



## Homer Comprehensive Plan Revision

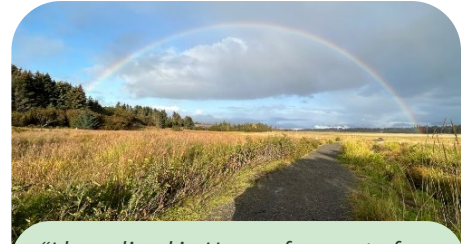
# Results from Community Survey and Interactive Comment Map, September 6, 2024



*“Thank you for gathering this input! Homer has been an amazingly connected and healthy place for me, and I want it to remain so for my kids and any who are drawn to our engaged, connected community.”*



*“I came here to work a seasonal job... I stayed because Homer gave me the space and support to be who I am. I love this place deeply; I love the fun and quirky community that I've found.”*



*“I have lived in Homer for most of my life and absolutely love this town and its surrounding areas. It is the most beautiful place I have ever seen. This community is just as beautiful as the land... Homer is my Home <3”*

## Executive Summary

### Survey and Comment Map Purpose

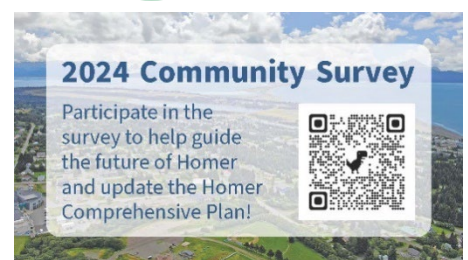
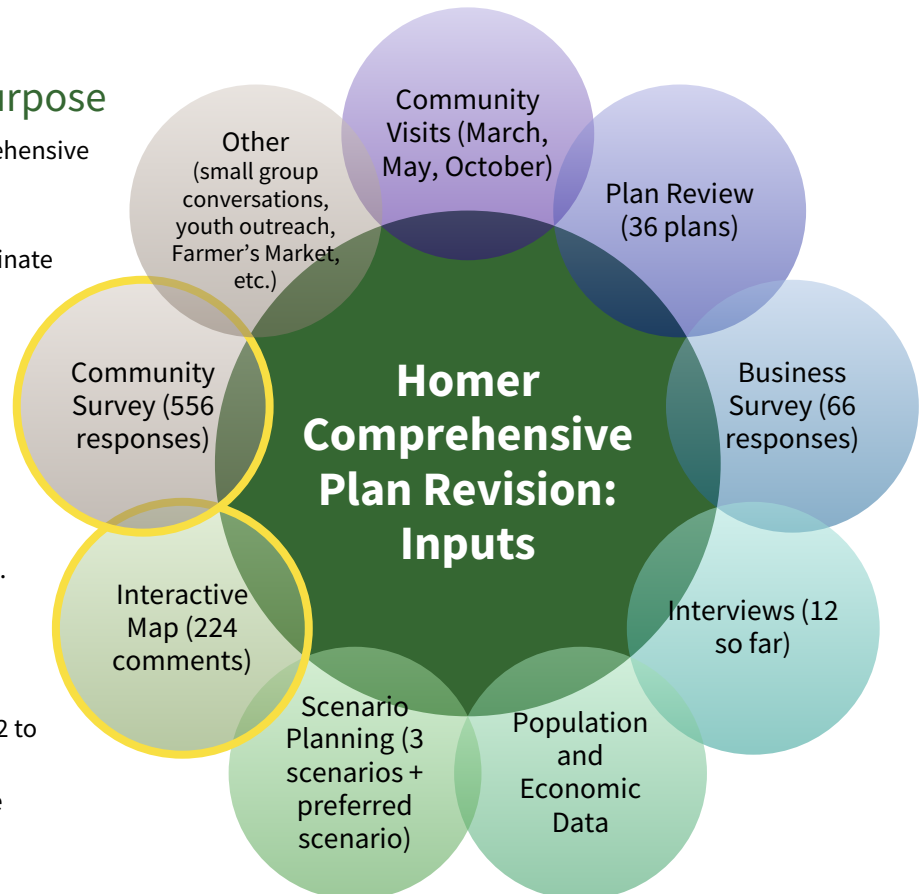
The City of Homer is updating the 2018 Comprehensive Plan to recognize and celebrate what we have accomplished, to address new challenges and opportunities for our community, and to coordinate efforts to achieve our shared vision for a future Homer.

A community survey and interactive comment map were created to gather Homer residents' ideas and concerns about Homer's future. Survey results help the project team understand community priorities and develop strategies for the updated Comprehensive Plan.

### Process

- **DATES:** The survey and interactive comment map were open from April 22 to July 1, 2024.
- **OUTREACH:** The survey and map were promoted via:
  - Facebook
  - E-blasts to the project distribution list
  - Announcements at City Council and other public meetings
  - Outreach by the Project Steering Committee
  - Through business cards featuring the survey and comment map QR code and links at business, local events, and to individuals.

*Example business card →*



## Who Responded?

**556** people participated in the survey, exceeding our goal of 500 participants.

**224** comments were received on the interactive map.

### Of the 556 survey participants:

- 70% of have lived in Homer more than a decade.
- 91% live in Homer year-round.
- 39% reside within the City of Homer limits.

## Highlight of Results



Top 3 themes: What three things do you **value most** about living in Homer?

- Community, small town feel, family and friends
- Natural beauty and scenery
- Access to outdoor activities and ocean



Top 3 themes: What three things do you find **most challenging** about living in Homer?

- Overall cost of living
- Infrastructure and transportation challenges
- Lack of affordable housing



Top 3 themes: 20 years from now, what does your **ideal Homer** look like?

- Homer has retained its small-town character
- Affordable housing and reasonable cost of living
- Walkable, vibrant downtown



### Quality of Life

- A combined 82% rate the quality of life in Homer as good/excellent.
- A combined 88% rate Homer as a good/excellent place to raise a family.

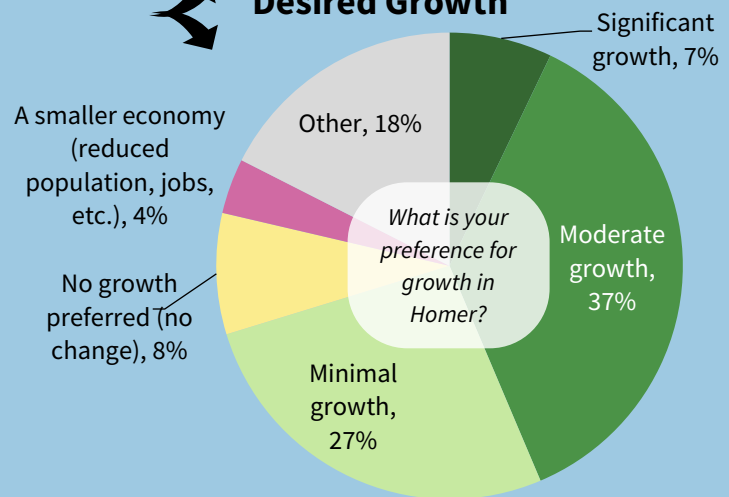


### Housing Highlights

- 76% of survey participants are satisfied/very satisfied with their current housing situation.
- 68% say housing is too expensive in Homer.
- 66% say more attainable starter homes are needed for younger residents, families, or residents that wish to downsize.



### Desired Growth



Most open-ended comments about growth discuss “sustainable and controlled growth” with a focus on planning that considers environmental impact, infrastructure capacity, and preservation of Homer’s character.

### Top Priorities and Projects for Homer to Focus on for the Next 10-20 Years

- Increase supply and accessibility of affordable housing
- Encourage the retention and creation of more year-round, higher wage jobs
- Preserve open public spaces within the city from development
- Create a livable, walkable, vibrant downtown
- Encourage renewable energy projects

Identified as “important/very important” by 74% or more of survey participants