

How to Create Content

Nothing brings engaged community members to your mySidewalk public profile better than compelling, sharable content. That's why we have provided this how-to guide to creating gripping and useful questions that your community will want to answer and pass along to their friends and family. We've found that the best questions with the highest engagement across our platform were written with the following steps in mind.

INSPIRATION

The first thing you should ask yourself when composing a question is, "Why are we asking this question?" Is it because:

- We need to know the answer?
- Are community members talking about it?
- We can act on or respond to the answer?

Every question you post on your mySidewalk public profile should fall under at least one of these categories. The best questions fall under all three. Once you've created four or five questions that meet those criteria, move on to the next step.

HIERARCHY

Different questions inherently have different levels of focus. Some questions dig deep into an issue that is important to your community. Others are easily answered with a "yes" or "no." When writing content, aim for a mix of questions that are:

- Social Of interest to the community at-large
- Conceptual Open-ended and encourages visioning
- Functional Addresses a specific issue that constituents deal with day-to-day
- Technical Complex and most specific; usually dealing with a policy or project

We recommend, over the course of your mySidewalk project, beginning with social, conceptual or functional questions that are the most inviting, and ending with more technical questions once participants are familiar with your project goals. These question types often lend themselves to a particular question format, which is explained in the next step.

FORMAT

Finally, you should include a variety of different question formats. Each of these encourages different levels of engagement from your participants:

- Open-ended: Free Form, Photo Share (often conceptual, social or technical)
- Closed-ended: Instant Poll, Survey, Prioritization, Budgeting (often functional or technical)

It is important to include different formats because we have found that certain participants may only be interested in answering instant poll questions for example, while others may only want to submit their own unique ideas. Including a mixture of formats in your follow-up questions is also recommended to keep community members interested throughout the lifespan of your project.



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These questions are generally broad and work well as an introduction to the public profiles for both you and your participants. Ask community members to share their vision for a project or plan to get a feel for where they want to see the project head, and shape where you want your public profile to head.

1A Visioning (Community's) Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What kind of community do you want to craft for the next generation?

Share your vision for the short-and long-term improvements that will

make our great community better in 2025.

1B Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If you could change one thing about (Community), what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: Pretend you have a magic wand. What change or improvement would

you make in our community? Do you have any ideas for how we could

make that change?

1C Your Big Idea

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What's your big idea for the future of (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: The General Plan Update offers us an opportunity to envision the

future for (Community). Submit your "Big Ideas" for our future, support

the ideas of others and share your thoughts.



1D (Community's) Strengths

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What are (Community's) strengths?

DESCRIPTION: What are the strengths of our community? What makes you happy to

live and work here? How can we take advantage of the assets that set

us apart?

1E Connecting (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we create a more connected (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What can we do to connect our diverse community? What barriers are

there to connecting (Community's) different neighborhoods, and why are barriers to communication a bad thing? Share you thoughts below.

1F 21st Century (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we make (Community) a 21st century community?

DESCRIPTION: What will it take for (Community) to lead the way in the 21st century?

How can adapt our historic city with the changing times?

1G Historic (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our community's historic buildings and landmarks shape its

future?

DESCRIPTION: Look back at the rich history of (Community). Now look to the future.

What can we learn from the (Community) of the past? What have we

done right, and what have we done wrong?

1H Future Transportation in (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for transportation in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Imagine getting around in (Community) in 10 or 20 years. What do you

think will change over the course of time to make it easier to get from

here to there?

11 Visioning a Green Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for a green (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: We want to make (Community) a sustainable place for generations to

come. Share your vision here for how to make (Community) greener in

the future.



1J Budgeting (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: For every \$1,000 of city funds, how would you divvy up the money?

OPTIONS: • Administrative finance

• Building and planning

• City streets

• Community services

Conservation and recyclingEconomic developmentFire and Police services

• Libraries and cultural centers

• Parks and recreation

• Public works (storm drains, sewers, facility maintenance

DESCRIPTION: Find the services that you would like us to invest funding in and that

you would like to see spend in that department. This will help us take your funding priorities with us when we create our next budget.





02 Quality of Life

Questions that focus on the quality of life of your community members. Ask these questions to learn about how your participants feel about the state of your community, and how it impacts them day-to-day.

2A Working Together

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our neighborhoods work together to improve (community)?

DESCRIPTION: We are always looking for ways to better connect our communities

for the betterment of our region. In what ways do you think our communities can come together to work toward a better tomorrow?

2B Staying in Community

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Why do you live in (Community)? If you have moved away, why did

you leave?

DESCRIPTION: What makes our region a great permanent home for families? What

makes (community) a great place for young professionals and new businesses? If you moved away, what was your reason for leaving?

What could we improve?

2C Benefitting (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What are the benefits of a new park for the community?

DESCRIPTION: How would a park be beneficial to (Community) and the surrounding

community? What benefits would you and your family enjoy at the

park?



2D Creating a Better (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What is the biggest obstacle to improving quality of life in

(Community)?

Select the two problems that you think our community needs to

address first.

OPTIONS: • Traffic congestion

Access to health careLack of affordable daycare

• Crowded schools

Pollution

Aging infrastructure

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: Select the two problems that you think our community needs to

address first.

2E Calling (Community) Home

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How can we make (Community) a more permanent home for our

residents?

Where should we get started?

OPTIONS: • Better transportation

More affordable housing Better health care options Improve our public schools

• Greater tax incentives for business relocation

• Other _____

DESCRIPTION: What would make our community a better place to live, work, and raise

a family?

2F Living in (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What are your top three reasons for living in (Community)?

OPTIONS:Better transportationActive lifestyleHigher educationJob

Active lifestyleAffordabilityLocation

• Atmosphere and Character • Live entertainment venues

• Climate • Natural features

Creative class
Cultural activities
Diverse community
Family-oriented
Safety
Restaurants
Schools
Shopping

• Friendly people

DESCRIPTION: Why is our home so great?



2G Providing for our Seniors

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How can we better provide for the growing senior population in

(Community)? Pick the service you think is most needed.

OPTIONS: • Access to health care

Assisted living centers

Senior centers

Volunteer outreach to seniors

Recreational activities

• Financial planning and education services

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: What do you think are the biggest challenges that face our senior

community? Which of those problems do you think we should address

first?

2H Making (Community) Competitive

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How can we make (Community) an economically and globally

competitive place to work and live? Select your top two choices.

OPTIONS: • Greater tax incentives for business relocation

• Streamline existing regulations

Better transportationMore affordable housing

• Improvements in city services and public facilities

• Increased funding for schools

• Greater focus on downtown entertainment and cultural amenities

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: What is our biggest economic weakness? How can we do a better job

tackling that problem?

21 Revitalizing (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: We are working to revitalize our community. In what area should we

begin our efforts?

OPTIONS: • More retail

More restaurantsWider sidewalksMore bike access

• More trees and flower beds

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: In our community, we need to do more to cater to pedestrian needs

and increase accessibility. Where do you think we should get started?



2J Enjoying (Park)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How do you enjoy (Park)? Pick your favorite activity at the park.

OPTIONS: • Hiking

FishingBoatingPicnicking

• Observing or photographing wildlife

• Other _____

DESCRIPTION: Think about all the good times you've had at (Park). What is your

favorite pastime there?



03 Economic Development & Tourism

Questions about long- and short-term economic development in your community. Ask these questions to learn what your participants feel are the opportunities and challenges facing economic development in your community.

3A Culture and Arts in (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What can we do to highlight and promote the theaters and art

galleries in (Community) to support our local artists and grow our

economy?

DESCRIPTION: (Community) is known as the cultural center of (Region). How can we

use that distinction to our advantage? In what way can we leverage the crowds brought to (Community) for the arts to improve our community and help build our economy? Share which venues would help grow our

image.

3B Diversifying our Economy

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: The culture and population of (Community) are diverse. How can we

make sure our economy is diverse as well, so that no family is left

behind?

DESCRIPTION: As our community grows, a wide variety of people from many different

backgrounds are beginning to call (Community) home. In what way can we work to diversify the economy to benefit everyone? What kinds of businesses can we hope to attract? What programs are working well in

other communities that we should investigate?



3C The Changing Economy

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our community diversify our economy in the event of

possible cuts to governmental jobs?

DESCRIPTION: With possible cuts looming in our local government, how can we

diversify our economy in order to stave off job loss? How can we turn

this changing job climate into a success for (Community)?

3D Preserving our Character

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED / PHOTO SHARE

QUESTION: How can (Community) grow and expand, while protecting the

character of each of our neighborhoods?

DESCRIPTION: (Community's) neighborhoods are diverse. How can we maintain

and revitalize our historic neighborhoods as we grow? Are we

promoting our history as our community diversifies? Share pictures from

your neighborhood, or ideas on how we can do better.

3E Diversifying Housing

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we create more types of housing in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: We want to diversify housing options to bring more people to

Community. What do you think stands in the way of creating a wider variety of apartments, single-family homes and condos? Check out this map of our current neighborhood conditions for more information.

3F Bringing in Business

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we improve the business environment in (Community) to help

entrepreneurs?

DESCRIPTION: We want to make it possible for new business and ventures to thrive in

(Community). What changes can we make to improve the business climate in our community so that entrepreneurs can fulfill their dreams

and ambitions here?

3G Making (Community) Competitive

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How can we make (Community) an economically and globally

competitive place to work and live? Select your top two choices.

OPTIONS: • Greater tax incentives for business relocation

• Streamline existing regulations

• Better transportation

• More affordable housing

• Improvements in city services and public facilities

• Increased funding for schools



• Greater focus on downtown entertainment and cultural amenities

• Other _____

DESCRIPTION: What is our biggest economic weakness? How can we do a better job

tackling that problem?

3H Revitalizing (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: We are working to revitalize our community. In what area should we

begin our efforts?

OPTIONS: • More retail

More restaurantsWider sidewalksMore bike access

• More trees and flowerbeds

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: In our community, we need to do more to cater to pedestrian needs

and Increase accessibility. Where do you think we should get started?

31 Providing Neighborhood Amenities

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What types of buildings or businesses do we need more of in

(Community)?

Select your top choice.

OPTIONS: • Residential

CommercialPublic facilities

• Retail

RestaurantsOther _____

DESCRIPTION: We want to make (Community) a place where families can live, work,

and play. What do you think we need more of to make that happen?

3J Attracting Visitors

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What feature would attract more visitors to (Community)? Choose

your top feature.

OPTIONS: • Shopping/retail

• Festivals and special events

• Cultural amenities (museums, performing arts, etc.)

Restaurants

Parks/recreational opportunitiesPublic transportation access



•	Bicycl	le	and	pedestrian	access
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• Other ____

DESCRIPTION:

What attractions or services do you think would bring more people to our community?





04 Historic Preservation

Asking these questions will help you determine which parts of your community's past are important to preserve as you plan for the future. Participants can give you good insight into what matters most in terms of their heritage and traditions.

4A Making History a Priority

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Why is it important to preserve and protect our community's

heritage?

DESCRIPTION: (Community) has a rich history. Why do you think it's important that

we preserve that history and show pride in it? How will that help us

moving forward?

4B Preserving our Heritage

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our community best grow and expand, while protecting our

historic landmarks?

DESCRIPTION: Historic landmarks and architecture gives our community a unique

flavor and older history than many places in America. Let us know if we are adequately maintaining and revitalizing our historic institutions. Are we promoting our history as our community grows and diversifies?

4C Historic (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our community's historic buildings and landmarks shape its

future?

DESCRIPTION: Look back at the rich history of (Community). Now look to the future.

What can we learn from the (Community) of the past? What have we

done right, and what have we done wrong?



4D Historic Neighborhoods

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: In which neighborhood of (Community) has the historic character

been best preserved?

DESCRIPTION: Share with us a community in (Community) that hasn't lost touch with

its past. How has that community held onto its character? What can

other neighborhoods learn from this?

4E Losing Touch

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: In which neighborhood of (Community) has the historic character

been lost to redevelopment?

DESCRIPTION: Share a community in (Community) that has, sadly, lost touch with its

past. What's changed? What can we do to bring back parts of the old neighborhood? Were there any warning signs in the past that foretold

of this loss of character?

4F Branding our History

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we make (Community's) heritage part of our brand, and use

it to attract new businesses and residents?

DESCRIPTION: What aspect of (Community's) history could be incorporated into our

brand? How could that help build on our reputation and bring in new

families and businesses?

4G Finding Inspiration

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED / PHOTO SHARE

QUESTION: From what communities can we draw inspiration as we preserve our

heritage?

DESCRIPTION: Which city has done the best job keeping its character over the years?

Why? How could we learn from how they did it? Share a picture or two

to illustrate your point!

4H Your Favorite Landmark

QUESTION TYPE: PHOTO SHARE

QUESTION: What's your favorite historic landmark in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Which of these historic spots is your favorite in our community? Share

your memories below!



41 Historic Walks

QUESTION TYPE: PHOTO SHARE

QUESTION: What's your favorite neighborhood to walk through?

DESCRIPTION: Which of these spots is the best historic stroll in (Community)? What

makes it your favorite? Share your favorite pictures with us.

4J Regulating Redevelopment

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Would you be in favor of more strict regulations on redevelopment,

as a way to preserve our historic buildings?

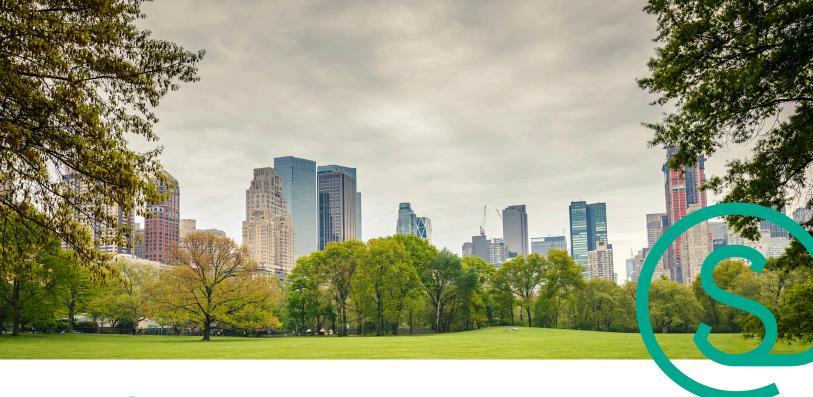
OPTIONS: • Yes

• No

• Not sure

DESCRIPTION: Do you think more regulation is the answer to preserving our heritage?





05 Downtown

Questions about downtown or city center development. If you are looking for feedback on a project specific to your downtown area, these questions can help you lay the blueprint for a downtown that is appealing both to residents and to visitors.

5A Visioning Downtown (City)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for Downtown?

DESCRIPTION: Imagine the Downtown (City) of the future. What's different? What's

the same? What new additions do you see? Share your vision for

Downtown in the years to come!

5B Visiting Downtown (City)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Why do you come to Downtown?

DESCRIPTION: What draws you to Downtown (City)? Is in the restaurants and bars, the

museums, the shopping or something entirely different? Upload and

share an image of your favorite downtown spot.

5C Can't-Miss Attraction

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What one attraction are you sure to show off in Downtown (City)?

DESCRIPTION: When you visit Downtown (City) with out-of-town guests, what one

thing do you make sure to show them? Why is that the attraction that they should remember about (City)? Upload and share a photo of your

favorite downtown attraction.



5D Unique Downtown

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What makes Downtown (City) unique?

DESCRIPTION: What makes our downtown area stand out from all the rest? How

can we take advantage of our unique qualities to create a truly great

Downtown?

5E Parking in Downtown

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you think there is enough parking in Downtown (City)?

DESCRIPTION: Do you ever have trouble finding a parking spot downtown? How can

we improve parking options? What areas are particularly underserved? Check out this map to view our city's current parking conditions.

5F Walking Downtown

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we make Downtown more walkable?

DESCRIPTION: What can we change in Downtown (City) to make it easier for

pedestrians to get around? What features should we add? Are there any particular areas that are not pedestrian-friendly? Share your

thoughts below.

5G Open Space

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Is there enough open space Downtown?

DESCRIPTION: Do you think there is enough open space in Downtown (City)? Would

having more open space help bring visitors to the downtown area? Which parts of Downtown are particularly devoid of green space?

Share your thoughts below.

5H Revitalizing Downtown

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: We are working to revitalize Downtown (City). In what area should

we begin our efforts?

OPTIONS: • More retail

More restaurantsWider sidewalksMore bike access

• More trees and flower beds

• Other ____

DESCRIPTION: In our downtown, we need to do more to cater to pedestrian needs and

increase accessibility. Where do you think we should get started?

51 Family-Friendly Downtown

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How can we make Downtown (City) more family-friendly? Pick the

feature you think would do the most to bring more families to

Downtown.

OPTIONS: • Park

Museum

Affordable dining Family entertainment Better sidewalks

• Other _____

DESCRIPTION: We want to make Downtown a place where families can come spend

the entire day together. What are we missing? Are there any issues that would cause a family to not visit Downtown? Tell us where

we need to get started.

5J Getting Around Downtown

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What transportation options do you think Downtown (City) needs

more of?

OPTIONS: • Better rail access

More bus routes Wider sidewalks

• Bike lanes

More one-way streetsFewer one-way streets

More parking

DESCRIPTION: How can we make Downtown a more accessible place? What are the

transportation problems that you think we should address?





06 Transportation

Questions that focus on modes of transportation in your community. Ask these questions to get a sense for how your participants get around in your community and what they think of future plans for transportation.

6A Future Transportation in (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for transportation in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Imagine getting around in (Community) in 10 or 20 years. What do you

think will change over the course of time to make it easier to get from

here to there?

6B Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If you could change one thing about (Community's) transportation,

what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: Pretend you have a magic wand. What change or improvement would

you make in our community's transportation structure? Do you have

any ideas for how we could make that change?

6C Getting Around (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you think there are enough transportation options in our growing

community? What areas of our region are underserved by public

transportation?

DESCRIPTION: Traffic congestion is a big problem in (Community). What do you

think we can do to solve the problem and keep up? What types of transportation could we use more of, and where? Share your

thoughts below.



6D Improving (Community) Transportation

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you think existing transportation options are adequate in

(Community), or could they be improved? In what way?

DESCRIPTION: Are there forms of transportation (mass transit, ride share, bike) that

you would like to see expanded or changed? Describe how you would

improve transportation in (Community).

6E Congested Roads and Safety Concerns

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What are some congestion hot spots in (Community)? Also, where do

you feel unsafe on the road, sidewalk, bicycle trail or anywhere else

in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Where on the map do you feel unsafe in (Community) because of either

road conditions or traffic congestion? What could be improved to make

you feel safer?

6F Pedestrian Safety

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What makes you feel safe or unsafe when you are walking?

Tell us what makes you feel safe or unsafe when walking in

(Community). Are there any solutions to this problem that you have

seen working elsewhere?

6G Getting From Here to There

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What transportation options do you think our community needs

more of?

OPTIONS: • Train

BusBicycleWalkingOther _____

DESCRIPTION: How can we make (Community) a more accessible place? What are the

transportation problems that you think we should address first?

6H Prioritizing Transportation Needs

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you prioritize transportation improvements? Pick your

top two choices.

OPTIONS: • Auto

BicycleBus



• Train

• Ride Share

Walking

DESCRIPTION: We want to improve the way you get around in (Community), but

we'd like to know your priorities first. How would you prioritize these

improvements?

61 Using Your Sidewalk

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: In what way do you use the sidewalks or walkways around

(Community)? Pick your top three choices.

OPTIONS: • Exercise (walking or running)

• Walking the dog

• Shopping

Walking to work

• Walking to a neighbor's house

• Walking to the park

DESCRIPTION: We want to create a pedestrian-friendly community, where the

sidewalks are a main mode of transportation. How do you use your

sidewalk?





07 Sustainability & Green Living

Questions about sustainability and green solutions in your community. Ask these questions to find out what participants think should be your priorities in creating a greener community, and what sustainable practices they have seen implemented successfully elsewhere.

7A Visioning a Green Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for a greener (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: We want to make (Community) a sustainable place for generations to

come. Share your vision here for how to make (Community) greener in

the future.

7B Making (Community) the Greenest in the Country

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What should we do to make (Community) one of the greenest in

America?

DESCRIPTION: We want (Community) to be known as one of the greenest around!

How do you think we can get there? Share your thoughts about how (Community) can become a leader in sustainability in our country.

7C Going Green

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is the simplest thing you can do to go green in your own life?

DESCRIPTION: Are you going green in your home? Tell us about it! What steps are

you taking every day to lower your emissions and preserve natural

resources? Help your neighbors go green too.

7D Recycling at Home

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you recycle at your home? Why or why not?

DESCRIPTION: Do you recycle? Why or why not? What barriers exist to recycling in

your neighborhood and how can we solve those problems?

7E Taking Cues From Neighbors

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What pollution control methods have you observed in other

communities that might work in ours?

DESCRIPTION: Across the country, communities are implementing ideas on how to cut

down on air pollution. What have you seen done elsewhere, and how

can it be put to use in (Community)?

7F Balancing Business

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you think our community is doing enough to balance the needs of

local businesses and the need to reduce air pollution?

DESCRIPTION: Are the air pollution control regulations in our community hampering

local business? How can we better balance economic progress and

environmental responsibility?

7G Prioritizing Sustainability

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Why should we make it a priority to go green?

DESCRIPTION: Why should our community go green? What benefit will sustainable

development have on our residents and our future?

7H Defining Sustainability

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What makes a community sustainable?

DESCRIPTION: How would you define a sustainable community? What is it about the

development, programs or policy decisions that make a community sustainable? What other cities in our area would you consider to be

sustainable?

71 Using Alternative Energy

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What forms of alternative energy do you think our community should

prioritize? Select your top two choices.

OPTIONS: • Solar power

• Wind power



• Bio-fuels

• Geo-thermal energy

Cogeneration

• Steam heat

• Hydro-electric

DESCRIPTION: Going green can start with making use of renewable energy resources.

Which of these resources do you think our community can leverage to

the greatest impact?

7J Responding to Violations

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: If a business is found to be in violation of our community's pollution

control plan, what steps should be taken in response?

OPTIONS: • The business should receive a warning

• The business should be fined

• The business should be closed until it is no longer in violation of

pollution control regulations

• The business owner should be required to attend a workshop on the

details of the pollution control plan

DESCRIPTION: How can we best deal with businesses that fail to follow our pollution

control plan? What steps do you think should be taken first to ensure

compliance?





These questions specifically hit at preserving the environment and natural resources in your community. Ask your participants these questions to learn more about their priorities for regulating development and balancing the need for open space.

8A An Important Decision

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Why is it important to preserve our natural resources and open

spaces?

DESCRIPTION: Why should (Community) work toward preserving our environment?

What is the biggest reason we should cut back on pollution and

harmful development?

8B Protecting Our Environment

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What steps can we take to preserve our community's natural

resources and open spaces?

DESCRIPTION: How can (Community) better preserve our environment? What steps

can we take to create more open space and protect the spaces that

already exist?

8C Balancing Preservation and Recreation

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we balance environmental preservation and enhanced

recreational opportunities while creating (Park)?

DESCRIPTION: (Park) will provide access to (Region). But that presents some risks to

the environment. How do you think we can show off our region without

hurting wildlife?



8D Balancing Development

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we strike a balance between residential and commercial

development and the preservation of our natural resources and open

spaces?

DESCRIPTION: What can we do to be development-friendly and environment-friendly

in (Community)? What other communities are doing it right, and how

can we learn from them?

8E Creating Open Space

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Which areas in our community are in need of more open spaces?

Where in (Community) is there a lack of open space? Why does this

area need more open space? Be sure to share your thoughts below.

8F Drawing Inspiration

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: From which community can we draw inspiration as we work to

preserve our environment?

DESCRIPTION: Think about other communities in our area. Which ones are doing a

good job at preserving their environment and open spaces? How can

we incorporate some of their ideas in (Community)?

8G Water Quality Issues

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Are you concerned about the water quality where you live? Why or

why not?

DESCRIPTION: Do you have any concerns about the water you drink in your home?

Why are you concerned or not concerned? What suggestions do you

have for improving water quality?

8H Regulating to Preserve

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Would you be in favor of more strict regulations for development and

pollution as a way to preserve our environment?

OPTIONS: • Yes

• No • Not

Not sure

DESCRIPTION: Do you think more regulation is the answer to cutting down on

pollution and preserving our environment?



81 Funding Preservation

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Would you be in favor of using public funds to preserve our

environment?

OPTIONS: • Yes

• No

• Not sure

DESCRIPTION: If (Community) were to allot more funding towards preserving our

environment, would you be in favor?

8J Including Green Space

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Have there been any obstacles in your community to creating and

maintaining parks, trails and, open spaces?

OPTIONS: • Ye

• No

DESCRIPTION: What obstacles has your neighborhood run into when creating and

maintaining parks, trails, and open spaces?



Questions that focus on parks and green spaces in your community. Ask these questions if you are planning

a new park or rehabilitating an existing green space to find out what is most important to participants.

9A Visioning (Park's) Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for (Park)?

DESCRIPTION: What kinds of additions do you think would be useful at (Park)

over the next 10 or 20 years? Help us envision a park that the entire

community can enjoy for generations to come.

9B Benefitting (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What are the benefits of a new park for the community?

DESCRIPTION: How would a park be beneficial to (Community) and the surrounding

community? What benefits would you and your family enjoy at the

park?

9C Balancing Preservation and Recreation

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we balance environmental preservation and enhanced

recreational opportunities while creating (Park)?

DESCRIPTION: (Park) will provide access to (Region). But that presents some risks to

the environment. How do you think we can show off our region without

hurting wildlife?



9D Walking (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we make (Community) a more walkable community?

DESCRIPTION: What can we do in (Community) to make it easier for pedestrians to

what can we do in (Community) to make it easier for pedestrians to

get around? How would a more walkable community help our residents

now and in the future?

9E (Community) Trails

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What trail improvements or connections would you like to see made

in our community?

DESCRIPTION: What are your suggestions for the trails in (Community)? What would

you add or change, and where?

9F Meeting Your Needs

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What amenities would you like to see at (Park)?

DESCRIPTION: How would you include amenities like toilets, water fountains, picnic

benches and pavilions at the park? Which do you think is the most important and why? Upload and share a photo of any amenity you'd

like to see added to our parks.

9G Enjoying (Park)

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How do you enjoy (Park)? Pick your favorite activity at the park.

OPTIONS: • Hiking

FishingBoatingPicnicking

• Observing or photographing wildlife

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: Think about all the good times you've had at (Park). What is your

favorite pastime there?

9H Preservation and You

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: In what way would you like to see the (Parks Dept.) raise support for

(Park)?

OPTIONS: • Sponsorship program

Donation fund



• Matching fund for larger organizations

• Outreach in local museums

• All of the above

DESCRIPTION: How can we best raise support for our park within the community?

Which of these programs would you support?

91 Getting to the Park

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How do you and your family get to (Park) from your home? Select all

that apply.

OPTIONS: • Drive

BicycleWalk

DESCRIPTION: Do you walk, bike, or drive to the park? Do you do all three?

9J Volunteering at the Park

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Would you be interested in volunteering to help maintain the park?

OPTIONS: • Yes

• No

DESCRIPTION: Would you be willing to donate any time to helping maintain the park

and its services?





10 Urban Design

Questions about the design and functionality of cities and towns as a whole. Ask these questions to help you shape the look and feel of streets, open spaces and buildings in your community in a way that is sustainable and attractive to your residents.

10A Taking a Walk

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What street in (Community) is the best place for a walk? Why?

DESCRIPTION: Do you have a favorite street to walk down? What makes it special? Is it

the houses, the scenery, the sidewalks? Tell us which street you love to

walk and share pictures of your favorite one.

10B Dining Out

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What street in (Community) is the best spot for outdoor dining?

Why?

DESCRIPTION: Where's your favorite sidewalk café? What makes the street it's on

good for eating outdoors? Share your thoughts with us.

10C Parking in (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you think there is enough parking in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Do you ever have trouble finding a parking spot in (Community)?

How can we improve parking options? What areas are particularly

underserved? Be sure to share your thoughts below.



10D Street Trees in (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What streets in (Community) are most in need of new street trees?

DESCRIPTION: Street trees have been shown to increase comfort, clean storm water

runoff and improve the amount of commerce in shopping districts. Which streets could use some help in this area? Tell us more below.

10E (Park) Access

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we improve access to (Park)?

DESCRIPTION: Do you think access to (Park) could be improved? How can we

make it better? What will improvements do for the park and the

surrounding community?

10F Getting Inspiration

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What city design could be an inspiration for (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: To which city could we look for inspiration when designing the new

(Community)? How could we incorporate that design concept here?

10G Using Your Sidewalk

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: In what way do you use the sidewalks or walkways around

(Community)?

Select your top three choices.

OPTIONS: • Exercise (walking or running)

· Walking the dog

Shopping

Walking to work

• Walking to a neighbor's house

Walking to the park

DESCRIPTION: We want to create a pedestrian-friendly community, where the

sidewalks are a main mode of transportation.

10H (Community) Sidewalks

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you improve the pedestrian experience in (Community)?

OPTIONS: • Wider sidewalks

More shade

• More crosswalks

• More public seating

More public art



DESCRIPTION: What improvements do you think are most needed to create a

pedestrian friendly atmosphere in (Community)?

101 Attracting Visitors

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What feature would attract more visitors to (Community)? Choose

your top feature.

OPTIONS: • Shopping/retail

• Festivals and special events

• Cultural amenities (museums, performing arts, etc.)

Restaurants

Parks/recreational opportunitiesPublic transportation accessBicycle and pedestrian access

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: What attractions or services do you think would bring more people to

our community?

10J Prioritizing Transportation Needs

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you prioritize transportation enhancements? Pick your

top two choices.

OPTIONS: • Auto

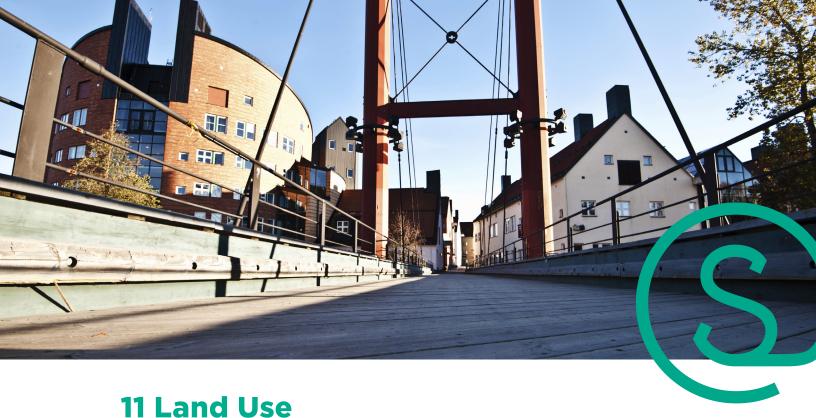
BicycleBusTrainRide ShareWalking

DESCRIPTION: We want to improve the way you get around in (Community), but

we'd like to know your priorities first. How would you prioritize these

improvements?





Questions about the management of pieces of land in cities and towns. Ask these questions to frame future development in your community in a way that takes advantage of assets and provides for the future well being of your residents.

11A Visioning (Community's) Future

QUESTION TYPE: **OPEN-ENDED**

QUESTION: What is your vision for (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What kind of community do you want to craft for the next generation?

Share your vision for the short- and long-term improvements that will

make our great community better in 2025.

11B Walkable (Community)

QUESTION TYPE:

QUESTION: How can we grow while encouraging walkable neighborhoods?

DESCRIPTION: What can we do to preserve the walkable communities in

(Community)? Share areas of our town that are the most walkable.

11C Redeveloping (Neighborhood/District)

QUESTION TYPE: **OPEN-ENDED**

QUESTION: What do you think is the best use for (Neighborhood/District)? **DESCRIPTION:** As we redevelopment (Neighborhood/District), how do you think it

could be best used? Why would that use benefit (Community)?

11D Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If you could change one thing about the types of buildings in

(Neighborhood/District), what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: If you were in charge, what one thing would you change about the

types of buildings in (Neighborhood/District) as we redevelop the

area?

11E Protecting Our Environment

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What steps can we take to preserve our community's natural

resources and open spaces?

DESCRIPTION: How can (Community) better preserve our environment? What steps

can we take to create more open space and protect the spaces that

already exist?

11F Drawing Inspiration

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: From which community can we draw inspiration as we work to

preserve our environment?

DESCRIPTION: Think about other communities in our area. Which ones are doing a

good job at preserving their environment and open spaces? How can

we incorporate some of their ideas in (Community)?

11G Preserving our Character

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can (Community) grow and expand, while protecting the

character of each of our neighborhoods?

DESCRIPTION: (Community's) neighborhoods are diverse. How can we maintain and

revitalize our historic neighborhoods as we grow? Are we promoting our history as our community diversifies? We want to know-tell us and

share your thoughts below.

11H Diversifying Housing

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we create more types of housing in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: We want to diversify housing options to bring more people to

(Community). What do you think stands in the way of creating a wider variety of apartments, single-family homes and condos? Share where you think those barriers exist after looking at this interactive map of

our community <insert map link>.



111 Providing Neighborhood Amenities

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

OPTIONS: • Auto

BicycleBusTrainRide Share

Walking

DESCRIPTION: We want to make (Community) a place where families can live, work,

and play. What do you think we need more of to make that happen?

11J Balancing Growth and Sustainability

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Do you think there is a good balance between residential and

commercial development and the preservation of our parks and open

spaces?

OPTIONS: • Yes, (Community) carefully balances the need for development and

growth with care of our open spaces

• No, (Community) needs to be more development friendly

• No, (Community) needs to do more to protect our parks and open

spaces
• Unsure

DESCRIPTION: We want to be sure to balance the needs of our growing community

and our need to remain sustainable. Do you think this balance exists?





12 Safety

Questions that focus on how safe your residents feel. Their answers to these questions can guide plans to reduce crime or violence and help you prioritize which neighborhoods in your community are most in need of attention.

12A Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What one safety improvement would you make in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: If it were up to you, what one safety improvement would you make in

(Community) to reduce crime and violence? How can we implement

that change?

12B Crime in Your Neighborhood

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Is crime a concern in your neighborhood? Why or why not?

DESCRIPTION: Do you worry about crime or acts of violence in your neighborhood?

What makes you fearful that crimes will be committed near your home?

12C Safety's Impact

QUESTION TYPE: **OPEN-ENDED**

QUESTION: How has your feeling of safety impacted your life at work or at home?

DESCRIPTION: Do you fear for your safety at home or at work? If so, how has that

impacted your day-to-day life? Do you find yourself changing your

daily habits because of a lack of safety?

12D Safety in Our Schools

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our schools play a role in teaching our children about

safety?

DESCRIPTION: How can school intervention help keep our children safe? In what way

can our schools help teach our children about safety in (Community)?

12E Safety Programs

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What programs could we implement to reduce crime in

(Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Are there any community programs that could help reduce crime in

(Community)? What have you seen done elsewhere that might work

here? Who can we involve to make this program possible?

12F Involving Neighborhood Groups

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What can neighborhood groups or residents themselves do to keep

(Community) safe?

DESCRIPTION: How can we involve our neighborhood groups in keeping (Community)

safe? Why is community involvement necessary?

12G Safety in Your Neighborhood

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What have you done to maintain a feeling of safety in your own

neighborhood?

DESCRIPTION: We would love to hear your ideas for keeping your family safe.

What have you done individually to keep your family safe in your

neighborhood? Share your success with other residents!

12H Feeling Safe

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What makes you feel unsafe in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What threatens your sense of safety in (Community)? Are there any

specific areas that you feel are unsafe that we should address first?

121 Avoiding Crime

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Are there any parts of our community that you avoid because of

safety concerns?

OPTIONS: • Yes

No

DESCRIPTION: Have you stopped going to any areas of town that have begun to feel

unsafe?



12J Your Sense of Safety

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you rate your feeling of safety in your neighborhood?

OPTIONS: • I feel very safe

I feel reasonably safeI sometimes feel unsafe

• I feel unsafe the majority of the time

DESCRIPTION: How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?



These questions focus on the overall health of your community, as it relates to exercise and healthy food options. Residents can tell you how satisfied they are with the recreational opportunities in your community,

13A Staying Healthy

and react to the availability of healthy food.

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What do you do to stay healthy in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What's the best way to get a workout in (Community)? Where's the

healthiest restaurant or grocery store? How do you stay healthy in our

community? Share your tips with your neighbors!

13B Healthy Neighborhood

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What could we do to make your neighborhood healthier?

DESCRIPTION: Is your neighborhood short on green space? How are your sidewalks?

Is it easier to go to a fast food joint than it is to find fresh produce? Tell us what we can do to make your neighborhood healthier, then share

your favorite pictures of where you live.

13C Positives of a Park

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Would you take part in more outdoor activities if you lived closer to

a park?

DESCRIPTION: For many people, living closer to a park means they will spend

more time outdoors and participating in other physical activities. Does proximity to a park or availability of open space determine your

level of physical activity? Why or why not?



13D A Healthy (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is the biggest obstacle to leading a healthier lifestyle in

(Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Our community could use some work when it comes to offering

healthy options for our residents. Where do you think we should begin? Healthier food options? More parks or fitness centers? Let us know!

13E Planting a Garden

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Would you be interested in utilizing a community garden in your

neighborhood?

DESCRIPTION: If it were possible to plant and cultivate a community garden in your

neighborhood, would you take advantage of the opportunity? Why or

why not?

13F Getting Healthy Together

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Would you be interested in joining a running club or amateur sports

league in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: If your neighborhood association created a running club, or if

(Community)created a softball or basketball league for you and your friends, would you join as a way to get healthier? If so, why would this

motivate you to get active?

13G Running Near Home

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How often do you walk or run down the streets or sidewalks near

your home?

OPTIONS: • Never

Once or twice a week
Three or four times a week

More than five times a week

DESCRIPTION: Are you a runner? Do you go for a walk every day? We're trying to get

a feel for how often people are out on the sidewalks in (Community).

13H Getting to the Gym

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How close is the nearest gym or recreational center to your home?

OPTIONS: • Less than five minutes away

• Five to ten minutes away

• Ten to fifteen minutes away

• More than fifteen minutes away



DESCRIPTION: Do you live near a workout facility? Does it impact the amount of time

you spend working out every day?

131 Eating Right

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you rate access to healthy foods in your neighborhood?

OPTIONS: • Above average

Average

• Below average

Not sure

DESCRIPTION: Can you get fresh, healthy foods close to home? Or do you have to go

across town to find good produce?

13J Providing Health Care

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What types of health services does our community need more of?

OPTIONS: • Family physician

Dentist

OrthodontistChiropractorEye doctor

• 24-hour urgent care

PediatricianHospital

• Other _____

DESCRIPTION: In which areas are we lacking when it comes to health care services in

our community?





Questions about the impact and availability of quality education in your community. Learn how residents feel about access to adult education options and affordable daycare, along with the importance of a good school district in their decision to call your community home.

14A Choosing Your School

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How important was school location in your decision to move to your

neighborhood?

DESCRIPTION: Did you take into account the schools in (Community) when deciding

where to live? What about the schools (quality, location, etc.) made you

decide to live in your neighborhood? Share your thoughts below.

14B Working Together

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our schools and community leaders work together to create

a better (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What can we do with our schools to create a better community? Why is

cooperation between schools and community leaders important for

the future of (Community)?

14C Quality Schools, Quality Community

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How does the quality of our schools impact our community as a

whole?

DESCRIPTION: How can having a good school make a positive difference? How can a

lack of a good school have a negative impact? What is the connection

between neighborhood quality and school quality?

14D Life-Long Learning

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can life-long learning opportunities have a positive impact on

the community?

DESCRIPTION: If there were more adult education opportunities in your neighborhood,

how might it positively impact your life and the lives of your neighbors?

14E Walking to School

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If your child walks to school, does he or she have a safe route with

adequate sidewalk space?

DESCRIPTION: What is your child's route to school? Tell us if you have any concerns

about the route's safety.

14F Continuous Learning

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Do you think there are enough adult education opportunities in our

community?

OPTIONS: • Yes

• No

• Not sure

DESCRIPTION: Adult education can greatly improve quality of life in a community.

Do you think there are ample adult education opportunities in our

community?

14G Finding Daycare

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Do you have access to affordable, convenient daycare for your

children?

OPTIONS: • Yes

• No

• Not sure

DESCRIPTION: Access to daycare is important to families and to the community as a

whole. Can you take your child to affordable and convenient daycare

near your home?

14H Rating Daycare

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you rate your access to affordable, quality daycare in our

community?

OPTIONS: • Above average

Average

• Below average

Not sure



DESCRIPTION: Are you satisfied with the daycare options in our community?

14I Getting to School

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How far does your child have to go to get to his or her school?

OPTIONS: • Less than ten minutes

Ten to fifteen minutesFifteen to thirty minutesMore than thirty minutes

DESCRIPTION: Tell us about your child's commute to and from school. How long is

it?

14J Transit and School

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Do you utilize public transportation to get your child to school?

Which modes do you us? Select all that apply.

OPTIONS: • City bus

Rail

• School bus

DESCRIPTION: How do you get your child to and from school? Do you have a

preferred mode of public transportation? Pick which one you use the

most.



15 Communication

Questions about how you communicate with community members. Ask these questions to find out what methods your participants prefer for communication, and what they've observed done in other entities that has worked well.

15A Connected (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we create a more connected (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What is needed to create a fully-connected (Community)? How can

we communicate across boundaries to bring together our diverse

populations? Share your thoughts below.

15B Communicating with (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you think there exists a healthy dialogue between (Community)

and our residents?

DESCRIPTION: Does (Community) share a dialogue with our residents that is both

constructive and positive? Where does this dialogue exist? What can

we do better?

15C Making You Aware

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Does (Community) make you aware of public meetings when they're

scheduled?

DESCRIPTION: Would you consider yourself well informed about meetings and other

public events in (Community)? What can we do to improve in the way

we tell you about upcoming events?



15D Sharing Information

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do our neighborhoods do a good job of sharing information across

boundaries?

DESCRIPTION: Are you in communication with members of our different

neighborhoods? How can we bridge information gaps in our

community? Why is this important?

15E Ready for Anything

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our community do a better job sharing information in the

event of a natural disaster?

DESCRIPTION: What about emergency communications could be improved in

(Community)? What have you heard about or seen done elsewhere that

we could incorporate here?

15F A Transparent (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Is there a need for more government transparency in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Do you feel (Community) is transparent about its policies and dealings?

What could we do to improve our image as a transparent government?

15G Communicating With You

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: In what ways would you like to receive information from

(Community)? Pick your top two methods.

OPTIONS: • Email

FacebookTwitterPhone callsText messageNewsletters

Meet-and-greet events

DESCRIPTION: 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?

15H Communicating With You

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Where do you primarily get your news and information in

(Community)?

OPTIONS: • Local television news

Local talk radioLocal newspaper

• Local newspaper, television station or radio station website



• Public access channel

City websiteWord-of-mouthOther _____

DESCRIPTION: How do you find out about events and news in our community?

15I Spreading the Word

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Where did you hear about (mySidewalk profile)?

OPTIONS: • Public meeting

• Local news coverage

NewsletterFmail

FacebookTwitter

• Word-of-mouth

• Other _____

DESCRIPTION: As we grow our online community, we would like to bring our message

to people in the most convenient way possible. How did you hear

about this online town hall forum?

15J Shaping Our Website

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What information would you like to be available on (Community's)

website?

OPTIONS: • Public meeting schedules, agendas and minutes

• Community lawmaker biographies and contact information

Job search informationEntertainment schedule

Community history

Community documents catalogue

• Links to state and federal government websites

• Local news feed

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: We are shaping a new website in our community. We want to make

sure it contains all the information you need to be a successful member of (Community). What information would you like to be made available

on our profile?





16 Low Barrier

Questions with a low barrier to entry. Ask these questions if you want to encourage more engagement on your site by sparking conversation and building community based on common interests.

16A Beautiful (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Show us what makes (Community) great!

DESCRIPTION: We live in a diverse, beautiful and exciting community. Show us what

makes it so great! Share your pictures here.

16B Finding Inspiration

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What place inspires you?

DESCRIPTION: Are there any cities or projects that we can use as inspiration as

we redevelop (Community)? Tell us about it - and show us too by

uploading a photo!

16C Best Day of the Year

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What's the best day of the year in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Do you like fall in (Community) better, or spring? What is the very best

day of the year in (Community)?



16D A Great View

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Where is the best view in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What spot around town offers the best view of (Community)? Do you

have any special memories attached to that spot? Share them here,

and share pictures with us.

16E Can't-Miss Attraction

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What one attraction are you sure to show off in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: When out-of-town guests visit, what one thing in (Community) do you

make sure to show them? Why is that the attraction that they should remember about our community? Share your thoughts below.

16F Going for a Run

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What's your favorite street to go for a run or walk in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: If you want to go for a good run or walk, which street do you choose in

(Community)? What makes it the best? How close is it to your home?

We want to know. Share your routes and thoughts with us.

16G Favorite Sign

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What's your favorite sign or billboard in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Is there a funny or impactful sign or billboard around town that sticks

out to you? Upload a picture and tell us why you like it.

16H That's Entertainment

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What's the best venue to see a show in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Do you have a favorite place in (Community) to see a concert or stage

show? Share it with the rest of our community! Tell us what makes it

the venue the best in town.

161 Cheeseburger in Paradise

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What's your favorite burger joint in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Where would you go to get a great burger in (Community)? What

makes it so good? Is it local, inexpensive, different? Tell us - where can

we find the best burger in town?

16J (Community's) Best Pizza

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Where can you go to get the best slice of pizza?

DESCRIPTION: Where would you go to get a great slice of pizza in (Community)?

What makes it so good? Is it local, inexpensive, different? Tell us where

we can find the best slice in town.

16K (Community) in One Word

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What one word would you use to describe (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Close your eyes and think about (Community). What one word best

describes our community? What makes it so applicable?

16L Face of (Community)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Who would be the best celebrity spokesperson for (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Who do you think should be the "Fabio" to our "I Can't Believe It's Not

Butter"? Which celebrity do you think personifies (Community) the

best?

16M Pick a Theme Song

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If our community had a theme song, what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: All the great places in the world have theme songs. "New York, New

York." "Philadelphia Freedom." "Cleveland Rocks." What should ours

be? Why did you pick it?

16N A (Community) (event/holiday name)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your favorite event in (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What event or holiday celebration does (Community) do better than all

the rest? What makes it stand out as such a special occasion? Include a

picture to make your point!





17 K-12 Education

Questions aimed at solving issues and setting goals for school districts. Ask parents, teachers, students and community members these questions to get feedback on general and specific questions. These questions are meant specifically for school district sites.

17A Visioning (School's) Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for (School)?

DESCRIPTION: Our children are the future, so planning a successful place for them to

learn is important to our community's road ahead. How do you envision

the (School) of the future?

17B Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If you could change one thing about (School), what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: Pretend you have a magic wand. What change or improvement would

you make in our schools? Do you have any ideas for how we could

make that change?

17C Share Your (District) Pride

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: When you talk to out-of-town friends and relatives about our school

district, what are you proud of?

DESCRIPTION: Share your thoughts about what you think is great about (District).

Why do you think that aspect sets the district apart?



17D Choosing Your School

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How important was school location in your decision to move to your

neighborhood?

DESCRIPTION: Did you take into account the schools in (Community) when deciding

where to live? What about our schools (quality, location, etc.) made you decide to live in your neighborhood? Share pictures where you live

and why you chose to live there.

17E Working Together

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can our schools and community leaders work together to create

a better (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: What can we do with our local leaders to create a better community?

Why is cooperation between schools and community leaders important

for the future of (Community)?

17F Encouraging Attendance

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can we encourage students to attend school more regularly?

DESCRIPTION: What methods can we use to encourage good attendance at our

schools? What do you think your child needs to hear from the school to

convince him or her to attend class?

17G Measuring Success

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How should the district measure the performance of individual

schools?

DESCRIPTION: By what standards (graduation rate, attendance, GPA, etc.) should we

measure the performance of individual schools in our district? What is the most important factor in determining the success of a school?

17H Improving Children's Eating Habits

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What are some creative ideas that would help us provide healthier

school lunches to children?

DESCRIPTION: Tell us the results you have seen in the several months since the federal

school lunch requirements took effect. What have we learned? What can we improve upon to encouraging healthy eating both inside and

outside school?



17I Focus on STEM

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How should we balance the need to prioritize S.T.E.M. subjects?

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with the desire to

provide access to other subjects, like the arts?

DESCRIPTION: The focus of education is shifting as technology advances and job

preparation is paramount. Tell us how you see this in our schools and give us your thoughts about creating the optimal learning environment.

17J Using Technology in the Classroom

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What role do you think technology should play in the classroom?

Should children be encouraged to use tablets in class for learning?

DESCRIPTION: More educators are making technology a priority in teaching, both to

lead individual lessons and to help children become fluent with new forms of communication. Share how important you think technology

should be in the learning process.

17K Fighting Childhood Obesity

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Should our school district make physical education and active

learning a priority in our children's school days?

OPTIONS: • Yes, physical education should be a higher priority

Yes, teachers should incorporate active learning

No, academics need to be a higher priority

DESCRIPTION: Childhood obesity is becoming more of a problem in schools around

the country. Do you think our school should do more to address the

problem and help children lead healthier lives?

17L Prioritizing School Projects

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Help us set our priorities. What two improvements do you think the

school should tackle first?

OPTIONS: • Smaller classroom sizes

• Building improvements

• Playground safety

• More focus on the arts

• More focus on physical education

• Standardized test scores

• College prep opportunities

Mentoring

• Tutoring programs

• Laptop computers for students

DESCRIPTION: We have several improvements we would like to make in the coming

months at our school district. Before we get started, we would like to

know your priorities. Which improvement should come first?



17M VOTE: Top Factors for Choosing Your Child's School

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What are the four top factors you think about when choosing a

school for your child?

OPTIONS: • The school has good test scores

• There is a rigorous academic program

• Friends or family have said good things about the school

• The school has good teachers

• The school is within walking distance from my home

• There is an after school program

• Before care is available

• There are interesting and special programs offered

• The school is safe and welcoming

The school building is in good condition
The principal is friendly and helpful

• The school staff is friendly and helpful

• Parents and families play a key role in helping the school thrive

There is an active parent organization (PTA, PTO, etc.)The school feeds into a good middle or high school

• The school helps parents and families understand how to support

their students' learning at home

DESCRIPTION: Why did you choose the school your child is attending? Help us

prioritize improvements by choosing your top four reasons for picking

your child's school.

17N Using Phones and Tablets in Class

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Should students be allowed to have personal communication devices

like cell phones and tablets in class?

OPTIONS: • Yes, children need to keep up with new technology

Yes, but only for educational purposes

• No, children need to be able to learn free from technological

distractions

170 Requiring More Healthy School Lunches

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Is calorie counting the best way to ensure that children are

practicing healthy eating?

OPTIONS: • Yes, there should be equal portions for all school lunches

• Yes, but the portions should be larger

• No, the emphasis should be on providing more healthy choices, not

on restricting portion size

DESCRIPTION: The federal government's new requirements for school lunches have

been in place for a while. Do you think they are the right way to help

children eat healthier?





Questions about general planning at colleges and universities. Students, faculty, staff and alumni can answer these questions to give a broad response to both general and specific planning questions. These questions are meant specifically for college and university sites.

18A Visioning (University's) Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for (University)?

DESCRIPTION: We want to create an environment that produces successful graduates

who are ready for anything the world throws at them. How can we do

that here? How do you envision (University's) future?

18B Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If you could change one thing about (University), what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: Pretend you have a magic wand. What change or improvement would

you make on campus? Do you have any ideas for how we could make

that change?

18C Our Biggest Challenge

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What do you think is the biggest challenge that the university will

face over the next five years?

DESCRIPTION: What challenge do you think is just around the corner for our

university? How can we meet that challenge? How will it make us

stronger?



18D Living Our Mission

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What themes should we most embody from our (University's) mission

statement?

DESCRIPTION: The mission statement articulates the purpose of the university's

existence. Which of our strengths and priorities as an institution of

higher education should be included in our mission?

18E Promoting Unity

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can (University) create a climate that encourages unity and

togetherness, while still recognizing the different backgrounds and

identities of members of the campus community?

DESCRIPTION: How can we make (University) welcoming for everyone? What do you

think is the most effective way to promote a sense of university

community?

18F Distinctive (University)

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What do you think are the most distinctive physical characteristics of

(University's) campus?

DESCRIPTION: What makes our university stand out? What about our architecture,

landscaping or campus layout most distinguishes (University)? Share

what features stand out most to vou.

18G Best Study Spot

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your favorite place on campus to study?

DESCRIPTION: Do you have a nook in the library, a tucked-away spot in your dorm,

or maybe a spot on the quad where you like to study? Why is it your

favorite spot? Share a picture and tell us why you love it.

18H (University) Traditions

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What campus traditions at (University) are your favorites? Which

ones would you change?

DESCRIPTION: From athletics to residence halls, what is your favorite tradition at

(University)? Are there any traditions you would like to see instituted

here? Why?

18I Off-Campus Buses

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What locations should buses serve off the (University) campus?

DESCRIPTION: Do you think there are any neighborhoods/centers that are underserved by buses that connect to campus? Tell us.



18J Defining Landmarks

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What campus landmarks do you use when giving people directions?

What dorms, classroom buildings, streets or other landmarks do you

use to help people get around campus? Why are they good landmarks?

18K Grabbing a Bite

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Are you satisfied with the food choices at the campus dining halls?

DESCRIPTION: Do you think there is a good variety of quality food available at campus

dining halls? What are they missing? What changes would make your

dining experience better?

18L Staying Safe on Campus

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How can we improve pedestrian and bicycle safety on (University)

campus?

What features do you think would help? Select your top three

choices.

OPTIONS: • Wider sidewalks

• More time to cross at crosswalks

More lighting

• Better sidewalk maintenance

• Protected bicycle lanes

• Wider, paved shoulders

• Sharrows

• Signage

DESCRIPTION: We want to make our campus one of the best for bicyclists and walkers

in the country. What can we do to meet that goal? What do you think

should be our first project?

18M Getting to Campus

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: What mode of transportation do you typically take to get to campus

from around (community)?

OPTIONS: • Carpool

Dropped off

• Bus

Bicycle

• Walk

Other _____

DESCRIPTION: How do you get to the outlying community from campus? Tell us in the

poll.



180 Organizing Space

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Which programs need more space at the student center?

OPTIONS: • Student activities and club offices

Food service

Lounge, hangout and study space
Meeting and conference rooms
Copy center or other student services

Bookstore or convenience store

• Other ____

DESCRIPTION: We want to create a student center that optimizes space and makes

campus life more convenient for our student body. Which of these programs do you think needs more space at the renovated student

center?





Questions for hospitals and doctor's offices. Ask these questions to find out what doctors, nurses, patients and other community members want to change or improve at their hospital. These questions are specifically for health care provider sites.

19A Visioning (Hospital's) Future

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: What is your vision for (Hospital)?

DESCRIPTION: What kind of health care facility do you want to craft for the

next generation? Share your vision for the short- and long-term improvements that will make our great hospital better in 2025.

19B Making One Change

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: If you could change one thing about (Hospital), what would it be?

DESCRIPTION: Pretend you have a magic wand. What change or improvement would

you make in our health care facilities? Do you have any ideas for how

we could make that change?

19C Leading a Healthier Life

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How can your local hospital help you lead a healthier life at home?

DESCRIPTION: What can your hospital teach you about leading a healthier lifestyle?

What programs, services or partnerships could the hospital offer?



19D Choosing Your Doctor

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Why did you choose (Hospital/Doctor's office)?

DESCRIPTION: What went into your decision to choose (Hospital/Doctor's office)?

Location? Insurance coverage? Reputation? All of the above? Share

your experiences here!

19E Expanding Services

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Are there any services not currently available at (Hospital/Doctor's

office that you would like to see?

DESCRIPTION: What services could we offer at (Hospital/Doctor's office) to make it

easier for you to receive the care you need? Why should those services

be priorities?

19F Access to Good Health Care

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: How important was access to a good doctor or hospital in your

decision to move to (Community)?

DESCRIPTION: Did you move to your neighborhood because of (Hospital/Doctor's

office)? If so, what drew you to it? Why is access to quality health care

important to you?

19G Covering Your Visit

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Have you ever had a problem with insurance coverage at (Hospital/

Doctor's office)?

DESCRIPTION: If you've ever had a problem using your insurance carrier to cover

a visit to (Hospital/Doctor's office), tell us about it. What were you visiting for, and what wasn't covered? Was the issue resolved?

19H Visiting the Pharmacy

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you ever purchase medications from the pharmacy at (Hospital)?

Why or why not?

DESCRIPTION: Do you use the pharmacy at (Hospital)? If so, under what

circumstances and how often? If not, why do you choose to go

elsewhere?

191 Visiting the Pharmacy

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Do you feel comfortable talking with your doctor about personal

health problems?

DESCRIPTION: Are there subjects you don't feel comfortable bringing up with your

doctor? Why? Is communication with your doctor vital to treatment?



19J Your Recommendation

QUESTION TYPE: OPEN-ENDED

QUESTION: Would you recommend (Hospital/Doctor's office) to friends or

family?

DESCRIPTION: What about (Hospital/Doctor's office) would you recommend to

friends or family? What would stop you from recommending it?

19K Getting a Hold of Your Doctor

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Do you ever have a hard time getting a hold of your doctor?

OPTIONS: • Yes

• No

DESCRIPTION: We want to make sure your doctor is accessible at all times. Have

you ever been unable to get a hold of your doctor in an emergency?

19L Bringing Your Family

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: Do you bring your whole family to (Hospital/Doctor's office)?

OPTIONS: • Yes, all the time.

• Yes, but only for certain circumstances.

No.

DESCRIPTION: Our office is a family practice. Do you bring your entire family

here?

19M Health Care Options

QUESTION TYPE: INSTANT POLL

QUESTION: How would you rate quality of health care options in (Community)?

OPTIONS: • Very good

GoodAveragePoorVery poor

DESCRIPTION: Is the quality of health care sufficient in our community? Do you have

enough options to fit your family's needs?



19N POLL: Your Last Visit

QUESTION TYPE: **INSTANT POLL**

QUESTION: When was the last time you visited (Hospital/Doctor's Office)?

OPTIONS: Within the last week

• Within the last month• Within the last three months

• Within the last six months • Within the last year • More than a year ago

DESCRIPTION: We are getting a feel for how often people come to our offices. When

was the last time you were here?