



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement is important to a successful planning effort. The use of public participation makes it possible to have a clearer understanding of how the residents feel regarding different parts of the community, as well as how certain issues are and can impact the community in the future.

However, community engagement worked in a different manner during the Victoria project due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Strides were made to get as much feedback during the process as possible without jeopardizing the health of the committee or residents. Therefore, during most of the Comprehensive Plan portion of the process, meetings were held via Zoom.

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Community engagement in Victoria was designed as a component of the project. It was structured in a manner allowing for stakeholders to be involved in numerous ways throughout the process. Some key elements will include:

- Education: Planning 101
- Use of a steering committee
- SurveyMonkey
- Public hearings

## **Planning 101**

Planning 101 forms the educational foundation for the entire project. In this process, there was one workshop. This workshop addressed:

- What is a Comprehensive Plan?
- How the plan is used?
- How does the plan impact me?

## **Steering Committee Meetings**

The Planning Commission served as the steering committee, to provide regular input on all phases of the planning project. This group also provided the internal assistance the planning effort needed to get more people involved in the process.

The steering committee also acts as a sounding board during the entire process; this allows all pieces/Chapters of the plan to be reviewed and commented on at regularly scheduled meetings. The steering committee is one of the more critical components of the process.

## **SurveyMonkey**

SurveyMonkey, a web based survey tool was utilized for gathering specific input on Victoria. The survey process allows



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individuals to provide input while remaining totally anonymous. The survey was advertised using posters hung up throughout the community.

An strong effort was made to make sure as many people as possible would answer the survey. Therefore, information about the survey and how to complete it on-line was sent to every address in Victoria and the immediately surrounding area. The process used was a United States Postal Service tool called Every Door Direct Mail.

The survey had a total of 107 individuals answering the survey with 92 of these identifying themselves as residents of Victoria. The following is a summary of some questions and their responses:

### **Do you live in the corporate limits of Victoria or outside the corporate limits?**

- Within Victoria 92 people (90.2%)
- Outside Victoria 10 people (9.8%)

### **What's your big idea for the future of Victoria? The Comprehensive Plan Update offers us an opportunity to envision the future of Victoria. Submit your "Big Ideas" for the future, and use the comment feature to share your thoughts.**

- Change the old middle school into a reception/ dancing hall for weddings/class reunions/ family gatherings.
- Improve Main Street business area especially the corner on 5th Street. Buy that corner building and make it into something useful. A coffee shop/museum.
- Hopefully stays an awesome, quaint town, I have always known it to be
- Bring more business into town that will help support the town. Instead of us having to spend our money in Hays.
- A travel plaza with several food options out by I-70. It would bring fast food closer to Victoria. It would bring tourists to Victoria. It would be far enough away that hopefully riffraff and big trucks would not come into Victoria. It would be a win-win because you wouldn't have this right in town, but very accessible for people in Victoria.
- We need to open up some thing off interstate to bring people through our community. We need a restaurant that will stay open longer for gathering after school sports.
- Liberal wind and solar restrictions. Allow chickens in city limits.
- I would like to see Job opportunity's come to Victoria or the Ellis Co area that would get people to stay in the community.
- My vision would be to find a way to make Victoria a small business community with little boutiques/shops downtown. Hays can have the larger chains and we can have a town of small start up businesses with sidewalk events to draw people here.
- No new taxes, No increase in Utilities
- A reworking of Cathedral Avenue from the North edge of town to Fourth Street would be helpful. The drainage and the pitch of the road especially from Tenth Street south is really crowned and steep towards the gutters making it hard for elderly and less able people to get in or out of vehicles. The drainage during heavy rains or snows could use a huge improvement.
- More commerce! Grocery store. Dollar store. Restaurants.
- Repaired streets
- Would love to see a Dollar General or Dollar Tree. Would also like to see more homes built.
- Grow our community with a dollar general or a grocery store and a restaurant
- I would like to see more things offered in Victoria; grocery store, walking trail, a place for kids to hang out and maybe play games or read. We have a wonderful town with room to grow and expand.
- More small businesses, especially groceries and one or two more restaurants. Draw visitors using the notoriety of our Basilica.
- More housing. Shopping for groceries. Possibly a motel and/or truck plaza.
- Fix Iron street where it comes off of 10th. It is need of better repair now!!!
- Keep the town clean safe minimum drugs.
- Big Idea is to open up the community to those who are not of the Catholic faith.
- Improve the education system of the Victoria Jr/HS to make it more competitive to the surrounding communities.
- New swimming pool
- Utilize the old St John rest home for something or tear it down and sell lots
- Repave cathedral Rd
- I would love to see more families move to Victoria so more affordable housing options available would be nice. To have more businesses open so we are comparable to Ellis.
- I would like to see a more inviting Main Street/Cathedral Ave...to welcome visitors to Victoria. I would also like to see improvements to be made to the City Pool be improved. We already have a great school district and if you want to attract young families to Victoria we need to provide safe opportunities for children.
- Water our grass & have a hot tub in the back yard.
- Fix broken sidewalks, repave all roads, update the infrastructure. A Welcome Center with city business, restaurants, utilities, tourist listings, with phone numbers or brochures to distribute or have available for after hour visitors/new residents.
- Single themed Holiday street decorations
- Water system,



- I'd love to see businesses come back, especially a grocery store.
- To keep our schools and small businesses open
- Get a decent city council that doesn't give raises to the employees every other day, don't let the police chief use the police car for his personal business, don't let brad use the company pickup at all house of the day to use for his personal business it is constantly parked at his personal shop on hwy 40 after city hours and during city works hours and on weekends
- Would not support big ideas if town becomes too big. Victoria is special as sleeper community.
- Hemp farm and Marijuana dispensary
- Build a nice town to raise children in a safe place
- Fix Cathedral Ave
- Attract new business
- Infrastructure improvements, continued housing development
- Victoria is, and will always be a bedroom community for Hays. Since it is the location of The Basilica of Saint Fidelis, it will continue to be a tourist attraction in the foreseeable future.
- Recreational areas for adults as well instead of just parks for children.
- A youth activity center
- Build a YMCA in the old retirement home
- QT gas station and hotel off interstate. Subdivisions off interstate.
- More industry and a restaurant

## What is your vision for Victoria? Share your vision for the short- and long-term improvements that will make our great community better in 2040.

- Make necessary improvements and plan major changes in 5 year spans to show community you are willing to change and adapt.
- Short term: Re-doing Cathedral Street as it is the main entry way for visitors coming to see the Cathedral. Long term: Consider making cathedral street non-large truck access due to wear and tear from passing thru from highway 40 to interstate. Not to mention what their impact has on the church's foundation!
- Keep nice and clean.
- Keep Victoria clean, safe and beautiful
- Repair potholes in the residential streets.
- Replacement of several streets that I am embarrassed any visitor would ever experience.
- Have a full time fire department on staff
- The streets are horrible. For having 3 city people, they are not doing a very good job. The street sweeper (if ran at all) does not pick up the sand. I have witnessed it on my street. Snow removal is poor most of the time. I hate to see this town go downhill. It is such a clean town compared to town similar in size. I'd like to see it stay that way. Home owners should be encouraged to keep their properties neat. Most do as of now.
- Self sufficiency

- Replace some decaying and crumbling infrastructure in town.
- We need businesses downtown and a small grocery store. The empty and/or rundown buildings downtown need to be torn down or filled. Some street repairs need done as well.  
City owned Grocery Store
- Short term, address the lack of an actual sit down restaurant to serve the community. Don't get me wrong the Total and the Library are great to have but it's all burgers and fried foods that are fine but a family could use a menu a wee bit more diverse with some healthier options. Long term, keep the great schools we are blessed with in operation. They are a credit to this community and the kids are not crammed into the classrooms. Victoria is blessed with a wonderful staff of teachers and staff for these small schools. Would also be nice to do a spruce up of the swimming pool, not a over rated water park like Hays just some updates, it's the best entertainment bang for the buck for us kids of all ages!!
- Again more business. Rest home or adult day care or assisted living would be a great opportunity for employment and elderly
- Increase the population
- Short term improvement would be making people care for their homes and lots. You have really beautiful houses and right in the middle is an unkept house that brings the whole neighborhood down. Long term improvements would be roads, man what potholes!
- Treat everyone the same don't choose by last name.
- Somehow if we could entice businesses of some sort to base in Victoria.
- Better water system. Improved streets and infrastructure (water/sewer lines). Better street lighting to enable safer walking at dawn and dusk.
- A new pool would be nice. There is not a lot for kids to do in the summertime.
- To have an educational system that serves ALL students not just those of long-term community families.
- Continue to support our schools so that we draw young families to Victoria.
- Monitoring and controlling illegal activity-for our community to be one that our children's children will be proud to call home
- I personally like our small town. I would also like to see improvements made to the City Pool. We already have a great school district and if you want to attract young families to Victoria we need to provide safe opportunities for children. own and safe atmosphere that Victoria offers. As I mentioned above, it would be great if we could have a more inviting/beautiful Main Street/ Cathedral Ave.
- Short term-make our city beautiful, welcoming and tourist friendly! Long term-Roads that are nice to drive, walk or ride a bike on; Repaint & clean up cluttered houses along major thoroughfares;
- Expansion of available housing
- Hope it stays small and safe. Small schools too.
- The hemp capital of western Kansas and long term Kansas's first medical marijuana dispensary

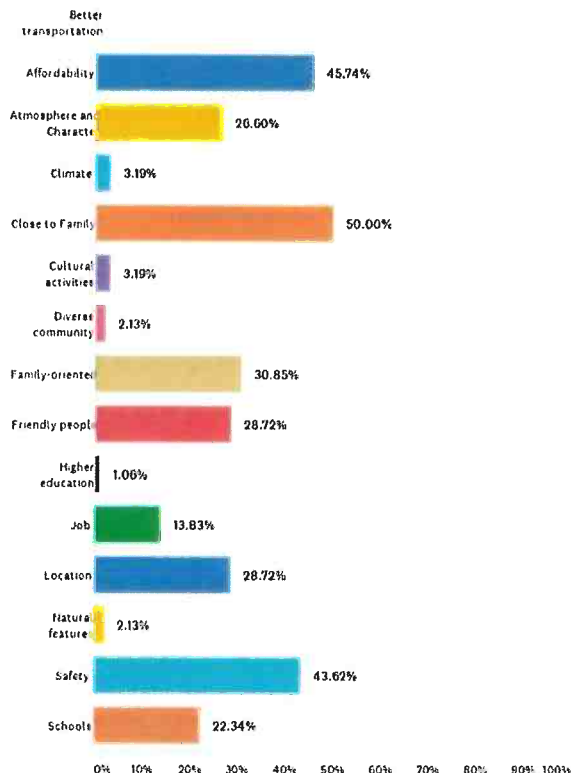




## Community Engagement

- Clean up the middle school and nursing home
- Fix Cathedral road and lower the water rates so we can afford to actually water a garden. And do something about the old rest home.
- Short term...advertise to draw growth. Long term.. continue to look for improvements that will develop the community and it's people.
- The lack of an inexpensive and reliable supply of water is the greatest problem for Victoria. If this problem is solved, the community will continue to improve and prosper.
- Improve the municipal facilities in the town. Parks, water systems, public areas. Become a welcoming and friendly town with activities for everyone.
- Annexed into Hays.

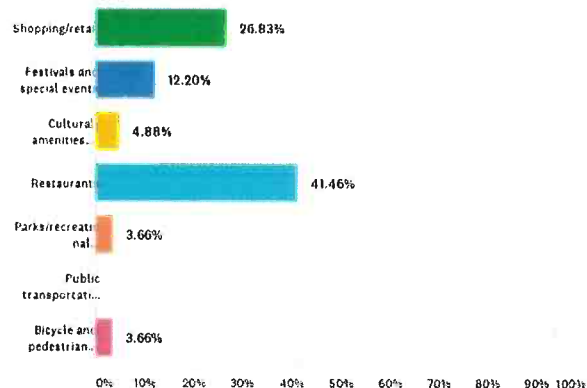
**Overall, what are your top three reasons for living in Victoria? Share your three favorite reasons for living in Victoria.**



**If you could change one thing about Victoria, what would it be? How can Victoria make that change?**

The answers were very similar to the previous two lists shown in this Chapter.

**What feature would attract more visitors to Victoria? Choose your top feature. What attractions or services do you think would bring more people to our community? Explain in the comments section below why you think this is the best choice and how we can implement it.**



**How can the community create more types of housing in Victoria? We want to diversify housing options to bring more people to Victoria. What do you think stands in the way of creating a wider variety of apartments, single-family homes and condos?**

- I would update single family homes and more people would be willing to move to Victoria.
- People buying run down homes, and renting them out to people for low rent cost without maintaining the homes or yards. Nicer/newer apts/condos cost more than these places.
- What about the ugly former nursing home
- Land availability
- Expensive lots.
- City limits
- Landlords in Victoria either have no contracts or "loose contracts". If you have ever rented from someone that cares about their property, you have to list who lives in the rental and you will be charged extra if anyone else moves in.
- No one ever wants to improve and bring more rental opportunities for retirees or young families
- Strict coding
- There is not enough people who can work close to here to justify living here.
- I really don't think Condos would be a wise investment. A few more apartments would be an improvement for single people or those that just don't have the energy to keep up the usual yard maintenance etc. Some development modestly priced homes would be also be nice for
- Lots for sale to build on where duplex or apartments could be built.



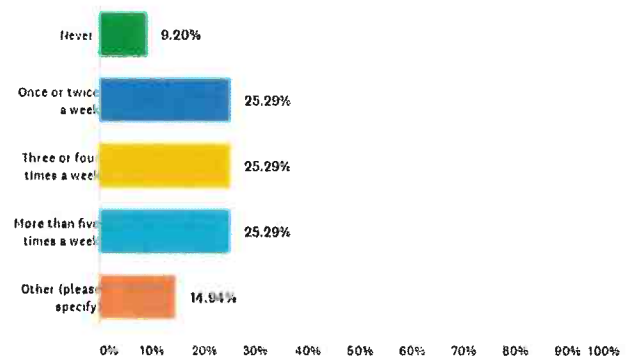
- Cost of lots and some codes that prohibit building them in certain locations.
- Get rid of the run down houses and allow lots for homes to be built. The newer additions are quite expensive for young families.
- If we had more duplex/apartment options to cater to maybe college age kids or even young couples just starting out. I feel like we get overlooked because we really just offer homes. If we could get these kids to come here young then maybe they would stay long term.
- Lower the water rates.
- Perhaps the covenants for developments. They may not allow for the apartments or condos. I think we need to offer retail or other options to allow for people to want to come to Victoria.
- Economy no handicap homes available, land to build on
- Current homeowner sentiment
- No available lots. Old run down homes and lots torn down for new lots
- I believe we already provide affordable housing
- I think new duplexes for families or older people would be nice. We need the ground and water before any building can start.
- We need more people who want to live here. Is there a shortage of housing? Advertise our low taxes here to encourage relocation.
- Senior living
- Offer incentives to builders and new residents
- Single family homes would be best, no need for busy apt buildings, condos or community duplexes. IMO
- Close minded people
- Retail businesses would attract housing.
- Put some roundabouts in
- Cheap housing will bring more people but poverty level populations bring a lot of problems. We don't have jobs here. Must build on beautifying town as safe and beautiful sleeper community.
- Zoning, water restrictions
- High taxes and utilities
- If the city would partake in getting rid of the rest home we could then create new lots for homes that would be close to the schools and parks.
- The city has not grown very much and there are no job opportunities to bring people in to live in town. Expanding to the north closer to interstate with more businesses and homes would be great. After fixing Cathedral Ave.
- Prices
- The cost of building these structures.
- People are not informed enough about Victoria's community. Advertise...Get a professional company to put together a video of Victoria. And promote it
- People with money willing to take chances, risky since we live so close to hays
- In my opinion, Victoria currently provides a wide variety of affordable and comfortable housing, and continues to improve.
- Turn the old nursing home into apartments or reopen it to create jobs and bring people to Victoria. Nobody wants

to build in Victoria because it's dying.

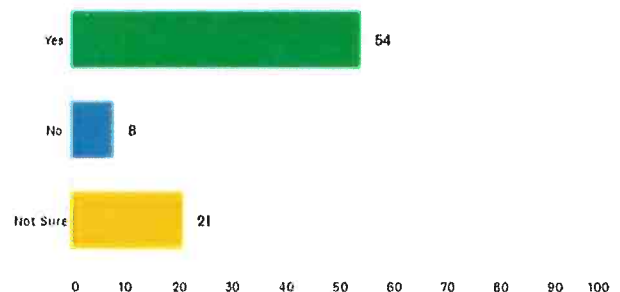
- Make more roads
- Extend city limit to interstate to provide land to build on.
- Shopping, restaurants

**How often do you walk or run down the streets or sidewalks near your home? We're trying to get a feel for how often people are out on the sidewalks in Victoria. Tell us how often and then share below what you do on the sidewalks and any problems you think need to be addressed.**

**Should Victoria be more aggressive and pro-active regarding economic**



**development?**

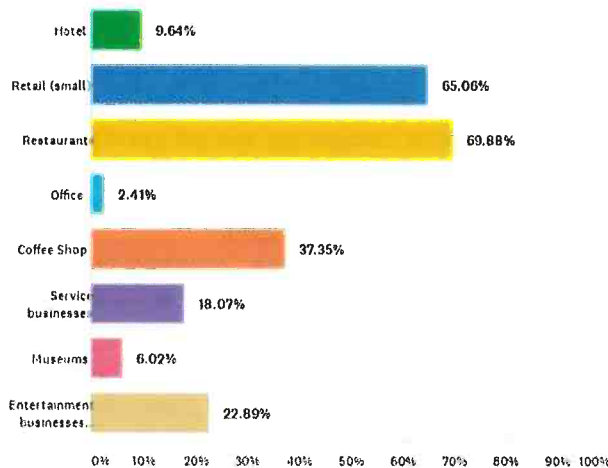


**What types of businesses should Victoria**



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### work to attract?



How can Victoria's heritage become a bigger part of our brand, and use it to attract new businesses and residents? What aspect of Victoria's history could be incorporated into our brand? How could that help build on our reputation and bring in new families and businesses?

German heritage great church know think way Victoria bring  
community used German Build need heritage  
people know businesses history

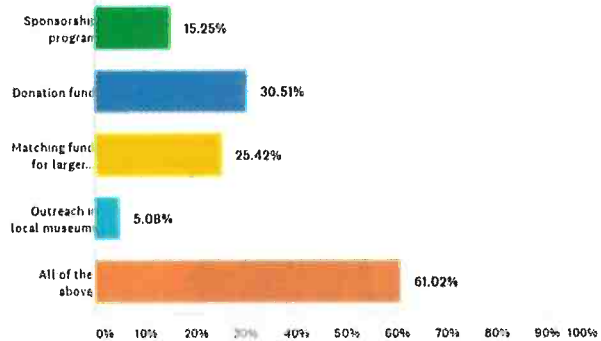
What amenities would you like to see at the parks in Victoria? How would you include amenities like restrooms, water fountains, water feature, picnic benches and pavilions at the park? Which do you think is the most important and why?

- Restrooms would be beneficial.
- A small pavilion with picnic benches would be nice esp. for Herzogfest time.
- Restrooms and pavilions would be good just for convenience factors
- Water feature might me nice, but it would be too crowded.
- Last time I used Honey Braun Park, everything was fine
- We are a small town. I think the improvements to our park over the years has been awesome. I personally think it is very nice.
- Dog poop pickup enforcement
- Well the city parks restrooms are locked don't see why we need them the local kids will just beat them up if we leave them open to the public.

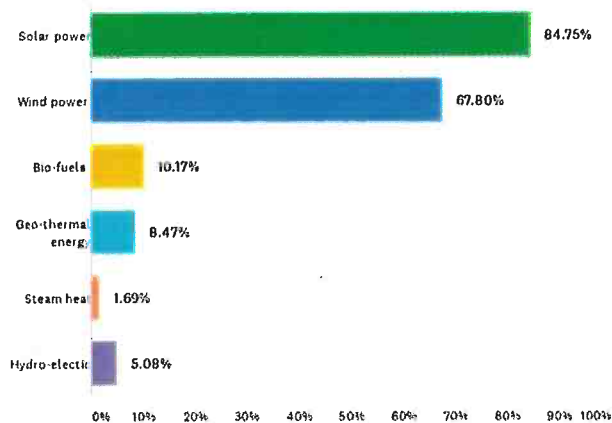
- Water fountains would be a welcome addition, the bathrooms could be redone to make them a little more family friendly instead of the single user versions now.
- Clean restrooms. Open with lights and paper supplies. Many times while playing with kids at park or riding bike we would stop to use the restrooms and they are horrible. Dirty. No paper. Never soap. Our city park is great otherwise
- A covered area which can be used for attractions that will bring people to attend and enjoy
- All of the amenities above would be great. I think you would need to hire someone to take care of the restrooms and maybe help with party set ups and take downs, trash pick up etc. We have some of these amenities now but they have been destroyed mostly due to lack of supervision.
- Always need some trash cans to encourage people to clean up after themselves.
- I think maintaining our pavilion is important to allow people to come use it along with the picnic tables and playground equipment.
- I think the park is nice.
- Restrooms handicap trail in the main park and handicap bathrooms in the park swings for all more shelters Place them near the swimming pool, existing shelter.
- Caboose is an eye sore Park is good New pool, ours is dated
- Picnic benches or just benches to sit-visit-relax-visit with other passer byers-something that even the unsteady would not be afraid to try-they like to visit and relax also!
- All of it and keep the pool open and running.
- Sand volleyball
- As far as I know there is only one park ?
- Ours is nice. Another would be good too. Add a zip line area with swings. Encourage family reunions and celebrations.
- Water fountain, picnic tables and benches with shade. Restrooms are nice if they are open and clean.
- A new pool
- Hold events there for kids occasionally - parents love to send them - & they get more exposure to the park which may lead to more use.
- I am not aware of any public storm shelters in Victoria. This could be something to consider and may be supported with grants from FEMA or KDEM.
- Move the caboose closer to the railroad to open up the park. Place a cement floor there for entertainment. Grants could be applied for to help with the cost
- We have an excellent city park and playground in "Honey and Laura Braun Park. This is also the location of the City Swimming Pool.
- City park is ok as is
- Places for teenagers and young adults
- Dog park.



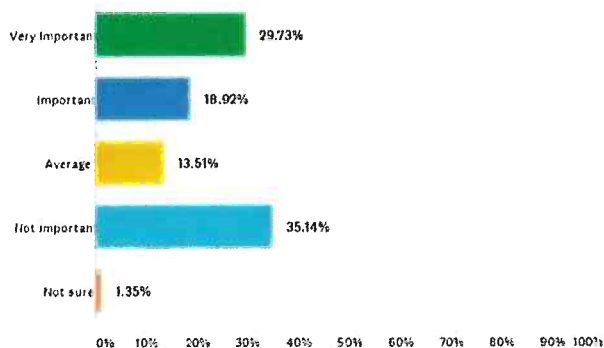
What amenities would you like to see at the parks  
In what way would you like to see the City raise support for parks in Victoria? How can we best raise funds for continued support for our park within the community? Which of these programs would you support?



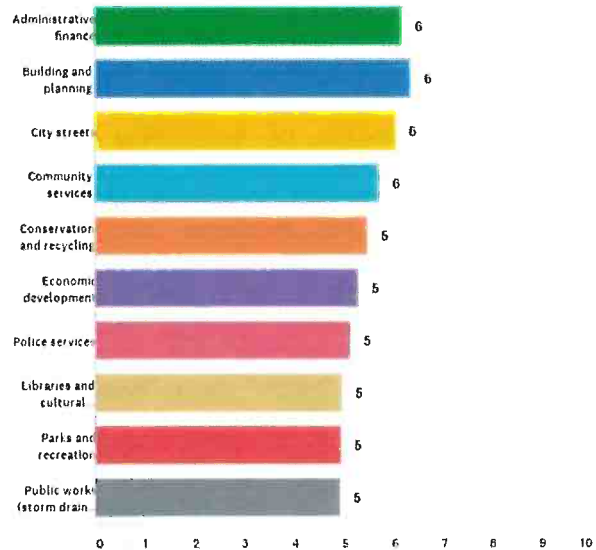
WHAT FORMS OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DO YOU THINK OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD PRIORITIZE? SELECT YOUR TOP TWO CHOICES.



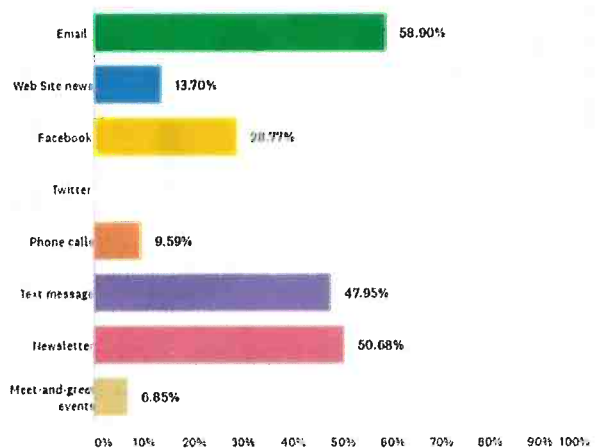
HOW IMPORTANT WAS SCHOOL LOCATION IN YOUR DECISION TO MOVE TO THE COMMUNITY?



FOR EVERY \$1,000 OF CITY FUNDS, HOW WOULD YOU DIVVY UP THE MONEY? RANK FROM 1-10 WITH 10 BEING THE HIGHEST. FIND THE SERVICES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO INVEST FUNDING IN, THEN TYPE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE SPENT IN THAT DEPARTMENT. THIS WILL HELP US TAKE YOUR FUNDING PRIORITIES WITH US WHEN WE CREATE OUR NEXT BUDGET.



IN WHAT WAYS WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF VICTORIA? PICK YOUR TOP TWO METHODS. WE THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY, AND IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU UPDATED ON COMMUNITY EVENTS. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?







### GOALS AND POLICIES

Planning for the future land uses of the community is an ongoing process of goal setting and problem solving aimed at encouraging and enhancing a better community with a better quality of life. Planning focuses upon ways of solving existing problems within the community, and providing a management tool enabling Victoria citizens to achieve their vision for the future.

Visioning is a process of evaluating present conditions, identifying problem areas, and bringing about consensus on how to overcome existing problems and manage change. By determining Victoria's vision, the community can decide where it wants to be in the future, and then develop a "roadmap" guiding decisions of the community. However, the plan cannot only be based upon this "vision" and "road map" concept. The residents of Victoria must also act or implement the necessary steps involved in achieving this "vision".



Change is continuous, therefore Victoria must decide specific criteria that will be used to judge and manage change. Instead of reacting to development pressures after the fact, the community along with their strategic vision, can better reinforce the desired changes, and discourage negative impacts that may

undermine the vision. A shared vision allows Victoria to focus its diverse energies and minimize conflicts in the present, and in the future.



A key component of a Comprehensive Plan is the goals and policies. The issues and concerns of the citizens are developed into a vision. The vision statement can then be further delineated and translated into action statements and/or policies, used to guide, direct, and base decisions for future growth, development and change within Victoria. Consensus on "what is good land use?" and "how to manage change in order to provide the greatest benefit to the community and its residents?" is formed. Victoria's goals and policies attempt to address various issues, regarding the questions of "how" to plan for the future.

**Goals** are desires, necessities and issues to be attained in the future. A goal should be established in a manner that allows it to be accomplished. Goals are the end-state of a desired outcome. Goals also play a factor in the establishment of policies within a community. In order to attain certain goals and/or policies within City government, they may need to be modified or changed from time to time.

**Policies** are measurable, definable steps that lead to the eventual completion of the goal. They are specific statements of principle or actions that





imply a direction that needs to be undertaken. These policies will synthesize the information from the goals, as well as the responses from the participants of the various input processes. Policies play an important role in the Comprehensive Development Plan because they direct the different actions that will need to be taken to meet the goals.

It is important for counties to establish their goals and policies in a manner allowing for both long-term and short-term accomplishments. The short-term goals and policies serve several functions:

- Allow for immediate feedback and success, which fuels the desire to achieve additional goals and better policies.
- Allow for the distribution of resources over time thus assuring a balanced use of public investment.
- Establish certain policies that need to be followed before the long-term goals can be accomplished.

### VICTORIA VISION AND THE PLAN

The Victoria Comprehensive Plan provides a broadly painted picture for the future. The vision statements and goals describing the desired future conditions provide guidance for land use decisions and other actions, both public and private that collectively will determine the future of Victoria.

***Vision without action is merely a dream***

***Action without vision is just passing time***

***Vision with action can change the world***

***Joel Barker***

The core premise embedded in the Victoria Plan 2020 Vision is designed to maintain and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the City during times of change, to promote our ideals and values as changes occur, and to meet the needs of today without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The plan acknowledges the importance of the connections between economic, environmental,

and social components of the community. The plan is a combination of practicality and vision, and provides guidelines for sustaining the rich fabric of Victoria.

### VICTORIA PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies for the Victoria Comprehensive Plan should be developed by the community based upon the information within this Plan.

Goals are intended as a long-range desire; however, as the Plan is implemented and different things in the world around Victoria changes, then the goals need to be modified to address the new direction and factors. Therefore, goals need to be flexible to ensure success and positive outcomes.



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