



# Reflecting Raleigh

THE NEXT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Raleigh  
Planning

# Reflecting Raleigh

Public Engagement Report

July 2024 – December 2024

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## Project Introduction

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range policy document that describes the vision for how Raleigh will look and feel in the future and how it should grow to achieve it. It includes policies that guide or support future development, infrastructure investment, sustainability practices, area planning, and much more across chapters representative of different departments and disciplines within the city. Ultimately, it represents the long-term vision for the city's built environment as determined by department and staff efforts; preferences of elected and appointed officials; and, importantly, the priorities identified by its residents.

The current 2030 Comprehensive Plan was originally adopted in 2009 and updated in 2019. As 2030 approaches and Raleigh continues to grow and change, the city is developing its new plan for the decades ahead.

Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan will be a 2.5-year process, unfolding over five phases. The first phase will take place between July 2024 and July 2025 and focus on engaging with residents, sharing information, and identifying their priorities and vision for Raleigh's future. This phase is organized around a series of topic-based Community Conversations. The topics selected are of broad interest to Raleigh's community and are frequently discussed in the context of growth and change. They are:

- Affordable Housing
- Stormwater
- Transportation & Traffic
- Trees
- Neighborhood Change
- Sustainable Infrastructure & Services

The city will approach all topics through the lens of equity and sustainability.

In addition to these Community Conversations, staff are employing direct and indirect methods which include:

- Individualized outreach to community leaders and stakeholders
- Presentations to Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs)
- Presentations to Boards & Commissions
- Community events
- Online surveys: 1) how people want to be engaged, 2) topic-based surveys
- Regular digital communication via email, website, and social media

Future phases will include Technical Working Groups dedicated to the plan's subject matter areas and a Citizens Assembly group, which will contribute to the overall engagement strategy and review elements of the plan. They will also include targeted Youth Engagement and an Artist-in-Residence program.

At this stage, the city has hosted its first two Community Conversations events. The first, the Affordable Housing Summit, was an all-day event held on August 17, 2024. It included presentations by staff and guest speakers about the programs and policies behind affordable housing; how it is built; and challenges to overcome. The second series, Stormwater, was held over two evenings on December 4 and December 9, 2024. These events included presentations about flood management, climate adaptation, and the state of stormwater in Raleigh.

This document summarizes the first six months of engagement between these Community Conversation events and describes feedback received during that period.

## Engagement to Date: May – December 2024

### Overview

This report summarizes engagement activities and public input received during the first half of phase I, from July through December 2024. Goals for this period were to introduce the project to Raleigh residents, City boards and commissions, Citizen Advisory Committees, and community organizations with interests in the Comprehensive Plan update and the future of Raleigh. Staff presented introductory materials about the current and future plan, promoted the Community Conversation series, and surveyed residents and stakeholders for input on issues related to growth, opportunities, and desired outcomes for the plan and the engagement process.

### Engagement Goals

Engagement activities are designed to achieve four major goals:

1. **Facilitate Inclusive Participation** - Ensure active involvement from all Raleigh residents, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities, to gather diverse perspectives and inform the Comprehensive Plan.
  - a. Remove barriers to participation by using childcare and translation services.
  - b. Locate events in areas of the city with high a proportion of underrepresented population.
  - c. Use existing community social networks, community connectors, and local community organizations.
2. **Enhance Community Awareness & Understanding** - Educate and inform the public about the Comprehensive Plan planning process and share data related to strategies for addressing key issues related to growth and development.
  - a. Tailor the messaging for each engagement event to the corresponding audience.
3. **Meaningfully Incorporate Community Feedback** - Utilize resident input to shape the development of the new plan's vision, goals, and policies.

- 4. Promote Effective Communication & Coordination** - Foster trust between city officials, city staff, and community members by establishing clear channels of communication and implementing strategies for collaboration.

## Methods and Activities

Phase I began with a series of introductory meetings between planning staff and leadership across city offices and departments. Planning and Development staff worked closely with the Department of Community Engagement and the Department of Communications to develop a branding strategy and foundational communications and public engagement strategy to guide activities throughout the project.

The strategy was informed by [adopted guidance for public engagement](#), best practices observed from peer cities, and by public input received through an [online engagement preferences survey](#).

The first six months of engagement included two Community Conversations topics, spread across nine events. At City Council's direction, the Departments of Housing and Neighborhoods and Planning and Development collaborated to host a day-long [Affordable Housing Summit](#) on August 17, which kicked off the Community Conversation series. City staff hosted three additional housing-focused Ask-a-Planner events, which offered an opportunity for residents to speak with staff one-on-one. Two of the Ask-a-Planner events were held in person at community centers, one offering Spanish language assistance, and one was held virtually via webinar.

In December, Stormwater and Planning and Development staff co-hosted [two public meetings](#) featuring a keynote speaker, a conversation between Raleigh's Stormwater Program Manager and the Chair of Raleigh's Stormwater Management Advisory Commission; and a series of tabletop conversations designed to elicit reflections on challenges, opportunities, and resident priorities with respect to stormwater and related issues.

Between July and December, other major engagement activities included tabling at community events; presentations to appointed boards and commissions; and engagement with community leaders and organizations. Staff provided ongoing digital communication through website updates, social media posts, and a monthly newsletter.

The table below summarizes the number of activities completed to date and estimated number of individuals reached through these events, presentations, and online engagements. Detailed descriptions of each of these are included in the following section.

Engagement Method	Number	People Reached
Community Conversation Events	5	405
Ask-a-Planner Events	9	15
Presentations	29	513
Community Events	16	308
Online Surveys	4	619
YouTube Videos	9	724

## Event Descriptions

### Community Conversations & Ask-a-Planner Events

#### *Affordable Housing Summit*

The Affordable Housing Summit was the first major engagement event associated with the new Comprehensive Plan. It was held on August 17, 2024, between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the Raleigh Convention center. Organized by the Housing & Neighborhoods Department with support from Planning & Development, the event featured staff and guest speakers presenting on topics including affordable housing policy; housing and homelessness; affordability and development; and the state of housing in Raleigh. Approximately 260 people attended the event in person; the event was also livestreamed on YouTube for those unable to attend.

The event featured the following presentations and speakers:

- **Plenary Session: Homelessness is a Housing Problem** by Gregg Colburn, Associate Professor at the University of Washington
- **Affordable Housing 101: The State of Housing in Raleigh** by Emilia Sutton, City of Raleigh Housing and Neighborhoods Director and Patrick Young, City of Raleigh Planning and Development Director
- **Affordable Housing 201: Affordable Rental Development** by Mark Shelburne, Senior Director and Housing Policy Consultant at Novogradac
- **Innovation in Affordable Housing with presentations** by Nate Fields, Director of Homelessness Services and Strategies for the Mayor’s Office of New Orleans and Sheree Bouchee, Director of Housing at the Center for Public Enterprise
- **Innovation Applied: Using Creative Tools in Raleigh** with presentations by Ashley Lommers-Johnson, Raleigh Housing Authority CEO; Keegan McDonald, City of Raleigh Land Development Manager; and Ken Bowers, City of Raleigh Planning and Development Urban Projects Deputy Director

After the event, survey respondents provided feedback to the keynote presentation and identified their top issues, priorities, and potential solutions related to affordable housing. Their top three issues were a lack of housing options for those earning 30% or less than the area median income; long commutes resulting from affordable housing located far from employment or retail centers; and insufficient housing supply across diverse price points. They noted a combination of government support, financial incentives, and public-private collaboration would be needed to address those concerns.

### ***Stormwater Community Conversation***

The Stormwater Community Conversation was divided into two sessions held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, and Monday, November 9, 2024, at Martin Street Baptist Church, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Staff from the Stormwater Division of Engineering and Planning & Development co-hosted the events, which featured presentations, exhibits, and facilitated discussion about stormwater management and priorities.

The first of the two events was centered on a keynote presentation by guest speaker Ted Brown, CEO of Biohabitats. His presentation included a historic overview of stormwater management and MS4 programs, watershed planning, management practices, and environmental monitoring. It was followed by a moderated audience Q&A session; audience members were asked to submit questions via QR code during the presentation.

The second event featured a State of the City presentation by city staff followed by World Cafe-style tabletop discussions. The State of the City was presented by Wayne Miles, Raleigh Stormwater Program Manager, and Reverend Jemonde Taylor, chair of Raleigh’s Stormwater Management Advisory Commission. It addressed development impacts on stormwater,



stormwater projects and resiliency, impervious surfaces, infrastructure systems and GSI, floodplain management and flooding, and infrastructure asset management.

The World Cafe was a series of three rounds of 12-minute group conversations prompted by predetermined questions with the goal of fostering open communication and dialog. Upon their arrival at the event, staff assigned attendees to one of 12 table groups where they would begin the first round of discussion. Each table featured a host and note taker charged with collecting responses. Subject matter experts were available to answer questions after every round. After each 12-minute round, participants were given three minutes' transition time to move to their next assigned table. Following the third round, staff used the notes collected to generate a "world cloud" representing themes and ideas that emerged during the discussions. Participants were asked about growth and development in the context of stormwater concerns; stormwater fees and level of service; and stormwater management strategies and programs in Raleigh. For the full list of World Cafe questions and a summary of responses, please refer to Appendix C.

Approximately 105 people attended the Stormwater Community Conversation events. Both the keynote speaker and State of the City presentations were livestreamed and recorded for those unable to attend in-person. Recordings of the [first](#) and [second](#) events have received over 200 combined views on YouTube.

Participants who responded to the post-event survey ranked pollution in waterways, neighborhood and street flooding, and aging infrastructure as their top stormwater concerns. Their top policy priorities were adoption of Green Stormwater Infrastructure in city projects; flood risk and development in the floodplain; and infrastructure capacity in older neighborhoods.

Those who participated in the World Cafe event emphasized the need for strong policy advocacy and community engagement to address concerns about equity, effectiveness, and sustainability in stormwater management.

### **Tabling at Community Events**

In the first half of phase I, staff participated in 11 tabling events to promote the next Comprehensive Plan at community events, festivals, and expositions. Staff provided information about plan development and timeline, distributed flyers and survey materials, and answered questions from residents. They also asked attendees to write down what Raleigh means to them, today, and what they want, hope, or expect the city to be like in the future. In total, staff interacted with an estimated 308 residents at the following events:

- Engage Raleigh Expo
- Raleigh Tamale Festival
- Jazz in the Square

- Raleigh Dominican Festival
- MED Week Celebration
- Carolina Pines Park- HOWL-O-Ween!
- Fall Festival at Worthdale Park
- Barwell Fall Festival
- Transportation & Treats
- Commerce Place Engagement
- Envisioning Urban Futures Expo
- Oaks & Spokes Annual Member Party

Turnout at community events varied, with city-sponsored family events and cultural festivals providing the most opportunities for staff interaction. Attendees and residents submitted over 100 comment cards detailing their opinions about Raleigh, today, and what they expect of/in the city in the future. Those who filled out comment cards consistently noted Raleigh's abundance of natural resources, parks, and open spaces and the city being a positive place to raise a family. Many expressed concerns about Raleigh's affordability and cost of living; transportation infrastructure and multi-modal connectivity; and the rapid pace of development.

### **Engagement with Raleigh Boards and Commissions**

Staff attended 11 boards and/or commission meetings between September and December 2024 to inform elected officials, appointees, and the public about the Comprehensive Plan update. Presentation topics included an overview of the existing plan, city growth and trends since 2009, and an overview of themes, goals, and engagement methods for the upcoming plan update. Staff interacted with approximately 129 attendees across the following regular meetings:

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission
- Historic Cemeteries Advisory Commission
- Stormwater Advisory Commission
- Mayor's Committee
- Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Advisory Board
- Sustainability, Wildlife, and Urban Trees Committee
- Design Review Commission
- Hispanic and Immigrant Affairs Board
- Raleigh Historic Development Commission
- Community Engagement Board
- Human Relations Commission

## Key Stakeholder & Small Group Engagement

From October 2024 through January 2025, staff attended eight Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) meetings to share information about the next Comprehensive Plan. Four of these meetings were attended in person and four virtually. At each meeting, staff presented an overview of the current 2030 Comprehensive Plan; growth and development trends since 2009; and changes in policy, regulation, and planning practice over the same period. They introduced the themes, timeline, engagement framework and opportunities for public participation for the upcoming plan. They also distributed materials promoting upcoming Community Conversation events and Ask-A-Planner sessions. Attendees of the CAC meetings asked about upcoming Community Conversation topics and dates, area-specific planning questions, and expressed interest in receiving consistent communication through regular events, public meetings, and digital communications. Staff presented to an estimated 190 people at the following CAC meetings:

- Southwest CAC (Virtual)
- North CAC
- Midtown CAC
- Hillsborough-Wade CAC (Virtual)
- Southeast CAC
- West Raleigh CAC (Virtual)
- East CAC
- Five Points CAC (Virtual)

Between September 2024 and January 2025, staff participated and/or attended 11 other events in order to present information, answer questions, and distribute materials related to the next Comprehensive Plan. These included Ask-A-Planner sessions scheduled and themed around the Housing and Stormwater community events. After each Community Conversation, staff hosted and attended three events with support from Housing & Neighborhoods and Engineering Services (Stormwater) respectively. The intent of these Ask-A-Planner sessions was to answer follow - up questions about Community Conversation topics and receive feedback on those events. Staff interacted with 126 residents at the following:

- Planning Academy (September)
- Housing Ask-A-Planner (2 in-person, 1 virtual)
- Planning Academy (October)
- Stormwater Ask-A-Planner (2 in-person, 1 virtual)
- Wake County Planners Meeting
- Presentation to Carroll Middle School
- Planning Academy (February)
- Oaks & Spokes Sit Down Meeting

Stakeholders emphasized the importance of transparency in the plan development process and clear communication about engagement opportunities. While comments and questions varied, attendees expressed a desire for consistent touchpoints with the community to ensure their priorities are incorporated into the plan and its policies, highlighting the need to expand efforts to raise public awareness about individual actions to prevent pollution and reduce stormwater impacts.

### **Ongoing Communication & Coordination**

In order to provide consistent messaging with the public, staff has worked to promote, update, and maintain the following digital formats:

- Comprehensive Plan project websites
  - 2030 Comprehensive Plan
  - Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan
- Public Input Hub Site and Surveys
- Monthly newsletter distributed through GovDelivery

Communications staff within the Planning Department has also launched a portrait campaign to spotlight Raleigh community members and residents and promote the next plan. Participants are asked to share their thoughts about Raleigh today, what they envision for the future, and/or any big ideas they have for the city as a whole. So far, approximately 19 people have participated in the portrait campaign. People can view the portraits by visiting the Raleigh planning Page on Instagram, or searching the app for the hashtags #raleighplanning or #reflectingraleigh.



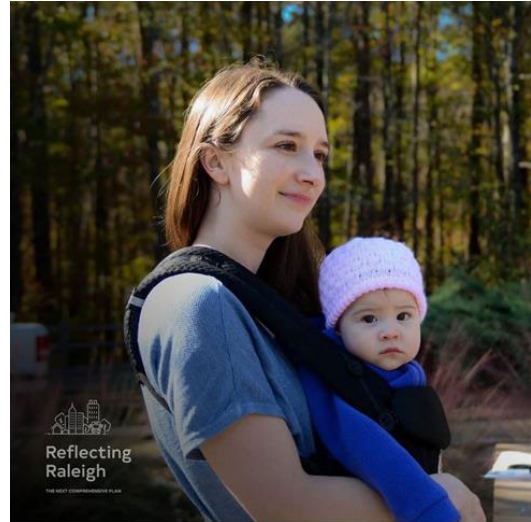
[View insights](#)

[Boost post](#)

❤️ 38 💬 6 📍 13 📌

👤 Liked by raleighpermits and others  
raleighplanning Kelly has been serving up yummy eats in downtown Raleigh as a street food vendor for years! 🍌

As a true Raleigh native, Kelly has witnessed the city's transformation firsthand. From the close-knit communities of his childhood to the growth we see today, he appreciates the genuine Southern hospitality that makes the city feel like home.



[View insights](#)

[Boost post](#)

❤️ 18 💬 6 📍 6 📌

👤 Liked by itbkatie and others  
raleighplanning 🏠 Molly, a compassionate pediatric nurse, has called Raleigh home for the past year! What drew Molly to Raleigh was its vibrant diversity and welcoming spirit – qualities that make the city truly special. With Raleigh's rapid growth, she's become aware of the challenges that come with it, particularly when it comes to housing affordability.



[View insights](#)

[Boost post](#)

❤️ 27 💬 1 📍 4 📌

👤 Liked by itbkatie and others  
raleighplanning 🛹 Gavin has lived in Raleigh for 8 years, after moving from Jacksonville, Florida. He enjoys the variety of activities the city offers, all while keeping a laid-back vibe. Gavin helped lead the DIY skatepark at Marsh Creek, as skateboarding has become more low-impact and focused on technical skills. Raleigh only has two skateparks and he'd like to see more built. 📍 in bio about the Next Comprehensive Plan. #ReflectingRaleigh

January 8

## Online Surveys

Staff also received input through the following online surveys:

- Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement Preferences, which was available between July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.
- Raleigh Community Housing Priorities, which was opened on August 8, 2024, and is currently ongoing.
- Reflecting Raleigh: Stormwater Survey, which was opened on December 4, 2024, and is currently ongoing.

In total, approximately 628 people participated in Phase 1A engagement surveys, producing 600 individual comments about the Affordable Housing Summit and Stormwater Community Conversations, citizen housing priorities, and engagement preferences. Staff compiled in-person and online input and evaluated the leading issues and themes that emerged from the feedback.

Survey	Number of Participants	Number of Comments
Engagement Preferences	384	324
Housing Priorities	201	247
Stormwater Management	54	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>618</b>

For the full list of events, please refer to **Appendix A**.

For survey questions, results, and analysis, please refer to **Appendix B**.

For collected comments from the Stormwater Community Conversation World Café event, please refer to **Appendix C**.

For a detailed summary of comment cards received, please refer to **Appendix D**.

## Engagement Summary

### Community Engagement Preferences

Approximately 384 people participated in the Community Engagement Preferences survey, producing 324 comments. This survey was launched to gauge resident awareness of city-led engagement activities; evaluate the accessibility and perceived impact of these events; and identify preferences for future community engagement.

- 1) Awareness and Participation in City Engagement Activities

Among respondents, 54% reported prior participation in City-led outreach activities, while 40% had not, and 7% were unsure. This reflects moderate engagement, with a notable segment either unaware of or disengaged from past events.

Respondents cited a range of barriers limiting engagement, the top reasons being lack of awareness (69%), being too busy to participate (27%), inconvenient timing (23%), and skepticism about the impact of their input (17%). Participants expressed frustration with the timing and accessibility of events, with comments indicating that some felt their contributions would not significantly influence city decisions.

## 2) Feedback on City Events

Respondents generally found the survey easy to complete, though some criticized it for including leading questions and lacking open-ended response options. Comments suggested that a more neutral approach in survey design would enhance the perceived value and authenticity of feedback.

Respondents were skeptical regarding the influence of public input on city decisions, with many expressing a belief that decisions appeared predetermined. Comments highlighted a perception that events were “pro forma,” with limited impact on actual policy direction.

Respondents frequently mentioned that notification for events was inadequate. Many noted that events often conflicted with work hours and recommended neighborhood-specific communications and broader advertising to improve participation rates.

## 3) Preferences for Event Timing and Format

Participants showed a strong preference for events held outside standard work hours, with 71% favoring weekday evenings, 48% preferring Saturday afternoons, and 46% preferring Saturday mornings. These preferences reflect a need for accessible scheduling to support broader community participation.

Respondents indicated a desire for amenities such as free parking, refreshments, childcare, and free transportation. Comments emphasized that multiple events at varied times would help accommodate residents with diverse schedules and needs.

## 4) Preferred Information Channels and Methods for Providing Input

The City of Raleigh website was the preferred channel for receiving information about city projects. However, participants suggested outreach to underrepresented neighborhoods and youth. Respondents also advocated for re-establishing Community Advisory Councils (CACs), neighborhood meetings, and online forums as means to increase resident engagement.

## 5) Demographic Insights

The survey demographic skewed towards respondents aged 35-44 (31%) and 25-34 (26%). Males made up 64% of participants, while females accounted for 34% and 2% were non-binary.

Most respondents identified as White (89%), with smaller percentages identifying as Black/African American (8%) and Asian (8%).

The majority of respondents reported high education levels, with 51% holding graduate degrees and 36% holding bachelor's degrees. In terms of income, the largest segment (29%) earned between \$100,000 and \$149,000, followed by 27% earning \$200,000 or more and 12% earning between \$75,000 and \$99,000.

For the full list of survey questions and additional information about responses, including key takeaways, please refer to Appendix B.

## **Housing Priorities**

Approximately 201 people participated in the Housing Priorities survey, producing 247 comments. Participants were asked to respond to content presented during the Affordable Housing Summit; identify key housing issues in Raleigh; and comment on challenges and opportunities for improving housing affordability. Those who responded to the survey identified the following issues and priorities:

- 52% noted a lack of housing options for those earning 30% or less of the area median income (AMI).
- 42% stated that affordable housing is located far from employment and retail centers, resulting in long commutes.
- 38% raised concerns about insufficient housing availability across diverse price points.
- 31% pointed to a shortage of housing for people earning 60-80% of AMI.
- 30% noted housing near amenities like transit, retail, and parks is too expensive.
- 26% highlighted the high cost of home ownership, particularly regarding taxes, repairs, and utilities.
- 20% cited the lack of diverse housing types as an issue.

For the full list of survey questions and additional information about responses, including feedback and demographics, please refer to Appendix B.



## Stormwater Priorities

Approximately 54 people have participated in the Stormwater Survey, producing 40 comments. Participants are asked to identify their priority stormwater concerns; comment on existing city programs and investment; choose stormwater topics they want to learn more about; and identify commitments they would be willing to make to reduce water pollution impacts. Those who responded to the survey have identified the following concerns, interests, and priorities:

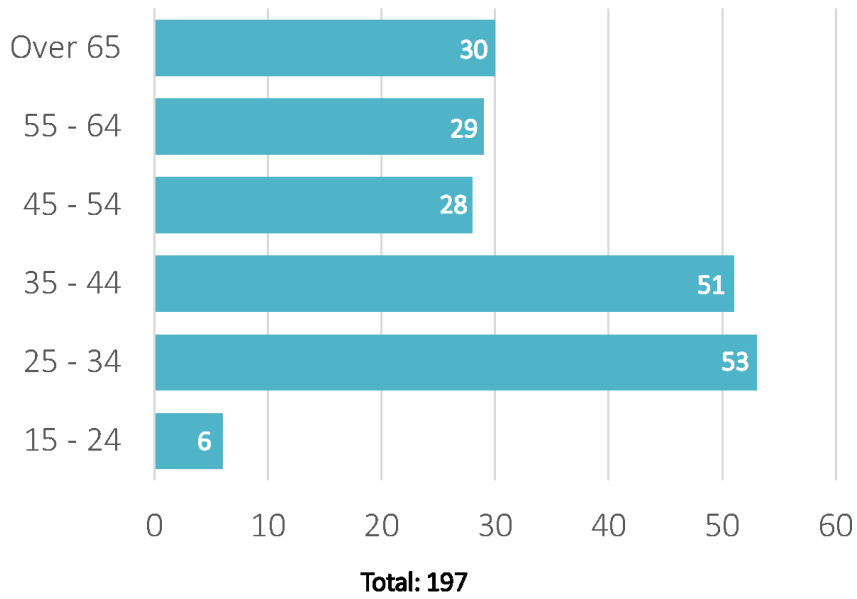
- Stormwater Concerns (ranked from highest to lowest):
  - Pollution in streams, creeks, and rivers.
  - Neighborhood and street flooding from smaller streams and pipes.
  - Aging infrastructure, including outdated pipes and culverts.
  - Stream erosion.
  - Erosion caused by construction activities.
  - Flooding in floodplains, caused by major creeks and rivers.
- Policy Priorities (top three):
  - Encouraging the adoption of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in city projects.
  - Further restricting development in floodplains to mitigate flooding risks.
  - Analyzing and improving the capacity of pipes and swales in older neighborhoods.
- Investment:
  - 59% of respondents advocated for “a lot more” investment go to repairing and replacing aging infrastructure.
  - 57% advocated for “a lot more” investment in building new GSI.
  - 51% supported “a lot more” investment into finding and fixing pollution sources.
  - 32% supported “a lot more” investment in homeowner assistance programs to mitigate stream erosion, while 32% supported “a little more” investment.
  - 28% advocated “a little more” investment in homeowner assistance programs for pipe repair, while 25% advocated “a lot more.”
- Commitments:
  - 89% pledged to keep lawn waste, such as grass clippings, out of storm drains.
  - 87% committed to throwing grease away instead of pouring it down drains.
  - 68% agreed to wash cars in areas that minimize pollution runoff.

For the full list of survey questions and additional information about responses, including demographics and key recommendations, please refer to Appendix B.

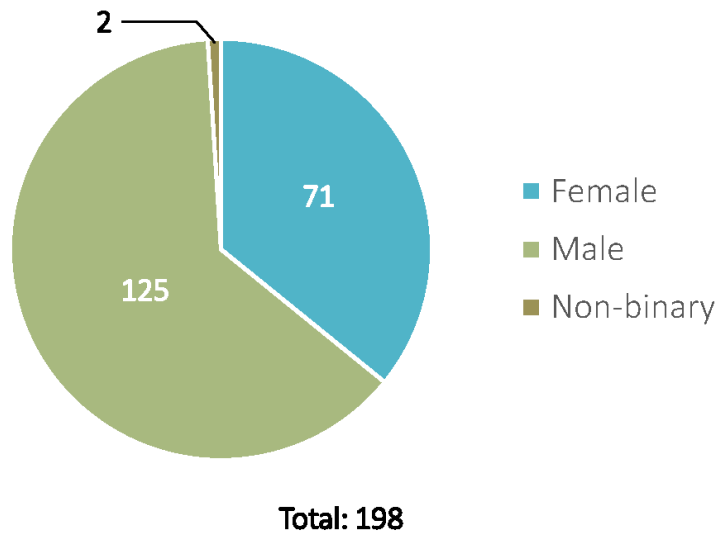
## Survey Demographics

The charts below represent demographic information aggregated from the Future Reflections, Housing Priorities, Engagement Preferences, and Stormwater surveys.

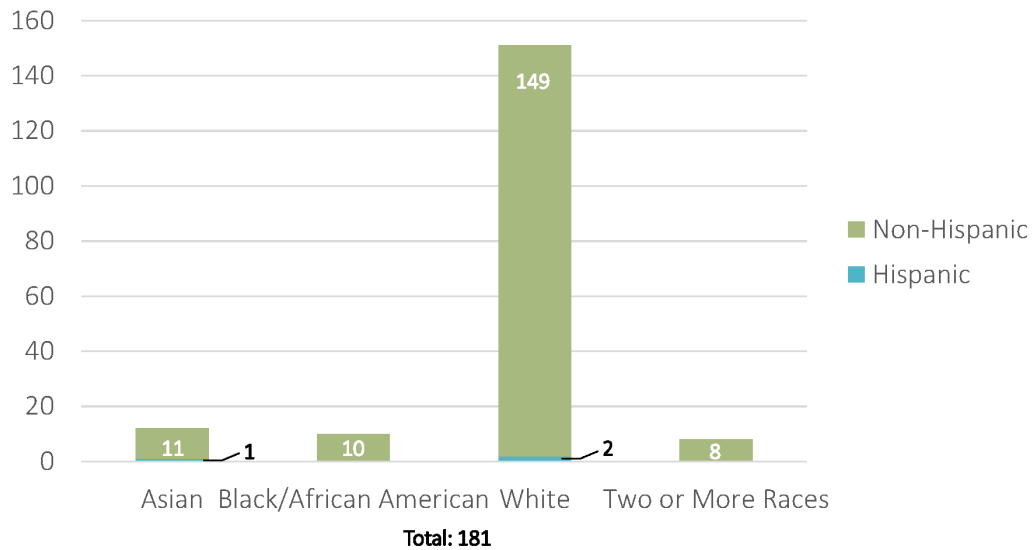
## Survey Responses by Age



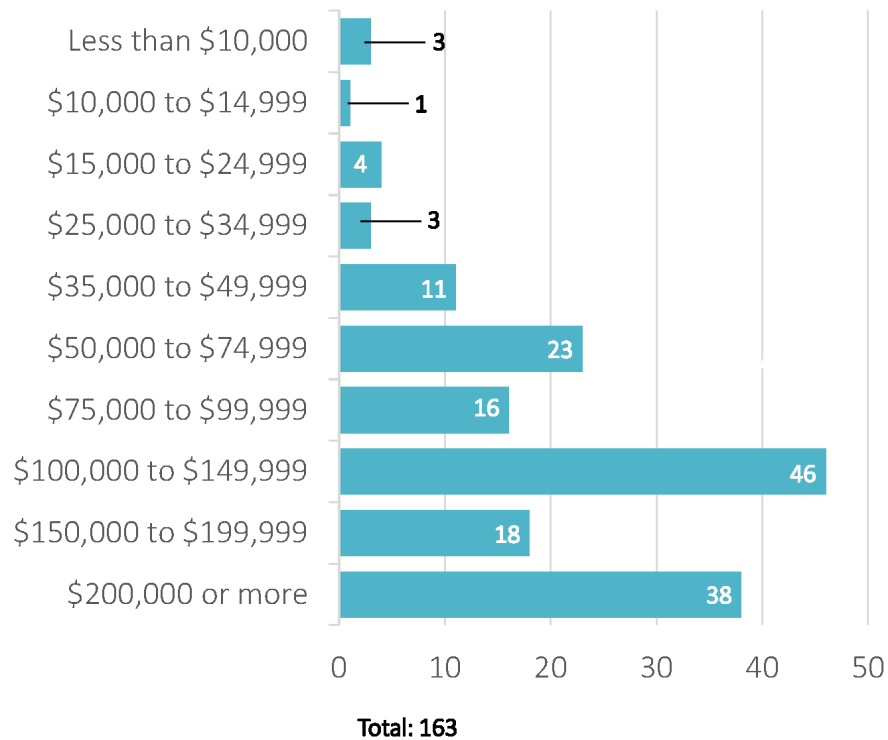
## Survey Responses by Gender



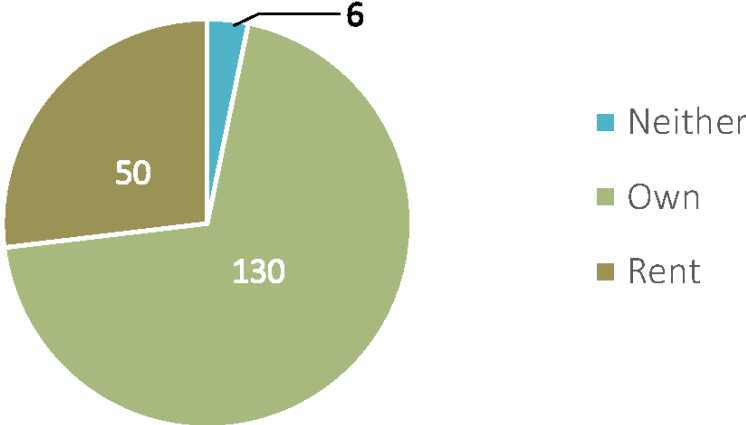
## Survey Responses by Race & Ethnicity



## Survey Responses by Household Income

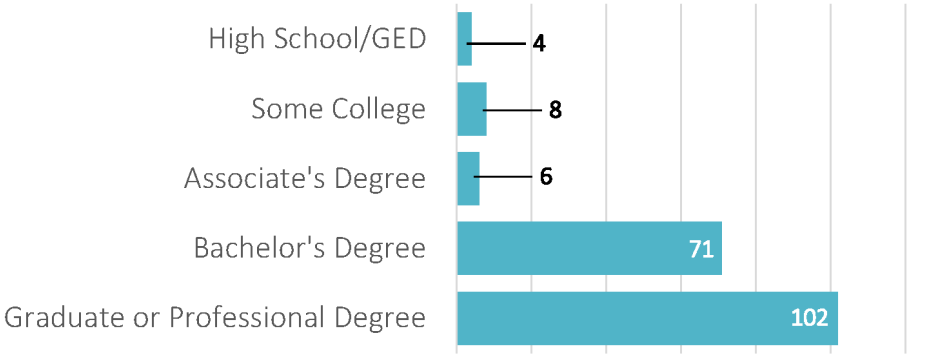


# Survey Responses by Housing Tenure



Total: 186

# Survey Responses by Highest Level of Education



Total: 191

## Key Takeaways

### Engagement Preferences

1. **Increase Accessibility and Convenience.**  
To increase participation and awareness, staff should work to schedule events at times that are convenient for working individuals. This could include holding more events during weekday evenings or on weekends. Hosting more virtual events and/or online alternatives to in-person meetings could also help to capture more attendees. Finally, increased advertising and promotion of events could help to ensure broader awareness. This could be accomplished in coordination with community organizations and local leaders.
2. **Focus on Transparency.**  
To increase the public's understanding of the next plan and the role of engagement, staff should share updates on how public input—including survey results—will be incorporated into the plan and be used for decision making. This may include examples of how past input has been incorporated into city plans and policy.
3. **Enhance Outreach to Underrepresented Groups.**  
Staff should continue to partner with local organizations, schools, and businesses in order to reach younger segments of the population, non-English speakers, and residents of historically marginalized communities. They should continue to interface with CACs and other community groups to create more opportunities for localized participation.
4. **Broaden Engagement Methods.**  
Staff should use alternative methods and tools such as social media (Facebook or Instagram Live), popular websites (YouTube), and neighborhood newsletters to share information and promote the plan. As above, hosting a mix of virtual and in-person events can help ensure accessibility for all demographics.
5. **Strengthen Survey Design.**  
Future surveys should continue to provide for open-ended responses and, generally, avoid leading questions. They should also have contextual and background information to encourage informed participation.

### Affordable Housing

1. **Addressing Housing Supply Gaps.**  
Raleigh must prioritize increasing the availability of housing across multiple income brackets to address affordability concerns.

2. Proximity to Employment & Services.  
Future housing initiatives should focus on improving access to affordable housing near employment centers, retail hubs, and transit corridors.
3. Government & Private Sector Collaboration.  
A coordinated approach between government entities and private developers is essential to overcoming regulatory and financial barriers.
4. Sustainable & Long-Term Solutions.  
Short-term solutions, such as temporary shelters, are not sufficient comprehensive planning for long-term affordability and housing stability is needed.
5. Community Education & Engagement.  
Continued public engagement and transparent communication about housing policies, zoning changes, and investment priorities can help build public support for necessary changes.

## **Stormwater Management**

1. Accountability.  
Respondents recommended strict enforcement of existing regulations to hold developers accountable for stormwater impacts.
2. Advancing Green Infrastructure.  
Participants prioritized innovative GSI solutions to help mitigate stormwater problems and contribute to sustainability goals.
3. Reducing Infrastructure Delays.  
Many community members asked for increased focus on interim solutions to stormwater management, in combination with long-term strategic planning, to counteract the long timelines associated with infrastructure improvement projects.
4. Expanding Public Education.  
Increased public engagement initiatives, such as workshops supported by staff or newsletters, could help raise awareness about actions community members can take to limit pollution and reduce stormwater risks.

## Future Phases



Phase 2: Plan Development will involve the organization of Technical Working Groups and selection of a Citizen Assembly. These groups will work jointly with city staff to synthesize the feedback received and priorities identified to develop policy language which will make up the foundation of the new Comprehensive Plan.

### Technical Working Groups

These will be composed of city staff, local practitioners, and representatives from Raleigh’s Boards and Commissions. The Technical Working Groups will be focused on each of the plan’s subject matter areas and will work throughout the remaining four phases of the plan—development, drafting, engagement Phase 2, and review and adoption.

### Citizen Assembly

The Citizen Assembly group will be comprised of a demographically representative, statistically significant sample of Raleigh’s greater population. It will work to refine the overall public engagement strategy and will be tasked to review key plan elements.

Residents who traditionally participate in self-selecting methods of community engagement represent a subsection of Raleigh's population with respect to race, ethnicity, age, and income. While active participation continues from a few segments of residents, the City is committed to garner feedback from citizens of underrepresented groups, proportionate to their representation in the overall city population. Diverse groups of people who call Raleigh home, are not homogenous and should be intentionally petitioned for participation in city engagement initiatives.

Innovative democratic strategies like a Citizens' Assemblies could produce equitable outcomes by facilitating input from a representative cross section of the Raleigh Community. Citizens' Assemblies are utilized to tackle difficult topics and issues; they work to produce effective outcomes helping shape a way forward. Participants of the Citizens' Assembly are selected through a randomized lottery selection process and can opt-in. Members of the assembly will play an integral role in shaping the vision, goals, and principles of the next comprehensive plan over the course of the multi-year planning process.



## Appendix A – Engagement Events

Date	Type	Name	Attendees
9/7/2024	Tabling	Engage Raleigh Expo	50
9/13/2024	Other	Planning Academy	16
9/16/2024	B/C	BPAC Meeting	10
9/18/2024	Ask-A-Planner	Housing Ask-A-Planner	3
9/21/2024	Tabling	Raleigh Tamale Festival	35
9/25/2024	Ask-A-Planner	Housing Ask-A-Planner	2
9/26/2024	B/C	Historic Cemeteries Advisory Commission	6
10/2/2024	Ask-A-Planner	Housing Ask-A-Planner	0
10/3/2024	Tabling	Jazz in the Square	10
10/3/2024	B/C	Stormwater Advisory Commission	22
10/6/2024	Tabling	Raleigh Dominican Festival	40
10/9/2024	Other	Planning Academy	28
10/9/2024	Tabling	MED Week Celebration	12
10/14/2024	CAC	SW CAC Meeting	10
10/17/2024	B/C	Mayor's Committee	17
10/17/2024	B/C	Parks, Rec, and Greenways Advisory Board	5
10/19/2024	Tabling	Carolina Pines Park- HOWL-O-Ween!	15
10/24/2024	Tabling	Fall Festival at Worthdale	15
10/25/2024	Tabling	Barwell Fall Festival	12
10/28/2024	CAC	North CAC Meeting	12
10/28/2024	CAC	Midtown CAC Meeting	10
10/30/2024	Tabling	Transportation & Treats	35
11/1/2024	Tabling	Commerce Place Engagement	7
11/6/2024	B/C	SWUT Meeting	12
11/7/2024	B/C	Design Review Commission	8
11/12/2024	CAC	Hillsborough-Wade CAC	60
11/13/2024	Tabling	Envisioning Urban Futures Expo	15
11/13/2024	B/C	Hispanic and Immigrant Affairs Board	11
11/14/2024	CAC	SE CAC Presentation	8
11/20/2024	B/C	RHDC	11
11/20/2024	CAC	West Raleigh CAC	25
11/22/2024	Other	Wake County Planners	20
12/4/2024	City Event	Stormwater Keynote Speaker Presentation	51
12/9/2024	City Event	Stormwater State of the City & Conversation	54
12/11/2024	B/C	Community Engagement Board	12
12/12/2024	Ask-A-Planner	Stormwater Ask-a-Planner	3
12/12/2024	B/C	Human Relations Commission	15
1/9/2025	Other	Carroll Middle School Presentation	25
1/9/2025	Ask-A-Planner	Stormwater Ask-a-Planner	3
1/13/2025	CAC	East CAC Presentation	25

1/13/2025	CAC	Five Points CAC Meeting	40
1/15/2025	Ask-A-Planner	Stormwater Ask-a-Planner	1
1/18/2025	City Event	District D Neighborhood Meeting	35
1/22/2025	Other	Oaks and Spokes Sit Down Meeting	4
2/5/2025	City Event	Planning Academy	25
2/7/2025	Tabling	Oaks and Spokes Tabling Event	62

## Appendix B – Surveys

### Survey 1. Future Reflections

Survey link: <https://publicinput.com/l6350>

### Survey 2. Raleigh Community Housing Priorities

Survey link: <https://engage.raleighnc.gov/q4050?lang=en>

#### Survey Report:

A total of **907 views**, **201 participants**, **1,494 responses**, and **247 comments** were recorded. Participants were asked to respond to content provided at the August 17, 2024, Affordable Housing Summit, identify key housing issues in Raleigh, and comment on challenges and opportunities for improving housing affordability. The following is a summary of the survey responses.

#### *Major Issues Identified (Top Priorities):*

- 52% noted a lack of housing options for those earning 30% or less of the area median income.
- 42% stated that affordable housing is located far from employment and retail centers, resulting in long commutes.
- 38% raised concerns about insufficient housing availability across diverse price points.
- 31% pointed to a shortage of housing for people earning 60-80% of AMI.
- 30% noted housing near amenities like transit, retail, and parks is too expensive.
- 26% highlighted the high cost of home ownership, particularly regarding taxes, repairs, and utilities.
- 20% cited the lack of diverse housing types as an issue.

#### Presentation Feedback:

**Total Comments and Reactions:** 111 comments were provided by attendees, reflecting a range of responses to the presentation “Homelessness is a Housing Problem” by Greg Colburn. Key themes and participant reactions included:

- **Housing supply as the root cause:** Attendees highlighted that Colburn’s emphasis on the lack of housing supply being the primary driver of homelessness was eye-opening. It shifted the focus away from other factors, such as addiction or mental health issues, that often receive more attention.
- **Need for More Housing Options:** Many participants came away with a strong understanding that increasing housing options, especially for low-income residents, is essential to addressing **Homelessness**.

- **Affordable Housing is Critical:** Key takeaway was that housing affordability for people earning lower incomes is central to solving homelessness, not just providing temporary shelter or services.
- **Supply-Demand Imbalance:** Presented helped attendees to understand how the supply-demand imbalance is causing housing costs to soar.
- Emphasis on **transit-oriented development** and the need to increase housing density near essential services.

#### *Surprises Noted by Respondents:*

- **High Cost of Supporting the Homeless:** Several were surprised by how expensive it is to provide shelter and emergency services compared to the cost of simply housing people, making a strong case for building more affordable housing.
- **Median Income Discrepancy:** Most were shocked by the high median income in Raleigh, which does not reflect in the reality for low-income workers and homeless population.
- **Impact of Solutions in other cities:** How cities with high housing supply experienced fewer homelessness issues, reinforcing the idea that building more houses can directly reduce homelessness.

#### *Potential Solutions Suggested:*

A total of **35 people** provided feedback addressing mix of government action, financial incentives and private sector collaboration.

- **Government support** for affordable housing through low-interest loans. People emphasized the importance here as this could help offset the high cost of development and construction, which is often prohibitive for smaller builders.
- **Collaborations** between local and state governments to address zoning challenges and homelessness. People suggested that **Raleigh's City Council and Wake County** should continue collaborating with the **NC General Assembly** to push for legislative changes that support the housing issue.
- A few proposed grants and subsidies for developers to reduce construction costs, making it easier to produce housing, further encourage more developers to participate in housing projects.
- More **private sector engagement** and flexibility to increase housing stock. They stressed that **density** is not inherently negative and can be part of the solution if done in a balanced way.
- Some suggested City could work with the private sector to **advocate for zoning changes** that facilitate more development for more diverse housing types e.g.: **Missing Middle housing**.
- Focus on **Long-term Solutions** for housing investments.

### **Demographic Breakdown:**

Of the 384 participants, approximately 32% responded to demographic questions.

- **85%** of participants identified as Raleigh residents.
- **24%** of participants were between the ages of 25 and 34. Another **24%** were over the age of 65.
- **66%** of respondents identified as male and **34%** identified as female.
- The majority identified as White, non-Hispanic (**85%**), followed by Asian (**10%**) and Black/African American (**6%**).
- **58%** of respondents indicated they had a graduate or professional degree, while **38%** had a Bachelor's degree.
- Household income levels varied, with **20%** reporting incomes between \$150,000 to \$199,000; **20%** reported incomes of \$100,000 to \$149,000; and **20%** incomes of \$50,000 to \$74,999. **18%** reported incomes over \$200,000.
- **67%** of respondents owned their home, while **35%** were renters.

### **Survey 3. Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement Preferences**

Survey link: <https://engage.raleighnc.gov/s0123?lang=en>

#### **Survey Report:**

##### **Total Engagement**

The Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement Survey received 1,898 views, with 384 participants contributing 4,145 responses and 324 comments. This survey aimed to gauge resident awareness of city-led outreach activities, evaluate the accessibility and perceived impact of these events, and identify preferences for future community engagement.

##### **Major Findings**

###### **1. Awareness and Participation in City Engagement Activities**

- **Participation Levels:** Among respondents, 54% reported prior participation in City-led outreach activities, while 40% had not, and 7% were unsure. This reflects moderate engagement, with a notable segment either unaware of or disengaged from past events.
- **Barriers to Participation:** Respondents cited a range of barriers limiting engagement, the top reasons being lack of awareness (69%), being too busy to participate (27%), inconvenient timing (23%), and skepticism about the impact of their input (17%). Participants expressed frustration with the timing and accessibility of events, with comments indicating that some felt their contributions would not significantly influence city decisions.

###### **2. Feedback on City Events**

- **Ease of Participation:** Respondents generally found the survey easy to complete, though some criticized it for including leading questions and lacking open-ended response options. Comments suggested that a more neutral approach in survey design would enhance the perceived value and authenticity of feedback.
  - **Perceived Influence on Decisions:** Skepticism was high regarding the influence of public input on city decisions, with many expressing a belief that decisions appeared predetermined. Comments highlighted a perception that events were “pro forma,” with limited impact on actual policy direction.
  - **Notification and Accessibility:** Respondents frequently mentioned that notification for events was inadequate. Many noted that events often conflicted with work hours and recommended neighborhood-specific communications and broader advertising to improve participation rates.
3. **Preferences for Event Timing and Format**
- **Preferred Times:** Participants showed a strong preference for events held outside standard work hours, with 71% favoring weekday evenings, 48% preferring Saturday afternoons, and 46% preferring Saturday mornings. These preferences reflect a need for accessible scheduling to support broader community participation.
  - **Amenities and Accessibility:** Survey responses indicated a desire for amenities such as free parking (53%), refreshments (25%), childcare (17%), and free transportation (13%). Comments emphasized that multiple events at varied times would help accommodate residents with diverse schedules and needs.
4. **Preferred Information Channels and Methods for Providing Input**
- **Information Channels:** The City of Raleigh website was the preferred channel for receiving information about city projects (67%), followed by online surveys (50%), in-person small groups or neighborhood meetings (49%), and social media (42%). Participants suggested additional outreach to underrepresented neighborhoods and youth. Respondents also advocated for re-establishing Community Advisory Councils (CACs), neighborhood meetings, and online forums as means to increase resident engagement.
5. **Demographic Insights**
- Of the 200 participants, approximately 26% responded to demographic questions.
- **Age and Gender:** The survey demographic skewed towards respondents aged 35-44 (31%) and 25-34 (26%).
  - Males made up 64% of participants, while females accounted for 34% and 2% were non-binary.
  - **Ethnicity and Race:** Most respondents identified as White (89%), with smaller percentages identifying as Black/African American (8%) and Asian (8%). 99% of respondents indicated non-Hispanic ethnicity.
  - **Income and Education:** The majority of respondents reported high education levels, with 51% holding graduate degrees and 36% holding bachelor’s degrees. In terms of income, the largest segment (29%) earned between \$100,000 and \$149,000, followed by 27% earning \$200,000 or more and 12% earning between \$75,000 and \$99,000.

- **Employment Status:** 67% of participants were employed full-time. 13% indicated they were self-employed and 11% indicated they were retired.

## 6. Feedback on Past Engagement

- Many respondents noted that city staff presentations were clear and well-prepared.
- Participants noted several challenges based on past engagement events. Some perceived events as being superficial and lacking opportunities for meaningful input. Others noted inconvenient meeting times especially in context of typical daytime working hours. Some respondents desired more transparency and follow-up to understand how their input would influence decision-making.

## Key Takeaways and Recommendations

- **Enhance Accessibility and Awareness**

**Barrier Addressed:** Limited awareness and insufficient notice of events.

**Responses:** 103 respondents (69%) cited lack of awareness as a primary barrier to participation.

**Recommendation:** Expand promotional strategies, such as social media outreach and neighborhood-driven communications, to ensure residents are well-informed ahead of time.

- **Flexible and Inclusive Event Scheduling**

**Barrier Addressed:** Inconvenient event times for working residents.

**Responses:** 41 respondents (27%) indicated they were too busy to participate in engagement activities, while 35 participants (23%) noted inconvenient times were a key barrier.

**Recommendation:** Host events at varied times, including evenings and weekends, and provide amenities like free parking and refreshments to accommodate a broader demographic.

- **Increase Perceived Impact of Public Participation**

**Barrier Addressed:** Skepticism about the influence of public input on city decisions.

**Responses:** 58 respondents (23%) felt that their input would not be valued in city decisions.

**Recommendation:** Improve feedback loops by visibly incorporating public input into decision-making processes, enhancing public trust and engagement.

- **Refine Survey Design for Genuine Feedback**

**Barrier Addressed:** Perception of survey questions as leading or restrictive.

**Responses:** Multiple comments indicated dissatisfaction with survey design, suggesting questions felt leading and limited in response options.

**Recommendation:** Include more open-ended questions and neutral language in surveys to better capture authentic resident perspectives.

- **Revitalize Community Advisory Councils (CACs)**

**Barrier Addressed:** Lack of neighborhood-level platforms for localized input.

**Responses:** Numerous comments advocated for the return of CACs to facilitate community-specific engagement.

**Recommendation:** Re-establish CACs to strengthen community ties and facilitate resident engagement at the neighborhood level. Alternatively, provide other venues for grassroots level input.

## Survey 4: Reflecting Raleigh Stormwater Survey

Survey link: <https://engage.raleighnc.gov/w40180?lang=en>

### Survey Report:

#### Participants and Responses

The City of Raleigh’s stormwater survey received **1,656 responses** and 40 comments from **54 participants** who provided their perspectives on stormwater challenges and opportunities within the city.

#### *Key Findings*

##### *1. Participant Demographics*

Of the 54 participants, approximately 56% responded to demographic questions.

- **Gender Distribution:** 57% female, 43% male.
- **Racial Identity:** 83% White, 10% Asian, 7% Black/African American, 3% Latino/a/e/x. 93% identified as non-Hispanic, while 7% identified as Hispanic.
- **Age Range:** The largest segment (42%) fell within the 25-34 age range.
  - 19% were 35-44 years old.
  - 16% were 55-64 years old.
  - 16% were over 65.
- **Education Levels:**
  - 65% have a Graduate or Professional degree.
  - 35% have a Bachelor’s degree.
- **Employment Status:**
  - 71% were employed full-time.
  - 19% were retired.
  - Remaining participants were split among those were employed part-time; students; stay-at-home partner/caregiver; or unemployed.

##### *2. Community Interests and Concerns*

Participants shared their interest areas and top concerns related to stormwater management:



- **Interest in the Comprehensive Plan:**
  - 80% identified as Raleigh residents.
  - 38% work in Raleigh.
  - 32% were environmental advocates.
  - 12% were stormwater professionals.
  - 12% were local or state government employees.
  - 4% were land developers or land development designers.
  
- **Top Stormwater Concerns (Ranked):**
  - Pollution in streams, creeks, and rivers.
  - Neighborhood and street flooding from smaller streams and pipes.
  - Stream erosion.
  - Aging infrastructure, including outdated pipes and culverts.
  - Erosion caused by construction activities.
  - Flooding in floodplains, caused by major creeks and rivers.

### ***3. Policy and Program Priorities***

Participants highlighted their preferences for addressing stormwater challenges through policies and programs:

- **Top Policy Priorities:**
  - Encouraging the adoption of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in city projects.
  - Further restricting development in floodplains to mitigate flooding risks.
  - Analyzing and improving the capacity of pipes and swales in older neighborhoods.
  
- **Investment Preferences:**
  - Repairing and replacing aging infrastructure:
    - ♣ 59% advocated for "a lot more" investment.
    - ♣ 32% suggested "a little more" investment.
  - Building Green Stormwater Infrastructure:
    - ♣ 57% supported significant investment.
    - ♣ 35% advocated for moderate increases in investment.
  - Assisting homeowners with:
    - ♣ Stream erosion: 32% supported "a lot more" investment, with another 32% advocating for "a little more."
    - ♣ Pipe repair: 28% supported "a little more" investment, while 25% recommended "a lot more."

#### ***4. Community Engagement and Education***

Participants expressed a need for accessible education and outreach initiatives:

- **Preferred Learning Formats:**
  - 58% preferred email newsletters.
  - 47% found web pages to be effective.
  - 45% supported project pop-up meetings to be held in their neighborhoods.
  - 42% recommended public meetings with staff training.
  
- **Pollution Prevention Commitments:**
  - 89% pledged to keep lawn waste, such as grass clippings, out of storm drains.
  - 87% committed to throwing grease away instead of pouring it down drains.
  - 68% agreed to wash cars in areas that minimize pollution runoff.

#### ***5. Event Participation***

- 55% of respondents did not attend any stormwater-related community events.
- 34% attended one or both events in person.
- 11% participated online.

#### ***Key Recommendations***

##### ***1. Enforcing Accountability***

Participants emphasized the importance of holding developers accountable for stormwater impacts caused by their projects. Strict enforcement of existing regulations was a recurring theme in the feedback.

##### ***2. Advancing Green Infrastructure***

Innovative solutions, such as green roofs and utility-scale stormwater treatment facilities, were identified as high-priority initiatives. These approaches not only mitigate stormwater issues but also contribute to sustainability goals.

##### ***3. Reducing Infrastructure Delays***

Community members expressed frustration with long timelines for infrastructure improvements. Suggestions included interim solutions to address urgent concerns while planning long-term strategies.

#### ***4. Expanding Public Education***

Participants supported enhanced public engagement initiatives, such as workshops and newsletters, to raise awareness about individual actions to prevent water pollution and reduce stormwater risks.

#### ***Conclusion***

The findings from the stormwater survey underscore the community's deep concern about water quality, infrastructure resilience, and the environmental impacts of urban development. By addressing the identified priorities through targeted investments, innovative policies, and community engagement, Raleigh can develop a stormwater management strategy that reflects the needs and aspirations of its residents. These insights provide a roadmap for planners to align city initiatives with public expectations, ensuring sustainable and equitable outcomes for all.

## Appendix C – Stormwater World Café Summary

This report consolidates key discussions, themes, and action points from all the tables at the Stormwater World Café event. Participants expressed deep concerns about stormwater management's equity, effectiveness, and sustainability, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches, community engagement, and strong policy advocacy.

### *World Cafe Discussion Questions*

#### Round 1

- As Raleigh grows, how much of that growth should be focused in areas of the city that are already developed and how much should be closer to the edge of city limits? How does this related to any concerns you have about stormwater?

#### Round 2

- Wayne and Reverend Taylor spoke about existing stormwater programs. Would you like to see Raleigh provide a higher level of service for stormwater management, along with an increased stormwater fee to cover the cost?

#### Round 3

- Have you heard of stormwater management strategies in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What partnerships should Raleigh pursue to improve stormwater management or expand existing programs?

### **Key Themes Across All Tables**

#### **1. Equity and Transparency**

- a. Fee structures must reflect payer impact on stormwater issues.
- b. Low-income households and underserved communities are disproportionately affected by current fees and policies (Tables 2, 9, 10, 12).
- c. Transparency is critical to build trust in stormwater fee usage (Tables 1, 6, 12).

#### **2. Community Engagement and Education**

- a. Inclusive outreach methods beyond email and digital channels are essential for reaching underserved communities (Tables 2, 6, 7, 8).
- b. Education campaigns to explain stormwater program benefits and community participation opportunities are needed (Tables 3, 4, 12).

#### **3. Climate Resilience and Green Infrastructure**

- a. Prioritize green solutions such as rain gardens, permeable pavements, and native plants to enhance climate resilience (Tables 3, 7, 8, 10, 11).

- b. Implement long-term planning for climate adaptation and flood management (Tables 6, 7).

#### 4. Infrastructure Maintenance and Development

- a. Address aging infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas like Southeast Raleigh (Tables 5, 11, 12).
- b. Encourage redevelopment of existing urban areas over urban sprawl (Tables 1, 9).

#### 5. Innovative Solutions and Partnerships

- a. Leverage partnerships with nonprofits, schools, and private entities for innovative projects (Tables 8, 12).
- b. Explore public-private partnerships (P3s) to finance and implement stormwater initiatives (Table 12).

### **Detailed Insights and Recommendations**

#### ***Table 1: Urbanization and Fee Transparency***

- **Key Points:**
  - Vertical urbanization is preferred over sprawl to reduce impervious surfaces.
  - Transparent communication about fee usage can enhance public trust.
- **Recommendation:**
  - **Educate developers** about sustainable practices and incentivize green infrastructure adoption (Table 1).

#### ***Table 2: Equity in Participation***

- **Key Points:**
  - Developers have an advantage in navigating regulations compared to grassroots efforts.
  - Many residents are unaware of how stormwater fees impact their communities.
- **Recommendation:**
  - **Publish accessible water quality data** to inform residents about program benefits (Table 2).

#### ***Table 3: Fee Equity and Green Solutions***

- **Key Points:**

- Adjust fee structures to reduce residential burdens while increasing commercial contributions.
- Reclaim underutilized spaces for conservation projects like wildlife habitats.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Implement **grants for native planting and rain gardens** to support community participation (Table 3).

***Table 4: Awareness and Incentives***

- **Key Points:**
  - Strong public interest in preserving natural areas to prevent erosion.
  - Public hesitance toward fee increases stems from unclear benefits.
- **Recommendation:**
  - **Expand educational campaigns** to explain personal benefits of stormwater programs (Table 4).

***Table 5: Citizen Volunteering***

- **Key Points:**
  - Older neighborhoods face critical infrastructure issues.
  - Citizens are willing to volunteer for projects like streambank repair and native planting.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Develop **volunteer programs** integrated with city stormwater projects, such as "Keep Raleigh Clean" (Table 5).

***Table 6: Localized Outreach***

- **Key Points:**
  - Hyperlocal outreach is vital for underrepresented communities like Southeast Raleigh.
  - Transparency in fee structures can improve trust.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Revitalize **citizen advisory councils (CACs)** to connect residents with decision-makers (Table 6).

***Table 7: Climate Adaptation***

- **Key Points:**
  - Emphasized climate change's role in exacerbating stormwater issues.
  - Development should consider long-term impacts and avoid one-size-fits-all solutions.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Use **future rainfall models** to predict flooding impacts and plan new developments (Table 7).

***Table 8: Partnerships and Accessibility***

- **Key Points:**
  - Collaboration with nonprofits and schools can enhance public participation.
  - Improve accessibility to stormwater program maps and resources.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Build **community partnerships** to develop educational tools and implement conservation projects (Table 8).

***Table 9: Efficient Development***

- **Key Points:**
  - Efficient use of land within city limits is critical.
  - Leverage Raleigh's membership in the Network of Biophilic Cities for resource sharing.
- **Recommendation:**
  - **Collaborate with other cities** to adopt best practices in sustainable development (Table 9).

***Table 10: Native Vegetation***

- **Key Points:**
  - Low-income households are disproportionately affected by fees.
  - Native vegetation plays a significant role in stormwater absorption.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Launch **community-wide planting initiatives** to promote native species (Table 10).

**Table 11: Greenway Development**

- **Key Points:**
  - Older neighborhoods need infrastructure upgrades to meet modern standards.
  - Greenways offer opportunities for stormwater retention and recreation.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Expand Raleigh’s greenways with integrated stormwater retention features (Table 11).

**Table 12: Innovation and Community Solutions**

- **Key Points:**
  - Innovative solutions like off-grid tiny homes can address homelessness and stormwater challenges.
  - Public-private partnerships (P3s) can fund large-scale projects.
- **Recommendation:**
  - Pilot **tiny home projects** with stormwater capture systems and community management (Table 12).

**Consolidated Recommendations with References**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Tables</b>
Revise fee structures to ensure equity between sectors.	Tables 2, 3, 10
Expand educational campaigns to build public trust.	Tables 1, 2, 4, 12
Promote native vegetation and green infrastructure solutions.	Tables 3, 7, 8, 10
Prioritize infrastructure upgrades in underserved areas.	Tables 5, 11
Leverage public-private partnerships for large-scale projects.	Table 12
Develop volunteer programs for streambank repair and planting.	Table 5
Use advanced modeling to plan for future climate impacts.	Table 7
Create partnerships with schools and nonprofits.	Tables 6, 8
Launch community-led initiatives to reclaim underutilized spaces.	Tables 3, 9



## Appendix D – Comment Cards

Below is a summary of comments received from the “Raleigh is...” comment cards. Cards were provided at various events during Phase 1A of engagement. Feedback was received in-person.

### 1. Housing and Cost of Living

This emerged as a significant theme, with multiple responses expressing concerns about Raleigh's affordability and cost of living. Some key points:

- Several respondents described Raleigh as "unaffordable", "very high for everything", and needing "more affordable housing" and options that are "affordable for the working class."
- There were concerns about high taxes, high gas/food prices, and overall high costs of living in the city.
- Some responses suggested a need for "more apartment and tiny houses" to increase housing options and affordability.
- A few respondents noted that Raleigh is becoming less affordable and "unaffordable but beautiful and expanding."

### 2. Transportation and Infrastructure

Improving transportation and infrastructure was a major focus area in the responses. Key themes included:

- Requests for a "metro system" or other improved public transit options to better connect the city.
- Desire for more sidewalks, bike paths, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure to reduce car dependency.
- Calls for "better roads" and fixing "potholes" to improve the road network.
- Suggestions for "bridges above the streets" and other innovative transportation solutions.
- Concerns about "overcrowded" streets and the need for better parking options.

### 3. Parks, Greenery, and Community Spaces

Many respondents highlighted Raleigh's natural assets and green spaces, but also identified room for improvement:

- Raleigh was frequently described as the "greenest city" with "pretty plants and shrubbery" and a "city of oaks."
- However, there were also requests for "more parks", "community centers", and specific amenities like "dog parks" and "adult playgrounds."
- A few responses noted a need for "more trees" and better maintenance of "sidewalks" and other public spaces.

#### **4. Public Safety and Homelessness**

Ensuring public safety and addressing homelessness emerged as important themes:

- Several responses expressed a desire for Raleigh to be "safer" and have "less crime."
- Multiple respondents called for more resources and support for the homeless population, including "homeless programs" and "24-hour community centers."
- Some suggestions focused on reducing the visible presence of homeless individuals "on the streets."

#### **5. Growth, Development, and Change**

The cards reflected Raleigh's rapid growth and evolution, with both positive and negative sentiments:

- Many responses acknowledged Raleigh as a "city going through a lot of change and growth" that is "expanding" and "growing too fast."
- Some saw this growth as positive, describing Raleigh as a "city of opportunity" and a place that is "becoming affordable."
- However, others expressed concerns about the pace of development, with comments about the city being "overcrowded" and losing its small-town feel.
- There were calls for more "sustainable and equitable" growth, as well as suggestions to "fix urban sprawl."

#### **6. Family, Community, and Quality of Life**

Raleigh's appeal as a place to live, raise a family, and be part of a community was another key theme:

- Multiple responses framed Raleigh as a "wonderful place to raise a family" and a "great city to call home."
- Positive descriptions included "amazing," "beautiful," "fun," and "my home."
- However, some respondents noted a need to maintain Raleigh's sense of community and make it feel more "welcoming" and "family oriented."
- A few responses expressed concerns about Raleigh losing its appeal and becoming "normal and small."

In summary, responses revealed a multifaceted portrait of Raleigh, with residents highlighting both the city's strengths and identifying areas in need of improvement. The key themes center around housing affordability, transportation infrastructure, parks and community spaces, public safety and homelessness, managing growth and development, and preserving Raleigh's appeal as a place to live and raise a family. This feedback provides valuable insights into the priorities and concerns of Raleigh's residents.