



What's Next KNOXVILLE?

Plan Today, Imagine Tomorrow

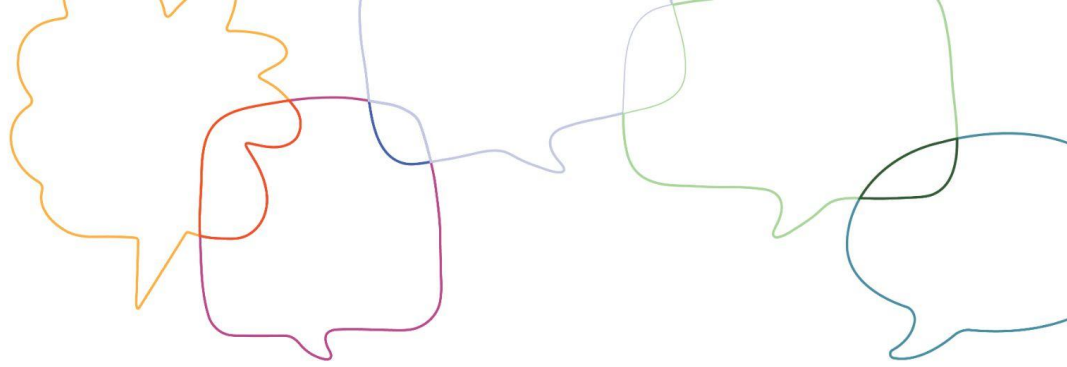
Interim Engagement Summary
April - June 2026

What's Next
KNOXVILLE?

**Listening and Learning
April-June 2026**

Contents

- 1 Engagement process** Overview of process, purpose, and activities
- 2 Engagement input summary** What we've been hearing... so far



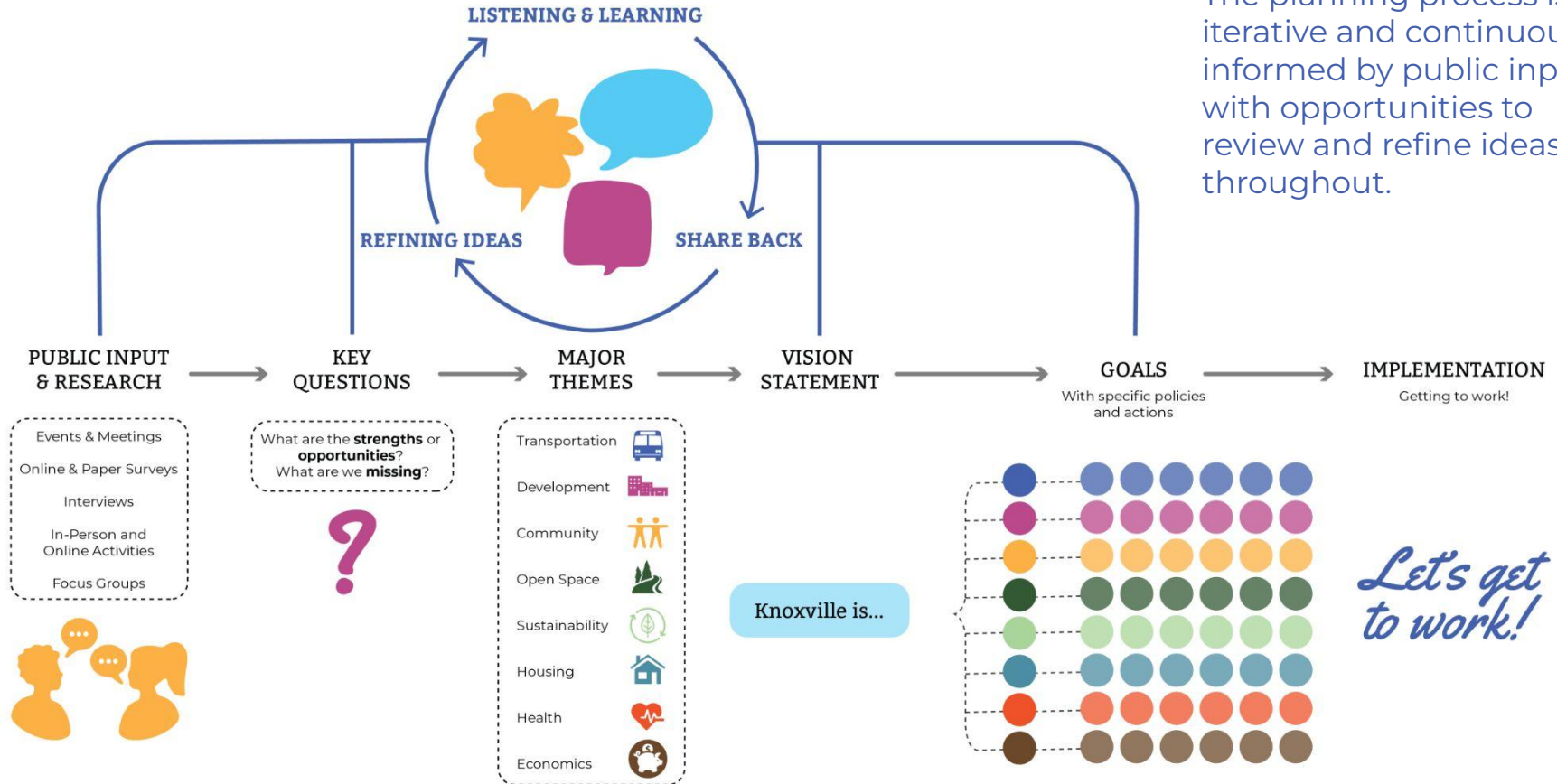
Engagement process

April-June 2026

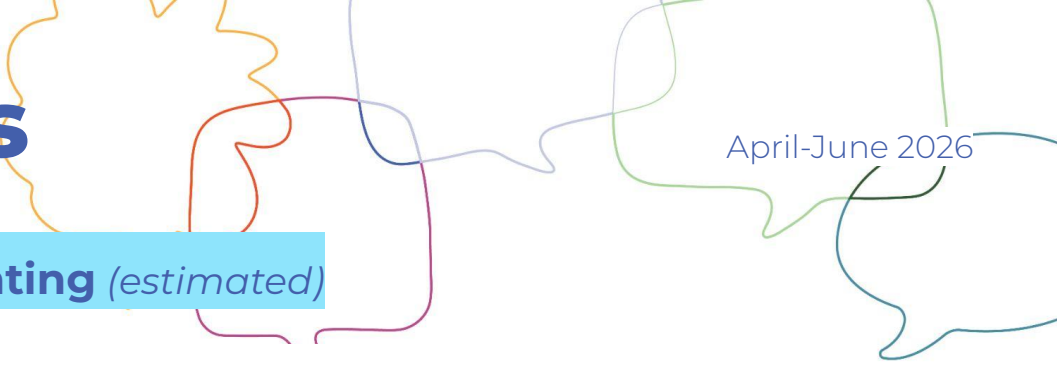
Engagement process



How does engagement drive What's Next



By the Numbers



April-June 2026

6,000+ people engaged and counting *(estimated)*

110 events & meetings *(such as listening sessions, pop ups, HQ open hours)*

80 interviews *(elected officials, community stakeholders, City departments)*

7 focus groups *(community, housing, corridors, small businesses, developers, young professionals)*

and

1,810 community surveys

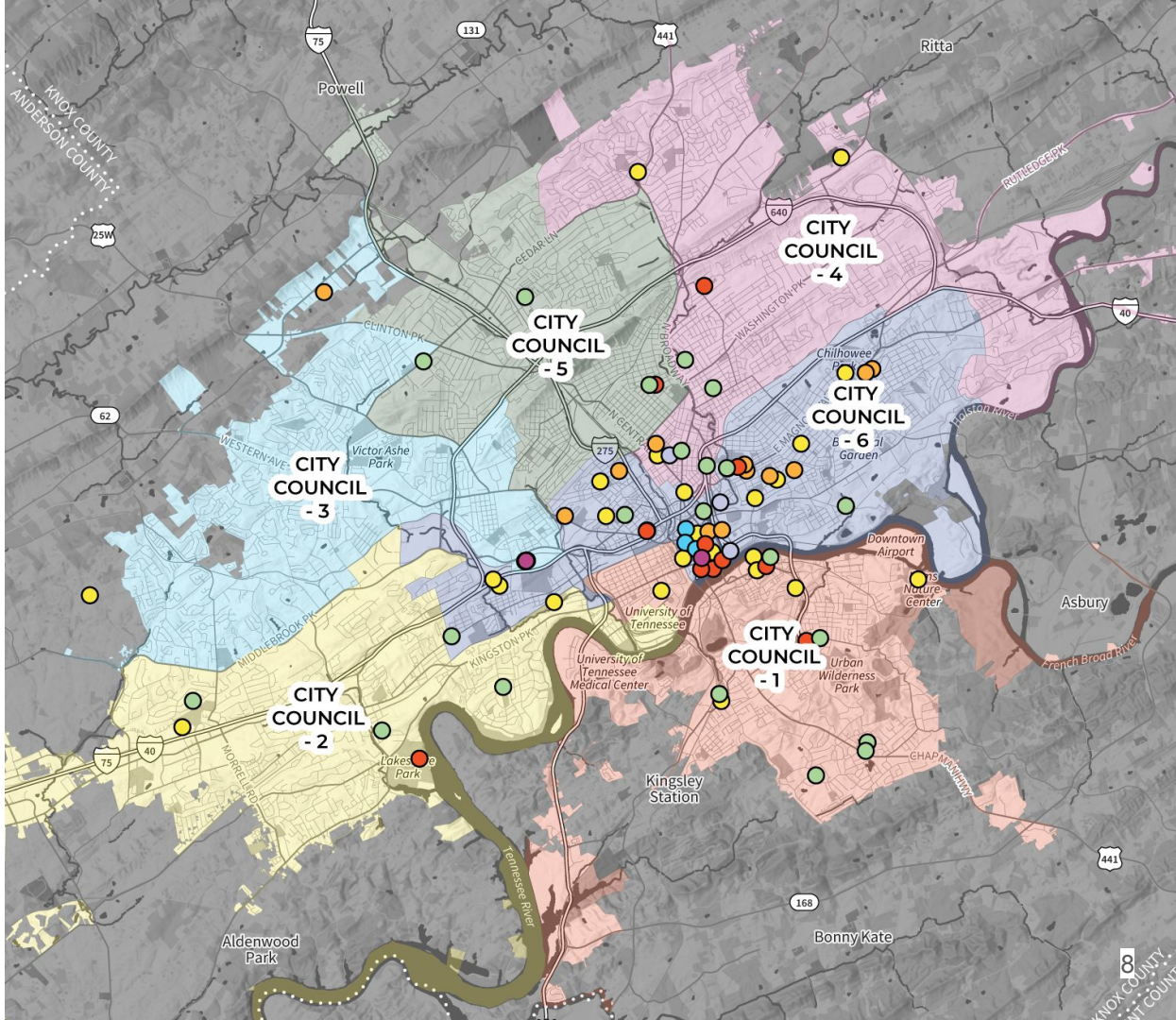
22,600 website views and counting

We've cast a wide net across the city

(and are still
broadening our
efforts!)

Engagement Events by City Council District As of July 15, 2026

- Organization Meeting
- Neighborhood Meeting
- Kid-A-Riffic Event
- Listening Session
- Presentation
- Office Hours at Market Square
- Pop-Up Event

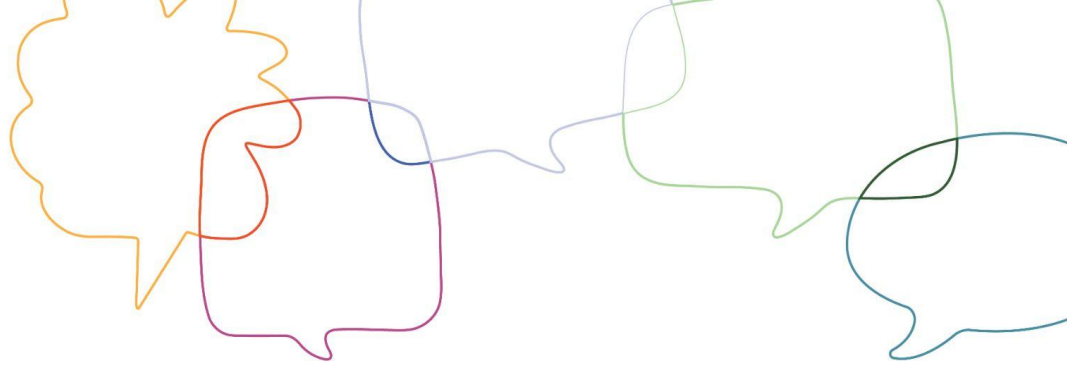


We've been listening and learning...



We've been listening and learning...





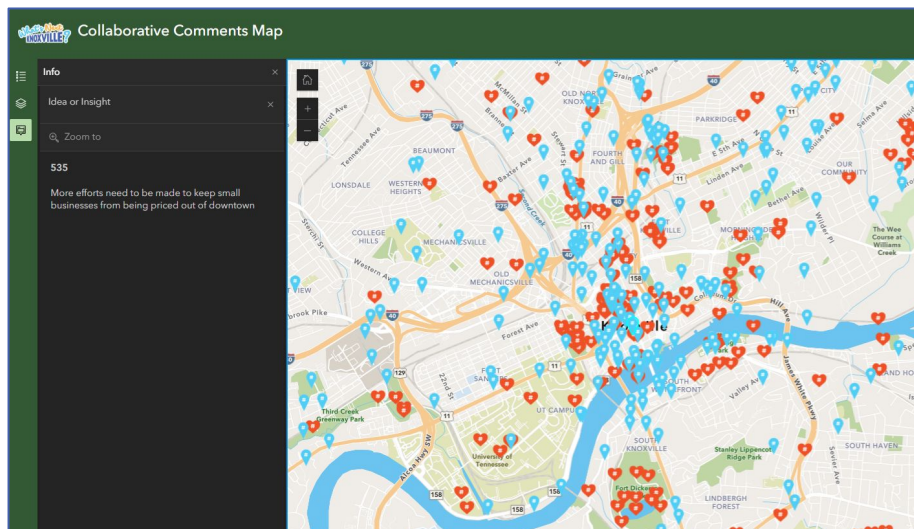
Engagement Input Summary

April-June 2026

April - June 2026

Activities *(in-person and online)*

- Community Survey (see separate report)
- Mapping Our Future
- What's Next Knoxville?
- Spin Wheel
- Values and Goals



Online "Mapping Our Future" activity



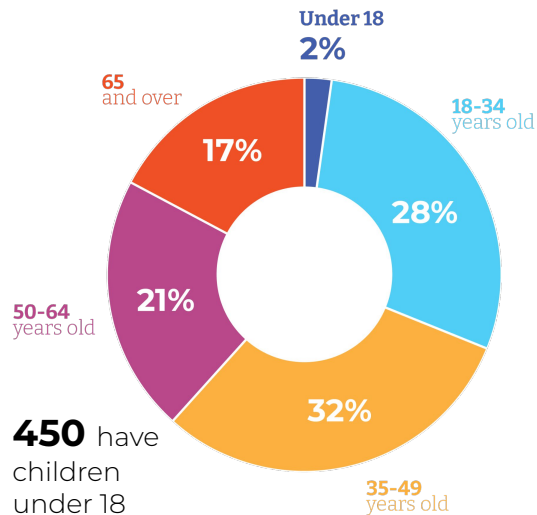
Activity passport for in-person events

ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Community Survey

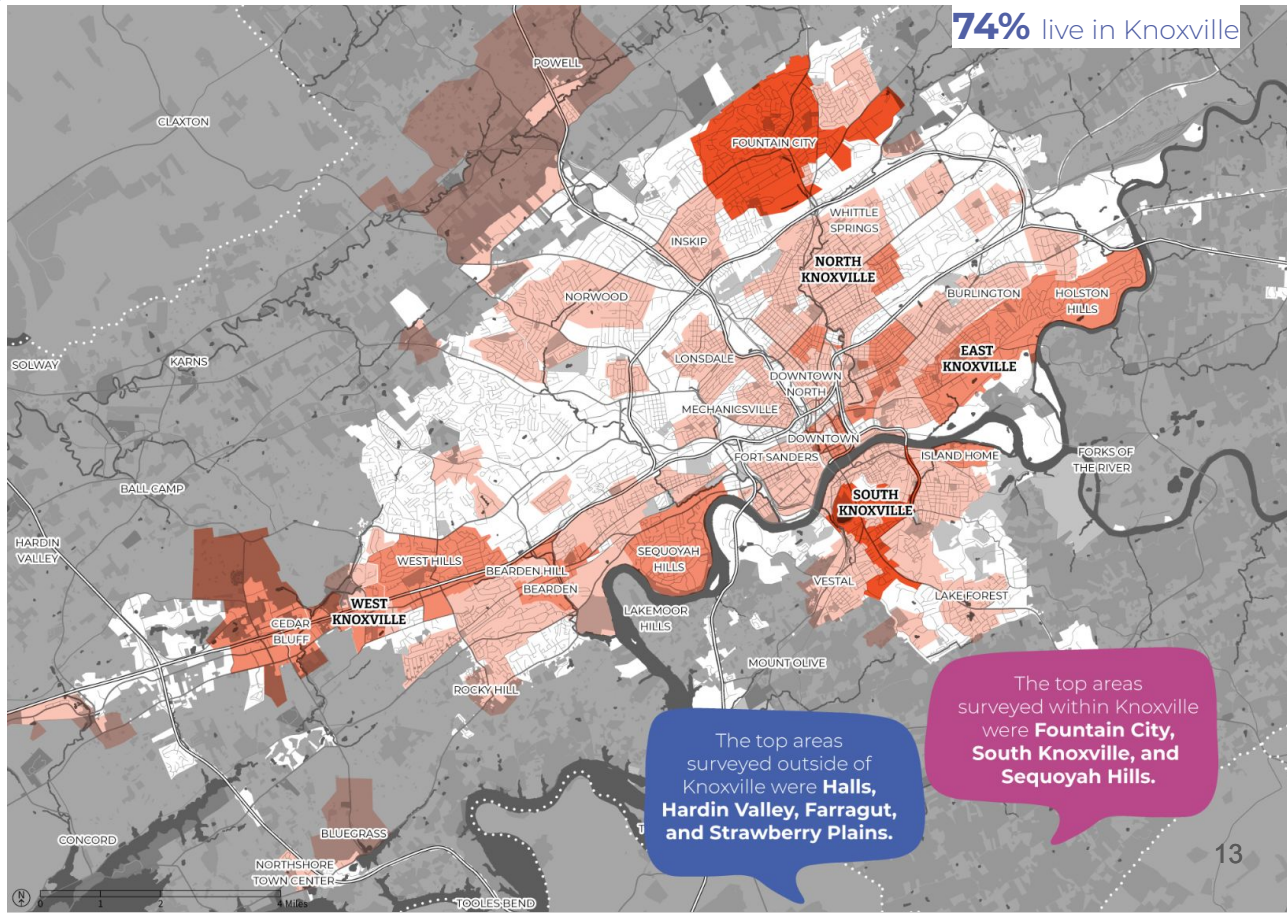
1,810 total responses

74% live in Knoxville



Survey Participants by Area

Source: City of Knoxville Comprehensive Plan Community Survey (2026)



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Mapping Our Future

1,108 total comments



131

Tell us more about the place you love. Tell us more about your idea.

Lakeshore is an incredible place for the family, recreation + exercise.

Extend greenway from new baseball fields @ Lakeshore Union Road. This would allow Rocky Hill ~~area~~ bike/pedestrian access to Lakeshore.

564

Tell us more about the place you love. Tell us more about your idea.

I love the extensive offerings in arts and culture. I could do something every night of the week if I was inclined. I put this sticker downtown because that's where most things happen.

Mixed use development could go a long way to solve our housing crisis. I put my sticker on Kingston Pike, but it belongs on every major commercial corridor. The zoning is in place but developers need incentives.

215

Tell us more about the place you love. Tell us more about your idea.

I like all the walkable shops and businesses, and events. (Kid likes Rocket Fizz)

It would be cool if there was a vertical connection between Gay Street Bridge and the north waterfront greenway.

ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Mapping Our Future

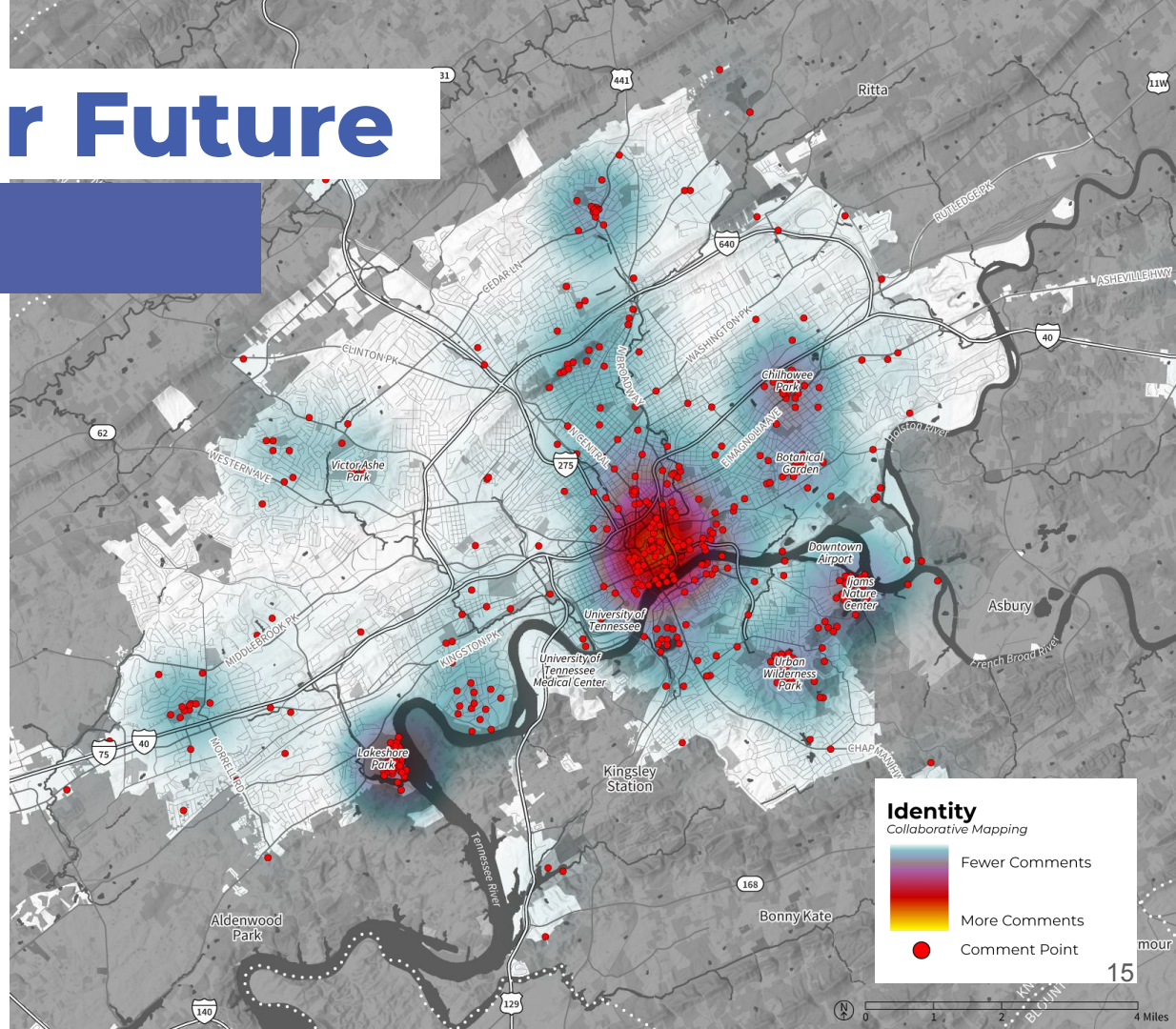
We asked: "What is a place you love?"

528 Comments

Top **places people love** include:

- **Parks, greenways, and natural areas** (Lakeshore Park, Ijams Nature Center, Urban Wilderness, Victor Ashe Park, Fort Dickerson, Augusta Quarry, Fountain City Park)
- **Downtown public spaces, shops & entertainment** (Market Square, Gay Street, Old City)
- **Walkable neighborhoods** (Happy Holler, Fourth & Gill, Sequoyah Hills, South Knoxville, Fountain City)

Visit whatsnextknoxville.com to explore the map comments

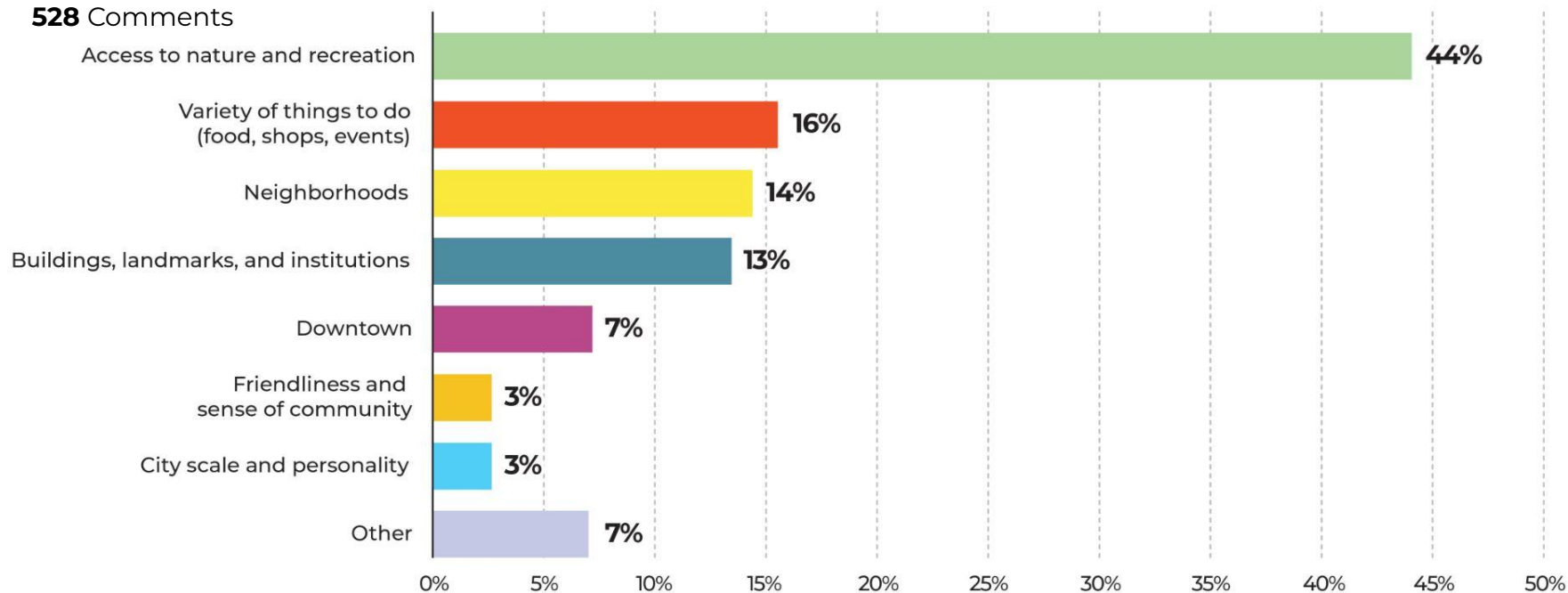


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Mapping Our Future

We asked: "What is a place you love?"

528 Comments



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Mapping Our Future

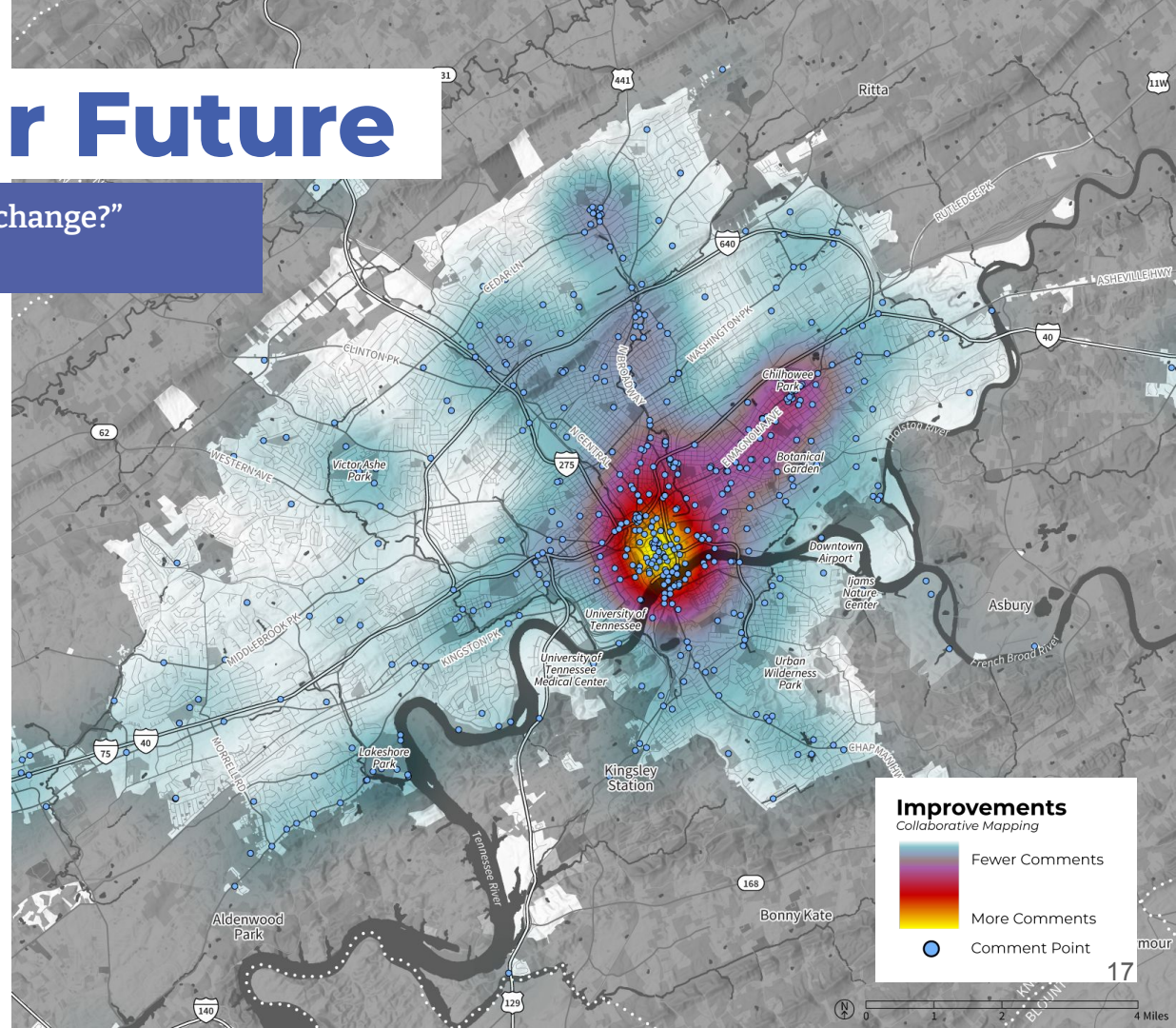
We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

580 Comments

Top locations identified for **improvements** include:

- Downtown
- Waterfront
- East Knoxville
- Corridors
- Parks and public spaces

Visit whatsnextknoxville.com to explore the map comments

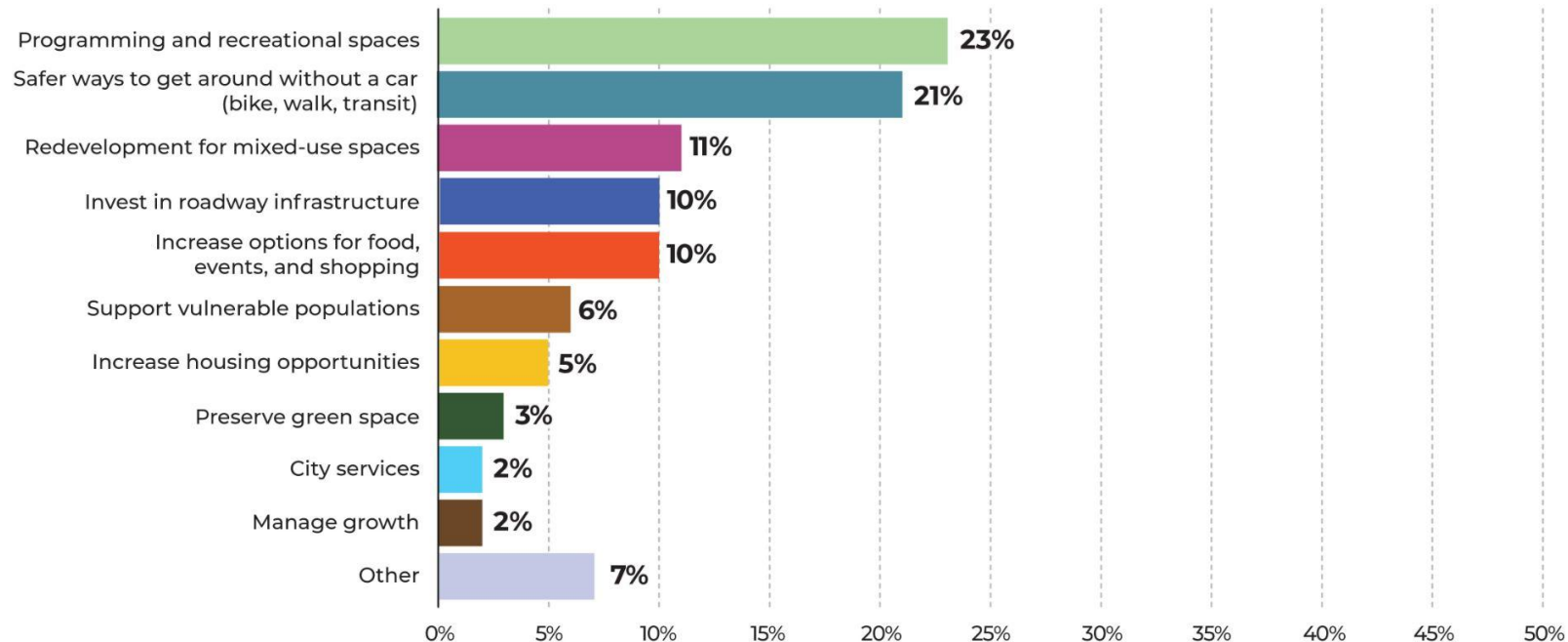


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Mapping Our Future

We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

580 Comments



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

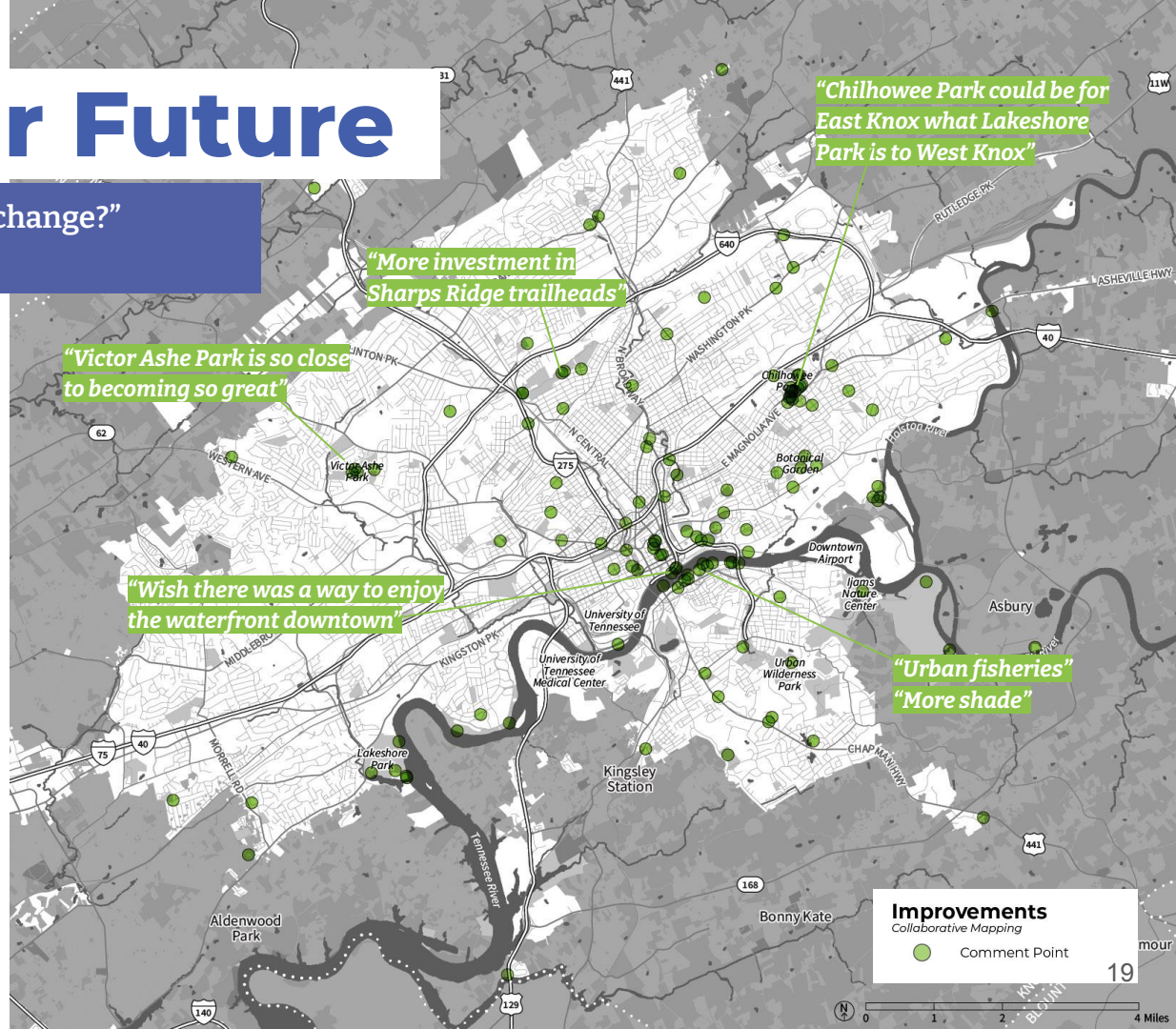
Mapping Our Future

We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

127 comments relating to programming and recreational spaces

Top ideas for **programming and recreational spaces** include:

- Improving existing parks by adding amenities to underutilized spaces
- Developing more water play areas
- Creating facilities for sports and active recreation



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

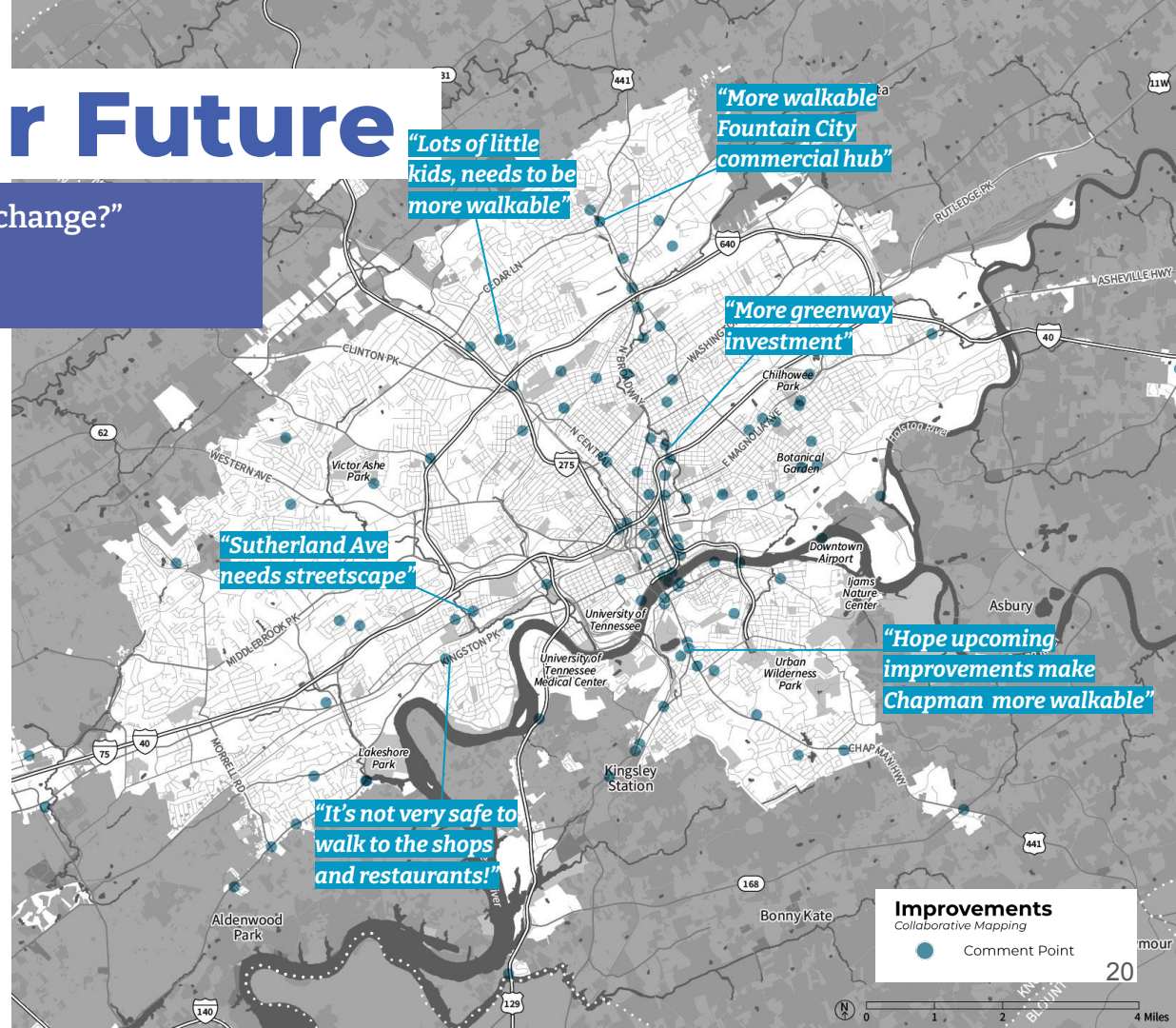
Mapping Our Future

We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

114 comments related to safer ways to get around without a car

Top ideas for **safer ways to get around without a car** include:

- Build and repair sidewalks
- Create safer bike and pedestrian routes
- Connecting and expanding greenways



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

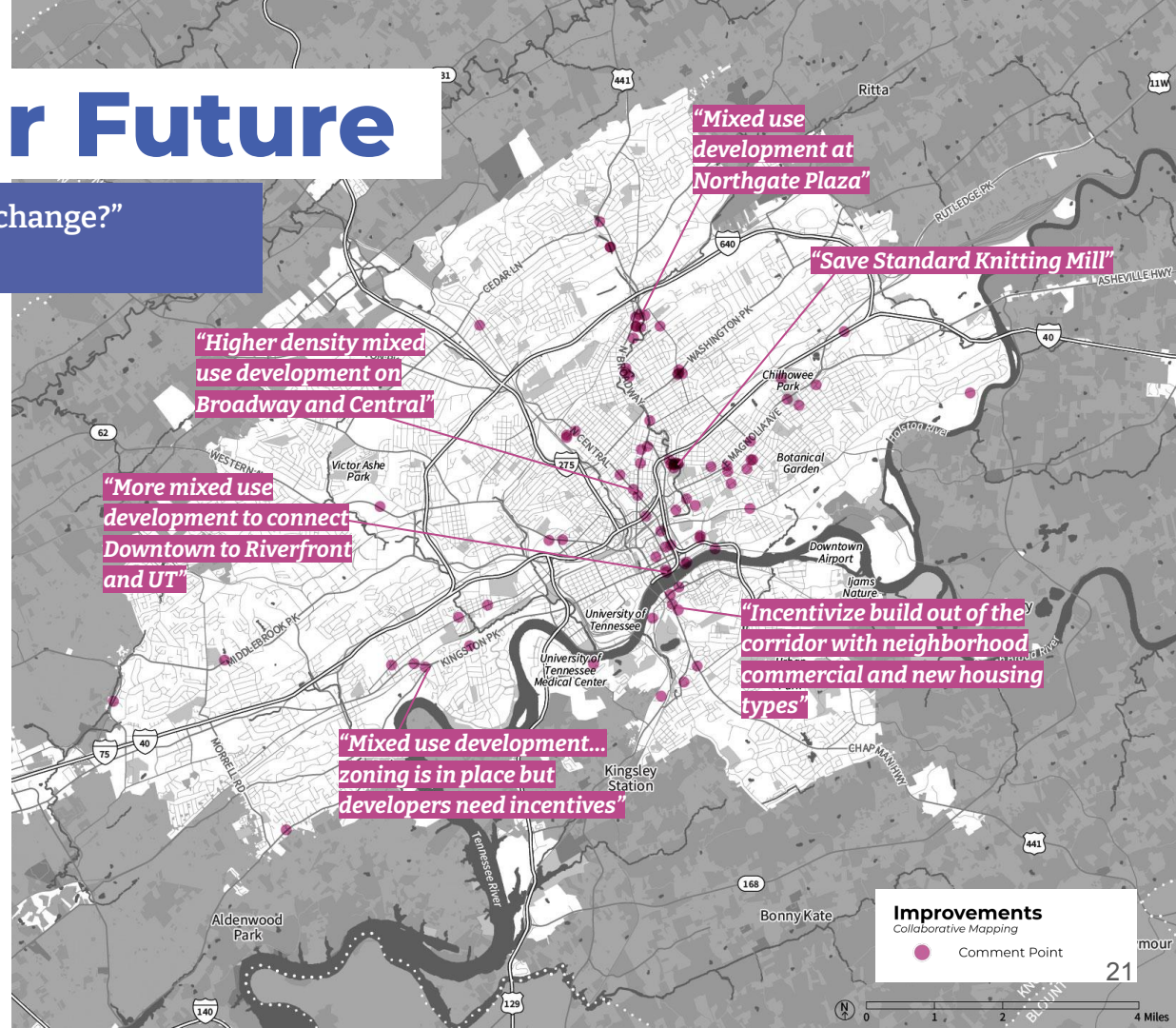
Mapping Our Future

We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

80 comments related to mixed use redevelopment

Top ideas for **mixed use redevelopment** include:

- Reuse vacant / underutilized land and buildings
- Combine housing with shops, restaurants, and services
- Focus growth along major commercial corridors



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

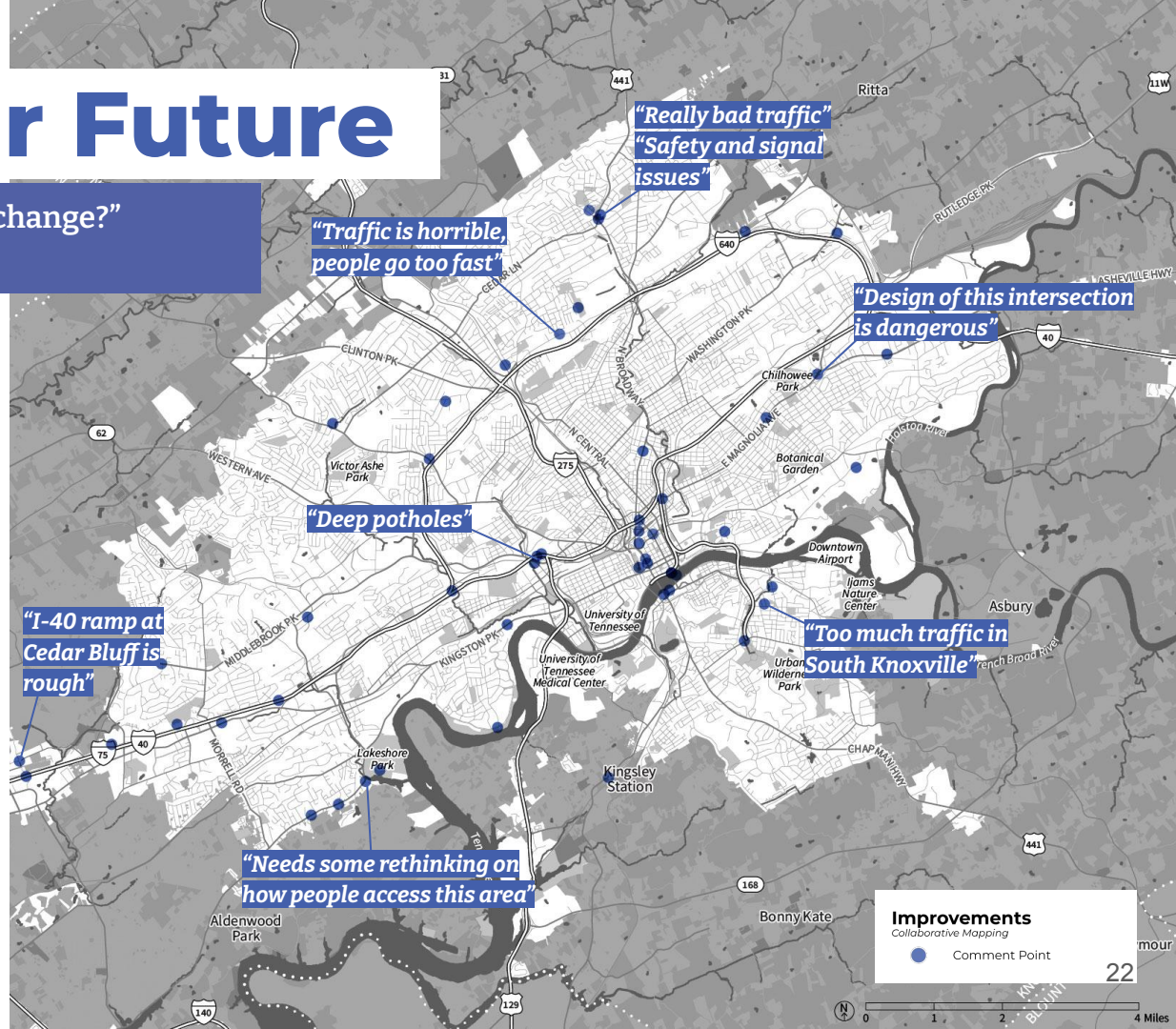
Mapping Our Future

We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

56 comments related to roadway infrastructure

Top ideas for **roadway infrastructure** include:

- Reduce congestion and improve traffic flow
- Repair and maintain roads
- Redesign dangerous intersections and interchanges



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

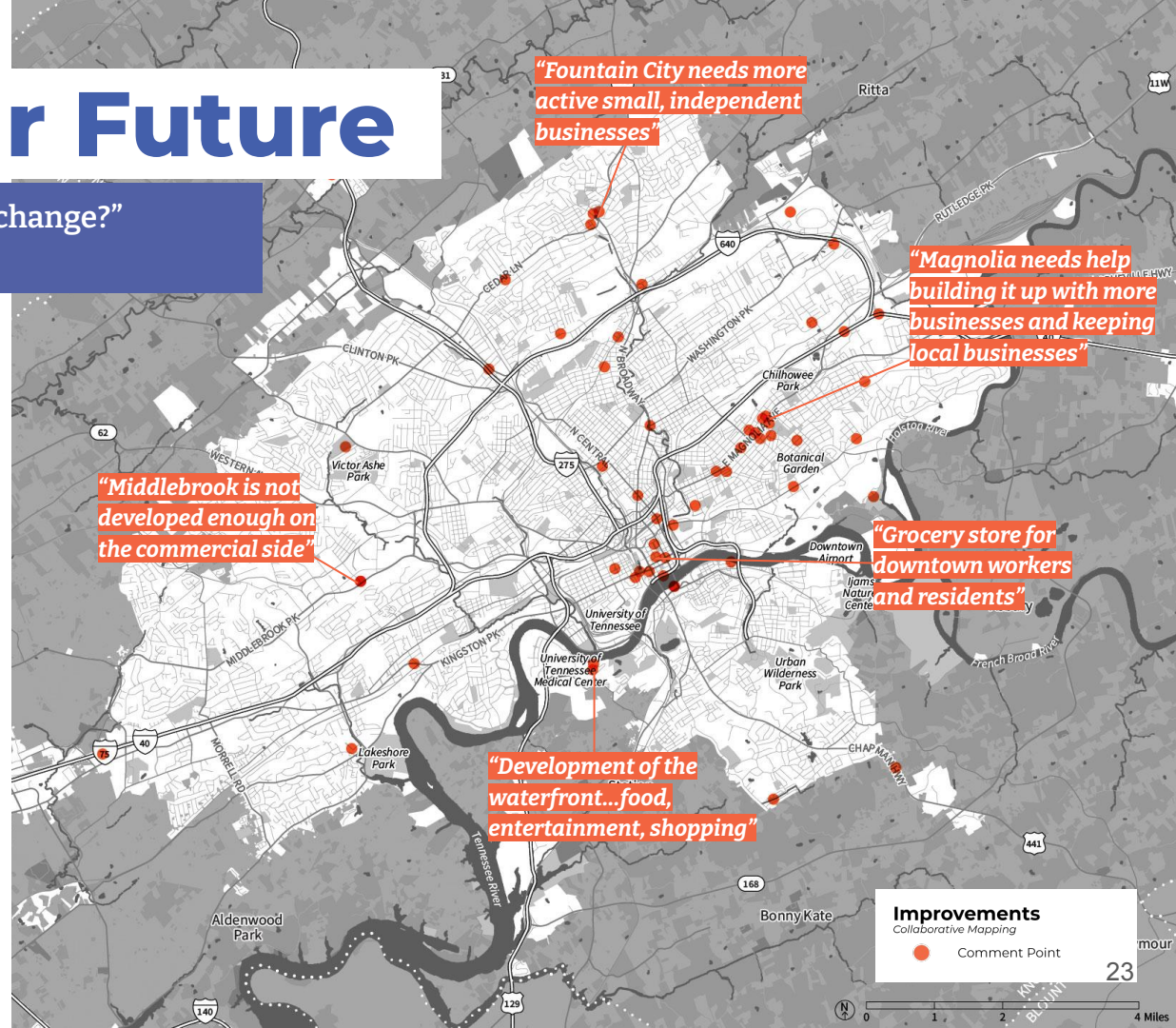
Mapping Our Future

We asked: "Where is a place that needs to change?"

55 comments related to more options for food, events, and shopping

Top ideas for **more options for food, events, and shopping** include:

- Adding more restaurant and food choices
- Expanding shopping and retail options
- Creating more events, entertainment, and nightlife

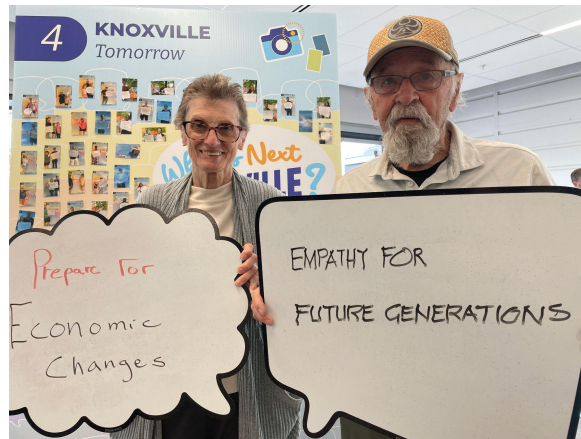
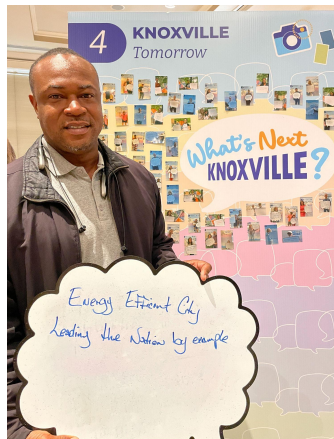
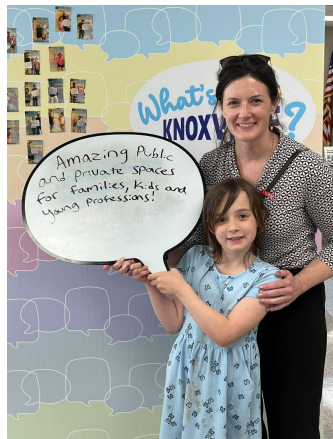
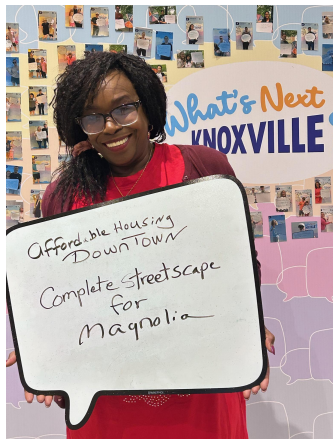
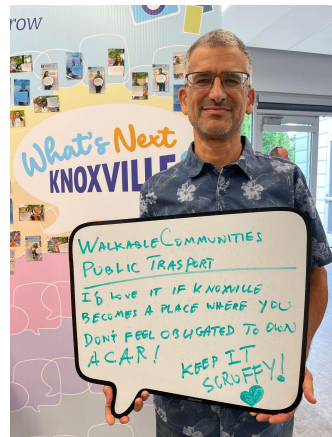
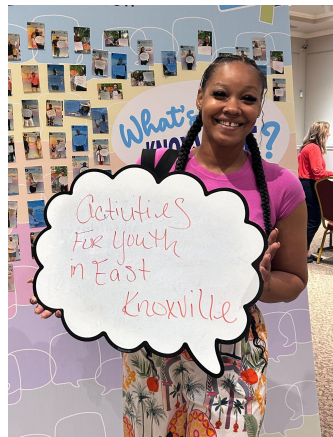


Improvements
Collaborative Mapping

• Comment Point

ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

What's Next Knoxville?



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel



COMBINED COMMENTS REGARDING:

Knoxville Identity

Who we are as a city

642 comments

We asked: “What makes Knoxville, Knoxville?” “What makes you feel



?” “What would you say to a friend/family member to convince them to move to Knoxville?”



Mead Quarry at Urban Wilderness

By far, people highlighted Knoxville's **access to green spaces and outdoor recreation** as one of the city's most distinctive and cherished qualities.

“Love all of the walking trails, greenways, places where you can... just enjoy nature”

“Proximity to wild(ish) places”

COMBINED COMMENTS REGARDING:

Knoxville Identity

Who we are as a city

642 comments

We asked: “What makes Knoxville, Knoxville?” “What makes you feel



?” “What would you say to a friend/family member to convince them to move to Knoxville?”



Other aspects people mentioned included:

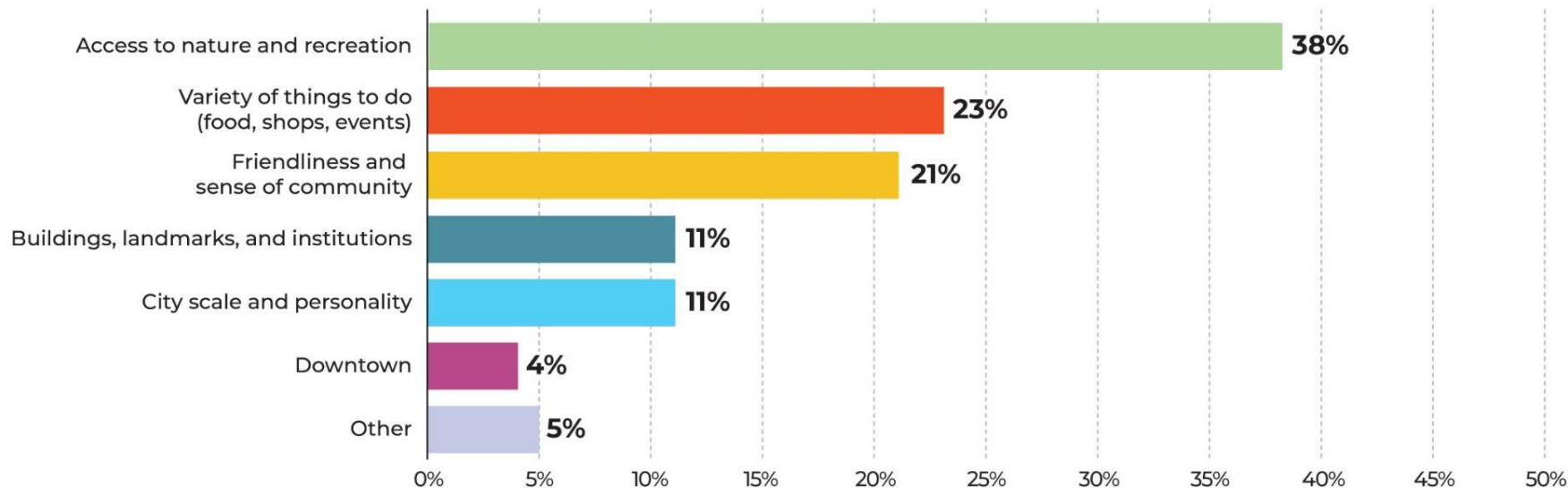
- The variety of **things to do and places to visit** (*local shops and restaurants, culture, and events*).
- Its **friendliness, approachability, and sense of community**,
- Its **“small town, big city”** feel,
- Natural and historic **beauty**,
- Its vibrant, walkable **downtown** and **university**,
- **Fun** and **family-friendly** vibe.

COMBINED COMMENTS REGARDING:

Knoxville Identity

Who we are as a city

642 comments



COMBINED COMMENTS REGARDING:

Improvements

What needs to change and where

650 comments

We asked: “You’re Mayor for a day...” “You won the lottery!” “What’s next Knoxville?” What would you invest in?



“Infrastructure
repairs”

“Improve budget for
Vision Zero + active
transportation”

Top improvements include:

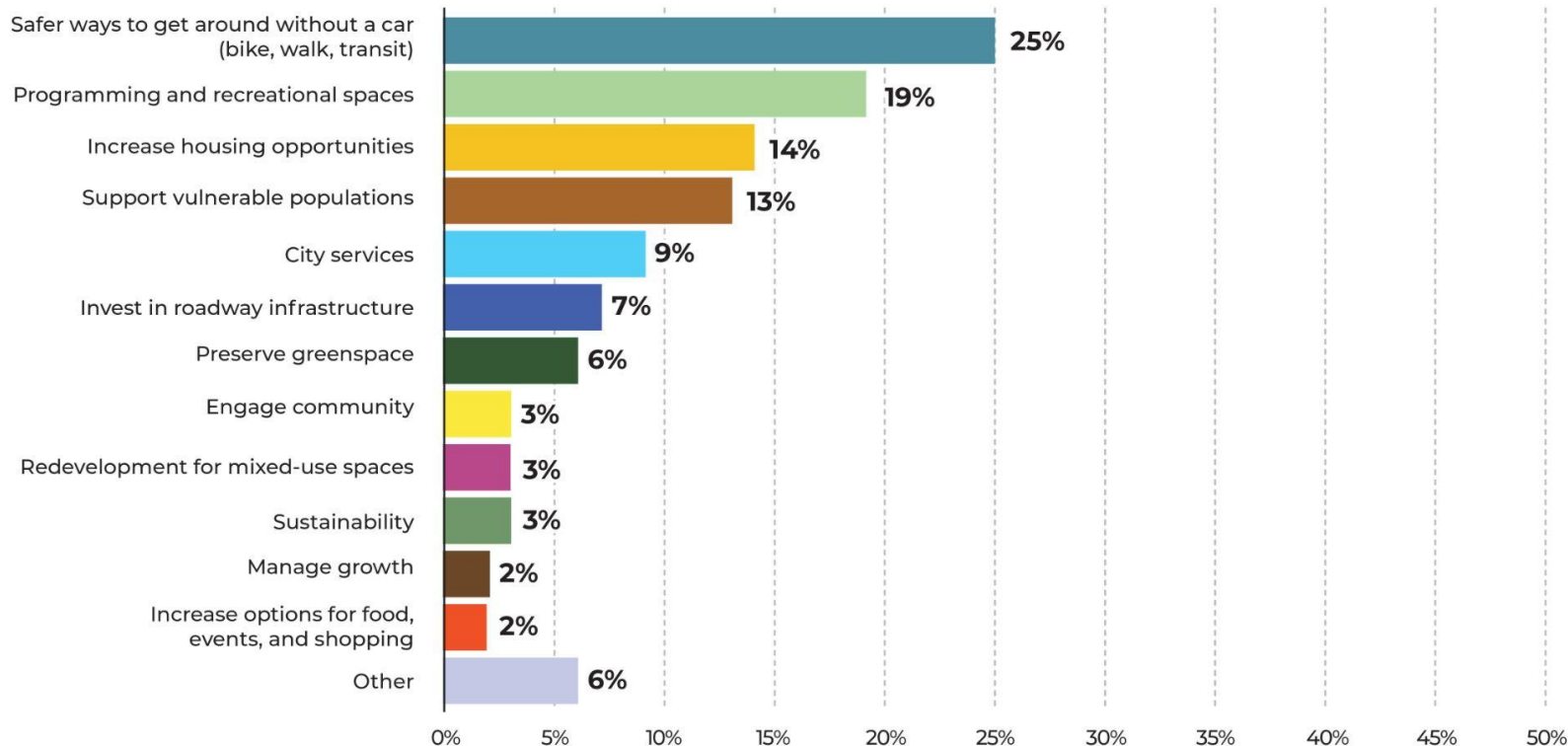
- Creating safer, more accessible ways to **move around without a car**,
- Maintaining and adding to the **parks**,
- Increasing housing and services for the **homeless**.
- Increasing **housing**, especially affordable, through gentle density and rehab,
- Maintaining **city services** (such as public safety, maintenance, schools, libraries) and **fiscal sustainability**

COMBINED COMMENTS REGARDING:

Improvements

650 comments

What needs to change and where

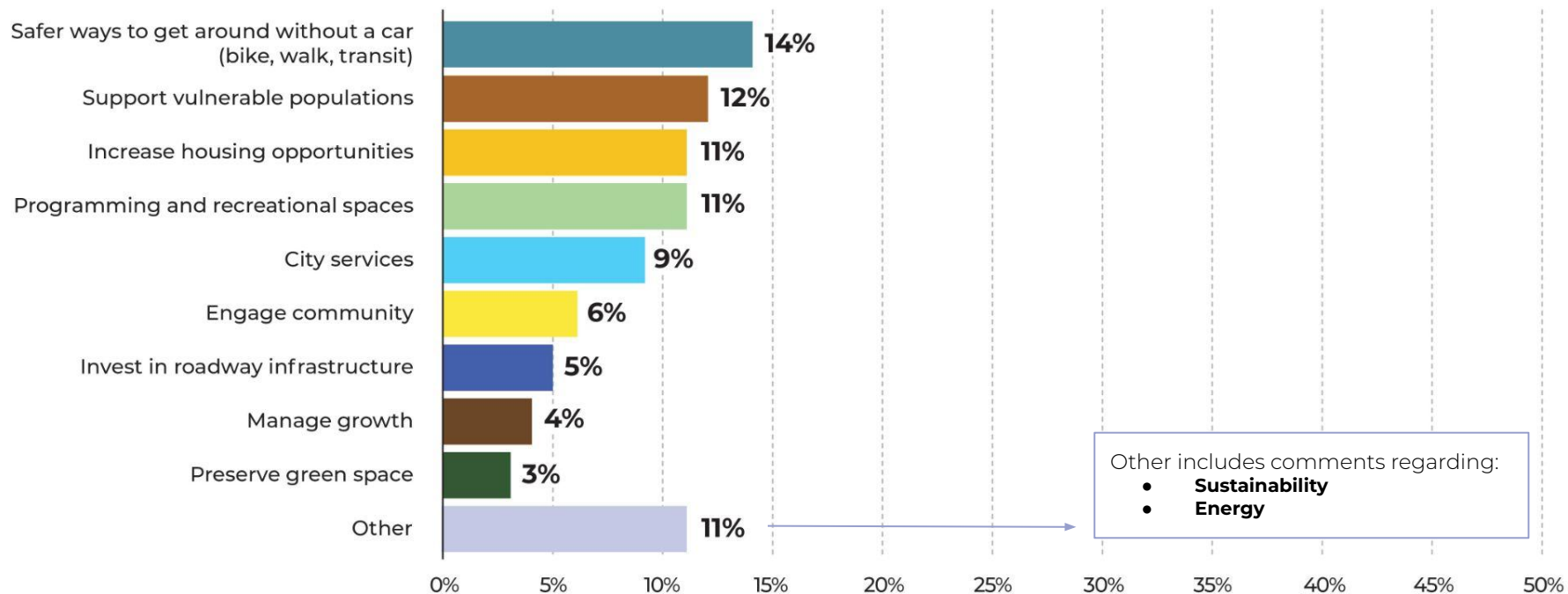


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

236 comments

We asked: "If you were MAYOR for a day, what is the first thing you would do?"

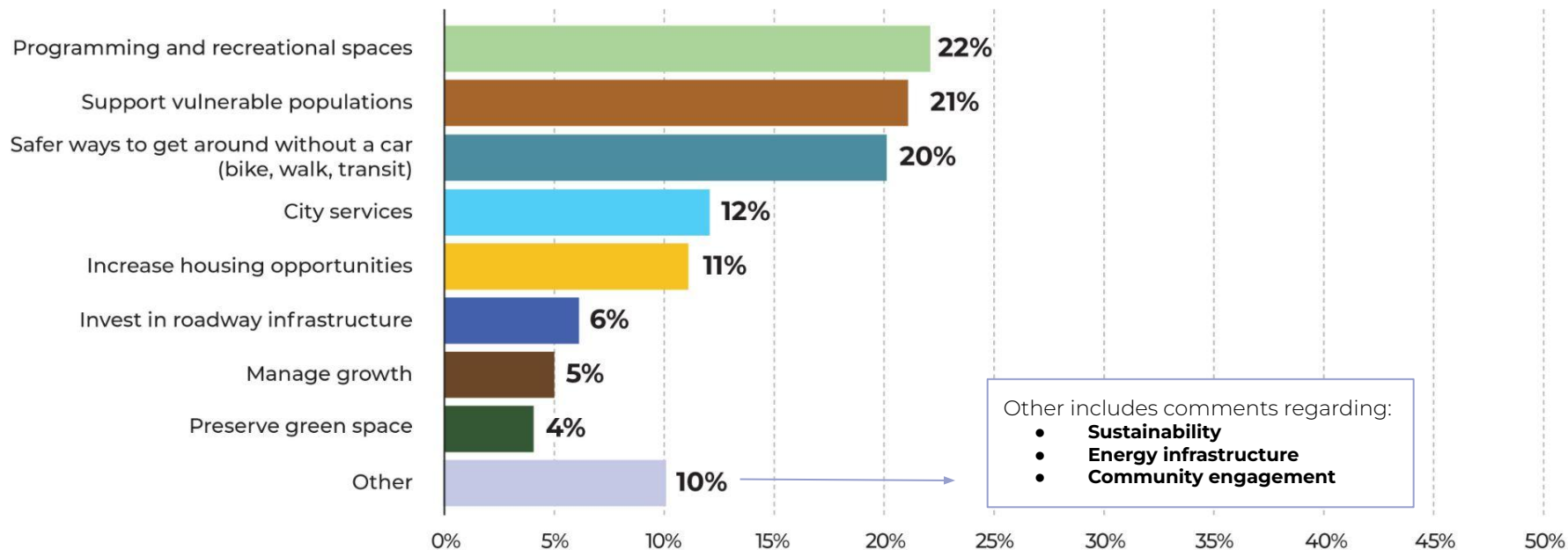


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

255 comments

We asked: Your city won the LOTTERY! How would you spend the money to improve the city?

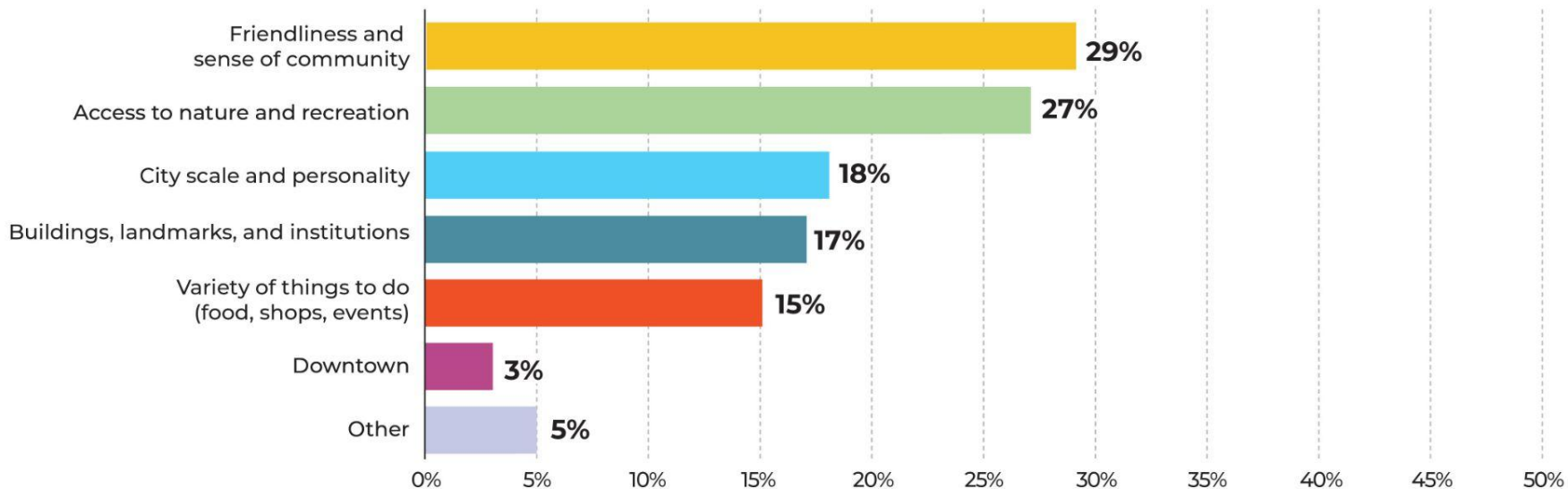


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

228 comments

We asked: Describe what makes Knoxville KNOXVILLE (and not like other cities).

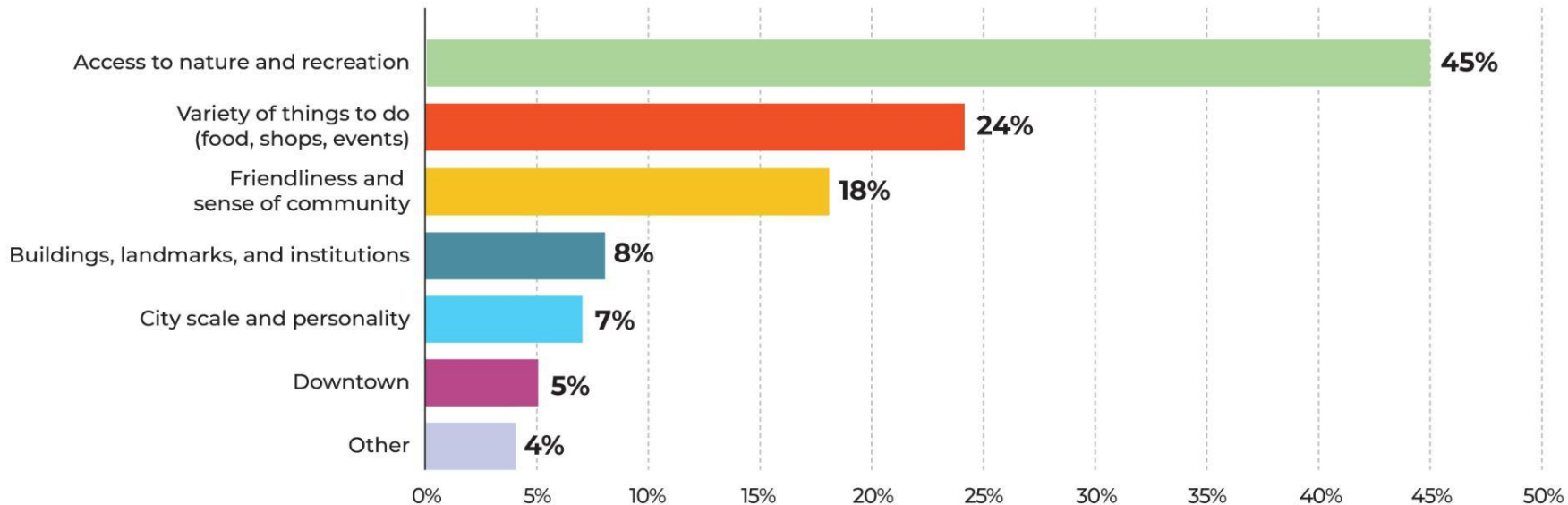


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

271 comments

We asked: What about Knoxville makes you feel

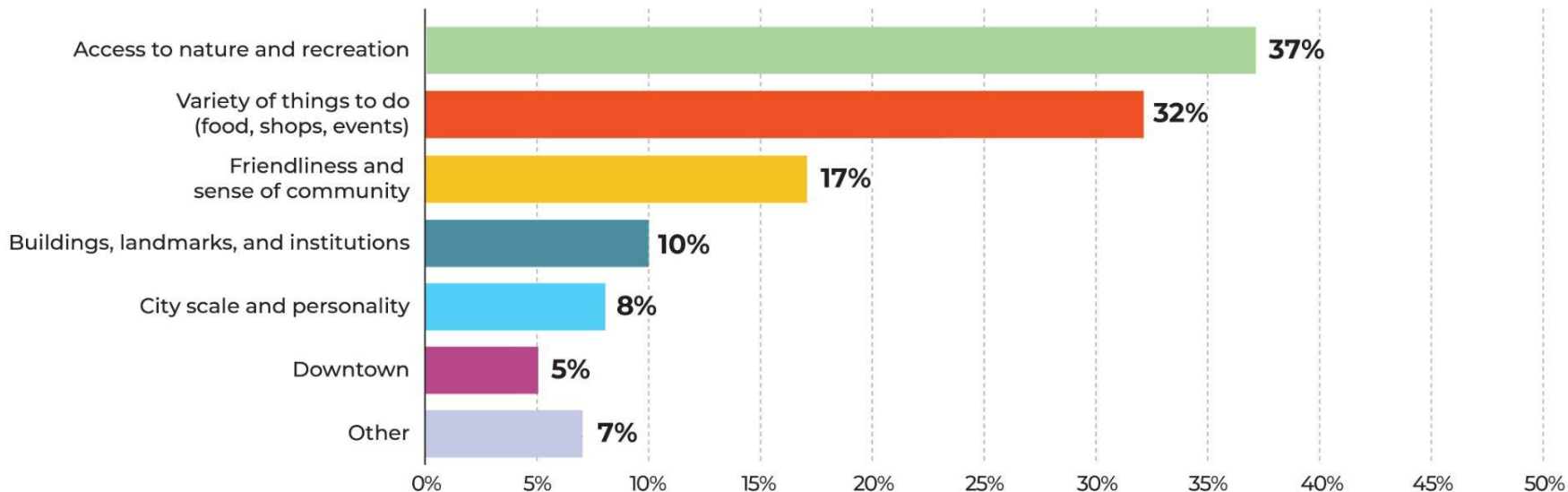


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

143 comments

We asked: You're trying to convince your friend or family member to **MOVE TO Knoxville**. What would you say?

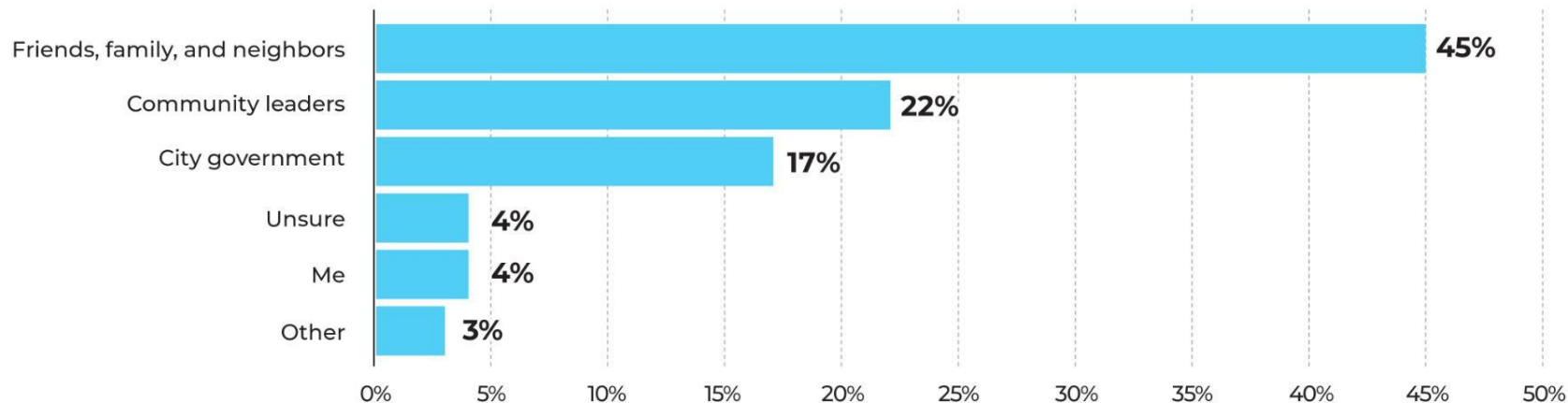


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

113 comments

We asked: **ALIENS** have landed, and they asked you to take them to your neighborhood leaders. Who would you bring them to and why?

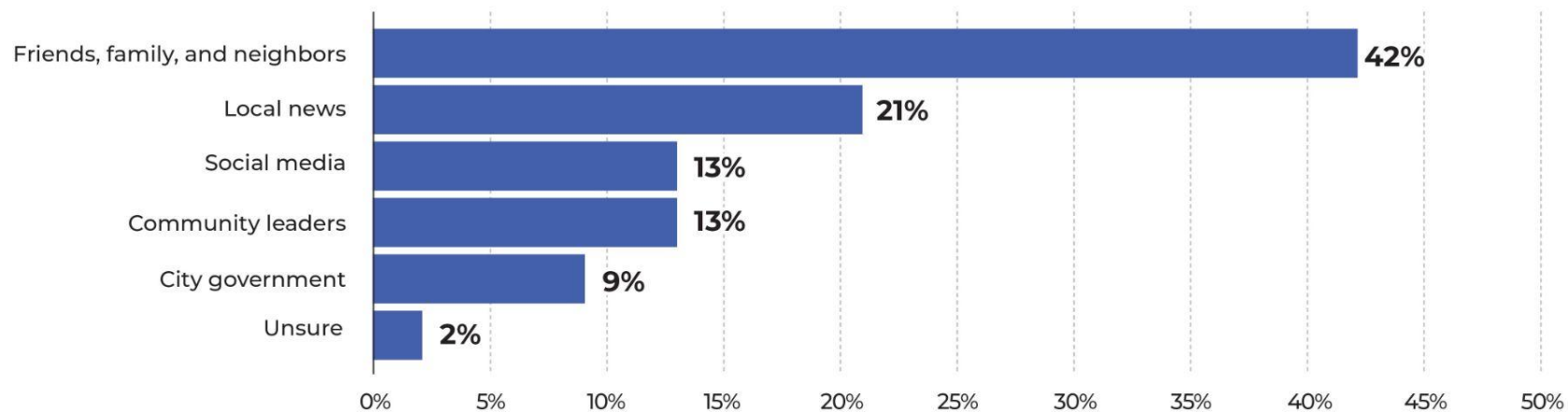


ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Spinwheel

115 comments

We asked: Who's the GO-TO, TRUSTED SOURCE of information in your neighborhood?



ACTIVITIES: April - June 2026

Our North Stars

What we're aiming for

546 comments

We asked: "What should Knoxville's north stars be as we embark on the next 25 years?"

- ★ **Safe ways to get around without a car** including walking, biking, and better transit access and service.
- ★ **Balanced and sustainable growth** considering impacts on infrastructure, green space, existing character.
- ★ **Quality housing** for all incomes and household sizes.
- ★ **Complete walkable communities** with a mix of uses and amenities to reduce the need to drive.
- ★ **Creative approach to support infill and redevelopment** through simplified regulations and processes.
- ★ **Parks and greenways** programmed and designed for all ages.
- ★ **Economic prosperity and equitable opportunity** across all neighborhoods.

Issues and Opportunities

Growing mismatch between housing supply, mix of types, and household needs. Make more possible by right with built in standards.

Density in built up areas is necessary to preserve farmland and natural areas.

Corridors are seen as key growth locations, but there has been limited success due to physical, regulatory, infrastructure, and market constraints.

Infrastructure investment has not kept pace with growth and deferred maintenance is a serious concern.

City is predominantly auto-oriented, but there are opportunities for strategic transit and multimodal improvements.

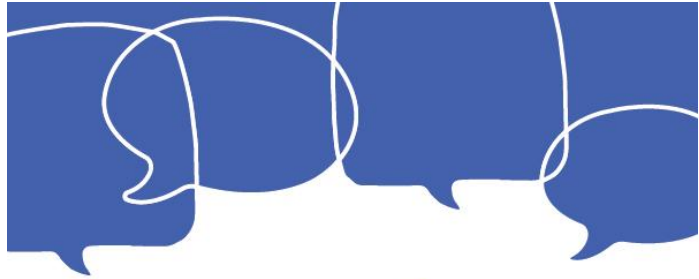
Parks are a defining asset for the city, but access and maintenance are challenges. Riverfront is an underutilized asset that could be transformed with development and open space.

Economic competitiveness and talent retention are issues and inseparable from housing, quality of life, land use planning. Opportunity to expand jobs in the city, but there are space challenges.

Local businesses and entrepreneurship are highly valued in the city. More support is needed to lower barriers to entry, especially for minority entrepreneurs.

Careful consideration needed for **places with historic inequities and urban renewal impacts.**

Stay involved!



What's Next
KNOXVILLE?

Plan Today, Imagine Tomorrow

Information and updates are always available in-person and online:

HEADQUARTERS AT MARKET SQUARE

Wednesdays 10am-1pm

WHATSNEXTKNOXVILLE.COM

website for more event information, input activities, and to sign up for updates