

Comprehensive Plan Update Citizen Survey Results - Summary

1. What three words or phrases best describe your vision for the City of Colonial Heights in the next 20 to 30 years?

Themes that emerged include:

- Quality Housing
- Good Jobs
- Excellent Schools
- Positive Neighborhood Identity
- To Capitalize on Water and Green Space.
- Quality City Services
- Solid Infrastructure
- Improved Code Enforcement
- Preserve Historic Homes and Architecture
- Safety
- A Sense of Community
- Build on the City's Good Reputation
- Bike and Pedestrian Friendly
- Revitalized Neighborhoods
- Emphasis on Southern Portion of the City
- Improved Traffic
- Improved Commercial Areas
- Retain Small Town Feel
- Quality of Life

For questions 2-6, respondents were asked rank each action on a scale from 1-6 (1 being the highest priority and 6 being the lowest priority) based on how you feel the City should focus its resources in the next 20 to 30 years.

2. Natural, Cultural and Recreational Resources

Priority

Provide more senior services	1
Develop walking/bike paths throughout the City	2
Protect historic resources from new development	3
Provide more teen/youth services	4
Identify and protect wetlands and wildlife habitats	5
Develop a community center and pool facility	6

3. Business and Economy

Priority

Enhance opportunities for small business development	1
Limit new commercial development to existing commercial areas	2
Prioritize job growth	3
Restrict commercial development (i.e. types, site design, landscaping...)	4
Provide financial incentives to help business development	5
Redevelop the area around Southpark Mall to include a mixture of uses such as residential and office	6

4. Housing and Neighborhoods

Priority

Provide more code enforcement (building, property maintenance and rental inspections)	1
Make investments to improve the condition of neighborhood parks and play areas	2
Provide incentives to encourage redevelopment of residential areas	3
Protect historic homes and buildings by allowing tax incentives for rehabilitation	4
Identify housing policies for the City's aging population	5
Provide opportunities for townhouses and/or senior apartments	6

5. Transportation**Priority**

Make the City more walkable by developing more sidewalks and paths	1
Improve traffic flow and business access along the Boulevard	2
Improve traffic flow and business access along Temple Avenue	3
Improve facilities for bicyclists to include paths and bike lanes	4
Improve traffic flow in residential neighborhoods	5
Provide public transportation	6

6. Public Facilities and Services**Priority**

Maintain roads and sidewalks	1
Invest in schools to retain a high level of education	2
Rehabilitate older facilities	3
Provide curb and gutter on all streets	4
Improve internet and cable services	5
Create more community meeting space	6

7. Do you live in the City?

91% Yes 9% No or left it blank

For questions a and b respondents were asked open ended questions. Shown are the Top 5 responses.

a. What do you like best about living in the City?**Top 5**

Convenience to goods/ services/interstate	1
Small town/friendly people	2
Safe or low crime	3
Public Services i.e. library/public facilities/parks	4
Schools	5

b. What do you like least about living in the City?**Top 5**

Traffic/parking	1
Lack of public service or complaint about a service including -taxes	2
Housing - rental/decline/upkeep/low income/lack of code enforcement	3
Quality of Business types or shopping areas (12 specifically Tattoo/Check Cashing)	4
Not pedestrian friendly	5

c. How many years have you lived here?

25% less than 5yrs 28% 10-29yrs 47% Over 30yrs

d. What neighborhood do you live in? Total

Stated a neighborhood, subdivision or planning district	62%
Other (street name, landmark)	38%

For questions 8 and 9 respondents were asked open ended questions. Shown are the Top 5 answers.

8. What specific observations or recommendations would you make about the Boulevard Business Corridor?

Top 5

Looks bad/need to improve look	1
Get rid of Tattoo Parlor/ Checking establishments	2
need to improve traffic circulation	3
recommend a type of business or change in businesses that are not there	4
Has improved - keep up improvements	5

9. What specific observations or recommendations would you make about the Southpark Mall area?

Top 5

Need to improve traffic circulation	1
Improve types of business - or suggest a specific business	2
Not Safe need more security	3
Looks bad/need to improve look	4
Congested or overdeveloped	5

10. Do you work in the City of Colonial Heights? If not, in what locality do you work?

Total

Yes	40
*No	142

*61 of the people who answered "no" volunteered that they were retired.

If not, where do you work?

Top 3

Richmond	1
Chesterfield	2
Ft. Lee	3

11. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes or higher fees to address issues you may have identified above?

Percent

Yes	49%
No	39%
Either left blank or said maybe	12%