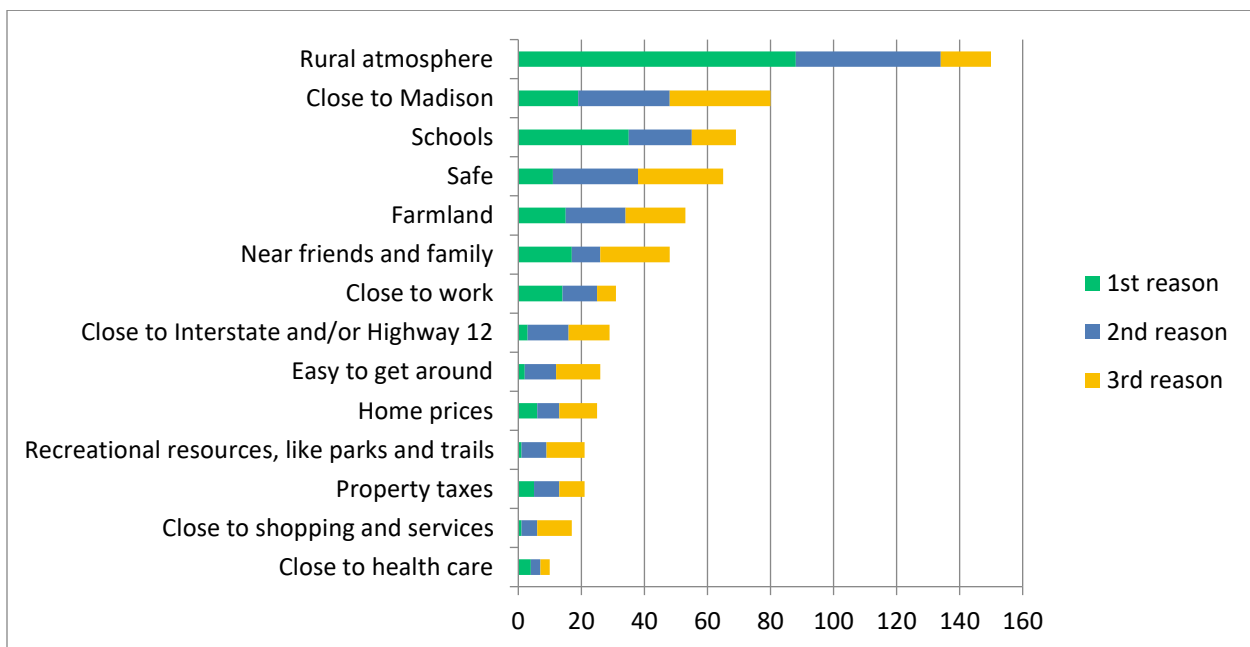




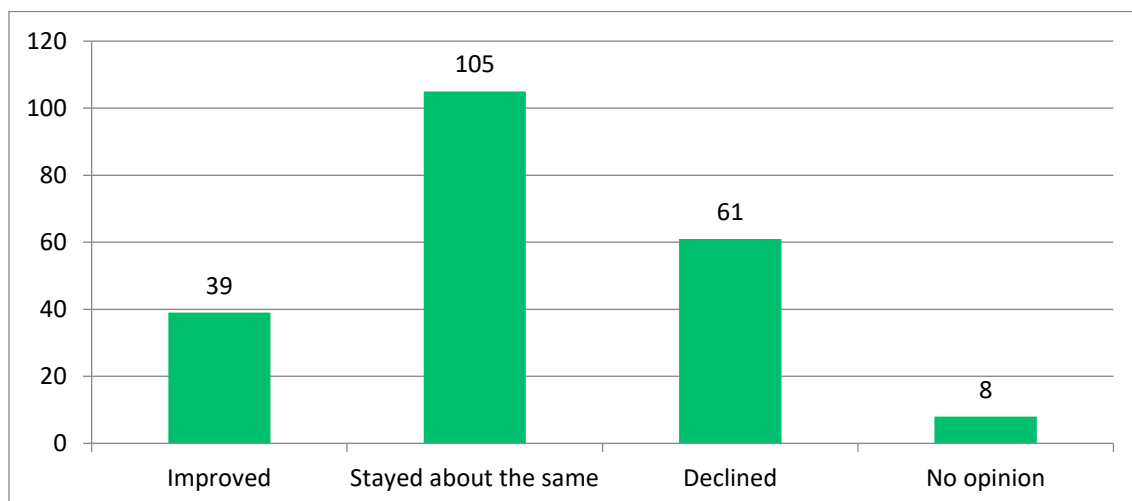
Final Community Survey Results Spring 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update

In March and April 2021, the Town of Cottage Grove conducted a community survey to gather residents' input on the vision for the future of the Town, community planning issues most relevant to the Comprehensive Plan update, and community priorities. The survey was conducted using Survey Monkey – an internet survey tool. The Town used various means of media to direct residents to the survey and received 213 responses. These responses have been aggregated into the charts and graphs below.

Question 1: From the choices below, please provide the top three reasons why you or your family chooses to live in the Town of Cottage Grove.



Question 2: Do you believe the overall experience living in the Town has improved, stayed about the same, or declined over the past ten years or so (or since you've lived here, if less)?





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Question 3: Can you briefly tell us why you answered the last question the way you did? This question allowed open-ended responses, which were offered by 187 participants. The following is a summary of the responses:

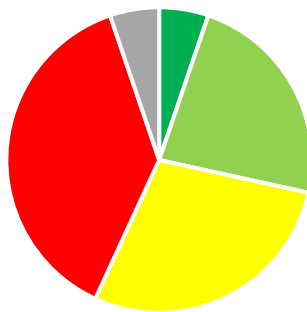
- Those who answered “improved” mentioned new restaurants, new schools, improved communication from Town officials and staff to residents, increasing home values, and increased business development while keeping taxes low as common reasons.
- Several of those who answered “stayed the same” said they have not seen much change in the Town over the past ten years, but expressed concern over increased development pressures from both the City of Madison and Village of Cottage Grove plus increased traffic and crime.
- The majority of respondents who answered “declined” mentioned issues related to greater levels of development, including more traffic, less of a rural atmosphere, crime, and agriculture and natural areas being consumed by new subdivisions.



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Question 4: Over the past 10 years, there has been little change in the size of the Town's population. An average of 7 new homes per year have been built, plus some new commercial development mostly near Highway 12/18. The Village of Cottage of Grove has grown more quickly. Looking forward to the next 10 years, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about future growth and preservation in the Town?

The Town of Cottage Grove should encourage more residential development



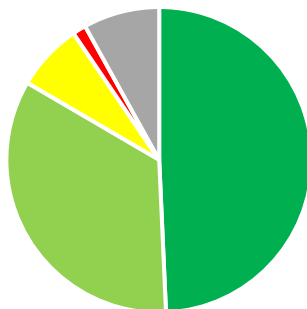
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree
■ No Opinion

The Town of Cottage Grove should encourage more commercial development



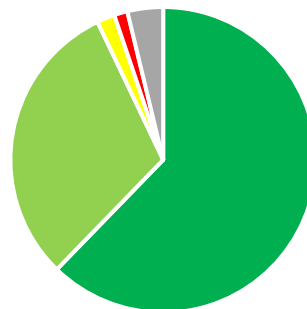
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree
■ No Opinion

The Town of Cottage Grove should encourage more farmland preservation



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree
■ No Opinion

The Town of Cottage Grove should encourage natural area and open space preservation

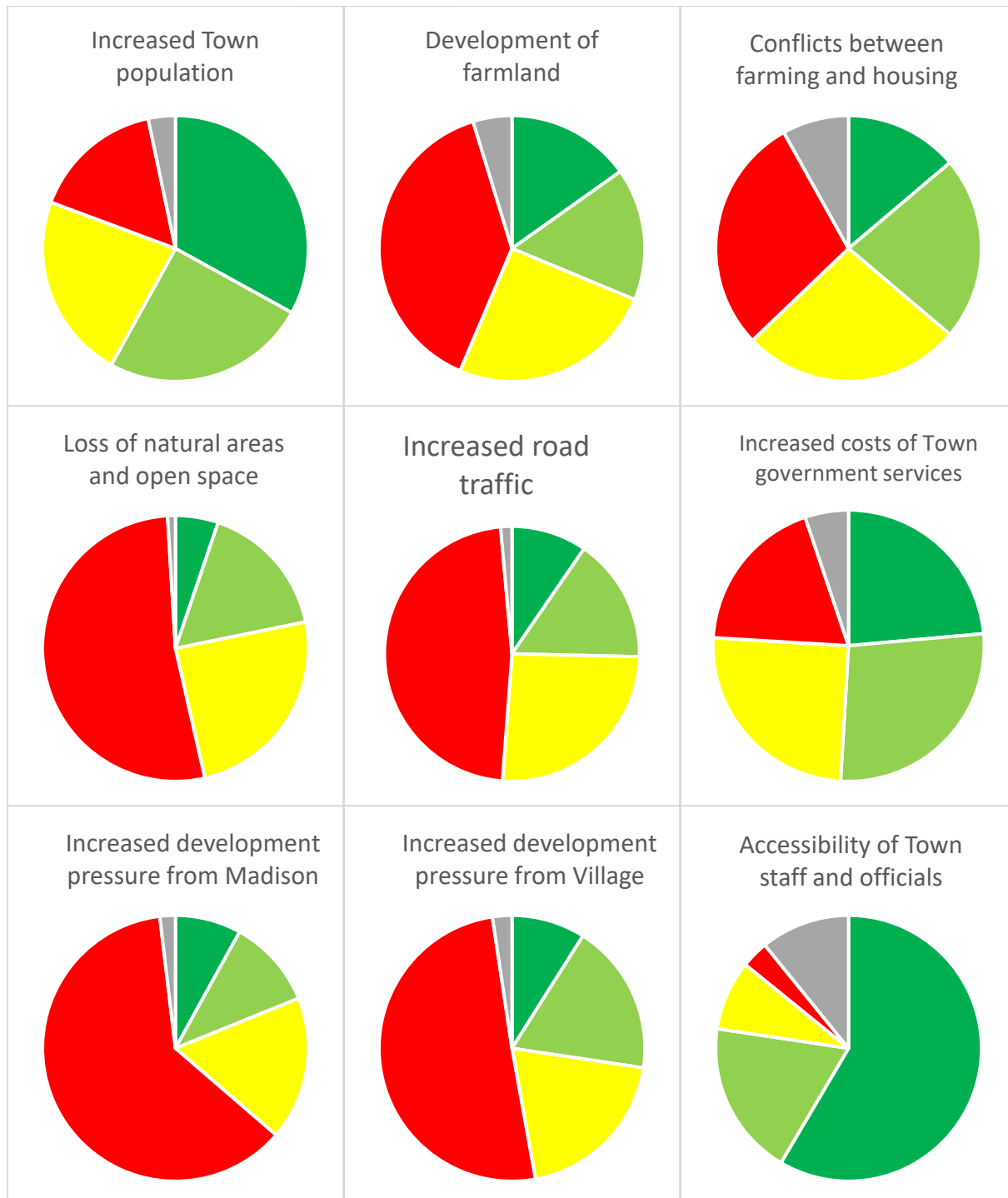
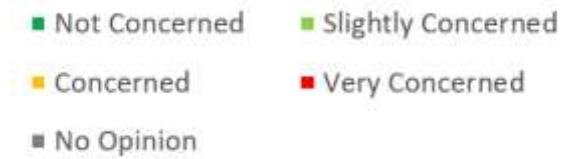


■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree
■ No Opinion



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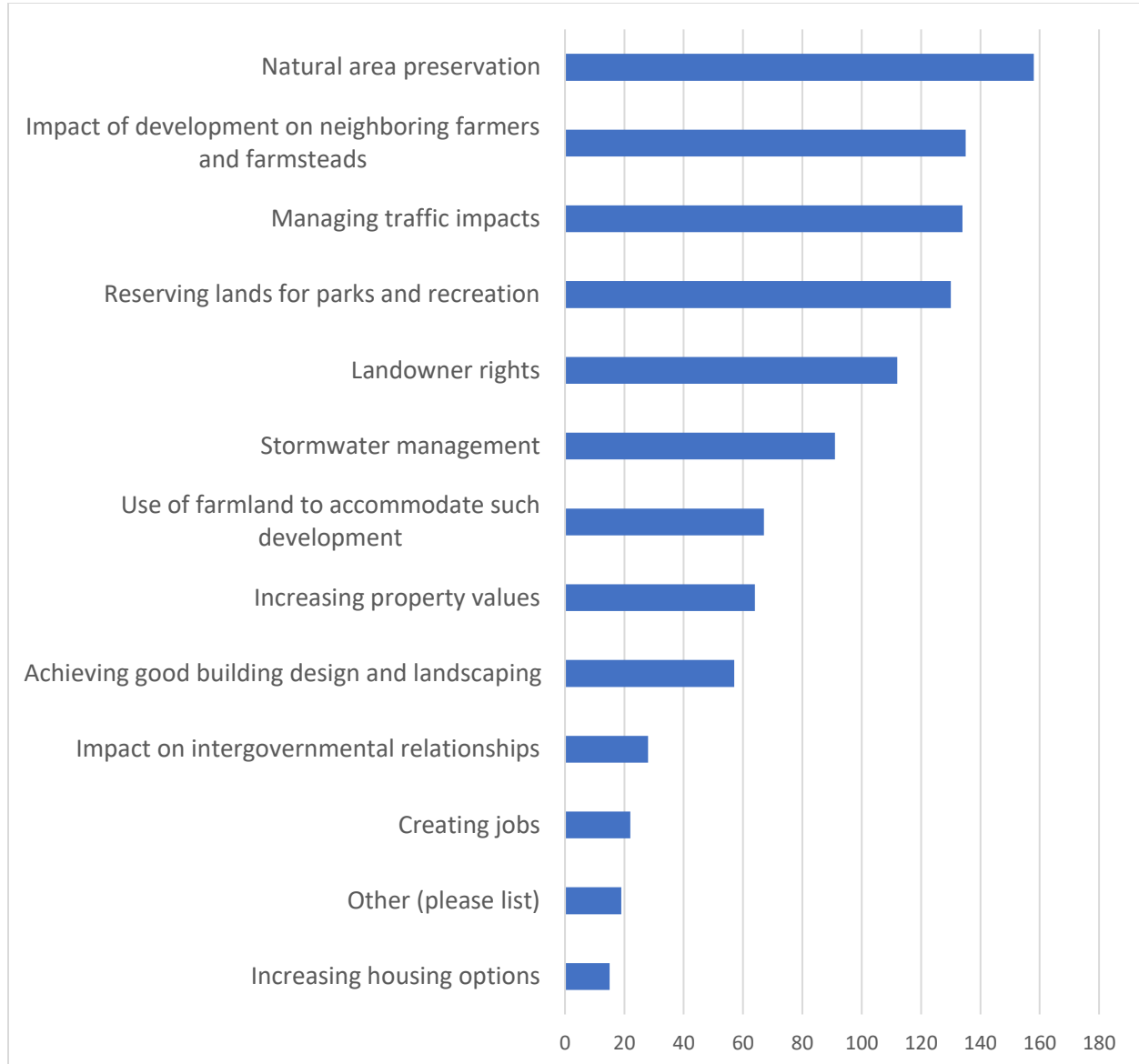
Question 5: Please indicate your level of concern with respect to the Town of Cottage Grove





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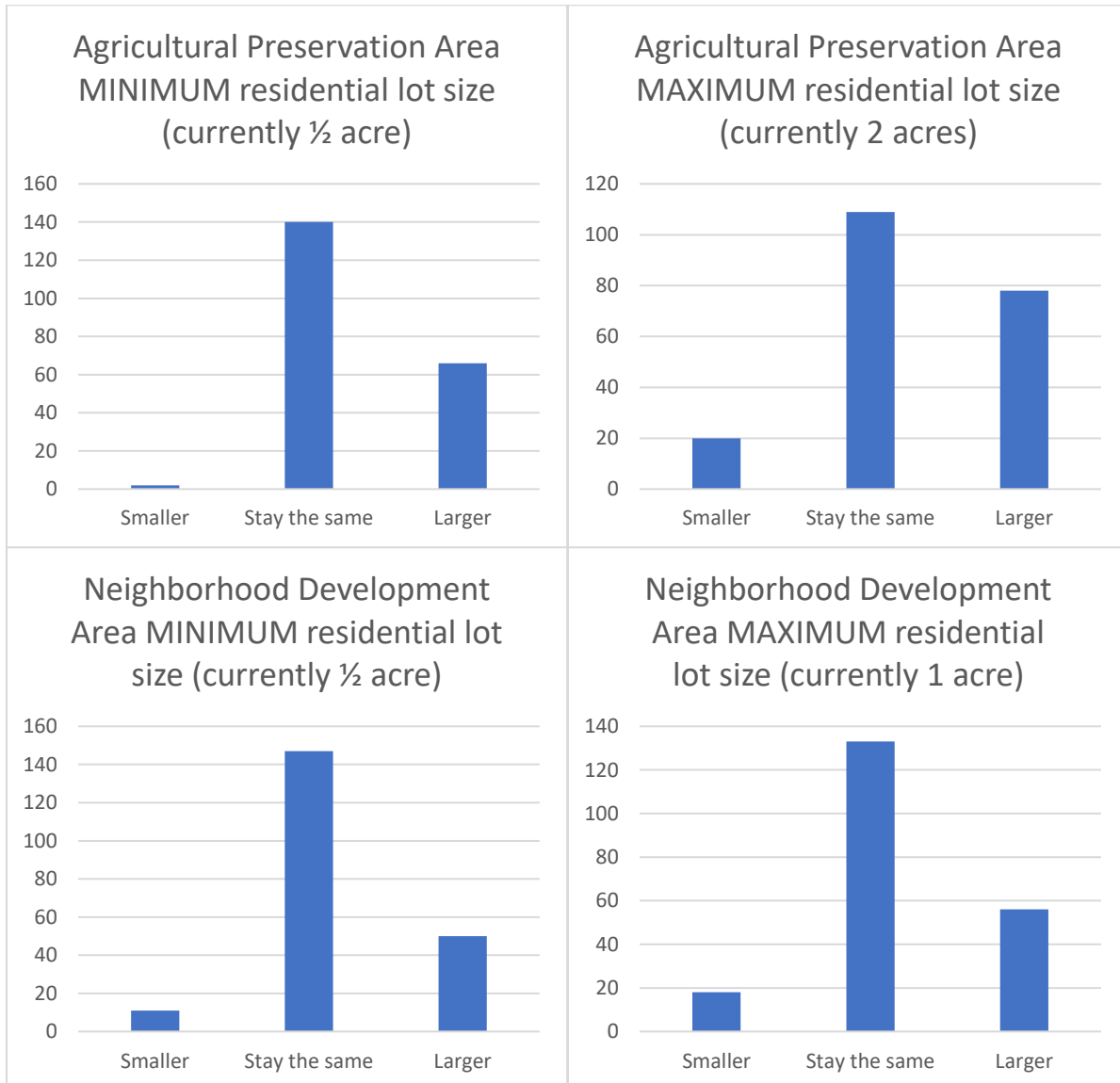
Question 6: As the Town considers future residential and commercial development proposals, what should its highest priorities be in evaluating such proposals? Please check all that apply.





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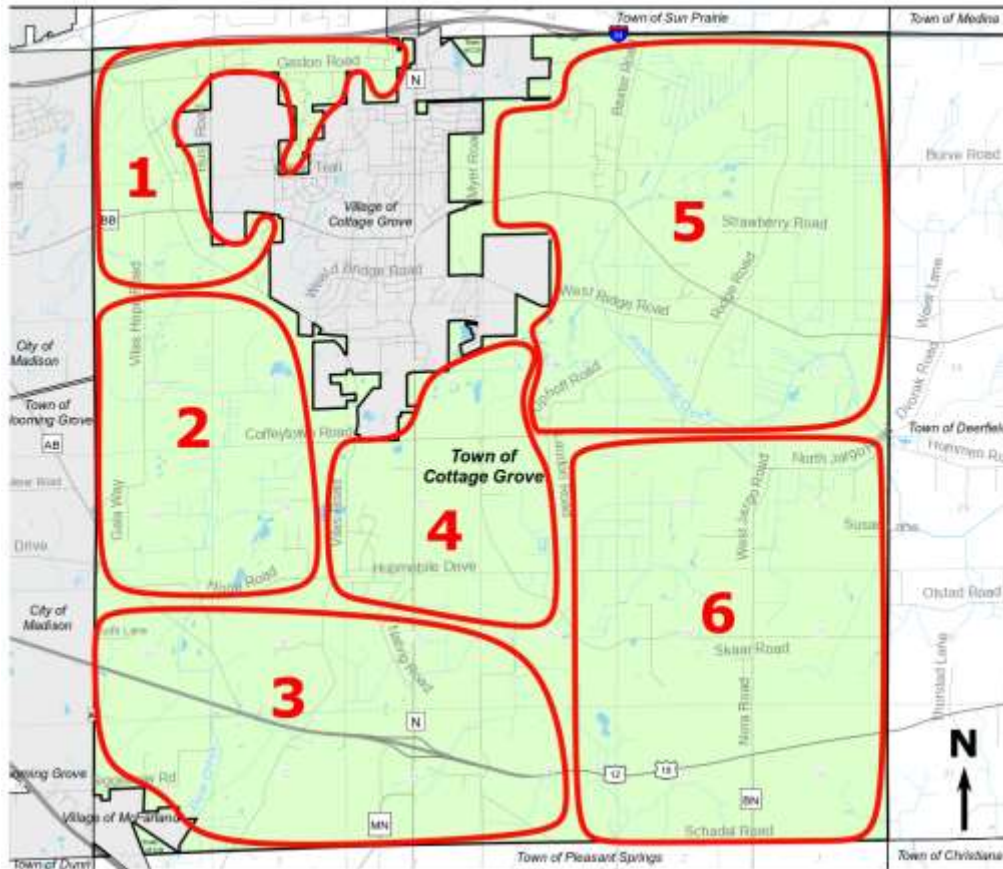
Question 7: New residential lot sizes in the Town vary based on whether the lot is in an area that the Town has planned for agricultural preservation or neighborhood (subdivision) development. In the Agricultural Preservation Area, minimum lot size is currently $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and maximum lot size is 2 acres. In the Neighborhood Development Area, minimum lot size is currently $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and maximum lot size is 1 acre. With this information do you think minimum and maximum lot sizes should be smaller, larger, or stay the same?





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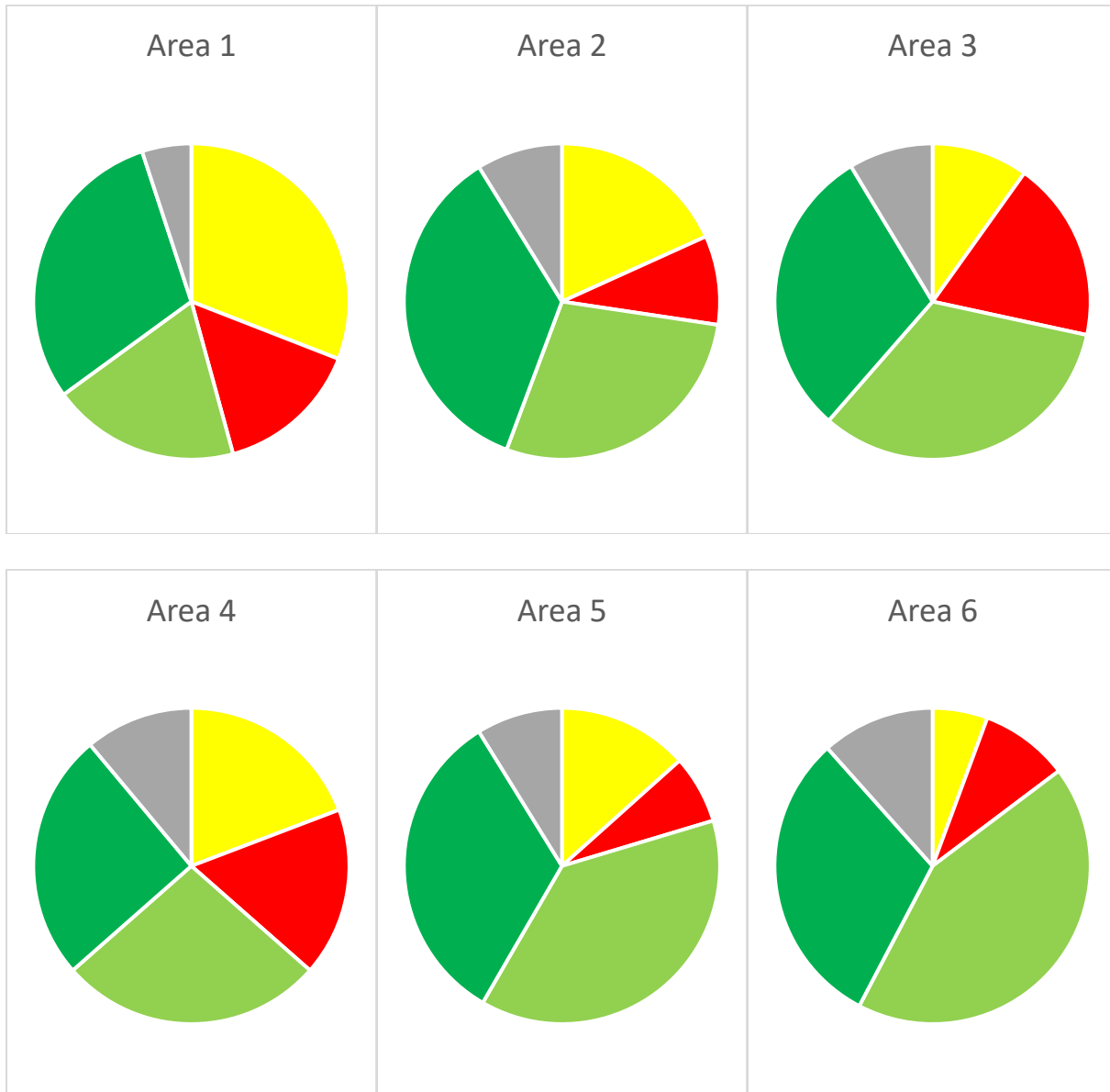
Question 8: The map below generally divides the Town of Cottage Grove into six different geographic areas. Over the next 10 years, which of the listed land uses in the table below the map do you think the Town should accommodate in each mapped area? You may select more than one use for each area.





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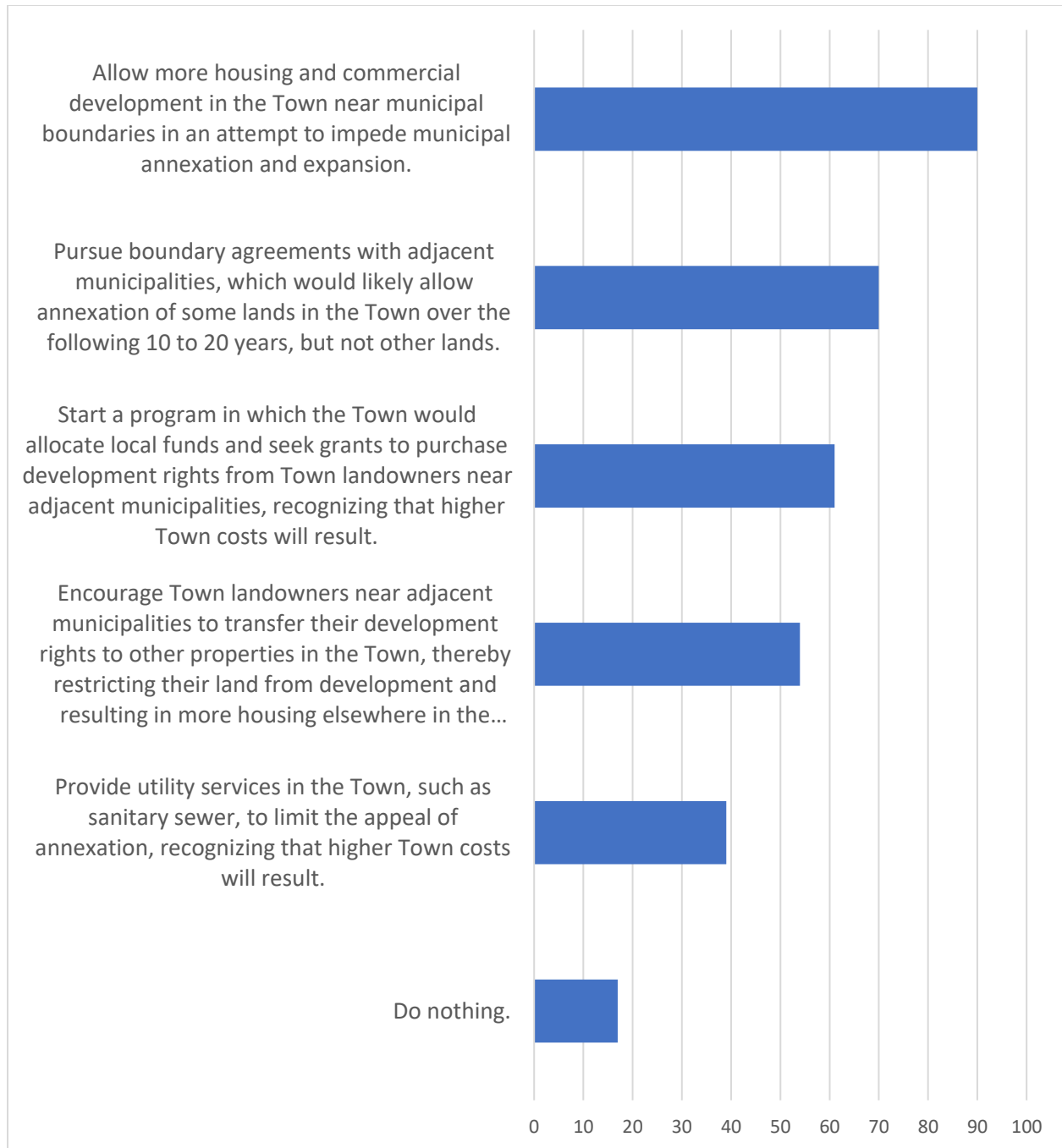
- Residential subdivisions
- Commercial development
- Farmland with limited housing
- Natural areas and open space
- No opinion





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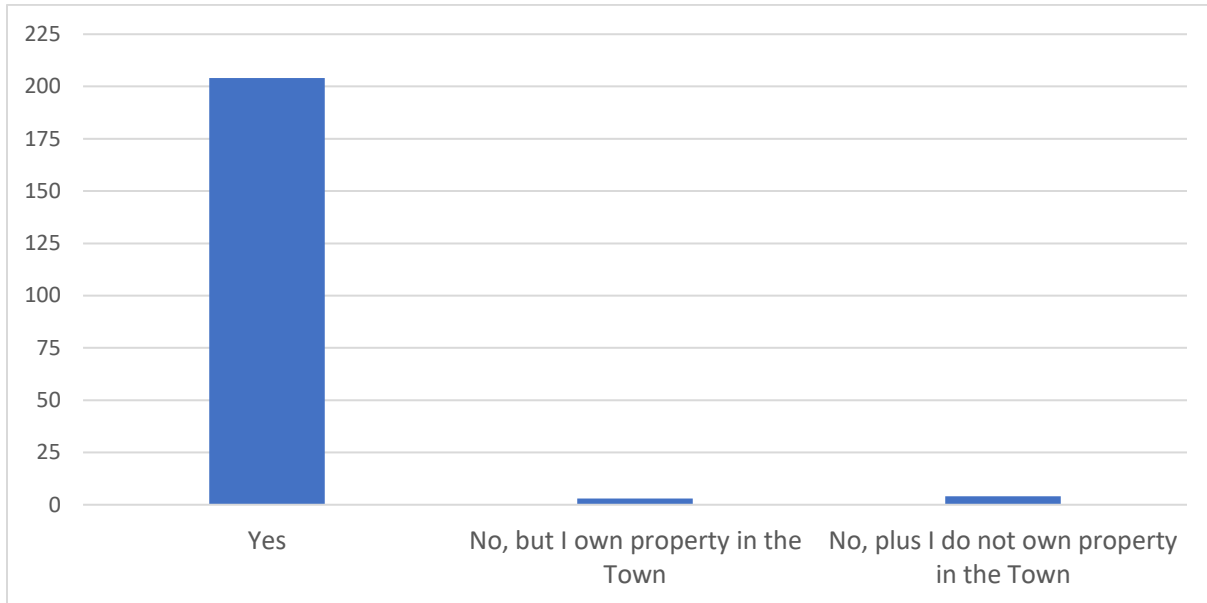
Question 9: Over the next decade, the Town will likely continue to have development pressure from, and annexations to, adjacent municipalities. Which approach or approaches do you think the Town should take to deal with this pressure? Check all that apply.



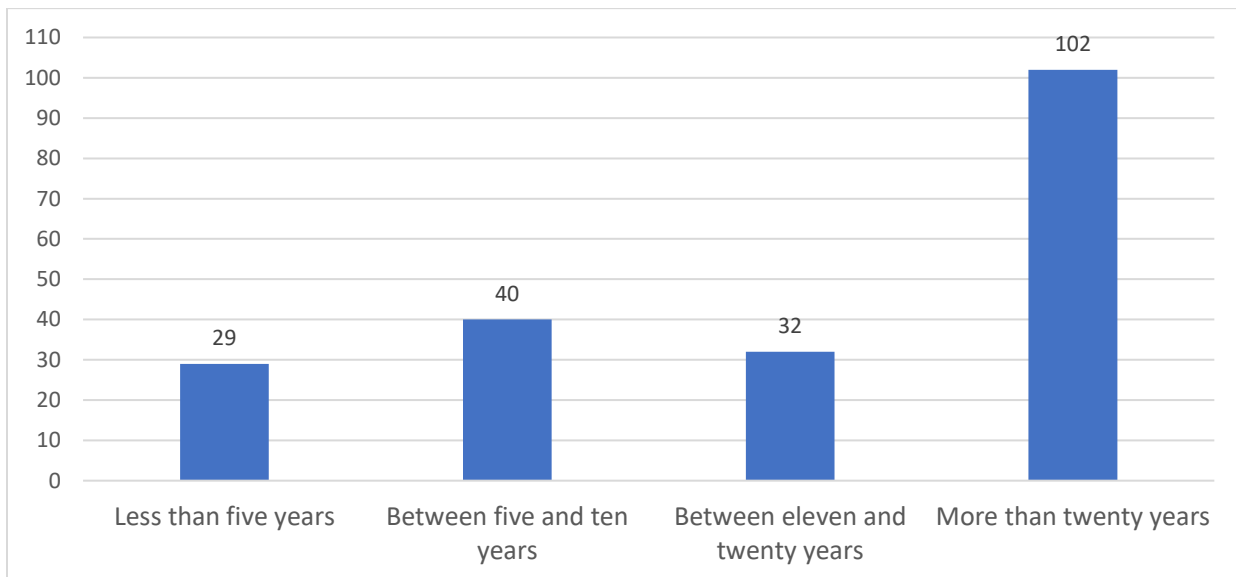


Final Community Survey Results Spring 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update

Question 10: Do you live in the Town of Cottage Grove?



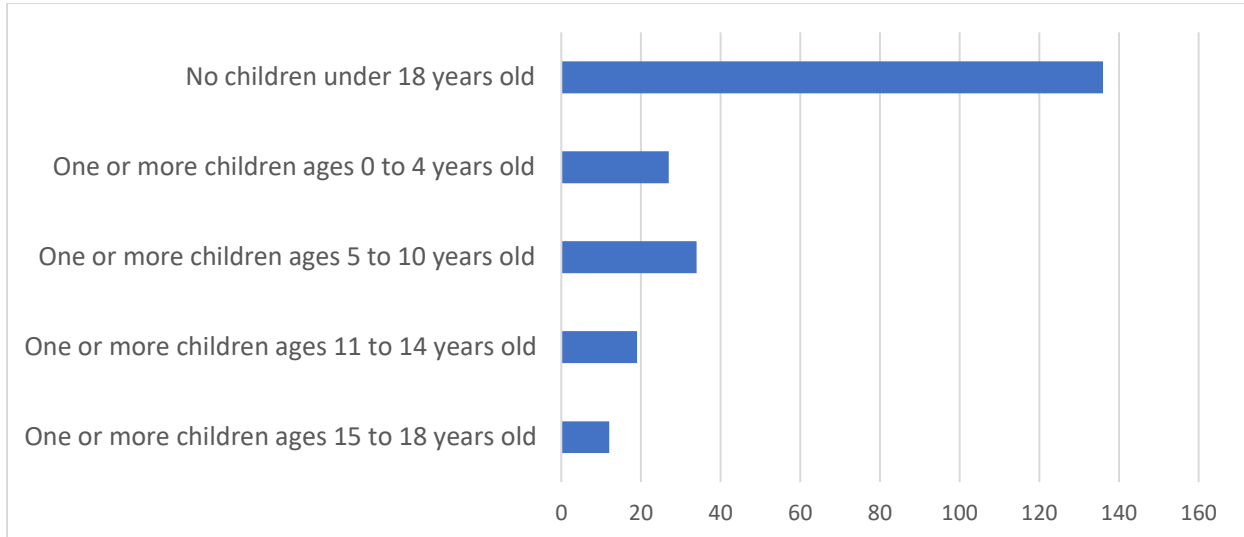
Question 11: How long have you lived within the Town of Cottage Grove?





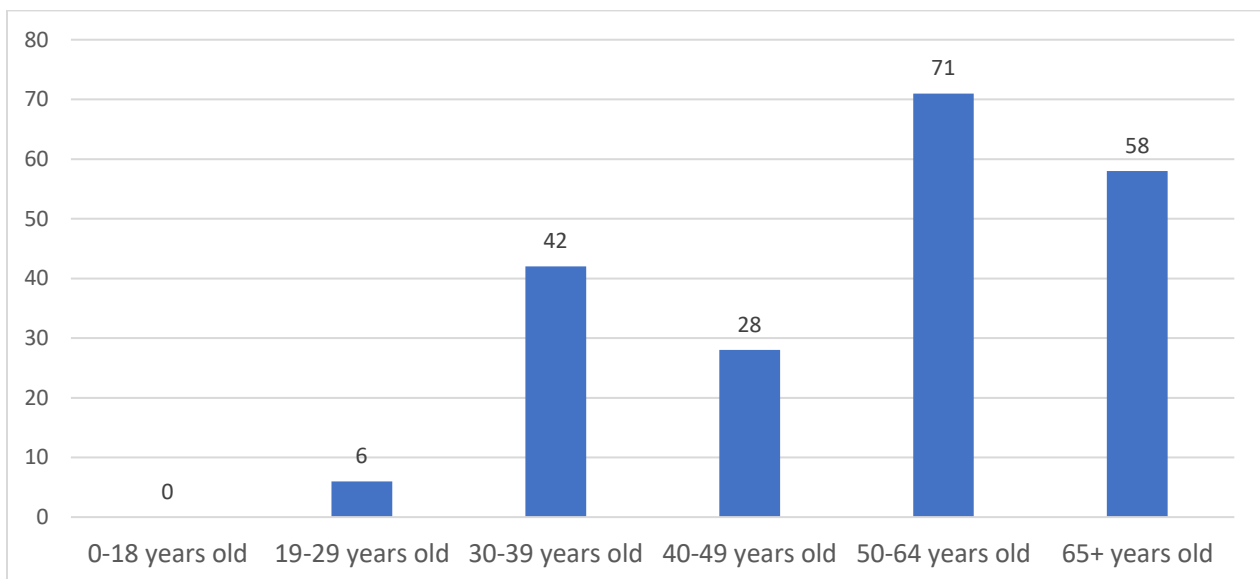
Final Community Survey Results Spring 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update

Question 12: If there are children living in your household, what are their ages? Check all that apply. Please include children who live with you part-time.



[Approximately 36% of respondents to the survey stated their household has children under 18 years old. This figure is higher than the 24% of households in the Town with children reported in the U. S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey (ACS).]

Question 13: What is your age?



[The average age is 53.6 years old. This is higher than the median age of the Town according to the 2019 ACS, which was 47.4 years old. However, since survey respondents included no children, the ages of respondents were actually representative of adults in the Town.]



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Question 14: Please share any other comments related to the future of the Town of Cottage Grove that you would like considered as part of the Comprehensive Plan update process. For example, are there things you would like to see more of or less of in the Town over the next 10 or so years? This question allowed open-ended responses, which 134 respondents offered. Common responses are summarized as follows:

- Many respondents desired to preserve as much agricultural, woodland, park space, and open space lands as possible. There was some interest in expanding the bike path system to the Village of Cottage Grove and City of Madison.
- Many respondents reiterated previous concerns about too much growth and development and that the Town is losing its rural atmosphere and feel.
- Many respondents stated that boundary agreements should be put in place with the City of Madison and Village of Cottage Grove to limit as much land as possible from being annexed into these two municipalities, especially the City.
- Many also expressed a realization that growth will likely happen, but with a common desire that the Town put plans in place to protect most of the rural areas of the Town while directing development to targeted areas.
- Some respondents recognized the benefits increased development brings to the Town, such as increased or new services, higher home values, more opportunities for recreation, restaurants, and shopping.
- Several respondents mentioned that if residential growth needs to happen, they preferred single-family homes in residential subdivisions with larger lot sizes (e.g., 3-5 acres), which they considered more in line with the rural aesthetic.