

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, June 7, 2021
City Council Chambers
680 Park Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
3:00 p.m.

The public is invited to observe City Council Work Sessions. However, to observe appropriate social distancing guidelines, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the public may view this meeting via livestream on the City's website at <https://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/429/Live-Stream>. The agenda does not include an opportunity for public interaction.

This meeting may be cancelled or recessed to a later time in accordance with law. If you need communication aids or services or other physical accommodations to participate or access this meeting or program of the City of Idaho Falls, you may contact City Clerk Kathy Hampton at 612-8414 or the ADA Coordinator Lisa Farris at 612-8323 as soon as possible and they will accommodate your needs.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Times listed in parentheses are only estimates.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor:

- Acceptance and/or Receipt of Minutes
Action Desired: To receive recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Calendars, Announcements, Reports, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update, and Legislative Update as needed (15)

Council:

- Liaison Reports and Councilmember Concerns (10)

Police Department:

- Discussion: Proposed Amendment to Title 5, Chapter 2, Section 2 (15)

Agency Report—Greater Idaho Falls Transit (GIFT):

- Update: Greater Idaho Falls Transit (10)
- Discussion: Hosting of GIFT Employee, Transit Coordinator (10)
Action Desired: Authorize the hiring of a full-time employee (FTE) to serve as Transit Coordinator

Community Development Services:

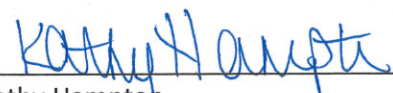
- Update: Imagine IF Neighborhood Meetings Results--Survey Team Report (45)

Public Works:

- Discussion: Water Meter Pilot; Discussion: Water Tower Relocation and Timeline Review; Update: Connecting Our Community (COC) Bikelanes and Sharrows (45)

Announcements and Adjournment

DATED this 4th day of June, 2021


Kathy Hampton
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Brad Cramer, Community Development Services Director

DATE: June 2, 2021

RE: June 1, 2021, Planning Commission Action

Planning Commission took the following action during the June 1, 2021 meeting.

1. **RZON21-009: REZONE. Rezone from TN, Traditional Neighborhood to CC, Central Commercial for Fraction of Lots 4-5, Block 18, Original Townsite of Eagle Rock, located at 400 W 13th Street.** North of W 13th St, East of S Emerson Ave, South of Oak St, West of W 13th St. On June 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the rezone from TN to CC to the Mayor and City Council as presented.
2. **PLAT21-019: FINAL PLAT. Final Plat for Snake River Landing Division No. 3, 2nd Amended.** North of Whitewater Dr, East of Snake River Parkway, South of Pier View Dr, West of Milligan Rd. On June 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the final plat to the Mayor and City Council as presented.
3. **PLAT21-018: FINAL PLAT. Final Plat for Fairway Estates, Division No. 29.** North of E 33rd N, East of Rock Hill Ln, South of W 65th N, West of N 5th E. On June 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the final plat to the Mayor and City Council as presented.
4. **PLAT21-013: FINAL PLAT. Final Plat for Mill Road Townhomes Subdivision.** North of W 17th S, east of S Bellin Rd, south of Patriot Cir, west of Mountain Ross Dr. On June 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of the final plat to the Mayor and City Council as presented.
5. **PLAT21-014: FINAL PLAT. Final Plat for Idaho Falls Luxury RV Park.** North of W Sunnyside Rd, East of the Snake River, South of Milligan Rd, West of S Yellowstone Ave. On June 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of the final plat to the Mayor and City Council as presented.
6. **PLAT21-015: FINAL PLAT. Final Plat for Skyline Manor Townhomes.** North of Pancheri Dr, East of S Skyline Dr, South of Vassar Way, West of S Saturn Ave. On June 1, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of the final plat to the Mayor and City Council as presented.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION: To receive recommendation(s) from the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to the Local Land Use Planning Act (LLUPA).

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ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO; AMENDING TITLE 5, CHAPTER 4, SECTION 2 OF THE CITY CODE TO PROHIBIT BLOCKING TRAFFIC OR THE FREE PASSAGE OF PERSONS ON THE CITY'S RIGHTS OF WAY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, PUBLICATION BY SUMMARY, AND ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, ; and

WHEREAS,; and

WHEREAS,; and

WHEREAS,; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, THAT:

SECTION 1: Title 5, Chapter 4, Section 2 of the City Code of the City of Idaho Falls, Idaho, is hereby is hereby amended as follows:

5-4-2 PUBLIC STREETS.

- A. Placing Debris on Streets. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully or negligently throw from any vehicle, or to place, deposit or permit to be deposited upon or alongside any highway, street, alley or easement used by the public for public travel, any debris, paper, litter, glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, hoops, cans, barbed wire, boards, trash or garbage, lighted material, or other waste substance. Such persons shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) days or both such fine and imprisonment. For the purpose of this Section, the terms "highway," "street," "alley," or "easement" shall be construed to include the entire right-of-way of such highway, street, alley or easement.
- B. Damage to Public Street. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a tractor or vehicle with lug wheels upon a public street or to drive or operate any vehicle in a manner which damages or destroys any surface of any street or sidewalk, or to drive or operate a vehicle in excess of the gross vehicle weights permitted under the laws of the State of Idaho, upon any public street in the City.
- C. Games in Streets. It shall be unlawful for any person to play ball or any game in a public street, or to encourage, permit or allow any minor to engage in such activities.
- D. Blocking Traffic. It shall be unlawful for any person to block the passage of any person or

persons traveling upon any sidewalk or public street in the City. “Block the passage” means to walk, stand, sit, lie, operate a vehicle, or place an object in such a manner as to block another person’s lawful passage on a public right of way by or to cause another person or driver to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. This section shall not apply to

- a. Peace officers directing traffic or temporarily closing a right of way for a public safety purpose; and
- b. Persons acting to close a public right of way pursuant to a permit issued by the City.

SECTION 2. Savings and Severability Clause. The provisions and parts of this Ordinance are intended to be severable. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. Codification Clause. The Clerk is instructed to immediately forward this Ordinance to the codifier of the official municipal code for proper revision of the Code.

SECTION 4. Publication. This Ordinance, or a summary thereof in compliance with Idaho Code, shall be published once in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect immediately upon its passage, approval, and publication.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Idaho Falls, Idaho, this day of _____, 2021.

CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NOAH CASPER, Ph.D. MAYOR

KATHY HAMPTON, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

STATE OF IDAHO)

County of Bonneville) ss:
)

I, KATHY HAMPTON, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY:

That the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Ordinance entitled,
“AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL
CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO; AMENDING TITLE 5 ,
CHAPTER 4, SECTION 2 OF THE CITY CODE TO PROHIBIT BLOCKING
TRAFFIC OR THE FREE PASSAGE OF PERSONS ON THE CITY’S RIGHTS OF
WAY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, PUBLICATION BY
SUMMARY, AND ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE DATE.”

(SEAL)

KATHY HAMPTON, CITY CLERK

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HOW RESIDENTS



Citywide Survey Results February - April 2021

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**SPOTLIGHT 2:
HOUSING**

*You guys have set the bar higher for how **public engagement** should be taking place on a municipal level. Many thanks for this. **This town has so much potential**, but we need to back off from the top-down approach when surveys like this are conducted...We need to make sure...they **reach people in areas of the city where Internet connectivity is lower and people's lives are challenging** enough that making an effort to be heard is an extravagance. **I like that your survey efforts included the offer of picking up or being mailed a paper copy.***

--Survey Respondent



CITYWIDE SURVEY: PURPOSE & PROCESS



*Idaho Falls is a great place to live. I chose to return here after being raised here and then moving away for college. **We need to learn from other small/medium cities and avoid foreseeable mistakes.** As I see it, this includes investing in public transit, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists, and diversifying our neighborhoods.*

--Survey Respondent

OVERVIEW

Imagine IF is an innovative project that gives residents of Idaho Falls a voice in strategic planning decisions. The citywide survey is one part of a multi-pronged approach to reaching individual people in neighborhoods across the city with the sole intent of understanding residents' attitudes, beliefs, and values.

Survey questions were prepared in close collaboration with the Idaho Falls Community Development Director and staff. The intent was to gather information needed to enable community-centered planning.

As growth accelerates throughout Idaho, foresight is vital. The window for strategic planning is time-bound, and **Imagine IF** has created a dialogue that will directly influence how the character of Idaho Falls evolves amidst change.

The citywide survey engaged residents across diverse geographic areas, ethnicities, socioeconomic groups, ages, and education levels. The results are genuinely citywide.

670

RESPONSES

95%

CONFIDENCE
LEVEL

ALL
5

GEOGRAPHIC
AREAS
REPRESENTED





DISTRIBUTION & USE

The citywide survey contributes to the **Imagine IF** project. Hundreds of individual citizens voiced their attitudes, preferences, and positions on the growth and development of Idaho Falls. Available in English and Spanish and in digital or paper form, the citywide survey constituted a genuine commitment to listening.

Survey results will influence strategic planning and inform follow-up conversations in neighborhoods throughout the five geographic coverage areas

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Data Metrics:

- **Population size:** ~62,000 (see Appendix for citation)
- **Confidence Level:** 95%
- **Margin of error:** 5%
- **Sample Size Required:** 382
- **Sample Size Achieved:** 670

A confidence level of 95%, +/- 5% margin of error, is a conservative estimate. The sample size gathered exceeds the sample size required to reach this level of confidence. However, given the characteristics of the respondents, lower confidence levels could be expected for groups other than Caucasians and for residents with an annual income below \$40,000.

BIG PICTURE: SURVEY ENGAGEMENT



The **small-town feel** is inhibited when you cannot **walk or bike** anywhere unless you live right **downtown**.

--Survey Respondent

OVERVIEW

The citywide survey held broad interest for residents of Idaho Falls. Responses reflect preferences and concerns of residents in each major area of Idaho Falls, as well as the sentiments of many people who live outside the city limits but benefit from access to the amenities and services Idaho Falls offers.

- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3
- Area 4
- Area 5
- Other



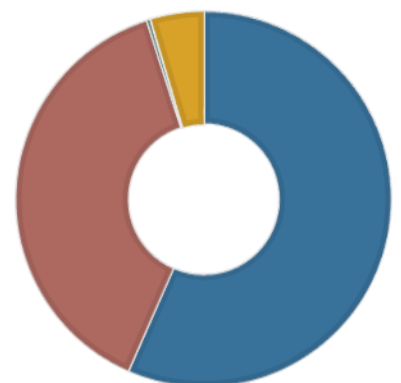
Please see Appendix for an Area Map

Being able to **maintain open and safe discussion** between new and current residents is key to **preventing conflict** and **separation of our community**.

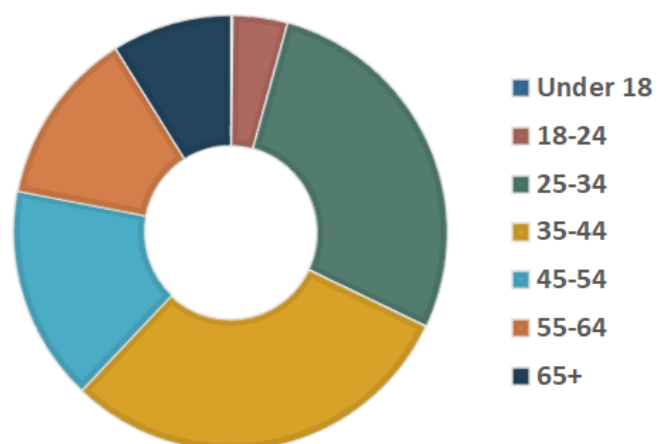
--Survey Respondent

GENDER

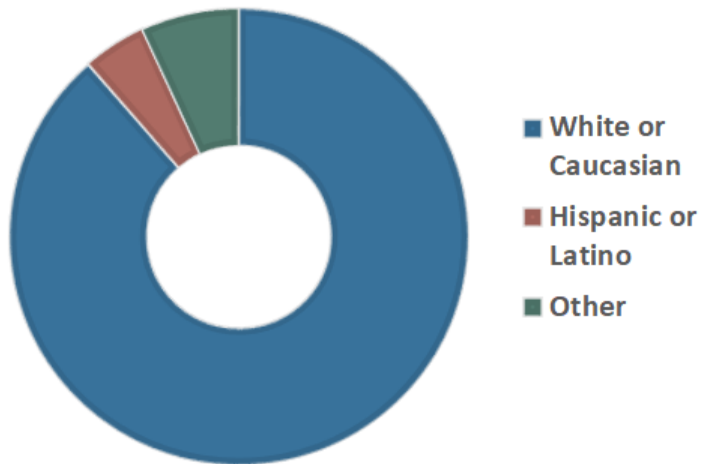
- Female
- Male
- Non-binary / third gender
- Prefer not to say



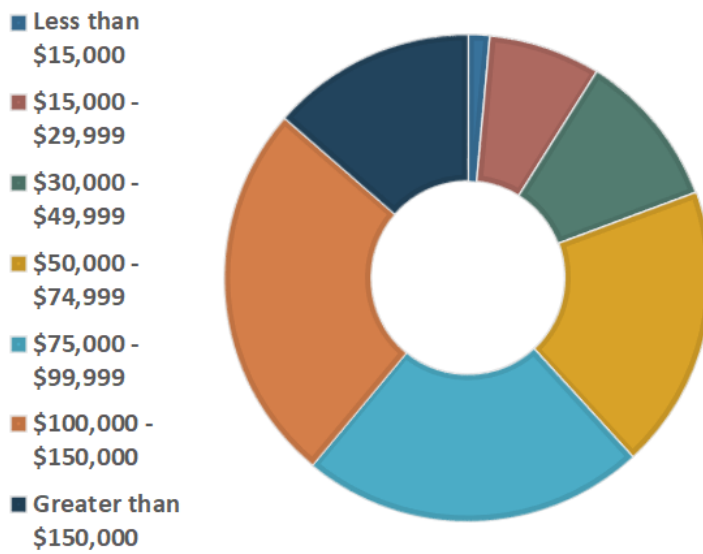
AGE



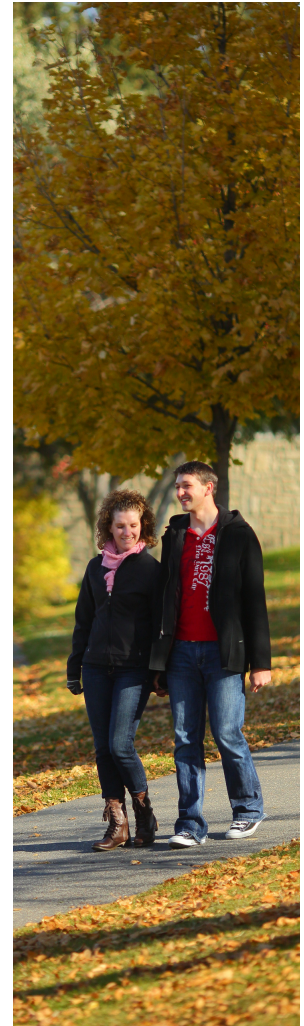
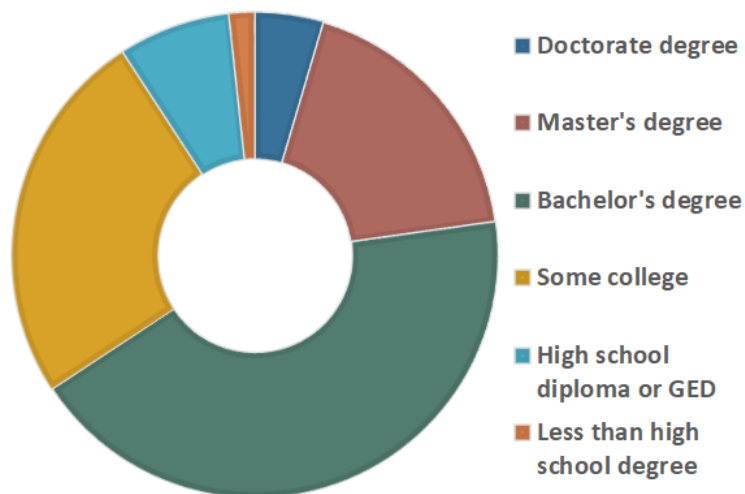
ETHNICITY



INCOME



EDUCATION



OBSERVATIONS

Residents are invested. Survey engagement was robust. Not only did the overall sample size exceed the number necessary to reach statistical significance, but respondents appear to have genuinely invested in the questions. On average, respondents spent 10 minutes to complete the survey.

Respondents want to be involved. They want to continue to be part of the strategic planning dialogue. In fact, 65% of respondents indicated that they want to receive email updates about the Imagine IF project.

Not every survey respondent answered every question. But the number of responses to every question exceeded the number needed to reach statistical significance. The only exception was the final question, which invited respondents to share additional comments not covered by previous questions. The engagement with this question was significantly lower than all other questions.



HIGHLIGHT ONE: CHARACTER



*I have been very happy with the recent emphasis on **human-centered projects** you have undertaken, like **downtown revitalization and the canal paths**. I hope you continue to focus on those types of projects, the ones that build and reinforce a **sense of community**.*

--Survey Respondent

OVERVIEW

proximity Access outdoors rural Beautiful summers Museum sense community Home kind people
close mountains River walk nature water Idaho Falls generally big running S beauty
green belt work outdoor activities green Cost living Still lot culture area
outdoor recreation beautiful close nature amenities enjoy parks many
Great businesses family plenty safe scenery small closeness
close growing love Low cost living city born raised people
conservative values Small town feel Close outdoor activities
community used greenbelt relatively feel need
river space living traffic size near small town summers Safety
close outdoor good Family friendly outdoors Access outdoor recreation
downtown around friendly amazing access kind activities convenience
big city housing everything provided nice variety Location options quiet family values
atmosphere relatively safe low Big enough LOW crime access recreation Idaho national parks
shopping available

1

RELATIONSHIPS & LIFESTYLE

Many survey respondents treasure the river, beauty, and rhythm of life in Idaho Falls. They are committed family and enjoy the neighborliness that defines the "small-town feel" of daily experiences. They also see the importance of safety and appreciate the freedom of mind it brings.

Respondents have pride in the historic aspect of Idaho Falls. Many voiced gratitude for the city's investment in the downtown area and also expressed support for preserving historic neighborhoods and structures. Cultural events and access to healthy family activities are also priorities.

Concerns were noted regarding the distribution of parks and green spaces. Several respondents observed parks and enjoyable outdoor spaces are disproportionately located near the river and proximate neighborhoods. They also hope the network of canals can be utilized to increase green space and connectivity.



2

ATTITUDES TOWARD
GROWTH

Growth in Idaho Falls has accelerated at a pace of concern to residents as they feel their daily dynamics shifting with the influx of people. Survey responses reveal the mixed feelings long-time residents have about the evolving nature of life in Idaho Falls.

Many residents welcome the increasing diversity growth facilitates. They hope for rich cultural experiences and a progressive, community-based approach to land use and development.

Residents on one end of the spectrum look forward to more healthy family activities, more restaurants, entertainment options, and beautification of public spaces. Some residents associate growth with the welcome prospect of new businesses, more job availability and diversity, and economic development generally. These residents tend to view growth as an opportunity that can ultimately enhance the quality of life in Idaho Falls.

1/3

of respondents agree or strongly agree that the character and feel of Idaho Falls are in jeopardy due to rapid growth.

On the other end of the spectrum, many residents see change primarily as loss. Memories of familiarity and long-term rapport in neighborhoods, of evening sunsets sprawling over the fields and open spaces that have traditionally encircled the city, of relaxed trips into town--these images stir feelings of nostalgia and uncertainty for many residents. Practical concerns also loom large from some. Will there be enough jobs? Will housing be impossible to find for children of long-time residents who prefer to stay in Idaho Falls? Will traffic worsen in ways that decrease quality of life for residents?



Faced with the inevitability of growth, a handful of respondents expressed interest in leaving the city. Others, however, focused on how the city plans to manage growth. Specific points of concern include controlling sprawl, limiting the loss of surrounding farmland to housing subdivisions, and prioritizing the creative use of space within the city center.

Our streets, stores, and amenities are all getting too crowded, and we're sprawling all over the valley.

3

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

While some residents experience change largely as a fading of familiarity and tradition, many recognize the opportunity that lies in change. In general, residents strongly support the direction community development in Idaho Falls has been heading.

Survey responses reveal a robust population consisting of people who love being outside, care deeply about their families, and appreciate beauty. They recognize the unique natural characteristics that distinguish Idaho Falls from many other Idaho cities, and see ways of capitalizing on those assets in a manner that both benefits existing residents and newcomers.

For many residents, continuity defines the city's efforts to harness the strengths of the past in order to shape the opportunities that lie ahead. And many residents share the same priorities.

59%

Extend
the
greenbelt

58%

Improve
healthy
outdoor
activities

56%

Improve
opportunities
for outdoor
family
activities

56%

Create more
green spaces
throughout
the city



HIGHLIGHT TWO: HOUSING



Work at bringing **affordable housing** to town. For many people I know, they **can't afford a home** let alone the **price of rent**. They **can't get ahead** with those prices. I know my little **family** didn't because of rent. Thankfully, we found a home to buy to get out of rent.

--Survey Respondent

OVERVIEW

want Idaho Falls city Safety house trees close Close schools
 Schools subdivisions park farms home safe
 neighborhood Noise walk quality area options feel good school
 living street

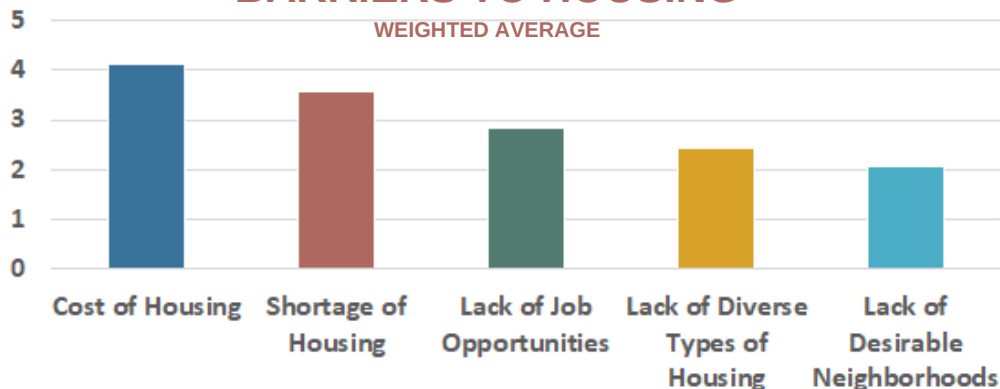
Over the past few years, being a homebuyer in Idaho Falls has become much more challenging. Now among the top 10 most expensive states in the nation in terms of housing affordability, Idaho faces the daunting challenge of balancing growth with housing stability for individuals and families. Idaho Falls is one example of that struggle.

Owning a home in Idaho Falls is a dream many residents see as increasingly elusive. The cost of housing, the shortage of housing options, and a limited number high paying jobs intertwine to create a substantial barrier for people seeking stable housing.

1

COST OF HOUSING

BARRIERS TO HOUSING



Residents of Idaho Falls are extremely concerned about the rising cost of housing--not only for themselves, but for their children and friends. This priority is clearly shared among survey respondents from all five coverage areas. Though slight variations in the ranking can be seen from area to area and from group to group (see Appendix), residents agree that cost is a significant obstacle for homebuyers.

Reasons for the ranking are slightly more diverse. Some residents see the arrival of so many "outsiders" as the primary force driving up costs. Others see the lack of diverse options as creating a disproportionate burden for individuals with lower education levels or lower incomes.

2

SHORTAGE OF HOUSING

*[Our] housing inventory is not keeping up with demand, **especially diverse** housing that is **affordable** for young people.*

--Survey Respondent

One obvious factor that drives up the cost of housing is limited availability, particularly of affordable housing options.

The Idaho Falls housing culture is driven by divergent currents. Many long-time residents value their large lots surrounded by open spaces rimmed by foothills or fence lines. Others appreciate proximity to restaurants, entertainment centers, walking paths, and parks.

As it becomes an inescapable reality, growth draws out these differences. Questions of how best to create or utilize space available for housing are difficult to navigate and inevitably involve trade-offs. Both on the survey and in targeted neighborhood conversations, residents indicated they are willing to consider what those trade-offs mean for them.

TYPES OF HOUSING: Neighborhood conversations in specific areas afforded residents the opportunity to voice opinions about a range of housing options, from townhomes to condos to duplexes to mid-rise apartments. In general, residents appear to recognize the need for both housing development and flexibility within neighborhoods. However, taxes, safety, and neighborhood atmosphere remain significant concerns.



2 Shortage of Housing

LOCATION OF HOUSING: Placement of diversified housing options within existing neighborhoods was another topic explored in targeted neighborhood conversations. The number of participants in these conversations limits any generalizations that can be drawn from the findings. However, responses indicate a need for more specific discussion about how decisions regarding locations of various types of housing and analysis of the impact such decisions would have on neighborhood dynamics, infrastructure needs, schools, and taxes, among other ramifications.

LET'S HEAR FROM RESIDENTS: Here are a few representative samples of responses from residents who shared their perspective.

*This area caters to families with large homes. I would like to see **more affordable housing of townhouses and smaller homes for 2-3 person families...***

--Survey Respondent

*I am not sure how the average Idahoan in Idaho Falls affords **to buy their first home anymore**. If the city is going to **continue to grow** then the city needs to do more to decrease the cost of living by **encouraging the construction of more, apartments, condos, townhouses, other multi-family homes, and modest single-family homes**. If IF continues to grow the way it has without taking steps to curb the rising cost of living, then local residents are going to be priced out of their homes.*

--Survey Respondent

*Idaho Falls is a **great place to live**. I chose to return here after being raised here and then moving away for college. We need to learn from other small/medium cities and **avoid foreseeable mistakes...**this includes investing in public transit, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists, and **diversifying our neighborhoods**.*

--Survey Respondent



3

THE NEED FOR FORESIGHT

Residents recognize the far-reaching implications of accelerating growth, both for them individually and for the community more generally. The need for foresight and careful planning is apparent to most residents. Many expressed strong concern about what increasing and diversifying housing will mean for the following:

INFRASTRUCTURE: Rapid change threatens stability and sustainability. Residents value their way of life, the rhythms, resources, and security upon which they depend. Residents are greatly concerned about what more and diversified housing will mean for roads, resources, and the beautification of Idaho Falls.

EDUCATION: Many residents recognize that school districts currently face significant space and funding constraints. Some survey respondents wonder whether the proliferating population and the rapid development of housing alternatives will result in lower quality education, as school districts scramble to meet rapidly evolving needs.

TAXES: Residents see at least two dimensions of the relationship between housing growth and taxes. They fear that the population

influx and the urgency of meeting housing and infrastructure needs will necessitate significant tax increases. They also wonder what evolving housing options within neighborhoods will mean for property values and taxes.

SAFETY: Residents greatly appreciate the relative safety that has characterized life in Idaho Falls. What impact will population growth and housing developments of various types and costs have on relationships, lifestyles, and values? Will crime increase? Will the local police have the resources and agility to evolve in pace with the local issues and problems? These questions weigh on the minds of many residents.



*We moved here in 2016. In that time our **property tax has more than doubled**. This is the highest cost we have ever had in any of the places we have lived. After moving from Colorado we are now paying 3 times what we paid there.*

--Survey Respondent

HIGHLIGHT THREE: TRANSPORTATION



*I wish Idaho Falls would work more closely with area cities and combine to do things like **create recreation districts**, get **more business development**, **better transportation** and use **foresight to plan** for **growth** in the **entire area**. I wish **IF** would **lead the way**...*

--Survey Respondent

OVERVIEW

lower People walk also bike winter sidewalks speed
lane lane widths people dogs pedestrians Park safer laws walking town
bike old Sidewalks cross drivers around Connect walking paths City
making
Bike paths side bike walking sidewalks paths

Residents feel the pressure of evolving transportation dynamics in multiple ways. As the population grows, traffic increases. The width of roads, the number of lanes, traffic flow mechanisms such as traffic lights and roundabouts, and driving patterns all impact residents' feelings of safety and stress. Residents' proximity to work, entertainment, and family activities greatly influences their daily experiences, time use, and quality of life. Traffic directly impacts residents' attitudes toward growth, change, and the future of Idaho Falls.

Paradoxically, many residents see innovation as a way to preserve the small-town feel of Idaho Falls. Facilitating alternative forms of transportation and exploring a feasible form of public transportation appeal to some residents in part because such developments could reduce the stress associated with getting from one place to another.



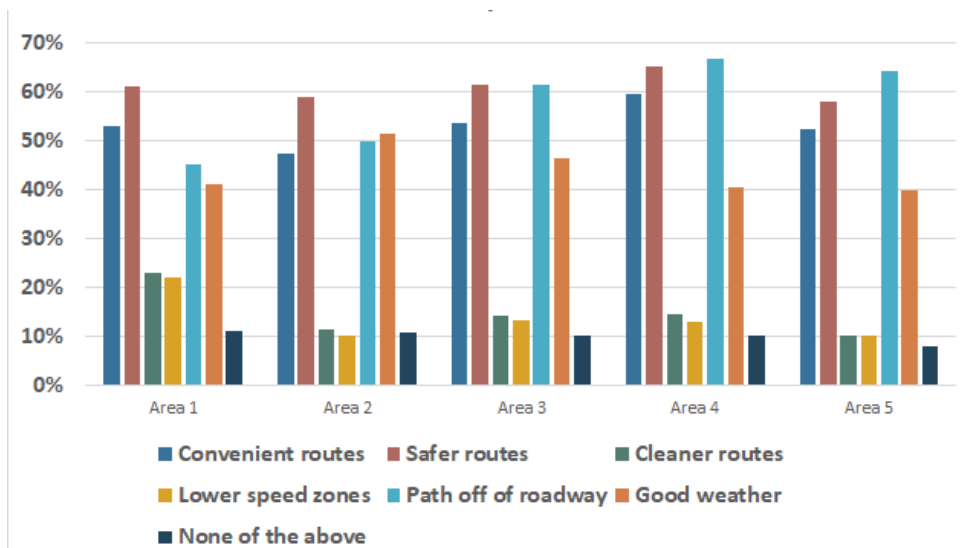
The **road infrastructure** is not keeping up with the **growth**. Holmes south of Sunnyside needs to be widened and have lights installed!

--Survey Respondent

1

BIKING & WALKING

FACTORS THAT COULD INCREASE BIKING & WALKING



Many residents envision Idaho Falls as an ideal place for outdoor activities, safe and healthy family living, and as a city in the process of providing a better home for more of the residents who share the community. Biking and walking are a fundamental part of that vision, and good share of survey respondents are enthusiastic about the possibilities.

While cars and truck remain by far the preferred mode of transportation, biking and walking are also favored by the residents of Idaho Falls. Nothing can be done to change the weather--a major deterrent to biking and walking, but convenient, safe, clean biking routes, bike lanes, and speed limits can all be addressed with strategic planning.

*Running and biking planning around IF would be greatly appreciated and a **wonderful addition to making the community feel and look great.** Are there any plans to use canals as safe (away from traffic) walking or running paths?*

--Survey Respondent

*Added bike lanes and places to lock up bikes is important. What the city did around S Blvd and the zoo for bikes was a **great addition.***

--Survey Respondent

*I love the idea of **extending the biking paths along the river.** I'd love for it to connect all the way down to Blackfoot. I would also love **better crossing options for bikes** on Sunnyside and Yellowstone.*

--Survey Respondent



2

DRIVING & TRAFFIC



Traffic in Idaho Falls is sometimes bad and getting worse, according to survey respondents. Few issues more directly threaten the "small-town feel" many residents cherish and few more immediately tip the scale toward residents' dislike of life in Idaho Falls.

Strong concerns range in focus from time spent to travel small distances because of traffic congestion, to navigating roundabouts and potholes, to unsafe, narrow neighborhood streets, to lack of enforcement of speed limits and other safety laws.

Worries about traffic almost inevitably point to worries about growth and questions about whether the city will manage growth in a way that does not compound traffic and quality of life issues.

Traffic...Idaho falls was **a great place a couple of years ago, but the amount of traffic has drastically increased.** There ain't enough **fast access to cross town.** Another thing is the access to green places for walking--the only two places is green belt and Tautphaus park. The problem is there ain't **enough parking to make it safe** much less with amount of traffic right next to greenbelt.

--Survey Respondent

The central part of town (the numbered streets north of 25th) aren't well maintained and **traffic is horrible along many roads.**

--Survey Respondent

Fix the roads and plan for future growth when fixing the roads

--Survey Respondent

Please start **enforcing traffic laws.**

--Survey Respondent

No walking bridges over the canals in the neighborhoods. **Kids have to take detours to busy roads** to cross the canals.

--Survey Respondent

The **yield lights at intersections** have caused **too many accidents.**

--Survey Respondent

3

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The lack of public transportation has a serious effect on the community, with demographic groups being more profoundly impacted than others.

For aging residents, who may be safer riding a bus than navigating increasingly complex traffic dynamics, available public transportation may mean the difference between receiving a COVID-19 vaccination or dialysis or radiation treatment or not. For individuals with a limited income and limited vehicle dependability, lack of public transportation may equate to a lack of access to the city center and thus to cultural and community events and green space. For citizens attempting to reenter the community after incarceration, lack of public transportation may mean limited job and housing opportunities and increased vulnerability at a time when stability is paramount.

Although it is a daunting challenge, public transportation is important to the city and many residents care about it.

***Lack of public transportation, ease of getting around** without a car [is a problem].*

--Survey Respondent

*[Idaho Falls has] **poor public transportation**– even the Wood River Valley is better.*

--Survey Respondent



WORTH NOTING: FOUR OBSERVATIONS



*Thank you for undertaking this project and working to help make Idaho Falls a **more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming** place to live and work!*

--Survey Respondent

1

RESIDENTS VALUE ENGAGEMENT

Residents want to be part of the decision-making process and appreciate the opportunity to be heard.

Participants in the citywide survey and targeted neighborhood conversations valued the city's intentional effort to listen. It's apparent that residents are invested in their city. They care about its character and the way of life it both preserves and encourages.

Responses reveal opportunities for the city to build trust, facilitate further engagement, and increase feelings of unity during a time of dramatic evolution.

Some responses underscore an existing risk as well. Trust is fragile, and some residents fear the engagement effort is an empty exercise that is meant more to appease than to be responsive to residents.

Below is a sample of what residents have to say.

*Thank you! What's the status on the 15 and 20 interchange project? **Let me know** if there are any other **ways to get more involved** I would be **interested in volunteering time** and expertise more for the **future of IF**.*

--Survey Respondent

Thank you for doing this.
--Survey Respondent

*Love that the City is **taking this time** for **feedback**! Love **mixed-use developments** and **walkable communities/city centers**! Thank you!*

--Survey Respondent

***Broad outreach** takes **creativity** now more than ever. **We appreciate your efforts and commitment** to keeping/making this **a place we love to live**.*

--Survey Respondent

*I **watched the video recording** of my neighborhood's **Imagine IF meeting**. I **appreciate the topics** that were discussed.*

--Survey Respondent

***It's good to know** the City is trying to have the **residents in mind** when making **tough choices**.*

--Survey Respondent



2

SPECIFIC AREA SURVEY DATA CAN GUIDE COMMUNICATION

Recognizing differences in sentiment from area to area can facilitate better communication.

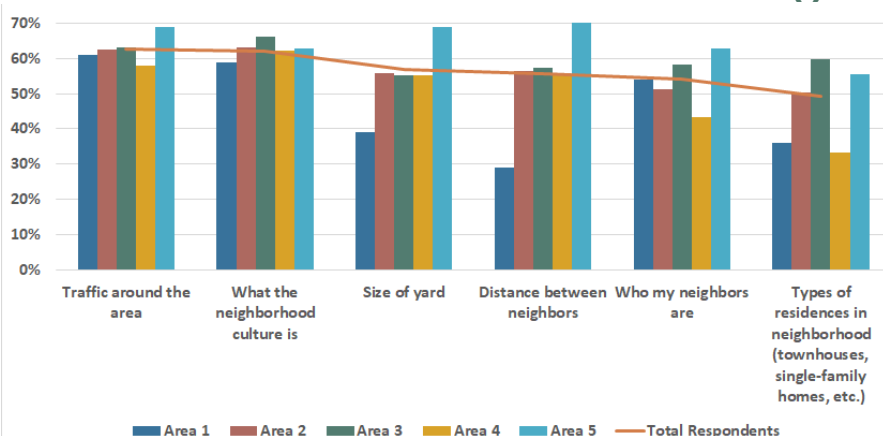
Residents value being heard. Most survey respondents appear to trust the intention of the city to listen. However, some expressed uncertainty about whether public sentiment would make a difference. Many referenced the current issue with the new water tower as an example of *not being heard* or *hoping to be heard*.

Because residents care greatly about growth and the impact it will have, communicating with them in a responsive manner is vital. Although overall survey responses reflect a very strong consistency of priorities and values, a closer look at subtle variations among survey areas can provide insights relevant to effective strategic communication.

Not surprisingly, responses regarding housing preferences vary by area. The differences are foreseeable, given that people chose (within their individual constraints) to live in specific areas and they experience the dynamics characteristic of that area. However, being responsive to individual sentiments can reduce conflict and increase a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

When selecting housing, residents care nearly equally about surrounding traffic and the neighborhood culture. Sentiments vary slightly to the importance of the people with whom individuals share the neighborhood. But sentiments vary more substantially in regard to the spacing of homes and types of residences that compose the neighborhood.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HOUSING SELECTION (1)



*I and many of my neighbors **work very hard** to keep our **personal residences** looking “nice.” Unfortunately there are places that **look** as though they should be **condemned, torn down, cleaned up.***

--Survey Respondent

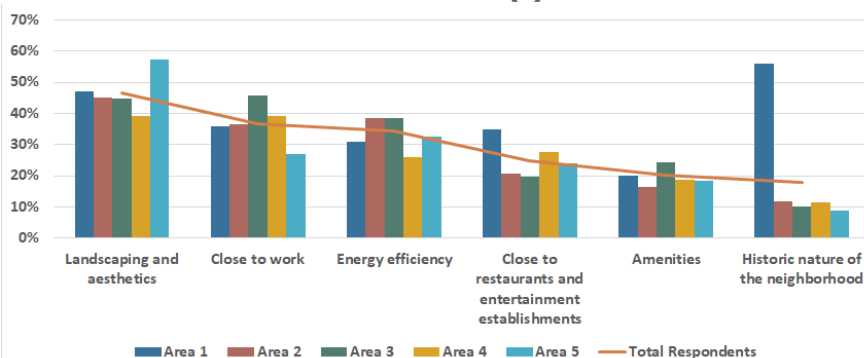
2 Survey Area Response Variations

Consensus exists regarding aesthetics and proximity to work. But as could be anticipated, residents in the numbered streets and near downtown care significantly more about the historic nature of the neighborhood. Residents who live near the river or downtown tend to prioritize those factors selecting a neighborhood.

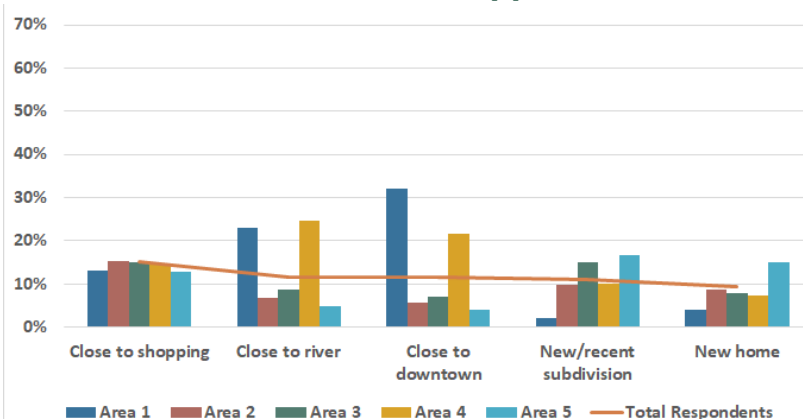
The historic part of Idaho Falls is valuable and we should build on that value and promote quality development.

--Survey Respondent

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE NEIGHBORHOOD SELECTION (2)



FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE NEIGHBORHOOD SELECTION (3)



Please raise expectations on housing developments, support the community feel our city is losing. Require minimum 1 park in each development.

--Survey Respondent

I would like to keep my corner of the city country

I would love more bike paths and walking paths that connect to downtown from Fairway Estates to historic downtown and to other places around town.

--Survey Respondent

Would like to see some attention paid to the older neighborhoods. The older houses have a lot of charm and they're close to the historic downtown area. Would also like to see some conservation easements to preserve green space areas. Would like to see a more expansive trail system to encourage walking, riding bikes, running, etc. Love the trail system along the river and it's increasingly busy and popular..

--Survey Respondent

3

MORE DIVERSITY IS GENERALLY DESIRED

Residents tend to welcome the diversity growth brings. But some residents believe "outsiders" threaten their way of life.

DIVERSITY ADDS VALUE

*[Growth will bring] **diversity and dilution of the conservative and predominantly LDS culture** to one that is **more balanced...** If it weren't for the **National Lab and the variety of people it attracts** to our area, I couldn't live here. **I would suffocate.***

--Survey Respondent

*It is **not a safe community for people of color** like me.*

--Survey Respondent

*Negativity toward anyone not of the area's 'standard' demographic. I've talked with many people looking to move to the area who were **actually scared to move here** due to **fear of persecution because they didn't fit the norm** (i.e. religion other than LDS, race other than white, LGBTQ, or not far right politically.)*

--Survey Respondent

*It would **bring more things to do** and **people in** and would **foster diversity** so **adults of all ages feel like it's a more enjoyable place to live** and bring up their families.*

--Survey Respondent

*[Growth will] bring **new ideas** to city planning, **increasing cultural opportunities***

--Survey Respondent

*I **welcome diversity** and I think **growth** can help **expand diversity.***

--Survey Respondent

Diversity of thought,** additional **cultural opportunities

--Survey Respondent

More opportunities** for people with **different interests.

--Survey Respondent

*Growth is always a two-edged sword – it can bring **more opportunities** (my biggest hope is more well-paid/interesting jobs so maybe some of our kids will stay in IF or hopefully return to IF). But, it **would be nice if we encouraged/invited more diversity in our city...** We're pretty much completely "milk toast" (a very homogenous population). **Some cultural diversity could really improve our town.***

--Survey Respondent

3 Diversity is both favored and feared

DIVERSITY CREATES UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE

Honestly, I'm getting pretty tired of people from **other states** moving here and **trying to change IF** to where they used to live.

--Survey Respondent

Too many people from California now and **turning into a liberal town.**

--Survey Respondent

The city is **growing so big**...Crime has gone up in the last ten years tremendously. It is **losing that small town feel.** I used to be able to walk into a store and know most of the people in the store. **Now I walk into a store and nine times out often do not recognize a single person.**

--Survey Respondent

Growth can bring people with **new and different perspectives to Idaho Falls.** Being able to **maintain open and safe discussion**

between new and current residents is key to **preventing conflict and separation of our community.** I hope to see Idaho Falls promote a sense of togetherness through our upcoming growth.

--Survey Respondent

All the people moving here and **bringing their problems and crime** with them.

--Survey Respondent

Leave diversity out of growth people live where they want to live.

--Survey Respondent

4

CAPITALIZE ON EXISTING RESOURCES

Residents have innovative ideas about how to capitalize on existing resources to increase connectivity.

Every **irrigation canal should have** a bike or walking path along it. The **easements already exist.**

--Survey Respondent

I would love to see **all of the canals be open to walking/running.** They are awesome space that **connects lots of parts of the city.**

--Survey Respondent

Running and biking planning around IF would be greatly appreciated and a wonderful addition to making the community feel and look great. Is there any plans to **use canals as safe (away from traffic) walking or running paths?**

--Survey Respondent

SUMMARY & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We love how helpful and quick all the city departments are. They always answer the phone and provide the needed information or help.

--Survey Respondent

SUMMARY

The citywide survey represents an intensive effort to offer residents of Idaho Falls the opportunity to engage in the strategic planning that will shape the character and feel of life in Idaho Falls for years to come.

As residents clearly recognize, the unprecedented growth that is occurring has a deep reach into evolving culture, relationships, economy, and opportunities that define the City of Idaho Falls.

This report focuses on three central themes that emerged from responses to the survey questions: character, housing, and transportation. Three central takeaways are explored within each of these main sections.

Four additional observations were included as well. These were selected based on the prevalence of comments and/or relevance to community development planning.

The city wants to thank everyone who took the time to complete this survey and also to those who have requested updates and further engagement opportunities.

We are grateful for the cooperative spirit that has driven the evolution of the city we love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report represents a collaborative effort between:

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?

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I applaud the city's efforts to solicit input from residents. More communication between the governed and the governors is key to the future of the city.

--Survey Respondent



Citywide Survey Results February - April 2021

I think Idaho Falls is great and hope to participate in helping to make it even better.

--Survey Respondent

Public Works: Water Meter Pilot

Residential Water Conservation Pilot Program

Maximum value

\$1,000 REBATE

Up to five fixtures and
installation.

**See back for details.*



- You select the fixtures.
- You select the installation company.
- You gain access to your household water usage with real-time monitoring and use of vital alarms and leak detection. (Great opportunity for people who travel or have rental properties!)
- You play a vital role in conserving our city's most valuable resource - drinking water!

**See back for details.*

IDAHO FALLS
PUBLIC
WORKS

*Monitor
your own
water
usage!*

Need assistance replacing old water fixtures in your home?

The City of Idaho Falls Water Division will be contacting homeowners who are interested in shaping the future of Idaho Falls residential water use while conserving our most valuable resource and gaining access to their own water consumption.

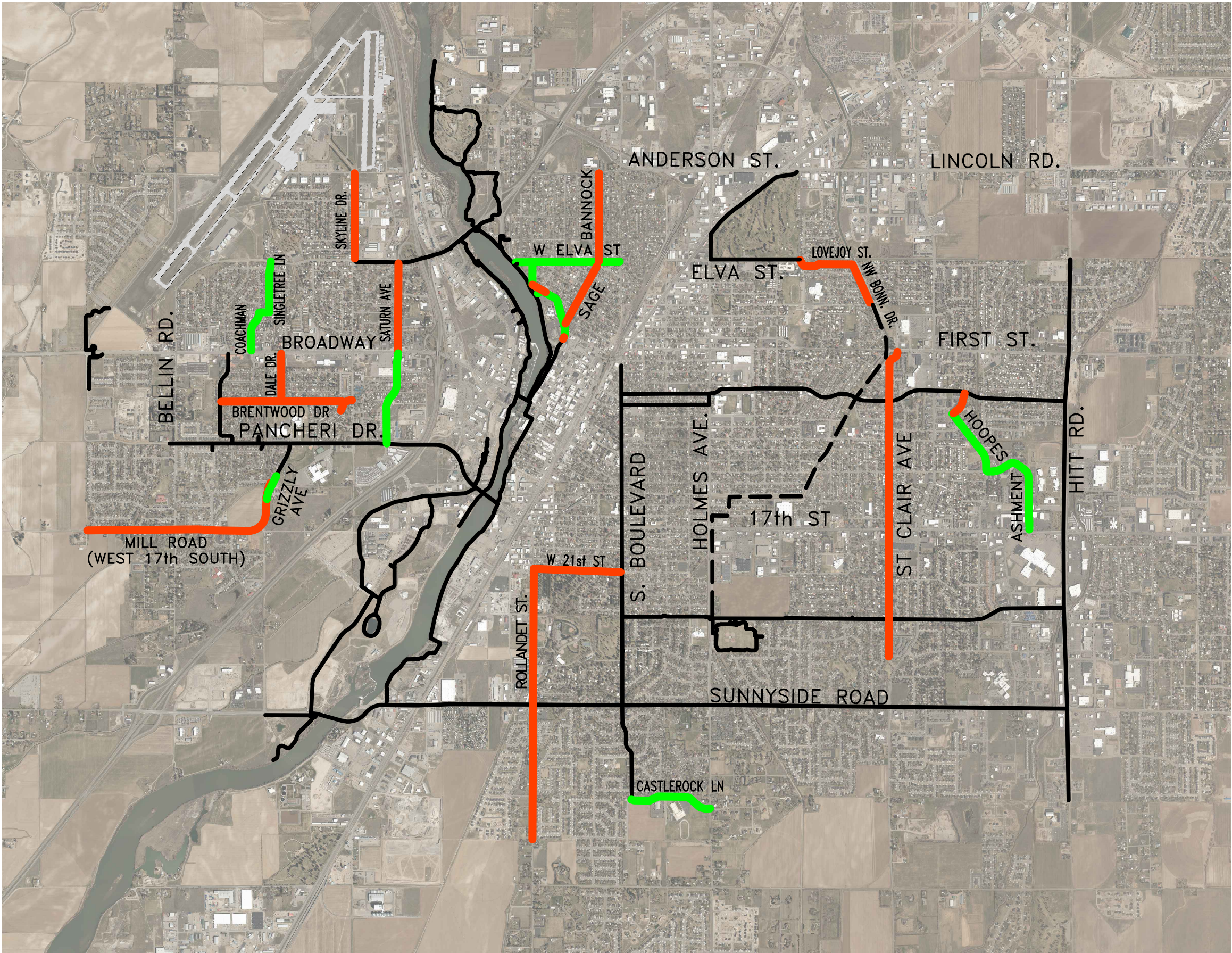
Here's how the program works:

- We are seeking a maximum of 100 homes of varying characteristics (lot size, age, method of landscape watering, etc.) to participate in the program.
- The Water Division will contact 100 qualifying homeowners to discuss the program.
- The Water Division will install a water meter within the existing meter pit on the property of those randomly selected.
 - The water meter WILL NOT impact your water bill. Your residence will continue to be billed on a non-metered basis.
 - Water usage will be monitored for a one (1) year period prior to installing new fixtures.
- After monitoring usage for one (1) year, we will schedule a tour of your home to help identify a list of inefficient water fixtures (i.e. toilets, faucets, shower heads, washers, sprinkler timers, etc.) that qualify for the replacement program.
- You select and purchase replacement fixtures from an approved list of WaterSense certified fixtures.
- You select a company to complete the installation of the replacement fixtures from an approved list of licensed and bonded plumbers.
- We will reimburse up to \$100 of the purchase of each fixture replaced, up to a maximum of \$500 (or five fixtures) per household. More details will be provided prior to installation.
- We will reimburse up to \$100 per fixture for the installation cost of the plumber, up to a maximum of \$500 per household. More details will be provided prior to installation.
- Water usage will be monitored for another one (1) year. Again, this will NOT impact your water bill. Your residence will continue to be billed on a non-metered basis. During this period, we will compare water usage patterns with those of the previous one (1) year period before fixture replacement occurred.

By monitoring water usage in various size homes and properties over the next two years, we gain a better understanding of how water is used in households that have metered systems. We also gain an understanding of which water fixture replacements provide the maximum benefit in our area. All of this information allows us to make data-driven decisions as we continue efforts at water conservation.

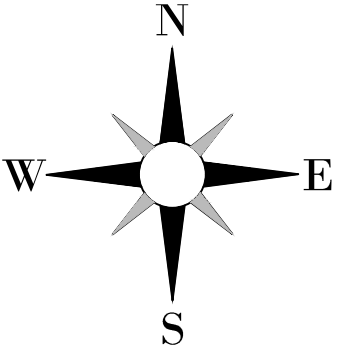
**Not all water fixtures will qualify for the reimbursement. Newer homes may already be mostly equipped with efficient fixtures. To qualify, the replacement fixture must provide a measurable water savings.*

Public Works: Connecting Our Community



LEGEND

- EXISTING BIKE ROUTE ———
- MULTI-USE PATHWAY
(UNDER CONSTRUCTION) - - -
- NEW PAINTED
BIKE LANE ———
- NEW SHARROW
LANE MARKINGS ———



CONNECTING OUR
COMMUNITY (COC)
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION