

Richfield 2020 Visioning Project Feedback Community Spirit, Recreation & Environment

FEEDBACK FROM FORUM ATTENDEES

Frankly seems like fluff to me.

I'm glad to see the suggestion of a bike path/walking path and I would like to see more effort put into this area.

I'm excited about encouraging our ethnic identities.

I like emphasis on multicultural inclusivity and the bike trail emphasis. It may be that "small town feel" makes younger people who come here (seeing that it's urban" feel excluded, or turned off. Many people who live here now move here to be urban.

A special focus is needed on developing a healthy community. This could involve joining well over 300 cities & communities in the U.S. in introducing the Assets Program developed by Search Institute.

This program is enhanced by joining hands with the faith groups in Richfield. They assist in developing a healthy community by encouraging the kind of moral values that further honesty, morality, caring.

The Richfield pool is used by a lot of people - I'm for renovation or rebuilding. We really appreciate the number of parks in Richfield and the new play equipment in them, including Heredia Park right by us. Parks are so important for kids and family - we would even adopt a park. We are very much in favor of a community/recreation center. We like to do a lot of walking & biking, so any trails would be great. We love the farmers' market! Advertise mini-golf course more - it's hidden out of view. Keep the 4th of July Parade! I love all of the environmental protection ideas in the vision statement.

Attention to ecology and environment are very good goals! Trail system development and water runoff cleanup are commendable.

Community Spirit Goal #1: Image of City government should be the result of service performances, not a specific investment. Internet emphasis serves a limited number of citizens and is costly

Recreation Goal #1: Serving "aging population" should not be exclusive – all recreation should be attractive to all ages. Strategies (3) call for build of Community Center. Need to first assess needs, features, location and operating costs.

Need a golf course. A driving range would be helpful.

Definitely need affordable meeting space for nonprofit organizations.

This is an excellent way to hear people's voices. We need to get people to see Richfield as an exciting & healthy place to live.

Community Spirit

Goal #1 strategy #1: It is, in my opinion, going to be the burden of the City Government to prove to the citizens of Richfield that they are really listening to them and taking into account what the citizens feel is best for the community. I know, from talking to hundreds of residents, that they are totally disillusioned with our city government at this point. The City ignored the voices of over 3,000 registered voters.

Goal #1 strategy #2: It remains to be proven in the future what, if any, benefits accompany the location of the Best Buy project headquarters in our City. What average residents are concerned about is how much will be done to benefit the employees of Best Buy because of its location – not the citizens of Richfield. Take the widening of Humboldt Ave. for example. Are people going to lose their homes on Penn Avenue to accommodate the shopping and eating desires of Best Buy employees? Development along Penn Ave. is listed later in this Project.

Goal #1 strategy #3: I agree that this is a good idea. The Care Team website currently has this opportunity for citizens.

Goal #1 strategy #5: Good idea. I think you will find, though, that a large number of Richfield residents do not have access to computers.

Goal #2 strategy #1: Restarting the "Welcome to Richfield" campaign is a great idea. I would be willing to serve on a committee like that.

Goal #2 strategy #2: I don't know about "week," but a one day food festival would be a fun idea.

Goal #3, strategy #1: Sounds good, but I don't know how attendance would be and, also, when the City Council would find time to do this with all of their other meetings. Maybe they could have one forum a month for each "neighborhood" on one of the off Tuesdays and rotate?

Agree with #2 and #3, agree strongly with #4.

Goal #3 strategy #5: Who would pay for the new street lights? It sounds good, but I think Richfield has a lot of other things that need to be taken care of before we replace our street lights. Maybe you could have an "Adopt a Streetlight" drive for those who think we need to have new ones and they could also be "in memory of."

Agree with #6 and #7.

Goal #4, strategies #1, #2, #3: Totally agree, as long as the Care Team is included. We are a non-profit community organization, and we should also be allowed to advertise our meetings and other events along with those sponsored by the City, the schools, churches and businesses.

Goal #5: Agree with strategy #1. No.'s 2 and 3 seem frivolous and non-productive. I think a poll should be taken of all Richfield residents before any expenditures are made on those projects. Most people, other than the idealistic, don't really care one way or another, I'd be willing to bet, so poll the people. This would be another opportunity for an "Adopt a Marker" program or "In memory of" program so those interested could participate.

Agree with strategy #4.

Goal #5 strategy #5: Again, poll the people. If the people are not excited about a new community center, then it is a waste to build it and it won't be used fully. I think building a YMCA in Richfield would be better because it would have multiple users.

Totally agree with strategy #6.

Recreation

Goal #1 strategies 1-12: All of these are great ideas, but how are most of them going to be implemented? In order to implement these realistically, Richfield will have to create a separate city agency for the elderly so they all know where to go for any of the services and information you have listed. I have great concerns for the elderly in Richfield, so if someone wants to really carry out this plan and determine what it involves, I would be willing to help. But, it would take a lot of volunteers.

Goal #2: Sounds good to me.

Goal #3: Sounds good to me. Maybe we should have more city-wide events that would include culture foods, music and other activities.

Goal #4: I think the present Community Center is just fine for the amount of people who use it. I get cautious when you say renovate the existing one to accommodate recreational programming. Can you be more specific? Anything like this should be put to a vote. I also get cautious when you say expand Wood Lake Nature Center. Do we have to take out more of the natural area to accommodate our "increased demand for services including classroom and rental space?" What is more important? I think the use of the buildings that exist should be kept to a minimum, and should NOT accommodate really large groups. The important thing is not to have the Nature Center overridden by people. Besides, if evening and weekend hours are extended, as suggested before, expanding the buildings should not be necessary.

Goal #4 strategy #12: I do not believe it is a good idea to take land in Richfield to build an indoor playground, fitness facility and, least of all, pet exercise area. This would definitely have to be put to a vote on a referendum. Where would you build it? What would you have to take out to build one? What is wrong with the great outdoors that we are trying to promote with bike and walking paths? Seems people have always walked their pets outside up to this point, they can take their kids to the Burger King in Hub and people can buy exercise equipment for their homes. In the alternative, as suggested, why not promote a YMCA for Richfield near the HUB, at the K-Mart site or where

Lyndale Hardware is?

Environment

This whole section sounds great to me. Nature and the environment are a number one priority with my husband and me. I would also propose that citizens be banned from using harmful chemicals and fertilizers on their lawns. Dandelions can be pretty if everyone has them!

TABLE FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

- Why is this important? Without planning - chaos. Scared about all the change going on around us.
- Low Income Housing - why 20%? Too high!
- Golf Course - Fort Snelling? Driving Range?
- 66th & Cedar Traffic Corridor - What restrictions are there on truck traffic? The City Engineer.
- Golf Course - What about partnering with Minneapolis? Bloomington? Need to explore options.
- Explore options for Community Center funding.
- City Hotline? Richfield Website - Cable channel - Our City
- Sidewalks? Only on major arterials - slope of curb pushes into traffic. 12th Avenue - Wal-Mart. 76th & 10th, 9th - curb throws you towards traffic.

Is that skating rink roller or ice -- roller - youth

RECORDER/SPOKESPERSON FEEDBACK

- Small Town Feel - How do we keep it going? Lions, Vets, Religious groups
- Leverage 4th of July, Cattail Days, more self-recognition at Council Meetings, Little League
 - WCCO Spot on Volunteers
 - Major Newspapers
 - Your City
 - New production studio

- Non election year
- Continue to move Council Meetings

- Questions
 - What about resources? City staff - responsible
 - What about obstacles? Not concerned with obstacles
- Comment
 - Components of “Healthy” Communities defined
 - Assets Program (i.e., parents at Bus Stops) (i.e., collaborating with all groups)
- Youth Considerations - happy
- Evening Shift of Recreational Activities - 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.; specifically October - April 1.
- Volunteer for bringing trails together
- Specific Activities - City Assisted
 - Choir
 - Orchestra
- Community Center
- Raise Foundation money - Best Buy Foundation
Volunteer for Leadership - Richfield Foundation

- Did not identify resources to accomplish vision
- Need to incorporate SEARCH Institute 40 Assets in description of “Healthy”.
- Need to mention Faith Communities more specifically to support healthy assets.
- There were questions about accommodations for youth
- Need for adult programming in evenings indoors.
- Great interest in bike trail.
- Want a central place for performances and community celebrations indoors.
- Utilize multiple media for communications.
- Community choirs, musical groups.
- Need to bring in grants from foundations and other grantors.