



## Village of McFarland Comprehensive Plan Student Advisory Council Exercise Results May 18, 2016

The Village's consultant met with members of the McFarland Area School District's Student Advisory Council, engaging them in an exercise intended to help the Village understand their opinions on the future of McFarland. The students individually completed a worksheet with the questions below, which are focused on **how they thought McFarland should look, feel, and function in the year 2035**. At the end of this session, the students and consultant discussed the questions and responses. The results are indicated with the bullet points. Where more than one student had a similar response, the response was marked with a "x 2" or more.

1. **What types of housing do you see as you walk through the Village? What are some characteristics of the neighborhoods?**

- More variety in houses than seen in the Village's more recent subdivisions (x 3 similar responses)
- Suburban (x 2)
- A lot of cozy houses. Friendly.
- Nice, semi-modern homes. Nice neighborhoods. McFarland is moving towards more modern homes.
- Some newer neighborhoods next to older ones. I like the feel of that.

2. **What do the streets look like? What other ways are people getting around besides cars?**

- A lot of people biking and running (x 10)
- Lots of dogs being walked
- Easier to get downtown on foot
- Fewer dead-end and cul-de-sac streets
- More sidewalks on Holscher Street and Marsh Road
- More flowers on the side of the roads and throughout the community

3. **What sounds do you hear as you walk down the street?**

- Kids playing (x 6)
- Cars (x 5)
- Birds (x 3)
- People talking and music (x 2)

- Lawns being mowed (x 2)
- Lots of activity (x 2)
- TOO much construction (x 2)
- Dogs barking

**4. What types of people live in McFarland?**

- families/parents with children (x 7)
- middle/upper class adults (x 4)
- all types (x 2)
- white people (x 2)
- very nice people (x 2)
- rich people with big houses
- elderly
- "I never feel in danger here."

**5. Are there many parks and green spaces in McFarland? What areas of the Village or surrounding area are preserved?**

- More preserved forests and larger green spaces (x 7)
- We have plenty of parks already (x 4)
- A newer/bigger dog park (x 2)
- Updated and cared-for parks, with newer equipment (x 2)
- Sites like Juniper Ridge preserved instead of developed (x 2)
- Lots of playgrounds in neighborhoods and parks around the lakes
- Parks that are open longer. All parks close at 10 p.m., but curfew isn't until midnight.
- Lewis Park as the most used park
- New hiking trail or nature area for walking

**6. If you stopped someone on the street and asked them to describe the Village in three words, what might they say?**

- small (x 4)
- active (x 3)
- friendly (x 3)

- beautiful, pretty (x 3)
- lively (x 2)
- growing (x 2)
- clean (x 2)
- “I like that there’s always something happening here” (e.g., community events)
- Almost everyone knows everyone
- smart
- nice parks
- proud
- suburban
- family-friendly
- home

**7. Where do people go for entertainment? To meet their daily needs? For employment? For shopping?**

- Pick n Save (x 17)
- Outside McFarland (x 13)
- Restaurants (x 7)
- Need to multiply local places to go locally (x 6)
- Spartan Bowl (x 5)
- School, including events (x 4)
- Kwik Trip (x 4)
- Pool (x 2)
- Montage (x 2)
- Walgreens (x 2)
- sports fields
- Creamery Park
- True Value
- Dollar Store
- Triangle District

**8. What does McFarland's downtown area look like? What kinds of businesses are located there? What do the buildings look like? Is there any housing in the area? What kinds?**

- Local businesses with a few chain restaurants (x 3)
- Some nice shops and buildings (x 2)
- Greater identity—"Is there really a downtown now?"
- Downtown includes Highway 51, which would have newer buildings (x 2)
- Lots of restaurants, big buildings everywhere. Many houses with little yards.
- Very small but in a good way. Rustic older buildings. Some apartments.
- More local food/cafés. Walkable, including an old world feel with modern fixtures.
- More going on near the library.

**9. What types of schools are in McFarland? What do they look like? Do they appear well maintained? Are they active?**

- Nice schools in updated buildings (x 10)
- Well-maintained and active schools (x 5)
- Best in the state
- Good staff