



# BLOOMINGTON 2050

## Bloomington 2050 Engagement Report

### Phase I: Big Ideas & Key Issues

City of Bloomington

October 2026

**BLM.MN/2050** | [2050@BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV](mailto:2050@BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV)



## Key Audiences Reached

- General Public
- Youth & Families
- Residents
- Tourists & Visitors

## Key Questions

1. What makes a community enduring and remarkable?
2. What challenges and opportunities are most important for Bloomington to address over the next 20 years?
3. What do you hope Bloomington looks like in 20 years?

## Methods Utilized

- World Café
- Online Survey
- Community Pop-Ups
- Online webpage
- 6-Word Story Postcards
- Social Media



## Highlights

- **646** unique interactions across **15** events
- **489** six-word story postcards collected
- **172** online survey responses

## Bloomington 2050 Engagement Report



**DECISION TO BE MADE:** Adopt our next update to the City's Comprehensive Plan and 20-Year Vision

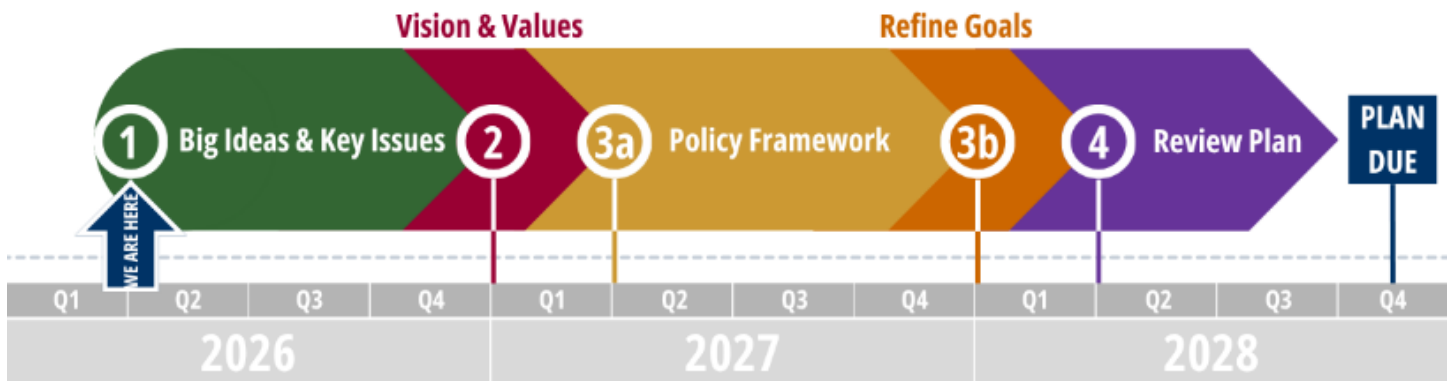
**ENGAGEMENT DESCRIPTION:** Phase 1 – Big Ideas & Key Issues

Phase 1 Engagement launched the Bloomington 2050 effort to raise awareness about the Plan among various community stakeholders. Engagement focused on exploring emerging ideas and trends. In addition, feedback collected spoke to the perceptions, values, aspirations, and experiences of community stakeholders.

**PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT DATES:** April 2026 to September 2026 (*with additional engagement with City Boards and Commission in October 2026*)

**LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT:** ☒ Inform ☒ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

## Bloomington 2050 Engagement Timeline



## (Draft) Vision and Strategic Priorities for Bloomington 2050

Based on feedback received through our Phase 1 Engagement and reviewing priorities from the *Forward 2040* Comprehensive Plan and *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* Strategic Plan, staff have drafted the following strategic priorities to provide the overall framework for the Bloomington 2050 Plan. These draft priorities will be available for further community input and refinement at the start of 2027 as part of Phase 2 Engagement.

**VISION STATEMENT:** *Bloomington is an enduring and remarkable community where people can and want to be.*

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- Bloomington is an inclusive, welcoming, and connected community.
- Bloomington provides safe and convenient transportation choices that bring people where they want to go.
- Bloomington invests wisely and maintains high-quality community amenities and infrastructure.
- Bloomington leads on climate action and protects a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.
- Bloomington builds a strong economy that creates opportunities and benefits everyone.
- Bloomington ensures housing is available to meet different needs, incomes, and stages of life.

## What We Heard

The information summarized below comes from a variety of engagement events throughout Phase 1. This includes our in-person Community Launch event at Bryant Park on May 20<sup>th</sup> and our online Community Launch event on May 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition, city staff tabled at community events and farmers markets, collected six-word story postcards, and provided an online survey for resident input. The full results of our responses are available in the supplemental *Engagement Data Summary* document and available on [Let's Talk Bloomington](#).

### *What Makes a Community Enduring and Remarkable?*

- **Listening and responding** to the needs and concerns of community members. Ensuring a variety of communication methods are used to keep community members **informed** and community engagement efforts allow community members to be **involved in decisions**.
- **Inclusion** of older adults, youth, new families, and individuals with disabilities in City events and decisions. Ensuring that community spaces, community engagement efforts, and communications are **accessible** to underrepresented groups and **meet the needs of everyone**. Making sure those impacted are at the table.
- **Supporting community groups and nonprofits** to help get residents connected to volunteer opportunities and raise awareness of programs and efforts across the city. Utilizing these untapped **community assets** could foster an enduring community where community members take initiatives on themselves.
- **Affordability** to keep community members in their neighborhoods. **Sustainable funding and city budget** as well as a **mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses** will help to keep property taxes affordable. Ensuring that **affordable housing** is available across the City.
- **Complete, connected neighborhoods** where you can get around **safely** and don't always need to rely on an automobile. Neighborhoods should be **walkable** and **bikeable** to get to services, shops, and parks. Developing more of a "main street" feel within neighborhoods that **do not feel car centric**.
- **Exploring opportunities for growth**, while still reflecting the same sets of principles. Having an **ability to thrive** and a **willingness to change** but **honoring what is existing today**.

Other feedback mentioned preserving trees, parks and green spaces; having lots of community events; and having a variety of third spaces for community members to gather helps to make a community remarkable and enduring.

### *What challenges and opportunities are most important for Bloomington to address over the next 20 years?*

- **Ensuring a sustainable community** that has a plan to address and be **adaptable** to the changing climate. There were numerous ideas shared on how to **reduce our carbon footprint, improve our water quality, and improve our air quality**. Some ideas included: reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles and buildings, providing more solar and green roofs across the city, reducing waste, de-paving parking lots, providing more trees and native plantings, and exploring energy independence from private utility providers.
- **Providing more affordable housing and a variety of housing options** to keep existing residents in Bloomington and welcome new residents to the City. **Diversifying our housing stock** to allow more housing options for older adults to age in place and more starter homes for young families will be an important opportunity. More housing in the community can provide more tax revenues and help to lower housing costs for existing housing.

- **Maintaining and investing in high-quality parks, green spaces, and “third spaces”** for community members from different background to **meet and foster connections**. Having park spaces and events that are free for anyone to use are a great equalizer and allow people to get out of their comfort zone and be in a community-oriented environment.
- **A transportation system that supports transit use, biking, and walking.** All modes of transportation are **accessible** and **safely connect** residents to destinations throughout the City. Streets are redesigned to **accommodate all users**. Supporting active transportation will help to reduce GHG emissions.

Other feedback mentioned attracting new residents and keeping families here; improving diversity and inclusion of residents; incentivizing small businesses; increasing healthy food options; and beautifying aesthetics.

*What do you hope Bloomington looks like in 20 years?*

- **Mixed-use centers that support more housing, commercial corridors, and connected streets.** Neighborhoods have **sidewalks** and paths for walking and biking, preserved **green space** and “**third spaces**” to connect, and local stores to shop. Bloomington has gone away from auto-centric design and has improved **neighborhood character** and **destination areas** where people live, work, and play.
- **A “green” and eco-friendly community** with ample trees, native plants, parks, natural areas, and community gardens. Parking lots are replaced with **public art** and **nature**. **Sustainable development** ensures buildings are energy efficient and have green roofs and solar panels.
- **A connected community that welcomes more young people and new families** to stay and grow with the City. **Sidewalks** allow people to walk in their neighborhood and **bike lanes** allow people to travel across the City. The perceived East and West divide is gone and everyone feels **welcomed** and **included**.

Other feedback mentioned updated commercial corridors; an affordable community; more community integration and inclusion; more city events; and more small businesses.

### *Additional Insights on Perceptions, Values, Aspirations, and Experiences*

Based on the 489 six-word story postcards collected, the most frequent words included: **Community** (~45 cards); **Parks** (~40); **Walk/walkable/walking** (~35); **Bike/biking/bikeable** (~30); **Safe/safety** (~30); **affordable/affordability** (~30); **Green/green space** (~25); **Housing/homes** (~20); **Inclusive/inclusion/diversity** (~20).



| What do community members value?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | What do community members want Bloomington to become?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | What challenges and opportunities could shape whether Bloomington gets there?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Location of Bloomington in the region</li> <li>➤ Dependable and high-quality water supply</li> <li>➤ Overall quality of parks, trails, and recreation</li> <li>➤ Overall quality of life</li> <li>➤ Ensuring a healthy community</li> <li>➤ Ensuring a sustainable and environmentally friendly community</li> <li>➤ Ensuring adequate and affordable housing choices</li> <li>➤ Wanting to ride transit, bike, and walk more in the City</li> <li>➤ Reducing social isolation and loneliness and fostering more opportunities for connection</li> <li>➤ Retaining and expanding small businesses</li> <li>➤ Quality schools and education in the community</li> <li>➤ What is unique about Bloomington: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proximity to the river, natural spaces and the National Wildlife Refuge;</li> <li>○ Proximity to the airport;</li> <li>○ Mall of America;</li> <li>○ Mix of commercial and industrial base;</li> <li>○ Tourism-related tax revenues</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ More community events and celebrations that bring neighbors together</li> <li>➤ Less auto-centric design with more accessible public transportation and active transportation options</li> <li>➤ More greenery with trees, native plantings, parks, natural areas, green roofs, and gardens</li> <li>➤ Third spaces or a stronger “downtown” for community members to connect and share ideas</li> <li>➤ Commercial areas and services close to home</li> <li>➤ A name on the map as place for young families to establish their lives here</li> <li>➤ More affordable housing options</li> <li>➤ A people-centered community that embraces diversity and inclusion across the City</li> <li>➤ Continue to innovate and build a better community</li> <li>➤ A sustainable community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural resources</li> <li>➤ A healthy community</li> <li>➤ Safe streets and well maintained infrastructure</li> <li>➤ A destination for neighborhood businesses, restaurants, food trucks, arts, festivals, markets, and cultural programming</li> <li>➤ Financially stable to invest in amenities and infrastructure and maintain affordability for residents and businesses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Investing in upgrades to aging infrastructure and public facilities</li> <li>➤ Supporting biking, walking, and public transit use and investing in infrastructure for other modes of transportation (sidewalks, trails, etc.)</li> <li>➤ Providing resources to support improvements in aging neighborhoods and housing stock</li> <li>➤ Creating a welcoming community for all residents</li> <li>➤ Considering the environmental, public health, and economic impacts of decisions and investments</li> <li>➤ Providing housing for aging populations as they downsize and look for active 55+ living communities</li> <li>➤ Providing affordable homeownership opportunities for renters that are looking to stay in Bloomington</li> <li>➤ Ensuring recreational opportunities and education around active and healthy living for youth, adults, and older adults</li> <li>➤ Mixed use zoning regulations that allow for walkable shopping areas near residential neighborhoods</li> <li>➤ Ensuring affordable property taxes</li> <li>➤ Providing quality schools and education</li> <li>➤ Increasing access to affordable health care options to improve physical and mental health</li> <li>➤ Adapting to the changing climate and reducing our carbon footprint to ensure healthy air and water quality</li> </ul> |

In addition, there were other specific ideas expressed based on current events: concerns around data centers, concerns around Flock cameras, impacts of the Bloomington Forward projects, preserving the clock tower, frustration around the I-494 construction, and Old Cedar Rd/Old Shakopee Rd improvements

## Next Steps

The draft strategic priorities will be available for further community input and refinement at the start of 2027 as part of Phase 2 Engagement. Throughout Summer and Fall 2027, we will evolve to our Phase 3 Engagement and gather input on the goals and strategies the City should pursue over the next 20 years.

The feedback collected in Phase 1 that related to various policy decisions related to land use, housing, transportation, parks, community infrastructure and climate change will also be used by staff to help prepare goal and strategy alternatives for Phase 3 Engagement.

All upcoming engagement events and information will be available to the public on our website ([blm.mn/2050](https://blm.mn/2050)) as well as our [Let's Talk Bloomington](#) project page. Staff will continue to table at community events and share information through the Bloomington Briefing and social media to inform community members about the Comprehensive Plan process. Community members can also email their questions and comments to [2050@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:2050@bloomingtonmn.gov).

