

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Urgent Street Improvements

## 1. High Priority Areas and Streets

- **Sycamore Street:** Frequently mentioned as needing urgent improvements.
- **University Street:** Specific concerns about rough conditions and the need for repairs.
- **Meadowbrook Drive:** Highlighted multiple times for being in poor condition.
- **North Pacific to Sycamore:** Suggested for sidewalk improvements and clearing overgrown trees/bushes to improve walkability and safety.

## 2. Specific Locations and Areas

- **Downtown Intersections:** Broad Street east, Newsom Street, and intersections such as Broad and Newsom need repairs and maintenance.
- **Historic Districts:** Streets running by historic homes and businesses need attention to reflect city pride, including proper drainage and avoiding temporary patches.
- ~~**Holiday Pines Subdivision:** Mentioned for needing general improvements.~~
- **Loop 564:** Needs resurfacing and improvements.

## 3. General Needs and Common Themes

- **Sidewalks:** Many respondents called for new sidewalks and repairs to existing ones to improve walkability and safety.
- **Residential Streets:** Various residential areas mentioned for repairs and maintenance, with concerns about overgrowth, visibility, and general upkeep.
- **Transitions from Streets to Driveways:** Issues with smooth transitions from main streets to side streets and driveways, affecting vehicle usability.
- **Maintenance of Existing Streets:** Ongoing maintenance of current roads to prevent larger repair costs later.

## 4. Specific Streets and Areas

- **East Kilpatrick Street**
- **McDaniel Street:** All streets on the south side of town.
- **Kings Lane**
- **CR2200 (Dance Dimensions to University/Sycamore)**
- **Minwood Street**
- **Commerce Street from 69 to Lankford**
- **Maxine Drive**

## 5. General Recommendations

- **Prioritize High-Traffic Areas:** First priority to heavily trafficked streets, followed by less busy streets, with a focus on those needing the most improvement.
- **Enhance Visibility and Safety:** Improve visibility at intersections with overgrown greenery and ensure pedestrian safety with clear crosswalks and pedestrian right-of-way signs.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Public Service Improvements

## 1. General Satisfaction

- Many respondents expressed overall satisfaction with current public services, mentioning that the city is doing a great job.

## 2. Code Enforcement

- **Improvement Needed:** Enhanced code enforcement for unkept properties, noise levels, abandoned vehicles, and unsafe buildings.
- **Specific Requests:** Better enforcement to protect property values and ensure community standards are maintained.

## 3. Water and Sewer Services

- **Improvement Needed:** Address issues with water pressure, water quality, and old pipes.
- **Specific Requests:** Fix low water pressure on Dawn Drive and Emily Street, replace old pipes to reduce rust and corrosion, and improve sewer systems, especially downtown.

## 4. Recycling and Waste Management

- **Improvement Needed:** Reinroduce or enhance recycling programs and provide more frequent large item and brush pickup.
- **Specific Requests:** Curbside recycling, more frequent branch and leaf pickup, and better trash pickup services.

## 5. Sidewalks and Street Maintenance

- **Improvement Needed:** Increase the number of sidewalks and improve existing ones to enhance walkability and safety.
- **Specific Requests:** Sidewalks on streets leading to downtown, maintenance of existing sidewalks, and street sweeping.

## 6. Traffic and Road Systems

- **Improvement Needed:** Better traffic enforcement and improvements to the road system.
- **Specific Requests:** Complete the loop around Mineola, control loud music and mufflers, fix transitions from streets to business driveways, and improve street lighting.

## 7. Public Communication and Services

- **Improvement Needed:** Better communication about public services and operations.
- **Specific Requests:** Clear schedules for limb and debris pickup, public affairs fairs to connect citizens with city teams, and notifications for water system maintenance.

## 8. Additional Public Services

- **Improvement Needed:** Introduction of new services and better maintenance of existing ones.
- **Specific Requests:** 24-hour full-time fire coverage, bus stops, water fountains at parks, and better maintenance of public rights of way.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Parks and Recreational Facilities Improvements

## 1. General Satisfaction

- Several respondents expressed satisfaction with the current parks and recreational facilities, noting that they are well-maintained.

## 2. Dog Park

- **Addition Needed:** Multiple requests for the completion or addition of a dog park.
  - **Specific Locations:** Civic Center, general town area.

## 3. Mineola Nature Preserve

- **Improvements Suggested:** Enhance the Nature Preserve without overdeveloping it.
  - **Specific Requests:** Maintain the natural setting, improve the Nature Center, add amenities like boat rentals, pavilions, and neighborhood gardens.

## 4. Civic Center

- **Maintenance and Additions:** Focus on maintaining the Civic Center and adding new features.
  - **Specific Requests:** Public pool, improved playground, more shade, and additional trees and trails.

## 5. Public Pool

- **Addition Needed:** Strong demand for a public swimming pool.
  - **Specific Requests:** Indoor pool for year-round use, pool at the Civic Center, and a water park.

## 6. Skate Park

- **Improvements Suggested:** Expand and improve the skate park.
  - **Specific Requests:** Bigger skate park and adding more facilities to keep kids active and safe.

## 7. General Park Enhancements

- **Improvements Suggested:** Various enhancements to existing parks and addition of new parks.
  - **Specific Requests:** Better maintenance of trails, improved playground equipment, additional shade, pedestrian bridges, bike lanes, walking paths, and more picnic pavilions.

## 8. New Recreational Facilities

- **Additions Needed:** New facilities and parks in underserved areas.
  - **Specific Requests:** Parks on the south side, neighborhood parks in new developments, and an RV park.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Desired Events and Activities

## 1. Festivals and Community Events

- **Popular Requests:**
  - More festivals, including multi-cultural, holiday-themed, and family-centered events.
  - Suggestions for specific festivals include wine and food festivals, ethnic food festivities, and downtown music festivals.
  - Events like National Night Out, Juneteenth parade, and county fairs.

## 2. Music and Concerts

- **Popular Requests:**
  - More live music events, both large concerts with bigger artists and smaller, local musician performances.
  - Music events at different venues, including the downtown gazebo and the Nature Preserve.

## 3. Fitness and Outdoor Activities

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Organize workout or fitness activities, running events, and walking/hiking trails.
  - More outdoor activities like cornhole tournaments and city-wide cookouts.

## 4. Family-Friendly and Children's Activities

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Events specifically geared towards children, such as family-centered festivals and activities.
  - Ideas include movie nights in the park, splash pad hours extending into the evening, and pet parades.

## 5. Community Improvement and Clean-Up Events

- **Popular Requests:**
  - City-wide clean-up days, recycling events, and making dumpsters available for large item disposal.
  - Encouraging community involvement in beautification projects and providing more opportunities for residents to participate in clean-up efforts.

## 6. Special Interest Events

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Auto shows, gun shows, trade days, and antique car shows.
  - Unique events like escape room events, murder mystery scavenger hunts, and art festivals.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Initiatives for Supporting Local Businesses and Tourism

## 1. Events and Festivals

- **Popular Requests:**
  - More festivals and community events, such as food and wine festivals, multicultural festivals, and family-friendly activities.
  - Specific suggestions include concerts at the Nature Preserve, downtown shopping events, and car shows.

## 2. Marketing and Advertising

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Increased use of social media to promote local businesses and events.
  - Commercials on TV and radio outside of Wood and Smith County to attract more visitors.
  - Better marketing using Amtrak from Dallas and promoting events in surrounding town newspapers.

## 3. Business Incentives and Support

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Tax incentives and lower taxes for new and existing businesses.
  - Establish a small business office to guide owners and act as a liaison between small businesses and policymakers.
  - Affordable incentives to help businesses remain permanent.

## 4. City Beautification and Clean-Up

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Cleaning up trash and maintaining empty buildings in downtown and other populated areas.
  - Plantings and beautification along major through streets to improve the city's appearance.
  - Initiatives to ensure empty properties are utilized or maintained properly.

## 5. Infrastructure and Amenities

- **Popular Requests:**
  - More overnight accommodations to attract tourists.
  - Improving streets, sidewalks, and downtown lighting to make the city more welcoming.
  - Developing new recreational facilities, such as a public pool, RV park, or bowling establishment.

## 6. Community Involvement and Collaboration

- **Popular Requests:**
  - Involving more businesses and citizens in events and initiatives beyond the usual participants.
  - Encouraging local businesses to have an online presence and modern websites.
  - Including local businesses in community events and coordinating promotions during city events.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Public Safety Concerns

## 1. General Satisfaction

- **Popular Sentiment:** Many respondents expressed satisfaction with current public safety, noting that they believe the city is doing a great job.

## 2. Law Enforcement and Police Presence

- **Increased Patrols:** Requests for more police patrols in specific areas such as Holiday Pines subdivision and residential neighborhoods.
- **Speeding:** Concerns about speeding on main highways and residential streets like Newsom Street and McWhorter Street.
- **Noise Control:** Issues with loud vehicles and noise disturbances, particularly at night.
- **Targeting and Profiling:** Concerns about over-enforcement and profiling by the police department, especially around bars and restaurants.

## 3. Fire and Emergency Services

- **Resources and Staffing:** Need for more full-time paid firefighters and EMS staff to handle big events and emergencies effectively.
- **Technology and Equipment:** Ensuring that emergency responders have the latest technology and equipment.

## 4. Traffic and Road Safety

- **Intersection Hazards:** Specific issues with traffic hazards, such as the removal of red lights at certain intersections like Line Street and Route 80.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Requests for more sidewalks, pedestrian walkways, and accessible ramps to improve walkability.
- **Heavy Truck Traffic:** Enforcement of laws concerning heavy truck traffic and addressing the impact on neighborhoods.

## 5. Community Cleanliness and Maintenance

- **Property Maintenance:** Need for stricter enforcement on property maintenance to reduce trash, overgrown vegetation, and abandoned buildings.
- **Animal Control:** Concerns about loose and aggressive animals, particularly dogs in certain areas.

## 6. Specific Safety Concerns

- **Water Pressure:** Issues with low water pressure affecting residents' safety and convenience.
- **Homelessness and Drug Use:** Growing concerns about open drug use and homeless/transient presence.
- **Public Safety for Vulnerable Groups:** Suggestions for safe houses for women and teens, and better support for veterans, elderly, and immigrants.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Code Enforcement Priorities

## 1. Building Maintenance

- **Popular Sentiment:** Frequent mentions of the need for better enforcement of building maintenance standards.
- **Specific Areas:** Buildings along highways 69 and 80, downtown buildings, and residential properties with visible neglect.

## 2. Noise Control

- **Popular Sentiment:** Concerns about loud vehicles, especially those racing or revving engines through downtown, and general noise disturbances.
- **Specific Issues:** Excessively loud trucks and vehicles, particularly during nighttime hours.

## 3. Property Cleanliness and Maintenance

- **Popular Sentiment:** Strong emphasis on the need to address junk and trash in yards, overgrown lots, and unkempt properties.
- **Specific Issues:** Junked cars, construction debris, and general yard clutter, especially in residential neighborhoods and entrance areas to the city.

## 4. Illegal Dumping and Littering

- **Popular Sentiment:** Calls for more stringent enforcement against illegal dumping and littering.
- **Specific Issues:** Debris in yards, dumping in vacant lots, and improper disposal of trash and large items.

## 5. Animal Control

- **Popular Sentiment:** Concerns about loose and stray animals, particularly dogs and cats.
- **Specific Issues:** Stray animals causing disturbances and the need for better enforcement of animal control regulations.

## 6. Traffic and Speeding

- **Popular Sentiment:** Issues with speeding in residential areas and enforcement of traffic laws.
- **Specific Areas:** Residential streets like Newsom Street and main highways.

## 7. Additional Concerns

- **Public Spaces:** Calls for maintaining public areas, including parks and city-owned properties.
- **Homelessness and Safety:** Concerns about safety issues related to homelessness and drug use in certain areas.
- **Support for Code Enforcement:** Suggestions for hiring additional code enforcement officers and providing more resources for effective enforcement.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Beautification Priorities

## 1. Landscaping Public Spaces

- **Popular Sentiment:** Frequent mentions of the need for more landscaping in public areas.
- **Specific Projects:** Landscaping existing sidewalks, extending sidewalks, adding planters and flower pots, and enhancing the appearance of public spaces like parks and civic centers.

## 2. Improving Signage

- **Popular Sentiment:** Calls for better and more modern signage throughout the city.
- **Specific Projects:** Updating entryway signs, adding digital signs to inform travelers of local events, and improving directional signage to visitor centers and historic districts.

## 3. Public Art Installations

- **Mixed Sentiment:** Some support for more public art, while others feel there is already enough.
- **Specific Projects:** Additional murals, statues, and art pieces in public areas, with a focus on locations that attract tourists.

## 4. Cleaning and Maintenance

- **Popular Sentiment:** Emphasis on cleaning up residential clutter, maintaining properties, and addressing abandoned buildings.
- **Specific Projects:** Initiatives to clean up trash, enforce property maintenance codes, and ensure the upkeep of vacant and neglected properties.

## 5. Improving Walkability

- **Popular Sentiment:** Importance of making the city more walkable by adding and maintaining sidewalks.
- **Specific Projects:** Extending sidewalks on main roads, especially near schools, and improving pedestrian signage at crosswalks.

## 6. General City Appearance

- **Popular Sentiment:** Focus on improving the overall appearance of the city, particularly at entry points and high-traffic areas.
- **Specific Projects:** Enhancing the appearance of entryways into the city, updating building facades, and maintaining public spaces to create a welcoming environment.



# Summary of Citizen Responses on Clean-Up Priorities

## 1. Residential Areas

- **Popular Sentiment:** Frequent mentions of the need to clean up residential areas, particularly those with visible junk and overgrown yards.
- **Specific Issues:** Abandoned houses, vacant lots, and homes with yard debris and junk cars.

## 2. Downtown and Main Thoroughfares

- **Popular Sentiment:** Emphasis on cleaning up the downtown area and main streets to improve the city's appearance.
- **Specific Locations:** Broad Street, Johnson Street, old gas stations on Broad Street, and properties near the train station.

## 3. Entry Points and Highways

- **Popular Sentiment:** Focus on improving the appearance of entry points into the city and along major highways.
- **Specific Locations:** Highways 69 and 80, particularly on the west side of town, and areas with dilapidated buildings and overgrown lots.

## 4. Abandoned and Vacant Properties

- **Popular Sentiment:** Need to address abandoned and vacant properties that are in disrepair and full of debris.
- **Specific Locations:** Henry Hotel area, old city hall, properties near the square, and various vacant lots throughout the city.

## 5. Public Spaces and Common Areas

- **Popular Sentiment:** Importance of maintaining public spaces and common areas, including parks and public works yards.
- **Specific Issues:** Ensuring that public spaces are clean, landscaped, and free of debris.

## 6. Specific Problem Areas

- **Locations Mentioned:**
  - **Northwest Side of Town:** Patten, University, Sycamore, and Stone Street.
  - **Holiday Pines Subdivision:** Frequent mentions of clean-up needs.
  - **Specific Properties:** 420 W. Buchanan St., properties near Higginbotham, and lots with overgrown vegetation and trash.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Involving Citizens in Beautification and Clean-Up Efforts

## 1. Promotion and Communication

- **Popular Sentiment:** Emphasis on better promotion and communication of clean-up events.
- **Specific Ideas:**
  - Increased use of social media (Facebook, city and police department pages).
  - Announcements in local newspapers (Wood County Monitor).
  - City emails, notifications through the City of Mineola app.

## 2. Community Involvement and Events

- **Popular Sentiment:** Organizing community events to encourage participation.
- **Specific Ideas:**
  - Monthly or quarterly clean-up days.
  - Adopt-a-road campaigns and Keep Texas Beautiful programs.
  - Designated clean-up days led by City Council Members with food and activities afterwards.
  - Involvement of school organizations, churches, and civic groups.

## 3. Incentives and Rewards

- **Popular Sentiment:** Offering incentives to encourage participation.
- **Specific Ideas:**
  - Providing free food (hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream) at clean-up events.
  - Gift certificates or small prizes for participants.
  - Community service hours for high school students.
  - Volunteer recognition programs (e.g., custom T-shirts, "Citizen of the Month" award).

## 4. Code Enforcement and Fines

- **Popular Sentiment:** Stricter code enforcement to maintain property standards.
- **Specific Ideas:**
  - Enforcing fines for violations related to property maintenance and cleanliness.
  - Ensuring property owners are held accountable for maintaining their properties.

## 5. Collaboration with Local Organizations

- **Popular Sentiment:** Partnering with local organizations to coordinate efforts.
- **Specific Ideas:**
  - Involving local businesses, churches, and schools in adoption programs.
  - Collaboration with the Historic Society and Main Street group.
  - Engaging the community through design contests and local votes on beautification projects.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Top Priorities for the City

## 1. Infrastructure and Maintenance

- **Street Improvements:** Frequent mentions of the need for better street maintenance and repairs.
- **Specific Projects:** Fixing low water pressure, completing the hike and bike trail, and updating the downtown sewer system.

## 2. Economic Development

- **Supporting Small Businesses:** Emphasis on attracting and supporting small businesses to grow the local economy.
- **Specific Ideas:** Promoting local businesses, filling empty buildings, and attracting commercial and retail expansion.

## 3. Public Safety

- **Enhancing Services:** Ensuring adequate police and fire personnel and equipment.
- **Specific Concerns:** Maintaining high-quality emergency response services and preparing for potential safety issues during and after elections.

## 4. Community and Youth Services

- **Support for Seniors and Youth:** Calls for a real Senior Center and youth center, and providing more activities for both groups.
- **Specific Suggestions:** Utilizing existing facilities for community services and improving parks and recreational areas.

## 5. Beautification and Clean-Up

- **City Appearance:** Focus on cleaning up the city, including abandoned buildings, trash, and vacant homes.
- **Specific Projects:** Beautifying public areas, better code compliance, and enforcing property maintenance.

## 6. Fiscal Responsibility

- **Managing Budget:** Emphasis on avoiding unnecessary spending and ensuring fiscal conservatism.
- **Specific Ideas:** Avoiding property tax increases, collecting unpaid taxes, and planning wisely for future growth.

## 7. Preparing for Future Growth

- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Preparing the city's infrastructure for future growth and ensuring it can accommodate an increasing population.
- **Specific Projects:** Updating city hall and police department buildings, and improving traffic control and pedestrian safety.

# Summary of Citizen Responses on Additional Budget Comments

## 1. General Satisfaction and Appreciation

- **Positive Feedback:** Many citizens expressed their love for Mineola and appreciation for the city's efforts, particularly for seeking citizen input.
- **Specific Comments:**
  - "Love Mineola. Thanks for asking our opinion."
  - "I love this town and more and more people are moving in this direction."
  - "Thank you for making Mineola awesome."

## 2. Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency

- **Budget Management:** Emphasis on managing the budget responsibly and avoiding unnecessary tax increases.
- **Specific Suggestions:**
  - Avoid rushing to raise taxes, considering the existing income from sales and property taxes.
  - Ensure transparency by posting detailed budget information on the city website.
  - Plan for long-term goals and communicate these plans effectively to residents.

## 3. Infrastructure and Maintenance

- **Specific Projects:** Calls for addressing specific infrastructure issues such as water pressure, street repairs, and maintenance of public facilities.
- **Specific Comments:**
  - "Fix the very uneven and dangerous road transitions."
  - "The residents on Emily Street and Dawn Drive have complained for years about the low water pressures."

## 4. Public Safety and Services

- **Enhancing Services:** Requests to allocate more budget towards improving public safety and emergency services.
- **Specific Suggestions:**
  - Upgrading police and fire department equipment.
  - Increasing support for the animal shelter and addressing issues related to stray animals.

## 5. Economic Development and Community Growth

- **Supporting Businesses:** Emphasis on attracting new businesses and supporting local economic development.
- **Specific Suggestions:**
  - Bring more businesses to increase sales tax revenue.
  - Plan effectively for future growth and development.

## 6. Community Engagement and Participation

- **Involving Citizens:** Encourage more citizen involvement in budget planning and community projects.
- **Specific Suggestions:**
  - Hold public meetings and provide earlier notice for citizen input.
  - Engage community organizations in beautification and clean-up efforts.

## 7. Beautification and Clean-Up

- **City Appearance:** Focus on cleaning up the city, maintaining public spaces, and enforcing property maintenance codes.
- **Specific Suggestions:**
  - Allocate budget for beautification projects and code enforcement.
  - Continue to improve the appearance of public spaces and facilities.