



Comprehensive Plan Survey Summary of Results – October 23rd, 2018

The planning process for Beecher 2040 is well underway! The Comprehensive Plan Survey recently closed and the results (below) provide important insights into community needs, desires, and vision for the future of Beecher.

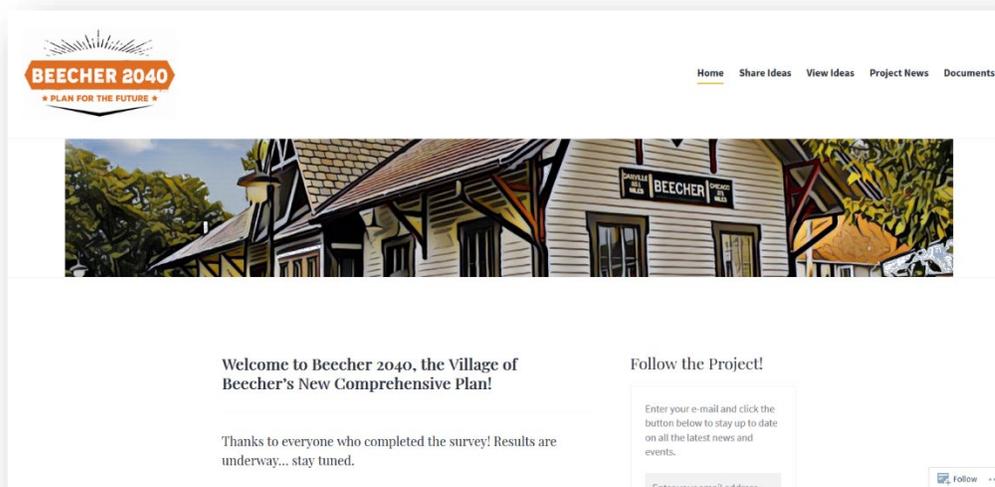
In addition to the ideas and feedback received at events such as the 1st Community Workshop, Lions Club Summerfest, and the September senior breakfast, the survey collected ideas and opinions from community members over the past several months. It was open from mid-June 2018 to mid-October 2018.

Who took the survey?

A total of 310 people took the survey. The survey was open to the Beecher community, including residents, business owners, and people who work in Beecher.

Survey Results

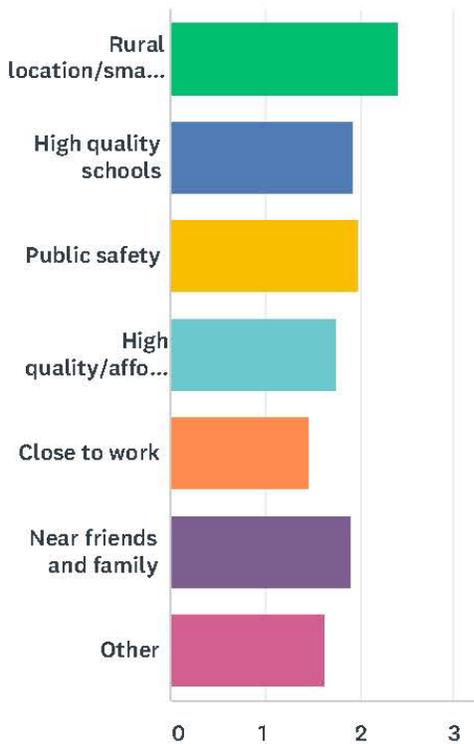
Survey questions focused on gathering ideas and opinions about the future of Beecher. At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to share their ideas, vision, or feedback freely in an open-response question, allowing respondents to share anything they felt was missing from the survey or to emphasize things they felt should be top priorities. See their responses below!





Q1: What are your favorite things about Beecher? (Rank top 3)

To get the survey started, respondents were asked to think about the positives and share their favorite things about Beecher. The top responses were *Rural Location/Small Town Atmosphere*, *Public Safety*, *High Quality Schools*, and *Near Friends and Family*. Respondents were also given the option to include their own word or phrase.



Open Response Themes

- Low crime
- Connectivity—expressways, public transit, near enough to Chicago

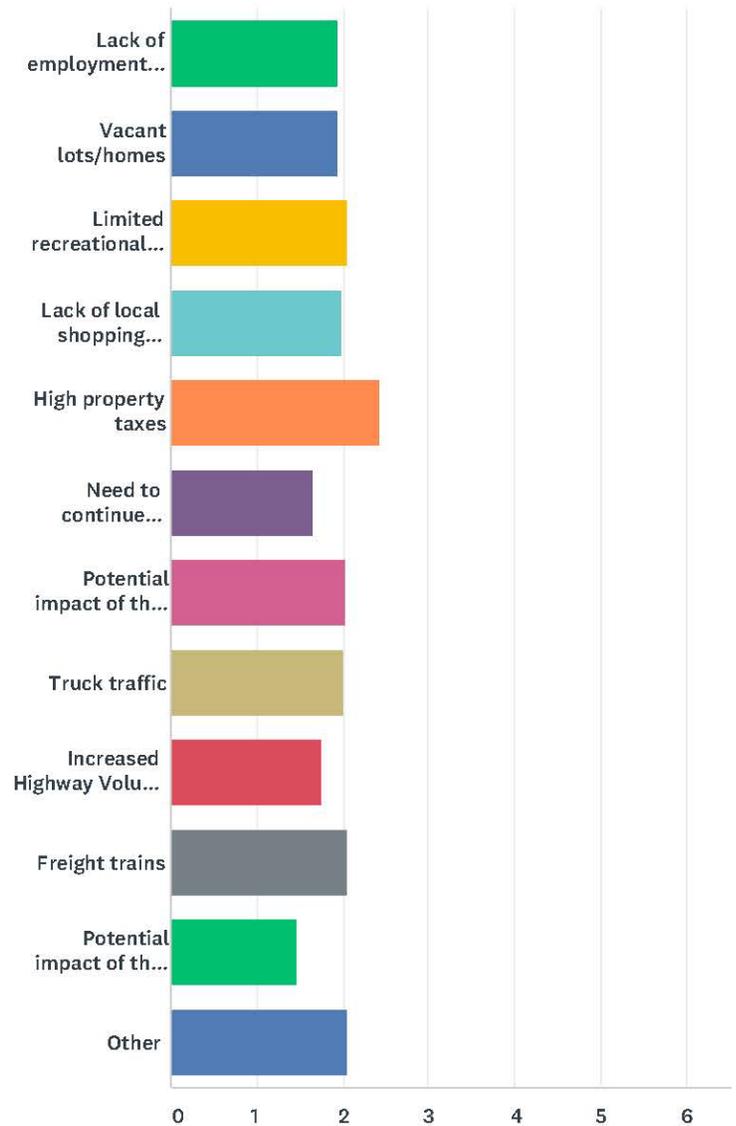


Q2: What are the biggest challenges facing Beecher? (Rank top 3)

Respondents were then asked to rank their top three (3) concerns about Beecher from a list of eleven (11). Top responses were *High Property Taxes, Limited Recreational Opportunities, Freight Trains, Truck Traffic, Lack of Local Shopping Opportunities, and the Potential Impacts of the South Suburban Airport*. As the below graph shows, a few challenges ranked higher than others, but many were similarly ranked. Additionally, 20 respondents chose “other” and left a comment. Their comments are summarized below in Open Response Themes.

Open Response Themes

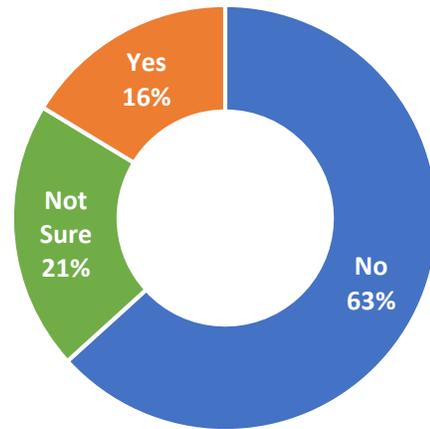
- Educational quality in local schools
- Need a plan for future development/revitalization





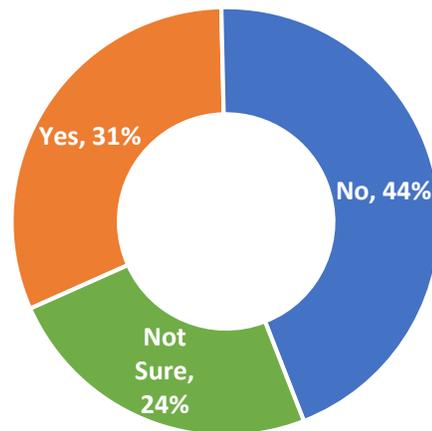
Q3: Do you support the proposed South Suburban Airport?

A few major regional projects have been ongoing conversations in the Beecher area for many years, including the South Suburban Airport (SSA). The construction of the SSA would have significant impacts on the community of Beecher. The vast majority of respondents indicated that they do NOT support the SSA (62%) while 20% are unsure and 16% said they do support the airport.



Q4: Do you support the proposed Illiana Expressway?

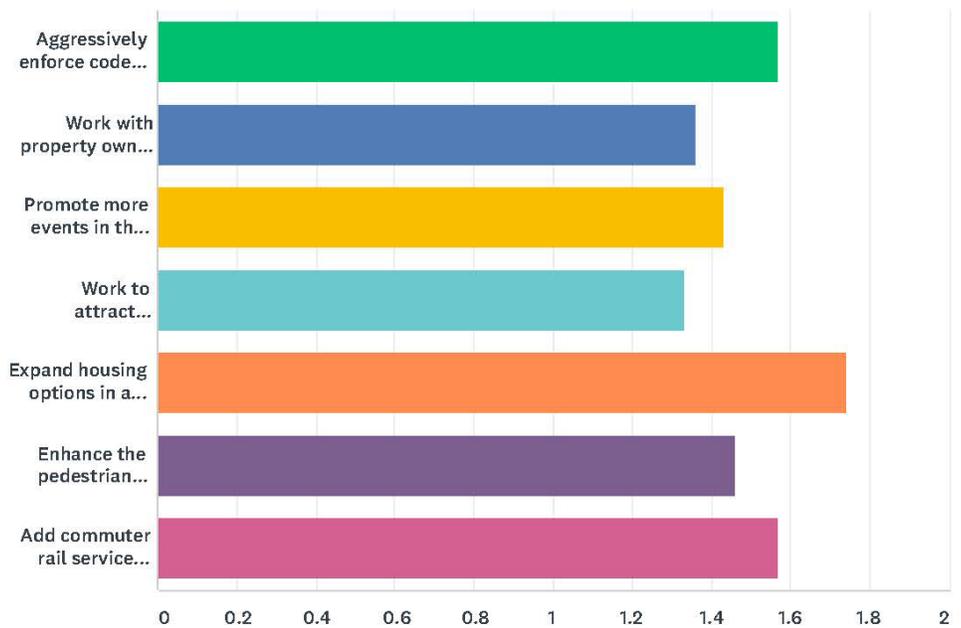
Respondents are more split about the Illiana Expressway—44% indicate they do NOT support the Illiana, while 31% say they do support it, and another 24% said they are not sure.





Q5: Historic downtown Beecher (along the railroad tracks) has seen some positive changes, but still faces some challenges. Should the Village: (pick top two)

The top priorities for respondents are *Expanding Housing Options in and around Downtown, Adding Commuter Rail Service to Chicago, Aggressively Enforce Codes and Seek Demolition of Dilapidated Buildings, and Enhance the Pedestrian Environment Downtown*. However, all options for this question ranked highly, indicating that all actions are important considerations going forward.



Other answers included:

- *Work with property owners to preserve as many buildings as possible*
- *Promote more events in the downtown*
- *Work to attract more events in the downtown*

Open Response Themes

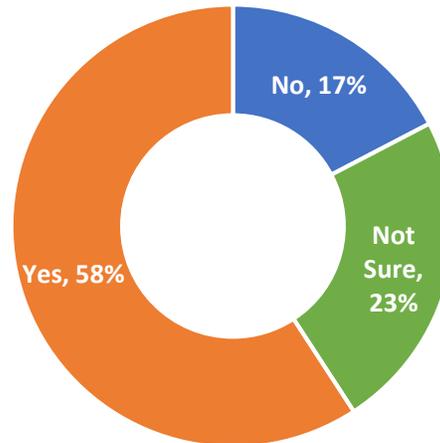
- Chicago rail service has pros and cons
- A vibrant commercial area is desirable—traffic will impact where that’s possible



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Q6: Do you support the creation of a western truck bypass around Beecher which would connect I-394 with the proposed Illiana Expressway (cars could still use existing Route 1)?

Over half of respondents indicated that they support a truck bypass (58%). However, 23% said they are not sure and 17% said they do NOT support it.

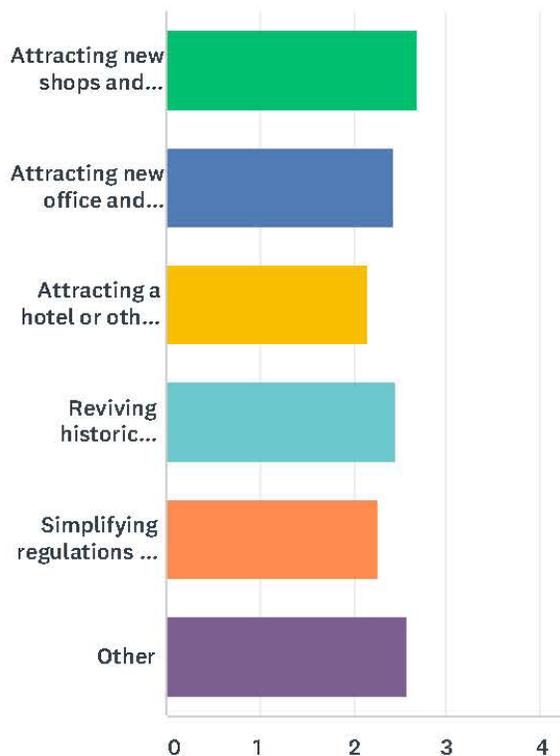


Q7: What major economic development goals should Beecher focus on? (Rank top 2)

Respondents were asked to rank five goals. The top goals were *Attracting New Shops and Restaurants*, *Reviving Historic downtown Beecher along the railroad tracks*, and *Attracting New Office and Light Industrial Opportunities*.

Open Response Themes

- Improve recreational opportunities for the community
- Balance development needs with small town charm



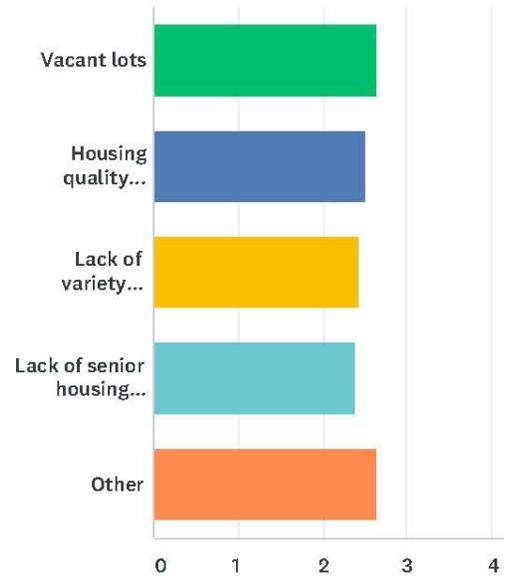


Q8: What are the major issues related to housing in Beecher? (Rank top 2)

Respondents indicated that the top issues related to housing are *Vacant Lots* and *Housing Quality (construction)*. However, many respondents also indicated that the *Lack of Variety (single-family, apartments, townhomes, condos)* and the *Lack of Senior Housing Opportunities* are also important concerns to be considered for the future. This question also provided an open-response option which 55 respondents took advantage of!

Open Response Themes

- Concerns about property taxation rate compared with service needs
- Quality and variety (aesthetic) of housing construction
- Improve harmony between owners/renters

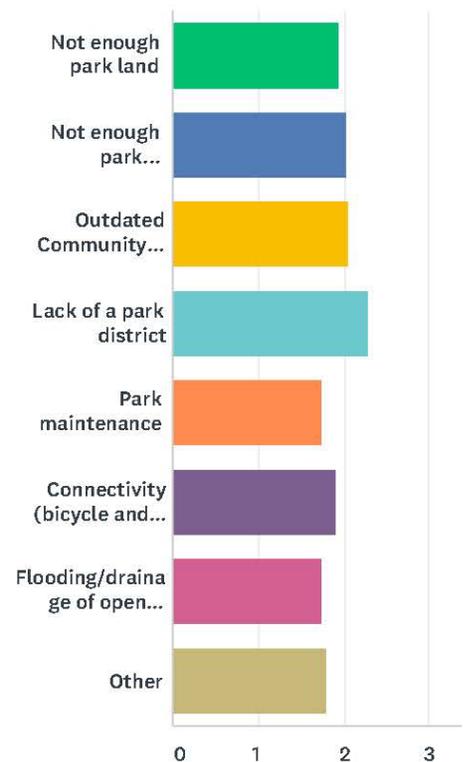


Q9: What are the major issues relating to parks and recreation in the Village? (Rank top 3)

Survey results indicate that the community is most concerned about the *Lack of a Park District*. Other issues included *Outdated Community Center/No Recreation Center*, *Not Enough Park Programming/Activities*, and *Connectivity (bicycle and pedestrian paths)*.

Open Response Themes

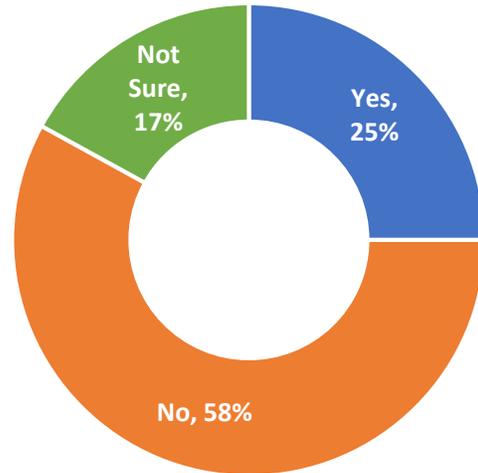
- Park activities for a greater range of residents
- Improve marketing for events/activities



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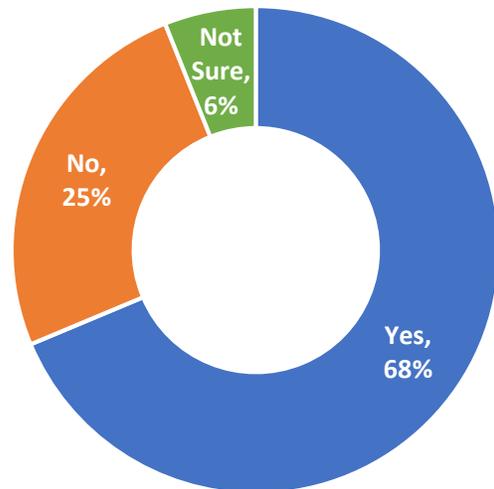
Q10: Would you or anyone in your family utilize a skate park if one was built in the community?

More than half (58%) of respondents indicated that neither they nor anyone in their family would use a skate park if it was built. However, another 25% indicated that they would.



Q11: Would you or anyone in your family utilize a splash pad park if one was built in the community?

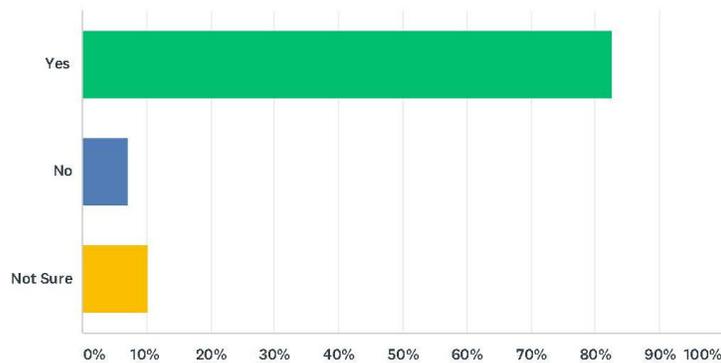
Almost 70% of respondents indicated that they would use a splash pad park if one was built in Beecher. However, about 25% indicated that they would not.





Q12: Do you support creation of a Park District to maintain and operate park and recreation activities in Beecher?

Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they support the creation of a Park District in Beecher (82%).



Q13: If you have any additional concerns or issues you feel Beecher should address in planning for the future, please list them below:

This final question allowed respondents to share any concerns or issues they felt were not addressed in the rest of the survey. Over 100 (30%) of all respondents left a comment and the following are themes from their responses:

- Improve connectivity of sidewalks within Beecher, both in downtown and residential areas
- Expand activities for all ages—children, middle-aged, seniors
- Greater variety of stores and restaurants; limit videogaming
- Road safety concerns
- Affordability for residents and businesses

NEXT STEPS

Thanks for your involvement! Visit www.Beecher2040.org to learn more!

Community Workshops and future announcements to come – [register](#) via your email to receive instant updates.