

## Constant Contact Survey Results

**Survey Name:** Athens City Comprehensive Plan Vision Survey

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed

**Filter:** None

Dec 06, 2017 2:59:10 PM

### Answer

Diverse, Safe place

Innovative friendly beautiful

Small, caring, welcoming

academic, scenic, home

energetic, embracing, endearing

Hippy, charming safe

Trees pedestrian civilized

Diverse, Creative, Accepting

progressive, small town, striving

Progressive, laid-back, caring

closed, classist, pretty

Funky, inclusive, kind

impossible to do

Beautiful, peaceful, friendly

Beautiful, friendly, liberal

Small hilly outdated

Hilly, beautiful, welcoming

Large hippie fest

Bars. University. Grassroots

Home Historic Memorable

Southeast Ohio Appalachian

Beautiful, unique, interesting

vibrant, potential, safe

Green, Liberal, stagnant

university-town; foothills; progressive

Beautiful, Inclusive, Safe

Fun, Eccentric, Historical

welcoming, open, comfortable

Unique, Eclectic, Progressive

Green Brick Academic

welcoming, accepting, diverse

Liberal . Energetic . Small

lovely hip town

open, leafy, run-down

Unique, progressive, beautiful

Potentially Progressive

Unique

welcoming, green, progressive

beautiful, organic, engaging

A green spot

Local food, bike friendly, beer

University, brick, historick

Beautiful, Historic, Welcoming

Test

Appalachian College Town

Expensive, beautiful, fun

trees schools sidewalks

Nice, okay,

Community, eclectic, comfortable

fine but dumpy

University beautiful friendly

open, busy, remarkable

safe funky locally-owned

food, arts, community

eclectic cosy friendly

Interesting liberal community

stuck in the '90s

Perfect small city

Friendly, diverse, progressive

exhilarating inclusive artistic

Bricks great myopic

beautiful, relaxed, friendly

Overcrowded dirty historical

Quirky, Welcoming, Entrepreneurial
community, vibrant, intentional
Inviting, charming, and progressive
Cozy, natural, community
paradox, unequally and academically driven
home, community, beautiful
Artistic, Green, Bricks
Community, Rural, small
Friends becoming family
Active, Beautiful, Liberal
Beautiful liberal caringj
Green, authentic, beautiful
Quaint eclectic college
Beautiful, secluded, fun
Beautiful quirky safe
Beautiful, Caring, Generous
Welcoming, vibrant, beautiful
Hip, Diverse, quaint
scenic welcoming home
Unique, funky, special
very small, university-town
Picturesque rolling oasis
Bars Bricks Beautiful
Green, Locavore, Haven
local community thriving
Diverse, intelligent and progressive
Creative. Homey. Sustainable
Bricks, Bobcats, Beers
Quirky, forward-thinking, beautiful
Retro, hipster, slow
Community, Trees, education
eclectic, historic, beautiful
small quiet friendly
Family friendly beautiful.
Big yet small
beautiful, quirky, welcoming
Environmental, progressive, helpful
Intellectual, quaint, friendly
exceptional, vibrant, funky
historic, centralized, eco-friendly
Home, Green, Quaint
Bricks, trees, squirrels
Quaint, vibrant, progressive.
Weird Appalachian Hippies
diverse academic liberal
Forest, rural, and bars
Behind the times
nostalgic, isolated, green
Progressive, Inclusive, Welcoming
Delightfully authentic town
Beautiful, progressive, friendly
Safe, fun, accepting
Small, quaint,
Quirky, backwards, anti-progress
Quaint, Unique, Hometown
Progressive, Gem, Community
Dated, Podunk, slow
Artistic inclusive home
Beautiful, unique, quaint
Comforting, funky, accepting.
beautiful community culture
Vibrant town gown
influx of outsiders
lots of students
Good home town
Too student friendly
Laid back, beautiful, accepting
Small town charm
Something for everyone
Liberal Party Dirty
Liberal, artsy and funky
Small, beautiful, old

Beautiful/ peaceful/ fun
Green, community, hippie
anti older people
Expensive, no housing, college town
Home, beautiful, quiet
OU, Appalachian, bricks
Beautiful Friendly Congested
home, progressive, inclusive
Friendly, lovely, nice
mecca, funky, real
Historic progressive natural
Close-knit / lively / colorful
Love, family, relaxed
Local, Green, Homey
Culturally-rich, Concerned, Bubble
Green, hilly, academic
green, unique, college
community: progressive: unique
Natural, Artistic, Welcoming
Home, Appalachian, Unique
Unique Appalachian Character
fun pretty connected
Sequestered, artistic, exclusionary
unique friendly conscious
crowded, young, alcoholic
artsy, sustainable, quirky
Beautiful, vibrant, segmented
Small, historic, lively
human-scaled, aesthetic sensitivity, walk-ability
typical college town
Diverse, independent, leader
Small town charm
Funky natural progressive
Green. Educated. Rural.
Small, historic, college
rustic, boozy, claustrophobic
Community eclectic home
peaceful, family friendly and bubblicious
Beautiful, unique, eclectic
OU. Bars. Poor.
Beautiful, small-town, rustic
Historic Academic Environmental
Open, Welcoming, Full
University. Uptown. Nature.
Green, character, beautiful
historic beautiful bricks
hilly liberal artsy
Alive, Active, Awake
Beautiful Artsy and Clean
Unique, Community Oriented,
Vibrant, Unique, Comfortable
beautiful, history, small
Free, Close, Unique
Education, Communism, Poverty

**Answer**

I believe that Athens City needs to be more progressive and open to changes that will provide for both a healthy economy and be able to attract and retain younger professionals. Currently it is not doing this very well and there are limited efforts and many obstacles for sustainable and progressive development.

Athens City administration has to think more openly and generate relationships with private development and the business community.

Once they understand and implement progressive planning then I can predict the future better.

More local businesses, end of poverty, lots of virtual businesses, platforms to find workers, barter, etc

More people so we have world class restaurants

More local support for local activities, arts, music

All energy renewable energy

Much more lower income housing (both very low income housing and homes between \$90-125,000)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maintain the existing character of the community.</li> <li>-Transform more rental property into single family neighborhoods</li> <li>-Make the landscape on far East State Street more appealing</li> <li>-Continue to expand the bike path</li> <li>-Support public transportation</li> <li>-Support alternative energy initiatives</li> </ul>
<p><u>A progressive university centered city</u></p> <p>A town that has moved well into further incorporating art, historic preservation and affordable housing, as well as expanded opportunities for employment.</p>
<p>I think it should be inclusive of everyone's ideas but of course everyone will not be satisfied. 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. The bike path on State St. I do not think has been thought through safety wise. 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.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The same - meaning I don't want to lose the aesthetic and communitarian values we have today.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> <li>4. 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.</li> <li>5. Not slummy. Some rental neighborhoods are blighted by poor maintenance, loss of street trees, trash, etc..</li> </ol>
<p>Inclusive, Accessible, Renewable Energy powered, Go Green!!! Thoughtful Growth has ensured we have lots of green space, nicely kept buildings and a community safe for everyone to live work and play</p>
<p>progressive, sustainable energy and food systems, more inter-generational, more diverse, funky and artistic, strong community spirit and resilient to challenges,</p>
<p>A model of renewable energy, all residents well fed, no one is homeless, thriving and diverse local business economy. For the Farmers Market, a permanent space similar to Pike's Market in Seattle(smaller scale though), perhaps on Columbus Rd.</p>
<p>Green and clean (uptown still needs work on this), destination for culture rather than a pass-through opportunity (all the good shows happen mid-week), self-sufficient, 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?). Encourage business to hire non-students and pay living and industry standard wages (this includes the hours to go with those wages).</p>
<p>Green, development that integrates existing flora and green space rather than removes it. Diverse people bring diverse food choices, I'd like to see more locally owned restaurants that offer organic food.</p>
<p>Athens should have continued growth with a focus on infrastructure and non-university jobs. Athens should become a model for economic and environmental sustainability.</p>
<p>Less congested, retain and expand green space, maintain viewsheds, reduce housing in downtown and help stores to return, add sidewalks where needed, start to control expand runoff in areas without storm sewers</p>
<p>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!</p> <p>I'd like to see more improvement for recreations. Bike path project was really successful. There should be more projects like this which brings nature lovers to this town. It can be improving hiking trails from Estate to struds.</p>
<p><u>The same backbone with some added businesses and more group green space. More tennis courts.</u></p>
<p>More green energy, fewer run down homes, but not all apartment complex, keeping the small town feel but modernize and push energy efficiency, improved public transit</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Same as it does now. Who needs corporate america to come in and destroy it.</p>

<p>Sustainable green infrastructure for energy, food, and drinking and waste water systems established Walkable and bike friendly neighborhoods with small grocers, and other basics nearby.</p> <p>A culture that supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ways for elders and children to be together in ways that help parents. Ways for parents and children to help elders.</li> <li>-pairing laundromats and playgrounds and low income housing above libraries.</li> <li>-a library on the west side.</li> <li>-Neighborhoods and apartments build around multigenerational residents including those with cognitive disabilities.</li> <li>-community food gardens in every block</li> <li>-community spaces (open schools in the evenings) available to neighborhoods including kitchens for cooking, canning and preserving garden produce.</li> <li>-racially diverse outside university population.</li> <li>-a place African American and other minority students want to live after graduation</li> </ul> <p>Networked with communities around the world to advance green and just social and cultural values.</p>
<p>I think Athens should look similarly to how it does now, but hopefully there would be less infrastructure issues. I think that the City and the university would be doing work to rebuild the relationship between university students and community members. I think Athens should look more mature, and more ready for the coming technology of the future.</p>
<p>I think there should be a modern twist to a historical feeling place. I'd like to see more treescaped boulevards.</p>
<p>Austin, TX.....</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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 &amp; 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"</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More thriving small businesses</li> <li>More outdoor eating spaces</li> <li>More bike friendly--lanes, sharing, connections to trails outside of the city</li> <li>More bed and breakfasts</li> <li>More solar power</li> <li>More electric cars and charging stations</li> <li>Cleaner</li> <li>Improved upkeep of student housing</li> <li>More affordable housing in the city of Athens</li> <li>The armory is fully utilized</li> <li>East State street is upgraded to look better--not so ugly and commercial</li> <li>Parking garage on the west side to get cars off of streets</li> <li>New community center? rehab of existing</li> <li>Getting rid of fairgrounds and utilizing that property better</li> <li>Permanent, beautiful farmers market!!!</li> </ul>
<p>A beautiful, smart community that has broadband access for all, multiple public transportation options, availability of jobs, and successful businesses.</p>
<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotel uptown or on Stimson?</li> <li>Lots of pedestrian and bike ways. Spruce up the parking garage.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p>In 20 years, I hope to wake up on a sunny morning in my solar-powered home in Athens City to the sound of chirping birds through my open window. When I brew my fair trade coffee and cook up my farm-fresh eggs and veggies, 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. At work, I hope to see Uptown Athens bustling with students and townfolk alike, getting their locally-sourced meal fresh from a family-run businesses. 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. 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</p>
<p>More technologically connected. Better and more pedestrian and bike facilities. More housing stock, both homes and rentals, with higher and denser construction closer to campus.</p>
<p>More self sustainable, including alternative power city wide, having curbside composting and our buses running on alternative fuel. Better public transportation. Better infrastructure. Better housing for all.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a showcase of historic preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse</li> <li>- clean</li> <li>- accessible</li> <li>- green</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A commuter friendly city without combustion cars</li> <li>* A city that retained its natural beauty (tree and green spaces)</li> <li>* A city with no above ground, cable, internet, telephone, or electrical power lines</li> <li>* A city with good sidewalks</li> <li>* A clean city with litter</li> <li>* An integrated community with a diverse populace</li> <li>* Some streets with bricks</li> <li>* Arts/entertainment venue at the end of Court St verses the Armory</li> <li>* An uptown Farmers market</li> <li>* No smoking ordnance</li> <li>* Nice street lights</li> <li>* More traffic circles</li> <li>* Free WIFI</li> <li>* All buildings with renewable energy sources</li> <li>* EV Charging stations everywhere</li> </ul>
<p>no cars uptown trams for intercity travel rail to columbus and Cincinnati</p> <p>More trees Restored river to a river not a spillway</p> <p>more stores uptown (grocery, shoe, etc) less bars uptown</p> <p>no more students than we have today.</p> <p>Cleaner</p>
<p>I hope it will still have open spaces and trees, but without the shoddy rentals close to campus. Perhaps more single family housing within walking distance of campus and Court St. Long standing eyesores (the Armory and Mt Zion Church) will be gone. Setbacks will be increased (even on campus), sidewalks widened and pedestrian traffic encouraged. I assume a solution to the pedestrian crosswalk on Richland and resulting traffic backup will have been found in 2020. None of East State will be sacrificed to bike lanes but the bike path will be widened and access to side streets increased.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Need better streets and water supply. Perhaps a year without a boil order! And water on Dairy Lane.</p>
<p>I think in 20 years Athens should still reflect it's great history, but also have more updates. It would be great to see the whole city tobacco free and enforcing these policies. It would also be great to see something done about the messy situation of parking. Maybe the routing of streets needs to change. You shouldn't have to be funneled down Court Street is you are just passing through town. It would be great to see less traffic on Court street so it can be safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. 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.</p>

<p>Alternatives to fossil energy is the dominant energy used.  WIFI is inexpensive and available to everyone and dependable.  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.  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.  Light pollution greatly curtailed and night sky visible in many parts of town.  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.  Wellhead protection taken more seriously, mass vehicular parking/ other activities that risk chemical spill greatly curtailed.  Landlords have proper number of tenants and parking is under control and are paying their share of costs.  Need more response space...</p>
<p>Tightly knit, able to weather storms together as we take care of each other. Transportation is primarily biking and public transportation. Solar panels on every roof. Diverse economic climate. Healthy, walkable neighborhoods. Robust food scene, variety of small businesses that have driven out Wal-Mart. :)</p>
<p>from a topographic perspective, hopefully much the same as it does now (that is to say, no outward sprawl).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Generally speaking, though, I would hope for more infill projects, and no further outward expansion of development.</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>Continued urban renewal to erase housing blight and continue to be transportation friendly.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p><u>Innovative, progressive, and yet designed with history</u></p>
<p>A clean, beautiful, safe, historic college town, yet modern community with the best services to offer citizens and visitors. Expanded citizen involvement (permanent and transient/student) through collaborative volunteerism and community pride to help with tight budgets. Expanded integrated transportation, bicycle and pedestrian friendly, vehicle flow. Designating uptown as historic district. Encourage private investment with incentives in Uptown such as a hotel(s) and other private business. Better directional, street signs in city, especially uptown. Reduce light pollution - especially business signs, parking lots, etc. on east state street. Many towns have regulations on height of signs and uniform look such as brick, etc. (Dublin, small towns). Continued and improved collaboration with university for research, services, student involvement, etc.</p>
<p>Test</p>
<p>Athens should still be a college town, but needs to get rid of it run down appearance while keeping its charm. We need to attract tourists and businesses.</p>
<p>I think it should be a lot cleaner. There are many parts of uptown that are very dirty. It should also be catering less to the college students. While they bring money in, they also damages the city's reputation and frequently cause disorder. I would also like to see some new businesses uptown; ones that can help keep people in the city for their needs.</p>
<p>Not too different from now.</p> <p>Improve/consolidate public transport - one bus company supported by a student fee to give them 24/7 bus rides.</p> <p>Accommodate buses better on streets - give them space to pickup and put down passengers without blocking traffic.</p> <p>Enable autonomous cars, navigation and parking</p>
<p>Still have the Athens charm</p>
<p>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.). 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.</p>
<p>It needs to beautify its streets as much as possible. It is a city with virtually no fine domestic architecture. Fact. Not being a snob here; this is a poor county. 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.</p>
<p><u>Lots of green space and gardens. Businesses incorporated into the residential areas. Easy access by bikes and walking.</u></p>
<p>Athens should have self-contained systems, including local food production, especially orchards. Energy consumption and consumption in general should decline. People should walk and bike more. An emphasis should be placed on reducing our planetary impact and on kindness and generosity. 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.</p>

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. 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). Disability friendly--no torn up sidewalks, none with yard debris, none with trashcans and cars blocking the way for people needing wheelchairs.

Clean water; fracking won't be allowed in surrounding areas.

Enforcement of no use of electronic devices while driving.

More handicapped parking or special uptown transportation for productions at MemAud.

No blocking of highways by fest-goers.

Improved upkeep of rental properties; less gouging of tenants.

Less littering.

I think Athens should be even more progressive and innovative than we already are and certainly more than other cities in the U.S. 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. Athens will be the go to place or beacon for health, sustainability and community.

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 it's 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.

- 1) Court St in Uptown converted to a pedestrian mall with 2-way bike path on Court St, bus access, and delivery access only.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.

I would like to see neighborhoods restored to family housing (including reasonable rentals for families.) increased commitment to sustainability, mental health resources for town and gown, growing diversity and growing small businesses. Fewer chains, not more! I support small schools and appreciate our community center and farmer's market: I would like to see these institutions improved and sustained.

I'd like to see:

- a vibrant community with more employers (not just OU, government, hospital, retail, and uhm real estate)
- a more charming look to the town, maybe a town square where residents and visitors can stroll and relax; maybe the farmers' market is within walking distance for most residents, has longer hours
- better-maintained buildings; better-applied yellow lines on sidewalk (that most recent job was so sloppy!)
- people of all ages go out in the evenings, not just students
- top-notch K-12 schools that are among the best in the state and the country
- lower crime rates
- a more engaged community--events, volunteering
- even more cultural events, fairs, etc.
- pedestrian-only streets uptown
- more parks, children's playgrounds, fountains
- more grown-up eating and drinking establishments, with seating outside
- even more emphasis on healthy lifestyle & local food

A solar and wind powered mecca vibrant student neighborhoods and peaceful residential enclaves.

Neighborhoods should be full of young families, single professionals and retired people and not just traditional old homes turned into more student rentals.

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.

Uptown has greatly improved in appearance but have to keep upkeep and cleaning of things and discourage tagging, trash, etc.

Encouragement of walking, biking, and play spaces for young people as well as green space for everyone.

Anything that fosters interconnection of generations will improve future for children. 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.

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. 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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First class bike &amp; pedestrian friendly (crossable roads)</li> <li>- Substantial Employment options other than OU and OU-related businesses (like bars and rentals)</li> <li>- Curbside Compost</li> <li>- Soccer Facility Improvements</li> <li>- Better Tree Coverage / Community Fruit Trees</li> <li>- Fringe Neighbor Recovery (increase of owner occupation in neighborhood fringes, e.g. franklin/Grosvenor/spring streets, west washington by cider house, congress, etc.)</li> <li>- Great community connected schools (Pre-K-12 + OU)</li> <li>- Sharing economy friendly (Shared self driving car fleet, airbnb, shared bikes, good public transit)</li> <li>- Brick Street Revitalization</li> <li>- Residential Traffic Calming</li> </ul>
<p>More green infrastructure, more eco-friendly employers, forested Hocking River through town, in-town housing upgraded with energy efficient practices, more solar energy produced in-town, a farmer's market dedicated location under roof (with solar panels), more bike access on roads, local economy booming with innovative start-ups using recycled materials, canoe livery downstream of White's Mill, people access to the Hocking for swimming and fishing. Friday night community music on the bricks.</p>
<p>Keep a small town feel. 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.</p>
<p>In 20 years, 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. It will mimic the success of the local food movement in other industries, such as waste reduction/reuse and renewable energies. It will maintain a balance of accessible and modern housing stock with the charm of some of its unique neighborhoods. Finally, it will build off the success of the Hocking Adena bike path and continue building it into a transportation corridor, instead of simply a recreational path.</p>
<p>A buzzing connected hub of citizens, professionals and students. 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. A strong regionally based economy supports growth and supports clean, renewable energy plans.</p>
<p>Hopefully we continue to build on the progress we have made thus far to be a socially conscious, inclusive community. 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. I hope we can continue to attract scholars and fine thinkers through our university, and keep them here by offering a dynamic community. It would be nice to see some more retail offerings, but not at the expense of our local businesses or natural spaces. I would love to see our city include more renewable energy sources and make more strides towards being environmentally sustainable.</p>
<p><u>highlight the feature that we know and love about athens now.</u></p>
<p><u>Even less neighborhoods and family centered. A region caterer to the whims of the academic circles</u></p>
<p>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. Goods and services should have grown exponentially. I hope to see a total transformation from fossil fuel based systems to renewable energy sources.</p>
<p>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. 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.</p>
<p><u>Updated sidewalks, keep the bricks, lots of art of many forms.</u></p>
<p>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. Continuing with small business and local food as well as a community and a friendship between Ohio University and Athens City instead of them being two separate entities.</p>
<p><u>I think Athens should retain a historic look on campus but continue to become more modern off campus.</u></p>
<p><u>A tourist mecca for outdoor pursuits, breweries and education</u></p>
<p>Would like athens to stay the same. Supporting local businesses. 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.</p>
<p><u>Bigger trees, more grass, more building lights for night time</u></p>
<p>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. Add bike paths to county roads so people can ride to a shuttle. Court street no cars. Would also like to revitalize the crappy rentals so close to town. They are an eyesore.</p>
<p>Modern and updated without letting go of the history. for example updated brick streets, refaced historic buildings, greater use of technology</p>
<p><u>Continue to work towards being a sustainable oasis in Ohio. Bike friendly, small businesses, farmers market, arts.</u></p>
<p><u>More bike lanes, better public transportation, better services for elderly/seniors,</u></p>
<p><u>As it does now, with improvements in housing conditions. No empty storefronts.</u></p>
<p>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. More tourism attractions.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Employment should be more diversified and not dependent on public sector employment.</p>
<p>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.</p>

<p>Athens should work on improving the following:</p> <p>Accessibility: the hilly, crumbling nature of some parts of town are not super accessible for all.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Instead, I'd like to see a renewed focus on new employers in emerging fields and areas of study (what about drones, marihuana, 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.</p> <p>Fewer private cars. Thriving Ohio University. Annex The Plains. Senior retirement community linked to the university. Technology hub of southeastern Ohio. Farmers Market doubled or tripled in size and located on a permanent piece of land. Healthy and growing churches.</p> <p>I think we need to be even more environmentally friendly, to lead the way in what an environmentally rural area can look like. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A local economy that represents our community. 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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Less vehicle centered with a focus on accessibility by mass transit, walkability etc.</p> <p>Glorious, renaissance, pristine</p> <p>Fewer roundabouts</p> <p>Embrace its natural environment a leader in green energy, healthy living, the university giving back to the community.</p> <p>I think that it should maintain its culture and increase sustainability efforts.</p> <p>I think it will keep its family-friendly hometown feeling but there will be more updates to buildings.</p> <p>Plenty of green space. Good community law enforcement to maintain safety. Lots of recreation possibilities. Neighborhood schools and maintain our great libraries. Foster kindness and community contacts.</p> <p>More minorities should be here</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Well developed and prospering neighborhoods. Walker and biker friendly. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep fixing the sidewalks.</li> <li>2. Bury the power lines.</li> <li>3. Make some zoning rules that don't allow things like fences in a front yard.</li> </ol> <p>Boston. We have to retain the small town feeling while Ohio University continues to grow. Housing, transportation and job opportunities outside the university must keep pace with the changes, and green spaces need to be retained and expanded, but Court Street needs to remain much as it is with the bricks and bars.</p> <p>The population of Athens will age, and provisions for the elderly, whether retired from OU, or retiring OU graduates. Housing, transportation and healthcare.</p> <p>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...</p> <p>Point is: Athens has a charm that is easier to lose than to replicate. Make the effort to keep it in changing times.</p> <p>I think athens should push for more diversity in the future as well as Increasing expectations for housing so that landlords must fix up the houses that they allow to decay.</p>
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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. I think Athens should invest in more sculptures and art around the city.
Better rental housing, more repaved roads
Largely the same, preserving the old school character, but with more efficiency. Too much more development would take from the character, certain areas of the city just need maintenance/repairs.
Like it's own town rather than something modeled after Portland. There should be another parking garage built uptown and the armory should finally get renovated to allow artists like ceramicists to make and sell their wares.
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.
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.
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.
I think there will be more buildings and populations than now
Home town charm with more amenities.
More businesses geared towards local residents and not only students. More housing diversity especially with rentals.
I hope that Athens doesn't change too much in 20 years. While change is good, I really don't want the town to include yet more student housing, at the expense of neighborhoods for life-long residents.
More small businesses on court street with family friendly shops. Family nights uptown. Clean. New pool on East State with classes throughout the summer for all age groups. Planters, murals, and an appreciation for art and nature.
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, Grovner etc and make them residential again. Possibly making a tax adjustment for families willing to take on such a project.
I would also like to see the brick streets remain, and downtown to flourish with more boutique shops, and restaurants with outdoor seating and dog friendly.
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.
Increased population, but with smart growth boundaries. Continued focus on education and green spaces. Continued focus on promoting local businesses.
I would like to see Athens grow, both the town and the University. For this to be successful the town and the community are going to have to work together and cooperate. I would like to see more retail and restaurant spaces. The town is in need of developing high quality, affordable housing that is suitable for students, incoming young faculty, and families.
Like a modern city. Infrastructure, shopping and competition.
Somewhat the same. I would add more shops, more middle income and senior housing.
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.
East State needs some love. Buildings tidied up, sidewalks, Farmer's Market home.
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?
Our economy must grow. We must attract light industries. Land owners need to partner with others to make it work.
Modern tourist destination. Cut b and B's. Reasons other than the college for people to come visit. Think yellow springs, oh
Honoring the deep intricate amalgamation of people who hold this town and surrounding land together with artistry of culture, land and people
Still want those brick streets, big trees, and cute uptown. Also want more office jobs uptown along with more entertainment. Continue the festivals and other events uptown.
Funky, accepting, open minded, it got us this far.
to remain at its core the same place with place meaning the people and their liberal, accepting, supportive, loving community.
A healthy community with many options for healthy living and exercise. A place where people can come together to solve problems and challenge each other to continue evolving our community. A strong university that gives back to community and finds ways to apply its research, resources, and talent to enhance our community. More "local" restaurants and stores. Both youth and seniors programming, and many integrated opportunities for different generations to share and interact.
It should look like a place rich of culture and expressions vs the direction it is going now which student based consumerism
A clean up of student rentals would be nice also for businesses to devote time to the permanent citizens also and not just students. better roads and traffic control is needed as well as new and different eating establishments that are not pizza or mexican
I would love to see some life long industry come in. I would love a more diverse restaurant choice. Shopping more businesses.
Better than now. Be gone of roundabouts, no bike lanes on already narrow streets, ensuring bikers use said "bike path. Improve parking for everyone, not just those with smart phones.
More retail stores. Meijers, Menards, Giant Eagle, Kohls, JC Penney.
More good paying jobs, less dependence on OU.

The way it does now.
Solar power throughout the city; more arts venues; craft beer tourist spot year-round not only during Brew Week
Not much change
I would love for it to retain its unique character, its attention to the arts, its fun local restaurants.
Not too many stores but more residents. Some newer stores that other towns have that we don't.
I think we should keep the history of our community as we grow to keep up with the technology of the world
Less overhead power lines, more clean city skyline, better traffic flow at major intersections...bridge from US 50 to the far end of Lowe's area!!!
A mixture of establishments that serves/invites/embraces the adult population while including the young student population.
I believe the town will be over run with expensive college housing forcing families out.
Using green energy
Needs more suburbs to support growing families. Need more retail. These are things that I don't necessarily want, but I think are inevitable. The Farmer's market will hopefully still be going strong. I love going to that. More manufacturing jobs would be nice for people who can't get a job at the University.
If this makes sense, it should look like a smaller big city like one from a movie.
funky (aesthetically pleasing), inclusive modes of transportation (accessibility, biking, walking), green space (grass, trees, benches)
Similar to how it is now, but a little cleaner perhaps and more eco-friendly.
It should be an expansion of what it already is. More breweries, bigger music venues (that attract at least some national talent that aren't OU), more sustainability ventures, more bike accessibility, etc.
Similar but more cleaned up. Rentals should be more properly maintained. Any new developments should be fitting with the historical theme that is already in place. More parks and apartments
I believe we should be on the forefront of sustainable action and implementation for college Campuses nationwide. We should invest in several new technologies and advance ourselves as a community towards the ultimate goal of becoming 100% sustainable.
Very similar to how it is because that's its appeal. It's a cute little town with living people & smiling faces. We shouldn't look modern & like a futuristic city because that's not what we are & it would detract from Athens's appeal. It's a loving, close knit community & too major of renovations & too contemporary of a look will hurt more than help the community, plus it costs money. Don't reinvent the wheel here, just upkeep & continue with how it is now to a large degree with minor tweaks, no major facelift is needed. Put this way: I would never have come to school at OU if it wasn't how it is. If it were a nicer laid be turned off I feel like. This is Home forever.
More modernized.
Athens should be larger, and include key parcels to the north and southwest that are currently outside the city, making them available for development. The city should not grow east any further. The commercial corridors should be attractive, walkable, drivable, and vibrant. Brick streets remain. All commercial areas should be wired for very high-speed broadband with more than one provider to choose from. The river should be leveraged as a recreation and economic feature. The Ridges should be fully renovated and occupied by both academic and commercial use. There should be more high-density, multi-family housing. The market forces from building such housing will have driven down rent on single-family homes such that it is more economical for them to return to owner-occupied use. Autonomous transit vehicles should be functioning to move people along the most-used routes, both on campus and off. There should be a rail spur off the existing N-S freight line.
It should continue to look green, and have lots of open space. Hopefully the roads are better (bricks mostly).
I think it should keep the large green space aspect and the brick road uniqueness.
In 20 years, I hope Athens will still maintain its unique brick-town character and its historic buildings, remaining true to its local food movement and bike-culture roots. I hope the university remembers that its capacity should not exceed the surrounding the community's capacity; I fear that we are already close to reaching that community capacity now (thinking of housing availability). I hope to see more solar panels, more bike lanes, and more local businesses thriving in 20 years time. I hope to see a happy, healthy, and dedicated community, as it is striving to be today.
I have worked in the arts in Athens for years now and I see Athens becoming a arts and music destination. The beautiful natural surroundings are a boon to those who come here looking for culture. 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.
I would like to see greater efforts put into neighborhood planning, and more encouragement of neighborhoods that welcome students and townspeople to mingle rather than segregate. Hopefully in 20 years, we will have more bike lanes, improved sidewalks that are safe for everyone regardless of their ability, walkable neighborhoods across the city with shopping/dining/recreation opportunities, and thoughtful parking arrangements on high capacity streets close to campus.
Hopefully the same. Limit growth and sprawl out of the city.
Clean neighborhoods with improved student housing, bike friendly, thriving local food market, easy access to art, music, community events, and a healthy, physically active community.
Athens should look like a city that is more emblematic of it's surrounding community. As the county seat, Athens needs to be able to support the needs of not just residents, but also the county at large. To that end, in 20 years, Athens will need to 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.
I personally would like Athens to stay somewhat the same, except more houses with solar and wind power, and better financial assistance for those who want to convert to sustainable fuel. It would be great if Code Enforcement would go after slumlords instead of tax paying citizens, because the city of Athens, with the exception of a few streets, is pretty trashed. Better public transportation outside the city is a must.
clean, efficient, friendly

<p>1) Fewer cars, less traffic and road-rage, more robust and further-reaching public transit, and walker/biker-friendly streets and paths, including most of Court Street closed to cars. Buses going through the whole county using Athens as a main hub, trains too.</p> <p>2) More diversity of shops and entertainment offerings to better attract and support populations from around the world, and Americans of color. POC stay in Athens Co.</p> <p>3) 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. Artist co-ops, music co-ops, food co-ops between part of each Athens neighborhood. 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.</p> <p>4) More businesses &amp; young people want to be in Athens b/c of our commitment to sustainability, including divesting from fossil fuels.</p>
<p>Keep the small town feel and natural settings (trees, parks, etc)</p> <p>Make traffic flow smoothly through and around the city with adequate transit opportunities.</p> <p>Improve parking throughout.</p> <p>Provide some designated carpool areas on each side of town.</p>
<p>I think Athens should still have its historic charm with buildings. I think there should be more businesses around the area and lots more parking! I would love to see Athen's with more tech looking buildings and more lively colored houses.</p>
<p>We should preserve things that work; we should not eliminate streets in a city that already has traffic flow problems because of one-way streets; we should not erase our heritage when we make practical changes; we should not assume that everyone who comes to our town can pay meters with smart phones -- so please 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, which frankly is not well-suited to the kind of shops one finds on Court Street and its branching streets; 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.</p>
<p>I would 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. The professors hired seem to have the typical disproportionate academic leaning toward a liberal bent which sneers at other opinions. I also hope the college discontinues its constant land grabs and lets more areas have private ownership and purposes. We desperately need more and better paying jobs. I hope the residents don't have to fear for their property during the fests and parties in the future.</p>
<p>Athens 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. It 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. It should be an innovator in raising the quality of life measured along many variables. It should be a model of other rural communities in the 21st century.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Plan to replace older trees so that we are still green in twenty years.</p> <p>Keep fixing sidewalks to reduce the risk for walkers.</p> <p>More bike friendly lanes. Even though I am too old to bike, a pedestrian and bike friendly city is what we need for the future.</p>
<p>More art, music, flora, on city streets</p> <p>Uptown police walking beats to become better acquainted with citizenry while enforcing laws (litter control)</p> <p>A high quality senior citizens community on the Ridges, which accommodates senior needs and all generations while keeping the open land.</p> <p>No motorized vehicles on Court St or central campus roads.</p> <p>Outdoor businesses on Court St., including markets and more outdoor seating.</p> <p>More local products and businesses</p> <p>A revitalized former Fairgrounds area; and Fairgrounds moved outside the city.</p> <p>Beautifying the riverfront (a dam?)</p> <p>At least half the rentals turning to revitalized private homes (including government subsidy for low income citizens and refugees).</p> <p>Developing the West End as an art colony/area.</p> <p>Better code enforcement re:unsightly and poorly constructed buildings and maintenance/monitoring of the appearance of residences.</p>
<p>Hopefully better use planning; better infrastructure; continued expansion of retail on East State; more public transportation and bike routes/lanes</p>
<p>I think Athens should always stick to the tradition of bricks and a historic feel, but in 20 years things should begin to look more modern.</p>
<p>Something obviously more recent than 1804.</p>
<p>Updated for individuals with disabilities while retaining Athens charm.</p>

<p>I feel the best thing that could ever happen to Athens is draw in at least one if not a couple other significant employers.</p> <p>It would also be invaluable to create and market this area as an outdoor recreation destination to draw in more summer and weekend tourism dollars.</p> <p>Another important factor would be to maintain the classic look and feel, but to have all approved projects really think ahead to include as much capital improvement as possible. For example, 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. Then, what and where do you look to create another dog park?</p> <p>We love the changes that have already taken place. The Roundabouts are great - such an upgrade over the old traffic lights. We love the upcoming improvements to the city pool. I would like to see some way for pedestrians to cross East State Street safely - either a tunnel or perhaps an aesthetically pleasing bridge. Happy to see the eye sore Ponderosa building demolished. Can we attract a few more businesses?</p> <p><u>In 20 years, Athens should have a stronger economy that is not as dependent on Ohio University.</u></p> <p>I hope in 20 years Athens looks pretty similar to the Athens I know now. While I realize the city needs some improvements, (bike lanes, road reconstruction, etc), the city has a special feel that people love. I hope to see the red brick roads and brick buildings. I hope that if OU needs to build more structures they blend the buildings in rather than super modern building that are popping up in on campuses everywhere. I hope to come back in 20 years to the small town feel. I would maybe like to see State St cleaned up a bit. Maybe some more green space mixed in. It is not aesthetically pleasing as is Court St. It could have great potential to add to the city. Maybe some local shops and restaurants could be mixed in. Walmart and Kroger are the main attractions on that street.</p> <p>It should retain its architectural history, but have improved infrastructure: such as roadways, utilities, and internet.</p> <p>A mix of historic appreciation with modern upkeep. As the college grows, better accommodations for students off campus. Still looking (and succeeding) toward sustainability and personal/community responsibility to environment. Plenty of green spaces that draw attention to the still present surrounding green. Continued encouragement of walk ability and public transit, reducing pollution as well as traffic. Increase artistic and fun spattering of decor throughout the town.</p> <p>In 20 years I think Athens should look like a city that has held on to its wonderful history, but also embraced the modern world. Trees and the natural environment should also be preserved so that Athens can still have the perfect mix of city and nature. It 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.</p> <p>I love the way Athens looks now. In 20 years I would love to see that Athens still has somewhat of a historical character to it. I wish east state felt somewhat that way but of course it would be difficult to have all those amenities closer to uptown. I hope Athens does not change or update their buildings to be more modern because the bricks and the historical vibe that Athens has right now is so gorgeous.</p> <p>updated housing units, but keeping with historic look</p> <p>more opportunities for first time home buyers</p> <p>more historic preservation efforts</p> <p>better elder housing opportunities</p> <p>I think I generally think of the city of Athens, however, I know that not all of the residents of Athens are as taken care of as some of the Athens residence. In 20 years, I would like to see the areas of Athens around the city to be as taken care of as the city. I would like to see students more actively engaged in the community.</p> <p>Plenty of sidewalks that you really can walk on. Where I came from that if you sold a house the sidewalks had to be in walk able and ride able condition. If cracks appeared while you lived there you had 30 days to get them fixed or the city will bill you for the fix.</p> <p>Increasing population in Athens. If we had more jobs in Athens could decrease the poverty in our city. Providing resources to educate our citizens on Wellness (Mental, Financial and people well-being. We loved to see the university to share equal responsibility with the City of Athens. Would not change the culture and friendliest of Athens.</p> <p>Athens should look bigger with maybe more businesses and more parks. I think if it doesn't grow bigger it would look the same.</p> <p>Hopefully it is bigger with more businesses and more recreational activities. The University will hopefully clean up the "partying" reputation and I hope that we are a more eco-friendly town with less pollution and more recycling!</p> <p>Like a metropolis of opportunity</p> <p>In 20 years I would like to see Athens thrive on a sustainable tourism platform, bolstered by the university student influx in the off season. I think that Athens should be the kind of place that when people visit, they wish that their city was designed to be so open and pedestrian friendly.</p>
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<p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>I believe that Athens City needs to be more progressive and open to changes that will provide for both a healthy economy and be able to attract and retain younger professionals. Currently it is not doing this very well and there are limited efforts and many obstacles for sustainable and progressive development.</p> <p>Athens City administration has to think more openly and generate relationships with private development and the business community.</p> <p>Once they understand and implement progressive planning then I can predict the future better.</p> <p>Invest in contract facilitators for ad hoc community groups that want to work on particular changes. For example, a group to work on researching and recommending web-based platforms for more participative decision-making, esp participatory budgeting.</p> <p>See above</p> <p>bolster housing for lower income and retirees; expand professional business opportunities, improve access to technological developments (e.g, wifi for all)</p>
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<p>More diversity of employment opportunities. Be proactive in redeveloping use and appearance of East State Street malls.</p>
<p>Please see the above...re-purpose buildings that are empty including some lower income housing...I encourage work with the University for help in putting in at least one more parking garage on the other side of town (the OU/Athens transit partnership is great)</p>
<p>A. More street trees. In an economically marginal neighborhood, street trees can make the difference between "inviting" and "slummy". B. Fewer heat islands, i.e. Fewer large paved areas without shade. Put trees in the middle of parking lots for shade and along the sides to screen parking from view. Let's try to keep the summer temperature bearable by maintaining shade. C. Fewer curb cuts. Clearly define entrances to parking lots so that pedestrians can safely cross them. D. Extend pedestrian/bike routes into the "suburbs". E. Protect and encourage small neighborhood-supporting groceries (e.g, Seamans', C&amp;G, Bobs') so we don't have to drive to East State for everything.</p>
<p>continue being focused on renewable energy, development in our town and county, ensure we are doing our best to make use of all we have as efficiently as possible...less waste. Promote more recycling, biking, busing, and walking. Help people live healthy lives, have access to medical and social services that they need. ENSURE our communities welcome people from all walks of life-stuffing those affected by poverty in government housing and turning our heads to their needs does not help them learn to live a different way...diverse communities help us all grow!!</p>
<p>This goes for people who have disabilities as well as income, race, and other differences that sometimes are discriminated often without those people even knowing they are doing it.</p>
<p>continue development of alternative energy, uncoupled from larger systems. More intensive use of our developed spaces. Need to use more cutting edge zoning and development standards, continue integrating all types of transportation. Mix use of developed areas. Continue pushing against extraction boom/bust economy. Develop local systems more--food, water and energy. Support creativity in all forms.</p>
<p>Continue to Improve town and gown relationships- reduce binge drinking behavior (of the fests in particular). Continue improving public transportation services both in and around Athens. Trader Joe's and more locally-owned restaurants on Columbus Rd. I want for everyone to easily know what locally-owned businesses we have so that there is increased support of these businesses and so we have more apparent other job options. As well, I'd like for the Athens Time Exchange to grow and become an integral part of the local service economy. Increased tourism- pamphlets at all rest stops and hotels within a 2-hour radius.</p>
<p>What does this question mean? Basically the community needs a robust infrastructure, including high speed internet covering the county. No one wants to live where they can't get decent inexpensive internet, high-tech businesses won't locate or develop here without high speed internet, and the city lacks the space for high tech development. Work with the county to bring businesses to the county or develop local resources to develop these businesses that will hire local professional workers and skilled labor. Those people will then have the money to spend in the city, thus benefitting the city. The focus on only city needs further isolates Athens from the rest of the world, both economically and culturally.</p>
<p>As we grow we should look ahead to ensure the tax money is spent wisely. If we know a water line repair/replacement will be necessary we shouldn't repave the street until that repair is complete. We should push to allow affordable housing too.</p>
<p>It is a little naive to discuss the future when it is based on land ownership.OU owns or can buy what land it wants. It is more than a little difficult to imagine an independent change and development piece without understanding or predicting student population.</p>
<p>I guess education is the key for development. It will provide the necessary base for improvemnt. Although the impact of Ohio University is considerable on making Athens more educated and modernized comparing to the neighboring towns, but still the whole southeast Ohio region's impact on the city is observable. The city tends to keep old cultures. For someone like me who comes from a big city, it is more obvious. If you talk to Athens area folks, you will see how conservative they are and they might don't like to change their lifestyle by the time.</p>
<p>Just continue to be open and accepting!</p>
<p>See above- more green energy, more energy efficientt, better public transit, parking permits, keep the locally-owned and distinctive places. Improved housing without turning the town into all apartment complexes</p>
<p>Well, lots of communities develop into sprawl. I'd like to see Athens develop into an even more robust city within its city and avoid increased sprawl of families to housing developments 4 miles from town, for example. Lots of our "usual suspect" problems need to be solved to make that happen: To name a couple: too many student (and sometimes ugly) rentals in every neighborhood in the city, and too much car traffic crammed into our beautiful tight streets. I'd like to see more active transportation wholly embraced by and promoted by the city, so that we are part of the wave of the future, not trailing behind it. Continuing with the city's pattern of re-doing roads with traffic calming measures would be great ... slow down the cars and incentivize them to park farther from the city center and take transit, walk or bike in the densest part of town and campus would be a beautiful thing.</p>
<p>Use existing buildings to be used . Why are we always tearing down.</p>
<p>See above Add that we have a better relationship with satellite towns and townships. It's awful to hear people on athens who seem liberal talk about locals in a way they would not dare talk about people of color. There's a huge class divide here. And that we figure out how more people can earn a good living and have a good education. No city income tax charged to low income workers</p>
<p>We should develop more support systems for the infrastructure of the city to grow and shift with the changing population of Athens. I think we need to change our thinking that the University and the students and the culture that it brings is a negative thing. Ohio University benefits Athens city and county in many, many ways; but I think that many people have been burned by their experience with the university. So I hope that one change would be to foster a more positive relationship between the people.</p>

We should focus on our recreational opportunities and capitalize on development that is geared toward health and wellness.
Planned infrastructure to grow the housing stock and available sites for new and existing businesses. Expansion would have a cost, but it would also have a benefit to the city's revenue.
I have voted for tax increases for recreation spending in Athens, but have never heard anyone discussing the city should invest in planned growth... I stand corrected, the round-a-bout and access road to the businesses near Stimson was the first time I've noticed the city(community) work towards and economic benefit.
Embrace the visions of the younger generations that are and will be the core of community. We should have a plan to guide any development. I would like to see a community that embraces change and make s it theirs, instead of blocking any changes for fear of losing what we already have. Smart development utilizing the tools we already have in place such a zoning, enforcing more. Educating the greater community on the opportunities that exist. understand what we can actually afford. Balance.
More businesses More sustainable energy More bikes More affordable housing Less student rentals in houses
<u>Smart growth that keeps our future generations in mind.</u>
Changes should not be made solely on accommodating students, as the numbers of students and success of the college is not the only factor in the success of our town. Tourism is also important. I think also Athens as a retirement community should be something is looked at. But also, the local residents of Athens do not have enough affordable housing, this overall is becoming more and more of a problem. In order for lower income families to live in town near jobs which are needed to support tourism, potential retirement communities, and the college... they have to compete with the students for apartments and rentals that are overpriced and not on normal rental schedules...only coming available in the Spring or Summer.
I think we should take a long term view toward expanding the availability of single family housing within the City. This should involve development of additional student housing near the university, and reduction in student rental of single family housing in traditional neighborhoods within the city.
The current zoning strategies limit population growth, and do not promote efficient, sustainable use of our existing resources. They do push students into more and more residential areas, displacing "adult" residents. If we want to be a residential community for college students, we will eventually be bankrupt because students don't pay income taxes.
We need to develop an additional source of clean, reliable drinking water. Relying on a small urban well field is inherently risky for our long term viability.
I would like to live in town, but the housing stock within the city does not provide what we want or the opportunity to build what we want. How can we change this?
The City of Athens can build upon its strengths as a thriving community by prioritizing smart, sustainable growth. Providing Athens City residents with well built homes, quality schools, accessible places to work and to recreate, and a balanced environment for <u>economic growth can be achieved through proper planning and development objectives.</u>
<u>Not sure on specifics. In general, whatever way will better attract employers and residents.</u>
<u>Better jobs.</u>
- with care and respect for our past - with care and respect for our planet - with a mandate for accessibility and inclusiveness
<u>a commitment to allowing all community members a voice in the process</u>
Support the organizations and businesses in town and make them stronger---which makes Athens the town what it is today and in the future.
Invest in Richland Avenue business and make it look nicer
Create sustainable jobs for the future.
Make Athens more sustainable, so we have all we need in our community: food, water, energy, etc.
Less bars uptown and more local stores
More affordable and smart housing stock (a village of tiny houses which have community sewer or tapped into the city sewer.
Assist in increasing the reputation for Athens as an arts mecca for artists to come and live here.
Assist with seniors living and dying here. Establish a senior citizen community
increase water and sewer access to all businesses and homes if they want it

Education will go online more and there will be fewer students on campus. This gives Athens a chance to reclaim some of the sorrier rentals close to campus. I think we should encourage light industry as well as brain-powered industry and the arts. Direct student services (or disservices) and retail are clearly not where the new jobs will be.
It would be great to showcase our uniqueness and beauty. More art and history shared around the city would be great. It would also be great to be known as a bicycle friendly city who supports active transportation. Proper signage and education opportunities would help this.
<u>We should set goals and benchmarks and methodologies toward goals.</u>
Support small businesses, who give back to our community. Maximize our current business corridors so we don't keep sprawling. Emphasize what we are known for and do best--sustainability, local food and businesses, the farmer's market, bike path, etc. Athens was recently recognized as a place millennial want to move to. Why? It's affordable, 90 minutes from Columbus, great recreation, music, and food. Green hills, forward thinking people. Let's keep it up!
The prompt for this question is a bit vague.
Other than the responses I provided to question #2, it would be nice to see a greater emphasis placed on walkability and bike access throughout the city of Athens.
For instance, sidewalks on Madison Ave and Columbia Ave would make the North Ridge neighborhood FAR more accessible and walkable. Likewise, a great emphasis on connecting stairs between streets/neighborhoods would be fantastic.
Providing a program for residents on a street/community to create "pocket parks" for their neighborhood would be awesome. I am thinking here of an abandoned house on the street I live on (Briarwood). The residents of the street would love to be able to pay a small additional fee every year on their property taxes, in order to have the abandoned house converted into a publicly owned mini-park, with a swing set, picnic table, etc. Exploring program options like this would empower neighborhoods throughout Athens, and create a much greater
Continued emphasis on design of roadways for more than just gas powered cars. Bikes are good, but electric cars are around the corner. Charging stations need to be planned into the infrastructure.
Permanent location for the farmers market. More diverse business types uptown. Programs for revitalizing student rentals to single family homes. EV charging infrastructure.
Housing should be planned so that there are still neighborhood communities at the same time the students have a place to live <u>both on and off campus</u>
Very carefully and with a road map of managed plans. Review history of changes, political decisions and other factors that have previously affected change (positively or negatively) in the city. How does current technology and future (unknown) technology impact decisions and possibly employment in the city. What technology, new ideas and new business already impact city - parking (park mobile), transportation (Uber & roundabouts), guest housing (airbnb) and how will these and continue to change.
Test
1. Update the infrastructure. We seem to be willing to put large sums of money into bicycle paths and not a drop on fixing our sidewalks. We keep fixing the same sections of sewer and water systems instead of upgrading them to be maintenance free. We like the charm of brick streets but we don't maintain them. Lots of places don't have sidewalks, and many of the existing sidewalks are broken up and dangerously uneven. This all leaves us looking like a run-down, dilapidated city. How is that going to attract tourist and new business? 2. Do whatever it takes to attract a full service, single site retirement center to locate here (independent condo's/apartments, assisted living, and nursing home care - seamlessly into one site. 3. Develop a section of The Ridges and the grounds into a up-scale motel/business retreat center. 4. Adopt zoning that makes sense to both residents and visitors. 5. Allow Air Bnb and anything else that attracts tourism. (continued below under item 4.)
We should shift our focus from being a "party college city" to more of a hub for neighboring cities and try to bring in some culture and be a place more appropriate for people of all ages and interests.
<u>Allow mixed business and residential zones</u>
I think iAthens need some more family fun places. More things for kids under 18 and little kids to do. And more places to shop bring in more stores. And quit putting roundabouts in.
Keep community priority. Whether schools, businesses, residential areas, etc... please keep this at the forefront. Feeling safe, secure, and part of a community is important for everyone. A few more shopping options could be nice, as some items have to be purchased online or in bigger cities. I think that, as a whole, the people in Athens prefer locally owned and small businesses over large chain stores.
<u>Time to abandon the sentimentality about brick streets.</u>
State street needs to be able to accomodate more people while keeping or increasing the green space.
<u>Need easy walking and bike access to an outdoor meeting and market space.</u>
We should strive to create green energy, to provide examples throughout the state, region and country of progressive ways to handle civic problems. We should think outside the box, take risks and be innovative. We should support local food production, especially orchards.
In the future we need to develop a long term, low cost site for the Athens Farmers Market that allows the market to feel secure, respected with a good, marketable location and empowered to focus on innovative and creative expansions to make our market even better than it already is without growing bigger.
Plan for 20 years out, not just tomorrow. Much development, especially in retail district along E. State St seems completely unplanned. Need to think more about big picture, where should be go as a community. Having a large retail district that is nearly completely car dependent is not what Athens should be about.
See above.

<p>-attract businesses in the "knowledge economy" in order to diversify the population of Athens--the university can be its own bubble, and not just the students. we need more young adults to stay or move here to secure healthy demographic growth over the long run and to make the city more vibrant.</p> <p>-make the city more charming to attract tourists who are not alumni or parents (there are lots of neglected buildings that give the city a faded feel)</p> <p>-work with landlords and the university to educate student renters how to be good neighbors (there are a lot of noise issues, parking in a way that blocks the sidewalk, broken glass on sidewalks in front of rentals, partying on front porches at all hours of the day&amp;all days of the week--frustratingly, the issues seem to intensify with every new batch of tenants)</p>
<p>When my wife and I chose our home, he sacrificed a many aspects of the home's style and design in exchange for the quiet location in a non-student neighborhood. Approximately 6 months ago, Athens placed a residential care facility about 100ft from our back deck and rendered our home practically unlivable. I have been woken at all hours of the night and my wife has had to watch a naked teen run around in broad daylight while his caretakers attempt to wrangle him. We also had the pleasure of listening to the jarring sounds of the same young man smashing the interior of the adjacent home. These noises are audible through closed windows and running air conditioners. The AMHA has significantly affected my physical and emotional health. Don't do that anymore.</p>
<p>Find ways to assist young families compete to purchase homes in neighborhoods. Be progressive with ideas which encourage others to come to Athens, stay and spend their money at our local businesses.</p> <p>It is a shame that retired professionals, professors, etc. feel the need to move to Columbus, etc. for the kind of assisted living facilities they need. We lose a lot of talent, spending power and diversity because we have not been able to figure that out over the years.</p> <p>More activities or development of local sites that will attract tourists and coordination between O U and area businesses perhaps expanded.</p> <p>Do everything we can to put Athens even more on the map for Green Energy development and companies, seek cannabis grow and production companies since small farming should really be assisted.</p>
<p><u>see above... think small... think family spaces... think accessibility</u></p>
<p>We should be focused on diversifying our economy. Being a university town is great. But being a small city with a university and alternative employment options is way better.</p> <p>Work on public process to reduce the [plan -&gt; announce implementation of plan -&gt; receive public backlash -&gt; do less to appease public -&gt; disappoint volunteers that participated in planning -&gt; end up with mediocre result] cycle.</p> <p>Lastly, we need to stop navel gazing. Athens is nice, but it has lots of flaws. It's not some amazing place, many of our businesses and products would never stand on their own in the wider market. We need to strive for more excellence.</p>
<p><u>Sustainable growth, sustainable jobs, and sustainable living</u></p>
<p><u>Try to keep the town from being overrun by rentals.</u></p> <p>I think positive change for Athens would be developing housing stock that appeals (and is affordable) to young professionals moving here, as well as existing residents's "this means apartments and housing units in *reasonable* condition for a reasonable rent.</p> <p>With proper planning and a little bit of guts, Athens can help lead the way for other communities in governing, green space, and alternative energy.</p> <p>Finally, I think we need to do more to support entrepreneurial efforts and small businesses in Athens city (and county). Creating space and interconnectivity between businesses is key; they need a place to go once they 'graduate' from incubators like the Innovation Center or ACEnet. More walkable "business park" areas with access to amenities and green space would be great. I think the West Side of Athens has great potential for this.</p>
<p>Integrate policies such as complete streets and thoroughly review and incorporate business practices that take into account the needs of the entire community. Incorporating renewable energy to promote the regional solar groups. Continue to promote and develop regional foods and goods to promote the local economy.</p>
<p><u>An emphasis is commerce activities that keep the li aka spending locally as and engaged</u></p> <p>Athens and Ohio University are in a position to give much to the region and together I think a great deal has been done to assist those in our region. The divide that exists between the town and region is great and while the city cannot resolve this issue alone I feel that the University can continue to do much to address lack of access to good and services that many of us in the city enjoy.</p>
<p><u>Updated sidewalks, make the pedestrian traffic more safe. Make sure you add art!</u></p> <p>Update the houses and infrastructure. Make Athens more accessible and safe or those who have special needs and/or requirements. Make the crosswalks and roads safer, try to fill potholes down by Stimson Avenue.</p>
<p><u>Retain historical significance without falling behind technology.</u></p> <p>Focus on what we have and not how we have to tear each other apart. Our diversity is what makes Athens and OU a great place. We have room for conservatives, liberals and everything else</p>
<p>More services provided to the county and adjacent counties with regard to bus routes and services such as mental health, hunger, social services in general.</p>
<p><u>Continue to embrace the history of the bricks</u></p>
<p><u>Be progressive with alternative transportation. Can we get cable cars?</u></p>

<p>Updated brick streets  More technology  More housing (updated)  Refaced buildings (updated)  Updated town area (include target, shops and more restaurants)</p>
<p>As above.</p>
<p>East State is an eyesore- more landscaping, better traffic management. MORE ROUNDABOUTS! Especially at Union and 682. Keep supporting local business, and try to keep chain stores to a minimum. East State Street is starting to look like 'anywhere, USA'. Add recreation opportunities for adults (i.e. hockey leagues, basketball leagues, soccer, etc.). Year round!</p>
<p>A map mural in a popular spot near or on Court Street. Required improvements in the housing conditions in the area.  Public/open urinals in alleys similar to ones that exist in some European cities.</p>
<p>Offer more companies an incentive to come here. People leave here to find work. They should be able to find good, quality work here. We need better grocery stores, more organic outlets.</p>
<p>The Leadership Athens program should continue and the cadre of new people that will be more aware of the strengths and weakness of the community will be an asset. Many changes will be technology based and will affect the direction of change. Others will have a strong desire for sustainability and local produced goods and services will grow and strengthen the community. Climate change will have an impact on our flood plane and the growing season for agriculture. There is the real possibility of increased weather disasters that will test our planning ability and lead to strengthen zoning and housing standards.</p>
<p>Make strong efforts to improve diversity in students, residents, workers. How can we do that?</p>
<p>Develop better partnerships that connect University, City, and outlying rural communities.</p>
<p>PUBLIC TRANSIT INTO ATHENS IS VITAL. There are people who need and want to work but they are too poor to live in town with inflated real estate prices. Please, let people save themselves, send a reliable commuter train to Glouster, to Meigs County, to Chauncey and Millfield and Buchtel.</p>
<p>Keep abreast of maintaining good parks &amp; rec facilities and spaces, these are increasingly desirable to people I believe, and it is a great way to stand out among small towns.</p>
<p>We should become more sustainable, attending to our infrastructure, and supporting our residents as they make sustainable changes. The city needs to examine its ever increasing tax percentages as more and more permanent residents will be shut out of living in the city because it will become unaffordable. We need to make sure that prices in housing reflect the diversity of people who live and work in the area.</p>
<p>Continue and expand environmental and sustainable stewardship. Don't invite just any chain-based marketer in to town. Evaluate substance, values and goals. Restore. Don't tear down historical buildings. Renovate and retrofit. Don't destroy the visual appeal of our natural surroundings with tall, trendy, horizon-blocking buildings. Maintain flood planes and wetland areas. Maintain green space within the city of Athens.</p>
<p>Same as above.</p>
<p>focus on developing small communities within Athens using education and small business as the focal point.</p>
<p>We need a well equipped senior living space</p>
<p>Think of the long term rather than sort sited goals. Invest in innovative elementary and high school educational programming. Invest in natural resources, green spaces. Make this an attractive place for Families to live and grow.</p>
<p>Walkability and public transit efficiency</p>
<p>Have more diversity and bring in more businesses.</p>
<p>Do something about the inaccessability of uptown Athens. This should not be a students-only bar scene with vomit on the sidewalks. Parking has become more and more and more difficult. Do you really think everyone has an iphone? New businesses need to be encouraged so that we do not have all sorts of empty buildings on East State Street.</p>
<p>Maintain and build all of the transportation systems, including the vounteer-based programs that drive people to medical appointments</p>
<p>Highlight and encourage programs that help people who are at risk for homelessness. No homeless on courtho0use steps for Athens!</p>
<p>Add more food places and popular stores</p>
<p>Programs should be introduced that brings the community together more fully, especially the connection between Athens residents and students attending Ohio University.</p>
<p>Continue being environmentally friendly. Encourage good, healthy sustainable habits.</p>
<p>Athens needs a bunch of things:  1. There should be a retirement community that has every level of care available for older people.  2. There should be a Convention Center that has seating for at least 1000 people on the Ridges.  3. There should be more affordable housing in town so people don't have to drive.</p>
<p>Plan for the future; don't react to it. We did not have the roads to carry so much bus traffic when the housing was approved, for The Summit at Coate's Run and University Courtyard. Fire fighting service for University Estates is another.</p>
<p>Housing, transportation, and jobs are critical elements that must be addressed. We need to create job opportunities in and around the City without changing the small town feeling. Ohio University, and the Innovation Center should be encouraged to expand their operations in Athens first.</p>
<p>Provisions need to be made for green initiatives (bicycles) and aging populations should continue, if we are to keep pace with the times. Green space, and recycling, for example, are initiatives that citizens will demand.</p>
<p>Promote diversity and collective community</p>
<p>Athens needs to develop a deep sense of community. since so many college kids are constantly moving in and out it is easy to forget about investing in the local community.</p>

Give students more and better houses to rent without making them unaffordable
The university continues to expand, but there are many historic structures in Athens that should be preserved/re-purposed if at all possible. Too many changes will make Athens look like just another "modern" city. I think the biggest changes should be made to East State Street, as the low speed limit and run-down roads create a lot of congestion and back-ups. The uptown area should just have improvements made as needed, as much of it looks fine the way it is.
There should be an emphasis on diversifying the economy beyond higher ed and focusing more on creating arts-related events and institutions to attract visitors.
I'm not sure we can control how we change. We should improve what exists now before creating more to maintain.
We should let more industry come in. Athens is too restrictive.
I'd be happy if we stayed on top of keeping infrastructure maintained.
More solar power incentives for businesses. More bike paths and bike lanes.
Local neighborhoods less student rentals
Better mental health services. Keep putting money into parks and rec programs. Allow popular businesses to move in, but create an environment that promotes local first.
The brick roads are going to need to be paved. They are lovely, but a hassle to maintain. Green space is nice, but I foresee a huge parking problem with the University and hospital, if they continue to grow. Also, there seems to be a fight against chain like stores. I understand the desire and need to support local businesses, but to appeal to faculty applying and students visiting the city should know they want to see businesses that are familiar to them.
Welcome businesses that challenge the inefficient models of the 1950's. Allow development, stop fighting change. We live in an impoverished region. By trying to persevere a past that never was, you keep costs high for those who live in poverty. What's the buying power of a dollar at Walmart vs Kroger?
Continue to keep the Court Street area up. It is what sets Athens apart
Light industry Broadband internet for all Uptown transformation Wellness Vibrancy
More approachable, while retaining quaint persona.
Promote the deep history of acceptance and honor of this town and land
We need more advanced manufacturing like Quidel and Athens Mold & Machine. We need more coworking spaces and ubiquitous broadband.
If you know this already you need to be proactive. Athens is growing and people love living here. We also have lots of visitors and I think they expect more from the city. While recycling bins are great the placement prevents you from getting out of your car, xerox notices were hung by zip ties in 3 ring binder sleeves and now hand empty. We can do better. Probably just need to grow and develop with the changes.
Equal access to technology for all in the county. More public gathering places - informal not related to a business making money yet centrally located.
Be more sustainable in our energy use. Be less "town and gown" and more integrated as a community.
A single county wide educational system that allows us to consolidate and better utilize resources. One strong system that offers the best because there is only one infrastructure to maintain, stronger support of vocational education and the trades. Evolve beyond the school systems of 40 years ago. Create a better school system and then a better partnership between economic development, local businesses and schools, a more collaborative approach that develops talent and skills that we can keep here in our community.
A better health system that keeps services local. Ohio Health needs to invest more and not take everything back to Columbus.
I'd love to see a dedicated indoor farmer's market that is open at least 2 days a week. Stalls with electricity and opportunities for many different businesses to sell their wares. Florists, bakers, butchers, artists, etc.
Create a community which caters to the tax paying humans who live here...restaurants, shops and art
attract businesses with employment opportunities so kids will think about staying in the area
Look to bring more employment to the community.
Make your city more user-friendly. Longtime resident who refuses to visit any stores Uptown Athens because of bikers who ride their bikes the wrong way, don't obey traffic laws, pedestrians who have no idea how to cross a street, and the crazy expense to park. You need to realize that the City of Athens doesn't just serve residents of Athens, it serves the whole county (Court House and Sheriff's Dept). Stop relying so much on the assumption that everyone has access to technology - they don't. Don't assume everyone knows how to drive a roundabout. Judging by social media and my experiences, no they do not. There is a beautiful bike path that runs along E State. Don't waste money to build bike lanes on the street. Not everyone does the speed limit and many people do not drive safely.
More high speed internet access. Move city and County government somewhere else, not uptown. Annex The Plains. Move the city limits to include Canaanville area.
Keep the current charm of the city and surrounding areas. Less brick streets would be nice.
Restore affordable housing for non-students; reclaim older neighborhoods for families rather than student housing rentals; resources for Baby Boomers; try to recruit some businesses to give us a choice in clothing purchases locally (especially menswear)
Reduce OFF student housing. More owner occupied.
Despite the above, I do think bringing in some chain businesses (things like a Panera) would be good. I remember what Athens was like before the East State Street development. The lack of businesses and services available locally at that time made it difficult to run errands and get needed items if one had a full-time job.
Build more stores and restaurants if able. Tear down any old eyesores.
We need jobs that will keep The people of Athens in Athens. You can't raise a family if the only jobs are fast food.

We should keep in mind that we live in a very family-friendly community where others are always welcoming and able to lend a helping hand.
Incorporate as much nature/plants into court street and east state street as possible. Cleanliness is paramount to success.
Affordable housing, family friendly activities, take the middle school out of the middle of town. Aim towards making it a family friendly community
Keep in touch with residents and understand their concerns
Plan for more families. More parks.
The road infrastructure doesn't seem capable of keeping up with the growing community. East Main Street is a bottleneck.
I believe there needs to be a better routine for traffic. Maybe add more stores somewhere so we can make Athens a tourist attraction for like students and their parents where they will send more people
Our way.
Less run down student rentals in family/community areas. For instance West side and near the middle school neighborhood, between Carpenter St (between Court and E State) and East State street before Morris.
I think Athens should be eco-friendly. There should be more solar panels, wind turbines, recycling, composting, etc.
We ought to increase bike accessibility (lanes, infrastructure such as stationary pumps, etc.). We also ought to add explicitly affordable student housing, as pretty much all the new units coming in are quite expensive, particularly compared to some of the houses on the west side (there are no new houses of this sort being added, for example). Finally, we ought to take whatever measures needed to decrease our urban carbon footprint. This includes expanding public transit such that it is more reliable and timely (run buses at least every half hour, for example), among other such measures (such as increasing infill, making sure any new developments are walkable/bikable to the downtown core and campus, etc.).
We should develop more apartments that allow students to be close to campus and not sprawl into the residential community that Athens has. There should be more businesses near the campus such as grocery stores. Any green space available should be taken advantage of.
As I mentioned previously I believe the biggest advancement towards growth that we can have as a community is to invest in or future; sustainability.
At a slow but steady pace. Nowhere should ever stagnate entirely, but the rapid changing of an area can create a juxtaposition that not only confuses travelers as to where they are due to its unrecognizability but also to those inhabiting it. I am a firm believer that if you no longer recognize your town while still living in it then you've lost the heart of the city. Everywhere has a vibe & a feel to it, & changing up Athens too much jeopardizes this greatly. It's not as much about the look per se but the love & sense of community that would be lost. We're not meant to be the city of tomorrow & that's totally okay! Not everywhere should be. Dare to be different.
Change for the inevitable college population in a sleek aesthetic and provide more things to do in the town. For example, recreational.
Autonomous vehicles. More high-density housing. Broadband without wires overhead as much as possible. Use existing buildings before building new. Fully-occupied Ridges and Armory.
Either redoing the brick roads or repaving them entirely.
Investing in renewable resources (the way of the economic/environmental future); investing in alternative transportation (bike lanes; more public transit routes); commit to infill development instead of acquiring more land for outward expansion.
Nurture the artistic/musical talent of the area. We have so many talented people here that can help us to bring more talented people into our community. It would be great to highlight the arts more and not so much the alcohol. I am currently on the Athens Municipal Art Commission and am working to develop an arts and music festival, we are hopeful that it will grow into something special. Also, it would be fantastic to see the Farmer's Market find a permanent home where there can be a bandstand and stalls for farmers and artists to sell. It is already a big draw to the area - it can be more.
Let's encourage young professionals, retirees, and families to purchase or occupy houses in close-in neighborhoods through economic incentives. The students are an important part of our fabric as a town, but I worry that in 20 years, the close-in parts of the west side will start to resemble the Palmer/Mill Street area today. There were more families and retirees living in that area 20 years ago- something that would be hard to imagine today.
Do not grow outside the existing city limits. Continue to invest on existing infrastructure.
Easy access to healthy food and physical activity. A general sprucing up...the students are hard on the town.
We need to understand the population growth that is happening in Athens and prepare for it; this is not just the ebb and flow of students, but the seeming increase of permanent residents and general traffic into town. We also should try and take the creative spirit of uptown Athens and implement it in the outlying areas like East State Street and Richland Avenue, while also taking the utilitarian nature of those areas and applying that idea uptown.
emphasize responsible choices by students and rental owners.
improve bus and bike systems
focus on local development in and outside the city limits
1) City planning for fewer cars + more robust and further-reaching public transit, and walker/biker-friendly streets and paths, including most of Court Street closed to cars. Buses going through the whole county using Athens as a main hub, trains too.
2) More diversity of shops and entertainment offerings to better attract and support populations from around the world, and Americans of color. POC--students, families, professors-- stay and thrive in Athens Co.
3) Attracting businesses to Athens that reflect who we are--artsy, committed to sustainability, etc.
4) Putting more pressure on politicians to take notice of/change gerrymandering in our state.

<p>The population is aging. We need to make it safe and comfortable for senior citizens as well as families and students. We need a more comprehensive transportation system for those unable or unwilling to drive. We have a terrific bike path. The plan to put bike lanes on E. State St. is totally unacceptable!! Of the many friends and neighbors I have spoken with about the issue, I have not heard a single person in favor of the plan. E. State is already so crowded at times that cars are often unable to turn onto it from residential side streets. Cyclists zipping through this mess is just one more unnecessary hazard since they can already safely access the east side of town via the bike path. Letting cyclists use the sidewalks would be safer than putting bike lanes on E. State St.</p>
<p><u>Having more things other than bars downtown and having a lot of fun activities with the community.</u></p> <p>Yes, encourage/incentivize long-term industries that could employ more people living in our rural areas with union scale wages that will lift them out of poverty -- how about an auto manufacturing plant? Or anything on a higher scale of industry that won't be dumping waste into our well-head. How about letting the State Government know we could use a clean-green electric passenger rail connection to Columbus for work/commerce commuting? -- one is already in the planning that would connect Indianapolis-Columbus-Pittsburgh. How about taking measures to guard against eroding the residential quality of life in this community so that Athens doesn't just become one big OU campus complex; we should not just change for the sake of seeming progressive when some changes other towns are enacting would actually harm our own community; we must make sure this town remains inviting for people who want to live in town rather in the countryside, and provide working-class-income rental housing.</p>
<p><u>Concentrate on better paying industrial jobs.</u></p> <p>Work toward reducing the divide between populations with means &amp; social capital and those disadvantaged due to a changing social and economic landscape</p> <p>Plan to be pedestrian, bike friendly clean, green, quiet, diverse housing, with mixture of ages, families, students. Encourage neighborhood involvement to preserve the small town identity. Reach out to students living in mixed neighborhoods. Keep working on the aging infrastructure....</p>
<p>One seat on city council for a student from Ohio University. Have city invite our state and national representatives to meet in an open town meeting during election years for a Q &amp; A session.</p> <p>100% recycling Become a solar and wind powered town. Become a frack waste- and other toxins-free county.</p>
<p>Begin the process of having the community reflect the changing economy...which is poorer, with more resources constrained to a select few projects. Can't be all things to all people. Encourage jobs and development to ensure an economic base. Shrinking middle class will erode tax base/budgets further.</p>
<p><u>Less roundabouts.</u></p> <p>(i) Cancel several dozen alcohol licenses.</p> <p>(ii) pave streets and repair curbs, gutters and sidewalks.</p> <p>(iii) recruit some builders to add some decent single-family housing stock.</p> <p>(iv) Recruit a few businesses to generate sales tax revenue to offset property taxes, so that (iii) becomes affordable to middle-class wage earners.</p>
<p>Good start by asking the community. We need more rural transportation, support of teachers, interventions and meetings for people with addiction issues, continued support of LGBT community especially youth and so much more. Listen to the people in all different parts of the city.</p>
<p>We need to look toward significant employers other than OU to where Athens becomes more sustainable and attractive for jobs to retain more of the population base. There needs to be more incentive for business satellites from major companies out of Columbus to consider having branch locations here, or something of that nature. This will increase the tax base, and aid in growing all other areas of a community. OU is a valuable employment source and community partner, please don't misunderstand. I just firmly believe that this community desperately needs to have other major employment bases to level the playing field so to say and become even more self reliant. My biggest concern with OU is the fact that the institution takes away tax dollars from a land ownership aspect. This is a major issue in my opinion here for the advancement of our community.</p>
<p>Keep it up - love the efforts to beautify Athens. Columbus Rd. looks better, Richland improving, nice job on the commercial zones.</p>
<p>Athens should develop its economy to be less dependent on Ohio University. Additional Industry and recreation should be brought in to the community.</p>
<p>We should develop with the already developed theme of Athens, using red bricks and rustic feels. The surrounding areas of Athens are also very important to people. Keeping these areas green and undeveloped are essential. Instead of expanding, Athens needs to develop within itself by using already existing buildings to their full potential.</p>
<p>Athens' heritage of a blended academic and rural communities should be embraced. Continued focus on education, research, development, agriculture, renewable energy, and prioritizing local businesses vs corporate big box stores.</p>
<p>Some residential streets just outside of campus seem a bit crowded; making these easier to travel and not feel quite so congested. Some of the commercial buildings are individually constructed and small; seeing these types of businesses and buildings more collected and not quite so spread out might be beneficial and allow for some develop-able spaces. Better/more parking for commuters and accommodating tourists/visitors/commuting students and workers might encourage these demographics as well as show appreciation and value to them.</p>
<p>I would love for Athens to be a leader for sustainability in the state and region. AHRC, the farmers market, and all of the natural beauty of Athens seem to be taking this town in that direction and I would love to see even more of this.</p>

I do not think Athens should expand too much. The grassroots vibe and small town feel works well for Athens and brings in lots of visitors. The "DNA" of Athens is important to work around but I think it is important to keep what we have and not try to be something else.
expand shopping mall
Roundabout at Union and SR682
I would like to see more bridges between students and the community. More students caring about and involved in the city and with the community. Additionally, more sympathy for the transitional place that students are in.
More community free events not connected to the university.
Offer better jobs Create better education (Dolly Parton foundation that offers funding for education for families and children. Engaging citizens in the community for community service work such as Spring Clean Up, Offering more events that educate on citizens health and well-being.
Bridge the gap between the community and the college. Make the students at Ohio University feel just as part of the Athens community as someone who has been living in Athens their whole life. Create more community events and/or promote those events and existing events to students more. Update and advance what the community offers to keep up with society.
Expansion! We should want to grow! and be more clean and safe. Athens is not a well-lit town and there are many sexual crimes that might be avoided with more lighting as well.
become as self sufficient and sustaining as possible, and help those without food/shelter.
Athens county is poor in economic development, but rich in natural resources that can be utilized for recreational services. I would like to see Athens cater towards responsible use of those services, and increased desirability for such industries. I think a few directions the city plan could take in this direction are: 1. Increased public access to the Hocking River 2. Improvement of roads such as the one to Strouds, etc. 3. Developing better transit throughout the city. While an enormous undertaking, making infrastructure flow through the city instead of around might open up areas (such as the intersection of 682 and 56) for development.

<b>Answer</b>
The City administration needs to select community members to be on the planning community and allow those committee members to have equal participation and decision making on the inclusion and interpretation of the data being collected during this phase of planning. At least two voting members from the public. Community and business members.
Ways to get input from people who don't like to go to meetings, from young people, older people, people of color
The multiple constituencies that we have
Encouraging both citizen and business input in the process.
That sometimes there are other thoughts but what might seem to be the "minority opinion" is due to lack of faith that things can be changed, or that they will be listened to so there is a "why bother?" attitude
Attractiveness and livability as an economic development issue. If we want outside investors to come to Athens, we need to recognize that "quality of life" is an important economic development issue, not just an aesthetic ipreference. Another way of saying this is 'economic development should capitalize on the pre-existing strengths of a community, and our pre-existing strengths are our safety, attractiveness, and civility.'. These qualities are often ridiculed but they are bankable strengths and we should always be aware of them.
OU is a valuable piece of who we are but not ALL that we are. Ensuring the locals feel it is as much our town as the students who migrate here for school. The partying and negative student moments impact family living and our towns image.
OU relations must continue to be developed, and students held accountable as well as landlords for actions in neighborhoods and businesses.
making sure the loudest voices don't drown to softer ones. Getting people to think outside of the box. education of the systems supporting the city need to be understood to make sure there are realistic expectations.
Smart spending (e.g., don't build a tunnel under Richmond when employing traffic guards makes more sense). The struggle of non-OU-affiliated businesses--bring them in on some of these decisions, and not just AUBA.
Include the county, focus on permanent residents.
We need to find solutions to problems that will reduce taxpayers costs in the long run. We are already at the point where many working poor cannot afford to live in the city due to taxes and lack of affordable housing.
Accommodate those needing extra help. Maintain neighborhood units; these are mixed while not encouraging them by crowding and congestion to become student ghettos.
One issue that needs to be stressed is that climate change is modifying and impacting the landscape. Stable neighborhoods have deeply incised water channels that could easily threaten structures with the "right" rain fall. Recognize that not all areas will be developed without excessive public subsidy. A good example is the public school site offered by OU; perhaps, we need to move in the direction of charging the true cost of dreams including site development costs, increasing runoff of paved surfaces, road impacts... Many OU sites need to be assessed because land the state passed on has serious access, circulation, and land development issues.
I don't know what is the policy for the development of city in the next 20 years. But if you want to bring more people to this city and by them, bring more income for the city, Athens should be more welcoming to the outsiders. There should be more variety of job opportunities. Athens can still be a small town but get more modernize.
To help build the city without taking good things away.
Finding the right balance of keeping the small-town local fee but modernizing. Increase diversity. Ways to make the city more handicap-friendly. Develop a larger arts culture and increase technological opportunities in the area. Find ways to make post-college young people want to live here

<p>That most of us (myself included) have a hard time picturing things at all differently than they are right now. I'd like the planners to really mix things up and throw us for a loop. For example, could our city's streets be routed in an entirely different manner so that we don't drive down Court Street as a result of dropping our kids on campus for activities? Right now I do that over and over even though I can't stand driving down Court Street because it is the way our roads send me to get from South Side to North Side ... if we re-routed everything then the people who are trying to actually go uptown wouldn't be mixed in with all this car traffic that is actually trying to get from, let's say, the Credit Union on Shafer to the library on Home St. Currently it funnels us right through uptown even if we have no errands there. I guess my point is, just because things are the way they are now doesn't mean they are the best way.</p>
<p>Keep it simple.</p>
<p>Including everyone and understanding that not all people are good at writing or coming to group meetings.  Many people are working a lot and can't add outings at night many have children--many are disabled.  Paying those who care for others as school aides and home aides a much better wage and demand the county agencies that do so stop raising administrators budgets without also raising the wages of aides.</p>
<p>Mindful of the long-term effects of decisions. I think we need to be mindful of the ways that culture will shift and change very rapidly, and that we can't ever make everyone happy.</p>
<p>Ohio University is the economic and population engine that drives the City of Athens. As budgets and demographics get less friendly for both the University and the City, the two should collaborate as much as possible to leverage their common planning interests and limited resources to the maximum benefit of everyone.</p>
<p>Beyond that, the City should have updated planning principles that guide decision making, growth, and renewal for the next 10 years.</p>
<p>Also be mindful that each area of Athens (East, South, West, North, Uptown, etc) has their own distinct character and issues. Having a planning process that looks at each district uniquely rather than lumping them all together might be advantageous.</p>
<p>Finally, before the planning process gets too far down the road, having an honest assessment of the City as it is today is important in the planning process. What is our realistic starting point regarding infrastructure, population, and budget?</p>
<p>Self interest people or groups  The positive aspects of our city  How the negative aspects can be changed  Turning current spaces into something that they weren't intended for</p>
<p>The character of Athens is very important, and although I believe that has to be preserved we must move forward with an ACTUAL and FEASIBLE plan of action in the comprehensive plan. Yes it is important to re-identify our goals as a community, but when attempting to put into place we must narrow focus. Its tough to have dozens of top goals, because "top" loses its focus in the sea of choices. It is acceptable to identify secondary or tertiary goals without worrying that some community members will get their feelings hurt.</p>
<p>Jurisdictions, the city should stay within its legal boundaries and abandon efforts to control activities in areas outside of the limits. Its a waste of time and resources.</p>
<p>Inclusive planning. We need to be mindful of the entire population, not just those who are vocal. This community has become more and more divided in the time I have lived here. Those who are well-positioned stomp out the voices of those who should most benefit from the process. As a community, we are successful only if we are addressing the needs of our most needy citizens, before the wants of the top 10%.</p>
<p>low income residents</p>
<p>Our environment, small businesses, and the interaction of students and the community.</p>
<p><u>Making Athens an attractive place for retirees: planned retirement communities and health care.</u></p>
<p>We need to limit sprawl, congestion, and urbanization. A large part of the beauty in Athens is the feeling of living in a simpler time. When I moved here, I described it as "Mayberry"</p>
<p>The Athens Police are essential to maintaining the safe feeling described above.</p>
<p>Strengthening connections to neighborhoods should continue. The south side and university estates feel like disconnected parts of the city. The bike path spur helps, but more connectivity is needed.</p>
<p>The most critical gap, as I see it, is the absence of a city building department that enforces building standards. Without building oversight, the city cannot ensure that safe, quality buildings are constructed for residents. This is a barrier to development and should be included in the City's comprehensive planning process.</p>
<p>The second-most critical gap is in funding to enact sustainability goals set by the Sustainability Commission. The City should consider creating a joint City-County Sustainability Director position that incorporates key objectives outlined in both governments' plans into City/County policy making and legislation. Cities across the country have made measurable progress attaining sustainability goals when they prioritize funding for a sustainability staff position.</p>
<p>Schools are a pretty important part of the community.</p>
<p>- buy in by all actors  - always keeping in mind that the plan must have public value: be useful, inspirational, beneficial to citizens</p>
<p>Commit to S.M.A.R.T strategies.</p>

<p>Ensure all sectors are represented and have an opportunity to develop plans, milestones and implementation.</p> <p>Make sure communities on the edge of town have a voice in the planning. They have needs we can address and it would make the entire county stronger</p> <p>Ensure we invest in making things look like Athens and invest in an artist for every project to give us an unique look and feel.</p> <p>Quality of life. Open spaces. Leafy summers. Small size and probably getting smaller in twenty years.</p> <p>Build from Court St out?</p> <p>To include people of all ages and abilities.</p> <p>Transparency Inclusiveness Sustainability Economic Opportunities and viability Environmental enhancement and health promoting Provide an example for other areas to emulate. Partnerships Models and information sources Build on the Sustainability Plan and other planning that has been done up until now. Be creative</p> <p>We need to balance the need for a growing economy with the need to retain the reasons why people love it here. Asheville, NC is somewhat of a larger version of Athens. No chain stores or restaurants make it stand out. The small businesses, restaurants with outdoor seating, the outdoor recreation opportunities, the small music venues, all make it a destination both for people to live and to visit. Adding more big box stores will make it look like every other town. Let's emphasize our strengths.</p> <p>[continued from Q3] level of community involvement.</p> <p>[Q4]. People love living Athens because it is historic/charming, well-sized/convenient, and because of the spirit of the civic community and the local business community. Of course, how best to preserve these features while embracing the future is a matter for which EVERYONE has a different opinion.</p> <p>That said, I think that this online questionnaire is a fantastic idea, and I think that such tools should be deployed more frequently in the future, for both big-picture topics and specific issues/situations. I know of SO many Athenians who would like to be more civically engaged, but are unable to attend community meetings because of scheduling conflicts, childcare, etc. Utilizing online resources so that everyone can have a voice in shaping the future of our city is a wonderful approach, and one that I believe should be deployed regularly, as a general part of the planning/development process.</p> <p>The need to depend less on fossil fuels and more on solar and non-polluting energy sources.</p> <p>Sustainability ingrained in all planning and building efforts. For example, the new pool! We could be using solar for heating, etc.</p> <p>Make an attempt to make every new piece of concrete special. A little extra effort and planning can put history back into the progress that is being made</p> <p>The expectations and thoughts of citizens. How are expectations to be managed? Understand difficult decisions will need to be made in finding solutions. What are the dollar costs and ROI? How are priorities determined (money/cost, time, needs,)? Local, State and Country economy and political impact. Outside and unexpected forces that changes plans. Keep in mind population changes both with permanent citizens and student population. Understand changing mix of citizens (family, "modern" family, single households) (ethnic) (education levels and access) and the impact.</p> <p>Test</p> <p>6. Market our position as a real city hub in the Hocking Hills area with a museum and lots of other interesting things to do. 7. Get aggressive in targeting service industry businesses where the work can be done remotely from big city living costs. (Call centers, etc.) 8. Market the fact that we have some of the best schools in the area - good place to raise children.</p> <p>Parking. Parking is very irritating in Athens. And the tow truck companies also seem to be extremely aggressive when it comes to towing people. This seems to be a constant issue and these issues could be avoided with more ample free parking or cheap parking. While parking meters are a way to make the city money, the streets are often lined with cars and cause issues for drivers and pedestrians alike. A couple other parking garages may help with some of these issues.</p> <p>Having an enforceable zoning code and the officers to enforce it.</p> <p>Families especially ones with little kids since we are the ones here all year around not the college students</p> <p>Safety, security, community, ease of access.</p> <p>Keep it walking friendly and green.</p> <p>efficiency and reducing environmental impacts.</p> <p>Costs, repercussions of decisions, keeping our small town feel, senior citizens, youth, families, university.</p> <p>The city needs to be mindful of the importance of the vendors making money at the market. If they don't make money then they will relocate to other markets or stop growing food for the public and the community will lose their farmers, bakers and food processors. How the COA ensures high sales is to make sure the market is in a marketable location, near where the traffic and hubbub is, has plenty of parking and is easy in, easy out without causing too much impact on traffic. Hiding it behind buildings on an already congested East State St. will not help sales and will make it difficult for the market to make itself noticeable, costing extra money for advertising. Vendors will lose sales and find other sources of income at other more profitable markets.</p> <p>Equitability and accessibility. Make sure plans include the ability for anyone to be able to get anywhere in Athens, regardless of their income level. Walk, Bike, Transit should be fully integrated and not just partially implemented. Full networks, not piecemeal.</p>
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Sustainability, climate change, less state funding are all concerns. Unclear where OU is headed... possible need to separate future of town from town?
-Think about the future instead of being stuck in the past. For example, think about encouraging residents and visitors to walk more, so instead of worrying about parking for any new projects, like the Armory, consider park&ride or park&walk options (with just a few disability parking spots on site). -Be aware of what people like these days. Say a family wants to move to Athens for a job. There is a growing tendency in the country of people choosing town neighborhoods over the suburbs, so focus on revitalizing the older neighborhoods and make them more welcoming for families. -Strive to reduce noise--from student renters, from sporting events at OU (currently can be heard as far as the northern neighborhoods), from emergency vehicles' sirens (it's a constant nuisance). When people move to a small town, they expect a relatively quiet environment. -Be prudent with spending tax revenues. Don't just throw money at problems; use proven ways to address them.
That there are neighborhoods in our city that should remain peaceful and quiet. Planning should consider all people involved.
Getting input from the often silent everyday people in the community.
Rights of property owners.
Incentives as well as limiting laws can have the desired results too.
Recognizing that small local individual businesses usually spend all their profits here as compared to big stores. However, big stores do contribute through payrolls so local shopping helps everyone.
O U might care more about how they compete really unfairly with so many small local businesses. They seem to have gradually isolated the students more and more onto campus with food services, stores, etc.
perhaps a city focus on strong family spaces and neighborhoods. And yes, this includes retaining neighborhood schools.
Mainly how to plan for real implementation and set expectations of when prices of the plan might realistically be implemented (if ever). Also, communicate the results of the planning process as widely as possible.
A variety of residents, all ages and races. Keep trees and green spaces....not every little yard turned into a parking lot.
Young professionals are a small group in Athens right now, and so I understand that there wouldn't be a focus on catering to them. But the demographic is growing and if we want to create a more vibrant, diverse community, we should think about what will attract younger people over the next 10 years.
Not to be too focused on aspects of OU or to promote OU priorities over the city and larger community ( I know this has been discussed at length). Working to instill a sense of community in projects and with zoning laws. Working to make fair equitable housing available to all, towards breaking the "Athens bubble" mindset.
keep in mind the culture of athens and high light it . keep in mind the students of OU and the citizens of Athens County.
Mindful of the permanent citizens not the boom commerce associated with Moms weeknd
Who's not at the table where discussions are happening ? Keep asking for more involvement and be cognizant of who isn't represented that lives in our community.
When including students in the process realize that the student senate and greek organization leaders are a small minority and do not represent the larger student body of the university.
Address housing in Athens. Landlords often take advantage of tenants and face little to no repercussions.
ART!
That while Athens needs updates and restoration, to keep it the same. Many cities and universities have completely motropolized themselves and therefore lose their natural beauty. Keep Athens as beautiful as it is, but make sure it is safe for everyone who calls this place home.
Refer to previous 2 questions.
Openness is vital, but costs to those who permanently live and work here must not be forgotten.
ALL residents regardless of income.
Taxes
All of the history that Athens has, the people who live here year round, the cost and area that we live in.
Protect what makes athens unique in Ohio, natural beauty, encourage and enable small business, etc.
Sustainability!
Preserving what makes Athens Athens. The beauty, green space, small businesses, the welcoming environment, the night life. Promoting its strengths but recognizing the issues that exist as well such as the very high living costs off campus for low quality conditions. The dense development is also a characterizing factor of Athens. Sprawl should not occur.
Don't overprice the real estate like they've done in bog cities. Athens should be progressive and affordable.
It must inclusive but have a established decision time. Compromise is very important and it is important to remember, not sure of the origin of this, "It is the responsibility of the majority to protect the rights of the minority"
Including a lot of voices, but not letting outlier voices guide the discussion astray.
Finding major grants for specific projects that we cannot afford ourselves!
Living here is hard unless you are a doctor at Ohio Health or a professor at Ohio University. Make this town accessible to all socioeconomic classes.
Don't discourage businesses that provide fun, innovative types of entertainment from being able to get a start in Athens. We need more entertainment options that are kid or adult friendly, whether it is a traditional thing like go-karting/laser tag, or emerging things such as reality-gaming, trampoline or obstacle-based fun-houses, etc.
The residents who live here year round, who are not part of the university, who try to call Athens home because they appreciate Athens's values.

Our roots, our land-locked limits, our possibilities. Don't level hill tops and fill in flood planes with development. Don't push for more, push for quality.
Include everyone in every aspect. No more hierarchies.
The structure of Athens is messy. But I think it should stay like that. It's old and complicated but I love it. No other place is the same.
Creating a reason to be in Athens, not simply to just pass through.
Keep to a federal architectural model, green spaces, Good schools
People who don't live here but have to pay taxes want a voice too. We don't want to pay for swimming pools we'll never use. We want better streets and more parking. We want more police presence- you could raise a lot of money just stopping traffic violators on Stimson!
The native, long-time residents thoughts and needs.
Keep historic buildings.
Remember the hundreds and hundreds who work, shop and attend events but do not live in the city. Take care not to develop programs that split the haves from the have-nots. City officials should be constantly aware of basic needs and make sure they are being met. Then go on to the "better community" aspects.
Budget/time
If community is a large focus then it is vital that the community plays a large role in the planning process. Also, it is important that decision making is transparent for everyone to be aware of.
Try to engage all voices.
I LOVE the new bus routes and system and the bike path improvements. Be mindful of how you can provide public transportation / bike routes / sidewalks so that people can get places without driving.
I have loved the schools for my kids, but I know there is a lot of talk about consolidating them so they would be bigger. PLEASE DO NOT DO THAT. The reason they are great is because they are small and within our communities.
A city is a work of art--abstract and complex. It is important to retain an artistic vision of the impact that changes in the environment have on the resident as well as the visitor. A feeling is difficult to cultivate, but, in Athens, there is a feeling worth retaining. We appreciate a free and open space, a free and open discussion, and a free and open lifestyle.
We have gay and lesbian citizens, people of color, and there is an international contingent to be considered. We must be mindful of "the other," because in Athens, we are all "other."
Modern hazards to personal and corporate security were foreign to us in the past, but present circumstances necessitate having safety and security protocols. The challenge is to keep safety and freedom without having one encroach on the other.
I am proud to call Athens my home. That is a feeling worth keeping.
We should be mindful of the key elements that make Athens Athens, like bricks, green space and trees.
The squirrels
Traffic in Athens is really chaotic, though that is largely because of the drivers themselves I think. I guess it is important to keep the character of the city intact while also making changes that make the city easier to navigate. A nice balance of planning around the interests of students and locals would be ideal.
Do not force extreme solutions to minor or insignificant problems. Sustainability means not overspending.
Change for the sake of change. Too many times city leaders make decisions based on what they want Athens to be, as opposed to what it really is. Residents often get left behind.
Just because you can, doesn't mean you have to. Why not improve what is here before diving into more? (Our infrastructure needs work. We will have 2 bike paths along State Street, instead of improving sight distance at the ends of intersecting streets. We don't need such an elaborate city pool. We have lettering on bridges inside the city declaring the name of the city(?).) Take care of the basics first. That will make this a better community.
During this construction season, coordination between entities was abysmal. Access was closed off with no notice or signage. The two week Avon St project is going on 2 months long. No notice or explanation given. These things could have been planned better, and communication with the public was lacking.
Residents' needs.
Mindful of preserving and good upkeep of parks, green space, etc.
Limit the encroachment of student apartments into other neighborhoods.
Not allowing east state street and other areas to be over run more than they already are by big box stores. We need to be mindful of the varying needs of our community based on our social-economic and cultural difference. One way won't work for everyone. Basic human needs such as housing and food access need to come first, but there are needs across all classes and we need to be aware of them and recognize our differences.
Athens will not grow without the University growing. A panel of young faculty and students should be formed to find out their thoughts on Athens. What is missing? What do you love? What do you hate? Etc.
Self interests.
We cannot lose site of what makes Athens a community. That includes OU.
Not to lose heritage, but to think of what makes people spend money in the community
Show the history of artists, herbalists, writers and musicians
We need to be more open to varying opinions. I mean the progressives need to listen without being so elitist in their attitudes. We are a hub for commerce in the poorest part of our state. We owe it to this region to be open to growth.
Athens is unique. Not only is the university a big part of the city but the public schools encompass more children from outside the city than within, The Plains area has grown and is developing and improving and should maybe be considered. The rest of the county eats, drinks and shops Athens, consider them.

Equality Respect for differences Inclusion of all
Diversity Nature Environmentally friendly Good educational system
Mindful of the full time citizen and familie growth and again mindful of all the people that are not students as well as those that are The University is not Athens, the University is IN Athens. Donâ t let them influence.
Outlined in #3 Don't harm the environment. Character of the buildings and houses. That we have a huge number of people living in poverty in our community and they need help! Old housing being converted into mega rental housing destroying neighborhoods. Keeping green space. The people that have lived here all their life. Keep the beauty of the nature that is Athens Ohio Taxes! The property tax is already ungodly, mostly due to the fact that OU is tax exempt. If you want our community to continue growing, be mindful of the infrastructures you may build and the taxes it will cause. Comfort, variety, profit The lack of family housing Underground utilities The uneducated,low-income people living on the peripheral of Athens. Businesses, the people of Athens and surrounding areas. Room for bike lanes, walking, green space Economics Ensuring that underrepresented groups are heard. We need to be mindful that Athens maintains its characteristics. Athens needs to feel like a small town and you need to be able to see the history throughout the city. The buildings need to be redeveloped instead of torn down, for example. To make sure not to part from the essence of the community as it stands now. Athens has a feel to it because of the people, places and the interactions people have in those places. The more we try to change our foundational interaction cites, the more we lose of that original Athens feel. What you hope to get overall from it. Are you trying to attract new residents? Are you doing it to make current citizens happy? Whatâ s the overall motive for the projects undertaken? Are politics influencing the outcomes of decisions, despite if theyâ re good or bad for the community? Are short term gains overshadowing long term prosperity & security due to a fear of backlash? Know what the community needs, not necessarily what it wants, & become utilitarian in the sense that you do the greatest good for the greatest overall number of people because at the end of the day thatâ s all you can do.
Of the local needs and college needs Market forces from the student housing demand are very strong. Any plan that attempts to run counter to those forces will fail. Understanding that should drive all discussion of housing. Incentives/disincentives that harness those market forces to bring the plan to fruition will be key to success. Understanding public dollars only will not be enough to make Athens be how we want it is key. The plan should identify areas and concepts for public-private partnerships that advance the goals of the plan.
Community intrusion in any kind of major/minor change. parking access Consulting and collaborating with the University is key to planning for the future of Athens. Though it may be tempting to keep these two entities separate, the reality is that the University plays a vital role to the development of land, resources, and economic livelihood for many people in the City of Athens. I would hate to see two different 'development' plans clash and crash poorly, if separate silos for planning ensue from here on out.  I can see the University wanting to expand beyond its feasible limits in the next 20 years, stressing resources and development opportunities for the City of Athens that may inhibit the community to enrich itself, as well. Partnerships with University planning officials, I think, will aid the City in the long run. That people without vision and who want to keep things as they are are listened to with caution. They are exactly why the Farmer's Market has stayed in the same place and has not integrated the artists. Focus on preserving historic buildings rather than allowing them to be demolished or turned into student housing. Be mindful of the character of Athens, and ensure that future infrastructure projects and building projects reflect this character. The Essence of Athens is a good start for this, but it goes beyond encouraging artistic expression on buildings/structures and extends into how things are built in conjunction with our landscape, our aesthetic as a city, and the needs of our population. And again- I can't stress enough that we need to encourage mixed-neighborhoods that allow everyone to live close to the uptown area. And let's make sure that our neighborhoods put the best face of our city forward- for example, there's an incredible amount of trash strewn all the way down West Washington, from the middle school to Stewart MacDonald, and it's unclear who is responsible for cleaning it up. Perhaps future plans can include trash cans throughout neighborhoods.
Losing the small town feel and turning into a modern city. Keeping pedestrians and bicyclists safe. We need to be mindful that Athens is effectively two different cities at this point, with the uptown/University areas and the greater city of Athens. There shouldn't be a divide, either culturally or structurally.

<p>Not selling everything out to big box stores, national chains, and large student housing complexes. East State Street is already bad enough, and if Athens doesn't watch development, the local economy is going to fail, to the detriment of everyone. If that happens, many many people will leave. These huge luxury student buildings popping up on every corner need to stop. If Athens isn't unique anymore, there is no reason to stay, or people to visit here.</p>
<p>I believe Athens needs to be mindful to not give into every whim of Ohio University. OU is important to our community yes, but they are not the main reason why people live and stay here. Their unfettered growth leads to more and more student housing, and less room for actual tax paying permanent residents, which is bad for the city.</p>
<p>that students provide many people's livelihoods, but lots of other folks live here and pay the taxes</p>
<p>1) There will come a point where we have to change when it comes to car travel and fossil fuels--we can choose now to be ahead of this curve. Millennials, for instance, prefer NOT to have a car, but take public transit instead.</p>
<p>2) Encouraging OU to share even more of its resources and time and people with the larger county. The town/gown divide has never been so real or felt in places like Glouster and Chauncey and Nelsonville.</p>
<p>3) How do we incorporate our aging population into the heart of our town instead of isolating them? How do we make them and their stories, voices a vibrant mentor to younger generations?</p>
<p>Athens isn't just students. It isn't just businesses. It isn't just senior citizens. It isn't just young families. It isn't just schools. We can't let one segment bulldoze their interests at the cost of others. It's a difficult job to accommodate everyone, but we need to look at the big picture.</p>
<p>We also need to look at how businesses are filling needs in our community. If a new business doesn't fit a niche in our community, it seems like a waste to build one new building just to watch a similar one forced to close.</p>
<p>Parking is always a challenge they are always putting those yellow bags over the meters. Also, it's super dark at night time so putting more lights outside the downtown area especially near millers chicken and cider house.</p>
<p>Not allowing so much apartment complex development that our water system is overtaxed and no one has decent water pressure; insuring that we preserve and expand streets with trees and sidewalks; keeping neighborhood schools for elementary education though 6th grade; turning any new real estate that gets freed up for low-income apartments for working families; putting rent control on small business shop spaces.</p>
<p>There are citizens, not connected to the college, who have employment opportunities hampered by students and professors who are constantly protest about environmental concerns. Let's get more brick streets by reviving the brick making industry that we were famous for in this area.</p>
<p>Growth and innovation can take many forms - be considerate of diverse interest &amp; political leanings; think about ways Athens can promote the self-employed/entrepreneur; consider ways to reduce homelessness and develop affordable housing in Athens &amp; surrounding communities; develop practices that increase the health of the citizens of Athens &amp; Athens county.</p>
<p>More open communication. For example there was an issue with the electric aggregation letters arriving with no warning that caused a lot of confusion last week. It seemed like a joint letter or a cover sheet from the city explaining what was happening would have been one solution. There is a perception that the city does not communicate well. Here is a chance to change that perception.</p>
<p>Educating people about how taxes benefit the quality of life for the people in a community.</p>
<p>Lots of good things are happening. Keep the good things.</p>
<p>Budgets, economy, shrinking tax base... it's going to happen</p>
<p>Focus on the question of, "What do young adults want in a college town?"</p>
<p>The Athens aesthetic as presently constituted actively repels ambitious and dynamic people.</p>
<p>Adapting for people with special needs, our international community, the aging population.</p>
<p>I think we need to think ahead on every aspect as much as possible. For example, every opportunity to go solar, needs to happen. Spend the extra money now, so in the long run we are better off for the investment. This also needs to be looked at from other angles as well. When we do road construction, or power line work, can we look ahead and invest into burying the lines, etc for long term benefits.</p>
<p>Balancing student and year-round resident interests, maintaining or improving upon a more cooperative relationship with OU - glad to know OU is at least helping with purchase of firetruck.</p>
<p>There is a strong relationship and dependence with/on Ohio University.</p>
<p>The small town feel of Athens is important to a lot of people. The walk-ability needs to be kept in mind. Also, the community of Athens needs to be able to afford housing and other amenities. Many are low income or students on a budget.</p>
<p>Not to change for change's sake, nor to hold on the past due to nostalgia. There will always be a vocal minority, but make smart choices for betterment of the majority.</p>
<p>That its not just residents and students that visit/traverse Athens, even if unrepresented in council (and no, I'm not sure how to remedy this, beyond current efforts). Also, Athens is a respected city to some in the tri-county area who like that Athens is a city of comparatively progressive thought and action and that other communities look to Athens to see what they are capable of in their own towns/institutions and personal lives. "If a local community like Athens can do this, so can we."</p>
<p>You should be mindful of not infringing upon the history or natural environment that give Athens such wonderful character.</p>
<p>I feel like the balance between what the students want and what the permanent residents of Athens want is difficult to reach. so I would say getting a good balance of what each party wants.</p>
<p>not to take away from the beauty of the streets, scenery</p>
<p>A voice for the elderly .</p>
<p>A voice for the low income family.</p>
<p>The delicate position of both the community and the students and how precious those relationships are.</p>

Relying on the community and the university to develop our planning process. I really believed having meeting where the community is engage allows citizens to have input in this process.

Budget and costs to the community. Will the changes help or hurt the community? Keep traditions as well in mind, what makes people come back to Athens?

Where the plan lies in the big picture and how it stands when compared to other values

I suspect it is largely due to the hard facts of local terrain, but the flow of the city seems to spill out to East State and get bottlenecked. If expansion heads other directions, it would be great to avoid this.

**Answer**

ATHENS

Athens

Athens

Athens

Athens

I work and own a business in athens

Athens

Retired from the university. Consider Athens my hometown.

Athens

Retired professor

Stockport,

Amesville

Amesville

ATHENS

Own property and worked in Athens

waverly

Live in Athens county and do all shopping in the city of athens.

Brook Park

I have a second home here and my child goes to school in Athens

Athens

Athens

I live right outside the city

Athens

live here as a student of OU

I retired after working in the City of Athens.

athens

Live in The Plains.

I live and work in the city of Athens

Business and property owner

Born/raised in Athens, live outside city limits, have Athens mailing address

Live nearby and visit stores and establishments weekly

I was born and raised in Athens and graduated from OU. I moved away to Columbus

Student

Athens

Athens

Albany

Athens

Ohio University Student

Student commuter

OU student

I have an Athens address

Ohio University Student

dallas

**Answer**

Have worked in the city of Athens all my adult life.

I may not live in Athens but it is where I work, socialize and attempt to shop in.

I spend a lot of time and money in Athens, I work and raise my children just outside of town

I live and work here

Entire family lives, works, and goes to school in the City.

I live outside the city limits, but my children attended the schools

I live in the city of Athens, and own two businesses located in the city of Athens.

I have hopes to return to work in the city of Athens after retirement from my out of town job. I had to leave to advance in my field. Athens broadcasting opportunities are limited to OU Student employment, and will not support mature adults with full-time jobs to support a family!

Work too.

Moved here in 2009 to be near our daughter's family.

I work in Athens. I moved here in the last several months, but also lived here in the past.

I am a vendor at the Farmers' market

My spouse works for the university.

I live and work in the City of Athens.

I've lived in various college towns my entire adult life, and I must say Athens could rein in the students a bit.

Was small business owner and retired.

hold BFA and MEd from OU and have lived here since 1968, w/ a break or two
I worked in the city for years, was able to walk to work. Wonderful!
Live in Athens, work in The Plains
I live in the city of Athens but I am also a student at Ohio a university.
I grew up in Athens County, am a first generation college graduate, and now live and work in Athens.
I lived in Athens for a while and now live in Millfield and work in Athens. I love the city and county and would love to see more of a connection between the two.
I commute because I could never afford Athens housing.
I live AND work in the city of Athens.
I also work in the City of Athens, have a child in ACSD, and moved here specifically for the city and community.
Student at OU
I live right outside the city. I've had various relationships with the University
and work
I work in the City of Athens as a Volunteer for several organizations, including those for senior citizens.
I go to school in Athens
I retired after 32 yr in the Dept. of Chem. & Biochem. at OU. My home is in Athens Township, just outside of the City of Athens.
I live here as a student.
Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion.
I live in Athens because I am a student at OU
How can we do this planning in places like The Plains.
The City must partner with The Athens County Foundation, the Chamber, economic entities and OU in order to solidify this future vision. We have to all be pulling the wagon in the same direction. More involvement with those already working on vision and the future. Please do not develop this project in a vacuum.
I have worked in Athens since 1977. Living in the city a few of those years.
I don't live in the city of Athens because I would not have been able to afford the size house we purchased and the property taxes. I live just minutes from the city lines.
I return to Athens at least once a month to visit family who all still live there. I love coming down and hate to leave.
Grad Student-Environmental Studies
I love this place so much that I initially checked it's where I live. That says a lot.
A student.
I have lived here for 3-5 years (2 years in dorms).
I'm a student at Ohio University. I will be graduating in May 2018 and do not have plans (yet) to remain in Athens after graduation.
I have always lived within the city limits of Athens - I am on the boards of the Athens Art Guild, ATHCO Women's Art Guild, a member of the Athens Municipal Art Commission, and will be teaching art at the Dairy Barn. I worked at ARTS/West for 10 years and I run Ratha Con - which I hope to grow and turn into a bigger draw for Athens. I have put a great deal of time into the arts in Athens and plan to continue to do so - it is a wonderful place to live and work.
I have lived and worked in the City of Athens since graduating from Ohio University in 2005. It's been my home for my entire adult life, and I appreciate that the city is seeking public input for the comprehensive plan!
I live just outside of the city limits
And I work in Athens.
I also work in the City of Athens.
I have at different times both worked and lived in the City of Athens, although I do not currently.
But I do live right outside the city, my family works in the city, my children attended school in the city district
I have been a property owner since 1987.
I work here too, both in private and public sector employment.
I go to Ohio University
born and raised, but I have been gone long enough to see other places
there are lots of positives here, but also some learning curve concerns to which we need to be open to learning from other people, areas etc to further our growth
I am a student at OU.
I make a 45 min commute to OU campus as a student.
Graduate student at OU.
I'm a student
I lived in Athens for 6 years and recently moved, now I commute for my final year of studies
Im a student. Senior Undergraduate graduating this spring.
Hocking grad, moved to OU, now an OU grad, will be working in Athens for the next 2 years.

<b>Answer</b>
Too many times people think that living here longer gives them more ownership of the process...beware of the discussion that starts "I have been here xxxx years"
Currently only a few months, but previously for 3 years.
I shop and go to Athens for entertainment, as well as marketing at the farmers' market.
Have two degrees from O U and always felt lucky to have work which allowed me to stay.
5 years
But have worked here for more than 20 years
Have lived both in the city of Athens and in the country in Athens county
It hooked me! I plan to stay, despite things I may not like (lack of diversity, access to resources, and transportation), I want to help it grow.
Over 25 years.

I came to Athens, Ohio, from Athens, West Virginia. Athens, Ohio, is better. I think I'll stay...  
 I have only ever lived here as student, but this will be my fourth year doing so.  
 Lived less then 5 years in the city, the rest of the time in The Plains area.  
 I have worked in Athens 30 years  
 Athens county resident x20 years. Then Washington County x13 years. Now back to Athens X3 years  
 I lived in Athens for 26 years and it outside of Athens for the last 10 years.  
 Athens will be more successful if it works regionally and leverages its position as a beacon in an otherwise economically-disadvantaged area.  
 About six years in Athens city and my whole life (31 years) in Athens County.  
 I moved to Athens (city) in 1975.  
 since 1968  
 I was born at sheltering arms hospital, lived outside of athens for 18 years, left for 12 years, and have lived in town for 30 years. It is a great place to live.  
 I live in Washington County  
 I became the person that I am today because I started out my young adult life here.  
 I worked in Athens  
 Lived in Athens during school and one summer.  
 Love this place

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