

MONTROSE OCP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

WINTER 2020



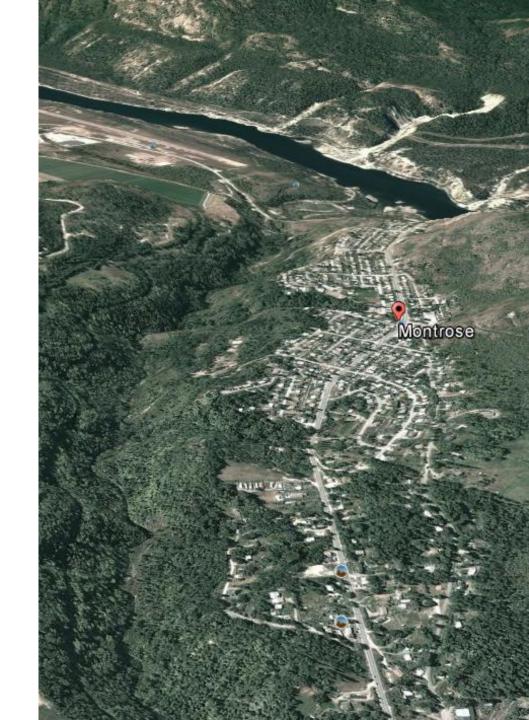


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document details the various techniques utilized to engage the community, their resulting feedback the ways it will be utilized to shape policy directives that will move Montrose into the future.

In the development of a 2020 Official Community Plan (OCP), the residents of Montrose were engaged both online and in-person to share their thoughts on current community experiences, needs, shared values, and hopes for the future.

What we learned was that Montrose is a small community with deep roots where citizens value strong connection to family, friends and the Montrose lifestyle. They describe their community as friendly, quiet, safe and beautiful. They appreciate low density living and envision a future where young families bring vibrancy to the community and all residents are invested in the health and wellness of each other. While some Montrose residents have a limited desire to see change in their community, many are also open to a future with greater housing choice and affordability, more compact forms of housing and limited commercial development, provided it is done in an thoughtful manner.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The community engagement program was designed in consideration of the size of the community and the fact that Montrose has not had an OCP review for over 10 years. The goal of the program was to engage a board spectrum of the population to obtain a complete understanding of the community experience and citizen aspirations across various ages and demographics.

The Village of Montrose managed public awareness and outreach for the engagement program. Focus groups and open house venue were organized by the Village of Montrose, while the materials, sessions and open house venues were conducted by CTQ staff.

This included:

- Sending a notice to every household informing residents of the purpose and benefits of an OCP, the review process, the date, time and location of the Public Open House and the availability of an online survey;
- Invitations to select community members to participate in a focus group;
- Youth engagement at J.L. Crowe High School and Fruitvale Elementary School;
- Access to the online community engagement survey through the Village's website and Facebook page;
- Securing a location for engagement at the Village's annual Winter Family Fun Day;
- Arranging participants for two focus group sessions with local stakeholders;
- Securing a location for engagement at the Village's annual Senior's Dinner, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to COVID-19; and
- Posting the OCP engagement survey on the Village's website and Facebook page.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

The table below outlines the schedule of community engagement efforts for this project.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Family Fun Day	February 17	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Community Hall
JL Crowe Highschool Students Gr. 11/12 Leadership Class	February 24	2:40 pm – 4:00 pm	JL Crowe Highschool
BOV & Professionals Focus Group	February 25	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Village Office
Recreation Focus Group	February 25	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Village Office
Fruitvale Elementary School Gr. 6/7 Class	February 26	8:20 am – 9:50 am	Fruitvale Elementary School
Open House	February 26	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Community Hall
Senior's Dinner	April 29	CANCELLI	ED DUE TO COVID-19



FAMILY FUN DAY

IT IS UNKNOWN HOW

MANY PEOPLE

PARTICIPATED IN THIS

EVENT

FAMILY FUN DAY

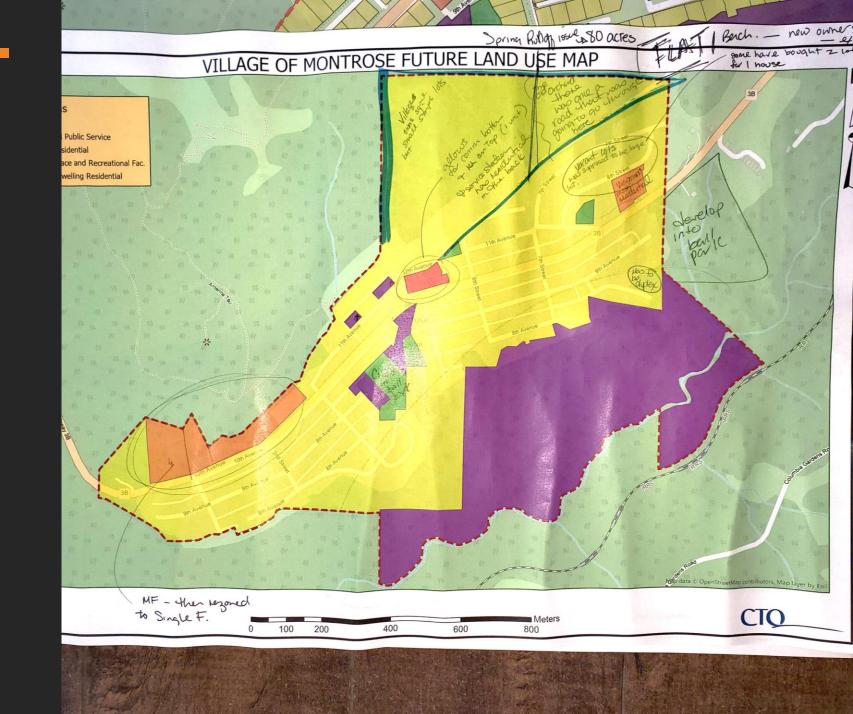




- Montrose Community Centre February 17, 2020
- The event was attended by a youth and families. A limited number of youth participated in the engagement boards or the surveys.
- Of the youth participating in the boards they expressed a desire for places to hang out and eat such as at a coffee shop and sushi restaurant.
- Of the adults participating in the boards they expressed a desire for a neighbourhood pub, a community where families and kids can recreate, single family housing, small commercial amenities such as a grocery store and small scale mixed-use.
- 20 people completed the online survey at this event

FOCUS GROUPS - BOARD OF VARIANCE MEMBERS

THREE LONG TIME
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
PARTICIPATED IN THIS FOCUS
GROUP



FOCUS GROUPS - BOARD OF VARIANCE MEMBERS

What Do Citizens Value Most About Montrose?

- The sense of community, especially among seniors.
- It is gentle living and a quiet area away from the smoke of TECK in Trail.
- There is a sense of safety and kids can still go out and play.
- The Village does a good job about maintenance around the community.

General Thoughts on Community Planning in Montrose?

- The community lacks housing choice and affordability options for seniors. When they have to move from their homes they are forced to relocate to Fruitvale, Beaver Valley Manor or Trail.
- There are limited areas within the community that could accommodate new growth.
- There is land that could be developed at the end of 9th Avenue but the owner doesn't want develop at this time.
- There was a feeling of loss when the Village did not purchase the old elementary school site, as this property was felt to be an ideal location for senior's housing.
- External investment is likely needed to undertake a multi-unit senior's development.
- There is a complacency among the older generation with accepting the status quo.

FOCUS GROUPS - BOARD OF VARIANCE MEMBERS

What Are Your Thoughts on Current Commercial Amenities and/or Development in Montrose?

- Expansion of the existing commercial area would be ok but there isn't any room for commercial growth into a new area. However, the existing commercial area along 10th Ave allows for commercial on the bottom and residential on the top.
- There is limited desire for commercial growth, except maybe something like a coffee shop.
- It would increase noise in the community and may have difficulty surviving with limited customers.

What Are Your Thoughts on Current Residential Provisions and/or Development in Montrose?

- We hate to see the senior citizens chased away when they need assisted living. There isn't anywhere for these folks to go.
- Currently, home support is available for seniors that need it.
- You can purchase a home here that needs some renovations for a reasonable price but there aren't any properties for younger folks to purchase.

FOCUS GROUPS - BOARD OF VARIANCE MEMBERS

What Are Some Barriers to Desired Development in the Community?

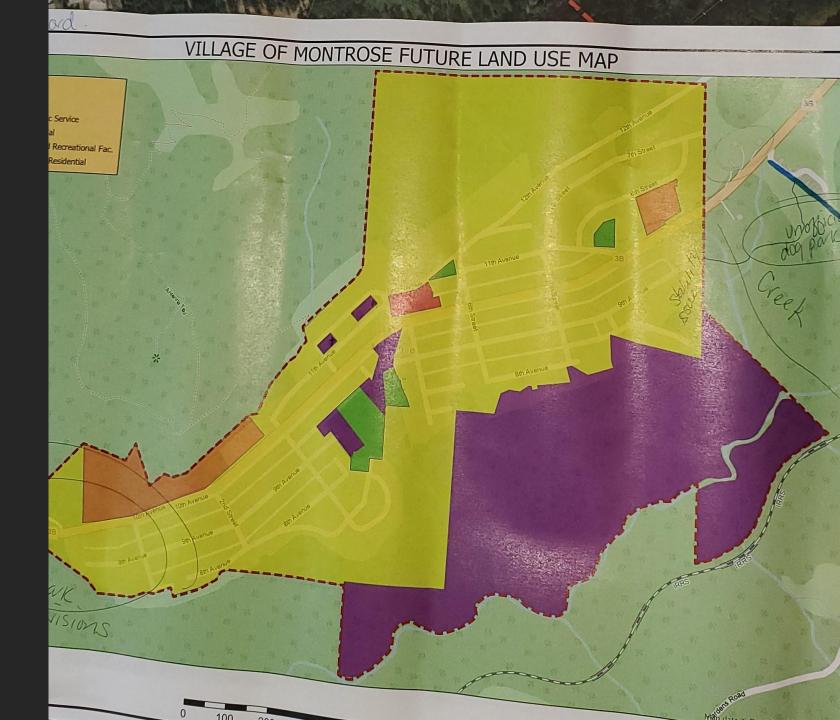
- With the seniors not having assisted living opportunities, they stay in their houses as long as they can. If there were assisted living opportunities in Montrose this would free up housing for young families to buy.
- There are some (limited) vacant single family lots in the community that are not developed. People here like large lots with room and some people have even purchased two parcels and combined them for one single family housing parcel.
- The cost of development where slopes exist.
- The Highway is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and they allow for limited accesses/egresses on and off the highway.

What Are Your Thoughts on The Potential for Expansion of Montrose's Boundaries?

- It could be ok to a point. There could be a potential opportunity on the flat area north east of Montrose's boundaries.
- Park development/boundary expansion into Lions Park could be interesting.
- Previous amalgamation was considered with Montrose, Beaver Falls and Fruitvale but there were perceived issues with differences in community planning approaches, such as maintenance of systems and infrastructure that could be burdensome on some of the communities should amalgamation occur.

FOCUS GROUPS - RECREATION FOCUSED

TWO LONG TIME
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
WITH A RECREATIONAL AIM
PARTICIPATED IN THIS FOCUS
GROUP



FOCUS GROUPS - RECREATION FOCUSED

What Do Citizens Value Most About Montrose?

- A friendly and open community.
- Great services and well maintained roads.

General Thoughts on Community Planning in Montrose?

- There has been good regional collaboration and cooperation between Columbia Basin Trust, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Montrose, Fruitvale and Beaver Falls with development of the Antenna Trail.
- There is a deterioration of the roadways.
- The loss of the elementary school resulted in a decline in people in the area but we are now seeing kids who grew up here and left returning to raise their families.
- Montrose can not expand anymore due to lack of land.
- Volunteerism is a huge part of the community but the volunteers are growing old and need younger folks to replace them.
- Firesmart programing coordination between Montrose and Area 'A' should be a focus.

FOCUS GROUPS - RECREATION FOCUSED

How Accessible is Recreation in Montrose?

- The community centre and ball park are very well used.
- There is a well used skate park and pickleball courts are coming.

What Are Your Thoughts on The Potential for Expansion of Montrose's Boundaries?

- I like the idea of expanding boundaries to grow additional residential and parklands.
- Beaver Valley Falls Lion Club Park is unmaintained.

How Can The Village (municipality) Help to Improve The Recreational Opportunities in Montrose?

- Maintain existing parks and recreation opportunities.
- Explore opportunities for parks and recreation funding for enhancements.
- Explore opportunities for regional partnerships to maintain and expand recreational opportunities.
- Coordinate with Area 'A' to improve firesmart measures.

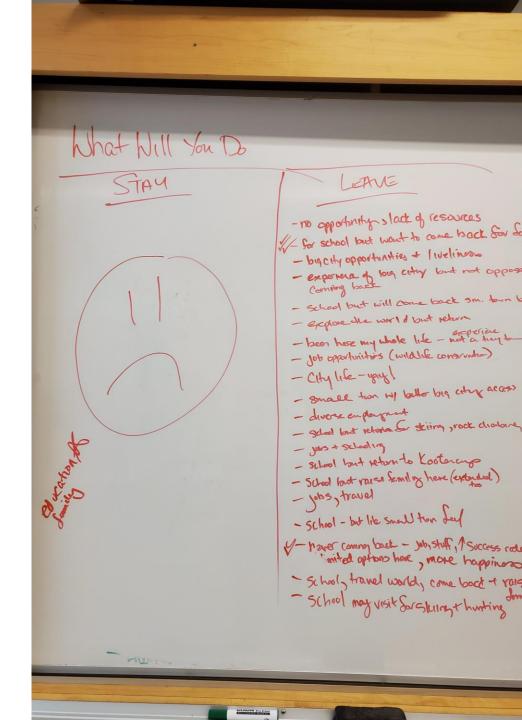
FOCUS GROUPS - GRADE 11/12 LEADERSHIP CLASS

20-25 STUDENTS FROM MONTROSE, TRAIL, FRUITVALE RIVERVALE & ROSSLAND PARTICIPATED



The students recognized that community planning can create positive and negative outcomes. They were asked about their experience of the community. For them, the community didn't necessarily stop and start with jurisdictional boundaries. The community was much broader than that. However, it was recognized that communities surrounding Trail lacked desired amenities and that benefiting from simple amenities such as a coffee shop or restaurant required travel, which for this demographic required significant efforts.

- Trail is central to all surrounding communities. It is where they go for events.
- Rossland has the ski hill.
- You travel regionally to access biking trails and other outdoor amenities.



How Does Community Planning Affect You?

- There can be lots of stuff going on.
- The ski hill in Rossland.
- Rock climbing, hunting and the outdoors.

What Aspects of Your Community Are You Unsatisfied With?

- Trail is seasonal. The only places to hang out are in restaurants or outside.
- There is a lack of a sense of togetherness.
- There isn't enough community events.
- There is a lack of spaces to congregate and share ideas.
- Young people are segregated because the bus service is insufficient and infrequent, they can't drive and destinations are too far to walk or bike.

What is Missing From Your Community?

- Shopping opportunities.
- More people.
- Proper transportation such as frequent bus service and increased taxi service.
- Restaurants and good food.
- The youth are not targeted with activities and things to do.
- Healthy businesses that last.
- Nighttime and evening activities.
- Closeness between places.
- Residential opportunities for low income families.
- Employment opportunities for youth you have to know someone to get hired and often the jobs go to adults.

It is important to remember that for this group 'their community' encompasses a region involving many jurisdictions, with Trail as the centre of this region.

What Words Best Describe Your Community Now?

- Barren
- Trash
- Isolating
- Rural
- Friendly
- Sad
- Hockey/Sporting is big
- Outdoors
- Kootenay life
- Bland not diverse
- Lacking cultural diversity
- Empty
- Run-down

What Words Best Describe The Community You Want to Live In?

Nice

Opportunity

Colour

- Humbling
- Exciting & funky
- Active

New

Attraction

- Clean
- Engaging
- Нарру
- Unique
- Safe
- Regional togetherness
- Cultural
- Sustainable
- Adventure tourism capitalization

The students were asked if they planned on staying where they live or moving away after graduation. Every student said they would be moving away. Here are their reasons for wanting to leave.

- There isn't any opportunities and the area lacks resources.
- A desire for big city opportunities and liveliness.
- A desire to experience a big city.
- To explore the world.
- For job opportunities.
- To find a small town with better big city access.
- To travel.
- A number of students said that they would leave for school but they want to come back one day to raise a family.*
- One student said they were never coming back. That opportunities were too limited here and that more happiness could be found where there are more jobs and a higher success rate. They did not elaborate on 'higher success rate'.

FOCUS GROUPS - GRADE 6/7 CLASS

25-30 STUDENTS FROM FRUITVALE AND MONTROSE PARTICIPATED



FOCUS GROUPS – GRADE 6 & 7 CLASS

The students discussed their understanding of community planning. Here's how they described it:

- It's what the community wants.
- It's not building yet but ideas about what to build.
- It's a pooling of ideas together plan 1st!
- Redoing roads, fixing cracks.
- It's places to play biking and hiking.

WHAT WE NEED / LIKE . Biking trails / pork . Dro Hiking Swimming · Commercial - food - more than gos station · Ice Cream shop / frozer No Enjoyable for kids + parents (sports, multi-purpose, w/ snacks) · lake add fish trope Swan, slide. · Movie theatre (wal matter) · Lazerteg + paintball · Walting trails Water Slides · Scandia (Arcade, mini put) · Golf course 1 ce-stating · Aquatic Contre/H2°

FOCUS GROUPS – GRADE 6 & 7 CLASS

How Does Community Planning Affect You?

- It can result in the need to travel for amenities.
- It establishes measures to ensure people's safety.
- One student noted how they have always viewed Fruitvale and Montrose as one town and noted that the use
 of a single school by both communities helps to created this view.
- If there are houses to buy/live in and what kind of houses get built.
- The types of stores and activities that are available (e.g. sports equipment, Walmart, coffee shops, superstore, ski hill).
- The types of jobs there are in a community.
- The institutional services that might be available to people (e.g. hospitals, schools, police services, public transit).

FOCUS GROUPS - GRADE 6 & 7 CLASS

What Words Best Describe Your Community Now?

- Skateboard park
- Hiking/Biking
- Waterpark
- Boring
- Fun
- Bland
- Nature/Outdoors
- Small just the right size
- Easy access to people & friends

- Convenience store
- Sense of community
- Safe
- Space
- Quick access to nature
- Central gathering
- Recreation amenities

FOCUS GROUPS - GRADE 6 & 7 CLASS

What Do You Feel Your Community Needs/ What Would You Like to See?

- Biking trails/bike park
- Hiking
- Swimming
- Ice-cream shop and frozen yogurt
- Grocery store
- Restaurants, fast food
- Clothes shopping
- Drop-in Volunteerism
- A lake with fish and a rope swing
- Arcade and mini-putt
- Trampoline park

- Skatepark in the community with a pump track, a bowl and a water fountain
- Commercial services food choices more than just a gas station
- Enjoyable spaces for both kids and parents
- Movie theatre
- Laser tag/paintball
- More trails from the cut-off (Walmart)
- Ice-skating
- Waterslides, the waterpark needs an upgrade
- Lions Park needs an upgrade

obe the images and markers browned to suswer the follow



OPEN HOUSE – MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

15-20 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT

OPEN HOUSE - MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTRE



- Montrose Community Centre February 26, 2020
- This event was open to the entire community. Every resident received a notice in the mail notifying them of the purpose of the event and the value of their input.
- Council was also in attendance to speak with members of the public and hear their feedback.

OPEN HOUSE – MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

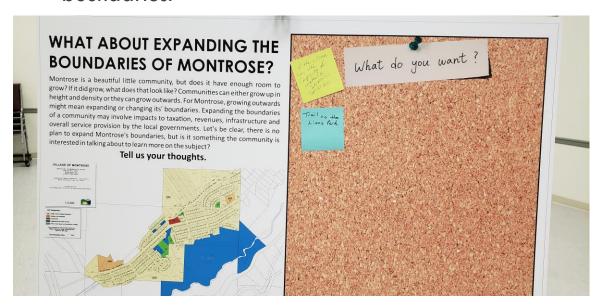
- The attendees expressed a desire for affordable senior's housing.
- Imagery placed on the boards reflected outdoor recreation, a place for families, sustainable development and a focus on improved mobility (biking and buses).
- Interest in the provision of a coffee shop and pub were expressed.
- Suggestions were made to utilize the pool office for home support service and the garden club.

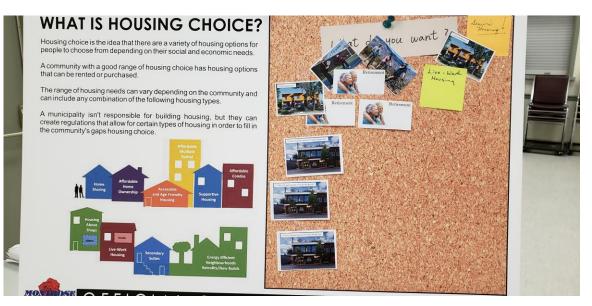




OPEN HOUSE - MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Attendees were open to the possibility of small-scale mixed use commercial development with residential on the upper floor.
- Housing for those in their retirement phase was repeated as a desired form of housing.
- Townhouses were also seen as a possible housing form for the community.
- The potential for boundary expansion was perceived as palatable provided the Village had the infrastructure capacity to support it. Moreover, there was an interest in potentially expanding into Lions Park just east of the Village boundaries.



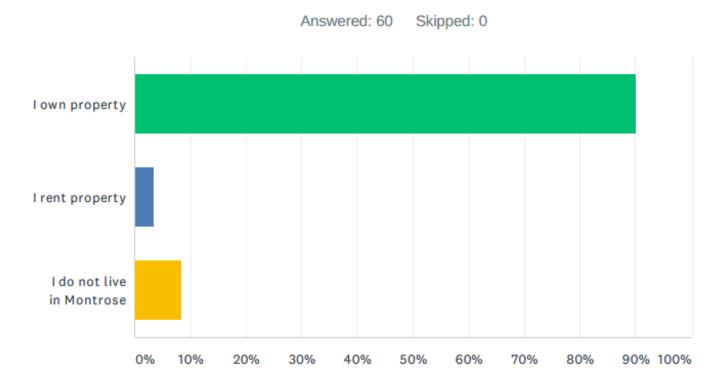


SURVEY RESULTS

THE SURVEY WAS AVAILABLE
ONLINE ON FAMILY DAY
(FEBRUARY 17) AND FROM
FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 30

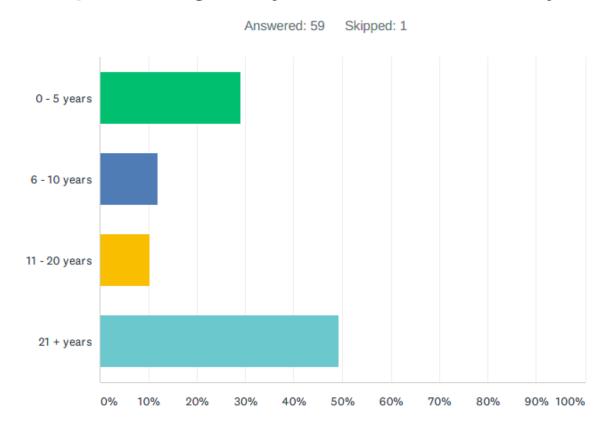


Q1 What is your residential status?



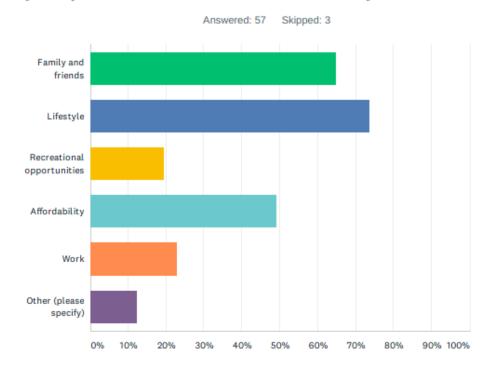
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I own property	90.00%	54
I rent property	3.33%	2
I do not live in Montrose	8.33%	5
Total Respondents: 60		

Q2 How long have you lived in the community?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 - 5 years	28.81%	17
6 - 10 years	11.86%	7
11 - 20 years	10.17%	6
21 + years	49.15%	29
TOTAL		59

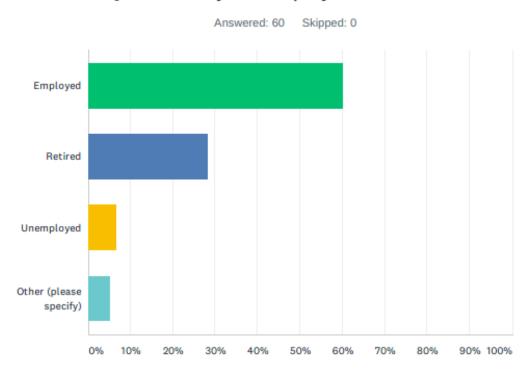
Q3 Why did you choose to live in this community? check all that apply.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Family and friends	64.91%	37
Lifestyle	73.68%	42
Recreational opportunities	19.30%	11
Affordability	49.12%	28
Work	22.81%	13
Other (please specify)	12.28%	7
Total Respondents: 57		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1	Was a quiet area. 10th a nightmare with traffic speeding including commercial trucks.
2	very small at the time we built
3	Got away from the smoke stacks
4	Location
5	its flat / Gas station
6	It's where our perfect family home happened to be.
7	hockey

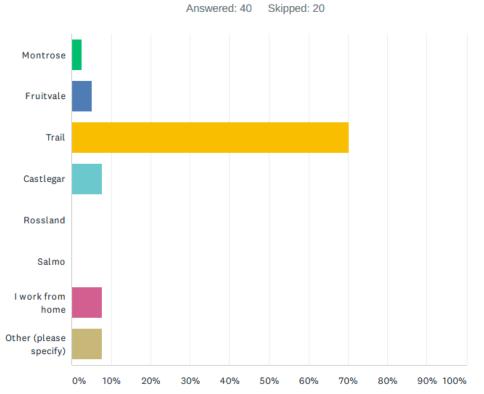
Q4 What is your employment status?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed	60.00%	36
Retired	28.33%	17
Unemployed	6.67%	4
Other (please specify) ●	5.00%	3
TOTAL		60

#	•	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1		Student
2		child
3		playing hockey

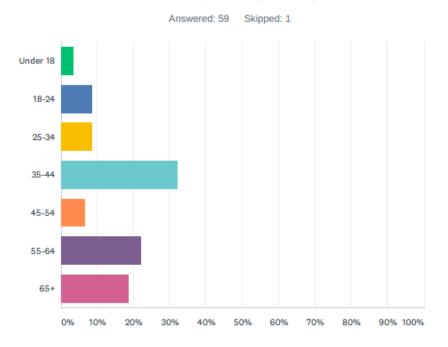
Q5 If you are employed, where do you work?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Montrose	2.50%	1
Fruitvale	5.00%	2
Trail	70.00%	28
Castlegar	7.50%	3
Rossland	0.00%	0
Salmo	0.00%	0
I work from home	7.50%	3
Other (please specify)	7.50%	3
TOTAL		40

#	•	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1		Nelson
2		Casual in Trail and Fruitvale
3		Travel to Grande Cache for work, live in trail

Q6 What is your age range?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	3.39%	2
18-24	8.47%	5
25-34	8.47%	5
35-44	32.20%	19
45-54	6.78%	4
55-64	22.03%	13
65+	18.64%	11
TOTAL		59

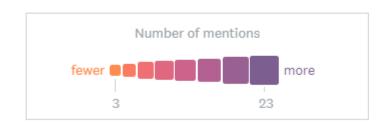
Q7 Provide three words that best describe your community.

Answered: 56 Skipped: 4

The answers to this question are displayed in a word cloud. A word cloud is a visual representation of the most common words and phrases from an open-ended responses.

inclusive Freindly Clean supportive beautiful Welcoming Quiet community friendly caring Safe scenic family small





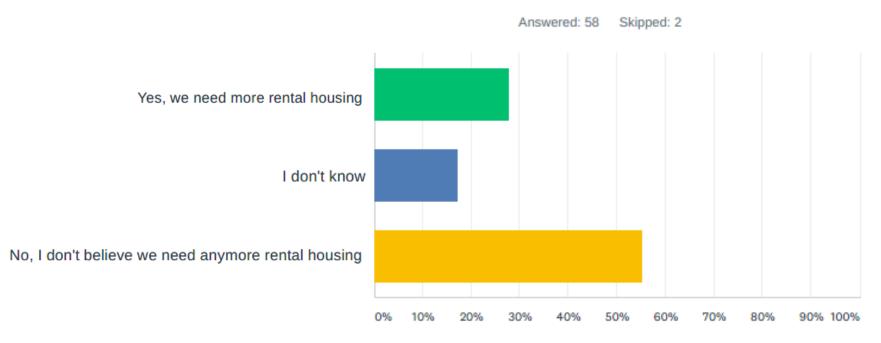


Q8 Do you feel that there is a lack of housing choice and affordability in Montrose? Housing choice means that there is a mix of housing types to choose from within the community, such as single-family homes, secondary suites, duplexes, townhouses, seniors housing, etc.



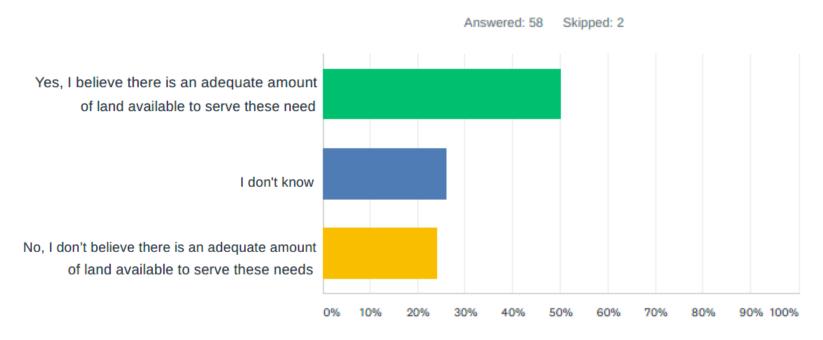
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, more housing choice and affordability is needed	41.82%	23
I don't know if this is an issue	38.18%	21
No, we have enough housing choice and there are no affordability issues	20.00%	11
TOTAL		55

Q9 Do you feel that Montrose needs more rental housing?



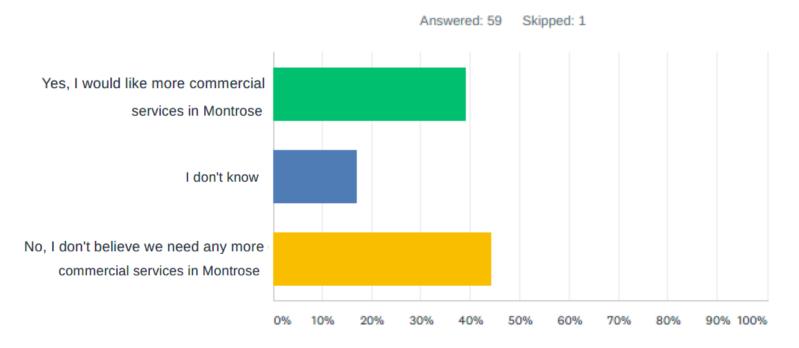
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, we need more rental housing	27.59%	16
I don't know	17.24%	10
No, I don't believe we need anymore rental housing	55.17%	32
TOTAL		58

Q10 Do you feel that Montrose currently has an adequate amount of land available to address the community's development needs (such as residential, commercial and / or other types of land uses)?



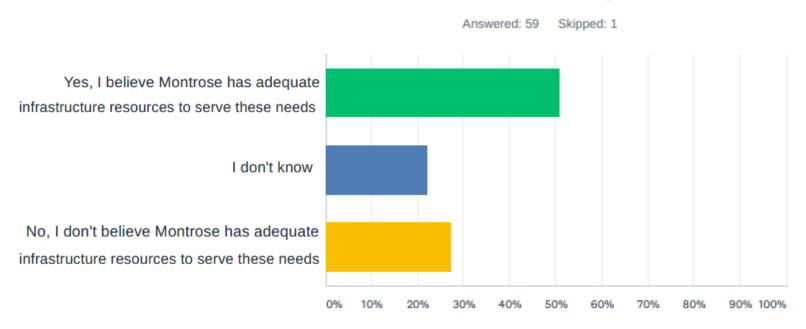
ANSWER CHOICES		
Yes, I believe there is an adequate amount of land available to serve these need	50.00%	29
I don't know	25.86%	15
No, I don't believe there is an adequate amount of land available to serve these needs	24.14%	14
TOTAL		58

Q11 Would you like to see more commercial services within Montrose?



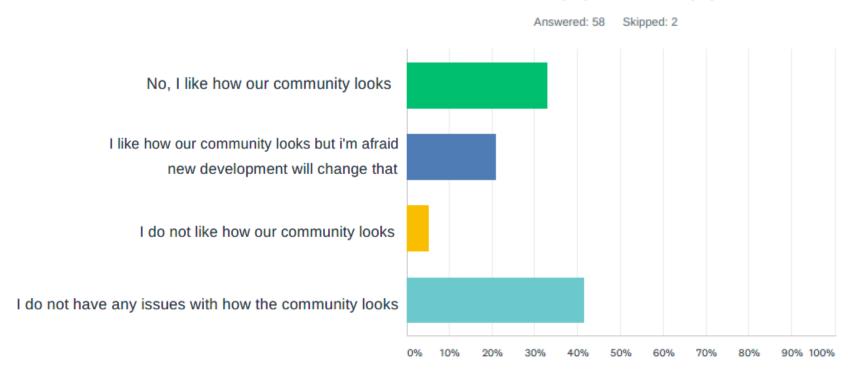
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I would like more commercial services in Montrose	38.98%	23
I don't know	16.95%	10
No, I don't believe we need any more commercial services in Montrose	44.07%	26
TOTAL		59

Q12 Do you feel that Montrose currently has adequate infrastructure resources to serve the needs of existing and / or future residents (water, sewer, roads, etc)?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I believe Montrose has adequate infrastructure resources to serve these needs	50.85%	30
I don't know	22.03%	13
No, I don't believe Montrose has adequate infrastructure resources to serve these needs	27.12%	16
TOTAL		59

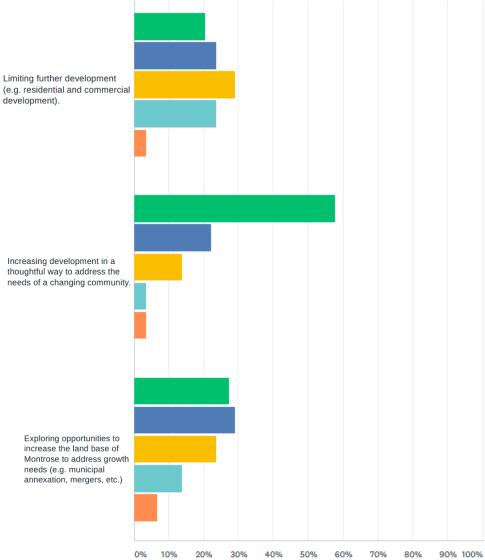
Q13 Do you have concerns about the look and character of the community (urban design)?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No, I like how our community looks	32.76%	19
I like how our community looks but i'm afraid new development will change that	20.69%	12
I do not like how our community looks	5.17%	3
I do not have any issues with how the community looks	41.38%	24
TOTAL		58

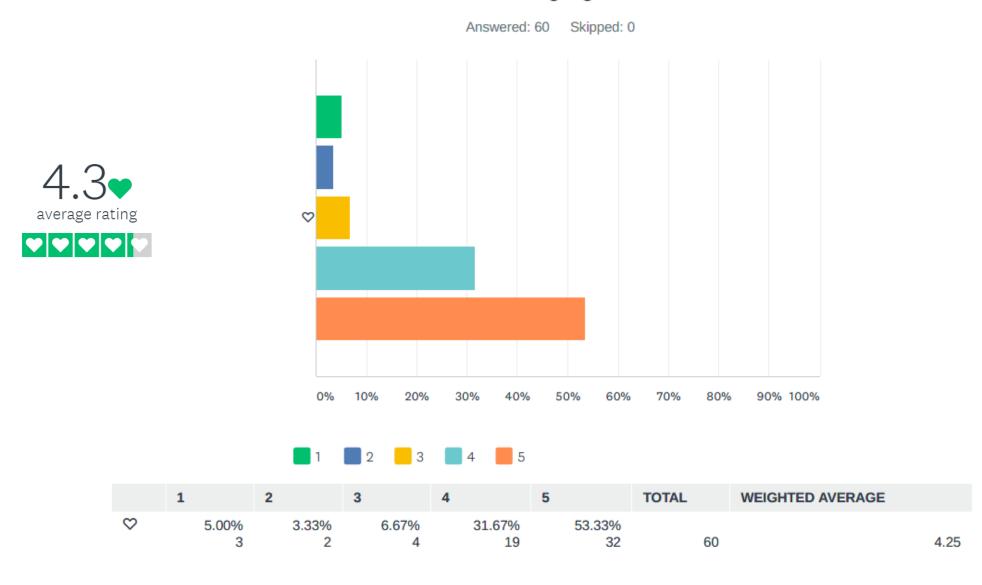
Q14 Rank your level of support for the following community development approaches.

Answered: 59 Skipped: 1



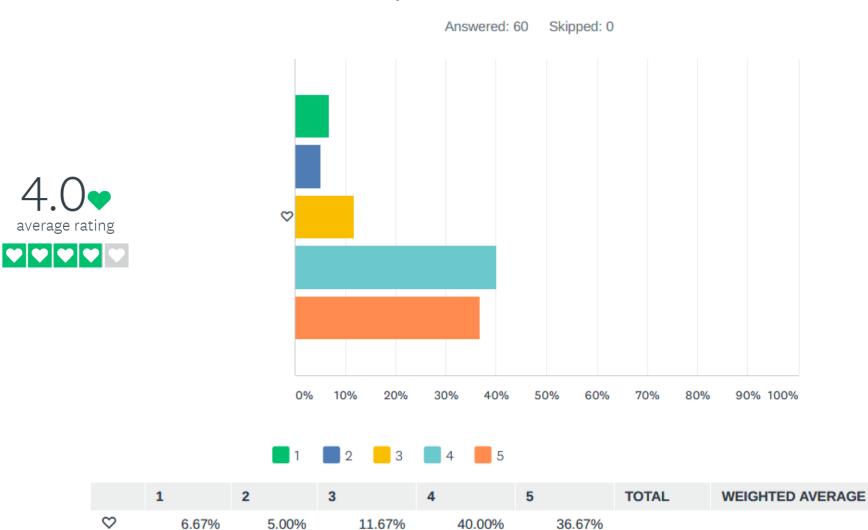
	I SUPPORT THIS APPROACH	I SOMEWHAT SUPPORT THIS APPROACH	I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS	I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS APPROACH	(NO LABEL)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Limiting further development (e.g. residential and commercial development).	20.34% 12	23.73% 14	28.81% 17	23.73% 14	3.39%	59	2.66
Increasing development in a thoughtful way to address the needs of a changing community.	57.63% 34	22.03% 13	13.56% 8	3.39% 2	3.39% 2	59	1.73
Exploring opportunities to increase the land base of Montrose to address growth needs (e.g. municipal annexation, mergers, etc.)	27.12% 16	28.81% 17	23.73% 14	13.56% 8	6.78% 4	59	2.44

Q15 Rate the following statement: I value a sense of community and belonging.

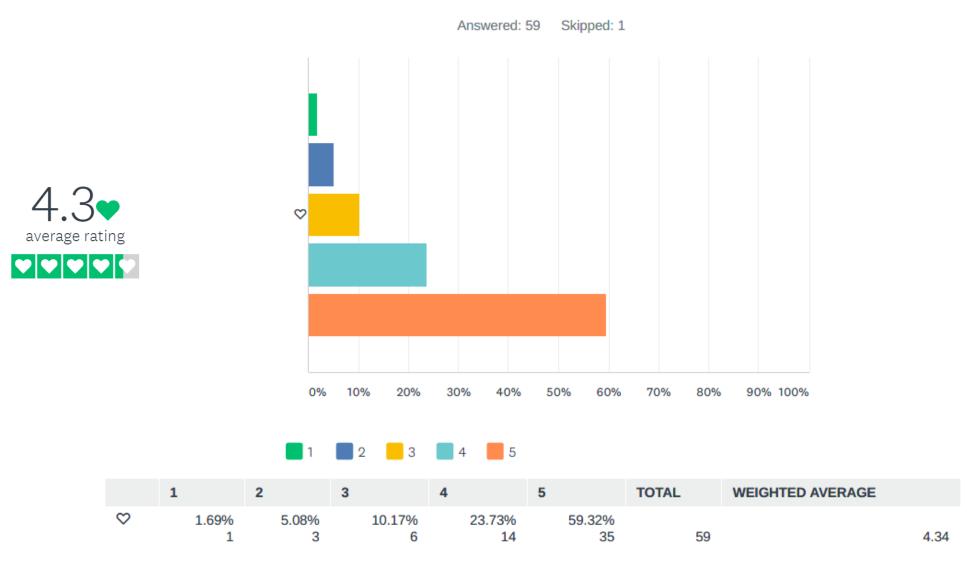


Q16 Rate the following statement: I value having a shared community vision about what is important and where we're headed in the future.

3.95

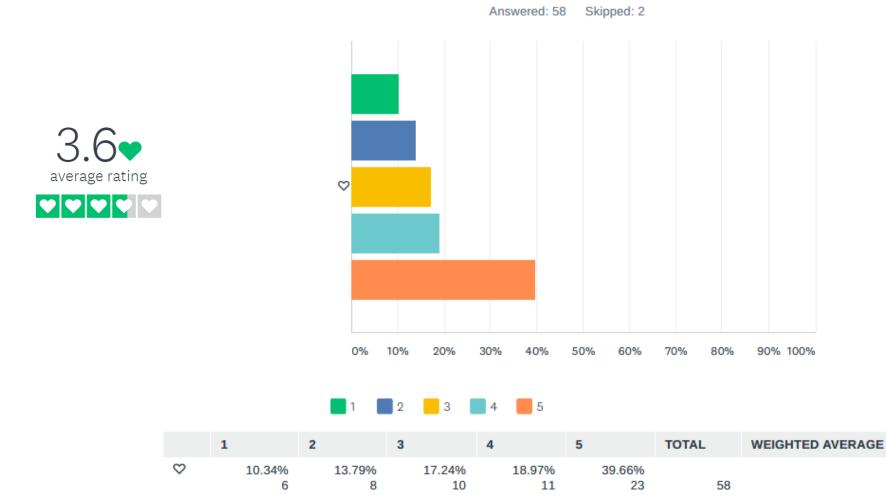


Q17 Rate the following statement: I value community diversity that includes various ages and family compositions.

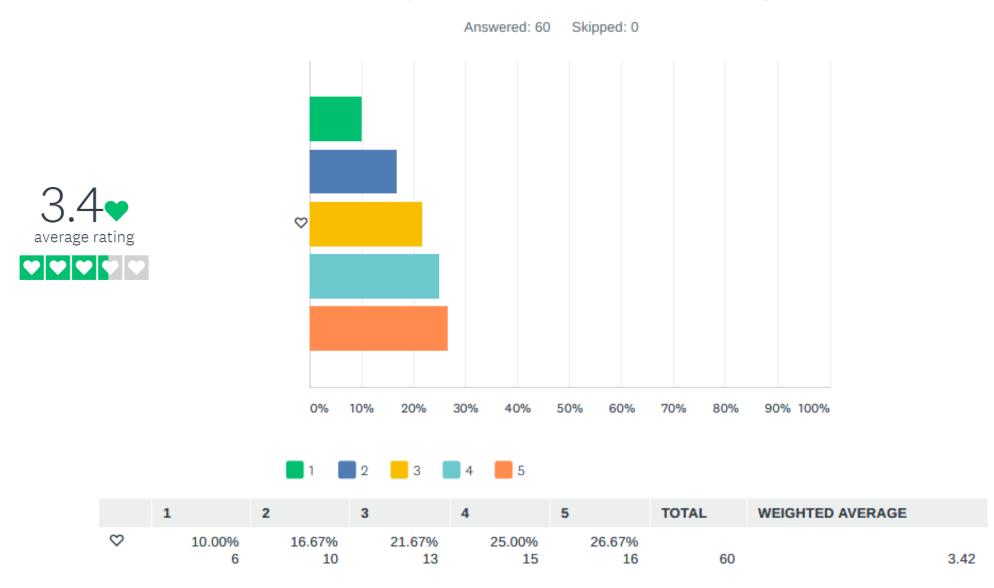


Q18 Rate the following statement: I value opportunities for regional collaboration with surrounding communities in order to pool our resources and increase positive benefits for our residents and those in neighbouring communities.

3.64



Q19 Rate the following statement: I value the size and composition of our community and don't want to see it change.



Q20 Rank the following statements for consistency with your vision for the future of Montrose. We are a growing community that welcomes young families. Answered: 60 Skipped: 0 We are primarily a residential community with limited desires growth and change. We are a supportive and collaborative community that We are a community that strives to adapt to everyone's values the environment and needs (housing, social, etc.) in takes actions to live more an equitable way. sustainably (reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the natural environment, minimizing impacts of new development). We are an inclusive and diverse community that We are a community that engages in meaningful and invests in the health and positive dialogue to ensure wellness or our residents that everyone's needs are met. (access to health centres, opportunities for physical exercise and social interactions, etc.) This matches my vision for the future exactly This somewhat matches my vision for the future I'm not sure if this matches my vision for the future

This does not match my vision for the future (no label)

Numerical details on following page

Q20 Rank the following statements for consistency with your vision for the future of Montrose.

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

	THIS MATCHES MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE EXACTLY	THIS SOMEWHAT MATCHES MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE	I'M NOT SURE IF THIS MATCHES MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE	THIS DOES NOT MATCH MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE	(NO LABEL)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
We are a growing community that welcomes young families.	69.49% 41	23.73% 14	3.39% 2	3.39% 2	0.00%	59	1.41
We are a supportive and collaborative community that strives to adapt to everyone's needs (housing, social, etc.) in an equitable way.	47.46% 28	38.98% 23	10.17%	3.39% 2	0.00%	59	1.69
We are an inclusive and diverse community that engages in meaningful and positive dialogue to ensure that everyone's needs are met.	46.67% 28	40.00% 24	10.00%	1.67%	1.67%	60	1.72
We are primarily a residential community with limited desires growth and change.	28.81% 17	35.59% 21	25.42% 15	8.47% 5	1.69%	59	2.19
We are a community that values the environment and takes actions to live more sustainably (reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the natural environment, minimizing impacts of new development).	42.37% 25	45.76% 27	8.47% 5	3.39% 2	0.00%	59	1.73
We are a community that invests in the health and wellness or our residents (access to health centres, opportunities for physical exercise and social interactions, etc.)	57.63% 34	38.98% 23	0.00% 0	3.39%	0.00%	59	1.49





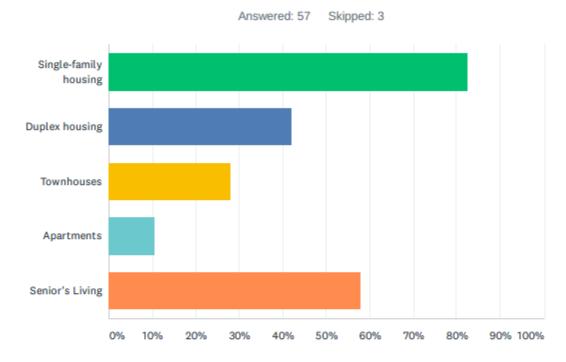


Duplex housing



Townhouses

Q21 Click on the type of housing you feel would be suitable for your community? You may choose more than one type of housing.

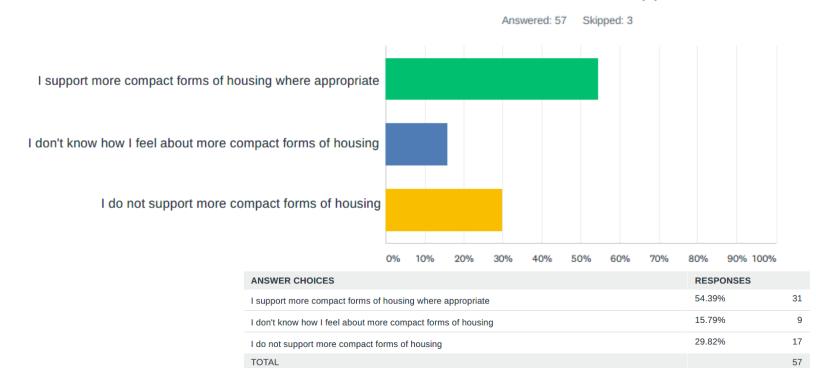






ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single-family housing	82.46%	47
Duplex housing	42.11%	24
Townhouses	28.07%	16
Apartments	10.53%	6
Senior's Living	57.89%	33
Total Respondents: 57		

Q22 Montrose has a limited amount of land available for development. This can create challenges when trying to address community growth needs, such as increasing the availability and types of housing and commercial services. An option for addressing these land constrains is to include more compact forms of development in the community. This would allow for an increase in the number of housing units within a specified area of land. For example, this could look like any of the following scenarios: Accommodating a duplex on the same area of land as a single-family house. Accommodating 5 townhouse units on the same area of land as two single family houses. Accommodating a mixed-use building (anywhere from 2 to 4 storeys) with commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on the floor(s) above.



Q23 If you could change one thing about Montrose, what would it be?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 13

The answers to this question are displayed in a word cloud. A word cloud is a visual representation of the most common words and phrases from an open-ended responses.

one use place things School walking Montrose seniors area

see Community Needing housing families old live change

More

activities for

adults

More cheaper

housing from low

wage earners &

pensioners

Nothing Address high Montrose speed vehicles on needs a pub 10th before in walking someone is killed. distance New roads, updated infrastructure Allow rental No apartments I think it suites in would bring problem single family residents in the homes community. Duplexes first. Mature adults that

are respectful would be

most suited for our

community.

Number of mentions

fewer more
3

Need apartments & more affordable housing options for millennials & 1st time home buyers

The world changes & so should we, no need to live in the past. Change can be prosperous while still holding onto the values that were put in place prior.

CONCLUSION

The community was engaged online and in-person at two separate events (Family Fun Day and an Open House). Residents were informed of engagement opportunities through personal mail, online mediums (Village website and Facebook) and word of mouth. Family Fun Day was an opportunity to engage families and community members where they were already hanging out. The Open House was an opportunity to engage citizens specifically interested in shaping the future of the community. However, there was limited participation at this event. A lack of attendance can suggest that the community is largely happy with the municipality's management of the Village, that they are generally indifferent to the concept of community planning or that the date and timing conflicted with their busy schedules. This is why combining in-person and online engagement techniques are ideal. It allows citizens various opportunities and methods to participate based on their level of interest, comfort and personal priorities. It is worth noting that representatives from every demographic participated in the online survey. It can be difficult to receive input from such a broad spectrum of age groups so we were pleased to see this.

Review of the inputs received from the combined engagement techniques have illustrated that for the most part, the current state of the community is valued by its citizens. Its residents are intergenerational and this provides rich history and strong roots. They appreciate that Montrose is a safe and quiet community with limited growth and density. However, some community needs are not being met. These include the provision of senior's housing and availability of existing housing stock to satisfy the demands of young families and provide a wider degree of housing choice. In light of this, there appears to be a degree of appetite to entertain community growth through more compact housing forms, a continued pursuit of access to recreational opportunities, strengthening of relationships with regional partners for shared recreational benefits and the possibility of considering additional commercial amenities to satisfy a component of the social needs of many members of the community.

POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVES

The engagement results highlight some prominent community values, issues, needs and aspirations that can be considered in the development of policy directives in the upcoming 2020 Montrose Official Community Plan. These directives may include:

RESIDENTIAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Increasing housing choices in consideration of seniors and families and enabling more housing forms (e.g. multiple unit housing).
- Ascertaining means and locations for increasing the housing stock.
- Creating opportunities to repurpose lands/real estate for new housing and housing forms.

COMMERCIAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Creating opportunities to provide additional amenities and diversify the tax base for convenience and avoidance of the necessity
 of regularly travel outside of Montrose.
- Including provisions for mixed-use commercial development and strategies to recruit desired amenities.
- Consideration of location(s) where additional development may occur.

POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVES

SOCIAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Understanding the community's housing needs and managing growth to meet those needs.
- Establishing a strategy for attracting and maintaining young families.
- Supporting measures to address the social isolation of children and adolescents.

SPECIAL SITE CONSIDERATIONS

- Exploring incentives for undeveloped lands.
- Repurposing the community's former school site.
- Special provisions for gateways and the Highway corridor.

POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVES

RECREATION RELATED POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Explore funding options to enhance recreation opportunities.
- Prioritize the maintenance and enhancement of existing parks and access to recreation.
- Explore opportunities for regional partnerships to maintain and expand recreational opportunities.

WILDFIRE/FIRESMART CONSIDERATIONS

- Support for updated and/or new wildfire studies where necessary.
- Explore opportunities for regional collaboration on wildfire reduction measures (e.g. RDKB, Beaver Valley groups, Fruitvale, Area 'A', Ministry)
- Requirements for developers to provide risk management actions as part of development approvals.

NEXT STEPS

- 1. Online release of engagement results to the community.
- 2. Release of vision statement options and proposed high level policy directives to Village of Montrose officials.
- 3. Online release of vision statement options and proposed high level policy directives to the public in the form of a survey (2 week feedback window) to obtain final engagement program feedback.
- 4. Development of a complete Official Community Plan (OCP) draft.
- 5. Consideration and feedback on OCP draft by Village of Montrose officials.
- 6. Final Montrose Official Community Plan delivered to the Village for bylaw adoption process.

