



# IMAGINE POLK CITY

## - A Bridge to the Future -

### Compilation of Residents' Written Comments from Online Survey

389 Responses to survey. Not all respondents provided written comments and others provided comments on multiple topics.

1. General Comments:
  - a. Value small-town character with proximity to Metro (21)
  - b. Don't want Polk City to be just another Metro suburb, celebrate uniqueness (17)
  - c. Great place to live (14)
  - d. Concerned re: low voter turn-out (1)
2. City Government:
  - a. City needs to communicate better so citizens are informed (4)
  - b. Appreciate opportunity to take survey (4)
  - c. Safety should be a priority (2)
  - d. City and facilities are well maintained (2)
  - e. Trust City Officials, doing a great job (1)
  - f. Encourage inter-departmental cooperation (1)
  - g. Make city welcome to all, not just economically-advantaged, homogenous citizenry (1)
  - h. Need shake-up on City Council, more youth-minded (1)
  - i. New city facilities should be evaluated based on attracting population growth (1)
3. Economic:
  - a. Taxes are fairly high, big ticket projects will increase (13)
  - b. Keep low taxes, remember tax payers (9)
  - c. Don't push growth, focus on quality of life elements (7)
  - d. Not in favor of tax abatement (5)
  - e. Incentives to business ok but should be limited, tied to criteria, apply to value-added businesses only (4)
  - f. Bond referendum should have separate vote for pool and sports fields (3)
  - g. Offer financial incentives for startup businesses (2)
  - h. Spent too much on PCDC and Big Creek Technology Campus (2)
  - i. Invest in business growth (2)
  - j. Invest in quality of life (1)

#### 4. Parks & Recreation

##### a. Parks

- i. Require developers to donate larger parks (3)
- ii. Would like a Dog Park (2)
- iii. Plan for future park locations, and stick to the plan (2)
- iv. Enhance existing parks (1)
- v. One city park/playground should be handicap accessible (1)
- vi. Port-a-Potties are good; attract less criminals (1)

##### b. Athletic Fields

- i. Need for additional ball fields, soccer fields, football fields (23)
- ii. Don't want to spend money on additional rec fields (6)
- iii. Sports Complex needs work; improved parking, drainage (3)
- iv. Keep Adult softball field (1)

##### c. Aquatic Center

- i. Do not support pool (30)
- ii. Support pool, include deep water swimming (17)
- iii. Would like indoor pool (7)

##### d. Trails/Sidewalks

- i. Improved walkability, especially along N. & S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (18)
- ii. More trail linkage to parks, neighborhoods, major trails (16)
- iii. Connect to High Trestle Trail (7)
- iv. More underpasses, safer crosswalks, especially Hwy 415 (6)
- v. City square and trails should be designed to attract cyclists (3)
- vi. Require developers to include trails (2)
- vii. Enforce snow removal on sidewalks (1)

##### e. Recreation

- i. Consider year-round activities and indoor rec center (10)
- ii. Want some inexpensive youth recreation programs (9)
- iii. Become a Resort Town (6)
- iv. Find ways to incorporate golf course, marina, fishing (4)
- v. More fun outdoor activities, including adult activities (4)
- vi. Like City's summer program (1)
- vii. No need for City to be responsible for programming (1)

##### f. Cultural

- i. More entertainment options (5)
- ii. Outdoor performing arts center (1)
- iii. Community Garden (1)
- iv. Capitalize more on Town Square (1)

#### 5. Municipal Facilities/Infrastructure/Services

- a. Concern re: traffic on W. Bridge Rd and S. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street; turn lanes, traffic signal (7)
  - b. Repair existing streets, including Tyler/Davis, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Juliana (4)
  - c. Support street grid layout rather than wider streets, alternative routes (3)
  - d. Polk City is a safe community (2)
  - e. Too much police presence (2)
  - f. Lower & post speed limits, including local streets with parking on one side (2)
  - g. Limit garbage collection to one day per week (1)
  - h. Major problem with water pressure (1)
  - i. More high speed internet options (1)
  - j. Look for opportunities to partner with other cities on facilities/services (1)
  - k. Plan for future capacity to accommodate growth in water, sewer systems (1)
  - l. More street lighting on Hwy 415 (1)
  - m. Improve access to support services for low income families (1)
6. Growth/Development
- a. Businesses:
    - i. Desire more restaurants (18)
    - ii. Desire more retail stores (11)
    - iii. Support Mom & Pop stores, not big box stores (6)
    - iv. No more metal buildings, higher architectural standards (5)
    - v. Extremely happy that city has a grocery store (5)
    - vi. More commercial businesses are not necessary for tax base (3)
    - vii. Likely won't get large industrial or commercial (2)
    - viii. Encourage businesses to increase tax base (2)
    - ix. Some buildings facing Square, and some city-owned items, are dated (2)
    - x. More landscaping required for new buildings (2)
    - xi. Concern re: golf course usage, maintenance (2)
    - xii. Big Creek Technology Campus in wrong location (2)
    - xiii. Would like to see Fast food restaurant (1)
    - xiv. Do not want Fast Food restaurants (1)
    - xv. Want large stores, not just Mom & Pop stores (1)
    - xvi. Hotel not needed (1)
    - xvii. Any hotels should have indoor pool (1)
    - xviii. Too many vacancies on the Square (1)
  - b. Residential:
    - i. Homes are too high-priced, need more entry-and mid-level homes (10)
    - ii. Do not want more cheaply built homes, particularly townhomes (5)
    - iii. No more townhomes, condos, or apartments (4)
    - iv. More senior housing choices (1)
    - v. Current development pattern is pretty desirable (1)
    - vi. More large lots for single family homes (1)
    - vii. More density, smaller lots (1)

- viii. Apartment buildings need to plant more trees (1)
- c. School
  - i. Concern school is not planning wisely for growth (13)
  - ii. New leadership in administration and on school board (3)
  - iii. Concerned about growth at West Elementary school and eventual need to bus (3)
  - iv. High school and/or middle school should be in Polk City (3)
  - v. More pre-school options (1)
- 7. Environment
  - a. Concern regarding trees and wildlife habitat lost due to development (9)
  - b. Great setting; Value natural environment, woodlands, lakes (4)
  - c. Continue to respect natural environment as development occurs (3)
  - d. Manage water resources, improve water quality of nearby lakes (2)