

Village of Ovid Comprehensive Plan Survey Results

The following summaries highlight key themes and trends identified through the Village of Ovid comprehensive plan survey. Results are presented in paragraph form to support public outreach and Comprehensive Plan engagement efforts.

Survey Information: May 20- July 3, 2026, 131 Responses

What is the main reason you chose to live in the Village of Ovid? (Select all that apply) (125 Responses)

The most frequently given answer for respondents was that they have lived in Ovid for their entire lives (37%). Closely following was closeness to family and friends (33%). The character of their environment factors into this as well, as evidenced by the communities' rural character being the third most chosen option (28%). Clearly, residents value their homes, land, and communities which they have built and remain connected to. Cost of living and proximity to employment were referenced less (10% and 18%, respectively). Even if the cost of living is compatibly low, it seems to not be the primary motivation to stay among residents.

Overall, how satisfied are you with your quality of life in Ovid? (129 Responses)

The survey results suggest that residents are generally satisfied with the Village but also see opportunities for improvement. The largest share of respondents reported being satisfied (35%) or somewhat satisfied (29%), while 15% indicated they were very satisfied. An additional 9% were neutral, and 12% reported being somewhat dissatisfied. Notably, no respondents indicated they were very dissatisfied. Overall, the findings reflect a community that values the Village but recognizes there is room to enhance the quality of life and address areas of concern.

What TOP THREE factors contribute to your happiness in the community? (128 responses)

Safety and security emerged as the highest priority among residents, with 60% identifying it as one the most important factors contributing to their happiness. The next two most popular options were friendliness of neighbors (51%) and access to parks and green spaces (47%). These three were by far the most common responses. Community events and culture (38%) and affordable housing (30%) were also important contributing factors to happiness. In contrast few respondents identified access to healthcare, job opportunities, and transportation options as a top factor. Overall, the responses suggest that residents place a high value on a safe, welcoming community with strong social connections and access to outdoor amenities.

What is your favorite thing about the Village of Ovid? (113 Responses)

The vast majority of responses identified the sentiments of “Small town values” as their favorite thing about Ovid. Respondents outlined that the perks of small-town, rural life was very important to them and they valued knowing their neighbors, privacy, safety, community, and access to nature, seem to be the most appealing to respondents.

Existing character: Score the following characteristics from 1 (bad) to 5 (perfect) (79 responses)

Respondents were most dissatisfied with traffic noise and the lack of “third spaces”. Parking and street cleanliness were also frequently ranked lower. Residents were most satisfied with safety, privacy, and traffic movement.

What types of economic development would you most like to see in the Village of Ovid? (131 responses)

Respondents could select all options that applied. Access to grocery and convenience stores emerged as the most significant priority by a wide margin, identified by 82% of respondents. Other frequently identified needs included restaurants and cafés (53%), support for small locally owned businesses (50%), reuse of vacant buildings (37%), and downtown revitalization (35%). Economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing received comparatively fewer responses. Overall, the results suggest that residents are most focused on improving access to everyday goods and services while strengthening village centers through economic activity, adaptive reuse, and community-oriented revitalization efforts.

What do you consider the top THREE most important priorities for the Village’s future development? (131 responses)

Respondents could select up to three priorities. The highest-ranked priorities were expanding community facilities (44%) and attracting economic investment (43%). Local growth strategies, including supporting local businesses and workforce development, land use strategies, such as encouraging mixed-use development and reuse of existing structures, as well as housing were also identified as important priorities. Priorities receiving comparatively fewer selections included transportation and pedestrian infrastructure and population growth, suggesting these issues were less frequently identified as immediate community priorities.

What would encourage you to spend more time or money locally? (87 responses)

Access to a grocery store was identified as top need and concern for respondents. Downtown revitalization more broadly emerged as desire that would encourage people to spend more time and money in Ovid. Residents have identified that they want more amenities and access to daily needs.

What improvements would you most like to see in the Village of Ovid's downtown/Main Street area? (85 responses)

The most popular first choice (by a large margin-71% ranked it as their first choice) are more local restaurants, shops, and other amenities in the downtown area. Beautification came in second, and more community spaces came in third. Downtown housing, pedestrian infrastructure, traffic calming, were lower priorities, but still received some votes. Making downtown more vibrant and economically prosperous, with the quality-of-life improvements it brings, seem to be of paramount importance to respondents.

What types of housing are most needed in the Village of Ovid? (76 responses)

Respondents could select all options that applied. A majority of survey respondents identified starter homes for young families (54%) and affordable housing options (50%) as the most critical housing needs in the Village. Senior housing or downsizing options also saw significant need at 33% , as did housing rehabilitations and improvements at 30% of responses. This reflects that the aging population wants their needs met while simultaneously seeking to make the village more affordable and appealing to younger people.

What is your vision of the future of the Village of Ovid? (i.e. what should the community look like physically, socially, environmentally, etc. in 5, 10, or 20 years?) (94 responses)

Respondents want to see a revitalized, colorful downtown full of local shops and businesses. Basic amenities should be available locally, and there should be jobs available. There is specific unhappiness with the distance required to shop, visit stores, etc. They want the town to be a livable and affordable place to put down roots and start a family. They want to preserve the town's historic character while updating it for modernity. Green spaces were also mentioned.

Demographics

Residency Status: 27% village resident, 32% town resident, 3% seasonal resident, 11% property owner but not resident, 27% other. Many of those who selected other live nearby in Romulus or Lodi.

Employment Status: 42% are retired or do not work, 22% live in Ovid and commute to work elsewhere, 19% live elsewhere and commute to Ovid for work, 17% live in Ovid, work from home

Length of residency: 12% under one year; 12% 1-4 years; 8% 5-9 years; 21% 10-19 years; 47% over 20 years

Age: 18 (2%); 18-34 (12%); 35-54 (26%); 55-74 (48%); Over 75 (12%)