



Appendix B: Input Survey Results

Introduction

As part of the public participation process, a Public Input Survey and Student Input Survey were created to gather community and student input. The public survey was available, starting May 4th until June 5th. Households in the 46504 Bourbon Zip Code were notified via mail that the survey was online, and those who were unable to access the internet could fill out the survey at the Bourbon Public Library or Town Hall. A total of 139 respondents took the Public Input Survey to provide comments on how they view and define Bourbon as well as identifying future land uses.

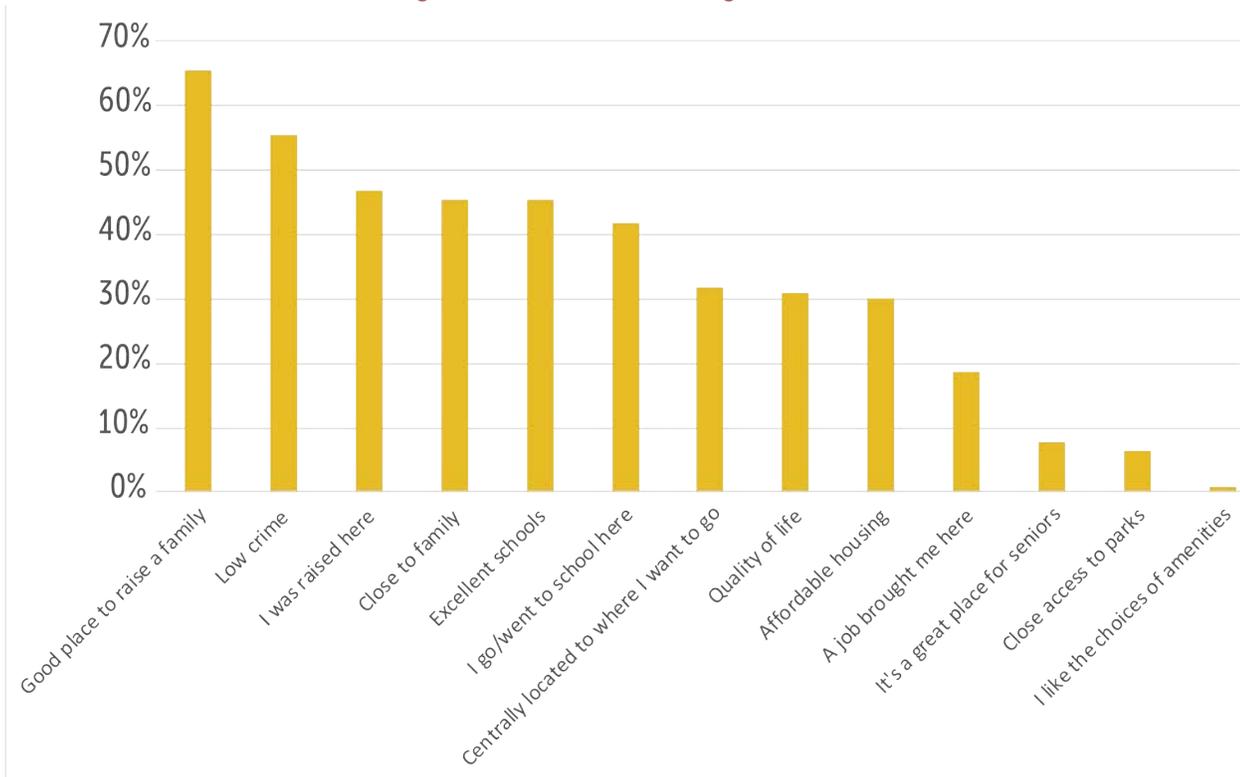
The Steering Committee wanted to engage young people in the planning process and garner their thoughts on their values, likes, and dislikes about living in Bourbon. A Total of 292 students responded to the Student Input Survey and provided valuable input on the qualities they thought would make Bourbon a more attractive place to live.

Public Input Survey

Defining Bourbon

Respondents were asked several questions that addressed why they live in Bourbon, how well the Town of Bourbon provides various services, important issues facing the Town, and their views on a series of statements about their community. In general, the majority of respondents stated they live in Bourbon because it is a good place to raise a family (65%). Other top reasons to live in Bourbon include low crime (55%), being raised there (47%), and proximity to family (45%). One of the lower responses, and something Bourbon is attempting to change, is that only 19% of respondents said they came to Bourbon for a job, see **Figure B.1**.

Figure B.1: Reasons for Living in the Town of Bourbon



Respondents believe the community provides a high level of service for schools and quality of life amenities, but respondents would like to see an increase in commercial and retail services and improved economic stability, as shown in **Figure B.2**. A common trend throughout the surveys was the desire for residents to have a wider variety of choices when it comes to stores, restaurants, and jobs.

Figure B.2: Level of Service Provided by the Town of Bourbon

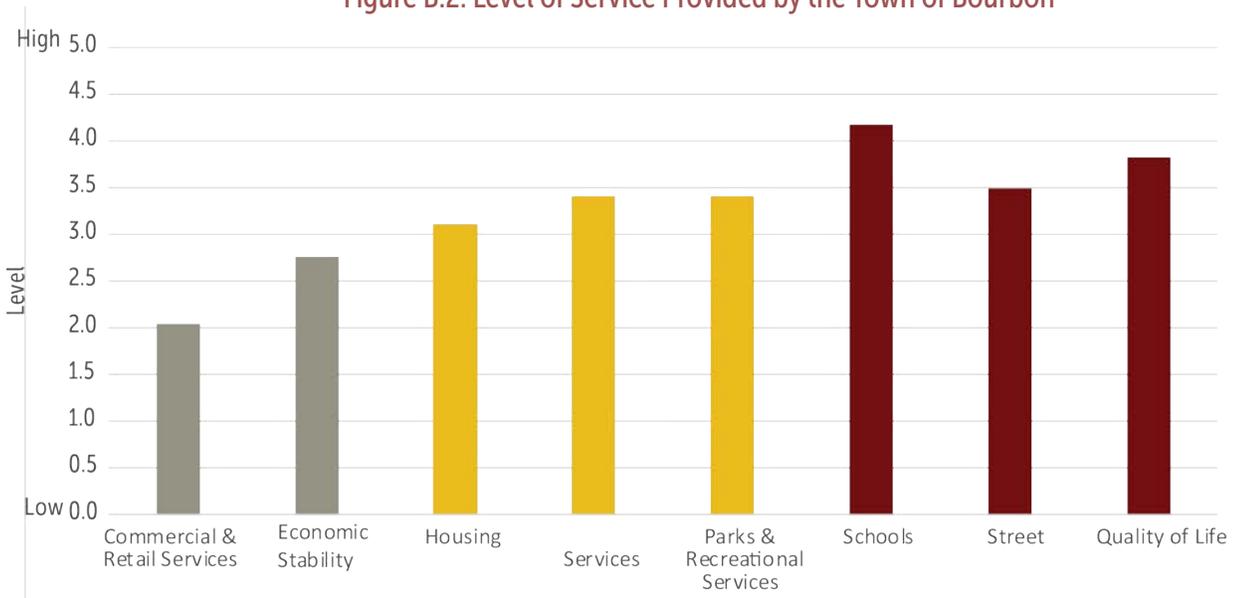


Table B.1, summarizes respondents views on a variety of statements about the Town. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement on a scale from 1 to 5; 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree.

On average, most agree that there is a shortage of quality retail business and dining, but would support local businesses with their shopping dollars if more services were offered. Most also agreed that Bourbon had a great school system. Many respondents disagreed that the Town had an abundance of amenities including art and entertainment venues, good employment options, recreational opportunities, health care choices, and housing options.

Table B.1: Level of Agreement on Statements about Bourbon

Statements	AVERAGE LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	
Bourbon has an abundant supply of art and entertainment venues.	1.7	STRONGLY DISAGREE (1)
There are good employment options in Bourbon.	2.0	DISAGREE (2)
Bourbon has an abundant supply of leisure and recreational options.	2.2	
Most of my healthcare needs are offered in Bourbon.	2.2	
Bourbon should be a quiet retirement community.	2.4	
Bourbon has an abundant supply of housing options.	2.6	
Bourbon has a clear vision and organized plan for the future.	2.7	
Bourbon has an abundant supply of well-maintained sidewalks.	2.8	
Bourbon spends enough resources on infrastructure.	3.0	
Bourbon has become a better place to live over the past 10 years.	3.0	
Bourbon should be a thriving commercial center.	3.0	
I have access to quality healthcare services.	3.1	
Bourbon is headed in the right direction.	3.1	
Bourbon is capable to handle modest growth.	3.3	
There is good community support.	3.6	
Population growth is important to the community.	3.7	
Bourbon' rural character should be preserved.	3.8	
Bourbon needs more walking and biking trails.	4.0	AGREE (4)
Protecting agriculture and natural resources is important.	4.0	
Bourbon has an abundant supply of religious institutions.	4.1	
The Bourbon Community School Corporation is a great school system.	4.1	
Bourbon has a shortage of quality dining.	4.2	
Bourbon has a shortage of quality retail business.	4.3	
I would support new, locally-owned retail business with my shopping dollars.	4.3	

Figure B.3: Most Important Issues Facing Bourbon

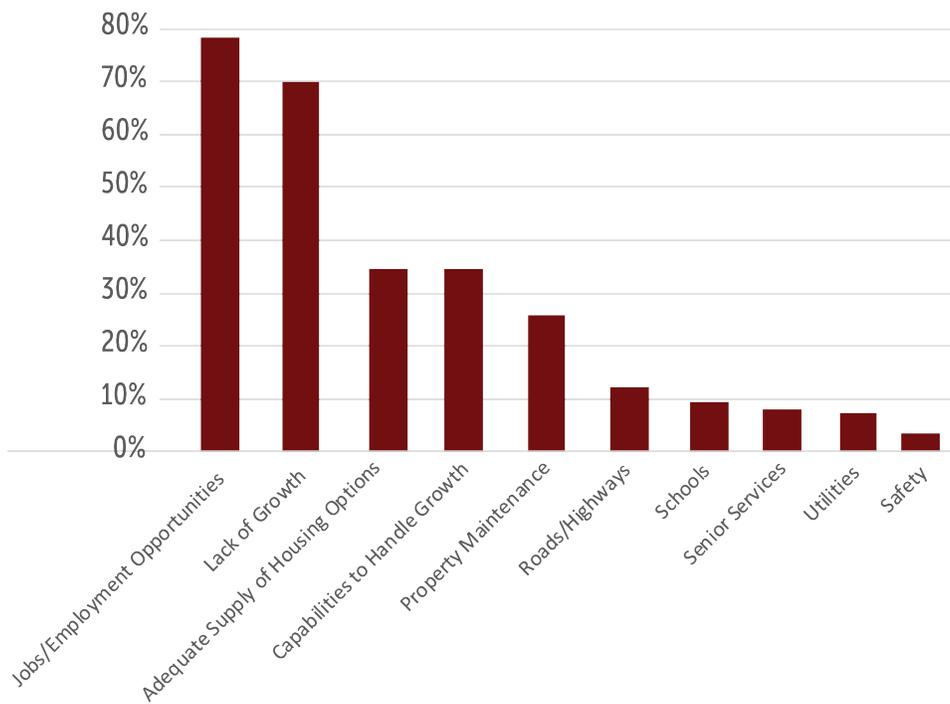


Figure B.3, shown above, visualizes similar findings. An overwhelming majority of respondents believe the top two issues or problems facing Bourbon are: job/employment opportunities (78%), lack of growth (70%). About a third of respondents (35%) agreed that adequate supply of housing options and capabilities to handle growth were also one of the top three issues facing Bourbon.

Business & Development

Business and development are important for a community’s growth and success. As seen in previous sections of the survey, many respondents expressed concern for the lack of commercial establishments and industries. The following tables and figures provide more insight on the respondent’s desires in the Town of Bourbon, as well as where appropriate locations for future growth should occur.

The most desired commercial establishments were identified as a locally-owned retail business, sit-down dining, and grocery stores. The least desired commercial developments were household services such as laundry mats and large-box retail stores such as Wal-Mart or Lowes (see **Table B.2**)

Table B.2: Level of Desire for Commercial Establishments

COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS	AVERAGE LEVEL OF DESIRE
Locally-owned Retail Businesses	4.3
Sit-down Dining	4.2
Grocery Stores	4.2
Pharmacy	3.8
Fast Food Dining	3.4
Professional Office Space	3.1
Household Services (Laundry)	2.7
Large-box Retail Stores (Wal-Mart, Lowes, etc.)	2.2

1	2	3	4	5
LEAST DESIRED			MOST DESIRED	

Overall, the respondents did not express a strong average level of desire for any particular industry sector. Education, Manufacturing, Technology and Healthcare were identified as the most desired industries they would like to recruit to Bourbon. Lowest desire industries include agriculture, travel/tourism, and the automotive industry. (See **Table B.3**)

Table B.3: Level of Desire for Industry Sectors

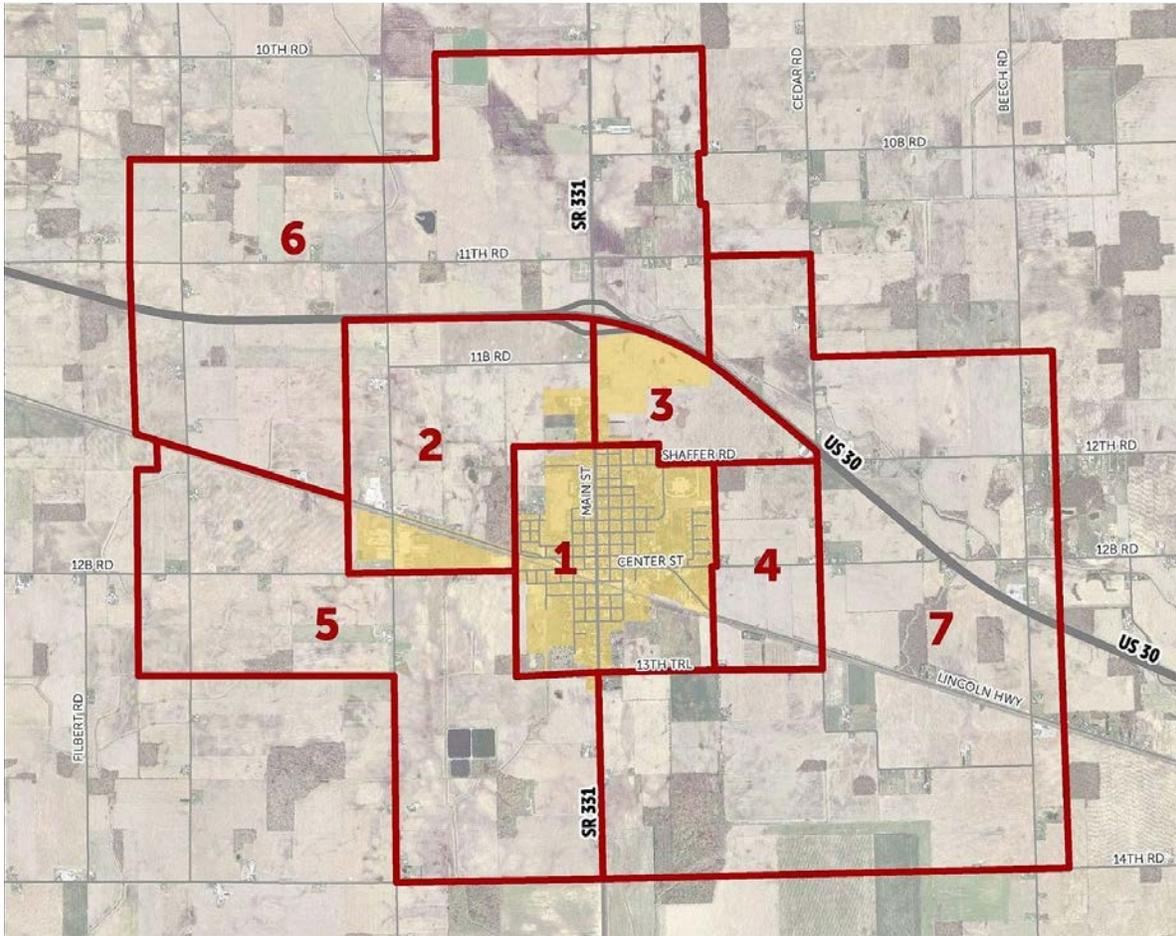
INDUSTRY	AVERAGE LEVEL OF DESIRE
Education	3.8
Manufacturing	3.8
Technology	3.8
Healthcare	3.7
Light Industry	3.6
Professional Facilities	3.5
Metal Fabrication	3.5
Distribution Warehousing	3.3
Food Processing	3.2
Agriculture/Farming/ Equipment Sales	3.1
Travel/Tourism	3.0
Automotive Industry	3.0



Figure B.4 (map and chart) to the right indicates how respondents envision where land use types such as businesses, single-family homes, multi-family homes, and agricultural land preservation should locate. The map was divided into 7 sections for respondents to decide where the desired use should locate.

The majority of responses indicated that business development should take place within the town limits and north of town in Section 1 (54%), Section 2 (54%) and Section 3 (50%). Responses indicated that single-family homes should locate in the east and north east of the town center in Section 3 (53%) and Section 4 (52%), followed closely by Section 2 (47%) northwest of the town center. Section 4 was identified by the most respondents as a good place for multi-family residential home construction to take place (48%). Lastly, respondents believe agricultural preservation should take place in Sections 6 and 7 (81%).

Figure B.4: Location for Future Land Uses



	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7
Future Business Development	54%	54%	50%	30%	33%	29%	27%
Single-Family Residential Home Construction	36%	47%	53%	52%	29%	19%	19%
Multi-Family Residential Home Construction	29%	36%	39%	48%	28%	17%	18%
Agricultural Land Preservation	5%	16%	13%	12%	63%	81%	81%

About Respondents

The last set of questions had participants use the map from Figure B.4 to answer general questions (**Figures B.5 through B.9**) about themselves to develop a community profile. Majority of respondents live in Section 1 (58%) which is most of the town limits. The remainder of respondents live in adjacent sections (31%), or areas outside the outlined sections (12%) (**Figure B.5**).

Figure B.5: Where Respondents Live

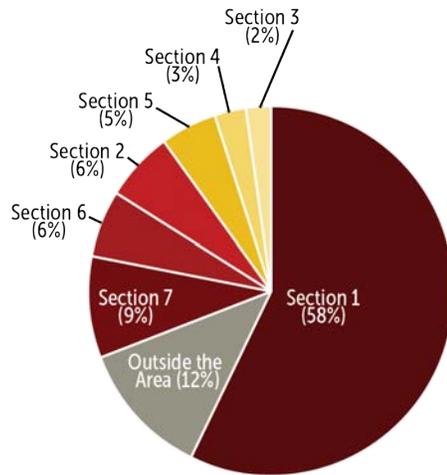
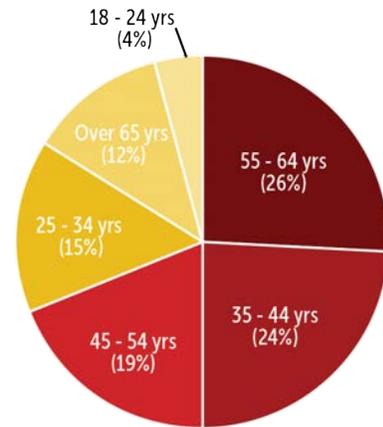


Figure B.6: Age of Respondents



Most respondents for the Bourbon public survey are over the age of 45 (57%) (**Figure B.6**) and has been a longtime resident of Bourbon, living in Town for over 15 years (71%). Only 7% have lived in Bourbon for less than 4 years (**Figure B.7**). Respondents are also more likely to own their home (91%) than to rent.

Figure B.7: Years Lived in Bourbon

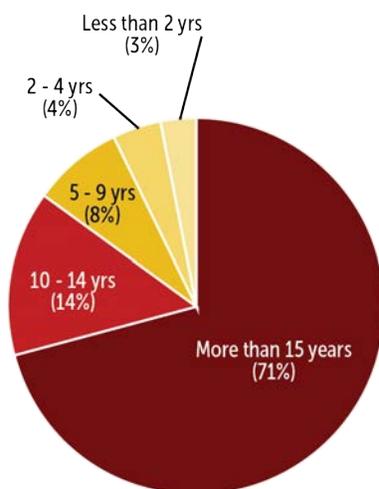
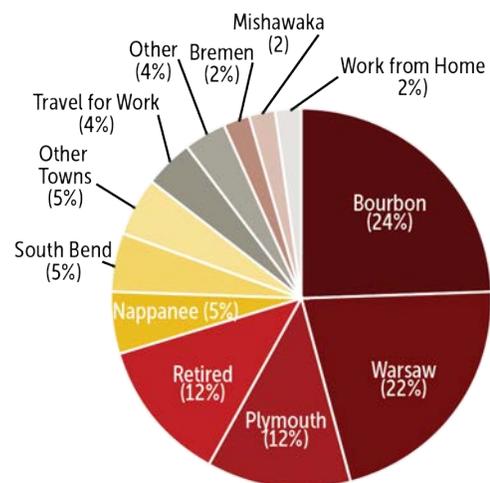


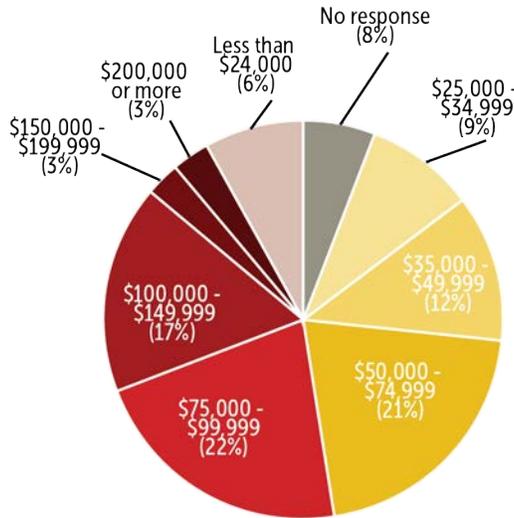
Figure B.8: Where Respondents Work



The average respondent commutes elsewhere for work, with only 1/4 of them having jobs in the city. 44% of respondents commute to Warsaw, Plymouth, Nappanee or South Bend for work (**Figure B.8**).

Lastly, **Figure B.9** depicts household income respondents reported. The majority have a household income of between \$50,000 and \$149,999 (60%).

Figure B.9: Household Income



Public Survey Summary

The public survey highlighted a trend for more local stores in Bourbon. These stores could be retail or restaurants, but respondents made it clear there is a lack of availability in town. The stores could also serve as a catalyst for growth and job opportunities in the area, two of the largest issues pointed out by the survey respondents. The respondents also support refilling the vacant buildings in town with grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores, as they lost these types of businesses over the years. They don't want to leave Bourbon to shop if they don't have to, and would rather spend money in their own town than others.

Something that many also pointed out was their need for more forms of entertainment in the town. There was an agreement on the survey that showed Bourbon doesn't provide many entertainment and leisure needs. Suggestions to improve this included new trails and improved sidewalks, more nightlife, and year round activities that could be enjoyed by everyone. Respondents want more businesses and activities to come to Bourbon, without giving up the small town lifestyle.

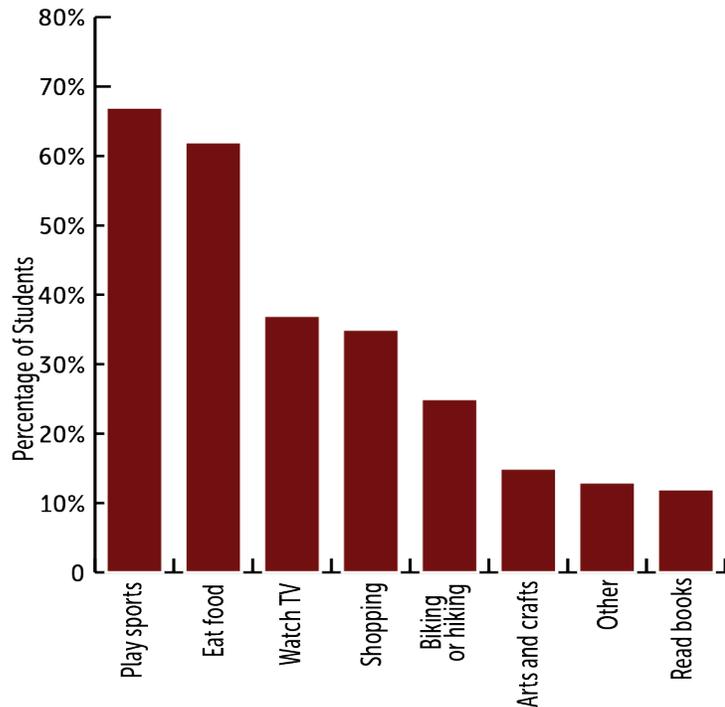
Student Input Survey

High school students at Triton School Corporation were asked to participate in a survey geared towards them, asking an assortment of question based on what students thought to be aspects of an ideal town, their interests and future plans, and how they felt about the Town of Bourbon.

When student were asked what makes a community an attractive place to live, the answers were a mix between what they would like to see in their own community to improve it, what they like about their community now, and aspects of their perfect community. Many highlighted that a sense of community with friendly and welcoming people was attractive. Students thought that park spaces, dining establishments, and quality stores were also characteristics of an attractive community.

Figure B.10 shows that the majority of students enjoy playing sports (67%) or eating food (62%) in there free time. This also is similar to what amenities they would like to see in a community.

Figure B.10: Free-time Activities

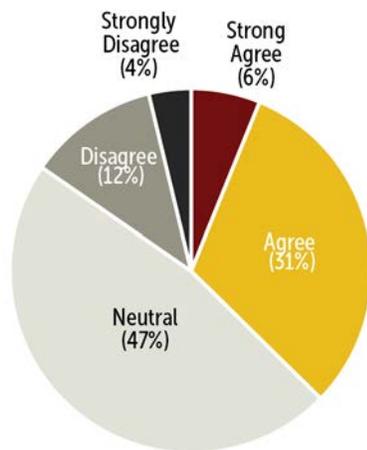


Similarly, students highlighted that they would stay in Bourbon after high school or college graduation if the Town offered more attractions, and entertainment and dining establishments. Many also mentioned that the ability to obtain a well paying job near Bourbon would be a deciding factor for if they stay in Bourbon.

Since this question was open ended, giving the chance for students to provide reason why they would or would not stay, a sentimental test was run on the answers to show if responses were negative or positive in nature. Overall, about 56% of responses were negative compared to 44% that would positive. This highlights the general trend that there needs to be more in town to draw students back to the area.

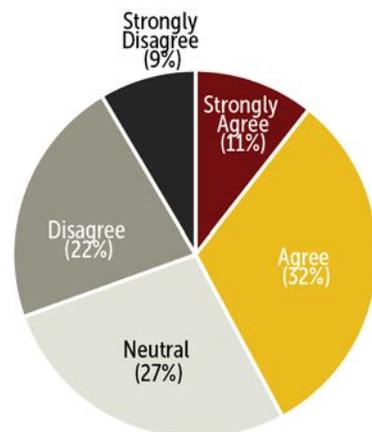
Figures B.11 through **B.14** provide a summary of students level of agreement on a variety of statements about Bourbon. When asked whether Bourbon provided them opportunities to give back and invest in the community, around 47% neither agree or disagreed. However, 37% agreed or strongly agreed that Bourbon does provide this opportunity (**Figure B.11**).

Figure B.11: Bourbon provides ample opportunities to give back and invest in the community



Over a third of students (43%) agreed or strongly agreed that Bourbon provided enough places to build relationships with neighbors. A majority (58%) however remained neutral or disagreed with that statement (**Figure B.12**).

Figure B.12: Bourbon has enough places to interact and build relationships with neighbors



A majority (64%) of students believed that Bourbon welcomes all kinds of people (**Figure B.13**). Similarly, 53% agreed that Bourbon is a charming place to live (**Figure B.14**). Less than 15% of students disagreed or strongly disagreed that Bourbon was welcoming and a charming community.

Figure B.13: Bourbon is welcoming to all kinds of people

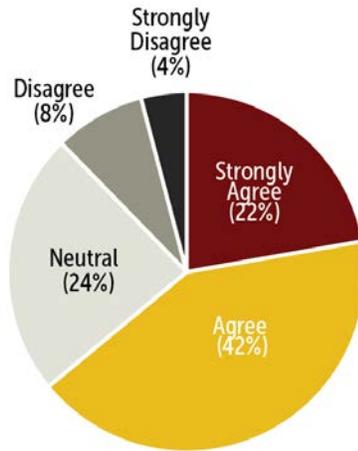
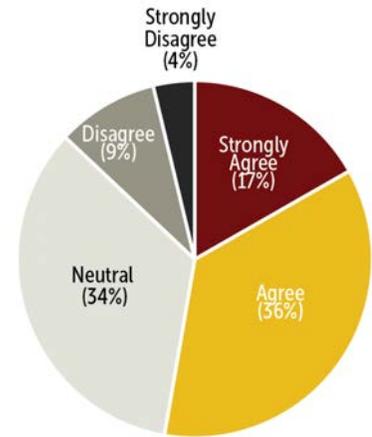


Figure B.14: Bourbon is a charming place to live



In **Figure B.15** and **Figures B.16**, shown to the right, students were asked to rank a list of ten factors that had to do with what was important to them when finding a place to live 10 years from now. While there were no clear trends, half of students identified low crime and a safe family-friendly community in the top 3, followed by proximity to family (41%), and affordable and diverse types of housing (35%), (**Figure B.15**).

The bottom 3 factors (**Figure B.16**) that ranked the least important by the highest percentage of students included entrepreneurial opportunities (50%), availability of good paying jobs (37%), and diversity in things to do (23%). While these factors ranked lowest cumulatively between a 1/4 to a 1/3 of students still ranked these factors in the top 3.

The majority of students (60%) saw themselves owning a home in 10 years, while 36% saw themselves living in an apartment or condo by themselves or with roommates (**Figure B.17**)

Figure B.17: Living situation in 10 years

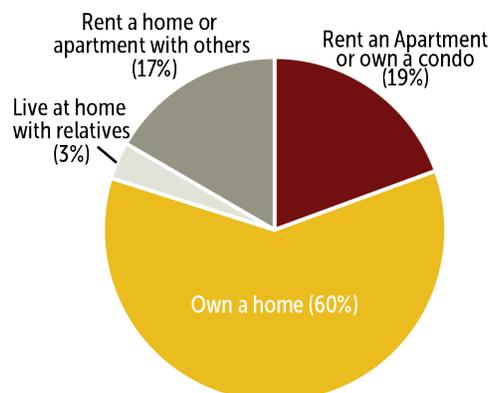


Figure B.15: Percentage of students ranking factors in the top 3

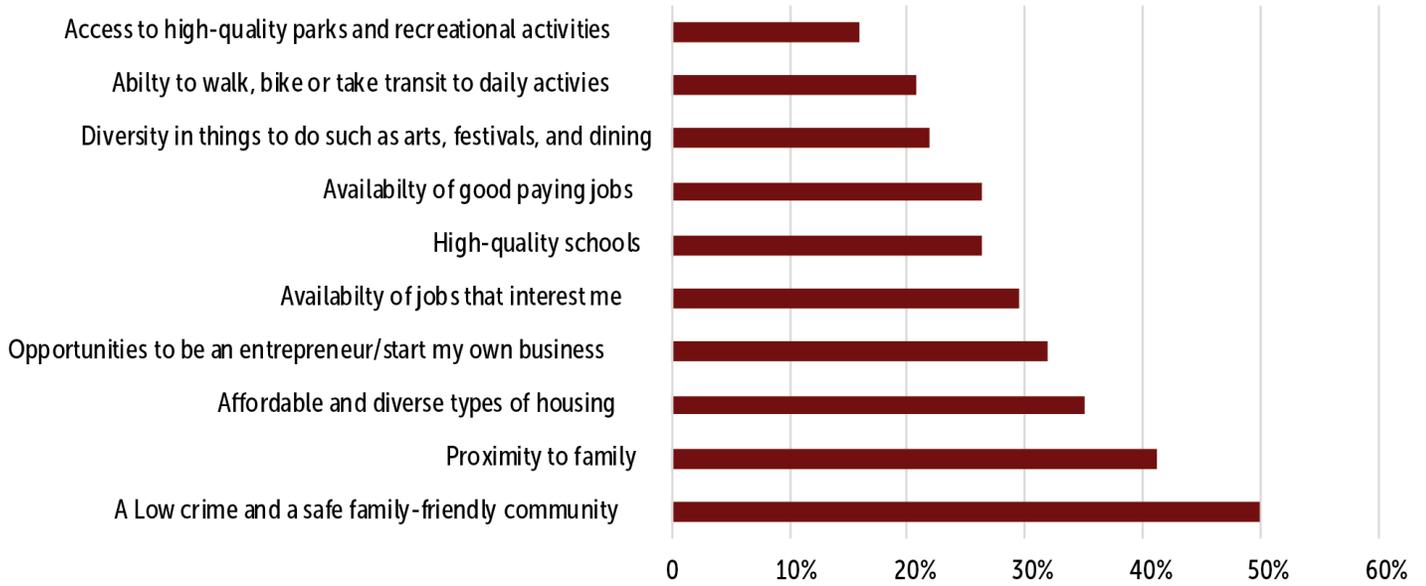


Figure B.16: Percentage of students ranking factors in the bottom 3

