

Comp Plan Visioning Online Summary Responses

what do you think Athens should look like in 20 years?

Economic Development

1. open to changes that will provide for both a healthy economy and be able to attract and retain younger professionals.
2. Athens City administration has to think more openly and generate relationships with private development and the business community.
3. More local businesses
4. expanded opportunities for employment
5. thriving and diverse local business economy
6. Encourage business to hire non-students and pay living and industry standard wages (this includes the hours to go with those wages).
7. Goods and services should have grown exponentially.
8. Small businesses
9. It would be nice to see some more retail offerings, but not at the the expense of our local businesses or natural spaces.
10. Overall I believe it will still be a unique area who unfortunately is greatly disadvantaged by lack of jobs, lack of funding for education etc.
11. Employment should be more diversified and not dependent on public sector employment.
12. A local economy that represents our community.
13. see some lifelong industry come in
14. Shopping more businesses
15. More retail stores. Meijers, Menards, Giant Eagle, Kohls, JC Penney
16. Some newer stores that other towns have that we don't
17. Need more retail
18. More manufacturing jobs would be nice for people who can't get a job at the University
19. more local businesses thriving in 20 years time
20. More businesses
21. there should be more businesses around the area
22. desperately need more and better paying jobs
23. should demonstrate sustainable business priorities - emphasizing living wages, affordable housing, meaningful jobs while avoiding the boom/bust cycles that typify the extraction practices of past generations
24. Outdoor businesses on Court St., including markets and more outdoor seating.....More local products and businesses
25. continued expansion of retail on East State
26. draw in at least one if not a couple other significant employers
27. create and market this area as an outdoor recreation destination to draw in more summer and weekend tourism dollars
28. attract a few more businesses
29. should have a stronger economy that is not as dependent on Ohio University
30. more jobs in Athens could decrease the poverty in our city
31. would like to see Athens thrive on a sustainable tourism platform, bolstered by the university student influx in the off season

32. Athens #1 mission should be to diversify its economy outside of only the university. Yes, the University is a great beacon of resources, but we have to ask ourselves why has the private sector outside of retail- diminished in Athens over the last 30 years while places like Austin or Columbus have flourished. We can not pretend as a community or city leaders that we want economic expansion in Athens, but pick and choose our flavors of the month. I know city leaders have battled the "anti-business" theme, which I don't believe there is an "anti" theme. What I would say is the city government and many residence are not supporting a "Pro business" campaign.
33. Athens has the opportunity to look much as it does today, maintaining its charm and nostalgia. But, transformed as a center for high tech, smaller (20-50 employees) business development that add value to the region, state, and country. Building off of the talent that Ohio University draws, educates, and graduates at regular intervals. We have the chance to pursue smart growth that will not dramatically change the physical landscape but WILL dramatically change the economic landscape. This vision requires all local governments, agencies, boards & commissions to work together; which may never happen due to the history of leadership making decisions based on personal wants instead of based in the interest of betterment of the community for all members...not just the "haves"
34. More thriving small businesses
35. availability of jobs and successful businesses.
36. We should continue to look to the future, and further develop and emphasize our regional strengths such as sustainable agriculture, natural areas, and educational opportunities. Continued business development is critical to our long term survival. At present, Ohio University is the economic engine that drives Athens and the surrounding area. Additional employment opportunities are necessary to attract and retain the people that grow up here or move here.
37. more stores uptown (grocery, shoe, etc)
38. less bars uptown
39. Hopefully there will be new businesses other than serving students and various forms of rehab. There will be small businesses that do not depend on local sales, including light industry perhaps.
40. Diverse economic climate.
41. variety of small businesses that have driven out Wal-Mart. :)
42. Encourage private investment with incentives in Uptown such as a hotel(s) and other private business.
43. We need to attract tourists and businesses.
44. I would also like to see some new businesses uptown; ones that can help keep people in the city for their needs.
45. It may be nice to have a few more shopping options for clothes, shoes, and other items that I sometimes have to seek out in Lancaster, Columbus, online. I would prefer to shop locally as much as possible.
46. growing small businesses. Fewer chains, not more!
47. a vibrant community with more employers (not just OU, government, hospital, retail, and uhm real estate)
48. more grown-up eating and drinking establishments, with seating outside
49. It would be nice if Court Street attracted diverse people from the region to stores other than student focused bars, fast food, etc. so help our small business owners remain and try to attract others.

50. Substantial Employment options other than OU and OU-related businesses (like bars and rentals)
51. Sharing economy friendly (Shared self driving car fleet, airbnb, shared bikes, good public transit)
52. more eco-friendly employers,
53. local economy booming with innovative start-ups using recycled materials,
54. Housing, transportation and job opportunities outside the university must keep pace with the changes,
55. We should be a city that offers enough shopping to support residents, but not be a shopping mecca. Our biggest value is that we're a small town.
56. More businesses geared towards local residents and not only students.
57. More small businesses on court street with family friendly shops.
58. Continued focus on promoting local businesses.
59. I would like to see more retail and restaurant spaces.
60. I would add more shops,
61. Our economy must grow. We must attract light industries. Land owners need to partner with others to make it work.
62. Modern tourist destination. Cut b and B's. Reasons other than the college for people to come visit. Think yellow springs, oh
63. More "local" restaurants and stores.
64. businesses to devote time to the permanent citizens also and not just students.
65. different eating establishments that are not pizza or mexican

Transportation/Accessibility

1. -Support public transportation
2. Less congested
3. improved public transit
4. I would like to see a move from cars to bikes and public transportation. Free on-off shuttles, extending to all corners of city limits would be wonderful.
5. Court street no cars
6. Better public transportation, better services for elderly/seniors
7. Transportation will be changed by the use of driverless cars and trucks, including public transportation. That change will improve mobility and open up employment opportunities because the limitations of current transportation will be lessened.
8. Accessibility: the hilly, crumbling nature of some parts of town are not super accessible for all. Transportation in town and into other areas of the county: what if there were a bike path that went to Glouster? A light rail system? It could that help alleviate issues transportation, poverty, work, class, and rural vs. urban mentality.
9. Fewer private cars.
10. Less vehicle centered with a focus on accessibility by mass transit, walkability etc.
11. Fewer roundabouts
12. Be gone of roundabouts
13. Improve parking for everyone, not just those with smart phones
14. better traffic flow at major intersections...bridge from US 50 to the far end of Lowe's/area
15. Autonomous transit vehicles should be functioning to move people along the most-used routes, both on campus and off.
16. There should be a rail spur off the existing N-S freight line

17. thoughtful parking arrangements on high capacity streets close to campus
18. easy access to art, music, community events
19. Better public transportation outside the city is a must
20. Fewer cars, less traffic and road-rage, more robust and further-reaching public transit
21. Buses going through the whole county using Athens as a main hub, trains too.
22. Make traffic flow smoothly through and around the city with adequate transit opportunities, Improve parking throughout, and provide some designated carpool areas on each side of town
23. lots more parking
24. we should not assume that everyone who comes to our town can pay meters with smart phones -- do not eliminate any more coin meters; we should not cave-in to the preferences of the University if it makes getting around town more difficult for residents; we should take measures to protect and maximize access to small businesses uptown rather than rationalizing that all businesses should eventually be shunted to East State Street, we should curtail the excessive claims OU constantly places on city street parking spots; we should not add higher speed roadways that will ruin the peace and safety of our public spaces, such as public parks and the public library campus
25. No motorized vehicles on Court St or central campus roads
26. more public transportation
27. multiple public transportation options,
28. Spruce up the parking garage.
29. buses running on alternative fuel.
30. Better public transportation.
31. Accessible
32. A commuter friendly city without combustion cars
33. no cars uptown
34. trams for intercity travel, rail to columbus and Cincinnati
35. It would also be great to see something done about the messy situation of parking.
36. Maybe the routing of streets needs to change. You shouldn't have to be funneled down Court Street if you are just passing through town.
37. Expanded integrated transportation, bicycle and pedestrian friendly, vehicle flow.
38. improve/consolidate public transport - one bus company supported by a student fee to give them 24/7 bus rides.
39. Accommodate buses better on streets - give them space to pickup and put down passengers without blocking traffic.
40. But the downtown can be improved by getting traffic off of Court Street between Union and State and creating a tree filled mall therein. Court Street already looks very nice during the holidays. Trees, flower baskets and outdoor cafe seating could greatly improve it on a day to day basis.
41. Disability friendly--no torn up sidewalks, none with yard debris, none with trashcans and cars blocking the way for people needing wheelchairs.
42. More handicapped parking or special uptown transportation for productions at MemAud.
43. Well connected via means of transit, business development and fair housing practices. People are able to get to the places they need to go and are able to connect with each other.
44. more repaved roads
45. There should be another parking garage built uptown
46. downtown to flourish with more boutique shops, and restaurants with outdoor seating and dog friendly.

Bike/Pedestrian

1. -Continue to expand the bike path
2. The bike path on State St. I do not think has been thought through safety wise.
3. Walkable "a" The network of paths and sidewalks should extend out of the town center into the newer, peripheral parts of the town, e.g. out Rock Riffle Road, out 56, out Columbus Road, out Lancaster to Peach Ridge, and similar. Walkable "b" Retail-dominated areas like East State St should be pedestrian and bike accessible. Clear smooth paths should be designated and maintained, and protected from encroachment by cars and individual retailers.
4. add sidewalks where needed
5. Bike path project was really successful. There should be more projects like this which brings nature lovers to this town.
6. Add bike paths to county roads so people can ride to a shuttle.
7. Bike friendly
8. More bike lanes
9. Walker and biker friendly.
10. no bike lanes on already narrow streets, ensuring bikers use said "bike path.
11. inclusive modes of transportation (accessibility, biking, walking)
12. more bike accessibility
13. commercial corridors should be walkable and driveable
14. Remain true to its bike-culture roots
15. more bike lanes
16. more bike lanes and improved sidewalks that are safe for everyone regardless of their ability
17. walkable neighborhoods across the city with shopping/dining/recreation opportunities
18. bike friendly
19. walker/biker-friendly streets and paths, including most of Court Street closed to cars
20. keep fixing sidewalks to reduce the risk for walkers....More bike friendly lanes
21. More bike routes/lanes
22. some way for pedestrians to cross East State Street safely - either a tunnel or perhaps an aesthetically pleasing bridge
23. Continued encouragement of walkability and public transit, reducing pollution as well as traffic
24. Plenty of sidewalks that you really can walk on
25. designed to be so open and pedestrian friendly
26. More bike friendly--lanes, sharing, connections to trails outside of the city
27. Lots of pedestrian and bike ways.
28. I hope to see my neighborhood bustling with bikers and pedestrians bringing their kids to school or heading to work, an occasional electric car passing by quietly. I hope to head out on my morning commute via the bike path, sharing the road with friendly drivers and fellow commuters, young and old.
29. Better and more pedestrian and bike facilities.
30. A city with good sidewalks
31. Setbacks will be increased (even on campus), sidewalks widened and pedestrian traffic encouraged.
32. I assume a solution to the pedestrian crosswalk on Richland and resulting traffic backup will have been found in 2020.

33. None of East State will be sacrificed to bike lanes but the bike path will be widened and access to side streets increased.
34. It would be great to see less traffic on Court street so it can be safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.
35. I would also like to see Athens have a more health centered focus. Included in this health focus could be more active transportation initiatives. There are so many people in the city who do not commute by vehicle. It would be great to see this supported by all. There needs to be more education for this to happen.
36. Transportation is primarily biking and public transportation.
37. continue to be transportation friendly.
38. Easy access by bikes and walking.
39. People should walk and bike more.
40. Bike lane on East State from the 33/50 highway overpass to campus. Could be done if East State were a one-way street. Until then, Athens won't be bike/pedestrian friendly.
41. Bicyclists, rollerbladers, and skateboarders use the sidewalks, creating a hazard for pedestrians and dogs, as well as for themselves (because cars don't stop before crossing the sidewalk from side streets).
42. Court St in Uptown converted to a pedestrian mall with 2-way bike path on Court St, bus access, and delivery access only.
43. Easy for anyone to ride to get to places throughout Athens, regardless of level of experience riding. Use buffered and protected bike lanes and 2-way cycle tracks. Add bikeshare with e-bikes.
44. pedestrian-only streets uptown
45. Encouragement of walking, biking,
46. First class bike & pedestrian friendly (crossable roads)
47. more bike access on roads
48. Finally, it will build off the success of the Hockhocking Adena bike path and continue building it into a transportation corridor, instead of simply a recreational path.

Environment/Sustainability

1. All energy renewable energy
2. -Support alternative energy initiatives
3. I am concerned that a few ideas were either attempted to be put through as policy, law etc. or were put through without a lot of listening to what I think were not really minorities...this include trying to tax plastic bag use (I agree with reusable bags but taxing is not good)...this came too close to coming to fruition.
4. sustainable energy
5. sustainable food systems
6. A model of renewable energy
7. Athens should become a model for economic and environmental sustainability.
8. retain and expand green space
9. More green energy, push energy efficiency
10. Sustainable green infrastructure for energy, food, and drinking and waste water systems established
11. I would love to see our city include more renewable energy sources and make more strides towards being environmentally sustainable.
12. I hope to see a total transformation from fossil fuel based systems to renewable energy sources.
13. Continue to work towards being a sustainable oasis in Ohio.

14. I think we need to be even more environmentally friendly, to lead the way in what an environmentally rural area can look like.
15. Embrace its natural environment a leader in green energy, healthy living
16. increase sustainability efforts.
17. Solar power throughout the city
18. Using green energy
19. more eco-friendly
20. more sustainability ventures
21. should invest in several new technologies and advance ourselves as a community towards the ultimate goal of becoming 100% sustainable
22. more solar panels
23. more houses with solar and wind power, and better financial assistance for those who want to convert to sustainable fuel
24. young people want to be in Athens b/c of our commitment to sustainability, including divesting from fossil fuels
25. Plan to replace older trees
26. looking (and succeeding) toward sustainability and personal/community responsibility to environment
27. more eco-friendly town with less pollution and more recycling
28. More solar power
29. More electric cars and charging stations
30. solar-powered home
31. More self sustainable, including alternative power city wide,
32. having curbside composting
33. Green
34. A city that retained its natural beauty (tree and green spaces)
35. All buildings with renewable energy sources
36. EV Charging stations everywhere
37. More trees
38. Restored river to a river not a spillway
39. I hope it will still have open spaces and trees,
40. Alternatives to fossil energy is the dominant energy used.
41. Solid waste is utilized as a resource by over 90%. Haz mat. is easily available to get handled properly and recycled rather than disposed, creating economic opps.
42. The tree canopy in Athens greatly expanded and respected more by AEP who isn't allowed to cut trees to the point of hastening their demise. Electric service is increasingly underground.
43. Wellhead protection taken more seriously, mass vehicular parking/ other activities that risk chemical spill greatly curtailed.
44. Solar panels on every roof.
45. Energy consumption and consumption in general should decline.
46. Clean water; fracking won't be allowed in surrounding areas.
47. Everyone will be using solar or wind power, food and healthy food options will be everywhere and residents will be conscious of their waste and how it impacts the environment and community. They will make concerted efforts to use less generated power and conserve energy.
48. Athens will be the go to place or beacon for health, sustainability and community.
49. increased commitment to sustainability,
50. A solar and wind powered mecca

51. Curbside Compost
52. Better Tree Coverage
53. forested Hocking River through town,
54. in-town housing upgraded with energy efficient practices
55. more solar energy produced in-town,
56. It will mimic the success of the local food movement in other industries, such as waste reduction/reuse and renewable energies.
57. A strong regionally based economy supports growth and supports clean, renewable energy plans.
58. green spaces need to be retained and expanded,

Design/Art/History

1. More local support for local activities, arts, music
2. further incorporating art, historic preservation
3. More art
4. Arts: I am a huge supporter of the arts (and an artist myself). Athens prides itself in the arts and we need to take that a RUN with it. Athens is already artsy, but it can be SO MUCH MORE artsy.
5. more arts venues
6. Retain its attention to the arts
7. bigger music venues (that attract at least some national talent that aren't OU)
8. maintain its unique brick-town character and its historic buildings
9. see Athens becoming a arts and music destination....The "Art Outside the Box" project and the Athens Photographic Project about to go up on the outside of the parking garage have and will be a great addition to our community
10. Artist co-ops, music co-ops, food co-ops between part of each Athens neighborhood
11. should still have its historic charm with buildings
12. we should not erase our heritage when we make practical changes
13. should retain its architectural history
14. would love to see that Athens still has somewhat of a historical character to it....wish east state felt somewhat that way
15. more historic preservation efforts
16. I think Athens should look similarly to how it does now, but hopefully there would be less infrastructure issues.
17. The armory is fully utilized
18. The same , people love the "look" of Athens and campus. Extend and integrate the historical look of "uptown" to the community center and East State development, include some sort of sustainable -themed retirement community plan for East State or West Side... and maybe spruce up Stimson and Schaffer entrances into the city.
19. a showcase of historic preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse
20. Arts/entertainment venue at the end of Court St verses the Armory
21. I think in 20 years Athens should still reflect it's great history, but also have more updates.
22. Designating uptown as historic district.
23. Many towns have regulations on height of signs and uniform look such as brick, etc.(Dublin, small towns).
24. It is a city with virtually no fine domestic architecture. Fact.
25. a more charming look to the town, maybe a town square where residents and visitors can stroll and relax;
26. better-maintained buildings;

27. Artwork, and architecture are important in keeping the homey feeling in Athens. Every effort to preserve the visual/cultural feeling already in Athens needs to be continued at least in the downtown area. In particular, the Armory needs to be re-purposed and retained, and eccentric touches like Christmas lights and decorations need to be preserved. I miss the horse-drawn carriage rides...
28. I think Athens should invest in more sculptures and art around the city.
29. the armory should finally get renovated to allow artists like ceramicists to make and sell their wares.
30. I would also like to see the brick streets remain,
31. I think we need to establish uptown in a way that keeps our history, OU and small businesses vibrant. It can and should be a source of pride and a community gathering area.
32. Continue the festivals and other events uptown.

Character/Culture

1. Maintain the existing character of the community
2. The same - meaning I don't want to lose the aesthetic and communitarian values we have today
3. Progressive
4. funky and artistic,
5. strong community spirit
6. resilient to challenges,
7. destination for culture rather than a pass-through opportunity (all the good shows happen mid-week)
8. Self-sufficient
9. keeping the small town feel but modernize
10. I hope we can continue to attract scholars and fine thinkers through our university, and keep them here by offering a dynamic community.
11. highlight the feature that we know and love about athens now.
12. My hope for Athens in 20 years is that it continues to be a vibrant community with unique organizations and businesses that reflect the rich history and culture of the region. My hope is that the current trend toward sustainable, local and environmentally friendly community.
13. Uniquely Athens. Local, holistic, grounded in its environmental and natural roots. Looking towards the future but honoring and learning from the past. Not another mega-store town. Local- food, arts, press, education.
14. Glorious, renaissance, pristine
15. I think that it should maintain its culture
16. I think it will keep its family-friendly hometown feeling
17. retain its unique character, its fun local restaurants
18. funky (aesthetically pleasing)
19. shouldn't look modern & like a futuristic city because that's not what we are & it would detract from Athens appeal, no major facelift is needed
20. More modernized
21. hope to see a happy, healthy, and dedicated community
22. wish that Athens would have more Appalachian "flavor." The college town label applies here to such an extent that we've lost too much respect for its regionalism....hope the residents don't have to fear for their property during the fests and parties in the future

23. Athens should look like a city that has held on to its wonderful history, but also embraced the modern world....should also look like a college town with some young, hip places to eat and shop, but also look like a place where people want to stay and raise families, where there are things like parks and family-oriented activities
24. Would not change the culture and friendliest of Athens
25. I hope to take my family to a local event on the weekend, where families of all stripes come together to enjoy the cultural richness of Athens
26. I think Athens should be even more progressive and innovative than we already are and certainly more than other cities in the U.S.
27. We have to retain the small town feeling while Ohio University continues to grow.
28. Honoring the deep intricate amalgamation of people who hold this town and surrounding land together with artistry of culture, land and people

Housing/Neighborhoods

1. Much more lower income housing (both very low income housing and homes between \$90-125,000)
2. Further incorporating affordable housing
3. Local. Neighborhoods should be recognizable and should have activity centers (schools, parks, small businesses) embedded in them. For example, the Near East can easily access East Elementary, the Public Library, Avalanche Pizza, and Athens Car Center. I would like all neighborhoods to have that degree of social cohesiveness
4. a place where families can live close the university and town, i.e., lower rents, focus on single families with single incomes rather than students, limit single family home ownership to one owner-occupied home, restrict management companies from turning neighborhoods into rental zones. Convert rentals to owner-occupied to encourage a more stable and diverse city (have you noticed how white the east side is, and how many rentals are there?).
5. reduce housing in downtown and help stores to return
6. fewer run down homes but not all apartment complex
7. Walkable and bike friendly neighborhoods with small grocers, and other basics nearby.
8. Neighborhoods and apartments build around multigenerational residents including those with cognitive disabilities.
9. community food gardens in every block
10. community spaces (open schools in the evenings) available to neighborhoods including kitchens for cooking, canning and preserving garden produce.
11. Even less neighborhoods and family centered. A region caterer to the whims of the academic circles
12. It's my hope also that rental housing becomes more affordable for students and community members. Additionally I hope that a county or region wide form of public transportation exists that is also affordable to all.
13. It would be great if landlords would be made to paint and upkeep their rentals in town. Many of them really take away from the charm of the town.
14. Would also like to revitalize the crappy rentals so close to town. They are an eyesore.
15. As it does now, with improvements in housing conditions.
16. Neighborhoods have smaller schools with green spaces for community use. Well established farmers market. More public exercise facilities similar to the YMCA and this facility playing a bigger role in before/after school care at neighborhood schools.
17. the town will be overrun with expensive college housing forcing families out

18. Needs more suburbs to support growing families
19. Rentals should be more properly maintained
20. should be more high-density, multi-family housing
21. greater efforts put into neighborhood planning, and more encouragement of neighborhoods that welcome students and townspeople to mingle rather than segregate
22. Clean neighborhoods with improved student housing
23. would be great if Code Enforcement would go after slumlords instead of tax paying citizens
24. more lively colored houses
25. Quieter, something needs to be done about the hospital generator on the west side. Those of us on the hill feel like we are in an industrial zone. Small town charm does not include this type of noise
26. At least half the rentals turning to revitalized private homes (including government subsidy for low income citizens and refugees).....Developing the West End as an art colony/area
27. updated housing units, but keeping with historic look
28. would like to see the areas of Athens around the city to be as taken care of as the city
29. More bed and breakfasts
30. Improved upkeep of student housing
31. More affordable housing in the city of Athens
32. More housing stock, both homes and rentals, with higher and denser construction closer to campus.
33. Better housing for all.
34. without the shoddy rentals close to campus
35. Perhaps more single family housing within walking distance of campus and Court St
36. Landlords have proper number of tenants and parking is under control and are paying their share of costs.
37. From a street-level perspective, it would be nice if a significant portion of the student rental houses were reclaimed as single-family owner-occupied dwellings (particularly on the West side, and the Grosvenor/Franklin, and Morris Ave areas).
38. Continued urban renewal to erase housing blight
39. Businesses incorporated into the residential areas.
40. Improved upkeep of rental properties; less gouging of tenants.
41. I would like to see neighborhoods restored to family housing (including reasonable rentals for families.)
42. vibrant student neighborhoods and peaceful residential enclaves.
43. Neighborhoods should be full of young families, single professionals and retired people and not just traditional old homes turned into more student rentals.
44. I would love to see the neighborhoods reclaimed as family-based areas. There has been such a push locally to build student luxury apartments that my hope is that the property values will return to a price-point that will make this a possibility for the middle class, Athenian family.
45. It would be wonderful to have a city-backed financing source dedicated to rehabbing properties and zoning to include the return of even a small neighborhood grocery in each neighborhood. A walkable Athens is the best Athens.
46. Fringe Neighbor Recovery (increase of owner occupation in neighborhood fringes, e.g. franklin/Grosvenor/spring streets, west washington by cider house, congress, etc.)
47. Great community connected schools (Pre-K-12 + OU)

48. It will maintain a balance of accessible and modern housing stock with the charm of some of its unique neighborhoods.
49. Well developed and prospering neighborhoods.
50. Increasing expectations for housing so that landlords must fix up the houses that they allow to decay.
51. Better rental housing,
52. More housing diversity especially with rentals.
53. While change is good, I really don't want the town to include yet more student housing, at the expensive of neighborhoods for life-long residents.
54. I would like to see more housing for families in the city limits and less student rentals. It would be nice to take streets like N Congress, Grovsner etc and make them residential again. Possibly making a tax adjustment for families willing to take on such a project.
55. We need a housing unit for seniors similar to Glenwood In Marietta. We need to keep the elderly here. Many are moving away to such communities.
56. The town is in need of developing high quality, affordable housing that is suitable for students, incoming young faculty, and families.
57. more middle income and senior housing.
58. Housing is always an issue yet I don't believe we can encourage land owners around OU to switch out to single-family housing. Not to mention families don't want to live next to students. So...where do we go for housing? What exactly is affordable?
59. A clean up of student rentals would be nice

Infrastructure

1. Athens should have continued growth with a focus on infrastructure and non-university jobs
2. start to control expand runoff in areas without storm sewers
3. I think Athens should look similarly to how it does now, but hopefully there would be less infrastructure issues
4. more updates to buildings.
5. Less overhead power lines, more clean city skyline
6. Similar to how it is now, but a little cleaner perhaps
7. Similar but more cleaned up.
8. Hopefully the roads are better (bricks mostly)
9. expand its infrastructural footprint, both by way of roads and streets and by taking advantage of areas in town that have largely been left to themselves, such as Columbus Road
10. Better code enforcement re:unsightly and poorly constructed buildings and maintenance/monitoring of the appearance of residences
11. better infrastructure
12. Updated for individuals with disabilities while retaining Athens charm
13. the city needs some improvements, (bike lanes, road reconstruction, etc)
14. have improved infrastructure: such as roadways, utilities, and internet
15. Parking garage on the west side to get cars off of streets
16. Better infrastructure
17. A city with no above ground, cable, internet, telephone, or electrical power lines
18. Some streets with bricks
19. Nice street lights
20. More traffic circles

21. Need better streets and water supply. Perhaps a year without a boil order! And water on Dairy Lane.
22. Healthy, walkable neighborhoods.
23. Better directional, street signs in city, especially uptown.
24. Reduce light pollution - especially business signs, parking lots, etc. on east state street.
25. better-applied yellow lines on sidewalk (that most recent job was so sloppy!)
26. Brick Street Revitalization
27. Residential Traffic Calming
28. More green infrastructure
29. better roads and traffic control is needed

Development

1. Thoughtful Growth has ensured we have lots of green space, nicely kept buildings and a community safe for everyone to live work and play
2. Green, development that integrates existing flora and green space rather than removes it.
3. I think it should evolve by time. Maybe there are some restrictions culturewise for improvements. As an example, you go around court st and you will see sort of a historic district with almost intact buildings from past. But you won't see any place which resembles a modernize city. The mall and shopping centers can definitely improve towards a more modernized version. At the same time, keeping traditions and old culture is important, cause that makes this city Athens, OH!
4. pairing laundromats and playgrounds and low income housing above libraries.
5. a library on the west side.
6. No empty store fronts
7. I'd personally like to see it look a bit more progressive. The university is pretty progressive but the town lacks modern stores and the back roads though quaint, need some upgrading.
8. We need to preserve green space and keep it safe from development, to be smart with the resources we have, and our city schools need rebuilt.
9. While preserving historical characteristics of the city there should also be progressive changes that accommodate technological advancements and new ideas in the arts and planning.
10. Well developed and prospering neighborhoods.
11. Not too many stores but more residents
12. it should look like a smaller big city like one from a movie
13. Any new developments should be fitting with the historical theme that is already in place
14. More parks and apartments
15. Athens should be larger, and include key parcels to the north and southwest that are currently outside the city, making them available for development, but the city should not grow east any further
16. Limit growth and sprawl out of the city
17. more tech looking buildings
18. A high quality senior citizens community on the Ridges, which accommodates senior needs and all generations while keeping the open land
19. A revitalized former Fairgrounds area; and Fairgrounds moved outside the city
20. maintain the classic look and feel, but to have all approved projects really think ahead to include as much capital improvement as possible.....IF it is approved that the east side dog park will turn into the farmer's market, then it should be taken into consideration that

it be taken to the next level to include a multi-use facility to serve numerous groups rather than just one

21. like to see State St cleaned up a bit. Maybe some more green space mixed in....Maybe some local shops and restaurants could be mixed in
22. better elder housing opportunities
23. should look bigger with maybe more businesses and more parks
24. bigger with more businesses and more recreational activities
25. Like a metropolis of opportunity
26. East State street is upgraded to look better--not so ugly and commercial
27. Getting rid of fairgrounds and utilizing that property better
28. Hotel uptown or on Stimson?
29. At work, I hope to see Uptown Athens bustling with students and townsfolk alike, getting their locally-sourced meal fresh from a family-run businesses.
30. Long standing eyesores (the Armory and Mt Zion Church) will be gone.
31. from a topographic perspective, hopefully much the same as it does now (that is to say, no outward sprawl).
32. Generally speaking, though, I would hope for more infill projects, and no further outward expansion of development.
33. Additionally, it would be nice if certain areas were repurposed for greater commercial density (specifically, I'm thinking of the old Bob's IGA location on Stimson Ave, which was converted into parking for the large student housing development. It would be nice to get some nice, small-footprint commercial sites back along the edge of Stimson there).
34. Complete streets, especially on E State street. Right now Athens feels very divided between uptown and the E State St corridor. If the connectors were completing the streets that would enhance the vibrancy of the community and bring additional infill businesses to the area.
35. E. State St. Retail district (on Southside of street) redeveloped into town center design to reduce traffic flow required on E. State St. Park and walk to various retail establishments, recreation, bike path, community center, etc.
36. Court Street needs to remain much as it is with the bricks and bars.
37. Too much more development would take from the character, certain areas of the city just need maintenance/repairs.
38. I think there will be more buildings and populations than now
39. Increased population, but with smart growth boundaries.
40. Like a modern city. Infrastructure, shopping and competition.
41. East State needs some love. Buildings tidied up, sidewalks, Farmer's Market home.
42. Also want more office jobs uptown along with more entertainment.

Town/Gown

1. I think that the City and the university would be doing work to rebuild the relationship between university students and community members.
2. Athens would be more connected to the community and its needs. Some efforts by the university community and local non-profits are insulting to Appalachian people and culture. More cultural awareness and long-term assistance/ community service that STARTS at the university-- which is the best funded business in town.
3. a community and a friendship between Ohio University and Athens City instead of them being two separate entities.

4. **Thriving Ohio University. Annex The Plains. Senior retirement community linked to the university.**
5. **the university giving back to the community.**
6. **More good paying jobs, less dependence on OU**
7. **A mixture of establishments that serves/invites/embraces the adult population while including the young student population**
8. **we should be on the forefront of sustainable action and implementation for college Campuses nationwide.**
9. **Capacity of the university should not exceed the surrounding the community's capacity**
10. **Ohio U. curbs its growth and party reputation and continues to partner with community entities to the point where students are seen as valuable neighbors**
11. **As the college grows, better accommodations for students off campus**
12. **would like to see students more actively engaged in the community**
13. **see the university to share equal responsibility with the City of Athens**
14. **I think that the City and the university would be doing work to rebuild the relationship between university students and community members.**
15. **no more students than we have today.**
16. **Ohio University and the City have more meaningful ways of cooperating through contracts that benefit both in services and products like recycled content supplies and less toxic.**
17. **Continued and improved collaboration with university for research, services, student involvement, etc.**
18. **Continue to encourage Ohio University to get varied experiences for students in the whole county and region. They can bring energy and ideas to improve life for all in the area.**
19. **University and community unite to maintain old tree-lined quiet neighborhoods that value the interesting mix of students, international visitors and residents of all ages.**
20. **I would like to see Athens grow, both the town and the University.**
21. **A strong university that gives back to community and finds ways to apply its research, resources, and talent to enhance our community.**

Sense of place

1. **Same as it does now. Who needs corporate america to come in and destroy it.**
2. **Athens should still hold the small town message and vibe, but Athens should be updated to a point where people can live here and live well.**
3. **Neighborhood schools and maintain our great .libraries. Foster kindness and community contacts.**
4. **Keep the small town feel and natural settings (trees, parks, etc)**
5. **hope to come back in 20 years to the small town feel**
6. **Innovative, progressive, and yet designed with history**
7. **A clean, beautiful, safe, historic college town, yet modern community with the best services to offer citizens and visitors.**
8. **Athens should still be a college town, but needs to get rid of it run down appearance while keeping its charm.**
9. **Not too different from now.**
10. **Still have the Athens charm**
11. **I love Athens. While I don't wish for it to grow too much (I love the connectedness and community feel here), I also want to be sure the progress and growth Athens has seen remains steady and stable. I'd like to see the community feel increase even more so. I**

- hope that the individuals living here are sure to take advantage of the things that encourage togetherness (bike path, parks, events, etc.).
12. even more cultural events, fairs, etc.
 13. Keep a small town feel.
 14. Athens will have preserved elements of its image and heritage (the bricks, the small-town appeal, the integration of natural elements throughout the city), but also embrace new industries.
 15. A buzzing connected hub of citizens, professionals and students.
 16. Point is: Athens has a charm that is easier to lose than to replicate. Make the effort to keep it in changing times.
 17. I know the university is going to start expanding but I think it is important that in 20 years it stays true to how it is now.
 18. Largely the same, preserving the old school character, but with more efficiency.
 19. Like it's own town rather than something modeled after Portland.
 20. Home town charm with more amenities.
 21. I hope that Athens doesn't change too much in 20 years.
 22. Somewhat the same.
 23. Funky, accepting, open minded, it got us this far.
 24. to remain at its core the same place with place meaning the people and their liberal, accepting, supportive, loving community.
 25. It should look like a place rich of culture and expressions vs the direction it is going now which student based consumerism

Recreation/Wellness

1. I'd like to see more improvement for recreations.
2. It can be improving hiking trails from Estate to struds.
3. More tennis courts.
4. I would like to more investment in and promotion of parks and recreation (including trails) because those can be a focal point for the community. This city is very unusual in that it butts up against a state park, and residents and visitors can access an extensive trail system right from the center of town. People who look for a recreation lifestyle look for that type of access -- but more progressive cities (for example, out west and in mountain communities on the East Coast) market and capitalize on access to recreation as a major asset, but Athens has not embraced this despite it literally being right there for the taking. This is low-hanging fruit that we could be promoting. I would like to see Athens do that more as part of its branding. The bricks are awesome and I love promoting that look, feel and history of our city ... but our green spaces are a major asset that I think could be parlayed into desirability for business attraction and when people are considering moving here.
5. A city with a variety of activities for all ages. Many of those will continue to be provided by the university and its students and faculty. Others will be community based and will include activities for senior citizens, schoolchildren young adults and all other age groups.
6. Plenty of green space. Lots of recreation possibilities.
7. The river should be leveraged as a recreation and economic feature
8. healthy, physically active community
9. Providing resources to educate our citizens on Wellness (Mental, Financial and people well-being)

10. New community center? rehab of existing
11. After work, I hope to take my family on a hike from town to Strouds Run for a swim in the clean, fresh lake. I hope to find a group of birders admiring the fall migration by the lake.
12. It would be great to see the whole city tobacco free and enforcing these policies.
13. Large park complex spanning bike path, community center, dog park, community garden, and under Rt 33 overpass to library and redeveloped park space with pavilions, more trees, multi-use fields.
14. mental health resources for town and gown
15. more parks, children's playgrounds, fountains
16. play spaces for young people as well as green space for everyone.
17. Soccer Facility Improvements
18. canoe livery downstream of White's Mill,
19. people access to the Hocking for swimming and fishing.
20. Friday night community music on the bricks.
21. New pool on East State with classes throughout the summer for all age groups.
22. A healthy community with many options for healthy living and exercise.

Inclusion/Social Justice

1. end of poverty
2. Inclusive, Accessible
3. more inter-generational
4. more diverse
5. all residents well fed, no one is homeless,
6. A culture that supports ways for elders and children to be together in ways that help parents. Ways for parents and children to help elders.
7. racially diverse outside university population.
8. a place African American and other minority students want to live after graduation
9. Networked with communities around the world to advance green and just social and cultural values.
10. Hopefully we continue to build on the progress we have made thus far to be a socially conscious, inclusive community.
11. Environmentally sound...solar, local food, clean air and water for everyone. Make it affordable. Small schools with community and neighborhood involvement without excluding the Appalachian culture and children and adults of poverty, abuse and neglect. An inclusive community.
12. More minorities should be here
13. More diversity of shops and entertainment offerings to better attract and support populations from around the world, and Americans of color
14. should encompass all of Athens county in developing resources that promote healthy living environments while respecting the cultural heritage of groups that have influenced Athens over its history
15. should be an innovator in raising the quality of life measured along many variables
16. I think Athens should continue to be an open, welcoming community where people can live and work in a safe, economically vibrant, intellectually stimulating environment.
17. An integrated community with a diverse populace
18. Tightly knit, able to weather storms together as we take care of each other.
19. Expanded citizen involvement (permanent and transient/student)through collaborative volunteerism and community pride to help with tight budgets.

20. An emphasis should be placed on reducing our planetary impact and on kindness and generosity.
21. growing diversity
22. people of all ages go out in the evenings, not just students
23. a more engaged community--events, volunteering
24. Anything that fosters interconnection of generations will improve future for children.
25. The population of Athens will age, and provisions for the elderly, whether retired from OU, or retiring OU graduates. Housing, transportation and healthcare.
26. I think athens should push for more diversity in the future
27. We should look like a community that offers services to as many people as possible, not just to the loudest voices. We should be known for hearing what each of us has to say. We should be a community that values diversity.

28. Family nights uptown.
29. For this to be successful the town and the community are going to have to work together and cooperate.
30. A place where people can come together to solve problems and challenge each other to continue evolving our community.
31. Both youth and seniors programming, and many integrated opportunities for different generations to share and interact.

Aesthetics

1. Make the landscape on far East State Street more appealing
2. Not slummy. Some rental neighborhoods are blighted by poor maintenance, loss of street trees, trash, etc.
3. Green and clean (uptown still needs work on this),
4. maintain viewsheds
5. Updated sidewalks, keep the bricks, lots of art of many forms.
6. I think Athens should retain a historic look on campus but continue to become more modern off campus.
7. Modern and updated without letting go of the history. for example updated brick streets, refaced historic buildings, greater use of technology
8. Bigger trees, more grass, more building lights for night time
9. commercial corridors should be attractive, and vibrant
10. Brick streets remain
11. continue to look green, and have lots of open space
12. keep the large green space aspect and the brick road uniqueness
13. should look like a city that is more emblematic of it's surrounding community
14. More art, music, flora, on city streets
15. Beautifying the riverfront (a dam?)
16. should always stick to the tradition of bricks and a historic feel, but in 20 years things should begin to look more modern
17. Keep red brick roads and brick buildings
18. mix of historic appreciation with modern upkeep
19. Plenty of green spaces that draw attention to the still present surrounding green
20. Increase artistic and fun spattering of decor throughout the town
21. Trees and the natural environment should also be preserved so that Athens can still have the perfect mix of city and nature
22. hope Athens does not change or update their buildings to be more modern

23. I think there should be a modern twist to a historical feeling place. I'd like to see more treescaped boulevards.
24. Cleaner
25. Clean
26. A clean city with litter
27. Cleaner
28. Light pollution greatly curtailed and night sky visible in many parts of town.
29. I think it should be a lot cleaner. There are many parts of uptown that are very dirty.
30. It needs to beautify its streets as much as possible.
31. Lots of green space and gardens.
32. We should continue to plant and nurture trees, shrubs and flowers and use innovative ways to collect and provide irrigation to them and in general.
33. Less littering.
34. Uptown has greatly improved in appearance but have to keep upkeep and cleaning of things and discourage tagging, trash, etc.
35. I think it should be a little less dog-eared. It can be old but still crisp! Right now it looks kind of dirty and run-down, I think. For example:
 1. Keep fixing the sidewalks.
 2. Bury the power lines.
 3. Make some zoning rules that don't allow things like fences in a front yard.
36. I think Athens could be a solid community if city officials stopped over-reaching and concentrated on improving what we have. We will never need to attract people as long as OU is here, so please stop pretending we need to be the newest and shiniest.
37. Clean.
38. Planters, murals, and an appreciation for art and nature.
39. Still want those brick streets, big trees, and cute uptown.

Technology

1. lots of virtual businesses, platforms to find workers, barter, etc
2. I think Athens should look more mature, and more ready for the coming technology of the future.
3. Instead, I'd like to see a renewed focus on new employers in emerging fields and areas of study (what about drones, marijuana, robotics, self-driving cars (self driving drones, too!) and other growing segments). The idea is to keep the relevance and economy thriving locally, working with the university to make Athens the place to be.
4. Technology hub of southeastern Ohio.
5. keep the history of our community as we grow to keep up with the technology of the world
6. All commercial areas should be wired for very high-speed broadband with more than one provider to choose from
7. I think Athens should look more mature, and more ready for the coming technology of the future.
8. A beautiful, smart community that has broadband access for all,
9. More technologically connected
10. Free WIFI
11. Wifi is inexpensive and available to everyone and dependable.
12. Enable autonomous cars, navigation and parking

Food

1. For the Farmers Market, a permanent space similar to Pike's Market in Seattle(smaller scale though), perhaps on Columbus Rd.
2. Diverse people bring diverse food choices, I'd like to see more locally owned restaurants that offer organic food.
3. I would love to see our local economy continue to flourish with growing support and recognition of the amazing opportunity we have here to support local food systems.
4. I hope that the University and City of Athens can partner more with local county and regional leaders to meet the food insecurity and other poverty related needs of community members.
5. Continuing with small business and local food
6. farmers market
7. Farmers Market doubled or tripled in size and located on a permanent piece of land.
8. More local food will be available and there will be lots of new organizations and groups doing fun and active things to get more people involved
9. more diverse restaurant choice
10. craft beer tourist spot year-round not only during Brew Week
11. The Farmer's market will hopefully still be going strong
12. More breweries
13. remain true to its local food movement
14. thriving local food market
15. More outdoor eating spaces
16. Permanent, beautiful farmers market!!!
17. fair trade coffee and cook up my farm-fresh eggs and veggies
18. Uptown farmers market
19. Robust food scene,
20. Athens should have self-contained systems, including local food production, especially orchards.
21. Community Fruit Trees
22. a farmer's market dedicated location under roof (with solar panels),
23. The Athens Farmers Market will have a thriving market and be located on city land, close to traffic and easy to get in and out of causing as little impact on traffic and parking as possible. With all of these benefits the market will be able to focus its energy internally so it can expand in innovative and unique ways and the market can keep on the cutting edge and provide the best food and art to the Athens community.
24. Farmers Market in permanent location that is walk/bike/transit accessible with rain/sun shelters for vendors and customers, and smaller indoor space for Winter market and semi-permanent vendors space.
25. maybe the farmers' market is within walking distance for most residents, has longer hours
26. even more emphasis on healthy lifestyle & local food

Miscellaneous

1. More people so we have world class restaurants
2. A progressive university centered city
3. The same backbone with some added businesses and more group green space
4. A tourist mecca for outdoor pursuits, breweries and education
5. More tourism attractions.
6. I would like to see Athens as a destination for progressive minded people to swap ideas, relax, work, and play in a safe community. Focus on developments and businesses that

keep it a relevant place for future generations, capitalizing off of the college's presence. While I dearly love our seniors, Athens shouldn't let retirement communities and such detract from what is best for Athens, and what Athens is best for.

7. Healthy and growing churches.
8. Good community law enforcement to maintain safety.
9. The way it does now
10. Not much change
11. The Ridges should be fully renovated and occupied by both academic and commercial use.
12. support the needs of not just residents, but also the county at large
13. clean, efficient, friendly
14. Small schools remain, but the schools in The Plains have a STEAM emphasis and attract students/parents. Other small schools have themes to do the same
15. should be a model of other rural communities in the 21st century
16. Uptown police walking beats to become better acquainted with citizenry while enforcing laws (litter control)
17. Something obviously more recent than 1804
18. more opportunities for first time home buyers
19. Austin, TX.....
20. Quality of life is a high priority to many residents in Athens. Many people would love to live in a community of Athens with the mini-metro amenities, parks, great restaurants, quality schools, etc; but can not live here unless they work at the Ohio University.
21. No smoking ordinance
22. catering less to the college students. While they bring money in, they also damages the city's reputation and frequently cause disorder.
23. Not being a snob here; this is a poor county.
24. Enforcement of no use of electronic devices while driving.
25. No blocking of highways by fest-goers.
26. support small schools and appreciate our community center and farmer's market: I would like to see these institutions improved and sustained.
27. top-notch K-12 schools that are among the best in the state and the country
28. lower crime rates
29. Boston.
30. Continued focus on education and green spaces.