



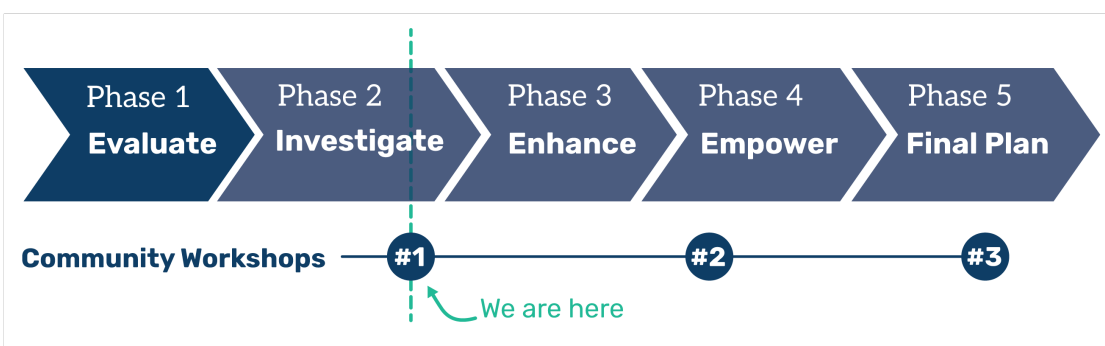
Joliet Comprehensive Plan Survey and Community Workshop #1 Engagement Summary

October 24, 2025 | Prepared by MUSE Community + Design

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Background

Phase II of the Joliet Comprehensive Plan process includes two engagement opportunities with the public – a survey and the first community workshop. The goal of these two initial feedback opportunities is to understand community concerns and priorities and incorporate the high-level feedback into the goals and objectives of the plan. The survey and workshop feedback complement each other: while the survey provided wide-reaching input from a large number of respondents, the workshop allowed for deeper conversation and more interactive feedback. Taken together, these inputs help the project team refine an understanding of Joliet’s strengths, barriers, and opportunities.



Survey

The survey was designed to gather feedback from Joliet residents on community priorities, preferences, and key concerns to inform the Comprehensive Plan. Between July 17 and September 19, 2025, over 2,000 people completed the survey. Based on Joliet’s population of approximately 150,000 residents, a response rate of 306 was needed to be statistically significant¹. Joliet's response rate of 2,000 achieves a 99% probability that the survey results accurately reflect the attitudes of the population in Joliet. The strong turnout demonstrates both the community’s interest in shaping Joliet’s future and the value of continued outreach throughout the process.

The survey asked questions about six key themes: homes and neighborhoods, jobs and businesses, community and culture, parks and nature, environment and sustainability, and transportation and mobility. The questions were designed to identify community needs and priorities, understand current challenges, and capture opportunities for improvement

¹ Statistical significance refers to the likelihood that the results represent the views of the population rather than occurring by chance. In this instance, a 99% confidence level indicates that survey results are highly reliable. Survey Monkey, “Understanding statistical significance: A comprehensive guide with examples”, accessed October 22, 2025, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/understanding-statistical-significance/>

across different parts of Joliet. **Responses by survey question can be found in the Appendix.**

The online survey was created in SurveyMonkey and made available in five languages – English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, and Chinese (Traditional). Paper copies of the survey were available in English and Spanish at City Hall and were distributed at neighborhood organization meetings, church events, and other events in the city by staff and Advisory Committee members. The survey – in English and Spanish – was also available to download on the project webpage. Paper copies were available at the first Community Workshop. We received over 40 paper copies.

To reach as many community members as possible, the survey was promoted across multiple channels. It was posted on the City of Joliet website as well as pushed via social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and email, linking to the Comprehensive Plan project page. It was also promoted via e-newsletter and social media by partner organizations such as the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, African American Business Association, Latino Economic Development Association, and neighborhood associations. A mailer promoting the community workshop included a link to the survey, was sent to 5,500 households in three ZIP codes with lower survey response rates.

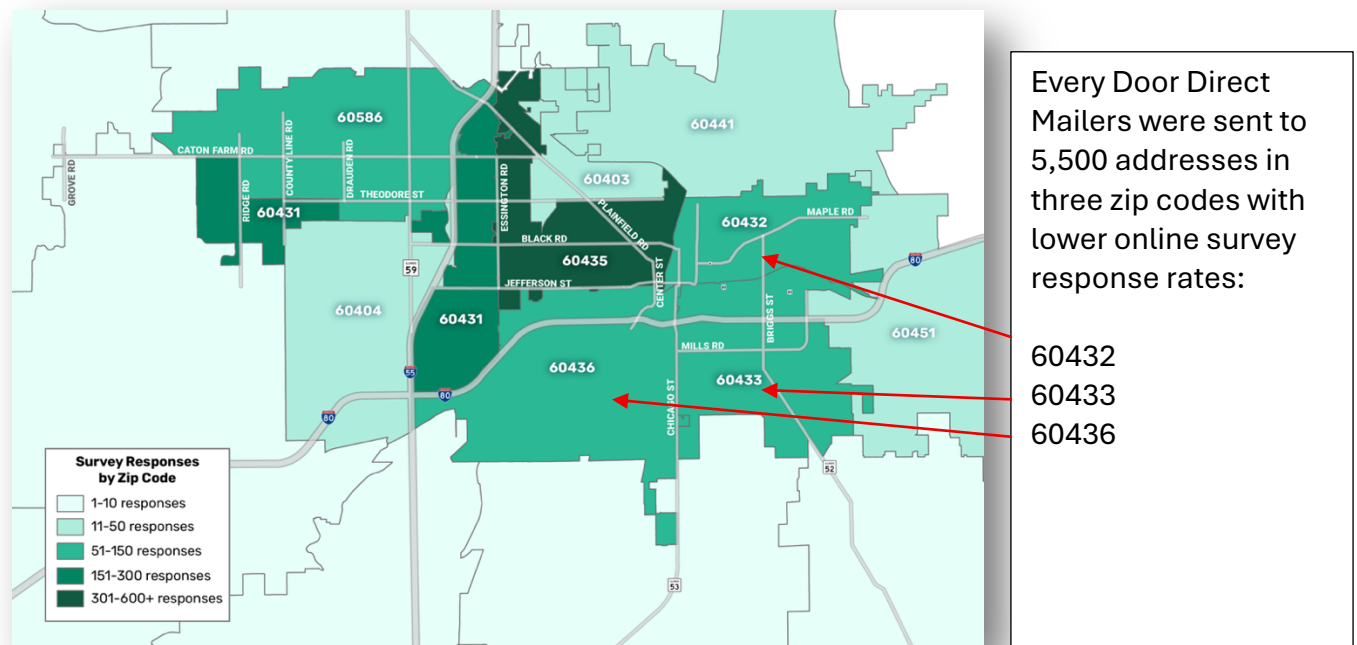


Figure 1. Joliet Survey Responses Rates by ZIP Code (2025)

Physical placard ads with a QR code for the project page and survey were placed on 24 Pace Bus routes in Joliet, and a pull-up banner at City Hall directed people to the project page, which included a link to the survey. Promotional cards were also distributed at neighborhood meetings and community events. To thank participants, the team offered entry into a \$50 gift-card drawing.



Figure 2. Pace Bus Placecard Ad

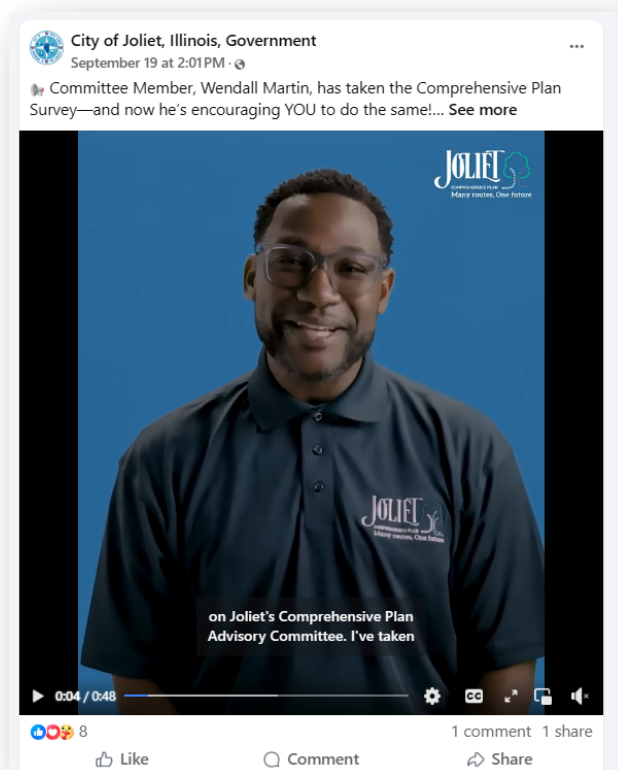


Figure 3. City of Joliet Facebook Post

Community Workshop #1

Community Workshop #1 provided an important opportunity for residents and community members to share their hopes for Joliet's future. The workshop activities complemented the questions in the citywide survey, together offering a broad view of community priorities across key categories such as quality of life, homes and neighborhoods, jobs and businesses, transportation and mobility, parks and nature, environment and sustainability, and community and culture. The Workshop was promoted using the same outreach methods as the survey, including promotional cards, large posters at City Hall and community events, social media engagement, and a targeted mailer to ZIP codes with lower survey response rates.



Figure 4. City of Joliet Facebook Post



Figure 5. Fiesta at Bicentennial Park Booth

The workshop was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Joliet West High School. The workshop was designed to be highly interactive, giving residents multiple ways to share their perspectives on living, working, getting around and having fun in Joliet. Six engagement stations were set up around the room, each focusing on a different theme, with bilingual facilitation and materials available to ensure accessibility. Each station had a facilitator who guided participants through activities, answered questions, and recorded feedback on structured note-taking sheets to ensure

every idea was captured. **Responses collected at each station can be found in the Appendix.**

Stations included:

- **Pride in Joliet:** Residents reflected on what they love most about Joliet through an interactive “visual notes” board, custom button-making, and a kids’ area with coloring sheets and stickers.
- **Living in Joliet:** Participants placed stickers on preferred housing options, ranked neighborhood challenges, and identified corridors with the most potential for opportunities.
- **Working in Joliet:** A board invited attendees to rank workforce development initiatives that would help people find good jobs.
- **Getting Around in Joliet:** Residents mapped issues related to truck traffic, road conditions, and sidewalk connectivity.
- **Having Fun in Joliet:** Participants shared what kinds of entertainment and recreation options they would like to see more of.
- **Quality of Life:** A polling activity allowed residents to rank priorities such as safety, community services, and overall livability.

The workshop was attended by approximately 120 people and attracted a diverse pool of Joliet residents, including families with children, young people, and long-time residents. The Workshop presentation boards were also posted on the project webpage as an additional opportunity for input and engagement.

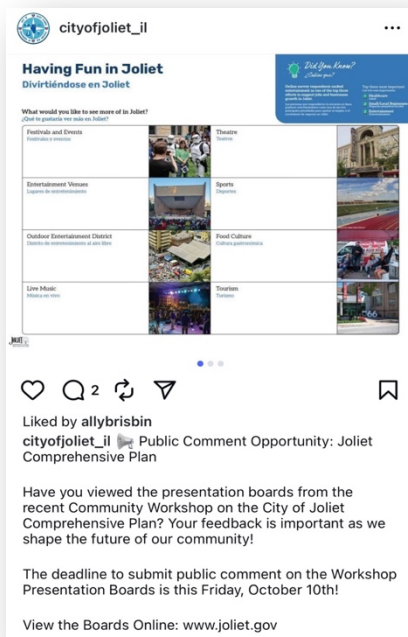


Figure 6. Public Comment Opportunity Instagram Post



Figure 7. Joliet staff engaging with community members during Workshop #1



Figure 8. Joliet staff and consultant team engaging with community members during Workshop #1

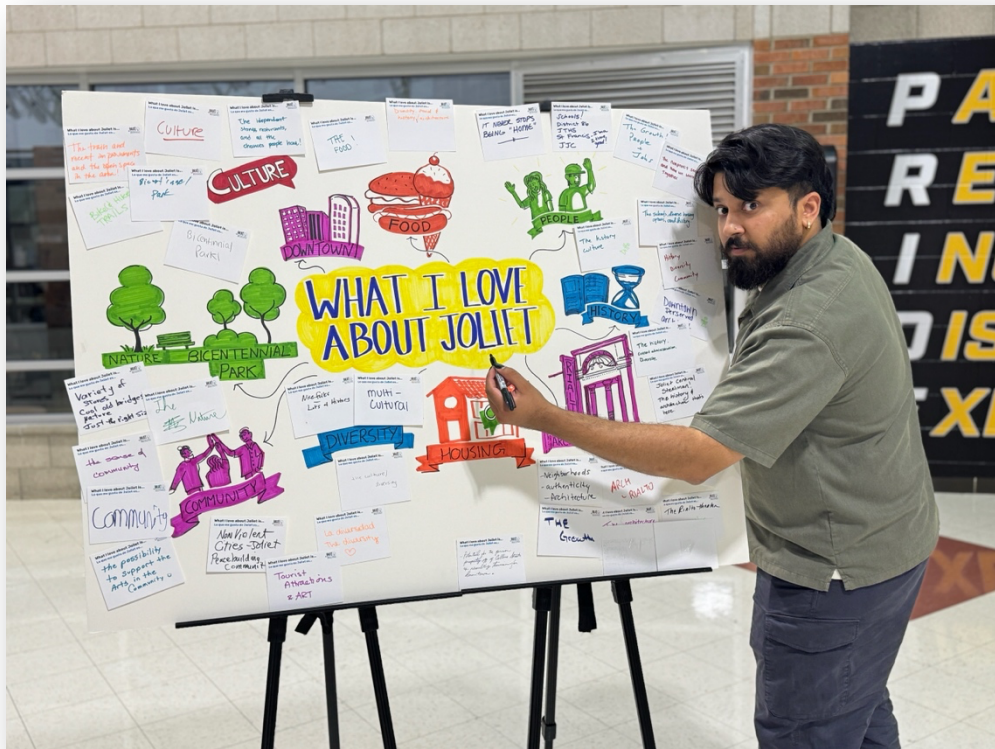


Figure 9. Consultant team collecting responses at the “What I Love About Joliet” Station

Feedback Summary

Quality of Life

The majority of survey respondents (90%) rated the quality of life in Joliet as fair to good. Residents indicated that the top three factors contributing to their quality of life in Joliet are homes and neighborhoods, jobs and businesses and community and culture.

In addition to selecting the top areas contributing to quality of life in Joliet, feedback from the survey highlighted the importance of access to healthcare, mental health services, senior services, and youth programming to residents. Many expressed dissatisfactions with local healthcare options, particularly the decline of St. Joseph's Hospital, and called for investment in higher-quality care. Others emphasized the need for better services for low-income families, veterans, and people experiencing homelessness, underscoring the opportunity to build stronger safety nets and invest in high-quality healthcare infrastructure.

Homes and Neighborhoods

Themes of housing and affordability emerged as a key area of concern for survey respondents. Commentors raised concerns about high property taxes, rising rents, and the lack of affordable homes for seniors, first-time buyers, and working families. Many survey responses show a desire for affordable apartments and quality homes, as well as rehabilitation of older neighborhoods.

We heard:

- The need for affordable, quality housing and better property upkeep.
- Deteriorating and poorly maintained roads, sidewalks, bridges, and lighting are top neighborhood concerns.
- Perception of crime and feeling unsafe are top of mind.
- The lack of neighborhood amenities, such as retail and grocery stores is a challenge.

Concerns from residents about housing affordability align with the data that show that the cost of housing has outpaced wage growth and inflation over the past ten years.

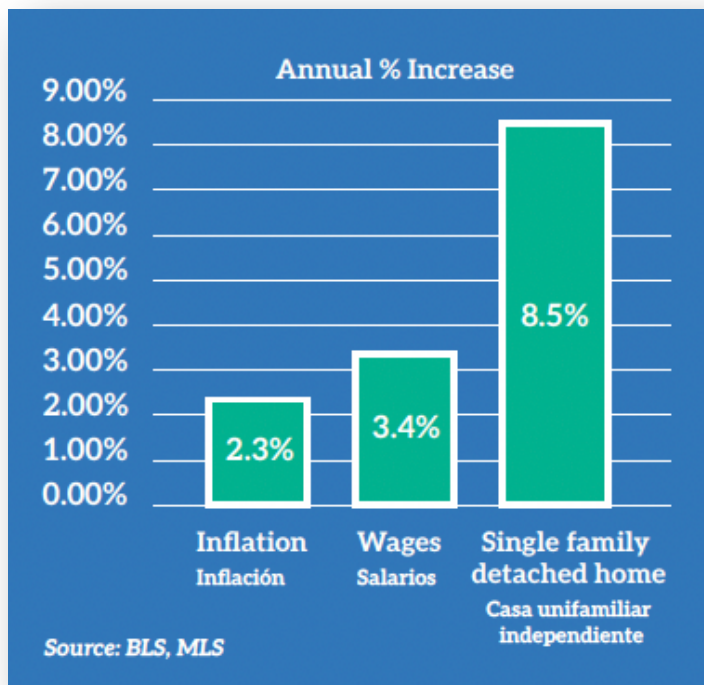
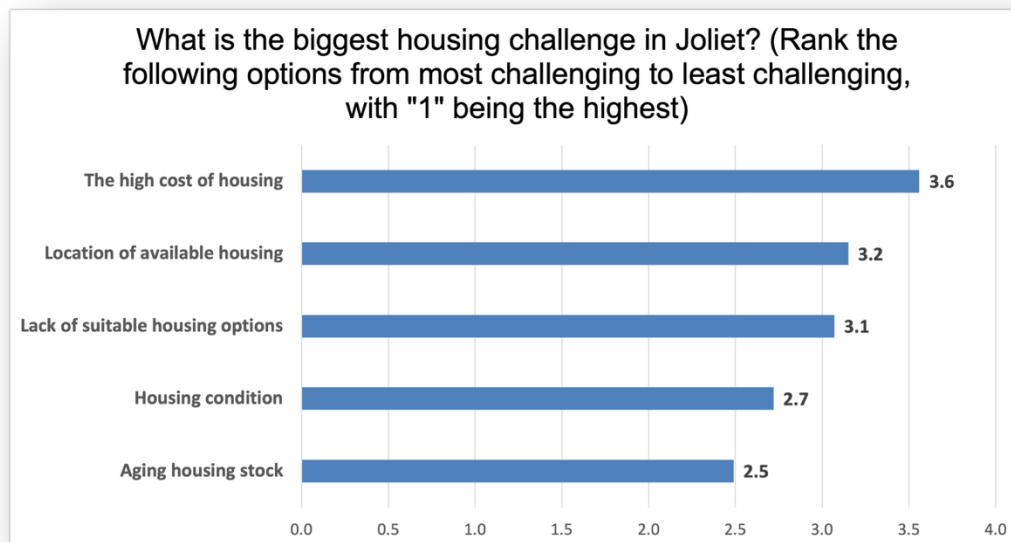


Figure 10. Annual Growth: Inflation, Wages, and Single-Family Housing Costs

Survey responses show that the high cost of housing is the biggest housing challenge, followed by housing conditions and lack of suitable housing options.

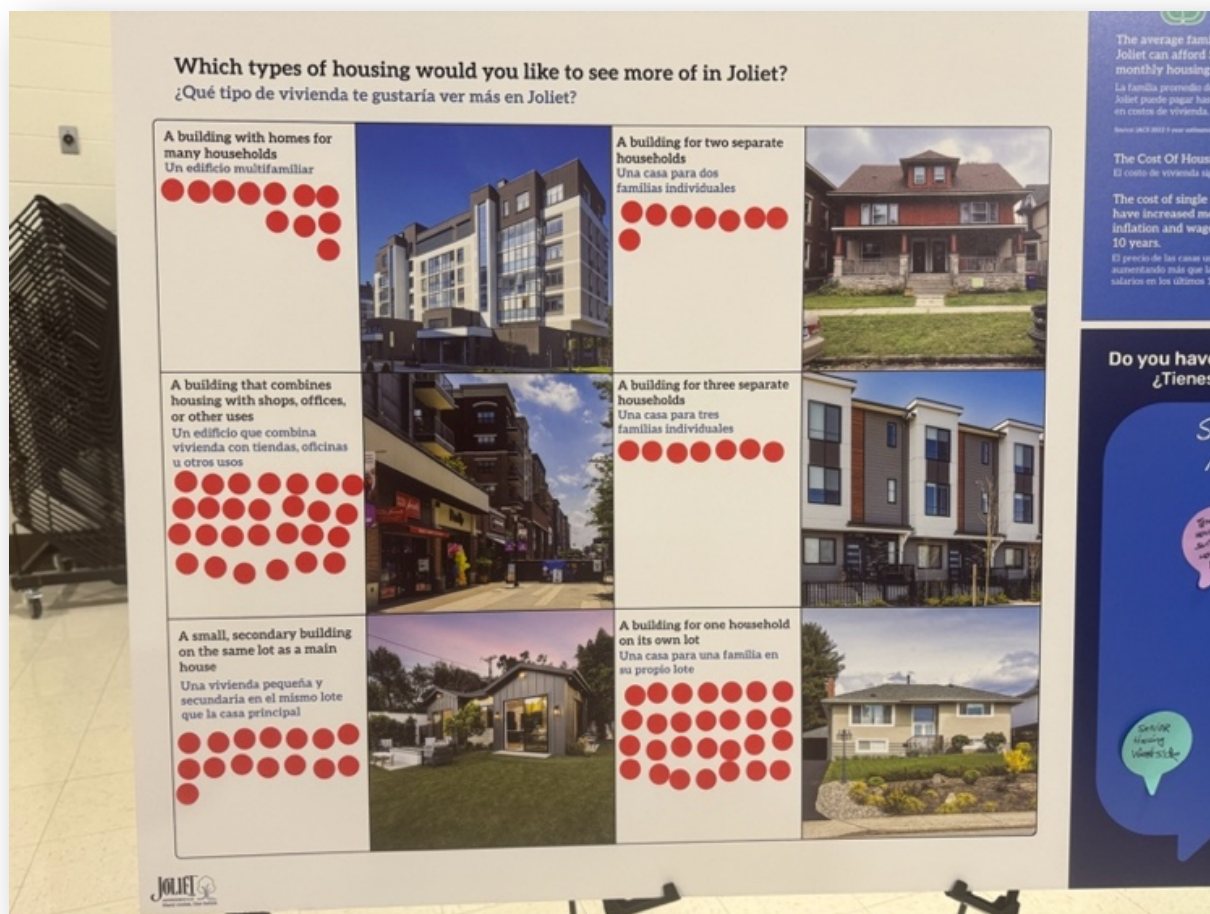
Survey Question 4: What is the biggest housing challenge in Joliet? (Rank Choice)



Survey respondents indicated the most support for housing programs that would improve the condition of homes, increase the availability of senior housing and increase the availability of for sale homes.

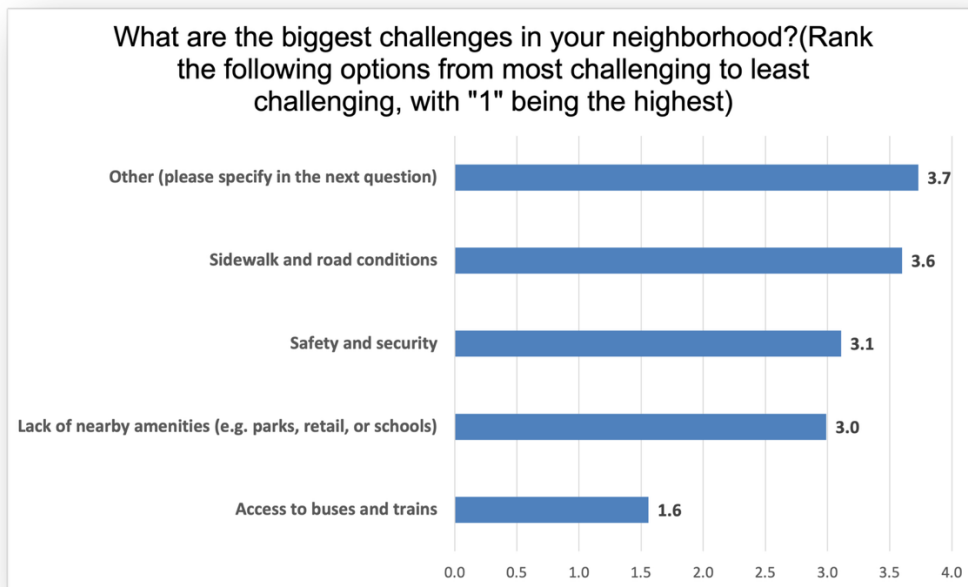
To further explore housing in Joliet, the project team asked attendees which housing types they would like to see more of in Joliet at Community Workshop #1. Workshop attendees preferred single-family homes, followed closely by mixed-use commercial development. When considering the neighborhood as a whole, survey respondents rated their top challenges as sidewalk and road conditions, safety and security, and lack of nearby amenities.

Living in Joliet Board: Which types of housing would you like to see more of in Joliet?

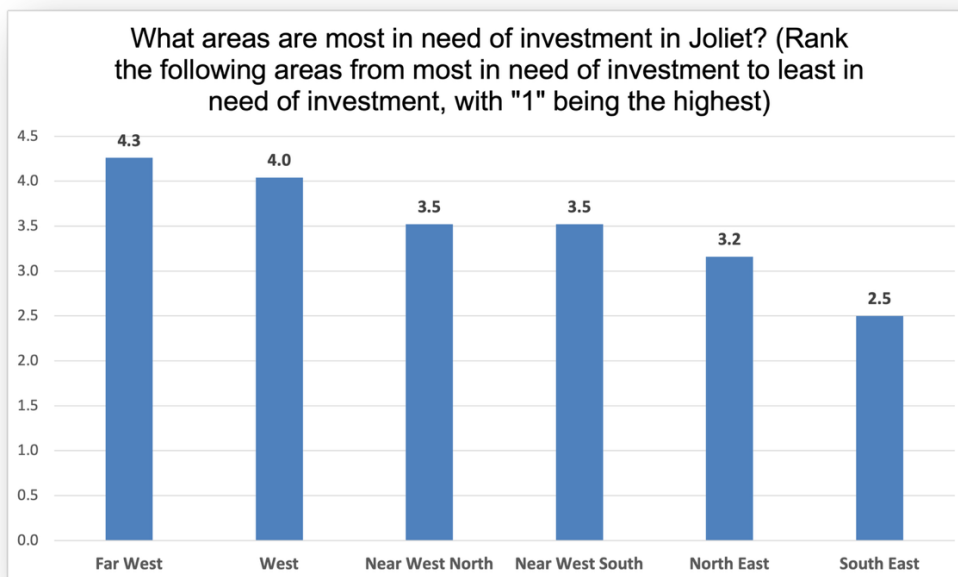


Safety and security came up throughout the survey, with many respondents citing crime, gang violence, and homelessness as major barriers to Joliet's future. Concerns ranged from shootings in neighborhoods to panhandling downtown. Residents want police and city leaders to be more proactive and responsive to community needs.

Survey Question 5: What are the biggest challenges in your neighborhood? (Rank Choice)



Survey Question 8: What areas are most in need of investment in Joliet? (Rank Choice)



Residents indicated the South East and North East areas as the top areas in need of investment in Joliet.

Considerations

This feedback suggests developing strategies to stabilize and improve the conditions of existing homes is a high priority. Opportunities for new housing should address affordability, the needs of seniors, first-time buyers, and working families. The concept of mixed-use developments positively received at the community workshop and may be a strategy that would provide more housing options while simultaneously bringing new amenities to neighborhoods.

Jobs and Businesses

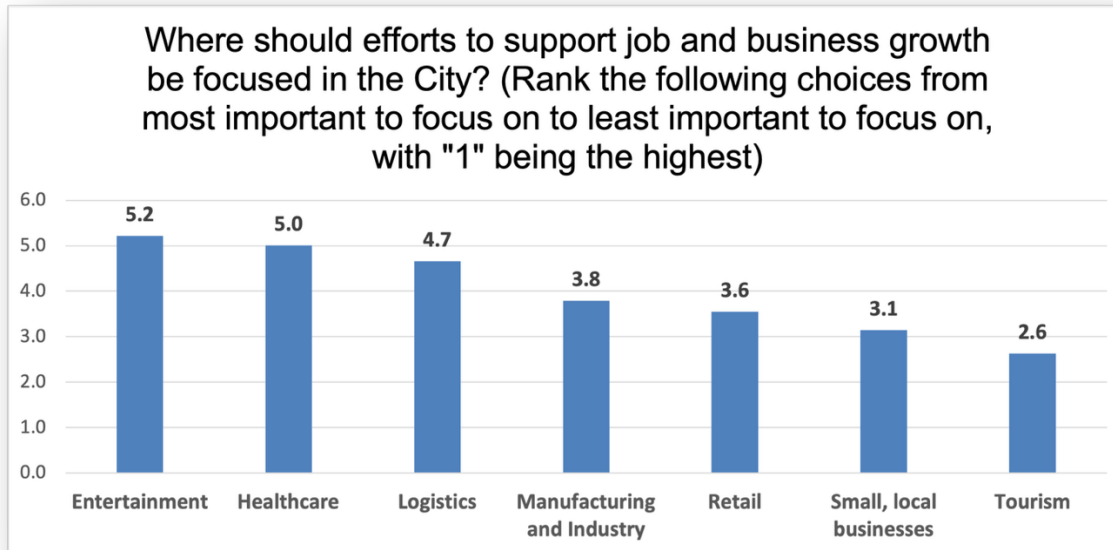
Survey respondents expressed frustration with how many low-wage warehouse jobs there are and called for diversification into sectors such as healthcare, technology, education, and small business growth. Respondents hope for more locally owned restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues that keep money in the community. A strong sentiment was the need for higher-quality, higher-paying jobs that can make Joliet a place where families can thrive.

What we heard:

- Frustration with overreliance on warehouses and logistics, which bring traffic and low wages.
- People want better-paying jobs in fields like healthcare, trades, and education and job training programs to prepare people for them.
- A desire to revitalizing downtown with small businesses, restaurants, and entertainment options.

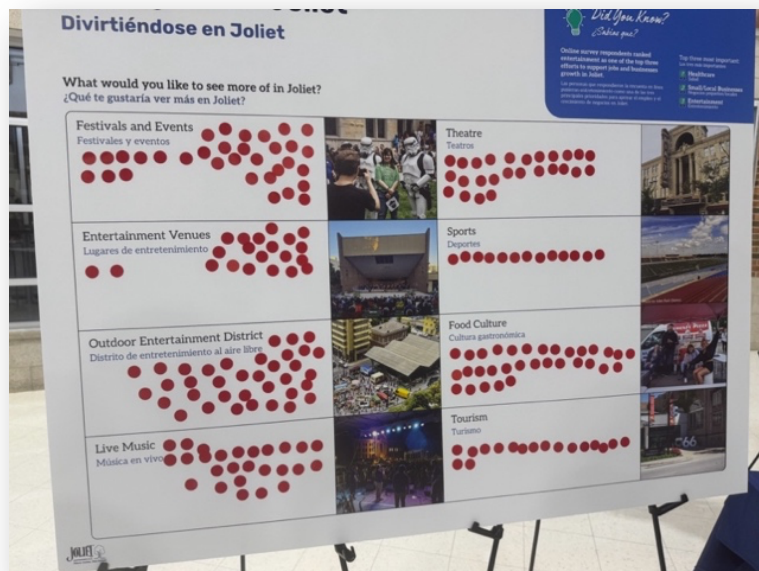
Survey respondents rated healthcare, small local businesses and entertainment as the top three areas where efforts to support job and business growth should be supported.

Survey Question 9: Where should efforts to support jobs and business growth be focused in the City? (Rank Choice)



The workshop provided an opportunity to learn more about residents' desire for entertainment options in Joliet. Attendees' top choices for what they would like to see in Joliet were outdoor entertainment districts, festivals, and events, and food culture.

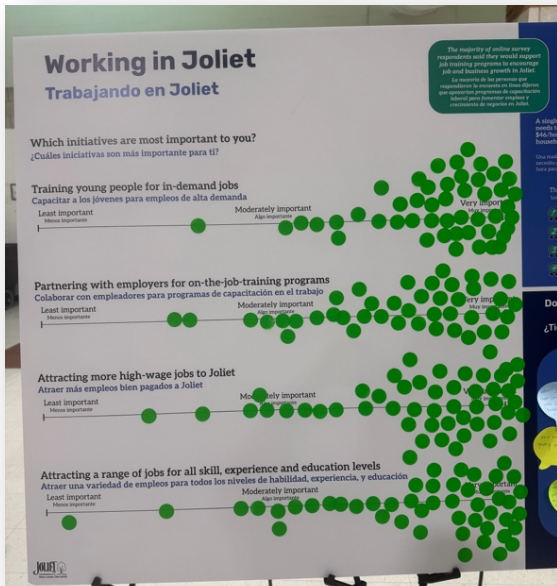
Having Fun in Joliet Board: What would you like to see more of in Joliet?



In addition to economic development priorities, readying residents to participate in the workforce is a high priority. Survey respondents support emphasizing job training programs to prepare people for in-demand jobs. The workshop attendees indicated the most support

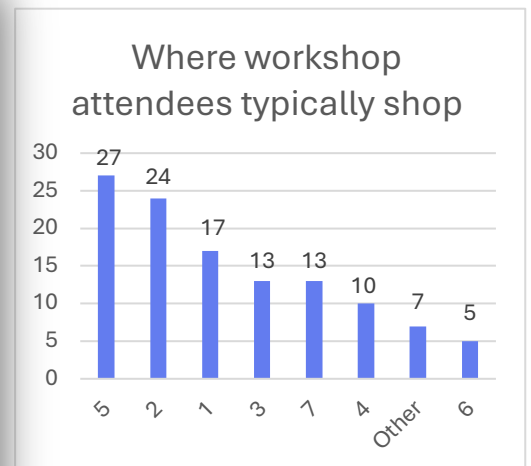
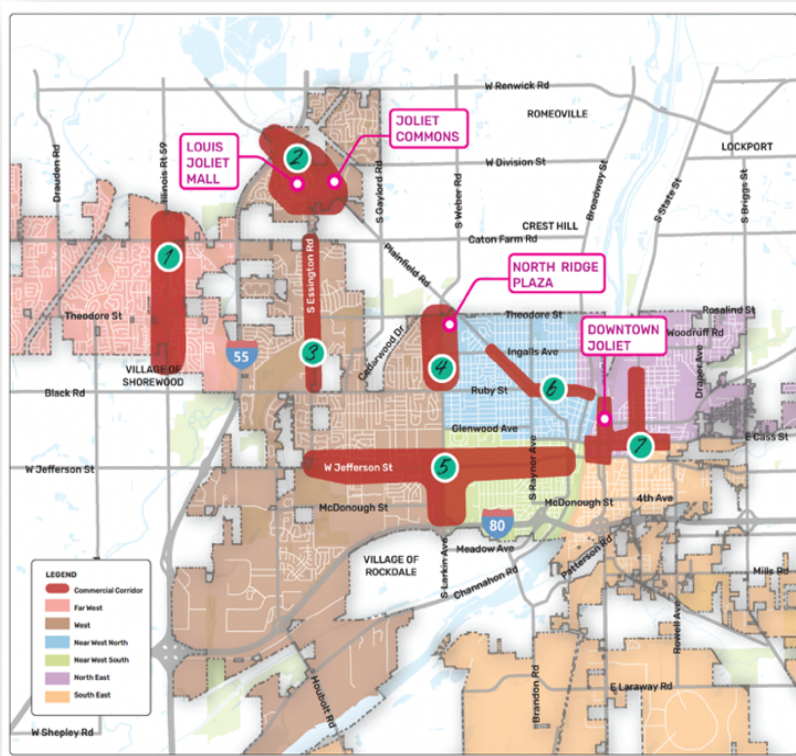
for workforce development strategies that would train young people for in-demand jobs and attract a range of jobs for all skills, experience, and education levels.

Working in Joliet Board: Which workforce development initiatives are most important to you?



To understand current shopping habits and opportunities for investment, workshop attendees were asked where they typically do their shopping.

Living in Joliet Board: Where do you typically shop?



Considerations

In addition to growth industries such as healthcare, the feedback we received suggests planning for long-term economic vitality could consider opportunities in tourism and entertainment as pathways to enhance culture and quality of life as well as provide economic opportunity. There is strong support for workforce development strategies such as training young people for in-demand jobs and attracting a range of jobs for all skill, experience and education levels.

Community and Culture

Building city pride, reducing stigma around Joliet, and creating a stronger sense of community is important to Joliet residents. Many want a Joliet that is cleaner, safer, and more welcoming, with more cultural events, family-friendly activities, and spaces for residents to come together.

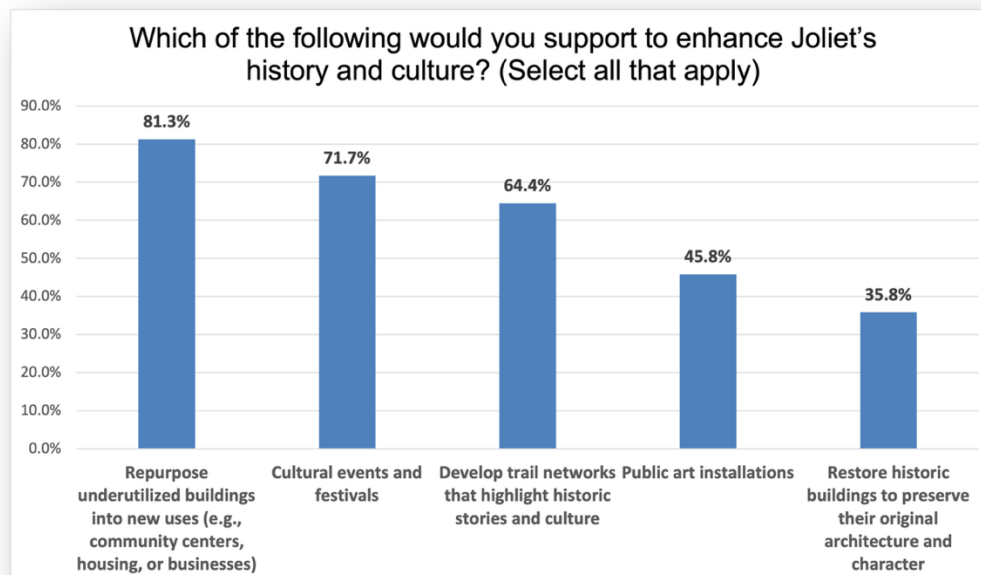
When asked what strategies residents would like to see to enhance Joliet's history and culture, repurposing and restoring buildings were ranked the highest, followed closely by the desire for cultural events and festivals

What we heard:

- There is a strong interest in beautification efforts, which include cleaner streets and more public art in open spaces to improve people's everyday experience.
- Residents would like to see downtown become a pedestrian-friendly central hub for year-round events such as festivals, farmers' markets, and riverfront activity.

Residents would like to see amenities and events spread out across neighborhoods to make them accessible.

Survey Question 19: Which of the following would you support to enhance Joliet's history and culture?



Considerations

Feedback suggests that exploring strategies to incentivize entertainment uses and the renovation and reuse of historic buildings could both enhance culture and community pride as well as support economic development efforts in Joliet.

Parks and Nature

Many residents want cleaner, better-maintained parks and more opportunities for outdoor recreation. Residents expressed desire for family-friendly spaces such as pools, splash pads, and playgrounds. Feedback also included a desire for trails, community gardens, natural areas, a revitalized riverfront area. Several residents emphasized the importance of preserving existing green space rather than creating new space.

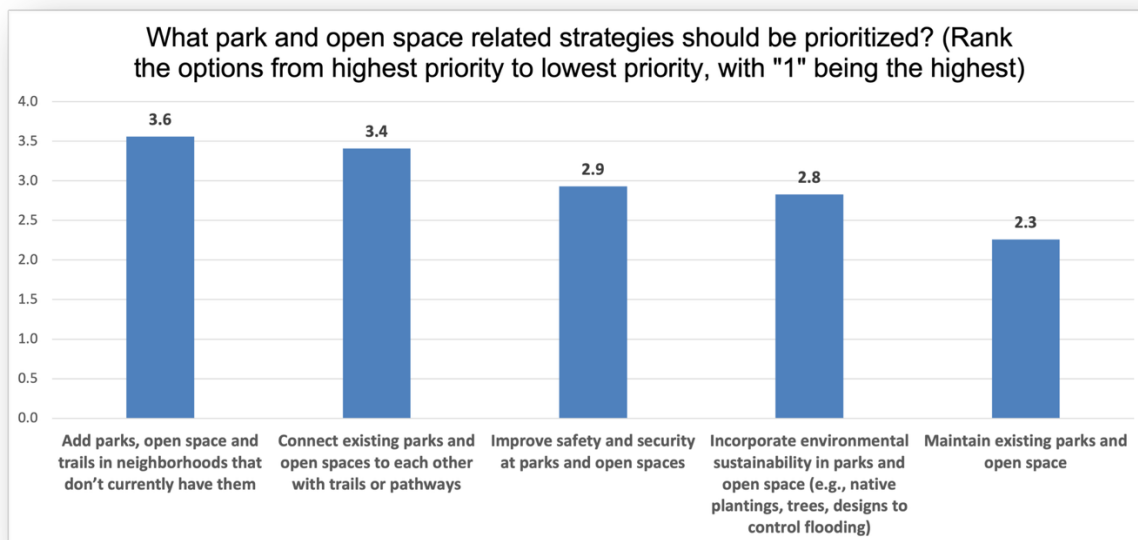
What we heard:

- Residents see parks as vital community assets, but current barriers, especially safety and maintenance concerns, keep existing facilities being fully utilized
- There is strong demand for pools, youth programming, sports programming, and community centers.
- There is a desire for walking and biking trails that connect neighborhoods to parks.
- Residents would like to see ADA accessible facilities and recreational opportunities.

Survey respondents said the top park and open space priorities are creating parks, open space, and trails in neighborhoods that lack them, improving safety, and connecting existing parks.

At the community workshop, attendees provided feedback on areas where more park and open space is desired as well as opportunities for creating connections between existing destinations.

Survey Question 14: What park and open space-related strategies should be prioritized? (Rank Choice)



Youth programming and opportunities came up in several topic areas, including parks and open space. Residents raised concerns about school quality, equity, and reputation, and called for more activities and safe spaces for young people. Many emphasized the importance of investing in youth programs, sports, and after-school opportunities to strengthen the city's future. This sentiment highlights the opportunity to prioritize education and youth development as a cornerstone of Joliet's long-term success.

Considerations

The current sentiment from the survey responses is that most people (62%) are neutral or only somewhat satisfied with parks presents an opportunity to improve environmental sustainability and enhance quality of life through parks and open spaces. There are opportunities to expand and connect green and open spaces and focus on specific amenities that community members would like to utilize.

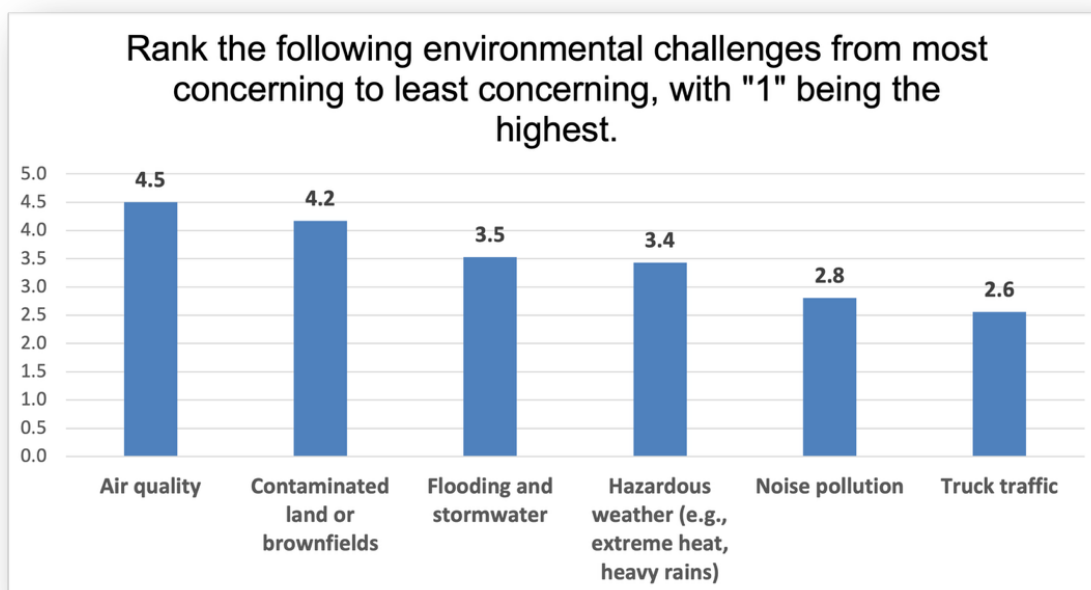
Environment and Sustainability

Residents expressed concerns about pollution from warehouses and trucking. They described how warehouses have brought noise, traffic congestion, air pollution, and safety concerns to their neighborhoods. Many called for a moratorium on new warehouses, rerouting trucks away from residential areas, and stronger environmental protections. In addition to air pollution, another top concern residents expressed was flooding.

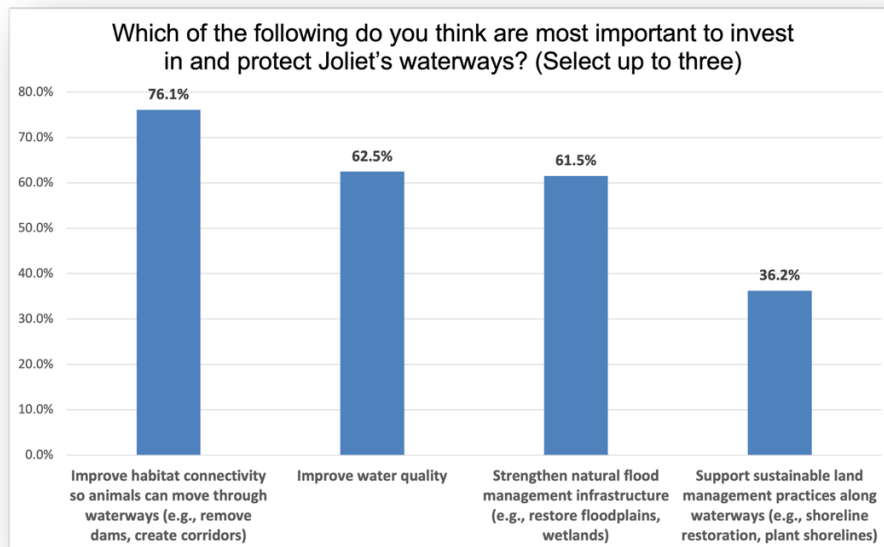
What we heard:

- Concerns about air quality, truck traffic, and flooding are common.
- Requests for more trees, beautification, and green buffers to improve livability.
- Air quality, truck traffic, and contaminated land or brownfields are a top concern.

Survey Question 16: Rank the following environmental challenges from most concerning to least concerning. (Rank Choice)



Survey Question 18: Which of the following do you think are the most important to invest in and protect Joliet's waterways?



Considerations

Tying in green infrastructure with park and open space creation can address environmental concerns and recreational desires. Additionally, concerns about flooding coupled with a desire to improve water quality suggest the importance of water management to the future of Joliet.

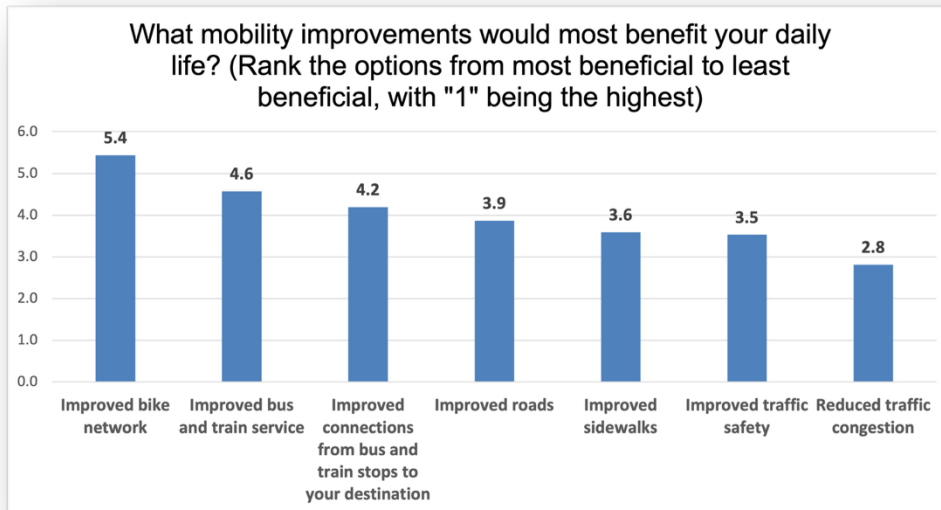
Transportation and Mobility

Infrastructure challenges, specifically Joliet's concerns about bridges, were mentioned frequently. Residents expressed frustration with constant closures, congestion, and the lack of safe, reliable east-west connections. There is a desire for better sidewalks, improved transit (especially on the West Side), and more bike-friendly infrastructure to increase mobility options. Transportation access was often tied to downtown revitalization and overall quality of life. This theme points to opportunities for long-term investment in roads, bridges, transit, and improving pedestrian access and connectivity.

What we heard:

- Widespread concerns about traffic congestion, especially near I-80.
- Repeated comments about broken or missing sidewalks and a need for safer pedestrian infrastructure.
- Strong support for bike paths, trails, and walkability.
- Concerns about truck traffic.
- Public transit is seen as limited; buses don't run late enough or connect well to destinations.

Survey Question 11: What mobility improvements would most benefit your daily life? (Rank Choice)



Improving roads and sidewalks are a top priority in Joliet. To learn more about specific areas of feedback the project team prompted workshop attendees to share areas where sidewalk and road conditions are most challenging. The concentration of pins on the sidewalk map, which indicated desired improvements to sidewalks, were on the east side of the city. This corresponds to the areas survey respondents indicated were most in need of investment.



Map of sidewalk conditions in Joliet, highlighting areas where residents reported difficult-to-use or unsafe sidewalks with push pins.

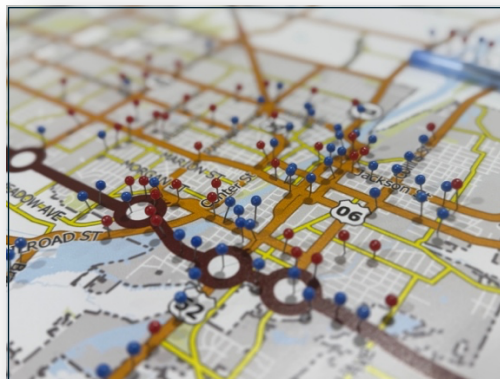


Post-it notes left by residents highlighting existing conditions and what improvements they would like to see on sidewalks.

Feedback from the workshop shows concerns about truck traffic concentrated on Chicago Street.



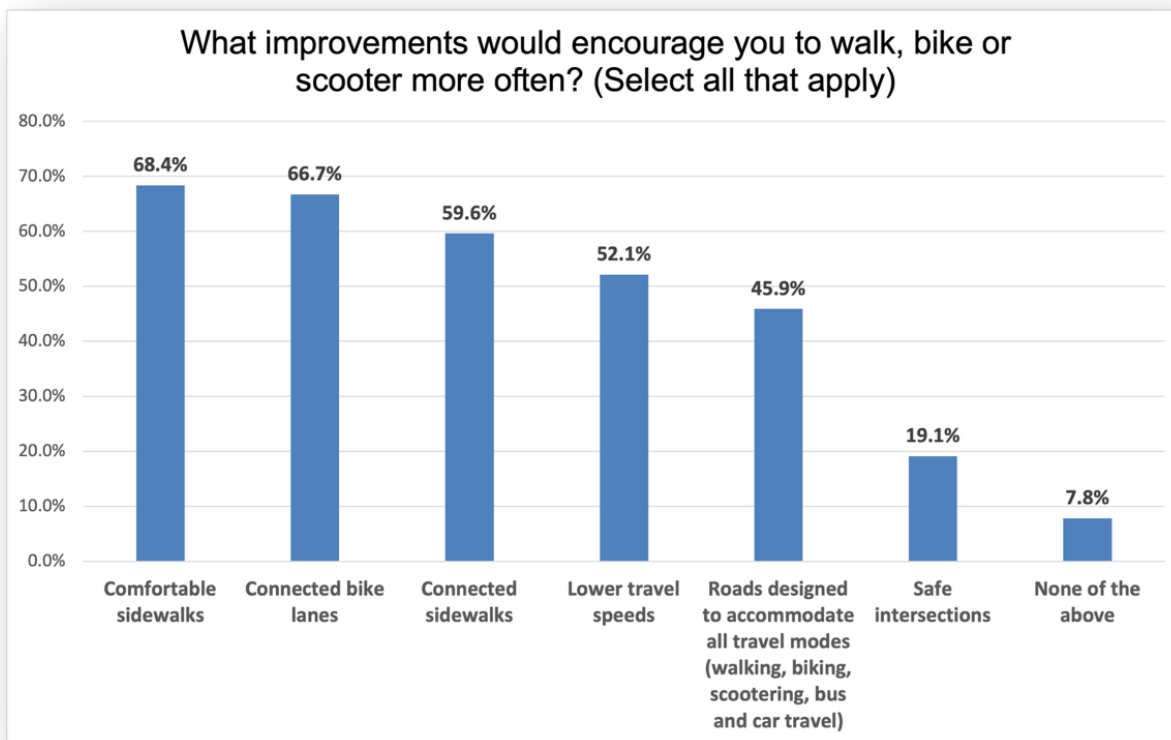
Map of roads in Joliet, where residents reported where they experienced difficult road and traffic conditions with push pins.



Map of roads in Joliet, where residents identified areas with the worst truck traffic and areas that feel unsafe.

Survey respondents prioritized safe and connected sidewalks and safe intersections as key infrastructure to encourage more walking, biking, and scootering.

Survey Question 12: What improvements would encourage you to walk, bike, or scooter more often?



Considerations

Addressing the transportation network from roads to sidewalks to trails is a top priority for residents and provides an opportunity to plan for future growth and increase connectivity across Joliet.

Next Steps

Community Priorities

As the plan moves forward, several themes should remain at the forefront of future recommendations. Residents consistently raised concerns about housing affordability, including rising property taxes, the cost of living, and limited options for first-time buyers and seniors. Community members also emphasized the importance of addressing perceptions of Joliet's identity and safety, while ensuring more equitable investment across neighborhoods, particularly on the South East and North East areas. On the economic front, participants highlighted the need for stable, well-paying jobs beyond warehousing and retail, while also maintaining support for union and blue-collar work. Quality of life was closely linked to environmental and livability concerns, with frequent calls for cleaner streets, more green space, and better environmental protections. In terms of infrastructure, bridges, roads, sidewalks, and public transit were seen as persistent barriers to connectivity across the city. Finally, gaps in healthcare access, mental health services, and support for both youth and seniors were identified as ongoing challenges.

Engagement Considerations

Survey data revealed opportunities to increase engagement touchpoints with younger residents and to diversify community input overall, as many survey respondents came from the West and Far West areas of Joliet. Expanding outreach efforts *in the East area of the city* will help round out key recommendations and ensure the comprehensive plan reflects the full range of community perspectives.

The project team will incorporate this round of feedback into the Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. Moving into Phase III, the next public engagement opportunity will be the Key Topic Area Working Groups, followed by Community Workshop #2, where residents can provide input on draft plan strategies and recommendations in the key topic areas. Phase IV will include sub-area roundtables to provide a deeper dive in a set of sub-areas as part of the plan. Finally, in Phase V, the final Community Workshop #3 will provide an opportunity for residents to provide feedback on the draft final plan.

Appendix

Survey

2,041 survey responses were collected – 2,000 online, 41 paper copies.

29 surveys were completed in Spanish.

Responses breakdown by ZIP Code (not all respondents provided their ZIP Code)

ZIP Code	Count	ZIP Code	Count	ZIP Code	Count	ZIP Code	Count
60435	601	60442	4	60422	1	60425	1
60431	222	60423	3	60525	1	60585	1
60432	147	60481	3	69436	1	60469	1
60433	141	60467	2	60543	1	60616	1
60436	141	60434	2	46311	1	60477	1
60586	90	60560	2	60449	1	60686	1
60404	30	60544	2	46321	1	55121	1
60403	23	60914	2	60856	1	60450	1
60451	14	N/A	2	61350	1	60487	1
60441	11	69435	2	60531	1	69431	1
60410	8	60456	2	60439	1	60462	1
60421	8	60532	1	60538	1	60463	1
60447	8	60640	1	60465	1	60452	1
60446	4	60126	1	60087	1	60455	1

Workshop Attendance by ZIP Code (not all attendees provided their ZIP Code)

ZIP Code	Count	ZIP Code	Count	ZIP Code	Count	ZIP Code	Count
60435	36	60431	10	60403	3	60441	1
60432	14	60433	6	60417	1	60481	1
60436	12	60586	5	60438	1	60580	1
60654	1						

Survey Responses by ZIP Code and Community Area

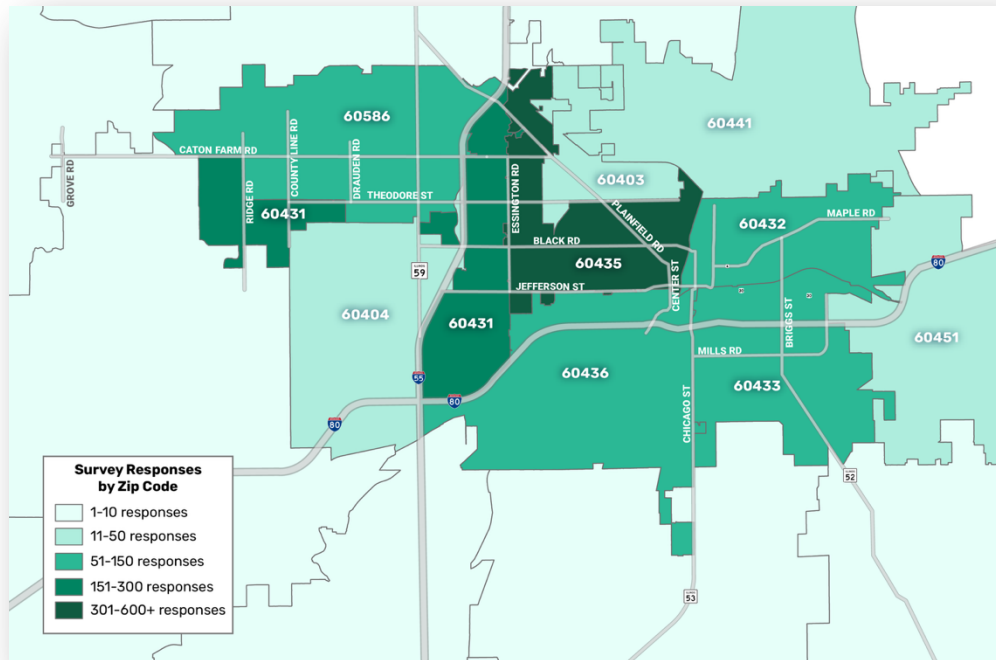


Figure 1. Survey Responses by Respondent ZIP Code

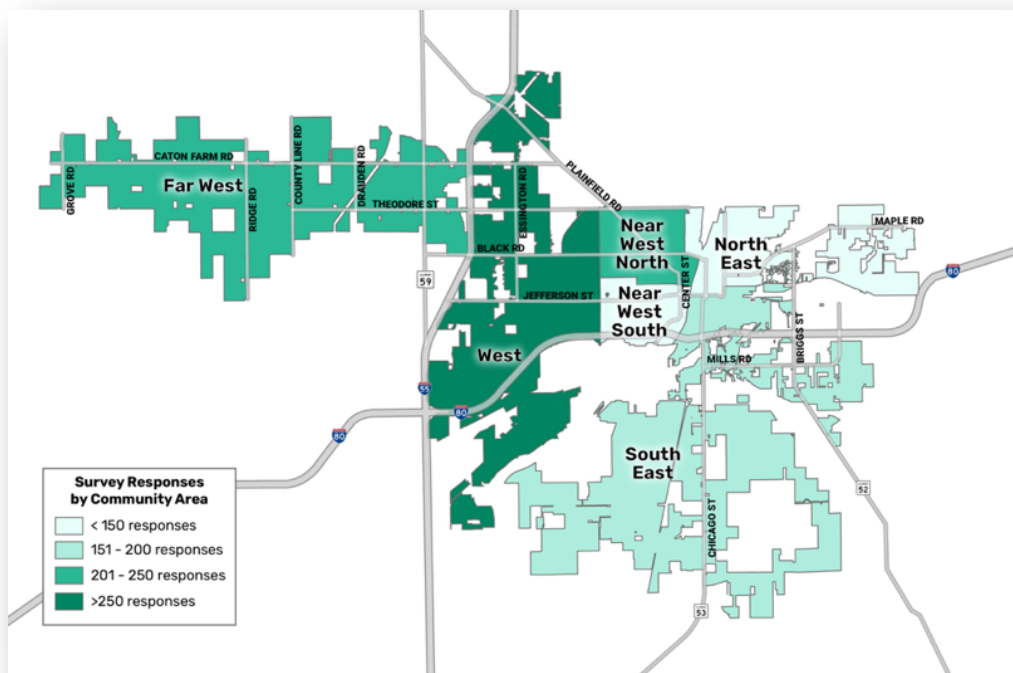
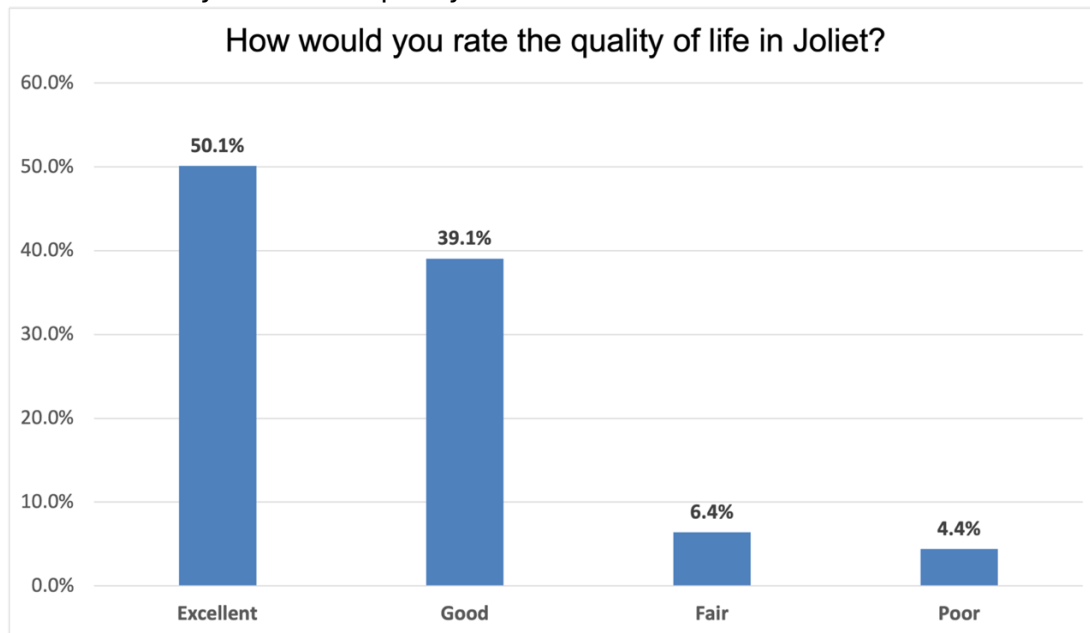


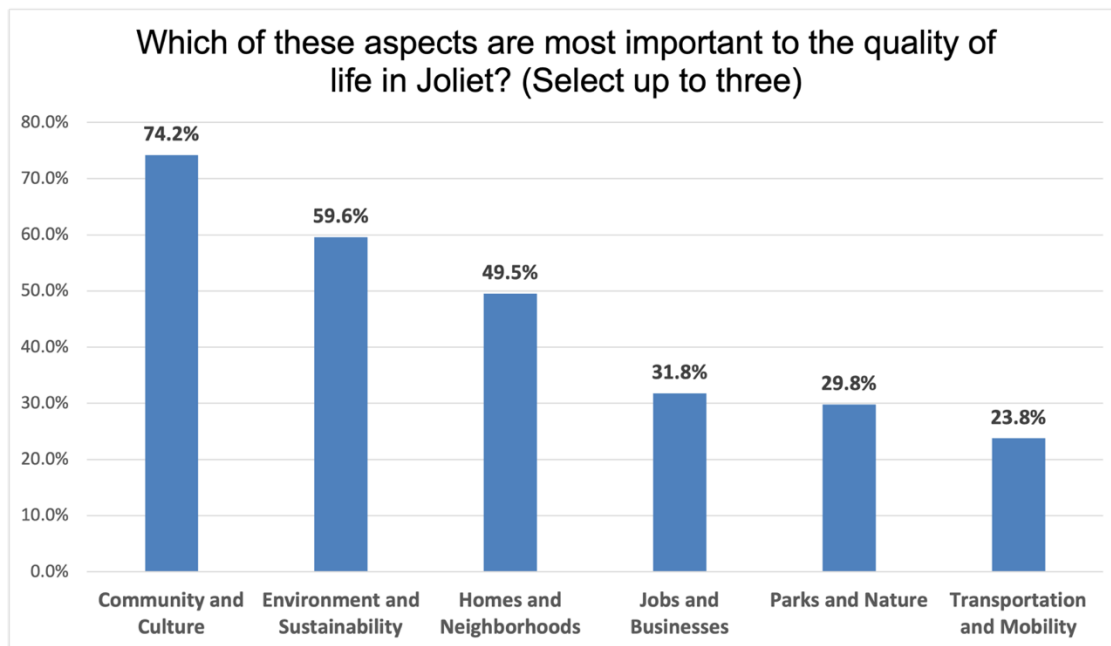
Figure 11. Survey Responses by Respondent Community Area

Summary Statistics by Survey Question

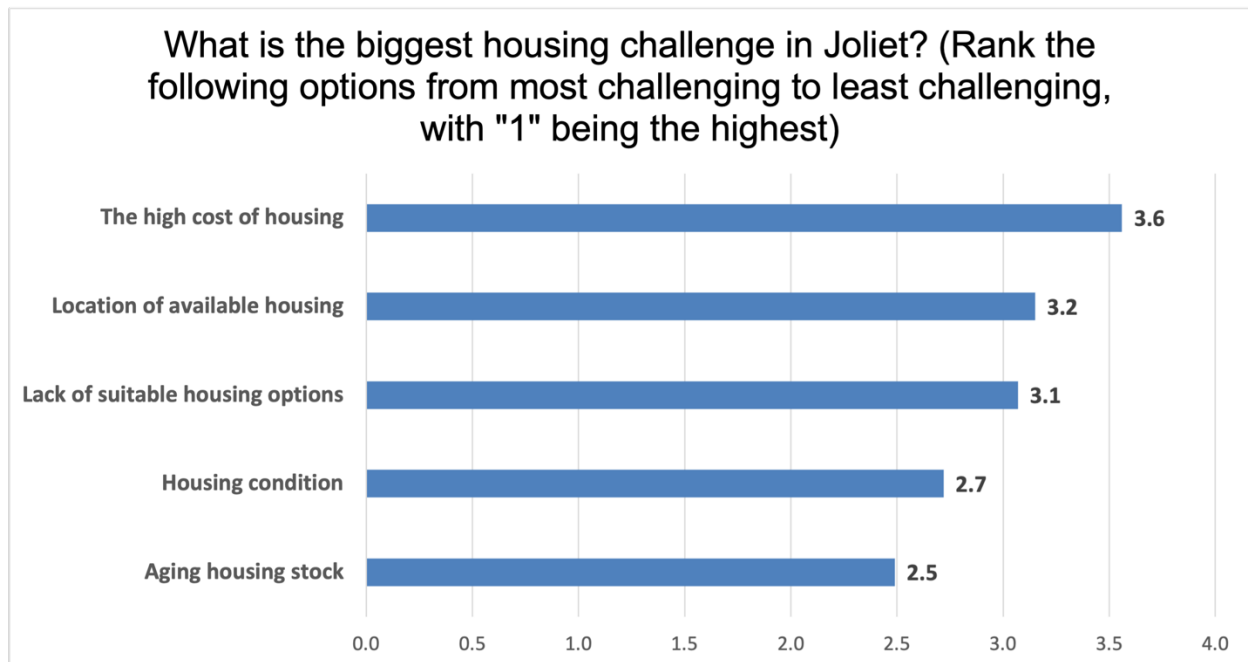
1. How would you rate the quality of life in Joliet?



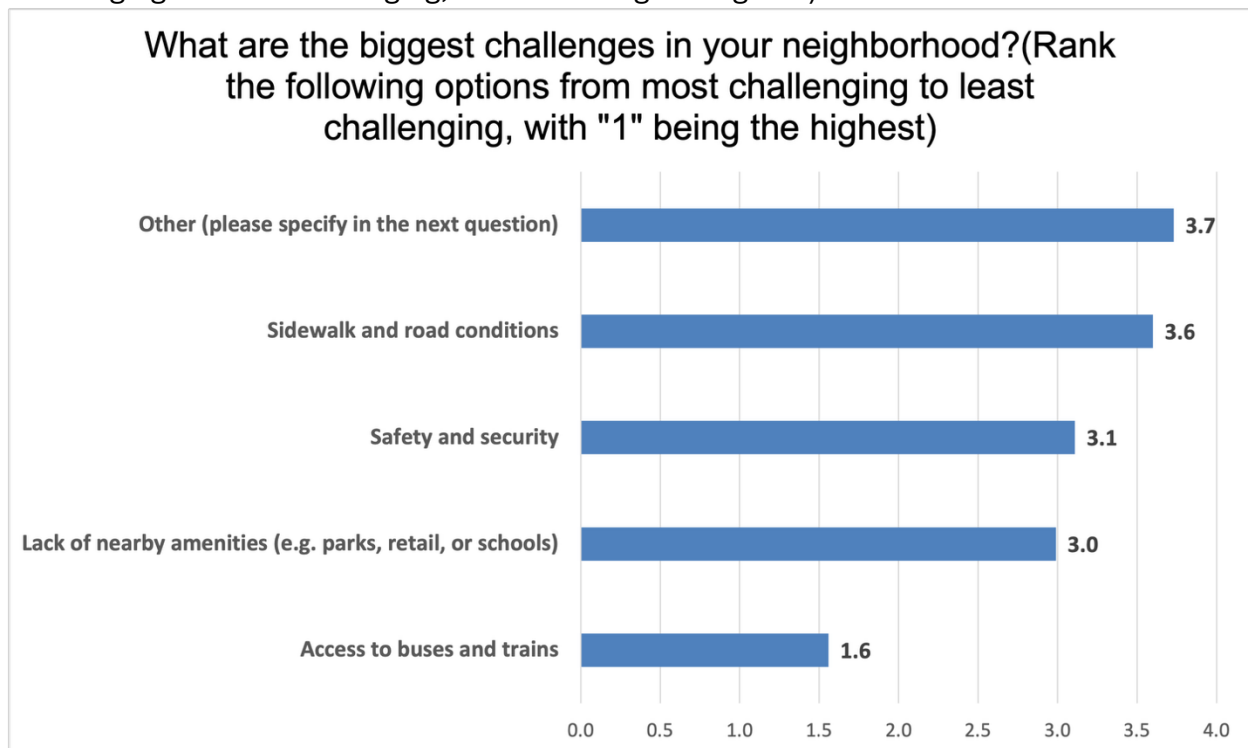
2. Which of these aspects are most important to the quality of life in Joliet? (Select up to three)



3. Which is the biggest housing challenge in Joliet? (Rank the following options from most challenging to least challenging, with “1” being the highest)



4. What are the biggest challenges in your neighborhood? (Rank the following from most challenging to least challenging, with “1” being the highest)

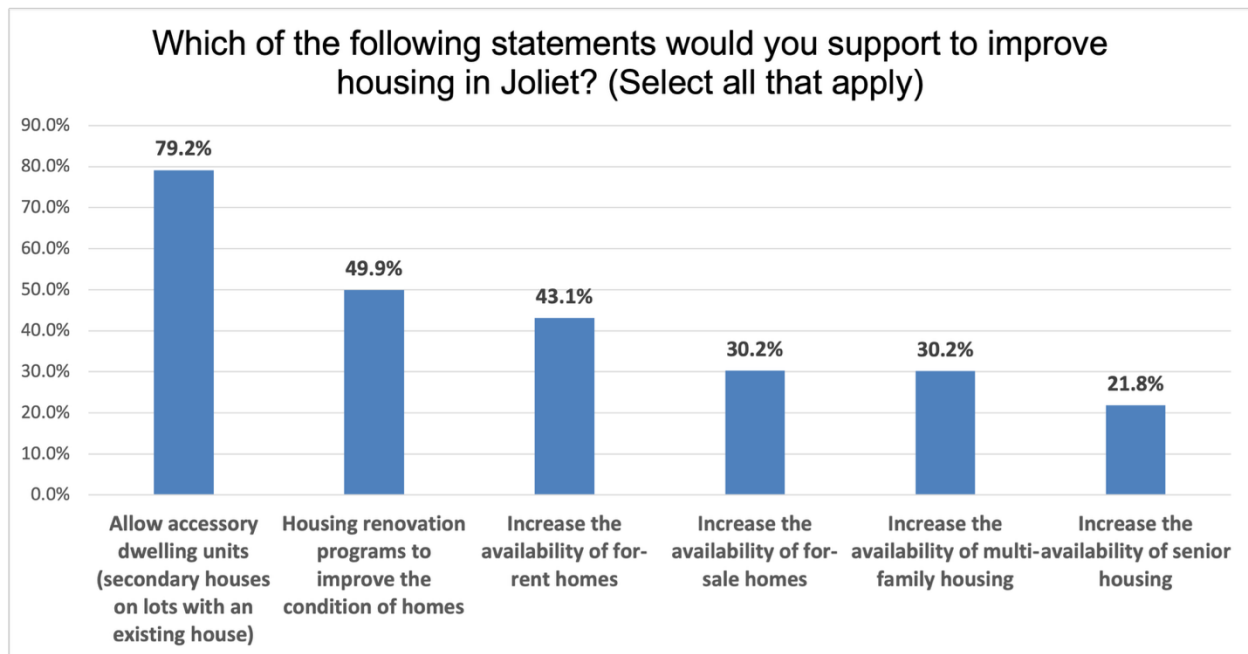


5. If you choose other, please specify.

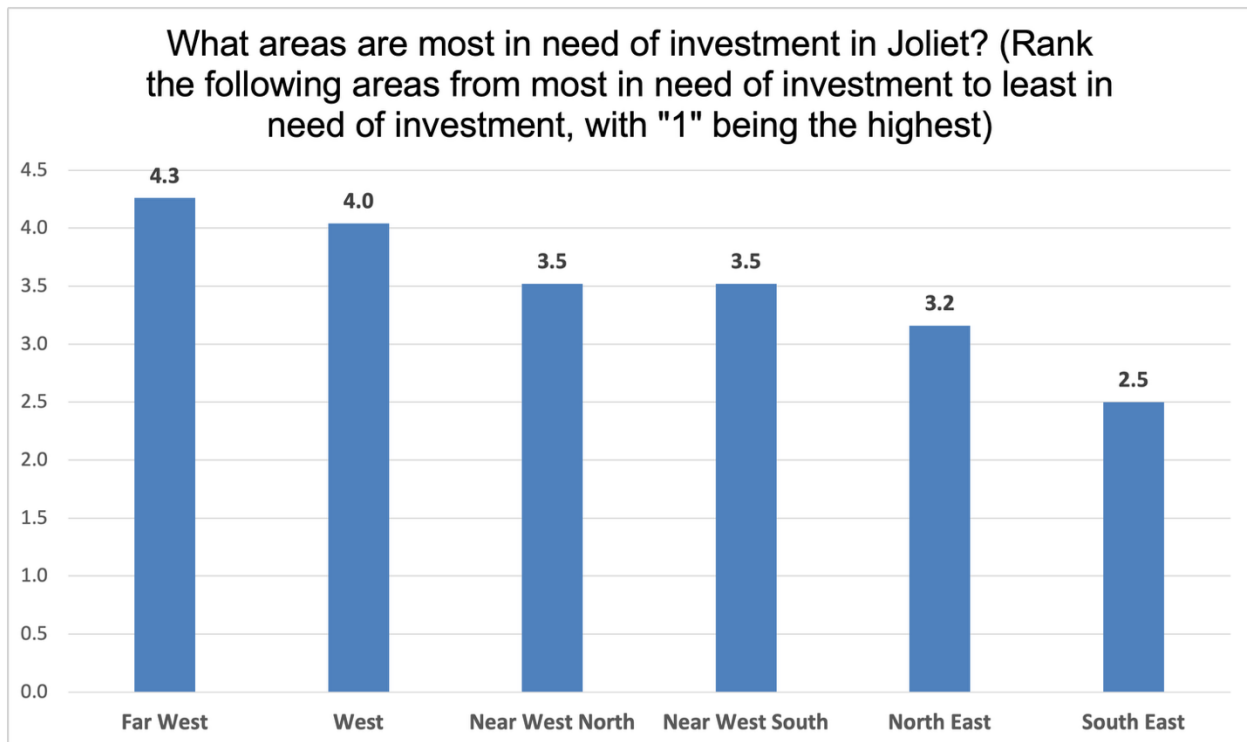
From 'Other' responses, key takeaways include:

- Neighborhood and Personal Safety (73 mentions, 21.9%)
- Road and Bridge Maintenance (45 mentions, 13.5%)
- Property Maintenance Standards/Condition (42 mentions, 12.6%)
- Housing Stock and Diversity (26 mentions, 7.8%)
- Rental Property Management (25 mentions, 7.5%)
- Local Amenities (Small Businesses) (22 mentions, 6.6%)
- Property Taxation (18 mentions, 5.4%)
- Pedestrian Infrastructure and Safety (17 mentions, 5.1%)
- Recreational Facilities and Parks (15 mentions, 4.5%)
- Law Enforcement and Policing (15 mentions, 4.5%)

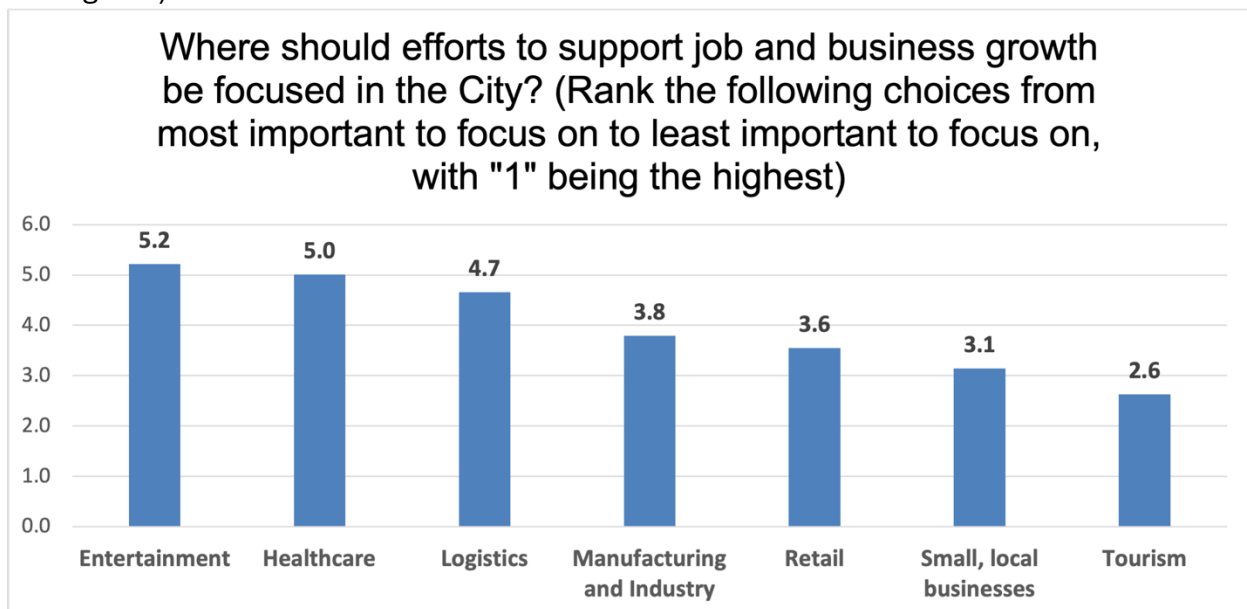
6. Which of the following statements would you support to improve housing in Joliet?
(Select all that apply)



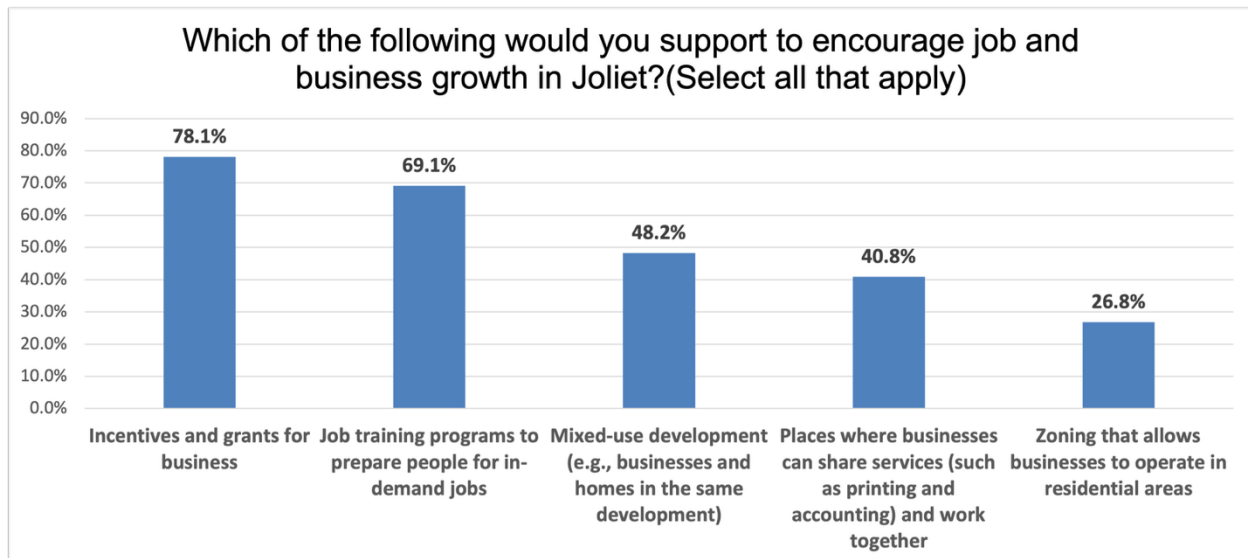
7. What areas are most in need of investment in Joliet? (Rank the following areas from most in need of investment to least in need of investment, with “1” being the highest)



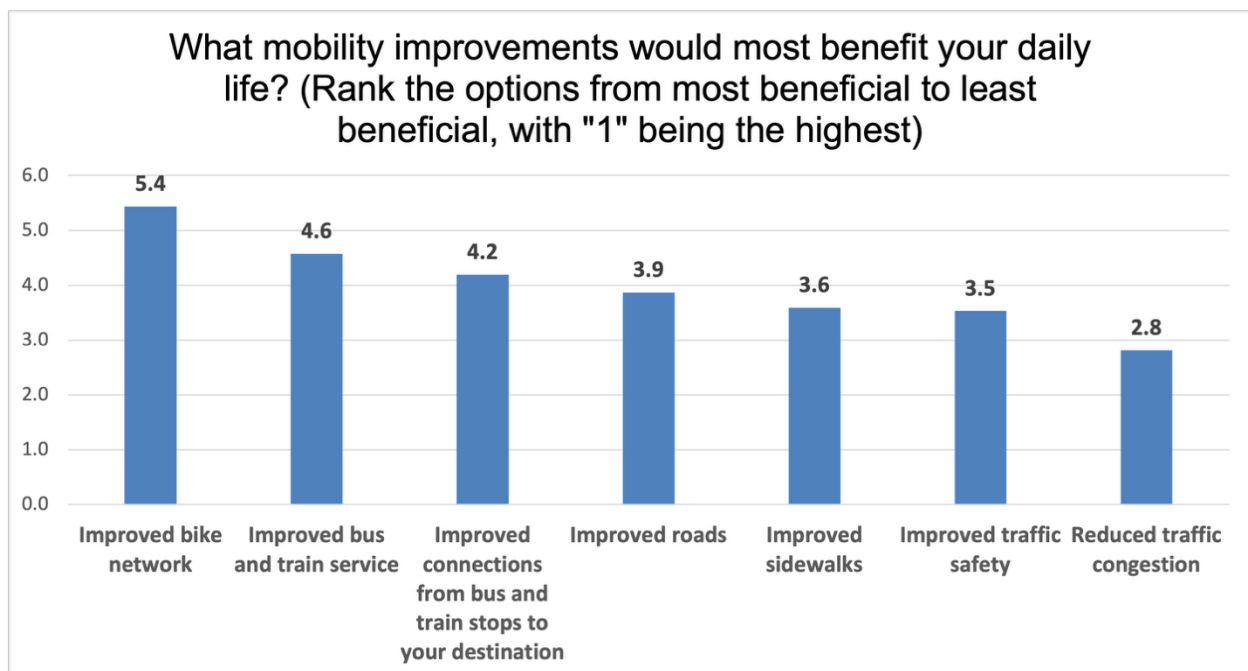
8. Where should efforts to support job and business growth be focused in the City? (Rank the following choices from most important to focus on, to least important, with “1” being the highest)



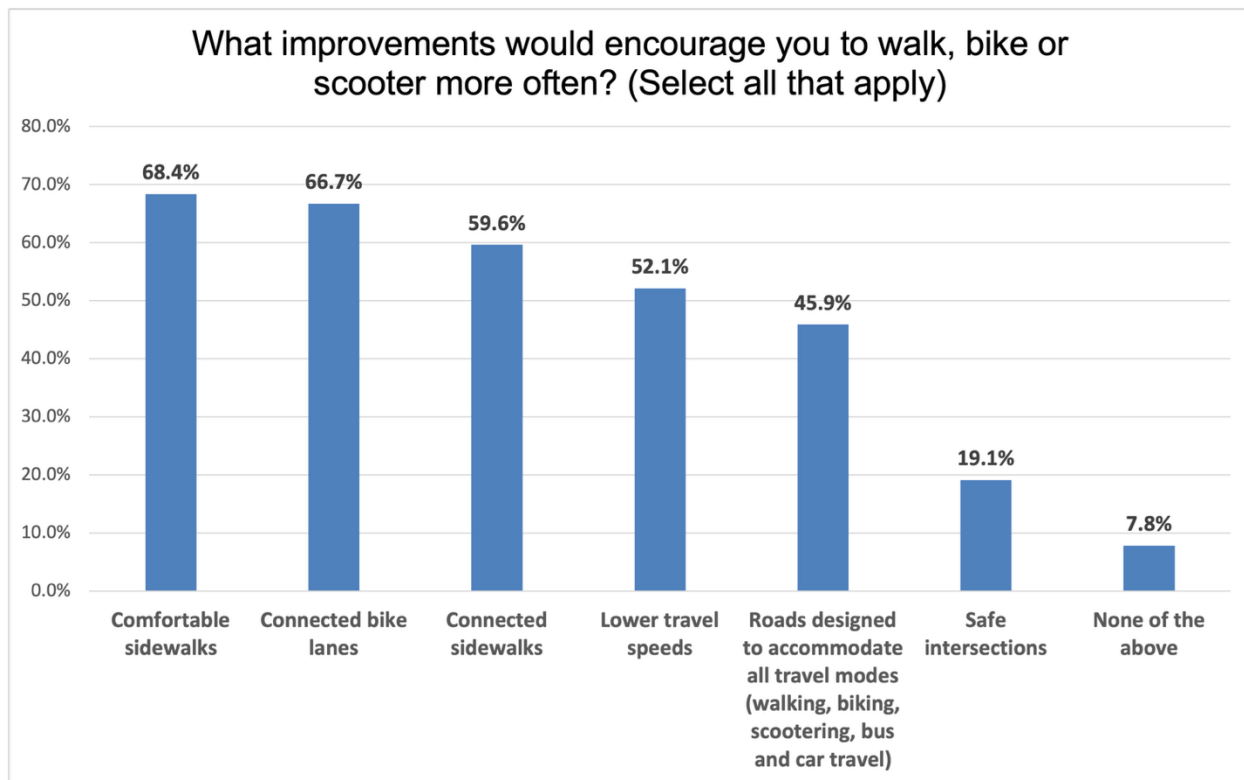
9. Which of the following would you support to encourage job and business growth in Joliet?



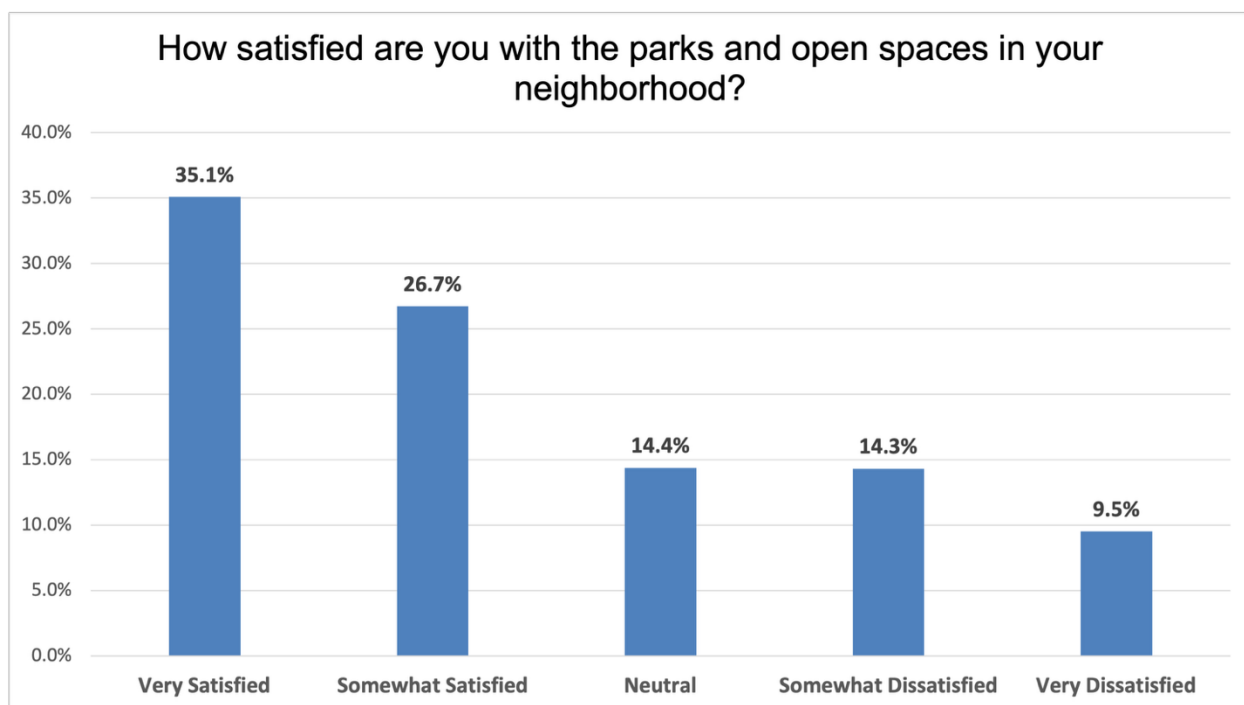
10. What mobility improvements would most benefit your daily life? Rank the following choices from most important beneficial to least, with "1" being the highest)



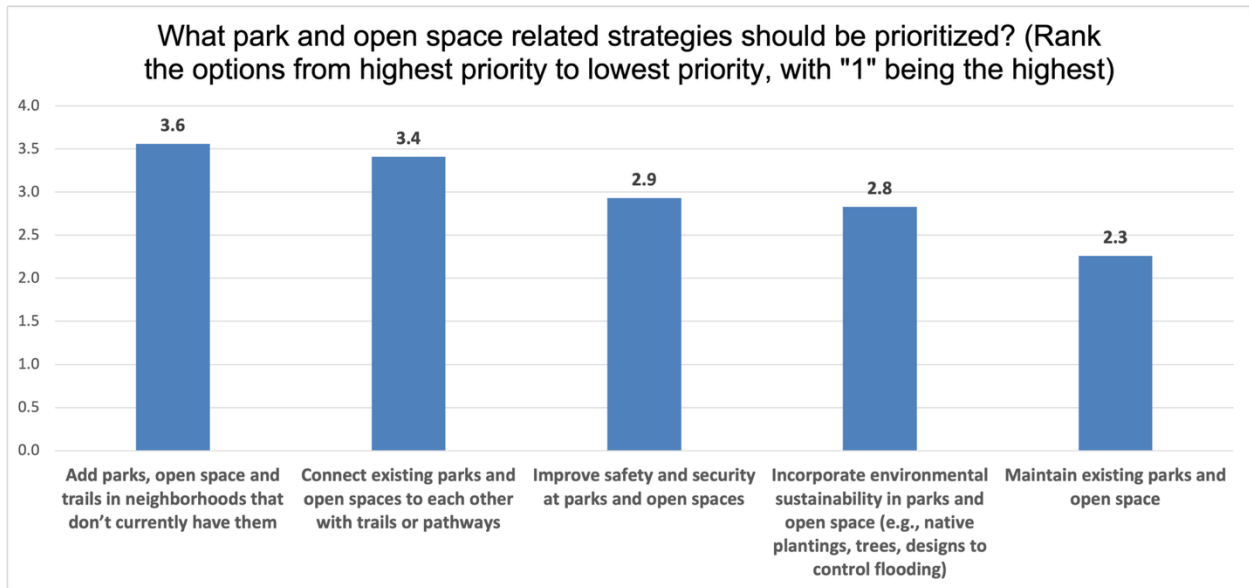
11. What improvements would encourage you to walk, bike, or scooter more often?



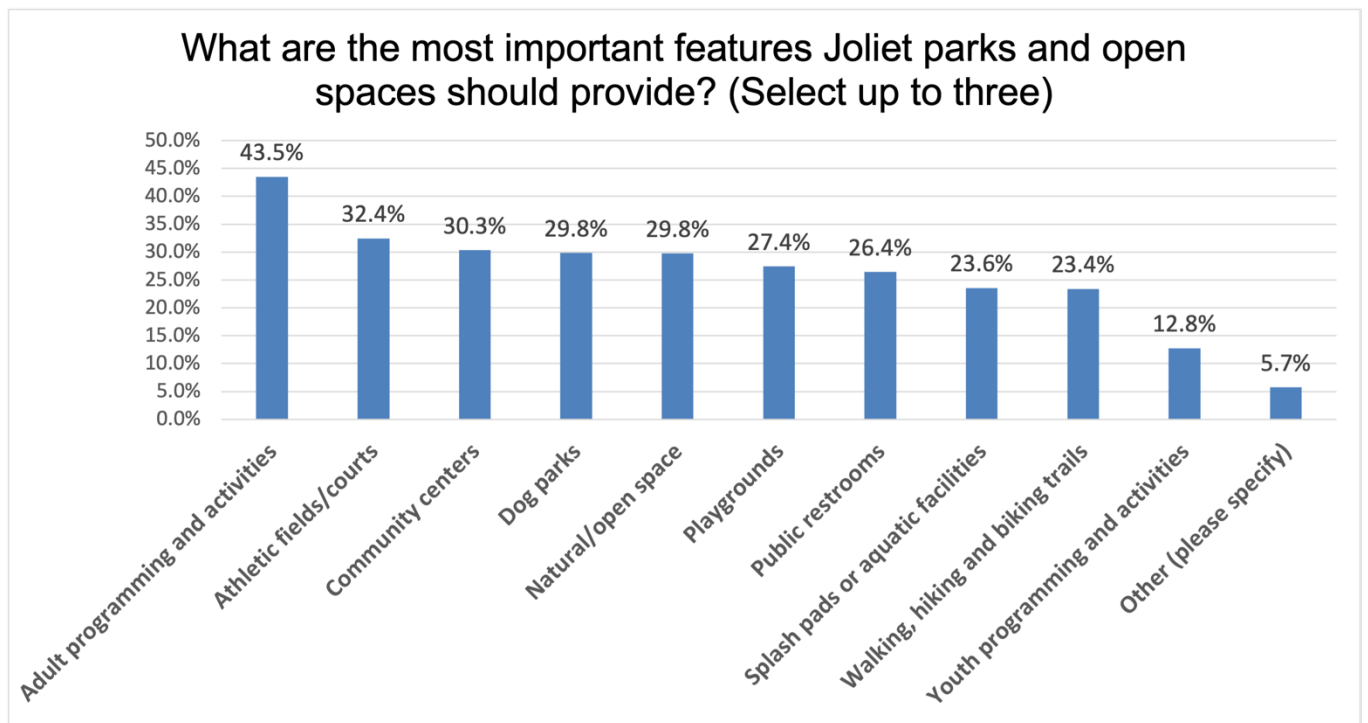
12. How satisfied are you with the parks and open spaces in your neighborhood?



13. What Park and open space-related strategies should be prioritized?



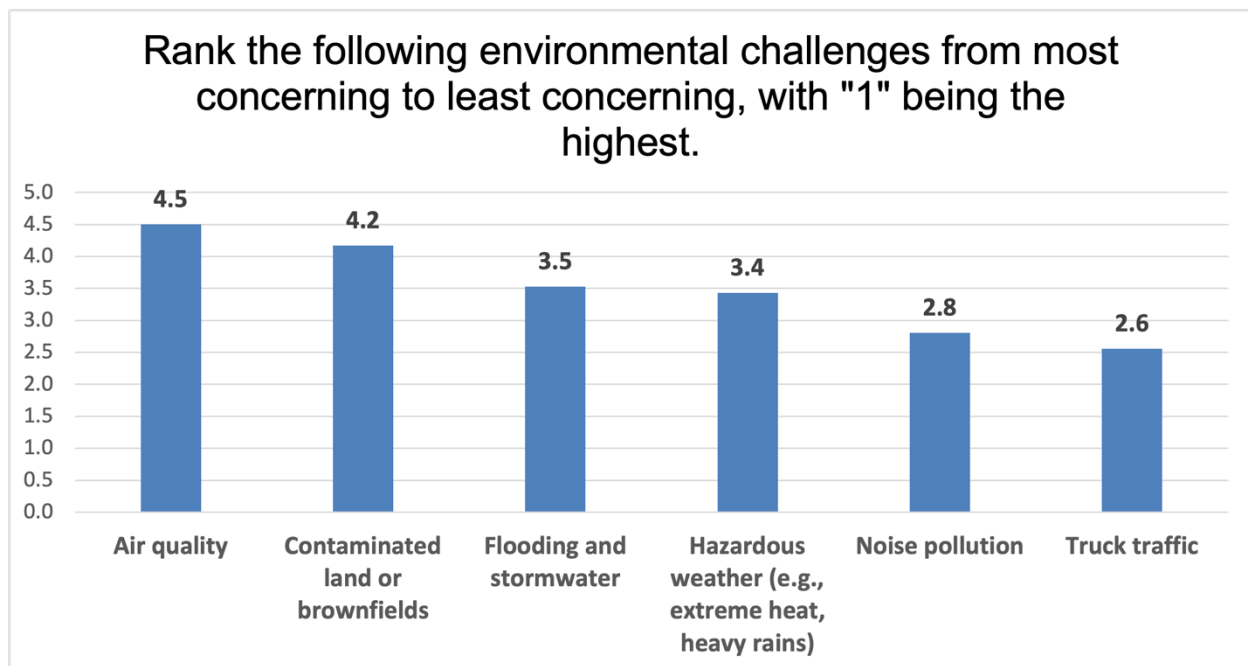
14. What are the most important features Joliet parks and open spaces should provide?



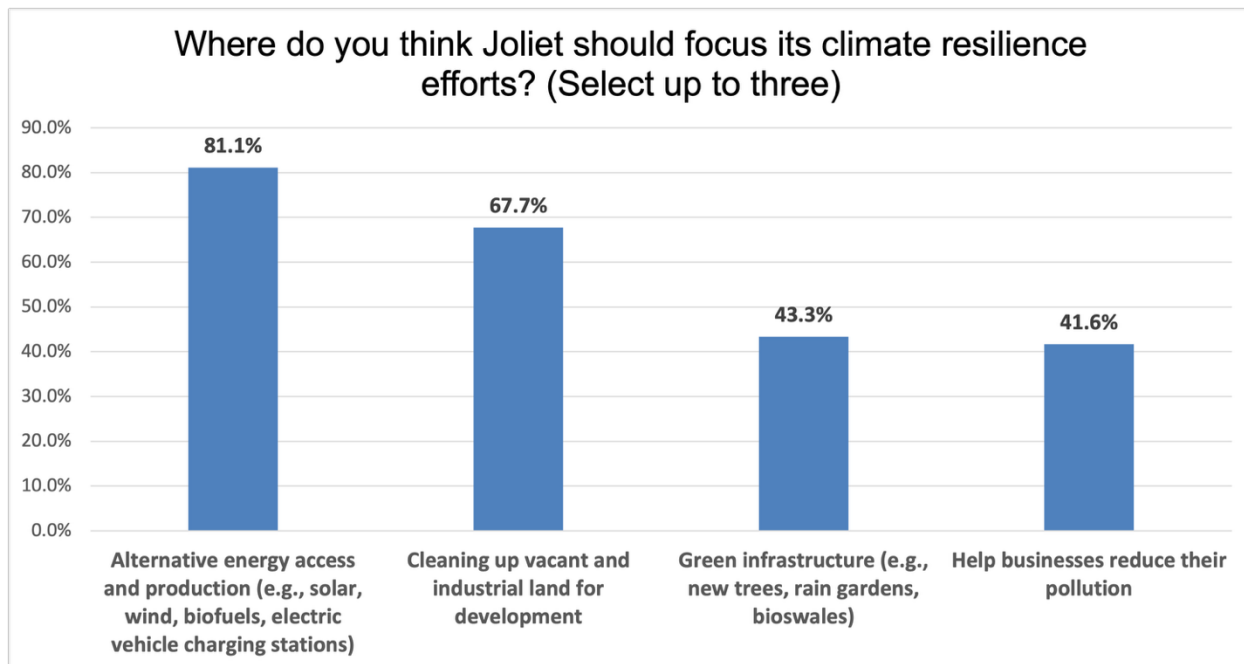
From 'Other' responses, key takeaways include:

- Safety (safer parks) (33%)
- Outdoor swimming / pools (public pools, Splash Station revival, water features for summer) (16%)
- Basketball courts & equitable sports access (restoration, addressing past removals) (9%)
- Pickleball, fitness, and gym-type amenities (pickleball courts, trails, outdoor gyms, workout spaces) (13%)
- Accessibility & Inclusivity (ADA, equipment/programs for disabled residents, accessible trails/parks) (12%)
- Maintenance & cleanliness (trash cans, benches, better upkeep, native plant gardens) (11%)
- Programming & events (arts/music, teen activities, multi-age programs, education) (8%)
- Nature & green space (trees, native plants, orchards, natural preserves) (7%)
- Other amenities (kayak ramps, skateparks, volleyball, fishing, quiet areas, soccer fields) (9%)

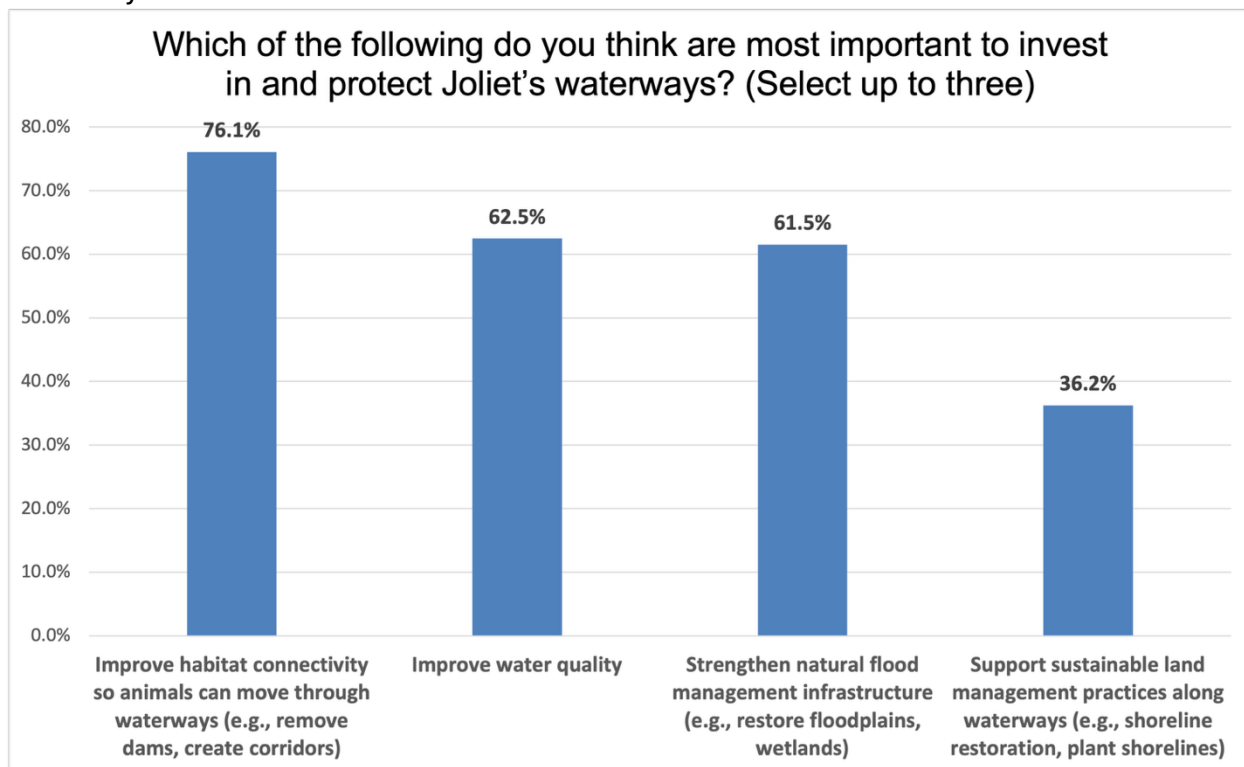
15. Rank the following environmental challenges from most concerning to least concerning, with "1" being the highest.



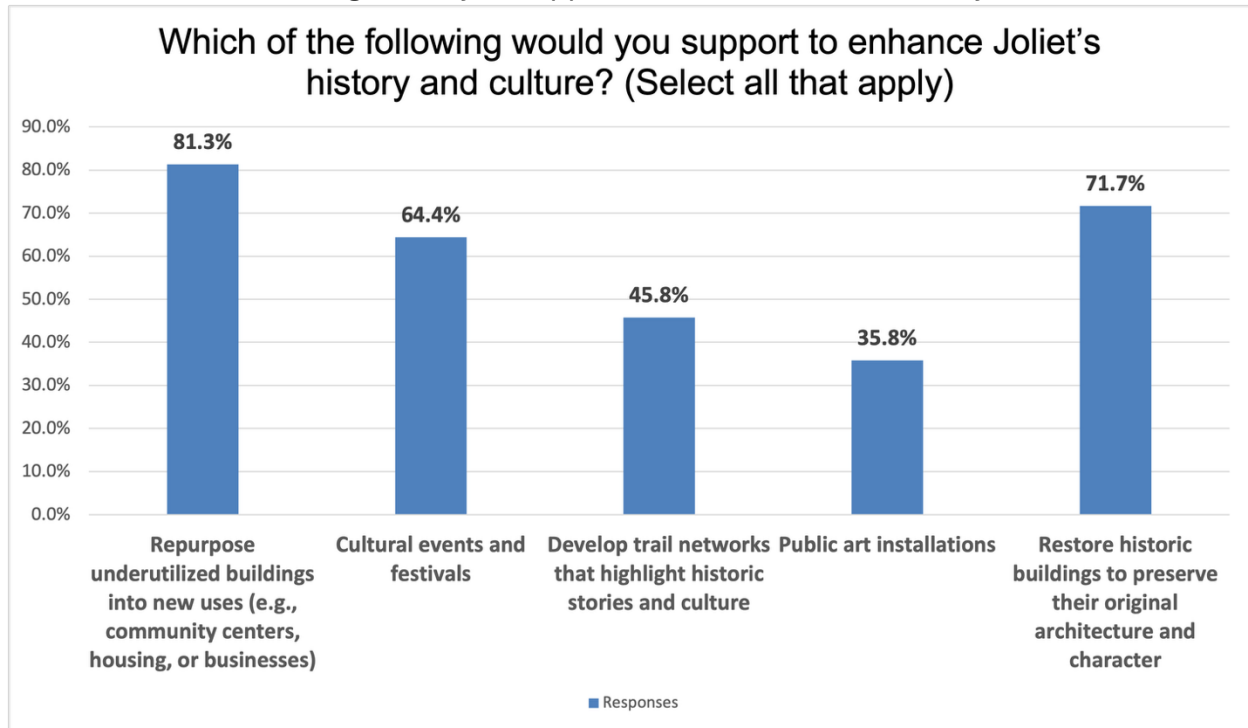
16. Where do you think Joliet should focus its climate resilience efforts?



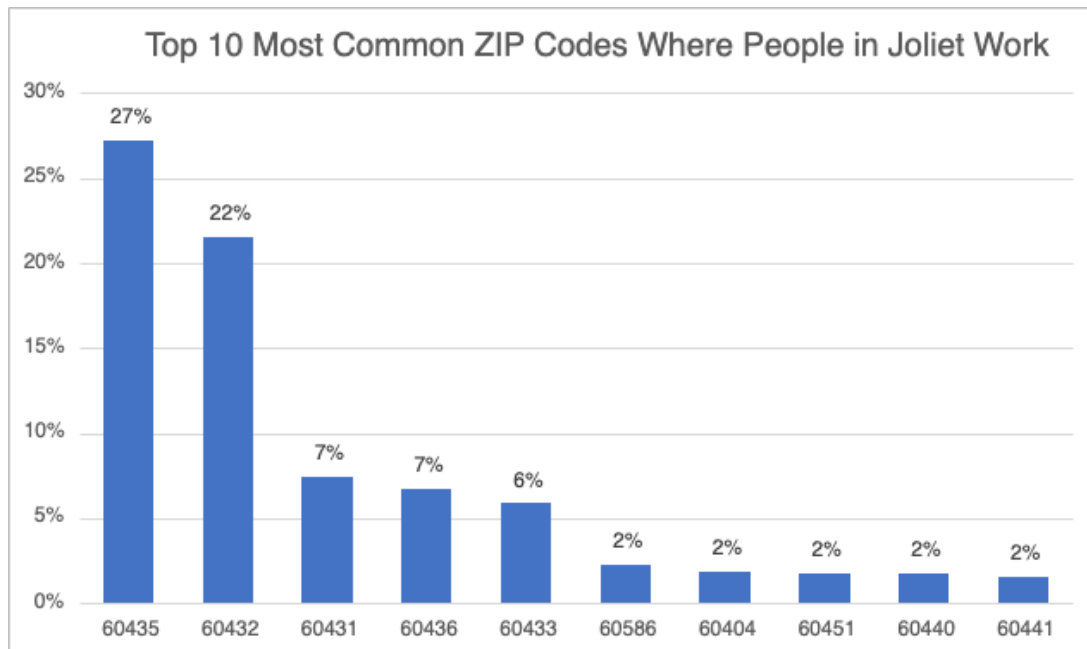
17. Which of the following do you think are most important to invest in and protect Joliet's waterways?



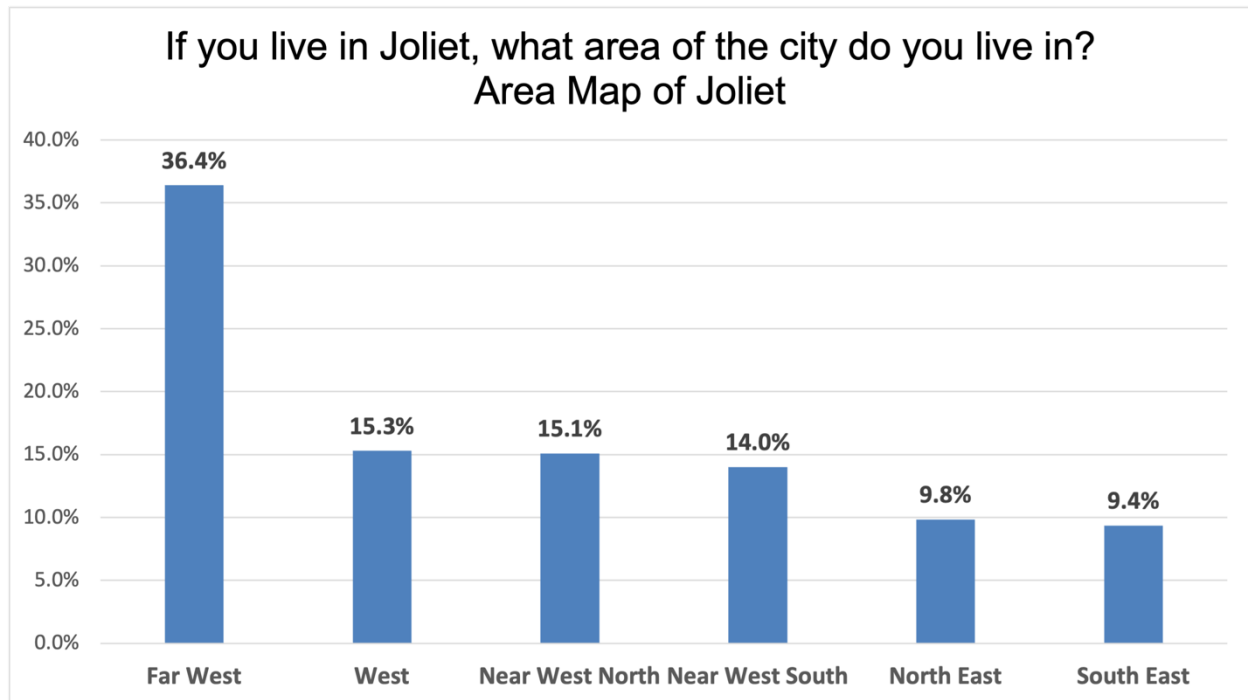
18. Which of the following would you support to enhance Joliet's history and culture?



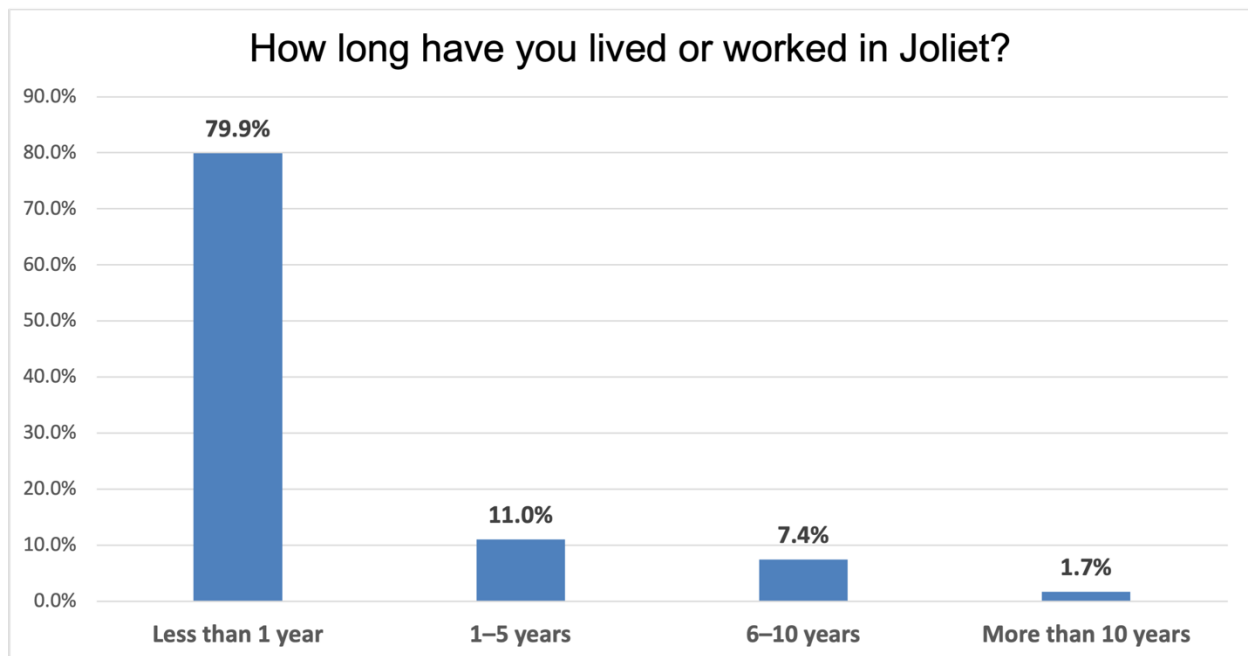
19. What Zip Code do you work in?



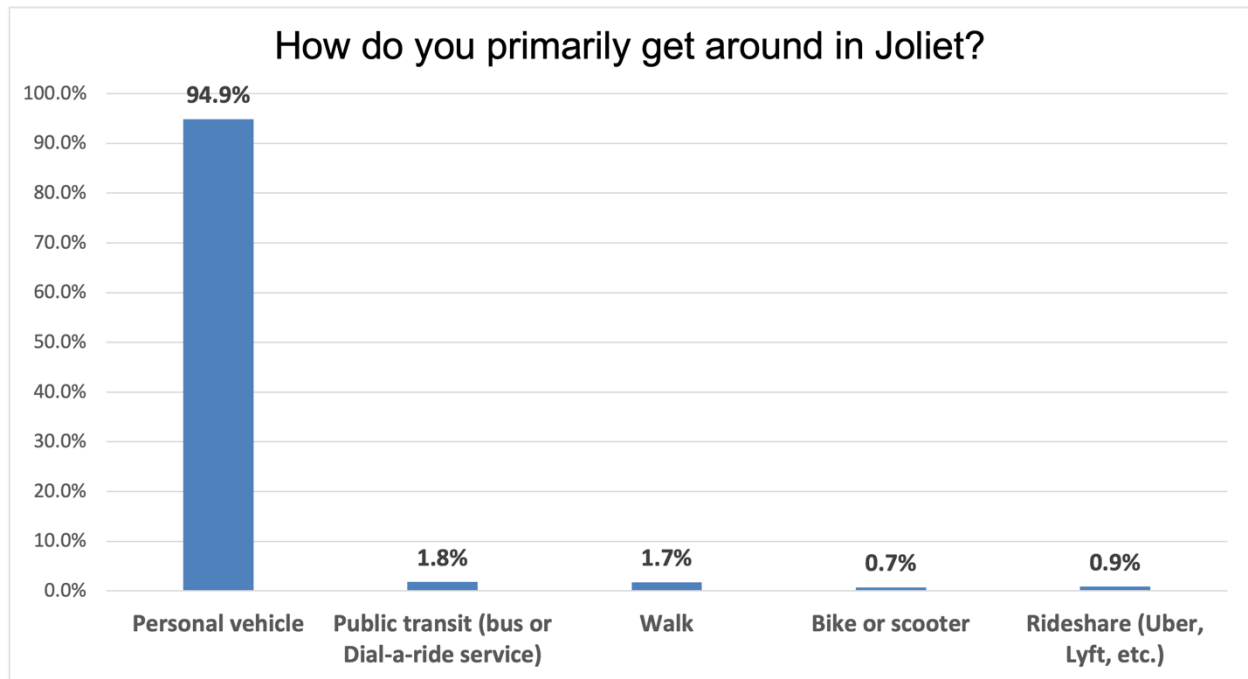
20.If you live in Joliet, what area of the city do you live in?



21. How long have you lived or worked in Joliet?

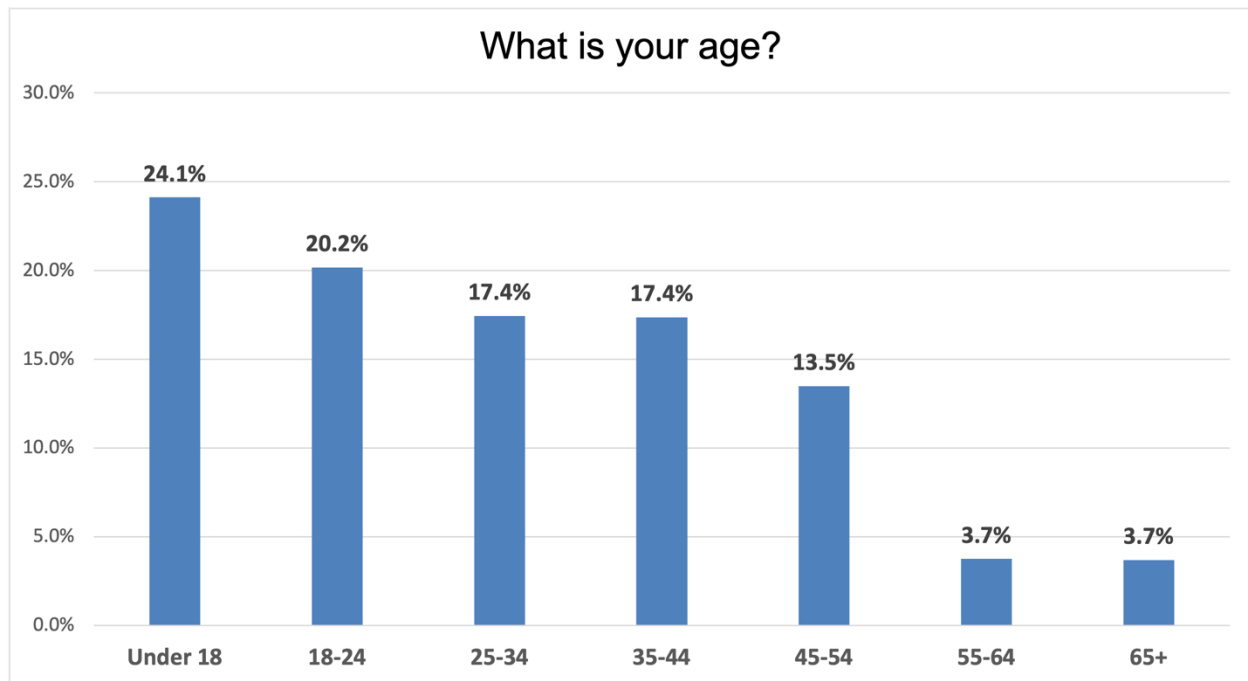


22. How do you primarily get around Joliet?

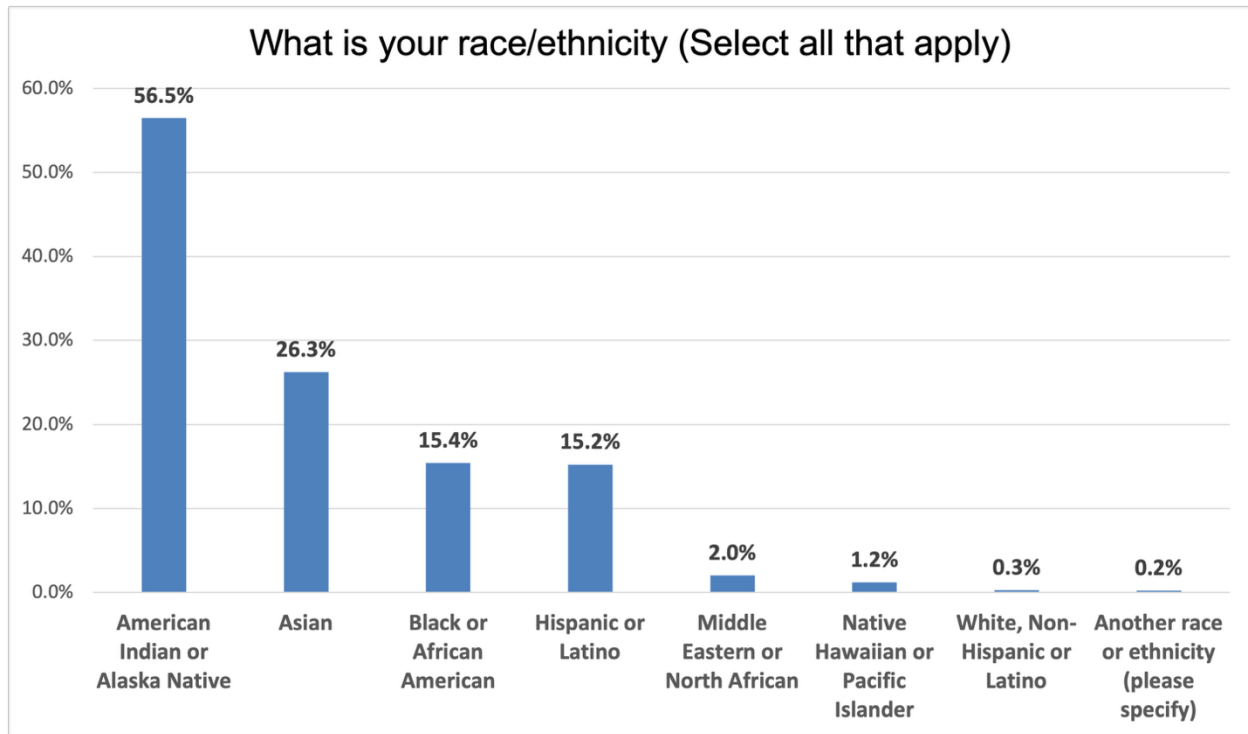


Demographic portion of the Survey

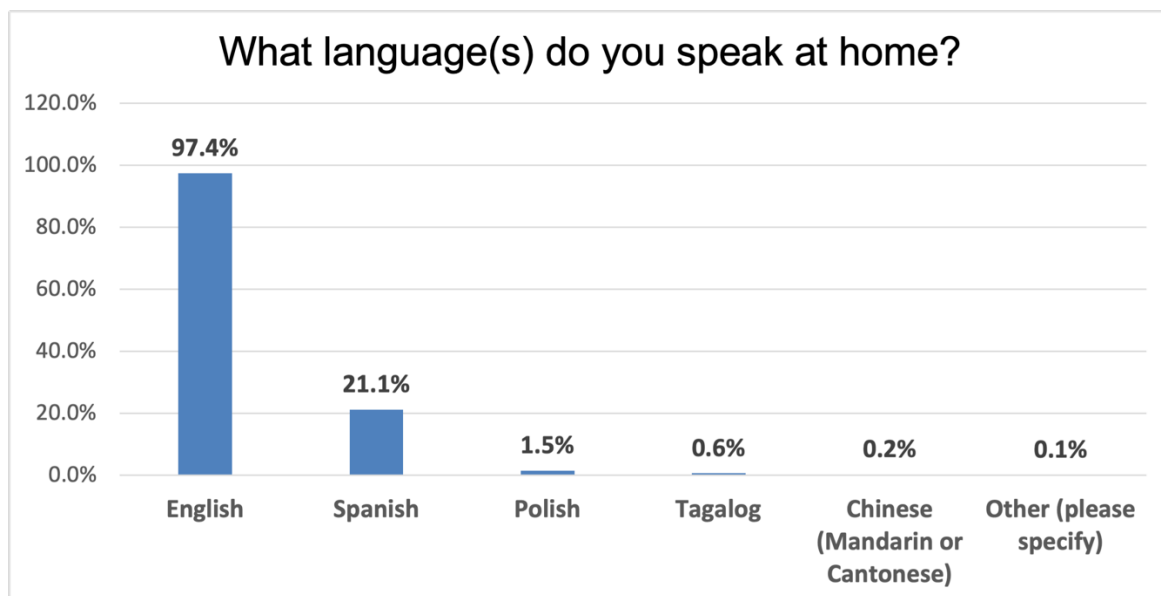
23. What is your age?



24. What is your race/ethnicity?



25. What language(s) do you speak at home?

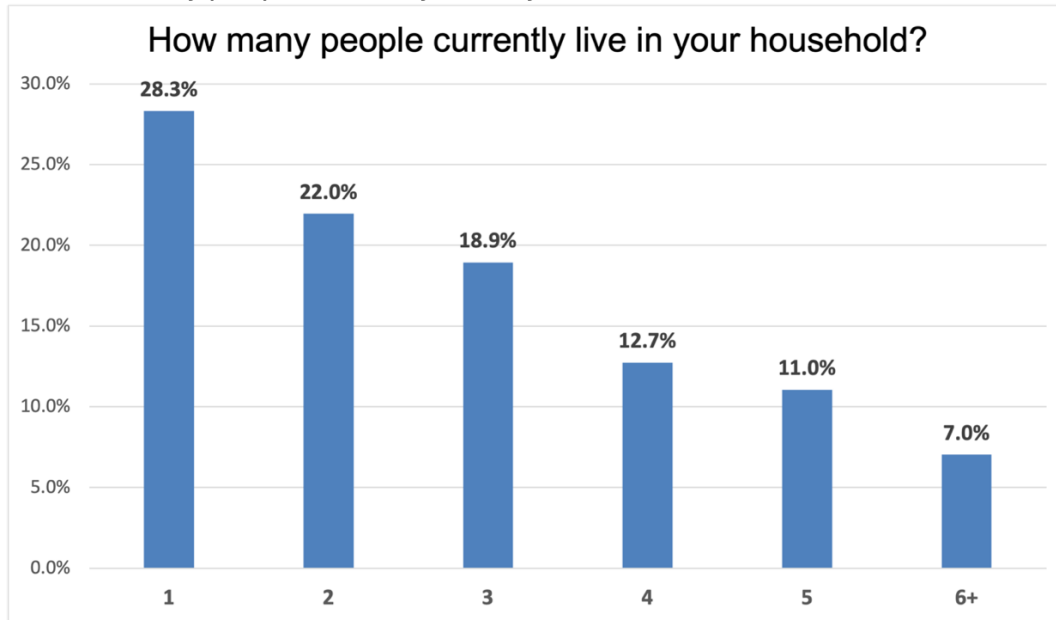


From 'Other' responses, frequent languages include:

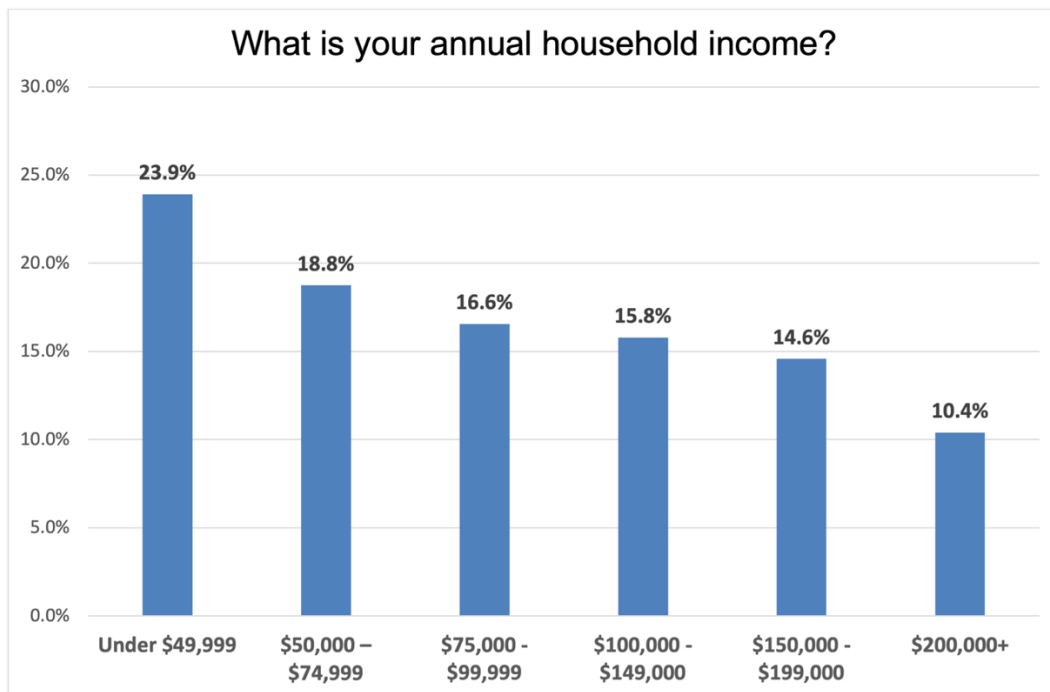
- Italian (4 responses)
- American Sign Language (ASL) (3 responses)

- French (2 responses)
- Ghanaian (1 response)

26. How many people currently live in your household?

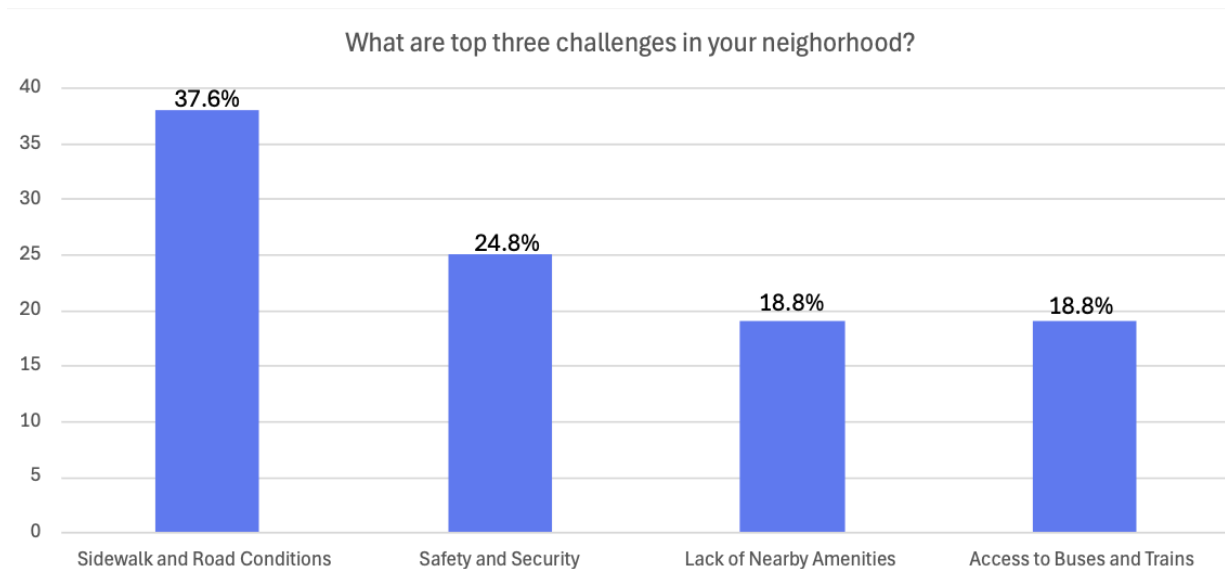
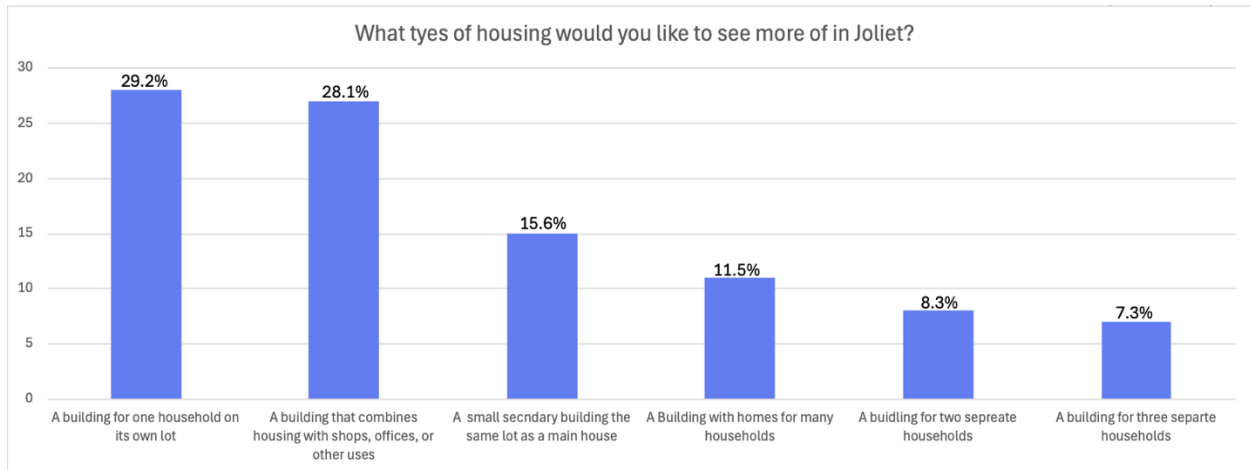


27. What is your annual household income?



Community Workshop #1 Feedback

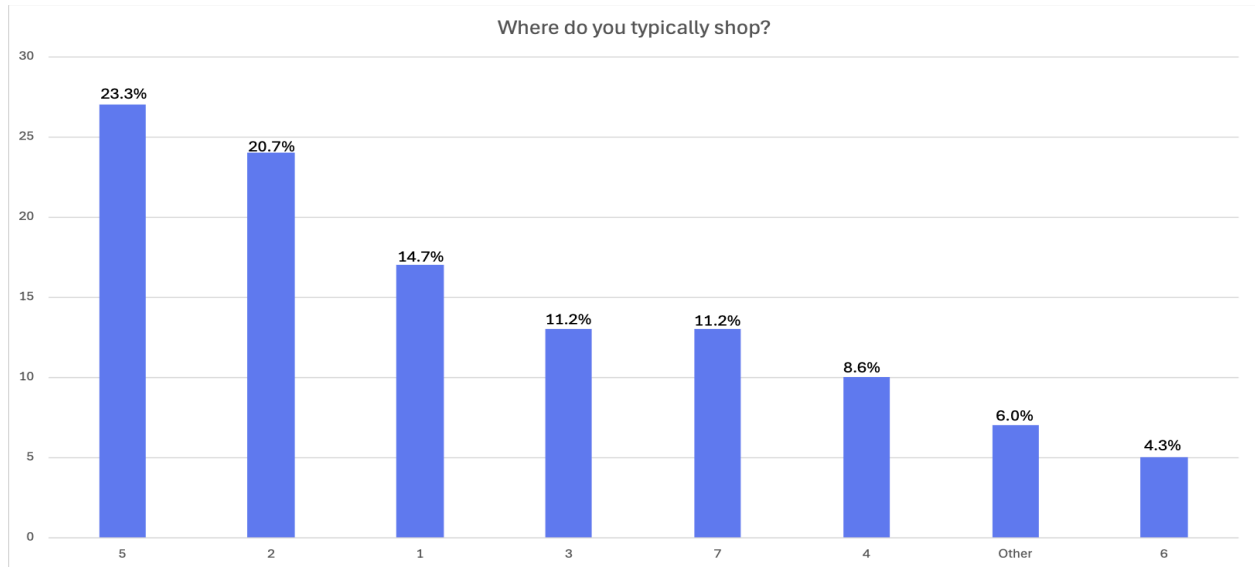
Living in Joliet



Living in Joliet Comments

- 10+ comments expressed frustration with heavy truck traffic, nearby warehouses, and industrial uses near residential areas like Houbolt Road.
- 5+ comments emphasized the need for affordable housing, especially for seniors and other options like multi-family housing and tiny homes.
- Many expressed their frustration with public transit, such as the lack of weekend service, inaccessible stops, and limited north-south routes.
- 3+ comments called for higher-quality housing with better amenities and redevelopment over sprawl.

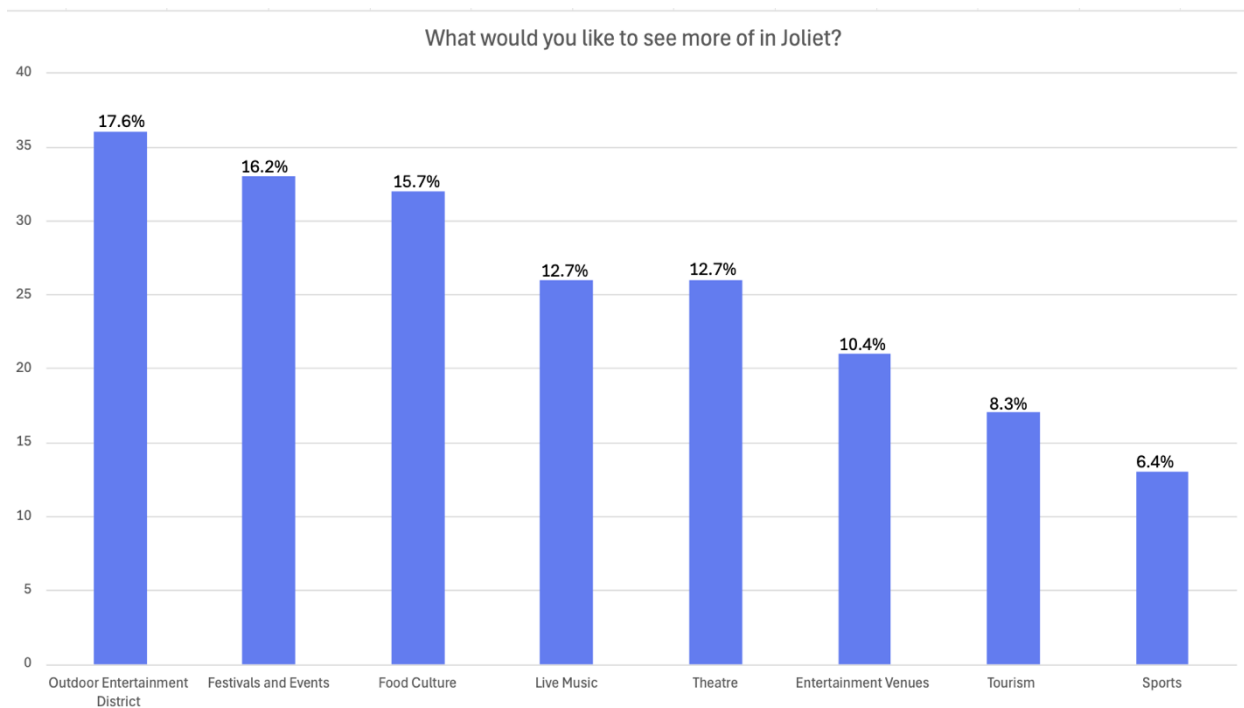
Commercial Corridors in Joliet



See page 15 for Commercial Corridor Map

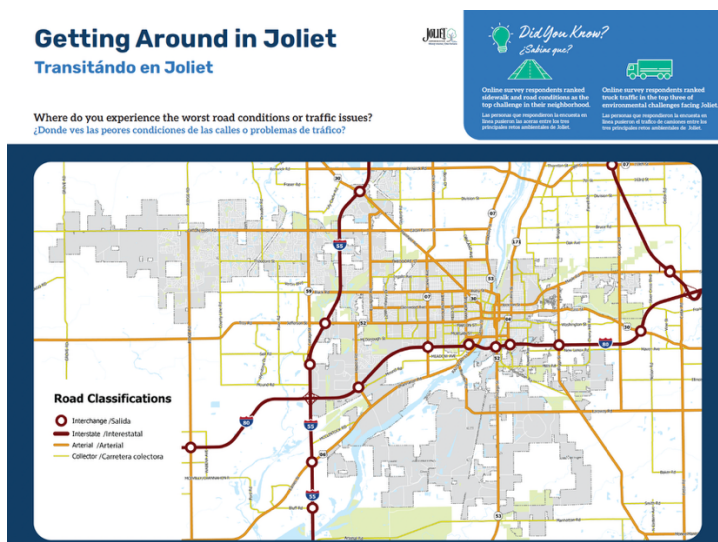
- Shopping was amongst the top three most discussed topics, with over 25+ comments highlighting retail needs and preferences.
- East Side residents reported traveling to La Porte, New Lenox, and online for shopping due to limited local options.
- Vacancies on Cass and Jefferson and decline of the mall were recurring themes.
- Calls for diverse local businesses, sit-down restaurants, and redevelopment (e.g., mall into housing/supportive uses) were strong.

Having Fun in Joliet



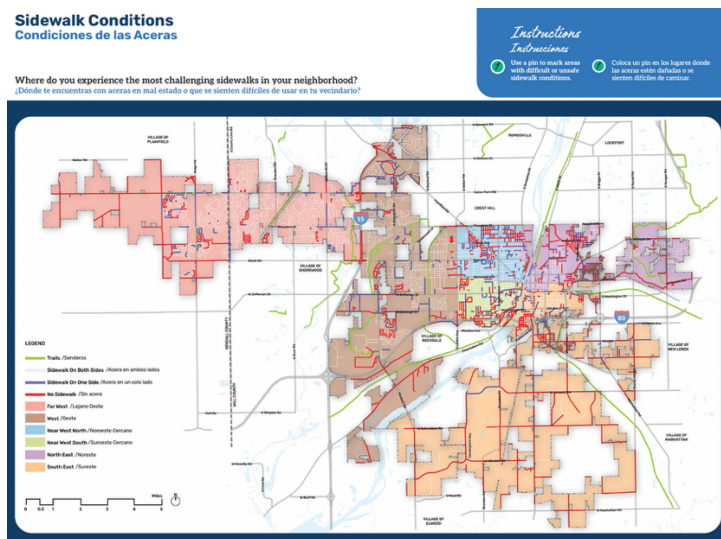
- 20+ comments called for more cultural, family-friendly, and affordable entertainment.
- Inspiration included Naperville's Riverwalk and a desire for a large recreation center.
- Upgrades to Centennial Park, more live music, food trucks, and a movie theater on the East Side were suggested.

Getting Around in Joliet



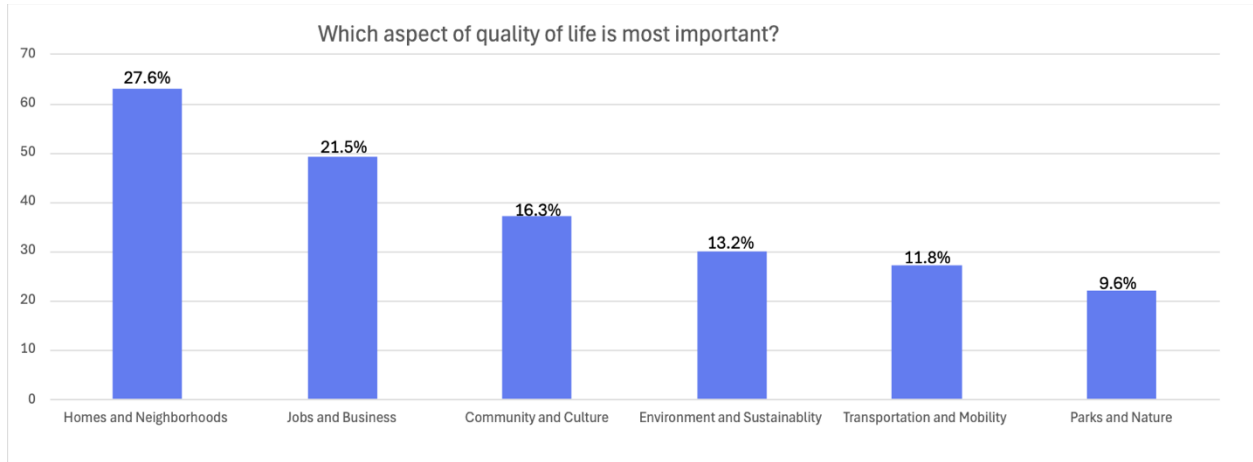
- This had the largest turnout of comments (30+), with many expressing frustrations about congestion and truck traffic.
- Bridges were described as barriers, with several called “dead bridges.”
- Poor road quality noted on Neil St and 4th St, while Black Rd improvements were praised.
- Safety concerns included Chicago St/I-80 interchange, Larkin crossings, and truck detours into neighborhoods.

Sidewalks & Connectivity



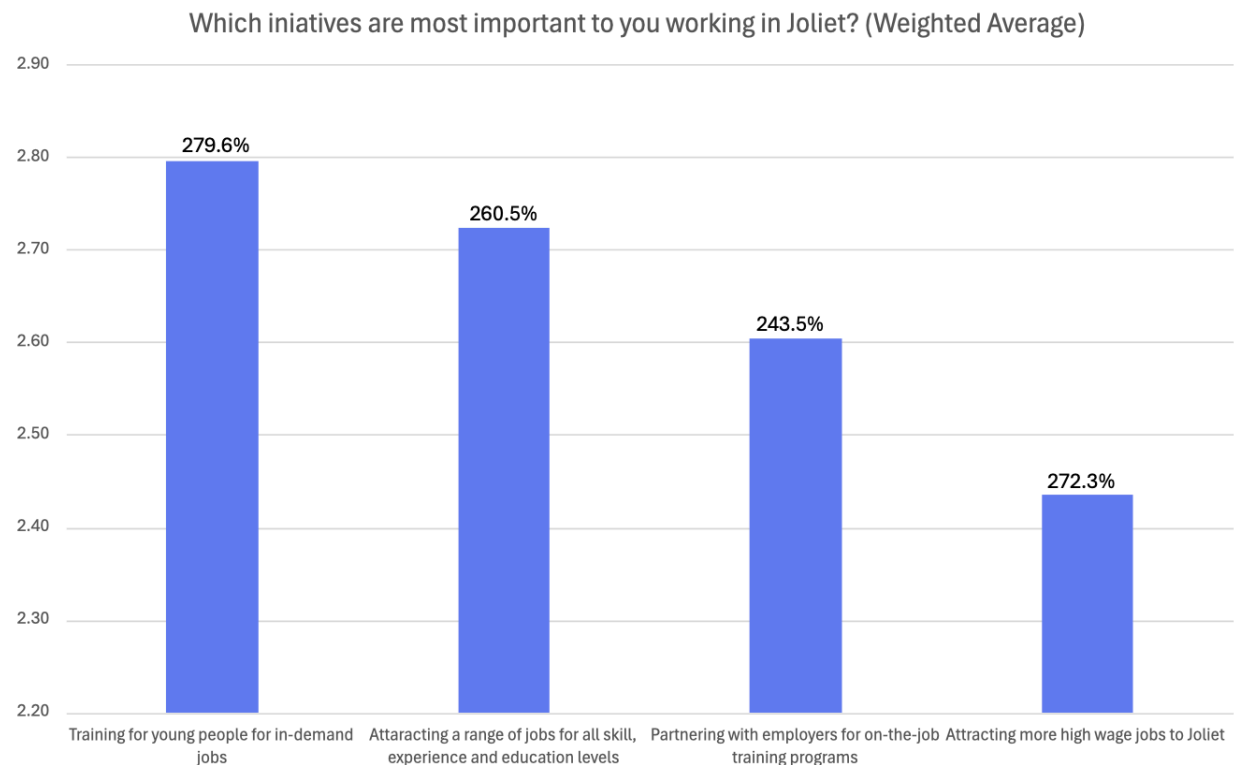
- 12+ comments highlighted unsafe or missing sidewalks, especially on the East Side.
- Specific concerns included 1419 W. Acres (kids walking in streets) and Larkin Ave by the Catholic church (no sidewalks).
- Uneven sidewalks and a lack of connections were common, with many asking for more bike lanes.

Quality of Life in Joliet



- Approximately 12 comments linked safety, walkability, and pride in appearance.
- Concerns about crime, noise, and light pollution were raised alongside mobility issues.
- Residents suggested downtown beautification through sculptures, storefronts, and placemaking.

Working in Joliet



- A smaller set of 5–6 comments tied jobs directly to housing and quality of life.
- Calls for higher-wage jobs and “high-grade” housing to attract employers were strong.
- Participants also noted the need for inclusive hiring (esp. for people with disabilities) and curbing sprawl.