

Appendix A: Community Visioning Process

In order to identify resident's sentiment on planning issues confronting East Rockhill Township, a resident survey was mailed out and responses were tabulated. The survey is just one of the mechanisms used to formulate the township's community vision. A brainstorming session was also conducted among the members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee on major planning issues and resident input at public meetings were always welcomed. Collectively, this input has aided in establishing an overall community vision for East Rockhill that is reflected in this plan's goals, objectives, and policies or recommendations.

The priorities for most of the planning issues between the Steering Committee brainstorming session and the resident survey were consistent. For instance, in the question planning priority for the future of East Rockhill, open space, natural resources, water protection, growth management, traffic, and historic resources were rated as high priorities by both the Steering Committee and residents alike.

The following is a summary of the responses from both the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee brainstorming session and resident survey.

A. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Brainstorming Summary

(1) What do you like most about East Rockhill?

- ~ Peaceful quiet community
- ~ Rural setting and yet easily accessible to shopping centers
- ~ Visually pleasing
- ~ Provides adequate recreational opportunities
- ~ Usefulness of open spaces
- ~ Politically stable
- ~ Being employed
- ~ Diverse elements of natural resources
- ~ Rural, appropriately planned nature of community

(2) What are some problems or issues that are confronting East Rockhill?

- ~ Development
- ~ Increasing traffic on narrow roads
- ~ No public transportation
- ~ Increase or need in certain economic development
- ~ Increased traffic
- ~ Roadway maintenance
- ~ Continued development without the ability to improve road/traffic issues
- ~ Lack of regional planning
- ~ Concern about long-term, safe water supply
- ~ Individual on-lot sewer management
- ~ Route 313 corridor congestion
- ~ Pollution

- (3) **The following are community development issues. Please indicate the priority each issue should have in maintaining and improving the quality of life in East Rockhill.**

Development Issues	High	Med.	Low	None
Open space/farmland preservation	6	1		
Natural resources protection	7			
Growth management/reduce sprawl	5	2		
Transportation improvements	3	4		
Provide senior housing options	2	3	2	
Historic resources preservation	3	4		
Provision of park & recreational facilities	2	5		
Attract new businesses	2	5		
Increase employment opportunities	1	4	2	
Promote affordable housing alternatives		3	4	
Provide public water and sewer	1	2	4	

- (4) **What elements/characteristics of East Rockhill would you like to see in the community within 20 years?**

- ~ Increased business and employment
- ~ Increased tax base
- ~ Route 313 corridor improvement
- ~ Limited growth (people)
- ~ Over 55 housing
- ~ Well balanced community – taxes and services
- ~ Practical taxes
- ~ Historic resources/preservation
- ~ The same ones currently existing

B. East Rockhill Township 2004 Residential Survey Results

- (1) **How many years have you lived in East Rockhill Township?**

Less than 1 year	3%
1 to 5 years	26%
6 to 10 years	13%
11 to 15 years	16%
More than 15 years	43%

- (2) **What are the 3 main reasons you chose to live in East Rockhill Township?**

Born & Raised	3%
Convenient to Work	11%
Good Place to Raise Children	15%
Reasonably Priced Homes	16%
Reasonable Taxes	8%
General Quality of Life	24%
Quality of Public Schools	8%

Near Friends and Family	7%
Most of the Above	7%
Other	1%

(3) **Where are you and other household members employed?**

At Home	12%
Retired	14%
Philadelphia	3%
ERH	6%
Bucks County	32%
Montgomery County	24%
Other	8%

(4) **How many members of your household fit the following age categories?**

Preschool	6%
Elementary	13%
Middle School	9%
College	5%
Adult, 22-54	44%
Adult, 55-74	21%
Adult, 75 ⁺	2%

(5) **How would you rate the following services in East Rockhill Township?**

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Parks and Recreational Areas	57%	33%	9%	1%
Street Maintenance	22%	34%	27%	16%
Garbage Collection	22%	41%	33%	5%
Snow Removal	44%	36%	20%	0%
Fire Protection	30%	53%	15%	1%
Police Protection	36%	39%	22%	2%
Ambulance Service	25%	49%	24%	1%
Street Lighting	13%	38%	31%	18%
Code Enforcement	22%	43%	25%	10%
Storm/Ground Water	9%	29%	36%	25%

(6) **How would you rate the following business services in East Rockhill Township and vicinity?**

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Grocery Stores	41%	45%	13%	2%
Pharmacies	33%	57%	0%	10%
Clothing Stores	8%	21%	32%	38%
Restaurants	17%	45%	30%	8%
Movies/Entertainment	9%	26%	44%	21%
Hardware	27%	38%	28%	6%
Auto Services	20%	42%	33%	5%
Banking / Financial	34%	48%	15%	3%

- (7) **In which locations do you purchase the majority of the following goods and services?**

	E. Rockhill	Quakertown	Perkasie	Other
Grocery Stores	34%	35%	22%	8%
Pharmacies	14%	26%	37%	23%
Clothing Stores	1%	36%	0%	63%
Restaurants	2%	54%	0%	44%
Movies/Entertainment	13%	68%	3%	17%
Hardware	14%	19%	17%	50%
Auto Services	1%	42%	1%	56%
Banking / Financial	1%	41%	9%	49%
Movies/Entertainment	3%	35%	0%	61%
Hardware	25%	42%	14%	19%
Auto Services	21%	20%	6%	54%
Banking / Financial	31%	17%	35%	17%

- (8) **What priority should each of the following have when planning for the future of East Rockhill Township?**

	High	Medium	Low	None
Natural Resources	84%	13%	8%	0%
Open Space	84%	11%	34%	1%
Growth Management	90%	7%	29%	0%
Historic Resources	51%	39%	10%	1%
Affordable Housing	24%	33%	41%	9%
Senior Housing	18%	48%	28%	4%
Recreational Facilities	31%	56%	13%	3%
Daycare	7%	45%	8%	8%
Activities for Seniors	20%	49%	24%	3%
Activities for Youth	51%	34%	25%	2%
Public Schools	60%	33%	3%	0%
Arts and Culture	18%	53%	37%	5%
Employment Opportunities	34%	36%	7%	4%
Traffic	76%	21%	3%	0%
Public Transportation	22%	32%	-	9%
Sewage Disposal	61%	30%	8%	3%
Water Protection	87%	10%	34%	0%
Other	100%	-	29%	-

- (9) **Do you think the township should encourage more diversified housing in order to serve families with varying income needs?**

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Apartments	17%	76%	7%
Condos	20%	70%	10%
Townhouses	22%	67%	11%
Manufactured Homes	17%	72%	11%

- (10) **Should the comprehensive plan include recommendations to encourage additional opportunities for senior citizens such as:**

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Age Restricted	41%	35%	24%
Assisted Living	50%	31%	20%
Nursing Homes	41%	37%	22%
Independent Living	47%	26%	26%

- (11) **Do you feel that East Rockhill Township is growing?**

Too fast	59%
Too slow	3%
At the right pace	39%

- (12) **Do you believe the current quality of life in East Rockhill Township is:**

Excellent	23%
Very Good	48%
Good	26%
Fair	3%

- (13) **Do you believe the quality of life in East Rockhill Township is:**

Improving	28%
Declining	22%
Remaining the Same	49%

- (14) **In your opinion, what top 3 qualities make a good neighborhood?**

Recreational Facilities	18%
Convenient Shopping	16%
Safe Streets	30%
Quality Schools	27%
Arts and Culture	4%
Pedestrian Safety	6%

- (15) **Should East Rockhill Township acquire key open space areas, wildlife corridors, and trail linkages?**

Yes	92%
No	5%
No Opinion	3%

(16) Identify the recreational facilities and activities that you would like to see improved or added to the township's park system:

Soccer/Football Fields	27
Baseball / Softball Fields	25
Bicycling	57
Walking Trails	82
Playgrounds / Tot Lots	24
Tennis Courts	33
Camping	14
Picnicking	31
Horseback Riding	21
Community Clubs	23
Senior Citizen Programs	23
Other	0