

Community Issues Exercise **Results 2/11/21**

The issues identification exercise is conducted to gather input on fundamental issues facing the City of Washburn. Issues can be both positive and negative in nature and are factors to be explored, maximized or mitigated in the updated comprehensive plan.

The goal of this exercise is:

To determine the assets, opportunities and challenges within the community.

The purpose of this exercise is:

To identify various elements relative to the city that are viewed as areas upon which Washburn could build upon and identify those areas where attention may need to be focused in order to improve the quality of life in the community.

Focal Areas

Community Character
Development/Redevelopment Concerns
Environment
Housing

Economic Development
Transportation
Intergovernmental Issues
Community Services & Facilities

Process

1. Focus on key issues
2. Roundtable Format
3. One (1) response per person, per round until 20 minutes have elapsed or ideas exhausted
4. No duplicates
5. Please be concise (keywords to single sentence)
6. Recording and prioritization

Q1. What is GREAT about Washburn?

1. No big box stores in the community
2. Lake Superior
3. Small town feel
4. Highly educated with a relaxed vibe
5. Brownstone buildings
6. Extremely supportive community
7. Outdoor recreation
8. Boomtown look (building facades, aesthetic)
9. Great school system
10. Arts community
11. Accessibility to a wide variety of family friendly activities
12. Low crime rate
13. Coal dock and marina
14. Friendly community
15. Cosmopolitan makeup – population (people from different places)
16. The waterfront
17. Two municipal campgrounds
18. Great water (quality, drinking water)
19. Bayfield county courthouse, county seat
20. Proximity to great orchards
21. Local farms, access to CSA's, farmers market, locally grown products
22. Events that highlight the natural amenities
23. Variety of businesses
24. Great Library
25. Most businesses are family owned
26. High speed Internet
27. Washburn Ranger District HQTRS
28. Coveted nursing home community
29. Proximity to county forest, national forest, national park
30. History
31. City that's moving to conserve utilities (eco-municipality)
32. Several event centers
33. Theater
34. Great fishing
35. Scenic byway (STH 13)
36. Easy access to the Chamber of Commerce

Q2. What are Washburn's general ISSUES and CHALLENGES?

1. Housing (lack of)
2. Youth retention
3. Curb appeal (land use and development pattern, downtown not clearly defined, no defined theme)
4. Lack of organized youth-based activities
5. Difficulties maintaining EMS/Ambulance service
6. Limited financial capacity (levy limit)
7. Awareness of access to Lake Superior
8. Improved visual access to Lake Superior
9. Marketing the community. Lack of money and efforts.
10. Need to maintain and reasonably increase population and business.
11. Develop/expand meaningful employment
12. Drug abuse problem
13. Distance from transportation hubs
14. Condition of sidewalks
15. Lack of in-home caretakers
16. Property maintenance (maintaining the aesthetic)
17. Low wages & seasonal employment
18. Mental health concerns

Q3. What is Washburn MISSING?

1. Provide opportunity for people to sell crafts & artwork along Central Avenue.
2. No gift store
3. Healthcare resources (addiction treatment & others)
4. Modern high school
5. Improved/enhanced waterfront
6. Community center/Youth center (city-supported)
7. Financial resources (no development fund, tax base is not growing)
8. Beautification/Public Art/Sculpture park and garden (downtown, waterfront area)
9. Catalyst to stimulate growth
10. Cohesion of civic groups
11. Bike trails
12. Stronger identity (theme, brand)
13. Community events that draw visitors
14. Ice fishing contest
15. Someone to coordinate activities
16. More public parking and public restrooms.
17. Pavilion, community fire pit (on waterfront)
18. More use of municipal campgrounds (other activities to generate revenue)
19. Youth fishing and swimming piers
20. Splash pad
21. Need to make artesian well more attractive
22. Attractive outdoor lighting