood elevation requirements from 1 to 2 or 3 feet.
- Support for purchasing properties that frequently flood for additional storage opportunities.
- Calls to require pilings and other mitigation measures to address landslide hazards.
- Support for requiring more permeable materials.
- Calls to ensure stormwater control for new developments.
- Calls to update building architecture and engineering requirements for resiliency.
- Suggestions to consult experts to update regulations and standards.

Hazard preparedness

Survey respondents were asked if they or their family have a plan in the case of a natural disaster such as a flood or earthquake (Figure 23). Approximately 59 percent reported they do, while 31 percent do not and 10 percent are unsure.

Figure 23: Do you and your family have a plan in the case of a natural disaster? (N=70)



Survey respondents were then asked what type of support from the City would best help them prepare for potential natural disasters. Respondents were asked to rank their top three priorities. Figure 24 summarizes the results of the ranking question.

Figure 24: Survey feedback - What type of support from the City would best help you prepare for natural hazards? (N=50)

Support type	Weighted score
Community and neighborhood events focused on emergency preparedness	60
Online and printed maps showing areas of greatest hazard risk (e.g. floods, landslides, earthquakes, etc.)	58
A tool kit to help create disaster plans for your family	46
Increased opportunities for in-person training related to emergency preparedness	44
Regular updates and tips about hazard planning in the Milwaukie Pilot and other City communication channels	32
Signage around town about emergency shelters and cooling centers	31
Online trainings and tutorials related to emergency preparedness	29

Survey respondents prioritized community and neighborhood events focused on emergency preparedness, followed closely by online and printed maps showing areas of greatest hazard risk. Online tutorials and trainings were the least prioritized idea.

Town hall discussion similarly highlighted a need for greater awareness around hazard risks in order to become more prepared. Aligning with the survey results, town hall participants called for the development of maps and resources that can be made publicly available to community members and other people—like realtors—who can help spread the word. Town hall participants also advocated for incentives to encourage homeowners and developers to make their properties more resilient (e.g. seismic upgrades, improving drainage and permeability, etc.).

Energy and climate change

Participants were asked what would help make it easier for them to reduce their carbon emissions, fossil fuel energy use and environmental impact.

Survey respondents were presented with a list of options and asked to rank their top three priorities. Figure 25 summarizes the results of the ranking question. The top ranked support type was discounts and incentives on resources that would help households reduce waste and increase energy efficiency. After incentives, city sponsored tool libraries and fix it fairs, in-person classes and trainings, and community events were the next highest ranked options. Online and printable resources with tips for reducing your impact were seen as the least useful by respondents.

Figure 25: Survey feedback - What type of support from the City would best help you reduce your carbon emissions, fossil fuel energy use and environmental impact? (N=40)

Support type	Weighted score
Discounts and incentives on resources to reduce waste and increase energy efficiency	67
City-sponsored tool libraries and fix it fairs to reduce waste	45
In-person classes and trainings on climate action topics (such as weather proofing your house, increasing energy efficiency, reducing waste, etc.)	41
Community and neighborhood events focused on reducing emissions	39
Online trainings and tutorials on climate action topics	17
Regular updates and tips about climate action in the Milwaukie Pilot and other City communication channels	17
Printable and online resources with tips for reducing your impact	10

At the town hall, discussion groups prioritized **investments in multi-modal transportation options and infrastructure improvements** that would enable lower-carbon movement around the city. This included improving sidewalks, adding bike lines, connecting neighborhood hubs by transit and trails, constructing bike and pedestrian bridges over obstacles, improving last mile connections, subsidizing public transit, and promoting car pool options.

The second most commonly discussed type of support was **education and outreach around how Milwaukians can reduce their impact**, including tips for reducing consumption and waste and how to use more alternative energy.

Town hall participants also discussed ways the City can help make climate action easier through **collective and community efforts**, such as setting up tool libraries, developing community solar facilities, consolidating parking and waste areas, providing micro-transit, promoting neighborhood hubs and mixed-use development.

Finally, town hall participants identified a need for greater access to “green options” in their daily lives, as well as incentives to make it easier to change their habits. This includes more electric vehicle charging stations, energy storage options, alternative waste management options (e.g. grey water), access to reused materials for construction and building, and support planting native plants.

Supporting vulnerable community members

Through the survey and town hall discussion groups, participants were asked what else the City should be thinking about to address the greater needs of vulnerable populations in natural hazard and climate change planning. Themes were largely similar between survey responses and town hall discussions. Key themes included the following:

- Many comments discussed the need to increase awareness of hazard risks and climate change. Many advocated for targeted outreach and education campaigns. Some specifically suggested using non-electronic outreach methods and holding events at more accessible times and places to increase participation.
- Many talked about the need to have responsive resources available for vulnerable populations. This includes making materials available in multiple languages, developing resources and advice for people on lower incomes, developing resources for differently abled individuals, etc.
- Many discussed the importance of having cooling, warming, air quality, emergency and health centers in the community.
- Several discussed the need to have financial resources ready to support these populations if they face hardship in the event of a natural hazard.
- Several discussed the need to authentically engage these populations and be intentionally inclusive to ensure their voices are heard.
- Several talked about ensuring shelters exist and are properly stocked in case of a disaster.

- Several talked about the benefits of expanding biking and walking infrastructure and increasing connectivity of more vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Several discussed the importance of building community and fostering connections among neighbors.
- Some talked about better integrating the work of CERT with the NDAs and other City efforts.
- Some talked about the importance of having accurate information, including updated flood maps.
- Some talked about needing to develop affordable housing outside of the flood plain and other high-risk areas.
- Some talked about needing to expand the tree canopy to reduce the impacts of extreme heat and increased rainfall.
- Some discussed the benefits of walkable communities as a way to reduce carbon emissions.
- A few recommended reducing the cost of developing an accessory dwelling unit.
- A few discussed the benefits of residential food scrap composting.
- A few advocated for adding more EV charging stations.
- A few advocated for hiring a full-time manager to support disaster planning and outreach.
- A few said the City's efforts should not just focus on vulnerable communities, but recognize that most residents are unprepared.
- A few advocated for better signage and communication about where to go to access resources.

Conclusion and next steps

City planning staff and the CPAC will consider feedback received during the Block 2 engagement period as they develop policies related to the Block 2 topic areas. Additional community outreach will be conducted as the Comprehensive Plan Update project continues.