

Appendix D

Visioning Summary Results

VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE BENTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

An online survey was conducted from August 30, 2016 to October 11, 2016. There were 54 participants in the survey. The survey included 7 questions and sought to capture public input on issues and priorities for Benton County.

2% of the responses were from Finley, 28% of the responses were from Kennewick, 54% of the responses were from Richland, 5% of the responses were from West Richland, 5% of the responses were from Benton City, 6% of the responses were from Prosser, and there were no responses from Paterson or Plymouth.

Key issues/priorities identified from survey include:

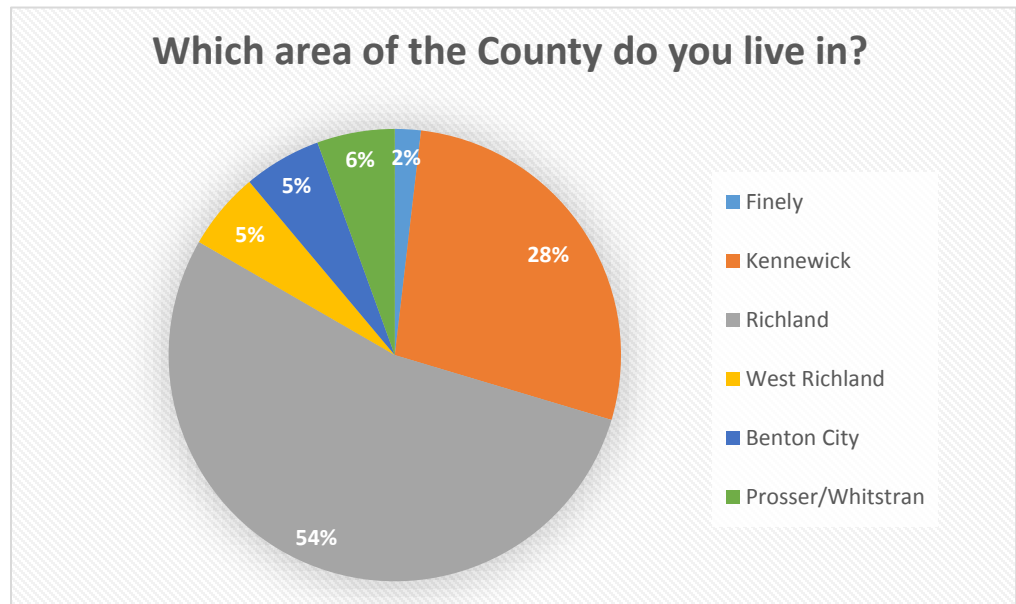
- Preserving the rural character
- Conserving open space
- Preserve hillsides (no development)
- Better access to rivers
- Increase number and quality of parks
- Road improvements
- Limit sprawl
- Safety
- Bike lanes/pedestrian friendly County roads
- More hiking and (non-motorized) biking trails
- Affordable housing

COMPLETE SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1:

Which area do you live in or nearest to?

Finley - 2%
Kennewick - 28%
Richland - 54%
West Richland - 5%
Benton City - 5%
Prosser - 6%
Paterson - 0
Plymouth - 0

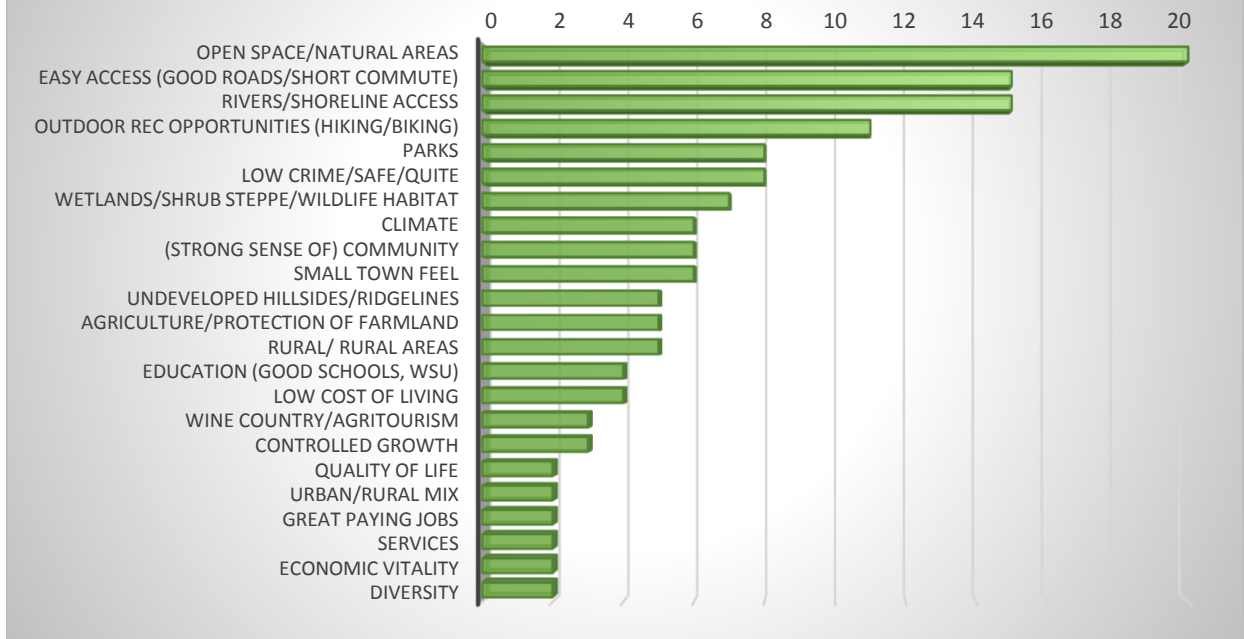


Question 2:**What three words or short phrases describe what you value most about Benton County?**

Summary of responses (in order of ranking):

Open space/natural areas
Easy access (good roads/short commute)
Rivers/Shoreline access
Outdoor recreational opportunities (hiking/biking)
Parks
Low crime/safe/quite
Wetlands/Shrub Steppe/Wildlife habitat
Climate
(Strong) Community
Small town feel
Undeveloped hillsides/ridgelines
Agriculture/Farming/Protection of farm land
Rural/ rural areas
Education (good schools, WSU)
Low cost of living
Wine country/agritourism
Controlled growth
Quality of life
Urban/rural mix
Great paying jobs
Services
Economic vitality
Diversity
Opportunity for growth
Trees
People
Attention to art
Convenient to airport
Small business
Collaboration with cities
Open government

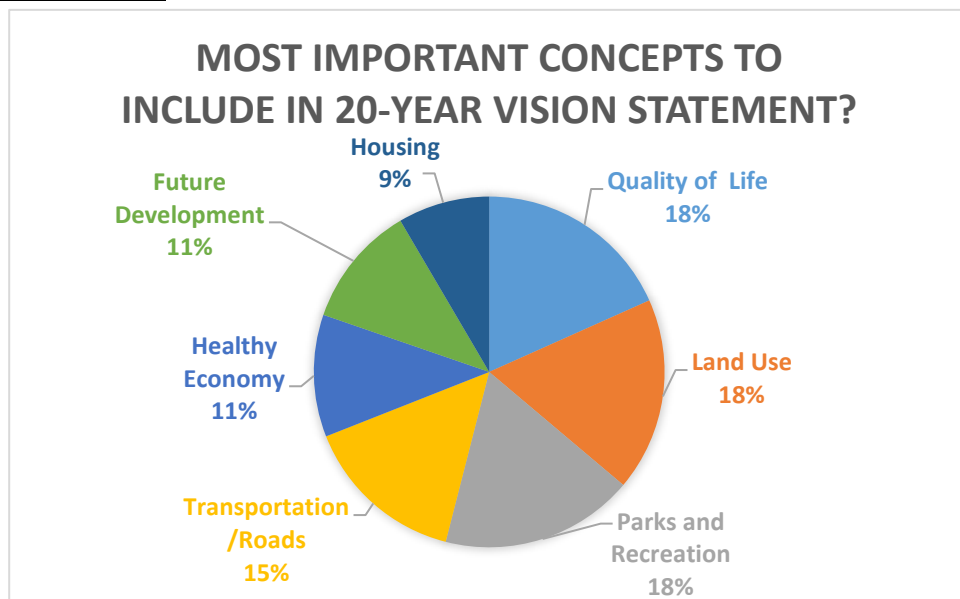
Value Most about Benton County



Question 3:

What key concepts/ideas/goals are most important to be included in the County's 20-year vision (statement) plan?

Quality of Life	18%
Land Use	18%
Parks and Recreation	18%
Transportation/Roads	15%
Healthy Economy	11%
Future Development	11%
Housing	9%

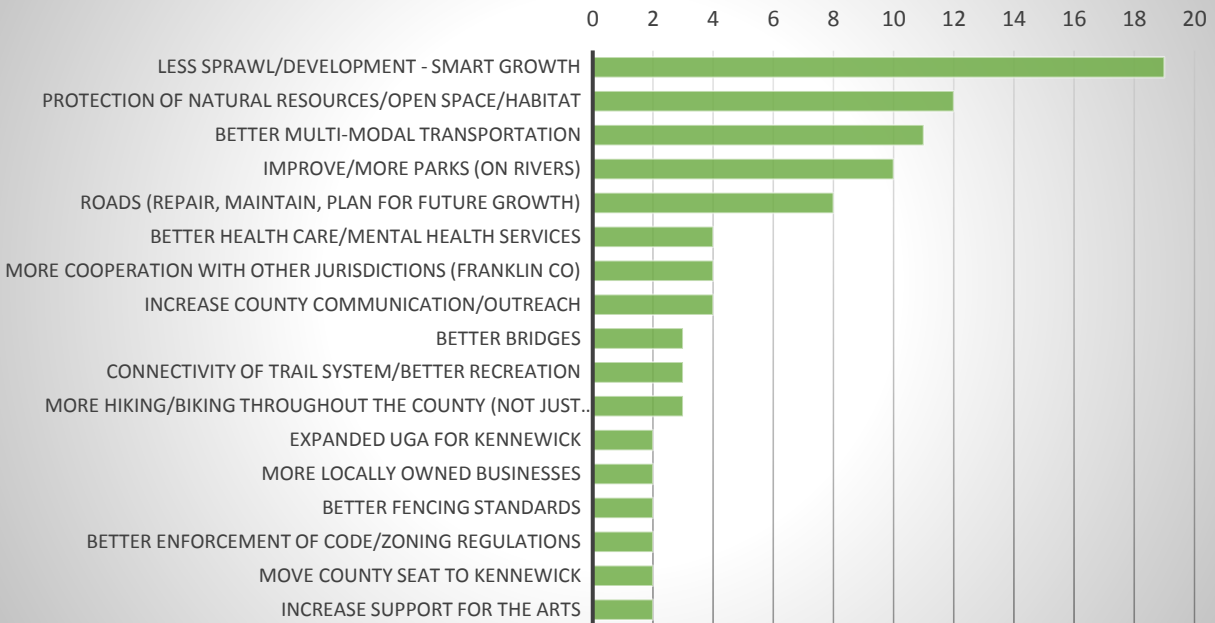


Question 4:**Briefly describe 1-3 things you would like to see changed in Benton County.**

Summary of responses (in order of ranking):

Less sprawl/development - smart growth (mixed use housing)
Protection of natural resources/open space/habitat
Better multi-modal transportation (bike lanes, more sidewalks, better public transportation)
Improve/more parks (on rivers)
Roads (repair, maintain, plan for future growth)
Better health care/mental health services
More cooperation with other jurisdictions (Franklin Co)
Increase County communication/outreach of actions/activities
Better bridges
Connectivity of trail system (Ridges to Rivers)/Better recreation
More hiking/biking throughout the County (not just Tri-cities)
Expanded UGA for Kennewick
More locally owned businesses
Better fencing standards
Better enforcement of code/zoning regulations
Move County Seat to Kennewick
Increase support for the arts
RL-5 zoning is detrimental
Increase ED funding
Less traffic congestion
Better quality houses
Enforce noxious weed control
More trees
Cost of land
Preserve irrigated wetlands
Ban marijuana
Better fire protection for natural areas
More support for animal control/laws against cruelty
More wineries/specialty retailers
More sheriff deputies
Ban fireworks

Would Like Changed in Benton County

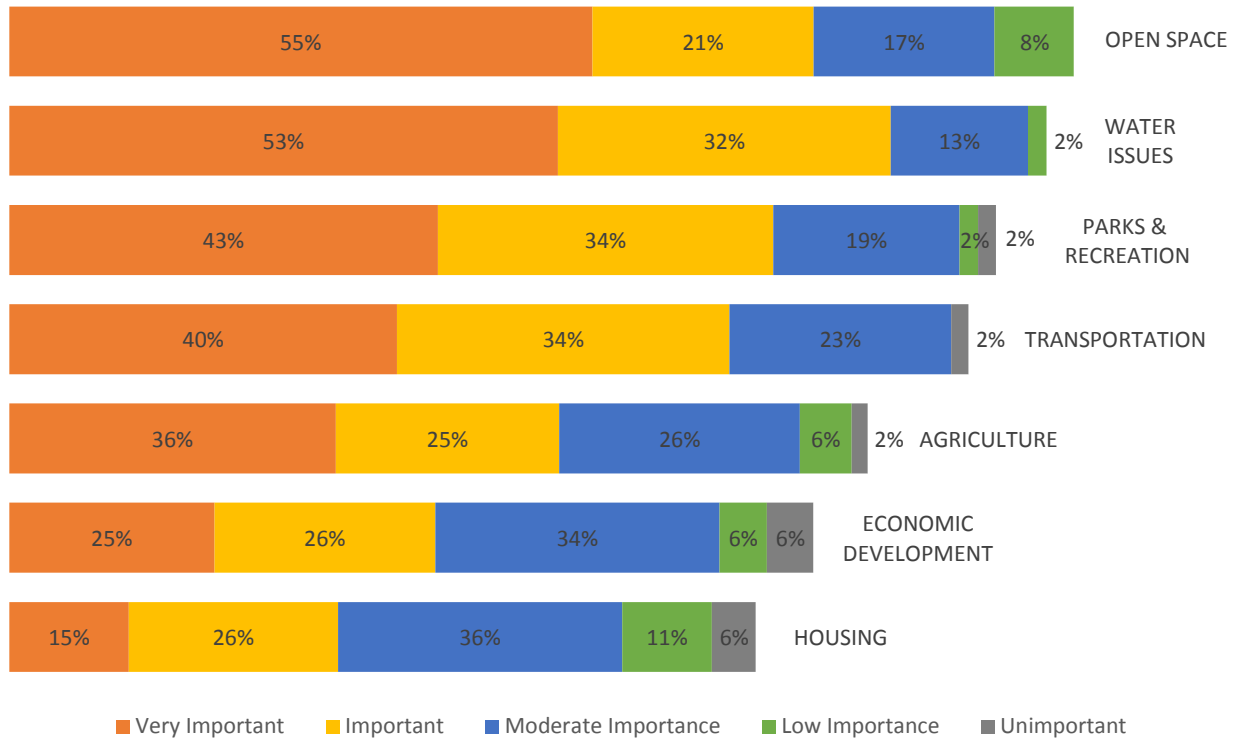


Question 5:

Please indicate the priority level of the following Comprehensive Plan topics the County should focus on during the Comprehensive Plan Update.

	Very Important	Important	Moderate Importance	Low Importance	Unimportant
Open Space/ Rural Character	55%	21%	17%	8%	-
Water Issues	53%	32%	13%	2%	-
Parks and Recreation	43%	34%	19%	2%	2%
Transportation/ Roads	40%	34%	23%	-	2%
Agriculture	36%	25%	26%	6%	2%
Economic Development	25%	26%	34%	6%	6%
Housing	15%	26%	36%	11%	6%

Priority Topics for Comprehensive Plan Update



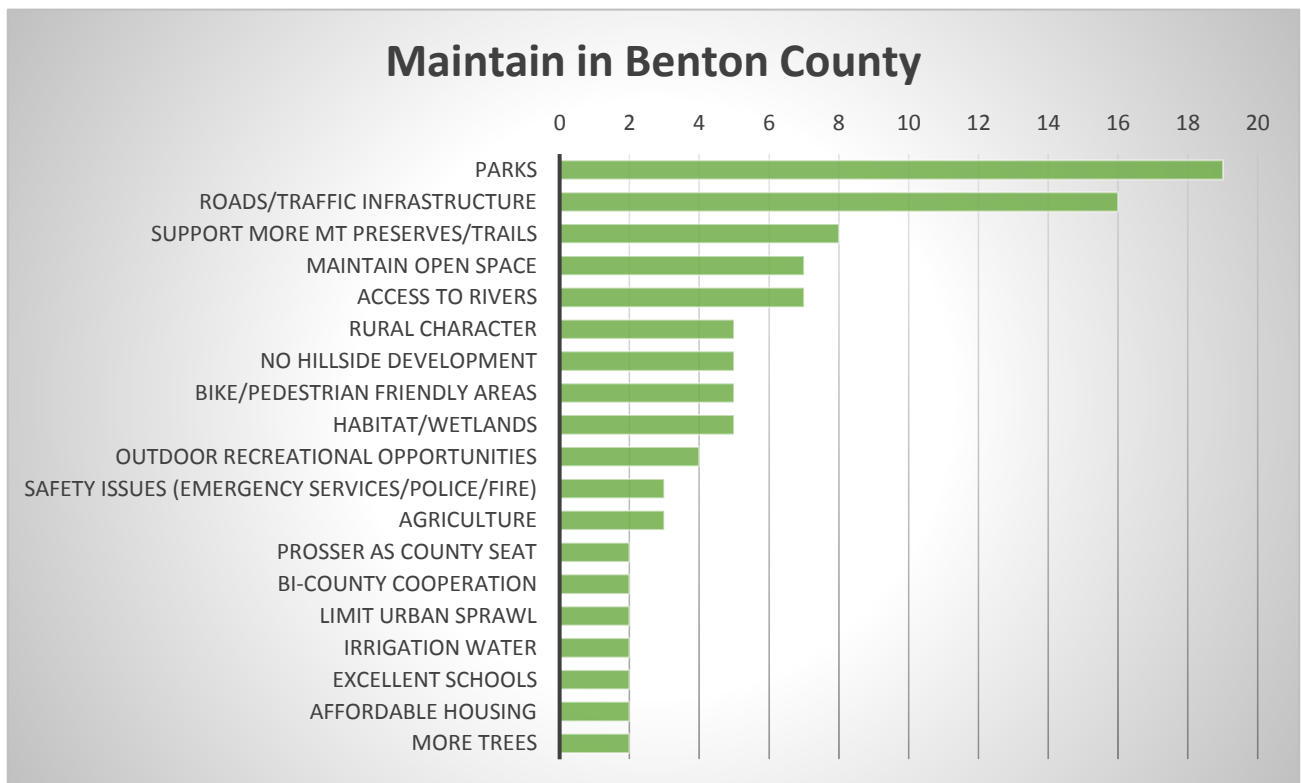
Question 6:

Briefly describe 1-3 things you would like to see maintained in Benton County.

Summary of responses (in order of ranking):

Parks
Roads/traffic infrastructure
Support more Mt preserves/trails
Maintain open space
Access to rivers
Rural character
No hillside development (more restriction)
Bike/Pedestrian friendly areas
Habitat/wetlands
Outdoor recreational opportunities
Safety issues (emergency services/police/fire)
Agriculture
Prosser as county seat
Bi-county cooperation
Limit urban sprawl
Irrigation water
Excellent schools

Affordable housing
More trees
1 acre zoning near UGAs
Economic growth & jobs
Rattlesnake Mt tours
Natural areas and shorelines
Agritourism infrastructure
Real estate tax rates
Land use freedom
Limit light pollution
Small business
Trash removal from empty lots
Weed control
More Commercial Interstate zoning
Cost of living
Telecommunications infrastructure
Attractive directional signage
Tourism
Recycling for Fairgrounds
Desert landscaping



Question 7:**Do you have any other comments related to growth or long-term visioning for Benton County?**

Less damaging mosquito control.
Once wetlands are designated they are hard to reverse. The wetlands 5 allowed for a quasi-judicial acknowledgement of the county specific problems in some potentially sensitive areas that were created either by state highways or irrigation districts or both.
Continue to hold some land as open space for affordable, beautiful public exploration and improve education of locals about the environment and conservation in the face of development.
Let's finally see the end of debtors' prison with the State Supreme Court ruling. Policies favorable to business, particularly small businesses and startups. Ordinances and zoning amenable to non-traditional dwellings including tiny homes.
A larger location for the fairgrounds
Encourage growth, but ensure that the infrastructure is there to support it.
Please don't over develop for the sake of income/tax revenue...we live here because we like nature being close and protected.
Most important expansion of UGA south of Kennewick to allow for light industrial that would bring economic dollars and jobs to Benton County.
Let the cities take care of "arts" housing, shopping etc.
I am involved in projects throughout the State. Benton County is the best managed County in the state of Washington.
Support the development of a county Conservation Futures Fund (wildly successful in Spokane Co)
A commitment to public participation and the recording of public meetings throughout this update process. Thoughtful consideration & responses to public comments. My vision is a government BY the people.
It's becoming easier and easier to be jaded, suspicious of others or "the system" and more and more disconnected as people and as a community. Give attention to these over-arching concepts. Put the wisdom of A Patterned Language deep into our structure, mindset and actions.
Just moved a year ago, and love it here. Looking forward to its future.
There should be more bathrooms at parks and school areas. Also more garbage cans in the parks as well as recycling bins in every park.
Biking Trail to Benton City and through wine county (bikes on back roads are dangerous); Reduce sprawl; build an Richland town center multiple levels, with restaurants on third or fourth level to take advantage of river views. Build on top of business there (then make parking below when most is demolished). Provide a 3-5 year transition for those businesses; Additional parking spots and takeouts on Yakima for rafters/boaters
Beatification, public art, and public squares. Sometimes, the buildings are just plain an eyesore. Please prioritize the attractiveness of a building when building a new public facility. Compare the lovely Public Health Building to the hideous justice center for an example. Or the great looking cable bridge to that soviet thing Richland plans to build in Duportail. We can do it and we should. Finally, the cities should consider merging to create a stronger sense of "place". Thank you.
More trails on other mountains/hills for outdoor recreation.
Expand the tourism base through development of wineries, river shore projects, attractive way finding signage and parks & rec opportunities.

Do whatever necessary to avoid allowing and enabling the Queensgate/Southridge types of rampant and seemingly endless development.
It's unconscionable that the County has included nothing about schools in its plan, given enrollment growth of 1,000 to 1,500 students per year.
Keep development to a minimum. Increase our cultural heritage, slow development to maintain our eastern character.
Make sure Benton County gets its fair share of Washington State support for homeless folks and other social services. At present, the per capita assistance levels are skewed in favor of Western Washington.
More trees, more trees, and for the love of everything, put some trees NEAR the playgrounds, nothing is worse than being surrounded by shade trees but the slides burn you cause they are always in the sun.
It's not the most important issue, but I'd like to see development take place with a sensitivity to preserving dark skies at night in those areas where they still exist, especially at the Hanford site, post-clean-up.
We need to have a unified regional planning entity for the entire Tri-Cities and outlying areas. It is ridiculous that we haven't found a way to do that. And, we need SMART forward-thinking City Planning, like what Portland put together in the 1970's!
Bike paths across the county so we can reduce our reliance on cars. Incentivize local businesses - we don't need three Walmarts within 10 miles and a bunch of empty storefronts. Access to preemptive mental health screenings so we don't need to wait 6 months for a checkup. More trees. Benton county needs to think local.
Perhaps Benton County could take the lead on creating a regional taxing and he earning agency like Portland Metro for parks, arts, and transportation. The Grand Bargain idea of all Mid-Columbians voting on two or three big projects makes the most sense. I want a proper theater (not Link) AND year round aquatic facility. I don't care where they are located as much as I care about getting them built! Metro serves 3 counties and 24 municipalities. Economies of scale are more logical and functional.
Encouragement for Benton County to be a leader in small-scale greener power production, i.e., microhydro, residential and business installations of solar and wind power, etc.