

Town of Bloomfield POCD

Public Workshop



PLAN



BLOOMFIELD

Agenda

- What is a POCD? Why does it matter?
- Timeline and Process
- What we've heard so far
- Overview of Existing Conditions
- Breakout Sessions
- Next Steps

What is a POCD?

POCD Development



Demographic and
socioeconomic trends

Housing

Land use and
zoning

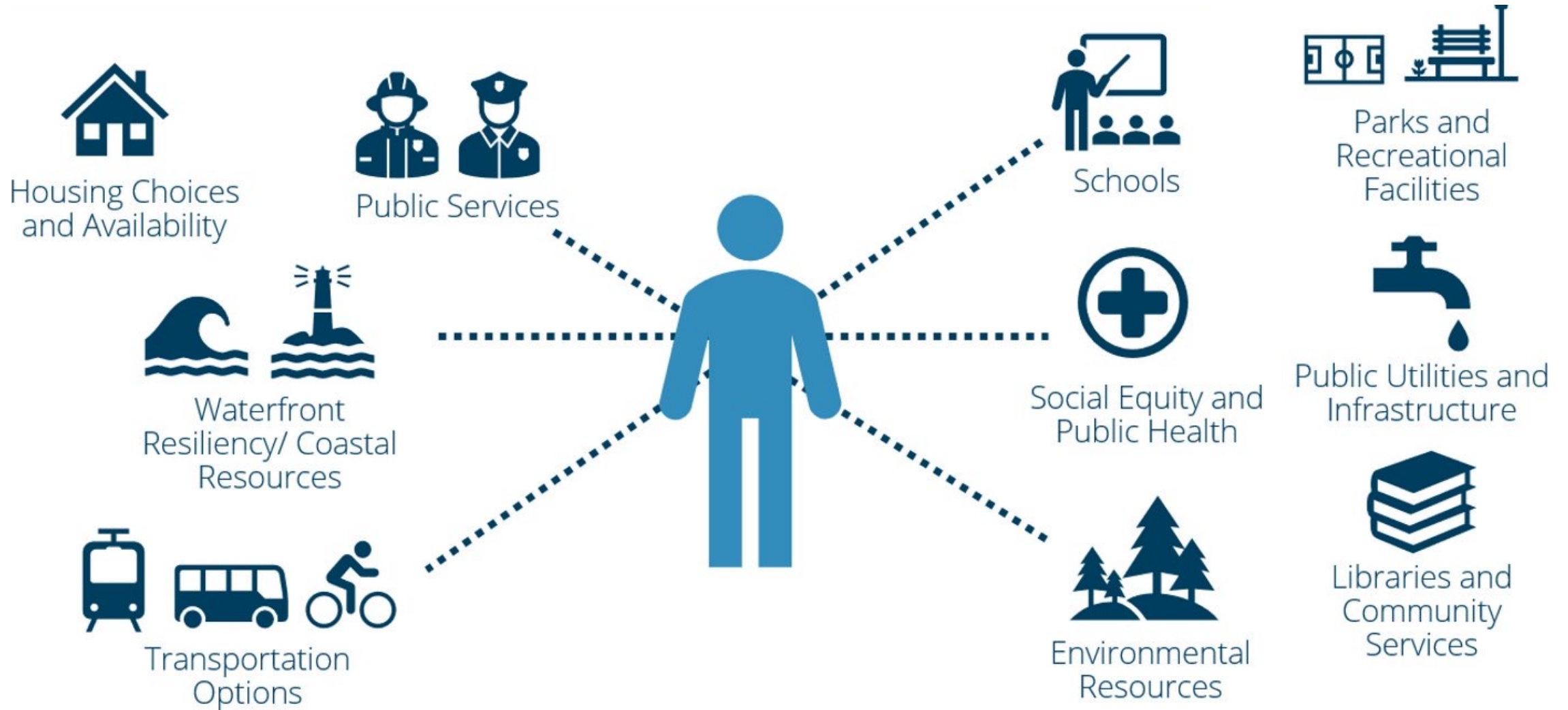
Conservation, Open Space
& Recreation

Economic Development

Cultural and Historic
Resources

Mobility, Facilities &
Infrastructure

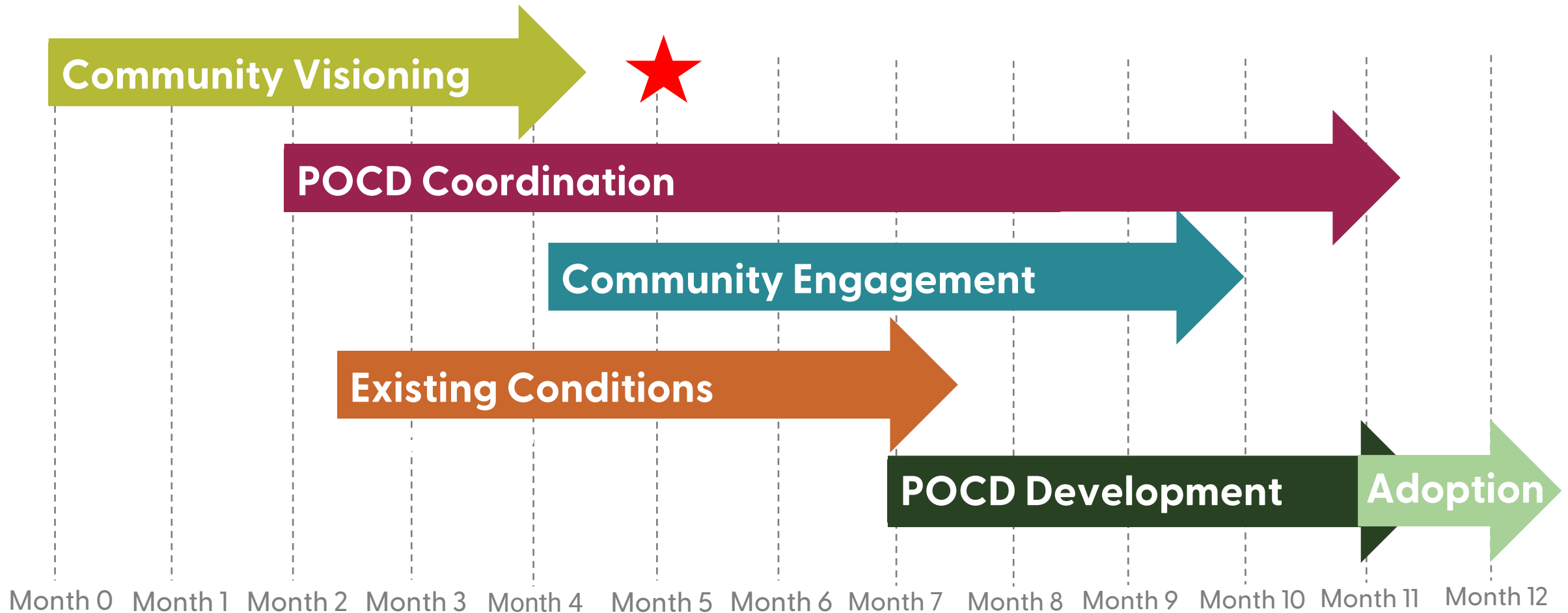
Why the POCD is Important



Timeline & Process

Visioning & POCD Schedule

12 months



What We've Heard so Far

Community Engagement

- In-person pop-up events
- Online Questionnaire
- Online Mapping Tool
- More to come!

Pop-up Events



FoodShare – March 7th



Family Workshop Series – March 9th



Library Pop-up – March 9th

95 people (15 kids; 80 adults)

Pop-up Events

Favorite Thing about Bloomfield

Convenience – Quiet place to live, quiet streets

Care for seniors

Diversity of residents

Traditions

Bloomfield basketball and track

Plazas

Strong and cohesive community

Library

Recreation opportunities

Opportunities to Improve

More economic development – more entertainment, retail & restaurants

Better transportation services - Additional bus service and stops, more frequent service

Improved road and sidewalk maintenance - more sidewalks & traffic cameras

More activities for seniors & families

More recreation destinations

Better schools

Improved local environment – litter clean up

Highlighting Town's diversity – more Afro-centric books in the library

Questionnaire Results

305 Responses

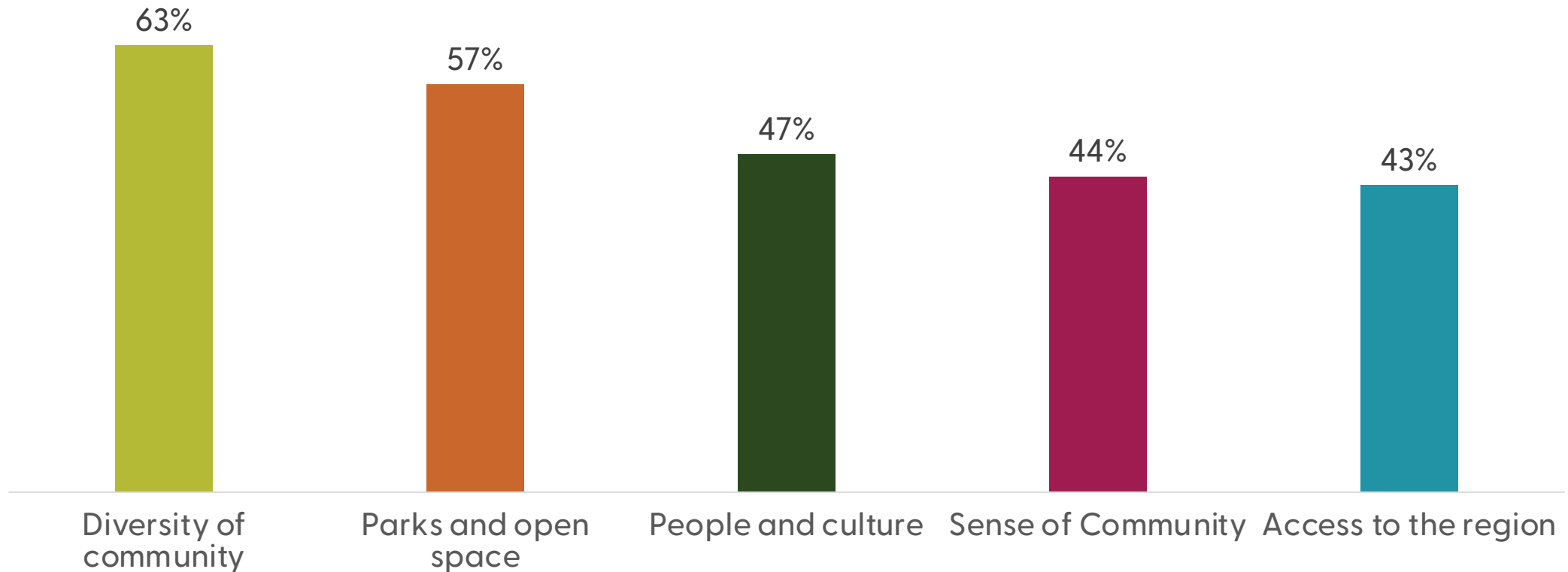
96% of respondents live in Bloomfield

51% of responses from people ages 60+

2% of responses from people under 30

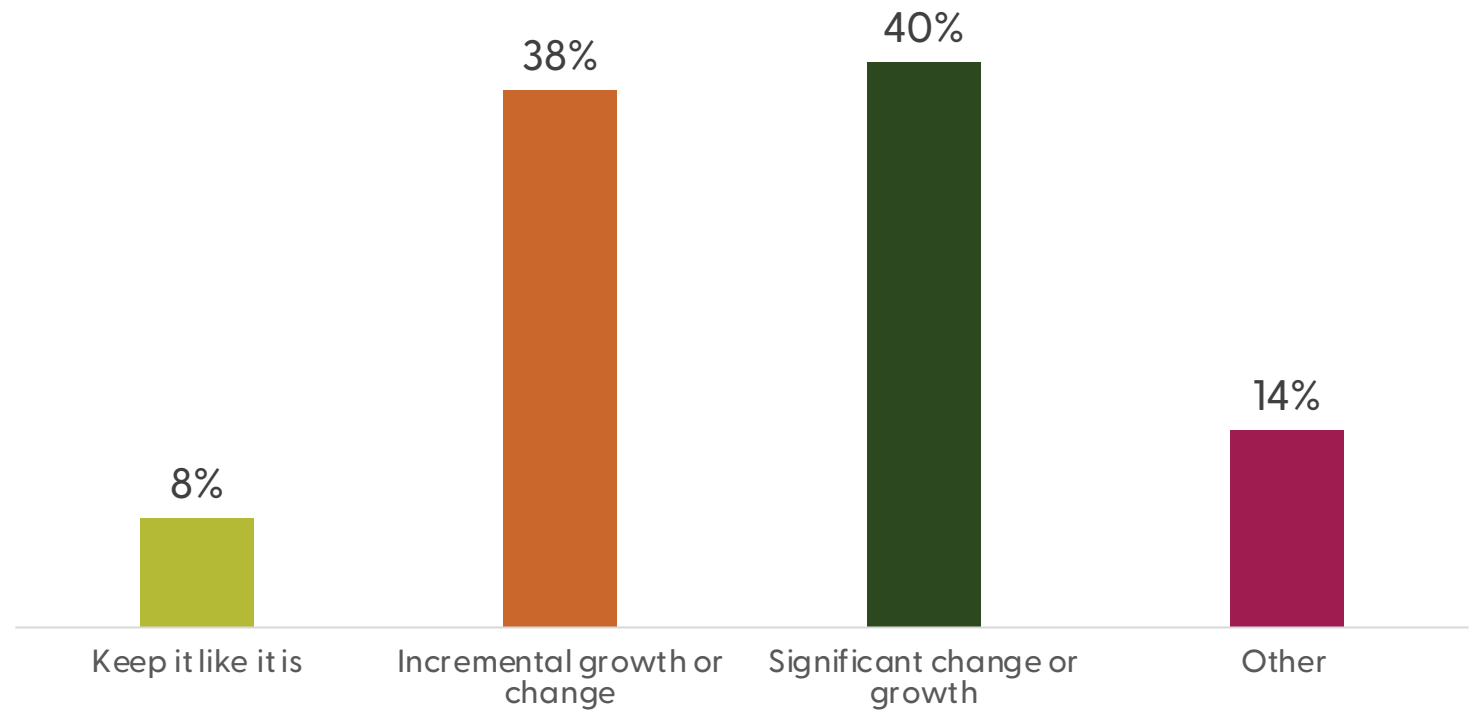
44% of respondents have lived in Bloomfield for 20+ years

What do you value most about Bloomfield



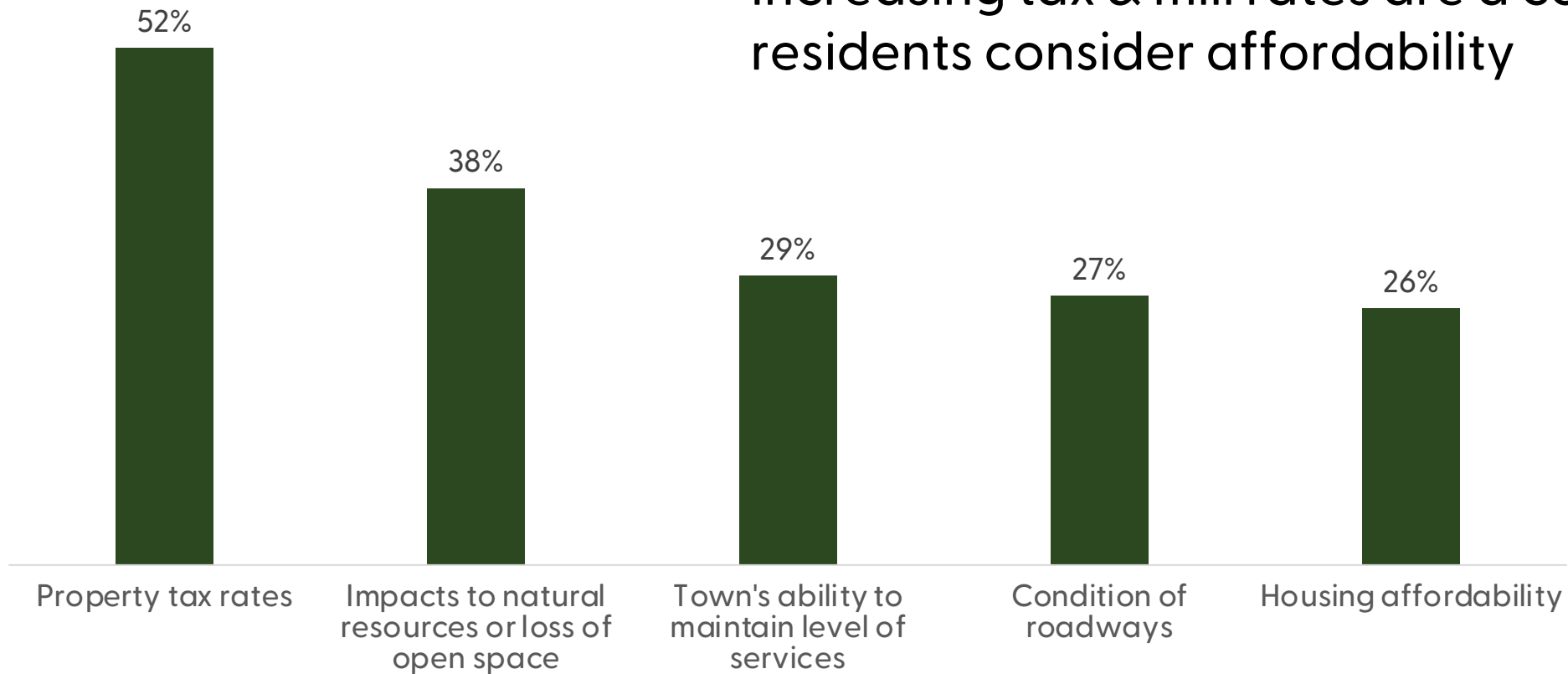
How would you like Bloomfield to Change & Grow

Most respondents would like to see Bloomfield change or grow, but have differing ideas on the rate or scale of growth

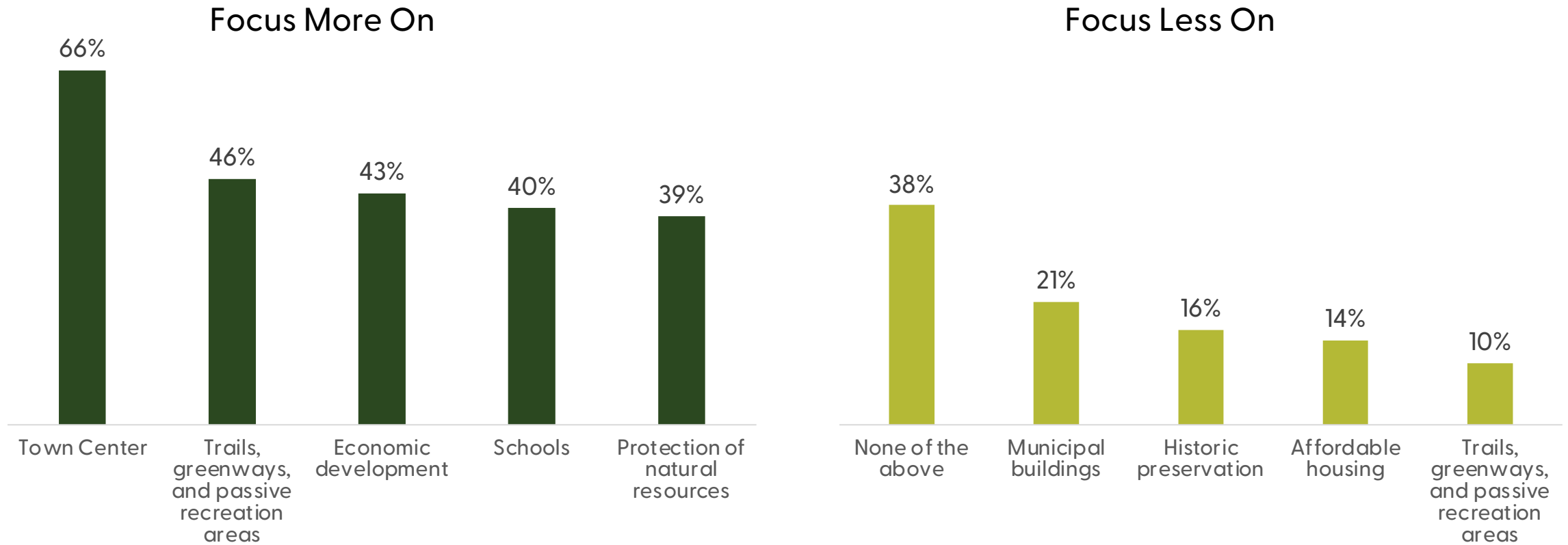


Biggest Concern as Bloomfield Grows

Increasing tax & mill rates are a concern as residents consider affordability



What should Town Focus Less/More On



Town Center Vision

Better mix of business.
I support small business, but if you don't have anchor stores you won't get the foot traffic necessary to survive.

Connected by footpaths and bike trails. The area should be a place to enjoy and spend time in.

Improve Wintonbury Mall. Get rid of all the parking lots throughout center. Bring buildings streetside.

We need fewer parking lots and more trees. Acres of asphalt is not an attractive sight. Maintain the sidewalks and make pedestrian and bike friendly.

Attraction of artists, small businesses to Wintonbury Mall; more focus on bike and walker friendly streets. Increase in cultural events to enrich community

How would you change or improve Bloomfield?

Make Bloomfield stand out with one (or more) museums or galleries. Children's Museum, Museum of Bloomfield's Heritage, Black History museum, Native American History museum

I would like to see stricter zoning regarding commercial property. Both plazas in center of town are dirty and in disrepair.

Our public schools are rated on the low end of the scale. That is a BIG reason we have second guessed our home purchase.

It would be great to invest in the shopping area in the center. I feel like I sleep in Bloomfield but I "live" in the surrounding towns. If I want to go "do something" 99% of the time it's not in Bloomfield.

I feel there is a growing demographic, especially among millennials, who value cultural and racial diversity. To attract them requires having excellent schools with a diverse student body.

The ugly Heirloom Flats and other new residential apartment buildings are totally out of character. Lack of landscaping, and institutional look of buildings makes me cringe every time

Existing Conditions Overview

Overview



21,500 people



9,377 housing units



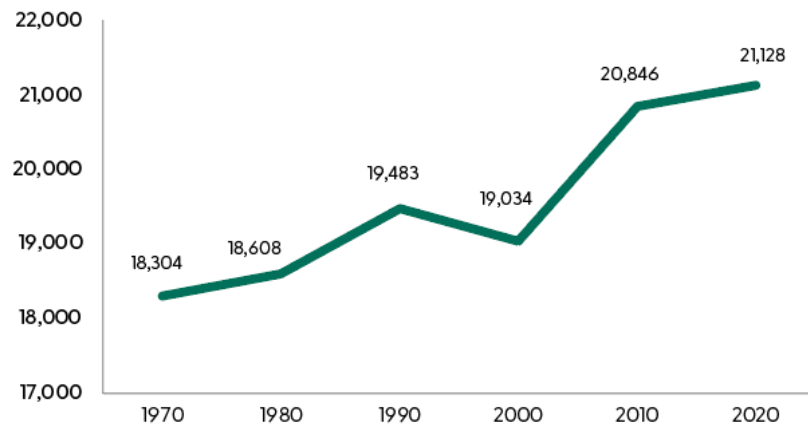
\$81,354 - median
income



21,603 – total jobs

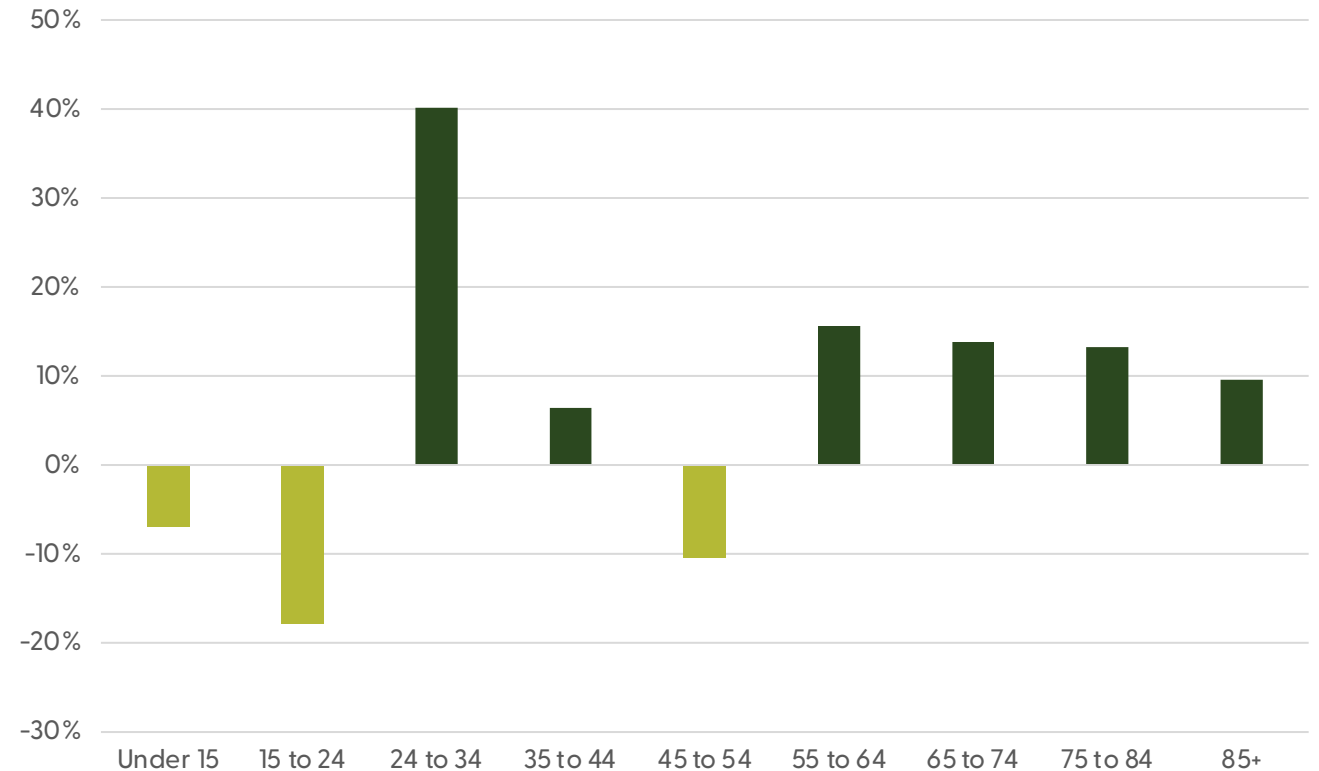
Bloomfield Population Trends

Bloomfield Population 1970-2020



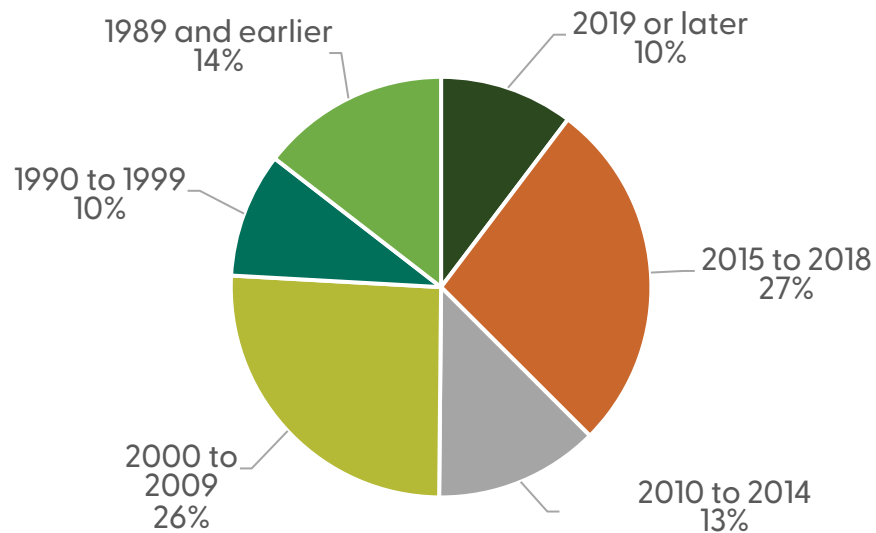
Bloomfield has seen growth in populations 55 and over, as well as for age cohorts between 24 to 44.

Population Change by Age Cohort – 2011 vs 2021



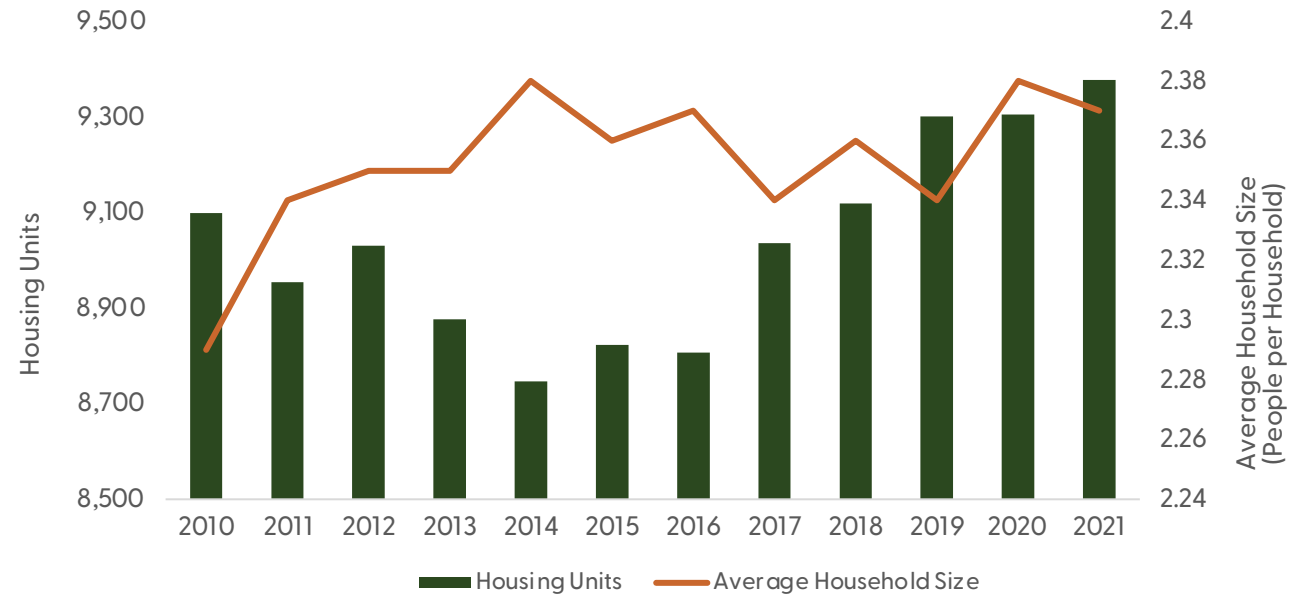
Bloomfield Household Trends

Year Household Moved Into Housing Unit



A mix of new and long-term residents

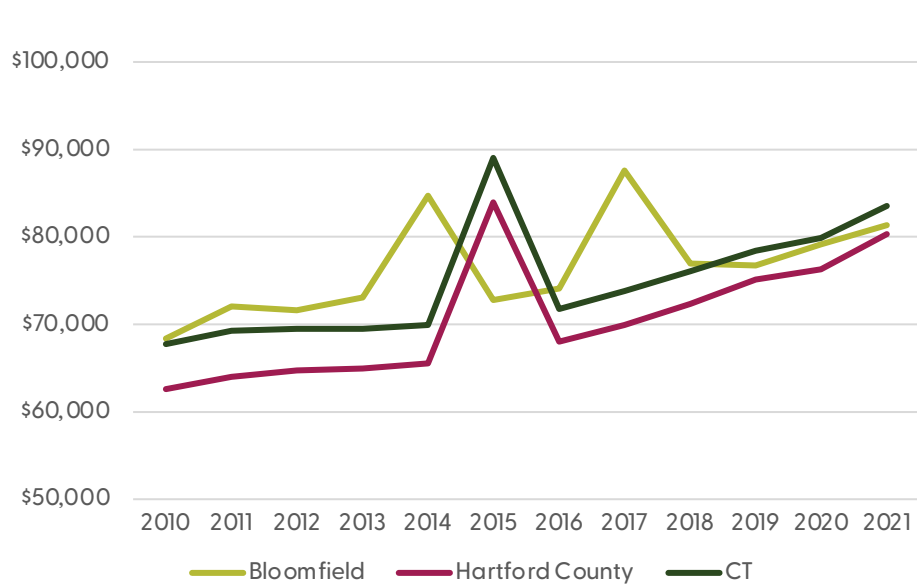
Household Size & Total Housing Units – 2010-2021



Household sizes gradually increasing

Bloomfield Income Trends

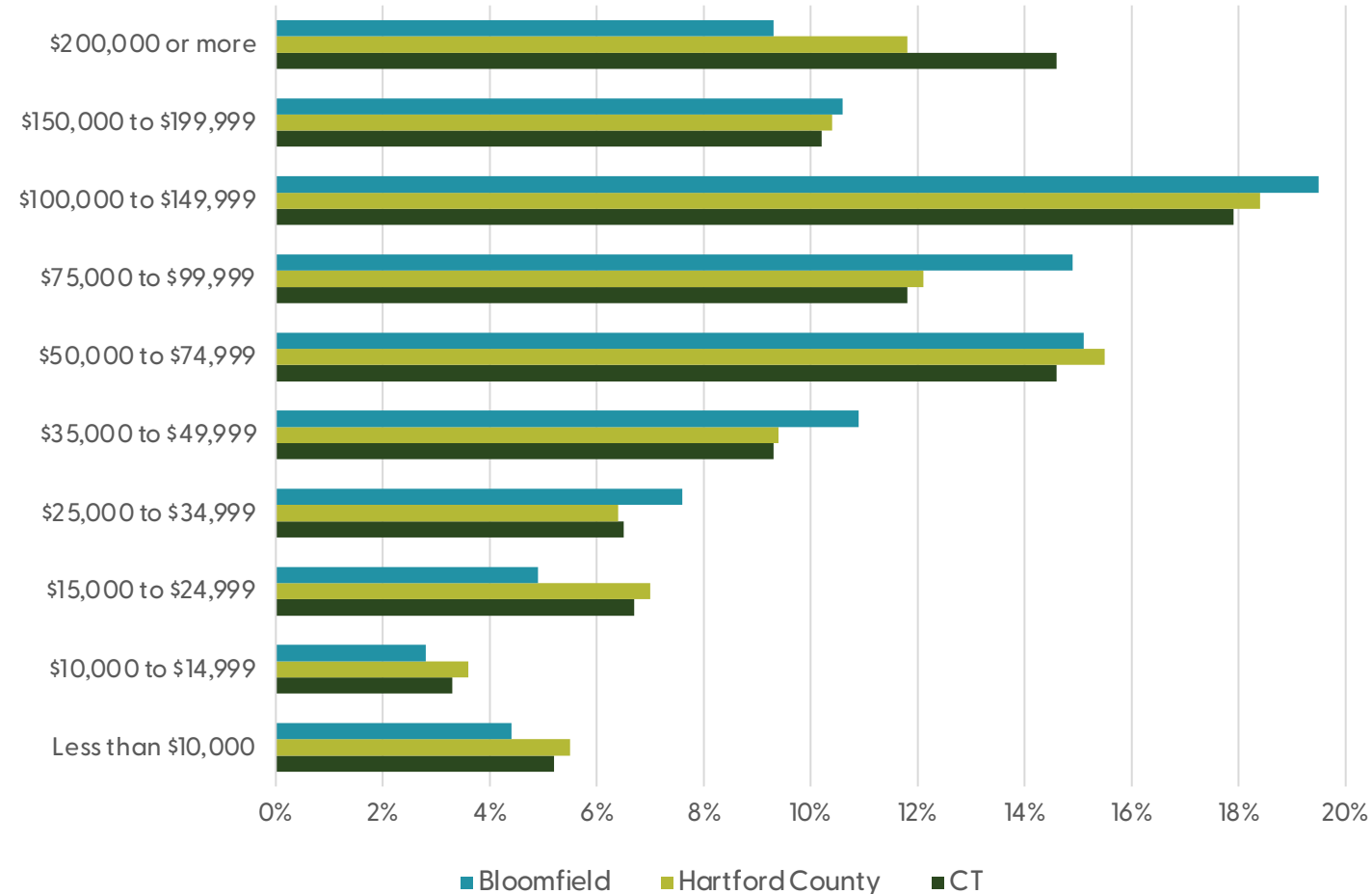
Median Household Income 2010-2021



Median household income is in line with regional trends

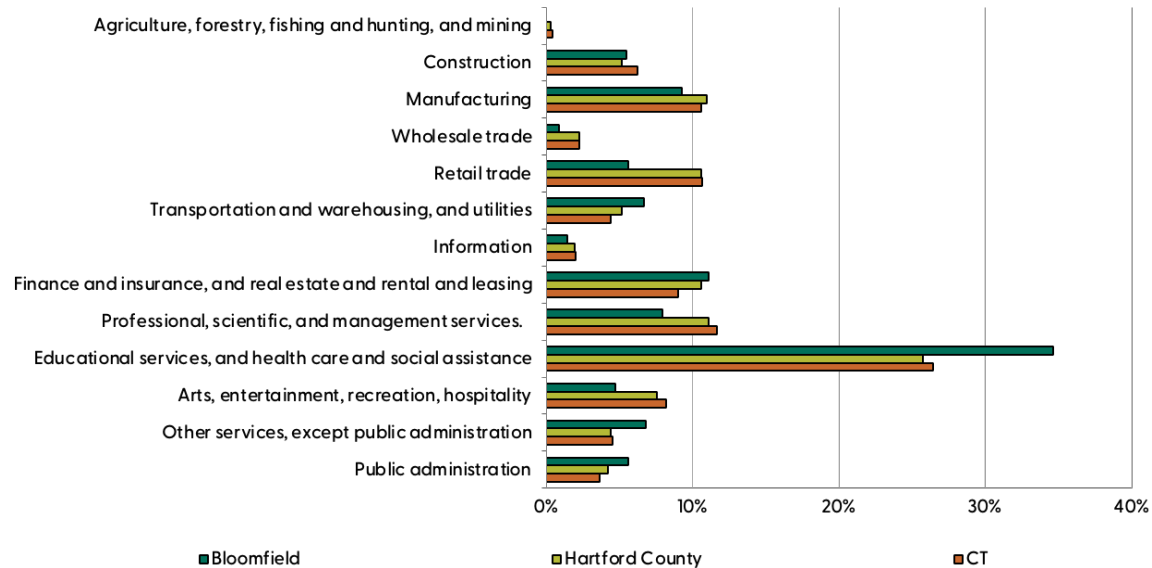
Almost 20% of Bloomfield's population earns less than \$35,000 annually

Percentage of Households by Income



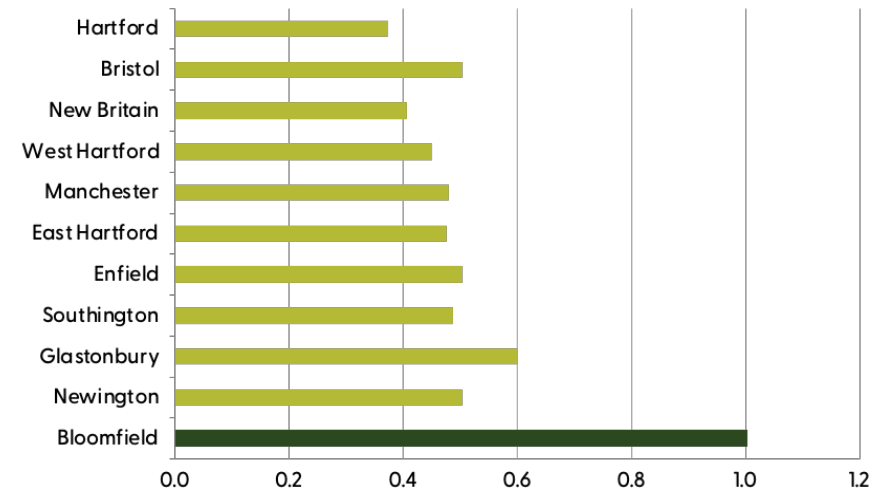
Bloomfield Employment Trends

Resident Employment by Industry



Around 35% of residents employed in education, health care, and social services

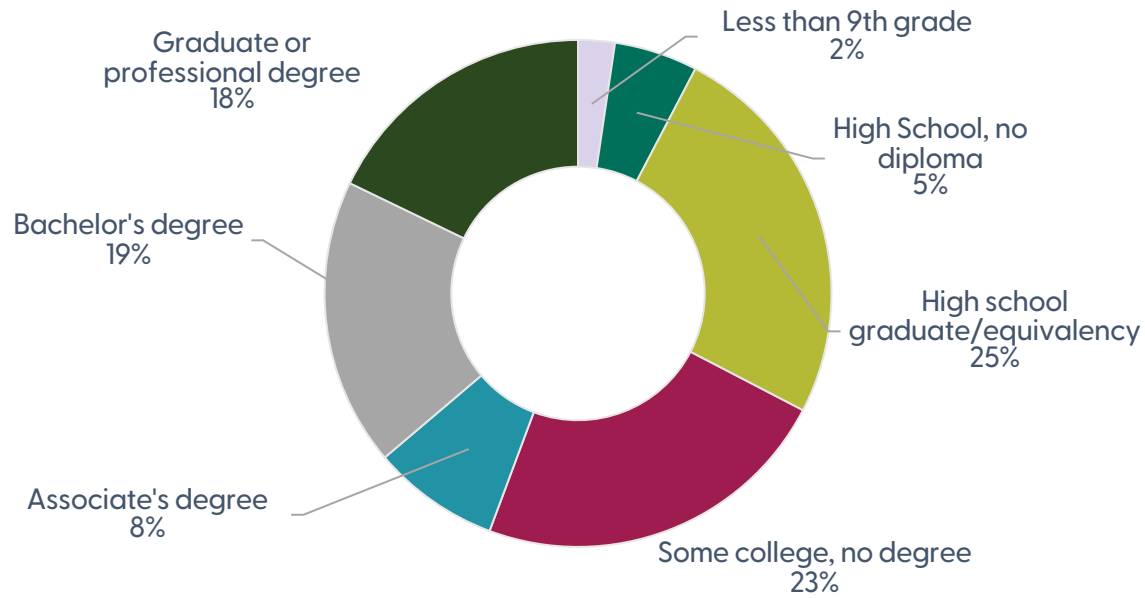
Jobs & Worker Trends in Bloomfield



Bloomfield has more significantly more jobs per capita than neighboring towns

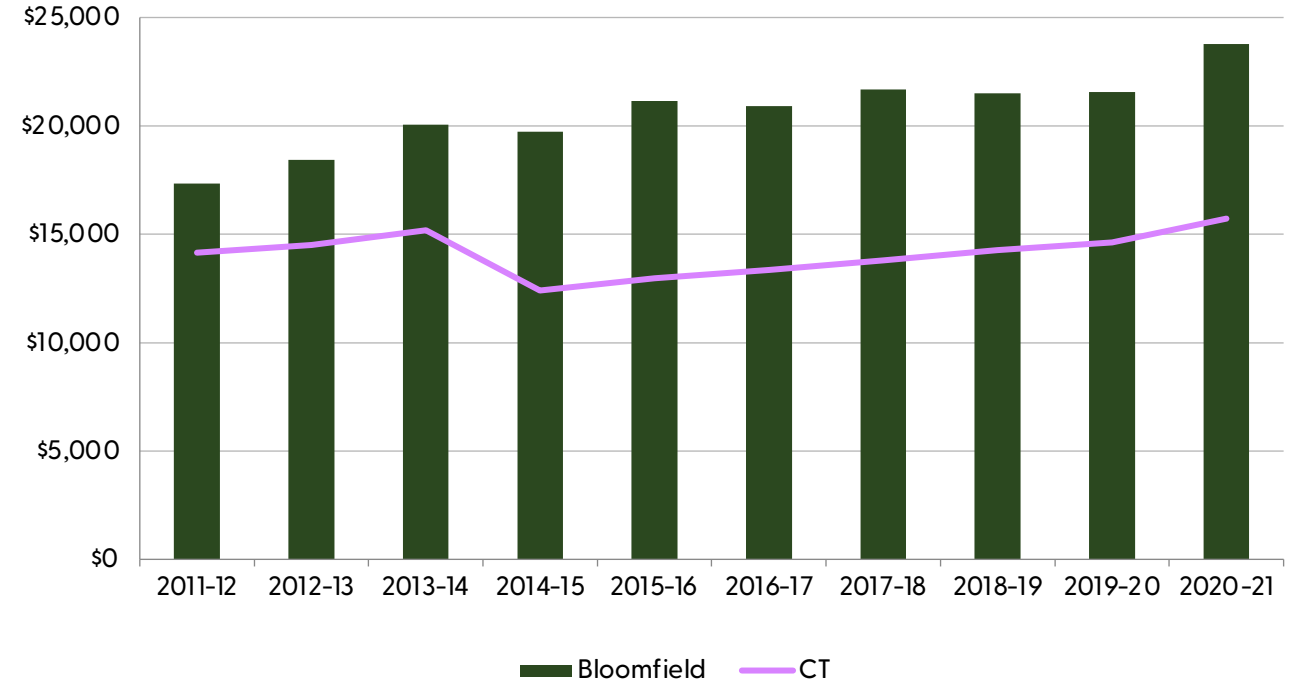
Bloomfield Education Trends

Educational Attainment



Bloomfield has high levels of education

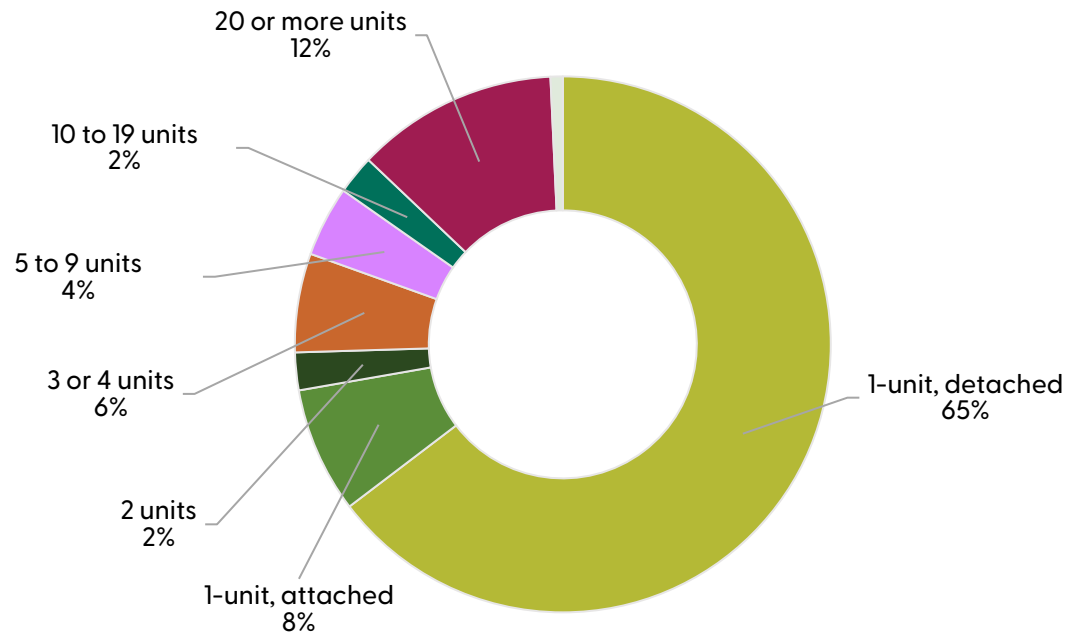
Per Student Public School Expenditures



Rising public school expenditures

Bloomfield Housing Conditions Trends

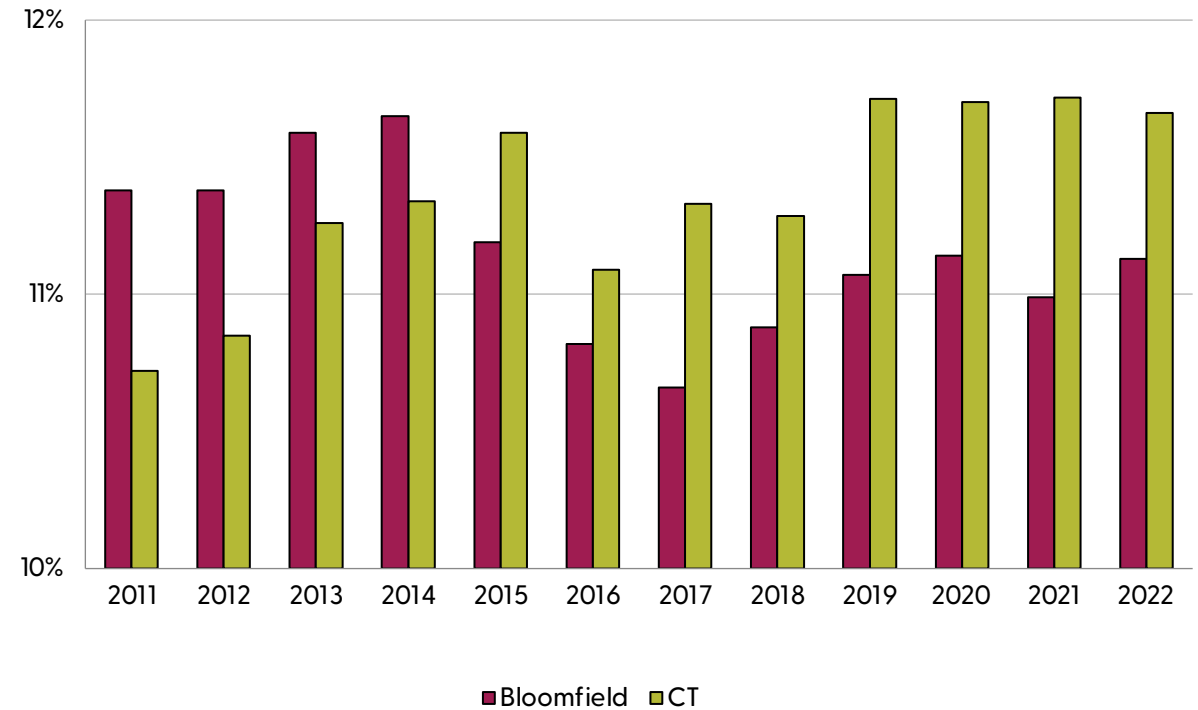
Bloomfield Population 1970-2020



73% of the housing stock is single-family

Multifamily housing is concentrated in structures with 20+ units

Share of Affordable Housing



Bloomfield has maintained 10% or more affordable units, though the percentage has decreased in the past 8 years

Plan Bloomfield Themes

Fostering Economic Growth

Promoting and supporting economic development, attracting businesses, and creating job opportunities to enhance the community's economic well-being.

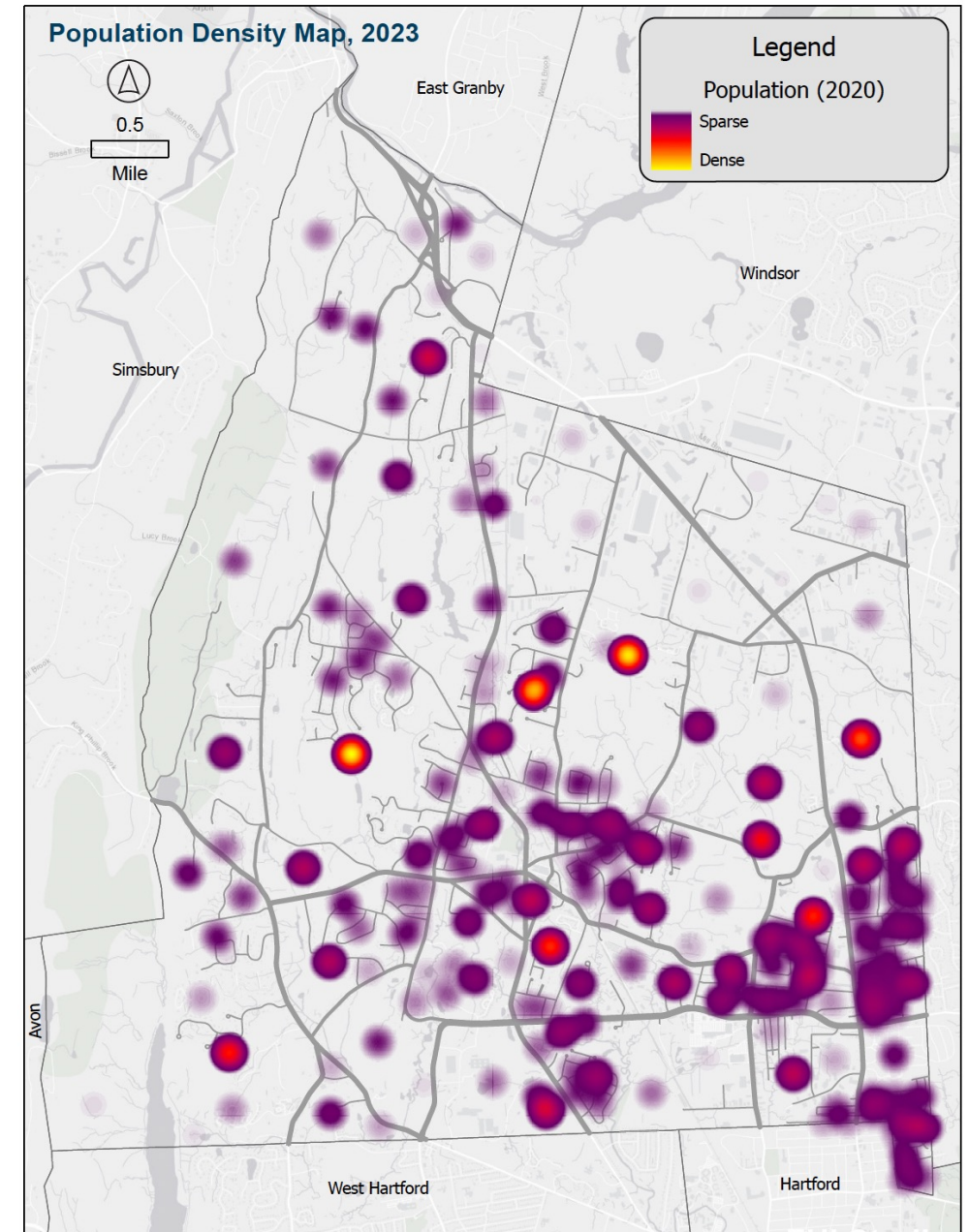
- What is your vision for the future of Bloomfield's Town Center?
- How do you feel about the mix of jobs and opportunities in Bloomfield?
- What kinds of businesses and retail opportunities would you like to see?



Expanding Housing Options for All

Increasing housing choices and availability to ensure affordable, safe, and suitable housing options for residents of all income levels, fostering inclusive and sustainable communities.

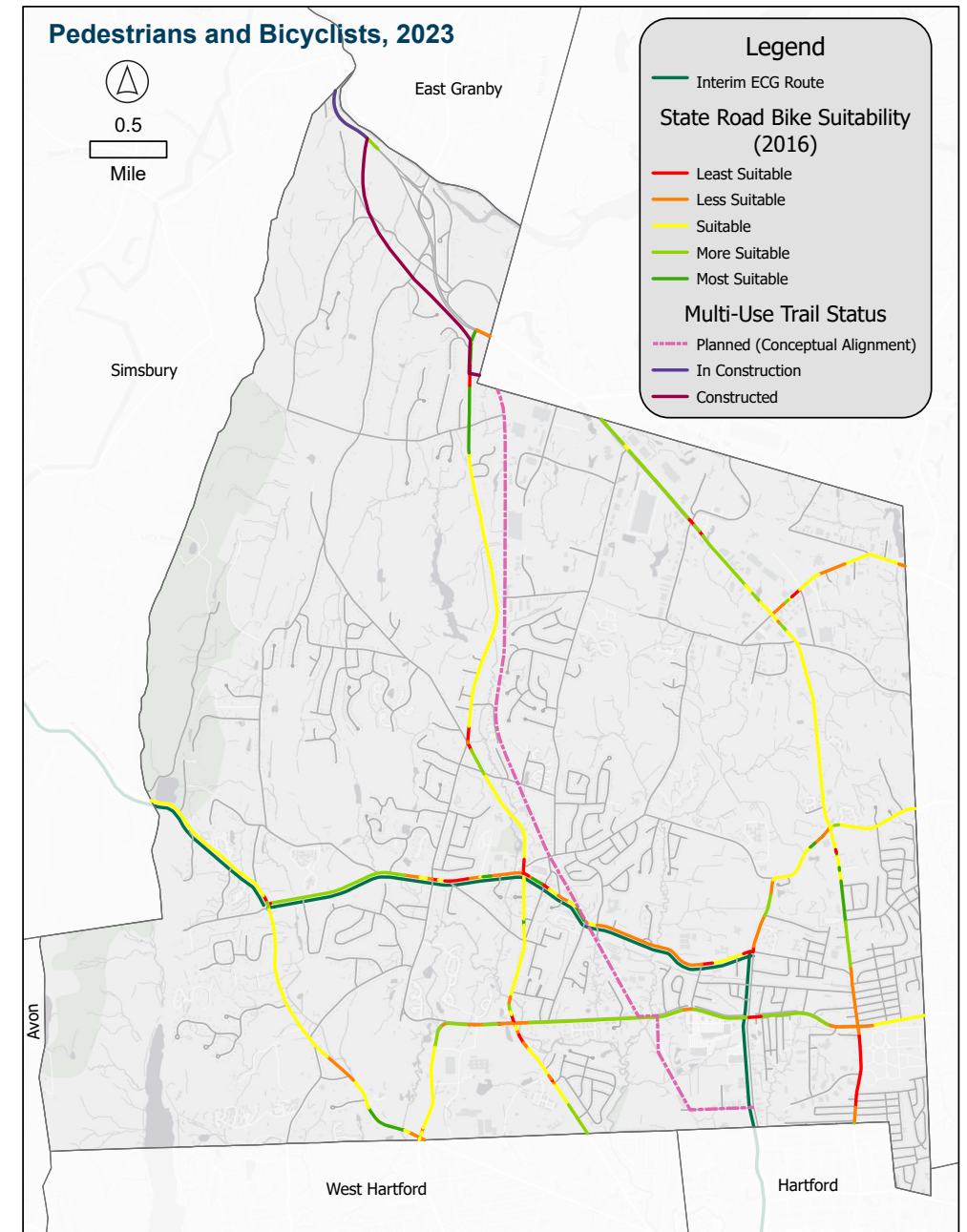
- What types of housing does Bloomfield need more of?
- Does Bloomfield need more affordable housing?
- Are there innovative approaches or partnerships that can be explored to address housing needs in Bloomfield?



Enhancing Mobility & Connectivity

Improving transportation systems and connectivity within the community to enhance mobility and accessibility for residents and visitors, promoting efficient and sustainable travel options.

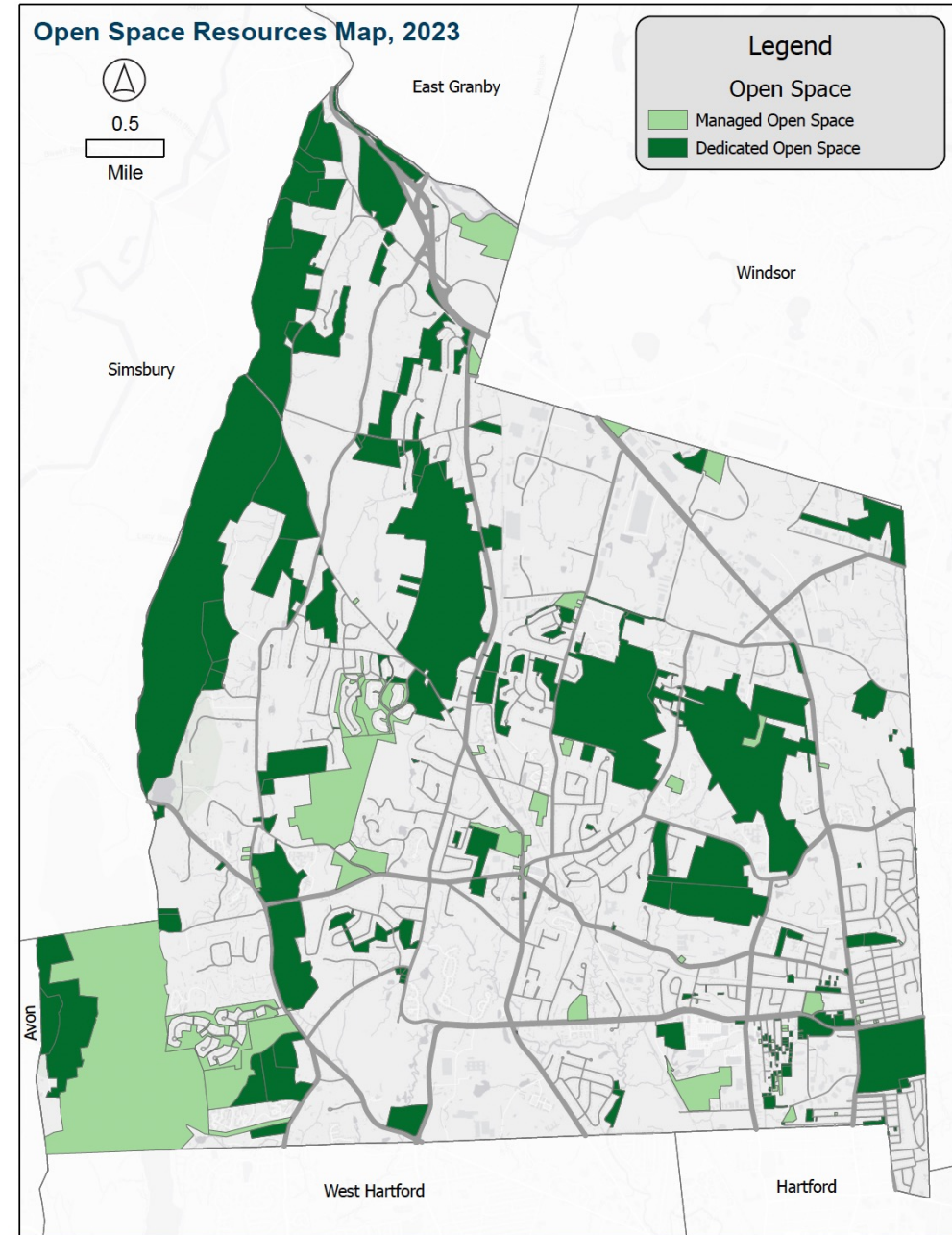
- Is there anywhere that you would like to walk, bike, or drive to that is currently difficult to access?
- Are there specific intersections or roads that are particularly dangerous and need attention?
- Are there specific areas in Bloomfield where public transportation services can be improved?



Preserving Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation

Protecting and conserving natural resources, including land, water, air, and biodiversity, to sustain ecological balance and promote environmental well-being within the community.

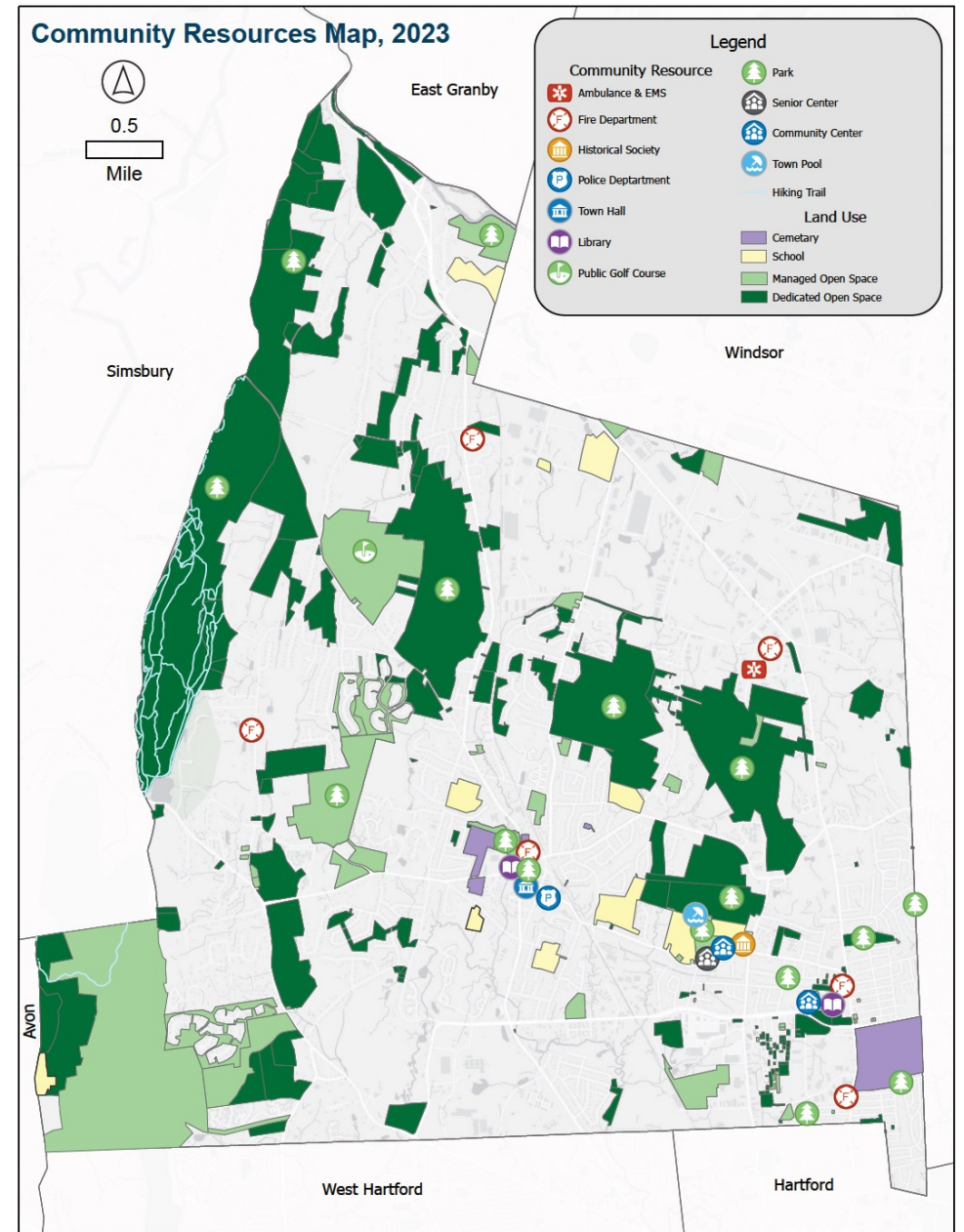
- What steps can be taken to ensure the preservation of open spaces in Bloomfield?
- How can we encourage the community to actively participate in conservation efforts?
- What are the potential benefits of maintaining and protecting open spaces for the residents of Bloomfield?



Improving Town Resources & Facilities

Enhancing public amenities, infrastructure, recreational spaces, and public services to improve residents' quality of life and meet the community's evolving needs.

- What improvements or additions can be made to existing community services and facilities?
- How can we ensure equitable access to community resources for all residents of Bloomfield?



Breakout Sessions

Breakout Sessions

Choose the theme that is most interesting to you to share your thoughts and experiences. We will switch groups 2 or 3 times, time dependent. Please take some time after the meeting to take our questionnaire to answer questions related to the other themes or visit the website to submit a comment.

Five Groups

- Fostering Economic Growth
- Expanding Housing Options for All
- Enhancing Mobility & Connectivity
- Preserving Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation
- Improving Town Resources & Facilities

Next Steps

Visioning & POCD Next Steps

- Developing a Community Vision – Coming soon
- POCD coordination and engagement
 - Workshops & focus group meetings
 - Online Questionnaire
- Establishing framework for POCD

Stay Involved!

- Visit the website at **PlanBloomfield.com**
- Take the Questionnaire
- Participate in the mapping exercise on the website